

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Thursday, January 5, 2023

\$1.60 Incl. GST


Holiday Guide

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Island Home

REAL ESTATE GUIDE

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It's been a sunny and busy start to 2023, with holidaymakers flocking to the island to make the most of the summer break.

Also enjoying the sunshine were the 350 children taking part in this year's Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club's Nippers program. The training, which introduces children to lifesaving, ran from December 29 until Thursday, January 5. Read more in sport on page 30.

Newhaven old boys' home \$50 million development

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

The Advertiser was given a tour of the site over the Christmas period, with developer Brian Amatruda explaining the heritage of the 1928 building would be celebrated, with guests in the hotel and café able to access an app that offers a history tour.

In August the Advertiser reported the shire re-endorsed plans for 54-61 Forrest Avenue, based on a 2010

VCAT resolution, including: 21 lot subdivision, 10 dwellings, part demolition and alteration of an existing heritage building, including conversion of the heritage building into six residential apartments with ancillary garages, and vegetation removal.

At that time Brian, who owns Omni Property Group, said he would be lodging a new proposal based on that original permit.

Those new plans – with an estimated value of \$50 million – were lodged at the end of last year, with Bass Coast Shire confirming they were currently reviewing the application, which would be advertised

once complete.

According to Brian, the plans are an improved version of the 2010 permit because they retain and restore most of the heritage features and buildings.

"The 2010 plans were a terrible permit, a travesty. Why would you demolish heritage buildings and add a carpark to the main building inside the rooms?" he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tour

Brian said because the old Boys' Home had been neglected and vandalised for so many years, his first aim through 2022 was to secure the building with new windows, which all replicate the original windows but are now double-glazed and six-star rated.

He has also added an alarm, security cameras and lights to ensure no more break-ins, with a caretaker living on site.

But by far the main focus has been on ornate plaster work restoration of ceiling cornices and roses.

Continued page 8

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7 day weather forecast

Thu/Jan5	Fri/Jan6	Sat/Jan7	Sun/Jan8	Mon/Jan9	Tue/Jan10	Wed/Jan11
						
PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNNY	SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY	PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNNY
15 23	14 24	15 27	15 27	16 27	16 19	16 22



Quick thinking locals helped avert a potential fire hazard, after spotting a bonfire on a beach in Cowes. The Phillip Island fire brigade was quickly on site to extinguish the bonfire.

Beach fire extinguished

Quick thinking locals helped avert a potential fire hazard, after spotting a bonfire on a beach in Cowes. The resident, who spotted the fire on their morning walk, said it had obviously been burning all night.

The local CFA confirmed it was called to a bonfire at around 7am on December 30.

"On arrival, crews found a one metre x one metre bonfire on the beach, unattended and smouldering," a brigade spokesperson said.

"Fortunately, the fire had not spread to nearby scrub."

The officer in charge of the job, Terry Quarrell, thanked local residents for their quick actions in calling Triple Zero (000).

The incident is a timely reminder that lighting a fire on the beach is illegal and should be reported immediately.

"Police will be called," the CFA spokesperson said.

Shark sightings continue

There were five separate shark sightings in December around Phillip Island.

Notifications on the Vic Emergency App between December 14 and 28 included sightings at San Remo, two at Surf Beach and two at Smiths Beach.

There were other sightings reported on the Community Noticeboard at Smiths Beach and YCW.

A spokesperson for the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) said sharks are a natural part of a healthy marine environment.

"With school holidays underway and recent warm weather, many families have been fishing, boating and enjoying our state's great beaches and coastline," they said.

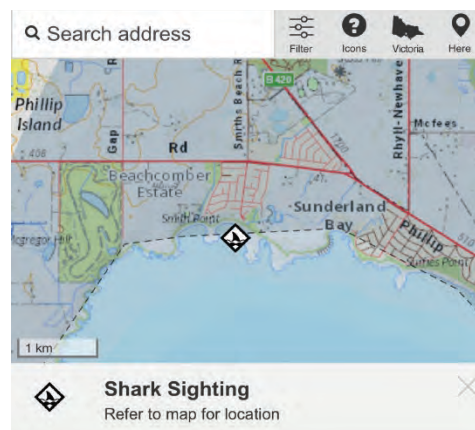
"With more people out and about, it's normal for this to lead to increased reports of shark sightings."

"Several unconfirmed sightings have been reported around Phillip Island recently as weather conditions lead to clearer than usual water at local beaches."

The spokesperson said when people go to the beach to swim, fish, dive or snorkel, they are entering the shark's nature environment.

"While the risk of a shark attack is extremely low, it's essential to be mindful of sharks when entering the water."

Shark attacks in Victoria are uncommon, and



Last month, there were five separate shark sightings around Phillip Island on the Vic Emergency App within two weeks.

there have been no fatalities in the state for over 30 years. All shark sightings of concern should be reported to the Police by calling Triple Zero (000) or notify lifesavers immediately if you are at a patrolled beach.

For more information on how you can stay shark smart this summer, head to vfa.vic.gov.au/sharksmart

Australia Day awards debated

Bass Coast councillors have debated the meaning of Australia Day during a successful vote to move community awards from January 26 to National Volunteer Week in May.

Shire officers said a Bass Coast Community Awards program in May will replace the Bass Coast Australia Day Awards currently held in January each year.

Officers said the move would create "inclusive local awards", with the format and award categories to be decided in early 2023.

"The current Bass Coast Australia Day Awards program acknowledges and recognises the valuable contribution of our local community members," officers explained.

"The timing and process for the awards has constrained participation, and their association with January 26 affected the perception of inclusivity."

"Scheduling the program closer to the middle of the year would allow the opportunity for greater focus, involvement and the inclusion of the whole community."

Cr Brett Tessari voted against the move, saying he had "nothing against national volunteers week" but the awards on Australia Day were a "cheerful" event.

Cr Bruce Kent also voted against the move, saying Australia Day was about celebrating pride in the community and nation.

Cr Rochelle Halstead said while she understood some would question moving the awards from Australia Day, she believed an event in May would better recognise community members.

Cr Clare Le Serve clarified Australia Day events such as citizenship barbecues would continue.

"We are not saying let's not celebrate Australia Day. That's not what the debate is about," Cr Le Serve said.

"This is about moving Bass Coast citizen awards to volunteer week in May."

"We have brilliant people in our community and this gives them an opportunity to celebrate them."

Cr Les Larke also voted against the move.

Officers said several metro and regional councils in Victoria had moved the date for their awards or are in the process of doing so.

The Bass Coast Community Awards will be held in autumn (May) and the Bass Coast Business Awards will be in spring (October).

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO
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Heavy holiday traffic

The Christmas break, New Year's Eve and warm summer weather saw plenty of visitors arriving on the island in the past fortnight. With temperatures in the mid to high 30s on December 27, it was no surprise there was a heavy stream of traffic heading for Phillip Island beaches.

Photos taken by the team at Phillip Island Helicopters show traffic backed up through San Remo, and beyond the Anderson turn off. Traffic on Friday and Saturday (December 30 and 31) was also heavy, as people arrived for New Year's Eve celebrations and a long weekend.

Bass Coast Shire Council Visitor Information Centre at Newhaven recorded 5800 visitors to the centre during December.

From December 23 through to January 2, a total of 2540 people visited the Newhaven Centre, a good indication of the big visitor numbers over that key holiday period.

Phillip Island Nature Parks reported big numbers for the nightly Penguin Parade.

With a capacity of 2500, the parade was sold out every night from December 23 to January 4, except for New Year's Eve.



The holidays begin in earnest. On December 27, the line of cars coming to the island stretched back past the Anderson turnoff. Photo: Phillip Island Helicopters.



Police and emergency services attended the Anderson Road boat ramp car park, after reports of a child left inside a car.

New Year's revellers get A+ report card

Police have praised the behaviour of most of the crowd at the New Year's Eve fireworks in Cowes.

Thousands of people were on the foreshore to celebrate the start of the New Year and enjoy the 9.30pm fireworks.

Acting Senior Sergeant Scott Morison said overall the crowd was very well behaved and there were no issues with the licensed venues in the area.

"The greatest issues occurred after the fireworks, with intoxicated teenagers that wanted to fight each other and not comply with instructions given by police," Acting Snr Sgt Morison said.

"Several arrests were made during the event – these related to assaults, drugs, refusing to move on from the vicinity of a licensed premises, assaulting police and underage drinking."

He said once again, illegal fireworks were an issue on the night, and it was difficult for police to narrow down the exact locations and find those responsible.

It is a crime in Victoria for anyone other than a licensed pyrotechnician to use or possess fireworks, but this didn't stop many backyard New Year's Eve fireworks displays.

TikTok

While police applauded the crowd, the behaviour of some officers is in the spotlight after a TikTok video showed an officer being wheeled in a shopping trolley near Cohiba bar in Cowes.

The video, which attracted over 1500 comments and 102,000 likes has garnered plenty of support from the community.

"This is brilliant", "It's been a rough 2022, this is the exact energy we all need going into 2023" and "this is wholesome and beautiful" are just some of the comments.

"Great stuff ... let them have some fun and bond with the community ... love it", posted another viewer.

"What great community relations," said one woman, while another praised the local Phillip Island police, saying they were "fantastic with the community".

"I'd much rather my teenage son feel safe and having a bond with the police than be scared that they'll be slamming him on the ground or locking him up."

However the Victoria Police Media Unit said it was unable to comment on the video, as it was a disciplinary matter.

Cars

The holiday period got off to a tragic start, with two fatalities on Phillip Island in 24 hours (see separate story).

"The two fatal collisions could have been avoided," said Snr Sgt Morison.

"Maintaining concentration when driving, being aware of your surroundings and driving to the conditions are most important."

In what could have been another tragic incident, on New Year's Eve morning, police and emergency services were called to the Anderson Road boat ramp car park, after passers-by noticed a child left inside a parked car.

Police confirmed that a child was locked in the car, which had heavily tinted windows and the air conditioning running.

Acting Snr Sgt Morison said the temperature inside the car was low and the child was fine. A check by ambulance officers showed there were no health concerns.

It is illegal in Victoria to leave a child unattended in a car and on days of high temperature, there is a risk of heatstroke and dehydration.

Christmas road tragedies

A motorcyclist was killed on Christmas Eve just outside Cowes, and a man died following a two-car collision in Ventnor on Christmas day.

The collision, between a van and car on Christmas day, occurred at the intersection of Ventnor and Red Rocks roads about 6.45pm.

Sadly, the male passenger from the car died at the scene.

A woman from the same vehicle was airlifted to a Melbourne hospital.

Two people from the van, believed aged in their 20s, appear to have escaped serious injury.

Major Collision Investigation Unit detectives were on scene investigating the circumstances surrounding the collision.

Ventnor Road was closed while detectives processed the scene, with traffic diverted from the area.

The accident came within 24 hours of a fatal motorcycle crash on Phillip Island on December 24.

Police believe the motorcycle was travelling along Phillip Island Road outside Cowes just after 9pm when it ran into a car.

Police performed CPR on the male rider until ambulance arrived but sadly, he died at the scene.

The exact cause of the crash is yet to be determined.

Anyone who witnessed either collision, has dashcam footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

Safety concerns have been raised about the intersection of Ventnor and Red Rocks road, after a second accident on January 2. There were no serious injuries.

Many local residents have called for increased signage and lighting at the area, with others suggesting a 60km/h speed limit or a roundabout, saying the intersection was notorious for "near misses".

"That particular spot has a serious blind spot," posted one on the community noticeboard.

"As locals we are aware and we double and triple check before pulling out, but our visitors aren't aware and that's when disaster strikes."

One other said they narrowly avoided a collision just days before.

"I almost got wiped out there two days ago," they said.

"Travelling towards Cowes with my son and a car pulled right out in front of me to head towards the penguins. Had to slam on the brakes and just missed them."

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Crime down for Bass Coast

Bass Coast has recorded a drop in crime according to the latest report released by the Crime Statistics Agency.

There was also a significant drop in family violence incidents.

The report shows the 12 months to the end of September saw a drop of 0.6 per cent in criminal incidents on the previous year.

Breaches of family violence orders were down, as were common assaults, and criminal incidents in home.

There was a rise in criminal damage, incidents in retail, non-aggravated burglary and theft (other).

Wonthaggi remained the top area for crime, recording 631 incidents for the year ending September 2022 (up from 541 last year), followed by Cowes with 397 (eight more than the previous year).

Family violence incidents dropped by 6.1 per cent, with 875 recorded. However the rate is still well above the Victorian average.

The number of recorded offences dropped by 4.3 per cent, however alleged offender incidents were up by 1.9 per cent. The main offences were assault and breaches of orders, with men accounting for more than 70 per cent of offenders.

State-wide

State-wide there was a 4.3 per cent decrease in recorded criminal offences, the lowest number since 2014.

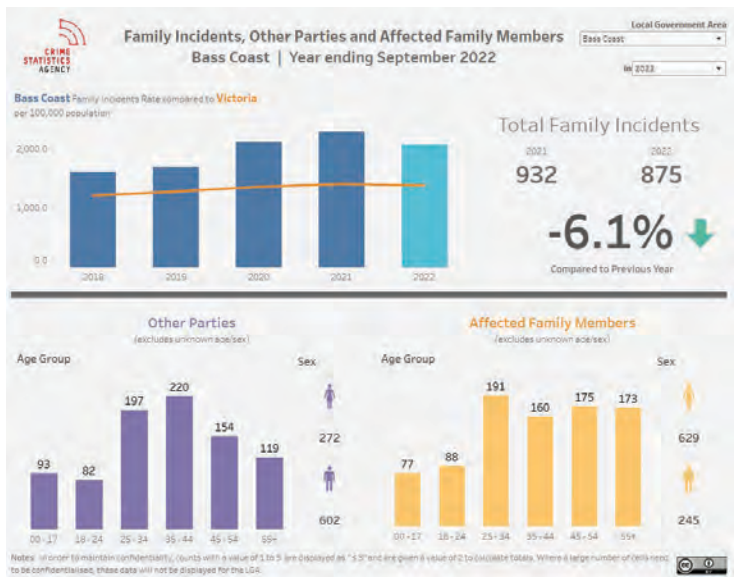
Police said the offence rate was the lowest since 2011, with a decrease across 19 of the 28 crime subcategories reported on by the Crime Statistics Agency.

Robberies are at their lowest point since 2005.

Police also said there was a youth cohort targeting unlocked homes seeking to steal motor vehicles.



The latest crime statistics report shows the 12 months to the end of September saw a drop of 0.6 per cent on the previous year.



Although there was a 6.1 per cent drop in family violence incidents, Bass Coast is still trending well above the state average.

"These offenders are overwhelmingly not seeking confrontation or forcefully breaking into homes, with their preference to target unlocked homes and get in and out of the property without being seen," the police media statement said.

They urged everyone to secure their properties and vehicles at all times, particularly during the summer period when many people will be holidaying or out enjoying the festive season.

The majority of the nine crime subcategories that increased only experienced negligible rises, said the police, ensuring the overall crime rate remained well down.

"It's again really pleasing to see total crime in Victoria well down on previous years," said Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations Rick Nugent.

"While we anticipate overall crime will increase gradually as we move further away from the pandemic, Victoria Police will be doing everything we can to keep crime as low as possible.

"Proactive policing will continue to be a pivotal component in Victoria Police's approach to reducing crime and holding offenders accountable in 2023 and beyond.

"In the past 12 months we've also seen a reduction in the number of family violence in-

cidents, offences and breaches of family violence orders, which is really positive.

"Ensuring members of the community feel safe in their homes is critical for Victoria Police, and working alongside our partners, we will continue to have a strong focus on reducing the harm caused by family violence.

"Over the summer months when the community is celebrating with family and friends, they can be assured that Victoria Police will be working hard so that they can do that safely.

"Our officers will be out and about on the roads, at our beaches, around bars and clubs and at public events to ensure that everyone is able to enjoy the festive season and the new year."

Rubbish behaviour

An early morning cyclist spotted rubbish dumped in Oswin Roberts reserve last week, right next to a "no rubbish dumping" sign.

The incident is now being investigated.

"Phillip Island Nature Parks was notified on December 30 about illegally dumped rubbish at Oswin Roberts Reserve," said Ben Thomas, Ranger in Charge at Phillip Island Nature Parks.

"Nature Parks rangers promptly attended the scene and removed the rubbish. The matter will be investigated further with Bass Coast Shire Council and Environment Protection Authority Victoria.

"We urge people to please dispose of rubbish responsibly to help keep our wildlife and habitat safe. Rubbish can cause injury and death to marine and terrestrial wildlife."

