



# ADVERTISER

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Thursday, April 24, 2025

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## Blockbuster Appeal

Hayden and Ricky from The Block, with Good Friday Appeal volunteers Steph Bugeja, Anne-Marie Branch, Kathryn Anderson and Alexis Bradbury. The popular contestants from the reality TV show arrived to lend a hand to Good Friday fundraising activities in Cowes. The incredible efforts of the Phillip Island and San Remo communities saw an astonishing \$106,185 collected for this year's Good Friday Appeal. See more details of all the local fundraisers on page 12.

## Tragedy strikes at Punchbowl rocks ... again

### DROWNING

Emergency services were called to Punch Bowl Road in San Remo around 8.30am on Good Friday morning, after three people were washed off the rocks.

One woman managed to swim back to shore, and rescuers, including Police Air Wing managed to locate another woman in the water.

She was brought back to shore but could not be revived.

Police said a report would be prepared for the coroner.

Emergency services continued the search for a 41-year-old man, but a body has yet to be located.

The rescue operation also involved Life Saving Victoria's Rescue Water Craft, the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter, and Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club volunteers along with Victoria Police.

Life Saving Victoria extended its condolences to those affected and urged caution around coastal rock platforms, where conditions can be unpredictable with dangerous surf conditions

predicted for this week and the coming weekend.

According to Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club President, Jason Close, club members assisted the search and rescue effort at the request of Life Saving Victoria, following contact from Victoria Police.

Volunteer surf life savers launched jetskis from Newhaven and made their way to Punchbowl, while other lifesavers travelled by road to assist with the search from land.

"The club is saddened that

a family visiting our beautiful beaches has experienced such a tragic loss," Jason said.

"Our thoughts also go out to our members and the other emergency services involved who go above and beyond to assist in these situations."

### Unpredictable

"We are experiencing large swells at this time of year, and this can make our beaches and rock platforms more unpredictable than usual," Jason said.

"We urge everyone to take

care because we want everyone who visits our beaches to be able to go home safely."

During the day on Good Friday, life savers were also called to check on the wellbeing of two fisherman on rocks near the Pinnacles at Cape Woolamai.

"Fortunately they did not require rescuing but were unaware of the dangers of large swells in their fishing location and of the concerns of their family members who had not heard from them for some time."

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# PHILLIP ISLAND

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Thu/Apr24	Fri/Apr25	Sat/Apr26	Sun/Apr27	Mon/Apr28	Tue/Apr29	Wed/Apr30
						
MOSTLY SUNNY	SHOWERS EASING	POSSIBLE SHOWER	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	PARTLY CLOUDY
14 25	16 22	15 19	12 20	12 17	13 15	12 15

## Yet more illegal seafood poaching off Phillip Island

### FISHERIES

Cowes Fisheries officers have again nabbed illegal abalone poachers in a major seizure, on Easter Sunday, at Pyramid Rock.

Working on the Easter long weekend, despite the threat of job termination (see separate story), the seizure by officers comes just a few weeks after one of the biggest illegal poaching hauls in Phillip Island's history.

In early April Cowes Fisheries officers nabbed two men in the act of stealing more than 280 abalone near Pyramid Rock,

more than 50 times the legal limit of abalone.

Now in the latest illegal poaching incident, on Sunday poachers were found with dozens of the shellfish.

The Advertiser asked the Victorian Fisheries Authority for details about the seizure, including how many poachers were involved, how many abalone, and the charges and received this response.

"The Victorian Fisheries Authority will continue to focus on major fisheries crime."

### Outrage

On social media, there was

again anger at the imminent job losses at Fisheries, in the wake of successive illegal poaching incidents on Phillip Island.

Jude said Fisheries officers (FO) have been regularly nabbing illegal poachers off Phillip Island for years, but they are "not allowed to issue public statements about what they do".

"If you go back through the VFA Facebook page, in the past these sorts of apprehensions were regularly reported on," Jude wrote.

"However for the last year or so the VFA have basically stopped reporting on FO apprehensions as it doesn't fit their

narrative of removing them."

She said members of the public were sharing videos and photos "because the FOs are getting the flick" and "the public and media need to make more noise to stop this proposal going through".

"So these posts are not reflective of an increase in officers doing their job, but an increase of public interest in sharing what they do."

Ben said officers were "working hard over the Easter long weekend while we all enjoy time off", including helping in an emergency search and rescue of a tragic drowning.

Toni commented the seizure was "what dedicated profes-

sional frontline fisheries officers do every day even on public holidays".

"As a taxpayer I know whose wages I want to pay and it's not the Victorian Fisheries Authority CEO," Toni wrote.

Bianca said she was "so grateful to our Fisheries officers who protect our precious marine environment" and the VFA's proposed "education and engagement" model reflected a lack of "due diligence or, it seems, a proper risk assessment".

"This lunacy will pave the way for the worst environmental vandalism Victoria has seen. No one will be there to apprehend poachers. We need our frontline Fishos."



Another week, another illegal poaching seizure off Phillip Island, ahead of imminent job losses of Cowes Fisheries officers.

### POLICE BRIEFS

#### Cash donation

A significant amount of cash was inside some clothing donated to the San Remo (Bass Coast Health) Op Shop on Back Beach Road San Remo over the weekend of April 5 and 6.

Police would like to reunite the cash with its rightful owner.

If you know who it belongs to, please contact the San Remo Police Station on 03 5678 5500 or email [sanremo.uni@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:sanremo.uni@police.vic.gov.au)

#### Cowes stabbing

A 42-year-old male was stabbed on Friday night (April 18) along The Esplanade, in

#### Cowes.

It is alleged a brawl broke out outside a licensed premises on The Esplanade about 11.20pm.

The male victim was stabbed multiple times by another man.

The victim was airlifted to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

A 31-year-old Wimbledon Heights man was arrested at the scene and will be interviewed by police.

Anyone who witnessed the incident, has CCTV/dashcam footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [www.crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au)

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

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# “Outrage”, “disappointment” at funding fail for sport

## BUDGET

Sporting clubs and several councillors have slammed Bass Coast Shire Council's draft 2025/26 budget for failing to adequately fund future sporting facilities for Phillip Island.

The Phillip Island Football Netball Club said council had “ignored the wishes and the emphatic ballot box results of the Phillip Island residents” after the draft budget allocated just \$250,000 to the proposed future recreation reserve, on the corner of Ventnor and Phillip Island roads.

Councillors Tim O'Brien and Ronnie Bauer both voted against the budget, with Cr O'Brien receiving applause from the public gallery after saying he was “so disappointed and almost outraged” by the \$250,000 allocation.

Cr Bauer said the reserve was “the most important priority for us islanders” and said he would move a mini budget later in the year to progress the reserve, while Cr Tracey Bell said she understood if the community “feels a bit duped”.

Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead “wholeheartedly” agreed with Island Ward councillors that sports clubs were “absolutely bulging at the seams” and “need this infrastructure”.

The budget allocates \$31.3 million to capital works including \$2 million to a Bass Recreation Reserve netball pavilion and \$1.9 million to the Wonthaggi netball pavilion.

“Council will continue to advocate for state and federal government financial support for the delivery of major inter-generational capital projects,” the budget states.

In 2023 council approved the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan for the 32ha site. But most of the sporting facilities listed on it are between 10 and 30 years away.

Voters at last year's council elections sent a strong message that sporting facilities were desperately needed.

## Football club

Phillip Island Football Netball Club secretary Glenn Plymin said despite the future Phillip Island recreation reserve being



The April council meeting was held in Cowes last week for the first time since the pandemic. There was heated discussion among councillors about the lack of funding for the future Phillip Island recreation reserve in the newly-released draft budget.

the “number one issue at the 2024 council elections”, it had again been allocated minimal funding.

“Our existing change room and social facilities at Cowes are dilapidated at best. They are by far the worst in Bass Coast,” Mr Plymin said.

“We’ve put up with this on the promises of a new recreation facility. Unfortunately council have done nothing for us in this regard.”

He said the club was constantly funding repairs and upgrades to their facilities, which “cannot go close” to fitting in all 1000 members at any time.

“We are the biggest football club in Gippsland. The next biggest club is Sale and they are 25 per cent smaller than us.”

“We supply approximately 47 per cent of all footballers in the Bass Coast. Every year we also have to turn away budding footballers and netballers.”

“How long are we supposed to exist with these substandard facilities along with continually having our needs ignored by Bass Coast Shire Council?”

“The culture and opportunity our club creates for the community is second to none and deserves better from the shire.”

## Critique

Cr O'Brien acknowledged “budgeting is hard” but said since the new council's first meeting in November “we’ve zeroed in on that figure and that figure hasn’t moved a jot”.

“This community has been waiting for 40 years and the best we can come up with after 40 years is \$250,000 and a driveway. It’s preposterous.”

He said council needed to find more money for the project to ensure momentum, “so when one thing finishes the next big thing is ready to start”.

“Let’s get this underway and get some real money behind it.”

Councillors said the reason only \$250,000 had been allocated to the recreation reserve was because the budget reflected the previous council's priorities.

Cr Bauer said by releasing the draft budget before council had finalised its new financial plan and long-term priorities, it created “an unnecessary lag”.

“This is a problem for me as I believe there will be a different direction for the next four years,” Cr Bauer said.

“We are effectively frozen into a pultry \$250,000 for the next year when the allocation should be \$1 million.”

Cr Tracey Bell said it was an “uncomfortable budget” to offer to the community as it was based on the previous council's priorities.

“The community did send a clear message in October by turning over two-thirds of councillors that the last council's priorities weren’t in line with the community’s,” Cr Bell said.

“We do need to show the community we are committed to the recreation reserve, that was the outstanding issue last year during the campaign.”

She assured the community “we have listened” and councillors would ensure there was funding for the reserve.

Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead said \$250,000 was a start.

“Where you’ve been let down is previous councils have not added the recreation reserve – even though we paid \$3 million to buy the site – it wasn’t added to the long-term plan.”

“We are trying to turn the ship around. There is hope and I want to express that to our community.”

For more budget coverage, turn to page 11.



The rock bags are an interim protection measure, with longer term planning and options being prepared by the government.

## Rock bag wall complete

### SILVERLEAVES

Erosion works finished at Silverleaves last week, ahead of the Easter long weekend and expected king tides.

Construction of the stepped rock bag wall 165 metres east along the most vulnerable stretch of Silverleaves – at the erosion hotspot near Sanders Road – started on April 7.

More than 500 rock bags now line the foreshore.

Rocks from Tynong were trucked to Phillip Island, then bagged at Gap Road, before being hoisted by heavy machinery along the beach.

In March the Victorian Government announced funding for the rock bags as an interim protection measure, with longer term planning and options being prepared by the government.

Bass Coast Shire Council carried out the works and Mayor Rochelle Halstead said the rock bag wall would protect against coastal surges over the next 10 years and would reassure residents concerned about ongoing erosion.

“These protection works provide immediate support for the Silverleaves coastline, while we work with the community and the Victorian Government to plan for the long-term future,” Cr Halstead said.

“We know how important this area is to residents and visitors, and we’re committed to working together to find sustainable, evidence-based solutions. I know many residents will feel relieved to see these rock bags in place ahead of the king tide season.”

A coastal study has been commissioned by the government, with community consultation to take place in coming weeks.

Details: [engage.vic.gov.au](https://engage.vic.gov.au) or [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au](https://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au)

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# \$10 million promise for island's sports hub

## ELECTION

Liberal Candidate for Monash, Mary Aldred and Senator Jane Hume visited Cowes last week, to announce a \$10 million election commitment to kickstart development of the Phillip Island Sports Hub.

The Phillip Island Football Netball Club and Island Voice has been lobbying the major parties fiercely to secure funding for ovals at the new sports hub in Cowes.

It appears the hard work has paid off, with this \$10 million commitment.

Glenn Plymin, secretary of the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC), and Peter McMahon from Island Voice, were on hand for the announcement.

"It is a very exciting day, because if the Coalition is elected to government, we're going to secure \$10 million to kickstart Stage 1 of the Phillip Island Rec Reserve, to deliver sport and recreation facilities for islanders," Ms Aldred said.

"The Phillip Island Rec Reserve is such an important project, because it is going to kickstart aquatic facilities through to football facilities.

"It's going to be so important for young people right through the community."

Ms Aldred was accompanied by Senator Hume who is the Shadow Minister for Finance, and said she was extremely grateful to secure this commitment.

Senator Hume said Ms Aldred and the community had fought for the project.

"We know Glenn at the football club and Peter at Island Voice have been working so hard for this project to get it off the ground.

"So now today we can announce the \$10 million for the 14,000 people that live on Phillip Island," Senator Hume said.

"This is going to be a terrific opportunity for the people that live on the island, that work on the island, that play on the island, but most importantly, it is going to be brilliant for this community.

"Mary, we now have to get you elected, so we can get this project off the ground."

## Football, aquatics

When asked what the decision meant to him, Glenn Plymin said it was hard to put into words.

"There's a running joke in the footy club with everyone who is 60-plus, and I'm one of them, that we wouldn't be alive to see it," Glenn said.

"So now I sincerely hope we will be



Glenn Plymin (PIFNC) with Liberal Candidate Mary Aldred, Senator Jane Hume and Island Voice's Peter McMahon, at the announcement of a \$10 million commitment to kickstart the Phillip Island Sports Hub.

alive to see it."

He said players young and old would benefit, plus the club would have better facilities, and be "able to celebrate what a great, successful family club we are" after long outgrowing the current ground.

Glenn said PIFNC was the biggest sports club in Gippsland and supplied 47 per cent of all the footballers in Bass Coast.

"That's quite extraordinary," said Senator Hume. "That's the next generation of footballers for the AFL, no doubt about it."

Peter McMahon said there had been a 30-plus year push for aquatic facilities on the island.

"But it's not one sport. The recreation site represents all sports.

"Every avenue of sporting on the island is so in need," he told the Senator and Ms Aldred.

"We appreciate what you've been able to do. We sincerely hope that you are successful, and we come up with the \$10 million."

## Masterplan

Currently, under the council's present masterplan for the sports hub, it could be 20 years before work begins on the new ovals.

Despite being the number one issue identified in last year's council election, this year's draft budget has only allocated \$250,000 to the project.

In September 2023 the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan recommended more than 35 projects, categorised as short, medium and long-term

priorities.

- short term: one to 10 years totalling \$6.3 million (including: the dog park \$605,000, fencing \$500,000, community open space \$2.1 million);
- medium term: 11 to 20 years totalling \$38.1 million (including: oval-1 \$2 million, four netball courts \$1.5 million, playground \$350,000, pavilion \$15 million); and
- long term: 21+ years totalling \$70.8 million (including: oval-2 \$2 million, pool \$52 million, multi-purpose sports fields \$2 million).

Under the current phased development plan, a new oval is scheduled in the medium term (11-20 years), while a second oval and aquatic centre are listed as long-term projects (21 – 25 years).

Sports groups have been lobbying for development of the ovals and aquatic centre to be moved forward, saying immediate action was needed.

Representatives from PIFNC met with Mary Aldred in December last year to make the case for urgent funding for the new ovals.

Then in February, Ms Aldred met with representatives from Island Voice, who were also lobbying for funding for the sports hub, focused on the urgent need for football facilities, and the long-awaited aquatic centre.

Although the four major candidates in the election have all pledged their support for the sports hub, last week's announcement is the first firm commitment for funding.

The Phillip Island Sports Hub will be located at the intersection of Ventnor and Phillip Island roads in Cowes.

## Clarification

To clarify the report in last week's paper (Ventnor restaurant proposal), a permit for a restaurant at 511 Ventnor Road, Ventnor has been lodged by the owner of the property.

The property is currently the site of The Store Phillip Island and Island Primary Produce. The permit application is separate to – and not part of – the established two businesses.



TerryWhite Chemmart Phillip Island has flu vaccinations in stock for \$24.95, with anyone aged 65 or over eligible to receive the vaccine for free.

Photo: Unsplash.

## Get your flu vaccination now

### HEALTH

As flu season approaches, health experts are reminding people to get their flu vaccinations.

TerryWhite Chemmart Phillip Island has flu vaccinations in stock for \$24.95, with anyone aged 65 or over eligible to receive the vaccine for free.

The store accepts walk in appointments, Monday to Friday from 9am – 12pm (excluding public holidays).

They also offer a Corporate Flu Vaccination program, which allows businesses to open a store account, which covers their staff vaccination costs.

A spokesperson from TerryWhite said the advantages of the corporate program for business were manifold.

"Vaccination protect the health of your employees, and flu vaccinations are proven to reduce the risk of flu-related illnesses, keeping your team healthy and productive," they said.

"Our system streamlines the vaccination process for your organisation, saving you time and resources."

To enrol in the Corporate Flu Vaccination Program or to learn more about the services, please contact Rebecca Quarrell at TerryWhite Chemmart Phillip Island on 03 5952 2299.

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# Fletcher blasts Libs nuclear policy

## ELECTION

Labor candidate Tully Fletcher has blasted the Liberal's nuclear power policy, which would see a reactor built at Loy Yang.

The Liberal Party has been criticised for failing to provide details of the policy, and Mr Fletcher said now they seemed to be backtracking, noting that candidates had deleted references to nuclear in their updated election flyers. Mr Fletcher said he had a message to "anyone in Monash who still thinks the Liberals believe their own nuclear bull\*#!%".

"Liberals in other seats have been caught deleting it from their election flyers only days after the Victorian Liberal Leader told reporters he preferred gas," Mr Fletcher said.

