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PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Thursday, April 21, 2022

\$1.60 Incl. GST



An eggstra special holiday

Young Remi Newton had her hands full at the library Easter Egg hunt at Eerehwon Point last week. The island was brimming with visitors and families eager to get out and enjoy the sunshine over the weekend, with some lucky children making some very yummy discoveries. More Easter coverage on page 16.



Simon Hartley coordinated the Phillip Island's CFA appeal, which raised over \$19,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital.

What a fantastic Friday

Good Friday Appeal fundraisers across San Remo and Phillip Island have raised over \$40,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital.

Run by the Phillip Island and San Remo CFA branches, volunteers worked hard all day to reach the impressive total, helped by members of the local SES as well.

Simon Hartley coordinated the collection in Cowes which has raised over \$19,000 to date.

"I want to thank the Anderson and Murdoch families for their outstanding work," Simon said.

"The guys and girls from the Phillip Island fire brigade did a wonderful job as always and for the first time, they were joined by members of the SES, who had a ball."

Despite being a busy weekend on the island, Simon said the traffic on Good Friday was noticeably down on previous years.

"Normally we have traffic at a standstill, but it flowed smoothly all day."

Embracing new technology, the CFA volunteers also handed out QR code donation cards, so people were able to donate directly online. They also handed out the QR cards at the Penguin Parade on Friday night.

The Nature Parks also promoted the appeal through its live Penguin TV broadcast on Thursday night.

"We had Nadia and her daughter Amelia, a patient at the Royal Children's Hospital, come on and tell us their story, and how much the appeal means to them," said PINP's Meagan Tucker who hosted the live stream.

"Hopefully that prompted a few more donations."

"We had a virtual tin on our website and that link was on the live stream as well."

Continued page 16

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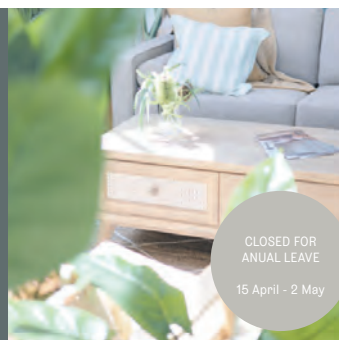
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13 19	11 19	12 19	12 19	12 19	13 19	14 19

Federal election – key dates

Last week the Prime Minister announced the Federal election will be on May 21. Here's a few key dates to keep in mind.

April 22: The candidates for the seat of Monash will be formally declared, so you will know exactly what your voting options are.

May 9: Early voting centres open. The full list of early voting centres will be available once the candidates have been declared. In previous elections, an early voting centre operated in Cowes.

May 18: The closing date for postal vote applications. The Australian Electoral Commission recommends applying as soon as possible if you are eligible for a postal vote. Voting packs cannot be printed until the candidates have been declared and the AEC advises the earliest voting packs will be mailed out is April 26. Your ballot paper must be completed and witnessed on or before election day.

May 21: Polling day. A full list of polling places will be available once candidates have been declared.

Got Covid? Someone in isolation because of Covid can apply for a postal vote up until the Wednesday before election day. If you get sick after that, emergency telephone voting for people with COVID-19 is available.

For more information go to aec.gov.au.

Don't be misled by postal vote mail outs

The first set of postal vote applications arrived in the letter boxes of Monash voters last week, sent by the Liberal Party.

This coincided with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) issuing a warning to political parties about postal vote applications.

Political parties regularly distribute postal vote applications in the lead up to elections.

Electoral Commission Tom Rogers said he'd written to candidates about the distribution of postal vote applications.

"It's legal but it is potentially misleading and we're concerned," he said.

Mr Rogers said concerns about postal vote applications were the number one complaint it received from voters.

"The election is an in-person event ... most

voters will come to a polling place so we don't need mass distribution of postal votes."

He said there were examples of misuse of the AEC's standard purple colour on some of the mailouts, which suggested it was official correspondence from the AEC, when it was not.

He said he was also concerned that voters were being directed to "generically named websites en masse with the potential to mislead".

Several parties, including Liberal and Labor have set up authorised voting websites.

While the Labor website does have a red banner and the words "Australian Labor Party", there is no party logo.

The Liberal site has no blue branding or Liberal Party logo, instead favouring a simple black and gold layout and the words Liberal

Party of Australia in smaller type above the headline.

One of the biggest concerns about political parties mailing out postal vote applications, is the return-to-sender envelope goes back to the party, not the AEC.

Before the applications are passed on, people's details and information are harvested for the party records.

The AEC provides clear information on how to vote on its website.

"Our message couldn't be clearer – vote in person if you can, apply for a postal vote through us if you need one," Mr Rogers said.

Applications for postal votes can be made at www.aec.gov.au/election/pva.htm before May 18.

"Cowboy" slashing contractors

Contractors hired by Regional Roads Victoria to slash the Phillip Island Road grass verge have been described by a local resident as "cowboys" after leaving a trail of destruction last week.

The Surf Beach resident took a series of photos of the roadside, which showed while the grass was mowed, the contractors had failed to remove rubbish before taking to the area with their blades.

"Here (pictured) they've slashed a mattress or something near Forrest Caves," said the resident.

"And there are plenty more examples.

"We think RRV has given the contract to "cowboy" subcontractors as I'm pretty sure the contract specifies they have to remove rubbish before slashing."

An RRV spokesperson confirmed crews



Contractors hired by Regional Roads Victoria failed to remove rubbish before slashing grass verges last week, with a mattress or couch cushion slashed near Forrest Caves and left on the roadside.

were required to remove any rubbish or other obstacles before beginning slashing.

"Regrettably during roadside slashing on Phillip Island Road last week some rubbish was not removed prior to slashing. Crews have been sent to clean up the area."

The spokesperson said they carry out regular roadside grass slashing, weed spraying and tree maintenance to help reduce potential fire risks and ensure detour routes and vital entry and exit points were clear of obstacles.

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POLICE BRIEFS

Police reported a relatively quiet Easter long weekend, aside from a spate of incidents in San Remo. All up, there were 19 recorded incidents in San Remo and eight in Cowes.

Traffic

There were no serious traffic accidents, although there were a number of minor collisions on Phillip Island Road, near Punchbowl Road. No drug or alcohol buses operated in the area.

Theft and burglary

A mobile phone was stolen from the foreshore

in San Remo between 12.30pm – 1pm on April 16 and has yet to be recovered.

Two vehicles were stolen from San Remo late on Sunday night. Both have since been located – in Hastings and Carrum Downs. A 15-year-old youth has been arrested and charged in relation to one of the vehicles. Police said in both instances, offenders broke into houses and stole keys for the cars.

On the same night a car was broken into in Norfolk Rise, San Remo, with personal belongings and a set of keys stolen.

Police said these types of incidents were unusual for a family-oriented holiday period such as Easter, saying it was the kind of behaviour usually associated with high volume weekends such as NYE or Schoolies.

On April 14, there was a burglary in Cape Wool-

amai where two debit cards were stolen. Police said the cards have since been used at several locations in the Cape Woolamai and San Remo area.

Last Wednesday (April 14), the rear of Island Surfboards in Cowes was broken into. There was also an attempted break in of a car parked at the rear of the store.

Disputes

Police were called to a dispute at a caravan park on Cowes on Saturday night.

Police said a high percentage of call outs over the weekend were for family violence incidents. Some involved breaches of orders and assaults within families, with police describing it as "a mixture of issues that do require extended police involvement".

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Basham verdict looms

The jury in the Supreme Court trial for alleged murderer Adrian Basham this week retired to consider its verdict.

On Tuesday Justice Lesley Taylor gave a day-long instruction to the jury on the law and evidence in the case, where Mr Basham is accused of killing the mother of their three children, Samantha Fraser, 38, at her Cowes garage on July 23, 2018.

"It's not my responsibility to decide this case, that is your role," she said.

"You must ignore feelings of sympathy ... you must act like judges, dispassionately weighing the evidence, not according to passion or feelings."

Mr Basham is pleading not guilty to one count of murder.

Counsel for the defence said they did not dispute that Mr Basham was in Ms Fraser's garage on July 23, 2018 – in breach of an intervention order – and had inflicted "a number of non-fatal injuries on her body".

However, the defence argued Ms Fraser was alive when Mr Basham left the garage, alleging she had instead suicided by hanging.

Justice Taylor told the jury to only base their verdict on all the evidence and not jump to conclusions or guess.

"The prosecution does not need to prove every fact," she said, adding only the essential ingredients needed to be proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Evidence

Justice Taylor detailed the evidence of the relationship

between the deceased and the accused, and their respective behaviours, including Ms Fraser's fear of Mr Basham, as well as the expert evidence, including the autopsy and DNA results.

"While you may use the fact the accused caused the non-fatal injuries as evidence, you must not infer because he did cause those injuries Adrian Basham is the kind of person likely to commit an offence of murder."

Justice Taylor discussed whether the accused had told deliberate lies to witnesses, including when his friend Mick asked whether Mr Basham was on Phillip Island at the time of Ms Fraser's death.

Mr Basham replied to Mick, "no I was nowhere near there. I didn't use a credit card or EFTPOS or anything".

Justice Taylor said it was up to the jury to decide whether this response by Mr Basham was a "deliberate untruth" and the only "reasonable explanation for the deliberate lie" was the accused caused the death of the deceased.

The judge then said when Mr Basham was seen on CCTV footage running away from Ms Fraser's Seagrove Way home on July 23, 2018 – in a jacket with the hood up, concealing his identity – there could be "all sorts of reasons why" a person could behave that way.

"Even if it makes him look guilty it does not mean he is guilty," Justice Taylor said.

She said this also applied to the fact Mr Basham had not

given evidence in the Supreme Court trial.

"This does not add to or strengthen the prosecution case. It proves nothing at all.

"You must decide this case solely on the evidence given in court."

Legal elements

Justice Taylor also weighed up the evidence for suicide, summarising the prosecution case that Ms Fraser was a devoted mother who would not leave her children and whose mental health was healthy in July 2018; she then explained the defence argument that "emotional states were not a straight line" and Ms Fraser's mental health could fluctuate.

Justice Taylor said the defence had told the court Mr Basham was a person of good character, with no criminal

conviction.

She said while it was believed by the law a person of good character could not commit murder, at the same time such a person could commit an offence for the first time.

She explained the jury must find the accused guilty on four elements: the accused committed the act that caused the victim's death; that act was consciously, voluntarily and deliberately done; the act was committed while intending to kill the victim or cause serious injury; and the accused killed the victim without a lawful excuse such as self-defence.

Before the jury retired to consider their verdict, the 14 members – with two alternates – was reduced to 12 by ballot.

The jury verdict must be unanimous and it is not known how long the verdict will take.



Restrictions ease for cruise ships passengers

In welcome news for local businesses, new protocols have been announced for cruise ships.

With cruises allowed back on the water this month, Phillip Island already has nine ships booked in to visit this season.

The first ship, the Seabourn Odyssey is due to arrive on December 7.

Announcing the new protocols, the government said they were designed to protect Victorians as well as the workers and passengers on the vessels, which are susceptible to large outbreaks.

The protocols include the following measures:

- All passengers over 12 must be double vaccinated, and all crew must be 'up to date' with three doses (with exceptions for those who aren't yet eligible)

- Unvaccinated children under 12 or anyone with a valid medical exemption can travel, but they must not make up more than five per cent of the ship's passengers

- Passengers must obtain a negative COVID-19 test before embarking, and if boarding with symptoms they must have another negative PCR test that day. Crew will test every 14 days, or when symptomatic

- All crew must wear masks on board except when in their rooms. All passengers must wear masks when embarking and disembarking, and indoors onboard if social distancing is not possible

- Cruise ship operators must undertake public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission, including developing CovidSafe plans for shore excursions and managing cases and contacts onboard



STOP PRESS

Jury seeks clarification

On the first day of their deliberations, the jury in the Supreme Court trial of alleged murderer Adrian Basham this morning asked a question of the judge.

Justice Lesley Taylor read out the question to the court, explaining the jury sought clarification about what non-fatal injuries Mr Bash-

am admitted to causing to

his estranged wife, Samantha Fraser, on July 23, 2018.

Justice Taylor said even though the defence counsel had confirmed Mr Basham admitted to causing the 41 injuries, there was no evidence given in the court room to prove this.

"Some information would be illuminating," the jury said.



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Incriminating conduct confirms Basham's guilt: prosecution

The prosecution lawyer in the Supreme Court trial for alleged murderer Adrian Basham has detailed incriminating conduct pointing to the guilt of the accused.

In her closing address over two days last week, prosecution counsel Nanette Rogers told the jury Samantha Fraser would have been incapable of taking her own life after sustaining more than 40 injuries at the hands of Mr Basham.

"The prosecution says that you can completely reject out of hand that after having been violently assaulted to the head and face by the accused, and after he'd left the garage, that Samantha Fraser obtained the rope from the top of the box, secured it several times around the top of the garage roller track door, tied the very neat, very tidy, very complex knot ... absolute rubbish," Dr Rogers said. "Samantha Fraser did not kill herself after being assaulted so extensively by the accused. It was a cold and brutal murder, and it was Adrian Basham who did it."

"What is unequivocal is that by the time of 12.04 pm, when the accused is captured running away from Seagrove Way, that Samantha Fraser is well and truly dead."

Dr Rogers said the CCTV footage that captured Mr Basham running from Ms Fraser's home showed he was "trying to get away, as far away as possible, as quickly as possible from the dreadful thing that he had just



done to Samantha Fraser."

"In conjunction with other evidence before you, this evidence is capable of being used by you as evidence of incriminating conduct."

"We say that you should decide that the only reasonable explanation for this conduct is that the accused believed he had killed Samantha Fraser."

Incriminating conduct

Dr Rogers said another example of incriminating conduct was several days after Ms Fraser's death when Mr Basham was seen by a resident leaping a fence and "moving furtively" in San Remo, while police were interviewing Mr Basham's friends.

"He was looking from left to right and behind him is what Nola (the resident) described his movements as."

"And she said that at that time, the accused had an item or items stuffed up the front of his shirt. And Nola said that he said to her, 'If the cops ask, you haven't seen a thing'."

Dr Rogers said the object stuffed under the accused's shirt was the deceased's white top - worn on the morning of her death - which was never located.

"If the accused wasn't involved in the deceased's death, he would have absolutely no reason to instruct Nola not to assist the police."

"The prosecution says that you

can use this evidence also as evidence of incriminating conduct."

Summary

Dr Rogers summed up the prosecution's case, including Ms Fraser was fearful of her estranged husband, there was an intervention order in place at the time of her death, and Mr Basham was jealous of her.

Dr Rogers detailed the evidence from friends, family and health workers that showed Mr Basham was controlling and emotionally abusive of Ms Fraser and aggressive and belittling towards her.

