

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

\$1.60 Incl. GST



Charity has new Newhaven HQ

Mat Bowtell and his Free 3D Hands team at their new design centre in Boys Home Road in Newhaven. Mechatronics Engineering intern Jack Thornborrow, Assembly Technician Rebecca Nerosa (& 2IC baby Elijah), Bio Med Engineering intern Ellie Holmes, Yuka (Free 3D Hands Director) and Mat Bowtell, with Operations Manager Peta Strachan and Bio Med Engineering intern Emanuel Risso.

Phillip Island's charity success story – Free 3D Hands – will open their new design centre in Newhaven with a public open day on March 20.

CEO and founder Mat Bowtell – who has won a swathe of global accolades – opened his first factory in Cowes three years ago after previously making free 3D printed hands for children from his Silverleaves home shed.

Mat said their new centre on Boys Home Road in Newhaven had generously been bought for the non-profit Free 3D Hands by an anonymous local resident, with rent now free.

"We had an imminent rent increase on our previous tenancy which would

have made it financially unsustainable for a charity," Mat explained on a tour of the centre last week with the Advertiser.

"A very generous anonymous local resident was really upset by that and he said 'bugger it I'm going to buy a factory and permanently lease it rent-free', which means we now have long-term financial sustainability.

"This is a major new chapter for us. This new facility will really help us become a global innovation hub."

While the public are welcome to wander through the corridor of the new design centre during the working week, the official opening on March 20 will also be a community

open day.

The opening will include a beer pavilion with Ocean Reach Brewery, who have created a special bionic IPA beer, with 100 per cent of profits from the beer going to the charity.

"It's community initiatives like that that keep us going," Mat added.

Big build

Other community members have also dug deep to support the new build.

The factory was bought in mid-2021 as an empty concrete shell and Mat said many tradies and businesses had helped with the \$100,000 fit out.

Continued page 12

Sophie takes the title!



Phillip Island's Sophie Fletcher was crowned the Victorian Open Champion on Sunday. Details of an epic weekend of surfing in Sport.

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Basham trial to begin

The Supreme Court trial for alleged murderer Adrian Basham is set to start on March 7, with pre-trial arguments beginning this week. The trial has been delayed several times and is expected to run for two months.

Adrian James Basham pleaded not guilty at a committal hearing in the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court in October 2019, after being committed to stand trial over the death of his estranged wife Samantha Fraser.

Mr Basham is accused of killing the mother of their three children, Samantha Fraser, 38, at her Cowes home on July 23, 2018.

Mr Basham is also facing another set of charges which cannot be reported due a suppression order.

If you or anyone you know needs support, contact the National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service on 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732).

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A valid planning permit for the old Boys Home, approved by VCAT in 2010, includes a 21-lot subdivision.

Newhaven boys' home plans under review

The new owners of the old Newhaven Boys Home have lodged updated development plans for the site.

Tradies have been working on the 1.4ha property at 54-61 Forrest Avenue, with a Bass Coast Shire planning spokesperson last week confirming they were working with the developer on revised plans.

The heritage-listed property – which sold last year to an unknown buyer – has a current valid planning permit, which dates back to a 2010 VCAT resolution.

The permit includes: subdivision into 21 lots; partial demolition of existing buildings; construction of road and subdivision works; removal of vegetation; construction of a garage building and 10 dwellings; and making alterations to existing buildings.

Now the planning spokeswoman said that permit issued by VCAT had been resubmitted.

“Planning Permit 100626 is still valid and able to be acted on subject to endorsement of plans. Council currently has these plans for review,” the spokesperson said.

“The planning permit issued had a number of conditional requirements to be met. These included a requirement for the developer to submit a series of plans in response to those conditions for endorsement by council.

“It is these plans that have recently been submitted to council for review and approval.”

They explained the planning permit required the submission of additional plans in-

cluding waste, landscape, and heritage management.

“Officers are currently reviewing the plans and have provided feedback to the developer last week.”

Concerned local residents formed the Newhaven Residents Association after objecting to the development at VCAT.

Last week association president Jeannie Chapman said locals looked forward to “positive developments at Boys Home and are interested in any announcements as to its future”.

The National Trust's Bass Coast branch last week said they were concerned works being carried out on site were impacting historic sections of the building.

The shire spokesperson confirmed officers had investigated whether the building works were “in accordance with the approved permit”.

“As the investigation is ongoing, no further updates will be provided in relation to this,” they added.

In 2020 the property was sold for about \$3.5 million, previous to that it sold for \$1.65 million in 2015 to a group of 10 investors.

The building was established by the Mission of St James and St John in 1928 to house delinquent boys aged between 9 and 16.

It was sold to Knox School in the early 2000s, which applied to develop the site into housing about a decade ago.

The buildings have been vandalised and neglected over recent years.

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Government warned against blanket ok to car ferry economics

One of the key opponents of the Cowes to Stony Point car ferry has written to the state government to call for proper economic scrutiny of the proposal, offering a history lesson into its viability.

As reported in the Advertiser last month, Bass Coast Shire advertised for a consultant to lead a new feasibility study, after the state government announced \$200,000 funding to investigate the Cowes jetty as a possible location for a car ferry terminal.

The shire said the new study would include financial analysis, but be based on the 2018 business case, which advocated for a 205 metre-long terminal jetty; a 30-car capacity car ferry, a ticket price of \$60 per car, at a total cost of more than \$80 million.

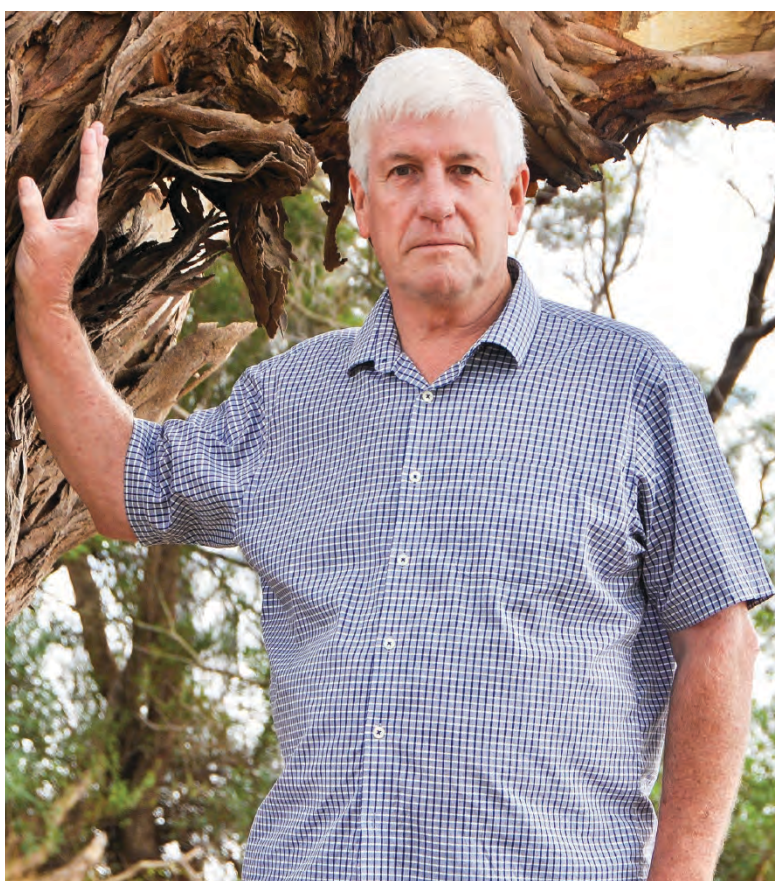
Last week the Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS), which campaigned against the 2018 and 2009 ferry proposals, wrote a letter to the infrastructure and investment department director, the head of Infrastructure Victoria, State MP Jordan Crugnale and Bass Coast Shire CEO and councillors.

In the letter, PICS president Jeff Nottle urged the government not to simply accept the “flawed” 2018 business case.

“We write to ensure your department fully understands the lack of rigour in the business case it has chosen to carry forward,” Mr Nottle wrote.

“The car ferry is most likely unviable regardless of whether the terminal is located at the site proposed in the 2018 business case or at Cowes jetty.

“Among the international case studies presented in the 2018 busi-



Phillip Island Conservation Society president Jeff Nottle has urged the state government to properly examine the “flawed” economic arguments in the 2018 Cowes to Stony Point car ferry business case.

ness case, the proposed Cowes Stony Point car ferry is uniquely uncompetitive — the only service that will, on average, cost users both time and money.”

The letter includes the 2018 PICS submission into the car ferry, offer-

ing economic analysis.

“We consider the 2018 business case is fundamentally flawed,” Mr Nottle wrote.

“Serious concerns raised by PICS and others include the unlikely viability of the car ferry, given very

poor time-savings for the fare and unrealistic demand modelling; and poorly substantiated overstatements of operating outcomes, economic and social benefits, and the benefit-cost ratio.”

At the time PICS was not the only organisation to question figures in the business case, with the Nature Parks also writing the business case had over-stated the economic benefits, while a former tourism head wrote a submission casting doubt on the car ferry’s bottom line.

According to the 2018 business case, over 30 years the ferry would inject \$93m into the economy, mostly in accommodation and food.

Environment, community

The PICS letter also asks the government to commit to a proper environment effects statement (EES) before a car ferry project proceeds, while a 2018 council motion called for an EES on the final preferred location.

Mr Nottle said the 2018 business case failed to properly consider environmental risks, such as potential for coastal erosion from construction of new marine infrastructure, as well as social costs, including loss of amenity on Phillip Island’s northern shore.

He said community consultation following release of the draft 2018 business case revealed 54 per cent from the Bass Coast community were opposed to the concept and 37 per cent in favour.

“The car ferry proposal has generated significant anxiety in the Bass Coast Shire community for over a decade,” he added.

The letter states the car ferry should not be advanced ahead of

other actions in the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035, especially “those intended to reduce the impacts of private vehicles in heavily congested areas such as Cowes”.

“The proposed car ferry is not a panacea that will increase overnight visitation and economic yield or smooth out seasonal peaks and troughs.”

Mr Nottle said the final 2018 business case did not include community recommendations including improving economic analysis to better demonstrate viability, and “providing further evidence a car ferry would bring purported benefits by combating the negative effects of seasonality and peak-season congestion”.

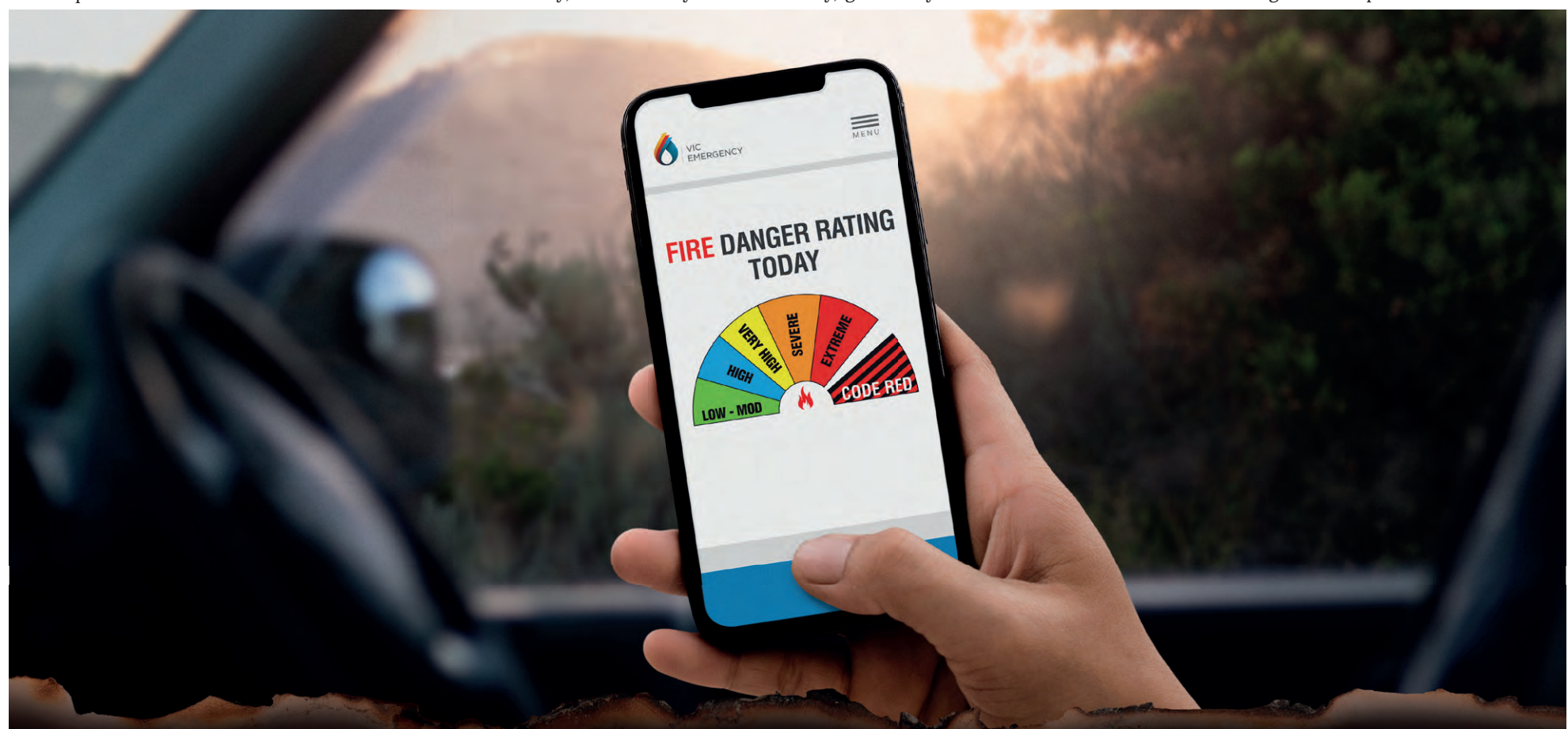
Destination Phillip Island

In their submission to the 2018 business case, Destination Phillip Island said a car ferry would create an “iconic” touring route from the Great Ocean Road to Gippsland and increase visitor spending especially in low season “by increasing overnight and average length of stay”.

DPI – a member of the car ferry steering committee – said a car ferry would create an additional route to the Mornington Peninsula and therefore new employment and medical access for residents and businesses, as well as in case of emergencies.


DPI said the investigation of environmental impacts was “crucial”, and the business case should also clarify community concerns.

Bass Coast Shire last month said the tender would be advertised for five weeks, and the study could begin about April.



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Covid cases climb again

Local Covid cases tripled in the first week of February, as schools returned and rapid antigen tests (RATs) became easier to access.

Between February 1 and 7, cases jumped from 131 to 409, with around 70 new cases being reported a day.

Wonthaggi, Cowes and the Waterline area (3984) continue to record the highest number of cases, followed by Inverloch and then San Remo.

Between February 7 and 14, the shire averaged 67-68 new cases daily, while the overall case numbers have hovered between 355 and 376.

The rise in case numbers hasn't seen a corresponding rise in hospital admissions, with most people able to manage their symptoms at home.

However Bass Coast CEO Jan Child said the number of people in the Covid Hospital in the Home program is steadily growing, with a couple of inpatients admitted to hospital each day.

The increase in reported cases coincided with large numbers of RATs being distributed through schools, as well as through the Bass Coast Health testing sites.

The new site at the Cowes Health Hub distributed 119 kits in the first few days of operation. Since opening on January 31 and February 11, BCH said approximately 60 people had gone through the testing site each day.

Ms Child believes the rise in numbers definitely reflected the better access to RATs, but feels the figures are an under-representation of the cases in the community.

"My feeling is some people are not reporting their RATs results and others are not getting tested.

"Some think their symptoms are just a cold."

She said overall the testing figures for the area were down, as were vaccinations (see separate story), and believes the slow roll out of RATs has had an impact.

"We didn't have the RATs quickly enough, and now people don't want them.

"People think the peak has gone and they don't have to worry too much, so they're relaxing.



Local Covid cases tripled in the first week of February. Health officials are urging people to get tested if displaying symptoms and are recommending the use of N95 or P2 masks for increased protection.

"This is a time of trying to work out how to get back to a normal routine."

Ms Child said BCH would continue to keep the testing sites open as much as possible but admitted they were looking at pulling the hours back, as the demand had dropped so much.

She urged people to still get tested if they experienced any symptoms, ensure their vaccinations were up to date and to follow the Covid protocols, particularly around mask wearing.

Ms Child firmly believes the use of N95 masks has been an important factor in BCH's success in keeping the workplace free of Covid transmission.

"We've still had no transmission at work, with our staff working in N95 masks.

"We're now fit testing all our volunteers with properly fitting masks, which will help get us through the next few months."

