

# PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020

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Emergency services, including the SES, CFA, police and ambulance were kept busy over the weekend. A tragic drowning at Smith's Beach, storm damage, road closures, grass fires, and a surf rescue at Forrest Caves kept local responders on high alert. The events of the weekend were an ominous start to what's predicted to be a busy summer season.



Despite its reputation as one of the island's safest swimming beaches, a 24-year-old woman drowned at Smiths Beach on Sunday evening.

## Tragedy at Smiths Beach

A young woman drowned at Smiths Beach on Sunday night, in a tragic end to the weekend.

Police and emergency services were called to the beach about 6.40pm after reports of a woman struggling in the water.

It's believed she was at the beach with family and one of them paddled back out on a surfboard to help her.

A police spokesperson said people on the beach helped bring the woman to shore, but she was unresponsive when emergency services arrived.

Police, ambulance and the local SES unit attended.

"Paramedics treated the 24-year-old Melton woman but sadly she died at the scene," a police spokesperson said.

A Smiths Beach resident said a helicopter landed near St Bedes in Beachcomber Avenue around 8pm and three ambulances and police cars were already on site.

Police will prepare a report for the coroner on the incident.

# Shire bends to wind turbine outcry

Bass Coast Shire has promised to revise its policy on domestic wind turbines, following months of lobbying from Surf Beach residents to stop a proposed 10.5 metre turbine being built in their neighbourhood.

The first meeting of newly-elected councillors last week saw three Surf Beach residents again grill the shire in public question time on how it will stop the yet-to-be-built turbine.

Resident Ray Carson asked, in a written statement, how the shire will stop future domestic turbines, a question reiterated by other residents demanding to know "what will council do to stop the wind turbine from going ahead and any future turbines in residential backyards?"

Planning manager James Stirton responded the shire was set to review its Local Law.

"Our new Local Law is planned

to include how council manages domestic wind turbines. This work is due to be completed in the 2021/2022 financial year," Mr Stirton said.

"Council acknowledges that a wind turbine is not a good outcome in a residential setting. Council has sought legal advice available to us through current planning and building legislation, and our own Local Law, to cease the construction of the turbine."

### Enforcement

The move is the first positive indication the shire can act on the issue, after months of frustration by residents who say they support renewable energy, but not on the scale of the proposed turbine so close to homes.

In October residents received a question and answer information

sheet from the planning department stating planners had exhausted all avenues of action to stop the turbine's erection.

"Council has no power available to it to address the proposed issues associated with the installation of the structure," the Q&A sheet states.

"The only authority that can intervene to support and address the community's concerns is the State Government through an amendment to the Victorian Planning Provisions."

"To date, the State Government has declined to amend the Planning Provisions which would provide the mechanism for council to manage the approval and enforcement process."

"Until council is provided with further advice from the State Government, another agency, or information contrary to all advice received to date, we are unable to

action this matter further."

Mr Stirton at the November council meeting said the shire had received a response from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning stating a change to the planning scheme in the instance of Surf Beach was "not supported".

"Any amendment to the planning scheme would involve a process that would take up to two years and will require a budget allocation from council," Mr Stirton said.

He added the shire was prepared to enforce any planning breaches should the turbine be built.

"If this wind turbine were to be constructed and is found to contravene any planning, building or public health or nuisance requirements, then council would undertake appropriate enforcement on this matter."

### Owner

Surf Beach residents are holding their breath in a "waiting game", following their bid to stop the erection of a residential wind turbine.

Last month the Advertiser spoke to the owner of the turbine Rob McKittrick who said he had no comment when asked whether he planned to pause work or progress the erection of the turbine, which he said measured 10.5 metres, under the height requirement triggering a planning permit.

The information sheet states Mr McKittrick had provided details to the shire on the dimensions, designs, specifications and tolerances of the wind turbine, which was being independently reviewed and assessed.

"This documentation (whilst commercial in confidence) has been provided by the landowner in good faith," the Q&A states.

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| <br>PARTLY CLOUDY | <br>CLOUDY | <br>PARTLY CLOUDY | <br>SHOWER OR TWO | <br>SHOWER OR TWO | <br>SHOWER OR TWO | <br>PARTLY CLOUDY |
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# Day of emergency

Sunday started with calls for assistance after storms uprooted trees and ended with a beach tragedy.

Phillip Island's SES unit was kept busy after a tree fell across powerlines early on Sunday morning, leaving properties across Phillip Island without power.

Unit Controller Alan O'Connor said the incident tied up both the SES and fire brigade, causing a power outage and major traffic disruptions.

"AusNet attended promptly and arranged traffic management to allow us to continue with the backlog of calls," he said.

Phillip Island Road was closed at Five Ways, as AusNet crews worked on the damaged powerline.

Cowes, Silverleaves, Sunset Strip and Ventnor were all without power for several hours, although most were restored by 11am.

The SES crew received 10 calls for assistance between 6am and 2.30pm and spent the rest of the day responding to calls for trees down across roads and buildings.

There was also a near miss for a car, prompting Alan to remind residents that "parking under trees on the island is fraught with danger during these storm events".

He said the unit's last job for the day was providing assistance to Ambulance Victoria and the police on the drowning at Smiths Beach (see page 1).



Phillip Island Road was closed at Five Ways, as AusNet crews worked on the damaged powerline.

## Wild weather keeps crews busy

San Remo's SES unit was kept busy on Sunday, responding to calls for assistance from the public.

There was an early start for the unit, after a tree came down over the Bass Highway at Jam Jerrup at 6.30am.

The crew then moved on to Woolamai where a large tree had fallen down across the road.

Three trees were also down in Coronet Bay, including one which took out powerlines, leaving a number of properties without power for several hours.

Unit Controller Michael Kenny said when strong winds are predicted, households should make sure items like trampolines are secure.

"And don't park cars under trees," he advised.

The Bureau of Meteorology is also forecasting higher than average rainfall in December, which can lead to flash flooding, Michael said.

"It's a timely reminder to make sure your gutters are clear."



Clearing this large tree across the road in Woolamai "took the crew quite some time, as it was a very large tree", said Unit Controller Michael Kenny.

## Police keep close eye on Schoolies

The first weekend of Schoolies has passed without a major incident, according to local police.

Acting Senior Sergeant Craig Van Breugel said behaviour across the weekend was fairly good, and he rejected claims of a "wild brawl" on the Cowes foreshore on Saturday.

"There was one incident on Saturday at the Cowes Pier," he confirmed.

"A large group of youths had gathered and there was an altercation between a couple of them and the police intervened."

Acting Snr Sergeant Van Breugel said police went to the pier, responding to reports there was a large crowd in the area who were drinking.

"It certainly wasn't a big brawl, but it was a big crowd," he said.

"I believe a fight broke out between two people and a 25-year-old male from Cowes was arrested for being drunk in a public place."

Police remained in the area for several hours to monitor the crowd's behaviour.

### Noisy parties

Police responded to a number of complaints about noisy parties over the weekend.

"There were three noise complaints across the night, of people being loud and playing loud music," Acting Snr Sergeant Van Breugel said.

He confirmed there would be additional police in the area for the whole of the Schoolies period.

There was also a visible police presence on local roads. Over the weekend, highway patrols were targeting speeding, drink and drug driving, people not wearing seatbelts and driver distraction, which includes mobile phone use, and fatigue, as part of the state-wide Operation Compass (see page 6).

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# Miner to be investigated after “ancient” forest uprooted

More than 220 “ancient” grass trees – some possibly up to 700 years old – may die after a Grantville quarry company last week pulled them out to make way for sand mining.

Bass Coast Shire has referred the vegetation removal to the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions (DJPR) for investigation after councillors moved an urgent motion last week to protect the uprooted trees, as well as the remaining forest of grass trees, described as one of the best forests in Australia.

Resident and conservationist Meryl Tobin made the discovery, saying she was shocked to see the trees had been dug out and bagged, creating a “scarred moonscape”.

She called on all levels of government to protect the bagged trees, stop more trees being removed and for an immediate halt on mining by the company, Sand Supplies, in the forest area.

“Some of the trees were huge and would have been growing there long before explorer George Bass arrived in the area in 1798,” Meryl said.

“No government or authority would stand by and allow arguably the best grass tree forest in Australia to be destroyed if they knew it existed.

“The Grantville Grass Tree Forest is worth far more ecologically and economically to the shire and the state than if it is destroyed for sand.”

Sand Supplies did not return the Advertiser’s calls last week.

### Urgent motion

Cr Rochelle Halstead moved the urgent motion, saying some of the trees could be up to 700 years old and the council needed to send a strong message that they take “environmental devastation very seriously”.

“In one fell swoop they have been ripped out of their home and placed in bags with not much care. They are sitting out there in the sun,” Cr Halstead said.

Cr Halstead moved that council



Grantville’s grass tree forest last year flowered, triggered by bushfire two summers ago.

“act as a matter of urgency” to ensure the grass trees were cared for “to ensure they are kept healthy and able to be replanted at the earliest possible time”.

Councillors voted to assess whether the work plan for the mine “appropriately protects our region’s distinctive native vegetation and endangered flora”, as well as wildlife.

The urgent motion also sought to examine whether the rehabilitation bond for the leased site, required by the Earth Resources Regulator, was “sufficient to ensure full rehabilitation of the site”; and any “rehabilitation work to any used and closed sections of the site begin immediately”.

### Investigation

Following the council meeting, a shire spokesman told the Advertiser compliance officers had completed

several inspections of the mine site and met with the quarry operator.

The spokesman said under an exemption in the shire’s planning scheme native vegetation could be removed, destroyed or lopped to “the minimum extent necessary” for mining in accordance with a work plan, adding that a work authority for sand extraction had been approved by the State Government.

“This matter has been referred to the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions (responsible for ensuring work plans are adhered to) for investigation,” the spokesman said.

Cr Clare Le Serve said it was “critical to act now”, explaining the grass trees had recently flowered, which was triggered by a bushfire that tore through two summers ago.

Cr Michael Whelan said Meryl Tobin had been warning councillors for

six months that the grass trees were at potential risk.

“We have this juxtaposition of sand-mining ripping the country apart at the expense of pristine, beautiful native vegetation, for sand to build more buildings,” Cr Whelan said.

Meryl said she had met with one of the directors of Sand Supplies in June who had promised not to remove any trees until autumn 2021 and then it would only be up to 80 trees.

She said while scientists argued against translocation of grass trees, if they had to be removed it should be done in autumn, not in the heat of late November.

“It is possible he (Sand Supplies) now intends to take more trees or even the lot,” she said.

Meryl said in 2001, despite “copious information on significant flora and fauna”, Sand Supplies was granted a

work authority (originally a lease) to quarry sand.

She said given the conservation status of much of the land, Bass Coast Shire imposed strict conditions on the miner.

“Many would argue conserving remnant pre-European native flora in the Grantville Nature Conservation Reserve and surrounds should take priority over extracting sand.”

Meryl called on the State Government and shire to set aside the Grantville Grass Tree Forest as part of a bio-link between Nyora-Lang Lang to beyond Grantville in the current Victorian Government’s Distinctive Areas and Landscapes project.

### Site visit

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said she was organising a visit to the site and was keen to hear community views on the issue.

“In response to community concerns and photographic images sent to me, last Friday (November 27) I asked the Minister that DELWP staff visit the Grantville Quarry as a matter of urgency to assess the translocation of grass trees at the site.

“I have contacted the owner, Mr Viglietti and will make arrangements to visit the site in the coming weeks to learn more about their operations and grass tree translocation processes.

“I encourage the new Council to request a briefing and presentation from Sand Supplies Pty Ltd,” Ms Crugnale said.

“I am available to also meet with representatives of the conservation group to discuss their concerns in more depth.”

Ms Crugnale said she would consider all the views, comments and interests of the community and looked forward to having these conversations.

She acknowledged the “delicateness to this entire area” and said work needed to be done to build relations.

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# State Government intervenes in mine plans



There has been community outcry after “sick and dying” grass trees were dug up and bagged beside the expanding sand mining pit.

The Victorian Government has used its powers to bypass the Bass Coast Shire and call in a proposed expansion of a sand quarry at Grantville.

The move is concerning, according to Cr Rochelle Halstead, as it signals the state government may support sand mining over environmental conservation, coming immediately on the heels of community outrage at the loss of ancient grass trees on another site (see separate story).

Planning Minister Richard Wynne last week wrote to the shire informing them he had called in a planning permit for an extension of works for a Grantville Dandy Premix sand quarry.

The Minister will convene a planning panel to provide advice on the application before he makes a decision, expected to be in March 2021.

If the application is successful, it will approve more native vegetation removal and override an agreement that was placed on the original permit to stop this from occurring.

“Although I cannot pre-empt the decision by the Minister in this matter, the wording of his letter is concerning,” Cr Halstead said.

She said the Minister stated sand mining at the site was of “strategic value as identified by the quarry’s inclusion on the Extractive Industry Pri-

ority Project List”.

The Minister went on to say, “the availability of sand will contribute to the development of land in Metropolitan Melbourne, including the delivery of key public infrastructure projects”.

Cr Halstead said if approved the planning permit would see more native vegetation removed, albeit from a different site.

“It seems the planning requirements of the big smoke outweigh the need for preservation of our natural environment on the Bass Coast, by this state government.”

Council is expected to receive a report in February 2021 where it will adopt a position on the application.

“However the decision is now out of council’s hands and one the Minister will make.”

The ministerial call-in power is used where there is a state interest involved. Once the Minister makes a decision to call in an application, the Minister becomes the assessment manger.

**Process**

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale released a statement on Monday seeking to reassure the community about the process.

“The Minister has called in the permit application and has referred

it to what is called a Standing Advisory Panel.

“I want to reassure interested members of our community that objections already lodged with the Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) will be incorporated into the panel process. This Standing Advisory Panel will write to the submitters, stating this and also ask if they want to amend their submission in any way and if they want to present to the Panel,” Ms Crugnale said.

“The Bass Coast Shire Council can also put in a submission. This can take two forms where the Officer Report is presented and also the position of Council through its formal resolution at a statutory meeting

“The application was on exhibition and received 73 submissions which are available to read on the Council’s website. To ensure natural justice for objectors and proponent, no new submissions are possible.

“However, if people are wanting to be involved and have a position, they can write to the Minister directly as he will ultimately make the final decision.

“I value the input, comments, suggestions and views of everyone in the community I have been elected to serve and have read the majority of submissions on the council website already.”



The sand mine at the back of Grantville, on the fringe of the Grantville Conservation Reserve. Planning Minister Richard Wynne last week used his powers to bypass Bass Coast Shire and call in a planned expansion of sand mining in Grantville.

## Grass tree dilemma: are we a quarry or a tourist destination?

Former Bass Coast Shire councillor Geoff Ellis worked on sand-mining issues for years and said while sand miners were meeting their legal work orders, those orders were long past their use-by-date, a historic relic.

“I can attest there is a well-documented trail that shows miners are meeting the requirements of their work orders,” Geoff said.

“I think the issue is these work orders date from an era where the value of the greenery wasn’t taken into account.

“Currently the State Government believes it needs to prioritise exploitation of the sand over everything else, so council is up against it.”

Geoff said the community needed to appeal to the sand mining operators to consider other options such as land swaps.

He said conservation groups had long been pushing for a national park for the Grantville area, and the shire should audit its reserves so the State Government could gazette or acquire them.

“If the local community continues its strong campaign and outrage builds across the region Spring Street should support sourcing sand from other regions.

“The State Government needs to decide whether Bass Coast is a quarry or the gateway to a tourist destination. It can’t be both.”

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# What does managing wildlife mean?

A local wildlife rescuer has called on Phillip Island Nature Parks to provide more details on the proposed Wildlife Management Plan.

The plan seeks to control growing populations of Cape Barren Geese, wallabies and possums and proposes a "range of control options, including non-lethal methods" for these animals.

Colleen Gilbee who runs Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Shelter Bass Coast said "it's hard to understand exactly what it means".

"The Nature Parks has said it's not a cull, so can someone please explain to the public what it is, in easy to understand dot points on each animal?"

"How are they going to manage those populations? They can't just keep saying egg collections. Egg collection will thin out the geese, but how are they going to manage the possums and wallabies?"

As a keen observer of local wildlife numbers, she doesn't agree wildlife populations are out of control.

"I think it's unnecessary to have animal management on the whole island," she said.

"I respect what farmers need for their land, but as far as the whole island being animal managed, I don't agree with that."

The plan includes research that identifies Cape Barren Geese as the biggest threat to agricultural sustainability.

The research conducted with local farmers by Federation University showed between 50 - 100 per cent of summer forage crops were lost to grazing geese.

The cost to farmers to replace their lost crops was calculated at \$2250 per hectare.

"People get that Cape Barren Geese may be affecting the farmers' crops, but what about the rabbits? We have a rabbit issue



Local wildlife rescuer Colleen Gilbee has called for more details on the Wildlife Management Plan, which seeks to control growing populations of Cape Barren Geese, wallabies and possums.

here on the island.

"And what about other birds that eat the crops and crop seeds? Have they been included in the studies?"

The Nature Parks has admitted more research is needed on the possum and wallaby populations and their impact on native vegetation.

## Inundated

Since the plan was released, Colleen said she's been inundated with calls from people concerned the plan would result in a cull of native animals.

"I wasn't included in putting the draft plan together. I didn't have any part in the process. People are asking me a lot of questions, and I don't have the answers."

"I tell them to contact the Nature Parks, the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) or Bass Coast

Shire Council, but people don't get the answers they need."

Through her registered wildlife shelter, Colleen works with the Nature Parks and DELWP, but said she understands people's frustration with the plan.

"As a resident, my question is, what does animal management mean moving forward?"

"Spell it out to us. Give us dot points on what the management is going to entail."

"They can't relocate the animals, so they need to be honest with us about what they're going to do."

The state government sets out a range of options for managing wildlife in Victoria, including non-lethal methods such as fencing, netting or modifying agricultural practices.

Landowners can also employ other methods to control wildlife on their property, through

an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) including scaring, shooting, trapping and release, trapping and destroying and destroying eggs and nests.

Anyone concerned about how wildlife is managed on Phillip Island should read the draft plan and make a submission, Colleen said.

"People should put in a submission. They should ring the Nature Parks, the Council or DELWP. They're entitled to have their questions answered."

"And they should be talking to their councillors. If there wasn't so much infrastructure on the island, wildlife would have their native foods to eat, a place to live and a safe place to raise their babies."