A spokesperson for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) said illegal rubbish dumping was an on-going issue across Victoria, which was costly to the community and harms wildlife and the environment.

They said dumped rubbish causes environmental problems such as pollution of land and groundwater, it can produce odour and dust as well as possibly affecting wildlife, encouraging vermin and the spread of weeds.

Under the Environment Protection Act 2017 it is illegal to dump rubbish on public land and carries a maximum penalty of up to \$11,095 if the waste is deemed dangerous.



On December 30, at Oswin Roberts Reserve, cyclists spotted this rubbish dumped right next to the no rubbish sign.

Anyone with information about illegal dumping on public land is asked to call DELWP on 136 186.

It can also be reported to EPA Victoria on 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC) or Bass Coast Shire Council on 1300 BCOAST (227 278) or 5671 2211, or online at basscoast.vic.gov.au/dumpedrubbish.



The Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers at the Cowes Transit Centre are temporarily closed, due to an electrical fault.

Hey charger – EV chargers in Cowes out of order

The Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers at the Cowes Transit Centre are temporarily closed, due to an electrical fault.

Bass Coast Shire Council announced on December 23 that the chargers have been impacted by an electrical supply issue and are currently out of order.

Council said it was working with the appropriate authorities to find a permanent solution, to be implemented in early 2023.

It advised that alternative EV Charging Stations can be found on PlugShare.com, an interactive map which allows customers to zoom in and explore their location, in Australia or anywhere in the world: PlugShare.com/map/australia.

To keep up to date with the latest developments on the Cowes Transit Centre electrical works go to: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/transit

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Boaties doubtful on final Anderson Road boat ramp designs

Boaties have given their feedback on the final designs for the \$2.8 million upgrade of the Anderson Road boat ramp and jetty, with some saying it will be wasted money and won't solve sand build up.

The designs were released quietly by the state government at the end of last year on their website (see separate article) and according to Better Boating Victoria (BBV) there will be no further public consultation on the revisions, with construction set to be between May to August 2023, and the ramp closed during construction.

The Advertiser contacted boat users who have previously given feedback in the process.

Many were critical they only found out about the updated designs through the Advertiser or by word of mouth.

Bass Coast Shire Cr Ronnie Bauer said he is the councillor responsible for liaising between the shire and the community on the Anderson Road boat ramp, yet "the first I knew about it was in the Advertiser".

Owner of the Boat Ramp Café Caroline Collis – whose husband Darren is responsible for clearing the sand off the ramp – said she was doubtful the new design would solve the sand issue.

"Darren has moved every grain of sand on that beach and these new designs may or may not solve the sand problem. No one will know until they do it," Caroline said.

"You're playing with Mother Nature and the tides, wind and sand movement are powerful."

Others the Advertiser spoke to agreed, saying even if the grade and height of the ramp changed, sand underwater would still be a problem.

Concerns

Ian Samuel, a boat user and past commodore and life member of the



Ian Samuel, a boat user and past commodore and life member of the Cowes Yacht Club, was a key critic of the previous 2011 Anderson boat ramp upgrade, and attended the 2021 meeting, giving feedback on those designs. Ian says the final designs for the jetty create a submerged hazard.

Cowes Yacht Club, was a key critic of the previous 2011 Anderson boat ramp upgrade.

Last week he said he was "disappointed" BBV were not seeking further consultation, given the "changes were dramatic".

"There should have been a release and further review by the public," Ian



Cr Ronnie Bauer – who gave feedback on initial ramp designs at a 2021 meeting – said he is the councillor responsible for liaising between Bass Coast Shire and the community on the Anderson Road boat ramp, yet "the first I knew about it was in the Advertiser".

said.

"I have no way of raising objections, such as the dangers the new designs pose. There is no further forum to comment."

Ian said the revised designs were a "reasonable result for a minimum amount of work".

"I think it will help the sand build

up with the raised height and angle of the ramp, so the gradient is better," Ian said.

However he was disappointed there was no wave attenuation barrier to protect the ramp and jetty.

"Not a groyne but a slotted barrier that breaks up the wave patterns and surge."

"The main problem is in heavy wind, waves and tide it's a hazard to retrieve and launch boats and a barrier would stop this."

Ian said he was also seriously concerned the 30-metre extension to the jetty will be a "maritime hazard".

He said even with the extra height and length the jetty will continue to be underwater at high tide, posing a danger to water users and jetty walkers at night.

"It will be invisible to boaters most of the time, at certain tides, so they're creating a submerged hazard, which is ridiculous."

"They need to put a giant cross at the very end of the jetty that sits above the water, and solar-powered poles along the length of the jetty."

"A floating jetty like at Rhyll – behind a wave attenuation barrier – would have been better and visible all the time."

He acknowledged the extra length to the jetty would ensure more boats could tie up to it in certain tides.

White elephant?

Boatie Jason Ilton was also critical of BBV's "secretive" approach, saying even from the release of the first designs he had provided feedback but received no response.

Jason said the revised designs would not help many of the ramp's problems.

"They're better off keeping their money in their pocket," he said.

"The changes to the ramp may help a little but there will still be

sand movement.

"Ideally the ramp would be higher and steeper but the way the beach is designed you can't do that."

He suggested the money would be better spent providing a dozer that can operate underwater, or dredging.

"There's so much sand movement and tidal flow in that area, it's hard to conquer. The beach itself is so flat the sand tends to sit there."

"They have managed to fix the problems at Rhyll but Cowes is a different story."

Like many others, Jason said a breakwall could fix many problems "but even then – like in Mornington – they have to rebuild it every two years because it gets smashed by the weather".

Jason said the 30-metre extension to the jetty would allow about six boats to tie up but agreed that it would be useable half the time, with the other half "questionable".

"They're putting it right out where the squid are, so there will be a lot of people fishing off it, which is fine as long as they follow the rules."

"The rules of the water are that boats have right of way and so when boats pull up, fishers need to bring in their lines."

Safety

George Kratsas agreed, saying safety around the ramp was a key issue now and with the new designs.

"A lot of people, especially kids, swim around that area and walk in front of reversing boats, so there needs to be more safety warnings to beach users around the ramp," George said.

"I'm surprised there has never been an incident already."

He agreed the extended jetty would require safety warnings once submerged.

Final boat ramp designs: what do they include?

The final Anderson Road boat ramp and jetty designs will raise the height of the ramp to just above the existing beach height, while the ramp width will be retained.

The upgrades will also raise the height of the lower landings on the adjacent jetty and extend it out by 30 metres "to provide more on water berthing across a greater tidal range".

According to Better Boating Victoria (BBV) the revised design "will reduce the impact of sand".

"As the new ramp will sit higher it will require significantly less maintenance," BBV said.

The current Cowes boat ramp includes a single-lane ramp, which is impacted by sand accumulation due to the shallow grade of the beach, making launching and retrieving vessels difficult – and requiring a dozer to constantly clear sand. In

2011 the ramp was given a \$548,385 upgrade to try and solve the problem, but largely failed.

The adjacent jetty – built in 2015 at a cost of \$577,000 – is too low and largely unusable at higher tides.

In 2021, unbudgeted plans to upgrade the ramp were unveiled at a community meeting, where many local boaties criticised aspects of the plans, including a proposal for timber groynes, the realignment of the turning circle, raising the height of the ramp well above the beach, and dredging at the toe of the ramp.

BBV said the revisions were needed to that original plan.

"The previous design relied on timber groynes and dredging to manage the accumulation of sand on the ramp. Advice from coastal engineers is that the volume of sand moving along the beach would make regular dredging unfeasible and ultimately

lead to ongoing issues with sand accumulation again," BBV said.

BBV conceded even with the revisions the boat ramp will never be an all-tide facility, with Rhyll's new ramp best used in all tides, or Newhaven.

"The seabed directly out from the ramp is very flat for about 100 metres, and all-tide access will be very difficult to achieve."

"Advice from the design engineers suggest that the ramp will be best suited to the top 60 per cent of the tidal ranges. Some smaller boats and PWCs will still be able to use it at lower tides."

"Given the shallow grade of the ramp it is best suited to smaller, lighter boats. Larger boats can launch here during higher tides, but they are better suited to other ramps."

Details: betterboating.vic.gov.au/ramp-upgrades/cowes-boat-ramp/



The final Anderson Road boat ramp designs, released quietly by the state government at the end of last year, will still be a problem for both ramp and the neighbouring jetty, say boaties.



Surrounding residents criticised the \$676,000 plans to upgrade the eastern car park, which finished construction in October.

Parking squeeze at Anderson

The new eastern carpark at the Anderson boat ramp should be made into a dual-purpose park for both trailers and single cars.

That's according to the owners of the Boat Ramp Café Caroline and Darren Collis, who say they have been lobbying Bass Coast Shire since the new carpark was built last year.

The couple have run the café for 15 years and Caroline said in that time she has carried out her own surveys of the carpark to see when it fills.

"Nine days per year – maximum – it will be full and overflowing into the streets," she said.

"So the new car park is totally unnecessary, including the removal of the three trees."

She said they have the lease of the café, yet there is nowhere for customers to park.

"If beach users get to the carpark by 6am then too bad. We shouldn't try to stop people from parking."

"Why should boaties have everything? There's still plenty of trailer

parking in the west carpark and 90 per cent of the year that's not full."

As detailed previously in the Advertiser, surrounding residents criticised the \$676,000 plans to upgrade the eastern car park, which finished construction in October.

Mr Craig Brown said he was one of the owners most impacted, with the proposed car park just 12 metres from his front fence, much closer than the old park that was 15m-30m from his home.

In addition, he said the new eastern car park and turning bay was raised 700mm.

"With the new car park set to be higher and closer we will have cars turning facing into our property, including our dining room and balcony," he said.

Cr Ronnie Bauer unsuccessfully moved a motion at a council meeting earlier in the year, calling for the redevelopment to be stopped and plans be redesigned to stop the lopping of three gum trees.



Rangers from DELWP on the beach at Cape Woolamai on Boxing Day, checking that people were adhering to the dog regulations.

Opinion divided over dogs on beaches

Despite summer restrictions in place at most beaches across Phillip Island, there were plenty of dogs out enjoying the sunshine over the holiday break.

Prior to Christmas, there was a noticeable ranger presence on beaches in San Remo, Cape Woolamai and Cowes, with patrols from Phillip Island Nature Parks and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Dog off leash areas in Ventnor, Cape Woolamai and Cowes West have different seasonal restrictions, but generally from December 1 to April 30, dogs are not permitted on the beach between 8pm and 7am, and 10am to 5pm at Cape Woolamai, all northern beaches from Ventnor to the eastern most part of Silverleaves and Rhyll Beach. Dogs are not permitted at any time on Cowes Main Beach or Cape Woolamai surf beach.

Last week social media was a-buzz with complaints of dogs off the leash at the Colonnades beach throughout the day, while others mentioned issues at Forrest Caves, Ventnor, and Cowes.

“Where are the rangers Tuesday at front beach, must have been 10 dogs off leash at midday in the heat,” posted one resident.

“Always see people there not obeying the signs. Gives all dog owners a bad wrap,” said another.

However, according to Ben Thomas, Ranger in Charge at Phillip Island Nature Parks, his team have been impressed with the level of compliance on beaches this season.

“Phillip Island Nature Parks has several rangers on patrol daily at beaches and reserves from December 22 to end of January,” Ben said.

“Patrols start as early as 6.30am and may finish as late as 9pm depending on weather and reports of infringements, which help target compliance and enforcement work.”

To date this summer, Nature Parks’ Authorised Officers have issued 23 warnings and two infringement notices for dog-related offences, either off lead and/or in



Rangers (far left) approach dog walkers on the Colonnades on Boxing Day morning, around 9.30am, reminding them that dogs needed to be on-leash and were not allowed on the beach after 10am.

a prohibited area. The infringeable amount for these offences is \$185.

Complaints

One resident said it was impossible to report infringements to the dog regulations, after spotting a woman with two dogs off lead at Observation Point in the early evening on December 30, where no dogs are allowed at any time.

After explaining to the visitor the dogs were not allowed on the beach, the woman replied the dogs were doing no harm and continued to walk further east, with three pairs of hooded plovers and juveniles forced to leave.

The resident tried phoning the Nature Parks but got a recorded message.

A call to the Council’s after-hours service was equally unsuccessful, with the resident told they could not file a report.

“What is the public meant to do when they see a breach that’s not in working hours,” they asked.

The Nature Parks advised infringements could be reported by emailing info@penguins.org.au

The council did not respond by deadline to the question of how the

public can report bylaws breaches after hours.

Information on where to walk your dog is available at: www.penguins.org.au/about/local-community/news/walkingyourdog/

Another resident took to social media to complain about the overflowing bin at Ventnor dog beach, with full poo bags left on top and beside the bin as well as under rocks on the beach, saying council should “probably supply more bins this time of year, or empty them daily”.

For others, the issue was owners not cleaning up after their dogs, with one complaining that people let their dogs poo and wee all over Thompson Avenue.

The local Facebook pages were also filled with posts about lost dogs, or dogs that had run away during the New Year’s Eve fireworks. Most dogs were reunited with their owners within 24 hours.

Unfortunately the owners of Heidi, a Rottweiler that went missing from Cowes around 8pm on New Year’s Eve, are still searching for their dog.

Anyone with information on Heidi, please contact Matthew on 0410 038 709.

Rate cap rise

The annual rates notice is always a source of angst for property owners, and this year, it looks likely to have an extra sting.

Since 2016, a state government mandated rate cap has kept rate rises below three per cent – last year’s Bass Coast rate rise was 1.75 per cent – but that is all set to change.

On December 29, the government announced a new rate cap of 3.5 per cent for all councils for the 2023/24 financial year, saying it would protect Victorians from uncontrolled rate hikes while ensuring local governments remain financially sustainable.

The decision on the rate cap for the next financial year was guided by independent advice from the Essential Services Commission (ESC) recommending a cap of four per cent – in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The government said it set the rate cap 0.5 per cent below the ESC’s recommendation, taking into account cost of living pressures facing rate payers.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan welcomed the announcement.

“Whilst the Essential Services Commission (ESC) recommended a four per cent increase, Council welcomes the decision by the Victorian Government to set the rate cap of 3.5 per cent,” Cr Whelan said.

“There has been no significant increase in recent years, and the cost of providing much needed community services continues to grow in excess of this figure.”

Linda Marston from Island Voice said the decision to increase the rate cap was concerning.

“The Essential Services Commission has set the rate cap at 3.5 per cent,” said Linda.

“In Island Voice’s opinion, this is unacceptably high and will cause many households financial distress.

“CPI for the last year was over seven per cent and average wage growth was 3.1 per cent, ie, most people went backwards financially and this year does not look much better.

“It becomes even more difficult to balance the family budget when you add rate bills above CPI to the mix,” Linda continued.

“For those on fixed incomes, the impact will be even worse. Food bank usage and homelessness increased significantly last year; this level of rate increase can only exacerbate this situation.”

Linda said rates had already been determined for 2023 and were due by February.

“As they are based on property values that are currently dropping, this may compound financial stress for many who purchased during the Bass Coast property boom,” she explained.

“If you feel that your property has not been fairly valued at rating time, it is possible to challenge the valuation.

“According to the Bass Coast Shire website ratepayers/landowners are encouraged to lodge objections electronically via the online Rating Valuation Objections Portal at ratingvaluationobjections.vic.gov.au/.”

Even though rates have been capped, Linda pointed out councils can levy other charges to increase their revenue, such as waste charges.

For instance, in 2020, Bass Coast’s garbage charge increased by 11 per cent, but this dropped to 0.9 per cent in 2021, with the budgets for 2022, 23 and 24 delivering a three per cent increase in the garbage charge each year.

“These charges have increased at a greater level than the rate cap,” Linda said.

“Mapping total rates bills against CPI, since rate capping was introduced, confirms that increases in

Financial year	Rate cap
2022-23	1.75%
2021-22	1.50%
2020-21	2.00%
2019-20	2.50%
2018-19	2.25%
2017-18	2.00%
2016-17	2.50%

The state government has announced a new rate cap of 3.5 per cent for the 2023/24 financial year. Since rate capping was introduced in 2015, the rate cap has been between 1.50 and 2.50 per cent.

rates and charges have outpaced CPI consistently and significantly.

“Rate capping has not achieved its stated purpose of protecting ratepayers from large increases in payments to councils.

