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PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

**Your Community Voice!** 

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

**\$1.60** Incl. GST



# Concern for dumped pets

There has been a slight in-Phillip Island.

According to volunteer wildlife rescuer Colleen Gilbee she has had several calls since Christmas for domestic animals, especially cats, kittens and pet birds, as well as calls for missing dogs.

"New Year's Day I had a man bring me a beautiful dumped one-year-old cat, left in a tiny cage in Newhaven in the hot sun," said Colleen who runs Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Shelter Phillip Island and Bass Coast.

"Pet birds have either escaped or been let out on purthe wild, so they will find a human to help them."

of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) - said her workload had increased over the summer holidays, especially for heat-stressed animals injured, displaced or orphaned animals.

On Australia Day alone she was called out to: an echidna killed on the Phillip Island Road near the Ramada, a turtle hit by a car in Cowes, a snake that survived and a ringtail hit by a car.

There has been a massive increase in wallabies and possums being hit by cars needing to be euthanised.

Other increased calls are for echidnas, snakes, lizards, a mix of wild bird breeds, turtles and microbats."

She said eastern barred bandicoots were also being rescued, after being introduced to Phillip Island in a breeding program by Nature Parks.

Anyone who sees a bandicoot during the day should call Nature Parks straight away injured or not", 7.30am-4pm, needed to be funded.

seven days a week on 0409 crease in pets being dumped 558 482, or after 4pm Colleen over the summer holidays on (0409 428 162), or Wildlife Victoria 03 8400 7300.

"Bandicoots shouldn't be out too much at all during the day, as they are nocturnal. So if you see one out in the hot sun during the day - or in the same spot for more than half hour during the day - call for help straight away.

"Nature Parks need to attend to check on the bandicoot's health."

In January PINP CEO Catherine Basterfield told the Advertiser they will look at ways to provide more help for pose and cannot survive in Phillip Island's only volunteer wildlife shelter operator.

Last year Colleen said the Colleen – who logs all her local wildlife death toll was rescues with the Department taking an increasing financial and emotional toll.

> Since 2000 Colleen has helped more than 3000 animals annually.

> Catherine said by late February they would review how to provide more help through their wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre.

Also at the most recent PINP board meeting, chair Kevin Love acknowledged concerns in the community caused by increased wildlife incidents.

"This is putting pressure on community wildlife rescue volunteers as well as the resources for wildlife rescue activities by Nature Parks," Kevin said.

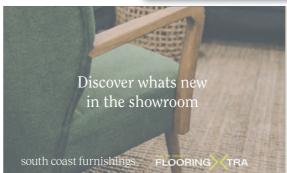
"While the board doesn't have the capacity to increase resources to wildlife rescue activities, it noted management would work with key partners to consider options for improvements within current resources.'

Candidates for Bass in the fature Parks straight away lead up to last year's state "no matter if you think it's election agreed the program

It was an extra-special day for Monty starting in Prep at San Remo Primary, who had big sister Frankie there to help him settle in. Turn to page 6 for our Back to School Feature.

Festival of surfing Channel Callenge





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# **PHILLIP** ISLAND

7 day weather forecast



16







19

16





# Ducking out for a dip

With temperatures soaring last week, every man and his duck, it would appear, headed to the beach to cool off. This happy pair hitched a ride on a passing boogie board to the delight of fellow swimmers at the end of Dunsmore Road in Cowes.



# ADVERTISER

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#### 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 Sams Children".



This may look like brown seaweed, but it is actually a Port Jackson shark egg.

#### Looks like seaweed, but belongs to a shark This may look like curly the egg of a Port Jackson and 15cm long. Apparently, the egg case is Apparently, the egg case is

kelp, a spiral of brown seaweed, but it is actually a shark egg.

Washed up on Cowes east beach, a reader sent in the photo for our occasional series on weird stuff found on local beaches.

Mike Cleeland, education officer at Bunurong Coast Education, confirmed it was harmless to humans, although they can give a painful bite.

According to the Australian Museum Port Jackson sharks are oviparous, which means the female lays eggs.

As the photo shows, the egg case is a tough, dark brown spiral about 8cm wide

soft when laid by the female.

She uses her mouth to wedge the egg case into a rock crevice where it hardens, and from which one young shark emerges after 10 to 12 months.

When they hatch, juvenile Port Jackson sharks, or pups, are about 25cm long.

#### **POLICE BRIEFS**

#### Traffic

Police described traffic on Sunday as "pretty much everything we expected", but were pleased to report there were no major incidents.

After the holiday season started with two fatal accidents within 24 hours, Acting Senior Sergeant Scott Morison said he was happy there had been no other major road accidents.

"Obviously the start of the holidays was heart-breaking for all involved."

#### Holiday behaviour

Acting Snr Sgt Morison said overall, behaviour across the Australia Day weekend and the summer holidays generally been good.

He said there had been no major incidents on Australia Day, describing the crowd as fairly "family orientated".

He was particularly pleased there had been no rownings over the summer - "to get through the season so far without a drowning is excellent".

However police noted ongoing safety concerns about jetty jumping.

The only real complaints we've had have been around people using the commercial-based jetties, in particular the San Remo jetty, with people jumping off where there are commercial fishing boats."

Despite the busy holiday season, police said crime statistics were not unusually high.

There have probably been a few more cars stolen than we would have liked, but theft from cars at beachside car parks has been a bit lower this year, which is a good result.

The most notable crimes were the break-ins at IGA in Cowes and San Remo.

As the holiday crowds decreased, police said there had also been a reduction in reported incidents.

confirmed a 15-year-oldyouth from the Latrobe Valley stole a car at Cape Woolamai on January 28.

rol drive offs, one at BP in Cowes and one at the Bass service station but was eventually intercepted in Leongatha and charged.

#### Robbery arrests?

On Friday, January 27 police announced three youths and a man had been arrested by the Southern Metro Region Crime Team and were facing a collective 60 charges following a string of burglaries and car thefts across Melbourne's southeast and eastern sub-

The Southern Metro Region Crime Team is investigating the recent break-ins at IGA in San Remo and Cowes

At the time, the police said the cars involved in the IGA break-ins were believed to have been stolen, and one was later found dumped in Springvale.

When asked if the latest arrests were related to Acting Snr Sgt Morison the Phillip Island and San Remo break-ins, a police spokesperson said: won't be providing further comment at this stage as in-The youth did two pet- vestigations are ongoing."

#### Melaleuca Lodge Secondhand Book Sale

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# Golf ranch sold to developers

The 23-acre Aussie Golf Ranch in Cowes west has been sold to the owners of the Isle of Wight site in Cowes.

The property, at the end of Settlement Road, bordered by Saltwater Creek, includes a fiveacre building envelope to the north, which is zoned for development within the Cowes town boundary, to be developed by the new owners.

There is also a nine-hole golf course, extensive wetlands, accommodation, pro-shop and

Former owners Rohan and Lisa Walker, who have lived on the island for 30 years, will be selling all golf stock in February, and will hand over the property on February 28. The Walkers will move to Queensland, but will continue to consult for the new owners.

Isle of Wight developer Moda managing director Ed Farquharson confirmed the sale.

Ed said the Aussie Golf Ranch would continue business as usual for the "short to medium term until any potential plans or improvement works" such as accommodation and a food

"We were driven to purchase the site due to its large landholding and proximity to the stunning, north facing Red Rocks beach," Ed

"At this stage no plans have been set in stone, however, in addition to operating the golf course we're envisaging refurbishment/ addition of multiple boutique accommodation cabins, a greater public food and beverage offering and hopefully a strong link with the Isle of Wight hotel down the track.

"There is unlikely to be any noticeable changes in the next year or so as we'll be working through various concepts, feasibilities and consultation with the many and varied stakeholders.'

#### Plans

Ed confirmed an allowable "building envelope" of about five acres, where the current facilities and accommodation are located, outside the golf course, "where any additional accommodation and improvements would be

He acknowledged the legacy of the Walkers, with Rohan's nephew Daniel to now take over management of the golf course.

"Rohan and Lisa have done an incredible



Rohan and Lisa Walker, and their children Bailey and Boh, with dog Pippa, on the golf course they opened in Cowes west in 2006.

job to create such a challenging, enjoyable and unique course for people of all ages and standards, we'd like to try and continue their egacy and build on what they've started.'

The sale is to the Isle of Wight joint venture between Moda, Salta and Tabet.

Ed also confirmed there had been a delay lodging plans for the Isle of Wight development with Bass Coast Shire, but said he hoped they would be lodged in February.

"We will be announcing our hotel operator for the Isle of Wight in February. We haven't agreed anything with them regarding the golf course but we will certainly investigate any potential partnerships in the future.

Last July the developers told the Advertiser plans for a "world class" pub, hotel, conference and wellness centre on the old Isle of Wight site would be lodged with Bass Coast Shire in 2022.

Rohan, a professional golfer for 35 years, last week told the Advertiser after competing and



The nine-hole Aussie Golf Ranch at Saltwater Creek west of Cowes has been sold.

then caddying around Australia on the golf circuit in the early '90s he moved to Phillip Island to be club pro at the Cowes golf course.

He and Lisa bought the 23 acres nearly 20 years ago, opening it in 2006, with plans and a permit to build up to 24 units, a day spa, pool, barn for functions and a "Western-style ranch" with horse and cart rides and a mini train.

However, a drought hit hard and they scaled back plans, staffing it themselves with help from volunteers and the original permit lapsed in 2018.

"I could have built a caravan park but my dream and goal was to build a golf course, a tourist attraction, an asset to the island," Rohan said

He said while the golf course and wetland were green wedge, he has given the five-acre development plans to Moda

He added when they bought the land many locals "were relieved I was the only person who didn't want to subdivide"

Some argued golf would be better than farm-

land, to which others pointed out agriculture.

Rohan said it was sad to be leaving, and he would "miss all the familiar faces but looked forward to life's next journey".

While the couple - who have two sons aged 18 and 23 - will move to Queensland, Rohan will return each winter to the island and the golf course.

"After working in the family business for 18 years it's time to pass it on to someone else who can take it further than we could.'

Last year Rohan posted a question on Facebook, asking "hypothetically" whether the island needed a new destination golf course, explaining championship-style golf courses attracted high tourist dollars.

Settlement Road is expected to boom in coming years, with a current planning permit for 273-297 Church Street, opposite Anchor Belle Holiday Park, for a 59-lot subdivision and the recently-approved development for 256 lots at 299-325 Church Street, which will be a retirement village



Police say boaties can avoid incidents like this one at Newhaven last week by using the Boating Vic app, to keep an eye on weather and water conditions, check the status of boat ramps, and keep up with marine rules and regulations.

#### Newhaven boat hits rock bottom

Anglers at Newhaven were agog last week when they spotted a boat high and dry on shallow reef rocks near the Phillip Island bridge.

The boat was marooned for about nine hours last Tuesday, forced to wait until high tide so they could wedge off the reef.

While some passing boats saw the funny side - remarking many had come to grief in similar more serious and it was critical for boaties to marine rules and regulations. use navigational charts and GPS to avoid potential collisions.

It was also unclear whether the boatie lost power and drifted on to the reef.

On fishing report Facebook pages, Hayden asked "how does a boat like that not have a GPS?", while others asked how the boat's crew didn't see the channel markers.

"No excuses for running aground there, clearly marked," Michael commented.

Ben added the captain may have seen the marker "but it's not necessarily his fault" The ease in which a person can get their boat

license is the problem," Ben wrote. Robert said he had been on the water for more

than 20 years and "I get it wrong occasionally". "Nothing as bad as running aground but it's easy to do especially at Western Port."

Craig said they were not "the first to sit atop Sammy the seal's platform" and Denis said he hoped they used the most of their time to "bag

A Victoria Police spokesperson said the Boating Vic app was a great tool to help boaties prepare a trip, allowing users to keep an eye on weather and water conditions, check the status circumstances – others said the incident was of boat ramps across the state, and keep up with

"The best way to protect yourself is to be prepared, carry the required safety equipment and wear a life jacket," they said.

"If operating a boat, make yourself familiar with waterway rules.

"Check the weather and conditions ahead of time and only choose to go boating on days where the weather is appropriate. Conditions can change very quickly.

The spokesperson said it was critical to know your boat's limits and your own limits.

They added the Water Police were currently out in force at inland and coastal waterways across the state, supported by Parks Victoria and Victorian Fisheries.

"The all-in effort includes special strike teams targeting anti-social behaviour, water safety and boating offences at key locations."



Cowes resident Mark O'Reilly visited the Urgent Care Centre in Cowes to receive treatment for a puncture wound from a snapper he caught at Rhyll Jetty. Mark was one of 745 patients who attended the centre over the peak Christmas period.

# Patient praise for **Urgent Care Centre**

Staff at the Urgent Care Centre in Cowes treated over 700 patients in less than two weeks over the busy Christmas holidays.

From December 24 to January 4, 745 patients attended the centre - a 13.2 per cent increase on the same period for 2021-2022.

Cowes resident Mark O'Reilly visited the Urgent Care Centre in Cowes to receive treatment for a puncture wound from a snapper he caught at Rhyll Jetty.

"They do a great job at the Cowes Urgent Care Centre. I've been there a few times and it doesn't matter whether it's 5pm or 3am, it's always first-rate treatment," he said.

"Five out of five stars from me!" Viral infection was the most common reason for presentation, followed by tonsillitis, fracture, ear infection, wounds, infection,

and COVID-19 positive or probable.

Raja Devanathan, Clinical Director for Urgent Care Services at Phillip Island, said despite the Urgent Care Centre being busy, the experience was enjoyable for medical staff. The mood is amazing. This is the recur-

rent feedback I receive from doctors. "Even though they all agree its tough work,

they all like to come back," he said. UCC patients are triaged based on the severity of their condition, not in order of presentation. As a result, some patients may face

The Urgent Care Centre is open 24/7 for the treatment of minor injuries and illnesses, and is located at the Phillip Island Health Hub, 50-54 Church Street, Cowes.

In the event of a medical emergency, always phone Triple Zero (000) and request an ambulance.

# Traffic gridlock as holiday season ends

faced long delays on Sunday at the end of the Australia Day long weekend and summer holidays

Traffic getting off Phillip Island was bumper to bumper by lunchtime, with many locals warning others to stay home to avoid getting caught in the snarl.

Acting Senior Sergeant Scott Morison said the traffic was "pretty much everything we expected" and people got away "reasonably well, even though it was slow".

After starting the holiday season with two fatal accidents in 24 hours, he said it was a relief the exit off the island was pretty much incident free.

"One upside of the traffic being bumper-to-bumper is it really does limit collisions, as people aren't travelling too quickly.

#### At a standstill

Ventnor resident Jean Verway said her family waved goodbye before lunch on Sunday, only to return to her Ventnor property soon after, when confronted by traffic at a standstill at the Back Beach Road and Phillip Island Road intersection.

Keeping an eye on the traffic situation online, the family ventured out again an hour later, only to find matters worse, with traffic at a standstill from Gap Road.

They monitored the traffic all afternoon, and finally got on the road

Jean suggested when a long weekend and end of school holidays coincide, it might be time to implement the blue line traffic system which works well on big occasions.

"When it is known this extreme congestion is likely to occur, why not open up the blue line traffic system?



By 2pm, traffic leaving the island was banked up for miles, stretching back past Rusty Water and A Maze'N Things. Photo courtesy of Carol Park.

'We know it works well. Not everyone is going to Melbourne. At least when you get out on to the Bass Highway, you have other options regarding travel open to you.

Cowes resident Carol Park said her family tried three times to get across to the Kilcunda Lobster Festival before giving up at 2pm.

She posted a warning for fellow commuters on the Phillip Island Traffic Reports Facebook page.

'We turned around at Rusty Brewery, not worth the hassle in venturing out," she wrote.

However others said although the traffic heading off the island was slow, it was steady, claiming an accident near the Lang Lang roundabout was causing more issues.

Lang roundabout for about 10ks,

posted one at 1.45pm.

There were reports some travellers took five hours to get back to Melbourne.

Around 5pm, someone noted the traffic was banked up from the Jam Jerrup turn off, with another saying traffic had been a slow crawl for about three hours and was banked up from the Lang Lang roundabout to the old GMH proving grounds.

