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# PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

**Your Community Voice!**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021**

**\$1.40 Incl. GST**



*It was a very different Australia Day this year, with no official public events in Bass Coast due to Covid restrictions. The muted celebrations come as calls grow across the country for the date to be changed – for many First Nations People, January 26 is a Day of Mourning – with Invasion Day rallies attracting big crowds in every state. On Phillip Island, locals and visitors made the most of the holiday, getting together with friends, heading for the beach or joining the local indigenous community for the Yarns and Cuddles event on Churchill Island (see page 2). These friends got into the spirit on the Cowes foreshore beach. From left to right – back: Sophie Gurr of Cape Woolamai, with Mia Munday and Kate Thornborough of Cowes. Front: Oscar Tomisich of Kilsyth, Georgia Schumann of Ferntree Gully, Elise Tomisich of Kilsyth and River Stone of Cowes.*

## Isle of Wight site sold!

### Redevelopment planned

The historic Isle of Wight site in Cowes ... home to the century-old pub that burnt to the ground on the Cowes Esplanade in 2010 ... has been sold.

The land, described last year as the most significant commercial property ever offered on Phil-

lip Island, has been purchased by Melbourne based developer Moda, which specializes in high end developments, with experience across all sectors.

Expressions of interest for purchase of the site closed on January 20, with the sale finalised last Friday.

The selling price has not been disclosed.

The sale comes at the end of a decade of uncertainty locally about redevelopment of the site, with spokesperson for the buyers, Ed Farquharson, stating over the weekend that a consortium planned to spend the next few months exploring all opportunities presented.

"We want to ensure we take the time to explore every potential use

for the site – hospitality, health and wellbeing, premium hotel and high-end residential uses.

"The development may end up being a blend of many or all of these uses," he said.

Ed's development company Moda has partnered with Salta Capital, the venture capital arm of one of Australia's largest private property

developers – the family-owned Salta Properties; and hotelier Mazen Tabet, to develop the site.

Salta is a multi-faceted and largely family owned business, involved for over 50 years in residential, commercial, retail, industrial and hotel development, which prides itself on strong ethics and high standards.

*Continued page 2*

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Form page 1

Mr Tabet is a well-known hotelier with pub interests across Australia and abroad.

Ed himself is no stranger to Phillip Island.

His family have a rural property in Ventnor, and he enjoys the surf, golf and goes fishing here when he's in town.

He has many memories of the Isle of Wight growing up, from functions, birthdays and events with family, to Saturday night discos as a teenager.

He said he'd always been interested in the potential offered by the Isle of Wight site.

"The land has been up for sale a few times now, but the timing was never right. The stars have finally aligned," he commented.

Ed said the introduction of a new Design and Development Overlay (DDO) for the site by Bass Coast Shire Council back in 2019 ... which encourages the development of a "landmark redevelopment" of "architectural and landscape excellence" for this iconic position ... caught his eye.

"It was partly this clear intent of the planning scheme that attracted the consortium's interest," he commented.

"As is the intent of the DDO, a landmark redevelopment of architectural excellence is what we will be aiming to achieve here," he emphasised.

A Planning Panel ruled in 2019 that any future development on the Isle of Wight site should remain seven storeys at the front half of the site along The Esplanade, and five storeys at the rear. The Panel also said any redevelopment must design around and make a feature of the significant Moreton Bay fig tree on the corner of the land, ensuring a qualified arborist "undertake any investigations necessary" to ensure the safety of the tree.

"We feel we can design a building that will contribute to the coastal village character of the precinct and activate the frontage along The Esplanade.

"We would love to bring back the Isle of Wight in some shape or form.

"I certainly expect there to be a hotel/short stay accommodation component."

Ed envisages the planning stag-



The Isle of Wight Hotel the day after the historic building was razed by fire.

es for the development will take at least 18 months.

"Whilst we'll be going straight to work on the development, we won't be rushing in to lock in a design right away," he said.

"It's a site that will need months of thought and consultation with the best architects to ensure we make the most of this unique opportunity."

In the meantime, he wants to talk to council and try and activate the space over the interim period.

"The options for interim activation are endless and we'd love to see the land put to good use while we work through the planning process," he commented.

### A piece of Cowes history

John Matthies, the owner of the Isle of Wight site, told the Advertiser in November when he put the land on the market, he had done so because it was "unfair to the community" to leave the "iconic" property undeveloped.

Mr Matthies, who also owns Banfields Aged Care in Cowes, said it would be another five years before he would consider developing the Isle of Wight site, because he had other projects on the go.

"I feel a bit of an obligation to the community and it would be at least five years before I could do anything with it, and it seems silly to let it sit there," he said at the time.

"It's a fantastic, iconic site, north facing with fantastic views, hard to find better. It needs to be developed for the whole of Phillip Island and Victoria's tourism."

The vacant Isle of Wight was

purchased by Mr Matthies in 2016, after being on the market since 2014, when the former owner of the Continental and the Isle of Wight went into liquidation.

Around 2015 a protracted year-long sale fell through after a

would-be buyer failed to come up with the funds.

Redevelopment plans for the old hotel have been on the drawing board since the 1980s.

The Isle of Wight was first given a planning permit for redevelopment by the former Phillip Island Shire; and since 2005 held a planning permit to rebuild, which was then amended and subsequently approved by a planning panel.

The pub was due to be demolished for redevelopment, when fire gutted the building in May 2010.

In 2011, Bass Coast Council Shire refused to extend the planning permit for a third time, and it expired.

Greg Price, of Alex Scott Real Estate Agency in Cowes, when asked to comment, said Alex Scott was delighted to be part of the sale process.

"We look forward to what the future holds for this site," he said.

Your Community Voice!

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO  
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Artist Safina Stewart and Bunurong Elder Uncle Anthony Egan, with Patrice Mahoney OAM at this year's Yarn and Cuddles gathering on Churchill Island.

## A welcome Yarn

The fifth Yarn and Cuddles, an Aboriginal-friendly Australia Day get together, was held on Churchill Island on Tuesday.

The gathering is organised by Patrice Mahoney OAM, who was recently appointed Aboriginal Development Officer by Bass Coast Shire Council, to help with

the development of their Reconciliation Action Plan.

Yarn and Cuddles, which continues to grow in size every year, provides a welcoming and safe space during Australia Day and encourages different cultures to come and share traditional foods.

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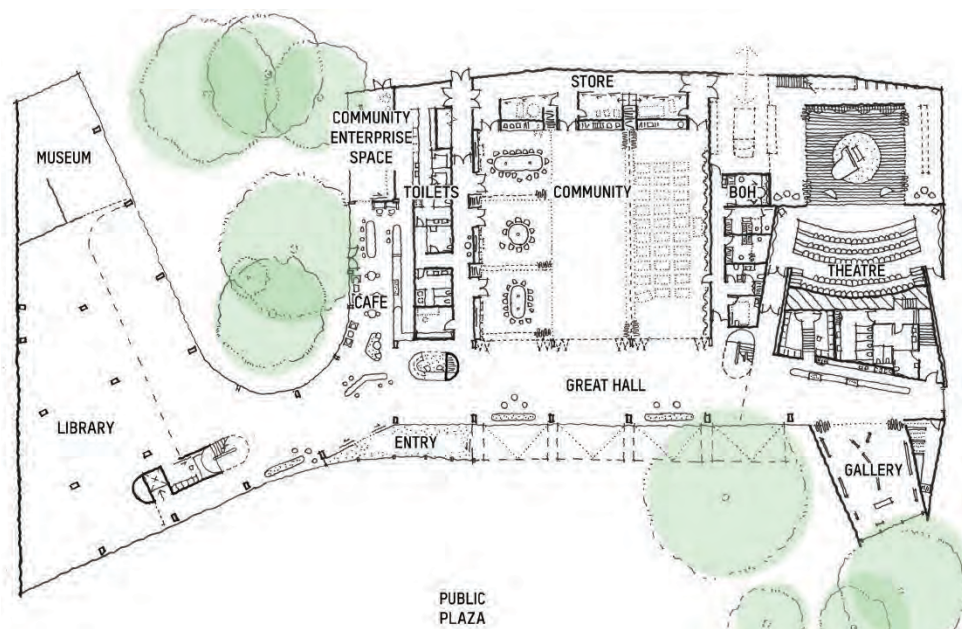


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Council has said construction of the new Cowes Cultural Centre project is fully funded and construction will start this year. This draft plan, released in September last year, shows the two-storey building includes a library, museum, gallery, community function space and theatre/cinema.

## Cultural Centre fully funded says Council

Bass Coast Shire Council has reassured the community the Cowes Cultural Centre project is fully funded and construction will start this year.

In response to concerns about how the \$19 million project would be paid for, a Council spokesperson said the \$19 million budget included \$15 million in borrowings (including a \$10 million low interest loan from the state government) \$1.5 million from Council reserves and \$2.5 million from a Growing Suburbs grant.

Community groups continue to question the wisdom of borrowing such a large amount given the economic uncertainty due to Covid.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said the intention was always to self-fund the project, but to explore all possible options for grants.

When the project was originally announced, Council said \$4 million would be contributed from reserves, however that figure has been reduced, with the council committing to a borrowing a larger amount.

A Council spokesperson said it was investigating to see if the project would be eligible for funding in the latest round of the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund.

This program has grants of up to \$10 million for projects that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote areas.

The project may also be eligible for funding under the next round of the state government's Living Libraries Fund.

During his visit to Cowes last week (see separate story), the Local Government Minister

Shaun Leane said the latest round of the Living Libraries fund would be opening soon.

### Design and construction

An Expression of Interest process for construction of the new building closed last week.

All the EOI's will be assessed and a short list of applicants will then be asked to go to tender. Council's Manager of Major Projects, Damian Prendergast said the EOI process helped attract more competition for the job.

The \$19 million budget does not include the cost of the design for the new building.

Mr Prendergast said updated designs for the new Cultural Centre would be released to the community in February and the latest designs had been discussed with the relevant user groups.

In May last year, architectural firm Jackson Clements Burrows was awarded the \$1.4 million contract to finalise the designs.

In the 2020 timeline for the project, designs were due to be completed by January 2021, with the public tender for construction due to begin in February. Construction is due to begin in May this year.

The demolition of the old building in August 2020 before designs for the new facility were finalised attracted criticism from the community, with Phillip Island Voice and the Bass Coast Residents and Ratepayers Association describing the demolition as premature.

## Firey night in Cowes

A car caught fire after crashing into a pole on Ventnor Road last week.

Police said emergency services were called to the scene near the corner of Justice and Ventnor roads about 11pm on January 21 after reports of a vehicle on fire.

The car, which police have since discovered was unregistered, appeared to have crashed into a pole before catching fire. The driver fled the scene and investigations into the incident remain ongoing.

Phillip Island Fire Brigade also attended and called on the Phillip Island SES unit to assist, initially concerned someone was trapped in the car.

The SES unit remained on site until it was confirmed no one was trapped inside.

Police said the last registered owner of the car had sold it before moving interstate and an investigation was



Emergency services were called to an accident on Ventnor Road last week, when a car caught fire after crashing into a pole. Photo courtesy of Phillip Island Fire Brigade.

underway to locate the driver or current owner of the vehicle.

Local residents reported hearing cars revving and speeding in the area about half an hour before the crash.

Anyone with information that could assist police with their enquiries is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at [www.crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au)



### POLICE BRIEFS

#### Cowes assaults

Cowes police are investigating two assaults at the Cowes BP station over the weekend.

The first assault happened in the earlier hours of Sunday, around 1.30am.

Two young males got into a fight with a group of six to eight people near the BP station in Thompson Avenue.

Police said alcohol was a factor in the incident.

One of the victims received five stitches as a result of the attack, but didn't want to press charges. A second assault occurred at the same location at

10pm on Sunday night.

Two teenage males were attacked by a large group of up to 15 people, in what police say turned out to be a case of mistaken identity.

The boys suffered minor injuries.

Senior Sergeant Andy O'Brien said the group of males then encountered another group and a fight broke out near the petrol station.

Police are currently investigating and examining CCTV footage to identify the people involved.

Anyone with information on the incident is urged to call

Cowes Police on 5952 2037, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or go to Crimestoppers.com.au.

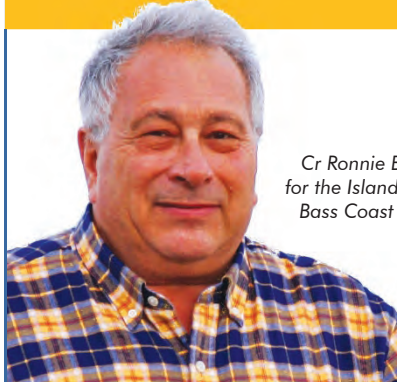
#### Traffic

Police said there were no major traffic incidents recorded over the weekend, despite heavy traffic across the island.

There was a high police presence, with Operation Amity targeting dangerous driving, including drink and drug driving, speeding and mobile phone use.

A number of minor collisions were reported, adding to the traffic congestion.

**Don't hesitate to contact me, I am here to help.**



Cr Ronnie Bauer  
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# Island battles new virus

Nine cases of Ross River virus have been confirmed in Bass Coast since the start of October. At least half of these are on Phillip Island.

Yet last week, Bass Coast Shire Council and the Health Hub seemed unaware of the outbreak.

The Advertiser spoke directly with three of the positive cases, two men from Cape Woolamai and one from Wimbledon Heights.

All three said they'd tested positive to the virus since December.

The three ranged in age from 30 to fifty plus, are all surfers and described as fit and healthy before their diagnosis.

Last Friday, the Department of Health and Human Services confirmed there were nine cases in the shire and said it had been in discussion with Bass Coast Shire Council about the cases.

Despite this, when contacted by the Advertiser, the council repeatedly said it had no knowledge of confirmed cases of Ross River virus in the shire.

On January 20 and again on January 22, a council spokesperson said: "At this stage, Council has received no notification from the Department of Health and Human Services with relation to active cases of the Ross River Virus."

The council's program of monitoring or baiting mosquitos, run in the past through the Bass Coast Landcare Network, did not take place this summer.

In October last year, Council

confirmed the program had not run for five years, as there had been no local mosquito borne health issues.

However, in early November a Ross River virus health warning was issued for Gippsland and other areas of the state.

"Ross River virus occurs across most parts of Australia and Victoria," a DHHS spokesperson said.

"A Chief Health Officer advisory was issued to alert the community in the south west of Victoria

to take personal measures to avoid mosquito bites after surveillance high showed mosquito numbers and presence of virus in the mosquitoes."

The current warning on the HealthVic website specifically mentions Surf Coast, Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula.

There is no mention of Phillip Island or Bass Coast.

Staff at the Phillip Island Health Hub did not seem aware of the current health warning when two of the men exhibiting the virus symptoms visited the Hub in January.

Both said Ross River virus was not discussed or tested for.

Bass Coast Health said they would not normally be advised by DHHS if cases of Ross River virus were confirmed in the area.

## Island hot spots

Six of the seven mozzie hot spots in Bass Coast are found on Phillip Island: the Rhyll and Newhaven swamps, Fishers wetland near

Churchill Island, Rhyll foreshore, Silverleaves, gun club south of Rhyll, as well as the mouth of the Powlett River at Kilcunda.

In the past, Bass Coast Shire Council treated known breeding areas around the island with a larvicide to minimise breeding.

The areas were regularly checked to monitor populations of mosquito larvae.

Previously, council officers trapped mosquitoes to count numbers or test for diseases.

There are 235 species of mosquito in Australia and only a small proportion of those bite and carry disease.



Nine cases of Ross River virus have been confirmed in Bass Coast since the start of October. The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, and six of the seven identified mozzie "hot spots" in the shire are on Phillip Island.

## Ross River virus – symptoms and advice

Ross River virus can cause joint swelling and pain, fatigue and muscle aches which can persist for months.

Some people also develop a rash or a fever.

Symptoms usually occur between three and nine days after exposure, but can occasionally appear up to 21 days later.

Everyone recovers from the initial onset, however for some people, the symptoms can recur for over a year or more.

The disease regularly occurs in regional and rural Victoria, particularly around inland waterways and coastal regions.

This year, the virus has been detected in mosquitoes in Anglesea and the state government said recent weather conditions in Surf Coast, Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula favoured mosquito biting and breeding.

State government health web-

sites advise people can be infected with Ross River virus when they are bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus, normally obtained from mammals such as kangaroos.

Anyone who suspects they may have Ross River virus should visit their doctor for a diagnosis and advice on treatment.