"Peter Dutton and the Liberals and Nationals will never deliver a nuclear reactor at Loy Yang and they don't want to talk about it.

"They don't want to talk about it because they know we won't like the details and they'll gut our jobs, services, TAFE and Medicare to pay for it."

Mr Fletcher said voters in Gippsland had long memories.

"We know all the Liberals and Nationals ever do

is cut, close and privatise. Just like the SEC, Moe Hospital, and Leongatha rail.

"Peter Dutton's nuclear bull\*#!% is an insult to all Australians and especially to mining and energy workers and their families in the Latrobe Valley.

"Only Labor is delivering new jobs and a new energy industry for Gippsland with gas, hydro and battery-firmed renewables and our own Gippsland Offshore Wind."

As part of his campaign for Monash, Mr Fletcher said the ALP has promised:

- \$3 million to plan essential road network upgrades for Warragul and Drouin
- A permanent, new urgent care centre in Warragul
- \$2.5 million to upgrade and reopen the Leongatha South bypass and
- \$1.5 million to rebuild the Fish Creek Football Netball Club

In the lead up to the election, Mr Fletcher and his team of volunteers have been out and about in Cape Woolamai, Cowes, Cape Paterson, Inverloch, Dalyston and Wonthaggi, as well as Meeniyian, Fish Creek, Korumburra, Leongatha, Warragul, Drouin, Trafalgar and Moe.



Labor candidate Tully Fletcher has been out on the campaign trail with volunteers, and has attacked the Liberal Party's nuclear policy, which would see a reactor built at Loy Yang.

# Applications now open for Rural Land Management Program

## COUNCIL

Bass Coast landowners looking to improve their land management practices can now apply for the 2025/26 Rural Land Management Program (RLMP). The rebate pro-

gram provides financial incentives to support sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation.

This year, the application process has been updated to align with Council's other grant

programs. Landowners are encouraged to check each year in March for application openings, as direct notifications will no longer be sent via mail, email, or SMS. If you've applied in the past or recently pur-

chased rural land, now is the time to check your eligibility and apply before May 31.

New this year, we've also introduced an interactive map to make it easier to check if your property is eligible

The program supports a range of projects that improve environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity, including:

- Controlling and eradicating weeds
- Protecting and enhancing remnant vegetation
- Preventing and reversing soil erosion
- Protecting waterways

and undertaking revegetation

- Pest animal control
- Control and reversing soil salinity

### Who can apply?

To be eligible, applicants must be a landowner or ratepayer in Bass Coast Shire and own at least four hectares of rural land that is either:

- Zoned Farming or Rural Living under the Bass Coast Planning Scheme, or
- Meets the definition of 'Farmland' under the Valuation of Land Act 1960.

Approved applicants / Sponsored article /

receive the rebate upfront on their rates notice before works are carried out, helping to offset costs for land management improvements.

The Rural Land Management Program is a great opportunity to invest in your property and make lasting improvements that benefit both your land and the broader environment.

Applications are now open and close May 31. To check your eligibility and review the program guidelines, visit [basscoast.vic.gov.au/landrebate](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au/landrebate)

## Rural Land Management Program: Applications now open



Bass Coast landowners looking to improve their land management practices can now apply for the 2025-26 Rural Land Management Program (RLMP).

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### Who can apply?

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a landowner or ratepayer in Bass Coast Shire
- Own at least 4 hectares of rural land that is either:
  - Zoned Farming or Rural Living under the Bass Coast Planning Scheme, or
  - Meets the definition of 'Farmland' under the Valuation of Land Act 1960
- Approved applicants receive the rebate upfront on their rates notice before works are carried out, helping to offset costs for land management improvements.

To check your eligibility, review the program guidelines or apply, visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/landrebate](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/landrebate)

Applications close **31 May 2025**.

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Landowners are encouraged to check their eligibility and apply for Bass Coast Shire Council's Rural Land Management Program rebate, before May 31.



# Pre-polling is now open in Cowes

## ELECTION

Voting is underway, with pre-polls now open and nine candidates registered for the seat of Monash.

However, most of these are not actively campaigning, with no media releases, no announcements, and no visits around the electorate.

The Advertiser is unaware of any campaign events in the area by the candidates for The Greens, One Nation, Family First, Trumpet of Patriots or Legalise Cannabis.

In reality, the election is shaping up to be a four-way contest between Liberal candidate Mary Aldred, independent Deb Leonard, Labor's Tully Fletcher and current MP Russell Broadbent (who is also running as an independent).

Recent polling by uComm (commissioned by Climate 200) has Mary Aldred on 50.3 per cent, just ahead of Deb Leonard at 49.7 per cent after preferences, so the seat could be won on a razor thin margin and the final result will come down to preferences.

This election, there has been a spotlight on the level of funding behind the candidates, in particular independent candidate Deb Leonard's budget for the campaign.

Declaring donations in real time (the only candidate to do so), Leonard's website lists more than 600 separate donations, totalling over \$861,500.

More than half of that has

come from Climate 200, a community crowd funded initiative that supports campaigns of independents "committed to science-based response to the climate crisis", as well as supporting integrity in politics and advancing respect and safety for women.

There are numerous campaigns targeting Leonard (and other teals) saying they cannot be truly independent if they are beholden to these groups for funding.

Flyers delivered to local houses, and authorised by the Liberal Party, say Leonard is "part of the Teal Movement", and a vote for her risks a Labor-Greens-Teals minority government.

One letter sent to the Advertiser accused the independents who are receiving funding from Climate 200 of being an "un-registered political party, that because of their status avoid disclosure and reporting requirements of other political parties".

But how much do political parties disclose? The Grattan Institute (an independent organisation providing public policy recommendations) said under the current system, around 45 per cent of political parties' income is undeclared, which means we have no idea where it comes from.

It stated in the lead up to the last federal election, Labor raised \$124 million, and the Coalition raised \$115 million, and it expects the amount to be larger for this election.

In Monash, Russell Broad-



Pre-polling is now open in Cowes, at the Phillip Island Masonic Hall, with nine candidates registered for the seat of Monash.

bent is on the record saying he'd never spent more than \$60,000 on a campaign, and the level of funding for the Leonard campaign is unprecedented.

He recently told Sky News that until now, there had never been "big money interference in this electorate".

While the local Liberal and Labor candidates may not be spending comparable amounts to Leonard in the electorate, they are backed by machines with massive capital, and benefit from major news coverage of their respective leader's campaign, plus any general party advertising on a national level.

Ms Leonard has hit back at the funding criticism.

"I am my own woman, I think for myself and I am running as an independent campaign focused solely on delivering more for Monash.

"The only people I answer to are the voters of Monash. My policies are developed based on listening to our community about local priorities, not dictated by any party or group," she said.

"I am not part of any party and not affiliated with any other candidate or politician.

"My campaign is a community effort of volunteers all across the electorate. We collaborate and work together to coordinate campaign activities. These are people that see the need for change, and are happy to be part

of the movement that makes it happen."

Ms Leonard described "Teals" as just a term invented by the media, a "shorthand to group everyone together who isn't in a party".

"Some independents are from the city, some like me are from the regions. We all have different communities, and don't vote the same way.

"As we have done to date, my campaign will continue to disclose donation details on my website, ensuring full transparency."

Previously, Monash was a safe Liberal seat (held by the party since 2004), with a margin of over 20 per cent. However that margin has dwindled to just 2.9 per cent, and the seat is considered "in play" at this election.

In a tightly contested election, the result in Monash will be closely watched, with the Liberal Party needing to win an additional 19 seats to claim a majority.

The latest Newspoll, shows Labor has increased its support to 34 per cent, and on a two-party preferred basis, the ALP is ahead 52-48.

A pre-polling station is now open at the Phillip Island Masonic Lodge, 92 Church Street (opposite the Coles carpark), Cowes. The pre-poll is not open on Anzac Day or Sundays, with times and dates available on our website: [www.pisra.com.au/news/election-feature-where-can-i-vote](http://www.pisra.com.au/news/election-feature-where-can-i-vote)

A full list of Bass Coast pre-poll stations and voting locations is available at [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au)



## VACANCY FOR A NEW RESIDENT AT 'MELALEUCA SUITES' IN COWES.

Phillip Island Homes for the Aged currently has a vacancy in our unique Melaleuca Suites, an opportunity that doesn't come up often.

The Melaleuca Suites, located in Lions Court, Cowes, are designed for single retirees over the age of 65 who value their independence but appreciate some extra help along the way.

Each Suite contains a spacious lounge, bedroom, kitchenette and accessible bathroom.

Our experienced cooks provide your lunch and dinner each day.

Our spacious and comfortable Common Room includes a lounge room, dining area, laundry and a large kitchen where you can cook up a storm whenever a Masterchef moment hits.

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As a local not-for-profit community organisation, we're committed to keeping our services affordable and accessible for everyone.

An Entry Contribution of \$250,000 is payable upon entry, of which a Deferred Management Fee is deducted upon your departure.

A fortnightly Maintenance Fee covers your water, electricity, council rates, insurance, maintenance and lunch and dinner. Pensioners are also often able to access rent assistance.

For enquires, or to book a tour of our available Suite, please call Kerry Scarlett during business hours on 5952 3267 or visit our website [www.melaleucaagedcare.com.au](http://www.melaleucaagedcare.com.au) and click on the Independent Living section to learn more about our Suites, and to download the Independent Living Unit Application Form.



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The Victorian government is protecting regional news media by mandating an average of one page per week of government advertising spend in every eligible regional and community newspaper.

A fair share of federal government advertising would help regional newspapers remain a beacon of truth, connection and resilience.

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**Fight for the future of regional and community newspapers by asking your local candidates to commit to a fair share of government funds.**

**Will your MP fight to support regional and community news?**

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**Country Press AUSTRALIA**



# Vale Paul Waylen

OBITUARY

The Phillip Island community has paid tribute to Paul Waylen, following his death earlier this month.

Cowes Bendigo Bank former chair Peter Paul said Mr Waylen was instrumental in the bank including in the human resources committee.

“He was extremely measured and well respected,” Mr Paul said, adding Mr Waylen was generous to community groups through the bank’s grants.

“Whatever he had to say was worth listening to. I had great respect for him.”

Mr Paul said he visited Mr Waylen at home where they enjoyed a “glass of red, especially muscat”.

“He would go anywhere to play golf and loved his garden and fruit trees.

“I have lost a great friend.” The Phillip Island Golf Club paid tribute to Paul who was a past chairman.

“It is with deep sadness that we farewell Paul Waylen, a long-serving and much-respected member of the club,” a statement by the club said.

“Paul’s dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment left a lasting legacy that will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him.



Local community pay tribute to Paul Waylen, who was connected with many community groups, including the bridge club, golf club and the Bendigo Bank.

“Paul’s contributions both on and off the course helped shape the club into the vibrant community it is today. His passion for the game, his generous spirit, and his steady guidance enriched the lives of many, and his presence will be sorely missed.”

Paul was also a much-loved and long-time member of the Phillip Island Bridge Club, who said they were saddened by his unexpected passing.

“Known for his cheeky demeanour and cherished by all, Paul will be deeply missed,” the club wrote.

“He was not only an excellent player, but also a fine club man and a true gentleman.”

# Newhaven College Scholarships for 2026

EDUCATION

Newhaven College is proud to announce three scholarship opportunities for 2026, created for students who demonstrate outstanding ability across a range of areas. Receiving a scholarship offers students the chance to benefit from the College’s exceptional educators and first-class facilities.

### General Excellence Scholarship

Newhaven College is calling for applications for their General Excellence Scholarship for entry into the College in 2026. This will be awarded to applicants in secondary school at any level who can demonstrate outstanding abilities in one or more of the following fields:

- Academic
- Sport
- Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Music)
- Leadership
- Community Involvement

General Excellence Scholarships are awarded based on application and interview.

### Music Scholarship

Newhaven College is offering Music Scholarships to talented, passionate, and committed students – both new and current – who show strong musical potential. These scholarships are available to stu-



Newhaven College students Eden Hallas, Becky Heffer and Edward Lee enjoy the outdoors on campus. Applications are now open for General Excellence Scholarships.

dents entering Years 5, 7, 9, and 11 in 2026.

Music Scholarships include individual music tuition as well as reductions in academic tuition fees for the duration of the student’s enrolment at Newhaven College, subject to satisfactory progress. The dedicated team of music teachers and tutors is committed to nurturing each student’s individual talent, helping them grow and achieve their full musical potential.

Music is a vibrant part of life at Newhaven College. Throughout the year, students can participate in a wide range of musical events, including musical productions, concerts, evening soirees and performances. Individual musicians, choirs, bands and

ensembles regularly perform at school assemblies, providing students the opportunity to perform for the school community.

Students who are passionate and dedicated to music and demonstrate strong musical potential are encouraged to apply. Enquiries regarding the Music Scholarship should be directed to Matthew Goss, Head of Music on 03 5956 7505.

### Peter Reith Scholarship

Established last year, the Peter Reith Scholarship is open to all students entering Year 10 or 11 in 2026. The scholarship is in recognition of Peter’s extraordinary contribution to Newhaven College.

Peter Reith AM is widely recognised for

his distinguished political career, notably serving as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party under Prime Minister John Howard. In the mid-1970s, Peter envisioned a school founded on cooperation between all Christian denominations – one that valued academic excellence, embraced a global perspective on education, and maintained a deep commitment to community.

Due to Peter’s determined efforts, along with a small number of committed volunteers, the school was opened in 1980. Peter is truly the founding father of Newhaven College.

The Peter Reith scholarship will be awarded to a student who, like Peter, strives to make a positive difference in the world through their actions. Whilst exceptional academic performance is not necessarily required, an above-average academic performance is expected.

Applications close on Monday May 26, 2025.

Scholarship application information and forms can be found on Newhaven College’s website, under Enrolments/Scholarships. All applications are to be submitted to the College Admissions team at [admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au](mailto:admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au)

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## Community Grants Program

A Community Grant can support your organisation when it needs it the most.

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Email [admin@srdfs.com.au](mailto:admin@srdfs.com.au) with any queries.



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## 2026 Scholarships

Newhaven College is offering the following for entry in 2026:  
General Excellence Scholarship  
Music Scholarship  
Peter Reith Scholarship

To find out more visit our website or contact our Admissions Team on 03 5956 7505 or email [admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au](mailto:admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au)



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## 2025-26 Draft Budget



Council has released its draft 2025-26 Budget for community consultation. The draft 2025-26 Budget is available to view at any of our Customer Service Centres or online at [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget-25-26](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget-25-26)

### How to provide your feedback

You can have your say by providing a submission:

- Visit [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget-25-26](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget-25-26)
- Send to [basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au), drop in to one of our Customer Service Centres or post to Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi 3995.

You can also ask a question online at the link above and a response will be provided.

Submission close on 14 May 2025. You can choose to have your submission heard by Council and if so you will be asked to present on 28 May 2025.

For more information visit [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget-25-26](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget-25-26) or contact Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.



# Tragedy strikes at Punchbowl rocks ... again

From page 1

Life savers on jetskis and a Victoria Marine Rescue vessel assisting with the search at Punchbowl on Good Friday were diverted late in the afternoon to assist with the rescue of two surfers at Shelly Beach, Kilcunda.

The surfers were picked up a long way offshore by boat and returned safely to the shore by jetskis.

“With the unusually warm Easter conditions and many more visitors in the area, it was a very busy day for life savers,” Jason said.

“We had over 40 volunteer lifesavers on duty on Friday patrolling the beaches at Woolamai Beach and Smiths Beach as well as responding to the various incidents in San Remo, Cape Woolamai and Kilcunda throughout the day.

“Volunteer club members were also kept busy behind the scenes co-ordinating, communicating, organising equipment, checking on the wellbeing of members involved in incidents. It’s a pretty big operation.

“I am really proud of the efforts of our volunteer members, who have given up their time and worked hard over Easter to help keep others safe.”

Jason said the club’s first priority was to look after the swimmers between the flags at patrolled beaches.

“Although we respond to call outs, we cannot be everywhere all of the time.

“We urge the public to assist us by taking care and avoiding placing themselves in high-risk situations.

“The local community can also help us.

“If you see someone who looks unfamiliar with local conditions heading into the water at an unpatrolled beach or in a potentially dangerous situation, please take the time to ask them if they are aware of the beach conditions and point them to a safer location.”

## High-risk

The Punchbowl rocks are considered one of the most dangerous spots for recreational rock fishing in the state.

In early 2022, the area was part of a State Government trial at high-risk locations for recreational rock fishing, requiring lifejackets to be worn.

This followed the death of a woman on New Year’s Eve, who went missing while fishing with family near the George Bass Coastal Walk and Punch Bowl Road.

At the start of 2020, a fisherman was killed when he was washed off the rocks at Punchbowl, the third such death in four months.

Not including the Good Friday incident, since 2000 there had been six deaths of anglers at Punchbowl, which represents a third of all rock fishing deaths in Victoria in the last two decades.

It is now law to wear a lifejacket when rock fishing in designated high-risk areas.

Locally this includes Cowrie Beach Rock Platform, Kitty Miller Bay and all the rock platforms between Bore Bay and Kilcunda, including Punchbowl.



Volunteer surf life savers launched jetskis from Newhaven and made their way to Punchbowl to assist with the search, while other lifesavers travelled by road to assist with the search from land. Photo courtesy of Victoria Police Bass Coast.

## Can't make it on Election Day?



## If you can't vote on Saturday 3 May, you may be eligible to vote early.

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required by law to vote.

