

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



Residents Ken Hailey and Leon Sweeney (left and centre) belong to a group that has been lobbying for erosion solutions to Cowes east for six years. They are pictured with Bass Coast Shire Councillor Michael Whelan (right) who has taken up their cause.

Erosion victory for Cowes east

Cowes east residents are celebrating after a green light was given to the million-dollar construction of a rock wall and groynes on a section of beach hit hard by erosion.

An engineers' report released last week recommended the works, which will be immediately acted on with \$1.1 million in funds from the Federal Government, promised at the last election.

The long-anticipated report by BMT Commercial Australia is being seen as a victory by residents who have been lobbying for action for six years.

The report recommends rock "armour" and six groynes be built along coastline from Rose Avenue to Coghlan Road, to protect the coastal reserve and dune habitat, an area where residents this year have been

forced to sandbag to stop Western Port flooding their front yards.

The Federal Government will contribute \$1.1 million to the foreshore works, from Monash MP Russell Broadbent's 2018 election pledge of \$1.5 million to fix Bass Coast erosion problems.

Bass Coast Shire will now manage a design project for the erosion works, including detailed drawings and sur-

veys, before going out to tender for construction, with the rock wall and groynes set to be completed by the end of the 2020/21 financial year.

A shire spokesman said the \$1.1 million would not cover the entire costs of the report recommendations, but "a significant portion of it".

"The shire will continue to advocate for further funds to deliver its priorities in response to erosion," the

spokesman said.

He said the remaining \$400,000 from the Federal Government's funding would be directed to fix erosion at Cowes main beach and Inverloch.

The BMT report states failing to act on the erosion problem was not an option, detailing a decades-long history of actions trying to stop erosion in Cowes east.

Continued page 7

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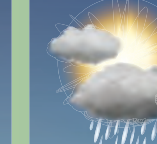

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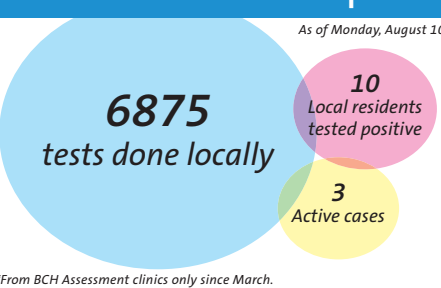
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Showers	Showers	Shower or two	Shower or two	Showers	Shower or two	Showers
9° 15°	10° 16°	10° 15°	9° 14°	8° 14°	8° 12°	8° 13°

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*



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A GoFundMe page to get Paul home

A GoFundMe page has been launched by friends of well-known local bus driver of many years Paul Chipperfield, who suffered serious spinal injuries in an accident at his home back in May. Paul is currently in rehabilitation in Melbourne, isolated from family and friends, after undergoing spinal surgery at the Alfred Hospital to have vertebrae fused together, and screws put in place.

Ten weeks on, Paul is unable to stand on his own, and will have to undergo many more months of rehabilitation to learn to walk again, and to be able to (hopefully) get back to doing what he loves most, which is driving the V Line Bus between Cowes and Melbourne, and the Bass Coast Specialist School Bus from Phillip Island to Wonthaggi.

The cheerful and friendly bus driver was a great friend to his regular passengers, and to the children under his care as he delivered them to and from the Specialist School in Wonthaggi.

He is described by his friends as the bus driver always ready to lend a hand, and who went that extra mile when called upon by anyone.

Paul has suffered in the past, losing his leg some decades ago in a boating accident, at the age of 23.

But he recovered, bouncing back and using a prosthetic limb which has enabled him to function normally since that time.



Paul is unable to have any visitors under the COVID restrictions, but this get well card and beautiful messages from the students and staff at the Bass Coast Specialist School, where he drove students from Cowes to Wonthaggi before his injury, recently gave him lots to smile about.

It was when he removed his prosthetic limb at home that he accidentally fell backwards ten weeks ago, injuring his spine badly.

Paul was rushed to Melbourne by ambulance and underwent a major operation at the Alfred Hospital, before being finally transferred to the Caulfield Rehabilitation Centre.

He is able to sit up, which is a good sign, but feeling in his one leg is yet to return, and his future mobility remains uncertain.

As he will be confined to a wheelchair for the foreseeable future, house modifications will need to be made before he can return home.

This will involve access ramps and doorway modifications to accommodate wheelchair access.

With Paul no longer able to work, and his family reliant on wife Jenny's wage to cover medical, mortgage, fuel and other bills piling up, friends and his stepdaughter have

set up a GoFundMe page, appealing for assistance for him.

Jenny is particularly struggling with not being able to go and see her husband and be there for him during his time of need, as new regulations prevent this.

She drives to Caulfield to deliver clean clothes and toiletries to her husband, but she is not permitted to enter the building to see him, because of the current COVID crisis.

His family miss him terribly, as he does them, and just want Paul to be able to come home to a safe environment where he is loved and can be cared for.

Says Liza Lee, a friend of the family: "Paul's family and his grandkids can't see him in rehab because of the COVID regulations. They need help to make modifications to their home. They miss him and his smiling friendly face terribly. Let's dig deep and help a man who would do anything for us. Let's give him what he has given and band together to help get him home."

The GoFundMe page can be accessed by going to: www.gofundme.com and search for "Small helping hand for Paul".

Donation tins have also been placed at IGA in Cowes, Island Eats (Woolworths complex) Corner Takeaway (on Settlement Road entrance to the Industrial Estate) and Youkis restaurant.

Your questions for candidates

What do you think are the big issues in the upcoming council election? Do you have questions you'd like to ask any potential candidates?

Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association (BCRRA) is looking at ways to help the community connect with candidates given the current lockdown and restrictions on public gatherings.

BCRRA intends to make a page available on their website to each candidate for them to publicise their profile and candidate statements.

In a statement, the association said: "After this election we will have a new Council to represent us for the next four years, and BCRRA wants to know what is important to the Bass Coast community moving forward. So we plan to ask candidates a number of questions, with each candidate's responses included as a part of their profile."

To compile a list of questions, BCRRA is inviting ratepayers and residents to share their thoughts via a short online survey.

"We welcome all your questions, especially those in line with BCRRA's purpose (to raise the standard of accountability, transparency, community engagement, and fiscal discipline at Bass Coast Shire Council)," the association said.

Once a list of questions has been compiled, BCRRA will hold a virtual open meeting on Saturday August 22 between 2 - 3pm to finalise them.

Council Elections are due to take place in October 2020, and candidate enrolment closes on September 22.

A link to the survey can be found at the BCRRA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BASSCRRA/> or website basscrra.org.

Optus to upgrade its race track tower

The Optus Mobile Phone Base Station at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit is to be upgraded.

Optus describes the proposed upgrade as part of a national project it is undertaking, for the replacement of existing equipment.

The proposed work will involve the installation of four radio remote units, a new global positioning system (GPS) new cabling, and removal of outdated equipment.

An Optus spokesperson said on Friday that the work was being undertaken to upgrade the capacity of the tower.

"Optus is upgrading the capacity of its tower at the Phillip Island Racetrack to cater for the number of people attending events so more customers can access our network," the spokesperson said.

"We know that staying connected at events is important to our customers, whether it be for sharing photos from the sideline or reaching family and friends."

"We are committed to providing our customers with the best experience and look forward to the improved connectivity at the racetrack this work will provide," the spokesperson said.

Written submissions are invited by Optus on its proposal and can be made by forwarding them to Level 9 256 Queen Street in Melbourne by 5pm August 19.

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Scott Jackson from Rip Curl Phillip Island said \$8000 worth of stock was stolen from the store last week, when two offenders broke in around 4.45am on Tuesday.

Smash and grab at Rip Curl

Brazen thieves stole \$8000 worth of goods from a surf store in Newhaven last week. Rip Curl Phillip Island was broken into at 4.45am on Tuesday, August 4 when two offenders smashed the front window of the store. Owner Scott Jackson said the thieves were only inside for around five minutes and wore hoodies and masks to hide their faces from the store's surveillance cameras. The pair targeted expensive surf watches in the break-in. "They smashed the watch cabinet and stole the majority of the watches," said Scott, who believes the pair had cased the store earlier and knew exactly what they wanted. "It was a well-organised attack. They took GPS, tide and fashion watches." The thieves also made off with a limited-edition Rip Curl 50th anniversary watch. "There were only 100 - 150 made, so those watches will increase in value," Scott said. Sunglasses near the till and some men's clothing were also grabbed in the lightning raid.

History safe

The store is home to the Islantis Surf Experience, which tells the story of surfing in Australia and on Phillip Island. The surfing museum is filled with memorabilia, including boards and rash vests signed by world champions. Scott said although the surveillance footage showed the thieves approached the museum area, they didn't remove anything. "I would be devastated if they took any of that. Most of it is irreplaceable." Even so, he said the robbery has "made me feel crap". "It's an awful feeling watching them on the tapes going through everything." He said, "it made him sick" to think the pair had visited the store at some point and he'd probably talked to or served them, "and then they rip you off". But he was grateful for the quick response from the security firm and local police.

"Shadow Security called me when the alarm went off, then went to the store and stayed on site until the police arrived. "Once the police were finished, Graham from Bass Glass came and repaired the window straight away." The robbery is another setback for the store, which like other local businesses, is reeling from the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions. While Scott goes through the painstaking task of filing insurance claims and replacing the lost stock, he's hoping the local community will continue to support the store. "Under hard times we are all going through with Stage 3 restrictions, we're still open from 9am - 5pm, seven days a week." The store has hand sanitisers at the entrance and a maximum of 10 people are allowed in at a time. Anyone who has any information about the break-in is asked to contact Bass Coast CIU on (03) 56714190 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.



Members of the Cowes East foreshore group were doing drone mapping of the beach last month, before the COVID restrictions put a temporary stop to the citizen science project. From left to right: Vanessa Church, Irene Christy, Liz Bowen, Richard Spencer, Pat Bowen, Meredith Lynch, Geoff Sammons, Leon Sweeney and Ken Hailey.

Mapping on hold

The citizen science project to map the shoreline at Cowes East has again been put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. Cowes east residents received drone training, as part of a three-year project to calculate the rate of beach erosion on Phillip Island. The group of about 20 citizen scientists have been working with researchers from Melbourne and Deakin universities. Cowes East Foreshore Preventative Action Group (CEFPAG) members have been operating the drones and placing large pads along the beach, to provide targets for the GPS plotting. Since mid-2018, university researchers have been visiting Cowes to take photos from a drone at 100 metres altitude. The photos cover a 2.1km stretch of beach, from Erehwon Point to almost the end of the Silverleaves residential area, at low tide from the dunes to the water line. The research team said the Stage 3 restrictions in Bass Coast, and the Stage 4 restrictions in Melbourne meant it was not safe to continue field work at the moment. Mapping has been suspended for six weeks. It's hoped mapping can resume when the COVID-19 restrictions are updated on September 13.

Racist graffiti removed

Racist graffiti on a bus shelter at Sunset Strip has been quickly removed by staff from Bass Coast Shire Council. Leading Senior Constable Julian Wildenberg from San Remo police said the incident was being investigated and anyone with knowledge of the incident should contact police. He said the graffiti on a bus shelter near Newhaven College was reported at the end of July and removed within three days. Acting Bass Coast Cluster Manager, Senior Sergeant David Fyfe said police took all crime seriously, "including that which is motivated by prejudice, racism or discrimination". "We strongly support every Victorian's right to feel safe and secure in their community. "Under sections 24 and 25 of the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act (2011), it is an offence to threaten or incite hatred towards a person or group based on race or religion," Snr Sergeant Fyfe said.

He said the attack on the bus shelter was criminal damage and that police would use provisions of the Sentencing Act (1991) where any criminal offence motivated by prejudice was detected and prosecuted. "The Sentencing Act (1991) provisions allow for the motivation of the accused person to be an aggravating feature during any sentencing process by the Courts," he said. "It is critical that all Victorians are accepting of cultural diversity and respect the right for individuals to practice their faith, pursuing their values, beliefs and interests. "We ask anyone who witnesses, or is subject to, racism, discrimination or victimisation on the basis of religion, culture or ethnicity, to inform Victoria Police." Anyone with information about the graffiti at the Sunset Strip bus shelter should contact Leading Senior Constable Julian Wildenberg at San Remo Police on 5678 550 or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

More sex offence charges for teacher

Detectives have laid a further 10 sexual offence charges against a 60-year-old man, a former Newhaven College teacher. The man, a college department head, had previously been charged with three offences in relation to alleged sexual offending at the school. The man appeared before a hearing at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court last week, and is now facing a total 13 charges relating to seven alleged victims, spanning five years. He was charged with these further offences by the Morwell Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team. The man will return to the court for a committal mention on October 29. In May a letter from the board chair to parents advised the man's employment with the college had concluded. Earlier this year in relation to the case, the Victorian Government's school regulators - the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority and the Victorian Institute of Teaching - confirmed the college's compliance was being reviewed.

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Asphalt work is due to start next week on the new road at the Back Beach Road roundabout.



This aerial shot taken several weeks ago shows the rate of progress on the Woolamai Beach Road roundabout.

Roundabouts emerging rapidly

Construction of the two new roundabouts on Phillip Island is progressing quickly.

At Cape Woolamai, the intersection at Phillip Island and Woolamai Beach roads is now functioning as a roundabout, with the Department of Transport saying great progress had been made.

"This week, we're working on footpaths and street lighting, followed next week by concreting and landscaping," said Sarah

Rhodes-Ward, Regional Director.

Ms Rhodes-Ward said work was ahead of schedule and was expected to be completed by late 2020, instead of early 2021 as originally planned.

The \$10.486 million upgrade at the intersection includes a new dual-lane roundabout, street lighting and footpaths. The existing bus stops will also be relocated, and pedestrian crossings will be upgraded.

At Back Beach Road, significant progress has also been made on replacing the existing Y intersection with a dual-lane roundabout. The project will cost \$8.75 million and is due to be completed by early 2021.

"Over at Back Beach Road we're constructing the road surface for the northern connection and hope to have this open late next week, so work can then start on the southern connection," Ms Rhodes-Ward explained.

"Next week we will also commence asphalt works on the carriageway that is currently under construction."

She advised there will be partial lane closures at both sites as work continues.

