



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

# ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

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## Phillip Island's climate change impacts have accelerated

### ENVIRONMENT

Climate change is set to have "considerable impacts" on Phillip Island's environment in the next 30 years, and the impacts have already accelerated in the past five years, according to Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP).

PINP last week released its three-decade strategic plan, which is open for community feedback until August 19, with a survey.

The strategy details six priorities for the next decade, including in the context of challenges such as climate change.

"Storm surges are already accelerating cliff, beach and foreshore erosion, while rising sea levels may be encroaching lower-lying areas of the island," the strategy states.

"On land, climate change is already increasing the frequency and intensity of fires, droughts, extreme temperatures and rainfall.

"Scientific modelling indicates that over the next 30 years, some of the island's freshwater ecosystems are likely to become saline or dry out, (and) mangroves are likely to retreat or disappear."

It said increasing ocean temperatures are disrupting the marine food system, while new marine species could displace existing marine species, "as they battle for food and suitable water temperatures".

"Climate change is forecast to have considerable impacts on the marine and terrestrial environments of Phillip Island over the next 30 years, and the impacts are accelerating since we first described our conservation vision five years ago," says Nature Parks.

PINP CEO Catherine Basterfield told the Advertiser the strategy addressed both the impacts of – and adaptation to – climate change.

"We have already identified Cape Woolamai and Churchill Island as key places needing further climate adaption planning, and we are monitoring places like Observation Point for change as we undertake restoration works," she said.

Ms Basterfield explained



Increasing ocean temperatures from climate change are disrupting the marine food system, while new marine species could displace existing marine species, "as they battle for food and suitable water temperatures", according to a new plan by Nature Parks. Photo: Ramble & Drift.

some bird species might migrate to Phillip Island from warmer climates and some species currently on Phillip Island "may no longer be comfortable as the environment changes".

"Over the next decade we will identify which species we can support to stay here by adapting their environments and which species we may need to help transition here.

"We already have plans that support hooded plovers, fairy terns, Eastern barred bandicoots and Australian fur seals."

### Threatened species

The strategy focuses on opportunities, with "businesses and communities alike increasingly focused on reducing their impacts on nature", with "nature first" and "tourism for good" giving back to the island.

The strategy states the Koala Conservation Centre, which is

part of Victoria's koala management plan, will continue to rehabilitate injured wildlife before release in the wild and will continue to help with captive breeding of threatened species.

The strategy states there will be "bigger and better natural area" including revegetating 35ha of Nature Parks land and minimising "extinction risk" of species, while the impact of overabundant wildlife – such as Cape Barren geese, wallabies and possums – will further be reduced.

It says in the next three decades Phillip Island's recognition as a "world class wildlife destination" will be "enhanced", with tourism driving "profit with purpose" and Nature Parks continuing to direct revenue into conservation.

Nature Parks will work with Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club to manage beach access and plan for the future.

The strategy includes aspects

covered in the proposed Summerland Masterplan (which currently has consultation underway), including the future of the Nobbies centre.

While the plan says PINP will be carbon neutral by 2030, it does not tackle emissions from visitor cars to its attractions.

Ms Basterfield said emissions from the fuels, electricity and waste used by the organisation were offset, in addition to large scale revegetation works each year.

"We believe that our tourism experiences can create the awe and wonder required to educate and inspire a diverse range of people," the strategy says.

Ms Basterfield said the plan identified the top outcomes to achieve over the next decade and was "not intended to clarify each of the activities that will take place to achieve each outcome".

Details: [www.penguins.org](http://www.penguins.org).

[au/assets/About/infrastructure-and-planning/Draft-Strategic-Plan-2025-35.pdf](http://www.penguins.org.au/assets/About/infrastructure-and-planning/Draft-Strategic-Plan-2025-35.pdf)

[www.penguins.org.au/about/our-community/projects-and-maintenance/planning-our-future](http://www.penguins.org.au/about/our-community/projects-and-maintenance/planning-our-future)



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POSSIBLE SHOWER	PARTLY CLOUDY	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	MOSTLY SUNNY
9 13	8 15	9 14	8 11	8 11	9 12	7 14

# Debutants had a ball

San Remo's Silverwater Resort hosted a special night last week-end, as ten debutantes and their partners took to the dance floor in front of family and friends, for presentation at a community ball. The happy event was organised by a dedicated team of parents – Chloe Kalis, Kate Murphy, Pip White, Amelia Trappett and Melina van der Weerd-Arceo – ably assisted by Shane Gray and Heather Power of the Pak-enham Dance Studio. Master of ceremonies Cam Pedersen, who swapped his footy guernsey for a tuxedo, oversaw proceedings.

Debutantes and their partners enjoying the scenic Silverwater surrounds prior to presentation (from left): River Henderson and Jya Donohue, Froley Anderson and Scarlett Boyle, Blake Murphy and Heidi Van Damme, Finlay Cameron and Chloe Hosking, Oscar List and Eve Chandler, Jeremy Kelly and Jasira Derham, Perry McKay and Ryah Maund, Jimmy O'Neill and Fleur White, Parker Trappett and Stevylea Symes, and Harry Arceo and Matilda Feehan. Photo: Emily Rose Photography.



## POLICE BRIEFS

### Vehicles stolen

Local police said a car stolen from Rose Avenue in Cowes early on Sunday August 3, was recovered within hours. Police said the offenders broke into the house after cutting through window fly wire and took the car keys.

Shortly after, police on patrol saw the stolen car, along with a second vehicle (stolen that night from Newhaven), travelling in convoy through Cowes and to Smiths Beach.

The car stolen from Rose Avenue was abandoned, with all three offenders then travelling in the second car through to Kilcunda, where it was also dumped. The trio then stole another vehicle and have not yet been apprehended. Bass Coast CIU is investigating the incidents.

A car seat from the Rose Avenue car was dumped and has yet to be recovered. Anyone with information can contact the Cowes Police Station on 03 5952 2037 or email [cowes.uni@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:cowes.uni@police.vic.gov.au)

Anyone with information on the vehicle thefts is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on [www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/](http://www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/) or call 1800 333 000.

Police also reminded all residents to make sure their vehicles are locked and not to leave any valuables in sight.

### Excavator stolen

Police said an excavator was stolen from a property at Smiths Beach on Thursday August 31, and there were reports of several incidents in the area around

the same time. Investigations to date indicate the machinery was removed from the island and possibly taken to a location in Melbourne's northern suburbs. Investigations are continuing.

### E-Scooters and e-bikes

As Victoria Police launches a campaign targeting e-scooters and e-bike riders in the CBD, Cowes police have reminded residents to abide by the rules for e-scooters and e-bikes. The local station confirmed its e-scooter liaison officer has charged several people for e-bike related incidents.

Riders (and parents) are reminded the maximum power for e-bikes is 250 watts and any electric bike that exceeds the legal power output or speed (25 km/h)

is classified as a motor vehicle. Details: [www.police.vic.gov.au/e-bike-safety](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/e-bike-safety)

### Cowes pair charged in Casey

A 28-year-old man from Cowes was arrested by Casey Police in Koo Wee Rup earlier this month after they tracked a vehicle driving erratically. He was charged with possessing and trafficking cannabis, possessing methylamphetamine, committing indictable offences while on bail, possession of two controlled weapons, fraudulent use of a registration plate, unlicensed driving and contravening bail conditions. A 33-year-old Cowes woman was charged with trafficking and possessing cannabis. A man and a woman from Argyle were also charged.

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

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# It has rained, but we still need a lot more

## CLIMATE

Local water storages have finally been boosted after a year of dry conditions, thanks to an uptick in rainfall.

But it's not all good news, with much more rain needed to fill Candowie Reservoir, including on the back of increased water consumption.

According to Westernport Water, the last significant increase to Candowie Reservoir was on July 15, 2024, when the storage increased by 134ML from 2676ML to 2810ML.

However, last week a Westernport Water spokesperson confirmed as at the end of July, the reservoir was 45 per cent full, an increase of two per cent, with "inflows now being received" after previous rainfall was soaked up by parched soil.

"With the rainfall we've had, it's hard to believe that we're well behind the average for this time of year," the spokesperson said, with Candowie at the same time last year about 68 per cent.

From January to the end of July 2025, the region has recorded 338.5mm of rainfall, 36 per cent below the five-year average of 530mm for this period.

Water consumption over the same seven-month period reached 1592 million litres (ML), a 12 per cent increase compared to the five-year average of 1423 ML.

"The combination of reduced rainfall and increased demand highlights how important it is that we all be water-wise and follow the Permanent Water Saving Rules. Every action adds up," they said.

They said Westernport Water was constantly monitoring water resources and "planning for the future".

"This includes full consideration of water restrictions as outlined in our Urban Water Strategy should they be required."



From January to the end of July 2025, the region's recorded rainfall was 36 per cent below the five-year average for this period. Water consumption over the same seven-month period was up 12 per cent compared to the five-year average.

Candowie had been totalling about 43 per cent for several months, or 1918ML, after tapping into Melbourne's water supply.

In May Westernport Water had taken 45 per cent of overall demand from Melbourne since July 2024, or 1011ML.

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

A decrease to 1650ML could see stage two restrictions.

As reported, autumn was the driest recorded on Phillip Island, on the back of a dry year, with some local farmers describing it as the driest weather conditions in a century and many having to truck in hay, costing tens of thousands of dollars.

The Rhyll weather station showed total rainfall for June was 64mm, which is about the average (66mm).

July saw 85mm, which is well above average (68mm).

Other parts of Victoria have also been battling dry conditions, with stage two water re-

strictions in force in Daylesford and Hepburn region since July 1, while water restrictions in Apollo Bay were lifted from August 1, thanks to winter rain.

## Water savings

Currently permanent water savings rules apply to all households.

These include:

- A residential or commercial garden or lawn can be watered with a handheld hose at any time, or by means of a watering system between the hours of 6pm and 10am on any day.
- Water cannot be used to clean hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking) except where cleaning is required as a result of a hazard or accident, or in the course of construction/renovation.
- A handheld hose must be fitted with a trigger nozzle and be leak free. It can be used to wash your car and water your gardens and lawns at any time.

Details: [westernportwater.com.au/pws-rules](http://westernportwater.com.au/pws-rules)



The Isle of Wight has received funding through the State Government's Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, for its workers accommodation, which the government said will provide accommodation for over 100 workers. The original plans detailed a three storey tourist/worker hostel (14.5 metres) with 49 one-bedroom units and a manager's apartment.

## Government tips in for Isle of Wight workers accommodation

### MAJOR PROJECTS

The new Isle of Wight development in Cowes is one of 23 projects that received funding from the latest round of the State Government's Regional Worker Accommodation Fund.

As part of the Isle of Wight project developed by Moda, the government said there will be accommodation for over 100 workers, across the "healthcare, food and beverage, retail and tourism industries".

The government said the grant amount the project received is "commercial in confidence" at this stage.

The original plans for the hotel included a separate three-storey tourist/worker hostel (14.5 metres) with: 49 one-bedroom units; a manager's apartment and a rooftop basketball and tennis court.

It is unclear how much of the proposed accommodation would be reserved for workers from outside the Isle of Wight project, however Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale confirmed the accommodation would be available to other local employers.

She said the investment in worker accommodation was welcome.

"I am pleased it will include a mix of offerings at the Isle of Wight – including dormitory-style and single bed options. The mix of room types and number of beds is being developed to match the worker profile ranging from backpackers on working holidays to highly qualified professionals," Ms Crugnale said.

"The Isle of Wight worker accommodation will be available to other employers in the region; the grant application received strong letters of support from Bass Coast Health, Nature Parks and Phillip Island Hot Springs amongst others.

"These employers currently rely on the use of family homes for share accommodation for their workers. Formal, fit for purpose worker accommodation at the Isle of Wight will return these homes to families in the community and address housing supply in the region.

"It's exciting to think about the many young people that will

be living and working in central Cowes, which will increase activation, and be a boon for the towns economy, nightlife and community," Ms Crugnale continued.

"This is the sort of co-investment that underscores and maximises the community benefit derived from past and future investment in, for example, Berrinnet, the Community Hospital, Nature Parks, Streetscape Masterplan – the list goes on.

Ms Crugnale thanked Bass Coast Shire Council and Destination Phillip Island for "backing the program and this project, and their support letters also".

### Background

The \$85 million Isle of Wight plans include a seven-storey mixed use hotel with a maximum height of 27.58 metres (excluding lift overrun) to the north with: 163 hotel rooms; four food and beverage premises (pub, bistro, hotel dining, signature restaurant); three retail spaces (including a yoga studio, gym, and wellness centre); two function rooms; outdoor pool terrace with a bar; outdoor beer garden on the corner of Bass Avenue and The Esplanade.

The original plans also included a separate three-storey tourist/worker hostel (14.5 metres) with: 49 one-bedroom units; a manager's apartment; rooftop basketball and tennis court; retail premises on the north-eastern corner with a 259sqm retail space along the northern frontage.

The proposal was approved by Bass Coast Shire councillors in September 2023, but local objectors took the case to VCAT.

In March 2024 the State Planning Minister used new powers to make an amendment to the Bass Coast Shire planning scheme to green light the development, in the face of delays it was experiencing at VCAT.

A VCAT ruling in April 2024 also gave the project the green light. In its ruling, VCAT stated the workers accommodation must be for the exclusive use of workers employed in Bass Coast and must not be separately leased or sold or otherwise occupied.

## Cowes CYC proposes tourism development

### PLANNING

After 70 years accommodating thousands of children, the CYC in Cowes is to get a makeover.

A planning permit, currently out for public comment, is proposing demolition of the existing "old and out of date" poolside group accommodation building and construction of a new two-storey building at CYC The Island, 41-53 Church Street.

There will also be a new meeting room and modified toilet block, with the proposal an amendment to an existing permit.

The current poolside building has 32 beds and eight rooms, with the whole facility accommodating 203 beds.

The new building will have 36 beds in 12 rooms, each with bathrooms, with covered decks, which will take the total beds to 207, with a height of 7.83 metres.

According to the permit, the proposed building footprint will be similar to the current building "so minimal site disturbance will occur and no landscaped areas will be affected", while the driveway and 29 existing car-parks will be unchanged.



A planning permit, currently out for public comment, is proposing demolition of the existing "old and out of date" poolside group accommodation and construction of a new two-storey building at CYC The Island, 41-53 Church Street.

Two new car parks are proposed at the front where two "unstable" trees will be removed.

The site is 20,423sqm, zoned general residential, with the building footprint to be 4250sqm or about 21 per cent of the land.

"The proposed development has no effect, in terms of additional noise impacts, due to the new buildings having the same use as existing and being located in same area," the permit states.

"The proposal will have a negligible visual impact upon the

wider landscape as it has a large setback from Church Street."

It states the proposal will not increase traffic or carparking as "only four additional beds are proposed and the majority of the groups come via bus", and there is "more than adequate parking on site".

"The proposal provides new up to date facilities for CYC The Island creating a better experience for occupants who come to stay and will provide a positive outcome for future tourism."

# Federal Minister raises stakes on Western Port

## ENVIRONMENT

Western Port's proposed wind turbine hub will now undergo a comprehensive environmental assessment after the Federal Environment Minister declared it a "controlled action".

