



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

# ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST



## The Island remembers the Anzacs

Cowes Primary School students Nicholas, Elise, Olive, Frankie and Brock represented their school in the Anzac Day wreath laying ceremony at Cowes. Thousands of people joined in the Anzac Day commemorations in Cowes and San Remo. For a full report turn to page 12.

## Win for residents on road ripping

### COUNCIL

In a major U-turn, Bass Coast Shire Council will pause the planned removal of dust suppressant from streets in Cowes west and Rhyll.

A week after a councillor called for a moratorium on the removal of the suppressant – following a petition from impacted residents – on Thursday the council released a statement detailing the stoppage to allow time for further investigation.

The statement said “following feedback from residents and property owners”, the council would “pause upcoming works to remove deteriorated dust suppressant seals” on: Outlook Drive, Scenic Drive, Bayview Drive, Park Lane and Maxwell Street, Cowes, as well as Reid Street, Rhyll.


“Between 2005 and 2007, dust suppressant products were trialled on some unsealed roads to help manage dust,” the statement said.

“The primer seal treatment has now deteriorated beyond repair and was scheduled for removal, with roads to be returned to a compacted gravel surface.

*Continued page 30*

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The major parties have ignored our region for decades, and our local MP has had 21 years to fix problems we still face today!

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**Vote 1 Deb Leonard!**

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

## What Are People Saying About Deb?



“Watching Deb speak at a community forum, I was really impressed with her style, you could tell she wasn't just another politician. **She's one of us**—she understands the struggles people go through with bills and actually wants to fix things, not just talk about them.”

**Mohya Davies**  
Former Mayor of South Gippsland Shire, Foster



“The major parties no longer have the wide support they once had. **The Liberal Party no longer has the vision and integrity to safeguard Australia.** That's why I'm supporting Deb Leonard as an independent candidate who has common sense and policies that the voters of Monash deserve.”

**Ian MacPhee AO**  
Former Liberal MP for Goldstein and Minister, Inverloch



“Community Independents deliver better laws, better outcomes and better communities. **Deb Leonard is an astute, diplomatic leader, and this community has the power to elect her.**”

**Cathy McGowan AO**  
Former Independent MP for Indi

[Read more inside >](#)



PHILLIP ISLAND

7 DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Wed/Apr30	Thu/May1	Fri/May2	Sat/May3	Sun/May4	Mon/May5	Tue/May6
POSSIBLE SHOWER	PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY	SUNNY
12 18	11 18	10 18	11 22	12 23	14 21	15 19



The 2025 Island Whale Festival on July 11 – 13 this year, has secured funding under the State Government’s Regional Events program.

# Win for the whales

## FUNDING

The 2025 Island Whale Festival has secured funding under the State Government’s Regional Events program.

The festival was one of 22 projects supported by the program, which offers grants of up to \$500,000 for major events of national or international significance, and up to \$50,000 for events that draw visitors from across the state and country.

Destination Phillip Island General Manager Kim Storey said they were “very pleased” to have secured the funding.

She said the funding would go towards delivering a program of

presentations, entertainment and activities.

“This year’s Festival runs from July 11 – 13 at Berninnet and the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club,” said Kim.

“In Berninnet the Experience Hub will come to life with displays and hands on activities, presentations in the theatre, the immersive room and virtual reality room.

“There will be satellite events and venues with art activations and activities.”

One of the key features of the event is the Ocean Film Festival which will be showing in the theatre at Berninnet on Thursday July 10, Friday July 11 and Sun-

day July 13 July.

“Tickets are now available on the Bass Coast Cultural Venues site,” said Kim.

“We will also have a very special Science Panel event on the Saturday evening, with more to come on our very special guests.

“We are also looking for volunteers so if you love science and marine life, please contact Alisha at [info@visitphillipisland.com.au](mailto:info@visitphillipisland.com.au).”

Follow the Island Whales Facebook and website: [island-whales.com.au](http://island-whales.com.au).

Applications for the next round of Regional Events Fund – Stream 2 open on May 1. Details [corporate.visitvictoria.com/events/regional-events-fund](http://corporate.visitvictoria.com/events/regional-events-fund).



The library and customer service desk at Berninnet will only be open from 9am to 1pm on Thursday, May 1, due to a scheduled power outage on Thompson Avenue.

## Power out at Berninnet, Thursday

Due to a scheduled power outage from AusNet, on Thursday, May 1, the customer service desk and library at Berninnet will only be open from 9am until 1pm.

The building will be closed after this, during the outage period.

If you have any customer questions, please contact customer and visitor experience on 133 677 or MYLI – My Community Library on 03 5952 2842.

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

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# Is Gap Road a 45-hectare, million-dollar white elephant?

## PLANNING

Bass Coast Shire Council has no plans to develop the 45-hectare property on Gap Road, for which they paid \$1.6 million in 2019 to build a transfer station and council depot.

At the April council meeting, resident Graham Jolly asked whether the draft budget – currently out for community feedback – had allocated any funding to the property's development, including a bike track that was flagged last year.

"Would council please disclose the plans for the next four years for the Gap Road property owned by council when previously a transfer station, BMX and pump track were spoken of by council," Mr Jolly asked.

Council CEO Greg Box re-

sponded there were currently no funds "specifically allocated to the Gap Road land in the draft capital budget for the next four years".

"However, council will consider adoption of the MTB/BMX/Pump delivery plan at its June meeting," Mr Box said.

"This plan currently includes Gap Road as a potential site. Revegetation of the site will also continue over the next four years."

Last August the final Mountain Bike/BMX/Pump Strategy was released but failed to commit to any specific project, with consultants reviewing more than 30 sites, including the council land at 100 Gap Road.

In 2019 the council purchased the land with great fanfare.

The purchase came almost

a decade after the closure of the Rhyll tip, and after years of costly indecision and numerous failed tip relocation plans.

In 2013 the Cowes Recycling Bank was opened in Dunsmore Road, but two years later a \$60,000 consultant report concluded the island required a transfer station, comparable to Wonthaggi, as Dunsmore Road did not meet the needs of the community. This led to the purchase of Gap Road.

The plan was for the current council depot and recycling facility on the corner of Dunsmore Road and Settlement Road to be decommissioned when a new facility was built.

The land is at lot 1, 380 Back Beach Road, opposite the Grand Prix Circuit – (but which has Gap Road frontage).



In 1994 it was announced the Rhyll tip would eventually be closed, with the land to be handed back to the State Government. When an alternative site could not be found, an interim measure was put in place with the opening of the Cowes Recycling Bank in Dunsmore Road in 2013.



Regular council observers Peter McMahon, John Trigt, and Graham Jolly at the council's draft budget drop-in session at Berninnet last Wednesday.

## Ratepayers seek answers on draft budget

### COUNCIL

Ratepayers have quizzed Bass Coast Shire Council bean counters on the "money-grabbing" hike of the garbage charge in the draft 25/26 budget.

At a drop-in session in Cowes last Wednesday, residents questioned why the garbage charge will increase by 7.4 per cent, when it was predicted in the previous budget to rise by four per cent.

When combined with the rate rise of three per cent – as mandated by the State Government's cap – the real increase in rates is 4.9 per cent, with the average household rate bill to be about \$1725.

Island Voice spokesperson Peter McMahon attended the event and described the garbage

charge increase as a "money grab".

"I question what steps council is taking to control costs," Peter said.

Cape Woolamai's Graham Jolly also questioned the waste charges, but commended councillors at the April council meeting for "debating for and against the budget in open debate".

However, resident Jeff Floyd said the debate was "dispiriting", with "not one question to management on the financial outlook of the council and whether it is sustainable".

"A number of comments about 'inheriting' and being stuck with the priorities of the previous council, which is a patent nonsense," Jeff said.

"In fact, the council has seen fit to change a number of key financial targets of the previous council, for the worse."

A council spokesperson said the main reason the garbage charge had increased by 7.4 per cent instead of the predicted four per cent was a 28 per cent rise in the EPA levy.

"On top of that, updated cost estimates for waste-related projects also contributed to the higher increase," the spokesperson said.

The draft 2025/26 budget and draft fees and charges is open for public submissions until 5pm Wednesday, May 14.

Details: [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au) and [basscoast.vic.gov.au](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au) or customer service centres.

## Lights out at Ventnor, Sunderland Bay

### POWER

Residents of Ventnor and Sunderland Bay started Anzac Day in the dark, after a power outage impacted thousands of properties.

According to the AusNet outage tracker, Ventnor was without power from 4am until around midday.

An AusNet spokesperson confirmed just over 4000 customers lost power, but said around 3000 of these experienced an outage of less than five minutes.

"The cause was found to be a broken lead at the switch, most likely caused by an animal," the spokesperson said.

In Sunderland Bay, power was out between 9.45am and midday, due to a blown fuse, but AusNet said only 10 customers were affected.

"While no specific cause was found, it was likely to have been an animal or a bird," AusNet said.



Residents of Ventnor and Sunderland Bay started Anzac Day in the dark, after a power outage impacted thousands of properties.



Thompson Avenue's Golden Cypresses are listed on both the Bass Coast Significant Tree Register and the National Heritage Trust register, "highlighting their environmental and cultural value".

## Avenue of cypresses to be spruced

### ENVIRONMENT

A new Golden cypress will be planted on Thompson Avenue, with five further trees ready for planting. At the April council meeting, residents questioned councillors on management of Cowes' iconic heritage-listed cypresses.

Former council candidate Marnie Chadwick asked why council was yet to plant the promised cypress in front of the podiatry business on Thompson Avenue, "despite assurances to the Friends of the Thompson Avenue Golden Cypress Tree committee and the community."

"Instead, a tree was planted in an undesired park location," Marnie said.

Resident Joe Waralow also asked for details of the council's cypress management strategy.

CEO Greg Box responded the cypress in front of the podiatry business would be planted within the next two months, aligning with the planting season.

"Council currently has five established Golden Cypress trees at a depot site ready for future planting and is planning further tissue cultivation to ensure the ongoing health and succession of the avenue," Mr Box said.

"Council continues to work closely with the Friends of the

Golden Cypress Group to manage and protect the trees and their legacy."

Mr Box said the Maintenance and Replacement Strategy for Golden Cypress, which was adopted by Council in June 1999, sets out a 30-year program for the replacement of these trees.

Resident Sue Chadwick asked councillors about the historic board detailing the avenue of tree's history.

"The original storyboard for the historical avenue of Golden Cypress trees was displayed outside the old cultural centre but was thrown away when Berninnet was built," Sue said.

"The avenue is recognized by the National Trust of Australia and the Bass Coast Council. When will this historical board be replaced?"

Mr Box said there were currently no plans to replace the Avenue of Golden Cypress Trees storyboard.

"Council will reach out to the Friends of the Golden Cypress Group to discuss options going forward," he said.

He added the cypresses were listed on both the Bass Coast Significant Tree Register and the National Heritage Trust register, "highlighting their environmental and cultural value".



# Objector's narrow miss with VCAT fight

## PLANNING

An objector has failed in their bid to fight a planned four-storey development on Marine Parade, in San Remo, after missing a VCAT deadline.

As reported in December, a \$2.5 million commercial office and retail building at 151 Marine Parade, San Remo, was approved by Bass Coast Shire councillors, despite receiving 20 objections, and concerns about parking waivers.

Council planners recommended the development be approved, and councillors agreed, voting in support of the development that will see 11 offices and one retail tenancy at a height of 13.38 metres.

Last month, VCAT heard the case *Rogers v Bass Coast SC*, where objector Craig Rogers sought to overturn the council's approval.

VCAT heard council on December 11 issued a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit ('NOD'), with Mr Rogers informed of the NOD on December 18 and then on January 15 he filed an application at VCAT.

However, on January 23 VCAT's principal registrar rejected Mr Rogers' application "because it was lodged after the expiry period".

Mr Rogers then sought a review of the ruling, but VCAT deputy president Teresa Bisucci found in favour of the principal registrar, saying an application for review to VCAT must be made "within 28 days after the date of the notice of the decision and not 28 days after the giving of notice".

A council spokesperson explained the objection was dismissed by VCAT based



The objection to the \$2.5 million commercial office and retail building at 151 Marine Parade was dismissed by VCAT because the objector lodged their application a few days late. The developer can now act on the permit as issued.

on the late lodgement and the developer could now act on the permit as issued.

At council, the developer received a waiver of the statutory car parking requirement of nine spaces, however councillors voiced concerns about the parking squeeze.

No car parking will be provided on the site, which was formerly Jim's Bait and Tackle, and a traffic survey with the planning permit concludes "there are no traffic engineering reasons why a planning permit for the proposed commercial development should be refused, subject to appropriate conditions".

At the time Cr Jan Thompson said she understood the site was too small to build an underground car park, adding the draft San Remo Township Structure plan would address the issue of parking in San Remo.

# Don't blame us for new tax: council

## STATE GOVERNMENT

Bass Coast Shire councillors have condemned a proposed new State Government tax because it will hit ratepayers – especially farmers – hard in a cost-of-living crisis.

And, councillors predict, abuse of council staff will increase because the state is requiring local councils to collect the tax as part of rate notices.

The Victorian Government recently announced the current Fire Services Levy (FSL) will be replaced with a new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF), which will help fund a wider range of emergency services, not just the CFA and Fire Rescue Victoria, but also SES, Triple Zero and Forest Fire Management.

According to councillors, the ESVF will be calculated based on a fixed charge that varies by property type, and a variable charge based on property value.

They said the ESVF fees were expected to be significantly higher than the current FSL, particularly for our farmers.

The upper house of the Victorian Parliament recently voted down the proposed new tax, but it is expected to return to Parliament for a new vote in coming weeks, with the government attempting to negotiate with Independent MPs and the Greens in May so the tax can be applied from July 1.

At the April meeting, councillors voted to request more information from the State Government on the total amount of revenue from the tax, how the community will be notified about the tax, how much of the fund will be invested locally and how the government will help those not able to pay.

Cr Jan Thompson moved the motion, say-

ing making councils the collection agency created a burden and "a perception in community local councils are responsible for the tax increases and are directly benefiting from additional income generated".

"The collection of this increased tax on community needs to be managed by State Government and the responsibility for this revenue collection should not be transferred to local councils," Cr Thompson said.

Mayor Rochelle Halstead, who is a delegate at the Municipal Association of Victoria, said there had been state-wide opposition to the new tax from councils.

"I understand the impact will be significant and the community is unlikely to understand it's not an impost by local government but by the state. Our officers will take phone calls of abuse," Cr Halstead said, adding this would hurt ratepayers who were already "doing it tough in a cost-of-living crisis".

## Climate crisis

Cr Ronnie Bauer said councils should refuse to collect it.

"By making the collection of this levy on the rates notice, the State Government is camouflaging who should be collecting it," Cr Bauer said.

The government has not offered to reimburse the council for the collection of the levy or the costs involved for non-compliance or the chasing up of the collection of the levy.

Cr Tim O'Brien said it was a tax "by slight of hand" and to make council the responsible collection authority was "not on".

Cr Mat Morgan said fossil fuel polluters – the "big corporations who are paying no tax in this country" – should be in-

stead paying the levy.

"Here we have state and federal governments pushing more and more costs onto individual people to fight against the very effects caused by the big fossil fuel corporations who aren't paying their fair share of tax," Cr Morgan said.

"We need emergency services funding and it's the polluters who should pay."

Cr Meg Edwards said farmers would carry the burden of pain from the new ESVF charges.

Cr Jon Tenby said there was no benefit to council to collect the tax and there would be "a lot of psychological cost for us to collect it".

## Farmers

The Victorian Farmers Federation called on residents to contact their local Members of Parliament to demand they vote to scrap the ESVF.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the proposed tax hike had unified farmers, firefighters, regional councils, and Victoria's business community who were all campaigning against it.

"This tax has no support," he said.

"This is a moment for the Victorian community to stand up and say 'enough is enough'. Don't burn regional Victoria with more taxes."

The Nationals' Melina Bath MP who spoke against the expanded tax said it will have a disproportionate impact on the regions.

"Hardworking Victorians are extremely upset about Labor's latest tax increase which will extract an additional \$2.1 billion over three years," Ms Bath said.

Rural Councils Victoria said the ESVF represented a 150 per cent tax hike on some rural landholders, when compared to the FSV.

