

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

\$1.40 Incl. GST



Local students laughed, clapped and cheered as Wonthaggi Secondary College Principal Darren Parker, Education Minister James Merlino and Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, turned the sod to mark the start of construction of the new junior campus in San Remo. For full coverage of the event last Thursday, turn to page 8.

Devastation for business

While supermarkets were frantic, last week's snap lockdown brought more heartache for many island businesses.

Sarah Pedersen from Citrus and Vine described the situation as "devastating", saying they had taken a significant hit.

"I can't believe this has happened again," she told the Advertiser.

"Last year we lost Mother's Day, Father's Day and now we've lost Valentine's Day."

She said 75 per cent of the restaurant was booked for Sunday, including the whole children's area.

"This area is popular for families, as the parents can have their meal in peace while the kids play in the indoor playground."

She said opening for takeaway wasn't an option, due to high running costs, but she tried a snap sale to offload excess produce on Friday night.

"I had to do a super sale for take away, to try and sell as much stock as we could to avoid spoilt food."

Selling the food at close to cost meant there was no profit margin for the business, and a lot was also given away to staff.

She estimates the lockdown has cost them close to \$8000.

"We have no idea how we're going to find this extra income."

On top of this, the restaurant landlords are again upping the rent, because of the increase in income over summer.

"We did have a good summer trade,

however this does not make up for the thousands of dollars we have lost since March 2020," Sarah said.

"We feel for everyone at this time and our fellow restaurants and cafes here. I'll be supporting as many as I can while they do takeaway, but unfortunately we just can't afford to be open."

Neil Gillin, who runs Rusty Water Brewery Restaurant and Bar and Beach HQ restaurant said the lockdown had a significant financial impact on both businesses.

"With Valentine's Day falling on the Sunday, we had many bookings across the weekend from Saturday lunch through to Sunday night, most of which were travelling to the island for the weekend.

"We lost more than 200 people at each venue in bookings, and that figure doesn't take into consideration the number of walk-ins or bookings on the day."

Worst timing

For Jo Brooks at Flowers of Phillip Island, the lockdown couldn't have come at a worse time, with Valentine's Day traditionally one of the busiest days of the year.

Although she estimated business over the weekend was down about 50 per cent, Jo said she was "grateful to have had the store shopfront open".

"It hasn't been too bad, and locals have been very supportive, which is lovely."

"You just have to run with it ...

what else can you do?"

"I'm very sad for all the other local businesses around the town who would have lost not only income, but have had to probably throw a lot of fresh stock out," she said.

The snap decision to lock down the state also hit the wedding sector hard, with several weddings cancelled at local venues.

Katie Jeffery from Graze Farm to Plate said she has bookings to cater for two weddings this coming weekend (February 20).

While one wedding is still planning to go ahead, the other has decided to cancel due to lockdown uncertainty and the couple are "absolutely devastated".

Continued page 9

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16 27	16 27	19 30	20 27	15 20	15 21	14 18

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



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Another Islander confirmed with Ross River fever

The number of Phillip Islanders with confirmed cases of Ross River virus continues to grow.

The Department of Health has now put the number of cases at 15 (see separate story).

Peter Kelly's partner Lyn Greene was diagnosed on February 9, and he's frustrated by the response from the authorities.

He said it took three trips to the doctor – one to the Urgent Care Centre in Cowes and two to a local GP – before a blood test was taken for Ross River virus.

And that's despite Lyn displaying classic symptoms of the virus, including swollen joints, tingling and "shocking aches and pains".

The lack of awareness and information from authorities has frustrated the couple.

"The medical authorities are virtually denying that there is anything wrong," Peter said.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's as bad as Covid. We need to put pressure on someone to do something about it and inform people officially.

"The more we talk to different people, the more we hear of people who have it.

"It's running riot on the island." He's concerned more locals or

holiday makers might contract the disease.

The Advertiser is aware of two visitors from Melbourne who tested positive for Ross River virus, after holidaying in Cowes from December 26 to January 6.

Bedridden

Peter said Lyn was virtually bedridden when he took her to the Hub three weeks ago.

"She was told to take Panadol and Neurofen and go and see her GP.

"We went and saw the GP who did a blood test but didn't test for Ross River."

The doctor prescribed anti-inflammatories, but Lyn and Peter still had no idea what was causing her symptoms.

Then the couple read the Advertiser story about other islanders being diagnosed with Ross River virus.

They went back to the doctor and asked for a Ross River virus test.

There was then an anxious 10-day wait for the test results.

"It took over a week to come back, because the clinical place had run out of test kits.

"The fact that the labs had run out, that's deplorable," Peter said.

Finally getting a diagnosis has

been an emotional relief, despite providing no actual relief for the symptoms.

And with her course of steroids about to run out, Peter and Lyn are worried about what lies ahead.

"They (the steroids) only obscured the pain, and when you come off them, the pain and everything is back.

"She's at the stage where she can only shuffle along, because she's all stiff, sore and swollen."

There is no treatment or cure for Ross River virus and most people's symptoms subside after several weeks.

However some people may experience reoccurring symptoms over a year or more.

Peter said he's positive Lyn picked up the virus on Phillip Island and hopes telling their story will build awareness in the community.

"We live on Harbison Road, right in the middle of the island. Because of Covid, we haven't been far in the last three months."

Their proximity to Oswin Roberts Reserve, and a dam on their property means there's plenty of breeding spaces for mozzies.

He's hoping authorities act

quickly to address the issue.

However health authorities have stressed anyone with the virus is not contagious, as the virus is not transmitted from human to human.

Prevention

Prevention is your best protection from Ross River virus, and taking measures to avoid mosquito bites is a critical step.

- Wear loose-fitting clothing when outdoors.

- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET or picaridin on exposed skin.

- Try to limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about (usually dusk and dawn).

- Make sure there is no stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around your home.

- On holidays make sure your accommodation is properly fitted with mosquito netting or screens.

- Don't forget the kids – it's safer to spray or rub insect repellents on their clothes rather than directly onto their skin.

See The Better Health Channel's 'Beat the Bite' campaign, for advice on how to prevent Ross River Fever: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite.

Signage defaced

A spray can bandit was on the loose tagging signage around Newhaven and Cape Woolamai last week.

The outside billboard at the Visitor Information Centre at Newhaven was tagged, spraying across signs for wildlife protection and Chinese New Year.

The entrance sign to Cape Woolamai near Cleeland Road, was also hit.

Bass Coast Shire Council's outdoor team responded quickly, with all the graffiti removed by Friday morning.



A spray can bandit tagged signage at the Newhaven Visitor Information Centre late last week.

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LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Carnival land finally reaches seven figure settlement

Bass Coast Shire is believed to be paying \$2.7 million for the purchase of the carnival land, after a final agreement with the owners, avoiding the need for compulsory acquisition.

Carnival owner Brian Watkins this week told the Advertiser the shire had agreed to pay the price, with \$2.2 million for the value of the land – at the intersection of Phillip Island and Ventnor Roads – and \$500,000 for compensation.

However Mr Watkins said he remained unhappy with the compensation amount and was now considering further legal action against the shire.

“They’ve more or less harassed us to settle. They had us by the short and curlies. I wasn’t keen to settle but my wife can’t sleep and wanted to get it done,” he said.

“I’m going to talk to my lawyer about the best way to do this but I want compensation for all the worry and troubles. I had my kidney out six months ago and then chemotherapy, which is all caused by the stress.”

Mr Watkins said he had refused to sign a confidentiality agreement, as requested by the shire, which would have stopped him revealing the price tag.

The 78-year-old added that according to the shire’s timeline, final settlement on the 16ha land would take place in April but his family of about 12 – who call the property home – have until June 6 to leave.

“But we’ve got nowhere to go. There’s nothing near to buy, we’ve been looking for months, except for land in woop woop, where you can’t run a carnival.



Carnival owner Brian Watkins said he had refused to sign a confidentiality agreement, as requested by the shire, which would have stopped him revealing the price tag.

“I won’t be leaving for months. It will take an army to get me out of here.

“We’ve got giant shipping containers we have to take somewhere.”

Last Friday at 6pm shire CEO Ali Wastie released a media statement confirming they had “reached an agreement for the purchase of the property commonly referred to as the Carnival site from the vendor (Watkins family).”

“Council has not used its compulsory acquisition powers for the purchase of this site,” Ms Wastie said.

“The sale was negotiated and agreed to with the vendor on a voluntary basis. The relevant contracts and support-

ing documentation are being finalised.”

The statement said the land will be home to the Phillip Island Aquatics and Recreation Precinct, which “will provide Phillip Island with essential recreation and aquatics facility to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community and visitors to the Island”.

Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund secretary Peter McMahon this week welcomed the news.

“It’s great to see after 30 years of trying, a location appears to be secured for a pool on the recreational precinct block,” Mr McMahon said.

Last year Victoria’s Planning Minister approved compulsory acquisition of the land by the

shire for a proposed sports hub, including a community pool.

The Watkins closed the carnival for the last time on the Australia Day long weekend after more than 20 years at the location, and after about five decades of visiting the island, which had become a home base while they travelled Australia through the year with the carnival.

The Watkins were planning to retire on the land and council had several years ago approved a building permit for their home and soon after notified them of plans to compulsory acquire.

For more about the background and history of the purchase of this site, turn to page 7.

Ross River cases now at fifteen

The Department of Health advised there are now 15 confirmed cases of the Ross River virus in the Bass Coast Shire.

However there are no official warnings in place, as the virus is not transmitted through human contact.

“Ross River virus occurs across most parts of Australia and Victoria,” a department spokesperson said.

“People should always take personal measures to avoid mosquito bites, particularly in coastal regions which are conducive to the breeding of mosquitoes.

“Numbers of mosquitoes naturally fluctuate based on the local environment. Residents and visitors in all areas of the state should be aware of the potential of mosquito-borne illness and the need to avoid being bitten.