Back on Phillip Island, many breathed a sigh of relief at the end of the holiday high-season, with others applauding the holidaymakers.

Thank you for all your support Melbourne," posted one, but said they would appreciate the quiet

"Keep smiling everyone. Phillip "Traffic gridlocked from Lang Island thriving, love it," said an-



A new safety campaign is focused on ensuring anyone out on the water follows three simple safety rules, including wearing a properly fitted lifejacket.

# Know the three and survive at sea

Boaters and paddlers are being each time you go out," said Lisa Falurged to Know the Three when out at sea when out on the water this summer.

Safe Transport Victoria's latest boating safety campaign asks boaters and paddlers to follow three simple safety rules:

- wear, maintain and service a lifejacket
- carry at least two waterproof communications devices
- and check the weather before and after setting out

Wearing a correctly fitted lifejacket gives someone who falls into the water time to save their life by allowing them to get back on board or call for help. A waterproof communications device is needed to raise the alarm once someone is in the water or if the boat capsizes.

It's important to always keep an eye on the weather forecast as conditions can change quickly.

There were seven boating-related fatalities in Victoria between July 2021 and June 2022.

"There is no room for complacency, it doesn't matter if you are a veteran or a first-time boat owner, know the three and get home safely don, Director Maritime Safety, Safe Transport Victoria.

"It's important to know how to wear your lifejacket correctly - a poorly fitted lifejacket won't stay on you're thrown into the water.'

Boating related fatalities recorded over the past decade were from a range of hazards, including drowning, fire, collisions, gas inhalation, and other boating accidents.

Over the past ten years, nearly four out of five people who drowned while boating did not wear a lifejacket or wore an incorrectly-fitted

Male boaters aged between 35 and 60 are the largest at-risk group and are the primary audience for the campaign.

To help spread the Know the three when out at sea message, Safe Transport Victoria will run boating safety workshops at high traffic areas in regional Victoria throughout summer and officers will engage with boaters at boat ramps.

Learn more at: transportsafety. vic.gov.au/maritime-safety/recreational-boating/campaigns/knowthethree-when-out-at-sea

#### Flying Doctor Wellbeing mental health services expand to Bass Coast

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria has been delivering mental health services via the Flying Doctor Wellbeing program across East Gippsland since 2017. With funding support from the Gippsland Primary Health Network (Gippsland PHN), Flying Doctor Wellbeing has now expanded into the Bass Coast region.

Flying Doctor Wellbeing is free, confidential and mental health sessions are uncapped for residents aged 18 and over. No GP referral is required to access the service and self-referrals are welcome.

Saari, RFDS mental health clinician, is available to provide free mental health support to residents in Wonthaggi, Cowes and Grantville.

Saari is a clinical psychologist and has previously worked in private, public and community health settings providing both individual and group therapy. She is passionate about increasing access to psychology services.

"I really want people to feel comfortable coming in for counselling sessions as they would any other appointment. I'm excited to work closely with the community, and help each individual find strategies that genuinely work for them to improve their wellbeing," Saari said.

RFDS is encouraging people aged 18 or over to reach out and make an appointment if you



- Feelings of stress, worry or overwhelm
- · Low mood, depression and anxiety
- Sleeping problems
- Distress or bad memories that impact on your daily activities
- A sense of panic, loss or anger
- Relationship problems
- · Teary, numb or detached feelings
- Any other mental health concerns.

Saari is available via telephone and telehealth (video) in the comfort of your home or faceto-face in person at the Wonthaggi Medical Centre, Cowes Medical Centre and Grantville Transactional Centre.

To find out more or to make an appointment, contact the Flying Doctor Wellbeing team on (03) 8412 0480 or at wellbeing@rfdsvic.com.au.



#### Thirsty gardens despite wet 12 months

Phillip Island has record- recorded 122mm (the highed a dry start to 2023, largely missing out on rain that fell on surrounding towns and regions.

which started recording in 1994 – showed that up to the weekend we had 6.4mm. with the January average 40mm.

But that's not the driest. In 2019 Rhyll recorded 3mm for January and 4mm in

In Ventnor – where weather recording dates back to 1915 - there was 2.6mm recorded in January in both 2019 and 1932.

But our dry January followed two wet months: in November last year Rhyll its Annual Water Outlook,

est recorded in November was 126mm), and in December 57.8mm (highest 82mm).

For 2022 total rainfall The Rhyll weather station was 873.8mm at Rhyll – just short of the record 896mm in 2012.

Ventnor's records show the wettest vear recorded was 1952 (1052mm).

Reservoir's Candowie capacity remains steady at about 88 per cent.

As previously reported, water restrictions are not expected for 2023, according to Westernport Water. However, there will be

above average temperatures during summer.

The authority released

showing daytime temperatures to February are likely to be above the long-term average, while night-time temperatures "are very likely to be above the long-term average across almost all of Australia".

The Annual Water Outlook shows total water use by customers is jumping each year.

In 2021-22 total water consumption was 2376 million litres (ML) for 22,064 customers.

The previous year there were 21,916 customers with a total water consumption 2305 ML, while in 2018 there were 20,150 customers with a total water consumption



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Always check the new Fire Danger Ratings.

Across Australia, the Fire Danger Rating system has changed Using real-time scientific data, it now gives you a more accurate rating of the risk level if a fire was to start in your area. Each colour represents the actions you need to take to stay safe. If it's orange, the fire risk is Extreme, so you need to take action now and be ready to go. The safest option is to leave early.

#### Plan. Act. Survive.

For more information on the new simpler and smarter Fire Danger Ratings, search Fire Danger Ratings.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



# Support for Duke of Edinburgh continues

For well over 30 years Ne whaven College has been supporting students to complete the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh awards.

The Award is a leading structured (non-formal education) youth development program, empowering young Australians aged 14-24 to explore their full potential and find their purpose, passion and place in the world, regardless of their location or circumstance. The Award is a fully inclusive program and has no social, political, or religious affiliations.

Completing the Award has many benefits for future study, scholarships and employability.

The program has international accreditation and is recognised in more than 140 countries. More importantly, the life skills students learn throughout the 6 – 12-month program are invaluable. Skills such as working with others, being self-motivated, being flexible, communicating with adults, keeping records and connecting with local community groups.

The three levels, whether it be Bronze, Silver or Gold, make achieving success accessible for all who are willing to participate.

To achieve an award, each young person must learn a skill, improve their physical well-being, volunteer in their



2022 Duke of Edinburgh Gold participants were presented with their awards at Newhaven College's Presentation evening in November 2022. From left: Ann-Marie McLean, Christopher Axford, Kirsten Sandy, Sasha Allen, Lara Standish and Tony Corr (Principal).

community and experience a life-long skills." team adventure in a new environment. All participants are supported by a network of adult award leaders, assessors and supervisors.

A number of Newhaven College teachers, such as Ann-Marie McLean and Year 9 Co-ordinator Ric Pearce have supported many students through the process over the vears.

Ann-Marie McLean understands the benefits of completing Duke of Ed.

"The Gold Award not only adds to your ATAR and differentiates you on your resume, but it also teaches you

After a four-day kayaking trip on Lake Eildon as part of the team adventure component, 2022 Year 12 student Sasha Allen said "With all the craziness of the first few weeks of year 12 for some of us, I was so grateful to have the opportunity to step back and disconnect from our technology and just live in the moment".

"I couldn't recommend the Duke of Ed program enough. It's such a rewarding and grounding experience, that also helps out with study pathways after Year 12."

Sasha was presented with



Ann-Marie McLean with 2022 Duke of Ed participants at Lake Eildon, February 2022.

his Gold award along with fellow students Chris Axford, Kirsten Sandy and Lara Standish at Newhaven College's presentation evening in November.

Newhaven College 2016 alumni, Jessica Wayne says her Duke of Ed - Gold award has had a huge impact on her

"When I completed Duke of Ed I was motivated to become more involved in my local community and start volun-

have kept up.

"It has also led to work opportunities in areas of interest

"As an alumnus of the Duke of Ed Australia program, I applied and was chosen as one of five Australian delegates to attend the 2022 APEC Voices of the Future Program and attend the APEC CEO Summit.

"This year it was held in Bangkok, Thailand, alongside youth delegates from the oth-

teering, which is something I er APEC economies. I enjoyed engaging with other delegates and working on the draft of the Youth Declaration."

Students, starting from age 14, are encouraged to participate in the awards. Information sessions are provided, and staff support is there for the entirety of the program. Newhaven College is proud to offer the Duke of Ed Award program to students who choose to take up the chal-

# Meet the Principal

Catherine Blackford has been the principal of Our Lady Star of the Sea since its inception, January 2018. Catherine has extensive school leadership experience in Catholic schools with a career that spans over 40 years. This is Catherine's fifth principal appointment. She is passionate about education, the environment,community engagement and lifelong learning. Community engagement includes building strong relationships with parents and students and to ensure each child is given an education that meets their needs. Catherine prides herself on selecting staff that also share her vision.

Catherine is married, has six children and ten grandchildren



6 Cowes-Rhyll Rd, Cowes | (03) 5951 1700 | olsscowes.catholic.edu.au

Principal Tony Corr joined Newhaven College in 2021. His 25-year career in education includes Deputy Head at Xavier College and Deputy Headmaster of Melbourne Grammar School. Tony's connection to Bass Coast started in his teens, working at Cowes Fish n' Chip shop while staying at his parents' Phillip Island beach house. Now, Tony is thrilled to have joined the Newhaven College community.

"We have a lovely environment for our kids to grow up in. Young people are a bit like nature. Water them, nourish them, give them a bit of space and light and they'll grow and flourish. That's what we provide here. The college has exceeded my expectations," Tony says. "Phillip Island is calm. A sanctuary. A terrific lifestyle balance."



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To find out more contact our registrar Belinda Manning on 03 5956 7505 or email belinda.manning@newhavencol.vic.edu



1770 Phillip Island Road, Phillip Island, Victoria newhavencol.vic.edu.au

## Back to school

# welcome back to school 2023

Grade 2 students Morgan and Archie on the first day back at school.



Preps Indy and Sophie and Grade 6 buddy Asha.

# Welcome to San Remo Primary

San Remo primary school welcomed back students, including its Prep class of 2023 on Monday. The children posed for special welcome photos, while parents and friends enjoyed a coffee and a chat at the free coffee van on site.



Grade 6 student Lexi with her new Prep friend Alexis



Parents and friends enjoyed a coffee and a chat at the free coffee van on the first day of school at San Remo primary

## **Book your free trial now for 2023!**



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## Back to school



Cowes prep Tessa on her first day of school.

# All smiles at Cowes Primary as kids return



First day nerves were non-existent for this happy group of preps at Cowes: Heidi, Bonnie, Lucy and Augie.



Cowes Preps (from left) Asha, Charlotte, Evanthe and Tazz on their first day of school.



Cowes Primary School welcomed six new staff members to the school in 2023. From left: Taylah Smith (Prep), Alex Duyker (Year 3), Dylan Wilson-Browne (Year 4), Elyse Wood (Year 1) and Grace Elkins (Year 6), Absent when photo was taken is Maria Petrovic (Year 2). Monday represented a type of homecoming for two of the new teachers. Alex and Dylan both attended Cowes Primary School as students.



 $The \ new \ kindergarten \ building \ in \ Newhaven \ is \ complete, \ with \ staff \ on \ site \ this \ week, \ get-leaving \ or \ site \ staff \ on \ site \ si$ ting ready for the start of kindergarten sessions on February 6.

# Newhaven Kinder to open soon

It's been a hive of activity the past few weeks as workers race to complete the new kinder at Newhaven.

The kinder, which will be run by the YBallarat, is due to open next week, with threeyear-old sessions starting on February 6, followed by four-year-old sessions on February 9.

Staff are onsite this week settling in, with orientation sessions for the children also tak-

The Newhaven kinder is one of 11 new kindergartens opening across Victoria, located on or next door to existing school sites, announced by the state government last week.

The Newhaven kinder is located on the grounds of Newhaven Primary School.

"Kindergartens on school sites are all about delivering the best facilities and education to children in early education by making the transition to school that much easier," said Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt.

The government is offering free kinder sessions, with children enrolled in three-year-old kindergarten receiving between five and 15 hours of funded learning each week, and those in four-year-old kindergarten will receive 15 hours per week.

Free Kinder programs are available at 97 per cent of funded kindergarten services across the state, including sessional services and long day-care centres.





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Our state of the art Early Learning Centre offers a dedicated Kindergarten program in purpose built rooms in addition to long day care services for students ranging in age from 6 weeks to 5 years

#### FOR INQUIRES PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:

PRINCIPAL: Rod McKenzie PHONE: 5952 2132 EARLY LEARNING CENTRE DIRECTOR: **EMAIL:** cowes.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au WEB: www.cowespsphillipis.vic.edu.au

Karen Treppo **PHONE:** 03 5952 1747 EMAIL: office@pielc.com.au

# Pool funding questions allayed

Phillip Island's pool committee has urged the community to continue pressuring Bass Coast Shire councillors for an aquatic centre, after last year failing to receive funding from either state or Federal governments.

The call came as the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund (PIACF) committee once again responded to public questions over the allocation of public fundraising.

On social media residents questioned the current tally from the donations from the buy-a-brick campaign - run several decades ago to build a pool.

John asked if anyone knew how much money was raised by the community, while Sandra responded "I have asked several times what has happened with the money we gave for a brick".

PIACF secretary Peter McMahon responded that funds had been used to campaign for two decades for a pool and all finances were open to the public, with a current balance of about \$87,000 in the bank.

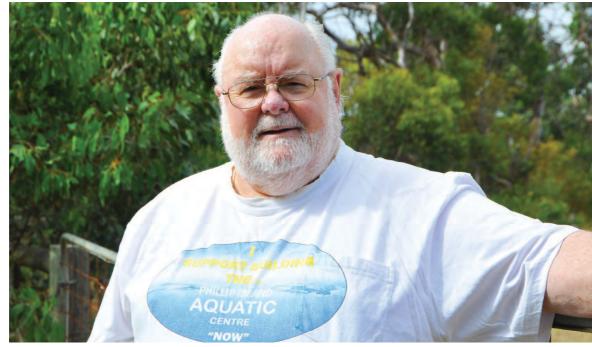
"These costs cover a long period of time and nothing is hidden," Peter

"Our books are open for anyone to inspect at any time but some people will never be satisfied.'

A cash flow summary for 21 years from 2000-2021 - provided to the Advertiser on request - shows a total income of \$297,774 including \$134,063 from fundraising and more than \$66,000 from donations, from events at the Grand Prix track through to buy-a-brick and bucket collections.

However there has been a total expenditure of \$203,176, with costs including consultant fees (\$29,512), for five feasibility studies requested by council, produced and paid for by

Costs have also included public liability insurance (\$21,423), required for every public event.



PIACF secretary Peter McMahon said the committee's finances were open to the community and called on residents to continue to lobby for a Cowes pool.

Office expenses (\$13,324), include paying for a domain name, while subscriptions (\$10,397), include computer software.

Peter - who has volunteered for PIACF for about 14 years and at one stage was working four hours a day on the issue – said before his time the committee also paid for the running costs of a car for a committee member (\$5000)

"At one stage a member was required to travel all around Victoria to find best practice community pools," Peter said.

"His costs were reimbursed."

In 2003 the pool committee was given two interstate plane hangers from NSW to house a proposed pool, which cost \$67,000 to dismantle and

transport. Ultimately, in 2010 - after council requested the hangers be removed - they gave one hangar to the Vietnam Veteran's Museum and later sold one to a crane company for \$22.690, with those losses also incurred in expenditure.

#### Long history

A community pool was first mooted for the Cowes recreation centre in the early 1980s, followed by the CYC on the Phillip Island Road, then behind the Cowes Cultural Centre and now the old carnival site, on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor

A pool committee was formed in 1991, and in 1999 PIACF was created, with an event attended by Dawn Fra-

ser, the pool patron, in 2000, raising

Peter said they had long fought an uphill battle.

'The reason we are in the position we are has been driven by our council not being interested in providing the facilities that are badly needed for the island.

"I would suggest if each person who is interested spent time putting pressure on our councillors to make sure if a vote is required they vote for Phillip Island first then maybe we might get somewhere.