Blood tests can reveal if a person has been infected with Ross River virus recently or in the past. The disease may be diagnosed by doctors solely on symptoms. However, blood tests are recommended to confirm the diagnosis.

### Protect yourself

Taking measures to avoid mosquito bites is a critical step to protect against diseases.

- Wear loose-fitting clothing when outdoors.

- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET or picaridin on exposed skin.

- Try to limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about (usually dusk and dawn).

- Make sure there is no stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around your home.

- On holidays make sure your accommodation is properly fitted with mosquito netting or screens.

- Don't forget the kids – it's safer to spray or rub insect repellents on their clothes rather than directly onto their skin.

For more information see The Better Health Channel's 'Beat the Bite' campaign, advice on how to prevent Ross River Fever: [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite).

More information at: [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/.../ross-river-virus-disease](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/.../ross-river-virus-disease) and [www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/news-and-events/healthalerts/warning-mosquitoes-ross-river-virus-victoria](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/news-and-events/healthalerts/warning-mosquitoes-ross-river-virus-victoria)

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# Islanders laid low by Ross River virus

Glenn Heil was diagnosed with Ross River virus in early January. He's one of nine confirmed cases in the shire and because of the disease, he said he can't work and his new charter boat business "has fallen in a heap". "My business is going down the gurgler. It's a charter boat, and we've done it hard enough as it is with Covid and being shut down ... and now this." He's positive he contracted the disease on Phillip Island, as he hadn't been away in the weeks prior to his symptoms appearing.

And he's angry that more isn't being done to warn people of the danger.

"Why hasn't there been a notice put out around Phillip Island to let people know?"

He believes the cases are being kept quiet, because of the tourist season.

"My doctor said it was because they don't want to alarm the tourists. But they should be alarmed," he said.

"They need to cover up."

He said even his warning posts on the Phillip Island Community Noticeboard on Facebook kept being removed.

"I put something up saying just be careful of the mozzies – it's not good. It was pulled down within 10 minutes."

He said a second post was also removed but on his third attempt, the post stayed up on the page.

It quickly attracted over 100 comments, including from other locals who said they'd also been diagnosed with Ross River.

**"Not on his game"**

A week before Christmas, Glenn was feeling lethargic and "not on his game", but put it down a heavy work-

load and end-of-year stress.

But when he had trouble paddling out in the surf with his sons on Christmas Day, he knew something was wrong.

"We've done it ever since they were little kids," Glenn said.

"That morning, the boys were saying, are you alright dad? My knees wouldn't bend. My ankles had swollen right up."

A driver for Wildlife Coast Cruises as well as running his own charter boats, the Wimbledon Heights resident normally describes himself as fit

and agile, but that all changed.

"I was really busy in the week before Christmas, but I felt really foggy in the head," he explained.

"It was busy at Wildlife Coast Cruises, plus I had a couple of my own charters."

Things got worse after Christmas.

"I took people out fishing the day before New Year's Eve and I couldn't move. I was on my hands and knees on the deck of the boat."

He said his symptoms were so severe on New Year's Day he had to cancel three jobs. His ankles were so swollen a friend took him to the Health Hub, worried they were infected.

Confronted with a huge queue waiting for Covid tests, the pair went home.

But the pain escalated overnight, and the following day Glenn returned.

As well as joint pain and swelling in his feet and hands, Glenn was now getting electric shocks in his arm.

He said the doctor at the Health Hub ran an ECG to check his heart, which came back normal.

"He said I think you've got severe arthritis or gout coming on and told me to go and see my own doctor,"

Glenn explained.

His symptoms continued to worsen as he waited several days for the first available appointment with his GP.

"I went in and I had a referral from the Hub. The doctor there had totally discounted Ross River virus."

"As soon as I told my symptoms to my doctor, he said he had received a memo from DHHS saying anyone with these symptoms should be tested for Ross River."

Glenn went straight for a blood test to confirm the diagnosis and the nurse told him she'd done six tests that week for the virus.

Now on a course of steroids to reduce the inflammation, Glenn said the eventual diagnosis was a relief.

"I was happy when I got the call saying I was Ross River positive, because I'd had three weeks of hell, not knowing what was wrong."

As there is no "cure" for Ross River virus, Glenn said his doctor will continue to monitor his symptoms.

"I'm usually really healthy – surfing, working ... but I just haven't been able to do a thing."

## Cape Woolamai cause for concern

Two Cape Woolamai men have also tested positive for Ross River virus.

One man in his 30s was diagnosed just before Christmas, after a week of severe joint pain and fatigue.

The man, who wished to remain anonymous, was unable to walk or move properly and is still suffering joint pain and fatigue issues.

His wife is fairly certain he picked up the virus in Cape Woolamai, as "we have had a mosquito problem in our back yard".

The couple also know of two other people who've been diagnosed with the disease.

"We wonder how many people also have it without being diagnosed or getting the appropriate blood tests?"

"Doctors are apparently surprised to see it back down here, so it may not



Glenn Heil was diagnosed with Ross River virus in early January and is one of nine confirmed cases in the Shire. He is angry more isn't being done to alert people to the danger.

have been on their routine testing for such symptoms."

Dean Bould also lives in Cape Woolamai and first experienced symptoms in late November.

"I was really sore in my joints, but it went away after about five days," he said.

"Then five days later I got this rash all over and the soreness returned. My fingers were swollen, and I was really tired."

He visited the Hub and saw a doctor who told him "something was seriously wrong" and that he probably had "some sort of virus".

The doctor recommended rest, plenty of water and to take over-the-counter pain killers if the pain persisted.

"I did that, but I had no idea about Ross River virus. I lay low for a few days."

"Then a couple of friends said they

thought I had Ross River. I googled it and I had all the symptoms. It matched exactly with what I was feeling."

He didn't go to the doctor – "I had started to feel better and I knew there was nothing I could do about it" – until he heard that other people in Cape Woolamai had tested positive for the disease. He got a blood test between Christmas and New Year and received a positive result in early January. He's also sure he contracted the disease on Phillip Island.

"I haven't been away and the only place I can remember being bitten was out in the backyard."

He said there are definitely other cases on the island.

"I do know a couple of other people who had the same symptoms as me, but I'm not sure whether they got tested."

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# Flying visit from Local Government Minister

The Local Government Minister Shaun Leane visited Cowes last week to meet the Island Ward councillors and inspect the site of the new Cultural Centre.

The visit was also a chance for the Minister to see the holiday season in full swing, with Thompson Avenue filled with pedestrians and cars.

Accompanied by the Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, Minister Leane was escorted around the Cultural Centre site by Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, who explained the development of the entire precinct, which includes the Health Hub and Transit Centre and the sites for the new Community Hospital and Cultural Centre.

Hopes of a further funding announcement to help pay for the \$19 million project were not realised.

Instead, the Minister said the visit was an opportunity to meet the newly-elected council, and talk about the projects and priorities for the area.

He said he relished the chance to get out of Melbourne after the months of lockdown, pointing out that despite being in at least half a dozen meetings with Cr Tessari, this was the first time the pair had met face to face.

He confirmed the new round of the government's Growing Suburbs fund was opening and the funding pool had been increased from \$50 million to \$75 million annually.

Although the Cultural Centre would not be eligible to apply in the latest round – it received \$2.5 million from a previous round – Minister Leane said Bass Coast would be able to apply for funding for a range of different projects.

He also confirmed the latest round of the Living Libraries funding program was about to start.

The new library at the Cultural Centre should be eligible to apply,

as the program assists councils and regional library corporations to provide accessible and high-quality library infrastructure.

The program has been allocated \$10 million of funding for the 2020/21 financial year.

After a quick walk around the empty site and a visit to the current library, the Minister and Ms Crugnale joined the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and councillor officers for a meeting in the new outdoor dining area at Olive Justice Place.



Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, showed Local Government Minister Shaun Leane and Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, around the site of the new Cowes Cultural Centre. Construction of the \$19 million project is due to start later this year.



The Island Ward councillors took the opportunity to get to know the Minister during his brief visit to Cowes. From left to right: Cr Michael Whelan, Cr Ronnie Bauer, Local Government Minister Shaun Leane, Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, Cr Brett Tessari and Cr David Rooks at the site of the Cowes Cultural Centre.



Safety concerns have been raised about the Cowes roundabouts, with residents calling on better education for drivers and pedestrians.

## Know your roundabout rules

Residents of Phillip Island have raised concerns about safety at the Thompson Avenue roundabouts during the busy summer season.

Graham Champion from Surf Beach said both drivers and pedestrians needed education on how to properly use the roundabouts, and the advisory signs that used to be painted on the road needed to be reinstated.

“Unless the law is changed drivers need to brush up on the road rules and a good idea would be to paint the sign back on the road before a pedestrian is knocked over,” he said.

Cowes resident Bernie McComb believes the roundabout at the intersection of Thompson Avenue and Settlement Road is confusing.

With the medical centre, pharmacy, supermarket, school and petrol stations all in close proximity, he said “traffic can be entering simultaneously from all four directions, plus so many driveways, it's very confusing”.

He said VicRoads and Bass Coast Shire Council are ignoring the problem and refusing to meet him on site to discuss the issues.

He's also calling on speed limits to be reduced to 30 or 40 kilometres. However Department of Trans-

port Director (Gippsland) Sara Rhodes-Ward, said there have been no accidents recorded at any of the three Thompson Avenue roundabouts over the past 12 months.

“Making sure our roads are safe for the community is our number one priority, which is why we continuously roll out improvement projects and do regular safety inspections right across the network,” Ms Rhodes-Ward said.

“We remind everyone to drive responsibly, be patient and follow the road rules.”

She said a driver entering a roundabout must give way to any vehicle in the roundabout.

She also said a driver approaching a roundabout should slow and only stop if it is necessary to give way to a vehicle in the roundabout. Drivers do not need to give way to pedestrians crossing at a roundabout unless there is a pedestrian crossing.

Roundabout rules can be found at [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/roundabouts](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/roundabouts)

Regional Roads Victoria encourages the community to report hazards and any concerns about the condition of the arterial road network by calling the hotline on 133 778.



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# No such thing as a free camp!

A busy holiday season has seen growing reports of people camping illegally on beaches, streets, reserves and car parks across the island.

Last weekend, local residents and dog walkers were aghast to see a 4WD and tent right on the beach at Cape Woolamai.

This week, photos from Surf Beach show a campervan in a Surf Beach car park, right next to a “no camping” sign.

Reports of illegal camping sites this summer include a vacant block in Red Rocks Road, the off-lead beach at Ventnor, the Colonnades and Anchorage Road beach.

Campervans are often parked overnight in the car parks at Smiths Beach, Woolamai and Anzacs.

Staying outside of designated camping areas is known as free camping, and while it is allowed in some locations across Australia, it is not permitted in Bass Coast.

## No camping in Nature Parks

On Phillip Island, there's no camping allowed (free or paid) in any area managed by Phillip Island Nature Parks.

“Phillip Island Nature Parks is a not-for-profit conservation organisation managing Crown Land under the Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978. These regulations shape our conservation vision and activities,” a Nature Parks spokesperson explained.

“The coastal reserves managed by the Nature Parks are generally quite narrow. There is no space or infrastructure to accommodate free camping. It would have to come at the cost of wildlife habitat or a reduction in already limited car parking.”

Over summer, Nature Park rangers regularly patrol the beaches and reserves.

“They travel the beaches daily to talk to and inform the community and visitors about how they can share the beaches and enjoy their visit, within the regulations.



Another weekend, another illegal camper. This time at the carpark of Dunvegan Road in Surf Beach. “Spotted at 6.30 am Saturday, January 23,” said John Stapleton who sent in the photo. “Avoided the bollards and ignored the sign,” he noted.

“Our rangers are patrolling early in the morning and late at night – so our advice is if you don't want to be moved on, book a site at one of the island's many camping and caravan parks and enjoy the island responsibly.”

Free camping and illegal activity such as fires and dumping of rubbish can be dangerous for wildlife and the environment through:

- Out of control or abandoned campfires
  - Rubbish being dumped potentially entangling wildlife or polluting beaches and waterways
  - Human waste in reserves and on beaches
  - Trampling of habitat damaging native vegetation and potentially collapsing burrows or disturbing breeding wildlife
  - Disturbing other visitors or residents through noise or uncontrolled behaviour.
  - Not following park regulations.
- “The Nature Parks does not manage all of the car parks that adjoin

its beaches and reserves, so it works closely with Bass Coast Shire Council and Victoria Police.”

## Fines

In Bass Coast illegal campers can be issued with an on-the-spot fine of \$300. If the infringement ended up in court, the magistrate could issue a fine of at least \$1500.

Last summer, Council received 40 complaints about illegal camping across the shire. So far this summer, Council has only received around 10 complaints about illegal camping, however no fines have been issued.

Council urges anyone seeing camping in public areas to contact them on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211. The number can be called 24 hours a day, and the after-hours service provides an emergency response.

Officers will attend reports of illegal camping whenever possible, and proactive patrolling of known high use and camping locations is also increased during summer.



A fortnight after being stolen, then returned, the signs promoting the market at Newhaven Primary School have been vandalised. Police are investigating.

# School's signs hit again

The Newhaven Primary School market signs have been targeted again in another blow for the school fundraising project.

This was the first weekend the signs had been used since they were stolen on January 9.

However heartless vandals struck again, defacing the signs on Friday night.

Once again, market organiser Felicity Ashman from Urban Markets discovered the damage when she arrived to set up in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Felicity said the damage occurred between 11pm and midnight on Friday night.

Paint had been used to block out the wording on both sides of two signs near Boys Home Road.

The incident was immediately re-

ported to the police.

The latest attack is part of what appears to be an orchestrated campaign against the community market at Newhaven Primary School.

The five signs were stolen on January 9 and later found dumped in long grass in Rhyll. The signs were examined by a Crime Scene officer before being returned to the school, in time to publicise the long-weekend market.

Newhaven Primary provides its grounds for the market, which donates a percentage of the profits from each event to the school, as part of a fundraising campaign.

Anyone with information should contact Leading Senior Constable Julian Wildenberg from San Remo police on 5678 5500, call Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or go to Crimestoppers.com.au.



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# Progress at standstill on Shetland Heights Road

There's plenty of dust and traffic on Shetland Heights Road, but no progress to address the issues raised by the local residents.

Bass Coast Shire Council said it is "well aware of the community's concerns" around the decision by the state government not to seal Shetland Heights Road as part of the new Junior Campus project in San Remo.

Last week, residents told the Advertiser the council had failed them, saying they didn't believe it had advocated strongly on their behalf.

They were also upset at the lack of communication.

A spokesperson for the council said while they had not contacted the residents in the past week, they were in regular contact with the community members who wanted Shetland Heights Road upgraded.

The residents of Shetland Heights Road have campaigned for many years. The campaign included submitting a petition to council in 2019 showing 70 per cent of residents supported a special charge scheme,

which saw the project move from the twenties to the second spot on the council's priority list for urban road upgrades.

However residents say they have never seen designs or costings for the road upgrade. They also say the consultation council promised in 2019 never happened.

Funds were not allocated in the 2019/20 budget for the project, and nothing is provided for the upgrade in Council's long term financial plan.

## No plans

In response to criticism from residents at council's lack of action on the road project, the council spokesperson said: "While there are no immediate plans for Council to seal Shetland Heights Road or Potters Hill Road, options to upgrade these roads need to be considered in conjunction with the new Secondary College design".

"A future road upgrade will require community engagement which would take place once the

school detailed design and traffic studies are known."

The spokesperson also said Council didn't know of any traffic studies by the state government as part of their decision to locate the campus in San Remo.

"At this stage, Council is unaware of any traffic projections or impact studies and a future road design needs to be informed by the school's catchment and traffic projections."

However according to Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) and the Department of Transport, the Department of Education and Training has done independent traffic investigations.

According to RRV, the current right turning lane is suitable for buses, based on the results of the Department's traffic studies.

"The Department of Transport will continue to assist the Department of Education and Training Victoria in assessing the safety of bus and other school traffic associated with the new campus," said Gippsland Direc-

tor, Sara Rhodes-Ward.

RRV is also currently working on a traffic plan for San Remo, including installing traffic lights at Back Beach Road.

It appears unlikely the plan will be adjusted to include any upgrades to Shetland Heights Road or improvements to the intersection of Potters Hill and Phillip Island roads.

## No permit required

Establishing roads and ensuring traffic management plans are in place for new developments is usually part of a planning permit process, but the state government doesn't need a planning permit for the new campus.

Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) is not required to obtain a planning permit for the new school.