She urged people to invest in proper masks, saying cloth masks or bandanas don't provide adequate protection against Omicron.

"There are some good Australian manufacturers making N95 masks that can be purchased online.

"It's worth the investment if you don't want to get sick."

P2 masks also offered better protection than surgical masks.

Schools

Most local schools have had students or staff test positive since school returned at the start of the month.

Young Emily Callis was unable to start Prep at Cowes primary school after the family tested positive. School principal, Rod McKenzie told the Advertiser earlier this month that several students and staff had not been at

school in the first week, after testing positive or because they were a household contact.

The situation has been echoed at schools across the shire.

Bass Coast College Principal Darren Parker said the college had been similarly impacted, but the response from staff, students and families had been "fantastic".

"Students are encouraged to get tested twice a week and most families are following the recommendations," he said.

"There's been no grief about the process and if kids are feeling unwell, even before testing positive, many parents are keeping them home.

"The monitoring aspect has been really successful."

Mr Parker said the school did inform parents if a student or teacher in their child's class tested positive, but the rest of the class did not have to stay home or return to online learning.

"Our protocol is, if someone in the class has tested positive, everyone should monitor for symptoms.

"Whether you've been near a known contact or not, we should all be monitoring our symptoms. That's the new normal."

The number of cases reported was a very small percentage of the overall school population, however Mr Parker said people being identified as a household contact was an organisational challenge for the school.

"If one person is sick in the house, that might mean four others are staying at home and that is challenging in terms of staffing.

"But so far, our systems have been really good.

"There has been understandable anxiety around Covid, but my feeling is the community is now much more resilient and has adapted to this new way of dealing with it."

Mr Parker believes the current system is better than students returning to remote learning.

He said the school had been well supported by the state government and this week received "a significant amount" of RATs.

"We've got enough to roll out another two weeks worth to every staff member and students."

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Vaccinations are key to conquering Covid

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child is urging people to get vaccinated or book in for their booster, to help keep the community safe from Covid.

"Omicron is still in the community and people need to get their booster," she said.

"We had the highest vaccination rates in Gippsland initially, but people aren't hunting down the vaccinations now.

"I think everyone is a bit tired and over it, but we need to keep promoting vaccinations, to help us get back to business as usual."

She said mandates shouldn't be needed for people to take up the vaccination offer.

"Whatever the rules say, you have more chance of staying out of hospital if you take that third dose.

"If you look at any evidence about Omicron, it will tell you the third dose is the thing that has made the difference. It's so clear in every scenario that the third dose is critical."

BCH has contacted local sports and community groups offering vaccination sessions, to try and reach as many people as possible.

"We're asking the community to let us know how we can accommodate you. Tell us how we can help make this happen."

She urged any group or business that wanted to organise a vaccination session to contact BCH.

The Community Vaccination Clinic in Wonthaggi is currently operating seven days a week and the Novavax will also soon be available.

You can book online or simply walk in.

Vaccination is also available through pharmacies and GPs.

"Keeping our vaccination rates high is our best defence for winter," Ms Child said.

"Statistics show that the lowest booster rates are in men aged 20-30 years old, and the rate in the over 70s is also not as high as we would like."

BCH is also calling on teenagers aged 16 to 17 who are eligible for a booster to come forward.

"The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is advising everyone aged 16 years and over to receive a third dose," said Ms Child.

"Our young people should be able to get on with learning in their last year or two at school and spend time with friends. A serious bout of Covid can seriously disrupt their lives and their schooling, and could lead to long-term health implications."

In BCH managed Aged Care homes, Ms Child said all residents had received their third doses, with most other local aged care providers also having completed boosters for residents.

Currently in Victoria just under 50 per cent of adults have received their third vaccine dose.

Normal services resume

Although numbers are down from the Omicron peak in January, "we are not out of this yet," warned Ms Child.

"There will be other variants.

"Summer is terrific, as we can all get outdoors, but that changes with winter. New variants will come and we will be at risk again."

But she said it was the behaviour associated with the virus, not summer or winter, that was most important, including limiting our interactions, maintaining social distance, hand washing and mask wearing.

"We do need to figure out how to maintain those behaviours, particularly in winter when it's harder to be outdoors, to create safe passage for all of us."

This week, the Pandemic Code Brown in hospitals will wind down.

Ms Child said for BCH, the Code Brown was about managing staff shortfalls at the peak of the Omicron wave.

"We had so many staff caught up

with kids being infected, or being close contacts, but all of the furloughing changes and requirements to stay at home have shifted.

"We plan to have theatre back on February 21 and to have dental services back this week."

Wonthaggi Hospital is now a "streaming hospital", which means Covid patients will stay at the hospital if their condition is "within our capability" to manage said Ms Child, rather than automatically being transferred to Latrobe or a metropolitan hospital.

While several patients were being admitted each day, the majority of local cases were being managed through the Hospital in the Home program.

"Most people don't get really sick; they experience mild to moderate symptoms," she said.

"If symptoms are mild, we monitor the patient. If symptoms are moderate, our staff intervene with medication and anyone in more significant distress will be transferred to the hospital for care.

"This is becoming our new normal. In Delta and the first wave, we had really critically unwell people, but in this wave, it's rare.

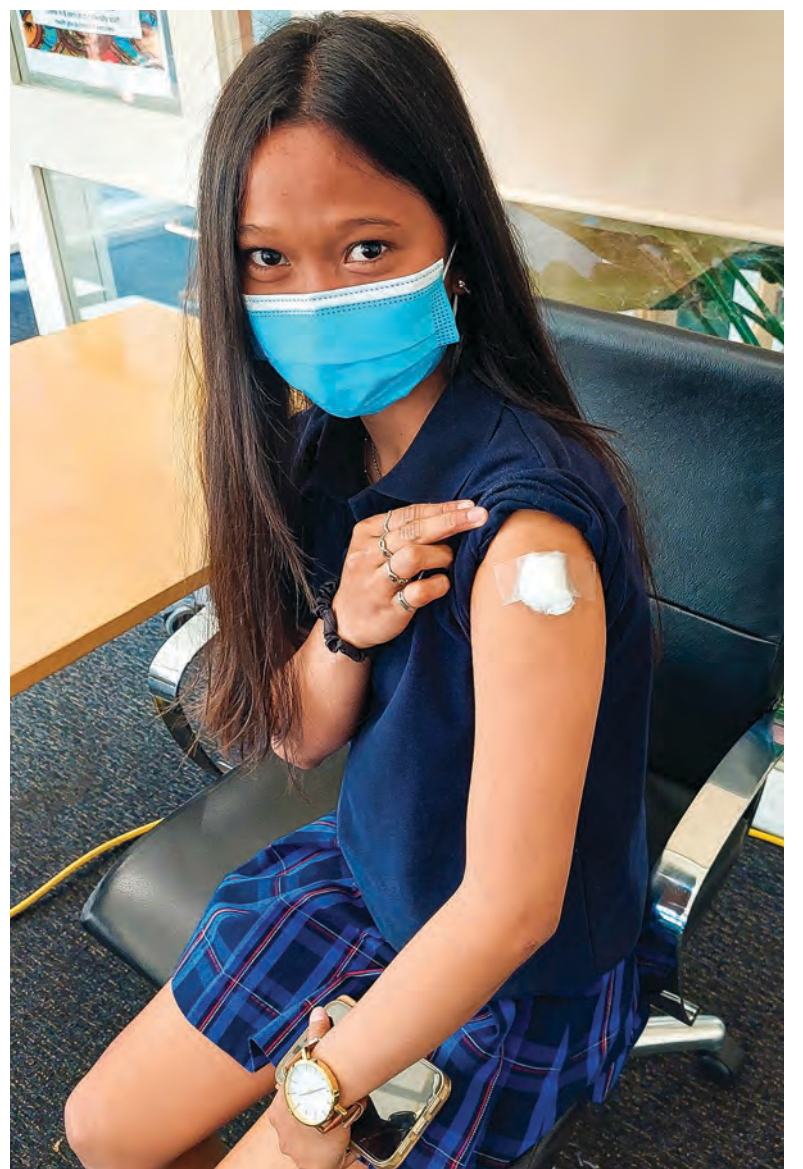
"It does feel like the severity is less, and there's no doubt the good vaccination rates here have helped.

"Vaccination in Bass Coast is still high compared to other parts of Gippsland and that's something we should aspire to maintain," Ms Child said.

"It stood us in good stead during Delta and Omicron. We'll be in this vaccination business for a while and it's critical that we reach the people who need their booster."

Vaccination bookings can be made online at portal.cvms.vic.gov.au or by calling 1800 675 398.

GPs or pharmacy vaccinations can also book online at covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/



Teenager Lorraine Tangpos received her Covid booster at the Community Vaccination Clinic at the Wonthaggi Town Hall. All eligible residents are urged to make a booking or walk-in to the clinic for their booster, to help maintain the community's high vaccination rate.



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FOI on garbage charges mostly “redacted”

A Freedom of Information request about Bass Coast Shire's controversial and costly waste contracts has taken more than 865 days to supply information, with most pages “blanked out”.

In response to resident “concerns and frustration about the lack of transparency”, in June 2019 Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association (BCRRA) lodged an FOI request to access the shire's waste contracts, signed in 2016.

“The aim of this FOI was to review the contracts and clarify whether Bass Coast ratepayers were receiving appropriate value for money and a service that truly meets their needs,” BCRRA spokesman John Trigt said.

In 2018 Bass Coast ratepayers forked out \$374 per year for garbage charges, which rose to \$496 in 2020, an 11 per cent increase on the previous year; which was in contrast to neighbouring shire South Gippsland who in '20-21 paid a \$217 garbage charge, a rise of \$10.

Mr Trigt said the FOI Act required requests to be dealt with promptly, with the standard timeframe 30 days.

“More than a year later, after multiple missed deadlines and unanswered emails, BCRRA lodged a complaint with the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) about Council's poor response,” he said.

Following the complaint the shire then asked the association to split their request into two parts: contracts and variations.

After multiple missed deadlines, BCRRA received the documents 865 days after the FOI request was made and “the documents received are more than 50 per cent redacted”.

“This is not national security we're talking about but waste contracts.”

Mr Trigt said the association had



A Freedom of Information request about Bass Coast Shire's controversial and costly waste contracts has taken more than 865 days, with the documents around 50 per cent redacted.

asked OVIC to review if the redactions were appropriate.

“But of greater concern, these delays underline just how unwilling Bass Coast Shire is to provide transparency and accountability on how they spend ratepayers' money.”

He said in September 2016, prior to his election to council, now Mayor Michael Whelan wrote to the Advertiser stating, “I have at no time declared support for the waste contract”, adding he believed “contracts should be made public” to restore confidence in the process.

“Despite our best efforts, it seems information is not very “free” even with the provisions of legislation.

“As the 10-year waste contracts conclude in just over four years, will this information ever see the light of day?”

A shire spokesperson said they were governed by the Freedom of Information Act when responding to applications.

“Council is only able to exempt information in line with the legislation or by mutual agreement,” they said.

“At the time the mayor, deputy mayor and CEO met with members of the BCRRA to discuss why details of the waste contract could not be released.”

Background

In 2020 councillors voted on two massive price hikes in rubbish fees, with one admitting there will be “kickback from the community” on rubbish collection costs, with contentious debate around why ratepayers were being hit so hard.

The first hike was for (legally required) environmental monitoring of landfill sites at Rhyll, Grantville and Wonthaggi by contractors Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment Pty Ltd.

A three-year contract from 2019 was originally for \$258,720, with the contractor seeking an increase of \$171,943 over two years, a jump of more than 60 per cent.

The second hike was for \$1.83 million for recycling services by Wonthaggi Recyclers, including their management of Inverloch and Wonthaggi Transfer Stations and the continued collection and processing of recyclables.

According to Wonthaggi Recyclers the fee imposed by Visy Recycling for the shire's recyclable materials increased from \$100 per tonne to \$145 per tonne, or a rise of 45 per cent.



The owners of the Mercedes car smashed through the front window of the Wing Ho restaurant, into the table that seated four of their friends, whom they were meeting for dinner.

Way to go, Wing Ho

Just two weeks after a car ploughed through their front window, Wingo Ho restaurant in Cowes has reopened for takeaway.

“We are finally back after all we have gone through,” management announced through social media.

“It would not be possible without a very generous community, and amazing people surrounding.”

“Your loyalty and support mean so much to us, a small family business.”

Management said they would keep customers posted about the reopening of dine-in service, with a date yet to be specified.

Customers were injured when the car mounted the curb on Thompson Avenue about 7pm a fortnight ago and smashed the front of the brick building, hitting a table where – according to restaurant staff – they were due to dine with four friends.

Some of those friends fell to the floor when the car smashed the table and chairs.

Victoria Police said the incident was under investigation and they couldn't provide comment on the cause of the crash.

Police, CFA, SES and paramedics all attended the incident.

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Parking sensors 'should not bypass community'

Ratepayer advocates say they are "horrified" parking sensors will be rolled out in Cowes with no public consultation or council vote, agreeing it will be a "major revenue raiser".

And, they say, the sensors – to be rolled out before Easter – could only occur because of the relatively new spending power of Bass Coast Shire's CEO.

The technology will see about 500 car parks in Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street, The Esplanade and the Cowes Transit Centre installed with sensors after the shire last week announced they had awarded the \$300,000 tender.

The vast majority of comments on the Advertiser's Facebook page last year opposed the technology, with residents arguing that while it wasn't paid parking, it would undoubtedly see more drivers fined in the 10 months of the year that were off-peak.

Island Voice spokeswoman Linda Marston said the group was "horrified" the rollout could occur without community consultation.

"Where is the transparency?" Ms Marston said.

"There are many questions about costing – both initial and ongoing, how much of the year will this operate and how it will affect the perception of our visitors?"

"How was this even decided to be a priority for the island? We have had many priority lists over the years and parking sensors was not one of them."

She asked why there was a rush

to spend the funding "without reference to the community or a priority list" when there were so many other pressing issues.

Ratepayer advocate Ken Hailey was "astounded" the parking sensors could be rolled out without a council vote.

"We elect councillors to represent the community and make these decisions. We did not elect public servants to make these decisions without community input," Mr Hailey said.

He said parking pods were a major revenue raiser for city councils.

"They would never be installed otherwise. Enforcement officers no longer have to chalk tyres. Wireless technology tells them when and where an infringement has occurred.

"Easier and more efficient, hence more revenue.

"Will this mean that parking pods will expand throughout the rest of the island?"

Spending powers

Cowes resident Peter McMahon said the project sidestep community consultation because CEO Ali Wastie "used her discretionary power and established a tender and announced the winner".

Following the Covid outbreak in 2020, Ms Wastie's spending limit was increased from \$250,000 to \$1 million, which means the CEO can singlehandedly spend \$1 million on shire projects, without the need to seek councillors' approval.



With the upcoming rollout of parking sensors in Cowes, enforcement officers will no longer have to walk the street and chalk tyres. "Wireless technology tells them when and where an infringement has occurred. Easier and more efficient, hence more revenue," says one ratepayer advocate.

"My concern is why does the CEO have the ability to use up to \$1 million, which was increased for Covid issues?" Mr McMahon said.

"This needs to be addressed and should be reduced to the pre-Covid \$250,000 limit.

"No issue that impacts the community should be put in place before community consultation."

Ms Marston agreed saying if the CEO's spending limit had been reset to pre-Covid levels, the issue

would have been debated by councillors who would "have insisted on community engagement".

"What was a strategy to keep council working in an unknown pandemic situation is now redundant and should be rescinded."

Survey

Last week shire staff randomly surveyed drivers in Cowes, asking how difficult it was to find a car park and the time it took, with data

to be compared against survey responses after the system has been installed.

Mr McMahon said it was pointless surveying locals.

"We the locals know where and how to park, it is only in the tourist seasons that parking may be a problem."

Ms Marston said local drivers did not "drive around endlessly for parking most of the year".

"Smart parking may have some benefit for five weeks of the year – but what business case supports this expenditure?"

"Perhaps conducting a survey to scope the problem before letting the contract would have been more sensible?"

The contractor will begin installing small sensors in parking bays in March.

Response

A shire spokesman said the driver surveys were delayed due to extreme weather forecasts.

"Early survey results indicate a healthy mix of local and visitor responses, benefitting from the extra traffic from the Phillip Island Pro event," the spokesperson said.

When the Advertiser asked about community consultation and pre-Covid CEO spending limits, the spokesperson said the Smart Parking shire website page provided information including on the benefits.

Details: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/smartparking.



The lucky ones get caught.

Right now, Victoria Police are out in force catching drivers doing the wrong thing. Catching these drivers helps protect them from harming themselves and other road users. Please drive safely, for everyone.