“The only way Island Voice can see rates (inclusive of charges) reducing, is by capping council employee salaries to CPI, or less, reviewing management salaries and determining what percentage of the budget can be spent on wages/salaries vs capital expenditure, asset management (keeping roads, parks, buildings in good repair etc).

“Unfortunately, without a complete overhaul of the Local Government Act, this is as likely to happen as finding fairies in our gardens!”

Cap

The cap is part of the Fair Go Rates system introduced in 2016 to ease cost of living pressures on Victorians and encourage sound financial management by local governments.

Since the start of the system, the rate cap has been between 1.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent, while in the decade before the system was introduced, council rates increased by an average of six per cent every year.

“The rate cap for the next financial year takes into account higher inflation and the need to protect Victorians from uncontrolled rate hikes, while ensuring councils can continue to deliver vital community services,” said Minister for Local Government Melissa Horne.

“Each council is responsible for setting rates within the rate cap based on the needs of their community.”

The rate cap limits the amount a council can increase its total revenue from general rates and municipal charges for that year.

Last year, rates were capped at 1.75 per cent.

However some Bass Coast residents reported their rates rose by as much as 38 per cent due to a steep rise in property values in the past two years.

A group of residents from Silverleaves, one whose property valuation rose by 150 per cent, successfully challenged the valuation.

Donald Cox, 85, has owned his modest foreshore cottage for 30 years and said he was “thunderstruck” when he received his rates notice in September, which had risen from \$3000 in 2021 to \$4600 in 2022, with the Capital Improved Value (CIV) increasing from \$920,000 to \$2 million.

He lodged an objection with the help of a neighbour, who also contested the valuation on their property.

In November, a representative from the Victorian Valuer-General notified him his home’s CIV had been revised down to \$1.2 million.

Alert to all drivers: sensor parking now active

Controversial sensor parking is now live across Cowes. The \$377,000 sensor project has seen 506 underground sensors – difficult to spot at a quick glance – installed: 375 in on-street bays on Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street and The Esplanade; and 123 off-street bays at the Cowes Transit Centre; as well as 262 in Wonthaggi.

The “Bass Coast Parking” guidance mobile app – which will help drivers find an available bay – is also now active and available to download for free from Google Play store for Android and Apple Store for IOS.

Electronic signs – on Thompson Avenue on Church and Chapel streets – have been installed to alert drivers to the direction of and distance to available car parking.

A Bass Coast Shire spokesperson said while the sign to the transit centre carpark was active in December, the two signs on Thompson Avenue were “ready to be turned on and are waiting for the electricity company”, with an estimated start time in January.

CEO Ali Wastie has argued the sensors would “notify parking inspectors when a car has overstayed its time limit”, meaning more fines will be issued, but “the sensors are not paid parking”.

“Smart parking” will not have an impact on the current number of parking bays and there won’t be any changes to parking limits/restrictions, the shire states. Mayor Michael Whelan said the “smart-parking” technology would make it easier to find a park.

“Our population across Bass Coast has grown 25 per cent from 2016 to 2021 and we are one of Australia’s premier tourism destinations,” Cr Whelan said.

“Initiatives that help minimise traffic congestion and enable drivers to find a park quicker, mean that they can spend more time in our fabulous local businesses.

“It’s a better way to manage free parking. The introduction of smart parking will support the existing parking in Wonthaggi and Cowes and it is important to note that there have been no changes to parking restric-

tion, no reduction in car parking spaces and that parking remains free for all users.”

The sensors will provide council with visibility around space occupancy including duration of stay, usage trends, peak usage, as well as reporting and data insights to use for future planning decisions.

The sensors have come under heavy criticism by the community because they were introduced with no consultation, with many arguing they were not needed outside peak tourist season and would push parking into residential areas.

The shire has emphatically ruled out paid parking in Cowes, despite councillors in December approving a plan that recommends it.

Paid parking is detailed in fine print of the final Cowes streetscape masterplan, but it was not in the earlier draft plan that received community feedback in September. Details: basscoast.vic.gov.au/smart-parking

Parking fine question

On the Phillip Island Community Noticeboard Facebook page, in late December a resident wrote a post asking whether anyone had received a parking fine from Bass Coast Shire Council in the mail, “as opposed to the car’s windscreen at the time of the alleged offence”?

“Today, I received just that. Is council obliged to provide photographic proof of some sort?” they wrote.

“It seems really odd. It dates back to approximately three weeks ago on Thompson Avenue outside PET-stock. By the way it’s \$185.”

There were dozens of comments in response from the

public, with some suggested it was related to the new sensors.

A shire spokesperson clarified the installation of the sensors had not changed the way the shire issued parking infringements.

“Officers will continue to markup timed parking areas and affix infringements to windscreens when issued,” the spokesperson said.

“Offences in other parking areas, such as No Stopping, Disabled and Loading Zones will also be patrolled in the usual way, with infringements affixed to windscreens where possible, but sometimes also posted if more practicable.”

They said penalty amounts for parking infringements depended on the offence committed, and were set by state legislation.

“Photographs are also always taken as evidence of the offence, regardless of whether the infringement is affixed or posted. Council will post photographs with infringements if requested.”



The “Bass Coast Parking” guidance mobile app – which will help drivers find an available bay – is also now active and available to download for free.



Urgent Care Centre Nurse Unit Manager Linda Goltz and her team are ready for the summer holiday influx at the Phillip Island Health Hub in Cowes.

Summer emergencies covered by Bass Coast Health

Locals and visitors to the Bass Coast region can rest assured the team at Bass Coast Health (BCH) is ready to attend to their urgent medical needs this summer.

BCH has facilities at Cowes and Wonthaggi that are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, that cater for unforeseen medical matters.

The Urgent Care Centre team at the Phillip Island Health Hub treats minor injuries and illnesses. The Health Hub is at 50-54 Church Street in Cowes.

The Emergency Department is now within the new Wonthaggi Hospital at 235 Graham Street. Please enter via the emergency entrance and present to the emergency reception.

In the event of an emergency, always call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance.

From January 3, the acute ward (medical/surgical) at Wonthaggi Hospital will operate

from Level 3 of the new hospital, relocating from the existing hospital.

This ward will be known as Kodowlinun ward, pronounced Ko-dow-lin-un, in recognition of our Indigenous community and heritage.

The name means “I am a better” and was selected by elders of the Bunurong Land Council and gifted to BCH for this purpose.

Everyone needing to access acute ward, pathology, maternity and theatre at Wonthaggi Hospital should do so via the main reception.

For allied health and outpatient appointments, please present to allied health reception.

Sub-acute (rehabilitation and palliative care) services are now in Armitage House at Wonthaggi Hospital and can be accessed via Baillieu Street West, Wonthaggi.

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50-54 Church Street, Cowes — Ph: 5951 2101
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Tourism figures on the rise

Our visitors are spending more and staying longer.

Destination Phillip Island (DPI) said results from its visitor surveys for the year ending September 2022 indicate a strong recovery in the visitor economy, with domestic visitors staying longer than before the pandemic.

While overall domestic visitor numbers were still down, the number of nights they spent in the region was above pre-pandemic levels.

DPI said the survey showed 2.1 million domestic visitors came to Phillip Island – a 17 per cent increase on the previous year.

However the number is still 12 per cent below the pre-Covid visitor numbers recorded in 2019.

Daytripper numbers were also up, with 1.1 million recorded for the year, an increase of six per cent. Despite the increase, the numbers

were still 15 per cent below the pre-pandemic daytrip visitor numbers (1.3 million).

Domestic visitors were also staying overnight more often, with numbers up by 32 per cent to one million. This is eight per cent lower than the pre-pandemic numbers recorded in the year ending September 2019.

All up, visitors spent 3.2 million nights on Phillip Island, with an average stay of 3.2 nights in the region. This was up 24 per cent from last year, and a 15 per cent increase from pre-pandemic levels.

The visitors were also spending in local business, with tourism expenditure in Phillip Island up, despite lower numbers.

Total expenditure for the region was \$445 million, a 40 per cent increase year on year, and a 27 per cent increase from the previous year.

Domestic day tripper’s spending on the island has bounced back, increasing by 76 per cent to \$138 million in the year ending September 2022.

DPI said daytrip spend in Phillip Island has fully recovered and surpassed the year ending September 2019 results (+four per cent or +\$5 million). This equates to \$123 per domestic day trip visitor.

The domestic overnight spend is also increasing each year, equalling \$515 spent per overnight visitor, and \$161 per visitor night, exceeding the results from 2019.

For the purposes of this research, the Phillip Island region is defined as French Island, Phillip Island and Bass Coast (Wonthaggi to Inverloch). No data was collected for international visitation for the region.



As allowed under the 2010 permit, the recreation hall in the top north-east corner will be demolished for 14 townhouses.

Newhaven old boys' home \$50 million development

From page 1

It has taken four months to restore just four rooms "back to and beyond their original 1928 glory".

Brian has personally tracked down archived photos to match art deco features, using his industry contacts as well as online sleuthing to source 40 ceiling roses and 260 decorative cornices from heritage homes stretching from Mt Macedon to Toorak.

"You can't stick plaster on to graffiti on brick so we've had plasterers scraping it off before they can even apply a skin coat over the top.

"Then we've added the detailed plaster work. It has taken months and months of detailed work.

"Even the plasterer told me no other client would do what I'm doing."

He purchased 21 chandeliers from Crown Casino, which will feature in the hotel entry, as well as leadlight windows from a former Governor-General's house.

Brian said Omni Property currently has about 50 building jobs from commercial and industrial to supermarkets.

"But never one like this."

It's because of his industry contacts he's able to source bulk fittings and use his own machinery, but even then he admitted it will be a slow return on his investment.

The father of three and grandfather of two, who is a boxing promoter and well known in Melbourne's development circles, said Tourism Victoria had given the project a \$500,000 grant for a feasibility study to restore the building.

Next

Over summer the surrounding landscape will be cleared of rubbish, but Brian said no trees would be removed.

"I don't want the trees out. The townhouses will look through them to the water."

He said he hoped the revised plans would be approved by mid-2023 and once approved he would get teams of workers in to fast track the project, hoping for it to be complete in two years.

"This building is the most historic on the island and probably the district and it deserves to be what it was, but 100 times better.

"I could have made quick money, chopped it up and sold it. But I'm not doing that, I'm building a legacy building the whole island can be proud of."

Brian welcomed locals to drop by and said he and workers on site regularly gave people a tour.

"They tell us you guys have done an amazing job restoring it."

Jason Pearson, who lives on site and runs TFM Carpentry agrees.

"Locals walk their dogs and come in and tell me finally someone is spending money and investing in the project," Jason said.

"We are not hiding anything."

Permit

According to shire CEO Ali Wastie, the permit will expire if the development is not started before October 14 this year and completed by October 14, 2025.

"The subdivision needs to be certi-



Brian Amatruda, who owns Omni Property Group and is developing the old boys' home in Newhaven.

fied by October 14, 2023 and registered with the Titles Office five years from certification," said Ms Wastie.

She said the landowner could act on the current permit or apply for a new permit at any time.

In addition to the old boys' home, Brian has also purchased the Ellis Arcade in Cowes.

"It was bought because of its prime location, so at this stage the plan is to just park it for future development or even leave it as it is with a refurbishment," he said.

He added Phillip Island did not have enough infrastructure and he was contemplating turning the arcade into high end dining.

Omni Property Group also owns the Hollywood Hotel on Church Street, which has a permit for an expanded 40-rooms.



It has taken four months to restore just four rooms "back to and beyond their original glory". Brian Amatruda has sourced 40 ceiling roses and 260 decorative cornices from heritage homes stretching from Mt Macedon to Toorak.

Water forecast buoyant

Water restrictions are not expected for the next year, according to Westernport Water.

However, there will be above average temperatures during summer.

The authority has released its Annual Water Outlook, which considers available climate data and current storage levels for December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023.

It concludes that while water supply will be sufficient to meet demand for the year ahead, permanent water saving rules still applied.

The water authority states Bureau of Meteorology data shows there will be a wetter than average conditions, with a 65-75 per

cent chance of exceeding above average rainfall this summer, due to the continuing La Nina weather pattern.

Daytime temperatures to February are likely to be above the long-term average, while night-time temperatures "are very likely to be above the long-term average across almost all of Australia".

The Annual Water Outlook shows total water use by customers is jumping each year.

In 2021-22 total water consumption was 2376 million litres (ML) for 22,064 customers.

The previous year there were 21,916 customers with a total water consumption 2305 ML, while

in 2018 there were 20,150 customers with a total water consumption 2002 ML.

Westernport Water's supply sources include Tennent Creek and the Bass River, groundwater from the Corinella Aquifer and the Melbourne Supply System.

"Candowie Reservoir storage levels are expected to remain within the normal operating mode for the next year, with no restrictions forecast," it states.

A total of 304 ML of recycled water was used by Westernport Water and the community in 2021-22, including five per cent community use and 95 per cent irrigation on Westernport Water land.



Candowie Reservoir storage levels are expected to remain within the normal operating mode with no restrictions forecast for the next year, according to the Westernport Water Annual Water Outlook document.

Neighbours will oppose planned new housing subdivision

Cowes west residents are planning to fight a proposed new housing subdivision on Church Street, arguing block sizes are too small and plans misleading.

A planning permit for 273-297 Church Street, opposite Anchor Belle Holiday Park and currently out for community feedback, is for a 59-lot subdivision and removal of vegetation on 3.6 hectares, which is zoned residential.

This new plan is near the recently-approved development for 256 lots at 299-325 Church Street, which will be a retirement village.

Residents in the neighbouring Anthony Court say they will fight the proposal, saying while their estate had 120 homes on 12 hectares, the Church Street proposal was squeezing in as many properties as possible, with the majority of blocks less than 400sqm and some under 200sqm and less than nine metres wide.

Mark Bracks said his single property would share a boundary with three blocks.

“No doubt the island needs more houses but at what cost?” Mark asked.

“These new subdivisions have the makings to turn the place into a suburb that you would find in Melbourne. Not on an idyllic place as the island.”

He argued the “crowded” estate would provide more rates for Bass Coast Shire.

“The shire is more interested in rates than the good of the community. The worst thing that happened to this community was being absorbed into Bass Coast Council. Now the island is just a cash cow.

“While it seems to be full steam ahead for new estates, there is no consideration whatsoever for existing residents.”

Raffaele Barberio agreed, adding block sizes differed in different developer plans.

“Clarification should be sought to confirm the actual sizes of these blocks from the developers,” Raffaele said.

He said it was a “congested housing estate”, with no open space for families and roads too narrow for emergency vehicles to gain access.

“The construction of any buildings on the proposed southern boundary would have an overshadowing effect of the existing properties in Anthony Court,” Raffaele said.

“We are prepared to seek assistance

from VCAT if necessary but of course we would prefer to resolve the matter amicably with the developers.”

Raffaele wrote to councillors saying they needed to protect community standards, and the rights of current property owners.

Rushed?

Neighbouring residents said they were also concerned that according to letters received, they only had a fortnight until January 4 to lodge submissions, arguing the development was “being rushed through in the Christmas break”.

However, a shire spokesperson explained it was a requirement of the Planning Act for letters to state 14 days (from when notices were sent before council are able to make a decision).

“All objections received, even those provided after the date on the notice are always considered by council right up until a decision is made,” the spokesperson said.

“Objections are also forwarded to the applicant who may choose to amend the application to address concerns.

“Requests to allow community members more time to prepare a submission before a decision is made are also generally accommodated by our team.”

Traffic, trees

According to a vegetation report, 0.002ha of vegetation will be removed, with a permit required to remove 56 trees.

A traffic survey by the developer was carried out on Wednesday March 23, 2022 at the intersections of Church Street with Norman Drive and Anderson Road.

As such the survey does not take into account traffic from the recently-approved development for 256 lots at 299-325 Church Street.

The morning peak at the intersection at Church Street and Anderson Road saw 240 vehicles and the afternoon peak 242 vehicles.

Traffic consultants said there would be an average rate of 10 car movements per day per lot for the 59 lots, or a daily traffic generation of 590 vehicle movements.

“In conclusion, the existing intersections of Justice Road with Church Street and Settlement Road are expected to operate adequately post-development of 273-297 Church Street.”

They found the intersection at

Church Street and Anderson Road will continue to operate at a “satisfactory level of service”.

“The proposed subdivision is considered appropriate from a traffic engineering perspective.”

Gold Coast?

On social media, responses to the new subdivision largely opposed it.

“Changes the whole Phillip Island lovely vibe, do they think it is the Gold Coast?” wrote Eleesa, while Matt added “the town is destroyed”.