"However Council officers have been advocating to the VSBA to achieve the best infrastructure outcomes for the future school and

San Remo community," the council spokesperson said.

"Council has also advocated strongly to State Government Ministers regarding the need for road upgrades to allow safe access to a future school. The road safety and access to surrounding streets and the Phillip Island Tourist Road is also of utmost importance."

With local MP Jordan Crugnale last week reiterating any upgrade of Shetland Heights Road was the responsibility of Bass Coast Shire Council, it appears the advocacy has been falling on deaf ears at Spring Street.

With construction due to begin next month, residents are bracing for the worst.

"In the interim we are implementing some traffic calming measures and working with Rural Roads Victoria to lower the speed limit on Shetland Heights Road," the council spokesperson said.

Traffic calming measures can include speed humps and chicanes.

# A glimpse of new campus

Preliminary designs and a site plan for the new Junior Secondary Campus in San Remo have been released.

The school will be located on land at the intersection of Potters Hill and Shetland Heights roads.

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said construction of the new facility was set to get underway in the coming weeks.

The new campus will be a Year 7-9 junior campus for Wonthaggi Secondary College, attended by students from San Remo, Phillip Island and the Waterline district.

The site plan released by Ms Crugnale shows the location of an administration building, library, classrooms and separate specialist and innovation buildings.

The school will also include a competition-grade gym and spaces for food technology, music and performing arts.

The campus also includes a football oval and outdoor sports courts. "The new campus will be located on Potters Hill Road in San Remo, with SJ Higgins appointed as the builder," Ms Crugnale said.

"It has been specifically designed with an on-site pick-up that directs exiting traffic to turn right up Potters Hill Road, sending traffic to the Philip Island Road, reducing any need for school traffic on Shetland Heights Road.

"Council has nevertheless requested that the VSBA seals Shetland Heights Road, and provide a roundabout, as part of the school development," continued Ms Crugnale.



An artist impression of the front approach for the new campus which is located at the intersection of Potters Hill and Shetland Heights roads in San Remo.

"The VSBA has responded that the upgrade of Shetland Heights Road is for Council to fund and manage as needed. Municipal roads are the responsibility of municipal councils."

## Disbelief

The decision by the government not to seal Shetland Heights Road has been met with anger and disbelief by local residents.

Fritzie Barrowcliffe, a spokesperson for the residents of Shetland Heights Road, said they will continue to lobby all levels of government, as it was "unacceptable" not to upgrade the road.

"Did people who wanted the school to be in San Remo expect it to be at the end of two dirt roads?"

Poor visibility, lack of drainage, no footpaths or bike paths and

clouds of dust are issues for anyone using the road.

"This isn't an ordinary road," she said.

"It's a secondary road used by the public. Do they seriously think they are going to bus 500 kids up and down Potters Hill Road?"

"And what about local kids who want to walk or ride to school?"

Residents have criticised the government for its lack of consultation with the local community, who they say will be directly impacted by the location and design of the new campus.

The school is scheduled to open in 2022.

The preliminary designs can also be viewed online at [www.school-buildings.vic.gov.au/schools/Pages/WonthaggiSecondaryCollegeJuniorCampusSanRemo.aspx](http://www.school-buildings.vic.gov.au/schools/Pages/WonthaggiSecondaryCollegeJuniorCampusSanRemo.aspx)



With the site not properly secured, local children skateboard in the area and have created bike trails and jumps near the wetlands.

# Painfully slow progress at Shoalhaven wetland

Finally, after six years, there appears to be progress on the wetland at the Shoalhaven Estate in Cowes.

Since 2014, local residents have been questioning when the promised wetland on the corner of Settlement and Justice roads would ever be completed.

Part of the project included a footpath that would link the existing pathways and provide a safe route for pedestrians along Settlement Road.

The first section of the footpath, running from Justice Road to the start of the wetlands was completed last year.

Now the path extends halfway through the wetland site.

Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed the developer, the Lauders Group, has advised the path will be completed within four weeks.

The council spokesperson said the developer had an approved design for the wetland and advised work had started last week.

"The first step is to treat the water in order to reduce the sediment flow into Westernport when the existing dam is emptied. This will occur within a week.

"The developer has advised all works will be completed by March 31, 2021."

A similar promise was made in February 2020.

Back then, the Lauders Group advised Council the project was "likely to be completed" that summer, with landscaping occurring in April 2020.

That did not happen.

Roy Brooks lives near the estate and wasn't surprised to see another year pass without progress.

He said there needed to be a financial deterrent in place, so there was an incentive for the developers to "get off their backsides" and complete the project.

Melbourne Water holds a bond from the Lauders Group for the wetland project and had previously advised Lauders were required to provide proper drainage facilities as a condition of their planning permit.

Last week, a spokesperson for Melbourne Water said staff had met

with the developer and contractors on site late last year to discuss the progress of the wetland.

"We plan to make another site inspection before the end of summer to check on what works have been undertaken.

"We have requested the developer provide a program of works for the wetlands as soon as possible."

However the spokesperson reiterated Melbourne Water had no control over the timeline of the project, saying "the timeline for the completion of the subdivision and the wetlands is a matter for the developer".

## Unsecured

As well as attracting the ire of residents for failing to deliver the promised wetland, the developers were fined in 2019 for failing to secure the site and clean up the area.

Despite this, when the Advertiser visited last week, the site fencing was open, providing easy access to the area.

Local children carrying skateboards told the Advertiser they frequently played there, and bike tracks and jumps have been created next to the dam.

Council said they had received a report of long grass on the property and an officer would inspect the site "in regard to the fencing, to see if further action needs to be taken".

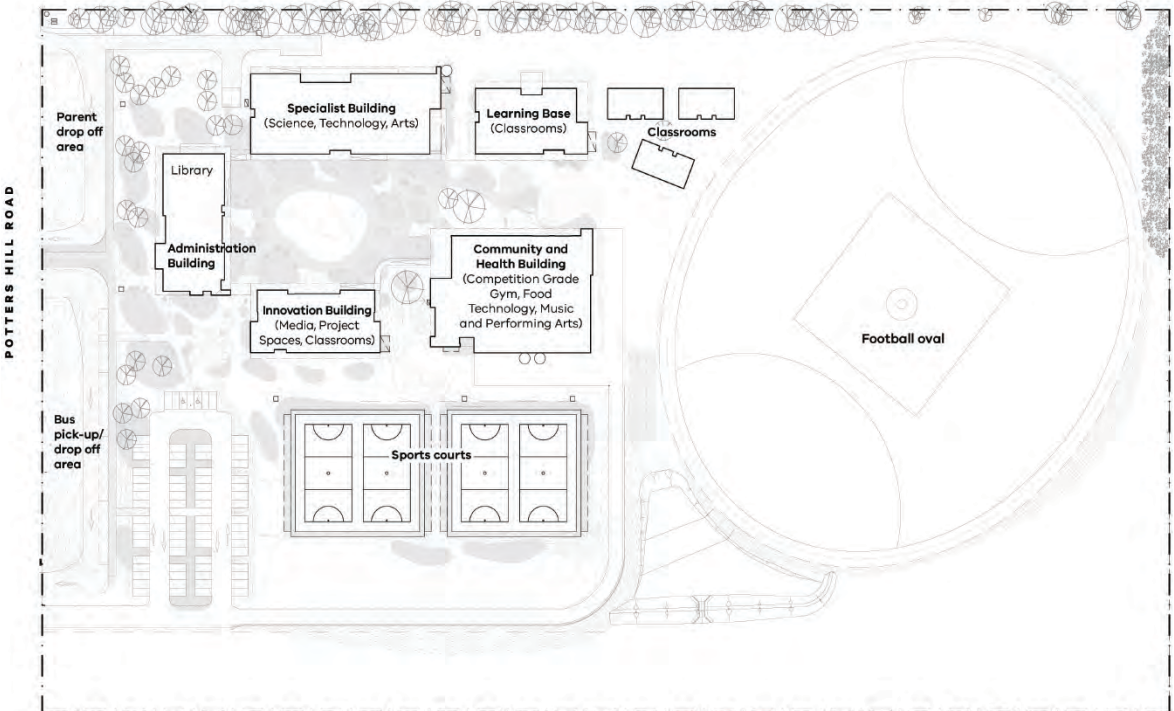
Cr Michael Whelan said he would follow up on the state of the site and the project's progress.

Last October he described the state of the site as "unacceptable".

"Not surprisingly for a proposed wetland there is a lot of water on the site and there's nothing to stop children from getting into it, so it is also a serious safety issue," he said at the time.

"This was promised in 2014 and delays of this order are what give developers a bad name – overpromise and underdeliver. When will the people who have bought land and built there in good faith get their wetland?"

"It is time for the developer to deliver on their undertakings. There should be no more excuses, it is time for completion."



The site plan for the new Junior Secondary Campus shows the location of buildings and sports facilities, as well as drop-off and parking areas along Potters Hill Road.



# HOME BUSINESS

*in the spotlight*

## Island Eats



### Breakfast and lunch delivered to you.

From burgers and wraps to sandwiches and smoothies, Island Eats makes life easier by delivering anywhere on the Island and San Remo. After two years operating with a shopfront in Thompson Avenue, the pandemic prompted owner Meagan Hollings to rethink before signing a new lease. "Once Covid hit, I realised how supported I was by the locals. They love what we offer and didn't want to see us close," says Meagan. Bolstered by local support, Meagan knew the best decision for Island Eats was to bring it home with her. "I had the space at home to set up a commercial kitchen, so it just made sense in the end." Meagan cites not having to commute nor find rent, along with seeing her kids all the time as her favourite aspects of working from home. All food and coffee is delivered for free with a minimum \$15 spend. Next time you're hungry, give Island Eats a call, or order through Menulog.

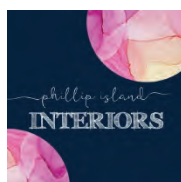
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## Phillip Island Interiors

### Friendly, affordable design service.

Whether it's a one-room makeover, a new bathroom, a full renovation or a new build, Phillip Island Interiors can offer advice and specifications for colours and finishes. Based on Phillip Island and servicing the Bass Coast, Alicia Miran-Khan works closely with you to create a look that maximises the functionality of your space. She can also help manage meeting trades, getting quotes and keeping work on schedule. Unable to run her cleaning business during lockdown, Alicia took the leap and put her design skills and qualifications to work, setting up her office at home. She says the perks of running a home business are the little things; being able to walk the dogs when the sun is shining and managing the never-ending washing pile. "And let's face it, working at home with my dogs at my feet is always a highlight." Whilst Alicia has been kept busy, with colour consulting proving most popular, she stresses the importance of investing in a designer during the early stages of a renovation/build to achieve a holistic flow within your home.

Mobile: 0407 056 526 Facebook and Instagram: phillipislandinteriors



## Island Dreams Slumber parties

### Make your child's party dreams come true!

Island Dreams is a teepee party hire company delivering magical and memorable sleepover parties around Phillip Island and the Bass Coast. With 20 years experience as a digital illustrator, Lauren decided to muster her design skills and passion for kids' parties to start a business she could run from home. During lockdown, Lauren got busy designing, sourcing and making everything required for her post-Covid launch. She now has six teepee themes to choose from: Unicorn Utopia, Ice Cream Dreams, Boho, Welcome to the Jungle (Boy & Girl variations), and Harry Potter – with two more themes coming soon. "I love what I'm doing," says Lauren. "Working from home has allowed me the flexibility to spend more time with my family. I've found something I love to do, so it doesn't even feel like work." With her website still under construction, contact Lauren via email or social media to discuss your child's party.

Facebook and Instagram: islanddreamsparties  
Email: hello@islanddreamsparties.com.au

## Jenni Robin Interior Design

### Interiors inspired by nature

Specialising in residential properties, Jenni Robin, owner of Jenni Robin Interior Designs, thoroughly enjoys designing kitchens and bathrooms, as well as family rooms and home offices. "After the birth of her first child, and with over a decade of industry experience under her belt, Jenni launched her home business in 2019." "Living near a nature reserve, I relish in the flora and fauna that is at my doorstep, it keeps me grounded and I often find inspiration from the natural bush that surrounds me," says Jenni of the perks in running a home business. A big believer in the importance of buying local, she also recommends having a special reclaimed piece in your home that has had a previous life, as it brings such joy and wonder to any space. "I enjoy specifying Australian design pieces for my projects. With 2020 and the difficulties of importing, locally made pieces were often available within better lead times and quality is wonderful."

Phone: 0401 757 454  
Email: studio@jenni-robin.com  
Website: jenni-robin.com



### Clothing with good vibes.

Designed around a love for surfing, skateboarding, beach days and good vibes, Sand'n Salt Kids offers stylish threads for toddlers, kids, youth and adults. Each item is made to order and personally designed and handprinted by owner Ashley Grimsey-Anderson. After moving to Phillip Island in 2018, Ashley converted her spare room to a printing studio and launched her now very successful brand. "I love being home with my kids whilst working," said Ashley on the perks of running a home business. "Thanks to my daily meditation and walks on the beach, I've found a really healthy work/life balance for me." Sand'n Salt kids clothing is durable, comfortable and ethically sourced. Currently busy with her new vintage range selling fast online, Ashley recommends allowing one to three weeks for orders to be handmade and posted. Pick up is available if you live locally.

Facebook and Instagram: sandnsaltkids  
Website: sandnsaltkids.com



## Sand n Salt Kids



# What lies ahead for Free 3D Hands?

After being named Bass Coast Citizen of the Year and Regional Achiever of the Year, Mat Bowtell isn't resting on his laurels.

There's a busy year ahead for the team at Free 3D Hands.

Covid restrictions easing means important collaborations for future projects are back on track, and Mat is focused on developing a bionic arm.

Until now, Free 3D Hands has made devices for people missing a hand from below the wrist.

The new project is a design for people missing a hand and arm from below the elbow.

"The new design is fully bionic, whereas previously our hands were a body-powered device, made very cheaply."

With the new design, Mat hopes to revolutionise the bionic arm field, by making the arm from readily available parts.

"A bionic arm can cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000," explained Mat.

"I'm trying to make it with less than \$100 in parts."

This month a bio-medical engineer is coming down from Melbourne to help Mat work on developing the new arm, providing his services pro-bono.

The engineer, along with a group of students from Melbourne University will help with coding for the software in the design.

Mat described the project as "very ambitious, but I've got great people on board."

The challenge is to design an arm able to fit

all the affordable components.

"We've got all the coding and all the electronic components. Now I have to design it to fit inside."

Once again, children are the focus of the new project.

"Most bionic arms are adult size, but we're trying to make one for a 10-year-old child," Mat said.

"Even a simple bionic arm costs about \$30,000, which is hard to justify for a child who will grow out of it so quickly."

"I'm trying to push technology and bring the cost of the components down, to make it more accessible."

A custom-made bionic arm creates specific sized components to fit, which adds to the cost.

Mat's project is looking at a way to design an arm to fit around already available components.

"It's difficult to use existing parts and make them work well with each other."

"That's the challenge, but it's worth it."

Once the design is finalised, Mat said it will be released open source, to allow others to create the arm.

Since releasing the design for his kinetic hand in October, it has been downloaded over 2500 times.

The hands are now being made in countries around the world.

"There's even a charity in Thailand that is making them for people with leprosy."

Mat said Free 3D Hands will also be releasing more of their designs open source in 2021.



Free 3D Hands is now trying to design a bionic hand and arm from readily available components, to make them affordable for children. The challenge is fitting the existing components into the small hand.

## Take the test

Everyone in the community is encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 to help contain the spread of the virus.

You should be tested if you display even the mildest Covid symptoms including: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss

of sense of smell or taste.

Everyone who is tested is required to self-isolate until test results are received. Waiting times for test results may take 2-3 days.

### Cowes:

• Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. To avoid delays, the

quickest time for testing will be before 8am and after 8pm.

### Wonthaggi Hospital Drive Thru Clinic:

• 9am – 4pm daily.

You can also book a test with Wonthaggi Medical Group, Monday to Friday from 1pm – 5pm. Please book online or phone 0492 036 568.

People should phone their doctor or the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 if their symptoms get worse.

## Restrictions continue to ease

The state government has raised the number of people allowed to attend private gatherings to 30.

The number was reduced to 15 following the outbreak in NSW, but with no community transmission in Victoria for several weeks, the restrictions have been eased.

However, restrictions on wearing masks remain in place.

Masks must be worn in supermarkets, hospitals, domestic flights, airports, public transport, taxis and other large indoor retail locations, including shopping centres.

It is recommended you carry a mask with you whenever you leave the house in case you encounter a situation where you cannot physically distance.