TAC

VICTORIA
State Government

Your say on drowning prevention sign

Life Saving Victoria, in partnership with Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, invites Bass Coast residents to have their say on a project to help prevent drownings at local beaches.

A virtual community consultation session will be held from 6 – 7pm on Thursday, February 24 to gather local insights as part of a trial that will see an interactive, electric drowning prevention sign installed at Woolamai Beach.

The project comes after the Bass Coast was frequently identified as a drowning hotspot location, with a high number of drowning incidents during previous years, according to Life Saving Victoria manager health promotion and research Dr Hannah Calverley.

“In response, we have received funding to trial an interactive, electronic sign in the area, to elevate drowning prevention messaging and enhance water safety along the Bass Coast, and specifically at Woolamai Beach,” Dr Calverley said.

“The local community are the experts of Bass Coast and Woolamai areas, and we want to ensure their insights are captured and inform this project to ensure the best possible outcome.”

The consultation aims to engage stakeholders and communities within the Bass Coast and Woolamai areas to determine local perceptions of water safety risks along Woolamai Beach, as well as who is most at risk, and when they are most at risk.

Dr Calverley said the information will help develop content to be included in the interactive sign at Woolamai Beach.

“We understand people are busy and with the current Covid-19 cli-



A virtual community consultation session will be held from 6 – 7pm on Thursday, February 24 to gather local insights as part of a trial that will see an interactive, electric drowning prevention sign installed at Woolamai Beach.

mate, may be limiting their physical interaction, and so we have decided to host this event virtually,” Dr Calverley said.

“Registration isn’t required, however we encourage participants to RSVP to the virtual session via Facebook, where we have set up a dedicated event page to share the meeting link and related resources closer to the date.

“For those who can’t make it, we’ve also created a survey so that everyone has the opportunity to have their say.”

If you require any further information, or have any questions or concerns, please contact the Life Saving Victoria research team at research@lsv.com.au.

This project is part of the Surf Life Saving Australia Beach Drowning Black Spot Reduction Program funded by the Australian Government.

Join the Facebook session at: bit.ly/3GGCUXy

To complete the survey, go to: surveyMonkey.com/r/WoolamaiSLSC-sign

/ Sponsored Article /

Don't be the unsinkable guy, rethink before a day on water

A new advertising campaign is warning men in Victoria not to think they are an ‘Unsinkable Guy’ in a push to reduce drowning deaths across the state.

A staggering four out of five drowning deaths in Victoria over the past 10 years have involved men aged 25 to 64.

Inflatable ‘unsinkable guys’ feature in the TV, radio, print, digital and social media campaign to highlight a number of the dangers that led to 61 drownings in 2020-21.

Close to one third of all drowning deaths in the state over the past decade involved alcohol.

The advertising campaign is part of a new summer water safety messaging this year to reach at-risk groups in the community in the hopes of a safer summer.

The campaign is built on extensive research that shows men often underestimate drowning dangers to themselves, despite looking out for others. The campaign asks them to rethink their risks around the water.

The research shows that men are also less likely to heed water safety messages.

This month, the Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes launched a new Victorian Water Safety Strategy to encourage people to safely enjoy activities in and around the water and to drive drownings to zero.

“Nobody is unsinkable – too many Victorians have been lost to water tragedies who could still be with their loved ones today,” the Minister said.

“We’re urging all Victorians to be alert to potential risks around water so that we can all have a safe and fun summer – but particularly men who tend to underestimate and misjudge the risks to



A new state government campaign – “Unsinkable Guy” aims to reduced drowning deaths across the state, particular aimed at men aged 25 to 64.

themselves.

“We want all Victorians to enjoy our beautiful waterways this summer, but we also want them all to come home – the Unsinkable Guy reminds us all that there are still risks around water.”

Drowning related deaths are a risk across the community, with the strategy aimed at reducing the risk at beaches, lakes, rivers and dams, at home, as well as public and private pools and ponds.

The new Water Safety Strategy for 2021-25 maps out steps to tackle a range of contributing factors such as the growing number of people visiting the water, demand for water safety education programs, and education for people using recreational vessels.

The state government is investing \$8.5 million with Life Saving Victoria for critical water safety initiatives to help reduce the number of drownings in Victoria and support the extension of the life-saving season in 2021-22.

A further \$71.5 million is supporting swimming lessons and resources for primary school children.

The Water Safety Strategy can be found at vic.gov.au/victorian-water-safety-strategy.

Council Update



Community Grants - closing soon!

Round 1 of our 2022 Community Grants Program is closing on Friday, 4 March 2022. Our Community Grants Program is an opportunity for community groups and not-for-profit organisations to apply for grants of up to \$5,000, as well as up to three major project grants of \$10,000. Categories include Equipment, Other Projects, Festivals Events and Celebrations, Minor Capital Works and Climate Action. Visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/grants to read our Community Grants guidelines and to apply. Alternatively you can contact our Community Grants Officer on the numbers below or email grantenquiry@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Changed traffic conditions, San Remo – Channel Challenge, Saturday, 19 February

As part of traffic management and safety precautions for this event, there will be changed traffic conditions at San Remo:

- Marine Parade will be closed between Bergin Grove and Woolamai Grove from 1.00pm until 4.30pm.
- Bergin Grove will be closed between Mary Grove and Marine Parade from 2.50pm until 4.30pm. Parking restrictions will apply in Bergin Grove.
- One way traffic on the San Remo Bridge will be in place between 3.00pm and 4.00pm.

Race starts at 3.15pm. For any enquires please contact Council's Senior Visitor Economy and Events Officer, Janine Temme on the numbers below.

Road Management Plan Review

Council is reviewing its Road Management Plan (RMP) in accordance with section 54 of the *Road Management Act 2004*. The purpose of this review is to ensure that Council's Road Management Plan reflects the expectations of its community, and keeps the road network safe and well maintained for years to come.

A copy of the current Road Management Plan is available on our website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/rmp or at Council's Service Centres in Wonthaggi, Cowes, Inverloch or Grantville during office hours. If you wish to make a submission as part of the review you can do so by email to basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au or by mail addressed to Asset Management Coordinator, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995. Submissions close at 5.00pm on Friday, 25 March 2022

For further information, please contact Council's Coordinator Asset Management on the numbers below.

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

Help prevent drownings at Woolamai Beach

6 - 7pm Thursday 24 February

Life Saving Victoria and Woolamai Beach SLSC are hosting a virtual consultation session to gather local insights for a project aimed at preventing drownings at Bass Coast beaches

Contact us at research@lsv.com.au



Scan to join the Facebook event

Can't make it?



Complete the survey to have your say



Concerns for dog attacks on wildlife

Red Rocks residents say they are concerned about increasing attacks on wildlife by dogs off leash.

Meanwhile Bass Coast Shire said officers issued 55 infringements and 17 warnings from December 1 to January 31, with a “number of infringements issued at Red Rocks”.

Red Rocks resident Marcus Tarrant said in the past year locals had found two wallabies dead on the foreshore and other “survivors with injuries” (pictured).

“The most severe of these two was captured by wildlife rescue volunteers but, ultimately could not be saved. The other of these two is still around,” Marcus said.

Marcus has lived in the area for four decades and the last couple of years he said there had been a spike in injuries, but dead wallabies was “a new phenomenon”, adding most dogs on the foreshore were off-leash.

“It’s common for dogs to leap out of cars and once they catch the scent of wildlife, they go charging around the bush and our garden.

“We have had tourists still calling their dogs as late as midnight. Their dogs just disappear chasing anything that moves.”

Neighbour Colin agreed.

“People in the past were obliging and had their dogs on leash but now it seems it’s the norm to have them off leash,” said Colin, a member of Red Rocks Coast Care.

He said his family had observed dogs chasing wallabies, including into their own property, as well as into the water.

“One neighbour had a chicken killed by a dog that ran from the beach off leash. She caught it on camera and was quite distressed,” he said, adding shire officers followed up the attack.

“It is concerning that people have become complacent about keeping dogs on leash and following the re-



These photos were taken by a Red Rocks resident who said wildlife were attacked by dogs off leash.

strictions.”

Colin said the past summer saw most dogs off leash and when he explained the restrictions to dog owners “most people are ok and don’t realise”.

“But you could be there all day explaining it to them.”

Enforcement

Marcus said there were not enough shire officers to patrol all beaches.

“Unfortunately, it’s almost impossible for local laws officers to catch offenders in the act. Hence it’s down to those of us who live here.

“Those of us who live here and care for our environment are hopeful that more regular visits will result in tickets being issued to of-

fenders and, eventually, more dog owners will get the message and comply.”

Cheryl Owens, President of the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Association agreed dog owners need to comply with regulations and stressed the group was committed to responsible pet ownership.

“This is not an off-leash dog area and dogs should be on lead on this beach,” she said.

“More shire enforcement is clearly what is needed in this area.

“We do understand their resources are stretched in the intensely busy January period and so many people are in the area that don’t know or understand the current restrictions.

“An education campaign would be

of great benefit.”

Shire CEO Ali Wastie said officers regularly patrolled beaches and reports of incidents should be made to the council as they were occurring.

“We also encourage them, if it is safe to do so, to collect as much evidence as possible.

“Taking photographs can help us identify the dog and can be used as evidence if the matter is prosecuted.”

Offence

Nature Parks ranger in charge Ben Thomas said beaches managed by Phillip Island Nature Parks were divided in to either no dogs anytime, or on-leash where dogs were permitted, with all beach users required to read the regulations.

He said the vast majority of dog owners obeyed the rules, which were in place to protect wildlife.

“We’re reminding dog owners to have their dogs on leashes and maintain a safe distance from native wildlife,” Ben said.

“Anyone who witnesses native wildlife being chased by dogs is urged to make a report to Crime Stoppers.”

He said under the Wildlife Act, allowing a dog to attack or chase wildlife was a crime, and subject to a fine of up to \$4130, with rangers regularly patrolling beaches.

If you have information relating to dogs chasing or harassing wildlife, report it to Crime Stoppers confidentially on 1800 333 000 or at crimestoppers.com.au.

Don't be a goose, get yours now.



WE'RE BACK IN STOCK.

Our first print run sold out in three weeks, but new copies are now available at the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser office (60 Chapel Street, Cowes), 03 5952 3201, or online at www.pisra.com.au/over-the-bridge.

Over the Bridge: A book dedicated to the farmers, chefs, restaurants and farmgates of Phillip Island and beyond.

RRP: \$44.95



CHICORY
PUBLISHING

Local businesses recognised at Tourism Awards

The Victorian Tourism Awards Gala Ceremony was held earlier this month at the Melbourne Town Hall, with several local attractions and businesses being recognised.

Phillip Island Nature Parks topped the local winners list, picking up a gold award for the Tourism Innovation and Resilience Award – Regional Victoria.

The Nature Parks also received a bronze award for ecotourism and in the major attraction category.

Genesta House Bed and Breakfast in Cowes won bronze in the hosted accommodation section.

Silver awards went to the Phillip Island and Bass Coast Visitor Information Centre for visitor services and to Harmon Wines in the Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries category.

Destination Gippsland won gold for its All Kinds of Wonderful tourism campaign

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan congratulated the “hard-working team” at the council’s information centres.

“It’s a fantastic acknowledgement for our visitor experience team’s tenacity in an extremely challenging year, confirming our commitment to tourism excellence.

“We’d also like to congratulate all businesses across Gippsland who won awards tonight and in particular to Bass Coast businesses Genesta House Bed and Breakfast and Harman Wines, who won silver, and Phillip Island Nature Parks.

“Big thanks to the Victoria Tourism Industry Council for recognising these amazing businesses and for the wonderful night of celebrations,” Cr Whelan said.

“Some of these businesses haven’t had too much to celebrate in recent times so this was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the incredibly achievements they have made despite the challenges.”



The Phillip Island and Bass Coast Visitor Information Centre won silver at the recent Victorian Tourism Awards, one of several local winners.



SHORT STACK

A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Youth advice needed

Applications are now open for people aged 12 to 25 interested in joining Council’s Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

The YAC is an advisory group of young people who are connected to Bass Coast, who are passionate about making a difference in the local community. It provides a channel for young people to communicate directly with council. For more visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/yac.

Applications close on Friday, February 25.

Nominate an inspirational teacher

The Commonwealth Bank and Schools Plus are calling for nominations for teachers or school leaders who have been an inspiration through challenging times, as part of the 2022 Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards.

Now in its sixth consecutive year, the awards introduced a new category for early career teachers added to the existing 12 teaching awards.

The 12 teaching awards, valued at \$45,000, go towards professional development and a strategic school project.

Up to 10 early career teachers will receive a prize valued at \$10,000 for professional development and a unique mentoring program.

Applications and nominations for the awards are open until March 27. Eligible teachers may either be nominated by someone or apply personally.

For information or to nominate visit www.teachingawards.com.au.

Rent relief for small business

The state government has introduced new regulations under the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme to support small and family businesses experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic.

Eligible commercial tenants with an annual turnover of \$10 million or less who have suffered a decline in turnover of at least 30 per cent due to COVID-19 will be able to access the scheme.

The new regulations run until March 15.

Tenants and landlords can contact the VSBC for further information on 13 87 22 or visit vsbc.vic.gov.au.

Community grants

The latest round of the Dysons Community Grants will open on March 1.

The program aims to support a range of community-based organisations at grass roots level that have been impacted by the pandemic.

Eligible organisations include schools, sporting clubs, not-for-profit groups, charities, local societies and emergency services. The next round closes on March 31. Details: dysongroup.com.au/about/community-grants

Road safety funding

Schools, councils, and not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding for grassroots road safety initiatives to drive down road trauma.

Applications for the Community Road Safety Grants Program close on Wednesday, March 9. For more information visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Creator grants

The 2022 Creators Fund provides creative professionals with financial certainty so they can work intensively on a project for a period of up to six months.

Grants of between \$20,000 and \$50,000 are available.

Applications close on March 3. For more information, visit www.creative.vic.gov.au/creators-fund.



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These two streets in Cowes have been earmarked for affordable social housing: Wyndham Avenue and Roydon Road.

Social housing streets confirmed

Plans for social housing on two streets in Cowes west are a step closer, with funding now being sought.

Four other streets previously earmarked for the project have been scrapped.

Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie last week confirmed Wyndham Avenue and Roydon Road would progress to the next stage of social housing development, while Seascope, Raywood, and Highland avenues, as well as Anderson Road were no longer in contention.

Late last year the shire was nominated to receive \$25 million worth of grants under the state government's Big Housing Build, one of nine local government areas targeted by the government in a total \$5.3 billion fund.

Under the build, registered community housing organisations (CHOs) apply for the grants. The land is then made available for free or at a discount by the shire for the homes to be built.

Ms Wastie confirmed the CHO Community Housing Limited would progress with two areas – Wyndham and Roydon in Cowes, as well as Ivor Street, Henry Street East, and Henry Street West

in Wonthaggi North, after undertaking due diligence.

"The other sites that were investigated in Cowes have been deemed not suitable to progress any further for the provision of social housing," Ms Wastie said.

"The next step in the process is for Community Housing Limited to develop their proposals for submission to the funding stream.

"If successful they would further develop their proposal including consultation with council and the local community before submitting their proposal to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change for approval."

Under the grant conditions, community consultation would be held in March and April, construction of homes must start by June 2023 and be finished by June 2025.

Three councillors voted against the project last year because, they said, the shire had not yet finished creating its own affordable housing strategy.

Residents

Wyndham Avenue residents say a "wildlife corridor" and parkland should not

be destroyed for the social housing construction.

The residents said they planned to form a committee to protest the project, saying the section of vegetated vacant land in their street was used by local residents as parkland, as well as by wildlife.

Eric Williams has lived on the street for 27 years and said he was surprised to learn of the social housing plans late last year.

"This land is a wildlife corridor. The council is quick to protect their gazetted corridors yet they're prepared to rip up one like this," Eric said.

Robert Cooper, who lives opposite the land, said the trees were home to a variety of animals including owls, yellow-tailed black cockatoos, lorikeets and rosellas, while wallabies were also often spotted.

"Children play there, there's even cubby houses in the trees, people walk their dogs and go for runs and play footy and cricket," Robert said.

"It's a nature reserve valued by both holiday home owners and residents. This is a battle not just for our street but the whole community."

Charity has new Newhaven HQ

From page 1

Mitre 10 "magically" secured timber in the midst of building material shortages, while builder Chris Ross managed to complete the build in record time.

AMP Foundation awarded a grant of \$30,000 for the fit out, with a Launceston inventor requesting Free 3D Hands the remaining amount.

Archisign produced the signage and designer Mark Underwood revamped their logo and branding pro bono.

About two years ago local primary schools and the Phillip Island RSL fundraised to buy 85 solar panels for the Cowes factory, which were moved by RACV Solar to the Newhaven premises in the last few weeks.