Warren commented: “it’s no longer a holiday destination. It’s becoming an urban ghetto by the sea” and Ally added: “Such a beautiful place to live; the island is turning into just another suburb of Melbourne”.

“It’s the most beautiful place, and I feel like it’s being destroyed.”

Another added that at 59-lots it was “maximum profits for the developer with no regard to the community or island standards”.

Some argued it would provide affordable housing.

“A lot of the business cannot get staff,” said Vincent, “there’s no places to live”.

Others said there were plenty of houses but most were unoccupied holiday homes.



A planning permit for 273-297 Church Street, opposite Anchor Belle Holiday Park and currently out for community feedback, is for a 59-lot subdivision and removal of vegetation on 3.6 hectares.

Development snapshot

Can't keep up with developments? Here's a quick snapshot of some recent plans, in varying stages:

- A \$14 million 256-lot village at 299-325 Church Street, stretching from Settlement Road to Justice Road, approved by councillors;
- 205-209 and 211-223 Thompson Avenue, next to the RSL: subdivision of land into 42 lots, creation of access to a road, removal of vegetation, still in planning;
- 35 Cowes-Rhyll Road: Subdivision of land into 16 lots, creation of reserves and associated works, and removal of native vegetation, still in planning;
- 14-20 Redwood Drive: Subdivision of land into 12 lots, still with planning;
- a 19-lot subdivision on the former 1.7 hectare Cowes market site, with a frontage to 225 Settlement Road, currently building;

- 35-lot subdivision, 17-19 Small Court, San Remo, still planning;
- Newhaven West, a mooted 35-hectare Newhaven West development that proposed 78 residential lots, delayed by the Distinctive Areas and Landscape;
- Isle of Wight site on the Cowes Esplanade, believed to be a multi-storey 180 hotel with conference and wellness centre, yet to submit plans to council;
- 77 Chapel Street, a three-storey residential building with ground floor retail tenancies, approved;
- 46-48 Chapel Street (on the corner of Findlay Street), a five-storey apartment building with ground floor commercial tenancies, currently building;

- 85 Thompson Avenue, four-storeys with a roof terrace and 17.1 metres high, approved;
- Three-storeys with a rooftop deck as well as shops and accommodation on Thompson Avenue next to Grumpy's Golf, approved;
- \$25 million, five-storey, 91-apartment development on the old Warley hospital site in Cowes, approved;
- 125 Marine Parade, San Remo, a four-storey development with two retail shops on the ground floor and 14 apartments, approved;
- 131-133 Marine Parade, San Remo, a four-storey, 22-apartment complex with four retail shops, approved. A 151sqm penthouse living room and deck on the roof – a fifth storey – yet to be approved.

Council apology for grave state of cemeteries

The coordinator of the Friends of San Remo Cemetery, Jane Ross, has welcomed a statement from Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledging the cemetery had not been properly maintained.

Ms Ross has led a tireless campaign calling for improved services and ongoing maintenance for the cemetery.

Just before Christmas, the council released the following statement.

“Council recognises the importance of our cemeteries and acknowledges that their recent presentation has not been at the standard expected by the community.

“Whilst prolonged periods of wet weather have impacted the ability to undertake works, Council has also undertaken a review of the maintenance arrangements and is now working with a new local contractor to improve the presentation of the Wonthaggi Cemetery.

“Additional measures have also been put in place for San Remo Cemetery Memorial Garden.

“Council has funded a capital project to improve the drainage at the Wonthaggi Cemetery and these works are expected to be completed during 2023.”

However Ms Ross is not celebrat-



Jane Ross, the co-ordinator of the Friends of San Remo Cemetery, has welcomed a statement from the council acknowledging the cemetery had not been properly maintained, but says they will “await action”.

ing yet.

“The statement from the council admitting it has fallen down on its responsibilities with the San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries is encouraging.

“However, I’ll await the action.

“Years of batting my head up against bureaucratic rule of the San Remo Cemetery have turned me into a cynic.”

At the November Council meeting,

Cr Rochelle Halstead described the standard of upkeep at the San Remo Cemetery as “embarrassing”.

Councillors voted on the budgets of the two cemeteries, with San Remo’s finances improved, returning a profit of more than \$6000, with projections that the last plot sale will be about 300 years from now, with the last internment in 2324.

Wonthaggi returned a \$49,000 profit and has enough plots until

2081.

Councillors previously voted to support capital works to deliver supply of burial sites and install restrooms.

Council also signed off on a contract for grave digging at the two cemeteries, to cost more than \$242,000 over three years.

Masterplan

At the May 2022 council meeting, council officers reported the San Remo cemetery returned a net loss of more than \$14,000 in the last financial year. At the time, the officers said an upcoming master plan would examine solutions to the cemetery budget issues.

Ms Ross, who set up the Friends group 16 years ago sent a letter to councillors, imploring them to use “heart and soul” when considering the project.

“San Remo Cemetery is a community facility and the salient point is this: our loved ones lie buried there. They – and we – deserve respect.”

She said although the Friends group had permission to weed the grounds, they were not allowed to plant anything.

She said the group had made a significant contribution to the cemetery

including getting entrance and rules signs installed and repaired, and holding monthly working bees.

At the group’s suggestion, a Memorial Garden was established, providing an alternative place for ashes as well as honouring those whose graves are unmarked.

“A great deal of voluntary work has gone into the cemetery and I do not believe the efforts of those involved should be expunged by mere consideration of the bottom line,” Ms Ross said.

At the time, Ms Ross said she hoped the upcoming master plan could be used to source grant funding for the cemetery and believes the contribution of the volunteers is not fully appreciated by the council.

“Dealing with a bureaucracy has not been easy for the Friends’ group and members have left in frustration. I see this as a sad reflection of undervaluing volunteers. There is no museum or historical hub in San Remo and the cemetery, founded, I believe, in the mid-1850s, goes some way towards filling this gap.

“I am told all the early records were lost or burnt but there are historic graves there. Many of those who helped make San Remo the town it is today, are buried there.”

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Support the businesses at the ♥ of our community



On January 14, Island Healing in Newhaven is throwing open the doors of its Wellbeing Studio, and holding a special community open day.



The studio offers yoga – flow and slow-flow, with classes suited for all levels of experience. It also runs Mat and Barre Pilates, as well as meditation and fitness classes.



The donkey from the St Philip's Journey to Bethlehem display has gone missing, and the church committee is hoping someone may have spotted it and can return it to the church grounds. Photo: James Millward.

Get a new start with Island Healing

On January 14, Island Healing in Newhaven is throwing open the doors of its Wellbeing Studio and holding a special community open day.

The timing is perfect for everyone wanting to kick off the new year with a healthy start, those hoping to shake off the festive season indulgences, or looking for a way to balance their lives.

The open day includes free classes in yoga, Pilates, meditation and fitness, giving a taste of everything on offer at the studio.

Owner Jessie Thalass said most people know Island Healing provides massage and therapy services, but many would not be aware of the range of classes at the studio.

"I describe the studio as a place of wellbeing," said Jessie.

"It's a place where people can come and take care of themselves in a safe space.

"People know we do massage, but they might not think of us as a studio for movement and the mind."

The open day includes free classes, great giveaways and a meet and greet with Island Healing staff, which includes Jessie, Dee Howard, Dominique Salerno, Annaliese Simonis, Sarah Jury, Chloe Smith and Cassie Craddock.

"We are really proud of our teachers and they are very good at what they do," said Jessie.

"They have a wealth of knowledge.

"We know fitness can be daunting for some people and intimidation is a very real thing. People can be hesitant to get in and get started.

"But this is an opportunity to come and have a look at what we're about.

"I say to people, you never know if you don't try, and we're here to hold your hand through it and help you get whatever it is you need out of your movement regime."

The studio offers yoga – flow and slow-flow, with classes suited for all levels of experience.

It also runs Mat and Barre Pilates, as well as meditation and fitness classes.

"We don't expect you to do anything your body doesn't feel right doing. We can modify classes for you.

"A good trainer/coach ensures you get what you need from the class."

Classes can be paid casually, or a 10-class pass and coming soon, membership packages.

"A strong value of ours is making movement inclusive," Jessie stressed.

"Price shouldn't stop you from moving your body, and we don't want people not to come because the prices are too high.

"We know the benefits of movement for people's lives and we're here to facilitate that."

The open day in January gives people the chance to give those "get healthy" new year's resolutions a workout.

"It's a great time to start new things," Jessie said.

"A lot of people like a fresh start for the new year, so one of our classes could be the ideal thing to implement for 2023.

"Come and give it a try and see if you can incorporate some of our movement into your weekly routine."

Island Healing is here to take care of your body, in all different aspects.

As well as the classes at the Wellbeing Studio, other services include massage, myotherapy, infra-red sauna, Sound Ther-

apy, Reiki, Counselling, Mizan Therapy and Myotherapy.

The Wellbeing Studio is also available for hire by private practitioners and community groups.

Open Day, January 14. Check the Island Healing Facebook page and website for the class schedule.

Island Healing, 6 Forrest Avenue, Newhaven. www.islandhealing.online / Sponsored Article /

Do you have a donkey?

The donkey from the St Philip's Journey to Bethlehem display has gone missing.

The church committee is wondering where the little donkey has wandered and are praying someone will return it to the church grounds.

They're asking everyone to keep an eye out for the missing donkey, which hopefully will make its way home soon.

STUDIO LAUNCH

Jan 14th free classes, giveaways, membership signups

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Rotary



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San Remo

in conjunction with
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A record number of new members were inducted to the Rotary Club of Phillip Island. From left: Michele and Brian Morris, Gary Simmons, Asst District Gov Graeme Sprague, Rotary President Peter Buitenhuis, Gia Lovell, Lee Hochkens, John Lovell and Tony Hochkens.

Rotary membership boom

The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo created a new first for the district with the induction of the highest number of new members in one event last month.

These new members will be part of the worldwide network of volunteers who each contribute to the betterment

of our community both here and overseas.

During the evening, the club had the pleasure of hearing from former member Duncan Hedditch who has been deeply involved in water projects in Timor L'Este.

Duncan was awarded the high honour of receiving a

Paul Harris Fellowship for all of his amazing work.

On the local front, Rotary is active in many youth projects as well as assisting homeless and families in need as well as other community groups.

If you would like to be part of this active club, please call Rob 0412 331 218.

Offshore targeted again

Thieves broke into the storage shed for the Offshore Theatre Group just before Christmas.

The storage shed was robbed in August 2022,

with thousands of dollars of sound and lighting equipment stolen, as well as hand tools and torches.

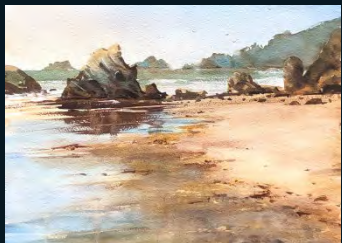
This time, although the thieves cut a hole in the cy-

clone fence at the rear of the shed and forced the lock on the shed to gain entry, police said nothing was stolen.

Investigations into the break in are ongoing.



Early Morning Magic, Cowes by Diana Edwards



Reflections in the Sand, Walkerville by Tom Tyrrell



Happy Moments Gullivers, Cowes by David Taylor

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Photograph by Tamara Bailey – Owl and the Pussycat. Tamara features in week three of the four week exhibition, which runs at Ramada Resort from January 4 to 30.



Painting by David Bell – Rise. David is one of six artists showcased in the first week of the PICES Pop Up Exhibition at Ramada Resort, which runs from January 4 to 30.

Pop Up Exhibition is back

The fourth PICES Pop Up Exhibition at Ramada Resort Phillip Island, 2128 Phillip Island Road Cowes, runs from January 4 to 30, (closed Tuesdays).

It's an event not to be missed – 26 talented artists from Phillip Island, the Bass Coast and beyond, showing a broad range of high quality contemporary photography, painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, weaving, ceramics, pyrography and wood turning.

The Pop Up exhibitions have become known as a go-to event on Phillip Island during January.

A visitor to the last PICES Pop Up exhibitions wrote, "beautiful range of art works, looking forward to next year's." They will not be disappointed!

Yet again, a dedicated team of artists, art lovers, and curator Warren Nichols, are preparing for a stunning range of quality art works to be shown over four weekly exhibitions in the new venue at Ramada Resort. All works showcased are for sale each week.

Exhibiting artists include:

Week One, January 4 – 9: David Bell, Pauline Grotto, Cassie Leatham, Jenny Loft, Kim McDonald, Jillian Mitchell.

Week Two, January 11 – 16: Adam Cox, Sue Guildford, Carolyn Goldberg, Ajanta Judd, Lindy Patterson, Karen Preston, Ellen Taylor.

Week Three, January 18 – 23: Tamara Bailey, Diana Bannister, Imelda Bailey, Janis House, Jeremy Kasper, Margaret Langtip, Kim Wood.

Week Four, January 25 – 30: Sian Adnam, Karen Allen, Karli Duckett, Tessa Hubble, Anne Messtiz, Helen Phillip.

This is an exciting time for the arts on Phillip Island with construction well underway for the

Cowes Cultural and Community Centre and Library with a purpose-built art gallery.

Artists and art lovers are looking forward to having such a beautiful, permanent space in which to exhibit and view contemporary art from Bass Coast and the wider region.

Go to www.pices.com.au for more information and keep up to date on Instagram and Facebook @picesartspace.

/ Sponsored Article /



Crystalline vase by Adam Cox. Adam will feature in Week Two of the PICES Pop Up Exhibition at the Ramada Resort in Cowes. The exhibition runs from January 4 to 30.

PICES POP UP ART SHOW

26 exciting artists from Bass Coast and beyond are participating in the 4th series of PICES Pop Up weekly exhibitions at:

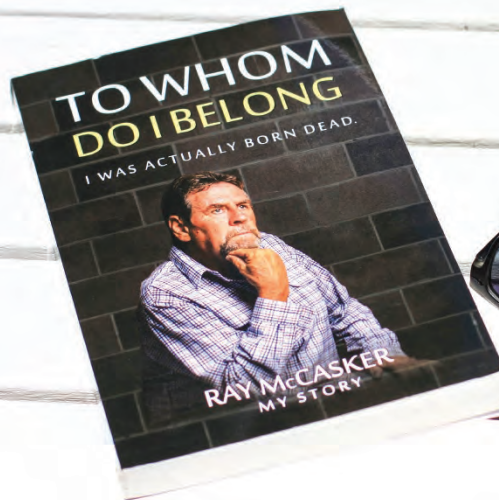
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GREAT HOLIDAY READ



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Families and friends brought folding chairs and picnic rugs down to the foreshore to enjoy the night of entertainment which included free carnival rides, a visit from Santa, carols performances and fireworks.



Members of the amazing local Sisters and Mistery choir. Front Caroline Talbot, Sarah Taylor and Jenny Maroney. Back: Sue Brown, Judy Pitcher, Mary Taylor, Bev Watson, Jo Peacock and Jenny Franks.

Christmas carols a triumph

Carols by the Bay made a triumphant return to the Cowes foreshore after Covid caused the cancellation of the popular community event for the past two years.

Initially scheduled for December 13, the event was moved to the following week due to adverse weather, and the decision proved to be a great one.

"It was such a good decision, as we were blessed with a perfect evening and night on the 20th," said Island Voice President Peter Paul.

The team from Island Voice took over the running of the event for the first time this year and produced a wonderful night of free entertainment for local families, with an estimated crowd of 4000 people.

"It was wonderful to see so many families out

and about on a perfect evening," Peter said.

"Island Voice sends a big thank you to the community who attended and then made many wonderful comments about the pre entertainment, the carols and the Bass Coast Council fireworks.

"What was even more fantastic, for us as organisers, was that the Foreshore was left beautifully neat and tidy. Thank you!

"All of the performers were amazing and Island Voice thanks them not only for all their preparation but also their willingness and ability to reschedule due to the weather.

"Our ever-reliable voluntary Emergency Services, the CFA and SES, attended and supported us. Thank you for all the work you do for our community."

In addition to the carols and fireworks (provided by Bass Coast Shire Council), Santa visited, there were free carnival rides, face-painters, a roving magician, an elf who read Christmas stories and food-vans.

Three of these vans were run by other community organisations and the profits made will go to fund their future community activities.

Support

Peter said it was important that the event was free and open to the whole community, and this was only possible due to the support of sponsors.

"Without our sponsors, this free event could not have taken place," he said.

"We would like to thank our major sponsors the Bass Coast Shire, Phillip Island RSL, San

Remo, Cowes and Grantville District Community Bank (who all contributed funds and in-kind support), Bowens Hardware and Westernport Water.

