

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

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There's no better place to be than at the beach this summer. Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. No matter how or where you're celebrating this festive season, please have a safe and happy holiday. Inside you'll find plenty of tips on things to do, as well as all the local news. This is our last edition for the year, so we'll see you all in 2023. Photo: Phillip Island Boardriders Club.

Green light for Cowes masterplan

The Cowes street masterplan has been given the green light with a few tweaks, following about a month of community consultation in September.

The plan, which will overhaul the township to make it more pedestrian-friendly and less car reliant, saw about 100 people give feedback at three drop-in sessions, with eight written submissions and 43 completed surveys.

While the initial plan proposed Thompson Avenue be one-way in a southerly direction between Chapel Street and the Esplanade, following community feedback it will now be one-way north bound.

At the Thompson Avenue-Esplanade intersection, vehicles will turn left/west or right/east only along The Esplanade.

Initially Thompson Avenue between the Esplanade and Chapel Street was to be changed to parallel parking with loss of parking (to 24).

Now there will be a mix of parking types, including both 45-degree and parallel parks, with a total of 36 parks.

Previously the plan suggested traf-

fic lights at the corner of Church Street and Thompson Avenue, to direct cars to the transit centre, however this proved unpopular and now the roundabout will be retained.

The Chapel Street roundabout will also be retrofitted to ensure one-way, northerly traffic along Thompson Avenue.

Car ferry

Cr Ronnie Bauer supported north-bound traffic but said the masterplan should have taken into account his proposal for a redeveloped jetty to include a future car ferry, saying for this reason it "falls short of its potential".

Cr Rochelle Halstead asked shire officers whether it was still possible for the masterplan to include an extended jetty to meet cruise ships and a possible car ferry.

A shire planner confirmed it "would still be possible to retrofit the jetty triangle" under a future detailed design of the masterplan.

Cr Brett Tessari said he supported north-bound traffic down Thompson

Avenue.

"Otherwise it takes away that ultimate feeling of arrival as you drive into Cowes and look over the water. That sense of arrival is something special," Cr Tessari said.

He said he understood the need to make Cowes more pedestrian-friendly but "I think we can have it both ways", with north-bound a win for shop keepers.

Cr David Rooks said he supported south-bound traffic along Thompson Avenue, because it would encourage more of a "pedestrian mall type precinct".

Funding

The rollout of the masterplan is now dependent on both advocacy for more funding from government, and the shire's coffers, with an initial \$2.25 million budgeted in the long-term financial plan for planning, design, and delivery.

Projects have been grouped into short term (the next one to three years); medium (delivered within three to 10 years) and long term (proj-

ects that may take 10-plus years to deliver).

- Projects in the first three years include: Formalise one-way vehicle traffic east and west from Thompson Avenue; implement trial for one-way vehicle access northbound only on Thompson Avenue from Chapel Street; transition car parking on Thompson Avenue between Church Street and Chapel Street to short-term managed parking restrictions (length of stay, time limits); reduce speed limit to 20km/h along Thompson Avenue north of Chapel Street; and reduce speed limit to 30km/h along Thompson Avenue between Church Street and Chapel Street.

- Projects in three to 10 years: Transition vehicle traffic to one-way access northbound on Thompson Avenue from Chapel Street; retrofit Chapel Street roundabout to accommodate change to vehicle access to Thompson Avenue; install a new public toilet at Olive Justice Place, ensuring the design and location can be incorporated into a future overall upgrade to the broader Olive Justice

Place area.

- 10-plus years: Design and construct a permanent pocket park at Olive Justice Place.

Feedback

Locals at the drop-in sessions earlier this year were generally positive about the masterplan, but many highlighted shared concerns, some of which have been addressed in the adopted plan.

Several traders said the one-way direction should be reversed and instead be northerly, saying their businesses would be impacted.

Residents predicted limited parking spaces would push cars into surrounding residential streets.

One person said the masterplan would be unworkable without a park-and-ride system, where visitors drop their cars at one spot and then rely on a regular, reliable bus to transport them around Cowes and the island's attractions.

And they said 15-minutes restrictions in the main street would be unworkable.

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7 day weather forecast

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MOSTLY SUNNY	SHOWER OR TWO	PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNNY	SUNNY
12 25	15 23	15 21	13 20	12 21	14 25	17 27

Farewell 2022

We're having a short but well-earned break, so this is the last edition for 2022. Thanks for your support throughout the year and we'll see you in two weeks.

Our first edition for 2023 is out on Thursday, January 5.

Ad deadline, midday Tuesday, January 3.

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Ventnor teen Ethan Wilson was on work experience when he found a 126 million-year-old dinosaur bone.

Dino find for Ventnor teen

Ventnor teen Ethan Wilson had a lucky strike this month when he found his first dinosaur bone.

The 15-year-old was on work experience – carrying out palaeontology with Bunurong Coast Education – when he spotted the bone while sorting through rock from the Inverloch dig site.

Education officer Mike Clelland said the bone was about 126

million years old.

"It's a dermal ossicle" explained Mike, "a small piece of bone from the skin of an Ankylosaur. These are armour-plated dinosaurs, like an armadillo."

Mike will be leading more of his popular field trips to the Inverloch dig site over the summer holiday period with Bunurong Coast Education.



Internal walls are going up at the new centre, with the first-floor level installed in the new library section.

Cultural Centre continues to grow

Despite the dismal recent weather, work is continuing apace on the new Cowes Cultural Centre.

The scale of the new centre is becoming apparent as the building takes shape.

Traffic in Thompson Avenue slowed to a crawl last Wednesday as a massive trailer load of wood was delivered to the site.

In November, work included the installation of mass timber structures and preparation to the plant deck, as well as structural steel and framing to stages 1 and 2.

Roofing over the theatre and

brick work continued, with insulation continuing through the project.

Originally due to be completed by the end of this year, in November the Council reconfirmed the new centre has been delayed and is now set to open in the second half of 2023.

The centre was initially budgeted to cost \$19 million, but last year rose to \$31.03 million (including GST), which is on top of about \$355,000 demolition and \$1.48 design.

See more at engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowesccc

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Vote for Change for Sam, PICAL

Change for Sam – the initiative formed in the wake of Sam Fraser's death – has been nominated by the Cowes Commonwealth Bank branch for the bank's community donations program. The community is urged to vote for the charity,

which raises awareness for ending family violence in the community, in an online vote through the bank.

The other Cowes charity nominated by the bank is the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre.

The bank has \$900,000 to donate to organisations across the nation in 2023.

To vote go to commbank.com.au, search for community donations program, enter Cowes as location and select your preferred charity.



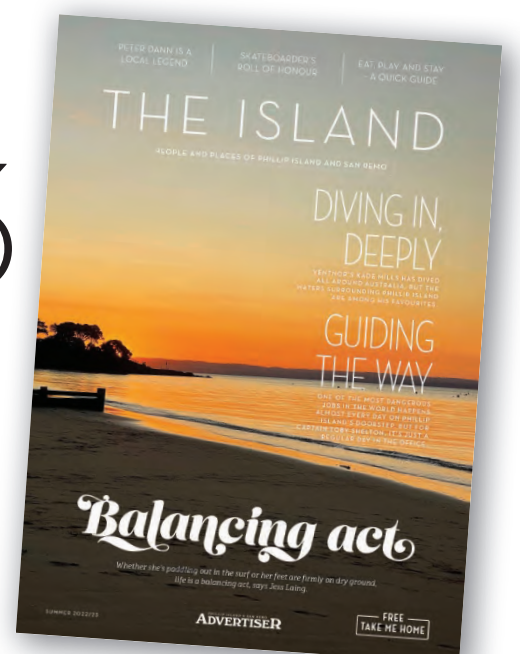
CARING FOR SAM'S CHILDREN

Please support the fundraiser for Sam Fraser's children, to help cover the cost of their care and education.

To donate, go to gofund.me/b6e777cb, or search gofundme.com for "Caring for Sam's Children".

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Basham a “despised prisoner”, a “marked man”

Murderer Adrian Basham is in prison protection after being assaulted by fellow prisoners, with threats made against him as a “despised” and “marked man”.

The revelation was made during the final pre-sentence hearing of Mr Basham, 46, at the Supreme Court on Friday, ahead of his sentencing in February.

The prosecution is seeking the maximum term of life in prison for Mr Basham, with a jury in April finding him guilty of killing and staging the suicide of the mother of their three children, Samantha Fraser, 38, at her Cowes garage on July 23, 2018.

Defence lawyer Dermot Dann KC argued Justice Lesley Taylor should not hand down a life sentence because his client had no prior convictions, had a strong work ethic, was involved in charitable events and had “good prospects of rehabilitation”, explaining he was now a “despised prisoner”.

“I ask Your Honour to accept Mr Basham finds himself in a difficult position in custody given the nature of the allegations,” Mr Dann said.

“He has been moved into protection for a reason. There is earlier information about assaults on him and threats to him and a perception that he is a marked man, which does make his time in custody difficult.

“He’s not an experienced prisoner.”

He said based on legal precedent, this case was not the “worst category of offence”.

“As terrible as the offending was, as found by the jury, this is not a case deserving of the imposition of

life in prison.

“There are aspects of this man’s background that do him credit.”

Justice Taylor asked whether Mr Basham had a “public face and a private face” and how Mr Dann reconciled these two sides of his client with the evidence from the court case.

Mr Dann responded the offender “did not present a danger to the wider community”, adding it was a behaviour that related to a “singular context”.

“As disturbing as the evidence was, as found by the jury, it has to be understood in the overall context,” he said.

Motive

Mr Dann told the court the murder was not pre-meditated.

He disputed the prosecution’s argument that Mr Basham was in Ms Fraser’s garage to stop her giving evidence at a forthcoming committal hearing (in one week’s time), where she would for the first time give evidence against him into sexual assault.

Mr Dann said there was no evidence from witnesses about verbalising threats in the lead up to that hearing.

Prosecution counsel Nanette Rogers responded that just because Mr Basham hadn’t verbalised he would kill his estranged wife to prevent her giving evidence in the committal hearing “didn’t mean that wasn’t his motive”.

Mr Dann challenged the prosecution case it was a “cold-blooded, carefully planned execution” to which Justice Taylor asked why



The final pre-sentence hearing of Adrian Basham took place last week, ahead of sentencing in February. In April, Mr Basham was found guilty of killing Samantha Fraser, the mother of their three children, at Cowes on July 23, 2018.

then did the evidence show Mr Basham had attempted to disguise himself.

Mr Dann responded Mr Basham had not brought a weapon, was not aware of the rope in the garage, had driven his own motorbike rather than stealing a vehicle, for instance, and was also visible by several witnesses, therefore not in hiding.

He argued that when police in Bairnsdale later on the day of Ms Fraser’s death pulled Mr Basham over – when he was in an “agitated state, visibly upset and started to cry” – this showed no pre-medita-

tion.

Justice Taylor asked whether, instead, it showed Mr Basham was “confronted with the enormity of what he had done”.

Mr Dann responded, asking whether the judge could be “satisfied beyond reasonable doubt this was a carefully thought out, well-planned execution murder”, but rather a “spontaneous meeting that went wrong”.

Justice Taylor said the evidence showed Ms Fraser “lived in abject terror” of her estranged husband and on the day of her death evidence showed he had grabbed her from the car in the garage.

“If you want to argue the alternative, I want to hear it,” Justice Taylor said.

Mr Dann said because he had not been the defence lawyer during the trial – (Mr Basham switched lawyers at the beginning of the pre-sentence hearing) – he could not stray beyond evidence given at the trial.

He said his client was “angry and frustrated” he couldn’t see his children and at the intervention order Ms Fraser had taken out against him.

Remorse

Mr Dann asked the court to take into account circumstances in Mr Basham’s favour, tendering several references from family and friends.

He said his client had good prospects for rehabilitation, and while in prison had completed nine certificates, including technology, engineering, first aid and health and wellbeing.

Justice Taylor said Mr Basham

had shown no remorse and that impacted her findings on rehabilitation.

Mr Dann said the trial had taken four and a half years and had significant delays, acknowledging the plea of not guilty had added to the delays.

Mr Dann is the fourth lawyer hired by Mr Basham to represent him, which Dr Rogers argued had caused delays.

He asked the court to take into consideration the likely forfeiture of Mr Basham’s property, which had taken “years and years to establish”.

Mr Dann told the court Mr Basham’s mother died in 2019 while he was in custody following complications from an operation, while his father was retired and lived in Gippsland.

Mr Basham was bullied while at Chandler High School but received an academic and sport scholarship to study at St Bede’s in years 11 and 12.

He had a “strong work ethic”, had studied economic policy at RMT before undertaking a carpentry apprenticeship and gaining his building certificate, holding various jobs including working as a delivery driver.

He met Samantha Fraser in late 2005 and they were married in 2007, and from 2012-17 Mr Basham was a fly-in-fly-out worker on Western Australia’s oil and gas fields.

Justice Taylor concluded the hearing saying she wanted to reflect on the matters for this “complex sentencing” and she would hand down the sentence in February on a date yet to be set.

Paid parking in Cowes? No plans, says mayor

Bass Coast Shire has emphatically ruled out paid parking in Cowes, despite councillors approving a plan that recommends it.

Paid parking is detailed in fine print of the final Cowes streetscape masterplan, adopted at last week’s council meeting (see separate story), but it was not in the earlier draft plan that received community feedback in September.

The masterplan states paid parking could be introduced in the next one to three years along Thompson Avenue north of Chapel Street to recover the cost of installing and maintaining the shire’s new parking sensor technology, which has been rolled out this year with no community consultation and in the face of significant opposition.

The plan looks at the advantages and disadvantages of paid parking, stating many councils use “pricing to better match supply and demand for parking, and to create a new method for generating revenue”.

“Paid parking is typically one of the most divisive actions a local council can take. Once introduced, many of these grievances subside, but the initial decision to introduce paid parking where it was once free is generally met with opposition,” the masterplan states.

“On balance, given the introduction of a network of digital real time displays come at significant capital expenditure, and do incur some ongoing operating expenditure, it may be reasonable to introduce paid parking along Thompson Avenue north of Chapel Street in order to recover the cost of installing and maintaining this parking technology.

“Motorists benefit from greater certainty regarding parking availability and less circling while looking for an available bay.”

It adds that if paid parking was “unreasonable, then time-restricted parking such as short term 15-minute or 30-minute parking bays may assist with vehicle turnover”.

These details fall under the “managed parking” headline and further in the plan it vaguely recommends to “transition



Bass Coast Shire has emphatically ruled out paid parking in Cowes, despite councillors approving a plan that recommends it. Photo: Erik McLean, Unsplash.

car parking on Thompson Avenue between Church Street and Chapel Street to short-term managed parking restrictions” in the next one to three years.

However mayor Cr Michael Whelan last week ruled out paid parking in Cowes.

“This council has no intention of introducing paid parking at any of our town centres,” Cr Whelan said.

“This is simply a consultant’s report that explores the many issues associated with parking.”

The shire’s parking sensor engage online page stated the new technology was “not paid parking”.

Sensor parking

The \$377,000 sensor parking project has seen about 500 underground sensors – difficult to spot at a quick glance – installed: 375 in on-street bays on Thomp-

son Avenue, Chapel Street and The Esplanade; and 123 off-street bays at the Cowes Transit Centre; as well as 262 in Wonthaggi.

This month the “smart parking” guidance mobile app – which will help drivers find an available bay – is live, along with the whole sensor parking system.

Signs – on Thompson Avenue at Church and Chapel streets – will alert drivers to the direction of and distance to available car parking.

CEO Ali Wastie has argued the sensors would “notify parking inspectors when a car has overstayed its time limit”, meaning more fines will be issued, but “the sensors are not paid parking”.

“Smart parking” will not have an impact on the current number of parking bays and there won’t be any changes to parking limits/restrictions, the shire has stated.

Wellington wind zone

The state and Federal governments this week joined Wellington Shire Council, to formally declare the Bass Strait off Gippsland as Australia’s first offshore wind zone.

The Federal government also awarded Major Project Status to the Star of the South Offshore Windfarm Project off the Gippsland coast.

The south coastline of Phillip Island, from the Nobbies to Cape Woolamai, 5km from the coast, is also being considered for offshore energy developments.

Submissions on the government proposal closed in October, with conservationists and the peak tourism body raising concerns about the impact on the island’s views, the Penguin Parade and whale migration.

Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen said Gippsland’s declaration was a crucial step towards affordable, reliable and secure energy and new economic opportunities for Australia.

Estimates show offshore wind projects off the Gippsland could support more than 3000 jobs over the next 15 years during their development and construction phases, and an additional 3000 ongoing operational jobs.

Both governments said they are committed to working together over the coming year to consider the Gippsland coast

west of Wilsons Prom, including further consultation with Traditional Owners and taking into account community feedback and information on environmental risks of developing offshore electricity infrastructure in the area.

This would include the oceans off Phillip Island.