“There are simple steps we can all take to protect against mosquito-borne diseases such as wearing long, loose fitting clothes, using repellents containing picaridin or DEET on exposed skin and trying to limit outdoor activities if lots of mosquitoes are around.”

Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed a mosquito monitoring program run by Bass Coast Landcare with support from Council is underway and is scheduled to run through until March.

“There are currently eight sites on Phillip Island that are part of this program,” the shire spokesperson said.

The council again said they had not been officially notified of any confirmed cases, but stressed “this is not something we would normally be notified about at the current levels”.

“There is currently a Chief Health Officer (CHO) advisory for the Geelong and Bellarine area which is experiencing higher than normal seasonal cases of Ross River Virus,” the spokesperson said.

“This advisory does not currently apply to Bass Coast. Should the CHO issue an alert in Bass Coast, Council will provide an updated message to the community through its website, social media platforms and local media outlets.

“The Beat the Bite campaign on the Better Health Channel provides advice on how the public can protect themselves and homes against mosquito transmitted diseases.”

Bass Coast Health has recommended anyone experiencing common Ross River virus symptoms – such as joint swelling and pain, fatigue and muscle aches, rashes and fever – should see their GP, who can organise a blood test.



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The new planning permit proposes a fifth storey amendment to the original plans for the complex on Marine Parade, San Remo, which was approved by VCAT last year, after Bass Coast Shire Councillors rejected the proposal.

San Remo fifth storey "penthouse" sparks anger

San Remo residents have described a proposed fifth storey amendment to a controversial development as a "blight" and "outrageous".

Residents and businesses look set to fight the amendments – made by the developer at the last minute – to the already approved \$6 million complex at 131-133 Marine Parade.

Locals battled the initial plans in 2019, with Bass Coast Shire councillors rejecting the proposal because of concerns about parking, car stackers and height, but with VCAT overturning council and approving plans last year.

The approved plans are for a 22-apartment complex with four retail shops at four-storeys high, above San Remo's three-storey height limit.

Now the developer has lodged an amendment, seeking approval to add a fifth storey, 151m² "penthouse" comprised of a living room and deck area on the roof of the building.

Underneath the retail area, the developer wants to add a 345m² basement for storage as well as car stacker pits.

A visual impact assessment report lodged with the amendment states the proposed fifth storey will be "mostly concealed from the public view due to its location in the centre of the building".

The application says the proposed amendments will provide "positive outcomes", as they do not require additional car parking, will not affect vehicle or pedestrian movement, and do not change the development at street level.

So far two objections have been



San Remo locals say the six million dollar will be erected on this vacant site in Marine Parade

lodged against the amendment, with others seeking an extension on time to lodge their submissions with the shire.

Submissions can only address the amendments, with the application to be heard at a council meeting only if a certain number of objections are received, or if the application is called in.

If the amendment is not approved by Council, the developer may choose to go to VCAT.

Angry

One objection said it was "bad enough that VCAT gave the developer the go ahead to build a four-storey monolith on the site", against the decision of council.

"To seek to take it to yet another level is both impudent and outrageous," wrote the objector.

They said San Remo was growing but "it remains a small seaside town" with an overlay stating buildings should not exceed three storeys.

"VCAT ruled the design's step

back of the four storeys would prevent the building looming over Marine Parade.

"I suggest a further storey would cancel out that suggested amelioration ... five storeys would well exceed the overlay ruling."

The objector said any expansion to the development would add to traffic and parking woes.

"Marine Parade is already chaotic (during peak season). There is insufficient parking and the turn off from Phillip Island Road onto Marine Parade and into Bergin Grove becomes very dangerous and often impatient drivers lined up in four directions."

"The intersection is one building away from 131-133 Marine Parade."

Blight

A second objector described the amendment as "a blight on San Remo". "This building is more suited to inner Melbourne not San Remo," the submission states.

"The public doesn't want this type of construction for San Remo.

Council has a responsibility to fight to ensure this doesn't happen.

"Dwelling sizes are too small, the quantity of apartments is too great, the number of levels is too many."

The objector questioned the purpose of the fifth storey living room.

"Details of the rooms use is understated," asking whether it would be used for self-contained accommodation or a granny flat in the future.

"What assurances and policing will be provided to ensure the room's future use for years to come is as stated?"

They said photos with the planning amendment were "not a true representation of the actual impact the building will have on the neighbourhood".

"The development will be highly visible. It will be seen from all points of the compass."

"It will have a significant impact on the vista, dominate the skyline and is completely out of character for San Remo."

The objector said only 40 car spaces for the entire development was already insufficient, with the proposed additional car stacker system not catering to any customers.

"There is only one alternative for the development's customers and overflow parking: the supermarket car park."

"All other developments in San Remo have complied with council parking requirements. Why won't this developer comply?"

With no street parking close to the development, the objector said the parking shortfall would "have an adverse economic impact on other businesses in San Remo ... and will increase traffic congestion".

Keep your pool clean ... not green

A green pool is the ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

With 15 confirmed cases of Ross River virus in the area, Bill Haslett from Pristine Pools in Cowes has warned pool owners not to let their pools go green.

"A green pool is a 100 per cent mosquito attraction," he said.

The current weather condition, "a little bit of rain and then sunshine" could turn a pool green overnight.

"Mozzies can breed in there very quickly, faster than in a swamp."

With the Ross River virus present on the island, he said it was more important than ever to keep the pool water properly treated.

"Pool shops are classed as an essential service, so we stay open even during lockdown," Bill said, explaining Pristine Pools offered a Click and Collect service during the current lockdown.

If you need supplies for your pool, you can visit Pristine Pool's Facebook page or website. Anyone needing advice can also contact Bill on 0438 751 268.

Timely reminder

A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said the issues at school pick-up and drop-off times raised by parents and principals (see page 6) was timely, "as there have been a number of safety concerns around our school zones".

"We want to remind the community that the reduced speed limits, school crossings and parking restrictions around schools are in place to improve the movements of traffic during peak times and maximise safety for children and all road users."

"Drivers need to approach school crossings at 40km/hr or less, watch for children and remember that school crossings must be completely vacated of all pedestrians, including the Crossing Supervisor, before driving through."

The spokesperson also condemned the attacks on the school crossing supervisors.

"There is no place or time that it is appropriate to abuse one of our highly valued Crossing Supervisors."

"The rules which each of our Supervisors are trained for are there to help ensure the safety of children, pedestrians and motorists around each of our schools and streets. Please continue to adhere to the local rules and ensure the ongoing safety of our children."

"We would like to remind the community that it is an offence to stop or park in a bus zone, within 10 metres of an intersection or double park, even if it is for a short time."

"We recommend parking in designated areas or a bit further away and enjoy a short stroll to and from school."

"Let's all play our part and help keep our community safe."

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Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 46C Albert Street, Warragul VIC 3820.

Less than amazing

One of the island's most popular attractions has spent the past two and a half years battling with Telstra over its internet service.

Geoff Moed from A Maze 'N Things said it's been "beyond frustrating" trying to organise a suitable internet connection for the business.

"We're forever having internet and Telstra issues," he said.

After initially being told NBN could be connected via the business' second phone line, Telstra is now claiming the line is at a different address. Geoff is unsure how the confusion arose.

"I've gone through the whole thing with numerous staff more than six times.

"They've sent me the NBN modem to install and a technician arrived on site to connect it, but then said, 'this is the wrong address'.

Despite A Maze 'N Things operating the two lines for more than 25 years, Telstra is insisting the address for the second phone line is about 300 metres down the road from the attraction.

"The two lines definitely go to A Maze 'N Things, at 1805 Phillip Island Road, but Telstra insist it's at number 2115," said Geoff.

"So we can't get the NBN connected. It's been a nightmare."

Without the internet, the attraction cannot run EFTPOS payments or the office modem and computers.

Geoff installed an NBN satellite, with an ADSL line as a back-up if the satellite drops out.

But then he hit another Telstra problem.

"The problem is, we pay for the ADSL and they say you can get up to 20 mbps, whereas we're lucky to get 1.2 mbps, and it often drops to 0.5 mbps.

"It's about five per cent of what we potentially should get. If the satellite



Geoff Moed, with Taylah Fox from A Maze 'N Things, one of the island's most popular attractions, said it's been "beyond frustrating" trying to organise a suitable internet connection through Telstra and the NBN.

goes down, there's just enough bandwidth to run the EFTPOS machines, but we can't do any work on the internet", he said.

And in the last few weeks, he said NBN actually disconnected the line leaving the business susceptible to loss of EFTPOS facilities and networks.

"So they not only wouldn't correct their initial mistakes, but made it worse by disconnecting the line.

"The problem is that no one takes responsibility for their stuff ups.

"They tell you they will fix it, and

then nothing happens ... and there are no repercussions.

"Even the threat of public exposure leads to half-hearted promises to fix the problem, and then nothing happens again. And no one is responsible!"

A solution in sight?

"We've been working with the customer to resolve these issues and have listened to their concerns," a Telstra spokesperson said last week, after the Advertiser contacted them about the situation.

"We've spoken to NBN about cor-

recting the addresses linked to the service numbers and we've transferred the service to the right address.

"Sometimes there can be issues with service number addresses in back end systems, which we've worked to resolve in this instance," the spokesperson said.

"Now that the service number and address issues are being rectified, we're speaking to the customer about NBN services for their account and we're getting our technical teams to look into the ADSL line speed issue."

The spokesperson said ADSL line

speeds can be influenced by a number of factors including distance to the exchange.

"We know how frustrating it can be when our customers run into problems like this and we're sorry it's taken us time to resolve."

However Geoff said the confusion over the address of his company's second line still hadn't been resolved.

In fact, all Telstra had done was contact him to confirm the main phone line was actually connected to the A Maze 'N Thing address.

"It is laughable that the first number they quote is our main number and it hasn't (that I know of) been connected anywhere else in the last 29 years," Geoff said.