"If people put the time in working on councillors like the few committee members have been doing, maybe we would be in a better position."

He said PIACF was a fundraising

body to help build a Phillip Island Aguatic Centre and funds would be used once council decides to build a

#### What next?

While the community has long lobbied for a 50m pool, a shire study in 2021 recommended Cowes have a "district level" 25 metre x eight lane competition pool, combined learnto-swim and hydrotherapy area, and 24-hour gym, at a cost of \$45.7 mil-

The study also recommended a \$41 million new pool for Wonthaggi: 25 metre x 10 lanes, with a larger gym, new spa and sauna.

Last year the shire forged ahead with a "two-pool strategy", officially seeking \$79.3 million funding from state and Federal governments for the two aquatic centres.

The two-pool strategy is in conflict with the shire's long-term financial plan 2021-31 which only "provides for the delivery of one of these facilities within the next ten years"

In 2021 the shire was believed to have paid \$2.7 million for the purchase of the second half of the carnival land for the creation of a 32-hectare sports hub, including the aquatic centre.

Peter said they were now waiting on the masterplan for the sports hub to be released by the shire, with the island's sporting clubs in urgent need of new sports stadiums.

Last year PIACF released their own masterplan and study, showing a Cowes pool could be a profit-making facility with accommodation and a criterium cycle track.

'Surely after being promised and waiting since amalgamation in 1994, our community on the island must be considered the priority," he said.

"If only one centre is to be built it must be Phillip Island's first.'

Details: www.piac.org.au/



# Say No group lodge petition against special charge scheme

proposed special charge scheme at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay has lodged a petition with Bass Coast Shire Council for the February meeting.

The group says more than 50 per cent of residents object to the option on offer and are calling for the council to abandon the scheme.

'The Say No petition to Council's current proposal for a special charge scheme in both Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay has been met with over 50 per cent of residents objecting to the option on offer," said Say No spokesperson Maxine Sando.

"This is quite an incredible achievement considering that only 35 to 40 per cent of the estate's property owners are permanent.

"The petition consisting of well over the minimum number of signatures required to stop the scheme has been lodged with Bass Coast Council and should be tabled at the February 15 Council meeting."

Maxine said the recent Census data indicates that there are 261 occupied dwellings in Surf Beach and 348 unoccupied with 123 occupied dwellings in Sunderland Bay and 171 unoccupied.

"Of these 43 are rentals in Surf Beach and 25 rentals in Sunderland Bay; not to mention the vacant blocks.

"Rate payers of the impacted estates have voiced their objection to what is being offered and seek Council to stop moving forward, wasting Bass Coast Shire ratepayer's hard-earned dollars on further investigations on a scheme that is not supported.'

The Say No group believes there are less expensive, environmentally sensitive options to approach the dust and drainage issues in both estates and have consistently called for council to meet with them to dis-



The Say No campaign, opposing a proposed special charge scheme for Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay has presented a petition to council, the latest step in an ongoing campaign. Artist Camille Monet with Say No members John, Ross, Susie, Neil with Coco and (front) Ben, Emilie, Baylee, Jay and Remi.

cuss in person the way forward.

"We hope that Council will see that their "one size fits all" option is not what this local community wants," Maxine said.

"With over 50 per cent of signatures on the petition (and counting), Council has clearly not been listen-

ing to their community.
"We are now confident that Council will have to respect the outcome of our petition and create an opportunity for direct discussions with the local community and not what Council wants to push through.

"If the rate payers are the ones to pay for this scheme then Council must listen to their community."

Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay residents can still sign the petition at the Surf Beach Bottle Shop or the coffee van

#### **Process**

Unless Council resolves to deal with it earlier, no motion on the petition (other than to receive it) may be made until a future council meeting,

which means the petition is unlikely to receive a response before the March meeting.

Bass Coast Shire Council sent options for the scheme to all property owners before Christmas and is expected to adopt a preferred treatment in February or March.

According to the special charge scheme process (which is set out in legislation), at this point, every property owner will have the opportunity to make a submission - either in support or opposing the special charge scheme.

Once all submissions have been considered, the council may decide to abandon the scheme, prepare a new scheme (due to the need to significantly modify the designs), or proceed, with or without minor variations.

The scheme would be abandoned if at this point, there were 51 per cent or more property owners that opposed the special charge scheme.

engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ surfbeachroads



All Victorians are eligible to pick up two free packets of RATs through their local council to help with early detection and treatment of COVID-19. Bass Coast Shire Council is distributing RATs through its customer service centre in Cowes and the Visitor Information Centre in Newhaven. Photo: Rod Long, Unsplash.

# Free RATs available through council

panded the criteria for who can access rapid antigen tests (RATs) free of charge through their local coun-

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas announced last week all Victorians are eligible to pick up two free packets of RATs through their local council to help with early detection and treatment of COV-ID-19.

The Bass Coast Shire Council RAT distribution program is operating through its customer service centre in Cowes and the Visitor Information Centre in Newhaven.

RATs are also available from the Customer Service Centre in Wonthaggi, the Grantville Transaction Centre and the Inverloch Visitor Information Centre.

Individuals can collect up to two packets for themselves plus up to two packets for each household

member per visit while people with a disability or their carer can collect up to four packets of tests.

The government said RATs are the primary tool for early detection of COVID-19 and to enable timely clinical care, including access to antivirals for those eligible.

Individuals at high risk of severe illness and eligible for antivirals are encouraged to see their GP to arrange a plan in the event they have COVID-19 symptoms. People in this category who are symptomatic and test negative on a RAT should contact a GP or GP respiratory clinic to access PCR testing for early detection and effective treatment.

Visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ services/covid-19-support for more

For simple tips on staying ahead of COVID-19 and staying well this summer, visit: coronavirus.vic.gov. au/health-advice



#### Do you have questions about offshore wind?

Developer of the Great Southern Offshore Wind project, Corio Generation, will be out in the Gippsland community to answer your questions.

#### Inverloch Community Hub

Thursday 2 February, 10.00am to 2.00pm 16 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch Community Hub

#### **Wonthaggi Rotary Market**

Sunday 12 February, 8.00am to 1.00pm 6 Murray Street, Apex Park Wonthaggi

The Corio Generation team will have the most up to date information on offshore wind and what it means for Gippsland, so make sure you come and say hello!



coriogeneration.com/great-southernoffshore-wind-australia

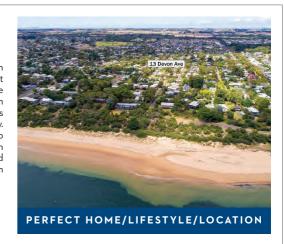


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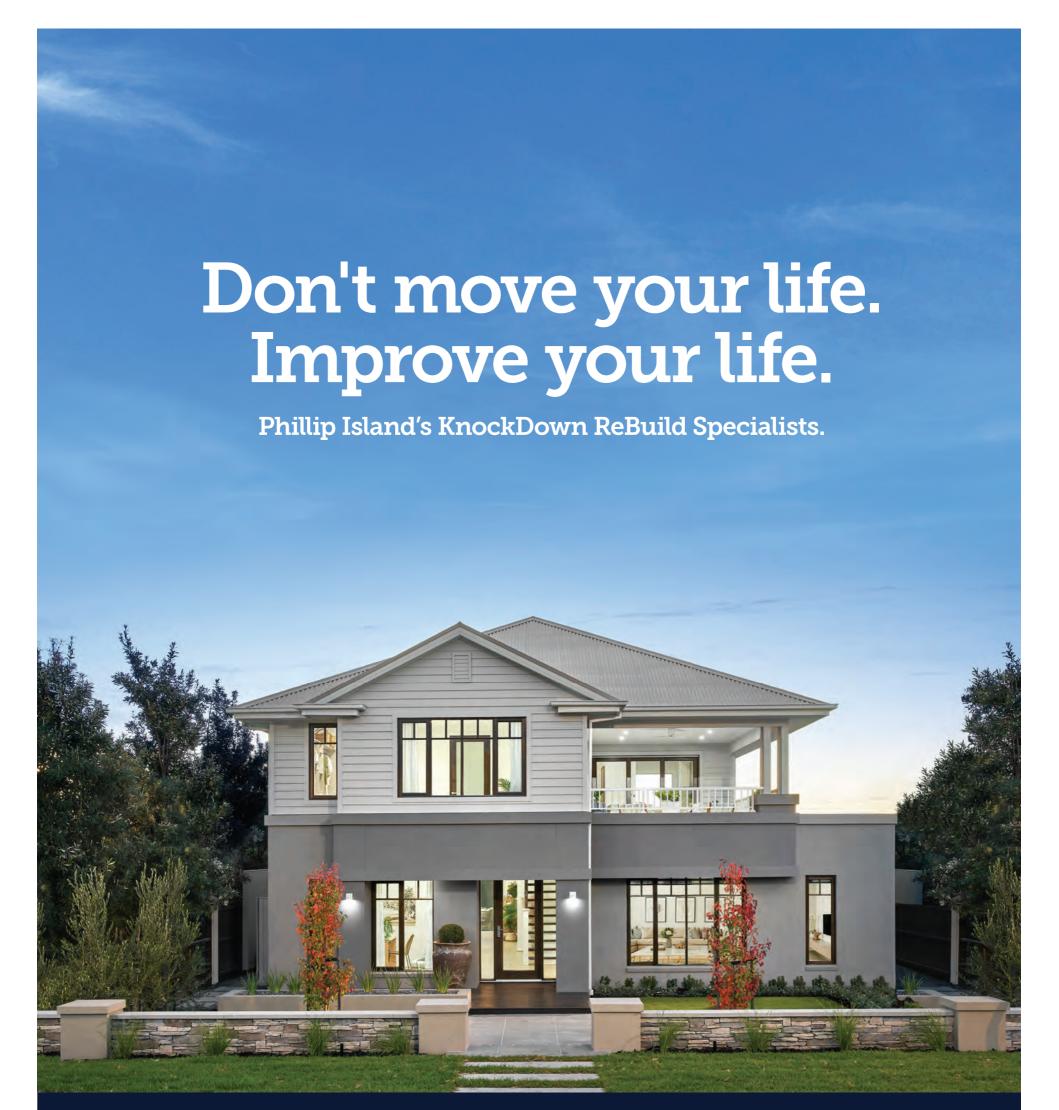
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Image depicts items not supplied by Metricon namely landscaping and fencing. CDB-U 52967.





# Community comes together on Australia Day

Around 1500 people attended Australia Day festivities last Thursday in Rhyll, which were held at the historic Rhyll Mechanics Hall and Park.

Doug Waugh, president of the Phillip Island and District Historical Society, said the day was a great success.

"It was wonderful to see so many people from our community out enjoying the park and the live music while the kids were entertained by a plethora of other things such as a balloon artist, a clown, stilt walkers and face painters.

"The African drumming workshops were a blast, and even the older kids got in on the action. The day was a smashing success, and the weather cooperated magnificently," said Doug.

"The feedback from locals was

that this should be an annual occur-

In addition to the fun enjoyed in the park, there was a stunning display of artworks from local artists, which really attracted the crowds.

Marilyn Forrest, a local artist from Rhyll said the day was amazing.

"I couldn't believe the number of visitors to the hall – they came in non-stop. I think all the artists were delighted with the response."

A display of historical photographs from the Historical Society's collection also received a lot of attention.

"There is just so much interest in local history," Doug remarked.

"And we as the representative body are delegated with the responsibility of reflecting and respecting the past - which is the focus of this year's Australia Day celebration.'

It is hoped the celebration will become an annual event.

"There's a bunch of effort organising all the many parts that makes this day a success, but when the feedback from the community and all the local traders is universally positive - it's does makes it all worthwhile," said Doug.

We are so grateful to the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo as well as National Australia Day Council for their support in bringing this all together."

More photos at pisra.com.au



The Rotary Sausage Sizzle manned by Gary Simmons, Lee and Tony Hochkins, Sharon Buxton, Syd Hadley, Graeme Turner and Gea and John Lovell at the Australia Day event in Rhyll, hosted by the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo.



Island Jazz band entertained the crowd. On trumpet - Peter Buitenhuis, keyboard – Jonathan Wade, sax – Ron Anderson



What would a community celebration be without face painting? Face painter Kharie Murphy with a beautifully decorated Maya Sheahan.



serving up some drinks at the Rotary Art Show held in the Rhyll Hall as part of the Australia Day event.



Enjoying the perfect weather on Australia Day were the McKechnie and Giisbers family from Rhyll and Cowes.



Rhyll locals Robina Hunnam, Ros Hancock with Nick and Barb Vassallo enjoying the sunshine and activities at the Rhyll Australia Day celebrations.



The Grant and Ahern families certainly got into the Australia Day spirit.



An exhibition of local artists was held in the Rhyll Hall as part of the Australia Day event.



Alan Easterbrook, Rosa James and Peter Forrest made good use of a shady table to watch the entertainment at the Rhyll Australia Day event.



Ventnor resident Sue Hunt, CEO of the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day awards.

# Order of Australia for Ventnor-based CEO

Ventnor resident Sue Hunt throughout her career. was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day awards.

Sue, who is currently the CEO of the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Foundation, received the award for significant service to the arts and to community health.

Sue and her partner Rob moved to the island in 2017, after buying a holiday house back in 2014.

Many islanders might be surprised to learn the ČEO of the RCH Foundation was in their midst, but the role is just the latest in a long list of impressive achievements.

Sue was also the founding CEO of Carriageworks (a contemporary multi-arts centre in Sydney), General Manager of both the Geelong Performing Arts Centre and Queensland Theatre Company, as well as Director of Performing Arts at the Sydney Opera House.

of voluntary board positions adorns her resume, including most recently Deputy Chair of Rising Festival, and current Chair of Auspicious Arts Projects and Regional Arts Victoria. Closer to home, she is on the board of the Penguin Founda-

Sue said she was "surprised and delighted" to receive the award.

thought was possible. I was humbled to think that what I do is considered meaningful to other people."

Throughout her career, Sue said she always felt it was important to put back into the arts industry.

"I always back up my professional work with volunteer work," she said.

"Yes, I am a professional, but I have put back in my own time and my own skills."

She said she's incredibly proud of all the volunteer board roles

"I've loved doing all of them."

#### Royal Children's Hospital

After working interstate for many years, in 2010 Sue returned to Victoria to take on the role of CEO of the RCH Founda-

"All Melburnians love and respect the Royal Children's Hospital - in terms of the fund-raising and charitable world - it's right up there.

"I thought I could be happy there and I might have something to offer."

Bringing solid CEO and business skills, Sue said it wasn't hard to make the change from arts and performance to the work the Foundation does.

"In the arts, you are never too far away from fundraising; you are always looking for sponsors and donors.

"It's been an absolute gift, an extraordinary job."

Sue says the beauty of the RCH A similarly impressive list Foundation is it reaches such a broad cross section of givers, from kids in primary school to millionaires.

"What I've been able to do is talk to donors through the whole continuum.

"I get to talk to nine-year-olds who raised \$80 from a lemonade stand to someone who wants to give us \$10 million, and everything in between.

"There's the auxiliaries - wom-"It is an honour that I never en who have spent 50-60 years ing down. fundraising, selling cakes, making jam, or the captains of industry. I get to talk to them every day."

Despite her love of the job, she admits it is a challenging role.

"The heartbreaking side is you see children and families at their most vulnerable.

"We do see sick children and young people, and see families who have lost that battle. And even in losing a loved one, they still want to help.

"That's another gift, that we get to help them in those moments. It gives them meaning

from the loss, or gratitude for the care they've had.

Sue says the distance between the arts and her current role isn't as big as people might imagine, believing arts are at the core of a strong, healthy community.

"In the arts, I could transform people through the power of performance.

While she dabbled in theatre as a kid, she said her talent has always been supporting the artists, not being one.

She lists establishing Carriageworks, a new space in Sydney, as one of her proudest arts achievements.

On a personal level, she nominates working alongside Michael Gow at the Queensland Theatre Company, then seeing him go back to his craft as a playwright, 'and being so brilliant".

Her current board roles with Auspicious Arts and Regional Arts Victoria keep her firmly connected to the local arts com-

Closer to home, joining the board of the Penguin Foundation has opened up another world.

