

PHILLIP ISLAND &amp; SAN REMO

## ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Thursday, June 17, 2021

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Isabella Kozlovskis with her family at the PICAL Pop Up meal tent. Isabella, Jaidan, Amelia and Taj with just some of the PICAL staff and volunteers that helped on the day – Jen Carroll, Maddi and Felix Kelly, Jono Bouillir, Anne-Marie Emanuele and Jeanne Solity.

# Soul food

## PICAL pops up with free hot meals

Once again, the team at PICAL has come to the aid of those most in need in our community.

PICAL's pop up kitchen at their Church Street premises in Cowes last Friday, provided hot food and comfort in the aftermath of the devastating storms.

Like most of Gippsland, people across the island were struggling, with some homes facing the prospect of four days without electricity. And PICAL was facing its own issues. Some of the frozen meals in the food-relief pantry had started to defrost.

PICAL's General Manager, Greg Thompson said the idea of the pop-up kitchen came about after seeing a lot of comments on social media about families and older people struggling with the power outage.

"In an effort to ensure that the

cooked meals that had defrosted in the power outage didn't go to waste, PICAL held a pop-up hot meals kitchen," he explained.

"We were loath to throw away the meals that our hard-working volunteer cooking team had made so we heated them on the barbeque and served approximately 100 meals.

"We also used meats and breads that were thawing, serving more than a hundred people throughout the day."

It was all hands on deck, as a team of eight volunteers and six staff got the kitchen up and running, serving the delicious dinners from 10am until 3pm.

The local supermarkets jumped on board, donating meat for the barbeque, while Bimbadeen farm dropped by with a crate of eggs.

### Tough times

Isabella Kozlovskis and her five children came down to the pop-up kitchen, grateful for the hot meal.

She said the power outage had been very tough.

"I've just done a load of washing by hand; wrung it all out, so it's been really, really hard.

"We're lucky though, we've got a wood fire and gas for heating and cooking. For showers we boil water and use face washers.

"The PICAL free meal today is wonderful. There's a wonderful sense of community with everyone coming together and I think more people should become involved."

Leanne Walton said her family was fortunate enough to have heating, but their food had perished without electricity.

She found out about the free hot meals through Facebook.

"I think our food is a bit iffy because it's been well over 48 hours and our power has been off. But you know, we're fortunate and the lovely community that we've got is really good."

She said having an open fire and a barbeque had helped see the family through, and they charged their phones in the car.

"We had some people from the local Uniting Church come and check on us today, as we usually have a community meal with them.

"The guy from the Uniting Church was asking – 'are you going to be okay?', and I said we'll ride it out. We'll be okay.

"It was lovely that we had people to check on us. Having a bit of live

data still on my phone, I was able to see the horrible, horrific things that were going on in Traralgon.

"I thought, you know, we are okay here really. There's so much more going on out there and so many people worse off than us."

Like many families, Leanne said the power outage meant the family spent more time together and the board games came out.

"We played three hours of Monopoly.

"It took us back to what felt like the eighteen hundreds with the fire going. It was really, really good without the technology for a change."

A generous local also loaned PICAL a generator, to prevent losing any more meals or frozen food from the emergency food pantry.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SHOWERS INCREASING  | SHOWERS   | POSSIBLE SHOWER   | PARTLY CLOUDY   | MOSTLY SUNNY  | PARTLY CLOUDY   | SHOWERS   |
| 8 14  | 9 14  | 10 13   | 7 13  | 6 13  | 8 13  | 8 12  |



MORE PHOTOS PAGE 17

Like much of south-eastern Victoria, Phillip Island was hit by gale force winds last Wednesday night, leaving trees down and debris strewn across the island.

## The lost weekend

A potentially busy long-weekend of trade for local businesses has been lost, due to Covid restrictions and storm damage.

Despite restrictions easing last week, most businesses were unable to trade last Thursday and Friday due to a power outage.

Kim Storey from Destination Phillip Island said the late return of power in key townships had a big impact.

Businesses already unsure of potential visitor numbers – with Melburnians still barred from visiting the regions – also had to grapple with unforeseen closures and loss of food supplies.

“A number of businesses had to make the call to close on various days,” Kim said.

“Given the warnings for travel to regional Victoria, the reduced number of potential visitors was seen as impacting any revenue base across the weekend.

“We hope that we will be able to welcome Melburnians again soon and experience a more settled opening approach.”

Paul Mannix from the San Remo Fisherman’s Co-op summed up the feeling of many local business owners, saying the latest lockdown and the power outages had “put a big dampener on things”.

“The storm and ensuing power losses were

quite a challenge – saving our stock was a major priority,” he said.

“Big thanks to San Remo wrasse fisherman Craig Martin for lending us his generator which powered enough refrigeration to get us through and save everything.”

On a brighter note, he said the current run of good weather had been good for fishermen.

“Our fishermen are happy – they are nearly all out fishing at the moment – and Bass Strait is a great place for social distancing!”

“With a few good catches ready to be unloaded shortly, we are hoping to finish June on a positive note.”

He said the call by Regional Councils Victoria for an extra long weekend was really just a band-aid solution to the issues facing business.

“Our national vaccination numbers are still too low, so we are a bloody long way off a long weekend celebration.

“A new long weekend might help regional towns, but I think everyone would prefer to see real solutions rather than proposed band-aids to mask the problem.

“We need purpose-built quarantine facilities and higher rates of vaccination.

“And if the state and federal governments would stop bickering and blaming each other, they might find the time to get it done.”

## Callous thieves cripple community garden

Thieves broken into the PICAL offices over the weekend, stealing vital equipment needed for its community garden and food relief program.

After rallying to help feed the community on Friday in the wake of the destructive storms (see separate story), the robbery is a massive blow for the community organisation.

Centre Manager Greg Thompson said the thieves broke in through a window in one of the training rooms.

They then accessed the storage area where PICAL’s gardening and power tools are stored.

“The near new stolen Makita cordless tools are required to keep the community garden operating and the grounds maintained,” said Greg.

The theft will also impact on classes offered by PICAL and cripples the garden operations.

Greg described the community garden as a key part of PICAL’s food relief efforts, and the loss of tools will hinder its ability to “feed those in need in our community”.

The tools were purchased over the last year and a half through grants and donations.

“It could be weeks before insurance can be accessed and the tools replaced, to enable the garden to be functioning at full capacity,” Greg said.

The thieves only took items that could be carried, so police suspect they did not have a car.



PICAL Facilities Coordinator Rowan Visser at the broken window where the thieves gained entry.

“We believe that it was simply an opportunistic event – potentially by one of the groups of people hanging in the bus transit centre over the last two days,” he said.

The Boomerang Bags room was also broken into however nothing was stolen, supporting the theory that the thieves were on foot and did not take anything of significant weight.

The police have asked anyone who is approached or knows of anyone trying to sell off some almost brand-new Makita cordless power tools, to please contact Cowes Police station on 5952 2037 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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Publication No. VBF 9005897

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### Juice abuse for weary crew

After attending dozens of call outs due to last week’s storms, the Phillip Island SES got some very unwelcome feedback from a heartless member of the public.

As one of the SES trucks returned to base after a job on Saturday, someone threw a bottle of orange juice, hitting the truck window.

The truck was driving in an 80km speed zone and “the sound of the impact made all three members jump”, a post on the unit’s Facebook page reported.

Fortunately, there was no damage to the vehicle and there were no serious outcomes beyond orange juice covered windows and frazzled nerves.

“It could have ended badly not only for the crew but the other road users at that time,” the post stated.

The crew were baffled at the action, which was a very poor response to the hard work of the volunteers, who had been on constant call outs since the storm front hit last Wednesday.

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# Residents' woes continue

Residents of Shetland Heights Road in San Remo say the junior secondary campus construction is making life unbearable.

Having campaigned for over a decade for an upgrade, when the state government announced the campus would be built at the end of the road, residents thought finally their prayers had been answered.

However, their hopes were dashed when it was confirmed the project would only include an upgrade to Potters Hill Road and there were no plans to seal Shetland Heights, despite it being a major access road to the new campus.

The government maintains the upgrade is the responsibility of Bass Coast Shire Council.

Since construction began, the residents say their quality of life has been severely compromised.

In March, Bill McIntosh's home was one of several impacted by a dust storm from the construction site.

He claims there's been no response from the builders or the state government about compensation for his clean-up costs.

He also said repeated emails and calls to the state government and the Victorian School Building Authority have gone nowhere.

Other residents told the Advertiser they contacted the builder direct, who sent a team out the day after the storm to do an outside clean.

They confirmed they also received an email from the government saying it would cover the cost of the cleaning.

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said she had responded to queries from residents about the dust.

"It was brought to my attention on a weekend, and I acted immediately and my understanding is cleaning of the affected homes has occurred.

"If this is not the case, residents can either contact me directly or go to the



A decision by Bass Coast Shire Council to install a temporary footpath, has also upset residents, who say it's further eroding their amenity.

project manager onsite."

Bill also claims the process to appoint the builder for the site – SJ Higgins – was not transparent and is demanding an inquiry.

He questioned how a builder could be appointed less than three weeks after the announcement of the campus location.

However Ms Crugnale said the appointment of the builder followed the standard government tender process.

"This was issued to the market in October 2020, closed in December 2020 and publicly announced in January 2021.

"It is common for large projects that need to acquire land to have these processes running simultaneously."

## Powerlines

Residents are also unhappy about overhead powerlines being moved

due to the campus construction.

One resident said it will destroy his ocean view.

While the powerlines will be underground at the campus, outside the school grounds, they will be above ground.

That means some homes will now look out across a set of powerlines and a transformer.

"New estates have to put powerlines underground, why don't they," the resident asked.

He also claimed the new powerlines would go directly over a section of the George Bass Walk.

He has written to local MP, Jordan Crugnale raising his concerns.

Ms Crugnale told the Advertiser in order "to meet construction timelines and funding considerations, the existing power lines at the site will be moved and retained above ground".

A spokesperson for AusNet said they could not direct the project to put the powerlines underground, explaining AusNet's role was merely to ensure work met the required Australian Standards.

## Footpath

A decision by Bass Coast Shire Council to install a temporary footpath, has also upset residents, who say it's further eroding their amenity.

"Council is doing a temporary footpath, but it's not on the side of the road that the footpath will be on long term," one resident explained.

Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Ali Wastie said the temporary footpath would provide safe access to the new campus when it opens.

"Existing pathway connections, current road topography, existing driveways, services, embankments

and narrow road verge widths are informing the best alignment for this temporary pathway," she said.

"It will be complete before the permanent road upgrade design is complete."

Ms Wastie said the permanent footpath alignment along Shetland Heights Road will be designed as part of the future road and drainage upgrade project.

"Detailed investigations are well underway however, typically an upgrade project of this nature takes three to four years from inception to completion."

She said an independent Traffic Impact Assessment had been commissioned by council to determine the effect of the new school.

"The Traffic Impact Assessment is intended to clarify future demand on Shetland Heights Road and other streets in the school's local catchment area.

"Based on the outcome of this assessment, Council intends to continue its advocacy for Shetland Heights Road to be sealed or to implement other recommendations of the assessment."

At this stage, a special charge scheme, which could be more than four years away, seems the only available option for the residents.

In the meantime, there is no solution in sight for the traffic, dust and safety concerns of their road.

One resident told the Advertiser he was frustrated residents who are bearing the brunt of the construction impact are also being asked to foot the bill for a road leading to a major public facility.

"You show me a road in Australia with a high school at the end of it, where the residents paid for it," he said.

"They say the school being here adds value to our homes, but it doesn't."

## Connecting for Men's Health

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Looking after your physical, mental and social wellbeing should be a top priority.

In this year's Men's Health Week, the importance of having a supportive team around you has never been more important.

Whether it's making an appointment with your local GP, going for a walk outside or having a chat with a mate.