The draft Wildlife Management Plan is open for community feedback until January 17 on the Engage Vic website [engage.vic.gov.au](http://engage.vic.gov.au).



A swimmer caught in a rip at Forrest Caves and rescued by Water Police is a timely reminder to look for rips, swim at safe beaches and understand your limits in the water

## Forrest Caves rescue

Last Friday a 19-year old man was rescued from the surf at Forrest Caves.

Police from Cowes said they attended the incident at 4pm, along with members of the Water Police and ambulance.

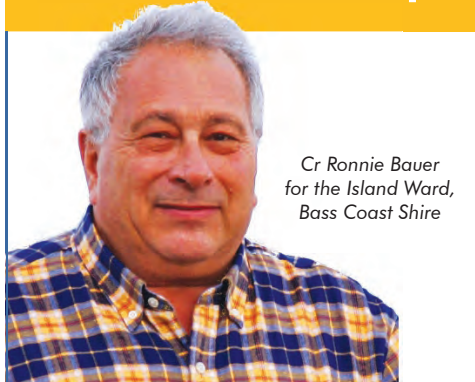
The man was swimming with friends when he was swept out by a rip.

Police said he was "400 metres from shore in a large rip with two metre swells rolling through, unable to return to shore".

He was rescued by the Water Police and taken to San Remo, where he was treated by paramedics.

The incident is a timely reminder to look for rips, swim at safe beaches and understand your limits in the water.

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



Cr Ronnie Bauer for the Island Ward, Bass Coast Shire

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**A.F.D.A.**



# Mayor and deputy announced Doubt on Newhaven skate park?

Bass Coast Shire's mayor will once again be Cr Brett Tessari, with Island Ward's Cr Michael Whelan the deputy mayor.

The vote for Cr Tessari, from Bunurong Ward, will ensure a smooth transition for the new term of council, given he has been mayor for the past two years.

Cr Tessari will serve a one-year term, stating "it's a role I enjoy".

Cr Bruce Kent, from Westernport Ward, was the only other councillor to nominate for the role of mayor, receiving four votes of support to Cr Tessari's five.

But Cr Kent did not appear surprised by his loss in what appeared to be a well-orchestrated vote.

Cr Whelan was the only nomination for deputy.

"The reason for seeking this position is there are significant whole of municipality issues that need to be addressed such as the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (State Government planning policy) and also there's continued work with the declaration of a climate change emergency," Cr Whelan said.

In their first official meeting together, following the October local government elections, councillors also voted on their rate of pay.



Cr Brett Tessari was re-elected Mayor, his third stint in the top job. Island Ward councillor Michael Whelan was elected Deputy Mayor.

Following a state government review, there will be no adjustment to allowances this year for Victorian councillors, with Bass Coast Shire's category two status allowing a range of \$10,914-\$26,245 per annum for councillors and up to \$81,204 per year for the mayor.

Councillors at last week's meeting unanimously voted to set the mayoral allowance at \$81,204pa with 9.5 per cent superannuation.

The councillor allowance was set at \$26,245 plus 9.5 per cent super, with the deputy mayor paid the same amount as councillors.

Submissions are now open for the community to give feedback on the rate of allowances through a consultation process.

Cr Whelan said the pay rate was an allowance set by the government and did not adequately reflect the hours of work.

"This is not remuneration, it's regarded as an allowance and every cent is earned many times over because of the demands on our time," he said.

Cr Clare Le Serve agreed saying "the amount of work and commitment makes it a fair allowance."

Newhaven residents who oppose the siting of a regional skate park at Grayden's Reserve may have been thrown a lifeline.

Bass Coast Shire at last week's council meeting made a vague reference that council would once again "re-engage" with the community on its future.

During public question time, resident Brendan Webb asked if the skate park would still be located at Grayden's Reserve and whether the \$650,000 state government grant money was still allocated to the \$1.5 million project.

Shire manager Jodie Kennedy responded saying they were aware of the "challenges associated with delivering the project at that site".

"Upon a decision on the extension to the funding with the state government, council will re-engage with the community-led project steering committee to determine how the project can be best progressed," she said.

"A final decision on the project, including its location, will then be presented to council for a decision."

Ms Kennedy said because the council had deferred the skate park construction in the 2019/20 budget and reallocated \$200,000 from the park to the COVID-19 response, the timeline would need to be adjusted.

"The original funding agreement outlined council to have completed the project by May 2021," Ms Kennedy explained.

"Due to the issues faced in 2020, council has requested an extension to this State funding and is still awaiting the outcome of this request."

While the skate community were disheartened by the news of a delay to a regional skate park in Newhaven following the 2019/20 budget, having long fought for a park, those who have opposed it said the deferment

should "give rise to a rethink of a more suitable location for a future skate park".

### Background

The skate community has waited years for a new park, with San Remo previously rejected as a location, causing division in the community.

Then Cr Geoff Ellis in December last year apologised that the skate park had become such a divisive issue, saying "I'm very sorry for the communities left in our wake and have turned on each other".

"There could have been better consultation on this," he said.

All councillors last year said they supported a skate park, however were divided on the location.

In 2014 the shire's Cowes Activity Plan listed new skate parks as a priority, appointing industry experts Convic in 2017 to investigate.

## Roundabouts welcomed

Local emergency services are hoping the newly completed roundabouts at Back Beach Road and Cape Woolamai will improve traffic safety.

San Remo CFA Captain Mark Thiele is grateful the roundabouts had been finished in time for summer.

"Both those intersections were a potential hazard. We've attended too many accidents there in the past."

He said he hoped the new roundabouts meant the end of serious accidents at the intersections.

"The upgrade was long overdue."

Some drivers have criticised the roundabouts, with people on the Phillip Island Traffic Check Facebook page complaining it had slowed traffic down.

"Roundabouts are not about making traffic flowing along the road faster. They make it safer for people wanting to come out of the estate," Mark said, commenting that the Cape Woolamai intersection was now much easier to navigate.

"I would like to see the speed limit reduced, so it's 60 from the bridge to the other side of Cape Woolamai."

## Road blitz nabs speeding drivers

A highway patrol blitz over three weekends in November has seen 153 infringement notices issued in Bass Coast.

As part of the state-wide Operation Compass, 84 drivers were booked for speeding.

Police also booked 31 people for driving unregistered vehicles and nine people for driving without a license. A further six people were booked for driving while disqualified.

Stats from the operation show five drink driving and four drug driving offences, and six fines for not wearing

a seatbelt.

Three people were booked for mobile phone offences and one for disobeying signs or signals.

Four vehicles were also impounded by the police.

Across Victoria, over 7000 speeding infringements were issued, and police said it was disappointing to see dangerous behaviour and people continuing to float the rules.

"It is baffling to me that people continue to speed and put themselves and others at risk," said Road Policing Command Assistant Commissioner Libby Murphy.

"Exercising a little patience could be the difference between you making it on time to your destination, or never making it at all - it's a no brainer."

"People are starting to drive both distances and speeds they are not familiar with, which carries its own risk. But the thought of people then throwing in alcohol, drugs or distraction into the mix is a deadly combination."

More than 16,827 traffic offences and 1545 crime offences were detected during Operation Compass.



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# Rescue remedy – wildlife needs help

The release of the draft Wildlife Management Plan last month has sparked renewed calls for better wildlife rescue services on Phillip Island.

The Plan does not include a rescue service, but many island residents say it is desperately needed.

At present, Phillip Island Nature Parks offers a service between 7.30am and 4pm, with the remaining hours covered by volunteers.

Colleen Gilbee, who runs the Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Shelter Bass Coast said additional resources are desperately needed.

As well as working full time, Colleen runs the wildlife shelter and rescue service and offers a call-out service after 4pm, but said she is stretched to her limit.

“I am really struggling with the volume of calls,” she admitted.

“I cannot do up to 10 calls a night and work full time. Something is going to give.”

She said local vets are very supportive and caring of wildlife – “I’d be lost without them” – as are the police if they’re not dealing with a human emergency.

But she didn’t mince words in her call for the Nature Parks to do more after 4pm and quickly.

“I’m desperate.

“Years ago there was a volunteer system within the PINP and it worked really well. We all shared the load of all the calls.”

The only active wildlife rescuer on Phillip Island, Colleen believes many people overestimate the number of wildlife rescuers in the area.

“I’m still the only person doing after-hours rescues,” she said, explaining other carers will take in sick animals, but do not respond to call-outs for a number of reasons.

Colleen said there are a few “lovely ladies” who help her when they can, but she’s hoping more local residents will get involved, to help deal with the issue.

“Everyone says they want to help, but not many actually do.

“If people really want to help and



Colleen Gilbee of Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Shelter Bass Coast is the only active wildlife rescuer on Phillip Island and can be contacted to help with injured or sick animals.

make a difference, please join Wildlife Victoria and do the training.”

## Call-outs

While Colleen does get calls about injured Cape Barren Geese, wallabies and brushtail possums, she said it’s not just the animal populations identified in the Wildlife Management Plan that need rescuing.

The calls range from cat and dog attacks on native animals, through to poisoning, car strikes and orphaned animals.

She’s also helped extricate animals from “interesting places”, explaining it’s usually because “their homes and food sources are being taken over or removed by humans”.

While roadkill might attract the

lion’s share of public attention and be the most visible of the wildlife rescue categories, it’s not the biggest.

And the toll on our wildlife can’t just be blamed on tourists.

“When Covid hit and we were in lockdown, I had just as many calls.

“Although the number of animals hit by cars did reduce a little, it did still happen due to too high road speed limits in parts of the island,” she said.

Keeping cats and dogs locked up from dusk to dawn does help reduce the attacks on wildlife.

“If you don’t have good control of your dog, then it should be on a lead at all times outside of your property.

“I love cats and dogs – I’ve got them myself, but I keep my cat inside at night.

“I get so many calls for cat and dog attacks on native birds, on ringtail and brushtail possums and lizards.

“I also get calls for birds that get sick, after eating a mouse or rat that’s been poisoned by a bait, lizards that have eaten snail bait or a possum that’s eaten rat or rabbit bait.”

By far the largest number of calls is for orphaned animals, found by “lovely members of the public”.

“I’ve collected ducklings, baby native birds, baby possums, wallaby joeys, Echidna puggles ... we don’t always know what happened to their parents.”

With Phillip Island expecting peak visitor numbers this summer, Colleen is apprehensive about how to handle an increase in calls.

“I can’t leave the animals with nobody to care for them or help stop their suffering, but I desperately need help.”

You can contact Colleen anytime on 0409 428 162.

She will attend if possible or provide advice on what to do. Injured animals can be cared for at her shelter and Colleen is also a qualified snake catcher.

## Nature Parks proposal

A proposal by the Nature Parks to recruit volunteers to help deliver a 24/7 wildlife rescue service was put on hold due to the pandemic.

In March this year, PINP announced sixteen volunteers were being trained to help respond to after-hours wildlife incidents.

The volunteers would provide an after-hour incident response for reports of sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife from the public.

They would then co-ordinate with the Wildlife Rescue and Transportation volunteers who will undertake the rescue with another volunteer or a Nature Parks ranger.

Last month, Nature Parks CEO Catherine Basterfield told the Advertiser volunteers would be slowly brought back as Covid restrictions eased and hopefully the plan would be reinstated.

## Injured wildlife? What to do

Some tips from wildlife carer Colleen Gilbee on what to do if you discover injured wildlife.

“You can be a great help to wildlife by stopping and checking animals that have been hit by cars,” Colleen said.

“Check that you’re safe first, check if the mother is dead and then check the pouch for a baby.”

“Wildlife Victoria has fact sheets on how to check a pouch correctly, how to remove the baby safely and how to keep the baby warm, to get it to a carer or a vet.

“All wildlife found sick, injured or orphaned must be seen by a vet as soon as possible.

“If they’re ok, then they will be handed to the local shelter or Phillip Island Nature Parks.”

Her phone is always with her and Colleen said she can be contacted anytime.

“If I don’t answer, please call the police for wallabies or kangaroos that need to be euthanised,” she said.

“You can try after hours vets, or you can keep the animals until 7.30am and call the Nature Parks Wildlife Rescue number.

“Keep mammals warm overnight. All other animals just put them in a towel in a carrier or box. Please do not feed or force water on them, unless you have been advised by a trained carer.”

## Wildlife Rescue contacts:

Phillip Island Nature Parks (between 7.30am – 4pm): 5951 2800, selection Option2.

Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Shelter Bass Coast – Colleen Gilbee: 0409 428 162.

Wildlife Victoria (4pm – 7.30am): 8400 7300. Cases can also be logged at: [wildlifelifevictoria.org.au](http://wildlifelifevictoria.org.au).



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After two weeks on the market, the old Newhaven Boys Home has sold. Earlier this year, the old owners started gutting the buildings, cleaning up the site and erecting a perimeter fence.

# Old Boys Home sold

Two weeks after being listed for sale, the old Newhaven Boys Home has sold, just shy of the asking price of \$3.5 million.

Ranjith Panangala of the Australasia Real Estate Group said the heritage-listed property sold last week to a local company who plan to renovate and build a hotel.

The sale of the 1.4ha site at 54-61 Forrest Avenue, including the chapel, was well above the asking price the current owners – a group of 10 investors – were seeking when they last

had it for sale in 2017 for \$2.7 million.

Those investors bought the site for \$1.65 million in 2015.

From the start of this year the current owners have spent about half a million dollars gutting the buildings, cleaning up the site and erecting a perimeter fence.

They planned a three stage \$9 million development, including a restaurant in the chapel, as well as accommodation for 14 in the Boys Home, but those plans were all put on hold with the pandemic.

Bass Coast Shire earlier this year confirmed there was a live planning permit for the site that allowed for: subdivision into 21 lots; partial demolition of existing buildings; construction of road and subdivision works; removal of vegetation; construction of a garage building and 10 dwellings; and making alterations to existing buildings.

The building was established by the Mission of St James and St John in 1928 to house delinquent boys aged between nine and 16.

## More money but still no site for Junior Secondary campus

Last week's state budget included \$25.76 million for the new Wonthaggi Secondary School Junior Campus in San Remo.

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said the money was for the next stage of the school construction, on top of the \$19.2 million announced in 2018.

Ms Crugnale said the money was separate from the land acquisition, which is yet to be finalised.

The exact location of the promised new junior secondary campus remains a mystery.

In August 2019 James Merlino, the Minister for Education, announced the campus would be in San Remo.

But confirmation of the exact location has been frustratingly slow.

In February this year, the Minister said discussions were still underway with a number of landowners in San Remo and he expected to be able to announce the location within a month or two.

Ten months later, there is still no announcement.

However back in February the Minister said preliminary designs had already been created and construction was due to start next year.

"We are absolutely on track to deliver it within the timelines," Mr Merlino said.

The campus will cater for students from Phillip Island and the Waterline area and deliver part of a \$24.7 million election promise which also included a gymnasium at Cowes Primary School.

In May 2020 the state government announced an additional \$5 million had been allocated to the Junior Secondary Campus to deliver a further stage of construction in 2022.

The additional funding will allow the building to accommodate 500 students once all stages of construction are completed.

The San Remo Junior Secondary Campus is due to open in 2022.



In June, surveyors were hard at work at a block on Potters Hill Road in San Remo, one of the areas suggested as a potential site for the new Junior Secondary Campus.

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# Not happy, says Stan!

Stan Gates was a Phillip Island Shire councillor for 18 years, and served for six terms as Shire President.

And he has spoken out this week, at what he considers to be the cavalier attitude shown toward Phillip Island by the Bass Coast Shire administration, when it comes to civic and historic records important to the people here.

A case in point at the moment, Stan says, is the time capsule buried back in 1978 by the old Phillip Island Shire Council, as part of the ceremonies surrounding the opening of the Cowes Civic Centre building.

The time capsule contained many items of interest for future residents to discover, and a stone with plaque attached was placed over it in the grounds to mark its location.

However, the stone has gone, and Stan says in spite of extensive enquiries to former councillors and Shire of Phillip Island staff from the 1970s era, as well as examination of old newspapers and photos, its location cannot be pinpointed.

Everyone remembers the capsule burial ceremony.

No-one can remember the location.

Stan said he contacted the Bass Coast Shire a few months back when he became aware the building his council erected 48 years ago was to be demolished; to enquire about the specific whereabouts of the capsule, and to point out the need for it to be relocated.

He is upset that no-one got back to him.

"It is still there somewhere, with our history in it.

"The current administration clearly could not care less about it, but we do.

"All they needed to do was go back into the Phillip Island Shire archives. There would be a record of where the capsule was buried."

Stan recalls it was placed in close proximity to the building but does not remember where.

Extensive enquiries over the last two months to locals who worked for the old Phillip Island Shire and residents who may remember, have drawn a blank.

Old newspaper reports also do not record the plaque's location.

Another time capsule was buried 23 years later on the Cowes Cultural Centre site, to mark Australia's Centenary of Federation in 2001, by the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Committee, and this has possibly confused the issue.

The 2001 Federation capsule site is well known. It is clearly marked with a plaque attached to a granite stone on the lawn adjacent to the Thompson Avenue and Church Street corner.

Some wonder if the 1978 capsule was at some point relocated and put in with that?

But if so, it is argued that the existing plaque would have recorded that fact.

Earthworks in the Cultural Centre grounds subsequent to 1978 include erection of a waterfall fountain in 1982 as a tribute to the volunteer ambulance drivers who served Phillip Island for



*Somewhere underground in this vista is a time capsule, buried back in 1978. Local resident Stan Gates, a Phillip Island councillor at that time, says the onus is on the Bass Coast Shire Council to find it! The Cowes Cultural Centre site is pictured prior to the removal of the fountain built in the grounds to pay tribute to the contribution made to the community by Phillip Island's volunteer ambulance drivers.*

decades; its subsequent removal in 2012, and the development of the present day Town Square.

Those works involved extensive removal of trees and vegetation, and possibly the stone and plaque went unnoticed at that time.

Whatever happened, Stan believes the Bass Coast Shire has let the community down in relation to this issue, by losing track of the 1978 time capsule.

"The answer to my question must lie in the old shire archives.

"Where are they? Do they even still exist? Are they protected? We don't know!"

"What I do know is that it should not be up to me to do the detective work.

"It's up to council administration to check the records and find the location.

"It was a council initiative, and important to Phillip Island."

## Council response

Bass Coast Shire was contacted by the Advertiser last week and has indicated they are ready to help.

A spokesperson said the plaque on the wall recording the opening of the Cowes Civic Cen-

tre in 1978 was removed prior to demolition, and that is safely in storage.

