



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

# ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

\$1.80 Incl. GST

## Hurray, it's the holidays

*Holiday Map:*  
Plus local Christmas  
and holiday activities  
PAGE 16-23

*Beach Safety:*  
Coroner's report  
into Forrest Cave  
drownings  
PAGE 8

*Erosion:*  
Councillors to lobby  
for urgent funding  
PAGE 3



FIRST NATIONAL PHILLIP ISLAND

KENDALL, MICHAEL AND THE TEAM  
AT FIRST NATIONAL WISH EVERYONE A

*Happy Christmas*  
AND A SAFE & PROSPEROUS  
*New Year*

PH: 03 5952 3922 | WWW.PHILLIPISLANDFN.COM.AU



**SOUTH COAST  
FLOORING XTRA**  
A FABULOUS FLOORING EXPERIENCE

155 Thompson Avenue, Cowes ☎ 03 5952 1488

**COWES SELF STORAGE**

**COWESBOAT  
CARAVANRVSTORAGE**



24 hr Video  
Surveillance

**FULLY SECURED - FULL SURVEILLANCE**



Ray White Phillip Island  
41 Thompson Avenue, Cowes  
5952 2799



PHILLIP ISLAND

7 DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Wed/Dec18	Thu/Dec19	Fri/Dec20	Sat/Dec21	Sun/Dec22	Mon/Dec23	Tue/Dec24
PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNNY	SUNNY	PARTLY CLOUDY	POSSIBLE SHOWER	WINDY	PARTLY CLOUDY
15 20	13 25	15 28	17 23	15 21	14 18	15 20

# Toilets to reopen this week

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Bass Coast Shire Council has confirmed the public toilets on the Cowes foreshore will be opened to the public this week, on December 20.

The toilets have been closed since late September, with contractors undertaking waterproofing and repairs.

The project included grinding and filling the slab, installing a water-proof membrane and

paving tiles, internal painting and reinstating handrails.

This week, a council spokesperson said although the toilets will be open by December 20, temporary fencing will remain in place to stop access to the viewing deck on top of the toilet block, as final work in that area needs to be carried out.

Council said the fencing would be in place to ensure public safety.



Council said the toilet block on the Cowes foreshore will reopen by December 20, although there will be temporary fencing in place to stop access to the viewing deck at the top of the toilet block.

## POLICE BRIEFS

### Youths arrested for Ventnor bashing

Victoria Police have confirmed all five youths involved in a “disgusting” assault on Ventnor Beach Road on a 77-year-old male last month have been identified.

It is understood the group of approximately half a dozen offenders waved down the elderly driver as he travelled along Ventnor Beach Road around 7.45pm. Stopping, the offenders requested a lift. After explaining that they wouldn’t all fit in his car it’s alleged one of the offenders kicked the victim’s car. The victim stepped out of his car to investigate the damage when the group proceeded to assault him. The elderly victim from Ventnor suffered swelling and bruising to his face with a significant laceration to his right ear.

Currently, three of the male youths have been arrested and interviewed with a court date organised for the Korumburra Children’s court in early January 2025. Two were charged and bailed upon arrest, with another being charged and summoned.

Bass Coast Senior Sergeant Jason Hullick called out the offender’s behaviour as “callous and disgusting” and noted the offenders were not part of the Schoolies celebrations.

Anyone with information including witnesses, dashcam and CCTV footage, please contact Crimestoppers 1800 333 000 or [crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime) or call Wonthaggi Police Station on 03 5671 4100.

## The Joy of reading

For 99-year-old Joy Williams, reading the paper each week is one of her favourite things.

Joy has been reading The Advertiser from Rhyll since 1988, and for the last five years from her beloved home away from home at Grossard Court aged care in Cowes.

“It’s a lovely paper. I read the spots off it every week,” says Joy.

Here’s Joy with the December 11 issue, with the spots freshly read, in time to share with her much loved sons Richard and Andrew Williams who then do the same.



## Farewell 2024

The Advertiser team is having a short break over Christmas, so this is our final edition for 2024.

Thanks for your support and feedback throughout the year and have a wonderful Christmas and festive season.

Our first edition for 2025 will be out on Thursday, January 2. Ad booking deadline, 10am Monday December 30 – email [ads@pisra.com.au](mailto:ads@pisra.com.au).

For all other matters, we can still be contacted at: [advertiser@pisra.com.au](mailto:advertiser@pisra.com.au).

Check our website – [www.pisra.com.au](http://www.pisra.com.au) – or Facebook page for updates or breaking news.

RUSSELL BROADBENT

Federal Member for Monash

Merry Christmas

FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS

The gift of love.

The gift of peace.

The gift of happiness.

May all these be yours this holiday season.

Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, Warragul

Melina BATH MP

NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

May we all give and receive the gift of kindness at Christmas time.

Enjoy our local food, wine and fabulous attractions while driving safely in Gippsland.

2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon

[melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au)

5174 7066

Melaleuca Lodge Auxiliary

SUMMER SECONDHAND BOOK SALE

Saturday 28th December 2024 to Saturday January 25th 2025

Open Daily 10am-1pm

BILLS BOOK SHED

Watchorn Road Cowes

Contact Joy 0437 949 029

Jean 0422 491 265

COASTAL

REFRIGERATION & AIR-CONDITIONING

Refrigerant Trade Auth No: AU 51426 - PI 48651

- Service Agent for Daikin
- Commercial & Domestic Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
- Licensed Split System Installer • Sales, Installation and Service

DAIKIN

AH’S COMMERCIAL BREAKDOWN EXPERT AFTER SALES SERVICE

Rick North – Servicing Phillip Island & Surrounding Areas

Phone: 5678 5190 – Factory 1, 60 Genista St, San Remo

[coastal\\_refrig\\_and\\_aircon](https://www.facebook.com/coastal_refrig_and_aircon) Coastal Refrigeration & Airconditioning

[www.coastalrefrigandaircon.com.au](http://www.coastalrefrigandaircon.com.au)





New Bass Coast Shire councillors at Silverleaves last month: (left to right) Crs Brett Tessari, Jon Temby, Ronnie Bauer, Meg Edwards, Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Jan Thompson, Tracey Bell and Tim O'Brien. (Mat Morgan taking the photo)

## New councillors waste no time on erosion

### SILVERLEAVES

Bass Coast Shire councillors have voted to meet with the Victorian Environment Minister to lobby for urgent funding to protect Silverleaves' erosion hotspot.

Councillors at the December meeting – the second meeting for new councillors – again wasted no time on the critical issue.

In November councillors called for a report to urgently protect Inverloch from erosion, but last week an amendment moved by Cr Tim O'Brien and worked on by all councillors expanded that protection to Silverleaves.

The unanimous motion calls for shire officers to monitor the Silverleaves foreshore, and "should conditions deteriorate further, immediately undertake necessary emergency works".

As reported, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) have proposed a sandbag wall as an interim measure to stop further erosion, but funding has yet to be made available.

- The motion also calls for:
- a meeting with the Victorian Minister for the Environment (Steve Dimopoulos) at the earliest opportunity to request the urgent commitment to funding the recommended geotech sandbag revetment solution proposed as interim protection for the Silverleaves foreshore;
  - Council advocate to secure urgent funding for the emergency protection of the Silverleaves foreshore;
  - Advocate to ensure that by June 2025 there is a longer-

term plan in place for protection and rehabilitation (of Silverleaves' foreshore);

- Keep Silverleaves community fully informed on progress via Council's website.

Last month all nine councillors toured Silverleaves' erosion hotspot, near Sanders Road, to see "first-hand the urgency of measures" needed.

### "Anguished"

Cr O'Brien said councillors had spoken with residents "who are genuinely anguished by the prospect of property loss, unsaleable properties, uncertainty and helplessness, while waiting for action by DEECA, by government, and, yes, by council."

"They want to see the reports, consultants' findings and recommendations turned into effective action," Cr O'Brien said.

"These residents are like the residents in a valley watching a bushfire approaching."

"They just want something done, they don't want to hear about 'why it's difficult'; they expect their council to see them, to hear them, to recognise the emergency ... and to help."

Cr O'Brien told the Advertiser a motion "won't solve the problems around coastal erosion", "but it has escalated the issue" and residents should "feel a little more comfortable knowing council has their back".

Cr Mat Morgan urged the State Government to listen to the community.

"We are in a climate crisis, and sticking your head in the ever-eroding sand is not a solution," Cr Morgan said.

"People's insurance premiums are through the roof, there is zero compensation strategy being developed for stranded property assets, and people are understandably worried and frustrated."

"At the end of the day, this council has a tiny budget, it is DEECA's responsibility to fund dune renourishment or any alternative strategies."

"We can't sit here working in unfunded silos; we need a nationally coordinated response to climate impacts."

Cr Jon Temby said councillors shared "enormous empathy and concern" for those impacted.

"Climate change projections are being exceeded consistently and new information suggests sea level rise will be higher than what is expected to occur and faster," Cr Temby said.

"It's a global issue that will have massive implications on every single one of us."

Cr Brett Tessari said 70 per cent of Bass Coast was on the water line, "not just Inverloch and Silverleaves".

"Advocating to state and federal governments is the best thing we can do," Cr Tessari said.

Cr Meg Edwards moved the initial motion requesting a report for Inverloch, last week said the cost of protection was "far less than the cost" of failing to protect assets.

Silverleaves' residents last month warned falling trees from eroded cliffs posed a risk to tourists and the proposed sandbag wall must be funded and constructed before the summer holidays.



A high-profile critic of the government fears pressure from developers and housing lobbies has delayed the final Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) project. Developers are hoping to get the green light for vast new housing developments at Cape Woolamai's airport land (pictured), Newhaven West, Smiths Beach, Ventnor and San Remo.

## Pressure mounts on government to approve DAL

### PLANNING

The former CEO of Tourism Victoria and former chair of Phillip Island Nature Parks has called on the State Government to fulfill an election promise and freeze Phillip Island's town boundaries.

As reported last week, the State Government has again – for the fourth time – extended the deadline for finalising the long-anticipated Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) project.

Jeff Floyd, who is also a former CEO and chair of Parks Victoria and former CEO of AAA Tourism, in a letter to the editor in this week's paper calls on the state planning minister Sonya Kilkenny to protect "rural and environmental values" and finally approve the DAL.

"On November 3, 2018 the then Premier Daniel Andrews made the following commitment: 'If re-elected, we will implement the strongest planning protections that Phillip Island and the Bass Coast have ever received – permanent town boundaries and tough rules that can only be changed by a majority of both houses of Parliament, not by Cabinet

or Council,'" Mr Floyd's letter explains.

"So, here we are six years on and Premier Andrew's unequivocal commitment has still not been honoured by the government."

"I get that there is pressure from the developer and housing lobbies Minister Kilkenny but you need to show some leadership, and get this done." Mr Floyd writes freezing the town boundaries on Phillip Island would give farmers a "secure future" and ensure "environmental values underpin our economic wellbeing".

"Six years is long enough, we need a decision now."

Another local described the constant delays as "farcical".

The DAL's final hurdle, the Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) was expected last year but was extended to October this year.

But earlier this month Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale MP confirmed the draft SPP had again been given an extension, despite in October saying details would be finalised by November, when it was to be endorsed by public entities such as Bass Coast Shire, with the final public SPP expected by April 2025.

## "Funeral Care, With Compassion, Respect & Dignity"

Locally owned and operated.

Professional, affordable Funeral Services available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Servicing all types of disposition including burial, cremation, natural burial and aquamation on the Bass Coast including Gippsland.



YOUR FUNERAL, YOUR WAY

Contact: Michelle Brown, 0448 602 005

hello@basscoastfuneralservice.com.au | www.basscoastfunerals.com.au

Meat scraps,  
bones and  
seafood shells  
go in your  
**Organics bin**



Visit [basscoast.vic.gov.au/whichbin](https://basscoast.vic.gov.au/whichbin)  
to find out more





# San Remo to get new four-storey development

## PLANNING

A four-storey development at Marine Parade, San Remo, has been approved by Bass Coast Shire councillors, despite receiving 20 objections, and concerns about parking waivers.

The \$2.5 million commercial office and retail building will be built at 151 Marine Parade, formerly Jim's Bait and Tackle, with a waiver of the statutory car parking requirement of nine spaces.

There will be 11 offices and one retail tenancy at a height of 13.38 metres.

Shire planners recommended the development be approved, and councillors agreed, however voicing concerns about the parking squeeze (see separate story).

No car parking will be provided on site, and a traffic survey with the planning permit concludes "there are no traffic engineering reasons why a planning permit for the proposed commercial development should be refused, subject to appropriate conditions".

Cr Jan Thompson said she understood the site was too small to build an underground car park.

"One would assume at least 20 parking spaces would be required for staff and clients," Cr Thompson said.

"However, the legislation allows a sacrifice of only nine parking spaces, and this has been applied to the permit."



The \$2.5 million commercial office and retail building will be built at the site formerly occupied by Jim's Bait and Tackle, with a waiver of the statutory car parking requirement of nine spaces.

She said the San Remo Township Structure plan – currently being assessed – would address the issue of parking in San Remo.

"Although this permit does fit the requirements under the legislation and will pass in this chamber, I do understand the 20-plus objectors feel aggrieved. I also register my concern and know as a council we need to urgently address this parking issue in San Remo."

Shire planning officers said they were "satisfied" there was "sufficient parking within the existing on-street provision to reduce the statutory require-

ment for on-site parking to zero".

"Council is ultimately satisfied that there is capacity within the existing car parking network to absorb the shortfall of nine spaces created by the proposed use," officers said.

## Objections

Objectors describing the lack of parking as "disturbing", with parking in San Remo "already a big problem".

"This development is being pushed to the limits with no onsite parking and overdevelopment of the site," one objector wrote.

A submitter said it was a "flawed claim" for the developer

to suggest there was available public parking, with restricted parking on Marine Parade forcing tenants of the new building to use limited rear parking used by existing residents.

A resident said the developer's suggestion that traffic will have a limited impact on the area was "fundamentally wrong" and "inaccurate".

Objectors were also concerned about maximising the height of the building on a small footprint of land.

An objector suggested given the lack of current demand for office space in San Remo, the building could be "reconfig-

ured" in future for other uses.

Shire planners responded saying while the height of the building would be "impactful", especially to residents of the apartment building to the west, it was "not considered to be fatal to the proposal" because planning policies encourage three- to four-storey buildings in the area.

## Other development

Other recent developments along San Remo's main street include 125 Marine Parade, a \$4.2 million building with two retail shops on the ground floor and 14 apartments on the upper levels.

Locals battled the plans for a retail and apartment complex at 131-133 Marine Parade in 2019.

Bass Coast Shire councillors rejected the proposal because of concerns about parking, car stackers and height, but VCAT overturned council and approved plans in 2020.

The already approved \$6 million complex at 131-133 then added a fifth storey, 151sqm "penthouse" comprised of a living room and deck area on the roof of the building.

The penthouse plan was refused by VCAT in 2023 due to height concerns.

The initial permit was due to expire if the development wasn't started by February 7, 2024 and completed by February 1, 2026.

However the developer applied for a renewed permit, and construction must now start by February 2026.

## Continuing a legacy of community support

At Cardell Accountants, giving back to the community has always been a cornerstone of our philosophy, established many years ago by the firm's founder, Bob Cardell and continued by the current partners.

Each year our team and clients are encouraged to contribute the names of one local and one national organisation into a donation box. Recently the selected charities for 2024 were drawn, and we are proud to announce donations of \$1000 each to South Gippsland Animal Aid and the Royal Children's Hospital.

Over the past 13 years, Cardell Accountants has contributed

more than \$61,000 to various local and national charities. This is in addition to numerous annual sponsorships of local clubs and discounted fees provided to not-for-profit organisations.

As a firm we value being able to give back to the community and make a difference to the lives of others and we are honoured to play a small role in making a difference.

Thank you to our clients and team for enabling us to continue this journey of generosity.

Together, we can achieve even more for our community in the years to come.

/ Sponsored content /

## Beach fire triggers CFA call out

### COMMUNITY SAFETY

Local police and units from the Phillip Island fire brigade were called to Smiths Beach around 9pm on Friday night, after reports of a fire on the beach.

Brigade Captain Lino Drazzi said people lit a bonfire on the beach during the Fire Danger Period (FDP), triggering the response.

"The two members of the public were educated and cautioned by CFA and Victoria Police on the dangers of lighting a fire in the FDP," Mr Drazzi said.

The CFA members extinguished the bonfire.

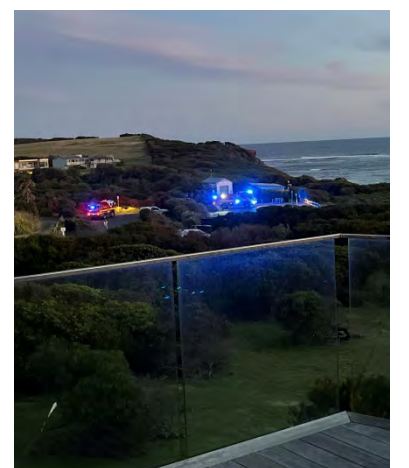
Residents and visitors are reminded that under local laws it is illegal to light a fire on any beach on Phillip Island.

Bass Coast is currently in a Fire Danger Period, which prohibits lighting fires in the open, unless under specific conditions such as a properly constructed fireplace.

On Monday, the CFA was called to a fire at Kitty Miller Road in Ventnor, which is believed to have been caused by a cigarette butt.

The Phillip Island fire brigade was quickly on the scene and local residents and visitors also jumped in to help fight the blaze, using buckets and hoses attached to a mobile water tank on the back of a truck.

For details of what is allowed during the FDP, visit: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i)



Police and the fire brigade were called to Smiths Beach on Friday night after a bonfire was lit on the beach, contravening local laws and what is permitted during a Fire Danger Period.

**CARDELL**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**Technical experts  
and trusted business advisors**

**TAXATION SPECIALISTS | ASSURANCE & AUDIT  
SUPERANNUATION | BUSINESS ADVISORS**

3a Billson St Wonthaggi T 03 5672 3722 W [www.cardell.com.au](http://www.cardell.com.au)

**Handley & Anderson**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
Servicing South Gippsland & Phillip Island

Locally owned and operated by

**Scott & Sharon Anderson 5672 1074**

Caring and personal 24 hour Service

**Main office Wonthaggi**  
3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi  
(P.O Box 35, Wonthaggi)

**Cowes office (by appointment)**  
15 Warley Avenue, Cowes 5952 5171

Email: [info@handafunerals.com.au](mailto:info@handafunerals.com.au)  
[www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au)

A.F.D.A.



# Council signals crackdown on parking and developers

## MAJOR PROJECTS

Developers should be forced to pay up to \$12,000 for each car park waived in a planning permit, according to a new Bass Coast Shire councillor.

The proposal sounds radical in the context of past council decisions, which have recently seen numerous waivers for major developments, one as high as 500 car parks.

But Cr Jan Thompson at last week's council meeting said \$12,000 "sacrificial parking space" fees were applied to developers by Cardinia Shire.

Cr Thompson has mooted the proposal while voting for a four-storey commercial building at 151 Marine Parade, (see separate story), which has a waiver of the statutory car parking requirement of nine spaces.

"My concern is this will increase traffic around the central district of San Remo and may cause it to be more difficult to find a car park close to the two hotels and bakery," Cr Thompson said.

"The reality is more drivers will seek parking in the rear car park behind the residential apartments and cause anguish for those residents."

Cr Thompson said one avenue that could be applied was a parking overlay, where developers pay for the sacrificed parking spaces.

"In Cardinia Shire developers pay a \$12,000 fee for each sacrificed parking space in the Pakenham business precinct," she said.

"This goes into future funds for further parking spaces."

"All developers should pay for parking either allocated in their plans and if not pay a sacrificed parking fee."

Cr Thompson later explained to the Advertiser there were numerous councils "particularly suburban and city councils who now apply a parking overlay", including Brimbank, Latrobe City, Frankston and Merri-bek.

"The mayor is in discussion with council officers on this issue," she added.

"We need to explore this avenue and other parking options."



A Bass Coast Shire councillor has proposed a parking overlay be applied to developers, where they pay for parking spaces sacrificed in waivers. Cr Bauer reiterated his concern that developments in Cowes would "dramatically" increase pressure on the Cowes transit centre.

## Support

Cr Jon Temby agreed with Cr Thompson's proposal.

"The principle should apply that developers who are creating a need for people to park should be obliged to provide that parking, or provide a means for someone else to provide it through some sort of offset system," Cr Temby said.

"We need to see a shire wide approach with an overlay – if you are developing a facility where people need to drive to attend you provide it."

Cr Tim O'Brien also supported a developer parking fee.

"In the short time I've been here, we've got a motion in front of us requesting a waiver of parking," Cr O'Brien said.

"We have a history of these waivers of parking certainly on Phillip Island and we need to recognise waving these things through and granting waivers is slowly strangling our communities."

"We have so many parking problems on Phillip Island – we have large projects that have also been granted large waivers."

Cr Ronnie Bauer drew new councillors' attention to the failed motion he raised in the last council term to address parking waivers, adding he

hoped the integrated transport study would capture the issue.

At the time Cr Bauer said the pressure on the Cowes transit centre would increase "dramatically", with a five-storey hotel set to be built next to Berninnet, and the community hospital to open in 2025.

He added the quantity of parking waivers council issued to developers for major projects was also contributing to the problem, such as a 90-car waiver for the Rhyll brewery, and up to 500 for the Isle of Wight development.