"There were no problems with that number, but they are happy that they have confirmed that everything was OK!

"However, the phone number that has been the cause of their confusion, is "still waiting to be updated". It's over two years now and I am still waiting!"

Geoff said it appeared Telstra did disconnect the second phone line last week, which explains the internet problems plaguing the business.

He also brushed aside the claim that Telstra understood his frustration, saying all the company offered was "broken promises and hollow platitudes".

"They don't really know how frustrating it is, because I bet they aren't losing sleep over it, and they still hadn't resolved it.

"We will be changing the signage out the front of the property to read "Telstra and NBN, Thank you for the Island's third-world service" in the hope that we can embarrass them into actually doing what they should be doing as a bare minimum of customer service."

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Parents plea: please slow down for our kids!

Parents at Cowes Primary School have pleaded for drivers to observe the School Safety Zones, after a rocky start to the school year.

And principals from schools across the shire have supported the call.

Traffic along Settlement Road in Cowes is always busy during school pick-up and drop-off times.

However Sarah Pendry said she was alarmed at some of the behaviour she witnessed from drivers in the first weeks back at school.

"Drivers weren't observing the speed limit, and the School Crossing lady was almost run down because someone didn't want to wait.

"Tradie's vans were tooting their horns at us and one driver even abused the crossing supervisor and yelled at her to get off the road.

"I felt like it was a disaster waiting to happen."

With so much of the school year effected by lockdown in 2020, Sarah thinks some drivers have forgotten about the school zones.

As well as months of homeschooling, when schools did reopen, pick-up times were split, to limit exposure and comply with Covid regulations.

"Last year with Covid, we did split pick up and that made a huge difference, but that's not the normal."

Principal Rod McKenzie said the school no longer had staggered finish times.

"They were to aid physical distancing and the current guidelines from the Education Department was to cease that."

He agreed with school attendance returning to normal, the broader community might need a reminder about the school zones.

"It is always busy at the end of the day, and that's compounded if it's wet, as more parents do the pick-up in a car.

"No one likes sitting in traffic, but if we are, it's important to follow the road rules.

"The safety of students is ex-



Staff and parents at Cowes Primary School have raised concerns about student safety during pick-up and drop-off times. Principal Rod McKenzie (second from right), with Sarah Pendry, Aiden Pendry-Tran, Kylie Sage-man, Chase and Tate Steward and Crossing Supervisor Carmel Waldron.

tremely important and if everyone does the right thing, we can maximise student safety."

Mr McKenzie said information about the importance of parking in the right areas and observing the school zone restrictions was sent to parents in the school newsletters.

"We also talk to the students regularly about using the school crossing."

He said if the broader community was aware of the busy times, drivers could choose an alternative route or "be prepared to be patient".

The afternoon traffic snarl usually only lasts for around 15 minutes.

The growth of the industrial area on Settlement Road, as well as a surge in school enrolments has added to the traffic in the area.

The Cowes kinder and daycare centre is also located next to the school.

"Maybe people don't understand this is a school zone, but everyone needs to be a little more patient," Sarah said.

She recommended other driv-

ers avoid the section of Settlement Road around the school during peak times, between 8.30am and 9am and again around 3.30pm.

Mr McKenzie said the School Council was looking at ways to improve safety around the current school crossing and pick-up times.

Schools united

Catherine Blackford from Our Lady Star of the Sea said road safety was a constant concern for their school community.

"Drivers certainly do not adhere to the 40km/h speed limit in the school zone," she said.

"In fact at times the drivers are driving above the 60km limit on the Cowes-Rhyll Road."

She said she was very thankful the new footpath from Redwood Drive to Thompson Avenue was constructed late last year.

"I'm sure the students from other local schools will also be very grateful as they catch their buses on



Parents say drivers aren't obeying the speed limit, and are tooting horns and abusing the crossing supervisor. They're appealing for people to be patient during the 3.30pm - 3.45pm pick-up time.

Thompson Avenue.

"The worry many community members have is that once the pedestrians get to Thompson Avenue it is near impossible for them to cross due to the amount of traffic most days."

Ms Blackford said a pedestrian crossing would be in place once building work at the school was completed.

"At present we do not have a school crossing supervisor, so all staff are out on duty after school and the children are walked safely across Cowes Rhyll Road."

Over in San Remo Primary School, Principal Karen Bowker said a grant from Vic Roads would be used to improve safety for children around the school area.

She said members of the school council were working with Bass Coast Shire Council to put in place a range of measures, including additional signage or stickers on pathways to direct students on the safest path.

The school is hoping the current footpath on Thomas Grove can be extended and there are safety concerns about a cross over point near the sharp bend from Thomas into Ocean Grove.

Ms Bowker said another cross over point in Bergin Grove, near the supermarket carpark, was a concern.

"The children have to cross the road because the footpath ends.

"We're trying to get an audit of traffic flow and car parking in the area, to see where we could have safety barriers, or clearer marking for the flow of cars."

Parents currently use the San Remo Rec Centre car park as a drop off and pick-up point for the school.

"As a community, we all need to be mindful," Ms Bowker said.

"Students are a precious commodity, and they don't always follow the road rules because they're still learning.

"We have to be conscious of them at all times."

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Jo Scrase and Kel Webber with friends, Paul, Gerry and Suzie, happy racegoers at the first Phillip Island Health Hub Race day last year. This year's event will be held on March 14.

Health Hub Auxiliary is back on the track!

The Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day is on again this year on March 14.

Don't miss the last race day of the season and help raise money for Phillip Island Health Hub.

Come along and enjoy a day at the beautiful racecourse at Woolamai – bring your family and friends and relax in a Covid-safe environment.

Bookings are online only, to ensure compliance with Covid guidelines.

The current focus is fundraising for oncology services, while in the past, funds have helped provide cardiac and gynaecological equipment.

Last year's inaugural race day, raised almost \$6000 to help cancer services in the area, and the hardworking members of the Auxiliary are hoping people will return to again enjoy a fun day at the racecourse to

support this very worthy cause.

The Health Hub Auxiliary is excited to again be partnering with the Woolamai and District Racing Club, who along with their generous sponsors Garth Lisle Property Consultants, Kevin Sharkie, The Big Wave Newhaven, Klepnors Fine Antique Jewellery and Valuers, Performance Property and Alex Scott and staff, are helping to raise funds to support Bass Coast Health provide and enhance cancer services to our local community.

Woolamai and District Racing Club is also donating \$5 of every adult entry to the Health Hub Auxiliary.

Don't miss out. Hurry and book online now, then pack your picnic and drinks, or purchase on course, and be part of building a new tradition - the Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day! www.woolamai.races.com.au

The saga of the carnival land

The site known as the "carnival land" was originally owned by the Shire of Phillip Island and with this week's purchase, is again back under the ownership of the shire.

During the 1980s the old Shire of Phillip Island recognised that the current eight-acre Cowes Recreation Reserve would in the not too distant future be outgrown by a rapidly growing community.

Then-councillor Hilton Chadwick recognised the potential of an 80 acre parcel of land (CA 79 now referred to as the Carnival site) adjacent to the Cowes township's southern boundary, for the development of future recreational and community facilities.

The land was considered to be ideally situated for ease of access to Cowes; was roughly square and flat; and could be easily drained and serviced with both town and recycled water.

Envisaged were football, cricket and practice ovals, together with a rectangular field for soccer and rugby, several netball courts, basketball courts and a swimming centre.

In addition to a recreation complex, envisaged at that time were public buildings such as a new hospital, a government high school, and at the rear, a transfer station and recycling depot.

The Phillip Island Council went ahead and purchased

the site for \$270,000 in the early 90s.

By February 1994, a Leisure and Recreation Plan for the site had been drawn up.

But later in that year, amalgamation of the Wonthaggi, Bass and Phillip Island councils was decreed by the state government.

Within six months, in July 1995, three unelected Commissioners, appointed by the Kennett government to administer the new municipality for an interim two year period, until the return of a democratically elected new Bass Coast Shire Council, sold the land to the Watkins family, for \$280,000.

The commissioners imperiously described the 32 hectares as superfluous to the Bass Coast Shire community's needs.

Their action was highly controversial and caused a furore at the time.

The decision was a blow for the island community, and particularly for Hilton Chadwick and his fellow former Phillip Island councillors, whose interest was in the future of the people of Phillip Island.

Hilton's daughter Marnie, speaking in 2018, said her father and his fellow former island councillors felt the move was extremely short-sighted, with no vision or forward planning, and that it was detrimental to the interests of Phillip Island.

Eight years ago, the Bass

Coast Shire identified the land as a location for a sports hub, turning the clock back to pre-1994 days.

Half of the original site (16ha) was repurchased in 2012 by the Bass Coast Shire Council, from the Watkins family, at the instigation of then Island Ward councillor Peter Paul.

Cost to ratepayers was almost \$1 million.

The 16 hectares – which lies immediately to the west of the carnival site – was officially named at the time the Hilton Chadwick Reserve – for future use and development as part of a sporting precinct.

In 2018, at the instigation of then-councillor Stephen Fullarton, the shire initiated a formal process, through Planning Scheme Amendment C153, to compulsorily acquire the remaining 16ha carnival land, explaining that by combining the Hilton Chadwick Reserve with the neighbouring carnival site, the consolidated 32ha would allow for more sports facilities.

The sum of \$2 million was set aside for land purchases, including acquisition of the remaining 40 acres of land, in the Bass Coast Shire budget for 2018/19.

Twenty-five years later, it appears that ownership of the land so controversially cashed in as part of the aftermath of amalgamations, will be returned to Bass Coast Shire ratepayers.

PHILLIP ISLAND HEALTH HUB AUXILIARY WITH WOOLAMAI & DISTRICT RACING CLUB



PHILLIP ISLAND HEALTH HUB RACE DAY

RAISING MONEY FOR CANCER SERVICES

14TH MARCH 2021

11.00 AM - 4.00PM

Bring your family and friends to the beautiful venue at Woolamai Picnic Races.