"People travelling for one of the four permitted Stage 3 reasons may experience delays."

To keep track of these projects visit region-alroads.vic.gov.au.



The road surface for the northern side of the new roundabout at Back Beach Road is currently under construction.



The Cape Woolamai intersection is now functioning as a roundabout.

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Council Update



Special Council Meeting

A Special Meeting of Council will be live-streamed at 12.15pm on Wednesday 19 August 2020. Join us on the live-stream link www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings

Items that will be dealt with as part of the Special Council agenda:

- Wonthaggi Cemetery Trust business and San Remo Cemetery Trust business

The agenda will be published on Council's website on Friday, 14 August at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings. There is an opportunity in the Special Council meeting for public questions. If you would like to ask a question please submit your questions in writing no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Ordinary Council Meeting

Council's next meeting will be live-streamed at 1.00pm on Wednesday 19 August 2020. Join us on the live stream link www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings

The proposed items Council may consider:

- Adoption of 2020/2021 Annual Budget
- Planning Application 190137 - 31 Silverleaves Avenue, Silverleaves
- Planning Application 190293 - 58 Bruce Road, Silverleaves
- Holden Proving Ground
- Economic Development Strategy 2016 - 2021 Annual Snapshot 2019/20
- Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035, Growing Tourism Annual Snapshot 2019/20
- Acquisition of Land at 20 Agar Rd, Bass
- Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030
- Draft Public Transparency Policy
- Draft Governance Rules and Revised Election Period Policy
- Local Law - Use of the Common Seal and Council Meeting Offences
- Audit and Risk Committee and Charter
- Review of Instrument of Delegation - Council to Chief Executive Officer
- Review of Instrument of Delegation - Council to Staff
- Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Award of Tender No. 20009 - Annual Supply of Bituminous Surfacing of Roads
- Award of Tender No. 20011 - Annual Supply of Quarry and Road Making Materials

The agenda will be published on Council's website on Friday, 14 August at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings. There is an opportunity in the Council meeting for public questions. If you would like to ask a question please submit your questions in writing no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Tender No 20012 - Dalyston Netball Courts Redevelopment

Council invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the redevelopment of the two existing asphalt netball courts to two compliant netball courts. The new eastern court will be a multi-purpose netball/tennis court. The existing multi-purpose court will be re-developed to include hot-shots tennis, netball warm-up area and a half basketball court.

The works include the implementation of new competition standard LED sports lights for the netball, new fencing, drainage and concrete path works. Shelters will be provided on each side of the netball courts.

The tender period opens 9.00am on Wednesday, 12 August 2020 and closes at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 2 September 2020.

Tender documents can be downloaded free of charge from <https://basscoast.etenderbox.com.au>

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Whale collision risk increased with bay “gas factory”

Southern right whales would be under threat from AGL's proposed gas project in Western Port, according to the Phillip Island Conservation Society.

PICS members have been wading through AGL's 10,000-page Environment Effects Statement (EES), with submissions due August 26, concluding the company has failed to properly address the potential for whale strike in Western Port.

“We believe the AGL response to the threat to whales is not nearly adequate and southern right whales that only exist in the southern hemisphere are particularly under threat,” said PICS president Jeff Nottle.

“AGL appear to have not even considered the Conservation Management Plan for the southern right whales.”

Mr Nottle said the whale species were protected both federally and internationally and the management plan highlighted they were particularly at risk from vessel collisions in the southern hemisphere.

He added they were also a growing part of Phillip Island's tourist economy.

“When whales are under threat it not only adversely impacts the ecosystems it also impacts our eco-tourism,” Mr Nottle said.

“PICS believes this is another illustration that we will be bearing the costs of the proposed AGL gas factory in Western Port right from the outset.”

Impacts

Mr Nottle acknowledged that whale collisions with boats were relatively low now due to the species' relatively low populations, “but as the population recovers this becomes an increasing problem”.

He said even when collision didn't occur, increased shipping would lead to “chronic disturbance” as whales – which measure about 17.5 metres with a weight of around 80 tonnes – try to avoid vessels.



Southern right whales off Phillip Island credit: Lisa Shonberg. “When whales are under threat it not only adversely impacts the ecosystems it also impacts our eco-tourism.”

“With massive gas tankers travelling through the narrow shipping channel in Western Port to the proposed AGL gas factory at Crib Point ... the whales are left with no alternative than to simply get out of the way.”

“The ship is on a course and is not able to respond even in the unlikely event that a whale is spotted from the ship.”

AGL's EES states that nearly 90 per cent of whale injury or death occur when a vessel is travelling at 14 knots or more.

In Western Port the current speed restrictions from the fairway buoy to

Sandy Point is 16 knots reducing to 13 knots from Sandy Point to buoy 31 north of Crib Point.

“As a result the gas ships are likely to be travelling at the most dangerous speed for the southern rights,” Mr Nottle concluded.

He urged AGL to develop mitigation measures to protect southern right whales in Western Port as part of the AGL EES process.

“As an absolute minimum the Port of Hastings harbor master needs to develop specific mitigation requirements that should include a contingency plan for Western Port in whale season, including the need to have

marine mammal observers as these massive ships approach Western Port.

“These requirement need to be in port policies, handbooks and harbourmaster directions.”

What's planned?

The EES is open until August 26 for the project that will see the FSRU moored at Crib Point jetty.

The FSRU will regasify liquid natural gas by using a heat exchange system, taking in millions of litres of seawater per day, discharging it colder or warmer than the ambient temperature and containing residual chlorine.

AGL's plans would see liquified natural gas transported on up to 40 LNG super tankers – about 300 metres long and 49 metres wide – per year from interstate and overseas.

The FSRU would be approximately 300 metres long by 50 metres wide with capacity to store 170,000 cubic metres (m³) of LNG.

AGL's EES states “a few whales visit Western Port during their seasonal migrations”.

“These same whales are at risk of whale strike from thousands of ships and recreational vessels in Bass Strait waters and tens of thousands of vessels in Australian waters generally.”

“The increase in likelihood of strike of whales resulting from the addition of up to 40 LNG carriers to the existing and future shipping traffic in these areas is not significant.”

The EES states Western Port is not recognised as a meeting point or breeding area for humpbacks, southern rights or killer whales, and most visits to Western Port Bay are “usually the result of general wandering from the main migration paths”.

It says the Port of Hastings currently has about 150 vessel movements per year.

“Large vessels, such as the proposed LNG Carriers, are the vessel type with the lowest recorded number of whale strikes, even less than vessels used for tourist whale watching.”

“LNG carriers and other bulk carriers are responsible about 20 per cent of whale strikes.”

“The proposed up to 40 LNG carriers per year would have a combined 1 in 2,500 risk of a whale strike.”

Submissions will be reviewed by an Inquiry and Advisory Committee, formed by the Victorian Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

The IAC will review the public submissions, then hold a directions hearing on September 17, which will lead to a public hearing on October 12, to run for up to eight weeks.

STAY HOME

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Coastal defence history

Coastal protection works started at the western end of Cowes in 1947, with construction of groynes from Erewhon Point to Dunsmore Road.

The new coastal engineers' report, released by BMT Commercial Australia last week (see separate story), puts the history of erosion on Cowes' beaches under the microscope.

The report states the shoreline east of Erewhon Point has a history of cyclical erosion, lasting "several years or decades".

"Overall, the trend has been towards erosion," it concludes.

However, the report states the area is also "very low-lying" and "vulnerable to increasing coastal hazard due to sea level rise".

"Rising saline groundwater may also cause impacts around this time. Climate change may also impact on wind, wave and sediment transport patterns," it concludes.

"As such all land within approximately 100m of the beach was mapped as at risk of erosion by 2100."

The report details the community's ongoing battle to defend the foreshore from erosion.

Most recently, in 2015, three new groynes were built at Dunsmore Road, costing \$150,000.

Three years later four new groynes were built between Dunsmore Road and Rose Avenue, costing \$187,000.

The report examined five previous studies dating back to 1987 – as well as drone photos taken this year – examining erosion on the beach, which all recommended a combination of beach nourishment, groynes and seawalls for erosion protection, including one that recommended offshore breakwaters be built.

Residents Donald Dixon, Laurie Dixon, Steve O'Callaghan and John Reid, built the original protective rock barriers on the Cowes foreshore in the 1950s, and later in the 1970s they were involved in its extension.

The men in past years spoke to the Advertiser about the construction.



As young men around the 1950s, Donald Dixon (centre) and Steve O'Callaghan (right) built the boulder rampart that runs from Lover's Walk to Silverleaves. Twenty years on, in the 1970s Laurie Dixon (left) built the boulder rampart that extends from the end of Coghlan Road to Ellen Road. This photo was taken in 2018, with residents lobbying for the rockwall to be extended.

"The wall we built saved this place. This foreshore would be gone now without it," Steve said.

"It was a simple and cost-effective solution to what was a grave problem. The foreshore was disappearing at a fast rate, back in the 50s. That is why the decision was made to save it. Problems were recognised and solved back then. That's the way the community operated."

The wall along Lover's Walk and Stradbroke Avenue took just under three months to complete, using two tip trucks and rock blasted from

Cowrie beach.

Steve was also involved in the construction of the more formal sea wall that was built along the Cowes front beach back in 1954, again to prevent the damage and erosion that was occurring.

The rock used in the Cowes front beach seawall came from Pentridge goal.

Had the community of the day not recognised the problem that was occurring, and taken urgent preventative action, the famous Cowes beach front may look very different today.

Erosion "anguish" eased

Six "long" years of lobbying has paid off, say members of the Cowes east resident group that has battled for action to stop coastal erosion.

Cowes East Foreshore Preventative Action Group (CEFPAG) chair Ken Hailey last week welcomed the engineers' report recommending a rock wall and groynes, and the subsequent allocation of \$1.1 million in Federal funds to complete the works (see separate story).

"After six long years of perseverance, we can finally announce a major breakthrough in our quest to achieve some significant repairs to the Cowes east beaches," said Ken, whose group was formed in 2014 in response to increasing erosion.

"This detailed coastal engineer's report has confirmed what our group has been advocating for: completing the missing 300 metres of tumbled rock and installing the necessary groynes to retain the beach sand."

CEFPAG secretary Leon Sweeney agreed.

"The report certainly backs up what we have been trying to achieve from all levels of government to protect this most valuable Victorian asset for our local community and the many thousands of tourists who come to the island," Leon said.

Ken thanked Federal MP Russell Broadbent, Bass Coast Shire and Cr Michael Whelan who "recognised the anguish that affected residents have been suffering".

"If the funding for this project is inadequate, we will be calling on the state government to fund any shortfall so that the project can be finalised once and for all," Ken said, adding final costings would not be known until tenders were concluded.

Cr Whelan described the report as a "landmark for east Cowes".

"We should put a priority on the rock wall. This will give some peace of mind to the locals who



CEFPAG chair Ken Hailey said the situation this year had "become so dire that residents were sand-bagging their properties for fear of inundation".

live there and whose anxiety is raised every time the northerlies get up," Cr Whelan said.

"Sea level rise and coastal erosion has been a mounting and severe problem here at Cowes and across Bass Coast. I have made it a focus during this term of council, and I am delighted we are now at the point of being able to get the gap in the rock wall at East Cowes filled in."

Future

Leon said CEFPAG would now "not rest on its laurels" with this project not solving all erosion problems.

"We will continue to press for the protection of the rest of the Silverleaves foreshore through to the area under Nature Parks' control," Leon said.

He said the group would also continue their citizen scientists' drone mapping of the 2km of foreshore from Erewhon Point to Silverleaves on behalf of Deakin and Melbourne Universities.

"There are also a number of existing derelict and dangerous timber groynes that need replacing and the existing rockwall needs further management, so there is still plenty of important work to be done and CEFPAG will not be winding up."

Bass Coast Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote



You must be enrolled to vote

A general election will be held for Bass Coast Shire Council in October 2020. To be able to vote in the election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**. Two categories of voters can be enrolled to vote in the Bass Coast Shire Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

State-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are automatically enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- you live in Bass Coast Shire **AND**
- you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- you live in Bass Coast Shire and you are not on the State electoral roll **OR**
- you have lived at your current residential address within Bass Coast Shire for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au

You can also download an enrolment form from the website.

All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

How can I check my State enrolment?

You can check your enrolment details online at vec.vic.gov.au at any time, or call 1300 805 478.

Council-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

To be a Council-enrolled voter, you must be:

- 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- not a State-enrolled voter within Bass Coast Shire.

You are automatically enrolled for this election if you were enrolled as a non-resident owner at the most recent election for your local area. This includes any by-elections held since the last general election.

If your circumstances have changed since the most recent election and you are no longer a non-resident owner of that property, you will not be automatically enrolled for this election. Depending on your circumstances, you may still be eligible to apply to be enrolled as a Council-enrolled voter.

Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you have purchased a rateable property in Bass Coast Shire since the last election or by-election and you are not automatically enrolled **OR**
- you are not an Australian citizen and you live in, and pay rates for, a property within Bass Coast Shire **OR**
- you pay rates on a property you occupy in Bass Coast Shire, for example you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the Council for the tenancy, and you have no other voting entitlement within Bass Coast Shire **OR**
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates to Bass Coast Shire Council and you have no other voting entitlement within Bass Coast Shire.

How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?

If you meet any of the mentioned criteria and wish to enrol, contact Bass Coast Shire Council on 1300 226 278 for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by the Council by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details by contacting the Council on 1300 226 278.

Thinking about standing for election?

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate for Bass Coast Shire Council, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Bass Coast Shire Council **AND**
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected **AND**
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment closes 4 pm Friday 28 August

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

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For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

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Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic



Erosion victory for Cowes east

From page 1

"With no intervention at all the full width of the public coastal reserve would be at significant risk from erosion at least until the current erosion cycle reverses, which may be several years or decades," the report says.

"Over time sea level rise will increase the risk. This outcome is considered unacceptable."

The report stated the current timber groynes and seawall would need to be removed, with new groynes installed measuring 30 metres and spaced about 64 metres, which is longer and more closely spaced than those built closer to Cowes in 2018.

The rock wall and new groynes were "the most expensive option to construct, but it also has the longest life".

"Of the other options with neutral to positive scores for erosion protection, each has a serious flaw," the report noted.

