



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST



Dig deep this Good Friday

It's a Good Friday Appeal with a difference this year, as CFA volunteers and the community in Cowes and San Remo host a range of fundraisers to support the Royal Children's Hospital. "You don't need to give a lot, but we need a lot of people to give." Find all the details of this year's events on page 11.

More outrage as Fisheries D-day arrives

FISHING

A Phillip Island resident and global fisheries expert has slammed the State Government's plan to axe Fisheries, predicting fish stocks could "crash".

As announced in February, from this week, (April 19), four staff in the Cowes office will have their roles terminated and the building on Dunsmore Road will be sold.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority earlier this month said there would be "no job losses on April 19", but despite requests for further details, the Advertiser is yet to receive a response.

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

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

Cape Woolamai's Lars Olsen has worked in fisheries for 25 years around the world, from research to commercial aquaculture and management

and enforcement.

Mr Olsen has written to Premier Jacinta Allan and relevant Ministers urging them to stop the plan, saying they had "received bad advice".

"It's bewildering to me that anyone thinks cutting Fisheries officers is a good idea. Besides the bean counters, who in Victoria likes this idea?" Mr Olsen writes to the Premier.

"Certainly not the law-abiding recreational fishers, definitely not the commercial fishers, and also definitely not anyone that cares about the natural resource and environment.

"Even consumers won't like


it when fish stocks crash from overfishing and poaching and we no longer have well managed and plentiful local seafood.

"It's so strange to me that anyone charged with managing our precious fisheries resources could think for a second that this proposal would work out well."

He wrote cutting Fisheries officers was not best practice and would undermine the fisheries resources and public trust in the government.

"I urge you to scrap this very ill-conceived idea. Do the right thing for Victoria and Victorians."


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Election feature
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PHILLIP ISLAND
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Wed/Apr16	Thu/Apr17	Fri/Apr18	Sat/Apr19	Sun/Apr20	Mon/Apr21	Tue/Apr22
PARTLY CLOUDY	MOSTLY SUNNY	PARTLY CLOUDY	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY
15 26	16 25	15 25	15 25	13 19	15 18	15 17

Police investigation continues

CRIME

Detectives from the Homicide Squad continue to investigate the death of Cowes resident Paul Waylen. Officers were called to the home, at the intersection of Church Street and Justice Road, to conduct a welfare check and the body of the 86-year-old Cowes man

was located inside the home around 10.20am on April 7. Police said shortly before, a 55-year-old man was arrested at a property on Ventnor Beach Road, also following a welfare check. He was found with suspected self-inflicted injuries and was taken to hospital under police guard and then released the following

day without charge. Police said the two men are known to each other. A postmortem examination was conducted last Tuesday, but police said the exact circumstances regarding the death are still unknown. Mr Waylen was well known in the community, serving on the board of the

Bendigo Bank, and was an active member of the Phillip Island Golf Club. The flag at the club was flying at half-mast last week. The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at www.crimestoppers.com.au

POLICE BRIEFS

Stolen cars

There were multiple car thefts reported across the island in the past week. Senior Sergeant Brent Muir said “the trend continues where offenders are entering residential homes via unlocked doors or windows to steal car keys to steal cars.” Two cars were stolen from Boobook Grove in Cowes around 4am on Saturday morning (April 12). Police said the offenders entered the property and stole a handbag containing two sets of car keys and a garage remote. Two cars, a red Hyundai i30 and a white Mazda hatch were stolen and have not been recovered. Police said another car was stolen from Walton Street in Cowes, overnight on April 9, with unknown offenders entering the house and stealing a set of keys. The offenders drove off in a 2018 white Subaru, which was later recovered at Cape Woolamai. The Bass Coast Criminal Investigation Unit is investigating both incidents.

General Store

Coronet Bay General Store was broken into on April 5 at 5.17am with police saying two or three offenders entered via an unlocked sliding door. The offenders stole approximately \$40,000 worth of cigarettes. CCTV footage of the offenders is available on the General Store’s facebook page and the Bass Coast Criminal Investigation Unit is investigating

Footy club theft

On April 6, at 4.30am, unknown offenders forced entry into the front door of the Kilcunda Bass Football Club and stole approximately \$1000 worth of alcohol from the fridges. Anyone with information on any of these incidents is urged to contact the Bass Coast Criminal Investigation Unit or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at www.crimestoppers.com.au

Rock bags line Silverleaves beach



More than 500 rock bags are being placed at the Silverleaves erosion hotspot this week. Rocks from Tynong are trucked to Phillip Island, then bagged at Gap Road, before being hoisted by heavy machinery along the beach. Residents now say they feel secure. The rock bags are part of the State Government’s short-term plan to ensure king tides don’t breach the sand dunes. A sand bag wall is the next step expected later this year.

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

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ADVERTISMENT

Melina BATH MP

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ADVERTISMENT

MARY ALDRED

A new voice for Monash

Authorised by G Blackwood, Liberal Party, 14 Chesterfield Ave, Warragul VIC 3820.

RUSSELL BROADBENT MP

TRUE YOUR INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MONASH

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

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Desal, Melbourne saving us from water restrictions, for now

CLIMATE

Water restrictions will be avoided for now with Phillip Island and San Remo set to soon access desalination water, in the wake of the continuing dry.

Candowie Reservoir is at 43 per cent (or 1928 megalitres (ML)) – and set to drop further following the school holiday Easter period.

According to Westernport Water policy, if Candowie drops to 2150ML then stage one water restrictions would be considered.

A decrease to 1650ML could see stage two restrictions.

However, this month the State Government announced they had ordered 50 gigalitres (GL) of water from the Wonthaggi Desalination Plant for the first time since March 2022, to be delivered in the 2025/26 financial year, which Westernport Water can access.

A Westernport Water spokesperson said they would not rule out future water restrictions, based on a mix of factors.

“While there are currently no plans to introduce water restrictions, we are keeping a close eye on conditions,” they said.

“Our preference is to delay or avoid restrictions where possible by using our available entitlements and the Melbourne connection.

“However, if conditions continue to deteriorate, all options will be considered.”

During summer, Westernport Water took 3ML per day from Melbourne’s Greater Yarra Thomson System “to reduce the risk of entering Drought Re-

sponse Mode”.

“To maintain supply and support long-term water security, we continue to access water from the Greater Yarra Thomson System,” they said.

“So far, we’ve used approximately 841ML since activating the connection this financial year.”

Under the GYTS agreement, Westernport Water has a pipeline that connects to the Desalination Plant at Bass, from which it can access desalinated water.

The spokesperson said Westernport Water had a year’s worth of supply from the GYTS, which was “closely monitored and reviewed based on rainfall, storage levels, and forecast demand”.

Candowie

While the Candowie Reservoir catchment had received 110 mm of rainfall since January 1, the reservoir itself had received no inflow, and water storage levels continued to trend down, the spokesperson said.

“When the ground is dry, a lot of the rain gets soaked up by the soil or used by plants, so run off into the waterways is minimal,” they explained.

“Only when the ground is wet, or the rain is heavy enough does it start to flow over the land and into the creeks and rivers that flow into the reservoir.”

This time last year the reservoir – which is at the back of Grantville – was about 70 per cent.

Current weekly usage is averaging about 50ML, or daily 7ML.

In 2013 the reservoir had its capacity doubled, increasing from 2250ML to 4500ML,



Long-term Phillip Island farmers say they can’t remember a drier first quarter to a year, on the back of a dry 2024, with properties destocking after using most of their backup feed and in the face of empty dams.

through raising the dam wall and spillway by three meters.

Westernport Water first tested its connection to the Desalination Plant in 2019.

To date, the plant has produced 455 billion litres of water for Melbourne and regional areas.

The decision to order desalinated water comes as Geelong water storages reach 42 per cent and Melbourne’s storages are at 78 per cent.

Farmers

Long-term Phillip Island farmers say they can’t remember a drier first quarter to a year, following a dry 2024, with properties destocking after using most of their backup feed.

Sheep farmer Martin Grachan, who has a property in the middle of Phillip Island, has

kept rain records for about two decades.

He said he couldn’t remember a worse start to autumn.

“The ground underneath is so dry, which goes back to last year’s dry winter, and so even when we get rain it’s not enough,” Martin said.

“The rain has been patchy, deceptive, there will be a dump and then nothing for weeks.”

Martin said he had recently sold 144 sheep and had not bought new stock because of conditions, with 110 left on the property.

He said in order to get the sheep in good condition, he had used two years’ worth of supplementary silage and grain from December to April because “I don’t have green grass”.

As reported, winter on Phillip Island was the driest since

records began at Rhyll (1994), which followed a dry autumn.

So far for the first three months of this year there has been 91mm of rain, under the average 115mm.

Some farmers on French Island – which has no mains – are now buying in water for tank storage.

Westernport Water said farmers were encouraged to use recycled water, which was available in some areas on the island.

“It can be a reliable, climate-resilient resource for irrigation and other non-potable uses.

“Our recycled water is treated to a high standard and is already used successfully by several farms.

“With the current dry conditions, we encourage those interested to get in touch to explore whether this could be a suitable option for their operations.”

Concern

In December former Westernport Water board member Geoff Lee called for water restrictions to be implemented.

“No forecast of significant rain, with January and February our driest months and Christmas holidays upon us, then followed by Easter, this to me spells one thing: trouble,” Geoff said.

“Water restrictions are needed now, including no car washing or boats and caravans and no driveway washing, and limited garden watering just for a start.

“It’s time to act now Westernport Water.

“I saw this happen in the millennium drought; don’t let it happen again.”

Easter Message of Hope From Russell Broadbent MP

Remarkably, as our supermarkets and chocolate shops celebrate Easter with chocolate eggs and bunnies, our Christian communities celebrate the Passover and the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

How is it in this time, a religious festival is turned into commercial fair, including a holiday season consumed by football, horseracing and other social events?

Many children today have no idea that Easter is meant to be one of the most holy and sacred times in the Jewish and Christian calendars.

For many Australians it is still the Cross, rather than the hot cross buns. It is still the Cross that shines the light into the darkness of situations, and it is still the Cross that remains a beacon for the lost, the lonely and the unloved. Yes, it’s still the Cross.

Wishing you and your family a happy, relaxed and safe Easter.



**TRUE
YOUR[^] INDEPENDENT**

Member for Monash

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

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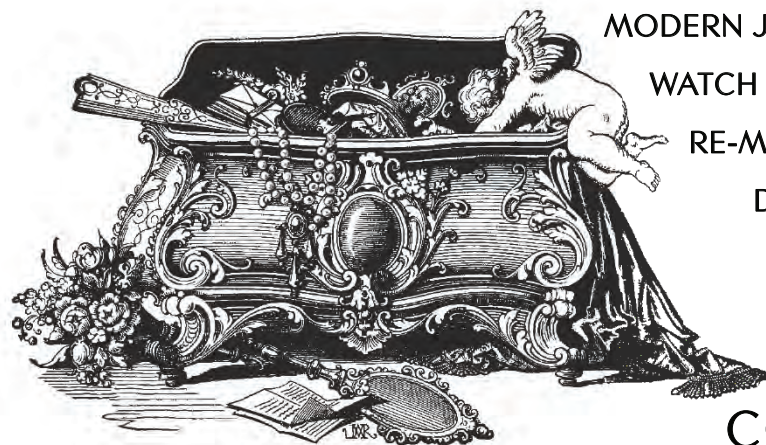
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A.F.D.A.



The Store Phillip Island, at 511 Ventnor Road, Ventnor, has applied for a permit for a restaurant at the popular business.

Ventnor restaurant proposal

PLANNING

A new restaurant will be built in Ventnor, with a planning permit currently out for community feedback.

The restaurant is planned for 511 Ventnor Road, an extension to the current businesses of Island Primary Produce, and The Store, which have been operating from the property for several years.

The permit is seeking permission to construct a 157.5sqm building as a restaurant, with indoor seating, as well as 12 new car spaces.

The land is zoned farming and the new build will enable the businesses to expand into the paddock to plate dining experience, with produce directly from the farm, or other local organic suppliers. Existing uses won't change, and the operating hours are the same: 8am to 6pm,

Monday to Sunday

There is no application to serve alcohol.

"If this changes at a later date, the applicant is aware that a planning permit may be required," the permit states.

No native vegetation will be removed or impacted from the development and the building will use similar building materials to the current businesses, to look like a rural shed.

The permit states the land has a small area affected by a heritage overlay – a chicory kiln in disrepair, which is about 150 metres south-east of the proposed buildings, and "will not be impacted by the proposed works".

The building addition and car park extension will not impact any land used for agriculture production, with the majority of the 27 hectares used for grazing.

Newhaven College's Prep Information morning

EDUCATION

With increasing interest from families, Newhaven College is exploring the introduction of an additional prep class in 2026.

To support this exciting development, the College is inviting prospective families to a special Prep Information Morning on Tuesday, April 29.

This event will offer a wonderful opportunity to meet the dedicated staff and discover what makes Newhaven College such a unique and enriching place to learn.

Known for its small class sizes and nurturing environment, the College provides a supportive and engaging educational experience that often exceeds parents' expectations.

During the Information morning, families will learn about Newhaven's hands-on learning approach, creative play spaces, music programs, and outdoor adventures – all designed to inspire and support young learners.

To support a smooth and positive start to school life, Newhaven College is excited to launch its Prep Transition Program in Term 2, continuing throughout the year. This initiative is all about building strong, meaningful connections with our future students and their families. As part of the program, our dedicated Prep teachers will be visiting future students in their kindergarten settings, giving them a chance to connect in a familiar environment. Looking ahead to Term 3, our future Prep students will also enjoy weekly library sessions, offering a fun introduction to books and the school setting.

The library sessions provide an opportunity for future Preps and their families to meet and get to know Head of Junior School, Cath Huther and Principal, Tony Corr.

These learning experiences



Prep Edward Webb has settled into his classroom at Newhaven College. The College is inviting prospective families to a special Prep information morning on Tuesday, April 29. More photos at pisra.com.au/education

will help future Preps become familiar with their new surroundings and to build connections with their peers.

Equally important, the transition program will serve as a valuable opportunity for parents to connect with other families embarking on the Prep journey next year. In Term 4, the transition program will intensify as students join in some learning sessions in their future Prep classes.

While students are busy acclimatising, parents will participate in information sessions to ensure that the partnership starts strongly and consistently. These sessions will include resources and activities to help families prepare for school and develop strong foundations that align with the College's educational philosophy.

Mrs Huther is passionate about the importance of welcoming future Preps.

"Our Pre-Prep Transition Program is more than just an introduction to school – it's the beginning of an educational journey.

"We are thrilled to see

our future Preps take these first steps with confidence and enthusiasm, knowing that they are supported by a strong community of peers, educators and families," she says.

"We look forward to witnessing the many milestones they will achieve as they transition, grow and become valued members of our Newhaven College community."

There are currently some vacancies for the Prep 2026 intake at the College. The special Prep Information Session will be tailored for 2026, 2027 and 2028 prospective enrolments.

To learn more about Newhaven College's Prep program, everyone is encouraged to attend the Prep Information Morning on Tuesday, April 29.

The event will feature an informative presentation, a parent perspective talk, followed by a guided tour of the school.

For more information, visit the Newhaven College website: 'Book A Tour', or contact admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

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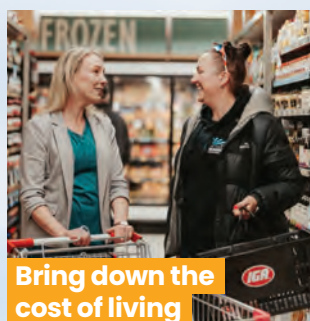
Starting school is a big milestone, and we know you want the best for your child. That's why we're inviting you to learn more about what makes Prep at Newhaven College such a nurturing, engaging, and exciting experience. Meet our team, and see firsthand why so many families are choosing Newhaven for their child's first year of school. To find out more contact our Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505 or email admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

1770 Phillip Island Road
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Scan to register

On Election Day, we're all voting for DebLeonard

As an Independent, Deb is able to consult and listen to the community before forming policies for Monash. That means her policies come *directly from us!*



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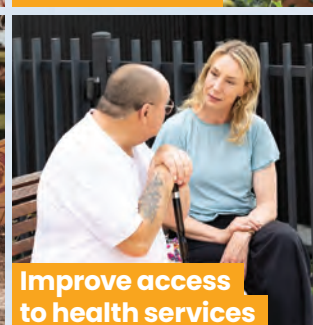
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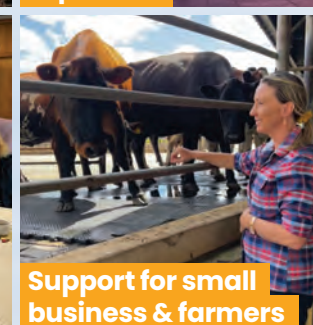
Funding for infrastructure



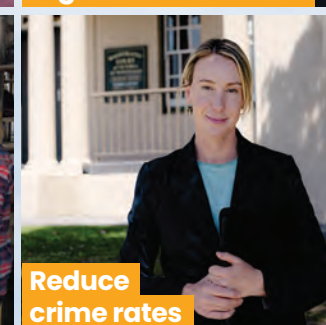
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Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha 3953



All four of the major contenders for the seat of Monash in the federal election have now pledged to support the Phillip Island recreation hub and aquatic centre.

Island pool splash from candidates

ELECTION

Whoever wins the seat of Monash, it looks like the Phillip Island aquatic centre will be on the agenda at a federal level.

All four of the main contenders for the seat have now publicly promised to support the project. Deb Leonard, an independent candidate for Monash last week named the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre in her list of five infrastructure priorities for the electorate.

She joins current mem-

ber Russell Broadbent, who is also running as an independent, Liberal's Mary Aldred and Labor's Tully Fletcher who have all pledged to support the aquatic centre.

Mr Broadbent said he would fight for \$10 million to start the planning and preparation of the recreation and sporting hub on the island.

Back in February, Mary Aldred said she had been in discussions for months with locals about the need for new sporting facilities on the island,

describing it as a critical issue that must be urgently addressed.

Labor's Tully Fletcher said federal co-investment was needed to get the aquatic centre and recreation hub started and he would deliver that.

In announcing her infrastructure funding policy Ms Leonard said it had been "shaped by extensive community consultation" and aimed to deliver "the facilities and spaces residents across the electorate say they urgently need".

Three cheers for Chichi's rescuers

COMMUNITY

A dedicated group of community members were part of the rescue operation for lost dog Chichi last week after the death of her owner Paul Waylen.

Chichi had escaped from a house in Ventnor on Monday April 7 and was spotted wandering Ventnor beaches by concerned locals.

Cheryl Owens, president of Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Association, put the call out far and wide to try and rescue Chichi.

Cheryl said dozens of people responded to the call, heading out each day to search for the missing dog.

Chichi is a Chow Chow, a breed which is aloof and not likely to come to anyone; she was also in survival 'flight' mode which made her more difficult to secure.



Members of the local community and dog owners' association searched for days for missing dog Chichi after the death of her owner last Monday. The dog was eventually located by Ventnor local Damian Calderwood in the early hours of Friday morning.

For three days, Chichi was on the run, with no one able to get close to the frightened dog.

After a sighting on Thursday, Ventnor local Priscilla Lund followed Chichi for kilometres – from Grossard Point to Flynn's Beach in fading light, while Cheryl communicated 'Chichi sightings' to the dog association members and Bass Coast community.

Karen Skinner and her partner Paul joined Priscilla at the beach, while Cowes local Vanessa brought Chichi's doggy friend, kelpie Max, to the beach to try and lure Chichi to the rescuers.

"While Max was able to reach Chichi, he was unable to herd her back to us and it eventually became too dark and dangerous to continue following her over the rocks," Vanessa said.

Priscilla left Chichi some water to drink and the group vowed to return at dawn to continue the search.