All Bookings on line www.woolamai.races.com.au

Group bookings of up to 10 will be given their own COVID-safe area to enjoy the day helping raise funds to support Bass Coast Health provide cancer services to our community.

ATTENTION!

If you sell at a Farmers Market in the Bass Coast & South Gippsland area, then you will definitely want to read this.

Grantville is getting its very own supermarket, situated at the former Mitre 10 site on the Bass Hwy.

The arrival of The Grantville Grocer, TGG for short, comes at a time where the community of Bass Coast and surrounding areas really need to pull together to support everyone in the community.

This is why we are looking for local produce suppliers who would like to have their products represented on the shelves of TGG.

If you think your product has what it takes to fulfill our requirements at TGG, then we would love to hear from you.

Get in touch by emailing info@thegrantvillegrocer.com.au and tell us about what you have to sell.





Students from local primary schools and Wonthaggi Secondary College, with the Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale (centre) were on hand to witness the start of the construction of a new junior campus, which they'll be attending in 2022.

New campus officially underway

Minister for Education James Merlino arrived in San Remo last week to officially mark the start of construction of the new Junior Secondary School campus.

Although work was already well underway, Minister Merlino was keen to turn the symbolic "first sod", saying it was an exciting and important day for the local community.

Accompanied by students from four local primary schools - Bass Valley, Cowes, San Remo and Newhaven, and Year 7 and 8 students from Wonthaggi Secondary College - who are all future students of the new campus, the Minister was also joined by the Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, Wonthaggi Secondary College Principal Darren Parker and representatives from Bass Coast Shire Council.

The new campus is located at the intersection of Potters Hill and Shetland Heights roads in San Remo and 400 students from years 7-9 are expected to attend when it opens in 2022.

The Minister admitted it had been a nervous 18 months waiting for the site of the new campus to be finalised, including finding the land, negotiating to secure the site before finally being able to begin construction.

He described the new campus as "extraordinary" and thanked Darren Parker and Jordan Crugnale for their work and passion for the project.

"The community has been talking about this for years, so to be here and officially turning the sod is so exciting."

"It's exciting for families across this region and it will cut travel times for local families."

He also praised the partnership between Wonthaggi Secondary College and Bass Coast Shire, however the main focus was on the students and families.

Mr Merlino said it was great to have the students there to witness the start of the school construction, and he sympathised with how difficult the previous year had been for students.

"I know how tough it was last year," he said.

"We want to make this year the most fun and the best year you have ever had."

He confirmed consultation was now underway for a new name for the Wonthaggi Secondary College.

"It's important that we reflect the regional nature of this school," the Minister said.



Education Minister James Merlino greets students as he arrives to officially mark the start of construction of the new Junior Secondary Campus in San Remo.



James Merlino, with Bass Coast CEO Ali Waste, Mayor Cr Brett Tessari and Wonthaggi Secondary College Principal, Darren Parker, at the launch of construction of the new secondary campus.

Principal Darren Parker thanked the Minister for "listening to the needs of Bass Coast people", saying the new campus would have a big impact on young lives.

"I'm so pleased you have supported this area."

When completed, the school will include an administration building and library, modern classrooms, separate specialists and innovation buildings, competition-grade gym, spaces for food technology, arts and music and outdoor sporting facilities.

The new site is not without controversy, with nearby residents lobbying to have Shetland Heights Road sealed as part of the school project (see separate story).

Ms Crugnale said conversations were continuing between Vic Roads and Bass Coast Shire Council to find a solution to the issues, which include safety concerns, dust from the unsealed roads, open drainage and lack of footpaths.

What's in a name?

A search is now underway for a new name for Wonthaggi Secondary College.

The San Remo campus will be the third campus of the school, with a Junior and a Senior campus located in Wonthaggi.

The college services students from across Bass Coast, including Phillip Island, San Remo and the Waterline area.

The survey to canvas potential new names for the site is open until March 4. Suggestions include Bass Coast College and Bass Coast Regional College.

The government's Engage website stated any suggested names must comply with statutory provisions under the Geographical Place Names Act.

The new school name is expected to be announced later this year.

To vote, go to: engage.vic.gov.au/school-naming-wontaggi-secondary-college

Fight for Shetland Heights continues

The residents of Shetland Heights Road have ramped up their campaign to have the road upgraded.

The state government has said it has no plans to seal Shetland Heights Road, despite it being a major access road to the new junior campus.

Residents are outraged by the decision.

Over the past month, they've contacted politicians, the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) and local councillors.

The Member for South Eastern Province Edward O'Donohue raised Shetland Heights Road in the Parliament, saying he believed the current dirt road would not be able to cope with the volume of traffic the new school is expected to generate.

He is due to meet with the residents to discuss their concerns later this month.

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale met with residents last week and said she "wanted kids to be safe" as they travelled to school.

Residents' spokesperson Fritzie Barrowcliffe described the meeting as "productive".

Ms Crugnale arranged for the VSBA to contact the group. It has organised for residents to meet with the traffic analysis specialist commissioned to do a report as part of the research into the new campus.

A meeting is also scheduled with Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Ali Wastie, to discuss the residents' concerns.

They believe not sealing the road is a safety and health risk for them, and any students travelling to the new campus.

The road has a 1km unsealed section, no footpaths and deep, open drainage.

Fritzie voiced the residents' frustration at the state govern-

ment decision not to upgrade the road.

"They're going to plonk a school at the end of two residential roads, but they haven't released plans to the people who live there."

"Did people who wanted the school to be in San Remo expect it to be at the end of two dirt roads?"

The residents have campaigned for many years to have the road upgraded.

In 2019, they petitioned council showing 70 per cent of residents supported a special charge scheme, which saw the project move to the second spot on the council's priority list for urban road upgrades.

However residents say they've never seen designs or costings for the road upgrade. They also say the consultation council promised in 2019 never happened.

Funds were not allocated in the 2019/20 budget for the project, and nothing is provided for the upgrade in Council's long term financial plan.

Expected traffic

It's predicted many locals will use Shetland Heights Road to access the new campus, despite the state government saying buses and school traffic will be directed along Potters Hill Road.

Wonthaggi Secondary College Principal Darren Parker said around 400 students are expected to attend the campus when it opens in 2022 and principals of surrounding primary schools say they expect that figure will include the majority of their current grade six students.

Many students from surrounding estates, such as Newhaven, Cape Woolamai and San Remo will ride, walk or be

dropped to school.

Sharyne Munday from Newhaven Primary said around 90 per cent of the school's students would go to the new campus.

"I know a lot of our families are excited the kids will only be travelling to San Remo," she said.

"It's been talked about for such a long time."

She said the school was "so needed" in the community, and it was important local students could travel there safely.

Karen Bowker from San Remo Primary said close to 100 per cent of her grade six students would attend the new campus.

"It's a brand new facility, why wouldn't you? Everyone is really looking forward to it," she said.

She agreed Shetland Heights Road was likely to be the main access for students coming from San Remo, but said the road had been an issue for students prior to the new campus.

"For many years, Shetland Heights and Potters Hill roads have been main thoroughfares for San Remo."

"As it stands, San Remo has very limited footpaths for children to ride or walk on at the best of times."

Rod McKenzie from Cowes Primary School said he expected around 60 per cent of students would be attending the new San Remo campus.

He believes the close proximity of the new campus will encourage more parents to send their children there.

"The new San Remo campus is going to be a fantastic facility," he said.

He acknowledged the location of the school, and the large number of new housing estates in San Remo would have a big impact on local traffic levels.

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Devastation for business Island internet woes continue

From page 1

"It's the third time they had planned a wedding, thinking they were safe and in the clear. "That's who we really feel sorry for, they've lost so much already."

She described the current lockdown as "pretty rough", with three of her air bnb bookings also cancelled, but said fortunately the community rallied behind them.

"The community support is the shining light in all of this," Katie said.

To try and use the excess stock from the wedding cancellation, Katie put a call out on social media and reopened bookings for Valentine's Day boxes.

"We got a great response. A lot of people placed orders that probably didn't originally have any intention of doing so."

The amazing response meant Katie was able to offer her staff member extra hours.

"We haven't even broken even for the weekend, but we're not throwing out a heap of food. "I'll take those small wins," she said.

Attractions and accommodation

Attractions and accommodation were also reeling with the news of the surprise lockdown. Immediately after the announcement, Phillip Island Nature Parks said its attractions would close for five days.

"We are contacting all ticket holders with bookings during that period to provide full refunds," the organisation posted on its Facebook page, thanking customers for their patience.

Accommodation providers were among the hardest hit by the disruption.

Jane O'Garey from First National in Cowes said on Friday visitors were arriving to book into accommodation, not even aware there was a lockdown.

She said others arrived after the lockdown had been announced, uncertain of whether



Neil Gillin who runs Rusty Water Brewery Restaurant and Bar, and Beach HQ restaurant said the lockdown had a significant financial impact on his business.

they had to turn around and head home again.

"Others came saying they'd prefer to be here in a five-day lockdown after spending months in Melbourne in lockdown," she said.

"There was quite a bit of confusion in advising visitors what they could and couldn't do, whether to turn them away or accept them."

One visitor who had a weekend booking asked whether it was possible to receive an additional three free days to avoid cancelling their booking.

"A friend was driving back from Melbourne on Friday as the lockdown was announced and she said she saw lots of cars on the side of the road on the way here obviously trying to decide what to do, continue coming or turn around."

Some positives from lockdown

Fledgling online florist business Florence & Co. Blooms is one of the few local businesses that didn't suffer through the lockdown.

In fact, owner Kate McKenzie thinks it may have worked in her favour.

"It actually helped me, I got extra orders that I might normally not have gotten."

Only launched late in 2020, this was Florence & Co's first Valentine's Day and its busiest weekend ever.