Minister Murray Watt made the declaration of the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal (VRET) at the start of August, indicating nationally significant impacts are considered likely.

The declaration will see matters of national environmental significance assessed under a bilateral agreement with Victoria, to be incorporated into the Victorian Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process that is already underway.

The Port of Hastings (PoH) is seeking approvals on behalf of the State Government for a revised VRET, after the former Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek

last year knocked back the original plan because of national environmental concerns.

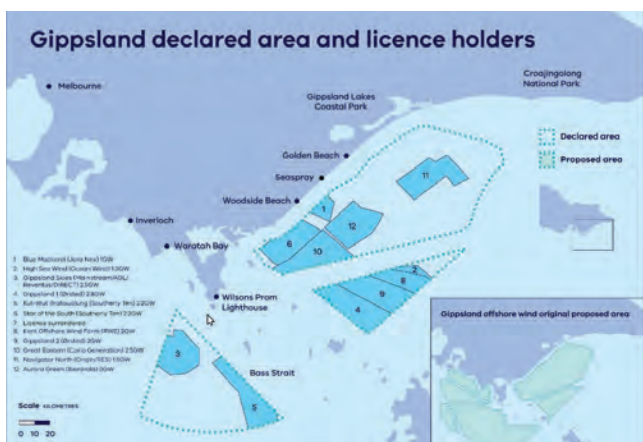
PoH responded to the Minister's decision saying their "next focus is continuing with our ongoing impact assessments, and developing and refining our project design".

"We are on track to deliver, with construction expected to begin in 2027, subject to the necessary approvals," a statement by PoH said.

"The preliminary impact assessments submitted as part of the EPBC Act referral found potential impacts from the project would be small, localised and temporary, with nothing indicating the impacts would be unacceptable."

If approved, dredging in the bay will take place for about five months 24/7 with dredged material taken to a land reclamation site, with potential for further dredging for the berth pocket and quay wall.

There would be an ex-



In 2022, the Federal Government declared an offshore wind zone in Gippsland of about 15,000sq km in Commonwealth waters. If approved, the VRET in Western Port would supply wind turbines for this area.

tra 130 ships per year, with VRET construction starting in 2027, operational by the end of the decade, with a 50-year design life and unlikely to be decommissioned.

## Conservationists

Leading conservationists welcomed the Minister's decision.

The Victorian Na-

tional Parks Association (VNPA) and the Western Port Biosphere said while the newly reduced scope of dredging and wetland loss was an "improvement on the rejected 2023 plan, questions remain why an internationally recognised wetland was the right location for the terminal".

"We are still yet to be presented with convinc-

ing rationale for why this terminal must be built in the heart of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and Ramsar-listed wetland," said VNPA marine campaigner Shannon Hurley.

"We want certainty the project can be done in a way that doesn't cause unacceptable harm to the Western Port wetlands, and we aren't confident that's been achieved yet."

VNPA, community groups, tourism businesses, and local councils called for a more strategic and science-based approach to managing Western Port's future from the State Government.

"The impacts of this project are likely to extend well beyond its immediate footprint. Marine life and water don't recognise boundaries – they move throughout the bay, and so do the consequences," Ms Hurley said.

"When you consider these impacts alongside declining water quality and pressures from other

industries, the cumulative effect could be devastating for the health of the bay."

She called for a plan to properly manage the bay.

As reported, the Phillip Island Conservation Society said the environmental impact of the proposed VRET on Western Port has been "downplayed", and is likely to result in "unacceptable" loss of globally significant habitat.

In 2022, the Federal Government declared an offshore wind zone in Gippsland of about 15,000sq km in Commonwealth waters.

The Victorian Government has a target of 9-gigawatts of renewable offshore wind by 2040.

Details: [renewableenergyterminal.com.au/planning/commonwealth-epbc-referral](https://renewableenergyterminal.com.au/planning/commonwealth-epbc-referral)

[renewableenergyterminal.com.au/construction/dredging](https://renewableenergyterminal.com.au/construction/dredging)  
[www.actforwesternportbay.au/](https://www.actforwesternportbay.au/)

# Rescue work on tower underway

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Work begun last week to repair the Smiths Beach Rescue Base, including repairing the corroded steel on the rescue base structure.

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club President, Jason Close said during the work, the stair and landing adjacent to the tower will be closed.

However the timber accessibility ramp will remain open, aside from a one-to-three-day closure in mid-August.

"Access to Smith's Beach will remain open at all times via the western access stairs," Jason said.

"Contractors will do their best to minimise inconvenience to beachgoers during the works."

He said the club was grateful for the support of members of the local community, the Smiths Beach-Combers Association, Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary, the Victorian State Government's Tiny Towns



Work begun last week to repair the Smiths Beach Rescue Base, including repairing the corroded steel on the rescue base structure. It's due to be completed by mid-September.

Grants Program, the Victorian Emergency Services Equipment Program, local member Jordan Crugnale MP and Phillip Island Nature Parks.

The State Government contributed \$133,960 (through two separate grants), with Rotary donating \$20,000. The proj-

ect is due to be completed by mid-September.

Phillip Island Nature Parks will then begin separate upgrade work on the accessibility ramp (from November 2025) and stair and landing (from May 2026).

This work is funded by a State Government grant of \$90,000.

# Make a time with Mary

By Mary Aldred MP, Federal Member of Monash

Our Monash electorate is part of a big region and a diverse community. That's why I believe it's so important to continue to take my mobile office on the road, and meet Monash residents in their hometown.

If you'd like to speak with me about any issue that matters to you, I'll be in Cowes, Wonthaggi and Inverloch on Wednesday August 20.

If you need assistance dealing with Centrelink, NDIS, aged care, veterans' affairs or immigration, I'm here to help. Whether it's cost of living and the economy, agriculture, small business, the environment, mental health, education, tourism or energy policy, I'm also keen to hear your thoughts on issues of national importance.

To make the most of your time and ensure my



Mary Aldred, Member for Monash is taking her office on the road and is visiting Cowes at 11am on August 20. Please email or call to book a time if you'd like to meet with her.

team and I can best assist you, you're encouraged to book an appointment with my office ahead of time. You can do so by phoning 03 5614 3600 or via email

at [Mary.Aldred.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Aldred.MP@aph.gov.au).

We live in a growing region where our infrastructure base is struggling to keep pace with new population growth. That's why I'll continue to advocate for the roads, sporting and health infrastructure I've committed to advancing, and listen to what's important to you.

As your Federal Member for Monash, I'm focused on being an active, attentive and engaged local representative who is a strong and effective voice for our community in Canberra. Since the election, I've hit the ground running, focussing on cost-of-living relief, speaking about the importance of regional services and supporting our local community and sporting organisations.

Please reach out if you'd like to catch up with me.

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# Local groups share in \$31,500 support

## COMMUNITY

Congratulations to the recipients of funding from Westernport Water's 2025-26 Community Support Program, which is helping local community groups, schools and sporting clubs bring their water projects and ideas to life.

This year, thirteen community groups shared in \$31,500 to support local initiatives that promote water efficiency, sustainability and community wellbeing.

Now in its sixth year, Westernport Water said the Community Support Program has funded well over \$200,000 in community-led projects that create lasting benefits for the region.

This year, the program focused on five sponsorship packages, including water refill stations, water efficiency

and school projects, sports hydration and events.

Westernport Water's General Manager Corporate and Customer, Gareth Kennedy, congratulated recipients at a cheque presentation event held in Newhaven on Wednesday, 30 July.

"I would like to congratulate all recipients that were successful in accessing funds from this year's program," Mr Kennedy said.

"We appreciate the creativity and passion that was present in each application from schools, sporting clubs and community groups across our service area.

"We take great pride in supporting the local community at Westernport Water. We have a long history of doing so, with our support dating back decades.

"I would like to acknowledge the time,

effort, and dedication of our community's volunteers and their commitment to making a positive impact in our community. I wish we could fund all the applications we receive, but for those that missed out, please re-apply next year."

### This year's successful applicants:

#### Water refill stations (up to \$7000):

- Bass Valley Early Learning Centre - \$7000
- Cowes Primary School - \$7000
- Corinella Bowls Club - \$3396
- Grantville Recreation Reserve - \$2673

#### Small water efficiency projects (up to \$5000):

- Phillip Island Village School - Drip irrigation for School Kitchen Garden - \$4800

#### Schools package (up to \$3000):

- Bass Coast College, San Remo Campus - Australian Native Edible Garden

program - \$2610

#### Sports hydration (up to \$500):

- Phillip Island Football Netball Club - 4 x Team water bottles and carriers for the U14 and U16 girls football teams

#### Events (hydration station, bottles, signage - value up to \$500):

- San Remo District Tourism & Business Inc - TIDAL Seafood Festival
- Kilcunda Community Association Incorporated - Kilcunda Lobster Festival
- PI Progress Association - Carols by the Bay (Cowes)
- Arts Society Phillip Island Region Inc. - 2026 Easter Weekend Art Show
- Cowes Yacht Club Inc - Around French Island National Catamaran Challenge 2026 (Neil Beddoe Memorial Trophy)
- WBSLSC - 2026 Channel Challenge

/ Sponsored article /



Cowes Primary School Assistant Principal Sarah Tyrrell. The school received funding for a water refill station.



Brad Martindale, Junior coordinator at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, which received a grant for team water bottles for the U14 and U16 girls football teams.



From Phillip Island Village School, Kate Eastcott (Principal), Lien Sim (Philosophy and Community Leader) and student representatives Seb and Charlotte, receiving the funding for a drip irrigation project for the school's kitchen garden.



Gay Mosby and Miranda Sage from the Arts Society Phillip Island Region (ASPIR), who received event support for the 2026 Easter Weekend Art Show.



Jacqui and John Carter from Corinella Bowls Club, that received funding for a water refill station.



Bass Coast College's Michelle Cleary and students Oscar and Emma collected funding for the San Remo campus' edible garden program.



Krisie Jacobs from Bass Valley Early Learning which received funding for a water refill station.



Alan Hailes from Woolamai Beach SLSC, for event support for the 2026 Channel Challenge.



Di Goeman and Helen Zervopoulos from Grantville Recreation Reserve, funded for a water refill station.

## Community Support Program Successful applicants for 2025-26



## Tapping into community spirit

Westernport Water is excited to announce thirteen local community groups will share in \$31,500 in sponsorship funding to support local initiatives that promote water efficiency, sustainability and community wellbeing. Congratulations!

### Recipients will receive one of 5 sponsorship packages:

#### Water refill stations:

- Bass Valley Early Learning Centre
- Cowes Primary School
- Corinella Bowls Club
- Grantville Recreation Reserve.

#### Small water efficiency projects:

- Phillip Island Village School: Drip irrigation for School Kitchen Garden.

#### Schools package:

- Bass Coast College - San Remo: Australian Native Edible Garden program.

#### Sports hydration:

- Phillip Island Football Netball Club: U14 & U16 girls football teams.

#### Events package:

- San Remo District Tourism & Business Inc: 2025 TIDAL Seafood Festival
- Kilcunda Community Association Inc: 2026 Kilcunda Lobster Festival
- PI Progress Assoc: Carols by the Bay
- Arts Society Phillip Island Region Inc: 2026 Easter Weekend Art Show
- Cowes Yacht Club: Around French Island National Catamaran Challenge 2026
- 2026 Channel Challenge.



**WESTERNPORT**  
WATER

# Bass Coast community invited to celebrate Phillip Island

## OPEN DAY

Locals will come together to celebrate research, conservation and community at the Phillip Island Nature Parks Community Open Day next month.

The Nature Parks will open the gates of its range of diverse attractions, offering residents free access on Saturday September 13 to celebrate the extraordinary conservation work being undertaken on their doorsteps by committed rangers, volunteers, staff and local community groups.

As part of the community festivities, locals can book in to visit the Penguin Parade free-of-charge on either Friday September 12 or Saturday September 13.

Enjoy research and conservation presentations, live music and engage with local community stalls at Churchill Island. Spot koalas and charismatic bush-stone curlews at the Koala Conservation Reserve.

Community Impact Manager at the Nature Parks, Kate Adams said the Community Open Day was a chance for locals to enjoy special access to wildlife and gain a greater insight



At Phillip Island Nature Parks' Open Day on September 13, enjoy research and conservation presentations and live music at the local community stalls at Churchill Island.

into the conservation efforts happening in their neighbourhood.

"Milawul has been long loved by locals, and interstate and overseas tourists, and the Nature Parks values greatly the ongoing support of our local community in the work that we do," Ms Adams said.

"Community Open Day is one way we like to give back and thank locals for their support, which is critical to the success of our initiatives. It also fosters crucial awareness about our important conservation programs and care for flora and fauna.

"I encourage everyone to

take advantage of this special event and enjoy all the magic that the island has to offer."

Entry to all activities and attractions is free throughout the day for residents, landholders, students and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members in the Bass Coast Shire.

The event is ticketed, and registration opens on August 30 at [penguins.org.au/about/our-community/community-news/community-open-day-2025](https://penguins.org.au/about/our-community/community-news/community-open-day-2025)

Tickets are subject to availability and proof of residency is required.

/Sponsored article/

# Help shape the future Phillip Island Recreation Reserve

## COMMUNITY PLANTING SESSION

Have you been wondering what has been happening at the new Phillip Island Recreation Reserve in Cowes? Before other council-initiated works begin, the Phillip Island Landcare group has been busy protecting and restoring some of the native vegetation. You can find out more and get involved in this new project by coming along to the next Community Planting Day on Saturday August 16.

In May 2024, Phillip Island Landcare Group (PILG) were advised of their successful grant application to the AusNet Community Landcare Grants program, a partnership between AusNet and Landcare Australia.

The group will receive \$60,000 in funding over three years to promote community revegetation. The project site is owned by the Bass Coast Shire Council and is located in the south-east corner of the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve site. The key objective of the project is the protection



Sue Doyle (Landcare Vice President - second from left) with family from Island Whale Festival giving back to the island. Everyone is invited to join Landcare's Community Planting Day on Saturday August 16 at the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve, from 9.30am.

and enhancement of endangered remnant vegetation.

This year, the group has installed wallaby fencing around the 10 acre project site, cleared 300sqm of the gorse weed, established 10 trial revegetation sites, participated in the Whale Festival offering a planting session and a chance for visitors to give back to our island, and held a further community and corporate planting day session with guest speak Gio Fitzpatrick.

The group has one more planting session to be held this year on Saturday August 16 and they

would love the community to visit the site.

This is your chance to find out more and get involved in the revegetation shaping the future Phillip Island Recreational Reserve. Community plantings are a fun, social and rewarding way to help create a greener future.

They will begin from 9.30am with morning tea, followed by a 10am start and hope to plant around 1000 tube stock. Around midday, there will be a break for a free BBQ lunch. All ages are welcome.

/Sponsored article/

# Health worker housing underway

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Bass Coast Health (BCH) and Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale celebrated the start of construction of much needed worker accommodation in Wonthaggi last week.

The new two-storey accommodation at Wonthaggi Hospital will consist of 20 self-contained rooms for healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, medical specialists and allied healthcare staff.

The construction is being funded by the State Government's Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, with Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes saying the support

would ensure regional areas have the skilled workers they need.

Local MP Jordan Crugnale welcomed the construction, which she said would be good for workers, patients and Wonthaggi.

