



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

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Wednesday, August 20, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST



More greens for golf club

Local artist Lisa McLure has transformed a wall of the Phillip Island Golf Club building on Settlement Road into a golfing mural. The painting reflects Lisa's signature colourful style and features golfers with an array of local wildlife. Read the full story on page 7.

State and local taxes hit ratepayers hard

RATES

Rates bills have risen for all households, and while the State Government's new emergency services tax has skyrocketed, Bass Coast Shire Council's garbage charge has had more of an impact.

Shire rates notices landed in mailboxes and emails last week, and included a "fact sheet" from the Victorian Government about their new Emergency Services Volunteers Fund (ESVF), which has seen widespread outrage from ratepayers and replaces the fire services levy charged in previous years.

The ESVF has been added on

top of rates bill, which have risen by the state's mandated cap of three per cent, in addition to a garbage charge increase of 7.4 per cent (a rise of \$42 to \$617), making a total council increase of 4.9 per cent.

But a straw poll of rate increases for homes across Phillip Island has found far-ranging disparity.

A small two-bedroom unit in suburban Cowes bore the brunt of price increases, reporting an ESVF of \$222 or 11 per cent of their rates, compared to the 2024 fire services levy of \$175 (nine per cent), and the 2023 levy of \$175 (eight per cent).

The unit's garbage charge

(\$618) for this year equates to 30 per cent of the bill, while the unit's Capital Improved Value was steady for the past two years, but was reduced from the CIV high of 2023.

In contrast, a foreshore fronting house will this year pay an ESVF of \$464 or eight per cent of the rates bill, a rise on 2024 when it was \$297; while the garbage charge (\$741 for a larger red bin) is equal to 13 per cent of the bill.

A house in Sunset Strip also will pay a high price with a \$252 ESVF representing 10 per cent, and the garbage charge equal to 26 per cent.

A Cape Woolamai home was also at the higher end with the

2025 ESVF \$265 (10 per cent) – an increase on the 2024 fire services levy (when it was \$201); and the garbage charge equal to 23 per cent of the rates.

The rough average ESVF for a Cowes home appeared to be about nine per cent and for the garbage charge about 20 per cent, with several reporting the ESVF was about \$100 higher than the fire services levy.

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**U16 Girls Football
Grand Final**

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| MOSTLY SUNNY | MOSTLY SUNNY | SHOWER OR TWO | SHOWER OR TWO | SHOWER OR TWO | SHOWER OR TWO | SHOWER OR TWO |
| 6 14 | 7 15 | 10 15 | 10 14 | 8 13 | 10 13 | 10 12 |



Twice last week this water outlet at the base of Erewhon Point, on Lovers Walk, turned milk white, with that polluted water then flowing out to Western Port.

Who polluted and what is the pollution running into the bay?

ENVIRONMENT

A water outlet on Lovers Walk in Cowes – which runs into Western Port – was twice turned a shade of milk white last week, with the EPA now investigating.

Last Monday and Thursday the outflow at the base of Erewhon Point was white, with EPA officers

both times investigating and calling for anyone with information to contact the EPA (1300 372 842).

“EPA officers inspected the area and referred the matter to council for further action,” said an EPA spokesperson.

“However, if anyone has information that could assist, they can contact EPA or council directly.”

POLICE BRIEFS

Stolen alcohol

Police are investigating theft at a shop in Thompson Avenue in Cowes, on August 7 at around 7.40pm. CCTV footage shows two offenders entering the store and stealing bottles of alcohol then fleeing.

The footage is available on the Bass Coast Eyewatch Facebook page, and police are asking for community help to identify the offenders. If you know who these people are, please contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime/. Information can be provided anonymously.

Attempted burglary

On August 12, a man attempted to enter a house in Settlement Road in Cowes, which is currently under construction. Police say the man was caught on CCTV in the rear yard and the owners alerted the police, who attended the scene. Although police confirmed no entry to the premises was made, investigations are continuing to identify the male captured on CCTV.

Settlement Road accident

On Tuesday August 12 at 6.15pm a black Mazda and a silver sedan collided near the intersection of Settlement Road and Thompson Avenue in Cowes. Police said the Mazda driver failed to give way at the roundabout, “causing a T-bone collision with the silver sedan”.

“Due to damage sustained by the silver sedan, the front passenger in this vehicle required

extraction from the vehicle by the SES, and was conveyed to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries,” Acting Senior Sergeant Adrian Condron said. The driver and other passenger were not injured.

Both vehicles were towed from the scene with police saying it appears the collision was due to driver error – failing to give way – which may result in a Penalty Infringement Notice.

Burnt Toast break in

The Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit is investigating a break in at Cape Woolamai café Burnt Toast at 3.20am on August 15. Police say the offender broke in through a rear window, and is described as Caucasian, approximately 40-50 years old. He stole cash before leaving the premises. An image of the offender is available on the Eyewatch Bass Coast Facebook page and CCTV footage has also been passed onto the police. Investigations are continuing to identify the suspect. If you can provide assistance, please contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime/.

Alcohol and drug tests

Local Police supported by the Road Police Drug and Alcohol Section are continuing to test drivers for alcohol and drug driving, with several roadside testing sites set up last week.

On Friday morning (August 15), Police conducted over 600

Preliminary Breath Tests and eight drug driving tests in the Cowes and Cape Woolamai area. One driver was found to be in excess of 0.05.

Police said they will continue to conduct regular alcohol and drug tests to remove alcohol and drug affected drivers from local roads.

Punchbowl collision

On Saturday August 16 there was a three-car collision near Punchbowl Road, at 1.05pm. Police said a Holden Hatch travelling along the Phillip Island Road collided with the rear of a Toyota sedan that was indicating to turn right into Punchbowl Road, pushing it into the oncoming traffic. The car was hit head on by a Mazda ute, then spun around and stopped in the westbound lane, blocking Phillip Island Road.

Police said the Toyota sustained serious damage and the 23-year-old male driver and 22-year-old female front passenger, both from Melbourne, sustained severe injuries and were taken to hospital for treatment. A 23-year-old male from Wonthaggi, driving the Holden, sustained minor injuries as a result of the collision. All three cars had to be towed from the scene.

As a result of the accident, traffic on Phillip Island Road was closed in both directions for approximately two hours. San Remo Police have received dashcam footage of the collision and are continuing investigations into the collision.

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

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Local fire brigade are real life savers

HEALTH

Phillip Island Fire Brigade is part of a new program – the Fire Medical Response (FMR) – a joint initiative between the CFA and Ambulance Victoria.

This means that select medical Triple Zero (000) calls will see the local CFA brigade and Ambulance Victoria dispatched simultaneously to cardiac arrests from August 21.

The Phillip Island Brigade is the 26th brigade to “go live” with the new life-saving program, that aims to ensure treatment arrives within 10 minutes for anyone suffering a cardiac arrest.

Phillip Island Fire Brigade Captain Lino Drazzi said the new program means, from this week, if you call Triple Zero for a cardiac arrest, a fire engine or an ambulance may be the first responders on the scene.

Lino said 23 volunteers from the brigade had signed up for the training, and the decision to join the program was an easy one to make, given the benefits it will provide the local community.

“When someone in our community experiences a cardiac arrest, every second counts,” he said.

“By joining this program, we’re able to provide vital care in those first critical moments. Our members live and work in the community – we’re close by and ready to respond.

“We’re proud to step up and support our community in this new way. The Phillip Island Fire



Phillip Island Fire Brigade is part of the new Fire Medical Response program which will see the brigade dispatched to cardiac arrest Triple Zero calls. The brigade is the 26th regional station to go live with the program, a joint initiative between the CFA and Ambulance Victoria.

Brigade has 23 FMR trained members ready to respond,” said Lino.

He explained the program meant that “community members who call for an ambulance may receive both a fire truck and an ambulance. There is no specific order in which the services arrive to the incident”.

Phillip Island Fire Brigade has been training with Ambulance Victoria for months, in preparation for the program which will complement the Ambulance Victoria service in the local area.

Statewide

The new FMR program is being rolled out with 50 brigades across the state, and a similar program is already operating in Melbourne.

CFA Deputy Chief Officer Garry Cook said the program was a natural fit for CFA because of the 52,000 volunteers across the state.

“CFA has more than 1100 volunteer fire stations with more than 52,000 members,” Garry said.

“This puts CFA in a unique position to complement the Ambulance Victoria response in 50

locations across Victoria to help deliver early intervention to cardiac arrests.”

Ambulance Victoria Executive Director of Regional Operations, Danielle North, said Victoria’s cardiac survival rates are one of the best in the world, thanks to high rates of early intervention.

“The Fire Medical Response program will improve survival rates for people in rural and regional Victoria,” Danielle said.

“Quick intervention with CPR and a defibrillator has the greatest impact on improving a patient’s chances of surviving

a cardiac arrest.”

Lino said the results from the regional brigades that have already gone live have been good, with Wonthaggi in operation since earlier this month.

To be included in the trial, CFA and AV looked at the demand in an area, the location of stations and the number of active members the brigade had.

“Phillip Island ticked all the boxes,” Lino said.

The 10-minute response range from the station includes the bulk of Cowes and sections of Rhyll and Smiths Beach.