"The Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser helped us keep everyone informed about the event and Archisign created some brilliant artwork and brochures."

Even with this support, Island Voice undertook some major fundraising to keep the event and activities free for everyone to enjoy.

The following helped with fundraising: A Maze'N Things, Bluegum Garden Supplies, Christine Caldwell, Clip'n Climb, Coles Supermarket, H-Bombs Barbers, Heard of Cowes, Klepner's Jewellers, Mitre10, North Pier Hotel, Offshore Design, Panny's Amazing World of Chocolate, Phillip Island Go Karts, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Entertainment Centre, Priceline Pharmacy, Terry Whites Pharmacy, The Davis and Trubridge families, Wildlife Cruises and Zenu Software.

Peter said it was the generous support of local business that made the night possible.

"We are very grateful for all of this support and we look forward to working with you all next year.

"To those who attended the carols, if you can, please thank these businesses with your support, in return. Let's do it again in December 2023!

"Island Voice wishes everyone much happiness for the New Year."



An estimated crowd of over 4000 people gathered to enjoy the entertainment, carols and fireworks at Carols by the Bay on December 20. Photo: Katrina Lawrence.



The free rides kept the children entertained from 5.20pm, before the arrival of Santa, then the carols performances and the fireworks.

The King comes to Cowes

Elvis Presley is more popular now than ever and Elvis fans both young and old will have the chance to see the King Alive at The Centre, 223 Settlement Road, Cowes.

Melbourne's Elvis Tribute Artist Andrew Portelli presents his special tribute to the King on Friday January 13 at 10.30am.

Book your ticket now to make sure you don't miss out.

The show is part of Morning Melodies which has returned

to Phillip Island, with shows scheduled for the first Friday of every month, aimed at the over 50s audience.

Upcoming shows include:

February 3 - Legends and Love Songs by Gavin Chatelier
March 3 - Abba Tribute by Sister Diva

April 7 - John Rowles and Engelbert Tribute, with Eddie James

May 7 - The Great Classics of the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s by the James Vocal Showband.

June 3 - Double Tribute Show. Olivia Newton John by Samantha Porter and Shirley Bassey by Simone Pereira.

Tickets to The Morning Melodies Elvis Show are \$15 and you can reserve your seat by calling 9704 7304 or 0428 712 783 or by emailing jamesleighbromol@bigpond.com.

Some tickets will be available at the door, but seating is limited, so book now to secure your spot.

/Sponsored Article /



Elvis makes a special appearance for Morning Melodies at Cowes on Friday, January 13 at 10.30am. Don't miss out - book your tickets now!

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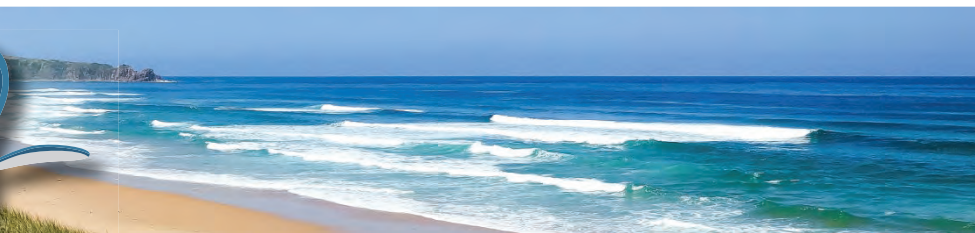
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Summer by the Sea back for the school holidays

A Hooded Plover beach walk at Cape Woolamai and exploring wetlands and coastal saltmarsh in Newhaven are part of this year's Summer by the Sea program.

The theme for this year's program, which runs throughout January, is Coastal Connections.

Everyone is encouraged to get online and check out the program over the summer holidays running between January 4 and February 5.

With a mixture of in person and online events, everyone can connect with the coast, wherever they are across the state.

Videos will be presented with captions in English and several other languages. Bookings for coastal walks and live online events are essential.

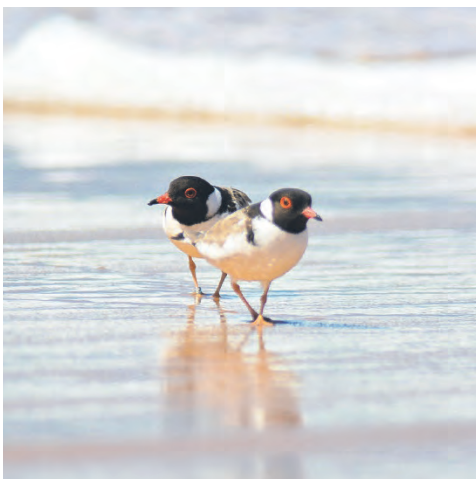
Summer by the Sea is an annual program delivered by Coastcare Victoria with the support of providers including government agencies, local experts and volunteer groups.

"The month-long program offers a variety of free activities exploring the rich and diverse natural and cultural values of Victoria's coastal and marine environments," said Laura Town-Hopkinson, Coastcare Victoria Facilitator.

"Get involved in person, or from home and immerse yourself in our wonderful coasts. With more in person accessible events, this year's Summer by the Sea program has something for everyone."

The 2023 program includes:

- A boat tour of the Gippsland Lakes
- Learn about the coastal dynamics of Inverloch Surf Beach
- Rock pooling and a geology walk at Walkerville
- Live online events covering topics such as



A Hooded Plover beach walk at Cape Woolamai on January 12 is part of this year's Summer by the Sea holiday program. Photo: Kylie Willow, PINP.

great white shark ecology, places to go snorkelling this summer, a panel on ways to help the coast, and more.

The program also includes two events on Phillip Island.

January 12: Hooded Plover beach walk – Cape Woolamai. 9.30am – 11am, starting from Woolamai Beach Surf Lifesaving Club

January 21: Fisher's wetland and coastal saltmarsh walk, Newhaven. 9.30am – 11am, starting from Fishers Wetland carpark, Samuel Amess Drive, Newhaven.

To book your spot, or for more information and a full program of activities, visit www.summerbythesea.vic.gov.au



Enjoying the beach and sunshine, the Neville family from Croydon North, who have a holiday house in Cowes.



Making friends on the beach and sharing the shade! These two families didn't know one another until they decided to share the shade of the trees near the rocks on Cowes front beach last week. Front: Grandmother, daughter and granddaughter from the Dalton family in Cowes, sharing the shade with the Whyte family (back) who have a holiday house in Cowes.



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Hayley and Keeley from Rowville got into the NYE spirit. The girls were staying at the family holiday house.

New Year's Eve in Cowes



Cowes foreshore on New Year's Eve, as people gathered to enjoy the last sunset of 2022 and get ready for the 9.30pm fireworks. Police presence included mounted patrols of the area. Photo: Woolamai Wanderings.

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A stunning fireworks display from the Cowes jetty was enjoyed by a massive crowd.



The foreshore was packed with people keen to celebrate the New Year and see the 9.30pm fireworks.

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A SLICE OF MELBOURNE. MEETS THE SHORES OF COWES. WITH A TIPSY TWIST!

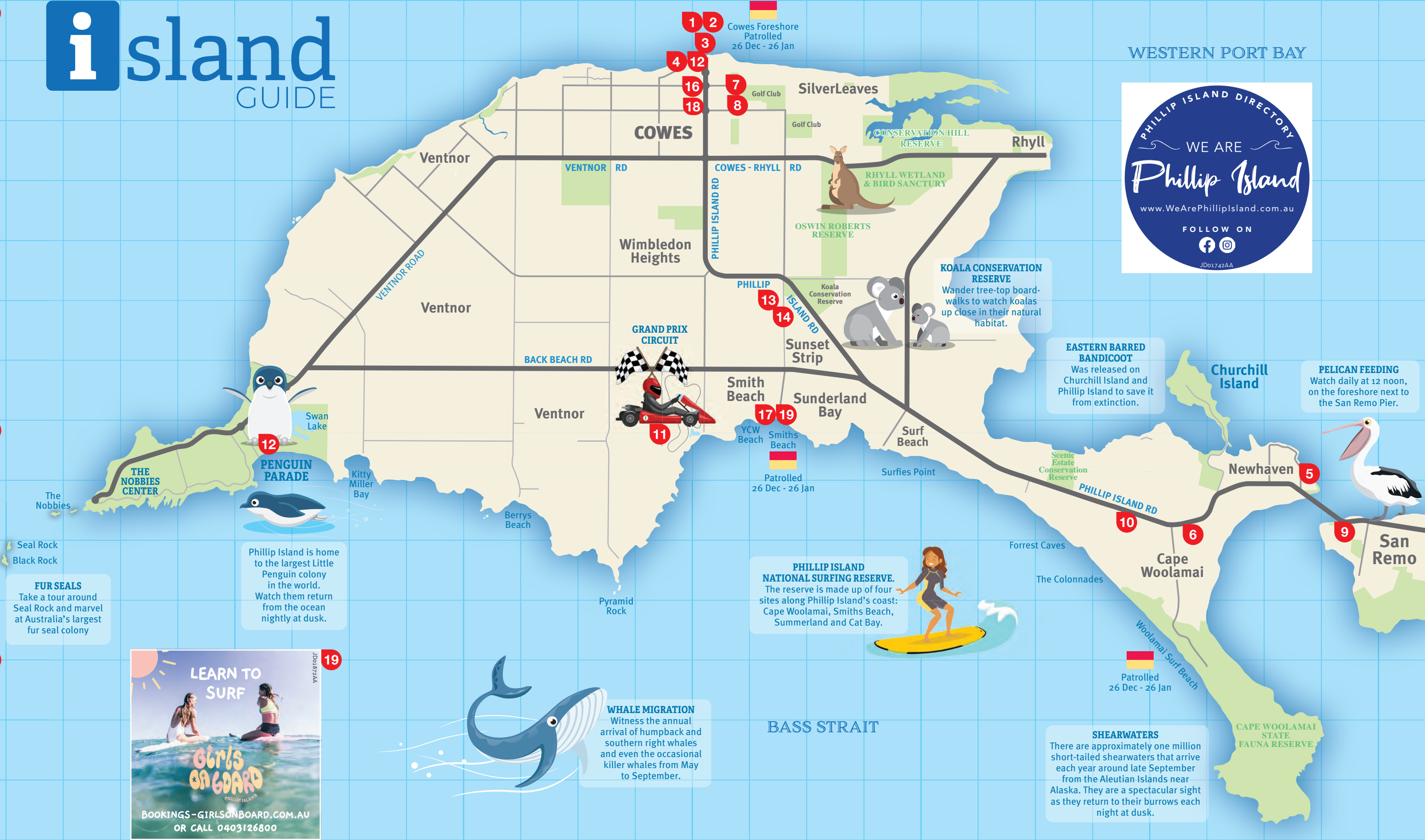
SHOP 3/16 THE ESPLANADE, COWES | OPEN WED-MON

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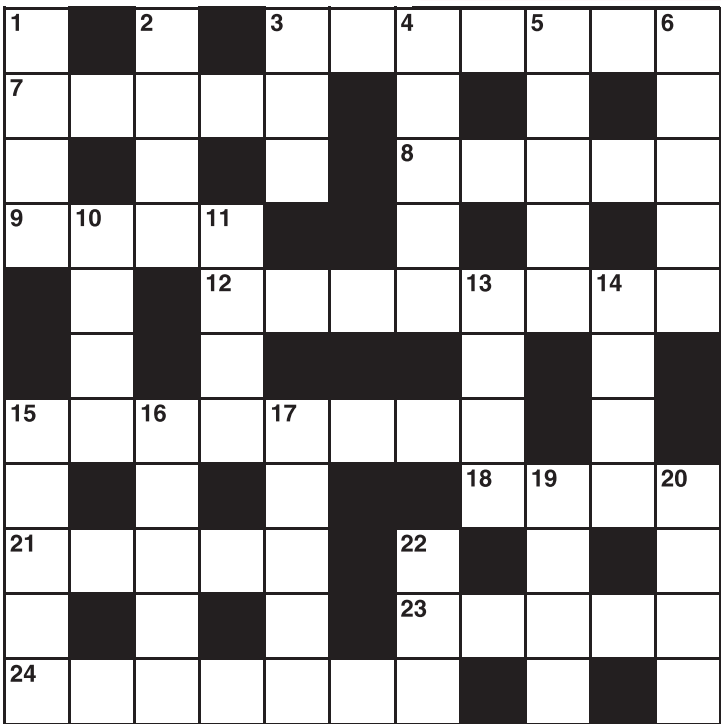
Call 5952 9400 or email vc@phillipislandcircuit.com.au

i island GUIDE



Summer Scorchers

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 3 Another word for vacation (7)
7 Hawaiian word for 'hello' (5)
8 What you do to meat on a barbecue (5)
9 If she colours her hair, she — it (4)
12 What you take with a camera (8)
15 What you feed a canary (8)
18 Opposite of shut (4)

DOWN

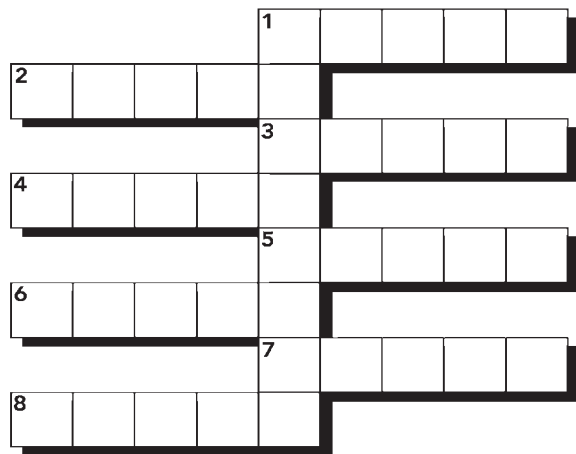
- 21 What Aussies call sausages (5)
23 The Pacific or the Atlantic is this (5)
24 Sleeping under the stars in a tent (7)

Solution:



JNR CROSSWORD

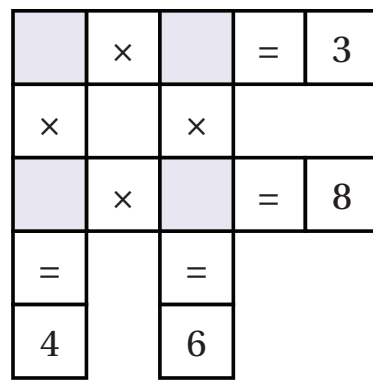
Solve all the clues and an eight-letter phrase will be spelled out.



- 1 Beaches are —
2 Also known as Ayers Rock
3 What you might call Grandma
4 Flying toys on strings
5 Sticky heat
6 Smiley face on your phone is one
7 Not ever
8 Grows on the surface of water

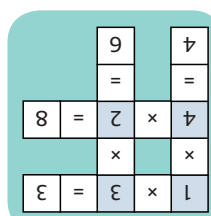
Solution: Sandy, Uluru, Nanna, Kites, Humid, Emoji, Never, Algae (SUNSHINE).

MINI MATH



Use the numbers 1-4 (once each) to fill out the equations going across and down.

Solution:



BEACH BONANZA

1. True or false: crabs walk sideways?
2. What is the nose of a Bubble O'Bill made of?
3. What season comes after summer?
4. Which Australian state is Bondi Beach in?
5. What three flavours make up neapolitan ice cream (pictured)?
6. What sport are boardshorts named after?
7. In *Moana*, what is the name of her rooster friend?
8. What kind of summer footwear is made by Havanas?
9. Sebastian, Flounder and Scuttle are all characters from which Disney movie?
10. How many arms do most starfish have?



ANSWERS: 1. True 2. Bubble gum 3. Autumn 4. New South Wales 5. Chocolate, vanilla and strawberry 6. Surfing 7. Heihei 8. Thongs 9. *The Little Mermaid* 10. Five

WORDFIND



- ABROAD
BOAT
BURN
FAN
FESTIVAL
GRILL
HAT
HAZY
HEAT
HUMID
HYDRATE
LAKE
LIDO
MUGGY
PALM
PARTY
POOL
SALAD
SHELL
SMOOTHIE
STEAM
SUN
SWIMSUIT
TANNING
WAVES

Solution:

Solution: Slip, Stop, Slip

SUNNY SILLIES



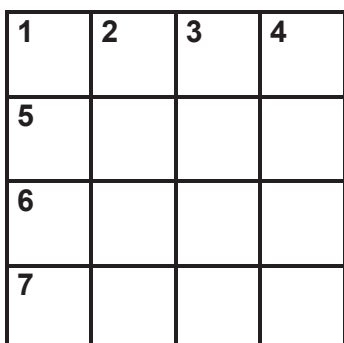
Q: What do you get when you combine an elephant with a fish?
A: Swimming trunks.