So, if you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to:

- **vote early at an early voting centre, or**
- **apply for a postal vote.**

If you're travelling, working or will be outside the electorate where you're enrolled on election day, you can vote early.

To check early voting options and eligibility, visit [aec.gov.au/early](https://aec.gov.au/early)

**Your vote will help shape Australia.**



To learn more  
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13 23 26



## Brodie gets his Masters

Congratulations to Brodie Johnston, son of Rita and John of Cowes, who recently graduated with a Master of Applied Learning and Teaching (secondary) from Deakin University.

Brodie is a former student at Cowes Primary School and Newhaven College. He is now head of outdoor ed at Doncaster Secondary College.



# Fisheries D-Day extended, backlash grows

FISHING

Cowes Fisheries officers are understood to be continuing to show up to work this week, amid confusion and a growing backlash to the Victorian Government's proposed cuts.

Last week the state's leading green group joined with recreational and commercial fishing organisations to condemn the anticipated cuts, which came after a unanimous vote of "no confidence" by Fisheries officers in the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA).

As announced in February, from April 19 four staff in the Cowes Fisheries office were to have their roles terminated and the building on Dunsmore Road was to be sold.

Early in April a VFA spokesperson said there would be no job losses on April 19.

"We are still working through our restructure process," the spokesperson told the Advertiser earlier this month.

"At the completion of our restructure there will continue to be fisheries officers on Port Phillip Bay and Western Port."

Despite repeated requests by the Advertiser to the VFA for clarification on job losses and the timeline of the process, the VFA has been firmly silent.

In the past week the Advertiser has spoken to many industry insiders across several seafood sectors who say they were largely "in the dark" about the government's next steps.

However, one sector said they understood an extended deadline for submissions – for alternative

proposals – by Fisheries officers to the VFA had closed this week.

It is understood a panel will now examine these alternative proposals and make a recommendation to the VFA CEO, with a final decision by the VFA to be made about May 20, after which job losses and redundancies will follow.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale confirmed there were no definitive decisions yet.

"The Victorian Fisheries Authority is consulting with employees and the union on workforce changes, and no decisions have been made," Ms Crugnale said.

"As a strong fishing and boating advocate, I have been sending all correspondence from our community directly to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation to ensure their concerns, in particular the reduction of officer numbers covering Westernport and Port Phillip are well heard."

Crime

More broadly under the current proposal, five Fisheries offices in Western Port and Port Phillip bays will be closed, including Cowes, and 27 staff will lose their jobs.

There will be no enforcement officers in Victoria, except for four in a Melbourne-based crime unit. There will be just nine new positions created for Fisheries "engagement officers", with three new offices opened: Tooradin, Carrum and St Leonards.

Ms Crugnale said the proposed fisheries crime unit would target organised illegal fishing.

"This unit will be given additional resources so they can focus on those deliberately doing



From April 19 four staff in the Cowes Fisheries office were to have their roles terminated, but officers are understood to be working this week. The Advertiser has spoken to industry insiders who say they are "being kept in the dark" about the government's next steps, but one sector said a final decision is now set to be made on May 20. Photo taken in 2017.

the wrong thing," she said.

"The VFA have stated in their organisational change proposal that all Fisheries engagement officers will continue to be authorised officers who carry a badge and can issue fines and undertake inspections as they currently do."

Industry experts have widely criticised the major fisheries crime unit, as well as the proposed engagement officers, predicting fish stocks will plummet and organised crime will skyrocket with no immediate on-the-ground officers available.

No confidence

This month the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) said Fisheries Officers Association (FOA) members had unanimously voted "No I do not have confidence" in their CEO after having considered all the impacts of the "pro-

posed decimation of Fisheries".

FOA members said they had not been "meaningfully consulted with" by the VFA and there were "serious concerns about the capacity of the CEO to manage and lead the VFA".

Members said the proposed reduction in officers came as non-compliance increased, resulting in the VFA being unable to meet its legal obligations on the sustainability of fish stocks.

"The percentage of offenders detected per inspection is at a record high (10.11 per cent) with increases in non-compliance," the CPSU said.

"The most recent reporting period (2023-24) has the lowest number of inspections (50,740 inspections, excluding marine park inspections) since the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Despite this, a record number

of offenders were detected (5131) for the period but Fisheries Victoria intend to slash fisheries officer jobs."

Opposition

Victoria's leading conservation, recreational and commercial fishing organisations last week united to oppose the government's axing of Fisheries officers, calling for an immediate reconsideration.

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRFish), Seafood Industry Victoria and the Abalone Council Victoria warned if enforcement officers were reduced by two-thirds and replaced with engagement officers, this will pose "significant threats to marine health, sustainable fish stocks and public safety on Victorian waters".

"It's unprecedented for our groups to come together, but this alliance demonstrates the seriousness of the situation," said VNPA Nature Conservation Campaigner Shannon Hurley.

"When conservation groups and fishing interests stand together on an issue, the government should take notice."

Ben Scullin, executive officer from the peak body for Victorian recreational fishers, VRFish said ultimately the cuts would "harm the experiences of over one million recreational fishers".

The industry groups said reduced oversight of marine waters would likely result in increased illegal fishing and sales of seafood by parties without commercial licences.

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HOW TO VOTE!

The **Liberal Party** is instructing you to give your preferences to Family First and One Nation in Monash. **Russell Broadbent** is doing the same.

That means they want your vote helping extreme Family First candidates like Bernie Finn - who was kicked out of the Liberal Party for **pushing a total ban on abortion, even in cases of rape**, and for his outdated views on same-sex marriage.

Is that what you stand for?

You don't have to follow any How to Vote card. On election day, **you decide where your preferences go**. Number the boxes your way. That's exactly what I'll be doing.

Graeme Hollingsworth

JD0574AA JA23010



# Rates to increase by three per cent, under draft budget

## BUDGET

There's pain and little gain for Phillip Island and San Remo in Bass Coast Shire Council's draft 2025/26 budget.

The budget, out for community comment until May 14, will see a rate rise of three per cent, in line with the State Government's mandated cap, with the average household rate bill to be about \$1725.

The garbage charge will increase by a whopping 7.4 per cent (see separate story). When combined with the garbage charge, the real rate increase is 4.9 per cent.

While there is a major projects budget of \$31.3 million, there is little for the island.

The proposed future recreation reserve sports hub on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads receives just \$250,000, despite being a major council election issue (see separate story).

In contrast, \$2 million will go to a Bass Recreation Reserve netball pavilion and \$1.9 million to the Wonthaggi netball pavilion.

There is \$4.3 million for tracks, trails and footpaths including the Cowes to Ventnor trail design (\$220,000) and Inverloch to Wonthaggi trail (\$3.5 million).

The draft budget refers to construction of a new ramp to allow people with disability to access the Cowes main beach and the federally-funded Cowes streetscape development.

There is broadly \$50,000 for dog parks and \$50,000 for public art.

Mayor Rochelle Halstead said there was significant pressure to deliver infrastructure required for a fast-growing population, which was dependent on federal and state funding.

She said there were "horrendous" constraints on the budget, including the State Government mandated gap, cost shifting from the government, and new charges from varying authorities, against the context of ratepayers facing cost of living challenges.

## Deficit

The draft budget projects an adjusted underlying deficit of \$10 million due in part to \$5 million for remediation works at the Wonthaggi landfill.

Projected borrowings will be \$25.7 million by June 2026, with \$4.2 million paid to service the debt, rising to almost \$27 million the following year.

Despite this, the budget states forward indicators "confirm Council's financial position will remain sound over the four-year outlook".

Employee costs in 25/26 will be \$38.9 million, rising to \$43.6 million in 28/29.

There will be 350 full time equivalent staff in this coming financial year, rising to 361 in 28/29.

The CEO's office has wages of



Employee costs in 25/26 will be \$38.9 million, rising to \$43.6 million in 28/29. Bass Coast Shire Council's CEO office has wages of \$499,000, for the CEO and their assistant, rising to \$519,000 next year. The current figure of 350 (EFT) staff is expected to rise to 361 in 2028/29.

\$499,000, for the CEO and their assistant, rising to \$519,000 next year and \$562,000 in 28/29.

## Criticism

Former CEO of Tourism Victoria and AAA Tourism Jeff Floyd was critical of the draft 2025/26 budget.

"This draft budget ignores the poor financial outlook facing the council," Mr Floyd said, adding underlying planning deficits every year to June 2029 was "unsustainable".

"I would plead with council to send this draft budget back to management for a complete re-think, and then to present a responsible budget to the community.

"We cannot afford to live beyond our means."

Mr Floyd said it was "dispiriting" that councillors at last week's council meeting did not

question the financial outlook.

He said the comments about "inheriting" and being "stuck with the priorities of the previous council" were "a patent nonsense".

"The council's only response was to blame the State Government for the rates cap, rather than focussing on things it can control, like unnecessary staff and other costs.

"If this budget is finally approved as is, the council will have just 'kicked the can down the road' leaving it for some future council to take even harder and more painful decisions."

Mr Floyd said council should boost its income by introducing a visitor parking fee "to offset its significant costs driven by high levels of visitation".

"The council must wind back its employee numbers to a sustainable level," he said.



A budget commentator has suggested council should boost its income – not just by rates and charges on residents – but by introducing a visitor parking fee "to offset its significant costs driven by high levels of visitation".

# Garbage charge increase stinks

## BUDGET

Ratepayers will be hit by a price hike of 7.4 per cent – or \$42 – to the garbage charge, according to the draft Bass Coast Shire Council 2025/26 budget.

The increase will see the charge rise to \$617.

In 2018 we paid \$374 for the privilege of kerbside waste removal.

Like in past years, the council said the hike was necessary to comply with environmental regulations.

"Council's waste costs have been significantly impacted by a 28 per cent increase in the State's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) levy," a council spokesperson said.

In 2023 the council was hit with stinging criticism after it increased the waste charge by 11.9 per cent.

Last year's budget dropped the annual charge to a relative low of 4.4 per cent, with that budget incorrectly predicting the 25/26 garbage charge would be four per cent. In total the waste charges will reap \$18.9 million for the council.

## Rate cap

Even though inflation rose by 2.4 per cent over the 12 months

to December 2024, rates will increase by three per cent, in line with the State Government's mandated cap.

"While the rate cap increase is higher than the current inflation rate, it is in line with the underlying inflation rate of 3.2 per cent per annum," the budget states.

When combined with the garbage charge, the real rate increase is 4.9 per cent.

The budget states in the three years leading to 2025/26, the rate cap has been lower than the inflation rate.

The average base rate will rise from \$1677 in 24/25 to \$1725 in 25/26 on 29,635 residential homes.

Alongside the draft budget, there is a draft revenue and rating plan, out for comment until May 14.

No substantive changes to the current rating strategy and rating differentials are proposed, including the use of the Capital Improved Value (CIV) rating system, waste service charges, or the three differential rates (developed land, vacant land and farm).

Farmers have long lobbied for an easing of the rates burden, but this is not reflected in the draft rating plan.

Year	Rate Cap Increase %	Waste Charge Increase %	Total Rates and Charges \$'000s	Total Rates & Charges Increase %
2024/25	2.75%	4.4%	77,643	3.9%
2025/26	3.00%	7.4%	81,457	4.9%
2026/27	2.50%	5.0%	85,592	5.1%
2027/28	2.50%	5.0%	90,169	5.3%
2028/29	2.50%	5.0%	95,042	5.4%

This table shows the predicted rate cap through to 2029, as well as the garbage charge, which in this budget rises by an astronomical 7.4 per cent.

# Inflation bites fees and charges

## BUDGET

Community fees and charges have been hit by inflation, although surprisingly some fees at Berninnet have become cheaper.

Bass Coast Shire Council's draft proposed fees and charges, released last week, are out for community comment until May 14.

According to the council the average fee increments have been based on a projected inflation rate of four per cent per annum.

As such, the short stay rental accommodation fee will rise by \$12 to \$324 annual fee.

The fee for a restaurant to build an outdoor parklet or dining area on what was previously a car park will rise from \$1658 per carpark to \$1724.

Hard waste at call collection fees will increase from \$132 to \$162 and to upsize a 120-litre landfill bin to a 240-litre bin will cost \$123 (previously \$115).

Transfer station fees for a 6 x 4 trailer that is heaped will face a steep price hike of \$120, up from \$88.

Sporting fields and park hire fees have also copped a rise, with not-for-profits set to pay \$100 for a full day, up from \$82.

Some planning fees have also risen, including a request for planning information (\$258, up by \$10).

## Berninnet

However, fees for hiring Berninnet rooms have dropped.

The fee hire for Cowes standard community rooms at the culture centre have dropped from \$80 to \$60 per hour, and large room hire has also decreased from \$50 to \$38 per hour.

To hire the grand hall will now cost \$135 per hour, a \$5 increase.

However there has been an increase on other charges at the culture centre.

The cost to hire technical staff – for the likes of theatre productions – has increased from \$45 to \$75 per hour (minimum three hours) and there has also been a hike for front of house staff (\$40 rising to \$56).

At the meeting, resident Fred Morris asked how much income council had received for the hire of the upstairs rooms at Berninnet.

Shire CEO Greg Box responded the rooms had been booked for 688 hours.

"Of that there has been 127 hours booked for community use. The remainder of the usage has been primarily for council business," Mr Box said.

"The income received for the community use in line with the fees and charges has been \$1648."

# How to make a budget comment

Bass Coast Shire Council's draft 2025/26 Budget and draft Fees and Charges is open for public submissions until 5pm Wednesday May 14.

Anyone who wants to speak

to their submission publicly can do so to council on May 28.

Community budget drop-in sessions are already underway with Cowes' session yesterday (April 23). Other sessions in-

clude: Inverloch, April 29 (10am to midday) and Corinella, May 8 (2pm to 4pm).

Details: [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au](https://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au) and [basscoast.vic.gov.au](https://basscoast.vic.gov.au) or Customer Service Centres.





At the Good Friday Appeal Day on the Lawn, Willow, Stella, Grace, Alexis displaying their colouring in, with Bree Tiana (International United Ms Australia). Front, sitting down is Matilda.



CFA volunteers Garry and Matt with Ricky and Hayden from The Block, at the Day on the Lawn Good Friday Appeal fundraiser. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)

# Bumper total for Good Friday Appeal

## COMMUNITY

The Phillip Island Good Friday Appeal raised \$48,425, smashing last year's effort by more than \$14,000.

Alongside the annual tin rattling by the Phillip Island Fire Brigade, this year also included A Day on the Lawn, hosting family-friendly activities on the lawn at the front of Berninnet.

The day was a huge success, with organisers thrilled with the turn out.

Special guests, Ricky and Hayden from The Block attracted plenty of attention and upped the

fund-raising efforts with a corn bag throwing competition – giving vouchers from Pino's Trattoria to four lucky competitors.

Kids enjoyed the colouring in sessions and the story time reading, as well as making the most of the lawn games.

"The Waterline community playgroup kicked off at 11.30am, entertained mums and bubs for a few hours with adorable nursery rhymes and sing along story time," said organiser Anne-Marie Branch.

"Our colour in session was hosted by Bree Tiana,

International United Ms. Australia 2024/25.

"Bree spent many years struggling with her health as a child and spent many days in and out of the Royal Children's Hospital.

"Her presence was very welcomed and appreciated. The kids just adored her."

Some local businesses showed up to work wearing their pyjamas, as a mark of respect to the sick children that could not partake in Easter celebrations due to their illnesses, in what Anne-Marie described as "a heartwarming gesture".

While the kids frolicked

on the lawn, in an upstairs room at Berninnet, a dedicated group of volunteers tallied up the funds raised across the day.

Pino's Trattoria generously provided the Appeal's counting team with a delicious pizza lunch in appreciation of their tireless efforts throughout the day.

As well as the activity in Cowes on Good Friday, in the month leading up to the day, local businesses chipped in to help reach the amazing fundraising total.

Phillip Island Winery donated \$1 per bottle of wine sold, and \$1 per Ocean

Reach schooner for a month, from March 18 to April 18.

Her Day Spa donated \$1 per treatment from March 17 to April 17, while Hotel Phillip Island donated \$1 per schooner of Jetty Road from March 17 to April 18.

Bowen's hosted a tradies BBQ on April 4, raising \$300, and a colour in competition hosted by Silverleaves store helped raise \$445 through a fun activity morning.

Tyson from RUN Phillip Island raised funds as he put together a fun run on Good Friday and Simon from CrossFit gym also donated funds to the Good

Friday Appeal.

Anne-Marie said a final "huge appreciation goes to Craig and Jeremy from Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling.

"They helped raise a whopping \$6722.20 by hosting the major fundraiser, a PJ's disco bowling night.

"The Phillip Island Good Friday Appeal would especially like to thank our amazing community for all their donations and kindness throughout the Good Friday Appeal campaign," said Anne-Marie.

"Without them none of this could have happened."



Children enjoyed the story time sessions at the Day on the Lawn. Jessica Egglestone (Waterline Community Playgroup), Christie D'Ortenzio, Rowanne Grinstead (Waterline Community Playgroup), Alicia Brook-Ward, Kita and Jason D'Ortenzio.



Ethan Bradbury, Kathryn Anderson and Alexis Bradbury collecting donations for the Good Friday Appeal at the Day on the Lawn.



CFA's Simon Furniss gets the thumbs up from a driver, as the passersby gave generously for the Good Friday Appeal.



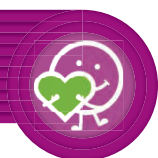
The dedicated Phillip Island CFA crew: Top back: Rhyce, Anita, Simon H. Standing: Robin, Georgia, Alex Z, Matt, Natalie, Gary, Carly and Robyn. Front kneeling: Simon F and Bec.