Mat said the solar panels, combined with two donated Tesla Powerwalls, meant they now produced three times more energy than they need, with power fed into the grid coming back to the charity "like a donation, so it generates funds".

The building has been designed to be all-inclusive with voice-control for lights and the 40 3D printers.

Mat, who has two children aged 11 and nine, is expecting his third child with his wife Yuka in June and the building has also been fitted out to be baby-friendly.

"We want to create a workplace where someone can come back to work from maternity leave without being forced to put their baby into childcare."

Global hub

When the 41-year-old first started Free 3D Hands in the Cowes factory the aim was to produce as many assistive devices as possible, making about 10 per day, distributed to

children and adults around the world unable to access or afford them.

While his team still manufactures the hands on the 3D printers, with biodegradable plastic, Mat said their focus had now shifted more to research and development and global collaboration.

"Three years ago we saw ourselves as a central manufacturing hub to provide devices globally but we soon realised if we did that we wouldn't even scratch the surface," he said, adding the World Health Organization estimated the need at up to 60 million people.

"Now we're focusing on releasing designs to allow others to create them.

"At the end of 2020 we released a 100-page manual that explains the materials, printers, settings and how to replicate everything we do."

Mat said 4500 individuals and organisations had now downloaded their designs and work with Mat's team to create their own devices in their country.

So, for example, Free 3D Hands works with a Thailand hospital to manufacture prosthetic limbs for a leprosy colony.

"We don't want to be the only supplier. If I'm hit by a bus we want to ensure people around the world have access to assistive technology."

In parallel, Mat's team of two permanent staff and regular biomedical and mechatronics engineering interns work on research and development, particularly focused on their next release, a bionic arm, which would normally cost about \$60,000 but will be made using their technology for under \$100 in materials.

They are also branching into development of devices, such as a spoon stabiliser for people with Parkinson's Disease.

Details: free3dhands.org/

Fame, but no fortune

For a while there, it seemed Mat Bowtell was on the cover of every newspaper and his face plastered across social media.

In 2018 he was given the Local Hero honour by the Australian of the Year Awards, which was later followed by the 2019 Pride of Australia awards, for an act of instinctive bravery.

The Queen even singled him out for a special Commonwealth honour, Points of Light, one of only two Australians to ever receive it.

Actor and fundraiser Samuel Johnson at one point took Mat under his wing to crowdfund support.

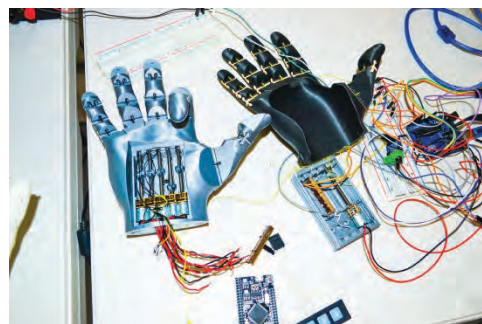
"It has never been about that (fame). It's just reassurance we're on the right path and it helps in terms of our charity's credibility," Mat said.

"That is why I love living on Phillip Island because I've always just been Mat. I like walking into the IGA and having a gasbag with the staff. My feet are still firmly on the ground."

The fame, however, has at times paid dividends, helping to boost the bottom line of the Free 3D Hands charity; but, he said, generally after any TV or media appearance, donations come in one big hit then dry up.

While acknowledging the generosity of local residents and website donors, Mat said running a charity was always a challenge.

Before Covid hit, a large chunk of income



Free 3D hands makes assisted devices for people around the world and hopes to get support from corporate sponsors. If they can secure this, Mat said more of his time can be focused on research and development rather than fundraising.

came from his public speaking appearances to the likes of technology and innovation conferences, universities and as a motivational speaker, with all speaking fees paid directly to the charity for team wages.

His first post-Covid event will be next month when he heads to Hamilton Island.

"That revenue stream completely dried up during Covid.

"We are very lean in terms of resources. Being able to run a small charity as lean as possible is very difficult.

"We have regular donors, even one lady donates \$1 a month from somewhere in the world."

During Covid the team made free face shields for health workers, which was supported through state government funding.

But now, he said, the focus was on getting support from corporate sponsors to create a baseline to allow the charity to forecast and plan.

Mat said if they can secure a baseline then more of his time can be focused on research and development rather than fundraising.

Mat grew up on the island and after coming dux of Year 12 at Wonthaggi Secondary College, he studied engineering at Monash.

In 2004, while studying mechatronics on a scholarship in Japan, he tried on a \$1 million bionic arm, marvelling at the technology but despairing at the cost.

After being made redundant from the automotive industry in 2017, he set up Free 3D Hands, living on his redundancy payout.

"When you make a hand for someone, with no expectation or reward, and give it to them for free, it becomes priceless."

Details: free3dhands.org/



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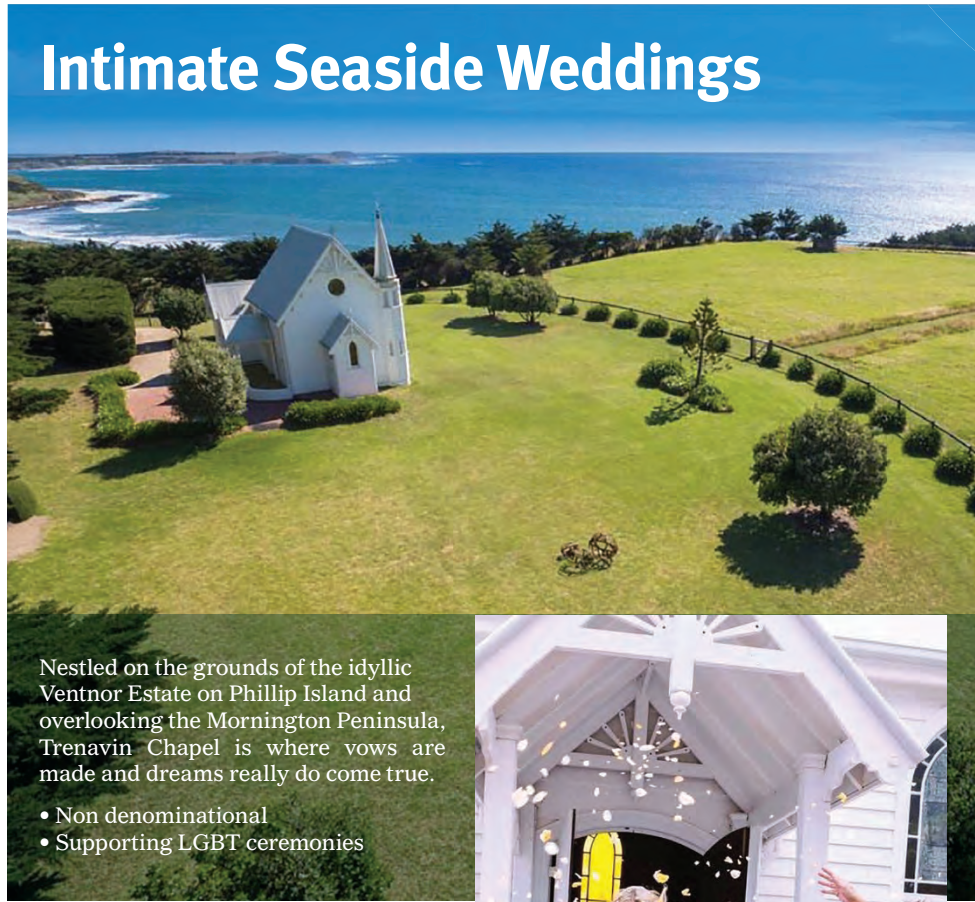
The Phillip Island Registry Office were honoured to be able to give/gift an elopement to Luke and Keturah "The Archibalds" who finally got Hitched on November 11th after 20 years of Lovin', two beautiful babes and multiple wedding plans (that were thwarted by covid lockdowns). It was an incredible afternoon at The Huddle.

Phillip Island Registry Office is open Mon to Fri by appointment only.

Flowers by Morrie and Maisie and Photography by Claire Davie.

WEB: www.phillipislandregistryoffice.com.au **SOCIALS:** @phillipislandregistryoffice

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INVERLOCH



AusNet Services said an inspection of streetlights in December found 10 lights out along Thompson Avenue. Cowes resident Vincent Smith said the lights have been blown for months, despite him reporting them multiple times.

Thompson Avenue street lights in the spotlight

A Cowes resident has accused AusNet of leaving the community in the dark, after failing to repair broken streetlights in Thompson Avenue.

Vincent Smith estimates there are approximately 20 lights blown between the Jetty and the Phillip Island RSL and claims it has been that way for months.

"I have personally reported to council and Ausnet, and three got fixed, but that was months ago," he told the Advertiser.

Mr Smith also claims a light over the pedestrian crossing near Woolworths has been out for over a year, despite him reporting it three times.

However AusNet services said they have no record of any outstanding customer reports, but confirmed work was underway to repair lights in the main street.

A spokesperson said streetlights are in-

spected along major roads in the area three times a year.

"The most recent inspection was completed in December 2021.

"There were 10 lights out along Thompson Avenue, most of which were attended to last week and repaired."

AusNet said further work will be done to fix the remaining lights along Thompson Avenue, which would require traffic control for the safety of the public and work crews.

The work is due to be carried out this week.

"Please keep an eye out for traffic control and changed traffic conditions while we undertake the repairs," the spokesperson said.

"If you see any lights out across the island, particularly in the residential streets, be sure to report them to our faults and emergency crews on 13 17 99."

Welcome home Karen

On her return to Newhaven College Karen Milkins-Hendry has challenged anyone who has greeted her with "Welcome back Karen".

"Welcome back suggests I am returning to somewhere I have already been, but I am so different, and the school is like a new place, so I see this much more as a welcome "forward" than a welcome back," Karen said.

"But even though there are changes, it definitely is home to me. My DNA is in the place."

Karen is in her first month as the newly appointed Director of Learning at Newhaven College.

She previously worked at the school for over 20 years beginning as a mathematics teacher and holding various positions including Head of House and Vice Principal.

In 2013 she left Newhaven and initially had a short-term contract at Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) but ended up staying for nine years.

The last five years she has been the Dean of the Development Centre where she worked alongside many schools developing their professional learning programs, assisting with school improvement, and providing leadership training.

Reflecting on her time at ISV Karen says, "it was an honour and privilege to have school senior leadership teams share challenges and successes, plus the exposure to leading local and global educators was so exciting and inspiring".

In the role of Director of Learning Karen will work with teachers to provide the



Principal Tony Corr with Director of Learning Karen Milkins-Hendry, who returns to Newhaven College. Karen previously worked at the school for over 20 years, leaving in 2013 to take up a role at Independent Schools Victoria.

best learning opportunities for all the students at Newhaven.

Newhaven College Principal Tony Corr believes Karen will make a significant difference to the learning culture at Newhaven.

"Karen is an inspiring and passionate educator. To bring her in to lead our learning programs at Newhaven is a huge coup for us.

"Her experience and expertise in the areas of teaching and learning pedagogy is impressive and authentic.

"As a school we will only benefit from her wisdom and knowledge as we continue to strive to be the best school we can be."

In addition to the senior role of Director of Learning Karen will be returning to the classroom as a mathematics teacher to impart her knowledge.

"Making connections with the next generation of learners, reconnecting with parents who I taught and being in the Newhaven College classroom striving to make a difference feels absolutely right for me."

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SAN REMO

CHANNEL CHALLENGE

NEWS &
PROGRAM

Channel Challenge returns

After a challenging few years due to Covid, the San Remo Channel Challenge returns this weekend, with competitors hitting the water at 3.15pm on Saturday, February 19.

This will be the 36th Channel Challenge, and the organisers are thrilled the event is going ahead, after having to cancel in 2021.

Event organisers are hoping around 500 competitors will take part, with Ron Nicholson confident the event will attract a stellar field, after both the Portsea and Brighton swims attracted strong numbers.

He's urging athletes to jump online and complete their registration as soon as possible.

"We're asking everyone to register online, as we don't want people sitting in a room filling out forms on the day," Ron said.

"While Covid protocols aren't too onerous, it does make things slower, so registrations must be done online."

Ron said the committee had done a lot of work to have the race permit approved by the government, and to set up all the required Covid protocols.

There will be Covid marshals on site and the race centre will now be set up outdoors.

On the day, competitors will be processed and collect their race packs at the outdoor race centre, which will be open from 9am until 2.30pm.

All competitors must be double-vaccinated and will need to show proof of their vaccination status. Masks must be worn at the race centre.

In another nod to Covid, the waves of competitors will be separated at the start of the race.

"And we have to keep the competitors and spectators separated at three key points: the start, finish and transition area," Ron said.

He is urging competitors to check in as early as possible.

"We want people to get in early, as it will be a slightly slower process this year.



Long-time supporter of the Channel Challenge, the late Dennis Harris (left) with Rob Williams and Ron Nicholson (right), will be honoured with a new memorial trophy to be awarded on the day.



The race attracts generations of competitors, with many youngsters taking part in the relay category. From the 2020 event, (back) Duncan Herbert and Walter Hiatt with (front) Riley Herbert and Ethan Tilly.

points to view all the action, and you can expect to see some fierce competition, with old rivalries reignited.

"Dr Luke Plant has already registered and he has been the local winner in the last couple of races," said Ron.

"Mark Rowe is also competing and he and Luke have had some great contests over the years, so I'm sure they will fight it out again."

Ron said other local competitors included Rob Fleisner, who has battled it out with Aurel Wachter over the last five years, with the pair taking out first and second place in the Over 50s category.

Brian Dallinger and Geoff Daff continue their tradition of competing in every Channel Challenge event, with Geoff flying in from Tasmania.

It's hoped the winner of the 2019 and 2020 event, Marcel Walkington, will return to defend his title.

This year again features the relay category, which allows teams to compete, with one member completing the swim and the other taking on the run back over the bridge to the finish line.

Introduced for the first time in 2019, the category attracted 31 teams and organisers are hoping for similar numbers this year.

Through sponsorship the event this year will provide a total of \$3450 in prize money, with 27 cash prizes as well as \$2000 presented in gift vouchers from generous local businesses.

The Channel Challenge could not continue without the backing and support of its major sponsors - Bass Coast Shire Council, the San Remo Bendigo Community Bank, Phillip Island Nature Parks, the San Remo Hotel, Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary and Westernport Water.

Registration and information at www.basscoastseries.com.au/san-remo-channel-challenge

SAN REMO

CHANNEL CHALLENGE

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SAN REMO

CHANNEL CHALLENGE

NEWS &
PROGRAM

History of the Challenge

When the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club ran the first Channel Challenge in 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 line up for the 36th event, with around 500 people expected to take part.

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 community was amazing.

Service organisations, council and members of the 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 commentator at The Age) while the original female winner, Katie Peart, was a Woolamai lifesaver who became a journalist 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



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

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.

In 2006 several overseas competitors here for the Commonwealth Games entered the Challenge and that year 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.

Last year, the event was cancelled due to Covid.

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 Geoff Daff, completed a clean sweep of all 25 events and along with Michael Gordon and Katie Peart, were presented with commemorative medallions.

Over the years there have been some serious athletes win the Channel Challenge and the



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



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.



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



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 are the only two people to have competed in every Channel Challenge event staged.



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SAN REMO

CHANNEL CHALLENGE

NEWS &
PROGRAM



The Channel Challenge returns on February 19, after last year's event was cancelled due to Covid. It's expected around 500 competitors will register for the race, similar to 2020 numbers – pictured here at the race start.

Challenge and traffic

The annual San Remo Channel Challenge is on this Saturday, February 19 with organisers looking forward to a bumper crowd and hoping for over 500 entries.

The race involves a 550-metre swim across the eastern channel from San Remo to Newhaven, and a two-kilometre run back across the bridge to the finish line at the foreshore carpark.

The event is a major fundraiser for the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, a highlight on the San Remo calendar, and a major drawcard for visitors to the area.

Start times

Starting time this year is 3.15pm, with the event's electronic timing system enabling competitors to receive split times for both the swimming and running legs of the race.

Competitors must register online and are being urged on the day to pick up their race packs from the race centre as early as possible.

This year the event has committed to eliminating all single use plastics. Competitors will be able to fill recyclable cups from the Westernport Water Hydration trailer, but can also bring their own



Only one lane will operate on the bridge while the race is on (approximately 3pm – 4pm). From the 2019 event, winner of the Senior local male category Walter Hiatt runs back over the bridge.

water bottles to line up at the finish line.

Traffic conditions

The running of the 2km race causes changed traffic conditions across the bridge for a short period of time.

Members of the local SES, Police and a traffic management team will be on hand to direct the flow of traffic across the bridge with only one lane operating while the race is on (approximately 3pm – 4pm).