“Our nation-first offshore wind targets set Victoria’s ambition to harness the world class offshore wind resources off our coast lines – another milestone towards powering millions of homes and businesses with that clean energy,” said Victorian Minister for Climate Action, Minister for Energy and Resources and Minister for the State Electricity Commission Lily D’Ambrosio.

“Offshore wind is key to achieving our target of 95 per cent renewable energy by 2035 in Victoria, slashing emissions and energy bills as we lead the nation in our clean energy transition.”

Feasibility licence applications for offshore wind projects in the Gippsland area will open soon. The Offshore Infrastructure Registrar will lead assessment of all applications against criteria set out in the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations 2022, and make recommendations to the state Energy Minister Lily D’Ambrosio.

New skate park proposed for Cowes

About a decade after the Phillip Island community began lobbying for a regional skate park, Bass Coast Shire has proposed one be built in Cowes by 2026, albeit smaller.

This is the third attempt to find a location for the shire's largest skate park, after a proposal in San Remo was stymied in 2018 following community opposition, with an alternative at Newhaven's Graydens Reserve again abandoned due to opposition.

Councillors at the December meeting voted to adopt a skate strategy review, written by consultants, which is now out for community consultation until February 3.

It recommends Wonthaggi receive the first of two sub-regional skate parks, to be built by 2024 at the site of the existing facility, which has yet to be upgraded.

The review says a Cowes sub-regional skate park should be built between 2024-26 at the old carnival site, on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads, which the shire last year purchased for construction of a sports hub and pool, where space is available to the south for a skate park.

"Given it is on Phillip Island Road, adjacent to a proposed recreation reserve and on the residential outskirts of Cowes, it is considered a good location for a sub-regional skate park," the review explains.

It states Cowes should be built after Wonthaggi, because the local skate park near the Cowes oval has already been upgraded.

The Cowes new facility will measure 600-1000m²+, be designed for medium-sized events and competition, with complex obstacles, catering for beginner to advanced, with "potential for an iconic design and theme".

It will allow for night use, and there should also be bouldering, climbing, games, kick about, basketball.

"It will cater to all styles of skate but focus on competition level bowls and transition to complement the local park facility already at Cowes."

While a sub-regional skate park measures 600-1000m²+, a regional one is 1000m²+, and more complex.

The review agrees with council's previous proposal to build a local skate park at Graydens Reserve in the next two years, to replace the



Another DIY skate/bike park was built at Cape Woolamai earlier this year. The shire will now create a community working group to find a site for a pump track in the shire, following a petition calling for one at Cape Woolamai.

existing portable ramp, while Grantville and Corinella already have local skate parks and one is being built at Kilcunda early in 2023.

Cr Bruce Kent said the community should be "realistic" in its expectations.

"The concern for me is the Cowes area, the carnival site, as to whether we achieve a skate park in that area for quite a time. I suggest not," Cr Kent said.

"As has been proven in the past, the community has the power to control these things."

Cape Woolamai

Earlier this year almost 800 people signed a petition calling for a bike and skateboard pump track in Cape Woolamai.

The petition came as several home-made skate/bike tracks were built at Cape Woolamai, including one at the airport land, measuring about three house blocks-long, and an illegal track constructed on foreshore land and then pulled down by the shire.

Councillors last week agreed to create a community-led working group to identify suitable locations for pump tracks across the shire, as well as the development of terms of reference for the group to be considered at the February 2023 council meeting.

Community members who want to be a part of the pump track steering committee can register their interest by completing an online survey (see below).

Cr Rochelle Halstead said it had been a "long wait" for skaters in San Remo, Newhaven and Cape Woolamai, adding that council had "created expectations" following the failed San Remo and Newhaven skate parks.

"We have seen significant vegetation damage in Cape Woolamai's reserve where young people have taken matters in their own hands and created their own tracks," Cr Halstead said.

"I'm hoping Newhaven, San Remo and Cape Woolamai locations will be looked at as a priority by council when they did create that expectation."

Flip-flop

The review amends the previous skate park strategy adopted by council in 2018.

"It has been prepared in response to some challenges in finding an appropriate location for a regional scale skate park originally mooted for San Remo," it states, hinting at years of delay and controversy.

"Given there are two significant main clusters of population within Bass Coast, being Phillip Island and surrounds and the Wonthaggi/Inverloch area, this strategy review recommends a new model be implemented that focuses on a major facility at each of these two population centres."

"One large facility in a municipality that does not have a single large centralised population centre may not be the best approach moving forward."



President of the Foreshore Sk8 Park group Bucky Hamer says "we need to aim as high as we can as quick as we can" to "build a world-class skate park for the shire". His son and daughter (pictured) are keen skate park users.

Skaters weigh in on new skate park plan

Phillip Island resident Bucky Hamer was a passionate skateboarder when he became president of the Foreshore Sk8 Park group nearly a decade ago, to lobby Bass Coast Shire for upgraded skate facilities.

Now he has two children – a five-year-old son who is a skateboarding "addict" and seven-year-old daughter a keen rollerskater – he sees the need for upgraded facilities are more important than ever.

"It's now the younger generation who need these skate parks and the need is bigger than ever – not just skaters, but scooters, BMX, roller-skating – girls and women are the biggest growth category," Bucky says.

Bucky, who works at Island Surfboards, has welcomed the new skate strategy review after years of delay and controversy, which saw a proposed regional skate parks at San Remo then Newhaven scrapped.

He says he's "not opposed" to the review recommending two smaller, sub-regional skate parks be built at Wonthaggi first, then Cowes.

"I'm all for getting this across the line in any way, shape or form, and I'm happy council seems to be trying to forge ahead given the difficulties they have had."

"But I'm slightly disappointed they haven't managed to do what they set out to do in the first place, which is build a world-class skate park for the shire."

"Their field of vision seems to be a bit narrow."

Bucky and a group of dedicated Phillip Island skateboarders weekly – sometimes twice a week – drive to the nearest regional skate park at Noble Park or Brunswick, simply to access skate facilities there.

He says Noble Park, for instance, is a four-metre-deep bowl with com-

plex terrains.

"There are hundreds of small-scale skate parks being built by shires, they're a dime a dozen and so I'm concerned the review is building for a certain demographic."

"They pump out little projects to keep people happy, but if they focus on smaller, little facilities, there is no avenue for kids to grow."

"Whereas if we end up with a regional-size bowl yes only a small percentage will actually be able to skate here immediately but in 12 months' time it will be totally different."

"I'd prefer to see it done properly once."

He says given Wonthaggi is set to be the first to be upgraded to a sub-regional facility, he wouldn't be opposed to it being upgraded to a regional size.

However, he would prefer Cowes was upgraded to a larger bowl, but adds given the slow pace of development at the carnival site it would in all likelihood be a decade before a skate park is built there.

"I think either way we need to aim as high as we can as quick as we can."

"If Wonthaggi is the best avenue then we should push that forward."

Bucky says he was also concerned members of the original steering group – of which he was a part – were not contacted for input into the new review.

"The only reason we got a strategy in 2018 was solid campaigning from locals."

Equally he says it was disheartening to have worked with the previous term of councillors, only to start again "from scratch" with this latest group.

"No disrespect to them but it took four years to get the previous councillors up to speed and then we had to start fresh."

Have your say on skate parks

As part of the community consultation on the shire's skate strategy review, council officers will be at several skate parks to discuss future plans on January 19:

Cowes Skate Park – January 19, 3pm to 4pm
Graydens Reserve, Newhaven –

January 19, 1pm to 2pm

Wonthaggi Skate Park – January 19, 11am to 12pm

Alternatively provide feedback via an online survey: www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/skate-park

Or write to recreation@basscoast.vic.gov.au or PO Box 118, Wonthaggi 3995.

Submissions must be received by midnight February 3.

Feedback will be used to inform the final Skate Park Strategy Review, which will provide council with a clear direction.

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Council Update



Animals and Fireworks

There will be fireworks displays in Bass Coast this month of December.

Cowes Carols by the Bay event in Cowes on Tuesday, 20 December at 9.30pm.

New Years Eve Fireworks displays in Cowes, Inverloch and Coronet Bay on Saturday, 31 December at 9.30pm.

While fireworks are enjoyable for young and old, they can be particularly distressing for dogs and horses. Please make sure that your pets are safe and secure when there are fireworks displays in your area.

To provide your feedback on fireworks displays in Bass Coast over Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations, visit www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/eoycelebrations

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1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77
basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au | www.basscoast.vic.gov.au



Good progress is being made on the new Community Garden which has moved to Blue Gum Reserve from the old PICAL site in Church Street, Cowes.

Community Garden grows

Good progress is being made on the new Community Garden in Blue Gum Reserve.

The garden was relocated to Blue Gum Reserve as there was not sufficient space at the new PICAL site in Warley Avenue.

PICAL had to move as its old site in Church Street was purchased by the state government for the new Community Hospital.

Garden volunteers have been hard at work constructing new accessible garden beds.

"Their generous contribution of time and energy is most appreciated by council and shows the great teamwork involved to deliver such a terrific community project," a council spokesperson said.

The spokesperson also said several milestones of the project are now complete.

"Coel's shed is now relocated to its permanent location in the corner of the site.

"Stormwater, water and sewer connections are finished, as well as site scraping and garden bed gravelling. Perimeter fencing is near finished too."

Council said fabrication of accessible toilets

were underway, as well as main shed design and build. Evaluation of electrical works is also in progress.

Works are set to be complete in April, subject to supplier and contractor availability, weather permitting.

In September, PICAL general manager Greg Thompson told the Advertiser getting the new garden established as soon as possible was critical.

"Part of the role of our community garden was a supply of fresh vegetables for our food pantry and our meals cooking program."

When the garden was dismantled at the Church Street site, Greg said members of the team had taken home the smaller garden beds and were tending to them in their own backyards.

"When the new space opens in Blue Gum Reserve, these will all come back."

The total project cost is \$384,107, including Council's contribution of \$239,343, an RSL contribution of \$106,000 and a PICAL contribution of \$38,764.

Police presence for festival season

Cowes and San Remo police stations will be staffed 24/7 over the holiday period, with extra patrols and a visible police presence on Phillip Island. Acting Senior Sergeant Scott Morison said police will be out in force for New Year's Eve.

"We will be bolstering our numbers, as we do every year, and targeting unruly behaviour.

"We want to ensure everyone is having a good night, enjoying the fireworks and festivities that come with it."

Anyone heading into Cowes or other foreshore areas is reminded it is illegal to drink in any public places in Bass Coast.

The official fireworks display in Cowes will take place at 9.30pm, with fireworks also happening in Coronet Bay and Inverloch.

Acting Snr Sgt Morison said the 9.30pm time slot meant families were able to come along and enjoy the spectacle.

He reminded people to make sure their pets were kept secure, as many animals find fireworks scary.

Although the official fireworks were scheduled for earlier in the evening, he said there were likely to be disturbances at midnight.

"As much as I'd like to say there won't be any unofficial fireworks, there will be, so take that into account with your animals.

"If you are concerned about illegal fireworks or noisy parties, ring Triple Zero (000).

"If we're told about an issue, we can react to it and will address it."

Roadwise

Victoria Police launched Operation Roadwise on December 16, which runs through until December 27.

The program aims to drive down road trauma during the high-risk Christmas period.

As a popular holiday destination, Phillip Island and Bass Coast will be part of the Roadwise focus, which will see highly visible enforcement on Victoria's major roads and highways.

Speeding, mobile phone use and drink driving will all be targeted.

During the festive season, more people are likely to be out socialising and drinking.

During last year's campaign, close to 130,000 people were tested for alcohol and drugs. This year the police expect that number will be higher.

Acting Snr Sgt Morison said there will be more police on the road during the festive season, actively intercepting drivers.

"Every police vehicle can alcohol test, every police car is a booze bus, so don't risk it."

Traffic coming onto the island is expected to be busy over the holiday period.

Boxing Day is traditionally one of the busiest days on local roads.

With New Year's Eve falling on a Saturday night, traffic on Friday December 30 is also likely to be heavy.

Beaches

On a general level, Acting Snr Sgt Morison said water safety was always a major issue in summer.

"One thing that creates more grief than anything else is water safety.

"Unfortunately we do have more than our fair share of drownings.

"We're asking that people read the warning signs at the beaches, swim between the flags and take care of one another in the water."

He recommended everyone program the 13 SURF number into their mobile phones.

"It's like the Triple Zero (000) for water safety."

Luke is the full bottle on spirits, beers and brews

Luke Smith is living every beer and spirit drinker's dream life.

From his two-hectare farm on the outskirts of Cowes, Luke runs Green Gully Brewing, with an orchard growing hops, while he also harvests added flavours including seasonal fruit, finger and kaffir lime, lemon, beetroot and botanicals.

On the farm, a nano-brewery features commercial machinery and an assortment of his own modified creations: a mash tank uses converted dairy farm machinery, and a 500-litre brewing system is made from second-hand items from the likes of Carlton and United Breweries and even pharmaceutical companies.

With more than 40 years' brewing experience, Luke makes award-winning "old school" traditional, classic styles, sold under his Island Beer brand in cans, kegs and bottles, through his online shop as well as local restaurants, the Cowes IGA, Rusty Water's produce store, and Hill Top Farm Meats.

He also plans to make spirits such as gin, rum and limoncello, as well as experimental beverages including cider, mead and ginger beer.

"Sure it's a great life. People think making beer and spirits is about sitting around sampling," says the father-of-two.

"But there's a fair bit of work involved."

Quirky

Luke contracts full-time in major infrastructure and construction projects, around Australia and overseas, making smelters, gas plants and power stations. But this summer he has taken a break to focus on brewing and distilling.

Now in his 50s, Luke first started helping his father make beer at the age of seven, starting his own home brewing system at 18.

It was a lucky select few Phillip Island residents who were first privy to his brewing skills when he moved to the island 16 years ago.

"Back then I used to make it in my garage in Sunset Strip for friends. I used to get a lot of visitors, it was a bit of a speak easy," recalls Luke, a member of the Independent Brewing Association.

"It made me realise the potential. At the time no one



Green Gully Brewing's Luke Smith makes beers, spirits and experimental beverages from his Cowes farm.

was making beer or spirits on the island.

"I saw an opportunity to make something that was alternative and independent."

After Luke and his family moved to the two-hectare farm he turned his hobby commercial, continuing to make his classic styles.

"I don't make bland beverages full of nasty stuff. I focus on something different: made from scratch, using local ingredients but left of field."

Luke – who this year won a silver at the Royal Melbourne International Beer Awards – sources yeasts from around the world, made by a microbiologist in Melbourne, while he also makes his own cultures.

"It's the yeast that dictates a lot of my styles of brews."

He sources Victorian malted grain to make a mash, soaks out the sugars for about an hour before it is transferred to a large kettle, hops added, heated for about an hour, cooled and

transferred to be fermented, which can take a couple of days or several weeks.

New brews

Given his left-of-centre brewing style, Luke is now planning to make a bevy of experimental beverages, which he will also can, bottle and sell online.

He plans to make more spirits, cider (from apples and pears) and short mead (low alcohol fermented honey), ginger beer, as well as swanky ("a low alcohol, temperance beer") and kvass (an Eastern European fermented bread beer). This summer he will also turn his hand to making watermelon mint soda beer, gluten-free, rice-based seltzer, and rhubarb soda ("popular in the '90s in New York").

"It doesn't mean I'll stop making beer, but with my engineering background and love of chemistry, it keeps me learning."

greengullybrewing.com.au

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The 91-apartment complex is within the shire's recommended height limit for the former Warley hospital site, at five-storeys.

\$25 million apartment development approved

A \$25 million, five-storey, 91-apartment development on the old Warley hospital site in Cowes has been approved by Bass Coast Shire councillors.

In what is arguably the fastest turn-around for a major project in Phillip Island's planning history, all councillors voted in support of the construction on the 4100m² vacant land at 6-12 Warley Avenue.

The total footprint will be 4050m², with 117 carparks and a maximum height of 16.2 metres, which is within the shire's recommended height limit for the former Warley hospital site, at five-storeys.

Four objections were lodged to the plans, with submitters concerned about height and neighbourhood character.

But shire planning officers explained the height had been agreed by an independent planning panel in 2018.

Objectors were also concerned about car parking, traffic and pedestrian safety.

"The number of car parking spaces required by the planning scheme has been met for residents while the existing on-street parking supply ... will result in the opportunity for additional parking spaces," planners said.

Cr Rochelle Halstead said the plans had been negotiated between the developer and planners in a record "short period of time" of four months, with the sold sticker placed in the middle of this year and - according to the developer - sale settlement in mid-2023.

Cr David Rooks said he supported the development because it was the

"appropriate location" for high density apartments tailored to singles through to families.

Cr Ronnie Bauer paid tribute to the history of the land, as the former hospital site, saying now the community hospital was ready to be built on Church Street, the community could "finally say goodbye and close the chapter of Warley".