The Block sale ditched, to now be given away – again

REAL ESTATE

The Block property has been pulled off the market, with the billionaire owner Adrian Portelli now planning to once again give away each of the five properties through his online lottery.

Two months ago, as reported, Portelli announced the sale of 113-119 Justice Road, Cowes, on his Instagram page, with the property not listed by any real estate agents, but for sale as a whole through Expressions of Interest.

“For Sale. EOI. The Phillip Island Block Resort. Selling complex complete. Everything included. Will not sell houses separately,” Mr Portelli posted in June.

That sale came after Portelli last November forked out \$15.3 million to buy the entire property from the 2024 season of the Channel 9 reality TV show.

All five houses were then listed on Portelli’s LMCT+ website, in a giveaway offering the whole five homes or \$8 million in cash, with the winner – a 34-year-old Ballarat healthcare worker – opting to take the cash.

Portelli then retained the resort, saying he would keep the property for himself and hold events there.

The only sign of life at the property since then was in January when the businessman helped unload three McLarens and three Lamborghinis off the back of a truck, telling passersby the cars were there to help celebrate his son’s first birthday party.

Now Portelli is returning to the LMCT+ website to giveaway each property, announcing on his personal Instagram last Thursday that five people will each win a Block house through yet another



Property investor and well-known figure on The Block, Adrian Portelli, (right) at the auction at 113-119 Justice Road last year.

sweepstake.

“I was going to go and sell those Block houses – as you know, I put them up for sale,” he said in an Instagram video.

“I had a few offers and other people trying to get finance. I can’t be bothered with that s**t ... so, I said, ‘you know what, I am just going to give it away’.

“I have five houses I need to get rid of. Anyone who grabs a package here, we are going to randomly select five winners, so you have five chances of winning a fully-furnished, debt-free house in Phillip Island, right next to the racetrack, in Victoria.

“And you get all the amenities that come with it. You share all the amenities with all the houses – tennis court, cinema, swimming pools. The absolute works ... good luck.”

Hype

The winning property – renovated by sisters Maddy and Charlotte – was bought for \$3.5 million, while Courtney and Grant’s home sold for \$3.3 million; Kris-

tian and Mimi \$2.93 million; Ricky and Haydn \$2.7 million; and Kylie and Brad \$2.6 million.

In June, Portelli told *realestate.com.au* he would not run another giveaway because it was too costly.

“I’ve purchased (the homes) twice now,” he told the website.

“I think everyone forgets that the resort is one half of the cost.

“It’s really difficult to try to chase the money back for it.”

Mr Portelli also said he would not take part in another Block auction.

Local agents said the price Mr Portelli paid for the Block was “probably supported by the hype and publicity”.

“But it’s hard to find any comparative sales to support that price in the current market. It would be hard to try and get to those numbers,” one agent said.

“We wish him all the best and for the sake of the Phillip Island market let’s hope he gets the price.

“The publicity The Block gave the island was very good. We all enjoyed the experience.”



The Friends of the Golden Cypress are holding their AGM on August 27 and are “desperately looking for new people to join the committee”. They’re calling on the community to help.

Who will look after our cypress avenue?

ENVIRONMENT

Love the Cowes avenue of golden cypress? Then the Friends of the Thompson Avenue of Golden Cypress needs your help.

The Friends’ AGM is being held on August 27 and president Pauline Taylor said like most committees, “we are desperately looking for new people to join the committee”.

“It would appear this is the only organisation that is concerned about protecting these iconic trees and making sure that they receive the support, care and maintenance they deserve as they are nationally acclaimed,” Pauline said.

“We need more people to come along and join the com-

mittee however we are absolutely desperate for a treasurer.

“If we cannot get one, we may have to close down, as it is illegal to operate without a treasurer.

“This would be a tragedy.”

Pauline called for the community to come along to the AGM and nominate for the committee.

“For the wider community could everyone please keep an eye out for any problems with any of the golden cypress.”

The AGM will be held on August 27 at 1.30pm at 22 Morgan Street, Cowes.

Call Marnie on 0419 469 236 to register your interest, find out how you can help, or report any tree problems to either Marnie or Pauline 0415 346 243.

Ricky from The Block is back

REAL ESTATE

The Block is back on Phillip Island.

But not like it was in 2024, with Scott, Shelley and the Justice Road gang.

Instead, former Blockhead Ricky ("from the Block") Recard has bought a house at Surf Beach with his Phillip Island partner, makeup artist Erin Thompson.

The couple – together with Ricky's Block best mate Haydn – will renovate the house for a new web series to be called Container Builds.

Ricky told the Advertiser he bought the house about six weeks ago and will settle in September, when they will start work and filming straight away.

Container Builds will feature Block "favourite" building businesses, from James Hardie to Beaumont Tiles, and focus on tiny homes, shipping containers and environmentally-friendly construction.

"It's not a big secret but we have to get our ducks in a row, including planning," Ricky said, agreeing the internet series was "The Block for the web".

"Ideally we start renovating and filming in October, but depending on factors it may get pushed out.

"We're working with a lot of brands who are keen to make it happen, around sustainable and eco building, with a few more details to come."

Ricky said he will continue to work in his ProRec Plumbing business Monday to Thursday, with Friday to Sunday on Phillip Island renovating and filming.

Erin currently lives at Sunset Strip and will be working on the web series, he said, explaining the two have an Instagram page, Ricky and the Makeup Artist, where they revealed the Surf Beach purchase.

"She'll have a starring role. Erin is an



Ricky and his partner Erin – who lives on Phillip Island – have bought a house at Surf Beach, which will feature in their planned web series Container Builds.

all-round cracker. She'll be doing styling and design, and a lot of the renovation, behind the scenes. She's not afraid to get her hands dirty.

"I've finally found my match in life. She does as much as me.

"She gets her best ideas at night so at 3am she'll message ideas and I'll tell her she's nuts and to go back to sleep."

Ricky said he and Erin would not be having a church service but had committed to the relationship and were planning an exchange of rings and a "big party".

"At some stage it would be nice to settle down on the island.

"One of the first things I heard on the island last year was that residents are lucky to find a tradie if the fishing or surf is on. I thought even then, that's a place I'd like to live in.

"I'm a keen fisho and I'm excited for Erin to teach me how to surf. She loves fishing too."



Ricky, left, with Haydn at last year's The Block site on Justice Road in Cowes.

Haydn

Ricky said Haydn will be filming the first season of Container Builds at Surf Beach, with the second season to be Haydn's future home, most likely in central Victoria, where he plans to buy a vacant block on which to build a four-bedroom container home.

This is not their first foray into web series. After The Block auction, the dynamic duo – who call themselves "The Funovators" – launched a web series of the same name, which showcased a renovation of Ricky's Melbourne home.

The show is now in post-production and will be online in coming months, with updates on the Ricky and Haydn Instagram page.

"But our passion is sustainability so that's why we're doing the second web series."

Ricky said he was still riding the wave of post-Block fame, although the invi-

tations to parties had slowed since the initial adulation, especially since the new series of The Block in Daylesford had gone to air.

Ricky said fellow 2024 Blockheads Kylie and Brad attended his birthday in June, but he had not been in contact with other contestants.

He explained he and Haydn had dabbled in selling their own fluoro clothing line, including hats, t-shirts and even sunglasses.

"I like wearing colour, but it takes a lot of time and commitment to make fashion work and it's not my real passion."

Ricky and Haydn's house from The Block sold for \$2.7 million, which saw a \$750,000 profit (\$375,000 each) for the best mates.

Their House 3 property, known as the "Fun Factory," was purchased by billionaire Adrian Portelli, who bought all five houses on the show (see separate story).

\$9.5m for sports reserve, \$114m for college overhaul

COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire Council's long-awaited draft 10-year financial plan will be debated by councillors at this week's council meeting (Wednesday August 20).

The draft includes \$9.9 million for the Phillip Island recreation reserve, \$950,000 for dog parks and the biggest project – the Wonthaggi College site redevelopment – has been earmarked for \$114.6 million.

If approved, it will go out for con-

sultation until September 9, to be then adopted in October.

The council meeting has a bumper agenda, with the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan also to be debated, alongside the awarding of the tender for the Cowes streetscape master plan.

The draft financial plan is available on the council website: www.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/about-council/council-meetings as an attachment for the August 20 council meeting minutes.

More details in next week's paper.



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Jobs Expo: find your future

EMPLOYMENT

The Bass Coast Jobs and Careers Expo returns to Cowes on September 5, at Berninnet from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

The Expo follows on from the successful event held in Wonthaggi on August 7, which saw attendance figures more than double from 2024.

There is still time for local businesses to register for the expo, via the Bass Coast Shire Council website.

"We would love it if more exhibitors booked in for Cowes," a council spokesperson said.

"They can do so by completing the registration form on our webpage – basscoast.vic.gov.au/jobs-expo."

Now in its fourth year, the expos are a vital connection point between local job seekers and employers, providing direct pathways into a wide range of industries, including tourism, healthcare, construction, education, mining, hospitality, conservation, and more.

Delivered by council in partnership with Workforce Australia and the Victorian Government's Skills and Jobs Centre, "the free expos offer something for everyone, whether you're looking for your first job, a new direction, or additional work," council said.

