

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

\$1.60 Incl. GST

Building boom!

Major commercial developments planned for island and San Remo

New plans for the former Newhaven boys' home (above) and old Warley hospital site in Cowes were revealed last week, as the island faces an unprecedented commercial development boom.

New plans for the old Warley hospital site in Cowes and the former Newhaven boys' home were revealed last week, amid a seemingly unprecedented commercial development boom on Phillip Island and San Remo.

The new plans for Warley (see inside pages) include a \$25 million, five-storey, 90-apartment development, with the 'sold' sticker recently erected on the site and the sale price believed to be in the low \$4 million range.

At Newhaven, updated development plans lodged with Bass Coast Shire for the old boys' home (see inside pages) show the surrounding heritage buildings will be demolished to make way for a 21-lot subdivision and 16 new townhouses.

The 1.4ha property on Forrest Avenue – sold last year to developer Brian Amatruda's Omni Property Group – has a current valid planning permit, which dates back to a 2010 VCAT resolution.

These plans come in the wake of other major developments including:

- a "world class" pub, hotel, conference and wellness centre for

the former Isle of Wight land on the Cowes Esplanade, ahead of a proposed opening in 2025, with a construction price tag yet to be revealed;

- a proposed five-storey, \$12 million hotel at 85 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, including apartments, retail shops, gym, and swimming pool;

- a \$3.5 million, three-storey development including shops and accommodation at 150 Thompson Avenue;

- about 50 cabins at the former Islander Caravan Park, on Thompson Avenue;

- a \$1.8 million, three-storey retail shop with eight units, for 77 Chapel Street, Cowes;

- a \$4.2 million building with two retail shops on the ground floor and 14 apartments on the upper levels at 125 Marine Parade, San Remo;

- a \$6 million already approved four-storey development at 131-133 Marine Parade, currently seeking to add a fifth storey, 151m² "pent-house"; and

- construction of a three-storey building and a reduction in car parking spaces, at 151 Marine Parade.

Ellis Arcade

In addition to the old boys' home, Brian Amatruda's Omni group recently purchased the Ellis Arcade in Cowes and also owns the Hollywood Hotel on Church Street, which is currently seeking a permit for an expanded 40-rooms.

There have been rumours circulating the Ellis Arcade will be a Dan Murphy franchise, but Mr Amatruda told the Advertiser last week this was incorrect.

"It was bought because of its prime location, so at this stage the plan is to just park it for future development or even leave it as it is with a refurbishment," Mr Amatruda said.

He said his company had owned the old Hollywood Hotel for more than 15 years "but took back the property from the tenants around five years ago and have completely refurbished and added new accommodation".

"It is expected to open in October this year."

Mr Amatruda, who is a boxing promoter, also scotched rumours the old boys' home would incorporate elements of boxing or

combat sport events.

"Just whispers that have no substance and completely incorrect," he said.

"We do plan a full heritage restoration of the boys' home working with Heritage Victoria, the Bass Coast Council and look forward to the building returning to its former glory, which makes it in our opinion one of Phillip Island's most magnificent architectural buildings.

"We have invested a significant amount of money in the site in order to avoid further damage. This includes employing a full-time carer, installing security, lighting, and fencing."

He said Omni had been an investor on the island for 15 years and agreed the island was undergoing a commercial boom.

"Having been a long-time investor on the island it's not a sign of a boom for me, as I always enjoyed the country feel of the town. As with everyone else I am somewhat surprised as to the way the area has become so sought after.

"The secret charm has been discovered and the word is out the island is the place to be."

"Desirable"

Samuel Property managing director Illan Samuel told the Advertiser his company had originally viewed the 4100m² vacant land at 6-12 Warley Avenue more than a year ago and had been in delayed negotiations with the vendor, during which time they were able to create detailed plans to "revitalise the dormant site", last week submitting the plans to the shire.

Illan said he couldn't speak for other developers when explaining why the land had not sold for about five years, but he said Phillip Island had recently become more attractive.

"Phillip Island is definitely a lot more desirable now," Illan said.

"The area has changed. When I was younger it was pretty sleepy and everyone's grandparents had a house there but now if you've got a child it's hard to get a place in childcare, which indicates there's a growing, younger population.

"There is scarce land closer to Melbourne. A lot of it has been developed and the island is a bit behind that," Illan said.

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6 15	9 15	9 15	9 14	9 14	11 13	10 14

Power to the people: cheaper, reliable clean energy?

About 100 Phillip Island households are needed to take part in a Victorian-first 12-month renewable energy trial that could lead to an island-wide power sharing project.

The Tariff Trial is being run by Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) and is calling on owners, renters or holiday houses, as well as people with or without solar panels, to volunteer.

TRPI coordinator Zoe Geyer said the trial would help the island move to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

"If this is successful it will re-shape the way we use renewable energy in the community," Zoe said.

"In the big picture this is about our community producing its own energy and sharing it between neighbours, which is phenomenal when you compare this to a large, polluting power plant hundreds of kilometres away.

"We believe this the first virtual storage retail tariff trial in Victoria."

She said using the soon-to-be-built 10MWh battery on a site on Gap Road, trial participants will sign up with a partnering energy retailer for 12-months (April 28, 2023 – April 28, 2024) to create a tariff for energy sharing between people with solar panels and those without.

"Anyone with excess power from their rooftop solar panels currently sells into the grid and the price they get has been dropping from



TRPI coordinator Zoe Geyer said around 100 Phillip Island households are needed to take part in a trial that would help the island move to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

60 cents/kwh to just about six cents now.

"In this trial we'll be using the battery to virtually store the power and export, consume and share the excess solar energy among participants.

"Maybe people with solar will get more for their input, maybe not. We will be able to answer this question when the retailer is selected and negotiations are complete. We're running the trial to figure that out."

Eligible?

Zoe said there would be no cost to participants to take part in the trial and benefits included a better understanding of your power supply and bill and helping communities to make better use of renewable energy and community batteries.

"The trial will aim to provide the participants with similar benefits to home batteries, but without the upfront costs."

The only households that can't apply are those with a household battery.

"It will also look at how people from different socio-economic backgrounds can benefit from the shared renewable energy.

"We are looking for a diverse range of participants to make local renewable energy available to more people in our community."

Applications close in September and participants will take part in an upcoming workshop to design the energy sharing model.

Participants will also have a small device fitted to their house to monitor the energy use during the trial.

Earlier this year TRPI conducted a community survey where over 95 per cent of respondents said yes or maybe to consider donating their excess solar to others in the community to increase social equity.

Details: email totally.renewable.phillip.island@gmail.com or contact Zoe on 0422 580 921.

Outdoor dining in Chapel Street now permanent

If you have been wondering what has been going on in Chapel Street across the road from Aldi over the last few months, Bass Coast CEO Ali Wastie has enlightened us this week.

Ms Wastie said that following an outdoor dining trial in Olive Justice Place last year, Bass Coast Shire Council have undertaken further work to make this area a permanent outdoor dining and relaxation space in the heart of town.

Funding for the project has come from the Victorian Government's Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Program.

Work carried out so far includes the stabilisation of the site surface and the installation of

large tree planters and large planting containers, to bring colour and vibrancy to the urban reserve, Ms Wastie said.

"The site has been designed to provide a safe and quiet place of reflection for visitors, with the potential to hold minor events and gatherings."

Ms Wastie said that the work that is being completed now delivers a public space that is suitable for the current environment, but will also help to inform the long-term site design and use, which is currently being investigated as part of the Cowes Streetscape Masterplan.

The Masterplan is expected to be released for community consultation in late 2022.



Following an outdoor dining trial in Olive Justice Place last year, Bass Coast Shire Council have undertaken further work to make this area a permanent outdoor dining and relaxation space in the heart of town.

Bank bust

Pedestrians and staff at the National Australia Bank in Cowes were shocked on Thursday afternoon, when a car mounted the kerb in Thompson Avenue and smashed into a low brick wall outside the bank around 5pm.

Police and Phillip Island CFA and SES members were quickly on the scene and the area was cordoned off.

No one was injured in the incident. Photo: South Gippsland Sentinel Times.



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Newhaven residents welcomed a clean-up of the heritage-listed buildings in recent years, after significant vandalism and graffiti.



The Romanesque exterior façade – arguably the most iconic characteristic of the building – is required to be maintained.

Much of Newhaven's old boys' home to topple

Heritage buildings surrounding Newhaven's old boys' home will be demolished to make way for a 21-lot subdivision and 16 new townhouses, under updated development plans approved by Bass Coast Shire.

The property – sold last year to developer Brian Amatruda's Omni Property Group – has a planning permit dating back to a 2010 VCAT resolution, with updated plans based on that permit now endorsed by the shire.

The permit includes: 21 lot subdivision, 10 dwellings, part demolition and alteration of an existing heritage building, including conversion of the heritage building into six residential apartments with ancillary garages, and vegetation removal.

In 2010 concerned local residents formed the Newhaven Residents Group, objecting to the development at VCAT, with amendments made through mediation.

While the development never went ahead, the permit was still valid, after passing through multiple owners in recent years.

Last week Mr Amatruda spoke to the Advertiser (see front page story) and said due to vandals and neglect from previous owners, "the site is not in a good state and many buildings are bordering on disrepair".

"Since 2021, we have been working with our project team and council to update reports and plans under the existing planning permit," Mr Amatruda said.

"Given the significance of the site, we look forward to bringing the project to fruition and restoring the heritage buildings back to their former glory."

Last week the Advertiser viewed the updated plans for 54-61 Forrest Avenue – which are not required to be made public because they're based on the 2010 permit – as well as new additional plans including waste, landscape, and heritage management.

Trees, demolition

More than 100 trees will be razed, including pines, cypress trees, several natives, garden plantings and an old orchard, with the developer required to buy offset vegetation.

Trees in the north-west of the site will be retained.

The plans show all outbuildings will be demolished – which was agreed to at VCAT in 2010 – including the 1930s cottage facing Boys Home Road, the recreation hall, bike shed, office block, amenities and laundry block and generator/fuel store.

Where these buildings once stood

will instead be a mix of vacant lots and lots with two-storey dwellings, with six units in the north-east corner on Forrest Avenue and four units facing west to Boys Home Road.

A north-east section of the main building will be demolished and another wing gutted to make way for a carpark and units.

There will be six units built in the main building's northern section, overlooking Forrest Avenue, with the Romanesque exterior façade – arguably the most iconic characteristic of the building – required to be maintained.

The renowned chapel – which was built in 1935 and has hosted numerous Newhaven College plays, assemblies, and even year 12 exams – is set to be residential units.

A private road will be built to access units and lots, which will be serviced by private waste contractors because it is too narrow for shire waste collectors to enter.

The permit will expire if the development is not started before October 14 this year and completed by October 14, 2025.

"The subdivision needs to be certified by October 14, 2023 and registered with the Titles Office five years from certification," according to shire CEO Ali Wastie.

Ms Wastie said the landowner

could act on the current permit or apply for a new permit at any time.

Because the plans are based on the 2010 permit there is no requirement for the owner to make a publicly-available estimate of the value of the development.

A new heritage report, included in the updated planning permit, states the conservation objectives of the project are to "retain as much of the original building fabric intact and in situ where practical".

"Do as much as is necessary but as little as possible to achieve the desired outcome," the heritage report states, saying traditional trades should be used and repairs and upgrades carried out to retain the original fabric.

The 2010 VCAT ruling said the chapel, headmaster's residence, and two dormitory and living wings had "primary heritage significance", with the permit retaining the key buildings and removing "those of lesser or no importance".

Heritage

Newhaven Residents Association president Jeannie Chapman last week described the updated plans as "jaw dropping".

"It's disappointing news to be suddenly released following a number of previous requests for information

regarding the future of this property and its impact on Newhaven," Jeannie said.

In 2020 the then president of the National Trust's Bass Coast branch wrote to the shire calling for an urgent review to protect the boys' home, which had seen years of neglect and vandalism.

The Trust's current Bass Coast president Ross Lloyd – who was a party to the 2010 VCAT case – last week said they had asked for more details from the shire about the work currently being carried out on the site, but had received no reply.

"It's a pity we haven't known what has been happening until now," he said.

In 2020 the property – its 14-bedroom, 14-bathroom boarding house, chapel and ancillary buildings – was sold for about \$3.5 million, previous to that sold for \$1.65 million in 2015 to a group of 10 investors.

The building was constructed by the Mission of St James and St John in 1925 to house delinquent boys aged between nine and 16. To this day former boys tell of a dark and tragic past at the home.

It was sold to Knox School in the early 2000s, which applied to develop the site into housing about a decade ago, taking their plans to VCAT in 2010.

Cowes Boat Ramp carpark works ready to roll

Bass Coast Shire Council has announced construction of the eastern carpark upgrade at the Cowes (Anderson Road) Boat Ramp will begin next week.

It is expected to be completely by late October.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan said by reducing traffic congestion, especially during peak seasons, boat ramp launch and retrieval times should significantly improve.

"These works will also improve pedestrian safety and drainage and reduce maintenance costs across the life of the carpark," Cr Whelan said.

The project will create additional car and trailer parking at the boat ramp, with 20 car and trailer parking spaces, as well seven car parking spaces, including an accessible parking space.

Cr Whelan said that while this project required the removal of trees and other plants, vegetation offsets have been secured.

"As part of this project, Council will undertake environmental weed control and revegetation using indigenous plants surrounding the new carpark, especially at the eastern end. This work will be conducted after the carpark construction is complete," Cr Whelan said.

Opposition

Surrounding residents have criticised the plan saying it will impact on their properties, with cars facing into their homes, and described the development as "completely unnecessary".

"They're paving paradise. Council has not done a survey of the number of days the western car park is a problem," said resident Craig Brown. "We find generally there are about 12 days a year when there is overflow."

Cr Ronnie Bauer has opposed the redevelopment, citing concerns over vegetation removal.

The Phillip Island Conservation Society has also questioned the project stating, "a car park of this scale appears to have limited strategic support ... there would be an unfortunate loss of habitat and only limited replanting".

Despite these concerns, and a cost blowout for the project presented at the July Council meeting, the councillors voted to move ahead with the project.

The works will include the use of large plant and machinery and might be noisy at times. A Council spokesperson said they understood the works "may present an inconvenience



An aerial view showing the scope of the work proposed for the eastern car park at the Cowes Anderson Road boat ramp.

nience to nearby residents, schools and businesses" and said their patience was appreciated.

"The contractor will make every effort to minimise disruptions dur-

ing construction. Appropriate traffic and pedestrian control measures will be implemented onsite during these works."

This project is jointly funded by

\$338,000 from the state government's Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program and \$338,000 from Council as part of its Capital Works Program.



Do you want to see a high-rise Cowes?

By Linda Marston, Island Voice

Plans for a five-storey hotel to be built next to the Cowes Cultural Centre will be voted on at the September Bass Coast Shire council meeting.

A VCAT hearing in the past fortnight has seen the plans modified: removing hotel rooms from the fourth floor and replacing them with a smaller walled terrace, however the overall building is still five storeys in height.