She said there were family court proceedings between them after their separation, regarding the separation of assets and child custody arrangements and the children of the marriage resided with Ms Fraser, and the accused had not had access to them since September 2017.

"Looking at all of the evidence, you are able to conclude that he did not have an innocent purpose in attending at Seagrove Way," Dr Rogers said.

She said Ms Fraser was happy and healthy at the time of her death, with counsellors testifying the deceased was not suicidal.

"There are many reasons why we say Samantha Fraser did not hang herself. First and foremost is that she was a loving mother, loved and devoted to her children ... there was absolutely no way she would leave her children abandoned."

Basham of "good character": defence

The defence lawyer in the Supreme Court trial for alleged murderer Adrian Basham has told the jury while they may not like the accused and his actions, "his bark is without bite".

In his closing address over two days last week, defence counsel Ashley Halphen said there was no doubting Mr Basham had "conducted himself poorly from time to time".

"Take for instance the fact that by his very own admission, he assaulted Ms Fraser, causing nasty injuries ... 41 in total were the non-fatal injuries," Mr Halphen said.

"And further, did so when on an intervention order, an order supposedly designed to protect the physical integrity of another."

"But members of the jury, you don't have to like Mr Basham. That is not what this case is about."

"You might think, Samantha

Fraser was a very nice person, and that's understandable."

Mr Halphen called on the jury to judge with their heads and not their hearts, to consider the evidence "clinically, intellectually, and dispassionately without prejudice or favour".

He said Mr Basham left the garage of Ms Fraser's Seagrove Way on July 23, 2018 when she was still alive.

"The only possible explanation then for the death of Samantha Fraser is suicide," Mr Halphen said.

"Now, it might not be the first thing that comes to mind, but it doesn't have to be. It might not even be something that leaps out as obvious. That does not matter."

"You don't have to be certain or sure about it. Mere satisfaction of it being a reasonable possibility it is suicide, being a reasonable possibility, is sufficient."

He said if the prosecution case was likened to a brick wall, "it is not our responsibility as the defence to demolish that wall".

"If reasonable doubt equates to a crack in the wall, that is all that is required, reasonable doubt. Mr Basham doesn't even have to prove there is a crack in the wall. Mr Basham, as you well know, is presumed innocent and does not have to prove a thing."

"The burden of proof is on the prosecution to prove that there is not a crack in the wall."

Good character

Mr Halphen described Mr Basham's "unflattering conduct" as someone who could not "regulate their emotions very well, at a challenging time in his life".

"Adrian Basham was not at his best at that time in early 2017. His marriage to the woman he believed was the love of his life was

ending."

"We submit that his bark is without bite."

Mr Halphen told the jury Mr Basham was a person of good character, who had no alcohol or drug problems.

"He has no prior convictions; he has no criminal record."

"The law in those circumstances regards him as a person of good character and it is well to remember that it is generally believed that a person of good character is unlikely to commit a criminal offence."

Mr Halphen gave his address to the jury remotely, in Covid isolation at home.

Justice Lesley Taylor instructed the jury to take into account the differences between the prosecution counsel being in person and Mr Halphen being on the remote, "as you compare and assess the various arguments that they put".

Veterans to have their say

The state government has commissioned the third veterans Sector Study, an assessment of the needs and priorities of veterans and their families, as well as the ex-service and community organisations that support them.

Veterans, their families and ex-service and other community organisations can contribute to the study until May 8 by completing an online survey or participating in one of the in-person consultations being held across the state.

To find an in-person focus group near you or complete the online survey, please visit victorianveteranscouncil.org.au/veterans-sector-study.

Road safe grants

Community groups can receive grants of up to \$30,000 to address local road safety issues, as part of the TAC Community Road Safety Grant Program.

The program covers a wide range of road safety issues - including speed limit, drink driving and education, as well as pedestrian, motorcyclist and cyclist safety. Projects that focus on protecting vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists will be prioritised.

Applications close on May 2. www.tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants/community-road-safety-grant-program

Your say on 2035 emissions target

Help shape the state's interim emissions reduction target for 2035.

In addition to playing a role in setting Victoria's targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions between 2031 and 2035, the community will be able to also have their say on opportunities to cut emissions and pathways to net-zero emissions.

An online survey has been designed specifically for young people - as the section of the community who will bear the brunt of climate change and have been leading the call for action.

Consultation on the interim emissions reduction target is open until May 22 at: engage.vic.gov.au/climate-action-target-2035

Zero emissions vehicle subsidy

More than 4000 Victorians have taken up the state government's Zero Emissions Vehicle subsidy, with subsidies of \$3000 available for Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) under \$68,740.

To learn more, go to solar.vic.gov.au/zero-emissions-vehicle-subsidy.

Learn Local Awards

Nominations are now open for the 16th annual Victorian Learn Local Awards, recognising excellence in the adult and community education sector.

Categories at this year's event celebrate trainers, leaders and learners as well as learn local programs. The prize pool totals \$84,000, while organisation award category winners each receive \$10,000, individual category winners \$5000 and category finalists \$1000.

To make a nomination before June 10, visit www.vic.gov.au/learn-local-awards

Community History awards

Entries for the Victorian Community History Awards are now open.

The awards celebrate the people involved in community history projects who are dedicated to telling local stories which help all Victorians to better understand their past.

More information on categories and how to enter at: prov.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/community-history-awards. Entries close July 8.

Seniors travel vouchers

A further 10,000 vouchers are now available as part of the popular Seniors Travel Voucher scheme.

The vouchers for travel up until May 27, will be distributed to eligible seniors who have previously applied through the ballot and can be used for accommodation, tours and experiences across the state.

The Victorian Dining and Entertainment Program allows you to claim 25 per cent rebates when you spend at least \$40 on entertainment any day of the week, anywhere in the state.

For information on the Dining and Entertainment Program and Travel Voucher Schemes, go to vic.gov.au/business-stimulus-package.

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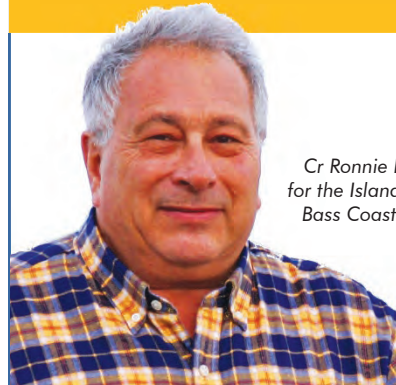
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Farmer outcry at proposed planning controls

Phillip Island farmers say they have been blindsided by the state government's proposed planning changes that will leave them unable to work their properties without costly red tape.

And the farmers have the support of the state's peak agricultural body, the Victorian Farmers Federation, who say the state government needs to re-think the draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy (SPP), currently out for community feedback until April 29.

The draft SPP locks in Phillip Island's current town boundaries, while there will also be a series of beefed-up landscape planning controls to protect significant landscapes around the island, including the coast and hinterland between Cape Woolamai and Ventnor, as well as the Rhyll Inlet, and areas north of Cowes-Rhyll Road to Newhaven.

However, VFF Bass Coast vice president Bill Cleeland – who has a 450-acre beef cattle farm at Surf Beach – said the planning controls, called Significant Landscape Overlays (SLOs), would severely impact farm operations.

Furthermore, farmers had not been consulted on the changes and last week they sought an urgent Zoom meeting with government representatives.

"They haven't thought this one through," said Bill, a fourth-generation farmer.

"They've made no attempt to consult with farmers, which is disappointing because we established the local rural engagement group to stop this kind of thing happening.

"They've taken four years to get this draft out but are now rushing consultation."

Red tape

Bill said any farmers under the proposed SLO areas would be required to get a planning permit to build a post and wire fence.



Victorian Farmers Federation says the government needs to re-think the draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy, as it would severely impact farm operations.

"On our farm, for instance, it puts us in a difficult situation. Our place is next to the main road and we can get cars through fences," Bill said.

"Technically we could now be prosecuted for putting up a fence without a permit."

He said in contrast post and rail fences – which are more costly and elaborate – don't require permits.

"They use these on the Mornington Peninsula in horse properties. Some kid has come out of university and thought this is a good idea. If they had consulted with us they would realise the impact."

Bill said farmers in SLO areas would, under the SPP, be required to apply for planning permits for significant excavation work.

"The draft SPP is an obscure, vague document and it's hard to get details on what is significant."

"This control could include ploughing a paddock, digging a dam or a driveway entrance."

He said they had already applied for a permit to excavate a dam with Southern Rural Water, and an added permit would be unnecessary red tape.

The draft SPP also puts controls and restrictions on farm sheds, including colours to sensitively match the environment.

"I sort of agree with that one," Bill said.

Sheds over five metres will not be

allowed under new rules, which, he said would impact dairy farmers who stack round hay bales to just under five metres.

"So they won't be able to do that with the height limit."

"There's no point making up a height figure unless it's fit for purpose. They seem to come up with

ideas that don't work in practical instances."

Sheds also won't be allowed to be sited on heights above 25 metre sea level without a planning permit, in order for them not to be seen on significant landscapes.

"That will force us to build at lower levels, which farmers try and avoid

in winter when those areas get waterlogged," Bill said.

"Farmers like to keep infrastructure all together, but this will force us to scatter infrastructure, which adds to costs such as power and new tracks."

Finally, he said, it was unclear how beefed-up planning controls would impact vegetation clearing, with Bill suggesting planning permits could even be required to remove weeds such as boxthorn and pittosporum.

He said adding to farmer frustration was the fact the government's website on the draft SPP was not working correctly, stopping them accessing information.

The Advertiser contacted the state government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning for comment but received no reply at the time of going to press.

Peak body supports local farmers

Phillip Island farmers have the support of the state's peak agricultural body, the Victorian Farmers Federation, in their protest against draft planning controls.

VFF President Emma Germano said the draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) (see separate story), unfairly prioritised tourism and disadvantaged farmers.

Ms Germano said the draft did little to protect farmers' right to farm on land already zoned specifically for agriculture.

"Farmers are drowning in unnecessary and time-consuming red-tape," said Ms Germano, in a press release issued last week.



Victorian Farmers Federation President Emma Germano said the draft Bass Coast SSP unfairly prioritised tourism and disadvantaged farmers. Photo courtesy of abc.net.au.

"The fact that some farmers will potentially have to apply for permits to build fences on land zoned for farming is laughable."

"It seems that decision makers have prioritised tourism and views

of the landscape without any regard for farming and the huge contribution it makes to the local area."

Emma called for common-sense planning policy that allowed the agricultural industry to provide "the food and fibre needed to secure our food security and feed people".

Ms Germano added that it was critical changes were made to the planning system to support the retention and growth of agriculture in Victoria.

"Repeated failures to address or consider these matters, in response to consultation or preparation of documents such as this, reinforces industry belief and farming community experience that there is an urban bias in the planning system."

The VFF is currently drafting a submission in response to the draft documents and is encouraging impacted farmers to have their say by contacting the VFF on 1300 882 833 or emailing policyteam@vff.org.au.

BCH Ladies Auxiliary Mother's Day Fete

Saturday, April 23
9am – 1pm

**Ambulatory Care,
Wonthaggi Hospital**

Enter via Graham Street,
head west of the main building and
look for the Ambulatory Care sign.
Signs will be out on the day.

Raffle drawn at 1pm

1st prize: Shell fuel voucher \$100
2nd prize: Coles voucher \$50
3rd prize: Bunnings voucher \$20

Baked goods, plants,
white elephant stall,
books and more!

Everyone welcome



HMB980



Newhaven College OPEN DAY

Saturday, 14 May 2022
10am-2pm



1770 Phillip Island Road, Phillip Island. Ph: 5956 7505



A council survey on camping and caravan options in the area is open until May 8. Recently a resident at Kitty Miller Bay raised concerns about the increasing number of free campers around the island.

Camping: How do we manage it?

Bass Coast Shire Council is running an on-line survey to get community input on caravan and camping options in the region.

The survey questions are directed at visitors and their experience, with a focus on how often they visit, how long they stay, and the type of camping and facilities people prefer.

There are no questions specifically addressing issues like free camping and its impact on residents; however there is an option to provide additional comments, which could be used by local residents to outline how they would like to see camping and caravans managed in the area.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan, said with its close proximity to Melbourne, Bass Coast is popular with visitors, for both short and long stays.

"Whether you've stayed with us before, or intend to in the future, we'd love to hear your feedback on what your caravan and camping needs are.

"Every voice counts and we want to hear yours, to provide us with information that we can consider when making decisions around accommodation in the future," Cr Whelan concluded.

Free camping concerns

Recently, a resident at Kitty Miller Bay voiced frustration at the growing number of free campers on Phillip Island.

She was forced to call the police after an altercation with the owner of a mobile home parked overnight in the car park.

She said there are vans parked at Kitty Miller Bay most nights and on weekends there might be four or five vans there. With no regular patrols by the shire, she said the campers know they can stay without repercussions.

"It is a huge problem and there have been so many calls and emails to the shire, and they still fail to fix the problem.

"When is this going to stop? When is the shire going to do something about it? They just don't care."

In the summer of 2019/20, Council received 40 complaints about illegal camping across the shire.

Since August 2020, the council has had 24 reports of illegal camping.

"Under Council's Local Law, it is illegal to camp on public land without a permit. Camping on public land without a permit carries a \$300

fine. There has been one infringement issued this year for illegal camping," CEO Ali Wastie told the Advertiser last month.

At the time, Ms Wastie said a strategic review of camping needs was underway and a report would be presented to the councillors in June.

In the past two years, the Advertiser has been contacted repeatedly by local residents alarmed by the rise in free camping.

In January 2021 residents and dog walkers were aghast to see a 4WD and tent right on the beach at Cape Woolamai, while photos from a Surf Beach resident show a campervan in a Surf Beach car park, parked next to a "no camping" sign.

Other reports of illegal camping sites that summer included a vacant block in Red Rocks Road, the off-lead beach at Ventnor, the Colonades and Anchorage Road beach.

Campervans are often parked overnight in the carparks at Smiths Beach, Woolamai and Anzacs, and the beach entrance car park at Cottesloe Avenue in Cape Woolamai.

To complete the camping survey, visit www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/camping by Sunday, May 8.