Developer

Earlier this year Samuel Property managing director Illan Samuel told the Advertiser he understood the importance of the site to the community and was open to ideas on how to give a nod to its hospital past.

"I would be interested if the community led this rather than me. I don't think I have the right to lead the discussion but I'm open to a discussion," Illan said.

Illan has worked in Melbourne's property industry for 20 years, starting out as a property valuer 13 years ago, starting with the family business as a property developer.

Samuel Property has built 15 projects, the most recent being their largest: a 98-apartment, 16 level building near St Kilda Road.

He said had visited Phillip Island as a tourist for many years, saying it appealed not only because it was a "beautiful location" but because it had undergone a change in demographics and the real estate market had boomed.

Illan said he was coincidentally friends with the developer of the Isle of Wight site, Ed Farquharson, living near each other in Melbourne, with children the same age.

Designed by Bruce Henderson Architects, Illan said the building was "coastal contemporary" and featured a bagged brick light render.

Development

The development will include two five-storey apartment buildings, above a basement and mezzanine carpark, with an alfresco lobby between the two buildings, and an arched canopy overhead.

There will be 15 one-bedroom apartments, 62 x two-bedroom, and 14 x three-bedroom, with 117 car spaces and a shortfall of six parks for visitors.

"The provision of carparking along the frontage will more than accommodate the visitor requirement while also resulting in supply for public use," it states.

A traffic survey was carried out on Chapel Street, Warley and Thompson avenues on March 4 this year, between 6.30am and 9.30am, and 4pm and 7pm; and the following day.

The results modelled there will be 546 vehicle trips per day, or about 55 trips per hour during peak periods, equal to one vehicle trip every minute.

The permit says other key developments in Cowes include the Isle of Wight site which will have a multi-storey 180 key hotel with conference and wellness centre.

Others include: 77 Chapel Street, a three-storey residential building with ground floor retail tenancies; and 46-48 Chapel Street (on the corner of Findlay Street), a five-storey apartment building with ground floor commercial tenancies.



Ray McCasker likes a practical joke - like this photo he concocted for the Darwin papers, sitting on a cow, feeding crocodiles - but his memoir "To Whom Do I Belong" is an extraordinary real-life story of the events that can fracture a family bond.

An extraordinary life

Ray McCasker is a bit of an Aussie larrikin. He doesn't mind a practical joke or spinning a good yarn to get a laugh from folks.

But his own extraordinary life story doesn't need any embellishment and now the 66-year-old grandfather has published a memoir, titled "To Whom Do I Belong".

Growing up in a loving home, Ray had "the best father a boy could ever want", recalling holidays spent working on his parents' house at Phillip Island - they built the first house in Sunset Strip in 1965 - or boogie boarding with his dad at Smiths Beach.

Life with his parents and four sisters was incredibly normal he said, until his father died of cancer when Ray was just 13.

"When he was dying, he asked me to look after mum, and his tools."

He took the request to heart, doing his best to fill the man's role in his family.

But with his dad gone, Ray said things were different - "I was very close to my father and he spoilt me" - and then a night out with his cousin, at the age of 21, changed his world for ever.

By accident, Ray found out he was adopted, and the man he called Uncle Roy was in fact his father.

His cousins were actually his sisters and the four sisters he grew up with, were his cousins.

He learned his biological mother had died before he was born, collapsing from a pulmonary embolism, with doctors performing an emergency caesarean and reviving her baby.

As Ray casually puts it, the first 21 years of his life were "pretty in-

teresting".

Discovering he was adopted had a devastating impact.

"I was a fake, a fraud, a counterfeit child," Ray writes in his memoir.

"I'd lost my rightful position in the McCasker family - the one thing I held close to my heart."

The book, which covers his childhood, the shocking revelation of his birth, his journey into adulthood including a marriage he describes as "the biggest mistake of my life", as Ray attempted to make sense of where he fitted in the world, is an absolute page turner.

Ray hopes the incredible tale, which is practically begging to become a screen play or film script, will help other people who struggle to find their place in their family, especially those who are adopted.

Although he currently lives in Darwin, Ray still owns the family house on Phillip Island and gets back here when he can.

At one stage, he lived on the island for seven years, running a successful smash repairs business and three of his five children were born here.

This trip, he's hoping locals and visitors will grab a copy of his book, read his story, and find something in it to help them on their own journey.

As for Ray, he's at peace with the choices, good and bad, he's made in his life.

"I'd like to be thought of as a person who's prepared to have a go."

Copies of "To Whom Do I Belong" are on sale now at Turn the Page Bookshop, IGA Cowes, Cowes Newsagency, NewsXpress Newhaven and the San Remo Newsagency.

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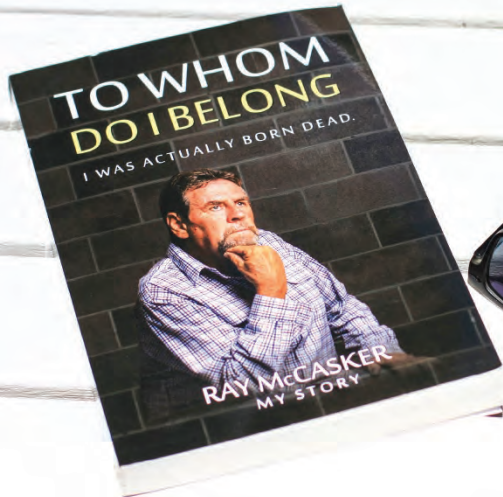
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Noble cause or “ego trip”: councillors debate Nobel Prize

Bass Coast Shire has weighed into Sweden's Nobel Prize, hoping to lobby for a new environmental sustainability category in the globally respected gongs.

However, the move copped flak from one Melbourne shock jock who suggested Bass Coast Shire councillors were “smoking marijuana”.

Cr Ronnie Bauer at the December meeting successfully moved a motion requesting the Municipal Association of Victoria petition Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to write to the governing authority of the Nobel Prize in Sweden to include a new category “Sustainability of the Planet”.

While Cr Bauer admitted it was “probably the most left field motion I could introduce”, Cr Leticia Laing described the idea as a “thought bubble” and “more of an ego trip”, while Cr Brett Tessari said it “was certainly no ego trip, and more from the heart”.

Cr Bauer argued the shire was already “ahead of the curve” in battling for the environment.

“What on earth does the Nobel prize have anything to do with our council activities?” he said.

“I as Ronnie Bauer or even Bass Coast Shire on its own will have no impact on the governing body of the Nobel Prize in Sweden.

“Australia throughout history has punched above its weight on the world stage and with the Office of the Prime Minister on board, who knows, a new category maybe created.”

Crs David Rooks and Laing voted against the motion, with Cr Rooks saying it was outside council's work and Cr Laing saying it was a waste of council's “time and resources”.

Cr Rochelle Halstead supported Cr Bauer.

“The people who are responsible for the awards don't always have answers and it can come from the community,” she said.

“I think it's a wonderful thing he's suggested.”

Cr Tessari said “why not reach for the sky and land somewhere in between the sky and the ground”.

“There are probably more important things in the shire but for



Cr Ronnie Bauer has eyes on the Nobel Prize.

the sake of a letter to the MAV I support this.”

Cr Bauer also successfully moved a motion to introduce a new “sustainable practices” category for citizen of the year.

3AW

Melbourne radio 3AW presenter Tom Elliott suggested Bass Coast Shire councillors were “smoking marijuana”.

“I just cannot stand it when councils go beyond the basics – roads, rubbish and rates,” Tom said on air last Thursday.

“It might even be a good idea, but the point is – why on earth is the Bass council wasting time and money working out ways to try and influence Sweden's Nobel Prize committee.

“Maybe these are good ideas

but frankly outside the purview of local council.”

Tom interviewed residents and also Dean Hurlston from Ratepayers Victoria who said Bass Coast Shire was “currently already at war with many locals” after banning them from communicating with elected councillors “because they don't like what's being asked”.

“Now they have got a council officer filtering locals' emails,” Dean said, referring to the email ban council has imposed on some ratepayers through its customer conduct policy.

Tom added he had approached councillors to talk to 3AW but councillors said they were unable to because the shire's media policy “would not allow them”.

“Councillors are stopped from free speech,” he added.



Most recently there has been concern that more than 3300 trees and plants will be removed to make way for a new retirement village between Settlement Road and Church Street near Justice Road, Cowes.

Trees to be protected from urban development

Trees on land set to be developed for housing will be given greater protection under a new Bass Coast Shire urban forest strategy.

Councillors at the December meeting approved the new strategy, the first of its kind for the region, which is out for public comment until February 20.

The strategy has a target of 40 per cent canopy in urban towns – (the optimal coverage for environmental and social benefits) – by 2040, with Cowes currently at about 30 per cent, with about 10,000 street trees and potential for 2000 more.

San Remo has few public trees, with just 445, and potential to plant more than 1000.

The strategy states no neighbourhood should fall below 25 per cent canopy coverage – (when health and community benefit decline) – with the shire now committing to plant 1500 trees annually, an increase of 1200 trees compared to the current program.

The strategy states with increasing pressure on urban towns to provide land for population growth, “there is an opportunity to rethink the planning of our last remaining greenfield subdivisions to elevate the importance of trees and vegetation”.

While concerns around vegetation loss is ongoing, most recently there has been criticism that more than 3300 trees and plants will be removed to make way for a new retirement village between Settlement Road and Church Street near Justice Road, Cowes.

Locals were also critical of the loss of mature gums on a new subdivision on the old market site at Settlement Road, as well as the former Islander Caravan Park.

Under the strategy, the shire will improve policies and controls in the planning scheme to protect trees, as well as developing a tree protection policy for construction in subdivisions.

They will create guides for the right plantings in the correct locations, including for climate resilience, with native and indigenous vegetation prioritised.

Furthermore, the shire will advocate for increased penalties for the damage or removal of vegetation without approvals and continue to respond to damage of public or foreshore vegetation.

“Doing this will provide greater live-

ability of our townships. The protection of trees is vital to retaining our townships' character and environment,” the strategy says, explaining the benefits of local trees.

The shire will create a detailed tree inventory under its new significant tree register bylaw, which comes into force on January 1, 2023 (more details in the January 5 Advertiser).

Aerial

The shire manages 24 per cent of urban land in Bass Coast, with 76 privately owned.

The shire used aerial imagery to investigate vegetation cover on both public and private land, showing Cowes, Grantville, Inverloch, and Wonthaggi all record over 30 per cent public cover.

San Remo has a higher cover of vegetation on its private land than public, and Wonthaggi has the lowest private vegetation cover of all of the towns at only 11 percent.

Mayor Michael Whelan said Bass Coast's existing urban forest was under increasing pressure from development and climate change and the best defence was to grow the urban forest.

“While most of our townships enjoy a decent amount of greenery, with an average of 25 per cent urban forest cover across our largest townships, we can't afford to take that for granted,” Cr Whelan said.

“Today's urban forest faces some serious threats such as climate change and urban development.

“We hope our community and landholders will embrace our vision for urban greening and grow the urban forest on their land too.”

Cr Rochelle Halstead said “anything that encourages planting of trees is a positive”.

“A green Bass Coast will deliver so many benefits,” she added.

The strategy was created from an earlier draft, which saw 224 people complete an online survey and four community groups provided detailed submission forms.

Results showed 91 per cent want more trees planted across Bass Coast.

Following community feedback on the strategy to February 20, the final strategy will be released before June 2023.

Don't miss The Island

The latest edition of The Island is out now.

A free colour magazine produced by The Advertiser, The Island celebrates the people and places of Phillip Island and San Remo. You'll find it in cafes, restaurants, stores, accommodation and attractions. Copies are also available from our

office at 60 Chapel Street in Cowes and your friendly local newsagents.

This edition (our third) has some wonderful local stories and information about things to do over the holidays, including a handy listing of the best places to eat, play or stay.

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CHICORY PUBLISHING

Bass Coast Community awards on the move

Bass Coast Shire Council has voted to move the annual community awards from January to May to coincide with National Volunteer Week.

Councillors endorsed a recommendation to create an inclusive local award that celebrates contributions made to the Bass Coast community. The change takes effect from 2023.

Citizenship ceremonies will continue to be held on January 26.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Michael Whelan welcomed the change of date for the community awards because the current timing not only constrained participation and because the Bass Coast awards are confused with the Australia Day awards.

"We are really looking forward to celebrating the enormous contribution of our community during National Volunteers Week and this positive change will provide a greater focus for our Bass Coast outstanding citizens as well as an opportunity for a more inclusive celebration for our whole community," Cr Whelan said.

Cr Whelan said the council did not have a formal position on whether Australia Day should remain on January 26, but said it was reducing its activity – and in particular "celebrations" – associated with January 26, in line with many other Victorian councils.

"We do acknowledge the national debate and recognise that Australia Day is painful for many Australians and not celebrated by all," Cr Whelan said.

"Many members of our First Nations community have also expressed to council their sadness regarding the January 26 date.

"Reconciliation is important to our whole community and it is important to show leadership.

"We are also aware that some young people will not nominate for Young Citizen of the Year due to a negative association regarding January 26.

"At least two of the last six years have not received any nominations for Young Citizen of the Year.

"Bass Coast also looks forward to welcoming new citizens to the area on Australia Day and at other ceremonies throughout the year."

Splashing out

The Year 6 class from Cowes Primary took a giant leap this week. The students, alongside Principal Rodney McKenzie and Assistant Principal Sarah Tyrell celebrated the end of their primary school years with a splash, jumping off the Cowes Jetty on Monday.



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Anthony, Nicole, Sophie and Delilah Schellekens from Bass had their picnic rug out and were feasting on fish and chips, ready to enjoy the carols. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



A happy group of locals, ready to enjoy the carols. Mish Say, Kyra Leary, Ryah Maird, Kiani Eden, Courtney, Mila and Winter Shepherd, Joey Leary. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

San Remo celebrates Christmas

San Remo kicked off the local Christmas celebrations with Carols by Candlelight on the foreshore last Friday.

Presented by the San Remo/Newhaven Lions Club, the event returned after two years of Covid cancellations and included a special visit from Santa, along with carols and performances from the children of San Remo and Newhaven primary schools, and San Remo kinder.

Around 800 people came along to enjoy the night.

Santa made a special appearance, handing out lollies to the children

and the Lions BBQ was kept busy.

The Wonthaggi Brass Band headed up the singalong component of the program, with Carols stalwart, Bern Carrol adding her special Christmas touch as she does each year.

Nici Cahill from Snapshot Photography was on hand to capture all the joy.

Special thanks to the carols sponsors: Bass Coast Shire Council, Bendigo Bank, First Choice Real Estate, Westernport Water, Phillip Island RSL, plus My 24/7 Gym who sponsored the giant screen.

More photos at pisra.com.au



Margaret Keating, Maree Keating and Tess Lee from San Remo, and Karen Cahill from Newhaven got themselves seated to enjoy the carols performances. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



MC Paul Cooper and grand-daughter Evie Rose Lowe, on stage singing "Feliz Navidad". Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



The San Remo Lions Club presented the carols night, and their popular barbeque was busy keeping everyone fed. John Battista, Phyllis Knotley, Robin Edmonds and Andrew Page. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



For anyone needing a pick-me-up, the Revive Mobile Café was on hand, with coffee, soft drinks and Christmas snacks. Paul White, Madison Margrie, Chloe Bursill and Imogen Linsey. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Crowd favourites, the children from San Remo Kindergarten got into the Christmas spirit. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



After days of rain and wind, the sun was shining as crowds gathered on the San Remo foreshore last Friday for a visit from Santa and carols. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Santa arrived, courtesy of the San Remo fire brigade. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



San Remo primary school students were part of the carols entertainment. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Newhaven primary school students at Carols by Candlelight in San Remo. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



The Wonthaggi Citizens Band provided the musical accompaniment on the night. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

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PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER



PICAL is now operating from its new premises at 16 Warley Avenue, with limited services operating over the holiday period.

PICAL's Christmas dates and service

The Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre has finished the year in new premises at Warley Avenue. The move has meant the traditional PICAL Christmas hampers did not happen this year, and the Christmas Day lunch usually held at St Philip's Anglican Church is also not going ahead. However Centre Manager Greg Thompson said donations to the Food Pantry were very welcome. "The Christmas/New Year holiday period is a time when there is increased demand on

PICAL's Food Relief Pantry, and particularly this year with increased costs of living putting extra pressure on household finances," he said. "So if anyone has any capacity to donate cash and/or spare packaged food products (which are still within their use-by dates), we will gratefully accept these donations." PICAL services will still operate across the festival season.