Enter Damian Calderwood, another concerned Ventnor local, who took it upon himself to continue the search into the wee hours, eventually corralling Chichi into a

neighbour's yard at 1.30am.

"The dedication of Damian and other Ventnor residents went above and beyond to ensure this dog's safety," said Cheryl.

"We got to the beach at dawn on Friday to see if we could find her, then I got the message from Damian at 7.30am.

"Everyone at the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Association is relieved and pleased Chichi has been found.

"The dog community is a wonderful group and I couldn't be prouder of their effort," Cheryl said.

After a trip to the Cowes Veterinary Clinic and receiving the all clear, Chichi is now being cared for by Vanessa (and Max) until she moves to her new home in Melbourne with Paul's daughter.

But Paul, his dog and the exceptional show of community spirit for a lost animal will not be forgotten.

A GALAXY FIRST



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THE EXHIBITION





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Another beach rescue

LIFESAVING

The recent warm weather has seen an influx of people to our beaches, with an increased risk of people swimming outside patrol hours.

At about 3.30pm on Friday April 11 a family of four were swimming at Smiths Beach. The beach is unpatrolled mid-week after the peak summer season.

A number of family members found themselves in difficulty and had to be assisted to shore by other surfers and beachgoers.

A Melbourne man in his 40s was pulled from the water in a semi-conscious state.

According to Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club President, Jason Close, the situation could have ended very differently.

"An off-duty Woolamai Beach surf life saver, Ash Smith working on a building site on the hill at Smiths Beach, saw the commotion on the beach and ran down to assist as the man was being pulled into the shallows," Jason said.

"He quickly assessed the man, and then opened up the Smiths Rescue Base and pulled out oxygen and first aid equipment and a defibrillator, while other beachgoers called for help."

Fortunately the man did not require CPR; however he was provided with oxygen therapy and other treatment.

Victoria Police, Ambulance



Local surfers and other beachgoers helped rescue a family of four at Smiths Beach outside of patrol hours on April 11. Fortunately an off-duty life saver was close by and ran down to assist. One man was pulled from the water in a semi-conscious state.

Victoria and other voluntary life savers arrived shortly after and the man was taken off the beach and transported to hospital for further treatment.

According to Jason, the man was extremely lucky on a several counts.

"Without the assistance of other beachgoers the incident could have had tragic consequences. It was extremely fortunate that Ash was nearby and was able to assist."

"It was also fortunate that Smiths Beach Rescue Base contains important life saving equipment. Without this it may have been a very different result."

Jason said he, and a number of other life savers also attended, and "could see first hand how much of a close call this was".

"Seeing these near misses is very distressing for the families

of those involved, other beachgoers and first responders.

"While we are now past the peak summer period, the dangers of swimming at unpatrolled surf beaches are still high, especially during school holidays when our beaches are being visited by people who are unfamiliar with local conditions."

"We can't emphasise enough the need to plan your visit to the beach, be aware of when beaches are patrolled, read signs and swim in safe places."

Jason said that swimming outside of patrol hours can be a dangerous decision.

"As nice as our beaches can be on a warm evening, when the lifesavers take the flags down at the end of the day, this is the best time to leave the water and go home safely."

With the Easter holidays ahead, the club is appealing

to beach goers to only swim between the flags at patrolled beaches.

Woolamai Beach and Smiths Beach are patrolled on Saturdays (1pm – 5pm) and Sundays/Public Holidays (10am – 4pm) until April 21.

There are no weekday beach patrols.

Rescues

This latest rescue is one of a string of incidents involving people being rescued outside of patrol areas.

In January this year, Ash Smith was also involved in an after-patrol-hours rescue at Woolamai, after he spotted a lone swimmer caught in a rip between the clubhouse and Magiclands.

In January local surfers Abbey Clarke and Niamh Moore rescued a couple who had drifted out to sea at YCW beach (which is unpatrolled), around 1.30pm on Saturday, January 4.

The pair were giving a lesson with the Girls on Board surf school, when they were approached by a young girl concerned about her parents in the water. The two surfers paddled out to the couple, pulled them onto their boards and guided them back to shore.

In February 2024, along with local surfer Leigh Conway, Niamh helped rescue a family of three at Smiths Beach, including a three-year-old baby, who were being swept out to sea.

AusNet announces million dollar upgrades

ENERGY

Electricity provider AusNet said it will be investing a million dollars into the region over the coming year.

The projects are part of a program to upgrade its network across Victoria, with a statewide budget of \$196 million.

Local projects include:

- High voltage switches installed to reduce outage areas.
- Increased automation to improve the speed of restoration during storms and reduce the number of customers affected.
- Upgrading fuses to make them more responsive and reliable.
- Installing devices to reduce the number of customers affected in the event of storms or faults
- Pole replacements program (around 1000 per year).

Across the Eastern Victoria region, AusNet said it is spending \$40 million on bushfire mitigation, \$17 million to ensure reliability of the system (such as high voltage switch upgrades) and \$1.5 million on security upgrades to protect vital assets.

Across the state, the projects include substation upgrades and line upgrades.

An AusNet spokesperson said the initiatives will "grow capacity, support growth across the regions and improve customer reliability".

In addition to these projects, AusNet said it has also spent \$202 million on network maintenance and \$68 million on vegetation management in the last 12 months.

NO ONE'S UNSINKABLE

To all those Unsinkable Guys out there –

You might think it's safe to have a few drinks around water, skip the life jacket when you're out on the boat or go for a swim without checking the conditions.

But statistics prove that 4 out of 5 drownings are men.

Just remember that no one's unsinkable.

Q UNSINKABLE GUY

RETHINK
TAKING RISKS
AROUND
WATER



Broadbent promises to fight for new sports hub

ELECTION

As the Federal Election campaign heats up, current Member for Monash, Russell Broadbent has thrown his support behind the proposed sports hub on Phillip Island.

Mr Broadbent said he would fight for \$10 million to kickstart the planning and preparation of a recreation and sporting hub at Phillip Island.

The initial plan proposes football and cricket ovals, soccer pitches, multipurpose sports fields, netball and tennis courts, athletics facilities, an aquatic centre, skate park, fenced off-leash dog park and bushland areas with walking paths and picnic facilities.

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

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

Sports groups have been lobbying for development of the ovals and aquatic centre to be moved forward.

Mr Broadbent recently met with Island Voice committee members Peter Paul and Peter McMahon to discuss the proposal. Mr McMahon said the complex would put the entire region on the map.

"This area could become a legacy project for Phillip Island because we believe it is destined to



Russell Broadbent met with Island Voice members Peter Paul (left) and Peter McMahon (right) to discuss the proposed sports hub on Phillip Island, pledging to fight for \$10 million to kickstart the project.

become the football headquarters for the greater region," he said.

Mr Broadbent said, building on the island's global reputation as a sporting venue, the complex would further promote sports participation across the region.

"The appetite for sports participation has never been stronger and it's booming across Monash communities," Mr Broadbent said.

"We should encourage sports participation and healthy communities at every opportunity, so that's why I'm making this commitment.

"This landmark hub would address recreation needs now and

into the future. Such a facility would encourage active lifestyles among people of all ages and backgrounds."

The complex is to be located on the corner of Ventnor and Phillip Island roads in Cowes.

A real beef

Mr Broadbent has also criticised the US President's decision to impose a 10 per cent tariff on all Australian exports, including "reciprocal measures" for beef, calling it a slap in the face for the beef export industry.

"Here in Gippsland, we have many first-class export abattoirs that supply high quality beef to

the US market," Mr Broadbent said.

"These businesses will no doubt find life tougher under these new tariffs and have every right to feel resentful.

"The decision from the Trump Administration will only lead to increased costs in the US market, while penalising Australian beef producers in the process.

"In particular, Gippsland beef is renowned not only for its rich flavour and tenderness, but also our strict quality and biosecurity standards. Our farmers will never waiver from those high standards, and neither should we when showing them

our support."

Mr Broadbent said Australia contributes significantly to the US economy, importing \$2.5 billion worth of US food and agricultural products annually.

"Perhaps the US will reconsider its decision down the track?"

"Additionally, Australia contributes considerably to US crop science, genetics and agricultural innovation. These are industry-to-industry links that have been built over generations."

Mr Broadbent also welcomed the Coalition's election commitment to establish a \$20 billion Rural Australia Future Fund.

He said it was high time an initiative like this was implemented and hoped that it would receive bipartisan support.

"This a great initiative because rural and regional communities so often missed out on project funding at the expense of metropolitan areas," Mr Broadbent said.

If established, the Rural Australia Future Fund would be used for health, childcare, and infrastructure projects.

"This Fund could be used to kickstart local projects such as the planning and design phase of the proposed Warragul and District Hospital, urgently needed sewerage works associated with the Fish Creek Football and Netball Club redevelopment, and urgently needed local road repairs and upgrades," Mr Broadbent said.

"As your true independent, I support parties and policies that offer what's best for Monash."

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Visit vic.gov.au/kinder

Under 5 hours sleep? 4 times more likely to crash.



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postpone your trip, or get more sleep before driving. Because when you
drive on less than 5 hours sleep, you're 4 times more likely to crash.

Driving tired? Wake up to yourself.





A section of the area around this proposed development at Newhaven was for years flagged to be compulsorily acquired by the State Government to build a four-lane road.

67-unit storage sheds planned for Newhaven

PLANNING

A series of 67 storage buildings – for caravans and boats – are planned to be built near the entry to Phillip Island, at Newhaven.

A planning permit for the proposal is currently out for public comment, for 20-24 Phillip Island Road, a vacant block which currently houses the Yummy Az Eats burger outlet.

The permit is for the development and use of storage buildings and a reduction of the statutory car parking requirement.

The plan is to build four blocks, each with between nine and 22 secure storage units, totalling 3282sqm.

The H&M Storage will be for boats, caravans, recreational vehicles and personal items in the area zoned mixed use, with a frontage to Phillip Island Road of 47 metres.

“Importantly, it has been de-

signed in a manner that will enhance the visual character of Newhaven and will contribute to the economic diversity of the Newhaven and San Remo area,” the planning permit states.

The proposed development requires nine car spaces and a reduction is sought as “all vehicles generated by the site will be related to collecting or dropping off”.

In 2021 the Victorian Government shelved plans for a proposed four-lane road at Newhaven, which would have required compulsory acquisition of the southern side of Phillip Island Road.

However, in March Bass Coast Shire Council released new plans for Graydens Reserve, which stated a portion of the park could be re-claimed by the State Government “if the duplication of Phillip Island Road proceeds”.

The plans had been in the pipeline for more than seven years and included four lanes on the Phillip Island Road between two proposed new roundabouts at Forrest Avenue and Boys Home Road, as well as a net gain for all of Newhaven of 25 car parks, while the Big Wave would need to be moved to make room for a new path.

A group of businesses – who were set to lose a chunk of land under compulsory acquisition under the plans – said they couldn’t support the road upgrade as it was proposed.

The businesses, which included Rip Curl and The Island Accommodation, called for “significant” changes, especially to the entry and exit to The Big Wave Complex.

For many years, resident groups have lobbied the shire to beautify the entry to Phillip Island at Newhaven.

Where’s our hospital?

HEALTH

The new Phillip Island Community Hospital, originally due to open in late 2024, is now scheduled to open at the end of 2025, according to the State Government.

In April 2024, during a visit to inspect the hospital progress, Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said the first stage of the hospital – an expanded Urgent Care Centre – was expected to open early in 2025.

At the time, then CEO of BCH, Jan Child said she was still hopeful the first stage of the hospital would be handed over to BCH late 2024.

It was expected the day surgery theatres and the area for chemotherapy and dialysis would open in stages. Now, a spokesperson for the Victorian Hospital Building Authority (VHBA) said,

“the Phillip Island Community Hospital is on track to be completed by the end of the year”.

The one line response came after repeated requests, over several months, for an update on the project.

Local groups, including the Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG) said they believed the new urgent care facility would be open in June.

A PIMHAG spokesperson said they were unable to get a firm date from the government, but they did not know why the opening would be delayed until the end of the year.

The VHBA, responsible for the delivery of the building, did not respond to requests for clarification on the opening date and delays.

The new hospital is being constructed in Church Street, Cowes, next to the current Health Hub.



Originally due to open in late 2024, the Phillip Island Community Hospital is now not expected to be completed until the end of 2025, according to the Victorian Hospital Building Authority.



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MADE FOR MORE

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL



Good Friday Appeal collectors like last year's CFA and SES volunteers Julian Glynn, Bri Reid, Gary Grace and Rhyce Davis, will be walking the streets in Cowes this year.

Island headed for a special Good Friday

FUNDRAISING

The annual CFA Good Friday Appeal fundraising in Cowes will look a little different this year.

As well as tin rattlers along the main street, there will also be a special event, Good Friday Appeal: Day on the Lawn, out the front of Berninneit (see separate story).

The Good Friday Appeal raises funds to enable The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne to provide world class care to children.

While the usual roadside tin rattling won't happen – after a statewide decision only to issue permits for the traditional fundraiser at intersections with traffic lights – the local CFA volunteers will still be in full view.

Phillip Island Fire Brigade members will be located at IGA in Cowes (at the intersection of Settlement Road and Thompson Avenue) throughout the day, with other teams conducting roaming “tin rattles” along Thompson Avenue.

Other crew members will be on board fire trucks visiting all the local caravan parks and the Lifestyle Community, accepting donations from residents and visitors.

There will also be a vehicle at Erehwon Point throughout the day.

Cross Fit Phillip Island is holding a community open-gym session at 9.30am, for a gold coin donation. Every dollar raised means one burpee for the coach, with a \$500 target.

Just down the road from Cowes, SES members will be collecting donations at The Store in Ventnor.

Tyson from Run Phillip Island has also joined the fundraising effort, running 24km from The Nobbies to San Remo, starting at 1pm.

“It's all about making a difference for the kids and every little bit helps,” he said, posting details on Run Phillip Island's Instagram page, including a link to donations.

You can donate to support



This Friday, April 18, dedicated members of the Phillip Island Fire Brigade will be collecting money for the Good Friday Appeal in Cowes, at local caravan parks, Thompson Avenue and Erehwon Point. You can also donate via the QR code.

Tyson's run, or even join him on the road.

The Good Friday Appeal tally room, overseen by Catherine Drazzi, will be upstairs at Berninneit, keeping track of all the different donations and fundraisers.

Catherine said due to events held across the island in the lead up to Good Friday, over \$8500 has already been raised.

They will also accept donations direct to the tally room on the day. If you come to Berninneit to donate, as the tally room is located in an upstairs room, please call 0406 949 765 and someone from the tally room team will come and meet you.

San Remo

In San Remo, the fundraising starts with the Walk for the Kids.

The two events include a 7.5km walk along the stunning George Bass Coastal Walk, starting in Kilcunda and ending at Punch Bowl Road. Shuttle buses run from the San Remo Hotel from 9am onwards.

There's even a shuttle bus for dogs, so you can bring any four-legged family members along for the walk.

The second event is the 3km San Remo Town Walk, which is suitable for families and prams, and includes a chance to win an Easter hamper.

Bookings for both events are available online at Trybooking.com.

Once the walks are completed, the fun continues throughout the afternoon at the San Remo Hotel, with silent auctions and raffles all raising money for the Good Friday Appeal, and local band Late for Church providing entertainment.

The San Remo CFA branch will be out on the streets for their usual door knock and street collection.

Their vehicles, complete with sirens will visit San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai, Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay.

They'll be handing out Easter eggs for the kids and accepting donations, and all vehicles will have EFTPOS facilities and the normal rattle tins for cash donations.

Local businesses are also supporting the fundraiser.

Jim's Bait & Tackle is hosting its annual Easter fishing competition, running over four days, with over \$15,000 in donated prizes on offer. Simply enter to be in the running for some fantastic prizes. Details on their Facebook page.

San Remo Discount Store is running a bumper Easter raffle, while Beand Café is donating a dollar from every coffee sold on the day.



Raising money for the Good Friday Appeal, Day on the Lawn from 11am to 3pm hosts family-friendly activities, including an Easter colouring competition, at the front of Berninneit, Thompson Avenue, Cowes.

Spend Good Friday in your PJs ... on the lawn

FUNDRAISER

The annual CFA Good Friday Appeal fundraising effort in Cowes has been boosted this year, with a Day on the Lawn.

As well as tin rattlers along the main street, Day on the Lawn, is taking place out the front of Berninneit (91-97 Thompson Avenue) from 11am to 3pm.

There'll be family-friendly activities throughout the day, including lawn games, colouring in competitions, music, story times and special guests.

Organised by Anne-Marie Branch, the event hopes to lift the fundraising profile, especially as CFA members can't do their traditional roadside tin rattling this year.

A Day on the Lawn includes:

- Lawn games: croquet, Connect 4, corn bag throw and more
- Rhyme and Story time, from 11.30am – 12.30pm
- Colouring competitions with Easter egg prizes for the kids
- A special celebrity guest appearance between 1pm and 2pm.

There will also be music and local performers dropping by to entertain the crowd.

Anne-Marie said she's hoping everyone will come down and enjoy the day, and support a great cause.

“We will be rattling tins, but will have EFTPOS as well, to make it as easy as possible for people to donate.

“There will also be some special guests coming down at 1pm to help rattle tins. They are colourful characters who are very loved by people on the island,” she said.

You can also expect to see some people in pyjamas!

“We're encouraging people to come down in their PJs, and are asking local businesses to wear their pyjamas on the day.

“The kids who are sick in the Children's Hospital are wearing pyjamas every day, so this is just a visible way to show our support,” she said.

“And hopefully visitors will ask ‘why is everyone in pyjamas?’ It's a good reminder of why we're there, what we're raising money for.”

She said the support from the local business community has been incredible.

“This community is so amazing, and so generous.”

Volunteers at The Day on the Lawn will be wearing specially made windcheaters donated by Made by Bronte.

For the past month, Hotel in Cowes has been donating a dollar for every Jetty Road beer they've sold, Phillip Island Winery is donating \$1 for every bottle sold, and Her Day Spa a dollar for each treatment.

A special event at Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre last month raised \$6722.

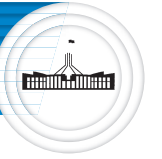
A breakfast at Bowens last week raised \$300 while Ocean Reach Brewery, Phillip Island RSL, Mon Dieu and Biscotti all donated prizes.

A colouring competition at the Silverleaves store last Friday collected donations, which will go towards the Good Friday fundraising total.

This Good Friday, “do it for the kids”, stay in your PJs and head to the centre of Cowes, to help the CFA raise money for the Appeal.

“You don't need to give a lot, but we need a lot of people to give,” Anne-Marie said.

TIME TO VOTE 2025



Mary Aldred – Liberal Party

This Federal Election is critical for the future of Phillip Island residents. We live in the best part of the best country in the world, but right now we're on the wrong track. Families and businesses I speak to can't afford another three years of an Albanese Labor Government. They can't afford high inflation, expensive groceries and the high cost of fuel. Bulk billing rates have fallen by 11 per cent. We can't afford Labor neglecting Phillip Island and not investing in local services. Only a Coalition Government will get our economy back on track, bring down inflation and invest in local infrastructure.

A Coalition Government will halve the fuel excise for 12 months, inject \$900 million into Medicare, restore subsidised mental health sessions back to 20 after Labor cut them and lift the instant asset write off to \$30,000. And we'll make it permanent. I'm a long-term local in the



Monash electorate and have a genuine track record of rolling my sleeves up and getting involved. From Lifeline Gippsland to health and aged care, chairing the Gippsland United Basketball League and being the founding CEO of Committee for Gippsland. I'm passionate about backing small business and will fight for the local infrastructure and services we need, like the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve.

