

# PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

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Wednesday, August 21, 2024

\$1.80 Incl. GST



National Vietnam Veterans Museum board chair Kingsley Munday is the new owner of the helicopter business and a slice of the adjacent airport land.

## Airport land, helicopters' new owner

### MAJOR PROJECTS

Phillip Island's helicopter buildings and a slice of the adjacent airport land have been bought by the chairman of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM).

The property revelation comes on the heels of the NVVM's successful approval last month of the new museum on the land opposite, 40 hectares on Churchill Road.

NVVM board chair Kingsley Munday last week confirmed he bought the front 2.4 hectares of the land, on the corner of Veterans Drive and Phillip Island Road, when it came on the market, as well as the buildings used by the recently-closed helicopter business, launching the new Is-

land Helicopters last week (see separate story).

"As chairman of the museum I am very passionate and committed to achieving our objectives," Kingsley said.

He said the museum currently used part of that land, "with the good graces of the previous owner", to park a Caribou aircraft and provide parking in front of the museum.

"Were the land to have been sold to someone else the museum may well have lost a key part of its parking and access as well as parking for the Caribou."

Kingsley said it would be up to four years before the new NVVM was built and operational, and in the meantime the cur-

rent museum needed to operate, "attract a growing number of visitors, and expand its audience in preparation for the opening of the new museum".

Once the new building is open the current site will become offices, conservation centre and storage for the Churchill Road collection.

"Beyond that point the land will be used for the operation of the helicopter business.

"That is critical for the helicopter business because we don't know the future of the other airport land."

### Helicopter

Kingsley said when he heard the previous helicopter business

closed in June he was keen to keep a helicopter business operating at the site.

"The previous business had been there for some 18 years I believe.

"My business partner Phil Sweeney and I have extensive aviation experience between us and so we decided to start our own helicopter business 'Island Helicopters'."

He said the helicopter business would be an important adjunct to the NVVM.

"I have some tourism background and have found that multiple businesses operating in an area create more reasons for people to visit a "destination" as opposed to a singular attraction.

"We believe we can operate a viable helicopter business and intend on expanding it beyond just tourist flights to make it sustainable.

"We would like to have the museum and the helicopter business work more closely together to create a stronger offering to visitors and we'd like to do the same with other tourism operators on the island and in the region."

Phil Sweeney is now the managing director of Island Helicopters.

Kingsley said he co-founded, built and listed the then-world's largest satellite communications installation company "during the telco dotcom boom".

*Continued page 4*

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10 17	10 15	9 15	8 18	10 20	10 17	11 16



The Polar Bear Swim is back, taking to the water at the Cowes beach at 2pm on September 1. Last year's icy dip attracted almost 100 people.

# The Bears are back

## SWIM

Those intrepid islanders who like to celebrate the first day of spring with a plunge in the ocean are back in action on Sunday, September 1.

Anyone keen to brave the chilly water is invited to join in.

The group spanning generations will gather on the Cowes foreshore (in front of Isola di Capri) at 2pm for the big dip. The Polar Bear swim has been running since 2008.

It didn't even pause during Covid. With lockdowns and so-

cial distancing, the Bears went online, turning it into a video affair – with everyone taking the plunge in their own time and sharing videos.

From just four people at the first Polar Bear swim, last year there were nearly 100 swimmers, including three of the four original Bears.

Polar Bear leader Jenny is hoping lots of people will join in the fun at the Cowes Foreshore at 2pm.

There's no official enrolments or formalities and you don't need experienced or advanced swimming skills to join in. It's not a fundraising event and is open to anyone willing to brave the icy waters.

There are no age restrictions and there are always plenty of kids willing to take the plunge.

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.

Last year, a breakaway group also hosted a Polar Bear jetty jump at San Remo.

Find out more at the Polar Bear Swim Facebook page: [fb.me/e/4RGaScGci](https://fb.me/e/4RGaScGci)



Emily and Hercules van der Walt, who own Silverwaters Vineyard, are thrilled their 2022 Shiraz received a gold medal in the Halliday Wine Companion 2025.



The Silverwaters Vineyard 2022 Shiraz received a gold medal and 96 points in the Halliday Wine Companion, with judges describing it as a "vibrant, complex and delicious red".

## Gold medal shiraz

### WINE

It seems our Olympic athletes are not the only ones celebrating gold medal wins.

Congratulations to Silverwaters Vineyard, which received a gold medal and 95 points in the Halliday Wine Companion 2025 for its 2022 Shiraz.

The Halliday Wine Companion is recognised as the bestselling and definitive guide to Australian wine.

For over thirty years James Halliday AM has been Australia's most respected wine critic, and his Halliday Wine Companion is considered the authority on Australian wine.

"We are thrilled to receive this award as it recognises all our hard work that goes into producing a single vineyard wine," said Emily van der Walt, who owns Silverwaters Vineyard with her

husband Hercules.

"The wine is currently available on our website and at our cellar door which will be reopening at the end of August."

In the tasting notes for the award, the judges described the 2022 Shiraz as a "vibrant, complex and delicious red".

"Good fruit at its heart, plus all peppery, spicy and super, super savoury. Supple textural tannins and the raspberry-like acidity takes it to a long finish. It's neatly composed, nothing showy or OTT, just good shiraz," wrote judge Jane Faulkner.

Silverwaters is currently offering a "Gold Medal Special" online for the Shiraz, with 10 per cent off six or more bottles and 15 per cent off 12 or more bottles.

"The discount will automatically be at the checkout," confirmed Emma.

[silverwatersvineyard.com.au/](https://silverwatersvineyard.com.au/)

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Some residents argue historically rates have valued properties slightly lower than the true value, but now there was "an unrealistic value on our houses".

## Resident debates on rates

### COUNCIL

Property owners have grilled Bass Coast Shire over rates notices – which landed in letter boxes this month – asking why many bills have increased, despite property prices decreasing.

Yvonne said her rates had risen \$500 "without any capital or site value increase".

"The strange thing is my rates valuation for last year and this year is no different," she said.

"But it was \$500 more."

Jenny said her rates last year were \$1531 and this year \$1901, while her site value had reduced from \$440,000 to \$420,000 this year.

Jenny's Capital Improved Value (CIV) was also reduced from \$650,000 to this year's \$625,000.

"Our rates have gone up by 30 per cent," she said.

"What's going on?"

Margaret said rates had "historically been slightly lower than the true value of the property" but now there was "an unrealistic value on our houses and this is not what councils should be doing, especially when times are tough".

Vanna said the CIV did not reflect the drop in a property's value.

"Every time our home values drop the council doesn't allow for the market correction," she said.

"This isn't sustainable for the residents of Phillip Island going forward. Many are retired and on fixed income for life."

Krisstylee said her rates were "astronomically high" at \$2116 per year.

"I'm looking for a fourth job as a single parent trying to do what's right for my kids," she said.

### Calculated

But Rob challenged resident maths, saying last year his rates were \$1984 (CIV \$775,000) while this year's are \$2064 (CIV \$750,000).

"That is an increase of four per cent but if you look at the actual "rate component" (exclude garbage and fire service levy) it only it went from \$1576.51 to

\$1601.32 which is 1.57 per cent according to my calculator," he said.

"Get out your calculators people."

Chris said council costs had risen by more than the 2.75 per cent rate cap.

"At the moment I'm in LA where the evidence of local government being unable to meet community needs is everywhere you look," Chris said.

"We are pretty fortunate even if it's a strain to meet the cost."

Heather said because Bass Coast had a low rate base – with no apartment skyscrapers making big contributions – "higher priced properties must pay more".

"But if it means more land is for nature that's fine with me," Heather said.

Tom explained the rate dollar was set by the total budget required to cover operational costs as well as proposed capital works in the year, "roughly divided by the total number of rateable properties across the shire".

Andrew added the rate cap applied to the shire's total rate income, with individual rate amounts either higher or lower than the cap amount.

Brigitte said her rates rose a small amount, about \$13, with the site value dropping \$30,000 and the CIV reducing by \$50,000.

### Challenge

Jan said last year they challenged their rates with the Valuer General "as they over-valued our property".

"It took months before we got a favourable result but we were determined to see it through," she wrote.

Francine said when their Melbourne property rates increased, a real estate agent wrote a valuation that "was considerably less than that of council".

"We presented it and the rates were reduced in our favour."

"Don't just roll over and give in."

Grazyna said when she complained last year about the rate rise, the shire said the cap was "an average", and they "could not disclose whose rates actually went down to make up this average".

"And no one monitors their maths."



Council has complied with the Victorian Government's rate cap of 2.75 per cent for the 2024/25 financial year, which applies to council's "total rate revenue and not individual properties".

## Why you may be paying more – or less – on rates bills

### COUNCIL

Despite property prices on Phillip Island and San Remo falling this year, landowners should not expect rates to fall, according to Bass Coast Shire Council.

The council responded to ratepayer concerns rates bills had increased, even though property prices had decreased (see separate story).

A council spokesperson explained even if a property value dropped, rates might not go down because rates were calculated on the value of all properties in the area, not just individual properties.

"If the value of your property has decreased by a greater percentage than others in the municipality then you will pay a smaller percentage of the combined general rates total," a council spokesperson said.

"They will not universally go down if property prices drop."

Council has complied with the Victorian Government's rate cap of 2.75

per cent for the 2024/25 financial year, which applies to council's "total rate revenue and not individual properties".

"In many cases, individual rate bills may increase or decrease by more (or less) than the capped rise amount."

This may happen because the value of the property has increased or decreased; or the waste charge and fire levy have risen.

The council spokesperson said Capital Improved Value valuations were based on recent sale prices of similar properties.

"To successfully argue that a valuation is too high, you will need to demonstrate by referencing recent sales of comparable properties that support a lower valuation," they explained.

Objections need to be lodged within two months of receipt of the rates notice.

### Hardship

Figures show there were 415 ratepayers last year who sought help on pay-

ing rates, including 210 on hardship arrangements.

The shire previously allowed ratepayers experiencing hardship a limited interest free rate deferral period, or a payment plan with overdue rates paid in monthly instalments for up to two years.

However, under a new current hardship policy, all payment plans and rate deferrals will be on an interest-free basis.

Ratepayers who can demonstrate financial hardship can apply for a waiver or part waiver of rates and charges.

The new policy also differentiates between hardship and financial hardship, with hardship to include the likes of illness or domestic violence.

Bass Coast Shire Council's explanation on rates: [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/rates-payments](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/rates-payments)

For objections: [ratingvaluationobjections.vic.gov.au/](http://ratingvaluationobjections.vic.gov.au/)

For rate caps: [www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/a-fair-go-rates-system-for-victorians](http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/our-programs/a-fair-go-rates-system-for-victorians)

## Sea and tree changes growing

### POPULATION

Bass Coast registered the fifth highest level of internal migration in Victoria, behind Greater Geelong, Moorabool, Baw Baw and Ballarat.

According to a Regional Movers Index report released by the Regional Australia Institute and Commonwealth Bank last week, Bass Coast's share of net internal migration growth for the June 2024 quarter, was 6.9 per cent. Geelong topped the list with 27.8 per cent.

However the area showing the biggest growth in migration was Strathbogie, up by 296.9 per cent, followed by Surf Coast (225 per cent). Queenscliff, Moira and Mansfield rounded out the top five.

Net internal migration is calculated by the number of people from other regions (within Australia) moving in, minus local people moving to other regions.

The report stated the level of population flow from capital cities to regional areas "is tracking around levels reported

during the height of Covid, and 16.4 per cent above the pre-pandemic average".

"Regional Australia has become the nation's new frontier," said Regional Australia Institute (RAI) CEO Liz Ritchie.

