

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

\$1.40 Incl. GST



What a good deed! After young Bailey's bike was stolen recently, the Red Knights, a fire fighters motorcycle club rode to the rescue and purchased a replacement. Bailey, with sister Madison and John Pittman, a member of the Phillip Island Fire brigade and Chapter 8 of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, was presented with his new bike at the Phillip Island Fire Station. Read more on page 7.

RRV's Newhaven road plans suspended

Regional Roads' Victoria's proposed four-lane road plans for Newhaven have been shelved, according to a Bass Coast Shire councillor.

While the roads authority refused to confirm the news to the Advertiser (see separate story), Cr David Rooks – who is the chair of the Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study Community Reference Group (CRG) – last week confirmed RRV's Newhaven plans were "off the agenda".

Cr Rooks said he understood the decision had been made by RRV prior to the council elections at the end of last year, confirming one of the island's worst kept secrets.

"I got a briefing on it (from RRV)

and was asked if I could mention it to the CRG so it has gone out from there," Cr Rooks said.

The Newhaven plans have 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.

Cr Rooks – who is chair of the CRG examining RRV's Phillip Island speed limit review (see separate article) – also confirmed RRV's plans for San Remo were still going ahead

but waiting on budget funding.

"I can't remember how much it will be but it's in the millions of dollars," he said, adding the project would need funding from both state and federal governments.

"I wouldn't think it will happen quickly."

The plans for San Remo include the widening and strengthening of the foreshore to make room for four road lanes on the Phillip Island Road between San Remo Parade and Bergin Grove.

More opposition

While many San Remo residents supported their town's proposed

road plans, Newhaven last year rejected the plans at the entrance to Phillip Island.

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

The businesses, which include Rip Curl, The Island Accommodation, YHA Phillip Island, and Phillip Island School Camps called for "significant" changes, especially to the entry and exit to The Big Wave Complex.

"We have been discussing these issues with RRV over the past seven-plus years with no satisfactory

outcome," the group said.

The Newhaven road plans were also unpopular with the Phillip Island Conservation Society, who described it as a costly "over-kill", with no tangible benefits.

"The duplication of the road at Newhaven is inconsistent with the environmental and conservation significance of Phillip Island," a PICS submission stated last year.

Another group to oppose the Newhaven plans was the National Trust of Victoria.

The trust urged RRV to rethink the plans to cut down 10 golden cypresses – which were planted in 1912 and are classified by the Trust.

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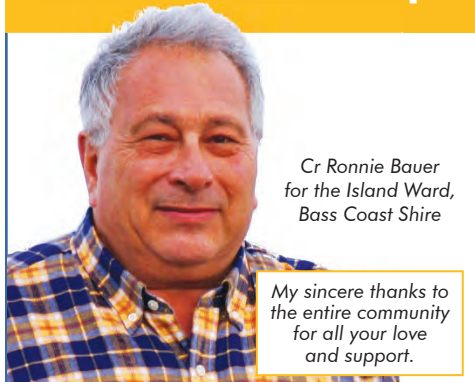
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for the Island Ward,
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Residents of Newhaven opposed plans to build a Regional Skate Park at Grayden's Reserve. At this month's council meeting, Cr Rochelle Halstead is moving a motion calling for the plans to be abandoned.

Regional skate park plans in limbo?

Western Port Ward councillor Rochelle Halstead is backing Newhaven residents' calls for plans to build a regional skate park at Grayden's Reserve to be abandoned.

At the April council meeting today (Wednesday, April 21), Cr Halstead is moving a motion to withdraw Council support for the proposed regional skate park in Newhaven.

The motion also proposes council develops a design for a local skate park in Newhaven, in consultation with the local community.

In December 2019, councillors voted to move ahead with plans for a regional skate park at Newhaven.

However in April 2020, Council announced the skate park project would be deferred for a year, with savings redirected to fund a pandemic support package.

Cr Halstead said now the local and skating communities agree a local skate ramp upgrade, and upgraded playground is more suitable for the location.

She said council has also

been advised that Sport and Recreation Victoria will no longer fund the project, "however they look forward to working with council to find a suitable site for the Regional Skate Park".

In 2018, the council received a \$650,000 grant from the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, to build a regional skate park in San Remo. That site was later declared unsuitable.

The motion will be debated at this week's council meeting and there will be a full report in next week's Advertiser.

Sharp-eyed local spots water main leak

A concerned community member averted a potentially serious disruption to the island's water supply last week.

Westernport Water confirmed a customer alerted it to a leak in the water main that supplies Phillip Island with water from the Candowie Reservoir.

A spokesperson said the customer contacted them about wet ground in the reserve area at Marine Parade in San Remo last Tuesday.

"Maintenance staff investigated and determined there was a leaking weld join on the 648mm steel water main that is the main water supply line running from Candowie Reservoir through to Phillip Island," the spokesperson said.

Temporary fencing was erected while crews worked to excavate the site to reach the main, which is located about



Work was underway in San Remo last week to repair a leak in the steel water main that supplies Phillip Island with water from Candowie Reservoir.

three metres underground.

"Specialist welding repairs were completed on Thursday under pressure, meaning there was no requirement to shut down water supply to customers," said the Westernport Water spokesperson.

The site, on the corner of

Bergin Grove and Marine Parade, was restored on Friday once works were completed.

"Westernport Water appreciates that this is a busy time of year and apologises for any inconvenience caused to customers and visitors to this area."

Cultural Centre budget boost

The budget for the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre has received a boost with the state government announcing the project has secured an \$800,000 grant from the Living Libraries fund.

At last month's Council meeting, Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed it had applied for a \$1 million grant for the library, which is part of the new Cultural Centre development.

The news of the funding has been warmly welcomed by West Gippsland Libraries CEO Leanne Williams.

"We strongly believe that our libraries play an important role in connecting people of all ages, abilities and interests," she said.

"It's wonderful to have the support of Ms Jordan Crugnale MP, Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane and the Victorian Government to help build this new facility in Cowes that will better cater for our growing community."

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Brett Tessari also welcomed the news.

"The continued support from the Victorian Government of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre and further investment in a new Phillip Island Library is great news for residents and visitors," Cr Tessari said.

"Libraries plays such an important role within our community and the old Phillip Island Library was unable to keep up with demand, so we look forward to delivering a new modern library that has more space for collections, services and programs."

Architects from Jackson Clements Burrows, the firm awarded the \$1.4 million contract to finalise the designs for the new Culture Centre, worked with West Gippsland Libraries on the plans for the new library.

The new space will be much larger than the existing library and the design includes a dedicated children's area, group collaboration tables, teen space, administration offices, quiet booths, public computers and plenty of seating for visitors to enjoy some quiet time or use the Wifi.

The current Phillip Island Library receives over 60,000 visits per year, with the new library space expected to welcome 80,000 to 100,000 visitors each year.

Along with the library, the new two-storey cultural and community centre will include a theatre, café, function space, kitchens, art gallery, office space, meeting rooms and designated spaces for the historical and genealogical society.

Final designs for the centre are due to be released later this month.

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Pool update demanded

A recent health scare has not diminished Peter McMahon's passion for securing a pool for Phillip Island.

He's demanding answers from Bass Coast Shire Council, including when the Feasibility and Business Study commissioned in 2019 will be released.

Peter Paul, the president of Island Voice, has joined the call for the study's release.

In March, Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie said the study by Otium Planning Group would include concept plans for an aquatic centre.

A second report, by Integral Group, was looking at Environmentally Sustainable Design Options – including a geothermal investigation, “to ensure the design of the facilities are as environmentally sustainable as possible”.

Ms Wastie said this work was part one of stage one of a Phillip Island Aquatics and Recreation Master Plan and when both were completed, community consultation would begin in April.

Both Peters are frustrated by the lack of progress, citing meeting minutes from July 2012, showing Council had agreed to and budgeted for the master plan nine years ago.

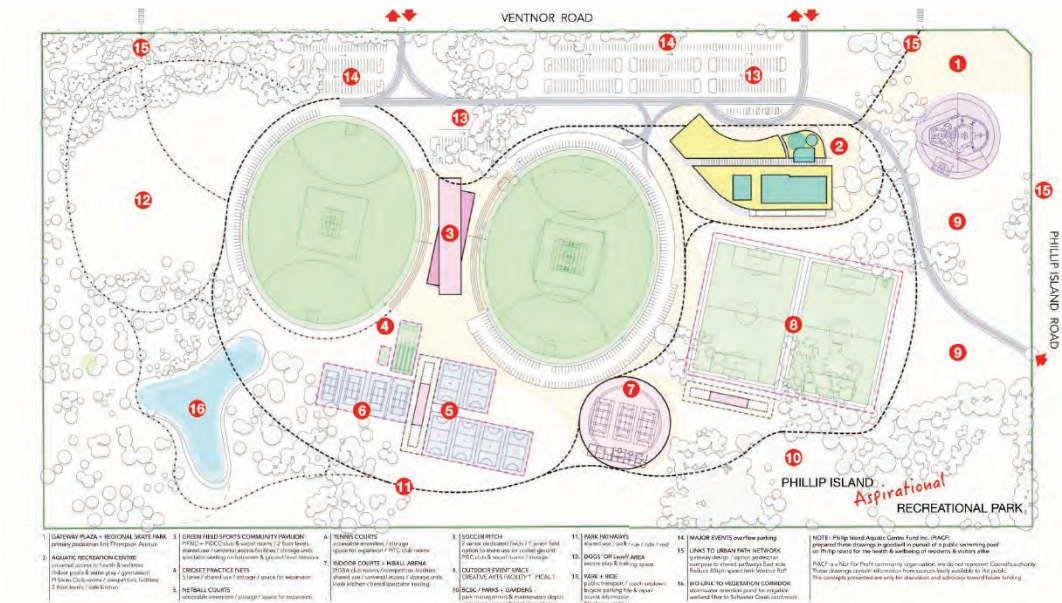
Island Voice claim Council is currently looking at running two aquatic centre projects simultaneously – in Cowes and Wonthaggi – at a cost of around \$75 million.

Peter McMahon described the idea as “absolutely ridiculous”.

The \$75 million budget is alleged to include \$40-50 million for the Phillip Island facility.

Peter Paul questioned the proposed costs, saying “I have trouble with those figures”.

He also said the size of the budget was a concern, particularly in terms of trying to access



In 2020 Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund (PIACF) released a recreation master plan for the site – designed by community members – that includes a 50m competition pool with eight lanes.

grants or funding for the project. “The Shire already has major building projects underway, such as the Cultural Centre. Where are they going to find that money,” he asked.

“Are they going to take out a loan, or go for grant funding? Is there any plan?”

When asked by the Advertiser if there was a budget and proposal to build the centres simultaneously Bass Coast CEO Ali Wastie said: “Council is currently developing the feasibility studies and concept plans for the proposed Bass Coast aquatic and leisure centres and there will be community and stakeholder engagement activities to see feedback on these plans once they are complete.”

Ms Wastie said she anticipated this would be in late April and

would include sessions with key stakeholders, an online survey and drop-in sessions.

“Engagement with the community and stakeholders is considered as a crucial part of this project and feedback received will be critical in shaping the design and operations of the proposed aquatic and leisure centres.”

Once the feasibility studies and concept plans are released, the next steps in the project would also be highlighted, including developing a funding strategy, Ms Wastie said.

Hilton Chadwick reserve

Island Voice is also asking why no work had been done on the land known as the Hilton Chadwick Reserve, which the council purchased in 2012.

The reserve is adjacent to the

property purchased by Council this year for the future aquatic centre, on the corner of Ventnor and Phillip Island roads.

“They haven’t even landscaped the 40 acres they already own. There’s no signage, nothing has happened.”

“What has the shire committed to?” Peter Paul asked.

He said the community was entitled to know what was going on, describing the project as “a huge sleeper, that goes on and on, without any progress”.

Ms Wastie said the Hilton Chadwick Reserve would not be directly impacted by the proposed leisure and aquatic centre, but “will be factored into the whole of site planning to ensure the use of the land is compatible and consistent across the entire site.”

More 5G sites for the island

Telstra has just expanded 5G coverage on Phillip Island with new sites switched on in trecent weeks in Rhyll and Cowes West.

A spokesperson for Telstra said the new sites will expand upon its 5G coverage on Phillip Island across Cowes, Rhyll and Ventnor.

The new 5G sites are located at Rhyll near Beach Road and the foreshore, and at Ventnor, near Lyall Street and Ventnor Common.



Local police issued 33 speeding tickets as part of Operation Nexus, a campaign targeting high-risk drivers that ran from April 1 to 5. Photo courtesy Eyewatch Bass Coast.

Speed the biggest offender

Speeding drivers were the biggest offenders on our roads over Easter according to police.

Local police issued 33 speeding tickets as a result of Operation Nexus, a state-wide police campaign targeting high-risk drivers from April 1 to 5.

San Remo police said one driver from Cowes was detected travelling more than 30km/h over the limit on Phillip Island Road. The driver received a \$537 penalty notice and had his licence suspended for three months.

Other infringements included two drink drivers and three drug drivers, two seatbelt offences and two infringements for disobeying signs/signals.

There were seven infringements for unregistered vehicles and five for unlicensed drivers.

On a positive note, there were no infringements issued for mobile phone offences.

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The planned RRV upgrade for San Remo includes installing traffic lights at the intersection of Phillip Island and Back Beach Roads, but the project has no confirmed funding or start date.