"It's my first role on the island and I'm really excited about it.

"I am learning more about the environment, the penguins, research and preservation.

"It's good for me to learn something new."

And she has no plans for slow-

"I'm not thinking about that. If you can make a contribution, you should keep busy and keep working."

Despite her own incredible contributions, Sue was keen to congratulate those who have helped her achieve so much throughout her career.

"I would thank all the donors large and small; all the artists and technicians. And my family and friends.

"They have made this award possible, and I couldn't be



Lesley Kool is a recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to palaeontology, including a significant body of work in Bass Coast.

# Scratching the surface of our prehistoric past

awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to palaeontology.

For 40 years Lesley Kool has worked as a fossil preparator, chipping away at countless bones, including many found at the Inverloch dinosaur dig, helping to put this region on the Australian dinosaur map.

Together with Phillip Island fossil collector Mike Cleeland, Lesley even has Victoria's State fossil emblem named after her: Koolasuchus cleelandi, a prehistoric amphibian whose jawbone was found in 1990 at San Remo. The amphibian will be featured in one of six sites on Bass Coast's proposed dinosaur trail, running 40km from San Remo to Inverloch.

So dedicated is Lesley to the ancient science that she and her husband Gerrit moved from Melbourne to Wonthaggi 21 years ago, to be closer to the dinosaur dig.

And while the 72-year-old is officially retired, nevertheless she continues her work.

"I'm retired – sort of. I do something every day with bones because I love it," Lesley says.

"There are always bones that need to be prepared and I'm currently organising a dinosaur dig for later in February." It was in the early 1980s that she was

invited on a dinosaur dig in the Otways. "I'd always loved ancient history and my husband thought if I go on the twoweek dig I'll get it out of my system.

"But I was hooked. I asked if there was anything I could do to help and was told there were a lot of bones that needed to

Lesley says surprisingly she immediately found her passion in the skill of removing tiny fossils from chunks of rock.

"It's very challenging because the rock is hard and the bones are soft. I say it's like trying to get a Violet Crumble out of a block of concrete," says Lesley, who has co-authored 30 scientific papers.

"This is a bone from an animal that lived 126 million years ago and it's unique to them.

"I'm driven by the thrill of uncover-

A Bass Coast dinosaur expert has been ing a fossil bone or tooth no one else has

#### Bare bones

It was while working as a research assistant at Monash University in fossil preparation, that she studied a Bachelor of Arts to give her qualifications in the role, but with most skills learned on the

Lesley says hand-eye coordination is critical for the role, which involves working over a microscope much of the day

Lesley long ago lost count of how many bones she has prepared, explaining she specialises in small bones from dinosaurs, fish, mammals, birds and turtles.

Once she delicately removes the fossil from the rock, Lesley's job is to then to identify the bone and finally send it to Museums Victoria where it is catalogued

The role has seen her travel to Canada, Japan and Patagonia on the hunt for fossils and she has helped identify 10 types of Bass Coast dinosaurs.

And while she has the Koolasuchus cleelandi named after her, husband Gerrit has a tiny small mammal named after him: Kryoparvis gerriti.

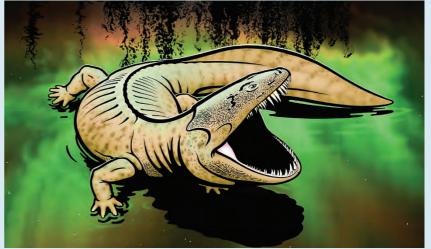
She adds Koolasuchus is also something of a play on words as the species lived in a cool environment when Victoria was deep in the southern polar circle.

She says the animals she works with lived in an environment that was totally different to today's and yet they thrived for millions of years.

"They were as Australian as the koala and the kangaroo, but very few people are aware they ever existed. We would like to change that view.'

In accepting the OAM, Lesley says she has worked with more than 700 volunteers over four decades.

"I have not done this all on my own. I'm part of an enthusiastic team of volunteers, some of whom have been there from the beginning. This is not a oneman band, it takes a village, perhaps even a small town to do this work.'



Koolasuchus cleelandi, a prehistoric amphibian whose jawbone was found in 1990 at San Remo, is named after Lesley Kool. Artist: Peter Trusler, courtesy



Vegas and Kristen Fitzmaurice, owners of The Wandering Panda Coffee Van, with their Great Dane Miss Bacon, are on site at the NRMA Beachfront Holiday Park until mid March.



 $The\ coffee\ van\ also\ is\ also\ a\ mobile\ art\ gallery,\ selling\ \ a\ range\ of\ artwork\ that\ includes\ towels,\ cheese boards,$ skateboards and canvases. The van will be on Phillip Island until mid-March, before heading up off the coast

# Wanderers call island home ... for now

to home for Vegas and Kristen Fitzmaurice, owners of The Wandering Panda Coffee Van.

The couple have been on the road since August 2021, mostly travelling up and down the east coast of Australia, and are currently halfway through a four month stint on the island, at the NRMA Beachfront Holiday Park in Cowes.

As well as being home to Vegas' parents, Phillip Island is where their coffee van adventure began.

When Covid lockdowns forced a re-evaluation of their life - Kristen had always worked in an office, while Vegas was a personal trainer - the

couple decided to take to the road. Despite having never owned a caravan before, the couple jumped in and bought a van that is both a

mobile coffee shop, and their home. 'We wanted to see our own backyard and work while we were doing

it," Kristen explained. "We thought it was a good way to

travel and work at the same time." The couple also operate a mobile indigenous art gallery, selling artwork created by Vegas, a Wurund-

Before they hit the road, they de- Kristen.

Phillip Island is the closest thing cided to test drive the van to Phillip Island for a weekend at the Beachfront Holiday Park.

During their stay, they approached park managers, Daniel and Kelly Rutter about having the mobile coffee van set up for park guests and beach goers.

That resulted not just in a stint at the Cowes park, but an ongoing relationship with NRMA parks across the country, as having the onsite coffee van is so popular with guests.

The van is usually open six days a week, from 8am – 12pm.

As well as selling coffee, tea, hot chocolate, ice latte and cookies, they also sell a range of artwork.

'There's a lot of useable art," explained Vegas. "People in caravans want some-

thing they can use – they're not likely to have art on their walls. We try to incorporate things people would use."

That includes towels, cheeseboards, skateboards and canvases. Not having to travel to work and having most afternoons "off work"

seems like the perfect lifestyle. But it's not without challenges.

"How much we can carry with us is always a challenge," laughed

"And starting out, we had to learn no escape. You can't storm off into how to tow a van. This is the first caravan we've ever had and we went in head-first - not really understanding the logistics of the caravan itself.

"But we've met some pretty amazing people along the way who have helped us and given us advice."

Being on the road means even getting supplies can require creative thinking.

"Whenever we move to a new place, there's the logistics of where we will get our milk supplies, where we are going to get our art printed."

Even something as essential as coffee supplies can be a challenge. When Melbourne went into lock-

down, trying to get coffee from their supplier - Little Gecko in Newport - up to Queensland was a logistical nightmare.

But mostly, Kristen said their new lifestyle has exceeded all her expectations.

"This is the first time we've worked together and I enjoy it more than I expected," she said, but stressed that living and working in a small van requires patience, and tolerance.

"It really taught us to be more patient and to resolve things. There's

another room of the house.

Last summer, the couple, who also travel with their Great Dane Miss Bacon, spent four months on Phillip Island, split between the NRMA park in Cowes and Ingenia in Newhaven.

During their stay, they did an interview with What's Up Down Under - a TV show about all things camping and travelling - and went on to star in five episodes, travelling to Airlie Beach, Rollingstone (near Townsville), Innisfail, then Cairns.

After the show, they set up the van in Port Douglas for three weeks, before winding their way south, visiting the Sunshine Coast, Byron Bay and Eden on their way back to Phillip Island.

On this latest island visit, Vegas has created a special artwork for a new outdoor area at the Beachfront Holiday Park, which officially opened on January 28.

Describing himself as mostly selftaught, as a child Vegas was introduced to indigenous painting by his

uncle, who was also an artist. "I didn't do it for many years, but pandacoffeevan

when my uncle got sick, I got back into it, for him, to show him what I'd learned.

After his uncle passed away from cancer, Vegas won an artwork tender for the Victorian Integrated Cancer Services, which is now used statewide.

"It's designed to encourage indigenous people to get early help for cancer.

Juggling his art career with the van – "probably 60 per cent of my job is the artwork and 40 per cent on coffee", Vegas has learned how to create on the road.

"I'm lucky that a lot of caravan parks encourage me to paint in their rec rooms.'

But being on the island means Vegas is able to set up his painting studio in his parents' garage.

"My mum was a beautiful artist (she has arthritis now) so getting her views and connection with my art is really nice.

The couple, and their van, will be on Phillip Island, at the Beachfront Holiday Park, until mid-March.

'Come down and say hello," said

www.facebook.com/wandering-

# Artwork adorns new meeting area at holiday park

A new outdoor meeting area at the NRMA Beachfront Holiday Park in Cowes was launched on Saturday, January 28 with a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country by Steve Ulula Parker.

A painting by Indigenous artist Vegas Fitzmaurice of VFG Creative and the Wandering Panda Coffee Van was also unveiled.

The area, which includes outdoor seating and a firepit has been named "Millowl", and the launch was attended by guests at the park and members of the community.

Vegas explained the painting. "Millowl - Phillip Island is painted as an aerial vision from the view that Bunjil the wedged tailed eagle would see.

"Bunjil is accompanied by his brother Waa the crow who protects the waterways. The coastline features the unique red rocks along with the powder sandy beach and the plant life all represented on the island.

The crystal blue ocean to the left Little Penguins (Meereeng-Mum) and whales (Betavla) while all the underwater growth keeps the wa-



Kelly Rutter (park manager), artist Vegas Fitzmaurice, Uncle Steve Ulula Parker, Kristen Fitzmaurice and Daniel Rutter (park manager) at the launch of the new outdoor area at the Beachfront Holiday Park, with Vegas' painting hanging above them.

is filled with native life including ters clean. People are represented along the land and waterfront of this incredible and original part of our country.

"Thanks to the guidance and help from one of the islands most knowledgeable and respected locals Uncle Steve Ulula Parker. I



The new outdoor meeting area was launched on Saturday, January 28 with a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country by Steve Ulula

was fortunate enough to have his Beachfront Holiday Park for their blessing," Vegas said.

We are very proud to donate this piece to the NRMA Phillip Island

outdoor area for many future generations to enjoy.

More photos at pisra.com.au



The line up for the Cutback Festival on February 25 features live music by Felipe Baldomir (pictured), along with 3 Humps, Ozone, Steve Cousins, Nira Quinn, Cassandra Craddock, Dannielle Bayliss and Jacquie Sterling

# A month-long Festival of Surfing

The Festival of Surfing is a monthlong celebration of surfing and the Phillip Island Boardriders Club's Vira Quinn, Cassandra Craddock,

60-year history.

The Club describe the festival as a time "to come together, share the stoke and our rich history through surfing, music, art, and surf cul-

A family-friendly, sustainable program of events that appeals to all kinds of surfers of all ages and abilities has been assembled

The festival kicked off with the Surfing Teams Challenge on January 21, and the formal opening is on February 3 from 6pm at Bang Bang Bar and Food in Cape Woolamai.

"Pulling together the Festival of Surfing program together has been a pleasure, I've learned so much," said PIBC Vice President, Geoff Russell

'The island has such rich surfing history and to be part of the Club's 60th is an honour.

Geoff said the range of surfing activities included free 24/7 surfers rescue training, teams surfing events, junior competitions, a supergroms program for the little ones, a longboard and twin fin nostalgic event

"And we're supporting the Disabled Surfers Association bringing joy to people with a disability through surfing.'

The Festival concludes with a Cutback Festival on February 25, feaDannielle Bayliss and Jacquie Ster-

'We will also have surf movies, memorabilia, skateboarding activities and Traditional Owner, Steve Parker is painting a mural to mark the occasion with the help of the local kids," said Geoff.

"The community is invited to come to celebrate.

The club is also looking for input most profound influence or impact

on local surfing legends.
"I'm particularly interested in finding out who people think are the top ten most influential surfers of the Phillip Island Boardriders Club," said Geoff.

"This is an idea brought to the committee by life member Mal Gregson and we've run with it.

"It's simple really, we've been receiving nominations for the surfer who through their surfing, and their wider contribution, has had the

on the sport of surfing.
"The hard job will be whittling it down to just 10."

Geoff said as far as the PIBC knows, the festival is the first event of this kind in the region.

"We are proud to present an awesome program of surfing events and activities with our partners Bass Coast Shire Council, Surfing Victoria, Surfers Rescue Program, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Phillip Island National Surfing Reserve Westernport Water, Committee,

Island Surfboards, Girls on Board, Disabled Surfers Association Bass Coast, Phillip Island RSL and the always popular PIBC Supergroms Program

"Special thanks to our amazing sponsors, music and graphic artists for getting behind us and enabling us to bring a jam-packed program together."

If you're keen to learn what's happening or get involved, check out the Phillip Island Boardriders Club website pibc.com.au/



A month of family-friendly events that appeals to all kinds of surfers of all ages and abilities has been assembled for the Festival of Surfing, including a Supergroms program.



A range of events will be held throughout the month-long Festival of Surfing, organised by the Phillip Island Boardriders Club, to celebrate its 60th anniversary.





# A proud and long history



Boardriders established in 1963, making it one of, if not the longest running boardrid-

In 2023 the club celebrates 60 years, with a month-long Festival of

At its conception, most of the club members were from Melbourne, 120 kilometres away. As the membership grew these surfers migrated closer to the beach and now 95 per cent of all members live on the Island.

The magnificent milestone is a chance to celebrate and reflect on all PIBC has achieved.

"Having grown up around the club with my three brothers and being one of the first supergroms myself, over 20 years ago, makes me very proud to be able to host PIBC's 60th," said current club president

"The focus on surfing, fun, community, and families is what it's all the club culture and community. It about and the Phillip Island Boardriders Club will continue to encourage and nurture the sport that we all love, surfing,

been a chance to get a new insight into the club and its history.

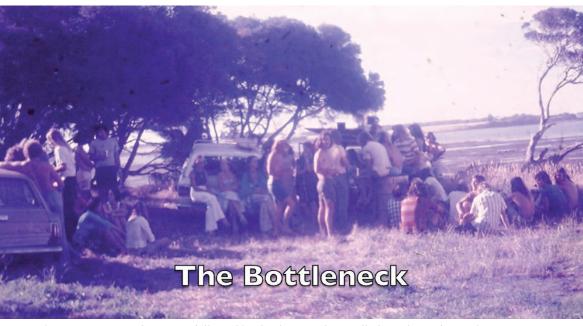
"It has been interesting going back over old newsletters and see- ing members being 75 years of age, ing how female representation has notably Robert Hosking and Robert really changed over the years,'



The 2017-18 ABB Team. Front: Stephen Noble, Dylan Mathews, Josh Joe Van Dijk, Sage Goldsbury, Sophie Fletcher, Brock Jeffrey Warren. Third row: Ty Sorati, Francis Meade, Jake Eisen, Taylor Hollub, Amber Goldsbury, Michael Niven, Krystal, Shaun Fairthorn, Codie Jeffery, Imogen, Carl Wright, Jess Laing.

Congratulations on 60 years!

225-243 Thompson Ave, Cowes | Phone: (03) 5952 1004 | pirsl.com.au



During the 1970s, contest days were followed by drinks at a place called Bottle Neck Beach. There was no clubhouse back then so surfers didn't have a base to meet.

of all ages competing and enjoying Changes makes me stoked to be President of the Boardriders Club in such an important time for women in sport."

She is particularly proud of the in-Preparing for the celebrations has ter-generational appeal of the club.

"We have three generations of club members surfing in club contests today: with the oldest compet-Matthews, both 75 years of age and still going head-to-head for the win

Kids in The Kitchen all playing live. These events helped raise enough funds to build their own clubrooms, which opened in 1993.

During the 1970s, contest days

There was no clubhouse back then

so surfers didn't have a base to meet.

The past six decades have seen the

Boardriders club run formal events

and host bands with the likes of

Daddy Cool, Little River Band, Sky-

hooks (lead singer Shirley Strachan

was a member), Austin Tayshus and

were followed by drinks at a place

called Bottle Neck Beach.