- Food Relief Pantry: 10am – 2pm each weekday (except public holidays)
- PICAL Reception limited service only
- PICAL's normal range of services will resume again on Monday, January 9.
- Mr Thompson said the entire team of PICAL sent season's greetings to the community and was looking forward to welcoming people at the new premise.
- PICAL: 16 Warley Avenue Cowes. Phone 5952 1131 or email: reception@pical.org.au
- Services Australia Agency: 9am – 2pm each weekday (except public holidays)

PICAL opens its doors

The new Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) has officially opened its doors, providing a custom-designed adult learning space and neighbourhood house in Cowes. The new centre, which opened on December 12, provides a range of community services including emergency food relief, workplace training and employment advice, as well as workshops and a meeting place for local interest groups. Important support via referrals to welfare services, mental health counselling, family violence assistance and emergency accommodation is also available. The new centre, built by Arkit on the Old Warley Hospital site, comes after the former PICAL site was set aside for the new Phillip Island Community Hospital, which is now under construction

and is due to open in 2024. Mayor Michael Whelan said he was proud to open the new centre, which was an important pillar of the community. "Hubs such as the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre are often cornerstones in local communities and provide vital opportunities for social connection as well as educational, recreational and support activities," Cr Whelan said. "Since its inception 42 years ago, we have seen some innovative programs delivered by PICAL from training and educating local residents to reach their future employment goals to workshops allowing people to learn new skills or expand their knowledge, and as an outlet for like-minded individuals to collaborate on specialist projects or hobbies. "PICAL is an invaluable contributor to our community and this new building will enable the organisation to continue its much-needed work for many years to come."

Jeff Floyd Chair of PICAL said PICAL was entering an exciting new phase in its service to the community. "My sincere thanks to our incredible staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to make this big move happen. We will resume our full services in the new year." The \$1.95 million project on the 1017 square metre site – formerly the Warley hospital – was funded by Bass Coast Shire Council. The state contributed to the purchase of the Warley land, after the old PICAL site was bought by the government for the new community hospital. The Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre is located at 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes. For more information, visit www.pical.org.au

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor's Message, from Cr Michael Whelan

The festive season is upon us again in Bass Coast. Whether you celebrate Christmas or other traditions, I hope they are heart-warming and give you a chance to relax. Along with relaxation this time of year brings people together and prompts us to reflect on the year we've had, and celebrate. I hope that as many of you as possible can be reunited with family and friends at this special time of year. I acknowledge that Christmas can be a lonely and difficult time for some people in our community. Financial pressures will also be impacting many households. I encourage you to be generous

and kind to all in our community and keep each other safe. For many of you, this will be a busy summer season as we welcome visitors who choose to spend their holidays in Bass Coast. To all those working this festive season, thank you. Our healthcare, hospitality, business and community workers ensure that so many others across our region can enjoy a well-earned break. Throughout this year, I have been continually humbled by the passion and generosity of our community. Our community volunteers will, again throughout this season, serve a critical role supporting the vulnerable members of our community and be ready to act should any emergencies unfold. Your passion and

dedication is commendable. Christmas is also a time where we need to exercise extra care and patience, particularly on our roads. If you have any last-minute Christmas shopping to do, we encourage you to buy from local traders to support our local business economy. It's been wonderful to see our business community really get behind the new "Shop. Eat. Love Local." Campaign. For those looking ahead there are some fantastic New Year's Eve activities happening around the region, including fireworks in Inverloch, Cowes and Coronet Bay. On behalf of my fellow councillors and Bass Coast Shire Council staff, I wish you a safe and joyful festive season.



Dr Sayed (left) and his team at Phillip Island Dental, seen here with happy patient Rev Jo White, offer friendly and professional care for the entire family.

Smile for the island's family dentist

Phillip Island Dental offers friendly and professional care for the entire family. Principal dentist Dr Sayed has been working locally for over nine years and two years ago set up his own practice at Settlement Road in Cowes. While this might be a new practice, Dr Sayed is well known to many in the community and is proud to offer a first-class dental service to Phillip Island and surrounds. While Dr Sayed's personal expertise and passion is in cosmetics and implants dentistry, the clinic offers a wide range of services including:

- Check up and clean
- Cosmetic dentistry
- Dental implants
- Wisdom teeth removal
- Children's dentistry
- Teeth whitening

Orthodontist Dr Frank Noronha also works from the clinic and provides clear aligners and traditional braces.



Dr Sayed has worked locally for over nine years and two years ago set up his own practice in Settlement Road in Cowes.

The clinic, which opened in 2020 is fitted with the most recent technology and equipment, including the OPG x-ray machine which can take a panoramic scan of your mouth, to accurately assess the health of your teeth and gums. For those – young and old – who are nervous about visiting the dentist, Dr Sayed and his team have a very gentle approach, especially with children, and pride themselves on carefully explaining all procedures to patients. As well as using diversionary technology (music and media) to calm the nerves, the clinic is also experimenting with virtual reality to help patients feel relaxed and calm, before and during ap-

pointments. It accepts all health insurance cards and has HICAPS so you can claim your dental extras benefits on the spot. As an Accredited Dental Practice, it also partners with several health funds, ensuring members receive even greater benefits. New clients are always welcome, including visitors to the island who may need emergency dental care. Busy families will appreciate the clinic's extended hours, open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Six monthly visits to the dentist are recommended. That way, if there are any problems, they can be identified and fixed early, before bigger and more expensive issues arise. You can book online or call the clinic to talk to one of the friendly staff. Phillip Island Dental. Shop 3, 209-213 Settlement Road, Cowes, or call (03) 9120 2122. www.phillipislanddental.com.au /Sponsored Article /

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Colour and light on exhibition

Acclaimed local artists David Taylor, Diana Edwards and Tom Tyrrell have combined their talents to present another special art exhibition in Cowes in January, at the Iluka Studio Gallery in Silverleaves.

Titled "Colour and Light" the exhibition will open on New Year's Day (January 1) and run daily from 10am to 4.30pm until January 30.

The annual Iluka Gallery exhibition is a "must" on the local events calendar and continues to grow in popularity every year.

Now in its fourth year, well over 100 water colours painted by the trio over the last 12 months will be on display, featuring the natural beauty of Phillip Island, Bass Coast and beyond.

The works, all for sale, are framed and unframed, which will be particularly convenient for travellers.

David is a world acclaimed water colour artist, and Diana qualified for Artist of the Year entry at the Australian Guild of Realist Artists last year.

Tom Tyrrell is well known for the magnificent local landscapes and seascapes he produces.

David and Diana opened the Iluka Art Studio in 2014 after moving to Phillip Island and teamed up with Tom Tyrrell in the ensuing years to stage their first joint exhibition in 2019.

The friendship extends to the golf course, and the trio regularly enjoy painting expeditions together.

They describe their work as realist impres-

sionism, and themselves as "en plein air" artists, who love to paint outdoors in the landscape.

They seek out places of natural beauty, of which there are plenty in our local environment, with some stunning work from vantage points on Scenic Estate part of the exhibition this year.

The three travel much further afield independently as well, drawing inspiration from each place they visit.

David and Diana give art classes in their Iluka Studio in Silverleaves. Students are also taken along on painting field trips, with classes limited to ten. New students are always welcome.

This coming year will see David also conducting workshops for students along the Murray River, and at several Queensland locations.

He continues to work internationally, recently winning a prestigious Malaysian award, with entrants from 63 countries.

Visitors to the exhibition can spend time in the surrounding spacious and shady garden, and enjoy a glass of wine or tea and coffee in between viewing the art work on display.

Greeting cards featuring a selection of prints will also be available, both individually and in sets.

Iluka Studio Gallery: 28 Settlement Road Cowes. Phone: 0427 947 889.

"Color and Light" opens on January 1 and runs daily 10am and 4.30 pm until January 30. / Sponsored Article /



Dianna Edwards and David Taylor preparing for the Iluka Studio Gallery art exhibition "Colour and Light" which opens on January 1.



Organiser Sam Hampstead with local police officers, at the first Phillip Island charity Christmas Toy Run, with the toys being distributed to local families in need.

Bikes kick off Phillip Island's inaugural toy run

Santa's many helpers took part in Phillip Island's first charity Christmas toy run this month.

Cowes parents Sam and Jason Hampstead – who run Dead4Eva in Cowes – organised the run, which saw a cavalcade of more than 80 motorbikes depart their Thompson Ave store in the morning, travel to Tooradin, before heading back to the Phillip Island Baptist Church.

Toys were delivered to families doing it tough last week.

Sam said locals were continuing to make donations – including food vouchers.

"We will have gifts available until Christmas Eve or until they are all gone," she said.

"Riders came from all over Victoria for this ride, from as far as Seymour.

"This is the first toy run and those who participated have made history for Phillip Island. There will be many more to come."

Sam thanked local Cowes businesses who helped contribute: Archisign, Phillip Island Bakery, Baker's Delight, Offshore Design, Flowers of Phillip Island, H-Bombs Barber Shop and Dead4Eva Designs.

Marrina Mouse's Christmas party

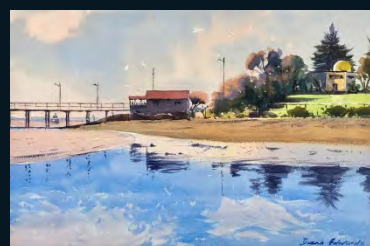
The Rhyll Hall was transformed into a Gingerbread House by Marrina Mouse's Theatre House, as the students got into the Christmas spirit.



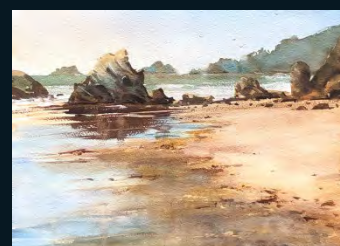
Amber Kholsa sending off a letter to Santa at Marrina Mouse's Theatre House



Ava Hardisty was as sparkling as a Christmas ornament when the Marrina Mouse's Theatre House had a Gingerbread House at the Rhyll Hall.



Early Morning Magic, Cowes by Diana Edwards



Reflections in the Sand, Walkerville by Tom Tyrrell



Happy Moments Gullivers, Cowes by David Taylor

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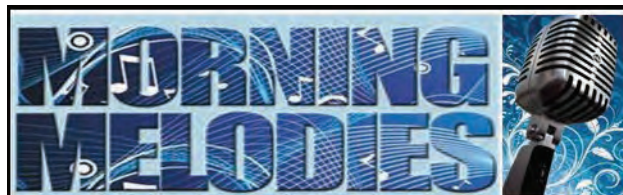
Recent artwork from the Bass Coast and surrounding districts and many areas of travel in Australia and overseas.

Enjoy these special moments, a special time of sharing the beauty of art through the eyes of each artist.

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Ocean Sounds again

After a successful event in December, Ocean Sounds returns to Churchill Island with another incredible line-up on January 7, 2023.

Headlined by John Butler, The Waifs, Mama Kin Spender and rising San Remo singer-songwriter Steph Strings, this will be the sixth time the family-friendly concert has been held on Churchill Island.

Alongside the headline acts, this very special summer edition of Ocean Sounds Festival also features Carissa Nyalu and The Laing Brothers.

Organisers Rhett and Aidan McLaren from The Hills are Alive said this line up is the best yet, featuring some of Australia's best and most loved live acts.

Once again, the festival has a strong local focus, showcasing food and wine from the region against the stunning backdrop of Churchill Island's water views.

The family friendly atmosphere is designed to encourage music lovers of all ages to come and enjoy the day, with activities on offer for kids, big and small.

"We have shade tents and chill out areas and lots of lawn games," Aidan said.

"Ocean Sounds really is for music lovers of all ages. John Butler and The Waifs are multi-generational acts now."

Eco-friendly

Transport options on the day will include shuttle buses from different locations across Phillip Island and the region, to encourage people to leave their cars behind.

The festival's proud environmental focus will continue with January 7 declared a full plastic free event.

Food offerings will include an abundance of local food and wine.

"There will be a variety of gourmet food trucks and our aim is to celebrate the region," said Aidan.

"Come along, have a drink, have something to eat, enjoy the view and some amazing live music."

John Butler is one of Australia's premiere alternative songwriters and storytellers with accolades spanning from 34 ARIA nominations, three number one albums and 21 Triple J Hottest 100 entries across his illustrious career as one of the country's most successful independent musicians.

The original road warriors, The Waifs have built a career out of continually circling Australia and the globe thanks to their enchanting live shows and affable natures. With a career spanning more than 25 years, multiple ARIA Awards,

platinum albums, and countless world tours, The Waifs continue to share their folk-infused, feel-good sounds with adoring, now multi generation audiences.

Mama Kin Spender is a rattle and hum call across the desert plains. An ARIA-nominated duo of mischief-makers, wholeheartedly committed to community, MKS is Mama Kin (aka Danielle Caruana), a storyteller and dream weaver with a penchant for soul-baring; and Dingo Spender, a producer and song man with remarkable instrumental dexterity.

Hot off a tour which included sold-out shows across Europe, local singer songwriter Steph Strings will be right at home on Ocean Sounds' big stage, with her unique blend of Celtic, Blues and coastal fingerstyle indie rock.

So it's time to get ready for picnic rugs, smiling friends, stunning local wines, gourmet food, the summer-sun softly setting over the ocean and some of Australia's most amazing live music!

Bring your family, friends, good vibes and enjoy a memorable experience of quality music in a relaxed, atmospheric and picturesque environment.

Tickets available at www.oceansoundsfestival.com.au

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John Butler headlines the January 7 Ocean Sounds Festival, along with The Waifs and Mama Kim Spender.

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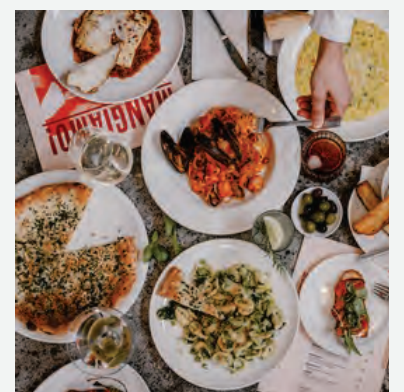
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From Boxing Day, Woolamai, Smiths Beach and Cowes foreshore beach will have lifesavers on duty, from 10am – 6pm, seven days a week.



There are dangerous rips at many of Phillip Island's ocean beaches, so swimming on an unpatrolled beach can be deadly. Photo: Phillip Island Helicopters.

Don't risk the rip – swim at a patrolled beach

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WB-SLSC) patrols are operating over summer, to keep everyone safe in the water.

Woolamai and Smiths Beach are both currently patrolled from 10am – 6pm during the week.

On Saturday, Woolamai patrols start at 10am and finish at 5pm, while Smiths Beach patrols run from 10am – 6pm.

On Sunday, Woolamai patrols will finish at 4pm, while Smiths will again be patrolled until 6pm.

From Boxing Day through to January 26, Cowes foreshore beach will also have lifesavers on duty, with all three beaches patrolled from 10am – 6pm, seven days a week.

"With the summer holidays upon us, WB-SLSC would like to remind everyone to stay safe around the water," said Ryan Box, the club's director of communications.

"Please make sure you swim between the flags and know your limits, and have a chat to one of our friendly lifesavers or lifeguards who will be able to give you more information on the conditions."

Any changes to the patrol schedule will be shared on Facebook @WoolamaiBeachSLSC.

Ryan encouraged all beach goers to look at the signage displayed before going into the water.

Safety

Life Saving Victoria area lifesaving manager east region Hannah Tzimokas also said beach goers needed to take care in the water.

"We are excited to welcome visitors and locals alike to Phillip Island's stunning beaches this holiday season, but safety must be front of mind whenever you are in, on, or around water.

"The easiest decision you can make to prevent festivities from turning into fatalities is to swim between the red and yellow flags at a patrolled location, such as Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Cowes or Smiths Beach, where lifesavers or lifeguards can keep an eye on you and any potential risks, including rips, and help if you find yourself in trouble."

Ms Tzimokas said it was important not to swim alone and to make sure children were always supervised around water.

"In addition to swimming between the flags, remember to always swim with a friend and actively supervise children, which means always keeping under-fives within arm's reach and under-tens in your constant and direct eyeline, without distractions such as checking your phone or ducking off for a coffee.

"Finally, if you are celebrating the holiday season with an alcoholic drink, it is imperative you only do so after you have finished all aquatic-related activities.

"In the past decade, 34 per cent of fatal drownings were known to involve alcohol or other drugs."

Each year over 50 people are rescued from the surf at Cape Woolamai, with the island's ocean beaches claiming at least seven lives since January 2016.

The start of a new year is always a dangerous time in the water.

According to Life Saving Victoria, five people drowned in the first two days of 2022, with half of the drownings in 72 hours involving children

aged 0 – 14 years.

In addition to the fatalities, lifesavers rescued 44 people in 72 hours – each of which could have had a very different outcome if lifesavers weren't there.

For any questions about the local patrol times or other general beach safety questions, please contact WBSLSC on Facebook @WoolamaiBeachSLSC or Instagram @woolamaibeachslsc.

For more information about the club visit www.woolamaibeach.org.au

To find your nearest patrolled location, head to beachsafe.org.au.

Rips

There are dangerous rips at many of Phillip Island's ocean beaches, so swimming on an unpatrolled beach can be deadly.