"Orders were probably double a normal week," Kate said.

As well as the traditional orders from couples, she said it was lovely to see others shar-

ing the love on Valentine's Day.

"I had daughters buying flowers for their mum, and one sending her parents flowers for their wedding anniversary."

In Newhaven, the Seaside Provider Café, said weekend business was good.

"We moved to takeaway mode in the first and second lockdown, so this time around we had everything ready to go," owner Simon Russell said.

"We did breakfast boxes and encouraged people to take their Valentine's breakfast home with them.

"And I think 10 bunches of flowers were gone within 25 minutes!

"Sunday was bigger than a normal weekend, it was a good day."

Like Graze to Plate and other island businesses, Simon was grateful for the support of the locals, and believes staying open throughout Covid last year had paid off for them.

"It's the local base that keeps coming back."



Handmade cookies delivered locally and shipped nationally islandcookiebox@hotmail.com



Kate McKenzie from online florist Florence & Co Blooms thinks the lockdown might have worked in her favour, with last weekend her busiest since launching in late 2020. Photo Lachlan Moore.

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The NBN is under fire from frustrated islanders, who joined a chorus of voices across the country complaining about the lack of service.

Over the summer holidays, residents claim they experienced internet speeds well below the promised level, with the internet regularly dropping out.

The first week of February was a low point, with residents from Cowes, San Remo, Wimbledon Heights and beyond losing their NBN connection completely.

In some cases, the internet was out for six days.

Others reported losing the internet connection due to faulty wiring at the node and waiting ten days or more for the problem to be fixed.

On February 5, NBN vehicles were spotted working in McHaffie Drive in Cowes.

Christina Patsias from NBN said around 3900 services in the region were impacted by an outage between February 6 and 9.

She said the outage was "due to a third party cable issue external to NBN" and it was resolved by the external network owner.

There were also two additional outages that affected a

small number of services.

"On February 4, four services were impacted by a cable cut, and on February 9, 18 services were impacted by a separate cable cut," she said.

No connection

Other residents are frustrated they can't be connected to the service at all, even though in some cases, houses in neighbouring streets were connected.

Earlier this month, Nicole Drysdale put a call out on the Phillip Island Community Noticeboard Facebook page, asking if anyone else on Phillip Island didn't have access to the NBN.

Residents of Shoalhaven Estate in Cowes said only some sections of the estate were able to connect, with others relying on mobile data or Nighthawk mobile modem.

"Nighthawk is useless when the island is busy," said one.

Jenny Lang, a resident of Rennison Road in Newhaven said they were unable to access the NBN and their Nighthawk mobile modem wasn't good "especially when the island is busy".

Ms Patsias defended the NBN service, saying residents

of Rennison Road could connect via satellite technology.

"It's important to note that some service providers may claim NBN is not available, that is not the case. It means they do not offer that service. The list of providers that offer a satellite connection can be found on the NBN website."

She also said residents in the Shoalhaven Estate are able to connect to the NBN via Fibre to the Node (FTTN), but there were "a small number of premises that will require additional works from an engineering perspective before they will be ready to connect to the new network".

"Therefore, it is not unusual for the majority of an area to become NBN ready, whilst works are being carried out to those remaining premises. This may be the case for some residents in the estate."

She said further investigations were only possible if address details of the specific homes were provided.

"The best thing for residents to do is to use the Check Your Address function on the NBN website to see the status at their individual property and for information on how they can connect.

Take the test

Everyone in the community is encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 to help contain the spread of the virus.

You should be tested if you display even the mildest Covid symptoms including: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss

of sense of smell or taste.

Everyone who is tested is required to self-isolate until test results are received. Waiting times for test results may take 2-3 days.

Cowes:

• Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. To avoid delays, the quickest time for testing will be before 8am and after 8pm.

Wonthaggi Hospital Drive Thru Clinic:

• 9am – 4pm daily.

You can also book a test with Wonthaggi Medical Group, Monday to Friday from 1pm – 5pm. Please book online or phone 0492 036 568.

People should phone their doctor or the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 if their symptoms get worse.



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For sale \$1,000,000 to \$1,100,000 15 Honeysuckle Grove, Silverleaves

The perfect home awaits, nestled in the quiet hamlet of Silverleaves is this large family home set over a single level. The north facing aspect is perfect for entertaining family and friends, with the living and dining area flowing to a protected outdoor entertaining area. Excellent access to the extremely safe north facing beach is another feature for all generations that cannot be replicated. The Silverleaves store and golf club are but minutes away.

IDEAL SETTING/LIFE STYLE



For sale \$770,000 to \$799,000 9 Vaughan Street, Cowes

This original beach house is located in the perfect setting, with excellent access to all Cowes has to offer. Set over two levels means plenty of room for family and friends. The north facing living area flows to a large out door deck which is ideal for entertaining. Let this quiet setting take the stress and trouble of this crazy year wash away, secure your personal sanctuary.

PERFECT HIDEAWAY/BEACH HOUSE



For sale \$639,000 55 Katherine Circuit, Cowes

Presented with a classic beachside style, features open living with hardwood flooring a well planned kitchen and sunny north facing deck for outdoor entertaining, everything about this home makes sharing it with family and friends effortless. The property is currently tenanted with a return of \$1517 per month. The property features 3 bedrooms, ensuite & WIR to Main, a second living area, reverse cycle heating cooling and within walking distance to Cowes shopping centre.

FAMILY AND ENTERTAINING



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National Love Your Pet Day

Feb 20



A boy and his dog. Ned and Marcy Lees' son with his Brittany Spaniel, Indie. "We love her because she is a whole lotta love wrapped up in a gorgeous parcel," they said.



"My gorgeous dog Billy, smiling for the camera in his Christmas outfit," said proud owner Anne Smith.



Nicole said her son Ari and their Airedale terrier Diggarty Dot are great mates. "She loves the beach, being walked and digging holes."

One stop pet feed shop

Whatever you need, for creatures great and small, Bass Coast Stock Feeds and Pet Barn in Grantville is the place to go.

Colin Kelly and his staff have local knowledge and provide expert advice on all your pet needs, from chooks and birds through to horses and cattle.

"It doesn't matter what sort of pet you have, or whether you've got one pet or 50, we pride ourselves on having a bit of everything, for everyone," Colin said.

That includes feed, pet accessories and toys.

And if an animal is what you need, they can also help, selling ducks, turkeys, chooks, quails, budgies, and guinea pigs.

"I can confidently say we're the only place in Bass Coast that starts with the animals and deals with every facet," said Colin.

Food supplies

A healthy animal starts with good food, and the store specialises in high quality feed for pets of all sizes.

With over 30 years' experience in farming and rural merchandise, Colin is an expert on cattle and horse feed and the store stocks chaff and hay - 90 per cent is grown by Colin himself.

"We've got good local knowledge and an understanding of what people deal with here," he said.

Other pets are well catered for too, with stocks of the leading brands.

"We supply a range of quality Australian cat and dog feed, including Lifewise," Colin explained.

Other brands include Supercoat, Ivory Coat and Black Hawk.

"Between now and the end of March, if you purchase any of the Supercoat products from us, you go into the draw to win a new Isuzu ute, or one of ten \$100 gift cards."

A good diet for your dog is important said Colin.

"The biggest thing we find with dogs is people buy cheaper food from the supermarket and as they get older, they develop skin and stomach problems and end up at the vets.

"We try and get people to keep their dogs on good food from the start. The cheaper food is full of fillers.

"A more expensive brand isn't always more costly, as you need less feed, because it contains more protein."

Food and supplies for birds, fish and reptiles are also in stock.

Colin said he and store manager Simone are happy to talk to customers about their needs and provide advice.

"What we don't have, we can order in and we're happy to get in the stuff that people need.

"We're fully independent and family owned, so what we stock isn't dictated by some big corporation.

"What's in the store is what our customers need."

Chooks, ducks and turkeys

The store also sells a range of pets and backyard poultry, which proved particularly popular during last year's lockdown.

"We sold over 1000 chooks, mainly in two's and three's, for people who wanted backyard chickens," Colin said.

The chickens are locally bred or sourced from open ranged farms and are great for backyard purposes.

The store also sells animal cages and chook feed and can tell you all you need to know on how to look after your chickens.

To find out more, visit the Facebook page or drop in for a visit.

"We might look small, but we're big on the inside," said Colin.

Bass Coast Stock Feeds & Pet Barn is located just off the Bass Highway, at 1 Grantville Drive and deliver to Phillip Island.



Colin Kelly and Simone Gracey from Bass Coast Stock Feeds & Pet Barn can provide expert advice and quality products for all your pet needs, large or small.

Stockfeed and pet supplies for all animals in Bass Coast

Whether it be your chook, horse, cattle, dog, rabbit or cat we can help!



Bass Coast Stock Feeds



Factory 1, Grantville Drive, Grantville
Phone 5678 8933

HM7563



Rhonda's son Bailey with his new groodle puppy Ruby. "Ruby is Bailey's wish from the starlight foundation," she said.



Our new Island Ward councillor Ronnie Bauer enjoying a post-Christmas lunch nap with his dog Hirdy.



Phil Slater and Hamish – a British Blue cat – get comfortable on the couch. "Hamish is filled a big gap in our lives as Molly our 14-year-old golden retriever-cross passed away mid last year," said Phil.



Indo, the English Staffordshire and his baby sister Shakirra. "He loves to play, sleep and be with his sister all day long if he can," said mum Zita Waser. "We're so lucky to have him in our life, such a loving and loyal companion."



For two years, Island Paw Prints pet photography has worked with animal rescue groups. Serra with "The Island 11" born in rescue last week. Photo Island Paw Prints.

Paws for thought

Island Paw Prints pet photography have been working with animal rescue groups for over two years now.

"In that time we've met some amazing people, been moved by every single animal's story, and been shocked to the core by some heartbreaking abuse," said photographer and animal lover Serra Clisby.