Ricky and Hayden from The Block took time out to pose with Tarryne and Paisley and Jeremy and Ashley from Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Entertainment, who raised \$6722.20 for the appeal, through their PJs Disco Night earlier in the month.



# GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL



Peter and Colleen Williams (right) with some of the staff and volunteers on the day, at the successful Good Friday Appeal. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



The hardworking crew at the San Remo CFA, who raised \$19,306.75 through their annual door knock and street collection. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)

# A massive effort by San Remo

## COMMUNITY

The San Remo community has raised an incredible \$57,760 for the Good Friday Appeal. The figure tops last year's record breaking \$53,000 total. This year's total was raised by the CFA door knock, the San Remo Hotel fundraiser, which included the Walk for the Kids, Easter raffles, auction and silent auction, and Jim's Bait and Tackle's annual Easter fishing competition. The CFA door knock, which covered San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai, Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay, raised \$19,306. The Walk for the Kids (including raffles, auctions and walkers) raised \$34,843.59, while the annual fishing competition run by Jim's Bait & Tackle raised \$3610.61. "Lots of our fantastic local businesses donated goods, vouchers and their time to help us absolutely smash last year's record-breaking total," a CFA spokesperson said.

"We couldn't have raised this much money for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal without the support and generosity of our great community. It makes me incredibly proud to be a volunteer with San Remo CFA and to be a part of the Good Friday Appeal." The CFA also sent a special shout out to the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op which provided lunch for all the CFA door knockers, "on one of their busiest days of the year." A spokesperson for the San Remo Hotel said they were blown away by the generosity of the community. "The Walk for the Kids saw an incredible turnout of enthusiastic participants tackling the George Bass Coastal Walk," they said. "On the day, the energy was unreal. The town was buzzing with community spirit, generosity, and excitement." Special thanks for donations from The Frosty Miller (\$5308) and Baw Baw Livestock (\$2343.59).

Live auction prizes on the day included:

- Bass Coast Getaway (valued at \$3500): Anderson Rise Retreat, Phillip Island Golf, A Maze'N Things Pass
- Ultimate Date Package (\$550): Helicopter Ride, Saltwater, Co-op seafood platter and prosecco
- Golf Day Out (\$500): Keysborough Golf, Westernport voucher and slab of beer
- Relaxing Weekend Away (\$900): La Casa Famiglia Airbnb, Co-op platter and wine
- Plus multiple meat and seafood trays

Raffle prizes included vouchers, seafood, meat trays, beauty and wellness packages, garden goods, and much more – "all donated by our incredible local businesses", the spokesperson said. "We're beyond grateful to everyone who walked, donated, bought tickets, or just cheered us on. It was a true community moment – and one we won't forget." All full list of sponsors and prize donors at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)



Volunteers of all sizes helped out at the Good Friday Appeal, including young Alfred and Hugo.



Everyone's favourite dog, Bluey, was on hand to help the San Remo CFA crew raise funds for the Good Friday Appeal.



Selling raffles tickets at the San Remo Hotel's Good Friday Appeal (from left): Vee Williams, Denise Watkins, Amanda Black, Chrissie Richards and owner Colleen Williams. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



San Remo CFA volunteers fundraising on Good Friday (from left): Jodie, Bernie, Robyn, Brielle and Matt.



ADVERTISER  
EDITORIAL

# What's your preference?

With predictions of a close election, it's more important than ever to understand just how preferential voting works.

Support for the two major parties has been on the decline since the early 2000s, and with the rise of minor parties and the independents movement, the preferences you mark on your ballot can make a big difference to the final election outcome.

Yes, there are deals made, where parties and candidates enter into agreements on how they will direct their preferences.

You can see these deals reflected on the how-to-vote cards given out to voters at the polling booth.

These cards try to influence or "advise" voters on how to number their preferences. But you don't have to follow them.

Political party preferences are more about blocking their closest opponent than recommending the next best candidate to represent you.

If you are frustrated at the current political landscape and feel increasingly that the major political parties are not listening to the people they are supposed to represent, that's a bigger reason than ever to reject their preference deals.

For preferences to work in the interest of the electorate (not the candidates), use your preferences to reflect your views, not just in who you put in the number one spot, but where you place every single candidate.

Put a 1 next to the person you believe will best represent the interests of the electorate, then a 2 next to the second-best option, and so on. You need to allocate a number to each candidate.

In the Senate (the large, white ballot paper), you have the option to number at least six boxes above the line for the parties or groups of your choice, or number at least 12 boxes below the line for individual candidates of your choice.

The order that you fill in on your ballot paper matters.

## Finances

This election, there is a lot of chatter (and misinformation) around the campaign finances of independent Deb Leonard.

Ms Leonard is revealing her donations in real time and anyone can search her website and see exactly who has contributed.

The same cannot be said for the major parties, or any other candidate for Monash, except independent Russell Broadbent, who has stated he is refusing all donations and his campaign is totally self-funded.

Political parties must declare any political donation over \$16,900, but under the current system, it can take at least seven months and sometimes up to 19 months for a large federal donation to be made public.

The two major parties both receive donations from wealthy individuals, the fossil fuel, mining and gambling industries.

Current member Russell Broadbent claims until this election, there has never been big money involved in the Monash electorate, but that is disingenuous.

As a former Liberal candidate, Mr Broadbent would have benefited from the Liberal party donations, if not directly, then most certainly from the multi-million-dollar national advertising campaigns run by the party.

The rise of independents and minor parties is a reflection of voters' frustration with the two major parties, who many feel no longer represent the community.

Perhaps instead of running fear campaigns accusing independents of being funded, and thus controlled, by big money, some self-reflection on the donations they themselves accept, and the consequent influence wielded by these large donors, could be in order.

Maybe we'd all be better served if parties reflected community values instead of insisting the community should adopt theirs.

# Campaign heats up for Leonard

## ELECTION

Whatever critics of the local independent candidate Deb Leonard might say about her big spending campaign, and the backing of Climate 200, she can't be accused of laziness.

The past week has seen another round of frantic activity from Leonard, who is hoping to secure the seat of Monash, currently held by Russell Broadbent on a 2.9 per cent margin.

As well as attending markets across the electorate, Leonard and her team have been door knocking in Drouin, Moe and Warragul, with local flyer stalls in Cowes, San Remo and Inverloch.

She has also waded in on state issues, calling for the Victoria Government to halt the proposed Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

The bill set to be introduced July 1, would change the Fire Services Property Levy and dramatically increase costs of farmers and residents.

"I've heard from countless farmers and community members across Monash who are deeply concerned about this proposed levy," said Ms Leonard.

"Families are already struggling with skyrocketing costs of living and farmers are battling weather events and rising expenses. Now is not the time to introduce unnecessary new tax without proper consultation with the community."

She said it was also concerning that the government had "offloaded" the tax onto local councils to collect, "effectively passing any blame or vitriol from the new tax onto local governments in an effort to avoid criticism."

## Fisheries

Ms Leonard has also supported the community calls to reverse the decision to close Fisheries offices and cut staff.

She said the recent illegal abalone catch on Phillip Island was "exactly what everyone said would happen when the government made the shortsighted decision to cut enforcement".

"Criminals are already taking advantage, and our coast and waters will be pillaged beyond recovery if staff and offices are not reinstated. This needs to be reversed before it results in irreparable damage to our marine environment and fishing industry."

Ms Leonard said a national approach to Fisheries is needed.

"Our oceans being under state



Independent candidate Deb Leonard's team is keeping up a frantic pace, as we enter the final weeks of the election campaign.

jurisdiction is nonsensical. Fish don't know where the boundaries are. We need a coordinated, national approach to safeguarding our shores.

"If elected, I'll work to strengthen the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to coordinate a sensible whole-of-picture approach to fisheries regulation."

## TAFE

Ms Leonard has also warned the Liberal Party's plan to scrap free TAFE places, if elected, would be devastating for the community and jeopardise Monash's future – especially for residents already struggling with the rising cost of living.

"Cutting free TAFE is incredibly short-sighted. It's an investment in our people and our future that is already delivering results," Ms Leonard said.

"Here in Monash, free TAFE has opened up opportunities for people to gain new skills, get better jobs, and increase their incomes. It's helping address skills shortages that are hurting local businesses."

Ms Leonard also criticised the Labor Government for failing to provide a full range of in-person TAFE courses at the Wonthaggi Chisholm TAFE facility. This facility has been sitting empty since 2020, and is only just starting to reintroduce a limited range of courses.

Ms Leonard said the positions

of both major parties showed they were out of touch with the challenges facing everyday Australians.

"As an Independent, I'll fight to protect free TAFE and make sure Monash gets our fair share of funding for a wider range of TAFE courses across our region, as well as improved public transport to education facilities. We need to ensure people in regional and rural areas have access to accessible, affordable education."

She also described the Liberal Party announcement of \$10 million for the Phillip Island Sports Hub as "too little, too late".

"After 40 years of ignoring our electorate, it's only when the Liberal Party is facing losing the seat to an independent that they start making promises," said Ms Leonard.

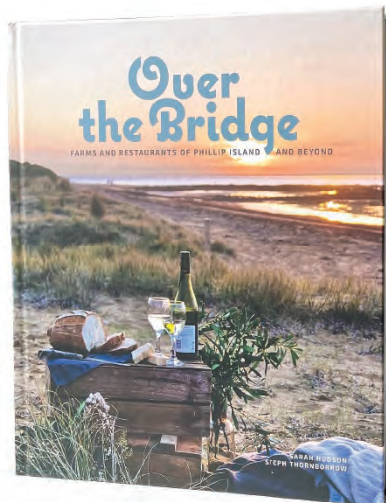
With voting now open, Ms Leonard explained her decision not to make preference deals with other candidates or parties.

"I trust the voters of Monash to make up their own minds about how to number every box on their ballot according to their own judgement and values. You know our community the best."

"My advice to voters is to put candidates you believe will be the strongest voice for our region at the top of your ballot. Don't feel obliged to follow any 'How to Vote' cards handed out on election day – those often reflect murky deals cut by major parties."

# Fantastic autumn reading.

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# Award-winning author to speak at winery

## LITERATURE

When Lia Hills sets out to write one of her books, she heads to Newhaven beach.

But when the award-winning poet and novelist – who will hold an author talk on May 2 at the Phillip Island Winery – says writing, she really means speaking.

“I use speech recognition technology to speak my books,” Lia says.

“So anyone seeing me on Newhaven beach would see me talking on the phone and it would sound like I have a very good listener on the phone.

“Then I go up to the little shed at Newhaven or the seat overlooking the water and edit it.”

While Lia lives in Melbourne, she is lucky enough to have generous friends with houses on the island where she can stay to write.

“It’s my place to go when I’m doing a lot of writing.”

However, it’s a reflection of a much broader approach to writing, which is embedded in First Nations’ culture of “deep listening”, or “listening to country”, with Lia explaining she is a “place-based writer”.

For her latest book, *The Desert Knows Her Name*, Lia headed to the Wimmera to speak-write the book, given the rural crime noir novel is set in the desert region and frontier violence, that “Australia is a giant cold case”.

“When you spend a lot of time in a place you build knowledge and connection to that place, especially on Phillip Island. You become very aware of the environment and it becomes a feeling of connection.

“The place finds its way into my writing. So when I’m walking on that tiny beach at Newhaven or the vast expanse of Cape Woolamai beach, I’m talking what I’m seeing.”

She says the process is a meditation on the environment, and adds this style



Author Lia Hills will hold an author talk on May 2 at the Phillip Island Winery, 12.30pm-3pm. Tickets are available now at [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com).

also acknowledges the importance of oral stories as a way to pass knowledge in First Nations’ culture.

“We are so human focused. Having worked with First Nations communities and walked on country with elders I’ve learnt about what it means to listen to country.

“People think of listening with the ears, but it’s listening with the whole body and not just the sounds but the relationship between things, the wind and the tree, the water against the rock.”

Lia’s debut novel, *The Beginner’s Guide to Living*, was critically acclaimed both in Australia and overseas, and was shortlisted for the Victorian, Queensland and Western Australian Premiers’ Literary Awards, and the NZ Post Book Awards.

Lia’s second novel, *The Crying Place* was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award 2018 and named Book of the Month by Australian Independent Booksellers.

dent Booksellers.

In 2019, Lia received a Creative Victoria Creators Fund grant to work on *The Desert Knows Her Name*.

Lia says she started speaking her books travelling across Australia with her husband in the driver’s seat.

“It was too hard to write and too bumpy, so I started talking and I found I could get down 5000 words in a day.”

Lia says the May 2 event at the Phillip Island Winery was all thanks to Cowes’ Turn the Page bookshop, which has “sold the most copies of my book for an independent bookseller”.

“Turn the Page have been hugely supportive of my work. Independent booksellers are crucial to the success of literary fiction.”

Details: [liahills.com/](http://liahills.com/) or [turnthepagebookshop.com.au/](http://turnthepagebookshop.com.au/)

Tickets: [www.trybooking.com/DASZQ](http://www.trybooking.com/DASZQ)

/ Sponsored article /

# Readers respond to PICAL plea

## COMMUNITY

A number of recent donations have, once again, reinforced the community’s support for Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL).

The donations, including a significant quantity of cleaning products from Newhaven College, as well as two new freezers from members of the community, will assist PICAL as it continues to provide vital services, programs and connections for the people of Phillip Island.

The donation of \$2500 worth of cleaning products from Newhaven College will help PICAL to reduce funds spent on cleaning products for PICAL’s facilities at Warley Avenue and Settlement Road in Cowes.

In addition, a recent article in the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser highlighted PICAL’s need for a new freezer for its food relief pantry.

“Thanks to the Advertiser we were able to spread the word about our need for a new freezer and we were stoked with the response,” explains David Rooks, Centre Manager at PICAL.

Since then, Theresa Ford, PICAL pantry volunteer, and her mother donated a new freezer while a second person, who read the article and wishes to remain anonymous, do-



PICAL pantry volunteers Theresa Ford, Sue Hines and Warren Maag with the new freezer and holding some of the cleaning products donated by Newhaven College.

nated \$1500 towards an upright freezer for PICAL’s commercial kitchen.

The commercial kitchen is where PICAL’s cooking groups meet to use food from the pantry to make fresh homemade meals for those who are experiencing food insecurity.

“As a not-for-profit

community centre we are grateful to Newhaven College, Theresa and her mother, as well as the anonymous reader of the Advertiser,” says David.

“Every donation makes a huge difference to PICAL and the people who access our programs and services.”

## Candlelight Vigil

Wednesday, May 7, 6.30pm - 8pm

## Jetty Triangle, Cowes

Join Change for Sam to remember and honour those who have been killed by domestic and family violence.

An evening of reflection including free barbeque, cake stall and live music.

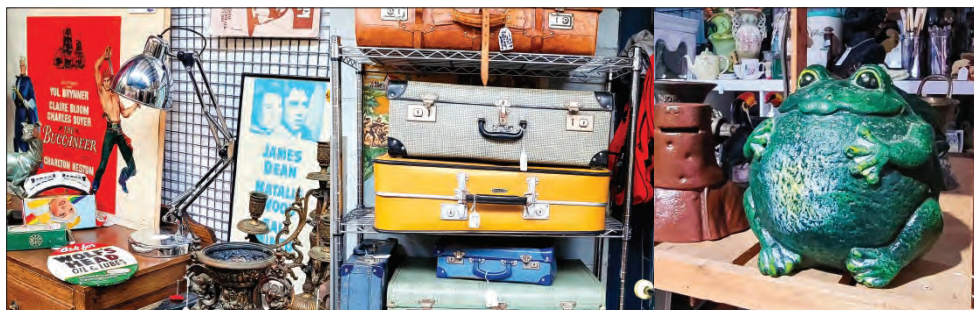
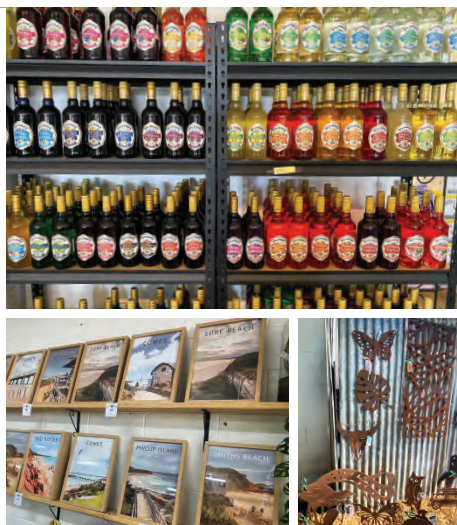
Funds raised on the night will go to Change for Sam.



Change for Sam.

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

[www.facebook.com/changeforsam](http://www.facebook.com/changeforsam)



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The Bass Coast Winter Shelter is calling for volunteers to help support people experiencing homelessness in our region, with the shelter to start operation in June.

# Make a real difference this winter

## COMMUNITY

As the colder months approach, the Bass Coast Winter Shelter is preparing to open its doors and your help is needed.

Run by the Interchurch Council of Phillip Island, this community initiative is seeking dedicated volunteers to support people experiencing homelessness in our region.

The shelter provides a warm meal, safe dormitory-style accommodation, and, most importantly, a place of compassion, connection and care.

Set to operate across June, July and August this year, the shelter will offer up to three nights of accommodation each week in Cowes, thanks to the generosity of local churches opening their doors.