# The Liberal and Labor parties voted **AGAINST** laws to ban lies in political advertising!

## Is this who you want representing you? Don't fall for their lies.

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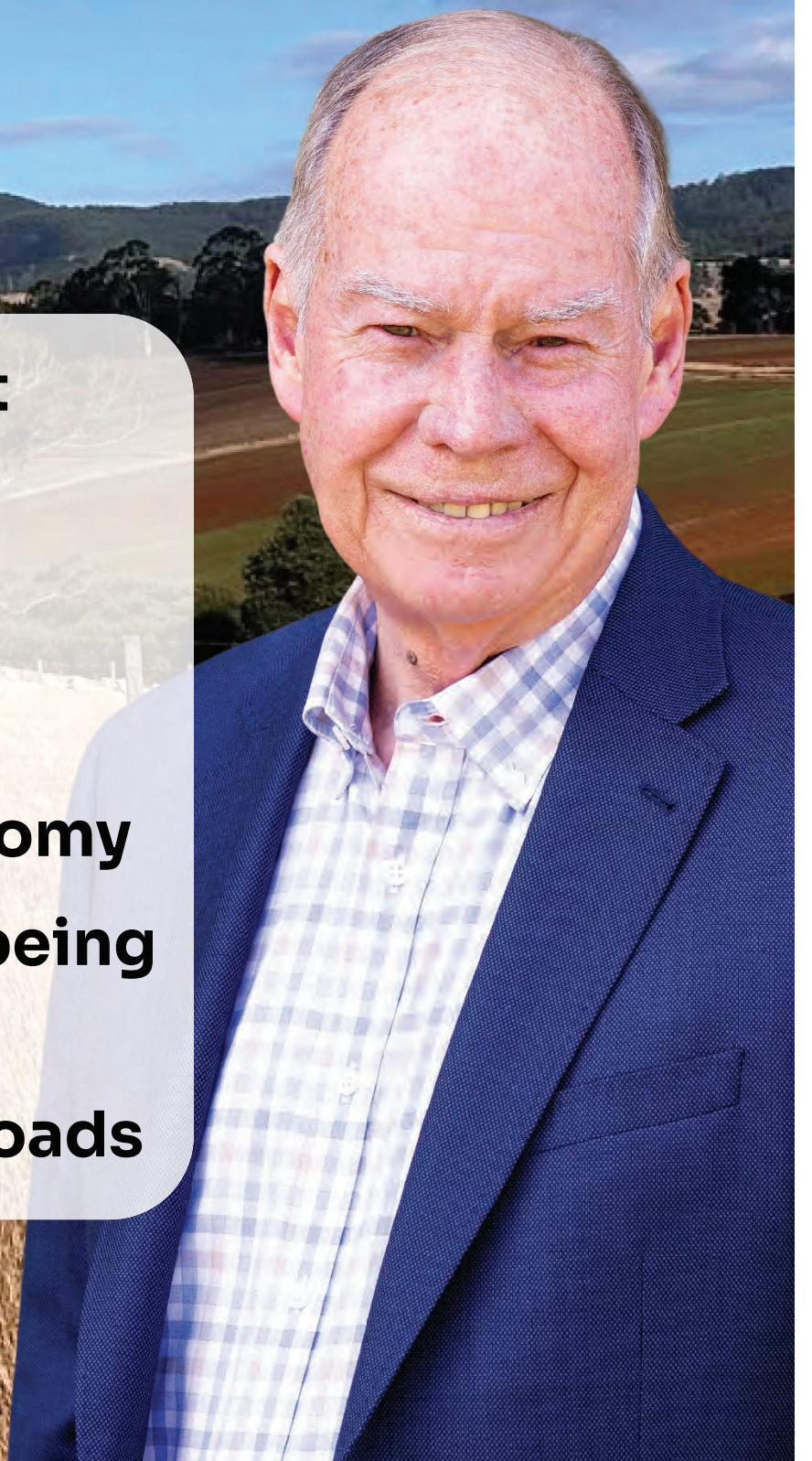


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# Going nuclear? Phillip Island could be evacuated

ELECTION

Phillip Island would be in the direct line of nuclear contamination if a Fukushima-sized disaster was to happen at a proposed nuclear power station in the Latrobe Valley.

A new online interactive map, [nuclearplume.au/](http://nuclearplume.au/), has been released ahead of the federal election and shows the seven national sites selected by the federal Coalition to house nuclear power reactors.

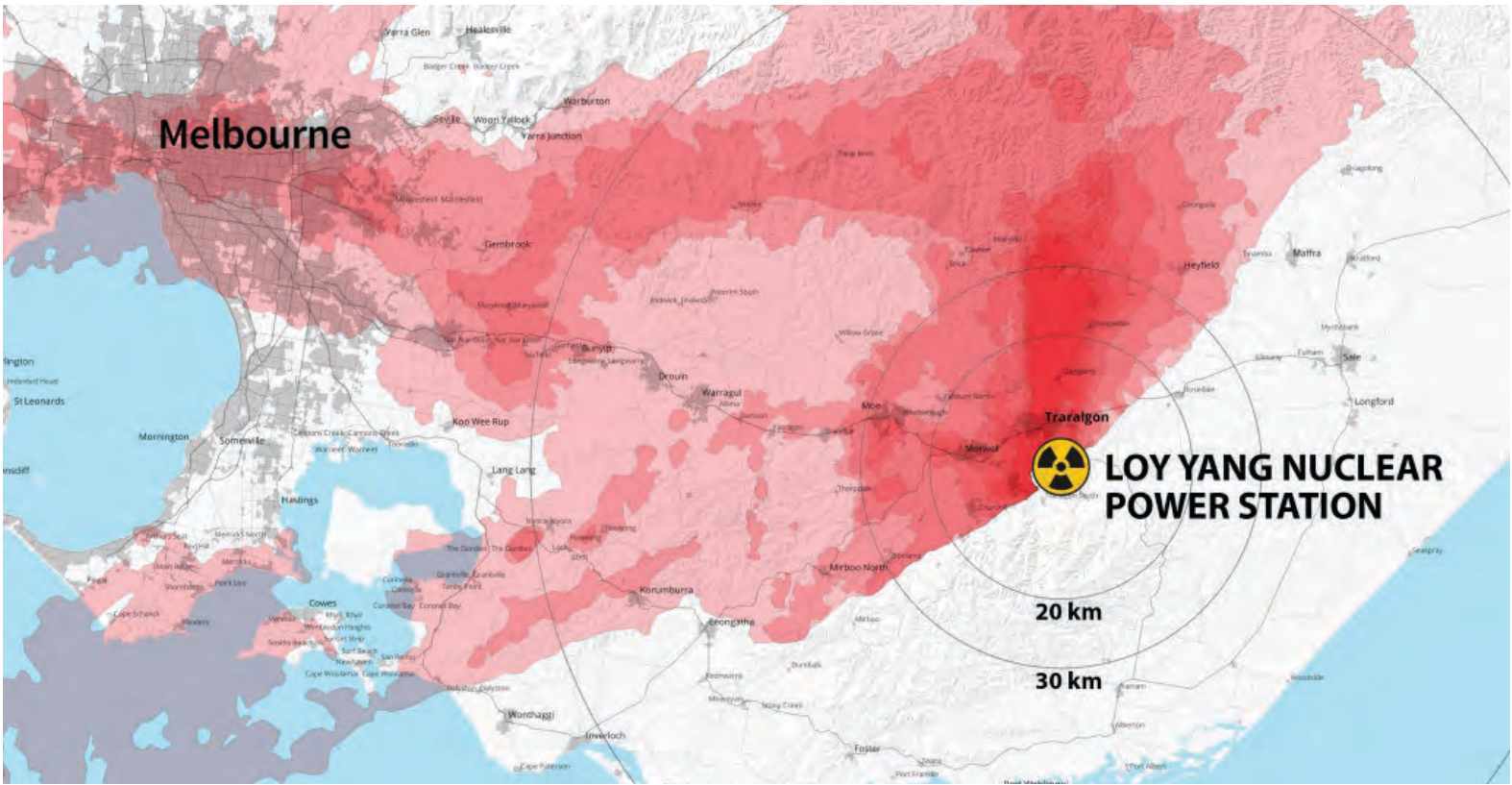
The map shows that – in the event of a Fukushima-scale nuclear disaster at the proposed reactor at Loy Yang – a southerly-directed plume would spread across the island and Bass Coast, with some plumes stretching as far west as Ballarat, as far north as Albury and as far east as Cape Conran.

The map, originally peer reviewed and published by the European Geosciences Union, is a direct overlay of the radioactive plume from Japan's Fukushima disaster in July 2011, showing the deposition of radioactive caesium-137.

Sunderland Bay's Dave Sweeney, who has been awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his work on nuclear issues (see separate story), said the risks of nuclear were too high.

"Modelling based on real world Fukushima contamination plumes paint a disturbing picture for the island and wider Bass Coast," said Dave, who is the Australian Conservation Foundation nuclear policy analyst.

Dave said the push for nuclear power contradicted clear evidence that nuclear was by far the most expensive and slowest



*nuclearplume.au/ shows in the event of a Fukushima-scale nuclear disaster at the Coalition's proposed reactor at Loy Yang, a southerly plume would spread radiation across Phillip Island.*

energy option.

"It is also more complex with serious security concerns and the difficulty of managing long-lived radioactive waste."

Dave said nuclear was the "thirstiest" energy option, and "without a secure water supply things go very badly wrong very quickly at a nuclear reactor".

"Water access is not assured; waste plans are not detailed and to make things worse Australian insurance companies explicitly exclude covering nuclear accidents or incidents.

"If something goes wrong then you and your home are on your own."

Risks

At distances far from the Fukushima plant, radiation exposures were low, but even low radiation doses can cause negative health impacts including fatal cancers and cardiovascular disease, according to [nuclearplume.au/](http://nuclearplume.au/).

Following the nuclear meltdowns, fires and explosions that destroyed reactors at Fukushima in March 2011, areas were

divided into Intensive Contamination Survey Areas (7836 sq km), Special Decontamination Zone (1117 sq km) and Difficult-to-Return Zone (335 sq km). The mandatory evacuation zone covered 807 sq kms.

In a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into nuclear power generation in Australia, Emergency Leaders for Climate Action warn that nuclear reactors would introduce significant and unnecessary risk to Australian communities and emergency responders, including

firefighters already stretched by escalating climate fuelled disasters.

"The financial costs of the Fukushima disaster amount to many hundreds of billion dollars. If indirect economic impacts of the disaster are included, the cost exceeds one trillion dollars," [nuclearplume.au/](http://nuclearplume.au/) states.

"Likewise, Chernobyl was a trillion-dollar disaster. A trillion-dollar nuclear disaster would amount to a cost of \$40,000 for every single Australian."

## Saving the world from going nuclear

*In 2021 the Advertiser interviewed Phillip Island's own Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dave Sweeney, who has a house at Sunderland Bay.*

*Here we feature an edited extract of that interview, as Dave responds to Coalition plans to develop nuclear reactors at the Latrobe Valley (see separate story).*

ENERGY

When Dave Sweeney takes his tinny out on Western Port "just to watch nature", he looks like most other Phillip Island boaties.

All except for one major difference.

He has won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dave – who has had a holiday home on Phillip Island for 30 years – has been the nuclear campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation since 1996, taking on the toughest of industries, from uranium miners to the arms sector.

It was in 2017 that Dave – as one of the founding members of ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons – travelled to Norway to receive the "most prestigious prize in the world".

"Well that's what they called the prize in the travel guide I read in the plane on the way to Norway," jokes Dave.

"I didn't actually go on the stage with the King of Norway. I was there for five days, for the formal reception, with the king and trumpets blowing, and a

big party afterwards.

"I don't really talk about it much, only when people ask or I'm doing a presentation."

Chat to Dave and remarkably he is upbeat and lacks any of the jadedness you'd expect to see in a seasoned campaigner.

For a guy who works across the most explosive industry on the planet, Dave is almost zen.

"I maintain a sense of positivity because I see people can and do make a difference. In life you have a choice to engage and seek to make the world more peaceful or not, so I choose the former."

Risk v reward

Even though nuclear is touted by some as a way to stop climate change, Dave says science and industry are unanimous that renewables are the cheapest, fastest and easiest way to supply all our power needs.

"When you use a uranium fuel rod in a nuclear reactor you get a guaranteed three years of low carbon electricity, and when you take the fuel rod out you get a guaranteed 100,000 years of toxic waste, which is poisonous

to human life and the environment.

"There is a very poor risk to reward ratio."

This was aptly demonstrated in Japan's 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster when the market for nuclear energy plummeted.

"In the west, Chernobyl was explained as Soviets corner cutting, whereas that couldn't happen in somewhere squeaky clean like Japan. But Fukushima showed even in a sophisticated, technically adept country things can go badly wrong."

In 2000, he says, 22 per cent of global electricity came from nuclear energy, now it's 11 per cent. And declining.

"The arc of nuclear power is in absolute decline while renewables are on the rise.

"Nuclear power is enormously expensive and slow. It would take 20 years to build a reactor in Australia and cost at least \$20 billion."

Dave says it is largely political ideology that keeps the discussion of nuclear power – and for that matter coal – afloat in Australia.

"We have abundant coal and that has skewed our economy. There's an institutional bias to this. It's in the interests of those industries to discredit anything that challenges the market share.

"We are the first generation dealing with existential choices around power. We have a choice



*Sunderland Bay's Dave Sweeney, accepting his Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. Dave has recently said the Coalition's push for nuclear power contradicted clear evidence that nuclear was by far the most expensive and slowest energy option.*

between coal-powered climate change or the atomic frying pan. Or we can do things differently and choose renewables that literally won't cost us the earth."

Like asbestos

In 2006 Dave was one of six people who met over a cup of tea and beers in inner Melbourne to nut out a strategy to stop nuclear weapons, which resulted in the creation of ICAN.

Today ICAN has spread to over more than 500 groups in more than 100 countries, with its headquarters in Geneva.

The Australian founding group continues to lobby the Australian Government to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition

of Nuclear Weapons.

Dave grew up on a grazing farm east of Melbourne, with parents who instilled in him a strong sense of social justice and caring.

It was in the mid-90s, when former Prime Minister John Howard decided to mine uranium in Kakadu, that Dave became a nuclear campaigner at the Australian Conservation Foundation.

"I see nuclear power as akin to the asbestos industry. Australia has a lot of it, and it works, but it does so at a high human and environmental cost. The sky doesn't fall in and the economy doesn't collapse if we don't use it."



# Labor will deliver “fully funded sports hub” says Fletcher

## ELECTION

Tully Fletcher is a man on a mission.

Part of that mission is to fully fund the Phillip Island Sports Hub in the next term of parliament if he wins the seat of Monash.

In the final days of the federal election campaign, the Advertiser sat down with the Labor candidate to discuss his vision for the seat and his thoughts on the campaign.

Fletcher describes the Liberal commitment of \$10 million to “kickstart” the sports hub project as an attempt to sand-bag a seat they’ve neglected for decades. And he says if people want change, they need to vote differently this election.

“We do not want, and we cannot afford another three years in Monash, of having next to nothing delivered by a federal MP,” Fletcher said.

“And the reason we can’t afford it is because that’s what we’ve had for the last 20 years.”

Fletcher said if elected he is “completely committed to fully funding the Phillip Island sports and aquatic centre in the next term of parliament”.

“I’m not interested in half measures. I’m not interested in phases that take another 10, 20, 30, 40 years to deliver.

“The island is a big community of 15,000 people. It needs facilities now.”

The council masterplan for the site outlines a three phased delivery of the \$115 million plan.

“We’ll go through the details if I’m elected, but I’m looking Phillip Island in the eye and saying, I’ll deliver the funding that’s necessary to deliver the facility our community needs.

“I will work to secure all the money that’s needed to deliver the new footy club, the new cricket club, the new netball club, tennis facilities and an aquatic centre.

“The Liberals have had this seat for most of the last two decades and for most of those two decades, the Liberals were the federal government, but we didn’t get a dollar for the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve then.

“I know the Philip Island community has been asking for this facility since the late 1980s.

“When I learned to swim at the pool at Wonthaggi, Phillip Islanders were talking about it then.

“And Philip Islanders were doing what they still do, which is driving their families to Wonthaggi pool, to teach kids to swim.

“It wasn’t good enough then and it’s not good enough now.”

## Campaign

He is critical of what he’s described as “a false campaign, almost an auction, where the Teals and Liberals have tried to outbid each other” to persuade the community to vote for them.

“But neither of those campaigns have actually been able to answer the thing that really matters to Monash and to Gippsland in this election, which is what does our future actually look like?”

He said the issues facing Monash vary widely, describing it as a “cobbled together seat of Gippsland communities”.

“They know each other, but don’t always know each other well. And there’s an enormous difference between our communities here in Bass Coast where I live and our communities in the Latrobe Valley, particularly Moe and Newborough, where not only is the geography very different, but the economy is very different as well.”

He said Labor has a clear vision for the area, including helping areas like Bass Coast catch up on infrastruc-



Tully Fletcher, the Labor candidate for Monash, says it’s time to vote for change, as the Liberal Party has neglected the seat for decades.

ture that has fallen behind population growth, and creating jobs in the Latrobe Valley for workers in mining, energy and forestry.

For Phillip Island and Bass Coast, Fletcher said “it’s our job to make sure that our infrastructure can handle the growth and that we are looking after our strength in tourism and hospitality and the communities of people who live here permanently”.

Over in the Latrobe Valley, he’s pledging to “deliver a fair transition, jobs and new industries to fill the gaps that are being created by the move away from fossil fuels by both private investors and government”.

## Opponents

Fletcher is outspoken in his criticism of some of his opponents.

“The Teal campaign has spent a fortune absolutely carpeting our community in marketing, to tell us that every single problem we’ve ever raised with government, we can solve it all by electing a Climate 200 funded Teal independent.

“And just like the Liberal’s plan for nuclear, Gippslanders know that’s bulls%#t.

“We need honesty and certainty around a real agenda for jobs and protecting our vital agricultural sector.

“We are a straight-talking community full of very practical people who really value people who get the work done, deliver on the things that they say they’ll deliver on and who are honest with the community about what is going to happen and what isn’t going to happen.”

He said the success of Teal candidates in other electorates won’t translate to Monash.

“This is not an inner-city community, although we have pockets of wealth and privilege.

“We have enormous numbers of pension retirees, enormous numbers of people who are underemployed or unemployed, and we have enormous numbers of people who earn minimum wage.”

He called on both independent candidates to clearly state who they’d support in the event of a minority government, and said disaffected Labor voters looking to an independent candidate to give the Labor party “a slap” ran a big risk.

“Unless Russell or Deb will commit to supporting a minority Labor government, voters run the risk that they’ll get something they didn’t vote for.

“I understand why some voters may choose not to vote for a major party.

“But under our system, at the end of the day, we have to form government. We must have stable and responsible government for the country and only a major party can deliver that.

“My message to voters who are considering voting for a minor party is very simple. You still have to decide which

federal government you want.

“And I don’t think the Coalition have made anywhere near the case they would need to make for there to be a change in federal government.

“I’ll only support the agenda of the Labor Party in parliament and policies to support working Australians and deliver lower taxes, higher wages, and stronger Medicare and free TAFE.”

# DON'T RISK DUTTON

by voting Liberal or independent.

## Only Labor will stop Dutton's cuts to jobs, wages and Medicare.

### Vote 1 Tully Fletcher

Dad of two. Proud Gippslander. The only Monash candidate who grew here, went to school here, and lives here.

