

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

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Covid fatigue

Is there a bright side to the latest lockdown?

Last week, one exhausted business owner confessed it would be easier if they were locked down, rather than trying to stop people from Melbourne coming in.

When shops, cafes and restaurants were able to open in regional areas, Melburnians fed up with the constant restrictions had been sneaking into the regions.

For many local businesses the struggle to enforce the state government requirements to check customer IDs was exhausting and having a serious impact on staff mental health.

Kimberley Brown from North Pier in Cowes said it was horrendous for staff, who have "been charged by the State with the unlucky job of policing their ever-changing rules".

She said the impact on morale and mental health has been significant and the business regularly turned away customers who aren't able to provide proof of a local address.

"On Friday night August 13, we turned away roughly 40 people."

Each weekend, the number of people trying to come in without adequate ID rose so the venue had to employ extra Covid marshalls to manage the situation.

"Asking patrons for ID has shifted another layer of responsibility to my staff, who are used to asking people for ID for over 18 service, but are not used to debating/arguing and being abused by people who are unable to enter the venue, because their licence says Altona, or some other Metro suburb, despite their convincing explanation of them living on the island for six months," Kimberley said.

She said anyone who has legitimately moved to the region during Covid should update their licence details immediately.

"It will avoid a lot of stress and headache all round."

After a difficult 12 months, she said turning away patrons is heartbreaking, and something many businesses can ill-afford.

"Nobody enjoys turning people away from their business."

"We obviously want and need and welcome the patrons, and the staff don't enjoy being charged with the responsibility to police

something when an adult should be able to follow rules and do the right thing by now themselves," Kimberley said.

"It's usually the ones that know they're breaking the rules who are the most unreasonable."

"Covid isn't new anymore, and my staff have heard every excuse, story, or trick there is. But if it's the difference between business being open and employees having work, then they will all do as best they can."

Refusal to wear a mask is another ongoing issue.

"We have had patrons spit at staff when they've been asked to leave because they refused to wear a mask."

She said some arguments got so heated security guards had to step in, and people continually tried to bend the rules.

"The first day after the last lockdown lifted, we had a group of 12 young people come in, all without masks, and apparently, all exempt."

"The likelihood of a dozen 20-year-olds all having an exemption is pretty minimal," she said.

Wild

Jude Mayall at the Wild Food Farm in Rhyll said her staff had dealt with some "very negative, aggressive people", particularly when they were asked to wear a mask.

"We follow all Covid-Safe plans, but for some I think being asked, politely, was a trigger for bad behaviour," she said.

"Whilst I don't think that's an excuse at all, it does seem to give people a reason to vent their anger at what's happening."

"It's a sad situation and one that I don't want my staff to have to put up with."

The vexed issue of masks and ID checks did not seem to be creating problems with local accommodation providers.

Most said they hadn't encountered issues with people from Melbourne trying to make bookings, as customers were used to having to provide their home address and details at the time of the booking.

"We have been very lucky with our customers, as they haven't had an issue with what is needed," said Sue from the Seahorse Motel and Apartments in Cowes.



In a week when we're all struggling with another lockdown, and three Phillip Island footy teams missed out on playing in the Grand Final, Jess Gislingham has provided a ray of sunshine. The passionate Bulldogs club member took to the field for his first ever Seniors game last week, bringing some much-needed joy in these difficult times. Good on you Jess! For more on Jess' first game and an update on the state of local footy, turn to Sport (Page 17-20).

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9 14	8 13	7 15	8 15	8 15	11 16	12 15



POLICE BRIEFS

Hit and run in Cowes

San Remo police are asking for community help with an investigation into a collision in Cowes on Saturday (August 21) at around 12.30pm.

Police said a black Holden Captiva had been driving erratically on Phillip Island Road and collided with the victim's vehicle causing damage to the left-hand side.

The driver of the Holden failed to stop and exchange details as is required under the Road Safety Act. The car was last seen heading towards Rhyll and will likely have damage to the right-hand side of the vehicle.

Police are seeking anyone with dash cam footage of the incident or the vehicle in question to assist in their enquiries.

If you have any information please contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppersvic.com.au or call SC/ Margaux Rankins at San Remo Police on 5678 5500.

Bridge checks

Local police conducted a roadblock on Friday night (August 19) between 5.30pm and 6.30pm, checking the licence of everyone coming onto the island. In recent weeks, there's been increasing reports of people visiting the area in breach of Melbourne's lockdown restrictions.

Police said approximately 200 vehicles were checked, with no breaches detected.

Traffic delays

Traffic along Thompson Avenue was delayed on Sunday evening after an accident at the roundabout at Chapel Street. Police said it was a minor incident with no serious injuries and they have now spoken with all parties involved.

The new Byron? Yeah, nah...



Cape Woolamai locals are amused and a little confused about being heralded the "new Byron Bay", with many pointing out the temperatures are a lot less inviting than the northern hotspot.

Cape Woolamai locals are amused and a little confused about being heralded the "new Byron Bay".

Local surfers and residents were shaking their heads at the proclamation, which has been eagerly embraced by news outlets around the country, after Ray White chief economist Nerida Conisbee made her puzzling prediction.

Ms Conisbee said the "popular surf beach and nice main street" could make it the next coastal hotspot.

However locals on Facebook didn't share her optimism.

"Nope, wrong weather," said one, while others pointed out Woolamai Beach's reputation for dangerous rips and wild surf.

"Hopefully not," said another. "The last thing we need is a bunch of pretentious wankers taking over."

Channel 7 News also got in on the act but focused on the main street of Cowes rather than Cape Woolamai.

"With its world-class surfing, wide open beach and quaint main street dotted with cafes, restaurants and ice cream parlours, realtors and travel experts are predicting the coastal oasis could one day rival the more famous northern destination," they gushed.

Market growth

One thing that is undisputed, the price of houses in the area is on the rise.

Local Ray White estate agent Daniel Mirabito said there had been a significant growth in demand for properties in Cape Woolamai.

"It is the only area on Phillip Island with both a bay beach and a surf beach with an incredible Nature Reserve that juts out to Bass Strait.

"A general trend in buyers is the

appeal of the large stretches of wide-open coastline on both the bay and surf beaches, the bay or ocean views from many homes, the offering of several eateries, a minimart and assorted retail outlets that aren't found in some of the smaller surrounding suburbs on the Island as well as made roads and easy access to the San Remo shopping precinct across the bridge," he said.

"For sellers, it is the high prices achievable due to strong demand that is appealing for them to sell in

this unprecedented hot market."

Daniel said prices are on the increase due to a shortage of available stock and fierce competition between large numbers of buyers hoping to secure a property.

"The outlook for Cape Woolamai is very positive as more people are becoming aware of the beautiful environment on offer as well as the good infrastructure in place compared to some of the similar sized suburbs on the Island.

"I believe there is great opportunity for growth particularly when some of the original older homes are snapped up and buyers then rebuild an architecturally designed home. Some property owners are upgrading their own homes because they believe they won't be able to secure another great location."

While the prediction is a boon for real estate, locals don't expect to see the area transformed into a Byron-esque hippy haven any time soon.

"The water here in summer is colder than Byron in winter," one local told the Advertiser.

"It's given us all a good laugh."

But could the laugh be on us? Sunday was a bright and sunny 19 degrees, with whales and dolphins spotted near the Colonnades, so perhaps the Byron Bay prediction is not so wide of the mark!

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Sleeping with the fishes

The San Remo Fishing Festival will not go ahead this year.

Craig Edmonds, president of the San Remo District Tourism and Business Association said the decision had been made to cancel the 2021 event.

"The organisers of the 2021 fishing festival have regretfully decided to cancel this year's festival. Covid has thrown up many challenges over the last 18 months for businesses and events and seems a long way from any sort of normality.

"We have been discussing the Fishing Festival for 2021 and feel to run it this year it would be very restricted and not to a standard that we are trying to achieve but also with the very real prospect it could

be cancelled at a minute's notice."

The event was last held in 2019 and was one of the most successful in its 14 year history.

The fun-filled day included cooking demonstrations, fishing related displays and stalls, a blessing of the fleet, discount cruises, a deckie's race and kids' entertainment.

For the first time, the 2019 event included a sold-out Gala Dinner on the Friday night.

However organisers were keen to stress this year's cancellation would not impact on the future of the Fishing Festival.

"This is not the end of the festival, and all efforts will be again made to make it bigger and better in 2022."



The challenges of Covid has forced the cancellation of this year's San Remo Fishing Festival, which was last held in 2019, when a big crowd - twice the size of the previous year - gathered to witness the Blessing of the Fleet, while 20 boats lined up for the blessing.

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Are businesses at breaking point?

The impact of Covid is having a profound impact on local business, and not just economically.

Dealing with the constant restrictions and repeated lockdowns is affecting the mental health of owners and their staff.

Kimberley Brown from North Pier said the impact is apparent in her staff.

"We've had a lot of struggle, and I'm proud they've gotten through this far."

Before the latest lockdown, businesses reported they were struggling with the requirements to check ID (to ensure no one from Melbourne was in the venue) and getting customers to wear masks.

"There is assistance through PIT-BA and DPI, who ran a program about dealing with difficult customers, but it is weighing heavily on people's mental health," Kimberley said.

"Some are questioning if they need to find other roles. It wasn't part of their job description when they were employed, to be doing this kind of policing of these laws."

She believes a higher police presence would help deter those breaking the rules, but said local police didn't have the resources.

"We very rarely see them unless it's an emergency or we need them, but they're busy. Their whole job isn't about Covid."

She said most businesses did not call the police about issues with customers, as they were reluctant to tie up police resources.

"It doesn't warrant wasting police time when there's so many bigger issues."

Prior to the latest lockdown, Senior Sergeant Andy O'Brien from Cowes police said they weren't receiving many calls about Covid breaches, but he agreed people had come into the area from Melbourne.

"There are definitely people here that shouldn't be. People are sneaking down."



Popular Cowes restaurant North Pier said it has been horrendous for staff checking ID to see if people were trying to sneak in from Melbourne.

On Friday night (August 20), police were stopping cars coming across the bridge and checking licences, but said no breaches were detected.

Senior Sergeant O'Brien said police were keen to work with business associations and the council to try and find a local solution, and he agreed people were worn down by the ongoing lockdowns.

"I think the fatigue attached to this issue is at a ridiculous level."

He urged anyone with concerns about Covid breaches to report incidents to the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

"If people use this number, it means the job is logged and it will be despatched to a front-line unit for

attention."