"As for the time capsule, we're happy to look for it, but we need to know where to start."

The spokesperson also indicated the old Shire of Phillip Island records are safe.

"In line with legislated record-keeping practices for Victorian Local Governments, older records are stored off-site at the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) in North Melbourne.

"The PROV website indicates there are three Shire of Phillip Island Minute Books for 1978 which are available for public viewing at the PROV North Melbourne archive. (For more information visit <https://prov.vic.gov.au>)"

Stan is pleased to learn this, but said he is also aware that following amalgamation, documents and reports related not only to the Shire of Phillip Island, but the Shire of Bass and Borough of Wonthaggi as well, were destroyed.

Stan believes there should be recognition of the three former council entities, and the part they played in each district's development.

He is particularly upset to have witnessed the Phillip Island Shire emblem, designed by local artist Fran Reith, and depicting our local

flora and fauna, destroyed when the demolition went ahead.

"It was attached to the Cultural Centre wall facing Thompson Avenue for everyone to see. It was placed there in 1978 when the building opened.

"It should have been preserved. If the Bass Coast Shire did not value it, there are individuals who would gladly have found it a new home."

Stan would like to see action taken to recognise the existence and contribution made by Shire of Phillip Island, the Bass Shire and the Borough of Wonthaggi, so they do not become airbrushed from history, as the island's emblem just has.

Perhaps a monument depicting the part the three municipalities played in the development in each of their districts.

To grow in the future, you must learn from the past, he comments.

Stan is pleased to learn the shire has stated that it is willing to help locate the time capsule, although he still has not heard back from them.

"They should check out the records, hire a metal detector, and start digging," is his suggestion.

## Call to grass bare council site

Stan Gates has called on the Bass Coast Shire to level and grass the barren and dusty space left in the wake of the demolition of the Cultural Centre.

Like others in the community, he assumed once demolition of the building was completed, the area would be levelled and planted with grass in time for the busy summer holiday season.

After all, plans have not been finalised for a replacement, and it could remain an empty eyesore for years.

With the need for outdoor dining areas and opening up of public spaces so social distancing can be observed, grassing this should be a no brainer, says Stan.

But not so!

"I am horrified to learn with the building down, and the tourism season almost upon us, the area is to be left in the state it is," he said.

"It is unsightly on such a prominent intersection in Cowes. The dust it will cause over summer is unacceptable.

"The whole Covid push has been for open outdoor areas where people can sit and relax. What better place to level and grass than this prominent space in Cowes?

"The shire have been allocated money and extra staff for



*Former Shire of Phillip Island councillor Stan Gates has called on the Bass Coast Shire to level and grass the vacant Cowes Cultural Centre site, describing it as an unsightly dustbowl that reflects poorly on Cowes, as we go into Covid recovery and the holiday season.*

this sort of work to help with the Covid recovery.

"The perfect time to plant grass coincided with the completion of the work on this site."

However, his calls have fallen on deaf ears.

Bass Coast Shire advises it doesn't intend to grass the area, instead attaching black cladding over the fence.

A council spokesperson said: "We are concerned about maintaining public safety around the project work site, while balancing visual amenity.

"We're working with local artists to consider public art

to temporarily decorate hoardings around the site.

"We're also considering different options to manage dust, to ensure compliance with regulations.

"The construction site will remain active over the summer period. The ground has not been levelled or cleaned enough to allow public access during this time, therefore it will not be temporarily grassed.

"While it remains a working construction site, the visual impacts will be lessened by proposed artworks that are currently being considered."

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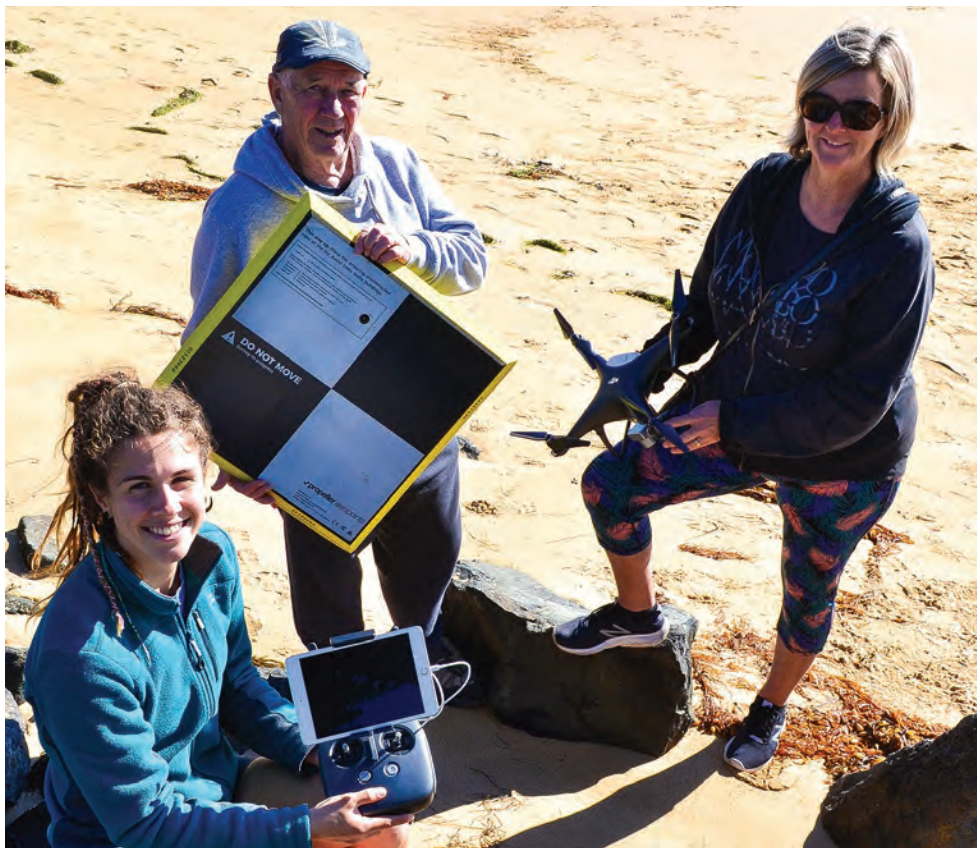
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Cowes East Foreshore Preventative Action Group's Leon Sweeney and Meredith Lynch (back) with Melbourne University researcher Karina Sorrell (sitting, front), part of an award-winning project collecting data from drones on beach erosion

## Top gong for Cowes drone operators

Cowes east residents have shared in one of Australia's most prestigious science prizes.

Members of the Cowes East Foreshore Preventative Action Group (CEFPAG) last week basked in the reflected glory of the Australian Museum Eureka Prize win, awarded to Deakin University for its world-first citizen science on coastal erosion.

The university's Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program – which CEFPAG is a part of – was awarded the prize for innovation in Citizen Science.

University researchers have visited Cowes every second month since mid-2018 to take about 800 photos, taken from a drone at 100 metres altitude.

The photos cover a 2.1km stretch of beach, from Erewhon Point to almost the end of Silverleaves residential area, at low tide from the dunes to the water line.

CEFPAG's Leon Sweeney said last year researchers

trained members to become licensed drone pilots, with about 20 volunteers now carrying out the survey work every six weeks.

"We were given our own drone and equipment to enable us to carry out surveys without supervision," Leon said.

"The CEFPAG team is thrilled to share in the win of the Eureka Prize and if any members of the public are interested in joining the team they can contact us."

Leon said the CEFPAG drone team were not allowed to carry out surveys during COVID-19 restrictions, with a professional drone operator instead surveying during lockdown.

However, he said volunteers would again be using drones for surveys from early December.

Cowes is one of 15 towns along the Victorian coastline to have beach erosion monitored through the Coastal

Monitoring Program, with others including Inverloch and Seaspray in the east, and to the west Apollo Bay, Port Fairy and Anglesea.

The program trains citizen scientists to use drones to monitor the coast and predict how beaches will respond to storms and rising sea levels.

Citizen scientists not only fly the drones but decide when to carry out surveys and analyse the data on a cloud platform to track the movement of sand.

The drones collect high quality research grade data that is used to build 3D models of the coast.

Data shows how sand is removed and returned to a beach by storms and tides, which is becoming increasingly important as climate change increases.

The data collected is publicly available for anyone to use and can be used to inform coastal development and repair work.

# Red bin red face?

A new Island Ward councillor has already admitted temporary defeat on one of his key election commitments.

Cr Ronnie Bauer stood on an election platform that included ensuring red bins be emptied weekly during peak holiday season in summer and Easter.

However, at the first Bass Coast Shire council meeting for the new term last week, Cr Bauer said the "matter of red bin weekly collection regrettably cannot be resolved for this summer".

"As you can imagine the concern is far more complex than just rolling up in a truck to collect the bins," Cr Bauer said.

However, he added he would not drop the issue.

"This will be looked at again early next year and my further hope is it will be resolved by summer 2021."

Cr Bauer told the Advertiser there were "more contractual pieces to the puzzle" than he initially understood, including cost and availability of trucks to pick up waste.

"I wasn't naïve in my promise. It's something that can be done but can't be done in three weeks before this season."

"The timing of the election meant the window was too small to take action this year."

"But where there is a will there's a way."

He said weekly red bin collection would not be available for Easter 2021, but for the following summer.

"It has a long lead time."

"I have not forgotten my election promise and I won't forget. I will achieve it with the cooperation of my fellow councillors."

# Tree removal stumped

In a move sure to please local environmentalists, the state government has announced changes to the 10-30 rule for vegetation removal.

Previously, under the 10-39 rule, property owners didn't need a planning permit to remove vegetation within 10 metres of a dwelling constructed before 2009 for bushfire protection purposes.

Under the new changes, the 10-30 rule now only applies to properties located within a declared Bushfire Prone Area.

Permits may now be required for the removal of any vegetation in areas where vegetation protection controls are in place, such as in parts of Inverloch, Cape Paterson, Tenby Point and the whole of Phillip Island.

Bass Coast Shire CEO, Ali Wastie, is supportive of the changes to the 10-30 rule.

"While we recognise the significance of the natural environment in our region, bush-

fire safety is also incredibly important and therefore, striking the right balance is essential," Ms Wastie said.

"We strongly encourage all residents to think carefully about tree and vegetation removal and to contact Council to check if the new rules apply to your property," Ms Wastie concluded.

Phillip Island is a declared Bushfire Prone Area, with an additional 12 areas identified as high risk and having a Bushfire Management Overlay.

However, many residential streets are not within the Bushfire Prone Areas.

Before clearing any trees or vegetation, property owners should contact Council's Planning Team to check if the new rules apply to them.

More information about these changes is available at [www.planning.vic.gov.au/vegetation-removal-for-bushfire-protection](http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/vegetation-removal-for-bushfire-protection).



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## Council Update



### Christmas Giving Trees

The Annual Christmas Giving Tree Program is on and Council asks everyone to participate by generously donating gifts and Christmas puddings for disadvantaged families. This year the organisation is particularly looking for gifts for girls aged seven to 12 years old, however gifts suitable for all ages are welcome. Gifts (including puddings) should be new and placed unwrapped under the trees. These gifts and puddings will be included in hampers which are distributed to local families. Christmas Giving Trees are on display in all Customer Service Centres and gifts will be accepted up to Thursday, 10 December. The program is organised by The Combined Welfare Group which consists of representatives from the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, Davey House and churches from Wonthaggi and Inverloch. This program will benefit families in need across Bass Coast this year. For more information contact our Customer Service Team on the number below.

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



# Stark warning for summer

Bass Coast Shire is considered one of the state's key blackspot drowning locations, and last year undertook a coastal risk assessment of 48 beaches and 70km of coastline.

Phillip Island's summer season is off to a grim start, with one swimmer rescued from a rip and another drowned in two separate incidents on the weekend.

The events are a harsh reminder of how dangerous and unpredictable our oceans can be.

Water Police rescued a 19-year-old man after he was caught in a rip at Forrest Caves on Friday.

On Sunday evening, family and bystanders pulled a young woman from the surf at Smiths Beach. She was unresponsive when emergency crews arrived and tragically died at the scene.

Both incidents occurred on non-patrolled beaches.

A spokesperson from Lifesaving Victoria said Smiths Beach had been patrolled on Sunday, but the patrol finished around 6pm.

Acting Senior Sergeant Craig Van Breugal from Bass Coast Police said drownings were "unfortunately an all too common occurrence."

With many beaches across the island un-

patrolled, he urged people to only swim at patrolled beaches, between the flags.

"Not being familiar with the local conditions can make swimming very dangerous," he said.

## Drownings up

According to the 2018/19 Drowning Report from Life Saving Victoria, 57 people drowned in Victoria last year.

This was the state's highest toll in more than two decades.

The statistics also showed a 77 per cent increase in the drowning rate of people aged 15-24 years.

Forty-one per cent of the fatalities occurred in a beach, bay or ocean.

Life Saving Victoria said on average, 630 people are rescued by lifesavers on patrolled beaches each year.

The 2019/20 Drowning Report is due out this week.



## Black spot on beaches

Bass Coast Shire is considered one of the state's key blackspot drowning locations, along with Mornington Peninsula and Surf Coast.

In conjunction with Life Saving Victoria, a coastal risk assessment including 48 beaches and 70 km of coastline was conducted in 2019.

The report delivered to Bass Coast Shire Council, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Parks Victoria recommended key improvements including:

- Standardising beach safety signage across the region to meet Australian Water safety signs and beach safety standard

- Implementing a process for continuous monitoring and review of hazards, to ensure that new hazards are detected and managed and linked to modification or maintenance of existing action plans

- Undertaking ongoing reporting to communicate the risk mitigation activities and outcomes, providing information to inform decision-making, improve risk management activities and facilitate interaction with stakeholders

When contacted this week, Bass Coast Shire Council was unable to provide an update on actions from the report before deadline.

However a spokesperson said: "With the approaching summer holiday season, Council is again working with other agencies such as Surf Life Saving Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Parks to share community messaging about staying safe by the water."

"We always recommend swimming at a patrolled beach between the flags and to learn how to recognise dangers, such as rips."

## Swim between the flags

Local patrols by members of the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club at Cape Woolamai returned over the weekend, running from 1pm - 4.30pm on Saturdays and 10.30am - 4.30pm on Sundays.

Patrols at Smiths Beach are scheduled based on availability of volunteers.

The 2020 summer season for paid Lifeguard Services by Life Saving Victoria will operate at Smiths Beach and Cowes from December 26 until January 26, and February 6 respectively.

Paid patrols will run at Woolamai Beach from December 29 until February 6, 2021.

# Water warning

Sadly, San Remo and Phillip Island are known as blackspots for drowning in Victoria.

At the start of 2020, a fisherman was killed, washed off the notoriously dangerous rocks at Punchbowl Road in San Remo, the second death in three months.

Since 2000 there have been six deaths of anglers at Punchbowl, which represents a third of all rock fishing deaths in Victoria in the last two decades.

Our ocean beaches have claimed at least seven lives since January 2016.

Every summer, authorities urge beachgoers not to become another drowning statistic.

Despite the safety advice, about 55 people are rescued from Cape Woolamai annually, not including numerous people saved by surfers that go unreported.

Ocean beaches and even bay beaches have hidden dangers such as rip currents, which is why it is important to always swim between the flags and check beachsafe.org.au to find patrolled beaches and safety information.

Life Saving Victoria research shows three quarters of people can't identify a rip - a fast-flowing current where water flows back out to sea - while two thirds who think they can spot a rip, can't.

If you chose the flat and calm water, in between the breaking whitewash waves, then you could find yourself in danger of being carried out in a rip.

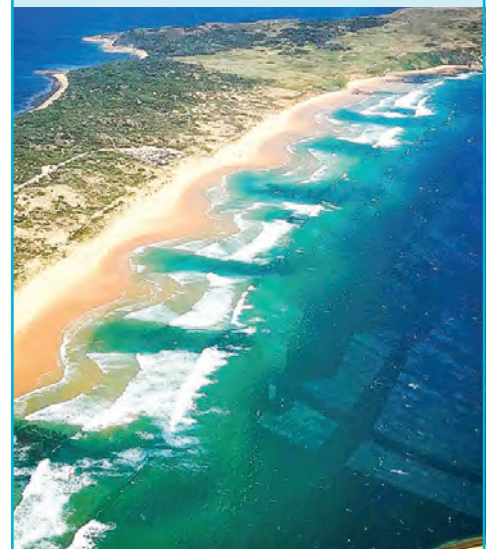
If you are caught in a rip, DO NOT PANIC. A rip current does not drag you underwater. Rip currents only pull you away from the shore or even parallel.

Stay calm, conserve your energy and consider these options:

- Raise an arm and call out to seek help.
- Float with the current. It may return you to a shallow sandbank.
- Swim parallel to the beach. You may escape the rip current.
- Reassess the situation - if what you're doing isn't working, try another option until you return to shore.
- Whenever possible, swim between the red and yellow flags.

Videos explaining rip currents are available on beachsafe.org.au in multiple languages.

If you are unsure where to swim, go to beachsafe.org.au/ or download the Beach-Safe App.



Can you spot a rip? Recognising a rip is the first step to avoid being caught in one. This Phillip Island Helicopters' photo shows a series of rips along the Cape Woolamai coastline.

## FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE

### PROPERTIES URGENTLY NEEDED

For sale \$575,000

16 Wimbledon Road, Wimbledon Heights

Enjoy the freedom and space on this large block 906sqm which backs onto farmland with rural & bay views. This double storey home is also a sound investment with a current tenant in place returning \$1387 PCM. The large block also has the potential for future subdivision (STCA). The property features 3 bedrooms, reverse cycle heating & cooling, double garage, full length verandah which is perfect for outdoor living. INSPECTIONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

LOOKING FOR SPACE?



For sale \$899,000

9 Waikiki Crescent, Smiths Beach

When only the best will do! The perfect beach house awaits, ample size for even the largest of families. Take a walk to the beach, the biggest choice will be walking the dog, fishing, surfing or just taking the stunning setting in. Even in winter the wood heater sets the atmosphere to let the weekend while away. The ample deck flows from the upstairs living area which is the ideal area to entertain family and friends.