I encourage all men and boys to stay connected, seek support and get help if they are experiencing any health symptoms.

Men's Health Week

**Russell Broadbent MP**

Federal Member for Monash  
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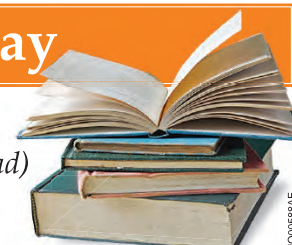
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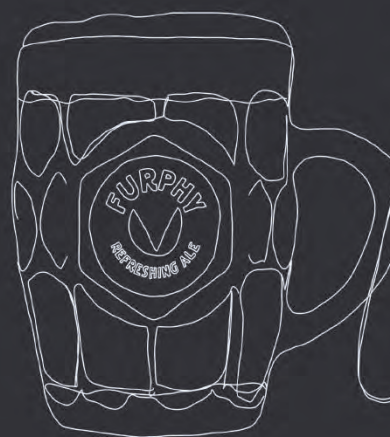
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# Wednesday night storm hits hard

Gale force winds meant island residents and businesses spent a sleepless night last Wednesday, before waking to survey the damage. Trees down blocked roads and driveways, and despite another easing in Covid restrictions, most businesses remained closed on Thursday morning, due to the power outages.

Like much of south-eastern Victoria, Phillip Island and surrounds were hit by extended power outages.

While power was restored to most island properties on Friday, AusNet said a handful of customers were still without power on Tuesday, with some not expected to be restored until later this week.

Michael Kenny, the unit coordinator for San Remo and Phillip Island SES said both teams had been



Most businesses along Thompson Avenue last Thursday morning either didn't open – such as the bakery – or opened and then quickly shut when the power went out entirely. However the One Stop Discount Shop continued to trade with no lights.

inundated with calls for help after the storm.

Since 9am on Wednesday, June 9, the San Remo unit responded to 57 requests for assistance, and the Phillip Island unit responded to 75.

He said the hardest hit areas were Grantville and surrounds, followed by Cowes and Silverleaves.

Neither unit received any calls for flooding, and there were minimal calls for building damage.

"There were a few trees that had brought down powerlines but the vast majority were for trees over the road," Michael said.

One tree fell into one of the San Remo SES trucks as it was out attending to calls, and the frightening incident was captured on video and posted to its Facebook page.

"The San Remo unit also had one



It was bin night on Wednesday in Cowes, but with the storm surge that meant streets full of garbage and bins overturned like dominoes.



Cryss at Anergie wine bar in Thompson Avenue Cowes said she would have to throw away tarts, quiches and other pastries, which were all in the process of being cooked in their oven when the power went out on Thursday at 9am. "The chefs came in at 7.30am and started cooking and we were half way through the baking when the power went off," said Cryss who opened Anergie five weeks ago. "We were booked out for two sittings at under half the number of customers. "I didn't think it could get any worse for our business after lockdown."



Damage at the Koala Conservation reserve included fallen branches and debris, with branches falling across the woodland boardwalk fence.

## Penguins powered on

It takes more than a state-wide power outage to stop those Little Penguins.

Phillip Island Nature Parks' Penguin Parade reopened its doors on Friday night, however visitor numbers were limited to 150 due to Covid restrictions.

The Nature Parks has a generator onsite at the Penguin Parade, but fortunately power was restored early on Friday, in time for the reopening.

Both Saturday and Sunday nights were fully sold out at the reduced capacity, with only locals and visitors from regional Victoria allowed to attend.

Power was restored on Churchill Island Koala Conservation Reserve late on Friday, ready to reopen on Saturday.

Both attractions were open, but visitor numbers were low, a Nature Parks spokesperson said.

The lowest figure was five visitors

through the koalas on Saturday, and a high of 68 visitors through Churchill Island on Sunday.

**Storm clean up**

The spokesperson said fortunately no Nature Parks buildings were damaged in the storm, although there were fallen branches and a lot of debris at the Koala Conservation Reserve.

Some trees on Churchill Island were also damaged.

The worst damage was at the Koala Conservation reserve, with a tree branch falling across the woodland boardwalk fence.

However, all the reserves' koalas are accounted for and doing fine.

Nature Parks staff were hard at work on Friday cleaning up, with all sites ready to reopen on Saturday morning.

Nature Parks also offered assistance to the local SES crews, but it was not required.

# Bad ... worse ... worst

There was a moment last Thursday when pandemic lockdown suddenly looked appealing.

At least in lockdown you can get a takeaway coffee. Or a hot shower and petrol. And in lockdown there's TV, the internet and phone calls.

But with many residents and businesses on the island and San Remo losing power from Wednesday night and some not having it switched on again until Tuesday, lockdown took on a whole new meaning.

For Optus customers, mobiles across the island were stubbornly fixed on one bar from Wednesday evening, which translated to zero usage; except for the odd text message, although those came haphazardly.

A neighbour in Cowes said she had

given up all concerns for her cholesterol and had a packet of chocolate teddy bear biscuits for dinner. That was after she had an old-fashioned sponge bath in tepid water.

While residents – and particularly the elderly – were faced with freezing conditions and no heating, and school children were sent home on Thursday and told to stay at home on Friday as well, arguably the biggest hit came to businesses.

Almost to the minute that state government directives enabled businesses to open further, following eased restrictions, traders were once again crippled.

Staff had a forced day off, to do what?

When the Advertiser spoke to one

restaurant owner last week, she summed it up by simply looking to the heavens.

"Sweet mother of god," she said in desperation.

Some supermarkets continued to operate on generator backup, but the outage meant they had to throw away tens of thousands of dollars' worth of meat, fresh salads, and dairy.

The economic hit from this latest punch may never be known, but coming at the start of an already-restricted long weekend, its force was magnified.

What made the outage all the more agonising was the slow and random way homes were switched back on. It was like a lottery.

First came Cape Woolamai on Friday morning.

Then came the estate behind the RSL in Cowes.

The Phillip Island Community Noticeboard lit up like a Christmas tree with hundreds of comments from those bemoaning they were yet to have power, through to others who were beaming at the return of their refrigeration (presuming their freezer section hadn't already gone soggy).

"Anyone in Sunset Strip?" asked Meg. "I feel really left out! It's like I'm back in high school and I'm the last to get picked for a sports team."

If there was any silver lining from the outage, it was this: community spirit, and even family spirit.

Board games were dusted off;

smart phones switched off. If in fact they had been able to be charged.

Neighbours talked, offered to help, shared the joke because otherwise it all seemed a bit too chaotic to absorb.

In one of the most generous acts of kindness, PICAL opened a pop-up free community kitchen, cooking up hot meals from donated food.

We all realised, too, we were lucky compared to other parts of Gippsland, not least East Gippsland who has had the quadrella: drought, flood, bushfire, pandemic and now this.

Suddenly we all became painfully aware that you don't know what you've got till it's gone.

Oh for a hot shower, a hot meal and a hot coffee.

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# Aquatic community consultation underwhelming

Just five people showed up for the Bass Coast Shire's first community consultation session on the proposed aquatic centre in Cowes last week.

But while the numbers were glaringly small – for the eight online meetings that were held every half hour last Wednesday – the five attendees who did log on passionately advocated for a pool in Cowes.

There were four shire staff who attended each session, who speculated whether people had lost interest or were unsure about technology, but they said so far there had been more than 200 online survey responses.

Both Covid-19 lockdown and the power outage have thrown the community consultation sessions into disarray, with planned meetings rescheduled twice and the next planned for Wednesday, June 23 9am to 1pm at the Phillip Island Leisure Centre.

“If we're inundated, we will put on extra sessions,” explained shire aquatics project manager Jarvis Weston.

“What we need is feedback on the design. We want to know if the community likes it.”

Jarvis, who gave a powerpoint presentation, said they also needed to gauge community support for both the proposed Cowes aquatic centre and the proposed rebuild of Wonthaggi's pool.

“The key message we want to get across is that we need to be aligned. The shire has a two-pool strategy. It's costing a lot of money and we need funding from government.

“If government sees disharmony in the community they won't fund it.”

He said it was unusual to get both a state and federal election in the same year so once the shire collated community feedback they would begin lobbying for government funding in the lead up to 2022.

“Next year is a golden opportunity,” Jarvis said.

### Competition pool

South Coast Bus and Taxi managing director Michael Wright was the first attendee at the online meeting who asked whether “it was an all or nothing approach”.

“Or could Cowes be done and Wonthaggi updated later?” Michael asked, saying he was a keen swimmer but travelling 40 minutes to Wonthaggi was not viable for his family.

Jarvis responded it was possible “one could be done before the other.

“All the advice by government though is to put both up together. If we do one now and another in the future government will say you have already had money given.”

Michael asked why the feasibility study for both pools recommended a 25-metre pool, rather than a competition 50-metre pool.

“I understand the cost of running it but what is the thinking there?” he asked, adding that school students will still have to drive to Korumburra's competition pool.

“When you're spending this sort of money it seems a disappointing outcome not to have a 50-metre pool.”

Jarvis said under the modelling in the feasibility studies, it was not viable to have a competition pool with Bass Coast's 50,000 population.

“It's coming through from the community they would like a 50-metre pool.

“If we get funding they need to be financially sustainable. In the past facilities in other areas have been built and become a financial drain and not sustainable.”

### Commercial funding?

Attendee Caroline agreed driving 40 minutes to Wonthaggi was not viable for her family and a pool in Cowes to teach children to swim was “desperately needed”.

She said retirees also needed an aquatic centre for hydrotherapy programs, while a centre would also be a drawcard for tourists.

Attendee Tony asked whether the shire had a plan for the total 32-hectare site on the corner of Phillip Island Road and Ventnor Road, which is set to be a recreational hub with ovals and sports courts.

Jarvis said shire officers were not yet able to access the carnival site, with the current owners set to vacate at the end of June.

“We would have liked to have done



“What we need is feedback on the design. We want to know if the community likes it,” said shire aquatics project manager, Jarvis Weston.

the masterplan but it will be done soon,” he explained.

Tony asked whether parts of the 32ha site could be used for commercial shops to fund the recreation hub.

Jarvis said the masterplan's “primary purpose” was sport for the next 50 years and the shire was exploring health and wellbeing op-

tions, including consulting suites for allied health.

“You are right, we need to make these facilities as economically viable as possible,” Jarvis said.

Tony commented that he was familiar with a Pakenham aquatic centre that had design mistakes and he would like to ensure that did not

occur with Cowes.

Jarvis replied the next stage of community consultation would involve feedback on detailed designs.

“At the moment it's lines on a map. It's a functional layout. This is just the first step in a number of phases and we want to learn from others' mistakes.”

### Study

The feasibility study proposes Phillip Island should have a 25-metre x eight lane pool, learn-to-swim combined hydrotherapy area, 24-hour gym, and two indoor sports courts, at a cost of \$52 million.

The study recommends a \$41 million new pool for Wonthaggi – with the current pool built in 1975 – including 25-metre x 10 lanes, a

larger gym, new spa and sauna.

Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund secretary Peter McMahon said while they supported the shire in seeking joint funding, if a decision had to be made on one pool, it should be Cowes.

He said Cowes needed a dedicated pool for hydrotherapy and another for learn-to-swim.

“They tried combining facilities at Wonthaggi and it failed.”

The study states the option of

constructing a 50-metre pool “has been analysed but found to not be sustainable”, based on population size and on the extra \$8 million such a pool would require to construct, as well as the annual \$250,000 operation costs.

It adds a 50-metre pool could be constructed in the future.

The survey can be found at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/projects/aquatics](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/projects/aquatics) or call 5671 2211 or [aquatics@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:aquatics@basscoast.vic.gov.au)

# Bass Coast College – official new name

Wonthaggi Secondary College will be renamed Bass Coast College.