These days, the clubhouse on Veterans Drive in Newhaven, is equipped with new solar panels and a tesla battery, saving operational costs in electricity of up to 85 per cent.

Over the years, the club was largely mobile, using trailers and caravans to carry contest equipment. There were so many members it would take two days to run

The club would split the super grommet program to a safer beach on the island, with parents assisting to make sure the kids were safe in the water. Robert Matthews was a huge influence in this program, and he is now taking his grandkids, 30

"Things are a little more streamlined today," Hannah said.

"We still tow a trailer so we can have contests at the most suitable surf spot on the day, but we now have "Liveheats"; an online registration portal and live contest

Club Men's Open Champion • James Noble, multiple-time Vic Open and Junior Champion, 2nd ul6 Australian Titles, winner of the Billabong World Junior series Billabong World Junior Bells and Cronulla, and finalist in the World Grommet titles Bail.

test winner, twice Victorian Open

Champion, WSL water patrol lead

Nikki Van Dijk, professional

surfer, former world junior title holder, women's WCT competitor,

Association of Surfing Profession-

als (ASP) Women's Championship

and Samsung Galaxy Champion ship surfer and Nikki competed at

the highest level of the sport with the World Surf League (WSL) and

is a WCT and WOS event winner.

• Carl Wright, multiple-time Vic

Open and Junior Champion and

• Sandy Ryan holds multiple state longboard titles and was the highest-rated Aussie in the paddle in section of the Australasian big wave awards in 2009. Sandy is a renowned big wave surfer and leader of the Island Surfboards Team who have won five Vic industry challenges plus two State and one Australasian core store championships

· Sage Goldsbury, former Australian Cadet Champion, represented Back in the early 90s, the club had Australia at the ISA World Juniors, its own computer judging system second in the Australian Junior Surf devised by Ian Pewtress (the only ing Titles, WSL Hydralyte Pro Junior, other computer system used for and Women's Open Champion.

 Harry De Roth, six times Brit ish Junior Champion, finalist in the Surfing Australia went on to use European Pro Juniors, and multiple the PIBC computer system. Now all times PIBC Men's Open Champion.

At a state level, the club boasts many Victorian Open and Junior One thing that has remained the Champions, with many holding mulsame, is the community gatherings tiple titles including, Carl Wright Vaughn Platt, Glyndyn Ringrose, with a great raffle run by kids with Simon McShane, Josh Rush, James prizes donated by local businesses Noble, Steve Noble, Joe Van Dijk, as well as barbeques and a presen- Nikki Van Dijk, Amber Goldsbury, Sage Goldsbury, Sophie Fletcher, Codie Jeffery, Luke Archibald, John Mason, Jackson Collins and Rhy Ci-The club has had talented surf- cero.

In the Longboard Division Sandy Ryan and Andrew Burgan hold multiple titles, while others include Mark Fairthorne, Richie Lang, Jacquie Chambers, Natalie Van Der Heyden, Molly Hosken, Tate Russell Standout achievements by mem- and Niamh Moore.

Over the years, the club has run professional competitions, the first surfer, Australian Champion Cirof which was in 1969. That event cuit Winner, Nias Pro Winner, offered \$100 in prize money, and in 1970 was backed up with \$200.

rian champion. Air show champion. Through the 70s and into the 80s • Glyndyn Ringrose, professional PIBC ran the Alan Oke Memorial surfer, World Tour Surfer, World an event that, in 1976, boasted the Qualifying Series (WQS) con- highest prize money of any event



Club members in the 1970s.

in the world. Some winners of the bury, Sophie Fletcher and Nikki event were Ian Cairns, Wayne Van Dijk. Lynch, Glen Winton, Col Smith and Ian Cochrane.

ran the World Qualifying Series all over Australia and the world. (WQS) events and the Australian Championship Circuit (ACC) events. Howard (dec.), John Quinn, Mal-

Phillip Island now hosts the World colm Gregson, Neil Oke, Bruce Oke, Surf League Phillip Island Pro. The John Mason, Chris Rodgers, David popular." Phillip Island Pro Qualifying Series Fincher (dec.) Craig Clarke, Mark (QS) 1000 is a premier surf event Fairthorne, Paul Cochrane, Geofthat takes place at Cape Woolamai, frey Owens (Ouzo), Robert Matwhere several of our members have

In the mid-90s, life member Mal Gregson received the Duke Ka- Fame members - Mal Gregson, for leading the club through this hanamoku award and life mem- John Mason, Garry (Dozza) Dorber Craig Clark received a similar rington, Steve Smart, and Vaughn and follow events and watch surfing award in the late 90s from Surfing Platt. At the 60th Celebration, life from across the world, live on their

of Fame premier club award then prestigious list of surfers. in 2000, the club had four members (Mal Gregson, Craig Clark, Paul Cochrane, and Ian (Teddy) Pewtress) receive Australian sports medals for their contribution to surfing. The island and its beautiful beaches and carved out successful careers in awards had the Queen's seal and were instrumental in supporting the sport, representing on the world were presented to the recipients by Phillip Island to become a National stage," explained Hannah. Prime Minister John Howard.

received the Hall of Fame innovation award for their super grommet program led by Robert Matthews.

that came through the program in- ty to communicate and share what's board tour, WSL shortboard, World cluding Ry Craike, Luke and Brent happening with the community and Qualifying Series (WQS) judge. Dorrington, Shaun Stevic, and members, as well as showcase tal- Australian Representative judge at Brendon Leckie have left a great ented photographers such as An-the International Surfing Associamark as well as today's talent; Carl drew Lindsay, Lachlan Moore and tion World Surfing games and was

These surfers make us proud when they represent Phillip Island The club has 14 life members: Jim said Hannah.

thews, Pal Cinninas.

As well as these 14 club legends, there are five Australian Hall of President should be acknowledged patrol team and is also a great inspimembers will take the opportunity phone, tablet, or device. In 1999, the club received the Hall to welcome a new life member to the

The Boardriders Club and its lades. members are passionate about the Surfing Reserve in 2013, which cel-

Technology and social media Well known and talented surfers have also increased the opportuni- World Surf League (WSL) Long-Wright, Joe Van Dijk, Sage Golds- Tommy Williams. The club also has head judge of the Australian Long-

\* BAR & FOOD \*

In 2013, the club held a massive event to celebrate its 50th anniversary. access to drone filming thanks to boarding Titles. Jacob Fry.

amazing coastline of the island,' "The downside is that our awe-

nificant change for the Boardriders most experienced judges. Club and one that has taken many vears to master. Dylan Matthews, previous Club surfers as a leader of the WSL water pibc.com.au/festivalofsurfing

transition. Today, surfers can enter

The legacy of the Phillip Island Boardriders Club members and their wider contribution to surfing extends beyond trophies and acco-"Some of our members have

"A few names that come to mind To top it off, in 2004, the club also ebrated with Annual Teams Chalinclude Glyndyn Ringrose, Craig lenge 10th anniversary just two Clark, Ty Sorati, Eli Curry and Luke

Eli was the head judge of the

"This has been fantastic for mem- at Surfing Victoria and is now Tour bers to be able to not only see the Manager at WSL APAC, World Surf was also acknowledged for services In the 80s and 90s, the club also in contests not only in Victoria but surfing skills in the club but the League, he is involved in pulling to judging through the Australian together the online systems for the Surfing Professionals (ASP). WSL and travels the globe with the WSL. Tv is a stand-out surfer him- nah Eisen and Geoff Russell are some breaks have become very self and spent his earlier years surf- conscious of the legacy and history ing on the island. Surfing Victoria of the past 60 years and is equally

Glyndyn continues to travel the

ration, coach, and mentor for junior Ty Sorati was Systems Operator surfers coming through Craig Clark, PIBC life member

The Club Committee, led by Han-

Moving online has been a sig- has quoted Ty as being one of their as excited to see where the club will go from here. Join the 60th Anniversary celglobe and look after the world's best ebrations at the Festival of Surfing:

More photos at pisra.com.au



2002 Longboard: Peter Bird, Ritchie Laing, John Benson, Andrew Burgan, Andrew Lidsey (Bunny), and Eli Curry.

Phillip Island Apartments congratulates Phillip Island Boardriders Club on reaching such a fantastic milestone!

scoring, competition management,

and everyone can view the scores

"We live stream events to Youtube

for people to follow online or replay

surfing was by the ASP for WCT

boardriders clubs all over the world

back at the club after the contests,

tation to bring everyone together.

ers make it onto the World Cham-

pionship Tour, one being Glyndyn

Ringrose who is now coaching ju-

nior members and is back compet-

ing in the aggregate contests with

• Simon McShane, professional

Cloud 9 Pro Winner, 5-time Victo-

at a later time.

use "live heats".

Future champs

his son, Isaac.

bers, include:

throughout the competition online.

We are looking forward to celebrating with the community on the 25th of February 2023. Well done PIBC! 6 decades of surfing and still going strong!



phillip island apartments

group

9 – 11 Bass Avenue, Cowes, Victoria, 3922

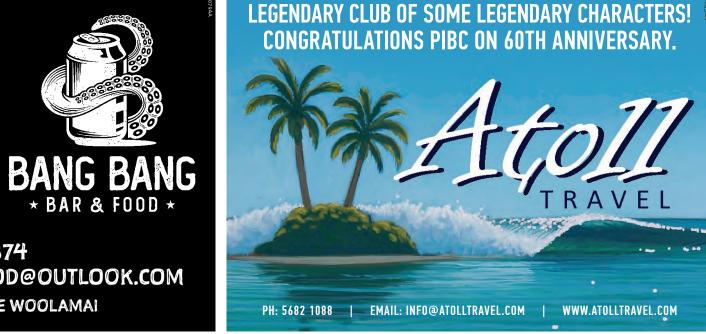
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16 THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023 17



Phillip Island Boardriders Club captain Ash Easton is leading a team to compete at the Australian Boardriders Battle in Newcastle on February 4-5.

# **Boardriders countdown to Battle**

lip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) team who will compete in the Australian Boardriders Battle (ABB) Grand Final and you can watch it live and free on @7plus.

Don't miss a beat of the action as 24 clubs go head-to-head in what is the biggest grassroots Boardriders event in the country. The Hyundai Australian Boardriders Battle Grand Final is presented by Zambrero and will be held at Newcastle City Beach, NSW on February 4-5.

The countdown is on for the Phil- Victoria a number of times over recent years.

This is actually the fourth consecutive year the team has travelled to Newcastle for the event after strong performances in the state series to qualify.

Club captain Ash Easton is leading the team.

Stepping into the Club Captain for PIBC after being a member of over 30 years and now dad to my

own supergrom (Billy) is awesome. "The talent we are seeing coming The PIBC team has represented through the club is awesome, and I

am honoured to be taking the team to the Australian Boardriders Battle in Newcastle.

"It will be an opportunity to showcase our standout surfing in the biggest grassroots surfing event in the country.'

"We have had a 15-year run heading up the coast for these team events and our best result a number of years ago was making the semi-finals when the event was named the Jim Beam challenge." Ash said.

"This year we hope to make the

semi-finals and then the sky is the the ABB," said Ash.

This year's team consists of Ash Easton, Carl Wright, Joe Van Dijk, Dylan Thomas James, Sage Goldsbury, Blake Green, Tate Russell, and Eden Goldsbury.

All team members have been training hard over the summer and were all represented in the recent National Surfing Reserve Teams Challenge event.

"It was a great way for our surfers to have a practice run in a competitive environment a week out from

"The star performer and best surfer of the day was Joe Van Dijk, who has been in red hot form lately and is likely to be our Open men's power surfer.

"All of our team members posted excellent scores in the recent team event, and we are confident that this will be the case in Newcastle.

"As one of the smaller clubs, the island will be going into the event as the underdogs, however, the team has fire in its belly to stick it to some of the best surfers in the country."

Congratulations to Phillip Island Boardriders on their 60th anniversary. We're proud to be making surfing history with you

as we celebrate our 10 years since Victoria's only surfing reserve was established.



CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING YOUR 60TH MILESTONE PIBC.

WITHOUT THE OUTSTANDING WORK THAT OUR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS PUT IN THIS AMAZING CLUB WOULDN'T BE WHERE IT IS TODAY.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

JAKE AND NAT



Congratulations to Phillip Island Boardriders Club on their 60 year anniversary!

We're proud to support such an amazing club and community as we all encourage local surfing and future pathways through surfing.

Live the search!



Rip Curl Phillip Island | 10-12 Phillip Island Rd Newhaven Vic 3925

CHEERS, MATES. HERE'S TO ANOTHER 60!

18 THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

# Bigger and bolder; Meeniyan **Garlic Festival returns**

The Meeniyan Garlic Festival on Saturday, February 18 is promising bigger and bolder flavours than ever before, and is an absolute must for garlic lovers.

This year the Festival will offer the public two new varieties of garlic. The Festival and Hillston varieties are bigger than similar varieties and packed with a more intense flavour. The Hillston garlic is a re-emergence of a lost variety back in 1990 and has now been brought back to market by a long-standing commercial grower.

The Festival Creole is a good-sized bulb coming originally from Tasmania. Be warned, while it ranges between mild and hot flavoured - it comes with the kicker of what the garlic industry euphemistically refers to as "delayed-extreme heat.

Now in its fifth year, the annual Meeniyan Garlic Festival draws in thousands of festival-goers to celebrate the region's high-quality garlic and produce. The festival aims to connect Gippsland and Melbourne with fine food offerings, great garlic and great produce, making this a one-off opportunity to explore the food and beverage of the whole region.

In the Taste of Gippsland section of the festival, visitors can choose from two dishes from two of the region's finest eateries.

The festival is delighted to announce the two award-winning restaurants coming to Meeniyan are The Tinamba Hotel and The Long Paddock. Chef Gerard Phelan from The Tinamba Hotel and Tanya Bertino. Chef and Co-founder of The



Organisers of the fifth Meeniyan Garlic Festival are promising bigger and bolder favours, as it celebrates the regions high quality garlic and produce. The festival runs from 9am – 4pm on February 18.

unique dishes featuring local produce and, of course, garlic.

The Tinamba Hotel was recently awarded a Chef Hat in the 2022 Australian Good Food Guide Awards. Their philosophy is simple. "There's nothing better than local Gippsland produce, and where possible, we source everything locally. And we Long Paddock, will each prepare two cultivate a hotel garden with fresh

herbs and vegetables, producing dishes that deliver a memorable experience.

The Long Paddock is a critically rated destination restaurant for foodies, travellers and locals in the town of Lindenow, East Gippsland. Anton Eisenmenger and Tanya Bertino once worked with top chefs in Melbourne and London and now specialise in seasonal dishes made with local produce, right down to the wine list. Dining at the Long Paddock is a remarkable encounter with a region, its produce and its people.

Both eateries have placed a "foodie spotlight" on Gippsland and are a great addition to the Meeniyan Garlic Festival.

More announcements will be made soon on the new Gippsland Wine Academy at the festival, featuring 10 award-winning local wineries and 40 selected wines.

The re-birth of the festival has been made possible by funding from Visit Victoria as Event Partner. Together with the support from the Events Gippsland Acquisition Fund, an initiative of the new regional peak event body 'Events Gippsland' supported by Regional Development Victoria, Latrobe Valley Authority and local councils, including South Gippsland Shire Council.

Meeniyan Garlic Festival Day, Saturday February 18, 9am-4pm, at Meeniyan Reserve and Meeniyan Hall - home of the Garlic Institute

Tickets are \$15 for adults. Kids are free and pets are welcome. meeniyangarlicfestival.com.au

/Sponsored article/



Graduation Ceremony for the 2022 Tourism Mentoring Program: Georgia Bissett - Wildlife Coast Cruises; Phoebe Graham - Destination Gippsland; Jodie Ashworth-H20 Adventures Paynesville; Kaye Ellery-Burke - Prom Country Visitor Info Centre; Kym Griffiths - Baw Baw Shire Council; Sam Ruzicka – Wild Food Farm. Applications for this year's program are open until February 17.

## Tourism mentor program

Applications are open for the annual Tourism Mentoring Program to support new tourism professionals.

