

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

\$1.40 Incl. GST



First day! School's back for 2021

Vera Wiseman and Phoebe Leitch got straight into the classroom spirit in their first day of Prep at Cowes Primary School. We share all the joy, excitement and trepidation of the start of school, on pages 6, 11 and 16.

Praise for local life savers during dangerous season

The dedication and hard work of Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club has kept beach goers safe, as Victoria recorded its worst drowning year on record.

Royal Life Saving Australia said as of January 29, 17 people have drowned in Victoria this summer, accounting for 27 per cent of the national toll.

Sixty-two people have drowned in Australia this summer.

The record numbers of holiday makers on the island translated to

record numbers on the beach and the local season got off to a tragic start when a young woman drowned at Smiths Beach on November 29.

While that remains the only fatality on Phillip Island beaches this season, between the end of November and January 10, the surf life saving club volunteers undertook 2759 preventative actions – ranging from directing people to swim between the flags, closing the beach due to dangerous conditions or displaying dangerous current signs.

Their dedication and hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Ron Nicholson, a Life Member and former club president said the club leaders have been “under the pump” this season.

“There has been a lot of action on the beaches over the last six weeks, which has brought us all back to realising what a valuable service this club is providing to the local and visiting community.”

Brian “Reggie” Whittaker, another life member and former president

said he had recently visited both Cape Woolamai and Smiths Beach Rescue Tower and was impressed by the team and their dedication.

“What a wonderful team of members/lifeguards we have on duty across the island,” he said.

During the visit to Smiths Beach, he said the lifeguards were called on to perform two rescues, as swimmers strayed from between the flags and got caught in a rip.

“I have said it before and pleased to say it again – Woolamai is a great

club and what makes it great is the members.”

Another member said during a family visit to Woolamai, they saw the volunteers perform a “mass rescue” after about 10 swimmers got dragged out.

“The flags came straight down, three tube swimmers hit the water alongside two paddle boards and the IRB was launched.”

The IRB was joined by the new Rescue Jet Skis.

Continued page 7

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15 30	20 26	17 25	15 23	14 21	16 20	17 23

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



Cr Ronnie Bauer
for the Island Ward,
Bass Coast Shire

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922

Tel: 0439 535 282

email: Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Authorised by Ronnie Bauer, PO Box 996, Cowes 3922

Keep an eye on the sky

Drivers and pedestrians were lucky to escape unscathed when one of Thompson Avenue's much-loved cypress trees dropped a large branch last week in fine weather.

The tree, outside the Cowes post office, is a notorious limb-dropper and Phillip Island SES spokesman Alan O'Connor said trees could "unexpectedly" drop branches even in calm weather conditions, especially if they've been stressed during storm events.

He advised to avoid parking under the trees if possible.

"But we understand it's not always convenient to do that in Cowes main streets," Alan said.



Ross River virus at Surf Beach

A carpenter from Surf Beach has joined the ranks of Phillip Islanders who have tested positive to the Ross River virus.

He joins Glenn Heil from Wimbleton Heights and two men from Cape Woolamai who confirmed they've been diagnosed, with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) advising there were nine confirmed cases in the shire.

Bass Coast Shire Council and Bass Coast Health were both unaware of the outbreak until contacted by the Advertiser.

Thirty-two-year-old Nick Bateman from Surf Beach said his symptoms appeared a fortnight before Christmas, but initially he thought they were caused by a work injury.

"I cut my finger at work and I thought it was infected and septic arthritis had set in.

"After five days, I couldn't walk, my ankles were all swollen. My toes, my fingers, my wrists, my knees... all swollen."

He went to the Health Hub in Cowes, and like the other islanders the Advertiser spoke to (see January 28 edition), Ross River virus wasn't considered as a possible cause for his symptoms.

This is despite DHHS issu-

ing a Ross River virus health warning for Gippsland and other areas of the state in early November.

"They gave me a blood test, but didn't test for Ross River," Nick said.

Despite being in "so much pain", he was sent home without any medication.

"I've only lived here for about eight months, so I went back to my normal doctor on the Peninsula," said Nick.

"I had a blood test there for Ross River virus."

His doctor prescribed a course of steroids and "that's the only thing that keeps me working", Nick said.

"If I stop taking them, I can't work."

Nearly six weeks after his symptoms first appeared, Nick said they are still strong.

"If I don't take the steroids, the symptoms flare up again."

With his course of steroids about to run out, Nick said he'll have to rely on Panadol and fish oil to manage the symptoms.

"I still go surfing, but it's a struggle. Every joint hurts."

Nick believes he was probably bitten somewhere on Phillip Island.

"I have no memory of being

bitten, but there's always mosquitoes at the back door of the house when I feed the dog at night."

Like Glenn Heil, Nick believes more should have been done to warn the community of the danger.

"If there was a warning, I would have put RID on if I was outside at night."

Previously, a DHHS spokesperson told the Advertiser that Ross River virus can occur in most parts of Victoria.

"A Chief Health Officer advisory was issued to alert the community in the south west of Victoria to take personal measures to avoid mosquito bites after surveillance showed high mosquito numbers and presence of virus in the mosquitoes."

The current warning on the HealthVic website, last updated on January 20, specifically mentions Surf Coast, Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula.

There is no mention of Phillip Island or Bass Coast.

Bass Coast Shire Council's program of monitoring or baiting mosquitos, has not run for the last five years, as a council spokesperson said there had been no local mosquito-borne health issues.

Ex-College teacher court delays

Legal delays have pushed back a County Court trial of a 61-year-old former Newhaven College music director.

Kirk Skinner, a college department head until stepping down from the role last year, was charged in February 2020 with two counts of sexual assault of a child under 16. In August detectives from the Morwell Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT), laid a further 10 sexual offence charges.

A County Court hearing last month postponed the next hearing to July 1, with further delays expected.

Meanwhile Mr Skinner, who lives at Woolamai, was set to appear on contested charges at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court last Friday for a committal mention, but this was also delayed until February 26.

According to the charge sheet, the offences occurred across multiple locations, including Phillip Island, Woolamai and Wonthaggi, dating back every year for the past five years.

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LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Locals on alert as Covid fragments found in Cowes

Local residents are on alert after viral fragments of COVID-19 were detected in wastewater samples from Cowes.

The viral fragments were found in wastewater samples taken on January 27. They were also discovered in samples from Pakenham and Castlemaine.

The Chief Health Officer urged anyone who lives on Phillip Island or who visited any of the three areas between January 25-27, to get tested for COVID-19 if they have any symptoms, however mild.

Although Victoria has not recorded a case of community transmission in more than three weeks, and there's been no positive cases in Bass Coast since August 2020, residents are being urged to remain vigilant.

Jan Child, CEO of Bass Coast Health (BCH) confirmed there were no recorded active cases in the region, however she said wastewater testing can show the possible presence of COVID-19 in our local community.

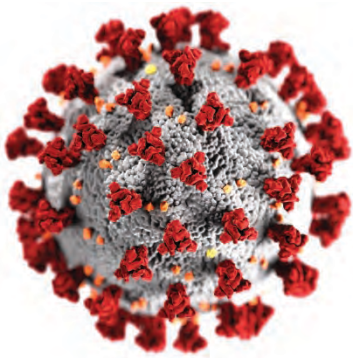
"A person who has recovered from COVID-19 can shed the virus for weeks after they were infectious. The detected fragments in Cowes could be from a local person or a visitor.

"The only way to learn whether we have any local active cases is via testing," Ms Child said.

"Our testing numbers have dropped in the past two weeks, which is to be expected. However, we actively encourage our community to get tested even with minor symptoms, for example a runny nose, scratchy throat or cough.

"Our testing tent in Wonthaggi can respond to increase in demand; we have staff on standby and can increase our hours when needed.

"Testing is available through the



Viral fragments of COVID-19 have been detected in wastewater samples from Cowes. Anyone who lives on the island or visited between January 25-27 is urged to get tested if they have even the mildest symptoms.

Phillip Island Health Hub 24/7".

Wastewater sampling

The wastewater sample was collected as part of a weekly wastewater monitoring program by the state government.

Samples are taken from 95 wastewater locations across the state, as an early detection method against coronavirus.

The state government said the weak detections of the virus at Cowes, Pakenham and Castlemaine have been confirmed by further analysis.

Viral fragments were also recently detected in Leongatha. Anyone who was in Leongatha between January 17 and 19 is urged to get tested if they have any symptoms.

Testing times

Since the start of the pandemic, BCH has conducted over 16,000 tests.

At the peak of the second wave in August 2020, 1092 tests were done in

one week.

There was a surge in demand for tests in early January this year, as Victoria raced to contain an outbreak from the Black Rock cluster.

Between Wonthaggi and Cowes, there were over 400 people tested in one day.

Since then, testing rates have fallen back to their pre-Christmas rate of around 50 or less.

In January, the Cowes Urgent Care Centre tested 800 people. The Wonthaggi clinic did 1971 tests over the same period.

Travel zones

The last of the NSW "red zones" has now been downgraded, but a number of WA regions have entered lockdown after WA recorded a positive case of coronavirus.

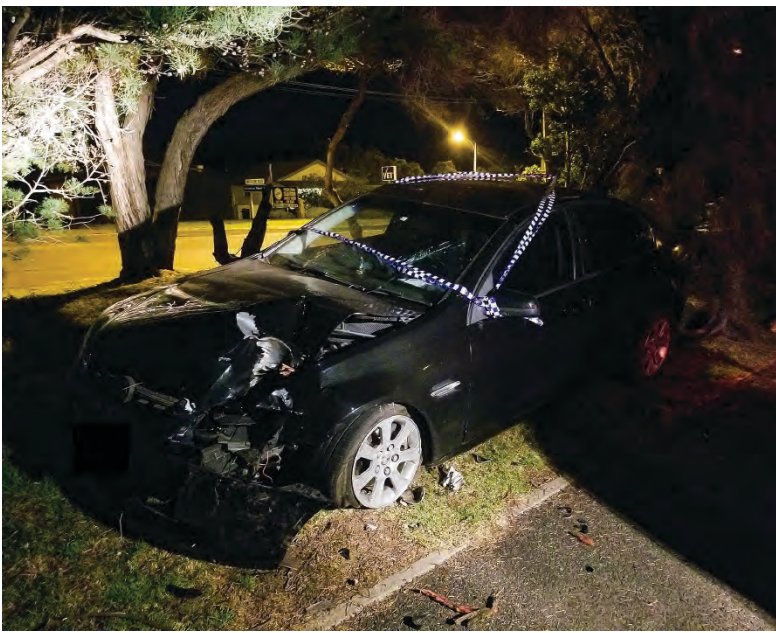
Perth, the Peel region and South West region of WA have now been designated as red zones and domestic travel restrictions now apply under Victoria's 'traffic light' travel permit system.

The government has sent text messages to the 1700 people who arrived in Victoria from WA between January 25 and 31 and came from an area now designated a red zone. Travellers were advised to get tested and stay isolated until they receive a negative test result.

If you have been in one of these currently listed WA red zones since January 25, you will not be allowed to enter Victoria without an exception, exemption or permitted worker permit.

Even though WA is currently the only state with designated red zones, anyone entering Victoria from other states and territories still requires a travel permit.

Anyone needing a permit can apply at service.vic.gov.au.



Police said the driver was lucky to walk away uninjured from this collision in Newhaven on Sunday night. The driver was charged with drink-driving and his licence was immediately suspended.

Don't drink and drive

Local police have issued a stern warning to anyone thinking of drink-driving and then driving.

Police were called to a single vehicle collision in Newhaven on Sunday night and said the male driver of the car was lucky to walk away uninjured.

"He was however not lucky enough to avoid police," said a post on the

Eyewatch Bass Coast Facebook page.

The man was more than three times over the legal limit and police immediately suspended his licence. He will face court at a later date.

"As his car is a write-off, he will also learn the hard way that insurance will not cover you if you are drink driving at the time of a collision," the police said.



POLICE BRIEFS

Operation Amity targeted dangerous driving, including drink and drug driving, speeding and mobile phone use over the long weekend.

Across Bass Coast, seven people were booked for drink driving, with three booked for drug driving.

There were 24 speeding offences and seven people fined for not wear-

ing a seatbelt.

Unlicensed drivers (two) and unregistered vehicles (four) were also fined. Two people were fined for using their mobile phone while driving.

In good news, there were no cars impounded, no disqualified drivers and no cyclists fined for any road offences.



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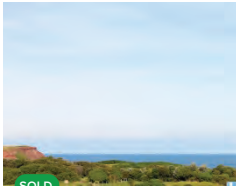
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Objectors protest Forrest Caves van plan

About 60 objectors have argued against revived plans for a Forrest Caves camping and caravan park, suggesting it could even lead to road or drowning deaths.