Areas in NSW and Queensland have been reclassified, changing the permit requirements for travellers entering Victoria. Visit the DHHS website for the latest information.



The number of people allowed to attend private gatherings has been increased to 30, however masks must still be worn in public areas such as supermarkets, hospitals, public transport and shopping centres.

## FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE

### URGENTLY NEED PROPERTIES FOR SALE

For sale \$629,000

2 Seascope Avenue, Cowes

This original beach house is perfect for beach access and enjoying all Cowes has to offer. Set over a single level with high ceilings and polished floor boards, also peace of mind as electrical safety switched have been up graded. Enjoy this quiet location with family and friends.



STEP BACK IN TIME

For sale \$649,000

5 Birdwood Avenue, Cowes

This well presented property is in an ideal location in a tree lined street within walking distance to all of Cowes amenities and beach front. The home sits on a large block of 910sqm which is perfect for future development potential (STCA) or simply leave it as is if you want the extra space. The house is perfect for beach holidays or ideal investment property the choice is yours. Inspection by private appointment only.



ROOM TO MOVE

For sale

– expressions of interest

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This highly sought after property delivers the views and idyllic lifestyle that people dream about. This Foreshore position allotment allows you to be on the beach within minutes. Build your dream and enjoy the 180 degree water views and the ever changing vista. This large allotment 954sqm allows for subdivision potential (STCA) or simply leave as is.



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## SHORT STACK

### A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

#### New Startup Gippsland program launched

Applications are open for the latest Tech Startup Skills program, to help local entrepreneurs engage with new technology.

The program is a six-month course of intensive mentorship and support.

The Tech Startup Skills Incubator is open to founders who have an idea for an app or software solution, or have a problem they're passionate about in their industry or community that can be addressed with a technology-based solution.

The Startup Gippsland Tech Startup Skills Incubator will run from March to September 2021. Applications for the program close on January 29. [www.startupgippsland.com.au/program/](http://www.startupgippsland.com.au/program/)

#### Local History grants

A \$350,000 round of the state government's Local History Grants Program has opened.

Historians and community groups can apply for up to \$15,000 for projects to preserve, record and share local history.

Applications close on March 9. Find out more at [prov.vic.gov.au](http://prov.vic.gov.au)

#### Resources for school leavers

The Your Career website includes a range of resources focused on school leavers.

Graduates have free access to direct support from qualified career practitioners through the School Leavers Information Service (Call 1800 CAREER).

School leavers can also access free or low-

fee training in areas of identified skills needs through the new JobTrainer program. For more, visit [yourcareer.gov.au/](http://yourcareer.gov.au/)

#### Waste funding

As part of the Recycling Victoria action plan, Councils, not-for-profits and community organisations are encouraged to apply for grants of between \$25,000 and \$250,000 for projects like repair sheds, communal gardens and tool libraries.

For more information visit [vic.gov.au/transforming-recycling-victoria](http://vic.gov.au/transforming-recycling-victoria) or to apply for a grant, go to [sustainability.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding](http://sustainability.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding).

#### Regions funding

The latest round of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) has opened to support tourism-related and community infrastructure.

The guidelines can be found at [www.business.gov.au/bbrf](http://www.business.gov.au/bbrf). Applications close on March 5.

#### War on weeds

Bass Coast Shire received \$18,452 from the state government to fight invasive weeds.

Rural roadsides are a ready means for invasive plants to spread throughout Victoria, and this funding helps the council continue the work to prevent their spread.

To find out more about the Roadside Weeds and Pests Program visit [www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/funding-programs/roadside-weeds-and-pest-management](http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/funding-programs/roadside-weeds-and-pest-management)



COOL IT

# Transform your home into an oasis

Coastal Refrigeration and Airconditioning is a locally owned and operated business with over 30 years' experience in the trade and more than 20 years in the Bass Coast area.

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The Daikin range offers both cooling and heating options, including split system, multi-split and ducted air conditioning systems, depending on whether you wish to control the temperature in just a few rooms or throughout your entire home.

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kin's reverse cycle technology is extremely energy efficient.

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Talk to Rick, Deb and the team at Coastal Air Conditioning. They can be relied on to give expert advice on the best product to suit all your cooling and heating needs.



# COASTAL

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Despite the owner being given a deadline of January 11 to clean up the site, only half of the area has been mowed and rubbish and debris is clearly visible. The developer has now applied for a permit to amend the plans for the \$6 million complex, increasing it to five-storeys.

# Changes to Marine Parade apartment design permit

The developer of a \$6 million complex on Marine Parade in San Remo, has applied for a permit to amend the plans.

The proposal for a four-storey, 22-apartment complex with four retail shops at 131-133 Marine Parade was given the green light by VCAT last year, after it was rejected by Bass Coast Shire Council in 2019.

The developer has now submitted a new planning permit application.

The new planning permit seeks approval to add an upper floor living space on the roof of the building, as well as adding a basement below the retail section of the complex.

The rooftop extension is for one apartment and comprises of a living room and deck area – a total space of 151m<sup>2</sup>.

Underneath the retail area, the developer wants to add stacker pits and a basement area of 345m<sup>2</sup>, to provide storage.

If successful, the amendment means the complex will be five-storey, although the accompanying letter said the rooftop extension will be “mostly concealed from the public view due to its location in the centre of the building”.

The application says the proposed amendments will provide “positive outcomes”, as they do not require additional car parking, will not affect vehicle or pedestrian movement, and do not change the development at street level.

Chris Johnstone from Jardine Jonstone said it was not usual for large developments to need amendments, given the time that elapses between the initial proposal and the final approval.

Lodging this additional planning permit application does not impact on the approval of the original permit delivered by VCAT in February 2020.

The original proposal attracted strong criticism from councillors and objectors.

Concerns included the request for a reduction in parking spaces, use of car stackers, and the building height.

However, this new amendment is not an opportunity to object to the entire proposal. Submissions can only address the proposed amendments.

Council has advised the application will only be heard at a council meeting if a certain number of objections are received, or if the application is called in.

If the amendment is not approved by Council, the developer may choose to go to VCAT.

Plans are available on the Bass Coast Shire website and submissions on the amendment can be made to the council until February 3.

## Block in disarray

The developer has recently been criticised for failing to properly secure and clean up the site of the pro-

posed complex, which is overgrown with weeds.

Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed officers had inspected the site and issued a “notice to comply” to the owner on December 21 last year, requesting that grass and weeds be cleared by January 11, 2021.

Yet by the long weekend, only a section of the block had been mowed, with the remainder of the land still overgrown.

Rubbish and debris were still visible around the site.

A spokesperson for council said the owner had not advised when the site would be cleared.

“Council will reinspect the property within the next week and if the works have not been completed, the property owner will receive an infringement notice and Council will arrange for the appropriate work to be carried out.”

One resident said the block posed a significant safety risk and fellow traders told the Advertiser they had approached the developer to secure the block properly and even tied the fence back up themselves.

As well as being overgrown, with grass and weeds growing several feet high, residents said there was a large hole at the front “the size of an Olympic pool and a few metres deep”.

“If a kid got in there, it could be a disaster.”

— ADVERTORIAL —

# Happy new year and welcome to 2021!

## A fresh start to the new year

By West Gippsland Regional Libraries

Whether you choose to make New Year resolutions or not, every January feels like a new beginning. Although you may not have considered it, your library could be the ideal place to help you start achieving some of your goals for the year ahead.

Reading is often a popular goal for many of us. WG Libraries has thousands of e-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines at your fingertips.



West Gippsland Libraries has thousands of e-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines at your fingertips.

The online convenience means they're available when you are – just download the app and you're on your way. Whether it's on your way to work, while you're out taking a walk or unwinding in the evening – reading can fit conveniently into your lifestyle!

For those that prefer a good paperback, it's easy to find something that interests you with the entire WG Libraries' catalogue available to browse online.

It includes access to half of the public libraries in the state, through the Libraries Victoria network. Simply place any item on hold and it's sent to your local branch to collect during opening hours.

If you're supporting children with their goals, WG Libraries' kid's apps and other online resources are great for kids to help raise their skill levels and keep them entertained.

For many, study or career goals are your focus this year.

There are hundreds of on-demand short courses and research tools available free with your WG Libraries membership.

Perfect to help you discover your

path, boost your skills or just learn something new. For anyone currently job searching, there is also a series of short videos filled with tips and tricks from local professionals designed to help make applying for that job a little easier.

Perhaps your goal is just to learn how to use that phone, device, laptop or computer. For an introductory lesson to get you up and running, book a tech talk for a 20-minute phone call from a library professional.

If health and wellbeing goals are your focus for 2021, the WG Libraries' January mental health and wellbeing blog has some great tips on mindfulness and creating healthy habits.

And for those with any savings goals, every resource we've mentioned are all free resources included with your WG Libraries membership.

No matter what your goals are for 2021, the best advice is to keep your goals small and simple. The more achievable they are, the more likely you are to keep them.

To find out more about WG Libraries' resources or to become a member, visit: [wgrlc.vic.gov.au](http://wgrlc.vic.gov.au)

# New year, new floor

Bass Coast Shire Council has replaced the floor at the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre.

The work was done during the Christmas school break, to avoid disrupting the service.

New flooring was installed through the facility, funded as part of the council's capital works program.

The Inverloch and District Preschool was also renovated.

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said that the sum-

mer holidays provide an excellent opportunity to get important upgrades completed.

“These projects will help ensure delivery of Council's adopted Community Service Levels for Community Health and complement similar projects within the Shire recently completed under the Building and Open Space Renewal Program, in response to customer requests received from local residents and groups,” Cr Tessari said.

## Council Update



### Community Grants Information Sessions

Do you have a question about Council's Community Grants Program? Not sure how to apply? Is your proposed project eligible? What is SmartyGrants? Then come along to an online Information Session and find out more. You don't even have to leave your house!

Sessions are being held at:

- 9.30am on Wednesday, 3 February 2021
- 2.00pm on Monday, 8 February 2021

Registrations are essential. Please advise which session you would like to attend when you register and then you will be forwarded a link to the session prior to the day. To register please contact our Community Grants and Projects Officer, Shirley Egan on 0435 205 816 or email [grantenquiry@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:grantenquiry@basscoast.vic.gov.au).

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | DX 34903 Wonthaggi | PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995 | 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service (for people with speech or hearing difficulties) on 13 36 77 | [basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au) | [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au)

West Gippsland Libraries

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\* Terms & Conditions apply. Competition open to residents and ratepayers of Bass Coast Shire, Baw Baw Shire & South Gippsland Shire and ends 3 February 2021 at 5pm. For full terms & conditions visit: <https://www.wgrlc.vic.gov.au/competitions/community-engagement-survey-competition> for details



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**ISLAND FORESHORE MARKET**  
 Saturday 20th February 3pm - 9pm  
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 Phillip Island Markets M. 0428 603 043

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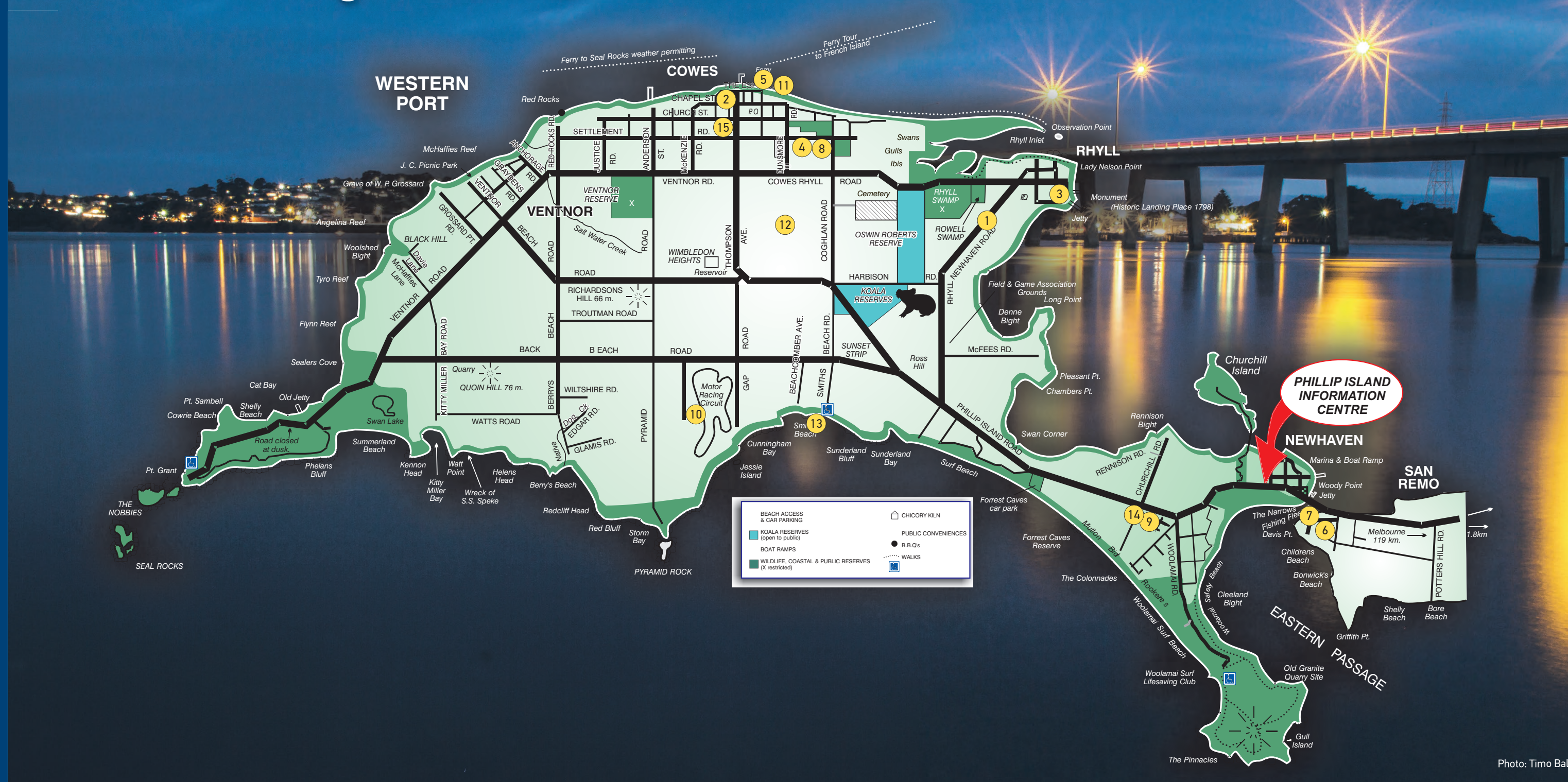
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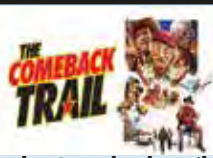
# Wonthaggi Cinema

JAN 27 - FEB 19



**Misbehaviour [M]**

Wed 27 4:00pm  
Fri 29 1:00pm



**The Comeback Trail [MA15+]**

Thu 28 1:30pm  
Sat 30 4:00pm



**Wonder Woman 1984 [M]**

Wed 27 10:00am  
Thu 28 10:00am  
Fri 29 7:00pm  
Sat 30 7:00pm



**The Croods: A New Age [PG]**

Wed 27 1:30pm  
Thu 28 4:00pm  
Fri 29 10:00am  
Sat 30 1:00pm



**The Witches [M]**

Wed 27 7:00pm  
Thu 28 7:00pm  
Fri 29 4:00pm  
Sat 30 10:00am



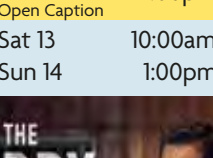
**Superintelligence [PG]**

Fri 5 1:00pm  
Sat 6 10:00am  
Sun 7 7:00pm  
Fri 12 4:00pm  
Sat 13 10:00am  
Sun 14 1:00pm



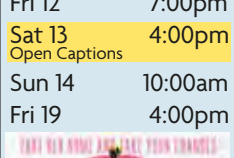
**Dragon Rider [PG]**

Fri 5 4:00pm  
Sat 6 1:00pm  
Fri 12 7:00pm



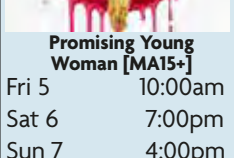
**The Dry [MA15+]**

Sat 13 4:00pm  
Sun 14 10:00am  
Fri 19 4:00pm



**Promising Young Woman [MA15+]**

Fri 5 10:00am  
Sat 6 7:00pm  
Sun 7 4:00pm  
Fri 12 10:00am  
Sat 13 7:00pm



**How to be a Good Wife [M]**

Sun 14 4:00pm  
Open Captions

**Bass Coast Fine Film Group Returns with French film, How to be a Good Wife [M]**



This latest offering from French director Martin Provost is set in the Alsace region in 1967 and follows the experience of Paulette following the sudden death of her husband.