DISTANT WATER AND RURAL VIEWS



For sale \$825,000

14 Beach Road, Rhyll

Here's the ultimate lifestyle with a foreshore position making coastal living a dream. Located opposite the Rhyll jetty and within easy walking distance to cafe, Tavern, boat ramp and park. This light and bright captures all the northerly aspect and is perfect for entertaining family and friends on the large north facing decking area. The main bedrooms features it's own balcony with views of the Bay as well as ensuite & WIR. Other features include polished hardwood floors, spacious kitchen with stone benches and 900mm cook top. The large main living area also features open wood fire and reverse cycle heating and cooling. This highly sought after foreshore property has a great permanent rental history also, returning \$1625 per month making it the ideal investment.

FANTASTIC FORESHORE



For sale \$549,000

4 Waratah Close, Cowes

The perfect investment awaits, nestled in this extremely quiet location, the north facing outdoor entertaining area is perfect for catering for family and friends. With easy walking access to Cowes Schools and Shops is another attribute. The current tenant has been in this property for 7 years, with the current rental shortage a secure investment is assured. Invest now and enjoy the peace of mind of a secure investment.

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# KEEP IT LOCAL

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**Phillip Island Tyre Service**  
 101 Settlement Rd, Cowes 5952 1480

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 Open 4pm-7.30pm  
 Closed tuesdays  
 9 Vista Pl, Cape Woolamai 5956 6552

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 PH: 5952 1131  
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# Phillip Island Ambulance Service –

## 60 years of service

This week (December 1) marks 60 years since an ambulance service started on Phillip Island.

From humble beginnings, staffed by volunteers with just one vehicle, over the decades, thanks to the dedication of

members and support of the community, it has grown into first-class service.

To mark the 60-year celebrations, we look back at the history and landmark moments of our incredible ambulance service.

## 60 years and still going strong

Phillip Island's ambulance service turns 60 this week.

Covid restrictions might have stopped a big birthday party, but there's still plenty to celebrate.

Retired Senior Team Member Mal McCann is full of praise for the service provided to the island community over the sixty years.

Originally run by a group of dedicated volunteers, Mal believes the spirit of the original team has stayed with the Phillip Island crew.

"When those guys first started, they basically had a first aid kit, maybe some oxygen and a willing heart."

"The crew here is always very motivated to follow on from what

those incredible volunteers did and strive to have the best service."

The volunteer service started on December 1, 1960 and continued to serve the community until 1981, when permanent staff were introduced.

Many of the original drivers stayed on the Ambulance Auxiliary committee, raising funds to improve ambulance facilities in the area.

Since 1981, it has grown from a two-officer branch to today providing full 24-hour service.

"It's a very high-quality ambulance service in this area," Mal said. "All the staff are trained in Thrombolytics and there's a good mix of Advance Life Support and Intensive Care paramedics."

"We were the first medium sized branch in the state to have the entire team fully qualified in Advanced Life Support."

"In 2007, four out of the six person Phillip Island team took part in the first courses run for rural ambulances in Advanced Life Support training," Mal remembered.

"Back in those days, you had to pay for it yourself."

Describing Phillip Island as one of the busiest rural branches in the state Mal said the proud history of community support continued.

"The staff are always motivated to be involved in any trials or training so they can enhance community care."

# Decades of support



This photo was taken back in 2010, when families of past Ambulance Auxiliary members joined those still present, for a final time. Pictured back from left are: Peter Forrest and Lewis Betts whose fathers drove the ambulance; Allan Warren, Greg Patton, Peter Kelly, Bill Gaskett (first appointed officer in Cowes), Stephen Papworth and Mark Cooke (the Regional Manager of South Gippsland in 2010). Middle row: Sandra Rocottas, daughter of volunteer driver Bob McRae, Gwen McRae, wife of Donald McRae, John Reid, Rod Patton, Greg Sassella (then CEO Ambulance Victoria), Cefn Price, Robert Jeffery, Bob Davie whose father Stan Davie called the meeting 57 years ago to establish the auxiliary and the then local MP Ken Smith. Front row: Representing the original ambulance auxiliary drivers: Rob Dixon, son of Snow Dixon, Tom Beaton, Laurie Tyrrell and Geoff Burrell; Artie Murdoch and Nance Mackenzie, wife of Jim Mackenzie.

The Phillip Island community has always been proud and passionate supporters of the ambulance service.

Over the years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised to support the vital work of the ambulance crew, through the generosity and support of the Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary Club, the Cowes Ambulance Auxiliary and the community at large.

In 2017, after 57 years of service, the Ambulance Auxiliary called it a day.

"Everyone has achieved what we set out to do," Artie Murdoch told the Advertiser at the time.

This simple statement wrapped up 57 years of service to the Phillip Island community by a dedicated and committed band of volunteers.

The dedicated group represent

a time when people rolled up their sleeves, banded together and got whatever job was necessary, done.

With the Auxiliary membership down to five, and with a new financial model functioning across the wider Ambulance Victoria, the Phillip Island Auxiliary decided that the time was right to call it a day.

They chose to hold their last meeting on December 1, 2017, as it marked the exact date on which their first meeting was held in Cowes, back in 1960.

### Fund

While the original ambulance men were volunteers, and were not paid, they were given a remuneration stemming from insurance.

They decided to set up an account

and pool this money to put toward a greater use.

This was how the first ambulance station was built and funded back in 1981, in Settlement Road.

Along with the insurance account, the local community was actively fundraising, holding various activities and functions, such as community balls, to bolster the coffers.

In the past 20 years, an estimated \$250,000 has been contributed to the purchase of much needed equipment, the outfitting of vehicles and the training of staff.

Over the decades, the Ambulance Auxiliary has continued to quietly go about their business, doing what they needed to do to achieve their goals.

When paid ambulance staff were



In 2013 the new station got put through its paces over the GP weekend. Team Manager at the time was Mal McCann, who said the building coped well and "we were able to easily park the 21 vehicles used over the weekend."

finally appointed on Phillip Island in 1981, the Ambulance Auxiliary continued its service in a supportive role to the new arrangement.

"We started from scratch, and now have a brand new station with 23 personnel, and still have dollars in the bank," Auxiliary member and one of the original volunteer drivers Artie Murdoch told the Advertiser in 2018.

The extent of their achievements, over the 57 years, has not only been magnificent but deeply appreciated by the ambulance brigade and the wider community.

"What the auxiliary has done over the years has ensured that this community has been very well serviced and that the ambulance vehicles were the best equipped within

the service," said Mal McCann, former team manager of Phillip Island Ambulance.

"The vision of these guys, and the fact that they have remained focussed, over 57 years, has played a major part in the quality of the service that we have today," he said.

In closing the books for the last time in December 2017, Artie Murdoch spoke briefly for his fellow auxiliary members Rob Jeffery, Rod Patton and Bill Bilson.

"We're all getting older so it's difficult for us to keep going."

"Physically we can't do a lot more, but we're happy with what we have done, and that the dollars we raised will still be used here."

"I feel I've done my job. We all feel that way," he said.



# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS



Taken at the 50th birthday celebration in 2010, standing in front of an original Humber ambulance vehicle were four of the local volunteer drivers who began service in December 1960 (L-R) Tom Beaton, Artie Murdoch, Laurie Tyrrell and Geoff Burrell.

## A proud history of service

On the first of December 1960, Stan Davie, the president of Warley Hospital, called a public meeting in the lower shire hall in Cowes to establish an ambulance service for the whole of the island.

In those days, the island was a relatively small and close-knit community, with one doctor, one clinic or consulting room, and a bush nursing hospital.

Stan recognised a need existed, as up until that time the doctor attended accidents and call outs around town.

The Phillip Island Shire purchased a resuscitator for drowning incidents, and it was deemed that if some of the community members could be trained to operate this machine, then it would certainly relieve the doctor's demanding daily schedule.

In its own way, the machine contributed to the emergence of the ambulance service.

Having a resuscitator was one thing ... but enabling the volunteer recruits to operate it was another.

So the then island doctor, Don Hopkins, in his wisdom, set up training for two or three volunteers and offered his van to transport patients from the beach to Warley.

Shortly after, the South Gippsland District Ambulance Service came on board and offered the island a vehicle, a Studebaker, for community use.

It was initially housed in a garage in Chapel Street, between the present-day Island Bakery and the Advertiser building.

Stan Davie then called a public meeting to establish an ambulance brigade.

At the 50-year celebrations in 2010, 82-year-old Tom Beaton told the Advertiser, "It was a well-attended turn out."

Tom was one of the first to put up his hand. Sixteen other men in the community did likewise.

Records of this first meeting show that 45 residents attended, and 17 of these were to form the Cowes Ambulance Service.

### Dedication

The dedicated volunteers not only held down day time jobs and were bread winners for young families, but were the volunteer members of sporting clubs, the youth club, kindergarten and school committees, fire brigade, JayCees, Rotary and other clubs that operated at that time.

The new volunteer ambulance drivers put their names on a roster, which worked out that each member was to be available on one weekend



One of the first volunteer ambulance drivers and a long-serving ambulance auxiliary member, Artie Murdoch, was pictured with his granddaughter Nicole Blackman and his wife June at the 50th birthday celebrations.

in every seven, as well as a weekday and night.

They attended auxiliary committee meetings, first-aid classes, were on-call for emergency cases, and at times, helped out in the hospital.

"We had a good working relationship with the nurses at the hospital, as we relied on them and they could call on us for help," former driver Geoff Burrell told the Advertiser in 2010.

"Sometimes we'd be called over to help lay out the bodies, or to lift people if they had fallen out of bed," he added.

On other occasions they would be in the van taking people to hospital or in more serious cases, to Melbourne.

There were many times when they were literally driving for dear life.

"I remember doing 75 miles/hour up Swanston Street on a busy Saturday morning taking a heavily pregnant woman to hospital," said Artie Murdoch, one of the last of the original volunteers.

"She had been in labour for 32 hours and needed emergency treatment. We ended up getting a police escort through town. Fortunately it all ended up well and the police officer who'd helped us, put a congratulatory notice in the paper for the new arrival. We thought that was lovely," Artie added.

"But there were times when the police escort made it hard for us - we

couldn't keep up with them!"

### Renumeration package

Even though these men volunteered to drive, they were paid on an hourly basis by the South Gippsland Ambulance Service. However, this system proved to be onerous and time consuming so they made a pact that their wages be accumulated, and placed in an auxiliary fund.

This, plus community working bees, enabled an ambulance station to be built, which was officially opened on December 1, 1985.

These same efforts had previously enabled the ambulance, a Ford wagon by this stage, to be housed in a car park at the back of the hospital.

The hard working and diligent auxiliary committee met on a regular basis, to ensure that the essential service they had established provided the best care and attention that it could give to the local community.

### Facilities

Over the sixty years, the ambos have worked from three different locations.

The first base was a simple garage for the station wagon in Chapel Street.

They then took residence in the rooms under the Warley Hospital, before moving to the station in Settlement Road in the early 1980s.

In 2012, the current facility in the Cowes Industrial Estate was opened.

## Lifelong heroes



In 2018, the Cowes Ambulance Paramedic team showed their appreciation of the dedication, support and service provided to the Cowes community for over 50 years by Rob Jeffrey, Artie Murdoch, Rod Patton and Bill Bilson.

In 2018, four local heroes were awarded Life Memberships from Ambulance Victoria, in recognition of their lifelong dedication to the ambulance service.

Between them, Artie Murdoch, Bill Bilson, Rob Jeffrey and Rod Patton had clocked up 200 years of tireless support for our local ambulance.

Although sadly Rod is no longer with us, Artie, Bill and Rob are still here to mark the 60th anniversary of the service.

Artie and Bill started as volunteer ambulance officers in December 1960, with Rob and Rod joining seven years later. When the ambulance transitioned from a volunteer service to paid staff, the four stayed on as members of the Ambulance Auxiliary.

At the time, Team Leader Mal McCann said such awards were very rare.

"The awards are a recognition of a lifetime of commitment to the development and provision of Ambulance services in community.

"Between 1960 and 1981, these guys were the operational ambulance service for the area.

"Since 1981, they stayed and continued to raise money, so we always had the best possible equipment for the paramedics working here.

"They've raised over \$250,000

that went directly to ambulances. That's an awesome effort."

Mal described the men as dedicated and selfless and said it took a bit of crowbarring to get them together for the award presentation, as they weren't seeking any acknowledgement.

He described their time with the service as 50 plus years of giving.

"In the early days, the volunteers were paid a nominal fee, which they banked into a trust account. Twenty-one years later, that money built our first ambulance station."

The Auxiliary officially closed in December 2017.

"Artie told me they'd achieved everything they set out to do," said Mal.

"They got the station built. The island started out with one paid staff member, and there's now 25."

Money raised by the Auxiliary remains in a trust fund and will continue to help improve the services and equipment of our local ambulances.

Last week, Mal paid tribute to Rob, Artie and Bill, the last three remaining members of the Auxiliary.

"They are very humble, beautiful men," said Mal.

"For over fifty years, they gave their time and their money to help people, who will never even know who they were."



The current station was officially opened in February 2013 and was funded by a \$2 million state government grant. Current team members (left to right) Frank Mendes, Cathy Phillips (Acting Team Manager), David Pardoe, and Paul De Fazio (Team Manager) are honoured to be the part of a tradition of 60 years of outstanding service.

## 24-hour service

The current Ambulance station was officially opened in February 2013.

The new station, with its 1400sqm floor space has room for at least seven vehicles.

It also includes four separate sleeping quarters; a comfortable communal living and dining area; radio installations; storage rooms; office space and room to move upstairs.

The station was built courtesy of a \$2 million state government grant

and replaced the old station - built when there were just two ambulance officers.

At the time, Team Manager Mal McCann said the bigger, up-to-date and efficient facility was desperately needed.

Part of the design included a large undercover area to house the extra equipment and vehicles that are needed during the major events and holiday periods.



# Class of 2020 A VERY DIFFERENT YEAR 12

## Reflections on a difficult year

2020 has been a year like no other and we have all been forced to adapt to a new life and a new normal.

It has been especially difficult for our Year 12 students who have been seriously

impacted by the Covid pandemic.

They have not been able to go to class for much of the school year; enjoy annual school formals and valedictories; or even celebrate their graduation day properly.

Yet they have held their heads high and powered through, the finishing line now in sight with exams finishing this week.

Brittany Carlson, who has lived on the Island her whole life and is now studying

journalism at La Trobe University, caught up with Year 12 students from Wonthaggi and Newhaven Secondary Colleges, to see how they have fared in these trying times.



### Jamieson May: Wonthaggi Secondary College

Last year saw Wonthaggi Secondary College student, Jamieson perform in the school musical "Camp Rock".

This year she has barely been able to go to class, let alone enjoy the usual extra curricula activities she loves.

Covid made it a tough year for Cape Woolamai local Jamieson.

Home schooling created the challenge of having to be very self-motivated when it came to schoolwork.

"I found learning from home a little difficult. I got distracted very easily, as my phone was

always around and video calls would get boring," she said.

Jamieson studied Allied Health Assistance this year through Gippsland TAFE; but her favourite school subjects were drama and psychology.

She hopes to continue psychology studies next year at Deakin University while undertaking a Bachelor of Criminology/Psychological Science.

She has been most disappointed to miss out on her Year 12 graduation night this year.

"I was really looking forward to one of my first formal events, dressing up nicely and enjoying a nice dinner with our class. The school gave us a scaled down graduation; but that was

something I was really looking forward too."

She finds it hard to believe that her school life is coming to an end.

"Being at the very end of my schooling is crazy. We've been talking about exams and that the end is in sight, but now it's finally here, I can't really believe it."

Jamieson can't wait to hang out with friends at the beach at the end of exams, and to start to earn some money.

A recent highlight was sitting for her red P-plates and passing.

She was very proud of achieving that.

However graduating during a pandemic comes in a close second.

"It sure will be a year for the history books."

### Kai Misawa: Wonthaggi Secondary College

When he finishes at Wonthaggi Secondary College this year, Kai is excited at entering a world full of possibilities.

He has no set plans for 2021.

Kai studied Year 12 English, specialist maths, maths methods, chemistry, physics and Japanese.

He found the workload was stressful "and there was a lot of procrastinating" but he is glad that he took it on.

For Kai learning from home came with both positives and negatives.

He missed interacting with his peers, as his friends are very important to him.

But he is pleased at becoming a more independent learner.

"Initially I found it really difficult, adapting to learning from home, because I would talk to my friends a lot back in school and discuss things with them. However I did learn how to really search for good resources online," he said.

Kai also missed being in the school band this year. He plays the saxophone and was disappointed not to be able to spend time in his final school year playing this instrument with his friends.

Whilst not many memories were made in 2020, Kai said that for him and for a lot of the other students "muck-up day" was so much fun, and something that was special and stood out in a year full of disappointments.

"The day where everyone just got dressed up, that was the biggest day for me I think and what I will remember most," he said.

Kai feels both excitement tinged with nerves as he faces the uncertainty of the year ahead.

He is keeping an open mind to all opportunities that come his way in 2021.

"I have no idea what is ahead for next year.

"But I am excited and keen to find out what will happen next."



### Joshua Stevens: Wonthaggi Secondary College

Wonthaggi Secondary College student Joshua has his sights set on studying engineering next year.

He loves to play computer games, ride his bike and play the French horn.

He's been playing the French horn since he was in Year eight, so it has been tough not being able to do much band practice this year.

This year has been difficult with Joshua taking on English, maths methods, chemis-

try, specialist maths and physics for his Year 12 subjects.

These subjects are tough and he found them even harder while home schooling because there was so little interaction possible with his teachers.

"When concepts in the sciences and the maths are being explained, it really helps to be able to have a teacher point out specifics and go into depth and detail with these subjects," he said.

However Microsoft Teams (online learning platform) has given him a few laughs and

will definitely be something that he will remember this year.

Joshua said it is going to be weird not being at Wonthaggi Secondary College in 2021.

"Six years is a long time to spend in one place."

However, he is really looking forward to having a long break before hopefully gaining entrance to the engineering faculty at RMIT in Melbourne next year.

"The most daunting thing facing me when I finish is trying to organise everything to go to university and move up to Melbourne," he said.

### Emily Witaowski: Wonthaggi Secondary College

Cowes resident and Wonthaggi Secondary student Emily has struggled with missing out on the typical "year 12 experience" this year due to Covid.

But on the up side, she says that learning from home provided a unique opportunity to excel at her studies.

"I work pretty well independently, so to be by myself was good, because usually at school I would get quite distracted by my friends."

Emily loves hanging out with them in her spare time, enjoying going to the beach and to

Melbourne as much as possible.

She also has a passion for keeping fit at the gym, and is hoping to turn this passion into a career as a personal trainer.