"Making sure health workers have a place to stay near the hospital just makes sense," Ms Crugnale said.

BCH's interim CEO Professor Simone Alexander agreed.

"This project will benefit the community by helping Bass Coast Health to attract the healthcare workers who provide a wide range of specialist medical services locally, enabling our community to have

greater access to quality care closer to their homes.

"We are so fortunate this project will benefit from the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, which has helped make this facility a reality."

The new facility will also include communal and outdoor living areas and will be built on hospital grounds, next to Kirrak House residential aged care facility, providing staff with easier access to the workplace and reducing travel time for key workers.

The project is the first health worker initiative to be approved through the Government's Development Facilitation Program

and the government said it "will play a critical role supporting Bass Coast Health attract and retain more skilled healthcare workers".

Bass Coast Health provides a range of hospital and community-based care services across multiple sites, including Wonthaggi Hospital, the Phillip Island Community Hospital at Cowes, and also at San Remo.

The new housing will accommodate up to 20 healthcare workers, freeing up rental properties and hotel rooms currently relied on by Bass Coast Health to house an extensive range of visiting healthcare professionals.



At the sod turning (from left): Sam Issa IZZA Group owner, Jordan Crugnale MP, Shaun Brooks BCH CFO and Board Chair Ian Thompson. The construction is being funded by the State Government's Regional Worker Accommodation Fund.

## COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Saturday 13 September

Connect with nature, wildlife and community.

FREE\* entry to the Nature Parks attractions:

**Churchill Island** - Conservation and research presentations, demonstrations, music and stalls.

**Koala Conservation Reserve** - Enjoy easy walks discovering the wonder of the woodlands and spot koalas.

**Penguin Parade** - General Viewing Fri 12 and Sat 13 Sep.

Phillip Island  
NATURE  
PARKS

Full program and terms and conditions:  
[penguins.org.au/OpenDay](https://penguins.org.au/OpenDay)  
#PhillipIslandNP f  
Info: [community@penguins.org.au](mailto:community@penguins.org.au) or call 5951 2830



## Landcare planting session

Saturday 16th August

Phillip Island Recreational Reserve  
(diagonally opposite Cowes RSL)

Enter via Ventnor Rd

9.30am morning tea

10.00am planting session begins

Midday - Free bbq lunch

RSVP to [phillipislandlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandlandcare@gmail.com)

All ages welcome

This project is proudly supported by  
**AusNet**

Phillip Island  
**Landcare**  
Group

# Our Airbnb listings among the nation's highest

## TOURISM

Bass Coast has one of the highest proportions of Airbnb listings compared to the rest of Australia, with new research finding we rank third.

A report released last week, "Short term rentals in Australia's coastal regions: Recent impacts and policy responses" by the University of Sydney – commissioned by the Australian Coastal Councils Association – analysed the letting market in popular coastal communities.

It found in Bass Coast 7.8 per cent of all homes were listed on the Airbnb platform in December 2024, with "listings distributed across the shire but particularly concentrated in Phillip Island".

There were 2252 listings recorded here in December 2024, with whole houses 2164 (96 per cent) and private rooms at 87 listings (four per cent).

The highest proportion was in the Byron shire, where 17.7 per cent of all homes were listed on Airbnb, based on InsideAirbnb data.

This was followed by Busselton, south of Perth at 8.8 per cent.

There were more than 174,000 Airbnb listings across Australia in December 2024 – nearly 1.6 per cent of Australia's total

housing stock.

Eleven local government areas around Australia nominated to be included as case studies in the research included the Mornington Peninsula, Sunshine Coast, and Byron.

The report found the average density of listings on the Airbnb platform across the 11 areas was 5.2 per cent.

The report highlights concerns about competition between short- and long-term rental accommodation and housing affordability.

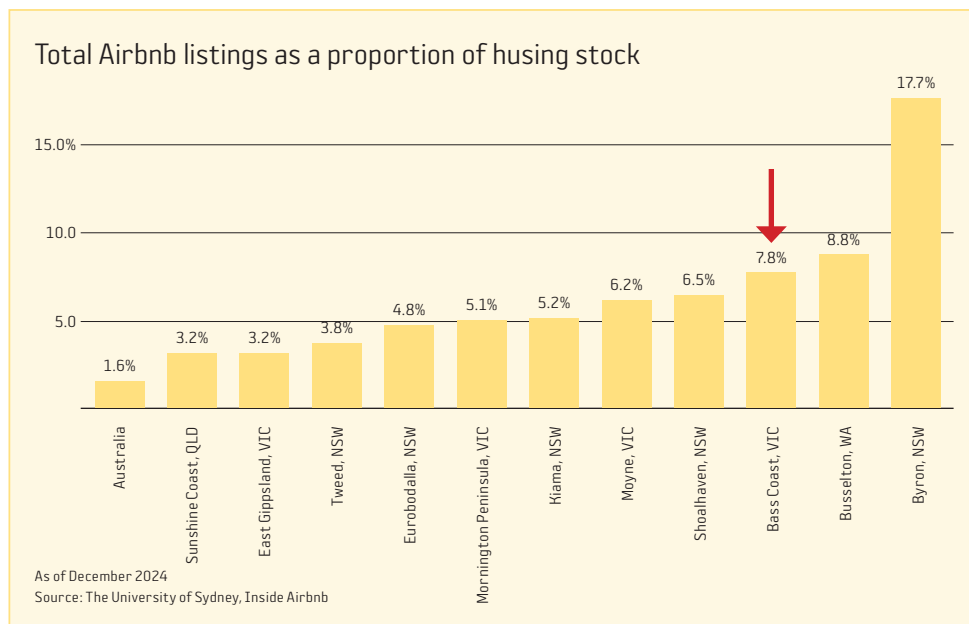
In Bass Coast and Kiama, the ratio of short-term accommodation to long term rental properties was around 20-30 times the rest of Australia, the report states.

Byron reported the highest median rents, increasing substantially from \$595 to \$795 per week, while Bass Coast increased from \$325 to \$450.

The research found growth in tourism demand coincided with strong population growth.

Bass Coast recorded the highest population growth (4.9 per cent) between 2016 and 2021, whereas the Sunshine Coast recorded a growth rate of 3.3 per cent.

"In part the almost doubling of population growth in locations such as Eurobodalla, the Bass Coast, and Byron, likely



Total Airbnb listings as a proportion of housing stock. Bass Coast sits at 7.8 per cent, ranking third in the country.

reflects the impacts of the COVID-19 period, which saw workers relocate to regional areas," it states.

In addition, the report states the lack of permanent rental housing has put pressure on employers seeking to attract and retain staff, across tourism and other industries.

The report concludes communities impacted by both population growth and residential tourism demand "will need to prioritise expanding new and affordable housing supply".

"It is important to ensure new supply is not

wholly absorbed by the short-term rental sector," it states.

"This can be achieved by considering demand for second homes in planning for future residential development, and/or by restricting short term rental activity."

The report recommends state governments strengthen support for sharing data on listings and bookings so councils can better track compliance and assess housing impacts, as well as limiting the number of nights properties can be rented short-term.

## Tourism

According to the report, short term rental properties dominate visitor accommodation in Bass Coast.

It states short-term rental platforms have changed tourism visitation here, with a trend to shorter visitor stays, from five to seven days to one to three nights.

The same report released in 2018 stated traditional tourism providers in Bass Coast raised concerns about "the difficulty of competing against platform enabled holiday

home operators".

Those providers said short-term rental accommodation was "able to bypass standard planning regulations and charges applying to motels, resorts and caravan parks".

The new report found traditional hotel/motel accommodation in Bass Coast demonstrated significant growth post-Covid, more than doubling its formal accommodation for overnight stays from 217,000 nights in 2020-2021 to 453,000 nights in 2022-2023.

The 2018 report highlighted local resident concerns about the impacts of holiday homes, noise, parking and bin collection.

"In some areas of Phillip Island, there is concern about enclaves of holiday homes, where local residents feel surrounded by tourists," it said.

As reported in March, a Bass Coast Shire councillor mooted that local laws should be strengthened to protect residents against antisocial short stay rental accommodation visitors.

Residents also shared their experiences, with one saying security and noise issues were not "fair on permanent residents" and another saying "drunken adults and kids were running riot unpervised".

# Let's be direct

## BUSINESS

Last week, the Advertiser launched the new Phillip Island Directory.

After six months of work behind the scenes, it's time to celebrate, and it is local businesses who are getting the gift, with a special introductory offer to join up for three months for free.

"We're proud to launch the Phillip Island Directory, which is a go-to local guide connecting residents, visitors, and holidaymakers with the very best of Phillip Island, San Remo and surrounds," said Lisa Hennessy, a key member of the team behind the Directory.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to boost your online presence and be discovered by thousands of people searching for where to eat, shop, stay and explore," said Lisa.

"Getting started is easy – simply fill out the form via the "Submit a Listing" tab on our website or email [info@phillipislanddirectory.com.au](mailto:info@phillipislanddirectory.com.au) for more details."

To be eligible for the free three month offer, you must submit your listing by September 10.

Lisa will be out visiting businesses in the coming months, with details of price options for ongoing listings.



Ellen Cheeseman and Lisa Hennessy, part of the team behind the new Phillip Island Directory, launched last week. A special introductory offer (available until September 10) means businesses can sign up for three months free of charge.

"This digital directory is designed to be a one-stop guide, the ultimate place to find what to do, where to go, where to shop, so we are really keen to get all our locals on board."

The Directory will be supported by:

- A mobile-friendly website with searchable business listings
- QR codes displayed across the island and in holiday rentals
- Ongoing promotion in the Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser, The Island magazine, and on

social media

- A large-scale local marketing campaign to drive traffic and visibility

"We truly believe the Phillip Island Directory will become a valuable asset for our whole community – helping businesses thrive and making it easier for locals and visitors to find exactly what they need," Lisa said.

Don't miss this special introductory offer. Sign up by September 10 to enjoy three months free of charge.

[www.pisra.com.au/phillip-island-directory](http://www.pisra.com.au/phillip-island-directory)

## ADVERTISER



Covering Phillip Island, San Remo and surrounds

## Your one-stop guide to:



Shopping



Attractions



Dining



Beaches



Local Services



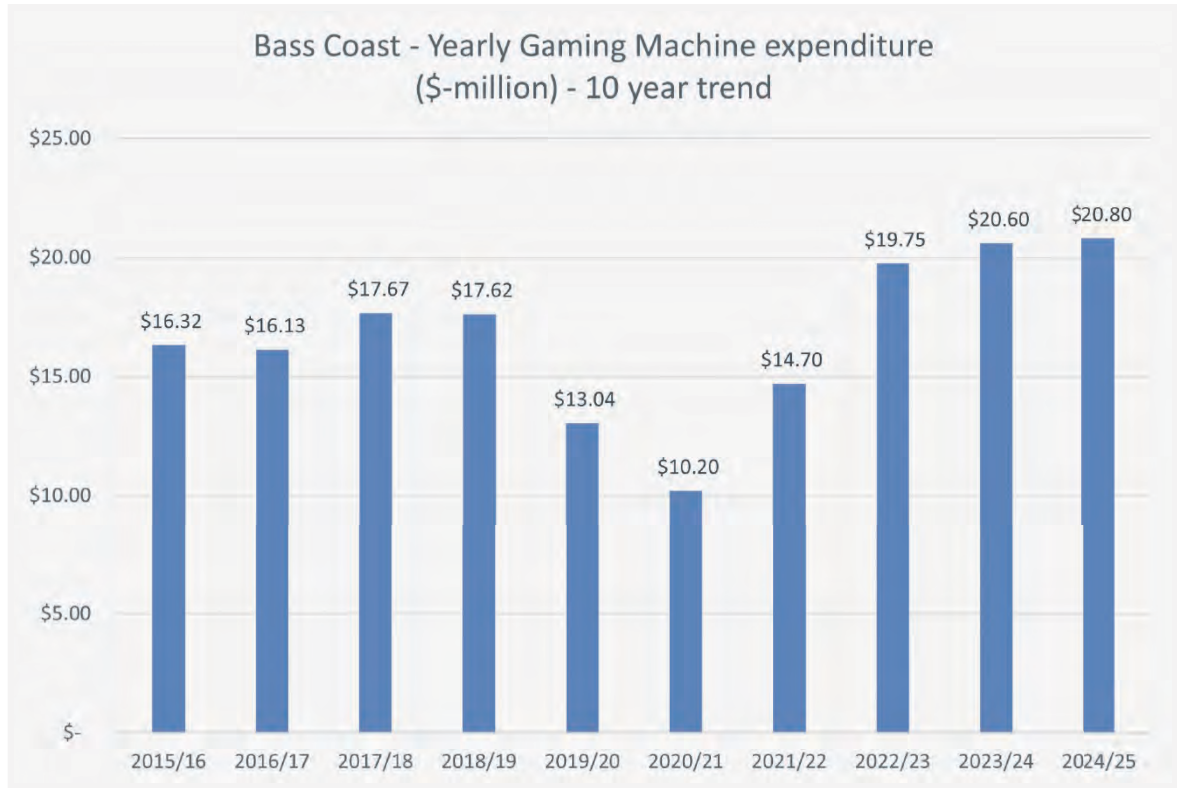
Walks



Submit a listing here

View Phillip Island Directory here





Gambling losses from the five poker machine venues across the shire continues to grow, with \$20.75 million lost in the 2024/25 financial year. Over the past 10 years, losses have grown by \$4.48 million.

# Shire-wide gaming machine losses over \$20 million

## GAMBLING

Bass Coast’s gambling figures for 2024/25 reveal over \$1.5 million is lost every month at poker machine venues across the shire.

Overall expenditure (losses) for the year through the poker machines came to \$20,750,308.

This is only a slight increase of \$128,475 from the previous year, compared to the \$876,096 jump between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

However the 10-year trend shows a steady rise (aside from Covid years), with yearly losses growing by \$4.48 million since 2015/16.

The latest data compiled by the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission shows in Bass Coast in the past 12 months the highest monthly losses were in January 2025 (\$1.95 million), followed by November 2024 (\$1.85 million).

There are currently 210 poker machines across five venues in the Shire, with Phillip Island RSL recording the highest expenditure at \$7.7 million. It also recorded the highest loss per machine of \$133,044.

## Gambling harm

In September, the State Government will begin a trial of mandatory account-based play across 43 venues, to try and prevent gambling harm.

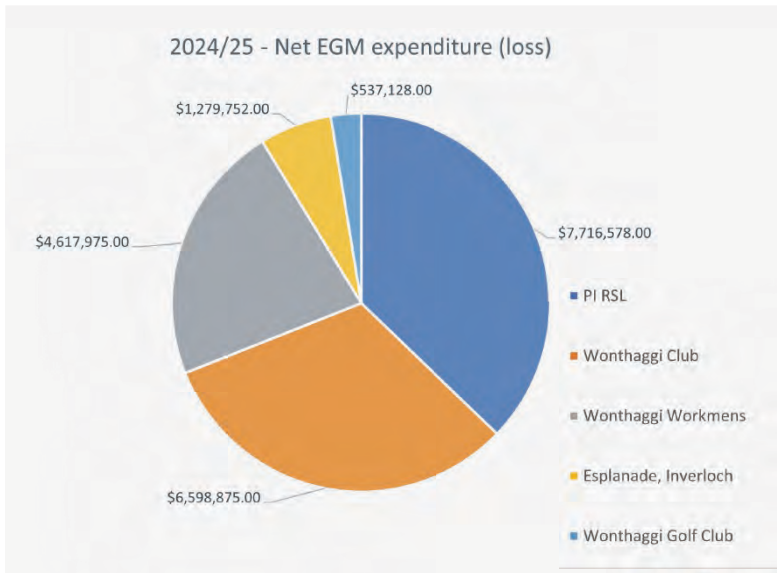
Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Enver Erdogan said Victoria was leading the way with its major gambling reforms.