MP for Bass, Jordan Crugnale announced the change last week, saying it better reflected the area the school serves and comes after public consultation on the name change.

Locals were invited to select their preferred name for the school earlier this year as part of an Engage Victoria survey over three weeks, with ‘Bass Coast College’ receiving the highest level of community support.

The school welcomes students from a large number of primary schools across the Bass Coast Shire, with the new name to more accurately reflect the school's unique identity, inspire local pride, and make the school easily locatable across its three campuses.

“It is an amazing era,” said Bass Coast College Principal Darren Parker.

“We are very proud to be the government secondary education provider for the young people of Bass Coast. It is an incredible place to live, and we are thrilled to have a name that represents all in our community.”

The school's existing sites will be known as the Dudley Campus (Year 7-9) and the Wonthaggi Campus (Year 10-12), formerly known as the McKenzie Senior Campus, which opened in 2020.

A second junior campus, the San Remo campus, will open its doors in 2022 and will include an administration building and library, modern classrooms, separate specialist and innovation buildings, a competition-grade gym, football oval, outdoor sports court and spaces



Wonthaggi Secondary College will be renamed Bass Coast College, to accurately reflect the schools identity and its three campuses. The new San Remo junior campus is due to open in 2022, joining the Year 7-9 Dudley Campus and McKenzie Senior Campus in Wonthaggi.

for food technology, music and performing arts.

A fourth campus, the FLOW Campus, was established in 2020 after the upgrading of the former senior campus' gymnasium (Webb's Shed). It plays a particularly important role in supporting students whose circumstances have meant that attendance at mainstream campuses is not straightforward.

### Leadership team

The significant change for the

College extends beyond the name of the school and its buildings to include a change in leadership of the campuses.

There have also been three new appointees to the school.

Emma Harris has been appointed the San Remo Campus Principal and will step into the role from Term 3, 2021, to assist in establishing the new campus.

Michael Shone has been appointed Dudley Campus Principal, and he also commences in his new role

at the start of Term 3, 2021.

Rounding out the new appointments is Leith Cummins.

Leith, the current Dudley Campus Assistant Principal, has been promoted to Assistant College Principal (School Improvement) and will lead the Teaching and Learning improvement initiatives across the whole College.

These new appointees join the existing leadership team, which includes Ross Bramley as the Campus Principal of the renamed Won-

thaggi Campus and Phil Hughes as the Wonthaggi Campus Assistant Principal. Ross is the current Dudley Campus Principal, and he also commences a new role at the start of Term 3, 2021.

Darren Parker continues in his position as Bass Coast College Principal.

“We have a proud history, and these announcements reinforce just how exciting our future is too,” Mr Parker said.

“It is great to share the fantastic developments regarding our leadership positions with our community.

“It is a pleasure to welcome Emma and Michael, both of whom come with significant leadership experience and will be great assets to our College community.

“Thanks also to Ross, Leith and Phil for their continued dedication to our young people and staff.

“I would also like to pay special tribute to Marg O'Donnell, who has been the Senior Campus Principal since 2017,” Mr Parker said.

“Marg has been an outstanding leader in our College, overseeing an era of significant change and challenge for the senior programs.

“We are very pleased to support her in returning to be the excellent classroom teacher we know she is. She remains an outstanding role model in our College.”

Bass Coast College caters for about 1500 students, providing families from the Waterline, Bass Hills through to Phillip Island and across to Inverloch with more accessible public education options.

The name change will come into effect in the coming months following a formal gazettal process.



## 7



# Financial matters

## Financial support due to restrictions

The state government's Circuit Breaker Business Support Package aims to assist small to medium businesses and sole traders, impacted by the Covid restrictions announced on May 27.

The package supports businesses unable to operate because of the lockdown and includes targeted support for the events industry.

With safety nets such as JobKeeper no longer available, this package provides vital support to businesses.

The package includes:

- a \$190.01 million second round of the Business Costs Assistance Program

- a \$40.7 million new round of the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund

- \$20 million in targeted support for the events industry.

The Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two grants for eligible businesses is now open.

The program provides grants for eligible employing and non-employing businesses in sectors most impacted. This includes businesses that have incurred direct costs as a result of the current restrictions and the business that cannot predominantly work



remotely.

The program will remain open until 11:59pm on Thursday, June 24.

Regional businesses unable to open due to the ongoing restrictions, such as nightclubs and amusement parks, will also be eligible for the extended payment.

Applications are also open for the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund.

For more details visit [business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/circuit-breaker-business-support-package](https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/circuit-breaker-business-support-package)

Individuals may also be eligible for assistance through the Federal governments

COVID-19 Disaster Payment, which can be accessed through myGov.

Or they may be eligible for other payments instead such as:

- Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment, if you've been told to isolate or quarantine or have to care for someone with COVID-19

- Crisis Payment, a one-off payment if you've experienced an extreme circumstance and are in severe financial hardship

- payments for job seekers, if you're looking for work or unable to do your usual work or study.



It's worth checking your household insurance to see if you're covered for food spoilage from last week's power outage. Photo: Jesse K, Unsplash.

## What can you claim?

If you have household insurance, it is worth checking your policy to see if you're covered for food spoilage from last week's power outage.

Some insurance policies may help reimburse you for the cost of the spoiled food if it's the result of a covered risk, such as a state-wide power outage, or if a tree fell on your home's roof and severed your power line.

It's worth reading the fine print though, as some policies may cover food that spoils if the power outage affects only your residence, while other providers may offer coverage if the entire neighbourhood is without power.

Generally, you'll find loss or damage caused by a power outage is included under the contents insurance part of your policy and covers you for situations like:

- Your freezer accidentally breaking down
- The public electricity supply failing because of an accident

cause of an accident

- Insured events such as lightning, storm or water damage

- Electrical motor damage (in some cases and so long as it was caused by an insured event like lightning)

If you do end up making a food spoilage insurance claim, take pictures of the food if you can. If your claim includes expensive food items like a whole side of beef, your insurance company may also require you to submit receipts.

Keep in mind that coverage limits may also apply. So for instance, even if you have \$700 worth of spoiled food, your policy may only cover up to \$500, plus you also usually have to pay a deductible before receiving reimbursement.

More information on food spoilage insurance available at [www.finder.com.au/power-outage-food-spoilage-insurance](https://www.finder.com.au/power-outage-food-spoilage-insurance)

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# Financial matters

## Helping you achieve your business goals

Coastal View Financial Services is a local accounting and financial services practice on Phillip Island which has been operating for over 25 years.

They offer a broad range of taxation, accounting, book-keeping, business management, cloud integration, financial planning and mortgage broking services aimed at helping clients to succeed in both personal and business goals.

Coastal View strives to assist clients to achieve their goals in business and in life by helping to build a better business and work life balance.

Simon Manning, founder of the business, has been a CPA member for 30 years and is a specialist Self-Managed Super Fund advisor with the Self-Managed Super Fund Association.

The practice has a specialised area set up to deal with advising, accounting and auditing of Self-Managed Superannuation Funds. As an expert who specialises in this area, Simon works with 10 other practices advising and auditing funds.

Simon and his dedicated team headed by Jodie Ross, Director of Accounting and Book-keeping, Max Mattock, Lauren Wright and Mirade Clarke and other Associates, have the ca-



Simon Manning and his team at Coastal View Financial Services have been offering expert, professional financial advice to the local community for over 25 years.

capacity to offer a wide variety of services to clients and are a virtual one-stop shop for all your business and financial needs.

Coastal View is partnered with the Best Practice Group who are specialised Business Develop-

ment Advisors and Business Coaches, Fitzpatrick's Private Wealth who offer a broad range of financial planning advice and a dedicated Mortgage Broker in Penny Spiers to help smooth out the borrowing or refinancing

process.

Drop a line and reach out to Simon Manning and his team at Coastal View on any financial question you may have.

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

/ Sponsored Article /

## Possible compensation for outage

Power outages do not usually attract compensation, but there are some circumstances where you might be eligible.

You may be entitled to a Guaranteed Service Level (GSL) payment if the electricity distributor (AusNet) doesn't meet service standards for supply restoration.

Compensation is usually paid per financial year and ranges from \$130 (for more than 18 hours of unplanned sustained interruptions) to \$380 for more than 60 hours.

A payment of \$90 is also available for more than 12 hours without power (unplanned) on a "major event day" – an industry term for events such as extreme weather or storms.

Compensation is available for "low reliability" if you experience more than eight unplanned supply outages in a year.

Businesses will need to show they took reasonable precautions to minimise loss or damage from power surges and other quality issues.

However, compensation won't be paid for loss or damage that isn't directly related to the power surge – such as loss of profits or food loss, if the fridge itself wasn't damaged.

Full details of what can be claimed, and how to make a claim are available from [austnetservices.com.au](http://austnetservices.com.au).



1/100 Dunsmore Rd, Cowes | Ph: 5952 3222 | [team@coastalview.com.au](mailto:team@coastalview.com.au) | [www.coastalview.com.au](http://www.coastalview.com.au)

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# Island anglers risking toxic fish?

Anglers who catch fish for dinner around Phillip Island may be eating toxic chemicals that are being investigated for potential links to deaths in seal pups.

The PFAS chemicals – (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) known as “forever chemicals” because they don’t fully degrade in the environment – are used in firefighting foams, industry and commonly-used house products, and are linked to a host of health effects including cancer in firefighters.

A new study, published in Science of the Total Environment, for the first time has examined PFAS chemicals in seals at several sites across Australia, including Seal Rocks’ Australian fur seal colony.

The study showed dead pups in the colony had high levels of PFAS chemicals, linked to eating varied species throughout the marine food chain.

The study concludes there is evidence to show accumulation of these chemicals in marine species in the Southern Ocean had implications not only for the ecosystem but “wildlife and human health”.

“In Australia there is increasing concern about potential human health impacts from environmental PFAS contamination, which have been identified across the country from fire training grounds, oil and gas industries, defence bases, airports and chemical manufacturers,” the study paper states.

Research has not been carried out to indicate a specific source of PFAS chemicals, but the paper did point to Western Port Bay’s navy base.

“The proximity of Seal Rocks (32 nautical miles) to Melbourne, as well as its proximity to a defence base (HMAS Cerberus) could be important factors in the bioaccumulation of PFAS in pups and juveniles,” states the paper, also pointing to the Esso Longford gas explosion in 1998 in East Gippsland, where PFAS chemicals were used.

“The defence base in this area (Western Port) has previously been implicated in the possible discharge of contaminated ground water to the marine environment, resulting in a potential direct source of PFAS contamination.”

### Deaths

Phillip Island Nature Parks marine scientist Rebecca McIntosh worked with study lead author Dr Rachael Gray, from the Sydney School of



Phillip Island Nature Parks research scientist Rebecca McIntosh said while the paper did not indicate a specific source of PFAS chemicals, it did point to Western Port Bay’s navy base.

Veterinary Science, carrying out site samples on Seal Rocks, as well as three other sites around Portland, Cape Bridgewater and Mallacoota, with this new paper focusing on sea lions off South Australia and Seal Rocks.

Phillip Island’s seals were studied between 2017 and 2020 with results showing PFAS chemicals were in “similar magnitude” to marine animals in the northern hemisphere.

While all seals studied had several chemicals found, compared to sea lions off South Australia, Seal Rocks’ fur seals had eight more chemicals in their liver samples.

“The northern hemisphere has a longer industrial history so we were surprised by the high levels in seals here,” Rebecca said.

She said since 2007 there had been a 4.2 per cent decline in seal pups on Seal Rocks, likely due to a number of factors including possibly the chemicals.

In December last year there were 633 pup deaths counted, which is double the number of the previous four years.

“PFAS are legacy chemicals so once they enter the food chain they stay there from the smallest marine snail, which is then eaten by a leather jacket, which is then eaten by

a seal mother, who store it and the chemicals accumulate in their body and they give it to their pups through the placenta and milk.”