"Next year I will hopefully be working part time and studying personal training part time. The course is online so I will be able to do all my lectures over zoom, just like this year," she said.

Having gyms closed because of Covid was hard for Emily as being active is important to her.

Instead she went walking and swimming and kept fit from home.

The pandemic has meant that Emily hasn't been able to create as many Year 12 memories

as she would have liked.

But being stuck at a home most of the year is a memory in itself, she said.

It will certainly make 2020 a standout.

After her exams are finished Emily is looking forward to the freedom that she has yet to experience. This year has made her more self-reliant and independent than would otherwise have been the case.

She is looking forward to the future with enthusiasm.

"I am excited to live my life and start fresh with adulthood and experience everything by myself. Go travelling, just see the world and be free," is her aim.





# Class of 2020 A VERY DIFFERENT YEAR 12



## Mia Stratman: Newhaven College

Island local Mia has appreciated the time she has spent at home with family this year; because she next year she has plans to study Osteopathy and travel around Australia.

Mia said school has been like her security blanket for her, a comfort she is used to living with.

To soon leave that behind is exciting but also very nerve wracking, with so much of what lies ahead unknown.

Mia has lived on the Island her whole life and started at Newhaven College in Prep.

Perhaps this is making her even more nervous, as she faces a transition into the world beyond school, she thinks.

"Most kids get to experience a big change

when they move to new schools for middle or senior years, but I never got to do that," she said.

This year Mia has most enjoyed taking textiles as a subject, and her work has recently been put on the short list for Top Design, an annual exhibition of the work of the very top students in Victoria at the Melbourne Arts Centre.

Learning from home provided Mia with flexibility and allocating study time as she saw fit.

"Learning from home really let me shape my own learning around my needs," she said.

However, Mia missed the social side of school.

Away from that made her realise how impactful those connections were in terms of her performance at school.

Mia says she is thankful for this year as it has allowed her to slow down and really take notice of what is important to her.

"Because we couldn't do that many things it made the times I could spend with friends or family more special," she said.

Outside of school Mia is a busy bee who enjoys everything from crafting to exercising.

When she finishes her exams she will be ticking off a list she has compiled full of things from DIY projects to travel to countries she wants to visit.

Mia plays the saxophone and sings and has been in many performances both in and outside of school.

She was cast was in the College's production of "The Wiz" this year and is disappointed to have missed this opportunity because of Covid restrictions.

Mia is hoping to be accepted into Osteopathy at Victoria University in 2021, but is happy to see where the year takes her.

## Finan McLaren: Newhaven College

Finan lives in Cowes and completed his secondary education at Newhaven College, after leaving Cowes Primary at the end of grade six.

Music man Finan has enjoyed a year full of music with everything from performances, to competitions and even sitting exams.

Finan loves playing his guitar and despite live performances being scarce this year, he managed to get in a performance with his band "The Finetics" at the Top-Class Music concert held at the Melbourne Recital Centre at the beginning of the year before Covid restrictions hit.

"The concert featured the best performing VCE and VET music bands throughout Victoria.

"Performing to a crowd of 1000 people was very surreal and something that I will remember forever," he said.

In another big win this year, Finan took out first place for the Monash University Emerging Popular Music Prize 2020.

After a last-minute submission, he won, earning \$500 in the process.

"That money is going towards my next guitar purchase," he said.

It is no surprise to anyone that Finan would like to go to university next year to study music education.

He wants to become a classroom music teacher, "if I don't become a world-famous rockstar".

For Finan, learning from home was a mixed bag of experiences.

Doing practical things like music was difficult through a screen but he said all of his teachers did a great job at making lessons engaging online.

Finan says he will miss seeing the people he has spent the last six years with, when the year comes to an end, but he is mainly excited to start living a life that is his own.

"It feels amazing to be at the end of my schooling. I cannot wait to move away from high school and focus on studying the things that I am passionate about.

"I will miss seeing my classmates every day. I don't think it will sink in that I have left school until I don't go back."



## Alannah Coghlan: Newhaven College

Alannah lives in Cowes and has attended Newhaven College since Prep. She is excited to move on next year and hopes to study law in Melbourne.

Alannah says when this year ends, she won't remember the lockdowns so much.

What will stay with her are the special nights that she got to share with her friends, as they battled through 2020 together.

Learning from home was a challenge for Alannah.

Only physically going to school for eighty days took its toll.

"The hardest part was not the content. It was not having your friends around you for support and not having your teachers face to face to talk to you.

"You feel so isolated," she said.

Alannah loves musical theatre; she has performed in many shows including the lead role in the 2019 College musical "Barnum".

Alannah was also due to take on a lead role in "The Wiz" this year and is disappointed to not have the chance to perform because of lockdown.

She is however looking forward to being able to perform in Wonthaggi Theatrical Group's "Mamma Mia!" production when Covid allows.

Not being able to have her family celebrate after 13 years at school at her graduation was something Alannah found very difficult.

She is the youngest in her family with two older siblings, who she got to see graduate and knew what this very special day should be.

"Not being able to have my family there watching me was really really hard. Not being able to have them watch you finish was pretty tough," she said.

However, Alannah hasn't let the challenges of 2020 make her lose sight of her goal, which is going to law school next year.

She is proud that she has been able to get through the year, and will feel a massive sense of relief when she finishes her final exam.

## Liam Turner: Newhaven College

Liam lives in Cowes and is a student at Newhaven College.

This year he studied Year 12 English, maths, Japanese, psychology and legal studies which he said has inspired him to apply to do law at Monash University next year.

Liam chose to look for the benefits of learning from home this year, as a means of preparing for a life at university, where things are so much different than at school.

"Instead of viewing it as a punishment or

something bad, I saw it as an opportunity to improve my self-motivation and organisation skills," he said.

When not studying hard to maintain his grades, Liam enjoys running "to clear his head and relieve stress" as well as hanging out with his friends.

He was disappointed to miss out on a proper valedictory celebration with his family, having seen his older sisters graduate and experience the excitement of those events.

But what the school did put on was perfect.

He can't wait to let go of all the stress after

exams have finished, and finally have some freedom to do things that he has put off due to studying.

"It will just be the biggest sense of euphoria when I finish that Japanese exam," he said.

Liam maintained excellent marks in every subject throughout the year, but is most proud of taking out the VCE English award this year.

Liam said this year has really shown how much the teachers care, especially about their Year 12 students, and that he will hold onto the relationships he has formed with them as he takes on the future.







Christmas is fast approaching and the Cowes Conference of St Vincent de Paul are preparing Christmas hampers for vulnerable families in our local community who have fallen on tough times and are struggling to make ends meet. From left to right: Marg Welsh, Pat Randell, Narelle Mulcahy, Linda Sparkes (President of Cowes Conference)

# Help spread some Christmas cheer

Every Christmas Linda Sparkes (president of the Cowes Conference) and her fellow volunteer Vincentians bring smiles to the faces of children and the spirit of Christmas to vulnerable families on Phillip Island and San Remo.

The Covid pandemic has affected all of us in some way and for those families who are food insecure in our community it can mean struggling to buy Christmas lunch or gifts for their children.

The Vinnies hampers are all about providing some joy and happiness at this festive time of the year. Singles and couples receive a food hamper and Coles voucher while families receive a Coles voucher and toys for

each of their children.

“We make sure we have the right ages of the children from every family we visit so that we have suitable presents for them,” Linda said.

2020 has seen an increase in the number of people requiring assistance and even families who wouldn’t normally need St Vinnies services are seeking help as they find themselves in a difficult position financially.

Throughout the year the Cowes conference members visit anywhere from 10 to 20 families each week and the annual figure throughout Victoria is 660,000.

The Society raises money from its members, through Parish poor boxes, proceeds from items sold at Vin-

nies shops, donations from the public and some government funding.

If you can help out with a donation of non-perishable food or a new toy, your gift will help make Christmas a more festive time for so many in San Remo and Phillip Island.

Linda said that they are particularly in need of gifts for 10-15-year old boys this year.

Cut-off date for donations is December 12.

Non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys can be left at: Coles, Woolworths, Ray White, Cowes Newsagents, IGA San Remo, Bendigo Bank – San Remo, Bendigo Bank – Cowes and Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School.

# Change for Sam and Santa spreading Christmas joy

Santa is teaming up with Change for Sam this year and will be posting out free personalised handwritten letters to spread the Christmas joy.

Parents simply need to visit [www.changeforsam.com.au/santa](http://www.changeforsam.com.au/santa) fill in the online form and share their child’s acts of kindness during 2020.

“This initiative is an opportunity to connect with children in Bass Coast and shine a light on the importance of everyday kindness,” said Lija Matthews, Change for Sam committee member and Sam’s friend.

“Change for Sam is committed to encouraging kindness in our community and what better time than Christmas to do so.”

Santa will post replies within two business days of receiving the on-

line form, but since he will be using Australia Post you better get in fast to be sure to receive your response before Christmas!

The last day to submit your form will be Friday, December 11.

**Family violence assistance**

Call 000 for Police or other emergency services if you require immediate assistance.

The Orange Door is a free support service for adults, children and young people who are experiencing or have previously experienced family violence. 1800 319 354, [www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au](http://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au)

Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre is Victoria’s statewide first response service for women, young people and children experiencing family violence. 1800 015 188, [www.safesteps.org.au](http://www.safesteps.org.au)



Change for Sam is teaming up with Santa to deliver some Christmas cheer this year.

# Tis the season for giving

A small gift can make a big difference.

Put a present under the Christmas Giving Tree at the Cowes Newsagency before December 13 and help make Christmas happier for a local family.

Being part of this wonderful tradition of Christmas giving is easy.

Come into the newsagency in Thompson Avenue before December 13 and select a star from the tree.

Each star is marked with an age group from babies up to 13-years.

You simply need to buy an age-appropriate toy, then place it under the tree.

If you purchase a gift in the store, the friendly staff at Cowes Newsagency will wrap it for you.

Or you can bring in a present and leave it under the tree before December 13.

This is the eighth year the store has run the Giving Tree appeal.

The presents left under the tree will be included in hampers distributed locally as part of the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal helps families struggling at Christmas.

This year, impact of the pandemic means more local families will be facing a bleak Christmas.



Bianca Greentree and Lisa Barbar with the Giving Tree at the Cowes Newsagency. Presents will be distributed to local families experiencing hardship this Christmas, as part of the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Gifts must be left before December 13.

“Millions of Australian families will be spending this Christmas in poverty,” the Vinnies Christmas Appeal website states.

“Many of them are facing hardship for the first time and have suddenly found themselves frightened about how they will keep a roof over their head and put food on the table, let alone celebrate on Christmas Day.”



Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, with Island Ward Councillor Michael Whelan, is urging the community to support the annual Giving Tree program. Gifts can be left up until December 10.

# Christmas Giving Trees ready

It’s that time of year again!

Bass Coast Shire Council’s Christmas Giving Trees are now up and ready to receive gifts as part of the annual donation drive to support local families doing it tough.

The Christmas Giving Tree program helps ensure that Christmas is a special day for the whole Bass Coast community.

The project is coordinated by the Combined Welfare Group which includes organisations such as the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and Bass Coast Health’s Davey House. These services work directly with local families.

Although there is currently no Customer Service Centre on the island, Giving Trees are located in Cowes at Bendigo Bank, Ray White, Cowes Newsagency and Coles.

In San Remo there are trees at IGA and Bendigo Bank.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, says that Council is a proud supporter of this amazing initiative and thanked the community for their continued generosity.

“This year has been a particularly

challenging one and the Giving Tree can help to take some pressure off Bass Coast families experiencing financial hardship over Christmas,” Cr Tessari said.

“Donating a gift can change a life and bring a smile to the faces of children and their families at this special time of year.”

While food donations are not recommended, this year organisers are appealing for donations of Christmas puddings, that will be put in hampers to help share the taste of Christmas delights.

They are also asking for presents or gifts, particularly for girls aged seven to 12 years old, however gifts suitable for all ages are welcome. Gifts (including puddings) should be new and placed unwrapped under the trees.

Gifts will be accepted until December 10.

Any gifts received after this date will be held over until next year.

Christmas Giving Trees are also on display in Council’s Customer Service Centres in Wonthaggi and Inverloch, and the Grantville Transaction Centre.





Thousands of Australians are doing it tough this Christmas.

## LEAVE NO ONE IN NEED

Please donate now [SALVATIONARMY.ORG.AU](http://SALVATIONARMY.ORG.AU)



# Starting Today: Preventing Future Family Violence

Gippsland Women's Health is focused on preventing future family violence, as part of this year's 16 Days of Activism.

Over the 16 days, which started on November 25 and runs to December 10, Gippsland Women's Health will focus on community-based education and awareness initiatives about family and intimate partner violence.

It aims to raise awareness and understanding of the causes of Family Violence. The theme is "Starting Today: Preventing Future Family Violence".

"It is important that we are able to make the link between gender inequality and violence against women," said Acting Executive Officer, Melanie Brown.

"We encourage the whole community to 'make the link' and start on their path to being an advocate for gender equality, because everyone has the right to live their best life, a life in which they live free from violence."

One in three women and girls experience violence in their lifetime and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and communities continue to experience disproportionately high rates of violence. Discrimination, racism and intergenerational trauma are some of the significant drivers that impact Indigenous women.

Ms Brown said it was time for all Victorians to stand up and support the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

Gippsland Women's Health will focus on a special message for each of the 16 Days.

"You are welcome to contact us about any of them. We can offer you support and opportunities to contribute to this amazing campaign."

You can also follow Gippsland Women's Health via our Facebook or Instagram page to find out everyday tips for being an ally in the prevention of violence against women.

## Prevention

Violence affects too many families in Victoria.

The rate of family violence incidents in Bass Coast increased by 17.7 per cent

in the last year, well above the state average, which recorded a rise of 6.7 per cent.

We all have a role to play in preventing violence in our community.

The Respect Victoria campaign gives the whole community a voice, inviting individuals, families, organisations, businesses, students and all levels of government to stand together to prevent family violence and promote gender equality.

The campaign aims to support the Victorian community in understanding what respect means, what it looks like, and how to put it into practice in their everyday lives.

Another thing you can do is to Go Orange. Orange is the UN designated (international) colour for the elimination of violence against women and girls.

During the 16 Days of Activism, individuals and organisations are being asked to be visible against violence by "going orange". That means wearing orange, and "oranging" your home, neighbourhood and workplace. Maybe an orange facemask?

All Victorians have the right to live in a safe and equal society.

Find more at [www.gwhealth.asn.au/](http://www.gwhealth.asn.au/) or [facebook.com/gippslandwomen-shealth/](https://www.facebook.com/gippslandwomen-shealth/)

## History of activism

Across the world, November 25 is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and heralds the beginning of 16 Days of Activism which culminates on World Human Rights Day on December 10.

The campaign calls for action against one of the world's most persistent violations of human rights – violence against women.

During these 16 Days of Activism, the world unites in an international

campaign to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV), to actively challenge discrimination, and to call for an end to all forms of gender-based violence.

The campaign began in 1960 when three sisters Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabal, who actively opposed the cruelty and systematic violence of the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, were killed by Trujillo's secret police.

The Mirabal sisters became symbols of the feminist resistance and political activism. In commemoration of their deaths, November 25

was declared International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Latin America in 1980. This international day was formally recognised by the United Nations in 1999. The campaign is part of a movement of 6000+ organisations in over 187 countries.

Gender inequality is internationally recognised as a key underpinning driver of violence against women and continues to affect women at all stages and areas of their lives. To prevent violence against women, we must focus our efforts on addressing gender inequality through four main actions.

- The first is to stop condoning violence against women, this means no longer excusing, downplaying, justifying or denying that violence occurs.

- Secondly, ensuring that women have autonomy and the right to decision making in all public and private areas of life – such as personal, financial or social independence and that women's leadership is supported.

- Thirdly that we foster positive personal identities and challenge roles and stereotypes for both males and females.

- Finally, that we strengthen positive, equal and respectful relationships between and among women and men, girls and boys.

## Respect Victoria

Preventing Family Violence



## IN THE GARDEN

Spring update from the Phillip Island Community Orchard

Late spring is a busy time at the Phillip Island Community Orchard (PICO), as spring growth launches into full swing, and the days begin getting longer, hotter and drier.

Here are some simple tips for local gardeners discussing some of the things that we find work well for us at 'the orchard'.

## Vegetable planting

It's the last call now for summer fruiting plants such as tomatoes, zucchinis, cucumbers, pumpkins, corn, eggplants and chillies. You can plant them through to early December, but you become too reliant on a long, hot summer which may never come if you wait much longer!

It's also a good time to plant fast cropping, heat tolerant greens such as rocket, muzuma, Chinese cabbages such as pak choy, wong bok and lettuce resistant to bolting such as great lakes, cos lettuce and mignonette style.

Remember – only plant leafy greens on cooler, overcast days to prevent early bolting which results from plant stress if transplanted on really hot days.

Quick cropping root crops such as baby carrots and radishes are good to plant now and will give you a crop before Christmas.

## Garden care

In the garden scatter a handful or two of pelletised organic fertiliser such as dynamic lifter, water in then mulch with chopped straw, collected grass, sugar cane mulch or even clean compost. Soak the soil before applying mulch and apply soaked mulch for maximum benefit. Exposed soil will quickly dry out and will require constant watering.

## Fruit trees

In the orchard we have just turned on our irrigation system, utilising a 13mm Dripline setup in a circumference around the root zone of each tree. The orchard uses Class A



The Phillip Island Community Orchard shares some spring gardening tips.

recycled water (purple pipe) and we have noticed excellent growth over the last five years, we think aided by the NPK trace nutrient content carried by the recycled water.

We have also been busy thinning our apples and pear trees. This involves gently removing fruit that is either in a cluster that is too dense (too much fruit all together), or fruit that is forming densely on weak or prone branches i.e. on long branches more than 40cm from tree trunk. These heavy, long branches will easily crack and can split the trunk if too laden with fruit.

Fruit bearing trees are being prepared for netting and this is done by cutting back new particularly vertical growth that is not bearing fruit. We then install the netting framework. The net will slide back over the newly installed pipe which is pulled down around the tree and then anchored by digging a perimeter trench, back-filled with loose soil and mulch covering the base of the net and preventing it from flapping loose.

For more information about the Phillip Island Community Orchard (PICO) please get in touch at [island-communityorchard@gmail.com](mailto:island-communityorchard@gmail.com) or check out PICO – Phillip Island Community Orchard on Facebook.