As part of the traffic management and safety measures, Marine Parade will be closed between Bergin Grove and Woolamai Grove from 1pm until 4.30pm.

Bergin Grove will be closed between Mary Grove and Marine Parade from 2.30pm until 4.30pm. Council has advised that parking restrictions will apply in Bergin Grove.

Commuters can expect some traffic delays while the event is in progress.



The winner of the 2019 San Remo Channel Challenge Marcel Walkington, with second and third place getters Nathan Buschkuehl and James Folvig, and the Senior female winner of the event Tamsyn Moana Veale. Marcel won the event again in 2020.



2022

CHANNEL CHALLENGE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8.30am	Market Opens – Arts, Crafts & General: 0418 325055
8.45am	Animal Nursery – Rain, Hayne & Shine.
9.00am	Race Centre Opens – San Remo Hotel
10.00am	Voices for Monash – Information booth. Children's face painting.
1.00pm	V4M Independent Candidate, Deb Leonard, in attendance.
2.30pm	Race Centre Closes
3.00pm	Competitors Race Briefing at Start
3.15PM	36TH CHANNEL CHALLENGE STARTS
4.00pm	Music at San Remo Hotel – the Southern Brothers
5.00pm	Channel Challenge Presentations on Stage

Best of luck
to all those
involved in the
2022 Channel
Challenge

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CHANNEL CHALLENGE

NEWS &
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The Little Penguin Dash returns for seven- to 14-year-olds. Pictured are competitors from 2019 Oscar Tuchtan, and Finn and Archie Cameron who were first and second over the line in the age category of their race.

Challenge first leg of the series

This year, the San Remo Channel Challenge is the first leg of the Bass Coast Series.

The series has been trimmed to two events, the Channel Challenge and the Cowes Classic, after the Cape Aquathon was cancelled due to Covid.

The Cowes Classic, originally scheduled to run on February 5, will now take place on March 5, starting at 2pm, and will be the final event of the series.

The Little Penguin Dash, for competitors aged seven to 14 will also be held on March 5, starting at 10.30am.

Organisers were relieved and pleased with their decision to move from the original date, due to concerns around Covid.

On February 5, the event's timing coordinator was in isolation, having contracted Covid.

"The event couldn't run without him," organiser Ron Nicholson said.

Registrations are now open for the Cowes Classic and the Little Penguin Dash and competitors are urged to sign up online.

Despite the Bass Coast Series being scaled back to two events, the prize money for the 16 categories remains the same, which will be welcome news to competitors.

Prizes for the series will be handed out at the presentations at the Cowes Classic.

For information on the Cowes Classic and to register: www.basscoastseries.com.au/cowes-classic

Information and registration for the Little Penguin Dash: www.basscoastseries.com.au/little-penguin-dash



Competitors at the start of the 2020 Cowes Classic, with reigning Superbike World Champion Jonathon Rea firing the starter's gun.

Rotary return to the Challenge

The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo is pleased to be back running the San Remo Channel Challenge Market for Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club on Saturday, February 19.

The market is always a favourite with families where mum and dad can sit and have a coffee with the kids happily entertained by the nursery animal farm.

This year stall holders include many new contenders such as Leadlight Garden Art and

Laurie's Fresh Berries.

The market starts around 8.30am and will run until the Channel Challenge event is over around 4pm and is the perfect day out for families and anyone wanting to support the local community.

After last year's event was cancelled due to Covid, Rotary is looking forward to again being part of this great community event.

All proceeds from the market are donated to Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club.



The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo will be running the San Remo Channel Challenge Market on February 19, with all proceeds from the market going to the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club.



Wishes competitors and organisers a successful
2022 Channel Challenge

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Tessa Hurst from Mallacoota, with her son Liam (10) and Chloe (8) with Jessica McKelson, Phillip Island Nature Parks Conservation Manager. Chloe and her fellow students came up with the name MISO for the baby koala, whose father Roger has been rehabilitated on Phillip Island after the 2019/20 bushfires.



MISO and mum Ottie, along with dad Roger, live in a semi-wild enclosure at the Koala Conservation Centre and they can usually be found high up in the trees.

Jaguar, puma or a fat cat?

Scotland has its monster, the Himalayas a yeti, and now Grantville may have a big cat.

A Grantville resident, who asked to remain anonymous, said about 11am on January 26 she was mowing a track on a small hobby farm when she came across a mysterious "big cat" about 20 metres in front of her.

"I stopped immediately and sat in awe watching it. It was very beautiful and I wanted to take in every single part of it," she said, but admits she did not have time to get a photo.

"It was far too big for a feral cat. It would have been about two metres long from nose to tail, with the body about one metre and the tail the same. It was a uniform deep unusual grey colour, a bit like char grey but with fawn in it."

The track was four to five metres wide and the cat covered half of it, she added.

"It was longer than a normal dog. The animal was not shiny, and its hair was short. Its tail was straight out and down a fraction and curled on the end."

Resident Meryl Tobin said there had previously been reports of big cats in the area, including in the 1990s when about five sheep were killed, their chest cavity opened and internal organs eaten.

"In 2012 a local driver saw a big black panther bounding across the road and up an embankment into bush maybe several hundred metres from this year's January 26 sighting," she said.

A 2012 Victorian Government study found no evidence of big cats living in regional areas but the Australian Rare Fauna Research Association said reports of big cat sightings came from around Australia including South Gippsland.

Naming Day for special koala joey

A Mallacoota student whose family lost their home in the devastating 2019/20 bushfires has been given the chance to meet and officially name Phillip Island Nature Parks' newest koala joey.

The Nature Parks invited Mallacoota P12 College students to come up with a name for the female joey and the winning class called her MISO – which stands for 'Mallacoota Inlet Survivor Otways' in recognition of the joey's parents.

Last week, Mallacoota P12 College student Chloe, 8, who came up with the name with her classmates, visited the Nature Parks for a behind the scenes tour and special meet and greet with MISO.

MISO's dad Roger came to the Nature Parks early in 2020 to be cared for by rangers after being badly injured in the Black Summer bushfires, while mum Ottie was translocated

from the Otway Ranges in 2015 as an orphan after the death of her mum.

Nature Parks Conservation Manager, Jessica McKelson, said MISO was now around 12 months old and thriving, along with her parents, in their new environment.

"Out of the devastation of the fires, it's wonderful for us to see new life. Naming the joey is a big step forward for the recovery of the koalas who were impacted by the catastrophic and unforgettable fires," Ms McKelson said.

"We asked Mallacoota P12 College students to help us find a name for Roger's baby joey given his connection to the area – and we think MISO is just the perfect name for her."

"I am excited to meet MISO because she will be so cute and it's nice her koala dad is ok after the fires," Chloe said.

"It's going to be so humbling to meet little

MISO and knowing her father is doing okay after the fires is just wonderful too. We can't wait. Something beautiful to come out of something so devastating," Chloe's mum Tessa Hurst said.

Roger, Ottie and MISO live in a semi-wild enclosure at the Koala Conservation Centre where visitors are invited to come and see the little family – from a distance, as they can usually be found high up in the trees.

The special purpose enclosure was built with funding from WWF Australia following the bushfires, to provide a natural environment for severely injured koalas to recover before the last step of their release into the wild.

The Nature Parks worked in partnership with Zoos Victoria on the recovery and rehabilitation of koalas injured in the bushfires, including Roger.

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12.40pm West Side Story [M] 2h36m OCAP
3.45pm House of Gucci [MA15+] 2h48m
9.00pm King Richard [M] 2h24m



Sun 20 Feb

Bass Coast Fine Film Group
10.45am
1.00pm Undine
[M] 1h30m [German]

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King Richard [M]
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Belfast [M]
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THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news

Push it! All-Ages tour hits Wonthaggi

Local kids can enjoy a fantastic afternoon of live music, when The Push All-Ages tour comes to Wonthaggi this weekend.

Singer songwriters Sycco and Alice Skye will headline the show on February 20, with local artists Maddy May and Professional Moose getting the party started.

San Remo's Maddy May is kicking off the show with her delicate indie folk songs. Things are sure to get a little rowdier when Professional Moose, "two 15-year-old, textbook slammin' punk rockers" from Wonthaggi take to the stage.

Tickets are already on sale through Moshtix, and music fans from Phillip Island can also book a return bus ticket to the event. The bus leaves from the Cowes Transit Centre, stopping at Smiths Beach, Sunderland Bay, Surf Beach, Cape Woolamai, Newhaven, San Remo, Anderson, Kilcunda and Dalyston.

The show is part of a state-wide tour organised by The Push, bringing music back to 18 regional and suburban locations.

"After a devastating 18 months for both young people and the contemporary live music sector, The Push is excited to have this opportunity to bring Australia's best artists to regional and outer-suburban Victoria," said The Push CEO Kate Duncan.

"We're supporting a stack of incredible artists to get back on the road and into local venues – generating important employment opportunities in areas that have lacked cultural tourism throughout the pandemic, and rejuvenating the all-ages live music scene across the state."

Supported by the Victorian Government, each of the 18 events are being staged by teams of local young people, as a part of the



Singer songwriter Sycco (pictured) along with Alice Skye and local artists Maddy May and Professional Moose are performing at The Push All-Ages show at the YES Youth Hub in Wonthaggi on February 20. Photo: Madeline-Randall.

Victorian Government FReeZA program – a youth development initiative that provides young people with industry skills and experiences in staging events in their local communities.

Other events of the 2022 All-Ages Tour include Alex Lahey, Alice Skye, Allday, The Chats, Dallas Woods, JK-47, Kaiit, KIAN, Mallrat, MLBRN, Ninajirachi, The Smith Street Band, Sycco, Teenage Joans and Thelma Plum.

Tickets to the Wonthaggi show on sale

now through Moshtix: <https://moshtix.com.au/v2/event/the-push-all-ages-tour-sycco-alice-skye-professional-moose-maddy-may-wont/130673>

Doors open: 1.30pm

2pm Maddy May
3pm Professional Moose
4pm Alice Skye
5pm Sycco
Doors close: 6.30pm.

Visit thepush.com.au for more information.

Can you lend a helping hand?

The San Remo/Newhaven Lions Club need a volunteer to assist at an upcoming Bunnings barbeque at Wonthaggi this Saturday, February 19.

Someone able to help with either the morning or afternoon shift (8am to 12pm or 12pm to 4pm) would be an enormous help to the dedicated group of club volunteers.

With all proceeds from the day going to Kids Cancer Research, it is a perfect opportunity to put some time towards a great cause.

If you would like to turn a few sausages, meet the club members and generally put your weight behind this worthwhile project please call Michael on 0432 115 334 to get more information. Transport can be arranged if required.

Movie Club returns

The Phillip Island Movie Club (PIMC) returns on Sunday, February 27, with a screening of the New Zealand film "Cousins".

The movie will be screened at the Penguin Parade cinema and the doors will open at 4pm.

The film will start at 4.30pm and there will be drinks provided by the PIMC after the film, and the club hopes everyone will stay and mingle with friends after the film.

Cousins (2020), is a New Zealand drama which runs for 98 mins and is rated M. The film follows three cousins, three lives, separate yet bound together forever. The film is beautifully told and will remain with you long after the film ends.

Entrance is by membership only and proof of double vaccination is required. At this stage masks still have to be worn in the building.

Any queries can be made 0428693882 or email phillipislandmovieclub@gmail.com.



The Phillip Island Movie Club (PIMC) returns on Sunday, February 27, with a screening of the New Zealand film "Cousins" at the Penguin Parade Cinema. Doors open at 4pm.

The Phillip Island Jazz Club presents Sarah Maclaine at the outdoor section of the Ramada's Flame-tree Restaurant on February 20, in what promises to be a fantastic afternoon of entertainment.

Sarah Maclaine and friends return to the island

The last Phillip Island Jazz Club function at the Ramada Resort will be held on February 20, after 13 plus years of happy times.

The club is presenting Sarah Maclaine at the outdoor section of the Ramada's Flame-tree Restaurant, in what promises to be a fantastic afternoon of entertainment.

The glamorous and talented Sarah Maclaine is in demand for appearances at festivals and corporate events both local and interstate.

Her backing group is led by two well-known musos to Phillip Island audiences namely Todd Sidney on keyboards and Ron Ander-

son on sax and flute. They will be joined by Ivan Rosa on bass and Lachlan Wallace on drums.

Tickets are \$40 a head for lunch and show. Lunch will be served between 1pm and 2pm and includes a complimentary glass of either beer, wine or soft drink.

Please contact Robin on 0432 814 407 or Jill on 0417 416 300 by February 17 if you will be attending. Payments are to be made in advance.

The Phillip Island Jazz Club will move to a new venue in March and details will be revealed shortly.

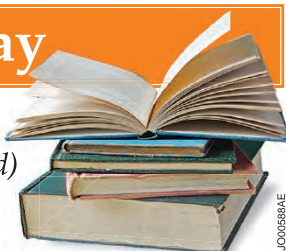
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Share your love story

Local musician Robin Lowe is hoping to incorporate local love stories into his latest video. Robin has just released his third single, "You're with me now", which was recorded at a new studio on Phillip Island. He's hoping to use images of local couples in the video for the new single. "I'm seeking people from all walks of life that have had, or are in long term relationships, to provide an image of them and their partner," Robin explained. "One image from when they first

met and another some years later than the first." "There may also be potential to utilise short five second videos. "There's no payment available, just the opportunity to be in a music video that will be available to stream online via Youtube." "You're with me now" is available now on streaming platforms such as Spotify and on YouTube. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qm1_2dM49x0 If you'd like to be part of this local love project, send your images direct to Robin via Facebook Messenger @ Robin Lowe 'Music'.



There are smiles and laughter when a special staff member at Phillip Island Chocolate Factory serves customers in the busy attraction's café. The Chocolate Factory's resident robot glided out to serve up sweet treats to Emily, Cathy and George Nassios who were visiting from Clifton Hill last week, with help from staff member Rowena Stedman.

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THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022 21

Vale John Dixon: 1938-2022

Lifelong island resident John Dixon told his family at Christmas, when asked to name the highlight of 2021 for him, that it was waking up each morning on Phillip Island.

John Warley Dixon was born in 1938, the third son of Rex and Mollie Dixon of Ventnor, arriving shortly after his twin brother Laurie.

The pair were the first set of twins to be born at Warley Hospital, which was donated to the Phillip Island community in 1923 by their grandfather W E Thompson, after whom Thompson Avenue in Cowes is named, in recognition of his generosity to the island community in its early years.

John attended the Ventnor state school, where from all accounts, playing cricket and footy at lunchtime trounced academia as far as his priority, and were the highlights of his school life.

From an early age, John and his twin Laurie had a passion for the great outdoors, and hunting and trapping in particular.

There was no shortage of rabbits and foxes to trap, nor the odd mut-tonbird to catch, when it was still legal to take them.

Playing most of the team sports on offer within the community in those days, and growing up as one of five brothers, provided an idyllic childhood on the family farm at Ventnor, and fostered John's lifelong love for and attachment to Phillip Island.

While boarding school was on the agenda for the twins when they reached their secondary years, to follow in their older brother Donald's footsteps, their parents took their ultimatum seriously when they refused point blank to go; assuring them that if forced to leave the island, they would be arriving home the following day.

They attended Wonthaggi secondary school instead, where John was made a prefect.

Farm life

After leaving school, John went to work clearing a newly acquired 240-acre bush block adjacent to the family farm, using cross cut saws and mechanical tree pullers.

The land was farmed by his older brother Donald, and they were to remain neighbours for the whole of their lives, Donald and John passing away within a few weeks of one another.

In those days, the old Phillip Is-

land swing bridge was not able to support heavy machinery, and opportunities were limited for local farmers to employ mechanical means to develop the land.

And so under the direction of their father Rex, John and Laurie learnt at a young age the value of hard work and long days ... contracting labour to various farms around the island, building stock yards, fencing, hay carting, and harvesting chicory.

It was all hard work.

A workshop was established on the property, jokingly described today as the most comprehensive and over capitalised farm shed the island has ever seen.

It was always an important place for John and Laurie, and friends were always welcome there.

Their skill with welders, grinders, drills and farming implements meant they could repair anything and make all sorts of nifty contraptions, and they often assisted their neighbours with their endeavours in this field.

(In their latter years, as many cups of tea were poured as repairs done, in what is now affectionately referred to as the local men's shed.)

The twins, inseparable over their lifetime, then embarked together on shearing sheep for various properties around the island.

Together with neighbours and friends Alan and Robert Cleeland, they notched up the shearing of 40,000 sheep annually in the local district; and also travelled to Western Australia and New Zealand shearing.