“This trial is an important first step – helping people take control of their gambling and make better choices.”

People gambling at these venues will need to use a YourPlay card to play electronic gaming machines and set loss limits. Cards can be obtained on-the-spot in venues.

Mr Erdogan said mandatory account-based play will offer people more control over their gambling habits and can provide them with greater insight into how much they spend gambling.

The trial builds on the government’s existing gambling reforms, including:



There are currently 210 poker machines across five venues in the Bass Coast Shire, with Phillip Island RSL recording the highest expenditure at \$7.7 million. It also recorded the highest loss per machine of \$133,044.

- Mandatory closure periods from 4am to 10am for gaming areas in all Victorian hotels and clubs
- Slowing spin rates of new gaming machines
- Limiting EFTPOS cash withdrawals to \$500 per card in 24 hours
- Capping the number of gaming machines in the state at the current level until 2042
- Prohibiting the advertising or operation of cheque cashing services in or around gaming venues
- Introducing a new code of conduct to strengthen the obligations of venue operators to better respond to suspected problem gambling.

Last year, the State Government also announced a review into the community benefit scheme, which provides significant tax cuts to clubs with gaming machines, providing they invest 8.33 per cent of gaming revenue back into the community.

Gambling opponents say the scheme can’t repair the “social and economic harm” of gambling, describing it as “simply a public relations opportunity for venues” and a way to buy “social licence”.

In March, the Federal Government announced it will axe

research and development tax incentives for gambling companies.

Harm minimisation research for poker machines will still be eligible for tax support.

According to research by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australians lose more per capita to gambling than any country in the world: \$25 billion a year.

Poker machines are a major source of gambling revenue, with most states allowing the machines in venues outside of dedicated gaming venues like casinos. Only WA has laws confining poker machines to casinos, and it has the lowest per capita gambling losses in the country.

A report by NSW GambleAware stated 73.3 per cent of people seeking help for problem gambling in 2020/21 identified poker machines as their primary form of gambling. Less than one per cent listed lotteries, race betting was 13.1 per cent and sports betting 7.9 per cent.

If you or someone you know is impacted by gambling, contact your Gambler’s Help team at Latrobe Community Health Service by phoning 1800 242 696, or emailing [gamblingsupportservices@lchs.com.au](mailto:gamblingsupportservices@lchs.com.au)

For support outside of Gippsland, phone 1800 858 858.



Terry Easy has been skippering the French Island barge for nearly nine years, with his family part-owning it for the previous three decades before that.

# French Island barge open for tender

## COMMUNITY

French Island’s barge operator is confident of renewing their licence to run the business, saying the vessel is a “lifeline” for residents.

Parks Victoria is currently calling for Expressions of Interest to operate the barge, open until August 29.

“Parks Victoria is seeking a high-quality barge operator with the vision and the capacity to continue the delivery of a year-round barge transport service at French Island,” the EoI states.

Barge manager Brad Thomas said residents had been concerned by the tender process, but reassured them the government was required by law to run an EoI.

“Locals are unaware of why it’s come up for tender and concerned about what’s going on, or whether we’ve put it up. It’s not us it’s just the government process,” Brad said.

He said while would-be operators had been “sniffing out” the business, he was confident the current operators would renew their licence.

“I’m not concerned at all. It’s something we have to get through,” Brad said, adding he understood the tender was for the same operation and not for tourism.

“I welcome anyone to take it up for a week. They quickly realise it’s logistically hard, running seven days a week at the island’s command.

“It throws everything at us the island. We’re very island oriented. It takes a long time to get to know logistics and how to run it.

“Bring it on, we’ll step into the ring.”

As reported last year, the barge is owned by Terry Easy, with Brad managing it for Terry since 2018, alongside four staff

and a team of contractors from welders to engineers.

The barge runs 24/7 year-round, crossing from Corinella to French Island, with a daily average of 12 return trips.

It has a maximum carrying capacity of 22 tonnes, holds 12 passengers, two cars, or one large truck, and transports all cargo for residents including building materials, stock feed, produce for the store, fuel, mail, “everything for locals to exist”.

“We’re also open 24/7 to emergency services,” Brad said.

“The skill is also navigation of the bay. It’s sheltered water but it’s tidal, it races 2-4 knots which makes it tricky. We have a draft of 0.9 metres, and the deepest area is 17 metres but the average is 5-8 metres.”

## History

Terry has for the most part, lived his life on French Island – his family settled there 130 years ago.

He bought the barge operation from his family, which was one of five families who had run the vessel for three decades.

“The five families came together because they were all farmers who wanted to get cattle and sheep off and on the island and so they bought the barge when a buyer couldn’t be found, running it for the next 30 years,” Terry said.

“Some mornings the fog is so thick you can’t see the end of the vessel.”

He regularly sees dolphins and occasionally whales – “never one, always three”

“And I see most sunrises and sunsets.”

A petition to support the renewal of the licence for the barge has been launched, describing it as a “crucial service that ties French Island to the rest of Victoria”. Visit [change.org](http://change.org) and search for French Island barge.

# Ambulance response times improve in Bass Coast

## HEALTH

Bass Coast has recorded its best quarter performance for 2024/25, according to the latest data released by Ambulance Victoria.

The data shows 59.5 per cent of Code 1 calls in the shire were responded to in under 15 minutes. The average response time was 16.58 minutes.

This compares to 57.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2024/25, 53.9 per cent in the second and 54.6 per cent in the third.

Results are well ahead of neighbouring South Gippsland, which registered 46.2 per cent of Code 1 calls responded to in under 15 minutes and an average time of 19:13.

Code 2 response times in Bass Coast had also improved. The last quarter was the best for the year, with the average down to 43:53 compared to 44:31 the previous quarter and 46:15 in quarter 2.

The improvement coincides with a state-wide rise, with Ambulance Victoria saying paramedics are responding 10 seconds faster to Code 1 calls.

AV Acting Executive Director Regional Operations Michael Georgiou said demand for "lights and sirens" ambulances fell by 3.5 per cent between April and June, compared with the same time last year, coinciding with an AV community information campaign to save paramedics for emergencies.

"April to June last year was AV's busiest three months on record – with 102,419 Code 1 emergencies," Mr Georgiou said.

"Across the same period this year, we've responded to 98,874 Code 1 cases.

"I thank our highly skilled paramedics and first respond-

Bass Coast Code 1 Response Times: 2024/25		
	% of responses < 15 min	Average response time
Qrt 1	57.8%	16:27
Qrt 2	53.9%	17:46
Qrt 3	54.6%	17:48
Qrt 4	59.5%	16:58

Bass Coast recorded its best quarter performance for 2024/25, according to the latest data released by Ambulance Victoria.

ers who do a remarkable job providing best care to their communities, each and every day.

"We're grateful to Victorians who are choosing to use alternative care for non-urgent issues – it means ambulances are available faster for emergencies. That community effort is helping us save lives."

Mr Georgiou said there'd been a 10 second improvement in the average Code 1 response time, with the percentage of cases responded to within 15 minutes up by 1.1 per cent.

## Gippsland

In the Gippsland Region crews responded to 6056 Code 1 cases between April and June 2025, down from 6132 last year, but up from 6039 three months ago.

Compared with the same time last year, performance improved in 53 Local Government Areas (LGAs). The biggest improvement in the Gippsland Region was the major population centre of Bairnsdale.

AV is urging people not to be complacent, with demand for emergency ambulances climbing again as winter illnesses spread through the community.

"We've already seen a 3.7 per cent jump in Code 1 demand since the first three months of 2025," Gippsland Regional Director Ross Salathiel said.

"Winter is always our busiest time. Our paramedics are focused on reaching the sickest patients first – but every day, more than 500 calls to Triple Zero (000) don't need an emergency ambulance.

"There are many options people can access when they need timely medical care and health advice but don't need an emergency ambulance, including the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department and Urgent Care Clinics.

"Between April and June alone, our expert Secondary Triage team redirected 46,015 non-urgent cases away from an emergency response."

Ambulance Victoria said it is working closely with hospitals, emergency services and government partners to keep ambulances on the road and patients moving through the system.

AV Q4 performance data, including LGA data, can be found at: [www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/our-performance](http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/our-performance)

manage their diabetes through lifestyle changes, glucose monitoring and medications, and advice about using insulin pumps and new monitoring technologies.

## Men's health

Bass Coast Health has highlighted its range of services to help men to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

This includes allied health services, such as Physiotherapy and Dietetics, to help with the management of injuries and chronic conditions, recovery from surgery and healthy eating, as well as a comprehensive cardiology service.

## Incontinence help

Bass Coast Health have skilled Continence Clinical Nurse Consultants who work with consumers to reduce the impact that incontinence has on their daily living.

The Continence team consults from the Phillip Island Health Hub and Wonthaggi Hospital, and can visit people's homes when necessary.

To book, phone 03 5671 3353. The service is free and no GP referral is needed.

## A ton of teddies

Jill Demo has made an incredible 605 Trauma Teddies by

hand since 2013 and donated these to children in need via the Red Cross, drought relief efforts and Bass Coast Health. Now in her 94th year, Jill is hoping for more community support, either through donations, knitting help or even through teaching people to knit.

If you would like to help with donations, knitting or support in any way, please contact Kerry Redmond, BCH Volunteer and Fundraising Manager: [kerry.redmond@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:kerry.redmond@basscoasthealth.org.au)

## Aged care services

Bass Coast Health (BCH) takes pride in operating two residential care facilities, Kirrak House at Wonthaggi and Griffiths Point Lodge at San Remo.

As the sub-regional health service for the Bass Coast and South Gippsland shires, BCH's aged care services also include Sub-Acute, Transitional Care, Allied Health, Flexihealth and Residential In-Reach.

To learn more about aged care services offered by BCH, go to [basscoasthealth.org.au/services/residential-aged-care](http://basscoasthealth.org.au/services/residential-aged-care)

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



Almost 50 people gathered at the Cowes Jetty on Saturday, calling for an immediate ceasefire and the full distribution humanitarian aid in Gaza.

# Community gathered for Gaza

Almost 50 people gathered at the Cowes Jetty on Saturday, calling for an immediate ceasefire and the full distribution of humanitarian aid in Gaza.

The gathering was organised by the Bass Coast for Palestine group which has been holding gatherings every two weeks, alternating between Cowes and Wonthaggi.

Attendees shared their despair at the humanitarian disaster in Gaza, with many expressing their horror at the images of the starving children and describing the situation as genocide.

One former health worker attended the gathering after seeing the conditions of the hospitals in Gaza, saying "I can't stand back and not do anything".

Another condemned what the Israeli Prime Minister was doing in the name of the Israeli people saying it was "being inflicted on innocent people".

Organisers urged people to have respectful, considered conversations with people about the issue, and to contact local and federal members, as well as Prime Minister Albanese and Foreign Minister Wong to express their concerns.

A spokesperson for the group said "the situation in Gaza is not complicated, it is simply a genocide, and it needs to stop".

"Our group exists to support the freedom of all people from

the river to the sea, and to support each other in resistance and advocacy. Particularly, we want to see the Australian Government to immediately sanction Israel and implement a two-way arms embargo. Anyone is welcome to come to our gatherings to share, or to listen, or to connect and show solidarity with Palestine."

The next gathering is in Wonthaggi on August 23, followed by Cowes on September 6.

Across the world, leaders have said there is already mass famine in the area, and over the weekend, Australia joined Germany, Italy, NZ and the UK condemning plans by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for further military action to control Gaza City.

On Monday, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Australia would recognise the state of Palestine at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September.

The UN's top human rights official said the Israeli Government must not pursue a complete military takeover of the Gaza Strip.

The United Nations have described the situation in Gaza as "beyond catastrophic", while the World Health Organisation said health professionals have been barred from entering Gaza since March.



The gathering was organised by the Bass Coast for Palestine group which has been holding gatherings every two weeks, alternating between Cowes and Wonthaggi.



## New children service

Paediatric occupational therapist Jade Potter has joined the Bass Coast Health team and works with children aged up to 12 years with delays in the development of their fine motor skills, and difficulties with sensory processing and regulating their emotions.

To access Paediatric Occupational Therapy, parents can self-refer their children or obtain a referral from their GP.

For more information: [basscoasthealth.org.au/ot](http://basscoasthealth.org.au/ot)

## Diabetes services

Bass Coast Health's (BCH) Diabetes Education team has urged people with diabetes to arrange a consultation to keep their diabetes in check.

BCH offers a comprehensive service to make life easier for people with diabetes and their carers.

They help people to use glucose monitoring devices that connect to not only their smartphones but also the BCH team.

This enables easier monitoring and control of glucose levels to keep patients safer. The BCH team also helps patients

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Secure your slice of Silverleaves with this charming home, offering the perfect retreat for permanent living or a relaxing holiday getaway.

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Silverleaves is a quiet, coastal residential area on Phillip Island, situated east of Cowes. It's known for its peaceful, north-facing beaches, bushy foreshore,


and classic holiday homes. While it's a relatively short drive from Cowes, Silverleaves offers a more tranquil atmosphere with opportunities for beach walks, nature spotting, and relaxing by the water. The area is surrounded by natural beauty, including native flora like banksias and tea-trees. Kookaburras and other birdlife are common, and it's not unusual to spot wallabies and echidnas.

**Address:** 12 Honeyeater Drive, Silverleaves  
**Price:** \$795,000  
**Contact:** Kendall O'Garey, First National Phillip Island, 0410 595 130



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# Starting a family history journey

## COMMUNITY

As part of Family History Month, the Myli librarians and the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society (PIADGS) have joined forces to present a special event.

On Tuesday August 26 at 2pm they're hosting "Starting a Family History Journey", an afternoon of discovery at the Phillip Island Library in Cowes.

Whether you're just beginning or building on your research, you'll explore free library resources to help unlock your family's story and learn how PIADGS can guide and support you along the way.

Family tree templates and other information will be explained and distributed during a digital presentation on procedures and the resources available from both groups.

There will be time for questions and the session will be followed by refreshments. This is the



As part of Family History Month, Myli and the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society present "Starting a Family History Journey" on Tuesday August 26 at 2pm, at the Phillip Island Library in Cowes.

perfect first step on your genealogy journey.

The session is free, but bookings are essential at: [myli.au/pi2608](http://myli.au/pi2608) or call the

library on 03 5952 2842.

Phillip Island library – Berninnet. 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes.

/ Sponsored article /

# Friends clean up at Scenic Estate

## ENVIRONMENT

On Sunday August 3, volunteers tackled a couple of projects in the Scenic Estate Conservation Reserve.