I've always believed you can achieve more as part of a team than going it alone. That's why I'm standing as the Liberal Candidate as part of a

strong Coalition team. It's why when I asked the Deputy Leader of the Federal Opposition Sussan Ley MP to visit Phillip Island to meet with Silverleaves residents about coastal erosion, visit the RSL and speak with members of Island Voice about a new pool and rec reserve, she didn't hesitate. I offer real world and up to date business experience, working across the Asia Pacific region in technology and cyber security, and bring a modern, clear eyed view of the challenges Australia faces. For 18 months I have put my best case forward about why I deserve the trust and confidence to be your next federal representative. I'm asking for your support to deliver locally and contribute nationally to getting our country back on track. I will work my heart out for you to deliver locally.

Authorised by Mary Aldred, Warragul.

Russell Broadbent – Independent

As I travel around our electorate, the constant theme I hear is "I'm working harder than ever but I'm going backwards" followed by "I'm sick of the government thinking it knows best for me."

Whether it's Labor or Liberal, an ever-increasing number of people are feeling let down and have lost trust in the major parties.

This election, my priorities are focused on local issues that lie close to the hearts of people in Monash.

I've been working alongside locals who have fought tooth and nail over the years to urge the federal and state governments to act on serious erosion at Phillip Island. The Victorian Government's recent commitment to address the erosion at Silverleaves is a testament to the strength of the Phillip Island community, my advocacy as an independent and my strong relationships across all sides and politics.

I'm also very proud to have secured \$5.25 million for the intersection



upgrade at Phillip Island Road and Woolamai Beach Road, \$5 million for the Berninnet Cultural Centre, and \$8 million to construct the new Cowes Foreshore Precinct.

While these projects are well worth celebrating, I also know that people are doing it tough. Cost of living pressures and an overwhelm of government burden and inefficiency is really hurting our families, farmers and small business.

As I've done for the past two decades – I'm here to give a voice to the fed up and disillusioned and to hold government to account, especially when they're spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

As the member for Monash, I will continue to support policies that:

- Provide genuine solutions to address the cost of living and housing crises
- Put families, fuel and food security first
- Cut the red, green and brown tape that stifles our farmers and small businesses
- Improve the health and wellbeing of Australians, and
- Protect our freedoms from government over-reach.

I am the only candidate in this election who is funding my own grassroots campaign – that is, I am not accepting any donations. I can't be bought, and neither can our electorate.

As an experienced independent, not beholden to any party, group or individual, I can achieve more for the people of Monash.

Authorised by R. Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, 46C Albert St Warragul VIC 3820

Kuljeet Kaur Robinson – One Nation

I am deeply committed to providing strong leadership and policies that prioritise the interests of local families, workers, farmers, and businesses. One Nation stands as a strong advocate for Australian values, national sovereignty, and economic independence. These guiding principles will shape our approach to addressing the challenges facing Monash.

At the core of the One Nation platform is the preservation of the Australian way of life. We are dedicated to securing our borders and ensuring that immigration policies serve the national interest while benefiting local communities. One Nation advocates for a fair and responsible immigration system that prioritises skilled workers and ensures Australian citizens' needs are met first. By managing immigration effectively, we can alleviate pressure on housing, healthcare, and public services.

My party is committed to restoring Australia's wealth through sound financial policies. We believe in reducing taxes and cutting unnecessary government spending. By lowering the tax burden on hardworking families, we aim to stimulate



growth, encourage investment, and create more opportunities for the future.

We support and push for reduced costs for medicinal cannabis and introduce programs to incentivise new doctors in regional areas.

One Nation is committed to protecting Australia's national identity and cultural heritage. We believe that these values must be preserved for future generations. I will work tirelessly to ensure that policies reflect the interests of the Monash electorate.

As your candidate for Monash, I am dedicated to standing up for local values, security, and prosperity.

- Tackling rising costs of living
- Supporting local jobs and tourism businesses in the region
- Better health, mental health and education
- Advocate for targeted

mental health programs to reduce male suicide rates.

- Advocating for a new hospital in West Gippsland
- Opposing the 'Great Forest National Park' Proposal
- Support for local farmers and landowners

One Nation's Key Initiatives:

1. Electricity Bill Reductions – Cut bills by 20 per cent.
2. Fuel Price Relief – Halve the fuel excise to 26 cents per litre for three years with a review after 12 months
3. Tax Relief – Raise tax-free threshold to \$35,000 for self-funded retirees.
4. Beer Tax Removal – Remove excise on beer and spirits in venues.
5. Healthcare Cost Reductions – Raise Medicare rebates, increase bulk billing, and reduce fraud.
6. Protecting Local Agriculture – Ban sale of freehold farmland to foreign investors.
7. Family Tax Relief – Allow income splitting for couples with children.

On election day, choose someone who will listen, act, and deliver.

Authorised by P Hanson, 2/6-12 Boronia Road Brisbane Airport QLD

Alex Wehbe – Trumpet of Patriots

As someone born and raised in Victoria, I am committed to standing by our policies and restoring our country to the greatness it once had. A key priority is bringing Australian manufacturing back. Australia is rich in natural resources, yet we sell our iron ore at hundreds of dollars per tonne, only to see it return as steel costing thousands more. This needs to change.

We will ensure the government is run efficiently. Right now, wasteful spending is driving up prices year after year. We need to cut that waste and reinvest those savings back into our country. By imposing a 15 per cent licence fee on iron ore, we can eliminate the government's trillion-dollar debt and free Australians from



that generational burden.

We also believe in reducing immigration to sustainable levels and prioritising the needs of Australian citizens. We propose allowing Australians to access 30 per cent of their superannuation for a house deposit and capping interest rates at three per cent. We shouldn't need to be "welcomed" to our own country, and we firmly believe that the woke

agenda has no place in our schools. Education should focus on the basics – reading, writing, and arithmetic – not ideological influence.

We acknowledge only two genders – male and female – and aim to remove political correctness from the classroom. Additionally, we plan to develop high-speed rail networks to connect satellite cities within 120km of major CBDs, providing affordable housing and drastically reducing commuting times.

Our vision is simple: to Make Australia Great Again, as it was for me when I was growing up.

Authorised by Suellen Wrightson for the Trumpet of Patriots, 153 Gooding Drive, Merrimac, QLD 4226

Where can I vote?

Pre-poll voting for the island will be at the Phillip Island Masonic Lodge, 92 Church Street, Cowes.

- Opening hours
- Tuesday April 22 – Thursday April 24: 8.30am-5.30pm
 - Saturday April 26: 9am-4pm
 - Monday April 28 – Thursday May 1: 8.30 am-5.30 pm
 - Friday May 2: 8.30am-6pm

On election day, voting centres for the island and San Remo, open from

8am – 6pm, will be located at:

- San Remo Recreation Centre, 1A Wynne Road
 - Newhaven Hall, 23 Cleeland Street
 - Rhyll Mechanics Institute, 42-52 Lock Road
 - Phillip Island Masonic Lodge, 92 Church Street, Cowes
- A full list of Bass Coast voting locations is available at aec.gov.au

TIME TO VOTE 2025



Deb Leonard – Independent

I'm running as an independent in this election because our community deserves better.

Phillip Island is my home, and I feel blessed to be part of this amazing community. Our community is strong, but we're being let down by the major parties.

As a local business owner, lawyer, and working mum, I've seen firsthand the needs in our community. Locals struggling with skyrocketing costs of living, housing at a crisis point, and we're missing out on crucial infrastructure investment.

It's time for a fresh approach, from someone who really understands the challenges faced by our community.

I'll fight to break up the supermarket duopoly that's increasing grocery costs. I'll push for access to affordable solar and battery power for every home (including rentals), school and business to bring down electricity bills and protect against power outages. I'll work to increase affordable housing, and ensure we get our fair



share of federal funding.

Funding for the new Phillip Island Aquatic Centre and Recreation Reserve is a key priority. Our growing community needs a pool for young people to learn how to swim, to participate in sport and build community connection.

Fixing neglected roads is another key focus, to keep residents safe and support our tourism industry.

I'll advocate for significant investment and a science-based plan to combat coastal erosion.

I'll also push to expand in-person TAFE courses at Wonthaggi and for improved public transport so young people can better access further education.

I'm not aligned with any party. I'm not bound

to toe a party line – I'll always put the interests of our community first. I won't sell my vote to either party – I'll consider each piece of legislation on its merits and vote according to how it aligns with community needs and values.

It's likely this election will result in a hung parliament. Despite fear-mongering by the major parties, this will put an independent on the cross-bench in a powerful position to get real results for our community.

As your MP I'll communicate regularly with the community, and seek community input on decisions. I won't be a politician you don't see again until two months before the next election. I'll host regular town hall meetings and pop-up offices throughout the electorate to listen to community needs and address issues as they come up.

By voting for me, you are voting to have a say in the future of our community.

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

Tully Fletcher – Labor Party

Hi, I'm Tully. Bass Coast is my home and I'm the only Monash candidate who grew up here and went to school here. My partner Dani and I live in Kilcunda with our kids, Daph and Ted. We love it here, and we love living so close to Sanny and the island.

I've got what it takes to get things done for our community because I've made a career out of leading teams to solve hard problems in business and government, and I've delivered real reforms to improve our country – like Australia's first wage theft laws.

And because I'm on the federal Labor team, you can count on me to get things done – unlike Liberals who say one thing then do another, and independents who promise everything and deliver nothing.

Over my lifetime, the island's permanent population has tripled in size from around 5000 to nearly 15,000. A community this big deserves more investment from all levels of government in new services and infrastructure.

The Victorian Labor



Government has been true to its promise to deliver the new Phillip Island Community Hospital. That's a really good start. But we need more. Much more. And there's a clear case for federal co-investment.

Federal co-investment is needed to address road congestion between the Bass Highway, San Remo, and Cowes. I'll deliver it.

Federal co-investment is needed to get the long overdue Phillip Island recreation reserve and aquatic centre started. I'll deliver it.

Other candidates can make those promises, but after 20 long years of failed Liberal and independent representation in Monash, our communities have learned the hard way that we're only going to

get things done with a new federal Labor MP in a Federal Labor Government.

At a broader level, you can count on me and a re-elected Albanese Labor Government to stand by Australians in these uncertain times, support households with the cost of living, and protect our Gippsland communities from Peter Dutton's risky nuclear fantasy, American-style cuts to jobs and services, and plan to end working from home.

Labor will keep building Australia's future after a decade of Coalition neglect with higher wages, lower taxes, more housing supply and help-to-buy, further energy bill relief, cheaper PBS medicines, free GP visits, permanent free TAFE, and the three-day childcare guarantee.

We can get things done for Phillip Island and stop Peter Dutton's cuts – but we must vote Labor.

*Authorised by Steve Staikos,
Australian Labor Party (Victorian
Branch), 438 Docklands Dr,
Docklands VIC 3008*

Terence Steele – The Greens

Hi, I'm Terence, your Greens candidate for Monash. I'm a semi-retired teacher from Kardella South who is ready to inspire change within our local community. The beautiful region that we call home is under threat from climate inaction by the major political parties. I became aware of the devastating effects as an avid gardener and recognise that to affect real change, I needed to get involved.

Australia is one of the largest fossil fuel exporters in the world, and we receive an embarrassingly small amount of tax or royalties for our resources. Labor has opened over 30 new coal and gas projects in this term of Parliament, and Dutton will only make things worse. There is no gas shortage, we export 80 per cent of it!



The Greens are aware that the climate and environmental crisis isn't the only thing that matters to Australians. In a wealthy country like ours, we should have world-class public health, education, and affordable housing. I joined the movement for a fairer future so my children and grandchildren can live in a better world.

If we tax the one in three big corporations who currently pay no tax

in this country, and we implement a wealth tax on Australia's 150 billionaires, we can get dental into Medicare, make education free again and start building public and social housing like we used to in this country!

Why vote Green and not teal? Because we have strength in numbers. An independent is just one vote in the House of Representatives. A Greens MP has power in the House plus colleagues in the Senate, where we hold the balance of power.

If you want to keep Dutton out, and want to push Labor to act on what really matters, vote Green in Monash and The Senate!

*Authorised by Martin Shield for
the Australian Greens Victoria.*

ADVERTISER
EDITORIAL

Election campaign underway

We're now in the official part of the election campaign. Our election feature is designed to give all the candidates the opportunity to speak directly to you, the voters.

Two of the candidates are not included, as they were impossible to contact, or did not respond in time to our offer to be included.

The election date on Saturday, May 3, is the final date you can vote, with pre-polls (or early voting) opening from April 22. The Cowes pre-polling station will be at the Phillip Island Masonic Lodge, 92 Church Street, from April 22 through until May 2.

Now that the election has officially been called, the amount of political advertising has increased. That includes in this newspaper and others, on social media, as well as billboards, signage and direct mail outs.

Unfortunately, Australia does not have a "truth in political advertising" rule, so it pays to be a little sceptical about some of the tactics and advertising in the lead up to an election.

In a recent interview with SBS, Director of the

Australia Institute's Democracy and Accountability Program Bill Browne said it was up to the individual to assess what is misleading when it comes to political advertisements.

"A healthy amount of scepticism is always a good idea when assessing advertising, and that probably goes double for political advertising."

In a previous edition, we mentioned political parties sending out postal vote applications. The AEC (Australian Electoral Commission) has warned voters about this saying there was the potential to mislead voters, who think they are filling out official applications, when instead they are providing their data to political parties.

The practice is not illegal but is the number one complaint raised by voters with the AEC. If you need a postal vote, apply direct at aec.gov.au, before 6pm on April 30.

Then there's the issue of truth in political advertising.

Unfortunately, in most of Australia it is legal to lie in political advertising. Unlike commercial advertising laws, Aus-

tralia's political advertising laws do not prohibit misleading or deceptive claims.

For example, a flyer currently being delivered to local households states: "Teal Independents vote with The Greens".

The pamphlet refers to a local candidate being "backed by the same Teal group" that has voted most with the Greens. The reality is, there is no Teal group (or party). Teal is just a useful term used by the media to describe a group of independents currently sitting in parliament.

There is also no evidence that the independents running in Monash, if elected, will mirror the voting record of the current sitting independents from other electorates. But if you are interested in MPs voting records, you can see exactly how any member of parliament voted by visiting the theyvoteforyou.org.au website.

For more election information, visit our federal election information page: www.pisra.com.au/news/federal-election-information

The Family First and Legalise Cannabis candidates did not respond by our deadline, to the offer to be involved in this feature.

Abalone in a bra: illegal fishing on the rise

In 2017 the Advertiser spent a day with Fisheries officers on Western Port, showing the critical work they undertake.

As the axe is set to fall on those four officers this week, we revisit that experience.

FISHERIES

Anglers are going to extraordinary lengths to hide their illegal catch, with abalone found in bras, whiting concealed in pant pockets and snapper in secret boat compartments.

The revelation from Fisheries officers came when the Advertiser (in 2017) spent a morning patrolling Western Port Bay with three officers from the Cowes station, highlighting key issues facing recreational fishers around the island.

Senior Fisheries officer Eric Wiseman told the Advertiser in 2016-17 the station's five officers conducted almost 2500 inspections, which resulted in 200 offences.

He said the top five fishing offences in the Phillip Island and San Remo area were: fishing without a licence; taking under-size fish, exceeding the catch limit, taking shellfish at the intertidal zone (less than two metre depth) and taking abalone outside the open season.

Eric said Fisheries officers regularly saw fishers attempting to hide their illegal catch – whether under-size fish or excess fish – in creative ways.

“Concealment of fish is a big issue. They’ll hide them in secret compartments, the anchor well, the battery box, wrapped in the canopy, under the floor, in false fuel tanks and clothing,” he said.

“It’s not uncommon for fish to be concealed on the person. One colleague had an incident where abalone were stuffed in a bra, another reported a guy stuffing them in his jocks.”

“There’s a lot more fishermen than there used to be thanks to things like better online weather reporting, social media forums

and clubs, and better technology.”

Eric said they also found fish in scuba tanks, thermos flasks, car bonnets and spare wheel compartments.

He said Fisheries Officers had little tolerance for offenders going to the effort to conceal and anyone committing an offence under the Fisheries Act can be served with an official warning, be given an infringement notice, prosecuted in court and have items seized.

Wrasse, snapper, whiting

Cowes Fisheries officers report that wrasse is the species that attracts the most number of offences, aside from abalone and crays.

The catch limit is five, at no less than 27cm.

“Shellfish aside, the number one species for compliance offences is wrasse,” Eric said.

“Particularly for some cultures it’s a high-value fish, because it has a commercial value.”

The worst offence for snapper fishermen was “multi-tripping”.

While snapper run all year, the peak season is around October and November when catch limit is 10 fish, with a minimum size of 28 cm, and no more than three of those fish over 40cm.

“When there are really good runs of fish people can get greedy and take their catch, come back in, drop it off and go back out again,” Eric said.

“Through surveillance and use of unmarked boats we catch these people in the act.”

Eric said Fisheries officers were also vigilant for recreational fishermen selling their catch.

The catch limit for King George Whiting, for instance, was 20, with a minimum of 27cm, while calamari catch limit

was 10 (with no size limit).

“These are high-value recreational species. To put it in context, 20 whiting is quite a few kilos when it sells for as much as \$60/kg.

“Some recreational fishermen who fish regularly try to sell their catch, which is an offence. It’s illegal to sell to your next door neighbour, to barter, or exchange or trade for a slab of beer.”

Abalone poaching

Eric said while summer was peak season for recreational fishing offences, some of the more serious fishing crimes occurred in winter, when it was assumed there was less fishing activity on the water.

This is particularly the case for abalone poaching.

Hotspots for abalone offences include Pyramid Rock, Kitty Miller Bay and Shelly Beach at Kilcunda.

Eric said commercial abalone divers reported that pressure on the resource had also seen abalone numbers drop, adding that it was legal for the public to take five abalone during the 60 open days each year.

“More people are taking them on those open days and abalone divers say in certain areas, because of that increasing pressure, it’s now harder to find legally-sized abalone or large quantities.”

Resource pressure

Eric said many fishermen were unaware of some fishing regulations, including that it was illegal to kill unwanted fish such as toadies or sting rays.

“Any unwanted fish must immediately be returned to the water with the least amount of harm. Failing to do so incurs a fine.”

It was also an offence to fish in marine parks, with three in Western Port and another at Bunurong at Inverloch.

Eric said Fisheries’ job was to educate recreational fishers about the importance of sustain-



Cowes Fisheries officers regularly see anglers attempting to hide their illegal catch – whether under-size fish or excess fish – in creative ways: “One colleague had an incident where abalone were stuffed in a bra, another reported a guy stuffing them in his jocks”, an officer said.

ability.

“We’re trying to encourage people to get into fishing because it’s a healthy pastime.

“But we’re also trying to educate about ensuring there’s fish in the future.

“If we come across a group of people fishing with their kids and they have undersize fish or have caught over their limit, we tell them it’s about protecting the resource so their kids and grandkids can fish.

“That can be a light bulb moment for them.”

While Marine Police are the primary authority responsible for boating safety compliance, Fisheries officers also have this power, with common issues including out of date flares, no life jackets and speeding in five knot zones.

Commercial fish

Cowes Fisheries, which is based at Dunsmore Road and covers Inverloch through to the Mornington Peninsula and the Upper Yarra, also covers commercial fishing.

With the exception of shark fishing, their work with commercial fishers includes rock lobster, abalone, inshore trawlers (which work within three nautical miles of the coast and

catch the likes of flathead and whiting), as well as Western Port Bay commercial line fishermen, wrasse, bait, eel, aquaculture and seafood outlets.

“Any place that sells fish – such as restaurants or fish and chip shops – has to obtain it from legal sources. They need to produce the paper work for all their fish to ensure it’s taken legally,” Eric said.

He said many of these reports rely on members of the public to call their 13 FISH (3474) number to draw attention to illegal commercial fishing activity.

Fisheries officers also oversee fishing in inland waterways, including the Powlett and Bass rivers, and Lang Lang irrigation channels.