John's passion ultimately lay in the livestock industry, however, and he farmed sheep and cattle, breeding second cross prime lambs, and later limousine calves, and fattening Angus steers.

He took great pride in attending the saleyards each year as the Otira livestock was sold and was quietly satisfied producing quality animals that regularly topped the market.

During the depths of winter, neither rain nor south westerly winds deterred John from his daily rounds, and what was a difficult job.

Pulling lambs, rescuing orphans from the paddock to be bottled reared, were a seasonal chore.

The hay season was arduous work in those days.

It was a labour-intensive task that had to be done, without the machin-



John Dixon was farewelled by many hundreds in early January, from the Uniting Church in Cowes. He will be sorely missed by his family and the many friends that he made over a lifetime lived on Phillip Island.

ery and equipment taken for granted today, by a generation where manual work was considered normal, and who did not stop until the job was done.

Sporting achievements

It was not all work and no play however, and a rich sporting and social life was enjoyed within the wider island community in those days.

John played the cornet in the Phillip Island Brass Band in his early 20s for 10 years.

The band was in great demand playing at community gatherings, Anzac Day services, Warley hospital birthdays and at the many guest houses in Cowes over the tourist season.

And sport was a huge part of his life, with his four brothers and parents all associated with numerous island teams and clubs.

He played cricket for Ventnor and the Phillip Island Cricket club from 1958 for 20 years, as an opening

batsmen known for his concentration and for taking few chances.

His highest score was 146 not out in a grand final against Kilcunda Bass.

John was a member of eight A grade island cricket premierships in 11 years ... no mean feat ... and regularly played in a South Gippsland regional team at Country Week in Melbourne.

Football was another great passion.

The five Dixon brothers accumulated a massive 700 games combined playing for the Phillip Island Football Club throughout the sixties.

He caught the eye of League scouts, in fact, and was invited to train with Footscray under the late Ted Whitten.

He played in some practice matches with Footscray in 1958; but his love for the island and the tyranny of distance meant that it was impractical to consider a football career away.

In all he played 175 games for Phillip Island, and was a member of the 1962 and 1964 premierships teams.

Unfortunately his football career was stopped short following a clash on the field which resulted in a spinal injury that would stay with him for life.

In recent years he was accorded the honour by the Phillip Island Footy Club of being named in its best ever Team of the Century.

John's enthusiasm for island football continued all his life. In 1990 when Phillip Island won the Altona League Premiership, he pulled out his trumpet after every goal and played "It's a Grand Old Flag" the island's theme song.

And he was barracking on the sidelines in the Club's most recent grand final premierships victories in 2018 and 2019.

Family man

John met his wife Robyn at the Isle of Wight in 1973.

From New Zealand, she was on a world trip, and a lengthy correspondence was entered into.

They married in 1976 and had two sons, Scott and Barclay.

He was a very proud father who encouraged his sons in farming and sport, giving praise and encouragement in the subtle and gentle way that was his hallmark.

And he was delighted, when the time came, to welcome their partners Liz and Sophie into the family.

In his later years he found great joy and fulfillment in the time he spent with his grandchildren, Annabella, Hamish, Hunter, Camilla and Henry.

He had a unique relationship with each child and they loved him dearly.

John cherished his family and friends, and valued people from all walks of life and all age groups.

He had an unwavering ability to give people time, and to listen. A genuine sense of warmth and engagement was always evident.

The term, one of nature's gentlemen, fitted well.

John died after a short illness post new year, and was farewelled by many hundreds in early January, from the Uniting Church in Cowes, for burial at the Phillip Island cemetery.

John will be sorely missed by his family and the many friends that he made over a lifetime lived on Phillip Island.

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



San Remo development questions

VCAT Planning for the future article (Advertiser, February 9) is very interesting, but residents of San Remo who successively took the proposed "Keams" Development to VCAT now ask the question - what happens when Bass Coast Shire Council ignores the VCAT decision and allows a developer to break or ignore the VCAT decision?

The Council approved the development and issued titles without ensuring this development met the decisions made by VCAT.

The result is a development with numerous issues including developers attempting to build five units where it should be one building, and neighbouring premises to the Estate being flooded with damage to their property.

In addition under the VCAT decision it's the Council's responsibility to look after the "green wedge area".

The San Remo community has the worst possible protected vegetation area that any council would allow to occur.

Despite numerous complaints

nothing happens and the whole San Remo community has to put up with this.

Local councillors have not been able to change this situation and one has to question whether this council should continue to be responsible for Phillip Island, San Remo and Waterline area or whether it should be a free-standing council in its own right.

The skatepark fiasco showed how out of touch the councillors and council are with this community and it's time for change.

Federal and state elections are being held this year but after that the focus needs to be on Local Government and Bass Coast's council is regularly very lowly rated by the ratepayers, businesses and residents.

Local Government is responsible to the state government so this year's state election will in many ways decide the direction that will occur in areas like Bass Coast.

The news today on enquiry into actions of the current state government when first elected shows that this is going to be a very unusual year politically.

Chris Day, San Remo

Blast for Bauer on dog reg changes

Cr Bauer, after reading the article in last week's paper (Advertiser, February 9) I just wanted to congratulate you on the ability to ruin Phillip Island.

You obviously have no history in or respect for this wonderful place.

Dogs given more rights than people and wildlife. Arrogant dog owners that hurl abuse at people for asking them to follow the rules. Dogs that run and jump on you.

Your ad says you are here to help. Typical politician promises. Someone who only helps himself and his own interests.

These rules need to be more balanced, not one sided. And simple to follow.

Respectfully you do not deserve any praise for destroying what is a beautiful place.

Lyn Nieboer, Cowes

Red Bin saga continues

Island Voice has recently received numerous texts and emails re the request for three extra red bin collections from late December 22 to the end of January 23.

Island Voice strongly supports a review of Council's decision made late last year not to implement extra collections. Whilst the Council schedule may suit large parts of the shire, it simply does not work for the areas that attract significant tourism.

We note, and appreciate, that Council has improved the numbers of public rubbish bins placed around Cowes. But! this has not improved the overall situation for short-term accommodation users and other holiday makers.

Council has tried to 'educate' the public to improve the situation, and whilst the permanent residents understand the system, holiday makers neither expect or want to be educated about rubbish. They just expect the system to work!

The current system has not worked over peak tourist periods since it was implemented.

The financial reasons given for not providing three extra collections last year were simply nonsensical. The community needs the whole rubbish collection contract to be transparent and accountable, including any review.

If we have a review soon, there is ample time to implement changes before the next tourist peak occurs at Easter. As for educating the community we would recommend a sprinkling of compliance be part of the review.

Solving the red bin problem requires open and inclusive discussion, otherwise the red bin saga will continue to drag on as it has for the past six years!

Peter Paul, President - Island Voice

Monash deserves better

Monash's Federal Liberal MP Russell Broadbent said in the Lower House on Monday that he was still unvaccinated, had caught Covid and taken ivermectin, a veterinary medicine used to treat parasites in animals and spruiked by George Christensen.

He was also seen unmasked last week in the House in breach of Standing Orders that masks are mandatory, coughing audibly whilst another MP made a speech.

Surely it's time for voters in Monash to be better represented.

Louise Gillin, Ventnor



What's our game plan?

The last of our weekly columns on planning by Island Voice's Linda Marston

Planning is not a sexy topic. But if we do not tell council clearly what is important to include in our planning scheme then we cannot complain when we end up with inappropriate development and lose the special character of our island.

The scheme is due for review this year.

A planning scheme is one of the tools that shapes our community, but like any tool it works better if it is kept sharp.

Yet in 2003 Bass Coast Shire conducted a review to identify gaps in the scheme, identifying various issues, such as domestic wind energy, but which have not been addressed 19 years later, allowing the fiasco of the Surf Beach turbine to eventuate.

So how did this happen?

The short answer is as a community, we were apathetic.

Over the past seven weeks we've examined a variety of planning issues in these columns, including parking waivers, township character, height, density, infill, sustainability and the planning process.

So, in an ideal world, this is what Island Voice would like to see happen.

We need to think about the future and include design considerations that reduce our impact upon the environment and energy usage.

We must stop allowing parking waivers and require new buildings to build the statutory amount on the premises.

In fact, we need to think carefully about how many people and vehicles can be accommodated on the island without it becoming another Melbourne suburb.

Island Voice believes when a planning application relates to a staged development, it must be clearly stated what elements are included in each stage and when they will be completed.

If the planning scheme has been updated before a stage is started, then it should comply with the latest requirements.

Infill needs to be carefully planned to prevent problems with inadequate infrastructure, loss of vegetation and inappropriate density.

Island Voice believes we need to plan for social housing, which needs to be located near transport, shopping and medical facilities.

The planning scheme needs to ensure all social housing is consistent with the character and standard of the local residences, so it does not imbue any stigma, while being built to be cheap to heat and cool.

In the bigger picture, Bass Coast has been using township structure plans to provide a framework for township development on the

island.

They aim to recognise the character of an area and preserve it; for example the structure plan for San Remo, Newhaven and Cape Woolamai recognises the importance of preserving coastal character.

Work on these started in 2010 but, after 11 years, they have not been completed for all of the island townships.

Even the first ones developed include out of date references to Newhaven College being in Newhaven, and Keam's land in San Remo before it was sub-divided into a housing estate.

Yet plans were created for Wonthaggi and Dalyston four years ago.

As these plans are documents outside the planning scheme, they seem to be used as guidelines rather than being enforceable, which seems to defeat the purpose of creating them.

Island Voice believes they should be incorporated into the planning scheme.

Secondly, maintaining township character is critical to protect Phillip Island's attraction as one of Victoria's tourist gems.

The Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme contains many provisions for their townships and developments.

For example, in their scheme, Flinders village is encouraged to have "simple building styles and materials, including the use of timber", while "boundary to boundary construction should be avoided" to allow views and landscaping.

This clarity of vision contributes to the harmonious development of the central Flinders village.

Island Voice believes we need to tighten up the language in the Bass Coast planning scheme by removing weasel words such as "encourage", "discourage" and use concrete measures where possible.

The Surf Coast Planning Scheme, for example, states there should be a 50-metre buffer from a wetland or waterway, while Mornington Peninsula specifies maximum heights.

Unfortunately, many new builds do not require any planning permits, but just a building permit, so perhaps this needs to be rethought particularly as coastal property becomes scarcer and developers push densities to increase profitability?

In addition, Island Voice believes planning applications should not be accepted and advertised unless they include all relevant and accurate information.

Incomplete/inaccurate ones should be returned to the applicant, preventing a waste of time for officers and the public in assessing and commenting upon them.

We hope in this series of columns we have triggered your interest in the planning scheme and you take part in the review.

From Zimbabwe to Phillip Island

A young Phillip Island resident is hoping the community can get behind her quest to raise money for the Make-A-Wish foundation, and potentially start a modelling career.

Britney-Yvette Chiyoko has been selected as the San Remo representative in the Miss Galaxy Australia – one of 30 finalists in the 2022 event.

When Britney-Yvette moved to Phillip Island from Zimbabwe last year, the biggest culture shock came with the weather.

"It changes two to three times a day," the 20-year-old laughed.

"I'm still adapting but otherwise Phillip Island is similar to home (Victoria Falls). Both are tourist places with visitors coming and going and both have a beautiful environment."

Britney-Yvette, who lives in Sunset Strip, grew up in Zimbabwe and at the age of 17 began dabbling in modelling. So when she, her younger sister and mother moved here to join her father, Britney-Yvette decided to once again try her luck in the competitive career.

While studying her certificate four in allied health over the past year, Britney-Yvette also applied for and was successfully chosen to be a contestant in the Miss Galaxy Australia contest, as the San Remo representative.

The Australia Galaxy Pageants were founded 2011 and aim to allow the young women to "become the best version of themselves" while raising money for charity.



Residents are encouraged to donate to Britney-Yvette Chiyoko's fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation via her Instagram page.

Over the past nine years, the delegates have raised over \$600,000, at the same time becoming active members of their communities.

In April, Britney-Yvette will travel to Sydney where she will be required to strut the catwalk in various outfits and be interviewed by a panel of judges.

As part of the contest, she raises funds for the Make-A-Wish Founda-

tion, which helps critically ill children, with local residents encouraged to donate via her Instagram page.

"Participants in the contest get points for the most money raised," she explains.

"It's difficult because I have only been in Australia a short time."

In addition, Britney-Yvette is required to do volunteering and charity work in the community.

This week, she is working for Nature Parks, and she also recently attended a Bunnings event in Wonthaggi for Share the Dignity, which advocates for homelessness and domestic violence.

Britney-Yvette says she is happy to help out other organisations on the island too.

The winner of the Sydney event will travel to the USA in August for the international competition.

She hopes it will be a foot-in-the-door to a modelling career.

"I've not decided which field of allied health I'd like to work in, whether a hospital or physical therapy, but I'd also like to study business management because I've always wanted to run my own business."

To donate to go: fundraise.makeawish.org.au/fundraisers/britney-yvettechiyoko/britney-yvettechiyoko---australia-galaxy-pageants-2022

Follow her on Instagram: @britneyyvmatsy or Facebook: @Britney-Yvette Chiyoko



The 2022 Year 12 Cabinet at Newhaven College, with Principal Tony Corr (left) and Vice Principal Jason Scott.

Newhaven College's Senior Cabinet

Newhaven College held a special Senior School assembly last week to formally induct the 2022 Year 12 Cabinet and to celebrate the 2021 VCE results.

This year's College Captains Laura Vivian, Orlando Kane-Gillard, Coco Hosken and Jack Papas were presented their captains badges by principal Tony Corr and Chairman of the Board Mr David Jobe.

The 2022 Year 12 Cabinet:

Sport: Poppy Marshall and Tully Dickie
Public Speaking: Abigail McCulloch

Drama: Michael Furniss and Chelsea Webber
Music: Liam McDonald and Sam Robson

Events: Madison Grand-Court and Max Tomasi
Environment: Genevieve McEntee and Rosa Green

Wellbeing: Steffi Dixon and Jordane Dobson
Surfing: Darcy Hilford

Equestrian: Zoe Reiter
Social Justice: Jordane Dobson
Academic: Madison Grand-Court
Visual Arts: Genevieve McEntee

Bass House: Matthew Nicholson, Jasmine Sullivan, Lara Standish and Hunter Tiziani

Clarke House: Nicholas Thomas, Jaimee Amato, Steffi Dixon and Seisha Bar Bar

Sambell House: Ruby McGillivray, Jana McKay, Lucy Norton and Elle Douglas

McHaffie House: Sophie Gysberts, Sasha Allen, Riley Sydenham and Jarah White

College Captains: Laura Vivian, Orlando Kane-Gillard, Coco Hosken and Jack Papas



2021 College Graduates returned to the College to receive a VCE Excellence Award in recognition of their outstanding results. Front (left to right): Georgia Adams, Holly van der Pligt, Charlotte Brewis and Harry Jobe. Back (left to right): Jason Scott (Vice Principal), Karen Milkins-Hendry (Director of Learning), Belinda Kinnane (Vice Principal – Director of Compliance), Sunny Lumsden and Principal Tony Corr.

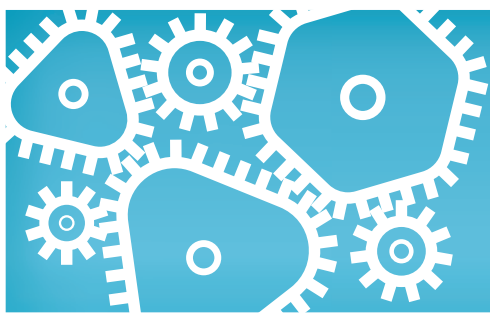
How to have your say

- Bass Coast Shire planners say there will be community consultation on the planning scheme review this year. Planners say it will be an internal review with consultation with "key users of the scheme" only. Nevertheless, if you have strong feelings on planning issues, email the planners (and cc the councillors), outlining your concerns and ask for them to be included in the review.

- Contact Island Voice (islandvoice@islandprogress.com.au) who say they "will continue to fight to improve

planning and protect our island environment".

- The long-awaited final round of community consultation on the state government's Distinctive Area and Landscapes project is expected in early 2022. This will be a most important document, a draft Statement of Planning Policy (SPP), which will eventually be enshrined in law. The SPP aims to protect our best features and lock in town boundaries. Details: engage.vic.gov.au/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/bass-coast



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Newly elected PIBC President Hannah Eisen (middle) with PIBC Committee members, Jake Eisen and Deb Leonard, Tim Anagnostou and their two children.



A keen surfer, Hannah Eisen first joined PIBC as a supergrom and was elected as club president on February 8, the second female president in the club's 59-year history.

Boardriders welcomes female president

Hannah Eisen has been elected as the Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) president, the second female president in the club's 59-year history.