"You can also chat to local training providers and support services about career pathways, traineeships and apprenticeships."

A physical Jobs Board will also be on display, featuring



Ruby McGillivray and Jacquie Baillie from Council's People and Culture team at the successful Jobs and Careers Expo held in Wonthaggi. The Phillip Island Expo is at Berninnet on September 7, from 9.30am – 1.30pm.

current vacancies from local employers, including those who may not be exhibiting on the day, so you can explore even more job options and find the right fit.

There's no need for job seekers to register, just turn up on the day.

"Bring along your resume, an open mind and explore the opportunities," said the council spokesperson.

The Phillip Island expo will feature hands-on support from the Gippsland Skills and Jobs Centre, offering free one-on-one advice to help polish your resume, improve your interview skills,

and put your best foot forward.

It will also include an extra opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs, with the Business Victoria Small Business Bus on site.

Drop by for a free consultation and expert advice on what it takes to start and grow your own business, the perfect first step for anyone thinking about launching a new venture.

Phillip Island Jobs and Careers Expo, Friday September 5, Berninnet, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes.

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/business/business-development-and-training/local-jobs-expo



Shake off the winter blues and take the plunge with the 2025 Polar Bear Swim on Monday September 1, 5.15pm at the Cowes Foreshore. The fun community swim is open to everyone.

The Polar Bears are back

COMMUNITY

Shake off the winter blues and take the plunge with the 2025 Polar Bear Swim on Monday September 1, 5.15pm at the Cowes Foreshore.

The Polar Bear Swim has been running since 2008 and the fun community swim is open to anyone willing to brave the icy waters.

There is no formal registration and no age restrictions. However, there are three firm rules in place for the fun event: No wetsuits, no nudity and you must put your head under the water.

"There's no pressure to actually swim anywhere or anything," said the organisers.

"I always just dunk then run

out screaming."

In the past few years, a smaller group of Polar Bears leap off the San Remo Pier at the same as Cowes takes to the water.

The original Polar Bear Swim consisted of just four people, while in 2023, when the swim coincided with the weekend, there were almost 100 people taking part.

Based on weather records, September 1 is usually overcast and rainy, and last year the Polar Bears braved wild winds and cold temperatures.

Weather forecasts for this year predict a cloudy day, with a maximum temperature of 15 degrees.

See updates on Facebook events: Polar Bear Swim 2025.



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State and local taxes hit ratepayers hard

From page 1

ESVF

As reported, councillors in June joined with a growing number of other councils across Victoria calling on the State Government to ditch the unpopular ESVF, which will raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the cash strapped government.

Council officers reported the levy collections on Bass Coast ratepayers will increase from \$10 million to \$16 million annually, which represents a 53 per cent increase, or \$5.52 million.

- The increases include:
- Residential ratepayers: from 8.7c to 17.3c per \$1000 of Capital Improved Value (CIV);
 - Commercial ratepayers: from 66.4c to 133c per \$1000 CIV;
 - Industrial ratepayers: from 81.1c to 133c per \$1000 CIV.
 - Farmers will pay the fixed charge plus 71.8 cents for every \$1000 of their property's CIV. They currently pay 28.7 cents.

From July 1, 2026, a new property classification will be introduced for residential principal places of residence (PPR), and non-PPR residential properties will be charged the non-residential fixed rate.

Properties not classified as PPR will be charged a higher, non-residential fixed rate (expected to be \$276).

The levy broadens the scope of funding beyond the CFA and the Fire Rescue Victoria to include the SES, Triple Zero Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria, Forest Fire Management Victoria and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

Opposition

San Remo's Nathan Murphy – who is a committee member of the community alliance Not In Our Name fighting the tax – last week wrote to the coun-



A straw poll of rate increases for homes across Phillip Island has found far-ranging disparity. The Nationals say they would scrap Labor's emergency services tax, which is hitting households and business in their council rates notice.

cil criticising the government's "fact sheet" attached to rates, saying it "amounts to nothing more than propaganda".

"I welcome the fact that Council has come out opposing this new tax, however the attached propaganda from the State Government is contrary to Bass Coast Shire position," Nathan said.

Not In Our Name coordinated a conference last month, where mayors and councillors created a working group to campaign against the ESVF.

The Nationals' Melina Bath said the ESVF was "designed to prop up Labor's financial mismanagement and ballooning state debt".

She said this year's exemption for farmers was "a disingenuous publicity stunt as it only applies to their principal place of residence – not the entire farm".

"The tax will drive up food and fibre production costs and flow through to supermarket shelves in the form of higher prices."

Ms Bath criticised the State Government for using local councils as tax collectors, with no transparency on how the revenue would be distributed.

"The tax does nothing to fund frontline emergency services or volunteers – most of it is being redirected to fund core government departments that should be covered by existing taxes."

The Nationals have committed to scrapping the ESVF

Council Watch last week said the ESVF was "taxing Victorians out of their livelihoods and beyond their means", and speculated the government was planning to scrap rate capping, with a petition to ensure rate caps stay.

Objectors fight proposed wellness retreat

PLANNING

A proposal for a wellness retreat in Ventnor has received more than 110 objections with residents arguing if it is approved, they would be concerned for their personal safety.

The owner of 109 Lyall Street in Ventnor has applied for a planning permit for a holistic health and wellness retreat in a low-density residential zone.

Under the proposal, the 4000sqm property would have no building works, but the use of the dwelling would see accommodation for a maximum of five clients and up to two visiting medical and holistic practitioners.

Clients would attend "low intensity", "appointment-only" retreats for one week to one month with "integrated, evidence-based services focused on whole-person health".

"The proposed model draws inspiration from leading therapeutic frameworks, such as The Banyans Wellness Centre, and aims to provide personalised, multi-disciplinary care to individuals seeking support in managing mental health, emotional wellbeing, and lifestyle-related conditions," the permit states.

The Banyans Wellness Centre website describes itself as offering "discreet and luxury rehab" in Queensland.

The planning permit says the wellness retreat will include psychology and therapeutic counselling sessions, yoga, meditation and mindfulness practice, nutritional and lifestyle education.

"Stays will be guided by a tailored program developed in consultation with allied health professionals, designed to support early intervention, stress recovery, and general wellbeing," the permit states.

It states "ample" parking will be available on the property, with minimal traffic generation.

"The retreat will be operated by qualified professionals and will maintain a quiet, respectful interface with the surrounding community," the owner says in the permit.

"The site will have a general

manager that will coordinate the sessions and organisation of the business.

"The proposed use of the site as a holistic health and wellness retreat represents a modest, respectful and low-impact reactivation of an existing residential property."

Objections

However, residents have urged Bass Coast Shire councillors to reject the proposal, with 111 objections lodged by the end of last week.

One submitter said the planning permit was "misleading in the extreme".

"Nowhere does it say that clients will be treated for drug rehabilitation and dependency despite the fact this is one treatment Banyans health care do," the objector said.

"Clearly this is an inappropriate site for such activities being a residential area next to homes with young children."

A continuing theme in objections is concern for personal safety and safety of children and families.

"I will be living in fear knowing there are drug addicted people in our area especially near my children that have young friends in Lyall Street," wrote one submitter.

"Clinical areas like this should remain in the town centre alongside other clinical areas not in residential areas."

Others agreed, citing proximity to the pony club and reserve.

"Please, please stop this from happening and keep our island safe by keeping the clinics in Cowes next to all the other medical centres and services. I won't be able to live peacefully in Ventnor as I will be constantly concerned about home invasions or theft of property due to this clinic arriving in our precious little community."

Many supported the concept of mental health care, but said it was incompatible with a residential area.

"This proposal represents a significant shift in the use of the property, from a private residence to a commercial operation, and would disrupt the peaceful character of the neighbourhood."

Overdose report shows 10-year high

HEALTH

A report from the Coroners Court of Victoria released last week showed the state's fatal overdoses were at a 10 year high.

However the report also noted the increase in overdose deaths was related to the growth in the Victorian population.

Despite our growing population, Bass Coast's numbers dropped from six to three, back to its lowest level since 2015 (excluding Covid in 2021, where no deaths were recorded).

Of the Gippsland local government areas, Bass Coast was in the bottom three, alongside South Gippsland (which has only recorded one death per year for the past five years) and Baw Baw.

Latrobe's figures more than doubled, rising from eight in 2023 to 18 last year, the highest level in the past 10 years.

Of our neighbouring councils, Cardinia reported six overdoses and Casey 16.

Comparable areas like Surf Coast recorded much lower lev-

els, with no overdoses in three of the 10 years, including 2024, while the highest figure was four in 2019.

The local government area with the highest number of fatal overdoses was Melbourne (42), followed by Greater Geelong (35), Yarra (27), Greater Dandenong (26), Hume (22) and Port Phillip (22).

Report

According to the report men were more likely than women to overdose. In 2024 68.2 per cent of fatal overdoses were men, compared to 31.8 per cent women.

Just over a quarter of Victorian overdose deaths each year occurred in regional Victoria, with very little variation in this proportion over the 10-year period except for 2021, when the proportion dropped to 20 per cent of all overdose deaths.