"This analysis is clearly showing the population movement we're seeing is a sustained new trend, that is higher than pre-Covid migration patterns. The regional Australia we have now, is quite different to the regional Australia of five years ago," Ms Ritchie said.

"The emergence of this new era signifies how important the regions are to the future of our nation. The regions will be at the heart of Australia's net zero transition, and it is vital the infrastructure and services our growing regions require are met to ensure long-term prosperity and sustainability of our country."

The report noted "around three quarters of city dwellers making the move to the regions have settled in NSW or Victoria over the last 12 months, up from around half".

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# Helicopters return to the island

## TOURISM

Island Helicopters have opened their doors, bringing scenic flights back to Phillip Island.

Operating from the same Newhaven premises as the former helicopter company which closed in June, the new owners are keen to take to the skies.

Phil Sweeney and Kingsley Munday are two experienced businessmen behind the new operation.

The pair ran a flight school on the Gold Coast for 15 years and Kingsley has been involved in the aviation business since he was a teenager.

The two men have plans to expand the business and enhance the tourism experience on the island.

The day-to-day operations on the ground at the newly branded Island Helicopters will be managed by Mohan Chahal, an experienced pilot.

With two Robinson R44 helicopters – Raven 1 in gold and Raven 2 in red – the company is resuming the five scenic flights previously on offer, but hope to be able to expand its services later in the year.



Phil Sweeney, Kingsley Munday and Mohan Chahal, the team behind the newly launched Island Helicopters.

They will also explore contract work such as fire spotting and transportation, as well as the tourism flights.

As part of the launch, the business has been rebranded and the building given a fresh coat of paint.

"We are here to support the island and grow tourism," Phil said.

Kingsley said they hoped to work closely with other attractions such as the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, the Circuit and the Chocolate Factory.

"When you are in the tourism business, you need to have a destination, with a group of activities for visitors.

"We want to consult with other businesses on the island and work together. We will be talking to everyone in the market, to

try and benefit everyone."

Island Helicopters is offering five scenic flight experiences and bookings can be made on line.

"It is exactly the same five flights at the same price as the previous business, but we will be adding additional flights in the future," confirmed Phil.

Kingsley's connection to Phillip Island came through his role as Chair of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum board and he recently brought six acres of land adjacent to the current museum site (see separate story).

The current site of the helicopter business is leased from the consortium that owns the airport land, with Kingsley and Phil buying the buildings.

The pair are based in New South Wales and Queensland respectively but will spend more time on the island while the business gets up and running.

Phil will be responsible for business collaborations and expects to be a frequent visitor to the island as the new company gets established.

"I might need to spend a bit more time here."

## Airport land, helicopters' new owner

From page 1

He also has more than 45 years' experience in transport and logistics having managed the largest airfreight company as well as the largest express road freight company in Australia.

Previously Kingsley was managing director of a Hong Kong based freight airline and has worked in 23 countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Kingsley did not reveal the sale price of the land or helicopter business buildings.

### Subdivision

Kingsley confirmed he was not interested in subdividing or land developing on the island.

"There is no hidden agenda here. It's all about the museum and the helicopters.

"Though free-range goat farming for the middle east trade has been on my mind – good use of farming land."

The airport land has for decades been mooted for subdivision.

Last year the owners of the 48ha Phillip Island airfield site at 1 Veterans Drive appeared at the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes project (DAL) panel hearing seeking to have their land included in Cape Woolamai's town boundaries to develop it for housing.

At the DAL hearing, an ecologist representing the airport landowner gave evidence on the ecological importance of the airport saying while it had high-quality vegetation and was home to nationally-protected animal species, it would be suitable for subdivision without "adversely impacting the ecology".

### Museum

The new iteration of the NVVM, which was approved by the Victorian Planning Minister last

month, has a close resemblance to the original permit.

The museum will be on the south-east of the 40-hectare property on Churchill Road, and two-storeys at a height of 12.9 metres.

There will be three main spaces: visitor services, exhibition and support area including a library and research room, all setback about 100 metres from the Phillip Island Road.

The museum includes: the main 2150sqm museum exhibition room with five other exhibition areas branching off, 100sqm museum shop, and restaurant/café able to seat 60 internally.

A flexible education/function space able to cater for up to 200 people, and offer training with university and TAFE placements.

There is also a 500sqm conservation workshop that will house some objects such as a Wessex helicopter and Bofors gun.

## Whales a gigantic success

### WHALE FESTIVAL

Last month's Island Whale Festival was a huge success with thousands of people taking part in activities across the weekend.

The organising team at Destination Phillip Island (DPI) said over 4800 people went through the Festival Hub, with 8500 visitors across all venues and activities over the three days.

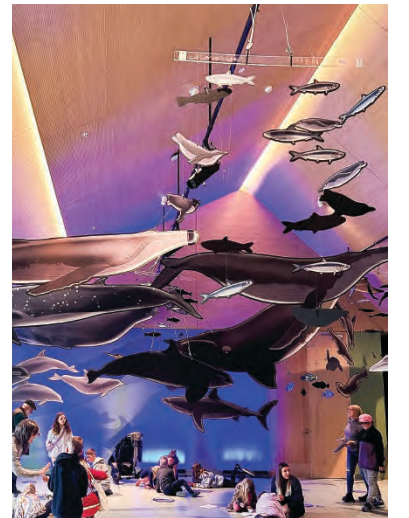
"We could not have been happier with the results," DPI stated.

"We loved being able to showcase our wonderful new venue Berninnet and are so grateful to the hardworking and supportive event crew who went above and beyond.

"We have received overwhelming positive feedback; the island was buzzing."

The DPI team sent a huge thank you to the festival's fantastic committee, enthusiastic volunteers, exhibitors, presenters, and the super talented local artists and musicians who supported the event.

They also acknowledged the support from local businesses



After the success of this year's Island Whale Festival, the date has been set for the 2025 event – July 11 – 13.

who displayed whale tails in the window, and Pinos (Fiona Kennedy art pieces), Ocean Reach Brewing (kids activities) and Adventure Resort (road signage).

The Whale Festival will return in 2025, so save the date: July 11 – 13 at Berninnet.

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Billy Fellows, Transport Planner with Institute of Sensible Transport consultants, was on hand to hear the views of community members at a drop-in session for Bass Coast Shire Council's new transport strategy.



Phillip Island resident Gerard expressed concern that traffic statistics produced by council and on which the Transport Strategy will be based are flawed.



Shaynna stops for fish 'n chips at Nat's Rustic Beach Feed.



Shaynna at The Store in Ventnor with owner Courtney.

## Transport consultation continues

### TRANSPORT STRATEGY

A community drop-in session at San Remo last Friday seeking input on a transport strategy attracted a steady stream of people, despite the cold weather.

Bass Coast Shire Council is developing an Integrated Transport Strategy, designed to help better manage car use and provide "a more user focused set of alternatives, such as walking, cycling and public transport".

A background report has examined road safety, as well as such challenges as speed limits, poor public transport, the need to reduce carbon emissions, and population growth.

The report, along with feedback from the community, is part of the development of the new strategy.

For residents who dropped by the session outside San Remo IGA, more public transport, including more frequent buses and a shuttle bus emerged as the highest priorities.

EV charging stations, parking, road safety and vegetation issues were among the issues raised with council officers.

Another session was held in Cowes on Saturday morning at Berninnet.

Parking was a major concern



Parking was a major concern for Cowes resident Sandra, who is at a loss to understand the council's continual waiving of car park requirements under its own planning scheme, when very clearly, more car parking is required.

raised at the Cowes session, with some attendees saying they were at a loss to understand the continual waiving of the number of car parks mandated under the planning scheme for new developments.

They said it was clear additional parking spaces were needed.

All the feedback collected as part of the drop-in sessions held across the shire, as well as the online survey, will inform the draft Integrated Transport strategy, which is expected to be presented to council early next year.

Consultation is open until August 31 at [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/its](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/its)

## We're in the limelight, again

### TELEVISION

Phillip Island is having its moment in the sun, not only featured throughout the week on The Block Island, but last Sunday appearing on Channel 9's Postcards.

The show visited "Block Island" – "the new name for Phillip Island" according to 9's promoters – to check out Block

longtime judge Shaynna Blaze's favourite spots while she was filming here.

Shaynna, a Postcards' guest presenter, visited The Store in Ventnor, then San Remo jetty to chat with Wildlife Coast Cruises' Georgia Bisset before ending the day at wine bar Shearwaters & Bandicoots featuring a BYO meal from Nat's Rustic Beach Feed in Cowes.

## Traffic jam Friday

### TRANSPORT

Commuters heading on and off Phillip Island on Friday morning met with long delays, due to emergency lighting repairs on the Phillip Island bridge.

One local said it took almost 45 minutes to travel from Cape Woolamai to Newhaven at around 10am on Friday.

A Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) spokesperson said the delays were due to repairs to a light pole, which was damaged on Thursday night by contractors carrying out structural inspections.

"A lane closure was in place on the Phillip Island Bridge while crews carried out repairs to a damaged light pole," the spokesperson said.

"We thank the community for their patience and apologise for any inconvenience."

As questions were posted on social media during the delay, Westernport Water issued a statement confirming the delays on the bridge were due to work by DTP.

In a social media post, it stated the works were not associated with Westernport Waters San Remo Bridge Pipeline Bracket Renewal Project.

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Amanda Drennan won bronze at the Athens Paralympics in 2004 and received a hero's welcome when she returned to Phillip Island.

# The price of Paralympic glory

## SPORT

When the Paris Paralympics kick off on August 28, one Phillip Islander will be taking a keen interest in how our athletes perform.

Amanda Drennan became a bronze medallist at the Athens Paralympics in 2004 at the age of 15, and competed again at the Beijing Games as a member of the Australia's Paralympic swim team in 2008.

The former Paralympian has been involved this year in mentoring the athletes heading to Paris, and assists businesses to access a tool promoting hire of Paralympic athletes in the work place.

More than most, Amanda knows just how much athletes and their families sacrifice to represent their country, and that behind the glamour of medals, the reality of reaching Olympic level can be brutal.

In her case, that included over a decade of training, hours of travel, separation from her family, injury, moving overseas for coaching, and competing around the world.

She is open about her concerns over the way the Australian Paralympics Committee operated in the past, describing the former culture as "toxic", with an unsupportive hierarchy and "over the top and unnecessary" discipline, and is now part of a new approach to supporting the athletes.

She said the old system, which included restricting young athletes' access to their parents to just five minutes a day, "was really stressful for us all".

"It is done very differently these days."

## History

Amanda was born in 1988 to Phillip Island farmer Wayne Drennan and his wife Anne, a nurse at Warley Hospital.

Born without a right leg, but with an enthusiastic zest for life, by the age of ten as a student at Cowes Primary, Amanda had blitzed the field at the Victorian School Championships and went on to compete for Australia at the Pacific School Games.

Recognising her ability, her

family organised for her to train in Warragul three times a week under coach Michael Watson, travelling three hours for every session.

Amanda's road to the Paralympics included competing locally and overseas.

In 2002, at just 14, she won a gold medal in the women's 4 x 100 metre medley relay, and silver in the women's 4 x 100 metre freestyle relay event at the IPC Swimming Championships in Mar Del Plata, in Argentina and placed 4th in the 100 metre backstroke, missing a bronze medal by 0.6 of a second to a Russian swimmer.

Pursuing her paralympic dreams, Amanda went to boarding school in Melbourne where she continued to train, then navigated a stressful and at times brutal process in Sydney to finally be selected to compete at the Athens Paralympics in 2004.

In the lead up, pre-event training camps in Singapore and Italy were also fraught, dealing not only with sweltering heat and bad food but also a broken hand. Added to this, she felt unsupported by the team management.