Mr Broadbent said he was pleased to see the shire had allocated \$1.1 million of the \$1.5 million to preventing further erosion at Cowes east.

"I know the local community in Cowes and Phillip Island have been particularly passionate in seeing this project get underway and it is terrific to see it progress with the plans now being drawn up by engineers," Mr Broadbent said.

"The installation of the rock wall and groynes will not only help protect the beach from strong tides and erosion but importantly will maintain habitat for coastal birds.

"Protecting our natural resources and environment is vital to ensuring that future generations are able to continue enjoying our beaches and our important habitat for wildlife stays protected.

"It is important that we continue working in partnership with all levels of government in protecting one of our nation's most beautiful coastlines."

Scraping

With resident concern growing with each storm event, Bass Coast Shire has been forced to increase sand scraping, taking sand from the

lower part of the beach and moving it to the upper part to repair storm damage or provide a buffer against erosion, a method that has been used since 1976.

"Overall, the beach scraping program has been successful at limiting erosion to a zone of about 5 metres width behind the timber seawall. Without this intervention the erosion could have progressed much further," the report states.

"However the foreshore is still vulnerable to further erosion from extreme events. It is also high maintenance and it is concerning that the frequency of scraping seems to be increasing."

The report states scraping should not be confused with beach nourishment, which is more effective when the grain size of the nourishment sand is equal or greater than the grain size of the native material on the beach.

"If the source sand is finer the nourishment material is lost very quickly."

It explains sand from Anderson

Road boat ramp has been tested for particle size and was significantly coarser than the sand at Cowes East, "making it an appropriate source for nourishment material".

"However, construction would have a negative social impact due to about 1000 truck movements through the centre of Cowes required to cart the sand from Anderson Road boat ramp to the site."

The report did not recommend a wet sand fence – an experimental erosion control measure of low, slatted fences – which has been trialled at Inverloch.

Groynes

The report states many existing groynes along Cowes beach were "well past the end of their life" and have "deteriorated to the point where they are no longer effective and even pose a safety hazard to the public".

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has constructed seven new timber groynes along Cowes since 2015, which give an indication of how groynes would

perform in the Cowes east, concluding the new groynes were more effective than old ones at maintaining sand volume on the beach.

"The beach formed by the new groynes provides only limited protection to the foreshore during minor erosion events. During major erosion events (occurring once or twice per year) the beach is eroded and no protection is provided."

For this reason, the engineers recommend building longer groynes than those previously built.

Unfortunately the report states the construction of these groynes closer to Cowes, in previous years, may have impacted Cowes east.

"It is likely that construction of new groynes to the west in 2015 and 2018 have captured some of the along-shore transport and further reduced supply to the study area (Cowes east)."

The report then examines whether the construction of new groynes in Cowes east would have a domino effect further east, concluding this would not be the case.



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Lockdown's impact on the bay

While pandemic lockdown is not fun for humans, is it good or bad for the marine environment, especially the bay?

It's a question being posed by Western Port Biosphere project officer Stephen Brend.

Stephen said the clampdown on boating and fishing – from the first and second round of restrictions – would have reduced levels of water and noise pollution.

"There would also have been a corresponding reduction in disturbance to shorebirds and sensitive coastal and intertidal habitats, like mud flats," Stephen said.

"However, these gains must be considered more of a reprieve than a permanent change. What is not known is whether fish stocks may have increased during the lockdown and, if yes, whether this is likely to lead to increased catches in the longer-term."

Stephen said not all impacts had been positive, with reports of increased abalone poaching during the lockdown.

However Victorian Fisheries Authority regional manager Chris Angwin told the Advertiser



According to the Victorian Fisheries Authority, there is a permanent closed season on the take of abalone from waters, except for nominated open days each year: Every Saturday and Sunday between November 16 and April 30. Every declared public holiday in Victoria between those dates and December 25 through to the second Sunday in January. (Photo courtesy of ABC News: Chris Taylor)

tiser officers had not seen "any great increase" in abalone poaching in the first or second lockdown around Western Port or Phillip Island.

"Our officers continue to patrol waters, especially during the (current) fishing ban in Melbourne, checking to see where anglers reside and whether they are allowed to fish," Chris said.

"But we've not seen too many people out on the water. We're finding they are following the rules."

Victorian Fisheries Authority director of fisheries management Dallas D'Silva said fish stocks in Western Port – especially calamari and King George whiting – were healthy even before lockdown.

Dallas said whiting populations in seagrasses were monitored, providing data three years in advance on the health of the species.

Biosphere Reserves are recognised by the United Nations, with Western Port including the Ramsar wetlands and endangered international migratory bird species.

Report suspicious fishing activity to 13 FISH (13 3474).



Bob after a Hooded Plover and Gull Count with Phillip Island Nature Parks staff and volunteers.

Vale Robert Baird

By Dr. Peter Dann and Sally O'Neill
– with information from Christine Grayden.

Phillip Island Nature Parks along with the island's community are remembering the legacy of Robert (Bob) Baird who passed away, aged 92, on July 25, 2020.

A significant figure for conservation on Phillip Island over three decades, Bob was a founding Phillip Island Nature Parks Board member and served multiple terms from the Nature Parks' establishment in 1996 until 2003.

During this time, he was involved in projects including the design and construction of the new Churchill Island visitor centre and being instrumental in securing sustainable water use for Churchill Island.

Bob was a nature lover, especially birds, and was instrumental in advocating for Hooded Plover conservation. He led the charge for protecting and understanding this threatened species and formed the Hooded Plover Watch program in the early 1990s together with Dr Peter Dann and Alan Crouch. The program continues today ensuring the ongoing survival of these special birds.

Bob calculated that he walked 12,000km on Phillip Island and South Gippsland beaches monitoring Hooded Plovers!

He also published two papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals from this work.

He was also very passionate about the protection and understanding of the migratory shorebirds that visit Phillip Island and the Rhyll Inlet each year and kept a watchful eye over them from his house on the cliff above the Inlet.

He shared his love of the environment through his stunning artworks created in his home studio. He and wife Pat contributed to the Nature Parks and Phillip Island community through volunteering and ongoing involvement on committees including being an active member of Phillip Island Conservation Society.

Bob's early life was one of poverty on a soldier settlement in Victoria's Mallee until he was nine years old when his family moved into the Ovens Valley where they prospered. He worked hard to achieve an education and went on to be a "water engineer" and built water purification plants in Indonesia, Oceania and rural Australia. Notably he engineered the Melbourne Arts Centre famous 'Water Wall' which has delighted generations of visitors.

He and Pat had a long association with Phillip Island, retiring to Rhyll in 1989 where he took up his many roles to contribute to the Island's community and environment.

Bob was highly respected and could always be relied on to give valuable advice and to offer his time. His large contribution to the conservation of Phillip Island's environment and wildlife and his stunning artworks remain his legacy.



A more recent photo of Bob and one of his many artworks featuring Phillip Island's landscape.

150 words or less for Coastal Connections

The article "A creative writing invitation" published in last week's Advertiser (August 5), detailing the new Creative Connections project, didn't include the project word limit. Articles about peoples' favourite place in Bass Coast must be 150 words or less. Submissions should be sent to Laura Brearley by August 21, at laura.brearley@tlc21.com.au.



Australian Government

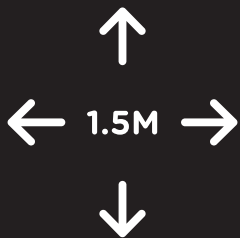
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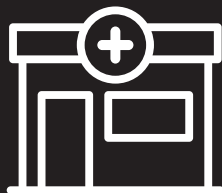
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Happiness rocks!

As Bass Coast heads into a second round of Stage 3 lockdown, Karen Brodie is helping spread some happiness.

Her Facebook page Bass Coast Happy Rocks attracted 100 members in the first 12 hours.

The Happy Rocks community paints small rocks, sometimes including inspirational quotes and puts them outside for others to find and enjoy.

"This year has been tough for us all and our kids have missed out on adventures and a lot of the magic of childhood too," Karen wrote in the first post on the newly created Facebook page.

Karen said the inspiration for the group came when she and her young son found a hand-painted rock while walking along the

Esplanade in Inverloch.

The rock had an inspirational quote on one side, and "love from Harry at Jurassic Park" on the back.

"It was such a lovely find, with amazing timing," Karen said.

"That positive message brought us so much joy, and I wanted to say thank you to whoever left it there."

Arriving home, she searched without success for a local Happy Rocks group, so decided to start her own.

"This whole virus has divided people, so I wanted to focus on kindness and find a way to come together," she explained.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive. I've had really lovely feedback and

messages that people are excited to do it.

"Art and creativity is essential to people in general, and helps people with their mental health and well-being," Karen said.

"Making something and putting care and thought into it, makes you happy. Then there's happiness for the people who find it. It's full circle happiness."

Karen, who also runs the Moose in the Moon baby clothing store, said she hoped locals would take up the challenge, paint rocks and leave them for others to discover.

"Someone commented that they had seen these up around the lake at Ringwood, and it had grown to be a kind of treasure hunt for the local children.

"We're asking people to post a photo of their



Karen Brodie founded the Bass Coast Happy Rocks group after she and her young son found this rock on a walk along the Esplanade in Inverloch.

rock, and give a few clues about where it's been placed, so people can go and find it."

Karen kick-started the adventure, placing the rock she found in Inverloch somewhere near the pier in San Remo.

Big response

The Happy Rocks enjoyed a big first weekend, with members painting and leaving rocks across the island.

"The efforts that so many members and their children have gone to is just so heart-warming, not to mention the fun that's been had," said Karen.

"One member Susan a resident of Cowes was a very well accomplished Clinical Nurse Consultant who suffered an accident that left her with a head injury. Subsequently, she lost her identity. Then, she turned to art and the rocks gave her purpose again," Karen said.

"She amazingly painted hundreds of rocks, using intricate dot art techniques, with so much care and love – and left them in thoughtful places around our community for several years now."

The Happy Rocks page has helped connect Susan to those who have enjoyed her artwork over the years.

"One lady realised that she had in fact found two of Susan's rocks and said she'd given one of the rocks to her best friend, who was dying with cancer.

"Other members were so thrilled to learn that they had one of Susan's rocks too, some that had been cherished for years!"

Anyone keen to be part of the creating, hiding and finding can join the Bass Coast Happy Rocks group on Facebook.

In six easy steps you can be part of Bass Coast's Happy Rock community.

1. Find a smooth rock
2. Paint it however you like and maybe even add a happy, positive or uplifting word, quote, poem or message.
3. Seal it with sealant to make sure the paint doesn't run.
4. Invite friends and like-minded community members to join this group.
5. Post a pic of your rock/s and say where and when you'll place them and or where you found them!
6. Have fun! Be creative! Spread happiness and kindness!



This rock was left in Cape Woolamai with the clue: "Neighbourhood kids call me 'Mindy'. It would be DESPICABLE of ME not to give any more clues!"



Australian Government

We're extending financial support

The Australian Government is extending JobKeeper until 28 March 2021 and the temporary Coronavirus Supplement for those on income support until 31 December 2020, after which income support will continue.

For JobKeeper and the temporary Coronavirus Supplement there will be some changes to payments and eligibility to support businesses and households who need it most.

For information on how these changes affect you, visit [Australia.gov.au](https://australia.gov.au)



28 Mar 2021

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Payment

31 Dec 2020

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Income support continues

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Ollie Parsons' family was on hand to celebrate his Grey Wolf award.



Bec, Ned, Sam, Tom and Steve Scott, at Sam's Grey Wolf award presentation.



Harry Bentley proudly displays his award, with parents Allyson and Max

Three new Grey Wolf Cubs for island Scouts

Last Wednesday Phillip Island Scout Group celebrated the hard work and dedication of three Cubs in achieving their Grey Wolf Award, the peak award for scouts aged 7-11 years.

Harry Bentley, Ollie Parsons and Sam Scott received the award.

Like all peak awards in Scouting, it takes two to three years to achieve and requires first setting the goal to get the award, then consistent effort and commitment from each Cub.

The youngsters were guided by Cub Leader Mang, and planned fun and interesting things to do each term, learning lots of useful life skills along the way.

The tasks included working in small teams to look after each other, basic first aid, and achievement badges in their personal passions, including sports, science, cooking, active outdoor interests, health and safety, and many more.

"We make friends and memories that last a lifetime," said Robyn Mylius, Phillip Island Leader in Charge.

Even though Coronavirus has made it challenging to carry on Scouting, Robyn said Scouts Victoria has given the Phillip Island club many resources to use so they can continue Scouting at Home.

"There's also been more flexibility on achieving badges that require several people, like hikes and camps to prepare for big events like Cuboree X next April at Gilwell Park in Gembrook.

"We're fortunate to have a number of families in our Group who can do bike hikes together, and you can always camp in your own backyard to learn camp skills.

"Scouting is fun, interesting and challenging, and we're still doing it, just not face-to-face again.

"We will adapt, overcome and thrive, making new friends as we go."



Cub Scouts Harry Bentley, Ollie Parsons and Sam Scott with Cub Leader Mang and District Cub Leader Maree Pascoe.

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Our Beautiful Neighbourhood

How lucky we are to live with this stunning scenery all around us. Our collection of reader submissions continues to grow, and it's our pleasure to share some of them with you. Enjoy!



Red Rocks – Dineke Ketelaar



Berrys Beach – Sally Kirsch



Silverleaves – Emily Mailes



San Remo – Michelle Diggins

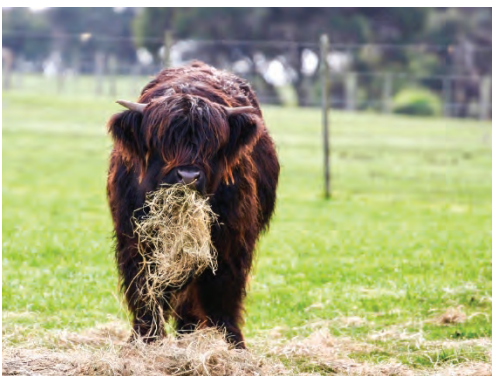


Summerlands – Shirley Ferguson





Cape Woolamai – Renee Clapson



Churchill Island – Jeff Clarke



Kilcunda – Tania Cincotta



Gary Parnell



Rhyll – Margi Newell



Grantville – Anna Carson



George Bass Coastal Walk – Julie Self

Lives and livelihoods: pandemic's impact

Concerns about the economic impact of the pandemic to local businesses, and the effectiveness of the Lang Lang vehicle checkpoint, were among the questions posed in a live online chat with Bass Coast Shire and Bass Coast Health last week.