The primary focus was eradicating gorse. Greg Johnson, President of the Phillip Island Conservation Society said it was the perfect time of year for the job when the gorse's golden flowers are easy to spot.

"But it is important to remove and bag the flower/seed heads before cutting the plant back at or below ground level to reduce the risk of spread," he noted.

The team of eight volunteers worked diligently to remove 20-30 gorse bushes of various sizes, from small clumpy heavily grazed bushes to a nearly two-metre-tall bush – all in flower.

"When we first started working in the reserve, gorse was widespread and it's amazing to see how much of a difference has been made over years of regular working



Jo, Greg, Pepi and Karen with bags of gorse at the August FOSER working bee at Scenic Estate.

bees," Greg said.

The volunteers also spread mulch around a site where FOSER planted various local indigenous trees and grasses in early July, to help protect and nourish the growing plants.

At the end of the working bee, the team enjoyed a delicious homemade morning tea.

These working bees are

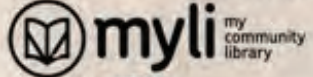
only as successful as the number of volunteers can make them. Please contact Meg Anderson at [meganderson213@gmail.com](mailto:meganderson213@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the group on a future date.


Upcoming FOSER events include a 10th anniversary celebration in September – date to be confirmed, and working bee on Sunday November 2.

## STARTING A FAMILY HISTORY JOURNEY

Phillip Island Library  
Tuesday 26 August  
2-3.30 pm

Celebrate Family History month with the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society and Myli librarians to learn about the FREE library resources for conducting your own family history research and the resources and support that are available from the society.

 myli my community library



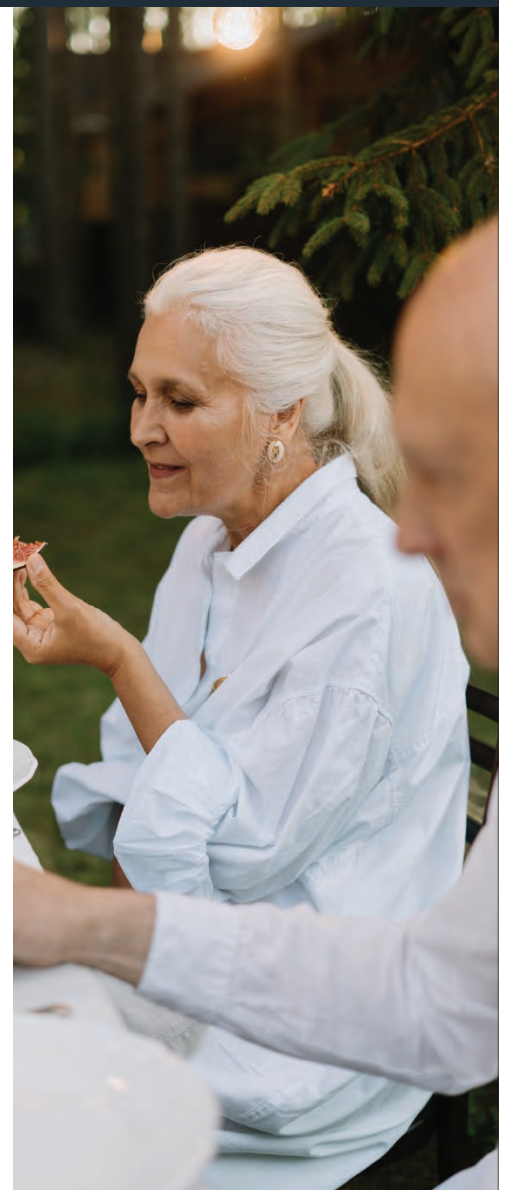
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Phillip Island  
**NATURE PARKS**





Test your sporting knowledge at a Sports Trivia night at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club on August 16, raising funds for the Phillip Island Community Hospital.

# Be a good sport for a great cause

## FUNDRAISER

Sports lovers can test their sporting knowledge and raise funds for the new community hospital at a Sports Trivia Quiz night this weekend, on Saturday August 16.

Presented by the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary, the Trivia fundraiser is at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, with doors opening at 6.30pm.

With loads of prizes and a fantastic raffle, the night also includes two guest speakers, sharing their insights on mental health and resilience.

Organisers said as well as being a great night out, with a chance for friends and family to battle it out for the best sports brain, the night will shine a light on the importance of mental health in

the trades industry.

Keynote speaker Luke Ross is a renowned worldwide corporate speaker and psychologist with over twenty years military experience, while Krista Fisher is a Fellow researcher with Movember and is passionate about young men's health.

Entertaining and educational, this is a one-night only opportunity to support your local community.

Attendees are invited to bring their own snacks, and drinks will be available for purchase at the bar.

Tickets are \$25 and can be booked online at: [events.humanitix.com/celebrate-tradies-month2025](https://events.humanitix.com/celebrate-tradies-month2025) or scan the QR code.

Alternatively you can call Hilary Kerrison on 0409 439 074 or Amanda Drennan on 0407 684 838.

# A special Sunday Temple for jazz lovers

## MUSIC

On August 17 the Phillip Island Jazz Club presents Steve Temple and Friends at the Phillip Island Bowling Club from 2pm.

"Steve Temple is excited to be coming back to play at his favourite Jazz Club and we are just as excited that he will be back," a club spokesperson said.

"Steve will be playing trumpet and his backing group will be Sandra Talty on drums, Richard Mander on bass and tuba, Will Purcell on banjo, Callum Mintzis on trombone and Zac O'Connell on saxophone.

"The quality of this group is unquestioned. Each member of the group are talented individuals who come with a reputation of fine musicianship. We look forward to the return of Steve and his many friends to entertain us for the afternoon."

Please book early if possible, to give the club an idea of how many tables and chairs will be



On August 17, Phillip Island Jazz Club presents Steve Temple and Friends at Phillip Island Bowling Club in Cowes, starting at 2pm.

needed for the day.

Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for visitors.

The show runs from 2pm until 4.30pm at

the Phillip Island Bowling Club, 40 Dunsmore Road in Cowes.

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



Celebrate Tradies Health Month



## SPORTS TRIVIA QUIZ & MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION SESSION

Phillip Island Football & Netball Club,  
Saturday 16 August 2025  
7pm-10pm (doors open at 6.30pm)

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- Luke Ross - Registered Psychologist and Behavioural Expert
- Dr Krista Fisher - Young Men's Mental Health Research Fellow, Movember

\* Raffle \* Sport Prizes \* Giveaways  
Bring your own nibbles. Bar available.

Tickets \$25. To book, scan the QR code or go to:  
<https://events.humanitix.com/celebrate-tradies-month2025>



All funds raised will help to purchase medical equipment for the Phillip Island Community Hospital



# VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

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A still from *Creatures of Habit*, one of the films screened at this year's Surf Film Festival. Organisers are now calling for submissions from local film makers, to be part of the 2026 Bass Coast Surf Film Festival.

## Call for submissions: Bass Coast Surf Film Festival

### FILM

Following its successful 2025 program, the Bass Coast Surf Film Festival is returning in 2026 and is looking for local film submissions for next year's program.

Festival founder Anneli McKinnon is encouraging local filmmakers to take part.

"We're calling on Bass

Coast residents to showcase the vibrant surf scene of our region through film," Anneli said.

"Whether it's short films, documentaries, or creative visual storytelling, we want to see your unique perspective on the waves, the community, and the coastal lifestyle that defines Bass Coast."

Submissions open this week, on August 14, and

close on October 14.

If you are interested, and would like a submission form, please email: [basscoast.surf.film.festival@gmail.com](mailto:basscoast.surf.film.festival@gmail.com).

Selected films will be featured in the 2026 Bass Coast Surf Film Festival program, celebrating the spirit, stories, and surf of Bass Coast.

"Let the ocean inspire you," said Anneli.



San Remo Primary ga-ga ball pit, constructed by the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo and students from the Village School's senior campus.

## Students go Ga-Ga with Rotary

### EDUCATION

The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo has once again partnered with students from The Village School (Ryanston Senior Campus) to construct a ga-ga ball pit for a local school.

This latest installation at San Remo Primary School marks the sixth ga-ga pit completed across the region, and the fourth constructed with the valued assistance of Village School students.

Senior students worked alongside Rotarians on-site under the guidance of Rotarian John Tennant, contributing their time, energy, and ideas to bring the project to life. This initiative is part of Rotary's ongoing commitment to promoting

active play, community engagement, and youth development through hands-on learning.

Ga-Ga ball, an inclusive and fast-paced game played within an octagonal pit, has gained significant popularity in schools throughout the district. The ga-ga pits provide a safe, enjoyable space for physical activity and social connection during school hours.

Rotary said what distinguishes this initiative is its practical, educational focus. Rather than completing the construction independently, Rotary involves students directly in the building process – providing an opportunity to learn valuable skills while fostering teamwork, leadership,

and community pride.

"This is about more than just building a playground," said Rotarian John Tennant.

"It's about empowering young people and demonstrating the impact they can have when they engage with their community."

The growing partnership between Rotary and The Village School serves as a strong example of how collaboration between community organisations and schools can deliver meaningful, lasting outcomes.

With six ga-ga pits now completed and growing interest from additional schools, the project is well-positioned to continue making a positive impact into the future.

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THURSDAY



21<sup>ST</sup> AUG, 2025

# ROADWORKS NOTICE



## Bass Highway (M420), Grantville Traffic Signals Installation

New traffic signals will be installed at the Dandy Premix Quarries intersection to reduce truck traffic through Grantville and improve safety for pedestrians and motorists using the Bass Highway.

- Works commenced July 2025, approx. 4-month duration
- Lane closures, reduced speed limits, contra-flow traffic
- Deep Creek St and Bass Hwy Service Rd access impacted
- Two bus stops temporarily relocated

### COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF ROADWORKS

**Stage 1 Roadworks** confined to the existing quarry intersection commenced early July 2025.

**Stage 2 Roadworks** on the Bass Highway Northbound carriageway are scheduled to commence on 14 August and are expected to be completed by 19 September 2025.

The **Stage 2 Roadworks** require temporary closure of the Bass Highway Northbound carriageway and the introduction of contra-flow traffic to the Southbound carriageway.

The left lane of the Southbound carriageway will continue to be used for southbound traffic and the second lane for northbound traffic after diversion across the highway median to share the Southbound carriageway. During **Stage 2 Roadworks**, each of the two lanes of the Southbound carriageway will have traffic moving in the opposite direction.

During **Stage 2 Roadworks** there will be reduced speed limits through the Bass Highway construction zone with modified traffic layouts and traffic controls in place to assist motorists.

### ROADWORK TIMES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Stage 2 Roadworks will generally be undertaken Monday to Saturday (6 days/week) between 7.00am and 7.00pm. Some short-term roadworks may be carried out overnight.

Traffic controls including Variable Message Signs (VMSs), Safety Barriers, Portable Traffic Lights, Traffic Controllers and Truck Mounted Attenuators (TMAs) will be in operation.

### ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Deep Creek Street and the Bass Highway Service Road traffic will be temporarily impacted during Stage 2 roadworks.

**Deep Creek Street:** temporary use of Bonney Road for Bass Highway access and egress, including for Smith Street, Broome Court, Stewart Street, Malcolm Drive and Panoramic Drive traffic.

**Bass Highway Service Road (northbound, western side of Bass Highway):** temporary northbound egress to Bass Highway under traffic controller supervision. This will also impact on traffic from Blackwood Drive, Swan Street, Vision Lane and Lang Street using the



Map data: ©2024 Google, Imagery ©2024 Airbus

Bass Highway Service Road for northbound entry to Bass Highway.

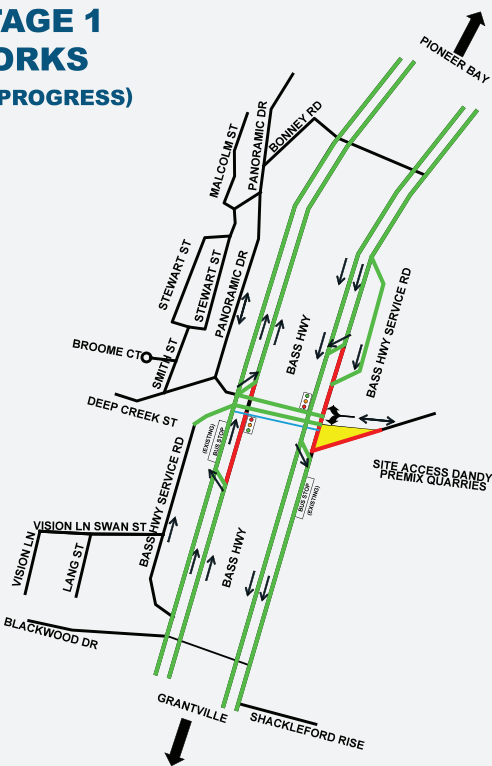
### BUS STOP - NORTHBOUND

The Bass HWY northbound bus stop located in the Stage 2 Roadworks construction zone will be temporarily relocated further north (approx. 120m) with signage, waiting area provision and pedestrian protection provided.

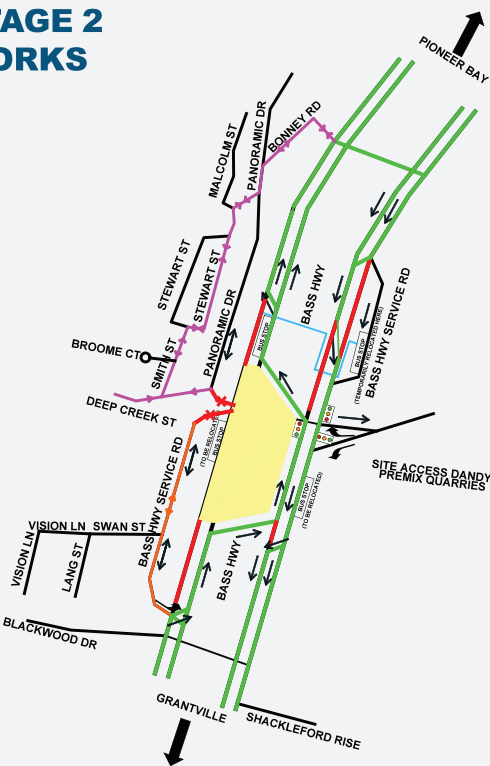
### PROJECT OUTCOMES

Installation of the Traffic Signals will enable trucks to turn right, northbound onto Bass Highway, resulting in a major reduction in quarry trucks through Grantville. The Traffic Signals will also improve Bus Stop pedestrian safety and assist safer Deep Creek Street traffic flows onto Bass Highway.

### STAGE 1 WORKS (IN PROGRESS)



### STAGE 2 WORKS



**Motorists are urged to obey speed limits and traffic controls during the roadworks. Your cooperation will greatly assist the safety of workers, pedestrians & other motorists.**

**Please contact us for further information or to share your feedback.**

#### Applicant

Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd  
(Regional Group Australia)  
Garry Cranny, Sustainability Manager  
Email: gcranny@dandypremix.com  
Mob: 0419 587 440

#### Head Contractor

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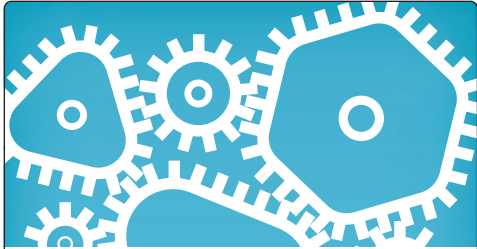
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## GRIFFIN, Keith:

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Loved husband of Judy.