Despite it all, at just 15, she was part of the bronze medal winning relay team and came home to a hero's welcome, and a parade down Thompson Avenue to the Esplanade, where thousands awaited her.

However the harsh regimes of the Australian Paralympic committee took a toll and Amanda admitted competing in Athens "was not a great experience".

"Lack of support or encouragement from the coaches impacted my swimming, I believe."

## Resilience

Back home in Australia, her unrelenting training regime continued, her aim to peak at the national championships and 2006 Commonwealth Games trials.

However, a serious knee injury saw her miss selection for the Commonwealth Games. After a knee operation Amanda continued training, now with the 2008 Olympics in her sites.

But again she felt she did not have the support of the Australia-

lian Paralympic committee, so despite not speaking the language, she moved to Germany working under a world-renowned coach.

The work paid off, and returning home, she was selected to represent Australia in Beijing in the 100 metre and 400 metre freestyle and 100 metre backstroke event, still harbouring concerns about the lack of support from the committee.

Older and more resilient when Beijing came around, Amanda loved her time there.

This time, she didn't return with medals, "but I came back with resilience and had learnt to deal with the negativity".

She came home to Phillip Island to find Warley Hospital where her mother worked as a nurse, had closed, leaving the island without a hospital or 24/7 emergency care.

Her immediate thought was: "The community has always supported me. What can I give back."

She decided to swim around Phillip Island, a feat that had never been attempted before, to raise funds for a new hospital.

She trained relentlessly. Achieving her goal (see separate story), she raised \$60,000 then two weeks later competed in the trials for the London Paralympics.

She just missed selection, and was shocked at what she considered to be further unfair criticism from the committee.

This was a "lightbulb moment" for Amanda. She walked away at the age of 22 from the sport she loved, just a year out from London.

Today, Amanda and her partner Ben are the parents of two young boys and raising their family on Phillip Island.

After retiring from swimming, she went on to study Tui na, a Chinese remedial massage therapy, and works in Cowes as a massage therapist.

She enjoys working at the Phillip Island Swim School teaching young kids to swim; and continues to be very active fundraising for medical service equipment as a member of the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary.



Victorious: Amanda Drennan made local history in 2011 when she became the first person to swim the island's 66 kilometre circumference.

# Amanda creates island history

## FUNDRAISING

Phillip Island's Amanda Drennan created history in 2011, at the age of 22, by becoming the first person to swim the island's 66-kilometre circumference.

Her marathon swim was conducted over a five-day period, in a specially constructed shark cage, with a support team on the water and on land.

As well as a large ex Coast Guard vessel towing the cage, local yacht club members, and a boat supplied by Phillip Island Marine, accompanied her.

Amanda swam to raise funds for a 24-hour medical service on Phillip Island.

It had been her dream to do this since returning from the Beijing Paralympics, in 2008 to find Warley Hospital closed.

Amanda's mother Anne worked at the hospital as a nursing sister and was co-matron

at the time of its closure ... and the blow was felt deeply by the Drennan family, and the entire island community.

She had planned the swim since that date and was aware the task would be no picnic.

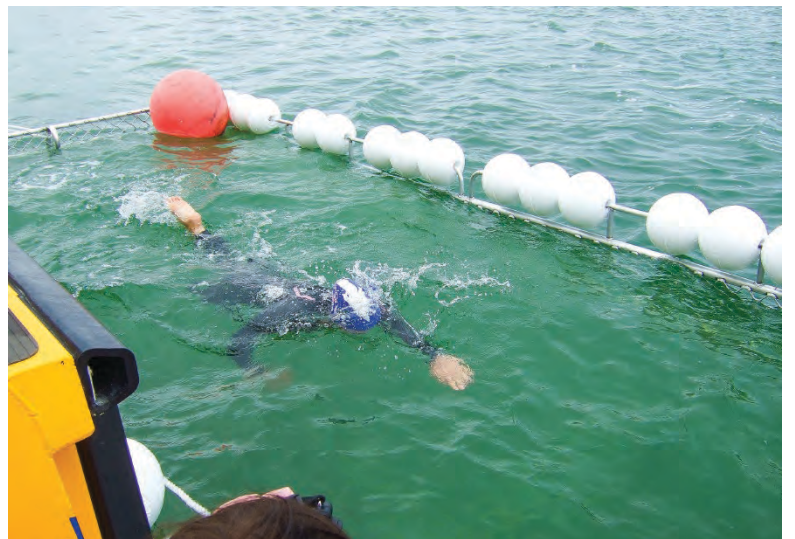
Marathon ocean swimmers face fatigue; and swelling of the tongue through the effect of salt water is common.

She spoke initially to ocean long distance swimmer Tammy Van Wisse, and believed she was up to the challenge.

Negotiating conditions as she rounded Seal Rocks and the Nobbies were a hurdle, as well as psychologically daunting.

Some of the world's largest white pointer sharks are known to inhabit this area.

But she had every confidence in the cage built to protect her, and the support crew, all men of the sea, who were alongside at all times.



Amanda did it the hard way, when she swam in shark cage around Phillip Island to raise awareness and funds for a 24-hour medical centre to be established in Cowes after the closure of Warley Hospital.



# Boomerang Bags has moved in, but who else?

## ARTS HUB

Cowes' new arts hub in the former CFA building on Settlement Road has got off to a slow start following lengthy delays and cost blow-outs.

Bass Coast Shire councillors voted in May 2022 to transform 119 Settlement Road into a hub after the CFA vacated in June last year.

Boomerang Bags were given the keys last Christmas, but delayed the move to June to make way for the shire's \$185,000 renovation.

Since then, the three remaining groups have been developing their sections of the hub – named the "Creative Arts Station".

The Arts Society of Phillip Island Region (ASPIR) has held a portrait session and the Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space (PICES) is set to hold its first meeting in their room.

The Phillip Island Art and Craft Gallery is yet to move in, with the gallery paying for many of their own renovation upgrades.

Boomerang Bags' Marita Kraft said they were grateful to be in their new home, after working out of her backyard bungalow since PICAL's Church Street premises was demolished in November 2022, to make way for the new community hospital.

She said while they would like to invite new volunteers, the space was only big enough for its current eight members.

"We are slowly settling in,"



Boomerang Bags has moved into the former CFA building on Settlement Road. Last week the group made their 27,500th bag. From left: Noelle Newman, Vi Pittorino and Marita Kraft.

she said.

Marita said because Boomerang Bags was now not under the PICAL banner, they were required to pay insurance and electricity, so the price of bags had increased from \$5 to \$8 to cover costs.

Bags are mainly sold at the Newhaven Information Centre, as well as other special events such as stuffed whale toys at the Whale Festival.

### Other groups

Phillip Island Community Art

and Craft Gallery secretary Aleta Groves said the gallery would be open in the new community arts hub by mid to late September.

Aleta said they could not use the space as it was given to them.

"We have had to do a lot of work to get the space to a standard to run a community gallery," Aleta said.

This has included volunteers painting one to two days per week, "which has been difficult and costly".

"We are a not-for-profit community group so we don't have the money to get contractors in to do these things for us quickly, so we have to rely on our members to participate in working bees to do the cleaning and painting and setting up," she said.

Aleta said they would have "loved" to have been given the space in Berninnet "that we were originally promised".

"While we would love to have a much bigger space like we had in the old cultural centre that is not the case, so we are happy to focus on the positive things about our new home."

She said collaboration between the four groups in the new Settlement Road building was "probably the best thing about the location".

"Our biggest challenge is people getting to know where we are and that we are back open."

For ASPIR, who is celebrating their 30th year of artistic practice, the building is their first permanent home.

President of ASPIR Miranda Sage said ASPIR had been allocated the double-doored garage.

"We're really delighted because it means that we've got the bare bones and now we can really make it our own space," said Miranda.

ASPIR runs life drawing classes, portrait sessions, appraisal meetings, an IBIS writers' group and a textile group. The group also exhibits each year over Easter and the Cup weekend.



Committee members along with house captains – wearing the new football jumpers – and Ms Cuthbertson.

## Cowes kids kitted out

### EDUCATION

This week at assembly, Cowes Primary School proudly unveiled their very own football jumpers that have been designed by students.

In the past, the school has relied on the Phillip Island Football and Netball Club's generosity by borrowing their jumpers when participating in interschool competitions.

Teacher (and footy coach) Ms Cuthbertson believes the school has been using the PIFNCs jumpers for over 20 years.

The new jumpers were presented by sports captains, Flynn and Hazel, at Monday's assembly.

This achievement was made possible thanks to a \$2000 donation by the Dirty Dozen Golf Group who have supported a number of different groups and causes within the local community over the past 20 years.



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# Vietnam Veterans Day service

## COMMUNITY

A memorial service commemorating Vietnam Veterans Day was held at the Phillip Island RSL Memorial Garden on Sunday August 18.

It was on this date in 1966 that Australian soldiers fought one of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam War near the village of Long Tan, which saw 18 members of the 6th Battalion killed.

This year marks 51 years since the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and returned servicemen and their families gathered in the RSL's memorial garden to remember them.

Particularly remembered by Vietnam Veteran Chris Thompson during his address to those assembled were veteran Barrie Goldsbury, who passed away earlier this month, and past RSL member the late Snow Coughlan. Snow was presented with the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal, the highest flying award for bravery for non-commissioned ranks (other than the Victoria Cross).

Barrie Goldsbury was acknowledged as a catalyst for the sponsorship by the RSL of three dialysis chairs at a cost of \$21,000 for the new Cowes Community Hospital when it opens in March next year.

Wreaths were laid during the ceremony by representatives of the RSL, The Vietnam Veterans' Sub-Branch, and the Bendigo Bank.

RSL president Peter Paul read the Ode; the Last Post was played, and the Lord's Prayer was led by Cheryl Overton.

Mr Paul reinforced the role of the RSL in the community, stating the welfare of war veterans is the Club's number one priority,



Vietnam Veterans gathered with RSL members on Sunday morning in the RSL Memorial Garden to commemorate all who served in Vietnam.

and the foundation of its work.

A welfare committee supports veterans and their families in the Phillip Island District, with Tuesdays of every week at the RSL filled with veteran activities, which aim to make a difference for veterans and their families. The RSL is sponsoring

a Mental Health Forum in conjunction with PIMHAG, with approximately 90 personnel involved in mental health services in attendance.

At the end of the commemorative service, all present adjourned indoors at the RSL, to enjoy morning tea.

# Cows creates careers

## EDUCATION

The Cows Create Careers program provides a practical and insightful introduction to the Australian dairy industry for Newhaven College's Year 9 students.

This hands-on educational program involves over 200 schools and around 5000 students across Australia. Newhaven College's Year 9 Environmental Centre provides for two calves to be housed on campus, at 'Moohaven'.

In partnership with MaxCare, Cows Create Careers invites schools across Australia to create an advertisement for the dairy industry. Students study advertising techniques and create promotions for MaxCare. Last year, an advertisement created by two Newhaven students won the \$1000 prize.

"Every year our Year 9 students are given the opportunity to nurture two calves as part of our community program," said Elizabeth Hall, Year 9 teacher and program coordinator.

"The experience pairs beautifully with the holistic Year 9 immersive program focusing on our environment and rural location."

Cows Create Careers, Program



Year 9 student Finn Farley is literally embracing the opportunity to nurture a little calf. More photos at [pisra.com.au/education](http://pisra.com.au/education)

Manager, Deanne Kennedy comments "This program educates students on all the different career opportunities available to them in the dairy industry, from working directly with the cows to sales, marketing and advertising".

"It's important to introduce this program into schools at a

time when students are thinking about their future."