Proposed new state government planning controls

- In 2019 the Government declared Bass Coast a Distinctive Area and Landscapes (DAL) to guide future land use. Now we are in the third and final round of DAL consultation – the most important document of all: a draft Statement of Planning Policy (SPP), which will eventually be enshrined in law, aiming to protect our best features and lock in town boundaries.
- Other areas in Victoria – the Macedon Ranges, Surf Coast and Bellarine Peninsula – have had DAL declaration.
- Planning controls: There will be a series of beefed-up landscape planning controls to protect six Bass Coast areas that have been declared state or regionally significant, including the coast and hinterland between Cape Woolamai and Ventnor, as well as the Rhyll Inlet, and areas north of Cowes-Rhyll Road to Newhaven. For example, at San Remo, the draft SPP says no buildings should protrude above natural topography, and significant views should be protected from the George Bass Coastal Walk.
- Town boundaries: It is proposed to exclude from the Cowes town boundary the farming zone land at the north-east corner of Coghlan Road and Cowes-Rhyll Road (the Cowes Golf Club and Lechte land). Equally, Saltwater Creek to the west is an important green break between Ventnor and Cowes and should be protected. San Remo's ultimate township boundary will be Punchbowl Road. The Phillip Island Airport site is located in a landscape of state significance and will remain outside the Cape Woolamai settlement boundary. It is proposed to exclude the farming zone land to the west of the established residential area, near Churchill Island and the chocolate factory.
- Community consultation on the draft Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) will run until Friday April 29. Submissions must be lodged through the Engage Victoria platform at engage.vic.gov.au/project/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/page/bass-coast by 5pm that day. Where a submitter is unable to lodge a submission online, contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186 (select option 6).

Dark Sky So Shearwaters Fly

19 April - 10 May*

Support the Shearwater Great Migration

Turn off outdoor lights at home and at work

Drive slowly and be cautious on the roads

Their survival is our success!

*Flight times can vary – check FB event for exact 'lights out' dates

This project received grant funding from WIRES through the WIRES Research Grants Program. For more information, go to WIRES.org.au/RGP

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A corner block like this is hard to find, perfect for subdivision (STCA) or simply build your dream home and capture the water views from the second level. With front and side access makes it perfect to build on.
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 0410 595 130

VIEWS AND LAND

For Sale
2-6 Phillip Street
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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
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 0412 712 034

www.phillipislandfn.com.au
 56-58 Thompson Ave, Cowes

OPEN 7 DAYS
 5952 3922

Cowes drone research shows erosion hotspots

Preliminary results from a three-year drone research project examining Cowes east beach erosion found sand is moving in an easterly direction, leaving some erosion hotspots.

Melbourne University's Professor David Kennedy, from the office of environmental programs, last week told the Advertiser researchers had been working with volunteer island resident citizen scientists, who have been specially trained to conduct the drone monitoring.

Every second month since mid-2018 drones have been flown over a 2.1km stretch of beach, from Erehwon Point to almost the end of Silverleaves residential area, at low tide from the dunes to the water line.

The drones take about 800 photos, at 100 metres altitude, to measure sand movement, which is part of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program.

David said about 4000 cubic metres of sand had accumulated, moving in an easterly direction and landing and extending Observation Point at the end of Silverleaves, building out by 1.4 metres.

"We don't know where it's coming from, that's the next stage of research, but probably from the west," David said.

At the same time there were clear hotspots of erosion, particularly where the current rockwall is be-



Cowes East Foreshore Preventative Action Group Leon Sweeney and Meredith Lynch (back) with former Melbourne University researcher Karina Sorrell (sitting, front), in 2020 collecting data from drones on beach erosion.

ing built between Rose Avenue and Coghlan Road.

David said the citizen science drone monitoring findings had been shared with Geoscience Australia, which had recently found the beach at the

end of Dunsmore Road had seen 0.9 metres of erosion since 1988.

"But overall the beach itself is relatively stable. There has been a net increase in sand with small areas of erosion."

He added these erosion "active zones" would increase with climate change.

Rock wall erosion

Currently a 360-metre coastal pathway is being built at Cowes east between Rose Avenue and Coghlan Road, with an eight-metre-deep wall to protect the foreshore from erosion.

"Rock walls don't necessarily protect the beach, but protect property boundaries and you always get an end effect with them," David said.

"The general rule with a rock wall is that you double the erosion effect at the end of the wall by a few metres.

"The biggest issue with coastal management is sand movement and the response is generally to stick a wall in.

"But once you armour the coast it reduces the beach's natural ability to adjust."

Funding

About 12 coastal towns, including Cowes, kicked off the research project in 2018 and David said there were now 20 towns who are part of the project.

He said while the drone research initially had three years of funding, they were hopeful of increasing funding in this year's state budget to extend it to five or 10 years.

"This is a world-class data set, a

world first, and we need to keep it going.

"Longer data sets is what we need. Seasonal sand movement is what we are seeing and so we need to monitor more seasons.

"Beaches have a five-to-10-year life span and we need to see the impact of such things as the current La Nina event on erosion."

David said even if funding was not forthcoming, he would continue the drone monitoring himself.

"Personally, I won't give up. It just gives me an extra excuse to visit Phillip Island. I'll come down and fly it myself."

The whole project – including the local residents who have operated the drones – in 2020 won the Australian Museum Eureka Prize, for its world-first citizen science on coastal erosion for Innovation in Citizen Science.

Cowes resident Leon Sweeney said researchers trained members to become licensed drone pilots, with about 20 volunteers carrying out the survey work, sharing the work in lockdown with a trained scientist.

"We were given our own drone and equipment to enable us to carry out surveys without supervision," Leon said.

The drones collect data that is used to build 3D models of the coast, which is publicly available for anyone to use.

Welcome rain reprieve for gardens

Gardeners, farmers and weather watchers have welcomed this week's rain after a long dry.

On Monday and Tuesday the Rhyll observation station recorded just over 30mm, with more rain predicted at the time of going to press.

It comes after Phillip Island experienced one of its driest autumns in recent memory, with rain promised by forecasters falling everywhere but on the island.

On March 5, the Rhyll weather station recorded 43mm but up to last week only about 3mm

had fallen, leading to dry farms and gardens.

Farmers welcomed this week's autumn break, last week saying the lack of rain had meant pastures were suffering after going from the heat and dry of summer to a cold winter.

Ventnor sheep farmer and weather watcher Martin Grachan said usually they would receive a decent autumn rain several weeks ago to ensure pasture growth for livestock.

"We had a big hit one day in early March and

then nothing," Martin said.

"We have been told rain is coming but we have been missing out quite a lot. Geelong gets it, Pakenham, and Leongatha but not here on the island."

Martin said an autumn break at this time of year was crucial: once cold temperatures hit pastures do not grow well or have nutrients.

"An autumn break usually gets everything going ready for winter, with seeds establishing. But if we miss that and the soil goes straight to cold then in winter it just gets waterlogged and nothing grows.

"Grass will be green but won't have any

goodness." He said farmers were now hoping for about 50mm before the end of April to turn the season around.

Without that, farmers will be feeding hay and silage to keep livestock through winter, at considerable expense, while dam levels were reducing.

Surf Beach cattle farmer Bill Cleeland said he was currently feeding out a lot of hay to cattle, which was "ok given we had hay from last season".

"It was a false start to autumn. We had a lot on one day and nothing for a long time, even though a lot has been promised," Bill said.



YOU'RE INVITED

San Remo, Cowes and Grantville Community Banks Grants Information Night

A **2022 Community Grant** may be just what your organisation needs to make a great idea happen. So we're having an information session on applying for a grant on **Tuesday May 3rd at 6pm** at the **Phillip Island Bowls Club, Cowes**, with special guest Trish Madden from the Community Enterprise Foundation!

Light refreshments provided and all Community groups welcome. RSVP by 29 April to admin@srdfs.com.au or any of our friendly branches at San Remo, Cowes and Grantville.

bendigobank.com.au/foundation



Community Enterprise Foundation™

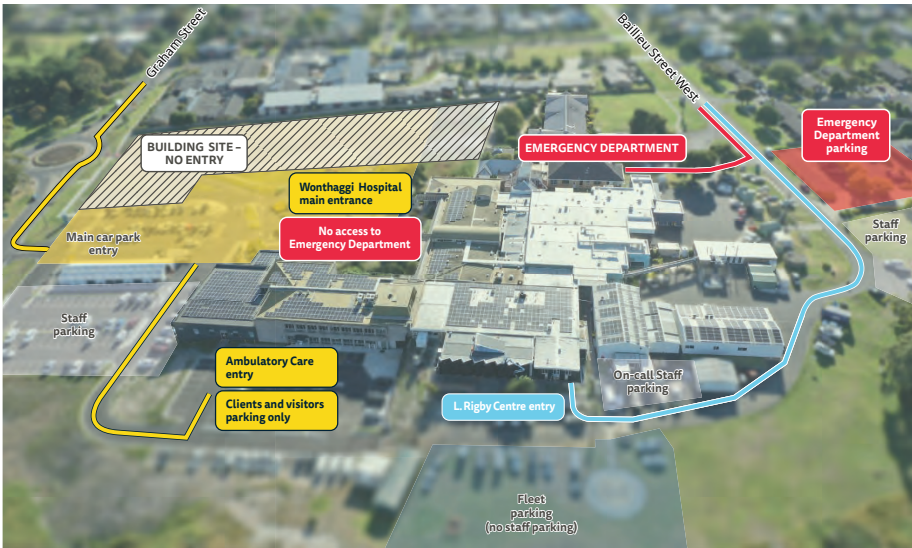
The Cowes Community Grants Program is a management account of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. OUT_2034279, 30/04/2021

Access to Emergency Department, Wonthaggi Hospital

Members of the community wishing to access the Emergency Department at Wonthaggi Hospital are reminded to do so via Baillieu Street West.

The Emergency Department is at Armitage House.

Access to Maternity, Radiology, Pathology, wards, Dental and all Outpatient Services is via Graham Street.



In an emergency please call 000.
Contact Wonthaggi Hospital on 5671 3333.
For general queries email publicrelations@basscoasthealth.org.au



Vanna Watters said this photo, taken on Sunday, April 17 shows the oil slick clearly visible on the lake, and described the clean up a "a long way from satisfactory".

Fuel leak concerns continue

A diesel fuel leak into the lake at Shearwater Estate needs more attention.

Residents said although last week Melbourne Water claimed the clean up was complete, a visible film of oil remained on the water surface over Easter.

They also want the EPA to find the source of the leak and are frustrated with the lack of action.

Paul Clarke lives on the estate and said residents were waiting on Melbourne Water to come back and "complete the task of skimming the oil from the surface".

He also said an urgent solution was needed to prevent such leaks happening again.

"It appears no one wants to take responsibility," he said.

He is worried that, as in previous years, there will be no consequence for the spill.

"It seems folks just want the residents to forget it and move on. It's just not good enough."

Vanna Watters was one of the first residents to contact Melbourne Water, Bass Coast

Shire Council and the EPA about the spill, which happened around April 4.

She told the Advertiser she believed the fuel came from the Blue Gum Industrial Estate and wanted the EPA to properly investigate this latest leak.

"The EPA has been trying to avoid the issue for some time. We have called them on past occasions, but they never got to the bottom of it."

"It's not just about cleaning up the mess this time. I want them to get to the bottom of where this is coming from," Vanna said.

"This is something that needs to be followed through and dealt with, so it doesn't keep reoccurring."

Although she initially praised Melbourne Water's prompt response, she has now described the clean up as "a long way from satisfactory".

The containment booms installed last week by Melbourne Water and CSA Specialised Services are still in place. Vanna said while birds

had returned to the clean side of the boom, she had only seen one on the side with the oil slick.

"Many people walking are commenting on the condition of the water," she said, adding the local ornithological group were "shocked" by the situation, while residents are still living with the smell of diesel.

She's not hopeful that an investigation will reveal the source of the leak.

"I contacted Melbourne Water and the EPA last week about their investigation into the cause and the culprit and have not had a return call."

"Council is avoiding anyone who is concerned like we have the bubonic plague."

For now, she's hoping the wet weather might help.

"It will be interesting to see how that effects the situation."

However Paul said despite heavy rain on Sunday and Monday night, the oil slick was still visible.

The EPA said it would continue to monitor, then see what actions are appropriate.

Rotary is Puttin' on the Ritz

The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo works quietly supporting our local community whether it be our local art groups, the preservation of our local history, our youth through leadership programs or supporting our community groups, but some people may not know that this support extends beyond the shores of Westernport.

Our local Rotary Club helps farmers rebuild their fences after bushfires, it also supplies sophisticated filtering equipment for fresh water in villages in poorer nations and supports the establishment of schools in areas where education is virtually non-existent.

The Club is now firmly focussed on helping fellow Australians in their time of need after the floods in northern NSW and Queensland by holding a fancy evening 'Puttin' on the Ritz' on Friday, May 27.

Their aim is to raise \$15,000 by hosting this gala dinner dance and auction.

"We are assisting those people affected by this disaster to get their lives back to normal as quickly as possible - and to achieve that, they need funds," says Club President Judy Lawrence.

"Local traders have donated wonderful items for auction - and the evening will be very special including a three-course dinner (by expert caterer Jayne Messendorf) with drinks at bar prices."

"It will be held at the Senior Citizen's Club which will be transformed into the glamorous Ritz for the evening of Friday, May 27. Two



Get out your dancing shoes! The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo is "Puttin' on the Ritz" on May 27, to raise money for flood affected communities in NSW and Queensland.

live bands will be playing offering a wide selection of music.

"The generosity of the locals is evident in the items donated so far - half the tickets have already been sold - so we are confident that we will achieve our goal."

The Club, which has already channelled over \$5000 to the flood victims, wants to emphasize that all profits from the evening will go straight to the flood victims.

"Through the charity arm of Rotary, Rotary Australia World Community Service, we have Rotarians with feet on the ground at 'ground zero'," said Judy.

"We can be secure in the knowledge that the funds get to those most in need with the minimum of bureaucracy."

"There is no deduction whatsoever from the pro-

ceeds for administration or other hidden fees which so often apply to donated funds to other charities.

"There is a reason the Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating possible in the evaluation of charities by the independent U.S. company Charity Navigator every year for the past 11 years."

'Puttin' on the Ritz' is shaping up to be a fantastic night with a wonderful outcome for our northern families who have so little to celebrate.

Any further donations will be gratefully accepted and all enquiries should be sent to treasurer@rotaryPISR.org.au.

Tickets are available at www.trybooking.com/BYMNRR

/ Sponsored Article /

What is Rotary?

Rotary International is the world's first service club organisation, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide.

Rotary provides an opportunity for men and women to use their vocational or life skills to assist the community.

Members are volunteers who work locally, regionally and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace and eradicate Polio under the motto.....

Service Above Self

What would it take to change the world?



Rotary



Club of Phillip Island & San Remo

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

GALA DINNER DANCE

Fundraiser for the East Coast Flood Victims

Proudly Sponsored by

OBrien Real Estate

\$75

Ticket Sales
www.trybooking.com/BYMNRR

FRIDAY MAY 27 at the RITZ
(Also known as the Senior Citizen's Hall)
 Watchorn Road, Cowes
2 Live Bands (Island Jazz & Rock House)
Drinks available Evening Attire
(Black Tie appreciated)
Silent Auction 6pm
Live Auction & Dinner 7pm

ANZAC Day 2022



Anzac commemoration is one of tradition

It is a tradition in San Remo that after each Anzac and Remembrance Day commemorations, one of the town's pubs hosts morning tea.