On average three-quarters of Victorian overdose deaths each year involved multiple contributing drugs, which the coroner said "underscores the importance of

| Gippsland fatal overdose cases – 10 year trend | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| LGA | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | |
| Bass Coast | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 4 | - | 4 | 6 | 3 | |
| Baw Baw | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | |
| East Gippsland | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 7 | |
| Latrobe | 4 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 18 | |
| South Gippsland | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Wellington | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | |

Gippsland overdose levels remain relatively stable, except for Latrobe which saw a jump from eight to 18 in the last 12 months. Bass Coast dropped from six to three.

highlighting drug combinations when delivering harm reduction education and other overdose prevention initiatives".

A significant finding in the 2024 data was the continuing rise of illegal drug involvement in Victorian overdose deaths.

The report stated ten years ago, illegal drugs contributed to just under half of Victorian overdose deaths. By contrast, in 2024 illegal drugs contributed to 65.6 per cent of Victorian overdose

deaths, up from 58.9 per cent in 2023 and 54.9 per cent in 2022.

Several illegal drugs, notably heroin, methamphetamine, MDMA, cocaine and GHB, reached a 10-year high in the number of overdose deaths to which they contributed.

Meanwhile, the proportion of Victorian overdose deaths involving pharmaceutical drugs continued to gradually decline, accounting for 69.3 per cent of overdose deaths in 2024, down

from 78 per cent in 2015. The proportion of overdose deaths involving alcohol was reasonably consistent with previous years, at 24.1 per cent in 2024.

The report stated most Victorian overdose deaths across the decade were accidental or unintentional (74.5 per cent) rather than suicides (19.3 per cent) or deaths where the deceased's intent could not be determined (6.2 per cent).

However, the report noted some important variations in deceased intent were observed. "For example, among males only 13 per cent of overdose deaths were suicides, whereas among females the proportion was 31.4 per cent."

In Victoria, all deaths from suspected non-natural causes, including suspected overdoses, are required to be reported to the Coroners Court of Victoria.

Suspected overdoses are recorded by the Court in the Victorian Overdose Deaths Register (VODR), which is the data source for this report.

See the full report at coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Golf club wall turns green

ART

Local artist Lisa McLure has added extra green to the Phillip Island Golf Club, transforming a wall of the clubhouse building on Settlement Road into a golfing mural.

Lisa, who retired from a 33-year career in hairdressing in June to focus full time on her art, started the mural on August 4, “working around the rain and fog”.

She approached the club in January this year, offering her services for free, to transform the previously grey wall into a mural.

“As an emerging artist, I needed something big to get my name out there,” Lisa told the Advertiser.

“The Board agreed and by July I had the go ahead.”

The concept for the mural was based on a photo the Board provided, but interpreted in Lisa’s own unique style – “I like lots of colour”.

Admitting she “knows nothing about golf”, she’s had plenty of feedback from the old golfers, and asked for their advice on which clubs the golfers in the mural should be holding.

With the background now complete, Lisa is adding unique Phillip Island wildlife to the scene, including wallabies, Cape Barren geese and some ducks. Plus another kookaburra.

“I painted one kookaburra, then I found out they always fly in monogamous pairs, so I need to paint another one,” Lisa explained.



Artist Lisa McLure working on the golf club mural on Settlement Road in Cowes, which she started painting earlier this month.

Alongside the native wildlife, you’ll also spot Mala, a bouncing golden retriever, who has featured in every one of her paintings so far.

She said already the mural has been welcomed by the local community, with plenty of comments from people walking past the club, and even toots and waves from those driving by.

“I get to chat to a lot of people, and pat a lot of dogs,” Lisa admitted.

She’s excited by the chance to showcase her skills on a bigger stage, as she commits full time to her art career.

“I painted at school, but even my husband didn’t know I could paint. I knew I could, but there just wasn’t time.”

After entering her work in a local art show, she is now immers-

ing herself in the local art scene.

“Everyone has been so friendly and helpful and lovely,” she said.

“I thought it would be a bit like a secret society, but they’ve been so welcoming.”

She plans to hold her own exhibition later in the year, and to launch a website showcasing her art.

“I’ve got commissions through to the end of the year, and I’m illustrating a children’s book,” Lisa said.

She’s also working on painting for upcoming exhibitions and has applied for a public art commission for a mural at the Wonthaggi Community Arts Centre.

If you’d like to know more, or commission a work, follow lisa.mclure.artist on Facebook and Instagram.

Bass Coast Health joins patient support program

HEALTH

Earlier this month, the State Government announced one of five new Patient Support Units (PSUs) in Victoria would be established at Bass Coast Health.

The announcement came as part of a report on surgery delivery in the state, which the government described as “the most planned surgeries on record”.

It said the PSUs helped patients “navigate the surgery process by coordinating care, exploring alternative treatment pathways, and keeping patients informed throughout their journey”.

Dr Renee Kelsall, Acting Interim CEO at Bass Coast Health (BCH) said patients across Bass Coast and South Gippsland would benefit from this new program.

“Bass Coast Health is now part of the Patient Support Unit program that helps patients get better care before and after surgery,” BCH Acting Interim CEO Dr Renee Kelsall said.

“For patients, being part of the Patient Support Unit program means they can recover faster and leave hospital sooner after surgery.”

“For those having joint surgery, we’ll make sure their health is in the best shape possible before the operation. This is because our team, in-



A Patient Support Unit has been established at Bass Coast Health, one of five new units announced by the government earlier this month, to ensure patients get better care before and after surgery.

cluding physiotherapists, dietitians and other health professionals, will work together to support patients before surgery,” Dr Kelsall said.

“This can help avoid delays in having the surgery and reduce the time a patient spends in hospital after the surgery.”

“We’re also making sure patients on waiting lists get the care they need sooner, whether that’s surgery or other treatment options that don’t involve surgery.”

Surgeries are currently performed in theatres at Wonthaggi Hospital, with day surgeries expected to begin at the Phillip Island Community Hospital early next year.

Eastern barred bandicoots’ 10-year milestone

WILDLIFE

Phillip Island Nature Parks is celebrating the 10-year success of the Eastern barred bandicoots’ translocation to Churchill Island – a move that literally brought the species back from the brink of extinction.

The Eastern barred bandicoot was first introduced to Churchill Island in 2015. Prior to that, the species had been largely wiped out on the mainland – only surviving within three reserves in Victoria surrounded by predator-barrier fences.

Senior Scientist with the Nature Parks, Duncan Sutherland, said there are now around 150 bandicoots on Churchill Island and many more spread across Phillip Island.

“Eastern barred bandicoots have now been on Churchill Island for a decade, which enabled their release to Phillip Island eight years ago, and since then we have seen them breed and grow in numbers, expanding into areas across most of Phillip Island,” Dr Sutherland said.

“Each year they’ve travelled further afield on Phillip Island and in recent months we have had more sightings in populated areas, which is reassuring for our conservation efforts. For the first time, an Eastern barred bandicoot was recently seen in the Red Rocks area in dune vegetation and on the outskirts of Rhyll.

“We are delighted to see the bandicoots bounce back in recent years and it is a tremendous outcome for a species that



Senior Scientist with the Nature Parks, Duncan Sutherland, said there are now around 150 bandicoots on Churchill Island and many more spread across Phillip Island. The species was first introduced to Churchill Island in 2015, having been virtually wiped out on the mainland. Photo courtesy of Phillip Island Nature Parks.

had once been deemed extinct in the wild. But we cannot be complacent. Feral and domestic cats still pose a significant risk for these bandicoots through predation and by spreading the disease toxoplasmosis.”

Disease

The milestone comes as new research by the Nature Parks and the University of Melbourne reveals just how deadly toxoplasmosis is to the bandicoots.

Toxoplasmosis is a disease caused by a parasite, which is only spread through the environment by domestic and feral cats. Now that Eastern barred bandicoots have been found to be highly susceptible to toxoplasmosis it is apparent that

when they share a landscape with cats, toxoplasmosis can result in significant impacts on bandicoot populations.

The research article, which has been published in the Journal of Wildlife Diseases, assessed the impact of the disease in endangered Eastern barred bandicoots on Phillip and French islands. It found most, if not all, die within two to three weeks of infection, giving conservationists the first real insight into the magnitude of its impact on bandicoot populations.

But despite the impacts of toxoplasmosis, bandicoots were continuing to expand, reflecting the species’ high reproductive potential and the benefits of ongoing efforts to reduce the num-



Since being released a decade ago, researchers have closely monitored the population, including trapping them for regular health checks. Photo courtesy of Phillip Island Nature Parks.

ber of feral cats on Phillip Island.

“Moving the Eastern barred bandicoots to island safe havens without foxes, like Churchill, French and Phillip islands, has effectively given them a lifeline,” Dr Sutherland said.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale added: “We’re celebrating 10 years since Eastern barred bandicoots made Churchill Island their home – a big win for one of Victoria’s inspiring wildlife comeback stories.”

As the Eastern barred bandicoots spread into residential areas, including Ventnor to Newhaven and from Smiths Beach to Rhyll, Dr Sutherland said the community played an important role in reporting sightings on the bandicoot portal and help-

ing create bandicoot friendly gardens where the nocturnal marsupials can sleep safely during the day.