Hannah was elected unanimously and describes herself as having a passion for life, in particular; surfing, swimming, fitness, family and friends, and obviously, the community she lives in.

She will be supported in her role by an equally enthusiastic committee who have all invested a lot into the club. Geoff Russell will step up as vice president, Marcus Wright will remain as treasurer and Harry de Roth as club captain.

Geoff Russell will also lead the cadets and junior development.

Deb Leonard and Kirra Marlborough will share the role of supergroms club captain. Andy McHenry will continue as Malibu club captain,

with Jake Eisen, Joe Van Dijk and Kyle Ross general committee members.

Phillip Island Boardriders Club and surfing in general has traditionally been male dominated, but this is changing.

Hannah believes women can offer different perspectives and she appreciates a range of views.

Having worked in the building and construction industry for over 15 years following the completion of her Masters in Architecture, she definitely knows how gender can play a role, both in, and out of the water.

"Women should feel that they can have a say and make a valuable contribution," said Hannah.

Hannah joined the club as a supergrom herself, where she met her best friends, and laughs when she remembers being nominated for club Woman of the Year when she was

12 ... not because she was the best surfer, but because she gave it a go.

"My three brothers and I have been around the club since we were grommets and I'm delighted to be appointed as the president for the remainder of the 2021-22 season," said Hannah.

"As president and a passionate community member, I'm excited about the next generations of junior surfers coming through the ranks and the involvement of the older crew who grew the club to what it is today.

"The committee will be working hard to host events, promote women in surfing, build the supergroms program and provide opportunities for surfers of all ages, gender, backgrounds and ability.

"My brother Jake believes the juniors and supergroms program is more than just surfing, it's an opportunity for kids to develop confidence

and courage, it is a great stepping stone for learning important life skills.

"He said being encouraged and mentored by the older members as a grommet allowed him to feel part of something special and give him confidence to succeed in business."

Rich history

Hannah said the new committee will do their best to make sure the club continues to thrive.

"We have a great club, strong membership and a rich history which will be honoured next year for the 60th anniversary."

2022 is already shaping up to be a big year for the club.

Coming out of restrictions, members have competed in the Australian Boardriders Battle and the Phillip Island Pro QS, strengthened their junior and supergrom programs,

hosted a successful Single Fin Event and this weekend will hold the Longboard Classic on February 19.

Established in 1963, PIBC lays claim to the oldest continuously running surfing club in Australia.

In the beginning, most of the club members were from Melbourne. As the membership grew these surfers migrated closer to the beach and now 90 per cent of all members live on the Island.

The club has three generations of club members surfing in contests at present, with the oldest competing member being over 74.

The Phillip Island Boardriders' Club is a volunteer run community club that exists to provide surfers of all abilities with opportunities, and at the same time aims to preserve and safeguard the sport of surfing and promote a positive surfing culture throughout the community.

Midweek bowls results

Midweek bowls was played at San Remo this week and the winners were Lindsay Russell/Peter McWilliams as co skips, David Talbot and Peter Thorley.

Runners up were Tony Heppleston, Gwen Jeffery, and Jan Brown.

One Game winners were Vern Elliott, Jim Nunan and Bill Williams.

26 players turned up to play on a very fast green, in beautiful conditions.

The temperature in the mid-20s with a slight breeze made it very comfortable conditions, although in the afternoon the mercury rose slightly and became uncomfortable.

As usual good-hearted banter could be heard across all the rinks and some sledging as many bowls were in the ditch.

We were all happy to go inside at the end of the day for our cold drinks which were served by Peter Thorley as always with a smile.

Thank you, Peter, also Gwen Jeffery and Elaine Fitt for kitchen duty, thank you ladies.

Our RCH donation tin did



Midweek bowls winners, played at San Remo this week were Peter McWilliams (S), Lindsay Russell (S), Peter Thorley (L) and David Talbot (3).

very well with more than a few falling on their sword – as usual it was all done in good spirits.

Thank you to our members who brought items for the free raffle table. It's always good fun and we have some lovely treasures.

Some high scores recorded - winners 39 points, runners up 34 points and one game winners 33 points.

The bowling standard is excellent at midweek bowls, and we have several new

members who are very experienced bowlers, therefore sometimes the competition is fierce but all in good spirits.

Next week we will play at Corinella 10am at the club for a 10.30am start.

Please be on time and for more information or to register please contact Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974 the night before or come early on the day.

Everyone welcome. See you on the green.



Jan Brown (L), Tony Heppleston (S) and Gwen Jeffery (3) were the runners up at Midweek bowls.



Best One Game winners were Vern Elliott (S), Bill Williams (L) and Jim Nunan (3).

Phillip Island bowls results

Ladies 100 up

Beb Hyslop defeated Lyn Rogerson and progresses to the first of the semi-finals against Sandra Read.

Marilyn Forrest will play Karen Cashen in the second semi-final on Wednesday for a place in the finals.

Men's 100 up

George Mol has won himself a spot into the final of the Men's 100 up, just edging out John Parker in what was a tough game, with the score being 95-94 in George's favour. From a distance George thought John had the points to get over the line but once up at the head ... a surprised George snatched the win. Congratulations.

Corporate bowls

After round 4, sitting on top of the ladder is Bluesteel 10-27-48, followed by Incredi-

bowls 9-25-29 and in third place is Holland Transport 10-24-19.

Social bowls

It was a warm sunny humid day with some visitors joining us - Cec Gleeson from Ipswich and Jo Vermewlen from Mooroolbark, we hope they enjoyed their day.

In a very close game, the winners of the day by one shot were Tony Steward, Beb Hyslop, Lyn Rogerson and Eric Wild.

The runners up were Michael Haack, Steve Williams and Cec Gleeson.

Well done everyone.

Summer triples

An absolutely gorgeous day on the island and it saw 78 bowlers from around various clubs join us for the monthly summer triples sponsored by Harvey Norman.

The winners, from off the island with 4 game wins were R. Aitken, Bongo and T. Tear with a +35.

Runners up also with a 4-game win were John Newcombe. Guilio Marcolongo and John Paternoster with a +21.

Thank you everyone for a great day and to all the volunteers both in the kitchen and on bar duty.

Saturday pennant

Division 1: Blue against White at home and Blue came away with the win 78-59.

Division 2: Played at home against Loch and came away with the overall win 64-56.

Division 4: Played away at Leongatha and came away with the overall win 76-52.

Division 5: Played away also at Meeniyan and came home with an overall win of 82-70.

Well done the Island!



Phillip Island bowls Summer Triple winners R. Aitken, Bongo and T. Teer.



Phillip Island bowls Summer Triples runners up John Newcombe, Guilio Marcolongo and John Paternoster.



Sophie Fletcher, in action during the Phillip Island Pro at Cape Woolamai, made it through to the quarter finals, eventually finishing fifth in the competition.



Harry de Roth was one of two local surfers remaining in the competition by the weekend, but was knocked out on Saturday in the Round of 16.



Phillip Island's Sage Goldsbury was knocked out in the Round of 16 by eventual winner Sophie McCulloch.

Phillip Island Pro champions crowned

Former event champion Jacob Willcox (Margaret River, WA) and Sunshine Coast surfer Sophie McCulloch have been crowned champions at the Phillip Island Pro at Cape Woolamai.

The event's inaugural champion in 2017, Willcox returned to Phillip Island and looked unstoppable throughout the early rounds in the raw southern ocean waves.

On finals day he continued that form despite a rapidly de-

creasing swell locking in a 6.75 and a 4.75 in the final against Joel Vaughan (Central Coast, NSW) to finish with a heat total of 11.50 points (out of a possible 20).

Phillip Island's final contender in the Men's, Harry de Roth was knocked out in the Round of 16.

On the Women's side of the draw Sophie McCulloch looked determined to ensure she walked away with her maiden Qualifying Series win.

McCulloch cruised through her semi-final, locking in the highest scoring wave of the day an 8.50 for a series of clinical backhand carves and snaps.

The final saw the two in form surfers of the event McCulloch and Merimbula surfer Freya Prumm go head-to-head.

Freya defeated Phillip Island's Sophie Fletcher to progress to the final, with Fletcher placing fifth overall.

Phillip Island's Sage Goldsbury was knocked out in the Round of 16 by eventual winner Sophie McCulloch.

In the Men's Carl Wright bowed out in the Round of 48.

Final results and placings can be found on www.world-surfleague.com



Tyler and Rhylee Duell in action at the Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surf Titles.



More than 50 indigenous surfers from across the state gathered to celebrate the 24th annual event which brings together Indigenous communities in a fun weekend of surfing and indigenous culture.

Woorangalook Koori surf titles

Phillip Island Rhylee Duell took out the Under 16 category at the Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surf Titles held at Urquhart Bluff on the Great Ocean Road last weekend (February 5 and 6).

More than 50 indigenous surfers from across the state gathered to celebrate the 24th annual event which brings together Indigenous communities in a fun weekend of surfing and indigenous culture.

The event was opened on Saturday by Wadawurrung Elder Corrina Eccles and cleansed with a traditional smoking and mixing of the water's ceremony.

Competition followed and participants were greeted with small surf and onshore winds. With the assistance of surf coaches and volunteers in the water, the junior competitive divisions were finalised, followed by Open Women and Masters Women.

The Tag Team event rounded out the day with Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative (BADAC) taking first place from Wadawurrung, CFMEU and Surfing Victoria.

Tricky conditions met competitors on the Sunday, for the Open Men's and Masters Men. Rhys Collins from Red Hill was victorious, taking out both divisions respectively. The Open

Women's division was claimed by Linley Hurrell (Torquay) with Corrinna Eccles (Torquay) victorious in the Masters Women's.

Rhys and Linley will go on to represent the Victorian Indigenous community after gaining a wildcard into the 2022 Rip Curl Pro Trials at Bells Beach.

The Surfing Victoria Encouragement Award winners of a surfboard each, were Ruby Bogagers (Armstrong Creek) and Aiden Tournier (Geelong).

The Determination Award was taken out by Hunter Sisic (Ballarat).

Category Winners:

U/8 Mixed: Millie Hughes (Geelong)
U/10 Girls: May Marini (Ballarat)
U/10 Boys: Arlee Livesey (Armstrong Creek)
U/13 Girls: Grace Tournier (Geelong)
U/13 Boys: Levi Marini (Ballarat)
U/16 Girls: Alicia Wait (Ballarat)
U/16 Boys: Rylee Duell (Phillip Island)
U/18 Girls: Indra Purcell (MacArthur)
U/18 Boys: Rameka Waiomio (Mill Park)
Open Women: Linley Hurrell (Torquay)
Open Men: Rhys Collins (Point Leo)
Masters Women: Corrina Eccles (Torquay)
Masters Men: Rhys Collins (Point Leo)

Phillip Island golf results

Tuesday, February 8: Men's Stableford

Division one winner Paul Wagner (6) with 37 points on countback from Mario Amato (15).

Men's.

Division two winner John Savas (21) with 34 points on countback from Peter Rowan and John Hammon.

Nine-hole competition winner David Henstridge (21) with 22 points from Laurie Petrusch with 18 points.

Wednesday, February 9: Ladies Par

Winner Robin Cornell with +3, and runner up Alice Schofield with +2 on countback to Robyn Chipperfield.

Nine-hole Par winner Shannon Trumper with +3 from Barb Moloney with +1.

Thursday, February 10: Open Par

Division one winner Gino Manfredi (10) with +3, runner up Steve Waters (16) with +2.

Division two winner Barry Melven (29) with +3 from Ian Brown (32) +2.

Nine Hole stableford competition winner Reg Browne (35) with 21 points on a countback to David Gladman (18).

Saturday 12th February 12: Stableford

and Finals of RL Smith

Mens:

A Grade winner Ray Smith (6) with 38 points on countback to Nev Thurgood (6).

B Grade winner Travis Johnson (15) with 41 points from Max Disher (18) with 37 points.

C Grade winner John Gains (25) with 39 points, runner up Rob Purcell (25) with 36 points.

NTP: 5th – Greg Williams (hole in one), 7th – Peter Moloney, 10th – John O'Brien and 17th – John O'Brien.

Womens:

Winner Trish Jamieson (39) with 37 points from Mary Taylor (29) with 36 points.

NTP: 5th – Ira Septiana and 7th – Lesley Meadowcroft.

Nine-hole competition winner Maureen El-lard with 18 points on countback.

The winners of the RL Smith final were Mark Haringsma and Paul Cashman over Jason King and Anthony Johns.

Next week's competition is Stableford.

Sunday, February 13: Open Stableford

18 Hole winner Jack Ross (13) with 39 points from Mark Davey with 34 points.

Phillip Island ten pin bowling kick off week

Welcome back to our first league season of 2022.

2s Company: 1st on 3pts- King Pins, 2nd on 3pts Strike me lucky and 3rd on 2pts Palms.

ABL: 1st on 14pts- Fairlanes, 2nd on 14pts Island Sector and 3rd on 13pts Storm.

Business: 1st on 3pts Happy Hour, 2nd on

3pts Turkey Slappers, 3rd on 3pts CTD Carpentry and 4th on 2pts Old Timers.

Top scorers for finals week this week were:

Men: Harry 221, Justin Porthouse 212 and Joe Depetro 204. Women: Phatchari Samoe-na 167, Barbara Burns 163 and Karen Klym 153.



Last season's winners for Almost Bowling Legends (ABL) were the Buccaneers- (L_R) Nick Harris, Keith Ballenger, Joe Depetro and Bob Jolly.



Last season's winners for Business were S&R Clarke Auto (L_R) Matthew Clarke, Steve A Clarke and Steve R Clarke.

Euchre club results

Welcome back. Everyone was keen to get the 2022 year off to a great start with 23 attendees the first week.

This week

Ladies' winner: Faye Fletcher – 8 wins, well done.

Men's winner: Les Walton – 6 wins.

Encouragement award: Lorraine Brown.

Welcome to Josie Billman our new player this week.

Last week

Ladies' winner: Joan Baker – 7 wins.

Men's winner: Bob Hee – 6 wins.

Encouragement award: Laurie Patrusch.

Please contact Bob Hee for any further information on 0418 173 388.



Ella and Kyra with their ponies Arty and Snooks and coach Ian Chambers at PC Camp.

Horsey fun and a great start to 2022

A report from Phillip Island Pony Club

It's been a busy and great start to our 135th year at Phillip Island Pony Club (yes that's right we have been around since 1887!)

Over the school holidays we held our annual PIPC Summer Camp Rally. With perfect summer conditions it was great to see a number of riders and their families attend.

The first day entailed Dressage with Amy Smith, Cross country with Ian Chambers and show jumping with Ethan with all the kids having a lot of fun and learning from the coaches.

With the warm weather the ponies got a nice break whilst the kids went for a swim at Ventnor and then some slip and slide fun.

After a sleepout under the stars in their swags everyone was excited to get up for the second day of horsey fun.

It was great to see the riders on the second day grow in confidence from the lessons the day before and put it into practice.

Big thank you to PIPC DC Amy Woolley, the coaches and the committee for running and putting on a successful camp!

On January 30, riders Gabe Smith and Meyanna Christensen represented the PIPC at the West Gippsland Zone Dressage and Show Jumping Festival.

It was a great day with lots of competition from around the area.

Congratulations to the riders and very well-behaved horses- Blu and Roxy, with excellent rounds on the course and bringing home ribbons.

On Sunday, February 5, we had our first home Rally of the year.

The morning entailed Show jumping lessons with Amanda Price and also dressage with Coach Amy Smith.

Coach Amy was very impressed with the young kids and their im-



Meyanna and horse Roxy at West Gippsland Zone.

provement in the last couple of weeks since camp and can see all the hard work the riders are putting in with their horses.

After lunch there was a little theory lesson on bridles with Felicity Kallstrom and then we got to the fun part – Mounted Games.

It was great for the two groups to all be together and learn some fun games from PIPC's very own VIC Junior Mounted Games Member Gabe Smith.

The highlight of the day was

definitely watching young Ella and Maddie on their super shetlands leading off their teams in bending.

Thank you again to all the coaches of the day and families to make the day so much fun and successful.

Phillip Island Pony Club is a small, family orientated club located at Lyall Street in Ventnor.

If you are interested in joining/sponsoring Phillip Island Pony Club or have any queries you can look us up on Facebook or email us picsecretary1@gmail.com.



Phillip Island Pony club – Member of the month

Name: Giselle Smith

Age: 12

Horse: Honey

Age: 8

Height: 13.1

How old were you when you started riding? Four.

How long have you had your pony? I have had Honey for three years.

When did you start at PIPC? When I was five.

What's your favourite discipline and why? Mounted Games because there is a lot of action.

What's the best thing about PIPC? My favourite thing is the people.