Sunday 7 February 4:00pm

## Booking Information

To purchase tickets online visit [wonthaggiartscentre.com](http://wonthaggiartscentre.com)

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In person at our Box Office, open Tuesday to Saturday - 10am - 4pm

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Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre

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# THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news



Pip Cleeland, Painter and illustrator, one of the featured artists at the launch of the COVID-19 video project exhibition.



Christine Ash - PICES Secretary with artist Susan Brereton

## Video project launched in style

Artists, art-lovers, councillors and supporters gathered at the Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space (PICES) Pop-Up Art Show to launch a video project featuring four visual artists from Bass Coast.

The project was part of a five-week series of pop up exhibitions hosted by PICES.

The artists were interviewed about their experience of creating art during COVID-19 and how it affected both their prac-

tice and emotional wellbeing.

The featured artists were Susan Hall, painter and print-maker; Pip Cleeland, painter and illustrator; Susan Brereton, artist and photographer; and Steve Parker, painter and

designer.

Along with the videos, a selection of the artists' work was displayed on the gallery walls.

The Pop Up exhibition at PICAL runs through until February 1.



Matt Schulte - Videographer, Bass Coast Media, with Catherine Robinson - Exhibition Curator and Susan Hall - Painter and print maker at the launch of the COVID-19 video project exhibition.



John Adam - ex president of the Artists' Society of Phillip Island with Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari.



Artists Pip Cleeland and Susan Hall, painter and print maker, with Sandra Peeters, President PICES, artist Susan Brereton and Jan Child CEO, Bass Coast Health



Margaret McCubbery - Vice President PICES, Christine Ash - Secretary PICES, art lover Joanna Ash-Griffiths and Greg Thompson PICAL Manager with Molly-Rose Griffiths.

## Glams return

There was a touch of glamour and a dash of pink, as the GLAMS made their first outing for 2021.

The group visited the French Island Winery (Mandalay Park Estate) on Saturday, January 23 to view plans for the future development of the property, sample some of the superb local wines and enjoy a beautiful roast lunch.

The six GLAMS and their partners joined a locally organised trip of 30-40 on a ferry across to

French Island, before strolling three kilometres to the winery.

"We had an opportunity to walk around the grounds and were shown how they are going to develop the property for future events," GLAMS' Annie Hawley said.

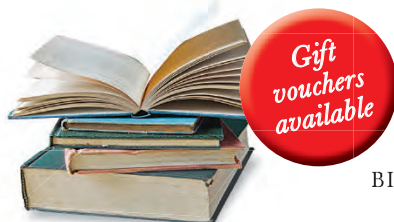
"The ferry then collected us back at Tankerton Jetty and returned to Phillip Island."

"The GLAMS agree we are going to return for another visit and possible stayover when all is ready to accommodate us."



GLAMS Jo Scholes, Diane Armour, Alison Fitzgerald (seated), Annie Hawley, Vicki Smith and Pam White (rear) enjoy their first outing of the year - a trip to a French Island winery.

## MELALEUCA LODGE AUXILIARY SUMMER BOOK SALE



Monday 28th December 2020 -  
Saturday 30th January 2021  
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**POP UP ART SHOW**  
AT PICAL - 56-58  
CHURCH STREET, COWES  
30TH DECEMBER TO 1ST FEBRUARY  
OPEN 10AM - 4PM DAILY CLOSED TUESDAY



# Mammoth achievement: local author shortlisted for award

Local author Chris Flynn has been shortlisted for the 2021 Indie Book Awards for his novel "Mammoth".

One of four authors shortlisted in the Fiction section, he's in prestigious company alongside Trent Dalton, Richard Flanagan and Craig Silvey.

His fellow nominees have been shortlisted for numerous local and international awards and between them have won The Booker Prize, Victorian Premier's Prize, Australian Book Industry Awards, and previous Indie Book Awards.

"It's nice being up there alongside the big, proper authors," said Chris.

"Flanagan is a Booker Prize winner and a living legend in the Australian literary world. Craig Silvey wrote the much-loved Jasper Jones, and Trent Dalton is one of the most popular recent authors in Australia.

"Then there's little me! To be on the shortlist, I feel like I've already won."

He said the Indie Book Awards are particularly special, as they're voted on by the independent bookstores around Australia.

"It's quite an endorsement from people who are selling the book. It's nice to be on this list, because it feels like it is genuinely judged by book sellers."

"Mammoth" is Chris' third novel.

Narrated by a 13,000-year-old extinct America mastodon, it tells the story of how the skull of a Tyrannosaurus bataar, a pterodactyl, a prehistoric penguin, the severed hand of an Egyptian mummy and the mammoth came to be on sale at a Manhattan auction in 2007.

Skipping across eras and continents, the story covers historical events and scientific progress and also shines a light on man's impact on the natural environment.

The book defied the odds, and the pandemic, when Chris decided to push ahead with the release date, despite the country going into lockdown.

With bookstores closed and all the planned festival appearances on hold, it was a gamble.

"A lot of books postponed their release until later in the year, but we decided to go ahead and I'm so glad we did," Chris said.



Phillip Island's Chris Flynn has been shortlisted in the 2021 Indie Book Awards for his novel "Mammoth", alongside acclaimed authors Trent Dalton, Richard Flanagan and Craig Silvey.

"Bookstores had something to sell and it was nice to give people something fun and interesting to read.

"It was the worst conditions to release a book in, but it's been successful. We've had five reprints, so I think we did the right thing."

He said he's been humbled by the reception to the novel.

"It's very hard in the publishing game to maintain interest in a book after it's been released.

"Nearly a year after, for people to still be

talking about the book and buying it, is remarkable.

"And it's such a strange book too. It's not an obvious story – like a crime thriller set in a rural community. It's about talking bones.

"It's great that something as unique as that can find an audience."

While being shortlisted for the Indie Book Awards is great publicity in itself, Chris is also hoping to finally be able to get out and promote "Mammoth" in person.

"Last year, I did events on zoom, but hopefully I'm going to travel to promote the book this year.

"I'm going to Perth on February 19, appearing at the Perth Festival.

"It's the biggest event I've ever done as an author. I've got my ticket booked, but the border is still closed.

"Hopefully the border will reopen in time for the trip ... fingers crossed."

And Chris' fans will be please to know a new novel is on the way.

"I handed in my next book to my agent this morning," he laughed.

"It's going to the publisher next week and hopefully will be out next year."

Despite the success of "Mammoth", the new novel is not a talking bones sequel.

"It's a book about an Alzheimer's pandemic. Imagining what would have happened if instead of Covid, we had something much worse.

"There's evidence in monkeys of a virus that hardens tissues in the liver and sometimes in the brain – the equivalent of having about 10 years of Alzheimer's in two weeks.

"It follows the stories of three different women trying to survive this plague, losing their personality, memory and ability to take care of themselves in two weeks.

"It's kinda scary, but there's humour as well."

The Indie Book Awards category winners, and overall Book of the Year, will be announced at a virtual awards event on Monday, March 22.

For more info on the Indie Book Awards visit [www.indiebookawards.com.au](http://www.indiebookawards.com.au)



Liam Murphy and Abbie Sherwood are running free classes focusing on breathing and meditation at Island Healing in Newhaven, to help people shake off the stress of 2020 and Covid.

## Free relaxation class in Newhaven

A free class focusing on breathing and meditation started this month at Island Healing in Newhaven.

It will run on a weekly basis on a Monday night from 7.30-8.15pm and is open to anyone who is interested. Any age, any ability ... everyone is welcome.

The class will be run by pharmacist and Oxygen Advantage teacher, Liam Murphy and Abbie Sherwood who has training in yoga and tai chi.

Liam said that after years of being a pharmacist he is shocked at how basic lifestyle elements are left out of modern, western healthcare.

He resolved to change this and during the second COVID lockdown upskilled and got qualified as a lifestyle medicine practitioner.

He is now putting these skills to use in this

class that he is running alongside Abbie.

"The class will focus on the fundamentals and the science behind breathing and how to actually achieve deep breathing," Liam said.

"The aim is for it to blend instruction and practice and for it to be for everyone.

"Even if you have experience in breathing and meditation, we want you to get something out of it," Liam said.

Coming out of COVID-19 lockdowns, some of us may be carrying around some extra stress and not know how to manage it.

Liam believes the class could be a good way of taking time out and working some relaxation into your routine, saying deep breathing can be good for conditions like asthma and hypertension as well as for mental health and behavioral issues.

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The cast of Newhaven College's upcoming musical 'The Wizard of Oz' were finally able to begin rehearsals on Monday.

## We're off to see the Wizard in 2021

Like performers everywhere, the local arts community was hit hard by the Covid pandemic.

However one group of young performers is hoping to return to the spotlight very soon.

Rehearsals for Newhaven College's musical 'The Wizard of Oz' kicked off this week.

Director Lauren White said not having a show last year was devastating.

"Telling the cast we couldn't do the show was really upsetting, especially after we got so far into it," she said.

"It was really tough because it was just one thing after the other for the arts last year."

This year's show 'The Wizard of Oz', is a classic musical about young Dorothy who gets swept away in a tornado from her Kansas farm to the magical land of Oz.

There, she encounters a host of whimsical characters who help her in her journey home.

Lauren says she has been hard at work with preparations for the show

since mid-last year.

The first steps included securing the rights, booking costumes, and working on set and lighting design.

"Before rehearsals start, it's taking the vision that I have and trying to bring it to life," Lauren said.

Rehearsals began with the full cast of 60 on Monday.

Students will have to work hard to learn songs, choreography and dialogue as the rehearsal period is very short.

The show will open on April 22.

Lauren says she is excited about putting on the show this year.

"Covid is in the back of my mind but as far as I am concerned it is full steam ahead and the students will have a full audience out there clapping them on," she said.

Cast members are very excited to begin.

Shontelle O'Connor who is playing Dorothy is especially keen.

"I am excited about starting rehearsals and seeing everything I have worked on so far pieced together

to create the bigger picture, as well as mixing with the rest of the cast to see what everyone has to offer," she said.

This isn't Shontelle's first time on stage.

But it is her biggest role to date, and she says she is very grateful for the opportunity.

"It feels really great to have the main role because I know many very talented people went for it as well, so I am very lucky to have been chosen," she said.

Lauren said she can't wait to start building the family atmosphere that comes from doing a show, especially one with a large cast of kids across all ages and year levels.

The Newhaven College musical is a highlight for the community and this show is family friendly and joyful to help our community feel good again after such a rough year.

It reinforces the message that "there is no place like home" and after the year we have had, it is nice to be reminded how wonderful our home is.

## Embracing our Rainbow Community at PICAL

PICAL's Rainbow Connection returns this year, helping to provide positive connections and friendships for members of the local LGBTIQ+ community.

The Australian Human Rights Commission describes respect for human rights as the "cornerstone of strong communities in which everyone can make a contribution and feel included".

Despite this local and global research demonstrates LGBTIQ+ have poorer health outcomes than the general population because of the discrimination they experience, particularly their mental health.

Seeking to address feelings of disconnection and isolation in our local LGBTIQ+ community, PICAL formed "Rainbow Connect" in the later part of 2020.

The aim of the group is to provide opportunities for positive connections and friendships with like-minded adults in a safe space.

In an ongoing commitment to supporting diversity and inclusion, PICAL is delighted to be offering Rainbow Connect again in 2021.

Meetings include a welcoming BBQ, thought-provoking group discussions and guest presenters. The group is open to anyone residing in the Bass Coast region who identifies as LGBTIQ+ and is over the age of 18.

Rainbow Connect runs fortnightly during school term on Wednesday

nights, from February 3 at 7pm to 8.30pm.

In addition to Rainbow Connect, PICAL is also hosting the newly formed Rainbow Allies Support Group.

Rainbow Allies offers a supportive space for the families and friends of those within the LGBTIQ+ community. Attending this monthly group, participants can connect with other parents, carers, sibling and friends, who have people they care about in the rainbow community. The group encourages supportive conversations and allows members to share stories and concerns with others who have LGBTIQ+ family members and friends.

Rainbow Allies is held throughout 2021 on the second Wednesday of each month, from February 10 at 7pm to 8pm.

Both groups are facilitated by Linda Wilson, an experienced and qualified counsellor and psychotherapist. Linda lives within the Bass Coast Shire and identifies as a member of the LGBTIQ+ community. For any enquires, or to register your interest in attending either group, please contact Linda on 0431 693 313.

LGBTIQ+ is an evolving acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual and other gender non-conforming identities. The rainbow flag is a recognised symbol of the LGBTIQ+ community's diversity and unity.



The San Remo/Newhaven Lions Club recently farewelled their longest serving member Roma Caulfield. A tireless worker, this picture shows Roma (left) with current and past members working at a Bunnings fund raising sausage sizzle.

## Dance award for Maddison

Dance Design was fortunate to still be able to hold their annual End of Year Concert at the Wonthaggi Arts Centre on December 20.

The 'Covid Concerts' included their class routines and the pantomime 'The Lorax' after only approximately 15 face-to-face classes for the year.

Students learnt a majority of their routines via Facebook classes with lots of technique practice done in their own home.

The students had specially printed singlets as their costume and received a DVD of their performance as due to Covid, the only audience members were the students.

It was a fitting end to a crazy year with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves and the student performances were exceptional.

The 2020 Dance Design Student award was presented at the concert to Maddison Stone – Most Promising Senior Award.

Dance Design classes are taught by Michelle Mabilia and Alycia Marotta in Cowes, Wonthaggi and Korumburra with an emphasis on fun and enjoyment whilst exercising.

Classes in Jazz/Modern, Tap and Contemporary are offered from Preschoolers to Advanced.

Classes for 2021 recommence at Cowes on Wednesday, February 3 at St Philips Anglican Church Hall.

All enrolments and enquiries: Email [dancedes@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dancedes@bigpond.net.au) or phone 0417 579 349.



Maddison Stone received the 2020 Dance Design Most Promising Senior Award.

## Farewell to Roma

San Remo/Newhaven Lions club recently bid farewell to their longest serving member, Roma Caulfield.

Roma has moved to accommodation in Warragul and her leaving will be a loss not only to the club but also to many in the San Remo community.

Roma's commitment to the Lions Club and the work they do in supporting groups within the community has been recognised by many over her forty years of service.

This tireless contribution was recently acknowledged by Lions International when she was awarded the James D Richardson award, a high honour within Lions worldwide.

Roma has had many roles within the club. She was a long serving president and secretary over her time.

She involved herself in many community activities, from coordinating the Lions Licola Camps for disadvantaged students, to mentoring students at Newhaven Primary school.

She facilitated the Youth of The Year speaking competition for many years as well.

Roma ran bingo for the residents at Griffith Point Lodge over a number of years, who all looked forward to her funny antics during their Monday afternoon bingo sessions.

A familiar face selling tickets at the San Remo Hotel meat raffle nights, she also organised the Lions Christmas raffle and actively worked in all other Lions fund raising ventures which donated money back into the community.

More than a hundred and fifty thousand dollars has found its way back into the San Remo community through Lions over the past twenty years and Roma made many contributions in raising those funds.

On a lighter note, one of Roma's lasting impression on many will be her famous lemonade scones which she served at the annual Rotary Art Show.

They were a hit with both locals and visitors to the show.

Always smiling and ready to roll her sleeves up, Roma Caulfield was an asset to the San Remo/Newhaven Lions club and the San Remo community.

She will be sadly missed. We wish her well in this next stage of her life.

San Remo/Newhaven Lions is currently seeking new members or volunteers to assist in our projects and would welcome any enquiries. For more information call Michael on 0432 115 334.



# Colourful conga for cancer event

## Major fundraiser for cancer services locally

With a Community Hospital for Phillip Island pledged by the state government prior to the 2018 state election, the Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG), supported by the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary, is wasting no time starting a fundraising drive to help equip it with Cancer and Dialysis provision when the new facility opens in 2024.

Speaking this week, PIMHAG president Peter Paul said the groups' initial target is \$50,000, which will go towards the five Oncology chairs planned for the Community Hospital.

"The provision of cancer services on the Island will make an enormous difference to community members requiring treatment and to those who support them," Mr Paul said.

"We know that being at home with family and friends close by not only improves the quality of life for these people, but also the outcome for many, and so we need to have local

treatment available wherever possible."