Rebecca said more research was needed to fully understand the impacts of the chemicals on seal health, and the health of humans, with the study ongoing.

In April this year, PFAS firefighting foam was banned for use in NSW except in catastrophic circumstances or where there are special circumstances.

“We would like to see PFAS firefighting foams banned in Victoria – following the recent decision made in NSW,” Rebecca said.

“We know PFAS chemicals are harmful and we have detected them in the Australian fur seal pups at Seal Rocks, demonstrating that these chemicals are present in the Bass Strait ecosystem.”

A spokesperson for the Phillip Island CFA said the CFA ceased using and withdrew from service AFFF foams containing PFOS and PFOA in 2007, and further ceased using and withdrew a replacement foam that contained some PFAS in 2016.

They added the CFA “took seriously the risk of PFAS and other chemicals which pose potential risks to firefighters and the community”.



From the busy carpark at the rear of the proposed development, there’s an unobstructed view of overgrown grass and rubbish strewn across the site.

## San Remo site again under fire

Despite being issued with a notice from Council last year to clear the overgrown grass and rubbish, the site of a proposed high-rise development in the main street of San Remo is again in disarray.

From Marine Parade, the site is neatly boarded up, but from the busy carpark at the rear there’s an unobstructed view of overgrown grass and rubbish strewn across the area.

The temporary fence is unstable and black sheeting used to cover the fences has blown off.

Late last year, San Remo residents said they approached the developer and council about the state of the block, describing it as an “eyesore”.

At the time, council confirmed it had issued a notice to clean up the property and said it would follow up to ensure the area was securely fenced.

Last week, Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie told the Advertiser that council officers had been in contact with the landowner.

“We investigated dangerous and unsightly land relating to this property in December 2020 and January 2021 that involved contact with the landowners,” Ms Wastie said.

“Appropriate enforcement action was taken, and these concerns were sufficiently addressed. Our officers will re-visit the site to reinspect its current condition.”

### Development

Plans for the \$6 million development on the site went to VCAT in 2020, after Bass Coast Shire councillors rejected amended plans in December 2019.

Councillors originally refused the development proposal for the 1486m<sup>2</sup> site because it sought a reduction in parking from the statutory requirement of 46 spaces, down to 36 – in-

cluding 20 spaces to be mechanical car stackers – stating this would put parking pressure on the whole town.

But in January 2020, VCAT ruled that a permit should be given to the development, with a list of 30 conditions.

The approved plans were for a 22-apartment complex with four retail shops at four-storeys high, above San Remo’s three-storey height limit.

Since then, the developer has lodged a planning permit amendment seeking approval to add a fifth storey, 151m<sup>2</sup> “penthouse” comprised of a living room and deck area on the roof of the building, as well as a basement for storage and car stacker pits. Nine objections have been lodged to the amended proposal.

One objector described the amendment as “a blight on the aesthetics of the foreshore”.

Another objection stated it was “bad enough that VCAT gave the developer the go ahead to build a four-storey monolith on the site”, against the decision of council.

“To seek to take it to yet another level is both impudent and outrageous,” wrote the objector.

Others were concerned with the impact of the development on the local area, saying photos with the planning amendment were “not a true representation of the actual impact the building will have on the neighbourhood”.

“The development will be highly visible. It will be seen from all points of the compass.

“It will have a significant impact on the vista, dominate the skyline and is completely out of character for San Remo.”

The development is on land that once housed a petrol station and Pier 8 Clothing, between IGA supermarket and Bergin Grove.



Bass Coast Shire Council commissioned five Phillip Island-based artists to create murals on plywood boards that respond to the theme ‘My Island Home’ for erection back in January.

# Cultural Centre site gets artistic make-over

The redevelopment of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre has presented the perfect opportunity for local artists to exhibit their works on a grand scale, albeit a lot later than initially announced.

Last year Bass Coast Shire Council commissioned five Phillip Island-based artists to create murals on plywood boards that respond to the theme ‘My Island Home’ to brighten up the vacant and fenced Cultural Centre site over the January summer holiday period.

As construction work commences at the site, these sectional art pieces will be assembled at a variety of locations and will showcase the extraordinary artistic talent present in

and around Cowes.

The artists involved in the project are Marian Quigley, Steve Ulala Parker, Lynda Horsborough, Darren Henderson and Graham Gilbert.

Marian’s mural is based on a local artist’s experience of her lived environment.

“The image is of a view of Cowes-West beach – seen during my regular morning walks. The sea is a constant source of inspiration for my work and painting forms a central part of my life,” Marian said.

Boon Wurrung Yorta Yorta Erub descendant, Steve is known to many in the district for his youth work, traditional performances and advocacy for, and promotion of, Indigenous culture.

Titled ‘Woolamai Warreeny Galen Barreen’, his mural is the wareeny (ocean water) and tidal movements that run in and out of Murranbiik (Western Port) and around Millowl (Phillip Island), with a view of Cape Woolamai to Pyramid Rock and the setting sun.

“Many of my works depict the Boon Wurrung connection to this land, Millowl that we live on in Tullagum Birranga-ha (Bass Coast country),” Steve said.

Lynda’s mural pays homage to the magnificent mammals of the sea and the dark mysteries of the ancient Island.

“The craggy rocks that emerge from the depths of the sea, like strategically poised sculptures, entice us to

gaze at the horizons with awe. Then by chance we see the wild beasts of the sea poke their heads above water. They are looking back at us mere humans with inquisitiveness and knowing wisdom,” Lynda said.

Darren bought his house in Cape Woolamai as a youngster 17 years ago.

“I rented it out for a while but I missed it like a limb. The ocean, surf and bird life of the entire beach is a massive inspiration to me,” Darren said.

“So my mural is an ode to Woolamai and Phillip Island, its clear, clean ocean and the wildlife that inhabits it.”

Raised on Wiradjuri land in the town of Condobolin, Graham’s paintings feature a broad range of

native Australian animals and reflect the connection of animals to their landscapes and often reference the hunter and gatherer lifestyle lived by his ancestors.

“My design concept is based on the idea of Phillip Island being a meeting place for my people. In the sea, beyond the shoreline, are the many creatures that hunter-gatherers brought home for their tribe,” Graham said.

The art works were originally mooted by council in November 2020 to brighten up the vacant and fenced site over the summer holiday period.

They were initially expected to be installed in early January.





# Island HOME

— YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE —

Photo: Ramble & Drift Creative

## Stockdale & Leggo

KOO WEE RUP | HASTINGS | PHILLIP ISLAND

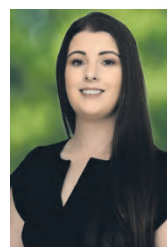
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Located on Ventnor Road on the way to the famous Penguin Parade, this five-acre property will offer you so many options in the future.



The home features two living areas with an open plan kitchen and family room, overlooking the inground pool.



Set on five acres, established trees and gardens and a beautifully sheltered north facing location adds to this property's appeal.

# Your new life starts here

With five acres of space and privacy, this is the first time the property has been offered in more than 30 years.

Ventnor Park is what everyone dreams of owning one day. This original farm homestead was cut off onto five acres many years ago. Established trees and gardens and a beautifully sheltered north facing location adds to this property's appeal. The home features two living areas with an open plan kitchen and family room, big north facing

windows overlook the inground pool and open pasture. There are four large bedrooms all with built in robes and a renovated bathroom.

Sheltered entries at front rear and side. The property has a fully self-contained unit which regularly rents out through Airbnb, this renovated unit has elevated our vendors to super host with its new bathroom and private location.

The property has excellent shedding and stables with a

pony paddock just waiting for you. Located on Ventnor Road on the way to the famous Penguin Parade, this property will offer you so many options in the future.

Inspection by appointment only.

Contact: Alex Scott and Staff in Cowes, 5952 2633

Address: 640 Ventnor Rd, Ventnor

Auction: Saturday, June 19,

2pm on site, if not sold prior

Terms: 10 per cent deposit.

Settlement 60 days



This is the first time this five-acre property has been on the market in more than 30 years.



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60 Thompson Ave, Cowes

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Located on the stunning Cowes East/Silverleaves beach, this is a unique opportunity to secure a sensational foreshore property in an enviable position.



This home is perfectly positioned to take full advantage of the northerly aspect and tranquil beach setting both outdoors, and indoors with abundant natural light through the floor to ceiling windows.



There is a generous billiard table area and dining space that extends to the spacious decking with a luxurious eight-person spa and indoor/outdoor speakers.

# Beachfront garden sanctuary

This is a unique opportunity to secure a sensational foreshore property in an enviable position.

Located on the stunning Cowes East/Silverleaves beach this highly sought after one acre seaside oasis boasts its own private beach access (on title) to the renowned 'Lovers Walk', and Phillip Island's best north facing beach.

The family home is perfectly positioned to take full advantage of the northerly aspect and tranquil beach setting both outdoors, and indoors with abundant natural light through the floor to ceiling windows. Two impressive decks flowing into the spacious and private living zones, are the ideal place to

take in the sounds of the ocean and birdlife that frequent the extensive lawn grounds and surrounding native garden.

The ground level features three spacious living zones with beautiful stringy bark timber flooring anchored by a modern kitchen complete with five burner gas cooktop, electric oven, dishwasher, Miele built in coffee machine, microwave and stone island bench with double sinks.

Enjoy the ambience of the sunny living area featuring a large open fire place, perfect for those wintery nights. There is a generous billiard table area and dining space that extends to the spacious decking with

a luxurious eight-person spa and indoor/outdoor speakers. A third, separate living/rumpus room with built in surround sound speakers provides access to the master bedroom with walk in robe, ensuite with bath and separate shower and a North facing garden outlook. The second bedroom is serviced by a convenient powder room but also has access to the ensuite, and a large laundry has external access to a fenced off services area.

From the timber staircase upstairs you will find a fourth inviting living space with vaulted ceilings and bar area with access onto a north facing balcony. A further two bedrooms, both with built in robes and central

bathroom with shower completes the contemporary coastal living that caters to large families.

Additional features of the immaculate home include: ducted central heating throughout, a double carport with workshop/storage area, ducted vacuum, security alarm system and beautifully maintained gardens that are fully fenced to keep small children and animals safe.

This impressive property currently runs as a luxury holiday vacation home achieving over \$100,000 annually in regular bookings, with future bookings already in place. Take advantage of this established business or just enjoy the property as your own private family residence.

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Contact: Josh Dunstan, O'Brien Real Estate Cowes, 0407 558 933.

Address: 2A Hereward Close, Cowes Auction: on site, June 26, 2021 at 11.30am (if not sold prior).

Terms: 10 per cent deposit. Settlement 90 days.