Fisheries

The five officers based at Cowes work shifts, including weekends and night work, working in uniform and undercover in plain clothes to target illegal activity, with search and seizure powers. On any day of the week, they patrol waters around the island.

In 2017 there were 70 Fisheries officers around Victoria, based in four broad regions, with Cowes part of central region which also includes Altona and Mornington.

More outrage as Fisheries D-day arrives

From page 1

High cost

Mr Olsen said while he understood the need for budget cuts, cutting Fisheries was “extremely short sighted” with the “long-term costs very likely to be much higher if you proceed”.

“Without an effective deterrent – Fisheries officers – the small portion of our population that “bends” or “flouts” the rules, will grow.

“As an example, if we remove or reduce police officers, do you think people will all drive the posted speed limits?

“Or if they know there are no police, will they speed and/or do more dangerous things while driving? If there is no risk of getting caught, unfortunately there are quite a number of people that struggle to do the right thing.”

In the letter to the Premier, Mr Olsen said poaching will increase and fish stocks will plummet from the additional, unregulated pressure, leading to the public anger at resource mismanagement.

“The next wave of politicians will come in with a bright new idea: ‘let’s hire some more Fish-

eries officers, open up offices and buy more boats and gear so the officers can effectively do their jobs’.

“Imagine what that will cost and how long it will take to recover the fish stocks.”

Dowling

Mr Olsen told the Advertiser he suspected VFA CEO Travis Dowling had “somehow lost connection with the reality on the ground and sold the idea to the Minister”.

“If you look at what they are proposing from a best practice or even what other jurisdictions are striving for (particularly in the Pacific), it’s a massive step backward and will certainly end badly for the fisheries resource and Victorians that use and care about it.”

Mr Olsen previously worked for Fisheries Victoria and in a three-decade career has worked in research, commercial aquaculture, fisheries policy, management and enforcement, and now as a fisheries adviser to governments.

Working from his Cape Woolamai home office, Lars runs Ol-



Cape Woolamai’s Lars Olsen has worked in fisheries for 25 years from research to commercial aquaculture and management and enforcement. He is highly critical of proposed cuts to Fisheries: “It’s so strange to me that anyone charged with managing our precious fisheries resources could think for a second that this proposal would work out well.”

sen Pacific Consulting, advising on a vast range of fisheries issues for 11 countries in the Pacific Ocean and South East Asia, from the Cook Islands to Nauru, Tonga to the Philippines, Samoa and Fiji.

He said the Victorian Fisheries Authority website states Fisheries officers “are employed

to protect our fisheries and promote responsible fishing and boating”.

The website states one of their roles “is to ensure compliance with fishing regulations. These regulations are in place to ensure our fisheries resources are sustainable and shared by the Victorian fishing community”.

Petition

The Victorian community continues to support the battle against the proposed changes, with a Change.org petition.

On Facebook Michelle said without officers, “Victoria will have no abalone within three years”.

Quentin said in order to save money “maybe Travis and a CEO position should be the one to go”.

Toni agreed, adding the CEO was “clearly under pressure”.

“Nowhere in the world are fisheries managed by self-regulation because it doesn’t work,” Toni wrote.

“If we want to have fish for future generations this proposal has to be stopped. Keep the pressure up. This proposal undermines the basic principles of sustainable fisheries management.”

Parliament petition: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/closure-of-fisheries-stations-in-metro-melbourne/

Change.org petition: www.change.org/p/stop-the-termination-of-fisheries-officers-in-western-port-bay-and-port-phillip-bay?signed=true



ADVERTISER
EDITORIAL

State Government must reverse Fisheries plan

This week, (April 19), four Fisheries officers in the Cowes office are expected to have their roles terminated, following a snap State Government announcement in February.

The Fisheries building on Dunsmore Road will be sold.

And more broadly across Victoria there will be no Fisheries enforcement officers except for four in a Melbourne-based crime unit.

In total five Fisheries offices will be closed with 27 officers losing their jobs, while there will be just nine new "engagement officers" in three offices: Tooradin, Carrum and St Leonards.

While the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) earlier this month said there would be "no job losses on April 19" in Cowes, no further details have been released, despite repeated questions by the Advertiser.

Put simply: this is very bad policy and the Premier and Environment Minister must retract the proposal.

No matter how dire the state's financial quagmire, Fisheries must not be axed.

As highlighted by the broad outrage at this decision, Fisheries officers are a non-negotiable.

The impact will be widespread and felt for generations.

Axing Fisheries will hit the bottom line of seafood businesses, from



Cowes Fisheries officers regularly conduct spot checks on recreational anglers: "It's all about protecting a resource that is under pressure from multiple sources. If we don't do our job, there may not be a resource to protect in the future."

commercial anglers through to exporters and the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op.

It will see a significant increase in all levels of offending: from the recreational fisher who takes a little above the bag limit, or a little under the legal fish size, through to criminal poachers who will see this as open season on all species.

Marine parks will be redundant.

The result, of course, will impact fish stocks hard.

As industry experts say: It's a fine line between a healthy fishery and an exploited one, and a population change of even two per cent could take species to the brink. Permanently.

"This could be the last generation fishing in the

bay," they say.

The cuts will even mean Victoria will renege on our national and global responsibility to manage fish stocks sustainably and would also break Victorian laws.

Why the State Government – or anyone in the VFA – thought this was a good idea is absolutely baffling.

There are some sectors – health, education and policing for instance – for which the state must shoulder full responsibility.

Fisheries is also one of them.

In an era when the environment is threatened from so many angles, this is one threat that could easily have been avoided.

If this plan goes through, it will be a permanent stain on this Labor Government's legacy.



Funding is available until June 30, to help eligible organisations install data loggers to monitor water use, to help reduce water and energy costs.

Funding available to improve water efficiency

FUNDING

Westernport Water is assisting local business and community organisations to take control of their water use and become more water efficient thanks to the Victorian Government's WaterSmart program.

The program is being delivered locally by Westernport Water with \$150,000 available to help businesses and organisations to install data loggers to monitor water use, enabling them to detect leaks and reduce water and energy costs.

Funding for eligible organisations is available until June 30, 2025, under three streams including; monitoring water use through data logger technology; water use au-

ditions and undetected leak identification; and sporting ground audits which includes upgrades and retrofits.

We invite high and medium water-using businesses to apply for free data loggers, providing real-time water usage monitoring and high-use alerts.

"Water-saving initiatives that support our region's water needs not only promote sustainability but also help businesses save on their water bills," said Managing Director Dona Tantirimudalige.

"Eligible customers will be able to conveniently access data from the VicFacilities online portal to understand better how they are using water and to identify leaks or other

forms of water waste at their sites."

By monitoring water use online, businesses will be able to detect and fix leaks quickly, reduce water wastage, save money and better fulfill their climate change reporting obligations.

The WaterSmart program is delivering actions in the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy, which aim to maximise water efficiency in business and community-based organisations, such as councils, sporting facilities and hospitals.

For more information and frequently asked questions please visit www.westernportwater.com.au/our-community/watersmart

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WESTERNPORT
WATER



Policing for the health of our bay

In 2017 the Advertiser spent a day with Fisheries officers on Western Port, showing the critical work they undertake. As the axe is set to fall on those four officers this week, we revisit that experience.

FISHERIES

The outside winter air temperature in Cowes is about 11C. Western Port Bay's water is no warmer. Yet here are Fisheries officers Eric Wiseman and Jeff Woodham stripping down and spraying themselves with a cold blast of non-stick lubricant in order to squeeze into their specially-designed wet suits.

It's all for a good cause: to retrieve an illegal rock crayfish trap in the bay off Grossard Point at Ventnor.

"I do feel the cold. It's going to be freezing," says Eric, before he puts on flippers and mask.

"But this is what I love about the job. Every day is different, we're out in nature and we're making a difference. By pulling in this trap we're ensuring crayfish don't get into the wrong hands and we're protecting a precious resource."

While Jeff and Eric free dive (Fisheries officers can hold their breath under water for up to five minutes), skipper for the day – Fisheries officer Ben Carroll – gives the Advertiser a basic run-down of the Fisheries boat and the crucial work they do in protecting our bay and ocean from illegal fishing activity.

"This is a 7.2 metre Kevlacat, with twin hulls and twin out-

board motors, capable of travelling at about 50 knots an hour and can hold 1000 litres of fuel, which means it can travel to Tasmania and back," says Ben, who was an electrician before joining Fisheries.

He points to the arsenal of equipment on board: radios, VHF and high frequency, as well as the encrypted internal communications radio, the GPS plotter and sounder, radar, loud hailer, honker and flashing lights for pulling up boats in motion.

Then there's the GoPro camera, night vision and thermal imaging equipment, commonly used in their undercover operations.

"Before we intercept an offender we have to have evidence, to get them with their hand in the cookie jar, so to speak," Ben says.

"When we talk about the capability of this boat and the equipment it's all about being able to catch those big-time poachers who try and out run us or outlast us, sometimes in very rough conditions and for a long time.

"We have in the past had to chase them almost to Tasmania."

But surely fish is not a felony comparable to big drug or crime syndicates?

"You'd be surprised," Ben says.

"There's evidence that poaching of things like abalone have been related to crime gangs.



Officers diving in 11C water off Grossard Point at Ventnor in 2017, to retrieve an illegal rock crayfish trap.

"They are career criminals. The black market in abalone can be lucrative. In the past we've had search warrants and found up to \$10,000 worth of abs."

How about the smaller, table fish – surely policing your average fisherman is small fry?

"I'd say 99 per cent of fishermen are great. In that bad one per cent we've seen a massive increase in illegal recreational fishing as the commercial fishery has dwindled," he says.

"There's a big market to sell illegal King George whiting and squid. If you're allowed to take 20 whiting a day and it's worth up to \$65/kg at the Melbourne markets, it's a big issue.

"Recreational fishermen also multi-trip – catch their limit,

come in, offload it and then head out again. By doing that they're taking advantage of the species, which can make it vulnerable.

"It's all about protecting a resource that is under pressure from multiple sources. If we don't do our job, there may not be a resource to protect in the future."

And, of course, like police do on the road, Fisheries' officers oversee boating safety and regulations.

On patrol

Once out of the water (during which time they also take a quick assessment of the health of shellfish in the area), Eric, Jeff and Ben head out around Western Port to patrol boating activity.

On just one day last week, during which the Advertiser travelled on board, the officers inspected 19 boats or 50 people, with seven offences found including failure to wear lifejackets, failure to have a current fishing licence and filleting a gummy shark before being landed.

Pulling up to boats, the officers are looking as much for obvious offences – number of fishing lines per person for instance – as well as less obvious body language.

"You get an immediate vibe from people, which we're trained to look for," Eric says, "non-verbal cues like whether they're nervous, or reluctant to move from an area on the boat.

"Sometimes as we approach it will just be head down, bum up, and they'll be discarding fish overboard."

Fisheries officers – who have powers of search and seizure – all

carry capsicum spray, batons and handcuffs and say that across Victoria the number of fishers attempting to hinder, obstruct or intimidate officers has increased.

Every six months officers undertake defence training.

"There are a few unknowns when we board another boat. It's a balancing act – taking risks, but doing it safely," says Eric, who is the youngest senior Fisheries officer in Victoria.

"Across Victoria we've seen more verbal abuse over minor offences. It could be the increased amount of illicit substances in the community or financial stress, either way it's an offence."

Today, thankfully, all boaties that Fisheries pull over are friendly.

One father, taking his two children and wife out for a jaunt, even volunteers his support, telling the Advertiser: "It's good to see Fisheries out here because there's so many people doing the wrong thing these days."

Every time the officers run alongside a boat, they chatter among themselves, commenting on the impressiveness of a vessel or its fishing equipment.

"That's a nice-looking boat," says Ben, "worth quite a bit.

"We're all mad keen, into our fishing and diving. I've got a boat myself and go for crays and scallops.

"Eric's even worse. He's got a thing for old school boats, a classic Haines Hunter that he did up and took across to Tasmania."

Adds Eric: "We're lucky. We all get paid to do what we love."

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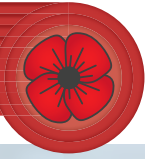
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ANZAC DAY 2025



Mayor to address San Remo Anzac service

ANZAC DAY

Bass Coast Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead will be the guest speaker at San Remo's Anzac Day commemoration.

She will be joined by three secondary school captains, one from Newhaven College and two from Bass Coast College.

Encouraging us all to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy thanks to those who came before us. Cr Halstead said, "Anzac Day is a time for us to come together as a community to honour the courage, sacrifice and service of all those who have served and continue to serve our country."

She will attend the dawn service in Bass before the 10.45am commemoration at the San Remo Cenotaph on the foreshore opposite the supermarket.

"My fellow councillors will be attending services across Bass Coast as we pay our respects on behalf of the community," she added.

Members of the small committee organising San Remo's service, always look forward to the speeches delivered by the



The community is invited to lay a wreath at the San Remo Anzac Day commemoration at the San Remo Cenotaph on the foreshore, from 10.45am.

senior school students as they offer a youthful perspective on the need for remembrance.

Representatives of San Remo and Newhaven primary schools will also be there to lay a wreath and others in the community are invited to do so too.

Vietnam veteran John Methven OAM will act as MC while Peter Buitenhuis will play the Last Post and Reveille. The Ode will be recited by John Turner Sqn Leader (Ret'd).

Morgan and Shiree Mountford, who have just taken over as owners of the Westernport Hotel, are happy to continue the town's tradition of the two pubs hosting morning tea following the commemoration. The San Remo Hotel will host Remembrance Day 2025 and Anzac Day 2026.

The service is conducted under the auspices of the museum sub branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.



An Anzac Day commemoration at the San Remo Cenotaph starts at 10.45am, with Vietnam Veteran John Methven MC of the event.



An Anzac Day commemoration will be held at the San Remo foreshore park from 10.45am, with MC John Methven OAM joined by Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, as guest speaker on the day.

ANZAC DAY

LEST WE FORGET

25th April

Dawn Service 6am - Cenotaph Cowes Foreshore

Gunfire Breakfast 7am - Phillip Island RSL

March 10:40am - Muster at 10.40am St Phillip's Anglican Church, Cowes

Service 11am - Cenotaph, Cowes Foreshore

Carvery Lunch 12pm-2pm - Service members Free
Veterans Free
Adults \$15
Kids under 13yrs \$10
No other food offering available

ANZAC Day Football LIVE & LOUD from 3pm

5:30pm Dinner Bookings – normal a la carte menu available

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Owner of the former Rhyll Wild Food Farm Jude Mayall. The business closed its doors earlier this year, just before Australia Day.

Farewell to Rhyll’s Wild Food Farm

TOURISM

The owner of the former Rhyll Wild Food Farm has spoken for the first time since the venue’s sudden closure in January. Jude Mayall said she closed the doors before Australia Day after a section of the business flooded. And since then she has found it difficult to speak about the closure. “I went through a lot in the lead up to the closure, dealing with emotions,” Jude said. “The landlord has now taken control of the property and I’m not able to get my belongings out and he’s selling them off.” A garage sale was held last Saturday with stock including commercial whitegoods, benches, cookware, crockery, office furniture and more. “I’m sad I wasn’t able to do all the plans I had, such as music, art, and more small artisan businesses.” But, Jude said, she will continue her Outback Chef label, which she established in 2005, selling online, and she has also started an ecommerce site bushbbq.com.au, specialising in native Australian bush foods, which will both be run from a warehouse in Melbourne. “I’ll continue to live on Phillip Island as I have a lot of friends here and would like to work with small Gippsland food artisans.”

Tough

Jude says for about 15 years she ran Outback Chef in Melbourne, but in 2020 she started the Wild Food Farm on the 4ha former trout farm in Rhyll, aiming to make it her headquarters and to supply ingredients for the brand. She opened the doors of the café in

February 2020, just before Covid lockdown, after researching Phillip Island and its market with a business advisor. She then battled through the pandemic, unable to access grants because she was a new business. And then post-Covid, the hospitality industry was particularly hit hard. “Covid was a tough gig and we came out expecting to bounce back but it was not the case. “After Covid the costs started to go up and at the same time customer spending went down. “The spend per head was not as high and people were worried about the economy.”

Camille Monet & Alisoun Neville

Doll Making Workshop
Sunday May 4, 2 until 5pm
For more information go to
www.alisounneville.com.au/registration



The San Remo Hotel is a finalist in seven categories at the 2025 Australian Hotels Association State Awards for Excellence, including Regional Hotel of the Year.

Best local pub? Let’s find out

AWARDS

The San Remo Hotel and the Middle Hotel in Korumburra are competing to be named Regional Hotel of the Year. Both venues are up for multiple awards at this year’s Australian Hotels Association (Victoria) State Awards for Excellence. The San Remo Hotel is a finalist in seven categories: Local Legends (Barry and Veronica Williams), Best Regional Outdoor Experience, Best Regional Pub Bar, Best Regional Sports Bar, Best Regional PubTab, the Heart of the Community award, and Ian Larking Overall Regional Hotel of the Year. The Middle Hotel in Korumburra, run by Ben Fisher and Elyse Pratt (who formerly ran the San Remo Hotel) are final-

ists in nine categories, including Chef of the Year (Mark Smith), Emerging Leader (Paras Chopra), Best Casual Dining, Best Family Dining, Best Cocktail List, Best non-alcoholic menu, Best Regional Outdoor Experience, Best Regional Gaming Venue, and the Ian Larking Overall Regional Hotel of the Year. The Esplanade Hotel in Inverloch is nominated in three categories, while the Kilcunda Ocean View Hotel is a finalist for the Regional Parma of the Year. Winners will be announced on Monday May 19, at Melbourne’s Palladium at Crown Melbourne. The evening will honour outstanding venues, individuals, and teams across the industry, with 41 award categories spanning dining, accommodation, gaming, service, and individual performance.

REWILDING THE ISLAND

THURSDAY 15 MAY | 6.00PM TO 10.00PM

Phillip Island Landcare and the Penguin Foundation are hosting a dinner to share inspiring stories of restoring biodiversity on Phillip Island (Milawul). We would love you to join us and discover more about this exciting work.

SCAN FOR TICKETS
Or visit:
www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1368072

Interested in discovering your family history? We can help you.

PIADGS has moved to 23 Cleeland Street, Newhaven.

The Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society has moved from 56 Chapel Street, Cowes to the Newhaven Hall.

Opening hours -
Tuesday 10-1pm
Thursday 10-1pm
Friday 1-4pm
Saturday 10-1pm

Contact - PO Box 821 Cowes.
Email: piadgs@outlook.com

NEWHAVEN COLLEGE PRESENTS

XANADU

2, 3 & 4 MAY

BASS COAST CULTURAL VENUES | THE UNION THEATRE, WONTHAGGI

Based on the Universal Pictures Film. Screenplay by Richard Danus and Marc Rubel
Book by **DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE** Music & Lyrics by **JEFF LYNNE & JOHN FARRAR**
Originally produced on Broadway by Robert Ahrens, Dan Vickery, Tara Smith/B. Swibel, Sara Murchison/Dale Smith & Cari Smulyan

Building a better water network

INFRASTRUCTURE

Westernport Water is replacing ageing water mains, in a move it says will help to "maintain reliable water supply for the community".

The organisation said the \$1 million-dollar renewal program is part of its broader investment in water infrastructure to enhance network resilience to meet current and future demand.

"By replacing ageing pipes, we are future-proofing the network against leaks, bursts, and water quality issues," Managing Director Westernport Water, Dona Tantirimudalige said.

"Upgrades from this program of works will reduce future maintenance costs, enhance reliability and minimise unplanned disruptions for the community."

Five sites across Ventnor, Sunderland Bay, Surf Beach and Newhaven will be upgraded over a three-year period, starting in mid to late April 2025.

Westernport Water said there may be brief water supply interruptions required when water mains are being replaced.