Snr Sergeant O'Brien said as well as the usual 24/7 police presence, there was a Covid unit rostered on every day, which undertook pro-active policing and conducted Covid compliance checks.

Support

Kim Storey, General Manager at Destination Phillip Island (DPI), said DPI was doing all it could to support local businesses.

Last week it posted a brief video from Communications Specialist Leah Mether, outlining steps to take to make the enforcement role less fraught, including having a plan for dealing with customers who refuse

to comply.

"Go hard on the issue, but soft on the person," Leah advised, adding that having empathy and the right tone when greeting customers could help diffuse a difficult situation.

She said the period where the regions were under lighter restrictions while Melbourne was locked down, had caused additional headaches for businesses.

DPI approached local MP, Jordan Crugnale, asking for the daily press conferences to reinforce the rules around travel to regional Victoria.

Although DPI did not keep official figures on incidents, members regularly reported issues with checking ID or customers refusing to wear masks.

A weekly online coffee meeting had been set up, with members able to check in and discuss the issues with DPI and each other, providing practical, professional and emotional support.

Shire help

Bass Coast Shire Council's Economic Development and Investment Manager Shannan Little said additional funding from the state government meant a Business Support Officer role at the shire had been extended.

"Her role is to work with businesses to be Covid safe, so they can remain open and trade."

He praised local business operators, saying the recent Covid scare where 30 plus exposure sites didn't result in a single case of local transmission showed the level of compliance.

"It goes beyond more than single effort. Having 30 exposure sites and no local transmission – shows the level of compliance of local business."

He also acknowledged the burden being placed on businesses and staff, was having a severe impact on mental health.

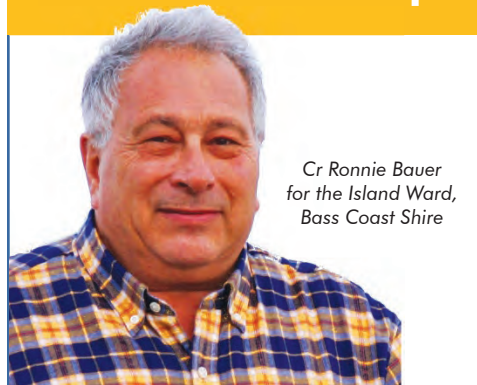
"It is hard. We are trying to encourage people to focus on the mental health aspect."

Shannan said Council was open to ideas on how to help local business cope with the increasing demands and urged anyone with suggestions to contact them.

He also urged anyone struggling emotionally to reach out for help, by contacting Beyond Blue or Lifeline Gippsland.

If you or someone you know is struggling to cope, Lifeline Gippsland offers 24/7 telephone crisis support on 13 11 14, or visit www.llg.org.au. Contact Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36 or visit beyondblue.org.au.

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



Cr Ronnie Bauer
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Council Update



Free training sessions for community groups

Council is excited to offer the following free training sessions:

- Governance for Community Groups** - Roles and Responsibilities of Committees: Tuesday, 31 August, 9.00am to 12.00pm at Inverloch Community Hub
- Succession Planning for Community Groups** - Create a succession plan for committees and volunteers: Tuesday, 31 August, 1.30pm to 4.30pm at Kilcunda Community Hall
- Grant Writing - Are You Grant Ready?** Set up a framework to address different grant requirements and applications: Wednesday, 1 September, 9.30am to 12.30pm at Bass Community Hall

Bookings are essential. To book visit our website at

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/communitytraining or contact our Community Planning Team on the numbers below.

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | DX 34903 Wonthaggi | PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995 | 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service (for people with speech or hearing difficulties) on 13 36 77 | basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au | www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

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Opening times at the Community Vaccination Centre at the Wonthaggi Town Hall have been extended this week and BCH is urging the community to book an appointment.

Get vaccinated and follow the health directives

Bass Coast Health is not only urging the community to be vaccinated against COVID-19 but also to follow the Victorian Public Health Directives to keep the community safe.

The directives are to stay at home except for the five reasons – essential shopping, caregiving or medical care (including getting a test), authorised work; exercise or to get vaccinated.

In addition, Bass Coast Health said it is extremely important that everyone wear a face mask, practise physical distancing and sanitise hands regularly to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread in our community.

"I encourage the community to be vaccinated as soon as possible to minimise the risk of them not only contracting COVID-19, but also to reduce the severity of the symptoms should they unfortunately be infected," Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child said.

"We know people who are vaccinated can still catch the virus and they can still spread the virus to unvaccinated people, including people they love. What vaccination can do is reduce the severity of the disease and reduce the incidence of death.

"For these reasons, even if you are

vaccinated, you must continue to follow the Public Health advice, keep a constant watch on the exposure sites to make sure you or someone you love hasn't worked there, and if you have the slightest of symptoms, you must get tested straight away," Ms Child said.

"We can see how fast the Delta variant of the virus spreads just by watching the situation unfolding in other jurisdictions. This is a very fast-moving virus and every person must do the right thing, to keep our local community safe."

Anyone with even the mildest of symptoms is urged to get tested immediately.

Ms Child said BCH testing sites at Wonthaggi and Cowes will extend operating hours where needed.

"We will also expand our vaccination service where we can, noting that we are still limited because of vaccination availability.

"We have designated BCH as a walk-in site for some eligible groups, but we only have so much space, staff and vaccine available, and so we still encourage people to book to avoid queueing at the Wonthaggi Town Hall."

Vaccination appointments can be booked online: portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/

"Most importantly, we ask people to be patient as we do what we can to expand our vaccination service," Ms Child said.

"We know people can get frustrated because of wait times; if you walk in and there is a line, please come back at another time. If you decide to stay in the line, please keep your distance from others in the line and please don't be disrespectful to our vaccination team.

"We are all working as hard as we can to get our community vaccinated but we ask for your kindness and your patience as our staff do their best," Ms Child said.

The Community Vaccination Centre at Wonthaggi Town Hall is open every day this week: 9am-4pm Monday, 9am-8pm Tuesday, 9am-6pm Wednesday, 9am-8pm Thursday and 9am-4pm Friday.

Please check your eligibility here: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine

Health, disability and aged care workers can walk in at any time for Pfizer.

Covidiots: Locals and visitors breaking the rules

Fines issued

Police have stepped up compliance checks after the latest lockdown was announced on Saturday afternoon, with both locals and Melburnians receiving fines for breaches.

Senior Sergeant Andy O'Brien said it was disappointing to see so many people still refusing to abide by the public health directives, with police receiving a large amount of calls over the weekend.

In response to continued concern from locals about people arriving from Melbourne, before the lockdown came into force, police set up a checkpoint at the Phillip Island Bridge.

Senior Sergeant O'Brien confirmed 200 vehicles were checked, but everyone had proof of local or regional addresses.

Once the lockdown came into force, police issued a number of fines in response to complaints from the public.

"At 4.30pm on Saturday, a family from Clyde North decided to still come to the Airbnb property they'd booked at Sunset Strip," Snr Sergeant O'Brien said.

Two tickets of \$1817 were issued to the adults.

On Saturday evening, police followed up complaints of a party in Cape Woolamai and found three young locals, two males and one female sitting in a hot tub and drinking. All three received a \$1817 fine.

Four local men having a "mini party with loud music" in Sunderland Bay on Saturday night were each issued with \$1817 fines.

On Sunday evening, police fined a woman who captured a possum at her Brunswick house and decided to release it on Phillip Island.

Police have warned they will be "hyper vigilant" on any breaches during the lockdown.

"We are getting a lot of calls and we are trying to respond to them all," Snr Sergeant O'Brien said.

He urged everyone to adhere to the stay-at-home restrictions, describing the level of traffic in Cowes on Monday as concerning.

"I'm not sure how it can be so busy in lockdown," he said.

"Please stay home, follow the restrictions, and be kind to each other."

Police can issue on-the-spot fines of up to \$1817 for adults and \$10,904 for businesses failing to comply with the current COVID-19 restrictions.

A \$5452 fine can be issued for anyone found breaching gatherings directions in the home or outside, or breaching the requirement to isolate or quarantine.

People who do not wear a face mask without a lawful exemption can be fined \$200.

The latest Covid-Safe setting are available at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-safe-settings.



Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari received his second Covid vaccination on Friday and is urging anyone who is eligible to book their vaccination appointment.

Tessari backs Vax4Bass campaign

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari received his second Covid vaccination on Friday, joining the 28.4 per cent of people in Gippsland who have received both shots.

"I strongly believe that vaccination is our way out of this health crisis and is also one of the best ways to fast-track the return of tourists to the Bass Coast region, who are vital to our economy," he said.

He also threw his support behind Bass Coast's goal to become the

first region in Victoria to achieve an 80 per cent Covid vaccination rate, with its #Vax4Bass campaign.

"We want to get to that rate as fast as possible so we can return to the lifestyle we love and help our businesses and economy recover," the Mayor said.

"We hope that this campaign can help show people a future beyond Covid. If you are eligible for a vaccine, please consider booking in for yours today."

Fines no deterrent

Before the latest lockdown was announced on the weekend, anxiety levels over Melburnians coming to the island were skyrocketing.

Despite facing potential on-the-spot fines of up to \$1800 for visiting regional Victoria, locals said people from Melbourne were openly flouting the rules.

Many residents said holiday homeowners had arrived over the past few weeks, with some repeatedly travelling between their homes on the island and the city.

"The police know they're here, but say they don't have the re-

sources to do anything about it," said one frustrated resident.

"It's not even worth reporting."

Craig Edmonds, President of the San Remo Tourism Business Association said although 90 per cent of people had done the right thing, it was frustrating that a small handful continued to visit the area and tried to go into local businesses.

"I'm not sure what the answer is, but I can see this type of problem continuing once we get to a point that it is made compulsory to have been vaccinated to go to many places.

"One thing I have been told a couple of times is the answer from people they are questioned about being here is 'we only get a slap on the wrist, so who really cares,'" he said.

"The messaging from authorities is bad and the threat of fines is just seen as a joke.

"The top is where it needs to come from, to make people think twice before they actually do the wrong thing.

"Let's start making an example of some doing the wrong thing to get the point across to others."



This final concept design, currently detailed on the Bass Coast Shire's website, has no pedestrian crossing from the seawall, through the car park, to the playground.



Silverleaves resident Gerry Gibb – who has worked in the safety industry for 30 years – said current building of a pedestrian crossing from the seawall, through the carpark, to the playground at the Rhyll boat ramp was unsafe.