Inspections: by appointment only. Open for inspection 1pm - 1.30pm, Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20. Due to current restrictions, no entry will be permitted without prior appointment. Contact Josh Dunstan on 0407 558 933



## O'Brien Real Estate

Judith Wright

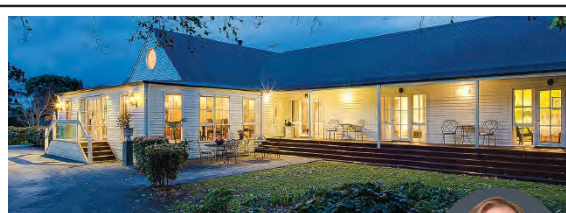


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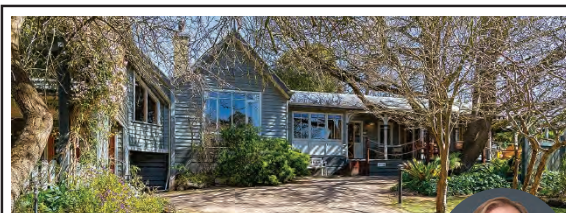
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3 1 1

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Jenni Kent 0428 566 643



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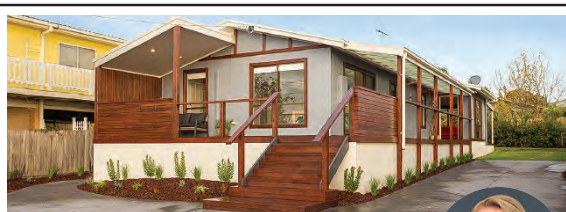
9 Mountainview Avenue, **Ventnor**

4 1 2

Location & Potential

\$720,000

Michael Wilkinson 0439 783 294



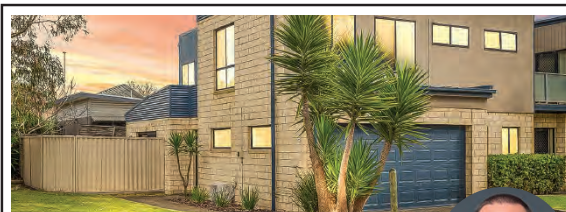
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# Wonthaggi Arts Centre

26 June - 4 August

## LIVE EVENTS



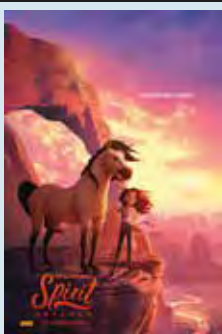
## A Taste of Ireland

Wednesday,

4 August - 7:30pm

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions in Victoria, this performance has been postponed from Sunday 20 June to Wednesday 4 August, 2021.

## CINEMA



## June/July School Holidays

wonthaggiartscentre.com

- You can purchase tickets at our Box office or online
- Please view our COVID Safe guidelines on our website

Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre

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phone: 03 5671 2470



# THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news



Cowes Newsagency gets into the spirit of Island Whale Month.

## We're having a Whale of a time!

The flags are flying across San Remo, Rhyll and Cowes to mark Island Whale Month.

Running from June 11 to July 11, Whale Month is an extension of the popular Island Whale Festival and to get into the spirit, 200 whale tails, cut out by the Phillip Island Men's shed members, have been distributed to local businesses.

The whale tails are appearing in retail and restaurant windows as a talking point for locals and visitors to acknowledge these special visitors in our southern Island waters.

The first whale watching cruises commenced on Sunday, and there have already been numerous whale sightings reported by locals from land, on the water and even by Phillip Island helicopter guests.

While the organising committee hoped to deliver a big festival this year, due to Covid regulations the festival and events will be smaller scale to manage numbers.

Discover many of the events planned on islandwhales.com.au where bookings are now open



Flags promoting Whale Month are flying across the island.

for a range of talks, presentations and events.

If you are a retail outlet who would like to decorate and feature a whale tail in your window, please call 0466 620 856.



The Singularity Choir, including Yum Yum (Ellen Maple), Pitti Sing (Cynthia Van Der Hulst) and Peep Bo (Elanor Franklin) perform "The Mikado" at St John's in Cowes at 2pm on June 20. Photo by Robin Halls.

## A Japanese emperor in Cowes

Covid restrictions permitting, Singularity choir returns to St John's, Cowes at 2pm on June 20 with a concert version of "The Mikado", a Gilbert and Sullivan classic.

Between the merry, mirthful, musical numbers, a narrator guides the audience through the plot, which has at its core a love story between wandering minstrel Nanki-Poo and school girl Yum-Yum.

Unfortunately The Mikado, the emperor, has decreed flirting to be a capital crime, which makes any love story rather difficult to begin, let alone complete. In response, the gentlemen of Titipu, the town in which the action takes place, appoint Ko-Ko, who

is already condemned for flirting, as the Lord High Executioner. Brilliant! No executions can be carried out until he first cuts off his own head.

Of course the plot thickens considerably before it eventually resolves as Singularity, in lavish attire, enthusiastically weave the threads together with vibrant voices and ridiculous drama.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$5 for children under 14. For enquiries, contact Lyn Francis on 5952 2723.

Proceeds from the concert go to Rubaga Youth Development Association, Uganda.

"The Mikado" - Sunday, June 20, 2pm, St. John's Uniting Church, Chapel Street, Cowes.



This mural next to the Cowes library is a celebration of the strength, resilience, love and care of the women of Phillip Island, and was created and paid for by Phillip Island Murals.

## Mural mermaids

The team from Phillip Island Murals have been busy in recent weeks.

Thanks to their hard work, there are now mermaids frolicking in Thompson Avenue.

The 30-metre by four-metre mural, covering a wall near the Heritage Centre, can be seen from the main street and the Transit Centre car park.

Created as a homage to the women of Phillip Island, it was a labour of love, designed and paid for by the team itself.

"The wall was painted to give recognition to the mothers, wives, grandmothers and all other women who are the backbone of the community," Craig from Phillip

Island Murals said.

"It shows three women in three states of emotion, with a strong feminine feeling and a magical blue background."

He said the idea was to celebrate the strength, resilience love and care that women show.

The team has also been commissioned to create a mural in Wonthaggi, as part of Council's laneway revival project.

The 20-metre by four-metre mural celebrates Bass Coast life and the Phillip Island Mural's artwork is the first in the series to be completed.

Four unique artworks will be created along Wonthaggi laneways during June.

## Movie Club June screening cancelled

After a fabulous opening on May 25, the Phillip Island Movie Club is sad to announce that there will be no June film because of the Covid restrictions relating to the cinema at The

Penguin Parade. The Nature Parks are still closed.

The club is hoping to be back on Sunday, July 25 when it will, hopefully, show the June film, Woman at War.

## World Vision Phillip Island Club

### Winter Fundraising Luncheon

Phillip Island Bowling Club  
40 Dunsmore Road Cowes

12.00 noon Sunday June 20

\$20.00 per head  
includes 2 course meal &  
special effort tickets

Guest speaker: Tony Rinaudo, winner of international awards for his environmental work in Africa, is famously known for helping to transform millions of hectares of dry and barren land in many African countries.

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All proceeds support PI World Vision Club projects overseas and within Australia.



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Enjoying the Chat N Chew session was (Back from left to right): Stephanie Dalzzastello, Trevor Shaw, Anne Ballantyne and Wendy Humbert and (Front): Jan Goldsbury, Pat Garvey and Dianne Wilkinson

## Chat n Chew returns

The weekly 'Chat n Chew' session provided on Fridays at the Anglican Church in Cowes aims to provide a community connection point.

The sessions, which were disrupted by Covid in 2020 returned this month, only to be hit by the latest lockdown.

Still, the organisers are hopeful the weekly sessions will resume post lockdown, with volunteers on hand to chat, while people enjoy a free lunch, as well as a cuppa and cake.

Organiser John Ballantyne said the sessions were gathering momentum and had even attracted passers-by who came in to find out what it was all about.

He said they hoped to be able to help people who were doing it tough, especially after Covid.

"Chat n Chew is a drop-in centre which is really focused to help marginalized and lonely people, but everybody is welcome and some

people just love coming here."

He said some of their regular patrons hadn't returned after Covid, but there were always new faces.

"It's very much a floating population here (on Phillip Island), with a lot of people visiting.

"We're very keen to work with local groups and the churches.

"One of the other things we do is organise outings, and we do as much support outside of the drop in centre as we can.

"We went to Macca's Farm and we're going to see The Taste of Ireland soon."

Coral Fokkens and John Lyon also help out at the sessions and said it's a great opportunity for people to connect.

"You can tell by the atmosphere that people feel really connected. So if someone new comes in they come into something that's friendly warm, welcoming and of course

there's food," Coral and John said.

"It's very welcoming. I think that's what we like about it. Some of these ladies come every week. Every week, they do their shopping and they all meet here.

"There's no pressure on them. They just come and enjoy each other's company which is absolutely fabulous.

"People often think they'll make me go to church if I go (to Chat n Chew) but there's no obligation. It's not connected to any one religion or anything. If people want to go to church they'll let you know. But there's no pressure."

The Chat n Chew sessions are also supported by Coles Supermarket which provides cakes and produce for the delicious lunches.

Chat n Chew is open Fridays during school terms, at the Cowes Anglican Church, 102 Thompson Avenue, opposite Coles, from 11am - 2.30pm.



Chef Reg Wilkinson was cooking up a storm, with potato and leek and toasted sandwiches on the menu.



The Chat n Chew team of John Ballantyne (front left), Cathy Peck (Treasurer), Linda Sparkes, John Lyon, Coral Fokkens (Secretary), Dianne Wilkinson, Richard Prideaux, Ken White and The Rev Jo White (front right).

## Queen's Birthday honours announced

Cowes resident Harold Summer has been awarded an Order of Australia for his service to athletics.

Mr Summers has been an executive member of the Australian Track and Field Coaches Association since 1993, and Vice President since 1996.

His commitment to the Victorian Race Walking Club is equally as impressive. A Life Member, he served as President from 1983-2013, and was a committee member up until 2018.

Mr Summers also served as the Walk Coach at the Victorian Institute of Sport from 1996 - 2000 and was the international team manager and coach on 15 occasions.

He represented Australia at two

World Cups (1981 and 1985) and was the Australian Institute of Sport's Walk Coach.

He is currently a patron of Race Walk Australia, where he served as President from 2002 - 2004.

After joining the Box Hill Athletics Club in 1966, he was presented with a life membership in 1984 and was President from 1987 - 1994.

His commitment to Australian sport has previously been acknowledged with a Life Membership to Athletics Australia (2008) and the Australian Sports Medal in 2000.

Mr and Mrs George and Joan Scott from Wonthaggi also received an Order of Australia medal for service to the community

The pair were recognised for their decades-long commitment to the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club, Lions Club, Angling Club, State Coal Mine, Eight Ball Association, Wonthaggi Club, Wonthaggi Workmen's Club and Netball Association.

Both George and Joan were named Citizen of the Year in 1990 and between them have received numerous awards, including Service Medal (Royal Life Saving Society Australia) in 1994; Bar to Service Medal in 1998; Service Cross in 2004 and HRH Prince Michael of Kent 125th Anniversary Certificates of Merit from the Royal Life Saving Society in 2016.

Congratulations to all three on their richly deserved awards.



The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath and Nationals leader and Shadow Minister for Agriculture Peter Walsh visited Paul Joseph's award-winning Hill Top Farm on Phillip Island.

## Pollies praise local produce

Bass Coast's produce was on show for the Leader of the Nationals, Peter Walsh and Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath who recently visited Hill Top Farm on Phillip Island.

Hill Top Farm is an award winning, family-owned small business which specialises in grass fed and free-range meats.

For the past three years Hill Top Farm has won the Australian Butchers Guild award for the Greatest Butcher on your Block.

Offering a comprehensive range of local products which includes breads, cheese, wine, antipasto, jams and sauces, Hill Top Farm has evolved to become a one stop shop for some of the best produce Gippsland has to offer.

Ms Bath said Managing Director Paul Joseph explained how Hill Top Farm had been forced to diversify after Victoria's COVID-9 lockdowns and subsequent restrictions in 2020 wiped out 80 per cent of business trade.

"In the blink of eye, restaurant sales evaporated, and only local residents could access their produce," she said.

"Removing tourists and day visi-

tors combined with the extended closure of all hospitality businesses had an enormous impact on Gippsland's food producers who saw their customer base disappear overnight.

"In the battle to keep the business afloat, Paul impressively pivoted his service model, introducing a range of ready speciality meals and a commenced a home delivery service."

Drawing upon Paul's training as a master butcher in the United Kingdom, his range of gourmet pies were born and include flavours such as scallop, steak and kidney and rabbit.

Ms Bath said Mr Joseph's passion for supporting local farmers should be recognised and celebrated.

"He is building awareness of the food Gippsland grows and actively bringing it to the community through farmers markets and his delivery service, all while maintaining an impressive shop front.