About 100 questions were put to shire CEO Ali Wastie and Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child via Facebook, underscoring concerns and confusion about COVID-19 and its spread in the community.

Judi Robinson commented her daughter "was disgusted when she came through the check point at Lang Lang" last week.

"She was in line and they waved her through with about 30 other cars without checking anyone, why are they allowing this?" Judi asked.

Ms Wastie said she would raise the issue with Victoria Police.

Merlyn Cantwell reiterated the concern, highlighting workers travelling here from Melbourne, to which Ms Child responded that government restrictions "ensure safety for people who are travelling".

"It's not about people travelling, it's about them being screened and taking all precautions. It's about everyone doing the right thing," Ms Child said.

Louise Cropley asked why the island wasn't being closed "to all but residents, food delivery and essential services".

"Protecting a community of 11,000+ would be much easier if it were to close," Louise said.

"Is it under consideration?" Ms Child responded any closure would stop essential services, "so closing the bridge isn't the answer".

"Everyone on the island and those visiting the island doing the right thing is the answer," Ms Child said.

"There are already active cases on the island. Physical distance, wear a mask and wash your hands and stay home if you can."

Other respondents asked why official data on active Coronavirus cases were appearing by shire, rather than town, or postcode.

"People should stop focusing on local government data," Ms Child said.

"The number of active cases isn't important, we should all assume that every person, including ourselves, could be active."

There were several questions about whether holiday home owners could visit their second home, with Ms Wastie responding only for essential maintenance, "however you aren't able to stay".

Economic hit

Robert Langford asked Ms Wastie to explain "why at the start of the biggest contraction in the economy in 100 years the council are increasing rates", adding increased shire staff salaries in the draft 2020/21 budget and deflation were exacerbating the pain.

Ms Wastie responded the draft budget would be considered at the August council meeting.

On the Advertiser's Facebook page Robert asked why Bass Coast was shutdown with few cases despite the "sheer economic and generational damage".

"This treatment of rural Victoria

is not proportional to the risk and the cost is going to be horrendous," he said.

Robert was critical of the Advertiser for not doing more to support businesses and ratepayers, to which one respondent suggested he should "be driving any campaign and calling on support", with the local papers' role to give voice to community concerns.

Others responded it was impractical for different lockdown rules to be applied to different areas.

"We are all Victorians and all need to do what's necessary to fight this bloody disease," said Jay Long.

Bruce Adkins responded Bass Coast was in stage three shutdown "like everyone else to minimise contact with others".

"Have a good look around and there are plenty of escapees from stage four areas that get through on a loophole," Bruce said.

"This way we are still at risk but just less of a risk."

"If it gets away in regional Victoria as it has done in the metro area we will

face stage four and greater lockdown."

Lorraine Ingbritsen added "we may not like it, but this is it".

"The sooner we all buckle down and do the right thing, the sooner we are back to normal," Lorraine said.

One respondent asked Ms Wastie why community members on the shire's COVID-19 grants committee were also recipients of grants.

Ms Wastie said correct procedures and protocols were followed.

"In a small community like Bass Coast, it's inevitable that the community and business leaders with the expertise to help this program could be involved," Ms Wastie said.

"The likelihood of this was known when putting the program together and their involvement was removed when any conflict of interest was declared."

Anyone experiencing financial hardship or payment concerns should contact the shire's revenue team - 1300 226 278; answers to pandemic questions can be found at the DHHS website or the Coronavirus hotline (1800 675 398).



Green kitchen caddy liners are currently not available from council, but the green organics bin can be lined with paper or newspaper.

Stage 3 – changes to waste services

Following the State Government's announcement of Stage 3 restrictions for Bass Coast, the council has made some changes to waste services.

Council said the changes would ensure the ongoing safety of its employees and the community.

Waste facilities will remain open. But in accordance with state government directions, that everyone should avoid travel unless for essential purposes, visits to waste facilities should be for one of the following reasons:

- Businesses and commercial waste disposal; or
- Waste disposal for Bass Coast residents who do not receive a kerbside collection service.

Proof of residence must now be provided when attending any of Bass Coast's waste facilities – this can be a driver's licence, rates notice, utility bill or similar.

Council advised that hard waste

collections are still available and bookings can be made by calling Wonthaggi Recyclers on (03) 5672 1933. The standard service fee is \$65 or \$36 for pension and Health Care Card holders.

The green kitchen caddy liners are currently not available from Council, although they can be purchased at some supermarket and hardware outlets. For anyone who has run out of the bin liners, Council has recommended putting food waste straight into the green organics bin. Alternatively, the kitchen caddy can be lined with newspaper or other paper.

However, a Council spokesperson said anyone who has an urgent need for the green liners should contact Wonthaggi Recyclers on 5672 1933 and they will arrange to have some delivered to you.

Council apologised for any inconvenience for residents but said the changes were needed to protect the community.

Support for VCE students

The government has announced more support for VCE students and further mental health resources for young people struggling with the pandemic.

Every Victorian student will be individually assessed, and any adverse impacts of coronavirus will be reflected in ATAR rankings as part of a wide-ranging process to ensure fair and accurate results in this unprecedented year of school – taking a huge mental load off students and their families as they head towards exams.

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) will introduce a wide-ranging "Consideration of Educational Disadvantage" process to calculate VCE scores, taking into account disruptions to learning caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

These reforms will reach every Year 12 VCE student in the state, ensuring the experiences of the class of 2020 are factored into their results.

Phil Hughes, Assistant Principal at Wonthaggi Secondary College (WSC) welcomed the announcement.

"WSC has been closely following developments at both a ministerial level and at the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Board in regard to the impact of COVID19 and Flexible and Remote Learning to the VCE, especially at Year 12.

"Students and parents are understandably concerned about how the extraordinary circumstances of 2020 will affect results – both Study Scores and the ATAR," Mr Hughes said.

"A strength of the VCE is its provision for the consideration of student disadvantage based on individual circumstances. We are pleased to hear the announcement that this process has been adjusted to ensure any adverse impacts from COVID-19 circumstances are reflected in student ATAR rankings.

"We are confident that VCAA processes will ensure the required "level playing field" across the state and that students can continue their studies remotely and complete their examinations with confidence that they will be rewarded for their hard work throughout the year."

Mr Hughes said WSC will continue to work closely with students and families to "maximise continuity of teaching and learning during the flexible and remote learning period".

VCE consideration

The VCAA will consider a range of data alongside exam results, including a student's expected achievement levels before the impact of coronavirus, school assessments completed prior to remote and flexible learning, the General Achievement Test (GAT)

and a range of statistical analyses to calculate final results.

This may include assessing the individual impact of coronavirus on each student, including school closures, direct impacts on the health of a student, students dealing with substantial extra family responsibilities, ongoing issues with remote learning and mental health challenges.

This will then be used to calculate a student's final VCE results and ATAR rank.

This is in addition to the steps already taken by the VCAA, such as reducing course content for Unit 4, rescheduling the General Achievement Test (GAT) and extending Term 4 for VCE students with exams to be held later in the year. The ATARs received by Victorian students will be equivalent to those received by students in other states.

To help students struggling with their mental health, the Government will also provide \$28.5 million to ensure students can receive more support. More than 1,500 school staff will undergo additional mental health training in partnership with headspace, to help identify at-risk students as remote learning continues.

All specialist schools with secondary aged students will also receive funding to recruit a school-based mental health practitioner, who will build provide wrap-around support to students and families.

Mask-up to keep COVID down.

President of the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA), Dr John Hall, said wearing a mask was still a great way of keeping rural areas protected from the spread of COVID-19.

"Wearing a mask or face covering provides an extra layer of COVID safety on top of social distancing and hand washing," Dr Hall said.

"Most rural communities are still relatively COVID free and we want to keep them that way."

"We know that masks do help minimise the spread of the virus, and that it is helpful when you can't socially distance," Dr Hall said.

"There are many, many situations in the community when you just can't be sure about who you are coming in close



Dr John Hall, president of the Rural Doctors Association says masks are a great way to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

contact with.

"You may know these people really well or have known them for years, but right now, what you don't know is if they may have been exposed to COVID and are not showing symptoms."

Dr Hall said social distancing trumps mask wearing every time, so limiting travel and exposure to others was the best defence against the virus.

"Washing or sanitising your hands thoroughly while out and about, and then again once you are home, is still one of the most critical things you can do to stay safe."

"And, as always, if you are showing even the mildest of cold or flu symptoms, you should get a COVID test immediately and self-isolate until the result comes back."

COVID-19 at Kirrak House

One week after Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child declared there were no cases of COVID-19 in any Bass Coast aged care facility, a staff member at Kirrak House in Wonthaggi has tested positive.

Bass Coast Health's Kirrak House received notification last Wednesday that an agency staff member recruited on a long-term contract returned a positive COVID-19 test result, three days after their most recent shift.

This is the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Bass Coast Health (BCH), who said they responded swiftly to reduce the risk of transmission to residents and staff.

In line with the requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and BCH Outbreak plan, Bass Coast Health immediately notified DHHS, and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

Bass Coast Health notified all residents, relatives and staff and put into place the measures outlined in its Outbreak plan.

This includes testing of all residents and staff, complete lockdown of the facility, and furloughing of the two staff who had direct contact with the agency nurse.

BCH has since reported that all staff and residents at Kirrak House

received negative results.

"We are extremely relieved to receive this first round of results", said Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child.

"We know this is not over, and we know we have to continue to respond diligently to keep COVID-19 at bay from the staff and residents of Kirrak House. We are however extremely relieved that all our residents and staff have tested negative so far, and we are pleased that aside from the usual issues, all our residents and staff are doing very well."

Ms Child said BCH would continue to test residents and staff over the next week to take into account the incubation period of the virus, which can mean that the virus may not present in a person until approximately 4-10 days from exposure.

"We are being guided by the Commonwealth and State Health Departments and we have been very appreciative for their guidance and support over the past days," Ms Child said.

Difficult days

"We understand that news of this outbreak will be extremely distressing for everybody involved including residents, relatives and

families," said Ms Child.

"I also know the staff at Kirrak who have worked tirelessly for the past months protecting their residents, are devastated this exposure has occurred.

"Bass Coast Health wants to reassure everyone that every resource available will be deployed to safeguard the residents and staff; We will openly communicate with our residents, relatives and staff at every point to ensure everyone understands the actions we are taking to combat this outbreak, and we will do all that is possible to keep our residents safe."

The facility is likely to be locked down until at least the end of August.

"More than ever, we need to be extremely vigilant to protect our residents from the spread of this virus," Ms Child said.

"We are limiting all contact where possible; we have deployed some of our most experienced staff to the facility to provide support to our excellent Kirrak team; we are making make sure everyone is wearing their masks, gowns, gloves, visors or goggles all the time; and we are being very vigilant with cleaning the facility frequently.

"I am extremely grateful to the

residents and families for their support and understanding over the past few days. I am also extremely proud of the Kirrak staff who have been working above and beyond to do whatever they can to keep their residents safe. It is a very scary time for everyone."

Infection control

Ms Child stated that the agency staff member who tested positive worked night duty on July 27 and 28 and August 1 and 2. The night duty rostering meant the staff member was only in brief contact with residents, and only had significant exposure to two other Kirrak staff.

"We know that the staff member wore PPE during all interactions with the residents; we know that at the time of entering our facility, the agency staff member was asymptomatic, with appropriate temperature tests; and we know that the daily screening of our residents that has occurred since that time, has shown that all residents have been asymptomatic," Ms Child said.

"The Kirrak staff have been highly vigilant in getting tested as soon as they have any symptoms and three staff have been tested in the last week, prior to BCH be-

ing aware of this positive agency nurse, and all three staff have tested negative."

Bass Coast Health will be supported and monitored by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Health, and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, and said it will make sure that any residents, relatives and staff who are diagnosed with COVID-19 or who become unwell for any reason, will be well supported on an individual basis to ensure all their needs are met.

Ms Child said this is a stark reminder that the COVID-19 pandemic is here, and it is real.

"We ask everyone across Bass Coast to continue to do all they can to safeguard vulnerable communities such as Kirrak; this includes physical distancing, masks, hand hygiene, staying at home if unwell, and proactive testing when unwell."

"We are very hopeful that our cautious approach and proactive response will guide us well and we ask everyone to please be respectful of the privacy of our Kirrak community whilst we work together to get through this outbreak."

BCH also runs the Griffith Point Lodge aged care facility in San Remo.



Playgrounds, skate parks, outdoor gyms, public barbeques and some toilet blocks have been closed due to the Stage 3 restrictions.

Public facilities close again

In line with the state government's reintroduction of Stage 3 restrictions, Bass Coast Shire Council has temporarily closed some of its public facilities.

Council said the closures are necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Council's cleaning crews will continue to clean high-touch surfaces and street furniture in townships and the cleaning schedule on high-use toilet blocks will increase. A number of the lesser used toilet blocks will be closed for the duration of the restrictions.

All playgrounds and skate parks are now closed. Council acknowledged this might present difficulties for families with young children.

Council's CEO, Ali Wastie said that closing community facilities is a difficult but necessary step under the restrictions set out by the state government.

"While I empathise with the difficulties people may face with a second round of Stage 3 restrictions, it's critical that we work together as a community and take all necessary measures to contain the spread of this virus. That is the only way we

will get through this," Ms Wastie said. "I encourage people who are struggling to reach out to organisations that offer a range of support services during these trying times."

"The closures will remain in place until further notice and we will continue to monitor the situation and make other changes as necessary. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for updates," Ms Wastie advised.

Recreation reserves will remain open and can be used for exercise and recreation providing it is possible to maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres at all times.

Public barbecues and outdoor gyms are also closed, while West Gippsland Libraries has closed their branches and mobile libraries across Bass Coast during Stage 3 restrictions.

Council's Customer Service and Visitor Information Centres remain closed, but assistance is still available via phone, email and online channels.