Rhyll boat ramp redesign is a “safety risk”

A safety expert has criticised the current rebuild of the Rhyll boat ramp, saying the car park is not “child-safe” and poses a “high risk”.

Silverleaves resident Gerry Gibb – who has worked in the safety industry for 30 years – was a critic of the upgrade plans during the design phase of the ramp, last year highlighting the potential for accidents between vehicles and children.

However, he said after several changes were adopted by engineers, the final concept design currently detailed on the Bass Coast Shire's website was safe, with no pedestrian crossing from the seawall, through the car park, to the playground.

Gerry said last week he visited the upgrade works at Rhyll – which started in June – and to his surprise he found the pedestrian crossing through the car park from the seawall to the playground had again been reinstated.

“As they are building it now, it is not a child-safe car park,” Gerry said.

“The old car park was relatively unsafe because vehicles interacted with children, but it was more open and more visible.

“But now with the rebuild it's a high-risk environment, with the po-

tential for interaction high from reversing cars and trailers. It's a non-child friendly environment.

“If anyone did a risk assessment on this, they would laugh at it.”

Gerry – who is board chair and founder of private company Safety Wise – said viewing the current construction, the pedestrian crossing included an island in the middle of the carpark, which would be a blind spot for drivers.

“At peak times vehicles and their boats and trailers are moving all the time. There will now be three lanes on the ramp and at any one time three drivers will be moving forward or backwards in that area.

“Add into that mix children who want to get to the playground. They have not designed safety into it. They have introduced interaction, whereas the upgrade was meant to remove interaction, be safer and user-friendly.”

Studies

Gerry said as part of his submission into the boat ramp upgrade process, he had researched global car reversing studies, finding two critical pieces of research from Monash University in Melbourne and another from France.

He said the research was not with boats and trailers but with parents reversing over children in driveways. Canada, which keeps data on these accidents, had 900 children injured in one year, he said.

“The studies found that while technology and reversing car cameras help – which aren't available on trailers or boats – the first recommendation was to remove reversing, but this isn't possible at a boat ramp. “The second recommendation

is to have full separation between reversing and pedestrians, to keep it separate like they do in loading bays at shopping centres.

“But at Rhyll they are encouraging interaction. The only positive is that a reversing vehicle at most goes 5km so it would more likely be a bump, with the potential for serious injury moderate.”

Gerry added that the designs on the shire's website were confusing. While the final concept design has

no pedestrian crossing, the detailed design for the carpark includes the crossing.

Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie said after receiving feedback from the community on the concept designs for the carpark at the Rhyll Boat Ramp, a designated crossing point was incorporated into the final design, “to alleviate and address any of the concerns raised about uncontrolled pedestrian movements across the carpark”.

Boat ramp upgrade plans

The Rhyll boat ramp upgrade will include:

- Replacement of the existing three-lane boat ramp with three new lanes extended further into Western Port, to permit all-tide launch and retrieval operation
- Two new fixed jetties to replace the existing jetty, new fish cleaning tables and two new larger floating pontoons to replace the existing pontoon
- Reconstruction of the existing car park to provide 39 larger car/trailer unit spaces, with improved

traffic management, a boat wash-down bay and improved public lighting

- Replacement of the masonry seawall with a new seawall and pedestrian pathway along the eastern edge of the car park
- New dedicated kayak/yacht/canoe facility for non-powered craft; and
- Replacement of the existing playground with a new playspace constructed to current standards.

The total project cost is more than \$5 million, mostly paid by the

state government.

According to Bass Coast Shire there will be two construction windows, to minimise disruption to boating and snapper fishing season.

Stage 1 will see on site works from June.

Stage 2 will involve the marine component – jetties, pontoons and boat ramp lanes, scheduled for February/March 2022 and completed by August 2022.

These timeframes are subject to potential delays from the weather and environmental conditions.

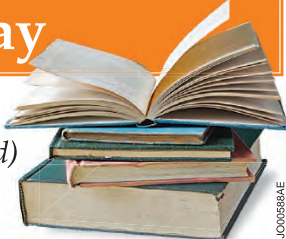
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UK5162

Have your say: Draft Community Vision 2041



Council is looking for your feedback on the draft Bass Coast Community Vision 2041. The draft Community Vision has been developed by our community panel, made up of over 40 people representative of the Shire, who have worked together to write the vision statement, aspirations and priorities for Bass Coast, for the next 20 years.

The draft Community Vision is:

From its flowing hills to its wild unspoiled coastlines, the Bass Coast is a source of celebration for all who live in and visit the region.

Our townships are vibrant, rich with culture and full of life, each with its own distinct character.

Drawing on our creativity, innovation and resilience we've created a thriving and diverse economy that supports sustainable agriculture, industry and endeavour.

As we live respectfully in harmony with our environment, we prepare for future challenges and changes.

We are the people of the Bass Coast. Experience our cultures and history and contribute to our story.

A survey, along with the future aspirations and priorities, is available at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ourfuture, or email basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au to request a copy in the post or via email.

If you require assistance to complete the survey, please contact Ann Selby, Community Engagement Advisor on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

Feedback is open until Wednesday, 8 September.

Locked down until spring

Bass Coast is back in lockdown, along with the rest of regional Victoria. The lockdown came into effect at 1pm on Saturday, August 21, as case numbers escalated in Shepparton and the state grappled with 580 exposure sites.

It will remain in place until 11.59pm September 2.

Before the lockdown was announced, the scene in Cowes was “like Christmas”, with people out enjoying the spring-like weather.

After 1pm, Thompson Avenue was deserted.

Regional Victoria will now operate under the same restrictions as Melbourne, except for the 9pm – 5am curfew.

This means the five reasons for leaving home have been reinstated.

- shopping for necessary goods and services
- caregiving or compassionate reasons, including medical care or to get a COVID-19 test
- authorised work (with a permit) or permitted education
- exercise (once a day for two hours)
- to get a COVID-19 vaccination (provided the distance travelled, and the time taken is no more than is absolutely necessary)

If you travel to Melbourne for a permitted reason, you will be required to adhere to the curfew.

Regional Victorians may also leave home to visit their intimate partner, their single social bubble buddy or in an emergency – including those at risk of family violence at any time.

Anyone 12 years and over must wear a fitted face mask whenever they leave their home, indoors or outdoors, unless a lawful exception applies.

Face masks do not need to be worn if you are working alone unless another person enters that indoor or outdoor space.

Playgrounds, basketball hoops, skate parks and outdoor exercise equipment will be closed.

Masks will also not be able to be re-



Thompson Avenue in Cowes was deserted on Saturday afternoon, after regional Victoria went back into lockdown at 1pm.

moved to drink alcoholic beverages.

Exercise will be limited to just one other person, plus dependants if they can't be left at home.

There are no visitors allowed to your home.

There have been changes to childcare settings and authorised worker permits.

All childcare centres will now be closed, except to children of authorised workers, or vulnerable children.

Permits will be required for authorised workers to leave their homes from 11.59pm on Monday, August 23.

Premier Daniel Andrews said the number of cases infectious out in the community over the last few days, as well as mystery cases emerging, was very concerning.

The aim of the lockdown was to limit movement around the state.

Demographics

The spread of the Delta strain in

young people and children is also a concern.

“The age demographic of this outbreak is very different to what we've seen before, with around 80 per cent of our active cases aged below 40 and around 25 per cent under the age of nine,” the Premier said.

As a result the public health team has strongly recommended primary school aged children, also wear a mask when they leave the house.

The Premier called on people to get vaccinated and said the government had set a target to administer one million doses in five weeks.

“There are more than 390,000 COVID-19 vaccine appointments available over the next four weeks and we're asking all eligible Victorians to book theirs today – do not wait.”

You can book a vaccination appointment by visiting portal.cvms.vic.gov.au or by phoning the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Regional businesses get financial support

A \$146.6 million program from the state and Federal government will provide financial support for businesses impacted by the latest lockdown.

Grants will be paid automatically, without businesses having to apply.

The money will be allocated via the Business Costs Assistance Program, and the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund grants.

Around 18,000 businesses in regional Victoria will automatically receive payments of \$5600 (\$2800 per week) if they have previously received grants under the Business Costs Assistance Round Two or July Extension programs.

Automatic payments of \$5000, \$10,000 and \$20,000 per week will be made to licensed hospitality premises in regional Victoria that have previously received grants under the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund 2021 or July Extension programs.

Payment amounts will be tiered according to premises capacity: \$5000 for a capacity of up to 99 patrons, \$10,000 for a capacity of 100 to 499 patrons, and \$20,000 for a capacity of 500 patrons or more.

Businesses in regional Vic-

toria that don't qualify for this new support and have experienced a reduction in revenue of at least 70 per cent can apply for the \$252 million Small Business COVID Hardship Fund, which provides grants of \$14,000 to successful applicants.

Eligible workers and sole traders could receive the Commonwealth COVID-19 Disaster Payment, which is administered through Services Australia.

People who have lost from eight to 20 hours work or a full day of work (over seven days) will receive \$450.

Those who have lost 20 hours or more will receive \$750, while people who receive certain Commonwealth income support are eligible to receive a \$200 payment where they have lost eight hours or more of work due to the lockdowns.

Victorian micro-businesses and sole trader business owners who wish to apply for the Commonwealth COVID-19 Disaster Payment can access the Business Victoria Concierge Service on 13 22 15 and schedule an appointment to help them make an application.

More information about the business support programs is available at business.vic.gov.au.

Community call from Nature Parks

Do you love wildlife, the Island's environment and community? Would you like to be more involved in what's happening at Phillip Island Nature Parks including hearing directly from the Board and team about conservation works and future planning?

Then the Nature Parks Community and Environment Committee is for you!

This Board advisory committee has just completed its three-year term and applications are now open for four community members to join the team.

Known affectionately as the 'CEAC', this group meets quarterly for two hours at a Nature Parks venue or online to share information. You will receive updates from the Nature Parks Board, Conservation Team and special guests as well as sharing community information via updates from Phillip Island's community groups and members about upcoming events, activities and topics to work together to create community solutions.

“Over the recent term, this committee has enjoyed behind the scenes tours with the team. Members also made a significant contribution to community planning such as the draft Phillip Island (Mallowl) Wildlife Plan to find place-based solutions for abundant wildlife and the Sharing our Beaches campaign to promote a safe summer for people and wildlife,” said Catherine Basterfield, Nature Parks CEO.