Road upgrade for San Remo stalled

The proposed upgrades for San Remo's roads appear to be going nowhere. Late last year, after extensive community consultation, Regional Roads Victoria presented final plans which included widening a section of Phillip Island Road to four lanes, installing traffic lights at Back Beach Road and removing the right-hand turn onto the main road at Bergin Grove. The plans were well received by the local community, which has long called for upgrades due to increasing traffic and safety concerns. However, there has been no movement on the project since the plans were finalised and residents are now asking questions. "When will the corner of Bergin Court (sic) and Phillip Island Road have a no right turn from Marine Parade erected ... when will the traffic lights (at Marine Parade and Back Beach Road), be installed ..." queried San Remo resident Michael Quinn last month in a letter to the editor. Not any time soon it appears. A member of a community group in-

involved in the consultation told the Advertiser they believed no funding had been secured for the project. When approached, Regional Roads Victoria was unable to confirm if it had put together a budget or submitted a bid for the San Remo upgrades in the 2021/22 state budget. A spokesperson confirmed RRV would investigate future funding opportunities for the San Remo upgrades but noted funding for the project would need to be considered against other high priority projects on a state-wide basis. **No news on Newhaven** Residents have also cast doubts on the fate of the proposed upgrades for Newhaven. The community was highly critical of a proposal to install two dual lane roundabouts in Newhaven and widen Phillip Island Road to two lanes in either direction, when draft plans were released late last year. A member of a local community group told the Advertiser the controversial plans had been shelved, due

to the level of community opposition. This has since been confirmed by Cr David Rooks (see separate story). RRV described the claim as coming from left field, saying it is currently in the process of finalising the engagement report, based on last year's community consultation. Sara Rhodes-Ward, Director (Gippsland), Department of Transport said long-term planning for improvements to the road network was crucial to the future of the island. "As such, we are in the process of reviewing the valuable feedback about plans for Newhaven's roads, received through our community survey and one-on-one meetings. "It is important we find a good technical and community solution, and we will keep the community informed as the project progresses." Ms Rhodes-Ward said the engagement report would be shared with the community when it was completed. Updates on both projects are available at regionalroads.vic.gov.au/map/eastern-improvements/phillip-island-road-corridor-planning

What's the plan?

Regional Roads Victoria's website currently displays final plans for upgrades to San Remo's roads, as well as draft concepts for upgrades at Newhaven. The state government has committed \$3.2 million to the planning of infrastructure improvements on Phillip Island Road. **Final plans for San Remo include:**

- The widening and strengthening of the San Remo foreshore to make room for four road lanes, and a new path connect existing paths along the foreshore to the east and west. This will also reduce further erosion.
- The widening to four lanes of Phillip Island Road between San Remo Parade and Bergin Grove, which would maintain traffic flow through the Back Beach Road intersection.
- A set of traffic lights at the intersections of Phillip Island and Back Beach roads, where new access onto Marine Parade would be created.
- A centre median strip along Phillip Island Road from San Remo Parade to Bergin Grove to reduce the likelihood of head-on crashes.
- Safer access at Bergin Grove with the removal of the right-turn onto Phillip Island Road.
- Installing a new pedestrian zebra crossing on Marine Parade for a safer connection to the bus stops.
- Improved access to and from Marine Parade: Allowing for two-way access to continue along Marine Parade. The eastern end of Marine Parade will

have direct access to Phillip Island Road. **Draft plans for Newhaven included:**

- A dual-lane roundabout at the intersection of Phillip Island Road and Forrest Avenue.
- A dual-lane roundabout at the intersection of Phillip Island and Boys Home roads.
- Two lanes in each direction on Phillip Island Road between Forrest Avenue and Boys Home Road.
- Construction of a service road for safer access to commercial and residential properties between these two intersections.
- Pedestrian-operated traffic lights at the existing school crossing near Bluebird Court.
- Angle parking along the proposed service road to enable easier access to local businesses. The design proposes about 55 car parks, a net gain of about 25 car parks for the area.
- Improved public transport facilities: upgraded bus stops and improved access to the bus stops on both sides of Phillip Island Road.
- The Big Wave would be moved to the other side of Bluebird Court to allow for the construction of the new shared path and widening of Phillip Island Road.
- Landscaping: RRV would work with the local community and Bass Coast Shire to develop landscaping plans. The Victorian Government has funded a Planning Scheme Amendment to compulsorily acquire land to allow for the development of this plan.



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Speed zone review debated

Advertiser readers have responded to Regional Roads Victoria's proposal to reduce speed limits on Phillip Island saying congestion already slowed driving times.

Under the RRV changes – detailed earlier this month – these roads would be changed:

- 100km/hr to 80km/hr = Ventnor Road, Ventnor Beach Road (section), Kitty Miller Bay Road, Back Beach Road, Gap Road, Smiths Beach Road, Rhyll-Newhaven Road;
- 80km/hr to 60km/hr = Cowes-Rhyll Road, Coghlan Road, Gros-sard Point Road, Ventnor Beach Road (section)
- 100km/hr to 60km/hr = Churchill Road

However readers have responded saying any further reductions will cause impatience.

On the Advertiser's Facebook page, Bruce Wright commented most roads on the island were "self-regulating with speeds slowing naturally when traffic is heaviest".

"More needs to be done to lower wildlife loss, than just lowering speed limits," he added.

John Deretic agreed, writing "it's slow enough".

"Especially when people sit 20-30kph below the speed limit."

Sarah Wallis said there was "no need to change the speed" because most drive at 60km in 80km zones while Mel Flower said during summer and peak tourist times the posted limits were "aspirational".

"An official reduction is not necessary," she said.



Jeanette Diss said reductions would "cause impatience which in itself is dangerous".

However Andrew Theodoropoulos argued the speed limits needed to be more consistent, saying it was confusing with "too many changes up and down", and Nerida Parsons

suggesting speed limits be reduced in peak times only.

Other readers went further with Matt Anderson wondering "why is everyone in such a hurry?"

Surf Beach resident Rob Turton said he felt "much safer and less stressed" on busier days since that zone was reduced from 80km to 60km several years ago.

Grandmother Kerri Cavender said some people's speed made her fear for the safety of her grandchildren.

Last year a coalition of Phillip Island community groups – the Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group, Island Voice, Rhyll Community Association and a Cowes citizen scientist – wrote to the RACV seeking support for a speed reduction on island roads to protect wildlife.

"It's not a matter of if, but when a tragic accident will occur, as a result of a driver endeavouring to avoid an animal impact," the letter stated.

"Do we have to wait for a human tragedy to occur on our roads before RRV will accept the need for lower speeds?"

The letter added that island panel beaters had reported a significant portion of their business was repairs associated with wildlife vehicle impacts.

The day Philip visited the island

The death of Prince Philip has prompted many stories and recollections, including some close to home!

Local historian John Jansson unearthed this record of the Prince's visit to Phillip Island back in 1973. John recalls being invited to a garden party held in Melbourne for the royal visitor, where he was invited as a member of the Conservation Society. Unfortunately John didn't get to meet Prince Philip, but according to this newspaper report, over 300 people did get a chance to chat and wave to the Prince, during an unscheduled walk along the Cowes pier.



Technicolour dream home

Wimbledon Heights house gets a coat of many colours

Community members turned out on the weekend to help hairdresser Mykey O'Halloran paint his Wimbledon Heights home.

The day was a show of support for Mykey, after an alleged confrontation with neighbours on March 16 about the house painting saw him appear in national media, including on Channel 10's The Project.

Mykey said he had been inundated with support from the community, including two local painting businesses offering 12 staff to paint his house, while Dulux Australia had donated more than 40 litres of paint in seven colours.



Community members helped paint Mykey O'Halloran's Wimbledon Heights home in rainbow colours on the weekend.



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Proposed holiday rental crackdown will 'deter tourists'

One of Australia's top holiday rental websites has responded to a proposal by an Island Ward councillor to crackdown on badly behaved holiday renters, saying it would discourage "valuable tourism dollars".

Cr Ronnie Bauer – who is currently ill in hospital – has drafted a Short Stay Rental Accommodation bylaw and code of conduct, which he hopes to present to council in coming months.

Cr Bauer said following increasing complaints by permanent residents who live next to "Airbnb party houses", his draft was based on a Mornington Peninsula Shire bylaw and code of conduct.

It proposes car parking limits, bans on camping, publicly designated 24/7 holiday home contacts, mandated larger red bins, and funds from shire registration directed to enforcement.

"One of the big problems with Airbnb and other online bookings is they are not well regulated and some – not all – can cause neighbours problems,"

Cr Bauer said.

In January Cr Bruce Kent – who is also a police officer – called for a bed tax or a cap on online rental bookings, saying the problem was permanent commercial holiday letting homes in residential areas by off-site owners through online platforms.

However holiday rental website Stayz last week responded saying comprehensive reform at the state government level would better address Phillip Island's short-term rental issues and they were willing to work with the shire to lobby the Victorian government.

Stayz Corporate Affairs Director Eacham Curry said their response "follows recent calls from two Bass Coast Shire councillors to investigate the implementation of a bed tax or a cap on bookings to address questions about anti-social behaviour in short-term rental accommodation".

Mr Curry said localised taxes or restrictions would "drive up the cost of holiday accommodation and send

valuable tourism dollars to other parts of state".

"Stayz condemns all instances of anti-social and bad behaviour in short-term rental accommodation," Mr Curry said.

"However, we believe the best way to deal with the small minority of problematic listings and travellers is through consistent, statewide regulation.

"Local councils, like Bass Coast Shire, have limited policy instruments available to them to answer questions about amenity, urban planning and infrastructure. As a result, they risk pursuing misguided regulations that will fail to address the core questions about our growing sector."

Mr Curry said their proposal (see separate story) would "impose accountability on the entire sector and enable regulators to deal with complaints about amenity swiftly and decisively, all without putting the valuable economic uplift associated with the holiday rental sector at risk.

"Stayz would rather partner with

Bass Coast Shire Council in a call to the Victorian government to implement consistent, statewide regulations for short-term rentals."

Crackdown

Cr Bauer's crackdown follows an Advertiser article in January highlighting one group of short-term holiday renters in Cowes last year led to \$30,000 damage at their rental; while tradies say frustrations from permanent neighbours have boiled over, seeing some residents resorting to surreptitiously turning the power off at next-door holiday rentals to keep the noise down.

Real estate agents, too, have reported a rise in the number of problematic permanent commercial holiday leases – properties with no local manager – with one agent earlier this year calling on the shire to convene a round-table to "thrash out" solutions.

Council confirmed the local law covering holiday home rentals will be reviewed this year.

Alternative solution to badly behaved holiday renters?

Stayz's said they would like to work with Bass Coast Shire to lobby the Victorian Government on a state-wide policy that includes:

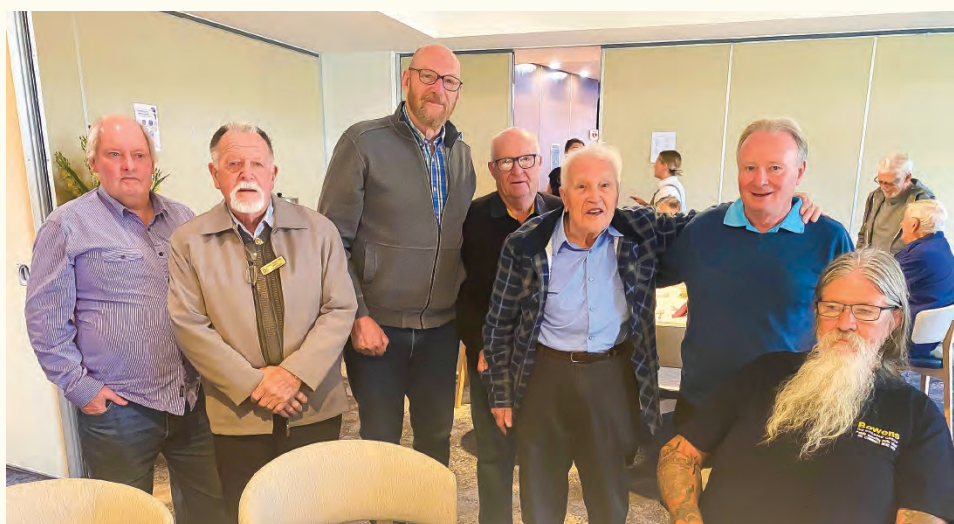
- Compulsory and simple registration for all properties listed on a short-term rental accommodation platform, that will help inform sensible and easily understood policy.

- The creation of a mandatory short-term rental code of conduct for owners and managers – including a three strikes rule for those who do not meet the standards.

- A new largely industry-funded and administered body to quickly address problems and adjudicate questions about amenity, noise and overcrowding at short-term rental accommodation properties.



Celebrating the Men's Shed "10 years plus one" birthday lunch at the Phillip Island RSL last Friday, are Men's Shed members (front from left) Mick McMullen, Don Wilson and Greg Moran; and back from left Terry Heffernan (Shed co-ordinator of 11 years standing) John Pittorino and Peter McCallum.



The Men's Shed oldest member, Ric Fuentes (second right), who turns 100 in December, is not as active today as he was when the Shed first opened back in 2010, but he paid a moving tribute to the men he has met and worked with in the Shed over the past decade, particularly co-ordinator Terry Heffernan. "I love you all. You are my friends," he said. Ric with past and present members from left Brian Walmsley, David Harrison (Founding Committee member) Paul Shadlow, Peter Pillar and Colin Cordery. Front is Steve Knowles.

Men's Shed Ten plus one birthday celebration

You never know who you might come across during a visit to the Men's Shed.

Skills range from a builder who has worked on large projects across the world, to retired tradesmen across many fields, an actuary, former white collar workers, to those looking to learn new skills.

Some have been part of the Shed for years, while others have not long walked in the door.

But they all share one thing in common.

Which is a great camaraderie and friendship, formed while working together on projects in the Men's Shed at the Phillip Island RSL.

Which is exactly what its founders intended the Shed to do.

While numerous local organisations and individuals have benefited from the projects undertaken by members both individually and collectively over the past decade, just as important has been the social connections made by its members.

A welcome celebration

Members were delighted to be able to return to the Men's Shed under new Covid rules earlier this year, after a year in hiatus; and to be able to finally celebrate their tenth birthday milestone.

Almost 40 past and present members, with a diversity of age, background and skills, gathered for the happy occasion, celebrating the camaraderie and friendships that have developed over time, and the projects undertaken collaboratively, which is the hall

mark of the Shed.

At the helm since the doors opened in the grounds of the Phillip Island RSL back in 2010 has been co-ordinator Terry Heffernan.

Terry welcomed 42 guests to the birthday luncheon and said since the Shed opened, 168 men have participated as members.

He said the Shed has provided men from the PIRSL membership and the community with a place to mix and work, and it has been an outstanding success.

"Those who were involved in its planning and establishment can be justly proud of what they put in place," he commented.

Improvements over the decade have been ongoing and paid for from funds raised from the community by the Shed.

Recent examples are a new dust extraction system; and soon to be installed are industrial ceiling fans, and a heating system.

During the time the Shed has been open, funds have been raised through cash being donated in return for work carried out on tasks for members of the community.

\$5000 of those funds was donated to 3D Hands, in support of the wonderful work carried out there.

Community groups have also benefitted.