Affected customers will be provided advance notice prior to the commencement of work.

Following an open public tender process, Westernport Water said the program of work was awarded to an experienced contractor, Jaco Trenching & Boring Pty Ltd.

More critically-endangered birds to be released, roadkill the biggest threat

ENVIRONMENT

More critically-endangered bush stone-curlews will be released this month onto Phillip Island, following the initial release of 12 last August.

Nature Parks said the new release of a further 24 birds comes after "one of the highest survival rates in a trial release of this species", at 75 per cent survival.

Nine birds survived the original trial release, with two becoming victims of roadkill and the third "also a suspected but unconfirmed road incident".

All incidents were at separate times and locations.

Last August, Nature Parks released the bush stone-curlews from captivity into Oswin Roberts Reserve, each wearing little GPS backpacks so they can be tracked.

Nature Parks scientist and project leader Dr Duncan Sutherland said the trial had been a "great success", "one of the best outcomes for this stage of any reintroduction of the species".

"The six-month post-release health checks showed the birds are in good condition, an indication they have settled into their new environment successfully," Dr Sutherland said.

He said the birds were particularly vulnerable while adapting to survival in the wild.

"The first stage of the project was to determine if bush stone-curlews could survive

on Phillip Island.

"Now that we know they can, the time is right to release a larger cohort with the aim to establish a self-sustaining population while at the same time test alternative strategies to maximise success."

Dr Sutherland said the new batch of 24 will be released this month as April offers the ideal seasonal conditions to allow the new birds to integrate with the previously released birds.

Birds released in the next cohort will initially have their wings clipped to help secure them in good habitat and improve survival rates, but it means they will not be able to fly until they moult and grow new feathers next year.

"The (first group of) birds are starting to regrow their flight feathers, and while they still can't fly great distances or at height, once the feathers fully grow in and they get a bit of practice, we may start seeing them fly up to several kilometres each night making their way to their foraging grounds," he explained.

Residents in Sunderland Bay, Surf Beach, Sunset Strip, Silverleaves and Rhyll should be vigilant as the birds are expected to move along paths and roads as they establish their home ranges.

Researchers will continue to monitor the birds' movements with GPS trackers, undertake health checks, and record their



A critically-endangered bush stone-curlew wearing a backpack. Nature Parks is releasing a further 24 birds this month and have asked the community to slow down driving at night, keep dogs on-leash and cats indoors, and leave fallen logs on the ground as they provide essential habitat for the birds.

activities with acoustic recorders and remote cameras to reveal the threats to birds and their long-term recovery.

New signs

Nature Parks will erect new road signs featuring the bush stone-curlew, urging people to slow down for wildlife on our roads.

Dr Sutherland said the community could play a role in the success of the program, by slowing down when driving, particularly while it is darker when the birds are most active, and reporting any sightings on the Victorian bush stone-curlew project at www.inaturalist.org or by emailing community@penguins.org.au

Also keep dogs on-leash and cats indoors, and leave

fallen logs on the ground as they provide essential habitat for the birds.

The bush stone-curlew is a ground-dwelling, nocturnal bird, known for its resounding call.

Phillip Island once supported a wild population of bush stone curlews, however, there have been no records of them since the 1970s.

The trial – between the Nature Parks, Odonata Foundation and The Australian National University – is to improve the long-term viability of the bush stone-curlew in south-eastern Australia.

Donations to support the bush stone-curlew reintroduction on Phillip Island can be made at penguinfoundation.org.au/donate/appeals/bsc-appeal



Candlelight Vigil

Wednesday, May 7, 6.30pm - 8pm

Jetty Triangle, Cowes

Join Change for Sam to remember and honour those who have been killed by domestic and family violence. An evening of reflection including free barbeque, cake stall and live music. Funds raised on the night will go to Change for Sam.



Change for Sam.

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AUTUMN AUTHOR SERIES FEATURING LIA HILLS

Join us for this literary event with author Lia Hills. Lia is an award-winning novelist, poet and translator. Her novels have been nominated for numerous awards, including the Miles Franklin and the NZ Book Awards and her beautiful novel, *The Desert Knows Her Name*, was released to rave reviews.

Friday 2nd May, 12.30 - 3.00pm
Phillip Island Winery.

Ticket includes entry, two course meal and Q&A session with Lia. Drinks can be purchased at the venue.

Tickets: \$48.00. Online purchase only at TryBooking, www.trybooking.com/DASZQ



On a hot October afternoon, a girl walks barefoot out of the Wimmera desert, near the small town of Gatyekarr. The arrival of the mysterious 'desert girl' unsettles the community and old tensions erupt. The longer the girl stays silent, the more volatile the town becomes. Who is she and what does her presence mean?

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i island GUIDE



Map of Phillip Island showing various locations and activities. Numbered locations 1-20 correspond to the surrounding advertisements.

VENTNOR RD, **PHILLIP RD**, **BACK BEACH RD**, **PHILLIP ISLAND RD**, **VENTNOR**, **Wimbledon Heights**, **Smith Beach**, **Sunderland Bay**, **Surf Beach**, **Surfies Point**, **Cape Woolamai**, **Newhaven**, **San Remo**, **Churchill Island**.

THE NOBBIES CENTER, **PENGUIN PARADE**, **FUR SEALS**, **WHALE MIGRATION**, **GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT**, **COLES**, **Woolamai**, **Forrest Caves**, **The Colonnades**, **Seal Rock**, **Black Rock**, **Kitty Miller Bay**, **Berries Beach**, **Pyramid Rock**, **Swan Lake**, **Conservation Hill Reserve**, **Rhyll Wetland & Bird Sanctuary**, **Oswin Roberts Reserve**, **Koala Conservation Reserve**, **Eastern Barred Bandicoot**, **Pelican Feeding**.

SUMMERSALT
Wonthaggi

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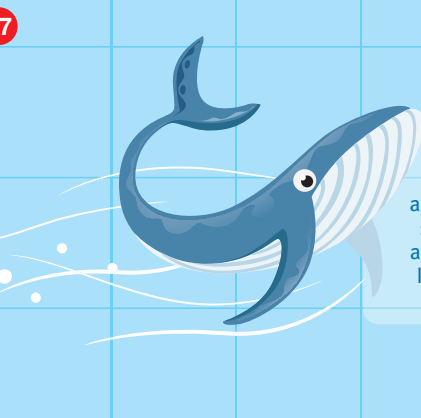


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Photo courtesy of Coast Magazine.


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PICAL launches Term two course guide

COMMUNITY

Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) is excited to announce the launch of its term two course guide. The guide offers a diverse range of programs designed to support life-long learning, skill development and community connection.

The course guide includes job ready courses with a focus on practical skills and industry standards; hands-on workshops to develop and refine practical skills while also providing social interaction; as well as wellbeing programs that connect individuals and help them thrive.

Term two highlights include:

- Chair yoga: A modified yoga practice performed while seated. Benefits include increased flexibility, strength and balance. Ideal for those with mobility issues or anyone seeking a gentle approach to yoga.
- Italian and French cooking classes: Learn Italian and French cooking secrets with chef Tony Goodlet. Cook quality food then enjoy together as you discuss the meal.



Trainer Melanie Beynon leads chair yoga at PICAL, one of the courses on offer this term. Class enrolments for term two are now open.

- Fix it café: An on-the-spot service where individuals can join in the fix and develop handyperson skills. Ideal for sewing machine, furniture, bike repairs and more; as well as assembling flatpacks.
- Support groups including a carers support group that aims to provide a positive, understanding atmosphere with an emphasis on wellbeing and education.

The term two course guide shows how PICAL continues to provide accessible and engaging learning opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds.

"We're proud of what our

term two course guide has to offer. Our groups such as the women's walking and craft groups are ideal for those who want to do what they love while connecting with other like-minded people," says PICAL Centre Manager David Rooks.

"Whether you're looking to build new skills like learning how to use Canva, connect with like-minded people or simply want to try something new, our term two course guide is for you."

Enrolments are now open and places are filling fast. To explore a full range of courses and secure your spot visit www.pical.org.au or follow PICAL on Facebook.



Celebrate World Labyrinth Day on May 3, at the San Remo Labyrinth from 12.30pm until 3pm.

"Walk as One" on Labyrinth Day

COMMUNITY

To celebrate World Labyrinth Day, a special "Walk as One" event is being held on Saturday May 3, at the San Remo Labyrinth.

Organisers invite the community to join in and "participate in creating a unified energetic rolling wave of peace that continuously flows from one time zone to the next around the world".

The walk runs from 12.30pm until 3pm and will be facilitated by Australian Labyrinth Network Inc. members

Joanne Cashman and Jo Johnson.

Joanne, a Veriditas-trained labyrinth facilitator, said she will introduce participants "to a simple technique of mind-heart-emotion balance that can be life-changing".

"It can also be inspirational and transformative when walking with a specific intention," Joanne said.

"Each person will be able to experience a soundscape from the Tibetan Singing Bowl before entering the labyrinth path, then the sounds of the natural world will ac-

company the walkers for the remainder of their walk."

This is a free, family-friendly event. BYO chair.

Location directions: Drive down Back Beach Road, San Remo, then continue on the unmade road, past the Lions Children's Park and Picnic Ground, then drive along the unmade section. The Labyrinth is on the right, alongside a row of Cypress Trees. Car parking is available.

For further information contact Joanne Cashman on 0417 137 369 or Jo Johnson on 0414 329 579.

GIG GUIDE

EASTER WEEKEND

18/4 JASON RESCH - 8PM

19/4 DJ VAN MIERT - 8PM

20/4 THE LAING BROTHERS - 5PM

26/4 SADDLE UP COUNTRY MUSIC ROADSHOW - 9PM \$25+BF

27/04 NO PROMISES - 5PM

2/5 MARK HOWARD - 8PM

20/09 FRENZAL RHOMB 'A MAN'S (STILL) NOT A CAMEL' 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR - 9PM \$53+BF

PLUS:

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SUN 30/3 SARAH BLASKO

April

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SAT 5/4 BATHING IN THE CREEK FESTIVAL
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SUN 6/4 DOG TRUMPET w/ JOHNNY GOES TO CHURCH
FRI 11/4 HUSSY HICKS
FRI 18/4 ED KUEPPER
SAT 19/4 PETER BAIRD ALBUM LAUNCH
FRI 25/4 SHAUN KIRK
SAT 26/4 MORELAND CITY SOUL REVUE
SUN 27/4 MESS ESQUE

May

FRI 2/5 EL ROLLO
SUN 4/5 KATHLEEN HALLORAN & BAND
FRI 9/5 THE NASH
SAT 17/5 HENRY WAGONS 'STORIES FROM THE ROAD' TOUR

June

SUN 1/6 FROM ST KILDA TO THE CREEK FEATURING
DELSINKI & THE QUIET COACHMEN &
BROOKE TAYLOR & THE POISON SPITTING GIN QUEENS
FRI 13/6 VAN WALKER & BAND
SAT 14/6 MEL PARSONS (NZ)

ARCHIES CREEK HOTEL SHOWS BEING ADDED DAILY SO BEST TO CHECK THE WEBSITE!!!
89-91 ARCHIES CREEK ROAD / WWW.ARCHIESCREEKARTS.COM.AU

Stroke support group starts in Cowes

HEALTH

A new peer support stroke group will meet at PICAL every fortnight from April 16.

The group is the initiative of the Stroke Association of Victoria and is for survivors, carers and anyone interested in the health issue to meet to discuss topics from NDIS to mobility aids.

Association chair Julian Williams said the Cowes group would meet every fortnight at 11.30am at PICAL's Warley Street headquarters and every alternate week at Wont-haggi's football and netball club.

"In the first eight to 12 weeks after a stroke, a patient will be looked after by health services, but we are a long-term support network that helps survivors after they're sent home," Julian said.

"That's the time when there can be mental health challenges, including even for partners."

Cowes resident Stephen Fullarton had a stroke while out surfing nearly four years ago and he said he speaks to stroke survivors around the island who need support.

"There's a huge need



From left: Stroke Association of Victoria former chair Colin Scott, PICAL manager David Rooks and Cowes resident and stroke survivor Stephen Fullarton.

here. I don't know how many people on the island have had a stroke but a lot I know," Stephen said.

"The first thing people want to do is talk about it. They have access to the physical support side, but what they really need is support, to know what they're going through is not unusual."

Stephen said while he has resumed many activities including driving, his balance means he won't

return to the surf, and he lives with a perpetual background noise that sounds like road noise.

"I can't surf because of my balance but a lot of people reckon I never really could surf anyway," he quipped.

The Stroke Association of Victoria is a not-for-profit relying on donations and volunteers, details: www.strokeassociation.com.au/ or email info@strokeassociation.com.au



On Easter Sunday, April 20, Ladies Be Good is appearing at the Phillip Island Bowling Club from 2pm - 4.30pm, presented by the Phillip Island Jazz Club.

Ladies day at jazz club

MUSIC

On Easter Sunday, April 20, Ladies Be Good is appearing at the Phillip Island Bowling Club from 2pm - 4.30pm.

Presented by the Phillip Island Jazz Club, you can expect an afternoon of top entertainment.

Ladies be Good were formed in 2014, when a group of friends wanted to get together and perform. They wanted to be different from all the other bands playing, with a strong front line of ladies sharing beautiful music with lovely musical interpretations.

In their repertoire you'll hear some well-known jazz tunes, stunning vocals, interesting arrangements and talented musicians, combining youth and experience. They love what they do and have a whole lot of fun doing it.

Ladies be Good have performed at

Halls Gap Jazz Festival, Inverloch Jazz Festival, The Basin Music Festival, Hysteria Jazz Lounge and private parties.

The group consists of Jan Blake on vocals, Ann Craig on flutes and percussion, Ashley Thomas on saxophones and clarinet, Lisette Payet on piano and vocals, Holly Brick on bass and Sue Haylock on drums. As their name suggests, this group have promised to be good ... so come along and find out.

"They are lots of fun. It is also their first time playing at the Phillip Island Jazz Club," a club spokesperson said.

"We recommend that you book early if possible, which gives us an idea on how many tables and chairs we need for the day."

The Phillip Island Bowling Club is located at 40 Dunsmore Road, Cowes.

For more information and to book, please contact Jill Boyce on 0417 416 300.

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Bold flavours, local heart

If you haven't heard of Pickle My Chili, you're in for a treat. Bold, sugar-free fermented chilli sauces. Award-winning hot honey. Even a spicy cocktail mix. Nevis Zorzut, the founder of this fiery local brand, is spicing up the region with creations as unique as they are delicious.

Based in Cape Woolamai, Nevis' products are making waves in the local food scene. Her sauces and hot honey are featured at local hotspots like the San Remo Butcher, Bang Bang Bar, and The Local. Whether you're a spice enthusiast or just enjoy a flavour-packed sauce, Pickle My Chili has something for everyone.

Like many of us, Nevis had time to reflect during the first Covid lockdown in 2020. But while others were perfecting their sourdough, she was crafting the ultimate chilli sauce.

One rainy day, she had what she calls a "moment of clarity" where she realised that to her the most important things in life were connections and food. And so, Pickle My Chili was born. The name came to her instantly – a playful twist that reflects her love for pickling and fermenting, with a cheeky nod to her spirited personality.

"I wanted a name that would spark conversations and make people smile," she says.

For Nevis, fermenting is more than a craft – it's in her blood. On her father's side, she comes from a long line of winemakers who still maintain their family cellars and produce wine

using traditional methods. Her mother's side is rich with traditions of preserving food – curing prosciutto, pickling olives, and harvesting from the garden.

Much of her process came from memory and intuition, rooted in the traditions she grew up with. For Nevis, making sauces isn't just cooking – it's an art. "I see my sauces as art pieces. Instead of being on a gallery wall, they're on the shelf."

Each jar of Pickle My Chili tells a story. Nevis's sauces are named after her family members, reflecting their unique personalities:

- **Dominica:** A fiery Carolina Reaper sauce named after Nevis's strong-willed mum. "Mum raised four kids, so she gets the hottest pepper!"
- **Vanessa:** A milder cayenne sauce with a herbaceous twist, reflecting her sweet and gentle sister.
- **Linda:** A bold mix of hibiscus and habanero peppers, representing another sister's vibrant spirit.
- **Julia:** A versatile sauce available in three flavours, showcasing Julia's multifaceted personality as a mother, CPA, and partygoer.
- **Anton:** Not a family member, but an unforgettable "hot ex-honey." This award-winning creation, a gold medallist at the Sydney Fine Food Awards, pairs perfectly with local cheeses like those from Bassine Specialty Cheeses or a decadent baked brie.



Pickle My Chili founder Nevis Zorzut, is spicing up the region with creations as unique as they are delicious.

Her products can be found at local retailers, including The Corner Dispensary, and The Store, Ventnor. Local businesses also love using Pickle My Chili. The San Remo Butcher incorporates her Dominica sauce into their spicy sausages, while Bang Bang Bar uses her spicy cocktail mix behind the bar.

Pick up a jar at your local market or retailer, and when you do, you're not just supporting a local business – you're celebrating the flavours and community of Phillip Island.

picklemychili.com.au
/ Sponsored article /



Pick up a jar of Pickle My Chili at your local market or retailer, and when you do, you're not just supporting a local business – you're celebrating the flavours and community of Phillip Island.

Climate action rally

EVENT

Local students have organised "Act on Climate", a rally on April 26 at the San Remo foreshore at 2pm.

Organiser Joey Thompson said the rally is to "raise awareness about the climate crisis before the election."

"It's so important, now more than ever, that we take strong

action on climate."

"Act on Climate" is part of an ongoing series of events under the "Move Beyond Coal" banner, a community movement to stop coal expansion and phase out coal by 2030.

The event runs from 2pm to 4pm and you can register your attendance online at: www.movebeyondcoal.com/act_on_climate_rally



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Perfect time for Shorts

FILM

The third Bass Coast Shorts film festival returns on the Anzac Day weekend, showcasing the talents of local film makers. There are four separate screenings at Berninneit, as well as at the Archies Creek Hotel.

Bass Coast Shorts is a competition-based festival with submissions coming in throughout the year and awards in three categories: schools (under 18), local (South Gippsland), and open (everywhere else).

The program will feature award-winning national and international films and animations.

As part of the festival there will also be forums and Q&As with filmmakers and screen industry guests.

There are 12 different categories for the short films, including local, under 18, documentary, animation, music video, coastal life, First Nations stories and emerging talent.

Screening times are:

- Thursday April 24,

7pm-9pm (Sneak peek), Archies Creek Hotel

- Friday April 25, 6pm-9pm (Opening night screening), Berninneit
- Saturday April 26, 2pm-4pm (Screening), 4.30pm-5.30pm (Free festival forum), and 6.30pm-9.30pm (Screening and awards), Berninneit
- Sunday April 27, 3pm-5pm (Closing screening), Archies Creek Hotel

Each screening is a different program of short films showcasing selected entries. The festival forum is free and features Q&A with an industry guest. All welcome.

Tickets are \$20 per session (\$14 concession) online from the Bass Coast Shire Council website, Trybooking or from the box office (Berninneit sessions) or at the door (Archies Creek Hotel sessions)

Tickets: www.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/bass-coast-shorts-film-festival-2025-berninneit
www.asff.net.au/bass-coast-shorts

ASPIR Easter Exhibition returns

ART

The Arts Society Phillip Island Region (ASPIR) will hold their Annual Easter Exhibition at Berninneit, the Cowes Cultural Centre.

The membership has grown considerably since ASPIR found a home at the Creative Arts Station. This Exhibition will be the first time for many to exhibit.

This much anticipated event will showcase the varied works of ASPIR members across all ages and is open daily from Friday April 18 until Tuesday April 22. The Judge is Sue Jarvis, artist, teacher, photographer, and creator of the rare botanic garden at Blackwood Lane in Gembrook.