A full list of the changes to Council's services and facility closures, as well as support services can be found at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/covid19.

Mental health support for Victorians in need

Victoria's mental health system will receive nearly \$60 million in an additional boost to get more Victorians support when they need it.

The government said the \$59.7 million in new funding will strengthen the surge capacity of clinical and community mental health services across Victoria to cope with additional presentations and reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments – ensuring Victorians can get the care they need, even as demand for services spikes.

This funding will also fast-track delivery of more new public acute mental health beds recommended by the Royal Commission into Victoria's mental health system, boost community mental health services and accelerate the state-wide roll out of Hospital Outreach Post-Suicidal Engagement (HOPE) program.

Opening hours in mental health community clinics will be extended to enable face-to-face sessions and assessments to be conducted in accordance with physical distancing requirements.

More mental health staff will be embedded within Ambulance Victo-



ria to support paramedics and ensure the right advice and information is provided to frequent callers, including developing care plans as needed.

Additional mental health and wellbeing support is being provided for police and paramedics. There will also be additional mental health counselling and support for nurses, midwives and personal care workers.

If you are feeling anxious or uncertain or if you or someone you know needs help, call Lifeline Australia (13 11 14), Beyond Blue (1800 512 348), or Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800).

Here we go again

As we settle into Stage 3 restrictions, the Advertiser is inviting our readers to share their experiences of the second lockdown.

Share your stories, your inspirations, your frustrations, hopes and fears.

Or perhaps you know someone who is quietly working to help others, who deserves a shout out.

Since March, we've featured the work of many talented local photographers who have generously shared their images to help brighten everyone's day.

We've also featured stories of local residents, from scrambling to return home before the borders closed, to a quarantine diary as well as unique projects to connect the community.

If you have an image, artwork or a story from this lockdown experience, please share it and help keep the community together, even though we are apart.

Photographers can join the PISRA Photo Contributors Facebook page. Other contributions can be emailed to: advertiser@pisra.com.au.

Free kinder for families through coronavirus

All kinder in Victoria will be free for Term 3, and children will be supported to learn from home.

Last week, Minister for Education James Merlino announced an extension to the free sessional kinder support and a further \$1.6 million in grants to help deliver early childhood education to children learning at home.

The government said early childhood care and education services

in regional and rural Victoria can continue to operate as normal under Stage 3 restrictions, with appropriate safety measures in place.

Funding will increase for sessional kinder services across regional and rural Victoria, meaning parents across the state will be able to send their children to kindergarten for free during Term 3.

Sessional kinders in regional and rural areas can also now access sup-

port for unfunded three-year-old kindergarten programs.

The Government will also provide any funded kindergarten service directed to close due to a confirmed COVID-19 case with extra funding to undertake an infectious clean before re-opening. This is in addition to cleaning grants worth between \$900 and \$1,500 that have been offered to all services delivering a funded kinder program.

As the 75th commemoration of the end of World War 2 is marked across Australia this week, the Advertiser presents war time recollections of Phillip Islanders, who lived through those years. These accounts were published in our pages 25 years ago, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Second World War. As few are still about to tell such stories today, we have reproduced them this week, to mark the 75th year milestone, and as a tribute to the tenacity and resilience of the island's small coastal community, and to the way its members responded to the unknown, when war was declared back in 1939.

The stories were gathered at an Australian Remembers event organised by the local Historical Society in August 1995, and give an insight into many facets of life here in war time.

The light on Cape Woolamai goes out! The story of the Moonby

The late Harry Cleeland's most vivid memory of the dark days of World War 2 was the night ... on December 11, 1940 ... when a telegram arrived at his father's Woolamai household from the Ports and Harbours department.

Speaking to the Advertiser in 1995, during the Australia Remembers 50th anniversary commemoration of the end of World War 2, Harry gave the following account of the part he played that night, following a significant war time event.

Although he was unaware of this event and its importance until some 40 years on.

Harry was in bed asleep on the night in question when he was woken by his father and told the family had been asked to extinguish the light out on the Cape Woolamai headland at once.

Harry's immediate reaction was to reply that he would do so in the morning.

But wartime telegrams were never ignored, and there was an urgency about this one, at that late hour.

While no explanation was given, Harry's father knew that it had to be obeyed immediately.

Although it was December, the weather was appalling.

Gale winds, rain and a pitch-black night made the mission which Harry had been asked to embark upon, a hazardous one.

He caught a horse and rode along the bay beach ... that part was not too bad, as the white sands showed him the way ... until he came to the foot of Cape Woolamai.

On horseback, he launched forward into the black tussocks, making the perilous ascent with no visibility at all, towards the flashing light.

He made the top and tried hard not to think of the 400-foot drop and the crashing waves immediately beneath him, as he extinguished the light.

The return journey back down to the beach was accomplished, with Harry half expecting to meet a contingent of enemy soldiers coming toward him on his way home.

But the family heard nothing more, accepted that many things were kept quiet in wartime, and life went on.

First shots of war

A few days later, however, as he was riding along the ocean beach at Woolamai, he came across a huge plank bearing the nameplate of a ship: "The City of Rayville".

He immediately associated the find with the extinguishing of the light; and realised that a ship had gone down somewhere.

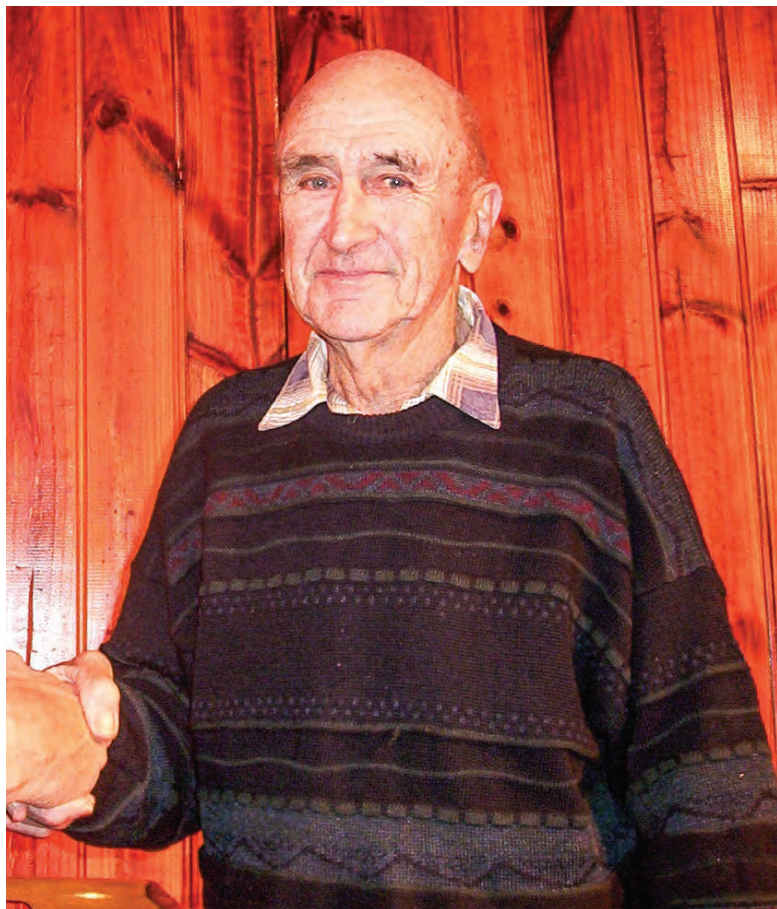
But again, he heard nothing more. He made a mental note to bring the draught horses down to the beach to retrieve the plank the next day ... but before he was able to do this, it had washed out to sea again.

The unusual sequence of events had always remained in his mind, and so it was with great interest that he read an article that appeared in the Age newspaper in about 1985.

It told the story of a ship that had been sunk off the Victorian coast at Apollo Bay in 1941, after hitting a German mine.

The ship was the MV City of Rayville, and it was the first American vessel to be sunk in World War 2.

The mine had been sown by the



In December 1940, a young Harry Cleeland was sent out on horseback in the middle of the night by his father, from his Woolamai House home, to ride to the top of Cape Woolamai. Battling gale force winds, driving rain, and blackness, his hazardous mission was to urgently extinguish the Cape Woolamai shipping light.

German raider "The Penguin".

The article related the story of how the German raider had stolen into Australian waters after completing a mission in the Indian Ocean, and mined the eastern and western approaches to Bass Strait.

A British ship, the SS Cambridge, had met the same fate as the Rayville on the previous night, off Wilsons Promontory.

Pearl Harbour was still a year away, and the conflict in Europe had seemed far distant from our shores.

So these incidents were in fact the first war "action" in Australia itself, and had certainly alarmed authorities.

Local fishermen at Apollo Bay, who heard the blast, went out in their vessels in terrible conditions and saved the entire crew of the City of Rayville, with the exception of the ship's engineer, who was lost in the incident.

The Age article recounted that Bass Strait was closed to shipping for five days while mine sweepers cleared the approaches, and a black-out was enforced on coastal towns and shipping.

And so almost 40 years later, the mystery of the happenings of those few days back in 1940 that he had never forgotten, was finally explained for Harry.

It was to be another two years, on May 23, 1943, before Harry was instructed to rekindle the light on the cliff-top.

By then, the fear of invasion had passed.

Harry was 26 years old when war was first declared and had reported with his brother for an army medical at San Remo at that time.

He was rejected, but his brother Jack was accepted, and left for war soon after.

Farm life went on

Harry was left to run the family farm by himself ... a huge job with a manpower shortage and 2000 acres to be looked after.

The property was scattered. He covered it on horseback.

One of Harry's sisters, Pat Bryant, helped him in the dairy and the woolshed.

Harry's mother on two occasions went to Melbourne in an effort to secure help, and returned with 15-year-old farm hands, but they did not stay long because they preferred city life.

While it was difficult to find labour, food rationing in place during the war years did not affect farming life.

There were plenty of geese, turkeys and laying hens, and mutton birds and eggs in season; wild ducks were plentiful, as were fish that Harry netted in a seine in front of Woolamai House.

Even crayfish were plentiful.

Harry's father had a crayfish vessel that regularly returned from King Island with 90 dozen crayfish bound for the Melbourne market.

Butter was churned at home, and the farm had a huge orchard of apricots, pears, plums, lemons, almonds and chestnuts planted on settlement by his grandfather.

The family killed their own sheep and pigs, grew vegetables, shot rabbits, and the baker kept up his daily deliveries throughout the duration of the war.

A gift from the sea, in the form of several drums of lubricating oil washed ashore on Woolamai beach, which was also a great find.

Harry recalls that he and Peter Forrest collected three 44-gallon drums of "beautiful lubricating oil" not long after the Rayville incident.

"I used it in my Fordson tractor for years," he recalled.

"Mr Charlie Grummisch, the policeman, came around and asked a few questions. He had heard a few stories about oil being washed ashore.

"We didn't answer truthfully and hung onto it.

"There may have been more washed up in other places as well for all I know.

"I was quite sure that the drums had come from a ship that had sunk."

Petrol rationing did affect the family and meant that movement was fairly restricted.

Harry put a second tank on the Crossley car the family owned at the time and used kerosene to power it.

Building and fencing materials were also hard to get.

Sad times

Harry remembers one young lad who worked on the farm prior to the outbreak of war.

He was only 16, but like so many others, said he was older and enlisted immediately.

He was killed in the Middle East just a few months later.

He wrote just one letter back to the Cleelands before his death.

A list of casualties was published daily in the newspapers, and the family were deeply saddened to find his name among them one day.

Bill Cummings, a wood man on the Island, was another friend who did not come back from the war.

Harry's brother Jack was in New Guinea, and the fortunes of war were followed closely every day by the family.

Jack had a terrible time, and eventually returned to Australia with malaria six months before war's end in 1945.

He only ever spoke once of his experiences to Harry, who described them as horrific.

Harry's clear memory of the war years is working very hard, all the time. But being a member of a large family helped, he said.

The construction of the new swing bridge in 1940 had assisted him enormously.

"It changed our lives," recalls Harry. "Cattle could be brought across night and day. Prior to the bridge being erected, taking cattle across the eastern passage on the punt was a dangerous job.

"The bridge was mined by the volunteer services ready to be blown up if the Japanese invaded," Harry also recalls.

News of the war's end for Harry came over the radio, at 8am, when he came in from milking.

"We were elated. But what I remember more vividly is the announcement in 1939 by Winston Churchill, that England, and therefore Australia, was at war with Germany, when it started."

Harry attended the victory ball that was held in Cowes, and which all the family attended.

Harry Cleeland died in 2012.

Harry Harris, a Ventnor schoolboy during World War 2, remembered seeing a huge explosion out to sea off the coastline from Kitty Miller Bay, and says that at the time, he assumed that a ship had been torpedoed.

But information was severely restricted in the war years, and no official account has ever been forthcoming.

But former Phillip Island RSL president the late Hughie Grigg was able to solve the mystery, some 50 years later, with the following account he related at the RSL in Cowes in the 1990s.

Hughie knew the owner of a boat called "The Moonby."

He said a Mr Stokes had built and outfitted the boat prior to the outbreak of war, and he intended to use it as a gambling vessel, but outside the heads of Port Phillip Bay (because gambling at the time was illegal in Victoria).

But war intervened and the boat was requisitioned or commandeered by the Australian authorities.

It was commissioned for service in the islands to the north of Australia.

The Moonby was en route there, when those on board failed to acknowledge a radio signal.

The RAAF had orders to bomb it, and did so when its position was found to be somewhere between Phillip Island and Inverloch.

The big bang and flash out to sea off Kitty Miller Bay seen by Phillip Island residents was indeed a ship being torpedoed, and according to Hughie's account, was almost certainly the Moonby.



Eileen Maiden (nee McFee), a Rhyll schoolgirl at the outbreak of war, and now a resident at Melaleuca Lodge, joined the WAAF in 1944 at the age of 18. Eileen left Rhyll for Penrith where she trained for a period, before being sent to Bairnsdale, where she remained until the war's end.

Ventnor shelled in World War 2

The late Harry Harris was a Ventnor schoolboy in 1939, when war was declared.

Life in Ventnor became quite dangerous at times, Harry recalled in an interview with the Advertiser back in 1995.