Responsible pet ownership and keeping cats contained 24/7 was also crucial, he said.

The successful translocations of the Eastern barred bandicoot to Churchill and Phillip islands has been a collaboration between the Nature Parks, Odonata Foundation, Zoos Victoria, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Parks Victoria, The University of Melbourne, National Trust of Australia and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Seen a bandicoot? Report it at: ebb.natureparksresearch.com.au/sighting/

Barry Plant arrives in Bass Coast

BUSINESS

Barry Plant Real Estate has expanded its network in regional Victoria, adding four established offices in Bass Coast to strengthen its presence and combine local expertise with broader franchise support.

Barry Plant announced that established real estate offices in Cowes, San Remo, Inverloch and Wonthaggi have been added to the network in a bid to extend their reach into the Bass Coast and Phillip Island area.

The addition of the four branches on the Bass Coast brings 45 years of experience in the area to the Barry Plant network as the Victorian network expands.

While there is a new name for the four offices, there are the same faces and excellent service clients have come to expect.

Long term staff, including Greg Davis, Deb Perry and Helen Foote, are still part of the team.

Rod Patch, director and the owner of the Cowes, San Remo and Wonthaggi offices, said the move to Barry Plant marked a new chapter for the branches.

“We are thrilled to join a network with the reputation, support, leadership and integrity that Barry Plant offers.

“This is a significant step in our history, and I believe it could be our most successful yet,” Mr Patch said.

The decision to join the network was built on longstanding professional relationships and shared values, with Jodie Hanssen, CEO of Cowes, San Remo, Inverloch and Wonthaggi, having worked previously with key figures from Barry Plant.

After discovering that Barry Plant won Major Network of the Year at the 2025 REB Awards, Ms Hanssen began to look into the network and before long, the ball started rolling.

“That discovery made me want to learn more about the organisation that could attract such high-calibre people,” Ms Hanssen said.

Barry Plant franchise development manager, Ben Burling, said the pair are outstanding operators whose values align with the brand perfectly.

“With the backing of Victoria’s largest real estate franchise support team and expanded resources, we are confident they will go from strength to strength,” Mr Burling said.

Mr Patch said the move is more than just a rebrand for their offices.

“Joining Barry Plant gives us a huge leg up with access to better systems, training, education and support, things we did not have before.”

Barry Plant CEO Lisa Pennell said that the addition of the offices to their network will help expand their geographical coverage.

“This expansion brings the Barry Plant brand and everything it represents, from excellence in customer service to integrity and genuine care for clients, to a part of Victoria where we previously had no presence,” Ms Pennell said.

Ms Hanssen said the team can combine the small-town service that builds lasting relationships with the efficiency and reach of a major real estate franchise.

“It means we can deliver the best real estate experience in the Bass Coast.”

/Sponsored article/



Barry Plant is the new name in Bass Coast Real Estate, with offices in Cowes, San Remo, Inverloch and Wonthaggi. From left: Ben Burling – Barry Plant Franchise Development Manager, Jodie Hanssen CEO – Barry Plant Phillip Island, San Remo, Wonthaggi and Inverloch and Mirade Clarke – Operations Manager Barry Plant Phillip Island, San Remo, Wonthaggi and Inverloch.

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On August 27, The Phillip Island Movie Club presents John Cranko, a film about the legendary dancer and choreographer who directed Stuttgart Ballet from 1961 until 1973.

Capture the soul of dance

FILM

On Wednesday August 27, the Phillip Island Movie Club (PIMC) presents 2024 film John Cranko, at 7.30pm at Berninnet.

A German film, directed and written by Joachim Lang, Cranko is a biopic of John Cranko, South African-born dancer and choreographer who directed the Stuttgart Ballet from 1961 until his premature death in 1973. Sam Riley plays the role of John Cranko brilliantly.

This film begins in 1960, when Cranko accepted an offer to stage one of his works for the Stuttgart Ballet. Frank about his damaged reputation in England, he's assured by the organisation's general di-

rector Walter Erich Schafer (Hanns Zischler) "that wouldn't happen here".

"The film is an attempt to capture the soul of dance by portraying the life and work of this genius," said the Movie Club's Margaret Byrne.

"It shows his manic highs and lows that tried everyone's patience. It is a film about art and reality, it is about us as humans longing for love. It is a tribute to art and to the people who make it."

Please note the film begins at 7.30pm, the new starting time for 2025.

It is a private event and you must present your PIMC membership ticket and your Trybooking receipt to enter.

John Cranko runs for two-hours and eight minutes and is rated M.

Play Music on the Porch

COMMUNITY

The international music movement, Play Music on the Porch comes to Cowes on August 30, at the Eastern Courtyard at Berninnet, starting at 11am.

The day, which started in the USA, encourages everyone to go outside and play music as an antidote to the current state of the world, and is now celebrated by musicians in over 70 countries.

The Cowes day led by the Bass Coast Pickers and the Phillip Island Ukelele Group, will also feature short sessions by local musicians Travis Thompson and Tim O'Brien.

Michael Whelan from the Bass Coast Pickers said the day was a chance to put the current conflicts of the world to one side, quoting the Play Music on the Porch website "what if for one day everything stopped ... and we all just listened to the music".

"It's a day to share music, and we haven't had a Play Music on the Porch Day here on Phillip Is-



Play Music on the Porch comes to Cowes on August 30, from 11am - 1pm in the Eastern Courtyard at Berninnet. Photo: John Nupp, Unsplash

land before, as far as I'm aware," Michael said, explaining the impetus behind the day.

The get together, which runs from 11am until 1pm is not a formal event as such, but more a chance for people to come together, and play together.

"It would be nice if people came along and enjoyed it," he said.

"Bring a chair if you want to sit and watch. And if you want to join in, bring an instrument and sing along."

The only stipulation is that any instrument must

be acoustic - no plug ins.

"If you couldn't play it on the beach, you can't play it here either," Michael joked.

The event will go ahead, rain or shine, moving into Berninnet's great hall if it rains.

Play Music on the Porch. Saturday August 30, 11am to 1pm at Berninnet, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes.

Updates on facebook.com/basscoastpickers

To find out more about Play Music on the Porch: playmusicontheporchday.com/

Trivia night cancelled

COMMUNITY

The Sports Trivia and Mental Health information session scheduled for last Saturday August 16 at Phillip Island Football Netball Club unfortunately was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary thanked all the local businesses that

supported the event.

"We would like to thank the local business community who responded so positively to requests to display posters and to provide donations of vouchers and goods to be used to raise funds for the purchase of medical equipment for the new Phillip Island Community Hospital," an Auxiliary spokes-

person said.

"Subject to the approval of the donors such items will be used at future events."

Free bags containing health information and surprise donated gifts will be available for pick up at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club and Cowes Corner Takeaway (Settlement Road) this week.

DEGUSTATION & WINE PAIRING NIGHT

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Sidney, Griffin and Sophie from the Island Kids Early Learning Centre taking a close look at the worm farm at the PICAL Community Garden.



Volunteer Lindsay at the PICAL Community Garden sharing gardening hints and tips with the children from Island Kids Early Learning Centre.

Little garden explorers' day out

EDUCATION

The children from Island Kids Early Learning Centre brought nature to life during a visit to the Phillip Island Community Garden.

"Curiosity filled the air as our group of three to five-year-olds experienced the wonders of gardening firsthand," said Cheryl Teunissen, the teacher accompanying the trip.

"The excursion was part of the Ocean Room's focus on the environment and a lesson in how to care for our garden here at Island Kids."

PICAL volunteers shared their knowledge from composting to planting seedlings and feeding worms, which the children eagerly embraced.

"We want our children to feel a sense of wonder

and respect for the natural world," said Cheryl.

"Visiting the garden helps make learning real - they see, touch and smell the plants and begin to understand how things grow."

Cheryl said the morning wrapped up with creating gum seed flowers - "reminding us that sometimes the best classroom doesn't have walls".

Dine out for refugees

FUNDRAISER

The Phillip Island group Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) will hold their Dine Out for Refugees Dinner for 2025 on September 13, from 7pm in the Rhyll Mechanics Institute Hall.

The dinner promises to be a great night out and will raise money for refugee support.

Guest will hear from the Bass Coast Refugee Sponsorship Group (BCRSG) and stories about a journey from Syria via

Lebanon to Australia from a Syrian family sponsored and supported by BCRSG.

There will be delicious food, great music from Marty Box to enhance the evening and the opportunity to take home a painting by local artist Josephine Allen.

Come with family and friends, make up a table and have a great night. Tickets are \$43 and BYO drinks. Book at www.trybooking.com/DECZB

Enquiries: Gabrielle 0410 441 540 or email: gabesmahony4@gmail.com

/ Sponsored article /



The Phillip Island group Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) is holding their Dine Out for Refugees Dinner on September 13 at the Rhyll Mechanics Institute Hall. Tickets available now at Trybooking.com. Photo: Davey Gravy, Unsplash

Dine Out for Refugees

Saturday 13 Sept 2025
at 7.00pm

Rhyll Mechanics
Institute Hall
54 Loch Road Rhyll

\$43 donation per
person. BYO drinks



Phillip Island Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) will host a dinner to raise money for refugee support

We will hear stories "From Syria via Lebanon to Australia."

