

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST

Caravan park plans raise resident ire

Cowes west residents have blasted a proposed \$900,000 upgrade to a Cowes caravan park, saying it "adds insult to injury".

For several years surrounding residents have been promised an upgrade by managers of the Cowes Foreshore Tourist Park, which is on Crown land at 164 Church Street, with Bass Coast Shire as the landlords.

The upgrade was set to alleviate an overflow of parking problems, mostly in summer, where surrounding streets are log-jammed with visitor cars.

The upgrade was also hoped to address concerns about noise, as well as encroachment on foreshore vegetation, with residents concerned "trees have strangely disappeared over a number of years" and "foreshore has been claimed and developed by stealth".

However, the park tenants have lodged the much-anticipated planning permit for the site, adding 12 new ensuites, eight new studio units, four glamping buildings directly on the beach, but just 17 new car parks.

There will also be a new swimming pool, jumping pillow, pool shed and fencing, which will all require the removal of 20 trees, including several significant, healthy natives.

Under a lease agreement signed in 2018, the former caravan park leasees, (who took over tenancy of the Church Street property in 1995) requested their lease be transferred to Across Australia Parks and Resorts, with no public tender process.

They had secured a new 21-year lease in July 2015 with an initial annual rent of \$255,000.

According to the shire, the lease did not go out to tender because no submissions were received after the lease was publicly advertised in 2015.

The lease requires the shire to pay to the tenant an annual works contribution to the value of 20 per cent of annual rent. Of this contribution 10 per cent can be used for maintenance and the remaining amount for capital works.

"Insult"

Resident Rhonda Barnett said given the expansion of facilities in the upgrade, the number of allocated car parks was a "joke".

"It now has more than 220 sites and the parking was already insufficient, with visitors always bringing extra cars and friends' cars. But this adds insult to injury," said Rhonda, who will be lodging an objection to the plans.

"I believe there's now no parking for staff, I can't see any disabled car parks, nor any for boats or jetskis.

"I'm disappointed in this plan because it continues to disrespect residents."

Nine objections have already been lodged with the shire, highlighting concerns about insufficient parking, with one objector describing each summer as "a nightmare for surrounding properties".

Along with other residents, the Barnett's driveway is often blocked throughout the peak summer season by visitor cars and she questioned whether the allocated 17 car park spaces would even fit that number of cars.


Continued page 3



Queen's honour for Kay!

Surf Beach resident and former state politician Kay Setches was among the 933 Australians recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. Ms Setches received an Order of Australia medal for significant service to the people and Parliament of Victoria and to women in politics (see story on page 8).

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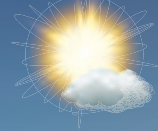




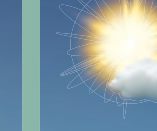
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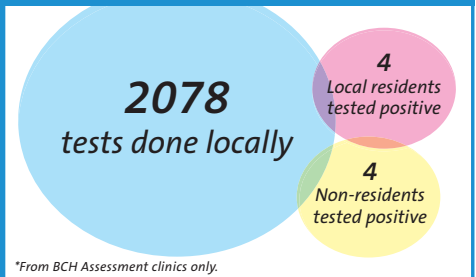
7 DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17
						
Cloudy	Partly cloudy	Shower or two	Showers easing	Shower or two	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
8° 13°	8° 15°	8° 17°	10° 15°	10° 15°	10° 14°	10° 14°

An extra special thank you

There was a special surprise in store for the staff at Cowes Primary School last week. The school community came together to create a unique thank you, acknowledging the time, effort and dedication the teachers and support staff had put into remote learning. As well as a print by Inverloch artist Fiona Kennedy, parents presented teachers with a special video from the children and a gift voucher so they could treat themselves. Local mum Lorey Sheers was the brains behind the operation, rallying parents to get involved, make videos of their kids and donating for a gift. She said she wanted to make sure the staff were recognised for their efforts during online learning and realised how much they were appreciated. “They did a tremendous job ensuring student welfare was top priority and really caring about the students and families all while they lived through it too,” she explained.

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*



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First up, she created a Facebook page and asked parents to film their children saying thank you to staff.

“I also said I was going to create a group gift for the teachers and people could contribute if they wanted to,” she explained.

Lorey was overwhelmed by the response – “people were so generous” – over \$1700 was raised and more than 120 video clips were made.

The clips were compiled into a 13-minute long thank-you, while Lorey used Facebook polls to decide on the best thank you present.

The top results were a Fiona Kennedy print and a gift voucher so the entire team could treat themselves to a lunch or dinner.

“Our only condition was the money had to be spent on them,” Lorey said.

Principal Rod McKenzie said the staff were overwhelmed with the gesture.

“The staff absolutely loved the video and it was great to see so many families involved. We will use the funds for a staff celebration which will take place once restrictions ease so we can all be together,” he said.

“The lovely print will be framed and placed in the staffroom as reminder of our wonderful school community.”

For the teachers, the extra recognition was heart-warming, thoughtful and unexpected.

“It brought a tear to my eye,” admitted teacher Kylie Carlson.

“I thought it was really special. It is not often we get such lovely recognition for the work that we do!”

Fellow teacher Bree Rutherford said it was nice to be recognised, “but the real heroes were the kids”, while Chris Andrews said the “incredibly thoughtful gesture” helped him realise how much their hard work was valued.

True community spirit

During online learning, despite being physically separated, the school community had to pull together.

“We were all in it together. It was hard on students, parents and teachers,” Lorey said.

“I never once felt that I should be doing more as a parent. Staff were always checking on our



Lorey Sheers presenting the Fiona Kennedy print to Principal Rod McKenzie and Assistant Principal Sarah Tyrell, part of a thank you to staff at Cowes Primary School from the school community.

welfare, that we were all okay. That made a difference – because a lot of people did struggle.

“I’m amazed they pulled remote learning together in such a short time,” she continued.

“It’s not part of their degree. They all had to learn as they went and they did it so well.”

The school community might have been scattered during the Coronavirus shutdown, but Lorey feels now it’s stronger than ever. And the response to her thank you effort is testament to that.

“I realised how strong our school community was. Instantly I had people wanting to be a part of it.”

School Council President, Brendan Cashman applauded the efforts of Lorey and the

other parents.

“Lorey did an amazing job gathering all the videos and donations from parents. This was her initiative and she drove the whole campaign.

“School Council would like to acknowledge the amazing efforts of students, parents and teachers over this unique period. The teachers and staff at Cowes Primary have managed to keep the kids engaged and created something special with the Friday videos being a highlight.

“We are very lucky to have such an amazing school within our community,” he said.

Teacher Jess Carroll agreed: “It was a great reflection on how our school community has strengthened during remote learning.”

Police report a quiet weekend

The long weekend got off to a slow start with traffic on Phillip Island Road banked up to Silverwater Resort on Friday afternoon, after a two-vehicle collision at Surf Beach.

A car and truck collided near Pine Avenue at Surf Beach. Police said no one was seriously injured, however traffic was diverted for several hours while ambulance and emergency services attended and cleared the scene, causing delays for motorists coming onto the island.

Senior Sergeant Andrew O’Brien said while there were large numbers of visitors across the weekend, there were no major incidents and people were “very well behaved”.

Drink driving offences up

State highway patrol units were active in the area over the long weekend, with police reporting a significant number of drink/drug driving offences.

Other offences included driving unregistered vehicles or driving without a licence.

The highway patrols will make the Bass Coast area a focus going forward, a police spokesperson said.

Burglary spate

Senior Sergeant O’Brien said there had been a spate of household burglaries across Phillip Island in the past week, with a higher than normal number of incidents reported.

While there was no real pattern to the offences, he said it appeared the perpetrators were growing in confidence.

He appealed to residents to report any suspicious activity.

“If you see a strange car in the street, or anything that seems a bit out of place, don’t be afraid to ring Triple Zero (000),” he said.



A collision between a car and a truck at Surf Beach on Friday afternoon saw traffic at a standstill on Phillip Island Road with cars diverted along unsealed roads in the estate.

He reminded people to lock their houses and cars.

Caravan smashed

A caravan parked in Walton Street in Cowes was badly damaged last week.

Police said they’d been called to a family violence incident at a separate Cowes address. A 45-year old male had left the scene and went to Walton Street, where he damaged the caravan, smashing all the windows and panels. The police located and arrested him for both the family violence incident and the damage to the

van. Police said the man will face court at a later date.

Street robbery

A teenager was robbed in Cowes on May 30.

Police said the young male was walking near the bus terminal at the Cowes Transit Centre when he was approached by two men. The men physically threatened the teenager and forced him to hand over his iPhone and \$20 in cash before running off. The incident is being investigated by the Crime Investigation Unit.

Caravan park plans raise resident ire

From page 1

Rhonda also said she was concerned about the siting of the jumping pillow near residential homes, and the noise it would create.

In a letter to the editor in today's paper, Rhonda raises a number of concerns about the caravan park, questioning why the lease was not put out to public tender.

"It was very poor business management for Bass Coast and Victoria. The only people to make a profit were the former leasees and the new leasees, not Bass Coast Shire ratepayers," Rhonda writes.

"Bass Coast Shire provides a 20 per cent reduction of the rates which, if you do the maths for blue chip real estate beach frontage, is way below commercial value.

"Profits from the Crown land go to private enterprise, and not the public."

She asks why, given the park is on Crown land, the public have no right of access through to the beach, adding that surrounding beach front properties "are all strongly encouraged to protect the native vegetation growing at the front of their beach front properties".

"Strangely there is no vegetation on the beach front of the caravan park: campers enjoy an exclusive view," she said.

"There has been no respect for the hooded plover and other wildlife on that exclusive part of the beach, no tree plantings to encourage new permanent vegetation and no respect for the erosion on the area."

A shire spokesman said the caravan park paid a commercial lease rate, "the same rate as any privately-owned caravan park".

"This is a commercial lease and like most commercial leases the tenant strives to make a profit from its enterprise on the land and the landlord in return receives a rental income," the spokesman said.



This photo shows the boundary of the Cowes Foreshore Tourist Park, with the top left designated for the glamping tents.

Development "by stealth"

Another nearby resident, who will be lodging an objection to the plans, said that park managers had "taken over the foreshore by stealth" and the shire was demonstrating hypocrisy.

"And they're now developing by stealth," said the resident, who asked not to be named.

"They are planning to erect glamping structures right on the edge of the beach, which will be extremely obvious to anyone on the beach.

"The shire tells us – rightly so –

the foreshore is precious and trees shouldn't be cut down, yet at the same time they are allowing the park to expand out to the beach. It's double standards."

She said a giant foreshore tree had been cut down last month by arborists, next to the area where the glamping tents were set to be erected.