The Bass Coast Planning Scheme Amendment C151 (2019) sets heights of seven storeys for the Isle of Wight site, five storeys for the Warley site and three storeys along Thompson Avenue.

The idea being the town centre would maintain a lower profile that would not greatly exceed the height of the iconic cypress trees, preventing an invasive visual impact of buildings on the streetscape.

The planned hotel at 85 Thompson Avenue does not comply with the zoning changes that were painstakingly established at that time.

Island Voice questions why council engages in lengthy and expensive consultation if they are not going to enforce the agreed changes to the zoning.

The real danger is that once a precedent has been set other developers will seek exceptions to the planning overlay and we will end up with a high-rise town centre.

Parking

Disappointingly, the changed plans have not resulted in a withdrawal of the parking waivers requested.

The hotel is claiming there is sufficient surrounding public parking at the transit centre and supermarkets, so they do not need to build all the spaces required by regulation.

But wasn't the transit centre developed as a place for visitors to park all-day, while they visited the beach, shopped, lunched and, hopefully, spent more money?

If we allow a parking waiver for the hotel to use such parking then the transit centre will not perform the function that we, the ratepayers, created it for.

Granting such waivers, surely contradicts council's introduction of parking sensors to better manage the "limited" parking in Cowes?

Let us not forget there are two new and significant pieces of community infrastructure: the Cultural Centre and our new community hospital, which about the transit centre.

These important community facilities should use the transit centre that our rates have built, but I strongly object to subsidising the profits of a developer with the rates I have paid.

Lobby

The amended plans will come back to council in September for further consideration.

This is your opportunity to let your councillors know how you feel about this project before this vote.

By preventing a precedent occurring you may be able to prevent other height limit increases in the future.

If you do not want to see five-storey buildings everywhere along Thompson Avenue and zoning heights exceeded elsewhere, then demand your councillors enforce the zoning height limits now, otherwise what protections do our planning regulations provide for our towns?

Island Voice is opposing the hotel development in VCAT so please join us in our opposition.

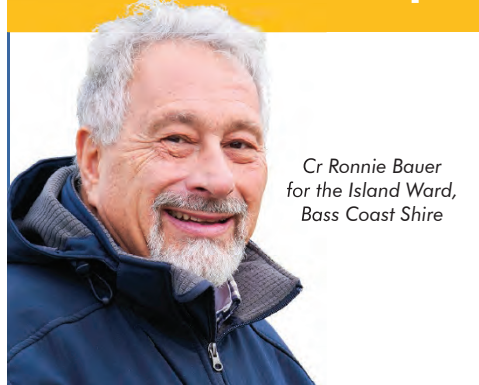
Please note the Warley site has been sold and planning is occurring for the Isle of Wight site, so whatever happens at the hotel development will set an important precedent.



Councillors will vote on the redesigned plans for a \$12 million hotel on 85 Thompson Avenue – which include a reduction of four apartments and three hotel rooms and the creation of a top floor rooftop terrace – at the September council meeting.

Cowes, San Remo skyline at risk of high rises

Don't hesitate to contact me, I am here to help.



Cr Ronnie Bauer
for the Island Ward,
Bass Coast Shire

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922

Tel: 0439 535 282

email: Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Authorised by Ronnie Bauer, PO Box 996, Cowes 3922

Cowes and San Remo are at risk of becoming high-rise town centres, with new developments pushing the limits of skyline density, according to Phillip Island's peak political lobby group.

Island Voice has penned an opinion piece in today's paper (see separate story) in the wake of last week's VCAT case, where developers of a proposed five-storey hotel in at 85 Thompson Avenue are appealing after Bass Coast Shire councillors last year rejected the planning permit.

Councillors will vote on the redesigned plans – which include a reduction of four

apartments and three hotel rooms and the creation of a top floor rooftop terrace – at the September council meeting.

As an objector to the case, Island Voice says the hotel's proposed five storeys flouted Bass Coast's preferred height of three storeys on Thompson Avenue.

"The real danger is that once a precedent has been set other developers will seek exceptions to the planning overlay and we will end up with a high-rise town centre," Island Voice's Linda Marston writes.

Currently San Remo has proposals for a four-storey and for a five-storey residential and retail buildings on Marine Parade, which also has a preferred height limit of three storeys; while Cowes has two applications for three-storey proposals, as well as the Warley hospital (see separate story) and Isle of Wight sites.

In addition, the hotel is seeking to cut 46 car parks – a waiver on half the legally-required parking.

A traffic assessment provided by developers measured 2016 traffic levels and found parking demand could be accommodated by nearby supermarkets, on-street car parking, and the transit centre car park.

Linda writes the transit centre should be used for the cultural centre, health hub and community hospital.

"Wasn't the transit centre developed as a place for visitors to park all-day, while they visited the beach, shopped, lunched and, hopefully, spent more money?"

"If we allow a parking waiver for the hotel to use such parking then the transit centre will not perform the function that we, the ratepayers, created it for."

Linda calls for the community to lobby councillors to ensure height limits are enforced.



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Please support the fundraiser for Sam Fraser's children, to help cover the cost of their care and education.

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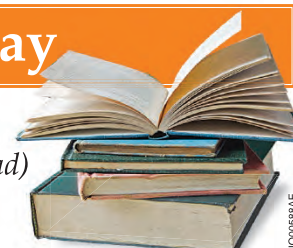
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The proposed 90-apartment complex is within the shire’s recommended height limit for the former Warley hospital site, at five-storeys.

\$25 million plans for old Warley hospital land

A \$25 million, five-storey, 90-apartment development is planned for the old Warley hospital site in Cowes.

No sooner had the ‘sold’ sign been erected on the 4100m² vacant land at 6-12 Warley Avenue than the developer’s plans were last week lodged with Bass Coast Shire.

The property sale will settle in mid-2023, with the sale price believed to be in the low \$4 million range.

According to the plans, the five levels will have a mix of one- to four-bedroom apartments, with a common shared, landscaped piazza in the middle of two buildings.

A basement will have space for 117 cars, 112 bikes, as well as motorbikes – and electric chargers – which is compliant with planning scheme regulations.

Unlike other developments currently seeking planning approval, there will be no car stackers, car lifters or tandem parking (one behind the other).

The five-storey height is within the planning guidelines, debated at length in the community in 2018 when a Victorian Planning Panel approved Cowes’ town centre building limits.

Samuel Property managing director Illan Samuel told the Advertiser his company had originally viewed the land more than a year

ago and had been in delayed negotiations with the vendor, during which time they were able to create detailed plans to “revitalise the dormant site”, last week submitting the plans to the shire.

“The benefit of the delay is that we were able to do a lot of work in the background and progress,” Illan said, adding the aim was to finish construction in 2025.

“There was a risk because we didn’t have the land but we’ve now had a year’s work.”

Challenges

Illan said he had met with Bass Coast Shire three times so far and planners had provided specific details on preferred design, colours and materials, “more natural and earthy”, which his development will follow.

“The land has some challenges, such as a six-metre fall, overlays and the previous use, but as a developer we are problem solvers. We did our homework and took our time working through these.”

Illan added he couldn’t speak for other developers when explaining why the land had not sold for about five years.

He said they had worked to be compliant with planning requirements for the site.

“I don’t want to give people a reason to be

upset, I want them to be happy and excited about this project.

“I don’t want to run to VCAT. I prefer to work closely with councils, to meet the neighbours and work with the community collaboratively.”

Boom

Illan has worked in Melbourne’s property industry for 20 years, starting out as a property valuer and 13 years ago starting with the family business as a property developer.

Samuel Property has built 15 projects, the most recent being their largest: a 98-apartment, 16 level building near St Kilda Road.

Most projects have been residential, including a subdivision in Somers and Dromana on the Mornington Peninsula.

He said he had visited Phillip Island as a tourist for many years, saying it appealed not only because it was a “beautiful location” but because it had undergone a change in demographics and the real estate market had boomed.

Illan said he was coincidentally friends with the developer of the Isle of Wight site, Ed Farquharson, living near each other in Melbourne, with children the same age.

Designed by Bruce Henderson Architects,

Illan said the building was “coastal contemporary” and featured a bagged brick light render.

Illan said he understood the importance of the site to the community and was open to ideas on how to give a nod to its hospital past.

“I would be interested if the community led this rather than me. I don’t think I have the right to lead the discussion but I’m open to a discussion.”

Planning

Under the 2015 Cowes Activity Centre plan, any development on the Warley site could be built to seven storeys, or 23 metres.

However, an amendment to the planning scheme was debated by an independent planning panel in Cowes in 2018.

The panel handed down a report that recommended a maximum five storeys for Warley – and seven storeys at the Isle of Wight – and also supported the public’s right to challenge developments on Cowes’ two iconic land sites.

At the time then-councillor Pam Rothfield said the changes recommended by the planning panel were “good”.

“My only concern is that instead of four storeys at the back section of Warley, the panel decided five would be good. Other than that it’s good,” she said.

Bonwick battle continues

Residents of Bonwick Avenue continue to demand answers over the installation of three-metre-high power poles along their street, installed to service a new residential development.

As reported by the Advertiser on July 27, the residents are furious about the lack of consultation, the loss of amenity and concerned about radiation output from the new high voltage wires.

One resident said the unannounced street closure on July 20 prevented contractors from working on his property, after they were refused access to the house.

He described the new works as an eyesore.

“Why are the connections to the estate not initiated from the newly developed Island Views Estate (along Phillip Island Road) instead of creating an eyesore within an existing community?”

Some residents have taken their complaints to the Energy and Water Ombudsman and Federal MP Russell Broadbent.

Others have consulted with lawyers about stopping any further work, but could face thousands of dollars in fees just to start the process.

Another resident has lodged a formal complaint with the developer, Bass Coast Shire Council and AusNet about the new power

poles.

“In augmenting the power supply in Bonwick Avenue, all invested parties had the opportunity to improve the streetscape and views for all concerned, but that did not happen,” the letter states.

“The existing residents were excluded from the conversation, and as a result the developer went for the cheapest option and ruined the views and streetscape for the existing residents whilst providing a wide-streetscape with safe underground power supply and low-level lighting in the new estate.”

He is demanding the high voltage wires be installed underground, and low voltage wires reinstalled at their original height, or underground.

He also wants the pole mounted transformers to be replaced by pad-mounted substations within the new estate.



Residents of Bonwick Avenue continue to demand answers over the installation of three-metre-high power poles along their street, installed to service a new residential development.

Who’s responsible?

Meanwhile, the developer, council and AusNet continue to pass the blame for the unsightly power poles.

One resident said he was told by the project manager for the development that the lighting poles were an “AusNet’s design” and an Ausnet requirement. They also stated AusNet would have to pay if the power was put underground.

However an AusNet spokesperson told the Advertiser it is not responsible for the works which form part of the Westernport Views Estate.

“The work is designed, financed and undertaken by the developer. This includes the high voltage lines yet to be replaced. AusNet authorised the design only as compliant with technical and safety requirements to supply the development.”

Bass Coast Shire Council previously told the Advertiser they were unaware of the works

and any questions should be directed to AusNet.

A spokesperson for Beveridge Williams, the company that worked with the developer preparing plans for the 29-lot boutique subdivision, said they had been contacted by residents, but it was a matter between the developer and the residents, and they were not able to comment.

They advised the developer’s representative and project manager was currently overseas but intended to meet with residents when they returned next week.

The developer was approached for comment.

Council Update



Council Meeting - 17 August

Council’s next meeting will be held virtually at 1.00pm, Wednesday, 17 August 2022. The Council Meeting will be open to the public via livestream only. Join at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2022meetings.

The agenda is released on Council’s website on Friday 12 August 2022 at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2022meetings. There is an opportunity during the Council meeting for public questions. If you would like to ask a question, please submit it in writing no later than 1.00pm Monday, 15 August, 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995
1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77
basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au | www.basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cathy Beenie with her daughter-in-law Jess and granddaughter Ruby, has criticised the council for allowing an estate to be build that has no suitable place for children to play, or seating.



The landscaped wetland at Island View Estate is beautiful said Cathy, but it's very steep and isn't suitable for children to play in, or for people with mobility issues.

Where can the children play?

A long-time resident has described Bass Coast Shire Council as “asleep at the wheel” and failing to provide healthy lifestyle options for residents.

Cathy Beenie has criticised the council for allowing the new Island View Estate in San Remo to be constructed without any playground or seating for residents.

With 216 lots on the estate, Cathy said she was astonished to discover there are no playgrounds or public open spaces where children can play.

Cathy, who lives in Ventnor, is a regular visitor to the estate when she minds her grandchild.

She said estates in Cowes which were approved around the same time as Island View all include playgrounds or parks, with some also providing barbecue areas.

At Island View, there is a landscaped wetland, but no suitable playing space for children or seating.

“How did this happen? I just feel the shire was asleep at the wheel,” she said.

“On the plans, that area was originally called a reserve, then it was changed to a wetland reserve.

“When my son bought the land, he thought the reserve would be a flat area, or at least a section of it would

be recreational space.

“It’s gobsmacking in this day and age that they haven’t looked at the health of the community.

“If you want a happy, healthy community, you don’t want kids stuck inside on computers.”

She said the council claimed to support active and healthy communities, and access and inclusion, but their actions didn’t reflect that.

The nearest playground is approximately two kilometres away, and that’s not an option if you are walking with small children she said.

Parents would be forced to drive out of the estate to find good recreation space.

“For a shire that is trying to be carbon neutral, how is that right?”

Growth area

San Remo has long been considered a growth area in the shire and Cathy believes the council should have made better provision for the growing number of families that live there.

“Developers seem to be allowed to do anything and the community is missing out,” Cathy said.

Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie confirmed there was no playground in the estate, nor one planned in the



The masterplan for the estate shows the wetland is the only public open space planned for the 216-lot estate.

next stages which have recently gone on sale.

She said all subdivisions of three or more lots within a residential area must contribute five per cent to the council for public open space.

“It can be a percentage of the land intended to be used for residential, industrial or commercial purposes, or a percentage of the site value of such land, or a combination of both.

“At the time the Island View Estate development was considered (2011)

it was determined to meet those requirements,” Ms Wastie said, noting the public space on the estate “had been delivered”.

Ms Wastie also said there was no specific requirement on what form public space should take.

With open waterways and paths that don’t join to the estate pathway network, Cathy Beenie said the wetland is not adequate open space for the number of residential lots in the estate.

She believes council should purchase some of the remaining blocks and create a playground or park.

She also wants to see more seating.

“The streets have footpaths with vision impaired tactile ground surface indicators but no seats anywhere, so there’s nowhere for anyone to rest.

“They’ve only considered people with a visual handicap. But everyone needs seats.

“As a retired Diabetes Educator promoting a daily walk was my major prescription for health. One of the biggest barriers was nowhere for my clients to sit.”

She suggests one solution could be a shire-wide program of memorial seats.

“There could be standard seats across the shire and people could buy them and dedicate them to someone.”

In the meantime, she’s written to councillors urging them to address the situation in the Island View Estate.

“For years we have known that San Remo has all these new estates, so council should have made provision for people to be able to get outside.

“Yes, there’s a lovely wetland, but it’s not safe for a child.”