Currently dog rescues are run off their feet.

"The boom in dog rescues during the Covid lockdown has resulted in an influx of dogs surrendered once people have gone back to work," Serra explained.

"We are proud to volunteer our photography services to help out any animal to find their forever home.

"To date we have helped re-home 65 local pets."

If you would also like to help out rescue dogs in need there are several things you can do.

Adopt: you can adopt a dog that needs a new home.

If you can't adopt, you can foster. If you can't foster, you can donate.



Tida the staffy cross working Valentine's Day to hopefully find her forever home. Photo Island Paw Prints.

If you can't donate you can share posts on social media so the rescues reach a wider audience.

"There is something to do for everyone in animal rescue and with your help, we can make it just that little bit easier," Serra said.

If you'd like to make a donation to Starting Over Dog Rescue: Commonwealth Bank. BSB 063-184. Account 1037 3408.

Newhaven spa project underway

Construction of a \$10 million hot springs spa project at Newhaven has started ahead of a February 2022 opening.

The foundations for stage one of the project – at The Cape Kitchen, 1215 Phillip Island Road – have already been poured for a new additional restaurant, reception and apothecary room, which will sell their own skincare range.

There will also be 15 outdoor bathing pools, ranging in size from small ankle-deep podiatry wading areas through to relaxation pools able to sit 10 people.

Last year an application to construct a 900m bore was given the green light, which will extract 20 megalitres of groundwater to supply the pools with 38C aquifer mineral-rich water from under the 130-acre property.

According to brand manager Tom Lade, further stages of the project – to be rolled out in later years – will include up to 30 more bathing pools, treatment rooms for massages and varying wellness treatments.

"There's no timeline for the following stages. We'll gauge feedback from stage one and then lock in further development over the next five to 10 years," Tom said.

He said owners of The Cape Kitchen Jodie and Mark Vogt had yet to decide on a name for the project, with a website Saltwater Springs and a Facebook site Phillip Island Hot Springs.

"We're weighing up our options. We will lock it in by the middle of this year."

Tom said they expect up to 500 people per day to visit the new attraction at the peak holidays periods and were in discussions with Regional Roads Victoria on creating safe exit and entry to the property.

A car park is also under construction, while about 10,000 indigenous trees and shrubs will be planted across the site.

Tom said alongside construction of foundation slabs for the project, they also have one pod onsite, designed by Kilcunda landscape architect Karl Russo.

"It's a prototype with 10 in total planned for the hot springs and another two at Cape Kitchen.

"The pods are like a cabana experience, where people can have a private area for

shade and we're currently using the prototype for pop up picnics and private dining."

There will be no change to The Cape Kitchen, while the new additional restaurant will face north closer to the hot springs and feature a menu inspired by healthy, clean eating and local produce.

The skincare range will use minerals from the aquifer and local botanicals.

The website describes the project as "inspired by nature and the healing powers of the ocean".

Planning

Planning permits for a bathing and wellness project went before Bass Coast Shire planners in November 2015, where they were met with objections by a neighbouring property.

Those plans were for 45 bathing pools of varying sizes, day spa, treatment rooms within a landscaped setting.

Southern Rural Water last year confirmed the proposed bore would be about 900 metres deep and was from an aquifer deeper than used in agricultural bores.

The water will come from an "unincorporated groundwater management area" which means there is no limit on how much water can be extracted from the aquifer.

A local water management engineer said in a farming context, 20 megalitres of water is considered a "relatively small" volume of water, the equivalent of about 20 Olympic swimming pools.

Brand

Tom is a new addition to The Cape Kitchen team, joining as brand manager in the past five months.

He first started working for Mark and Jodie 15 years ago when they owned the Century Inn in Traralgon.

Since then he has worked overseas and for the Southern Ocean Lodge in Kangaroo Island, Lake House Daylesford, and most recently Longitude 131 at Uluru.

"I lost that role in Covid and when Jodie heard I wasn't working they offered me this role," said Tom, who is living in Cape Woolamai.

www.saltwatersprings.com.au/



The Cape Kitchen extensions include a new additional restaurant, reception and apothecary room selling their own skincare range. There will also be 15 outdoor bathing pools, ranging in size from small ankle-deep podiatry wading areas through to relaxation pools able to sit 10 people.



The foundations for stage one of the project have already been poured for a new additional restaurant, reception and apothecary room.

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FEB 19 - FEB 28



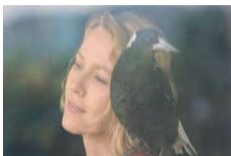
The Dry MA15+
Fri 19 7:00pm
Sat 27 4:00pm
Sun 28 10:00am



Promising Young Woman MA15+
Final screening
Sat 27 7:00pm
Sun 28 1:00pm



Dragon Rider PG
Final screening
Fri 19 4:00pm



Penguin Bloom PG
Fri 26 7:00pm
Sat 27 1:00pm
Sun 28 7:00pm



High Ground MA15+
Fri 5 7:00pm
Sat 6 10:00am
Sun 7 4:00pm



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Fri 5 7:00pm
Sat 6 10:00am
Sun 7 4:00pm



Pixie MA15+
Sat 6 7:00pm
Sun 7 1:00pm
Sat 13 7:00pm



Girls Can't Surf M
Tue 9 7:00pm
Sat 13 7:00pm

LIVE ON STAGE

Coastal Connections



Saturday 20 February

Celebrating our Love of Blue and Green Places The Coastal Connections Concert is launching seven short films about community members' special places in the natural world. Local musicians have composed soundtracks for the films and will perform excerpts from their compositions.

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THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news

Island local nominated for Young Achiever Award

Islander Sophie Winter has been nominated for the 2021 Young Achiever Award in the digital Online Achievement Award category.

Sophie (26) lives on Phillip Island and is an experienced digital marketing specialist with a strong passion for conservation.

In the last six years, she has started her own digital business, been the editor of a sustainable fashion magazine, volunteered for multiple charities and worked across Europe and Asia.

In her current role as Phillip Island Nature Parks Digital Marketing and PR Executive, she was instrumental in coordinating the wildly successful Live Penguin TV streaming project.

She hopes to coordinate more live streaming experiences for the Nature Parks.

Outside of the office, Sophie is the Vice President of Plastic Free Phillip Island and San Remo and shares her commitment to sustainability with the local community.

After studying a degree in journalism and communications at the



Phillip Island local Sophie Winter has been nominated for the 2021 Young Achiever of the Year Award.

Queensland University of Technology between 2012 and 2015, she has been working in the digital marketing industry ever since.

But its not all about work.

"I find enjoyment from playing the guitar, scribbling on sketch

pads, tending to my herbs and apple trees and writing," Sophie said.

"It is often in these moments when the most innovative ideas come to me."

She said working in the digital

and online landscape provides so much scope and the list of things possible online continues to grow.

"I am fascinated by the meteoric rise of technology and the immense amount of power the online world holds," she said.

"In just 38 years since the birth of the internet, we have experienced one transformative innovation after the next."

The Young Achiever Award winners will be announced at a Gala Presentation Dinner on April 16.

Category Winners will each receive \$2,000 worth of prizes as well as a trophy. One of the category winners will also be named the 2021 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year and receive a state trophy.

The Young Achiever Awards began in 2012 with the purpose to acknowledge, encourage and promote the positive achievements of young people. The awards showcase the achievements of young Victorians, and pays tribute to their vision, innovation and commitment to contributing to their community.

A Walk for Bridgy

Mad Cowes Cafe and LionessFit have teamed up to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation, organising an event on the George Bass Walk on February 28.

Kellie from LionessFit said they hoped to bring awareness to and help support those affected by Leukaemia, in support of Phillip Islander Ian Bridge.

We have named our fundraiser "A Walk for Bridgy," she said.

"Ian is currently fighting this terrible cancer but we are doing it for everyone who is, has or will go through this terrible disease."

She said she hoped the walk would raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation and bring it to the attention of the community.

Already the community has rallied behind the walk and the team has raised over \$4000, but they're hoping that tally continues to grow between now and February 28.

There are two ways you can help this great cause.

Join Mad Cowes Café, Kellie and the LionessFit team on the George Bass Walk at 8am on Sunday, February 28, and encourage friends and family to sponsor you. Sign up at www.lionessfit.com.au/walkforbridgy

Or you can support the walkers and the cause by donating at fundraise.leukaemia.org.au/fundraiser/AWalk4Bridgy

100 per cent of all donations go to The Leukaemia Foundation.

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Year 9 student leaders from Wonthaggi Secondary College were the proud recipients of new flags for the school, presented by the Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale. Having personally written to Ms Crugnale to request replacement flags, this was their first official duty. From left to right: Zac Mabilia, Asha McMahon, Sienna Tiziani, Olivia Bramley, Baia Pugh and Jaxon Foon.

New grants to help Bass Coast women

A new grant program run by local group Women for Change aims to help Bass Coast women and girls better connect to their community and build resilience.

The group is calling for applications from local organisations who have ideas on how they can help local women and girls improve their wellbeing.

The grant program is the first major initiative of the Women for Change group, which commenced last year with donations from local women, who aim to use their collective resources to help other local women make positive life changes or take a step toward greater well-being.

Carol Blair, Women for Change convenor said the grant program was an important start to the group's work on addressing the inequalities some women face in the region.

"We know that by investing in women, flow on effects result in facilities, communities and the environment. By reducing the inequalities women face in our community, we are also strengthening our community more broadly," Carol said.

"There are so many wonderful community organisations doing great work in our region – we want to help them increase the work they do to benefit local women."

Grant applications are being invited from programs across the Bass Coast that:

- encourage women and girls to increase



Carol Blair, Women for Change convenor said the new grant program was an important start to address the inequalities some women face in the region.

their participation in community activities and lifelong learning;

- build resilience and connect vulnerable women and girls to services or activities; and/or
- promote collaboration with service providers to address issues affecting women in our community.