Woodworking sessions have been conducted with year 5 and 6 students from Cowes Primary School, Year 9 students from Newhaven College, and all year level students from the Village School.

Shed members have also manu-

factured, repaired and restored all types of items over the years, including penguin and bird boxes for PINP, duck boxes for the Westernport Field and Game Association, Honour Boards for the Cape Woolami Surf Life Saving Club, toys for the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre, and the list goes on.

The Shed has completed a number of projects for the PIRSL, possibly the most significant being the manufacture and erection of the Long Tan Cross, Terry said.

Terry acknowledged the support the RSL has given to the facility and expressed the Shed's heartfelt thanks to its board and staff members.

"We have a thriving shed community. We would not be able to operate without such support," he commented.

Phillip Island RSL president Chris Thompson thanked Terry Heffernan for his dedication to the Shed, noting that his contribution in his voluntary role as co-ordinator involved him being present at the Shed a minimum of three days a week.

"We owe a great deal of gratitude to the way Terry has performed over the years to make the Men's Shed what it is today," Chris said.

He also commended founding committee members Chris Cannin and Brian Goldsbury, both present at the lunch, on their foresight.

"The Men's Shed and the Phillip Island RSL will go forward hand in hand in the years to come," Chris predicted.



Those involved in the planning, construction, opening and initial operation of the Men's Shed were given the honour of cutting the cake at last Friday's Birthday celebration. From left: Norrie Gresham, Chris Cannin, Brian Goldsberg, David Harrison and Terry Sparkes.



It was a great catch up for past members at last week's Men's Shed ten plus one birthday celebration. Founding committee member Terry Sparkes returning to the island for the happy occasion. Terry (seated centre) is with Mick Piening and Norrie Gresham. Back from left are Barry Goldsbury, John Taylor, Paul Vastbinder, Dennis Horton and AllanBeever.



10-year-old Bailey (centre), with mum Kellie and little sister Madison, was thrilled to receive a new bike from members of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, after his was stolen on the long weekend.

Red Knights to the rescue

When 10-year-old Bailey's bike was stolen from outside his house on the long weekend, the youngster was devastated.

The family had recently moved to the island from NSW and the bike was a much-loved Christmas present.

Unable to afford to replace it, the family's only hope was the bike would be returned or located.

Then some noble knights rode to the rescue.

The Red Knights Motorcycle Club is an international group, made up of members from a fire fighting background.

Bailey's father James had been part of the NSW Rural Fire Service, and when neighbour Bob Woods, secretary of Chapter 3 of the Australian Red Knights heard the story, he quickly swung into action.

Bob said members try to "support our Brotherhood of member men

and women and to look after others that may not be going through a good time".

Replacing the bike for young Bailey was one way to help the newly arrived family and show them some local hospitality.

"I wanted to show Bailey there were good people out there as well," Bob said.

Bob took a trip to Rebel Sport in Narre Warren, who ordered in the exact replacement for Bailey's stolen bike.

"The Red Knights paid for it, through donations from Chapter 3 (Geelong and West Coast), Chapter 8 (Wonthaggi) and Chapter 6 (Sale)," explained Bob.

"And the manager at Rebel Sport gave us a really sizeable discount. There were a lot of people involved in making this happen."

Members of the Red Knights then gathered at the Phillip Island Fire

Station to present the bike to Bailey last week.

"His mum brought him down and it was a total surprise. He was ecstatic."

Red Knights

The Red Knights Motorcycle Club is made up of members of the fire services and their families who enjoy riding motorcycles.

Membership is open to all firefighters – active or retired, volunteer or career.

The Club's mission is to "promote motorcycle safety, to project a positive image of motorcycling, to enjoy the fraternity of firefighters, to engage exclusively in social, charitable and educational activities, directed at increasing the general understanding, enjoyment, competency, sportsmanship and participation in the sport of motorcycling."

www.redknightsmc.com



A grant from the 2019 Cowes, San Remo and Grantville Community Grants program assisted Phillip Island Landcare with obtaining their Community Shed.

Bumper Grants Program ahead

Sporting and community groups take note – this year's Cowes, San Remo and Grantville Community Bank Grants Program looks to be their biggest and most comprehensive yet.

"Due to COVID-19, we unfortunately had to cancel the 2020 Community Grants," comments Joan Matthews, Chair of the Board of San Remo District Financial Services.

"However, the good news is it will allow us to make the 2021 Grants program one of our best yet!"

Since the Grants program inception, the Cowes, San Remo and Grantville Community Banks have given away over \$975,000 to local not-for-profit community and sporting groups, with projects ranging from the very large (ie \$65,000 for a new roof for the San Remo Recreation Centre) to small (\$500 to the Phillip Island

Historical Society) and everything in-between.

"We encourage anyone interested in applying for a grant this year to come along to our information night at 4.30pm on Wednesday, April 28 at San Remo Bowls Club, Wynne Road, San Remo," Joan continues.

"Information will also be available at our Community Banks in Cowes, San Remo and Grantville after that time, so feel free to pop in and have a chat to our teams."

Grants applications will officially open on Monday, May 10 online via cia.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au, and will close on Monday, June 7.

The official Grants presentation night will be held on September 1 this year.

For further information on the grants process, contact admin@srdfs.com.au or call 5956 7658.

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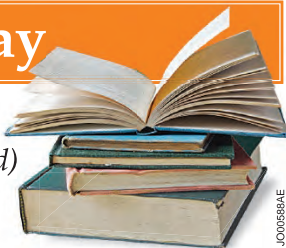
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Membership of this group provides the opportunity to get fit and see beautiful parts of our Island and surrounding districts from the advantage of your bicycle seat. You can enjoy making new friends over coffee and make friendly conversation along the way.

We meet every Wednesday and Sunday at 'A Maze'N'Things' on Phillip Island Road at 10am for Island rides.

More challenging off Island rides are also offered on Sundays.

If riding a bike is a new challenge you might like to explore, but feel unsure of, a short training course can be offered to help you gain confidence to ride with a group on roads and bike paths.

If you are interested in joining us, you can get in touch with:

Ruth Scott (Secretary): rascott501@gmail.com

Chris Phillips (President): chrisdphillips123@gmail.com

Community Bank · Cowes, San Remo District and Grantville & District



You're invited FREE Sports and Life Training

We're inviting all local sporting clubs and community groups to a free sports, life and mental health session, conducted by the accredited organisation, SALT.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| When | Sunday 16 May 2021 |
| Time | Sporting clubs: 10.30am Community groups: 1.30pm |
| Where | San Remo Recreation Centre Wynne Road, San Remo |
| RSVP | RSVP essential to admin@srdfs.com.au by 30 April or drop into your nearest branch at Cowes, San Remo or Grantville. |



Presented by Dave Burt

In his past life Dave was a teacher, sports coach, school counsellor, Sports Chaplain, Welfare Manager and Victorian Coordinator of Sports Chaplaincy Australia.

SALT's aim is to create sporting communities that are as dedicated to each other off the field as they are on the field. Find out more about SALT @ <https://sportandlifetraining.com.au>



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Six months in the job: councillors reflect

It has been about six months since we voted in the latest Bass Coast Shire councillors.

While the group is still meeting online for monthly council meetings – and are yet to appear in public together – they say they have made good use of the last few months.

Here we ask three new councillors – Island Ward's Cr Ronnie Bauer and Cr David Rooks and Western Port Ward's Cr Rochelle Halstead – what are their successes, frustrations and ambitions for the next few months.

Cr Ronnie Bauer spoke to the Advertiser last week from his bed at Epworth rehabilitation, where he is recovering from a stroke earlier in the week.

Question: What achievements have been made so far?

Cr Bauer: “A lot of ratepayers are grateful for someone to turn to when they have a problem so I'm glad to have helped ratepayers with issues from tree limbs to putting them in touch with the right shire officers. It was a win for me when I got unanimous support from my fellow councillors on the issue of calling for streamlined colour coding of bins across Victoria to help visitors understand our bin system here. While it is yet to come before council, I'm also working on the short-term holiday rental accommodation code of conduct and by-law, which will not only help local residents deal with badly behaved visitors, but also will hopefully address the red bin problem by requiring rental accommodation to have a larger bin, which will reduce costs.”

Cr Rooks: “I stood on a platform of getting more paths for walkers and cyclists and this year's draft budget (out this week) has an overarching plan for the shire. I'm working with the Bike User Group and Phillip Island cyclists on priorities. A key path may be Cowes to Summerlands. I'm also interested in creating an app of all paths across the shire, which shows how busy they are and the terrain. I'm chair of the speed review, working with Regional Roads Victoria (see separate story). Also I'm pleased for all the people who worked to stop AGL's bay gas plans. And I'm happy with the working relation-



Cr Ronnie Bauer has vowed to continue to work to resolve the red bin problem, calling for weekly collections over the peak summer period.

ship I have with fellow councillors. I also took on a project to roll out software that responds to customer queries better.”

Cr Halstead: “Achievements at this early stage can only be small as we settle into our role. The first six months have been absorbed by briefings on projects that have already been progressed. It was a pleasure to have taken part in the community engagement, speaking with residents about their vision for Bass Coast. I have been elected to chair of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, Phillip Island Nature Park Community and Environment Advisory Committee, and a sub Member for Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group. I am looking forward to the months ahead as we start to turn our attention to the Four Year Council Plan, a critical document that identifies those issues of importance, sets council's priorities and provides direction for the organisation.”

Question: Any frustrations?

Cr Bauer: “I'd have to say the red bin issue has been a frustration. I stood on a platform of getting more red bin collections during peak season and I'm still hopeful. I'm try-



Cr Rochelle Halstead says there is a huge amount of work ahead which will need state and Federal government support.

ing to thread the needle and get a majority of councillors on board with this. I also would have loved to have resolved dogs off leash by now. I would like to have hours bought back from the current April to December to at least February to December. I would also like to have had poo bag dispensers on poles next to red bins, but that's yet to happen.”

Cr Rooks: “Things take a long time in council and it requires patience. Everything takes longer because there's so many levels of checks and balances to go through and we're constantly being watched. Projects like the Cowes Cultural Centre, the sports hub and community pool, the new transfer station proposed for Gap Road will all take time.”

Cr Halstead: “Local government is a big machine with many cogs. With bigger projects it can be difficult waiting your turn with council prioritising the large demands placed on them. If only we had a money tree.”

Question: Is being a councillor what you thought it would be?

Cr Bauer: “Yes it is what I expected. I'm open to people calling



Cr David Rooks hopes the community endorses the speed limit review and gets involved to plan pathways.

me – I even have an ad in the paper offering for ratepayers to call me. I also understand the need for compromise. I could have fought hard on the red bin issue and gone down with a fight, but I'm still willing to compromise and look for solutions. For the next council term in four years, I'd like to suggest a two-week intensive boot camp for new councillors to get across all the issues. We did it in dribs and drabs over the first month and it's a lot for anyone to take on.”

Cr Rooks: “The part that took me by surprise is how unregulated my role is so I've made my own performance measurements such as ensuring I work well with other councillors, staying focused on my platform, which included focusing on strategic planning and budget issues.”

Cr Halstead: “As a former councillor I went into council with a great deal of knowledge however every council has their own way of operating. There is a huge amount of work ahead for Bass Coast which will need the support of both state and Federal governments to provide the necessary services and facilities of a fast growing population.”

Question: What do you hope to achieve in 2021 and beyond?

Cr Bauer: “Without doubt I'm confident the Cowes Cultural Centre will be built and finished in the short term. I'm looking forward to PICAL moving to its new site on Warley Avenue and for the community hospital to open on its land at Church Street. The sports hub and community pool is a long way away but at the same time we don't want to lose focus and let it fall off. It's way out of reach of ratepayers' money and that is where we all need to work as a team to lobby state and Federal governments for funding. I want to ensure the unreasonable customer conduct policy (introduced in March) gets proper scrutiny. Ecotourism is another critical issue, especially bike and walking paths.”

Cr Rooks: “I hope the community endorses the speed limit review and gets involved to plan pathways. Through the state government's upcoming Distinctive Area Landscapes work I want to ensure the town boundaries are maintained and I also want to work on town character – we're also currently starting on improving the streetscape of Thompson Avenue in Cowes. I would like to get funding to support the community to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. I'd like to see Olive Justice Place (opposite Aldi) become a community park and I support a dogs off leash park but I'm not interested in extending off-leash areas on beaches.”

Cr Halstead: “There are so many projects and I am keen to see what the community's feedback has been through our community engagement. Here are just a few I hope will gain the support of fellow councillors: (1) A San Remo Activity Centre Plan – focusing on a recreational and community hub, car parking and road management plans; (2) progress the Grantville Amphitheatre plans; (3) advocate for the upgrade of the Bass Highway Kilcunda with the installation of a pedestrian crossing, re-design of car parking; (4) strive for zero net emissions through good environmental management; (5) create an arts hub; (6) Distinctive Area Landscapes work; (7) a housing strategy including neighbourhood character, lot sizes, and setbacks.”

A new view for tourism

Farm or agriculture-based tourism looks set to grow in Bass Coast, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the state government.

Bass Coast Shire Council received the \$100,000 grant through the Streamlining for Growth program, which is designed to support councils to unblock or fast track planning processes.

Announcing the grant, Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale said the money would be used to undertake assessments of the visitor economy and make recommendation on how to update the Bass Coast Planning Scheme, to encourage investment.

The funding will help the council to identify and then remove unnecessary barriers to investment, especially as they relate to land-use and development approvals, Ms Crugnale said.

But there's a specific target for the project – encouraging tourism that is associated with agriculture, such as (but not limited to) host farms, farm gate businesses and real time farm experiences.

The project is designed to encourage private investment in Bass Coast, by ensuring land-use controls align with local tourism strategies, said Council CEO Ali Wastie.

“The Unlocking Rural Tourism Project builds on work in the Bass Coast Rural Land Use Strategy and Phillip

Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy to direct and encourage tourism development in the most appropriate locations and remove barriers to success,” Ms Wastie said.

“Council has identified roadblocks restricting the establishment of new tourism developments including land-use controls and infrastructure. The project seeks to “Unlock” tourism development opportunities in Bass Coast to assist in Covid-19 recovery and provide employment for the Shire's continuing population growth.”

The existing rural tourism precincts will be a focus of the project. Council said development of sites within these precincts has been slow, and the current planning controls don't necessarily match with its “economic development aspirations”.