“Volunteers are truly at the heart of the Bass Coast Winter Shelter. The volunteers offer more than just shelter, they provide dignity, warmth and a sense of belonging. It’s about giving hope and community during the hardest time of the year,” says Project Coordinator Wendy Elson.

### Volunteer roles; get involved now

Volunteers are urgently needed now to help with essential preparation and behind-the-scenes roles, including:

- Volunteer Coordinators
- Administration Support
- Accounts
- Training Support

If you’re interested in volunteering for these positions please email [wintershetlervol@gmail.com](mailto:wintershetlervol@gmail.com) or ring Wendy Elson on 0492 859 637.

When the shelter becomes operational, further support will be needed throughout June, July and August. Winter volunteer roles include mini bus driver and trailer driver.

Volunteers are also needed for three key shifts:

- Evening (5.30pm – 10pm): Set up, welcome guests, serve dinner, socialise and clean up.
- Overnight (10pm – 6am): Ensure a safe, calm environment; stay awake through the night with another volunteer; and support guests as needed.
- Breakfast (6am – 9am): Prepare breakfast, interact with guests, clean and pack up the trailer.

Interchurch Council of Phillip Island will provide volunteer training, helping you feel safe and supported.

Volunteer safety is a top priority. All volunteers will receive:

- A detailed volunteer handbook
- Video and face-to-face training covering key topics such as homelessness, trauma, mental health, shelter operations and safety protocols.

Training sessions will be held at the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL), 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes:

- Monday May 12: 3pm – 5.30pm
- Tuesday May 13: 10am – 12.30pm
- Wednesday May 14: 6pm – 8.30pm

Now is the time to get involved and help create a more compassionate community this winter.

To register your interest in volunteering go to [www.basscoastwintershelter.wordpress.com](http://www.basscoastwintershelter.wordpress.com) and complete the online application form.

Alternatively, email [wintershetlervol@gmail.com](mailto:wintershetlervol@gmail.com) to request a volunteer application form.

Completed application forms can be returned to [wintershetlervol@gmail.com](mailto:wintershetlervol@gmail.com) or handed in at PICAL, 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes, Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.



The Phillip Island Movie Club presents “The Last Journey” on Wednesday April 30, at Berninneit, starting at 7.30pm. Movie club members can book their tickets now.

# Movie club is on a journey

## FILM

The Phillip Island Movie Club presents “The Last Journey” on Wednesday April 30, at Berninneit, starting at 7.30pm

The film is a documentary by Filip Hammar and Fredrik Wilkingsson and follows the friends on a road trip with Filip’s father Lars Hammar.

Filip and his mother are worried about Lars’ loss of vitality and zest for life so Filip decides to recreate a road trip their family used to take from Sweden to a beach town in the south of France for their summer holidays. Lars, a true Francophile, hopes to find himself on this journey again, but he is worried about whether he is healthy enough to make it.

The stars and co-directors Filip Hammar and Fredrik Wilkingsson are known in Sweden as a TV comedy duo and the documentary is as much about Filip as it is about Lars. It is also the most watched documentary in Swedish history.

“At the core of this documentary is the

love of a son for his father, and it is so powerful you can’t help but get taken along with the flow,” says club secretary Margaret Byrne.

“Filip has made the documentary with the intention of recreating the past, to reignite his dad’s zest for life. Some of the recreations do not work yet Filip includes them in the documentary because it exposes his journey in understanding the real current medical and psychological position of his father.

“The Last Journey is a film where you will laugh and cry, and cry while you are laughing, but it is not a sad film.”

Please note the film begins at 7.30pm, the new starting time for 2025.

It is a private event and you must present your PIMC membership ticket and your Trybooking receipt to enter.

If you haven’t collected your PIMC membership ticket as yet, the club will be issuing tickets from 7pm.

“The Last Journey” (2024), runs for one hour and 31 minutes and is rated PG.

NEWHAVEN COLLEGE PRESENTS

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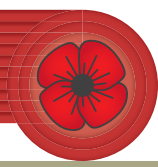
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Phillip Island RSL has created its own Catafalque/Honour Guard, which will be part of this year's ANZAC Day services. From left: Lawrence Buck, Amelia Fletcher, Caleb Dekroon and Michael Crump.

# A new RSL Honour Guard

Twelve months ago, the Phillip Island RSL Committee approved and financially supported the initiative of Treasurer Michael Crump to create our own Catafalque/Honour Guard.

Michael has spent many hours recruiting and rigorously training his dedicated team, ready for the Dawn Service this year.

"To the best of our knowledge, Phillip Island RSL is the only RSL in Victoria with its own Catafalque/Honour Guard," a committee spokesperson said.

"We are indeed appreciative of their commitment. They have been welcomed

by The Great War Association as members.

"This recognition allows us under their permit to carry out our commitments on ANZAC Day.

"We are positive the Phillip Island community will enjoy this wonderful addition to our ANZAC Dawn Service."

The Phillip Island RSL is hosting two ANZAC Day services: the 6am Dawn Service, followed by Gunfire Breakfast, and the 11am Service at the Cenotaph, including a march along Thompson Avenue.

The community is invited to attend.

## ANZAC Day events – Bass Coast remembers

### COWES

- 6.00am Dawn Service, Cowes Cenotaph
- 7.00am Gunfire Breakfast at RSL (free for veterans)
- 10.30am Meet at St Phillip's Anglican Church
- 10.40am March from St Phillip's Anglican Church to Cowes Cenotaph
- 11.00am Service, Cowes Cenotaph
- 12.00pm Carvery lunch at RSL (free for veterans)

### SAN REMO

- 10.45am Cenotaph, San Remo Foreshore, followed by morning tea at the Westernport Hotel.

### BASS

- 5.45am Dawn Service, Bass Cenotaph, Hade Avenue, followed by a free breakfast at the Bass Community Hall, School Road, Bass.

### WONTHAGGI

- 5.55am Dawn Service at Wonthaggi Cenotaph.
- 10.00am March will leave from the RSL. Veterans and Service Personal are asked to gather in front of the RSL, 60 Graham Street. Marching to the Cenotaph for the main Anzac Service at 10.30am.

### INVERLOCH

- 6.00am Dawn Service, RSL Hall Bolding Place, Inverloch. Join the team after the service for a Gunfire Breakfast supplied the Inverloch RSL Members.
- 10.45am Veteran's March on A'Beckett Street, for 11am Commemoration Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony.

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jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au  
T 03 5672 4755 JordanCrugnaleMP  
9 McBride Avenue Wonthaggi VIC 3995

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LEST WE FORGET

25<sup>th</sup> April

Dawn Service 6am

- Cenotaph Cowes Foreshore

Gunfire Breakfast 7am

- Phillip Island RSL

March 10:40am

- Muster at 10.40am St Phillip's Anglican Church, Cowes

Service 11am

- Cenotaph, Cowes Foreshore

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Deb Leonard

INDEPENDENT

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha 3953

# RUSSELL BROADBENT MP

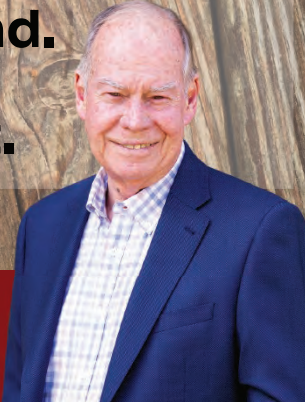
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MEMBER FOR MONASH

Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP,  
Independent Federal Member for Monash, 46c Albert St Warragul VIC 3820



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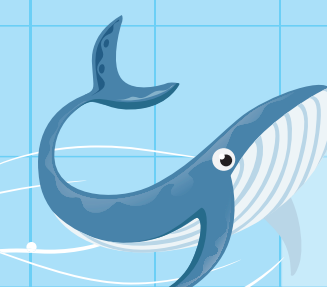
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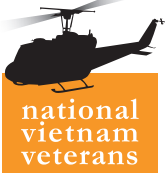
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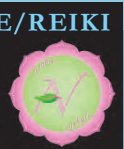
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**GO BREAKERS!!!**



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After a well-earned break our senior teams are ready to get a start on the GSL season at the end of the month.



Our Go Soccer Mums program was great fun for all involved regardless of experience and we look forward to seeing more mums get involved in Term 2.

# Soccer season set to start

It's been a busy off season for the Phillip Island Breakers with the addition of two new junior teams – U12 and U15 girls as well as our first ever Go Soccer Mums team to represent the club.

Our players have stayed active during the break with tournaments, practice matches, pre-season trainings and we are proud to see many of our juniors making selection for the representative Gippsland Soccer Teams.

The Gippsland Soccer League (GSL) season kicks off this weekend on Sunday April 27. Competitive home and away matches are played on Sundays across the league for our U12s through to our senior divisions.

Senior coaching appointments this year include Darren Dempsey leading the Senior team, Callum Golightly the Reserves and 2024 Premiership winning coach Benita Russell once more guiding our

Women's team.

With Round 1 kicking off for most of our teams on Sunday April 27 at Newhaven Recreation Reserve, we look forward to welcoming everyone down to watch and support our teams.

## Mini Roos

Once again, our Mini Roos teams (ages 4-11) are full, with lots of new families to the club as well as many existing players return-

ing for another action-packed season of fun. The Mini Roos begins on Saturday May 3 at Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve.

As with all local community clubs, The Breakers is a volunteer run club and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our committee members who work tirelessly behind the scenes, our volunteers who always put up their hands to help out on game days and at training sessions.

Thanks also to our generous sponsors for their ongoing financial and moral supports: Sivori Concrete, Wooli Tavern, Isola Di Capri, Panny's Chocolate Factory, PI Tenpin Bowling, Exclusive Painting, Pino's Trattoria, Event Ops, Yellow Brick Road, OBrien Real Estate, Goat Mowing and Ready Steady Go Kids.

We wish all our players the best for the 2025 season.



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As proud sponsors we wish each and every one of you the very best for the soccer season ahead.





GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE BREAKER TEAMS.

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The Phillip Island Breakers' junior teams look forward to getting back on the field for the upcoming season.

# Gippsland Soccer League

The clubs that form the Gippsland Soccer League are Inverloch Stars, Wonthaggi United, Phillip Island Breakers, Lang Lang United, Korumburra City, Leongatha Knights, Mirboo North United, Trafalgar Victory and Drouin Dragons.

Each club has their own coaches and training programs to develop their players. Clubs are still taking registrations, so it's not too late to get on board.

We are a grassroots league, where new and experienced players can participate in competitive soccer, in a supportive environment with qualified coaches. Our senior competition has both Women's and Men's divisions. Our junior competition caters for both boys and girls with mixed age competitions for Under 12s, Under 14s and Under 17s.

The junior girls' competition has expanded on last year's success to incorporate an Under 12 Girls and an Under 15 Girls division in 2025. While girls are welcome to hone their skills in the mixed teams, new girls often feel more comfortable to grow their skills and confidence playing against other girls.

The Mini Roos program is for children aged 5 to 10, offering opportunities for girls and boys to experience soccer in a non-competitive and fun environment, promoting participation and skills development.

For more information contact your local club, or visit the GSL website: [gippslandsoccer.com.au](http://gippslandsoccer.com.au).

The GSL Board would like to wish all clubs and respective teams all the best for season 2025.



The Gippsland Soccer League's season kicks off this weekend with various Phillip Island teams taking to the field.

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Councillors at last week's April meeting debated a petition by residents of Reid Street, Rhyll, about plans to rip up dust suppressant on their road and return it to gravel. Photo: Google Maps.

# Councillors debate ripping up bitumen

## ROADS

A Bass Coast Shire councillor has called for a moratorium on the removal of dust suppressant on Phillip Island roads, saying it "makes no sense".

Councillors at last week's April meeting, held in Cowes for the first time since the pandemic, were debating a petition by residents of Reid Street, Rhyll, about the council's plans to rip up dust suppressant on their road and return it to gravel.

The petition had 32 signatures and opposed the "planned rehabilitation of Reid Street".

"We seek a postponement of these works to enable residents time to work with council in formulating a maintenance or replacement strategy for the existing (long-standing) primer seal asphalt surface, which meets the required residential estate amenity for both locals and visitors," the petition states.

Councillors voted to accept the petition, with a report on the issue to be presented at the May council meeting.

As reported residents in the area around Scenic Drive, Outlook Drive and Park Lane in Cowes west also recently received notification from the council detailing that their streets were going to have the

dust suppressant seal ripped up, and streets "rehabilitated" to a gravel surface.

## "No sense"

Cr Tim O'Brien said he believed there was "such contention" on the issue of dust suppressant removal, not only in Rhyll but also Cowes west, "we need to have a moratorium on this activity".

"It's very difficult to explain to someone that the bitumen is being taken up outside their property in the name of progress and dust suppression," Cr O'Brien said.

"It makes no sense to a resident and certainly makes little sense to us.

"Taking up bitumen seems to be a retrograde step. We perhaps need to have a rethink about this strategy."

Cr Tracey Bell said there would be more petitions coming to council from other impacted residents.

"I feel like there needs to be more clarity on timeframes," Cr Bell said.

"I look forward to officers working with communities to ensure they understand their options and to give them time to get themselves organised before you rip up their roads."

Cr Ronnie Bauer asked officers whether the ripping up of

the sealant was imminent.

A council officer responded they were currently doing an assessment with an intention to rip up the bitumen, in line with previously approved council reports.

The officer confirmed the bitumen would not be removed in the next month.

He explained dust suppressant was 20 years old and had a lifespan of about 20 years and roads did not have the necessary foundation.

"There was a dust suppressant trial done about 20 years ago and it was deemed unsuccessful three years later," the officer said.

"At that time a number of roads were rehabilitated and the dust suppression removed. It was also determined at the time, those roads that were still in relatively good condition, the dust suppressant would remain to the end of its life.

"These seven roads have reached the end of their life with the dust suppressant seal. It's not as simple as going back over the top. The foundations and build-up of the road wasn't completed at the time, the suppressant was just put across the road.

"Now the roads require significant upgrades to the subsurface before the dust suppressant could be put back on."



Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale with Nick Say from the Phillip Island Winery, which received a grant under the government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund to replace and enhance its existing cellar door restaurant.

## Local businesses get a boost

## FUNDING

Phillip Island Winery and Silverwater Resort have received funding under the latest round of the State Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund.

The RACV Inverloch also secured funding.

Operators around the state receive grants of between \$100,000 and \$5 million to deliver new and innovative tourism infrastructure projects.

Local member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale congratulated the three businesses, saying the funding was designed to support tourism businesses and attract more visitors to the area.

"Our region is such a stunning part of Victoria, and projects like this go towards supporting local establishments to elevate and accentuate their offerings, which benefits the local economy, boosts tourism and creates jobs," Ms Crugnale said.

Phillip Island Winery received a grant under the "small scale project" category (for projects between \$100,000 and \$1 million), and will use their funding to replace and enhance the existing cellar door restaurant, which will increase capacity,

improve functionality, and enhance accessibility and connectivity throughout the venue.

The project also seeks to build on the winery's already established reputation by elevating the cellar door restaurant offering within an inclusive landscaped environment that complements the natural amenity of Phillip Island.

Silverwater Resort received funding in the "large scale project" category (between \$1 million and \$5 million) to expand its conference accommodation, providing 16 innovatively designed three-bedroom apartments that can be converted into 32 separate apartments to suit consumer demand.

The RACV Inverloch Resort was also funded under the "large scale project" category, to help build an additional 36 guest rooms with associated car parking, relocate an existing two-bedroom self-contained villa, and construct a new wastewater detention storage system.

The successful projects are designed to attract more visitors to Victoria's regions – and increase the length people are staying in the regions.

To see a complete list of the projects, visit [tourism.vic.gov.au](http://tourism.vic.gov.au).

# Family First focus on cutting power prices

## ELECTION

Geoff Dethlefs is the Monash candidate for Family First in the election.

Mr Dethlefs lives in Drouin and has been working as a teacher at Chairou Christian School, and a pastor at a small Baptist Church for almost 20 years.

He said he was inspired to run for the seat, as the current politicians had created a cost-of-living crisis, through net-zero policies.

He believes being part of the Family First team is the best way to create political change and said he will focus on cutting power prices, to ease the cost-of-living pressures on voters.

"Australia must urgently abandon net zero, the Paris accords, and the roll out of wind turbines and solar factories," Mr Dethlefs, who does not believe there is a climate emergency, said.

"This is driving up the cost of electricity and therefore the cost of everything else. We must return urgently to affordable and reliable sources of power generation such as Victoria's abundant coal and gas."

He also supports adding nuclear to the energy mix in the future.

"If China, India and the US decide to go to zero emissions over time then Australia could gradually transition to nuclear energy."

Mr Dethlefs said he was the best candidate for Monash, due to his policies on energy, and his belief that governments should not impose LGBTIQA+ influencers on schools.

"They are confusing our children about their gender and government is putting pressure on parents' rights to educate their children in the faith-based school of their choice. This needs to stop," he said.

"And I will fight to get biological males out of girls' and women's sports and their toilets and changerooms.

"Men are free, as adults, to choose to live as women, but they must not invade female spaces, as they are still biologi-

cal males whatever invasive surgery they have had.

"Family First believes strong families create a strong nation and the more family-focused MPs we can get into Parliament the better we can make life for mums and dads raising the next generation, and the stronger our future as a nation will be."

Mr Dethlefs describes himself as a "passionate believer in Jesus", who became a Christian in 1959 at the Sydney Billy Graham Crusade.

He is critical of both major parties, describing the ALP as having a poor record of managing the economy, while the Coalition "has not been what it once was".



Geoff Dethlefs, a teacher and pastor from Drouin, is the Family First candidate for Monash.