Follow the Labor HTV at [howtovote.org.au/monash](https://howtovote.org.au/monash)

Find out more at [tullyformonash](https://tullyformonash)

**Labor**

Authorised by Steve Staikos, Australian Labor Party  
438 Docklands Drive, Docklands VIC 3008





Drivers have been scratching their collective heads about a series of mounted cameras around Cape Woolamai and Newhaven, which it has been confirmed are being used to count traffic.

# Drivers caught on camera

## TRAFFIC

No it's not a speed camera.

But these cameras have nonetheless been causing drivers to question their purpose, after recently being spotted around Cape Woolamai and Newhaven.

Bass Coast Shire Council has confirmed the cameras have been placed by the state Department of Transport and are capturing your travel movements.

A QR code on the camera explains it is owned by Matrix Traffic and Transport Data and is used for counting and studying the number of vehicles, pedestrians, and sometimes bikes.

"The camera you've seen is set to record traffic flows for a period of time to capture the traffic when it is at its busiest. This is usually a few hours during the morning and afternoon peak periods," Matrix Traffic explains.

"The video collected is then analysed to extract the required information. This can be done both manually and automatically."

Matrix Traffic says traffic surveys collect data on vehicle counts, vehicle types, vehicle speeds, pedestrian counts, bicycle counts, traffic patterns, and

sometimes additional information like vehicle classification and direction of movement.

The information helps planners understand the patterns of vehicle movement and "is used to design and optimise transportation infrastructure, such as road expansion, new intersections, and public transit routes".

"Engineers use traffic count data to analyse the capacity and efficiency of roads and intersections. This helps them design better traffic signal timings, lane configurations, and other traffic control measures to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.

"Privacy concerns are addressed by anonymising collected data, adhering to data protection laws, and ensuring that personally identifiable information is not disclosed.

"No personal details are collected during the traffic survey process."

Matrix Traffic says traffic survey data can be used to help predict future traffic patterns and trends based on population growth.

Details: [matrix888.com/cameras-v2](https://matrix888.com/cameras-v2)

# Candidates' nuclear stance

## ELECTION

With polling showing the seat of Monash will come down to a four-way race between the Liberal, Labor and two independent candidates, where do these candidates stand on nuclear energy?

As the Liberal candidate, Mary Aldred supports the Coalition nuclear policy which says nuclear power is the key to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

The policy proposes building seven nuclear power plants around Australia, including one at Loy Lang in the Latrobe Valley. Five of those, including Loy Yang will be large reactors, with two small modular reactors proposed in South Australia and Western Australia.

The party claims it would slow down the rollout of renewables and through its nuclear policy, reduce the cost of electricity by up to 44 per cent.

The large-scale reactors would be operational by 2037.

However many independent experts have questioned both the Coalition's costings and timeline for the policy.

## Labor

On the question of nuclear energy, Labor candidate Tully Fletcher is scathing.

"The Liberal campaign does not want to talk about the nuclear power plant that they say is the future of the Latrobe Valley.

"They do not want to look people in the Latrobe Valley in the eye and tell them that it's real because they know it's not real.

"And they certainly don't want to talk about that to our communities here in Bass Coast. Because they know it's as popular as a bucket of sick."

Mr Fletcher said nuclear is not a "first order" issue in the electorate, where people are busy "trying to balance household budgets and keep a roof over their heads in a housing crisis".

"But every time they think about it (nuclear), they don't like it.

"For communities in West Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley, every single household on the train line to Sale and along the Princess Freeway, understand once you get across the details, that nuclear in Gippsland means that they will have years and years of heavy construction vehicles destroying the roads.



The Coalition's nuclear policy would see a nuclear reaction built in Gippsland. With polling showing Monash will come down to a four-way race between the Liberal, Labor and two independent candidates, where do they stand on nuclear energy? Photo: Getty Images.

"And years and years and years of nuclear fuel and nuclear waste running up and down that transport corridor, devaluing their properties, jacking up their insurance policies, hogging their water and generally making that part of beautiful Gippsland a lot less beautiful, and a lot less popular.

"If you support nuclear in Gippsland in this election, or if you say to voters that you will consider it, my own point of view is that's essentially disqualifying. It says to voters here you are out of touch with communities."

## Independents

Independent Deb Leonard told the Advertiser she was "not opposed to nuclear energy in principle" and was aware "it is used successfully in other countries".

However she stated, "I won't let our community be railroaded into something that is not appropriate for us".

"The nuclear proposal raises several critical questions that have not been answered by the Coalition.

"I believe we need to work with energy experts to find pragmatic, evidence-based approaches that truly serve the needs of our community," Ms Leonard said.

"There are faster, cheaper and safer ways to get clean and reliable energy than the Coalition's nuclear proposal, which has not been well thought through."

She has called for details on a contingency plan for Moe, Morwell and Traralgon in the event of a nuclear accident, as well as details on the impact the "massive water requirements" of the plant

would have on surrounding agricultural land.

She also questioned if local roads were equipped to "safely handle trucks carrying nuclear waste" through local communities.

Russell Broadbent is on the record as saying any candidate or party that remains ignorant to the role nuclear energy must play in the energy grid has "a real problem".

"If the goal is to reduce emissions and reach net zero by 2050, surely nuclear is the obvious option," Mr Broadbent wrote in a statement on his website in July 2024.

"Nuclear beats renewable energy, fair and square. Nuclear provides continuous and reliable energy. Renewables provide intermittent and unreliable energy."

Since leaving the Liberal Party, Mr Broadbent has also been outspoken about "the reckless Net Zero agenda", calling for a returned focus on coal for baseload power and gas for peaking.

In March, Mr Broadbent told the Advertiser, "we have an abundant supply of coal and gas and Latrobe Valley supplies Australia with the cheapest power we can possibly get".

"In regard to nuclear, I can now say, not being a member of the Liberal Party, that there's no nuclear without community support.

"I'd much rather see that money put into the Yallourn Power Station, which is a perfectly good power station.

"You've got to get the price of energy down. The community is suffering because of it."

# Send a message to Canberra, says party

## ELECTION

David O'Reilly is standing for the Legalise Cannabis Party in Monash.

Born in Seymour, Victoria, to army parents, he completed high school in Moorabbin and enlisted in the Australian Army at the age of 17 in 1979.

After an initial period of service, David took a short break during the 1980s before re-enlisting in 1990. He served until his discharge in 2011, achieving the rank of Warrant Officer Class One (WO1). His extensive service included multiple deployments overseas, with periods in Iraq, Afghanistan and Indonesia during the tsunami response, as well as work alongside other Pacific nations.



David O'Reilly is standing for the Legalise Cannabis Party in Monash.

David remains deeply committed to serving the veteran community. He currently holds several roles, including Vice President of the Morwell RSL.

"I'm standing for the seat of Monash because it's time for honest conversations about health, justice and personal freedom," David said.

"As a candidate for the Legalise Cannabis Party, I believe our region deserves a representative who puts evidence before ideology and people before politics.

"Cannabis law reform is long overdue. Every year, thousands of Australians are criminalised for using a plant that is safer than alcohol or tobacco.

"Many of these people are using it for legitimate health reasons – yet they face the threat of losing their licence, their job or their freedom. That's not just unfair, it's un-Australian."

Mr O'Reilly said the party

was fighting to:

- End cannabis prohibition and treat it as a health and personal choice issue
- Protect medicinal cannabis patients, including their right to drive when unimpaired
- Ban workplace discrimination against people who use cannabis responsibly
- Support local cannabis and hemp industries, creating jobs and boosting regional economies

"This isn't just about cannabis. It's about civil liberties, common sense and compassion," he said.

"Our policies are based on science, harm reduction and respect for individual rights. They also offer major benefits to regional areas like Monash

– where agriculture, manufacturing and tourism can all thrive under sensible legal reform.

"We're also committed to broader social justice issues, including affordable housing, access to healthcare and environmental sustainability. Reforming cannabis laws will reduce pressure on police, courts and emergency services-freeing up resources to focus on real community needs.

"This election, voters finally have a genuine alternative. A vote for the Legalise Cannabis Party is a vote for fairness, freedom and evidence-based policy.

"It's a message to Canberra that we're ready for real change."



ADVERTISEMENT

# Why we're backing Mary Aldred at the Federal Election



## Kerrie Redmond

After hearing Mary speak at a meeting in Inverloch, I believe she will represent our community very well by supporting farmers and small business.



## Ray Edwards

Mary is a very switched-on young lady who has genuine knowledge of the Monash Electorate and will advocate for important issues.



## Sharon Beck

Mary is a leader who has shown integrity and dedication to our community. Having spoken to her about my NDIS experiences, she'll be a compassionate advocate for all.



## Alan Brown

I've known Mary for more than 20 years, and no other candidate in this election better understands the electorate or is better placed to deliver on the projects we need.



## Sharon Oates

Our community needs a passionate, energetic representative like Mary, who understands small business and farming. She will stand up for agribusiness in our region.



## Kirk De Marchi

Mary's got a proven track record of delivering for our region. She'll stand up for things we need and the issues we face, including the erosion we're seeing across Bass Coast.



I'm committed to fighting every day for Monash.

Our community needs a strong voice who understands the issues facing our region.

From Longwarry to Moe, Warragul to Phillip Island, I'll make sure our community has the representation it deserves in Canberra.

With your support, we can give Monash the voice it deserves.



# MARY ALDRED

LIBERAL FOR MONASH

(Small green ballot paper)

You must **number every box.**

Electoral Division of **Monash**

**3** ROBINSON, K

**6** FLETCHER, T

**4** BROADBENT, R



**1** **ALDRED, Mary**  
LIBERAL

**8** LEONARD, D

**2** DETHLEFS, G

**5** O'REILLY, D

**9** STEELE, T

**7** WEHBE, A





Residents have raised questions about the state of the Shoalhaven Estate wetlands. The developer said maintenance teams will be onsite this month, but the area remains fenced off due to Melbourne Water requirements.

## Wetland woes continue

### DEVELOPMENT

Residents of the Shoalhaven Estate in Cowes have again raised concerns about the lack of maintenance on the estate's wetland.

The wetland has been mired in controversy for over a decade, with residents battling to have it completed.

Their pleas have fallen on deaf ears at Bass Coast Shire Council, Melbourne Water and the State Government, who have all claimed they were not responsible for the completion of the wetland project. They also appear unable to compel the developer to deliver on his promise.

The wetland is currently fenced in, with locked gates, which is part of a permit requirement by Melbourne Water, with residents unable to access the area.

Resident Roy Brooks said because of the "lack of man hours put into the area", the wetland looks unattractive and run down.

He's unhappy that new lots on the estate are being offered for sale, when the developer has failed to deliver the promised wetland.

"Perhaps, the council could stop the selling of the proposed Justice Road subdivisions until the project is in a satisfactory condition," Roy said.

Melbourne Water has again confirmed the developer is responsible for creating the wetland, as part of the subdivision project.

"Melbourne Water has identified several areas of this development's construction needing improvement," a spokesperson said.

"Until the works have been completed by the developer to the prescribed standard, the wetlands will remain closed to the community for safety reasons.

"Melbourne Water will oversee the planting and general condition of the wetlands however, some of the civil works require rectification by the developer before any planting can be addressed."

However developer Tony Coady of Red Rocks Beach Pty Ltd said he was not aware of any outstanding civil construction work or construction maintenance work within the wetland.

"I have instructed our consultant team to reach out to Melbourne Water to determine what matters they are referring to," Mr Coady said.

He also confirmed the vegetation maintenance contractor was due on site this month "to carry out brush cutting, spraying and mowing".

"There are several trees scheduled for replacement and this will occur over the next month when hopefully we see some rain.

"The lack of rain late last year and over summer has, unfortunately taken its toll on some examples."

He said it was his understanding Melbourne Water still required the wetland to be fenced for two years, and said he would provide an update on the project once his consultants had spoken with Melbourne Water.

### Development

Over the past decade, there has been a string of broken promises about the completion date.

Residents of the estate first raised concerns about the failure to deliver the promised wetland back in 2014.

Since then, the wetland was supposed to have been delivered by the summer of 2019, in April 2020, January 2022 and March 2023.

Over the years, residents have repeatedly complained the site was overgrown, had rubbish dumped in and beside it, and was not properly secured.

In 2021, work on the wetland was halted due to nesting sea birds in the area. Residents said the surrounding streets and cars were covered in bird poo posing a health and safety issue.

For some residents, the wait for the promised wetland has stretched out past 15 years. Resident John Ioannidis, who purchased his block on the estate back in 2010, has been a vocal critic of council and the developer over the failure to develop the wetland.

"It's my understanding it will stay fenced until that section is completed for sale of blocks," John told the Advertiser last year, referring to the land adjacent to the wetlands.

Back in 2019, the Advertiser reported "both Melbourne Water and Bass Coast Shire stated further titles for the estate would not be issued until the wetland was completed".

Bass Coast Shire Council did not respond to questions if any further titles on the estate had been issued since 2019, or if there'd been any discussion with either Melbourne Water or the developer about the failure to complete the wetland.



Newhaven College Junior School captains laid the wreath at the Cowes RSL 11am service. From left: Peyton Rhee, Venus Herath Mudiyanse, Nate Kondarios and Dallas Latham.

## Newhaven College pays tribute to Anzacs

It is a proud tradition for Newhaven College students to speak at ceremonies across Bass Coast on Anzac Day.

Newhaven College Captains Isaac Savona and Grace Howlett spoke at the Cowes RSL Dawn Service, with Isaac also speaking at the 11am service in Cowes.

College Captain Gabriel Di Falco delivered his speech at the Inverloch RSL service and Abby Pappas was the guest speaker at the San Remo Community Service.

Junior School Captains, Venus Herath Mudiyanse, Dallas Latham, Nate Kondarios and Peyton Rhee also took part in the Anzac Day services, laying wreaths on behalf of the College at the 11am Cowes ceremony.

On the day before Anzac Day, Newhaven College's students and staff gathered to reflect and show appreciation to our armed forces past and present.

As students and staff assembled, Year 12 piper Mackenzie Cameron accompanied by his brother James (Year 10) on Celtic drum played.



Brothers James and Mackenzie Cameron played the Celtic Drums and Bagpipes as part of the Newhaven College Anzac Day commemorations.

Proceedings were run by School Captains who reflect on how young the Anzac veterans were when they went into battle.

"At 17 and 18, many of us are just beginning to figure out who we are," said Grace Howlett. "We're finishing school, working part time jobs and making choices about our futures. Yet at the same age, over 400,000 young men from this country were preparing to leave everything behind – their homes, their families and their dreams – to sail into the unknown, facing a war they could never imagine."

"Today we honour or-

dinary teenagers who did something extraordinary. We remember their undeniable bravery through the darkness, fear and incomprehensible loss of war."

The Combined College Choir sang the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by Craig Tibbitts as well as the New Zealand and Australian National Anthems.

Year 12 student Felix Fothergill and Brass Specialist James Ryan played the Last Post on trumpet. The Junior School Captains laid a wreath at the Lone Pine as Year 9 students raised the flags.



Newhaven College Preps wore their own hand made poppies as a sign of respect during the College Anzac commemoration service. From left: Benji Blondel, Scarlett Oudshoorn, Macey Sanders-Rogers, Jarvis Dunk, Axel Onley and Hugo Kelsall.



# Do you know how to make your vote count?

## Federal election, Saturday 3 May 2025

It's important that you understand how to vote correctly.

On election day you need to complete two ballot papers:


- a green one for the House of Representatives
- a large white one for the Senate.

On the green ballot paper you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives.


On the white ballot paper you are voting for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

Don't worry if you make a mistake. Just ask for another ballot paper and start again.

Green ballot paper – number **every** box in the order of your choice



House of Representatives  
Ballot Paper




State

Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice


2

SURNAME, Given Names  
INDEPENDENT




3

SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY




7

SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY



8

SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY




1

SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY


5

SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY



6

SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY



4


SURNAME, Given Names  
PARTY

Remember... number **every** box to make your vote count


SAMPLE

Sample ballot paper

White ballot paper – you can choose to vote either above or below the line



Senate Ballot Paper  
State – Election of 6 Senators




You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line

By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).


A



5

PARTY


B



2

PARTY


C



1


PARTY

D



PARTY


E



3

PARTY

F



6

PARTY

G


4

Or

Below the line

By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).


PARTY



1

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



8

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



3

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



6

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



10

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



4

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



7

SURNAME  
Given Names  
INDEPENDENT


PARTY



2

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



5

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



12

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



9

SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY


PARTY



11


SURNAME  
Given Names  
PARTY

PARTY



SURNAME  
Given Names

UNGROUPE



SURNAME  
Given Names  
INDEPENDENT

SAMPLE

Sample ballot paper

## EITHER

Vote above the line  
Number **at least 6** boxes for parties or groups, in the order of your choice.

## OR

Vote below the line  
Number **at least 12** boxes for individual candidates, in the order of your choice.

Your vote will help shape Australia. Practise voting at [aec.gov.au](https://aec.gov.au)

To learn more

[aec.gov.au](https://aec.gov.au) 13 23 26





## ANZAC DAY 2025



RSL Day Club members and husbands Julie and Bob Jolly and Gwyneth and Brian Carvell.



Rotarians Lee Hotchkins, Graeme Turner (president), Bill Young and Tony Hotchkins prior to the wreath laying ceremony.



Bass Coast College Army Cadets were on duty at the Cowes cenotaph on Anzac Day, raising the Australian and New Zealand flags. The cadet group was initiated and is sponsored by the Phillip Island RSL.

# Massive turnout for commemorations in Cowes

Cowes saw an impressive turnout on Friday for both the traditional Anzac Day Dawn Service and the annual 11am march and ceremony, as the community came together to honour the sacrifice and service of Australia's war veterans.

An estimated 3000 people were at the Dawn Service, with 2500 at the morning service.