# Perfect penguin proposal

It was months in the planning but a unique marriage proposal ended in tears and a yes recently on the steps of the Penguin Parade viewing platform.

Jacob Schnackenberg wanted his marriage proposal to fiancé Rebecca Walsh to be one to remember. He approached Phillip Island Nature Parks to assist him with his very detailed and ambitious plan.

Jacob wanted to recreate the proposal scene from their favourite movie "10 Things I Hate About You" starring Heath Ledger as a way to propose to Bec. The original plan

was to take place in the US at the original high school where the movie was filmed.

The Melbourne based couple love Phillip Island and have a holiday home on the island, so when the plan to carry out the proposal in America become impossible, Jacob turned his attention to the Penguin Parade bleachers.

There were a few false starts and date changes due to weather, but the planets aligned on November 24 when Josh executed his proposal plan that was crafted down to the

minute and included a videographer and photographer and setting up his electric guitar and microphone on the stands.

Bec had no idea about the plan when she was picked up from their holiday home and blindfolded as she was led down to the viewing stands. Josh then recreated the movie scene singing 'I Can't Take My Eyes Off You' and getting down on one knee to ask if Bec would marry him. She said yes and it even made the TV news that night – a very special start to their island life together.



The Penguin Parade viewing platform was the backdrop for a unique marriage proposal by Jacob Schnackenberg to fiancé Rebecca Walsh.

## WHO WILL YOU Nominate?

The Awards recognise, encourage and reward the positive achievements and community contributions of young Victorians aged 29 or under as of 31 December 2020.

Category winners will each receive \$2,000 in prizes, consisting of a \$1,000 Barcard account from Wheelton Philanthropy and Budget Rent A Car, plus \$500 Qoin and \$500 cash.



For more information call 03 9720 1638 or email [vicayaa@awardsaustralia.com](mailto:vicayaa@awardsaustralia.com)

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 14 JANUARY 2021.

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR OUR NEXT Young Achievers IN THESE CATEGORIES:



Leadership Award



Group Achievement in the Community Award



Community Service and Social Impact Award



Inspirational TAFE Student Award



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Create Change Award



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Don't wait! Nominate today at [youngachieverawards.com](http://youngachieverawards.com)



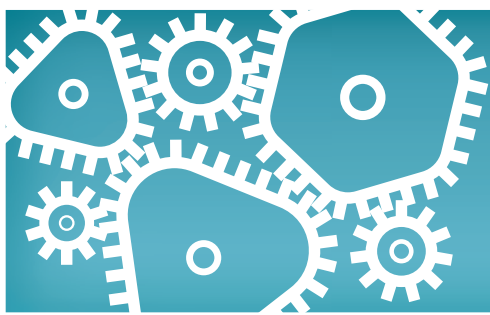
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# Business Guide

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

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sales@bettsysglass.com.au

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# Health services continue to expand

An update from  
PIMHAG President, Peter Paul

Whilst we have been consumed by COVID-19, there is still so much exciting work happening in the provision of medical and health services in the Bass Coast – the expansion of Wonthaggi Hospital, the preliminary work on the Phillip Island Community Hospital, and the development of Cancer services in both Wonthaggi and Cowes

Phillip Island Medical & Health Action Group (PIMHAG) supports all these services, plus the relocation of PICAL to its new site in Warley Avenue. Together, as a community, we are taking great leaps forward.

At this time, it is doubly important to keep communication with all levels of government open and productive.

PIMHAG has invited a Bass Coast Councillor representative to attend our committee meetings on a regular basis. This is something that we have not done before, and it underpins our commitment to working optimally with local, state and Federal governments.

We believe this direct line into Council will facilitate the smooth



PIMHAG president Peter Paul with Cr Ron Bauer, who accepted the group's invitation to attend the regular committee meetings.

running of planning processes, ensure good flow of information, and assist us in obtaining the best outcome for the community.

We are very pleased to announce that our invitation has been keenly taken up by local Island councillor, Cr Bauer, and we look forward to

working with him as an effective liaison between PIMHAG and our newly elected Council.

Cr Bauer stated he has great respect for the work and advocacy of PIMHAG over the past decade and appreciates the invitation to work with such a dedicated group.



Sales of the Amasiko Partnership face masks have already raised \$2000 to sponsor 200 girls and provide them with hygiene packs.

## From Cowes to Uganda

Customers at IGA in Cowes are helping improve life for women and girls in Uganda.

The popular local supermarket is stocking a range of facemasks for the Amasiko Partnership, a charity working with Kasenda villagers in remote Western Uganda to improve their living conditions.

Sales of the facemasks from Cowes have already raised \$2000 and helped sponsor 200 girls from the village.

Konney Behre from the Cowes IGA offered to stock the masks after her daughter Felicity volunteered for an Amasiko sewing group in Melbourne.

The group made reusable produce bags from African material, but branched out into face masks when the pandemic hit.

Amasiko founder, Pam Wood said initially she sent 30 masks down to Cowes, but they sold out in a flash.

More were promptly dispatched, with a range of Christmas themed masks due instore this month.

The masks are made from two layers of cotton and include a Pellon filter, recommended by the World Health Organisation, which can be washed and reused.

Pam praised Konney for her support.

"All money raised from the sales is given directly to our charity, there's no money in it for Cowes IGA," she said.

"So far, the money has provided packs for the girls containing sanitary pads and underwear. We're also funding programs on sex education and self-defence for them.

"I want to publicly acknowledge the support our charity has received from the owners of the Cowes IGA, and also to thank the Cowes community for purchasing our masks," Pam said.



These colourful facemasks, for sale at Cowes IGA, are raising money to support a remote Ugandan village. A range of Christmas-themed masks are also available.

### An incredible Partnership

Pam said money raised by the Amasiko Partnership will help establish an environmentally friendly soap factory in the Kasenda village.

Soap and feminine hygiene products are luxury items that are not often available or are too expensive for many Ugandans.

The Amasiko Partnership also provides backpacks and soap for the boys and working in partnership with Ugandan charities, has helped to fund family and community water filters and construction of a woman's refuge.

As well as masks, the dedicated sewing team create aprons, reusable bags and food cover throws to help raise funds.

You can support the work of the Amasiko Partnership by buying a mask from the Cowes IGA, or making a donation online.

Find out more at [www.theamasikopartnership.com/](http://www.theamasikopartnership.com/) or the Amasiko Partnership Facebook page.

## Solar switch sparks alarm

CFA units from San Remo and Phillip Island and two AusNet trucks responded to an emergency call in Cape Woolamai on Friday morning.

The homeowner called 000 after noticing smoke coming from a power point under the inverter connected to the house's solar panels.

Fire crews were quickly on the scene.

Mark Thiele, San Remo CFA captain said it was a minor incident which was quickly contained.

AusNet Services were called to isolate the house.

"They came and pulled the fuse to the whole house, so there was no risk of the switch causing any other problems."

The incident is a timely reminder of the importance of making sure all electrical points and appliances are in the good working order.

"If you're concerned about an



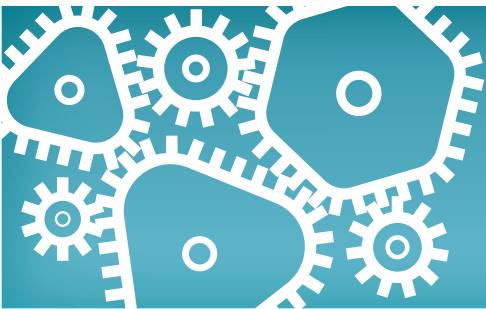
Two CFA units attended an incident at a house in Cape Woolamai last week.

electrical switch or an appliance, don't wait," he said.

"Do something about it."

With summer approaching, the

CFA recommends cleaning air conditioning units and getting a professional to check they are in good working order.



## Business Guide

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

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# CLASSIFIEDS

SEEK

BUY

SELL

## DEATHS

**WATER, Gunther:**  
Passed away peacefully on November 24, 2020 surrounded by his loving family.  
Loved and Loving husband of Jan.  
Loving Dad of Deb (dec.), Cheryl and Steve, father-in-law of Scott and Bev.  
Adored Grandad to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.  
Dearly missed and loved forever.  
A Private Family funeral will be held.

## USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS

Birthday gift? Graduation? Moving out?  
**SPORTY MANUAL**  
**HYUNDAI i20** 2 door hatch 94K Good Nick \$7K for quick sale in Cowes 0417388016

## GARAGE SALES

**COWES:**  
36 Everton Drive, Sat, Dec 5 from 8am - 4pm only. Clothes, furniture, games etc.

**SUNDERLAND BAY:**  
4 Foam St, Sat Dec 5, 9am - 2pm.  
Washing machine - \$75  
Bar Fridge - \$50  
Wine Fridge \$50  
Kitchen, toys books, bric-a-brac.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**A THANK YOU**  
I would like to thank the very kind and thoughtful person who found my wheelie walker and placed it inside the Woolworths Mall for safe keeping, until I retrieved it in the morning. You don't know what your act of kindness means to me.  
With gratitude,  
Maria.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CHURCH NOTICES

Members should check their church websites for details of service times and guidelines.

**UNITING CHURCH:**  
[www.cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php](http://www.cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php)

[www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Uniting-Church/828979940479969](https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Uniting-Church/828979940479969)

**BAPTIST CHURCH:**  
[www.islandbaptist.org.au/](http://www.islandbaptist.org.au/)

**HOPE CHURCH:**  
are emailing members  
[www.islandhopechurch.com/](http://www.islandhopechurch.com/)

**CATHOLIC CHURCH:**  
[www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus](http://www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus)  
[www.cdsale.org.au/prayer-and-reflection](http://www.cdsale.org.au/prayer-and-reflection)

**ST PHILLIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:**  
[www.anglicanparishbass-phillipisland.org/](http://www.anglicanparishbass-phillipisland.org/)

[www.facebook.com/stphillipscowes/](https://www.facebook.com/stphillipscowes/)

**PHILLIP ISLAND SURF CHURCH:**  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Christian-Church/Surf-Church-Phillip-Island-360300548086709/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christian-Church/Surf-Church-Phillip-Island-360300548086709/)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### THANK YOU

To the very honest person who handed in envelope with money to Cowes Police.  
Thank you, my friend lost it shopping for me so once again Thank you. We wish you a very Happy Xmas and a Safe and Healthy New Year.  
Joy and Lorraine  
Lions Club Cowes

### Follow us



## PUBLIC NOTICES

## PUBLIC NOTICES



Currently seeking subcontractors & suppliers for the following

**Construction Tenders**  
**San Remo Secondary School** TODAY  
**Cowwarr Primary School** 08/12

All subcontractor please register on our website  
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Please submit all quotes to:  
[tenders@rendine.com.au](mailto:tenders@rendine.com.au) T: 03 5248 2542

### Christmas Day Community Lunch 2020

Regrettably, the Phillip Island Community Services Group will NOT be hosting their annual Christmas Day Community Lunch at St Philip's Hall because of COVID-19 restrictions and the increased risk during the tourist season. However, if you really need some support, please contact PICAL ph. 03 5952 1131, Mon-Fri 9-3pm, 56-58 Church Street in Cowes.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### THE WESTERNPORT

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Applications close: **7 December 2020**

For further information please contact  
Nancy Crismanich - HR Manager  
(5611 4000)



### TAXI DRIVERS WANTED.

South Coast Taxis are preparing for a busy summer and the easing of restrictions by seeking more Taxi Drivers.

The positions would suit both those looking to earn some extra income or those looking for more regular job.

The shifts are available from both our Cowes and Wonthaggi Depots working the areas of Phillip Island, Wonthaggi or Leongatha.

The successful applicants must be experienced drivers, be available to work a mix of days, nights and weekends and hold the appropriate licenses including the Taxi Driver Accreditation. (which can be sourced once successful).

Please phone 5951 4600 or send your resume to Brendan at: [operations@southcoastbus.com.au](mailto:operations@southcoastbus.com.au) or post PO Box 946, Cowes, 3922

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Need a fresh start?

We are looking for three dynamic team members to join us at our Phillip Island HQ. Join a safety focused, leading employer that values diversity and inclusion.



### Corporate Information Coordinator (Records Management)

(Full Time, Ongoing)

Provides specialist skills for all facets of records management, privacy compliance obligations and coordinates all Freedom of Information requests.

### Senior Maintenance Officers (2 positions)

(Full Time, Ongoing)

These two positions provide ongoing Network Operations and Maintenance services across the Corporation's water, wastewater and gas systems.

Applications close 14 Dec 2020

For further details, please visit  
[www.westernportwater.com.au](http://www.westernportwater.com.au)  
or call 1300 720 711



**WESTERNPORT WATER**

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### Manager Network Operations & Maintenance

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Responsible for leading and managing the effective and efficient delivery of operations and maintenance services across Westernport Water's water, wastewater and gas systems.

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(Full Time, 2 years contract)

Provide technical and engineering support in areas of water and wastewater engineering, and asset management.

Applications close 9 Dec 2020

For further details, please visit  
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**WESTERNPORT WATER**

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**Please email: Leanne Haringsma - Director of Camp Services** ([leanne@cyc.org.au](mailto:leanne@cyc.org.au))

We are looking for casual **Outdoor Activity Program Staff** - People aged 18 years and above, who are committed, enthusiastic, enjoy working with people in the outdoors, and who would like to work in the outdoor recreation industry with a strong emphasis on large group hospitality.  
**Please email: Jon Dainton - Director of Program Services** ([jon@cyc.org.au](mailto:jon@cyc.org.au))

Also seeking applicants for Full Time **Grounds and Maintenance Role** - You will be responsible for maintaining a truly amazing camp property for guests to use and enjoy. The successful candidate will have good communication skills, work independently and within a team environment, model a positive, mature and productive attitude.  
**Please email: Eddie Sherwood, Head of Maintenance** ([piarproperty@cyc.org.au](mailto:piarproperty@cyc.org.au))

Christian Youth Camps Ltd (CYC) is committed to promoting and protecting the best interests of children and has a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Applicants will be required to obtain: Working with Children Card (Mandatory)

Successful applicants should apply in writing and include a resume.

Applications close Friday 11th December



Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST APPOINTMENT TO THE WOOLAMAI RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT INCORPORATED

'The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, on behalf of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change is seeking nominations from the Woolamai community to form part of the new Woolamai Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Incorporated to oversee the management, protection and development of the Woolamai Racecourse Reserve on behalf of the local and wider Victorian community.

It is the department's intention to appoint up to three community representatives together with representatives of each user group of the reserve for an appointment ending 24 September 2023.

Applications will be assessed by a panel, appointed by the department, who will recommend committee appointments to the Minister.

Nomination forms and further information on the role and responsibilities of the Committee of Management are available from Will Hoban at Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, [william.hoban@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:william.hoban@delwp.vic.gov.au), phone 0436 616 650.

Expressions of Interest should be marked EO1-1201620 and lodged at the Gippsland Regional Office at 71 Hotham St, Traralgon 3844 or email [william.hoban@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:william.hoban@delwp.vic.gov.au) by 5:00 pm Friday 8 January 2021.

**www.delwp.vic.gov.au**  
**Customer Service Centre 136 186**

FR3421

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## SITUATIONS VACANT



### Positions Vacant Bistro/Bar/Gaming Positions

The Phillip Island RSL is offering exciting opportunities to become a member of our fantastic team. The successful applicants should possess the appropriate and necessary qualifications or be willing to obtain for the above positions and be available to work nights and weekends particularly over the summer.

The Phillip Island RSL is looking for self-motivated, enthusiastic, customer service orientated and positive individuals. Hours will vary during December and January with potential permanent hours ongoing.

Immediate start required, experience in hospitality is an advantage.

Please forward resumes indicating the position of interest to:

**Operations Manager**  
Phillip Island RSL  
P.O Box 503  
Cowes 3922  
info@pirsl.com.au

## SITUATIONS VACANT



### Bar Manager, Waiting Staff and Kitchen Hand required. 0450 909 975



### CASUAL HOUSEKEEPER/ CLEANER REQUIRED

We are currently looking for casual Housekeeping staff to assist us with cleaning holiday rental properties.

You must be reliable, have a driver's licence and a reliable vehicle as you have to travel between properties. All work is based around Phillip Island and San Remo.

So, if you have an eye for detail and want to work for a professional cleaning company with very high standards then email us at the following email address:  
**fitzy\_16@hotmail.com**



### PCA positions available (Must have experience)

Banfields Aged Care is part of a familyowned Australian Aged Care Group Pty Ltd (AACG), which prides itself on imagination and innovation in caring for the aged.

We are located at 192 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, Phillip Island a short stroll into town for the local beach and shops.

Set amongst beautiful landscaped grounds. Banfields Aged care is a 90-bed residential care facility which provides an extensive range of services.

As a PCA, your responsibilities will be to provide nursing care as directed by a Registered Nurse.

Applicant must have a positive and professional work ethic with dedication and commitment to high quality care.

#### Essential criteria:

- Certificate III or IV in Aged Care
  - Current National Police Check
  - Demonstrated knowledge/ability in providing safe quality personal care to consumers and ensuring the rights of consumers are respected
  - Compassionate and empathetic person
  - Excellent communication skills - both written and verbal
  - Efficient time management skills
  - Must have flexible availability and be reliable
  - Ability to travel to Cowes on Phillip Island
  - Current evidence of influenza vaccination
- What you can expect from us:
- A friendly, social & collaborative team
  - A workplace that supports and values their staff
  - Support from management and ongoing development and education opportunities

#### Desirable:

Previous experience in Residential Aged Care

**\*\*We are a non-smoking facility.\*\***

If you believe you have the qualities and skills we are looking for please apply by emailing reception@banfields.com.au

### Connect with us online



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO  
**ADVERTISER**

To read the Advertiser on your computer, smartphone or tablet go to  
**www.pisra.com.au**

### Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications for the following positions:

**SPEECH PATHOLOGIST**  
Full Time – Closes 4/12/20

**HAEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY  
CHEMOTHERAPY NURSE**  
Casual – Closes 8/12/20

**ABORIGINAL HEALTH LIAISON OFFICER**  
Full Time – Closes 5/12/20

**INTAKE CO-ORDINATOR  
– DISTRICT NURSING**  
Part Time – Closes 6/12/20

**REGISTERED NURSE -DISTRICT NURSING**  
Casual – Closes 4/12/20

**TEAM CO-ORDINATOR REFERRALS**  
Permanent Part Time – 4/12/20

For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website [basscoasthealth.org.au](http://basscoasthealth.org.au) or contact Human Resources via email [hr@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:hr@basscoasthealth.org.au)



t 5671 3333 f 5671 3300  
e [info@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:info@basscoasthealth.org.au)  
w [www.basscoasthealth.org.au](http://www.basscoasthealth.org.au)

## SITUATION VACANT

### SUPPORT WORKER WANTED ON PHILLIP ISLAND

Looking for an experienced person in the disability field with current DRIVERS license, Police check, WWCC, FIRST AID CERTIFICATE INCL CPR.