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*Good luck to all teams for the 2025 season!*

# Another big year for Junior footy

It looks like 2025 is shaping up to be another super-sized season for the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) juniors, with over 200 kids taking part this year.

The club's Junior Coordinator Daniel Larsson said it was an exciting year, with young players signing up in record numbers.

In the off-season, the juniors have been training at the Newhaven College grounds, to allow the Cowes oval to be rehabilitated.

"Thanks to all the parents and players for their understanding of the situation," Daniel said.

"And a special thanks to Newhaven College for letting us use their facilities."

Training is being shared between the Cowes and Newhaven College ovals, however Daniel confirmed the Sunday competition games would all be held at the Phillip Island home ground in Cowes.

As has been the case in the past seven or so years, the Bulldogs will be fielding two teams in the U10, U12 and U14 divisions.

Participation in girls football continues to grow and this year will see the Youth Girls replaced by an U16 girls side, with an U14 girls team taking to the field for the second year. Girls will also continue to play in U10, U12 and U14 mixed teams. The U16 team will be coached by Didi

Cuthbertson and Justin Tilley with the U14s coached by Jeremy Van Strijp, supported by Emma Stevens.

## 2025 season

The 2025 season starts on April 27, with the first-round matches between the Island and Dalyston.

Daniel confirmed the coaching line up for the junior teams, with the U10s coached by Steve Loch and Steve Reginer.

Bianca Helmuth-Pask and Mick Cleary return as the U12 coaches, with Damian Holmes and Lucas Piera taking the reins with the U14s.

Daniel also thanked his Co-Junior Coordinator Brad Martindale for his work getting the teams ready for the 2025 season.

Alongside Daniel, Brad and the coaching staff, the junior teams are supported by team managers working in the background and an army of volunteers.

"This year, we have a major emphasis on families being involved as much as they can, including helping the coaches at training and all the game day volunteer roles," Daniel said.

"We really want to see more volunteers taking on more roles and sharing the load."

Anyone who can help out, please contact Daniel or the club. Contact details are on the PIFNC Facebook page and website. [www.pifnc.com.au](http://www.pifnc.com.au)



*It's a big year coming up for the Phillip Island junior football teams with more than 200 kids set to take part.*



*The 2025 junior football season starts this weekend on April 27.*



*The Bulldogs are excited to take to the field for what looks to be a great season of junior football.*

Proud Sponsor of the Phillip Island Football and Netball Club

# GO DOGGIES!



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# GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE FOOTBALL AND NETBALL PLAYERS.

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Good luck to all teams for the 2025 season!

# SOUTHERN GIPPSLAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION 2025

ROUND 1

Sunday 27th April

Phillip Island Red v Inverloch Kongwak  
Dalyston v Phillip Island Blue

ROUND 2

Sunday 4th May

Korumburra Bena v Phillip Island Red  
Phillip Island Blue v Leongatha

ROUND 3

Sunday 11th May (Mother's Day)

Leongatha v Phillip Island Red  
Phillip Island Blue v Inverloch Kongwak

ROUND 4

Friday 16th May (Fright Night Lights/  
All Stars R2)

Phillip Island Red v Phillip Island Blue

ROUND 5

Sunday - 25th May

Kilcunda Bass v Phillip Island Red  
Phillip Island Blue v Korumburra Bena

ROUND 6

Sunday 1st June

Phillip Island Red v Wonthaggi  
Kilcunda Bass v Phillip Island Blue  
BYE - Sunday 8th June (All Stars R3)

ROUND 7

Sunday 15th June

Dalyston v Phillip Island Red  
Phillip Island Blue v Wonthaggi

ROUND 8

Sunday 22nd June

Inverloch Kongwak v Phillip Island Red  
Phillip Island Blue v Dalyston

ROUND 9

Sunday 29th June

Phillip Island Red v Korumburra Bena  
Leongatha v Phillip Island Blue

ROUND 10

Sunday 6th July

Phillip Island Red v Leongatha  
Inverloch Kongwak v Phillip Island Blue  
BYE - Sunday 13th July (All Stars Grand  
Final)

ROUND 11

Sunday 20th July (TAC Round)

Phillip Island Blue v Phillip Island Red

ROUND 12

Sunday 27th July

Phillip Island Red v Kilcunda Bass  
Korumburra Bena v Phillip Island Blue

ROUND 13

Sunday 3rd August

Wonthaggi v Phillip Island Red  
Phillip Island Blue v Kilcunda Bass

ROUND 14

Sunday 10th August

Phillip Island Red v Dalyston  
Wonthaggi v Phillip Island Blue

FINALS

FINAL 1

Sunday 17th August

FINAL 2

Sunday 24th August

GRAND FINAL

Sunday 31st August

# SOUTH WEST GIPPSLAND U16 GIRLS FOOTBALL COMPETITION 2025

ROUND 1

27th April

Phillip Island v Inverloch Kongwak

ROUND 2

4th May

Phillip Island v Warragul Industrials

ROUND 3

11th May

Nar Nar Goon v Phillip Island  
BYE - 18th May (All Stars)

ROUND 4

25th May

Hill End v Phillip Island

ROUND 5

1st June

Warranor v Phillip Island  
BYE - 8th June (All Stars / King's Birthday  
Long Weekend)

ROUND 6

15th June

Inverloch Kongwak v Phillip Island

ROUND 7

22nd June

Warragul Industrials v Phillip Island

ROUND 8

29th June

Phillip Island v Nar Nar Goon

ROUND 9

6th July

Phillip Island v Hill End  
BYE - 13th July (All Stars / School Holidays)

ROUND 10

20th July

Phillip Island v Warranor

ROUND 11

27th July

Phillip Island v Inverloch Kongwak

ROUND 12

3rd August

Phillip Island v Warragul Industrials

THE FINALS

WEEK 1 - FINALS


10th August

WEEK 2 - FINALS

17th August

WEEK 3 - GRAND FINAL

24th August



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good luck for the 2025 Season!

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The living spaces extend seamlessly to an outdoor sanctuary, where the sounds of the bay's birdlife heighten the sensory delight of this unique retreat.



The well-appointed kitchen includes stone benchtops, sleek stainless steel appliances and a practical butler's pantry – all framed by the panoramic majestic views.



The house includes a fully-equipped undercover alfresco area, offering unobstructed views that span from the iconic bridge to Newhaven Marina and beyond.

# Splendid coastal luxury

Delight in the splendour of coastal luxury at 1/38 Phillip Island Road, San Remo – a residence that appears to transcend the boundary between land and sea. This distinguished three-bedroom home is not merely a dwelling but an embodiment of the extraordinary lifestyle that awaits you on the edge of Westernport Bay.

As you step through its doors, the allure of the open-plan design captivates, where the well-appointed kitchen includes

stone benchtops, sleek stainless steel appliances and a practical butler's pantry – all framed by the panoramic majestic views of the bay stretching toward the Mornington Peninsula.

Bathed in natural light, thanks to soaring ceilings and expansive feature windows, the interiors resonate with elegance, from the solid wood flooring to the comforts of split system air conditioning and a warming woodfire heater. The living spaces extend seamlessly

to an outdoor sanctuary, where the sounds of the bay's birdlife heighten the sensory delight of this unique retreat.

The indulgence continues with a heated indoor swimming pool and a fully-equipped undercover alfresco area, offering unobstructed views that span from the iconic bridge to Newhaven Marina and beyond.

In the master suite, the day begins with mesmerising waterscapes and deluxe ensuite, complete with a freestanding bath,

which offers an exclusive space to rejuvenate. Two additional generous bedrooms with plush carpeting and ceiling fans complement the master, supported by a well-appointed bathroom, separate toilet, and a spacious laundry.

Set on a generous 1538 square allotment, the property ensures privacy and space, featuring a sealed driveway, double garage with internal access, and substantial outbuildings for secure storage, accommodating all your vehicles, caravan, or

boat with ease.

This remarkable home at 1/38 Phillip Island Road is a sanctuary for couples, families, investors or those who seek the ultimate blend of luxury living and the serenity of coastal grandeur.

For sale via expressions of interest, closing Friday May 30 at 4pm if not sold prior.

Address: 1/38 Phillip Island Road, San Remo.

Contact: Garth Lisle Property Consultants on (03) 5678 5878.

Inspections by appointment.



34 Hade Ave Bass  
Price: \$699,000

2 bedrooms / 1 bathrooms / 4 cars

Welcome to 'Delamere', a charming and immaculately presented cottage with a history as a Guest House in San Remo in the early 1900's stands proudly on a large 1349m<sup>2</sup> allotment and has township zoning allowing for both residential use and commercial ventures.



2/20 Cleeland St Newhaven  
Price: \$595,000

2bedrooms / 1 bathrooms / 3 cars

This exceptional two-bedroom residence, a unique find in Newhaven, exudes quality and refined style. Situated on a secluded subdivided block, this exquisite home enjoys premium double-glazed windows, inviting natural light into the spacious open-plan living area, which seamlessly flows onto a north-facing timber deck via dual sliding doors.



54 Panorama Dve San Remo  
Price: \$619,000

2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom / 2 cars

A rare opportunity to secure a magnificent, elevated property with water views and plenty of potential. Situated in Panorama Drive, San Remo with established trees. Comprising a two-bedroom, one-bathroom and living room house perched on a generous 731 square metres, this allotment provides an established position for those with a vision to create something truly special.

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# Island HOME

YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE

Advertising Feature

## The OBrien difference in holiday management

With decades of trusted service as the island's longest-standing holiday accommodation provider, OBrien Holiday Management continues to set the benchmark for hospitality, digital innovation, and guest satisfaction.

Over the years, OBrien has earned its reputation as the go-to partner for international event planners, most notably for the world-class MotoGP, thanks to its expert logistics, local insight, and diverse portfolio of accommodation options.

This Easter was no exception, with OBrien achieving an impressive occupancy rate of over 90 per cent. This reflects the trust placed in the brand by both loyal guests and first-time visitors. These numbers aren't just statistics – they're the result of forward-thinking strategies, and a client-first approach that is at the heart of OBrien's operations.

But OBrien isn't just evolving with the industry – it's shaping it. From July 1, 2025, all OBrien-managed properties will feature 360° virtual tours, offering prospective guests an immersive way to explore their holiday home from anywhere in the world. This technology does more than showcase properties – it builds confidence and excitement, two key drivers in the decision-making process for holidaymakers. A further benefit from an owner's perspective



OBrien Holiday Management achieved an impressive occupancy rate of over 90 per cent this Easter, reflecting the trust placed in the brand by both loyal guests and first-time visitors.

is the easy reference point of the property set up for both guests and cleaners. Clients also have access to an online portal providing real-time communication and access for maintenance, cleaners and owners.

With a strong awareness that potential guests are worldwide, OBrien has made a large investment in a soon to be launched new Accommodation website. It has been purpose built and runs separately to the Real Estate arm of the business, further validating that they are committed and focused on the holiday department and providing a superior level of service to its clients.

Behind the scenes, OBrien's success is also powered by a comprehensive understanding of search

engine optimisation (SEO). This ensures that their listings and content are not only thoughtfully presented but also strategically placed in front of the right audiences at the right time. As a result, the agency enjoys enhanced online visibility, driving consistent traffic and increased direct bookings. With the recent government changes regarding short-stay accommodation, this SEO knowledge, coupled with extensive research and effective strategies to overcome the new levies, has alleviated concerns and proven very valuable to our owners.

At the core of OBrien's success is a passionate property management team bringing a wealth of experience from dynamic careers within the tourism industry and deep expertise in business development, communications, and relationship management. As proud locals, the team brings an in-depth understanding of regional trends and market dynamics, offering insights that are both timely and relevant. This on-the-ground knowledge allows OBrien to stay ahead of the curve, delivering custom solutions that respond to the area's unique needs and seasonal fluctuations. It also offers reassurance to guests and out-of-area owners that we can attend any property at short notice if required.

Ready to see what your property could achieve? Get in touch with our team today for a free appraisal.

## Prices drop in regions

### REAL ESTATE

House prices have risen across the country in the past month, but regional Victorian house prices have dropped.

The latest PropTrack Home Price Index reported home prices hit a record high in March.

"Home prices across the country climbed in March, following a clear shift in market momentum triggered by the Reserve Bank's February rate cut," said REA Group Senior Economist Eleanor Creagh.

While Melbourne prices were up 0.20 per cent in March, they are still down 4.31 per cent from their peak.

Overall though, Melbourne prices are up 15.7 per cent since March 2020.

In regional Victoria, March saw a drop of -0.03 per cent and annual growth of -1.53 per cent.

Property prices are down -4.48 per cent since its peak, but are still 40 per cent higher than in March 2020.

PropTrack reports the median value of a house

in regional Victoria is now \$573,000.

"We expect prices to keep lifting over the coming months, but the rate of growth is likely to be more modest compared to recent years," said Ms Creagh.

"With affordability still a major constraint, the impact of further rate cuts will be somewhat tempered."

### Key findings:

- National home prices rose 0.27 per cent in March, pushing values to a record high. Prices are now 3.91 per cent higher than a year ago and up 48 per cent over the past five years.
- While capital cities are now leading the price rebound, annual growth in regional areas (+4.59 per cent) continues to slightly outpace capital city growth (+3.64 per cent).
- Poor affordability and a surge in choice throughout spring tempered price growth in the capitals in 2024, but February's rate cut reignited buyer demand and price growth.

# OBrien Real Estate

## Holiday Property Experts

OBrien Real Estate has decades of trusted service as the Island's longest-standing holiday accommodation provider.

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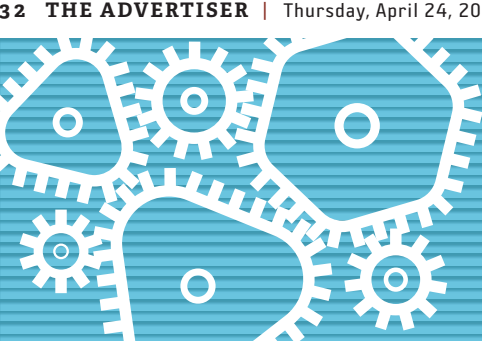
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Kindness of strangers

Heartfelt gratitude to the team at The Nobbies Centre after my 91-year-old mother fell on the boardwalk last weekend.

In the 90 minute wait for the ambulance, staff Katy, Jane, Paul and others kept my Mum awake, warm, checking her vital signs, and somehow managing crowd control from the large crowd of tourists wanting to either stand and stare, push past, or kindly assist. A big thanks also to the ambulance duo, and emergency department staff at Wonthaggi hospital.

Thankfully Mum is recuperating well back at home, with nothing more serious than bruising and small cut. You are all wonderful people offering your expertise and reassurance at what was a terrifying time. Thank you for your care of others, whether in conservation, research, education, wildlife rescue, the environment, or for random strangers in need.

Melanie Moore, Mill Park

## Nuclear and the environment

Nuclear is the only environmentally friendly way to achieve net zero before 2050.

Vast swathes of wildlife habitats are being bulldozed to make way for solar farms and huge concrete bases for fields of batteries, and giant bases for land and sea wind turbines.

A recent environmental study on the Great Eastern wind project in Bass Strait

identified 59 threatened and migratory marine species and onshore threatened species like the growling grass frog, and critically endangered birds, swift parrot, orange bellied parrot, etc

Thousands of square kilometres of native bushland are being removed for pylons to carry the power at a cost of \$10 million per kilometre.

An article by the American Solar Recycling Company spells out recycling damage from solar:

“Recycling faces big economic hurdles:

- Recycling costs \$25 to \$75 per panel
- Throwing panels in landfills costs just \$1.50 to \$8.50
- Each panel costs \$13 to \$16 more to recycle than the materials are worth

“Throwing panels away hurts our environment badly. Every 205 tons of solar PV waste releases about 2039 tons of CO2 equivalent.

“New recycling technologies show promise for better financial results. Studies show a \$30 per panel fee over 12 years could create a profitable recycling industry by 2032”.

Guess who will be paying these annual fees! Batteries are worse.

Industrial scale batteries only last about 10 years and cost big money to recycle.

Tesla says about their Megapacks:

- Recycling cost: About AUD336 per kWh (AUD10,000 per Megapack).
- Revenue from recovered materials: Can offset costs depending on material prices.

“Recycling lithium-ion batteries, is currently a cost-negative process, meaning the expenses associated with recycling exceed the value of the recovered materials.”

Atmos, a world leading renewable energy company, has this to say about nuclear’s carbon footprint:

“A carbon footprint is defined as the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are associated with consumption. Nuclear power plants have the lowest carbon footprint for an energy source, estimated to be 9-grams of CO2e per kilowatt hour produced.”

If we genuinely want a carbon-free source of reliable power, nuclear is the only way to go.

Anton Gosselin, Newborough

## Blackberry spray

Recently when walking along the track to Foots Point, San Remo, we saw a message attached to a fence post, warning: “Black Berries have been sprayed. Do not eat.”

It was unsigned. The blackberry bushes were loaded with fruit.

May I ask whoever did this spraying: Can you write a warning message to the birds and other animals, in their

language? Our bird numbers are declining. Why? Isn’t Bass Coast Shire Council [BCSC] supposed to be an “environmentally responsible” council?

I rang BCSC and spoke to a person who claimed to be in charge of contractors. He said he was not aware that the area had been sprayed. He appeared confused about spraying guidelines. He seemed to have no idea about crucial timing.

What are the BCSC and municipal guidelines? I rang another council and asked them.

The answer was clear: “Spray blackberries in the spring growth surge, before the flowers open!”