RSL president Peter Paul, who acted as MC for the events, welcomed the large crowd and expressed his thanks for the ongoing support for Anzac Day each year.

The guest speaker at the 11am service was Commander Neil Smith, a Navy Reserve medical officer with over two decades of active duty, including service in the Middle East. Commander Smith paid tribute to the bravery of Australia's naval servicemen, highlighting the story of Lieutenant Commander Henry Stoker, who led the HMAS AE2 submarine through the Dardanelles on April 25, 1915. Successfully evading enemy defences, the AE2 became the first Allied submarine to reach the Sea of Marmara – an historic feat that paved the way for others, though the vessel was lost just days later.

Commander Smith reflected on the courage and sacrifice of those who have served in all conflicts, acknowledging not just the veterans, but also the families who bore the cost of war.

"Their dedication and resilience have given us the freedoms we enjoy today," he said.

A series of heartfelt readings followed. Emily Le Couteur of Newhaven College read from the wartime diary of Sgt James Terry, who served in France in 1916. Cowes Primary School student Nicholas Talevski and Vietnam Veteran Tom Goode movingly presented the poem *The Reason Why* in a poignant duo performance.

Seventeen-year-old Isaac Savona from Newhaven College delivered a thoughtful address, reflecting on his great-grandfather's service in World War II.

"It is the Anzac spirit that is ongoing," he said.

"Their legacy is not just history, but something carried forward. Today reminds us that the peace we enjoy was fought for."

The Cowes jetty and glistening waters of Westernport Bay provided a fitting backdrop to the solemn ceremony – especially significant as the depar-

ture point for 45 young Phillip Island men who left for World War I. Twenty-one of them never returned, now resting in foreign cemeteries or unmarked graves. Their names were read aloud by RSL members Bob Woods and Christine Thomas, standing beside the Cowes cenotaph on which they are recorded.

Wreaths were laid in remembrance by a broad cross-section of the community, including representatives from Bass Coast Shire Council, local schools, service organisations, community groups, and local families. A wreath was also laid at sea by members of the Cowes Yacht Club.

The service concluded with the haunting call of *The Last Post*, the raising of the Australian and New Zealand flags by Bass Coast College Army Cadets, and both national anthems sung by Natasha Crestani. Reverend Ruth Hanlon led prayers, Peter Paul and Cheryl Overton read the Anzac Requiem, and Michael Crump recited *The Ode*.

Following the formalities, the community was invited back to the Phillip Island RSL for a shared lunch, continuing a long-held local tradition of remembrance and camaraderie.



Phillip Island RSL president Peter Paul (right), MC at the Anzac Day service last Friday, with guest speaker Newhaven College student Isaac Savona, and Amanda Drennan, who was announced at the conclusion of remembrance ceremonies as the 2025 Phillip Island RSL Community Service Anzac Award recipient.



Wreath bearers representing local groups, schools and organisations included Di Hotrap, from the Cowes CWA.



Bass Coast College at San Remo was represented at Friday's Anzac wreath laying ceremony by Emma Harris (BCC Deputy Principal) and Year 10 student Angel Partigton. SES representative Phil Friedlos laid a wreath on behalf of his organisation.



Representing the Phillip Island RSL, President Peter Paul, Cheryl Overton (VCS Chair) and Chris Simpson (General Manager). More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)



## ANZAC DAY 2025



Cr Rochelle Halstead and MC for the San Remo Anzac Day service, John Methven OAM.



The Ode was recited by John Turner, Sqn Leader (Ret'd).



The Papas family at the San Remo Anzac Day Service (from left): Victor, Jack, Tess, Abby and Kelly. Abby is a school captain at Newhaven College and was a guest speaker at the event.

# San Remo remembers

The weather gods were kind and the rain held off, as several hundreds gathered at the San Remo foreshore for the Anzac Day ceremony last Friday at 11am.

Organised under the auspices of the museum subbranch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, the ceremony was MC'd by John Methven OAM, who welcomed the crowd and acknowledged the traditional owners.

Guest speaker at the event, Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, said it was an honour to commemorate the Anzacs who landed at Gallipoli 109 years ago.

"We honour every Australian who has served our country in times of war, conflict, and peacekeeping since."

"Here in San Remo, we are part of that national tradition. A proud coastal town with strong ties to the sea, to community, and to service," Cr Halstead said.

"The values we associate with the Anzacs – courage, mateship, endurance, and sacrifice – are values that still resonate deeply here."

The Mayor reiterated the personal nature of the remembrance for so many Australian families.

"My grandfather, Eric Leslie Brokensha, served in World War II. He enlisted in January 1942 and was discharged four years later in 1946."

"He served as a Private in the Australian Military Forces, and like so many of his generation, he didn't often speak about what he experienced."

"But his service – his quiet strength, resilience, and humility – left a lasting mark on our family."

"His story is just one of thousands, but it reminds me that behind every name etched on a memorial, every medal pinned to a chest, is a real person. A family. A story that shapes who we are. Today, we honour them all."

Cr Halstead said the day was one to remember all those who served and never came home, and those who returned, forever changed.

"We honour the families who carried the burden of war long after the fighting ended."

"And we acknowledge those still serving today – here and overseas – who carry on the legacy of those who went before them."

"We are free because of their sacrifice. And we are grateful."

## Youth

Abby Papas, a school captain at Newhaven College addressed the crowd and said she felt privileged to share her understanding and perspective on the day, as a young person "who has lived a life far removed from the hardships of war and the challenges faced by the Anzacs".

She described Anzac Day as an opportunity to remember all those who served, those who continue to do so and also all the families and communities left behind.

"This day reminds me to be grateful, grateful for a peace I and so many others, often take for granted. For the safety and



Louis and Lily-Mae with the handmade wreath from Newhaven Primary School.

comfort of our homes and families, for how freely we get to live."

"For myself and many others my age, it's hard to truly understand how different life would've been for the young Australians preparing for war."

"At a time when we worry about exams and future plans, they were making the unimaginable choice to leave everything behind. To face violence, fear, and the unknown in service of their country."

She urged everyone to remember the Anzacs, not just as

a collective, but as individuals "with their own family's hopes, their own plans for the future".

"We must recognise these individuals and their sacrifices by not just seeing them as names on a memorial, but as real people whose absence was felt deeply."

"As someone so connected to my own family, I can't help but think of the parents, the sisters, the brothers and loved ones who all lost someone on the shores of Gallipoli and those who have lost someone in any conflict since," Abby said.

"The pain and sacrifice of war is not limited to the battlefields, but extends to the families left broken, and devastated."

Shianne Godena and Olivia Louwdijk from Bass Coast College spoke of the importance of remembering the sacrifice of the Anzacs.

"Their legacy is not about war, but it's about the values they still are holding today."

"As young people at Bass Coast College, we haven't lived through their battles, but we can honour them by representing and appreciating the freedom that they fought for."

"Lest we forget."

After the speeches, wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph by Rotary, Vietnam Veterans Association, Bass Coast Shire Council, War Widows Association, Jordan Crugnale MP, Bass Coast College, Bass Coast Health, San Remo Primary, Newhaven Primary, Bendigo Community Bank, Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Jane Ross and Maureen Matthews.

John Turner, Sqn Leader (Ret'd) recited the Ode, and Peter Buitenhuis played the Last Post, the mournful notes ringing out across the San Remo foreshore, before the crowd observed a minute's silence.

At the conclusion of the event, MC John Methven invited everyone to morning tea, hosted by the Westernport Hotel.

Mr Methven also made special mention of Nick Say, the former owner of the Westernport Hotel, thanking him for his outstanding service to the event over the years.



Representing Phillip Island & San Remo Rotary, John and Gea Lovell and John and Stevie O'Reilly.



Guest speakers from Bass Coast College San Remo Campus, Year 9 students Shianne Godena (left) and Olivia Louwdijk (right) with her mum Renatah Pereira.



The rain held off and a large crowd gathered on the San Remo foreshore for the Anzac Day ceremony. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)



## Community Support Program

### 2025-26 Sponsorship applications open now!



Apply between 7 May - 11 June 2025

**\$35,000 is available for eligible local schools, kinders, community groups, sporting clubs and not-for-profit organisations from within our service area.**

#### Five sponsorship packages to choose from:

1. Water refill stations (fountains) - up to \$7,000
2. Small water efficiency projects - up to \$5,000
3. School / Kinder package - up to \$3,000
4. Sports hydration package - up to \$500
5. Event package - \$500, hydration station, bottles, billboard sign

Each package aims to promote drinking tap water; water conservation; sustainable environmental outcomes; or build important community partnerships.

#### Need inspiration for your application?

Scan the QR code, or go to our website to view previous projects and events we have sponsored, as well as the Terms & Conditions and Eligibility Criteria for applicants.



JD02935AA

## The island “doesn’t need a zoo”

### ENVIRONMENT

There is growing opposition to plans for a future zoo on Phillip Island.

At the April Bass Coast Shire Council meeting resident Pauline Taylor said a zoo would “exacerbate an already overstretched traffic situation”.

“Council should be protecting precious farmland,” Pauline said.

“Ecotourism is not the same as a “zoo experience”, which is more appropriate for the uncongested mainland.

“Will council take on board these issues when an application is lodged?”

Shire CEO Greg Box responded council was aware the Victorian Government had provided funding to Reptile Encounters to support the development of plans for a new state-of-the-art zoo based in the region.

“No planning application has been lodged with council at this time,” Mr Box said.

“Should an application be submitted in the future, it will be subject to the usual planning assessment process, including opportunities for community consultation.”

As reported in March, plans for a potential new zoo on Phillip Island were slowly progressing, with a public survey gauging support for the proposed



Reptile Encounters director Josh Cox is in the early stages of planning a proposed new zoo on Phillip Island, with an online survey this month gauging support.

attraction.

Last August Reptile Encounters received a \$113,742 State Government grant to create a masterplan, feasibility studies, and business plan for a zoo on the island.

Reptile Encounters director Josh Cox told the Advertiser in March the masterplan was in the early stages, due to be finished in March 2026, with the survey aiming to pinpoint the target market.

Josh said the zoo was a long-term, five-year plan, with the next phase after the masterplan to find a 100-acre site and raise sufficient capital which would be “north of \$50 million”.

The 43-year-old said if

it was successful, the Phillip Island zoo would have a mix of native and exotic animals, even giraffes, with animals from “comparable habitats”.

He said Phillip Island was the ideal location because it was a leading destination in Victoria and “where people go for ecotourism”.

### Opposition

Phillip Island Conservation Society president Greg Johnson in a previous letter to the editor wrote there were good reasons to avoid putting a zoo on Phillip Island.

“Why confuse what makes the island special?” Greg said.

“Ecotourism is not the same as a zoo experience.”

Greg said the loss of 100 acres of farmland to urban infrastructure would add to an “already overstretched small island”, including traffic.

He suggested the zoo should be located away from the island on the less congested mainland, adding Bass Coast Shire Council should ensure “the visitation load is shared for economic benefit of other communities and Phillip Island’s diminishing landscape protected”.

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

JD05099AA

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From left: Senior Scientist at Phillip Island Nature Parks, Dr Duncan Sutherland, General Manager Conservation at Phillip Island Nature Parks, Jessica McKelson, and Australian National University PhD candidate Paula Wasiak, the project team leading the release of the bush stone-curlews.

## More curlews call island home

WILDLIFE

Phillip Island Nature Parks has released a further 24 bush stone-curlews on Phillip Island, describing it as “an incredible milestone for the recovery of this critically endangered species in Victoria”.

The project team led by General Manager Conservation at Phillip Island Nature Parks, Jessica McKelson, Senior Scientist at Phillip Island Nature Parks, Dr Duncan Sutherland, and Australian National University PhD candidate Paula Wasiak, travelled to Mt Rothwell Sanctuary to retrieve the bush stone-curlews, fit GPS backpacks and transport them safely to Phillip Island.

“The Nature Parks is grateful for the collaborative efforts of project partners the Odonata Foundation and The Australian National University (ANU), and support from the Penguin Foundation and our community for this landmark study to improve

the long-term viability of the bush stone-curlew in south-eastern Australia,” a Nature Parks spokesperson said.

“The project team anticipates an increase in bird movement around the island as we now have a population of 33 wild birds. The bush stone-curlews may be observed along pathways and roads as they become established in their new home ranges.”

You can help the bush stone-curlew reintroduction program by:

- Slowing down when driving – dusk to dawn is when birds are most active – remember that most of the birds can’t fly yet.
- Keep dogs on a leash and cats contained at all times.
- Leave fallen logs on the ground for habitat.
- Report sightings at [www.inaturalist.org/projects/victorian-bush-stone-curlews-burhinus-grallarius/journal](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/victorian-bush-stone-curlews-burhinus-grallarius/journal) or via email to [community@penguins.org.au](mailto:community@penguins.org.au)

# Building resilience: sewer pump station upgrades

INFRASTRUCTURE

Westernport Water is upgrading 10 sewer pump stations to enhance site safety, improve staff access and support continuous operation in extreme weather.

The \$2 million investment, spread over a five-year period, will deliver upgrades to sewer pump stations assessed as requiring upgrades to ensure safe and reliable sewerage services across Westernport Water’s network.

The scope of upgrade works varies from site to site, from minor civil work to improved site access, generator installation and/or the installation of new infrastructure.

Generators provide a back-up power supply to move sewage to treatment plants during mains power outages, preventing sewer spills and reducing on-going costs associated with deploying mobile diesel generators.

Safety and access upgrades include re-surfacing and drainage improvements and moving pipework and valves above ground, eliminating the need for high-risk confined space entry.

A sewer pump station at Rhyll will receive new storage tanks to better manage high flows during extreme wet weather events.

There will be no impacts to sewer services. Occasional traffic management will be required to ensure public and contractor safety.



Westernport Water is upgrading 10 sewer pump stations to enhance site safety, improve staff access and support continuous operation in extreme weather.

### Location and schedule

During the 2023/24 financial year, upgrade works were completed by suitably qualified contractors at sewer pump stations in Dalyston, Kilcunda, Pioneer Bay and Cape Woolamai.

Sewer pump stations in Grantville, Newhaven, and Rhyll are currently being upgraded. Works are expected to be completed by late May 2025.

Upgrade works at the Grantville (Stewart Street) sewer pump station include minor civil works to improve site access and safety, and in the installation of a generator.

Newhaven (Boys Home Road) and Rhyll (Hastings Street) sewer pump station upgrades include safety improvements and minor civil works, plus the installation of storage tanks (Rhyll only).

The sewer pump station on Settlement Road in Cowes, (near the Industrial Estate) will be upgraded by June 2025, with a generator installed and access improved. Sewer pump stations in Ventnor (Anchorage Road) and Smiths Beach (Beachcomber Steet) will be upgraded by June 2027.

/ Sponsored article /

## Safeguarding the community

### Sewer pump stations ready for any weather.

Westernport Water will service a healthy community by upgrading critical sewer pump stations. A \$2M investment to ensure safe and reliable sewerage services.

LOCATION	SCOPE OF WORK	WORK STATUS
Bass Hwy Dalyston & Kilcunda	Access and site safety improvements.	Completed 2024
Pioneer Bay (Daisy Ave)	Generator installation. Access and site safety improvements.	Completed 2024
Cape Woolamai	Access and site safety improvements.	Completed 2024
Newhaven (Boys Home Rd)	Access and site safety improvements.	Due to be complete by the end of May 2025
Rhyll (Hastings St)	Storage tank installation. Access and site safety improvements.	Due to be complete by the end of May 2025
Grantville (Stewart St)	Generator installation. Access and site safety improvements.	Due to be complete by the end of May 2025
Cowes (Settlement Rd, near the Industrial Estate)	Access improvements and generator installation.	Due to be complete by the end of June 2025
Ventnor, (Anchorage Rd) & Smiths Beach (Beachcomber Ave)	Access and site safety improvements.	Due to be complete by no later than June 2027



CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE





A concept design for the northern end of Fred Gration Reserve in Coronet Bay has been developed and is open for comment until May 4.

# New design for Fred Gration Reserve in Coronet Bay

## RECREATION

A concept design for the northern end of the Fred Gration Reserve in Coronet Bay has been developed and is open for comment until May 4.

In 2023, a Master Plan was developed for the Reserve in consultation with the community and this design follows on from the plan.

The concept features a barbeque, shelter and drinking fountain, new playspace, multi-use court, accessible pathways and parking, seating, landscaping and shade trees, improved drainage, and a shelter and shed in the community garden.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead was excited to see the designs for the reserve.

“With so many families moving to the area, I’m so excited to see plans for this reserve that include a bigger and better playspace and room for ball sports but also a gathering spot for picnics and barbeques where families and friends can spend time together,” Cr Halstead said.

“While these plans are very exciting, we want to hear from you to see if we’ve got it right. So let us know through this consultation what you like, what you love and also what might need changing or something we might’ve missed.”

Consultation is now open, and you can have your say online.

You can view all the plans online and there’s also two surveys to complete; one for young people aged under 18 and one for adults. Details at [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cbreserve](https://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cbreserve).

Consultation closes Sunday May 4.

# Detox Your Home returns this June

## COUNCIL

Registrations are now open for this year’s Detox Your Home event on Saturday June 7 at the Wonthaggi Transfer Station from 9am to 1pm.

This event is an opportunity to dispose of any household chemicals and pesticides that aren’t usually accepted at transfer stations or in any of your kerbside bins – and it’s free of charge.

Bass Coast Shire Council is partnering with Sustainability Victoria to hold this event for the community.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, explained the importance of the event.

“We have such a beautiful environment here in Bass Coast and this is just another way we’re looking after it.

“By providing this event we see responsible disposal of old household cleaners and pesticides that people no longer want or need,” Cr Halstead explained.

“Pouring household chemicals down the drain can pollute our waterways, harm animals and vegetation, contaminate our water supply and make rivers and beaches unsafe for swimming. Safe disposal of household chemicals avoids harm to you, your family, pets and the environment.