"Living on Phillip Island did have its drawbacks, and it was not always the enemy that was the problem," he recalled.

That's because the navy across the bay held regular gun practice; and anti-aircraft shells, set to go off at a certain height, occasionally landed in Ventnor, including on his parents' farm.

"Every now and then there would be a great explosion at some point on the property as a shell went off," he remembered.

One neighbour, repairing a gateway one day, went home briefly for a cup of tea.

When he returned, the gate had been blown up by one of the shells.

That brief absence from the job saved his life.

The shelling got so bad that the Ventnor school was closed for a few days until the powers that be managed to convince the Cerberus gunners to change their direction during gun practice.

A trench was built at the Ventnor Primary School in which its 16/17 young students were to shelter in the event of an air attack.

The school's proximity to Cerberus, considered to be a prime enemy air target, meant that all precautions had to be taken.

The teacher of the day Mr Healey held regular trench drills. Three sharp blows on his whistle saw the students assemble at the flagpole, check everyone was present, and hasten into the trench, smallest to biggest in orderly fashion.

Harry Harris also clearly remembered seeing a big bang and flash out to sea off Kitty Miller Bay one day.

He felt that he had seen a ship being torpedoed.

But he did not find out what happened, as there was a general blackout on that type of news during the war.

The Killara was shelled

He also remembered the day the navy accidentally shelled the ferry, the Killara.

Fortunately, their aim was not particularly good.

Harry remembered that it was a great shock to him when war was declared and an even greater shock in 1942 when Japan came into war.

As a schoolboy, Harry and his classmates at Ventnor Primary School set up a Red Cross Unit and sent parcels to former Ventnor boys who had gone off to the war.

He remembered news of the death of one of these, Nip West, as a very sad time.

The students planted a tree in the school grounds to his memory.

At 15, Harry was farming. Labour was short, and he milked cows, grew chicory, which was used in coffee, popular with Americans, and grew vegetables which were dehydrated and sent off to the service men.

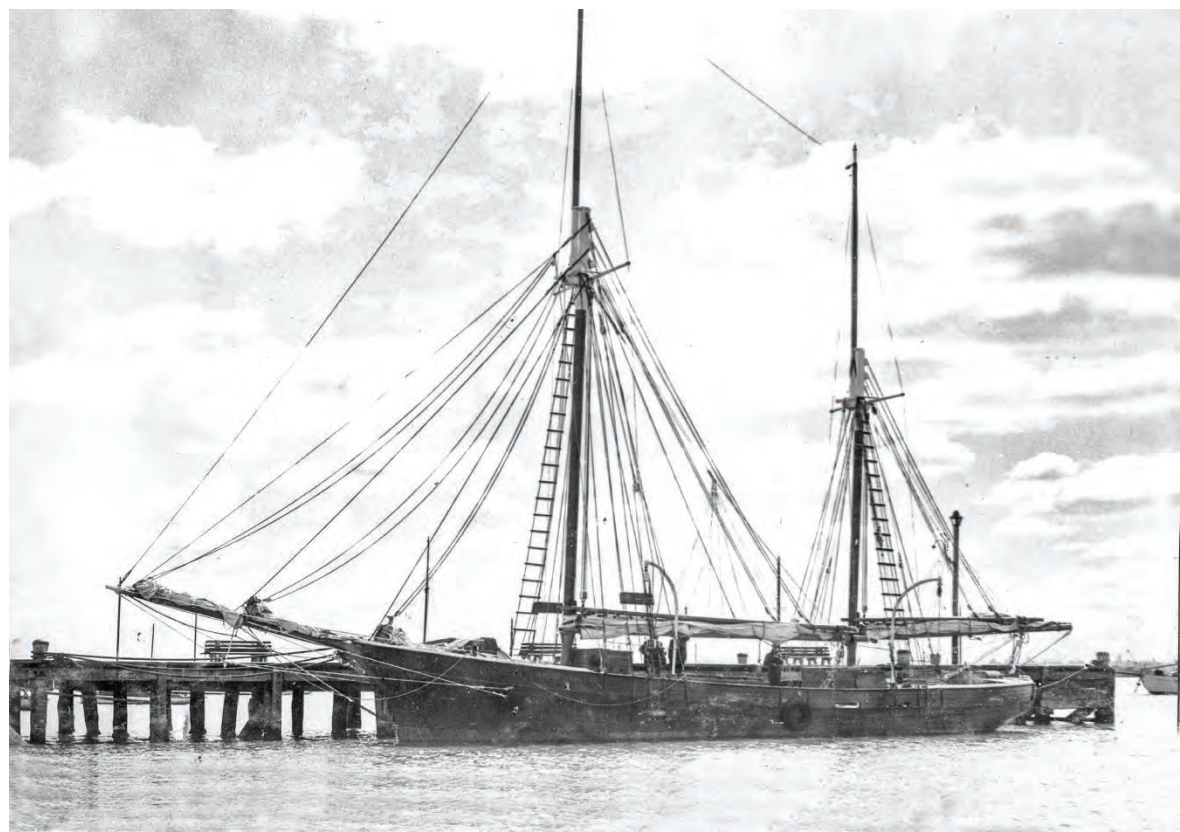
He said the residents of Ventnor were ever conscious of the fact that Phillip Island was at the entrance to Westernport, and that the Cerberus naval base was in close proximity.

"There was always the theory that if the Japanese attacked, the bridge would be blown up."

He recalls the patrol work of the local Volunteer Defence Corps and the nightly sea vigil they undertook, with everyone on the alert for the signs of invasion.

And he remembers the men from an RAAF unit based on the Island briefly, joining the boys on a rabbit hunt.

Harry rejoiced with the rest of Ventnor when peace was finally declared.



The Australian and United States authorities were after all the small boats they could get during the Second World War, for use in New Guinea, and the "Hilda Norling" one of a fleet owned by Rhyll crayfisherman, John Norling, was one of the unlucky ones to be requisitioned. The fully-rigged commercial ketch, the last to be built in Australia, was John Norling's pride and joy and built to his own specifications just 12 months earlier. She was commandeered by the US army and sailed to New Guinea ... and although the ketch survived the war, it was blown up immediately after with a cargo of petrol aboard.

Island vessels commandeered

Ted Walton, a young boy living at Rhyll during the war years worked on the ferries that plied Westernport during that time.

He remembered, in a 1995 interview with the Advertiser, that the US and Australian authorities were after all the small boats they could get ... and that as a 13-year-old he was a member of the crew that took "The Hollydene" owned by Mr Kenon to Cerberus for the authorities to inspect for this purpose.

The Hollydene was a 44-foot passenger boat, licensed to hold 71, but which often took 100 ... which was put into service each year when the larger ferries had to go into dock at Williamstown annually.

The US navy fancied her but Mr Kenon certainly did not want to see her go, and the only thing that saved her in the end recalled Ted, was the fact that she was involved in the mail run.

The "Hilda Norling" one of a fleet owned by Rhyll crayfisherman, John Norling, was not so lucky.

The fully-rigged commercial ketch, the last to be built in Australia, was his pride and joy and built to his own specifications just 12 months earlier.

She was commandeered by the US army and sailed to New Guinea ... and although the ketch survived the war, it was blown up immediately after with a cargo of petrol aboard.

"The US were after small boats for use in the islands as supply and troop carriers, as they were easier to manoeuvre into shallow waters," recalls Ted.

"The owners didn't have a say in the matter because it was war time."

Ted believed John Norling actually worked for the navy for a time, taking boats up to New Guinea.

Some hairy crossings, dodging shells

Ted also worked as a fireman on board The Reliance, the ferry which served in local waters between 1943 and 1945, after the Killara was decommissioned in 1942; and also on The Hollydene.

The Reliance was 100 years old and carried 300 passengers.

Ted remembers some hairy crossings on board the old ferry as the gunners at Cerberus did not stop practice as the vessel made its daily approach.

"Shells would be whizzing 15 to 20

foot above the water across the bow on our approach, and then across the stern as we progressed," he remembers.

The crew remained unperturbed by this regular occurrence, but the passengers were not so sure.

There was one heavy gun at the base which, when used, broke windows in the area, he recalls.

Ted also remembered that every beacon lining the entrance into the naval base had been shot to bits.

He was never quite sure whether this was intentional or otherwise.

The entrance channel to the base was intricate and full of S bends, he recalls.

The design was such that it would have been impossible for enemy vessels to penetrate the area.

Ted only saw one supply ship ever enter the approach, and is amazed that it navigated the causeway.

One memorable passenger he brought across to Cowes in the war years was the Duke of Kent.

The red carpet was rolled out at Stony Point and the Duke dined at the Erewhon guest house before visiting the penguin parade.

Ted Walton died in 2003.

A number of army units were stationed on Phillip Island at Ventnor and Rhyll, and at San Remo, for various intervals during the Second World War years, while training exercises and manoeuvres were carried out. The local girls were delighted by their presence, according to a couple of local lasses who remember, because they used to come to the Cowes Friday night dances. It seems that the chaps took time out at one stage while on the island, to introduce the native wildlife to the weaponry of war, as this photo shows.



The Island's Volunteer Defence Force

- A platoon of 50 men

By Raymond Grayden

Raymond Grayden, who lived at Ventnor, served in a Volunteer Defence Force which was established on Phillip Island in 1939, and was in operation for the duration of the Second World War. A platoon of 54 men, including many island farmers, enlisted. The platoon manned a 24-hour watch on the island's Bass Strait coastline, operating in six hour shifts mainly from the Nobbies Kiosk, and were on the lookout for any signs of invasion, that it was feared may come. Raymond recorded his recollections of those war years, and they are republished here.

There is one area of memories of more recent history which is very meaningful to those residents who were living here on this island during the War Time years of 1939-1945. My brother Phillip Grayden, joined the Navy and I continued on the farm with my father milking the 60 dairy cows.

Phillip was posted to service on the Armed Merchant Cruiser Kanimbla,

which operated in the Persian Gulf for several months escorting goods for Russia.

We farmers who were left on this island enlisted in the newly formed Volunteer Defence Corps to be trained in part time service.

A whole platoon of 54 men was enlisted and it operated in conjunction with a number of platoons in South Gippsland; Leongatha being the Bat-

alion Headquarters.

Phillip Island was No.4 Platoon and had four senior officers and four junior officers.

Our first assignment was a 24-hour watch on the island's Bass Strait coastline, operating in six hour shifts mainly from the Nobbies Kiosk.

We had our first experience of daylight saving and we learned what it was like to walk about in

daylight at 9.30 pm.

Waiting to take turn on watch was rather dull, and the owner of Erewhon Guest House at Cowes, Cr W Dawson Davie - appealed to the guests there to assist in purchasing a battery powered radio for the men on duty at the Nobbies.

The officers were first fitted with dark green uniforms, then the time came when the whole Platoon was issued with conventional khaki uniforms, including boots, hat, rifle and bayonet - even a tin hat. We were trained in the use of rifles (with and without bayonets).

Also in several type of machine, mortars, in patrolling day and night, and also in the use of high explosives. We were shown how to cut a railway's line by placing four pounds of gelignite on the rail and exploding it.

Qualified Army Instructors put

the men through strenuous physical training and also methods of unarmed combat.

There was murmuring in the Platoon that men of the ranks should have more say in the planning of the day and night outdoor manoeuvres.

Private John B Cleeland suggested that 60 sets of brains would be more effective than six sets. Sergeant Harry Justice said: "Yes, I agree. Even if they are only sheep's brains!"

We were shown how to throw hand grenades (very dangerous things). When the officer in charge said "If you pull the pin and don't throw the grenade, don't fail to replace the pin before you put it in the bag with the 23 other grenades," Sergeant Vic Justice remarked: "Yes, The noise would deafen you!"

Cowes also had a 24-hour aircraft watching station manned by civilian volunteers.

Locals manned air lookout 24 hours a day

A volunteer Air Observers' Corps station was established in Cowes during the Second World War. From 1942 it was manned 24 hours a day, by local volunteers, in two-hour shifts.

The volunteers were issued with binoculars, and taught to recognise the silhouettes of Australian, German and Japanese aircrafts.

Women and older boys manned the station during the day, and men at night. Their duty was to record and report by telephone to Melbourne headquarters all air movements over Phillip Island.

Kevin Findlay, a child of 12 when Japan entered the war, was one of the volunteers, and recalled its operation in an inter-

view with the Advertiser in 1995.

The station was set up on top of the original shire hall initially, but was later transferred to the site where the Phillip Island Bakery now stands, as this was the highest point in Cowes.

There were only four telephone lines between Cowes and Melbourne in those days, and the Air Observers' Corps volunteer calls were always given top priority.

"Airflash" was the password used, and the calls immediately went through to the secret location of Melbourne Headquarters, to be relayed to Air Defence Headquarters at the Preston Town Hall.

The whole of Victoria was covered in a similar way.

Posters of the various planes adorned the station walls, and the men and women of the Corps became experts at identifying these.

Their job was not only to monitor but identify the many aircraft that flew over Phillip Island.

Because of the location of the Island between Sale RAAF base and Cerberus, across the bay, air traffic was heavy.

The Air Force regularly flew over Phillip Island from Sale on training sessions.

Planes would often pull a target known as a "drougue" behind, which was used for gunnery practice by the navy gunners at Cerberus.

The aircraft would fly up and

down over the navy firing range for about an hour, while practicing went on.

Kevin recalls that more than one plane finished up on the mud flats over at French Island, allegedly with engine failure ... but he says in fact they were shot down by the navy gunners.

Other Islanders can also vouch for the inaccuracy of the Cerberus navy gunners.

A couple of Ventnor farmers can remember shells exploding on their properties, during the war years, which were fired from across the bay.

Many US planes were based at Tocumwal during this period, and Phillip Island was in a line directly from that base.

The pilots used to fly their Flying Fortresses and Liberators on navigational exercises and used the island as the point at which they turned back.

Kevin recalls the volunteers would often receive a call from Melbourne, asking that a special lookout be maintained if one of these was off course.

The Catalina flying boats were also regularly observed.

Their courses took them from Sydney, to Mallacoota, round Cape Paterson, over Phillip Island, on to Point Cook, Williamstown, and to the huge service depot at Lake Boga near Swan Hill.