This protects the bees and all other animals from being poisoned.

Also effective maybe, to cut the blackberries at the base, then spray the small regrowth foliage. This would reduce the amount of toxin entering our environment. Or, as we have done, with a bit of elbow grease, dig up the roots.

Does BCSC issue strict guidelines and supervision for contractors?

Unfortunately, the profit motive often rules.

J Rainey, San Remo

## Shell House legacy erased

I was born at Warley Hospital in 1971. My great-grandparents, AH (Albert) Robertson and Myrtle, built the House of Shells at Summerland in the 1950s, as

an ANZAC memorial for his Gallipoli service, and it became a local attraction, visited by tourists from all over the world. Every 20-cent adult entry fee went into a collection box at the House to support Warley, the hospital where I was born.

In recognition of this support, Albert and Myrtle were made life members of Warley.

In 1985 the State Government forced my family to sell the Shell House they had run for 35 years to them in its buy-back program, their house next door, and their adjacent block – three quarter-acre lots with bay views and surf beach access – for \$104,500.

I have their offer letter. Buy-back rules at Summerland meant they could only sell to the government, at their price, no will allowed.

As a 25-year real estate agent, I say those lots are worth \$3 million today – \$1 million each. My family got paid \$104,500 for the three.

By 2006, \$1 million was reputedly being paid under the Summerland buy back scheme, for a house.

The state government demolished the Shell House and later refused to save Warley, also now demolished, erasing our legacy. We got screwed big time.

They owe AH and Myrtle an apology, and a tribute for their service to Phillip Island.

Darrin Marr, Rosebud



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Nestled on a sprawling 4737sqm of landscaped gardens, this private oasis offers the ultimate in relaxed coastal living. Featuring a single level residence with polished floors throughout, this home is designed for effortless indoor - outdoor entertaining. The expansive alfresco area overlooks a stunning pool and Bali style gazebo creating the perfect retreat for year round enjoyment. A huge 10m by 10M shed, unit accommodation which is away from the house, 2.5 car garage with internal access, solar power and a spring fed water bore add to the homes functionality and sustainability.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130

1/266 SETTLEMENT ROAD, COWES  
\$580,000 TO \$615,000



LOW MAINTENANCE/ EXCELLENT COWES ACCESS

This ideal property set over a single level has excellent access to Cowes central and Foreshore, with a north facing living area and kitchen that flow to a large deck, it creates the perfect entertaining space for family and friends after a day on the beach or taking in all Phillip Island has to offer. The low maintenance just helps with the peace of mind that you can enjoy this light filled environment, or lock up and travel in the knowledge no work is required when you arrive home.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034

18 KENWYN COURT, COWES  
\$770,000 TO \$845,000



LAND SIZE AND LOCATION

When land and house size matter, this very large home sits in a quiet court with excellent beach access. The north facing balcony flows to the upstairs second living area and kitchen. With the two living areas and two balconies entertaining family and friends is a pleasure. The large block is perfect if you want to build a large shed in the rear of the block. Another option is holiday rental which this home is perfect for. All the work has been done move in and enjoy this quiet location.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034

2/56 ANDERSON ROAD, COWES  
\$690,000 TO \$740,000



LOCATION/VIEWS/ LOW MAINTENANCE

The perfect package awaits with north facing views from the upper level, the ground floor is bathed in natural light and creates a warm and inviting setting which flows to a large deck and court yard. Designed with low maintenance and coastal living in mind it is the ideal setting to let the stress from Melbourne wash away. An early walk on the beach or launch your boat from the Anderson boat ramp. Easy access to Cowes central is but a short walk. There is huge potential for holiday rental or just enjoy with family and friends and have the perfect entertaining location.

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3 BRIDGEVIEW DRIVE, CAPE WOOLAMAI  
\$890,000



IDEAL BEACH LIFESTYLE/ FULLY RENOVATED

Experience the perfect blend of modern comfort and coastal charm in this beautifully renovated double story home, ideally located in the popular area of Cape Woolamai. Featuring a spacious kitchen with striking spotted gum, multiple living areas across both levels, and 2 undercover decking areas ideal for entertaining, and perfect for a holiday rental property. Complete with 4 generous bedrooms, 2 stylish bathrooms, and a prime location just moments from the beach, shops, bars and cafés, this home is the perfect beach side retreat, family getaway, or family home.

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55 GRAMPIAN BLVD, COWES  
\$745,000



MODERN FAMILY LIVING/ BOAT & CARAVAN ACCESS

This stunning open plan home offers generous living spaces and is beautifully maintained throughout. The spacious kitchen boasts a 900mm cooktop, a butlers pantry, and ample storage- perfect for the home chef's. Situated on a desirable block with side access, it's perfect for those with a boat or caravan. Enjoy year round entertaining in the alfresco area complete with cafe blinds. Located only minutes to Cowes shopping centre and beach which makes it the perfect for Island living.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



## Koala Estate road rehabilitation

Thank you for your assistance in highlighting our fight against the Bass Coast Shire Council with their plans to dig up our residential roads from a bitumen surface and return them to gravel.

I wish to highlight the council's own Dust Management Strategy taken from their website.

In 2020 the Assessments and Advice Environmental Public Health team at EPA Victoria reviewed the product sourced for road making at Bass Coast. The assessment concluded the health risk to residents from occasional exposure to road dust would be considered low.

This is the Collins dictionary definition of occasional "happening sometimes, but not regularly or often".

On Friday April 4, between 11am and midday, I recorded the following vehicles using Park Lane to gain access to or leave the Koala Estate: two x medium rigid trucks, one x supermarket delivery truck, one x tradie ute with tandem trailer, one x large ute with a boat and trailer, two x lawn mowing contractors with trailers, and 14 cars. Total 21 vehicles movements, a third of which made far more dust than your average family vehicle. I know this is not an adequate traffic study, but I must ask council, where is yours?

I further ask council, at one vehicle movement approx. every three minutes, how can this be defined as occasional? Considering also that this is a relative quiet day on the island, what are traffic volumes over the Christmas/January period?

Council's advice from the same strategy, when dealing with dust, is totally laughable, unliveable and goes against many reasons why we live on the island:

- Stay indoors, with windows and doors closed.
- Even when you must go outside, spend as little time outdoors as possible.
- Avoid high impact exercise, especially if you have asthma or another respiratory (breathing related) condition.
- Use air conditioners if possible and safe. Make sure to clean filters often.

This is almost identical advice from VicHealth during dust storms.

I call on council to cancel this rehabilitation program and consult with us, the residents.

*Darren Murphy, Cowes*

## Choose carefully this election

At election time the decision on how to vote can be confusing and daunting but should be made with some consideration.

Back in 2023 Cape Woolamai on Phillip Island experienced considerable vandalism and damage to the foreshore which resulted in major intervention by the council and the installation of fencing and signage to protect some specific areas from ongoing destruction.

One of the main supporters and the person who by her actions encouraged much of this destruction to the trees and protected foreshore was Deb Leonard.

In August 2023 Deb Leonard was behind a petition which partly stated ... "I request that council resolve to exempt this area from the Foreshore and Bushland Reserves Vegetation Protection Policy, and facilitate reinstatement of use of the area for bike riding".

The Cape Woolamai foreshore is a very significant and important natural resource which not only has some rare species of flora but is also a habitat and corridor for native wildlife between the Newhaven Swamp and the Cape Woolamai peninsula.

The foreshore is Crown Land and also has Cultural Heritage overlays over it and should be protected at all costs.

If you are concerned for the preservation of the foreshore around Cape Woolamai in particular and in general across the Bass Coast, then please be careful how you vote in the forthcoming Federal Election.

We need to be able to have elected representatives in Federal Parliament who will actively protect and support the ongoing preservation of the diminishing natural environment.

*Peter Dumergue, Cape Woolamai*

## Sport needs support

The Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) budget has just been released. Despite being the number one issue at the 2024 council elections, Phillip Island Recreation Reserve has again been allocated zero funding.

Unfortunately, BCSC again appears to have ignored the wishes and the emphatic ballot box results of the Phillip Island residents. The residents and councillors were as one for the need for a start on the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve. Council management have again ignored its rate payers and councillors.

Our existing changeroom and social facilities at Cowes are dilapidated at best. They are by far the worst in Bass Coast. We've put up with this on the promises of a new recreation facility. Unfortunately, BCSC have done nothing for us in this regard. We have also applied for BCSC grants to do maintenance on the rooms. We were told maintenance cannot be funded by grants, "it's a council responsibility".

We certainly appreciate what we have received in the last few years.

Our social rooms are nowhere near the size of what is required and full of outdated infrastructure. We are constantly funding repairs and upgrades to a council building. We cannot go close to fitting all our members in at any time. We have around 1000 members

We are the biggest football club in Gippsland. The next biggest club is Sale and is 25 per cent smaller than us. We supply approx. 47 per cent of all footballers in the Bass Coast. Every year we also have to turn away budding footballers and netballers.

How long are we supposed to exist with these substandard facilities along with continually having our needs ignored by BCSC? The culture and opportunity our club creates for the

community is second to none and deserve better from BCSC.

*Glenn Plymin, Secretary  
Phillip Island Football Netball Club*

## Teals are not independents

The Collins Dictionary defines Independent as "free from control or influence of others".

Yet Teal candidate Deb Leonard in Monash, like her 20 other Teal colleagues is entirely dependent on the following listed individuals, activists and organisations.

(a) Simon Holmes a Court. A multi-millionaire investor for the bulk of their multi-million-dollar funding.

(b) Climate 200, which was created by Holmes a Court for policy and media advice. It is essentially a collective of donors, investors, political operatives and media mentors, mostly composed of former ABC staff, retired politicians and climate philanthropists.

(c) Get Up, a 'not for profit' organisation with operating expenses/profits of typically over \$10-12 million per annum.

The truth is the Teals are an unregistered political party, that because of their status avoid disclosure and reporting requirements of other political parties.

Despite what their candidates claim, Teals like Ms Deb Leonard cannot lower the cost of living or build the Warragul Hospital, nor improve roads and are powerless to reduce crime rates. The Teal wish list is misleading as it alludes to Local Government and State Governments issues, where Teals simply don't exist.

Her claims of being a representative community candidate are nonsense; she is a virtual stranger to most of the electorate living in the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland.

Clearly, the Teal candidates are not independent. As evidenced by the aforementioned revelations and uniformity of all their candidates having the same policies, same advisors, same funding, same donors, same volunteers, same paid Get Up staff, same media formats, same uniforms, etc.

*T Quinn, Moe*

## Bad budget decisions

To watch the Bass Coast Shire councillor commentary on the draft 2025/2026 Council budget at the April council meeting was quite dispiriting. Not one question to management on the financial outlook of the council and whether it is sustainable. A number of comments about 'inheriting' and being stuck with the priorities of the previous council, which is a patent nonsense. In fact, the council has seen fit to change a number of key financial targets of the previous council, for the worse. The planned Garbage Rate increase has been bumped up from 4 per cent to 7.4 per cent, way above inflation. The forecast underlying loss has gone from 0.7 per cent to 9.6 per cent, a massive increase. The asset renewal ratio has gone from a planned reasonably healthy 112 per cent, to a worrying 66 per cent. Staff numbers are to rise above the previous council's forecast.

The council's only response

was to blame the State Government for the rates cap (which is here to stay) and cost shifting - rather than focussing on things it can control, like unnecessary staff and other costs.

Whether this is a lack of financial acumen or an unwillingness to take the hard decisions, the reality is that, if this budget is finally approved as is, the council will have just 'kicked the can down the road' leaving it for some future council to take even harder and more painful decisions to bring the council's finances back on track.

*Jeff Floyd, Cowes*

## A transparent candidate

I am writing to address concerns raised about community independent Deb Leonard's funding.

Supporters donate to Deb's campaign directly or indirectly through Climate 200. This organisation has many donors from all from different walks of life. They want a bright future for our children and are concerned about our planet.

Deb's campaign relies heavily on a dedicated group of volunteers who engage in activities, such as door knocking, phone calls, community meetings distributing flyers and displaying confluents.

Deb's supporters and volunteers believe that she will be a strong voice in Canberra.

She will be accountable, not to any donor or big business, but to us her constituents.

She is committed to transparency and accountability and discloses her donations in real time, unlike the major parties. Their donors include big corporations, mining magnates, the gambling industry and many others.

There has been a negative campaign directed at Deb. This has been troubling, as it's largely based on untruths. Deb's campaign is a positive one that is focusing on policies and what she is offering her constituents.

As a passionate, approachable and driven candidate, Deb listens to people in her community and is dedicated to fighting for a greater share of resources for Monash.

*Sally Willshire, Lilloo*

## "Smear and fear"

I find it particularly concerning that in the lead up to the coming election there appears to be a concerted attempt by the LNP to peddle disinformation about the Community Independent Deb Leonard.

Russell Broadbent has represented the seat of Monash since 2004 as part of the LNP and more recently as an Independent. Monash has been regarded as a safe seat for the Liberals, hence we have been ignored and taken for granted. Enter community independent Deb Leonard and suddenly in Monash we are being inundated with promises.

More recently I have received a spate of leaflets in the letterbox casting doubt on Deb's independence as a candidate and worse. I have forwarded one of these to the AEC as it was so factually incorrect. Several letters to the editor in various local papers are also continuing on with this theme. In order for

there to be a fair and balanced representation of candidates it is a good idea for voters to look beyond the party hype and make clear decisions of whom you would like to represent your values and interests for the advancement of our country.

Deb is a community independent, there is no 'teal party'. Despite current disinformation Deb is not aligned with any other party. She will consider each piece of legislation on its merits and how it aligns with her policies which are all formed from the feedback of our electorate. I encourage voters to visit her website to consider her policies and find out for themselves that as a community independent she runs on integrity and transparency, something which is sadly lacking from the major parties. Her funding is listed in real time unlike the major parties who do not have to declare their funding until after the election. She is not beholden to powerful individuals like the gambling industry, and large oil and gas companies.

*Julianne Spithill, Inverloch*

## No nuclear

The federal Coalition's push for nuclear power in Australia flies in the face of clear evidence from the CSIRO and multiple others that nuclear is by far the most expensive and slowest energy option for our country. It also more complex with serious security concerns and the difficulty of managing long-lived radioactive waste.

In our dry country nuclear is the thirstiest energy option. It needs significantly more water than coal and vastly more than renewables, and without a secure water supply things go very badly wrong very quickly at a nuclear reactor. Recently the Liberal candidate for Monash stated that all was fine with both water and safety for a planned future Coalition reactor in Gippsland, but these claims don't stack up. Water access is not assured; waste plans are not detailed and recent modelling based on real world Fukushima contamination plumes paint a disturbing picture for the island and wider Bass Coast.

This mapping can be seen at [www.nuclearplume.au](http://www.nuclearplume.au) and is well worth a look, and to make things worse, Australian insurance companies explicitly exclude covering nuclear accidents or incidents. If something goes wrong then you and your home are on your own.

Renewable energy already provides nearly half of Australia's power and is fast to deploy, cheaper, safer and ticks lots of boxes. Our energy future is renewable, not radioactive.

*Dave Sweeney, Sunderland Bay*

All letters are published at the discretion of the editor. Letters may be edited for length, grammar or legal reasons. Priority will be given to current local issues and events. All letters must include the author's full name and address (only the name and location will be printed).



# Results from the green

## GOLF

### Tuesday, April 15

#### Men's 18H Monthly Medal Stroke

Overall winner: Michael Janson (29) with 69 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: A-1 Peter Cartwright (7) with 69 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Stephen Earl (15) with 71 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Michael Janson (29) with 69 pts C/B.

BDL: 75 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th and 7th Brent White, 10th Mark Haringsma and 17th Brent Scott.

#### Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: Peter Pillar (34) with 21 pts from Laurie Petrusch (24) on 19 pts C/B.

BDL: 18 pts C/B.

### Wednesday, April 16

#### Women's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Mary Taylor (26) with 42 pts.

A Grade winner: Dawn Andrews (19) with 36 pts.

B Grade winner: Mary Taylor (26) with 42 pts.

C Grade winner: Maureen Elard (36) with 35 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th and 17th Christine Janson, 7th Sharon Rippon King, 10th Vicki Ramage.

#### Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Margaret Frith (34) with 19 pts from Kerri Deaton (41) on 18 pts C/B.

BDL: 16 pts C/B.

### Thursday, April 17

#### Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Darrell Clark (11) with 42 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Darrell Clark (11) with 42 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 David Nicoll (16) with 35 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Tony Zo-

anetti (21) with 40 pts C/B.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Paul Ledwith, 7th Rick Colling, 10th Peter Rymer and 17th Warren Hahnel.

#### Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: Col Cordery (27) with 22 pts from Noel Thomas (28) on 21 pts.

BDL: 17 pts.

### Saturday, April 19

#### Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Wayne Morris (12) with 46 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Wayne Morris (12) with 46 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Ricky Males (16) with 45 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Bailey Ronalds (31) with 44 pts.

BDL: 35 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Joel Panozzo, 7th Daryl Vernon, 10th Christopher Reynolds and 17th Peter Cartwright.

Great score: Isaac Batty (eagle hole 11th and 18th).

#### Women's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Jillian Chandler (26) with 42 pts.

A Grade winner: Jillian Chandler (26) with 42 pts.

B Grade winner: Dawn Andrews (19) with 39 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th and 7th Liz Gleeson, 10th Rhonda Boyd, 17th Dawn Andrews.

#### Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: Davis Henstridge (22) with 18 pts from Rob Davison (10) on 17 pts.