For the fifth consecutive year the controversial park plan has been proposed, with the first planning permit for a 266-site caravan park development lodged in 2016, which later received 41 objections.

Late last year the developers submitted new plans for Bass Coast Shire approval for the 1285 Phillip Island Road land.

To be called Surf Park Phillip Island, the plans propose 177 camp sites – including 26 drive through caravan sites, 37 large camp sites and 114 tent sites – as well as a reception building, two amenities blocks, caretaker's residences, camp kitchen, and recreation room.

Under the plans, the 8ha site will have 18 car parks, as well as parking for vehicles at each camp site, with a left and right turn lane land at the entrance to Phillip Island Road.

However the plans – open for public comment until the proposal goes before councillors later this year – have so far received 59 objections and one submission in support.

Many objectors highlighted that Forrest Caves was a dangerous unpatrolled beach, with large rips that are “often not visible”, and “one of the most treacherous stretches of beach on the whole of Phillip Island”.

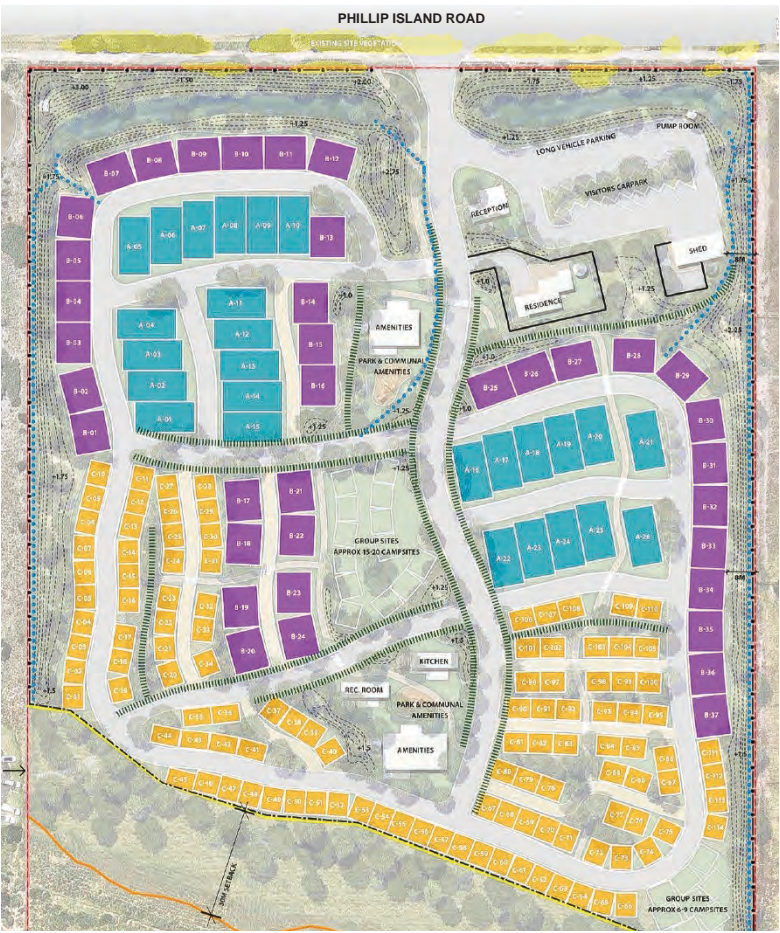
“There have been significant numbers of rescues generally by local surfers, which are not documented,” wrote one.

“I’m sure there are a few tourists who owe their lives to the good nature of locals.”

A Surf Beach resident and surfer said they had “rescued many swimmers in my time who are oblivious to the rips that lie within the beach”.

Traffic

In 2016, Traffix Group completed a traffic report and once again they have submitted a new report, using traffic



The first proposal for a caravan park in Forrest Caves in 2016 was for about 266-sites. Now after five years and many amendments the new plans suggest 177-sites.

studies from 2014 and 2018 to conclude “traffic associated with the development will be modest”.

However most objectors strongly disagreed, predicting the proposed caravan park would invite serious traffic accidents.

A nearby resident argued the developer’s traffic study was “seriously flawed” and should have been carried out in peak season.

“This Christmas season and last Easter have been the busiest on record.”

The resident said 18 visitor car parks was “not nearly enough”, with at least one visitor space for every two sites.

“Caravan parks in Cowes have cars parked 100 metres in each direction on both sides of the road with guest cars in peak periods.

“It will create a very dangerous situation with lives certainly at risk.”

A resident who has lived near the site for 10 years said Surf Beach had several significant road collisions, including deaths, which led to speed limit reduction to 60km/hr.

“This proposed development is in the 80km/hr zone,” the objector said.

“Having large numbers of vehicles attempting to enter Phillip Island Road at this place would be adding unacceptable risks to road users, both on the road and those attempting to turn into the park and enter the road.”

The resident said the proposed caravan park would “compound the difficulty” of accessing Phillip Island Road in peak holiday season, while the nearby hill crest reduced visibility.

The objector said there was “little to no infrastructure” around Forrest Caves and people staying would need to leave by car to the nearest corner shop 5km away.

Others agreed. “There is no infrastructure close to the planned park. There is no turning lane for cars to use,” wrote one.

“A camping ground for 200 caravans/cars is inevitably going to cause traffic congestion, blocking access and at worst likely to cause a significant accident.”

Another submission said traffic congestion was not just a holiday season issue, but “weekends are always busy and peak hour morning and night are always busy” as were school times.

One submission was critical of the shire, explaining that while they had objected to the previous caravan park plans through VCAT, this time round they had not been informed of the new proposal.

Environment

According to a flora and fauna assessment, the site contains areas of environmental significance and is habitat for the Short-tailed Shearwater and the threatened Hooded Plover.

As such the developers propose a 30-metre habitat protection buffer from the northern edge of the shear-

water breeding burrows and a non-climbable conservation fence along the southern boundary to stop access to the conservation area.

Objectors, however, were critical of the proposal’s close proximity to a shearwater colony.

“Humans are lazy and will take the shortest route to the beach,” commented one submitter, saying visitors will walk over the conservation zone, damaging the dunes and disturbing wildlife.

Another said night time lighting would also impact the birds’ nesting, habitat, migration and flight path.

Several submissions highlighted that “almost every year” the land was subject to flooding, which stopped development of the neighbouring Scenic Estate reserve, “now a wetland managed beautifully as a tourist walk”.

Submitters asked how it was even possible to propose a caravan park in land that is zoned farming.

“I was led to believe the farming zone was to encourage agriculture, not discourage it.”

A nearby resident said while the proposed vegetation screen was theoretically a benefit, in reality wallabies will eat all trees, with their own planting of 450 trees seeing just 40 trees survive.

“Wallabies ate 410 of them in a week,” the resident said.

Support

There was just one submission in support of the park plan.

“Phillip Island is a tourist destination and requires more caravan parks as four have now permanently closed in Cowes for development purposes,” the supporter wrote.

“The site is useless as farmland. “The site is central to the island and located on the main road, that is great for access. A roundabout should be installed for access.”

Bass Coast Shire councillors in September 2017 unanimously voted to reject the development and the developers took the proposal to VCAT, with four hearing delays up to March 2019.



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Nature Parks reveals full pandemic damage

Phillip Island Nature Parks' annual report paints an uncertain future for the attraction, while finally revealing the full financial hit from the pandemic to its bottom line.

The 2019/20 report – delayed because of the virus – reveals total tourism revenue was 30 per cent less than the prior year, with a 33.5 per cent decrease in visitors, and a 27.5 per cent drop in retail and food and beverage services, compared to 2018/19.

"As COVID-19 continues to evolve, we recognise that it is difficult to reliably estimate, with any degree of certainty, the potential impacts after the reporting date on the Nature Parks, its operations, its future results and financial position," the report states.

The Nature Parks' revenue was \$7.6 million less than the prior year, not including the May 2020 State Government lifeline of \$8.8 million, which included "a letter of comfort", committing further government funding and underwriting liabilities until November 2021.

"Based on the commitment by the government to support the Nature Parks in meeting its current and future obligations as and when they fall due, the Board has formed the view that the Nature Parks can continue to meet its commitments as a going concern for the foreseeable future," the report states.

"COVID-19 created unprecedented economic uncertainty and continues to have wide-ranging impacts for the Nature Parks as well as the broader community on Phillip Island."

The report states in the immediate aftermath of the virus, Nature Parks limited and deferred all non-critical expenditure by 28 per cent, versus the same period the prior year.

Visitors

Even before the pandemic hit – forcing the first closure in March – visitor numbers were down following the East Gippsland bushfires.

Yet for the first half of 2019/20, the Penguin Parade recorded revenue growth of 1.7 per cent despite a slight decrease in visitation, with premium visitor experiences strong, increasing by 1.4 per cent compared to 2018-19 and driving revenue growth.

In 2019/20 there were 757,846 visitors across all attractions compared to 1,121,274 in 18/19, with the penguin parade receiving 485,030 visitors (719,617 in 18/19) and the Koala Conservation Reserve receiving 118,253 visitors



The Nature Parks' annual report reveals the full financial hit from the pandemic, with total tourism revenue down 30 per cent on the previous year.

(182,745 the previous year).

The eco-boat had 7,414 visitors, with that attraction's contractual agreement concluding in April 2020.

Before the pandemic, PINP continued to focus on China as the biggest market, with CEO Catherine Basterfield and Research Director, Dr Peter Dann even visiting China in November 2019. However, the annual report states India continues to be "our fastest growing market".

The focus now, the report states, will be on building the domestic market "before expanding to international markets when travel confidence improves".

Local residents increased their support of the Nature Parks, with sales of the locals pass increasing by 41 per cent, while PINP contributed more than \$17,000 in donations to local groups including Change for Sam, Phillip Island and District Basketball Association and the Artists Society of Phillip Island.

Environment

PINP remains the island's largest employer with 184 staff (122 full time equivalent), while 300 volunteers contributed 13,310 hours of work.

Due to COVID-19, many staff were redeployed to assist with conservation work, rehabilitating 26.4 hectares of habitat with 36,246 plants, caring for 13 bushfire affected koalas and counting penguins.

There was a nightly average of 1,250 penguins crossing the beach and an above average 1.4 chicks per pair, with the current population tallying 32,000 adult penguins.

In April 2020, 289 citizen scientists from 37 countries spent 655 hours counting 281,197 seals from 14,289 images – a 40 per cent increase on 2018-19.

The Wildlife Clinic team cared for 77 penguins (119 in 2018/19) and 468 other native animals from 60 different species (419 in 18/19), responding to more than 970 calls (1,320 the previous year) for wildlife rescues and advice.

Staff released 56 bandicoots onto French Island, while Fairy Terns were found nesting at Rhyll Inlet in late 2019, the first time this species has nested on Phillip Island in decades.

Australia's Threatened Species Commissioner, Dr Sally Box, endorsed PINP's first Threatened Species Plan, which will reintroduce regionally threatened species, including

Bush Stone-curlews and Long-nosed Potoroos.

The 28th year of Hooded Plover monitoring resulted in 19 breeding pairs, a 19 per cent decrease in nesting from the previous year, with nine chicks surviving, with the rate within range for maintaining a sustainable population.

Two feral cat detection dogs Marbee and Milly joined PINP, surveying 274km around the island, with 10 reports of foxes investigated and no physical evidence found.

A feral cat tracking project was established on Cape Woolamai in May 2020.

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All systems go at Cowes Primary School

Cowes Primary School welcomed students back last week, and it looks like 2021 is shaping up to be a busy year.

Principal Rod McKenzie said the school had 561 students enrolled, an increase on the projected numbers, due to new families moving to the area over summer.

Prep enrolments are the highest in seven years, and there's strong demand for places at the Early Learning Centre (ELC).

On top of that, there's plenty going on around the school grounds as well.

Over the holidays, new flooring was installed at the ELC and last year, and the Centre secured a \$650,000 grant for an additional extension.

In the school grounds, replacement of the junior playground is underway, and students in Prep and Grade 1 can look forward to a new playground and surface.

"Last year, we asked the students what they'd like in the playground, so they had a say in the design, and it's now under construction," Mr McKenzie said.

Work has also begun on the school gym, which is due to be completed around October.

Located on the edge of the school's sanctuary, behind the existing pool, the building work will not impact on the day-to-day operations of the school. The same contractor will also provide a refurbishment of the existing multi-purpose room.

New faces

As well as welcoming new students and families to the Cowes Primary family, three new staff members have been appointed this year.

Tessa Johnston is a former student

there, and the school is thrilled to welcome her back.

"Tessa started her teaching career at Cowes Primary," said Mr McKenzie.