At the start of December, local surfers rescued five people from a rip at Berrys Beach.

According to research by Surf Life Saving Australia, most Australians don't know how to spot a rip, and two out of three people who think they can get it wrong.

"Rips can overcome even the strongest swimmer," said Ms Tzimokas.

"While the best way to avoid being caught in a rip is swimming between the flags, there are also visual cues that can indicate a rip current, such as fewer breaking waves, dirty or discoloured water, dark patches of water, or sand or debris floating beyond the surf zone.

"A rip is unlikely to pull you under the water, but it will pull you out – and it can do so with surprising force.

"If you do find yourself caught in a rip, try to remain calm.

"Raise your arm to alert lifesavers or beachgoers that you're in trouble, and then let the rip take you out while you wait for help. When it releases you, use the breaking waves to come back to shore.

"Alternatively, you can swim parallel to the shore until you're in the break zone, then use those waves to take you back in."

Rock fishing

Sadly, San Remo and Phillip Island are known as blackspots for drowning in Victoria, including fishers being washed off rocks.

In January 2022, a woman drowned after being washed off the rocks near the George Bass Coastal Walk and Punchbowl Road.

At the start of 2020, a fisherman was killed when he was washed off the rocks at Punchbowl Road, the third such death in four months. Since 2000 there have been seven deaths of anglers at Punchbowl, which represents a third of all rock fishing deaths in Victoria in the last two decades.

In October 2021 it was announced that two popular San Remo fishing locations – Punchbowl and the rocks at the southern end of Pottery Hill Road – would be included in a trial into fishing safety, requiring fishers to wear life-jackets when fishing.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) said tragically many rock fishers have died after being swept off coastal rock shelves and the evidence was irrefutable that wearing a life jacket substantially reduced the risk of drowning if a fisher is swept off the rocks.

Cowes outdoor pool open for the summer

The Cowes outdoor pool will return to operation for the summer of 22-23.

After a two year break due to the Covid pandemic and challenges with staff resourcing, the pool is set to reopen on Thursday, December 22.

In a partnership with Bass Coast Y, Bass Coast Shire Council and Cowes Primary School, the pool operates from December 22 to January 25 (excl Christmas and New Year's) on days the temperature is 24C or above.

The pool consists of a solar heated 25m pool and toddler pool. Change rooms, kiosk and plenty of shade are available ... along with the bonus of no seaweed, sand or sharks. It is a great place to spend the afternoon with the family.

"We are so excited to be able to get this community project open again this year," the Y manager says.

"We would love to see local families utilising the pool on a regular basis and this year, for the first time, we will be recording how many local people visit.

"This information will assist the council to determine future year's operations. So putting it simply, we need your support!

"This year we have a great bunch of new staff and a few have returned from previous years.

"Thanks go to Chisholm for delivering a free Pool Lifeguard Course earlier this month which allowed us to recruit.

"Despite this, we do foresee that there may be some days we are unable to open due to staff availability so please be patient as we work through this."

The first day of operations will kick off on Thursday, December 22 with free access to



The Cowes outdoor pool is back and open from December 22 to January 25 from 1pm to 6pm. Join the Cowes Outdoor Pool Facebook page for daily updates.

all participants. Operating hours are 1pm to 6pm.

The Y team operate the outdoor pool in line with the Lifesaving Victoria Watch around Water guidelines which require visitors to follow the supervision requirements: children under five must be in arms reach of parent or guardian; children under 10 must be actively supervised by parent or guardian.

The following supervision ratios apply: a maximum of two children under five years with one adult; a maximum of four children under 10 in total with one adult (of which only two can be under five).

Check out all the details on the Phillip Island YMCA website and join the Cowes Outdoor Pool facebook page for daily updates.

"We look forward to seeing you, family and friends," says the Y.

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New Year's Eve candlelight walk at San Remo

The 16th New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk is happening on New Year's Eve in San Remo.

The walk, on the homelands of the Yalluk Bulluk clan of the Bunurong people, celebrates the Oldest Continuous Culture on Earth and is a chance to reflect on a different Australia, where its First People can live in an equitable, fair, just, and inclusive society.

"At this time in our shared history, we need to respond to First People's invitation to walk together to build a better future by establishing a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Constitution," Lorraine Rodda, event organiser said. (Read more: fromtheheart.com.au/)

Lorraine said the government's critical Nation-building work is to ensure that First People are front and centre in decision-making and advising on how to harness the goodwill in the Australian community.

Ken Wyatt, former Aboriginal Affairs Minister, who released the cross-party study on enshrining the Voice to the Parliament is now in-



involved in the Governments Referendum work. (Read the report: voice.niaa.gov.au/final-report)

"The art of walking a labyrinth on New Year's Eve is visualising you're walking in the footsteps of the First People," Lorraine said.

"Then, by listening with your heart, bring to mind the impact of colonisation and beyond on their traditional way of life, not the least the trauma to families, loss of culture and language, and the care of the land.

"Unlike a maze with many false leads and dead ends, the labyrinth has one path into the centre and the same path out, which means your thinking brain relaxes, allowing

clarity and insight into your walk's intention to surface.

"People walking labyrinths often find a new perspective from a simple meditative walk; then, when integrated into their walk's purpose, they find it easier to go forward from there."

Arrive for an 8.15pm start
Directions: Drive along the unmade section of Back Beach Road in San Remo. The labyrinth is on the right alongside a row of cypress trees.

Carparking is available, and Lions picnic facilities are nearby. The Bass Coast Shire maintains the grass labyrinth.

See out 2022 with a bang

Official fireworks across Bass Coast on new year's eve are all family-friendly events, scheduled for 9.30pm.

There are no official midnight fireworks.

Cowes fireworks will run from 9.30pm to 9.45pm from the Cowes jetty. Enjoy the spectacle from the foreshore, at The Esplanade.

Coronet Bay holds a New Year's Eve event, kicking off at 6pm and culminating in 9.30pm fireworks on the Coronet Bay Foreshore, Cutty Sark Road.

Inverloch's 9.30pm fireworks are at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve, Sandymount Avenue.

A reminder to please keep pets safe during the fireworks, as many find fireworks extremely distressing.

Dogs and horses may run away if they are frightened by fireworks.

Make sure your pets are secure and



Official fireworks across Bass Coast on new year's eve, including in Cowes, are all family-friendly events, scheduled for 9.30pm. Photo: Leanne Cairnduff.

can't escape or injure themselves.

If possible, domestic pets that are frightened by fireworks should be kept inside and not left alone.

For tips on managing pets during fireworks, visit rspcavic.org/learn/managing-pets-during-fireworks-or-thunderstorms/

Fireworks feedback

Fireworks. Do you love them or hate them? Would you like more of them, or prefer them to run later in the evening? Or perhaps you think it's time we looked at an eco-friendlier way to see in the new year.

Bass Coast Shire Council is seeking community feedback on having fireworks as part of Council's Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations.

Council has committed to deliver fireworks as part of the Cowes Christmas Carols and New Year's Eve celebrations for the next three years (until 2024) and wants to

evaluate the impact and benefits of these events. In addition to community and visitor feedback, the council said it will also be seeking further information on the environmental and economic impacts of fireworks and the events held around these displays.

"We aim to balance the needs of residents, business owners, visitors and the environment while creating a vibrant destination for all to enjoy," a council spokesperson said.

Feedback this year will be open until January 31 at engage.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/eoycelebrations

Island Foreshore Market

The popular Island Foreshore markets returns to the Esplanade in Cowes this summer.

With live music, food trucks and

market stalls, its not just about shopping – it's an afternoon and evening of fun and entertainment.

The market runs from 2pm to

9pm. Bring your picnic rug and your dancing shoes.

Market dates: December 27 and 30. January 7, 14, 21 and 28.

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6.30 - 9.30PM

Minimum four per lane | Every night over the school holidays

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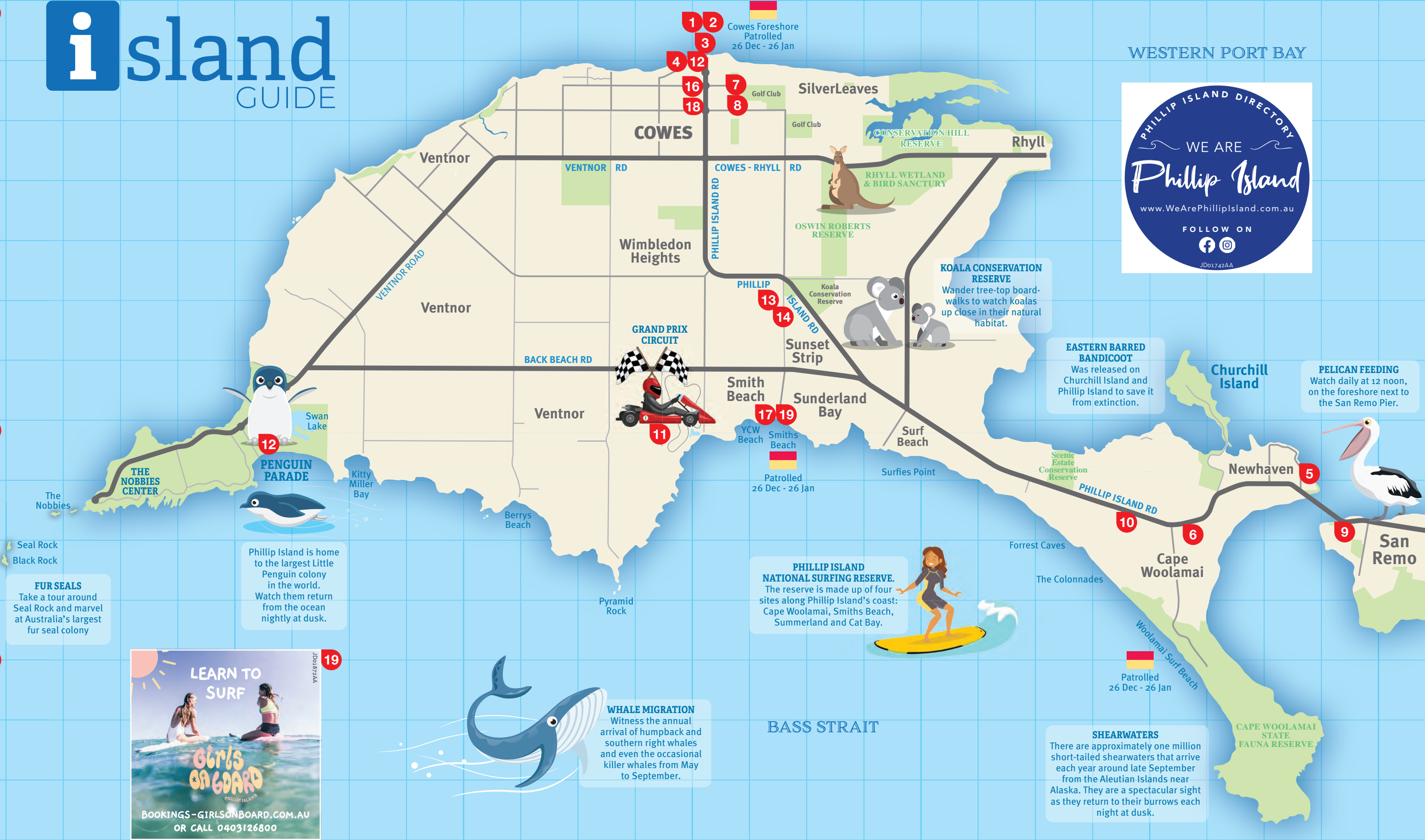
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Stocking Stumpers

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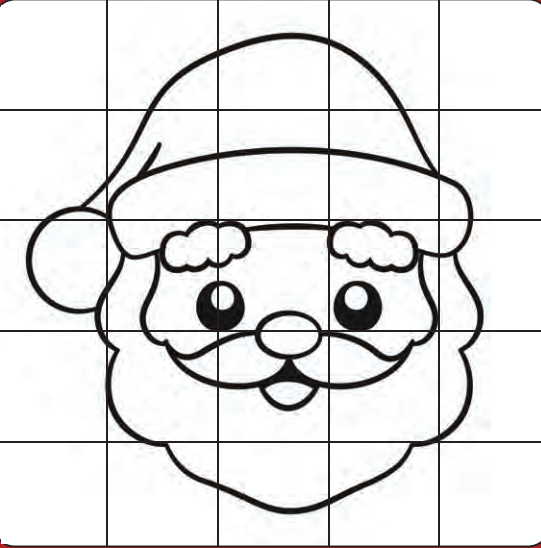
PARTY
RIBBON
ROAST
SEASON
SING
SLED
SLEIGH
STAR
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TREE
WREATH
XMAS
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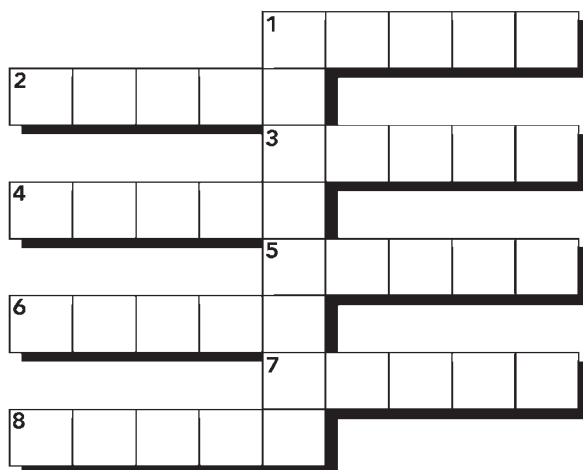
SOLUTIONS

SOLUTION: Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

DRAW ME



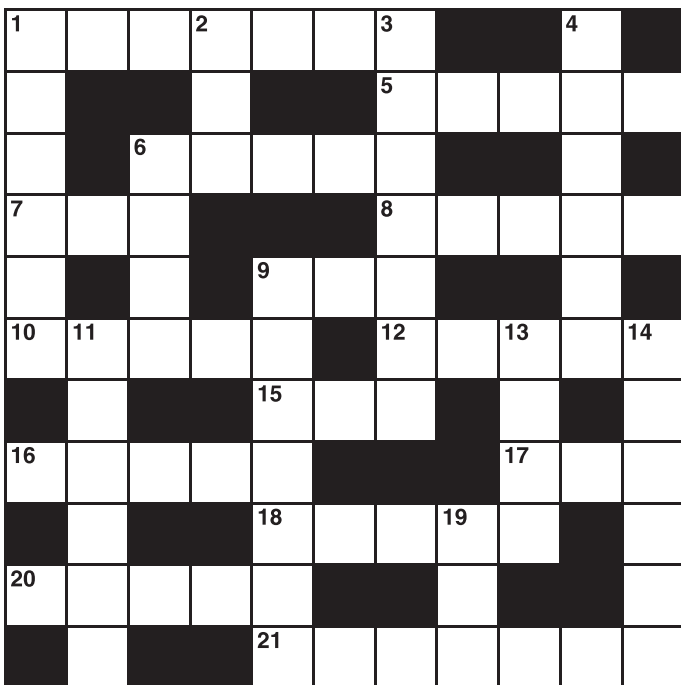
JUNIOR CROSSWORD



- 1 A waltz is one
- 2 When no one is fighting
- 3 You write on them for special occasions
- 4 Sound of a sneeze
- 5 Are you — for Christmas?
- 6 Mr Claus
- 7 They get decorated at Christmas time
- 8 What you do when you're happy

SOLUTION: Dance, Peace, Cards, Achoo, Ready, Santa, Trees, Smile (DECORATE).