During and before the election campaign, he called for the transit centre to be expanded through a Private Public Partnership, or to find an additional site nearby.

## Study

The Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) has been long-promised by the council as the solution to a range of traffic headaches facing the island, with a draft ITS to be released early in 2025 following community consultation earlier this year.

The council said the ITS would not just focus on building new infrastructure, but will look at behaviour change, safety and policies, with a focus on alternatives to car use, including walking, cycling, and public transport.

"By 2036, our population is

expected to increase by over 14 per cent. If we keep using our transport system the way we do now, we may see more traffic and congestion, on both our major roads and local streets," a council spokesperson said.

Transport issues flagged so far include:

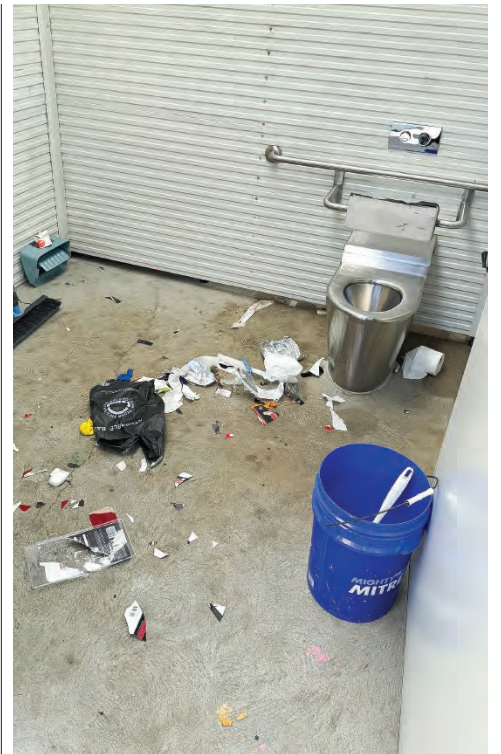
- Since 2022 the council has been seeking funding for a proposed new fleet of public electric buses, booked or hailed like a taxi, in a planned three-year trial across Phillip Island and San Remo.
- The council is seeking funding to roll out the approved Cowes street masterplan, which will see a range of solutions including Thompson Avenue between The Esplanade and Chapel Street becoming one-way and a reduction in parking.

It was back in 2012 that San Remo residents became increasingly concerned new housing subdivisions planned for the town's east would put major pressure on roads. In 2020 Regional Roads Victoria released yet-to-be-funded plans to upgrade roads, including widening the Phillip Island Road to four lanes between San Remo Parade and Bergin Grove. This would mean the foreshore would have to be reclaimed and extended out about 15 metres to accommodate the four lanes, at an estimate of about \$20 million, including a rock-wall.

Some residents have called for a widening of the bridge, but in 2014 the Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study found it "would only be beneficial if the other sections of the Phillip Island Road and intersections along it were upgraded".

"The cost of such a project would exhaust" a chunk of funding, the study found.

It added that arguments for a multi-lane, high speed arterial road through Phillip Island "is considered to be weak, as it would detract from the aspects that make Phillip Island so attractive to live, work in and visit".



"If you come across public toilets in need of attention, please let us know by calling council or submitting a request through our website," a council spokesperson said.

# Toilets trashed

## FACILITIES

The state of public toilets across the shire is in the spotlight, with reports of local amenities being "trashed" and left covered in rubbish.

With Bass Coast Shire Council's Public Amenities and Open Space Teams gearing up for a busy summer, a council spokesperson said it is "disappointing" when a small number of people sometimes damage valued community assets.

"Our teams take pride in presenting facilities across Bass Coast that are clean, functional, and ready for use by the community and visitors," the council spokesperson said.

"Starting at sunrise, these teams maintain public toilets for early morning walkers, swimmers and those travelling through our region."

"It's disappointing when a small number of people sometimes damage these valued community assets, leaving them unusable until repairs can be completed."

"If you come across public toilets in need of attention, please let us know by calling council or submitting a request through our website."

Contact council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278), 03 5671 2211 or through the website: [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/contact](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/contact)

## You deserve more, Monash.

**Deb Leonard** Vote 1  
**INDEPENDENT**

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha

Your local



69 Chapel St, COWES Ph:5632 8802  
[www.ladasha.com.au](http://www.ladasha.com.au)



# Deathly summer predicted for local wildlife

## WILDLIFE

Wildlife Victoria has responded to more than 1300 sick, injured and orphaned wildlife – the vast majority roadkill – on Phillip Island this year, across 120 species.

The new data comes as Phillip Island Nature Parks has urged motorists to be on the lookout for wildlife, including threatened Eastern barred bandicoots “by looking for movement and eyeshine on the verges”, as well as long-neck turtles crossing roads, particularly near marshy areas.

“The most common reason a member of the public called Wildlife Victoria this year was when a native animal had been hit by a vehicle,” a Wildlife Victoria spokesperson said.

“We ask all drivers to slow down and stay alert, and if an accident does happen, please report it.”

A Nature Parks spokesperson said drivers should be extra careful at dawn, dusk and at night when animals were most active.

“Newly-installed ‘Care for Wildlife’ signs can also help to identify wildlife hotspots,” they said, adding anyone who finds uninjured turtles on the road should place them off the road in nearby vegetation.

In the battle to reduce Phillip Island’s ever-increasing wildlife road toll, in 2023 Wildlife Victoria started working with Nature Parks as permanent support for wildlife rescue services, with a network of volunteers on the island, and support from local vet clinics, and a travelling vet service.

The move came after volunteer operator Colleen Gil-



The wildlife roadkill toll on Phillip Island grows larger each year, while authorities have urged visitors and residents to be on the lookout for heat-stressed wildlife ahead of this summer’s predicted extreme heat, recommending bowls of water be placed in quiet parts of the garden.

bee – who has been volunteering since 2000 – said the local wildlife death toll was taking an increasing financial and emotional toll, costing her thousands of dollars every year, with about 70 per cent of animals needing to be euthanised because of the extent of their injuries.

Last week Colleen said the island’s roadkill was “still really bad”, with the real roadkill toll understood to be much more than 5000 animals each year.

“That will never change sadly. We’re also seeing dog and cat attacks on native birds, possums, lizards and even echidnas,” Colleen said.

“If people can be aware of what their pets are doing

that would be great. Please lock cats inside from dusk till dawn.”

## Heat

Nature Parks has also called for visitors and residents to help protect wildlife in the heat.

Ranger Kim Noy said wildlife affected by extreme heat events could display unusual behaviours.

“Penguins wandering or lying in the open during the hot days is not normal behaviour and may indicate signs of heat stress,” Kim said.

“If you see this please urgently report.”

Kim said residents could help by placing bowls of water in quiet, shady parts of gardens away from people,

pets and roads to help wildlife stay hydrated.

“Using the garden hose to spray mist into trees and shrubs can create cooler niches that wildlife can use to escape the heat.

“The wildlife and coastlines of Phillip Island are part of what makes the island such a special place.

“We encourage residents and visitors to be our eyes and ears on the ground so rangers and rescue volunteers can respond to concerns as quickly as possible.”

To report sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife, call Wildlife Victoria’s Emergency Response Service on 03 8400 7300 available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Wildlife Coast Cruises won the Tourism and Hospitality Award at the Victorian Community Achievement Awards last week. Belinda Armour collecting the award for the team, with presenter Nicole Thompson.

## Wildlife Coast Cruises sail to victory

### TOURISM

Congratulations to the team at Wildlife Coast Cruises who won a Victorian Community Achievement Award last week.

Wildlife Coast Cruises won the Tourism and Hospitality Award, announced at a gala presentation dinner in Melbourne on December 13.

Ben Dickie from Wildlife Coast Cruises said they were grateful to receive the award, “which reflects our team’s dedication and hard work”.

“It strengthens our commitment to sustainability, supporting local initiatives, collaborating with conservation and research groups, and demonstrating how tourism can inspire enjoyment, education, and conservation,” Ben said.

The award comes on the back of another successful year for Wildlife Coast Cruises.

At this year’s Bass Coast Business Awards, it won the Environmental Sustainability award and entered into the Hall of Fame, after winning awards over several years.

Wildlife Coast Cruises were one of eight category winners at the Victorian Community Achievement Awards, with each receiving a prize package including a complimentary membership to The Career College valued at \$594, and a trophy.

## Bin collection changes for Christmas



- There are no kerbside bin collections on Christmas Day (Wednesday, 25 December)
- If you’re in Bass, Grantville, Pioneer Bay, Jam Jerrup, The Gurdies, Lang Lang, Silverleaves and Cowes please put your Recycling and Organics bins out on Christmas Night (Wednesday night) for collection on Boxing Day (Thursday morning)
- If you’re in Inverloch please put your Landfill and Organics bins out on Christmas Night (Wednesday night) for collection on Boxing Day (Thursday morning)
- Boxing Day collections will start earlier than usual – please make sure your bins are out before 5.00am for residential properties and 4.30am for commercial properties
- Trucks may be labelled differently to the bins they are collecting, but please rest assured all waste is being disposed of appropriately
- Weekly Recycling bin collections start on Friday, 27 December until Friday, 24 January 2025.

For a copy of the bin collection calendar scan the QR code, visit [basscoast.vic.gov.au/bincalendar](https://basscoast.vic.gov.au/bincalendar) or contact Council’s Waste Services Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211



## LAMA LOUNGE CAFE

Your family’s new favorite spot! Open Wed-Sun, 7.30am – 3pm. They are proudly seed oil-free. Enjoy the massive indoor playground while savouring wholesome meals, perfect for kids and adults alike. Come for the coffee, stay for the play! 2185 Phillip Island Road, Cowes, inside the Phillip Island Family Resort.



J064732AB

**FOR THE YOUNG  
AND THE BOLD**

# MINI MUSIC LOVERS

**JANUARY 22 & JANUARY 23 2025**

Calling little ears and big imaginations, let's go on a music-fuelled adventure at Melbourne Recital Centre.

Featuring Zindzi & The Zillionaires, Play Date by All The Queens Men, Woody's Bush Cabaret and Cinderella with Inventi Ensemble, these performances combine a kaleidoscope of fun with musical storytelling.

Make a day of it and arrive early for face painting, a fun-filled photo booth, and a chance to conduct your very own string quartet!

[www.melbournerecital.com.au/mini](http://www.melbournerecital.com.au/mini)

**MELBOURNE  
RECITAL CENTRE**

CREATIVE VICTORIA



# Findings delivered for Forrest Caves mass drowning

## BEACH SAFETY

The coroner's findings on the January 2024 Forrest Caves mass drowning were handed down last week. Reema Sondhi, Jagjeet Singh Anand and Kirti Bedi drowned on January 24, with a fourth family member, Suhani Anand, dying in hospital the next day after being recovered from the water.

The tragedy was the worst incidence of mass drowning in the state in nearly two decades.

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

Reema Sondhi was 42 years of age and visiting from India. Jagjeet Singh Anand was 23 years old and was a permanent resident of Australia who had been working as a registered nurse.

Both Kirti Bedi and Suhani Anand were just 20 years old and were studying in Australia.

The coroner stated all the deceased had limited or no swimming ability, nor knowledge of Australian beaches.

A group of nine extended family members had stopped at Forrest Caves after seeing a sign on their way to the penguin parade. None of the group were dressed in swimming attire, as they had not planned to go swimming that day, the coroner's findings stated.

The group entered the water directly in front of the Forrest

Caves staircase, where there was a large rip. Ankur Chhabra, a family member of the deceased, was present on the beach that day.

"Ankur stated that (the group) were in water below waist height when he asked everyone to get out of the water so they could make their way to the penguin parade," the findings state.

"They all responded that they wanted to stay in the water a bit longer. Ankur described the group as having fun. He noted that there were no big waves at the time."

The group had begun making their way in from the water whilst holding hands, when they were knocked off their feet by a large wave in knee-height water. One family member was able to recover and return to shore, but the four others were swept out by a rip in conditions the coroner identified as "typical along this part of the coastline".

### "Everyone's responsibility"

Following the tragedy, desperate calls have come from members of the community and first responders to better deter beachgoers from swimming at unpatrolled beaches.

A council spokesperson said this summer, Bass Coast Shire Council is partnering with response agencies, land managers and community stakeholders to deliver enhanced beach safety messaging campaigns, including campaigns which directly target CALD communities.

The spokesperson also said council have partnered with



The coroner's findings on the January Forrest Caves mass drowning were handed down last week. Reema Sondhi, Jagjeet Singh Anand and Kirti Bedi all drowned on January 24, with a fourth family member, Suhani Anand, dying in hospital the next day after being recovered from the water.

Phillip Island Nature Parks and Parks Victoria to install additional secondary hazard signage at priority locations, including Forrest Caves.

Recently, signs were erected at the bottom of staircases and at the direct entry point of several high-risk beaches across Phillip Island and Bass Coast. The signs read: "Warning. Swimming not advised," and have a QR code link to the Life Saving Victoria Beachsafe App – which provides information on which beaches are patrolled in a multi-

lingual format.

Local surfing legend Glyndyn Ringrose said the new signage was "fantastic".

"I mean, locals know what's going on, it's generally the people who don't are the ones you want to stop (swimming at unpatrolled beaches)," Glyndyn said.

All local surfers and beachgoers the Advertiser has spoken to concerning beach safety leading into summer, including Glyndyn, have countless stories to tell of when they have rescued someone in trouble or advised

them where – or not – to swim.

Recently in an interview with the Advertiser, the CEO of Life Saving Victoria Catherine Greaves said that water safety is everyone's responsibility, stressing how reliant LSV is on the local community in keeping beaches safe.

The CEO lauded the efforts of local island surfers and community members who perform unsung rescues and take proactive preventative measures such as advising people not to swim or surf at a particular beach.

"There simply aren't enough lifeguards, lifesavers, signs, public rescue equipment," Ms Greaves said.

"All of those things are the last lines of defence.

"So we're really reliant on community. The best thing would be if our bus drivers, taxi drivers and the rest were talking about (beach safety) when they're driving people to the beach, particularly tourists or people that are new to the country."

"Shopfronts having a QR code for downloading the Beachsafe App would be amazing as well," she said.

"Locals know their area better than anyone. If you see someone come (to the beach) with their bathers on and a towel around their neck, just say to them: 'oh mate, I wouldn't go swimming today'."

"Having that local knowledge, knowing the dangers at your own beaches and explaining that to people is absolutely paramount to saving lives."

# BOXING DAY CLEARANCE SALE!

ON SALE ONE DAY ONLY!

## GENUINE STOCK CLEARANCE! THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER 2024

UP TO

# 75% OFF

## CLEARANCE LINES IN STORE ONLY

## LIMITED STOCK! DON'T MISS OUT! FLOOR STOCK ONLY. WHILE STOCK LASTS!

GET IN QUICK!

**CAPEVIEW MITRE 10**

220 SETTLEMENT RD, COWES VIC 3922

PH: (03) 5952 2288

**MIGHTY HELPFUL  
MITRE 10**

\*On sale 75% off selected items at Capeview Mitre 10 Cowes only on Thursday, 26 December 2024, while stock last. Floor stock only. All prices include GST. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with another offer or discount. Offer does not include special orders, promotional or already discounted lines. Offer excludes laybys, rainchecks, customer orders, holds, Trade and Commercial quantities and any other offers or discounts. personalshopping only. Mitre 10 reserves the right to correct printing errors.



# Most dangerous island beaches: Berrys Beach

Last summer, six people tragically lost their lives at beaches across the Bass Coast, as drowning figures across the country continue to rise.

This summer, the Advertiser's summer safety series highlights some of the island's most dangerous beaches for visitors and anyone not familiar with local conditions. This week, we speak to local lifesavers about Berrys Beach.

Often described as a hidden gem, Berrys Beach is a much-loved surf break for local island surfers and is not patrolled by lifesavers. A 10-minute drive from Cowes, in recent years the beach has become more popular with tourists and visitors.

While there have been no fatal drownings at Berrys in the last 10 years, the beach's growing popularity and visitation numbers have meant there have been several near-misses. The beach is a "transverse bar rip" beach, with strong rips which sweep out into the ocean and can increase with swell and certain conditions.

Sean "Preds" Carney has been heavily involved with the Woolamai Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (WBSLSC) for nearly 15 years and has lived on the island for the past decade.

Across his lifesaving career Preds has been involved in multiple mass rescues, both inside and outside of patrol hours. The former lifeguard and jetski operator has also played a leading role in several callouts – where lifesavers responded to incidents outside of their designated patrolling areas and times.

Preds said that Berrys' proximity to Cowes can make the

beach a hot spot for beachgoers through the summer.

"Berrys is probably one of the closest surf beaches from Cowes," the veteran lifesaver said.

"I've pulled a few people out of (the water) there."

When working on the Life Saving Victoria (LSV) jetskis, Preds was patrolling island beaches from the sea. As a mobile roving patrol, the LSV jetskis are able to "drop-in" to different beaches on the island to assess conditions and respond to emergencies where necessary.

Preds says on one patrol, his team arrived at Berrys Beach to see two young boys caught in a rip.

"When we were on the jetskis, just by chance we pulled up (to Berrys) and there were two young boys stuck in a rip out the back," Preds said.

"It was freakish how lucky those boys were. We were just in the right place at the right time."

Leading into summer, Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WBSLSC) President Jason Close is urging people to only swim at patrolled beaches, at patrolled times.

Berrys Beach was identified by the Club President as one of the most high-risk beaches on



With its close proximity to Cowes, Berrys Beach is growing in popularity, but lifesavers describe it as a "transverse bar rip" beach, with strong rips which sweep out into the ocean.

the island.

"The safest option is only to swim at a patrolled beach, between the flags, during patrol hours," Jason said.

"It makes so much sense to swim at a patrolled beach, and no sense not to."

## Rock fishing

Berrys Beach is also a popular rock-fishing location, and prominent signs on the staircase down the beach mandate life jackets are worn while fishing.

Berrys is designated as a

high-risk zone for rock-fishing by the Victorian Fisheries Agency (VFA), and fines apply for rock-fishing without a lifejacket.

According to the LSV annual drowning report, 50 per cent of all those who fatally drowned from a boating or rock-fishing incident in the last year were not wearing a lifejacket.

Fifty-four per cent of all fishing-related deaths since 2014-15 also involved people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

If someone falls in the water,

or is washed into the ocean, the VFA states, don't panic, stay calm and swim away from the rocks.

Do not jump in if someone is washed into the water, instead:

- Throw a rope or something that floats, including a life ring (if available) to the person

- Dial Triple Zero (000) or 112 on your mobile phone or go to find other people to help

Before heading to the beach this summer, download the BeachSafe app at [beachsafe.org.au/apps](https://beachsafe.org.au/apps)

## YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE, BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.

The best way to keep you and your loved ones safe this fire season, is to make sure you have a fire plan.



Go to [fireplanner.vic.gov.au](https://fireplanner.vic.gov.au) to create your personalised fire plan now.

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





# Beach goers risk fines for flouting wildlife rules

## WILDLIFE

Visitors and residents have been urged to walk on dedicated beach tracks this summer, keeping dogs on leads and cats indoors to protect wildlife, with fines to be issued to anyone not following regulations.

Phillip Island Nature Parks has partnered with Birdlife Australia, Bass Coast Shire Council and the Conservation Regulator to help threatened hooded plover shorebirds “nest and rest” this breeding season.

Dog owners must follow local beach regulations, particularly in areas where dogs are prohibited, and always keep dogs on-lead or under their control, as they face fines up to \$4939 if their dog attacks wildlife.

Hooded plovers are protected under the Wildlife Act and it is illegal to harass or harm them; damage their habitat; or interfere with warning signage, with maximum penalties ranging between \$3951 and \$47,421.

The “Sharing Our Shores” campaign to protect nesting birds runs from December 1 to April 30, urging the community to consider the birds, which nest in the high tide line and sand dunes.

Their eggs and chicks are of-

ten difficult to see and are at risk of being trampled and disturbed by beachgoers.

Last January 70 Nature Parks staff carried out 35 patrols while council officers have carried out 143 beach patrols through the year to educate the public about responsible pet ownership, also issuing infringements.

Conservation Regulator authorised officers will also be patrolling beaches to enforce rules and issue fines, while Birdlife Australia volunteers would also be patrolling beaches.

Any destruction of habitat or harassment of hooded plovers should be reported to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

Nippers from Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club will hold a pop-up at Cleeland Bight on January 3 from 8.30am to 12.30pm to share the message about protecting hooded plovers.

“Shared responsibility”

Nature Parks manager Kate Adams said the campaign had already saved countless birds and chicks during the breeding season.

“This summer we want everyone to enjoy our beaches, but that means ensuring the safety



It is illegal to harass or harm hooded plovers, damage their habitat, or interfere with warning signage, with penalties ranging between \$3951 and \$47,421.

of all of the inhabitants, including hooded plovers and other migratory shorebird species, which need the opportunity to nest and rest during spring and summer,” Kate said.

“Conservation is a shared community responsibility and we all have a role to play in

looking after the unique and wonderful wildlife we have on Phillip Island; after all it is what makes this such a unique place to live and visit.”

Birdlife Australia’s Beach-nesting Birds Project Coordinator Kasun Ekanayake said volunteers worked hard to safe-

guard beach-nesting birds on Phillip Island and mainland Bass Coast.

“The volunteers of Birdlife Australia’s Friends of the Hooded Plover Bass Coast devote a lot of time and effort towards protecting them on beaches between San Remo and Inverloch,” he said.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor Rochelle Halstead said residents and visitors had an important role to play in supporting local conservation efforts.