"Since then, she's taught overseas and in Melbourne.

"Now she's back at Cowes Primary School taking a Prep class, in the same room that she was in a prep herself.

"We're very happy to have her back and she brings with her some great ideas from her work abroad and in Melbourne."

After the disruption because of Covid in 2020, the school is hoping for an uneventful year ahead.

"We've got our fingers crossed for that, but we've shown we're agile enough to cope with the unexpected," Mr McKenzie said.

Visit pisra.com.au for more photos.



Hugging with excitement, friends Emilia Verplak and Harper Durdin on their first day at Cowes Primary School.



Zoe Turner and Zuri Bow are definitely off to a sun-smart start to school.



It was all smiles from Harvey Ewbank and Filip Najdovski on their first day.



Mum Carly with Sonny McShane.



The first of many school drop-offs. Westley and Melissa Morris with their prep Alice, and Kara and Jarvis Weston with Winter.

Shining bright – students return to Our Lady Star of the Sea

The school year has started with 81 students which Principal Catherine Blackford described as "terrific".

"Term one promises to be exciting as we watch the development of our grounds with new playgrounds,

a bird hide, a new oval and many more exciting additions," she said.

"As well as the landscaping the building extension of four classrooms and a library is also coming along nicely."



Rylan and Madeleine were keen to getting painting on their first day.



Rocking their first day at school are Solomon, Liam and Brenden.

A great foundation at Village School

Phillip Island Village School has eight new foundation students starting this year, including two siblings and several children that previously attended the Phillip Island Village School Playgroup. Their first day of school was Thursday, January 28.

The school's 'Shooting Stars' (early years) program is designed for students working from foundation to level 2 (a total of 17), with five mentors teaching in this program.

"This program recognizes that children in the early years of their school journey greatly benefit from a play-based focus to their learn-

ing," a school spokesperson said.

"It integrates the adult-led components of school, such as the development of core literacy and numeracy skills, and mentor supported activities, with a strong focus on child-led play-based time.

"Prioritising play-based learning time has multiple benefits in our school context, in particular enabling children to have extended periods of time to follow and learn about their own interests."

As they move through the school, students are building and practicing the skills they need to be "sparky and empowered project-based learners".



2021 Foundation students and Mentors (left to right): Bjørn, Charlotte, Lilly (Mentor), Savannah, Finnegan, Leo, Kayta, Christine (Mentor), Olive, and Wilma.

Praise for local life savers during dangerous season

From page 1
“Those Rescue Skis were amazing with their manoeuvrability in the rough seas and ability to carry out a rescue in quick time with multiple patients hanging on to the rear flap.
“It was a textbook rescue and something most of us have seen over the years, but we should all be proud that the tradition is continuing with the next generation, and to see the new technology in action was impressive.”

Grateful public

The praise for the efforts of the lifeguards and volunteer life savers wasn't confined to club members.

Grateful members of the public contacted the club to thank them.

One man in his late sixties, described his experience at Smiths Beach.

Admitting he wasn't a strong swimmer, he had ventured further out into the waves to check on his wife – “which I appreciate is exactly the wrong thing to do”.

“She was okay, but I was tired and unable to get back to the beach,” he said.

“Within about one minute, a young surf lifesaving lady appeared next to me. I was very grateful to get on the board and be transported back to the shallows.

“I now understand how others get into trouble trying to help family.

“We have always appreciated the safety offered by the flags and those who monitor the people in the sea, so a



A former Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club member praised the efforts of the IRB, Rescue Jet Ski and lifesavers on paddle boards and with tubes, during a “mass rescue” at Cape Woolamai this summer.

general thanks to the organisation.”

More praise came from Ingrid, whose 16-year-old son was swept out in a rip at Cape Woolamai.

“I am eternally grateful to your team and all the amazing work you do,” Ingrid wrote in a message to the club.

“It was young Alice who helped him in, with Jordan helping as well.

“As you can imagine, it was a gut wrenching and heart-stopping feeling for me. It has given us all a new-found respect for the water.

“Please pass on my deepest thanks and admiration to your team and especially to Alice and Jordan,” said Ingrid, who also made a donation to the club.

Patrols extended

Patrols at Woolamai and Smiths Beach will continue until February 21.

Life Saving Victoria extended the seven day a week lifeguard and volunteer season due to the busy summer.

The patrols run from 10am until 6pm. After February 21, volunteer life savers from the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club will continue their patrols on weekends only until Easter.

The Jet Ski rescue service now operates on weekends only.

Everyone going to the beach this summer is encouraged to visit beachsafe.org.au, download the beachsafe app and only swim at a patrolled beach.

Profits up, sewage spilt: water annual report

About 10,000 litres of sewage accidentally spilt into the ocean off Newhaven last year, according to Westernport Water's annual report.

The 2020 report, tabled at the end of last year in State Parliament, details the accident which lasted for 26 minutes and was triggered by a power outage from a wet weather event at the Newhaven Sewer Pump Station.

The sewage was diluted with stormwater and also leaked into a commercial building, before it was stopped by Westernport Water staff within half an hour.

The report states the water authority collected ocean water samples three days after the event with the results not showing “any evidence from the spill”.

“To ensure such an incident does not occur at this location again a non-return valve was installed which will limit the ability for sewerage to spill at this site,” the report states.

“The EPA accepted the incident report and did not undertake any further action.”

Record profit

The annual report also details Westernport Water's record profit of \$4.8 million, a leap from the previous year (\$1.8m) and '17/18 (\$1.1m).

Total revenue for the year was \$29.5m, an increase of \$4.1m on the prior year.

Water bills increased by 1.33 per cent, with the average bill \$1,141.

“Water consumption remained slightly above forecast levels leading to an increase in revenue compared to the prior year,” said the report, adding there were “strong cash inflows following the tourist season”.

Nevertheless, average household water consumption in 2019-20 was 144 litres per day, a decrease of 83 litres because of “the dramatic decrease of tourism as a result of COVID-19 restrictions”, as well as non-permanent ratepayers.

To highlight the virus impact, residential water consumption in the first quarter of 2020 was 319,642KL, compared to 70,105KL in the fourth quarter.

In response to economic hardship, the water authority offered a record number of grants (107, up from 30 the previous year), concessions and rebates, “suspending all debt recovery efforts, we delivered a record number of hardship grants to customers”.

There was a seven per cent increase in the total value of assistance provided to the community.

Major projects

Westernport Water purchased 32ha of land at Lot 1, Pyramid Rock Road, Cowes which adjoins the southern boundary of the Corporation's wastewater treatment plant, which will provide additional irrigation areas to meet EPA license requirements and reuse targets.

Over the past two years, Westernport Water replaced \$700,000 of ageing asbestos cement pipes with steel pipes across the Cowes and Ventnor areas, with three years of work remaining of a five-year program.

The San Remo Basin to Cowes Pipeline Renewal Project – which will maintain water supply to Phillip Island – is currently at the planning stage.

In parallel the Phillip Island Water Supply Security Project (2018-21) saw construction of a water storage tank in Cowes begin.

Meanwhile, the annual report states 2019/20 had strong rainfall. Candowie Reservoir reached full capacity on August 19, 2019 and spilled for 44 days. It reached full capacity again on May 23 and continued to spill after June 30.

Because Westernport Water does not hold an entitlement to desalinated water, the annual report details complicated trading and water swap agreements with South East Water.

The report states Westernport Water services 21,567 customers from 27 townships, across an area covering 300km².

“The region has one of the highest ratios of visitors to residents of any destination in Australia. During peak periods, especially December to January, there can be approximately 120 visitors to every resident.”

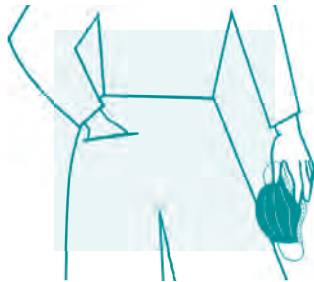
COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE

Coronavirus restrictions are in place to help keep us safe and open.

Keeping on top of this virus is up to all of us.



Stick to visitor limits in our homes.*



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And please practise COVIDSafe behaviours to keep us safe this summer.

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- Keep your hands and surfaces clean.
- Stay home if you feel unwell, and get tested.

STAY SAFE
STAY OPEN

For all current restrictions,
go to CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au

*Babies under the age of 12 months are not included in daily limits.
Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne



Treat your Valentine at Wild Food Farm

Do you celebrate Valentine's Day with declarations of undying love, or do you brush it away with an indifferent shrug? Seriously, the first option has so much more upside.

Every year, down through the centuries, as Valentine's Day approaches, reactions to February fourteenth are as many and varied as individuals themselves whether they are celebrating love or an enduring friendship.

Since AD 496, the date has also been known as the Feast of Saint Valentine and it's that ancient foodie connection that will be thoroughly embraced by the chefs at Phillip Island's Wild Food Farm on Sunday week with a special Valentine's Day Dinner.

Of course, there will be plenty of opportunities for lovebirds to seize the moment and express eternal love and appreciation to

their dinner companion, but if words fail, you can always offer flowers, or read the menu.

Not a bad idea actually ... it's a great read.

Chef Joel has excelled himself to the point where couples may momentarily overlook the point of the evening as they ponder whether to start with the Whole Grilled Australian King Tiger Prawns, Squid Ink Risotto, Anise Myrtle and Roasted Tomatoes or the Sweet Potato and Chickpea Croquettes with Bush Tomato Bulls Eye Spice and Finger Lime Aioli.

Then there's the Mains ... another opportu-

nity for a long, lingering, salivating pause in proceedings.

The Grilled Barramundi Fillet, Crispy fried New Potatoes with Lemon and Rosemary Salt, Orange, Fennel and Cos Halves with a Sweet-corn Sunrise Lime Salsa is a definite starter, or just maybe, the Roast Pumpkin Risotto, Mountain Pepper, Honey Roasted Walnuts, Warigal Greens, Meredith Marinated Goat Cheese and Caramelised Onion.

At this stage it might start to look like picking a dinner companion was the easy bit. But you'd be wrong.

Choosing dessert is a no-brainer. No question. No hesitation. Chocolate Wattleseed Brownie with Davidson Plum Mixed Berry Compote and Lilypilly Ice Cream.

So glad that's sorted.

Now are you splitting the bill? It's \$65 per head for two courses or \$85 per head for three.

The Wild Food Farm's Special Valentine's Day Dinner is available in two sittings: 5.30pm for the early birds and 8pm for the lovebirds.

Bookings are essential because Phillip Islanders do love to celebrate.

Contact the Wild Food Farm at 30 Rhyll-Newhaven Road at Rhyll on 0406 153 143 or email hello@wildfoodfarm.com.au.

Happy Valentine's Day.

*"The rose is red,
the violet's blue,
The honey's sweet, and
so are you..."*

Australia's COVID-19 Vaccine Roadmap

STAY INFORMED ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES.

Visit health.gov.au for the latest information.

We are working to make sure everyone in Australia has access to safe, effective and free COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines will give us the protection to go about our everyday lives.

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109 Marine Parade, which currently sells antiques and collectables, is set to be re-built into a restaurant seating 70 patrons.

New restaurant planned for San Remo

San Remo residents and shop owners have objected to a proposed redevelopment of a Marine Parade antique shop into a restaurant because it will have no car parks.

The \$180,000 renovation of 109 Marine Parade, which currently sells antiques and collectables, proposes to build a restaurant seating 70 patrons, with 24 indoor seats and 46 under a new veranda covered outdoor space.

The development includes mainly internal alterations to the existing building, with the height of the building not changing.

However with no on-site car parking, the planning permit is seeking to waive parking requirements, with 28 spaces required under planning policies.

"Whilst car parking in the daytime can be busy in San Remo, in the evenings and at weekend when the core business hours for the restaurant will be, car parking is in abundance," the permit states.

"The majority of the surrounding shops, Australia Post office, banks and other café businesses shut at 5pm on a weekday and are either shut or operate limited hours on weekends."

However, the permit has received 13 objections.

The neighbouring St Augustine chapel – which is covered by a heritage overlay – wrote a submission saying while they weren't against the development they had concerns about the car parking waiver, with many congregation members requiring close parking due to disabilities.

One submission objected to the noise generated by patrons and others said it was an overdevelopment of the site, with many concerned about parking issues.

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The image is a vertical split. The left half shows a close-up of a chef, Mark Briggs, in a kitchen. He is wearing a white shirt and a blue apron, and is focused on plating a dish. The dish consists of small, colorful ingredients like orange segments, black olives, and a pinkish-orange cube. The right half shows a fishing boat docked at a pier during a vibrant sunset. The sky is filled with orange and pink clouds, and the boat's reflection is visible in the calm water. The boat has a white cabin and a blue hull, with several red buoys hanging from its side.