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 White Christmas tree (7)
- 5 Justin Bieber song, — the Mistletoe (5)
- 6 Falls from the sky in winter (5)
- 7 To rest (3)

DOWN

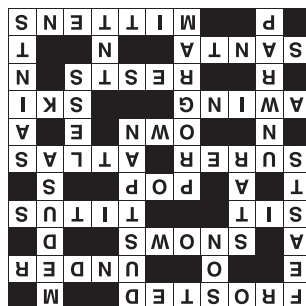
- 8 Christian Saint (5)
- 9 Small explosion (3)
- 10 More certain (5)
- 12 Book of maps (5)
- 15 To have (3)
- 16 Admiring (5)
- 17 You need this for skiing (3)

- 18 Relaxes (5)
- 20 Christmas visitor (5)
- 21 Gloves (7)

DOWN

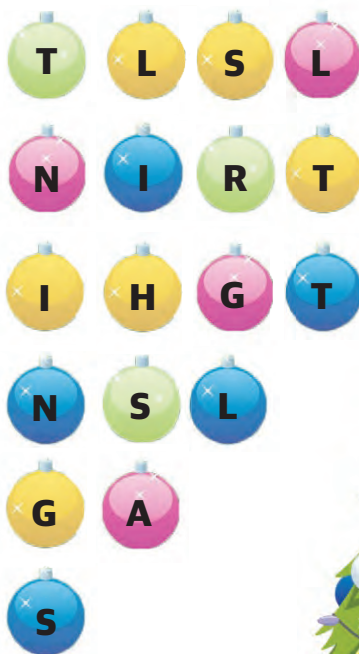
- 1 Christmas dinners (6)
- 2 Jesus is the — of God (3)
- 3 Used to sweep up rubbish (7)
- 4 In Greek mythology, she had snakes for hair (6)
- 6 A Christmas ornament (4)
- 9 Schedule (7)
- 11 You do this with presents (6)
- 13 Minus (4)
- 14 Holy people (6)
- 19 Explosive (1,1,1)

SOLUTIONS



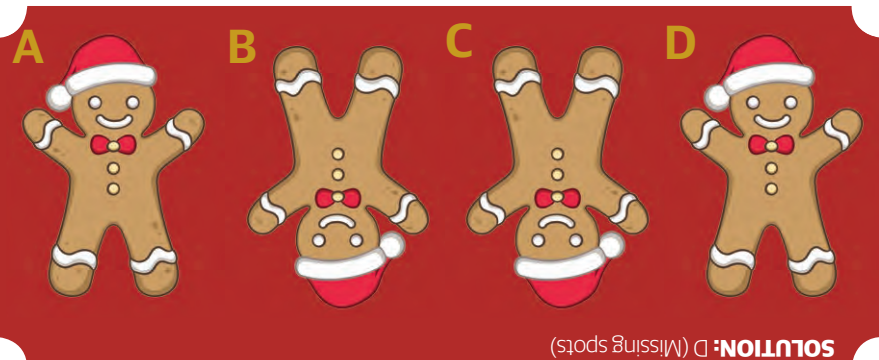
CHRISTMAS TREE JUMBLES

Can you rearrange the coloured baubles to work out what the tree was decorated with?



SOLUTIONS: Green — Star, Pink — Angel, Yellow — Lights, Blue — Tinsel

ODD ONE OUT



SOLUTION: D (Missing spots)

RIDDLE

Which one of Santa's reindeer can be seen on Valentines day?



SOLUTION: Cupid

WORD STEP

M E R R Y

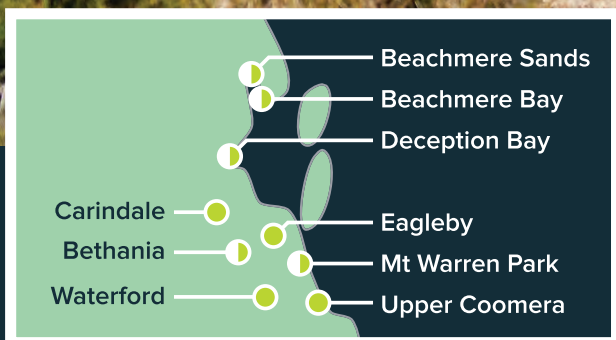
P A T C H

SOLUTION: Merry, Mercy, Merch, March, Patch

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You'll enjoy water and island views from this hilltop position in San Remo.



This substantial brick home is a short walk from the heart of San Remo village. Orientation is key here, with the rear of the home and garden capturing all northern and western light.

Island and exceptional bay views – location perfect

With dominant water and island views at hand as soon as you enter 61 Panorama Drive, this substantial brick home is certain to please. A superb opportunity to act now and secure a scarce hilltop position with supreme horizon views.

Large open plan kitchen, living and dining with study/bar nook, all overlooking Phillip Island and the San

Remo village and the island bridge. Orientation is key here, with the rear of the home and garden capturing all northern and western light.

The large, updated deck wraps around from the north offering significant space for entertaining and taking in the huge vista which includes the backdrop of Mornington Peninsula plus French Island and

Westernport Bay.

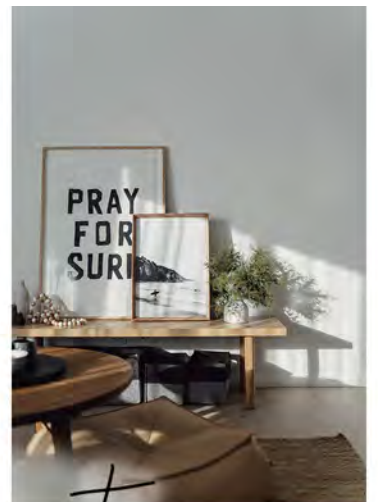
Three bedrooms all with robes are at top level, master has ensuite. Family bathroom is found here too. Downstairs is the spacious laundry, large family room/teenage retreat with built-in bar and offering the third bathroom and loo adjacent. This family room has access through to the oversized single

garage and the beautiful rear garden, all offering water views from ground level.

A spacious workshop/storage area exists beneath the home and is located off the driveway with a lockable door. Features within the home include, dishwasher, reverse cycle air-conditioning, ducted vacuuming, two living zones, three bath-

rooms and some of the most significant island and bay views on offer today.

A short walk will take you to the heart of the San Remo village, south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne an easy 90 minute drive away. A charming and very accommodating home perfect as is or modify with simple improvements over time.



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43 Phillip Island Rd Sunset Strip
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A welcoming home with corner position offering dual off street parking accessibility. Location a close walk to the Newhaven College Campus and an eight minute drive from Cowes and San Remo.



50 Back Beach Rd San Remo
Price \$969,000
4 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / 3 cars

Ideal location and with all the hard work done, this as new four-bedroom family home typifies relaxed seaside township living. Moments from the beach and shopping village, this stunning new home provides extensive and modern beachside living with the luxury of a minimal maintenance lifestyle.

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CONTACT AGENT

85 RIDGWAY ROAD, KILCUNDA



- First time offered in 60 years, set on 18 acres (approx.) with creek frontage
- Well maintained 2-bedroom brick home with open plan living and established gardens
- Sweeping views of the Kilcunda Coast

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11 HOPEWAY, COWES



- Brand-new double storey home with large undercover alfresco area
- Situated in the Shearwater Estate overlooking the Rhyll Wetlands
- 3 Beds/2 Baths/2 Cars

\$950,000 to \$990,000

LOT 2 COWES-RHYLL ROAD, COWES



- Approx. 80 acres with views over Westernport Bay and the Rhyll Inlet
- Offering excellent sites for a home STCA

\$1,500,000 to \$1,600,000

349 COGHAN ROAD, SILVERLEAVES



- Situated only 100m to the beautiful north facing Silverleaves beach
- Large north facing open plan kitchen, dining & living area
- 4 Beds/2 Baths/2 Cars

\$1,400,000

2B DOVER STREET, SUNDERLAND BAY



Greg Price
0419 337 441

Brian Silver
0407 347 509

Maree Malloy
0408 316 715

Chase Watters
0423 272 819

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

10 GLAMIS ROAD, VENTNOR



- Secluded 3.7 acres (approx.) with sweeping views of Bass Strait
- Well fenced for horses or small number of livestock
- Double garage, shedding & workshop
- 5 bed/2 bath/8 car

\$2,600,000 to \$2,800,000

43 BATMAN STREET, SURF BEACH



- Located on The Esplanade at Surf Beach with superb ocean views from Cape Woolamai to Pyramid Rock
- Massive 3 bay garage with entry to the home
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/4 Cars

\$2,250,000

216 COWES-RHYLL ROAD, RHYLL



- Totally self-sufficient, 7-star energy rated home.
- Set on 4.48ha (approx.) with sweeping views of Westernport Bay and French Island
- 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/4 Cars

\$3,100,000

7 SETTLEMENT ROAD, SILVERLEAVES



- 3.5 acres (approx.) with a modern farmhouse
- Adjacent to Cowes Golf Club and walking distance to popular Silverleaves Beach
- 4 bed/2 bath/2 car

\$1,800,000 to \$1,900,000

3 GLAMIS ROAD, VENTNOR



- Breathtaking location, directly above one of the Island's most spectacular surf breaks with uninterrupted views of Berry's Beach and surrounding headlands
- Tennis court & ornamental lake situated on approx. 2.5 acres
- 3 Beds/2 baths/2 cars

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

10 DUNVEGAN CRESCENT, SURF BEACH



- Historic homestead with amazing water and rural views
- Set on an impressive 1956m² allotment with established gardens
- 4 bed/2 bath/3 car

\$2,000,000 to \$2,100,000

25 HOPEWAY, COWES



- Situated in the Shearwater Estate, a short walk to Cowes Golf Club & Silverleaves Beach
- 6.0-star energy rated brick home with open plan living and large alfresco
- 4 Beds/2 Baths/2 Cars

\$1,000,000

18 DOUGLAS ROAD, COWES



- What a location! One street from main shopping strip
- Set on a huge 1949m² allotment
- 3 bed/1 bath/2 car

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

12 BARRY STREET, SUNDERLAND BAY



- Short walk to Surf Beach
- Open plan kitchen and living area
- 3 bed/1 bath/1 car

\$690,000 to \$720,000

6/46-48 JENNER AVENUE, COWES



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AND STAFF
WISH OUR
COMMUNITY A MERRY
FESTIVE SEASON
AND A VERY HAPPY,
HEALTHY 2023**

19 ANCHORAGE ROAD, VENTNOR



- Perfect weekender, just a short 150m walk to the beach
- Large private yard
- 3 bed/1 bath/1 car

\$780,000 to \$810,000

4 CAPE VISTA, CAPE WOOLAMAI



7 SEAGRASS AVENUE, COWES



- Fully fenced with established gardens situated in Shearwater Estate
- Open plan kitchen, living & dining
- 3 Beds/2 Baths/2 Cars

\$849,000

7 HOTHAM CLOSE, COWES



Serene secluded sanctuary

Encompassing the beauty of its picturesque locale, from the soothing scenery to the striking oceanside ambience of the nearby bay beaches, this charming property is a sanctuary of tranquillity in an elite pocket of Silverleaves. This delightful light-filled four-bedroom, three-bathroom home nestled within a peaceful and lush native setting, is an exceptional opportunity on approximately 1918sqm. Providing the ultimate blend of coastal bushland living and just moments from the local cafes, shops, culinary delights and Phillip Island's renowned attractions.

Warm, welcoming, and infinitely inviting, this magnificent home comes with two separate living areas, including formal living with an open fireplace. Equipped with all you need for family fun, the home opens to a relaxed recessed lounge, with a casual family/meals room and a well-appointed kitchen. The design allows a seamless flow and abundance of north/east light through the dining zone onto the spacious outdoor entertaining area and beautifully landscaped and fully fenced backyard.

The main bedroom features a walk-in robe and ensuite, pitched ceilings and double doors onto the private balcony, just for the parents. There are three further bedrooms, with built in robes, central bathroom, large second separate living space also with balcony and laundry with third bathroom.

This charming home is an idyllic retreat for all ages. Surprisingly central, you'll feel worlds away, yet only be moments from everything you need, including north facing bay beaches, cafes, shops, and plenty more in central Cowes.

Set on nearly half an acre and situated in a serene and relaxed court in Silverleaves just minutes from the general store and beautiful north facing beaches, this grand home awaits you.

Contact us at Stockdale & Leggo San Remo today for further information, available via private inspection.

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Price: \$2,400,000 – \$2,550,000

Contact: Jaime Morris 0408 367 310



Warm, welcoming, and infinitely inviting, this magnificent home comes with two separate living areas, including formal living with an open fireplace.



An exceptional opportunity on approximately 1918sqm, providing the ultimate blend of coastal bushland living and just moments from the local cafes and shops.

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Emma Wouters
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mike.foenander@obre.com.au



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Seasons Greetings



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Judith Wright

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3 BED 2 BATH 2 CAR

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Set on 18 acres, a well maintained two-bedroom brick home has elevated coastal views with open plan living and established gardens.

Coastal views on the edge of town

Often sought but very rarely found, this charming property with sweeping views of the Kilkunda coast and trestle bridge will suit those wanting space, privacy and potential future growth.

The property is set on 18 acres (approx.) with a creek frontage and water reserve crown lease which

adds at least another five acres of grazing.

A well maintained two-bedroom brick home has elevated coastal views with open plan living and established gardens.

Adding to the property's appeal is farm shedding and stock handling facilities. First time offered in 60

years, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to secure a premium coastal acreage property.

Inspection by appointment. Terms 10 per cent with up to 90 days settlement.

Auction: Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 12pm on site.

Agent: Greg Price 0419 337 441.



Polished timber floors, high ceilings and extensive use of glass to the north and south accentuate the bright inviting ambience through the spacious open plan living and dining room.

Breathtaking location with spectacular views

An absolutely breathtaking location directly above one of the island's most spectacular surf breaks affords this unique clifftop property with spectacular uninterrupted views of Berrys Beach and surrounding headlands.

Idyllically situated within the natural environment, a haven for local fauna and birdlife and surrounded by approximately 2.5 acres (8361sqm) of coastal inspired landscaped gardens with your own mod grass tennis court, this sensational contemporary coastal retreat has been brilliantly designed to provide ocean views from every room.

Polished timber floors, high ceilings and extensive use of glass to the north and south accentuate the

bright inviting ambience through the spacious open plan living and dining room with open fireplace and a well-equipped kitchen. Sliding doors open to expansive decks on both sides offering sheltered year-round outdoor entertaining options.

Three bedrooms with BIRs and two bathrooms includes master with stunning ensuite featuring a deep relaxing bath overlooking the ocean. Features include electric heating, laundry, outdoor shower, double garage, storage and ornamental lake.

Call Alex Scott & Staff today on 5952 2633 to arrange a private inspection, you will not be disappointed!

WHAT'S YOUR PROPERTY WORTH?



16 Pike Street, San Remo
Vacant Land
656m2



4 Mondoora Drive, San Remo
4 Bed | 2 Bath | 2 Car
552m2



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Leanne Poulton
0437 441 127



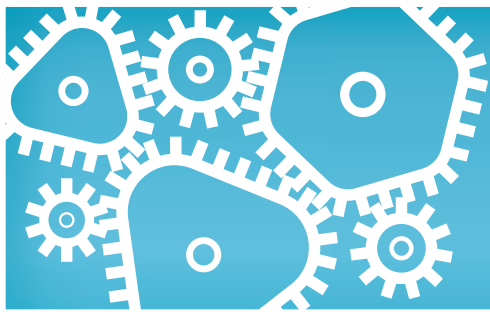
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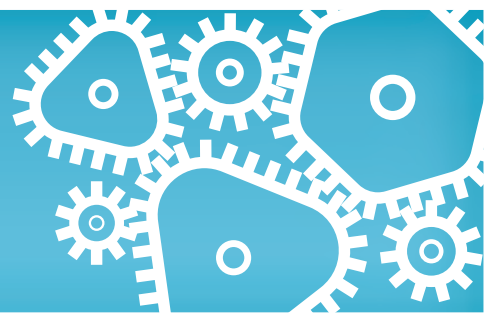
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JD0913AA

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- Associate Nurse Unit Manager – Emergency**
Permanent Part Time/ all hours considered
- Medical Workforce Officer**
Permanent Full time & Part Time – Closes 23/12/2022
- Coding Educator / Auditor**
Permanent Part Time – Closes 31/12/2022
- Nurse Unit Manager Perioperative Service**
Permanent Full Time – Closes 04/02/2023
- Registered Nurse – Operating Suite**
Permanent Part Time & Casual – Closes 07/01/2023
- Allied Health Assistant**
Fixed Term Full Time – Closes 23/12/2022
- Surgical Liaison Nurse**
Fixed Term Part Time – Closes 03/02/2023
- Registered Nurse – Urgent Care Centre**
Permanent Full Time, Part Time – Closes 31/12/2022
- Perioperative Services Manager**
Permanent Full Time – Closes 03/02/2023
- Registered Nurse – Emergency**
Full Time, Part Time, Casual – Closes 31/12/2022
- Registered Nurse – District Nursing and Palliative Care**
Casual – Closes 31/12/2022

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JD0913AA



There is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to become a part of Banfields Aged Care

Banfields Aged Care is part of the Australian Aged Care Group which prides itself on imagination and innovation in caring for the aged, with a mission to excel in providing quality care services and accommodation. We are located at 192 Thompson Avenue, Cowes and the 90-bed facility is set amongst beautiful landscaped grounds.

Banfields Aged Care is inviting volunteers to become a part of the 'Lifestyle Teams Innovated Program' which is planned to enhance the residents' lifestyle.

Some of the ways you may wish to assist and support the program are by being involved in the: bus outings that occur one to two times a week (this varies week to week so flexibility is required); supporting residents with garden walks; wheelchair walks; bingo; hoi; happy hour; men's group activities; craft; art therapy; quizzes; BBQs; group discussion; etc.

This is a great opportunity to become involved with your local community and for further information, please do not hesitate to contact Reception on (03) 5951 2500.

It is a requirement that all volunteers have a current adult aged/disabled care police check and evidence of current influenza vaccination and 3 Covid-19 vaccinations.

Male volunteers are encouraged to apply!

JD01706AA



Wayne Darling is currently completing a Certificate III in Pathology Collection at Chisholm's Frankston campus, thanks to a scholarship from the Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation.