Parking sensor disability concerns

An elderly pensioner has criticised the imminent rollout of sensor parking in Cowes, saying it could unfairly disadvantage the less able-bodied.

Cowes resident and disability advocate Fred Lodge said he was so concerned by the new parking system, which is set to be switched on by Bass Coast Shire in August, that he called a company that installs similar systems for more details.

“It would be nice to know how the system is going to work so the community can have input into the process. To date there has been no explanation at all by the shire,” the 75-year-old said.

“But the company told me it’s different in each place and up to council how it operates.”

The \$377,000 project will see about 500 sensors placed in parking bays in Cowes: 375 in on-street bays on Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street and The Esplanade; and 123 off-street bays at the Cowes Transit Centre carpark.

Electrical connection is expected by August, with the parking guidance app going live in October.

Mr Lodge said he believed the “poorly designed” transit centre was already a “disaster” with only four disabled bays, which were designed incorrectly and too short, failing to comply with Australian standards, adding other disabled bays around Cowes were similarly non-compliant.

He said with the new Cultural Centre set to be opened next year and the neighbouring community

hospital not far behind that, parking would be at a premium.

“The island has an ageing community and there is already a shortage of parking spots available for the disabled. Able-bodied people looking for a park will take a disabled bay if there are no others available.

“What are the restrictions going to be? We should be told how the system is going to work. It’s up to the shire to tell us so we can comment before being installed.”

He questioned whether drivers would be able to park all day in order to catch a bus to Melbourne or Wonthaggi and whether drivers would be fined for attending a matinee performance, for example, at the Cultural Centre, or visitors and staff attending the proposed new community hospital.

“People, especially those with a disability, should not be concerned about fines or even whether to use their cars.”

Mr Lodge said by law, disabled drivers were allowed to park for twice the permitted time in a standard car space.

“It is the local officers who will make the decisions on infringement notices to be issued. How are disabled permit holders to be identified through the technology?”

He suggested the transit centre should be two-storeys to cater for the parking demand.

Labelled “smart parking” by the shire, the technology has been condemned by many locals who say the money would be better spent else-

where, while many have questioned why the rollout is occurring, with zero community consultation.

The shire argues it will “better manage our free parking using technology to help drivers save time finding an available bay and provide better access to businesses”.

The shire also admitted the technology would be used to aid enforcement, with real-time data provided to parking inspectors via a portal “assisting with enforcement efficiency”.

There will be 262 on-street bays in Wonthaggi but no other area of the shire.

Shire response

Shire CEO Ali Wastie did not provide any further details about the sensor technology when questioned by the Advertiser.

She said the technology would not have an impact on current allocation of parking bays, and they would not be making any changes to parking limits or restrictions as part of this project.

“This means that the number of parking spaces, including accessible parking spaces, available in Cowes will remain the same and will not be impacted by the roll out of smart parking technology.

“Once smart parking has been installed, our community safety officers will continue to work within current enforcement guidelines.

“The roll out of smart parking uses technology to help drivers save time finding an available bay and provide better access to businesses.”



Alex Szutta is fundraising for mental health. Locals can support individual firefighters or the whole Phillip Island team.

CFA volunteers take on toughest climb

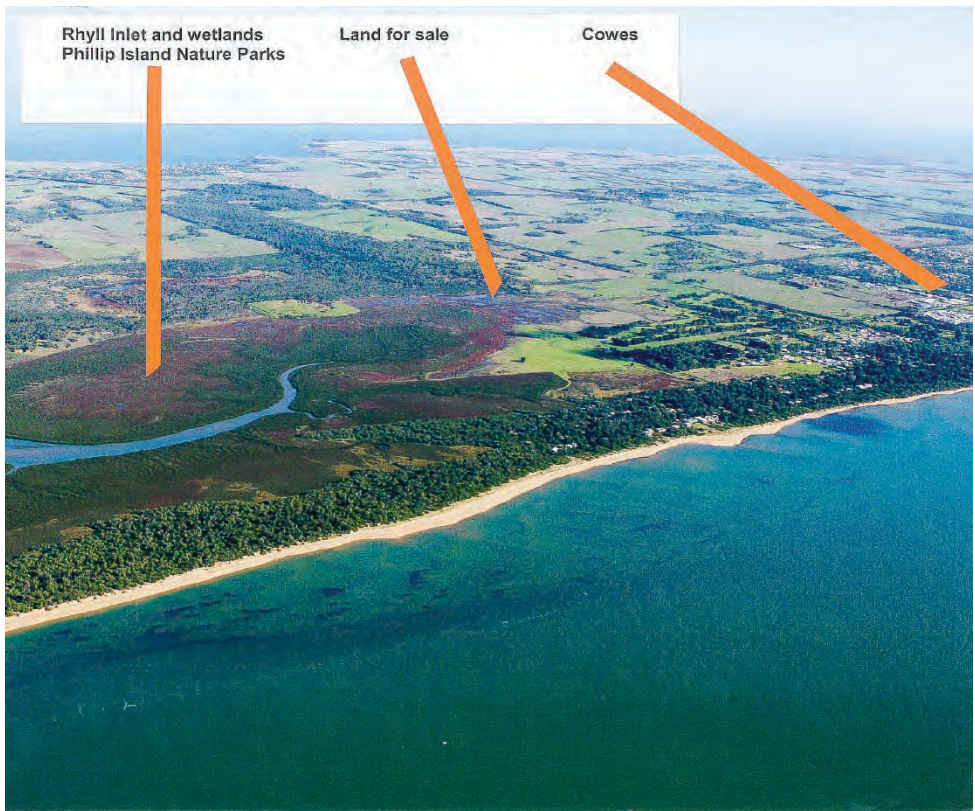
Three Phillip Island CFA firefighters are fundraising for mental health by taking on the annual firefighter stair climb.

Volunteers Anita Reid, Alex Dickson and Alex Szutta will climb 28 floors up the Crown Metropolis Hotel with 25kg of kit – full gear and breathing apparatus – on Saturday September 10 to raise money to fight depression, PTSI and suicide. So far the trio have raised a combined \$1700.

The 9th Annual Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb will see career and volunteer firefighters from across Australia and the world compete, aiming to raise \$600,000 for Lifeline, Fortem Australia and the 000 Foundation.

So far Portland CFA in western Victoria is at the top of the fundraising leaderboard with \$5510.

To donate to the Phillip Island team go to: www.firefighterclimb.org.au/station/cfa/phillip-island/



The land is “strategically” critical to the Rhyll Inlet’s environment and should be “quickly” acquired by the state and then managed by the Phillip Island Nature Parks, say conservationists.

Buy Cowes’ farm for the environment: campaign

Conservationists are lobbying the state government to buy a private farm abutting the Rhyll Inlet for public ownership, ahead of the November state election.

The Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) has joined the campaign – started in February – to protect from development the 32ha land on the Cowes-Rhyll Road, which is currently on the market for sale.

PICS president Jeff Nottle wrote to MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale and the Victorian Planning Minister saying the land was “strategically” critical to the Rhyll Inlet’s environment and should be “quickly” acquired by the state and then managed by the Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP).

He compared the purchase of the Rhyll land to the buy-back of the Summerland Peninsula in the 1980s to protect the penguins.

“We believe that a unique opportunity exists for this land to be placed into government ownership and returned to its pre-farming natural wetland condition as part of the Rhyll wetlands,” Mr Nottle said, adding the land should not be sold “simply as a limited development site subject to inundation”.

“We believe the acquisition would have similar net benefits to the entire community as did the acquisition of the Summerlands Peninsula by the Kirner government in the 1980s.”

In the letter, Mr Nottle states PINP had advised PICS “that should the land be acquired by government they would welcome taking on the management of the land”.

Zoning

Mr Nottle said the recent state government Distinctive Area and Landscape legislation highlighted the environmental and landscape importance of the Rhyll Inlet, adding it was a vital blue carbon ecosystem, which is a carbon-storing “powerhouse”.

He said their campaign for government ownership was also based on the land’s complex zoning, currently rural conservation, which requires a permit for a dwelling.

However the zoning allows most earthworks to be carried out without a permit, which PICS fears could be carried out around the elevated part of the land “to increase the size of the land suitable to build on”.

Furthermore, land to the east and the south of the site is zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone, part of the Rhyll Inlet wetlands and managed by PINP.

However Mr Nottle said it would “be highly unlikely the subject land could be rezoned public conservation while still being in private ownership”.

Ms Crugnale said preserving land and wildlife was at the “forefront of any government decision”.

“However it’s important that it forms part of a wider plan for the area.”

She said she applauded conservationists for “championing” the wildlife and environment of the island.

Curious

In February Cowes resident Ron Day – better known as the citizen scientist behind the Cowes-Rhyll Road wildlife roadkill trial – began the campaign to protect the land from development.

The property has a curious history.

In 2020 the landowner was willing to gift about 40 hectares of the property to the Phillip Island Nature Parks, in exchange for planning approval of a low-density home on a separate 2.3 hectares.

The landowner was even willing to promise never to further subdivide in the future.

Yet Bass Coast Shire councillors rejected the offer, arguing it would effectively expand Cowes’ town boundaries and would allow development – albeit small – in an environmentally sensitive and flood-prone area.

The offer came after years of negotiations between the shire, conservation groups, the Nature Parks and the landowner.

They all agreed the landowner – at their own expense – could seek a planning amendment, which would require public submissions and the Planning Minister’s approval, because the land is environmentally-sensitive and flood-prone.

Shire planning officers even recommended councillors should give the green light to initiating that planning amendment.

However, Cr Michael Whelan (currently the mayor) successfully moved an alternative motion putting a halt to the deal.

Cr Whelan said the whole site, which is to the west of the Rhyll Inlet, was subject to flooding and was outside the town boundaries.



This private property is for sale on the Cowes-Rhyll Road with conservationists campaigning for it to be bought by the government to be managed by Nature Parks.



Dr Chris Garwood (left) is one of a team of emergency specialists now servicing Bass Coast Health’s Emergency Department at Wonthaggi Hospital and Urgent Care Centre at Phillip Island Health Hub. He’s with Emergency Department Associate Nurse Unit Manager Alyssa Hughes.

Covid not over says health service chief

Although Covid numbers in the region have stabilised, dropping to around 250 compared to peaks of 570 plus in May, and 370 plus in July, the threat to the community, and the pressure on health services, remains real.

Bass Coast Health (BCH) CEO Jan Child has pleaded with locals to take particular care over the coming weeks to reduce pressure on the health system.

Ms Child said community transmission of respiratory illnesses remains higher now than ever before, and everyone should be implementing personal Covid precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones.

“We know if people wear masks, avoid crowds, stay home if they have any symptoms, get tested and get vaccinated, then transmission is lower,” she said.

Ms Child said Covid, Influenza, other respiratory illnesses such as Rhinovirus, RSV, and Gastro are rife throughout Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

She said the Emergency Department at Wonthaggi Hospital and the Cowes Urgent Care Centre are particularly busy, and there are times where patients are waiting several days in the Emergency Department before they can get a bed in an inpatient ward.

A large number of BCH staff have been ill, resulting in fewer healthcare workers available on a daily basis.

The health service faces staff shortfalls of between 30 to 70 people on any day, with staff off work due to illness.

“The number of beds we have available is less than

usual, because we have less available staff, and there have been many days where patients who have been patiently waiting for their elective surgery have been cancelled due to lack of beds,” Ms Child said.

“These are tricky times. We are in the midst of another peak and while the case numbers are settling across the state, the impact on Wonthaggi Hospital will continue for a few more weeks.

“The whole health system is under duress and Bass Coast Health is no different.

“We know there are significant waiting times in ED. We may need to cancel other appointments on the day if staff are unwell, and we’ve had many occasions when we’ve had to cancel surgery because we do not have enough staff and beds.

“This will get better and, in the meantime, please be kind to our staff who are doing their very best in difficult circumstances.”

The Hospital called a Code Yellow last month because of staffing shortfalls and increased demand.

However, Ms Child said people who are unwell should attend for care and the most unwell people will be cared for as a priority.

In a bid to mitigate the staff shortfall, BCH has intensified its recruitment efforts by advertising locally and into metropolitan areas, and welcoming new permanent, locum and agency staff.

“We are so fortunate to have our own brilliant and agile team who have been continually picking up extra shifts to cover the shortfalls, but they’re already tired and

they’ve been working in these extraordinary conditions for two-and-a-half years,” Ms Child said.

“That’s why we are asking the community to take simple precautions that will result in major benefits for our health service. Anything you can do to ease the pressure on our health service will enable us to provide the best possible treatment for those sick people who really need us.”

Covid precautions

Bass Coast Health has taken every measure possible to prepare for this next Covid wave.

More low-pressure rooms have been created in the Acute Ward at Wonthaggi Hospital where patients with Covid and other respiratory illnesses are treated.

Low pressure rooms prevent potentially dangerous particles from inside the room flowing outside into non-contaminated areas.

Healthcare staff in these rooms wear full personal protective equipment to minimise their chances of contracting respiratory illnesses and from passing these on to other staff and patients.

Visitation at all Bass Coast Health sites has been restricted.

On the Acute/Sub-acute inpatient ward, one person per patient per day is permitted between the hours of 10am-12pm or 5pm-7pm. In the maternity ward, one person per patient per day is permitted between the hours of 10am-12pm or 6pm-8pm.

All visitors must be fully vaccinated against Covid and flu, must have a negative RAT and must wear a mask.

Holiday homes sought for local rental market

Bass Coast Shire Council is calling on holiday homeowners to release their vacant houses onto the long-term rental market, to address a shortage of permanent rental accommodation.

This week, the Mayor Cr Michael Whelan has written to holiday homeowners saying the rental shortage is making it “difficult to attract and retain workers to our region and means many local employers struggle to fill vacancies in industries ranging from hos-

pitality to critical health and emergency roles”.

The Mayor said he is seeking property owners’ help, and is asking them to consider placing their house on the local rental marketing “for the next 12 to 24 months to help ease the housing shortage at this time of unprecedented demand”.

Cr Whelan said while the local population has increased significantly in the past few years, the latest Census data shows 39 per cent of houses in

the shire remain unoccupied.

“With 25,800 dwellings, this represents over 10,000 unoccupied houses and historical data tells us it could be as high as 44 per cent.”

He described the unoccupied houses as being a “potential housing opportunity”, that could provide a short-term solution to the housing shortage in the area.

He said the council was working on long-term plans in collaboration with the state government.

Can't get no Satisfaction

Satisfaction with the council has dropped on every indicator in the 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey.

The annual survey of community satisfaction with Victorian Councils, undertaken by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP), surveys local residents and asks them to rate their council's performance in a range of areas.

Bass Coast Shire Council isn't keen to share the results of this year's survey, not posting the report on its website, presenting it at the latest council meeting, or releasing it to media.

On request, the council provided the Advertiser with a brief summary.

Satisfaction with Bass Coast Shire Council's overall performance has dropped to 57 from 59 in 2021, but is still higher than any survey between 2015 and 2020.

The satisfaction rating for overall direction dropped by five points to 47, the lowest recorded since 2017.