On Thursday evening, from 7pm, Sue will be announcing the award winners. All are invited to join in the Opening and Award celebrations at Berninneit.

The exhibition has many interesting categories.

The Best in Show, the major Award of \$1000, is sponsored this year by ASPIR artists and members.

The Sustainable Environment Award is provided by Westernport Water through their Community Support Program. This asks our artists to illustrate, to challenge, and to engage the viewer with the environmental issues that confront our community. The Island Sports Clinic is giving



The Arts Society Phillip Island Region (ASPIR) is holding its Annual Easter Exhibition at Berninneit from April 18 to 22, open daily.

ing the Highly Commended Award in this Category.

Best Body of Work Award gives the winner a week's solo exhibition at Clay & Co. Studio. This is an exciting initiative which will greatly assist the artist on their creative journey. Local Artist, Di Spencer, is contributing funds to help the winner prepare for the exhibition.

The Painting Award, in any medium, is again sponsored by the Phillip Island RSL. The Highly Commended Award has been donated in memory of artist Rita Hatch.

The Textile and/or Wearable Art Category

gives an opportunity for the ASPIR Textile Artists to share their extraordinary creations with a wider audience. This award is co-sponsored by Phillip Island Helicopters and Turn the Page Bookshop. The Highly Commended Award is appropriately provided by Ladasha Jewellery of Cowes.

The Other Medium Award gives the Judge a chance to select a unique piece of art that does not fit into the general categories. Chemmart Cowes has supported this award over many years. Ear Mate is providing the Highly Com-

mended Award.

We at ASPIR commend all these sponsors to you as their support makes all the difference and ensures a successful event.

Come and see this exciting exhibition, make your own selection, and vote in the People's Choice Award. The artist who has submitted the most popular work receives a \$250 voucher for art materials from Senior Art Supplies.

As all works are for sale, it is a great place to acquire a wonderful piece to take home and enjoy.

www.aspir.org.au/

/Sponsored article /



BASS COAST SHORTS

Anzac Weekend film festival showcasing award-winning short films and animations.

Screenings 24-27 April


Berninneit Cultural Centre.
91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes 3922

Archie's Creek Hotel.
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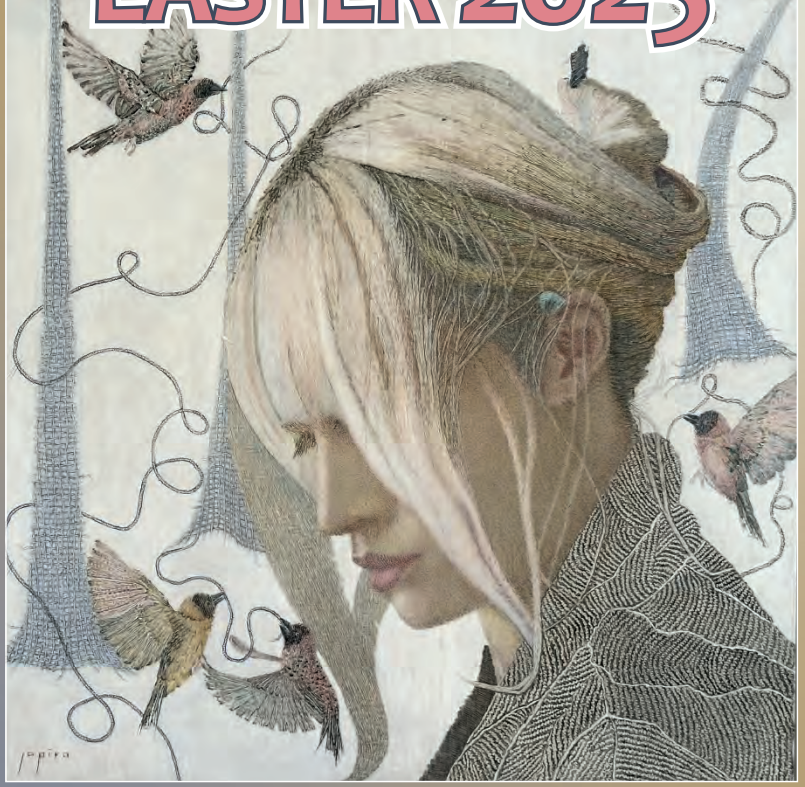





ART EXHIBITION

EASTER 2025




Opening Thurs 17th April, 7pm
18th - 21st April, 10am-4pm
22nd April, 10am-1pm


Berninneit
 91-97 Thompson Ave, Cowes
 Artwork courtesy of Joe LaPira




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SENIOR ART SUPPLIES

Switch off for shearwater chicks

WILDLIFE

Phillip Island Nature Parks has called on the community to act as citizen conservationists to help protect the thousands of short-tailed shearwater chicks about to embark on their annual 15,000km migration north.

This year, the Nature Parks has partnered with Bass Coast Shire Council, Phillip Island Conservation Society, WE-EF Lighting, AusNet and the Victorian State Government – Department of Transport and Planning to stage the annual campaign, Dark Sky So Shearwaters Fly – asking locals to switch off outdoor lights from April 19 to May 10.

The collective effort, which requires residents and businesses in the birds' flight path to turn off their outdoor lights at night, will give the chicks the best chance of reaching their destination in the seas around Alaska.

Bright light sources can be a deadly distraction for the young seabirds as they learn to fly. They are drawn to street lighting and land on roads, becoming a risk to themselves and to motorists, particularly on the San Remo bridge.

Phillip Island Nature Parks Senior Scientist Dr Duncan Sutherland said the more supporters we have will ultimately safeguard more chicks.

"Spreading the word and turning off as many outdoor lights as we can at this time of year provides shearwater chicks the best chance of a safe depart-



Bright light sources can be a deadly distraction for the young seabirds as they learn to fly. They are drawn to street lighting and land on roads, becoming a risk to themselves and to motorists.

ture," Dr Sutherland said.

"As they learn to fly, they can become disorientated by bright lights. If they land on roads, they can be hit by cars and become a hazard to road users as well."

In an effort to raise awareness and educate industry, a workshop about dark sky conservation, short-tailed shearwater research and wildlife sensi-

tive lighting is included in the campaign this year.

Phillip Island Nature Parks, Community Impact Manager, Kate Adams said "the community has been a great support to the campaign over the past two years and now we want to work with energy providers, local councils, landscape architects, developers and builders

and sporting clubs to encourage them to consider using wildlife sensitive lighting to reduce light pollution on Phillip Island".

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead said the council was proud to partner in the 2025 shearwater program to ensure the wellbeing of the birds and the safety of the community.

"This initiative highlights the

power of collaboration in protecting our local wildlife," Cr Halstead said.

"We are grateful to the businesses and residents who participate in this initiative: switching off lights, slowing down on the roads, and staying informed to help safeguard the incredible short tailed shearwaters during their migration. Your efforts make a real difference in ensuring these remarkable birds can complete their journey safely."

Elise Blight, Head of Marketing, WE-EF Lighting Australia/New Zealand, said raising awareness about responsible outdoor lighting was vital to protect precious wildlife.

"By participating in this year's events, we continue our commitment to promoting best practices that balance human needs with conservation efforts," she said.

"Campaigns like Dark Sky So Shearwaters Fly play a crucial role in empowering communities to make more informed lighting choices – decisions that not only support wildlife but also help minimise light pollution and its impact on ecosystems."

Beth Liley, Executive Director (Gippsland), Department of Transport and Planning said: "While our priority is the safety of everyone travelling on our roads, we also want to do what we can to protect our precious wildlife – which is why we are assisting Phillip Island Nature Parks in their efforts to help shearwater migration."

STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

As we enjoy more beautiful weather, the Bass Coast region is calling all beachgoers to come and enjoy the sandy shores safely.

To help you stay safe, we encourage everyone to **download the Surf Life Saving Australia, Beachsafe app** and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website (lsv.com.au) and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



beachsafe.org.au

Always swim at patrolled locations whenever possible, and in hot weather, take steps to protect yourself and others by keeping cool, staying hydrated, planning ahead and checking in with others.

We want everyone to keep safe when exploring the amazing coastline of Bass Coast.





Advertising Feature



This luxurious residence offers a subtle blend of contemporary living, serene coastal existence, and breathtaking water views.



The upper-level wrap-around balcony captures stunning views of Westernport Bay over beautifully landscaped gardens.



With an open-plan living area, complete with games room, bar and grand piano, sophisticated entertaining is a breeze.

A luxurious residence awaits

Introducing an exceptional architectural design at 8 Hilltop Crescent, Rhyll.

A luxurious residence offering a subtle blend of contemporary living, serene coastal existence, and breathtaking water views. This five-bedroom with study home is perfectly positioned in a tranquil, highly sought location, just a short stroll from the Rhyll foreshore with its waterfront cafes, and local general store. Central Cowes is only minutes away.

Spread over two expansive

levels, this beautifully crafted home is designed to maximise natural light and offer a seamless indoor-outdoor flow. With an open-plan living area, complete with games room, bar and grand piano, sophisticated entertaining is a breeze.

The gourmet entertainer's kitchen is a culinary dream, featuring luxurious dakota granite benchtops and splash back, two high quality ovens, two Miele dishwashers, a large island bench, and a spacious walk-in pantry, providing everything needed for

hosting family and friends. Each of the five spacious bedrooms includes its own ensuite, with three featuring spa baths, offering the utmost in privacy and luxury.

The master suite is a private sanctuary with a large walk-in robe, and the upper-level wrap-around balcony captures stunning views of Westernport Bay over beautifully landscaped gardens.

For added convenience, this impressive home includes a lift from entrance living to the upper living area. With split systems in every room, ducted heating and cooling, solar hot water, and 18 solar panels, the property combines clever design with energy-efficient living.

Rhyll offers a healthy coastal lifestyle, where you can enjoy yoga on the beach, bike rides along the picturesque foreshore, or a relaxing afternoon fishing off the pier. The popular My Seaside Café, and outstanding fish and chips can be enjoyed where the beauty of this coastal village is on full display. Just down the road, the Purple Hen

winery is ideal to spend a lazy summer afternoon.

Whether as a permanent residence or a holiday retreat, this property delivers a prime Airbnb investment opportunity, offering excellent rental returns. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure a truly stunning home in one of Rhyll's most desirable locations.

Inspection is a must – prepare to be impressed!

Address: 8 Hilltop Crescent, Rhyll.

Contact: Garth Lisle Property Consultant, 03 5678 5878.



1 Viking Ave San Remo
Price: \$1,195,000
3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / 3 cars

Elevated for spectacular expansive water views across to Cape Woolamai, this bright and beautiful three-bedroom home is positioned ideally to enjoy all aspects of a coastal lifestyle.



44A Genista St San Remo
Price: \$1,075,000
3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / 3 cars

Overlooking Westernport Bay, this contemporary, three-bedroom residence exceeds expectations with its solid timber flooring, astute design, and serene blue vista. Set privately behind stylish gates, impeccable gardens and sealed driveway, the beachside residence offers chic, low maintenance living just a walk to all that San Remo has to offer.



8B Elevation Cres San Remo
Price: \$985,000 - \$1,035,000
5 bedrooms / 2 bathroom / 3 cars

This superb, as new five-bedroom home offers an abundance of living at the highest quality. Private, secure, and impeccably presented throughout, the modern property awaits those searching for a low-maintenance seaside lifestyle within the spoils of luxurious contemporary living.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SELLING AGENTS:

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pint size
PROPERTY STYLING

Island
HOME

Advertising Feature

YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE



There are two designer kitchens and multiple living zones in this extraordinary beachfront penthouse in Rhyll.



This beachfront penthouse is a sprawling, dual-level masterpiece with jaw-dropping bay views and unparalleled versatility.

Coastal opulence reimaged

In a market where location and lifestyle reign supreme, a rare jewel has emerged – one that not only checks every box for luxury living but sets a whole new benchmark. Welcome to the most extraordinary beachfront penthouse on Phillip Island: a sprawling, dual-level masterpiece with jaw-dropping bay views and unparalleled versatility.

Spanning over 500sqm of lavish living space, this four-bedroom, three-bathroom residence is more than just a home – it's a

lifestyle statement. Every square metre of this exclusive penthouse has been carefully curated to deliver the ultimate coastal experience. From sunrise coffees on the expansive balconies to sunset soaks in spa baths, the attention to comfort, elegance, and detail is truly second to none.

The dual-key layout offers the kind of flexibility that modern buyers dream of – two designer kitchens, multiple living zones, and a home office mean this property adapts perfectly

to large families, remote workers, or savvy investors eyeing premium Airbnb potential. With separate entrances and the ability to function as two private dwellings, the investment appeal is clear.

Luxury continues in the fine finishes – plush carpets, high-end appliances, and a private sauna elevate daily living to a five-star experience. Add in seven split systems, electric heating, and a powerful 10.5kW solar system with battery readiness,

and you've got year-round comfort with energy-efficient peace of mind.

The location? Simply unbeatable. Above a café and hairdresser, footsteps from the jetty and new boat launch, and only minutes to Cowes, this penthouse isn't just a property – it's the heart of the island's vibrant coastal lifestyle.

With a price guide of \$1,220,000-\$1,280,000, low body corporate fees, and no expense spared, this is more than just a

luxury home. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure one of the largest and most versatile penthouses Phillip Island has ever seen.

Whether you're seeking the ultimate seaside sanctuary or a high-yielding coastal investment, this penthouse delivers in every way.

Address: 5/9 Beach Road, Rhyll.
Price: \$1.22million – \$1.28million
Contact: Marius Tekin at Flynn Estate Agents, 0425 853 055.



Luxurious Beachfront Penthouse

5/9 Beach Road, Rhyll

- Unparalleled Bay Views
- Dual Key Living opportunity with endless possibilities
- 2 Quality Kitchens
- 4 bedrooms with robes
- 3 Bathrooms with spa baths
- 3 living zones plus 2 balconies and additional courtyard
- 7 split systems
- Sauna
- Solar Panels
- Lock Up Garage plus off street parking
- Over 500sqm of living

\$1,220,000- \$1,280,000
OFI - Thurs 17th 12.00- 1.00pm
Contact Marius Tekin
0425 853 055

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\$750,000- \$790,000
OFI - Sat 19th April 1 - 1-30pm
Mon 21st April 1 - 1-30pm
Contact Marius Tekin
0425 853 055

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Island HOME

YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE

Advertising Feature



Generous entertainment decks on both levels capture the essence of outdoor living, in this this 9-Star energy-efficient luxury townhouse.



The galley-style kitchen is a culinary dream, featuring an induction stove, electric oven, dishwasher, and chic vinyl wrap finishes.

A sustainable slice of coastal luxury

In an era where sustainability meets sophistication, one Ventnor property stands out as the shining star of coastal real estate. Nestled just 500 metres from the serene shoreline and protected coastal reserve, this 9-Star energy-efficient luxury townhouse is a rare gem that redefines modern coastal living.

Only two years young, this meticulously crafted residence blends timeless coastal style with cutting-edge efficiency.

From its hybrid flooring to plush carpets in the bedrooms, every element has been designed with comfort and elegance in mind.

The home offers a unique versatility with a self-contained studio, ideal for rental income, guest stays, or a home-based business. Three additional bedrooms with built-in robes provide ample space for family or visitors, supported by two beautifully appointed bathrooms.

Step into the heart of the home

and be welcomed by open-plan living and dining bathed in natural light. The galley-style kitchen is a culinary dream, featuring an induction stove, electric oven, dishwasher, and chic vinyl wrap finishes. Stay cozy with an electric fireplace in winter and enjoy cool comfort in summer thanks to two efficient split-system units.

Beyond style, it's the smart home touches that elevate this property: fibre optics, LED lighting, and double-glazed

windows offer convenience and sustainability in one. Generous entertainment decks on both levels capture the essence of outdoor living, while high ceilings (2590mm on the ground floor and 2500mm above) enhance the sense of openness.

The secure, tree-lined yard promises peace and privacy, with the bonus of sweeping bay views. Practicality is never overlooked, with space allocated for a future carport, rear access, and

even room for a boat or caravan.

This coastal haven is more than a home – it's a lifestyle investment. With its unbeatable location, eco-conscious design, and luxurious finishes, it won't be available for long.

Coastal living has never looked so smart – or so stylish.

Address: 5A Gurnard Avenue, Ventnor

Price: \$750,000 – \$790,000

Contact: Marius Tekin from Flynn Estate Agents to arrange a private inspection on 0425 853 055



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CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130



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CONTACT AGENT

Experience the pinnacle of coastal living with this stunning 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom penthouse in the heart of Cowes. Perfectly positioned on the Foreshore, this exclusive residence boasts breathtaking water views and an expansive entertainers balcony, ideal for soaking in the seaside ambience. Directly opposite the Cowes beach and Park. Spacious open-plan living with panoramic water views. Huge balcony perfect for entertaining or relaxing. Modern kitchen with premium appliances and stone bench tops. Master suite with ensuite.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130



LUXURY FORESHORE PENTHOUSE IN COWES

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

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

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034



LOCATION/VIEWS/ LOW MAINTENANCE

5 FRANKLYN STREET, RHYLL
\$665,000 TO \$699,000

Nestled in the quiet setting of Ryll is the perfect example of how low maintenance property should be with privacy and security, the bright and open plan living area is ideal for entertaining year round, let the stress of Melbourne wash away as you decide if you want to take a long walk on the Rhyll foreshore. With excellent boat launching facilities another feature to take advantage of. This location is the ideal base to explore all

Phillip Island has to offer.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034



QUIET/LOW MAINTENANCE

127 MCKENZIE ROAD, COWES
\$670,000 TO \$699,000

This bright and spacious home has been freshly painted and new carpets throughout, with an easy walk to Cowes Foreshore an added feature. The open plan living area flows to a north facing court yard which is fully fenced. Created with low maintenance in mind. With excellent rental potential another option.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034



LOW MAINTENANCE, BEACH ACCESS

20A SETTLEMENT ROAD, SILVERLEAVES
\$1,750,000 TO \$1,850,000

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

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130



SECLUDED RESORT STYLE LIVING



A warm wish this Easter

As we approach the Easter long weekend, it's a time for reflection, renewal, and, most importantly, giving.

For many, the holiday marks a moment to spend time with loved ones, enjoy the holiday festivities, or simply relax. But for others, the colder months bring added challenges, especially for those in our community who may not have the warmth or comforts we often take for granted.

This year, OBrien Real Estate is taking a step to make a difference through their inaugural Easter coat drive, inviting locals and tourists to donate pre-loved coats, jackets, blankets, sleeping bags and winter accessories to be distributed to people in need across the community.

The initiative provides an opportunity for individuals to clear out their closets, pass on pre-loved items, and know that their donations will go directly to local charities and individuals who need them most. This simple yet powerful act of kindness has the potential to make a significant impact, especially as the colder months continue to pose challenges for vulnerable members of our society.

The drive is to be conducted across OBrien Real Estate's net-

work of offices, located in Cowes, San Remo and Wonthaggi, which will serve as collection points for donations from now until May 1.

With multiple convenient drop-off locations, donating is as easy as clearing out your closet and dropping into your nearest OBrien office. Whether it's a coat you no longer wear or an extra scarf or pair of gloves, your donation will go directly to those in need, spreading warmth and comfort during a time when it is most needed.

In a world where it's easy to get caught up in the rush of everyday life, OBrien Real Estate's coat drive serves as a reminder that a business can play an active and positive role in addressing the needs of its community and that small acts of kindness can have a far-reaching impact.

Donating a coat may seem like a small gesture, but for someone in need, it can be a lifeline – a way to stay warm during those tough winter months.

So, as we prepare to celebrate Easter with family and friends, let's remember that there are many in our communities who could use a little extra warmth. Let's make this Easter about more than just chocolate eggs – let's make it about spreading warmth and kindness.