The resident was also critical of the advertising process of the park plans, saying that there had been little public notice given, which was especially concerning during COVID-19 lockdown.

Plans

The planning permit for the upgrade states "some minor redevelopments and additions" are proposed, including four two-bedroom glamping tents, each with an ensuite, kitchenette and porch, serviced by a 6m wide two-way compacted gravel roadway.

"While the proposed glamping tents are proximate to the coastline, the form and character of the proposed four tents are modest and not out of keeping with the form and character of other structures, tents and caravans that area visible along this stretch of coastline," the permit states.

"It is our view that, due to their modest scale and tent-like form, the proposed glamping tents will not be visually obtrusive when seen from the ocean/bay."

The new car parking includes 17 car parking spaces, 2.7 metre wide x 6 metre deep, serviced by a 6 metre wide sealed access road.

"The proposed new formal car parking area will improve the overall supply, efficiency and safety of car parking within the subject site."

The permit states the campground is not at risk of inundation, with a coastal risk flooding map showing all proposed buildings above the highest tide level as projected under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's "high" 2100 sea level rise scenario.

The park is zoned public park and recreation.

Management response

The Advertiser contacted the current managers of the facility about resident concerns and they emailed this response:

"As we have not been made aware of any of the objections, we would prefer not to discuss until we have been formally notified of these objections".

Across Australia Parks and Re-

sorts director is Mark Manteit, who was the Phillip Island Nature Park CEO for seven years from 2003.

The company has a number of other caravan parks including Venus Bay and Victor Harbor in South Australia.

Bass Coast Shire councillors agreed to transfer the lease from the Currans to Across Australia Parks and Resorts in 2018.

(Originally, the park was operated by the Shire of Phillip Island, with the substantial revenue generated over many decades used by the shire for foreshore maintenance works.

(But it was leased out to private enterprise in 1995 by the Commissioners appointed to run the newly formed Bass Coast Shire, following the amalgamation of councils in 1994.)

At the time of the transfer of the lease in 2018 Cr Michael Whelan asked shire officers about complaints the caravan park had received about parking, anti-social behaviour and removal of trees on the foreshore.

"I'm not suggesting there's a foundation for these complaints but is there a way we can insert into the new lease that management deal with these three issues?" Cr Whelan asked.

The then manager of BCS governance David Elder said shire staff were "well aware of the issues" and that a new visitor car park was part of the new lessee's master plan of capital works.

"When there's a nuisance issue after hours, the community is advised to call Triple 0," Mr Elder said, adding that 24-hour staff representation was required at the park.

He said he would have to further investigate the vegetation issues.

"The new tenant has a track record of running caravan parks and they know what they are walking into," Mr Elder said.

"If these issues continue we'll try and find a suitable outcome."

Gas Import Jetty and Pipeline Project

The Minister for Planning has required AGL and APA to prepare an Environment Effects Statement (EES) to assess the potential for environmental effects of the proposed Gas Import Jetty and Pipeline Project.

Formal exhibition of the EES and key approvals documents, being the proposed planning scheme amendment to the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme (C272), the EPA works approval application, and the pipeline licence application, is intended to commence no less than two weeks after the publication of this notice.

Due to the declared state of the emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Minister has decided that conventional exhibition of the EES and key approvals documents for physical inspection at public exhibition places is not appropriate. Recognising this, the Minister has amended the procedures and requirements applying to the exhibition stage of the EES process for this EES.

The EES and related key approvals documentation will be exhibited for a period of 40 business days for public comment.

For exhibition purposes, the EES and key approvals documents will be available online at the Project website at gasimportprojectvictoria.com.au

During the public exhibition period, members of the public will be able to read the EES and the key approvals documents and make written submissions. A notice announcing the commencement of exhibition will be made, which will include information about how to make submissions.

The EES is the accredited assessment process for each of the Gas Import Jetty Works and the Pipeline Works under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Submissions can be made on EPBC Act matters as well.



Pre-order an EES Information Pack

Request an EES information pack, free of charge. The pack contains:

- A USB loaded with the complete EES and key approval documents
- A printed EES Summary Report
- A printed copy of the EES Map Book
- An information sheet on 'How to Navigate the EES'

For those who may have accessibility issues, or where electronic options are impractical, hard copies may be requested. A charge for postage costs will apply for hard copies of the EES Main Report, and charges will also apply for printing of the EES Attachments and Technical Reports. Requested items will be sent in time for start of the exhibition period, or within a week of receipt of each request (and payment for hard copies where relevant).

Please note the EES is a long document and we encourage the use of electronic versions to reduce any environmental impact.



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The main street of Cowes was busy over the weekend with visitors returning after the state government eased Coronavirus restrictions.

Visitors return

With Coronavirus restrictions easing, visitors returned to Phillip Island over the weekend.

The streets of Cowes were busy with people eager to enjoy the sunshine and the newly reopened local cafes and restaurants.

At times there were queues outside supermarkets as security guards enforced social distancing requirements.

Roads on and off the island were also busy, with traffic on Phillip Island Road flowing steadily.

There were delays on Friday afternoon due to an accident at Surf Beach (see separate story), with traffic banked back past San Remo.

On Monday afternoon, traffic slowed to a crawl from the airport at Cape Woolamai to the bridge as visitors and holiday homeowners headed back to the city.

Penguins return

Phillip Island Nature Parks reopened their doors on the weekend and tickets to the 100-seat per night Penguin Parade were quickly snapped up.

Although just a fraction of the normal capacity, every night was sold out, with visitors eager to catch up with the Little Penguins.

The parade is already booked out for next weekend.

A spokesperson for the Nature Parks said there were good numbers at the Koala Conservation Centre and Churchill Island over the three days, with the 100-person capacity strictly enforced.

"Because of this, there were some delays for people gaining entry at times, but everyone was very understanding and relaxed.

"It was lovely to have the

doors open again."

Cafes back

Local cafes and restaurants were able to reopen with up to 20 seated patrons per enclosed space. Venues still had to comply with density requirements of one customer per four square metres.

Bars and pubs were also allowed to reopen for meal services, with alcohol only able to be served with meals.

Every venue was required to collect contact details of every customer to in the event rapid contact tracing was required due to a COVID-19 infection.

The state government requires at least one staff member at every venue to complete online Coronavirus training. Once the training is completed, the venue can display a poster for customers to see.

Day of "shame" for AGL

A "Day of Action" is being held today by conservation groups as part of their continued campaign to stop AGL's planned gas import terminal in Western Port.

Environment Victoria (EV), along with local conservationists, will blast social media, write complaints and encourage any AGL customers to drop the utility as their supplier in a day-long campaign against the company on June 11.

"We will publicly shame AGL for threatening beautiful Westernport Bay and the wildlife who depend on it," the Environment Victoria campaign states.

"We will come together online to hit AGL where it hurts." AGL's plans will see a floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU), moored at Crib Point jetty.

The FSRU would regasify liquid natural gas by using a heat exchange system, taking in 450 million litres of seawater per day. The discharged seawater would be 7C colder than the ambient temperature

at Crib Point and contain residual chlorine.

AGL's plans would see liquified natural gas transported on up to 40 LNG super tankers - about 300 metres long and 49 metres wide - per year from interstate and overseas.

Last month AGL submitted their application for environmental assessment.

"AGL have had nearly two years to produce thousands of pages of technical documents, which make up their application," EV campaigners Victor Komarovskiy and Rai Miralles said.

"Now under the cover of Coronavirus, they want the Victorian government to fast track environmental approvals.

"For now, we are focused on making AGL feel the repercussions of going ahead with this dirty gas project.

"But when the time comes for the community consultation process, we will ensure that AGL is subject to one of the most rigorous environmental impact assessments on record."

AGL called for experts in marine ecology, toxicology, hydrology and social economics to help review technical data in the environmental assessment.

The campaigners said in emerging from the pandemic, the economy needed to be more "sustainable and resilient", creating jobs while preserving the environment and cutting climate pollution.

"AGL's gas import terminal does none of this and must be stopped. Continuing to burn fossil fuels is a path to nowhere, doing so while polluting an internationally significant wetland is recklessly destructive."

Last month AGL submitted the Environment Effects Statement (EES) for adequacy assessment to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), which is expected to take about 30 business days.

In a statement on their website, AGL said they were "committed to working with the community" during COVID-19 restrictions.



Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale joins Bass Coast Health staff with their crazy socks, raising awareness of mental health issues amongst health professionals

Doctors don socks

Colourful, odd socks are bound to draw attention... and last Friday they did just that at Bass Coast Health (BCH) ... for all the right reasons.

Staff at BCH's Wonthaggi Hospital, San Remo site and the Phillip Island Health Hub donned whacky socks to promote discussion about the mental health challenges doctors and other health workers face.

Mental health problems are higher among healthcare staff than other professions.

BCH staff welcomed local Member Jordan Crugnale, who thanked them on behalf of the state government for continuing to support the community through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our health workforce have been preparing themselves and our community for a potential surge in COVID-19 cases by undertaking additional training, and ensuring facilities and procedures are in place to be able to cope," Ms Crugnale said.

"That preparation effort reflects the quality of the health service we are fortunate to have in the Bass Coast.

"The demanding roles that healthcare workers undertake can place them at risk of experiencing mental health challenges and while they work hard to care for us, it's important that the community recognises they are humans too and are prone to their own mental health challenges.

"That's why I'm proud to back Crazy Socks 4 Docs Day, even wearing a pair of colourful socks myself."

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child knows the challenges of working on the frontline of health. She is a registered nurse.

"We do the job because we love working with people and ensuring they are in the best state of health," she said.

"It's important that healthcare workers also take the time to recognise when they need to address stress, depression and other mental health conditions they may be experiencing."

Ms Child said BCH welcomed the announcement of a \$350,000 funding boost to the Victorian Nursing and Midwifery Health Program and \$500,000 for the Victorian Doctors Health Program.

As part of the Crazy Socks 4 Docs Day, BCH staff took part in an online virtual panel that featured a range of speakers, all leaders in their health related fields.

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Pokies revenue plummets in isolation

COVID-19 may have wreaked havoc across Phillip Island's economy, but for gamblers, it has been a blessing.

New research released last week by the Gambler's Help team at Latrobe Community Health Service showed across Bass Coast an estimated \$3.4 million has been saved since this area's five pokies venues closed on March 23.

Latrobe Community Health Service found across Gippsland, a staggering \$25 million has been saved.

Service manager Michelle Ravesi urged Bass Coast residents to consider quitting the pokies for good.

"It's been a little more than 70 days since pokies venues first closed, and we estimate in that time Gippslanders have saved a massive \$25,677,890," Michelle said.

"That's millions of dollars people now have to firstly pay their own bills and, secondly, spend in local businesses.