Donna Taylor, Council's Strategy and Growth Manager explains the focus is on tourism use in association with agriculture.

The intent is to ensure high value agricultural land is protected, while identifying suitable areas for tourism.

“The first stage of the project is to do an audit of what we have, and what works well and then build on that, rather than reinvent the wheel,” she said.

“It's about creating visitor experiences alongside viable agricultural enterprise.”

The aim is to identify the right sites



A \$100,000 grant for The Unlocking Rural Tourism project is designed to help identify high-value agricultural land in Bass Coast, and identify areas suitable for agriculture-based tourism. Photo: Leanne Cairnduff

and areas for agriculture-based tourism ventures and then facilitate it.

For example, there could be opportunities for farm-based tourism on farmland located en route to tourism destinations like the Penguin Parade. The project could involve changes

to the planning scheme, including some land being rezoned.

“That's not the main aim of the project, but the research might identify areas more suitable for tourism, and that there are changes needed in the planning scheme,” Donna said.

Outcomes could include changes to the policy section of the planning scheme, or changes to zones or overlays.

One thing the project is not about is removing land from agricultural production.

“It's about tourism associated with agriculture and enhancing what we've got,” said Donna.

Time frame

With the project still in its early stages, there is currently no confirmed timeline, although council has said there will be consultation, directly with farmers and potentially the broader community.

CEO Ali Wastie said there were four stages to the project: undertaking background research, targeted stakeholder engagement, preparation of the final report, and implementation “through the Planning Scheme or otherwise”.

While the Unlocking Rural Tourism project is expected to be completed by mid-2022, implementing any proposed changes to the planning scheme could take at least 18 months.

There are mandatory consultation requirements for any changes to the planning scheme, including changes going on exhibition, and community members being able to make submissions which are reviewed by a planning panel or advisory committee.



Staying local to honour their service this ANZAC Day

Victorians will be able to honour the sacrifice of our service men and women in person this year, with local services at RSL's across the state and limited attendance at the traditional ANZAC Day Dawn Service and March.

The Victorian Government said it has worked closely with RSL Victoria to ensure veterans and their families could march this year, but encourages Victorians to stay local on ANZAC Day.

In Melbourne, the ANZAC Day March can proceed safely with 5500 people, in line with the application submitted by the RSL and approved under Victoria's Public Events Framework.

The traditional Dawn Service and Commemorative Services will also be held with smaller numbers in partnership with the Shrine of Remembrance, and live streamed for all Victorians to watch at facebook.com/rslvic.

Victorians can also share their show of remembrance from home by taking part in #lightupthedawn on social media while observing the traditional minute's silence from their driveways, front yards or balconies.



Last year, Glenys and Glyn Mahon, with James, Ely and Olly Spottiswood, marked Anzac Day at dawn in McKenzie Road. Victorians are again being urged to take part in #lightupthedawn, observing the traditional minute's silence from their driveways.



The Anzac Day march in Cowes in 1922. Photo provided by John Jansson.

ANZAC Day in Cowes 1922

As we experience a very different ANZAC Day due to Covid restrictions, we look back at the ANZAC Day commemorations held in Cowes 99 years ago.

The following article, provided by island historian John Jansson, was taken from the Frankston and Somerville Standard, April 28, 1922.

An out-door service in celebration of ANZAC Day was held in the Soldiers' Memorial Reserve outside the Isle of Wight Hotel at Cowes at 3pm, and was attended by a large gathering from all parts of the Island.

The Reverend Chas Clarke, (father of Australian historian Manning Clark) of St Philip's Church of England, had been in communication with the authorities at the Naval Base (Cerberus across the bay) to request assistance with the celebration.

And with the kind permission of the Commandant, the vessel "Koorong" conveyed a contingent of some 30 men under Warrant Officer Beale, and a band of 15 instrumentalists under Bandmaster McCarthy, to participate.

Phillip Island's 28 returned men assembled at the Shire Hall, and headed by the band, marched past the residence of Mr Robert Walpole, whose keen interest in all matters pertaining to national welfare, and particularly those connected with the late war, was well known to all residents of the Island, but who, through failing health, was unable, to

take part in any public functions.

The procession, after passing the Phillip Island Hotel, proceeded to the reserve, and took up a position to the left of the monument.

The service started with the singing of the well-known hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers" led by a combined choir from the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches, with Miss Walpole presiding at the organ.

Chaplain Hennel led the assemblage in prayer, after which the choir sang "Land of Hope and Glory", which was followed up by the hymn "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus".

Mr Ashmore then read the 145th Psalm, after which the choir sang "The Long Day Closes".

The names of the fallen were then read, and the Last Post sounded while soldiers and sailors stood at salute.

The hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" was followed by an address by Rev Clark, who reminded those assembled that seven years ago on that day, in the grey dawn, there silently approached the shores of Gallipoli our men, who after a hurried landing, made good their position, but at a great sacrifice, and that sacrifice is held up to us as an inspiration to higher and better service.

The hymn, "For All the Saints" was then sung, followed by the school children singing "The Anzac Song" and the service was brought to a close with the National Anthem.

After the service all the returned sailors and soldiers, at the invitation of Mr AKT Sambell, had afternoon tea at The Isle of Wight.

Cowes and San Remo ANZAC services

This year's local ANZAC services conducted by the Phillip Island RSL will be ticketed events, due to ongoing Covid restrictions.

Numbers at the 6am Dawn Service and the main service at 11am in Cowes will be restricted to 250 ticketholders.

While the events are free, tickets must be booked to access the services.

The services will also be streamed via the Phillip Island RSL's Facebook page.

There will be no ANZAC Day March or any ANZAC Day activities held at the RSL, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

At 11am there will be an ANZAC Day service at the Cenotaph in San Remo with members of the community invited to attend and lay a wreath.

Lest we forget

Remembering Lance Corporal Raymond Slade Thornton

By John Jansson

A documentary series on the Greek Islands My Greek Odyssey shown on Channel 7 last year captured the attention of local historian John Jansson and sparked the memory of a Cowes man who lost his life during the First World War.

The series was hosted by wealthy entrepreneur Peter Maneas who travelled around the Islands in his super yacht Mia Zoi.

One of the Islands he visited was Lemnos, one of the closest Greek Islands to the Turkish coast. This was the base for the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who left for Gallipoli on April 24, 1915. Hospitals were set up here to treat the wounded and other soldiers returned here for rest.

Lemnos was also the site of two war cemeteries at East Mudros and Portianou. Peter visited East Mudros cemetery and by coincidence, the only headstone shown close up out of the 94 Anzacs in the cemetery was that of Raymond Slade Thornton.

224 L/Cpl. Raymond Slade Thornton was born on September 24, 1893 at Cowes, son of Alfred Thornton, the Mounted Police Constable at Cowes, and Alice, daughter of Captain John Barnard Lock and Elizabeth of Rhyll. His school days



Lance Corporal Raymond Slade Thornton enlisted in 1914 and was the first Islander to die in the First World War.

were at Healesville where his father was constable in charge.

He enlisted with the 2nd Field Ambulance of the Australian Army Medical Corps on August 19, 1914, as a private. This was the same day and same unit as Leonard Bagley who settled at San Remo after the war. After training at Broadmeadows Raymond embarked on HMAT Wiltshire for Egypt on October 19 in the first convoy of ships to leave Australia.

After several months training in the desert Raymond landed at the Gallipoli Peninsula with the 2nd Brigade on April 25 and was in charge of a stretcher squad in the field up to within a

couple of days of his death. He received a gunshot wound on the right side through the lung and was evacuated to HMAT Dunluce Castle. He died on board on May 25, 1915, the first Islander to die in the war.

His story is told in a letter from the Chaplain published in the Malvern Standard, August 7, 1915.

Alexandria, May 30, 1915.

Dear Mr. Thornton, - As chaplain on a hospital ship in the Mediterranean I got to know and respect your son, R. S. Thornton, and feel that you would be glad of a line from me. You will have received word by cable of his death on this ship on May 26, 1915. He was shot through the lung. Every care and attention was given him by the medical staff and ambulance corps, and I saw him frequently. He suffered little pain and was quite cheerful. I found him a true Christian lad, and he was glad to receive the sacrament at my hands. From him I received your address. He spoke of you and his mother with fondness. He died with a sure trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, and was buried with others on Lemnos Island, a green, beautiful spot. With sincere sympathy, I am, yours faithfully, HENRY S. BLAMIRE. - Methodist Captain Chaplain, New Zealand Forces.

ANZAC DAY SERVICES

6.00am - Dawn Service
11.00am - Main Service

• Services are a ticketed event at 250 per service

• Tickets are free of charge and allows access within the fenced area for the services

• Tickets can be obtained at the Phillip Island RSL*

• Ticket holders must provide contact details for each ticket under the COVID 19 regulations

• Ticket priority is given to Phillip Island RSL Service Members, Affiliate Members then Social.

• Tickets must be presented upon entry with correct details

• No March will be held this year

• No ANZAC Day activities will be held at the premises of the Phillip Island RSL due to COVID 19 patron restrictions

• Services will be live streamed via the PIRSL FaceBook page

*Ticket Allocation
Tickets are not transferrable
Tickets are available at the RSL from 15 April 2021- 23 April 2021

For the safety and respect of our Veterans we request safe practice of social distancing be maintained before, during and post service. - LEST WE FORGET



PIRSL.COM.AU
225-243 THOMPSON AVE COWES VIC
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Visitors hit the road!

A mobile Visitor Information Centre has been introduced on Phillip Island.

The colourful van displaying island scenery has been parked on the Cowes foreshore near the jetty for most of the school holidays.

Introduced by Bass Coast Shire Council around six weeks ago, the specially fitted out van offers a full range of visitor information services including booking tickets and accommodation, providing maps, and brochures and helping

visitors find out what is on offer to do and enjoy.

Locals and holiday homeowners will be pleased to learn it also distributes the green organics bags.

Since the old Cultural Centre building was demolished in August last year, there's been no Visitor Information Service in Cowes.

The new van has driven in to fill that gap and will be in action every Saturday and over school holidays.

A council spokesperson said when in use, the van will primarily

be located on the foreshore in Cowes near the jetty, from 11am to 3pm.

"Periodically, the mobile van will then be relocated to other areas within Phillip Island and across Bass Coast to capitalise on events and cater to demand, as was seen during our pop-ups in Rhyll for the cruise ship visits."

Staff say the new van has attracted plenty of attention with up to 200 people dropping by on busy days.

It is not expected to be used on Saturdays during winter.



A mobile visitor information centre has been created in this van, offering a full range of visitor services. The van has been parked at the Cowes foreshore between 11am and 3pm most days during the school holidays.

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10 THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021



Now we're entering a Covid-normal, Lisa McLure says it's time to head to the doctors for an annual health check-up, and to read your body's warning signs. With a focus on healthy eating, she makes pizza with her kids Angus and Evie.

"The past week has been an eye-opener health wise.

As I said last week I finally discovered I got a gut parasite from my trip in March 2020 to Sumatra.

For the past year I've felt yuck and kept going to the doctor saying something was wrong with my stomach and I was always tired and they put it down to anxiety and Covid.

I thought maybe it was because I had an operation a few years ago.

But I knew intuitively something was wrong.

I was eating well and exercising – not like I was eating McDonald's and KFC – nothing too different – yet in the past 12 months my weight kept going up and up and up.

I put on 20kg. It was like I was six months' pregnant or something.

Even when I got a bout of gastro I put on 2kg, when everyone else lost 5kg.

So I switched doctors and kept pushing for an answer and finally she tested for a parasite.

It turns out I got it from some food. We were in the jungle and it sounds gross but they were handling the food and probably not washing their hands after going to the toilet.

Tim didn't get it but he's got a king-sized immunity. He'll get a runny nose and we'll all get sick for two weeks.

I'm on hideous drugs which are making me feel much worse before I get better – more fatigue and nausea.

But the same thing happened to a few of my friends.

One girlfriend had a problem she tried to find a solution to and ended up after more than three years being diagnosed with endometriosis and polycystic ovaries. It was just through constant persistence, knowing her body, knowing something wasn't right and finding someone to listen.

Another friend who travelled to Thailand had something wrong with her chest and it took her 12 months before she was finally diagnosed correctly. She kept saying 'I'm not right, I'm not right'.

In a way it was the same with people on Phillip Island being diagnosed with Ross River fever over summer. They knew something was wrong and took the initiative to get tested.

I'm not blaming doctors. They are flat out and under the pump and trying to see as many people as possible.

Also during Covid we've all put off our health appointments, tests and checks so now we're getting back to normal everyone should be going to their doctors. The onus is on us to do something.

The doctor and I talked about food and exercise and also the time you eat. I've always had a healthy diet.

Now I'm perimenopausal I can't go a day without eating like I did in my 20s because my body just goes into starvation mode and hangs on to what it's got.

I have to be aware of what I'm eating in the morning so it sustains me through the day and I don't crave chocolate or a sugar hit at 3pm.

It's not about toxic diets, shakes or stopping eating or restricting.

It's about eating well. I try and get as many colours on my plate as possible, a rainbow.

I figure that way I'm covering off on as many healthy things as possible.

If it's a beige or yellow plate, like a chicken parma with cheese then it probably won't be as good for you.

Instead of gobbling a bag of chips and a beer in front of the TV I try and make a beautiful platter and savour it. So I'll have quince paste and camembert with a glass of red. I enjoy the process of putting it together, then eating it and sitting down with my family and talking to each other.

We need to make food beautiful and the experience of eating it too. That's what fills the soul.

It's when we have lazy nights like toasted cheese sandwiches in front of the TV that we don't talk.

The kids can be fussy. Evie wouldn't eat pizza but I got her involved in making the dough and she is now the dough maker and she loves to eat it.

I thought it was hogwash when they recommended doing that with your kids, but it worked.

Having said that I choose my weapons. I don't go for Brussel sprouts and broccoli."



Offering quality building services, Scott (left) and Toby (right) from Kornerstone say good communication with clients is at the heart of every project.

A passion for building

Kornerstone, a building company with a wealth of experience, is offering quality building services on Phillip Island.

From custom built homes, extensions and major renovations, the team at Kornerstone can be relied on for professional and personal service.

For founders Toby and Scott, who between them share over 30 years of experience in the industry, communication with their clients is at the heart of every project.