“In the past this event has been extremely popular with all the time slots filling up quickly. This is a testament to how much our



Toxic household chemicals, such as cleaning products, pool chemicals, pesticides and herbicides can be disposed of during the Detox Your Home event on June 7, at the Wonthaggi Transfer Station. Bookings are essential.

community cares for the environment and really want to do the right thing.

“I encourage you to have a look in your cupboards, garage and shed to see if there’s anything you might want to get rid of and book your place to dispose of it at the Detox Your Home event,” Cr Halstead said.

Toxic household chemicals, such as cleaning products, pool chemicals,

pesticides and herbicides can be disposed of during the event. For a full list of what is accepted visit [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detox-your-home](https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detox-your-home).

Bookings are essential. To register to dispose of your household chemicals at the event visit: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/detox-your-home-wonthaggi-registration-1081477140239](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/detox-your-home-wonthaggi-registration-1081477140239)



# Living Lightly

## Bass Coast

### May Events | Practical Workshops Across Bass Coast

#### Energy Evolution

##### Winter Comfort

Thursday, 8 May – 6pm  
Online

Free

##### Future Foods

##### Beekeeping for Beginners

Thursday, 15 May – 6pm  
Online

Free

##### Garden Gems

##### Composting and Worm Farming

Saturday, 31 May – 10am  
Phillip Island Community Orchard

Free

##### Circular Solutions

##### Sustainable House Day

Various Days in May (webinars and open houses)  
In person/Online



### Scan To Learn More Or To Stay Up To Date

Visit: [thecap.com.au](https://thecap.com.au) for more information

\*Dates and locations may be subject to change.  
Visit [thecap.com.au](https://thecap.com.au) for the most up-to-date information.

# How are you celebrating National Volunteer Week?



Council is excited to announce our micro-grant program, designed to support volunteer groups celebrate National Volunteers Week under this year’s theme: *Connecting Communities*.

### What’s on offer:

- Micro-grants up to \$100 per group
- Funds can support events such as morning teas, sausage sizzles, or outings, to acknowledge your volunteers
- Already have an event planned? Apply for funding to boost it!

## National Volunteer Week

19-25 MAY 2025

Connecting Communities

Let’s Get Creative! Let’s Connect Communities!

To apply visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/volunteerweek](https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/volunteerweek)

For further information contact Council’s Community Strengthening Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or email [communitystrengthening@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitystrengthening@basscoast.vic.gov.au)



Vote 1

# DebLeonard

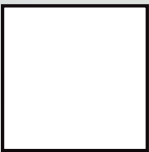
As an Independent, Deb is able to consult the community before forming policies for Monash. *That means her policies come directly from us!*  
Just have a look at some we've already co-created.



“We’re All Voting For Deb!”



# When you see it, the choice is **easy.**



## Community Independent

- Chosen by **the community**
- Driven by **local needs**
- Answers to **YOU!**

## Party Politician

- Chosen by **the party**
- Driven by **the party**
- Answers to **the party**



“I’ve been working for our community my whole life, and I know what matters most to Monash.

As an Independent, I will fight for things that the major parties have neglected – reducing bills and costs of living, promoting integrity and truth in politics, and better access to health services.

**So, if you’re tired of waiting and think our community deserves more, VOTE 1 Deb Leonard!”**

**Deb Leonard**

Community Independent for Monash



# I represent you, not a party.

As our community's independent candidate, I'll always represent *you* in Parliament and hold the major parties accountable.

## How to vote for Deb:

Place a **1** next to **Deb LEONARD**

Next, **number EVERY other box** from 2–9 in order of **YOUR PREFERENCE**

### Electoral Division of Monash

- ☐ ROBINSON, Kuljeet Kaur  
ONE NATION
- ☐ FLETCHER, Tully  
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
- ☐ BROADBENT, Russell  
INDEPENDENT
- ☐ ALDRED, Mary  
LIBERAL

**1** **LEONARD, Deb**  
INDEPENDENT

- ☐ DETHLEFS, Geoff  
FAMILY FIRST
- ☐ O'REILLY, David  
LEGALISE CANNABIS PARTY
- ☐ STEELE, Terence  
THE GREENS
- ☐ WEHBE, Alex  
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Unlike other candidates, I won't tell you who to preference, **your preferences are your own!**  
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**Deb** **Vote 1**  
**Leonard**  
**INDEPENDENT**



# So, what are people saying about Deb?

We asked around...



**Geoff Conway AFSM**  
Consultant, Yarragon South

"Firstly Deb Leonard is an **exceptional** listener and is **genuinely** looking to understand people. Secondly, and most importantly, **she understands life in regional communities**. Not just the challenges of living remotely but the national and international issues that are impacting our **families and businesses**."



**Bryden Banks**  
Business owner, Cowes

"I'm supporting Deb because **she's not another party puppet**. She'll **fight** for our fair share of funding for infrastructure, roads and the West Gippsland hospital. We need someone who **represents us, not party interests**."



**Nigel Beck**  
DJ, Warragul

"As a young person who recently started a business, we have faced plenty of struggles. Deb has been **genuinely** keen to assist with any issues and **create opportunities** for young people, supporting us to **stay in the region**."



**Jason Baldwin**  
Community Volunteer, Newborough

"As a doctor in Baw Baw Shire, I see firsthand how our healthcare system is struggling. **Deb understands we desperately need that new hospital** and will **fight** for it. She'll put our community first."



**Mal McKelvie**  
Doctor, Yarragon

"Deb is not like the usual politicians. She actually **listens** when I talk about how hard it is to make ends meet these days. Deb will **fight** for the everyday people in our community to bring costs down, improve housing and bring more **common sense, integrity and transparency** to politics."



**Jen Rutherford**  
Publisher, The Waterline, Corinella

"Deb cares about **delivering**. She's fighting for **better health services, more aged care places, and more affordable housing** because that's what we **actually** need."



**Mark Howard**  
Musician, Cape Woolamai

"Deb understands the struggles faced by everyday people in our community, like **rising grocery costs, increasing power bills and the lack of affordable housing**. Deb has **practical** policies that will bring costs down, improve our towns and **look after** people in our community."



**Peter Quill**  
Community member, Leongatha

"The party politicians have had their chance. I've watched Deb **stand up** for families in crisis throughout her career. She doesn't just talk about fairness—**she fights for it**. That's why she has my vote."



**Esther Patricia Livingston**  
Community member, Warragul

"The major parties have **ignored** regional Victoria for **too long**. I'm supporting Deb because we **deserve** a representative who'll make sure **we're heard** and get us **funding** for all the things our community needs."



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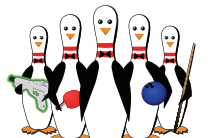
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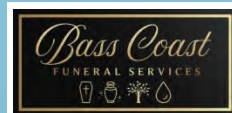
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# Climate action on San Remo foreshore

## ENVIRONMENT

Around 50 people gathered on the San Remo foreshore on Saturday, April 26 for the Act on Climate rally. Organised by students from Newhaven College and Bass Coast College, organisers said the rally aimed to raise awareness about “the climate crisis and the adverse effects it is having on Bass Coast, as well as Australia as a whole”.

The group said strong action, such as phasing out coal and gas exports faster, was needed to reduce carbon emissions.

Local palaeontologist Mike Cleeland spoke to the rally about how Phillip Island is facing above average sea level rise, shown by the encroachment of mangroves into the saltmarsh areas around Surf Beach. The student organisers encouraged everyone to use their vote wisely and to “vote for climate”.

One of the local organisers, 15-year-old Finn Farley addressed the crowd.

“I don’t want to have to wake up to a world where there’s a chance that this world might not exist in the future because of choices that our leaders have made today.

“I want to feel confident that I can bring children into this world that will be safe, and will live a good life”

The students run an Instagram page (@ss4c.bass\_coast), and plan on organising more events in the future.

Organiser Joey Thompson (17), asserted that “big changes have always been made with the help of small, grassroots community actions like this”.

“We are powerful. Never underestimate the difference that a strong and resilient community can make in big picture issues like the climate crisis.

“We all need to step up.”



The Act on Climate rally on the San Remo foreshore on Saturday, April 26, organised by students from Newhaven College and Bass Coast College, encouraged everyone voting in the election to “vote for climate”. Photo: Terry Melvin.



Paul Harris Fellow recipient Peter Buitenhuys with Rotary president Gea Lovell and district governor Colin Byron.

# Rotary honours leaders

## COMMUNITY

The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo hosted its inaugural Paul Harris Fellow evening at the Rusty Water Brewery recently.

Judy Lawrence was made a Paul Harris Fellow, as a leader whose two decades of community service “have left a lasting imprint across Phillip Island”, said club president Gea Lovell.

“Judy was praised for her leadership within Rotary, her environmental advocacy through Rhyll Boomerang Bags, her role in preserving local history, and her editorial contributions as founder of the Rhyll Reporter,” Gea said.

Peter Buitenhuys, a Rotarian for more than 30 years, received his Paul Harris Fellow certificate for contributions including music and organisation of fundraising events.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition, named after Rotary’s founder, is one of the organisation’s highest honours, and recognises those who exemplify Rotary’s motto of Service Above Self.

Guests included Rotary’s District Governor Colin Byron, and Bass Coast Mayor Rochelle Halstead.

**Donation**

The club also announced a \$5000 donation to the Monash Children’s Hospital for a dedicated apheresis nurse, which will enhance the quality of care and improve survival outcomes for children undergoing cancer treatment.

Funds raised through the project will also contribute to the latest stem cell research, ensuring children receive the most effective, tailored treatment strategies available.

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# Community shines light on family violence

## CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Change for Sam, the organisation formed in the wake of Samantha Fraser's death in 2018, is hosting a Candlelight Vigil on Wednesday May 7, at the Jetty Triangle in Cowes, from 6.30pm – 8pm.

The event, in conjunction with Bass Coast Shire Council, will see the trees and buildings in the Jetty Triangle bathed in purple light, while along Thompson Avenue, and throughout the shire, buildings and businesses will be lit up in purple.

This is the third Candlelight Vigil organised by Change for Sam, part of a nationwide initiative from Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre, to remember and honour those who have been killed by domestic and family violence.

The vigil has a crucial role in raising awareness of family and domestic violence, and provides a platform to come together, share stories, spark hope and inspire change.

"We're also looking forward to seeing the community come together on May 7 at the Cowes Jetty Triangle for a Candlelight Vigil in remembrance of those who have lost their lives to family violence," said Lija Matthews from Change for Sam.

"There will be live music by



As part of the Candlelight Vigil on May 7 at the Jetty Triangle in Cowes from 6.30pm to 8pm, trees and buildings in the triangle will be bathed in purple light. The vigil is to honour and remember those who have been killed by domestic and family violence.

Travis Thompson, Rotary Phillip Island will be firing up the BBQ with sausages, and the Phillip Island CWA will have sweet treats available.

"It's a heartfelt community event – bathed in purple light – and everyone is welcome to come down, reflect, and show their support.

"Thanks to Bass Coast Shire Council, Westernport Water and

Phillip Island Nature Parks for helping make this event happen."

## Change for Sam

Change for Sam is a registered local charity working to support victim-survivors of family violence – especially those who don't meet the strict criteria set by traditional support systems.

"Often, applying for a personal safety device through

government or agency channels means ticking off a checklist. Unfortunately, many at-risk individuals don't qualify on paper – but that doesn't mean they're safe," said Lija.

"That's where Change for Sam comes in. We provide free, 24/7 security-monitored personal safety devices through our partner agencies, giving them the flexibility to support people who would otherwise miss out.

"These devices offer peace of mind and real-time emergency response at the press of a button – a critical tool during the high-risk period of leaving a dangerous relationship.

"Right now, Change for Sam has 116 devices in use across Victoria, with demand growing every month," Lija explained.

"Our work is powered entirely by donations, community fundraising, and grant support.

"We believe everyone deserves to feel safe. With your help, we can protect more lives and honour the memory of Samantha Fraser, whose tragic loss inspired this work."

Show your support for Change for Sam, by taking part in this year's Candlelight Vigil. You can donate on the night, or online.

To donate, learn more, or get involved, visit [www.change-forsam.com.au](http://www.change-forsam.com.au).

# Offshore heads for Emerald City

## THEATRE

Offshore Theatre has announced its next production will be David Williamson's "Emerald City".

Set in the 1980s, Emerald City tells a satirical tale of a creative couple, publisher Kate, and screenwriter Colin who move to Sydney to pursue their careers. There they are confronted with an age-old dilemma about staying true to their principles or selling out.

The cast includes Kate Bindley as Kate and Adam Gooderham as Colin, with support from cast members Nina Prideaux, Melissa McMillan, Ashley Reed and Marni Johnston.

"We have the talent and experience of old faces and new ones and look forward to sharing another great Australian story with you all," said an Offshore spokesperson.

The performance dates at the Newhaven College Black Box Theatre are May 24, 25, 29, 30 and 31, and June 1.

Follow Offshore Theatre on Facebook for updates.

Book your tickets at [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1380060](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1380060)

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## Candlelight Vigil

Wednesday, May 7, 6.30pm - 8pm

## Jetty Triangle, Cowes

Join Change for Sam to remember and honour those who have been killed by domestic and family violence.

An evening of reflection including free barbeque, cake stall and live music.

Funds raised on the night will go to Change for Sam.



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# Coles helps fight food insecurity Conrad Sewell booked for Berninneit

## COMMUNITY

A team from Coles in Cowes, recently visited the Philip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL).

The emergency food relief program at PICAL was central to the visit, with the employees from Coles learning about what happens to the food Coles donates, every weekday, to the pantry.

“At Coles we’re working with charities and partners towards zero hunger. This commitment is demonstrated, here on the island, when we donate unsold, edible food to PICAL’s pantry,” said Jarrod Ryan, Store Manager Coles Cowes.

“It was great to visit the pantry, on Warley Avenue in Cowes, and see how these donations are making a real difference to the lives of local people.”

PICAL Centre Manager David Rooks said around 25 people visit the food relief pantry every weekday.

“On average, they request enough food to keep them going for four days. This service would be impossible without the support of businesses like Coles with around 200kgs of food coming into the pantry and being distributed each day.”

At the pantry, which is only 30 square metres in size, the food is sorted, then shelved or refrigerated. To



Outside the PICAL pantry delivery door with bread provided by Coles are (L to R) Erena Norfolk (Pantry Co-ordinator), Albert Thomas (Pantry pic-up driver), Phoenix Coulton (Produce Manager Coles), Jarrod Ryan (Store Manager Coles), David Rooks (Centre Manager PICAL), Damien Loricco (Bakery Manager Coles) and Steve Egan (Assistant Store Manager Coles).

avoid waste, food with limited shelf life is moved on immediately or frozen.

Some of the food provided by Coles and other local businesses ends up with PICAL’s cooking groups. The cooking groups use foods from the pantry to make fresh homemade meals.

“By batch cooking we can transform donated ingredients into delicious meals for those who are fighting food insecurity,” said Annette MacKenzie, Cooking Co-ordinator.

“It’s satisfying to know that we’re driving zero-waste while also helping the people in our community.”

Over the last year demand for PICAL’s food relief service has increased with around 20 per cent more people seeking food

from the pantry.

Des, who uses the pantry regularly, explains, “I’m comforted knowing that no matter how tough things are, the PICAL pantry is here. It’s thanks to local business like Coles that I can be assured of the food staples I need to get me through the week.”

The pantry is co-ordinated by volunteers and relies on donations from local stores, such as Coles, as well as donations from local residents and businesses.

If you are experiencing food insecurity, the pantry at PICAL is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

PICAL is located at 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes. For more information go to [www.pical.org.au](http://www.pical.org.au) or follow PICAL on Facebook.

## MUSIC

As part of a national acoustic tour, celebrating the 10th anniversary of his multi-platinum single “Firestone”, Conrad Sewell will play at Berninneit on Saturday July 19.

Starting his musical journey at the age of eight, Conrad Sewell became a household name with his first official solo endeavour, teaming up with dynamic Norwegian DJ and producer Kygo for the 2014 smash hit “Firestone”, a track that has since gone on to generate over one billion streams on Spotify alone



Celebrating the 10th anniversary of his multi-platinum single “Firestone”, Conrad Sewell will play at Berninneit on Saturday July 19.

and opened the door for Sewell to open arenas for the likes of Ed Sheeran, Maroon 5 and Jess Glynne. He has since scored

more platinum singles, won the ARIA Music Award for Song of the Year, and released two studio albums, going on to tour the globe extensively.

“With these regional tours, what’s excited me most is connecting with the fans singing these songs in a stripped back way,” Sewell said.

“I’m excited to play these songs of mine in a way that I’ve never had the chance to.”

Tickets are available from [conradsewellmusic.com](http://conradsewellmusic.com) or [www.basscoast-culturalvenues.com/live-at-berninneit-cowes](http://www.basscoast-culturalvenues.com/live-at-berninneit-cowes)



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Local volunteers Michelle Maes (PICS), David Rooks (Landcare), Graeme Turner (Rotary) and Bill Young (PINP). As part of National Volunteer Week 2025, a special community celebration will be held at 10am on Tuesday May 20 at The Nobbies Centre. Register your attendance at [www.trybooking.com/DAWMB](http://www.trybooking.com/DAWMB).

## Celebrating our volunteers

### COMMUNITY

Organisations across Bass Coast are coming together to honour the powerful role volunteers play in building inclusive and thriving communities.

As part of National Volunteer Week 2025, a special community celebration will be held at 10am on Tuesday May 20 at The Nobbies Centre.

The event will feature morning tea, inspiring guest speakers and opportunities for volunteers to connect with one another and with local volunteer groups.

"Bass Coast has a vibrant and dedicated volunteer community, with more than 6000 individuals contributing across a wide range of sectors – from environmental conservation and health and wellbeing, to education, emergency services,

animal welfare, and beyond," said Kate Adams, Community Impact Manager, Phillip Island Nature Parks.