"Hill Top Farm is a foodie's dream and a great example of a local business who embraces the concept of 'shop local'. It's well worth the visit to purchase some of the best food Gippsland has on offer - don't forget your empty esky!"

## Work starts on Newhaven Primary School upgrade

Better facilities are on their way for students at Newhaven Primary School, with works commencing on an important upgrade.

State Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale recently announced works are underway with the government providing \$109,125 to go towards upgrading the senior playground and gymnasium.

"These upgrades for the gym and playground are needed and go towards making the facilities better

and more enjoyable than before," Ms Crugnale said.

The funding is part of the state government's Minor Capital Works fund, which aims to deliver small projects.

Newhaven Primary School is one of more than 300 Victorian government schools allocated funding to fast-track priority projects under the Minor Capital Works Fund to improve learning environments as well as the condition and character of the school.

## Vaccination update

If you're keen to get the vaccine, you can book in at the Vaccination Clinic at the Wonthaggi Town Hall or through local GPs.

Bookings at the state-run clinic can be made via the Coronavirus Hotline - 1800 675 398 or the new online booking service at [portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/](http://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/).

Bookings are also being taken at the Wonthaggi Town Hall by the Bass Coast Health admin team.

The vaccination clinic is open weekdays from 9am - 4pm, 8.30am - 12.30pm on Saturday and closed

on Sunday.

Walk in appointments are currently only available for health-care, disability and ambulance workers.

The Health Minister Martin Foley said the state would not be taking any bookings this week for the first dose of Pfizer. Due to limited stocks of the vaccine, supplies were being reserved for those who were due to receive their second dose.

To book in for an AstraZeneca vaccination at your local GP, call direct, or go to [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au).





Former Nature Parks researcher Dr Roz Jessop with San Remo's Gary Matthews, who are part of the Westernport Pelicans Study Group. WPSG is now calling on the public to keep an eye out for tagged pelicans.



The self-funded WPSG, a group of concerned local volunteers, research pelican populations and in 2019 received government permission to start banding pelicans in a radius from Phillip Island to Stony Point and even Mud Island in Port Phillip Bay.

# New study on San Remo, Newhaven pelicans

Pelicans are not the most approachable birds.

San Remo's Gary Matthews, from the Westernport Pelican Study Group, knows this first-hand.

As part of his voluntary role with the group, Gary catches the massive birds to tag.

"I've been pecked and my face has been scratched from the forehead down," says Gary, who has permits from the state environment department, Parks Victoria and an animal ethics permit.

"I've even had my backside pecked.

"But it's important work because no one has done a study of Australian pelicans in Victoria and we need to know more about them."

Gary is one of 50 members of the self-funded WPSG, which was start-

ed about 10 years ago by a group of concerned local volunteers who began researching pelican populations.

In 2019 the group received government permission to start banding pelicans in a radius from Phillip Island to Stony Point and even Mud Island in Port Phillip Bay.

He says so far 30 of the birds have been banded and the WPSG is now calling on the public to keep an eye out for the tags.

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

"People must keep a safe distance, though, because the closer they get the more likely the bird is to fly off

or they will also snap at you.

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

Pelicans are banded with a metal band on the left leg and acrylic on the right leg, with three numbers engraved so it is clearly visible.

The volunteers catch, tag, weigh, measure and keep notes on the age, gender, and health status of each bird, with records collated for educational and conservation data.

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

## GPS

Gary - who is a member with his wife Joan - says the group will also start attaching GPS tracking devices to about nine birds later this year.

"All this will give us valuable in-

formation into the movements of where the pelicans forage and have their young.

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

He says about a decade ago pelicans in Victoria were believed to have seven colonies, but now there were thought to be just two or three: at Mud Island, Paynesville and Mallacoota.

The Paynesville pelican study group recently had a visiting bird from Brisbane, so "clearly they travel".

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

Gary and Joan used to care for injured and sick pelicans at their home

but now take them to Nature Parks for rehabilitation.

He says the trick to catching and banding a bird is to put a loop on the ground near fish cleaning stations at Newhaven and San Remo jetties, and when anglers are cleaning their fish and throwing discarded flesh, they pull the loop when the bird steps into it.

"We know how to handle them and know what they're capable of."

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

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

The group is open to new members.

## TREES DOWN, POWER OUT

Like much of south-eastern Victoria, Phillip Island was hit by gale force winds last Wednesday night, leaving trees down and debris strewn across the island.



On Monday, trees were still down across nature strips in Cape Woolamai.



Traffic came to a standstill when a tree came down across powerlines on Phillip Island Road.

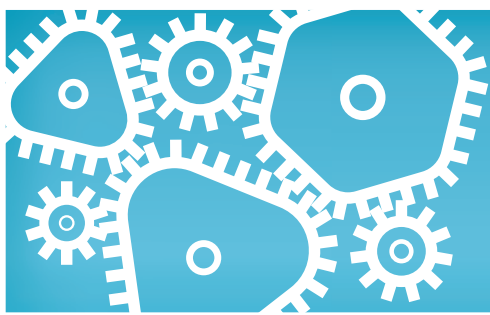


SES volunteers directed traffic and cleared fallen limbs off Phillip Island Road, 200 metres before the Ventnor Road roundabout.



Trees fell across one of the cabins at the holiday park, behind Rusty Water Brewery.





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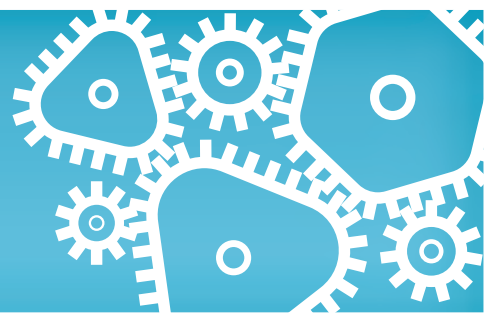
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

## About creeping authoritarianism

After years of forwarding climate crisis news items, just once following up to Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) by phone, determined on response, about EUF (Energy Upgrade Finance) method helping investment in building efficiency. BCSC not interested.

Continuation of emailed news items was encouraged. But no replies indicate the next step – authoritarianism – getting correspondence listed under new Unreasonable Customer Conduct Policy.

Walking streets of Cowes each day, after storms, if there's tree damage, I take a photo, tag description and location and email the shire. The server autogenerates reply to acknowledge receipt.

Once, there was a large branch hanging from a tree in park/playground alongside our house. I emailed, then after a week's wait, with plenty of kiddies oblivious of danger, it was time to at least drop the branch, even if it was too big to shift. I got out the ladder, carefully sawing, then crack, drop, twist and big gouge to my hand. Another week or so and snail mail letter arrives, with "reference number" but no way of knowing if it referred to the branch or littering or something else.

Snail mails are ridiculous. Previously I've written notes and returned them. I gave up on phone calls, yonks ago: on hold forever, then you're told message sent to "relevant person" and to expect return call, which never happens.

This time, I took a photo of the reference number letter, attached it to an email to the CEO, to ask if she knows the system is so ridiculous and could organise reply. No reply. Resend. No reply. Sent it to Mayor. No reply. Resend. No reply. Phone, voicemail. No reply to voicemail.

Letters look formal but because of typos in name and address, obviously wait for typist, not out of IT system.

Ultimately, I visit Wonthaggi. The very helpful lady receptionist said "number entered not found", a typo but possible to correct. It was about dog licence, with details, as well as reference, completely wrong. What a sad system and people we pay for?

Bernie McComb, Cowes

## Biloela family

I have written to our MP Russell Broadbent to voice my disgust with the treatment of this family. Enough is enough; the serious illness of this little girl is horrifying. Federal Government just send them to Biloela where they were living, working and paying tax. Two little girls born in Australia should be growing up where they are safe and loved.

Barbara Owen, Silverleaves

## Hasn't Council caused enough distress!

Hasn't council caused enough distress in removing the dust suppressant seal on The Esplanade and Batman Ave, Surf Beach, without rubbing more salt in the wound by using a low-grade material with a high clay content, to rehabilitate the roads. This will make the dust problem worse than when the seal was first applied 15 years ago.

The material, which is a blend of a Class 3 and 4 crushed rock, is commonly used for base layers in light traffic roads, commercial site works, pipe bedding and backfilling. But, should NOT be used as a wearing coarse on busy residential roads, particularly where traffic speed is not constrained. Class 2 crushed rock, has up to recently, been used as the wearing coarse material throughout the shire. Why it has been replaced with a substandard material that accentuates the dust problem when dry

and creates a sludge when wet, is inconceivable.

The sludge that recent rains produced, has reduced cyclists and pedestrian numbers to a trickle on The Esplanade which boasts one of the best coastal views on the island. A few brave locals, mainly young mums, who religiously walk their dogs or young children on foot and in prams, have now been forced to wear boots instead of their usual runners. Not only has this ill-conceived work destroyed the amenity for locals, it has also damaged the drawing power for tourist to this unique section of the island only second to the scenic drive from The Nobbies to the Penguin Centre. Isn't council spruiking the merits of walking and cycling and bragging about the efforts it's doing to improve pedestrian and cycling facilities? Hmmm ...

The cost savings in using this inappropriate material, is about 5 per cent. Surely council can't be so penny pinching to subject the community to a higher dust problem than necessary and inflict muddy conditions that haven't existed for the past 15 years? Has council become so focused on big item projects that they have become insensitive and unresponsive to community's basic needs?

Lou Percora, Surf Beach

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

# SHORT STACK

## A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Census collectors needed

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is currently recruiting 20,000 Census Field Officers across the country to help deliver the 2021 Census and wants Field Officers who are familiar with the local area.

The roles are short-term and available in all cities, towns and regional areas nationwide. The flexible working hours are variable and will include weekdays, weekends and evenings.

Applicants are encouraged to view the applicant information kit and apply early as jobs are expected to fill quickly.

It takes approximately 15 minutes to apply at [www.censusjobs.adecco.com.au](http://www.censusjobs.adecco.com.au).

The 2021 Census is on Tuesday, August 10. It is Australia's 18th Census. More details at [www.census.abs.gov.au](http://www.census.abs.gov.au)

### Nominate your Victorian Senior of The Year

Victorians are encouraged to nominate a deserving person for the 2021 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards to ensure the outstanding contributions of Victoria's seniors are recognised.

The nominations close on July 9, for people over 60 years of age (50 years of age for First Nations people). More information available at [seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards](http://seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards).

### Vouchers and grants to support regional tourism businesses

A new round of travel vouchers has been announced to support tourism recovery across regional Victoria.

Victorians will have access to 80,000 regional travel vouchers valued at \$200 each to help operators affected by the current restrictions recover strongly.

The Regional Tourism Support Package also provides \$11.8 million to support eligible Victorian tourism businesses with grant top-ups for the current Business Costs Assistance Program. This means that all eligible tourism businesses in Victoria will receive a payment of \$7000 under the program.

More information about the Regional Tourism Support Package at [business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/regional-tourism-support-package](http://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/regional-tourism-support-package).

### Fast-tracking investment to support regional recovery

The Investment Fast Track Fund is open for applications to help take important projects from the ideas phase to be ready for development, with grants of up to \$500,000 available to local councils, community organisations and the private sector for planning, design and business case works.

Information and guidelines for the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund at [rdv.vic.gov.au/rjif](http://rdv.vic.gov.au/rjif).

### Hardship payments boosted

The government has announced a boost to hardship payments and emergency food relief.

The Extreme Hardship Support Program has been extended, ensuring continued assistance for Victorians who are not eligible for income support from the Commonwealth Government.

Community food relief organisations will be boosted, including support for new partnerships between food relief organisations and local restaurants, cafes and hospitality businesses.

Foodbank Victoria's mobile food van service across the state will also be expanded.