Artist Josephine Allen has donated a painting for our Special Effort

And the evening will feature music by Marty Box

Bring family and friends and make up a table

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/DECZB>

Enquiries: Gabrielle 0410 441 540 or email: gabesmahony4@gmail.com



Park Lane Phillip Island is taking part in the One Night Outside fundraiser on August 30, with 100 per cent of camping site fees and 10 per cent of all glamping and cabin proceeds from the night donated to Flying Fox, an organisation that delivers life-changing experiences for young people with and without disability.

Camp out for a cause

FUNDRAISER

Families, friends, and community groups are invited to roll out the swags and join in One Night Outside, a feel-good fundraising event at Park Lane Holiday Parks on Saturday August 30.

Held simultaneously across multiple Park Lane Holiday Park locations, including Phillip Island, One Night Outside offers guests the chance to enjoy an unforgettable night of camping, connection and community, all while raising funds for Flying Fox, a not-for-profit organisation that delivers life-changing experiences for young people with and without disability.

"We're so grateful and excited to be the charity partner for Park Lane's 2025 One Night Outside," says Dean Cohen OAM, founder of Flying Fox.

"We've had the privilege to host many of our overnight programs at Park Lane's exceptional parks, and we feel lucky to be supported by such a strong, generous community coming together to camp for a cause."

There's something for everyone, with kids' activities, a fundraising BBQ, hot chocolate stations, music, entertainment, and of course, a classic Aussie campout atmosphere.

"It's all about bringing people together in a relaxed setting, having a great time, and supporting a really important cause," says Dan Wallwork from Park Lane Holiday Parks.

"This is a chance to make memories with your family or friends while helping Flying Fox continue their incredible work."

One hundred per cent of camping site fees and 10 per cent of all glamping and cabin proceeds from the night will be donated to Flying Fox.

As well as Phillip Island, participating parks include Wonthaggi, Traralgon, Bendigo, Shepparton and Yarra Valley. Spaces are limited and bookings are filling fast.

To book your site and be part of something special, visit: www.parklaneholidayparks.com.au/blog/one-night-outside-camp-cause

GIG GUIDE

23/8 SCARECROW-THE MELLENCAMP SHOW-35
YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR - 9PM \$35+BF

24/8 BRET MOSLEY 5PM

31/8 ANDY MCGARVIE - 5PM

6/9 MOJO DREAMING - 7.30PM

7/9 LAING BROS - 5PM

13/9 OLLIE AND SCUZZI - 7.30PM

14/9 TROY WILSON - 5PM

20/09 FRENZAL RHOMB 'A MAN'S (STILL) NOT A
CAMEL' 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR - 9PM \$53+BF

21/09 PINNACLES - 5PM

26/09 KATHLEEN HALLORAN - \$20+BF

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\$17 PARMA NIGHT

THURSDAY NIGHT

\$20 BURGER NIGHT

FRIDAY NIGHT

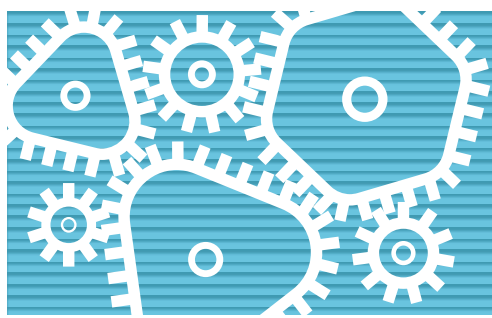
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Best buds Winter Shepherd, Sunny Jose and Indi Muratore wore 100 pom poms, 100 suns and 100 cherries between them. Celebrating their 100th day at school is a big achievement. More photos at pisra.com.au/education

100 Days of Prep at Newhaven College

EDUCATION

On Wednesday August 13, Newhaven College Prep students celebrated 100 days of school.

Students and their teachers, Kerry Lynch and Karen Faulwetter, got into the spirit of the celebrations arriving at school in their 100-themed costumes. Preps were given the task to decorate their clothes with 100 items, with loads of imagination and creativity on show. Clothes were adorned with buttons, stars, eyes, pom poms, beads, gemstones, hearts, lollipops, cherries, cats and even 100 balloons on the house from 'Up'.

Dressed in their costumes, the Preps proudly paraded through the Junior School then met up with their Year 6 buddies to continue the celebrations.

Through the day students competed in sports activities and completed several literacy and numeracy activities that involved the number 100. As part of the celebration, students ate fairy bread with 100s in 1000s and made special crowns to wear with their buddies.

The next Prep Information Session and College Tour will be held on Wednesday October 15. Contact the Admissions team at admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au or call 03 5956 7505 for more information.



Phillip Island VIEW Club, established in 1995, celebrated its 30th birthday with a "Party like it's the 90s" themed occasion.

Birthday celebration for VIEW club

COMMUNITY

Phillip Island VIEW Club has just celebrated its 30th birthday.

The club was established in 1995 so this year's birthday was a special occasion with a "Party like it's the 90s" theme. Members dressed up in 90s outfits, enjoyed 90s music (including The Macarena), with entertainment provided by a local band, Isle of Sounds.

Two founding members, Irene McKell and Judy Swift, who are still very active members of the Club, received their 30-year service badges from Christine Patmore who represented VIEW Clubs.

Other members Janette Mobilia and Gail Browne received their 20-year service badge and Bev Robertson her 10-year service badge.

"A huge thank you to these ladies who

have contributed so much to the club," a spokesperson said.

Phillip Island VIEW Club is part of one of the largest women's networks in Australia. VIEW (Voice, Interests and Education of Women) builds friendships and social connections amongst local women.

Phillip Island VIEW Club has members from across the region and meets monthly at the RSL but also enjoys other social events and activities.

The Club also sponsors eight children through the Smith Family's Learning for Life program. Sponsorships provide children who are experiencing disadvantage with school essentials and access to learning support programs.

If you are interested in the Phillip Island VIEW Club or want to know more, please contact Selby on 0480 258 357. Everyone is welcome.

Local volunteers get Federal funding

FUNDING

The Cowes Yacht Club and the Phillip Island Art and Craft Gallery are among 30 community groups in Monash that received funding through the Federal Government's Volunteer Grants program.

The Yacht club received \$1000, while the Art and Craft Gallery received \$1399.

Other local groups that successfully secured funding include the Archies Creek Community Hall (\$2000), Inverloch Day View Club (\$2000), Inverloch Fishing Club (\$2500), Wonthaggi Bowls Club (\$2500) and Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre (\$5000).

Member for Monash, Mary Aldred MP announced the funding last week, saying in total \$66,202 will be distributed to groups across the electorate.

The grants of between \$1000 and \$5000 were to assist with things like purchasing small equipment, covering transport or fuel costs and providing training opportunities.

"Our local not for profit and volunteer organisations are the backbone of the Monash community, and I'll fight to secure the support they need," said Ms Aldred.

"I'm passionate about supporting our community and sporting clubs right across the Monash electorate. Right now, many of our not-for-profit clubs and or-



Pamela Doyle, President of The Phillip Island Art and Craft Gallery, which received \$1399 from the Federal Government's Volunteer Grants program, one of 30 local groups to be funded.

ganisations are doing it tough, with rising insurance premiums, the cost of energy and inflation.

"I'll continue to do everything I can for them and acknowledge the tremendous efforts our volunteers put back in right across our community," she added.

For more information on the Volunteer Grants program, visit www.dss.gov.au/volunteer-grants.



A guest is warmly welcomed by volunteers to the Bass Coast Winter Shelter, which runs Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights in Cowes.

Bass Coast Winter Shelter opens its doors

COMMUNITY

The Bass Coast Winter Shelter is now open and welcoming guests for the 2025 winter season, offering people experiencing homelessness a safe, warm and caring place to stay.

Running Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights in Cowes, the winter shelter offers much more than just a bed. Guests receive:

- A friendly pick-up from Cowes Transit Centre
- A hot, home-cooked evening meal
- A safe place to sleep
- Access to showers and laundry facilities
- A light breakfast before heading off in the morning.

An initiative of the Inter Church Council Phillip Island, the winter shelter is run entirely by local volunteers – people from across the community who have stepped forward, trained up and are ready to offer a listening ear, a warm meal and a welcoming space.

"We know that building trust takes time," said Wendy Elson, Project Coordinator.

"We're here when people are ready. We're not just providing beds – we're offering consistency, safety and human connection."

While it's been a gentle start – with just a few bookings and some cancellations – the team sees that as a positive. It's given time to train volunteers, test systems and get things running smoothly.

"We expected a gentle start, as guests need time to build the confidence to give it a go. We also know that some people experiencing homelessness prefer to hear about others' experiences before deciding to stay at shelters," explains Wendy.

"The past few weeks have been a great opportunity to fine-tune everything and

make sure we're really ready for the weeks ahead and we are.

"The winter shelter is now fully equipped and ready, with new facilities like a portable shower up and running."

Anyone wanting to stay at the winter shelter must first complete a simple assessment with The Salvation Army Homelessness Services – Gippsland.

To make an appointment, call 03 5667 5220, 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday, and ask to be assessed for the Bass Coast Winter Shelter.