The highlight for the students is the opportunity to nurture and care for the two calves over a few weeks. Building a relationship with the calves and watching them flourish is an extraordinary experience.



## SHORT STACK

A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Women in sport

Applications are now open for the Change Our Game Professional Development Scholarships Program, with grants of up to \$10,000 available. The program is making sure more women have the opportunities and support they need to build their career in the sport sector, with the grants backing women across all career stages – from those in the early years of their careers, returning from a career break such as parental leave, through to executives, and new or aspiring board members. Applications close Monday, August 26. For details visit [changeourgame.vic.gov.au](http://changeourgame.vic.gov.au)

### Bush kinder grants

Applications are open for one-off grants of \$6000 to help eligible kindergartens establish bush kinder programs. The Bush Kinder Grants Program supports kindergartens to establish or enhance a bush kinder program in a local natural space. Kindergartens without access to a suitable off-site location can use their grant funding to enhance the biodiversity of their existing outdoor environment. Applications for the second round of bush kinder grants close on September 3 at 5pm. To apply or find out more, visit [www.vic.gov.au/bush-kinder-grants-program](http://www.vic.gov.au/bush-kinder-grants-program).

### Plant more trees for bees

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to farmers and land managers to plant pollinator-friendly trees that are indigenous to their farms, with Bee Friendly Farming providing farmers and land managers with \$1 for every tree planted, thanks to grant partner One Tree Planted. Grants between \$1000 and \$10,000 available. Larger grant requests will be considered. Applications close 5pm AEST on September 10.

To be eligible farms must either be a Bee Friendly Farming Certified farm or have a Bee Friendly Farming Certified application submitted and pending approval by the tree grant closing date.

Apply for Tree Grants at [www.beefriendlyfarming.org.au/tree-grants-application](http://www.beefriendlyfarming.org.au/tree-grants-application)

Apply to become Bee Friendly Farming certified at [www.beefriendlyfarming.org.au/categories/bff-certified](http://www.beefriendlyfarming.org.au/categories/bff-certified)

### Funding for Pride

Applications are open for the Pride Events and Festivals Fund for 2024-25, with \$400,000 in grants available across two funding streams for events that celebrate the identity, history and achievements of LGBTIQ+ communities. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for eligible small events and festivals, while large LGBTIQ+ events and festivals can apply for grants between \$10,001 and \$25,000. Organisations proposing events in peri-urban, rural, regional and remote Victoria are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications close September 11.

Visit [www.vic.gov.au/pride-events-and-festivals-fund](http://www.vic.gov.au/pride-events-and-festivals-fund).

### Boost for football and netball

Applications are open for the latest round of the Country Football and Netball Program. Grants of up to \$250,000 are available for regional and outer metropolitan councils to apply for grants for sports infrastructure developments including court lighting upgrades, changeroom overhauls, new pavilions and more, to benefit their local clubs and communities. Applications close on September 30. For more information on the program and to apply, visit [sport.vic.gov.au/funding](http://sport.vic.gov.au/funding).

### Dyson Community Grants

Applications open on September 1 for the Dysons Community grants, in support of the many sporting, educational, welfare and community groups around Victoria. There are two rounds of grants annually, each with \$10,000 available (maximum grant \$1000). Eligible organisations include pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, sporting clubs, not-for-profit groups, charities, welfare agencies, local societies and volunteer emergency services. Applications close September 30. Details at: [dysongroup.com.au/about/community-grants](http://dysongroup.com.au/about/community-grants)

### Men's Shed grants

Applications are now open for the 2024-25 Men's Shed Funding Program grants. Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to build new men's sheds – which includes converting a building into a men's shed – and refurbish, extend or upgrade existing men's sheds. Applications close October 16. For more information or to apply, visit [vic.gov.au/mens-shed-funding-program](http://vic.gov.au/mens-shed-funding-program).

### Nursing, Midwifery awards

Nominations are now open for the 2025 HESTA Australian Nursing and Midwifery Awards. The awards (now in its 18th year) honour the vital contributions made by Australia's nurses, midwives, nurse educators, researchers, and personal care workers, who improve health outcomes for those in our community through exemplary care and support. The \$30,000 prize pool will be split equally between the winners of the three categories – Nurse of the Year, Midwife of the Year, and Outstanding Organisation. Nominations close December 15. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit [hestaawards.com.au](http://hestaawards.com.au)

### New trail – Inverloch to Wonthaggi

Works are underway on a 14-kilometre shared path between Inverloch and Wonthaggi. The \$7.7 million trail upgrade has been jointly funded by the State Government and Bass Coast Shire Council. Construction on the shared pathway is expected to be complete by mid-year 2026.





Ian McFee in red top (from Rotary Phillip Island and San Remo) dismantling unused play equipment.

# Playgrounds give new hope

## ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Philip Island and San Remo assisted the Rotary Clubs of the Mornington Peninsula in an inspiring initiative, the Rotary Overseas Relocated Playgrounds project (RORP).

This Rotary project is revolutionising the fate of surplus playground equipment in Victoria.

By collaborating with councils and private industries, Rotary ensures that disused playground equipment is tagged, meticulously decommissioned, audited, and sent to partner Rotary clubs overseas. These clubs then assess and install the equipment in communities lacking safe play areas.

Several factors contribute to the surplus of playground equipment in Australia. Changing community demographics may render existing equipment unsuitable for the local child population, making it too challenging for younger children or too simple for older ones.

Additionally, many councils follow fixed-time equipment refreshment policies to ensure safety, often because inspecting metal corrosion without removing the equipment is difficult.

Rather than dismantling and discarding these playgrounds, the Rotary RORP project ensures that the equipment finds a new life and purpose in communities that desperately need safe play spaces. This initiative not only provides children with crucial play opportunities but also

supports environmental sustainability by preventing functional playgrounds from ending up in landfills.

The involvement of the Rotary Club of Philip Island and San Remo, alongside the Rotary Clubs of the Mornington Peninsula, exemplifies the collaborative spirit and dedication to making a positive impact.

Through their efforts, playgrounds that once served Australian communities will now bring joy and development to children overseas, creating lasting benefits across multiple countries.

The play equipment from twelve playgrounds will be relocated and reassembled in communities across Cape Town, South Africa.

Will Watson, from the Rotary Club of Tygerberg (South Africa), expressed his gratitude.

"Thank you, everyone, for all your hard work. We are looking forward to receiving the container with great anticipation.

"Play is such an important part of a child's development, and the communities in which they are placed benefit greatly from using these playgrounds. We have a great demand for these playgrounds and appreciate the work you are doing."

The RORP project is a testament to the social, educational, environmental, and financial benefits that can be achieved through collective action. By giving old playgrounds a new purpose, this initiative fosters joy and opportunity for children while promoting sustainable practices.



Members of the Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary and Mornington Peninsula Clubs are packing unused playground equipment to be shipped to South Africa.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Tell us your views with a Letter to the Editor (350 word limit).  
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*Newhaven College students have been studying the history of Indigenous Australians and as part of their studies, they are sharing their thoughts on what they've learned in these letters to the editor.*

### Reconciliation and its importance

I'm writing to share my learnings on Indigenous Australians and their unfortunate history and why reconciliation is a must in everyday society. In year 8 English we have been studying this topic. The struggles the First Nations peoples have faced are from what I have gathered, colonisation's fault. If their country hadn't been invaded by the white people, they would still be living on their land. The First Nations people have been ripped from their homes and the Stolen Generations still affects them to this day.

Reconciliation shouldn't be limited to one day, but every day, we should recognise and honour those who lost their lands and lives to the white people. We need to admit to our horrendous mistakes, allowing the Indigenous people to unmute their voices and share their traditions with us. The colonisers were cruel, silencing things that they did not understand and daring to claim they were the superior people.

Moving forward, we should stop hiding and focus on teaching our history to younger generations. We will not hide away, we will not cower. Enough of glazing this history with a coat of sugar that hides the bitterness beneath.

River A. Hume

I am Mia, a year 8 student. In English this semester we learned about Reconciliation and Indigenous history, for example, the Stolen Generations. I was aware of the Stolen Generations before we started this unit, but I didn't realise how bad it was until we looked at the timeline in class. I found out there wasn't a formal apology until 2008. The Stolen Generations started in the mid-1800s, and they had to wait until 2008 for an apology. The person who made the apology was Kevin Rudd. The apology focused particularly on the Stolen Generations, and the pain and trauma caused by the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families and communities.

Whilst looking at the Stolen Generations in class it made me wonder, after all these lessons and getting talked to by teachers about this horrible experience, how people can be racist.

It's not funny or cool or perhaps even a 'trend' because your friends say uncool stuff about people of a different race. Indigenous and Torres

Strait Islander people went through hell, and sadly they haven't left that place yet, racism is a terrible thing.

As a community, it is our job to call out racist behaviour, don't let it slide. What happens once will happen again.

Learning about the First Nations people was a sad experience; no it wasn't boring, it was a gloomy experience. Babies and children were taken from their homes and brought into white families.

I can't imagine growing up without my parents. And I really can't imagine being stolen or killed because of the colour of my skin.

I sometimes wonder what would happen if the world was an accepting place, but I guess we will never find that out.

I hope you understand my POV.

Mia

I am a 13-year-old student here on Philip Island and in English, we are studying Australian Indigenous history and why reconciliation is so important. Looking into the cultures and histories of Indigenous people has shown my class how poorly and unfairly the First Nations people were treated. Sadly they lost their land to the people who invaded their homes, which still affects them today.

Before looking into this unit, I knew very little about how people were treated; to be 100 per cent honest I only knew about the Stolen Generations. If you're not familiar, the Stolen Generations started during the mid-1800s. First Nations people's children were taken from their homes to be raised in white people's homes because white people believed that if you're raised in First Nations people's homes it's 'wrong'. To make the circumstances even worse First Nations people only got an apology in 2008 by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Reconciliation isn't all about being fair – it is about working towards making things right. We cannot change the past, but we can help change the future.

Going into the future, schools need to focus more on teaching Indigenous histories and respecting Indigenous cultures.

Koa H

I am a year 8 student from Newhaven College and in English, I have been studying the Stolen Generations and the reconciliation we give to the First Nations people. This topic has been on my mind

recently so I wanted to share my thoughts. I think we need to make more events to give reconciliation to the Stolen Generations.

The Stolen Generations started during the 1800s and was an ongoing unfair event until the 1970s. It was not right that government policies and police took these kids who lost their family, identity, land, language and culture. This was extremely unfair, and I believe we haven't recognised and paid our respects enough.

We have things like NAIDOC Week and Sorry Day which are great, but I strongly think that is not enough. Looking into the future, our community should have incursions with local First Nations people on Phillip Island to host a smoking ceremony at our school and speeches from First Nations people. It should mainly be for years 6 to year 9 because I think that is a good age to do something about this unfair event and to further understand the topic, as it is very important. I feel not many of my classmates know much about the Stolen Generations and they must know about this big event in Indigenous Australian history.

Olivia C

As year 8's at Newhaven College in English, we have been studying and looking at Indigenous history and what has happened in the past. I learned many things about the Stolen Generations and Indigenous cultures. I was shocked to know the treatment and what was done to kids and families.

Having studied Aboriginal people and lifestyles recently, I think it's crucial to know that many Australians have done the wrong thing or disrespected Indigenous people. Taking kids away from their families is disgusting and a very poor choice in Australia. In our school, I think it's important that we discuss and keep getting educated about Aboriginal problems from the past as everyone needs to understand they were treated very poorly and very unfairly.

As a member of the school, I am concerned kids here haven't been told enough and haven't learned enough about it all. I feel Newhaven College should have a First Nations person or a group to come and explain what has happened and what we are working towards as a country. Celebrating Sorry Day and doing the Long Walk is important as we come together and realise what has been done and what we are fixing.