Loving Dad and father-in-law of Lee, Caroline & Creagh.

Adored Grandpa of Georgia, Oliver, Liam, Samantha, Lauren and Isobel.

Forever in our Hearts

As per Keith's wishes a private cremation will be held.

## FUNERALS

## HOWLAND:

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Ruth Howland will be held

at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on FRIDAY (August 15, 2025) commencing at 2:00pm.

A Private Cremation will follow.

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## HOWLAND (nee Taylor), Ruth Stella:

14.7.1962 – 4.8.2025

Passed away peacefully with family present. Loved wife of Ronald (dec.).

Loving Mum and mother-in-law of Kyle & Carly, and Beau.

Adored Grandma to Logan and Eleanor.

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# Bass Coast marks World Drowning Prevention Day

## BEACH SAFETY

Drowning claims more than 300,000 lives globally each year, including hundreds here in Australia. It remains one of the leading causes of death among children and young people – yet drowning is preventable.

Recognising the urgent need for action, the United Nations declared World Drowning Prevention Day each year on July 25.

This year's local recognition of event, held on July 28 in Officer, brought together over 58 organisations from government agencies and aquatic centres to volunteer groups and multicultural community representatives.

The day included speeches, panel discussions and a presentation on the grassroots Safely Engaging with Water program, which has already taught hundreds of people vital swimming skills.

In the past year alone, 226 people have completed the program, many of whom had never been in a pool before.

Harpreet Singh Kandra, a program leader, said the initiative is growing quickly, with more people completing the program and encouraging friends and family to sign up. While the program currently operates in Cardinia, Manningham, Casey, and Dandenong council areas, there is strong interest from other councils to expand this life-saving initiative.

A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said the issue was one that hit close to home for the shire.

"During the 2023-24 summer, six lives were tragically lost to drowning in Bass Coast, including four members of one family.

"While our beaches are among Victoria's most beautiful, they are also some of the most dangerous, with hidden risks that even experienced swimmers can underestimate.

"We were proud to attend the recent presentation at SGND as one of the coun-



At the World Drowning Prevention Day event in Officer, Cr Anthony Walter (City of Casey), Cr Alanna Pomeroy (Deputy Mayor, Cardinia) and Bass Coast councillor Mat Morgan.

cils that helped initiate the Cross-Council Water Safety Framework. It was a chance to highlight how councils are working together to support programs like Safely Engaging with Water and improve safety outcomes for multicultural communities across the region."

## Framework

Earlier this year, Bass Coast Shire Council partnered with Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, City of Casey, City of Greater Dandenong, Cardinia Shire Council, Life Saving Victoria and Belgravia Leisure to launch the Bass Coast Mornington Peninsula Cross Council Water Safety Framework.

"This collaborative initiative focuses on education, clear and inclusive safety messaging, and outreach to multicultural communities – all aimed at ensuring more people can enjoy our beaches and return home safely," the council spokesperson said.

"Beach safety is already front-of-mind for residents, thanks to extensive summer campaigns using roadside signs, flyers, and targeted social media.

"By combining these ef-

orts with programs like Safely Engaging with Water and in-language campaigns, more people visiting Bass Coast from inland areas will have the skills and confidence to stay safe. As we head into warmer months, these lessons could mean the difference between a safe day at the beach and a tragedy."

## Improved signage

Following the Forrest Caves drownings in January 2024 – the largest single drowning incident in the state in decades – the local community called for better signage at local beaches.

In findings handed down late last year, Coroner Sarah Gebert identified a particular risk of coastline drownings for those from multicultural communities and CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) backgrounds.

New signage has now been erected at beaches across Phillip Island, warning of the dangers of swimming at unpatrolled beaches, as part of a concerted campaign to raise awareness of beach safety.

A QR code on the signage links to the Life Saving Victoria Beachsafe App – which provides information on

which beaches are patrolled in a multi-lingual format.

The campaign also saw every booked visitor with Nature Parks from November through to April receive a reminder to download the Surf Life Saving Beachsafe app.

In May this year, separate to the Water Safety framework, Phillip Island Nature Parks installed new emergency signage on every entrance to beaches on the south coast of the island.

The signs clearly state a number (PIN) to quote when calling Triple Zero (000) during an emergency, to help responders pinpoint the exact location.

Over summer Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club and Life Saving Victoria patrols operate at Woolamai, Smiths Beach and the Cowes foreshore.

One of the biggest hazards on Phillip Island beaches are rips, which can be hard to spot for those unfamiliar with conditions, and can be deadly.

Learn more about the Bass Coast Mornington Peninsula Cross Council Water Safety Framework and the council's water safety campaign at: [basscoast.vic.gov.au/beach-safety](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au/beach-safety)

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

## Where's the care?

Most Australians around my age [86] started working early in life and paid their taxes, knowing they would get a government pension when they reached retirement age.

We worked hard, with two weeks annual leave and not much else.

I did not spend my hard-earned money in the pub. We did not go for overseas holidays, we camped in the bush. We saved and bought a house, had kids.

Over the years, like a good citizen, I gave of my time freely to the school committees, the local Community Health Centre, to all sorts of organisations benefiting the

ordinary people and our environment.

Closer to retirement, we bought an investment property with our savings.

Now I would like some home help, cleaning basically, via the widely promoted government program: "to help seniors stay in their own home".

I was duly assessed and two hours per week were approved.

But there is a means test. It appears I have to pay \$175 per week for the two approved hours of assistance to the provider. In addition, they will be paid \$360 per week by the government to manage my case. The two hours of assis-

tance would cost \$535.

I pointed out to the gentleman who was trying to persuade me to sign a contract, that I would be able to get two hours labour on the open market for about \$25 to \$40 per hour.

He agreed. He also agreed it was a crazy package he was trying me to sign-up for.

After July 2025 he said there would be a new program introduced and fees would increase.

I did not sign.

Is aged care more a mirage than a reality? I still pay tax. I'm very lucky, I know. The harder I worked, the luckier I got. But how do those politicians get away with it?

When they retire, MPs receive a lucrative financial package for life, even after a short stint in Parliament. Without a means test!

Have I been conned?

G de Jonge, San Remo

## Caring community

I had a nice surprise recently after having to leave my car sitting too long in a one-hour parking spot with a flat battery. Instead of a ticket from the traffic officer, they left a note to let me know my front tyre was very bald and needed attention and to take care. It was a nice reminder of what a good community I live in.

Jimi Hall-Carmichael, Cowes

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The Underwoods hosted Japanese student Riona Sato for two weeks for the exchange program with Newhaven College. Parents Pharrah and Mark, and children Parker, Huntley and Winsley enjoyed showing her around Melbourne.

## Japanese student exchange

### EDUCATION

Newhaven College recently hosted 14 Year 9 students and two teachers from Ibaraki Christian Junior High School, Japan, from July 27 to August 7, as part of their ongoing Japanese exchange program.

During their stay, the Japanese students were welcomed by College homestay families, embracing the chance to experience the Australian way of life firsthand. Outside of school, many ventured out across Phillip Island, Melbourne and beyond, to experience Australian life.

"Having our Japanese student, Riona, stay with us has been such a rewarding and eye-opening experience for our whole family," said host Pharrah Underwood, who has three children at the college.

"We've learned so much – not just about Japanese culture, but also about ourselves and how much we can gain by welcoming someone new into our home.

"The language barrier at times

challenged us, but it also taught us to slow down, be patient, and find other ways to connect – through gestures, laughter, and shared moments. It was a valuable reminder that communication is about so much more than just words.

"Hosting Riona has left a lasting impact on our family and given us memories we'll cherish forever."

Japanese Exchange Program Coordinator, Mitsuko Horiguchi was very pleased with this year's exchange.

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Japanese students and teachers for enriching our lives and contributing to the vibrant tapestry of our school community. Special thanks go to our host families for their warmth and generosity in welcoming these students into their homes."

Scheduled for September, the exchange program will continue with 15 Year 10 and 11 Newhaven College students visiting Ibaraki School, again staying with host families.

## Students – have your say in parliament

### COMPETITION

Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP is encouraging high school students across the electorate to enter the 2025 My First Speech competition, launched last week by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, The Hon Milton Dick MP.

The national competition invites students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to write and submit a 300-word first speech, imagining themselves as a newly elected Member of Parliament and speaking on the issues they care most about.

Three winners, one from each year level, will be flown to Canberra with a parent or guardian to deliver their speeches live in Parliament House and take part in a special program of events and meetings.

Ms Aldred described the competition as a fantastic opportunity for young Australians to foster a deeper understanding of Australia's democracy and give them a platform to express their views.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for students in our local Monash community to stand up and be heard on the national stage," Ms Aldred said.



Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP is encouraging high school students across the electorate to enter the 2025 My First Speech competition. Competition closes on September 15.

"I encourage all Year 10, 11 and 12 students in Monash to take part. Whether it's the cost of living, mental health, education or whatever issue matters most to them, this is their opportunity to advocate on the issues that they are most passionate about."

Entries can be submitted online at [www.mfs.houseofrepresentatives.gov.au](http://www.mfs.houseofrepresentatives.gov.au).

Submissions close at 11:59pm AEST on Monday September 15.

# Frente heading for Berninnet

### MUSIC

On Friday October 3, Berninnet plays hosts to Frente, as part of their regional tour across the country.

The Aria award-winning band had a string of hits in the 1990s, including *Accidentally Kelly Street*, *Labour of Love*, *Ordinary Angels*, and a mesmerising cover of New Order's *Bizarre Love Triangle*.

The band – Angie Hart and Simon Austin – are currently rehearsing for the shows, where they will be joined on stage by friend and fellow musician Sophie Koh on keyboard.

In the lead up to their visit, Angie answered some hard-hitting questions, to test her local knowledge.

### Did you ever holiday on Phillip Island as a kid (or as an adult)?

No childhood excursion is complete without doing the penguin parade. Am I right?

As an adult among the most memorable stay I've had on Phillip Island, is the time I stayed at a friend's house in Silverleaves to do some song writing. It is the perfect moody setting for turning inwards and finding inspiration.

### When was the last time you visited this area?

When Frente played at Archie's Creek, my husband and I took advantage and stayed in (nearby) Woolamai as a family. Staring at cows in the next paddock while eating your Sultana Bran is good for the soul.

### Best or worst memory of Phillip Island?

That same trip, my child suffered a chest infection and an ear infection at the same time! This was by no means due to our stay and if anything it was the ideal place to convalesce.

### Do you have a favourite place on the island?

I don't have a favourite, as I have yet to make that a reality. I have a desire to do some of the stunning walks that are along the coastline. It is so beautifully dramatic. Definitely my vibe.



Frente appears at Berninnet on Friday October 3, playing favourites from their albums and EPs. Tickets are on sale now. Photo: Sarah Walker.

### Have you ever visited the penguin parade?

Yep! Core childhood memory.

### Phillip Island is famous for its Grand Prix track. Are you team Supercars, Superbikes, or MotoGP?

Um. I'm more of team hiking shoes or step-through bike.

### When you visit are you planning a surf, or a spring swim?

A spring swim sounds wonderful. I grew up in Tassie so I'm not afraid of cold water. I am a terrible swimmer though.

### Have you ever played on Phillip Island (or at San Remo) – and if yes, when or where.

Over the years, we have played pretty much everywhere. The last time I sang there was for a dear and cherished friend's memorial. We stared out at the sea and cried and laughed as we shared memories of him amongst friends and family.

### If you were going to dedicate one of your songs to Phillip Island, which one would it be?

We have a song from our first EP, *Whirled*, that is called *The Discipline of Deep Water*. It has drama, love and free-spiritedness in its realms.

### What are you most looking forward to about this trip?

The sea air and the good people of the Bass Coast! It'll be good to share stories with you all during and after the show.

### What can people expect when they come to the show?

We will be playing as a trio with Sophie Koh joining Simon and I as we take you through favourite songs from our albums and EPs. There will be some sing-a-longs, and the banter is loose. It'll be a lot of fun!

Frente play Berninnet on Friday October 3, 7.30pm

Tickets available now at [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1433633](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1433633) Or visit: [www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/live-at-berninnet-cowes](http://www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/live-at-berninnet-cowes)

# Toasting festival success

### LITERATURE

The Island Story Gatherers hosted a special afternoon tea on Sunday August 10 for the volunteers who worked at this year's festival.

The 2025 Festival of Stories, July 25 – 27, was the most successful ever, selling more than three times as many tickets as the previous year's event.

President of the Island Story Gatherers, Lois Gaskin, said the festival would not have been possible without the support of the 16 volunteers who worked across the weekend.

With a core organising committee of just five, the contribution of the volunteers was immeasurable, she said.

"The committee put in hundreds of hours to organise the festival, but without the volunteers we wouldn't be able to do what we did.

"You are all wonderful, and please keep in touch and we can do it all again next year. We're so appreciative of what you all did."



Volunteers at this year's Festival of Stories were treated to an afternoon tea at Genesta House in Cowes by the festival organisers, in appreciation for their help at the event.

# Boardriders elect new team for summer season

## SURFING

The Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) held its Annual General Meeting last week, ushering in a new season with strong leadership and renewed focus on community, youth development, and core surfing values.

Jake Eisen was re-elected as President, continuing his commitment to the club he's been part of since childhood.

"It's a great community, and I'm looking forward to building on the momentum we've created," Jake said.

A major announcement on the night was the appointment of Walter Hiatt as Club Captain. A four-time Open champion, Walter has been around the club since he was a baby. After a stint with Merewether Boardriders Club, where he was regarded as one of their best surfers, he's now back on the island and ready to lead with professionalism and confidence.

"Walt's been the quiet achiever for years," said outgoing captain Ash Easton.

"Handing the reins to him feels right. He's respected in the water and brings a lot of experience."

Ash was warmly thanked for his huge contribution over the past three seasons and remains an active leader in the captains' committee, which this year will also include Harry de Roth and Adrian Maier, who are both well-respected surfers and club champions, who bring experience, energy and support to Walt in the year ahead.

In the Executive Committee Emily Scott was also acknowledged with a big welcome as she steps into the Vice President role after serving the last three seasons as Secretary. A long-time contributor to the club's operations, Emily brings passion, reliability, and a sharp eye for detail. Her move into this leadership position is a massive asset for the club's future.

Melanie Wright was elected as Treas-



The new Boardriders Committee was elected at the AGM last week. From left to right: Back Eddie and Adrian Maier. Middle: Alisha Hill, Jake Eisen, Melanie Wright, Emily Scott. Front: Harry and Cruz De Roth, Ash Easton, Jo O'Reilly Stubbs, Jasmine Keogh, Walter Hiatt, Nic Huigsloot.

surer after having stepped into the role mid last season with a handover from Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs after serving over three seasons as Treasurer. Sally Ross also put her hand up to serve her first season on Executive Committee in the Secretary role.

Nala Taylor was re-elected as Longboard Coordinator after a successful 24/25 season, Jasmine Keogh stepped up to the Supergroms Coordinator role, Tim Anagnostou was re-elected as Youth Development Coordinator, and Natalie Van Der Heyden was re-elected as Clubhouse Manager. A big shout-out went to Eddie Maier, who put his hand up as the new Ju-

nior Representative.

Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs and outgoing Vice President Geoff Russell were also recognised for their contribution over years in the Executive Committee roles and continued dedication and work behind the scenes for PIBC.

The broader general committee remains solid with over 15 representatives, with experienced hands backing the executive team and helping deliver media, events, programs, and community engagement throughout the year.

The club's mental health and wellbeing focus, including the yoga and wellness sessions now running out of the

renovated clubhouse, continues to be a valuable part of its offering, helping to create a safe, positive space for all members.

With a big season ahead, the club looks forward to welcoming new and returning members, more team-based events, and hopefully a strong showing at the Australian Boardriders Battle under Walt's leadership.

"We're proud of what the club stands for, and we're excited to keep things moving in a positive direction," Jake said.

A full list of all PIBC 25/26 Season committee members and contacts can be found at [www.pibc.com.au/committee](http://www.pibc.com.au/committee)

## HOOK in 2 HOCKEY PHILLIP ISLAND

FIRST SESSION IS FREE!  
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED!



7 Sessions - Sat 2 Aug – Sat 13 Sept  
2025, 12:30pm – 1:30pm



Newhaven College  
1770 Phillip Island Road, Rhyll, VIC,  
3923



[ilarocca@hockeyvictoria.org.au](mailto:ilarocca@hockeyvictoria.org.au)  
0437 035 812

SCAN ME



## Enthusiasts shine in recent comps

### BRIDGE

In this week's Phillip Island Bridge competition, local players showcased their skills. On Monday, August 4, Deb Anglim and Shirley Stewart emerged victorious in a competitive field of five and a half tables, achieving an impressive score of 68.52 per cent. Their performance was a testament to their strategic prowess and teamwork.

Just two days later, on Wednesday, August 6, Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson claimed the top spot, winning over five and half tables with a commendable score of 64.35 per cent.

Their victory highlighted their consistency and ability to perform under pressure. As the Phillip Island Bridge club congress approaches, anticipation is building within the bridge community.

Registrations have officially opened

on My ABF for the upcoming events scheduled for Saturday, September 13 (pairs) and Sunday, September 14 (teams).

Players are eagerly preparing for what promises to be a thrilling and competitive congress.

## Euchre results

The new euchre season began Thursday night with a low attendance.

Maybe players are reluctant to venture out on cold nights; however the night was enjoyable regardless.

Ladies winner: Leonie 6 wins.

Men's winner: Russell 6 wins.

Encouragement award: Rosemary.

New players are most welcome to join the team every Thursday evening at the RSL. For further information contact Bob on 0418 173 388.

## Phillip Island Football Netball Club Past Players & Officials Day



☆ **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August @ 1pm**  
- last home game against IK.

☆ Spit lunch and refreshments in the marquee on the hill.

☆ Plenty of videos and highlights from yesteryear.

☆ 1986 players review starring Whale, Reggie, Doggsy & Toov's.

☆ Punters Club throughout the day

☆ Tickets available on the day - \$50

☆ All Welcome!

# Breakers too strong for Wonthaggi

## SOCCKER

### Senior Men

The Senior Men's squad maintained their high-tempo style, controlling the match from the opening whistle.

Despite their best efforts, Wonthaggi were on the back foot before kick-off, starting with only 10 players after a tough run of injuries the previous week.

Phillip Island stuck with their system working the ball wide, exploiting the wings through Max Arceo and Jasper Saunders, who were stretching the defence and whipping dangerous deliveries into the box.

The breakthrough came at the 21st minute mark when Tate Russell drilled home the opener. Moments later, 16-year-old Jasper Saunders calmly met a square ball to score his first senior goal.

From there, Phillip Island went into overdrive. Josh Vojilovic surged down the right wing, delivering a pinpoint cross for Tate to head home his second. Angus Dempsey drilled a stunning strike across goal from the left and powerhouse Joris Karstens powered through from defence to bury another.

By halftime, the scoreboard told the story: 7-0 in favour of the home side.

The second half saw the Breakers rotate the squad to keep legs fresh for the finals.

With a blast from the past, Gareth Ellison who returned to the senior team at the "youthful" age of 51, holding his own in the close battles.

Jack Middleton and Joris pushed forward with overlapping runs, threatening to extend the lead, but couldn't quite find the net. As the game progressed, the Breakers rediscovered their rhythm, with midfielder Marco Chiampo feeding the wingers who set up Tate twice more as he added to his tally, finishing the day with six goals.

The final whistle sealed a convincing 9-0 victory and another strong step toward the finals.

Men's Coach Darren Dempsey was pleased with the result.

"To get wins in both senior fixtures is a great reward for the senior playing group, we've been putting in all season and it's nice to see both teams take the win.

"With Inverloch and Trafalgar ending in a draw 2 to 2, we now sit six points clear with just three games to go, strengthening the Breakers' position at the top of the Gippsland Soccer League ladder," said Darren.



U14s Phillip Island Breakers after their victory against Wonthaggi. Back: Callum Farman, Georgia MacDonald, James Titmarsh, Reuben Gijbers, Nash Adams, Oisen Flynn, Angus Farman, Levi Sylvio, Zach Coldora, Izzy Gajewski, Judd Bland and Blake Lewindon. Front: Hannah Titmarsh, Ariana Ward, Tamsin Watson, Lily Thomas, Matilda Cotton and Marco Chiampo. More photos at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

### Senior Women

The Senior Women delivered another dominant performance, showcasing their trademark attacking flair and defensive discipline in a match that underlined their all-round strength.

Wonthaggi began the game with just nine players, after managing a few injuries, a tough ask against a red-hot Phillip Island side.

The Breakers wasted no time, finding the back of the net just two minutes in through Tine Hicks, who marked her return from illness in style after latching onto a perfectly timed through ball.

Showing their versatility, the Breakers shuffled their line-up, with Luka Alford stepping up from sweeper to central midfield.

The move paid off early – Luka Alford intercepted a Wonthaggi clearance and unleashed a long-range strike that sailed into the top corner.

Phillip Island's ball movement was clinical, with young Evie Titmarsh pulling the strings in midfield, dictating play and feeding Captain Kelly Wall, scoring a goal of her own before the break.

By halftime, the scoreboard read 10-0. Wonthaggi returned after the break with a full team, bringing fresh energy and putting the Breakers under more pressure. But the young guns of Phillip Island rose to the challenge, maintaining control

and adding to their tally.

By the final whistle, the scoreboard showed a commanding 16-0 victory.

With the win, the Breakers not only remain undefeated but also seal the 2025 Gippsland Soccer League Women's Championship with three games still to play.

Finals football now awaits, and the team will be aiming to carry their winning momentum all the way.

Phillip Island Breakers Coach Benita Russell said the results reflected the hard work of the players and coaching staff.

"It's always a special occasion when we face Wonthaggi – there's plenty of passion and pride in these derby matches.

"It's an incredible feeling to confirm top spot on the ladder and secure the league title with games to spare. The players have shown commitment, skill, and teamwork week in, week out, and this achievement is a testament to the effort they've put in all season. We're proud of what we've accomplished, but we know the job isn't finished – we'll be working hard to carry this momentum into finals," said Benita.

### U17

The Phillip Island Breakers' U17 squad delivered an impressive performance at Newhaven, surging to a 4-1 victory over Wonthaggi United.

The game started with an early penalty from Jasper Saunders in the first half to

put the Breakers ahead and Harley Drayton added a second before half time.

After conceding a goal early in the second half, Harley Drayton assisted Oli Raso for Phillip Island's third.

Myka Sylvio won and scored a penalty to make the final score 4-1.

A powerful and sporting performance from the Breakers after twice matching Wonthaggi for numbers due to injuries.

The win reinforced their strong position in the Gippsland Soccer League ladder, where they currently sit just behind Drouin Dragons Maroon.

With consistent scoring and solid defensive work, the Breakers continue to impress and stay firmly in finals contention.

See all junior reports at:  
[pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

### PICKLE BALL ON THE ISLAND

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30-11.30am.  
We encourage new players, they are welcome to come for 2 "come and try" sessions.

A casual fee applies thereafter although most join the club (\$70/yr October-October; currently \$35 for membership till October 2025).

We are able to give guidance, though no formal coaching available.

Enquires [rhylttennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:rhylttennisclub@gmail.com)

JOSY 4444

# SGB hunts down gold in Bendigo

## SWIMMING

It was a jam-packed weekend for the SGB team as they headed to Bendigo for the 2025 Country Short Course Championships.

Fifty-nine swimmers achieved qualifying times to compete, making SGB the third biggest team at the meet.

Swimmers ranged from under 11 to the open section competing in a range of distances and strokes.

There is always excitement on Day one as the swimmers competing at their first countries were presented with their country caps to wear for the first time at the morning team meeting.

Racing kicked off early Saturday morning, continuing through the day and finishing with relays.

The crew were back early on Sunday again with a full day.

The meet, with 636 swimmers from clubs right across regional Victoria, was a busy one with families from throughout the state descending for the weekend and enjoying the local sights.

The event generates over one million dollars into the local economy, a great boost to the area.



SGB Swim team in enjoying the 2025 Country Short Course Championships held at Bendigo.

SGB featured regularly on the podium, as well as in the top eight.

The event was hosted by Bendigo Swimming at the Guru Wanyarra Centre at Kangaroo Flat.

It was an invaluable experience for many, with coaches giving feedback to swimmers for them to take on and work on

before the State Short Course Age Championships next month.

"The club has swum magnificently," said Coach Dylan.

"It's a real team effort and people have dug deep and put in when it's needed. For the swimmers it seems that the event is as much about being able to catch up and

hang out as it is about swimming. It means they are nice and relaxed and their friends are all there cheering loudly for them on the sidelines."

Coach Sam said it had been a very successful meet.

"We've had a lot of PBs and a handful of state times. All the hard work these kids have put in during training has paid off."

Coach Lori said many kids were racing on the big stage for the first time.

"I always love seeing the kids who I first had learning how to tumble turn that have worked their way through junior development squads to racing here.

"They were amazing, they know that just being here is the first step and I look forward to seeing them continue on this racing journey.

"The other highlight has been seeing the two multi-class relay teams we have competing. There are not always as many opportunities for them, so it's wonderful that they are getting a chance to compete in these ways."

A full list of team members and results, as well as more photos at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

# Island fight hard against Garfield

## NETBALL

### B Grade

It was a sunny day for netball as the Island girls took on Garfield in a close, hard-fought match, coming away with a 42-38 win.

Phillip Island came out firing in the first quarter, dominating across the court to take a 10-goal lead at the break.

The team worked seamlessly together, with the defenders pulling in rebounds, taking intercepts, and keeping Garfield's shooters under pressure all game.

The mid-court drove strongly through the court and delivered clean feeds into the circle, where our shooters moved the ball well, combined effectively, and finished accurately.

Garfield lifted in the second and third quarters, applying strong pressure and managing to bring the score back within two coming into the last quarter.

In the final quarter, the Island girls stayed composed, made the most of their scoring opportunities and held their lead to take the win.

**Final Score:** Phillip Island 42 to Garfield 38.

**Best On:** Ruby Formosa and Sophia Hungerford.

### C Grade

This week, C Grade faced off against a strong Garfield side, who have only dropped two games all season.

From the first whistle, it was clear the team was ready to take on the challenge head-on.

The first quarter saw an intense back-and-forth, with both teams matching each other goal for goal, finishing locked at 8-8.

The pressure remained high into the second and third quarters, with the girls holding their own and trailing by just three goals at the final break.

The final quarter saw Garfield just edge ahead, taking the win 34-28, however, the scoreboard doesn't tell the full story.

It was a gutsy, high-quality performance from the girls who showed incredible determination, grit and teamwork right to



Maya Huther looks for the perfect pass in the A Grade game.



A Grade Head Coach Holly Castagna in action on the court, the girls had a great win against Garfield on the weekend.



Ella Duggan lines up for a shot.

the final siren.

Every player gave their all and the improvement and spirit on court was something special.

Best on court went to Matilda Walton, whose goaling and court coverage was outstanding, and Raelene Humphrey, who showed brilliant composure and defence all game.

### Under 17

The Team was in fine form on Saturday morning, producing a confident four-quarter performance to defeat Garfield 64-19.

Aisha and Ava were a

strong pairing in goals, finishing with accuracy and smart movement.

Ellie controlled the midcourt with poise, while Piper and Abbey added pace and sharp passing to keep the ball flowing.

Down back, Olivia, Tilly, Kate and Jasira were relentless, cutting off Garfield's attacking plays and creating plenty of turnovers.

**Final Score:** Phillip Island 64 to Garfield 19.

**Best On:** Ellie and Olivia.

Read the rest of the Island netball reports, and more photos, go to [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

# Killy Bass takes win against Warragul

## NETBALL

### A Grade

A Grade had a great hit out against Warragul.

The girls started strong from the first whistle and pushed all the way to the end.

A full team effort allowed the girls to come away with a big win.

Kira and Belle stepped up and were instrumental in the team.

Jess Egan and Mel Cullen made their A Grade debut this week too.

A great team effort.

**Best on court:** Emma.

### B Grade

It was all about team morale and being up and about this week. B Grade had things they wanted to work on and put into place and the girls sure did that.

It was a super strong performance through the whole court, with tight one on one defence, sting drives and re offers all day to come away with a fantastic win.

**Warragul 23 to Bass 66.**

**Best on Court:** Kira.

### C Grade

The girls put up a fight against Warragul.

The team displayed some great netball and put the pressure on making Warragul fight for their win.

The defensive pressure forced turn overs and the goalers showed their strength in the goal circle.

The team worked together well and put up a fight to the very end.

**Final Score:** 26 - 24.

**Best on court:** Phoebe Steendam and Mel Cullen.

### D Grade

Killy Bass started slowly, finishing the first quarter tied at four goals each.

From the second term, they lifted intensity, forcing turnovers with strong defensive pressure and converting in attack to build a solid lead.

Junior debutants Isabella (Izzy) and Maisie impressed, adding energy and composure.

**Final Score:** Warragul 12 to Kilcunda Bass 34.

**Best on Court:** Ro Grayson and Charlotte Adam



B Grade's Esther Evans looks for an option in attack during a strong passage of play.

### U17

With players out, a stand-in coach and U15 fill-ins, just fielding a team was a win.

The Dusties proved too strong, but this group's resilience, commitment and determination shone.

They showed up for each other and the club, giving their all until the final whistle.

**Award:** Maisie Van Der Walt.

### U15

The U15s faced a high-pressure clash against the Dusties, sitting just two points above Killy Bass and threatening the finals hopes for the team.

After a strong week of training and a win over Koo Wee, the girls came out firing, took an early lead and held it until the final siren for a hard-fought five-point victory.

They stayed composed, maintained intensity for four quarters and proved too strong on the day.

Big thanks to Asha Payne for stepping in last minute and to our dedicated U13s, Ash and Frankie, for their consistent support all season.

One game to go, finals are in sight.

**Best on Court:** Isabella

Stead, Frankie Leary and Lexie Baker.

### U13

Wow, what a turnaround from the last time the girls faced the Dusties.

From the moment the team stepped out on court, Killy Bass team took control and never looked back, securing a convincing win.