The gesture is deeply appreciated by the small group of locals who organise the services. This Anzac Day, it is the San Remo Hotel's turn and those attending to honour the memory of the Anzacs – and all veterans who came after them – are invited to share morning tea.

The commemoration will take place at the San Remo Cenotaph at 11am on April 25.

Vietnam veteran John Methven OAM will oversee proceedings, the highlight of which will be an address by one of the captains of Newhaven College.

Each Anzac Day, the school provides one of its captains to speak about the Anzac reflections of young people in Bass Coast.

The speeches are always poignant and well received.

As always, the event will offer an opportunity to lay a



The traditional San Remo Anzac Day ceremony will be held at the San Remo Cenotaph at 11am on April 25, followed by a morning tea at the San Remo Hotel.

wreath or flowers and poppies will be provided too. Cr Rochelle Halstead will lay

a wreath on behalf of Bass Coast Shire Council. Everyone is welcome.

RSL struggles with staffing

President of the Phillip Island RSL Chris Thompson has addressed community concerns about the club's operating hours, saying the lingering impacts of Covid has made it impossible for the club to open seven days a week.

"At this time of year we have a lot of volunteers out on our streets and shopping venues selling Anzac badges," Chris said.

"They are getting a lot of feedback on our RSL still being unable to open seven days a week, and also being unable to allow our normal community groups the use of our facilities.

"At this stage unfortunately we are facing what might be termed a perfect storm, primarily because of lack of staff in most areas of our operations," Chris said.

"At last count, we are down approximately 27 staff for this time of year, and some of those shortages are to our key personnel, which because of the present labour shortages are almost impossible to replace."

While Chris said the loyal RSL staff had banded together,



RSL president Chris Thompson said staff shortages made it impossible for the club to currently operate seven days a week.

er, moving holidays to try and fill the gaps, it was an ongoing issue.

He thanked the staff and volunteers for their dedication.

"My utmost thanks must go to those marvellous volunteers who have ferried our sick to medical appointments through this period, a fantastic performance.

Recruitment

Difficulty in recruiting staff was hampering a return to normal operations.

"I think we are all aware that circumstances will eventually return to some form of normality, but as we try to attract new staff from other areas, we are also hampered by the huge rise in cost and scarcity of rental accommodation, which quickly sways the favourable thoughts of our prospective applicants," Chris said.

"I am sure that our members, and our numerous loyal community groups will appreciate that we might have to keep operating five days a week for a short while, until we have regained a decent staff level and are able to return to running our RSL normally."

Chris said the club looks forward to returning to a seven-day operation.

"This means our Day Club, Probus, TPI Association, Bingo, Friday night raffles, and all our other Community groups and regular functions will be able to use our facilities as usual, more than our staff and committee."

"Please rest assured we will do our utmost to see your RSL is operating as expected as soon as possible."



A Dawn Service at 6am and an 11am Service will be held on Anzac Day at the Cowes Cenotaph.

Dawn Service returns to Cowes

An Anzac Day Dawn Service will commence at 6am at the Cowes Cenotaph on Monday, April 25.

The traditional Anzac Day March also returns, with marchers meeting at 10.30am at St Philip's Anglican Church in Thompson Avenue.

The march will commence at 10.40am, moving down Thompson Avenue to the Cenotaph for the 11am Anzac Service.

Organised by the Phillip Island RSL, the march and service will also include a Marching Contingent from HMAS Cerberus.

A Sentry Party from Cerberus will also attend the dawn and 11am services.

Executive Officer and second in charge at HMAS Cerberus, Commander Martin will speak at the Dawn Service, with Lieutenant Latty the guest speaker at the 11am event.

RSL President Chris Thompson will read the Ode at both services, with all members of the RSL committee taking part in the services.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan will lay a wreath on behalf of council at the dawn

service.

Former Newhaven College student Callum Fisher will again play the bagpipes at both services, returning to the island especially for Anzac Day.

An RAAF flyover will also take place, with exact details to be confirmed.

With Covid restrictions lifted, there are no limits on crowd numbers this year and everyone is welcome to attend.

However, due to a shortage of volunteers, the traditional breakfast after the Dawn Service will not take place.

Mr Thompson said everyone was welcome to come back to the RSL for morning tea after the 11am service. Entry to the RSL will require proof of double vaccination.

The easing of Covid restrictions means the RSL will once again be able to provide individual Anzac Day services at local aged care homes later in the week.

For details of Anzac Day events visit pirsl.com.au

ANZAC DAY

Monday April 25th

Dawn Service

6 am sharp: Cowes Cenotaph

March Assembly

Muster at 10.30am for march
at 10.40am: St Philips Anglican Church, Thompson Avenue

11am Service

Cowes Cenotaph

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jordan crugnale mp



There were plenty of people around over the busy Easter weekend, including this enthusiastic group of youngsters at an Easter Egg Hunt at Erewhon Point. Local traders reported a busy weekend.

Sun's out and visitors return

The sun was out and the visitors were back, making for a very happy Easter for local traders.

Phillip Island Nature Parks said visitor numbers were the highest since the start of the pandemic with the Penguin Parade sold out every night.

"The great weather certainly helped drive visitation with thousands of families visiting the Penguin Parade, Churchill Island, Antarctic Journey and Koala Conservation Reserve over the Easter break," a Nature Parks spokesperson said.

Premium experiences like the Family Wildlife Tour and Guided Ranger tours sold out early.

"With our new capacity increase, we saw a five per cent increase year on year to be a nightly sell out."

Domestic visitors continue to make up the bulk of tourist numbers with the Nature Parks reporting that international visitor numbers were increasing.

"Visitation has been fantastic since the start

of the school holidays and we look forward to finishing off the next week with continued strong tourist numbers," the spokesperson said.

Over in San Remo, the Fisherman's Co-op was also pumping.

Manger Paul Mannix described it as a fantastic weekend.

"Trade was about 15 per cent up on last Easter," he said.

"There were plenty of people around, due partly to the Covid situation settling down, but also because of the magnificent weather."

Like the Nature Parks, Paul said the majority of visitors were from Melbourne, but there were some international visitors.

Staffing remained an issue for the popular fish and chip outlet.

"It's still a challenge and we haven't got quite enough, so when we have someone who needs to isolate because of Covid, the rest of the team have to pick up the slack," he explained.

"I do want to say a massive thank you to my staff. They've not only had to work hard

because we've been busy, but a few put their hands up for double shifts or extra shifts.

"Hat's off to our awesome team, and we've stayed open seven days a week."

Paul said he expected things to slow down this week, with the cooler weather, but said there was still plenty of fresh fish and crispy chips available.

"We've got another shark boat unloading today, so there's no shortage of gummy shark to go around."

Lauren Mitchell from Phillip Island Helicopters said the sunshine certainly helped business, with trade particularly busy on Saturday.

"Generally we have had a good summer and the weather has been great, which plays a big part in whether we're busy or not."

Although the big bus tours had not yet returned, Lauren said international visitors are definitely back on the island.

"We had quite a few internationals – mostly from Canada and Singapore.

"But mostly it was people from Melbourne, keen to get out in their own back yard."

Are the Comm Games heading our way?

Bass Coast Shire Council has welcomed the announcement that Victoria will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Last week, the state government announced that four regional hubs, including one in Gippsland, will be established, each with their own athletes' village and sports program.

The council hopes to secure some events for the region.

Mayor Cr Michael Whelan said with one of the fastest growing regional populations in the state, Bass Coast Shire looked forward to showcasing its natural beauty and facilities to the rest of Australia and the world.

"Road cycling would look amazing along our coast, but we are also keen to explore other opportunities with the state government for other sports we specialise in such as surfing if it is chosen by Games organisers," Cr Whelan said.

"With sports spread across Gippsland it makes sense to ensure the area with the fastest-growing population according to the Bureau of Statistics is well catered for. Bass Coast residents are passionate sport lovers and we're all keen to get out and proudly fly the Australian flag.

"Bass Coast Shire will also be fighting for our fair share of the community infrastructure funding and business opportunities that the Games will present."

Games

The state government is currently working with the Commonwealth Games Federation and Commonwealth Games Australia to determine which additional sports will be included in the 2026 program.

The Victorian games' proposal included a new multi-city model, with four regional hubs to be established in Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland.

The government said the regional hubs will host athletes, officials and fans following an opening ceremony at the MCG.

Announcing the games last week, Premier Daniel Andrews said Victoria 2026 will invest



Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan said road cycling, such as the recent Tour of Gippsland, would look amazing along the coastline, with the council vowing to lobby to host events at the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

in community infrastructure, including housing and world-class sports facilities.

He said this would leave a legacy of affordable housing and modern sports infrastructure for the regions.

The initial program has badminton, cricket T20, cycling and rugby sevens allocated for Gippsland.

Geelong is the proposed location for aquatics including swimming, para swimming and diving, with athletics at Ballarat.

The event will also include the Queen's Baton Relay, warm-up tournaments and training camps, an extensive cultural program, live sites and activations to be in towns and cities across the state.

Cultural community

The government is calling on Expressions of Interest (EOI) from councils, peak bodies, Traditional Owner, cultural organisations and businesses for cultural events around the Games.

The government said the EOI call out is also going to creative and cultural organisations for ideas and concepts to develop Victoria 2026's cultural program.

"We want every region to have the opportunity to be involved in Victoria 2026 and that's why we want to hear from local communities about how best to showcase their region," said Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula.

Scooter concerns resurface

The behaviour of scooter drivers is again in the spotlight.

Cowes resident Anne Schade said young riders on scooters were an accident waiting to happen and it seemed the youngsters were "taking advantage of the lack of police presence on the island".

"It will only be a matter of time before a serious accident occurs."

She said she had seen three young girls "precariously balanced on a Vesper-type scooter, which is one among many circumnavigating Cowes at the moment".

She was concerned the young riders were going to cause an accident, after she encountered the scooter in Police Road last week.

"If it weren't for one of the passengers alerting the driver of my presence, the driver would have continued to cross the road, which would have placed her and her two passengers right in the path of my vehicle."

Anne said friends had told her they had also seen scooters carrying three young boys.

Acting Senior Sergeant Scott Morison said he wasn't aware of any recent reports about scooters, but said if they were causing a problem, people should report it.

"They are only meant to carry one passenger. Anytime there is more than one pillion passenger on the back of a bike, it is fraught with danger," he said.

He also stressed that Vesper scooters were classed as bikes and riders and passengers should be wearing helmets.

Last July, several residents raised concerns about dangerous driving including scooters being ridden on footpaths and carrying multiple passengers.

In response, local police launched an education campaign to address the issues, but residents say the situation is a bad as ever.

At the time, police said parents and anyone using the scooters had to ensure all safety and legislative requirements were being met.

The community wants an ICAC says Leonard

Independent candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard has called out the current Federal Minister, Russell Broadbent, on his views about the need for a Federal integrity commission.

On April 17, The Age reported that Mr Broadbent was one of seven Liberal MPs who expressed scepticism that a Federal ICAC was a top-order issue for voters.

Ms Leonard says she has been out talking to thousands of people in the community and is hearing there is strong support for a Federal ICAC.

"Corruption in politics is undermining just about every other decision being made on our behalf – including decisions about roads, infrastructure and climate action," Ms Leonard says.

"The people of our community know this, and they want integrity in government and a robust Federal Anti-Corruption Commission."

As part of its candidate selection process, Ms Leonard said Voices for Monash surveyed its members about policy priorities and establishing a robust Federal ICAC was among the top responses.

In The Age article, Mr Broadbent said voters had not raised the issue with him.

However Ms Leonard says she has sighted an email from a member of the Monash community to Mr Broadbent dated October 10, 2021 raising the specific issue of a Federal ICAC. This email was acknowledged with a reply from Mr Broadbent's office.

On Sunday, Ms Leonard asked people whether they were for or against a Federal ICAC via her Facebook page. At the time of this publication, there are over 40 replies in favour and nil against.

"The community is concerned that the lack of accountability in government is resulting in misuse of public funds, and decisions being made against the interests of the community," Ms Leonard said.

"It is clear that our leaders are not acting in the best interests of voters."

Artists' Society Easter exhibition

There was a buzz of excitement on Thursday evening, April 14, as artists, friends and sponsors gathered at Newhaven College for the Opening of the ASPI Easter Weekend 2022 Art Exhibition.

Curated by Warren Nichols and Lois Green, the show was outstanding.

Special acknowledgement was made by the Society President, Miranda Sage, of Newhaven College for providing such a wonderful venue. A community grant from Bass Coast Shire Council also assisted with staging the event.

The successful exhibition was due to the countless hours put in by ASPI members, friends and families under the leadership of Gay Mosby. Congratulations to all.

This year's Judge was David O'Halloran from Latrobe Regional Gallery and he awarded the following:

Best in Show: Ysabel Dior (Sponsored by Bendigo Community Bank).

Best Painting: Carolyn Jane (Sponsored by Phillip Island RSL).

Sustainable Future Award: Margaret Carr (Sponsored by Westernport Water).

Best Other Medium: Miranda Sage (Sponsored by Chemmart Cowes).

Best Wearable Art: Deborah Wearne (Sponsored by Turn the Page and Flowers of Phillip Island).

There were five Highly Commended Awards that were also sponsored by the Bendigo Community Bank and the successful artists were Lynda Horsborough, Beverley Watson, Andrew Smith, Bruce Wearne and Margaret Knight.

The works can be seen and purchased online at www.artshow.aspi-inc.org.au



Curator Warren Nichols with Judge, David O'Halloran at this year's successful ASPI Easter Weekend Art Exhibition.



Ysabella Dior, Best in Show award, received by Peter Walker on her behalf, with Bruce Procter and Bronwyn Pratt, Directors, Bendigo Community Bank.



Four of the Wearable Art entries on parade at the ASPI Easter Weekend Art Exhibition, including winner Deborah Wearne, second from left.