"Our communication with clients is really important," Toby explained.

"We value our relationship with clients, and we pride ourselves on doing it well."

Since forming Kornerstone a little over a year ago, the pair have built a strong base in Melbourne. They're now hoping to expand to the island where both men have

strong connections.

"I grew up down here and our family has had a holiday house at Surf Beach for 40 years," said Toby.

"Scott has a place at Wimbledon Heights."

With the current real estate and building boom, they know the demand for builders is high.

"A lot of our local friends have told us how hard it is to get a builder."

Kornerstone is hoping to change that.

They specialise in full renovations, extensions and new builds.

"We can also do large decks, kitchens and bathroom renovations, and if a project isn't suited to us, we have great contacts on the island that we can refer people to."

Right from the start, Kornerstone aim to take the stress out of building or renovating.

"You can contact us with preliminary drawings and we're happy to

provide initial costs advice, including where to get savings, or how to spend money more effectively," Toby said.

"If you have finished house plans and planning permits, we can give you a detailed quote."

Working closely with clients is at the heart of the Kornerstone approach.

"We've worked with 60 to 70 per cent of our clients right from the start, from the preliminary drawing stage.

"We want our clients to have a good experience, because if you have a happy building experience overall, it increases your satisfaction with the final result."

That commitment to customer service has paid dividends, with the majority of the company's work coming from word of mouth.

"Our clients recommend us to their friends."

Dedicated team

Working alongside Toby and Scott is a small team of carpenters and a group of trusted subcontractors, to ensure every job is completed to their exacting standards.

With extensive project management skills on domestic and commercial building sites, Toby and Scott are uniquely placed to project manage your building or renovation.

"When you talk to us, you're talking to the boss," Toby said.

"But we're hands-on as well.

"We both jump on the tools too. It's in our interest to keep a close eye on the project.

"We're there with you to the very end."

Find out more at www.kornerstone.com.au, email info@kornerstone.com.au or call Toby 0439 477 864 or Scott 0403 424 914.

/ Sponsored Article /

Further action needed

AGL decision is just the start of community action for Western Port's future

The Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Foundation said the government's rejection of AGL's proposal for a gas importation terminal at Crib Point in Western Port should mark the start and not the end of community action to preserve the internationally acclaimed Western Port Biosphere Reserve.

Foundation Chair, Jo McCoy, said the proposal had created a focal point and motivation for local governments, traditional owners and the wider community to frame conversations around population growth and development projects in a way sympathetic to our sensi-

tive environment.

"We are very pleased by the Victorian Government's decision to reject the proposed AGL terminal and pipeline to Pakenham," she said.

"However, it is important that the community maintains momentum in addressing the challenges we face in achieving sustainable development in the region. The Western Port Biosphere is known for its natural environment, including world-class wetlands and its importance as a destination for migratory birds from as far away as Siberia."

She noted UNESCO designated areas where it was possible to rec-

onile the conservation of high value biodiversity, for example, Western Port's Ramsar wetlands, with sustainable development. Decisions needed to be based on good science that enables people to live in harmony with their natural environment.

She said the Foundation wanted to work with other groups within the Biosphere Reserve to develop programs to sustainably manage natural resources.

"Managing our natural resources sustainably can be environment-friendly, while improving the bottom line," Ms McCoy said.

She added many of the threats

to the region were gradual. They include climate change, increased sediment flowing into Western Port from agriculture and poorly planned residential development, waste and emissions from industry and recreational activities and behaviours insensitive to the environment.

"We are stepping up our skills and resources to broaden our reach and effectiveness throughout the Western Port Biosphere Reserve region. We always welcome additional volunteer support and ideas from people with the skills, energy and enthusiasm to support our programs and outreach," Ms McCoy said.

Supporting local business, creates local jobs.

RUSSELL BROADBENT MP
Federal Member for **Monash**

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And available for hire if you want to do it all yourself are chairs, tables, crockery, cutlery, glassware, décor and lighting.

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Over the Top events is situated at 15 The Concourse in Cowes.

Contact them on 5952 1791 or email info@overthetopevents.com.au. Find out more by going to www.overthetopevents.com.au.



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Andrew Harrison established as a professional photographer in 2000.

He has a keen artistic eye and allows your story to unfold naturally, letting quiet moments and connections happen.

Andrew's unique photographic style is de-

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He and his wife Fiona, also a photographer, are a fun couple. This shows in the photos Andrew takes.

Awards and memberships include:

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- 2011 AIPP Master of Photography M.Photos
- 2014 Victorian Top 5 Wedding Photographer
- 2016 AIPP Master of Photography Gold Bar M.Photos

• 2017 Victorian Wedding Photographer of the Year

• 2018 Australian TOP 10 Wedding Photographer

To contact Passion8 Photography call 0418 331 162 or 1300 848 200.



PASSION8 Photography run by Andrew Harrison provides professional, fresh and fun service to couples on their wedding day.

Award winning photographer



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Andrew established as a Professional Photographer in 2000.

He has a keen artistic eye and allows your story to unfold naturally, letting quiet moments and connections happen.

Andrew's unique photographic style is developed on the day, capturing the distinct emotion and feeling as they truly happen.

He and his wife Fiona, also a photographer are a fun couple. This shows in the photos Andrew takes.

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Wedding Bells and Ocean Views

Spectacular ocean views from every angle await couples at the Nobbies Function Centre, located at the westernmost tip of Phillip Island.

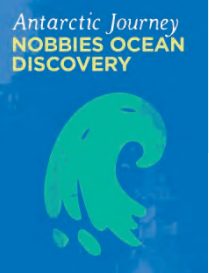
This intimate, boutique wedding location, up the stairs in the Nobbies visitor centre, is available for breakfast and lunch celebrations for those who want to think outside the square for their special day.

Best suited to smaller weddings, including the increasingly popular elopement ceremonies, this versatile venue allows for packages to be designed to suit all needs and budgets. Catering menus can include sustainable seafood options, a specialty of the house at the Nobbies.

Who could ask for a better backdrop for their cherished photo memories than the clifftop boardwalks overlooking the Nobbies, Seal Rocks and beyond to the Bass Strait? And for something completely unique, the Antarctic Journey downstairs offers some great opportunities for some wedding photos with a difference.

Nature Parks Events Specialist Melissa Cashman personally manages each wedding, so you know your special day and special memories are in safe hands.

Photography provided by Claire Davie and Island Wedding Collective



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No need to head to Melbourne's CBD for a government registry wedding, when you can do something even better and just as quick (if that's your thing) right here on Phillip Island.

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WEB: www.phillipislandregistryoffice.com.au
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Couples choosing to have their reception on Churchill Island can opt for an intimate dinner for small groups, up to a marquee on the lawns overlooking the water for larger groups - the opportunities are virtually endless.

As recently married couple Rachael and Tom said: "Everything was beyond our expectations, and we couldn't have asked for a more perfect day. The venue was beautiful, and very "us", with little touches of nature, and a spectacular view of the bay."



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April 22 - 7.30pm
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April 24 - 11.30am & 5.30pm

Tickets: www.wonthaggiartscentre.com.au

When a tornado rips through Kansas, Dorothy and her dog, Toto, are whisked away in their house to the magical land of Oz. They follow the Yellow Brick Road toward the Emerald City to meet the Wizard, and en route they meet a Scarecrow that needs a brain, a Tin Man missing a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who wants courage.

This much loved tale of friendship and adventure is proudly presented by the staff and students of Newhaven College. Philip Is.



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The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. A large cast, non-stop laughs and explosive dance numbers combine to make Mamma Mia! a theatrical experience.

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Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre

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THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news

College's musical Wiz kids

Musical theatre is making a welcome return to Phillip Island with Newhaven College's upcoming performance of The Wizard of Oz.

"It's the first musical we've had since Covid," head of drama and theatre Lauren White said.

"We started rehearsing in term four last year but only with dialogue, because singing wasn't allowed."

Lauren said initially seating was limited to be Covid-safe, but a fortnight ago the state government allowed full capacity, so tickets to the show were now available.

The Wizard of Oz runs from Thursday April 22 with the last show on Saturday 24 and



The college's performance of The Wizard of Oz has 60 cast members, but the stars are, from left: Shontelle O'Connor (Dorothy), from Wonthaggi; Smiths Beach's Helena Leonards (Scarecrow); Lucien Savage (Lion) from Grantville; and Cowes Tinman Lucas White.

features 60 cast members from years seven through to 12.

Year 10 student Lucas White,

from Cowes is the Tinman and said he was both "nervous and excited".

Art for Olive Justice Place

Local artist Eirian Chapman has begun painting a new mural at Olive Justice Place in Cowes, as part of Bass Coast Shire Council's Street Art Scheme.

The work is currently underway and is expected to be completed by April 28.

Eirian Chapman is a Cowes local whose bold, graphic designs have appeared in campaigns for Destination Phillip Island, Melbourne Zoo, Schweppes and the Melbourne Writers' Festival, among others.

In this mural, at iconic Olive Justice Place, Eirian will be depicting many aspects of life

on the Island, while honouring the memory of Olive Justice, whose legacy of community work and trailblazing endeavours during the pre-ferry era of Phillip Island, still resonate to this day.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said that Council's Street Art Scheme will see a number of mural projects completed across the Shire.

"These murals, such as the beautiful birds in Wonthaggi or the abstract wall in Grantville, create wonderful points of interest in our towns," Cr Tessari said.

"It is wonderful to see both

local and visiting artists bringing their visions to the walls of Bass Coast."

Owing to its graphic design, Eirian's mural will be visible from many locations in the immediate area and is bound to promote discussion around giving and nurturing, motherhood and the very topical issue of women's rights.

It'll also be a great feature of the pop-up outdoor dining area, encouraging contemplation while diners share lunch with their friends or families.

Temporary fencing will be installed in the area while work on the mural is underway.



Shearwater chicks are about to start their long migration to Alaska, but some fledglings end up on our roads as they learn to fly. Many are killed each year on the roads at night particularly where there is vehicle or street lights.

Shearwater chicks prepare for take-off

The Short-tailed Shearwater chicks are about to leave Phillip Island and head for Alaska.

Phillip Island Nature Parks is asking for community support as the chicks begin emerging from their burrows to undertake their incredible migration to waters around Alaska.

Phillip Island Nature Parks researchers confirm that the adult birds have already taken off on their journey, leaving one chick in each burrow, converting their fat reserves to muscles in readiness to take their first flight across one of the most amazing flight paths in nature.

Some of these first-time flyers have been starting to exercise their wing muscles in the recent strong winds, with a few being blown over the cliffs and onto the island's beaches.

Nature Parks' rangers are conducting regular patrols to relocate these chicks back into the colony so they can try again when the winds are right.

In a recent visit to the colony, the research team reported evidence of a successful breeding season.

"In summary, we found record high numbers of chicks which are in healthy condition and good body weights nearly ready to fledge," said Phillip Island Nature Parks Deputy Research Director, Dr Duncan Sutherland.

The team reported that most chicks still had their down feathers and were spending most of their time in their burrows to grow their adult plumage before venturing out on the first test flights.

"It looks like only a few of the chicks are emerging from their burrow to exercise their wing muscles at the moment and that will change soon."

The exact timing of this year's migration of the young shearwaters is still unknown but will coincide with strong winds towards the end of April, start of May.

Whenever it happens, Phillip Island Nature Parks is ready to go with its Shearwater Rescue Program, once again partnering with Bass Coast Shire Council, Regional Roads Victoria, SP Ausnet and the local community to assist the shearwaters' safe departure.

As they learn to fly, the fledglings may end up landing on the roads at night causing a hazard for not only the birds but drivers as well. The shearwaters are known to flock to the San Remo bridge lights, so in conjunction with SP Ausnet, lights will be switched off as in previous years for up to 8-10 nights during the peak of departure.

SP Ausnet has also installed 50 specialty streetlights, at the new Woolamai Beach Road/Phillip Island Road and Back Beach Road/Phillip Island Road roundabouts.

The Nature Parks will also implement several road safety initiatives including lowering speed limits on affected roads to 40km/h, placing electronic message boards, and installing a Regional Roads Victoria supplied mobile billboard to let motorists know that there may be shearwaters on the roads.

"Since the inception of the Shearwater Rescue Program in 1999, thousands of birds have been saved from the roads as they attempt to fly. We thank the community for your support in protecting wildlife - we can't do it without you," said Duncan.

PROUDLY PRESENTS...

The Spooky Men's Chorale

Men singing songs. Some of them are funny.

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LK00709AA



This brand new designer home is perfect for a sea change or holiday home.



The home opens into a huge living space, kitchen (with stone benches and a walk-in pantry) and dining area, with large glass sliding doors to an undercover BBQ area.

Brand new designer home



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The perfect home awaits, nestled in the quiet hamlet of Silverleaves is this large family home set over a single level. The north facing aspect is perfect for entertaining family and friends, with the living and dining area flowing to a protected outdoor entertaining area. Excellent access to the extremely safe north facing beach is another feature for all generations that cannot be replicated. The Silverleaves store and golf club are but minutes away.

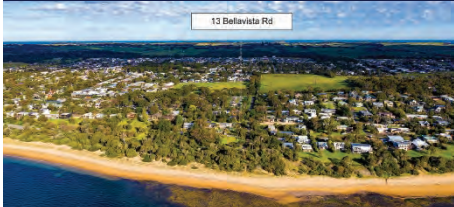
PERFECT HIDEAWAY



3 Salmon Row, Smiths Beach \$850,000

Set over three levels, the perfect investment or holiday home awaits. With excellent access to Smiths Beach this exclusive location is perfect to escape the Melbourne madness, let the stress just drift away as you enter the property. Walk to the stunning foreshore, enjoy a swim, surf or just walk the dog. All the options are yours to enjoy.

LAND AHoy!



13 Bella Vista Road, Cowes \$750,000

This original beach house is the perfect start; with so much potential because of the land size and north facing aspect. Create the dream home with ample room for boat or caravan. Another option is to make three lots, all with north facing environment (STCA). We haven't mentioned the easy access to the Cowes Foreshore or walking distance to Cowes main street.

THE OPPORTUNITY AWAITS



20 Hopkins Drive, Grantville \$219,000

Located in a quiet street, here's your opportunity to build your dream home on this vacant allotment. With the possibility of having great water views across the Bay and beyond.

It does not get much better than this.