"Imagine how our towns would thrive if we stopped spending on the pokies, and started spending on small, local businesses.

"With the closure of pokies venues, we have seen a welcome respite from pokies-related harm. When the venues reopen, you don't have to go back."

Michelle said one gambler told them that because the pokies were closed during pandemic restrictions, they finally had enough money to buy meat and another was able to buy a treat for the kids.

"If you've had similar experiences while the venues have been closed, please know you've already made great progress in breaking the gambling cycle."

Phillip Island figures

Last year, \$17,616,911 was spent on the pokies in Bass Coast, \$61,631 less than in the previous 12 months, according to Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation figures.

Despite the downward trend, the figures equate to a loss of \$48,265 every day.

Phillip Island accounted for \$17,771 of the daily total, up from \$17,557 the previous year.

The Phillip Island RSL is the only venue on the Island with pokies (58 machines).

The Commission figures showed the island recorded the highest daily average spend (on the machines) of any venue in the shire and was one of only two venues to see a rise in revenue generated by the pokies.

Over the past twelve months, more than \$6.4 million was lost on pokie machines at the RSL, an average of \$306 per machine each day.

The next biggest gambling spend was recorded at the Wonthaggi Club (\$5.6 million). With 10 more machines than the Phillip Island RSL, their daily total of \$15,387 equates to a loss every day of \$226 per machine.

Solutions

Pokie machine numbers are determined by the State Government.

Last month Bass Coast Shire councillors voted to support the Australian Local Government Association in calling on the Federal Government to establish a Royal Commission into the gambling industry.

The shire does not have a gambling strategy, but refers to their Health and Wellbeing Plan on gambling issues.

Cr Michael Whelan said minimising harm was "not necessarily" linked to fewer machines or venues.

"It means getting serious about those people who have a problem and giving them assistance as well as preventing the capacity for big losses," Cr Whelan said.

"Gambling should be taken seriously by the state government but I think they are compromised by their reliance on gambling income.

"From Council's perspective I think it should be a key focus in the council Health and Wellbeing Plan."

If you or someone you know needs support to stop playing the pokies, call Gambler's Help Gippsland today. Gambler's Help provides free, confidential advice and support to anyone affected by gambling. Phone 1800 242 696 or find the Latrobe Community Health Service office closest to you at www.lchs.com.au.



As part of the May 50K fundraiser, Tori undertook different challenges, running 130 kms and raising over \$15000



Tori ran a kilometre in a wetsuit with a snorkel and flippers, as part of her challenge to raise money for MS research.

Tori's fun run

When Tori Ryan set out to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis last month, she hit on a unique way to boost the challenge.

The May 50k challenged people to walk 50 kilometres in May to raise funds for MS research.

Tori smashed the target, running 130 kilometres and raising over \$1500.

A keen runner, she originally set out to run the 50 kms, with her trusty four-legged companion Fynn by her side.

Tori's friend Jane Mitchell said Tori soon decided to take the challenge to the next level.

"She said if you donate, I will also do a challenge," explained Jane.

"People came up with wacky challenges and she

videoed herself completing them and posted them on her Facebook page, which spurred people on."

The challenges came in all shapes and sizes, including running one kilometre in a wetsuit, snorkel and flippers; running backwards; running in the colours of her least favourite footy team, or wearing a G'day Tiger tracksuit and carrying a tray of coffees.

One challenge saw Tori run five kilometres bouncing a football, then kicking a goal when she arrived at the Cowes Rec Reserve oval.

Her partner Todd Cleeland came along for the ride, filming the challenges.

Fittingly, for her last 13 kilometres, she ran from Surf Beach to Cowes wearing a

Forrest Gump outfit ... "I just felt like running".

Jane said she's full of admiration for her friend's fundraising efforts.

"She made it fun and it became something everyone could be part of. People could get involved without doing the challenge themselves.

"And it gave everyone a bit of laugh during isolation and gave them something to look forward to."

A teacher at Cowes Primary School, Tori is a keen athlete who plays netball with the Phillip Island club and football for the Bass Coast Breakers.

"She's so active and energetic and she's a great motivator," Jane said.

"She definitely inspires a lot of people."

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A tireless campaigner

Age and chronic back pain might have diminished Kay Setches physically, but the passion and determination that fuelled her parliamentary career and a lifelong fight for women's rights, still burns bright.

Kay was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for her "significant service to the people and Parliament of Victoria, and to women in politics".

She described the award as "an incredible honour", saying she was overjoyed her nomination had come from both colleagues on Phillip Island and within the Labor Party.

Sitting in her Surf Beach home overlooking the ocean, Kay said it was "marvellous to be recognised" for her work in politics, describing herself as being political her whole life.

After working as a volunteer for the Australian Labor Party (ALP), Kay nominated for preselection in the seat of Ringwood, a seat she held from 1982 – 1992.

During that time, her ministerial roles included Child Care, Community Services and Conservation.

Her political career also included numerous roles within the ALP, most notably as the Chair of the Status of Women Policy Committee from 1992 – 1994.

The committee drove change within the party ranks on gender equality and affirmative action and it's a role she's particularly proud of. Today, there is close to equal representation within the party – which is a far cry from when Kay entered the Legislative Assembly.

"There were nine women in the Legislative Assembly at that time," she recalled.

"There wasn't even a female toilet on that side of the building."

After Labor's crushing defeat at the 1992 election, Kay said the party was "on the ground, panting".

And for women in the party, the results were devastating.

"There were no women sitting in safe seats, and they were all wiped out," Kay said.

Alongside her friend Joan Kirner, Kay took up the challenge to change the future for women in politics.

"We did it because our careers were over. We took the men on and gave no quarter," she said.

The women had to develop, plan and imple-



Kay, pictured with fellow Island Story Gatherer Lois Gaskin, helped launch the successful Phillip Island Festival of Stories.

ment a policy and strategy for increasing the number of women in Parliament.

Along the way, they had to challenge and change some ingrained notions from some men in the party.

"We were told "women can't leave their children", or "we need to pre-select the best", she recalled.

"But there were other men who supported the change and said "Keep going Kay".

As a result of the work by the Status of Women committee, rules were introduced stating the party had to pre-select women or face serious sanctions.

That movement from Victoria was adopted across the country and Kay says it's now impossible to imagine the Labor Party without women.

"It's in the DNA," she said, noting that there is close to 50 per cent female representatives.

Change didn't come without a lot of hard work though. Even after the affirmative action rule was put in place, at the next election only one woman was pre-selected.

So alongside Joan Kirner, Leonie Morgan and Candy Broad, Kay went on to set up Emily's List, a not-for-profit organisation that pro-

vides financial, political and personal support for female Labor Party candidates.

Her work with the Status for Women committee and establishing Emily's List are two of her proudest achievements in politics, said Kay, also nominating her role in the establishment of the Alpine National Park as a highlight.

Life after politics

Stepping back from politics didn't mean Kay stepped away from public life.

Some of her notable roles included sitting on the board of the Victorian Woman's Trust, a trustee and co-chair of the Queen Victoria Women's Centre, a member of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and the National Council for International Year of the Family.

After moving to Phillip Island full time six years ago, Kay quickly became involved in the local community, including joining the Island Story Gatherers and helping launch the successful Phillip Island Festival of Stories.

"I love this place," she said of Phillip Island and her Surf Beach home.

"The view never ceases to engage and uplift me. There are so many changes of weather and the storms are spectacular.

"I do wish we had footpaths around here though ... and a pool."

She's also looking forward to the new Cultural Centre – "It will be wonderful".

Working on the Festival of Stories has been in-

spiring, fun and sometimes frightening, she said.

"We've put on three terrific festivals and we've loved putting them on."

Unfortunately, Coronavirus restrictions put a stop to this year's festival, although there are plans for several online events.

Kay is also proud to have been involved in Change for Sam, established in the wake of the death of Samantha Fraser.

"That was a call to action from the community, and it was from the heart," she said.

Determined to make a difference

Kay's ongoing community contribution has occurred on the backdrop of her own loss and health challenges.

The sudden death of her beloved husband Denis in 2017 left Kay devastated.

Then recent ill health has seen her spend an extended period in hospital and severely restricted her movement – "I may not walk unassisted again," she said.

In spite of all this, Kay's determination to make the world a better place, especially for women, remains undiminished.

"I am appalled at where we are at the moment and what women have to endure again," she said of the current Coronavirus pandemic.

"Studies show that with working from home and online learning, there are eight hours more work in the house. And women are doing six of them.

"So many women have lost their jobs. So many are in casual groups not being funded (by government relief packages). I am so concerned about them."

Kay believes the economic impact of the virus is "turning history on its head" and that it's now more important than ever to ensure women's rights are protected and there is equal pay.

She's hopeful that more women will take up the fight, both in the workplace and in politics.

And she's has sage advice for anyone considering a life in the public arena.

"You have to have high feelings that you wish to be part of a reform process, that you want to help."

Given her own achievements, she could be forgiven for sitting back and resting on her laurels, but she's still keen to stay involved and says local women like Anne Davies and Jan Child inspire her

"I adore working with like-minded people, and I love working on something new, especially when there are calls to action.

"I've decided to be happy every day. At the tag end of my life, I'm not going to do anything anymore that I don't want to do."



Kay Setches was awarded the Order of Australia for her services to the people and the Parliament of Victoria, and to women in politics.

Queen's Birthday honours

Former Labor politician and Surf Beach resident, Kay Setches was among the 933 Australians recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

Ms Setches received an Order of Australia medal for significant service to the people and Parliament of Victoria and to women in politics (see separate story).

The awards were announced on Sunday by the Governor-General on Sunday, who said: "In this list we see all the positives that are in our community – we see the great ideas, we see the hard-work, we see the love and compassion for fellow human beings – it's a microcosm of Australia."

He said the awards recognized the contribution these Australians had made to their community and to Australia.

"Their efforts have been noted by their peers, they've been nominated and assessed independently as worthy of recognition."

"On behalf of all Australians, I congratulate them and thank them for their contribution to our country."

Continuing the positive trend towards gender parity, 41 per cent of recipients in the General Division are women.

The Governor-General encouraged the public to get involved in the awards process and nominate people in their community.

"The system is driven by nominations. To me that's the most critical thing – it's bottom-up and it is driven by recommendations from peers. The system belongs to all Australians.

"If you know someone that is worthy, look at what you need to gather and how nominations are assessed. People cannot be recognised if they're not nominated and that has to be driven from the community."

More information about the Order of Australia is available at www.gg.gov.au.

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No decision on pews

Local parishioners will be the decision makers on the future of the historic pews at St Philip's Church.

Members of the congregation have hit back at the suggestion in last week's Advertiser ("Don't take our pews", p. 12) that the move was driven by the church priest, the Reverend Jo White.