“Phillip Island is a special part of the world and being a bird-friendly beach goer is the best way we can contribute to the protection of the wildlife whilst enjoying our beautiful beaches,” Cr Halstead said.

“We encourage all beach users to be mindful of wildlife. Keep to the designated paths, have your dog on a lead, keep cats inside, stay away from signed nesting areas, and take your rubbish with you.”

The Conservation Regulator’s co-ordinator of Operation SOHO, Han Auld confirmed officers would patrol along the coast to educate beachgoers about how small changes in their behaviour could “make such a difference to the local hooded plover population”.

# Police operations lift for summer

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

Leading into summer, local police have advised road safety operations will ramp up, and have appealed to residents and visitors to be vigilant when it comes to water safety.

“We would like to extend our best wishes to the community and visitors as we enter the festive season,” Senior Sergeant Brent Muir said.

“We would appeal to road users to be patient and plan ahead. Operation Roadwise will be conducted over the Christmas and New Year period to maintain a visible police presence and target speed, impaired driving, distraction and vulnerable road users.”

Following a spate of car thefts and home burglaries earlier in the year, Senior Sergeant Muir also reminded the community to please lock and remove valuable items

from vehicles left in public spaces, and to secure your car keys.

Over summer, there will be an increased police presence on the island, through until the end of January.

Additional police will be deployed for New Year.

**Beach Safety**

Senior Sergeant Muir also reminded the community that while the beaches across Bass Coast are beautiful, they can also be highly dangerous.

“Remember to follow the safety signage at all times and only enter the water at patrolled beaches.

“Plan your trip and be aware of local conditions: the Beach-safe app is a great source for up-to-date information on beach conditions and patrols. Alcohol and water don’t mix, so please refrain from entering the water if under the influence.”



Police presence on the island will increase over summer, including Operation Roadwise, targeting speed, impaired driving, distraction and vulnerable road users.



# WATERFRONT COMPUTERS OPEN IN NEW LOCATION FROM

DECEMBER 20TH 2024

73 CHURCH ST, COWES

• COMPUTER REPAIRS • COMPUTER SALES • PHONES AND ACCESSORIES

CONTACT US | PHONE : 5952 3312 | EMAIL : fixme@waterfrontcomputers.com.au





Kirri Harvey (left) organised the Put Your Foot Down walk for her husband Andrew who died a few months ago from pancreatic cancer, with her friend Deb who helped the family organise the fundraising walk. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)

## Steps toward change for pancreatic cancer

### FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, around 80 people turned out in Cowes, donning purple to raise awareness for pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in the country, with roughly 3500-4000 Australians dying from the disease each year.

The disease claims as many lives as breast and prostate cancer each year but only receives a fraction of the funding. Currently there are no screenings available for the disease.

The walk was organised by Kirri Harvey, who lost her husband Andrew to the illness on July 15 this year.

In a touching show of support for Kirri, and a grim testament to the devastating impact pancreatic cancer has on the community, the group walked down Thompson Avenue Cowes in solidarity.

So far, it has raised over \$9000 and you can still donate at [www.putyourfoot-down.org.au/phillip-island](http://www.putyourfoot-down.org.au/phillip-island).

Colleen Brown's partner Paul Crosby has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, with Colleen reading about the walk in the Advertiser. Colleen and Paul's children and grandchildren all joined the walk to raise awareness for the disease.

Colleen said being surrounded by so many people who were also affected by pancreatic cancer was "very humbling".

"To realise that other people were going through the same thing, or had gone through the same thing, it made us feel like we weren't alone," Colleen said.

"We were so grateful to the people who donated money (for pancreatic cancer research) while we were talking, and those who stopped us to ask what we were walking for."

Colleen said there were a number of people her family spoke to who were unaware of lack of screening and treatment available for one of Australia's biggest killers.

For more information on pancreatic cancer, visit [pankind.org.au](http://pankind.org.au)



Paul Crosby (centre) is currently battling pancreatic cancer, for which there is no screening available and little research funding. Paul before the Put Your Foot Down walk with his partner Colleen Brown, daughters Courtney and Ebony, grandchildren Zoe and Harrison and Courtney's partner Ashlee.



151 Thompson Ave, Cowes  
(03) 5952 2605  
[theislandmarketplace@gmail.com](mailto:theislandmarketplace@gmail.com)  
Open 7 days a week 10am - 4pm



the island marketplace



# Low rain means farmers fork out

### WEATHER

Average rainfall in spring has provided a slight boost to 2024's weather totals.

But local farmers say it has been too little too late, and they are now forced to pay up to \$30,000 a month for stock feed.

This winter was the driest since records began at Rhyll (1994), which followed a dry autumn, but there has been a slight uptick in spring rainfall.

September recorded almost 80mm, above the average of 67mm, while October measured 62mm (average 64mm), and November totalled 57mm (60mm average).

However, spring rain was not enough to improve the outlook heading into summer, with farmers declaring a green drought, where there is enough rain to keep grass green but no deep, critical rain.

Phillip Island's only dairy farmer Adam Eldridge said low rainfall meant he had only grown half his usual amount of silage and hay and he was now paying up to \$30,000 per month to buy in feed for his herd of 180 dairy

cows and 80 beef cows and calves.

"We started buying in early November. We bought in two semi-loads of vetch hay unusually early this year; we'd normally do that in April or May," Adam said.

"We can't afford to de-stock so we'll just have to keep buying in feed, but that costs. It will be a break-even year."

Adam said dams were low and they were now relying on town water to water stock.

Surf Beach beef farmer and president of the Bass branch of the Victorian Farmers Association Bill Cleeland said some of the dams they relied on for stock water were only half full.

"Hay crops are well down on previous years, and the problem now is the flow on effect going into autumn and winter next year."

### Fire warning

A lack of rainfall across southwest Gippsland, including Phillip Island, has resulted in more fuel available and an increased chance of fires, according

to the Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer.

The outlook states over summer, there is a higher chance of warmer maximum day and night temperatures on the island.

Westernport Water was set to reduce its seasonal weather outlook at the start of December, but is yet to do so.

The water authority's website shows Candowie Reservoir is currently about 60 per cent full, and this time last year it was 95 per cent, but with a spokesperson saying the likelihood of water restrictions being introduced was low.

Phillip Island had the driest end to winter on record, with August recording 16.4mm of rain, below the average August rainfall of 77.4mm. Winter's total was 114mm.

The island also experienced its driest start to winter in two decades, with less than half the average rainfall in June at 29.4mm (the June average is 66.8mm).

[emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/](http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/)  
[fireplanner.vic.gov.au/](http://fireplanner.vic.gov.au/)

## Dementia Support Australia

# Helping people who live with dementia to stay at home longer.

If you're interested in participating in a **FREE carer wellbeing and respite program** designed to empower and upskill carers, scan the QR Code, call **1800 699 799** or visit [dementia.com.au/dsa-staying-at-home](http://dementia.com.au/dsa-staying-at-home)

## Staying at Home

A Carer Wellbeing & Respite Program

**Program Details**  
3 days / 2 nights:  
21-23 January 2025  
Newhaven, VIC





# Bass Coast College VCE

## EDUCATION

The class of 2024 at Bass Coast College is celebrating their VCE results, with 90 per cent of students expected to receive first-round offers on their first three tertiary preferences.

Raphael Spiteri-Stevens was named Dux with an ATAR of 97.85, with eight students receiving results over 90.

Bass Coast College's high achievers included Raphael, along with Tate Rigby, Zac Mabilia, Dillen Andrighetto, Dylan Cleary, Kira Mascaros, Brodie Mitchell, Louisa Poll, Ciara McCraw and Katie Fisher.

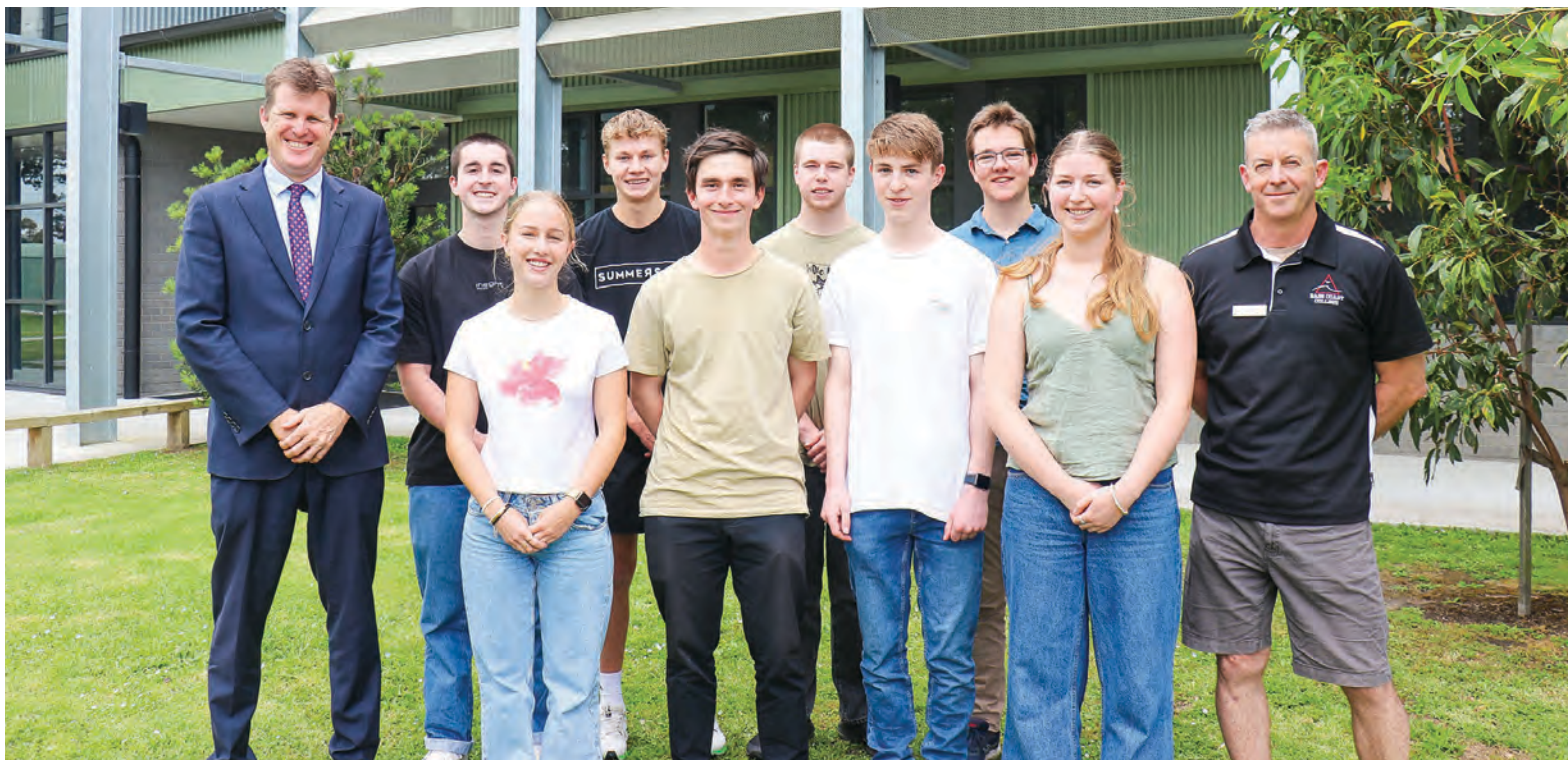
Ross Bramley, Wonthaggi Campus Principal, said the school was extremely proud of the students and their achievements over the year.

"In particular, we are proud of our students in excelling in all areas of our school," Mr Bramley said.

"These achievements not only include the wonderful individual ATAR scores our VCE students have achieved but also the excellent achievements our students have recorded in the areas of VCE Vocational Major, Vocational Education and Training studies, music, sport and leadership.

"A huge thank you must go to our students, their parents and carers, our teaching staff and our education support staff.

"It has been the combined efforts of all of these elements of our school community that has, once again created a learning



Bass Coast College's high achievers include Tate Rigby, Zac Mabilia, Dillen Andrighetto, Dylan Cleary, Kira Mascaros, Raphael Spiteri-Stevens, Brodie Mitchell and Louisa Poll. With Campus Principal Ross Bramley and Year 12 Coordinator Vaughan Gleeson. Absent: Ciara McCraw and Katie Fisher. Photo courtesy South Gippsland Sentinel Times.

environment at Bass Coast College that has allowed students to explore their passions and has supported their efforts in obtaining this year's results."

Mr Bramley said the Class of 2024 will be long remembered as a "polite, friendly and hard working cohort" and that they will be greatly missed.

"They have been a joy to have at Bass Coast College since they arrived in Year 7 back in 2019.

"We would like to wish them all the best for their future endeavours and encourage them to stay in touch with the school so that we can follow their future successes."

There were 124 students at Bass Coast College who received an ATAR with another 29 students successfully completing a VCE Vocational Major.

The school's median VCE study score was 28, with a me-

lian ATAR score of 63.

There were 24 study scores of 40 or over across 15 different students, with 72 per cent of students receiving an ATAR of 50 or more.

The highest median study scores were achieved in six different areas: Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Music Performance, Product Design and Technology, Specialist maths, Visual Communication and De-

sign, and Health and Human Development.

Three students were shortlisted for Top Arts and Top Screen 2024.

Top Arts features the most exceptional work from VCE students and will be on show at the NGV.

Top Screen presents the best films created by VCE Media students, including short fiction, animation and documentaries.

# Newhaven College celebrates 2024 VCE results

## EDUCATION

Dux of Newhaven College, Sienna Michie, celebrated an exceptional ATAR of 98.65, placing her in the top 1.5 per cent of Victoria. Sienna was closely followed by Finn Leary, who received an ATAR of 97.7.

Newhaven College Principal, Tony Corr, congratulated all this year's VCE students on an incredible result.

"We are thrilled to announce that 10 of our students (11.5 per cent) achieved an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Entrance Rank) above 90, placing them in the top 10 per cent of the state.

"Whilst 30 per cent achieved an ATAR of above 80, placing them in the top 20 per cent of the state. In addition, more than half of our students ranked in the top one-third of Victoria.

"Other high achieving students with ATAR scores above 90 were Tilia Pires-Andersen, Ella Berry, Leo Savona, Niamh O'Connell, Max Arceo, Dion Pires-Andersen, David O'Neill and Alice Mabilia.

"Special recognition to Year 11 student Cecily de Gooyer who achieved the perfect Study Score of 50 in Music Industry VET. To achieve a study score of 50 is the highest possible result in a subject and an exceptional performance," Mr Corr said.

"Newhaven College congratulates our Class of 2024 on their outstanding VCE results.

"The Year 12 class of 2024 has been a delightful group of students in every facet of school life demonstrating effort, initia-



Positioned in the top 1.5 per cent of the state, Newhaven College's highest performing students (front from left): Leo Savona, Dion Pires-Andersen, Max Arceo, David O'Neill, Finn Leary, Alice Mabilia, Sienna Michie. Back: Tilia Pires-Andersen and Niamh O'Connell. Absent: Ella Berry.

tive and a positive mindset in all they have done. This approach has been reflected in their excellent VCE results."

### Study scores

Students who achieved study scores of 40 or above, placing them in the top eight per cent of the state, were:

**Biology:** Isaac Savona\*, Maisie

McMurray\*, Lara Smyth\*, Niamh O'Connell

**Business Management:** Gabriel Winterson, Belinda Baird

**English:** Finn Leary, Sienna Michie, Max Arceo

**Health and Human Development:** Max Arceo

**English Literature:** Finn Leary

**General Mathematics:** Charlie Deery, Jazz Mau\*, Alice Mabilia

**Music Industry VET:** Cecily de Gooyer\*

**Physical Education:** Lara Smyth\*, Leo Savona

**Psychology:** Finn Leary, Rosalie Spencer\*, Charlotte Derham\*, Grace Howlett\*, X Kesterton, Amelia White

**Visual Communication and Design:** Jasmine Turton

"We are very proud of the

achievements of each Year 12 student and thank them for the contributions that they have made in their time at Newhaven College.

"We wish them the very best of luck as they set off on the next chapter of their lives," concluded Mr Corr.

\*Denotes Year 11 doing a Unit 3 & 4 subject





Getting ready to enjoy a picnic on the Esplanade lawns at last week's carols are from left Chris Ford, Jude Thompson and Julie Martin.



Enjoying the balmy conditions at Carols by the Bay last week are from left Matt King and Sam King with son Darcy, and Dave, Tracey and Jessica Costello.

# Joyous Christmas carols night

## COMMUNITY

Carols by the Bay on December 10 was a resounding success, declared the "best ever" by organisers Island Voice, with an estimated crowd of 5000 people.

A dedicated group of volunteers worked tirelessly to organise the event, a highlight of Christmas for the local community.

President of Island Voice Peter Paul said they'd received numerous texts and emails congratulating them on the event.

"Once again, the weather smiled upon us and delivered a balmy evening. The rides for the children were thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the animal farm was extremely busy for several hours."

He said the three face painters were kept busy all evening and H-Bomb Haley with her coloured hair spray "added more Christmas cheer".

He said the arrival of Santa on the old CFA truck ramped up excitement levels, with Santa

swamped by eager children before he even made it to his Santa chair.

Peter thanked the choirs from Cowes Primary and Our Lady Star of the Sea that started the carols section of the evening.

"New artists to the carols were the Ukelele Group, the Drop Kicks, and Dan & Daisy. I'm sure they'll all be invited back."

Also on the bill were crowd favourites The Bandicoots and the Sisters and Mistresses choir.

"The highlight of the evening

was when our artists came back on stage for several numbers, as we counted down to the fireworks display."

Peter thanked Bass Coast Shire Council who funded and organised the spectacular fireworks.

He said the event would not be possible without support from a range of local sponsors.

"The carols were supported by Cowes Bendigo Community Bank and the Phillip Island RSL, and the support from Shire staff, in particular Janine Temme,

was greatly appreciated.

"We thank COG Audio Visual for the sound, The Advertiser for the publicity, Westernport Water, Phillip Island Rotary, North Pier, Panny's Chocolates, and Archi-sign for all the printing and signs.

"Thanks also to A Maze'N Things for their major prize in the lucky tickets."

Peter also thanked the Island Voice carols committee for their efforts throughout the year in planning and putting together the program.



Jacinda and Mia Tillotson at Carols by the Bay.



Ernie and his mum Lottie pictured enjoying the festivities at last week's community Christmas event Carols on the Bay.



Liam and Lucas Jackson meeting up with Santa at Carols on the Bay.



It's a small but very efficient Island Voice committee that presents the free family focussed Carols by the Bay event and kids rides for the Phillip Island community each year. Some of the volunteers who work hard to ensure this popular event continues each year (from left): Anne and Peter McMahon, Linda Marston, Cheryl Overton, Glenyce Paul and Andrew Marston.



Having plenty of fun while waiting to see Santa were Jessica Krien and daughter Lily, and Brad Hodgetts and Charlie.



A dazzling fireworks display, sponsored by Bass Coast Shire Council provided a colourful and exciting finale to Carols by the Bay. Island Voice President Peter Paul praised the fireworks display. "How good was that! A spectacular show, thanks to Bass Coast Shire," he said.





Students from Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School Social Justice Team did a great job of helping the St Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal last week. Meila, Kian, Isla, Cordelia and Amelia, with Jill Mulcahy, the school's Wellbeing Leader and Vinnies volunteer delivery driver Cathy Jones.

# Local generosity ensures it's a Happy Christmas for all

## COMMUNITY

A dedicated group of volunteers came together last week to put together 100 hampers to help ensure everyone in our community gets to celebrate Christmas.

St Vincent de Paul creates Christmas food hampers and supplies gifts for those in the community who are experiencing hardship.

The donations for the hampers came from local schools, Coles, Woolworths and the Bendigo Bank.

One volunteer said they were blown away by the generosity of the local community.

"It was incredible," they said, describing the amount of food and gifts that had been donated.

A representative from St Vincent said they were extremely grateful for the support from the community.

"We would like to thank all the com-



Volunteers worked tirelessly to put together 100 Christmas hampers last week for St Vincent de Paul, to help those experiencing hardship celebrate Christmas.

munity, businesses, charities and craft groups for their generous donations to our Christmas Giving Tree.

"The gifts and donated goods enabled us to help families in San Remo and Cowes that require special support during the Christmas period."



## A very merry Woofmas

The Phillip Island and Bass Coast Dog Owners Association made sure every dog can have a happy Christmas, with a donation of dog food to the PICAL pantry.

For families struggling with cost-of-living, feeding pets can be an added expense, and the donation to PICAL means pets can also enjoy a Christmas treat.

The trolley full of dog food, courtesy of the Association and its members, was dropped off to PICAL, gratefully received by volunteer Pam.



## COWES ISLAND VINTAGE

217 Settlement Rd, Cowes VIC 3922  
Phone: (03) 5952 2432 or 0425 846 258  
info.cowesislandvintage@gmail.com  
cowesislandvintage.store



This display in Goldensands Road, Cape Woolamai has been described as a "must see" and a "truly spectacular" display.

# Lights up for Christmas

As December 25 approaches, Christmas light displays are up across the island.

The Bass Coast Christmas Lights and Phillip Island Christmas Lights Facebook pages contain a good guide to some of the best local Christmas lights decorations. You can also check the state-wide listings on the Christmas Light Search website.