The next fundraiser in this drive will be "A Coin for Cancer" collection on Saturday, April 3 with a \$2 coin table set up again outside the Cowes Newsagents.

Please start saving your \$2 coins for this date.

A major event for the year is planned for Saturday, September 11th in the form of a "Colourful Conga for Cancer" fundraiser.

"Participants in teams will conga in gloriously colourful lines, snaking their way down Thompson Avenue to the Cowes foreshore where a community celebration will take place," Mr Paul said.

"We aim to have the parade as colourful and enjoyable as possible. Clothes, hair, masks, hats, face-paint – you name it!

"The more colour the better. Let's put the FUN into FUNdraising!"

Mr Paul noted the event will be planned around Covid restrictions and that PIMHAG wanted the day to be one of community celebration, as

well as raising money to provide cancer services, such as chemotherapy, on the Island.

"Cancer affects almost everyone in the community in some way and we know that the community will want to support this venture," Mr Paul said.

Other major Island community groups have pledged their support already.

These include Island Voice, PIRSL, PICAL, Legacy, Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund, Phillip Island Jazz Committee, Rhyll Community Association and Sisters and Misterys.

"We believe that many other groups will want to join us in making this a true community fundraiser."

"Please put September 11th in your diaries and start planning how you will join in the fun and fundraising that this event will bring to Cowes and the Community Hospital.

"We will update you as the organising group firms up plans for September 11th."



## \$1000 raised for new Cancer Centre

Members of the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary were hard at work over the Australia Day weekend raising funds to assist the new Cancer Centre which will open in February at the Wonthaggi Hospital.

Auxiliary member Gill Scrase reports that \$1000 was raised on the day.

Gill said those manning the table were given very positive feedback about the Health Hub and the Urgent Care Centre which Hub Auxiliary members support.

Gill said news of a Cancer Centre opening at Wonthaggi Hospital in February, with community members being able to access che-

motherapy locally, was very well received by passers-by throughout the day.

Pictured on Saturday afternoon manning the \$2 table, which was set up outside the Cowes Newsagency, are from left Graham Koch, Linda Marston, Joan Gaunt and Peter Paul.

## Making a difference in the community

By the St Mary's Conference of St Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society has been helping Victorians since 1854 and our St Mary's Conference group is carrying out this important work on Phillip Island and in San Remo.

The virus pandemic has meant some changes in the way we help our local community in need, but we are looking forward to resuming our activities.

Our local helpline is 5952 6857, which is monitored by the Conference who respond to every call we receive for assistance.

Our members attend to calls on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (excluding Public Holidays) when we discuss the help required and the most appropriate way to assist. This often takes the form of providing food vouchers, fuel vouchers (if off-island medical treatment is required), budgeting advice, information on how to access service and benefits that are available.

Sometimes members are called upon to act as advocates on behalf of callers to enquire into debts or to rec-

ommend where to refer any queries.

The beginning of school years or change in education levels can be a difficult time for some families and we are able to assist towards cost of uniforms, school shoes, excursion fees, particularly where there are a few children involved, and we are happy to work with the schools concerned.

Our members are well trained and are able to attend workshops to obtain as much information as they can in order to tap into resources that are available to those in need.

As a volunteer organisation, the work of St Vincent de Paul members is largely carried out by those individuals in the local community who generously give their time to help others. It is an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to supporting those less fortunate by use of their life skills and experience in ways to make a difference in the lives of families who need assistance.

If you would like to join us and make a difference in the community please contact Linda Sparkes on 0455 611 060.



## SPECIAL DELIVERY



Bobby Banks Jackson was born on December 14, 2020, weighing in at 3.57kg. Congratulations to Matt and Emma Jackson of Cowes and big brother Luis Jon (2).



Camille Leila Berry was born on December 14, 2020, weighing 3.520kgs. Congratulations to Sharlin Grass-Gilbert and Jakob Berry on the new arrival.



Primrose Catherine Ryan was born on December 6, 2020, weighing 3.980kg. Congratulations to parents Samantha Brewin and Michael Ryan, and big brother Walter (2) of Cowes.



Banjo Arne Kallstrom was born on December 1, 2020 weighing 3.650kgs. Congratulations to Jessica and Patch Kallstrom and big sister Wynter (2) of Wimbledon Heights.



# Happy 100th Marie

Pearl Marie Griffin, known all her life as Marie, celebrated her 100th birthday on January 23.

As well as a big 100th birthday party with her family and friends, the Wonthaggi Citizens Band braved the heat and played outside Griffiths Point Lodge to mark the big day.

Marie was born in Terang not far from Camperdown to Hebert Pullinger Tarrant and Pearl Marie Tarrant née Reilly, and had two older brothers William and Edward (Bill and Ted).

Herbert worked as a Lino Type operator at a variety of newspapers around Victoria.

Marie was quite young when her parents split up. The children remaining with Herbert who hired a housekeeper due to the all-night work required by newspaper publishers.

At thirteen Marie was sent to Cobden to stay with a paternal aunt and three cousins. She obtained her merit certificate and was collected by her father when she finished school at 14.

Marie worked for a few weeks in a clothing factory until they found out she was only 14. She went back when she turned 15 with her baptism certificate as proof of age.

By then, her father had met and married Violet Josephine Jeury a close relation of the Mclardy family of Phillip Island.

After being retrenched from the Argus Herbert found work first at St Arnaud, then Korumburra.

It was while living in Korumburra that Marie at age 19 met a young soldier George Swallow who often visited friends there.

They were married in the Church of England the evening before he left for overseas. George was only allowed out to the wedding under escort as the troops were sailing the next morning. He was then escorted back to camp.

Marie lived with Herbert and Violet until George returned home. From the time they were married George was overseas in several war zone with the 2nd 5th Battalion 6th Division for two years before returning home on leave.



*Pearl Marie Griffin, better known as Marie, celebrated her 100th birthday on January 23, with the Wonthaggi Citizens Band playing outside Griffiths Point Lodge in her honour.*

Their first baby Lillian was born after the battalion left for New Guinea.

During this time, a Miss Dent bought Narrabeen guest house on Phillip Island and asked Marie to work for her. It was hard work but enjoyable.

George was released from the army after five years to work in the Kilmunda mines. The couple rented two rooms in Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Income was supplemented by trapping rabbits at farms around Wonthaggi. The skins were sold to Kenyon's skin store and the carcasses to local butchers.

To George, the mine work was akin to living in the wartime foxholes. His

goal was to become a fisherman.

To this end he left the mine and they moved first to Warragul where he worked for Dents making tyres before finally, at Marie's urging, they moved to San Remo.

They arrived in San Remo and had to live in a tent at the local caravan park as there was nothing to rent. This was no easy life. Old kerosene tins were put together as storage, a meat safe was hung up to a tent pole, and water had to be obtained at the camp's shared hand pump after first being primed with a bucket of water.

By this time there were now four small children and a baby. George

bought his first boat and went bay fishing in Westernport and out past Cape Woolamai for cuta.

Keen to put a non-canvas roof over their heads, they found the only available rental – these days it would be condemned by health authorities.

The one bedroom was shared by the children with a built in veranda for the parents. The first winter the roof leaked in several places. A great lake of water lay under the house, and shoes and anything stored under the beds would become green with mildew. There was no real defined pathway to the old timber outside toilet and the wash house was a trough at-

tached to the outside west wall with a massive wringer sitting between the double trough.

To keep the wolf from the door, Marie found work at a local hotel. In the years spent here another baby was born. In all, George and Marie had eight children.

With enough money for a deposit, George was planning to buy his first Bass Strait shark/crayfish boat, a 45-foot timber boat 'The Mercury'.

Marie, all four feet 10 of her, put her tiny size four foot very firmly down. The thought of another few years in the rental was the last straw.

Her determination won out. Negotiating a War Service Loan saw the family in a near-new home with George able to borrow enough to also buy his boat and pay off both.

Later another large steel cray boat was purchased – "The Marieglenvalema", shortened to The Marie Glen.

The hard times were behind them. Marie came up with small business enterprises of her own, the final one being a great little fish and chip shop in Cowes where the IGA now stands.

The fish, often supplied from the family boat or otherwise from the Fisherman's Co-op, soon had a huge following, so she added bay fish and cooked crays to the menu.

After her marriage broke down, Marie remarried Daniel Griffin, a former Clerk of the High Courts.

They bought a house in Cowes and Danny worked in maintenance for the Shire before retiring while Marie found a variety of part time work in local businesses, with enough time to volunteer at PICAL and join a craft group.

After Danny's death Marie purchased a unit in Wonthaggi where she volunteered at the hospital giving Tai Chi lessons to patients. She lived independently until the age of 98.

She now resides in care at Griffith Point Lodge San Remo.

Although frail she is still very independent in her ideas of the way things should be.

Describing her life, she would say, "from hard times to good times and we managed".

## Fay and Ian celebrate 60 wonderful years

Fay and Ian Samuel celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on January 21.

At the tender ages of 17 and 18, Fay and Ian met at the Hawthorn town Hall Saturday night dance in July of 1956 and courted for five years.

They married on Saturday, January 21, 1961 at the Cheltenham Presbyterian church on a day when the temperature soared to 38 degrees, with no air conditioning.

Ian, an apprentice toolmaker at General Motors Holden Fisherman's Bend earning \$24 a week, had just completed his National Service Army training at Puckapunyal when he met Fay, a shop assistant at Ball and Welch department store in Flinders St Melbourne.

Fay started work in the Myers City department store at the age of 14, travelling by train from Aspendale.

Living in Prahran, Ian regularly drove back and forth along the single lane Nepean highway in his 1930 model Austin 7, and later in a 1931 model Chrysler Dodge, to Fay's family home in Aspendale.

Their first date was to the Bentley Picture theatre, where supplied with red and green coloured spectacles, they watched the first 3D movie called Zulu, with the audience being attacked with spears and cudgels by rampaging Zulus.

The honeymoon was towing a very small two metre caravan behind the 1931 Chrysler Dodge.

The caravan was so small "you had to crawl" into it said Ian, but that didn't stop the newlyweds travelling the highway to visit the Blue Mountains, near Sydney and Wilsons Promontory.

"The first overnight stop was at a family friend's house in Chiltern where they took pity on us by insisting that we occupy the matrimonial bed for the night, while teasing us by threatening to tie a cow bell under the bed," said Ian.

Starting out in a single room bedsit in Bentleigh and by limiting spending and working overtime, they saved a small deposit to buy a house in 1963 for £4,250 (\$8,500) in the newly established suburb of Pinewood, Glen Waverley.

"The house loan was a 25-year repayment plan, initially paying 4.7 per cent interest, which increased for a short period to 17 per cent!" said Ian.

Blessed with four daughters, Athena, Dianne, Belinda and Maree (and a female dog) bringing up the family on a single wage was a struggle.

Fay sewed clothes and home cared for preschool children as Ian worked his way up to a senior executive position during his 46-year career at Holden.

The family's love of the island began when they holidayed at Bushy Caravan Park Cowes. They holidayed at the caravan park for 13 years before building their holiday home in Ventnor in 1983 to "lock up stage", followed by eight years of weekend building to complete it. The couple finally moved to Ventnor permanently in 2001.

Hectic years as the children grew up saw Fay as the District Commissioner for Girl Guides Brownies and Ian Chairman of local school council and softball coach.

After joining the Cowes Yacht club in 1976, sailing became the family sport with Fay and daughters sailing with Ian in dinghies and trailable yachts. Ian was Commodore three times and still sails competitively with Blake his youngest grandson, plus is an active member of the Phillip Island Golf Club. Fay and Ian are life members of Cowes Yacht Club.

Their 11 grandchildren, three step grandchildren and a six-month-old, great grandson, keeps them busy with family commitments and family card games.

Fay and Ian also lived in Germany on two occasions when Ian represented Holden at the Opel Automotive plant in Russelsheim with weekend motoring throughout Eu-



*After meeting at a town hall dance when they were still teenagers, Fay and Ian Samuel celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on January 21.*

rope and the UK.

They play scrabble daily and have travelled widely including chartering self-sail yachts, and canal cruise boats in the Whitsundays, France, Mediterranean, South Pacific and

Asia, plus touring South Africa and the Canadian Rockies Mountain Train followed by cruising the inside passage to Alaska.

Truly a memorable 60 years of love and companionship.



# It's great outdoors

The creation of welcoming communal spaces to cater for outdoor dining and trading in townships across the Bass Coast has been warmly embraced by operators, residents and holiday makers over the summer holiday season.

Dining areas which appeared over summer on footpaths, roadways and spare land have created vibrant open spaces in local townships, and are being hailed in the main as a great success.

The initiative was facilitated prior to the holiday season by Bass Coast Shire Council, as a means of assisting hospitality businesses affected by Covid social distancing regulations, and limits on customer numbers indoors, to maximise opportunities presented by the influx of visitors over the holiday season.

Teresa Mahood, Acting Manager of the Bass Coast Shire's Investment and Visitor Economy has overseen the creation of the new outdoor spaces over the past few months.

"Since the initiative was announced by the state government last year, it has been warmly embraced by both traders and the community," Teresa said.

"The initiative was designed to encourage outdoor dining given restrictions were based on indoor density limits, and more people were permitted to dine outside."

Planning commenced back in September, with local traders and representative groups working with Teresa and her team to implement the project in time for Christmas.

A whole town approach was taken, with Cowes, San Remo, Inverloch, Wonthaggi and Grantville traders and groups participating in the planning stage.

Teresa said townships had worked well together looking at where public space could be activated for the purpose of outdoor dining.

Options included extending out on to footpaths, and even in front of shops neighbouring local eateries.

"A lot of people worked with supportive neighbours to achieve this,"



*This laneway off Thompson Avenue is one of the roadways that has been transformed into a dining area over the holiday period, under an outdoor dining initiative established by Bass Coast Shire Council.*

she said.

Local parklets and taking over of car parking spaces were also in the mix.

Facilitation depended on factors including land levels and road safety consideration.

Part of the Cowes Esplanade was declared a one-way thoroughfare in places.

A'Beckett Street in Inverloch became entirely one way.

Teresa said the spaces were created only on council owned or managed land, and the feedback over summer has been "really good."

From her perspective, working with the community meant asking: "What are the needs. How can we help. We then trial it. We tweak it.

Our focus is, how do we make this work."

"What the project achieved in the end was to enable many thousands of additional people to be seated and enjoy a meal or drink, which would not have been possible under Covid restrictions otherwise."

And happily, Teresa adds, it created an extra holiday vibe in the streets, which has been enthusiastically noted by residents and visitors alike.

"San Remo looks quite beautiful, with the areas that have been created there," Theresa commented.

The one problem for traders has been trying to find extra staff, to cater for the additional numbers at their premises.

But after the Covid lockdown,

that's a challenge everyone is happy to deal with.

## Costs

Cost of implementing the outdoor dining initiative was borne by the state government.

"The State Government provided \$250,000 directly to council, and every bit of this has been spent," said Theresa.

"Traders were also able to apply for a grant."

While council facilitated the creation of space, traders were responsible for their own furnishings.

Road spaces were checked on a daily basis.

"Local businesses were used to help manage this," Teresa said.

She singled out Over the Top Events and Event Operations, for the work they had put in to the success of the initiative.

"They have been awesome," she commented.

Teresa believes that the initiative has made "a real difference" to participating traders.

It has certainly increased their ability to trade while abiding by seating limits and social distance restrictions.

Currently, plans are for the outdoor spaces to remain in place until Easter in Cowes.

At Inverloch, they will wind up at the end of January.

But it is up for assessment.

"We have committed to after Easter in Cowes, but traders may want to pull back earlier," said Teresa.

## Traders approve

Speaking on the weekend, Jonathon Bentley, of G'Day Tiger, reflected the views of most traders when he said that the outdoor space areas created had been embraced by users, and he was delighted with the success of these.

Lois Gaskin, proprietor of Turn the Page in Cowes, says she enjoys a coffee seated in the sunshine at the outdoor tables, as do many others.

The access laneway from Thompson Avenue through to a rear parking lot adjacent to G'Day Tiger was transformed into a pleasant, verdant outdoor dining space; and was used by patrons of many businesses in Thompson Avenue, Jonathon said.

He raised the possibility of the space remaining permanently, such is its popularity.

It would still provide a walkway for shoppers from Thompson Avenue back to their vehicles parked in the car park at the rear, which could be just as easily accessed by vehicles from Warley Avenue.

Vehicles driving across the busy Thompson Avenue footpath to the car park is not ideal, said Jonathon, who has witnessed a few near misses.