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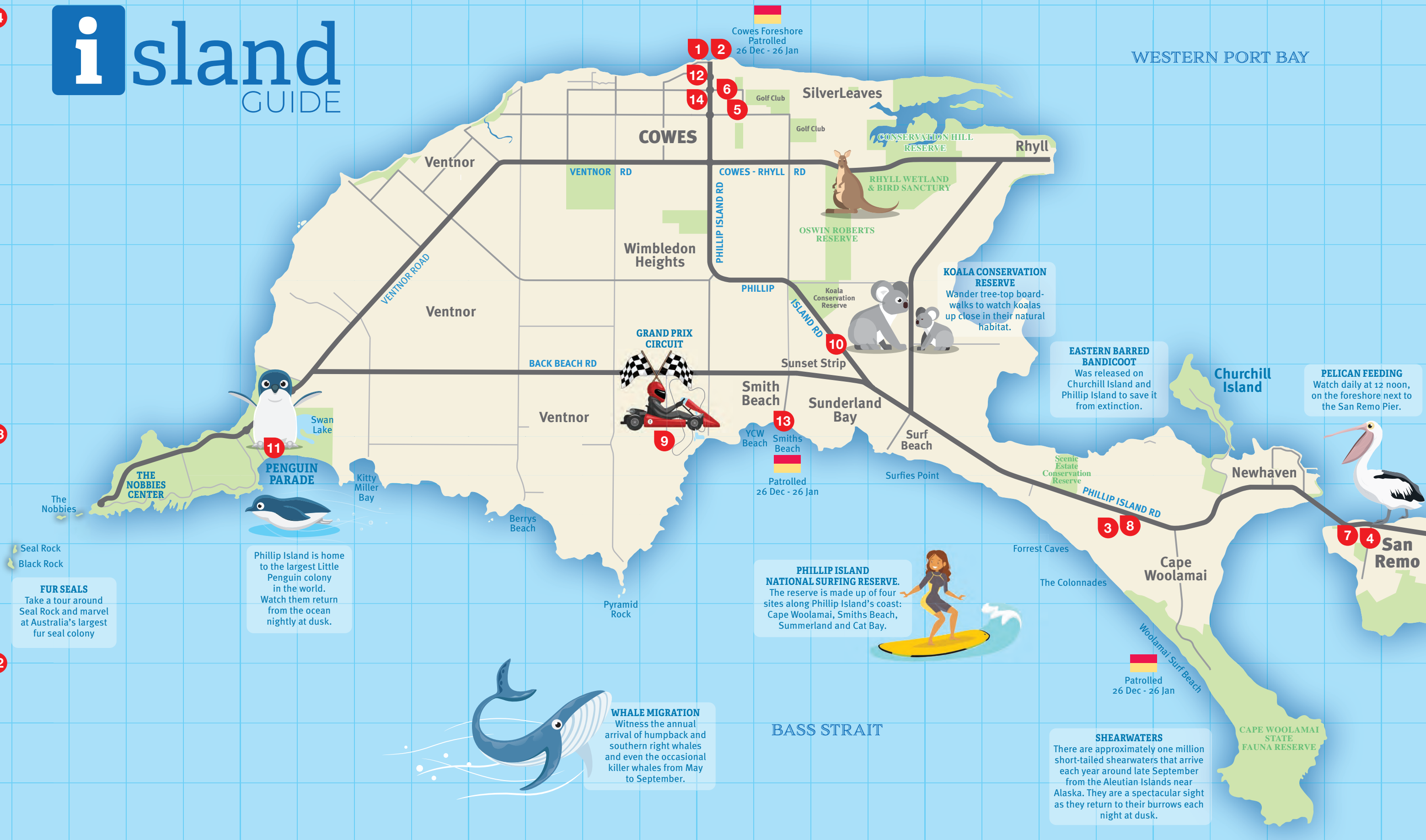
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Sonic the Hedgehog 2 [PG] 1h50m

Tue 19 Apr 12.15pm
Wed 20 Apr 10.00am
Thur 21 Apr 5.00pm
Fri 22 Apr 10.00am
Sat 23 Apr 5.00pm
Sun 24 Apr 12.15pm



The Bad Guys [PG] 1h45m

Tue 19 Apr 10.00am
Wed 20 Apr 3.15pm
Thur 21 Apr 10.00am
Fri 22 Apr 12.40pm
Sat 23 Apr 2.30pm
Sun 24 Apr 3.00pm



The Batman [M] 2h55m

Tue 19 Apr 7.45pm
Wed 20 Apr 7.40pm
Sun 23 Apr 7.45pm



The Duke [M] 1h36m

Thur 21 Apr 7.45pm
Fri 22 Apr 3.00pm
Sat 23 Apr 12.15pm
Sun 24 Apr 10.00am



Dog [M] 1h41m

Tue 19 Apr 3.00pm
Fri 22 Apr 5.15pm
Sat 23 Apr 10.00am
Sun 24 Apr 5.30pm



Uncharted [M] 1h56m

Tue 19 Apr 5.15pm
Wed 20 Apr 12.45pm
Thur 21 Apr 2.30pm
Fri 22 Apr 7.45pm



Off The Rails [M] 1h34m

Wed 20 Apr 5.30pm
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THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news



Ananya and Trisha Gandre drawing lucky tickets at the Easter Garage Sale, as part of Phillip Island World Vision Club's Ukraine fundraising efforts.

World Vision Easter raffle

Visitors Anya and Trisha Gandre drew tickets for Easter basket prizes at the Phillip Island World Vision Club garage sale in Rhyll on Easter Sunday. The three winning families were thrilled to collect their prizes.

"The Club thanks Woolworths Cowes and IGA San Remo for donation of goods; Coles for hosting its continuing World Vision Ukraine Crisis Appeal in Cowes, and visitors and community members for their support," said Phillip Island club president Lynne Kharanda.

"Hard working members and friends of Phillip Island World Vision Club enjoyed a busy and successful weekend fundraising at each venue."

Meet the candidates forum cancelled

President of the Phillip Island Conservation Society, Jeff Nottle said logistics had made it impossible for the group to organise a Meet the Candidates night as hoped.

Originally planned for April 29, the event has now been cancelled.

"The PICS organising group for the Meet the Candidates event has been working through the challenges of holding an event of this nature at this time," Jeff said.

"Many challenges arose in relation to the holding the event as a live in person forum and we also looked at a hybrid situation together with zoom.

"That option has audio visual challenges to make it work in a large venue as well as wanting to avoid the Meet the Candidates becoming just another zoom meeting.

"As a result it has been decided to cancel the proposed PICS forum planned for April 29. It will not be held online or in person.

"However, PICS will ask the candidates questions related to conservation. We will publish the responses on Facebook and on our website and also provide the responses to the local media."

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How to talk to your children about climate change

Local author and illustrator Meg Humphrys is launching a campaign to help print a children's book on April 30 at the Penguin Parade.

Meg is the Climate Change and Environment Officer at Westernport Water and a mother of two young children.

She brings together the technical knowledge from her professional career together with art and story in this sequel to the award-winning "When Water Lost Her Way", offering a gentle way to explore the impacts of climate change with children.

Through the eyes of its lead character 'Water' this children's picture story book "Wave of Change" eloquently weaves art and science to explore the impacts from climate change and deforestation.

The artwork is inspired from the lived experience of climate change impacts in Australia and explored through familiar landscapes and relatable species in how they adapt, migrate or decline in numbers from the impacts from climate change.

Meg launched a Pozible Crowd Funding Campaign at the start of April, to raise funds to cover the cost of creating and printing the book.

If successful, the book will be printed carbon neutral, in an extension of the theme for climate action.

The campaign page is available at www.pozible.com/profile/meg-humphrys-1.



Local author and illustrator Meg Humphrys is launching a campaign to help print her new children's book "Wave of Change" on April 30 at the Penguin Parade.

Meg plans to donate \$1 per book sold to Water Aid to support programs that provide safe drinking water and sanitation for developing countries in a rapidly changing climate.

A short video on the project is also available on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jikWtYlbITc&t=3s

Meg will be launching the campaign at the free community social and film screening of "Regenerating Australia" held at the Nature Parks Theatre at the Penguin Parade from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday April 30.



Organised by John Ward, a former Deputy Principal and teacher at the Collage, 14 members of the San Remo Probus Club toured Newhaven College earlier this month.

Probus goes back to school

On Wednesday, April 6, 14 excited members of the San Remo Probus Club gathered at Newhaven College to take a tour of the College.

The tour was organised by fellow Probus member, John Ward, a former Deputy Principal and teacher at the College.

On arrival the tour was met and welcomed by the Principal of the College, Tony Corr, and then what was to be a two hour tour got under way beginning at the College's massive gymnasium complex.

Then it was off to the Junior school followed in succession by the middle school, the trade centre, home economics complex, the senior school and then off to the Year 9 centre at the top of the property.

The Probus members could not believe the facilities they saw and things like "how wonderful" and "aren't the children so lucky" were uttered throughout the group.

The school minibus was used to transport those who found walking around the huge campus more difficult than others. It was a wonderful day and an eye opener for all those who

participated, and John has been asked to lead another tour for those who for a variety of reason could not attend and those who now wish that they did after talking to others.



Newhaven College Principal, Tony Corr welcomes the San Remo Probus Club members before they embarked on their tour of the College.

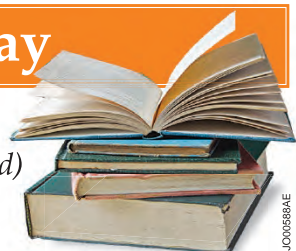
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Phillip Island CFA member Anita Reid accepts a generous donation from a driver in Cowes.



Each year Judy Henley gives generously to the Good Friday Appeal. This year was no different. Judy with the Good Friday Appeal coordinator Simon Hartley and SES and CFA volunteers Lynne Thomas, Malcolm Finlay and Bri Reid.

What a fantastic Friday

From page 1

Collection tins were also at ticketing and retail outlets at all the Nature Parks sites on Friday.

"We were part of the Appeal last year as well, but it was more virtual," Meagan said.

"Hopefully it's something we can continue each year to support the Good Friday Appeal."

With donations still coming in from the cards, as well as via the Virtual Tin Shake on the Good Friday Appeal website, the final tally isn't yet known.

Anyone wanting to still donate can do so at www.virtuالتinshake.com.au/fundraisers/PhillipIsland.

San Remo

The San Remo CFA brigade was also hard at work on Good Friday.

Graham Oswin took over coordinating the fundraiser for the first time and said despite the annual Walk for the Kids organised by the San Remo Hotel not going ahead, over \$22,000 was raised through the various fundraising efforts.

Contributing to that amount was \$18,500 raised by the CFA, \$3500 from Jim's Bait and Tackle's annual fishing competition, and \$170 from a

raffle run by the San Remo Discount Shop.

However Graham said that total was set to grow, with the final donation tally from the San Remo Hotel yet to be received. By 7pm on Friday donations at the hotel were over \$800.

"It was a great effort by all who participated," he said,

"A special thank you to all the members and their families who volunteered on the day.

"Thanks also to the Fisherman's Co-op which always provides fish and chips for the volunteers' lunch, and to Ms Dipity's coffee van and the donut van at Surf Beach, which provided free coffee and half-price donuts to our collectors."

The annual fishing competition organiser Craig Edmonds described the event as a huge success.

"Firstly, our sponsors were quick to say yes and get involved, some of our customers also sponsored prizes and entries and they just kept coming in," he said, noting there was almost \$15,000 in prizes on offer.

In total, the competition received over 160 entries, with around 70 of these children under 14 and it was a popular family event. See the Around the Bay column for a full report.

State tally

The state-wide tally for the CFA fundraising efforts has surpassed \$1.4 million.

As well as hitting the streets to collect donations, brigades that set up a Virtual Tin Shake also raised a total of \$38,122 online.

CFA has been a major fundraiser for the Good Friday Appeal for the past 71 years and members have raised more than \$36 million since 1951.

The overall tally for the Good Friday Appeal in 2022 was a record-breaking \$22,328,154. CFA Acting Chief Officer Rohan Luke congratulated all the CFA volunteers.

"It was an amazing effort and you and your communities should be proud. It's an honour that CFA continues to contribute in providing world-class care to our kids.

"CFA is proud to have again thrown our support behind the Good Friday Appeal and we hope to continue raising money every year for the Royal Children's Hospital."

The money raised for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal will be used to buy medical equipment and ensure kids are provided with the best possible treatment and care.

More photos at pisra.com.au



Little fire fighter Alfred Olarenschaw was on hand to help the San Remo CFA Good Friday Appeal.



Thomas and Sharna Aitken from Endeavor Hills were visiting their Nana and Poppa for Easter and were excited to be part of the library Easter egg hunt at Erewhon Point.



Jasmine and Julia Thangarajah with some of their haul after the Easter egg hunt at Erewhon Point on Thursday.



"The Easter egg was this big ...". Rowanne Grinsted kept her audience enthralled at a special Easter story time session at Erewhon Point.



Cousins Elias, Mia and Chloe who are here from Melbourne for the school holidays at the Easter egg hunt at Erewhon Point.



Hunter and River Williams enjoy some Easter treats at the San Remo library story time session.

Dinosaur delights for local author

The last two years of the pandemic have been strange and difficult times for everyone says author Chris Flynn.

But at least he's had a dinosaur to keep him company!

The Phillip Island based writer is no stranger to dinosaurs, but even he's surprised by the recent turn his life has taken.

He's now the Editor-in-Residence at Melbourne Museum and has helped bring to life the story of the most complete triceratops fossil ever found.

In 2020, Chris released his third novel "Mammoth", narrated by a 13,000-year-old extinct mammoth, which tells the story of how the skull of a Tyrannosaurus bataar, a pterodactyl, a prehistoric penguin, the severed hand of an Egyptian mummy and the mammoth came to be on sale at a Manhattan auction in 2007.

"It did remarkably well, considering it is so odd," Chris said.

"It didn't occur to me that lots of palaeontologists and museum people would read it."

But read it they did ... and the book helped pave Chris' path to the Melbourne Museum.

In April 2021, out of the blue, Chris received an email from the Head of Exhibitions at the museum.

"He said they were all big fans of Mammoth and asked me to come in to discuss some projects."

Initially, Chris thought they might be interested in stocking the book at the museum shop.

But it turned out to be a much more exciting proposition.

"At the meeting, there were all these people staring at me and smiling ... and then they said, 'We bought a triceratops'," Chris said.

The dinosaur, named Horridus, would become a feature exhibit at the Melbourne Museum – the most complete real dinosaur fossil on display at any Australian museum.

"They wanted to produce a suite of books to accompany the exhibition and were also thinking of creating a voice and character for the dinosaur, so it could interact on social media."

Perfect fit

Given Chris had already created a voice for several prehistorical artefacts, it was a perfect fit.



Author Chris Flynn with the new Horridus exhibition at Melbourne Museum – the most complete real dinosaur fossil on display in Australian.

He was initially hired to create a "style guide" for a voice and character, including how the triceratops would talk, what it liked or disliked, what it would be interested in.

Once that was complete, his role soon expanded to include writing two books for Horridus.

And the newly purchased dinosaur was an extraordinary tale.

Chris reels off details of the fossil's discovery and just how the museum managed to secure this incredible piece of natural history.

"This is the most complete triceratops ever found, it is 87 per cent complete. The skull is 99 per cent complete."

The fossil was found in a creek bed in Montana by a palaeontologist called Craig Pfister.

"They think it had probably fallen in the river and drowned, then lay there for 67 million years," Chris said.

When Melbourne Museum heard about the discovery, it quickly contacted Craig and secured the fossil.