BDL: 16 pts.

### Sunday, April 20

#### Open 18H Stableford

Winner: Michael Taylor (13) with 45 pts from Dave Egan (16) on 40 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

## Vikings unstoppable and Hornets buzz

## DARTS

Round 6 of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League delivered a night full of action and a fresh new look at the darts centre.

The Vikings continued their dominance, cruising to a 7-0 victory over the undermanned Dart Vaders.

In one of the closest matches of the night, the Riverboys scraped past The Mustangs 4-3.

Miramar also had reason to celebrate, taking down the Storm 5-2 to move into second place.

Joe's Hornets and Aulin went dart-for-dart with the Hornets just getting the edge 4-3.

Meanwhile, The Breakers continued their consistent season with a 6-1 win over Deadly Darts.

Off the oche, a congratulations to hardworking Treasurer Meredith who took out the San Remo Butchers' meat tray raffle.

Additionally, the club unveiled a brand-new pull-up ban-



Congratulations to club Treasurer Meredith who took home the San Remo Butchers' meat tray.

ner showcasing the club's valued sponsors and community partners who help make the league possible.

Matches will be back in action on April 28 for the Joe Rizza Memorial Trophy night in a drawn-teams, round-robin format.

## Red Rocks results

## GOLF

### Saturday, April 19

Stableford: 1st Ian Murray (18) with 42 pts, 2nd Craig Rumble

(12) with 39 pts and 3rd Doug Collins (15) with 38 pts C/B.

### Sunday, April 20

Two Person Ambrose: Winners Ray Pobjoy and Terry Fox (52.75).

Ladies' winner: Leonie with six wins.

Men's winner: Mark Fletcher with six wins.

Encouragement award: Richard.

## Euchre results



The Phillip Island Golf Club recently held the annual Pink Day fundraiser and \$14,127.50 was raised in support of Breast Cancer Research Victoria. More photos at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

## Pink Day fundraiser for a great cause

## GOLF

On Wednesday March 26 the Phillip Island Golf Club (PIGC) held the annual Pink Day fundraiser.

A full field of 104 players took part in the 13-hole ambrose event, with 20 men joining the ladies.

Once again, the club's members and local businesses showed incredible generosity, making this event a huge success.

Every year, the Phillip Island Golf Club comes together to support Breast Cancer Research Victoria and this year was no exception.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed and made the day so special.

This year, a grand total of \$14,127.50 was raised.

In total, PIGC has raised in excess of \$50,000 towards breast cancer research – a fantastic effort for a great cause.

## SGB heads to Australian Championships

## SWIMMING

The South Gippsland Bass swimming club congratulations its swimmers on their results at the Australian Age and Open Championships in Brisbane earlier this month.

Claudia Croatto (16): 50m breaststroke 39th, 100m breaststroke 28th, 200m breaststroke 27th, 50m freestyle 68th.

Billy Fisher (15): 50m breaststroke 65th, 100m breaststroke 66th.

Maggie Fisher (13): 100m backstroke 76th.

Cormac Flynn (15): 50m breaststroke 52nd, 100m

breaststroke 54th, 200m breaststroke 39th.

Izzy Lynch (13): 50m breaststroke 31st, 100m breaststroke 60th.

Mostyn Lumsden (17): 50m butterfly 32nd.

Rahni Matheson (16): 50m breaststroke 10th, 100m breaststroke 23rd, 50m freestyle 61st.

Miah Roberts (15): 50m backstroke 17th, 100m backstroke 16th, B-final competitor, 200m backstroke 21st.

Jarrah Tagell (15): 400m IM 35th.

Zac Sherar (16): 100m freestyle 65th, 200m freestyle 47th, 400m freestyle 26th and 100m breaststroke 46th.



Mostyn and Zac with Coach Dylan at the Australian Age and Open Championships in Brisbane this month.



Miah, Claudia, Dylan and Rahni at the Australian Age and Open Championships, held in Brisbane from April 10 to 18.

## Club celebrates birthday of long-time member

## BRIDGE

Phillip Island Bridge Club members last Monday, celebrated Life Member and long-term Newhaven resident Molly Downing's 91st birthday.

Several members contributed to the afternoon tea, including birthday cake, cheesecake, sponge cake, chocolate eclairs and chocolate crackles.

After the game, the bubbles were opened and a bar tab was generously provided by Rob Maclellan who also donated savoury food platters.

Molly recently moved to the Mornington Peninsula to be closer to family.

She still has her magic touch with cards and with partner Rob Maclellan, finished a commendable fourth place.

First place on Monday (seven tables and North/South pairs) was awarded to Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour with 72.62 per cent.

Guests, Ron and Val Huntley won the East/West pairs with 62.2 per cent.

First place for Nationwide (six tables) on Wednesday went to Judy O'Connell and Lorrie Read with 68.52 per cent.



# Easter clash against Inverloch

## FOOTBALL

### Seniors

The Kilcunda Bass Seniors headed down the highway and met Inverloch at their home ground with a massive crowd of spectators on Easter Saturday. Inverloch started fast, taking the first two goals of the game.

Kilcunda Bass fought back and trailed by just 12 points at quarter time. In the second term with the wind behind them, Kilcunda Bass took their chances and led 46-33 at half time.

Coming out after half time and keeping their foot down, Bass managed to stay on top despite the home side kicking with the wind.

Heading into the final quarter with a loud crowd, each player battled hard. Kilcunda Bass booted seven goals and sealed the game.

**Final scores:** 66-98.

**Best on ground:** Travis Tuck.

### Reserves

The Kilcunda Bass Reserves had their work cut out for them against Inverloch.

Despite fighting hard, the boys remained scoreless at half time, and proving to be a well drilled opponent, Inverloch led 68-0.

The second half displayed much of the same despite a goal coming from Angus McGillivray in the third.

**Final scores:** 153-7.

**Best on ground:** Angus McGillivray.

### U16s

Kilcunda Bass' U16s Easter clash against the Sea Eagles saw the young Panthers come out on top with a 13-point win.

Despite the Sea Eagles having two more scoring shots, the Panthers utilised accurate kicking and use of the ball around the ground that pushed them over the line.

Led by Kilcunda Bass' three on-ballers, Blake Eden, Perry McKay (10 tackles and two smotherers) and Charlie Burgess, the boys got their hands on the ball early which was favourable for Kilcunda Bass.

The backline was led by experienced Tyler Duell who defended everything that came his way and young 'Gus Oats was running off half back, showing that he is a talent to watch as the year progresses.

Up forward, young spearhead Cooper Brown kicked majority of the goals and finished with a tally of four (another future star to keep an eye on).

Coming up, the Anzac Day clash takes the Panthers to Phillip Island which will no doubt be a test, but the way the young guns are playing and the belief they have in one another, it's sure to be a match in which Kilcunda Bass could once again claim the four points.

**Best on ground:** Blake Eden, Angus Oats, Perry McKay, Charlie Burgess and Cooper Brown.

**Goals:** Cooper Brown 4, Charlie Burgess and Cruz Maund 1.



The U18s' Benji Chihotski in the zone.



Seniors Jack Taylor and Connor Thompson working together against Warragul.

# Island Seniors fall short in Easter clash

From page 40

Jack Huther led the way up forward with a bag of four goals, proving a constant headache for the Dusties' backline.

He was well-supported by Brady Ross, who not only slotted three majors but was also instrumental around the ground.

Ben Taylor was everywhere, kicking two goals and being a driving force through the middle.

The midfield engine room was dominant, with Max Mattock and Finlay Cousins setting the tone

with their clearance work.

Lucas Chihotski also impressed with two goals and strong link-up play, while Jack Huther's four-goal haul capped off a strong team display.

**Final scores:** Phillip Island Reserves 16.9 (105) def Warragul Industrials 1.1 (7).

**Best players:** Brady Ross, Ben Taylor, Max Mattock, Finlay Cousins, Lucas Chihotski and Jack Huther.

**Goals:** Jack Huther 4, Brady Ross 3, Lucas Chihotski, Bryce Pewtress,

Ben Taylor 2, Oliver Hibert, James Nicolaci and Ethan Michaelides 1.

### U18s

Phillip Island's U18s turned in a dominant display on Saturday morning, powering to a 53-point win over the Warragul Industrials.

From the opening bounce, the Thirds stamped their authority on the opposition with clean ball movement, relentless pressure and contributors all over the ground.

The Bulldogs set the

tone early and never looked back, with a four-quarter effort that showcased their team-first approach.

Oliver Duggan was electric through the midfield and up forward, bagging five goals and proving unstoppable at times.

Yianni Caffieri continued his outstanding form with strong work around the contest, while Ayden Fawaz and Jasper Cashman were rocks in defence, repeatedly turning away

Warragul's attacks.

Jeremy Kelly and Jack Briggs rounded out the best, playing key roles in transition and giving the forwards every chance.

The win takes Phillip Island into a well-earned bye week.

**Final scores:** Phillip Island 12.11 (83) def Warragul Industrials 4.6 (30).

**Best players:** Oliver Duggan, Yianni Caffieri, Ayden Fawaz, Jasper Cashman, Jeremy Kelly and Jack Briggs.

**Goals:** Oliver Duggan 5, Benjamin Chihotski 2, Yianni Caffieri, Blake Murphy, Charles O'Garey, Isaac Savona and Max Taylor 1.

### U16s

**Final scores:** Phillip Island 32 def by Warragul Industrials 76.

**Best players:** Jack Mascaros, Archie Williams, Hayden Power, Max Jess, Charlie Fischer and Felix Bathgate.

**Goals:** Sam O'Garey 2, Kai Cashman and Charlie Fischer 1.



Ben Taylor under attack from Warragul during the Reserves' clash.



U18s Yianni Caffieri maintains control.

# Kilcunda Bass work hard on the courts

## NETBALL

### A Grade

The Kilcunda Bass A Grade girls were excited to get on the court for the Easter Saturday clash against Inverloch.

With a match full of intensity, Inverloch set the pace early on.

The Bass girls worked as a team to narrow the margin but unfortunately couldn't get over the line.

**Best on court:** Tamika De Nardis.

### B Grade

With just four of Bass' regular B Grade players available, the team knew this round would be a challenge.

Four players from outside the club and support from the C Grade bench assisted the small team.

Despite limited time together as a team leading to limited structure and cohesion, the girls fought hard until the end, focusing on what they could control.

Taking lessons from this match, the team will identify where they can grow and come back stronger.

**Cape Pilates voucher:** Kira Hamilton.

### C Grade

Working hard against Inverloch Kongwak, the Kilcunda Bass C Grade team ultimately fell short, losing 31-23.

For majority of the game, the score remained close, and despite good defence and great patches of play in the attacking end, Bass struggled to convert key opportunities in the second half.

Kilcunda Bass are determined to come back strong next week.

**Best on court:** Ruby McGilivray.

**D Grade**

The Kilcunda Bass D Grade team put on an outstanding performance over the Easter weekend, securing a well-deserved 16-goal win against a tough Inverloch side.

Known for their strength and consistency, Inverloch proved a challenging opponent, but the team rose to the occasion with confidence.

Kilcunda Bass came out firing from the first whistle, executing some textbook plays.

The defensive end

worked tirelessly, applying pressure through the entire game and earning multiple tips and crucial intercepts to turn the momentum to Kilcunda Bass' favour.

In the goal ring, accuracy was a standout, with shooters holding their nerve and consistently converting opportunities.

This accuracy, combined with strong mid-court connections and defensive efforts created a game the whole team can be proud of.

**Final score:** Kilcunda Bass 36 def Inverloch Kongwak 20.

**Best on court and recipient of the Cape Pilates voucher:** Lynne Boag.

### U17s

The U17s Kilcunda Bass team were excited to take part in the Easter match against Inverloch Kongwak.

Starting off strong at the attacking end, the girls worked well together.

Maisie and Jill were accurate at the goals and made some strong leads to the ball.

The mid quarters, Peyton, Alana and Sadie worked well together and implemented moves they had worked on at training.

Young guns, Lexi and Olivia jumped in from the U15s and offered their skills to bring the ball into Kilcunda Bass' attacking end.

Defenders, Matilda, Jya and Hope worked well all game and played body-on-body working their hardest to slow down the play.

The Inverloch shooters worked with accuracy and the ability to shoot from wherever the ball landed in the ring.

Kilcunda Bass overall had a great game with strong takeaways despite not coming home with the win.

**Final scores:** Inverloch Kongwak 45 def Kilcunda Bass 19.

**Loudest voice on court:** Jya Donohue.

**Best on court:** Jill Wallace and Maisie Van Der Walt.

**U15s**

The Kilcunda Bass U15s were happy to play on Easter Saturday – a rare opportunity the team did not want to take for granted.

Working hard on their defence throughout the entire match, the team did not drop their heads nor their intensity for one moment.

A last-minute switch in

their attack paid off and the connection in the ring was simply superb.

Mid court stepped up and did their jobs along with some U13s who rolled on and off which proved a game changer.

The team give kudos to Ash and Frankie who have adapted to a new game intensity level.

Coming away with a well-deserved win, Kilcunda Bass look forward to next week's challenge against Phillip Island.

**Best on court:** Paige O'Brien for her defensive work in the circle for all four quarters and Kealey Trewavis for adapting from goals to defence and keeping the pressure on for the entire game.

**Easter award:** Lexie Baker for changing into GS last minute and dominating.

**U13s**

The Kilcunda Bass U13s took home their first win of the season in their third game against Inverloch.

Building strength and confidence throughout each week, the team were able to pull it all together on the weekend.

Their teamwork, communication and determination were on full display, and every player stepped up and gave it their all.

Coaches and family were pleased to see their hard work at training pay off and the smiles at the final whistle said it all.

**Best on court:** Frankie and Emily.

**U11s**

Easter Saturday had Kilcunda Bass' U11s out of bed bright and early to head to Inverloch.

With some brand-new players joining our team they focused on the basics.

Trying to find the right combinations, the match saw a few switch ups.

Inverloch proved too strong, however Kilcunda Bass managed three goals against the strong defence.

**Best on court:** Vanessa for her defensive pressure in the last quarter and assisting the team in keeping Inverloch to only two goals throughout the last term.

**Maccas award:** Ebony.

**Easter award:** Sage.

**For Phillip Island Netball results go to**

**pisra.com.au/sport**

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## TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 23 APR	THU 24 APR	FRI 25 APR	SAT 26 APR	SUN 27 APR	MON 28 APR	TUE 29 APR
LOW 12:40 am 1.21 m	LOW 1:24 am 1.20 m	LOW 2:20 am 1.16 m	LOW 3:30 am 1.05 m	LOW 4:45 am 0.85 m	LOW 5:56 am 0.65 m	HIGH 12:58 am 2.67 m
HIGH 6:46 am 2.47 m	HIGH 7:43 am 2.42 m	HIGH 8:58 am 2.42 m	HIGH 10:28 am 2.51 m	HIGH 11:53 am 2.71 m	HIGH 1:07 pm 2.96 m	LOW 6:58 am 0.44 m
LOW 12:42 pm 0.73 m	LOW 1:32 pm 0.85 m	LOW 2:38 pm 1.00 m	LOW 4:00 pm 1.13 m	LOW 5:28 pm 1.17 m	LOW 6:44 pm 1.15 m	HIGH 2:10 pm 3.17 m
HIGH 7:50 pm 2.69 m	HIGH 8:41 pm 2.62 m	HIGH 9:42 pm 2.58 m	HIGH 10:49 pm 2.57 m	HIGH 11:57 pm 2.61 m		LOW 7:47 pm 1.10 m

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Lucas Chihotski of the Reserves finds his focus.

# Island Seniors fall short in Easter clash

## FOOTBALL

### Seniors

In a match that went right down to the wire, Phillip Island's Seniors fell short on Saturday, going down by just six points to the Warragul Industrials.

The Bulldogs were right in it from the outset, matching the Dusties goal-for-goal in a physical battle.

With both sides trading momentum across four quarters, the match was a showcase of pressure.

Despite leading at various stages, the Island boys couldn't quite hold off a late surge from Warragul, who pushed ahead in the final minutes.

Cameron Pedersen led up forward with four goals and a strong presence around the ground.

Nick Anderson also made a big impact, slotting three goals and playing an influential role through the midfield and forward half.

The ever-reliable Max Walton was superb in defence and rebound, constantly turning away attacks and setting up counter-movements.

Charlie Bruce worked tirelessly all game as did Daniel Pearce, whose leadership and composure proved vital whilst Connor Thompson added



The Seniors' Charlie Bruce, focused during the Island's clash against Warragul.

grunt around the stoppages.

While the result didn't fall their way, the Bulldogs can hold their heads high after pushing one of the league's top sides to the limit.

**Final scores:** Warragul Industrials 17.10 (112) def Phillip Island 16.10 (106).

**Best players:** Max Walton, Charlie Bruce, Cameron Pedersen, Daniel Pearce, Nick Anderson and Connor Thompson.

**Goals:** Phillip Island: Cameron Pedersen 4, Nick Anderson 3, Hayden Bruce, Billy Taylor, Jack Taylor 2, Charlie Bruce, Brayden Kleverkamp and Daniel Pearce 1.

### Reserves

The Phillip Island Reserves delivered a statement performance on Saturday, steam-rolling Warragul Industrials by a massive 98 points in a one-sided match.

From the first bounce, the Bulldogs were switched on, combining pressure with clean ball movement to control the game from start to finish.

A suffocating defensive effort saw the visitors manage just a single goal for the entire match, while the Island piled on the scoreboard pressure with clinical forward entries and sharp finishing.

Continued page 38

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