"They were a very common sight," recalled Kevin, who as a young boy could identify each

of these instantly.

The island also saw a lot of aircraft known as Beau-fighters, which were twin-engine aircraft with snub noses.

They were known as the "whispering death" because you only heard them after you saw them.

They would come in at very low attitudes over the waves, and the volunteers had to be very alert to see them coming in low over Rhyll, as they headed toward Crib Point.

Other training aircraft were in the sky regularly looking out for submarines in Westernport Bay.

The only civil aircraft using the skies over the Island in the war years were DC-3's, on regular runs to Tasmania.

Worked hard for war effort

As a nine-year-old child living on Phillip Island, Kevin Findlay heard news in 1939 that war had been declared on an electric radio behind the dairy at the home of his cousin.

He raced home to tell his parents, who he remembers were "stunned".

A pupil at Cowes Primary School at the time, he recalled that life went on fairly normally at first, until 1942, when reality really set in with the bombing of Darwin, and the Sydney submarine episodes.

"The war then came to Cowes Primary School in a major way," said Kevin.

"We had vegetable gardens at school to help with food supplies. These were instigated by head teacher Kevin Gerrity."

Quotations from Winston Churchill were framed and put up on the classroom walls. "We were regularly trained in the use of zigzag trenches dug at the school in the event of an attack."

"Bombs were brought into school to show us. Magnesium was even used to demonstrate the effects of incendiary bombing."

Kevin remembers all Cowes Primary School children had to have a small suitcase packed at home, because of the possibility that they might be evacuated at a moment's notice from the island to other parts of Gippsland.

This was because of the island's close proximity to the naval base at Cerberus, and the thought that the island could be strategic to the enemy's plans.

School children worked hard for war effort

The children at the school, which was then in Thompson Avenue where the Civic Centre now stands, collected every bit of scrap metal, alu-



During World War II, school children in Cowes were called to Thompson's Garage in the main street and then rolled old car tyres down to the foreshore near the Continental (now North Pier), where they would be collected and recycled for the war effort. There were air raid shelters at the local school, and at night, newspapers were used to black out windows so enemy planes could not spot any lights at night.

minium, rubber and other recyclable material in the district for re-use.

The girls knitted scarfs, mittens, socks and made protective clothing for distribution, and many a penny concert was held to raise funds for the war effort.

Every adult had an ID card, Kevin remembers, and based on that, they were issued with ration books for tea, butter, sugar, meat and where appropriate, petrol.

As a member of the Cowes community, Kevin had some fairly onerous duties, for one so young.

But this was expected and all part of the war effort.

He was a member of the Volunteer Air Observers' Corps; and he was a war savings collector, going from home to home each week collecting one or two shillings towards the cost of a war saving certificate.

When 16 shillings had been collected from each person, Kevin brought the certificate for them from the post office,

for which seven years later, the government would pay one pound.

And his third job was as an assistant at the local theatre.

The theatre, set up in the old shire hall, was run by Bill Schooling and Connie Maugham.

A World War I veteran, Charlie Croft, was the doorman.

The films came down by ferry for Saturday nights, or Bill Schooling collected them in his car, which ran on kerosene.

In the summertime, there were also screenings on Wednesdays and Fridays. Screenings started with a newsreel; then a travelogue was shown; another support film would be fitted in before interval, then another newsreel, a cartoon, and finally the feature film hit the screen.

Kevin was employed for three shillings a day, for a number of jobs.

He wound every foot of film back by hand after each showing; sometimes had to set up the hall; had to arrive at 7pm

to open the door and take the tickets, and then dash upstairs to play the records which doubled as background music.

At interval, he ran the slides of the coming attractions, and after the film was over, folded the seats back ready for the cleaner.

His pay did finally increase to four shillings a day.

Charlotte Berryman, the granddaughter of the Cowes Presbyterian Minister James Raff and daughter of a Phillip Island farmer, also recalled the war years.

"Farmers often didn't go to war because they were needed to provide food.

"Dad was a member of the Volunteer Defence Corps (an Australian part-time volunteer military force of World War 2 modelled on the British Home Guard) and he was given a 303 rifle and had to guard the Phillip Island shoreline (with others) and watch for submarines.

"We had air raid shelters at school and we had to put newspapers on the windows to black them out at home at night so the planes couldn't see any lights.

"I remember one night my grandmother was in bed and said she could see a light on the horizon, and apparently a mine had hit a ship in Bass Strait - not that it was official.

"There were rations and mum would make up a suitcase of food - rabbits we'd shot and butter we'd made - and take it to her sisters in Melbourne, meeting them at Flinders Street station and dividing up the food at the station.

"During the war, school children were called to Thompson's Garage in the main street and rolled old car tyres down to the foreshore near the Continental (now North Pier), where they would be collected and recycled for the war effort."



The students of Ventnor Primary School stand to attention at the unveiling of a memorial to Charles (Nip) West, a former student there, who was killed in action in 1942. The memorial was unveiled after the war by Cr Rupe Harris, also a parent at the school.

The tragedy of war strikes in Ventnor

The death of Nip West came as a great blow to the little community of Ventnor, in 1942.

He and his older brother (Gordon) tossed a coin to see who would go to war.

One was to stay at home and help their widowed mother run the family's chicory farm.

When Nip went off to war from the Cowes pier, the whole community turned out to farewell a much-loved son.

Nip was rather a special person ... a gentle, caring human who everyone held in high regard.

When news came in January 1942, that Nip had been killed, there was a deep sense of loss both in his family and the community. Everyone was stunned.

Gordon grieved so deeply for his much-loved brother that his health never recovered from the loss.

He died. Mrs West took the loss of her sons with great courage.

Professor Manning Clark, an island resident at the time, makes mention of the Nip West story and the courage of the West family in a volume of his "History of Australia."

The community of Ventnor was not a prosperous one following the war, but they were determined to have a memorial for Nip in the school grounds, so that his memory would live on at Phillip Island and in Australia forever.

The community gave all they could afford and a tree was planted and memorial built in Nip's memory.

The tree is still there today, and the schoolhouse is now a private home. The plaque is held for safe-keeping at the Heritage Centre in Cowes.

An excerpt in a book tracing the history of St Philip's Church of England in Cowes mentions the story of Nip West.

In the words of the Reverend Hall: "My saddest task was, on one occasion, to go down and meet the ferry, to tell Mrs West (who had been away for the day) that her son Nip had been killed in the war."

"Almost the whole Island was there, and Ma (everybody knew the fine old lady as Ma) walked up the ramp from the ferry towards me and before I could open my mouth, said 'Nip's gone hasn't he, I knew it'."

"She took my arm and said: 'Don't let me fall' and walked, head erect to a car waiting for her, amid a respectful silence."

The information for this story was supplied by Julie Box, a small girl at the Ventnor school when Nip died, who adds her own tribute.

"I always think of Nip and Gordon and their fractured lives each time I drive past the old Ventnor school site."

"As a little girl I brought flowers on Anzac Day to Nip's memorial and dad always talked of Nip West and his great sacrifice."

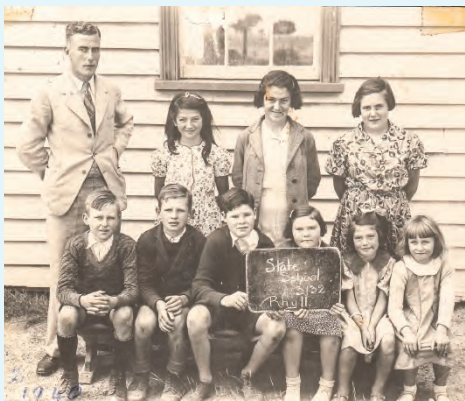
"I still remember 50 years on when they built the memorial to a lost son of Ventnor with a lump in my throat."

Rhyll war effort

Like children everywhere in the war years from 1939 to 1945, the students at the local primary school in Rhyll spent one afternoon a week engaged in knitting and making things to be sent overseas for the comfort of Australian soldiers as part of the war effort.

The residents of Rhyll also established a Rhyll Relief Committee, and continued to send food parcels to England long after the war had finished.

Pupils at the Rhyll school who were involved in this effort, are pictured with their teacher, Ted Phelan, in 1940. The children are, back row, from left: Nance McFee (now McKenzie), Eileen McFee (now Maiden), Margaret McFee. Front, from left: Victor Walton, Ted Walton, Jim Osterlund, Freda Osterlund, Ruth McFee and Edna Walton.



Black Lives Matter here too

By the Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group

“The most profound and powerful experience I have had in 30 years,” said Bunurong/Boon Wurrung traditional owner Sonia Weston, describing the Bass Coast “Solidarity in Surf Black Lives Matter” rally at Eagles Nest beach on June 6.

Traditional owners and their allies gathered at sunrise at the beach, between Cape Paterson and Inverloch, to remember the victims and support the Indigenous cause.

Sonia’s own life has been impacted by Aboriginal deaths in custody through her extended family.

“Distant cousins are as close to us as immediate family, so we feel the pain deeply,” she said.

Black Lives Matter is more than just an import from the United States. The movement is equally relevant here in Australia. Shocking as the US Black deaths at the hands of police are, the deaths of Aboriginal Australians in custody are equally horrific.

Since the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody in 1991, 437 men and women have died in lock-up, and no one has ever been convicted of murder or even of manslaughter.

Many of the victims had not even been charged, let alone sentenced for offences. Filmed evidence shows brutal treatment, neglect, and medical negligence, causing dreadful injuries, worsened medical conditions and death, but nothing is done. The behaviour of those in authority is allowed to continue.

Is it any wonder that people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, are marching in the streets?

The Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group stands in solidarity with Sonia and the 800 strong Aboriginal Community in our two shires. The group is committed to spreading awareness of the issues and to taking action.

An important aspect of this work is our lobbying for the acceptance of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the enactment of its proposals.

The Uluru Statement was a consensus document, drawn up at Uluru three years ago after the most widespread consultation ever of Aboriginal people across Australia, conducted by Aboriginal people. Sadly, the Uluru Statement was summarily dismissed in October 2017 by then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, even though the process had been initiated by his



A “Solidarity in Surf Black Lives Matter” rally was held at Eagles Nest beach in June.

government, with bipartisan support.

The Statement from the Heart calls for an Aboriginal voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution; for treaty to acknowledge prior ownership of the land and self-determination over their own destinies; and a truth-telling commission to educate people about the past and hopefully to bring about healing through the recognition of past wrongs. Australia is the only country in the Commonwealth that has no treaty with its First Peoples.

Aboriginal Australians are our First People, with the longest continuing culture in the world, going back more than 60,000 years, so a treaty is long overdue. This is not special treatment on the basis of race, as some have claimed, but is based on our recognition of their prior possession of the land, which legitimately gives them unique rights.

We note that the National Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (NACCHO) has man-

aged the best response in Australia to the COVID outbreak. They have had no deaths and fewer than average cases across the whole of Australia, despite initial fears that if it got into remote communities it would run rampant. The one difference is that they were able to control things themselves. They had self-determination. NACCHO represents the communities and they can communicate immediately and effectively. There was no time for politics and bureaucracy to interfere. Communities got on with it because they knew how.

It is clear that First Nations communities also know how to manage other areas of their lives, such as education, land care and youth justice. They just need to be resourced by government. They don’t need to be told what to do and how to do it, which is disempowering and destructive. Self-determination is the best policy because it works; bureaucratic intervention and ignoring Aboriginal voices does not.

The Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group meets every month, lately by Zoom, to educate ourselves about Aboriginal culture and how we can walk alongside our Aboriginal Community members. You can find us on Facebook.

Broadbent welcomes support for local newspapers

Two local newspapers, the Warragul Gazette and the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser have received funding from the Commonwealth Government through the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund to develop their digital presence.

Russell Broadbent, Member for Monash, said the importance of regional journalism has never been more evident than now, during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Local newspapers have been the lifeblood of our communities for more than a century and in our technologically advanced society, it is crucial that they are supported to adapt to and adopt the latest in media communications.

“It’s great to see the Warragul and Drouin Gazette and the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser increasing their online presence which will help keep local jobs in our community,” Mr Broadbent said.

“Regional newspapers help keep our communities connected and informed and I am pleased that local papers have received this support that will see them continue both in print and online,” Mr Broadbent said.

The Warragul Gazette will receive \$55,889 in funding and intends to increase their capability to create video and podcast content for current and potential audiences.

The Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser will receive \$73,884 towards implementing their Digital Growth Project and maximise online presence by developing a classified module, upgrading IT and video production equipment.

Both projects have been supported through the Innovation Fund administered by Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) as part of the Government’s Regional and Small Publishers Jobs and Innovation Package.

Over 300 applications were assessed by the ACMA, working closely with an independent advisory committee, through a competitive grants process. The ACMA will work with successful applicants to develop and enter into grant agreements as soon as practicable. The full list of recipients is available on the ACMA’s website at: www.acma.gov.au/regional-and-small-publishers-innovation-fund.

Ventnor centre plans excessive?

Plans to build a function centre on the cliffs of Ventnor is a “gross over development of a highly significant area”, according to objectors to the development.

A planning permit, currently open for public comment, for a two-hectare property at 46 McHaffies Lane, is seeking to build a function room for up to 60 people.

Developers of the centre want it to open to 11pm with plans for indoor and outdoor live music, and a total of 18 car parks.

“However, due to the nature of the proposed use, any noise generated outdoors by the use is likely to be of low volume and unlikely to be discernible above background noise,” the developers state in the permit.

The function centre will include part of an existing shed, operate with three staff, and be in addition to a B&B and three cabins, which was given planning permission in an earlier permit, with construction to start shortly.

The permit details the centre will target organisations holding meetings and conferences.

“The function room will be tar-

geted mainly at the regional market, in conjunction with the accommodation offered on site and other tourism attractions within the region,” the permit states.

However, the plans have been criticised by surrounding residents who argued McHaffies Lane was a dead-end dirt road, servicing five properties, and only suitable for one car at a time.

Several objectors have already made submissions, describing the development as a “blatant attempt to over-commercialise the property”, which will have an “adverse” impact on the surrounding neighbours.

They said it would impact wildlife and the heritage values of the land, which was settled by pioneer family the McHaffies.

Objectors described the planning report as misleading and lacking credibility with “discrepancies that needed to be investigated”.