"Replacing the historic pews with chairs was a decision of the wardens of the church after a congregation request," said Lillian Heflingers.

Mrs Heflingers also said the first request was received before Reverend White came to the parish.

Reverend White said no decision had been made and confirmed the church was in the process of consulting parishioners about the pews.

"We are canvassing parishioners widely".

She said a letter went out to everyone in the congregation last month and included the names of who to contact about the pews.

She stressed the decision was a congregational matter and members had until June 22 to reply.

The Bass Coast branch of the National Trust has written to the church, urging them not to remove the pews.

"We feel the removal of the timber carved pews will detract from the heritage significance of the church, which is recognised in Council's planning scheme as well as by the National Trust," said President Greg Buchanan, President.

"We believe the pews are of fine craftsmanship, made by lo-



Renovations at St Philip's includes restoration of the Sanctuary, new windows, carpet and painting – all undertaken by local businesses and parishioners.

cal tradesmen and gifted to the church in the early part of last century. As such, they appear to be an integral part of the church's history and the atmosphere and tradition for worshippers.

"As a local branch of the National Trust, we strongly encourage the retention of historic and decorative features to our significant buildings and consider the traditional timber pews at St Philips are strongly representative of your church's historic character."

Church transformation

The historic church in Cowes recently celebrated its 150th birthday and has now undergone a transformation.

The renovation includes restoration of the Sanctuary, internal painting, new carpet and new windows.

Reverend White is thrilled

with the results and said the renovations were undertaken by local tradespeople and members of the congregation.

"They didn't just do the job, they did it with love," she said.

The Reverend thanked the following businesses and congregation members for their work on the renovation:

Sanctuary restoration – David Moody of Redback Home Maintenance

Carpet replacement – South Coast Furnishings

Vestry cupboards painted – verger Ken White

New windows – Ash and Jack of AJ Johnson Constructions

East window replaced – Betsy's Glass

Vestry linen chest polished – warden Ann Prideaux

Windows cleaned and polished – Tom

Interior painting – Rosie and Neil

The future of Smiths Beach

Bass Coast Shire Council is developing a town plan for Smiths Beach and is calling for community input.

Council said the plan will help shape the future of the area, and will consider improvements to "help strengthen, protect and support the longevity of the town" and the popular surf beach.

In March last year, Phil Dressing, President of the Smiths Beachcombers Association made a presentation to councillors, urging them to support the creation of a Smiths Beach Master Plan to address a growing number of problems.

He said the area faced issues with drainage, dangerous footpaths, road visibility concerns, parking congestion, ad hoc building decisions and vegetation and wildlife protection.

At the time, Mr Dressing said his group favoured a "more feet, less footprints" approach and wanted to bring together all the relevant groups to find a solution.

"We're asking the shire to fund and adopt a Smiths Beach Master Plan. We're asking for it to be adopted by 2023 and implemented by 2028."

Town plan consultation

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, said it's important that the wider community has a say about what they see as the short, medium and long-term priorities for Smiths Beach.

"We know the beach is extremely popular with both locals and visitors for surfing, swimming, stand up paddle boarding, snorkelling and fishing," Cr Tessari said.

"It is really important that improvements made to the town address the needs of the community, while protecting the natural environment, so that's why we need your feedback."

Feedback received during the consultation period will help Council develop the Smiths Beach Town Plan, which will aim to enhance the experience of residents, as well as protect the unique vegetation, wildlife and coastline environments.

Community input is being sought on a number of initiatives, such as land use changes, infrastructure delivery and activation ideas.

To provide feedback, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/smithsbeach. Consultation will be open until Tuesday, June 30.

Budget survey underway

Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association is conducting a brief online survey and is seeking responses from across the shire.

"With the annual budget coming up, we'd like to gauge community feelings about rates and other matters," said Association President Kevin Griffin.

"Following the Shire's first ever live-streamed Council Meeting we're seeking community feedback around Council's communication and engagement performance. With this survey we hope to better understand how the community is feeling about their Council today."

The survey is open to all ratepay-

ers and residents of Bass Coast.

Links to the survey can be found on the Association's website at basscra.org/ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BASSCRA/

The survey is open until June 21 and results from the survey will be published by the end of the month.

The first birthday celebrations

Celia Fleming and Pam Gill were the first customers to return to the Phillip Island RSL last Friday. "Celia and I had a very nice lunch together and we were served by the very charming Chris," said Pam. The pair said the lunch was a birthday celebration – complete with social distancing.

"I guess we would have been the first affiliated members to see the beautiful renovations," said Pam, of the newly completed dining area.



SHORT STACK

A quick roundup of news, views and opportunities

Winter Appeal

Children's education charity The Smith Family has launched its 2020 Winter Appeal with a warning that thousands of young Australians experiencing disadvantage are at a heightened risk of disengaging from their education, amid the challenges posed by COVID-19.

The appeal aims to raise \$4.2 million by 30 June to deliver life-changing learning and mentoring programs to students in need.

Funds raised through The Smith Family's Winter Appeal will help 10,740 children experiencing disadvantage, including enabling access to a range of extra numeracy and literacy programs.

To donate to The Smith Family's Winter Appeal visit www.thesmithfamily.com.au/winter

Extension on pool registrations

The government has extended the deadline for the mandatory registration of private pools and spas due to the impacts of coronavirus. Owners now have until November 1 to register their pools with council – an extension of five months from the original deadline.

The government introduced new regulations in December last year to make swimming pools and spas safer and prevent young children from drowning.

These changes require owners to register their pools and spas with their local council with a one-off fee of up to \$79. Owners who fail to register their pool or spa with their council by November 1, 2020 may face an on-the-spot fine of \$330.

For more information on the Victorian Government's pool safety reforms, visit vba.vic.gov.au

Council Update



Have your say: Smiths Beach Town Plan

Do you live in or regularly visit Smiths Beach? Then we want to hear from you! We're creating a Town Plan to help strengthen, protect and support the future use and enjoyment of the popular seaside town. We want to know what you consider to be the short, medium and long term priorities for Smiths Beach. Consultation is open until 30 June 2020. To have your say visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/smithsbeach or contact our Strategic Planning Team on the numbers below.

Situations Vacant: Working for Victoria applications now open

We're currently recruiting for a number of positions as part of the Victorian Government's \$500 million Working for Victoria initiative.

The roles will span across a range of areas including infrastructure maintenance, environment, business/community support, asset management, customer service, human resources, transformation and technology and recovery and support. If this is of interest to you, then you will need to sign up to the Working for Victoria recruitment platform. Register for a job at www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria. The platform will be used to match up job seekers with jobs relevant to their skills and experience.

Update: Cape Paterson Amendment C136

Exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C136basc occurred between 16 Jan 2020 until 27 February 2020. During the exhibition period, Council received 417 submissions. The proponent, Beveridge Williams, has requested consideration of the submissions be deferred until early 2021. The reason for the deferral is to allow for the public release of the 'Draft Statement of Planning Policy', which is being prepared as part of the State Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscape Project (DAL). The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning have approved the deferral request. The deferral will ensure that the findings of the DAL project are considered in conjunction with Amendment C136basc. The panel dates for the directions hearing scheduled for the week commencing 17 August 2020 and the panel hearing scheduled for the week commencing 28 September 2020 have been cancelled. For more information on the proposal, contact our Strategic Planning Team the numbers below.

Ordinary Council Meeting: 17 June

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, 17 June 2020 at 11.00am. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Meeting will be virtual for the health and safety of our community, Councillors and staff. This meeting will be live-streamed, ensuring the Meeting remains open to the public. This monthly Meeting is a formal decision-making forum for Council. At the beginning of this Meeting, there is public question time. At this stage, the forum will not provide the opportunity for submitters to ask their questions directly. Questions must be submitted in writing prior to the Meeting and questions and responses will be published in the minutes. For more details on question time, please visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings. A link to access the live stream will be available at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings. These are the items currently proposed to be listed for the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on Wednesday, 17 June. This list is subject to change. The agenda will be released on our website on Friday, 12 June.

Requiring Decision

- Draft Annual Budget 2020/21
- Response to Petition / Joint Letters - Sunset Strip Residents: Roads, Amenities and Open Space
- Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C159 - Mahers Landing Integrated Marina Development
- Integrated Water Management Plan 2020
- Drainage Asset Management Plan 2020-2024
- Phillip Island Entrance Roundabout Designs
- Waste Services Contract Variation - Impact of Recycling Industry Processors
- Significant Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2020
- Contract Variation - Environmental Monitoring of Landfill Sites
- Local Government Power Purchase Agreement v2
- Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program
- Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy and Council Support and Resources Policy
- Creation of Easement - Drainage Reserve, Clifton Crescent, Cowes
- Future Wonthaggi Recreation Site
- Review of Procurement Policy 2020
- Award of Tender No 20001 - Pioneer Bay Road Drainage Improvement Project
- Award of Tender No 20006 - Demolition of Cowes Cultural and Community Centre
- Award of Tender No 20008 - Wonthaggi Railway Station Extension and Glazing


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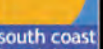
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Mammoth task for island author

It was lining up to be a stellar year for Chris Flynn. His third novel “Mammoth” was due to be released, after six years of writing and research.

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

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

The books were printed, the release date set and there was a full calendar of festival appearances and media interviews booked in to promote it.

Then Coronavirus struck.

Like the protagonist in his novel, Chris’ plans got buried in an avalanche of events that overtook the world and changed life as we knew it.

Fortunately, Chris says, unlike the mammoth, the world-changing events have played out in his favour. “When everything went to stage 3 – I did get concerned,” he admitted.

“The book was scheduled to come out month after that. I thought, what if we go to stage 4? It’s already bad enough having bookstores closed and people restricted to home. What if stage 4 means the warehouse shuts down? People couldn’t even order it online.”

Chris said he went on a rescue mission and his publisher authorised releasing the book into stores a month earlier than planned.

“It worked out pretty well, I don’t mind having it out,” he said now.

“People are at home, reading more than they have for years, and most bookstores kept their doors open to some degree, with some stores saying their online sales were up 700 per cent.”