TAFE changes Wayne's world

A Phillip Island dad said studying at TAFE has given him a light at the end of a dark tunnel. Wayne Darling is currently completing a Certificate III in Pathology Collection at Chisholm's Frankston campus.

He was awarded a scholarship through the Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation following a series of personal difficulties, which began with the recent passing of his mother.

"I made some bad choices and ending up losing my driving licence and then my job. I was in a really dark place," said Wayne.

"I went through a lot and ended up with some serious health issues which left me partially disabled.

"I wasn't in a great place mentally, but getting this scholarship has seriously changed my life. It was like a light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

As a single parent of four, Wayne found the course not only helped him find a pathway out of his personal difficulties, but also provided new social opportunities for him.

"I've met some really great people at Chisholm, not only my peers but also my teachers. This has been so good for me socially."

When he finishes his course this year, Wayne hopes to work at the local clinical labs on Philip Island, where he lives.

"I really want to give back to the local community. It's hard to express just how thankful I am for this opportunity. It has been life changing.

"It's taken me from a place where I felt worthless, and made me feel valued. It has created a pathway to dignity. The least I can do is try to give back to the community," he said.

Since its inception in 2007, the Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation has created life-changing opportunities for a diverse group of over 2600 students. The Foundation's aim is to help and support members of the community affected by personal and financial hardship, by providing them with high quality, vocational educational qualifications, at Chisholm Institute.

"We're proud to have been able to support thousands of people through our Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation scholarship program," said Farrah Buckland, Executive Officer, Caroline Chisholm Education Foundation.

"The whole process is incredibly rewarding as we're able to see how the opportunity for education can open doors for people and truly change their lives, for the better," she said.

The Foundation is funded from a number of sources including philanthropic grants, donations from private, public and community groups such as Rotary and Lions Clubs in the region as well as through fundraising events.

Summer drowning surge

A record-breaking summer for drowning deaths last year has prompted an urgent warning from the Royal Life Saving Society Australia for people to be water safety conscious in, on, and around water over the summer break.

In 20 years of fatal drowning data, last summer (2021/22) had the highest number of deaths on record, with 145 people drowning across Australia.

Last summer, 17 people drowned in Victoria, with the beach the leading location for drowning.

Royal Life Saving Chief Executive Officer Justin Scarr said the week between Christmas and January 2 was the deadliest period for drowning deaths.

"The summer holidays are the

time when we all like to catch up with friends and family and unwind, but sadly it's also the peak period for drowning, with too many people not making it home after a day in, on, or around the water," Mr Scarr said.

"Men particularly need to leave their alcohol consumption until after they're out of the water. Alcohol was present in more than a quarter of drowning deaths last summer so we're asking everyone to stay off the beers until they're back on dry land.

"Tragically that period between Christmas and January 2 is when the most people drown. While we all need to relax, it is critically important that an adult is actively supervising children at all times if you are near water, whether it

is an inflatable pool, a backyard pool, a dam, river, beach or lake.

"With heatwaves, and more rain forecast be aware of children around water, especially children playing in and around flooded waterways and drains.

"Children can drown in only 3cm of water, silently within just 20 seconds. Keep watch and keep children within arm's reach.

"Be aware that your favourite spot might have changed significantly since you last visited, given all the rain we've had this year.

"Sandbanks can move, riverbanks can be destabilised, and flood debris is a significant problem in many places across Australia, and will continue to be for some months.

"We want everyone to have a

great time around the water, and go home safely at the end of the day."

If you're boating, fishing or kayaking, make sure you wear a lifejacket that meets the current Australian Standard and fits properly.

Royal Life Saving wants everyone to enjoy the water safely, but to prepare and brush up on safety precautions, especially in unfamiliar locations.

Wherever you are in Australia, these are top five tips to enjoy the water safely this summer:

- Always supervise children around water
- Avoid alcohol around water
- Wear a lifejacket when boating and fishing
- Know the conditions
- Avoid going alone

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



An estate too crowded

Last week we received a registered letter containing a notice of an application for a planning permit at 273-297 Church Street in Cowes, behind the residents of Anthony Court.

The permit application was submitted to council on May 5, 2022, soon after the 42-page Infrastructure and servicing report was released. The Urban Design Package was issued on Aug 2022

The two submissions illustrate two different layouts. We received notice of the application two weeks out from Christmas with a deadline of January 4 for objections to be received by council.

Very convenient for this to be rushed through considering the deadline is during the Christmas break. One could be forgiven for thinking that the approval has been given and council is just paying "lip-service."

Why has it taken so long for nearby residences to be informed of the proposed development, without any notice from council except on a website that is nigh on impossible to navigate? And so little time to protest the plans? Extremely disappointing. To say the least.

This development won't win BCSC the Nobel sustainability award it is hunting!

Our estate in Anthony Court has 120 properties on 30 acres of land compared to this new development proposal of 59 homes on 10 acres. The majority of blocks are less than 400sqm, with many of the blocks approx. 300sqm. Several are under 200sqm on blocks less than nine metres wide! It is possible that our boundary will share with three properties behind. Pack them in!

No doubt the island needs more houses but at what cost? These new sub-divisions have the makings to turn the place into a suburb that you would find in Melbourne.

The BCSC is more interested in rates than the good of the community. The worst thing that happened to this community was being absorbed into Bass Coast Shire. Now the island is just a cash cow.

Typically, there has been no consideration whatsoever for existing residents.

Mark Bracks, Cowes

Kindness of strangers

Having ridden 2150 kilometres to attend the recent World Superbikes meeting at the Island, my motorcycle's water pump failed.

Whilst waiting for RACV assistance and tow truck to come to my aid, approximate six hours wait, during that time I would like to thank the kind citizens, that stopped and offered food and drinks, especially the lady from the CFA, who went home and came back with water and fruit.

Again thanks to the wonderful people of Phillip Island.

John Rosmalen, Victoria Point Queensland

What choice?

I am appalled at how the Improved Road and Drainage Infrastructure Scheme for Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay is progressing.

The whole things looks like a con job.

The Council engaged with the community to seek views via surveys and consultations. Yet, the outcome does

not seem to reflect residents' views. The aim was to provide residents with choices for what they needed and wanted.

The present three options in a council mail-out comes with a diagram of what each option involves. The three diagrams are identical!

That's choice?

If you read the details, there are minor differences between the options, but they are just window dressing. The difference in estimated costs bears this out. There is less than a two per cent difference in costs between them.

And saying "no" to the so-called options is not an option. Whether we want it or not, or need it or not, everyone will get: sealed road, kerb and channel, pavement, raised intersections, speed humps.

Yes, some areas might need work to reduce flooding and some busy areas may want pavements, so fix these areas. Not all areas need or want these. And the council's mail-out gives you no choice!

Chris Rowles, Surf Beach

Not engaged

When did genuine engagement with ratepayers become irrelevant?

It has become abundantly clear to me many councils, including Bass Coast Shire Council, pay lip service to genuine engagement with ratepayers and residents.

They distribute glossy brochures and press releases telling us how well they are doing, but this is not actually engaging in any meaningful way.

As a Bass Coast ratepayer for over 20 years I find their current attitude to anything but the most basic queries or requests is totally dismissive if I don't accept their first response.

I have numerous examples of seeking support from Council across a range of matters, only to be dismissed out of hand sometimes with a curt "there is nothing we can or will do".

Tried in vain 10 years ago to get a "slow down- dust" sign, approached Council about their irrational decision regarding fortnightly landfill collection, attempted to engage in a discussion about support for residents following correspondence offering support, signed by the Mayor and CEO, all to no avail.

The current hot topic between Council and residents is a potential Special Charge Scheme to be paid by ratepayers in both Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach, probably at least \$30,000 per property, possibly more.

Council initially indicated there would be four options to choose from. However, it is abundantly clear there is only one option and council has already chosen what they want. A large proportion of residents see this as a con job and are making their feelings known.

But guess what? Council officers are taking steps to limit any access to councillors, to senior staff, or any others they believe residents should not engage with on this matter.

Why do we need paid councillors if they're not there to represent and support the community?

Clearly council again does not want or value input from ratepayers, who will be paying by far the majority of the final cost, with council only interested in their own plans.

Another example of an adversarial approach and decision making without transparency or fairness. A policy of predetermined minimal en-

gagement with those most impacted.

Robert Chandler, Surf Beach

Council change of attitude needed

As a ratepayer in the Bass Coast Shire Council area, I have attended a number of community meetings over the last 15 years and like many, am very disappointed in the attitude of council employees including the CEO, to concerns raised by this community.

Freedom of speech is a right we have only because in previous times Australia has won this right in two World Wars and the Vietnam War. As we well know, many Vietnam veterans live in this area today. Other parts of the world currently have this right being challenged by communist regimes.

The last council elections were held in a time the state was in lockdown and many home owners in the Phillip Island/San Remo area living partly Melbourne/Gippsland area couldn't vote. I tried and although I later received an apology from VEC and the council, the reality was I was denied a vote.

Now we have Federal and state elections behind us the next election is council elections. It's past the time the attitude of this council and councillors changed and those elected to represent us took actions to ensure many concerns as highlighted in articles and letters in both our local community papers plus correspondence sent to council, are followed up and responded to in a timely manner.

Chris Day, San Remo

Praise for local papers

Good on the Advertiser (Editorial December 14, 2022) for standing up for us, the people of the Bass Coast. This is exactly why we need local newspapers such as the Advertiser and the Sentinel-Times. Keep up the good work. Thank you.

Gay Jolly, Cape Woolamai

Council questions to answer

Below is an email I sent to Bass Coast Shire council requesting information about the Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay roads scheme.

If they are so keen to have these estates sealed and drainage put throughout, why can't they answer our questions? If we, as homeowners, are going to be charged in the range of \$25,000-\$35,000 then the least they could do is answer some simple questions.

Bass Coast Council, can you please advise as part of the roads scheme being presented by council what contributions are being made by the following:

Phillip Island Nature Parks as they have nearly 4km of cliff top land that is the sanctuary of the shearwaters? Do they not also benefit from the sealing of the roads?

What are Vicroads or the Victorian government contributing to The Esplanade as this is a secondary emergency road that is used as emergency access if Phillip Island Road is not accessible?

When the carpark was presented for Surf Beach we were told The Esplanade is not a local road but a state road, and that speed restriction devices were not an option to slow traffic down.

Why is this now not an issue?

I also see that the survey pegs along

The Esplanade are into the shearwater sanctuary. What is the proposed width of The Esplanade and are we going to lose the vegetation to the fronts of our homes that council stipulated we plant as part of our planning schemes?

Scott Davies, Surf Beach

Thanks from Salvos

As yet another challenging year draws to a close, I find myself again asking: how can we, at The Salvos, express our immense gratitude to the Australian community for their generosity, kindness and support this year?

Thank you for donating, volunteering and packing hampers so that we could distribute over 64,000 food parcels and vouchers, and around 300,000 gifts and toys to families.

Thank you for helping us provide over 1.5 million meals, 887,500 crisis beds and 2000-plus services nationwide throughout the year.

Thank you for helping us keep Christmas alive for Aussies struggling to make ends meet, for helping us leave no one in need.

To each and every one of you who supported us throughout 2022, we thank you. We've said it before, but it remains true: we couldn't do what we do without you.

People say, 'thank God for the Salvos'. We say thank God for you.

May you and your loved ones cherish this time of year and know that whatever the new year brings, the Salvos will walk alongside those in need and be there when you need us most.

If you would like to donate to The Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal, or if you need support, please visit salvationarmy.org.au or call 13 SALVOS (13 72 58).

Major Bruce Harmer, The Salvation Army

Christmas greetings from Melina Bath MP

As Christmas and the New Year holiday season rapidly approaches, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Gippslanders for the contribution they make to our incredible region.

The holiday season is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what is important in our lives and spend precious time with loved ones.

With the shadow of lockdowns in our rear view mirror, it is a relief to see our commercial streets becoming busy again, small businesses open, community events occurring and education back in the classroom.

Despite the challenges of past years involving drought, fire, flood, and pandemic our country resilience shines through. I have always admired the strength of Gippslanders for our ability to band together and support one another.

Generosity and locals helping locals is the hallmark of country people. The spirit of giving, facilitated by our wonderful local charities and their incredible volunteers keeps alive the meaning of Christmas.

Representing eastern Victoria and my home region of Gippsland in State Parliament is an honour. I'm humbled to have been re-elected to continue my role for another four years.

As a local, I am deeply passionate about Gippsland and our future. I am committed to working with members of the community to continue our

combined efforts to make our region an even better place to live and work.

Advocating for and working with individuals, groups and organisations in 2023 remains my motivation.

While completing preparations for your festive season, I encourage you to support our local traders where possible. By actively supporting local businesses you also contribute to building a vibrant and resilient local economy.

If you are travelling on our roads during the Christmas and New Year holiday season, please stay safe, be patient and drive to the conditions.

Finally, I wish you a joy filled Christmas surrounded by the people you know as family. May your start to 2023 be a safe, healthy, and blessed one.

Melina Bath MP, Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Region

Misinformation from council?

This is a statement from BCSC Newsletter Sunderland Bay Surf Beach SCS.

"Westernport Water has informed council that the sewer system and sewer pump stations at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay regularly overflow during relatively low storm events. Rain water enters the sewer system and overloads the pumps. This leads to health hazards and environmental issues related to sewage overflows into the residential area and also downstream wetlands. An upgraded road and drainage system will significantly reduce these sewage overflow risks."

BCSC knows that infiltration of a sewer system is not unique to just Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach estates. This type of occurrence happens all over Bass Coast Shire and the world, wherever there is an underground sewer network. Upgrades of the street road and drainage scheme will have no impact to the stormwater infiltration into the sewer system. The sewer manhole lids located in backyards and footpath areas are Gatic Manhole Lids; they are designed not to allow water to enter the manhole. I have designed a number of major concrete lined open stormwater channels that carry over 35,000 litres per second flow where the sewer main is located under the concrete channel invert with Gatic Manhole Lids with no infiltration into the sewer system.

There are other reasons for stormwater to enter the sewer system and both council and Westernport Water know the causes and have known since the sewer mains were installed. Westernport Water stated that diluted wastewater is designed to spill into designated areas called "Emergency relief structures", noting "these are designed to provide protection to homes, people and the environment as far as possible".

Is BCSC endeavouring to manipulate ratepayers for council's own purposes by now mentioning this issue? Council has done nothing over the decades to rectify an issue that is predominately due to council failure to provide infrastructure and direction to ratepayers. Why is this a major council issue now? Is this misinformation or disinformation? You the Bass Coast Shire Council resident or ratepayer can decide.

Philip Davy, Surf Beach

Holiday arrangements for Centrelink

With the holiday season fast approaching, Services Australia is reminding customers about changes to payments and services during the Christmas and New Year period.

These apply to Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support

All services centres and most phone lines will be closed on Mon-

day December 26 through to Wednesday December 28, and on Monday January 2.

Services Australia General Manager Hank Jongen said Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support customers can still access self-service options during this period.

"The easiest way to do your busi-

ness during the holiday season is with your online accounts through myGov, as well as the Express Plus apps, or our self-service options over the phone," Mr Jongen said.

"These services are available 24/7, even on public holidays.

"This means people can still report their employment income, submit claims, or apply for an advance payment."

Customers should also be aware

the date they receive their regular payments may change.

"We have special arrangements in place for national public holidays. Some people may get paid early and others may be able to report their employment income early," Mr Jongen said.

"People can check if their reporting or payment date has changed using their Centrelink online account through myGov, or through the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

"We know reporting early can be tricky, but my top tip is don't worry. If you make a mistake, you can correct it within 14 days, or the next time you report."

Critical services for Medicare providers, such as PBS authorities and organ donor, remain available over this period.

Find out more about how these changes may impact you: servicessaustralia.gov.au/holidays

The great catamaran race returns

The Around French Island Catamaran Challenge, presented by the Cowes Yacht Club returns in March 2023.

After the success of last year's event, the race is back, bigger and better.

One of the biggest catamaran races in the country, the \$10,000 prize pool (over three divisions) with an overall line honours prize and some novelty prizes, is sure to attract competitors from across Victoria and interstate.

The event is scheduled to start at 11am on March 25 and spots are limited to 75 boats.

Registrations are now open, so anyone wanting to compete is advised to get in early, as places are expected to fill quickly.

It is a tough event averaging four to five hours (depending upon conditions) which will test the skills and endurance of all crews and boats.

GPS data from previous races has shown most boats that completed the race sailed roughly 100kms.

Support

Australian Air Safaris are back for their second year as the major sponsor of the event, which is run by the Cowes Yacht Club.

The hard work of club members is complemented by support from sponsors including Isle of Wight Hotel, Moda, CLF, Phillip Island RSL, Ronstan, Westernport Water, Purple Hen, Bendigo Bank, Bass Coast Shire Council and NRMA Parks and Resorts.