However a slow drive around your own neighbourhood at night also reveals some festive delights.

One reader contacted the Advertiser singing the praises of a display in Goldensands Road in Cape Woolamai.

"It's a truly spectacular Christmas light display that will be sure to capture



Another extraordinary local display at Walton Street in Cowes. Check Phillip Island Christmas Lights and the Bass Coast Christmas Lights Facebook pages for listings of some of the best displays.

the hearts of locals and visitors alike here on Phillip Island," they said, describing it as a "must see for families and holidaymakers".

"Kids are able to go and take photos under the arch-

es and with the inflatables. A huge thank you to this family for bringing that festive spirit here for all to enjoy. We will no doubt be coming past a few more times before Christmas."



## FIRST NATIONAL PHILLIP ISLAND



10/17 THE ESPLANADE, COWES  
\$1,300,000 TO \$1,400,000  
Without question one of the best views on Phillip Island, with the stunning north facing aspect. This property has all the bases covered from permanent living to the ideal getaway, just move and enjoy.  
CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD  
0412 712 034



7 MCILWRAITH ROAD RHYLL  
\$1,100,000  
Nestled in this extremely quiet location is the perfect place to let all the stress from Melbourne wash away. The home is awash with natural light and is perfect for entertaining family and friends.  
CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD  
0412 712 034



30 LANTANA ROAD, CAPE WOOLAMAI  
\$849,000  
With 4 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms spacious and well appointed perfect for family living. Huge decking area for entertaining with a great outlook & sunsets.  
CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY  
0410 595 130



57 ELVINGTON AVENUE, COWES  
\$699,000  
This property combines coastal charm with contemporary convenience- all just minutes from Everything Cowes has to offer. Set on a low maintenance block in a quiet neighborhood.  
CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY  
0410 595 130

MORE STOCK URGENTLY NEEDED.

56-58 THOMPSON AVENUE, COWES  
PH: 03 5952 3922

WWW.PHILLIPISLANDFN.COM.AU  
INFO@PHILLIPISLANDFN.COM.AU



# ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF

Est. 1886

## 35 BONWICK AVENUE, SAN REMO



- Refreshed and ready for a new chapter, this brick veneer gem has stunning panoramic views over the bay on 998m<sup>2</sup> block
  - Short stroll to stunning beaches and township
  - 3 beds/2 baths/double garage & workshop
- \$880,000 TO \$920,000**

## 24 MCRAE AVENUE, COWES



- Absolute foreshore reserve frontage with water views and sandy walking track to beach
  - Open plan living upstairs leading to huge entertainer's deck
  - 4 beds/2 baths/lock up garage
- \$1,700,000 TO \$1,850,000**

## 333 COGHLAN ROAD, COWES



- Prime location – adjoining the Cowes Golf Club and easy stroll to Silverleaves Beach
  - 2 self-contained areas, light and bright open living, beautiful established gardens, fully fenced
  - 4 beds/2 baths/2 car garage
- \$1,280,000**

## 1/35 STEELE STREET, COWES



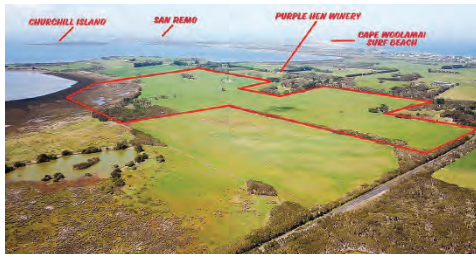
- Exquisite modern masterpiece less than 500mt to the beach and main street
  - Gas log fire, dual ovens, induction cook top, marble benchtops, 2 living areas
  - 4 beds/2 baths/2 car garage
- \$1,670,000**

## 1 BEACH STREET, COWES



- Stunning coastal retreat in highly sought after area, steps away from Cowes north facing beach and Cowes Yacht Club
  - Recently renovated, open plan living, covered alfresco area
  - 4 beds/2 baths
- \$1,200,000**

## 92 MCFEES ROAD, RHYLL



- FIRST TIME OFFERED – this magnificent farm has been held by the same family since settlement
  - 108.5 acres (approx.) with a natural north facing slope, adjoining foreshore reserve
- CONTACT AGENT**

## 17 HASTINGS STREET, VENTNOR



- Beautifully presented home with self-contained cottage providing ample space
  - Gas log fire, water tanks, separate workshop, generous 645m<sup>2</sup> allotment
  - 4 beds/2 baths/2 car garage
- \$1,290,000**

## 10 DUNVEGAN CRESCENT, SURF BEACH



- Historic homestead with amazing water and rural views
  - Set on an impressive 1956m<sup>2</sup> allotment with established gardens
  - 4 bed/2 bath/3 car
- NEW PRICE - \$1,675,000**

## 2 HOLLYDENE COURT, COWES



- Stylish & light-filled retreat situated on a spacious 669m<sup>2</sup> (approx.) allotment
  - With 'Commercial 1' zoning and wheelchair access
  - 3 beds/1 bath/ample car parking
- \$800,000 TO \$850,000**

## 2/29 STEELE STREET, COWES



- Exclusive location – situated a short stroll to main street and Cowes north facing beach
  - Split zone ducted heating & cooling, double glazing, covered outdoor area and fully secure backyard
  - 3 beds/3 baths
- \$975,000**

## 23 KATHERINE CIRCUIT, COWES



- Open plan living, private backyard & undercover outdoor area for relaxing
  - Fully landscaped gardens on a 530m<sup>2</sup> (approx.) allotment
  - 4 beds/2 baths
- NEW PRICE - \$749,000**

## 3553 BASS HIGHWAY, KILCUNDA



- Ultimate coastal living with beach access directly across the street
  - Spacious open plan living, 2 front and rear private covered decks
  - 3 beds/2 baths/2 car garage
- \$1,195,000**

## 3 ELSA TERRACE, SAN REMO



- Immaculately presented dual living deluxe Metricon home
  - 2 Living zones, each with separate lounge, kitchen, dining areas
  - 5 beds/6 cars plus double garage
- \$1,190,000**

## 41 PARK ROAD, SAN REMO



- Perfect coastal retreat only 100m from sandy bay swimming beach
  - Corner block of 537m<sup>2</sup> (approx.) with brick home and newly appointed kitchen
  - 3 beds/1 bath/2 cars
- \$730,000 TO \$780,000**



## 30 PEMBREY LOOP, COWES



- Modern single level home with impressive kitchen, stone bench tops, 900mm oven & cook top
  - Inviting alfresco area with landscaped front & rear yards
  - 4 beds/2 baths/2 cars
- \$839,000**

## 33 DAFYDD STREET, COWES



- Charming coastal retreat, just 500m stroll to Red Rocks Beach
  - Landscaped gardens, covered rear deck, ample space for parking set on 802m<sup>2</sup> (approx.) allotment
  - 3 beds/1 bath/2 car garage
- \$670,000**



**Greg Price**  
0419 337 441



**Brian Silver**  
0407 347 509



**Maree Malloy**  
0408 316 715



**Chase Watters**  
0423 272 819



**Sharon Wintle**  
0405 575 332

**113a Thompson Avenue, Cowes**  
5952 2633 **ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU**



Be an island **WONDERER**

Set sail and wonder

WESTERN PORT FERRIES

www.westernportferries.com.au

**AMAZEN THINGS**

BOOK ONLINE

fun, magic & ADVENTURE!

1805 PHILLIP ISLAND RD COWES VIC (03) 5952 2283  
please visit [AMAZENTHINGS.COM.AU](http://AMAZENTHINGS.COM.AU)

**Park Lane**  
PHILLIP ISLAND

**HOLIDAY PARK**  
motor, cabins, camping & glamping

1825 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes 5952 2283  
[parklaneholidayparks.com.au](http://parklaneholidayparks.com.au)

**Phillip Island Seal Cruise**

**Stunning Scenery Cape Cruise**

**Island Sunset Cruise**

Wildlifecoast CRUISES

WWW.WILDLIFECOASTCRUISES.COM.AU CALL 1300 763 739

**OFF GRID | LINE | ROAD**

#GETOFFONFRENCHISLAND

**NATURALISTE TOURS**

Get OFF GRID, take yourself OFF LINE & venture OFF ROAD.  
Discover this unique, unspoilt, remote destination.... French Island.  
[naturalistetours.com.au](http://naturalistetours.com.au) or call 03 5257 4570

Theatre & Cinema Library  
Community Rooms Art Gallery  
Customer and Visitor Services Museum  
Venue Hire

**Berninneit**  
91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes  
03 5671 2470 [www.basscoastculturalvenues.com](http://www.basscoastculturalvenues.com)

**THE KING'S MANE BARBERS**

Est 2024

72 CHAPEL STREET COWES.  
0352 936 843 | WALK INS ONLY

**i island GUIDE**

WESTERN PORT BAY

Phillip Island map with numbered locations 1-20.

**VENTNOR RD**, **BACK BEACH RD**, **PHILLIP RD**, **COWES - RHYLL RD**, **PHILLIP ISLAND RD**

**Wimbledon Heights**, **SilverLeaves**, **Rhyll**, **Smith Beach**, **Sunderland Bay**, **Surf Beach**, **Surfies Point**, **Newhaven**, **San Remo**, **Cape Woolamai**

**THE NOBBIES CENTER**, **PENGUIN PARADE**, **Seal Rock**, **Black Rock**, **Kitty Miller Bay**, **Berrys Beach**, **Pyramid Rock**, **Forrest Caves**, **The Colonnades**, **Woolamai Surf Beach**, **CAPE WOOLAMAI STATE FAUNA RESERVE**

**OSWIN ROBERTS RESERVE**, **COALA CONSERVATION RESERVE**, **WANDER TREE-TOP BOARD-WALKS TO WATCH KOALAS UP CLOSE IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT.**

**PHILLIP ISLAND NATIONAL SURFING RESERVE.**  
The reserve is made up of four sites along Phillip Island's coast: Cape Woolamai, Smiths Beach, Summerland and Cat Bay.

**WHALE MIGRATION**  
Witness the annual arrival of humpback and southern right whales and even the occasional killer whales from May to September.

**SHEARWATERS**  
There are approximately one million short-tailed shearwaters that arrive each year around late September from the Aleutian Islands near Alaska. They are a spectacular sight as they return to their burrows each night at dusk.

**Patrolled weekends and public holidays until April 14**  
Sat 1pm-5pm  
Sun/Public Holidays 10am-4pm

**Patrolled weekends and public holidays until April 14**  
Sat 1pm-5pm  
Sun/Public Holidays 10am-4pm

**Phillip Island TENPIN BOWLING & Entertainment Centre**

5952 3977  
OPEN 7 DAYS

the island food store

75 Chapel Street, Cowes  
next to Aldi Car park | 03 5952 6400  
[islandfoodstore@bigpond.com](mailto:islandfoodstore@bigpond.com)

**GRUMPY'S CRAZY GOLF**

OPEN 7 DAYS

**OPEN HOURS:**  
9am till late - 7 days a week  
152 Thompson Avenue, Cowes.  
5952 3060 | 0408 120 908  
No weather problems - Crazy Golf is under cover!

**WELCOME TO LAMA LOUNGE CAFE, YOUR FAMILY'S NEW FAVORITE SPOT!**

2105 PHILLIP ISLAND ROAD, COWES  
INSIDE THE PHILLIP ISLAND FAMILY RESORT

**DAILY SURF LESSONS**  
DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

\$75 - 2 hour lesson - everything provided  
225 Smiths Beach Rd, Smiths Beach  
**BOOK NOW Ph: 5952 3443**

**A guided walk with our unique marsupials!**

Immerse yourself in nature and discover the unique species that call Phillip Island home.

**BOOK NOW**  
[penguins.org.au](http://penguins.org.au)

**BANDICOOT DISCOVERY TOUR**  
Experience this endangered species on a spotlight walk at Churchill Island.

**GUIDED KOALA TOUR**  
Get up close to this Australian icon at the Koala Conservation Reserve!

**PHILLIP ISLAND GO KARTS**

New Go Karts!

**Book Online**

Open Everyday\* 9am - 5.30pm  
\*Closed Xmas & Boxing day  
[phillipislandgokarts.com.au](http://phillipislandgokarts.com.au)

**National Vietnam Veterans Museum and Café**

FASCINATING FOR ALL AGES

- Holographic light & sound show.
- Audio visual interactive devices.
- Aircraft, helicopters & Centurion Tank.
- Nui Dat Café for coffee and snacks.

Open 7 days from 10am - 4pm - Ph: 5956 6400

25 VETERANS DRIVE, NEWHAVEN, PHILLIP ISLAND  
[vietnamvetmuseum.org](http://vietnamvetmuseum.org)

**Nui Dat Café is open at the museum. Come and meet Vicki, Gina & Connor. Open 10am-4pm**

**COWES NEWSAGENCY**  
PHILLIP ISLAND

Shop 3, 68 - 80 Thompson Ave (next to Aldi)  
Ph: 03 5952 2046  
[admin@cowesnewsapi.com](mailto:admin@cowesnewsapi.com)  
Monday - Saturday 8.30am - 5.00pm | Sunday 8.30am - 12.00pm

Come on in for your tatts/lotto, cards, newspapers, magazines, board games, inks, printing and more.

**SHOP WHERE THE LOCALS SHOP.**  
Specialty cut & wrapped cheeses, fully serviced deli and on-site butcher. Full liquor department and exceptional customer service. Supporting local suppliers.

**IGA San Remo**

**OPEN 8AM-8PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
135 Marine Parade, San Remo, 3925 P: 5678 5337 | [IGA](https://www.iga.com.au) San Remo IGA

**FISH & CHIPS**  
WITH OCEAN VIEW  
FRESH LOCAL SEAFOOD FROM OUR FLEET

**SAN REMO CO-OP**  
EST. 1948 FISHERMAN'S

OPEN 7 DAYS 10:30AM TO 8:00PM

**Beand**  
COFFEE-FOOD-FUDGE  
San Remo

5/157 MARINE PARADE, SAN REMO  
7.30AM-4PM.  
7 DAYS A WEEK.

**island clip'n climb**

The Ultimate School Holiday Fun  
[islandclipnclimb.com.au](http://islandclipnclimb.com.au)

**Phillip Island TENPIN BOWLING & Entertainment Centre**

5952 3977  
OPEN 7 DAYS



# Welcoming in the New Year

## FIREWORKS

There are three separate fireworks scheduled for 9.30pm across the shire on New Year's Eve.

The Cowes New Year's Eve Fireworks are at the Cowes Jetty, with people invited to enjoy the display from the foreshore.

The fireworks, presented by Bass Coast Shire Council, will run from 9.30pm until 9.45pm.

This is a free, family-friendly event, so bring a basket, a rug or a chair to the foreshore to welcome in the New Year.

There are also 9.30pm fireworks at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve and the Coronet Bay foreshore.

There are no fireworks displays at midnight.

Please don't forget your pets on New Year's Eve.

Many animals, especially horses and dogs can be frightened by fireworks, so make sure they are safe and secure.

Frightened dogs have been known to severely injure themselves in their desperate attempts to escape the sound.



The New Year's Eve Fireworks at the Cowes Jetty, will run from 9.30pm until 9.45pm. Last year a large crowd gathered on the foreshore to enjoy the spectacle.

Animal emergency service groups recommend supervising your pet to help prevent them from escaping or injuring themselves. If you aren't able to supervise, consider making arrangements with someone who can.

They also recommend keep-

ing your dog inside if possible. This will not only reduce the sound of the fireworks for them but also ensure they don't run away. You can use music or TV to mask the noise.

Details: [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/explore/whats-on/events](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/explore/whats-on/events)

## Toy Run delivers a Christmas bonanza

### COMMUNITY

Organisers of the annual Toy Run, which sees hundreds of motorcyclists ride from Caldermeade to Phillip Island say this year was the most successful ever.

Over \$10,000 was donated in toys and vouchers, to help families doing it tough this Christmas.

Organisers Samantha and Jason Hampstead of Dead4Eva Designs said after sorting and counting up all the donations there was at least \$1000 in food vouchers, \$4000 in general/mixed vouchers and \$10,000 in toys.

The donations were sorted by volunteers from Phillip Island Rotary, the Phillip Island CFA, members of the Trust No One SMC, a representative from the Cranbourne Scout Group, plus local community members, including family and friends.

Families in need were then able to come and access the donations they needed.

"After three hours it was all sorted," Samantha and Jason said in an update posted on the Toy Ride Facebook page.

"Families all the way from Bass Valley through to Wonthaggi North came in and we gave out toys and vouchers for over 200 children, during the six



Organisers Samantha and Jason Hampstead of Dead4Eva Designs with some of the toys generously donated by this year's Toy Run. Photos courtesy of Samantha Halstead, Dead4Eva Designs. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)

hours we were there."

They thanked all the participants of the ride and the volunteers who helped sort the donations.

"You all helped put food on people's tables this Christmas – including this week and provide a happy Christmas for children."

Leftover toys were distributed evenly between Rotary groups in Phillip Island, Drouin, Wonthaggi and Warragul.

"There's even more that have gone to PICAL, as well as all the food that was donated," Samantha and Jason said.

"Thank you so, so much to the riding community and our local community. This year's Annual Phillip Island Toy Run 2024 has been an amazing success."

"We wish you all a wonderful Christmas."



San Remo Community Bank Carols will be held on the Foreshore from 5pm on Friday, December 20, with carols, live performances and a special appearance by Santa.

## San Remo's festive celebration

### CHRISTMAS

Don't miss the San Remo Community Bank Carols on the Foreshore from 5pm this Friday, December 20.

The festivities start at 5pm and run until 9.30pm.

Alongside the regular carols, live acts include The Times and Bern & Mandy.

There will be performances by the children from San Remo

Primary School and San Remo Kindergarten, and a special appearance by Santa.

Throughout the evening there will be Christmas content on the big screen, so bring a chair or blanket and come along to the San Remo foreshore for a community Christmas like no other.

The evening is sponsored by the Bendigo Bank and Bass Coast Shire Council.

## Elf off the shelf

In a grinch-like heist, the Christmas Elf which adorned the automatic gate at the San Remo IGA was stolen.

"Our elf went missing!" read signs posted at the local supermarket. "He was hanging out on our automatic gate, and someone took him."

Following rigorous investigation by this humble masthead, the Advertiser understands the elf was taken by two youths on bicycles.

The youths in question are not known to the supermarket staff. According to San Remo IGA staff who have surveyed CCTV footage, it took the pair four separate attempts to loot the elf, before making off at high-speed with the Christmas mascot in tow.

In a touching twist of Christmas kindness, a pair of locals promptly donated two elves to the store, which now move around the supermarket periodically.



According to San Remo IGA staff who have surveyed CCTV footage, it took the pair of youths four separate attempts to loot the elf, before making off at high-speed with the Christmas mascot in tow.

## LOCALS SUPPORTING LOCALS

DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • FARM SERVICES

Geoff and staff wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Thank you for your support over the past year.



Transfer station now open to commercial operators  
[www.wheelawaste.com.au](http://www.wheelawaste.com.au)  
Phone 5672 2056

## THE waterboy CAFE

Thank you to our wonderful staff and customers for your ongoing support over this year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year.







Phillip Island Business Network Committee members at the Christmas drinks at Hotel in Cowes.

# That's A Wrap on 2024

## BUSINESS

Phillip Island Business Network (PIBN) members celebrated another productive year with Christmas drinks at Hotel in Cowes.

"As we approach the end of another productive year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and express gratitude to our committee members, all of whom have volunteered many hours to ensure PIBN continues to provide ongoing support to our local business members," said President Jess Patman.

Jess said the network had hosted and been involved with several successful events throughout the year, including the popular Brake-Fast Club at the MotoGP and sponsoring the new business category at the Bass Coast Business Awards.



Bec Fairthorne, Michael Beitzel, Tanya Dannin and Vanessa Verzaci at the PIBN Christmas drinks.

"We would like to wish all businesses a successful and safe summer period. Thank you all for your continued support and engagement as we look forward to another successful year ahead."



Glenn Maxwell is one of a raft of celebrity players arriving on Phillip Island for the Blitz Golf League event at Red Rocks Golf Course on December 21.

## Blitz Golf to light up Phillip Island

### GOLF

Pro-golfers, Australian cricketers, AFL footballers, NRL players, a supermodel and a Melbourne Cup winning Jockey are all lining up for the Blitz Golf League event in Phillip Island on Saturday December 21.

With its unique and high-octane knockout format, the Blitz Golf League has been dubbed the T20 of golf. Adding more spice to the mix, professional athletes from other fields and celebrities from the stage to the screen, are invited to take on Professional Golfers from the Australian PGA Tour.

Centred around a Stadium Hole, Blitz features

three progressively shorter rounds, each cut more challenging than the last, culminating in the ultimate sudden-death hole. Combine this with entertainment for the kids, food and beverages for the adults and live music, it is a non-stop high energy golf event that is run and won in three hours.

Get along to the Red Rocks Golf Club in Phillip Island Victoria on Saturday December 21 to see these stars in action.

- Glenn Maxwell (Australian cricketer)
- Jake Fraser-McGurk (Australian cricketer)
- Ryan Papenhuyzen (Melbourne Storm)
- Steven May (Melbourne Demons)

- Rhys Uhlich (Supermodel)
- Damien Oliver (Jockey)
- Jye Pickin (Pro-golfer)
- Matias Sanchez (Pro-golfer)

Fans can roam around with the players as they take on the course, with tickets from just \$10 and kids in for free. Or you can enjoy prime viewing right on the Stadium Hole with the Red Rocks VIP Experience, or guarantee a seat undercover in Club Blitz.