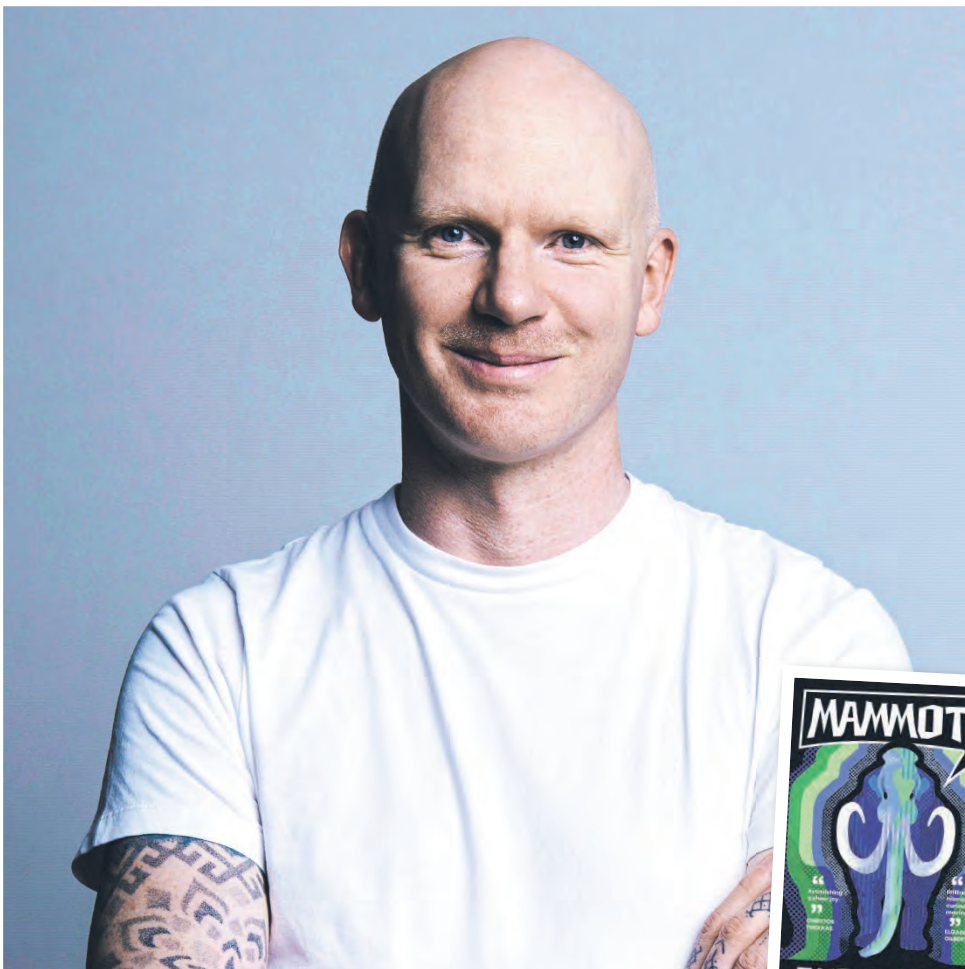
With many other authors putting their releases on hold, Chris said he’s been getting a lot of media attention.

“There’s not a lot of competition I guess,” he chuckled.

But he admits the themes of the book and the chance to escape into another world, away from the realities of Covid-19, might also explain why people have embraced the book.

“Fortunately the book is quite humorous and upbeat,” he said, describing it as historical escapism. “It’s striking a chord with people.”

Chris said perhaps if the book was a “deadly serious, miserable, fatalistic take on climate change



Phillip Island author Chris Flynn’s third novel “Mammoth” is available at Turn the Page bookstore in Cowes and online at chriseflynn.com

and science”, it might not have been so warmly accepted.

“People want to switch off, want to hear about something else. It’s nice to be able to throw yourself into different world. Books have really captured people’s imagination at the moment.”

Animals tale

So what prompted the Irish ex-pat who now

calls Phillip Island home, to write a book about an extinct mammoth?

Chris said the story was inspired by the true story of a natural history auction in New York in 2007, where Nicholas Cage and Leonardo Di Caprio got into a bidding war over the skull of a Tyrannosaurus bataar.

“At the time, I thought it was funny, but then I started looking into it. Back on the 1800s, the American President was doing the same thing.

“It was men in power, commodifying these creatures – fighting over bones – to show how strong and macho they are.”

He thought it would be interesting to tell the story from the other side and find out how and why the animals died.

A self-confessed dinosaur nerd, Chris said he has childhood memories of visiting Belfast’s natural history museum and being fascinated by dinosaur bones.

“They seem like monsters when you’re a kid. It’s inconceivable that they once walked the earth.”

That childhood fascination held him in good stead as he researched the book, which spans the Pliocene Epoch to nineteenth century America, the Irish rebellion of 1803, Napoleonic France and Nazi Germany.

“I was a bit scared of the story at first,” he admitted.

“There’s a lot of researching, and you have to get things right.”

He scoured the internet, visited libraries and ordered obscure books online as part of his research.

“The book is a fantastical conceit – a non-fiction book with a fiction framework,” he said.

As well as examining historical events, it looks at the destruction of the natural world and how the extinction of species has impacted on the environment.

In the book, the arrival of the Clovis, descendants of Neanderthals, marks the beginning of the end for the mammoths.

“The Clovis are essentially us. They used weapons and hunted more efficiently. At the time mammoths and bison roaming the plains, keeping the ground cold and hard,” Chris said.

“Then we turned up and killed them all. We used their skins and bones. We basically rendered these creatures extinct.

“The Earth started to get warmer, because the creatures were keeping the earth cool. It was the real beginning of human influenced climate change and it was fascinating to look at.”

Chris said the book follows the popular theory of extinction of megafauna and acknowledges that not everyone will agree with it.

“That’s the thing with history – you can only go so far. You verify as best you can, but you run out of facts eventually. Then you’re in the world of fiction.”

He hopes the book can help tempt people into science and history, and take their mind off the current situation.

There’s also lessons to be learned.

“One lesson is the fact that we keep making similar mistakes,” he said.

“In the past 10,000 years ago, we killed and ate a bunch of animals that we should have left alone and it’s ended up hurting us.

“We just did the same thing again, harvested wild animals in wet markets and ate them – now millions of people are sick.

“I think it’s a good lesson for all of us. We need to integrate better with nature and not be at odds with it, not be such predators in the natural world.

“We’re animals too.”

Living on Phillip Island has increased his respect for nature – “it’s a privilege to live in the middle of it” and he’s hoping the current pandemic will be a wake-up call for the human race.

“It’s just whether we’re smart enough to listen.

“There’s plenty of smart people in world using this time to think about how we can move forward, reposition ourselves.

“At the moment, we’re listening to medical experts and scientists – and we should continue to do that.

“We know that the political class don’t necessarily have our interests at heart. It’s all sound and fury and not much content sometimes.”

As restrictions slowly ease, Chris hopes people will embrace the chance to create a new normal.

“We’re hitting the reset button,” he said.

“Everything that we planned is now out the window. We’ve got to plan for a different future.”

“Mammoth” is available at Turn the Page bookstore in Cowes and online at www.chriseflynn.com

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World Oceans day spotlight on seal danger

Dozens of Australian fur seals on Phillip Island have recently been saved from serious injury or death from debris in our oceans, marine scientists have revealed.

Phillip Island Nature Parks revealed the findings of their seal rescue and marine debris programs on World Oceans Day, June 8.

In just over six months, the Nature Parks have removed over 113kg of debris from Phillip Island’s beaches, ensuring it stays out of our oceans, where it poses a serious risk to the local fur seal colony. The 23,000 individual pieces of debris collected include:

- 13,470 bits of hard and soft plastics
- 472 metres of fishing line
- 713 cigarette butts
- 601 pieces of food packaging and 537 lids
- 505 pieces of rope

Nature Parks marine scientist Dr Rebecca McIntosh goes out to Seal Rocks every two months with her team to remove debris from around the necks of seals, including pups.

“We have to do it because the seals can’t remove it



Debris in our oceans poses a serious risk to the local fur seal colony, with over 113kg of debris collections from local beaches in the last six months.

themselves,” Dr McIntosh said. “And it’s a good thing that we do because they wouldn’t survive otherwise.”

Dr McIntosh and her team crawl over rocks and seaweed to creep up on the seals and trap them in a large, cone-shaped net, then quickly disentangle the seal from the debris and release them back into the ocean.

The entanglements include fishing line wound around necks, fish hooks and lures caught in seal mouths and even

hats caught around necks.

“Not all the debris comes from commercial vessels or recreational fishing. A lot of it is washed into the ocean from urban environments,” Dr McIntosh said.

“World Oceans Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our beautiful ocean and think about protecting it. It’s vital that we protect our ocean home on World Oceans Day and every other day. That biodiversity is so precious.”

Entertainment and the Arts

Whales ahoy!

This year's Island Whale Festival is undergoing a transformation, due to the current Coronavirus restrictions.

The organizing committee said it was not possible to deliver the traditional three-day program of the successful festival, however plans were underway for a six-week promotion of whale discovery and wildlife insights.

The new format will start from June 22.

The committee is made up of representatives from Destination Phillip Island, Wildlife Coast Cruises, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Dolphin Research Institute and Bass Coast Shire Council.

A spokesperson for the committee said they were looking at ways to present a program that could operate in line with current Covid-19 restrictions.

"What we do know is whale watching is a great reason to be out in the fresh air and enjoying all our natural vantage spots.

"Partnerships with research scientists from the Two Bays Whale Project, the team at Phillip Island Nature Parks and Dolphin Research Institute will deliver inspiring information virtually to visi-



Plans are underway for a six-week promotion to replace the traditional three-day Island Whale Festival.

tors and our local community throughout the program."

The committee is looking at ways for people to get out and about and search for whales along the Phillip Island and Bass Coast Whale Discovery Trail.

"Special live streams from coastline locations and on the whale watching cruise will take place to share scientific information about these special creatures and our marine environment," they said.

The program will also continue to promote Plastic Free

initiatives and ways to care for the environment.

Plans are also underway to hold art and photography competitions and involve local businesses in special promotions.

Special Island Whale flags will be flying proudly across San Remo, Rhyll and Cowes, with Whale Trail posters available online and in shops and venues.

To keep up to date, go to the @islandwhales Facebook and Instagram platforms or visit islandwhales.com.au.

Early Years Award

Do you know an outstanding early years professional whose work deserves to be celebrated?

Then why not nominate them for a Victorian Early Years Award?

The awards recognise the outstanding work of early years professionals in improving the lives of young children and local member, Jordan Crugnale called on families, early childhood professionals and early years support organisations to nominate themselves or others.

Now in their 15th year, the

Victorian Early Years Awards recognise, reward and celebrate individuals and organisations, and highlight innovative initiatives aimed at improving outcomes within the early years sector.

In 2020, the awards will celebrate the achievements and commitment of early childhood professionals across seven award categories, including improving access and participation, supporting parents and promoting children's health and wellbeing, as well as the prestigious Early Childhood Teacher of the Year.

Award winners receive up to \$15,000 to further develop and share the lessons of their exceptional work in kindergartens, schools, local councils, maternal child and health services and other early years organisations across the state.

Nominations for the awards close on July 6, with finalists announced in September ahead of the awards ceremony expected to be held in November.