Support

Community support has been fundamental to the establishment of the winter shelter.

"We've been blown away by the support received from the community. Locals have really stepped up – volunteering, donating and spreading the word," Wendy said.

"It's been nothing short of amazing. The winter shelter would be impossible without this support."

The Inter Church Council of Phillip Island has also been guided by Stable One, a Victorian charity that helps communities set up winter shelters.

Stable One's support and experience have been instrumental in getting the Bass Coast Winter Shelter off the ground.

While the winter shelter team encourages public awareness, community members are asked to not directly approach individuals experiencing homelessness or pressure them to call.

The team asks locals to simply help spread the word that the Bass Coast Winter Shelter is open and ready to support.

For more information, or to become a trained volunteer for the overnight shift, contact Wendy Elson on 0492 859 637.

Junior Breakers on show

SOCCER

U15 Girls

The Phillip Island Breakers fought hard in a thrilling 3-2 loss to ladder leaders Drouin Dragons Maroon.

Lily T opened the scoring with a powerful strike before Drouin hit back twice.

Ariana levelled with a smart run from the wing, sending the game into halftime at 2-2.

The Breakers dominated large parts of the second half, creating plenty of chances, but were denied repeatedly by an inspired performance from Dragon's goalkeeper Amy.

Drouin regained the lead early in the half and held firm despite relentless pressure.

A brave performance leaves the Breakers hungry to finish strong with finals approaching.

U14 Mixed

The Breakers started strongly at Drouin with James scoring in the opening minutes.

Drouin quickly equalised, but Rueben restored the lead before they struck back again to edge ahead 3-2 at halftime.

Oisin's brave defensive work and sharp passing from Matilda, Angus, Blake and Levi kept the contest alive, while Ariana and Lily worked tirelessly on the wings.

Despite Judd's saves and defensive pressure from Hannah,

Zach and Nash, penalties widened the gap.

The Breakers kept pushing but couldn't close the margin, finishing 8-2 down.

Special mention to the girls who backed up with consecutive matches, showing great determination.

U14 Stingrays

A cold start saw the Stingrays fall 4-0 behind within 20 minutes, but they rallied before halftime with goals from Cooper and Kaylan.

The second half was full of commitment, with Ben, Callum and Hunter pressing forward; Hunter pulling one back before Korumburra restored their two-goal lead.

Midfielders Fergus, Bailey, Lexie and Blair worked tirelessly, with Blair earning player of the match. Fergus struck again from a late corner to make it 5-4, and despite further chances, the Stingrays couldn't quite find the equaliser.

It was a gutsy performance that showed great fight and spirit across the team.

U12 Girls

The Breakers overcame a defensive Drouin outfit to secure a 5-0 win.

A quick free kick from Kelsey Watson set up Gabrielle Titmarsh for the opener before strong runs from Lottie Bland and Chelsea Chambers kept the

pressure on.

After the break, Reagan Welsh's passing and Olive Travakkoli's midfield runs created more chances.

Gabrielle added a second, Lily Murphy extended her scoring streak to four games and Layla Miller struck from long range.

The loudest cheer came when Taylah Macdonald scored her first goal of the season.

A patient, disciplined performance secured a well-earned result for the U12 Girls.

U12A

The U12A Breakers claimed a hard-fought 1-0 win over Drouin in a top-of-the-table clash.

The game was played at high intensity with both sides creating chances, but Flynn provided the breakthrough with a powerful strike from a cross.

The Breakers' defence ran hard all game, while Henry was superb in goal, pulling off a leaping save to protect the lead.

Excellent teamwork and composure under pressure ensured the score stayed tight until the final whistle.

With two weeks remaining, the Breakers are now closing in on securing top spot, showing great skill and determination when it mattered most.

Full soccer reports at pisra.com.au/sport



Phillip Island's Sophie Fletcher is competing for Victoria at the Australian Short-board Titles in Wollongong on August 26 - 31. Photo: South West Surf/Surfing Victoria.

Islanders in hunt for shortboard titles

SURFING

Several local surfers, including Phillip Island's Sophie Fletcher and Harry de Roth are travelling to Wollongong for the Australian Shortboard Titles in Wollongong on August 26 - 31.

Sophie and Harry are competing in the Open women and men's titles respectively

Also representing Victoria is Jarvis Cininas, Dalyston (Masters over 30) and Ocean Wright, Kilcunda (Open Men).

Sophie is a four-time Open Women's State Champion.

"I'm so excited to be representing Victoria at the Open Aussie Titles," Sophie said.

"I've had some great results at the state level recently, so I'm pumped to get back into a competitive mindset and compete at the national level.

"I'm also keen to support my friends who are competing. Wollongong always delivers super fun waves, so it's going to be epic."

Phillip Island soccer results

Round 16 – Sunday. August 17

Senior Mens: Phillip Island Breakers 5 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 1.

Senior Womens: Phillip Island Breakers 3 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 1.

Mens Reserves: Drouin Dragons Maroon 4 d Phillip Island Breakers 1.

Under 17 Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon 5 d Phillip Island Breakers 0.

Under 15 Girls: Drouin Dragons Maroon 3 d Phillip Island Breakers 2.

Under 14 Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon 8 d Phillip Island Penguins 2. Korumburra City 5 d Phillip Island Stingrays 4.

Under 12 Girls: Phillip Island Breakers 5 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 0.

Under 12A Mixed: Phillip Island Breakers 1 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 0.

Under 12B Mixed: Phillip Island Penguins 3 d Drouin Dragons Yellow 0. Phillip Island Stingrays 6 d Inverloch Stars 3.

Full GSL reports at pisra.com.au/sport

On the green

GOLF

Tuesday, August 12

Men's 18H Comp Stroke Monthly Medal

Overall winner: Peter Officer (24) 65.

A Grade winner: A-1 Gino Manfredi (11) 73 C/B.

A-2 winner: Mark Dykes (10) 73 C/B.

B Grade winner: B-1 Stephen Earl (15) 68.

B-2 winner: Glen Botterill (16) 71 C/B.

C Grade winner: C-1 Peter Officer (24) 65.

C-2 winner Gerald Taylor (22) 68.

BDL to 73 C/B.

NTP: 5th Michael Coghlan, 7th

Peter Blunden, 10th Ian Smith and 17th Ron Davies.

Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Ian Bray (26) 19 pts from Ian Samuel (22) 18 pts. BDL to 16 pts C/B.

Wednesday, August 13

Women's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Vicki Ramage (18) 38 pts.

A Grade winner: Vicki Ramage (18) 38 pts.

B Grade winner: Naoko McRae (32) 37 pts.

C Grade winner: Annette Millership (37) pts.

BDL to 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Cheryl White, 7th Lesley Meadowcroft, 10th Jennifer Fitzgerald, 17th Vicki Ramage.

Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Ken Harris (42) 11 pts c/b from Carolyn Roberts (35) 11 pts C/B.

BDL to 11 pts C/B.

Thursday, August 14

Open Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Scott Lethbridge (3) 42 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Scott Lethbridge (3) 42 pts.

A-2 winner: Max Bentley (7) 38 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Danny Hibbert (15) 39 pts C/B.

B-2 winner: Liam Keating (15) 39 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Frank Kelly (30) 41 pts.

C-2 winner: Alan Airey (27) 40 pts.

BDL to 36 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Ian Barnes, 7th Scott Lethbridge, 10th John Knee-bone and 17th Phil Cooksey.

Men's 9 Hole Stableford

Overall winner: Graham Robinson (22) 19 pts from David Glad-

man (16) 18 pts C/B.

BDL to 17 pts C/B.

Saturday, August 16

Men's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Mark Ritterman (4) 39.

A Grade winner: A-1 Mark Ritterman (4) 39.

A-2 winner: Lucas Saric (11) 36.

B Grade winners: B-1 Steve Regnier (14) 39

B-2 winner: Matt Voce (14) 38.

C Grade winner: C-1 Peter Smith (24) 37.

C-2 winner: Stuart Crawford (22) 36.

BDL to 33 C/B.

NTP: 5th Darrel Clark, 7th Mario Amato, 10th Tim Duff and 17th Steve Darcy.

Women's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Vicki Ramage (18) 38 pts from Lesley Meadowcroft (12) 36 pts C/B.

BDL to 31 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Helen Coghlan, 10th Adrienne Anglin and 17th Vicki Ramage.

Sunday, August 17

18H Stableford

Overall winner: Glenn Botterill (16) 39 pts from Andrew Walton (15) 38 pts.

BDL: to 31 pts.

Red Rocks results

GOLF

Saturday, August 16

Stableford: Competition abandoned due to inclement weather.

Sunday, August 17

Par: Winner: Rob Stead (15) +2.

NTP: Hole 10 Steve Wurt. Hole 14 Terry Fox.