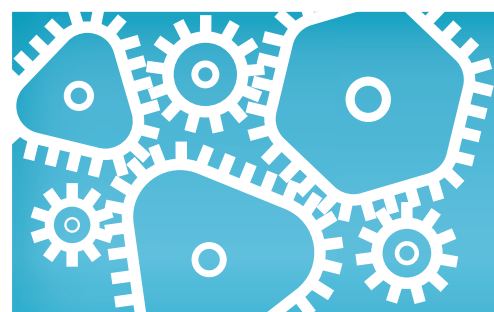
### Elder abuse action

The Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) is supporting those working in residential aged care across Australia to recognise, respond, and report elder abuse – whether physical, emotional, sexual or financial.

Working closely with practitioners and consumer representatives, the VHA developed a suite of interactive training resources for residential aged care workers designed to build staff confidence and capacity on this sensitive and pressing issue.

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Luke Donnellan MP, launched the VHA's new resources on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – an internationally recognised day that highlights one of the worst manifestations of ageism and inequality in our society.

The new resources are available to all aged care services at [www.vha.org.au/elder](http://www.vha.org.au/elder)



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Benji Chihotski takes control whilst Dalyston players try and chase him down in the U14s Blue game held at the Island.

## Island Blues too strong for Dalyston

### U14s Blue

After weather so wild and woolly that the white paint was lucky to remain on the goal posts the U14 Blue boys were excited to be getting out on the field on Sunday to face up to the Dalyston Magpies.

This was another week when the Blues were out to impress, and they did not disappoint.

Like the lightening that had shattered the sky only nights before, the blues were able to drive the ball through the pack skilfully avoiding attempted swooping tackles from the magpies.

By the second quarter the mercy rule had been issued in favour of PI, however in true blue style the U14's didn't relent on their tough and tight style of play.

The second half saw the boys dominate play again with the ball being delivered from the centre to the on-ballers with silver service.

The forward line was alive, continuing the frenzy of goals that they had started earlier in the game.

At final siren, the Magpies hadn't survived the storm brought on by the Blues but can be congratulated for playing with such heart and passion.

Another convincing and well-deserved win to the U14 PI Blue team!

Best on ground: Thomas Macmillan, Edward Spiteri-Stevens, Lincoln Smith and Nathan Patch.

Well done team and thanks to all supporters.

### U12s

Well winter was well and truly in swing when the pups turned up on Sunday morning to the kennel to

take on the Collingwood themed Dalyston Magpies.

The trees and branches had fallen over the gravel road carpark over that crazy powerless weekend on the Island and everyone was ready to tackle and take their lockdown aggression out on their opponents.

Charlie Fischer was at his best from the get-go with his precise ball handling skills and strong marking ability.

The dogs were too strong from the beginning with Darcy Opitz, Max Nicka and Oscar Tuchtan sliding a few through the middle posts early on.

Henry Dean was a firecracker and taking on some amazing marks that would be impressive to AFL stars.

He secured three magnificent goals in the third term earning the crowd's admiration.

Dalyston, the Collingwood themed team struggled to keep up but played well and hard.

Charlie Nooy booted another two in the final quarter and Brinkley Nicolaci one more to steal the game.

### U10s Blue

With another weird week on the island the kids were happy and keen to get back to normality and play footy.

U10S Blue hosted Dalyston at the kennel this week with a waterlogged ground but not much rain on the radar.

A different looking coaches box this week without Marshy's right hand man Dan Cooper, because we think he was having an interview with Collingwood re coaching position.

Sam Blundy put his hand up and

did a great job, although at one point getting too involved in the game and leaving the magnet board unattended. Thankfully our ever-reliable team manager Lucy Kennedy stepped in to set the positions for the next quarter.

The captain for the week was Seb Rennie, one of the blue pups born leaders who puts everything into his training and games and this week was no exception.

His four quarters of footy was excellent and well rewarded with an awesome goal on the run.

With only two pups unavailable, the island was able to help Dalyston out with most kids going across to play a quarter for the opposition. A huge thanks to the kids that did so and did it in the best team spirit.

Once again, the team jumped out of the blocks with good running play and goals in the first quarter, talk between the players and being first to the footy was a highlight.

The wet weather didn't seem to be an issue for the kids with skills still improving every week no matter what the conditions.

The next three quarters were a carbon copy of the first with all the team rules and hard running continuing.

In such a great team effort Marshy wished for 24 awards this week but had the hard task of picking just four!

Liam Cleary with his great attitude and effort almost snagging his first goal received an award along with Brady Van Steensel playing his best game for the year, Miller Micallef for another four-quarter effort and Hugo Wright for sticking to the team rules and giving his all once again.



U14s Blue teammates Jack Briggs and Oliver Duggan leap to take control of the ball against Dalyston on Sunday.



Riley Brinkman and U14s teammates had plenty of the footy on Sunday against Dalyston.



Max Taylor was often in the thick of things in the wet conditions on Sunday.

## Restriction frustrations continue

The storms last week added heartache to hardship for many local businesses.

Gyms and indoor sports and entertainment, including dance schools should have been able to reopen their doors, but the storm put a stop to that.

Phillip Island Dance Studio should have been holding classes last Friday, but the power outage saw dance classes cancelled

again.

The school will reopen this week, with owner Rowena Campbell saying there were only eight days left before the term finishes.

She's frustrated that despite the low case numbers, the restrictions are even tougher than last year.

"We return today with only groups of 10 students. Last year it was 20 students.

"Most of our classes have 11 or 12

students on week nights, so how do I choose which 10 can dance," she said.

As a small business, not registered for GST, the school has not been eligible for any financial support from the government.

"Dance schools in regional areas were closed last week but we were not in a "hot spot" area so we were not able to access that extra money either," she said.

"Both governments said in press conferences that they are giving all this money away to small businesses which is simply not true.

"We have been the first to shut down and the last to reopen."

She estimated the school has been closed for 250 days since the first Covid lockdown in 2020.

"We will be returning again with our Covid plan of no adults in the studio, with a "drop and run" policy, no partner work, no barres, equipment or props," Rowena said.

"The most frustrating thing is dance is so safe.

"We have kids standing in place on dots and our work can be modified to reduce risk, we also have regular clientele."

She said entertainment and leisure venues were able to have 50 people indoors, and retail, hairdressers, beauty salons and hospitality had all had their patron caps increased, with some allowed up to 150 people if the density quotient was followed.

Yet dance schools were still operating under harsh restrictions.

"This is why dance schools are so frustrated."

## TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 | HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BLACK

| WED 16 JUN             | THU 17 JUN             | FRI 18 JUN             | SAT 19 JUN             | SUN 20 JUN             | MON 21 JUN             | TUE 22 JUN             |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| HIGH 4:14 am<br>2.62 m | HIGH 4:55 am<br>2.61 m | HIGH 5:38 am<br>2.59 m | LOW 12:03 am<br>1.01 m | LOW 12:45 am<br>0.92 m | LOW 1:30 am<br>0.82 m  | LOW 2:23 am<br>0.72 m  |
| LOW 10:03 am<br>0.63 m | LOW 10:41 am<br>0.68 m | LOW 11:21 am<br>0.75 m | HIGH 6:26 am<br>2.58 m | HIGH 7:21 am<br>2.58 m | HIGH 8:26 am<br>2.62 m | HIGH 9:37 am<br>2.71 m |
| HIGH 5:10 pm<br>3.05 m | HIGH 5:43 pm<br>2.99 m | HIGH 6:16 pm<br>2.93 m | LOW 12:04 pm<br>0.85 m | LOW 12:53 pm<br>0.98 m | LOW 1:48 pm<br>1.13 m  | LOW 2:53 pm<br>1.27 m  |
| LOW 10:49 pm<br>1.12 m | LOW 11:26 pm<br>1.07 m |                        | HIGH 6:51 pm<br>2.87 m | HIGH 7:30 pm<br>2.80 m | HIGH 8:16 pm<br>2.73 m | HIGH 9:13 pm<br>2.67 m |

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Charlie O'Garey tries to escape a great tackle from the "absolute girl gun of a player from Wonthaggi".

## Island junior footballers dominate

*Continued from page 23*

From here the Power took control of the quarter with some good football through the middle.

Cohen Maynard provided some excellent pressure with lots of tackles and Nash Hornsby got his head over the ball and was rewarded for his efforts.

The second quarter saw the magnets thrown around and the Reds dominated the quarter with the backline barely required.

Archie Williams drove the ball into the forward line along with Kane Patton.

Flynn Doig and Will Patton got

busy at the fall of the ball and if it wasn't for the two goal keepers employed by the Power then many goals may have been scored.

The third quarter was much like the second except this time it was Wonthaggi in complete control.

The backline stood up to the pressure with Declan Dickson taking marks and applying tackles.

All the players are learning how to be accountable for their opponent in defence.

Zac Basterfield found himself in some tough contests and stood up to the pressure.

Nobody told the players that you

actually change direction in a new quarter with both teams confused about which way they were going.

After it all settled down, Dustin Naismith continued to play a great captain's game by leading from the front.

Again, the bulldogs piled on the points to accompany another goal to Taj Piera.

It was a close encounter, with the human scoreboards (the kids) all having different results.

Well done P.I. Red, keep up the good work and keep having fun.

Best: Dustin Naismith, Zac Basterfield, Declan Dickson and Nash Hornsby.



U14s Harrison Carlon gets the ball away under pressure.



Will Peppard charges away leaving no possibility of anyone catching him at Wonthaggi in the U14s game on Sunday.

## Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, June 8 – Thursday, June 10: No golf competition due to Covid. Saturday, June 12 – Men's 18 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Mark Hill H/c (21) with 37 points from Max Disher H/c (16) with 36 points on a count-back from Gerard Ferrari H/c (13) also with 36 points.

Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Dianne Gray H/c (23) with 30 points from Wendy Hopkins H/c (30) with 29 points.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Patrick Owens H/c (24) with 20 points from Malcolm MacArthur H/c (29) with 17 points.

Next week's game – Men's Monthly Medal – Stroke: Congratulations to Craig Southern on his Hole in One on the 5th!

Monday, June 14 – Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Janice Daff H/c (36) with 41 points from Rhonda Boyd H/c (19) with 35 points.

Men's 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Adrian O'Gorman H/c (10) with 44 points from Mario Amato H/c (16) with 40 points on a count-back from Sean Ambler H/c (18) also with 40 points.

Congratulations also to Ian Bray winner of the 9 Hole Laurie Cook Memorial Honour Board Event with 55 points.

This event was held earlier this month.



Craig Southern scored a Hole in One on the 5th on Saturday at the Phillip Island golf course.