“Contrary to what the report seems to imply, this is significantly more than just revamping an existing shed,” one objector stated.

John and Sue Hazelden said they moved to McHaffies Lane for the se-

renity and while they understood the need for tourism, it was critical to maintain the island’s beauty.

“Otherwise the very nature of why tourists visit here will be lost and ruined forever,” John said.

“Are generations in the future going to have to wear the greed of our mistakes today?”

“This would seem a gross over development of a highly significant and unique area. It should be stopped.”

John criticised the planning process through Bass Coast Shire, which had already approved a previous planning application for accommodation – totalling five dwellings on a small property – with this second planning permit a surprise addition.

He said only the three neighbouring properties were advised of the plans and they did not receive notification.

“We were not considered immediate, although all traffic would pass us.

“There is significant bird life, animal life and rare fauna. Of course this development will have a most adverse effect on all this.”

Share the dignity

This August, Woolworths Cowes and Share the Dignity are partnering in a Dignity Drive that will provide essential support to the growing number of VIC women experiencing period poverty as a result of COVID-19.

The economic and financial impacts of COVID-19 has meant that even more women are having to make the choice between buying food or sanitary items, with Share the Dignity reporting a 54 per cent increase in the number of charities registering for the August Dignity Drive, when compared to the previous Drive held earlier this year.

Woolworths customers across VIC donated over 10,300 sanitary products towards the March Dignity Drive. These products were then distributed to girls and women who cannot afford to buy sanitary items.

The August Dignity Drive will run across all Woolworths supermarkets nationally, giving customers the opportunity to donate sanitary items via collection boxes in store.

Woolworths will also donate five cents from the sale of pads, tampons and liners in August to Share the Dignity, to help the charity fund more Dignity vending machines that dispense free sanitary items to



Woolworths in Cowes is partnering with Share the Dignity in August, to provide essential support to the growing number of women experience period poverty as a result of COVID-19.

women experiencing homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, or facing difficult circumstances.

Woolworths has partnered with Share the Dignity since early 2019 and, in partnership with its customers, has raised more than \$1.3mil-

lion for the charity. The funds raised to date are being used to install 80 Dignity vending machines across Australia.

The Dignity Drive held in March collected over 43,000 sanitary items for women in need across Australia.



Bonnie pictured at last year’s 100th birthday celebrations with younger sister Nancy, and a cake made by her friends Steve and Ty at Beachside Bakery in San Remo.

A quiet achievement for Bonnie

Bonnie Castle quietly celebrated her 101st birthday last week.

In 2019 Bonnie celebrated her 100th birthday with a big family get-together at the Phillip Island RSL.

And while her threat to pole dance at the party never eventuated, there was plenty of laughter and presents ... including a special 100 jumper from her beloved Collingwood football team.

Now a resident at Griffiths Point Lodge, the COVID-19 restrictions meant this year’s birthday was a more subdued affair.

Bonnie’s family are only allowed to visit once a week and talk through the door, so there was no chance for

a party, or even a birthday hug.

Bonnie’s great-niece Julie Newman said despite the restrictions, Bonnie was feeling great. The staff at Griffiths Point adore her aunt and were doing “an amazing job looking after her”.

Until last year, the lively centenarian lived in her own house in San Remo, and during an interview with the Advertiser, Bonnie said the key to good health was to “drink plenty of water” and stay active.

“I went to the doctor recently and he told me, well you’ve still got your marbles.

“I told him, yes of course I do, I play with them every day,” she chuckled.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Thanks John Clarke

"Good evening" John Clarke – what a great Australian. And funny too! A cheeky cocky!

I think I represent the entire Phillip island and surrounding communities, in saying a big thank you to his legacy and inspiration for the future. We love you John and Helen.

Melina Zoe Frost, Cowes

A priceless gift

The generous donation by Helen McDonald and the late John Clarke of their Rhyll property to Trust For Nature (Advertiser 05/08/20) is a priceless gift for all of us.

Julie Adkins, San Remo

Keep us virus free

Woke up early Sunday morning August 9 to notice a house recently sold in our quiet Surf Beach street, with six vehicles all with 'P' plates parked in their driveway, lawn and street.

At this point my stomach turned and I got very angry knowing most people are doing the right thing during these trying times and that these people are just flouting the restrictions.

I've never done this before but I felt so strongly that I called the COVID hot line to report the incident.

After 15 – 20 minutes with no success to get through to someone I gave up. I then decided to ring Cowes police. I spoke to the person in charge to raise my concerns. He said he will TRY and get his guys to SWING by. I thought at the time that this seemed a very ordinary response. I also asked him if he wanted my details, he said no.

I waited and kept an eye on the house in question waiting to see if the occupants would wake and leave before the police arrived. It was now 11am. I then decided to contact the COVID Report online website with a detailed report.

At approximately 1pm the house emptied and all the cars took off.

To this point no one has been to the house or investigated the

incident.

Unless the police were totally run off their feet all Sunday morning to catch these selfish people and to the useless COVID reporting system, I feel very let down.

Obviously they don't think it was important enough.

I certainly hope that these ignorant people in question have not spread the virus throughout the Island. To keep the Island free of this virus, I thought it was important enough.

G. Champion, Surf Beach

Protecting young people

In recent days the tragic reports of self-harm amongst young people have started to emerge.

In Victoria young people presenting with self-harm is up 33 per cent. With schools, parks and sporting facilities not open to our young people, there is less opportunity for them to discuss with their peers the events occurring around them and process accordingly. Parents are not necessarily equipped with training that recognises symptoms associated with self-harm, virtual catch ups do not always offer the engagement we all need.

I call on the Government to reconsider its one size fits all policy used during these restrictions and offer young people the opportunity to nominate a friend or relative that they can catch up with regularly. It was a policy New Zealand used with success. Unfortunately, this policy has thus far been dismissed without adequate consideration. It is never too late to change and it might just save someone's life.

Nathan Murphy, San Remo

Affordable housing

I refer to the article titled 'Homelessness rising' on page 15 of the Advertiser Wednesday, August 5, 2020.

The project study option I tentatively named 'the gap' has been misrepresented. This could have been Victoria's first truly sustainable regional affordable residential project. For example:

Community: complete with community facilities, parks, ki-

lometres of walking paths and NBN with optic fibre to every home, 'the gap' could have everything you need in a well-planned modern community.

Space: dedicated to open space, where walking and cycling tracks meander past native vegetation, parks and barbecue areas.

Energy efficient design: efficient homes with highly efficient lights and appliances.

Precious water: the use of rainwater to increase the availability of clean, fresh water in the community. In addition to mains water, rainwater storage for use in gardens and toilets. Excess stormwater redirected to collection ponds and filtered back through vegetation into groundwater and natural wetlands.

Clean energy: solar energy. Powered by the sun, the community will be capable of creating an annual surplus of clean energy. Electric vehicle charge points are also available for residents who want them.

Food gardens: as a resident the opportunity to grow your own produce in especially designed gardens. Perhaps even a café will also offer residents delicious meals made from the freshest, locally grown produce.

Active lifestyle: kilometres of walking and cycling paths, parks, and perhaps a large village green.

Protecting natural habitats: a haven for nature lovers designed to coexist with natural and local flora and fauna.

And all within two minutes by car and seven minutes by bus to the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre and transit hub.

My question was – do we have the vision and will to create a benchmark for sustainable and affordable living and bring together partners to create a modern and transformative community?

In my opinion, an important strategic opportunity missed, for a major project in the covid-19 and post covid-19 eras, and quality affordable housing that is one with the environment, and effective use of vacant and surplus council land.

Cr Les Larke

Over 60's cricket: Tales of yesteryear

From page 24

A late entry from Doug Pell describes a similar situation where the umpire gave the batsmen permission to keep running. They ran seven.

To run, or not to run

Running, or a reluctance to run, featured in a few stories.

One player self-described as "being built for catching, not for running."

Another was repetitively told by his teammates to "drop the harrows Robert" every time he set off to chase the ball.

Most of the Kookaburra anecdotes were prefaced with "enjoying all the good cricket stories".

The camaraderie and knowledge of our Kookaburra teammates developed over the eleven days allotted, not a wicket or scorebook or VB in sight. No injuries either.

The electric fence around the No 2 oval at Bass was strictly avoided all day.

The visiting "Town" cricketers rolled on the ground to get under the 'hot' wire after every boundary (often). Awkward and unedifying!

Wasn't until after the day's play the visitors were told the electric fence had been turned off before the game started.

The emails kept coming.

Kookaburras were invited to Google Rahkeem Cornwall. He currently plays Test cricket for the West Indies. He's 140 kilograms. Encouragement for all.

We were told of the good old umpire whose braces failed and eventually he lost his pants while officiating. And the "beer hatched" plan to catch Ian Eddy at long on. It worked, but not before Ian had scored 189.

And one from the archives.

Woodleigh Kernot's team once had farmers Aussie Strong, Lou Sharpe, the Makeham brothers and Wally Short. And George Sweet ran the Woodleigh General Store.

One week the batting line up was Makeham, Strong, Sharpe, Short and Sweet.

There's road names to prove it.

Stay safe Veteran cricketers ... all cricketers.



Pieter Loos waits patiently for Covid 19 to be dismissed.



"Keeping" in contact, Warwick Hayes and Greg Goss.

Phillip Island Ten Pin bowling

2's Company: 1st on 8.5pts Bowling Stones, 2nd on 7.5pts King Pins and 3rd on 7pts Storm.

ABL: 1st on 50.5pts Fairlane's, 2nd on 48pts Storm, 3rd on 48pts Dreamers.

Business Early: 1st on 8pts U Drive Me Batty, 2nd on 8pts The Three Tanners, 3rd on 8pts Island Spa Hire and 4th on 8pts Ballz Deep.

Business Late: 1st on 9pts S & R Clarke Auto, 2nd on 6pts Strike Me Down, 3rd on 4.5pt Autopro and 4th on 4pts I Hit One.

Top Bowlers this week are:

158 – Jennifer Murphey, 156 – Jo Batty, 156 – Barbara Burns.

234 – Isaac Batty, 200 – Raff Merante, 198 – Scott Lynch.

Ten pin bowling is now closed due to Stage 3 covid-19 restrictions.

For information regarding reopening, follow our social media. Facebook.com/pitenpin or our website pitenpin.com.au.

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



*The Annual General Meeting
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Aug 28th 2020 at 6pm via Zoom.*

The business of the Annual General Meeting
shall be:

- 1) an update on the affairs of the group,
- 2) conducting elections for committee,
- 3) voting on special resolutions (if required).

Conducting an AGM via Zoom during a
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A trick of the light



Vanessa Heuser set out to photograph the sunset at Silverleaves and turned around to see this golden light reflected on the timber of the groyne. Follow her on instagram: [photosby_vh](#).

Over 60's cricket: Tales of yesteryear

By Garry Knox

Normally by now, our over 60's cricketers would be smearing Linseed oil onto our bats, buying Dencorub, and unpacking caravans after lengthy stays on northern coasts.

But not this year.

It's too wet, too cold, and more pointedly, our age dictates that we are in the vulnerable Covid category.

A normal start to the cricket season looks increasingly unlikely.

In its place is "Keeping in contact."

It's the Leongatha/South Gippsland Kookaburras' first assignment for the season.

The Kookaburras were invited to put their cricketing minds to work, and by way of email, tell their teammates of any odd ball cricket anecdotes they may have collected.

The stories reminded us of um- piring antics, cricket pitches in paddy paddocks, and a variety of incidents involving streakers.

Some Kookaburras excel. Not streaking but retelling the story.

They successfully merge their personality, a cricket situation, a little colour, and the truth.

We wonder who benefits most, the storyteller, the victim, or the listener.

Like Veterans cricket ... everyone wins.

Not only did Rob Hughes, Rob Wood and Rob Francis contribute a story, they had numerous follow up stories prompted by other contributors.

"Keeping in contact" snowballed, while it snowed outside.

Bob Mastin (another Rob) told us of the Umpire that parked his car on top of a metre-high Gum tree sapling at the Maryborough oval.

The umpire "didn't see" the sapling.



This veteran cricketer had the same problem as the "good old umpire" who lost his pants while officiating.

That gum tree survives today, healthy but horizontal.

Peter Little remembers building a cricket pitch with his Dad in the paddy paddock.

Hat trick

Years later that father son combination took 2/54 and 7/67 respectively (including a hat trick) in a match at Bena against Loch.

Greg Goss told us about the free-wheeling streaker at Foster, which led Rob Francis to recount a game more recently at Korumburra.

The match was pleasantly interrupted by a minibus load of city

netballers of the female variety. They ran laps until one, excited by Rob's off spin, disrobed mostly but not entirely, and sprinted from wing to wing.

That led to the anonymous confession by another veteran cricketer who, (years ago) promised to streak through Archies Creek if his team scored more than 250.

Little did he know that the deed was captured by a quick thinking, fast footed captain's wife.

Some months later he was duly presented with the naked evidence at the club's wind up.

This email deliberately men-

tions no names or club, so the guilty veteran cricketer thinks anonymity prevails.

Les Larke took delivery of his very flash new company car on the Friday.

Les' first over on Saturday was the sixteenth in the innings and the opposing batsmen sent the ball through the flash car's windscreen.

Sweet spot on the bat meets soft spot on the windscreen.

Couldn't happen at East Campus.

"Keeping in contact" led to Les Larke and Rob Wood realizing that they had both, at some stage played with Bentleigh.

Robert Hughes remembers being "timed out" by "Routs" in a Westernport Assoc. match at Loch. Robert politely reminded "Routs" that before he could be given out, one of the good gentlemen from Leongatha had to appeal.

"Routs" was out manoeuvred and reversed his decision.

Robert was then clean bowled first ball.

Robert reckons he has the distinction of being "technically" given out twice, but only facing one ball.

Gary Adams told of the limited over game played at Outtrim before the ground became "all weather."

A slog to cow corner by Gary saw the ball plop in the very soft surface.

The closest outfielder lost track of where the ball landed, fellow fieldsmen yelled instructions, the fielder backtracked, the batsmen kept running.

Other fielders ran to the wet spot. Six runs, all run, were recorded. The ball became splodge. The fieldsmen were outraged. The batsmen puffed.

Continued page 22

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AND STAFF

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