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/veya.

Counting the cost of financial wellbeing

Bass Coast Community Foundation is counting the cost of financial exclusion and economic inequality in our community.

Bass Coast Counts is the name of a new research project that will enable the Bass Coast Community Foundation to contract and work with experts to collect valuable data to understand financial vulnerability across the region.

From this research, the team will develop a financial information and education tool to improve consumer access to information and services.

Funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Ecstra Foundation the Bass Coast Community Foundation the initiative aims to address issues of financial exclusion and economic inequality in the community.

Deputy Chairman of the Bass Coast Community Foundation, Carol Blair said: "COVID-19 has thrown a new light across this project. Our community needs have significantly shifted, and financial literacy is now more important than ever.

"Financial wellbeing has become an immediate issue, and

our project will help us map the changing needs, provide up to date information for service providers across the Bass Coast and build tools and networks to address identified needs."

Ms Blair said the Bass Coast Community Foundation is currently preparing governance processes and documentation, which will take 12 months to complete.

The project consists of two distinct phases: data and case study collection, and the development of information and education tools to improve people's access to financial services on the Bass Coast.

The project will assist the Bass Coast Community Foundation and project partners to:

- Gain access to valuable data (empirical and anecdotal) of community needs

- Bring a focus to Bass Coast and ensure data is able to be highlighted (not buried in the wider Gippsland data)

- Identify the impact of the services provided and identify opportunities

- Have access to data to advocate for improved and/

or continued services for our community

- Assist in increasing the 'funding pie' for the region

- Build networks and better collaborate with other providers as appropriate

- Help better plan and deliver for the community.

CEO of Ecstra Foundation, Caroline Stewart said the grants acknowledge Community Foundations' unique ability to execute whole of community projects and to create long term impact through local projects.

"Local leaders know their communities and are best placed to decide how philanthropic funding can spark positive changes in community financial wellbeing," Ms Stewart said.

"Our funding is very flexible, and as a result each foundation has determined their own approach to addressing local issues."

For further project related information please contact Carol Blair, Deputy Chairman Bass Coast Community Foundation at dep.chair@bccf.org.au.



The Vintage Veterans perform their special brand of country music, every Saturday afternoon at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, from 12pm to 4pm.

Vietnam Vets returns

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is open again with restrictions in place, as per the current Covid-19 restrictions.

The popular Nui Dat Café has been operating on a takeaway basis for several weeks, but it is now able to offer visitors sit down service.

A museum spokesperson said procedures are in place to ensure the welfare of visitors, volunteers and staff, including additional cleaning routines and hygiene measures.

"Staff have completed training for operating a hospitality business in a Covid-19 environment. Everyone is required to disinfect their hands on entry to the premises and give their name and contact phone number to our volunteers at the reception," the spokesperson said.


"Our first priority is to create a safe and

clean environment so that we can feel confident everything has been done to protect anyone who enters the café and / or our Museum."

The museum's holographic Light and Sound show will be run on an hourly basis, and the chairs and surrounds will be disinfected after each session. Some interactive screens will not be available, however volunteer guides will be there to answer any questions.

The Vintage Veterans have also returned, performing their special brand of country music, every Saturday afternoon in the café, from 12pm to 4pm. There is no charge to come along and listen.

"We look forward to welcoming everyone to the museum. Please call us on 03 5956 6400 or visit our website: www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org for more information."



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*NOTE: Concert dates subject to change.

VISIT: www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org for current venue information.

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In this last quarantine diary for the Advertiser, Lisa says: “I wouldn’t use the word ‘precious’ in describing the past two months. It hasn’t been all daisy chains and kale smoothies ... (but) the pandemic and lockdown made me realise what can be taken away so quickly.”

Diary of a family in quarantine:

The last chapter: With a semblance of normality returning, this last lockdown lowdown from the McLure family of Smiths Beach looks back at the past two months, and what lies ahead.

Older son Angus returned to Cowes Primary this week, joining his younger sister Evie, while mum Lisa is looking forward to having clients back in her personal training studio at the end of June.

Dad Tim continues to work, but drove the family’s new caravan up the driveway last week, which was ordered pre-pandemic in the hope of family weekends away.

“In some ways it feels like life is back to normal.

Evie wasn’t looking forward to Angus going back to school because she’s been the queen of the primary without all the big kids.

Angus has enjoyed being a man of leisure. He and his mates say they liked home schooling. They’d finish their work and play on the iPad or games.

With the kids all returning to school one of the mums at Cowes Primary (Lorey) organised, via Facebook, a big thank you video to the teachers and school staff.

More than 100 kids joined in, each sending a five to 10 second video, which were all collated and edited into a video collage of about 13 minutes, which was presented to Rod (the principal) and shown in the staff room.

Some kids did dance moves or tricks on their skateboards. Evie and Angus held up a sign saying ‘thank you teachers, we love you’ with the dog and cat.

As well as doing the video, Lorey asked parents for donations. She thought maybe there would be enough money to take staff out to lunch, but in the end it went gang-busters and she got \$1700 and so bought an art work for the staff room.

The teachers were all so

grateful they wanted to thank the kids, they were thrilled, so it felt like a thank you circle.

Everyone has been so grateful and happy, they just wanted to give back to the teachers, especially given some of them were home schooling their own kids.

Both the kids have had friends around in the past week and it has been lovely just having kid laughter again.

The house has been quiet over lockdown, so having crazy, happy noise in the house – kids calling out to each other – has been great.

Before lockdown, we ordered a caravan so we could take the family away on weekends and Tim went and got it last week.

Driving it up the driveway it felt like a kind of finality to all this.

We could have gone away on the long weekend, but we figured every man and his dog would be going away, so we’ll go another weekend, maybe to Wilsons Prom to celebrate the end of all this.

I’m looking forward to having my personal training clients in the studio again at the end of June.

I’ll have to adapt – they’ll bring their own yoga mats and towels and I’ll clean everything down at the end of each session.

Everyone is itching to get back, including to the gym.

Not everything is back to normal though. At the salon we still have a maximum of eight people at a time and it will stay that way until restrictions ease.

Because the salon looks empty, people keep coming in asking for a blow wave, so we had to put a sign on the door saying we were booked out.

I’m still on JobKeeper so it makes no difference whether I work two or 20 hours, but I want to work to look after my clients.

I definitely think I’ve come out of lockdown a better person, even though I may not have thought so at the time.

I wouldn’t use the word ‘precious’ in describing the past two months. It hasn’t been all daisy chains and kale smoothies.

I’m not 10kg lighter, or a French-speaking fitness fanatic. I even managed to put on 5kg in lockdown, but I like to support my PT clients that way.

What has changed is that I really appreciate we live in such a beautiful, peaceful place; we’re so fortunate to be here and supported by friends and teachers.

The medical profession in Australia tell us even if there is a second wave we are going to be ok. The doctors and nurses who come into the salon say they’re ready now.

The pandemic and lockdown made me realise what can be taken away so quickly. I feel like it has bought us all together, even as a couple Tim and I have supported each other more as a team.

Just dropping the kids at school, normally I’d be ‘see ya’, but now I take an extra minute, breath it in, realise it’s all going to be ok and know we’re very fortunate.”



Who’s at your door?

Phillip Island photographer Claire Davie started her Facebook and Instagram sites The Doorstep Documentary at the start of the Coronavirus lockdown.

Claire is now sharing some of the hundreds of stories and photos she’s gathered with the Advertiser.

The Sterling Murray family – Jacqui, Noah, Stevie-Bre and pup Joni, San Remo: “For us, life in iso (isolation) has been the gift of a giant pause, for our little family, our little town and mother earth.

As much as we were scared in the beginning for those we loved – and miss our family and friends – as we settled in to our new normal we played with the chooks and painted their little home, worked on

our garden, started a family band where we jam out in the evenings and sometimes zoom jam with my dad (kids’ gramps).

We haven’t got through a huge amount of home schooling, but Noah has learnt some very important skills – such as holding handstands and learning backflips – and together we have created a beautiful life in iso family canvas.

I miss my clients and human connection, but the wonderment of this time, including autumn family swims no matter what the weather (where Frankie the dolphin came and joined us a few times), and getting our beautiful new pup Joni, has been filled with love and gratitude.

There are many things I will be choosing to leave behind from our pre-iso busy life when things return to a new kind of normal.

Thanks Claire for this gift to our community – shine on xx.”

Four times as many fines

There have only been 16 Covid-19 related fines issued in Bass Coast up until May 17.

To date, the area has only recorded four cases.

A document tabled in Parliament by Victoria Police showed Bass Coast was one of 19 local government areas that recorded 16 or less fines.

The majority of fines were issued in the metropolitan area, with Melbourne (590), Greater Dandenong (333) and Frankston (297) topping the list.

The number of fines issued did not always correlate to the number of recorded cases in an area.

Despite only having 18 recorded cases more fines were issued in Greater Dandenong than Frankston, which has 40 recorded cases. In Stonnington which has the second highest total of recorded cases at 94, police issued 82 fines, while in Mornington, where there were 62 recorded cases, 203 fines were issued.

There were 25 fines issued in South Gippsland, which has five recorded cases.

A new way ahead

With restrictions lifting on cafes and restaurants, many operators are re-opening their doors, keen to get back to the 'good old days'.

But for others, the Coronavirus lockdown meant re-evaluating their business model and they're not looking back.

The Advertiser spoke to two cafes that have used the lock-down time to remodel and reimagine ... and business is thriving.

A change in store

Sean O'Brien runs the Silverleaves Store. When the restrictions came into place in March, he said they took away their chairs and tables and moved to take-away only.

"We're working harder than ever," he said.

As well as increasing the range of pastries and cakes to complement their take-away coffee, they made other changes as well.

"We increased the dry goods we had on offer and our range of essential items like pasta, pasta sauces, bread, eggs, cheese and milk."

They also introduced fresh produce boxes and Friday and Sunday night take away meals.

The \$50 boxes contain staples and seasonal fresh produce of fruit, vegetables and herbs.

Sean goes to the city markets to buy the produce and customers pre-order the boxes online.

A database of regular customers has been established, with some people ordering weekly, while others pick up a box as needed.

The Friday and Sunday \$15 take-away dinners have also amassed a loyal following.

The idea is simple. There's just one item on the menu, and "if people like it, they order it," Sean said.

Friday night is burger night, while the Sunday dinners are usually a braise, such as coq au vin, or



Elizabeth McGrath (right), pictured with staff members Jen Hodgson, Susannah Marshall said the Island Food Store has been busier than ever since Coronavirus restrictions were introduced. Photo: Ross McGrath.

ossobuco.

"The meals aren't expensive, I make everything myself and the quality is good," said Sean.

"People understand what we are trying to do."