“We are delighted to be offering the opportunity for community members of all ages and experience to get involved to work together to



Phillip Island Nature Parks is calling for community members to join its Community and Environment Committee. Applications close on September 19.

achieving the Nature Parks' aspirations of protecting nature for wildlife and further developing community partnerships. Our community is incredibly important to us. We can't do it without you!”

Phillip Island Nature Parks manages four main attractions: the Penguin Parade, Nobbies Centre, Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island. It also manages 20 per cent of the Island's natural areas including beaches, wetlands and woodlands – it probably manages your local beach or

walking track.

If this sounds like the right fit for you as a community member, please visit www.penguins.org.au/community and select Community Committees to find further information, application form and to read previous committee minutes.

Applications close Sunday, September 19 and successful applicants will be advised in time to attend the next meeting on Thursday, September 30.

Further information and contact: executiveassistant@penguins.org.au / Sponsored Article /

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Phillip Island Nature Parks is calling for interested local community members to get involved and nominate to join its Community and Environment Advisory Committee.

The Community and Environment Advisory Committee provides a great opportunity for a two-way information flow between the Nature Parks and the local community to assist in planning, and keep the community up to date.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED:

VISIT:

www.penguins.org.au/about/local-community/community-committees

EMAIL:

executiveassistant@penguins.org.au

CALL: 03 5951 2804

Nominations close: Sun 19 Sept 2021

First meeting: Thurs 30 Sept 2021



Phillip Island
**NATURE
PARKS**

penguins.org.au/community

OUR
COMMUNITY



Cats to be locked-up, no details on off-leash dog areas

Cat owners may be legally required to lock up their moggies 24/7 from July next year, according to Bass Coast Shire's draft animal plan.

And some dog owners may be dejected too, with the plan offering no details on new off-leash areas.

The draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25 (DAMP) is currently seeking community feedback until September 12, with the final DAMP to go before council next month.

The plan also details beefed up enforcement not only for dogs off-leash and cat containment, but also barking dogs and attacks, with 144 reports of alleged dog attacks and 187 barking complaints in the past year.

The DAMP proposes a feasibility study into the costs and benefits of introducing dog waste bins and bags.

Following community consultation earlier this year, the shire received 556 survey responses that helped create the draft plan, with 76 per cent of respondents owning a dog, 16 per cent owning a cat, and 50 per cent from Phillip Island.

Cat curfew

Currently the shire requires cat owners to lock up their pet for night-time curfew, from sunset to sunrise.

However, the DAMP takes this a step further, suggesting 24/7 cat containment will be enforced from July 1, 2023.

A cat containment working group will be created this year – “with the objective of supporting the community to adopt 24/7 cat containment” – which will meet quarterly until December 2023.

“Many studies have demonstrated that cats safely con-



Cat owners may be legally required to lock up their moggies 24/7 from July next year, according to Bass Coast Shire's draft animal plan. Photo: Alvan Nee, Unsplash.

tained to their property live longer and have healthier life outcomes than cats that are able to wander at large,” the plan states.

“Cats contained to properties avoid road trauma, exposure to disease, pathogens or parasites, and attacks from other animals.

“Contained cats can be walked and exercised outside of their property if kept on a leash.”

There were 92 requests for shire-loaned cat cages to confine nuisance cats.

Dogs off-leash

Dog groups have been calling on the shire to expand off-leash areas, with the shire in 2020 running a community survey to determine support for more off-leash areas including in Rhyll, (on the beach between Jansson Road and Walton Street), as well as Cowes East (on the beach between the Dunsmore Road beach access track and Rose Avenue

beach access track).

The DAMP, however, does not detail off-leash areas.

The plan proposes the creation of a working group “to provide guidance and recommendations on improving dog off-leash areas”.

It also proposes to review existing inland dog off-leash areas and “develop a plan to provide suitable inland dog off-leash areas across the shire”.

It states grant funding could provide for fencing, furniture, landscaping and play infrastructure.

CEO Ali Wastie explained while the DAMP identified key priorities, its role was not to detail which areas should or shouldn't cater to dogs off-leash.

Ms Wastie said a review of the current management of dogs off-leash areas on shire-managed beaches would come later, and include community consultation.

“This review will incorporate the 2020 consultation around dog off-leash areas in Cowes East and Rhyll,” she said.

Enforcement

The DAMP states community feedback in the surveys called for “an increase in the number of patrols and enforcement actions undertaken for dogs”.

Currently the shire works with the Phillip Island Nature Parks to patrol beaches, especially in Hooded Plover breeding season.

“Community consultation highlighted the need to provide a greater presence to enforce regulations at beaches and parks, and for animal owners to display respect for others,” the plan states.

As such, the DAMP proposes to increase officer patrols

and enforcement on beaches from December to April.

It states the shire will work with PINP and Parks Victoria to “agree on best rules regarding off-leash times”, also working to simplify and streamline signage, with more consistent rules around off-leash times.

Community members also called for more education for pet owners on the impacts and implications of pets near conservation areas.

Illegal businesses

In the past year three domestic animal businesses were found to be breaching regulations.

“Notices to comply were issued. Second inspections revealed that breaches were rectified, and businesses were compliant,” the plan states.

There are eight registered domestic animal businesses in Bass Coast, including an animal shelter, two boarding kennels, one day care, a home boarding, dog training and two breeding establishments.

“Community safety officers inspect these facilities annually to ensure compliance,” the DAMP states.

“We actively seek to identify, investigate and prosecute any illegal domestic animal businesses operating in Bass Coast.”

Community feedback in the plan also called for a decrease in feral animals, and more protection for wildlife.

Feedback in writing on the DAMP can be sent to basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au, by post to Coordinator Community Safety Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi 3995, or in person at any customer service centres.

Dog owners question DAMP

The Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association said it will be making a submission about the draft DAMP proposal.

It urged all dog owners to read the draft and contact the Association with any concerns, or make a submission to Council.

“The dog attack figures quoted in the draft imply there have been hundreds of dog at-

tacks or rushes, when in fact we have been told by council there were just three recorded attacks on Phillip Island in 2020,” the Association said.

“We are seeking clarification from council on these figures.”

The Association supports responsible dog ownership and will continue to lobby for improved on and off-leash areas in Bass Coast.

Cats and dogs: facts and figures

The draft of the new Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) provides some interesting insights into local pets and problems.

With over 9000 cats and dogs registered in the shire, issues ranged from lost pets through to noise complaints and attacks.

Of the 2678 domestic animal requests the shire responded to in the past year, there were 90 calls about dogs off-leash, 317 about lost pets and 187 barking dogs.

Although only five dog attacks and five dog rushes were prosecuted in the last year, Council investigated 144 reports of alleged attacks.

The DAMP stated the number of reports has risen by 36 since 2016-17 (144 compared to 108) partly due to the increased dog population, as well as increased dog walking in the community during Covid.

This year the shire “de-

clared” 17 dogs: six as dangerous, 10 as menacing and one a restricted breed.

Dog and cat impoundments have decreased significantly since the last DAMP was developed four years ago.

In 2016 there were 589 dogs and cats impounded, with 280 reunited with their owners and 111 euthanised.

In 2020 there were 311 dogs and cats impounded, and 166 reunited and a total of 30 euthanised.

Impounded pets are housed in the shire's pound for up to eight days, with animals then transferred to the RSPCA's care for adoption, and also to rescue groups.

The plan says there has been an increase in pet registrations, possibly due to COVID-19 pet purchases.

The 2020-21 human population of Bass Coast is 37,445, with 7385 dogs registered and 2004 cats.

Vision for zero net emissions by 2030

By Totally Renewable Phillip Island

Have you thought about buying an electric vehicle?

Then consider this: the Good Car Company (part of EnergyLab, Australia's largest clean tech start-up – dedicated to the clean energy transition) is buying second hand electric vehicles in Japan and bringing them to Australia for resale.

The company provides quality affordable electric vehicles to assist in an equitable transition to low emissions transport, helping to increase the availability and affordability of electric vehicles in Victoria.

This caught the eye of Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) who are continually looking for ideas to help us achieve zero emissions.

Mary Whelan the convenor of the TRPI Clean Transport group, contacted the Good

Car Company to see if they could offer their second-hand electric vehicles for sale on Phillip Island and Bass Coast. Their model is a Bulk Buy for interested communities.

“They have worked with the communities of Hepburn, Southern Tasmania and Canberra,” Mary said.

“Their current program is in Geelong. Upcoming programs are planned in Sydney, Brisbane and South Australia.”

See their webpage for details of the cars they have available and the how the program works. www.goodcar.co

“They were supportive but would need to understand what interest there is here,” she said.

TRPI has prepared a survey to allow people to express an interest. It is on the TRPI webpage at totallyrenewablephillipisland.weebly.com or via direct link: forms.gle/hoyxMkWT2GEcC8ee8. Have your say today!

“Transport accounts for 29.7 per cent of the total Bass Coast carbon emissions so it needs our attention,” Mary said.

Mostly EV cars will be charged at home but facilities are needed for visitors. There are already two EV charging points at the Cowes Transit Centre and in the future TRPI would like to see them become fast chargers.

Since 2019 TRPI has attended community markets and run an Open Day to provide information on zero emission vehicles, showcasing passenger EVs, EV commuter bus, E Motor Bike, and E Bikes.

It has also participated in Infrastructure Victoria's Community Panel to develop the incentives to promote the uptake of EVs needed to be put in place by the Victorian Government.

/sponsored article/



Have you thought about buying an electric vehicle? TRPI is looking at organising a bulk buy of second hand EVs and is conducting a survey to gauge the level of public interest.

What if EV Fast Charger stations also promoted BASS COAST festivals and Local Businesses?

What if?

BASS COAST DESTINATION SITES

LOCAL Events

- 21 Oct - Festival
- 8 Nov - Food & Bev
- 15 Nov - Parade
- 5 Dec - Opening
- 8 Dec - School Fete
- 12 Dec - Cowes Beach Party Hoopalooza

Will an EV be your next car?