"The incredible impact volunteers have on our community is often underestimated. That's why it's so important to come together, acknowledge their efforts and celebrate the spirit of connection that volunteering creates."

Phillip Island resident and volunteer Michelle found new friendships and purpose through the Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) after making a permanent sea change in retirement.

"It was like dropping a stone in a pond – the circles just kept expanding," Michelle explains.

"I've made great friendships and connected with several other volunteer and social groups across the Bass Coast through my

involvement with PICS."

If you volunteer with an organisation, service provider, sporting club or community group – or you simply want to celebrate the power of volunteering – you're invited to attend this free event.

Register your attendance at [www.trybooking.com/DAWMB](http://www.trybooking.com/DAWMB).

This event is proudly presented by Bass Coast Health, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council, Phillip Island Community and Adult Learning Centre and MYLI – My Community Libraries as part of National Volunteer Week, running from May 19 to 25.

This year's theme, "Connecting Communities," highlights the spirit of connection and the incredible impact volunteers have in building inclusive and thriving communities.



Camille Monet and Alisoun Neville are holding a Doll Making Workshop on May 4, from 2pm until 5pm, offering a creative way to celebrate Mother's Day.

## Hello Dolly – a creative Mother's Day celebration

### ARTS

Are you searching for a special and unique activity this Mother's Day?

Artists Camille Monet and Alisoun Neville have combined their creative talents to offer a Doll Making Workshop on May 4, from 2pm until 5pm.

This heartwarming event is a way for generations to come together to craft dolls.

Describing it at a "beautiful space" which will nurture skills to pass from one generation to the next, it's a creative way to celebrate Mother's Day.

"It's an opportunity to share stories and celebrate connection," Camille and Alisoun said.

"We have tried to make the workshop affordable at \$45 per person or whatever you can pay."

The workshop is open to all: Mothers and children, teenagers and parents, fathers and children, grandparents and grandchildren, friends and carers.

"This is a first for us in working together, we are genuinely excited about the theme and possibilities," the women said.

The community workshop will see participants create handcrafted dolls "in the beloved Mirka Mora style" said Alisoun, and be a chance to share "stories, laughter, and traditions that connect and celebrate".

"More than just crafting, this workshop is about belonging – welcoming all identities and stories and enjoying the richness of diverse experiences through creativity."

The workshop will provide natural and upcycled materials to craft unique rag dolls – using a rich collection of fab-

rics and decorations, but you can bring special pieces of your own.

"Bring your story to life by creating a doll that reflects you – honouring identities and experiences that are often overlooked in store-bought toys," said Alisoun.

"Honour the artistry and history of handmade dolls, strengthen bonds between generations in a meaningful way, and create a cherished keepsake to take home, with the skills and confidence to make more together."

For more information, or to book, go to: [www.alisounneville.com.au/registration](http://www.alisounneville.com.au/registration)

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### Camille Monet & Alisoun Neville



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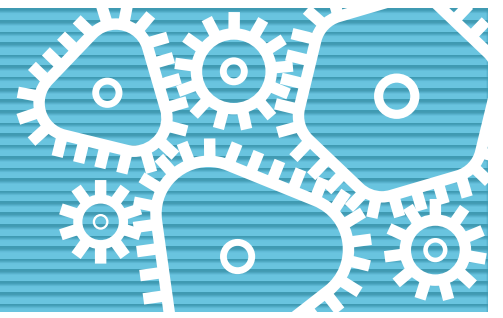
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# Local hero wins RSL Anzac Award

## COMMUNITY

The 2025 Phillip Island RSL Community Anzac Award was officially announced on Friday at the conclusion of the island's Anzac Day service, with local hero Amanda Drennan named as this year's recipient.

Amanda, who made history in 2011 by becoming the first person to swim 66 kilometres around Phillip Island in a shark-proof cage, was honoured for her exceptional contribution to the local community and her longstanding commitment to improving health care services on the island.

At just 19 years old, Amanda undertook the gruelling five-day swim to raise awareness and funds for a 24/7 health care facility in Cowes. Her inspiration stemmed from the closure of Warley Hospital in 2008 – a loss felt deeply across the island, particularly by Amanda, who was born there.

Already a decorated swimmer – winning bronze at the 2004 Athens Paralympics and competing in Beijing in 2008 – Amanda's 2011 circumnavigation was a feat never before attempted. Supported by a dedicated local team and cheered on by residents, her swim captured the community's imagination. Despite seasickness on day one, she pressed on with unwavering determination, swimming into a hero's welcome on day five at the San Remo pier.

Two-thirds into her journey, she was joined in the water by then-Federal Health Minister and local MP Greg Hunt, who swam beside her cage in a show of support. The swim was more than symbolic – it was a catalyst for real change.

In 2019, Amanda's dream was realised with the opening of the Phillip Island Health Hub on Church Street. She was able to present the Hub with a cheque for \$61,000 – funds she raised from the swim – which went toward the purchase of a state-of-the-art bedside ultrasound machine,



Phillip Island RSL committee member Cheryl Overton was one of the first to congratulate Amanda Drennan, winner of the 2025 RSL Community Anzac Award, at Friday's ceremony.

now a crucial tool for on-the-spot medical assessments.

Phillip Island RSL President Peter Paul congratulated a very surprised Amanda at Friday's award presentation announcement, describing her as "a very worthy winner" of the Community Anzac Award, who has displayed courage, community spirit, and a deep love for Phillip Island.

"She is a forward thinker and a very positive role model for girls in our community," he said.

"She listened to what the community needed at the age of

19, and she set out to help fulfill those needs.

"That was 14 years ago, and Amanda has never stopped giving," he added.

Peter also acknowledged her tireless fundraising efforts in the years since, which have included trivia nights, raffles, and ongoing support for the Health Hub Auxiliary.

Outside of her community work, Amanda, a devoted mother of three (most recently welcoming 12-week-old Paddy) is currently on maternity leave from her massage business.

# Win for residents on road ripping

From page 1

"Council will now take time to consider recent petitions received and continue to work with property owners.

"This pause will allow for careful consideration of community concerns, investigation of treatments, financial analysis and will ensure that our approach continues to meet local needs and road maintenance standards."

The statement said property owners interested in options under the Urban Roads and Drainage Policy (URDI) would continue to be supported through this process.

URDI allows large road upgrade projects to be broken into smaller ones and community-initiated road projects to be made easier to achieve.

Cowes west resident Darren Murphy welcomed the announcement.

"I appreciate council will now consult with residents so all our options can be explored and explained prior to any works commencing," he said.

"I look forward to working with council for an early resolution to this issue."

Resident Rachael Ferguson thanked council "for listening to our concerns".

"We're hoping this 12-month period provides us an opportunity to work with council and meaningfully engage community on ways forward," she said.

## New priorities

The U-turn reflects a line in the sand by the newly-elected councillors and is a precedent for residents who over successive years on varied streets have fought against the removal of dust suppression.

Last week, residents from Cowes west streets lodged a petition with council, signed by 129 residents, urging a halt to the dust suppressant removal.

"We are deeply concerned that this change would create significant problems related to safety, health, accessibility, and environmental sustainability," the Cowes west petition read.

It called on the council to retain the existing sealed road

surfaces on Scenic Drive, Maxwell Avenue, and Outlook Drive and "fully review the decision, taking into account legal, financial, and social implications".

At the April council meeting, councillors debated a petition by residents of Reid Street, which sought a "postponement" of the dust suppressant removal.

Cr Tim O'Brien said he believed there was "such contention" on the issue of dust suppressant removal, not only in Rhyll but also Cowes west, "we need to have a moratorium on this activity".

"It's very difficult to explain to someone that the bitumen is being taken up outside their property in the name of progress and dust suppression," Cr O'Brien said at the April meeting.

"It makes no sense to a resident and certainly makes little sense to us.

"Taking up bitumen seems to be a retrograde step. We perhaps need to have a rethink about this strategy."

Cr Tracey Bell said there needed to be more clarity on timeframes.

"I look forward to officers working with communities to ensure they understand their options and to give them time to get themselves organised before you rip up their roads," she said at the council meeting.

Cowes west residents said their roads were not scheduled for a special charge scheme until 2065.

According to the council's engage page, residents on streets not scheduled for a full road and drainage upgrade in the next five years can apply for an interim dust treatment option, to be funded by property owners; or alternatively owners can apply for a special charge scheme under the council's Urban Road and Drainage Improvement Policy (URDI).

For decades, special charge schemes have been largely unpopular with residents on dirt roads, who have been reluctant to fork out large sums to add bitumen.

[engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/urdi](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/urdi)

# Council releases long-awaited transport plan

## TRAFFIC

If congestion continues to grow on Phillip Island with no improvements Cowes and other townships will be "under traffic stress", according to Bass Coast Shire Council's draft Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS).

The ITS details the 20-year vision for transport in Bass Coast and was released on Friday, open for public consultation until May 11.

The long-awaited strategy aims to better manage car use and provides a set of alternatives, such as walking, cycling and public transport.

It details a transition to a sustainable transport system, less reliant on fossil fuels, while accommodating increasing population and visitor numbers.

The ITS models a "business as usual" scenario, where cur-

rent transport practices continue, along with projected population growth, in contrast to an "improved change" scenario.

The population is projected to grow by 35 per cent between 2024 and 2046, with an additional 21,000 people expected to live in Bass Coast in 2051.

Currently Bass Coast has 2.87 million visitors per year and during peak holiday periods, the population almost doubles, to more than 70,000 people.

"If nothing changes in Bass Coast, the existing transport network and town centres will be under traffic stress," the ITS states, adding "the congestion and parking issues the community face today will be made considerably worse".

Without any significant changes to the transport system, there is likely to be more



Bass Coast Shire Council has released the long-awaited draft Integrated Transport Strategy, which details a transition to a sustainable transport system. Without any significant changes to the transport system, there is likely to be almost 45,000 additional car trips every day in 2046. Feedback is open until May 11.

than 840,000km of extra travel per day on roads in 2051 and almost 45,000 additional car trips every day in 2046.

Under the improved change scenario, travelling by car will "still be the main mode of transport", particularly for trips to work, but there will also be a doubling of public transport and cycling participation for all purpose trips, including more frequent, integrated bus services and an extended network of bike lanes and shared paths.

"The changed travel patterns in the improved change scenario are estimated to result in 257,000 less kilometres travelled by car," the strategy says.

## Funding

The strategy does not look at building new transport infrastructure and heavily relies on funding by state and federal

governments.

The ITS will act as an advocacy document in seeking funding and improved services, with the State Government responsible for public transport.

"This is our chance to design and advocate to other levels of government for a network that's safer, more sustainable, and easier to use – whether you're walking, cycling, driving, or catching public transport," said Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead.

"This strategy sets out a vision where walking, cycling, and public transport are safe, convenient, and attractive options, while still ensuring that roads and parking remain functional and efficient."

More details in next week's paper.

Details: [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/its](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/its)





## COUNCIL BRIEFS

**"Another" council cost blow out**

The closed Wonthaggi landfill will be rehabilitated for \$8.4 million, which a Bass Coast Shire councillor has criticised as a "cost blow out".

Councillors at the April meeting voted to support the rehabilitation, but Cr Ronnie Bauer said the original amount allocated had been \$3 million.

"The amount required to fulfill the directive given to Council by the EPA has now more than doubled. Yet another example of how a capital work project has blown out," Cr Bauer said.

Wonthaggi Landfill operated from the 1920s until 2000 and council officers explained its rehabilitation was required for both public health and the environment.

"Over time, old landfills can pose risks such as gas emissions, ground-water contamination, and structural instability," officers said.

Cr Jon Tenby said the rehabilitation solution was world's best technology and "will be watched by people across the county".

Mayor Rochelle Halstead said the council had been saving for the works and the project would see Bass Coast lead the state.

**Battery clarification**

The council has clarified some confusion on seven neighbourhood batteries, currently being rolled out across Phillip Island.

Resident George Mariotti asked council for the date of order for the batteries and contractors to install the batteries, also questioning community consultation.

Council CEO Greg Box explained Mondo was installing the neighbourhood batteries, with the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) as part of their 100 Neighbourhood Battery program.

"Responsibility for procurement, installation, ownership and operation of the batteries rests with Mondo," Mr Box said.

"Council is supporting the project by providing leases for the batteries on council land."

Details: [www.mondo.com.au/projects/phillip-island](http://www.mondo.com.au/projects/phillip-island)

**Recreation reserve plan pressure**

Residents have continued to put pressure on the council to fast-track plans for a future recreation reserve on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads, at the Hilton Chadwick Reserve and the former carnival land.

Former council candidate Marnie Chadwick said the Hilton Chadwick Reserve had been sold by Commissioners in 1995 "against public objection", and it should be rezoned for perpetuity.

"This land was re-purchased by the community, and its potential resale for funds by council poses a risk. Why does council hesitate to secure its future?" Marnie asked.

CEO Greg Box re-confirmed rezoning of the site was not required for progress to occur, with "rezoning a medium-term action."

"It is anticipated that this process will occur in approximately 10 years," Mr Box said.

Terry Parkin said council had reported the detailed design for the new safety turning lane had been submitted to the transport department for a permit.

"Has council applied for multiple permits for services to authorities needed for Hilton Chadwick Reserve and the carnival land," Terry said.

Mr Box responded to apply for permits with relevant authorities detailed designs were required.

"At this stage, council has only completed detailed design work for the safety turning lane into the site. As detailed designs are completed for the

remainder of the site "council will continue to apply for the relevant permits as required."

Bill Wilson said the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2023 showed new sporting ovals.

"When will the detailed designs for new ovals and the safety traffic turning lane be provided to the public for comment," Bill said.

Mr Box replied detailed designs for sporting ovals had not commenced, adding the turning lane designs would be published on council's Engage Bass Coast Project page once finalised.

**Climate queries**

Resident Gina Rosamilia has asked for expenses incurred by council after it declared a climate emergency in 2019, excluding beach erosion works.

CEO Greg Box responded council had expended \$2.68 million on climate-related projects, including: biolinks revegetation, planting more than 2.5 million trees on rural land; urban forest planting 1400 trees in townships; solar power systems on more than 30 community buildings; and programs to help households and businesses reduce their emissions and costs.

"In this period, council has reduced its CO2 emissions by over 50 per cent and continues to work towards its target of net zero by 2030," Mr Box said.

Mario Boffa also asked for numbers and costs of carbon offsets purchased by council. Mr Box said council had not purchased carbon offsets at any time since 2019.

**Fence dispute?**

Ever wondered who pays when a ratepayer shares a fence with public land?

John Kuzma wanted to know the answer, asking who had responsibility to abutting land which council owns or manages for shared fencing costs to adjoining properties.

CEO Greg Box said the Fences Amendment Act 2014 exempted council from costs associated with fencing for, but not limited to: boundary fencing between private land holders, fencing abutting public land, including public parks, recreational reserves, road reserves and linear reserves.

"Consequently, the owner of the land would be responsible for all costs associated with the construction, installation, repair or replacement of the fence," Mr Box said.

**Transparency**

Louise Lyell asked why emails and letters to councillors and council staff by residents "often do not receive a reply especially from councillors".

"Is there a policy document stating a timeframe that emails and correspondence should legally be answered," Louise queried.

CEO Greg Box responded while there was no legal requirement, council's Customer Charter, stated customer requests must be responded to within 10 business days.

"Customers can log a request by contacting council directly through the methods outlined on our website including by email, phone or a customer service centre. These requests are formally recorded and actioned."

Louise also said the Council's engage web page was missing vital information on the special charge schemes.

"Most of the useful documents are useless as they cannot be accessed. Will council please check their information prior to submitting errors on the site?"

Mr Box said staff had located one error which had now been corrected, and "we apologise for any inconvenience", adding website issues could be reported for immediate action by contacting council and submitting a customer request.

**Road safety**

Fiona Coletta asked whether the council would erect stop or give way signs on the Woolamai west side of Woolamai Beach Road, "as people don't re-

alise, they have to stop and give way".

"They speed out of the side streets without consideration for the traffic. It's a major problem for the residents of Cape Woolamai," Fiona said.

CEO Greg Box said council staff would make an assessment, "however, all the intersections along this section of road are T intersections".

"In Victoria, T-intersections can be managed as uncontrolled intersections," Mr Box said.

"Typically, these intersections do not require specific signage to indicate right-of-way. The general road rules, the physical geometry and threshold treatments at these intersections control who has the right-of-way."

Philip Davy said the 2014 Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Traffic Management Plan commissioned by the council recommended a dedicated right turn bay at Dunvegan Crescent "due to safety concerns", which council had "ignored".

"With the increase in traffic volumes is this a wise decision?" Philip asked.

Mr Box responded the intersection of Phillip Island Road and Dunvegan Crescent was managed by the Department of Transport and Planning.

"Council has and will continue to advocate to the Department of Transport and Planning regarding the need to have a safer intersection at Phillip Island Road and Dunvegan Crescent," Mr Box said.

**Overpopulation concerns**

Long-time resident and conservationist Sue Chadwick was concerned the council's "unchecked suburban development" posing "a serious threat to our small island's future".

"We simply don't have the space, infrastructure, or cohesive planning to support it," Sue said.

"Our cherished nature-based tourism relies on a safe and thriving environment. Will councillors step up to tackle our urgent overpopulation crisis?"

CEO Greg Box said all regions of Victoria were experiencing the pressures of increasing population, and "as a desirable place to live, work and retire Bass Coast is no different".

"These pressures are also felt by council in delivering amenity, infrastructure and services at pace with population growth," Mr Box said.

"The State Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes program will ultimately strengthen planning policy to protect our valued nature and tourism sectors, containing suburban development to within protected township boundaries."

At the same council meeting, council planners approved a new 196-lot subdivision at Tatiara Drive, Grantville.

Cowes resident Pauline Taylor said she was concerned with congested parking.

"On Phillip Island parking is at a premium most of the time, not just in holiday times," Pauline said.