# Bluetooth helps Beau paddle into the blue

Like most surfers, Beau Vernon likes to get out on the water around Phillip Island at least once a week, if family and work commitments allow.

But unlike most surfers, Beau has to be carried to the water by one of his mates.

He then uses a specially modified motorised surfboard fitted with a propeller, operated via Bluetooth on his watch.

The 32-year-old quadriplegic athlete and disability advocate said because he can't swim well, he also wears a life vest.

"If I didn't have the vest I'd probably sink to the bottom," Beau said.

"I'm getting more and more confident every time I go out on the water but I still do have a few nerves out there."

Beau, who lives in San Remo with his wife Lucy who had their third child this year, became a quadriplegic in 2012 after a freak football injury.

While wheelchair-bound, paralysed from the chest down, he has not allowed his spinal cord injury to define him.

Growing up in Newhaven, he first began surfing around the age of 12.

So when the football accident happened, Beau was determined to get back out on the waves.

After spotting a paraplegic surfer in Tasmania who had a specially designed Bluetooth-operated propeller board, he contacted him and got in touch with the US manufacturer, finally securing his own board about four years ago.

"I lay on my stomach and elbows and hit the watch with my teeth," he said.



*Beau Vernon uses a specially modified motorised surfboard fitted with a propeller, operated via Bluetooth on his watch, to hit the waves. Unfortunately the Bluetooth device broke and now he's on the hunt for someone who can fix the technology.*

"It powers the surfboard, so I'm able to lean and turn and get onto some waves.

"If I didn't have this I'd have to rely on someone to push me on to the wave and then tow me back out."

Unfortunately though, the Bluetooth device broke and Beau believes the manufacturer may no longer operate, so he's on the hunt again for someone who can fix the technology.

That didn't stop him from last

month from taking to the waves in the new URBNSURF Melbourne, Australia's first surf park, with help from his wife and mates.

## Access

Beau said it was only thanks to help from his mates that he was able to be carried out to the surf, with access around Phillip Island difficult.

He said while Smiths Beach had a ramp, most other area don't.

"Access to beaches could be better around the island. There are a lot of good walks I can't access, such as Cape Woolamai headland, the George Bass Coastal Walk.

"At Cape Woolamai quite often the sand moves so the ramp is inaccessible."

He said if an area was inaccessible to wheelchair users, it was usually inaccessible to other groups.

"Even the path around San Remo's

foreshore is not easy to access in a wheelchair, let alone by bike or with a pram. If you're elderly it's also difficult."

"There's so many beautiful walks in our area which aren't accessible for people in wheelchairs, but they're also not accessible for parents with prams or the elderly," he said.

Beau is determined to surmount obstacles.

In December he hand cycled 100km around Newhaven as a fundraiser for the Robert Rose Foundation – which provides support to those with spinal cord injuries and their families – with Beau recently becoming a board member of the foundation.

The ride was the longest Beau had achieved on the hand cycle, taking about five hours to complete 33 laps.

Last year Beau became a research assistant in a Monash University disability study, on top of his usual work as a professional speaker and Interact Australia director and ambassador.

As a keen surfer and kayaker, who also works out in boxing, weights and interval training, he said he always pushed himself outside his comfort zone.

"I want to raise expectations around what people with a disability can do, particularly the importance of participation for those with spinal cord injuries. Quite often having a disability is seen as a negative, but it's not.

"Some of the highlights of my life have been when people tell me they started a band or completed a half marathon because they saw me do something."



# Young and hard at work

One of the hardest things this year after the Covid lockdown, according to local business operators, and especially those in the hospitality industry, has been finding staff to work for them over the busy holiday season. Students on holidays are an essential part of many Phillip Island and San Remo businesses, and hundreds in this district have stepped up to the plate. For most, it is their first experience in the work force. Journalism student Brittany Carlson joined the Advertiser team in January and talked with other young locals who were hard at work over the busy holiday season.

## Alex Swan:

Twenty-one-year-old Alex Swan was working at Clip 'n Climb prior to Covid, but that came to a end once the lockdown took hold, as Clip 'n Climb was unable to open.

Then in June, Alex's Dad, Russell, purchased the Island Juicery and Alex began working there as a manager.

He says it has been difficult starting a new job in Covid times.

"Getting used to a lack of customers because everyone was in lockdown was challenging," he said.

"Also then going straight into school holidays when everyone was let out of lockdown was challenging as well because then it was super busy."

In the past few weeks Alex has also started up again at Clip 'n Climb a few days a week and said he enjoys working the two jobs.

"It is about working out your limits and not taking on too much," he said.

When Alex isn't busy working, he also juggles attending university full time studying a Bachelor of Environmental Science at Deakin University.

"There have been times when assignments have been getting close and I have had to take my laptop into work and work on them while I am on my lunch break."

Covid does have Alex questioning what he would like to do as a career, as he has enjoyed working in business a lot. But he still loves what he is doing at Uni and wants to complete his course.

When Alex isn't working, he enjoys climbing for fun at Clip 'n Climb and he also loves dabbling in photography.

## Jorgie Mae Thompson:

Newhaven local Jorgie Mae Thompson is busy, busy working and undertaking a placement for her course in nursing and midwifery.

Jorgie Mae had to make the tough choice when Covid began to move home from Melbourne and pick up her old job at Island Pies in Newhaven.

"I made the choice at the beginning of Covid to move back home to live with my family."

"I worked almost full time at my previous job at Island Pies Newhaven," she said.

Twenty-year-old Jorgie Mae has not only been working at Island Pies in Newhaven, she has also been juggling a full-time nursing/midwifery placement.

"Juggling work, nursing/ midwifery placement and studying was ridiculous this year and as much as I tried to manage, I felt as though my studying fell onto the back foot."

"It was incredibly hard to stay on top of online classes but in the end, I was able to do quite well in most of them which I consider a major achievement for this year," she said.

When Jorgie Mae isn't working she loves hanging out with her family dog, Hughie. One of their favorite things to do together is to go roller skating.

She says that Covid was an extra stressor working both in a hospital and in the bakery.

"Luckily living on Phillip Island, we were relatively sheltered from most of the Covid outbreaks, but I was nervous when I was doing placement as there was increased possibility that I could bring Covid back to my family and work colleagues."

"Placement in maternity during Covid was eye opening and it made me feel so lucky to be bringing life into this crazy world we now live in," she said.

Jorgie Mae says she feels exhausted as it seems like she is always on the go.

"I am currently on a 20-day placement at Box Hill Hospital in their surgical ward and working on weekends. I will be starting back at uni in



Izzy Summers works at the Phillip Island Bakery and received an outpouring of support from the community after a customer was rude to her at work.

early March and that will be full on," she said.

However, she also said it will be worth it when she is registered nurse midwife and working in the most incredible places, doing a job she loves.

## Emily Carlson:

Emily had just graduated from Year 12 and was excited to work hard and save money which would allow her to travel this year.

Neither of those plans came to fruition and Emily was stuck without a job once Covid hit.

"I had planned on going travelling with my best friend but unfortunately that was cancelled due to the pandemic," she said.

Emily is now working at Neon Circus in Cowes, a small, kids clothing store and she says she is really enjoying the work as it is different to the jobs she has had before.

"I love working in retail and I love children's clothing, it brings such a joy to my workday."

"I love that I get to experience a wide variety of people at my job."

"Seeing children every day and engaging in conversation is something I really enjoy as well as being able to put together cute outfits ... I love that as well," she said.

One thing Emily has found difficult at work is the surprising number of people don't want to follow Covid

protocols

"Having to ask people to wear masks and keep on top of capacity numbers are just extra things you have to do when you're already busy," she said.

But she said lots of people have still been friendly and she enjoys chatting to customers when they come into the store.

"It has been stressful but rewarding. It is nice to see local businesses getting the customers back in after such a quiet period," she said.

Emily is taking a gap year this year to work and save money before hopefully heading to University in 2022.

She is also looking forward to taking part in Wonthaggi Theatre Group's musical, Mamma Mia! As well as choreographing Newhaven College's The Wizard of Oz.

"Next year I hope to complete a double degree of nursing and paramedicine at ACU," she said.

## Izzy Summers:

Izzy Summers captured the attention of the community a few weeks ago when a post was made on Facebook about a customer being unnecessarily rude to her.

"The man had ordered several coffee's and I am very new to making coffee's so I was going as fast as I could," Izzy said.

"When I took them over to him, I apologized for the wait, which was about 10 minutes, but he was very arrogant."

Someone who witnessed the incident then posted a message on the local community noticeboard condemning the man's bad behaviour.

The community then showered Izzy with support and gifted her a few small things as well as hundreds of people sending their best wishes and words of support.

"I knew that this was a loving community, but I was so surprised to get gifts and so much support," she said.

Izzy works about four shifts a week at the Phillip Island Bakery over the summer. This is her first job and she said this summer has been very busy.

"It is normally busy at this time of year, but this year is definitely heightened."

Izzy lives in Sunset Strip and is in Year 10 at Wonthaggi Secondary College. When she isn't working, she is busy doing her homework and hanging out with her family at the beach.

Starting your first job is an exciting and stressful time anyway but young workers like Izzy had to deal with regular first job nerves, as well as tackling Covid as well.

"Working with Covid has made it a little bit more hectic," she admitted.

"Having to have people wear masks and having a maximum number of people in the store, I didn't think I would have to be doing things like that."

"But having great team around you makes it manageable."



Alex Swan works for both The Island Juicery and Clip 'n Climb Phillip Island.

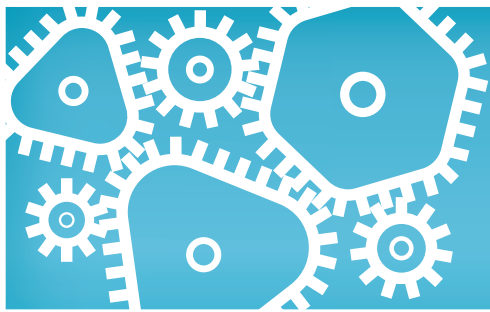


Jorgie Mae Thompson juggles a part time job and a full-time nursing placement but still gets time to relax with her dog Hughie.



Emily didn't work throughout Covid but she is happy to be back at it now over the busy summer months.





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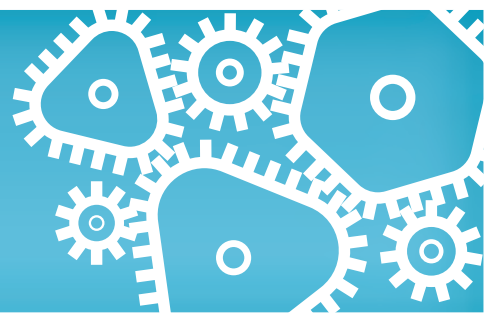
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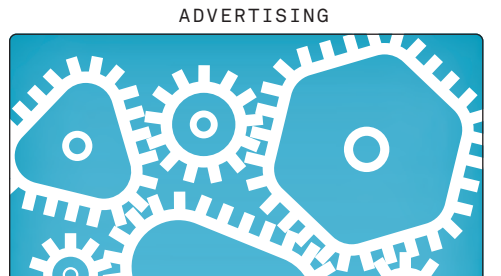
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Our diverse range of adult learning programs offer everything from pathways for employment and further study, to arts & crafts/ personal wellbeing/ and other lifestyle & leisure activities.

To help our community, PICAL operates emergency food relief/ referrals to specialist support services/ community networks and enterprises/ employment services/ and a Centrelink Agency.

It is an exciting time for PICAL as we grow our community services. In 2021 we will be moving to a new home and will be building a new community garden.

**PICAL is currently looking for the following people.**

### Board Members:

PICAL is governed by a Committee (the Board). The Board has up to 11 members, including a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. There are 11 ordinary Board meetings each year.

The Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction; ensuring that PICAL is well governed and all risks are properly managed. The Centre Manager is responsible for implementing the Board's directions and for the day-to-day operations of PICAL.

PICAL is seeking Expressions of Interest to join the Board for an initial 3-year term. Board positions are honorary.

You will need to demonstrate a passion and deep interest in community service.

PICAL is seeking Board members with experience in governance and management, and some younger people who can bring different insights to the Board.

### Operations Coordinator (Part Time/12 month contract):

PICAL is seeking the services of an experienced person to supervise many of PICAL's daily operational and administrative functions, for the next 12 months. Remuneration is negotiable, depending upon experience. The position is part-time 2 – 3 days per week. All normal workplace entitlements are available.

Reporting to and supporting the Centre Manager, the Operations Coordinator will be responsible for day-to-day routine operations, rostering and oversight of all the volunteers that support PICAL's services, as well as all administrative functions.

### Further information

Further information, including role descriptions can be obtained by contacting Centre Manager Greg Thompson

e-mail: [manager@pical.org.au](mailto:manager@pical.org.au) or phone: 0400 655 540

Refer also to our website at: [www.pical.org.au](http://www.pical.org.au) or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pical.org.au) Phillip Island Community and Learning

### Applications & Closing Date

Please submit your Expression of Interest for a Board position or an Application, including CV, for the Operations Coordinator position via e-mail to [manager@pical.org.au](mailto:manager@pical.org.au), by 5.00pm on Friday 12th February 2021.

Short listed candidates will be offered a briefing at PICAL, before final selection interviews.

## Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

### PROJECT SUPPORT OFFICER

Fixed Term Part Time – Closing 29/01/2021

### COUNSELLOR

Permanent Part Time – Closing 31/01/2021

### SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELLOR

Fixed Term Part Time – Closing 31/01/2021

### TEAM COORDINATOR COUNSELLING

Fixed Term Part Time – Closing 31/01/2021

### CONTINENCE ADVISOR

Fixed Term Part Time – Closing 01/02/2021

### ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATOR

Fixed Term Full Time – Closing 05/02/2021

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Permanent Full Time – Closing 08/02/2021

### MEDICAL SPECIALIST – GENERAL

### MEDICINE PHYSICIAN OR

### GP GENERALIST MEDICAL OFFICER

Permanent Full Time, Part Time or Sessional – Closing Open Ended

### MEDICAL SPECIALIST – CONSULTANT &

### GENERAL PRACTICE ANAESTHETIST

Permanent Full Time, Part Time or Sessional – Closing Open Ended

### EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT REGISTRAR

Permanent Full time, Fixed Term Full Time – Closing Open Ended

### FACEM

Permanent Part Time, Sessional – Closing Open Ended

### CAREER MEDICAL OFFICER

Permanent Full Time, Permanent Part Time, Casual – Closing Open Ended

For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website [basscoasthealth.org.au](http://basscoasthealth.org.au) or contact Human Resources via email [hr@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:hr@basscoasthealth.org.au)



t 5671 3333 f 5671 3300  
e [info@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:info@basscoasthealth.org.au)  
w [www.basscoasthealth.org.au](http://www.basscoasthealth.org.au)



## "RE-ADVERTISED"

*Gippsland Disability Advocacy is a community-based Disability Advocacy organisation covering the Gippsland region. Our mission is to advocate, promote, and be responsive to the welfare, rights, and interests of people with disabilities, and to build a more inclusive community. Our vision is that through advocacy, people with disabilities are empowered to exercise their rights.*

*As a result of new ILC funding, an opportunity exists for enthusiastic, self-motivated, and self-disciplined individuals for two place-based positions.*

## Project Coordinator – Information Linkages and Capacity Building.

*A minimum 18 hours a week (0.5 FTE, with capacity for additional hours) – Fixed Term period ending October 1st, 2022.*

• 1 position located in East Gippsland

• 1 position located in Bass Coast or South Gippsland.

Using a Community Development focus, Individual Capacity Building (ICB) activities build the collective capacity of people with disability by ensuring they have the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to set and achieve their goals. The activities must be for the primary and direct benefit of people with disability, developed and delivered in collaboration with people with disabilities. Establishing and supporting Peer-Led Support groups in designated townships is imperative to these roles.

To apply, you must supply a covering letter as well as addressing the Key Selection Criteria and Resume including the name of three (3) professional referees to: [administration@gdai.org.au](mailto:administration@gdai.org.au)

For more information on the role contact Adrian Terranova – Executive Officer Gippsland Disability Advocacy on 0428 971 390.

Position Description can be obtained via:

[www.gdai.com.au/about-us/employment-2/](http://www.gdai.com.au/about-us/employment-2/)

These two positions close at 5.00pm on Monday 1st February 2021.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Re: PHIL RAY CELIA DIXON, late of 31 Bingley Crescent, Ventnor Victoria 3922, deceased.**

Creditors, next-of-kin and others having claims in respect of the estate of the deceased, who died on 27 March 2020, are required to send particulars of their claim to the executors, care of the undersigned lawyers, by 28 March 2021, after which date the executors may convey or distribute the assets, having regard only to the claims of which they then have notice.