Consider this: the Good Car Company (part of Energy Lab, Australia's largest clean tech start-up - dedicated to the clean energy transition) is buying second hand electric vehicles in Japan and bringing them to Australia for resale. This caught the eye of Totally Renewable Phillip Island and we want to know what you think! The survey link is on our web page

totallyrenewablephillipisland.weebly.com

EV charger

Infrastructure

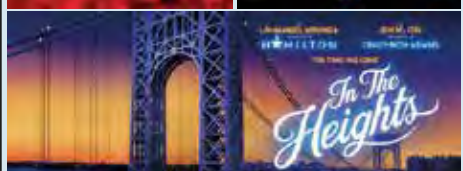
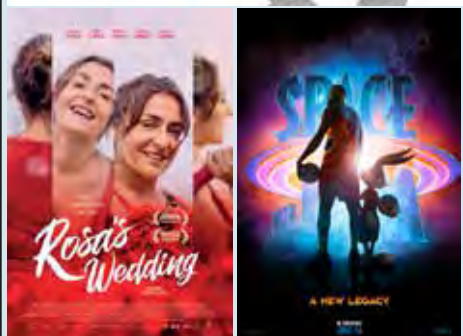
Totally Renewable Phillip Island

Wonthaggi Arts Centre

25 Aug - 30 Sep

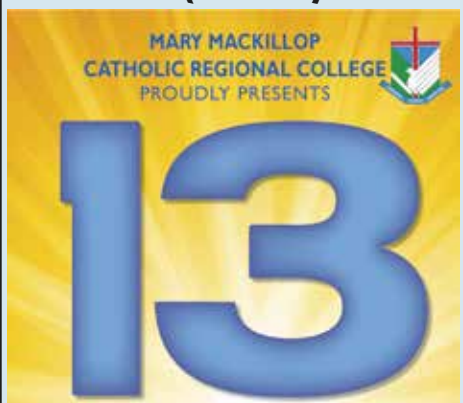
CINEMA

Coming Soon September



LIVE EVENTS

Mary Mackillop Catholic Regional College presents
13 (Musical)

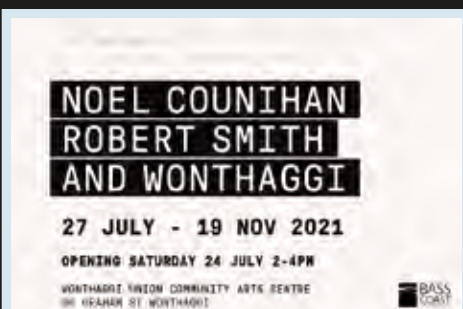


Wed 22 September 7:30pm

Thu 23 September 1:00pm

Thu 23 September 7:30pm

EXHIBITIONS



Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre

Box Office, Tue - Fri 10:00am 4:00pm
www.wonthaggiartscentre.com

96 Graham St, Wonthaggi 3995
phone: 03 5671 2470



THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news



Krishna and John Methven, with author Dianne Dempsey (centre), at the launch of her book "When He Came Home" at the Vietnam Veterans Museum on August 19.

A hidden history

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum hosted author Dianne Dempsey for a special book launch on Friday, August 19.

Dianne's book "When He Came Home" examines the impact on the partners and children of veterans when they returned home.

Veteran John Methven, the driving force behind the establishment of the museum, introduced the author, reflecting on his own experiences and noting how important it was to hear these stories.

"The book looks right at the core of the matter, and the damage veterans can do to families without being aware."

"I think it's important to talk about it. Reading this book, I was reading about myself," he said.

Written over several years, Dianne said the original inspiration came from an article she was writing about Vietnam Veterans Day.

"I wanted to get the veterans to talk to me about dealing with PTSD, and its impact and effect on their mental health."

"One of them told me, 'I was so hard to live with. I didn't talk to my wife for six months'," Dianne said. "That's when I realised there was another story, about the wives."

"It's a hidden part of our history."



After the speeches and a reading by Dianne, there was a book signing and afternoon tea.

In Australia, people are less aware of the role women played.

"Many of the men said they would be dead if not for their wives."

Dianne said PTSD was at the core of the book and talking to wives and family members revealed the terrible impact on homes and marriages.

"Vietnam threw a grenade into a lot of marriages," she said.

"I met many wonderful women, who trusted me with private and personal information."

"Many talked about suffering, and the mental and physical pain of their marriages, and how for many years, they thought they

were alone."

She praised the bravery of the women, including those who set up the support group "Partners of Veterans" and lobbied Canberra for welfare services and compensation.

Women continue to play a vital role in recognising and getting recognition for the impacts of war on veterans, Dianne said, and noted it was women – mothers of soldiers who had suicided – who had lobbied for the current Defence and Veteran Suicide Royal Commission.

"PTSD has always been around in war, but it wasn't called PTSD," she said.

John Methven said the impacts of war on veterans continued to effect families and that it was not just about the Vietnam Veterans.

"This is about all veterans. A lot of young veterans are going through the same hard times, and so are their families."

"We have a major responsibility to provide support for young veterans."

"Never again will one generation desert another," he said.

"When He Came Home" is available for sale at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum. www.vietnamvetsmuseum.org

Island Voice AGM heading online

The scheduled Annual General Meeting for Island Voice will now be held online, because of the current lockdown.

Due to be held at the RSL, it will now be held online at 11am on August 28.

Pre-registrations for the AGM are now open at us-02web.zoom.us/j/7tUqceusqTovGt0ig7ta-YUPH4zNDCi0S1AM8

After registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Island Voice committee apologised for any inconvenience caused by these changes and hope everyone is keeping safe.

You can find more details and the registration link on the Island Voice Facebook page.

Rhyll's Garden of The Month award

The Rhyll Community Association's Garden of the Month competition is back.

Nominations open on September 1 and awards will be presented to the selected gardens for the months of September, November and January (2022).

All homes within the township of Rhyll qualify for nomination for Garden of the Month and forms are available from the Rhyll General Store.

The winner will be judged on style, colour, layout and general enjoyment of each garden.

The Rhyll Garden of the Month Award



Nominations open from September 1 for the Rhyll Community Associations Garden of the Month competition.

All garden types will be considered from the meticulously cultured garden to the wild native garden and anything in between.

The winner of Garden of the Month Award will be presented with a \$50 garden voucher prize, certificate and wonderful keepsake sign to be displayed in their garden.

So get those gardens in order while you are having a Covid 'holiday'.

For further information contact Judy on rwbj@inet.net.au.



Georgia Louise Tainton was born on July 12, weighing 3.11kgs. Congratulations to proud parents Michelle and Glenn from Cowes.



Paleontology enthusiast Mike Cleeland – who has a dinosaur named after him – has successfully pushed for a dinosaur trail for Bass Coast.

Dino trail roars to life

A proposed Dinosaur Trail – running 40km from San Remo to Inverloch – would bring \$36 million to the local economy and hundreds of new jobs, according to a new masterplan.

The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail masterplan, currently out for community consultation until the end of August, will include six sites that link polar dinosaur fossils.

About \$7 million in government funding is needed to kickstart the yet-to-be-funded trail, which will include a museum to be built in Inverloch alongside a sound and light installation.

The masterplan identifies the broad design concepts, locations and infrastructure and will be used to request government funding.

Consultants were commissioned by the shire to create economic modelling in the masterplan, finding that by 2035 it is expected to generate \$36 million to the Bass Coast economy and support 418 full-time equivalent new and existing jobs in hotels, restaurants, and other visitor attractions, including the soon-to-be-established Yallock-Bulluk Coastal Park running from San Remo.

The modelling states the Dinosaur Trail is expected to increase visitors to the region by 74,000 per year by 2035.

“Further economic modelling will determine the direct jobs generated by the investment in establishing the trail,” the masterplan states.

Festival

The masterplan states as part of the trail there could be a ‘dig’ festival held every two years as a community celebration of music and art.

There will also be potential for a mo-



Koolasuchus cleelandi, a giant carnivorous salamander that lived about 125 million years ago, was discovered by Mike in San Remo. Image courtesy of Museums Victoria.

bile apps and virtual experiences, alongside artworks and installations.

The six sites will include San Remo, Kilcunda, Wonthaggi, Eagles Nest, The Caves and Inverloch, and each will be a standalone destination but when combined will be a connected journey of dinosaur experiences

San Remo

The masterplan states at San Remo there could be large sculptures and artworks seen from the Phillip Island Road and the San Remo bridge.

“The installations act as a gateway to Dinosaur Country and interact with the existing sculptural pieces on the San Remo foreshore,” the plan states.

At the Lions Park – near where

Koolasuchus cleelandi was discovered – a broad-scale installation “unlike anything else along the trail” is proposed.

Each site will aim to educate visitors on responsible use of the coastal environment, as well as Bunurong cultural heritage complemented by paleontological information and historical dig references.

While some sites may need carparking upgrades, the masterplan states each site may include electric charging spots and an electric tourist bus shuttle that circulates between areas to reduce congestion.

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/projects/bass-coast-dinosaur-trail-master-plan to view the masterplan. The online survey is open until the end of August.

First a new dinosaur, now the trail

Amateur local paleontologist Mike Cleeland not only has a dinosaur named after him, but the newly-proposed Dinosaur Trail is his brainchild.

Mike, a well-known Phillip Island resident, was foraging in a rock platform off Rowell’s Beach in San Remo in April 1990, when he made his great discovery.

“It was partly embedded in the rock and at first I thought it was a piece of tree,” he says,

“It” turned out to be a fossil jawbone – teeth included – of a newly-discovered species, now known around the world as *Koolasuchus cleelandi*, a giant carnivorous salamander that lived about 125 million years ago.

Cleelandi?

“The discoverer does not get to name a find. The name was chosen by Tom (the scientist who confirmed it was a new species) in honour of me, as well as Leslie Kool, who did the technical preparation.”

Mike was a science teacher at Newhaven College from 1989 and has worked at Bunurong Environment Centre in Inverloch as the education officer for more than a decade.

Working under the umbrella of the South Gippsland Conservation Society, Mike a few years ago gathered a group of five enthusiasts to form the Bass Coast Dinosaur Discovery Trail Committee.

He says while the dinosaur trail will educate residents and visitors about the diversity of Antarctic dinosaurs in Bass Coast, he also hopes it will raise awareness about a more modern issue: climate change.

“Polar dinosaurs are important to understand because they lived here at a time when Antarctica was ice-free and when carbon dioxide levels were four times what they are now.

“At that time Antarctica was free of ice, so there’s a clear correlation between high CO₂ levels and no ice. In other words, if we allow carbon emissions to increase, we will eventually end up with the same results.”

Where the dinosaurs roamed

About 125 million years ago, Bass Coast was attached to Antarctica and home to a range of polar dinosaurs, including some found nowhere else on earth.

The Dinosaur Trail will highlight “the global significance of this stretch of coastline.”