Located in the quiet sea-side town of Cowes, this home is perfect for those looking for something special – a sea change or holiday home away from the hustle and bustle.

When you pull up to this unique property, it feels like you have arrived home. This light filled family home with a country feel is situated on the northern side and designed to take full advantage of the northerly aspect.

The large entrance gives you that sense of space which flows through the whole property. The master

bedroom is located at the front for privacy and offers a walk-in robe and full ensuite facilities. The remaining three bedrooms are private and can be opened with an internal sliding door when you have family or friends visit.

As you walk through you are greeted with the first living space, a cosy area to enjoy a good book.

As you continue the home opens into a huge living space, kitchen and dining. The hostess kitchen with stone benches and a walk-in pantry is the real winner of this executive style home. Two large glass sliding doors

allows you access to a great undercover BBQ area that continues around the corner and onto a large grass area.

A large double remote garage allows internal access and access to the backyard on the other side via double gates, giving you plenty of room for the boat or caravan.

All this with fully landscaped gardens and a child and pet friendly yard with colorbond fencing.

Contact: Alex Scott & Staff on 5952 2633 and we would be pleased to arrange a private viewing.

Address: 14 Clifton Avenue, Cowes
Additional features: Situated on a large (approx.) 650m² allotment
Price: \$795,000 to \$825,000



The house, with full landscaped gardens and a child and pet friendly yard is set on approximately 650 square metres.

www.phillipislandfn.com.au
60 Thompson Ave, Cowes

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Real estate photography involves much more than just aiming a camera and clicking. It is a way of selling a lifestyle a potential buyer can see themselves living.

The role professional photography plays in selling your home.

Whether it is online, in a local paper or in your agency window, the first thing people do when looking for a home is look at the photos.

People want to visualise a home before they walk through it or even read about it.

Real estate photography involves much more than just aiming a camera and clicking. It is a way of selling a lifestyle a potential buyer can see themselves living. It pays to find the right photographer to show properties in their best light to appeal to your buyer.

Excellent photography draws on people's emotions and really does speak a thousand words. It can be a huge contributor to a successful sale and make the difference as to whether potential buyers decide if your home is worth an inspection. In fact, 87 per cent of buyers admit to deciding to view a home based on photographs on the listing.

That is why it is important to work with a real estate agent to get professional photography done before putting your home on the market. Your agent should have the expert knowledge and connections to professional photographers to produce images that resonate and appeal to sellers.

It is important to note that the photogra-

pher cannot perform miracles. Your real estate agent should have the skills to advise you on how to declutter, tidy, or fix issues within your home that can make a difference to the sale, and you need to be open to the constructive criticism; remember they are selling a house not your home.

With buyers doing more research than ever and the market becoming increasingly competitive, there is no doubt, homes with great professional photos sell faster; and 69 per cent of realtors who use professional photography say that doing so definitely does decrease days on the market.

The emphasis here is on professional photography because you need high quality photos, but with the ever-increasing advances in technology, it is also important to work with an agent that can use that technology to your benefit as well. From 3D virtual tours and floor plans to digital signage boards and online platforms, your agent needs to be constantly looking for innovative marketing techniques to ensure a fast and successful sale.

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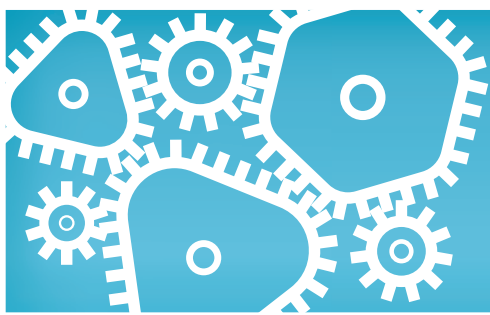
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Cape Woolamai burn outs

Following on from your article about the issue with Hoon driving on the Island I would like to bring to your attention that it is also occurring in side streets as well as at the major roundabouts.

Vista Drive in Cape Woolamai has experienced a number of 'burn outs' between Seashell Avenue and Broadwater Avenue over the past few weeks, the most recent a couple of nights ago.

This is a very narrow residential street which carries a lot of pedestrian traffic, children on scooters and bicycles as well as dogwalkers.

The increase in this hoon behaviour is putting the area at considerable risk and is potentially a serious accident waiting to happen.

Maybe you could encourage residents where this sort of activity is occurring to immediately report the incidents to the Police via Crime Stoppers.

Peter Dumergue, Cape Woolamai

\$65 Million. Why?

The Bass Coast Shire Council has reported ongoing Investments. \$44,040m, \$41,040m, \$54m from 30 June 2020 to 31 December 2020. At a recent council meeting \$65,040m became known. Why is council continually investing our money at these levels? Has any past or present Councillor been asked for an Investment Banking Company to exist at council under their corporation umbrella? When will a comprehensive explanation come forth? \$65,040m WHY. The return on investment can contribute to the cost of a weekly pickup of the red waste bin during peak times in the Bass Coast. But what about the Capital Works Program. Have you asked your Councillor for an explanation?

Graham Jolly, Cape Woolamai

Battle of Kapyong

This year on April 24, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong, an important battle fought during the Korean War that involved Australian, Commonwealth and other United Nations Command forces.

In April 1951, the Chinese launched an offensive with the aim to retake Seoul and after quickly overrunning South Korean forces who were defending one of the major routes, the valley of the Kapyong River, they encountered Commonwealth troops who were occupying defensive positions.

The battle began for the Australian troops on April 23 and was fought in cold conditions on difficult terrain.

The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), was repeatedly attacked through the night and into the next day, and was forced

to withdraw to defensive positions established further to the rear after having slowed the momentum of the Chinese advance.

On April 24/25, 1951, the focus of the attacks shifted to the positions held by Canadian troops, but with the assistance of New Zealand artillery, they were able to halt the Chinese advance.

Australian and Canadian battalions were each awarded a United States Presidential Unit Citation for their part in the battle.

On behalf of Australia, we remember and honour the some 18,000 Australian service personnel who were involved in the Korean War, including the Battle of Kapyong, and in particular those who died.

In the lead-up to Kapyong Day I will be visiting Townsville, the home of 3RAR, to talk with the current members of this unit and to reflect on this important milestone in our military history.

Lest we forget.

Darren Chester Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Personnel

Airbnb nightmare

I have had my home here for 35 years, and I have never been so disappointed in the Airbnb holiday rentals. I have one rental next to me and one at the back of me. The renters do not care about the residents who have to go to work every day. I think the fact they can sleep up to 15 people at any time and are never policed or checked on at all plays a big part in the parties and excessive noise that constantly takes place. I am dreading every Friday because you don't know what you are going to get every weekend.

Judith Ellis, Cape Woolamai

Rustic charm or hi rise?

In a recent letter, drawing attention to fewer letters in local papers, am guilty myself of fewer letters since then, expecting other people might respond to one issue which jumped off the page for me, from January 28, below:

"Planning Panel ruled in 2019 that any future development on the Isle of Wight site should remain seven storeys at the front half of the site along The Esplanade, and five storeys at the rear".

Is nobody at all concerned about this? Exact words that jumped off the page were "seven storeys at the front ..."

Does this fit with the way we see Phillip Island? Does the world have space any more for what's left of rustic charm? Or are we happy about downgrade to wannabe Gold Coast image?

New owners will already have started chucking serious organisation dollars about. If we don't agree with what they propose, there's no way we can match their dollars so

don't we need to make big noise ASAP, before they spend too many dollars?

Maybe they could compromise by making half of these storeys subterranean.

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Council budget blues

Demonstrating its determination to extract every possible cent it can from ratepayers, Bass Coast Shire Council will this week introduce two measures to achieve that goal.

The first is Council's draft budget, in which it whines that ... "our financial position has been adversely impacted through maintaining a low 1.5 per cent rate cap as set by the State Government".

It is worth noting that the Reserve Bank reports that inflation is currently running at just 0.9 per cent.

So even with the current rate cap imposed, BCSC is doing quite handsomely at grabbing your hard-earned money. It's grabbing it at a rate approaching double the inflation rate.

Ratepayers should not forget that rate-capping legislation was introduced by the state government in 2015 to put an end to the repeated gouging of ratepayers by Victorian councils. The Local Government Minister at that time was quoted as saying "Councils need to put a stop to over-the-top executive pay rises and needless waste".

The second measure to be introduced is Council's Revenue and Rating Plan, which sets out its revenue raising framework. This plan is recommending that Councillors consider a number of best practice taxation principles including the 'wealth tax' principle that recognises rates are a form of wealth tax.

Couple that with this advice from Council following the state government's 2020 rating review ... "It clarifies for our communities that rates do not constitute a fee for service and that paying more in rates does not entitle a ratepayer to greater service levels".

Wow! Really? Well please be assured that this ratepayer does not share that view!

Like most in the community, my money is hard-earned. And I'm unimpressed with this Council's attitude of entitlement whereby it seeks maximum extraction at all times.

If rate increases at nearly double the inflation rate don't satisfy them, then what will?

Council will release the two documents for public submissions this week. So let your Councillors know if you have an opinion on the documents.

But be quick, you'll only have a couple of weeks to act. Council will consider submissions received on May 26.

Kevin Griffin, Wonthaggi

Apology – A letter to the editor (April 14, 2021) headed "Phillip Island Community Hospital" signed by Jordan Crugnale MP, Chair, Phillip Island Consultative Committee, contained the following statement.

"It is disappointing and upsetting that Peter Paul's continual misinformation and untruths are detracting from what should be celebrated as an extraordinary step towards better healthcare and support service for residents and visitors."

Mr Paul refutes that comment, as offensive and inaccurate, and has requested a retraction from Ms Crugnale.

Publication of the comments was not intended by the Advertiser to imply that Peter Paul or some PIMHAG members were promoting misinformation or untruths about the proposed Community Hospital. The Advertiser apologises for the distress this comment has caused.

PIMHAG president refutes claims

Comments pertaining to me, and which I have requested a retraction of, made in a letter to the editor last week, by Jordan Crugnale, Member for Bass, are incorrect.

I am the Phillip Island Medical Health Action Group (PIMHAG) president.

PIMHAG is an independent, apolitical grass roots community group formed in 2009 to advocate for 24/7 health and medical services on Phillip Island, following the closure of Warley Hospital.

PIMHAG has been acknowledged by both sides of politics in Victoria over the last decade as a strong advocacy group, that they are both prepared to work with and listen to, in relation to the ongoing health services required on Phillip Island.

That is the role of our group, and our advocacy has been listened to by the state government. The opening of the Phillip Island 24/7 Health Hub in December 2018 is testimony to our work.

It was therefore with amazement that I read last week's accusations by Ms Crugnale against PIMHAG members and myself in particular about "misinformation and untruths."

The facts are these:

1. We fully support and have regularly publicly supported the 24 hour 365 days a year community hospital, which was pledged prior to the 2018 state election, and are delighted that Ms Crugnale reinforced this pledge as recently as last week. We advocated for this.

2. The question I asked in the previous week's paper, to which Ms Crugnale has taken exception to was: is the government still adhering to this model. That is not misinformation, or an untruth. That is a reasonable question for an advocacy group to make, in the absence of any update for our community on an issue of huge importance here.

3. Ms Crugnale, Chair of the PI Community Hospital community group, states the PIMHAG representative on this group has been involved in the design process and service planning, along with two other community members. PIMHAG does not have a representative on this consultative committee. Unfortunately, as the only local health advocacy group, we were

not invited to be represented on this committee. One of our members is on the committee as an individual, but is bound by signed confidentiality clauses and is not permitted to share any information with PIMHAG, and therefore has not. The second community member referred to left the district last year.

The consultative committee when established could have a maximum of 15 members. It is our understanding that the last meeting of the community consultative group was held on November 4 last year by Zoom. That is almost six months ago.

4. We have made a number of unsuccessful requests in relation to the budgeted figure for construction of the mooted Phillip Island Community Hospital. This request is, we believe, fair and reasonable from an advocacy group. Pre the 2018 state election, the government pledged \$675 million for ten community hospitals in Victoria, including the one on Phillip Island. Our question is: What is the allocation for Phillip Island? As taxpayers, surely our community is entitled to this information.

5. In relation to the design, PIMHAG requested clarification over confusion in the community over beds. Our understanding is that traditional hospital beds are not included as part of the planning. Will there be provision in the design for beds in the future, given the ongoing and rapid population growth on Phillip Island?

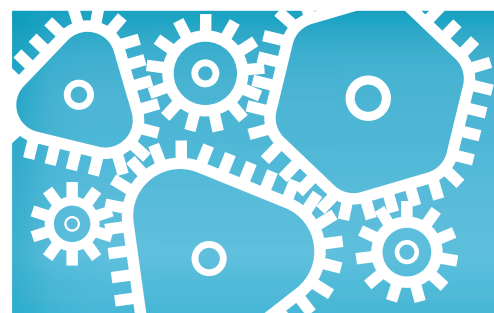
I conclude by stating that PIMHAG has one aim. To work with the state government on behalf of the local community, to achieve the best possible community hospital design and health and medical services for our community.

We have had respectful and productive relationships with former health ministers Jill Hennessey and Jenny Mikakos, and look forward to a similar relationship with current Health Minister Martin Foley.

Misinformation and untruths are not our domain. We will continue to ask the questions that need to be answered.

We look forward to productive, constructive communication going forward.

Peter Paul, President, PIMHAG



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Medley Day winners L-R: Ash Alibone (match committee), Steve Farrelly and Stuart Cunningham. (John Batty absent).

Phillip Island lawn bowls

Once again, we were treated to a perfect day for bowling on Saturday, where the match committee scheduled a medley day of a mix of 3 bowl triples, 2 bowl pairs and singles and to finish 8 ends of 1 bowl triples.

Well, that was just a fabulous day with lots of laughter and banter across the green.

Three wins plus 22 shots was good enough for third place for Greg Dixon, Pat Ryan and Annie Allen, well done.

As there were only two four game winners it was then determined by shots up and with plus 19 Richard Poole, Julie Pora and Jan Dyer took away second place.

While the gun team held it together for the day with John Batty, Steve Farrelly and Stuart Cunningham taking the major prize.

Congratulations to the three of them they must have played very well.

All players were treated to a hot plate of food at the end of the game

which went down a treat, a big thank you to Ruth Partridge and her team.

Tuesday triples this week saw the ladies only team of Judy Christie, Trish Williams and Lynn Rogerson take day with two wins plus 33 shots.