OBrien Real Estate has launched their inaugural Easter coat drive, inviting locals and tourists to donate pre-loved coats, jackets, blankets, sleeping bags and winter accessories to be distributed to people in need across the community. You can drop donations to your nearest OBrien office.

OBrien Real Estate

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Christie Spargo
0410 111 557

Donation Drive

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When:
Donations will be accepted from **April 14th** until **May 1st**

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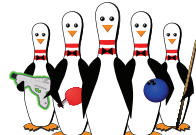


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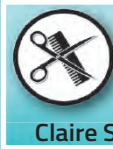


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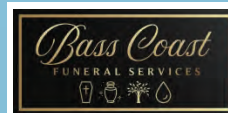


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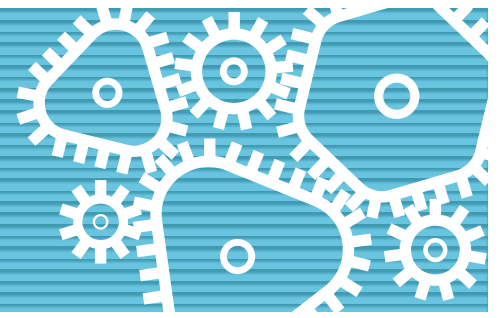
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Mountain bike charade

Russell Broadbent, you might recall that we asked you to a meeting in Wonthaggi about two years ago. Several serious interested people wanted to establish mountain bike trails in the Bass Coast. The meeting you attended was also attended by senior representatives of Parks Victoria.

Parks Victoria declined to support us and you did not object; you said nothing. After the meeting you gave us some simplistic suggestion to promote our cause on the internet. You didn't really assist us in establishing any mountain bike trails on the Bass Coast.

Mr Broadbent's support of Bass Coast is questionable. His support of the Latrobe Valley mountain bike trails is unquestionable, as the valley has received a great deal of government support and funding for fantastic trails, but Bass Coast hasn't had a look in.

So, Mr Broadbent. What will you do moving into the future to establish mountain bike trails on

the Bass Coast?

Why should I promote you to my mountain bike community?

Dr Todd Jacobson, Rhyll

Zoo view

The Advertiser (March 26, page 5) carried an article which raises questions.

The director of Burwood's 'Reptile Encounters' business, Josh Cox, has been given a government grant to plan a 100-acre "traditional" zoo on Phillip Island, "with a mix of exotic and native animals, even giraffes". According to Josh, Phillip Island was the ideal location because it's, "where people go for eco-tourism".

While zoos are much loved places for learning about the animal kingdom, there are good reasons to avoid putting this one on Phillip Island where it's all about wild nature and local fauna "doing-their-own-thing", not enclosed and on display. Why confuse what makes the island special – the "natural attraction"? Eco-tourism is not the

same as a zoo experience.

Josh's zoo will be twice the size of Melbourne's and bigger than Healesville Sanctuary meaning the permanent loss of 100-acres of farmland to buildings, enclosures, carpark and urban infrastructure, transforming rural land and exacerbating traffic problems. Why must every tourism development be focussed onto an already over-stretched small island, just 11 per cent of the shire?

With Josh's undoubted drive, a new zoo would be just as successful and more accessible located away from Phillip Island on the less congested mainland. Council needs a whole-of-shire tourism strategy to ensure the visitation load is shared for the economic benefit of other communities, and Phillip Island's diminishing landscape, protected.

Josh implies his zoo needs the island. In our view, the island does not need his zoo.

Greg Johnson, President, Phillip Island Conservation Society

Dust concerns

In 2005-2007 roads in Koola Estate, Cowes, were upgraded from a gravel/sand surface to bitumen. This was completed by council as a more cost-effective solution to continual grading and repair of the previous surface. Council now call these works bitumen dust suppression, not a properly constructed sealed road. Ratepayers or residents at this time were not consulted for these works, nor given the opportunity to contribute to the cost and the improvement to the roads to make them a council defined, sealed bitumen road, which would be maintained by council by the way of rates.

Merely six years later in 2013, council obviously realising the bitumen dust suppression was not up to standard, created a management strategy.

This management strategy has been created behind closed doors, with no consultation with affected residents. Worse still, residents were not notified at the time that this strategy was made, when it directly affected them. I only became aware of it after receiving a letter from council on March 24, 2025, that our bitumen roads were to be dug up and returned to gravel.

I think it is general knowledge that if roads are improved by way of kerb and channel, footpaths etc, residents contribute to those costs. But we all didn't know that we would have to contribute, by the way of a "Special Charge Scheme" just to repair or replace the current bitumen surface. I think the general public believe they pay rates for the current road surface to be maintained, repaired and replaced as required. This is especially so for residents who purchased or built their property after the roads received the bitumen surface.

The council should: 1. Immediately cancel the proposed works to return the bitumen to a gravel surface. 2. Apply to the Federal Government for funding under the Roads to Recovery program which is there to improve, repair or replace roads that have come to the end of their life. The council have previously used this scheme for other residential local streets.

I urge council to be transparent and work and consult with your ratepayers.

Darren Murphy, Cowes

Budget concerns

At the April 16 meeting our councillors are being asked to endorse the Draft 2025/26 Council Budget. This draft budget ignores the poor financial outlook facing the council.

The council's "working

capital position" is forecast to reduce dramatically from a positive \$17 million in 2025-26 to \$1.9 million (or 105 per cent) by June 2029, well below the Municipal Association of Victoria's minimum target of 120 per cent and only just above 100 per cent, the level at which the Victorian Auditor General considers there to be a financial sustainability risk.

The "asset renewal ratio" is also a critical indicator of a council's financial health. A ratio of 100 per cent or higher suggests that a council is renewing its assets at a rate equal to or greater than their depreciation, which is essential for maintaining future infrastructure quality and service delivery.

In 2023/24 the Council's ratio was 121 per cent, but by June 2029 it is forecast to decline to 66 per cent, well below the asset spend required.

The council is forecasting to run underlying deficits in every year until June 2029.

The waste management charge and employee numbers/costs are forecast to continue to rise in real terms.

This is unsustainable.

What can be done?

- The council notes in its current budget that it gets insignificant income from visitors. It needs to introduce a visitor parking fee to capture revenue to offset its significant costs driven by high levels of visitation
- The council must wind back its employee numbers to a sustainable level.
- The council must stop "nice to have" expenditure and do a "root and branch" review of where ratepayers money is being spent, and get back to basics.

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

We cannot afford to live beyond our means.

Jeff Floyd AM, Cowes

Council's skewed priorities

In late 2023 I attended the grand opening of the Berninnet Cultural and Community Centre – unofficially known as Bernie. The knees-up was open to the public. Quaffable wines were sipped and tasty morsels devoured. Speeches were short and engaging. A flamboyant local provided comedic interjections which prevented the intrusion of pomposity.

The smoking ceremony was disrupted when a rogue wind wickedly fanned the cauldron of smoking gum leaves. The crowd beat a hasty retreat from the billowing smoke but good will remained.

Order was restored and a fine time was had by all.

Fast forward to 2025 and Bernie still hasn't managed to authenticate its pedigree. Being a Passivhaus build, it requires compliance certification. High performance windows are a must; ditto specific energy-efficient standards for building construction and design.

Berninnet hasn't quite made the grade and further works are underway. Undisclosed sums of money are being flung at the problem. The blowout is rumoured to be over two million dollars and rising. However, apparently several not-for-profit community groups – including arts and sports clubs – simply can't afford to use Berninnet for events.

Meantime owners and renters living in modest homes on small streets are desperately fighting to stop the Bass Coast Shire Council tearing up their dust sealant (thin bitumen) and installing gravel.

Why does this unwanted "rehabilitation" matter?

It's a retrograde step, creating excessive dust which invades the homes and lungs of residents. Also, most streets have no footpaths and the sealant provides access for pedestrians. Gravel installation means there will be zero access for mobility scooters/wheelchairs, cyclists, the aged, caregivers wheeling prams and residents without cars.

In short, basic Human Rights legislation is being blatantly ignored.

The council is dismissing objections while offering expensive fixes for proper roads paid for by property owners' "contributions". Another option is for owners to pay in advance for the installation of new sealant.

Some questions:

Are the Bass Coast Shire Council's priorities skewed?

Should a Euro designed civic building be soaking up funding? Or would the money be spent on looking after all our citizens?

Lesley Truffle, Cowes

Editor's Note: At the March 2025 council meeting, CEO Greg Box again stated the cost for the continued work to achieve Passivhaus at Berninnet has been met by the company that constructed the building, McCorkell Construction.

Not so smart

Interesting that Smart Parking is still included at engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Is there anything more to be added?

Has it accomplished anything?

What criteria need to be met to get it removed and returned for credit via Ali Wastie? What a farce.

Bernie McComb, Cowes

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Rotary Club packs lifesaving birthing kits

COMMUNITY

The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo is making a powerful contribution to global maternal health by packing vital Birthing Kits destined for African communities, where clean and safe childbirth supplies can be the difference between life and death.

The initiative is part of a global humanitarian effort aimed at reducing the staggering toll of preventable deaths caused by sepsis during childbirth. Every year, an estimated 300,000 women and 2.4 million newborns die from infections related to unclean birth conditions. These heartbreaking statistics inspired the club to take action.

This month, club members came together to pack hundreds of Birthing Kits – simple yet lifesaving parcels that provide the basic tools needed for a clean delivery.

What's in a Birthing Kit?

Each kit contains six essential items: a plastic sheet, soap, sterile gloves, gauze, a sterile blade, and cord ties. Designed to meet World Health Organisation guidelines, these basic supplies significantly reduce the risk of infection for both mother and baby during childbirth.



Cheryl Harvey, Stevie O'Reilly and Terri Robin from Rotary pack vital Birthing Kits – simple yet lifesaving parcels that provide the basic tools needed for a clean delivery – which will be sent to communities in Africa.

“These kits are incredibly simple, but in the hands of a midwife or birthing attendant in a remote village, they can be lifesaving,” said Club President Gea Lovell.

“They give women a cleaner, safer birthing experience – something we take for granted in Australia.”

The Rotary Club's packing day was held in partnership with the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia and is part of Rotary International's broader commitment to maternal and child health.

The packed kits will be sent to trusted field partners in African countries, where they'll be distributed to expectant mothers and

healthcare workers in areas with little or no access to medical facilities.

“For us, it's a few hours of working together. For women in rural Africa, it could mean surviving childbirth,” said Club International Chair, Stevie O'Reilly, who organised the event.

“It's humbling to know that something so small can have such a big impact.”

As the boxes of Birthing Kits are prepared for shipment, they carry more than sterile supplies – they carry hope, dignity, and a chance at life for mothers and babies who deserve the same safe start as anyone, anywhere.



Newhaven College Year 1 students Beatrix Jones, Mila O'Connor and Kaleb Keene enjoyed the Easter celebrations. More photos at pisra.com.au/education

Easter Bunny bounds into school

EDUCATION

The Newhaven College Junior School welcomed a surprise visit from a special guest on the last day of term.

The Easter Bunny visited every classroom, gave out Easter eggs and received an appreciative high five or hug from every single student. Head of Junior School, Cath Huther, accompanied the Easter

Bunny to each class. Director of Business, Mr Alan Nolan was the person behind the mask and did an excellent job getting the students excited about Easter.

The celebrations included a bake stall at recess, with funds raised for the Good Friday Appeal.

Newhaven College wishes the entire Bass Coast community a very happy and safe Easter.

A day to remember

FUNDRAISER

The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo is determined to make their inaugural Golf Day something to remember.

On Friday May 2, teams of four will tee off around 10am for an Ambrose event and be faced with all sorts of incentives and difficulties around the course.

Beside the hole in one prizes, the gambling holes and the bullseyes, another novelty will be the Ball Drop.

This is a fun event where anybody can purchase a numbered ball, which is placed in a large bucket and hoisted up in a cherry picker to be dropped onto the putting green. The “owner” of the first ball into the hole wins the cash prize.

The day is designed to include all levels of golfers with breakfast and lunch provided.

All of the profits from the Golf Day will be donated to the new Phillip Island Hospital.

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/DAHJ



A Ball Drop is part of the fundraising fun planned for the Rotary Club's inaugural Golf Day, raising funds for the new Phillip Island Community Hospital.

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, April 8

Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Bez Moustafa (22) with 42 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Peter Ablett (8) with 37 pts C/B.

B Grade winner: B-1 Paul Ledwith (13) with 38 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Bez Moustafa (22) with 42 pts C/B.

BDL: 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Barry Gibson, 7th William Lang, 10th Gino Manfredi and 17th Peter Cartwright.

Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: Col Cordery (27) with 20 pts C/B from Clive Scott (21) on 20 pts.

BDL: 17 pts C/B.

Wednesday, April 9

Women's 18H Monthly Medal

Overall winner Debra Orr (15) with 72 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: Debra Orr (15) with 72 pts C/B.

B Grade winner: Megan Elbaz (27) with 72 pts.

C Grade winner: Jill Trickey (41) with 76 pts.

BDL: 77 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Debra Orr, 7th and 17th Lesley Meadowcroft, 10th Diana Holmberg.

Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Barbara Moloney (39) with 19 pts from Margaret Frith (34) on 17 pts C/B.

BDL: 14 pts.

Thursday, April 10

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Barry Grazules (7) with 41 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Barry Grazules (7) with 41 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Garry Thompson (17) with 40 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 John Kneebone (20) with 37 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Anthony Shannon, 7th John Kneebone, 10th Chris Sanderson and 17th Warren Barrat.

Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: David Gladman (17) with 20 pts from Noel Thomas (28) on 19 pts.

BDL: 16 pts C/B.

Saturday, April 12

Men's and Ladies 4BBB Qual RL Smith Pairs 18H

Men's winner: Peter Cartwright and Adam Johnson with 47 pts C/B.

2nd: Stephen Earl and Mick Wyzenbeek with 47 pts.

3rd: Stuart Crawford and Neil Buttery with 45 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Tim Duff, 7th Tony Zoanetti, 10th John McKenzie and 17th Athol Hill.

Great score: Barry Gibson (eagle hole – 2) and Isaac Batty (eagle hole – 18).

Women's winner: Megan Elbaz and Vicki Amato with 44 pts.

2nd: Karen Green and Dawn Andrews with 42 pts.

BDL: 39 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Jeanette Diss, 7th Lesley Meadowcroft, 10th Liz O'Neil and 17th Vicki Amato.

Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: Steve Rieger (24) with 20 pts from Laurie Petrusch (25) on 17 pts.

BDL: 17 pts.

Sunday, April 13

Open 18H Stableford

Winner: Peter Smith (24) with 35 pts from Giles Thompson (13) on 34pts.

BDL: 30 pts C/B.

Palladino powers on in Doubles Championship

DARTS

Last week, the Phillip Island and District Darts League hosted its hotly anticipated Doubles Championship. A field of 34 players across 17 teams packed into the venue, eager to take their shot at glory in a knockout format playing 601, best of three.

Continuing his form from last week, Vince Palladino teamed up with the ever-reliable Dave Healey representing Joe's Hornets.

The dynamic duo powered through three intense rounds to meet Paul Gleeson and Paul Duff of the Vikings in a high-stakes final. In a tight match, Vince and Dave emerged victorious, edging out the Vikings.

Both teams showed class and happily accepted their prize vouchers courtesy of the club's generous new sponsor, Woolworths. A congratulations to all competitors on the night.

Additionally, Creative Blinds has joined the club's growing list of sponsors and their very own Pete Murphy from the Breakers had a night to remember, scoring the San Remo Butchers meat tray in the raffle.

Meanwhile, Chris Chivers from the Storm kept things festive by taking home the crownies.

The league is back in business this Monday night for Round 6 of regular competition. Don't miss it.



The Kilcunda Bass teams took on the Warragul Industrials over the weekend in closely contested matches.

Kilcunda Bass struggle against Warragul

FOOTBALL

Seniors

After a great win against Korumburra last week, the Kilcunda Bass Seniors were excited for a challenge against Warragul Industrials.

Warragul started fast and took the first three goals of the game.

Captain Nathan Foote kicked Kilcunda Bass' first and the team began to claw their way back into the game.

The second and third quarter were largely controlled by Kilcunda Bass and had a seven-point lead at the end of the third.

However, Warragul were too good in the last quarter and

kicked four goals in the final term, clinching victory by nine points.

Scores: Kilcunda Bass: 10.12.72. Warragul Industrials: 11.15.81. **Best on ground:** Nathan Foote.

Reserves

Kilcunda Bass' Reserves had some injuries this week but managed to get a side together and headed out confident in their fight against the Dusties.

Coming out hot, the opposition kicked three in the first quarter.

By half time, Kilcunda Bass had kicked 2.3.15 to Warragul's 5.3.33.

In the second half, the heat became a significant factor.

The Dusties had more legs on the bench and ran away with the win despite a good effort from the Kilcunda Bass boys.

Scores: Kilcunda Bass: 5.4.34. Warragul Industrials: 14.6.90. **Best on ground:** Sam Dickinson.

Veterans

The Kilcunda Bass Veterans secured 10.13 (73) to 5.5 (35) victory over Warragul Industrials in a well-rounded team performance.

Blake Lawrence and Denis Manners led the charge up forward each booting four goals.

The Panthers controlled the game from the outset, with dominance around the contest and strong defensive pressure keep-

ing the Industrials on the back foot.

U16s

After a great 17 point win last week, the Kilcunda Bass U16 boys knew they were in for a tough game against Warragul.

As it turned out they were right, Warragul proved to be too strong with many bigger bodies and some very handy players.

However, this didn't stop the young men throwing up a fight for the full four quarters. led by Captains Perry McKay and Blake Eden in the middle of the ground.

They were assisted by best on ground Charlie Burgess, a young up and coming future star for the club.

Harvey Leary was presenting well in the forward after kicking five goals last week.

Young small forward Bryce Lawrance kicked the only goal.

Ty Amato played a very mature game in the ruck for most of the day.

Down the back Hayden Fenwick led by example, backing himself every opportunity and proving some good run.

Tough nut Darcy Gorsuch was also attacking the ball well down back.

For the Easter clash, Kilcunda Bass take on Inverloch.

Best on ground: Charlie Burgess, Perry McKay, Cruz Maund, Blake Eden, Ty Amato and Hayden Fenwick.

Kilcunda Bass take to the courts for Round 2 clash

NETBALL

A Grade

Kilcunda Bass' A Grade came out firing early against Warragul on the courts.

The girls bounced back after a tough game in the opening round.

Combining well, the goalers shot with accuracy and the full court defensive pressure was exciting to see.

The girls left it all out there, which allowed them to achieve their first win of the season.

B Grade

Still managing injuries and player unavailability, Kilcunda Bass were thrilled to welcome Juliette Townsend back to the club and Jess Egan up from C Grade.

The team also celebrated Ciara Santorini's B Grade debut after her return from injury.

Each player stepped up and stayed focused from the first whistle to the final siren.

With several rotations throughout the game, everyone embraced the changes with great attitude and flexibility.

Even with a strong lead, the team's commitment to giving

100 per cent every quarter, every game, all season was clear.

A shoutout from the team to Liz Crawford who got to "live out her dream" playing in goals. **Final score:** Kilcunda Bass 69 def Warragul Industrials 20.

Best on court: Kiara Brusamarello and Kylie Wookey.

C Grade

Starting out strong against Warragul, Kilcunda Bass' C Grade team matched their intensity and kept the scores tight in the first half.

Despite their efforts, Warragul gained momentum in the second half and the Kilcunda Bass girls could not quite close the gap.

A special mention goes to Ruby McGillivray who celebrated her 100th game for Kilcunda Bass - a fantastic achievement.

The team have plenty of positives to take into next week as the team continues to grow.

Best on court: Ruby McGillivray.

D Grade

Kilcunda Bass' D Grade girls headed onto the court with guns blazing in a 17-3 goal first quarter.

After quarter time, Warragul found their feet and held their own for the remainder of the game.