Ratings also dropped for community decisions (53 from 57) and consultation and engagement (51 from 54), while council's value for money rating also dropped to 48, from 51 in 2021.

Satisfaction with Council's performance in customer service remained steady (69), while waste management and sealed roads all dropped by one point.

A council spokesperson said results are down right across the sector with "the decreases experienced by Bass Coast comparable to other Large Rural Councils".

Island unhappy

Phillip Island residents consistently rated the council lower than residents from other areas.

Council's lowest rating for overall performance, value for money, overall direction, waste management and community decisions came from Phillip Island.

The council's consultation and engagement scored lowest with island residents aged between 50-64 years.

Overall, younger people (18 -34 years) rated council higher than their older counterparts, particularly in overall performance, direction, customer service, community decisions and consultation.

Bunurong residents were the happiest with council's approach to waste management.

Bunurong residents and non-residents aged 18-34 gave council its highest score for value for money.









Overall, Bass Coast's results were on par or slightly higher than other councils in the Large Rural category, while the results were under the state-wide average in every area except customer service and sealed local roads.

Delay


Many Victorian councils have already released their full survey results.

However Bass Coast has advised it will not be releasing the full report until after the publication of Council's Annual Report and the results are on the "Know Your Council" website.

The council did not respond when asked why the full results were being held until late September and why the summary had not been released.

Services	Bass Coast 2022	Bass Coast 2021	Large Rural 2022	State-wide 2022	Highest score	Lowest score
 Overall performance	57	59	55	59	Aged 18-34 years	Island residents, Residents
 Value for money	48	51	48	53	Bunurong residents, Non-residents, Aged 18-34 years	Island residents
 Overall council direction	47	52	47	50	Aged 18-34 years	Island residents
 Customer service	69	69	67	68	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years, Men, Western Port residents
 Waste management	63	64	65	68	Bunurong residents	Island residents
 Sealed local roads	54	55	45	53	Non-Residents	Residents
 Community decisions	53	57	51	54	Aged 18-34 years	Island residents
 Consultation & engagement	51	54	51	54	Aged 18-34 years	Island residents, Aged 50-64 years

	Bass Coast 2022	Bass Coast 2021	Large Rural 2022	Large Rural 2021	State-wide 2022	State-wide 2021
Overall performance	57 (-2)	59	55 (-3)	58	59 (-3)	61
Value for money	48 (-3)	51	48 (-2)	50	53 (-1)	54
Overall council direction	47 (-5)	52	47 (-4)	51	50 (-3)	53
Customer service	69 (0)	69	67 (-1)	68	68 (-2)	70
Waste management	63 (-1)	64	65 (-1)	66	68 (-1)	69
Sealed local roads	54 (-1)	55	45 (-5)	50	53 (-4)	57
Community decisions	53 (-4)	57	51 (-3)	54	54 (-2)	56
Consultation & engagement	51 (-3)	54	51 (-3)	54	54 (-2)	56


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Turn the garden around

Stan Gates, a former Phillip Island Shire president, has requested Bass Coast Shire Council think again on the positioning of the PICAL new community garden, which is proposed for the Blue Gum Reserve.

Stan was a member of the Phillip Island council which purchased the land prior to amalgamation.

He fully supports the community garden concept, and with a property backing on to the reserve, says he is happy to get out there and help with it.

But he is opposed to the current siting proposal, extending horizontally across behind the old ambulance and CFA building, parallel to Settlement Road; proposing instead that it be built vertically, backing on to the fence line of the council shire depot.

Siting the large garden vertically, adjacent to the shire depot, would mean that the full extent of reserve's grassy expanse would be intact, preserving the spacious vista.

Cutting the reserve off with a horizontal garden would destroy the open ambience currently enjoyed by users.

Stan also believes water and electricity can be better accessed from the shire depot site. PICAL was apparently happy from the outset to site the area vertically, as Stan has suggested, but the plans on display now show a horizontal elongation.

He said he contacted local councillors a few months back, suggesting the change, and while they appeared to agree with him, he has had no response to his suggestion since.

He says his neighbours, who

Stan Gates former Shire of Phillip Island Mayor has requested the council align the proposed community garden vertically at the rear of the council depot, as opposed to horizontally, which would impede the open space of Blue Gum Reserve.

back on to the reserve alongside him, agree that a vertical siting would be preferable, and make no difference to how the garden would operate.

Stan does not have much faith in the officer he spoke to onsite some months back.

"He thought the concrete slab at the back of the SES shed was still being used as our emergency helipad.

"It was the original helipad, but it was made redundant many years ago. The helipad

is in fact located 200 metres away, near the scout hall, and has been for many years.

"This shows me they do not understand the area they are designing for.

"The beauty of this reserve is its openness, and long, open expanse.

"I am not objecting to the size of the garden at all. I am suggesting it can be better placed so as not to encroach on the open ambience of this well used reserve."

8 THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022

Bulldogs to farewell senior coach

Farewelling Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) senior coach Beau Vernon at the end of the 2022 footy season will be hard, says PIFNC president Chris Ross.

"But after five years of outstanding service to island football and the club, I can't thank him enough for what he has done here in that time. I wish him all the very best for whatever the future holds for Beau, and for his family."

Beau announced his retirement from the senior coaching position last month, leaving an outstanding legacy.

He joined the club as senior coach in 2018, winning back-to-back premierships in his first two years, and potentially would have taken out two more premierships in 2020 and 2021 if Covid had not interrupted both seasons.

No football was played by PIFNC in 2020, and in 2021, PIFNC was declared the WGFNL minor premiers after finishing on top of the ladder before the season and finals series was abandoned.

Of the 66 games his side has played since 2018, they have lost just seven.

And earlier this month his side knocked off premiership contender Tooradin by two points, which puts them in good stead as the finals series approaches.

Beau came to Phillip Island's football club from Leongatha where he was also a premiership coach.

He describes the decision to leave the Leongatha Club as tough, but travel requirements, work and family played a big part in that decision.

"Coming back to coach in the community that I live in and grew up in was a big draw-card."

Beau says the time is now right for him to move on to other things.

He has a young family to consider, and he is keen to watch his wife Lucy resume her footy career next year.

Camping and catching up with mates on the weekend also has appeal.

He says the last two years of Covid has burnt him out a little. He finds as coach he does not switch off even in downtime, so is looking forward to sitting on a couch and chilling for a change, instead of planning footy moves every spare moment.

His work life, as a Director of InterAct Aus-



Phillip Island Seniors two times premiership coach Beau Vernon announced he will retire from the role at the end of the 2022 footy season. Beau celebrating the PIFNC senior premiership win in 2019 with his players.

tralia, a disability and NDIS service provider, keeps him busy and involves travel three days a week. And he is on the speaking circuit, in demand at corporate events, at schools and by organisations and clubs.

But while he has excelled on the field and notching up premierships for the Club, off field he also made his mark.

"Beau has helped change the culture of the club both on and off field," says President

Chris Ross.

"While his leadership has won two premierships, and potentially four if we did not have the Covid interruptions, off field the club is also far better off for the time he has spent with us.

"His concern for and awareness of everyone else ... not just the players, but for each individual club member, and the community as a whole, is always uppermost in his mind.

He has changed the culture of our Club," says Chris.

Beau says his focus is as much on player enjoyment, and ensuring they feel valued and connected to the group, as on winning a premiership.

"I try and assist every player to get the most out of themselves, both physically and mentally, to be the best version of themselves.

"PIFNC is a very supportive environment and the whole club plays a role in achieving this. The senior players are great role models for the junior players.

"Our players are good hearted people who pitch in and look out for others. The younger players coming through see that.

"It creates a great club environment."

One of Beau's best moments in his first year of coaching here was when a player told him: You are not only having an impact on football. You are having an impact on our lives as well.

"That's what I want here. Good people," says Beau.

He pays tribute to the warm welcome and supportive environment he arrived into in 2018, as the new coach.

"The support I was given was magnificent from Chris Ross, Scott Huther, Andy Walton, all the assistant coaches, the players and the volunteers.

"I will definitely miss it. But I am looking forward to the change."

He also says making the decision to step away has in fact really energised him as the club heads towards the finals.

Looking back on the last five years, Beau is proud of what has been achieved by PIFNC.

"Yes, winning premierships and being successful has been fantastic. But for me personally, it has actually been more about the creation of an environment where people feel they belong, are valued and where they can strive to do their best."

It's not goodbye from Beau to the club ... more so long for now; and who knows, he says he might be back in time in another role, perhaps with junior sport, with three young children coming on.

He'll still have the red, white and blue running through his veins.

"I'll definitely be back watching matches, but next time, it will be as a supporter."

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STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Growing Cambodia trivia night is back!

After two Covid impacted years, Growing Cambodia's Trivia Night is finally back!

Save October 1 in your diary and help celebrate the 10 Year Anniversary in a fun filled night to support a truly worthy cause.

Growing Cambodia's mission is to give rural Cambodians an opportunity to break the poverty cycle through education, health and well-being support.

Over seven hundred students now attend free English lessons at schools in four rural villages. These lessons are conducted by local Cambodian teachers and Growing Cambodia provides financial support for the teachers to attend university.

Students leaving the schools are also offered University sponsorships – 11 students are now being supported at various Universities in Cambodia.

Growing Cambodia also provides scholarships for students to attend public school at each of the four villages if their families are unable to afford the mandatory uniforms to attend. This program has become very successful with Growing Cambodia providing over 50 scholarships to students in 2021-2022.

Growing Cambodia believes education is crucial in empowering the current generation to improve their standard of living as it helps individuals make more informed choices about their future.

Many students miss out on



A class of students learning English at Oroluos Village which is celebrating its 10 Year Anniversary in December this year. Money raised at the trivia night on October 1 will support education in the region.

a proper education because they are required to work to support their families and/or their families simply cannot afford the cost of education. In addition to attending public school, learning to speak and read English creates more employment opportunities for students in the tourism and business industries upon completion of their studies. "Our ultimate goal is for the schools and villages to become self-sufficient with an improved quality of life for the whole of the community," said Steve Davie from Growing Cambodia.

"This involves not only education, training and the development of skills that provide opportunities for higher in-

comes but also includes better health care, clean drinking water and a sustainable environment for the villages.

"With more funding we believe we can expand and use our model to provide an opportunity in other rural villages throughout Cambodia."

For more information about the trivia night, or to book a table, visit www.growing-cambodia.org.au/news/2018-trivia-night-save-date/ or contact Steve Davie on 0409 167 001.

Donations for any prizes on the night are also welcome.

If you are unable to attend on the night please consider making a donation via www.growingcambodia.org.au/donate/



Enjoying Pyjama Day from left to right are: Back: Heidi Driscoll, Milly Dengerink, Makayla Richardson, Ruby Taylor, Georgia Anderson. Front: Ella Marshall, Summer Crestani and Stephanie Liberman.

College Pyjama Day raises funds for Landcare

Students at Newhaven College raised over \$1500 with a Pyjama Day fundraiser to support Landcare.

Organised by Year 12, students from every year came to school in their PJs, with some teachers getting into the spirit as well.

At lunch time, students enjoyed a sausage sizzle for a gold coin donation.

The money raised will be included in the overall fundraising for Landcare planned for the school year. All money raised will go towards the Biolinks project, to support planting projects throughout Bass Coast.

Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) is part of a grassroots movement, assisting 10 local Landcare groups to complete their objectives of restoring the local landscape.



A sausage sizzle and PJs at school – it was a great day for Lily Solibakke and Emily Hardy.

form wildlife corridors for native fauna to safely travel throughout the region," she explained.

"With only around 10 per cent of original vegetation remaining in Bass Coast, it's so fantastic to see students and families from Newhaven College contribute to this important work."

A college spokesperson said love for the environment is part of the Newhaven College education. "Supporting local environmental and community groups is important to students. Some enjoy hands-on contributions, such as attending tree planting days or participating in Climate Action rallies. Others like to educate and encourage understanding of the need to protect our environment." More photos at pisra.com.au.

Share the Dignity with Woolworths

Woolworths and Share the Dignity are calling on Bass Coast Shire residents to participate in a Dignity Drive following an increased need across Victoria for period care products.

This month's Dignity Drive aims to directly address period poverty and increase the number of freely available period care products across the state.

Woolworths will also donate five cents from each period care product sold during the drive to help fund support local community initiatives and Share the Dignity's Dignity Vending Machines.

Since the partnership's beginnings in 2019, Woolworths customers have donated over 575,000 period care products.

In March alone, Woolworths customers donated more than 82,000 period care products and Woolworths donated \$119,000 to Share the Dignity.

Group Manager Jaimie Nash, said: "We're proud to continue our partnership with Share the Dignity and support the meaningful change they are creating. We would also like to thank all our Bass Coast Shire customers who have donated as their generous contribution has helped lessen the impact of an already challenging time."

Share the Dignity VIC Volunteer State Team Leader Donna Levinson-Murray said they were pleased to have the support of Woolworths to "raise awareness and lessen the impact again this year,

following a successful Dignity Drive in March".

The Dignity Drive will run across Woolworths supermarkets in Bass Coast Shire. Customers can purchase any period care product and donate it in store via the pink collection boxes located at the front of every Woolworths store or add a cash donation at Woolworths registers.

Period care products such as selected tampons and pads will be on sale as part of the Woolworths weekly catalogue, encouraging customers to purchase an item to donate for those in need.

Since the start of the partnership Woolworths has donated over \$2 million to support those experiencing period poverty.

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Plant one for the environment

Planet Ark's National Tree Day started in 1996 and is now the country's largest community tree planting and nature care event.

Since 1996, over 26 million trees have been planted, by over 5 million volunteers.

As well as National Tree Day on July 31, there was a special Schools Tree Day on July

29, and many local schools got involved in planting trees and vegetables.

But remember, every day can be a tree day – so why not plant one today?

You could visit the Barb Martin Bush bank to find the perfect native plant for your garden.

Students get grant to plant

After receiving a grant from Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria (NGIV), Newhaven College's year 3 and 9 students worked together to plant pollinator gardens.

The students planted a variety of plants in three different areas of the school grounds. They enjoyed the fresh air and getting their hands dirty and these little gardens will be havens for bees and butterflies.

From left: Emily Miles, Josie Rhodes and Abby Papas at the Newhaven College Years 3 and 9 planting day.



Keen to keep it green

Over recent weeks the vegetable garden at Cowes Primary School has undergone a complete transformation thanks to the team at Phillip Island Landscaping.

Students from the broader school and Phillip Island Early Learning Centre (PIELC) are looking forward to getting into the space and planting out crops as we move towards spring.

The garden will be heavily utilised by the PIELC and it is hoped some of the goodies harvested can be included as part of the community pantry.

Year 5 students, Eden and Isla helping to plant crops at the Cowes Primary School vegetable garden.



Star of the Sea's focus on trees

As part of their science lessons, all Our Lady Star of the Sea students had the opportunity to take part in National Tree planting day. The 5/6 students (pictured) planted trees between showers.



The Ivy Plant Studio is located in Newhaven, Phillip Island and is home to a beautiful and curated collection of indoor plants, plant décor and care products, as well as gifts and homewares.