The program provides a fantastic opportunity for young tourism professionals or new entrants to the industry to participate in the Ken Hore Tourism Mentoring Program.

Kim Storey, General Manager at Destination Phillip Island who has been involved in the program since its creation, received mentoring from Ken Hore in her early tourism career

"Now in its ninth year, the program honours the contribution made by the late Ken Hore to the Phillip Island and Gippsland tourism industry,' said Kim.

It does so by providing a unique career development program that promotes skills and excellence in the tourism industry as well as extending tourism networks and providing a broader understanding of the industry

"The program has provided mentorship for forty-nine participants

over the past nine years and continues to provide fantastic opportunities," said Kim.

The successful recipient receives 12 months of mentoring support and opportunities that include tickets to tourism forums and industry development programs, three familiarisation days – one held on Phillip Island, one in Gippsland, and one in Melbourne, as well as six once-amonth mentoring sessions with an assigned leader in the chosen area of the tourism industry.

The program is proudly delivered in partnership with Destination Phillip Island, Destination Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Council.

Applications are now open until 5pm, February 17.

To read the guidelines and complete an application go to www. visitphillipisland.com.au/destination-phillipisland/ken-hore-tourism-mentoring-program

Or contact Serena via email info@ visitphillipisland.com.au

**Hand Crafted on Phillip Island** 



## Julie Houghton and Friends Sharing a love of music and literatur

JULIE HOUGHTON AND FRIENDS PRESENT

#### SOUNDS OF SUMMER

on Saturday 4th. February at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's Uniting Church cnr Chapel St. and Warley Ave Tickets \$20 adult, \$15 concession

and children free Bookings and enquiries to Lyn Francis 59 525 723



#### **Bass Coast Edible Gardens**

Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 February 2023

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**Adult Learning** 



 $(\mathbf{f})$ 

Visit up to 15 delightful edible gardens across Bass Coast.

Learn and be inspired to grow your own food.

\$5 per garden or \$25 for all gardens Buy tickets at basscoastediblegardens.com or scan



Australian Garlic Awards

Main Street Stroll

Festival Kitchen

 Food by Gippsland's **Top Restaurants** 

Garlic Institute

meeniyangarlicfestival.com.au



**Precinct** 

• The Food & Produce

Historic Car Display

• Stages with Live Music

• Family & Kids Entertainment





# Big crowds for Woolamai Cup

A huge crowd turned out to the Woolamai Racecourse for the 2023 Alex Scott Woolamai Cup on Satur-

Highlight of the program was Race 5, which saw Cranbourne based Grande Marengo, ridden by Shaun Cooper, take out the Cup.

As well as the racing program,

guests enjoyed the great food available on course on the day, picnics on the lawn, entertainment and a fashion on the fields contest, which saw a wide range of outfits in contention.

> More photos at: pisra.com.au



The Alex Scott and Staff Woolamai Cup was won by Grande Marengo in a flying finish. At the Cup presentation ceremony are (from left) Tom Gibson – Chairman and Director, Alex Scott, Lachlan Cormac – representing owner and strapper Emma Adamson, winning jockey Shaun Cooper and Greg Price - Director Alex Scott.



Cowes couple Garry and Dawn Balfe. Garry was named runner up in the men's Fashion on the Field contest.



Karen Sammut and Nancy DeLosa dressed to impress at the Woolamai Cup on the weekend.



Liz Gleeson is the happy winner of the Health Hub Auxiliary raffle on January 20. The group's next event is a "What is it worth" day on February 19, at the RSL in Cowes.

## Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary has been busy

Health Hub Auxiliary members the day. have been very busy over December and January raising funds at the Rhyll Community markets.

They are now looking forward to the "What is it worth?" day at the RSL in Thompson Avenue, Cowes on Sunday February 19, from 11.30am -3.30pm.

Ronnie Bauer will be there in the Boardroom ready to give you an estimated value of your jewellery or silver! Book a time through Gill 0431 672 777 or come along on

All monies raised by the Hub Auxiliary goes to provide our Urgent Care Centre, Hub and future community hospital with the best equipment, resources and facili-

Do you think you could help? The Auxiliary is looking for people who would like to join and be part of this amazing team!

Ring Gill 0431 672 777 or Lyn 0400 126 435 and come along to the next meeting.









#### PHILLIP ISLAND DANCE STUDIO



A nurturing school bringing the joy of Dance to Bass Coast for over 20 years for ages 18 mths - Adult Safe & age appropriate dance Contemporary, Jazz, Classical, pointe phillipislanddancestudio@gmail.com



How much is it worth? ring along your jewellery and silver for Ronnie to value \$10 for one item and \$20 for 3 items (max)

Where: RSL Thompson Ave, Cowes When: Sunday 19th February 2023

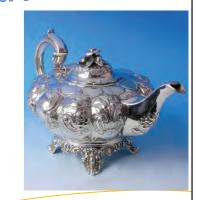
Time: 11.30 am-3.30pm

Book a time in advance by ringing:

Gill 0431 672 777.

Or turn up on the day & you will be allocated a time, when Ronnie will

provide an estimated value of your item



Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary thanks Ronnie Bauer of Klepners Fine Antique Jewellery & Valuers for his time, support and expertise.

Our Health Hub Auxiliary needs your support to provide our Urgent Care Centre, Health Hub & future Community Hospital with the best equipment, resources & facilities .







The 2022 runner-up, Tristan Price, another one in the elite category, is also expected to compete after he won the Cape Paterson Aquathon in January.

# Channel Challenge crowd expected

After an unusually large turnout ing. The early start means Marine or the Cape Paterson Aquathon Parade will be closed at 9.15am so for the Cape Paterson Aquathon last week the organisers of the Bass Coast Series of Aquathons are expecting to see another big rollup at this Saturday's 37th San Remo Channel Challenge.

Entries are already pushing the 400 mark, so they only need some fine weather and a 600+ field is not out of the question for the fourth time at this iconic event.

An earlier than usual start of 11am has led to the Race Centre being open on Friday night between 5.30pm and 8pm for the collection of race packs.

Late entries will also be taken on Friday night but only online registrations will be processed on the Saturday morning. Online registrations close at 5pm on Friday February 3.

Organisers hope a good turn up of competitors on the Friday night will ease the congestion that would be caused by a short lead in time for the early start on Saturday mornthe race barriers can be put in place.

Locals made up nearly half of the field at Cape Paterson with regular local competitors, Justin Tilley, Mark Rowe, Andre Heterbreug and Kara Landells all amongst the first dozen competitors to finish.

Once again, the local contingent, aged from 15 to 80, will make up a large portion of the participants at

Not only is the Channel Challenge the biggest Aquathon held on the Victorian Coast each year but prizes for the local categories exceed anything offered at other events and the \$3400 prize money awarded for the Bass Coast Series is divided equally between open and local competitors.

The Michael Gordon and Dennis Harris memorial trophies will again be awarded to the leading senior male and female competitors.

For many years now there has tary's market opening at 8am - the good vibes.

been an array of elite Australian same time as the Race Centre. triathletes, including some Olympians, male and female, competing at San Remo.

Last year's winner, Callum Mc-Cluskey, is again entered and will be aiming to  $\bar{k}$ nock five seconds off his outstanding 2022 time of 11.04 and try to get around the course in under 11 minutes. Callum is a contender for a spot in the Australian Triathlon team at the Paris Olympics in 2024.

The 2022 runner-up, Tristan Price, another one in the elite category, is also expected to compete after he won the Cape Paterson Aquathon in January. Last year there were four elite female competitors who finished in the top ten at San Remo, including two who were part of the Australian Olympic team at Tokyo.

#### On the day

The day will kick off early with the Phillip Island and San Remo Ro-

Volunteers will be in at 6am to start setting up for the big day and the local Guides, aided by the Scouts, will be there to provide an early egg and bacon roll for breakfast and then a hamburger for lunch.

John Dickie will be the guest starter for the 2023 race, in recognition of Ray Dickie and the Dickie family's involvement of three generations.

This event is very much a community day with the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club leading the way along with the SES and other local service organizations such as Rotary, Scouts and Guides.

The Channel Challenge also helps create a good weekend for the local traders and it brings a lot of new visitors to the area each year.

Organisers say they look forward to seeing a big crowd in San Remo for the race, the market, the music, the hospitality and the generally

The popular Tug-of-War competi tion for both male and female teams will be back this year, and will be held on the foreshore after the big race, at around 12 – 12.15pm.

The organising committee is extremely grateful for the support of all the sponsors who make this event possible. The Bass Coast Shire head up the list of major sponsors and there are also a dozen Tshirt sponsors plus the traders who supply the prize vouchers that enable so many competitors to leave with something to show for their efforts. Overall, this event is a great team effort from the entire Bass Coast Community.

Get your entries in online, or at the Race Centre on Friday night from 5.30pm - 8pm. Only online entries will be processed on Saturday.

Race packs can be collected from the Race Centre on Friday night, or Saturday morning from 8am.

www.basscoastseries.com.au/ san-remo-channel-challenge

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# **SAN REMO** CHANNEL CHALLENGE

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# History of the Challenge

When the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club ran the first Channel Challenge in line up for the 37th event, with up to 600 people expected to take part. 1986 there were only 57 competitors who were willing to brave that first crossing from the mainland to Newhaven and then back over the bridge to the San Remo Hotel.

This weekend, competitors munity was amazing.

The inspiration for the challenge came from the late Lyall Williams from the San Remo Hotel as a way to raise funds for the surf club. The response from the local com-

community all pitched in to help and are still doing it.

The original winner of the male section was the late Michael Gordon (former editor and leading political com-mentator at The Age) while the original female winner,

nalist with the Herald-Sun.

The event quickly caught the public's imagination and has grown into a contest that on three occasions has featured more than six hundred competitors and over five thousand spectators lining the jetty, the bridge and the foreshore.

Over the years we have seen many elite Triathletes, AFL footballers, Olympic and Commonwealth Games competitors, politicians and of course a bevy of local identities enjoy their day at San Remo.

In 2010, the Channel Challenge celebrated its 25th anniversary, with over 600 competitors.

Both of the 1986 winners were at the event, while two locals, Brian Dallinger and clean sweep of all 25 events monwealth Games entered

presented with commemorative medallions.

Over the years there have been some serious athletes win the Channel Challenge and the honour roll includes several multiple winners marathon swimmer Jon Van Wisse, plus leading Grand Prix triathletes Tim Bentley, Bryce Quirk, Robert Harris and most recently Marcel Walkington.

Last year's winner, Callum McCluskey (who is competing again this year) is a contender for a spot in the Australian Triathlon team at the Paris Olympics in 2024, while two of the female competitors who finished in the top 10 in 2022 were part of the Australian Olympic team at Tokyo.

In 2006 several overseas Geoff Daff, completed a competitors here for the Com-

Service organisations, Katie Peart, was a Woolamai and along with Michael Gorthe Challenge and that year council and members of the lifesaver who became a jourdon and Katie Peart, were New Zealander, Kris Gemmel, prevailed over a very hot field while the female division was won by Scottish triathlete, Kerry Lang.

However there is no doubt that the Queen of the Channel Challenge is Penny Reid (nee O'Connell) who won the female section of the race fourteen times. Penny has also won the Lorne and Portsea ocean swims and has represented Australia at the international level.

In 2019, for the first time in its history the event was cancelled due to weather conditions and was rescheduled for March.

Despite this hiccup, the rescheduled event attracted 453 competitors, including 62 people who were part of the 31 relay teams who completed the race.

In 2021 the event was can-



## 10.30am Sat 18 Feb

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At the 2003 event, winner Bryce Quirk (centre), flanked by second place getter Craig McKenzie and the 2002 winner Rob Harris, who finished third.



## Good luck to all **Channel Challenge participants!**

We are excited to be moving closer so next year we will be able to watch the channel challenge from our office!

Keep your eyes peeled for our office opening up in San Remo.





In 2010 at the 25th anniversary event, Ron Nicholson, one of the organisers of the annual San Remo Channel Challenge, congratulates Holly Aitken, winner of the Open Women's section of the event in a time of 12.18. Holly was placed ninth in the event overall.



At the 2010 event, the late Michael Gordon (left) the inaugural winner of the San Remo Channel Challenge in 1986, with the late Dennis Harris, and locals Geoff Daff and Brian Dallinger, who at that point were the only two people to have competed in every Channel Challenge event.



The Channel Challenge quickly grew in popularity, with a large crowd gathered on the shore and wharf to watch the 1989 event.



Winner of the 1989 Channel Challenge, Graeme Armstrong of Box Hill North runs under the banner.



# **CHANNEL CHALLENGE**

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **FRIDAY 3RD FEB**

5.30pm - 8.00pm Race Centre Open - San Remo Hotel **Collection of Race Packs & Late Entries Taken** 

#### **SATURDAY 4TH FEB:**

8.00 am	Market Opens - Arts, Craft & General: 0418 325 055
8.00am	Race Centre Opens – San Remo Hotel Race Packs – Online Registrations Only
10.30am	Race Centre Closes
10.45am	Competitors Race Briefing at Start
<b>11.00</b> am	37TH CHANNEL CHALLENGE STARTS
12.00noon	Men's & Women's Tug of War Finals
12.15pm	Music at the San Remo Hotel - the Southern Brothers
1.00pm	Channel Challenge Presentations on Stage

# Changed traffic conditions San Remo Channel Challenge

Traffic conditions will change this Saturday 4 February, due to event safety precautions and traffic management.

- Marine Parade will be closed between Bergin Grove and Woolamai Grove from 9.30am until 4.00pm.
- Bergin Grove will be closed between Mary Grove and Marine Parade from 10.45am until 12.30pm.
- Parking restrictions apply in Bergin Grove.
- One way traffic on San Remo Bridge 10.50am to

For any enquires contact Council's Senior Visitor Economy and Events Officer, Rodney Wright on (03) 5671 2211.





The entire crew of the San Remo Hotel is looking forward to another fun-filled day at this year's Channel Challenge, utilising the new bridge lawn alfresco area. Open from 9am, with

# San Remo Hotel welcomes the Challenge

close to the heart of the San Remo Hotel and the San Remo community as a whole. The town's biggest annual event was instigated 38

tion with the Woolamai Life Savers over a few beers at the pub.

Peter (often referred to as Shirta), his wife Colleen and the entire pub crew are looking forward to anutilising the new bridge lawn al-

With the early race start, the hotel will open from 9am for those looking for a coffee to kick off the day.

The Channel Challenge is very Williams' father Lyle in conjunc- other big, fun-filled day, this year There will be acoustic entertainment all afternoon with the Southern Brothers followed by Dan Lunn.

Competitors and spectators will be able to enjoy delicious food all tried it, you don't know what you're day from the award-winning bistro.

Best Regional Bistro in all Victoria by the Australian Hotel's Association in 2022. If you haven't







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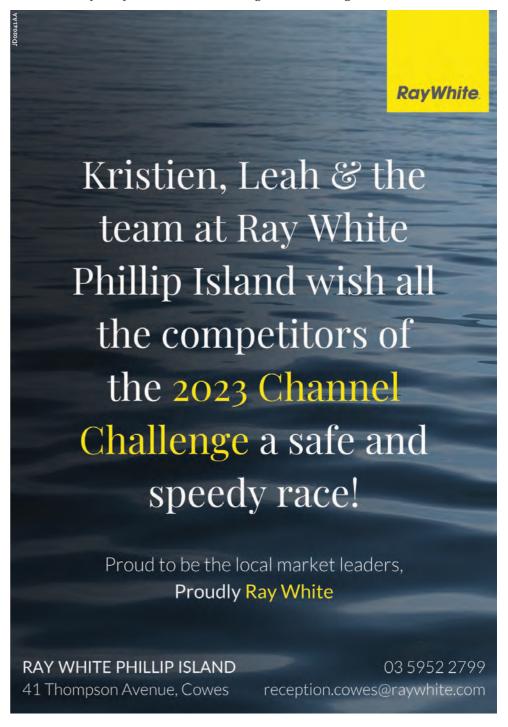


**Southern Bros** from 1:30pm

**Dan Lunn** 

from 5:30pm

145 Marine Parade, San Remo Ph: 03 5678 5352



# Rotary market up for the Challenge

is delighted to be assisting doubt bringing healthy Woolamai Surf Life Saving Club by holding their annual market for the San marked. Remo Channel Challenge event.

ways been an attraction for breakfast as well as nates all proceeds from especially for the grate- BBQ items for lunch. Milk

lip Island and San Remo ing at 8am to register, no ner together with a variappetites," Rotary President Peter Buitenhuis re-

This year the Girl Guides will be supply-"The market has al- ing bacon and egg rolls competitors many Shakes from Gippsland mai Surf Life Saving Club.

ety of food stalls.