LEONARD & ASSOCIATES, Lawyers, Level 1, 82 Thompson Ave, Cowes Victoria 3922.

**Re: Zora Skomina, late of 27 Giles Street, Mirboo North Victoria 3871, deceased.**

Creditors, next-of-kin and others having claims in respect of the estate of the deceased, who died on 12 May 2020, are required to send particulars of their claim to the administrator, care of the undersigned lawyers, by 28 March 2021, after which date the administrator may convey or distribute the assets, having regard only to the claims of which they then have notice.

LEONARD & ASSOCIATES, Lawyers, Level 1, 82 Thompson Ave, Cowes Victoria 3922.



# Perfect Day for Bowls!

South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group

Midweek Bowls Thursday 21/1 was played at San Remo with 32 happy bowlers. The day was perfect for bowls and the green ran true. As usual we had a great day of good bowling and lots of happy banter. We had two new bowlers to midweek Sue and Greg Wood and they had a very enjoyable day. The cold drinks at the end of the day was most appreciated. Thank you to Peter Thorley in the bar and for looking after us with a lovely smile and also Sue Wood and Elaine Fitt the wonderful ladies who supplied us with our tea and coffee. Next week we will be playing at Tarwin Lower. 10am at venue for a 10.30am start. BYO lunch. Come along and join our happy group of people. To register or for more information please contact Peter McWilliams on 56785974 everyone welcome. See you on the green.



Runners up: Graham McKergow (3), Bev Elliott (2), Jenny Smith (L) and Peter McWilliams (S).



Winners: Laurie Bell (3), Denis Talbot (S), Wayne Stevens (L), and Bill Williams (2).



Best One Game: Mark Andretta (S), Jenny Harding (L), David Talbot (2) and Chris Coulson (3).

## Boardriders event postponed

The popular Phillip Island Boardriders Single Fin comp originally scheduled for January 23 has been postponed. Organisers said unfortunately the Single Fin event didn't go ahead because of some permit confusion. "The postponement has come due to our desire to operate in line with PINP permit policies," the club posted on its Facebook page. The Single Fin competition is the club's biggest event of the year, and its biggest fundraiser. The money raised is used to maintain the Boardriders' clubrooms as well as helping cover the cost of sending a team to the Australian Boardriders Competition later in the year.

The Single Fin event is normally held in January each year (last year it ran on January 11 and doubled as a fundraiser for the bushfires). The club is hoping to reschedule the event for later in 2021. But the Boardriders will be back in the water next weekend when the Victorian round of the Australian Boardriders Battle is held on Phillip Island on January 30. It should be a great weekend of surfing on the island, with the Surfing Vic Victorian Masters Titles cancelled due to bad weather earlier this month, running the following day, January 31.

## Phillip Island Golf

Tuesday January 19 – Men's 18 Hole Stableford. Winner was Laurie Downward H/c (14) with 41 points from Kristian Phillips H/c (19) with 39 points. Men's 9 Hole Stableford. Winner was Steve Davie H/c (27) with 19 points from Basil Moloney H/c (14) with 18 points on a countback from David Gladman H/c (16) also with 18 points. Wednesday January 20 – Ladies 18 Hole Stableford. Winner was Helen Coghlan H/c (15) with 40 points from Tracey Cuff H/c (21) with 39 points. Ladies 9 Hole Stableford. Winner was Shirley Watts H/c (38) with 16 points from Norma Corr H/c (39) with 13 points. Thursday January 21 – Men's & Ladies 18 Hole Stableford. Winner was Jason Martin H/c (12) with 38 points from Robert Sparkmen H/c (11) with 37 points. Men's & Ladies 9 Hole Stableford. Winner was Robert Leak H/c (27) with 19 points from Ian Bray H/c (29) with 19 points on a countback from David Scrase H/c (31) also with 19 points. Saturday January 23 – Mens 18 Hole Stableford. Winner was Phil Dressing H/c (21) with 41 points from Robert Sparkman H/c (12) with 40 points on a countback from Gregory Stewart H/c (29) also with 40 points. Next Week – Single Stableford & Semi Final of the Men's Matchplay. Ladies 18 Hole Stableford. Winner was Louise Griffin H/c (26) with 40 points from Megan Havers H/c (25) with 39 points. Men's & Ladies 9 Hole Stableford. Winner was Steve Rieger H/c (26) with 21 points on a countback from Brian Carvell H/c (26) also with 21 points.

Our Raffle for the three Beautiful paintings is coming to an end and Members are asked to return all tickets to the Golf Shop before Saturday, January 30. The three paintings are still on display at the Phillip Island Golf Club. Thank you to the Artists who donated the paintings - David Taylor, Diana Edwards and Tom Tyrrell. The Raffle will be drawn at The Phillip Island Golf Club on Sunday, January 31 at 3pm. Good luck to all!

## Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Another Christmas school holidays done and dusted. That makes fifteen since we took over the shop with every one of them different.

This year we had some good weather and some typical summer unsettled weather but overall, there were plenty of days to get out for a fish for all the visitors that holidayed here.

One thing many visitors make comment on when fishing here for the first time is the variety of fish you can catch in a session.

When you now add in the regular bluefin and kingfish catches through summer it's becoming a destination for all types of fishermen, all we need is a couple of marlin to show up and we will have it all.

The other thing surprises visitors is the current here.

With many from the rivers or even Port Phillip Bay it's a bit of a shock and they are generally under-prepared but doesn't take too long to work it out.

Whiting this week have continued and it's been one of the best years we can remember. Not necessarily for numbers or size but for the number of places people are catching them – land and boat.

We can't remember a year where whiting was being caught in so many different places and depths.

Boating has been the usual shallow 1.5m to 3m but the amount caught in 10m and above almost equals them and the quality this week was a little better in the deep.

The reports are a little scattered because of the traffic but the extra people fishing for them in so many different areas at the one-time means we get just as many reports and see lots of fish.

We have seen a slight change in the whiting this week also with most of those fishing around Dickies Bay/ Bass River area saying there have been a lot of very small whiting this week.

The majority are around 30/34cm but pencils and not

the very healthy condition ones we are used to this year.

You would have to think they are only new whiting in and given another month or so will fill out and be worth keeping.

The only snapper reports are coming from offshore on the reefs towards Kilcunda where we have seen several around the 5kg. The only thing being caught in the bay is very small and the occasional pan-sized pinkie.

We got a couple of reports late over the weekend of 4kg snapper off Cowes so maybe we will see a run of bigger ones in February as we did last year.

There is plenty in the bay to catch with schools of salmon, yakkas, mackerel and couta showing up, so make sure you have a small lure or a bait jig ready to go.

Several good gummies in the bay also and not just in the channels but a handful reported from across the 6m part of the corals.

Offshore is where most of the action has been this week with countless boats out chasing tuna and kingfish.

There were so many boats out the western entrance towards Port Phillip heads on Saturday that there was plenty of running over lures and cutting off lines happening. It was those there early that caught the fish.

There were the boats from the island with boats from the ramps on the Hastings side mixed with the boats coming out of Port Phillip heads and as always by the time most got there the fish were down deep.

We did hear of a few being caught later in the day in the same area, from those boats finding a quiet spot to themselves away from the crowd until they hooked up ... which attracted everybody.

We had several tuna reported from east of the western entrance all the way to Cape Patterson with some divers telling us the schools they came across were too big to even guess the number of fish.

They were a little timid and plenty of work needed to get them to take a lure with just as much success coming from those who jumped in the water amongst the school.

The best results came from those who have finally worked it out to give themselves the best chance, don't go to wide, as close as 15m, and don't go too big, small skirts and feathers. And don't think you have to look for birds diving. Large schools of lazy mutton birds will often sit on a school of fish just picking scraps off the surface, so always worth a look.

Makos have made an appearance finally or should I say a few people, after burning a few \$100 in fuel chasing tuna have started to fish for them. I would much prefer a freezer full of flake than tuna anyway.

We had a handful of them reported this week, around the 30kg mark with a couple simply swimming up to the boat as it stopped and started to do a bit of bottom bashing.

We don't see or hear of many, we also had a hammerhead reported over the weekend. It was going to be released but before a photo could be taken it bit through the leader and released itself.

There was also plenty of reports of quality offshore gummies and some decent bags of flathead and snapper also from offshore.

Most of the reports we had come from east of Cape Woolamai down to Cape Patterson and the flathead especially took a bit of finding. But once you did it was easy to get a good feed.

Kingfish have also made an appearance, mostly rats and are a bit of a by-catch from those chasing tuna with not a lot yet targeting them.

Most of the kingfish we had seen were around the headland of Cape Woolamai, The Pinnacle and Pyramid Rock.

If you are going to head offshore from the eastern entrance for a bit of a trawl or even a bottom bash, get out of bed a little earlier and drop some lures in the water as soon as the last green peg. There has been a few show up just in the entrance.



The Water Wallies who won on the night were the team of Danny West, Paul Roswell and Peter Colla.

## Phillip Island bowls results

Division 2 won a close game over SanRemo. Division 3 won over Tarwin Lower.

Division 5 lost to Lang Lang.

Mid week Division 1, team 1 won over San Remo. Team 2 lost to Corinella.

Division 3 also lost to Fish Creek.

We are going to celebrate Australia Day with an Aussie dress up day for a pairs competition – a bit of light relief from competition.

Hans Olierook was defeated by John Hall in the SGBD Singles Final Championship, but well done Hans.


Our Men's 100 Up final will be played on Sunday between

Jimmy Kirk and Steve Farrelly.

The Ladies 21 Up will be played between Marlene Puncher and Karen Cashen.

This is the last week of Barefoot Bowls. John Batty has again done a stellar job organising this.

Corporate Bowls was blessed with a warm night to commence this club's competition.



## PHILLIP ISLAND MARINE

NEW & USED BOAT SALES

# TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point  
Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31

**HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BOLD**

	1.08am	6.35am	12.25pm	6.38pm
Thu 28	<b>2.61m</b>	1.43m	<b>2.27m</b>	0.68m
Fri 29	<b>2.73m</b>	1.34m	<b>2.33m</b>	0.61m
Sat 30	<b>3.01m</b>	8.37am 1.21m	2.39pm <b>2.44m</b>	8.33pm 0.54m
Sun 31	<b>3.49am</b>	9.27am 1.06m	3.36pm <b>2.55m</b>	9.24pm 0.49m
Mon 1	4.32am <b>2.99m</b>	10.13am 0.90m	4.29pm <b>2.66m</b>	10.12pm 0.47m
Tue 2	5.13am <b>3.01m</b>	10.56am 0.73m	5.18pm <b>2.74m</b>	10.59pm 0.50m
Wed 3	5.49am <b>2.99m</b>	11.37am 0.58m	6.08pm <b>2.80m</b>	11.45pm 0.56m

All material is supplied in good faith and is believed to be correct. No responsibility or liability for errors or omissions is accepted.

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Darcy Johnston (L) and Gavin Excell shared a match winning 151 run partnership in C2's impressive win over OMK on Saturday. Darcy made 68 not out and Gavin made 73.



Marcus Liberman played his first game of cricket in 30 plus years against Outtrim on Saturday in C2. Marcus took a catch in slips and bowled four tidy overs but was not required with the bat.

# Critical clashes for Sharks' ladder hopes

## A Grade

After a two-hour trip from Leongatha fighting against tourist traffic, the Imperials arrived at Cowes to take on the A grade boys in what was a crucial clash in regards to ladder position.

After winning the toss the Sharks decided to bat first and got off to a solid start after 9 wides were bowled in the first over.

When one finally hit the pitch it found the edge of opening batsmen Steve McIntyre and he was caught behind for 2.

Eli Richards came to the crease and along with other opener Brodie Johnston the two went about forging a fine partnership that saw the Sharks through to the 26th over with the score at 2 for 117 when Richards was dismissed for 58.

Johnston was dismissed soon after for a well-made 42 and some power hitting in the final ten overs from Jarrod Black (19) and Greg Selby (23) saw the Sharks to their highest total of the year at 184.

After the break the Imperials openers came out swinging, chancing their arm and were able to find the fence on a few occasions until a screaming catch from Eli Richards in third slip saw the Sharks get a breakthrough.

The Imperials kept throwing the bat and were scoring at a good rate but the Sharks were able to take wickets at regular intervals and the game was well balanced at the drinks break with the score at 4 for 84.

Clint Wilson bowled his eight overs straight and was fantastic as always, finishing with 3 for 31 off his eight overs. When he took the third of his wickets, the score sat at 6 for 115 with the Sharks in

the box seat.

However the Imperials fought hard and got themselves right back in the game with some good lower order hitting and the Sharks definitely took their foot off the throat as the game drew to another close finish.

With the Imperials needing 14 runs off the last two overs the Sharks were unable to hold onto a few chances and the Imperials went on the pass the score of 185 eight wickets down in the last over of the day.

The Sharks will have to bounce back quickly to keep a finals spot safe and face Leongatha Town next week in a big game. Go Sharks.

## C2

160 run partnership gets C2a great win!

With the return of cricket for the Island, C2 found ourselves on the road to Outtrim, in a paddock at the foothills of the Strzeleckis.

We welcomed back Darcy Johnston, Darcy Excell and Marcus Lieberman, who has hung up the golf clubs for a cricket bat!

Well, for one week for now.

We lost the toss and were asked to bowl by those great guys of OMK.

We opened with both Darcys and although not picking up wickets they at times had the batsman in all sorts of trouble.

A change at one end when Johnno Senior took over from Junior and we had our first wicket when Lieberman took a brilliant catch at first slip.

The second came not long after when Peter Francis suggested to his Captain a fielding change. It was rejected and he was told to stay in his position ... the very next ball a catch came his way.

Peter claims it confused the batsman and forced an error!

## Stick to bowling Pete!

We went to drinks 2 for 78 but things got away from us after that.

The opposition played smart and although lucky at times they managed to get to a healthy 190.

A tough chase but if we think we are a top side then there are the challenges we have to get good at.

Manning and Muscat opened but neither hung around, same as Kenter and we found ourselves in a lot of trouble at 3-17.

Gav Excell and Darcy Johnston went to work.

Gav hitting hard and long and Darcy rotating the strike and a magnificent 160 run partnership, as good as any seen at this level, nearly got their team home.

Unfortunately, Gav was tired and holed out for a fantastic 73.

Franga came in and they passed the total with three overs to spare.

Darcy, not known for his batting skills played a great innings and was unbeaten on 68.

We certainly can improve our game but it was a terrific win.

Thanks Marcus for helping out. He bowled 4 overs for 17 and was unlucky not to pick up a wicket. He took a great catch and attempted to take three others.

Hopefully we can get him to play again and get to see his batting skills.

Johnno Senior 2-24 and Franga 2-34.

A very good win but there is a lot of improvement to be had!

## Under 16s

This week saw the Under 16's return home to play ladder leaders Inverloch at Cowes.

Full of confidence and down two of their best batsmen for the first week, Inverloch won the toss and sent Phillip Island in to bat.

Openers Kohen Beaumont and Henry Peppard made a solid start, seeing off some well-paced, controlled bowling.

Despite this however, the batsmen were able to dictate the flow of the game, using the pace of the ball to manipulate the field, finding gaps and keeping the score moving.

It wasn't until the 16th over however, that a well thought out bowling change brought about the downfall of Kohen Beaumont.

Bowling with accuracy and without pace on the ball, Kohen was lured into a big shot.

Advancing down the wicket, the ball found the edge of a hard swung bat and lofted to gully, where Kohen was caught out for a well-made 34.

This saw a dramatic shift in play, as the slow bowling continued, drying up the runs to a trickle.

From 1 for 70 after 17 overs, the Sharks could only manage 19 runs from the proceeding 13 overs, proving once again that taking pace off the ball in any situation, can be a successful stopping strategy.

A break in the game came however, when big Zac Walker strode to the wicket.

Playing without fear and keeping a simple strategy, Zac was able to hit boundaries, rotate the strike and get the scoreboard moving again.

Assisted with cameos from William Peppard, Tim Niven and Heath Womersley, the Sharks were able to cobble together a respectable total of 6 for 135 after their 40 overs.

A good start with the ball will tell the story of the game next week.

Fingers crossed and good luck lads.

ALEX SCOTT  
AND STAFF

156 SETTLEMENT ROAD, COWES



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6TH FEBRUARY at 2PM

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