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VISIT VICTORIA

Rain didn't damp spirits as Newhaven College returned

Even a little rain couldn't stop the smiles as Newhaven College welcomed back students last Friday.

Prep students were excited to be reunited with their teachers and classmates since meeting them during the College's Prep Transition Program.

Past students Jade Potter and Kate Ryan arrived with their children who started in Prep, to begin a new chapter at the College.

After the children went to their classrooms, Prep parents attended a special morning tea with new College Principal, Tony Corr and Head of Junior School, Ralph Arceo.

The Year 12 cohort returned to school for a 'Forum Day', designed to kick start the year.

Ben Taylor from 'The English Lab' presented a study skills and time management workshop first thing in the morning.

Mid-morning saw a focus on whole school leadership followed by a sit-down lunch in the Pavilion.

The afternoon activities were based around well-being; in particular stress-busters, mental health checks and exercise.

Year 12 finished the day with a goal setting activity designed to set them up for success from a study and well-being perspective.

Principal Tony Corr presented the 2021 College Captains Izabella McCulloch, Harry O'Brien, MacKinley Thompson and Seth Ringrose with their Captains blazers.

New Year 7 students enjoyed meeting

their teachers, connecting with friends and exploring their new school environment.

Year 5 students were excited to make the transition from the Junior to Middle School and quickly settled into their new classrooms. A special welcome assembly was held for all Middle School students.

Ten new staff have also joined the school community.

Sarah Pedersen will teach Junior School Library, Erin Carter and Miranda Reich will teach Primary School and Rachael Lewis is the Lab Technician for Term 1.

Matthew Goss is the new Director of Music, Daniel Seale is the Property Manager, Anthony Kellett is the Product Design Technician, Teacher's Aides Jennifer Sleight and Lucinda Schenk have joined the team and Meredith Lynch is the new Careers PA.

2020 graduates Miriam Robinson and Emma Felsovary will spend one more year at the College as AFL Sportsready Trainees. The education training program gives recently graduated students a nationally recognised qualification.

Over the summer break the College continued its building and facility upgrades. The sporting fields now have a new natural turf soccer oval and synthetic tennis/hockey pitch ready for use.

Construction of the Performing Arts Wing is also well underway and should be ready early next year.

Enrolments are now open for 2022, with limited places still available in some 2021 year levels.

Visit pisra.com.au for more photos.



Newhaven College has ten new staff, and a new Principal this year. Front row (left to right): Principal Tony Corr, Emma Felsovary, Matthew Goss, Daniel Seale, Rachael Lewis, Jennifer Sleight. Back row (left to right): Lucinda Schenk, Meredith Lynch, Anthony Kellett, Erin Carter and Sarah Pederson.



The 2021 Year 12 College Captains (from left to right): Seth Ringrose, Harry O'Brien, Izabella McCulloch and MacKinley Thompson.



Settling into Year 7 are Meesha Wright (left) and Ava Liatos.



Sharing an umbrella are Prep students Millie Van and Mila Potter



The rain couldn't dampen the New Year smiles from (from left to right) Year 5 student Bella Rose-Grant, Year 6 student Sequoia Patterson and Year 4 student Xaus Patterson.

Ready, set and good to go!

Bass Valley Primary School students returned last Thursday with all students excited to be meeting their new teachers and school staff.

Acting Principal, Emma Harris said the first two days back focused on everyone getting to know each other.

"It's about setting up good learning habits and focussing on the school expectations of, be a learner, be respectful, be a friend and be safe."

Ms Harris said Foundation students were well prepared to start school, after taking part in the school's 'Ready Set Go' transition program in term three and four last year.

"Some of this program even ran remotely," she said.

This year Bass Valley PS has 29 Foundation students across two grades.

"Many of our new students are new to Bass Coast with their families making the move to the waterline area."

The school has "some exciting new learning initiatives" this year and a fully restored outdoor play space.



Foundation students Savannah and Yasmine at Bass Valley Primary.



It was all smiles from Tyler and Chase on their first day of school.

Surviving a heart attack

Two of the biggest and most dangerous mistakes people make about heart attacks is assuming the signs are the same for everyone and dismissing their symptoms and thinking they'll just go away.

A campaign in February – REDFEB – aims to raise awareness for heart disease and funds for life-saving research.

In addition to encouraging people to wear red and donate, Heart Research Australia is promoting an important Heart Smart pocket guide that could save lives.

"Heart disease is Australia's number one killer, but it is surprising how little people know about the signs of a heart attack and what is critical to do in the moment," says Nicci Dent, CEO of Heart Research Australia.

"Each day, an average of 20 Australians die from a heart attack. An Australian suffers a heart attack every 10 minutes." [1]

"That is why this REDFEB, in addition to encouraging people to wear red and donate to life-saving research, we are promoting an important free Heart Smart pocket guide. The Heart Smart Pocket Guide is designed to fit in your wallet or pocket, and is a handy guide to heart attack symptoms and the recommended response in an emergency.

"By knowing and recognising the symptoms of a heart attack, you could help save someone's life. Maybe even your own," says Ms Dent.

Recognise the signs

"Everyone should know how to recognise a heart attack for two very good reasons. Firstly, the odds are high that either you or someone you love will suffer from a heart attack during your lifetime.

"Secondly, whether you survive that heart attack can depend on what you and your doctors do about it during the first few hours," continued Ms Dent.

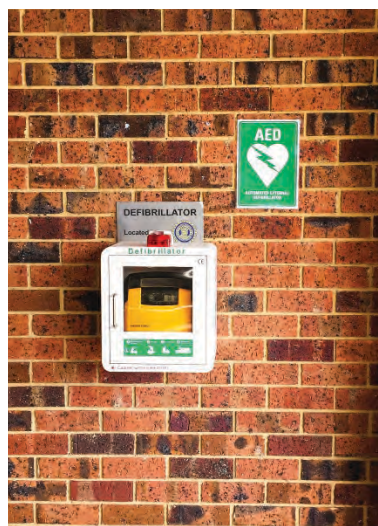
"The longer people delay getting medical attention, the more potential damage is done to the heart muscle. That's why we strongly recommend calling 000 – as information can be given over the phone, and ambulance workers can start working on you straight away," says Ms Dent.

"Many people assume that all heart attacks happen like in the movies – sudden and intense pain in the chest that causes someone to collapse," says Cardiologist Dr Rebecca Kozor.

"If that were the case, it would be easy to know when to go to the hospital. In reality, the signs can be less obvious and vary between individuals."

While chest pain is the classic symptom of a heart attack, other kinds of symptoms can occur in addition to, or instead of, chest discomfort. These may include:

- sweating,
- shortness of breath
- pain in the jaw, neck, shoulders, or arms



Heart disease is Australia's number one killer,

- nausea and vomiting,
 - indigestion or heartburn-like symptoms
 - suddenly feeling dizzy, weak, faint, light-headed
- "Women need to know about heart disease – sadly, it kills more Australian women than breast cancer," says Dr Kozor.
- "Chest pressure is still the leading complaint for women, however women experience different heart attack symptoms compared to men – they are more likely to also report nausea, sweating, vomiting, pain in the neck, jaw, throat, or back.

Act fast

The number one factor that determines if a heart attack will be fatal is time.

"I cannot repeat this enough – every minute counts. If you're having a heart attack, prompt medical attention may help protect your heart muscle from permanent damage and perhaps save your life," says Dr Kozor.

"If you have warning signs of a heart attack call Triple Zero (000) immediately and ask for an ambulance.

"The longer the time without treatment, the more damage there can be to the heart muscle and this reduces the heart's ability to pump blood.

"While you may have doubts about whether or not to call an ambulance, please do not hesitate. Sadly, many Australian deaths due to heart attack occur before the person gets to hospital or first medical contact."

What to do

If you're with someone who has had a heart attack, other advice includes:

- Do NOT drive the patient to the hospital yourself, as you may need to perform CPR.
- Give the person an aspirin if you have any, unless they have been advised not to take this particular medication.
- Make sure they rest quietly while you wait for an ambulance.

• If an ambulance is not readily available (for example, in some rural areas), quickly notify the nearest hospital, health clinic or the person's usual doctor for advice.

Heart Smart Pocket Guide

For a pocket guide containing the signs and symptoms of a heart attack as well as an action plan that you can carry with you at all times visit heartresearch.com.au/heart-attack.

"The pocket guide is free to Australian residents, but any financial support towards our life saving research will be gratefully received," says Ms Dent.

"The simple fact is that research saves lives, which is why Heart Research Australia funds world-class and emerging researchers to conduct ground-breaking research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease."

This February, Heart Research Australia invites all Australians to wear RED for someone close to their heart to help keep families together for longer. Whether it's a family member, wife, husband, or that special friend who means the world to them, or in memory of someone they loved who sadly passed away due to heart disease.

Zoll defibrillators will generously donate two defibrillators to the organisation and individual that raises the most funds for Heart Research Australia.

For more information on REDFEB and to donate, please visit: www.heartresearch.com.au

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Growing community resilience, growing a fabulous Community Garden for all to enjoy; and growing the range of skills, interests and connections for people within our local community.

PICAL offers a huge variety of leisure and lifestyle options from Arts and Crafts to physical wellbeing activities like Gardening and Tai Chi.

Challenge your mind by taking Spanish language classes or join the weekly Mahjong group.

Nearly every weekday – and some evenings and weekends – you can find something to stimulate your interests and make new friends.

The Community Garden combines the benefits of physical activity with the positive outcomes of reducing stress and boosting immunity.

Garden Co-ordinator Rick Coleman encourages everyone to get involved.

"The purpose of the Community Garden is to provide a place where anyone can come to enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of working with plants, creating something, or simply meditating in a quiet oasis," Rick said.

Horticulture training and structured garden volunteering programs also provide opportunities to learn how to successfully grow your own vegetables



Aimee attended a recent "DIY recycled garden planter boxes" class in the PICAL Community Garden, one of the classes offered this term.

at home.

PICAL is a safe and inclusive space where people from diverse and varied backgrounds are always welcome.

Rainbow Connect is a fortnightly group for those identifying with the LGBTQIA+ community. Facilitated by experienced local counsellor and psychotherapist Linda Wilson, like minded adults from the rainbow community come together for friendship and connection.

The group sessions are a mixture of thought-provoking discussions, guest speakers and light-hearted activities.

Linda is also starting a new monthly group, Rainbow Allies, to support the

family, friends and allies who have people they care about in the LGBTQIA+ community.

And you can do your bit for our local island environment too.

PICAL offers a range of interesting and fun activities aimed at repurposing and recycling household products into

new useful items to save them from heading to landfill.

"We have a large group of volunteers who meet here every Monday, Wednesday and Friday not only to make new items from old fabrics, but to also enjoy being part of a community," Kylie McMurray from the Phillip Island and San Remo chapter of Boomerang Bags, which operates at PICAL, said.

"We share lunches most days and look after each other."

You don't need to be an experienced sewer to lend a hand. The group welcomes, supports and encourages new members.

"The whole philosophy of Neighbourhood Houses is to bring people together to meet, socialise and mobilise to achieve positive individual and community outcomes," explained PICAL Centre Coordinator Greg Thompson

"Whilst we offer many training programs aimed at developing employment readiness, we also offer a wide range of activities for people who simply want to enjoy an activity in the company of others.

"Our aim is to build community resilience and wellbeing, and the way we do that is by offering something for all parts of our community."

For more information visit www.pical.org.au or phone 5952 1131.



**Phillip Island
Community & Adult
Learning Centre**
56 - 58 Church St,
Cowes

our ethos.

To support and empower our community through social inclusion & educational opportunities for all abilities.

To provide a safe space for people of all ages from diverse backgrounds to come together to meet, learn, & grow. Everyone is welcome at PICAL!

lifestyle & wellbeing.

We are conscious of the needs of local people in a rapidly changing world & try to run activities that are dynamic & relevant. Lifestyle classes include ceramics in the community garden with local potter Emma Le-Mar, macrame, sewing & sustainable home gardening.

group activities.

Try something new, meet new people & make new friendships! We host many activities run by other local community groups including Tai Chi, Mahjong, ASPI art classes, Boomerang Bags, Spanish language classes, PI Patchworkers & the Woolshed Spinners to name just a few!

cultivating community.

The Community Garden aims to nurture well-being & a sense of belonging through the growing of healthy, sustainable food. It's an exciting time for the team as we plan for the new all-abilities community garden!

Open Monday to Friday 9am - 3pm

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www.pical.org.au



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Pop Ups a stand-out success

The 2020-21 PICES Pop Up Exhibitions closed on Monday.