Q: How can you tell that the ocean is friendly?
A: It waves.

Q: What is a frog's favourite summertime treat?
A: Hopsicles.



4x4 CROSSWORD



ACROSS

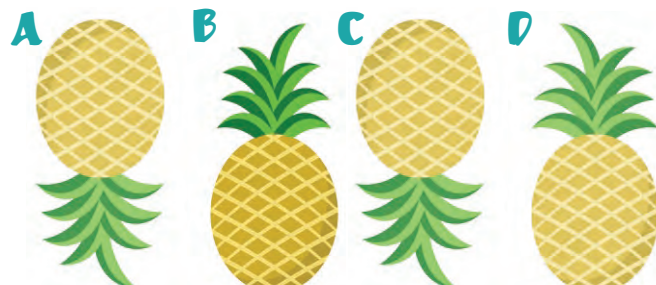
- 1 When the weather is balmy it is — (4)
5 Between the flags is a safe swimming — (4)
6 A tiny bottle for potions (4)
7 Noble title, like — of Wessex (4)

DOWN

- 1 A surfer rides a — (4)
2 Aussie music award (4)
3 Another word for your bottom (4)
4 Big shopping centre where teens hang out (4)

Solution: Across: 1 Warm, 5 Area, 6 Vial, 7 Earl. Down: 1 Wave, 2 Aria, 3 Rear, 4 Mall.

ODD ONE OUT



Solution: B (Stem flipped)

143 PYRAMID ROCK ROAD, VENTNOR



- 'Kurana' – one of the districts finest farms set on 156 acres (approx.)
- Four-bedroom home with an additional two bedroom cottage
- First time offered in 80 years

CONTACT AGENT

10 GLAMIS ROAD, VENTNOR



- Secluded 3.7 acres (approx.) with sweeping views of Bass Strait
- Well fenced for horses or small number of livestock
- Double garage, shedding & workshop
- 5 bed/2 bath/8 car

\$2,600,000 to \$2,800,000

216 COWES-RHYLL ROAD, RHYLL



- Totally self-sufficient, 7-star energy rated home.
- Set on 4.48ha (approx.) with sweeping views of Westernport Bay and French Island
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/4 Cars

\$3,100,000

3 GLAMIS ROAD, VENTNOR



- Breathtaking location, directly above one of the Island's most spectacular surf breaks with uninterrupted views of Berry's Beach and surrounding headlands
- Tennis court & ornamental lake situated on approx. 2.5 acres
- 3 Beds/2 baths/2 cars

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

85 RIDGWAY ROAD, KILCUNDA



- First time offered in 60 years, set on 18 acres (approx.) with creek frontage
- Well maintained 2-bedroom brick home with open plan living and established gardens
- Sweeping views of the Kilcunda Coast

AUCTION SAT 14TH JANUARY 2023 @ 12PM ON SITE

43 BATMAN STREET, SURF BEACH



- Located on The Esplanade at Surf Beach with superb ocean views from Cape Woolamai to Pyramid Rock
- Massive 3 bay garage with entry to the home
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/4 Cars

\$1,950,000 to 2,100,000

7 SETTLEMENT ROAD, SILVERLEAVES



- 3.5 acres (approx.) with a modern farmhouse
- Adjacent to Cowes Golf Club and walking distance to popular Silverleaves Beach
- 4 bed/2 bath/2 car

\$1,800,000 to \$1,900,000

10 DUNVEGAN CRESCENT, SURF BEACH



- Historic homestead with amazing water and rural views
- Set on an impressive 1956m² allotment with established gardens
- 4 bed/2 bath/3 car

\$2,000,000 to \$2,100,000

104 BACK BEACH ROAD, SUNSET STRIP



- Walking distance to Smiths Beach, Newhaven College and short drive to Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit
- Double storey home with bright, airy open plan living
- 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms

\$820,000 to \$860,000

LOT 2 COWES-RHYLL ROAD, COWES



- Approx. 80 acres with views over Westernport Bay and the Rhyll Inlet
- Offering excellent sites for a home STCA

\$1,500,000 to \$1,600,000

349 COGHAN ROAD, SILVERLEAVES



- Situated only 100m to the beautiful north facing Silverleaves beach
- Large north facing open plan kitchen, dining & living area
- 4 Beds/2 Baths/2 Cars

\$1,400,000

20 BAYVIEW AVENUE, SURF BEACH



SOLD

57 GRAMPIAN BOULEVARD, COWES



- Situated in the Whytesands Estate with open plan living
- Large alfresco area with Zip Trak café blinds and wood heater
- 4 beds/2 baths/2 cars

\$850,000 TO \$865,000

601 VENTNOR BEACH ROAD, VENTNOR



SOLD

37 RHYLL NEWHAVEN RD, RHYLL



- Spacious 3 bedroom home on approx. 662m² allotment
- Short distance to foreshore and all that Rhyll has to offer
- 3 beds/2 baths/2 car port

\$780,000 TO \$800,000

60 REID STREET, RHYLL



SOLD

14 REID STREET, RHYLL



- Double brick home on a 690m (approx.) corner allotment
- Short walk to foreshore, boat ramp and restaurants
- 1 bed/1 bath/2 car garage

\$715,000

19 ANCHORAGE ROAD, VENTNOR



UNDER CONTRACT

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25 HOPEWAY, COWES



- Situated in the Shearwater Estate, a short walk to Cowes Golf Club & Silverleaves Beach
- 6.0-star energy rated brick home with open plan living and large alfresco
- 4 Beds/2 Baths/2 Cars

\$980,000

18 DOUGLAS ROAD, COWES



- What a location! One street from main shopping strip
- Set on a huge 1949m² allotment
- 3 bed/1 bath/2 car

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Dream big

Exciting development opportunity in an outstanding location, this property has the potential of an exclusive subdivision (STCA) and/or a dedicated renovators dream with an abundance of history.

Set on a magnificent 6935sqm allotment with water views, this signature piece of land introduces a unique opportunity to restore the original circa 1870s home to its former glory and/or prosper with its subdivision potential (STCA).

Features of the circa 1870s four-bedroom home:

- Original doors
- Original hardwood floors
- Soaring 12 ft ceilings
- Pressed metal and ornate ceiling roses
- Metal cornices
- Original Sash windows
- Original Oregon woodwork

Features of the property:

- Magnificent 6935sqm, allotment with water views in quiet established area
- Low density residential zoning
- 6m x 12m shed
- Fully fenced

The undiscovered potential of this piece of exclusive land and home in an exceptional

position in original San Remo is not to be missed. One of the few remaining opportunities in a private, established area. Within a walk from the shopping village, beaches and nearby schools and kindergarten and located in the beautiful Bass Coast region, just 90 minutes from Melbourne CBD, your chance to dream big has arrived.

Address: 33 Anderson Street, San Remo.

The property is held by Garth Lisle Real Estate, 3/129 Marine Parade, San Remo. VIC 3925. Phone: (03) 5678 5878



The magnificent property with water views includes a unique opportunity to restore the original circa 1870s home to its former glory.



Set on a magnificent 6935sqm allotment with water views, has a 6 x 12 metre shed is fully fenced and has subdivision potential.



In an outstanding location, this San Remo property has the potential of an exclusive subdivision (STCA) and/or a dedicated renovators dream with an abundance of history.

More than meets the eye

Nestled in a quiet pocket of Rhyll and within easy walking distance of the water, boat ramp, park and eateries makes it the ideal location, whether it's a permanent or holiday living.

This home has had an extensive renovation and extension, and has been designed for easy living with the large open plan living area the main feature of the house, capturing all the natural light during the day. Complete with four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a second living area for additional family or guests.

The house is perfect for entertaining family or friends with a large deck overlooking the rear yard.

Additional features:

- Miele electric wall oven and dishwasher
- Bosch gas cooktop and ducted range hood
- Granite island bench top
- Kitchen cupboards with large self-closing drawers
- Karndean vinyl plank flooring
- Flyscreens to all windows
- Ceiling fans to all living rooms and bedrooms

- 1200mm by 900mm showers to both bathrooms
- Exhaust fan and heater to main bathroom
- Reverse cycle A/C to living rooms and main bedroom
- Large double garage with rear vehicle access
- Well established garden and secure yard

Address: 29 Jansson Road, Rhyll

Price: \$1,150,000

Contact: Kendall O'Garey at First National in Cowes: 0410 595 130

Features: Four bedrooms, two bathrooms.



Nestled in a quiet pocket of Rhyll and within easy walking distance to the water, boat ramp, park and eateries this four bedroom home is in the ideal location.



18 Forrest Ave Newhaven

Price: \$1,398,000

5 bedrooms / 4 bathrooms / 6 cars

Enjoying modern living combined with elements of its original vintage, this superb family home will not only surprise you, but will extend to you comfort and enjoyment for years to come.



1B Panorama Dve San Remo

Price: \$1,145,000

3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / 4 cars

With an elevated floor plan to capture breathtaking ocean views, this three-bedroom (plus generous home office / fourth bedroom) seaside property is sure to impress.



53 Shetland Heights Rd San Remo

Price: Contact Agent

4 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / 5 cars

With exceptional, high clearance car, boat and caravan storage, number 53 delivers beachside living with the boating/caravanning enthusiast in mind.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SELLING AGENTS:

SCOTT LETHBRIDGE 0407 543 154 | MIKE CUNNINGHAM 0412 280 777 | JOHN SHAW 0418 545 041

Shop 3/129 Marine Parade SAN REMO

5678 5878

www.glp.com.au



GARTH LISLE
Property Consultants



Natural light flows through this large family home, which has endless features and space for everyone and a huge deck to take in the ocean views whilst enjoying a meal with family and friends.



This home has been designed with entertaining in mind and showcases indoor/outdoor living at its best.

The entertainer – space for everyone

Situated at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac in Corinella, this large family home set on 1034 sqm comes with endless features and has space for everyone.

The home has been designed with entertaining in mind and showcases indoor/outdoor living at its best.

The kitchen is the heart of the home, featuring large bench tops, 900m gas cooking, under bench storage, high ceilings – which let in the natural light and a huge deck to take in the ocean views whilst enjoying a meal with family and friends.

Upon entering the home on the

ground floor, you will find a large rumpus room, perfect for a teenage retreat, three good-sized bedrooms all with built-in robes, large main bathroom with spa and separate toilet for convenience. The downstairs section is currently being used as Airbnb accommodation

which includes a kitchenette, large pantry and all three bedrooms can be used for separate guests – the possibilities are endless.

Upstairs, on the first floor, natural light flows throughout with high ceilings in the open plan kitchen/dining space, large additional lounge room

and study space. There is a large bedroom upstairs off the kitchen plus the massive master suite which has ocean views, large ensuite with double vanity and spa, separate powder room and access to the deck. Address: 4 Lady Nelson Court, Corinella Contact: Fiona Treloar, 0499 889 588.

WHAT'S YOUR PROPERTY WORTH?



16 Pike Street, San Remo
Vacant Land
656m2



4 Mondoora Drive, San Remo
4 Bed | 2 Bath | 2 Car
552m2



49 Bayview Ave, Tenby Point
3 Bed | 1 Bath | 4 Car
1434m2



12 Bayview Ave, Tenby Point
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 5 Car
1327m2



16 Bermuda Bend, Coronet Bay
3 Bed | 1 Bath | 2 Car
524m2



4 Lady Nelson Crt, Corinella
5 Bed | 2 Bath | 4 Car
1034m2

eview
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Leanne Poulton
0437 441 127



Fiona Treloar
0499 889 588



Natalie Miskolczy
0483 056 187

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FOR SALE \$1,150,000

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RHYLL

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209 SMITHS BEACH ROAD,
SMITHS BEACH

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FOR SALE \$1,500,000 TO \$1,600,000

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SILVERLEAVES

2 BED 1 BATH 3 CAR



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23 HOPE WAY,
COWES

4 BED 2 BATH 3 CAR



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5 THE CREST,
VENTNOR

3 BED 2 BATH 2 CAR



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2-6 PHILLIP STREET,
VENTNOR

5 BED 2 BATH 2 CAR



MICHAEL MCLEOD
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NEWHAVEN

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A breathtaking location directly above one of the island's most spectacular surf breaks offers spectacular uninterrupted views of Berrys Beach and surrounding headlands.



Polished timber floors, high ceilings and extensive use of glass to the north and south accentuate the bright inviting ambience through the spacious open plan living and dining room.

Breathtaking location with spectacular views

An absolutely breathtaking location directly above one of the Islands most spectacular surf breaks affords this unique clifftop property with spectacular uninterrupted views of Berrys Beach and surrounding headlands.

Idyllically situated within the

natural environment, a haven for local fauna and birdlife and surrounded by approximately 2.5 acres (8361sqm) of coastal inspired landscaped gardens with your own mod grass tennis court, this sensational contemporary coastal retreat has been brilliantly designed to provide

ocean views from every room.

Polished timber floors, high ceilings and extensive use of glass to the north and south accentuate the bright inviting ambience through the spacious open plan living and dining room with open fireplace and a well equipped kitchen. Sliding

doors open to expansive decks on both sides offering sheltered year-round outdoor entertaining options.

Three bedrooms with BIRs and two bathrooms includes master with stunning ensuite featuring a deep relaxing bath overlooking

the ocean. Features include electric heating, laundry, outdoor shower, double garage, storage and ornamental lake.

Call Alex Scott & Staff today on 5952 2633 to arrange a private inspection, you will not be disappointed!



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Jodie Hanssen

Executive Director and Licensed Estate Agent

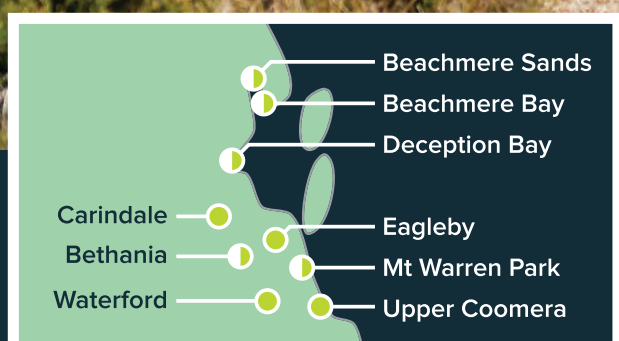
✉ jodie.hanssen@obre.com.au



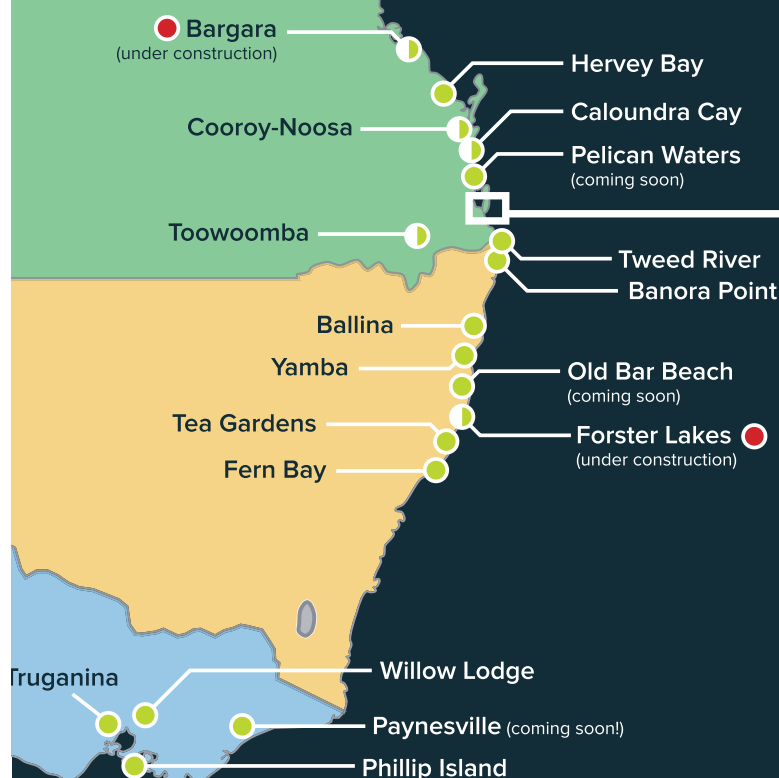
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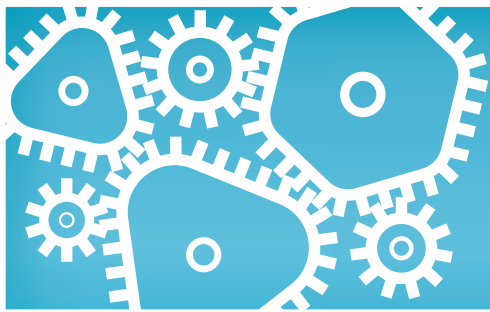
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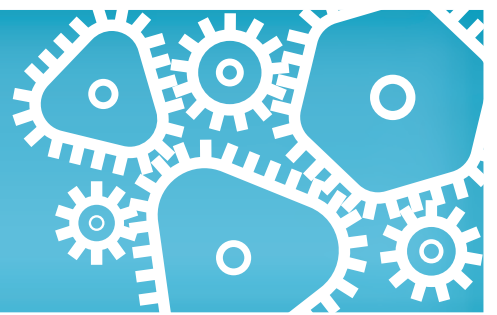
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YES

DEATHS

MENDOLA, Graham Nicholas:
18/07/1939 – 30/12/2022
Passed away peacefully at Grossard Court, Cowes.
Loved & loving husband of Marlene (dec.)
Loved Father of Vicky, Kaylene, Nicole and families.
Loving brother to Margaret (dec.) and family.
"Finally at Peace"
Our memories will last a life time!
"See the bombers fly up up"
Forever in our hearts
GRA HAM/Popsicle/Big pop ♥
Love from your loving granddaughter Sarah, Pommy & great grandkids Phoenix and Raevyn
XOXOX



LOST



LOST DOG on NEW YEARS EVE

Black and Tan Rottweiler, female, 9 years old, called Heidi, with a pink collar.
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Employment type: Part time or Full Time
You must hold an Austswim qualification and a current Working with Children Check.
If you are interested please email cows.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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We are seeking a dedicated and caring individual to become part of our well-supported team, as a Kindergarten Assistant Trainee towards Diploma qualification, for 18.75 hours a week, starting in 2023. Staff bonuses available.