Pennant bowls results

Strzelecki region – Pennant bowls

Div 1: Corinella (1) 2-59 It Leongatha (2) 14-66; Phillip Island (1) 12-78 d Phillip Island (2) 4-59; Korumburra (1) 12-72 d Inverloch (1) 4-71; Leongatha (1) 14-68 d Wonthaggi (1) 2-52.

Ladder: Wonthaggi (1) 124 +138; Leongatha (1) 112 +128; Phillip Island (2) 92 +1; Phillip Island (2) 87 -25; Korumburra (1) 87 -135; Inverloch (1) 84 +70; Leongatha (2) 74 -71; Corinella (1) 44 -106.

Div 2: Fish Creek (1) 16-78 d Toora (1) 0-50; Phillip Island (3) 14-64 d Loch (1) 2-56; Inverloch (2) 2-58 It Korumburra (2) 14-67; Mirboo North (1) 16-107 d San Remo (1) 0-50.

Ladder: Mirboo North (1) 115 +231; Loch (1) 103 +98; Toora (1) 94 +14; Phillip Island (3) 92 -59; Fish Creek (1) 90 +7; San Remo (1) 79 -61; Korumburra (2) 69 -143; Inverloch (2) 62 -87.

Div 3: Wonthaggi (2) 14-70 d Wonthaggi (3) 2-61; Meeniyan (1) 16-85 d Loch (2) 0-47; Lang Lang (1) 2-58 It Inverloch (3) 14-63; Foster (1) 4-69 It Mirboo North (2) 12-72.

Ladder: Wonthaggi (3) 130 +147; Lang Lang (1) 103 +28; Inverloch (3) 99 +85; Foster (1) 99 +64; Wonthaggi (2) 98 +111; Meeniyan (1) 98 +56; Mirboo North (2) 48 -156; Loch (2) 29 -335.

Div 4: Corinella (2) 16-95 d Toora (2) 0-47; Leongatha (3) 0-52 It Phillip Island (4) 16-76; Inverloch (4) 14-91 d Tarwin Lower (1) 2-58; Port Welshpool (1) 16-98 d Korumburra (3) 0-29.

Ladder: Phillip Island (4) 144 +228; Port Welshpool (1) 112 +80; Leongatha (3) 94 +33; Tarwin Lower (1) 91 +56; Korumburra (3) 78 -149; Inverloch (4) 73 +26; Corinella (2) 58 -116; Toora (2) 54 -154.

Div 5: Fish Creek (2) 16-85 d Mirboo North (3) 0-44; Meeniyan (2) 2-70 It Phillip Island (5) 14-82; Lang Lang (2) 16-83 d Tarwin Lower (2) 0-42; Wonthaggi (4) - Bye.

Ladder: Phillip Island (5) 120 +109; Wonthaggi (4) 118 +175; Meeniyan (2) 94 +136; Fish Creek (2) 57 -19; Lang Lang (2) 50 -77; Mirboo North (3) 49 -166; Tarwin Lower (2) 40 -158.

Strzelecki region – Midweek pennant bowls

Div 1: Corinella (1) 2-47 It Inverloch (1) 14-72; Korumburra (1) 3-44 It Meeniyan (1) 13-50. Leongatha (1) 16-88 d San Remo (1) 0-40 Phillip Island (1) - Bye.

Ladder: Inverloch (1) 112 +170; Leongatha (1) 99 +64; Meeniyan (1) 93 +52; Corinella (1) 85 -52; Phillip Island (1) 68 +11; Korumburra (1) 56 -21; San Remo (1) 15 -224.

Div 2: Toora (1) 16-66 d Lang Lang (1) 0-41; Foster (1) 16-68 d Tarwin Lower (1) 0-43; Inverloch (2) 2-47 It Wonthaggi (1) 14-63; Phillip Island (2) - Bye.

Ladder: Wonthaggi (1) 132 +223; Foster (1) 118 +131; Toora (1) 75 -9; Tarwin Lower (1) 63 -66; Phillip Island (2) 62 -35; Inverloch (2) 54 -89; Lang Lang (1) 24 -155.

Div 3: Port Welshpool (1) 12-41 d Inverloch (3) 0-27; Korumburra (2) 12-47 d Tarwin Lower (2) 12-26; Fish Creek (1) 12-56 d Wonthaggi (2) 0-23; Mirboo North (1) 10-43 d Loch (1) 0-30.

Ladder: Fish Creek (1) 106 +144; Port Welshpool (1) 99 +116; Wonthaggi (2) 72 +138; Korumburra (2) 63 -41; Tarwin Lower (2) 54 -100; Inverloch (3) 50 -33; Loch (1) 50 -49; Mirboo North (1) 34 -175.

Controlling Sharks crush Koonwarra

A Grade

This week had Koonwarra make the trip across the bridge to take on the Sharks fresh from their T20 final win last Sunday.

After winning his ninth toss in eleven tries Phillip Island captain Max Royal decided to have a bat with Jarrod Black getting promoted up the order alongside regular opener Eli Richards.

After Richards fell early, number three Shiran Rathnayake and Jarrod Black made a stand putting on 105 for the second wicket before Rathnayake was caught on the boundary for a well-made 58.

Black went on to carry his bat for the best part of the 40 overs, eventually being dismissed for a hardworking 65.

This coupled with contributions from Brodie Johnston (13) and Adam Miller (16), meant the Sharks were able to drag their total up to 193.

After the break regular openers Simon Kirton and Tom Kiely were able to make early inroads with the latter bowling his 8 overs straight, finishing with 2 for 16 off 8.

This in combination with Max Royal 2 for 12 off 6 and Charith Keerthisinghe 2 for 23 off 7 meant the Sharks were able to control the innings on their terms.

When death overs specialist Simon Kirton came back on, the rip through the tail the task proved too much for Koonwarra being dismissed for 103 in the 34th over handing the Sharks a 93-run victory. Go Sharks!

B1 vs Korumburra

B1 headed over to the Korumburra Rec Reserve as the Top and bottom sides of the league.

Korumburra won the toss and sent Phillip Island in on a turf wicket, which looked a tinge green and like it may be tough work for batsmen early.

That was put to bed though as captain Steve McIntyre put the first ball away for 4 through covers. This set the tone for the opening partnership as Daniel Bourke, the other opener, consolidated with McIntyre to get the Island off to a great start. The two put on 95 for the first wicket as Bourke

went for a well-made 35 as it was his first game in a couple of years.

Tom Blackwell comes in at first drop and worked it around till drinks. McIntyre at drinks was on around 70, had been dropped multiple times, and was told to get to his hundred then get out! After drinks, a wicket fell straight away with Blackwell gone for 13. In came Tony Hornsby who along with McIntyre who got his hundred and as stated, got out soon after for a very well made 101. Following him was Matt Dennerly and the two batted for most of the rest of the innings without trouble with Hornsby getting a well-made 56.

We lost 3 quick wickets with Dennerly finishing 27 not out and the score 7/243 off 40.

With Korumburra, needing 244 for victory the opening duo of brothers Tim and Tom Niven were set the task to take wickets to put this match in the book as a win. The batsmen batted well though putting the bad balls away and making it look as easy as the island did out in the middle. Tom Niven broke through though getting an edge and well caught by Hornsby the keeper.

Korumburra now 1/32 in a bit of trouble had seen off both the Niven boys with only one wicket from their 16 combined overs. Young debutant Heath Womersley replaced Tim and Matt Dennerly replaced Tom as they tried to do some damage before drinks.

Womersley got his first ever B1 wicket with a catch off his bowling by Tom Niven and Korumburra was 2/95 at drinks.

After drinks Womersley continued as Clint Wilson came on from the other end replacing Dennerly. The two bowled well in a partnership and had Korumburra 7/127 with Womersley and Dennerly taking three apiece.

One of the Korumburra openers batted the whole innings as no one could get him. In an act of desperation McIntyre took the ball and bowled one of the worst overs B grade have ever seen, and let the Keeper Hornsby bowl who injured his knee in the process. Korumburra ended up 8/164 from 40.

RSL Man of the Match was Steven McIntyre.



For the first time in the PIDCC history, two sides played each other for premiership points at Rhyll on Sunday. Winning C2 Captain Mick Cleary with family Bec, Ethan and Liam.

B2 cricket

This week the Sharks travelled to loch to take on Nyora.

Nyora won the toss and sent the Sharks in, the skipper decided to change the order a bit to give a few people a hit.

Nyora were bowling really well and soon had the Sharks 2/21.

Tolley joined Epifano looking to build a partnership which they did, and the Sharks were 2/50 at drinks.

Epifano fell not long after drinks leaving the Sharks 3/65 which soon turned into 5/76 after some quick wickets from Nyora.

Womersley joined Tolley who was starting to hit the ball cleanly.

The Sharks lost another three quick wickets including the set batsman in Tolley who made a well-made 47 to have the Sharks in trouble at 8/100, and soon all out for 110.

The Sharks really needed to bowl well with Nyora only needing 111 to win.

They got off to good start win with Tyce Kleverkamp getting an early wicket in his first over.

Kleverkamp created a run-out off his own bowling in his second over

and had Nyora 2/11 off four overs.

Kleverkamp and Parsons were bowling tight in tandem, soon Parsons had his first, the next ball another to have Nyora 4/15 after eight overs.

Nyora looked to consolidate but Parsons had other ideas and stuck twice to leave Nyora 6/31 off 12 overs. Parsons finished with 4/18.

The Sharks were on top and pushing to get the last four wickets but some clean hitting from the Nyora batsman looked to turn the game, However Nyora soon fell to the spin of Dayson who took a great caught and bowled to have Nyora 7/64.

Dayson picked up his two wicket and was bowling well 2/6 off five overs.

Womersley chimed in to get the last two wickets and finished with 2/12 off 7.4 overs to have Nyora all out for 76.

The Local Derby, C2 cricket

For the first time in the PIDCC history, two sides played each other for premiership points at Rhyll on Sunday.

The Yellows won the toss and sent the Blues into bat.

Manning and Excell opened for the Blues, but Excell was gone early with

Kleverkamp cleaning him up for a duck.

Muscat joined Manning and the pair put on a 62-run stand which ended when Manning skied one off Huther and was caught by Ross.

Allan trapped Muscat LBW for well-made 42.

Fall smashed the ball around before debutant Harry Arceo cleaned bowled him for 38.

Francis (24) and Cleary (23) both were run out; a direct hit from the President and Yellows skipper, Dan McCausland and one to Dave Fusinato.

Patterson smashed a quick 18 before being bowled by Kleverkamp, whose next ball bowled Boyack and completed a hat-trick when he got Macmillan LBW.

An outstanding effort by Kleverkamp, finishing with 4/33.

Arceo ended on 12 not out and the Blues were 9/188.

The Yellows opened with Kenter and Dave Fusinato, the pair started well before Kenter snicked one through to Patterson off Falls bowling.

Thomas Macmillan grabbed the next two wickets when Allan skied one to Excell and Duggan was LBW.

Niven was also given LBW without troubling the scorers off Falls bowling and Boyack got Dave Fusinato LBW for 16.

Dmac came to the crease and he and Ross built a partnership, both players scoring quickly.

It was broken when Dmac was stumped off Johnston for 31.

George McCausland joined Ross and they continued the quick scoring until George hit one straight to Excell.

Ross continued to smash the ball around and was only stopped when Johnston took a great catch to end his knock.

A well made 47 for Ross, a superb performance.

Drew Fusinato went out first ball, caught by Boyack off Francis, and Huther (6 no) and Kleverkamp (19 no) were the not out batsmen as the Yellows fell 29 runs short.

A fantastic game of cricket played in great spirits, fitting of the Pink Stumps day!

In the pink – cricketers raise money for cancer

Several hundred people turned out to watch the Phillip Island Cricket Club C2 sides battle it out on Pink Stumps Day.

It was the first ever derby between the two sides, with Blue clinching victory by 29 runs.

In a fantastic day, friends, family

and club supporters embraced the pink theme, raising at least \$2000 for the McGrath Foundation, with the fundraising tally yet to be finalised.

The foundation provides support for individuals and their families experiencing breast cancer.



Bryce Lawrence, Molly McIntyre, Maya Womersley and Georgia Niven embraced the pink spirit of the event.



Gillian Gilbert from Wig sisters, who make wigs for cancer patients, was the guest speaker.



Andrew Tolley provided entertainment on the day.



In a fantastic day, friends, family and club supporters embraced the pink theme, raising at least \$2000 for the McGrath Foundation.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 16 FEB	THU 17 FEB	FRI 18 FEB	SAT 19 FEB	SUN 20 FEB	MON 21 FEB	TUE 22 FEB
HIGH 1:23 am 2.54 m	HIGH 2:20 am 2.64 m	HIGH 3:10 am 2.74 m	HIGH 3:53 am 2.82 m	HIGH 4:31 am 2.86 m	HIGH 5:06 am 2.88 m	HIGH 5:39 am 2.87 m
LOW 6:56 am 1.41 m	LOW 8:00 am 1.29 m	LOW 8:52 am 1.14 m	LOW 9:36 am 0.98 m	LOW 10:16 am 0.81 m	LOW 10:54 am 0.65 m	LOW 11:32 am 0.51 m
HIGH 12:47 pm 2.22 m	HIGH 2:00 pm 2.31 m	HIGH 3:00 pm 2.44 m	HIGH 3:53 pm 2.57 m	HIGH 4:41 pm 2.69 m	HIGH 5:27 pm 2.79 m	HIGH 6:11 pm 2.86 m
LOW 7:00 pm 0.80 m	LOW 7:59 pm 0.75 m	LOW 8:50 pm 0.70 m	LOW 9:36 pm 0.67 m	LOW 10:20 pm 0.66 m	LOW 11:03 pm 0.68 m	LOW 11:46 pm 0.72 m

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It was a brilliant birthday on Saturday for Phillip Island's Sophie Fletcher, when she was crowned the Victorian Open Women's champion for 2022. Photo: Liam Robertson, Surfing Victoria.

A champion birthday for Sophie

It was a brilliant birthday on Saturday for Phillip Island's Sophie Fletcher, when she was crowned the Victorian Open Women's champion for 2022.

In a big day of surfing for Sophie who was also competing in the WSL QS1000 event (see separate story), she unfortunately was knocked out of the Open event in the semi-finals. Regardless, her prior results left her in top position at the end of the day and with the state title in hand.

"It's nice to take home a state title especially here at Phillip Island," said Sophie.

"The waves turned on for us today so it couldn't have been better!"

Xavier Huxtable (Jan Juc) is

the Men's Victorian Open State Champion.

Both Fletcher and Huxtable will gain a spot in the Rip Curl Pro Trials event to be held at Bells Beach in April.

"The Rip Curl Pro Trials is the biggest event of the year for us Victorians. It's such a great opportunity to have the chance to surf in a Championship Tour event. I'm looking forward to getting over there and surfing at Bells," said Sophie.

On an Instagram post, Sophie said: "I love home, full of sun, surfing, friends and family".

"Thank you to everyone who came down to watch me compete and celebrate my birthday this weekend."



Sophie in action on the waves over the weekend competition, Photo: Liam Robertson, Surfing Victoria.

Victorian Open concludes at Cape Woolamai

The final round of the three-event Victorian Open series was held as part of the Phillip Island Pro in clean, solid waves at Cape Woolamai on Sunday providing the perfect end to the series.

Jan Juc's Angela Ball took out the women's event round win in her biggest career result finishing with a heat total of 8.33.

In a final that went down to the wire, Cody Robinson (Jan Juc) took out the third event of the series finishing with a 12.06 heat total.

Phillip Island's Sophie Fletcher was crowned the 2022 Victorian Open Women's champion after winning rounds one and two of the series.

Xavier Huxtable of Jan Juc took out the Men's Victorian Open State Champion.

Phillip Island's Harry de Roth had a chance at the siren to leap-

frog into the lead and secure the state title. Needing a 5.66 wave, he fell agonisingly short with a 5.37 (out of a possible 10), leaving Huxtable as the ratings leader and State Champion.

Other Phillip Islanders competing in the event across the weekend included Poppy Corbett, Sage Goldsbury, Luke Archibald, Carl Wright and Codie Jeffery.

Codie won the last round of the Men's series held at Gunnamatta at the end of January.

The Victorian Indigenous Invitational was also run bringing together the top eight indigenous surfers from around Victoria.

Twelve-time Victorian Indigenous Champion Jordie Campbell (Torquay) took out the event final over Phillip Island's Steffan Krosna, Anthony Hume from Torquay and Tyler Duell of Phillip Island.



This year's Victorian Open champions, Sophie Fletcher of Phillip Island and Xavier Huxtable of Jan Juc. Presentations were made at the conclusion of round three of the series at Cape Woolamai on the weekend. Photo: Liam Robertson, Surfing Victoria.

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AND STAFF**

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