A CERTIFICATE IN DISABILITY PREFERRED.  
NEED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE CARE AND ACCESS TO THE COMMUNITY FOR A 16 Y.O. MALE.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND ONGOING 8-10 HOURS PER WEEK INCLUDES DAY/EVENINGS, WEEKENDS AND POTENTIALLY O/NIGHT CARE.

NDIS PAY RATES, EXCELLENT CONDITIONS.  
YOU NEED TO BE FLEXIBLE, MOTIVATED AND USE YOUR OWN INITIATIVE.

PLEASE CONTACT Allison on  
0418 595 667

Training provided to start ASAP.

# The captain of the Coramba

The story of the Coramba is indeed a sad one and could have been prevented if the captain of the vessel had his way.

Captain John Dowling had not wanted to set sail from Warrnambool in the first place, after checking his barometer and realising that terrible conditions were ahead.

The Coramba was heavily loaded with wool and Nestle condensed milk, and he wished to delay the departure.

Captain Dowling requested permission from his shipping office to do so.

But he was ordered out to sea.

He had telegraphed head office in Melbourne but the reply was that if he left then, he would beat the storm to the Port Phillip Heads.

His barometer, sadly, had proved to be entirely correct.

The storm turned out to be one of the worst ever experienced in Victoria.

Thirty-four people were killed in all across the state on that day; 17 of them from the Coramba.

The ages of the crew members who perished ranged from 19 to 55 years.

Only five were not married. Captain Dowling had two children.

His last words to his young daughter as he left home to catch the train to Warrnambool for the sea journey were: I won't be away long.

The family had a house in Williamstown with an attic window upstairs, from where the captain's two children would watch for his ship to sail up the bay, at around the time he was expected to return home. The house is still there. But the children's father never returned.

Robert Wishart, the second mate, was 55 years old, and one of the four washed ashore.

His wife had died two months before him, and they left a child behind.

George Madden, the cook, left four children.

Timothy Byrne, aged 24, was found in the kelp and is buried in Footscray cemetery.

Bobby Bellairs, who had survived one shipwreck pre-



*The tragedy of the Coramba could have been prevented if the captain of the vessel had his way. Captain John Dowling had not wanted to set sail from Warrnambool in the first place, after checking his barometer and realising that terrible conditions were ahead.*

viously, the sinking of the Casino, had nightmares about drowning.

He very nearly did not make the voyage as he had lain down to have a sleep at his home in Warrnambool and nearly missed the sailing. His mother had woken him.

Arthur Murphy, 32 years old, left five children.

Henry Jenssen, the donkey-man (who attended the boilers and engine) was 51 years old.

Captain Dowling's daughter Audrey, who was just 12 years old when she said goodbye to her much loved father for the last time, learned of the Coramba's discovery 77 years later in 2011.

She described its finding as a "great relief" and was glad that she had lived long enough to learn of the ship's location.

"The ship should never have sailed. My father was so worried about the storm

but he was ordered to go," the 88 year old said, after learning the Coramba had finally been found.

The devastation of losing her father and his entire crew was deepened by not knowing over that long period of time where the ship had finally come to rest.

Her brother and Captain Dowling's only other child Jack, was just nine when his father perished. Sadly, Jack died just six months before the discovery was made. He used to stare at the vast waters off Phillip Island wondering where his father's remains lay, family members said.

"He would have been "over the moon, just to know that somebody had found it and that they were all laid to rest," his wife said at the time.

The story of the Coramba resonated for many years with Phillip Island residents of that time, who were deeply saddened by it.

# The finding of

The coastal steamer, "Coramba" had lain on the ocean floor of Bass Strait, off Phillip Island, obscured from view and seemingly lost for all time, until 2011.

Through the long-term efforts of a team of dedicated divers, maritime archaeologists and researchers, the true story of the sinking of the Coramba finally came to surface.

The S.S. Coramba was a 531 ton coastal steamer that ran a weekly cargo service between Portland and Melbourne. It was part of the fleet of the Belfast and Koroit Steam Navigation Company, and had been in operation to replace the Casino, which has been lost in 1932. This coastal run transported the primary products of wheat, wool, milk and other goods produced in the Western District of Victoria, to the markets in Melbourne.

The Coramba was in the capable hands of Captain John Dowling, an experienced and respected seaman who knew these waters well. By 1pm on Thursday, November 29, 1934, the crew had finished loading in Warrnambool and were looking forward to heading home. But Capt Dowling became alarmed when the wind and rain began to build and strengthen. His seafaring nous told him that danger lurked on the open waters. He contacted head office to request a delay in departure. His request was denied.

He was told to proceed, as conditions were considered to be favourable for sailing.

Under normal conditions, this was a 15-hour voyage, with the Coramba expected to be sighted entering the heads of Port Phillip Bay in the early hours of the next morning, and to arrive in Melbourne by

7am. Alarm bells started to ring when there was no sign of the ship at this time, or of it being sighted sailing past the signals at Point Lonsdale. Radio messages were immediately dispatched to all vessels in Bass Strait, asking them to keep watch for the missing vessel.

#### First sightings on the island

The first indication of the fate of Coramba was discovered on the beaches of Phillip Island. Ventnor farmer, Bill Mallory, had mounted his horse and gone out to check the shoreline as he always did after a storm. He went down as far as the Nobbies and back towards Pyramid Rock when he caught sight of something white amongst the kelp. It was a washed-up lifebuoy with the words "S.S. Coramba" on it. As he galloped along the beach, other pieces



# The state's worst maritime disaster

A terrible tempest, still considered to be the worst to ever hit the Victorian coastline, occurred exactly eighty-six years ago. So ferocious was the weather that it was referred to ever after locally as "the Coramba storm". The torrential rain and hurricane-force winds that raged across the State had never been experienced before, both for those on land and at sea, nor since. Ten inches of rain fell in just 48 hours. It was responsible for one of Victoria's worst maritime disasters, which occurred when the coastal

vessel the Coramba went down off Phillip Island. The 50-metre cargo steamer had set sail from Warrnambool against its captain's wishes; bound for Port Phillip Bay in spite of the adverse weather conditions forecast. The steamer was unable to reach Melbourne, where it was headed, through the Port Phillip Heads, because of the fierce gale that was raging, and capsized while trying to seek refuge in Western Port bay. All 17 crew members on board perished in the tragedy.

## A storm like no other

November 30, 1934 is remembered by Phillip Islanders as the day of the Coramba storm, the likes of which had not been seen before, nor since.

The coast was obscured by rain, and the coastal vessel Coramba sank with all 17 hands lost, off the south coast of Phillip Island.

The remains of four sailors were washed ashore at Forrest Caves.

With the passing of time, there are locals who can still recall the events of that fateful day.

Cherry McFee, before she passed away in 2016, remembered the terror and the uncertainty of that day, in an interview with the Advertiser in 2011.

Cherry was only a young schoolgirl at the time, but the power of the gales that tore across the island had never been equalled in her memory.

"It was so severe that it bent the electricity poles in Newhaven," Cherry recalled.

"They were only slender poles, but they were made of iron, and couldn't withstand the force of the wind."

Cherry had gone to the dentist in Melbourne with her mother and came home on the ferry, "Alvina", from Stony Point. When they finally alighted at the jetty in Cowes, it was to a scene of total chaos with trees being uprooted and debris blown all along the Esplanade.

Cherry's father met them at the jetty and took them to one of the stately old guest houses, the Bay View, which had boasted a magnificent garden until the storm hit.

Cherry recalls it in absolute shambles. While she and her mother had been away, her older sisters Kath and Marge had gone to school at Rhyll. It was a good walk from their home, down the Rhyll-Newhaven Road, to the wooden schoolroom where the Rhyll Hall now stands. But the route normally taken proved to be an arduous



The 531 ton coastal steamer, the S.S. Coramba, was built in Scotland in 1911 and was lost at sea off Phillip Island on November 30, 1934, during a violent storm. There were no survivors.

and hazardous journey on that fateful day. It was so frightening that Kath put pen to paper and recorded a "Kath, Marje and three cousins were walked to school by their uncle, Percy McFee."

"When they reached the Loch Road intersection, Kath's little cousin Lorna was literally blown off her feet."

As Kath wrote: "The wind was so fierce when we reached the top of the Rhyll hill, the youngest of my cousins, Amy, got blown off her feet and into a gorse bush. Uncle had to hold on to her for the rest of the walk to school. By 2 o'clock, the sky was getting blacker and the wind gushing with a terrific ferocity. The teacher sent us all home and we could hardly walk against the wind and rain."

It was only next morning that the true extent of the storm was revealed.

Kath wrote: "I was up early with grandpa viewing the havoc, trees uprooted, branches and mess everywhere.

"The overhead power lines were down along the roads. Later that morning news got through that wreckage had been found on the ocean beaches. The radio reported the ship Coramba was missing."

"It was found it had been wrecked off our coast during the storm with the loss of 17 lives. Only four bodies were found."

"It was discovered the next day that kelp was piled five feet high on some of the ocean beaches."

Another islander, Cefn Price, was then a little three-year-old ... but still recalls feeling the strength of the wind.

"We lived on a farm up on the Ventnor Road, and there weren't any trees around. It just about blew me over! The oldies talked about it for a long time."

Cefn said the storm was so severe dead crayfish were found the next morning up on top of the cliffs at Surf Beach.

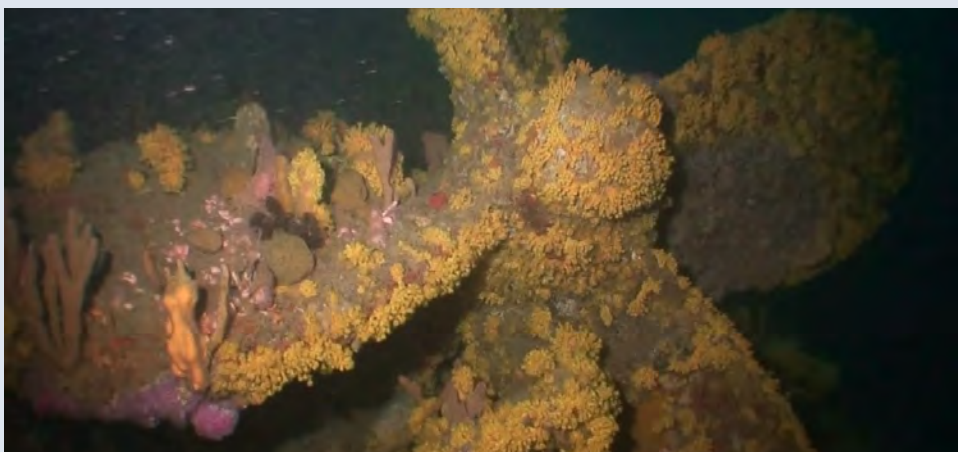


Members of the ill-fated crew of the S.S. Coramba who lost their lives when the ship went down off Phillip Island in 1934. Photos courtesy of Terry Cantwell SOE.



This starboard lifeboat was found washed up on the southern shores of Phillip Island on November 30, 1934, and was thought to have held two crew members, whose bodies were later found near Forrest Caves.

## the S.S. Coramba 77 years on



This image of one of the two propellers taken by the team of the Southern Ocean Exploration in May, confirms the identity of the missing steamer, the Coramba.

age began to appear – some oars, planks and a lifeboat.

Knowing the importance of this find, Bill made haste into Cowes and alerted the police. A search party was soon un-

derway. Other identifiable objects were found strewn along the beaches, the most poignant being children's toys. It was thought they were being made by the crew as

Christmas presents for their families. The toys were carefully collected by some of the island's locals and taken home to be repaired. The story goes that they were then packaged

up and sent to the shipping company to be forwarded to the relevant families.

The body of the first of the crew to be washed ashore, 25-year-old engine-room crew, Thomas Byrne, was found half buried amongst the sand and thick seaweed later on in the afternoon. Three other bodies were also to be washed up on various parts of the beach, all within a mile of each other. These four were the only crew members whose bodies were found.

From the evidence washed ashore on Phillip Island, it was assumed that the captain had changed course, avoiding entering the heads in the treacherous conditions, and attempted to reach the safety of Western Port Bay.

With poor visibility and thrashing seas, the ship may have missed the entrance into Western Port, and run off

course and on to rocks somewhere off the island's southern beaches. It went down without trace.

### A mystery solved

It was to be 77 years before its final resting place became known. For eight years, from 2003, a team from a not-for-profit organisation, Southern Ocean Exploration (SOE), had spent countless hours and underwater exploration trying to solve the mystery of this missing cargo steamer, and where she lay. Their endeavours were finally rewarded in 2011 when they successfully identified the whereabouts of the sunken Coramba.

The wreck was discovered by chance. The SOE crew, armed with sensitive sonar technology, were in fact offshore near Pyramid Rock in search of another missing vessel, "The Kermadec" which had gone down in 1892, when

the Coramba was found. 12 miles offshore, their depth sounder registered a reading, and the size of the image was too big to be the Kermadec.

The Southern Ocean crew had instead found the Coramba, lying as she went down, bow first, and resting in 64 metres of water. It was standing up about 4 metres off the bottom and was too big to be anything else. To find her in this state was sheer joy for the searchers.

"It was a very emotional day, for all of us. We experienced a mixture of feelings and a great sense of joy after waiting so many years," was their reaction.

They were quite sure of the ship's identity as the Coramba was the only vessel that had two propellers.

"So when we dived down and saw them sitting on the ocean floor, we knew we had the right ship," the divers said.



# Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

A mixed week with the weather and the fish not playing their part when they were expected to.

There was still some quality fish caught but only from a few windows of opportunity.

Friday night was a perfect example. We had a very warm afternoon, not a bad tide and calm conditions expected after dark, so the shallows was going to be the place to head for a snapper.

The problem was no one told the snapper and very few showed up.

It's great to see the ever-increasing numbers of visitors which is helping to put smiles back on the faces of the business owners with the extra trade.

While the mask wearing rules have been relaxed for walking around in the open, they are still required when entering shops, something that seems to be forgotten by many over the weekend.

Agree or don't, that's not an argument we interested in. We're just not interested in the negative advertising it will bring when caught by the mask police.

At the moment we're still restricted to four people in the shop at any one time. Apparently we don't qualify as a business that can go to the two square metre rule. Still trying to get clarification on that but hope to be able to increase it soon. Until then we just ask for a little patience. Please remember we don't make the rules we just have to pay the fines.

During all the restrictions, shut-downs and the changes of Covid over the last nine months we have and are continuing to make some changes to our business.

One of those changes is Fishing Licences. We stopped doing them at the first lockdown and then the rules around sharing pens, cleaning, made it difficult for us to continue with them. Fishing licences can be quite an effort for a business, that's why we have decided we will no longer be doing fishing licences.

If you want to get a Fishing Licence, it is very simple now to sign up online. Your licence is valid as soon as you have paid and cheaper than in store. Just jump onto the fisheries website and follow the directions.

"Tins for Tings" is the name of our December whiting fishing competition.

It's a simple competition that starts on December 1 and runs through to December 22.

The two heaviest whiting caught

during that time will win a \$100 meal voucher for either the Westernport or San Remo Hotel.

There are also weekly prizes of \$20 vouchers for the San Remo or Westernport hotels for those closest to the weekly mystery weight.

Free entry, no registration, weigh two whiting each per day towards the mystery weight prize, fish from the land, boat, kayak. More information and results find us on Facebook.

## Fishing report

Overall, the whiting was a little smaller this week, but the numbers were still good, and we had several reports into double figures.

Times of reports were all over the place and no real pattern other than from those fishing the deeper water where the last of the run-out tide was the best. The rest of the reports from all over the tide.

The wind made it difficult at times, with it against or side on to the tide making it difficult get the boat to sit right.

To be successful in the deep, baits were a mixture of squid and pilchard with pippies a distant third. If you don't like catching tiny pinkies don't go chasing whiting in the deep be-

cause the ratio is around six pinkies for every whiting.

Snapper reports for the opportunities available were ok this week. We didn't get as many reports of customers bagging out, but plenty of reports of two or three for the boat.

Reports were spread out this week and we would get one from someone fishing off Elizabeth in the deep water of the channel then five minutes later a report from four metres off Coronet Bay on the mud.

Even the reports we had from those out after dark were the same, some in the deep, some in the shallows and others from the middle of the corals.

No monsters this week either but plenty around the four-kilogram mark which are a good size for baking whole on the BBQ or taking a couple of generous sized fillets off.

Calamari reports didn't slow down, and the dredge had no affect at all on the San Remo jetty. If anything made them more aggressive.

Beach reports were the same and most people commented about how aggressive they were this week, not just dragging the float under but trying to take line as well.

Boating customers seem to have no trouble finding one or two for a session on the snapper or whiting, but I didn't get any reports from people just going out to chase only calamari.

We did get several reports from customers chasing snapper or whiting, even across the corals having a jig down and landing the odd calamari or two.



Soccer group (left to right): Megan Dakin, Aimee DeCelles, Christine Hicks, Anna Beavis, Rebecca Poll.

## Girls can do it!

The This Girl Can campaign celebrates real women giving it a go and getting active no matter how well they do it, how they look or how sweaty they get.

The campaign from VicHealth is designed to encourage, motivate and inspire women to become more active.

Bass Coast Shire Council received funding for a number of This Girl Can programs throughout the region to help women get active.

Programs ran throughout November and included soccer, surfing, stand up paddle boarding, tennis, football, golf, cricket and bush walking.



Left to Right: Maureen Ellard - Cowes, Pam Cameron - Ventnor, Jackie MacFarlane - Cowes, Kirsty Crane - Surf Beach, Darren Cole (Regional Development Officer for Gippsland - Golf Australia), Christine Riley - Rhyll, Aimee DeCelles - Kilcunda, Sue Clough - Cowes, at a Phillip Island Come and Try Golf day.



Angie Bodaan, Marcelle Monet, Jacquie Bodaan and Arlee Wilson of Sunderland Bay, and Kara Cassells of Silverleaves, with coach Paul Rowbottom, at the Tennis Come and Try day.