Copies of the Position Descriptions can be obtained from accounts@pielc.com.au.

Written applications should be submitted to the same email address by COB Thu 12 Jan 2023.
ph. 03 5952 1747

PIELC is committed to Child Safety

CLEANER(S) REQUIRED

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We are seeking expressions of interest from a professional and dedicated Cleaning team to provide general cleaning duties to a multi unit complex in Cowes. Duties will include a mixture of tasks to be performed primarily on two weekday mornings.

The successful applicant will be required to commence in March 2023.

A full comprehensive task list will be available to those who express interest, with quotes and interviews scheduled for February 2023.

Expressions of interest are due by 27/1/23 emailed to stevenson-peter@hotmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES



WESTERNPORT FIELD & GAME

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Members
Westernport Field and Game
Annual General Meeting will be held on:
Saturday 18 February 2023, 4:00PM
1 McFees Road, Rhyll
Members are encouraged to attend.

SITUATIONS VACANT

"FULL TIME POSITION"

Do you love working with people, as part of a team, and individually?

Do you have exceptional organisational and communication skills?

Phillip Island Marine is a family owned and operated business and is currently seeking a full time shop sales and administration support person, responsible for the diverse day-to-day operations of this busy complex.

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The successful applicant will have:

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- Ability to provide outstanding customer service.
- Ability to work autonomously and effectively manage enquiries.
- High level of integrity, drive and energy.
- An interest in boats and fishing would be a bonus, but not essential.

Applications close on 19th January and can be forwarded to cath@phillipislandmarine.com.au

14 Beach Road, Rhyll
PH: 5956 9238
www.phillipislandmarine.com.au



PHILLIP ISLAND MARINE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Flawed process

Bass Coast Council says that the proposed works in Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay are based on feedback from residents. Unfortunately that doesn't appear to be true.

On August 11, 2022 a mail out from the Council based on initial resident feedback showed that:

151 wanted a surfaced road, 315 did not.

53 wanted speed humps, 282 did not.

137 wanted raised intersections, 218 did not.

116 wanted one path on all streets, 230 did not.

119 wanted one path on all streets and a shared path on the Esplanade, 232 did not.

17 wanted two paths on all streets, 337 did not

25 wanted two paths all streets and a shared path on the Esplanade, 329 did not.

There was no questionnaire regarding kerb and drain.

On November 9, 2022, an email was sent from the Council that claimed to include feedback from the Community Reference Group (of which I was a member) that showed:

76 wanted speed humps, 92 did not.

It was stated in this email that paths, kerb and channel and a sealed road would be included in all options given to residents. This does not reflect the feedback from the

group.

On November 23, 2022, an email was sent to residents that showed three options. Each option shows a diagram of what's involved. The diagrams are identical. There is no choice.

Streets in this area should be treated individually to solve problems where they occur.

This process is flawed and biased towards what Council wants, and not what residents need.

Chris Rowles, Surf Beach

Who's paying the price?

A reply to a question at the December 2022 meeting of BCSC relating to the proposed Sunderland Bay, Surf Beach Special Charge Scheme, stated that neither Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) or VicRoads are required to provide any financial contribution to the scheme, even though both government departments have road frontages to the estates. Phillip Island Road, along the northern side of the Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach Estates, is 3km long and controlled by DoT (Department of Transport) and yet council wants the ratepayers of Sunderland Bay/ Surf Beach to fund the upgrade of the hopelessly inadequate and undersized drainage infrastructure along this

section of road. This section of road floods in a one in five-year storm. The Esplanade along the southern side of the two estates is over 3km long and controlled by PINP, another Victorian government controlled department. PINP vehicles are seen daily driving this section of roadway to inspect and access the land that is under their control, and yet again council is requiring ratepayers to fund the entire costs for this road. This is an unfair burden on a select group of ratepayers to fund the upgrade of multiple state government infrastructure. Council is now also planning to have ratepayers fund a combined cycleway pedestrian footpath along The Esplanade. No one knows what side of the road the cycleway will be located and how it and road and drainage works will impact the shearwater rookeries. Councillor's and ratepayers are yet to see "The Concept Plan" (aerial view) for the estates and yet in less than two months' time, council will decide to proceed with the scheme without all of the facts. Council has decided, yet again, to extract even more money from ratepayers. Is it any wonder that ratepayers are fed up with BCSC? Honesty, transparency, consultation and accountability are sadly consistent deficiencies of this BCSC according to council surveys.

Philip Davy, Surf Beach



Volunteer pelican taggers rely on the public to keep an eye out for the tags. If you see a tag or a metal band take a photo and if possible keep a note of the number on the tag or the colour and upload the details to the Westernport Pelican Study Group Facebook page.



Pelican volunteers: Madeleine Pitt, Cowes, Lorraine Lelliott, from Narre Warren, and San Remo's Gary Matthews.



A marvellous bird is the pelican, its beak holds more than its belly can: This pelican eluded the pelican catchers but nevertheless gobbled down its share of fish.



One of the bands that goes around the leg of a pelican.

Island volunteers catching pelicans

Catching pelicans is not easy. Several times a year volunteers from Phillip Island and San Remo – in the name of science and conservation – attempt to get a firm grasp on one of the giant water birds in order to tag, weigh, measure and monitor age, gender, and health status, with records collated for educational and conservation purposes..

Their success rate is not always high. On the day the Advertiser catches up with the Westernport Pelican Study Group (WPSG), they are trying for Corinella, but on arrival there's not a pelican to be seen.

So, instead, the three volunteers head to Newhaven.

"About 75 per cent of the time we don't get one," says San Remo's Gary Matthews, from the study group.

"At Corinella we've tried to catch them for three years and we've had success twice in that time.

"At Newhaven we've had more luck, I'd say we've caught and released a dozen or more. But it's hit and miss."

Since starting their work in 2018, the self-funded citizen science WPSG has caught a total of about 40 birds, each banded and some fitted with tracking devices (weighing 90g).

"We're aiming for 250," Gary adds.

"We share data with researchers in South Australia, New South Wales and the Gippsland Lakes.

"It's important work because no one has done a study of Australian pelicans in Victoria and we need to know more about them, to help conserve the species, and the places where they live."

Breeding colonies have dwindled to Mud Islands and Gippsland Lakes, from the seven report sites a decade ago.

On arrival in Newhaven, near the jetty, the volunteers set up a ethics-approved catching mechanism, and – with fish carcasses from local anglers – attract the pelicans.

Then they wait. And wait some more for the pelicans to come near the catching mechanism.

"They're very intelligent birds. They recognise us and fly away when we come near. They know what we're up to," Gary says.

"We have most success with juveniles who haven't seen us before."

One giant pelican approaches very closely and the volunteers hold their collective breath, before the bird wanders off in the opposite direction.

"So close, so close. But one is all it takes," Gary says.

Research

While waiting, Gary shows the paraphernalia involved in pelican research.

"If we catch one it takes three of us. One car-

ries the birds, putting a sleeve over its eyes to calm it.

"They weigh about 10.5kg or up to 12.5kg and so we put the bird on a cradle for about 10 minutes to carry out the data collection and banding."

Volunteer Madeleine Pitt, from Cowes, joins in.

"There's an art to catching a pelican," she says.

"You need to tuck their wings in and then get their bill."

Volunteer Lorraine, who comes from Narre Warren, agrees.

"Generally we cover them to calm them and I talk to them. The others laugh at me, but I tell them, 'it's ok, we'll be finished soon'," Lorraine laughs.

Gary explains that all volunteers must have permits registered by the Australian government through the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBS), which manages the collation of information on threatened and migratory bird and bat species.

To have an A-class permit a volunteer must have caught 500 or more birds and they're able to band birds.

A C-class means you can handle wildlife.

Tracking

Gary, who is A-class and has permits from the state environment department, Parks Victoria and an animal ethics permit, pulls out his smart phone to show an app that follows tracked birds.

"The data shows how far they go, where they forage for food, where they fly and how fast. It plots their movements every five minutes," he says, adding most tracking devices stay on the bird about two weeks or up to a month before falling off.

"All this will give us valuable information into the movements of where the pelicans forage and have their young.

"We don't know how many there are, where they go for breeding grounds, or whether they're inter-breeding."

Gary says the WPSG relies on the public to keep an eye out for the tags.

"If they see a tag or a metal band take a photo and if possible ideally see the number on the tag or just tell us the colour, regardless if it's green, red or orange," says Gary, who requests the public to upload the information to the WPSG Facebook page.

"People must keep a safe distance, though, because the closer they get the more likely the bird is to fly off or they will also snap at you."

"Ideally people can zoom in with a camera or even binoculars."

"Also people can help by reporting the number of pelicans sighted, as well as the location, date and time."

If you see a green band, that indicates a bird tagged by the Westernport Pelican Study Group. Red is Lakes Entrance, blue is Balranald, and orange is Lake Brewster.

Intelligent

Gary says about a decade ago pelicans in Victoria were believed to have 10 colonies, but now there were thought to be just two: at Mud Island in Port Phillip Bay and the Gippsland Lakes.

"Like other birds, the pelican is a canary in the coal mine. With research we will be able to tell whether or not their numbers are increasing or declining."

Gary and his wife Joan used to care for injured and sick pelicans at their home but now take them to the wildlife rehabilitation centre at the Nature Parks.

The couple are one of 50 members of the self-funded WPSG, which started about 10 years ago by a group of concerned local volunteers who began researching pelican populations.

In 2018 the group received government permission to start banding pelicans in a radius from Phillip Island to Stony Point and even Mud Island.

"I've been pecked and my face has been scratched from the forehead down," he says.

"I've even had my backside pecked."

Madeleine says she was a wildlife carer for many years before discovering a connection with seabirds, now also working as a Phillip Island Nature Parks volunteer on the hooded plover watch.

"Pelicans are such an iconic bird for this area," Madeleine adds.

Lorraine says she fell in love with pelicans after watching the Australian movie Storm Boy as a child.

"When I did my first catch it was amazing, the most unbelievable experience, to be that close and to feel the strength in their neck and legs. You don't expect that," Lorraine says.

"Doing this work keeps my sanity."

Gary – who is also a member of the Victorian Wader Study Group – is flying off to Broome to count and catch other species of birds for science, from red-necked stilts to pied oystercatchers and crested terns.

He says before he started working with the birds he thought they weren't especially smart.

"But they've proved me wrong big time. They're very intelligent and the more I deal with them the more I have to think and strategise about ways to approach them."

His love of pelicans started about 20 years ago when he saw a pelican come in to land on water.

"It used its wings and feet as brakes and then skidded across the top of the water, to this day I still love to see pelicans land and take off."

"Then I volunteered to catch injured pelicans, many with fishhooks and fishing tackle wrapped around their legs or wings."

"Now I am hooked and pelicans are my favourite birds."

Details: www.facebook.com/groups/532493277609873/

Melaleuca Lodge Auxiliary Summer Book Sale

Wednesday 28th December 2022 –
Saturday 28th January 2023
10am – 1pm Daily

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Watchorn Road Cowes | 0437 949 029
Gift Vouchers Available





Around 350 children took part in this year's Nippers season, with the younger Nippers learning surf skills at Cleeland Bight Beach. Photo: Ivan Webb

Nippers never 'board' over summer holidays

The ever-popular Nippers program kicked off on Phillip Island just after Christmas and wrapped up in early January.

If you have visited Smiths Beach or the low wave Cleeland Bight Beach in Cape Woolamai over the past week, it's likely you have come across hundreds of Nippers clad in their distinctive fluorescent green safety vests. With around 350 children participating this season, Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club's Nippers program is one of the largest Nippers offerings in the state. "It's a very professional operation," Club Director Tanya Pinnock said.

"We have over fifty trained water safety personnel supervising the

Nippers, and around 100 volunteers who ensure the program runs smoothly."

Nippers at Woolamai Beach SLSC is a beach education program that introduces children aged 6 to 13 years to lifesaving. If you ask the Nippers themselves what they love most they'll tell you it's the boards.

"The younger Nippers learn surf skills at Cleeland Bight Beach, a sheltered, safe beach that allows them to grasp the basics of using a surf rescue board," said Tanya.

"At Smiths Beach, Nippers aged 11 and above really get to test their board riding skills in the surf, which prepares them for the tough conditions at Woolamai Surf Beach if they choose to progress further

with surf lifesaving."

In addition to board paddling, Nippers covers basic first aid skills, running and flag racing, swimming, wading, and lots of other fun activities.

Nippers is a key initiative of the lifesaving movement, and its continuous success is of vital importance to the growth of Woolamai Beach SLSC and surf lifesaving.

"We really value the many local businesses who have supported our program for many seasons through donations and raffle prizes," said Jason Close, President of Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

"These include Girls on Board, Cape Winds, Wildlife Coast Cruises, Phillip Island Nature Parks,

Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre, Purple Hen Wines, San Remo Fisherman's Cop, The Wooli Tavern, San Remo Hotel-Motel, Island Surfboards, Clip 'n Climb Phillip Island, Full-circle Surf, Latitude Trading, Phillip Island Chocolate Factory, Phillip Island Circuit, IGA San Remo, Rip Curl Phillip Island, and Silverwater Resort."

To learn more about surf life saving and Nippers, visit the club's website: www.woolamaibeach.org.au/.

**More Nippers photos by
Ivan Webb at pisra.com.au**



At Smiths Beach, Nippers aged 11 and above test their board riding skills in the surf, which prepares them for the tough conditions at Woolamai Surf Beach if they choose to continue with surf lifesaving. Photo: Ivan Webb



Westernport Field and Game clay target shoot results

Westernport Field and Game held their monthly shoot on December 18 with 118 shooters attending.

Two rounds of 38/37 were shot and congratulations to Jarryd Passarin for shooting a perfect 25.

The day was sponsored by the club.

Overall scores:

High Gun, Jarryd Passarin with a score of 68.

Grade winners are:

AA Grade: 1st Robert Passarin (65), 2nd Heath Dunstan (65) and 3rd John Kamaris (63).

A Grade: 1st Damien Milano (60), 2nd Waldo Walton (60) and 3rd Paul Johnson (60).

B Grade: 1st John Dudley (58), 2nd Adrian Ward (54) and 3rd Michael Robertson (54).

C Grade: 1st Jai Derrick (53), 2nd Manfred Stritthof (41) and 3rd Hayden Pool (40).

Juniors: 1st Mitchell Briscoe (26), 2nd Thomas Brereton (24) and 3rd Ebony Passarin (18).

Ladies: 1st Anna Wratten (54), 2nd Danielle Passarin (45) and 3rd Maria De Vito (44).

Veterans: 1st Rob Evans (56), 2nd George Crevatin (55) and 3rd Rob Sturzaker (54).