Blitz is Faster. Louder. Bolder.

Grab your tickets from [blitzgolf.net](http://blitzgolf.net)

\*\*Gates open at 3pm. First official ball crushed off the tee at 4.30pm.

/ Sponsored article /



Theatre & Cinema  
Library  
Customer and  
Visitor Services

Community Rooms  
Art Gallery  
Museum  
Venue Hire

Berninneit

91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes

03 5671 2470

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



**THE T20 OF GOLF / PROS VS CELEBS / LIVE MUSIC**

**Get Tickets**

**THE 20 OF GOLF / HIGH ENERGY GOLF / NON-STOP ACTION**

**BLITZ GOLF LEAGUE**

**BLITZ VICTORIA**

RED ROCKS GC, PHILLIP ISLAND

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 21**

**BLITZGOLF.NET / VICTORIA**

Presented By

Red Rocks Golf Club

WEEKEND WARRIORS INC.

BUDGIE BOTTLED COCKTAILS

CBC9 BREWING

Bowens

**ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS / ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL**



# Preps and Juniors bounce into fun at Summersalt!

## EDUCATION

Last week, the Prep and Junior students of Our Lady Star of the Sea (OLSS) celebrated the end of the school year with an excursion to Summersalt in Wonthaggi.

The action-packed day was filled with trampoline tricks, balancing challenges, bars, ropes, and climbing activities that kept everyone entertained and active.

A school spokesperson said students eagerly embraced every activity, cheering each other on and showing off their growing skills. "From scaling ropes to mastering balancing acts, it was wonderful to see their confidence and teamwork shine."

Teachers and staff were thrilled to see the joy on everyone's faces as they made the most of this energetic celebration.

"What a fantastic way to cap off a year of hard work and learning."

## Surf Day

On Monday, December 9, OLSS students from Years 1 to 6 swapped their classroom desks for surfboards, embarking on an unforgettable day of learning and laughter at Smiths Beach.

Hosted by Island Surfboards, the day was all about



Avy at Summersalt. The action-packed day was filled with trampoline tricks, balancing challenges, bars, ropes, and climbing activities. More photos at [pisra.com.au/education](http://pisra.com.au/education)



Indi in action at the OLSS surf day at Smiths Beach, hosted by Island Surfboards.

teaching vital water safety skills and giving students a taste of surfing-many for the very first time.

The program began with a water safety briefing, where students learned how to read the beach, understand rips, and stay safe in the surf. These

lessons, delivered by skilled surfing coaches from Island Surfboards and supported by the OLSS dedicated teachers, laid the foundation for the time spent in the water.

"It was truly wonderful to see our students engaging with the local community, learning

new skills, and enjoying everything the beautiful Smiths Beach has to offer," said the school spokesperson.

"Stepping outside the classroom allows children to develop confidence and resilience, all while connecting with the world around them."



The Phillip Island Library at Berninnet will be closed from 3pm on December 24 through until January 2.

## Festive season hours

### LIBRARY

All Myli library locations, including mobile library stops, will be closing at 3pm on Tuesday December 24

This includes the Phillip Island library at Berninnet.

Libraries will remain closed throughout the holiday period and will resume their regular hours from Thursday January 2, 2025.

A statement from Myli said: "We understand this extended closure is a change for our patrons, and we appreciate your understanding and support. For more information, please visit our website."

[www.myli.org.au](http://www.myli.org.au)

50
Artists

## PICES 50X50 Art Exhibition

50 exciting artists from Bass Coast and beyond

Affordable and Unique Artworks

Small contemporary artworks featuring 2D and 3D works - Painting, Photography, Pottery, Printmaking, Sculpture and Textile, ideal for that special Xmas gift.

December 14 - January 1, 2025. Open Daily 10am - 4pm (closed Xmas day)  
Berninnet Art Gallery, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes Vic 3922

Bringing contemporary art to the community

@picesartspace

www.pices.com.au

# Great Xmas presents.

Christmas special, \$80 for two books plus a free Advertiser online subscription (valued at \$70).

Available at the Advertiser office, 60 Chapel St. Cowes or [www.pisra.com.au/subscriptions#subscriptions](http://www.pisra.com.au/subscriptions#subscriptions)

2 FOR
\$80

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

## ADVERTISER



# Ocean inspires local children's author

## BOOKS

When Jen Broomhall goes swimming at her favourite beaches – Smiths or Silverleaves – she usually has one thing on her mind.

“It sounds silly, but while I’m swimming I’m thinking about the plot of the book,” Jen says.

It’s not really that silly, given that Jen’s first published book this year is set underwater.

*Mermaids No Longer: People of the Sea*, as the title implies, is all about merpeople and their marine adventures, written for junior readers and published by the UK’s Pegasus Publishers.

Jen, who has lived on Phillip Island for a decade, but has a lifelong association with the island, says she has always been fascinated by water.

Such is her love of the ocean, Jen was aged just 10 when she vowed to live here.

“We had family friends who lived on the island and I’d go down every summer.

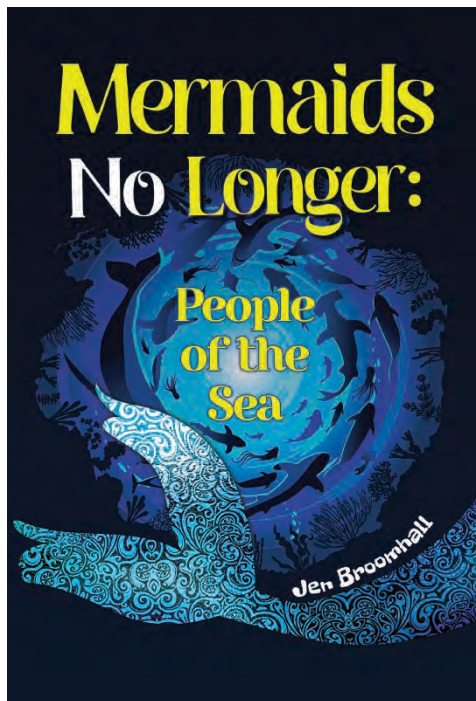
“When they moved I begged my parents to move here.”

It took until adulthood for that dream to become reality, buying a house at Cape Woolamai in 2004 with her husband Joseph.

The couple have raised their two children on the island, with son Daniel now working in Cowes as a car spray painter.

Jen, who has worked around the island, including in childcare at the hub, the YMCA and Cowes primary school pool, has also been a member of Ibis Writers and the Artists Society of Phillip Island as a painter.

She has been a lifelong writer, especially poetry, but it was during Covid



Island author Jen Broomhall's latest book, *Mermaids No Longer: People of the Sea*.

lockdown she decided to pen her mermaid tale, which took two years to complete.

Surprisingly the book is not set on Phillip Island, but in an idealised Pacific Island location.

Jen says the book has a strong environmental message and *Mermaids No Longer* is the first of a trilogy.

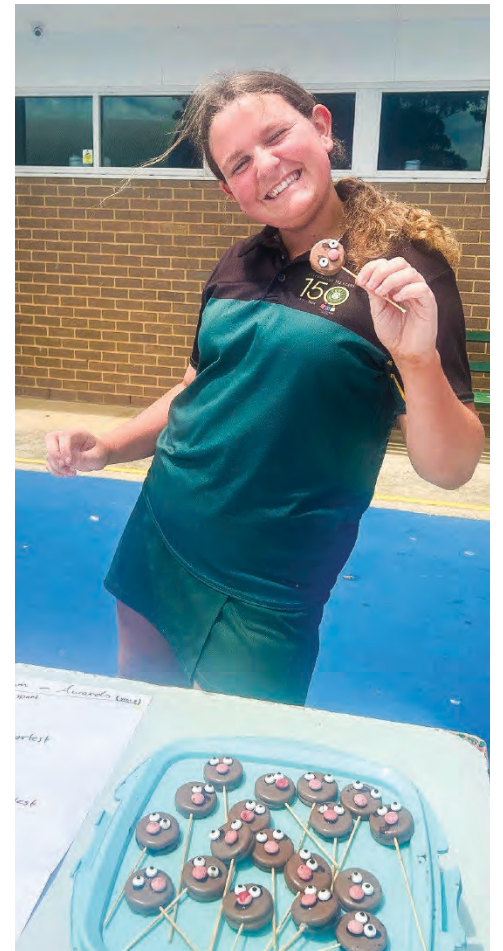
“The main message is oceans are important and we need to keep them safe.” [pegasuspublishers.com/authors/jen-broomhall](https://pegasuspublishers.com/authors/jen-broomhall)



Bentley, Flynn and Silas had a great selection of biscuits, cakes and slices on their stall at the Earn and Learn Christmas Craft market at Cowes Primary. More photos at [pisra.com.au/education](https://pisra.com.au/education)



Paige was serving up cookies and that perennial favourite, fairy bread at her market stall.



Let's face it, Aliza's stall at the Cowes Primary Christmas Craft market was pretty impressive.

## Students earn and learn

### EDUCATION

Cowes Primary Year 5 and 6 students celebrated the end of term with their Earn and Learn Christmas Craft market.

Students created a variety of different crafts and treats stalls that showcased their amazing creativity.

Students were able to make or bake a product that they could “sell” to their peers with the school’s Earn and Learn money.

Teachers said they were impressed by the quality of goods on offer, and said the students manned some outstanding stalls.

## GIG GUIDE

21/12 **TIM HANEGAN DUO**  
 22/12 **STEVE ROMIG**  
 24/12 **THE FOXY JONES**  
 27/12 **DAMON STONE**  
 28/12 **SECOND HAND NEWS**  
**FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE - \$25+BF**  
 29/12 **JAMES KELLY & CHARLIE OWEN**  
 30/12 **JASON RESCH**  
 31/12 **NEW YEARS EVE JK & PAUL SHIRLEY**

04/01 **LIVE MUSIC TBC**  
 05/01 **ROB PAPP & INVY HORN JAM**  
 11/01 **MARK SEYMOUR**  
**& THE UNDERTOW - 9PM \$55+BF**  
 12/01 **CAM WALTER BLUES**  
 19/01 **DAN DINNEN**  
 24/01 **THE PIERCE BROTHERS - 9PM \$40+BF**  
 25/01 **FLUX**  
 26/01 **THE LAING BROTHERS**

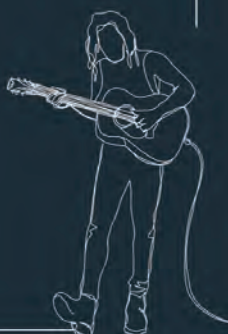
09/03 **JACK BOTTS \$45+BF**

PLUS:

FRIDAY NIGHT  
**LOCALS NIGHT MEAT RAFFLE**  
**HAPPY HOUR 3-5PM**

SUNDAY NIGHT  
**SUNDAY ROAST**

MONDAY - SATURDAY  
**\$20 EXPRESS LUNCH**



## PRESENTING A SPECIAL ART EXHIBITION & SALE

# Living Moments



Quiet Grazing, Drouin Victoria  
David Taylor A.W.I.F.V.A.S.



Morning Adrift, Triabunna Tasmania  
David Taylor A.W.I.F.V.A.S.



Summer Days, Spirit of the Island  
Diana Edwards A.G.R.A.F.



Binalong Bay Dreaming  
Diana Edwards A.G.R.A.F.

This exhibition represents spontaneity, freshness and light from life with its living moments to share from near and far, Phillip Island, Bass Coast, Gippsland, Central Australia, and countries abroad.

All works are for sale, including both frames and unframed works.

A special time to share, with all welcome.

**ILUKA**  
 STUDIO GALLERY

**OPEN DAILY**  
**10AM - 4.30PM**

Saturday 4th Jan to  
 Friday 31st Jan 2025

28 SETTLEMENT RD  
 SILVERLEAVES  
 PHILLIP ISLAND 3922

0427 947 889 | 0418 565 796



# Swim between the flags this summer

## LIFESAVING

Stay safe this summer by only swimming at a patrolled beach. Daily patrols are now underway at Woolamai and Smiths Beach through until February 16.

At Woolamai, patrols run from 10am to 6pm Monday to Saturday. Sunday patrols currently finish at 4pm, but from December 25 onwards will run to 6pm.

At Smiths Beach, patrols run seven days a week from 10am – 6pm.

Cowes Beach will be patrolled from December 21 through to February 2 (excluding Christmas Day), from 10am to 6pm.

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club President, Jason Close said this summer, volunteer surf life savers from the club as well as lifeguards from Life Saving Victoria, will be on duty at Phillip Island's two most popular surf beaches Woolamai Beach and Smiths Beach.

He cautioned people from swimming at unpatrolled locations.

“Phillip Island has approximately 100km of coastline and life savers and lifeguards cannot be everywhere all of the time.

“There are simply not enough volunteers or resources available to be at every beach.

“There are also a number of beaches which due to their remoteness, limited accessibility and beach conditions, that we simply do not want people to swim at.”

Jason said Woolamai Beach is the club's primary focus and is where the life saving club and all of its equipment and voluntary life savers are based.

Smiths Beach also has a designated rescue base and offers a more moderate surfing experience for beachgoers.

The club President stressed that swimming at any unpatrolled beach is not advisable, but Anzacs, Colonnades, Forrest Caves, Surf Beach, Berrys Beach and Kilcunda were of particular concern.

“Each of these beaches is unpatrolled and can be hazardous for swimming.

“Their remoteness means



Woolamai, Smiths Beach and Cowes are all patrolled this summer. Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club President, Jason Close has urged people not to swim at unpatrolled locations.

it takes time for help to arrive, and this can often mean it is too late.

“Some of these beaches can also be very difficult for first responders to access. These are some of the reasons that Woolamai Beach and Smiths Beach when patrolled are better options.”

**Safety**

Beach goers are encouraged to download the BeachSafe

app before heading to the beach this summer.

Last summer five lives were lost from drownings at remote, unpatrolled beaches on Phillip Island and one at nearby Kilcunda.

There were also several near misses at remote or unpatrolled beaches where swimmers found themselves in trouble and were rescued by surfers, off duty life savers or members of the public.

Important beach safety tips:

- Plan ahead. Always swim between the red and yellow flags at patrolled beaches. If lifesavers can't see you, they can't save you.
- Check the Beachsafe app for more information about which beaches are patrolled and for beach and weather information.
- Read safety signs and assess conditions before entering the water.
- Be sun smart. Stay hydrated. Stay safe and enjoy the beach responsibly.

Details: [www.woolamai-beach.org.au](http://www.woolamai-beach.org.au)



Santa and some of his elves working hard at the photo shoot and stall at Rhyll Twilight market on Friday: Pat Paxton, Joan Gaunt, Dave and Gill Scrase, Sue Gale and Hilary Kerrison.

## Health Hub elves work their magic

### FUNDRAISING

The hardworking “elves” from the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary raised valuable funds for the new community hospital at the Rhyll Twilight market last weekend.

The elves had a fun evening and expressed their gratitude to local photographer Peter Fogarty “for his time and expertise taking photos”.

The Health Hub Auxiliary team will be back at the Rhyll Twilight market on Friday January 3 and 17, holding a raffle, plant and book stall, continuing to raise the much-needed funds.

In January you can also find them every Saturday morning at Mitre 10 from 8.30am onwards holding a sausage sizzle.

The auxiliary needs more volunteers and would love anyone interested to come along and meet them.

Phone Gill 0431 672 777 or Deb 0400 297 452 for details.

**Sunday  
December 22**

PHILLIP ISLAND  
CFA 2024  
**SANTA RUN**

RAMADA RESORT	11:50AM
SEAGROVE ESTATE PARK	12:00PM
SEAVIEW HOLIDAY PARK	12:25PM
WIMBLEDON HEIGHTS PARK	12:30PM
ANCHOR BELLE PARK	12:45PM
PARK LANE	12:50PM
ANDERSON BOAT RAMP	1:05PM
SUNSET STRIP RESERVE	1:15PM
NRMA PARK	1:30PM
SMITH BEACH STORE	1:40PM
BEACH PARK	1:55PM
VENTNOR BEACH PARK	2:05PM
AMAROO PARK	2:20PM
ANCHORAGE CAMP PARK	2:30PM
BUSHY PARK	2:45PM
WHYTESANDS PARK	2:55PM
SILVERLEAVES STORE	3:10PM
RHYLL BOAT RAMP	3:20PM
KAHLOA PARK	3:35PM
SHEARWATER PARK	3:45PM
EREWHON POINT PARK	4:00PM

**\*\*ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE. SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OR WEATHER CONDITIONS**

## CASUAL TENNIS COURT HIRE

Rhyll  
\$15.00 per hour  
Bookings General Store  
5907 6796  
BBQ facilities available in Rhyll Park

# \$25 UNLIMITED

BOWLING LAZER TAG AND TABLE TENNIS

**UNLIMITED DEAL RUNS FROM BOXING DAY UNTIL AUSTRALIA DAY!**

# 6.30 - 9.30PM

Minimum four per lane | Every night over the school holidays

# 5952 3977

SETTLEMENT ROAD, COWES

PHILLIP ISLAND  
TENPIN BOWLING





The spotlight bandicoot experience at Churchill Island will be hosted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights during school holidays.



An immersive guided koala walk through the treetop boardwalks at the Koala Conservation Reserve are running from Thursdays to Sundays during school holidays.

# Guided tours with iconic animals this summer

## TOURISM

Ever imagined yourself face-to-face with koalas in the treetops or catching a glimpse of the elusive Eastern barred bandicoot at night?

Phillip Island Nature Parks will showcase its resident koala and bandicoot populations with guided tours giving visitors rare and exciting insights into how the iconic Australian animals live and interact in the wild.

The Nature Parks will run an immersive guided koala walk through the treetop boardwalks at the Koala Conservation Reserve in a natural educational experience from Thursdays to Sundays during school holidays and

on weekends throughout 2025.

In addition, the spotlight bandicoot experience at Churchill Island will be hosted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights during school holidays, allowing people to spot the animals emerging from vegetation, foraging in paddocks and lawns, and searching for grubs.

Tour guests will also be asked to help count adult and juvenile bandicoots and spot any unusual behaviour – important data used by the Nature Parks to further understand Churchill Island's bandicoot population.

### Ecotourism

Daniel Kallstrom, Attraction Manager Koala Conservation Re-

serve and Churchill Island, said ecotourism was a crucial element in the successful conservation efforts at the Nature Parks and educating the community about how to best protect native wildlife.

"These discovery tours give visitors first-hand experience of iconic koalas and threatened Eastern barred bandicoots, which have largely avoided extinction thanks to dedicated conservation efforts," Mr Kallstrom said.

The endangered Eastern barred bandicoot is a success story for Phillip Island, which now has a thriving population of the species since it was reintroduced to Churchill Island in 2017, effectively saving them from extinction in the wild.

"Unlike in New South Wales, the ACT and Queensland, koalas are not on the state's threatened species list. But koalas do face threats in the wild on Phillip Island, including habitat loss, disease, climate change, dogs and road traffic, which have all contributed to the decline in population over time," Mr Kallstrom said.

"Teaching the community about these animals, their habitats and how to best support them in the wild will go a long way to minimising the impact of these threats."

Since 1991, the Koala Conservation Reserve has offered a protected area where the marsupials can thrive in a semi-wild environment. The 45-minute guided koala tour runs in all-weather condi-

tions and participants need to be able to stand and walk on uneven ground.

Guests on the bandicoot 1.5km walking tour require reasonable fitness and the ability to navigate uneven surfaces, some in low light and very dark conditions. The walking tour is not suitable for prams. Closed shoes, non-reflective weather protection and warm clothing is recommended.

Tickets are limited and bookings are essential. For more information and bookings, visit [penguins.org.au](http://penguins.org.au)

Tickets for the Penguin Parade are already selling out for summer. If you are planning to visit the Penguin Parade, please book now to avoid missing out.

# STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

As we enjoy more beautiful weather, the Bass Coast region is calling all beachgoers to come and enjoy the sandy shores safely.

To help you stay safe, we encourage everyone to **download the Surf Life Saving Australia, Beachsafe app** and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website ([lsv.com.au](http://lsv.com.au)) and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



**beachsafe.org.au**

Always swim at patrolled locations whenever possible, and in hot weather, take steps to protect yourself and others by keeping cool, staying hydrated, planning ahead and checking in with others.