However, Kilcunda Bass proved too strong, walking away with a 43-19 victory.

The club congratulate Kim Pike on her 50th game.

Best on court: Miranda Eden.

U17s

A warm start to the day marked Alana's milestone 100th game, a special moment for her and the team.

Kilcunda Bass came out strong, with Peyton making her first appearance on court this season.

The girls worked together seamlessly, attacking and moving the ball to the ring.

The flow of play in the goal circle was particularly impressive, showcasing excellent coordination and timing.

Defensively, it was a tough battle but the team never wavered.

The girls showed great resilience, intercepting balls and capitalising on every opportunity.

Their determination to push through and keep the pressure

on was evident even when the game got tough.

Scores: Warragul 57 def Kilcunda Bass 12.

Best on court: Alana Dakin and Matilda Feehan.

U15s

The Kilcunda Bass U15s headed onto the court strong and matched Warragul goal-for-goal.

Despite letting the Dusties get away during the second quarter, Kilcunda Bass were able to reset at half time, coming back onto the court with pure determination and a new outlook on the game.

Holding the opposition off and crawling their way back within eight points, Kilcunda Bass matched the Dusties throughout the final quarter.

Despite not coming away with the win, the team were pleased with their game experience.

They give their congratulations to Savanna Bennett on her debut within the team and welcome back Ciara Santorini after a long stint on the sidelines due to injury.

Best on court: Olivia Berry for her focus both on and off the court.

U13s

For the second game of the season the girls came out strong, finishing the first quarter neck and neck with Warragul.

Despite the solid start, Warragul pulled ahead to take the win.

Best on court: Ash Burgess.

U11s

For the first home game of the season, the Kilcunda Bass U11s were eager to take to the court.

The girls worked on their defensive skills at training and their practice paid off.

Changing the lineup, the team strung together some good passages of play and the kid's enthusiasm was uplifting.

Best on court: Zoe and Sage.

Island works hard against Garfield

NETBALL

U17s: Phillip Island 47 def Garfield 24.

U15s: Phillip Island 19 def Garfield 13.

U13s: Garfield 40 def Phillip Island 19.



West Gippsland Wombats O70s Veterans Cricket

Veteran cricketers looking their best before their first match during last season's competition.

Another great season for veterans

CRICKET

Cricket veterans in their 60s and 70s representing two West Gippsland teams recently returned from the ever-popular Echuca Cricket Carnival.

Teams from all over the state competed in three divisions over four days of friendly contested matches.

Both Gippsland sides had players from Phillip Island, Inverloch, Korumburra, Pakenham, Koo Wee Rup, Wonthaggi, Foster and Leongatha.

The carnival is the culmination of another successful season of veterans cricket.

The competition runs throughout the usual

cricket season, with games played on Sunday's (O60s) and Tuesday's (O70s) each fortnight.

Sides from Melbourne plus several local clubs make up the competition with an emphasis on participation as well as catering for the competitive spirit that stays with all who have played the game from an early age.

The competition is administered through Veterans Cricket Victoria, which oversee registrations, fixtures and insurance.

Often described as a men's shed on grass, ageing ex-players get the chance to continue their love of the sport.

Games are played on both turf and hard wickets and players travel to Melbourne venues by carpool or bus.

Friendships are fostered or renewed in the forty over games, or when taking part in the usual change room banter plus during the after-game celebrations with refreshments and a barbecue.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in rediscovering a love of the great game and still has the urge to snare a wicket or send a ball to the boundary, further information about next season's competition is available from Brendon Thomas on 0437 930 851.

Perfect conditions for comp at Lang Lang

BOWLS

The South West Gippsland Bowls Group last week headed to Lang Lang for their midweek competition.

Players were welcomed by Vern and Bev whilst Claire and Rob arranged teams.

The group give their compliments to the club on the state of the green and thank those who assisted on the day – Marianne and Colin for drinks, Jenny and Laurie for looking after the kitchen, Neville for preparing the green and David for his work post-game.

Winners on 35 points: Michael Dady, Sue Wright, Brenda Moloney and Colin Scales.

Runners up on 34 points: Denis Talbot, Ron Fenton, Raff Merante and Jim Nunan.

Best one game winners: Rob Jeffrey,



Best one game winners: Rob Jeffrey, Max Williams and Alex Martin (not shown).

Max Williams and Alex Martin.

The team will be regrouping on April 24 at Corinella (after Easter). They wish all members a great holiday.



Congratulations to last week's winners (from left): Michael Dady, Sue Wright, Brenda Moloney and Colin Scales.

Westernport Tennis Club shines bright for community

TENNIS

Westernport Tennis Club members are thrilled with a recent upgrade to court lighting thanks to a \$43,423 Bendigo Bank Community Grant (Cowes, San Remo and Grantville Branch).

Existing lights on all four courts at the San Remo based club were removed and replaced with energy-efficient LED lighting, reducing the club's power bills and saving energy.

To celebrate the occasion, the club is encouraging people of all ages and abilities to come along for a free, fun and social 'Light Up' event at the club on Wednesday April 30 from 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

There will be door prizes, a sausage sizzle, special guests and free social tennis under the bright lights.

Aside from celebrating the light installation, Westernport Tennis Club President, Kate Buchanan, explained that the event is also about encouraging participation in the great sport of tennis.

"Tennis is a sport for all."

"From modified tennis for kids to fitness-focused cardio tennis, club com-



Westernport Tennis Club members are encouraging people to attend their 'Light Up' event on April 30. Club members from left: Kate Buchanan, Craig Baumann, Holly Egan, Sharyn Blackmore and Genelle Beven.

petition or tournaments everyone can get involved, so come on down for a hit.

"Bookings are not required and you're not obliged to stay the whole night. Simply come along for a sausage sizzle and an opportunity to get active

and have fun."

Westernport Tennis Club is located at the San Remo Recreation Reserve, 1 Wynne Road, San Remo.

Please BYO tennis racquet; a limited amount will be available for use on the night.



Jan Kirkpatrick, Greg Moran, Claire Earl, Ralph and Pauleen Leditschke last weekend took part in the Association Croquet Championship.

Association Club Championship

CROQUET

The Phillip Island Croquet Club held their Association Croquet Club Cham-

pionship over April 12 and 13.

Utilising strategic play, five members took part in the championship which

previously had not been held since 2018.

Congratulations to Claire Earl who took out the win.

Bridge club mourns loss of long-time member

BRIDGE

Members of the Phillip Island Bridge Club were saddened as they learned of the unexpected passing of Paul Waylen, a beloved and long-time member who died on Sunday, April 6.

Known for his cheeky demeanour and cherished by all, Paul will be deeply missed by his fellow club members, especially his playing partners and friends. He was not only an excellent player but also a fine club man and a

true gentleman.

Monday, April 7 (5 tables): Don Stewart-Uden and Marion Wellwood with 62.04 per cent.

Wednesday, April 9 (5.5 tables): Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour with 61.11 per cent.

Euchre results

Ladies' winner: Faye with seven wins.

Men's winner: Bob with six wins.

Encouragement award: Tony.

Cards will be played as normal this Thursday – an exciting night is to be expected.

SGB member selected for Victorian Talent Squad

SWIMMING

South Gippsland Bass Swim Club (SGB) competitor, Archie Smyth has been selected for the Victorian Talent Squad.

The talented local youngster in the past year has won 13 State and Country titles, as well as broken the LC Country records in the 12-year-old boys 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly and the LC State 100m backstroke.

Archie is looking forward to the sessions.

"I'm really proud to have been selected for Victoria's Junior talent squad.

"It's an amazing reward for my hard work at training and racing over the long course season.

"I'm looking forward to training with people I normally swim against and to be inspired by the guest speakers that share their stories and pathways that have helped them become Olympic swimmers."

Training six times a week in the pool as well as at the gym, Archie is looking forward to sharing what he learns with his teammates back at the club.



SGB swimmer, Archie Smyth has been selected for the Victorian Talent Squad. He is pictured accepting the Rod Godfrey award.

SGB Masters makes a splash at Nationals

SWIMMING

Showing that age is no barrier to following your dreams, three South Gippsland Bass Swim Club (SGB) members took to the big stage, competing in the 49th Masters National Swimming Championships at MSAC from April 8 – 12.

Bayley Nicholas, Donna Lancaster and Janice Goudie competed in several events in their respective age categories.

Competition was fierce and the ages of competitors ranged from youth in their 20s to 90-year-olds still holding their own.

Bayley, who regularly races for the club, came home with several medals, taking out bronze in the 200m backstroke, 50m backstroke, and fourth in the 100m breaststroke and 100m backstroke.

Thoroughly enjoying the racing over the week, Bayley competed in seven events over the five days.

Janice, who teaches swimming at Korumburra, took out sixth in the 50m breaststroke.

"I'm just having so much fun," Janice said.

"I used to race as a kid and I'd forgotten how much fun it is.

"When I finish and see my name on the screen with my times, I'm just blown away.

"I'm hooked and will be searching for some other Masters events now."

In a role reversal, Donna was cheered on from the stands by her two daughters.



Congratulations to Bayley who took home bronze in the 200m backstroke and 50m breaststroke.

"When I was young, I always dreamed of being an Olympian," said Donna.

"I think that opportunity has passed but I'm loving the chance to race against people my age.

"In our Gippsland events I'm usually racing in the 17-and-over section, meaning those I compete against are younger swimmers.

"Today was wonderful, it's really pushed me and I've taken two PBs."

This year marked the first time the SGB team has competed, with the Masters group taking shape just over a year ago.

Training twice a week on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings in Leongatha, the trio are looking forward to the next event – a distance event in Traralgon against other Gippsland Masters.

For those interested in training, please contact the club.

Presentation evening marks end to season

FISHING

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) held their Seniors Presentation Night for the 2024/25 angling competition season at the Phillip Island Bowls Club on Saturday April 12

The event was well-attended and treated anglers and supporters to a great night of celebration and entertainment.

Guests were entertained by the musical talents of local artists, Travis and Noah Thompson.

Frank Velardi and his catering team worked hard to organise a feast whilst staff at the bowls club supplied beverages. RPIAC has seen good attendance throughout each competition with increased participation and new records set.

The club thanked sponsors for their support and commitment throughout the angling season including Bakers Delight Cowes, Jim's Bait and Tackle, Phillip Island Marine, The Corner Take-away, Clip'n'Climb Cowes and Haymes Paint Cowes.

RPIAC President Albert Abram spoke of the enthusiasm and outstanding service to the club that has been provided by all members who attend, support and represent the club to members and visitors.

Thanking volunteers, he presented Ron Soolsma with the President's Award for his tireless efforts and dedicated support throughout the year.

Awards

Throughout the competition season, participants are entered into the 365 Competition, Reverse Draw and Club Championship.

A total of 546 catches from 20 eligible species were weighed in with King George whiting (197 catches) and snapper (143 catches) proving the most abundant species.

The RPIAC also claimed the trophy in the Annual Corinella Boating and Angling Club's Inter-club Snapper Tournament, winning the men's (James Nicolaci – biggest snapper), women's (Lea Bowen – biggest snapper, Tenille Preddice – 2nd), junior's (Denver Firth) and secret weight (Don Rowe) prizes.

The 365 Competition acknowledges the efforts of the anglers who caught the biggest catches of each eligible species throughout the year.

365-award plaques were presented to:

- Duncan Firth for a leatherjacket (945g) and a salmon (1615g)



Ron Soolsma received the President's Award for outstanding service to RPIAC. More photos at pisra.com.au/Sport

- Frank Kastoras for a stranger/grass whiting (295g) and a school shark (17,200g)
- James Nicolaci for a kingfish (14,600g – new club record), a mullet (460g), a pike (3995g – new club record), a snapper (8250g), a tuna (17,250g) and a squid (1470g)
- Nigel Firth for a King George whiting (1035g)
- Peter Ronchi for a bream (689g)
- Steve Bland for a mackerel (690g)
- Trevor Gleeson for a couta (1635g), a flathead (1810g), a tailor (885g) and a trevally (1290g)
- Tim Fahnle for a gummy shark (16,050g)
- Rob Monk for a cuttlefish (3220g).

Each Senior angler who participated in the weekend angling competitions was entered into the Reverse Draw when they weighed-in an eligible species during a competition weekend.

The last 20 entries were drawn on the night and hopes for the prize faded as members heard their names drawn.

Everyone hoped that the last name called was theirs, but the last name pulled from the draw was Paul Goodwin, winning the season's Reverse Draw prize of \$1000.

Of course, the formalities of the night would not be in order unless the recipient RPIAC Merle Award (the award that nobody wants) was announced.

The Merle Award recognises angler-related incidents such as mishaps, errors of judgement or remarkable feats in the year lead-

ing up to presentation night.

There were a few strong contenders and ultimately the 2025 Merle Award recipient was Lea Bowen.

The Haymes Paint Shop's door prizes were won by Jill Crump and Leah Valente.

Champions

The evening's presentations concluded with the announcement of the top three Female and Male Club Champions.

The 2025 Female Club Champions were Anne-Marie Richards in 3rd place with a total of 11,221 units, Carianne Peatey in 2nd place with a total of 18,322 units and Tenille Preddice who finished the season in 1st place with 20,505 units.

The 2025 Male Club Champions were Michael Stefanakis in 3rd place with a total of 31,546 units, Duncan Firth in 2nd place with a total of 31,928 units and James Nicolaci who finished in 1st place with a total of 34,757 units, retaining the RPIAC Club Champion title for the second consecutive year.

The next angling competition season is scheduled to commence in Spring 2025.

RPIAC's clubroom is located adjacent to the Rhyll boat ramp and is open to members and visitors on Friday evenings (from 5pm) and competition weekends coinciding with weigh-in through spring, summer and autumn each year.

For further information about the club, events, competitions and rules visit www.rpiac.com

Summer Triples final

BOWLS

The final monthly triples competition for the bowls competition season was held at the Phillip Island Bowling Club last week.

Teams from San Remo, Leongatha, Korumburra, Corinella,

Wonthaggi and Phillip Island battled it out for one last win.

Runners up: Denise Ashton, Di Silver and Phil Ashton.

Congratulations to winners: Frankie Cimino, Guilio Marcolongo and John Newcombe.



Congratulations to winners of the final summer triples round for the season (from left): Frankie Cimino, Guilio Marcolongo and John Newcombe.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 16 APR	THU 17 APR	FRI 18 APR	SAT 19 APR	SUN 20 APR	MON 21 APR	TUE 22 APR
HIGH 2:49 am 2.61 m	HIGH 3:20 am 2.65 m	HIGH 3:51 am 2.66 m	HIGH 4:23 am 2.66 m	HIGH 4:56 am 2.63 m	HIGH 5:29 am 2.58 m	LOW 12:03 am 1.18 m
LOW 8:44 am 0.58 m	LOW 9:17 am 0.52 m	LOW 9:50 am 0.50 m	LOW 10:22 am 0.50 m	LOW 10:55 am 0.53 m	LOW 11:27 am 0.58 m	HIGH 6:04 am 2.53 m
HIGH 3:41 pm 3.02 m	HIGH 4:15 pm 3.06 m	HIGH 4:48 pm 3.06 m	HIGH 5:21 pm 3.02 m	HIGH 5:56 pm 2.95 m	HIGH 6:30 pm 2.86 m	LOW 12:01 pm 0.64 m
LOW 9:24 pm 1.05 m	LOW 9:56 pm 1.05 m	LOW 10:27 pm 1.06 m	LOW 10:59 pm 1.09 m	LOW 11:30 pm 1.14 m		HIGH 7:08 pm 2.77 m

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Heath Womersley and Archie Ross wrap up the opposition in the U18s clash against Garfield. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Bulldogs dominant in Round 2 clash

FOOTBALL

Seniors

In a strong response to last week's disappointing defeat, the Phillip Island Seniors dismantled Garfield by 84 points.

Phillip Island set the tone early with a 32-point opening term, showcasing quick ball movement, tackling pressure and a cohesive team effort.

By halftime, the scoreboard read 68 to 21 and the Bulldogs looked well and truly in control.

The second half provided more of the same; relentless run, structure and a forward line that capitalised on every opportunity.

Sitting on 139 points by the final siren, Phillip Island restricted Garfield to just 55 points in a dominant four quarter performance.

Jack Taylor was unstoppable up forward, bagging six goals.

He was well supported by Cameron Pedersen and Billy Taylor, who each slotted four, while Nick Anderson jumped in with three majors of his own.

Around the ground, Jaymie Youle and Cooper Walton linked up through the middle and set up attack with precision.

Cameron Pedersen was strong not just up forward, but across the ground with his marking.

After last week's 67-point loss to Nar Nar Goon, this was the exact response the team needed ahead of their upcoming Easter Saturday showdown for the Bulldogs' Round 3 clash against Warragul Industrials.

Final score: Phillip Island 139 def Garfield 55.



Ethan Rhee of the U16s breaks away from the pack ahead of the team's huge win against Garfield.

Goals: Jack Taylor 6, Billy Taylor and Cameron Pedersen 4, Nick Anderson 3, Hayden Bruce 2, Max Walton, Jaymie Youle and Jay Ladson 1

Best players: Jack Taylor, Jaymie Youle, Cooper Walton, Cameron Pedersen, Joshua Ryan and Jordy Patullo.

Reserves

The Phillip Island Reserves bounced back in a big way on Saturday afternoon, notching a well-deserved 79 - 29 win over Garfield.

From the first bounce, the visitors looked slick with ball in hand.

The first quarter was an even battle, but the Island's ability to capitalise on forward entries gave them a narrow edge, taking a nine-point lead into the first break.

Momentum continued into the second term as the midfield, led by Max Mattock and Daniel Caffieri, began to gain

the upper hand, pushing the margin out to 13 points at the main break.

By the third quarter, the game broke wide open as the Bulldogs piled on 31 points to Warragul's seven.

Darcy Thompson and Kirby Fuller were standout performers through the middle, while Kohen Beaumont and Oliver Hibbert were reliable across half-back.

In attack, Jack Keating booted two goals, while Ethan Michaelides also snagged a pair in a strong forward-half performance.

Additionally, Ash Smith, Darcy Thompson and Alexander Officer all added to the tally. **Final scores:** Phillip Island 11.13 (79) def Garfield 4.5 (29). **Goals:** Keating and Michaelides 2, Smith, D. Thompson, Officer, Nicolaci, Ross, Fuller, B. Thompson and Hibbert 1.

Best players: Max Mattock, Daniel Caffieri, Darcy Thompson, Kirby Fuller, Kohen Beaumont and Oliver Hibbert.

son, Kirby Fuller, Kohen Beaumont and Oliver Hibbert.

U18s

Phillip Island's Thirds bounced back on Saturday morning with a 79-26 victory over Garfield at the Garfield Recreation Reserve.

After a close one-point loss last week, the young Bulldogs put together a dominant four-quarter performance.

They set the tone early with clean ball movement and relentless pressure, jumping out to a 16-point lead at quarter time.

Garfield struggled to match the Island's intensity, managing just one goal in the opening term.

By half-time, Phillip Island had extended their lead to 29 points, with Charles O'Garey leading the charge through the midfield and contributing on the scoreboard with two goals of his own.

The third quarter saw the Bulldogs put the foot down, piling on 19 points.

Heading into the fourth, the Island finished with a strong 79 points to Garfield's 26.

Final scores: Phillip Island 12.7 (79) def Garfield 4.2 (26).

Goals: Cashman 4, Hill, O'Garey 2, Duggan, Taylor, McCausland and Murphy 1.

Best players: Ayden Fawaz, Jeremy Kelly, Charles O'Garey, Finniss Gibson, Blake Murphy and Archie Ross.

U16s

Final scores: Phillip Island 15.4 def Garfield 0.

Best players: Jack Mascaros, Sam O'Garey, Ethan Rhee, Kai Cashman, Joe Kelsey and Marley Cabello.

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