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 20 AUG | THU 21 AUG | FRI 22 AUG | SAT 23 AUG | SUN 24 AUG | MON 25 AUG | TUE 26 AUG |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| LOW 1:55 am 0.51 m | LOW 2:53 am 0.61 m | LOW 4:04 am 0.71 m | LOW 5:23 am 0.75 m | HIGH 12:34 am 2.48 m | HIGH 1:46 am 2.59 m | HIGH 2:46 am 2.70 m |
| HIGH 9:21 am 2.71 m | HIGH 10:25 am 2.66 m | HIGH 11:35 am 2.66 m | HIGH 12:44 pm 2.73 m | LOW 6:35 am 0.74 m | LOW 7:38 am 0.73 m | LOW 8:30 am 0.74 m |
| LOW 2:31 pm 1.38 m | LOW 3:40 pm 1.45 m | LOW 5:02 pm 1.42 m | LOW 6:22 pm 1.29 m | HIGH 1:45 pm 2.81 m | HIGH 2:35 pm 2.88 m | HIGH 3:17 pm 2.90 m |
| HIGH 8:32 pm 2.55 m | HIGH 9:45 pm 2.46 m | HIGH 11:10 pm 2.42 m | | LOW 7:28 pm 1.11 m | LOW 8:19 pm 0.93 m | LOW 9:02 pm 0.79 m |

All material is supplied in good faith and is believed to be correct. No responsibility or liability for errors or omissions is accepted.

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Junior Bulldogs hit finals fever

FOOTBALL

U12 Blue

Under sunny skies on home turf the Blues were brimming with excitement as they faced off against Leongatha Parrots in a clutch qualifying final.

First quarter was tough with both teams going hard at the ball, plenty of contested ball with only a point separating the two.

The Blues had a solid second quarter and denied Leongatha the ball.

Max Robinson and Louis Brodie maintained the defensive line.

Jett Fawaz was superb all game with his work rate and moving the ball forward. At half time break scores even 1-1.

Third quarter was the best for the Blues with two goals kicked by Rhylan Lucas and Ollie Hellmuth-Pask.

Cooper Bennett had a cracker with plenty of possessions and Sam Martindale was excellent with his contributions.

Despite fighting hard last quarter the Blues couldn't stop Leongatha scoring three goals from

rolling in and getting in front.

The Blues came off second best defeated by six points.

The Blues get their second chance and take on Inverloch next Sunday at Leongatha in the elimination final.

Final Score: PI Blue 14 def by Leongatha 20.

Best on: Cooper Bennett, Jett Fawaz, Louis Brodie, Cody Naismith, Sam Martindale and Ollie Hellmuth-Pask.

U14 Blue

The U14 Blue team played their qualifying final at home this week against Wonthaggi.

It was a hard-fought game, with each quarter goal for goal.

The boys dug deep, came away with a momentous win and a well-deserved spot in the Grand Final.

Final Score: Phillip Island 31 defeated Wonthaggi 21.

Goals: Flynn Riley 3, Kai Denblyden and Jarrah Rutherford 1.

U14 Girls

On a bright and sunny Sunday morning, the Phil-

lip Island Under 14 girls football team delivered their best performance of the season, claiming a well-deserved win over Leongatha.

From the first bounce, the girls showed determination, teamwork, and skill, moving the ball cleanly through the mid-field and applying relentless pressure in attack.

Their strong defensive effort and confident ball use set the tone for what quickly became their most complete game yet.

The victory was celebrated with cheers from the sidelines, where family and supporters witnessed the young team's hard work pay off.

Coach Rej praised the girls for their commitment, calling it a "true team effort" and a sign of how far they've come this season.

Well done team, bring on next week.

Final Score: Phillip Island 3.5.23 def Leongatha 2.3.15.

Best on: Charlee Pedersen, Indi Keady, Indiana Chihotski, Aria van Strijp and Evie Kimber.



A Grade netballer Aisha Hibbert takes aim in a hard-fought clash against Cora Lynn in wet and slippery conditions in what turned out to be a close, goal-for-goal battle from start to finish. More reports and photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Phillip Island Football Netball Club

Past Players & Officials Day

- ☆ **Saturday 23rd 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!



2025 South West Gippsland Grand Finals



Good luck to the under 16 girls from Alex Scott and Staff

ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF

Est.1886

U16 Girls march into the Grand Final

FOOTBALL

The sun was shining, and conditions were perfect as the Phillip Island Football Netball Club AFLW Under 16 girls faced Warranor on Sunday.

In front of a vocal crowd, the Island girls played with heart, skill and determination, sealing a well-deserved victory.

Phillip Island's midfield brigade was outstanding, bringing relentless energy, clean ball movement, and fierce tackling pressure that kept Warranor on the back foot.

Their dominance through the centre square created plenty of scoring opportunities up forward, with the Island's goal kickers making sure the hard work was rewarded.

The scoreboard told the story. Every player contributed, but it was the composure of the forwards and the drive from midfield that made the difference.

The defence also stood tall, shutting down Warranor's forward thrusts



Phillip Island's Gisele Smith with her trophy after finishing Runner-Up in the U16 Female South West Gippsland Best and Fairest League count for 2025.

and holding them to just one major for the match.

Final Score: Phillip Island 4.13.37 def Warranor 1.1.7.

Goals: Olivia Holmes, Lilli O'Loughlin, Jasmine Campbell, Macey Stubbs. **Best:** Lily (Elbow) Bow, Olivia Holmes, Gisele Smith, Ruby Kent-Ford, Bethany Grenness, Gemma Fischer, Tess Ricardo.

Values

It wasn't just on-field success being celebrated.

The club was recognised for its culture and values, winning the Code of Conduct Award for the second year running, a testament to the spirit and respect embedded within the Phillip Island program.

Individually, the accolades keep coming. Gisele Smith polled an impressive 16 league votes, finishing as runner-up Best and Fairest.

Not only that, but Gisele Smith, Olivia Holmes and Bethany Grenness all finished in the top 8 of the league's vote count, a remarkable reflection of the Island's depth of talent.

Now, the focus shifts to the Grand Final showdown against Warragul in Traralgon on Sunday, August 24.

Excitement is building across the Island as supporters prepare to back their team.

So, dust off your red, white and blue and get ready to cheer on the Phillip Island girls as they look to bring the cup home.

Congratulations to the U16 Girls making the Grand Final!

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Good luck girls in the Grand Final. – You've got this! First to the ball.

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70. Scarlett Rees
Versatile player who holds down key positions both forward and back.



3. Phoenix Stedman
Lightning quick. Attacks the ball with speed and determination; she is a sight to see in full flight.



35. Sadie Davies
Quiet but reliable defender who has shown great growth this season, also handy up forward when given the opportunity.



1. Ruby Kent-Ford (Captain)
Our fearless leader who leads from the front with skill and strength. She has been a fantastic addition this year to PIFNC.



36. Jasmine Trappell
Goal sneak. Quietly goes about her job but is one of the leading goal kickers for the team this season.



19. Ruby King
Strong defender who loves nothing more than laying a crushing tackle.



31. Stellah Tilley
Fleet of foot and a great engine. Can light up the wing or put the pressure on up forward.



38. Bethany Grenness
Highly skilled play maker, with deadly accurate foot skills. Best kick in the league.



20. Olivia Holmes
Demonstrates strong skills with exceptional qualities of athleticism and determination. Look out for her name in the future.



37. Georgia Niven
Strong defender who loves to wrap someone up in a tackle.



34. Mia Ward
Dashing runner on the wing. Mia has pace to burn.



10. Miki Leary
Small in size, but huge in heart. A long serving member of the team who has a raking left foot.



29. Gisele Smith
Pocket rocket. Tough, fast and a tackling machine. League Runner Up, Best and Fairest.



18. Gemma Fischer
Flashy and versatile. A real barometer of the team. Can light up a game whether it's on the wing or up forward.



4. Lilli O'Loughlin
Ball magnet. A long server member of the team who loves to win the contested football, can also read the play magnificently off half back.



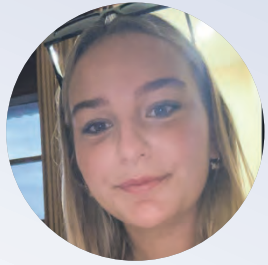
25. Lily Carville
Going from strength to strength this season. Is a great kick on the run.



16. Brinkley Nicolacci
A genuine footballer. Exceptional skills by hand or foot and loves to set her sister up for a goal.



7. Tess Ricardo
The general down back. Reliable and fierce, continually putting her body on the line for the team.



69. Macey Stubbs
Long serving team member. Great tall target up forward this season who gives off many goal assists.



40. Kyra Carton
Versatile player who plays tall. Whether up forward snagging goals or down back.



28. Piper (Pip) Nicolacci
Just like the Daicos brothers, the Nicolacci sisters are super smart footballers. Loves to snag a goal.



30. Mackenzie Marr
Strong attacking defender who loves to crash a pack.



15. Lily (Elbow) Bow
A natural footballer. A penetrating kick off half back. Great football brain.



5. Luna Bowker
Coming back from a broken wrist earlier in the season, a great kick and developing into an excellent footballer.



27. Jasmine (Cuz) Campbell
New to the game, shows great dash and aggression coming off the backline.



11. Jaylah Loughridge
Skilful footballer who was injured early in the season. Will see the best of her next season.



Diddy
Coach, legend and life member of the club, coming into her 10th year of coaching girls' footy, her passion and dedication is unmatched.



Justin Tilly
Assistant coach, fitness fanatic, has got these girls to be the fittest team in the league, ready for them to hit their prime on the weekend.