"It was lifted out of the ground in its rock, which is known as a field jacket, then taken to Dino Lab in Canada," said Chris, explaining the company specialised in cleaning and removing fossils from rocks.

From there it was packed and shipped to Melbourne.

Along the way, every step in the process was photographed and documented.

"I think it's the most photographed dinosaur in the world," Chris said.

Chris was tasked with capturing all this in a coffee table book ("Horridus – journey of a Triceratops") collecting photos from every stage of the journey.

Chris interviewed 25 people to help capture that journey, including the palaeontologist Craig Pfister who discovered Horridus, museum staff, other palaeontologists and dinosaur enthusiast from across the arts.

He also worked with illustrator Aaron Cushley, who lives in Belfast, Chris' hometown, to create a children's book: "Horridus and the Hidden Valley".

Both books are on sale at the museum, and are now scheduled for a general release on May 1.

Horridus was originally scheduled to go on display before Christmas, and Chris said he, along with all the staff on the project, worked feverish-

ly to get everything completed.

The dinosaur arrived in September 2021 and the team then had to put it together, with one describing it as like assembling "the weirdest Ikea furniture ever".

When the exhibition finally opened in March 2022, the response was amazing.

"On the first Monday of the Easter school holidays, 5000 people came through the museum," Chris marvelled.

"Some people burst into tears when they see it.

"There's something powerful about the fact that we share the same planet as a creature like that."

Despite not seeing himself as a dinosaur expert, Chris is now working alongside actual palaeontologists and dealing with dinosaur enthusiasts.

"I never would have predicted that a book like Mammoth would lead to me, two years later, having a desk at the museum," he said, adding it was the perfect place for a writer.

"There are a million stories there."

Author talk

Alongside his museum work, Chris is preparing for the release of his latest book "Here be Leviathans", a collection of nine not-so-short stories, which is out in September.

The stories are all told from the point of view of non-human things, including a grizzly bear, a hotel room and an airline seat.

Chris said telling stories from the point of view of non-usual narrators gives him a "different viewpoint of the world" and inanimate objects can say things that humans can't.

"There's a brutal assessment from these objects," he said.

"Us humans, we need someone outside of us to say – 'hey, you're stuffing this up'."

Chris will be appearing at the Inverloch Library on April 29 at 6pm to talk about the new edition of "Mammoth" and the new Horridus books.

Tickets can be booked through Eventbrite or by calling the Inverloch library.

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/author-talk-with-chris-flynn-inverloch-library-tickets-310293224387?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

Book bonanza for 67-million-year-old triceratops

Chris Flynn is no stranger to working with dinosaurs and fossils.

His 2020 book "Mammoth" was narrated by a 13,000-year-old extinct mammoth, and told the story of how the skull of a Tyrannosaurus bataar, a pterodactyl, a prehistoric penguin, the severed hand of an Egyptian mummy and the mammoth came to be on sale at a Manhattan auction in 2007.

But working with Melbourne Museum's Horridus – the most complete triceratops fossil ever found – took him into new territory.

A hard cover coffee table book documents the journey of the fossil, discovered in a creek bed in Montana in 2014, to Melbourne, where it is now on permanent display at the Melbourne Museum.

He also worked with illustrator Aaron Cushley, to create a children's book: "Horridus and the Hidden Valley".

"Horridus – journey of a Triceratops" includes photos from every stage of the journey from the fossil discovery in Montana to its arrival and assembly in Melbourne.

He interviewed 25 different people, including palaeontologist Craig Pfister who discovered Horridus, and staff at the museum and Dino Lab.

Other interviewees included palaeontologists Tim Flannery and people in the arts like writer Benjamin Law, artist Maree Clarke, art director Rebecca Dart and chef/author Shannon Martinez who were dinosaur fans.

But it was the work on the children's book that really took him out of his comfort zone.

"Horridus and the Hidden Valley" is aimed at children aged two to six



Phillip Island author Chris Flynn has produced two books about Horridus the Triceratops – a coffee table book and a children's story. Both will be available in book stores from May 1.

and shows what life would have been like for Horridus, and his best friend Archie, an Avisaurus, back in the Cretaceous period.

And while the book is colourful and imaginative – it is all scientifically correct.

Although Chris has already published three novels, with a fourth book due out in September, he was in new territory writing for kids.

"Writing a children's book is a strange discipline.

"You're restricted in the amount of and the type of words you can use.

"You only have 15 spreads, and you can't make it too difficult for the illustrator."

He likened the experience to writing a short script, where you write the text and dialogue and a description of what the scene would look like.

The book contains strong messages of friendship, wonder and environmental preservation.

Chris called on a teacher friend

from Cowes Primary School for advice, but it wasn't until the book was printed that he got to road test it on some youngsters.

"It came back from the printer on the day the exhibition opened," Chris said.

At a Museum-members event families and kids came along and Chris found himself onstage, reading the book to them.

"That was the first time it had ever been read to a child.

"Five- to 15-year-olds are an informed audience, when it comes to dinosaurs. They know more about dinosaurs than their parents do."

Fortunately "Horridus and the Hidden Valley" passed with flying colours.

"I won myself a lot of very small fans. They were coming up and wanting to get their books signed."

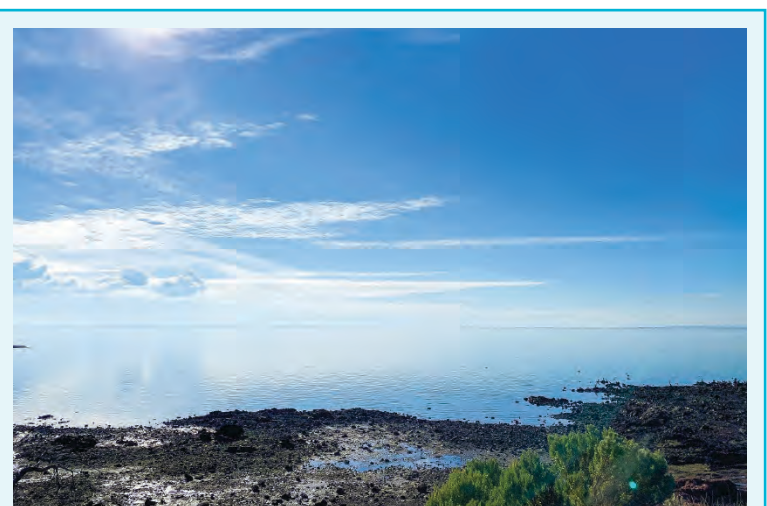
The enthusiasm for the book stretched beyond opening night, and the book is now the best-selling item ever in the museum's catalogue.

And its success has meant Chris has the green light to begin work on book two of the series, with more adventures in store for Horridus and Archie.

"Horridus and the Hidden Valley" and "Horridus – journey of a Triceratops" will both be available in bookstores from May 1.

Inverloch library presents an author talk with Chris Flynn on Friday, April 29 at 6pm. Bookings through Eventbrite or the library.

You can visit Horridus at the Melbourne Museum. Details at museums-victoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/whats-on/triceratops-fate-of-the-dinosaurs/home-of-horridus/



A new program aims to collect valuable biodiversity data in over 30 parks and reserves, including Churchill Island National Marine Park.

Calling on citizen scientists

Citizen scientists are being asked to help record biodiversity at parks and reserves across Victoria.

A new program aims to collect valuable biodiversity data in over 30 parks and reserves, including Churchill Island National Marine Park and the Bunurong Marine National Park.

Parks Victoria said April is Citizen Science Month and using the iNaturalist app, they're asking people to visit one of the selected parks and capture images of plant and animal species on their smartphone.

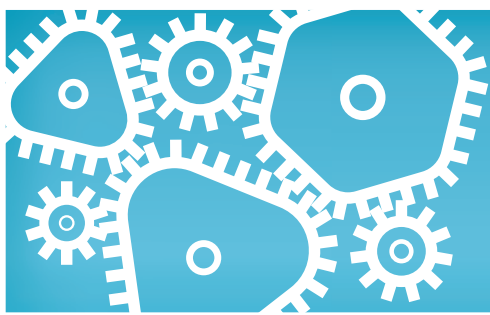
Parks Victoria will use observations reviewed by iNaturalist to provide quality research data to its Conservation and Science

staff who are working to protect nature.

"Parks Victoria's Data Discovery Program provides anyone with a smartphone the opportunity to contribute to our work protecting nature and caring for country across the state," said Leesa Riley, Statewide Volunteering Manager at Parks Victoria.

She said citizen science like this can even make significant breakthroughs by finding species in places they may not have been seen before.

For more information and a full list of selected locations visit: www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/conservation-and-science/science-and-research/become-a-citizen-scientist



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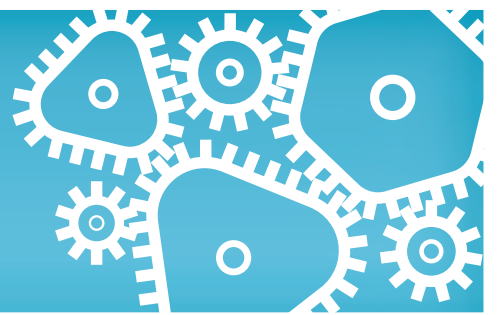
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Do our politicians owe us an explanation?

At the Advertiser we consistently receive calls or letters from people complaining about Bass Coast Shire Council. Alongside concerns about its delivery of services or facilities the community wants, a key concern is an increasing lack of transparency and integrity in the way the council operates.

So it was surprising to read in The Age on the weekend that Russell Broadbent was one of seven Liberal MPs who said establishing a Federal watchdog (or anti-corruption body) was not an issue for voters.

Mr Broadbent said the issue had not been raised with him by voters, stating "This election will be won and lost on how people feel about the economy and who will look after them."

How is it that people can be so passionate about having transparent and open government at the local level, but are apparently unconcerned about it in the Federal parliament?

Deb Leonard, the independent candidate for Monash told the Advertiser she is "strongly in favour of a federal ICAC" and the issue has been raised with her "many, many times" by voters in the electorate.

The Labor Party has committed to establishing an ICAC by the end of 2022 if it wins the election. The Greens also support establishing a Federal ICAC and state they have a bill ready to go, which has already passed the Senate.

All sides of politics at all levels of government have, at some point, been accused of corrupt, unethical or unlawful behaviour. Most states have mechanisms in place to deal with this.

For example, in Victoria, local government concerns can be investigated by the Local Government Inspectorate.

At a state level, there is IBAC, which has investigated the Labor government's Red Shirts rorts and Victoria police's handling of witnesses (which led to a Royal Commission into policing handling of informants), to name but a few.

Recently, in NSW an ICAC investigation into former MP Daryl Maguire resulted in the resignation of Premier Gladys Berejiklian.

The Federal government is the only jurisdiction in the country that doesn't have an integrity commission.

But in the past three years, the calls for investigations into the government has included the car park and sports rorts, misuse of grant money, misuse of travel expenses, Barnaby Joyce's drought envoy expenses, investigations into the Brittany Higgins allegations ... there's a long and varied list.

Despite being one of his key promises from the last election, the Prime Minister appears to have abandoned the commitment to establish a Federal integrity body. He has also described the NSW ICAC as a "kangaroo court".

Concern about the way ICAC operates isn't a valid reason to not have a Federal body. If the government believes the state system is flawed, design a better one for the Federal parliament.

Support for honest, transparent, open and accountable government should be a bipartisan issue. It should operate at all levels of government.

We've all heard the argument that if we've done nothing wrong, we should have nothing to fear from increased powers granted to governments, police or surveillance bodies.

The same should apply to politicians.

This election, and every election, government integrity IS an important issue. Politicians should be held accountable for their actions and there should be proper mechanisms in place to investigate any apparent breaches.

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



Who can you trust?

For sure, politicians have always told porkies but always within reason. As the PM flounders around to rescue himself, surely he could at least have committed to funding Federal ICAC corruption commission? But no. He denies that yet again.

How can you trust a person who contradicts today, what he said yesterday and then actually denies what he said yesterday, even though it's undeniably loud and clear in public record? Scale of his lies should earn him a medal.

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Thanks for Cowes East foreshore works

The rock wall to protect the Cowes East foreshore is progressing wonderfully.

It is hard to imagine that, after more than seven years of agitation, it is actually happening. Later this year there will not only be serious protection for this stretch of foreshore, but a path joining Coghlan Road to Lovers Walk.

This is happening due to a generous federal government grant of \$1.5million arranged by Russell Broadbent specifically for foreshore protection in Cowes East, and Inverloch. These works have also been supported by the current Bass Coast council, specifically Cr Whelan who, together with Russell Broadbent, have made this possible. I thank you as a member of the local community that will be enjoying, and benefitting from, this new facility.

Pat Bowen, Silverleaves

The devil we can't afford

Scott Morrison is running his campaign on 'better the devil you know', but some devils we can't afford, and this is one of them. And, do we know this devil as well as Mr Morrison wants us to believe?

Mr Morrison, there are a number of things, I wonder, if you have been honest about. When your own Cabinet are unsure of your honesty, why should we take you on face value, as you seem to think we should.

We know Mr Broadbent has no concern for the voters of Monash. Is he campaigning, as one of the irresponsible unvaccinated, wandering the countryside? Does he remind the electorate, as he shakes hands, he is an anti-vaxxer?

No, voters of Monash, we don't need or want the 'devil we know'. Let's give Jessica O'Donnell your vote. We know she listens ... and she is vaccinated!

Anne Don, Cowes

Time is up for Broadbent

It has become clearer that Russell Broadbent no longer represents the electorate of Monash with his latest statement that he doesn't believe that voters want a Federal ICAC. He is anti-vax, he voted against the marriage equality legislation, voted for the evil religious discrimination bill and he voted against the Medevac Bill, leaving innocent and vulnerable people in intolerable conditions.

Russell, I think you will find that a hugemajority of voters want a Federal ICAC and along with your voting history on other important issues, you do not in any way represent the voters of Monash. The LNP is afraid of being judged and held to account in a retrospective and transparent way and we know why.

It is way past time Monash.

Lois Gaskin, Cowes

Scooter concerns

Last week I encountered three young girls precariously balanced on a vesper-type scooter which is one among many circumnavigating Cowes at the moment. Talking to friends, they have also raised concerns when they've seen three boys trying to maintain their balance on what should be a two-pillion carrier. When I turned the corner in my car from Church Street into Police Road, there it was. If it weren't for one of the passengers alerting the driver of my presence, the driver would have continued to cross the road which would have placed her and her two other passengers right in the path of my vehicle. Having been surprised by my presence, the scooter started to wobble as the driver quickly averted her desire to cross the road which inevitably could have unloaded all three girls if it had tipped over.

The consensus seems to be that young children are taking advantage of the lack of police presence on the island, so it will only be a matter of time before a serious accident occurs. When a vehicle has collided with one of these overloaded scooters, I guarantee that the poor car driver will be set upon by parents, police and lawyers who will be quick to judge and lay blame on the car driver.