Women for Change is auspiced by the Bass Coast Community Foundation.

Full details and an application form for the grants program can be found at www.bccf.org.au/news

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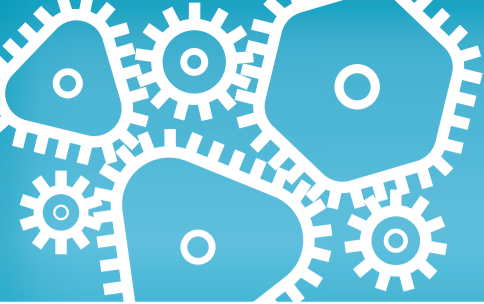
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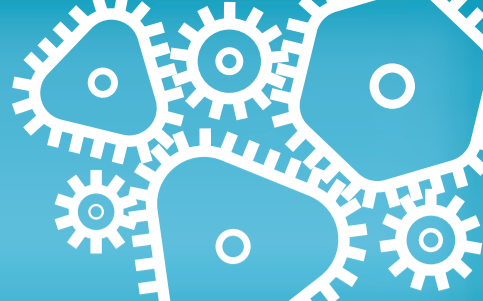
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Do nothing approach

Further to Chris Day’s Gridlock at San Remo (Advertiser, February 3), We moved to San Remo in August last year into Panorama Drive.

In November last I wrote to Council asking their intentions, by all they considered a footpath in the near future for Panorama Drive.

I pointed out that with several major domestic developments on the go, Panorama Drive was the main thoroughfare into these developments by all the tradespersons and suppliers and vehicles. I also pointed out that I was not against progress in any way, In fact I was all for it.

My reason for the correspondence to Council was that each day we walk, and we walk towards oncoming traffic on the road and the road is too narrow for two cars to pass us together.

Whilst I received a reply, seven paragraphs, my only answer other than a thank you, was quote “Will include your request in the long term pathways program for consideration” unquote.

I get the impression now that Chris Day’s “Do Nothing-No Money” approach was where my letter went to.

Michael Quinn, San Remo

Bass Coast Shire a disappointment

I read the letter written by Rob Chandler of Surf Beach with some interest. I totally agree with his comments. My wife and I have owned our house at Ventnor for around 35 years. Our kids grew up there and now our grandchildren regularly visit and absolutely love the place. We work and live in Wantirna, but come down to Phillip Island at every opportunity. We fitted out the house and over the years purchased building materials, plants, food, drinks, fuel, even new win-

dows – preferring to spend our money with local suppliers.

We’ve eaten at many local restaurants and cafes. When the pandemic hit, we were not allowed to travel and were effectively barred from going to our own house. All the time we could not come to the island, Bass Coast Shire were still pulling in rates money, despite the fact we got absolutely nothing for it for around seven months.

When the opportunity arose in November 2020, Bass Coast Shire deemed travel to our property was not essential for fire safety.

So we were still barred from coming down. But still they collected their rates money.

After having our house at PI for over 35 years, we consider ourselves “Islanders” even if we don’t live there full time.

But the support we have had from Bass Coast Shire is basically zero, which is pretty much what I have come to expect from them. Over the years I have contacted councillors with various issues or complaints and we have never received any support or assistance.

I think after the lack of support we got from BCS over the last year, we’re entitled to some compensation in the form of rate reductions or rebates to pay us back for not being able to access our own property and that we had absolutely no use out of any services provided like waste collection.

I’m hopeful of eventually retiring down to Phillip Island, but the way we get treated by BCS we might as well move to Tasmania.

Henry Rokx, Ventnor

Lock up your cats

I live halfway down Walton Street in Cowes. Imagine my horror, early morning, looking out my bedroom window to see a large grey domestic

cat, with white face, feasting on a possum! He ran away when he saw me and left the headless corpse for me to clear up!

Is there not a night time curfew on domestic cats, as they are a danger to all native wild life? If not, I believe there should be! Owners please be vigilant and please, keep your cat indoors.

Lynne Pritchard, Cowes

Compassion please

Several mornings a week when I drive/walk past the San Remo Medical Clinic around 8.30am, I witness patients, many elderly, standing outside waiting for the Clinic to open so they can ‘take a number’ for blood tests.

If they wait in a vehicle they lose their position in the queue. There is a bench seat out on the footpath open to all weather and in these Covid times only two people could use it.

It really bothers me to see so many waiting for so long and I fail to understand why a bench seat couldn’t be built between the Pharmacy and the Medical Centre under the shelter of the eaves.

I have spoken to the owners of these buildings who tell me that it is up to the Medical Centre and they in turn told me it is up to Clinical Labs as they rent the rooms for the blood testing.

When asking at reception why a few chairs couldn’t be put outside each morning, I was told that they would be a trip hazard.

That is why I suggest a built-in bench seat be made available for the elderly some of which I know either have Parkinsons or other issues with standing for a long time.

Let’s see some compassion please! Do patients really need to take their own fold up chairs with them to appointments?

Sandra Thorley, San Remo

Motel objections

About 20 Cowes residents have objected to the redevelopment of a Church Street motel, with Bass Coast Shire councillors set to vote on the proposal today (February 17).

The motel on the corner of Church Street and Justice Road in Cowes is one of Phillip Island’s most famous, once accommodating Hollywood stars Fred Astaire, Ava Gardner and Gregory Peck.

Previously known as the Sunseeker and later called the Hollywood Hotel current owners are proposing a million-dollar facelift, to expand the current 24-room site.

The permit – for the site zoned residential – is seeking to construct an additional seven modules of 28 rooms (adding to the existing 24 units), and a 396 square metre function centre for 100 guests; as well as seeking a liquor licence and the removal of most of the historic cypress trees that fringe the property.

There will be two car parking areas, and the development will create a total of 28 spaces; but it is seeking a reduction in the standard car parking requirement of 15 spaces for the function centre.

Motel owners last year took the shire to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for failure to make a decision on the application within the legal timeframe.

VCAT mediation was held on December 15 last year with five objectors, with a hearing scheduled for April 8, 9 and 12 this year.

Shire planners recommend councillors reject the proposal because it is an overdevelopment of the site and the reduced car parking puts an “unacceptable burden on neighbouring streets”.

Pseudo pub

About 18 surrounding neighbours have lodged objections, arguing the proposal is an overdevelopment, with insufficient parking and increased traffic in a residentially zoned area so close to homes, with noise detrimental to a “quiet and peaceful” area of Cowes.

Many submitters said they



Current owners are seeking to develop the site of this Church Street motel and remove most of the cypress trees that fringe the property.

supported a “modest redevelopment” of the site and welcomed an overhaul of the deteriorating building, acknowledging the historical property and “the important role it has played over the years in the progress and notoriety of Phillip Island”.

However submitters objected because “we dispute the proposal’s assertions that there is sufficient on-street parking to facilitate overflow of guests parking both on Church Street and Justice Road”.

With Justice Road “narrow with no kerbing and open drainage, soft soil and no footpaths”, residents fear the overflow of cars will spill on to the Church Street side of the motel “in front of owner-occupied homes”, they said.

One submitter said the planning application underestimated the parking needs, failing to take into account the current 24 existing rooms which, when combined with the proposed 28 new rooms, would make a “true need of 52 parking spaces”, not including staff and extra guests.

“We see a significant deficit in actual parking required to support the development,” they said.

The submitter had several other objections including to the liquor licence, concerned the motel could operate as a “pseudo pub and bottle shop”.

One objector said their elderly mother lived near to the motel and was “extremely nervous and anxious” about the proposed plan.

“With alcohol being served she is worried about the level of intoxicated people leaving the

premises after functions,” the submission said, adding concerns about increased traffic.

“It’s a residential area with many elderly homeowners that should not have a commercial function centre so close.”

Cypress trees

The motel hosted stars such as Ava Gardner, Anthony Perkins and Donna Anderson in 1959 while they filmed On The Beach.

According to the planning permit application, the redevelopment price tag is \$850,000.

“The rate of parking provided is not anticipated to result in any unreasonable impacts upon the existing on-street parking stock,” the planning permit states.

In the planning permit, developers say the works “will not have any unreasonable impact upon the amenity of residential areas to the south, north or west”.

The permit seeks to remove 14 historic trees, which would have been planted long before Hollywood came to Cowes, mostly along the property fronting Justice Road.

An arborists’ report states the trees are in poor structural health and pose “considerable risk to people and property”.

The Church Street property has a vegetation protection overlay, which protects the trees, but also comes under the controversial Black Saturday 10/30 bushfire rule.

There is a home currently under construction in the south east corner of the property, but this is not part of the development application.

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Young Isaac had his surf stance mastered. "It was so rewarding looking at the children's faces as they improved throughout the session," said Principal Catherine Blackford.



Angelo was up and riding the waves at the surf school for Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Surfing OLSS style

It was a perfect day when students from Our Lady Star of the Sea paddled out for their February surfing program.

Students from years one to six took part. "The temperature was perfect and waves were just right," said Principal Catherine Blackford.

"The students were divided into two groups and each group had a two-hour lesson which included safety information, surfing skills practice on the beach and a great time using these skills in the water."

There were plenty of eager helpers as well as coaches in the surf.

"I think the staff had as much fun as the students," Ms Blackford said.

"It was so rewarding looking at the children's faces as they improved throughout the session and to see how they improve with each lesson."

In December all the students, from Foundation to Year six will be able to try their skills when the school again ventures down to Smiths Beach to show its surfing style.



Our Lady Star of the Sea students and staff loved their surfing program, which included students from years one to six.

Euchre results

Women's winner: Mary O'Brien – wins 5.
Men's winner: Laurie Petrusch – wins 6.
Encouragement Award: Lyn Gray – wins 2.
We welcome any new members to join our club.

Tables are booked at the RSL on Thursday night, for anyone wanting to have dinner with other players before the games.