"It is therefore unbelievable council is still waiving car parking requirements. The Isle of Wight is an example of this. All parking must be on site."

"When will council stop this practice?"

Mr Box said the ability to apply for parking reductions was a "feature across the Victorian planning system".

"The planning scheme provides a nominal requirement for parking based on the proposed use of land," Mr Box said.

"Car parking waivers are assessed against other criteria. A case-by-case assessment based on each individual site, its location and physical constraints is outlined in the decision guidelines for all car parking assessments and used to determine whether a reduction is appropriate."

Mr Box said the Isle of Wight redevelopment was approved through the State Government's Development Facilitation Program.



## HEALTH MATTERS

**Healthy community**

Every four years, Bass Coast Shire Council develops a Healthy Communities Plan to set priorities and create strategies that improve community health. Now, it's time to shape the plan for 2025-2029!

Consultation underway now, including an online survey and community pop up sessions, through until May.

For details: [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/healthy-communities-25](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/healthy-communities-25)

**Flu vaccinations**

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) is encouraging patients to prepare for peak influenza season, following concerning reports of record case numbers to start 2025.

Australia has already recorded 46,325 cases of lab-confirmed influenza this year, which is 50 per cent higher than this time last year. The spike comes in the wake of a sharp fall in influenza vaccination rates compared to previous years, as well as for a range of other diseases including whooping cough and COVID-19.

RACGP President, Dr Michael Wright, warned that the flu must be taken seriously, with a potential surge over the winter months likely to place tremendous strain on Australia's health system.

Dr Wright said some patient groups, including young children, were at especially high risk.

"Other patient groups at risk of serious illness include people aged over 65, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, pregnant women, individuals with certain medical conditions such as HIV, cardiac disease and chronic respiratory conditions, those who smoke, as well as patients who are immunocompromised."

Children and other high risk groups are eligible for free vaccinations.

Get your flu vaccination at your local GP or pharmacy.

**30 years of National Palliative Care Week**

For thirty years, National Palliative Care Week (NPCW) has opened conversations, raised awareness, and advocated for better access to and acceptance of palliative care, and improved quality of life at end of life!

With the support of the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, in 2025, NPCW runs from Sunday May 11 to Saturday May 17.

The theme 'What's your plan?' challenges and inspires different groups:

For individuals and families – it challenges them to think about their own future and quality of life, make informed choices, and decide how they want to be cared for.

For the health and care sectors – it prompts reflection on capacity, innovation, and readiness to meet growing demand in a community that feels empowered by end-of-life planning.

Check the PCA website for events happening near you, as well as a range of digital tools you can use to support NPCW, and advice around end-of-life conversations and planning.

[palliativecare.org.au/](http://palliativecare.org.au/)

Read the full stories at [pisra.com.au/health-wellbeing](http://pisra.com.au/health-wellbeing)

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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## Renewables vs nuclear power

The public deserve to know why their power bills will go up even more steeply if Labor is re-elected. Chris Bowen and Mr Albanese won't divulge the real costs of renewables before the election because they know it would shock voters.

Yes, Australian sunshine is free and abundant (in daytime) and so is the wind when it blows. But every electrician knows that the rating of solar panels is based on their maximum performance on an unclouded midsummers day and falls to a fraction at other times.

Over the last two years, wind-farms nationwide have delivered only 30 – 35 per cent of their nominal capacity because of a "wind drought". And when owners lose money, they negotiate higher prices with the Australian regulator. (Another rise on July 1.)

Compare the operating costs of nuclear with renewables.

To do this we use the international Levelized Cost Of Energy (LCOE), calculated per KWh of electricity supplied.

The LCOE includes:

- The total cost of the plant amortised over its commercial life
  - Interest on loans
  - All running expenses, including staff costs, maintenance, etc.
- LCEO values (in Australian currency) for nuclear plants:
- France 5.55c
  - South Korea 5.55c
  - Japan 14.0c
  - China LCEO not published, but it sells to the market at 3.5c/KWh. They wouldn't be selling at a loss.

Compare these with the official LCEO values of Renewables.

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) shows solar LCOE values with a median of 10.8c/KWh. Add the LCEO cost of the massive storage batteries – 15c/KWh. Total: 25.8c/KWh.

Any schoolchild knows that 25.8 cents is over four times 5.5 cents. Add the cost of 10,000km of new transmission lines AEMO says are required to take the power to where it's needed. At \$10M per km this is \$100 Billion.

Other countries have recently built standardised 1.4MW and larger reactors for AUD3.3 – AUD5.5 billion each.

Even if the Coalition budgeted for treble the above, it will still be a fraction of the absurd \$600 billion those with vested interests in renewables keep touting.

Nor will they need an extra \$100 Billion worth of powerlines.

Anton Gosselin, Newborough

## Mental health no joke

Mental Health is not an amusing subject, yet the Labor party has treated it as a joke and are treating voters like mugs.

In recent comments on mental health, Labor candidate for Monash, Tully Fletcher, omitted to inform voters that it was this Labor government that cut the Medicare counselling sessions from 20 down to 10. It is in Labor's DNA, as Gillard also cut Medicare sessions from 12 to eight. Yet Albanese/Labor repeatedly say

Liberals will cut Medicare.

They are decreasing sessions at a time when mental health has increased, there are suicides (nine a day) and attempted suicides about 65,000 annually.

What has Labor done about suicides over last three years? Nothing. Covid caused a lot of mental health stress and Labor promised a Royal Commission into Covid, yet all Albo did was an inquiry and states were not involved, so a waste of money.

Labor also promised to employ 500 community domestic violence counsellors yet as of June 2024 only 53 have been employed. Don't forget the promised \$275 energy reduction, 12 mortgage interest rate increases, groceries up, fuel up, Labor increased fuel excise from 26 cents up to 50 cents, insurances up, homeless up 22 per cent, more accessing food banks, seven consecutive quarters of per capita recession, dropping the ball on defence of our borders.

Also 26,521 business have gone bust under Albo's watch, about 3000 building companies last year, while cattle producers are still waiting for compensation since the export ban in 2011.

So before you put 1 next to Labor consider carefully all these issues.

J Boucher, Kilcunda

## From the heart of a mum

As Deb Leonard's mum, I couldn't be prouder of who she is, what she stands for, and her current journey as an independent for Monash. Deb has always had a huge heart for helping people and a practical drive to get things done.

Deb's commitment to serving our community shines through in everything she does. I've watched her grow from a determined young girl into a dedicated community lawyer, successful small business owner, and above all, a devoted mum.

Deb's always been a fighter for what she believes in. At 12 years old, while president of the junior committee of the Phillip Island Pony Club she persuaded the senior committee (us parents) that we should hold an event for everyone to come to Phillip Island to compete. Much against our will we slowly succumbed and the Inaugural Phillip Island Pony Club Combined Training day was held. It has been held every year since.

Throughout this campaign, I've seen Deb work tirelessly. She's been out in the community every day, listening to concerns and ideas, and coming up with practical solutions.

This is the same approach she'll take as Monash's representative. She won't be the kind of MP you are used to who does nothing and then shows up at election time.

Deb has had a lot of mis-information thrown around about her this campaign, but I believe the people of Monash can see Deb for who she is – a genuine independent and a hardworking, wonderful representative we can count on to fight for us.

Jenny Leonard, Cape Woolamai



Aisha Hibbert was presented with the Anzac Day medal for best on court following the Seniors netball match between Kilcunda Bass and Phillip Island.



Members of the Phillip Island Football Netball Club stand to attention at the solemn Anzac ceremony that preceded the Seniors football match between Phillip Island and Kilcunda Bass at the Cowes oval on Saturday.



## ADVERTISER EDITORIAL

### The final stretch

A record number of people are voting early in this election, including here in Cowes.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) reported 1.13 million people voted in the first two days of pre-polls last week, compared to 966,960 who voted early in the first three days of the 2022 election pre polls.

By day four, the number of people who had already voted rose to 2.4 million.

Cowes reflected a similar enthusiasm for early voting with 3290 people voting in the first four days. A further 5237 people voted in Wonthaggi.

Across the Monash electorate, 19,786 people voted in the first four days (16.97 per cent of the electorate), and almost half of those people were from the two Bass Coast pre polls. The combined votes from Cowes and Wonthaggi represented 43 per cent of the Monash votes cast in the first four days.

The final week of the campaign has candidates scrambling to reach the remaining voters, including those who say they are yet to decide who they will vote for.

National polling shows a record high number of undecided or soft voters (around 40 per cent) compared to previous elections where the soft vote normally sat around 24 per cent.

In mid-April, Essential research found only about half of Australians voters know who they would vote for and would not change their minds. Of the rest, 34 per cent said they might change their minds,

while 13 per cent had not decided who to vote for. That means there's still a fair number of you, who have yet to decide who gets their vote.

More than half the local candidates have not actively campaigned in the seat, with no media releases, no announcements, and no visits around the electorate, including One Nation, The Greens, Family First, Legalise Cannabis and Trumpet of Patriots.

So why run as a candidate, but not actively campaign? One reason is money.

Under our electoral system, any candidate that receives over four per cent of the first preference vote, will receive a payment of \$3,386 per vote, to help cover the cost of their campaign.

In Monash, that four per cent translates to a payment of more than \$13,000, while a first preference count of around eight per cent would mean a payment of more than \$24,000.

For a serious campaign, the payment represents just a drop in the ocean, but it's a tidy wage for erecting a few corflute signs, handing out some how to vote cards and popping a photo and statement on a website.

The other reason parties nominate candidates, but don't run a campaign, is to direct the flow of preferences to the major party most sympathetic to its cause and policies, to help that candidate get elected.

With Monash on a thin margin of 2.9 per cent, preferences will decide the outcome of the seat.

As we've discussed before, the "how to vote" cards are an attempt to direct your preferences, but you do not need to follow these.

It pays to think for yourself, and seriously consider who you vote for and the order you number every candidate on the ballot box.



# GSL results and fixture

## Round 1 results

### – Sunday, April 27

**Senior Men's:** Drouin Dragons Maroon 1 def Inverloch Stars 0. Leongatha Knights 3 def Lang Lang United 0. Trafalgar Victory 12 def Wonthaggi United 0.

**Senior Women's:** Drouin Dragons Maroon 2 def Inverloch Stars 1. Leongatha Knights 22 def Lang Lang United 0. Trafalgar Victory 3 def Wonthaggi United 0. Mirboo North United 2 drew Korumburra City 2.

**Men's Reserves:** Drouin Dragons Maroon 2 def Inverloch Stars 0. Phillip Island Breakers 3 def Leongatha Knights 0. Korumburra City 3 def Trafalgar Victory 2.

**U17 Mixed:** Drouin Dragons Maroon 6 def Inverloch Stars 0. Phillip Island Breakers 4 def Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 0. Leongatha Knights Blue 8 def Leongatha Knights White 2. Korumburra City 6 def Mirboo North United 0.

**U15 Girls:** Drouin Dragons Maroon 3 def Wonthaggi United 0. Phillip Island Breakers 6 def Drouin Dragons Yellow 4.

**U14 Mixed:** Drouin Dragons Maroon 7 def Inverloch Stars 3. Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 4 def Phillip Island Penguins 2. Leongatha Knights 6 def Lang Lang United 0. Wonthaggi United 6 def Phillip Island

land Stingrays 0. Mirboo North United 8 def Korumburra City 5.

**U12 Girls:** Inverloch Stars 6 def Drouin Dragons Maroon 0. Lang Lang United 5 def Leongatha Knights 3.

**U12A Mixed:** Drouin Dragons Maroon 4 def Inverloch Stars 2. Wonthaggi United 6 def Trafalgar Victory 0. Mirboo North United 7 def Korumburra City 1.

**U12B Mixed:** Drouin Dragons Yellow 4 def Inverloch Stars 0. Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 6 def Phillip Island Penguins 0. Drouin Dragons White 6 def Leongatha Knights White 0. Phillip Island Stingrays 4 def Wonthaggi United 2.

## Round 2 fixture

### – Sunday, May 4

**Senior Men's:** Inverloch Stars V Phillip Island Breakers. Leongatha Knights V Drouin Dragons Maroon. Wonthaggi United V Korumburra City.

**Senior Women's:** Inverloch Stars V Phillip Island Breakers. Leongatha Knights V Drouin Dragons Maroon. Mirboo North United V Trafalgar Victory. Wonthaggi United V Korumburra City.

**Men's Reserves:** Inverloch Stars V Phillip Island Breakers. Leongatha Knights V Drouin

Dragons Maroon.

**U17 Mixed:** Inverloch Stars V Phillip Island Breakers. Leongatha Knights Blue V Drouin Dragons Maroon. Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow V Leongatha Knights White. Wonthaggi United V Korumburra City.

**U15 Girls:** Leongatha Knights V Drouin Dragons Maroon. Wonthaggi United V Korumburra City.

**U14 Mixed:** Inverloch Stars V Phillip Island Penguins. Leongatha Knights V Drouin Dragons Maroon. Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow V Lang Lang United. Mirboo North United V Phillip Island Stingrays. Wonthaggi United V Korumburra City.

**U12 Girls:** Inverloch Stars V Phillip Island Breakers. Leongatha Knights V Drouin Dragons Maroon. Wonthaggi United V Korumburra City.

**U12A Mixed:** Inverloch Stars V Phillip Island Breakers. Leongatha Knights Blue V Drouin Dragons Maroon. Mirboo North United V Trafalgar Victory. Wonthaggi United V Korumburra City.

**U12B Mixed:** Inverloch Stars V Phillip Island Penguins. Leongatha Knights White V Drouin Dragons Yellow. Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow V Drouin Dragons White.



Jordy Patullo focused and in the zone during the Island Seniors' clash against Kilcunda Bass.



Bryce Pewtress took home two goals for the Island Reserves during their strong performance.



Jack Huther keeps calm during the Reserves' clash. Even more photos at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

# Results from the green

## GOLF

### Tuesday, April 22

#### Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Warren Hahnel (18) with 41 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: A-1 Barry Gibson (12) with 40 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Warren Hahnel (18) with 41 pts C/B.

C Grade winner: C-1 Peter Blunden (27) with 39 pts C/B.

BDL: 35 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Peter Wright, 7th Mark White, 10th Rob Haydon, 17th Peter Cartwright.

#### Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: Noel Thomas (28) with 22 pts from John Niven (25) on 20 pts.

BDL: 18 pts.

### Wednesday, April 23

#### Women's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Megan Elbaz (27) with 39 pts.

A Grade winner: Kris Anastasiou (15) with 38 pts.

B Grade winner: Megan Elbaz (27) with 39 pts.

C Grade winner: Julia Mascitelli (35) with 34 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th and 17th Kris Anastasiou, 7th Jen Bilson, 10th Lesley Meadowcroft.

#### Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Norma Corr (44) with 19 pts from Lyn Dunne

(41) on 17 pts.

BDL: 16 pts C/B.

### Thursday, April 24

#### Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Stephen Mack (17) with 39 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Lawrence Ferrari (9) with 38 pts C/B.

B Grade winner: B-1 Stephen Mack (19) with 39 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Mark Read (21) with 36 pts.

BDL: 36 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Nathan Pirouet, 7th Morgan Ward, 10th Darrell Clark, 17th Brett Pascoe.

#### Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: John Niven (26) with 21 pts C/B from Alan Tindale (29) on 21 pts C/B.

BDL: 18 pts C/B.

### Friday, April 25

#### Mixed 4BBB 18H Stableford

Winners: Patricia Jamieson and Mark Jamieson with 46 pts from Marlene Gibson and Max Dish-er.

BDL: 40 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th and 7th Phillip Ellard, 10th Mark Jamieson, 17th Max Dish-er.

NTP: 7th Michelle Pardoe, 10th Michelle Davey.

### Friday, April 25

#### Open 18H Stableford

Winner: Glenn Paterson (14)

with 36 pts C/B from Zakk Allen-Ryan (15) on 36 pts.

BDL: 32 pts.

### Saturday, April 26

#### Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Phillip Ellard (11) with 40 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: A-1 Phillip Ellard (11) with 40 pts C/B.

B Grade winner: B-1 Robert Sparkman (14) with 38 pts C/B.

C Grade winner: C-1 John Wiseman (19) with 40 pts.

BDL: 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Lucas Saric, 7th John Wiseman, 10th Stuart Crawford, 17th Shane Palmer.

Great score: Morgan Ward (eagle – 18th hole).

#### Women's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Barb Haydon (31) with 37 pts from Jillian Chandler (31) on 36 pts.

BDL: 31 pts.

NTP: 5th Liz Gleeson, 7th Di-  
anne Ray, 10th Tracey Cuff.

#### Men's 9H Stableford

Winner: Robert Leak (33) with 18 pts from Ugo Mascitelli (28) on 17 pts.

BDL: 16 pts.

### Sunday, April 27

#### Open 18H Stableford

Winner: Craig Grundy (14) with 32 pts from Mick Wyzenbeek (16) on 30 pts.



Congratulations to last week's winners on 36 points (from left): Rob Jeffrey (3), Lou Magri (S) and Richard Kerr (L).

# Midweek at Corinella

## BOWLS

Fifty-two members of the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group headed to Corinella for their regular challenge.

Both the green and the club's facilities were in excellent condition.

Pauline and John welcomed players while Peter prepared teams.

Prior to commencing play, a minute's silence was held for the group's friend Lindsay, following his passing last week.

The day was without any wrong bias bowls however donations to the RCH tin continued, following Peter's donation of \$500 to the hospital from the bowls group.

The group thanks the volunteers from Corinella including Phil, Mark, Rob and Claire.

Winners on 36 points: Rob Jeffrey (3), Lou Magri (S) and Richard Kerr (L).



Best one game winners: Pauline McWilliams (2), Lou Capsalis (L), Claire Sheers (S) and Enid Johnstone (3).

Runner's up 35 points: Max Williams (3), Aggie Gratton (L), Mark Hanrahan (S) and Bill Williams (2).