Go green with Ivy

The Ivy Plant Studio is located in Newhaven, Phillip Island and is home to a beautiful and curated collection of indoor plants, plant décor and care products – alongside homewares, slow-made furniture, quality gifts for all ages and budgets, seasonal fresh flowers, original art, books, puzzles and creative DIY kits.

The owners, Karrie and Jaz aim to bring happiness to hearts and homes with their mindful-living collections and have a strong focus on fair trade, cruelty free, earth friendly and Australian made and owned.

The Ivy Plant studio thrives on helping you to find the perfect gift and their thoughtful collections of offerings are unique, on-trend and always beautiful quality. Complementary gift wrapping is also available with any purchase.

Karrie and Jaz love their local community and also the holidaying and day tripping visitors to the island and surrounds – they share a generational love of plants and are always happy to share their knowledge and offer any advice on indoor plants and plant care.

They've also completed many domestic and commercial indoor plant installations across Bass Coast and enjoy providing the perfect plants and décor for your spaces.

Karrie has studied Interior Design and Merchandising and enjoys helping people style and find the right pieces for their homes, workplaces or accommodation properties.

The Ivy Plant Studio has generously gifted donations for fundraising across many local community groups within Phillip Island, San Remo and Bass Coast and is currently a Finalist for the 2022 Gippsland Business Awards.

Karrie and Jaz are hoping to repeat the nomination at the Bass Coast Business Awards.

If you've enjoyed your experience at The Ivy over the last 18 months, head to www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/business-awards and give them a vote.



Owners Jaz and Karrie aim to bring happiness to hearts and homes with their mindful-living collections and have a strong focus on fair trade, cruelty free, earth friendly and Australian made and owned.

Top 5 plant care tips for all seasons

- Always keep leaves clean – with a soft damp cloth
- Inspect regularly for pests and overall plant health
- Use quality plant food, care products and soils
- Ensure that your plant isn't overwatered, or sitting in water
- If repotting, only ever go up one pot size at a time

Pop into The Ivy in Newhaven anytime – for more information on these tips and for the easy-to-understand how's and why's of plant care.

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SPEND SOME TIME IN Cape Woolamai

Feast on the beauty of Cape Woolamai

The stunning views and exceptional surf beaches of Cape Woolamai make it a favourite for locals and visitors alike.

Cape Woolamai is home to Woolamai surf beach, the centrepiece of Phillip Island's National Surfing Reserve.

Affectionately referred to as "Seconds" or "The Clubhouse", the surf beach is popular with swimmers and surfers, but its big waves and dangerous rips means it is not a beach for the inexperienced or fainthearted.

Anzacs Beach is also a popular surfing destination and provides breathtaking views across to Cape Woolamai.

The Anzacs car park is also home to a metal sculpture created by local artist and surfer Steve Ulula Parker, a Boon Wurrung, Yorta Yorta and Erub descendant. The ocean, Cape Woolamai and the Pinnacles glisten behind the metal sculpture, which features cut-outs representing the local landscape and the movement of tides around Phillip Island.

Cape Woolamai also boasts Phillip Island's most spectacular coastal walk. The hike around the cape offers stunning ocean views and plenty of wildlife encounters. The official path starts from the surf club car park, with a walk along the beach before taking the stairs to the clifftop.

The Pinnacles is a favourite Instagram

moment; the outcrop of natural granite rocks providing the perfect background for photos. The track takes you to the beacon (the island's highest point) which has a view across Phillip Island, over the water to San Remo, plus Kilcunda and beyond.

You can take the track down to the old Granite Quarry and loop back to the car-park, or if the tide is low, walk along the bay beach to Cleeland Bight.

If you'd prefer a birds-eye view of this incredible scenery, the award-winning Phillip Island Helicopters offers a special Cape Woolamai scenic flight.

The gentle waves of the Cleeland Bight bay beach is popular with families and it also includes the area's only off-leash dog beach between Palm Beach Avenue and Southport Avenue access tracks.

Visitors and photographers are drawn to the spectacle of the granite columns at The Colonnades, which is also the perfect spot to catch a wave, watch the Shearwaters (between September and April), snap a selfie, enjoy a sunset or spot a passing whale.

At the end of a day of surfing, hiking or taking in the sights, complete your Cape Woolamai experience with a fabulous meal or a cocktail at popular local restaurant, the Wooli Tavern.



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Not surprisingly – given the degree of difficulty of the tricks he performs – skateboarder Ricky Glaser has suffered his fair share of injuries including broken finger, toe, ankle, wrist and knee (he still has five screws in his knee) and torn ligaments. Photo: Travis Adams.

Skateboarder's roll of honour

In the world of skateboarding Ricky Glaser is a legend.

With more than one million followers on social media, his own merchandise brand, a host of lucrative sponsorship deals, and most recently headhunted to live in the USA as a pro skater, the 30-year-old is one of a handful of people on the globe making a full-time income from skateboarding.

But it was in Cowes, at the age of 13, taking part in a competition at the Cowes skate park, that he got his first big break.

"I won the competition, and I was given a board and a t-shirt," he recalls.

"Island Surfboards saw me and thought I was good. I showed them a video of my best tricks and they became my first sponsors."

Ricky – whose mum Grazyna Mackiewicz lives in Cape Woolamai – says it was even surfing buddies on the island who first inspired him to take up skateboarding at the age of eight.

"When I was growing up I'd visit my grandma in school holidays. It was great because she was in skating distance to the Cowes skate park," Ricky says.

"The park was small but skateboarders are creative. We tend to work with our environment, always finding ways to skate, whether or not there are good facilities."

Speaking on the phone from his home in Los Angeles – where he lives with his winter Olympic snowboarding girlfriend Jenise Spiteri – Ricky is a big advocate for constructing the long-delayed regional skate park on Phillip Island.

Discussions on skate parks with the community date back to 2015. In 2018 the shire received a \$650,000 State Government grant for a San Remo regional skate park – with the site later dropped because of com-

munity outrage - and that funding withdrawn.

In April last year councillors voted to dump plans for a \$1.5 million regional skate park at Grayden's Reserve in Newhaven, again following community anger, the second abandoned attempt in four years.

The community is now waiting on an updated skatepark strategy to learn of the next proposed location for a skate park.

Advocacy

"For young children there are a lot of playgrounds on the island, but there's nothing for teenage kids," he says.

"It's when they have nothing to do they might get into trouble."

Ricky says residents should not be concerned about the impacts of a skate park.

"If people have concerns it's based on their own perception, not reality. If you go to a skate park and talk to anyone, you'll find that's not how skate parks are."

"But if you don't build facilities that's where kids will start skating where they're not supposed to, like at schools or on the edge of the street."

"A skate park is a positive thing for a lot of people. They should give it a chance."

Because of Covid, Ricky hasn't returned to the island – or Australia – for two years, but managed to skate the new Cowes park when he was here in 2020.

"I like the way they have paid tribute to the old park, keeping the essence and the style of the old one."

Merchandise

Even though Ricky showed enormous skateboarding potential from a young age, on the advice of his mum he went to university, studying a Bachelor of Film and TV at



Ricky and his mum Grazyna Mackiewicz who lives in Cape Woolamai.

Swinburne, graduating in 2012.

He worked in a variety of random jobs before the evolution of social media proved his entrée into the global skateboarding world.

"I'd been skateboarding for fun, with sponsorship, but at 25 I started to post videos – not just photos – on Instagram, doing skate tricks and that's when my following grew."

"Instagram video is so suited to skating. I did difficult tricks and they went viral overnight. Even respected skate publications began commenting. It snowballed from there."

In 2020 he was offered a full-time job with Braille Skateboarding in San Francisco, ever since working as part of a team to post daily skateboarding videos on the company's YouTube channel, which has 5.7 million followers, mainly male aged 16-35.

Through Braille he has released four signature decks (the wooden platform on a skateboard), including a "Rikimite" tribute to Australia.

In addition, Ricky posts his own content to his personal social media, including TikTok and YouTube, which has more than a million fol-

lowers and where some of his high-level tricks videos have been viewed more than 35 million times.

He also has his own personal line of merchandise, I Like Sk8, which sells t-shirts, hoodies and other products through Braille.

"The videos are all about getting more people excited in skateboarding, so it can be outrageous and outlandish, a spectacle."

"For Braille we've done videos like skating on a rail across a pool, doing tricks on a skateboard made from glass, and another was doing a difficult trick on a skateboard made from an axe."

"Not many people make money from skateboarding and it is tough to make a living like I do."

Injuries

Not surprisingly – given the degree of difficulty of the tricks he performs – Ricky has suffered his fair share of injuries.

"I've broken five bones: finger, toe, ankle, wrist and knee (he still has five screws in his knee) and of course I've torn a lot of ligaments."

"I've been skating for more than 20 years so five bones is not too bad. I'm healthy now and always make a full recovery."

He says there is considerable pressure to be both fit and creative.

"Skating is really, really physical, demanding, and you always need to feel in good shape."

He explains that his professional skateboarding differs to Olympics.

"I'll sometimes try 200 times to do a difficult trick and land it one time, whereas Olympic skateboarders have to be sure they can accomplish it on the day."

"All skaters are really determined. It's the same now as when I was a kid, persisting in learning a new trick. At a skate ramp everyone can relate to the feeling of accomplishing a trick for the first time."

Ricky says he has always enjoyed skateboarding largely because of its freedom and individuality.

"I had a huge amount of energy as a kid and it takes a lot to skate."

"I've surfed, rollerbladed, biked, done gymnastics and athletics. I was drawn to it because it's individual and you don't have to rely on a team, or the conditions to be right, or a field."

"It's the convenience and simplicity but at the same time so complicated and intricate."

As taxing as it is, he says there is no use-by-date for skaters, with many continuing into their 50s or opting for other opportunities in the same field.

As much as he is loving life in Los Angeles, Ricky says he will visit his mum at the first chance, as well as his 97-year-old grandmother who lives in Melaleuca Lodge in Cowes.

"What I'd like to do eventually is come and go between the US and Australia."

www.youtube.com/rickyglaser

Cowes West revegetation works continues

Bass Coast Shire Council has undertaken further restoration works on the Cowes West foreshore.

The work is response to encroachment onto Crown Land and is part of a program which focuses on rehabilitating public land sites.

In many of these cases, the original coastal vegetation was cleared many decades ago and has since been maintained as grassed areas.

The large site at Cowes West has now been transformed with the planting of almost 2000 indigenous plants. Once established, this vegetation will help to enhance biodiversity and return the landscape to what it once was.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan said Council is committed to restoring coastal vegetation where encroachment into Crown Land has occurred.

"Unfortunately, due to various reasons including illegal clearing activities, the quality and extent of our coastal vegetation has been significantly reduced, with only about 14 per cent remaining," Cr Whelan said.

"Coastline areas are often more prone to the effects of climate change and vegetation is vital in protecting these areas from storm fronts."

Vegetation supports a number of

ecological services, including provision of habitat for native animals and increasing the resilience of landscapes in a changing climate.

In response to ongoing encroachment activities and community feedback, in 2018 Council adopted the Foreshore and Bushland Reserves Encroachment Policy, to provide long-term strategic direction to manage ongoing encroachment issues.

Council said it will continue to work closely with landholders to resolve encroachment issues and rehabilitate degraded sites.

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/encroachment



Almost 2000 indigenous plants have been planted at Cowes West, to help enhance biodiversity and return the landscape to its natural form.



Matt Spark is the captain of the French Island Cricket Club, which is more than 120 years old, and also manager of the French Island Vineyard.

French Island on ABC TV

French Island was featured on ABC TV's Back Roads program on Monday, showcasing some of the quirky characters and businesses.

The show – renowned for travelling Australia to interview quirky and colourful townsfolk – included interviews with island residents, the barge operator, general store owner, former tour owner Lois Aires, as well as manager of the French Island Vineyard Matt Spark.

Back Roads' guest presenter Lisa Millar explored the community that has no council and no council services.

"Do you dream of living somewhere that makes you feel you're living in Woop Woop but is a stone's throw from metropolitan Melbourne?" Lisa said.

"That means no sealed roads, no electricity or water supply, no rubbish collection and all those day-to-day services we take for granted."

Long-time local Matt Spark told the Advertiser the ABC visited in December last year and he was filmed speaking about his dual role as manager of the French Island Vineyard and captain of the cricket club.

"We spent a couple of hours around the grapevines and Lisa planted a couple of vines, and then we filmed a game at the cricket club," Matt said.

Is he worried the attention will



ABC TV Back Roads guest presenter Lisa Millar.

detract from the island's relative isolation?

"Generally, the population here is about 100 but on weekends lately there can be up to 300 people.

"But we still have no bridge. If people are brave enough to come over then I'm happy to promote French Island.

"People often think we're backwards – they'll ask us if we have Wi-Fi or phone reception and yes we do."

Matt attended the island's only school, Perseverance Primary.

"At one stage it got down to just three kids at the school, my sister and one other pupil. At its highest I reckon it has been about 15 students."

Lisa also met local Jim Skinner and his 30-something son Jay, who live off-grid "but that doesn't mean doing it tough".

Parks Victoria ranger Georgia Kerr was interviewed, explaining how the island was world renowned as a haven for many bird, animal and plant species, "a Noah's ark of diversity".

More opposition to Cowes-Ventnor track

The controversial proposed Cowes to Ventnor foreshore track has gained its highest profile critic, with the Phillip Island Conservation Society opposing the project.

Bass Coast Shire's draft tracks and trails strategy, released earlier this year, identifies 38 new shire trails to expand the existing network, with a foreshore trail from Cowes to Ventnor one of four high priority projects listed in the strategy.

A petition signed by about 900 people – calling for the Cowes foreshore to be protected from the Bass Coast Shire's proposed walking tracks – was lodged at the July council meeting.

Now PICS has released its submission to the shire on the strategy, stating the proposed 2.4-metre-wide path between Cowes and Ventnor covered diverse habitat and vegetation.

"PICS does not support the proposed shared track and its impacts on very sensitive flora, fauna, and dunes," the submission states, add-

ing the society does, however, support improvements in Cowes to Ventnor paths.

The submission states in 2014 PICS commissioned an assessment of impacts of tracks on vegetation and found sand dunes towards Ventnor from the end of Settlement Road "too fragile", while Saltwater Creek was highly sensitive.

PICS says the foreshore reserve provides an "essential and finite" corridor for wildlife to move safely along the coast "as they cannot go inland due to houses, roads and other infrastructure or go onto the beach".

"PICS considers that the habitat needs protection."

Dogs

The submission also highlights concerns any beach track could give dog access to all beaches.

"We must consider the worst and hope for the best when planning for any human activity. It seems that whilst generally most people can appreciate the need to behave in a

responsible manner not everyone does.

"The problem caused by lack of compliance by dog walkers on the on-lead only beaches that already occurs means that this activity would just occur in this area too."

According to the submission, PICS members have discussed the need for tracks with bike users, who agreed a beach track was not required.

The society says money set to be spent on a shared track could be used to remove weeds, revegetate and block illegal tracks to the beach.