Although the easing of restrictions means the store could start to gradually return to normal, Sean said the lock down has given them a chance to forge a new direction.

"We're going to be expanding the range and going into ceramics and kitchenware. That's the direction we're going with, rather than a café," he said.

While the store will still do take-

away coffee, cakes and pastries, Sean said they are not going back to short order cooking.

But the produce boxes and take-out meals will continue.

Sean said the store's regular customers have been great and supportive of the changes.

"We've had 95 per cent positive feedback. What we are doing is something that's different to what's on offer at other places."

"When things get back to normal, people will still be able to come in and have coffee and cake. Or cheese and wine, but not necessarily in that order," he laughed.

Food for thought

The Island Food Store was already renowned for its delicious takeaway meals, so when the Coronavirus restrictions were imposed owner Liz McGrath said transitioning to a full takeaway service was relatively straight forward.

"Our business was 80 per cent takeaway anyhow, so we stopped table service and got rid of the tables and chairs," she said.

Liz had actually been thinking of changing the way the popular food store ran, but "never got round to finding a way to do it."

"Then the Coronavirus restrictions were introduced and bingo – I had to."

While she would like to make changes to the store, it's been too busy to for any major renovations.

"I would like to physically change things around, but we've been so busy, I don't have the time."

Instead, it was a quick rearrangement of the shop, moving fridges to the front of the store, and removing two items from the menu, and they were away.

"The meals are packaged up and ready to go. They're going out the door faster than we can keep up with."

"I've not made anything different – but now people realise that they can take it away for dinner or lunch. I don't think everyone realised they could do that before."

The response has been so good, that Liz and her team continued to work throughout the lock down.

"I didn't get Job Keeper, because my sales haven't dropped at all," she said.

"The team just worked on through. I'm pleased I was able to do that."

Despite the easing of restrictions, Liz has no plans to return to table service, saying her small floor space, the government requirements and dealing with customer's different expectations on social distancing are difficult to navigate.

But she will continue to serve her takeaway meals and take it day by day.

"We are really busy now, but I don't imagine we will stay quite as busy."

"I have been fortunate enough to have long standing and very loyal customers who have continued to use my products," she said.

"When people can go out whenever they fancy, I'm sure it will go back the other way. But some people are really uneasy and not really sure about how to be at the moment."

"But fingers crossed ... hopefully people might have realised they can live a different way."

Get to know your recycling

Many of us are spending more time at home at the moment and, like most, you may be cooking more, ordering things online and receiving more deliveries than usual. This means you are likely to end up with a lot more waste than you normally have.

You may also find yourself wondering which is the right bin to put everything in.

According to Matthew Peake, Executive Officer for Resource Recovery Gippsland, knowing what can and can't go into each of your bins will help make sure that what you sort for recycling is not contaminated with items that can't be recycled.

"Recycling is such an important household practice, and Gippslanders do a great job of it, but it can be confusing to know exactly what should go into your recycling bin. For instance, we associate plastic with recycling but for some plastics there currently aren't viable recycling options available to councils."

"To help households ensure that what goes into their recycling bin can be recycled, Sustainability Victoria has launched 'Know Your Recycling'," explained Mr Peake.

"A key resource offered by the campaign is a website that allows us to search for specific items and find out which bin they belong in."

Around 25,000 tonnes of recyclables are collected from Gippsland kerbsides equating to around 200kg per household per year. To make Gippsland's great recycling efforts even more effective, Resource Recovery Gippsland encourages



Polystyrene packaging does not belong in your recycling bin, it goes into the landfill bin as do clothing and shoes that cannot be repaired or passed-on to others.

householders to make use of the information and resources 'Know Your Recycling' offers.

"As you stand in front of your bins, contemplating what goes where, there are some easy-to-remember tips that will help simplify your sorting process and keep some of the most common contaminants out of the recycling bin," Mr Peake pointed out.

Firstly, don't put your recycling in plastic bags. Place your recyclables loose in your recycling bin.

Following on from that, soft plastics like bread and pasta bags can be taken to a supermarket that offers a collection point or service, otherwise these items will need to go into the landfill (rubbish) bin. If in doubt, do

the scrunch test – if you can scrunch the plastics in your hand, they do not go in the recycling bin.

Polystyrene packaging does not belong in your recycling bin, it goes into the landfill bin as do clothing and shoes that cannot be repaired or passed-on to others.

Households in Bass Coast are able to put food waste into the garden organics bin which is collected each week and taken to be processed into nutrient-rich compost. Garden waste goes in your green-lidded bin as well as any food that is not used as left-overs, compost or to feed the worm farm.

"What we put in our bins makes a difference," reinforced Mr Peake.

Get to know your recycling by visiting recycling.vic.gov.au and also check www.basscoast.vic.gov.au.



Colourful start to school

Staff at San Remo Primary School dressed up on Tuesday morning to welcome back the grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 children.

"We also had music playing, which had the children coming back to school with a big smile on their faces," said Principal Karen Bowker.

"We had a very smooth start back with parents dropping their children off and thanking us for the wonderful efforts during remote learning. The children are also happy to be back!"

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Caravan park a bad deal for ratepayers

Cowes Caravan park is situated on Crown land, land belonging to the state of Victoria, not private enterprise.

After the current lease – which was not offered for tender – was signed, the leasees then onsold the lease for a considerable sum.

It was very poor business management for Bass Coast and Victoria. The only people to make a profit were the (old leasees) and the new leasees, not Bass Coast Shire.

Bass Coast Shire provides a 20 per cent reduction of the rates which, if you do the maths for blue chip real estate beach frontage, is way below commercial value.

What other agreements have been entered into by the shire on our behalf, without the proper tender procedure and with such little value for our money?

Cowes Caravan park is surrounded by residential properties. Although Crown land, the surrounding area has no public access from Church Street to the beautiful beach frontage through the park for the full rate paying surrounding area residents. All profits from the Crown land go

to private enterprise, not the public.

There is absolutely no value for our rate money. We the rate payers – who struggle to pay our rates – have gained nothing and we don't get a 20 per cent rate discount on our rates.

The surrounding beach front properties are all strongly encouraged to protect the native vegetation growing at the front of their properties.

Strangely there is no vegetation on the beach front of the caravan park: campers enjoy an exclusive view.

In addition, there has been no respect for the hooded plover and other wildlife on that exclusive part of the beach; no tree plantings to encourage new permanent vegetation; and no respect for the erosion on the area.

Will Bass Coast Shire be prepared to assist ratepayers access the beach on the Crown land on Church Street and protect the beachfront from ongoing damaging development?

Rhonda Barnett, Cowes

Cr Larke berated by councillors

To debate a motion at council is essential, but to berate another councillor because you disagree with the motion is not in the spirit of the

Councillor Code of Conduct of the Bass Coast Shire. Berating another councillor for doing his job is wrong.

I would say Cr Larke's credentials and the fact that he works for and was elected by the ratepayers whose money (hard earned) the council uses gives Cr Larke every right to question the financial side of council. Maybe if all council candidates were required to have a full and proper understanding of council's finances there wouldn't be so much wastage or financial reserves. Remember as a councillor you are representing the ratepayers in all areas of council's activities.

Mrs Gay Jolly, Cape Woolamai

St Philip's Church heritage

We wish to commend the church on the recent restoration works and improvements, including new windows. The works certainly enhance the historic character of the building.

One aspect we find less appealing is the plan to remove the original church pews and replace them with new alternative seating.

We feel the removal of the timber carved pews will detract from the heritage significance of the church, which is recognised in Council's

planning scheme as well as by the National Trust.

We believe the pews are of fine craftsmanship, made by local tradesmen and gifted to the church in the early part of last century. As such, they appear to be an integral part of the church's history and the atmosphere and tradition for worshippers.

As a local branch of the National Trust, we strongly encourage the retention of historic and decorative features to our significant buildings and consider the traditional timber pews at St Philip's are strongly representative of your church's historic character.

We therefore respectfully submit our views, alongside others who are also concerned about the potential loss of the pews.

Greg Buchanan, President Bass Coast Branch, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Protect cars with gym

How about a little compromise with the gym for Cowes Primary School to make it more useful? Instead of vandalising the small remaining bushland reserve, how about moving gym slightly? If you think about

the nature of construction, it would be better to make it environmentally friendly all timber construction but it's more likely to be tilt slab concrete. Looking at recent example, tilt slab can be relatively tall.

As Cowes continues to be more and more concrete and asphalt for cars, it's coming time to think about how car parks are so exposed to damage from extreme weather caused by climate emergency. Many people consider that cars are our most precious possessions. So how about protecting them? Heat wave season is starting sooner, getting hotter, lasting more days in succession and a longer season. Storms are more powerful, dangerous hail stones, blowing all kinds of debris. Surely we can't chop down all the trees?

So why not build the gym over the top of the current car park? Looking at recent tilt slab Clip and Climb, tilt slab is obviously tall enough to provide timber or suspended slab floor three metres above ground level. So why not have cars parked underneath, protected from climate catastrophe, with gym above? It's unlikely to be much more expensive and will provide so much extra value for so many years of lifetime investment.

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

The weather gods turned it on for the long weekend and apart from a little drizzle it was almost perfect all three days.

The fish gods were a little fussier with reports all over the place for area and consistency.

We did see a lot of quality fish and some good bags of fish with plenty of people fishing.

Reports came from both the land and the boats across the weekend.

Whiting and calamari made up the majority of the reports this week from the boats, with salmon and calamari the best on the land.

The surf has been good for salmon over the last couple of weeks and reports for beaches over the weekend were even better, al-

though a little inconsistent.

However, one thing that was consistent was the size of the salmon was small, 600g to 800g.

With the large seas offshore over the last few weeks you did need to pick your beach or time to work around the weed. We did see some bigger salmon, but they came from the boats fishing offshore where 2kg was the common size.

Whiting reports were best from lunchtime into the early afternoon in the boats, fishing the high tide and start of the run out.

There were a couple of land based whiting reports from Cowes and Newhaven jetties.

There was some quality whiting reported although a lot of smaller,

low 30cm ones.

The whiting came from those edges of the common areas and slightly deeper. The smaller fish were around all the common spots and in shallower water.

Although we did see lots of whiting there was inconsistency to the reports.

Calamari have been frustrating all season and it's been extremely difficult to work out the best place and time.

Even our regular calamari customers are finding it difficult. One customer said it's a bit like playing a poker machine, the first couple of casts you seem to find one or two, then you will spend hours and even a couple of days for nothing.

His description was almost perfect

for what we have heard over the last few weeks from both land based and boating customers.

Artificial or baited or colour doesn't seem to matter. It's a bit of a guess, trying to pick the right spot and time.

While it has been all over the place, we have had reports of excellent quality calamari and even a few bags of 10.