## THIS WEEKEND DRAWS

**WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION**  
Round 11, Saturday June 19

TO BE ADVISED

**SOUTHERN GIPPSLAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION**  
Round 8, Sunday June 20

Phillip Island Red v Korumburra Bena  
Leongatha Yellow v Kilcunda Bass

**YOUTH GIRLS FOOTBALL COMPETITION**  
Round 6, Sunday June 20

Korumburra - Bena v Phillip Island

## WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION LADDERS

### SENIOR FOOTBALL

|                      | W | L | %      | PTS |
|----------------------|---|---|--------|-----|
| Phillip Island       | 6 | 1 | 290.49 | 24  |
| Inverloch-Kongwak    | 6 | 1 | 161.45 | 24  |
| Nar Nar Goon         | 6 | 1 | 125.10 | 24  |
| Tooradin-Dalmore     | 5 | 2 | 171.03 | 20  |
| Cora Lynn            | 5 | 2 | 105.59 | 20  |
| Garfield             | 4 | 3 | 109.72 | 16  |
| Warragul Industrials | 3 | 4 | 119.81 | 12  |
| Bunyip               | 3 | 4 | 73.60  | 12  |
| Kilcunda Bass        | 1 | 6 | 67.19  | 4   |
| Korumburra-Bena      | 1 | 6 | 55.71  | 4   |
| Dalyston             | 1 | 6 | 48.67  | 4   |
| Koo Wee Rup          | 1 | 6 | 40.11  | 4   |

### RESERVES FOOTBALL

|                      | W | L | %      | PTS |
|----------------------|---|---|--------|-----|
| Bunyip               | 6 | 1 | 481.10 | 24  |
| Tooradin-Dalmore     | 6 | 1 | 425.47 | 24  |
| Inverloch-Kongwak    | 5 | 2 | 217.62 | 20  |
| Phillip Island       | 5 | 2 | 143.01 | 20  |
| Warragul Industrials | 5 | 2 | 124.59 | 20  |
| Koo Wee Rup          | 4 | 3 | 94.68  | 16  |
| Nar Nar Goon         | 4 | 3 | 90.89  | 16  |
| Cora Lynn            | 3 | 4 | 128.62 | 12  |
| Kilcunda Bass        | 3 | 4 | 77.83  | 12  |
| Korumburra-Bena      | 1 | 6 | 30.16  | 4   |
| Garfield             | 0 | 7 | 24.16  | 0   |
| Dalyston             | 0 | 7 | 22.27  | 0   |

### THIRDS FOOTBALL

|                  | W | L | %      | % WON  |
|------------------|---|---|--------|--------|
| Garfield         | 6 | 0 | 261.74 | 100.00 |
| I-Kongwak        | 4 | 1 | 701.43 | 80.00  |
| Korumburra-Bena  | 4 | 1 | 379.35 | 80.00  |
| Phillip Island   | 4 | 2 | 332.16 | 66.67  |
| Nar Nar Goon     | 4 | 2 | 149.45 | 66.67  |
| Cora Lynn        | 3 | 4 | 64.01  | 42.86  |
| Bunyip           | 2 | 5 | 49.17  | 28.57  |
| Kilcunda Bass    | 1 | 4 | 17.74  | 20.00  |
| Koo Wee Rup      | 1 | 5 | 53.96  | 16.67  |
| Dalyston         | 0 | 5 | 10.53  | 0.00   |
| Warragul Indus   | 0 | 0 | 0.00   | 0.00   |
| Tooradin-Dalmore | 0 | 0 | 0.00   | 0.00   |

### FOURTHS FOOTBALL

|                  | W | L | %       | % WON  |
|------------------|---|---|---------|--------|
| Tooradin-Dalmore | 6 | 0 | 1873.91 | 100.00 |
| Cora Lynn        | 6 | 1 | 330.07  | 85.71  |
| Garfield         | 5 | 1 | 381.90  | 83.33  |
| Phillip Island   | 4 | 2 | 185.03  | 66.67  |
| I-Kongwak        | 3 | 3 | 121.38  | 50.00  |
| Kilcunda Bass    | 3 | 3 | 105.99  | 50.00  |
| Nar Nar Goon     | 3 | 4 | 43.34   | 42.86  |
| Korumburra-Bena  | 2 | 4 | 32.04   | 33.33  |
| Bunyip           | 2 | 5 | 46.62   | 28.57  |
| Koo Wee Rup      | 1 | 6 | 25.86   | 14.29  |
| Dalyston         | 0 | 6 | 17.86   | 0.00   |
| Warragul Indus   | 0 | 0 | 0.00    | 0.00   |

### NETBALL

| A-GRADE        | Pts | %      | C-GRADE        | Pts | %      |
|----------------|-----|--------|----------------|-----|--------|
| Dalyston       | 28  | 178.85 | I-Kongwak      | 26  | 176.43 |
| Bunyip         | 24  | 214.36 | Bunyip         | 24  | 158.72 |
| Kor-Bena       | 20  | 153.08 | Dalyston       | 24  | 133.64 |
| Tooradin-Dal   | 20  | 127.57 | Warragul Indus | 20  | 153.01 |
| Warragul Indus | 16  | 136.25 | Cora Lynn      | 20  | 138.36 |
| Phillip Island | 12  | 101.15 | Nar Nar Goon   | 16  | 132.24 |
| Cora Lynn      | 12  | 92.56  | Tooradin-Dal   | 14  | 128.57 |
| Nar Nar Goon   | 12  | 73.05  | Koo Wee Rup    | 12  | 95.86  |
| I-Kongwak      | 12  | 70.38  | Phillip Island | 8   | 125.14 |
| Koo Wee Rup    | 12  | 68.53  | Kor-Bena       | 4   | 83.97  |
| Garfield       | 0   | 45.38  | Garfield       | 0   | 26.63  |
| Kilcunda Bass  | 0   | 0.00   | Kilcunda Bass  | 0   | 25.12  |
| B-GRADE        | Pts | %      | 17 & UNDER     | Pts | %      |
| Phillip Island | 28  | 232.26 | Kor-Bena       | 26  | 154.17 |
| Tooradin-Dal   | 28  | 144.13 | Koo Wee Rup    | 24  | 242.50 |
| I-Kongwak      | 24  | 121.75 | Phillip Island | 24  | 228.80 |
| Bunyip         | 20  | 121.61 | I-Kongwak      | 24  | 226.92 |
| Warragul Indus | 16  | 108.30 | Cora Lynn      | 20  | 162.83 |
| Cora Lynn      | 14  | 95.47  | Warragul Indus | 16  | 153.42 |
| Kor-Bena       | 12  | 108.95 | Tooradin-Dal   | 14  | 83.19  |
| Koo Wee Rup    | 10  | 98.55  | Dalyston       | 8   | 102.00 |
| Dalyston       | 8   | 88.49  | Bunyip         | 8   | 68.12  |
| Garfield       | 8   | 79.61  | Nar Nar Goon   | 4   | 86.67  |
| Kilcunda Bass  | 0   | 54.31  | Kilcunda Bass  | 0   | 35.14  |
| Nar Nar Goon   | 0   | 44.32  | Garfield       | 0   | 6.25   |

# No reprieve for footy

Despite restrictions being eased, senior football is still not going ahead.

Under the latest restrictions, senior teams can return to training and competition – as long as they don't play any matches with metropolitan based teams.

And that rules out the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, said president Chris Ross.

"Unfortunately the new restrictions haven't changed in a way our senior football or netball can resume playing, but we are able to have full contact training though, which is something.

"With our Saturday juniors playing in the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition, they also are not playing because six of our competitor clubs are from the Cardinia Shire which is classed as Melbourne metro."

Without the regular games, the club is starting to feel the pinch financially as well.

"Up until now we have had some financial impact with our social rooms being closed so we have missed out on meals and bar sales," Chris said.

"Unfortunately this long weekend was to be our Golfball Drop which is an incredible fundraiser and it's been postponed until further notice."

Chris said the club had its fingers crossed for a return to play on June 19.

### Uncertain future

Community Clubs Victoria (CCV) said the future of regional community clubs is in jeopardy and is calling on the government to provide a clear roadmap for managing future outbreaks.

The organisation represents not-for-profit clubs from small volunteer-based sporting clubs, through to large clubs with multi-million-dollar turnovers.

It says lockdowns and restric-

tions create an unsustainable operating environment for community clubs, and the lack of transparency is putting immense pressure on already struggling clubs.

CCV CEO, Andrew Lloyd, says the current approach has created a culture of uncertainty that impacts clubs and the communities they service long after lockdowns and restrictions have been lifted.

"Many of our regional clubs have been operating at a significant loss under recent restrictions, despite being hundreds of kilometres away from the nearest case and having robust CovidSafe plans in place," Mr Lloyd said.

"With several experts warning that we'll likely see sporadic outbreaks in the future, we need to be given some insights into how these will be managed. Without that, there's no light at the end of the tunnel and there's no way for regional community clubs and

businesses to confidently prepare for the future."

He said community clubs were not-for-profit enterprises, investing everything they earn back into their mission to service their local communities.

"From fundraising and offering free meals to those in need, through to the mental health benefits of being a part of a caring community, community clubs play an integral role in their local regions.

"These restrictions are not only hurting clubs but are handicapping what they can do for their local communities, at a time when it's needed more than ever.

"We implore the Victorian government and the Chief Health Officer to take a measured approach to restrictions in regional Victoria and to provide clubs with a clear strategy moving forward, so they can continue servicing their communities into the future."





# Riders on the storm

Jonathon Bouillir from Surftrax took advantage of the solid swell and windy conditions last week. Photo by Mark Sedgman.

While last week's storm brought plenty of chaos and destruction, it also provided some incredible opportunities for local surfers.

Photographer Mark Sedgman was at Flynn's Beach and Right Point last Monday and Wednesday and captured Jonathon Bouillir from Surftrax windsurfing, as the island was buffeted by near gale-force winds.

A kitesurfer was out as well testing his mettle against the elements, and Mark snapped shots of both surfers in action.

Jonathon said the waves were probably around seven foot and were "a bit of a treat" for the ex-windsurfing champion and mad-keen extreme sportsman.

"I like the stormy conditions," he said.

"When we get the combination of offshore waves and strong, consistent wind, we are in our element."

"Windsurfers like the super strong wind."

He said conditions last week could be dangerous and only experienced surfers should be out in the water.

"My first run took me right out into the channel, where the waves were eight or nine feet."

"It can be dangerous and with the wind offshore, you can easily end up in trouble."

After his epic windsurf adventure, Jonathon said he took about three or four days to recover.

"I was quite pleased to stay home and take it easy."

Surftrax offers surf and stand-up paddle board lessons for all levels. [www.surftrax.com.au](http://www.surftrax.com.au)

## Island junior footballers dominate

### U14s Red

The nonstop drizzle did not dampen the spirits of our Phillip Island Bulldogs U14 Reds return to play on Sunday against Wonthaggi, at Wonthaggi.

Nor did the absolute girl gun of a player for Wonthaggi, although she gave it a red-hot shot!

The PI Reds were all class and played an exceptional game.

The team-first mentality was a pleasure to watch.

The defensive pressure, overlap run in ball movement, leading forward play and switching play, led the boys to a comfortable win 0-63.

Special mention to our bottom age players for stepping up their contributions and toughness.

Best: Archie Ross, Harrison Carlon, Noah Forrest Mabilia and Isaac Savona.

Goals: Archie Ross, Finn O'Brien, Charlie O'Garey, Will Peppard, Cooper Walton and Will Hill.

### U12s Red

After a few byes and Covid lockdowns, the Under 12s Red were finally back playing footy.

It was a cold and wet start to the Sunday morning, but the Red team were up and about and ready to go.

A quick start saw Felix Bathgate and Jacko Allan kick goals in the



U14s Red Cooper Walton takes on Wonthaggi opponent in the wet conditions.

first quarter.

First class service in the ruck from Sunny Steiner, gave Sam O'Garey and Caleb Cantwell first use out of the middle to get it going our way.

The second quarter started as

the first ended with great ruck work from Joe Kelsey giving Zack Hughes great opportunity to get the ball to our forwards.

A goal each to Caleb Cantwell and Sunny Steiner helped us to a great first half lead.

With the rain still around in the third, scoring was hard to come by.

A goal to Sam O'Garey kept the score board ticking over.

Incredible pressure and tackling by Jack Mascaros really helped the team stay on top.

Archer Bailey was everywhere down back making sure no easy goals were coming for Wonthaggi.

Angus Mclure was a great target down forward having a hand in helping Sam Fairthorne kicking his first goal for the season.

The fourth quarter, the team took their foot off the pedal with Wonthaggi kicking three last quarter goals.

U12s Red showed great composure and hung on for a great win 39-28.

Thanks for all the parents that helped out in the cold wet conditions, it's much appreciated.

Well done team! Go Red!

### U10s Red

The Red bulldog pups ventured over to Wonthaggi and were greeted by light rain which excited everyone concerned.

The players jumped out of the gate and quickly had a goal through some clever work from Taj Piera.

*Continued page 23*

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