The race starting at 11am will mean it's an early setup for market vendors but sure to appeal to the wider public.

The Rotary Club dothe market to the Woola-



The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo is delighted to be assisting Woolamai Surf Life Saving Club by holding their annual market for the San Remo Channel Challenge event.

Congratulations to all Channel participants!



59 522 889 | islandpremiumlaundry@gmail.com



Ron Nicholson from the organising committee with Callum McCluskey, last year's overall winner, who will be back to defend his title this year.



Wishes competitions and organisers a successful 2023 Channel Challenge

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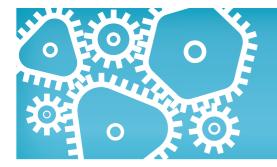
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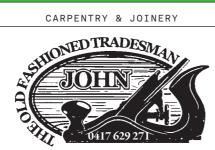


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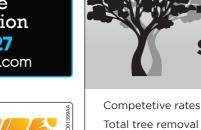
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#### **DEATHS**

#### **BUCKTON. Freda:**

22.10.1927 - 23.01.2023 Freda Buckton, 95, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 23rd 2023 at home with her family in Ventnor, Phiilip Island.

Freda was the beloved wife of Sidney Buckton and mother to Pauline, Roy, Sue, Ruth, Ann and John as well as grandmother and great grandmother to many.

#### MACKLIN, Don:

1945-2023

Esteemed member and Treasurer of the Phillip Island Branch of Red Cross Australia, and former Zone Chairman.

> A man at his best helping others less fortunate. Condolences are

extended to Phyllis and family from all Red Cross Members.

#### MIZZI, Gabrielle Lynette:

03/02/1980 -22/01/2023 Beloved Daughter of Joe

and Lyn Mother to Avalon

Sister of Melissa and Eloyse

Auntie of Darcy and Madison

Sister-In-Law to Glenn and Justin

"All the Lanterns in Our Hearts are Lit'

#### TESTER, William, (Bill):

17.6.27 - 18.1.23 Peacefully at Griffiths Point Lodge, San Remo.

Loving husband to Mickie (dec).

Father to Matt, Rob, Andy, Duncan and Helen.

Pa to Karly, Jarrod, Ben, Daniel, Phil, George Jac and Jordan.

Great Grandpa to Jaxon and Miki. A life of adventure,

courage, generosity and integrity.

To the staff at Griffiths Point Lodge, both past and present, who cared

for Bill with such loving kindness, above and beyond the call of duty,

we give our heartfelt thanks.

#### **FUNERALS**

The Funeral Service for Mrs Freda Buckton will be held

at St John's Uniting Church, Chapel Street, Cowes on

FRIDAY (February 3, 2023) commencing at 10:00am.

At the conclusion of the service the Funeral will leave for the Phillip Island Cemetery.

**Donations to Alzheimers** Australia in lieu of flowers would be appreciated.

Handley Anderson

#### **GARAGE SALES**

AUSSIE GOLF RANCH 627A Settlement Rd, Cowes. Sat 4 & Sun 5 Feb. 10am - 2pm Moving out! Lots to go.

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#### PHILLIP ISLAND DISTRICT DARTS CLUB (P.I.D.D.L)

Please be advised that the AGM will be held at 223 Settlement Road, Cowes. (The Centre, Cowes) On the 6th February 2023 at 7.30pm. All committee positions are available. Please attend to make a difference. AGM will be followed by Team Registrations. Season start will be Monday, 13th February. Past, present and new members welcome

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Water Act 1989

#### Westernport Region Water Corporation (Trading as Westernport Water)

Water Restriction By-law 106 **Westernport Water revokes Water Restriction** By-law 105

In accordance with section 287ZC of the Water Act 1989, Westernport Water hereby gives notice that it has made a by-law, titled 'Water Restriction By-law 106', pursuant to sections 171 and 160 of the Water Act 1989.

Water Restriction By-law 106 is made using a Model Water Restriction By-law issued by the Minister for Water on 4 March 2022. Water Restriction By-law 106 is made in relation to restrictions and prohibitions on the use of water that may be imposed in the Water Supply Districts of Westernport

The purpose of the by-law is to:

- a. promote the efficient use and conservation of water
- set out four stages of restrictions on the use of water
- specify things which must not be done while each stage of restriction persists
- d. specify principles for considering applications for exemptions from particular restrictions
- prescribe offences and penalties for the contravention of the by-law, including for which an infringement notice may
- prescribe classes of persons for the purpose of issuing infringement notices.

A copy of the By-law 106 is available for inspection by visiting our website, by emailing:

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#### **Current vacancies**

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#### Physiotherapist - Grade 1

Permanent Full Time - Closes 03/02/2023

#### Medical Workforce Officer

Permanent Full Time, Part Time - Closes 03/02/2023

**Community Advisory Committee Member** Casual - Closes 05/02/2023

#### Manager Workforce Bureau

Permanent Full Time - Closes 03/02/2023

Nurse Unit Manager Perioperative Service Permanent Full Time - Closes 04/02/2023

#### Surgical Liaison Nurse

Fixed Term Part Time - Closes 03/02/2023

#### Perioperative Services Manager Permanent Full Time - Closes 03/02/2023

Social Worker Team Leader Permanent Full Time - Closes 10/02/2023

Registered Nurses - Urgent Care Centre Permanent Full Time/Part Time - Closes 12/02/2023

#### Registered Nurses - Emergency

Permanent Full Time/Part Time/Casual -Closes 25/02/2023

> To find out more about working at Bass Coast Health and to apply, visit the Careers page on our website or contact our HR team on

hr@basscoasthealth.org.au or 5671 3151.



**e** hr@basscoasthealth.org.au

**w** www.basscoasthealth.org.au

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**PUBLIC NOTICES** 



# CLASSIFIEDS

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#### **CLEANERS REQUIRED** HOLIDAY HOUSE CLEANERS.

We are looking for cleaners to clean holiday homes. Attention to detail is a must, you will need your own car and cleaning equipment.

Flexible hours, casual work, suit partner teams.

Call now to discuss - 03 5952 3922

#### Kick start your career with us

Join a corporation that values diversity and a culture of inclusion.

#### **Engineering & Construction Support** Officer

Fixed term to Feb 2024 (Band 3, 16 hrs/p/w)

Provide administration support to the Manager Infrastructure & Planning.

Applications close 15 February, www.westernportwater.com.au



# BANFIELDS

#### PCA positions available (Must have experience)

Banfields Aged Care is part of a familyowned Australian Aged Care Group Pty Ltd (AACG), which prides itself on imagination and innovation in caring for the aged.

We are located at 192 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, Phillip Island a short stroll into town for the local beach and shops.

Set amongst beautiful landscaped grounds. Banfields Aged care is a 90-bed residential care facility which provides an extensive range of

As a PCA, your responsibilities will be to provide nursing care as directed by a Registered Nurse. Applicant must have a positive and professional work ethic with dedication and commitment to high quality care.

#### Essential criteria:

- Certificate III or IV in Aged Care
- Current National Police Check
- · Demonstrated knowledge/ability in providing safe quality personal care to consumers and ensuring the rights of consumers are respected
- Compassionate and empathetic person
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal
- Efficient time management skills
- Must have flexible availability and be reliable
- Ability to travel to Cowes on Phillip Island
- Current evidence of influenza vaccination
- COVID-19 vaccinations

#### What you can expect from us:

- A friendly, social & collaborative team
- · A workplace that supports and values their
- · Support from management and ongoing development and education opportunities

Previous experience in Residential Aged Care

\*\*We are a non-smoking facility.\*\*

If you believe you have the qualities and skills we are looking for please apply by emailing reception@banfields.com.au

# PHILLIP ISLAND HOLIDAY HOMES Your carefree holiday adventure starts here...

#### **CLEANERS WANTED**

Phillip Island Holiday Homes is a family business and we are looking for reliable, enthusiastic cleaners who have an eye for detail and are eager for work. The work is regular, all year round, and can be allocated based on your preferences and availability. All our cleaners are employed as contractors, so an ABN is essential, as is your own vehicle and cleaning equipment. If you would like to know more about this exceptional opportunity, please call us on 9443 7538.



#### 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; hoy; 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!

### 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

#### What we once had

The majority of ratepayers of Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach who want the works to proceed, do so because of dust concerns. What locals overwhelmingly want is a reinstatement of what we once had before council ripped them up, sealed pavements on all main access streets. The application of the previous seals were not specifically a dust suppressant as stated by council, more disinformation. The seal is used extensively in today's road construction techniques. The seal was most likely a primer seal or a multi-layer seal which has failed due as council acknowledges and states because they "were designed with minimal pavement preparation undertaken on the subgrade and base materials in order to keep costs low". A cheap job. Council states that the seal was not sustainable over the long term". I ask, why is it that in some sections of the estates, this pavement still exists more than 17 years later? The reason is simple, (a) the soils in those vicinities are sandy soils that absorb the majority of rainfall, (b) There are swale drains on each side of the road, (c) there is a high point in the roadway where seals still remain due to minimal water seeping under the pavement. A drive along The Esplanade which was once sealed, and where the main problem exists will reveal there are virtually no swale drains. Council was negligent in not preparing the road pavement properly before expending ratepayer funds to seal the roadway. By not providing adequate drainage to ensure water does not infiltrate under the road pavement. Also by not resealing the original seal within the prescribed time frame. It should also be noted all sealed roads require resealing within a speci-fied timeframe. Council is currently doing that now in other areas of the shire. If council wants to gain favour with ratepayers, then, reinstate our sealed roads using correct construction techniques and concentrate on drainage upgrades radiating up from Phillip Island Road in a systematic approach and concentrate on the major problem areas first, not wholesale decimation of our uniquely liveable residential and tourist area. Philip Davy, Surf Beach

#### Who brought the koalas?

In The Advertiser, January 25, it was stated that some people believed that koalas were not native to the Island but introduced. Is there any evidence that this was in fact the case?

Well over 70 years ago one of the favourite parts of visiting Cowes for supplies was "koala spotting" along the route, and many were to be seen. Of course this was before there was such a large population and increased housing, and there were many more gum trees.

The other favoured pastime of collecting supplies was surreptitiously peeling out the centre of the hot, whole loaves of bread, fresh from the bakery!

Jean Verwey, Ventnor

Editor's note: Phillip Island Nature Parks state koalas are an introduced species to Phillip Island. According to "Phillip Island in Picture and Story", written by Joshua Gliddon, koalas were first introduced to the island in 1880. The Friends of the Koalas also state koalas were not found on the island at the time of European settlement and were introduced from the mainland in the 1870s or 1880s.

#### Respect the process

It's sad that a vocal group in Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach many of whom are not permanent residents, have setup a Facebook Group intent on undermining Local Government process by spreading misinformation to residents and visitors with a sole focus to stop the Special Charge Scheme whilst not putting up any suitable alternatives.

Scare mongering members have been door knocking houses to collect signatures on a petition, quoting inflated financial costs (using averages from other estates), unsubstantiated environmental concerns and loss of rural lifestyle when a preferred scheme has not been selected and no final costs have been provided. Numerous people even signed the petition left at the bottle shop and coffee van without being bonafide ratepayers.

Comically, signs have been erected along Phillip Island Road claiming to care about the frog population whilst at the same time the group are content with open drains which need to be periodically cleaned out using an excavator destroying all their habitat. Go fig-

This group do not care one bit about the frog habitat, nor do they love the dust and flooding; the simple fact is they don't wish to pay a cent and if Council were paying would be 100 per cent sup-

More concerning, organisers have been maintaining a roadside drains to trap raindatabase of personal information noting which property owners were "Yes" voters. Collection of personal as well, while giving us less information such as this is disgusting, if not illegal and not what the close-knit community are accustomed too.

Whilst I'm sympathetic to those rate payers who are concerned about the po-tential cost, Council have repeatedly confirmed that should a Special Charge Scheme be adopted, different payment options are typically offered along with details for any ratepayers who may find payment difficult.

Everyone in the Surf Beach and Sunderland Bav community know this project needs to be done and done sooner rather than later.

If only the focus at this point could be on the best design outcome and then collectively agreeing the ideal timing and how best to fund it, we would all be better off.

C.McMahon, Surf Beach

#### Persistent failures

We support the views expressed in letters by Rob Chandler "At what cost" and Philip Davy "Drainage maintenance" (January 11, 2023) regarding Bass Coast Shire Council's unconvincing justifications for ratepayers to pay for the proposed Sunderland Bay Surf Beach road and drainage schemes.

We have owned a property in Glen Street, Surf Beach for more than 30 years. When we bought the place water was subject to the usual laws of physics and flowed downhill from The Esplanade to the Tourist Road.

Now we find photographs of standing flood water at The Esplanade/Glen Street intersection figure prominently in Council's reasons for the proposed road and drainage schemes.

Unless we've missed a major scientific discovery, the laws of physics have not changed while we have owned our place, so water should still flow downhill. Nor has the topography around Glen Street and The Esplanade changed. The only reason water no longer flows downhill in Glen Street is Council has demonstrated a special kind of genius in incompetent drainage maintenance over the past three decades and has managed to create a gravity defying flood plain at the top of a hill.

The Glen Street/Esplaintersection flood nade problems were caused entirely by Council and the cost of rectifying them should be borne entirely by Council.

As for the proposed road works in Glen Street, 20 years ago we could easily back a boat trailer into our place but not now. The Council has managed to narrow the road over the past few decades while altering the water at the top of the hill. And now Council wants us to pay for new roadworks road than we had when we bought the place.

As for dust on Glen Street, it was sealed many years ago and there would be no dust if the seal had been maintained.

So far as our place is concerned, there is no need for the proposed works except to correct Council's persistent failures over the past three decades, for which Council should pay.

Damian and Helen Walsh,

Surf Beach

# Grand Final in the bag ... and more finals looming

From page 32
Dave Womersley was in next and not long after he witnessed Bourkey play a textbook pull shot for four to bring up his hundred to the raucous applause of his teammates and acknowledgment of a great knock from the Wonthaggi players and the crowd watching.

From there the pair guided us home, fittingly Bourkey bringing up the winning runs with a towering straight drive six to finish his innings unbeaten on a brilliant 121, Dave again not out on 21 as we celebrated an early finish with 24 overs still remaining had we need-

A brilliant win has sewn up our finals spot and one win in the last three games will secure us a top two spot and a home final.

RSL man of the Match was none other than Daniel Bourke.

C1 Cricket

The C grade Sharks travelled to Inverloch to take on the undefeated top side on Saturday.

Captain Cleary lost the toss again and the Sharks were sent out to field. Satchin and Cleary opened the bowling and kept it tight early.

The Sharks got the first wicket when Jonty Manning ran out the Inverloch opener.

Fall was introduced into the attack and claimed the prized wicket with a brilliant caught and bowled.

Inverloch 2/35. The Sharks continued to bowl well, keeping the runs down and it wasn't until Parry was introduced into the attack that we got the breakthrough in his first over, caught by

Cleary in the outfield. Francis then bowled the opposition captain as Inverloch finished their innings at 4/112.

The Sharks opened their innings with Manning and Excell.

Manning waddled off for a duck after being bowled, and Max Arceo was out LBW for a duck too.

Ivey joined Excell, Excell was

scoring freely and put Inverloch under pressure as the team score passed 50. Excell was caught for 31

and Fusinato joined Ivey.
Fusinato was bowled for one, which brought Parry to the crease. Ivey and Parry batted aggressive-

ly pushing the Sharks past 100. Ivey then put the game beyond doubt with some powerful hitting,

landing one six in the garden of the local police station, waking up the local constabulary. The Sharks powered past the In-

verloch score winning by six wickets with 10 overs to spare. Ivey finished with 38 not out and

Parry 18 not out.