The idea for the amazing race revamp came about as club members were discussing how the impact of Covid was taking the fun



Australian Air Safaris' founder Tony Kirkhope. As the event's major sponsor, Australian Air Safaris is providing the \$10,000 prize pool for this year's Around French Island Catamaran Challenge.

out of life.

Founder/owner of Australian Air Safaris Tony Kirkhope, who has holidayed for years in Cowes and whose family were founding members of the yacht club, suggested doing something about it, and hit on the idea of supersizing the club's most interesting event.

"Tony said he'd support a bigger event with prize money if the club would all pitch in and make it a national event," said David Arnold from the Cowes Yacht Club.

"Tony had a vision that this event that had been run on a small scale could be developed into the biggest off the beach catamaran race in Australia with the right promotion

and significant prize money.

"He could see how businesses had been impacted by Covid on the island, and he felt creating a big event could give back to the community."

David said Tony's enthusiasm and support for the event was a key part of its success.

"Tony has been an active member of the club in the many activities from the early days of intensive water skiing now to the focus on sailing and he has regularly skippered one of the rescue boats that shadow the Around French Island fleet over the last decades.

"Australian Air Safaris is again providing \$10,000 all of which

will be distributed as prize money across the winners and place getters of the divisions."

Tony is looking forward to this year's race superseding the excitement of the 2022 event.

"This great Catamaran Race was bigger than ever last year and Australian Air Safaris is supporting the great event this year, to put it on the map as the race the best catamaran sailors in Australia want to race in and win."

The portal to enter the Around French Island Catamaran Challenge for 2023 is now active: www.cowesyachtclub.com/events/159623/ / Sponsored Article /



The 2023 Around French Island Catamaran Challenge is scheduled to start at 11am on March 25. Photo: John Stapleton, Stapo Photography.

Race details

The 2023 Around French Island Catamaran Challenge is scheduled to start at 11am on March 25, with the option for a resail on March 26 if conditions require.

The race starts and finishes at the Cowes Yacht Club, with a 70km course circumnavigating French Island.

Race conditions and rules are conducted under the guidance of Australia Sailing through the Racing Rules of Sailing. All boats must comply with AS Safety requirements for "Off the beach sailing" and are subject to audit on the day of the race. The latest Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions are available on the Cowes Yacht Club AFI site: www.cowesyachtclub.com/sailing/around-french-island/

Organisers describe the event as a marathon and said the course tests not only each entrant's skill level, but also their endurance.

The race will expose boats and crews to many and varied weather conditions.

Combined with winds coming over French Island causing varying wind direction and strengths, Westernport is subject to varying water depths; and the tidal movement causes variable tide flow directions and speeds.

The Cowes Yacht Club website provides the most up to date information and news about the race. Anyone wanting to register is advised to do so as soon as possible, as spaces are limited to 75. Please note, this is a gruelling event and novice sailors or unseaworthy boats may present safety issues for participants and organisers.

Midweek bowls

Great day for bowls, especially considering the short-day last week.

Twenty-four of our bowlers turned up at San Remo for the last day of the year. The green was difficult to master (to say the least), lightning fast at the start of the day and slowly reverting to normal over the course of the day.

A few "donations" towards the RCH were the order of the day, guess we will never learn and will continue to send down wrong bias bowls.

As usual laughter was prevalent across the green with lots of happy bowlers.

The lunch break was enjoyed by everyone with quite a lot of our group receiving wins in today's special raffle.

A special thank you to Gwen both for her great work in the kitchen and cleaning up at the end of the day, and also for her beautiful homemade pikelets with jam and cream.

Also thank you to Mark behind the bar. Winners on 36 points were John Nicholson (S), Gillian Harper (3), Frank D'Unienville (2), Peter McWilliams and Linsay Russell (L).

Runners up on 34 points were Mark Andre-

atta (S), Sue Stansfield (3), Robyn Dahl (2) and Peter Thorley (L).

Best One Game with 21 points were Michael Dady (S), Phil Wright (3), Michael Saunders (2) and Cheryl Floyd (L).

After the day's competitions we were the lucky recipients of some light snacks to end the day and as a celebration of the year past as well as Christmas fast approaching, it was much appreciated by the players.

At this point we would like to thank Peter and Pauline for their hard work throughout the year. They put so much effort into keeping our Thursday club going.

Before we sign off for the year, we should mention that the next game is in three weeks from now on January 5 at Koo Wee Rup.

So, to everyone who is part of our family of bowlers, thank you for the support throughout the year and we hope you have a wonderful Christmas with family and/or friends, as well as a very good New Year.

We hope to see you all at Koo Wee Rup next year.



NOTICE OF RACE AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS GO TO COWESYACHTCLUB.COM/AFI

Around French Island Catamaran Challenge 2023



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T20 excitement

Toll was in next and was caught on the boundary for 3 whilst look-

With 15 needed off 12 balls and a big crowd cheering every ball, the pair took seven off the penultimate

Some great performances all round but the RSL Man of the Match was Harry Arceo with his opening spell of 4/19 off his four overs a treat to watch.

Rahni: 100m backstroke 28th.



PHILLIP ISLAND
4-220

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J.B. BLACK
TAKELY



WONTHAGGI
9-149

S. KRITON
C. KEETHISINGHE
S. RATHNAPARK

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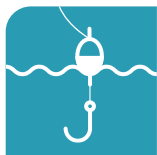


IGA
SAN REMO

PHILLIP ISLAND
WONTHAGGI

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
WONTHAGGI RECREATION RESERVE

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone. Be safe.



AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

This week 12 months ago we were signing the lease for our new shop and a bit over a month later we moved in. Since then there have been hundreds of changes.

We have increased our stock range by almost 25 per cent and have many of the products customers have been asking for now we have the space. There are plans to increase our stock even more.

We now keep a bigger range of rods and reels and are also stocking Daiwa; but more importantly we can supply at a competitive price anything you need from all of the major companies.

We have expanded in every area in product range and are still expanding, with a bigger range of eskies and cooler bags.

We have a full range of our own merch with plenty of gift ideas for the fussy fisherman.

We carry Sarca Anchors, bulk anchor chain, Dunbier trailer accessories, our Cressi diving range has expanded and for those chasing the tuna the lure wall is full, even king brown colours. We will also have Gamakatsu hook back in stock.

We will continue to keep our prices competitive and with the recent changes in the tackle shop landscape, welcome new customers and are more than happy to look at different stock lines to best serve their needs.

We will be closed Christmas Day but back bright and early at 6am Boxing Day then open every day at 6am until at least January 8.

Follow us on Facebook for updates on shop hours and latest reports.

Don't forget for those making an early start, the other addition to the shop has been the coffee machine and the drinks fridge.

For those who are visiting the Island for the first time or are coming back after a long time we are now in Back Beach Road up at the service station end of town with plenty of parking for cars and boats. Just drop in and we can help you out with all the current reports and best gear to use.

The new shop is easy to find (next to the library). We would like to thank all those who have re-directed customers to us. While we would love to have a sign on the highway, we aren't allowed, so we rely a lot on word of mouth and again thank everyone for that.

Fishing report

Tuna is starting to show up again – the weather is finally good enough to be able to head out and chase them again.

No big ones but several school fish starting to show and the reports mostly from the west.

Those who did head offshore found a couple of gummies and good numbers of quality flathead and also told us that there is plenty of bait around again.

For those heading outside, the main target was kingfish and we had a couple report that the conditions probably weren't the best.

Then we had customers telling us they found plenty on the sounder, even had them chasing up lures/baits but just couldn't get them interested enough to hook up.

Back in the bay and most out in the boats were on the hunt for a Christmas BBQ snapper. Unfortunately for most they only need a very small BBQ.

We did see a couple of snapper around 6kg which will be the perfect size for the centre of the Christmas



BJ with a quality offshore gummy.



Gareth from Elite Signs Wonthaggi headed out with son Ollie where he managed this nice sized pinkie.

table while most of the rest were pinkies at best.

Are the big snapper gone? Probably not but they will be a little harder to find because they will be spread out all over the bay as they think about heading home.

The reports of size and undersize pinkies came from everywhere and the undersize were a nuisance to some on the whiting grounds.

Whiting is still the best for quality and for numbers and fishing your usual spots and times seemed to work.

However we are starting to hear from customers who are finding a lot of smaller whiting mixed in with the 40cm plus ones.

Although there are some small ones around, they still aren't the pencil 26cm ones and you need to measure the smaller ones because with the condition they are in they look much longer than they actually are.

For those who use pippies, the real ones, they are still very expensive and now very hard to get.

While pippies have still caught their fair share, other baits are now being used more often.

Prawns have accounted for a lot of catches this week as well as squid and pilchards.

From all our expanding family here at Jim's Bait and Tackle, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry and safe Christmas and New Year.

Hopefully the weather will play its part and there is plenty of fish on the dinner table through the holiday period.

Craig, Mel and Robyn.



Lola Dykes at the last supergroms session for the Phillip Island Boardriders Club.

Supergroms and Santa

Phillip Island Boardriders Club's (PIBC) last Supergroms Session for 2022 included a surprise visit from Santa.

Smiths Beach comes alive with frothing groms and a friendly, energetic vibe on PIBC event days, and the recent Christmas event was no different.

Numbers for supergroms have exploded with new and returning families this year, and over 50 kids participated in the last few events, all looking great in their new custom designed rash vests.

While the event is just about having a go, meeting people and having fun, it is inspiring to see so many kids growing their confidence in the water and improving their skills.

With the assistance of the four coaches from Island Surfboards, the day saw kids overcoming their fears to stand up on a board for the first time, some starting to catch



The Phillip Island Boardriders' Supergrom Session was a huge success. Over 50 kids have taken part in the last few Supergrom events organised by the club.

green waves by themselves, and others learning tips and tricks to prepare themselves for the next level of competition.

The club said it was looking forward to its next event – a trip to

UrbsnSurf in January for both kids and adults to go surfing in the wave pool.

For more information on the club follow at [instagram.com/p.i.b.c](https://www.instagram.com/p.i.b.c) or via the website www.pibc.com.au

U15 netballers win the grand final.

Phillip Island's netballers won an historic Grand Final match at Casey netball association mid-week competition.

After a 20-game season, the Under 15s defeated Berwick Springs 14-11 to take out the inaugural Island Premiership at Casey.

The team's captain, Jasmine Crooks was awarded the team's Best and Fairest for Season 2.

The Under 13s successfully made it to the Semi-Finals for the second season, missing a spot in the grand final in a tough match against Narre Warren.

Equal Best and Fairest was awarded to Mia Caile and Isabella Stead.

The teams have played both season one and two at Casey.

A 20-week season really tested both teams, a fantastic effort.

With the support of the club, both teams have played two seasons at Casey, training together since February. Their spot in the finals was extremely well-deserved!



The PIFNC Under 15s Casey team took the win by three goals game against Berwick Springs during the Grand Final with the final scores at 14-11. The U15s made history by being the first Island Netball team to win the Grand Final at Casey. Back from left: Mia Ward, Ghani Lenne, Maya Womersley, Ashby Sibson, Evie Kyle. Front row: Jasmine Crooks (C), Kate Briggs, Aisha Hibert, Georgia Niven, Bailie Patton, Taylah Fitzpatrick – Our cheerleader.

Bass Coast College visit Phillip Island Bowls club

Phillip Island Bowls Club had visitors from the Bass Coast College last Friday.

The students were given the basic lessons on the game of lawn bowls by the volunteer members from the Phillip Island Bowling Club.

The day provided the opportunity for the students to socially interact outside the school environment and to also learn a new sport outside the school curriculum.

It was a new experience for the students and the chance to inter-

act with the bowling club members in this different sporting environment.

It was a pleasant morning and hopefully the Phillip Island Bowling Club may see some new members in the future.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 21 DEC	THU 22 DEC	FRI 23 DEC	SAT 24 DEC	SUN 25 DEC	MON 26 DEC	TUE 27 DEC	WED 28 DEC	THU 29 DEC	FRI 30 DEC	SAT 31 DEC	SUN 1 JAN	MON 2 JAN	TUE 3 JAN	WED 4 JAN
LOW 3:47 am 1.32 m	LOW 5:00 am 1.40 m	HIGH 12:55 am 2.79 m	HIGH 2:00 am 2.95 m	HIGH 3:01 am 3.08 m	HIGH 3:57 am 3.16 m	HIGH 4:48 am 3.19 m	HIGH 5:36 am 3.17 m	HIGH 6:21 am 3.11 m	LOW 12:05 am 0.45 m	LOW 12:54 am 0.63 m	LOW 1:44 am 0.82 m	LOW 2:33 am 1.00 m	LOW 3:28 am 1.16 m	LOW 4:27 am 1.28 m
HIGH 10:02 am 2.45 m	HIGH 11:05 am 2.40 m	LOW 6:18 am 1.40 m	LOW 7:31 am 1.33 m	LOW 8:35 am 1.22 m	LOW 9:32 am 1.09 m	LOW 10:24 am 0.96 m	LOW 11:15 am 0.82 m	LOW 12:02 pm 0.70 m	HIGH 7:02 am 3.03 m	HIGH 7:43 am 2.92 m	HIGH 8:21 am 2.81 m	HIGH 9:00 am 2.68 m	HIGH 9:43 am 2.55 m	HIGH 10:32 am 2.44 m
LOW 4:13 pm 0.65 m	LOW 5:17 pm 0.55 m	HIGH 12:14 pm 2.40 m	HIGH 1:23 pm 2.45 m	HIGH 2:29 pm 2.53 m	HIGH 3:30 pm 2.62 m	HIGH 4:29 pm 2.69 m	HIGH 5:26 pm 2.73 m	HIGH 6:23 pm 2.74 m	LOW 12:48 pm 0.61 m	LOW 1:34 pm 0.55 m	LOW 2:18 pm 0.53 m	LOW 3:03 pm 0.54 m	LOW 3:52 pm 0.56 m	LOW 4:45 pm 0.59 m
HIGH 11:45 pm 2.62 m		LOW 6:26 pm 0.44 m	LOW 7:32 pm 0.32 m	LOW 8:33 pm 0.23 m	LOW 9:30 pm 0.20 m	LOW 10:23 pm 0.22 m	LOW 11:15 pm 0.31 m		HIGH 7:20 pm 2.72 m	HIGH 8:17 pm 2.68 m	HIGH 9:15 pm 2.64 m	HIGH 10:14 pm 2.62 m	HIGH 11:13 pm 2.63 m	

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



Woolworths Blasters Coordinator Mick Cleary with assistants Bec Overeem and Jon Parry. The Blaster kids had their season ending BBQ at the Shark Tank on Thursday.

T20 excitement

C1 Cricket

The C1 Sharks took on Wonthaggi Workers in a T20 game at Rhyll on Saturday, in the last round before the Christmas break.

The Workers won the toss and batted.

Wonthaggi started well but it wasn't long until young gun Jobe Williams cleaned bowled the Wonthaggi captain.

Cleary took a catch off his own bowling and Williams took a superb outfield catch to have Wonthaggi 3/72.

Paterson got himself a stumping to give Mani his second wicket, Cleary took an out-field catch to give Asurami his first wicket and Paterson took a catch to give Mani 3/21 off his four overs. The pick of the bowlers.

Wonthaggi 102 after their 20 overs.

Manning and Excell opened the innings and continued their consistent form by getting the Sharks off to a good start.

The pair put on 58 before Excell was stumped for 28.

Asurami joined Manning, however his stay was brief as he was caught for 2.

When Manning was caught for 25 the Sharks were 3/69.

Cleary (17 no) joined Paterson (19 no) and the duo put on a 33-run stand to pass the Wonthaggi score with four overs to spare.

A fantastic team effort and a great win before the Christmas break.

B2 cricket

B2 headed over to Outtrim this week to face off against OMK in a must win match to keep the Island in the hunt for finals.

The Sharks lost the toss and were sent into bowl which is not a bad option in a 20/20.

Young Harry Arceo opened up the attack with Geoff Odgers for the Sharks, both hitting their lengths and bowling perfectly.

Harry bowled out his four overs straight and picked up the fantastic figures of 2/19 as OMK were 3/30 early in the innings.

The Pres Dan McCausland, and the strike

bowlers of Andrew Tolley and Tarryn Allan, continued to take wickets, all picking up one in their spells to have OMK sitting at 6/71.

A partnership formed through the middle overs getting OMK to 107 before captain Connor Epifano brought himself onto bowl the second last over, breaking the partnership and only going for four runs.

Geoff Odgers finished out the innings for the Sharks picking up his second wicket to grab 2/17 off his four overs, the final score for OMK 8/117 off 20 overs.

This was about a par score for the ground and the game was definitely there to win.

After a short innings break Phillip Island then went into bat with Connor Epifano and Andrew Finlayson opening the batting.

Epifano fell early for 2 and Jack Keating was next into the crease, the two looking good putting on a nice partnership before Finlayson went down with a back injury, proving that running is overrated.

Continued page 34

THE SWIM

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