A. Schade, Cowes

Clean up not complete

Referring to your article on the oil slick at Shearwater Estate [April 13] you claim the spill has been cleaned up. This is not the case at all and we residents are still waiting for the return of Melbourne Water to complete the task of skimming the oil from the surface. A solution is urgently

required to locate the source of the leak so this does not happen again. It appears that no-one wants to take responsibility. Let us hope that the combined efforts of Council / EPA / MW and PINP take this more seriously.

Paul Clarke, Cowes

Editor's note: A Melbourne Water spokesperson confirmed the clean up was complete. The Advertiser understands the investigation into the source is also complete and did not identify where the leak came from. EPA has said "the source of the spill has proved difficult to trace". The Advertiser has contacted both organisations for further clarification. PINP has no role in the investigation.

Be alarmed

The article "No cause for alarm" (April 13) states San Remo will expand while Phillip Island will possibly be subject to new plans of subdivisions except those already approved.

I would suggest that there will be real cause for alarm if you need to travel at any time through San Remo.

I was one of the local representatives on the VicRoads Anderson to Cowes \$3.2 million report and also part of the San Remo Access Strategy Report proposed by the then CEO of Bass Coast Council and the Independent Report by Aurecon Australia that was accepted by Council and Community.

Bass Coast Council has done nothing to improve the access to Phillip Island Tourist Road which is their responsibility even though that was fundamental to the San Remo Access Strategy that the Council approved, not only that time but several times since, as the proposed increase in housing was the reason for the report in the first place.

The VicRoads report was to include the bridge having a third lane with a pedestrian/cyclist path hanging off the bridge. The third lane was to alternate depending on time of day like it does when blue line comes in for major events.

VicRoads' stress tests showed that the expected life of the bridge was significantly less than the 50 years originally thought and VicRoads said it was a state government/Bass Coast Council issue to resolve as it was outside their area of responsibility.

It's a state election later this year. I would have thought a replacement plan for the bridge would be more important than a skate park! The head engineer's recommendation at the time was for a tunnel from outside San Remo to other side of Newhaven

but I can't see that ever-getting funding. However, this issue needs to be taken seriously now.

Chris Day, San Remo

Get our democracy back

If you are old enough to remember the old-style political campaigns, then you will remember town-hall meetings, rallies on street corners, constant door-knocks and letters explaining the ideology of the various political parties.

Candidates would face their electorate, listen to the electorate and respond.

When elected, they took to parliament the values and wishes of their electorate. Policy development took account of the electorate's wishes.

Even if electors did not agree with the ideology of the particular party that had won government, they could feel that they had had a say and that there was a reasonable level of democracy present.

Contrast the above with what has been happening over recent decades. Most voters are demoralised and feel disenfranchised.

In recent times, candidates mostly interact with the electorate only enough to be elected. There seems no doubt that democracy in Australia has become very damaged and distorted.

In recent times, there has been a rise in the number of independent candidates. I see this as a strong attempt to get the voice of the electorate back into our parliament.

For this next election, for many people, the most serious issues are how do we manage the impacts of climate change and the problems of maintaining biodiversity, while also taking advantage of the multitude of positive opportunities available to us.

The people of Monash have strong views on what we should be doing, and those views are what should be going to Canberra.

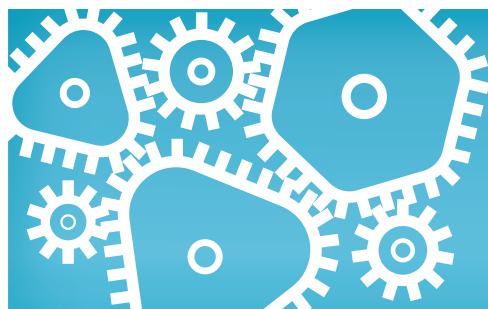
The electorate of Monash has a great opportunity in this coming federal election.

A large and concerned electorate wide group "Voices 4 Monash" has been formed (I am not a member) and sought a candidate who will always seek out and listen to the voice of the electorate and take that to Canberra.

They have found an excellent candidate, Deb Leonard, who is already working to represent you.

I see this as a way to help recapture democracy. Support this strong independent candidate and bring democracy back.

Fred Weight, Foster



Business Guide

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

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Seniors in action against Kilcunda Bass, where the Bulldogs secured a 60 point win.



Jack Optiz was part of the Reserves team that enjoyed a stunning victory over Killy Bass.

Bulldogs get the chocolates!

Kilcunda-Bass: Jack Soroczynski, Cam McKenzie, Thomas West, Daniel Mock, Sam Watson, Ashden Grenness.

Reserves

The PI Reserves came together for their team meeting, with a number of players in, including the returning Jesse Patullo, and Marcus (the Cous) White returning for his first game since the 2019 Grand Final.

Wonderful persistence and effort Cous!

What followed was a very strong four quarter outing for the reserves side on the big Easter weekend stage.

The team stuck to their game plan and executed well.

The midfield got on top early and led the clearances all day.

Cameron Brown and Zac Wagner provided plenty of drive getting first use from Jesse Patullo.

Rounding out a great day for the mids was the return of Cooper Logan and of course club favourite Marcus Wright.

The backline stayed composed and applied plenty of pressure throughout the day which created turnovers in the middle of the ground.

Arie (the Saviour) Cook continued a strong start to the season leading the backs who are playing really well as a group.

The highlight was a great goal on the run from Luke Glossop.

The forwards enjoyed perfect playing conditions and created plenty of scoring opportunities.

The standouts were Levi Robertson kicking eight majors and captain James Nicolaci winding the clock back to finish with ten goals.

The Anzac medal – as selected by the umpires – was awarded to Cameron Brown.

Scores:

Phillip Island: 7.6.48, 13.9.87, 18.14.122, 26.17.173.

Kilcunda-Bass: 1.0.6, 2.0.12, 2.1.13, 3.1.19.

Goals:

Phillip Island: James Nicolaci 10, Levi Robinson 8, Marcus Wright 2, Zach Wagner 2, Dean Blake, Har-

ry Anderson, Liam Dayson, Luke Glassop.

Kilcunda-Bass: Brendan Jones, G. Smith, P.Winwar.

Best Players:

Phillip Island: James Nicolaci, Zach Wagner, Cameron Brown, Levi Robinson, Marcus Wright, Cooper Logan.

Kilcunda-Bass: Lionel Anderson, William Speed, Michael Gatherum, Ryley Duff, Brendan Jones, Blake Egebre.

Under 16s

No U18s for the second week running, so the U16s were away at 10.30 again in perfect conditions.

With a clash against the undefeated Panthers, anticipation for a great match was high.

The Island boys got off to a great start, and by quarter time were leading by four goals.

From that point forward, the Pups took complete command and played football that belied their young ages.

Led by Yianni Caffieri, Oliver Hibbert and Leo Savona, Charlie

O’Garey was able to score almost at will in the forward line.

Linkages, switches, surging and smooth ball movement showed the benefits of working hard together and training hard over the summer break.

Best on award from the umpires saw Yianni Caffieri awarded the Anzac medal.

Scores:

Phillip Island: 5.1.31, 11.4.70, 16.11.107, 18.13.121.

Kilcunda-Bass: 1.0.6, 1.2.8, 1.3.9, 1.4.10.

Goals:

Phillip Island: Charlie O’Garey 5, Finn O’Brien 3, Yianni Caffieri 3, Benjamin Chihotski 2, Charlie Martus, Oliver Duggan, Jack Huther.

Kilcunda-Bass: Tyge Silvester.

Best Players:

Phillip Island: Yianni Caffieri, Oliver Hibbert, Leo Savona, Charlie O’Garey, Beau Davies, Benjamin Chihotski.

Kilcunda-Bass: Chase Krause, Matthew Dakin, Alexander Barba-

ti, Jack Hosking, Jarrad Francome.

Netballers fire up in hot conditions

C Grade

The C grade girls were still fired up from last week’s win and with a few returning players coming back in for their first game of the season things looked good.

Again in defence, the general Chloe M took control under the ring and with the help of Niki W, Ruby F and Karina R scoring goals for Kilcunda Bass was very hard work for them.

Stef K had complete control of mid court, both in defence and attack, with intercepted passes and feeding the likes of Rose V R, Mika W, Maya H and Kate K sharing the goal shooting positions, the C-dogs had their game on.

K/B never stopped trying all game, but in the very warm conditions the Bulldogs were just too strong all over the court, and came home with a positive win.

Phillip Island 45 def Kilcunda Bass 19.

Best players: Chloe Moxey, Rose Van Rooy.

Anzac Day Medal: Steph Kran-

ner.

Great to have Kate and Ruby back in the mix and Steph was a very deserving winner of the Anzac medal.

D Grade

The girls started off the game with some serious intensity.

With a strong mid court, the girls moved the ball down the court, where Julia’s strong driving for the ball and leads, and Jasmine’s strong holds, meant for some great goal scoring early on in the first half.

Teash, Lilly and Kate dominated in the mid court, which meant the goals kept flowing in for the Island.

Once again, we were lucky



The island’s C grade team played strongly to defeat Killy Bass in warm Autumn conditions.

enough to have Bella stepping up from under 15s, and Ruby and Tailyn who all killed it in defence, which made the scores neck and neck up until the third quarter.

The girls played so well in the heat, but unfortunately lost 23 to 28. Great work girls.

Under 11s

Great game for Phillip Island under 11 girls winning against Kilcunda-Bass 20-14.

Congratulations to Macy Piera for getting the Anzac medal award, Frankie Jess for getting the Doggie Dollar award and to Asha Paynes for the Gumbuya World award.

All the girls did such a great job today. Well done.

Under 15s

Phillip Island vs Killy Bass.

A perfect windless Autumn morning welcomed the under 15 girls and supporters to what all hoped would be a competitive game against our local Killy-Bass rivals.

Killy-Bass came out strong,

shooting the first quick goal, ensuring our girls knew they had come to play.

The game quickly took pace with our girls working the ball well into the sure hands of our goal shooters, Meika and Grace.

With Sophia and Bella dominating possession around the opposition goal, it was soon apparent that while the Killy-Bass girls’ endeavours could not be questioned, their ability to get past our defence would be their undoing.

Rebounding most forward attempts with skilful ball reads and perfect passing, the ball was soon working its way back up the court via Hazel, Abbey and Maya.

It wasn’t long before our girls started to dominate, with the first quarter ending 11-3 in the Island’s favour.

The second and subsequent quarters saw much of the same; the girls were completely controlling the ball movement.

Continued dominance by Meika, smooth delivery from Hazel and hard running from Abbey

saw the scores start to blow out.

End to end swapping of the talls saw Bella and Maya dominate up forward and the defensive backbone of the team Sophia, always dominant, assisted by Grace, continued to defend most of what came their way.

Special mention to Olivia Holmes for her contribution. She looks as comfortable in the 15s as she does the 13s, a future club star in the making.

All the best to the Killy-Bass girls who never stopped trying; they will win plenty of games this year, just not against this well-coached, skilful and determined Phillip Island under 15s!

The final scores were 35 to 16.

Best players: Meika and Hazel.

A great team effort by all on court.

Under 17s

The U17 girls were in sensational form early, with Lexi and Isla showing how they can deliver the ball into our reliable shooters of Ella and Lily effortlessly.

Daisy, Ahlee and Ruby provided a tight defensive team showing great skill which shut down the Killy Bass attackers.

In the second quarter, Shanae and Zoe came in strongly to the mid court with Lexi and Ahlee in defence.

All girls played with great intensity with many turnovers being converted to goals by Ella and Lily.

Due to the warm weather, the versatile U17s had a number of switch ups during the third and fourth quarters which continued the U17s domination across the court, with a convincing win 40 to 15.

Best players: Ella Duggan and Daisy Fusinato

Anzac Medal: Shanae Riley.

THIS WEEKEND DRAWS

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION

Garfield v Phillip Island

Sat 30 Apr

SOUTHERN GIPPSLAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION

U10’S Football

Sunday May 1

Phillip Island Blue v Kornmburra-Benna
Dalyston v Phillip Island Red

U14’S Football

Phillip Island Blue v Kornmburra-Benna

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION LADDERS

SENIOR FOOTBALL

	W	L	%	PTS
Inverloch-Kongwak	3	0	233.54	12
Phillip Island	3	0	161.29	12
Tooradin-Dalmore	2	0	287.91	8
Nar Nar Goon	2	0	152.59	8
Warragul Industrials	1	1	118.58	4
Bunyip	1	1	106.80	4
Koo Wee Rup	1	1	85.08	4
Kilcunda Bass	1	2	55.40	4
Dalyston	0	2	81.76	0
Cora Lynn	0	3	56.35	0
Garfield	0	2	44.56	0
Korumburra-Bena	0	2	41.53	0

RESERVES FOOTBALL

	W	L	%	PTS
Phillip Island	3	0	371.60	12
Tooradin-Dalmore	2	0	4650.00	8
Inverloch-Kongwak	2	1	190.60	8
Koo Wee Rup	2	0	177.50	8
Bunyip	1	1	142.86	4
Dalyston	1	1	103.03	4
Cora Lynn	1	2	100.74	4
Nar Nar Goon	1	1	86.79	4
Warragul Industrials	1	1	74.78	4
Garfield	0	2	50.00	0
Kilcunda Bass	0	3	10.45	0
Korumburra-Bena	0	2	7.17	0

THIRDS FOOTBALL

	W	L	%	PTS
Inverloch-Kongwak	3	0	1692.59	12
Cora Lynn	2	1	97.24	8
Garfield	1	0	1060.00	4
Tooradin-Dalmore	1	0	615.38	4
Koo Wee Rup	1	1	136.36	4
Nar Nar Goon	1	1	36.64	4
Phillip Island	0	1	60.00	0
Bunyip	0	2	33.55	0
Korumburra-Bena	0	2	9.22	0
Dalyston	0	1	0.00	0
Kilcunda Bass	0	0	0.00	0
Warragul Industrials	0	0	0.00	0

FOURTHS FOOTBALL

	W	L	%	PTS
Phillip Island	2	0	587.88	8
Inverloch-Kongwak	2	0	235.85	8
Kilcunda Bass	2	1	59.74	8
Bunyip	1	0	360.00	4
Korumburra-Bena	1	1	171.19	4
Warragul Industrials	1	1	135.00	4
Koo Wee Rup	1	1	89.81	4
Garfield	1	1	60.15	4
Dalyston	0	2	62.24	0
Nar Nar Goon	0	2	46.90	0
Tooradin-Dalmore	0	2	10.85	0
Cora Lynn	0	0	0.00	0

NETBALL

A-GRADE	PTS	%	C-GRADE	Pts	%
Inv-Kongwak	12	275.86	Inv-Kongwak	8	362.50
Dalyston	8	456.25	Dalyston	8	262.96
Tooradin-Dal	8	209.09	Tooradin-Dal	8	258.06
Phillip Island	8	138.67	Bunyip	8	251.72
Nar Nar Goon	8	136.00	Garfield	8	168.18
Bunyip	4	127.63	Phillip Island	4	145.95
Warragul Indus	4	82.86	Cora Lynn	4	88.46
Garfield	0	68.69	Nar Nar Goon	0	59.68
Kor-Bena	0	61.46	Koo Wee Rup	0	49.18
Cora Lynn	0	59.71	Warragul Indus	0	46.88
Koo Wee Rup	0	22.41	Kor-Bena	0	44.05
Kilcunda Bass	0	0.00	Kilcunda Bass	0	24.64
B-GRADE	Pts	%	17 & UNDER	Pts	%
Dalyston	8	185.71	Phillip Island	12	231.25%
Tooradin-Dal	8	180.82	Dalyston	8	445.83%
Phillip Island	8	155.56	Inv-Kongwak	8	218.18%
Inv-Kongwak	8	145.16	Bunyip	8	151.22%
Bunyip	8	137.50	Kor-Bena	8	121.57%
Nar Nar Goon	4	136.17	Nar Nar Goon	4	160.00%
Garfield	4	70.67	Tooradin-Dal	4	101.69%
Kilcunda Bass	0	70.44	Warragul Indus	4	63.53%
Warragul Indus	0	69.47	Cora Lynn	0	55.56%
Cora Lynn	0	68.32	Kilcunda Bass	0	42.28%
Kor-Bena	0	63.79	Garfield	0	28.21%
Koo Wee Rup	0	40.86	Koo Wee Rup	0	27.27%



Team photo: Rahni Matheson, Milla Laub, Skye Munro, Sienna Matheson, Trinity O'Keefe, coach Dylan Muir. Absent Mostyn Lumsden

The Battle of the Blocks

South Gippsland Bass swimmers showed the 156 other clubs at the National Championships in Adelaide this week that SGB swimmers can match it with the best.