Twenty-three artists from Phillip Island and beyond were featured during the five week exhibition, held at PICAL in Cowes.

Over 800 visitors enjoyed the wide variety of ceramics, sculpture, paintings, print making and photography on display and many expressed their support for a permanent exhibition space in Cowes.

A video of four artists describing their work and how they coped during the Covid shutdown was made and shown during week three alongside an exhibition of their works.

This special event was supported by grants from Bass Coast Shire Council and Regional Arts Victoria and the video will soon be available on the PICES website (pices.com.au) and other outlets.

PICES President Sandra Peeters said the exhibition had been a success due to the support of Council and RAV, and community groups such as PICAL and Artists' Society of Phillip Island Inc (ASPI), Print It Fast, local media and the goodwill of many dedicated volunteers.

"The pop up exhibitions have created a warm environment and focal point for many people to view art that they otherwise might never have the opportunity to see and for artists to display and sell their work."

"We wait to see what the new year will bring."



Gallery volunteer Tricia O'Brien with artist Josephine Allen, at the final week of the pop-up gallery.



Six people took the pledge to become Australian Citizens at the Bass Coast Shire Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony. From left to right (back): Mr Ian Clegg, Cr Michael Whelan - Deputy Mayor, Cr Leticia Laing, Bass Coast Mayor Cr Brett Tessari and Mr Martial Leconte. (front): Ms Marianne Pattinson, Mr Michael Mascaros, Mrs Karin Murphy Ellis and Mrs Margaret Fraser.

New citizens welcomed from afar

Due to Covid restrictions, this year's Bass Coast Shire Australia Day citizenship ceremony was a little different.

Protocols in place limited the number of people able to attend the event to witness their loved ones becoming citizens.

As well as six people who undertook the ceremony on Australia Day, Bass Coast Shire Council also welcome four citizens who took their pledge virtually last year.

Former president of the Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary Club, John Tennant, was one of the newly welcomed citizens.

"Citizenship ceremonies provide a great opportunity to talk to people about the reasons they have chosen to make Bass Coast their home, and to celebrate the diversity that they bring which enriches and strengthens our community," said Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari.

Australian Citizenship is overseen by the Department of Home Affairs, and there is a requirement for local councils to host a Citizenship Ceremony on January 26.

"However, our events are given a Bass Coast focus," Cr Tessari said.

"Council has the ability to control what is included in the ceremony outside of the legislative requirements, such as acknowledgement of our First Nations People."

"It is a great honour to make such an acknowledgement and we do it with the utmost respect."



Also included were four citizens who took their pledge virtually during the 2020 lockdown. From left to right (back): Cr Michael Whelan - Deputy Mayor, Cr Leticia Laing and Mayor Cr Brett Tessari. (Front): Ms Susan Bertucci, Mr John Tennant, Mr Robin Parsons and Mr Hemant Kumar.



Celebrating the launch of the Friends of Newhaven Primary School Program are (back from left to right): Emma and Leigh Caffery - Woolamai Pizza, Woolamai Kebab and Wandering Flames, Sharyne Munday - school principal, Paul and Julia Tibbetts - Island Shoes, Andrea Cole - President of school council, Miller Croker - IGA, San Remo, Liam Murphy and Abbie Sherwood - La Onda, Island Healing and Dee Howard - Awaken the Heart Wellness, Island Healing. Front, from left: Dan (being held by Emma), Jack, Pat, Arthur, Declan, Jaxon and Kip.

Friends of Newhaven Primary get the benefits

Newhaven Primary School has formally launched its Friends of Newhaven Primary program.

The program is part of a range of new initiatives to help raise money for the school.

The launch took place at the new community market on Saturday, another fundraising venture for the school.

On hand to launch the new Friends of Newhaven program was President of the School Council Andrea Cole and school principal Sharyne Munday, as well as representatives from the local business community and parents, students and friends of the school.

Jennifer Carrol from the school's fundraising committee said many local businesses attended the launch and became members.

The businesses included Island Shoes, Woolamai Pizza, Woolamai Kebab, Wandering Flames, IGA San Remo, Awaken the Heart Wellness and La Onda.

"Some generously offered a discount throughout the year to all members at the school," she said.

"It was great to have our local businesses supporting our school and becoming members."

She said marketgoers were enthusiastic about the new initiative, commenting "how wonderful and simple it is to become a member".

Friends with benefits

The annual Friends of Newhaven Primary membership fee of \$50 makes members eligible for a monthly draw, with a chance to win a prize valued at \$100. All prizes will be purchased at a local business.

"Rather than us going to the business community asking for donations, this is a way to support businesses by buying gifts and goods from them," explained Jennifer.

Members will also be eligible for discounts from select local stores, receive a monthly newsletter and an annual gift.

The committee is hoping to sign up 400 members from the school community and beyond.

"The membership is open to everyone on Phillip Island, San Remo and beyond," said Jennifer. "Everyone benefits from being a member and each year we will map out a plan for where the money raised will be used."

This year, the revenue raised will go toward creating a sensory garden at the school.

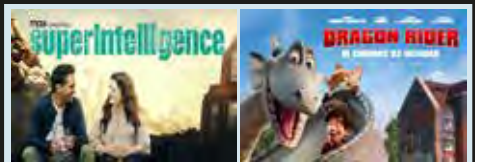
If any additional funds are left over, the junior school council committee have a revamp of the school bike shed on their wish list. To become a Friend of Newhaven Primary School:

- Download QKR App & Sign Up
- Select Newhaven Primary School (12-22 School Avenue, Newhaven (you may need to do a search if it does not appear)
- Add details (name, address, mobile and email address - this info is gathered to send monthly newsletter and to post membership gifts and give aways)
- Go to MENU and Select 'Fundraising Events' - Friends of Newhaven Primary School

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Superintelligence [PG]		Dragon Rider [PG]	
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Sun 7	7:00pm	Fri 12	7:00pm
Fri 12	4:00pm	Sat 13	4:00pm
Open Caption		Open Captions	
Sat 13	10:00am	Sun 14	10:00am
Sun 14	1:00pm	Fri 19	4:00pm



The Dry [MA15+]		Promising Young Woman [MA15+]	
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Sat 6	4:00pm	Sat 6	7:00pm
Sun 7	10:00am	Sun 7	4:00pm
Open Captions			
Fri 12	1:00pm	Fri 12	10:00am
Sat 13	1:00pm	Sat 13	7:00pm
Sun 14	7:00pm	Sun 14	4:00pm
		Open Captions	

Bass Coast Fine Film Group Returns with French film, How to be a Good Wife [M]



This latest offering from French director Martin Provost is set in the Alsace region in 1967 and follows the experience of Paulette following the sudden death of her husband.

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New faces and playground as Newhaven Primary returns

All Newhaven Primary School students and families returned last Thursday.

This year's Prep class of 17 students has 15 boys and two girls.

"What was in the water that year?," wondered Principal Sharyne Munday.

As well as welcoming the new students, the school was over the moon about a brand new playground installed over the holidays for the senior students.

"Some of our dads in January removed the old well used and loved playground to be replaced with a newer model thanks to our successful application to the Minor Capital Works Fund in 2020," Ms Munday said.

"All students agreed that there had to be a flying fox during the consultative stage as it was much loved by all the students."

"We are now looking at actioning the next phase of playground upgrade with a sensory garden ... eighteen months earlier than planned."

The day began with lots of excited students as they saw the new playground for the first time. "Parents were happy to be back onsite and we loved having them back as they kissed and hugged sons and daughters good-bye."

New parents were invited to enjoy a cup of coffee and morning tea provided by School Council.

"We are looking forward to a fantastic, uninterrupted year to work with our students and their families," said Ms Munday.

This term the school will hold its House Swimming Sports, Twilight Athletics Carnival and a Playgroup will start, running each Monday in the large gym.

And it's not just the students returning to school.

"We can't wait for our mentors from Hope Church and Rotary volunteers to be back on site supporting our reading and breakfast programs," said Ms Munday.

"We have missed you all terribly."



There were plenty of smiles for the start of school at Newhaven Primary School. This year's Prep class, with teacher Rhiannon Hackett, sees the boys outnumber the girls seven to one!



Prep Kai with his family – Sam, Milla, Brooke and Eden Blundy.



All set for school. Morgan Barton (centre) with brother Kaleb and Mum and Dad, Lauren Cowell and Joel Barton.



Shar and Troy Joyner seeing their prep Hugo off for his first day of school.



Aylah Cherry (centre) was excited to be starting school. She shared the big moment with her family, Brooke Yeilds, Alirah Yeilds and Chris Cherry

Welcome to San Remo Primary!

San Remo Primary welcomed the 2021 prep class last week.

While the big day was all about the kids, a coffee cart was also on hand to provide a much-needed coffee for parents.

Principal Karen Bowker said enrolments were up for the year, with 30 students starting in Prep and total enrolments now at 159.

Over the holidays, the school's playgrounds had a makeover, with new bark and some equipment replaced.

A working bee by parents also ensured the school was looking its very best for the start of Term 1.

Ms Bowker said the school had welcomed two new educational support staff, Adriene Brown and Deserae

Wilkins.

Top marks

Ms Bowker also revealed a school review at the end of 2020 highlighted the quality teaching and learning delivered to students.

"We were also complimented on our community spirit, the way that our children are engaged in their learning and the high standard of inclusion we have at our school."

"This leads well into our focus for 2021, with high quality teaching and learning at the forefront of our year," Ms Bowker said.

"Another highlight has also been our selection for the Primary Maths and Science Specialist Initiative that

will allow two teachers at our school to be released from their classrooms for two days per week to train as Maths Specialists.

"In this role they will extend and develop their knowledge, skills and capabilities in Mathematics which they will then share and develop this knowledge throughout our school, to all teachers and within classrooms to lead whole school change."

"To be selected to be part of this program is a real coup for our school as it acknowledges the high standard of commitment that our teachers have to developing themselves and their students."

"This program will begin in March and we can't wait to start."



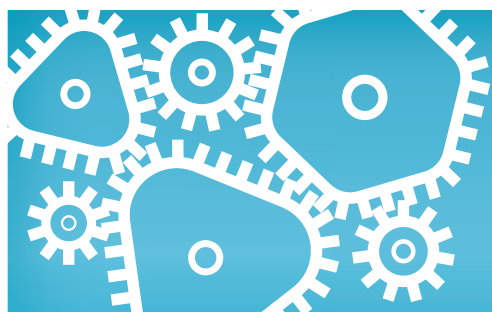
Prep class in session. Back row: Frankie, Taya, Hazel and Morgan. Front Row: Ewan and Koa with Teacher Tracey Wilson.



Settling straight into school – Taylah McDonald and Aerita Allen.



Sienna Daly Toohey all ready for school, with proud mum Beth.



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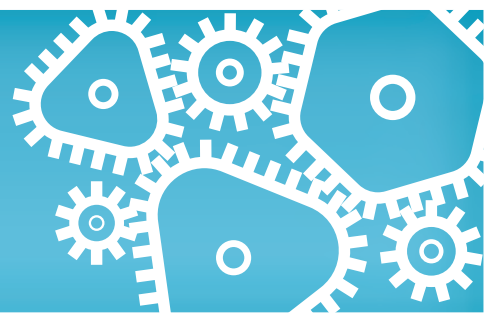
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Irrational comments

During recent lockdowns it was disappointing to hear and read of some in the community on Phillip Island voicing their opposition to any “non-permanent” property owners being given access to Phillip Island, for fear of them bringing the disease with them. I presume this attitude was also directed towards “tourists”.

These comments were irrational and discriminatory especially when directed at those owning holiday homes. These owners were entitled to ensure their properties were maintained in a tidy manner for two reasons. Firstly to present a “lived in” appearance to deter those who may have thought these properties were a good opportunity for a burglary and secondly to satisfy the requirements of some insurance companies who expect that properties are not simply left vacant ad infinitum. If this happens the insurance company can well deny any claim against the policy. The company I use expects me to visit the property once every four to six weeks as a minimum.

Perhaps those of us who were not able to get to our property should have taken an advertisement in The Advertiser advising that we didn't want anyone from the island driving off the island and coming to our hospitals in Melbourne. Wonder what the reaction would have been?

While on the topic, Bass Coast Council have again failed owners of properties used as holiday homes during the pandemic. When I eventually got to my property the nature strip grass/weeds were close to 30cm high in places and were clearly a fire risk. The council continued to charge rates on my property for the three waste disposal services when they well knew there would be no waste to be collected. Surely they could have initiated a system whereby their staff or contractors could have given nature strips a quick trim once every six weeks. But no, there was no attempt to contribute to a solution to manage “their” property in a time of difficulty for us all.

Well, I guess they have a long history of not supporting those who pay some of their salaries each year, so why am I surprised.