It's become clear to me that awful things have been done, but we also need to understand we are giving a solution and connecting everyone as a whole.

Jesse Moschetti





Register now for your free tickets to the Nature Parks Open Day, and visit attractions like Churchill Island, Koala Conservation and the Penguin Parade.



The Penguin Parade Visitor Centre will open its doors at 4pm on September 14 with a Conservation Expo. Locals can enjoy general admission to the Penguin Parade on Friday or Saturday night.

# Come along for nature, wildlife and community!

## OPEN DAY

Phillip Island Nature Parks invites Bass Coast Shire residents to visit its eco-tourism attractions for a complimentary day of fun on Saturday September 14.

Locals can enjoy experiences at Churchill Island, Koala Conservation Reserve and the Penguin Parade and learn about the island's diverse beach and bush environments and wonderful wildlife.

This year marks the 13th annual Community Open Day where locals can discover all the Na-

ture Parks attractions, celebrate the remarkable conservation work being done on Phillip Island, and connect with rangers, volunteers and staff.

In 2023 the Nature Parks welcomed over 4000 Bass Coast Shire residents and this year the community can choose to attend complimentary General Viewing at the Penguin Parade on either Friday September 13 or Saturday September 14. In addition, locals can obtain free entry to Churchill Island and the Koala Conservation Reserve during the day on the Saturday.

Phillip Island Nature Parks Chief Executive Officer Catherine Basterfield highlighted the Community Open Day provides an opportunity for residents and community to experience the remarkable wildlife and conservation projects occurring in their backyard.

"The island is one of Australia's most cherished destinations, our team and our community share a deep love of this unique place," Ms Basterfield said.

"The Community Open Day is our way of expressing gratitude to our local supporters and engaging

with people in our community of all ages. By showcasing the important research and conservation work we undertake, we hope to inspire others to act for nature and proudly share the wild side of the island with families, friends and visitors from all over the world."

## Activities

This year Churchill Island and the Koala Conservation Reserve will be open all day on Saturday September 14. If you want to catch all the action, plan your day around the program with activities scheduled for Churchill Island in the morning, the Koala Conservation Reserve from lunchtime and then head out to the Nobbies and Penguin Parade for the afternoon and evening.

The day will start with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. This is a special opportunity to experience and learn about this important traditional ceremony of the Bunurong.

At Churchill Island, the café will be open from 9am with access to the heritage farm area from 10am. Visitors can enjoy the farm demonstrations, wagon rides, hear from the Friends of Churchill Island Society about the site's history, listen to the

choir and play old-time lawn games.

Grab some lunch at the Koala Conservation Reserve and connect with staff and volunteers to learn more about the iconic koalas and meet the charismatic Critically Endangered bush stone-curlew and learn about its recent reintroduction to Phillip Island.

Community Open Day ticket holders can enjoy 15 per cent off all food menu items at all locations (Churchill Island's Farmhouse Kitchen, Koala's Café, Nobbies Fish & Chippery, and the Penguin Parade's Shearwater Restaurant) with our Create Catering partners.

Out at the Nobbies, the incredible coastal cliff views are eternal and something every local can be proud of. If you require a sweet treat, visit Ben and Jerry's ice creamery for 10 per cent off any Ben and Jerry's ice cream cone.

## Parade

At the Penguin Parade, activities kick off at 3.30pm with a demonstration from the furry and fabulous conservation dogs. The Penguin Parade Visitor Centre will open doors at 4pm with a Conservation Expo.

The expo offers a deep dive into conservation stories and programs with partners from the Penguin Foundation, Westernport

Water, the Association of Rangers and Conservationists, Phillip Island Fire Brigade, Phillip Island Land Alliance, Birdlife Bass Coast, the Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group and more, all hosting interactive stalls.

Penguin Parade Attraction Manager Stuart Stevens will share some exciting new parade experiences followed by a 'Secret Life of Penguins' walk-and-talk from 4.15pm. All of this before residents can enjoy the thrill of penguin viewing, watching the magical waddlers emerge from the ocean and returning to their burrows.

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

The event is ticketed, and you can see the full timetable of events and register for your free tickets at [www.penguins.org.au/openday](http://www.penguins.org.au/openday)

Please bring your ticket and proof of your residency such as rates notice, bill, or driver's licence to enter. Accompanying friends are welcome but must pay the applicable entry fees.

For further information call 5951 2830 during business hours or visit [www.penguins.org.au](http://www.penguins.org.au)

/ Sponsored article /

## GIG GUIDE

24/08 THE MEMPHIS THREE \$50+BF - 9PM

25/08 CHARLIE BEDFORD - 5PM

01/09 BBQ BOB AND THE RING OF FIRE - 5PM

08/09 ALEX BURNS - 5PM

15/09 PAPER JANE - 5PM

PLUS:

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
PARMA NIGHT

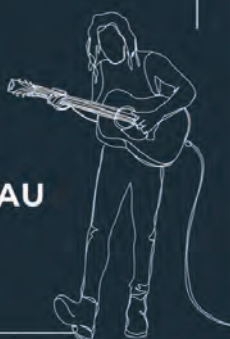
THURSDAY NIGHT  
BURGER NIGHT

FRIDAY NIGHT  
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## COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Saturday 14 September 2024

*Come along for nature, wildlife and community.*

**FREE\*** entry to the Nature Parks attractions: Penguin Parade (General Viewing on 13 and 14 September), Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island

Talks with rangers, researchers and volunteers

Conservation Expo

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\*Full program, terms and conditions:  
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# EVs: road trips, charging and having fun!

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Are you ready to hit the road in your Electric Vehicle (EV) but unsure where to start?

Join an engaging and informative session on how to plan and enjoy road trips with your EV on August 31, from 10.30am at PICAL, 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes.

This event, presented by Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) is designed to provide you with valuable insights, practical tips, and real-life experiences from EV enthusiasts.

**Myth buster:** You don't need to have an EV to attend! This is the perfect opportunity to find out if and how to travel with an EV.

**Planning EV road trips:** Learn how to plan your journey, including finding charging stations and calculating travel distances.

**Maximising fun:** Discover ways to enhance your road trip experience with exciting activities and must-see destinations.

**Interactive Q&A:** Get all



If you want to learn more about electric vehicles, come along to PICAL on August 31, where TRPI presents an informative session on how to plan and enjoy road trips with your EV.

your questions answered by experts and seasoned EV travellers.

**Experience:** At 12.30pm, visit the Cowes Transit Centre (behind the library) to see and experience the EV charging process firsthand.

**Networking:** Connect with other EV owners and enthusiasts, share your stories, and make new friends.

Whether you're a new EV owner or a seasoned driver looking for fresh tips, this event has something for everyone.

Bring your friends and family along for a fun and educational morning!

Electric Vehicle session, August 31, 10.30am – 12.30pm at PICAL, 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes.

Don't miss this opportunity to make your next EV road trip a memorable adventure. The session is free, but please register your attendance at Eventbrite.com.au (Search for TRPI) or scan the QR code above.

# Family history on a budget

## GENEALOGY

August is Family History month

Family history is a fascinating hobby, but it can be expensive to subscribe to genealogical companies such as Ancestry.

If you are interested in discovering

your family story without large expense, you are invited to a free talk at the Phillip Island Library at Berninnet on August 27 at 2pm.

This is a joint venture by Myli and the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society (PIADGS).

Learn about the free library resources for conducting your own family history search and the resources and support available from PIADGS.

The session, which runs from 2pm – 3.30pm is free, but please reserve your spot via eventbrite.com.au

Location: Myli – My Community Library, 91 – 97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes.

Details and bookings: [www.eventbrite.com.au/d/australia-cowes/family-history/](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/d/australia-cowes/family-history/)



Find out how to explore family history on a budget at a free talk at the Phillip Island Library at Berninnet on August 27 at 2pm, presented by Myli and Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society.

**FAMILY HISTORY ON A BUDGET**

**Phillip Island Library, 27th August, 2pm**

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.



## Jane Clifton: A Day At A Time In Rhyme

Sat 24 Aug 2024 | 7:30pm | \$30

[ Recommended audience of 15+, contains adult themes ]

A revealing, riveting performance where nothing is off limits as Jane reflects upon love and death and family, incontinence and wine, war and sex and Vegemite, footy, children, Christmas, Easter, and the best and worst of times while running the entire gamut of reflection, humour, tragedy, wit and whimsy.

SCAN FOR TICKETS



**Berninnet**

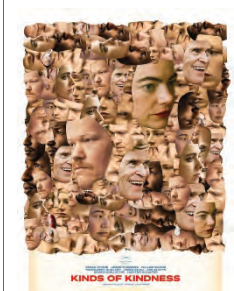
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[www.basscoastculturalvenues.com](http://www.basscoastculturalvenues.com)

## Berninnet

91-97 Thompson Ave  
Cowes, VIC 3922



## Cinema Sessions at Berninnet

Wednesday 21 Aug |

10:30am **Sidonie in Japan**  
[PG] 95 mins  
*Spit the dummy – Baby Friendly session*

1:00pm **Fly Me To The Moon**  
[M] 132 mins

4:00pm **Between Land and Sea**  
[E] 87mins

7:00pm **Sleeping Dogs**  
[MA15+] 112 mins

Friday 23 Aug

3:30pm **Kinds of Kindness**  
[MA15+] 164 mins

7:00pm **Sleeping Dogs**  
[MA15+] 112 mins

Sunday 25 Aug

10:30am **It Ends With Us**  
OCAP [M] 130 mins

1:30pm **Fly Me To The Moon**  
[M] 132 mins

Visit our website for more information, future sessions and Wonthaggi Cinema showtimes

## Buy Tickets Online

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Scan the QR Code to buy your tickets online and to browse all cinema sessions and upcoming live performances!

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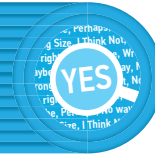
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12/08/2024

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Beloved father of Trevor,  
Roger, Kathryn and  
Melissa (dec).

Loving grandpa of Kayla,  
Sophie, Melody, Alex  
and Regina.

A life well lived.

## FUNERALS

**PERRIN:**

The Funeral Service for  
Mr John Martin Perrin

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Chapel Street, Cowes

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commencing at 1:30pm

A Private Cremation  
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John's service will be  
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## IN MEMORIAM



**JOHN PERRIN:**

Much loved and  
respected Conductor  
of the

Phillip Island U3A Choir  
and then the Phillip  
Island Harmony Choir  
for many years.

Choir Master, Pianist  
and Organist, with  
extensive knowledge  
and love of music,  
John brought joy to  
singers and audiences  
alike on Phillip Island.

He taught us,  
he inspired us and  
he lifted our spirits  
with song.

A true gentleman,  
he will be remembered  
fondly and deeply  
missed and will always  
have a place in  
our hearts.

Farewell Dear Friend.

Deepest sympathy to  
Edna and the family.

From Members of the  
Island Harmony Choir.

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EVERYTHING MUST GO

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after which date State  
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convey or distribute the  
assets, having regard  
only to the claims of  
which State Trustees  
Limited then has notice.  
TURPIN, Norma Patricia,  
late of 2 Baratta St,  
DONCASTER EAST, VIC  
3109, deceased, who  
died on 22 September  
2023.  
13 August 2024.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONY-  
MOUS:** Weekly meetings  
Bass Coast Shire, Wont-  
haggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA  
Cowes Big Book meeting  
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Coles) - Tuesday 7pm,  
0417 317 470; Salvation  
Army building, McKenzie  
St., Wonthaggi, Saturday  
11am, 5672 3627. Phone  
head office 9429 1833.



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03 5956 7505.