Congratulations girls, so you do rule hey!

Thursday social found pretty much ideal bowling conditions with no wind, so one could not blame form on something other than oneself.

As is always the case these days are accompanied by much fun and frivolity with today being no exception.

With the evergreen Eric Wild leading for Neville Stevens and Monika Poole they got two wins plus 7 shots but unfortunately, they were edged out by the experienced team of Murray McClymont skipping Terry Dawes and Laurie Goodman.

We now all eagerly await the commencement of the Autumn Bowling Carnival and with full fields across all events there will be some exciting bowls to watch.



Tuesday Triples winners L-R: Trish Williams, Lynn Rogerson and Judy Christie.

Come and try Darts!

Phillip Island and District Darts league's new Darts Season for 2021 is about to begin.

The first event of the season is the Owen Walton drawn doubles fundraiser on April 26 at 7pm.

This is an open event and all players 16 and over are welcome. Venue is 223 Settlement Road (Cowes Dance Studio next to Betty's Glass).

We would like to welcome all past, present and especially new players to attend.

The event has a \$5 entry fee per person and there will be a raffle on the night.

This is a great opportunity to meet players and form teams for the regular season.

Minors to be accompanied by

an adult.

The new regular season will commence Monday, May 3, at 7pm at 223 Settlement Road, Cowes.

The team registration for the new regular season for existing and new teams can be done at the Owen Walton event between 6pm-6.45pm on April 26.

Teams require a minimum of four players.

Team registration fee is \$10 per player for the season and \$5 per person each Monday night game.

Looking forward to the new season and hope to see you there.

For more information, contact Steve, on 0430 237 751 or visit Facebook – look for Phillip Island and District Darts League.

Midweek bowls

South West Gippsland Midweek bowls winners were Dennis Talbot, Bill Williams and Peter Thorley.

Runners up were Greg Wood, Sue Wood and Elaine Williams.

One Game winners were Peter McWilliams, Lindsay Russell and Elaine Fitt.

Midweek bowls was played at Tarwin Lower with 18 brave bowlers and we played two bowl triples for a change.

The weather forecast had a lot to do with the small numbers as rain and wind was forecast for the day.

Nevertheless, we managed to play our two games in dry weather however, the wind was fierce and there

were many wayward bowls and bowls in the ditch but still we managed to have a fun day in a good atmosphere.

Congratulations to Jim Nunan who did not put a wrong bias down the whole day. Thank you to Tarwin Lower for their hospitality – to Paul in the bar, Pauline Henwood and Wilma Coleman in the kitchen.

A very special thank you to Wilma for her home baked scones, fruit cake, and date cake.

Wilma is a very special member of Tarwin who has always looked after midweek with her home baked products for our free raffle table for many years.



Midweek bowls was played at Tarwin Lower and the winners were Peter Thorley (L), Bill Williams (3) and Dennis Talbot (S).



Best One Game winners were Peter McWilliams (S), Elaine Fitt (L) and Lindsay Russell (3).

Target shoot results

Westernport Field and Game celebrated their 50th Anniversary over the weekend with a novelty shoot on Saturday.

High Gun was Peter Passarin of the gun

The following places were determined by handicap: Jake Jorgensen, Shane McRae, Kerri Moat, Peter White, Wade Paterson, Kassi Moat and Waldo Walton.

Sunday saw us hold our monthly shoot with 85 shooters competing. High Gun, Jarryd Passarin (67).

Grade winners:

AA Grade: 1st Peter Passarin (66), 2nd Andrew Leech (64) and 3rd Aaron Missen (62).

A Grade: 1st David Mioni (64), 2nd Shane McRae (64) and 3rd Daniel Fritsch (60).

B Grade: 1st Wade Paterson (52), 2nd Michael Braden (50) and 3rd John Dudley (49).

C Grade : 1st Michael Briscoe (44), 2nd Richard Morris (42) and 3rd Paul Williams (41).

Veterans: 1st Ed Treadwell (65), 2nd Lionel Bradley (60) and 3rd Len Box (59).

Euchre results

Men's winner: Laurie Petrusch – 7 wins.

Ladies winner: Mary O'Brien –

6 wins.

Encouragement award: Harry Bowman – 2 wins.

Dining tables booked for those wishing to have dinner prior to games 6pm.

Thank you to members who also brought goods in for the table.

This week we had home grown mini pumpkins, tomatoes, books, and a lovely tea set.

Members, please contribute to our free raffle table – it's a lot of fun.

Next week we will play at Koo Wee Rup 10am at club for a 10.30am start and BYO lunch.

For more information or to register please contact Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974.

If you have your name down and cannot make it, please ring and cancel in consideration for the organisers who put so much time and effort in every week so as you can play bowls.

Please come and join us for a great day of friendship and good bowling.

Everyone welcome. See You on The Green.

Ladies: 1st Brooke Tangey (60), 2nd Deb Bradley (52) and 3rd Danielle Pace (51).

Juniors: 1st Will Witkowski (53) and 2nd Logan White (21).

Our next shoot is on Sunday, May 16 which is the annual Keith Tooley Memorial Shoot side by side competition sponsored by Trodan Industries/ Mark Brenton Memorial Shoot under and over competition consisting of 75 targets with nominations commencing at 9am.

The Steve Bettoni Memorial Shoot which was to be held on May 30 has been postponed to August 29.

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

Games begin at 7.30 pm.

Please come and have a great night. Please contact Bob Hee on 0418 173 388 for further details.

Please join us for some fun. Everyone welcome.

World Tai Chi and Qigong Day returns

As with so many events in 2020, the celebration of World Tai Chi and Qigong Day had to be abandoned due to Covid-19.

Next Saturday, April 24, Phillip Islanders will be once again able to join in this world-wide event.

World Tai Chi Day is one day of the year when people in cities and towns in over 80 countries around the world will be gathering at 10am their local time to create a continuous wave of positive energy that promotes health and wellness around the world.

Phillip Island's Tai Chi group has joined them in previous years and this year the opportunity is again here for everyone to get together and keep that wave going.

The plan is to gather in the Cowes Town Square at around 9.45am, -ready to begin at 10am sharp, us-



Phillip Island's Tai Chi group will celebrate World Tai Chi and Qigong Day on April 24, starting at 10am in the Cowes Town Square.

ing the grass and brick areas outside the demolished Cultural Centre.

Scheduled to run from 10am to

11am it is a real chance for anyone and everyone to join in and help in spreading positive life force, our Qi, beyond the Island.

TIDE GUIDE

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

| WED 21 APR | THU 22 APR | FRI 23 APR | SAT 24 APR | SUN 25 APR | MON 26 APR | TUE 27 APR |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| LOW 12:04 am 1.11 m | LOW 12:38 am 1.17 m | LOW 1:18 am 1.20 m | LOW 2:08 am 1.20 m | LOW 3:13 am 1.16 m | LOW 4:28 am 1.03 m | LOW 5:42 am 0.82 m |
| HIGH 6:07 am 2.54 m | HIGH 6:45 am 2.47 m | HIGH 7:31 am 2.41 m | HIGH 8:35 am 2.37 m | HIGH 9:58 am 2.41 m | HIGH 11:26 am 2.56 m | HIGH 12:45 pm 2.79 m |
| LOW 12:02 pm 0.62 m | LOW 12:38 pm 0.70 m | LOW 1:22 pm 0.79 m | LOW 2:20 pm 0.92 m | LOW 3:35 pm 1.04 m | LOW 5:01 pm 1.09 m | LOW 6:22 pm 1.07 m |
| HIGH 7:04 pm 2.79 m | HIGH 7:45 pm 2.70 m | HIGH 8:33 pm 2.62 m | HIGH 9:32 pm 2.57 m | HIGH 10:40 pm 2.56 m | HIGH 11:48 pm 2.60 m | |

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Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

That's it, officially the end of the season for 2020!

The Easter long weekend followed by the Autumn school holidays signifies the end of the summer season.

Victoria is known to have four seasons in one day. The last week has been nothing short of what you would expect for this time of year, pouring rain to sunshine in the matter of an hour!

We've noticed over the last couple of weeks the number of new visitors to the Island experiencing their first holiday here. They were either supposed to go overseas or up north but decided to stay local.

The amount of them who said they have booked the next holiday is a positive step for the Island, I mean who wouldn't want to come back here!

There has been nothing short of a drastic change in the temperature this week making it almost seem like an impossible task for some wanting to fight those single digit degree mornings as well as the end of daylight savings that have now shortened our fishing mornings.

Those who have been able to compute these changes and brave the dark and cold have been rewarded with the most variety in fish and the larger catch.

Whiting is still the predominate species of the week. Most of those being caught are from those getting up early morning and heading off Rhyl in 8m of water. We are still seeing some decent sized whiting both fat and long ... a feed at least.

We are now starting to see more and more Flatties coming in, but again not everyone is finding many that are worth keeping.

It seems the majority of the Westernport flathead population are on a diet as they seem to be all skinny.

Offshore this week those who were able to brave the large swells have managed to find a bag of flathead with ease.

Definitely a difficult week this week on the squid! Those lucky enough to find them have found them to be very underwhelming in size, with only every third person reporting anything worth telling.

To keep the strange events of the last few months going, our Pinkies

population have turned into Piranhas!

A customer early in the week brought me in a video to show the little pink fish turned Amazon predators almost jumping out of the water to get to the baits before it even hits the water. Unfortunately, a lot of those Pinkies are right where you need to be to get to the good-sized whiting, be persistent and move around if need be.

The salmon, a bit late, are only just starting to come onto the bite. Most coming from Anzacs beach at Woolamai averaging 1kg in size, with a few bigger schools seen floating past the San Remo pier and being caught off Newhaven.

The weather has not been the best for offshore fishing the last week, averaging about three days that we actually considered fishable.

The phone has been ringing non-stop as I write this report with everyone desperate to know about the Tuna situation.

To answer everyone, yes, the Tuna are still here! The Bluefin are still out and about and don't seem in any hurry to leave, they are still in huge schools but have spent the last few days around 25m-30m deep.

Unfortunately, the last few days have not actually produced any catches, but as we all know that's fishing.

As we begin to enter our off-season, we have reduced our hours at the shop. We are now closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays and have reduced hours every other day. Please visit our website or Facebook page as any changes in shop hours will be updated regularly there.

As per usual there are always things to happen around this time of year. We will be looking at a shop update - this includes clearing out some of last season's stock. Again keep an eye on the socials as this is where most of our specials and sales are generally advertised.

As a quick side note: as commercial seasons are coming to an end, some baits are becoming unavailable to us. There is always more than one bait option for each species, pop in store and if your favourite isn't available talk to us and we can point you in the right direction (we promise we will share our secrets).



All in a huddle

In the huddle - Coach Bobbie Lee Blay with the South Gippsland U14s All Stars football team. The team is well represented with players from Phillip Island and surrounding areas. The boys won a close game against Western Gippsland at the Wonthaggi recreation reserve on Sunday.

Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club Fishing competition

The weather forecast for the ninth Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) angling competition, held over the weekend hinted at strong winds and rain.

By a twist of fate, the reality was a light to gentle breeze from the west and a few spots of drizzle.

Expectations rose with the real-time weather observations on Saturday morning.

The adage "Wind from the West, fish bite the best" led anglers to fulfill the proverb, however many returned to weigh-in believing that is merely a nursery rhyme.

Anglers and supporters welcomed the calm autumn weather and were greeted by the warming smiles of Ronny Soolsma and Sam Orr, who harnessed the barbecue for the Sunday afternoon sausage sizzle to coincide with weigh-in.

A total of 34 fish, including trevally, pike, pinkie snapper, flathead, King George whiting, and leather jacket were presented to the weigh-in masters.

As is customary, fishing tales were told and taken with a grain of salt.

A pinch of humour was added, and a few bouts of laughter followed.

Certainly, the tips offered opportunities for contemplation and possibilities for future success.

The Squidgie Mixed Bag points competition, for participants aged nine and under, recognised Micah Goodwin for his bag of one fish worth 20 points (King George whiting, 395 grams).

Zachary Gomm squeezed into second place with his one fish, also worth 20 points (King George whiting, 420 grams).

The reigning Squidgie Champion, Denver Firth, presented a total of four fish worth 65 points and was delighted with his prize for first place.

The Junior competition, for anglers aged 10 to 16, greeted Riley Goodwin and Pheonix Firth to the winner's circle.

Riley weighed-in a feisty Pinkie snapper of 740 grams to win the Junior Weight competition, whilst Pheonix presented a delightful King George whiting worth 700 points (250 grams) to win the Junior Points competition.

The Senior Heaviest Weight competitions were won by Albert Abram and Leah Valente, weighing-in a hungry 2,540-gram pike (aka snook) and a motivated 445-gram trevally, respectively.

The Senior Points competitions were won by Chris Leonardos and Carriane Peatey, who caught impressive King George whiting worth 1722 points (615 grams) and 1386 points (495 grams), respectively.

The Senior Shark competition was uncontested, whilst the Secret Weight prize was awarded to George Barboussas for his reluctant 540-gram trevally (secret weight 562 grams).

Four species are still eligible for the RPIAC members only, competition weekend first-to-catch prize of \$1000, where fish deemed "Extraordinary Catches" must equal or exceed the nominated weight: King George whiting (1000 grams), snapper (10 kilograms), gummy shark (20 kilograms) and Kingfish (25 kilograms).

Angling members are striving to set new club records and remain hopeful that they can bank an Extraordinary Catch cash incentive. The final angling competition for the 2020/2021 season will be held over the weekend of May 1 and 2.

For further information about the club, events, competitions and rules, please visit the website: www.rpiac.com.



Liam is pictured with this amazing catch of Offshore tuna.

Phillip Island golf results

Tuesday, April 13 - Men's Par: Ron Davies H/c (17) won the competition with a fabulous score of +7 from Rod Ward H/c (14) with +1 on count-back from David Taylor H/c (17).

Nine-hole Stableford competition winner was Alan Tindale H/c (30) with 20 points from Ian Bray H/c (28) 19 points.

Wednesday, April 14 - Ladies Stroke Monthly Medal: A Grade and Monthly medal winner was Helen Coghlan H/c (14) with 76 nett.

B Grade winner was Mary Taylor H/c (32) with 77 nett.

C Grade winner was Jill Zellman H/c (34) with 78 nett.