## Phillip Island bowls

We finally had our Friday Happy Hour; it was great to have a social catch-up and return much need funds to the club.

Pennant practice commences this week too. Dates have been set with a Saturday draw confirmed, to commence in January; still awaiting Mid-week draw.

Tuesday bowls had 16 players, winners were Stuart Harvie and John Routley, runners up Judy Christie and Ray Pepper.

Thursday Social had 14 players. Winners Brian Legg, Eric Wild and Murray McClimont, with +33. Runners up Alan Price, Laurie Goodman, Joan Farmer and Reg Excell with +27.

Saturday was 2-4-2 - winners were Hans Olierook and John Routley with +35, runners up Peter Forrest and Reg Excell with +34.

The Phillip Island Primary schools including Our Lady of the Sea, are again participating in the bowls program instigated by John Matthews, Kevin and Dorothy Wagner.

They are assisted by members of club and teachers who give an insight to experience bowls to these young children.



Helpers at the bowling club (left to right) Judy Christie, Kevin Wagner, Mike Smith, John Matthews, Airlie, and her father Chris [in background].

They have been successful in representing their schools in the district and state and have reached finals in past two years.

Teams from the District have played at Wonthaggi and Morwell in the past, with the State Finals at Darebin.

Next Year Phillip Island Bowls Club will host the District Competition in March. This is a great event for our club.

It surely must be in recognition of the input that John, Kevin and Dorothy do to promote this sport in our schools.

## South West Gippsland midweek bowls is back!

We are back Thursday, December 10.

10am for 10.30am start, venue San Remo AGM meeting first, two games of bowls stick draw and BYO lunch.

Register now - to register contact Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974 let's get the old times back and have some fun.

All welcome - see you on the green.

## Phillip Island bridge club social get-together

Because of the COVID-19 lockdowns we have not played any bridge sessions at our club since March 11.

Now that the government has eased the social distancing regulations your committee thought it would be great to catch up and meet each other

socially before Christmas.

When: Monday, December 14.

Time: 10am - 2pm.

Where: Graydens Reserve (corner of Phillip Island Road and Forrest Avenue, Newhaven)

BYO everything (seating, food, etc) or just come for a chat.



# Strong start to the season

From page 28

## Under 16s

The Under 16s played Leongatha Town, on a picturesque Cowes oval Saturday morning.

Leongatha Town won the toss and elected to bat.

Opening bowler Zac (Tangles) Walker took the prize wicket of T. McRae in the first over. A pacey, rising delivery found the edge of McRae's bat, and keeper Henry Peppard took an excellent reflex catch to complete the dismissal.

Recovering from his Main Event bout with brother Tom on Wednesday nights UFC Pay-Per-View event, Tim (Bone Crusher) Niven showed off his milder side, delivering a controlled spell of accurate bowling and being rewarded with figures 1 for 13 off 4 overs.

When Max Arceo knocked over the impressive opener Hanly for 15, Town were 2 for 43 with half the innings complete.

Then came William (Moppa) Peppard, who bowled an inspired spell, including a controversial non-LBW decision.

Town batsmen, B. Graham forgot about the wooden thing in his hand and was struck on the pads, seemingly directly in front.

Next over however, William had more luck, when Rickard was adjudged LBW and the very next ball, stumps went flying and Moppa was on a hat-trick.

With cameras rolling, William delivered a late outswinger, narrowly missing the outside edge of the bat.



James Lewis (L) who played his first game of senior cricket yesterday in C2 made nine runs and took one wicket. Henry Peppard wicket kept and took two catches.

A great effort, nonetheless, accruing figures of 2 for 7 off 3 overs.

At the completion of the innings, Town had amassed a gettable total of 6 for 86.

Opening batsmen and captain Kohen Beaumont stole the show from there on in.

Seeing off the opening bowlers, Beaumont and Henry Peppard moved the score along in controlled fashion, until Peppard was dismissed for 11, with the score on 42.

Max Arceo watched on, as Beaumont upped the pace, piling on 28 of the next 34 runs before being dismissed.

Taking on the bowlers and looking to close things out quickly, Beaumont fell to an excellent catch and a dominant 49 run innings unluckily came to an end.

Tangles Walker came out blasting, making a solid 17, striking three boundaries and the game was done and won.

An excellent result for the Island,

with fantastic individual performances throughout the morning.

## Under 12s

After a great start to the season The Sharks were back at home to play Inverloch Red.

Inverloch were coming back from school camp and were short on players to fill a team. Great sportsmanship was shown as Sai Sadhubugga, Bud Marshall, Jacko Allan and Ethan Tilley went over to fill in for Inverloch, so we could get a game going.

The Sharks were in the field first. Bryce Lawrence and Archer Cox had the new ball and bowled exceptionally well to keep their opening batsmen on their toes.

The great bowling continued with Ollie Parsons, Ryan Hughes, Flynn Deng, and Jai Larcombe sharing 10 wickets between them.

Again, this week keepers Zack Hughes and Hazza Bentley both had a fantastic game behind the wickets.

It was now time for The Sharks to have a bat.

Zack and Cub Cantwell opened up the batting to get the team off to a great start.

The batting trend continued with Duke Lawrence, Archie Williams, Arch Cameron and A.B all striking the ball well and taking their chances to make plenty of runs.

Second gamer Koby finished off the innings with a solid batting performance.

Next week's game is against Glen Alvie in Glen Alvie.

Go Sharks!



Island surfer Sage Goldsbury holds the number one spot in the Under 18 Women going into the finals of the Australian Junior Online Surf Championships.

## Surfing goes online

Phillip Island's Sage Goldsbury is leading the field in the Australian Junior Online Surf Championships.

Finalists were announced this week for the 2020 Championships, with Sage in the number one spot for the Under 18 Women division.

The event hosted 162 of Australia's top junior surfers in a head-to-head online surfing competition.

Surfers who qualified for the national titles through respective state titles were invited to enter the online event.

Competitors submitted videos of waves which were then assessed by the judges.

Wave submissions for the final are open until midnight on Tuesday, December 8.

Winners will be announced on December 10.

## Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, November 24 – Maurice Richardson Memorial Trophy Round 1 – Men's Stableford. Winner was Michael Whelan H/c (21) with 42 points on a countback from Rob Haydon H/c (12) also with 42 points.

9 Hole Stableford winner was Ian McCole H/c (27) with 23 points from Charles Mizzi H/c (26) with 20 points.

Wednesday, November 25 – Ladies Final Round Club Championships and 18 Hole Stroke.

Club Championship winners: D Grade: Scratch – Pam Ardern off 40 369, Nett – Pamela Williams off 45 237.

C Grade: Scratch – Miyuki Yamaguchi off 29 312, Nett – Jan Daff off 33 222 c/b.

B Grade: Scratch – Judy Magill off 24 287, Nett – Judy Magill off 24 215.

A Grade: Scratch – Taylah Robinson off 12 242, Nett – Taylah Robinson off 12 206 c/b.

Winners of the Daily Stroke event 18 Holes

A Grade winner: 0-22, Taylah Robinson off 10 70 nett.

B Grade winner: 23-33, Kim Rippon-King off 31 67 nett.

C Grade winner: 34+, Pamela Williams off 45 71 nett.

9 Hole competition – 9 players.

Winner was Pat Rose H/c (36) with 17 points on a countback from Tracy Cooksey H/c (45) also with 17 points.

Thursday, November 26 – Men's and Ladies 18 Hole Stableford.

Men's Winner was David Nicoll H/c (17) with 42 points from Kenneth Wallace H/c (24) with 41 points.

Saturday, November 28 – Mens 18 Hole Stroke – November Monthly Medal. Sponsored by Paul Waylen.

Men's A Grade winner– Bob Pascoe H/c (12) with 67 points.

Men's A Grade r/up – Isaac Batty H/c (1) with 69 points.

Men's B Grade winner – Mark Jamieson H/c (14) with 67 points.

Men's B Grade r/up – Fred Panozzo H/c (16) with 72 points.

Men's C Grade winner and Monthly Medal winner – Brian Potter H/c (25) with 66 points.

Men's C Grade r/up – Dave Ablett H/c (21) with 68 points on a countback.

Ladies competition winner was Kim Rippon-King H/c (29) with 69 Points from Ros Reid H/c (28) with 70 points.

Next week's event for Men is Stableford (single) and Life Member's Plate (Best Aggregate of 3 players).

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole Stable-

ford: Winner was Steve Rieger H/c (27) with 24 points from Malcolm MacArthur H/c (28) with 21 points.

Club Championship winners:

D Grade: Scratch – Brian Potter off 28 287, Nett – Geoff Owen off 29 220.

C Grade: Scratch – Max Brown off 17 264, Nett – John Wiseman off 17 214.

B Grade: Scratch – Ian Smith off 11 330, Nett – Bob Pascoe off 13 291.

A Grade: Scratch – James Fowler off 2 301, Nett – Graeme Cuff off 7 288.

Medal of Medallist – James Taylor H/c (29) with 68 Nett.



Lady Champions (left to right): Pam Ardern, Miyuki Yamaguchi, Judy Magill and Taylah Robinson.



James Fowler – the Men's Club Champion.

## Phillip Island tennis

Section 1: Inverloch 8.67 defeated Westernport 1.36, Leongatha North 8.70 defeated Koonwarra 1.36 and Leongatha v Korumburra – No score received.

Ladder: Inverloch 44, Leongatha North 25, Korumburra 20\*, Westernport 20, Koonwarra 10 and Leongatha 3\*.

Section 2: Outtrim 6.54 defeated Baromi 3.48, Korumburra Green 5.65 defeated Leongatha Millman

4.55, and Korumburra Blue 7.66 defeated Leongatha Barty 2.47.

Ladder: Outtrim 33, Korumburra Green 29, Korumburra Blue 26, Baromi 18, Leongatha Millman 17 and Leongatha Barty 9.

Another good round of tennis in both sections.

Leongatha North had a win over Koonwarra this week in Section 1. Koonwarra only managing to win one ladies set.

Top team Inverloch also had a win against Westernport. Westernport only winning first mixed. Inverloch are well on top in this section.

Disappointingly, there was no score received from the Leongatha v Korumburra match.

Korumburra Blue won their match 7/2 against Leongatha Barty. All the men's sets were tiebreakers, with Barty winning one of them. The ladies sets all went Korumburra Blue's way.

Outtrim v Baromi was a close match with Outtrim only winning

by six games. Baromi had Louisa Pratt back playing and new player Judy Luck. I hope you both enjoyed the game.

Leongatha Millman and Korumburra Green had a very even match with three tiebreakers – two going the way of Korumburra Green and won the match by 10 games.

There are only two games left before the Christmas/New Year break.

Please talk with your teams to see who can play the Tournament Day of January 16.

Teams also ensure you have paid your clubs Affiliation Fee.

## U16's Training

**Starts at 3pm on Sunday 6th December.**  
**Any new players welcome!**



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## TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point  
Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31

**HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BOLD**

|       |                         |                        |                        |                        |
|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Wed 2 | <b>3.15am</b><br>2.97m  | 9.00am<br>1.12m        | <b>2.51pm</b><br>2.50m | 8.47pm<br>0.48m        |
| Thu 3 | <b>3.55am</b><br>3.06m  | 9.38am<br>1.06m        | <b>3.33pm</b><br>2.56m | 9.27pm<br>0.43m        |
| Fri 4 | <b>4.34am</b><br>3.10m  | 10.15am<br>1.02m       | <b>4.13pm</b><br>2.59m | 10.05pm<br>0.41m       |
| Sat 5 | <b>5.12am</b><br>3.09am | 10.52am<br>0.98m       | <b>4.52pm</b><br>2.60m | 10.05pm<br>0.42m       |
| Sun 6 | <b>5.49am</b><br>3.05m  | 11.29am<br>0.96m       | <b>5.31pm</b><br>2.58m | 11.21pm<br>0.46m       |
| Mon 7 | <b>6.25am</b><br>2.99m  | 12.06pm<br>0.94m       | <b>6.13pm</b><br>2.56m |                        |
| Tue 8 | 12.00am<br>0.52m        | <b>7.00am</b><br>2.91m | 12.44pm<br>0.91m       | <b>6.57pm</b><br>2.52m |

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

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Father and son Gary (L) and Steve Burchell played their first game together in Phillip Island colours in C2 against Glen Alvie.



Evergreen Carl Muscat batted through the whole 40 overs in C2 and made 53 not out.

# Strong start to the season

## A Grade

Round four saw Nerrena make the trip to take on the A1 boys who were looking to consolidate on their strong start to the season.

After winning the toss the Sharks decided to have a bat with Lochie Cleeland returning to the side to open with Jarrod Black.

Things didn't get off to a great start with Black taking off for a quick single but forgetting that he is in fact not very quick.

After the run out with the score at 1/6 Eli Richards joined Cleeland at the crease and the two built a strong partnership on the back of some hard running on a big slow Cowes outfield.

The two put on 70 for the second wicket until Cleeland was bowled for a well-made 39 with the score at 2/76.

Shiran Rathnayake joined Richards in the middle only for Richards to be dismissed for 32.

Brodie Johnston then strode out to the middle and after a refreshing week away at Wilsons Prom he looked full on energy at the crease. He teamed up with Rathnayake and together the two closed out the innings beautifully.

With some creative shot play and more hard running the two got the score up to 3/161 off our 40 overs with Rathnayake (43no) and Johnston (38no) both making valuable contributions.

With a good total to defend the Sharks came out full of fire after the tea break and opening bowler Simon Kirton led the way bowling a spell full of pace and bounce. With Shiran Rathnayake opening with off spin from the other end applying pressure, the sharks looked unstoppable.

The boys took the first five Nerrena wickets from just 20 runs with Kirton ripping out of stumps at will and from there the game was all but over.

Nerrena were dismissed for 61 in the 27th over with superb spells of bowling from Kirton (3 for 20 off 7) Rathnayake (1 for 8 off 6) and the evergreen Charith Keerthisinghe (2 for 5 off 7) not

to mention two fantastic run outs from Eli Richards.

The win takes the Sharks to 3 and 1 in what has been a great reward for the effort that was put in during pre-season.

Next week the boys take on Korumburra at home.

Go Sharks!

## B Grade

This week the B graders were off to Nerrena where we lost the toss and were sent into the field. Geoff Odgers opened the innings bowling eight overs straight (in a borrowed vest and tracksuit pants) picking up a crucial early wicket.

Henry Shawcross opened from the other end and bowled okay swinging the ball both ways.

Tom Niven came into the attack and took a well-deserved wicket to bring the score to 2-47 before Nerrena's middle order put on a decent partnership to make it to drinks at 2/88.

After drink's, the Sharks started to take wickets with Josh Excell and Andrew Tolley both picking up wickets.

Clint Wilson then came onto bowl picking up the excellent figures of 5-17 off his eight overs restricting Nerrena to a score of 186.

The Sharks then went into bat with Odgers and Kev Taylor opening the batting with both striking the ball well, but were unable to pick the gaps.

Taylor then snicked off and Epifano who batted at the shortly departed the same way.

This bought Shawcross to the crease who put in a decent partnership with Odgers before Odgers was dismissed for 20.

At this stage, the Sharks were 3/29 and not looking in good shape.

Wilson fresh of his five wickets came to the crease and put on another partnership to bring the Sharks to 4-83 before Shawcross got out for well-made 31.

Wilson continued to hit the ball well but again could not hit it in the gaps finding the fielder multiple times.

Wilson was eventually caught

for a solid 39.

Kohen Beaumont looked comfortable in his B grade debut, but he and the remaining Sharks then lost wickets quickly trying to chase down the big total.

Tom Niven and Josh Excell finished not out as we ground out 9-140 off our 40 overs.

Another loss on the road has put in question our finals aspirations, and a big matchup looms on the road next week against Leongatha.

## C1 cricket

C1 keen to keep the winning run going took on Inverloch at Newhaven.

Matt Parson lost his first toss and Inverloch chose to bat.

Soni Prashant and Matt Parson opened the bowling and the Inverloch openers got off to a steady start before Parso struck. Liam Dayson came on and settled into his craft picking up two, and Tim Niven was unhittable, bowling the Niven line two outs swingers and then a cutter. What a joy to watch, takes this scribe back nearly 20 years. Tim ended up bowling five overs conceding only one run.

Zac Walker and Heath Womersley took over the bowling and both have joined the C1 full and at the stumps brigade. Heath picking up one. This left Soni and Blake Young our finishers to close out the 40 both picking up two and restricting Inverloch to 98.

Liam Dayso and Parso opened the batting and got the scoring ticking over. Liam playing a beautiful pull shot before nicking off for 14, we then lost a quick one in Parry. Soni joined Parso who was batting well and went bang bang bang for a quick 21. First gamer John Nicolchi who was just wandering the streets before he was conscripted had his first bat but unfortunately forgot to use the bat.

With rain approaching Zac Walker joined Parso who thought that was enough and went 4 and 6 to win the game finishing 47 not out and keeping the unbeaten run going.

Go Sharks!

## C2 Cricket

When we take off for cricket every Saturday, we would hope that we arrive home safely.

Sadly, this week's game was soured by a horrible incident on the field when last weeks hero, Dan Stevenson, attempted another great catch but fell awkwardly and finished his day in hospital and with serious breaks to his right leg. It was a distressing scene seeing Dan in obvious pain all but knowing the extent of his injuries.

The club and his teammates would like to thank the Glen Alvie team for their genuine concern and others who came to his aid.

We wish Dan a speedy recovery. The game became secondary, but we continued as best we could.

We batted first and made a solid 156 with the wily Muscat carrying his bat with a fine 53 no, Francis 23 and Taryn Allen a hard hitting 29.

Special mention to James Lewis who played his first senior game and contributed a solid 9 at the end.

We opened with James and he picked up his first wicket, then cartwheeled the batsman's middle stump. A great way to start your bowling career.

There was a half hour break whilst Dan was attended too and to be honest our enthusiasm slowed up a bit, but we kept plugging away.

At the end Glen Alvie passed our score in the final over in another close game.

A big shout out to Alvie Captain Dan McGuirk who sub fielded in Dan's absence.

We were the walking wounded by the end with muscle injuries to some, a damaged finger to another and two broken fingernails to Kanter.

Bowling honours went to Johnno 2-21 with other wickets to Francis, Lewis and Kanter. Also, a big thank you to Garry Burchill who helped out this week and picked up his first wicket for the Sharks.

As a club we must rally around Dan and his family as he will need a lot of support in the near future.

Continued page 27

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