The submission acknowledges a track could be installed near the NRMA Church Street caravan park, as well as Anderson Street boat ramp to Justice Road "with minimal disturbance" and would "mark the boundary of private land and foreshore".

In May an online petition calling for a path between Cowes and Ventnor – signed by more than 400 people – was lodged with council.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

Rethink foreshore bike path

Having spent my summers growing up at Phillip Island as my family before me has I have learned to love and appreciate the beautiful natural environment that helps to put Phillip Island on the map. The Cowes to Ventnor foreshore is a unique coastal environment and important to protect for native species and present residents and visitors as well as future generations to appreciate.

I applaud the Council's interest creating a more connected and safe biking network around the island however, I ask that we leave the beautiful natural Ventnor foreshore as it is and investigate connecting existing paths.

The foreshore bushland is home to many species including echidnas and wallabies, not to mention the vulnerable Hooded Plover that lives between the beach and the bush.

The Hooded Plover is a native to the Ventnor sand dune environment in which it nests. Listed as vulnerable in Victoria with only around 3000 in South-eastern Australia the Council and Phillip Island Nature Parks has long worked hard to protect the plover's nesting habitat with signage and barriers.

The building of a bike path in the foreshore bushland would further restrict plover habitat as people, bikes and dogs will be travelling through regularly on both sides of their dune habitat, causing further endangerment to their delicate nests.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Council on their initiative to create a biking network around Phillip Island but I also encourage them to see the value of the natural spaces and reevaluate their plans in order to ensure the protection of the Cowes to Ventnor foreshore.

Obelia Wycisk, South Hobart

Track could minimise damage

K McDougall and M Shaw ("Keeping an open mind about paths", Letters, 27th July) are convincing about the benefits of sensitively designed coastal paths.

Like them, I also count myself a passionate supporter of native vegetation and wildlife and deplore the weeds spread when garden waste is thoughtlessly thrown into the foreshore reserve by adjoining property owners, a problem which has plagued the Island for years. The illegal destruction of coastal vegetation to secure a private sea view, is another.

A public path separating private property from the coastal reserve would discourage this behaviour. It will also facilitate easier access for weeding and revegetation by volunteers.

It's normal to design public infrastructure to minimise environmental damage so it's likely there'll be places along the desired route where a path may have to deviate slightly to minimise impacts.

Let's wait to see the design assessments.

A coastal path accessible to all, including the aged and disabled will be useful for foreshore management as well as encouraging good health and a wider appreciation for our beautiful northern coastline.

Greg Johnson, Ventnor

Pool traffic problems

So, an "Aquatic Centre" has been downsized to a "sports hub and community pool". Good news if you don't like a great big waterslide at the entrance to Cowes, bad news for swimming sports that compete in Olympic

pools).

But ... what about the extra traffic?

The successful sports hub should host at least some hundreds of patrons and staff at any given time - many more at peak times. There will of course be a carpark designed to cope with with, say, 120 cars at any given time, and a pick-up/drop off facility.

The present roundabout and roads could not cope particularly at peak holiday season.

I am looking forward to hearing the proposed solutions but please no traffic lights, and don't ask Regional Roads Victoria (they seem to have a problem with appropriate scales).

Doug Waugh, Cowes

No playground in new San Remo Estate

I am the proud grandmother of a newborn. She and her family live in Island View Estate San Remo, the large new estate near Silverwater.

It does not have a playground, not even a flat area to kick a ball. The closest playground is Lions Park nearly 3km away. With young children that is an hour's walk!

How has our Shire let this happen?

They state they support active and healthy communities and have an Access and Inclusion plan, but I fail to understand how a brand new estate does not include recreational areas and comply with their mission statement to ensure equity and balance between liveability and environmental protection.

The streets have footpaths with vision impaired tactile ground surface indicators but no seats anywhere. Nowhere for anyone to rest. As a retired Diabetes Educator promoting a daily walk was my major prescription for health.

One of the biggest barriers was nowhere for my clients to sit.

Other new estates such as Shearwater, Seagrove and White Sands in Cowes all have playgrounds, chairs and even public barbecues.

How did the shire let this happen?

Cathie Beenie, Ventnor

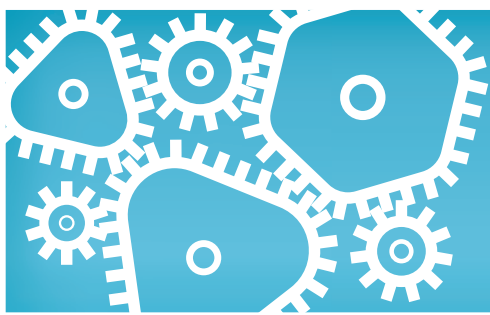
Cat fees nipped?

With the Bass Council deciding we must keep our cats indoors 24/7 from July next year, I would like to know when the pet permit and registration fees are going to be eliminated. They to my mind will no longer be valid. Also, what financial assistance will be given to pensioners to have our cats contained in an outdoor cage like structure? It will be an expensive proposition shelling out for cat litter. Many pensioners have cats for company and do not have the financial wherewithal to buy or build outside cages for those cats who have never been 24/7 indoor cats. My cats don't leave my property and are indoors at night. To now restrict them to indoors 24/7 will cause owner-pensioners like me a certain amount of stress dealing with a stressed animal wanting to go outside.

I would like to hear what other pensioner cat owners think.

Martin Saunders, Cowes

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



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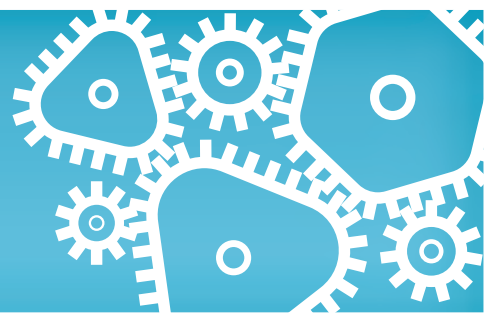
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Image of a monkey wearing a hard hat and holding a hammer.

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Image of a house and a tree.

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Image of a tree.

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Image of a tree and a silverback gorilla.

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Image of a house and a tree.

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Image of a window.



The South Gippsland Bass team at the Victorian Country Short Course Championships last weekend.

SGB make a splash at Short Course Championships

The South Gippsland Bass (SGB) team travelled to Ballarat for the Victorian Country Short Course Championships on the last weekend of July.

It was a cold start early in the mornings in Ballarat, but that did not phase the SGB swimmers, many who have waited over two years to get back into the pool for the Victorian Short Course Championships.

SGB fielded a team of 44 swimmers, who achieved qualifying times to compete, making SGB the fourth biggest team at the meet. Swimmers ranged from nine-year olds in the under 11s to the open section. For many of the under 11s, this was their first country championship meet and there was a sense of enthusiasm and excitement from them as they were presented with their country caps to wear for the first time.

SGB featured regularly on the podium on both days, with a number of swimmers medalling including two relays teams who both finished with second place medals.

Racing against other fast swimmers, provided a challenge for the SGB swimmers, who all stood up to the challenge taking time off their Personal Bests (PBs) and getting times under their current goal. Several swimmers gained a state time, which qualifies them to enter the State Age competition to be held over the next of couple of weekends at MSAC.

For first timer Bec it was a chance to really test herself in the big competition. "It was good to challenge myself racing against different people who are all of similar speed. It was also fun hanging out with my friends," she said.

Experienced campaigner Lily, back on summer break from studying Marketing and racing in Florida, enjoyed racing with SGB again. "My first country short course champs was 2012 when I was 11 and there were nine of us in the team. It's been great to see how the team has grown and become stronger. I enjoyed winning the 50m breaststroke as I've never won that before."

Coach Dylan Muir, who also was amongst the competitors spoke to the swimmers at the team meeting Sunday morning about how well they have bounced back from disappointments. "In swimming as an individual sport, there's no team effort to hide behind. It's up there on the screen in black and white your result. It makes it hard, but the ability of so many of you to bounce back yesterday was fantastic. We have come and really pushed ourselves and are sitting up there close to the big clubs on the leadership table."

Coach Sam, who coaches the countries group said: "It was wonderful to see so many new country kids competing this year, and I am happy to see that they came up, even if they had just one race. It shows the hard work and determination has paid off with many PBs recorded this weekend."

Coach Caiden also praised the team. "It's amazing to see them back-

ing up with some people having busy schedules over the weekend. The support and camaraderie of the team is sensational."

One of the team highlights for many was the duel in the pool between Coaches Dylan and Caiden in neighbouring lanes in the 50m breaststroke, with Caiden taking out the honours. The swimmers really enjoyed seeing the friendly rivalry between the two.

For the experienced swimmers, the meet was a chance to practise against some close competition before the State Short Course Championships and the School sport Australia Championships in Queensland in the coming weeks.

Coach Dylan thanks the swimmers and their families for making it such an enjoyable and successful meet.

"For the second time in our club's history we finished fourth at the Vic Country Champs, the last time being the 2019 Long Course Champs.

"This was achieved through group success. It wasn't one or two swimmers getting us there, it was the entire group, with their results in the water and the energy and team environment they created out of the water.

"I was asked on the weekend 'what do I love about coaching?'" said Dylan.

"My response was, you know that feeling you get when you do a PB? I get to share a little piece of that which each swimmer. We are all on a journey together. We ride the highs and lows and we come out the other end of the wild ride with so many memories, moments of success and lessons learnt that make us stronger."

Reflecting on the clubs development, Dylan recalled his first country championships in 2021 in Wangaratta.

"I started a journey that year with Lily Robinson. Ten years later, I got to line up with Lily in a mixed relay and coach her again at Vic Country Champs to continue that journey.

"We have had so many great swimmers and great people come on board since 2012, many who have already had so much success. Fifteen of our 44 swimmers are aged 12 years and under and just beginning what is hopefully a long career. The future is bright."

Medallists

Rex Brocklesby, 2nd 11 boys 50m Butterfly

Tomei Dal Pozzo 3rd Open women's 50m Backstroke

Caiden Gill, 1st Boys 18 & Over 50m Freestyle, 2nd Boys 200m Freestyle, 3rd 100m Freestyle

Olivia Holmes, 1st Girls 12-13 200m Freestyle, 2nd 100m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke, 3rd 100m Butterfly

Rahni Matheson, 1st 14-15 Girls 100m Breaststroke

Sienna Matheson, 2nd 14-15 Girls 100m Breaststroke

Sophie McKenzie 3rd Women 200m Breaststroke, 2nd Girls 18 & Over 50m Breaststroke

Dylan Muir, 3rd Mens Open 50m



Zac Sherar with his medal collection from the Victorian Country Short Course Championships.



Multiple medal winner Olivia Holmes with one of the four individual medals she won at the Victorian Country Short Course Championships.



The youngest and oldest members of the SGB team – Emily Croatto and Dylan Muir.

Backstroke

Lily Robinson, 1st Girls 18 & Over 50m Breaststroke, 2nd 200m Breaststroke, 3rd 200m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle

Zac Sherar, 1st Boys 12-13 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 100m Breaststroke 2nd 100m Butterfly, 100m IM, 2nd 13 and under 4 x 50m Medley Relay and freestyle relays (Miah Roberts, Zac Sherar, Josh Hunt, Olivia Holmes).

Swim championships continue

Eighteen swimmers from South Gippsland Bass (SGB) Swim Club headed to MSAC for the first weekend of the 2022 Victorian Age Short Course Championships.

All swimmers qualified for the event, which saw 1055 swimmers aged 13-18 years competing. The SGB swimmers backed up their efforts in the water at the Victorian Country Short Course Championships (see separate story).

After competing in the heats, nine swimmers progressed to the finals,

with Claudia Croatto, Zac Sherar, Hayden Barnes, Josh Hunt, Sophie McKenzie, Hugh Munro, Sienna Matheson, Billy Boyd and Rahni Matheson, taking on the best of the state.

Congratulations to Rahni Matheson who came third in her 100m and 200m Breaststroke finals, while Zac Sherar swam an amazing nine finals, with several top five finishes.

Part two of the championship will be held next weekend.

More photos at pisra.com.au.



Zac Sherar, Hugh and Skye Munro and Rahni Matheson take a break before finals.

Summer Series event dates

The schedule for the 2023 Bass Coast Series and Little Penguin Dash has been finalised.

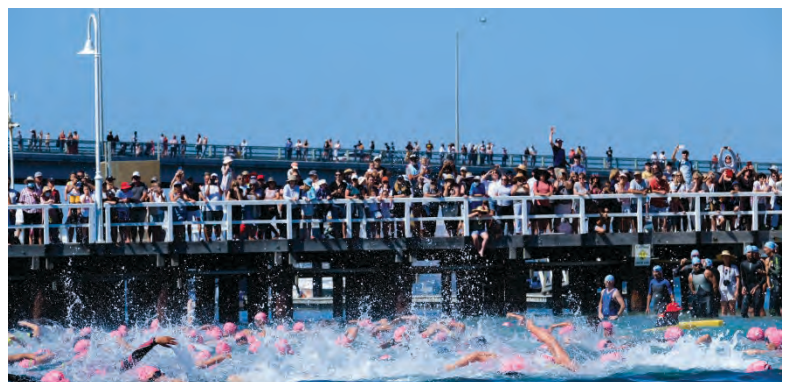
Sunday, January 15: Cape Paterson Aquathon, 10am.

Saturday, February 4: San Remo Channel Challenge, 11.00am.

Saturday, February 18: Cowes Classic, time TBC.

Saturday, February 18: Little Penguin Dash, time TBC.

Organisers are confident that next year's events will be able to go ahead without any changes of dates or other Covid challenges, and once again look forward to a successful season with the four events being embraced by loyal competitors and the Bass Coast community in general.



The schedule for the 2023 Bass Coast Series has been finalised, including the San Remo Channel Challenge. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

Phillip Island golf results

Tuesday, August 2, Men's Stableford

Winner was Jim Brown (21) with 41 points.

NTP: 5th – 1st Time Dave Ablett, 7th – 1st Time Ian Samuel, 5th – 2nd Time Steven Sloss, 7th – 2nd time P. Gray.

BDL to 33 points countback.

Nine Hole Stableford winner was Anthony Pullan (34) with 20 points.

Wednesday, August 3, Ladies Gentsomes Stableford

The winners were Kym Cooper, Robyn Docker and Megan Elbaz with 90 points from Marilyn John, Liz Gleeson and Helen Coghlan with 87 points on countback.

NTP: 5th Sue Brown/Miyuki Yamaguchi, 7th Liz O'Neill/Liz Gleeson. Nine Hole Stableford winner was Jacqui Fenton.

Thursday, August 4, Open Stableford

Fred Panozzo (17) was the winner with 40 points on countback from Gino Manfredi (11).

BDL to 33 on countback.

NTP: 5th Wayne Morris/Wayne Morris and 7th Danny Hibbert/Alex Andrews.

Nine-hole competition winner was Kym Cooper (36) with 21 points.

Saturday, August 6, Men's Stroke Monthly Medal Sponsored by Car Find Phillip Island

A Grade winner Morgan Ward (9) with nett 71, runner up Chris Reynolds (8) with nett 72.