San Remo

Koolasuchus cleelandi

Type: Carnivorous amphibian, 4.5m (long) x 1m (high)

First discovered by Leslie Kool and Mike Cleeland near San Remo in 1990. It may have preyed on some of the smaller ornithomimid dinosaurs as well as large fish from its cool aquatic environment.

Kilcunda

Serendipaceratops arthurclarkei

Type: Herbivorous ceratopsian 2m x 1m

Discovered by Tom Rich and Patricia Vickers-Rich, near Kilcunda, in 1993. It is the first representative of the ceratopsians to be found in Australia. It is widely agreed it is a primitive species of horned/frilled dinosaur like Protoceratops.

Inverloch

Ankylosaurs

Type: Herbivorous ceratopsian 3m x 1m

Heavy-bodied and armoured for protection against predators, featuring belly armour, spikes and dermal ossicles over the neck and trunk.

The Caves

Qantassaurus interpidus

Type: Herbivorous ornithomimid 1.8m x 1.0m

About the size of a kangaroo, it was discovered by Patricia Vickers-Rich and Tom Rich from a lower jaw found at the Dinosaur Dreaming site at Inverloch in 1994.

Eagles Nest

Large Theropod

Type: Carnivorous carnosaur 6m x 2m

A top predator, this speedy dinosaur had huge claws on its hands and slender-toed feet, and has been described as the cheetah of Cretaceous Australia. Compared to other Australian carnivorous dinosaurs, we have the most complete fossil record for this species.

Is it a cough or a Covid cough? Only a test can tell

The state government has launched a new campaign encouraging people to get tested as soon as any cold symptoms appear.

It encourages Victorians to always see their cold symptoms as possible coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and hopefully drive up testing numbers across the state.

The government says data shows that even 18 months into the pandemic, many people still assume that their cold and flu symptoms are not related to COVID-19 and less

than half the number of people who experience cold and flu symptoms get tested.

The campaign hopes to build community awareness of when to get tested and decrease the time people might spend being infectious out in the community.

The campaign has been prompted by the number of mystery cases in the current outbreak.

"We're imploring every single Victorian to come forward and get tested if they have the slightest of symptoms – whether it's a headache

or a slight sniffle – you may not think it's coronavirus, but only a test can tell," Health Minister Martin Foley said.

The Minister said coming forward to get tested is one of the most important things Victorians can do to help stop the virus spreading.

The government said the state's testing facilities have the capacity to deal with bigger numbers than the 30,000 daily tests currently being processed.

However the Minister said getting tested was the short-term way out

of the outbreak and the government remained focused on increasing vaccination rates.

"Getting vaccinated is our long-term way out of this pandemic. There are a million things that we miss while we're in lockdown – and each of those is a reason to get vaccinated," he said, stating the government is aiming to administer one million doses in the next five weeks.

He said there are more than 200,000 COVID-19 vaccine appointments available now and more are always coming online.

Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to speak to a GP, pharmacist or a senior immuniser at one of the state-run vaccination sites.

Vaccination appointment can be made at portal.cvms.vic.gov.au or by phoning the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Testing sites are currently operating in Cowes and Wonthaggi.

The Cowes drive through clinic at the Transit Centre and the Wonthaggi Hospital drive through clinic both currently operate 9am – 3pm, seven days a week.

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Fatal fire threat prompts smoke alarm warning

The number of Victorians who died in house fires increased in 2020, a new report reveals, prompting an urgent smoke alarm warning by Victoria's fire services.

Country Fire Authority and Fire Rescue Victoria data reveals 22 people died in preventable Victorian house fires in 2020, an increase from 16 the year before, and above the long-term annual average of 18.

The majority of the fires started at night, between 9pm and 6am, with 72 per cent starting in living areas and bedrooms. Of note, half of the 18 properties where the fires broke out did not have working smoke alarms.

Firefighters say these tragic deaths reinforce CFA and FRV firefighters' recommendations to install interconnected smoke alarms in all bedrooms, living areas and hallways.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said installing in-

terconnected smoke alarms would ensure that when any alarm activated, all smoke alarms in your home would sound.

"There is a clear increase in fatal fire risk in the rooms where people sleep and rest, with our data showing that over the past decade, fatal fires have most commonly started in bedrooms and living areas," he said.

"We know only one-in-five Victorians have a smoke alarm in any bedroom and around 60 per cent have a smoke alarm in any living area."

"We want people to be aware there is a real and dangerous threat of fire in bedrooms and living areas because that's where we most commonly see fatal house fires start."

Acting Fire Rescue Commissioner Ken Brown said these heartbreaking and preventable deaths demonstrated why it was so important to



The number of Victorians who died in house fires increased in 2020 and the CFA said almost half of the 18 properties where the fatalities occurred did not have working smoke alarms.

have working smoke alarms in their homes.

"Working smoke alarms offer you the best chance of surviving a fire, and without one

your risk of dying in a house fire dramatically increases," Acting Commissioner Brown said.

"We know most fatal fires

start at night, and the smell of smoke will not wake you up, so it is crucial you have smoke alarms in all bedrooms, living areas and

hallways."

"For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected so that all alarms sound in the event of a fire."

In the past decade, Victorian firefighters have responded to more than 32,000 residential fires.

Statistics show that in the past 10 years, the kitchen was the most common room of fire ignition for non-fatal incidents, however fires that caused serious injury or death most commonly started in lounge and bedroom areas.

Victorians can purchase interconnected smoke alarms at most local hardware stores. Some are connected wirelessly, which don't require hardwiring by an electrician.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/silenceisdeadly or www.frv.vic.gov.au/smokealarms.



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This excellent freehold location will be auctioned on September 18 at 2pm on site (if not sold prior).

Call Alex Scott & Staff today on 5952 2633 to discuss this amazing opportunity further.



Situated in Central Cowes, this high-profile cafe is an excellent freehold location, up for auction on September 18 at 2pm onsite.



Investors take note – Freehold Title. Island Whole Foods is a takeaway and sit-down café with some whole food retail.



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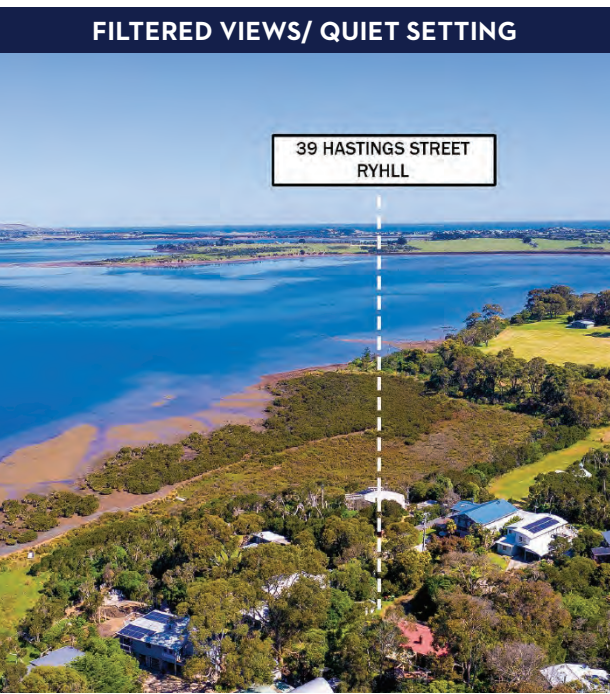
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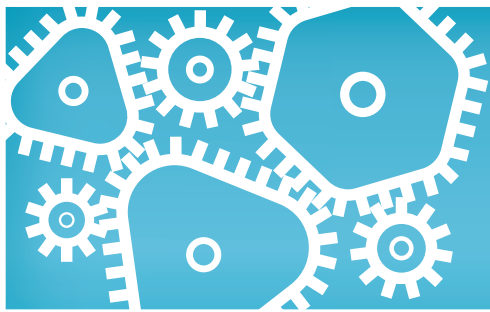
Nestled away in a quiet pocket of Cape Woolamai and only a short stroll to the beach makes this the ideal lifestyle. Comprising 3 bedrooms plus main bathroom and ensuite, a light filled living areas. The property currently is tenanted and its returning \$1570 per calendar month. This coastal property Offers low maintenance all round for what ever use you choose.

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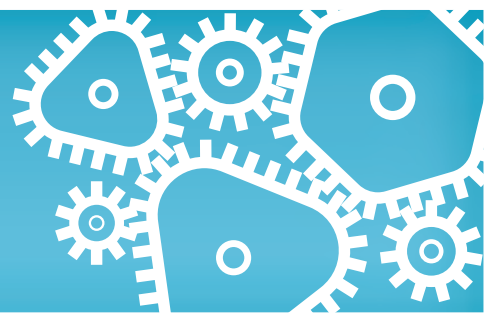
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Locals line up for Community Achievement Awards

Four local organisations have been nominated in this year's Victorian Community Achievement Awards – a fantastic achievement in such a difficult year.

The Community Achievement Awards started in 2002 and are designed to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions that individuals, communities and businesses make throughout regional and rural Victoria.

In 2020, Phillip Island's Mat Bowtell won the Regional Achiever of the Year award for his work with his charity Free 3D Hands, as well as the Leadership and Innovation Award and we're hoping this year's nominees – PICAL, Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Phillip Island Helicopters and Phillip Island Winery – can follow in his footsteps.

Judging for the 2021 awards is now underway with four finalists selected for each category.

Finalists will be announced in early September, with the awards presentation scheduled for December 10.

This year, our nominees are:

PICAL – Community Group Award

PICAL has been nominated for services provided in response to the Covid pandemic, including its emergency food relief service and social service provision such as Centrelink, women's support, welfare assistance and the community garden. This is on top of its role as a provider of adult learning programs.

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club – Leadership and Innovation

WBSLSC has been nominated for its work to replace the club caravan for the Mallacoota SLSC. After the Mallacoota club's caravan was destroyed in the Black Summer bushfires, WBSLSC raised over \$10,000 towards the purchase and custom fit out of a caravan, so the club could again run its life saving programs over summer.

Phillip Island Winery – Business Achievement

Since the new owners took over in November 2018, the winery has extended to include a separate Cellar Door, increased the food offering, extended its opening hours and created a large outdoor area. The winery stocks a selection of Gippsland produce and holds regular events and was featured in the Click for Vic campaign. It has used the 'down time' of Covid to introduce a wine club and fine tune the business.