Best one game winners on 19 points: Pauline McWilliams (2), Lou Capsalis (L), Claire Sheers (S) and Enid Johnstone (3).

This week, the winter fixture begins with the first game to be held at San Remo.

Arrive on time to avoid missing out as numbers are close to full.

# Red Rocks results

### Monday, April 21

**9H Stableford:** Winner Peter Crock (14) with 19 pts C/B.

### Wednesday, April 23

**9H Stableford:** Winner Paul Fixter (20) with 20 pts.

### Saturday, April 26

**Par Plus:** Winner John Kneebone (16) +8, 2nd Steven Cerni (16) +4, 3rd Martin Giblin (18) +3 C/B.





The C Grade girls played a close match on Saturday, taking victory by one point.



The Island's D Grade worked hard on the courts against Kilcunda Bass, taking home a win by four points.

# Victory for Island on the courts

**NETBALL**

**A Grade**

On a beautiful long weekend at Phillip Island, the A Grade netballers showcased skill, determination and Anzac spirit in a close encounter against Bass for the annual Anzac match.

Both teams started strong, with the first quarter a goal-for-goal battle. Phillip Island's young shooters demonstrated impressive composure, matching every centre pass with an accurate conversion, keeping the scoreboard ticking over.

In the second quarter, Bass gained the upper hand, pulling ahead by four goals.

Their defensive pressure and sharp shooting challenged our girls, but the Phillip Island team remained composed and determined. The third quarter marked a turning point.

Phillip Island lifted their intensity, stepping up their defensive efforts and executing crisp, clean passes into the ring.

A run of five unanswered goals saw them reclaim the momentum, thanks to strong intercepts and smooth transitions down the court.

The final quarter opened once again with a tightly contested exchange, goal-for-goal.

However, the Phillip Island girls found another gear, dominating through crucial rebounds, sharp centre pass conversions and game-changing intercepts.

Their consistency allowed them to break away, sealing a hard-fought and well-deserved victory.

A special congratulations to the team's youngest A-Grade player, Aisha Hibbert who was awarded the Anzac Medal for her outstanding performance.

Final scores:  
Phillip Island 52 def Kilcunda Bass 48.

B Grade: Phillip Island 33 def by Kilcunda Bass 45.  
C Grade: Phillip Island 23 def Kilcunda Bass 22.  
D Grade: Phillip Island 30 def Kilcunda Bass 26.  
U17s: Phillip Island 50 def Kilcunda Bass 3.  
U15s: Phillip Island 31 def Kilcunda Bass 19.  
U13s: Phillip Island 28 def Kilcunda Bass 17.  
U11s: Phillip Island 20 def Kilcunda Bass 8.

## Kilcunda Bass work hard in Anzac Day clash

**NETBALL**

**A Grade**

The battle of the bridge was a hard-fought match for the Kilcunda Bass A Grade girls.

Bass took control in the first half of the game however Phillip Island came out firing in the last quarter and capitalised on their turnovers.

Despite Kilcunda Bass going down by four, the match showcased some glimpses of great netball.

**Best on ground:** Emma Felsovary.

**B Grade**

The Kilcunda Bass B Grade team knew that coming up against the Island would be a tough hit out.

Both sides hit the court firing.

Mid court held up strongly with good decision making and feeds into the ring that allowed the goalers to work together.

Defence worked hard all day, boxing out and securing rebounds and intercepts.

**Final scores:** Kilcunda Bass 45 def Phillip Island 33.  
**Best on court:** Ciara.  
**Anzac medal:** Esther.

**C Grade**

Kilcunda Bass' C Grade maintained control for the majority of the match, showcasing strong defensive pressure that kept Phillip Island on the back foot.

However, a series of costly errors in the final quarter allowed Phillip Island to gain momen-

tum and ultimately secure the win.

Despite the disappointing finish there were promising signs throughout, providing clear focus areas for the upcoming week off.

**Best on court:** Ruby McGillivray.

**D Grade**

On a gloomy morning with a light misting of rain, both teams got off to an even start with Kilcunda Bass trailing by one goal at the first break.

In the second quarter, Bass fought hard to establish a four-goal lead heading into halftime.

Phillip Island were resilient in the second half as they steadily worked their way back into the game which in turn, wore down Kilcunda Bass, taking the Island to a four-goal victory late in the final quarter.

Despite the loss, Kilcunda Bass showed strong patches of play with plenty of positives to build on as they move forward.

**Anzac medal, best on court and Cape Pilates voucher recipient:** Gemma Tschiderer.

**U17s**

The U17 Kilcunda Bass girls had plenty of nerves in the lead up to their match against Phillip Island.

After a strong warm up, the girls set their focus on defensive pressure knowing the Island were efficient when getting the ball into the ring.

Starting the game with nervous energy, a variety of the

Kilcunda Bass girls played out of position in an attempt to keep the Island from scoring.

Multiple players applied consistent defensive pressure throughout the game.

Despite this, the Island girls were too strong.

**Final scores:** Kilcunda Bass 3 def by Phillip Island 50.  
**Best on court:** Sadie Davies for her calm composure in WD and GD.

**U15s**

The Anzac Day clash against Phillip Island proved sluggish for the Kilcunda Bass U15s who struggled from the first centre pass.

Knowing the Island would be strong, Kilcunda Bass did not have an answer for them, leading the Island to streak ahead.

After a half time regroup and reset, the team moved into the second half with intensity and fight they were lacking during the first half, giving the team the results they were looking for.

**Final scores:** Phillip Island 31 def Kilcunda Bass 19.

San Remo Hotel voucher recipient: Isabella Stead for her strong hold under the ring and remaining calm under pressure.

Canteen voucher recipient: Paige O'Brien for taking it in her stride and putting consistent effort into the defence end.

**U13s**

The Kilcunda Bass U13s faced off against Phillip Island in

what was expected to be a tough match.

From the first quarter Phillip Island showed why they are a top side, displaying strong skills, clean ball movement and relentless pressure around the court.

Despite the scoreboard pressure, Kilcunda Bass never dropped their heads and continued to fight until the end making Phillip Island work for their possessions.

There were some strong individual performances across the court and the team will continue to improve each week.

**Anzac Day medal recipient:** Ash Burgess.  
**Awards:** Emily and Lexi.

**U11s**

In the spirit of Anzac Day, the Kilcunda Bass U11s took on their neighbouring rivals Phillip Island.

The kids took to a wet court for the first time this season and displayed no signs of slowing to the conditions.

The on-court battle between teams was a close one despite the scoreboard.

Each goal scored for either side was hard fought.

As the kids continue to grow and develop each week, they strive for success on the scoreboard.

The team showcased a number of goal-scorers and new recruits continued to show improvements.

**Best on court:** Zoe Cartmel.  
**Maccas award:** Kalani.

## News from the table

**BRIDGE**

Members of the Phillip Island Bridge Club attended Paul Waylen's memorial service at St John's Uniting Church in Cowes last Thursday (April 24).

Rev Ian Turnidge, who was a personal friend of Paul's, led the service alongside Rev Jennie Gordon.

Recordings from Paul's family, including his sister in the U.K, together with messages of support from many friends showed just how loved this wonderful and generous man was throughout his life.

He will be remembered and missed by a legion of friends and his family.

**Results**

Monday, April 21 winners (five tables): Deb Anglim and Shirley Stewart on 60.65 per cent.

Wednesday, April 23 winners (four-and-a-half tables): Shirley Stewart and Jill Short on 65.18 per cent.

## Euchre results

**Ladies' winner:** Faye with six wins. **Men's winner:** Alan W with seven wins. Encouragement award: Bet Stevenson.

The club wishes Leonie, a valued player, a happy 80th birthday and a memorable celebration with family and friends.

# TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 30 APR	THU 1 MAY	FRI 2 MAY	SAT 3 MAY	SUN 4 MAY	MON 5 MAY	TUE 6 MAY
HIGH 1:53 am 2.73 m	HIGH 2:45 am 2.78 m	HIGH 3:33 am 2.80 m	HIGH 4:20 am 2.80 m	HIGH 5:07 am 2.75 m	HIGH 5:55 am 2.67 m	LOW 12:34 am 1.07 m
LOW 7:53 am 0.28 m	LOW 8:44 am 0.19 m	LOW 9:32 am 0.19 m	LOW 10:20 am 0.26 m	LOW 11:05 am 0.39 m	LOW 11:50 am 0.58 m	HIGH 6:45 am 2.55 m
HIGH 3:07 pm 3.30 m	HIGH 3:59 pm 3.34 m	HIGH 4:46 pm 3.30 m	HIGH 5:31 pm 3.20 m	HIGH 6:15 pm 3.07 m	HIGH 6:57 pm 2.92 m	LOW 12:35 pm 0.78 m
LOW 8:43 pm 1.05 m	LOW 9:32 pm 1.02 m	LOW 10:19 pm 1.00 m	LOW 11:04 pm 1.01 m	LOW 11:49 pm 1.03 m		HIGH 7:37 pm 2.77 m

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The Kilcunda Bass U12s were victorious against Korumburra in their first junior match for the season.

## Kilcunda Bass struggle against Island and junior season kicks off strong

### FOOTBALL

#### Seniors

Coming off a good win over Inverloch, the Kilcunda Bass Seniors headed to Phillip Island for a huge Anzac Day clash against the Bulldogs in front of a full house at the kennel.

The first quarter kicked off and Kilcunda Bass took an early lead, capitalising on the home team's slow start.

By quarter time however the Island had gained the lead 26-20.

The second quarter proved tough with the home team kicking five goals to Kilcunda Bass' one as they extended their lead.

Following the major break, Kilcunda Bass found a spark and booted five goals to the Island's one taking the score to 60-66 heading into the final term.

Despite Kilcunda Bass continuing to fight hard, the Dogs ran away during the last quarter winning the match.

**Final scores:** Kilcunda Bass 11.10.76 def by Phillip Island 14.10.94.

**Best on ground:** Travis Tuck.

#### Reserves

Following a tough loss to Inverloch, the Kilcunda Bass Reserves were determined to put up a good fight in front of a building crowd.

They got off to a slow start, conceding five goals in the first quarter.

Heading into the second, Kilcunda Bass began to show some fight, kicking two goals and restricting the Island to just one major.

Following half time, the home side were back to their best but the Kilcunda Bass boys kept fighting.

**Final scores:** Kilcunda Bass 5.5.35 def by Phillip Island 12.12.84.

**Best on ground:** Dylan Susic.

#### Veterans

In a hard-fought match, the Kilcunda Bass Veterans fell short against Phillip Island.

The opening quarter proved a bruising start with strong tackles and pressure setting the pace early leading both teams to take just one goal each.

After half time, Phillip Island began to build momentum and gradually pushed ahead.



Lorenzo Accuna goes for a tackle during Kilcunda Bass' U10s match.

Despite Kilcunda Bass' efforts, by the final term Phillip Island took five goals and secured the win.

#### U16s

Saturday proved a tough day at the office for the Kilcunda Bass U16s who went down by 63 points against the Phillip Island boys who proved too strong.

Nevertheless, the fight shown by the young Panthers throughout the four quarters can't be questioned.

The team is made up of five top age players and the rest, bottom age who are competing in their first year for the U16s.

Coach Dan Leary stressed the importance of pressure and tackling from the first bounce and the young lads delivered just that.

Each week the tackles are led by Co-Captain Perry McKay and on Saturday, Dan asked his boys to follow suit, apply pressure and not let the opposition get any easy possessions.

Goals proved tough to come by and this week, two goals were kicked by Justin Braumann-Hall (who is still eligible for the U14s).

Young Brodie McMillan dominated the ruck for four quarters, proving that the is going to be a future star for the club.

**Best players:** Charlie Burgess, Brodie McMillan, Perry McKay, Blake Eden, Angus Oats and Hayden Fenwick.

**Goals:** Justin Braumann-Hall 2.

#### U14s

The Kilcunda Bass juniors hosted Korumburra for their first match of the season.

With a great pre-season under their belts, the kids were able to showcase all their hard work in a four-quarter effort.

With multiple goals scorers down forward and through the middle, the team came away with a comfortable win.

Kilcunda Bass now sets their eyes ahead to the training track and their next match against Dalyston.

The team give their thanks to the kids who filled in.

Go Panthers.

#### U12s

The Kilcunda Bass U12s took on the Korumburra Bena Giants at home to kick off the junior season.

Dominating the game, Kilcunda Bass reached the mercy rule in the third with their hard working back line relegating Korumburra scoreless the entire match.

While their forward line dominated with seven goal contributors, Alfie Russo proved essential, taking three goals for the team.

Congratulations to the whole team for their relentless attack on the ball and teamwork.

**Best on ground:** Rylee McMillan, Clancy Quinlan, Saylor Maund and Carmichael Potter.



The Phillip Island Netball Club's Anzac Medal presentations.



Adelle was presented with the Anzac Medal during the Island's netball matches against Kilcunda Bass.



Phillip Island Netball's Anzac medalists.



Mick Cleary and Alfie Trew at the Island's first junior football match of the season over the weekend.



Sebastian Ferretto pleased with his Anzac Medal.



Zane Larsson was presented with an Anzac Medal.



Jobe Lock of the Island's U12 Blue team, proudly holding his Anzac Medal.





The Seniors' Connor Thompson under attack by the opposition. More football photos on page 33 and 35 and [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

# Strong performance by Bulldogs in Anzac Round

## FOOTBALL

### Seniors

The annual Anzac Round clash unfolded on Saturday, with the Phillip Island Seniors securing an 18-point win over Kilcunda Bass in front of a large crowd.

After an even first half, the Bulldogs lifted in the second with their class across the ground and forward line strength.

Billy Taylor booted six goals for the Island and was rewarded with the Gary Todd Medal after being named best player.

The Anzac Medal, recognising the player who best exemplified the qualities of courage, skill, teamwork and fair play, was awarded to Tra-

vis Tuck of Kilcunda Bass.

While Kilcunda Bass fell short on the scoreboard, they earned full respect with their relentless pressure.

**Final scores:** Phillip Island 14.10 (94) def Kilcunda Bass 11.10 (76).

**Best players:** Billy Taylor, Jaymie Youle, Yianni Caffieri, Hayden Bruce, Zak Vernon and Jordy Patullo.

**Goals:** Billy Taylor 6, Finn O'Brien, Nick Anderson, Jack Taylor 2, Charlie Bruce and Jaymie Youle 1.

**Gary Todd Medal:** Billy Taylor (Phillip Island).

**Anzac Medal:** Travis Tuck (Kilcunda Bass).

### Reserves

A spirited Anzac Round clash

saw the Island Reserves put on a dominant performance, running out 49-point winners over Kilcunda Bass.

The Bulldogs set the tone early with fierce pressure and clean ball movement, maintaining control across all four quarters.

Their midfield engine room worked hard to give their forwards plenty of supply, resulting in a well-spread scoreboard.

Brady Ross led the way up forward with three goals, while Jack Huther, Max Mattock and Bryce Pewtress also contributed multiple majors.

Alexander Officer was a standout all afternoon, showing composure under pressure, strength around the contest and setting the standard

with his leadership which earned him the Anzac Medal for best-on-ground honours.

Kilcunda Bass showed patches of fight but couldn't match the Bulldogs' intensity.

The win solidifies a strong start to the season for the Island as they continue to build momentum heading into Round 4.

**Final scores:** Phillip Island 12.12 (84) def Kilcunda Bass 5.5 (35).

**Best players:** Max Mattock, Alexander Officer, Jack Keating, Darcy Thompson, Kohen Beaumont and Ben Taylor

**Goals:** Brady Ross 3, Jack Huther, Max Mattock, Bryce Pewtress 2, Ben Taylor, Lucas Chihotski and Saxon Mau 1.

**Anzac Medal:** Alexander Officer.



Alex Officer was awarded with the Reserves' Anzac Day medal.



Charlie Fischer (left) who was awarded the Anzac Day medal in the U16s, alongside his proud parents.



Gemma Fischer, Gippsland Power and Hawthorn Academy player with her parents.



Recipient of the Garry Todd Award, Billy Taylor with the Todd family, Noah, River, Casey and Tuppy.

**ALEX SCOTT  
AND STAFF**

Est. 1886

**COWES OFFICE**  
113a Thompson Ave  
**5952 2633**

**67 RHYLL NEWHAVEN ROAD, RHYLL**



- Fully renovated home situated on a spacious corner block allowing side access for car/caravan/boat storage with amazing water & rural views
  - Features: double glazed windows, 10-star energy efficiency with microinverters, solar hot water, powered awning over front deck
  - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 cars
- \$970,000**

**49 HALLWAY DRIVE, WIMBLEDON HEIGHTS**



- Well-presented and well-maintained home nestled in a peaceful and family friendly area
  - Open plan living, fully fenced yard, shed, established gardens
  - 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom/double carport
- \$579,000**

**2 ST GEORGES ROAD, COWES**



- Positioned in the heart of Cowes offering unparalleled convenience just a short stroll to RSL, shops, schools, restaurants & beach
  - Features: two living spaces, stone benchtops, indoor/outdoor room for entertaining, wood heater, fully fenced yard
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/3 carport spaces
- \$725,000**

**SAN REMO OFFICE**  
127a Marine Parade  
**5678 5408**

**6 PINEDALE AVENUE, CAPE WOOLAMAI**



- This well-proportioned, single level brick home is the perfect haven for the next family to enjoy.
  - 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 dining areas, extensive undercover outdoor entertainment area & double garage.
  - Just a 10-minute walk from the family friendly bay swimming beach and coastal walking tracks.
- \$855,000**

**4/40A SHETLAND HEIGHTS ROAD, SAN REMO**



- Exclusive, luxury home nestled at the end of a private cul-de-sac.
  - Open plan layout, upper and lower living spaces, ample room for the caravan or boat and just a short stroll to the beach.
  - 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double carport, 602m<sup>2</sup> block.
- \$799,000**

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