A particularly impressive effort when you look at the facilities the local team train in, compared with many other teams.

The Battle of the Blocks as it is called this year, has swimmers competing against others of their age from across the country at the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre, with up to 90 swimmers per event and the difference between 1st and 20th is often only half a second.

The swimmers, Rahni Matheson, Trinity O'Keefe, Milla Laub, Sienna Matheson, Mostyn Lumsden and Skye Munro headed to Adelaide for the Easter weekend and swam in a number of events against the country's best, supervised by Head Coach Dylan Muir.

Personal bests were swum by a couple of swimmers and several swimmers made the finals and there are some very proud parents and coaches poolside and teammates watching via Prime TV at home.

This is the biggest team to go to Nationals for SGB and highlights the growth in



Mostyn Lumsden came 9th in the 50m Fly B final, 19th overall.

the club and skill and dedication of the local swimmers.

In a couple of weeks it will be Sophie McKenzie's turn at the open age championships.

Results

Rahni Matheson: 4th 200m Breaststroke, 39th 200IM, 50m Breaststroke 1st B Final and 11th overall, 7th A final 100m Breaststroke.

Trinity O'Keefe: 35th 100m Breaststroke.

Milla Laub: 70th 50m Freestyle

Sienna Matheson: 100m Breaststroke B final – 16th overall, 28th 200m Breaststroke.

Mostyn Lumsden: 50m Fly Qualified for B final – 9th, 19th overall.

Skye Munro: 36th 200m Breaststroke.



Well, that's Easter done and dusted for another year and the end of our sixth Good Friday Appeal fishing competition.

We were uncertain what the competition would look like this year with the last two years very difficult for businesses (our sponsors).

The family budget's stretched like they haven't been for many years but thanks to everyone's generosity it was another huge success.

Firstly, our sponsors were quick to say yes and get involved, some of our customers also sponsored prizes and entries and they just kept coming in.

Our donation this year to the Childrens hospital was just over \$3500 and our prize pool just under \$15,000 from our sponsors.

There was anticipation all weekend with entrants waiting for the hourly texts to see if they had won a random entry prize, especially the major prize of a helicopter flight kindly donated by Phillip Island Helicopters.

When we started this competition, we wanted to make it as much a family weekend as we could and it's great that it is working out that way.

In total we had just over 160 entries consisting of over 70 kids under 14, 55 of those under 11 and 40 of the 60 teams were families.

Thank you to all involved and we are already planning for next year's comp.

Fishing report

While the weather played its part for most of the weekend and school holidays, fishing was tough, and you needed to use all your luck to land on a decent bag.

We did weigh a lot of fish for the comp, but everyone said it was hard going and plenty of patience was needed.

Reports before the weekend were good and maybe the boat traffic and the full moon had something to do with it.

We had more kingfish reported from in the bay, both size and undersized ones with the best method of catching them being a whole squid on a live bait rig, unweighted out behind the boat.

One big problem over the weekend was the weed in the bay as it just seemed to be everywhere.

We are also starting to see a lot of cold-water species, many of which are not worth keeping.

We weighed more whiting than any other fish and if you took two of the biggest and four of the smallest out, the other 30 odd were within



George and Oli were very pleased with their catch.

about 25g of each other.

They were all good healthy fish and while no one managed an esky full, most managed a good feed.

Previous to the weekend, numbers were good but the size of the whiting wasn't consistent and a mixture of very small, 28cm to a respectable 45cm.

The area the whiting was caught was different as well. Before the weekend the shallows were the best and the most common areas no problem, but it changed over the weekend and it was some of the not so common areas that were the best: Reef Island to Leolia Shoal then Leolia Shoal to Coronet Bay, possibly hiding from the boat traffic.

With the calm conditions offshore, there were several boats heading out to look for a flathead or two and a decent gummy on the reefs around Kilcunda.

Flathead weren't too hard to find, quality or decent size ones were.

You could get a feed without too much trouble but the bag of tails at the end of the day wasn't all that big. Having said that, any size bag of flathead tails is worth it.

The flathead came from the places you would expect them to and around the 35m line.

There was also lots of draught boards starting to show up and the odd ray.

Once the bay cools enough they should move in, and the flathead fishing offshore will be easier without so much rubbish.

Even the gummies offshore were quiet, and we only had a couple reported.

We did have reports of some bigger ones lost at the boat and several seven gills caught.

Full moon, boat traffic, easterly winds, not so favourable tides, or just bad luck, not sure which one to blame but something turned the



Leigh not only caught a few whiting but was the luck winner of the major raffle of a helicopter flight.

fish off over the weekend.

I am sure things will turn and we will start to see some good bags of fish coming back soon.

Coming into the colder, quieter and darker months we will start to wind back our shop hours and close our usual two days a week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Shop hours will change after the Anzac weekend.

For those who follow us on social media we will also be starting up our online auctions again.

These were a huge success during Covid, and we have been asked if we can continue them.

When it was obvious we had to move shops, the nerves set in a little, moving from what had been our home for many years.

While in our planning we thought it would be a positive thing you just don't know until it happens.

The response to our move though has been overwhelming and reassuring that the decision was the right one.

Now we need to build on the move and start to supply all of the needs of our customers.

We have made a few additions already with our drinks and snacks fridge. We now have ice, the very popular photo wall is back, we have created space for our customers to walk around and we are able to carry more of each product.

Also, after a bit of organising we have finally got the coffee machine in and working.

We are already planning for next season but need input from those who matter, our customers.

Are there some things we are missing? Drop us an email or drop in store and let us know.

We may have already thought of it and it's on its way but just in case we haven't, tell us your thoughts.

South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls

Thursday, April 14 midweek bowls played at Lang Lang with 28 happy bowlers on a slow green but never the less in good condition and we quickly adjusted to the speed.

As usual happy banter could be heard across the rinks and some good-natured sledging.

The weather was pleasant for most of the day with it heating up late into the afternoon.

Again we had some of our members with wrong bias and they donated to the RCH.

Gladly even one of our gun bowlers Gwen Jeffrey donated not because she had a wrong bias but because she felt she had played a terrible game.

She is a very happy member of midweek bowls.

The standard of bowling was excellent with some high scores recorded: winners 36 points. runners up 35 points, one game winners 24 points.

Thank you to our members who brought in items for the free raffle table we had a variety of goods including Easter eggs, fresh produce, and a variety of books.

Thank you to Alan Thomas who looks after us while we are at Lang Lang, serving us our drinks and doing kitchen duty. Alan has looked after Midweek for many years.

A big thank you to the volunteers who come each week and help out and make midweek bowls possible.

Next week we will be playing at Corinella, 10am at the club for a 10.30am start. The winter program is now available so please take one, our winter season starts on May 12.

The time change as follows 10.30am at the club for a 11am start dress mufti.

For more information or to register please contact Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974 the night before, or come early on the day.

Everyone welcome. See you on the green.



Winners: Elaine Williams, Michael Dady and Sue Stansfield.



Runners Up: Dennis Talbot (centre), Gillian Harper and Delia Cave.



One Game Winners: Lindsay Russell, Peter McWilliams, Phil Wright and Peter Stansfield.

Euchre results

Ladies Winner: Norma Corr 6 wins

Men's Winner: Les Walton 8 wins

Encouragement: Marg Cahill

Please contact Bob Hee for any further Information 0418 173 388.

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BLACK						
WED 20 APR	THU 21 APR	FRI 22 APR	SAT 23 APR	SUN 24 APR	MON 25 APR	TUE 26 APR
HIGH 2:59 am 2.73 m	HIGH 3:41 am 2.76 m	HIGH 4:22 am 2.77 m	HIGH 5:05 am 2.75 m	HIGH 5:50 am 2.69 m	LOW 12:34 am 1.06 m	LOW 1:22 am 1.10 m
LOW 8:54 am 0.34 m	LOW 9:39 am 0.25 m	LOW 10:24 am 0.23 m	LOW 11:09 am 0.28 m	LOW 11:53 am 0.39 m	HIGH 6:39 am 2.61 m	HIGH 7:36 am 2.51 m
HIGH 4:00 pm 3.21 m	HIGH 4:46 pm 3.24 m	HIGH 5:32 pm 3.20 m	HIGH 6:17 pm 3.10 m	HIGH 7:02 pm 2.97 m	LOW 12:39 pm 0.55 m	LOW 1:30 pm 0.74 m
LOW 9:34 pm 0.96 m	LOW 10:19 pm 0.95 m	LOW 11:04 pm 0.97 m	LOW 11:49 pm 1.01 m		HIGH 7:48 pm 2.83 m	HIGH 8:39 pm 2.70 m

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A moving Anzac ceremony conducted by the RSL before the senior football and netball games.

Bulldogs get the chocolates!

What a magnificent day we were presented with for the traditional Easter clash between the Bulldogs and the Kilcunda-Bass Panthers for 2022.

Perfect conditions, ground in superb condition and the Kennel fully prepped for what promised to be a huge crowd.

Even more significant was the combination of the Easter and Anzac Day event, with the moving Anzac ceremony conducted by the RSL before the senior football and netball games.

All seniors, reserves, coaches and officials showed their respect during the moving ceremony which culminated in the New Zealand and Australian national anthems.

Beginning the game in around 27C was certainly a novelty for all involved, and with an excellent 3000-odd crowd in, it was wonderful to see community sport well and truly back – something everyone was super-excited to see!

Seniors

With a bunch of ins due to the Taylor-three and Noosh Kane-Gillard away, the Phillip Island boys began with three first-gamers. Zac Walker (wearing the famous No 31) and Jack Papas stepping up from Under 18s, and Hayden Smith having just graduated from the 2021 U18s.

All three were to have an impact at varying times through the day.

An even start saw a competitive first quarter, with Captain Youle leading the charge for the Bulldogs.

The ball flowed from end to end, with both defences on top, and the Bulldogs defence lead by Mark Griffin.

An escaping dog came onto the ground and insisted on working



Jaymie Youle in action against Kilcunda Bass. Jaymie was awarded the Anzac medal for the best representation of the Anzac spirit.

with the Bulldogs and upsetting Kilcunda-Bass thrusts into the forward line, much to the embarrassment of his owner causing the game to halt!

Goals later in the quarter to Youle and O'Brien after some amazing footwork from first gamer Zac (Tangles) Walker, saw the Bulldogs up by 13 at the first break.

The second quarter saw domination in the middle, with Cam Pedersen and Jaymie Youle bringing in the first-gamer Hayden Smith on one wing and Matt Jones on the other.

A great opportunity for another first-gamer Jack Papas saw his first goal in senior footy, with the entire team (and the ever-reliable runner Scott Huther) converging.

Daniel Pearce roaming the for-

ward line showed class works at either end of the ground with his first goal.

The boys from Bass fought hard and a couple of goals ensured that the lead was held to 27 at the major break.

An on-field half-time break in the slightly cooler shaded location was taken, in amongst the on-field spectators, dogs, footies and an irate umpire who was well tired of asking spectators to move off the boundary for their own safety during play.

Two of the Bulldogs finest donned suitable attire and acted as boundary-riders for the rest of the game.

The third was all the Bulldogs. Harry O'Brien ran rings around his opponent, scoring almost at will, Jordy Patullo stepped up

and Zac Vernon ran riot all over the ground.

In the defence Daniel Holmes and Tarquin McMillan combined well, the Bulldogs extending their lead to 10 goals at the three-quarter time break.

For the second week in a row, ice, towels and cold drinks were the rule at three quarter time.

To their credit, Kilcunda-Bass led the charge in the final stanza outscoring the Bulldogs with a string of excellent goals working through the Bulldogs' defence.

A late goal to Brendan Kimber saw the Bulldogs break through the 100 point barrier late in the game, running out victors by 60 points.

Special presentations (as selected by the field umpires) in the rooms afterwards.

Jaymie Youle was awarded the Anzac medal for the best representation of the Anzac spirit.

In every home game against Kilcunda-Bass the Gary Todd medal (Gary played for both clubs) is awarded for Best on ground, which was awarded to Brendan Kimber.

Well done to both on winning these special awards.

Scores:
Phillip Island: 4.1.25, 8.5.53, 13.10.88, 15.16.106.

Kilcunda-Bass: 2.1.13, 4.2.26, 4.3.27, 7.4.46.

Goals:
Phillip Island: Zac Vernon 3, Harry O'Brien 3, Jack Papas 2, Daniel Pearce 2, Jamie Youle 2, Brendan Kimber, Jordy Patullo, Max Blake.

Kilcunda-Bass: Nathan Foote 2, Marcus Baxter 2, James Phillips, Kye Benson, Jack Soroczynski.

Best Players:
Phillip Island: Jaymie Youle, Mark Griffin, Cameron Pedersen, Brendan Kimber, Zak Vernon, Harry O'Brien.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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