**We want everyone to keep safe when exploring the amazing coastline of Bass Coast.**







# BUSINESS GUIDE

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

AIR CONDITIONING



**ALWAYS COOL**  
AIR CONDITIONING  
HEATING & COOLING SPECIALISTS  
1800 931 631  
www.alwayscoolair.com.au

Pic Lic 45137  
Au 34551

CABINET MAKER



**JOINERY SMOOTH**  
RECYCLED TIMBER CABINETRY  
KITCHEN'S  
INSTALLATION SERVICE  
TRADITIONAL SAUNA'S  
BESPOKE DESIGN  
0457 239 600  
MITCH.JOINERYSMOOTH@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.JOINERYSMOOTH.COM.AU  
JOINERYSMOOTH  
ACN 672 446 769

CONCRETER



**mBurgess**  
CONCRETING & EXCAVATIONS  
Matt Burgess 0405 533 456

EARTHMOVING



**MK EARTHWORKS**  
BULK CARTAGE \* SITE CLEAR \* TRENCHES \* DRILLING

- Excavations
- Demolitions
- Drive/Pathways
- Retaining walls
- Spoil removal
- Free quote / consultation
- Experienced local business
- Innovative solutions
- Quality workmanship
- Transparent communication
- Full compliance / insurance
- Tight access specialists

\* TIPPERS \* EXCAVATORS \* SKIDSTEER \* AUGERS \* ROLLER \*  
em: mkearthworks@gmail.com  
ph: Mick - 0408 575 472

AIR CONDITIONING



**BONUS**  
GIFT CARD CAMPAIGN  
OFFER ENDS 31 JULY 2023



**CITY TO COAST AIR**  
WONTHAGGI  
SUPPLY, INSTALLATION,  
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE  
Shop 1/13 Inverloch Rd, Wonthaggi  
**0400 001 465**  
citytocoastair.com

BUILDER



**JSN**  
Constructions

SPECIALISTS IN:

- Carpentry
- Decking
- Extensions
- Bathrooms
- Renovations
- and more

Contact us for a quote:  
**JAMES 0488 552 579**  
JSNCONSTRUCTIONS@YAHOO.COM

CONCRETER

**RAY MATTOCK**  
**CONCRETING**  
**AND EXCAVATIONS**

- Exposed aggregate paving
- Coloured - Slate - Brick paving
- House slabs - Garages

**PH: 5952 3853 FAX: 5952 5103**  
**Mob: 0418 560 202**

EARTHMOVING

**Bobcat/Excavator Tipper Hire**

All aspects of earthmoving, driveways,  
draining and landscaping

**Rubbish removal**  
**0418 372 399**  
Servicing all Phillip Island areas

**Ray's Skip Hire**  
**+ Earth works**

AIR CONDITIONING



**COASTAL**  
REFRIGERATION & AIR-CONDITIONING

03 5678 5190  
office@picra.com.au

Coastal Refrigeration  
and Airconditioning  
coastal\_refrig\_and\_aircon  
AUS1426

COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC  
SERVICE, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND SALES

CONCRETER

**TIM NEWMAN**  
**TNC**  
**CONCRETING**

- Exposed aggregate
- House slabs
- Driveways
- Footpaths
- Sheds & garages
- All concreting needs

**Tel/Fax 5956 8791**  
RMB 2180 Ventnor 3922 E:tnewman@waterfront.net.au  
**0419 312 805**

ELECTRICIAN

**JACKSON ELECTRICAL**  
**& AIR CONDITIONING**

- Reliable & fully insured
- Split system installers
- Air conditioning sales and service
- TV Antenna & data
- All types of electrical services
- Free quotes
- Hot water systems
- Ovens and cooktops

**CALL MICHAEL 0427 633 667**  
CAPE WOOLAMAI REC 17893 LIC. 48834

AIR CONDITIONING

**southcoast air**

Air conditioning  
& refrigeration  
Cooling & heating specialists

Split system sales & complete installation  
Service, repairs Electrical contractor  
**0402 044 377**  
Dave Miller  
PIC. 43216  
L109866 REC26099

CAR REMOVAL

**BASS COAST**  
**CAR REMOVALS**

Unwanted cars removed free

CHEAP TOWING NOW AVAILABLE

**Call Shane**  
**5678 2002 or 0407 599 616**

CONCRETER



**NEW WAVE**  
**CONCRETING**  
**0402 454 742**  
**Luke Hinrichs**  
Phillip Island & surrounding areas since 1999

GARAGE DOORS

**GARAGE DOOR**  
**REPAIRS**

**0439 203 426**  
JET DOORS  
EST. 2023

BLINDS & CARPET



**SOUTH COAST**  
**FLOORING XTRA**  
A FABULOUS FLOORING EXPERIENCE  
155 Thompson Avenue, Cowes 03 5952 1488

CARPENTER



**CARPENTRY**  
Est 1982

Home Renovations  
Maintenance & Repairs  
Window Replacement | Decks  
John 0447 975 626

DECKS & VERANDAHS

**ISLAND**  
**DECKS**

Specialists in all  
types of decks  
and veranda's



**John Johnston 0414 714 179**

GAS SUPPLIERS



**WRIGHTON**  
**GAS SUPPLIES**

Agency for **ELGAS**

Servicing Phillip Island & San Remo  
For all household gas supplies

**Bruce Wright**  
Tel: 5952 3252 Mobile 0409 164 441

BLINDS/AWNINGS

*Creative Blinds & Awnings*



**FREE MEASURE & QUOTE**  
Mobile Showroom  
Peter: T/F: 5952 5092 M: 0417 358 650

CARPET CLEANING

**ALLFLOOR**  
**CARPET CLEANING**  
WOMAN OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESS

- Operating 7 days a week
- NOW offering DRY cleaning on Carpets and Rugs
- Truck mounted Steam cleaning system for Carpet, Upholstery and Rugs.
- Residential and Commercial
- End of lease, Airbnb, prepare home for selling, refresh and stain removal.

**CONTACT TRACY**  
**0400 481 891 info@allfloor.com.au**



DECK RESTORATION

Enjoy your outdoor space  
for years to come with DeckSeal!  
DECK SANDING, CLEANING, OILING AND MAINTENANCE.



Call Nick on 0411 988 401  
basscoast@deckseal.com.au  
www.deckseal.com.au

GUTTER CLEANING



**GUTTER-VAC**  
Clean. Safe...Easy

Vacuum gutter cleaning,  
gutter guard, solar panel cleaning,  
ceiling cavities cleaning.

**0427 393 291**  
swgippsland@guttervac.com.au

ADVERTISING



To advertise in the  
**Business Guide**

CONTACT JANE ON 5952 3201  
OR EMAIL ADS@PISRA.COM.AU

DRIVEWAY RESTORATION

**CLEAN, PRESSURE BLAST**  
**AND RESEAL**

**DRIVEWAYS AND PATHS**

**MARK: 0418 105 262**

HANDYMAN

Painting interior & exterior  
15 years experience  
Pressure cleaning weatherboards  
Flat pack assembly  
Doors installed, handles fitted  
Lawn mowing

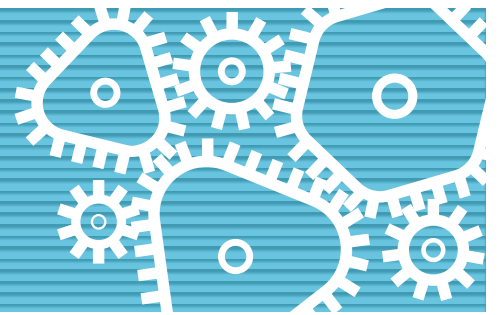
**Frank**  
0455 596 433

No job too big  
or too small



# BUSINESS GUIDE

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES



## HANDYMAN

**affordable quality**  
home maintenance and repair.  
Decks. Verandahs. Pergolas.  
Renovations and extensions.

**MASTER BUILDERS** DB\_U 8980

Peter Stasinowsky  
Ph 0408149488 email. pstaza@hotmail.com

## LAWN MOWING

**Jim's Mowing**  
Need it Done?  
Jim's the One

**Call 131 546**

- ✓ FREE QUOTES
- ✓ Fully insured
- ✓ Police checked
- ✓ OH&S compliant
- ✓ All work guaranteed

**RISK FREE**

Lawn mowing, gardening, pruning,  
hedging, rubbish removal, gutter cleaning,  
weeding, mulching, odd jobs  
[www.jimsmowing.com.au](http://www.jimsmowing.com.au)

## PLUMBING

**Same Day Plumbing Service**

**Morris Brothers**  
Lic 43482

**Free Quotes - Pensioner Discounts**  
**0403 116 435**

## STEEL

**ISLAND STEEL**

Steel fabrication • Stainless/Aluminium fabrication  
Steel sales cut to order • Sheetmetal fabrication  
Guillotine and folding • Gal lintels / Retaining wall posts  
Truck mounted CRANE HIRE • Genie lift and generator hire

Call for a quote WE DELIVER

**14-16 The Concourse, Cowes 5952 1432**  
**Email:sales@islandsteel.com.au**

## HANDYMAN

**SJC HOME MAINTENANCE**  
Qualified Tradesman with over 35 years experience

Call for a Free Quote  
**No job too small**  
Quality work at a great price, Fully insured

**Call Mick 0424 414 495**  
[www.sjchomemaintenance.com.au](http://www.sjchomemaintenance.com.au)

## MARINE MECHANIC

**TOPWATER MARINE**  
0402 761 692

- Inboard / outboard motor servicing and repairs
- Accessory Installations and electrical work
- Trailer servicing and modifications
- Anchor winches • Boat detailing • Insurance work

[www.topwatermarine.com.au](http://www.topwatermarine.com.au) | [info@topwatermarine.com.au](mailto:info@topwatermarine.com.au)  
64 Dixon street, Inverloch

## PLUMBING

**RELIABLE PLUMBER**  
Fast Response at an honest price

**Tappy the Plumber**  
0427 776 808

- NO CALL OUT FEE
- Leaking taps & toilets
- Hot water systems replaced
- Vanities & water
- Filters installed
- Gas fitting
- General plumbing

email: [tappy@waterfront.net.au](mailto:tappy@waterfront.net.au)  
Fully Licenced & insured. All work guaranteed Lic. No. 119269C

## STORAGE

**Island Secure Storage**

Large & Small Units  
Boxes & Packaging  
Security Monitoring  
On Site Manager  
24hr / 7 day access

**Phone 0400 214 446**  
4 Industrial Way, Cowes 3922  
Alt Ph: 5952 1432 Fax: 5952 5690  
Email: [storage@islandsteel.com.au](mailto:storage@islandsteel.com.au)  
Web: [www.islandstorage.com.au](http://www.islandstorage.com.au)

## HYDRAULIC AND MECHANICAL

**ROTARET**  
HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING

Hydraulic, pneumatic and mechanical repairs.  
Design and fabrication.  
We also stock industrial supplies.

Factory 2, 3 Cyclone St, Wonthaggi  
(03)5672 5924  
Email: [enquiries@rotaret.com.au](mailto:enquiries@rotaret.com.au)  
**We are More than Just Hose and Fittings**

## MOTORCYCLE REPAIR

**APEX**  
MOTORCYCLE REPAIRS  
PHILLIP ISLAND

**5919 0080**

Unit 2, 7-9 Shorland Way, Cowes Vic 3922  
[apexmotorcycles.com.au](http://apexmotorcycles.com.au)

## RESTUMPING

**KEANE & SON**  
House Restumping & Levelling

**Paul Keane**  
0427 080 309

[keanesrestumping@outlook.com](mailto:keanesrestumping@outlook.com)  
PO Box 696, Wonthaggi, Vic, 3995

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

**eventops**

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT** BASS COAST

**EOGTRAFFIC.COM.AU**  
5900 2932  
[projects@eventopsgroup.com.au](mailto:projects@eventopsgroup.com.au)

## LANDSCAPING AND DESIGN

**VICTORIA'S PREMIER DESTINATION**  
FOR ALL THINGS NATURAL STONE  
AND PORCELAIN TILES.

OVER 500 HUNDRED PRODUCTS TO CHOOSE FROM!

**THE STONE STORE**  
0424 426 932

FACTORY 14, 71 FRANKSTON GARDENS DRIVE, CARRUM DOWNS  
[WWW.THESTONESTORE.COM.AU](http://WWW.THESTONESTORE.COM.AU)

**Phillip Island & Bass Coast**  
**Motorcycle Towing & Transport**

**Also Servicing Melbourne & Gippsland Regions**

- \*Breakdowns \*Flat Tyres \*Race Tracks
- \*Shows & Events \*Dealer Deliveries \*Auctions
- \*Local & Interstate \*Group Discounts
- \*Show Bike Specialists

[motorcycletow.com.au](http://motorcycletow.com.au) 0431 655 749

## RESTUMPING

**RESTUMPING & RELEVELLING**  
Restumping, Levelling,  
House Raising & Repacking,  
all renovation works  
**CALL 0418 506 788**  
Licence DBL24625

## TREE CARE

**ISLAND TREE CARE**

Qualified Arborist with 15 years experience and committed to maintain the health, safety and beauty of your trees ensuring they thrive and enhance your home. Servicing Phillip Island and surrounds.

Specialising in Pruning & Hazardous Tree Removals

- ✓ Habitat Trees
- ✓ Cable Bracing
- ✓ Qualified Arborist
- ✓ Mulch & Firewood Sales
- ✓ Storm Damage
- ✓ Stump Grinding
- ✓ Fully Insured

**0484 776 399**

## PLASTERING

**WONTHAGGIplaster**  
& Construction Supplies

T: 5672 1535 F: 5672 3786  
42 INVERLOCH ROAD, WONTHAGGI  
[wonthaggiplaster.com.au](http://wonthaggiplaster.com.au)

CEMINTEL GYPROCK CSR NM NATIONAL MASONRY EARTHWOOL

## SLIDING DOOR REPAIRS

**SLIDING DOOR REPAIRS**

Are your doors sticking, catching or just not sliding properly?

- Timber & Aluminium Sliding Doors
- Bi Fold Doors
- Cavity Doors
- Wardrobe Doors
- Security Doors
- Track & Roller Replacements
- Screen Replacements
- New Locks Fitted

**And Much More**

Now Servicing Phillip Island

**ALL Sliding Door REPAIRS MELBOURNE**

Ph 0438 538 244  
[info@asdrm.com.au](mailto:info@asdrm.com.au)  
[www.allslidingdoorrepairsmelbourne.com.au](http://www.allslidingdoorrepairsmelbourne.com.au)

## TREE SERVICES

**Driftwood Arborist**  
Qualified - Professional - Insured

Tree Pruning  
Tree Removal  
Habitat Creation

Matt - 0447 725 885  
[www.driftwoodarborist.com.au](http://www.driftwoodarborist.com.au)

## LAWN MOWING

**Dave Costello**  
For all your lawnmowing,  
landscaping &  
rubbish removal

Call for a free quote  
**0411 175 957**

## PLUMBING

**brenex** 24 hours 7 days  
plumbing & gasfitting

- Roofing - Gas - Water - Hot Water - Pumps
- Water Tanks - Sewers & Storm water - Blockages

Brendan Duncan 0418 342 649  
PIC No. 26296  
Email | [brendan@brenexplumbing.com.au](mailto:brendan@brenexplumbing.com.au)

## LAWN MOWING

**Phil's Mowing and Lawn care**  
0408 559 408  
Prompt - Honest - Reliable

Servicing Phillip Island and Surrounding Areas  
From San Remo to Cowes, Wonthaggi to Grantville

## PLUMBING

**CHUNKS PLUMBING**  
All types of plumbing  
24 HOUR SERVICE Lic # 48411

- Gas • Hot water units
- Sewers, storm water, blockages
- A local, reliable business

**Daniel Campbell - 0438 520 546**  
[daniel@chunksplumbing.com.au](mailto:daniel@chunksplumbing.com.au)

## SOLAR

**islandenergy**

**SOLAR - BATTERIES - OFF GRID**

ACCREDITED MASTER ELECTRICIAN

**1300 534 110**  
REC 19496

## ADVERTISING

To advertise in the  
**Business Guide**

CONTACT JANE ON 5952 3201  
OR EMAIL [ADS@PISRA.COM.AU](mailto:ADS@PISRA.COM.AU)



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



## Health discrimination

After being in hospital for triple coronary graft surgery at the Victorian Heart Hospital Monash, I was then transferred to a private rehab hospital Brighton. Recovery went to plan and I could not say anything better regarding my care.

Upon arriving home back on the island last week, I decided to access home help through Bass Coast Health, but unfortunately, I was rejected.

The reason given was that I went into the Victoria Heart Hospital as a private patient and because of this I was not eligible for public support.

Apart from being completely discriminatory in all aspects, I have paid my taxes for over 50 years and paid for family health insurance so as not to burden the public health system.

Now I know how our health system is said to be broken.

Eden White, Silverleaves

## Beyond Blue help

The festive season can be a joyous time for many people, as they take a well-earned break from work and school and spend time with family and friends. It's a time to rest and reset for the new year.

Yet for others, this time of year can be particularly difficult, and the holidays may not feel "jolly" at all. It can bring additional financial pressures, relationship strain, or pressure to host the perfect Christmas. The season to be merry can also amplify feelings of isolation and loneliness, especially for those who are separated from family or have lost a loved one.

So, as we head into the holiday break, regardless of what you're dealing with, please know that you don't have to face this time alone.

The Beyond Blue Support Service is free, confidential, and available around the clock, including on Christmas day. You can call 1300 22 46 36 or chat online to us at [www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support](http://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support).

It's really common to put off seeking help because we can't quite find the words to express our needs.

But when you contact us, you don't have to know what to say. Our skilled counsellors will meet you where you're at and guide you towards where you need to be.

And finally, a big thank-you to everyone who has donated to Beyond Blue this year. Our support service is run purely on donations, so your kindness and generosity allow us to always be there when people need us the most.

Georgie Harman, CEO of Beyond Blue

## Christmas wishes

As Christmas and for many, the holidays rapidly approach, may I take this opportunity to thank you for the contribution you make to our beautiful eastern Victoria region.

Our streets are a hive of activity. It is good to see our small businesses busy as Christmas events draw people to our town hubs and CBDs to shop and dine locally.

The holiday season is a wonderful opportunity to touch base with neighbours and friends and spend time with loved ones.

Kindness and compassion are ever present in our region with many examples of locals helping locals.

It has been heartwarming to see charities receiving donations of toys, clothing, and food hampers to share with households where budgets are especially tight.

To all those who have donated, looked in on a neighbour or gone out of your way to show kindness, I thank you for your generosity.

This year signalled my ninth representing eastern Victoria in state parliament, and it is an honour that I continue to cherish and never take for granted.

I am deeply committed to our region's prosperity and the wonderful people and communities making up our rich fabric.

Remaining focused on advocating for those in need and fighting for our fair share, it is time for a short break, a reset and return renewed for the new year.

The roads will be busy as tourists flock to our coastal towns over the summer break. If you are travelling on our roads, please take care, be patient and always drive to the conditions.

May you celebrate Christmas with love in the way of your choice and may peace, good health and happiness be your foundation to begin 2025.

Melina Bath MP  
The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria Region

## DAL: We need a decision now

On November 3, 2018 the then Premier Daniel Andrews made the following commitment: "If re-elected, we will implement the strongest planning protections that Phillip Island and the Bass Coast have ever received. Permanent town boundaries. And tough rules that can only be changed by a majority of both houses of Parliament, not by Cabinet or Council".

On October 24, 2019 the then Minister for Planning committed the government to "specify long-term settlement boundaries for key townships (in Bass Coast) to protect rural and environmental values".

In May 2022 the then Bass Coast Shire Council goes to water in its submission on the Draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy and argues that yet more studies are needed before the island's town boundaries can be fixed.

In December 2024 the current Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny announces yet a further delay in making this critical decision, as it is a "complex matter" (sic.).

So, here we are six years' on, and Premier Andrew's unequivocal commitment has still not been honoured by the government.

I get that there is pressure from the developer and housing lobbies Minister Kilkenny, but you need to show some leadership, support your local member, and get this done.

For Phillip Island, a decision to freeze the town boundaries for all time will change the whole dynamic.

The focus will move to developing the extensive areas of vacant residential land and old housing within the townships.

Farmers will have a secure future.

Environmental values will underpin our economic wellbeing.

Six years is long enough, we need a decision now.

Jeff Floyd, Cowes

## Health concerns

Patients across the Peninsula and Bass Coast are set to wait longer to access vital health-care as Kooweerup and Peninsula Health are merged with The Alfred in Melbourne.

Despite Premier Allan and Health Minister Mary-Anne

Thomas' promise of no mergers, the three hospitals are set to merge from January 1, 2026.

Removing local decision-making from local hospitals is only detrimental for patients and the staff in those health services. Local control must be maintained.

After a decade in government, all Labor has delivered is a health system in crisis with all regional hospitals failing to meet emergency wait time targets.

Regional Victorians deserve better. It's time to put patients first.

Melina Bath MP

**Editor's Note:** The government proposal is to create local health networks, with Bass Coast Health (BCH) proposed to be part of the Gippsland Network. However PIMHAG and former Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child advocated strongly for BCH to be part of Bayside, which includes Alfred Health, Kooweerup Regional Health Service, and Peninsula Health.

## Inadequate

Bass Coast Shire Council's latest response to calls for urgent action to stop erosion at Inverloch surf beach is utterly inadequate.

I was shocked to see that while some councillors were falling over each other in the rush to congratulate officers for the reports being produced, all councillors seem to have missed the fact that they have been sold a pup in the response to the call for urgent action.

The council report is largely a regurgitation of DEECA's C2CRP talkfest. And the officers' recommendation to council was so tepid that Cr Tim O'Brien offered a stronger recommendation, which was unanimously supported by councillors.

As I read it, Council's major plan now is for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to meet with the minister, and to press him to build bigger sandcastles more quickly.

And then there's "dune stabilisation". To suggest that planting native vegetation will stabilise the dunes is preposterous.

Are councillors and CEO Greg Box blind to the amount of mature vegetation that has been washed away in recent years?

Or are they simply willing to continue throwing good money after bad by squandering yet more hard-earned ratepayer monies on ineffective solutions to the problem?

Despite the report advising that extension of the Geobag wall in front of the surf club would cost \$350,000-\$450,000, our councillors are not pushing for it to be included in the budget! Why not?

That is a trifling amount in the scheme of things. The combined annual salaries of CEO Greg Box and senior officers alone exceeds \$3.3 million.