Rob Chandler, Surf Beach

Bus stop signage all wrong

On Tuesday, January 27 we came across a very confused couple (visitors to the area) waiting at a new and conspicuously signed bus stop in Newhaven. What a disaster this purple PTV / VLine sign is!

The new westbound sign is almost directly opposite the long-established eastbound Forrest Avenue stop.

It is only around 100m prior to the long-established bus stop near what is locally referred to as the ‘the Backpackers’. There is very little space for the bus to pull to the left as there is a median strip. But, wait – there is more ... the westbound sign clearly indicates “TO MELBOURNE.” How ridiculous as westbound of course is the way to Cowes. There is also a timetable (equally as resplendent in all its new glory) and this is for the VLine buses also heading in that opposite direction.

There again, maybe “they” didn't get things all wrong, but I think not! (Yes one can eventually reach Melbourne on that Cowes bus by taking the ferry across to Stony Point and the two trains needed to reach the city.)

I reported the matter to South Coast Bus in Cowes and to Cr Kent and he has been swift to attempt to progress action.

As to erroneous bus stop signage, this rivals the disaster of some five years ago when I discovered that all bus stops in San Remo were embellished with signage urging “Use your Myki”.

Russell Riseley, Newhaven

Smiths Beach car park concerns

Health and Safety is a major issue at Smith's Beach, as I observe numerous children and young adults ‘practicing’ surfing on skateboards among vehicles and pedestrians accessing the car park.

I have seen a number of near misses and I am seeking to understand who has ultimate responsibility for allowing this activity, in the event someone is killed or injured.

Surfboards and wet-suits are dispensed from a vehicle there, impeding beach-goers.

Is the car park a Shire, PINP or Police responsibility?

A vehicle parks adjacent to the road into the car park, and whilst it

is probably legal to do so, the length of the vehicle does impede foot and car traffic, as well as preventing other beach users using the spot.

Does running a business from the car park, if this is what is happening, require some kind of permit, as I am sure if I set up a coffee-cart there, I would be swamped by ‘officialdom’!

G. Atchison, Smiths Beach

Red bin collection

In the January 20 edition of the Advertiser, much anguish was expressed about the council not introducing a weekly red bin collection during January.

While the criticism is understandable, would it be possible to make a greater effort to work within the fortnightly system rather than trying to change it to a weekly one? Why is the yellow recyclable bin emptied weekly during January as opposed to the normal fortnightly? The reason must be because a more frequent recyclables collection during January is better for the environment. The same argument cannot be made for the red bin.

Some thoughts are:

1. The 3-Bin system is intended to reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill. A weekly red bin collection in January would be going against that. It's also unfair on those who minimise their landfill and are able to cope with the fortnightly collection but would have to share in the cost of the extra weekly service.

2. Residents manage with the current fortnightly red bin system throughout the year, perhaps because the system is understood better and more care is taken. For non-resident ratepayers and visitors, the main priority is to make the most of the holidays, without concern for where the rubbish ends up.

3. Walking past red bins I've noticed half-empty drink bottles, unwanted bread slices, bread rolls and other food stuffs. That food could have been placed into the green bin, and some of the recyclable packaging in the yellow bin.

4. Where possible, more effort could be made to compress the red bin waste.

5. Householders can take bags of landfill waste to the Dunsmore Road facility in Cowes. The fee for

disposing of about 60 per cent of the bed bin's volume is \$3.50 and for the contents of the whole bin (120L it's \$6.50).

6. Another option is to upgrade to a 240L Bin (with the additional annual cost being added to the rates). However, this wouldn't encourage the discipline of trying to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill, which benefits all of us over the longer term.

Somehow, the message has to get through during December and January each year.

Lesley Feddersen, Cowes

Roundabout education needed

Please, please can someone organise a campaign to re-educate drivers of the correct procedure at roundabouts, especially in Cowes.

Also, to advise pedestrians that they are to give way to vehicles entering and especially exiting roundabouts.

There used to be advisory signs painted on the road for pedestrians that have now worn away. (Typical).

I'm getting a little bit sick of drivers slamming on their brakes in the middle of roundabouts to wave on pedestrians to cross against the law in front of them.

This in turn causes cars behind them to brake heavily and also clog up the roundabout.

Unless the law is changed drivers need to brush up on the road rules and a good idea would be to paint the sign back on the road before a pedestrian is knocked over.

G. Champion, Surf Beach

Gridlock at San Remo

When the first CEO of Bass Coast council was considering expansion of San Remo he organised a community consultation process.

Local resident Bob Andrews chaired the meetings.

An independent company was hired and looked at many issues raised. Their final report was accepted and approved by council and the community.

As Phillip Island Road was not under council control a separate committee representing community and business was appointed to deal with VicRoads.

Now the developments talked about at that time are taking place

but Bass Coast Council, who had the task of providing the infrastructure needed to handle this expansion, have failed miserably.

The whole of San Remo east of Back Beach Road is now heading to total gridlock.

You only have to look at vehicles including buses and trucks unable to get in/out of town and access the main highway.

Earlier this week a double trailer truck blocked the whole corner of Back Beach Road and Genista Street, as there are a number of factories, shops and car parking areas blocking access for the truck. There is no way of turning from San Remo shopping centre onto the main road.

This is not a one-off situation. Buses have the same problem.

There are several hundred new blocks of land still to be built on, plus even more new subdivisions planned, many that can only access the town or highway via Back Beach Road/Panorama or Genista streets.

The only other alternative is the unmade section of Shetland Heights and Potters Hill roads.

If we have problems now it's nothing compared to the next five to 10 years if the council continue their “Do Nothing-No Money” approach of the last 10 years.

It will be a total disaster for all those living in San Remo or anyone trying to access Phillip Island.

This needs local, state and Federal Governments to work together: not continually blame each other.

The community has done all it can. Those who collect our rates and taxes need to do the job they are elected and paid to do.

In private enterprise they would just be sacked.

Chris Day, San Remo

All letters are published at the discretion of the editor. Letters may be edited for length, grammar or legal reasons. Priority will be given to current local issues and events. All letters must include the author's full name and address (only the name and location will be printed).

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1. Ensure that factual material in news reports and elsewhere is accurate and not misleading, and is distinguishable from other material such as opinion.
2. Provide a correction or other adequate remedial action if published material is significantly inaccurate or misleading.

Fairness and balance

3. Ensure that factual material is presented with reasonable fairness and balance, and that writers' expressions of opinion are not based on significantly inaccurate factual material or omission of key facts.
4. Ensure that where material refers adversely to a person,

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Integrity and transparency

7. Avoid publishing material which has been gathered by deceptive or unfair means, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
8. Ensure that conflicts of interests are avoided or adequately disclosed, and that they do not influence published material.



U16s RIPS grand final winners at the recent 2020 Dandenong Basketball Tournament. Top row (L to R): Yianni Caffieri, Jasper Cashman, Sonny McMillan, Sonny Merryful, Joel Robinson, Daniel Caffieri and coach Terry Robinson. Bottom row (L to R): Zac Walker, Cooper Walton, Ollie Hibbert and Anthony Petropoulos.



The U14 boys RIPS basketball team at Dandenong on Australia Day weekend. The team played very well throughout the tournament and just missed out on making the finals. Top row (L to R): Coach Kris Funslow, Xavier Osmond, Sam O'Garey, Austin Finlayson, Ash Robinson and Charlie Fischer. Bottom row (L to R): Jeremy Kelly, Henry Dean and Jack Mascaros.

Dandenong basketball tournament

Phillip Island and District Basketball Association (PIDBA) had all their Phillip Island RIPS representative teams enter the 2020 Dandenong Basketball Tournament over the Australia Day long weekend.

All players were thrilled to be back and finally on the courts.

The PIDBA teams had a range of great results throughout each age group, however with great success in all their rounds the

U16 boys played well in their Pool to make the grand final.

Undeclared, the U16 boys Phillip Island RIPS team went into their grand final game with confidence from their great run throughout

the tournament and secured a great win against McKinnon.

Final scores were 73-38.

It was a great team effort and Zac Walker was awarded the MVP at the end of the match.

Sharks lose close battle against Scorpions

From page 22

Dayson and Niven passed the total in the 30th over. Macca and the Burra captain talked and said let the kids have a go for five overs just to give them a crack.

Dayson got out for a well-made 13 with Niven and Dayson putting on 41 to win the game.

Excell and Niven batted the 5 overs and Excell finishing on 9 not out and Niven a game winning 39 not out with the Sharks finishing on 4-132. Thank you to Korumburra for a great game of cricket played in good spirits.

Go Sharks!

C2 Cricket

Phillip Islands C2 cricketers had a home game this week against Koonwarra CC.

We won the toss and batted and were soon in trouble.

Both openers, Manning and last week's hero Gav Excell out for not much, which brought Peter Francis and Darcy Johnston together.

A real chance of a runout with slick moving Darcy and slow-moving Pete, but it wasn't to be. Just like last week a fantastic 130 run partnership saw the Island get to 3-162 after 40 overs.

Franga a brilliant 75 and Darcy again not out with 74.

Both innings superb considering the slowness of the outfield.

We opened the bowling with Darcy Excell who got the breakthrough with a great spell of medium pace bowling and was rewarded with 1-17 off 8.

With the other Darcy bowling an excellent spell of 8 overs for 8 runs.

The opposition didn't appear to be going for a win just happy to occupy the crease.

After the 20 over mark the skipper brought himself on and things

started to change.

Johno finished with 4-20 with 3 LBW, s and 1 bowled.

Pete Francis chimed in for a wicket 1-22 and after some intense training and working on his bowling, Tarryn Allen picked up a wicket.

Koonwarra 7-112 after 40 overs.

A solid win but again we still can improve as the season gets to the interesting end!

Go Sharks

U16s

Despite the torrential rain that fell on Friday, the Under 16s were able to start on time, for day two of their game against ladder leaders Inverloch.

Opening bowlers Zac Walker and Tim Niven had to find a way to deal with the slippery conditions. Despite the scoreboard looking favourable, ball after ball slid down the leg side. This allowed Inverloch's mature opening batsmen, Jack Butcher, to find his feet and build what would ultimately prove to be a match winning innings.

At 0 for 28 after 10 overs, Max Arceo was introduced into the attack. Steaming in down the hill, Max bowled with fantastic control and produced his best spell of the year. Drifting the ball in towards the middle stump with his natural angle, Max was able to get the ball to pitch and seam away towards the offside, creating all sorts of worries for the batsmen.

When he delivered an unplayable ball (which pitched on middle and clipped the top of the off bail), Jason Kruss was on his way for a well compiled 14 and Inverloch were 1 for 30 in the 11th over.

Throughout the middle stages, the game hung in the balance.

Jack Butcher continued to work the ball around the field and pun-

ish any wayward bowling. Comrades came and went, as Zac Walker (2 for 18 off 8 overs), Tim Niven and Max Arceo continued to produce quality bowling, beating the bat on regular occasions.

When Ollie Hibbert entered the attack, a wicket with his first ball and a subsequent spell of 3 overs 1 for 5, was another stand out performance.

Considering the stage of the game, as Inverloch began to close in on the target, Ollie was able to handle both the scoreboard pressure and slippery ball to highlight the fantastic improvement he has made this year. Ultimately however, it was the Butcher brothers that stole the show and took the game away from the island.

Opener Jack made a really impressive 40, before being caught on boundary and his younger brother Harry (32 not out), controlled the latter stages of the game, working with his younger batting partner to get Inverloch over the line with just eight balls to spare.

Pleasingly however, the island got the rough end of the stick, bowling on a slippery morning with intermittent drizzle, making for tough bowling conditions.

Still, there's no doubt that the Under 16s are in the hunt for the finals with one game to go and proved that they are right in the mix for a grand final appearance this year.

Well done lads, it can still be done.

U14s

The U14 Sharks played against Nerrena on Saturday morning. Nerrena won the toss and elected to bat. George McCausland took two wickets early in the match.

Soon after Connor MacMillan

took another wicket, which was followed by his brother Thomas taking another soon after.

Xavier Godena bowled exceptionally taking two key wickets. Drew Fusinato came into the attack and finished with two wickets for no runs.

Despite Harry Arceo, Sam Bennett and Charlie O' Garey not taking any wickets they bowled superbly. Nerrena finished the innings on 9-50.

Ollie Duggan and Jake Hughes looked set from the start putting on a show. They both retired on 25.

Tyler Duell and Justin Tran came out to the middle and continued the flow of runs with Tyler finishing on 11* and Justin 10*.

The sharks ended the innings on 0-96, leading by 46 going into next week.