B Grade winner Brian Potter (18) with nett 71 on countback, runner up Tony Gay (13) with nett 71.

C Grade winner Steven Sloss (23) with nett 67, runner up David Taylor (20) with nett 71.

Monthly Medal winner was Steven Sloss.

Ladies Stableford winner was Liz O'Neill (31) with nett 78 from Vicki Ramage (31) with nett 81.

NTP Men's: 5th Mark Haringsma, 7th Lawrence Ferrari, 10th Ron Young and 17th Alex Andrews.

NTP Ladies: 7th Lesley Meadowcroft and 17th Helen Coghlan.

Nine-hole Stableford winner was Phil Foster (21) with 17 points.

Sunday, August 7, 9 Hole Stableford

9 Hole winner was Simon Furness (20) with 15 points.



Phillip Island D Grade netball team enjoyed their last game of the season against Bunyip.

Ups and downs for Island netballers

Under 11s

The Phillip Island Under 11s played a great game on Saturday morning against Bunyip.

Scores were Phillip Island 25 Bunyip 3.

The girls had a great win for their last game of the season before finals start.

Awards this weekend went to Eden Blake and Stellah Tilley.

All the girls have done such an amazing job, well done girls!

Under 15s

Bunyip came out strong, sharp passes, shooting well and great defence.

This surprised our U15 girls and Bunyip took the lead after the first quarter 8/4.

Phillip Island looked a little lost and passes were rushed, but they soon started to settle.

Bunyip were still the dominating team winning 16/10 at half time.

The Island turned it on and found some momentum. The defence put on great pressure which helped with an even scoring third quarter.

Last quarter the Island swapped a few positions, which seemed to work.

The ball came easily down the corridor to the shooters who could put some goals on the score board.

A winning quarter by Phillip Island however not enough to chase down

Bunyip.

Bunyip had a convincing win 27/22.

The team will take this loss and fight harder next week.

Under 17s

The Under 17s got off to a slow start against Bunyip.

At the end of the first quarter, it was a rather even match, however the girls managed to settle and find their groove and managed to again dominate in the second half.

Taking a good solid win in preparation for their final match of the season against Korumburra, which they will need to bring their A game for.

Scores: Phillip Island 57 defeated Bunyip 33.

D Grade

This week our netball girls paid tribute to Police Sergeant Paul Algie, uncle to our D grade goaler Julia Algie, who tragically passed away in a skydiving accident.

Julia has been such a great asset to our club, bringing a lot of experience and enthusiasm, we love playing with you Julia.

Unfortunately, we suffered a big loss, however we had fun nonetheless.

This was D Grade's last game for the year and our girls should be so proud of the individual success they have had.

Congratulations to Karina Reynard, Tailyne Payne and Shanae Riley

for receiving the best on awards this week.

B Grade

Bulldog vs Bulldog. 2nd vs 3rd.

The last time these two teams faced it was a one goal difference, going the Island's way.

Both teams fighting for a second chance come finals, both teams wanting the win.

As expected, the first quarter saw intensity and pressure all over the court, both teams fighting hard to maintain possession and to convert under the ring.

The Island girls were able to capitalise on a couple of turnovers and take a small lead at the first quarter break.

The second quarter was another highly contested one, however Bunyip certainly started to gain some momentum and took their turn to have the small lead at half time.

The second half of the game went Bunyip's way with their lead slowly growing despite the Island's relentless defensive pressure, attacking forward line and fighting spirit.

With each Bulldog team winning one a piece, anything can happen come finals!

Let's go B Grade Babes, we can do it!

Final score: PI 30 def by Bunyip 51.

Best on awards: Maddy Taylor, Tessa Johnston and Sophie Gysberts.

Phillip Island bowls results

Tuesday Winter triples bowls

Eight teams took to the green and the winners for the day were Ian Diss, Bob Carter and Jim Murray.

Runners up were Ken Gill, Alan Beddows and Steve Kantor.

Social Thursday bowls

Winners with two games and a plus 34 were Alan Price, Inga Royce and Bruce Puncher.

Audika sponsored competition

Another good turnout for this

week's Audika sponsored competition, cool and cloudy but the rain managed to hold off.

Winners were Serge Castel, Marlene Puncher, Alan Beddows and Lance Wearne, 2 game wins and a +13.

Runners up were John Batty, Wayne Barr, John Kappler and Brian Mandergeddes with 2 game wins also and a +4.

Well done everyone.



Winners of Social bowls with 2 games and a plus 34 were (L-R) Alan Price, Inga Royce and Bruce Puncher.



Winners of the Audika sponsored competition: (L-R) Serge Castel, Marlene Puncher, Alan Beddows and Lance Wearne.

Midweek bowls

The midweek bowls were held at Koo Wee Rup bowls club.

Twenty-six of our family of bowlers turned up to fight it out for team of the day.

The weather was rather good for an August day and although not exactly warm it certainly was not cold.

The wind tended upwards later in the day which proved a little difficult for some of us. However, overall, the Koo Wee boys gave us an excellent day.

Not a lot of wrong bias but a few dollars were added to the RCH tin.

As usual a fair amount of laughter and friendly banter between players which always makes the day fun for all.

Midweek bowl winners on 27 points were Denis Talbot (S), Phil Wright (3) and Bob Arnold (L).

Runners up, also on 27 points were Steve Edge (S), David Talbot (3) and George Crynes (L).

Best One Game winners on 24 points were Peter McWilliams and Lindsay Russell (Co-Skips), Luke Monckton (3), Jan Brown (2) and Peter Taylor (L).

Not high scores for the day but that also means that no one ran away with the day.

I would like to thank (as always) Peter McWilliams for all the work he puts into our Thursday matches.

And also, to David Talbot, George Crynes and Luke Monckton for the preparation of the green, the operation of the bar as well as kitchen duties.

As always, their assistance is greatly appreciated.

We missed Pauline today who normally keeps our records, but she is recovering from a flu, and we wish her all the best.

Next week we are headed to Lang Lang, so looking forward to big crowds next Thursday.

Please be at the club by 10am for a 10.30am start to the day.

See you on the green.



Winners of the midweek bowls played at Koo Wee Rup were Dennis Talbot (S), Phil Wright (3) and Bob Arnold (L).

GymStar competition results

On Sunday, July 24, the YMCA Phillip Island Gymnastics Club took part in its first GymStar competition since 2019.

Many of the members of our GymStar 4 team have been working towards competition since 2020, only to be left disappointed as the pandemic led to all competitions being cancelled throughout 2020 and 2021.

This highly anticipated first competition brought with it a mixture of nerves and excitement, but the team rose to the occasion showing out-

standing effort and support of their teammates and competitors.

All gymnasts performed beautiful routines with Rori Williams and Willow Zamfirescu placing 5th and 6th on P-Bars and Evie Kimber placing 1st on vault.

On the same day, at the Hightett Youth Club the GymStar Level 3 Neutrons competed in the first ever competition.

Hard work and dedication saw them the team place 1st overall.

An amazing result considering the

team had not experienced a competition environment before.

Individual All Around: 2nd Charlie Jolly and 3rd Ruby Woodrup.

Congratulations to all of the participants on the day.

We are very proud of your commitment and hard work.

Congratulations to the coaches who have supported their teams to be their best on the day.

Next up Level 5 team will be competing in the first comp since 2019 in Footscray.



Gymstar 3 Neutrons team (left to right): Lyla Craddock, Ruby Woodrup, Ayla Williams, Zara Schnerring, Paige Humphreys, and Charlie Jolly.



Gymstar 4 Halos, from front: Sommer Haire, Lacy Rees, Raven Boisvert, Willow Zamfirescu, Mia Bowtell, Amelie Baker-Keys, Stellah Tilley, Evie Kimber, Rori Williams and Mia Tillotson.

Tenpin results

2s Company: 1st on 9pts- The Hounds, 2nd on 8pts King Pins and 3rd on 7pts Jail.

ABL (Almost Bowling Legends): 1st on 50.5pts Just Bowl Already, 2nd on 49pts Pinpals and 3rd on 41.5pts Storm.

Business Early: 1st on 8pts Betty's, 2nd on 7pts Redundants, 3rd

on 6pts Old Timers and 4th on 6pts Turkey Slappers.

Business Late: 1st on 9pts Dynamic Painting, 2nd on 9pts Holy Splits, 3rd on 8.5pts City Lights and 4th on 5pts Coles Cows.

This week's top scorers across each league are:

Men - Steve Egan 243, Steve A Clarke 212 and Scott Lynch 203.

Women - Jacque Kent 191, Shannon Felmingham 180 and Lisa Walker 165.

This week's RSL Euchre results

Ladies winner:

Kym Cooper - 5 wins.

Men's winner:

David Armstrong - 7 wins.

Encouragement Award:

Richard Lyons.

Welcome to our new player.

Cards are back after our winter break.

Great to see everyone, hopefully more next week.

Please contact Bob Hee for any further information 0418 173 388.

Successful day on the field for Island soccer

12A soccer

On a chilly but sunny Sunday morning the Phillip Island Breakers 12A team faced off against Lang Lang united.

The Breakers made their presence known from the opening of the game with a goal to Riley Goodwin within the first minute.

Many new positions were tried by the players and confidence was built.

Goals were spread across the team, Myles Cromie, Jakob Storey and Leo Ubavin contributing to the score, with season firsts to Ruby Turcinovich and Archie Smyth.

Player of the match was awarded to Charlotte Turcinovich for her first-time efforts in defence, her strong boot forward cleared the ball from the back half several times and Myles Cromie for his nonstop presence on the ball.

The Breakers took the game 6:0 at the final whistle.

Under 17s Mixed

With illness and injuries to players last week, the Under 17s had only six players available to play against Inverloch.

Coach Andrew Dean called up Under 14 players Michaela Marr, Jasper Saunders and Lara Smyth from the U17s girls' team.

Inverloch were short players too, so it was an even 9 v 9 game.

From the first whistle the Phillip Island Breakers dominated with their passing, run and carry. Solo Scarlet put a lovely ball across the face of goal to Lara Smyth who finished off by scoring our first goal for the day.

Inverloch also moved the ball around well and had a few shots on target, only to be denied by goalkeeper Cadel Tsioulakis. The backline held strong with Michaela Marr, Jack Middleton, Bailey Leed and Lewis McLaren.

Midfielders Solo Scarlet, Adam Dean and Lara Smyth ran ragged feeding the ball to Jasper Saunders multiple times who unselfishly played the ball to other players in a better position.

Bailey Leed was moved from defence into the forward line, and within 30 seconds he drilled the ball into the back of the net, by the halftime

whistle the Breakers were up 7-0.

Changes were made at the half time break. Jack Middleton went in goals and Cadel, Lewis and Michaela went up front. This move worked well as Lewis McLaren scored two goals, and Cadel Tsioulakis and Michaela Marr added a goal each to the team sheet.

Jasper Saunders who played forward for the first half made a great run from the backline and jagged a nice goal.

Our goalkeeper Jack Middleton decided to go for a goalie run and dribbled the ball all the way up to the 18-yard box only to play the ball straight into the keeper's hands.

On another occasion he had the ball played back to him on the edge of the 18-yard box and then played the ball across the face of our goals.

Two Inverloch players ran onto the ball to score, however Jack sprinted back and put his body on the line and made a great save.

Inverloch's Sarannaphan Hindam scored a nice goal to put a goal on their scoresheet to the Breakers six goals in the second half.

Goal scorers Phillip Island: Solo Scarlet 4, Adam Dean and Lewis McLaren 2, Bailey Leed, Cadel Tsioulakis, Lara Smyth, Michaela Marr and Jasper Saunders 1 goal each.

Best: Solo Scarlet, Bailey Leed, Adam Dean and Jasper Saunders.

Hopefully, next week we will get back to full strength when we host top of the table Drouin Dragons.

Men's Reserves

Coach Calum Golightly was keen to get the win and had the reserves ready for the game, however it was Drouin that scored the first goal within minutes of the start. Their striker was clearly offside, but the goal was allowed.

Drouin put another one past the keeper to go two goals up.

The game was evenly matched with the Island missing several shots on goal. We did manage to put one in the back of the net for the score to be Drouin two to Phillip Island one.

A penalty was awarded to Drouin and Marco Chiampo made a fingertip save diving full stretch to his right. Tommy would have been



U12A Breaker soccer team had a big win against Lang Lang on the weekend.

proud to see this.

Once again the Drouin Dragons scored another goal from being offside, this too was allowed.

Half time scores Drouin three Phillip Island one.

Both teams were to put one goal each on the team sheet in the second half.

The Island Breakers went down to Drouin 4-2.

We meet them again this Sunday for the fixtured round, hoping for a much different result.

Senior Women

The Breakers hosted a nine player Lang Lang on another beautiful day that had a touch of spring about it.

After a Lang Lang injury, the Breakers' Abi and Pauleen volunteered to play for Lang Lang.

This made it a livelier and more fun match for both teams and brought the best out of all 22 players on the field.

The Breakers passed the ball around exceptionally well with the whole team getting involved in some excellent pass and move sequences and working the ball forward into more dangerous positions.

It was great football to watch.

Elladie started the first goal by winning it in defence and passing

the ball forward.

Kiera got to excellent positions in right back and was well composed completing many successful passes.

Upfront, young Grace Howlett's timing of the ball was on fire, burying five goals for the Island.

Pauleen, Lara and Alyssa helped to set up five goals nicely finished by Kelly.

Ailish relished the opportunity to get forward herself scoring two goals.

Lara played a great one-two with Kelly in the forward third, running on to score for herself.

Amanda was reliable as always with her positioning and judgement.

Abi scored three great goals for Lang which had the Lang girls absolutely delighted.

Gloria was fantastic in the outfield (out of goals) beating some players with her dribbling and making some nice passes.

At the end of the day, there was lots of goals to celebrate for both teams and it was a real spirit boosting day for the Lang Lang ladies who haven't won a game all season but continue to try hard and were genuinely stoked with the game at the final whistle.

A great outcome for both teams. Island defeated Lang Lang 13-3.

Goals: Grace 5, Kelly 5, Ailish 2, Lara 1 and for Lang Lang (Abi-3).

Senior Men

It was a fantastic day for soccer, and there was a bit of a crowd around to support both teams on the day.

The Island were moving the ball around well and playing as a team, Phillip Island's Matt Thornborrow was the first to score 13 minutes into the game.

Then exactly 13 minutes after it was Lang Lang's D Clerkin equalizing to balance out the score sheet.

Nathan Cleeland was presenting well up front and at the 37- and 40-minute mark put two more on the Islands team sheet.

The half time whistle was blown, and the Island had a two-goal lead.

The second half continued like the first with the Island having most of the possession. Jarrah Standish was solid in defence, while Callum Chisolm seemed to have the ball on a string running rampant up and down the wing.

Most of the play was in the Island's forward half, with a several corners being taken.

Marco Chiampo was taking the corners and placed them beautifully on Jack Allen's head resulting in another two goals at the 47 and 55-minute mark.

Adam Dean was also presenting well up front and had a few chances to score and at the 70-minute mark was successful in finding the back of the net.