Applications to be submitted to:  
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**Applications close Friday 30 August  
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must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the  
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## PUBLIC NOTICES



## LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society [PIADAGS] will be moving  
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building is to be sold. The new premises at Newhaven is considerably smaller  
so we need to reduce our equipment and library by 80%. We have a large  
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areas e.g. English counties or Victorian towns e.g. Bendigo and Geelong.  
Also, topics e.g. world wars, convicts, bushrangers and the gold rush.

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**Book Sale – Saturday 24 August 2024**

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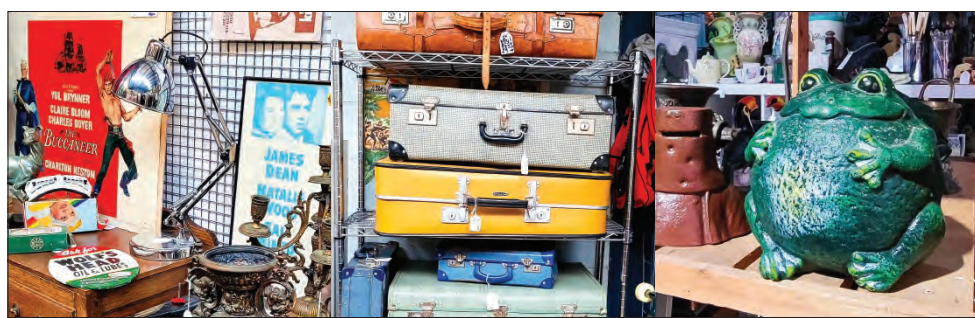
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7. Avoid publishing material  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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)



### Nuclear too big a risk

The Liberal and National Parties recognise the need to cut carbon emissions by 2050 and have a policy which includes generation of electricity through the building of small modular reactors (SMR), a type of nuclear reactor.

Land within an 80km radius of a nuclear reactor is classified as an "ingestion exposure pathway", under international standards. This means that people may be exposed to radiation if they eat, or drink, food produced within the 80km radius after a leak. Internationally, farms within such a radius routinely test produce for radiation. Despite best intentions, leaks occur. Forty of the fifty-seven nuclear power stations in the US have leaked at some stage.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, there are no small modular reactors currently in operation anywhere in the world.

Gippsland farms produce significant quantities of Australia's food. Unfortunately, many of these farms are within 80km of the planned site (Loy Yang) for the untested, small modular reactors.

Do we really want to risk large scale contamination of our dairy, beef, vegetables and water for the sake nuclear reactors, which may leak and have not been tested anywhere in the world? People in Phillip Island do not want to be eating contaminated food.

People in Gippsland have too much to lose to vote for nuclear power. Perhaps it is time to vote for an independent candidate who cares about the quality of life and is not beholden to centralised party politics.

Deborah O'Connor, Berrys Creek

### Community fragments

I congratulate Peter Paul, Greg Price and Doug Wain for speaking out about the serious omission of a Community Centre at Bernineit. The original planning through community consultation, of which I was a member, called for a Community and Culture Centre. We have a Culture Centre but no community centre. Instead various bits of community activity are scattered about the Island – at Rhyll, Newhaven or a number of locations within Cowes itself.

Rather than a community we have fragmentation. The current history display is no substitute for a real and accessible museum in a prominent public position. Currently the Shire is asking us to contribute to our dreams for the future. Environmental issues rightly top the list, but let's join forces to promote a community centre also.

David Rathgen, Cowes

### Sprayed

I have been watching this every day for the last four years.

The week prior to the Federal election a plane flew a grid over Cowes in the middle of the night. This plane was not on the flight app.

Next morning all perfect green leaves were covered in aluminum particles. This has been happening from large passenger jets every day since then. No, they are not just steam from

jet engines. They are spraying in front of every south westerly change. Sometimes eight to ten chemtrails.

Every week we have small planes taking off from Moorabbin Airport. They fly down here, Mornington peninsulas and all western Gippsland. Flying in GPS grids over large areas. I had a friend of mine go to this plane and ask what has he been doing for the day? His reply was that he had been cloud seeding over Cowes? This was a lie as planes that do cloud seeding are up over ten thousand feet. He was flying around two thousand feet when over us.

Two weeks ago a plane flew a grid over Cowes. I went outside to see his navigation lights. This was another not on flight app. Three weeks ago they started chemtrail spraying at an unbelievable rate. Everyone was getting sprayed. Look up each day and you will see fragmented torn misty clouds.

Here is the frightening part of what this is doing. I have been a landscaper all my life. Many parts of the island I have done are listed as land for wildlife and I have a small rainforest garden. Over the last few weeks: all insects, snails, slugs, frogs, slater bugs, spiders and bug eating birds are gone.

Last week I went through Silverleaves: not one spider web. I have just been down to a local farm. All his gum trees are dead and dying on his farm. We looked across to the Oswin Roberts Reserve and the gums are going grey over there as well.

These poisons coming from the sky are killing the bugs and plants. It is not just happening here.

Roger Hanson, Cowes

### Concrete problem

The Rhyll Community is aghast at the massive amount of concrete which has been used in a pathway, leading from the car park to the Hall, and has many community members questioning the sincerity of the Council's 2030 zero emissions target, as it is no secret that concrete is a huge source of carbon emissions.

While the intention was to improve accessibility, this concrete monstrosity has resulted in a stark and jarring addition to the once charming, timber building. The community had not been consulted on these changes, and many believe that a much simpler and more aesthetically pleasing alternative could have been chosen.

Residents are now rallying together to request that the local council revisit the dreadful construction. There is a strong desire to see the concrete slab removed and replaced with a solution more in keeping with the Hall's historic character-such as a simple path leading from the roadway right up to the front door of the hall. Simple and a lot less expensive.

A petition on Change.org has commenced ([chng.it/6q5NgKXk9k](https://www.change.org/p/it/6q5NgKXk9k)), to demonstrate to the council just how wrong they have got it.

Judy Lawrence, Rhyll

### Farewell from Jessica

I have had the great pleasure of working for the libraries in

Cowes and San Remo since 2017. I have appreciated this community so very much and would like to express my gratitude and say goodbye. There have been many people I have come into contact with through the library services who have filled me with joy. I am very grateful for the time I have spent on the island and in San Remo.

I am moving on to a different role in East Gippsland library service, but what I will carry with me are the gifts from a community whose heart is very big.

Jessica Berry, Cape Woolamai

### Our history

Phillip Island is so obviously unique. Its position across a bay from the sea, its broad marine exposure, the shores, the sea, explorers, wrecks, its beautiful vistas, nature, flora and fauna and peoples who have visited, hunted, farmed and lived over thousands of years, aspects and diversity second to none to provide a fascinating history.

In our new Cultural Centre it is an overwhelming disappointment the planners showed such lack of sensibilities and respect that our previous inadequate museum was further reduced to a fraction, an afterthought dispatched to a back corner. A minimum of artifacts are displayed. The bulk are currently stored through the generous support of a sympathetic individual.

Knowledge of our history and place inspires and unites us as a community and is also fascinating to visitors. We need a space, to display all these artifacts, a place of knowledge and explanation that so far have only been personally preserved and maintained by the dedication of a few in the Historical Society. Most of these people are ageing and their knowledge and further detailed information could be lost.

What is a possible solution?

I offer a couple of top-of-the-head ideas (apologies for those concerned for no prior contact).

- Private/Public project. The eastern corner of Newhaven College on Phillip Island Road would be an ideal site for locals and tourists, with a purpose-built museum which could include rooms for lectures and facilities for research, a history department where students could learn both global and local history.
- A partnership formed with other entities, schools and/or businesses.
- Search for an existing building. The Rhyll and Newhaven halls come to mind, but they are already used for a variety of community functions.
- A stand-alone building in a central accessible place.
- Portable glass fronted displays lining the large entrance hall at the new cultural centre.

Can we think outside the square and come up with a solution? A house for our history, the people who have lived and interacted with it defining us as a community, visible information to reflect and continue to unite us.

Does anyone agree with me? Have ideas?

Jean Verwey, Ventnor

### Divide and conquer?

In November 2023 Council announced the Surf Beach Sunderland Bay special charge scheme was totally abandoned. Not because they wanted to, but because they simply had no choice.

Be clear: the scheme was democratically rejected by 54 per cent of the ratepayers involved. That is the cold hard facts. The scheme was supported by only 13 per cent of concerned ratepayers. Even had the 33 per cent who did not vote, voted for the scheme, proponents could still not have achieved a majority.

This is an example of "democracy in action".

Outspoken project supporters, having constantly told scheme opponents to "shut up and accept the umpire's decision" proved themselves incapable of standing by their own words and immediately (but unsuccessfully) set about preventing Council abandoning the scheme. I was physically confronted by one such supporter personally. I was not intimidated and only share the event

to reveal to the broader community, the level of behaviour and aggression demonstrated towards someone with a different opinion.

Now, in essence Council has engineered a "divide and conquer" policy, demonstrating total disregard for fairness and democracy. A "revised" road and drainage policy, allowing projects smaller than a single street, was adopted. A policy which appears to be tailored to override the wishes of the majority of our community, in complete contradiction to what was a fair and open democratic process.

Having admitted their previous failed scheme created disharmony in a once quiet and respectful small community, council has implemented an even more divisive scheme, directly pitting neighbour against neighbour. Fixed income residents can once again return to living in fear and resume having sleepless nights.

It is time for these councillors to go.

Ross Bencraft, Surf Beach



Jessica Whiteroad, front office manager at Ramada Resort, accepting the award for Resort Style Accommodation of the Year.

## Big win for local resort

### TOURISM

Ramada Resort on Phillip Island was voted joint winner in the Resort Style Accommodation of the Year at last week's Accommodation Australia (Vic) awards.

It shared the award with Balgownie Estate in the Yarra Valley.

The awards recognised excellence across Victoria's regulated commercial accommodation sector.

Celebrating the win, Emma Todd, General Manager said: "Our guests and club members

regularly praise the beauty and tranquillity of the bushland setting at Ramada Phillip Island.

"We believe it offers people the opportunity to relax and recharge at their own pace, and we are grateful the industry has chosen to recognise our vision for the property."

Ramada Resort by Wyndham Phillip Island is managed by Travel + Leisure Co. The 210-room resort is a mixed-use property utilised by members of vacation ownership club, Club Wyndham South Pacific, resort guests and private residents.



# New committee for Boardriders

## SURFING

The Phillip Island Boardriders Club has announced its newly elected committee for the 2024/2025 season. At the helm is Jake Eisen, a dedicated lifelong member, who now steps into the role of president. Joining him are Geoff Russell as vice president, Emily Scott as secretary, and Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs as treasurer.

Founded in 1963, the Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) has long been a cornerstone of the local surfing community. Over the years, it has fostered a spirit of camaraderie and competition, producing some of the region's finest surfers. The club's commitment to excellence has not only elevated the sport locally but also contributed to the broader surfing culture in Australia.

This season, the club said it is placing a strong emphasis on youth development, stating it recognised the importance of nurturing the next generation of surfers.

The new committee said it is dedicated to providing young surfers with the resources, training, and support they need to excel.

This includes beginner sessions to advanced coaching sessions, and creating a supportive environment.

Tim Agonoustou will be overseeing the youth development initiatives, ensuring that young surfers receive top-notch training and guidance. The long-running Super Grommet Program, overseen by Melanie Wright, has been a staple of the club for about 15 years and sees around 150 kids each year enter, providing a fantastic platform for the youngest surfers to develop their skills in a fun and engaging way.

"Our goal is to inspire and equip the youth of Phillip Island to pursue their surfing dreams," said new president Jake Eisen.