The simple reality is that a seawall needs to be constructed urgently as a last line of defence to stop the erosion devouring more of the foreshore and consuming the Inverloch SLSC clubhouse and subsequently the houses and other assets in the areas around Surf Parade.

Good grief councillors!  
Kevin Griffin, Inverloch

## Pokies should go

It was very encouraging to see our local MP Jordan Crugnale speak up against poker machines in our shire (Advertiser, December 11) saying personally she'd "love to see them gone altogether". I agree.

Like Ms Crugnale, I think it's staggering, and shocking, that over \$20 million was lost to the pokies in Bass Coast last year. When there is so much evidence available on the social and economic harm from gambling, I'm also not sure what logic the Phillip Island RSL is using to claim there is a net-benefit to the community from these machines.

I read that Australians are the world's biggest losers per capita, gambling away \$25 billion a year according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

All levels of government need to take stronger action against gambling. Get gambling ads off our screens, particularly during sporting events and reduce the number of poker machine licences.

Maybe it's time for our councillors to start lobbying for change, and for the venues in our shire that have poker machines, to put together a plan to phase these terrible machines out.

Madeline Franklin, San Remo

## BUSINESS GUIDE

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

### TREE SERVICES

**SL Tree Care**  
NO JOB TOO SMALL

- Qualified
- Tree Maintenance
- Tree Removal
- Fruit Tree Pruning
- Storm Damage
- Lawn Mowing
- Garden Maintenance

FREE QUOTES

Call Shaun **0423 910 554**

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

**WHEEL-A-WASTE**  
Family Owned & Operated

**Ph: 5672 2056**

Lot 1 Skip Lane Wonthaggi 3995 [www.wheelawaste.com.au](http://www.wheelawaste.com.au)  
E:accounts@wheelawaste.com ABN 93 050 132 217

**DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL**

### WINDOW CLEANING

We promise sparkling windows every time!

Discounts apply for pensioners

**PREMIER WINDOW CLEANING**

Residential & commercial work

Call Maria **0422 258 948**

Email: [hansamaria39@gmail.com](mailto:hansamaria39@gmail.com)

### ADVERTISING

To advertise in the  
**Business Guide**

CONTACT JANE ON 5952 3201  
OR EMAIL [ADS@PISRA.COM.AU](mailto:ADS@PISRA.COM.AU)



# KEEP IT LOCAL

## DIRECTORY

### BEAUTY

 **Mobile Hairdresser**  
Over 20 years experience  
Claire Sunderland 0408 566 620

### BARBER

72 CHAPEL STREET COWES.   
0482 936 843  
WALK INS ONLY

### HOME

**PROPERTY CARE - PEACE OF MIND**  
Do you own an unoccupied property?  
Do you need small jobs attended to?

- External property inspection and photo report
- Small external maintenance painting requirements
- Specific garden, spraying and watering requirements
- Bin management


Contact johnmc7251@gmail.com | Mobile 0407 760 167

Meat scraps, bones and seafood shells go in your **Organics bin**



Visit [basscoast.vic.gov.au/whichbin](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au/whichbin) to find out more



 **Phillip Island Laundromat**  
Self-Service Laundromat, Wash and Dry  
Every Tuesday Local's Day 15% OFF with the CODE: LOCAL15  
NEW: Linen Service Available!  
[pilaundromat@outlook.com](mailto:pilaundromat@outlook.com)  
4/14 The Esplanade, Cowes, 2nd Floor, above M&O Café

**SOUTH COAST FLOORING XTRA**  
155 Thompson Avenue, Cowes 03 5952 1488

**COWESBOAT CARAVAN STORAGE**  
FULLY SECURED - FULL SURVEILLANCE  
**COWES SELF STORAGE**  
24 hr Video Surveillance  
Ray White Phillip Island, 56-58 Thompson Avenue, Cowes 5952 2799

**HAVE AN AIR B&B PROPERTY OR GOING AWAY? NEED YOUR BINS TAKEN OUT AND BROUGHT BACK IN?**

Let us take your bins out on schedule and pop them back in securely for you the next day.

Call 0437 227 535 to arrange. Servicing Phillip Island and San Remo.

**FURNITURE OUTLET COWES SALE NOW ON**

**MATTRESSES**  
ALL SIZES AVAILABLE AT GREAT PRICES  
Queen/double/ single/ king single/king size  
PLUS Beds / tallboys / bedside chests. Etc. etc.  
DELIVERY AND TAKEAWAY AVAILABLE

**BEATS PRICES IN MELBOURNE**  
Furniture Outlet. P/L. 153 Thompson Ave. Cowes. 0402 042 576.

### LEISURE

**AMAZEN THINGS**  
OPEN 7 DAYS from 10am  
1805 Phillip Island Rd, Cowes  
Ph: 03 5952 2283  
[amazenthings.com.au](http://amazenthings.com.au)  
FUN | MAGIC | ADVENTURE

**GUIDED KOALA TOUR**  
Get up close at the Koala Conservation Reserve!  
Phillip Island NATURE PARKS | BOOK NOW at [penguins.org.au](http://penguins.org.au)

**Cruise the Island**  
four departing daily  
  
Wildlife Coast cruises

**Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre**  
91-97 Settlement Rd, Cowes 5952 3977

**The Centre** Cowes **Venue for Hire**  
Call 1800 247 669  
[thecentrecowes@hotmail.com](http://thecentrecowes@hotmail.com)  
Music. Arts. Dance. Functions. Private Events.

**1300 OURCAB (687222)**  
SouthCoastTaxi

### ACCOMODATION

**RANFURLIE BED & BREAKFAST**  
A cosy retreat that sleeps up to six people.  
From \$75 per person per night including a delicious continental breakfast.  
Call 0434 174 251 for more info.

### PET SITTING

 **Ri-jana's Paw-fect Pet Sitting**  
Rianne Ranic | 0432 728 913  
f Ri-jana's Paw-fect Pet Sitting

**SUBSCRIBE ONLINE**  
[www.pisra.com.au](http://www.pisra.com.au)  
PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO  
**ADVERTISER**

### FINANCE

**Your local bank for locals**  
 **Bendigo Bank**  
San Remo (03) 5678 5833  
Cowes (03) 5952 3383  
Grantville (03) 5678 8773

 **LJ Hooker Home Loans**  
Gippsland  
For all your refinancing or home loan needs in Gippsland and surrounds.  
Gabriel Caffieri - Franchise Owner | Lending Specialist  
[gcaffieri@ljhookerhomeloans.com.au](mailto:gcaffieri@ljhookerhomeloans.com.au) | 0421 338 914

 **YellowBrickRoad**  
Home Loans

**PHILLIP ISLAND BRANCH NOW OPEN**

- Home Loans
- Personal Loans
- Refinance
- Investor
- Self Employed
- Commercial Lending
- Private Lending
- SMSF

Yellow Brick Road Finance Pty Ltd ACN 128 708 109, Australian Credit Licence 393195

8 Vista Place Joe Reilly  
Cape Woolamai 3925 M 0402 005 933  
[phillip.island@ybr.com.au](mailto:phillip.island@ybr.com.au) T 03 5956 6892

### FOOD & DRINK

**KRISTO'S CHARCOAL ROTISSERIE**  
Online ordering now available  
[kristoscows.com.au](http://kristoscows.com.au) | 03 5952 3355  
Shop 5 /15-16, The Esplanade, Cowes

**"THE BEST HAMBURGERS ON THE ISLAND"**  
ONE WITH THE LOT ... HEAVEN! CHIPS TOO!  
ORDERS 5907 6796  
RHYLL GENERAL STORE AND BOTTLE SHOP

### AUTOMOTIVE

 **Service Centre**  
**Phillip Island Tyre Service**  
101 Settlement Rd, Cowes 5952 1480

**PHILLIP ISLAND TYRE SERVICE CENTRE**  
3 HARVEY DRIVE, COWES 03 59 523 305  
[PHILLIPISLANDTYRESC.COM.AU](http://PHILLIPISLANDTYRESC.COM.AU)  
[HELLO@PHILLIPISLANDTYRESC.COM.AU](mailto:HELLO@PHILLIPISLANDTYRESC.COM.AU)

### COMPUTER SERVICES

**PRINTITFAST**  
San Remo | 5952 5379  
[info@printitfast.com.au](mailto:info@printitfast.com.au)  
[www.printitfast.com.au](http://www.printitfast.com.au)  
Shop Local Support Local PRINT LOCAL

### MEDICAL

#### NEWHAVEN MEDICAL CLINIC

Shop 5 8-10 Forrest Ave, Newhaven  
**Opening hours:**  
8.30am-5pm Monday-Friday  
**Call 5926 6910**  
to make an appointment!

 **YOUR PREMIUM LOCAL DENTIST**  
(03) 9120 2122

**Handley & Anderson**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
Locally owned and operated by  
Scott & Sharon Anderson 5672 1074

 **Bass Coast FUNERAL SERVICES**  
0448 602 005  
[www.basscoastfunerals.com.au](http://www.basscoastfunerals.com.au)

### REAL ESTATE

 **FIRST NATIONAL PHILLIP ISLAND**  
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED  
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE SALES APPRAISAL OR PERMANENT/HOLIDAY RENTAL APPRAISAL.  
[WWW.PHILLIPISLANDFN.COM.AU](http://WWW.PHILLIPISLANDFN.COM.AU) 5952 3922

 **OBrien Real Estate**  
San Remo | Cowes | Wonthaggi  
03 5678 5885 | 03 5952 5100 | 03 5672 5558

**Agency of the year** **Your local experts** **Agency of the year**  
Specialising in real estate sales, commercial sales & leasing, business sales, residential asset management, holiday accommodation, owners corporation and storage.  
[obrejudithwright.com](http://obrejudithwright.com)

 **RayWhite**  
Selling more properties on Phillip Island than any other agency  
5952 2799  
[raywhitephillipisland.com.au](http://raywhitephillipisland.com.au)

**Stockdale & Leggo** PHILLIP ISLAND | SAN REMO  
We see more than property.  
03 8583 4701 [stockdaleleggo.com.au/phillipisland](http://stockdaleleggo.com.au/phillipisland)

**ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF** Est. 1886  
113a Thompson Avenue, Cowes  
5952 2633 [ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU](http://ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU)

 **GARTH LISLE**  
Property Consultants  
Shop 3/129 Marine Parade SAN REMO  
5678 5878 [www.glpc.com.au](http://www.glpc.com.au)  
**WE KNOW REAL ESTATE**

Support the businesses at the ♥ of our community



CLASSIFIEDS SEEK, BUY AND SELL

... Perhaps  
I Size I Think Not.  
right? No. We  
hyphen. I think  
from. I think  
right. I think  
we. I think

YES

**GARAGE SALES**

**MONSTER GARAGE SALE**  
28th December and 4th January  
8am – 1pm  
228 Smiths Beach Road,  
Smiths Beach  
All proceeds to  
Cambodian kids.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** Weekly meetings  
Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA  
Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp.  
Coles) - Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation  
Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday  
11am, 5672 3627. Phone head office 9429 1833.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**APC**  
Australian Press Council

The Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser is bound by the Standards of Practice of the Australia Press Council. If you believe the Standards may have been breached, you may approach the newspaper itself or contact the Council by email [info@presscouncil.org.au](mailto:info@presscouncil.org.au) or by phone (02) 8261 1930. For further information see [www.presscouncil.org.au](http://www.presscouncil.org.au)

**SITUATIONS VACANT**

**CHEF WANTED**  
**Chef needed at Cafe Lugano, with at least 2 years working experience and formal qualifications.**  
**Contact:**  
[cafeluganocowes@gmail.com](mailto:cafeluganocowes@gmail.com)

**THE waterboy CAFE**

**HEAD CHEF WANTED**  
The Waterboy café is seeking a Head Chef to manage all aspects of our café kitchen, reliable, highly motivated with excellent communication skills. Breakfast, lunch only, no nights.  
If this sounds like you, we want you!  
Email resume to [info@thewaterboycafe.com.au](mailto:info@thewaterboycafe.com.au)

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Summer holiday opening hours**

We provide emergency water and wastewater services 24/7, 365 days a year. If you need to contact us about a water or wastewater emergency, please call 1800 249 090.

Our Customer Service Centre will be closed for non-emergency work on the days listed below:

Day	Date	Operating hours
Tues	24 December 2024	8.30am - 12pm
Wed	25 December 2024 (Christmas Day)	Closed
Thur	26 December 2024 (Boxing Day)	Closed
Fri	27 December 2024	Closed
Wed	1 January 2025 (New Year's Day)	Closed

 Plumbers please note, there will be no water tapplings or recycled water inspections from Monday 16 December 2024 to Monday 13 January 2025.

 **WESTERNPORT WATER**

 **1300 720 711**  
[westernportwater.com.au](http://westernportwater.com.au)

**E-BIKE WINNER!**

Phill Rinder from Wonthaggi is the lucky winner of a bright yellow e-bike. Congratulations!

 **HAYMES PAINT SHOP**

215 Settlement Road, Cowes | Ph: 03 5952 2522  
[Cowes@haymespaintshop.com.au](mailto:Cowes@haymespaintshop.com.au) | [haymespaintshop.com.au](http://haymespaintshop.com.au)

**Christmas Office Hours**

 **BASS COAST**

Council offices and Customer Service Centres will close at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 24 December and will re-open on Friday, 27 December.

We will also be closed on Wednesday, 1 January for the New Year's Day public holiday.

Our normal emergency after hours service will continue to operate on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 during this time.

 **CARING FOR SAM'S CHILDREN**

Please support the fundraiser for Sam Fraser's children, to help cover the cost of their care and education.

To donate, go to [gofund.me/b6e777cb](http://gofund.me/b6e777cb), or search [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) for "Caring for Sams Children".

**HOUSEKEEPER**  
*Casual Position*

Experience preferred but not essential – just a good attitude.  
On the job training will be a major part of the job from the beginning.  
5 to 12 hours/week mainly on Friday, some Saturday work may also be required once proficient.

Heidi & Stuart Hawking, Resort Managers  
Island Breeze Resort  
Cowes. Vic. 3922  
Tel: 03 5952 2188 | Mob: 0417 364 876  
Email: [islandbreeze@holidayconcepts.com.au](mailto:islandbreeze@holidayconcepts.com.au)

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

 **BASS COAST**

**Animals and fireworks**

Dogs and horses in particular can be frightened by fireworks, please make sure that your pets are safe and secure when there are fireworks displays in your area.  
Fireworks displays will be held on New Year's Eve (Tuesday, 31 December):

- **Coronet Bay:** 9.30pm, Coronet Bay Foreshore
- **Cowes:** 9.30pm, Cowes Jetty
- **Inverloch:** 9.30pm, Inverloch Recreation Reserve

For more information on these events visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/events).

**EMAIL YOUR CLASSIFIEDS TO**



[ads@pisra.com.au](mailto:ads@pisra.com.au)

**PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER**

 **Cowes Bazaar**

**WE BUY AND SELL**

117 Thompson Avenue, Cowes  
[cowesbazaar@waterfront.net.au](mailto:cowesbazaar@waterfront.net.au)



# Australia's toughest sailing challenge is back in 2025

## SAILING

Cowes Yacht Club is welcoming the 29th running of Australia's toughest off the beach sailing endurance races on February 15, 2025.

The Australian Air Safaris Around French Island National Catamaran Challenge will feature up to 70 of the best sailors from not only Westernport Bay but from around the country with entries already submitted from Tasmania, South Australia and New South Wales.

The race starts and finishes at the Yacht Club located 400m west of the pier, French Island in Westernport Bay.

The most direct route is 70 kilometres, but most competitors will travel over 100km while navigating the race.

In the past competitors have finished in the dark with race times in excess of eight hours, but the quickest time sits at two hours 45-minutes.

The event began in 1997 as a fun event for Cowes Yacht Club catamaran sailors.

In the early days the race would be attempted by as few as 10 catamarans but over the years the race has grown and became known as one of the toughest and most gruelling sailing races in Australia.

If the challenge of the race wasn't enough, with thanks to major sponsor Australian Air Safaris, the event has over \$10,000 in prize money spread across divisions and line honour trophies, with additional trophies for All Female Crew and first Female Skipper.

The Phillip Island community has embraced the event.

In 2024 there were hundreds of people at the Yacht Club for the race start and with thanks to Wildlife Coast Cruises, a



The Cowes Yacht Club's premier event, Around French Island National Catamaran Challenge, returns to Cowes on February 15 next year. Entries are now open.

sold out spectator ferry was on the water for the race start.

In 2025 the spectator ferry will be back and tickets will be on sale soon.

Once again the club will host a free BBQ, giveaways and provide a brilliant view to watch the race start.

The event is possible because of the incredible support of partners like Red Rocks Golf Course, Modra Technologies, the Isle of Wight Hotel, Bass Coast Shire Council, Westernport Water, Bendigo Bank, Wildlife Coast Cruises, the Phillip Island RSL, and of course Australian Air Safaris backing the event.

The Australian Air Safaris Around French Island National Catamaran Challenge will be held on February 15, with a maximum of 70 competitors.

Entries are now open: [www.cowesyachtclub.com/afi](http://www.cowesyachtclub.com/afi)

Make a note in your diary, as event day will include an active program of public activities. In the week before the event, details will be provided of these exciting initiatives.

/ Sponsored article /

# Set sail this summer

## SAILING

The Cowes Yacht Club is once again running a series of events to help introduce people to the joys of sailing.

Its Sail Training and Discover Sailing days are running in December and January, and the different courses cover ages from seven through to adults.

The courses are open to all members of the public.

On Monday December 30, join the Discover Sailing Day and experience sailing free of charge (weather permitting). The session runs from 10am – 1pm and is open to all.

A second session will be held on January 11.

Sail training classes run from early January, offering three different levels.

Tackers Program is aimed at beginner junior

sailors aged seven to 12. It is a fun introductory, games-based program.

Tackers 1: January 6 – 10, 9am to 1pm. or January 13 – 17, 9am to 1pm.

Tackers 2: January 6 – 10, 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

Tackers 3: January 6 – 10, 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

The OutThere program is designed for teenagers (12 – 17 yrs) as an introduction to water-based fun including sailing and powerboating.

The course runs from January 6 – 10, 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

The Start Sailing and Better Sailing programs will also run in January.

The Start Sailing Program caters for both teens (12+) and adults, from beginners to advanced levels. The course includes off the beach sailing theory plus on the water sailing using Cowes Yacht

Club Discover Sailing Program boats.

Better Sailing caters for those wanting to advance their sailing skills and follows on from Start Sailing courses.

Start Sailing 1&2: January 6 – 10, 9am to 1pm.

Better Sailing: January 13 – 17, 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

The She Sails Program caters for women and girl (12+) only courses run by female sailing instructors.

Sessions focus on getting on the water and enjoying the experience with other women.

The course will be tailored to participants (cater for those with little to no experience and for those who have prior sailing experience) and have some social fun as well. The course runs January 13 – 17, 9am to 1pm.

Details: [www.cowesyachtclub.com](http://www.cowesyachtclub.com)

# Pony Club celebrates successful year

## EQUESTRIAN

The Phillip Island Pony Club hosted their end of year Christmas break-up rally on Sunday, December 15.

Attendees enjoyed the activities set up, including barrel racing, the old English plate and the handy-mount course.

All riders then undertook the freshman's showjumping course, beginning with poles on the ground and working their way up – each rider made a clean run with many jumping their highest course to date.

The club thank guest judges Chloe and Mish for their great advice and handouts of ribbons, along with Woolworths Cowes and Bakers Delight for providing donations for club's barbeque lunch.

Christmas celebrations continued after lunch with the children being provided with gifts, along with a fancy dress up – congratulations to Harley for winning the dress up competition.



DC Felicity Kallstrom and all Phillip Island Pony Club members.

Congratulations to this year's presentation award recipients: Dion Kallstrom (Most Improved), Eliza Poll (DC Award) and Ella Kallstrom (Jill Grayden Award).

The club give their thanks to members and the committee for making 2024 a success, along with

all family supporters and local businesses who assist behind the scenes.

Phillip Island Pony Club's next rally takes place on February 2, 2025 starting from 10am. All are welcome. If you are interested in joining or sponsoring the club email [pipc-secretary1@gmail.com](mailto:pipc-secretary1@gmail.com)

**Australian Air Safaris**  
BY KIRKHOPE

## Around French Island National Catamaran Challenge 2025

**\$10,000 PRIZE MONEY**  
**100KM CATAMARAN CHALLENGE**  
**ISLE OF WIGHT HOTEL TROPHY**  
**SAT 15TH FEBRUARY 2025**  
**ENTER NOW**  
[cowesyachtclub.com/afi](http://cowesyachtclub.com/afi)

**WETA 2025 INVITATION CLASS ADDED**

**MAJOR PARTNERS**  
Red Rocks Golf Club modra TECHNOLOGY

**PARTNERS**  
ISLE OF WIGHT HOTEL RSL BASS COAST WESTERNPORT WATER

**SUPPLIERS & SUPPORTERS**  
ADVERTISER Australian Sailing Wildlife Coast Cruises

## PHILLIP ISLAND MARINE

**BOAT SERVICING!! FREE PICK UP AND DELIVERY**

**Phillip Island and San Remo areas**

**Call 0359 569238 NOW to book in**

## HUGE STACER STOCK RUNOUT

**HUGE SAVINGS on all Stacer / Mercury Packages**

**Runabouts, BowRiders, Tinnies and more IN STOCK NOW!**

**14 BEACH RD, RHYLL PHILLIP ISLAND**



# Round 6 clash at Rhyll

## CRICKET

The sun was shining and the Rhyll oval looked superb as the Island women's cricket team faced Nyora for their Round 6 match.