Continuing their innings from last week, Tyler Duell and Justin Tran opened the batting. Tyler made his way to 22 before being bowled, Justin fell in the same manner shortly after for 16.

Drew Fusinato and Sam Bennett made their way to the crease, however Sam got caught behind on 1.

Drew and George McCausland kept the runs flowing before retiring on 11 and 14.

Thomas and Connor MacMillan both saw out the innings, Connor made 13 and Thomas made 3.

The score finishing on 3-186.

Harry Arceo opened the bowling and was very unlucky not to get a wicket.

Charlie O' Garey in the second over of the day took his first wicket in U14s. The Island dismissed Nerrena all out for 52.

With one game remaining the Sharks look well placed to finish on top and receive a home final if they beat Imperials this week.

Tennis results

Section 1: Korumburra 8.67 defeated Leongatha 1.33, Inverloch 7.63 defeated Westernport 2.52 and Leongatha North 9.72 defeated Koonwarra 0.31.

Ladder: Inverloch 89.5, Leongatha North 63, Korumburra 60.5, Westernport 55, Koonwarra 19 and Leongatha 9.

Section 2: Outtrim 7.61 defeated Baromi 2.53, Korumburra Green 6.64 defeated Leongatha Millman

3.53 and Korumburra Blue 5.62 defeated Leongatha Barty 4.42.

Ladder: Outtrim 76, Korumburra Green 6, Baromi 55, Korumburra Blue 47, Leongatha Millman 32 and Leongatha Barty 27.

Korumburra courts suffered in the wild winds and rain. Due to the weather, the courts were not in a good way, so their matches were relocated to Leongatha.

Leongatha North were in control against Koonwarra this week in Section 1 winning all the sets.

Good tennis was played, but no

luck for the Koony team. Korumburra won well against Leongatha. Harry Taylor-Smith and Frank Dekker were in the only winning set for the Leongatha side.

Westernport won a mens and ladies set but that was all they could manage against Inverloch this week.

Well done to Ben White and Luke Nicholson who won their set against Justin and Connor Krohn.

Korumburra Blue were winners against Leongatha Barty in Section 2 this week.

The Korumburra Blue ladies set the way, winning their sets well. The Barty men however won their three sets. All sets were close, but Blue won well on games.

Outtrim, clearly on top of ladder in this section, won well against Baromi. Baromi won two mens sets but lost two tiebreakers.

Korumburra Green were winners by 11 games against Leongatha Millman.

Section 2's matches have been closely contested all season, making for great matches every week.



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Michelle Fincher (centre) won the Victorian Masters Women's title ahead of Ricci Hawkins and Amy Hackett (left). Photo Tommy Williams, Surfing Victoria.

Surfing Masters on the Island

The 2021 Victorian Masters Titles was held on Phillip Island on Sunday with the state's surfing pioneers gathering for an annual tradition of surfing and storytelling.

The event saw local surfer Adrian Maier narrowly defeated in the Over 35 Men event, scoring 13.57 compared to Blairgowrie surfer Joel Reid's winning score of 13.70.

The Masters Women saw Michelle Fincher, multiple state champion and Phillip Island surfing legend, again claim top honours at her home break of Cape Woolamai.

Fincher finished on a heat total of 9.26 (out of a possible 10). In second was Ricci Hawkins (Mount Eliza) and Amy Hackett (Phillip Island) in third.

Other island placegetters included Bob Matthews, Arthur McKenzie and Ed Amarin.

Finals Results:

Over 35 Men	10.10	Over 55 Men
1st – Joel Reid, 13.70	3rd – Craig Lloyd, 7.70	1st Martin Rennhackkamp, 7.30
2nd – Adrian Maier, 13.57	4th – Ed Amarin, 4.86	2nd – Matthew Fisher, 7.03
3rd – Joel Steven, 6.67	Over 45 Men	3rd – Andrew Dell, 5.90
4th – Luke Beerling, 6.44	1st – Adam Leslie, 15.54	4th – Jamie Reichelt, 4.40
Masters Women	2nd – Arthur McKenzie, 14.83	Over 60 Men
1st – Michelle Fincher, 9.26	3rd – Mark Walker, 12.13	1st – Alan Bounds, 9.67
2nd – Ricci Hawkins, 4.97	4th – Adrian Maier, 7.63	2nd – Joe Cervi, 8.26
3rd – Amy Hackett, 3.83	Over 50 Men	3rd – Mark Lloyd, 4.96
Over 40 Men	1st – Craig Lloyd, 12.00	Single Fin
1st – Mark Walker, 13.43	2nd – Jamie Reichelt, 8.67	1st – Mark Miccoli, 14.26
2nd – Adam Leslie, 3.30	3rd – Stephen O'Brian, 4.47	2nd – Mark Walker, 9.60
	4th – Robert Matthews, 3.30	



Adrian Maier was runner up in the Over 35 Men event, coming in .17 behind winner Joel Reid of Blairgowrie. Photo Tommy Williams, Surfing Victoria.

Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, January 26, Australia Day 4BBB Men, Ladies and Mixed.

Winners of the Men's 4BBB: Ross Payne and Mike Fitzmaurice with 46 points.

Winners of the Ladies 4BBB: Liz O'Neill and Karen Green with 38 points.

Winners of the Mixed 4BBB: Tony Gay and Janice Baker.

Wednesday January 27, Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Annette Millership H/c (34) with 37 points from Zoe3 Frost H/c (34) with 36 points on a countback from Susan Morris H/c (12) also with 36 points.

Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Win-

ner was Vicki Amato H/c (45) with 13 points from Dorothy Mahony H/c (45) with 8 points.

Thursday January 28, Men's and Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Colin Morris H/c (27) with 44 points from Patrick Garry H/c (24) with 39 points.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Clive Hill H/c (24) with 21 points on a countback from Steve Rieger H/c (26) also with 19 points.

Saturday January 30, Men's 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Mark Jamieson H/c (12) with 42 points from Phil Cooksey H/c (32) with 40 points.

Men's Matchplay semi-final.

Winners A Grade - Isaac Batty

and Lachlan Robinson.

Winners B Grade – Reece Jamieson and Adrian O'Gorman.

Winners C Grade – Mike Fitzmaurice and Anthony Johns.

Winners D Grade – Neil Buttery and Mick Wyzenbeek.

Next week – February Monthly Medal Sponsored by Bass Coast Building Consultants.

Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Debra Orr H/c (13) with 37 points from Vicki Roff-Smith H/c (23) with 36 points on a countback from Ros Reid H/c (28) also with 36 points.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Charlene Duthie H/c (37) with 20 points from Bob Pascoe H/c (11) with 19 points.



U14s Ollie Duggan made an unbeaten 25 against Nerrena.



Jack Hughes made 26 runs unbeaten in the U14s cricket match.

Sharks lose close battle against Scorpions

A Grade

This week saw the Sharks make the trip to Leongatha to take on the top of the table Scorpions.

After winning the toss the Sharks had a bat and lost opener Brodie Johnston early to a questionable catch.

Eli Richard met Lochie Cleeland at the crease and together the two went about their business putting on 62 for the second wicket until Richards was adjudged LBW and was out for 31 with the score at 2 for 71.

Cleeland followed the next over and the Sharks needed a rebuild with the score at 4 for 73.

Henry Shawcross (31) back into the team came in at number 6 along with Max Royal (30) at number 7 and the two had a productive partnership putting on 53 and some late hitting from Greg Selby saw the total climb to a defendable 181 on a fast ground.

After the break openers Simon Kirton and Shiran Rathnayake bowled well but without luck and it wasn't until the 12th over when spin sensation Zac Brown got the big breakthrough of Amila Rathnayake.

From here Brown along with Charith Keerthisinghe were able to build pressure and force wickets on a deck that suited the spin bowling.

At the drinks break the Scorpions were 4 for 76 with the game in the balance. After the break however the Sharks were unable to make a breakthrough and an excellent innings for Sahana Perera who finished 72 not out was able to guide the Scorpions home in the 39th over. Next week the Sharks take on Inverloch at home in what is a must win game.

B Grade

B Grade were back at home against Korumburra this week after the disappointing loss at Wonthaggi.

The day did not start as wanted with captain Macca losing the toss and the Away side electing to bat.

This decision would backfire though with the fifth ball of the first over with young gun Tom Niven getting the edge of the Burra opener taken by keeper Finlayson.

Josh Excell would follow courageously bowling up the hill, struggling at first but eventually was on song and was hitting the spot.

Both opening bowlers bowled well in a partnership, but the father son duo of Korumburra's Checkley's saw out the opening bowlers of Niven and Excell.

Josh was swapped ends after Niven's heroic spell, and that brought on Andrew Tolley from the bottom end. He was outraged with the decision, but he bowled ok in his anger.

Excell got the breakthrough bowling the other opener after good hard work.

Things started to get easier for the Sharks after the leg spinner Liam Dayson was thrown the ball and straight away was making it look like Shane Warne on a day five pitch with the batsmen having no idea.

Dayson got an LBW and Burra were in a bit of trouble at 3-42.

On came Geoff Odgers from the top end replacing Excell and didn't take him long to get the edge of probably their best batsmen and an absolute screamer taken in the gully by young Kohen Beaumont. Then he was on a

hat-trick after bowling the next batsmen first ball and Burra were in strife at 5-74.

No hat trick unfortunately and then Odgers got one more wicket an over later with Niven back in the game with a diving catch at point.

Odgers was surprisingly rested with Dayson still bowling well up the hill. Now with a smile on his face, Tolley was thrown the ball from the top end with him not taking long to strike with another catch by Niven at point and Burra were falling everywhere at 7-84. Dayson finished a great spell and Womersley followed him with him getting 2 quick wickets and Tolley ending up with 2 himself.

Korumburra all out for 98 off 33 overs. Odgers finished with 3/15 from his 5 overs Womersley 2/6/2.4 and Nivo 1/6/5.

With the Sharks requiring 99 to win, Macca and Beaumont went out to open with the plan today that if an older bloke went out an older bloke would come in and like so with the younger kids.

It didn't take long though for Burra to break through with Macca snicking off early for 4. In at 3 was Hornsby who negotiated the opener well with Kohen and were both ticking it over nicely but still did not get on top of the Burra open bowlers and got to drinks 1 for 54.

First ball after drinks wasn't exactly what the Sharks wanted with Hornsby getting a leading edge which probably should've been taken but luckily dropped right next to the stumps where Kohen was for some strange reason halfway down the pitch and found himself being run out first ball after drinks Kohen ending on a well-made 20.

Tom Niven not really acknowledged for his batting, walked out to bat with Hornsby and both started again after the wicket.

Both were looking good with them poking it around until Hornsby played all around a straight one, stumps were everywhere, Hornsby gone for 29, and the Sharks were 3 for 64.

In at 5 walked Dayson with the two batsmen having a good understanding of what to do. Niven started to go on the attack as Dayson worked the ball around and started to build a partnership, with Niven looking to finish it quickly.

Continued page 21



U14s Tyler Duell with a superb 22 runs.



After some residents called for more noise controls at the Phillip Island Circuit, others have come to its defence, calling it an "icon of the island".

GP track comes out on top

Local residents and motorsport fans have come to the defence of the Phillip Island Circuit, after two residents at Smiths Beach voiced concerns about noise levels.

In the final edition of the Advertiser for 2020, Phil Wright and Ralph Leditschke called for more noise controls at the Phillip Island Circuit, with Phil suggesting a complaints hotline be set up by the Bass Coast Shire.

Phil – who for three decades has called for the shire and the EPA to monitor and enforce noise breaches – said he planned to advocate to the Victorian Ombudsman, because residents were otherwise powerless to act.

Ralph said while the track was a "welcome

economic addition to the island" the noise during Covid restrictions was "not missed".

"Without proper noise abatement and realistic noise levels, the operation of the track severely conflicts with Phillip Island's values."

However, the response from other residents of the island was overwhelmingly in favour of the circuit.

"Some people having nothing better to do than complain," said Andrew Hall on Facebook.

"Phillip Island would not have what it has today without the racetrack."

"The track was there long before most people who are now complaining," said Judy Foden.

"If you don't like it – move on."

Some people said they loved hearing the sound of racing from the track and the "excitement and noise" that comes with race days, describing the complaints as "ridiculous".

Others pointed out the economic benefits the track brought to the island, saying the positive impacts locally and for Victoria, "outweighs any noise".

"It's an icon of the island," said Smiths Beach resident Joanne Meyer Killeen.

"I have a house at Smiths and love hearing the noise from the track. I have no issue at all with it," said Daryl Wood.

Others labelled the pair the fun police.

"They'll want to ban the penguins coming up the beach next," joked Simone Mealyea.

Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

It seems the good weather is having a bit of a break last week as well with a return to some very strong winds and almost tropical rain.