"By focusing on their development, we



The newly elected PIBC Committee from left: Geoff Russell (Vice President), Nala Taylor (Longboard Coordinator), Melanie Wright (Supergroms Coordinator), Jake Eisen (President), Ash Easton (Club Captain), Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs (Treasurer) and Emily Scott (Secretary). Absent: Dylan James (Vice Club Captain), Tim Anagnostou (Youth Development Coordinator), Natalie Van Der Heyden (Clubhouse Manager), Alisha Hill, Keith Vincent and Jasmine Keogh.

are not only ensuring the future of our club but also contributing to the growth of the sport as a whole."

## Support

Jake said PIBC was dedicated to supporting the mental health and well-being of its members. "By keeping kids active, off their phones, and out of the house, the club teaches valuable life skills that extend beyond the surf."

"This holistic approach helps provide a sense of purpose and confidence that is beneficial both in and out of the water."

He said the supportive nature of the club played a significant role in his recovery from a spinal cord injury last year.

As part of its commitment to holistic well-being, the club has incorporated regular yoga sessions into its schedule.

These sessions, held at the renovated clubhouse, focus on mental health and performance, helping surfers maintain peak physical condition while also managing stress and improving focus.

## Competitions

This year, the club plans to include more team events to foster camaraderie and teamwork among its members.

Ash Easton, in his third year as club captain, will assist with these initiatives, ensuring that members have ample opportunities to engage and compete to-

gether. Dylan James will be supporting Easton in a newly created role as Vice Club Captain.

"James, recognised as one of the most underrated and talented surfers on Phillip Island, brings a fresh dynamic to the leadership team, making him a valuable addition," said Jake.

New team format contests will be introduced to help develop leadership skills while keeping the activities fun and engaging for all participants. There will also be a greater emphasis on surfing events, providing numerous opportunities for surfers of all ages and skill levels to showcase their talents and enjoy the thrill of competition.

Geoff Russell, returning as vice president, was instrumental in the club's 60th birthday celebrations and played a significant role in assisting outgoing president Hannah Eisen with the clubhouse renovations.

The upgraded clubhouse now serves as a vibrant community hub, hosting regular activities that benefit both members and the wider community. Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs, as treasurer, has also been instrumental in securing government grants over the last 24 months, further bolstering the club's resources and capabilities.

The club is also encouraging past members to rejoin this year with the new approach. The season aggregate celebrations in October will be a highlight, where the club will announce a life member as nominated by past life members.

Under this new leadership, the club said it is poised for an exciting future, with a focus on youth development, mental health, and team events.

"We are looking forward to a great season ahead," Jake said. For more information about PIBC and its upcoming events, visit [www.pibc.com.au](http://www.pibc.com.au)



Congratulations to last week's winners on 35 points (from left): Ken Harding (S), Jenny Smith (L), Zac Bakker (3) and Colin Scales (2).



Runners up: Nick Arnold (S), Marianne Scales (2), Wayne Stevens (3) and Margaret McConville (L).

# Midweek at Corinella

## BOWLS

Thursday, August 15 proved a superb day for the midweek bowls crew who headed over to Corinella for their weekly hit out.

Fifty-five members turned up to fight it out for team of the week, and what a great competition it was, with many great players all chasing victory.

This however, did not slow down the usual banter between players, with laughter echoing throughout the green and music from Hayden.

Players were greeted by

Pauline and John, along with Peter and David busily working on team arrangements.

Additionally, Robyn looked after the kitchen whilst Phil looked after refreshments. Several donations were made to the RCH tin – the club is always pleased to see the generosity of its players.

As always, there are winners and there are losers, last week was no different. Congratulations to last week's winners on 35 points: Ken Harding (S), Jenny Smith (L), Zac Bakker (3) and Colin Scales (2).

Runners up also on 35 points: Nick Arnold (S), Marianne Scales (2), Wayne Stevens (3) and Margaret McConville (L).

Best one game winners on 19 points: John Nicholson (S), Frank Verco (L), Frank D'Univille (2) and Michael Saunders (3).

The club gives their thanks to the behind-the-scenes crew.

This week, they will be meeting at San Remo to once again, lay down the gauntlet and fight it out.

They hope to see everyone at the clubhouse by 10am.

# Red Rocks results

## GOLF

Saturday, August 17

Stableford: 1st Doug Collins - HCP 18, 42 pts, 2nd Terry Fox - HCP 14, 40 pts, 3rd Steve Wurt - HCP 7, 39 pts.

Hole in one: Martin Giblin (fifth hole).

Gippsland Soccer League results and fixtures, Golf, Tenpin and Euchre results at: [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

INFORMATION & TICKETING

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Congratulations to the Island's U14 Girls on wrapping up a stellar debut season over the weekend in their battle against Inverloch.

## Season wraps for U14 Girls

### FOOTBALL

The Island U14 Girls went up against Inverloch in the preliminary finals over the weekend.

From the first centre bounce, the group had a final fierceness about them – taking every tackle opportunity.

Some epic clearances out of the centre by the Island's speedy midfielders kept the footy tucked into their forward line for some solid blocks.

The Island's backline was fierce and worked incredibly well together as a team to ensure they kept the oppositions forward line under their control.

The girls elevated their game play to put in a competitive and memorable effort against Inverloch Kongwak however

were unable to take the win this week.

As the curtain closes on their debut season, the team would like to thank Coach Justin, Assistant Coach Jackie and Team Manager Casey for assisting to build a brand-new side and create an unforgettable season for this magnificent group of girls.

To all the parents who were helpful, supportive and encouraging all season of this ripper team, the club appreciates you.

Final scores: Inverloch: 3.3.21. Phillip Island: 0.0.1.

With many of the U14s progressing to Youth Girls next season, the team has positions available for next year's team.

Keep an eye out on socials to get involved for 2025.

## Best efforts by Kilcunda Bass

### FOOTBALL

#### Seniors

What a thrilling encounter it was for the Kilcunda Bass Seniors, with the battle extending right up to the final siren.

The Panthers came out of the gates with tremendous energy, applying early pressure on the top contenders Cora Lynn, leading at the first break.

Their on-field leadership was instrumental in maintaining competitive edge into the second half.

Players showed remarkable resolve as the match remained tightly contested, with the lead changing hands several times.

Despite Kilcunda Bass'

best efforts, they unfortunately lost the lead in the dying minutes.

Nevertheless, it was an exhilarating game that showcased the Panthers' resilience and skill.

This performance is sure to bolster the teams confidence as they head into the finals series, promising an exciting and competitive finish to the season.

#### Reserves

In what proved to be a tough match for the Kilcunda Bass Reserves up against Cora Lynn, the Panthers had a solid crack throughout the second and third quarters, however lost their momentum in the last.

The team give their

thanks to the Veterans for standing in – if it were not for their assistance the Reserves would not have been able to field a team in recent weeks.

Despite a tough second half of the season for the Reserves they pushed forward with a strong team. Well done to Dylan Susic for playing the entire 18 games.

In this match, Will Campbell proved excellent down back, along with Gussy, Jack, Trent and Darcy who worked hard in the midfield.

The team is pleased with the continued development of the young boys, Brodie, Gude, Dakes, Bakes and Trent who can each respectively push for Seniors selection next year.

## Kilcunda Bass give their all

### NETBALL

#### A Grade

A Grade had a tough hit out against the relentless Cora Lynn to end the home and away season.

Kilcunda Bass focused on their team goals throughout the game, however could not quite find the lead despite a strong third quarter.

Best on court: Caity E.

#### B Grade

Kilcunda Bass walked away with smiles and a win, ending the 2024 season for B Grade in what proved to be one of the best games they have played as a team.

They held strong until three-quarter time, but knowing they wouldn't make it into the top six took its toll on several players as they headed in the fourth.

But to win the last and end the match on a high is all that was asked from the girls.

Despite their talents, a few losses throughout the season cost Kilcunda Bass' B Grade their finals opportunity.

Best on court: Lizz.

#### C Grade

Kilcunda Bass' C Grade ended their home and away season with a tough loss against a strong Cora Lynn outfit who are also finals bound.

A slow start hurt the team and whilst they did well to reduce the margin as the game progressed, it wasn't enough as they went down by eight.

Despite this, there are plenty of positives to take into their first final against Tooradin, this team certainly has a never-say-die attitude and look forward to having a crack next Sunday in a must-win final at Bass.

Best on court: Jess (for dominance in the ring and shooting accuracy).

#### D Grade

What a showdown, Kilcunda Bass entered the

court as the clear underdogs against Cora Lynn, but from the first whistle it was game on.

Where have these girls been hiding the last few weeks?

Because for the final game of the season, they brought their A-game and then some.

The shooters faced some tough-as-nails defenders, with Ro taking more than one crash into the pole.

But being the smallest on the court it didn't faze her one bit-she stood her ground like a champ, sinking goals left and right alongside super Coach Chloe.

Their accuracy under pressure was nothing short of spectacular.

In the midcourt Lils, Zo and Jaycee had their passes on point, moving like a well-oiled machine.

They made the goalers look like absolute rockstars with their slick movement and pinpoint feeds.

Cora Lynn didn't know what hit them. And let's talk about their defence-Alicia was an interception queen, seemingly plucking the ball out of thin air.

Jess and Jade were absolute powerhouses, shutting down Cora Lynn's shooters time and time again.

They were an unstoppable wall and Cora Lynn just couldn't break through.

This was the game Kilcunda Bass had been waiting for.

It has been a while between wins, but this one was worth the wait.

Kilcunda Bass took the victory and boy, did they deserve it.

Best on court: Jade, whose magical arms were everywhere, causing turnovers and applying relentless hands-over pressure.

#### U17s

Just like that, the season is over.

It wasn't Kilcunda Bass' day against Cora Lynn, but seeing how much the girls

have grown as a team and individuals from the start of the season to now was a massive achievement.

They had some amazing wins, close losses and some major stepping stones this year that will only make them stronger and better for next year.

#### U15s

Well, that's a wrap for Kilcunda Bass' U15s for the 2024 season.

It was not the season they had hoped for, but consistent improvements and hard work from each player proved to be a positive.

This match, the girls headed out onto the court with smiles for miles, switched positions each quarter and gave it a real crack.

They wish all the teams who are in finals all the best and look forward to coming back next season stronger than ever.

#### U13s

It was a tough hit out for the Kilcunda Bass U13s who played their last match against Cora Lynn on Saturday.

They set out to try and get the win which would have given them a spot in finals, however Cora Lynn proved too strong.

Despite this, the Kilcunda Bass girls switched positions and were able to enjoy the rest of the game.

#### U11s

That's a wrap for the Kilcunda Bass U11s season after a tough match against Cora Lynn on the weekend.

Players worked hard from the first round of the season managing to finish the year seventh on the ladder.

They hope to see all players smiling faces return for 2025 and wish the best of luck to the respective senior netball and football teams who begin their finals campaign this week.

Scores: Kilcunda Bass 7 def by Cora Lynn 26.  
Chocolate award: Indy and Zoe.



Congratulations to last week's winners (from left): Alan Beddows, Chris Fricke and John Newcombe.

## Perfect conditions for winter triples

### BOWLS

With brilliant sunshine, no breeze and perfect conditions the Phillip Island Bowling Club hosted their regular match of winter triples on August 13.

With several high scores, it came down to the last ends to decide the runners up

and one clear winner.

Best last game: Julie Pora, Di Pollock and Michael Frost.

Runners up: Mark Hone, Gary Storer and Derek MacDonald.

Congratulations to winners: John Newcombe, Chris Fricke and Alan Beddows.

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Trinity O'Keefe competes in the 100m breaststroke.