Great opportunity to socialise and get to know everyone.

Games start at 7.30pm sharp.

Please contact Bob Hee on 0419 594 583 for any other queries you may have.

Sigh of relief from Channel Challenge organisers

The Channel Challenge organising committee were breathing a sigh of relief last Friday, when the state went into a five-day lockdown.

Back in January, the committee decided to cancel the popular event, due to Covid-restrictions and at the time noted if they went ahead, there was a real risk the event could have to be cancelled/postponed with less than 24 hours' notice," said Ron Nicholson, a spokesperson for the committee.

"Just imagine how we would be feeling right now with \$10,000 worth of printed t-shirts sitting in the upstairs area of the San Remo Hotel and preparations well advanced for 500 – 600 competitors to hit the water tomorrow and the news came out that the event has to be cancelled/postponed with less than 24 hours' notice," said Ron Nicholson, a spokesperson for the committee.

"Well done to those who argued for the deferment of the event until 2022 – your fears about the risk factor have proven to be well founded." Unfortunately the lockdown meant the substitute dinner planned for Saturday February 13 at the San Remo Hotel couldn't go ahead.

Sixty-five life members and legends of the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club were getting together for an event that was also a "soft launch" for Graeme Clausen's new book on the history of the club, "Wild about Wooli" (see separate story).



In early January, the Channel Challenge organising committee made the extremely difficult decision to cancel this year's event, citing Covid restrictions and the risk of the event being cancelled at the last minute.

"That would have been quite a reunion," said Ron.

"However this very sudden lockdown of the entire State will impact some people in a far more serious manner than us and I can't help but feel very sorry for those people who had weddings scheduled for tomorrow – this would be devastating for them.

"We can now thank our lucky stars and focus on putting on a great series of events in 2022 and hoping that the year off creates a real appetite to reinvigorate our iconic Channel Challenge event for many years to come."

Cricket: Baby Blues take on Bass

Under 12s

After a couple of wet Friday nights, it was the Under 12 Blue Sharks first real game as team since we split into two sides.

We made our way over the bridge to play local rivals Bass. With a full side available and keen for a good game of cricket we were led out by a much-improved cricketer in Bud Marshall. He has had his speech prepared for a couple of weeks and it certainly had the team ready to go with his wise words.

The Blues were sent into bowl and Sunny Williams was given the job of unwrapping the brand-new ball and bowling the first over which he did without hesitation! All the boys bowled really well with some stand out bowling from Cub Cantwell, Arch Williams and Ryan Hughes.

The standard of fielding since the Christ-

mas break has been a real highlight both at games and at training. There were some exceptional efforts from Jax Marshall, Koby Vanberlo and Bud Marshall returning the ball to our number one keeper in Zac Hughes in great style which had the Bass boys double guessing their running between wickets.

After the 20 overs it was our turn to bat and with some big hitting and finding the gaps we were ticking over the score board nicely. Some great partnerships were formed which isn't easy when only batting for four overs per pair. Batsmen Jye Larcombe, Ethan Tilly and Zac Hughes showed their skill and endeavour throughout their innings.

Fingers crossed we get back out and playing next Friday in our second last game for the year!

Go Blue Baby Sharks!



Winners of midweek bowls played at Lang Lang were Michael Dady (S), Greg Wood (3) and Graham Woolstencroft (L)

Midweek bowls results

This week's winners were Michael Dady, Greg Wood and Graham Woolstencroft.

Runners up were Sean McWilliams and Elaine Williams.

On Game winners were Peter McWilliams, Sue Wood, Pauline McWilliams, Wayne Stevenson and Dennis Talbot.

Midweek bowls was played at Lang Lang with 28 happy bowlers on a very warm and humid day.

Still, it did not curb the enthusiasm of our bowlers and good humour could be heard from all rinks and plenty of laughter and the green was running true.

Thank you once again to our member Jimmy Nunan who contributed to the Royal Children's Hospital fund with his wrong biases.

Twelve ends were played before lunch and as the mercury was rising in the afternoon the organisers decided to cut the last game to ten ends.

This was greatly appreciated, and we all looked forward to a cold drink at the end of the game.

Thanks to Alan for supplying us with a much-needed beverage and a smile and also the members who helped in the kitchen.

As usual there was some high scores and very good bowling.



Best One Game winners were Pauline McWilliams (2), Wayne Stevens (L), Peter McWilliams (S) and Sue Wood (3).



Sean McWilliams (3), Denis Talbot (S) and Elaine Williams (L) were the runners up of midweek bowls.

Thank you to the members who brought in fresh produce for our free raffle table, it was much appreciated.

Next week we will play at Corinella, 10am at venue for a 10.30 start, BYO lunch. Two games of twelve ends.

For more information or to register please contact Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974.

Everyone welcome, so come along for a great day of bowling and good company.

See you on the Green.

Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, February 9, Men's 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Phil Foster H/c (22) with 41 points from Allen Sherlock H/c (17) with 40 points.

Men's, 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Ian Bray H/c (29) with 17 points on a countback from Basil Moloney H/c (14) also with 17 points.

Wednesday February 10, Ladies 18 Hole Par: Winner was Kathleen Ridley H/c (45) with +6 points from Glenda Longshaw H/c (29) with +4 points.

Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Jane Sellenger H/c (45) with 16 points from Lyn Dunne H/c (45) with 15 points.

Winners of Round 1 of the Walton Singles Handicap Matchplay Knockout: Vicki Roff-Smith, Lorraine Hammon, Megan Havers, Margaret Frith, Pam Rothfield, Kim Rippon-King, Liz Gleeson and Liz O'Neill.

Thursday February 11, Men's and Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Shane Palmer H/c (20) with 45 points from John Maglica H/c (25) with 42 points.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Peter Matthews H/c (30) with 21 points from Len Fenton H/c (18) with 19 points.

Saturday February 13 – No Golf due to COVID-19 Shutdown.

Due to the COVID-19 shutdown members will be notified with regard to golf competition recommencement dates.

PHILLIP ISLAND MARINE

NEW & USED BOAT SALES

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point
Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31

HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BOLD

Wed 17	5.45am 2.86m	11.36am 0.61m	6.07pm 2.71m	11.45pm 0.74m
Thu 18	6.14am 2.81m	12.09pm 0.56m	6.43pm 2.71m	
Fri 19	12.20am 0.82m	6.39am 2.75m	12.40pm 0.52m	7.17pm 2.70m
Sat 20	12.53am 0.90m	7.05am 2.70m	1.11pm 0.51m	7.53pm 2.68m
Sun 21	1.27am 0.99m	7.33am 2.63m	1.42pm 0.53m	8.31pm 2.64m
Mon 22	2.02am 1.10m	8.05am 2.55m	2.15pm 0.58m	9.14pm 2.58m
Tue 23	2.42am 1.21m	8.42am 2.45m	2.52pm 0.64m	10.04pm 2.52m

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It has to be the 70s! In the Mini Moke are (rear) Andrew Humphreys and Lindsay Shaw and (front) Ron Hay and Rick O'Shea. The Moke was hired to get the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club team around the Gold Coast during the 1974 Aussie Championships.

Wild about Wooli

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club life member Graeme Clauscen has put together a book chronicling the club's 50-year history.

"Wild about Wooli" includes personal recollections as well as club statistics, from its foundation in 1959 through to 2009.

The impetus for the book came from the celebrations of the Club's 50th back in 2009.

As the club's historian and archivist, Graeme had put together massive scrapbooks including posters, photos, club memorabilia and news clipping. These were put on display over the weekend of the 50-years celebration.

"People loved going through the books and seeing themselves, 10-15-20 years ago," Graeme said.

Inspired by the interest, he then started compiling club statistics, including all the office bearers (and the years served), Gold, Silver and Bronze medallion awards, Channel Challenge results and a list of every member over the 50 years.

The book also includes stories and memories from some club members and a decade by decade run down of the first 50 years.

There's a section dedicated to significant events in the club's history, including the three club-house openings, forming the first female bronze squad in Victoria in 1980, and the car park fire, where 40 cars were lost.

Other events include the start of the Channel Challenge and winning the Victorian and Australian Surf Life Saving Club of the Year in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

For those on the outside looking in, the book provides a fascinating insight into the evolution of surf life saving itself, as well as the club.

"It does give a good snapshot of



A proud club March Past team at a Woolamai Carnival. Members (from left to right) are John Ogden, Lindsay Shaw, Gordon Holdsworth, Mike Reed, Alan Plum, Jack Cross, Ron Hay, Rick O'Shea, Trevor Clauscen and John Thomson.



The club was in its infancy in the 1960s, but while membership numbers might have been small – the boards were huge! Club members Trevor Clauscen (left) and Chris Beddows (right), at Woolamai.

how lifesaving has evolved over the years," Graeme said, noting that Woolamai was one of the first clubs to use a new technique – mouth to mouth resuscitation – in its first summer of operation.

It was also one of the first surf clubs to offer learn to swim classes to local children, when it launched the Penguins program (now known as The Nippers) in 1963.

Now that the book has finally been published, Graeme's a little stunned by the final product.

"I never thought it would be so good," he admitted.

"Now people are reading it and I'm getting feedback, I realise what I have achieved."

Having worked on the book for decades "between working, running a business and living a life", he said there's both a sense of relief and a sense of pride in the achievement.

But he's quick to give credit to a loyal band of people who helped him achieve the final outcome.

"Lyn Young worked with me on all the original assembly, and with her computer put the whole thing together," Graeme said.

"Denni and the team at Print it Fast in San Remo did the design work."

The book was printed at Lithocraft – a company owned by another club life member, who also persuaded the paper supplier and binder to offer a generous discount rate for the project.

"Wild at Woolamai" is on sale for \$50 and all proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club for the upkeep of its history and archives.

Order forms are available by emailing gcsanremo@bigpond.com or calling 0412 789 499. Available for pick up, or \$15 postage.

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