A comprehensive victory.



RSL Man of the Match for A2 cricket was none other than Daniel Bourke.



Cowes resident Frank O'Leary is a professional global sailor, but is looking forward to this year's Around French Island Catamaran Challenge, on March 25, which has a \$10,000 prize pool.

# Phillip Island pro sailor tackles French Island Challenge

As a professional sailor, Cowes resident Frank O'Leary travels the world from Italy to the Caribbean, France to Asia competing in sailing events.

But when he comes home, the 39-year-old loves to drop by the Cowes Yacht Club where he has a monohull yacht, to head out on to Western Port for a sail.

In particular, Frank enjoys taking part in the Around French Island Catamaran Challenge, run by the Cowes Yacht Club in March each year.

One of the biggest catamaran races in the country, the challenge starts at 11am on March 25, and has a \$10,000 prize pool (over three divisions), which includes an overall line honours prize and novelty prizes, attracting competitors from across Australia.

"It's a 52-hour round trip flight for me to compete in events in countries such as the Caribbean," Frank says.

French Island Challenge.

"It's good fun, a good quality local races. event.'

Frank competed two years ago in the challenge, which has a maximum 75 catamarans this year, with boats sailing about 70km as the crow flies or about 100km on the day, or a four to five-hour sail, depending on condi-

As a professional sailor for about 24 years, Frank spends about nine months of the year overseas competing in either offshore events, including the Sydney to Hobart, or regattas. which involves events up to sevendays with multiple time trial short very friendly.



"So it's great to come home and be As a professional sailor for about 24 years, Frank spends about nine able to walk five minutes down the months of the year overseas competing in offshore events, including this road and take part in the Around year's Sydney to Hobart on Celestial, the overall race winner.

His longest offshore competition is the trans-Atlantic, which takes up to 16 days and which he has competed in 14 times

Despite this impressive resume, he says the Around French Island Catamaran Challenge is a challenging

"Something like the Sydney to Hobart includes a team of people whereas with the challenge it's just two on the catamaran.

"Everyone wants to win so they're trying hard, but it's not gruelling. It's

"It's not too often you get to see all sides of French Island, so the scenery is great.'

Organisers said novice sailors or unseaworthy boats could present safety issues, so encourage yachties with experience to participate.

Registrations are now open for the challenge, which starts and finishes at the Cowes Yacht Club. There is an option for a resail on March 26 if conditions require.

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

# Midweek bowls

tralia Day, with friends enjoying what could only be called a perfect

The weather may have been quite wet on the way to San Remo, but once we got out on the green it was iust glorious.

Twenty-six bowlers turned up to once more fight it out for the honor of leading the charge for the week.

As usual, lots of laughter, lots of friendly banter, and a few wrong bias bowls were the order of the day.

The green was in immaculate condition and ran true to form, although one or two of our keen players managed to find the ditch at the far side, but overall, the bowling was exemplary.

Thank you once again to Peter and Pauline who look after us every

A huge thank you to Rob for standing in for his lost teammate who went to the wrong club (yes, he did finally make it to San Remo).

Also to Mark behind the bar as well as Dehlia in the kitchen.

The winners on 35 points were: Michael Dady (S), Frank D'Unienville (3) and Bill Williams (L).

Runners up on 34 points were: Michael Walton (S), Dehlia Cave (3), Enid Johnson (2) and Max Williams

Best One Game winners on 21 points were: Terry Floyd (S), Ken Barnes (3) and Tony Morris (L).

A big thank you to all our players for turning up and making this Australia Day so memorable.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next week at Koo Wee Rup at 10am for a 10.30am start.

Have a great week.

#### Phillip Island Football Netball Club 2023 season is coming!!!

Senior player registration day Sunday 5th of February at 3pm. (D,C,B,A grades) Registration and tryout games. 2023 Trials registration is now open for all junior teams. Register via the link below before 5:00pm Friday 3rd February. www.netballtrials.com/clubs/phillip-islandfootball-netbal/

#### Dates:

Sunday 12th February Sunday 19th February

#### Important information:

- My Netball registration must be paid prior to trial
- Attendance at 1 trial session is compulsory for all age groups and teams. Attending 2 is even better! If numbers allow we will be entering second teams
- in the Leongatha & District Netball Association. This competition season aligns with WGFNC season, LDNA support teams from other local football leagues and importantly it is good

to support our regional netball competitions. Any queries regarding the 2023 season please

contact Netball Operations directly on 0404 019 852.





Silver medallists 12s Medley: Bec Barclay, Gypsy Quaife, Harper McRae



Silver Medallists Gypsy Quaife, Harper McRae, Holly Hurst and Sienna Hunt.



Miah Roberts and Lara Smyth enjoying the race day.



Sisters Sienna and Rahni Matheson preparing to race each other in the open breaststroke.



Silver medal winners Caiden Gill, Hayden Barnes, Josh Seignior and Dylan Muir.

# The little club that can shine in Wangaratta

Wangaratta was the stunning setting for three days of racing for the Victorian Country Long Course Swimming Championships.

Forty-seven families made the trip to enjoy the delights of the region and watch the 61 swimmers representing South Gippsland Bass compete against powerhouse clubs like Traralgon, Geelong and Ballarat, large clubs that have amazing swimming complexes to train in.

SGB, the little club that could, matched them in the pool and came a very close third.

Proud parents and family watched on as swimmers did their best, knocking off two, four or even 10 seconds off their personal best.

So many youngsters with so much spirit and determination gave their all and it showed in the results.

A number of swimmers have qualified for State and National Championships after their amazing times.

Many of them made finals If there were medals for fourth, there would have been a lot of swimmers with something hanging around their necks, but is a sport of milliseconds, there is always next

Importantly though, they were all proud to be part of the team and to have been able to race there.

Head Coach Dylan Muir was so proud of how many swimmers had qualified.

"The year after I started, we had nine at Long Course countries that year as it was outside of Gippsland. "I could count them all on my

"The sport has just grown in popularity in our regions, and this is our biggest team of 61.

Plus we had a number of swimmers who were oh so close and just missed out."

The competition is for all swimming clubs in regional Victoria and despite the smaller population, SGB had the third biggest team behind Geelong and Traralgon - highlighting the popularity of the sport in the region and further emphasises the need for better aquatic facilities for the region.

Coach Lori was so pleased with their results.

'This is my favourite meet and I am just so proud of the results we are seeing and my swimmers and how hard they are trying.'

#### **Program**

Many of the SGB swimmers had an extensive program with multiple individual and relays swims each day.

The program was heats in the morning and finals and relays in the afternoon, however the weather gods had other ideas. The thunderstorm that hit late Sunday lead to the evacuation of the outdoor pool and the program was reshuffled to fit in the Sunday finals on Monday, and Mondays heats being reshuffled and no finals swum on the day, with the best heat times winning.

This did not hamper the team though, with extra racing on Monday to make up for lost time.

Several finals had two or three SGB swimmers competing, highlighting the depth of the team.

We have known for a while what we are capable of as a team," said head coach Dylan.

'We have a group of swimmers coaches and parents striving for

success in and out of the water, and that showed through at countries.

"The 2023 Victorian Country Champs showcased our team to the rest of Victoria, not just as another strong swim team, but a unified group, having fun, getting results and battling it out against some very big towns/small cities.

"To have the president of Geelong Swim Club, the eventual winners. come to introduce himself and tell us what a great team we have and how we are hot on their heels epitomises what we achieved as a team at Countries.

The club is keenly awaiting the final team results- expecting to finish third or fourth.

If it is third, it is the highest position the club has ever finished in.

More photos, a full team and finalists list at pisra.com.au

# Bass Coast's top ball kid

Fifteen year old Wonthaggi Secondary College schoolgirl Macy Peterson was named top ball girl at the Australian Open, along with male counterpart Charlie Meadows, of Melbourne, at a special presentation on the Rod Laver Centre Court arena on Friday night.

Selection for this huge honour is based on merit and as a reward for outstanding leadership and performance throughout the tournament.

After taking out the honour, both Macy and Charlie then lined up on court in the ball kid squad for both level. the men and women Australian Open finals played over the week-

For Macy, who went back to kid. school on Tuesday, the last two have been a dream come true. She has played tennis at Wonthaggi since she was three, and this is her kids squad at the Open.

Her response when her name was announced was one of disbelief.

'This is insane and unbelievable. was shaking, my hands and legs, everything was shaking, it did not feel real," was her reaction.

"It means a lot for me to be named top gun," Macy said.

If getting to experience both the men and women's finals on court as a top ball girl was the icing on the cake, being handed the Cup by Novak Djokovic after the presentation took her excitement to the next

The night was tinged with just a hint of sadness, however, as after four years, time is up for each ball

"I've done this for four years and weeks in Melbourne at the Open wish I could come back, it's such a good community and an experience of a lifetime," says Macy.

Australian Open Ball kids Manfourth year as a member of the ball ager Lorey Bentley congratulated ress. Macy and Charlie on being this

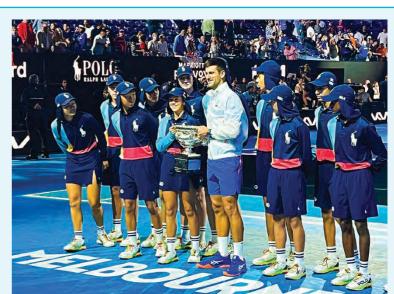
year's top ball kids.

"From a record number of 394 ball kids, including 13 ball kids from our inaugural First Nations program, we awarded our top ball kids as the best-of-the-best at our annual ball kid party.

"Each year our dedicated team of kids, led by our 21 Ball kid Leaders, goes above and beyond to ensure a smooth running of the tournament. This award is a testament to their leadership, integrity and commitment to the program.

Macy is the daughter of Lyndall and Greg Peterson, of Cape Paterson, and is the grandniece of a very excited and proud Tuppy Cleeland, Number One supporter of the Phillip Island Bulldogs, who for the past two weeks has turned her attention solely to the tennis and her niece's achievements, keeping the players, including Roger Federer, ranks. island well informed of her prog-

Some of the world's best tennis



Bass Coast's Macy Peterson shared the most magical moment with Australian Open Tennis Champion Novak Djokovic on Sunday night, when at the end of the presentation, he handed her the Cup to hold aloft.

and Australia's own Pat Rafter and before joining the professional through the ranks.

Who knows! Perhaps we have a Lleyton Hewitt, were all ball kids Bass Coast Ash Barty coming up

> PHILLIP ISLAND

	Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31   HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN RED														
WED 1 FEB		THU 2 FEB		FRI 3 FEB		SAT 4 FEB		SUN 5 FEB		O MON 6 FEB		TUE 7 FEB			
LOW	2:56 am 1.12 m	LOW	3:45 am 1.25 m	LOW	4:40 am 1.35 m	HIGH	12:24 am 2.55 m	HIGH	1:24 am 2.58 m	HIGH	2:20 am 2.64 m	HIGH	3:10 am 2.72 m		
HIGH	9:02 am 2.56 m	HIGH	9:42 am 2.43 m	HIGH	10:31 am 2.31 m	LOW	5:45 am 1.40 m	LOW	6:56 am 1.39 m	LOW	8:02 am 1.31 m	LOW	8:57 am 1.20 m		
LOW	3:13 pm 0.51 m	LOW	3:58 pm 0.61 m	LOW	4:52 pm 0.70 m	HIGH	11:33 am 2.23 m	HIGH	12:45 pm 2.21 m	HIGH	1:52 pm 2.26 m	HIGH	2:51 pm 2.35 m		
HIGH	10:30 pm 2.61 m	HIGH	11:24 pm 2.56 m			LOW	5:55 pm 0.75 m	LOW	7:00 pm 0.76 m	LOW	7:59 pm 0.74 m	LOW	8:49 pm 0.71 m		

All material is supplied in good faith and is believed to be correct. No responsibility or liability for errors or omissions is accepted.

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**NEW & USED BOAT SALES** 



The Phillip Island T20 Sharks defended their title and defeated Korumburra to take out the T20 Premiership.

# Grand Final in the bag ... and more finals looming

#### **T20 Premiers**

The Phillip Island T20 Sharks squad headed over to Scorpion Park on Sunday to defend their T20 title.

Facing Koonwarra in the Semi Final and batting first on a wicket with a bit in it, we were quickly in trouble at 4/29.

Shiran and Marcus Baxter steadied the ship with 21 apiece and with contributions from Brodie Johnson (12) Jarrod Black (13) and Charith (11) we posted 95 off our 20 overs.

Knowing there was a bit in the track the boys were confident it was enough, which was proven correct.

Charith 2 for 10 and Shiran 3 for 21 were the pick of the bowlers with Simon Kirton bowling a quick spell early to soften them up as we restricted Koonwarra to 6/82 off their 20 overs.

In the grand final batting first, the boys attacked the Korumburra bowlers from the outset with Lochie Cleeland (41) continuing his great form, and our skipper Daniel Mock 68 not out of 53 balls showing his class and leading the team in posting the excellent score of 6 for 139.

Once again, our class in the field then made short work of the Korumburra batting; bowling them out for (48) Tom Keily with 6 for 15 bowled a unbelievable spell, with Charith and Shiran claiming two wickets each.

Andrew Tolley also somehow grabbing a wicket making it 11!

This was a great performance by the boys, who now have the momentum to attack the rest of the year.

Congratulations from all at the club.

Daniel Mock was named man of the match with 18 overs to go. for the grand final.

Thanks to the LDCA and Leongatha Town for hosting and sponsoring the day.

A crucial top four match up saw us travel to McMahons Reserve to take on Wonthaggi, a win would see us lock in a finals spot and put a stranglehold on a top two finish.

Wonthaggi won the toss and elected to bat, the experienced Dave Britt opening with oungster Harry West.

Geoff Odgers and George McCausland opened for the Island and bowled a great opening spell without any luck, Tim Niven and Heath Womersley replacing the pair as Wonthaggi got to the first drinks break 0/50

The Wonthaggi openers continued to build their partnership, but the Island bowlers were making runs hard to come by, and our patience was rewarded in the 31st over when skipper Steve McIntyre pulled off a brilliant stumping off the bowling of Tim Niven to have Britt out for 44 and it was 1/76.

Clint Wilson was introduced just before tea and struck immediately with a good catch taken by Tim Niven to dismiss McGregor for 1, Dave Womersley also grabbing a wicket just before tea with the score 94.

After the break Wonthaggi opener West continued to provide stern resistance, putting to together a 50-run partnership with Jai Wil-

Clint got the breakthrough shortly after removing Williamson for 20 and it was 4/147

erslev 1/28/8

Clint struck again and when Tim Niven removed young West for an excellent 71, it was 6/165 with 13 overs remaining.

Wonthaggi did their best to bat out their

overs, but some great bowling from Nivo and Willow saw them dismissed for 209.

Clint finishing with the unbelievable figures of 5/17 off 19 overs, ably supported by Tim Niven who snared 4/56 and Heath Wom-

We arrived for week two knowing if we batted our allotted overs, we could chase the 210 we needed, and openers Daniel Bourke and Sarith Angelo wasted no time getting the chase underway, the pair brutal on any bad balls and racing the score to 40 before Angelo was caught at slip in the 9th over for 18.

Skipper McIntyre joined Bourkey, but his stay was short-lived as he edged behind for four and we were 2/59 after 16.

Simon Kirton had to leave early so he was promoted to bat at four and joined Bourkey as the pair began to build an excellent partnership, absorbing the good balls and punishing anything loose to the boundary scoring at a high rate

When tea was called after 39 overs, we were in a commanding position with the score 2/160 and Bourkey tantalisingly close to his maiden hundred on 92\*.

We resumed after tea and all eyes were on Bourkey as he worked his way towards 100, but he unfortunately lost his partner Simon soon after the break for 31, ending an outstanding 103-run partnership.

Continued page 30

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#### **7A FINDLAY STREET, COWES**



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- · Well fenced for horses or a small number of livestock
- Double garage, shedding & workshop for 8 cars
- 5 bedrooms/2 bathrooms

#### \$2,600,000 TO \$2,800,000

#### 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
- 4 bedrooms/I bathroom/4 cars

#### \$3,100,000

#### **WE HAVE CASH BUYERS READY TO PURCHASE** NOW!

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