# SGB challenge State's best at Open Age Championships

## SWIMMING

The best of Victorian swimming was at MSAC over the weekend for the Victorian Open Aged Short Course Championships. Four South Gippsland Bass Swim Club (SGB) members competed at the event, enjoying the challenge to race against top level swimmers. Trinity O'Keefe, Cormac Flynn, Tomei Dal Pozzo and Molly Dettbarn competed in a range of 50m to 200m events, improving on personal times.

Trinity managed to finish 20th for 100m breaststroke and 17th for the 200m breaststroke, with the others managing to finish within the top 50 for the events. To swim at the event, tough qualifying times had to be met. The event was open age, meaning anyone who met the times of any age could compete. Cormac and Molly will return in a few weeks to compete in the Victorian Age Championships where they will compete against swimmers of the same age groups.

# Tough competition in OBrien 500

## BOWLS

On August 17 the Phillip Island Bowling Club hosted their OBrien 500 competition. With only a few weeks left of competition the leaderboard is getting tight. Third place: Wayne Barr and David Saric. Second place: Mark Hone and Lance Wearne. Congratulations to winners: Di Pollock and Steve Clarke.



Congratulations to the weekend's OBrien 500 competition winners, Steve Clarke and Di Pollock.

# Island LDNA go head-to-head

## NETBALL

### U13 Red

Saturday saw Phillip Island Red hit the court against Phillip Island White in what was to be a stellar semi-final. Island Red took to the court with a solid game plan and a buzz of nerves and excitement. The first quarter saw some of those nerves play out in shaky hands, but with a few encouraging words from the crowd, the team settled and managed to find their flow. With the strong and true attack of Ella (C), Hazel (WA), Madi (GA) and Aliza (GS) the scores began to rise. The second quarter was a hard-fought battle by the Reds, as the team took advantage of blazing intercepts by Alexis (GD), Ella (C), Sophia (WA) and Georgie (WD) as they flew around the midcourt. The atmosphere was electric by the end of the quarter as the scores sat level heading into half time. With a positive and uplifting team chat during the break, the girls went back into the last half with a newfound determination and it showed. Miranda (WD), Sera (GK) and Alexis (GD) proved yet again to be a powerhouse of defence and focused on securing turnovers that saw Red's goalers continue to up the score. With great encouragement and positive words to each other on court, as the minutes of the final quarter ticked down, Island Red managed to take the lead and at the final whistle lock in a hard-



Congratulations to the Island's U13 Red team who took out a close victory against Phillip Island White.

fought win to see them through to the preliminary final next week-end. Scores: Phillip Island Red 21 def Phillip Island White 18. **U13 White** This year the White team began as a group of fresh, eager girls who just wanted to play netball. Over the season, their drive and improvement has been next level. Saturday's game saw the girls in an epic final against the Island Red team. The group fought hard and gave it everything however were unable to hang on to take the win in the end. The club give their thanks to each player and their respective efforts: Ruby: gives 100 per cent effort every week, is skilful and delight-

ful. Alana: strong, reliable and funny. Lavenia: swift, resilient and compassionate. Evie: energetic, powerful and magnetic. Willow: outstanding, tough and generous. Indi: exciting, determined and resilient. Holly: spirited, ambitious and fun. Ellie: a shooting star, influential and kind. Noah: an adaptable "little legend" and energising. Emily: powerful, skilled and gracious. Additionally, they give their thanks to the stand in players, along with the parents, whose unwavering support has helped shape the team into a top class crew.

# Strong performances on the court

## NETBALL

### A Grade

The Island's A Grade wrapped up the season with a commendable effort against a strong Nar Nar Goon side. The game was a tough contest, with Nar Nar Goon showcasing phenomenal skill and accuracy, particularly from their goalers. Phillip Island held their own with a solid team performance. Standout performances came from Sophia Hungerford, who delivered a stellar defensive effort, upsetting many of Nar Nar Goon's attacking plays, and Ella Duggan, whose precision in goal-scoring was impressive and crucial for the Island's side. They also want to extend their heartfelt thanks to Carly and Cath for their invaluable support as game day coaches. Their guidance and encouragement have been greatly appreciated by the team.

### B Grade

The game against Nar Nar Goon was always going to be a tough one, but the Island girls started strong, matching the Nar Nar Goon ladies goal-for-goal.

The girls were only down by three points at the end of the first quarter. Their intensity continued into the second quarter, where they managed to turn over a few centre passes, with Nar Nar Goon leading by just one point at half-time. However in the second half the Island seemed to tire slightly whilst Nar Goon maintained their strong performance, ultimately taking the win 54-42. Best on court: Isla, Jess and Steph. Despite their loss, the B Grade ladies have had a fantastic season, showing immense improvement and exceptional sportsmanship every week. They're now looking forward to playing in the finals next week and we can't wait to see them in action again. **D Grade** The Island D Grade team concluded the season on a high note with a determined performance against top of the table, Nar Nar Goon. The game marked a significant improvement from their previous encounter, showing the progress the team has achieved over the season.

Special mentions go to Sienna and Cathy, who played well in GS and GA. Jane also shone with a stellar effort in the midcourt, displaying both skill and determination. It was a great way to end the season, with every player coming together to showcase their improvement. The team thanks Coach Meg Oudshoorn for a wonderful season. **U17s** Phillip Island had been sitting nicely at first on the ladder for majority of the season, but with a couple of losses in recent weeks, Nar Nar Goon has claimed top spot. The Island girls had previously beaten them, so it was anyone's game. Phillip Island started off slow to the forefront, with Nar Nar Goon getting the first four goals prior to the Island taking a score. This only ignited the fire in the Island girls' belly, putting on a great sporting performance that had the crowd cheering. The second and third quarters saw the Island ahead by three goals. However, Nar Nar Goon would creep back up leaving the

game goal-for-goal up until the final buzzer, resulting in a draw - 33 all. This now places the Island fourth on the ladder and will play Korumburra in the elimination finals next week. Best on court: Jasira Derham, Meika White and Maya Huther. **U15s** This game was bound to be a good one with first on the ladder going up against the second placed. The Island girls came out strong with accurate passing and great use of channels. Mia, Aisha and Adelle played well with timely movement and accurate shooting. Ellie, Piper, Maisie and Isla were incredible in the midcourt with steady leads and precision passing. Ruby and Tilly's defensive pressure were next level, ensuring the Nar Nar Goon girls were kept to minimal scoring. Scores: Phillip Island 35 def Nar Nar Goon 18. Awards: Aisha, Ruby and Mia. **U13s** The U13 girls faced a formidable challenge on Saturday as they took on Nar Nar Goon, a team that has consistently dominated the top of the ladder this season. The Doggies were eager to secure a win, no matter how small

in hopes of clinching a spot in the finals. Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, victory was out of reach. Alice displayed exceptional form, while Kate and Macy put their natural athleticism on full display, hoping to contribute to a win. Ella ended the season with a beautifully played game and Frankie also enjoyed a strong performance, alternating between the goals and the wings. Despite the game quickly turning into a lopsided contest, the girls maintained their spirits. Scores: Phillip Island 12 def by Nar Nar Goon 41. Awards: Ella, Frankie and Alice. **U11s** In their final home game of the season, the U11s came up against Nar Nar Goon which proved a tough defensive game from the first quarter. Despite the challenge, Nar Nar Goon secured a 13-10 victory with the Island girls challenging them all the way to the end. Awards went to Marley, Bella and Frankie for their work rate and pressure. The girls have finished the season at an impressive third on the ladder and will come up against Koo Wee Rup in the elimination final at Inverloch on the August 24.

# TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 21 AUG	THU 22 AUG	FRI 23 AUG	SAT 24 AUG	SUN 25 AUG	MON 26 AUG	TUE 27 AUG
HIGH 12:46 am 2.54 m	HIGH 1:58 am 2.71 m	HIGH 3:01 am 2.88 m	HIGH 3:59 am 3.00 m	HIGH 4:53 am 3.08 m	HIGH 5:45 am 3.09 m	HIGH 6:34 am 3.04 m
LOW 6:45 am 0.61 m	LOW 7:47 am 0.58 m	LOW 8:44 am 0.58 m	LOW 9:36 am 0.62 m	LOW 10:26 am 0.70 m	LOW 11:13 am 0.81 m	LOW 11:58 am 0.93 m
HIGH 2:00 pm 2.91 m	HIGH 2:49 pm 2.99 m	HIGH 3:34 pm 3.03 m	HIGH 4:15 pm 3.03 m	HIGH 4:55 pm 3.01 m	HIGH 5:32 pm 2.95 m	HIGH 6:10 pm 2.87 m
LOW 7:37 pm 1.07 m	LOW 8:31 pm 0.82 m	LOW 9:20 pm 0.59 m	LOW 10:06 pm 0.41 m	LOW 10:50 pm 0.29 m	LOW 11:33 pm 0.26 m	

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Jack Taylor, focused during the Seniors clash. More photos at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

# Full house for Island finals

FOOTBALL

The last round was upon the Island, with the top two secured, the Island managed some key players ready for finals.

On a sunny day it was first versus third – this would be their second meeting after Nar Nar Goon had a big win in Round 2.

The Island came out firing and a classy 40m snap from Pedersen got the Island on the board. The Island had most of the play but were wasteful in front of the goal resulting in a moment with two-goals six-behinds.

The first quarter ended and

the Island had nine scoring shots to two, but only held a 12 point lead.

In the second quarter the Goon found their rhythm and started to apply scoreboard pressure.

Daniel Pearce was intercepting everything while Coby, Holmes and Mark Griffin were doing well to curtail the advantage of the wind blowing towards the scoreboard end.

Jaymie Youle, Charlie and Hayden Bruce were starting to get on top through the mid-field while Jack, Billy and Tom Baulch were finding space up forward.

In a sign of things to come at the half, Phillip Island went in with a narrow 37-36 lead.

The Island came out firing in the third and lifted their conversion slotting five-goals two-behinds to extend their lead to 11 points.

Zac Walker was marking everything and becoming a real handful for the opposition.

Down the other end, Finn O'Brien was winning his one-one-ones and utilising the ball to rebound from defence.

A tight tussle ensued, and some questionable decisions cost the Island some goals.

Late in the fourth Nar Nar Goon took the lead, but the Is-

land would not go away after playing with one down on the bench eventually finding another gear.

Jack Taylor worked with Nick Anderson, went back and slotted a goal, putting the Island two points ahead.

At the next centre bounce, Nar Nar Goon rushed the ball forward and were able to kick a goal. With 30 seconds left Mark Griffin intercepted a mark, pulled the trigger inside, Kai McKenzie took the mark and played on to Tom from 70m out – siren sounds.

In the shortest quarter of the game, the Island fell to a four-point defeat.

It looks set to be an exciting finals campaign for the Island, the Seniors will see the likes of Daniel Bourke, Jesse Patullo, Alex Duyker and Yi-anni Caffieri make their return to the field.

Additionally, the Reserves, U18s and U16s will be competing in their respective finals.



The Reserves' Jack Keating working hard.

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**WEST GIPPSLAND  
ELIMINATION FINALS**

**Elimination – Saturday, August 24**  
*Inverloch Recreation Reserve*  
Seniors: Nar Nar Goon v Kilcunda-Bass  
Reserves: Inverloch-Kongwak v Koo Wee Rup  
U18: Nar Nar Goon v Koo Wee Rup  
U16: Inverloch-Kongwak v Korumburra-Bena

**Elimination – Sunday, August 25**  
*Bass Recreation Reserve*  
Seniors: Inverloch-Kongwak v Tooradin-Dalmore  
Reserves: Cora Lynn v Phillip Island  
U18: Inverloch-Kongwak v Garfield  
U16: Warragul Industrials v Tooradin-Dalmore

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