The reports of the tuna caught over the last week came from a reliable customer.

They were school fish and from outside the western entrance but a bit wider than the Christmas run of tuna.

The other reports from offshore were limited due to the weather, but they consisted of the salmon mentioned earlier, flathead near the eastern entrance and off the Woolamai surf club.

There was plenty of cuta if you wanted them and were set up.

Fishing near the bay entrances, you caught your share of draught board sharks now that the water is cooling down.

Back in the bay several cuta were

caught from all over and even the jetties with the tiny pinkies making a return to large numbers again.

There was no snapper that we were told of over the weekend, just a handful of decent sized pinkies around the Rhyll corals area.

In between the 100s of tiny gumies a dozen or so 3kg to 5kg ones were caught and a couple of 10kg or better models as well at Gardeners channel and Elizabeth Island.

For those who came into the store over the weekend and for the last couple of weeks we would like to thank you for your understanding with our restricted numbers in the shop at the moment.

Only having a small area, we are restricted to four customers at a time which can get challenging at times.

With the restrictions we are currently not selling fishing licences in store. If you need to update yours or need a short term one jump on to the VFA web site and buy it online.

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Program Manager – Primary & Community Care
Full Time – Closes 21/6/20

Registered Nurse – Maternal & Child Health
Casual – Closes 12/6/20

For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website basscoasthealth.org.au or contact Human Resources via email hr@basscoasthealth.org.au

JO00098AB

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

Details about the application:

The land affected by the application is located at: **21 Highview Crescent, Surf Beach VIC 3922**
The application is for a permit to: **Development of land for second dwelling on lot**

The applicant for the permit is: **Bill Toohey, C/- Gennadi Belousov - Archidea Design Group**
The application reference number is: **200080**

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application by visiting Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/planningads

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority.

Council collects and holds this Personal Information to comply with the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic).

An objection must be sent to the Responsible Authority and include the reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected, in writing, addressed to Bass Coast Shire Council, P.O. Box 118, Wonthaggi Vic 3995 or email basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available for any person to inspect until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before **June 25, 2020**.

If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision

JO00100AB

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

The Advertiser conducts its journalism in accordance with the guidelines of the Australian Press Council.

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Accuracy and clarity
1. Ensure that factual material in news reports and elsewhere is accurate and not misleading, and is distinguishable from other material such as opinion.
2. Provide a correction or other adequate remedial action if published material is significantly inaccurate or misleading.

Fairness and balance

3. Ensure that factual material is presented with reasonable fairness and balance, and that writers' expressions of opinion are not based on significantly inaccurate factual material or omission of key facts.
4. Ensure that where material refers adversely to a person,

a fair opportunity is given for subsequent publication of a reply if that is reasonably necessary to address a possible breach of General Principle 3.

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5. Avoid intruding on a person's reasonable expectations of privacy, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
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7. Avoid publishing material which has been gathered by deceptive or unfair means, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
8. Ensure that conflicts of interests are avoided or adequately disclosed, and that they do not influence published material.

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 - a strong attention to detail.
- Demonstrated experience in a similar role and/or experience with LEAP software will be considered favourably. Salary and other conditions will be dependent upon experience. Please note that only candidates that can demonstrate meeting the above criteria will be contacted. Applications should be forwarded to the above email address before 5.00pm on the 16th June 2020.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Step 1 - Click & Collect Extended until June 19

West Gippsland Libraries Step 1 click and collect services will continue until 19th June. The service has been very successful and has been extended for an additional week to give more members the opportunity to access holds. From Monday 22nd, Step 2 will be introduced which includes limited access to public spaces in the library for members. For more information, please visit online, call your branch or try live chat via our website Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

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Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."
Isaiah 43:1, ESV



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APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT A BORE AND EXTRACT GROUNDWATER

Southern Rural Water (SRW) wishes to advise of an application to construct a new bore and to take and use 20.0 megalitres of groundwater for commercial purposes on land described as 1215 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven.

It is proposed that the bore will be approximately 900 metres in depth and constructed in accordance with the Minimum Construction Requirements For Water Bores in Australia. All groundwater proposed to be extracted will be sourced from an Unincorporated Groundwater Management Area.

Southern Rural Water is committed to an appropriate consultation process to ensure the proper consideration of relevant matters as prescribed by the Water Act 1989.

We therefore seek comment from any interested person or parties that considers they may be affected by these applications. Submissions on this proposal will be accepted until 4pm on 8 July 2020 and will be taken into account in determining these applications.

Please direct enquiries and submissions to:

Trevor McDevitt
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Enquiries: If this sounds like a job you want, call our CEO, Paul Greenhalgh on 0427 093 058, to discuss the opportunities that await.

Further information: see our website www.southgippslandhospital.com.au

Applications close on Friday 26 June 2020 at 5pm.

JO00102AA

CHURCH NOTICES

While Services have been suspended the churches have made provision to share services, prayers and reflections

UNITING CHURCH:

<http://cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php>
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Uniting-Church/828979940479969>

BAPTIST CHURCH:

<http://islandbaptist.org.au/>

HOPE CHURCH:

are emailing members
<https://islandhopechurch.com/>

CATHOLIC CHURCH:

<https://www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus>
<https://www.cdsale.org.au/prayer-and-reflection>

ST PHILLIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH :

<https://anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/stphillipscowes/>

PHILLIP ISLAND SURF CHURCH:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Christian-Church/Surf-Church-Phillip-Island-360300548086709/>

LC00208

Without peer



This stunning shot of the Cowes pier was captured by Ramble & Drift Creative earlier this month.

Animals say thanks Bandicoots back from the brink

Hundreds of animals injured in Gippsland's summer bushfires have been helped by generous Phillip Island locals.

About \$7000 was raised through various events, including a raffle, with all the money donated to three shelters.

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Shelter's Colleen Ellerton-Gilbee said the shelters were "so grateful for the support the Phillip Island community gave them."

"They were brought to tears, because as shelters we get very little support and any support is so appreciated," Colleen said.

The three shelters – in Bairnsdale, Tooradin and one the outskirts of Melbourne – all care for fire-affected wildlife, with one of these doing fortnightly feed drops around Cann River, in East Gippsland, to shelters caring for

the likes of kangaroos, wombats, lizards, and even emus.

"The rain we have had is helping, but there is still not enough food for them all yet."

"The money has gone to buying so many things, cages, food supplements, including food drops in the wild, milk powders, medical supplies, and construction of boxes."

Colleen said while almost \$7000 was raised – mostly from Cowes Pet Shop and Island Paw Prints – supplies were also donated.

Colleen did not take any of the funds for her own shelter, which she continues to run outside her full-time job, taking up to six calls a day.

"Although during COVID-19 restrictions roadkills and rescue calls have been reduced, which is lovely."

Scientists have declared the endangered Eastern barred bandicoots are on the way back from the brink of extinction.

Researchers at Phillip Island Nature Parks stated that the population of 67 bandicoots released on the Island in 2017 has grown to about 300 animals.

While Phillip Island Nature Parks' visitor attractions were closed to help slow the spread of coronavirus, the organisation continued to implement its on-ground conservation and research activities, including significant work to stop the impact of feral cats, which are a threat to bandicoots, penguins and shearwater birds.

The recent results of trap-and-release of microchipped bandicoots also revealed the animals have spread at least 4km from their original transplanted home in the wild, including across farmland.

Phillip Island Nature Parks' Deputy Director of Research Dr Duncan Sutherland said the project to establish bandicoots on Phillip Island has now met the key criteria of success after two and a half years.

"Successful establishment on Phillip Island is a huge step towards securing this species from extinction," Dr Sutherland said. "We're successfully reversing the decline."

The success of the program means that the Eastern barred bandicoots' listing on the threatened species list could be reviewed in the future, Dr Sutherland said. The Eastern barred bandicoots were wiped out in Victoria by foxes and habitat loss and only existed in sanctuaries on the mainland since 1991.

In collaboration with the Eastern barred bandicoot (EBB) Recovery Team, a trial release of 20 bandicoots was established on



A project to establish bandicoots on Phillip Island has now met the key criteria of success after two and a half years.

nearby Churchill Island in 2015. Then in 2017, 67 eastern barred bandicoots were relocated onto Phillip Island, which was declared fox-free earlier that same year.

The release was significant because while there are no foxes on Phillip Island, the animals for the first time had to contend with feral cats. Last year bandicoots were also released on French Island but it is too early to say if that program has been a success.

Eastern barred bandicoots live for up to three years in the wild, breeding from three to four months and have up to five litters of one to three young a year.

Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, June 2 – Men's Stableford: Winner was Kevin Rosen H/c (28) with 38 points on a countback from Stephen Mack H/c (17) also with 38 points.

Hole competition winner was Ray Reid with 21 points.

Wednesday, June 3 – Ladies 3 Person Ambrose: Winners were Jeanette Diss, Jo Disher and Inge Royce – 64 5/6 nett – Great score ladies – blitzed it.

BDL: Ros Reid, Anne Sherwood and Sheryl Smith – 71.5.

Zoe Frost, Sherrill Brunsden and Jill Tyrell – 72 1/3.

Cheryl White, Jill Zelman and Pat Rose – 72 2/3.

Di Ray, Anne Balfe and Barb Haydon – 72 2/3.

Alice Schofield, Rhonda Boyd and Sue Brown – 72 5/6.

Winner of the Walton knockout semifinal today was Lorraine Hammon on 15th. Congratulations Lorraine, and commiserations to Mary Whelan, well done for getting this far.

The final of the Walton Knockout at this stage will be held next Wednesday, hitting off prior to the field.

Best of luck to both finalists, Lesley Meadowcroft and Lorraine Hammon.

Thursday, May 28 – Men's Stableford: Winner was Steven Duggan H/c (6) with 37 points from Fred Adern H/c (15) with 36 points.

9 Hole competition winner was Bob Pascoe with 12 points.

Saturday, May 29 – Men's April Monthly Medal – Sponsored by Melbourne Brick.

A Grade winner and Monthly Medal winner – Matt Brown H/c (12) – 68 points.

A Grade runner up – Scott Fullarton H/c (7) – 70 points.

B Grade winner – Chris Zoanetti H/c(14) – 71 points.

B Grade runner up – Mark Jamieson H/c(15) – 72 points on a countback.

C Grade winner and runner up – Stuart Crawford H/c(19) – 70 points.

C Grade runner up – Mark Reid H/c(26) – 71 points.

9 Hole winner was John Rodakis with 19 points.

Next Saturday's event – June Monthly Medal sponsored by Phillip Island Service Centre.

Ladies competition - Ladies Stableford.

Winner was Jeanette Diss H/c (20) with 34 points from Stacey Meder H/c (29) with 32 points.

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