Other good scores: Lesley Meadowcroft H/c (12) 77 nett and Jeanette Diss H/c (21) 77 nett.

NTP's 5th - Rhonda Boyd, 7th - Jeanette Diss, 10th - Zoe Frost, 12th - (2nd shot B and C Grade) Mary Taylor.

Putting was Glenda Longshaw with 29 putts.

Nine-hole Stableford competition winner was Pam White H/c (34) with 22 points from

Desley Taylor H/c (37) 17 Points.

Thursday, April 15 - Men's and Ladies Stableford: Terry McGregor H/c (19) 35 points from Andrew Hewitt H/c (14) with 34 points on count-back from Janice Baker H/c (32).

Nine-hole Stableford winner was Laurie Petrusch H/c (24) with 19 points on countback from David Schofield H/c (21) and Basil Moloney H/c (29).

Saturday, April 17 - Men's 4BBB RL Smith qualifying Reece Jamieson H/c (10) and Jake Wright H/c (25) won on countback with 45 points from Ron Magill H/c (11) and Jeff Sellenger H/c (29).

NTP 5th - James Fowler, 7th - Gary Birch, 10th - Travis Johnson, 17th - Adrian O'Gorman. Ladies 4BBB Stableford: Marg Frith H/c (29) and Sheryl Smith H/c (21) won with 44 points from Wendy Hopkins H/c (29) and Di Ray H/c (22) with 43 points.

NTP 7th - Mary Taylor, 10th - Ros Reid, 17th - Ros Reid.

Nine-hole Stableford winner was Steve Reiger with 19 points.



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**SUNDAY 25TH APRIL
2021**

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GAME TIMES

U10's - 9.15am
U12's - 10.15am
U14's - 11.30am
Youth Girls - 1PM

FOOD/DRINKS
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BAR OPEN From 2pm (AFTER
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Youth Girls 2.15pm
Football Rooms.
ANZAC Day MEDAL for
each game awarded.

ENTERTAINMENT
ANZAC DAY BOMBERS VS
PIES on the BIG Screen
FROM 3PM

A Grade

| | | |
|----------------|--------|---|
| Tooradin-Dal | 182.61 | 8 |
| Dalyston | 109.09 | 8 |
| Warragul Ind | 481.25 | 4 |
| Phillip Island | 169.23 | 4 |
| Kor-Bena | 163.16 | 4 |
| Bunyip | 151.39 | 4 |
| I-Kongwak | 84.95 | 4 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 74.12 | 4 |
| Cora Lynn | 69.77 | 0 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 44.85 | 0 |
| Garfield | 36.29 | 0 |
| Kilcunda Bass | 0 | 0 |

B Grade

| | | |
|----------------|--------|---|
| Phillip Island | 347.37 | 8 |
| Warragul Ind | 201.75 | 8 |
| Kor-Bena | 180.36 | 8 |
| Tooradin-Dal | 142.67 | 8 |
| Bunyip | 115.25 | 4 |
| Garfield | 109.21 | 4 |
| I-Kongwak | 95.74 | 4 |
| Dalyston | 91.03 | 4 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 67.74 | 0 |
| Cora Lynn | 63.11 | 0 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 42.45 | 0 |
| Kilcunda Bass | 28.57 | 0 |

C Grade

| | | |
|----------------|--------|---|
| Warragul Ind | 652.63 | 8 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 261.11 | 8 |
| Dalyston | 137.1 | 8 |
| I-Kongwak | 119.57 | 6 |
| Tooradin-Dal | 101.92 | 6 |
| Phillip Island | 206.06 | 4 |
| Bunyip | 125 | 4 |
| Cora Lynn | 86.96 | 4 |
| Kor-Bena | 65.06 | 0 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 57.14 | 0 |
| Garfield | 28.3 | 0 |
| Kilcunda Bass | 12.2 | 0 |

17 & Under

| | | |
|----------------|--------|---|
| Warragul Ind | 746.67 | 8 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 243.24 | 8 |
| Phillip Island | 234.29 | 8 |
| I-Kongwak | 213.79 | 8 |
| Kor-Bena | 160 | 8 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 150 | 4 |
| Dalyston | 110.91 | 4 |
| Cora Lynn | 70.83 | 0 |
| Tooradin-Dal | 46.15 | 0 |
| Bunyip | 34.83 | 0 |
| Kilcunda Bass | 27.36 | 0 |
| Garfield | 13.64 | 0 |

THIS WEEKEND DRAWS

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION Round 3, Saturday 24 April

Phillip Island vs Nar Nar Goon
Kilcunda vs Dalyston

SOUTHERN GIPPSLAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION Round 1, Sunday 25 April

Phillip Island Blue vs Phillip Island Red
Bye Kilcunda Bass

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION LADDERS

SENIOR FOOTBALL

| Team | W | L | % | PTS |
|------------------|---|---|--------|-----|
| Phillip Island | 2 | 0 | 298.55 | 8 |
| Bunyip | 2 | 0 | 260 | 8 |
| Garfield | 2 | 0 | 132.32 | 8 |
| Tooradin-Dalmore | 1 | 1 | 161.38 | 4 |
| Warragul Ind | 1 | 1 | 158.7 | 4 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 1 | 1 | 120.61 | 4 |
| Dalyston | 1 | 1 | 114.44 | 4 |
| I-Kongwak | 1 | 1 | 105.96 | 4 |
| Cora Lynn | 1 | 1 | 60.59 | 4 |
| Korumburra-Bena | 0 | 2 | 47.95 | 0 |
| Kilcunda Bass | 0 | 2 | 36.24 | 0 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 0 | 2 | 31.85 | 0 |

RESERVES FOOTBALL

| Team | W | L | % | PTS |
|------------------|---|---|--------|-----|
| Bunyip | 2 | 0 | 546.88 | 8 |
| Tooradin-Dalmore | 2 | 0 | 322.22 | 8 |
| Cora Lynn | 2 | 0 | 317.5 | 8 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 2 | 0 | 214.52 | 8 |
| Warragul Ind | 2 | 0 | 210.29 | 8 |
| Phillip Island | 1 | 1 | 100 | 4 |
| Korumburra-Bena | 1 | 1 | 76.53 | 4 |
| Garfield | 0 | 2 | 54.81 | 0 |
| I-Kongwak | 0 | 2 | 41.55 | 0 |
| Kilcunda Bass | 0 | 2 | 36.25 | 0 |
| Dalyston | 0 | 2 | 34.11 | 0 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 0 | 2 | 20.26 | 0 |

THIRDS FOOTBALL

| Team | P | W | % |
|-------------------|---|---|--------|
| Inverloch-Kongwak | 1 | 1 | 6000 |
| Phillip Island | 2 | 2 | 1387.5 |
| Korumburra-Bena | 2 | 2 | 827.59 |
| Bunyip | 2 | 2 | 373.33 |
| Garfield | 1 | 1 | 153.12 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 1 | 0 | 44.12 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 2 | 0 | 37.24 |
| Kilcunda Bass | 1 | 0 | 8.57 |
| Dalyston | 2 | 0 | 3.72 |
| Cora Lynn | 2 | 0 | 2.97 |
| Warragul Ind | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tooradin-Dalmore | 0 | 0 | 0 |

FOURTHS FOOTBALL

| Team | P | W | % |
|-----------------|---|---|---------|
| Tooradin-Dal | 2 | 2 | 1121.74 |
| Garfield | 1 | 1 | 322.22 |
| Bunyip | 2 | 2 | 206.12 |
| Cora Lynn | 2 | 1 | 117.5 |
| Korumburra-Bena | 2 | 1 | 86.6 |
| Phillip Island | 2 | 1 | 86.49 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 2 | 1 | 85.32 |
| I-Kongwak | 2 | 1 | 39.88 |
| Kilcunda Bass | 1 | 0 | 78.57 |
| Dalyston | 2 | 0 | 44.25 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 2 | 0 | 17.11 |
| Warragul Ind | 0 | 0 | 0 |

NETBALL

| A Grade | | | C Grade | | |
|----------------|--------|---|----------------|--------|---|
| Tooradin-Dal | 182.61 | 8 | Warragul Ind | 652.63 | 8 |
| Dalyston | 109.09 | 8 | Nar Nar Goon | 261.11 | 8 |
| Warragul Ind | 481.25 | 4 | Dalyston | 137.1 | 8 |
| Phillip Island | 169.23 | 4 | I-Kongwak | 119.57 | 6 |
| Kor-Bena | 163.16 | 4 | Tooradin-Dal | 101.92 | 6 |
| Bunyip | 151.39 | 4 | Phillip Island | 206.06 | 4 |
| I-Kongwak | 84.95 | 4 | Bunyip | 125 | 4 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 74.12 | 4 | Cora Lynn | 86.96 | 4 |
| Cora Lynn | 69.77 | 0 | Kor-Bena | 65.06 | 0 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 44.85 | 0 | Koo Wee Rup | 57.14 | 0 |
| Garfield 36.29 | 0 | | Garfield 28.3 | 0 | |
| Kilcunda Bass | 0 | 0 | Kilcunda Bass | 12.2 | 0 |
| B Grade | | | 17 & Under | | |
| Phillip Island | 347.37 | 8 | Warragul Ind | 746.67 | 8 |
| Warragul Ind | 201.75 | 8 | Koo Wee Rup | 243.24 | 8 |
| Kor-Bena | 180.36 | 8 | Phillip Island | 234.29 | 8 |
| Tooradin-Dal | 142.67 | 8 | I-Kongwak | 213.79 | 8 |
| Bunyip | 115.25 | 4 | Kor-Bena | 160 | 8 |
| Garfield | 109.21 | 4 | Nar Nar Goon | 150 | 4 |
| I-Kongwak | 95.74 | 4 | Dalyston | 110.91 | 4 |
| Dalyston | 91.03 | 4 | Cora Lynn | 70.83 | 0 |
| Koo Wee Rup | 67.74 | 0 | Tooradin-Dal | 46.15 | 0 |
| Cora Lynn | 63.11 | 0 | Bunyip | 34.83 | 0 |
| Nar Nar Goon | 42.45 | 0 | Kilcunda Bass | 27.36 | 0 |
| Kilcunda Bass | 28.57 | 0 | Garfield | 13.64 | 0 |



The U14 Rips competed at the BV Country Championships on the weekend. From left to right: Top row: Charlie Fischer, Griffin Hamley, Austin Finlayson and Coach Kris Funslow. Middle row: Jack Mascaros and Henry Dean. Bottom row: Jeremy Kelly, Sam O'Garey and Xavier Osmond.

Basketball Country Championships

Phillip Island and District Basketball Association (PID-BA) had their Phillip Island RIPS U14 representative team compete at the recent U14s BV

Country Championships at Traralgon last weekend.

The Rips team has been competing in tournaments throughout the basketball season.

This was the boy's final tournament of the season.

The boys all played well as a team throughout the event and enjoyed a successful sea-

son together but unfortunately lost in the preliminary final against Terang who ended up winning the grand final in their division.

Flags down for lifesaving patrols

Life Saving Victoria (LSV) and its 57 volunteer lifesaving clubs, including the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, have taken down the red and yellow flags for the last time in 2020-21.

This ends Victoria's longest lifesaving season to date after an estimated 200,000 cumulative hours of patrols across more than 60 locations.

During the extended season, which was made possible by a \$1.7 million funding boost from the Victorian government, it is estimated volunteer lifesavers and lifeguards undertook a staggering 230,000 preventative actions and more than 600 rescues, including 15 winches using the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter across the Victorian coast.

These efforts are even more remarkable against the backdrop of a global pandemic, which saw LSV undertake complex preparations to maintain service levels, adhere to restrictions and keep dedicated volunteers, staff, and the wider community safe.

Tragically, the season also leaves behind one of the worst drowning tolls to date, with 52 fatal drownings recorded since July 1, 2020.

According to LSV General Manager Lifesaving Services Liam Krige, each of these drowning occurred outside of patrol times and locations, leading for calls to extend the season permanently.

"While we are still collating our final numbers, our provisional statistics show that in 2020-21, we performed around 100 more rescues, carried out around 125,000 more preventative actions and winched over a dozen more swimmers in distress to safety than we did last year (2019-20).

"That's an enormous number of people who may not be here today



Patrols by the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club have finished for the season, with Life Saving Victoria reporting one of the worst drowning tolls to date, with 52 fatal drownings recorded since July 2020.

if we hadn't been able to extend the patrol season by four weeks, thanks to the funding boost," said Mr Krige.

"We know people aren't traveling overseas and are spending more time in Victorian waterways, which means we need to be dynamic in the way and times we supply lifesaving patrols.

"We're currently working with Government to ensure we're able to continue to meet this changing demand and help keep Victorians safe through an extended lifesaving operations model moving forward.

"A huge thanks goes to all of our dedicated volunteers, staff and partners who gave up their time and energy to keep people safe on our beaches this summer, your contributions have not gone unnoticed," he said.

With the season now over for 2020-21, Mr Krige said the need for the community to heed the water safety message was stronger than

ever and encouraged people to keep themselves safe throughout the cooler months.

"Unfortunately, we typically experience year-round drownings in Victoria, with 62 per cent of fatalities occurring outside of summer months. With patrols now finished across the state, we want to remind people that the risk isn't over just because summer is," he said.

"Half of all fatal drownings in Victoria over the past decade were a result of unintentional entry into the water, so even if you don't plan on swimming, if you're near water, you need to take steps to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.

"Never turn your back on the sea, make sure you're wearing appropriate safety equipment such as grippy shoes and a well-maintained lifejacket if you go fishing, and always head out with a mate."

Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services Paul Edbrooke is also encouraging the

community to consider enrolling in swimming lessons to keep water safety knowledge and skills current during the off season.

"It's a great time to re-enrol in swim school and prepare yourself and your family for next summer. With nearly 5 million swimming lessons missed due to coronavirus restrictions in 2020, we want to ensure kids and adults alike are learning the basics of water safety so that they're ready for next summer.

"Public pools are also a safer option for recreation during the off season and can be a great way to maintain swimming skills under the watchful eye of a trained professional lifeguard.

"On behalf of the Government a massive thank you to LSV and its members across the state for their amazing efforts this summer. You do incredible work and save lives," said Mr Edbrooke.

The patrol season commenced Saturday 14 November 2020 and concluded on Sunday 18 April 2021.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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