Over the past few weeks, their connection and trust in each other has grown enormously and it's now showing on the scoreboard. **Award:** Summer Van Steensel.

### U11

In round 19 against Warragul, Killy Bass claimed their first win of the season.

The kids came in with a positive mindset, focused on fun and produced their best netball yet.

Every player nailed their role, attackers moved the ball with precision and defensive pressure was relentless.

Once they hit the scoreboard, their hunger for the win only grew.

It was an outstanding team effort, with smiles all round.

**Final score:** 29-10.

**Best on Court:** (Zeal and Macca's award) Matilda.

## On the green

## GOLF

### Tuesday, August 5

#### Men's 18H Competition 4BBB Stableford

Overall winners: Trevor McFarlane and Ian Barnes 48 pts.

Second: Brenton O'Brien and Mitch O'Brien 45 pts.

Third: Rob Wood and Phillip Dressing 44 pts.

BDL to 43 C/B.

NTP: 5th David Pardoe, 7th Trevor Read,

10th John Gains and 17th Heath Grace.

#### Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: John Niven (26) 20 pts C/B from Basil Moloney (15) 20 pts.

BDL to 17 pts C/B.

### Wednesday, August 6

#### Women's 18H Monthly Medal Stroke

Overall winner: Helen Coghlan (16) 75.

A Grade winner: Helen Coghlan (16) 75.

B Grade winner: Pamela Williams (38) 79.

BDL to 82 C/B.

NTP: 5th Vicki Ramage, 7th Lesley Meadowcroft, 10th Cathy Jones and 17th Emma Hall.

#### Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Sandra Barker (44) 15 pts from Lisa Cooper (44) 14 pts.

BDL 13 C/B.

### Thursday, August 7

#### Open Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Dave Egan (18) 39 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: A-1 Max Bentley (8) 39 pts.

A-2 winner: Jack Smith (1) 37 pts.

B Grade winners: B-1

Dave Egan (18) 39 pts.

B-2 winner: Rowan Wales (13) 37 pts C/B.

C Grade winner: C-1 Rick Colling (19) 39 pts C/B.

C-2 winner: Collin Morris (26) 39 pts.

BDL to 35 pts C/B.

Great score Mark Riterman eagle Hole 11.

Great score Steven Duggan eagle Hole 18.

#### Men's 9 Hole Stableford

Overall winner: David Henstbridge (21) 20 pts from David Gladman (17) 19 pts C/B.

BDL to 17 pts C/B.

### Saturday, August 9

#### Men's 18H Competition Stableford

Overall winner: Matt Voce (14) 40.

A Grade winner: A-1 Adrian O'Gorman (6) 39.

A-2 winner: Rhys Coote (10) 36 C/B.

B Grade winner: B-1 Matt Voce (14) 40.

B-2 winner: Steve Regnier (14) 36 C/B.

C Grade winner: C-1 Mike Fitzmaurice (24) 37 C/B.

C-2 winner: Rick Zolcinski (20) 37 C/B.

BDL to 33 C/B.

NTP: 5th Harry Bent-

ley, 7th Jim Richardson, 10th Christopher Reynolds and 17th Owen Jolly.

#### Women's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Mary Taylor (24) 37 pts from Kelly Ambler (37) 36 pts.

BDL to 32 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Joanne Westthorp, 7th Alice Schofield, 10th Lesley Meadowcroft and 17th Rhonda Boyd.

### Sunday, August 10

#### 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Glenn Botterill (17) 42 pts from Mark Griffin (12) 37 pts.

BDL: to 36 pts.

# A day to Remember for club

## FOOTBALL/NETBALL

The Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) enjoyed a packed President's Lunch on Saturday, with the clubrooms buzzing as members, sponsors, past players and life members came together for an afternoon of celebration.

Guests were treated to a delicious spread and drinks from the bar and plenty of past stories filled the room.

President Chris Ross delivered a heartfelt speech before the committee proudly announced John Johnson as a Life Member, an honour recognising his decades of dedication to the club.

On the field, the celebrations continued with all football sides recording wins against Garfield.

During the Senior match half-time break, the crowd turned its attention to the boundary line for the ever-popular Half Time Heroes grid game.

The club's junior stars



Half Time Heroes: local Auskickers lit up the field on Saturday, showing off their skills and passion in front of a big home crowd.

proudly ran out in front of a big home crowd, eager to show their skills.

Cheered on from the sidelines, the young Bulldogs kicked, chased, and revelled in their moment in the spotlight, a testament to the club's strong junior program and the

importance of nurturing future talent.

As the day drew to a close, the biggest surprise came with the announcement of Life Membership for Chris and Jodie Ross, the club's highest honour.

Together with John Johnson, they became the

newest additions to the club's most prestigious list.

All three have given decades of service to the PIFNC, from coaching and committee roles to fundraising, event organisation, and unwavering support for players on and off the field.



Decades of dedication honoured: Johnno Johnson, Jodie Ross and Chris Ross proudly recognised as Life Members of the Phillip Island Football Netball Club for their outstanding service on and off the field.

Life Membership is not awarded lightly, and the standing ovation they received was a clear reflection of the respect, gratitude and admiration felt by everyone present.

Their passion, commitment and generosity have

left a lasting legacy that will inspire generations to come.

It was a day of great food, great company and immense pride in the people who make the Phillip Island Football Netball Club the heart of the community.

## Panthers show grit

### FOOTBALL

#### Seniors

A great win for the Kilby Bass Seniors on Saturday.

The boys put on a good performance to keep their season alive.

The pressure was through the roof and the return of Travis Tuck, who booted seven, headed the attack.

Also, a great day from our skipper Nathan Foote and Tim Gunn.

**Final Score:** Kilby Bass 98 to Warragul 88.

#### Reserves

A tough game against Warragul for the reserves.

The effort was really high at the beginning of the game, but as the team was low on numbers, they couldn't sustain the pressure and keep up with Warragul.

**Final score:** Kilby Bass 31 to Warragul 123.

#### U16

Up against ladder leaders Warragul on their home deck, the young Panthers were keen to show everyone how much they've improved throughout the season and from the outset, it looked like they were up for the challenge.



Travis Tuck kicks a beauty against Warragul.

The opening quarter saw the midfield crew take it right up to the opposition with co-captain Blake Eden hitting the contest with ferocity and putting on a tackling clinic.

With young Ty Amato doing an amazing job shouldering the ruck duties for the day, this freed up our midfield bulls in Gus Oats and Brodie McMillan to lead a new look backline and with the rest of our back six performed tremendously.

The work rate shown

for the full four quarters and the overall improvement displayed by this impressive group of young lads was immense.

With only one home game remaining before finals, the boys should have great confidence knowing what they're capable of against any opposition.

They should all be proud of what they've achieved so far.

**Best players:** Gus Oats, Ty Amato, Charlie Burgess, Perry McKay, Blake Eden and Brodie McMillan.

## Kilby Bass juniors loving their footy

### FOOTBALL

#### U14

In the last game of the season on home ground the U14 team started the game well and had the first three scoring shots, kicking one goal two.

Leongatha made the most of Kilby Bass turnovers and kicked the next two goals heading into quarter time up.

The rest of the game was an arm wrestling with both teams moving the ball well.

The defenders held up strong all day and were under the pump with the pressure from the opposition midfield.

Great team effort and fantastic year.

**Awards:** Seb Rennie, Noah Margrie, Ryder Van Steensel and Travis Hockley.

#### U12

Another fantastic and committed effort from all the kids.

Although Kilby Bass came away with an honourable loss against one of the ladder leaders, the match truly highlighted just how competitive the team can be when they bring the right attitude and teamwork.



U14 Captain Seb Rennie goes up for a mark.

Every player contributed at some point throughout the game, showcasing a brilliant team effort.

The final score might have been different if not for a bit of inaccuracy in front of goal. The team had plenty of chances but just couldn't quite convert enough.

This performance gives Kilby Bass plenty of confidence going into the finals. **Final Score:** Leongatha: 2.1 (13) def Kilcunda Bass: 1.5 (11).

**Goals:** Bailey Pool.

**Best Players:** Bailey Pool, Miles Leary, Alfie Russo, Lerah Schonewille, Car-

michael Potter and Austin Bennett.

**Awards:** Lerah Schonewille, Darby Quinlan, Spencer Sutherland, Levi Fisher, Carmichael Potter and Maverick Loughridge.

#### U10

Although Sunday's game wasn't the best for the year, or the one the team had hoped to finish on, this season has been absolutely awesome.

The players have given it their all each and every week and we could not be prouder.

The team have grown, not just in their skill set but in themselves.

They have learned to play as a team and think about others.

The U10s have made new mates, had new experiences together, felt new highs, new lows and have been an absolute joy to watch each week.

Wishing all the players going up to U12s next season all the very best.

To the kids staying in U10s, bring on next year; we cannot wait.

Sincerest gratitude to the U10s village: the players, the parents, the friends and families who make it a joy to be a part of this ripper group.

## TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 13 AUG	THU 14 AUG	FRI 15 AUG	SAT 16 AUG	SUN 17 AUG	MON 18 AUG	TUE 19 AUG
HIGH 3:17 am 2.77 m	HIGH 4:10 am 2.87 m	HIGH 5:00 am 2.94 m	HIGH 5:49 am 2.97 m	HIGH 6:40 am 2.95 m	LOW 12:24 am 0.37 m	LOW 1:07 am 0.42 m
LOW 8:59 am 0.68 m	LOW 9:46 am 0.72 m	LOW 10:33 am 0.79 m	LOW 11:19 am 0.89 m	LOW 12:05 pm 1.01 m	HIGH 7:30 am 2.89 m	HIGH 8:24 am 2.80 m
HIGH 3:50 pm 3.00 m	HIGH 4:27 pm 2.99 m	HIGH 5:01 pm 2.97 m	HIGH 5:36 pm 2.92 m	HIGH 6:13 pm 2.85 m	LOW 12:50 pm 1.14 m	LOW 1:37 pm 1.28 m
LOW 9:37 pm 0.74 m	LOW 10:19 pm 0.57 m	LOW 11:00 pm 0.45 m	LOW 11:42 pm 0.38 m		HIGH 6:51 pm 2.77 m	HIGH 7:37 pm 2.66 m

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# Bulldogs fire on all cylinders with triple victory over Garfield

## FOOTBALL

### Seniors

The Seniors finished Round 18 with a solid four-quarter effort to defeat Garfield by 52 points.

The Bulldogs were sharp from the outset, with clean ball movement and a willingness to work hard both ways.

Jack Huther and Jack Taylor both led the charge up forward, each finishing with three goals.

The experience of Cameron Pedersen and the craft of Jordy Patullo (two goals each) added to the scoring power, while a spread of single-goal contributors kept Garfield's defence under constant pressure.

The win provides a strong springboard into finals, with the Bulldogs hitting form at just the right time.

**Final Score:** Phillip Island 16.12 (108) def Garfield 8.8 (56).

**Goals:** Jack Huther and Jack Taylor 3, Cameron Pedersen and Jordy Patullo 2, Hayden Bruce, Mark Collison, Jaymie Youle, Billy Taylor, Jay Ladson and Nick Anderson 1.

**Best Players:** Mark Collison, Hayden Bruce, Charlie Bruce, Jack Taylor, Cameron Pedersen, Joshua Ryan.

### Reserves

The Reserves produced a commanding performance, restricting Garfield to just five behinds for the match.

The Bulldogs' backline was rock solid, repelling every Garfield attack, while the midfield dominated clearances and controlled the tempo.

Up forward, Brady Ross was simply unstoppable, booting a remarkable seven goals and proving a constant headache for the Garfield defence.

Harry Anderson was also



Milestone moment for James Nicolaci as he is chaired from the ground after celebrating his 200th game in the Reserves, with teammates and the crowd forming a guard of honour. More photos at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

dangerous with four goals and contributions from Travis Woodfield (2), Ben Taylor, Mikka Paulsen and Finlay Cousins rounded out a well-spread scoreboard.

It was a particularly special day for James Nicolaci, who celebrated his 200th game for the club.

Nicolaci's milestone was marked with a typically hard-working, team-first performance that epitomised his career in red, white, and blue.

**Final Score:** Phillip Island 16.11 (107) def Garfield 0.5 (5).

**Goals:** Brady Ross 7, Harry Anderson 4, Travis Woodfield 2, Ben Taylor, Mikka Paulsen and Finlay Cousins 1.

**Best Players:** Brady Ross, Ben

Taylor, Alexander Officer, James Nicolaci, Finlay Cousins and Thomas Niven.

### Thirds

The Phillip Island Thirds wrapped up their home-and-away season in fine style with a strong win over Garfield. From the first bounce, the Bulldogs set the tone with hard running and clean ball use.

The forwards worked well together, finding space and converting opportunities.

Oliver Duggan and Max Taylor were in excellent form up forward, both kicking three goals each, while Noah Williams continued his consistent season with two majors and a strong presence

around the contest.

The midfield, led by Isaac Savona and Noah Forrest Mabilia, drove the ball forward with purpose, while Bailey Hennessy and Jeremy Kelly provided great pressure around the ground.

Jasper Cashman's work rate and composure under pressure also stood out.

**Final Score:** Phillip Island 10.9 (69) def Garfield 4.0 (24).

**Goals:** Oliver Duggan and Max Taylor 3, Noah Williams 2, Tommy Newman and Charlie Wilson 1.

**Best Players:** Isaac Savona, Noah Forrest Mabilia, Bailey Hennessy, Noah Williams, Jeremy Kelly and Jasper Cashman.

# Bring on the junior finals

## FOOTBALL

### U14 Blue

In the final round, Phillip Island Blue faced Wonthaggi, determined to improve on their round seven loss.

After conceding the first two goals, a Kai Denblyden major lifted the team, with strong defence keeping Wonthaggi scoreless in the second term.

PI Blue fought hard all game, reducing the margin to just seven points.

They'll meet Wonthaggi again in Sunday's final, ready for the challenge.

**Final score:** Wonthaggi 19 de-

feated PI Blue 12

**Goals:** Kai Denblyden 1.

**Awards:** Riley Whyte, Miller Sund, Brax Scheibel, Aiden Smith.

### U14 Girls

Phillip Island's U14 girls showed determination and teamwork despite a loss, battling hard from siren to siren.

Their fierce tackling, strong defence and midfield linkups impressed coach Rej, who praised their resilience ahead of next week's finals.

The match was a valuable chance to sharpen skills and build confidence for the challenge ahead.

**Awards:** Savannah Bergmeier, Emma Patterson, Harriette Burness, Nina Egresits, Khali Trewin, Amber Neal.

### U12 Red

The side finished the season in style with an 82-6 win over Dalyston.

Tanner set the tone with three first-quarter goals, sparking the team to play their best game of the year.

It was a dominant, high-energy performance and a great way to end the season.

### U10 Blue

In sunny Wonthaggi, the Phillip Island U10 Blues showed

grit against a strong home side.

Led by captain Judd, they dominated early with fierce pressure and clean ball movement.

Wonthaggi hit back with physical play, but the Blues defence held firm under sustained pressure.

It was a hard-fought, courageous display, proving the future of the club is in determined hands.

Thanks to Coach Steve, Team Manager Lisa and all parents and volunteers for a great season.

Read full stories online at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

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