What will this change do to the fishing?

I guess we will find out when people are able to head out for a fish again.

Disappointing for those who decided to work Christmas and have some time off once kids went back to school but the weather is the one thing that none of us can control.

There were those who found small windows or know the area and found a fishing spot during the week and while reports were mixed some went home with a good feed for the table.

The end of January sees a bit of a breather for us at the shop and with most back at work, we also reduce our hours.

We are still open seven days a week but go back to 8am opening during the week and 6am weekends. Our stock levels have been reasonable through January and we have several deliveries scheduled during this month.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for what is arriving as well as some clear out specials we will have during February.

There was as many fishing from the land this week as there was from boats, after Australia day anyway.

It was one of the worst Australia Days for weather in the last few years and I think because we had such a good run up to it everybody had fished enough and headed home early to get ready for the return to

work and school.

Those fishing during the week deserved all the fish they caught with some ordinary conditions.

The surf beaches produced several smaller salmon, and it made no difference if you fished Kilcunda or the island beaches.

What we did see though was a few other species from the surf, Kilcunda near the bridge, Smiths and the Colonnades produced a few flathead and even a couple of pinkies with a handful of whiting and trevally from the rocks at Sunderland Bay on the low tide.

Only a handful of calamari this week, boating was difficult with little opportunity until the weekend and land difficult with the strong winds.

There was a lot of weed in the water as well, fouling up jigs very quickly and only those with lots of patience managed any from the land.

The best of the land-based calamari this week came from the Cowes side of the island which was protected most of the time from the winds.

Boating calamari reports came from a couple of places out from Cowes but also from in Cleeland Bight when the winds allowed.

Whiting was the main target from the boats this week with snapper and gummy grounds not really fishable for most of the time.

Unlike the calamari we had reports from several different areas with people using tide and wind to their advantage and fishing where it was best.

We didn't get any reports of

customers getting big bags but enough to make it worth the effort of putting the boat in.

Because you needed to fish the wind and tide it meant fishing one spot until the tide turned then traveling to continue fishing so the tide and wind were in your favour. That's why there weren't really any spots that stood out as being better.

We had many reports from many different whiting areas, deep and shallow with mostly small bags from each area, all due to the ever-changing weather and to get a decent quantity of fish required lots of moving.

The bigger whiting, from the reports retreated to the deeper water with plenty of small fish up in the shallows.

Now we do have some quiet time we are starting to work on our Easter fishing competition for the Good Friday appeal.

Keep an eye on the reports or our social media where we will add information as we work out the details.

They say what a difference a week makes but at the moment it's what a difference a year makes. Twelve months ago, we were hearing about this new virus that was spreading around the world and while it sounded serious there were more tragic events happening with the bushfires.

Little did we know how serious all this would become in a very short time and what a change it would make to all our lives.

While this is appearing to be far from over the pleasing thing is most of the businesses around this area survived. Sadly not all did, and I think people need to be careful how they judge those who didn't make it or even the way some businesses are now operating.

PIFNC Junior Football Coaches

Applications now open for

U10, U12, U14 & Youth Girls

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brendan.cashman@tabcorp.com.au

by Thursday 11th February.

Enquiries contact:

Junior Football

Operation Manager,

Brendan Cashman

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FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB



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NEW & USED BOAT SALES

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point
Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31

HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BOLD

Wed 3	5.49am 2.99m	11.37am 0.58m	6.08pm 2.80m	11.45pm 0.56m
Thu 4	6.25am 2.95m	12.19pm 0.45m	6.58pm 2.83m	
Fri 5	12.31am 0.66m	7.00am 2.82m	1.00pm 0.32m	7.48pm 2.80m
Sat 6	1.17am 0.79m	7.36am 2.82m	1.42pm 0.32m	8.41pm 2.80m
Sun 7	2.04am 0.94m	8.15am 2.72m	2.26pm 0.33m	9.36pm 2.75m
Mon 8	2.54am 1.08m	9.00am 2.62m	3.14pm 0.38m	10.36pm 2.70m
Tue 9	3.51am 1.21m	9.55am 2.51m	4.11pm 0.46m	11.42pm 2.68m

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Phillip Island bowls

We held a very successful Australia Day club event. The members were dressed in Aussie attire, "fines" issued for not complying with donations to RCH Appeal.

It was a fun day with a sausage sizzle for lunch.

We played Pairs of 4 games 8 ends. Winners were Chris Fricke and Julie Pora.

Barefoot Bowls continued during the week, with visitors making the most of the last week of holidays and fine weather.

Corporate bowls is quite competitive.

Winners: DTM Bulldogs. Runners-up: Goodie Chalkies.

Saturday Pennant results.

Division 1 Blue, defeated Leongatha Gold 95 to 50.

Division 1 White lost to Leongatha Green

93 to 46.

Division 2, Defeated Fish Creek 90 to 53.

Division 3, Defeated Meenyan 75 to 48.

Division 5, Defeated San Remo [2] 85 to 50.

On Sunday Korumburra hosted SGBD and State finals.

Phillip Island Four's with team of Skip, Russell May, Bob Anketell, Glen Cohen and Kevin Wagner, were defeated by a team from Wonthaggi, but were very competitive.

The Pairs were runners up represented by Arthur Denny and Hans Olierook; they lead most of the game but were finally defeated.

Robyn Dennis lost to Rosa James in the Ladies semi-final.

Midweek bowls reconvenes this week.

The 28th Autumn Bowling Carnival Begins on Monday, April 26 to Sunday, May 2.

Contact Robin Blackman for entries.

This has been a well-supported event for Phillip Island.



Chris Fricke and Julie Pora – Australia Day bowls winners.



Winners of midweek bowls played at Tarwin Lower were Michael Dady (3), Elaine Fitt (L), Robyn Coulson (2) and Mark Andreatta (S).



Elaine Williams (L), Chris Coulson (3), Peter McWilliams (S) and Mary Nicholson (2) were the runners up of midweek bowls on Thursday.



Best One Game players were Greg Wood (S), Pauline McWilliams (2), Peter Thorley (L) and Lindsay Russell (3).

Midweek bowls

South West Gippsland midweek bowls winners were Mark Andreatta, Michael Dady, Robyn Coulson and Elaine Fitt.

Runners up were Peter McWilliams, Chris Coulson, Mary Nicholson and Elaine Williams.

One Game winners: Greg Wood, Lindsay Russell, Pauline McWilliams and Peter Thorley.

Thursday, January 28 midweek bowls was played at Tarwin Lower with 24 bowlers.

The green ran fast, and the wind was of the likes that I've never seen before.

There was hardly a bowl on the green mostly in the ditch or on other rinks.

We were all very windblown, the last game was shortened to 10 ends instead of the normal 12.

Although the weather was fine the wind was ferocious and we were all happy to go inside to shelter.

Still, it did not deter our enthusiasm and happy banter could be heard across all the rinks.

Thank you to Paul in the bar for our well-

earned drinks and Wilma Coleman in the kitchen and a special thank you to Wilma for her home baked scones and fruit cake for our free raffle table and our members who bring goods thank you.

The free raffle table is a lot of fun and you never know what treasure you will win.

Next week, midweek will be held at Koo Wee Rup from 10am at venue for a 10.30 start, BYO lunch.

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

Everyone welcome.

See You on The Green.

Our Boardriders victorious

Phillip Island Boardriders' Club claimed victory at their home break to secure a spot at the National Final of the nudie Australian Boardriders Battle.

The team was cheered on by a vocal group of local supporters.

After multiple postponements in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event went ahead on Saturday at Cape Woolamai as the final qualifier in the national series.

With a wind-swept swell increasing throughout the day, conditions were challenging for all competitors.

Taking to the waves for the Boardriders were Glyndyn Ringrose, Carl Wright, Codie Jeffery, Sophie Fletcher and Harry de Roth.

The island team showed great consistency and discipline to win. Codie Jeffery turned in two amazing performances (7.8 and 7.9) to lead the team to victory.

Not only did Codie get the highest score in both the quarter final and the final, but both times he did it in less than two minutes, giving his team mates more time in the water to catch better waves.

Torquay and Phillip Island were dominant in the opening rounds and progressed automatically through to the final.

The final saw traditional rivals Torquay, Phillip Island and Peninsula Surf Riders alongside relatively newly formed club Jan Juc.

Team effort

Under the format of the event, each team has five surfers who compete in a 60-minute heat. Surfers can catch as many waves as they want, but only one wave counts.

Each team designates a Super Surfer – for Phillip Island it was Carl Wright – who then returns to the water after all five surfers



Phillip Island Boardriders' Codie Jeffery in action on the waves at the Australian Boardriders Battle held at Cape Woolamai on the weekend. Photo Tommy Williams, courtesy of Surfing Victoria.

have completed their set. The Super Surfer can only surf one extra wave. This is where the final result is usually determined.

In the final, Carl's Super Surfer wave score of 5.2 was enough to seal the win for Phillip Island.

Surfing Victoria described Codie Jeffery as "the steady force in the final for Phillip Island" and said his 7.93 score helped to ensure the island team took home the top spot and the \$2,000 prize money.

Phillip Island finished with a team total of 32.97 points. Codie also walked away as the Oakley

Prizm Performer of the Weekend. "It's an amazing feeling to get the win," said Jeffery.

"We worked our asses off for this and got the job done. To do it in front of all our mates at home makes the win that much better.

"The team probably won't change too much between now and the final. We will just get up there and give it a crack."

Finishing in second place and claiming the second spot in the National Final was Peninsula Surfriders on 30.53 points, just .23 of a point ahead of third place team Torquay on 30.30 points.

Jan Juc finished in fourth place on 25.96 points.

The National Final is scheduled to take place in Newcastle, NSW on May 15 and 16 and will be broadcast via www.australian-boardridersbattle.com

Full results of the weekend's event can be found online via www.liveheats.com/surfingvictoria

Now in its eighth season, the nudie Australian Boardriders Battle is the country's biggest grassroots boardriders event, involving more than 60 of Australia's best boardrider clubs and \$112,700 in prize money across the series.

Soccer coaches announced

Phillip Island Soccer club can announce the senior men's team will be coached by Timmy Vanweynsberge and Daren Dempsey this season.

After the year off due to Covid, both are refreshed and excited for what the season ahead will bring.

Timmy has been involved with the club from an early age, playing through juniors and seniors, winning many trophies and club awards over the years.

Timmy has been a senior leader at the club for a number of years and this is his first season of stepping into the coaching role. He is excited to give it a go and looking forward to the new challenges coaching will bring.

Daren has been at the Breakers since 2000 as a player, president, coach and parent.

He last coached seniors in 2011. After three years involvement with the seniors he moved to juniors to coach his own children.

Most recently he coached the senior women's team who went undefeated for the last two seasons played.

Daren said: "The club has been lucky over the years to have senior coaches with high levels of coaching experience and football knowledge.

"I am looking forward to the challenge of working with Tim-



Daren Dempsey and Timmy Vanweynsberge have been announced as the new senior coaches for the 2021 soccer season.

my to follow on from the work of these coaches.

"This year is different to any other in the past coming off the back of Covid. We are hoping to see our youth players come back and push for seniors' positions along with our more experienced players."

The club wish Timmy and Daren all the best for success in 2021. Senior men training begins this Thursday, February 4 at Newhaven Rec Reserve.

All players aged 15 and over are welcome to train.

Training begins at 6.30pm.

Go5s

Go5s is back for February. The club is running a short four-

week program beginning February 4 for U9, U12 and U15 players, both girls and boys.

Go5s is a social modified form of soccer that provides a fun introduction to those who are new to soccer.

If you are interested in registering, please go to gofootball.com.au and choose your location to play.

The program was very successful in 2020 and we are happy to offer it again.

It is the perfect program for your child to try and see if soccer is the sport for them.

The cost is \$20 for four weeks.

Go Soccer Mums

We are running a Go Soccer Mums program alongside the

Go5s. Go Soccer mums is 45 minutes of fun soccer-based exercise for females of all ages.

Have fun, meet new people, and learn basic football skills in a social, judgement-free environment. To register interest for this program, follow the same link as Go5s.

With the support of VicHealth and a grant we received late last year we can offer the program in term 1 for free.

Season 2021

Our registrations for our winter season will open late February and the club will be hosting a family fun day to open registrations on Sunday, February 28.

More details about this day will be advertised closer to the event.

Once registrations open training will commence on Thursday nights for all our teams.

With a change in structure of the league which has resulted in our junior teams moving to playing on Saturday, we believe we will be able to offer the opportunity for more junior players to join our club.

If you have any queries about Go5s, Go Soccer Mums or our regular season please contact the club at phillipislandsoccer@gmail.com or Andrea on 0401 824 252.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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