Phillip Island Helicopters – Business Achievement

The impact of the Covid pandemic has meant a reduction in all aspects of the business, but the team are back in the sky employing two full time pilots and one part time, offering six scenic flight routes, as well as charter flights. With a strong focus on safety and service, the company considers its biggest achievement is its commitment to tourism excellence - with every customer receiving the same high-level experience and attention.

The Community Achievement Awards consist of seven categories:

- Prime Super Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award
- Regional Development Victoria Business Achievement Award
- Regional Development Victoria



PICAL has been nominated for the Community Group Awards for services provided in response to the Covid pandemic, including its emergency food relief service.



Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club is nominated for the Leadership and Innovation award for its work to replace the club caravan for the Mallacoota SLSC after the Black Summer bushfires.



Phillip Island Winery is nominated for the Business Achievement award at this year's Victorian Community Achievement Awards.



Phillip Island Helicopters is nominated for Business Achievement for its focus on safety and service, and its commitment to tourism excellence.

- ria Leadership and Innovation Award
- Ricoh Australia Customer Service Award
- GOTAFE Community Education Award
- Awards Australia Community Group Award
- Southside Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Community Hero Award

Category winners will receive \$2000 into an account in their name from Westpac, or a PRIME7 Television Package. One of the category winners will be named the "Westpac Regional Achiever of the Year" and will receive an additional \$2000 and state trophy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

Thank you for your kindness

I want to share with my community how much my mother and my family are in awe of and in absolute gratitude to the entire staff at Grossard Court Aged Care Facility on Phillip Island.

The nursing and everyday care never ceases to amaze us and we want everyone to know!

Our connection with the island dates back to 1940's when my grandparents Laurie and May Bakewell and their children spent their holidays on the island.

My mother Maureen Foldi has been a permanent resident here for the past twenty years and moved to Grossard Court three years ago.

Mum owned and managed nursing homes and worked as a registered nurse for many years.

Her constant comments of praise and appreciation for the staff and her environment reassure us everyday.

Mum has seen it from both sides and has very high standards, so we are grateful everyday knowing she's receiving such excellent care.

My experience has been that the residents are consistently given beautiful care from genuine, loving staff who treat them with respect and acknowledgment.

I always feel like it's home for my mum.

I want to publicly acknowledge the entire team who attend to every practical aspect of the residents lives with professionalism, kindness and support.

Through very challenging times and often their own personal difficulties the entire team care for their Grossard Court family with professionalism and genuine kindness.

Thank you for your kindness.
Anne Foldi, Phillip Island

Development overload

As a resident of Phillip Island for many years of years, I have noted a lot of changes and most notably the acceleration of development on the island.

And would say most homes are seemingly empty.

There seems to be a focus on turning Phillip Island into an extension of Pakenham, being just another outer city suburb.

To my amazement I read an article recently that was an interview of an employee of Ray White stating that Cape Woolamai will be the next Byron Bay, saying "it's a popular surf beach and nice main street"...it's the one that ticked all the boxes"

She predicted it could one day rival its pricey northern cousin.

The article also tied in the Hems-worth brothers who now live in Byron Bay but grew up on Phillip Island. It seems that Phillip Island is looked upon as one big development opportunity.

What do others think?
Would like to hear.
Robin Lick, Smiths Beach

Living in a beautiful place, helps during a Pandemic

We crest the hill, and down below
Our Island floats on aqua glow,
And pelicans, like daubs of white
Fly in, upon a beam of light,
Where fishing boats, like painted toys

On silver water, bob at buoys.

Reflected in the golden day
The bridge, a shining curve of grey,
Is poised above a molten sea,
The sky, in perfect harmony.
Sun stars fleck water out of reach
of children, whirling on the beach.

Along the cliffs, where sea grass clings,
White fluttering of seagulls' wings
Are bright against the rocks and scars
Ancient granite mounds, and spars,

While in the burrows, down below,
The tiny penguins come, and go.

This is our home, our joy, our place,
An Island draped in surf, like lace.
It's song, the lonely plover's cry,
It's art, an ocean sunset sky.
We crest the hill, and see it there,
Our magic Island, that we share.

Janet Cram, Cowes

No dogs at large in Rhyll

I wish to draw your attention to Mr Greg Price's/PIBCDA's quote (PIS-RA, August 18) that the association's "huge membership would continue to remind councillors and shire staff of these issues at the ballot box."

Over the past twenty-five years I have cherished five rescue dogs, and because of the very special location of the Ramsar international wetlands and on the understanding that no dogs are allowed at large in Rhyll, none of my animals have been off leash.

It's a privilege to live in such a glorious environment and heart breaking to witness dogs chasing flocks of swans or gangs of pelicans.

To the extent that the dulcet voices have to shout, "No dogs at large anywhere in Rhyll".

VC Hamilton, Rhyll

Taxpayer dollars prop arthritic coal power

Just in case you missed it we're in danger of being sluggish with fees on electricity bills, to keep coal power in business.

Capacity Payment, by ESB (EnergySecurity Board) are supposed to improve reliability and keep prices down. It will do neither. Last year, Australia experienced 200 days of failures of coal power stations. Capacity Payment will cost more than Julia Gillard's carbon price and do nothing to reduce emissions.

While there's so much fuss about "fair transition" for people working in the coal industry, our Minister for Energy, Angus Taylor keeps slogging on with ideas supported only by foreign owned coal companies, possibly also by mainstream media, anything to prop up ad revenue.

In other countries, auctions are held for planned new power capacity needed in four or five years. Obviously renewables and storage are included but fossil fuels can try.

Whichever kind of winners, it's clear old coal fired power needs orderly retirement plan, not slam bam closure.

So fair transition is planned. Process even provides for plan/fine tuning with emission reductions, to stay below 1.5 and/or 2 degrees warming.

In our backyard, how crazy that mainstream media just goes nuts when possible closures are mentioned.

Lies about price spikes when Hazelwood closed, lies that renewable energy increases prices. Meanwhile Snowy Mountain, owned by us taxpayers, is now expecting \$660 million for gas plant at Kurri Kurri.

It's to make sure Tomago aluminium smelter keeps running, in case \$10 billion and counting Snowy 2.0 pumped (by fossil fuel) hydro or grid connection fails during climate change extreme weather.

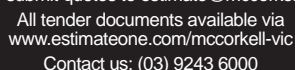
It's now only nine weeks until UN Climate Conference COP26 in Glasgow. Australian emissions' track record places us in ugly company with big polluters like Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Look out for headlines from Glasgow about big cuts we need to make to protect all our exports from CBA (Carbon Border Adjustments) which make prices fair, compared with markets of our importing customers, or they're banned. And fees on your electricity bill to prolong the agony with arthritic coal fired power.

Bernie McComb, Cowes

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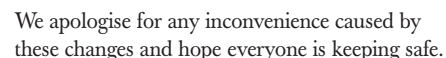
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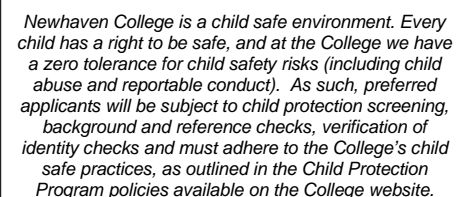
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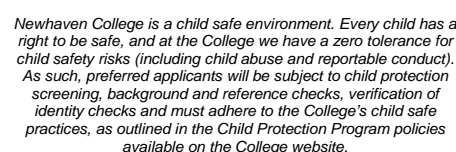
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Niamh Moore at last year's Victorian Longboard Titles. The 2021/22 Surfing Victoria season kicks off on September 4 and 5 with the SUP Racing titles on Phillip Island. Photo: Katey Shearer, Surfing Victoria.

Surfing events return this summer

Surfing Victoria has scheduled four events for Phillip Island for the 2021/22 season.

The season will kick off in September at Phillip Island with the SUP Racing Titles and also features events on the Surf Coast, Bellarine Peninsula and Mornington Peninsula.

Phillip Island events include the SUP titles in September, Round 3 of the Victorian Open Series in February 2022 as well as Round 1 of the Longboard titles, and Round 2 of the Junior Series in March 2022.

Entries are now open at www.surfingvic.com.

Superbikes schedule rearranged

Unless lockdowns disrupt the schedule, fans of the Australian Superbikes Championship will get to enjoy two events at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit this year.

The Alpinestars Superbike class will head south for Round 6 of the Championship, joining alongside the Supercars for the all-new Bass Coast Festival Of Motorsport at Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, October 22-24.

What was to be the MotoGP weekend will now feature ASBK action.

The bikes then return for Round 9 in December.

The Grand Finale of the mi-bike Motorcycle Insurance Australian Superbike Championship, presented by Motul – will see riders battle it out at Phillip Island from December 3-5, to see who will be crowned the 2021 ASBK Champions in all five classes.

The ASBK Management Team has thanked riders, teams and fans for their understanding at this difficult time, saying they “can be assured that we are aiming to provide the best opportunity for riders to race at the maximum number of rounds possible”.



Fans of the Australian Superbikes Championship could get to enjoy two events at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit this year, unless Covid disrupts the schedule. Photo: Russell Colvin.



At the Phillip Island bowls club (left to right): Sam Cachia, Andrew Croxford, Wayne Barr and Ray Pepper, when Andrew from Tigerturf officially handed over the new green to the club.

Phillip Island bowls

Phillip Island bowling club is happy to announce that Andrew Croxford from Tigerturf has officially handed over the new bottom green to the club.

It is looking absolutely resplendent and has a very nice cushion feel underfoot. It is currently running approximately between 15-15.5 seconds.

Next on the agenda is returning the outdoor area to a useable space and John Newcombe is on the job.

In attendance to represent the club where Ray Pepper, Wayne Barr and Sam Cachia.

Thursday, social bowls

A beautiful sunny winter's day made bowls for our 20+ bowlers very enjoyable today.

Winners were Bruce Puncher, Glenda Grazules and Reg Excell with two wins and a +34 and the runners up on a count back were Lou Bellino, Murray Mc Climino and Marlene Puncher.

Well done everyone.

That is all for the next two weeks as we head into yet another lockdown so stay safe and stay strong everyone.



Anna Scott and Rhonda from the Newhaven College Equestrian team fly up the giant steps, at the training day at Tarwin Lower this month.

Equestrian team winter training day

Despite the uncertainty of Covid lockdowns and their effect on being able to play and participate in sports, the Newhaven College Equestrian Team was able to run a training day at Tarwin Lower Pony Club grounds on Sunday, August 15.