Captain Bec lost the toss and the Sharks were sent into bat.

Grace opened the batting in stunning form, quickly clocking up four boundaries while Sienna kept the strike turning over. A great 28 run partnership.

Jess and Claudia continued the run of boundaries, with Jess smashing a breathtaking seven fours, to top score for the Island with 34 runs.

The Island were 68 at the change.

Jay and Stacey ran smoothly between the wickets and a big congratulations to Stacey for making her first runs for PIDCC.

The Island were on 86 as Jane and Bec made their way to the crease.

The pair ran on everything, only taking a breath when Jane strategically placed the ball to get three boundaries.

The Island 112, and Katie and Rosanna were ready to close the



Player of the match Sienna (left) and Stacey, on debut for PIDCC women's cricket team.

innings.

Both women consistently found the boundary with powerful, well-placed shots (Rosanna three-fours and Katie two-fours).

The Island finished their innings on 153 runs.

Congratulations to top scorers Jess (34), Grace (22) and Rosanna (22).

Sienna opened the bowling for the Sharks and achieved success quickly, clean bowling the opposition twice in three balls.

She then continued her stun-

ning form, clean bowling the opposition two more times.

Together with a run out, Sienna achieved a sensational 4/9 (3).

Grace, Jane and Bec bowled with great line and length, restricting the scoring, while Katie and Jess bowled with pure power.

Jess got a wicket with a perfectly pitched ball that split the stumps apart.

Claudia bowled a tight spell, creating scoring pressure which led to a run out.

Meanwhile Jay bowled with precision, resulting in Jane taking a beautiful catch at mid-wicket.

Stacey fielded like a true champion and Rosanna worked tirelessly behind the stumps keeping Nyora to a total of 90 runs.

Congratulations to bowling sensations Sienna 4/9 (3), Jay 1/3 (2) and Jess 1/18 (3).

Congratulations to Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Entertainment Centre player of the match: Sienna.

PIDCC Women's cricket side remain undefeated for the season.

## Midweek closes out successful year

### BOWLS

Last week, 55 of the island's midweek crew took part in their final competition of the year at Corinella.

Players were signed in by Pauline and John while Peter and Claire prepared the teams.

The bowling quality was excellent with only a couple of wrong bias shots.

Being the final day's play of the year; the game format was altered resulting in no formal prize winners.

Administrators arranged a free day's play and additionally supplied free lunch for players, along with afternoon tea.

Helen and Jill worked feverishly to keep everyone fed, while Chris and Dave looked after drinks.

The club wants to thank Phil for setting up the green, along with players who assisted with cleaning up the hall.

Midweek games will return on January 9, 2025, at Loch and District Bowls Club.

The club wishes all players and their families health, happiness, peace and prosperity this Christmas and in the coming New Year.

# Sharks work hard in summer battles

From page 32

Dan McCausland settled into his work from the Rhyll Road end and managed to stem the scoring and also pick up one of the openers.

It was during this spell that we found out from the snake catcher that this one had four legs and a blue tongue, much to the amusement of the home team.

D-Mac finished with 1 for 8 off his seven overs.

Jax Marshall had a good four over spell and was followed by the skipper Tony Hornsby to bowl out the innings.

Nerrena had been patient and were able to pick up some valuable runs late in the innings.

Sachin did a good job to reduce the boundary balls and his pressure helped Horns grab three wickets in the end.

Nerrena had amassed 143 off their 35 overs which felt gettable at Rhyll.

The Shark's opened up with Drew Fusinato and Bud Marshall.

Unfortunately Drew fell early and when his replacement Tim

Senanayaka was out with score on 19, the game was in the balance.

Bud did a good job valuing his wicket and the partnership between him and Tony Hornsby brought the score to 65 before he was adjudged lbw.

At this point the game was slightly in the Sharks favour.

Unfortunately, the Sharks' lost some experienced players and the overs were running out.

When Horns (40) fell with the score on 91 it would prove to be a bridge too far.

Eventually the side was dismissed for 103.

A disappointing finish, however, lots of experience and growth is being generated for the junior players within the team.

Next week will see the side play in 20/20 at Rhyll (11am) as part of a double header.

Get down and support local cricket and enjoy a great social experience.

## C2

The Island Sharks travelled to Leongatha to take on Koonwarra

for the season's Round 5 clash on December 14.

The Skipper lost the toss and were sent into bat.

Debutant Oliver Hodson opened the batting with Peter Francis.

The pair batted superbly – seeing off the new ball and piling on the runs.

Francis passed 50 and Hodson was closing in on a half-century until he was LBW for 44, with the pair putting on a 117-run opening partnership.

DiFalco joined Francis and Seb played the perfect support role, picking up singles as Francis continued to hit the boundary.

Francis then brought up his century with the ovation of his teammates and crowd.

Seb was bowled for 19 and Shane Carville smashed a few balls late as the Sharks concluded their innings at 2/203.

Peter Francis ended on 118 not out, including 17 boundaries.

The Sharks went out to defend their score and got off to a great start when Cleary bowled the opener.

Cleary then took a screamer at the second slip to give Sonny MacMillan his first wicket.

The Skipper then got two wickets in a row, bowled an LBW to have Koony 4/24.

Cleary then got his fourth wicket when Parry took a sharp catch. Koony dug in, built a strong partnership and it was game on.

The batters put on a 61-run stand which was only broken when Cleary took his second catch, providing Francis with his first wicket.

The runs kept flowing until Sonny took a chest mark to remove Paterson and give DiFalco his first wicket.

Katie Campbell then entered the PIDCC record books as the first woman to get a wicket at senior level.

Wade Paterson took the catch as the end was nigh.

With 20 runs needed off the last over, Max "Iceman" Carville demanded the ball and bowled a tight over to give the Sharks a 14-run victory.

The C2 Sharks remain undefeated for the season.



Congratulations to Summer Triples winners (from left): Guilio Marcolongo, John Newcombe and John Paterno.

## Summer Triples results

### BOWLS

The Phillip Island Bowling Club hosted their hit out of Summer Triples on December 11.

Congratulations to winners: John Newcombe, Guilio Marcolongo and John Paterno.

**Runners up:** Russell May, Dave Lawrence and Lindsay Meredith. **Best last game:** Ewen Wilson, Bob Carter and Dave Hoffman.

## NEED A NEW TINNIE FOR THE SUMMER?



QUINTREX

While stocks last

**INVERLOCH MARINE**

**Servicing the Bass Coast & Gippsland for over 30 years**

Scan the QR code for our extensive range of new Quintrex models or pop into our Inverloch showroom to find your next boat

29-31 Bear Street  
Inverloch

5674 1520

inverlochmarine.com.au







The Bass Coast Disabled Surfers branch is hosting four events this summer, at Inverloch and Smiths Beach (on February 2 and March 2) and is inviting participants and volunteers to register.

# On the waves with Disabled Surfers

SURFING

The annual surfing events hosted by the Bass Coast Disabled Surfers branch return in January and February across the shire. The events alternate between Inverloch and Smiths Beach, starting on January 19. The events run from 11am to 2pm.

Inverloch events at the SLSC main beach are on January 19 and February 16. The Smiths Beach events will be held on February 2 and March 2. The sessions provide a safe and welcoming environment for physically and mentally challenged members of the community and their family and carers to enjoy a

day at the beach and experience surfing.

Disabled Surfers have been operating for the past 30 years with 18 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand. The Bass Coast Branch is in its eighth year of operation and has a busy summer planned for 2025.

The branch is looking for volunteers to help run the events. Events are free to surfers and volunteers.

There are both land-based or water roles available for volunteers. You do not need to be a surfer or swimmer to help, the surfing is done in waist deep water.

“We provide all the facilities

needed including changerooms, lifting equipment, beach wheel chairs and custom made wetsuits to fit everyone,” said Bass Coast branch president Paul Hayes.

“All you need to do is come and enjoy the day.”

Fresh fruit and a sausage sizzle will be provided, with water available for refills.

Please bring your own sunscreen, towel, water bottle, hat and swimsuit/wetsuit if you have one.

Register (as a volunteer or participant) at [Disabledsurfers.org](http://Disabledsurfers.org), find the Bass Coast branch, then the events tab.

[www.disabledsurfers.org/vic-bass-coast-inverloch](http://www.disabledsurfers.org/vic-bass-coast-inverloch)



SGB competitors, Rahni and Levi celebrate their success at the Victorian Mattioli Championships.

# SGB competes at Vic Mattioli Championships

SWIMMING

Thirty-four South Gippsland Bass (SGB) swimmers joined the 1589 swimmers at the Victorian Mattioli Championships at MSAC for two days of competition over the weekend.

Swimmers who qualified, raced not only against the best in the state (in their age group), but also against interstate and several international swimmers who were keen for good competition.

Saturday and Sunday’s heats saw some sizzling performances, with many PBs and a number of swimmers returning for finals that night.

Racing continues for five days until December 18.

Coaches Dylan, Caiden and Lorri were pleased with competitors’ efforts.

“They have done so well. “There are some great results with improved times. “It sets the swimmers up well for the summer race championships.”

**Results**

Gemma Cook (12): 3rd 50m backstroke, 2nd 50m breaststroke.

Claudia Croatto (15): 4th 100m breaststroke.

Levi Jarrett (12): 2nd 50m backstroke, 2nd 50m breaststroke.

Rahni Matheson: 2nd 100m breaststroke.

Archie Smyth (12): 1st 200m backstroke, 7th 200m IM.

Zac Sherar: 5th 800m free-style, 10th 100m freestyle.

Miah Roberts: 3rd 100m backstroke.

# Results from the green

GOLF

**Tuesday, December 10**

**Men’s Stroke Midweek Medal 18H**

Overall winner: John Enbom (17) with 65 pts.

A Grade winner: Steven Sloss (12) with 71 pts C/B.

B Grade winner: John Enbom (17) with 65 pts.

C Grade winner: Brenton O’Brien (16) with 70 pts.

BDL: 74 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Brent Scott, 7th Jim Brown, 10th Travis Johnson, 17th Neil Williams.

**Men’s 9H Stableford**

Overall winner: Brendan Mar-rinon (30) with 18 pts from Peter

Mathews (37) on 17 pts.

BDL: 15 pts C/B.

**Wednesday, December 11**

**Women’s 18H Stableford**

Overall winner: Lesley Meadow-croft (13) with 40 pts.

A Grade winner: Lesley Meadowcroft (13) with 40 pts.

B Grade winner: Marlene Gibson (27) with 43 pts.

C Grade winner: Anne Mc-Callum (45) with 35 pts C/B.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Lesley Meadow-croft, 7th Liz Gleeson, 10th Vicki Amato, 17th Dawn Andrews.

**Women’s 9H Stableford**

Overall winner: Margaret Frith (33) with 21 pts from Judy Grif-fin (37) on 19 pts.

BDL: 17 pts.

**Thursday, December 12**

**Open 18H Stableford**

Overall winner: John Daire (27) with 43 pts.

A Grade winner: Barry Gib-son (12) with 41 pts.

B Grade winner: Kai Cash-man (16) with 38 pts C/B.

C Grade winner: John Daire (27) with 43 pts.

BDL: 35 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Joel Panozzo, 7th Mark White, 10th Mike Fitzmau-rice, 17th Syd Hadley.

**Open 9H Stableford**

Winner: Laurie Petrusch (25) with 22 pts from Karen Egan (35) on 19 pts C/B.

BDL: 17 pts C/B.

**Saturday, December 14**

**Men’s 18H Stableford**

Overall winner: Rick Zolcinski

(21) with 46 pts.

A Grade winner: Jack Ross (8) with 40 pts.

B Grade winner: Brenton O’Brien (17) with 41 pts.

C Grade winner: Rick Zolcin-ski (21) 46 pts.

BDL: 36 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Mario Amato, 7th Morgan Ward, 10th Paul Cash-man, 17th Rick Zolcinski.

**Women’s 18H Stableford**

Overall winner: Dawn Andrews (18) with 40 pts C/B from Joanne Disher (19) on 40 pts.

BDL: 36 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th and 17th Helen Coghlan, 7th Deb Orr, 10th Ros Reid.

**Open 9H Stableford**

Overall winner: Alan Tindale (30) with 20 pts from John Duth-ie (40) on 19 pts.

BDL: 16 pts.

**Sunday, December 15**

**Open 18H Stableford**

Overall winner: Ben Walsh (12) with 43 pts from Max Bent-ley (9) on 42 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

Great Score: Isaac Batty (Ea-gle – hole 18).

**9H Stableford**

Winner: Ken Ballingal (40) with 17 pts.

## Red Rocks results

**GOLF**

**Saturday, December 14**

Stableford: 1st Ray Pobjoy (6) with 38 pts, 2nd Ian Mur-ray (20) with 36 pts C/B, 3rd Doug Collins (17) with 36 pts.

# TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 18 DEC	THU 19 DEC	FRI 20 DEC	SAT 21 DEC	SUN 22 DEC	MON 23 DEC	TUE 24 DEC
HIGH 3:54 am 3.13 m	HIGH 4:43 am 3.12 m	HIGH 5:26 am 3.06 m	HIGH 6:05 am 2.99 m	HIGH 6:40 am 2.89 m	LOW 12:25 am 0.77 m	LOW 1:04 am 0.92 m
LOW 9:32 am 1.08 m	LOW 10:22 am 0.99 m	LOW 11:08 am 0.92 m	LOW 11:50 am 0.88 m	LOW 12:30 pm 0.85 m	HIGH 7:11 am 2.80 m	HIGH 7:39 am 2.70 m
HIGH 3:27 pm 2.59 m	HIGH 4:20 pm 2.60 m	HIGH 5:10 pm 2.59 m	HIGH 5:57 pm 2.55 m	HIGH 6:43 pm 2.50 m	LOW 1:06 pm 0.83 m	LOW 1:42 pm 0.81 m
LOW 9:26 pm 0.31 m	LOW 10:15 pm 0.38 m	LOW 11:00 pm 0.48 m	LOW 11:44 pm 0.62 m		HIGH 7:28 pm 2.45 m	HIGH 8:14 pm 2.41 m

WED 25 DEC	THU 26 DEC	FRI 27 DEC	SAT 28 DEC	SUN 29 DEC	MON 30 DEC	TUE 31 DEC
LOW 1:45 am 1.07 m	LOW 2:28 am 1.21 m	LOW 3:17 am 1.34 m	LOW 4:15 am 1.44 m	LOW 5:21 am 1.49 m	HIGH 12:58 am 2.65 m	HIGH 1:55 am 2.77 m
HIGH 8:08 am 2.61 m	HIGH 8:40 am 2.52 m	HIGH 9:16 am 2.43 m	HIGH 10:03 am 2.34 m	HIGH 11:00 am 2.28 m	LOW 6:28 am 1.49 m	LOW 7:30 am 1.42 m
LOW 2:17 pm 0.79 m	LOW 2:56 pm 0.77 m	LOW 3:39 pm 0.76 m	LOW 4:29 pm 0.75 m	LOW 5:25 pm 0.72 m	HIGH 12:04 pm 2.27 m	HIGH 1:11 pm 2.31 m
HIGH 9:03 pm 2.40 m	HIGH 9:58 pm 2.42 m	HIGH 10:57 pm 2.46 m	HIGH 11:58 pm 2.55 m		LOW 6:24 pm 0.66 m	LOW 7:20 pm 0.58 m

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

## PHILLIP ISLAND MARINE

NEW & USED BOAT SALES  
14 Beach Road, Rhyll  
OPEN 7 DAYS  
**PH: 5956 9238**  
[www.phillipislandmarine.com.au](http://www.phillipislandmarine.com.au)





A Grade's Daniel Mock cuts against OMK, scoring 116, including 13 fours and three sixes. Photo: Peter Cleeland. More photos and match scores at pisra.com.au/sport

## Sharks work hard in summer battles

### CRICKET

#### A Grade

Resuming on 74 with the loss of only one wicket the Sharks were keen to get the remaining 32 runs needed for victory against OMK.

Resuming on 43, Lochie Cleeland continued where he left off and quickly passed 50 with some beautiful stroke play.

Daniel Mock down the other end found his timing, resuming on 15 he quickly accelerated his scoring rate and within 10 overs the Sharks had secured the victory.

OMK dug deep to try and create an outright result, however found no answers as both batters continued to tick the scoreboard over as a lusty blow over the fence saw Mock pass 50.

The partnership continued to grow as both players etched their way towards three figures – in an unusual situation both players sat on 99 simultaneously.

Cleeland was the first to pass 100 with a lovely late cut that raced to the boundary.

Mock joined him soon after, also finding the boundary to bring up his second century of the year.

With the score on 225, Cleeland was eventually dismissed for a superb 104 off 156 balls, including 16 fours and one-six, the partnership amassing 198 runs overall.

Mock found the boundary several more times before falling for 116 off 135 balls. His innings consisted of 13 fours and three-sixes.

Tom Niven and Brodie



Last Tuesday saw three sets of brothers in the Sharks' U11 team play together in their resounding victory over Wonthaggi. From left: Rueben and Billy Kimber, Tyler and Jordan Stilgoe, Darcy and Oliver Wright.

Johnston were the next two at the crease, although Niven's stay was short after falling for five.

Jarrold Black joined Johnston and the pair continued the run, scoring as the pair combined for a 50-run partnership.

Black eventually bowled for 24 off 34 balls.

A couple more batters came and went before hands were shaken with the score on 7 for 313, with Johnston not out on 38, continuing his great start to the season.

It proved a dominant game for the Sharks, with Max Royal taking six wickets along with the two century makers proving the highlight.

This win continues the Sharks' undefeated start to the season.

Round 8 is a top of the table T20 match against Nerrena at Leongatha.

#### B1

After an exceptional bowling performance last week, the Sharks headed back to Nerrena to try and pick up another win.

Needing 92 runs, Jobe Williams and Tharidu Asurumuni continued where they left off digging in and keeping out the good balls before a mistimed shot from Asurumuni saw him caught out for 24.

This brought Connor Epifano to the crease as he and Williams tried to form a partnership, but soon after, an excellent one-handed diving catch in the field removed Williams for 10.

This left new batters, Epifano and Dave Womersly at the crease. The pair struggled as the Nerrena bowlers were on target, making runs hard to come by.

The pressure kept building before Epifano inside edged a ball onto his pads and to his

surprise, was given out an LBW by the umpire.

Kai Wilkinson-Loines was next to the crease but only lasted two balls before being caught behind.

Captain Andrew Finlayson was now in.

With the score 6-65 and the Sharks struggling to form partnerships he and Womersley dug in for a few overs before another mistimed shot saw Finlayson caught as well.

From here the tail did what they could, but the Sharks were all out for 95, falling 24 runs short in a disappointing performance.

With the clock ticking it seemed as though a no brainer that the game was done, however to the Sharks' surprise, Nerrena's Captain headed in to bat.

Although frustrated by this decision, the Sharks continued from last week's bowling, restricting Nerrena to 9-141 in their second innings.

The Sharks next play in a T20 against Outtrim next weekend.

#### C1

Players arrived at Rhyll to the news that a snake had made its way into the changerooms and sought refuge under the couch.

After much deliberation it was decided that this should be left to the experts and play got under way with Nerrena batting first.

Tim and Jackson Allen did well with the new ball bowling a good line and length.

Jacko was rewarded when Andy O'Brien (Granddad) plucked a one-hander in slip to create a nice family moment.

*Continued page 30*

**ALEX SCOTT  
AND STAFF**

Est. 1886

**COWES OFFICE**  
**113a Thompson Ave**  
**5952 2633**

**26 GRAMPIAN BOULEVARD, COWES**



- Immaculate brick home with walking track behind that leads you to the beach
  - Fully fenced backyard with additional secure gates, ideal for parking your boat or caravan
  - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 car garage
- \$690,000 TO \$720,000**

**69 WYNDHAM AVENUE, COWES**



- Open plan light filled living with vaulted ceilings, covered rear deck and side verandah situated on a large 795m² (approx.) allotment
  - Self-contained zone with its own external access – adding versatility for guests
  - 5 bedrooms/3 bathrooms/2 cars
- \$895,000**

**20 SANDERS ROAD, SILVERLEAVES**



- Spacious home offering 2 living areas, floorboards, energy efficient solar panels, rear covered deck, double lockup garage with side roller door
  - Situated on a 668m² (approx.) allotment, short stroll to popular Silverleaves Beach and Silverleaves Store
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms
- \$969,000**

**SAN REMO OFFICE**  
**127a Marine Parade**  
**5678 5408**

**9 ANGLERS ROAD, SUNDERLAND BAY**



- Seaside living at its finest, dual home opportunity on a spacious 599m² (approx.) allotment
  - All this and more in close proximity to Sunderland Bay's surf beach
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/double carport plus 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom and double garage
- \$960,000**

**5 HOPETOUN CESCENT, SURF BEACH**



- Newly renovated coastal haven with sunset views, just 150m from the surf beach on 998m² block
  - Enjoy stunning views and beachside living, with ample space for family & guests
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/free standing double garage
- \$1,100,000**

72960001

**www.alexscott.com.au**

**HOME DELIVERY**  
Call your local  
newsagency

ISSN 2200-100X



9 772200 100002

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

**ADVERTISER**