Our next shoot is the Stan McFee/Club Championship weekend of January 14 and 15, consisting of 100 targets on Saturday and 75 targets on Sunday with nominations commencing at 8.30am.

Self-nominations will be available through MCMS before the event.

Check out our Facebook page for further details.

Clay target shooting is suitable for all genders, ages and fitness levels with juniors shooting for free.

We would like to wish our members and sponsors a very Happy New Year.

The Weekender – a Gippsland two wheeled getaway

Grab your mates and escape the hustle and bustle of daily life with Bicycle Network's latest fully supported cycling adventure – The Weekender on April 22 and 23.

The event will be held over the 2023 Anzac long weekend and is based in Leongatha.

Caitlin Borchers, Bicycle Network General Manager of Events, said: "West Gippsland has something for everyone – gourmet offerings, stunning scenery, hidden gems and quaint towns, and the perfect way to explore it by bike".

The Weekender offers cyclists the option of two loop rides – so you only need to pitch your tent once or make one accommodation booking.

Day 1 – Saturday April 22: 115kms, 1203m elevation

Starting in Leongatha, the clockwise loop features quiet country roads, a climb through the Strzelecki Ranges and a descent to Leongatha. The ride includes the beautiful coastal route between Inverloch and Cape Paterson.

Day 2 – Sunday April 23: 70kms,

1229m elevation

Day two presents challenging climbs with the reward of the famous Grand Ridge Road and Gippsland Valley views. Country hospitality will be on offer in Mirboo North including the Grand Ridge Brewery and local cafes.

VetRide

Held over the Anzac Day long weekend, Bicycle Network is partnering with VetRide and will be commemorating a service with ex-service personnel during the event.

VetRide is an organisation dedicated through cycling to the welfare of all service and ex-service personnel of the Australian Defence Forces. At the same time, it provides something meaningful older veterans can do for their younger compatriots, consistent with the closely held values they held in uniform.

Accommodation and tickets

The Weekender Pass: BYO tent and Bicycle Network will provide a post ride beverage, dinner, break-

fast, toilets, showers, car parking and overnight security.

If you want more luxury opt for the two-day ride pass and book one of the many regional accommodation options.

There is also a one-day ride only ticket. Spend either Saturday or Sunday exploring Gippsland by bike. Book your own accommodation if you wish to stay overnight.

Early Bird Entry prices:
Saturday ride 115kms \$179 (from February 13 \$199)

Sunday ride 70kms \$149 (from February 13 \$165)

Two Day Ride Pass 185kms \$259 (from February 13 \$285)

Weekender Pass 185kms \$379 (from February 13 \$419)

Bicycle Network members receive 10 per cent off

There is extensive en-route support, medical team, bicycle mechanics, lunch and much more. Check out the website for what to pack and what to expect.

For more event information visit: www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/rides-and-events/theweekender/



The Weekender is a cycling event over the Anzac long weekend. Based out of Leongatha it will include a ride along the coastal route between Inverloch and Cape Paterson.



This six-metre boat was seized by the Victorian Fisheries Authority, after the owners allegedly took more than ten times the daily bag limit of abalone.

Fishers on notice

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) officers have seized a boat for an illegal abalone haul.

The VFA said most recreational fishers do fish sustainably and abide by catch limits however the two people apprehended in Port Phillip Bay had their six-metre boat seized for allegedly taking more than ten times the daily bag limit of abalone.

Director of Education and Enforcement at the Victorian Fisheries Authority Ian Parks said Fisheries Officers were conducting a routine patrol on jet skis near Point Wilson on December 27 when they boarded an aluminium boat in which a man and woman appeared to be fishing for whiting with rod and line.

"The man in charge of the boat presented a cooler containing a small quantity of King George whiting and a bag of 10 legal size abalone the pair claimed to have dived for earlier in the day," Mr Parks said.

"The daily bag limit for abalone is five per person per day.

"A search of the boat allegedly revealed two intricate concealments of more abalone on-

board, the first containing 71 freshly shucked (removed from shell) and 18 whole abalone.

"The second concealment allegedly contained 17 whole abalone, making a total of 116 including the 10 abalone initially presented to officers.

"The pair were escorted back to the Werribee boat ramp where they had launched and the dive gear, catch and boat, estimated to be worth around \$50,000, were seized by Fisheries Officers on the spot. All the whole abalone were returned to the water alive."

Mr Parks said the pair will be charged with a number of offences, including exceeding the daily bag limit for abalone, possession of a commercial quantity of abalone, concealing fish taken in contravention of the Fisheries Act, possessing shucked abalone on Victorian waters, and hindering and obstructing Fisheries Officers.

If you see or suspect illegal fishing, call our 24/7 reporting service, 13FISH (133474), to speak directly to a Fisheries Officer. You can remain anonymous. Make the call and make the difference.



Men's singles final

Phillip Island Bowls club held the men's singles final on December 23. The final was between Richard Poole and Darryl White and what an exciting game it was and was decided on the last end. Congratulations to Darryl on winning the men's singles championship. From left to right: Richard Poole and Darryl White.

Phillip Island Bridge Club results

The Bridge club held their Christmas party on December 19.

There was plenty of Christmas cheer with a lovely lunch, drinks and of course bridge.

Contributions to the raffle were so generous there were three prizes.

Molly Downing won first prize, Leng Haggith second, and third was Greg Nicholson.

Four hundred dollars was raised for Free 3D Hands and the president will present the cheque in the New Year.

On to bridge results. There were seven and a half tables at play. Greg Nicholson and Deb Anglim got the top percentage of 59.03 for North/South, followed by Clare and Jim Murphy on 55.56 per cent.

Third place getters were Lois Dywer and Anne Gibson on 52.98 per cent.

Winners and grinners for East/West were Shirley Stewart and John Farr on 61.90 per cent.

Next in line were Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles on 53.27 per cent.

Visitors Julie Perriam and Susan Edwards finished third on 51.49 per cent.



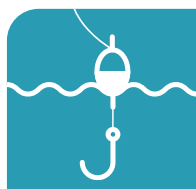
Phillip Island Bridge club members enjoying their Christmas party.

Wednesday, December 21 was a quiet day with people involved with Christmas activities. Paul Waylen and Karen Klym won the day on 59 per cent.

Miranda sage and Molly Downing came second on 57 per cent followed by Bron Sund and Leng Haggith on 53 per cent.

The president and committee members wish everyone a very happy New Year.

Special good wishes to our dear friend Trish Stewart-Uden.



AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Although there have been similarities with every fishing season when we read back through our diaries none have been the same for the last 17 years and I guarantee they will continue to change.

You couldn't really complain about the weather over the Christmas break so far.

While still up and down it was the most consistent it has been for some years and you could almost fish somewhere in the boat every day.

There are a few signs that the cost of living is starting to have an effect and we are getting plenty of people that own boats now looking at some land-based gear to try and land a fish or two.

Fishing can be as cheap or as expensive as you want and the more you spend doesn't always mean the more you will catch.

Maybe you can't afford the fuel to head out in the boat, but this doesn't mean you have to sit in the lounge and wait until things get better. You can swap over to do some land-based fishing without too much cost.

Your boat reels will be ok, all of your other gear will work fine, it's just the rods that might need to be changed.

If you want to change over just drop in and see us and we can help you out. Sitting around waiting for prices to come down, doing nothing isn't that good for your health. Walking the beaches, sitting on a jetty can be a huge benefit, especially to your mental health.

This time of the year with so many visitors we get asked a lot about the fishing around here - it's the variety that attracts so many to fish here.

School tuna, kingfish, mako sharks, flathead, salmon, mackerel and yakkas, even pilchards on the bait jigs, snapper, whiting, calamari, gummies, school sharks, then throw in bronze whaler sharks, garfish, mulloway, elephant fish, cuta, pike, trevally, gurnard, thresher sharks, arrow squid, leatherjackets, abalone, rock lobster, bugs ... and that's without mentioning the species you don't normally take home.

In the whole time we have been in the shop it's the healthiest the waterways have been.

As is the case this time of year the fish of all species have spread out around the bay with the best fishing on daybreak and sundown when they seem to be back in the usual spots.

If you are going out the best place to head is where you normally go; if you are early or if a bit late look for some of those out of the way quieter areas.

Most of the bigger snapper have gone and we aren't seeing a lot over the 40cm mark but still plenty of good pan sized pinkies, the corals area has been the best.

Whiting continues to be very good and plenty of mid 40cm ones still being caught with even the smaller ones in great condition.

Most of the better sized fish have come from the deeper water around Rhyll especially once the sun has come up.

Dickies Bay and Cleeland Bight, the fish become scarce once the boat traffic shows up and you will need to head to deeper water.

There has been plenty of baitfish around the bay with some big salmon amongst them.

Also swimming with the salmon has been kingfish with a handful reported from Newhaven jetty and in Cleeland Bight.

Gummies have gone a bit quieter, except offshore, and also a lot smaller as well with 100s of pups around.

We have seen several good catches of flathead through the bay, ones you can actually take home, and over the weekend schools of cuta and pike.

Jetties have fished ok with the typical tangles and frustrations with people new to fishing, but we have seen some quality.

All jetties have produced at some stage over the last week and when you talk about quality it doesn't come much better than kingfish from Newhaven jetty.

We get odd reports of kings from the jetties but all of them are really accidental catches. Makes you wonder what could be possible if someone actually started fishing for them.

Good sized pinkies to around 3kg and some big trevally.

Calamari, whiting, salmon and flathead make up the rest of the reported catches.

Offshore is a little out of control with some quality fish being caught, tuna and kings the most chased over the last week with gummies not far behind.

Gummies have all come from near the Powlett while we are seeing tuna from lip trap to the shank.

Kings from two spots, Coal Point and Pyramid Rock.

While most of the tuna have been small, some more stripey size than bluefin we have seen them up to 40kg and was told of a 96kg weighed at Hastings on Sunday, so if you are heading out, take everything with you.

Although we have sold out of the king brown teasers again, we have another batch on its way next week, you can pre-order just by calling the shop.

We now have full stock of the Kool Bag fish bags back in and if you haven't used one, even in the bay for gummies and smaller fish just ask someone who has.

Next to the tumbler scaler bags they are a couple of the most useful things we have on our boat.

We will be opening at six am all this week and will update our hours on our socials if we were to change them.

We have an instore competition running all January, simply count the total number of one species on our photo wall and go into the draw for some JBT merch clothing and Evakool drink cups.

You can enter as many times as you like, and the winner will be the first correct entry drawn out of the barrel.

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TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 4 JAN	THU 5 JAN	FRI 6 JAN	SAT 7 JAN	SUN 8 JAN	MON 9 JAN	TUE 10 JAN
LOW 4:27 am 1.28 m	HIGH 12:13 am 2.67 m	HIGH 1:10 am 2.72 m	HIGH 2:04 am 2.79 m	HIGH 2:53 am 2.85 m	HIGH 3:37 am 2.90 m	HIGH 4:17 am 2.92 m
HIGH 10:32 am 2.44 m	LOW 5:31 am 1.35 m	LOW 6:37 am 1.35 m	LOW 7:40 am 1.31 m	LOW 8:35 am 1.24 m	LOW 9:23 am 1.16 m	LOW 10:05 am 1.09 m
LOW 4:45 pm 0.59 m	HIGH 11:29 am 2.35 m	HIGH 12:29 pm 2.31 m	HIGH 1:27 pm 2.31 m	HIGH 2:21 pm 2.36 m	HIGH 3:10 pm 2.41 m	HIGH 3:55 pm 2.47 m
	LOW 5:41 pm 0.61 m	LOW 6:39 pm 0.61 m	LOW 7:33 pm 0.59 m	LOW 8:23 pm 0.57 m	LOW 9:08 pm 0.56 m	LOW 9:49 pm 0.57 m

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Sage is electric

Phillip Island surfer Sage Goldsbury finished in the Top 20 of Surfing Australia's first season of "She's Electric", the leaderboard created to recognise female grassroots athletes on a national scale. Photo: Andrew Lidsey @bunpix.

Phillip Island surfer Sage Goldsbury finished in the Top 20 of Surfing Australia's first season of "She's Electric".

Sponsored by Hyundai, the leaderboard was created to recognise and amplify female grassroots athletes on a national scale.

It was the first time that a ranking system was created off the back of the Hyundai Australian Boardriders Battle, leveraging LiveHeats™ data to recruit 'Hyundai Team Electric' – the next wave of rising female athletes smashing misconceptions of surf.

Over four months and eight events around Australia from the Gold Coast to Trigg Beach

in WA and back again, the process uncovered who the standout performers are from boardrider clubs across the country.

Phillip Island's Sage Goldsbury came in at number 15.

Surfing Australia said after decades of facing tough conditions, Hyundai She's Electric has created an equal playing field for women and unearthed breakout talent.

While these women competed in the Australian Boardriders Battle within their boardrider team, the Hyundai She's Electric Leaderboard platform extracted their high scores and performance data to identify female Australian Boardrider Battle

competitors in each event to create a national ranking.

"On beaches and boardrider clubs all around Australia there are women discovering or rekindling their love of surfing, yet many of these faces are yet to be discovered," Surfing Australia Head of Partnerships, Clarissa Pike said.

"Hyundai want to change this. We created this exciting platform, the 'She's Electric Leaderboard', designed to unearth breakout female talent. Tapping into our goal to support and supercharge the trend we've seen all over the country, particularly during Covid, of women surfing, this platform will uncover the

talented women that will inspire the next generation of girls and women to surf."

The top five athletes on the 'Hyundai She's Electric' Leaderboard headed to the Hyundai Surfing Australia High Performance Centre (HPC) on December 19 – 21 for a surf camp. This included three-days of intensive training at the HPC, surf analysis from some of Australia's top surf coaches, surf-specific strength and conditioning sessions, media training and workshops run by surfing icons and pioneers of women's surfing.

Visit the She's Electric Leaderboard at surfingaustralia.com/sheselectric/

Surfers to the rescue

Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) is partnering with Surfing Victoria to run Surf Rescue programs in February.

As recent events have shown, when a surfer rescued five people caught in a rip at Berrys Beach, it is often surfers who respond to emergencies when people swim at unpatrolled beaches.

The free program is designed to train surfers in CPR and board rescue.

Working alongside Play it Safe by the Water and other partners, Surfing Victoria has identified board rescue techniques that might prove crucial in emergency situations.

The course is tailored to surfers who could use their surfboards as a rescue tool.

The program, which has been running since 2019 has had over 3000 surfers skill up in life saving board rescue and CPR techniques.

"Surfers are at the beach all year round and frequent non-patrolled locations such as Cape Woolamai on Phillip Island," said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

"Surf Life Saving Australia noted in their annual coastal safety report that 49 per cent of drownings happen more than 5km away from a life saving service."

"By training up surfers in life-



Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) is partnering with Surfing Victoria to run Surf Rescue programs in February. Photo: Surfing Victoria

saving techniques, we are increasing the level of beach users who are able to assist in an emergency situation and ultimately save lives."

Surfers who complete the course are trained in how to spot a person in trouble in the water, rescue that person using readily available floatation devices such as a surfboard and perform CPR. All courses are led by professional First Aid and Water Safety instructors.

Courses are being run for free on Phillip Island on February 15 and 16 with limited spaces available in each course.

The February 15 course will be for PIBC members only, while the following day's course is open to

everyone.

Courses are also being run at Ocean Grove and Torquay during January and February.

Boardriders

Boardriders' President Hannah Eisen said the club was excited to be hosting the sessions.

"Surfing Victoria have secured funding to roll out the Surfers Rescue 24/7 Program across Victoria," she explained.

"It is a great opportunity for our surfing community to have access to this free program specifically designed for recreational surfers."

"The Club believe the training is important to skilling up surf-

ers so they know what to do in an emergency situation, which could ultimately save yours or someone else's life.

"Our members are at the beach every day of the year and are often the first responders for rescues in the water so this is a fantastic program that addresses safety issue and gives surfers all across Victoria skills and knowledge that will allow them to help save more lives."

Hannah encouraged all local surfers to take up the opportunity and said they did not need to be club members to sign up for the course.

The Surfers Rescue program is another part in the club's ongoing commitment to improving beach safety.

"PIBC also have a few junior members who are taking up surf lifesaving volunteer roles over summer and the bronze medallion course at Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club."

"We are working in a collaborative way to make sure both clubs are working together to provide safety on our beaches across the Island, particularly over the busy summer season."

Register for the Surfers Rescue 24/7 program at www.surfingvic.com/surfers-rescue-24-7

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AND STAFF**

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