The team had been scheduled to ride at Tooradin Estate but as that is in Melbourne, they were approached by members of Tarwin Lower Pony Club and invited to use their beautifully presented cross-country course for the day.

Emphasis for riding instruction in the morning session was to practice riding in open country, in two-point seat and having an opportunity to gallop on a very sandy and safe surface. In the afternoon each group had a turn on cross country.

With the end of winter approaching and a feeling of spring in the air, some of the horses found the experience of being out and about a little exciting and the team members rode beautifully to get the most from their mounts.

The Newhaven College Equestrian Team

congratulated team member Gabe Smith on his selection into the Pony Club Australia's Victorian Team to compete at the PCA Nationals as number one rider for the junior games teams.

“Mounted games is a discipline of riding that finds its history in military exercises to keep cavalries, riders and horses in practice for the battlefield with use of lance, spear and sword,” a team spokesperson said.

“Many of the games’ roots in military exercises can be seen as riders and their mounts race against each other with tasks to perform.

“Mounted Games is a very fast paced and exciting form of equestrian sports as ponies gallop with riders clinging to their backs with quick dismounts and vaulting mounts while ponies are still in motion spinning around markers and heading toward the next challenge.

“Gabe is one of Victoria's most promising up and coming games riders, and we look forward to watching his progress at the Nationals in September.”



Gabe Smith and Blue fly out of the corral. Gabe has been selected for the Victorian team to compete at Pony Club Australia Nationals later this year.



Winners of midweek bowls played at San Remo were Ray Dickie (2) (One Game), Gwen Jeffrey (3), Bob Glogoski (S), Pauline McWilliams (2) (One Game), and Elaine Fitt (L).

Midweek bowls

Southwest Gippsland midweek bowls winners were Bob Glogoski, Gwen Jeffrey, [Pauline McWilliams], [Ray Dickie] and Elaine Fitt.

Runners up were Peter McWilliams, Phil Wright and Michael Saunders.

One Game winners were John Nicholson, Bev Elliott and Michael Geddes.

Midweek bowls was played at San Remo with 27 happy bowlers. It was a perfect day for bowls, the sun shone all day, and it was reflected in our members who thoroughly enjoyed their day.

The green was in perfect condition and as usual you could hear the happy banter across the green.

The music was playing, and we had some talented singers and dancers to further entertain us, and it was indeed a great atmosphere.

As usual some high scores were recorded.

Winners 34 points, runners up 24 points and one game winners 20 points.

Thank you to Peter Thorley in the bar who always serves us with a smile and the combined effort of our members who cleaned up the kitchen after our teas and coffees.

We hope we will be able to see our members who are in lockdown soon, we miss your company.

Our RCH tin did very well with more than a few wrong bias and thank you to our members who brought items in for the free raffle.

We had some very nice prizes.

Due to lockdown, there will be no Midweek bowls until further notice.

For more information or to register please contact our treasurer Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974.

Come along and have a great day of bowling.

See you on the green.



Peter McWilliams (S), Michael Saunders (L) and Phil Wright (3) were runners up.



Best One Game winners were John Nicholson (S), Bev Elliott (3) and Michael Geddes (L).

Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling league results

2s Company: 1st on 7pts. King Pins, 2nd on 6.5 pts. The Hounds and 3rd on 6pts Storm.

ABL: 1st on 48pts Buckineers, 2nd on 44.5pts Dreamers and 3rd on 43.5pts Storm.

Business Early: 1st on 9pts The Redundants, 2nd on 8pts Team Vee, 3rd on 7pts Happy Hour and 4th on 6.5pts Ballz Deep.

Business Late: 1st on 10pts Daj Bricklaying, 2nd on 9pts S&R Clarke Auto, 3rd on 6pts 3 Stooges and 4th on 4pts Brew Ups.

This week's top scorers are: Men: 193 Joe Depetro, 189 Lindsay Becker and 186 Steve A. Clarke.

Women: 181 Mary Dardha, 159 Lisa Walker and 157 Shannon.



Jess Gislingham made his senior debut last week in a practice game against Wonthaggi and made sure his first game was a memorable one by scoring a goal!

Jess gets a guernsey

Jess Gislingham had his first game of seniors with the Phillip Island Football Netball Club last week.

He took to the field in a practice game against Wonthaggi, and made sure his first game was a memorable one by scoring a goal!

Continuing the club tradition, Jess wore the Number 31 jumper. All first-time seniors players get the honour of wearing the 31 jumper for their debut game, in tribute to local footy legend Keith DeLooze (Whale) who died suddenly at a young age.

Coach Beau Vernon said Jess gives more to the club than it could ever give to him.

"He has great energy, a smile from ear to ear and the most passion for the club. He makes people better for just being around him.

"He would do anything for his teammates, he creates connections and shows us that footy is more than just a game. Thanks Gizza for giving us some joy in these difficult times."



Dad Shane had the honour of presenting Jess with his Number 31 jumper, before his first game of Seniors with the Bulldogs.

Cricket Veterans back in training

South Gippsland Veterans Cricketers are back in action ... at least they were until the latest lockdown!

Training at the inside cricket facility at Korumburra has been happening since July starting at 5pm each Wednesday night.

Once the weather warms up (and lockdown lifts) training will revert to Outtrim or other facilities in the region.

The club continues to expand, attracting cricketers from all over South Gippsland.

This year the club will continue with two Over 50s teams One Over 60s team.

The Lyrebird Over 50s Gippsland League, in which one of the Over 50s teams play, has now expanded to eight teams for the coming season.

The second Over 50s team play in the Melbourne competition as do the Over 60s. Veterans Cricket Victoria will also run a competition for Over 70s in which South Gippsland will provide players this coming season.

There are nearly two hundred Over 70s cricketers currently playing in the Over Sixties competition which in itself has some two thou-

sand participants.

As well as the normal Sunday competitions there are State Championships in which South Gippsland has had representations.

The emphasis of Veterans cricket is participation in which the benefits of health and overall well-being is seen as the major outcomes.

If you are interested in joining,

please contact the following people who can provide answers to any queries.

Over 50s Chris Falls: 0425 759 974.

Over 60s Graham Whiteman:

0407 735 470.

Over 60s Trevor Wilson:

0408 586 382.

Over 70s Mike Newton:

0417 589 028.



South Gippsland Veterans Cricketers are back in training and are welcoming any new players.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 25 AUG	THU 26 AUG	FRI 27 AUG	SAT 28 AUG	SUN 29 AUG	MON 30 AUG	TUE 31 AUG
HIGH 2:28 am 2.69 m	HIGH 3:23 am 2.77 m	HIGH 4:12 am 2.81 m	HIGH 4:53 am 2.81 m	HIGH 5:31 am 2.80 m	HIGH 6:07 am 2.77 m	HIGH 6:43 am 2.73 m
LOW 8:16 am 0.61 m	LOW 9:06 am 0.65 m	LOW 9:50 am 0.71 m	LOW 10:30 am 0.80 m	LOW 11:06 am 0.88 m	LOW 11:41 am 0.97 m	LOW 12:15 pm 1.06 m
HIGH 3:13 pm 2.99 m	HIGH 3:54 pm 2.98 m	HIGH 4:28 pm 2.93 m	HIGH 4:58 pm 2.87 m	HIGH 5:25 pm 2.80 m	HIGH 5:51 pm 2.74 m	HIGH 6:19 pm 2.67 m
LOW 8:56 pm 0.81 m	LOW 9:38 pm 0.70 m	LOW 10:16 pm 0.63 m	LOW 10:51 pm 0.58 m	LOW 11:24 pm 0.57 m	LOW 11:56 pm 0.57 m	

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Youth girls banner made for the expected Grand Final on Sunday that did not happen, due to yet another COVID lockdown.

So near, and yet so far

Two years waiting! Ours for the taking!

So said the message on the banner enthusiastically created by Phillip Island Football Netball Club supporters on Friday night, in preparation for three grand final matches scheduled to be played out over the weekend.

The Club's Under 12 red team, Under 14s blues team, and the Youth Girls Footy side, each won

their way through to a grand final showdown at Korumburra on Sunday, in their respective divisions; and were excitedly anticipating the great game ahead of them, following the Covid cancellation of their 2020 footy season last year.

But the festive air that pervaded the Clubrooms as the teams' respective cheer squads worked

on three encouragement banners for the players to run through over the weekend, was doused in an instant and replaced with devastation.

Just as the banners were completed, and a well-earned toast to the teams was made, a call from the AFL advising of the state government's edict that all regional sport

was to be cancelled came through.

Hope springs eternal, however, and as another banner read: "Every dog has its day."

Here's hoping that's true for our resilient youngsters, who, parents report, took the news remarkably well, and will all be ready and rearing to go if and when the changing lockdown rules allow.

Grand Final dreams fizzle

The latest lockdown on the weekend upended three potential Grand Final victories for the Phillip Island Bulldogs.

Three junior grand final games were scheduled for Sunday: The Under 14s, Under 12s and Youth Girls.

Phillip Island had teams in each.

Club President Chris Ross is gutted for the young players who were primed and ready to play.

"Our Under 14 Blue, Under 12 Red and Youth Girls teams all should have played Grand Final matches," he said.

The banners were all made and ready to go, when an email came through from AFL Victoria.

"The volunteers and parents had put in so much time and efforts to do the banners, then we got the email on Friday night saying all community sport was to cease again."

He is praying the regional lockdown finishes as promised at 11.59pm on Thursday, September 2.

"Potentially, we could have the junior Grand Finals the following Sunday, as there are no metro clubs in the junior league," Chris said.

Seniors

With another Covid-disrupted Seniors season, players are in limbo.

Chris said at this stage, the Seniors Grand Final is scheduled for October 2.

"That's as far as we know. I really feel for AFL Gippsland, because they don't know either."

With some of the league's clubs located in metro zones, Chris said they'd need a minimum of two weeks to train before games could recommence.

And although regional clubs like Phillip Island had been able

to train before the latest lockdown, the uncertainty was wearing on the players.

"They're lost. They feel as though they've been going to training for no purpose," Chris said.

"Are we going to get to play a game or not?"

"It's bloody hard. During pre-season training, you know what you're working for, but this is different."

Likewise, as an organisation, the club has battled with not knowing what could happen week to week.

"Every week, we'd ask ourselves; do we open the club rooms? Do we offer meals or not? We don't know if anyone is going to come out. It's hard."

As in the 2020 season, the club is facing mounting financial pressure, with fundraisers cancelled and loss of revenue from the club bar and restaurant, and the gate at home games.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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