Nathan Cleeland was determined to get a hat-trick and with his fast pace and ball skills he stepped around two defenders and snagged his third.

Final scores Phillip Island 7 to Lang Lang 1.

Goal scorers for Phillip Island were Nathan Cleeland 3, Jack Allen 2, Adam Dean and Matt Thornborrow 1.

This Sunday is going to be huge as we host the Drouin Dragons, we also have the opening of our new change rooms, come on down to Newhaven Recreation Reserve and support your local soccer team, as they march into the finals.

Island surfers at Australian Surf Championships

Congratulations to Harry de Roth who made it to the semi finals of the Open Mens at the Australian Surf Championships in Port Macquarie on the weekend.

The title was won by Reef Heazlewood from Queensland.

The Australian Shortboard Titles continues this week with the Over 35 through to Over 60 divisions ahead of the Longboard and Logger Titles next weekend.

Phillip Island's Arthur McKenzie will represent Victoria in the Kahunas Men Over 45 and Over 50 events and Tate Russell and Niamh Moore are the Under 18 Junior men and women representatives. Niamh is also competing in the Open Women's category.

Grand Masters Women Over 40 category will see Jacqui Chambers and Natalie Van Der Heyden competing.

You can find event information and results at australiansurfchampionships.com/.



Representing Victoria, Phillip Island's Harry de Roth made it into the semi-finals of the Open Mens at the Australian Surf Championships on the weekend. Photo: Katey Shearel. Surfing Victoria.



Superkarts take to the track at the PIARC meeting. Photo: Alia Schonberg.

PIARC 70th celebrations continue

The 70th Anniversary Celebrations for PIARC continued at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit on August 6 and 7, with a closed meeting featuring races for Superkarts, 2 Litre Sports Sedans, Circuit Excels and supported by an additional Round of

the PIARC Supersprint Series.

Keep an eye on www.piarc.com.au for details of upcoming Events and Race Meetings which will celebrate their 70 years of Motorsports activities.

More photos at pisra.com.au

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 10 AUG	THU 11 AUG	FRI 12 AUG	SAT 13 AUG	SUN 14 AUG	MON 15 AUG	TUE 16 AUG
LOW 2:43 am 0.51 m	LOW 3:51 am 0.52 m	LOW 5:09 am 0.52 m	HIGH 12:15 am 2.56 m	HIGH 1:33 am 2.67 m	HIGH 2:43 am 2.78 m	HIGH 3:45 am 2.88 m
HIGH 10:17 am 2.74 m	HIGH 11:30 am 2.79 m	HIGH 12:42 pm 2.87 m	LOW 6:25 am 0.49 m	LOW 7:32 am 0.47 m	LOW 8:32 am 0.49 m	LOW 9:26 am 0.55 m
LOW 3:29 pm 1.46 m	LOW 4:49 pm 1.46 m	LOW 6:12 pm 1.35 m	HIGH 1:46 pm 2.97 m	HIGH 2:44 pm 3.06 m	HIGH 3:34 pm 3.10 m	HIGH 4:18 pm 3.09 m
HIGH 9:30 pm 2.54 m	HIGH 10:50 pm 2.52 m		LOW 7:23 pm 1.16 m	LOW 8:23 pm 0.95 m	LOW 9:15 pm 0.76 m	LOW 10:01 pm 0.61 m

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The Phillip Island Red team were disappointed after their big loss to the Phillip Island Blues; however, they know they have to bounce back and bring it on next week against Inverloch to make it into the grand final!

Finals fever for Junior footy

U14 Blue

On Sunday the Phillip Island Bulldogs U14s Blues, met the Phillip Island Red team at Bass for their qualifying final.

Although it's strange playing mate against mate, it's also a celebration of all the Phillip Island Bulldog 14s on their achievements so far in the season.

The Blues played their solid teamwork footy and were able to book the first spot in the grand final on August 28, winning 99 to 0.1.

Goals to: Xavier Williams (4), Harrison Carlon (3), Heath Bowen (3), Jobe Williams, Riley Herbert, Tommy Newman, Felix Bathgate and Kai Cashman.

Best mentions to the whole team.

Well done boys, on your well-earned spot in the grand final!

We wish Phillip Island Reds all the best as they take on Inverloch next week.



Teammates get around Kai Cashman after his great goal in the U14s final on Sunday.

U14 Red

The Red team versed the Blues in the first finals.

Obviously, it was not a great result for the boys, the team knew it was going to be a tough game for them to win missing some of the big guns in the team.

Nevertheless, the boys gave it their all and the coach was very proud of their effort on the day.

The team is off to Leongatha next week to take on Inverloch in the hope to secure a grand final position against Phillip Island Blue.

Good luck boys!

Best on: Lachie Eastwood, Sam O'Garey, Harry Arceo, Finlay Cameron, Max Jess, Max Nicka and Ethan Rhee.

U12 Blue

Finals fever has taken over the Phillip Island Blue pups with a con-



Phillip Island Blue U12s congratulate number 12 Jem Hennekam on his Goal and celebrate their win against Wonthaggi.

vincing first round finals win today at Bass against the Wonthaggi Power.

One behind was all the Power could score for the entire first half with the Doggies leading 20-1.

Each team kicked a goal in the third quarter, however the Doggie's backline regrouped to form an impenetrable wall and the Power was unable to score even a point for the rest of the game.

Co-captain Caleb Cantwell brought home two goals, with Madison Leed, Jem Hennekam and Gemma Fischer each adding a goal to the scoreboard.

With a final score of 1-3-9 to 5-3-33, the Doggies are confident they are in with a grand final chance if they can take out the Sea Eagles next week in the preliminary finals.

More junior football photos on pisra.com.au.



U14s Blue Ayden Fawaz in control as always in the qualifying finals against the Phillip Island Red team.



Hannah Mills is chaired off by Tess Angarane and Chelsea Connell in her 50th match.

50 games for Hannah

The Breakers hosted their first pride match against Warragul with both sides wearing rainbow socks and the Dalyston Oval adorned with rainbow 50m arcs to mark the occasion.

The Breakers' culture is focussed on being a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone to play footy with the day aiming to highlight and celebrate the diversity within the club and broader community.

The home side came out strongly with two really good scoring opportunities in the first quarter - with one missing narrowly and the other hitting the post.

Up the other end the visitors were forced to work hard for their sole goal which only came late in the quarter.

The second quarter was again an even affair with both teams scoring one major.

In slippery conditions it wasn't the prettiest contest, but the Breakers effort and endeavour couldn't be faulted.

Going into the second half the Breakers seemed to be right in the contest however the visitors found another gear and got on top in the second half.

The Breakers backline battled hard with Ella Cargill taking

some important marks deep in defence.

Stacey Poke and Chelsea Connell once again worked tirelessly across half back and in the middle with Tayla Tattersson playing an important role at both ends with her pressure efforts outstanding.

Despite the loss the Breakers had plenty to celebrate with Hannah Mills playing her 50th match in her typical hard at it style.

To cap off the pride match both teams came together to hear from Change our Game ambassador and Roller Derby world champion Lauren Foote who spoke about the importance of having a welcoming and inclusive space to be yourself and the role sporting clubs can play in this and in changing the narrative around women in sport.

Final score: Warragul 9.6-60 def Breakers 1.4-10.

Goals: K O'Neill.

Best: C Connell, S Poke, K O'Neill, H Mills, L Scharnberg and T Tattersson.

The Breakers will enjoy the week off before finals to regroup before taking on Karingal in the elimination final on Sunday, August 21 at 1pm in Seaford.

More photos at pisra.com.au

Island Bulldogs lead the pack

From page 24

Best Players:

Phillip Island: James McKelvy, Brady Ross, Tully Dickie, Ben Taylor, Jack Papas, Sunny Mattock.

Bunyip: Alexander Dijkstra, Riley Simpson, Timothy Henschel, Cooper Matthes, Billy Jones,

Nate Vandenbroeck.

Under 16s

Scores:

Phillip Island: 3.1.19, 7.2.44, 8.4.52, 11.8.74.

Bunyip: 0.0.0, 0.1.1, 1.4.10, 2.4.16.

Goals:

Phillip Island: Zac Walker 6, Jack Huther 3, Max Taylor, Yiani Caffieri

Bunyip: Declan McFarlane 2.

Best Players:

Phillip Island: Benjamin Chihotski, Eden Goldsbury, Noah Muller, Leo Savona, Sonny Merryfull, Jack Huther.

Bunyip: Declan McFarlane, Oliver Dennis, Brody Turner, Lincoln Morehu, Ethan Marson, Kain O'Dwyer.

THIS WEEKEND DRAWS					LADDERS				
WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION					SENIOR FOOTBALL				
Phillip Island V Korumburra-Bena					RESERVES FOOTBALL				
Saturday August 13					THIRDS FOOTBALL				
SOUTHERN GIPPSLAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION					FOURTHS FOOTBALL				
Junior Football					NETBALL				
Sunday August 14					A-GRADE				
Phillip Island RED v Inverloch-Kongwak					B-GRADE				
YOUTH GIRLS FOOTBALL COMPETITION					C-GRADE				
BYE					17 & Under				
					D-GRADE				



Eli Richards lays a great tackle on Bunyip opponent in the senior's match.

Island Bulldogs lead the pack

The Phillip Island Bulldogs headed to the 'other' WGFNC kennel at Bunyip for a bulldog face-off.

Red, White and Blue everywhere, confusing everybody including the coaches, supporters, support staff and players at different times.

Coaches heading to the wrong bench, team management walking to the wrong rooms, it was all happening!

The weather was surprisingly accommodating, and the Bunyip ground was in remarkably good condition given the overnight rains.

Seniors

Headlining the pre-game preparations were the acknowledgments of 50 senior games for two of the favourite Bulldogs - Billy Taylor and Eli Richards.

Taking different paths to a 50th senior game, it was certainly a proud moment for both players.

Also noteworthy in the pre-game was the shuffle of volunteers in the team management panel with lots of absences due to illness, injury and alternate activities impacting!

The first quarter saw a much tighter contest that may have been expected given the relative ladder positions of the two sides. Jack (Bison) Taylor took charge early in the forward line, and that left forward-turned-defender Levi Robinson heading the backline, including kicking his own early goal!

The Bunyip bulldogs displayed a clear preference for a chip, pass, chip and switch game which had undone the Island boys in previous games, but it was certainly lacking forward penetration this day.

The second quarter saw the Bulldogs break clear of the tight rein from the first. Zac Vernon in particular took matters into his own hands with three outstanding goals for the quarter, ably assisted by Max Blake who was making his presence felt in the forward line.

Orlando (Noosh) Kane-Gillard was having his best game for some time - seems he had his own 'players box' on the forward flank that were cheering on his efforts!

The locals continued their uncontested chip and pass game into the third, recording an astounding 20+ uncontested marks on their way to, well not much!

A third quarter blitz from the Island boys saw seven goals to one and a 13-goal lead at the final break. A spread of goal kickers in the third, and a total of nine different goal kickers illustrated the contributions from all, in what was looming as a dominant overall team effort.

The final quarter saw complete domination from the Island boys, which strangely was not translated into scores on the board.

Stoppages dominated in the last as the Bunyip bulldogs scrapped as much as possible as they clearly began to run out of 'legs' to match their game style from the previous three quarters.

Max Blake continued to dominate the forward line, and Noosh continued his excellent effort with further goals.

Cameron Pedersen coming off for a rest - a rare moment indeed driven by the changed team management panel - was also a notable occurrence in a dominate final quarter. An excellent 96-point win in the finish for the Island Bulldogs, as thoughts turned to the final home-and-away next week against Korumburra before heading in the finals.

Scores:
Phillip Island: 3.5.23, 9.9.63, 16.13.109, 19.20.134.

Bunyip: 1.4.10, 3.5.23, 5.7.37, 5.8.38.

Goals:
Phillip Island: Zak Vernon 3, Orlando Kane-Gillard 3, Max Blake 3, Jesse Patullo 3, Jack Taylor 2, Cameron Brown, Billy Taylor,

Cameron Pedersen, Levi Robinson, Eli Richards.

Bunyip: Tahj Murphy 2, Lachlan Petch, William Papley, Daniel Helmore.

Best Players:
Phillip Island: Jack Taylor, Zak Vernon, Levi Robinson, Brendan Kimber, Cameron Pedersen, Orlando Kane-Gillard.

Bunyip: Jye Keath, Jeb McLeod, Dylan Gallasch, Ryan Quirk, Nathan Allen, Matt Ross.

Reserves

The reserves travelled to face a fired-up Bunyip side who were looking to cement a finals berth.

It was James Nicolaci in the captain's 150th appearance for the Phillip Island Football Netball Club who kicked the Bulldog's first goal. Unfortunately, it would be the last major for the Dogs for some time as they were outclassed and outmuscled by their opponent.

Blake Christopher, Cooper Logan and Arie Cook continued their good 2022 form and Dean Blake and Connor Thompson were providing resistance and sparked the Bulldogs in the third quarter.

The spark wasn't enough however as Bunyip took control in the final quarter.

Sam McRae was the pick of the defenders who battled hard all day under intense pressure which ultimately led to a disappointing afternoon for the Island.

Scores:
Bunyip: 2.3.15, 6.4.40, 7.6.48, 11.6.72.

Phillip Island: 1.0.6, 1.3.9, 4.3.27, 4.4.28.

Goals:
Phillip Island: Jake Black 2, James Nicolaci, Connor Thompson.

Bunyip: Brent Heus 6, Jason Williams 2, Daniel Wright, Paul Carmody, Blake Cann.

Best Players:
Phillip Island: Blake Christo-

pher, Connor Thompson, Samuel McRae, Arie Cook, Dean Blake, Cooper Logan.

Bunyip: Daniel Wright, Brent Heus, Troy Lehman, Jake Buckingham, Alex McMillan, Blake Cann.

Under 18s

With the finals just around the corner, the Bulldogs decided to put the pedal to the metal and show the opposition no mercy, and that's exactly what they did.

In brilliant sunshine, Tully Dickie opened the scoring for the Islanders after some brilliant team football and brought up the first goal.

After that, the Islanders took complete control with well drilled football on every line.

The backline was impassable led by James McKelvy and repelled any semblance of an attack by Bunyip ably assisted by Tom Niven.

Jack Papas controlled the centre with a fine captain's game and together with Brady Ross and Ben Taylor kicked the ball forward at every opportunity.

Going into the long break, the Islanders had a 72-point lead, but the coaches urged the players to "go for the jugular" and drive home their superiority, which they did for the rest of the game.

Next week the Islanders play Korumburra/Bena in the last game before the finals with all players looking forward to repeating this week's dominant performance.

Scores:
Phillip Island: 5.2.32, 12.4.76, 18.8.116, 21.12.138.

Bunyip: 0.4.4, 0.4.4, 1.4.10, 1.5.11.

Goals:
Phillip Island: Tully Dickie 5, Dylan Susic 3, Jack Papas 3, Tyce Kleverkamp 3, Sunny Mattock 2, Blake Olarenshaw 2, Brodie Gude, Brayden Kleverkamp, Ben Taylor.

Bunyip: Ben Osborne.

Continued page 23

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