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Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

\$1.60 Incl. GST



This photo, taken on the long weekend, shows vessels tied to the southern pontoon which exceeded the 15-minute time limit. The catamaran on the right occupied the space for several days, while the powerboats were there for several hours.

Visiting sailors “hogging” Rhyll ramp for “leisure stays”

Boaties are flouting rules at the Rhyll boat ramp by parking their vessels for extended periods, some turning the mooring into short holidays for several days.

Local anglers and ramp users say since the upgraded ramp was finished late last year, there has been a growing trend for visiting boats to overstay their welcome.

Locals have called for Bass Coast Shire to enforce launch and retrieve rules – which stipulate 15-minute mooring times – to ensure the safety of all users.

Rhyll Angling Club president Albert Abram said club members were concerned some were “unfairly hogging” the facilities for “leisure stays”, with boats tied up to the ramp that “can sleep up to a dozen people – more like floating

apartments”.

He said there had been two large private boats tied up with parties on board.

“I think it’s an emerging trend. In recent weeks there were some large vessels that stayed longer than necessary to launch and retrieve, moored for days, rather than the 15 minutes-or-so generally required,” Albert said.

“Our members have spoken with several of the owners of the moored vessels and they were unaware of the time limits, despite the signage. Some were apologetic, while others were not concerned.

“We understand the upgraded boat ramp is primarily for recreational boaters to facilitate launch and retrieval activities.”

Albert called on the shire to enforce the time limit to discourage long stays and ensure safety.

“It’s a bit of danger for bigger recreational boats, because of where they are tied up and a nuisance because they are in the way.

“Our members are concerned that the larger vessels, when moored for long periods, will break the ramp. In particular, the cleats and side buffers will be damaged with the force of the water and the mass and momentum of the vessels.”

He suggested the shire apply more prominent markings on the pontoons, marking time limits with red, blue, or yellow paint stencilled on the concrete adjacent to the cleats.

Policing

A shire spokesperson said the Rhyll ramp had been developed for the launch and retrieval of marine vessels, with short-term mooring allowed at pontoons for a 15-minute maximum period.

“Longer-term mooring can result in an inconvenience to users of the facility and potential safety hazard,” the spokesperson said.

“Longer-term mooring is available at other locations at Rhyll.”

They said shire staff undertake routine inspections of the ramp and also respond to community reports.

“Most recently, council staff inspected the site and it was observed the reported boats have moved on. Council will continue to monitor the site and take necessary action when required.”

New Rhyll ramp safety concerns

Boaties have questioned the safety of the upgraded Rhyll ramp, with one even reporting they fell in the water after slipping.

Five months after it first opened and following a busy summer, water users have given their verdict on the \$4.5 million upgrade.

Several told the Advertiser the new ramp was not as easy to use as the old one, listing problems including a slippery ramp at low tide – forcing drivers to do burn outs to get traction.

On an outgoing tide there is the possibility of a boat being trapped or overturned under the northerly wall.

There are concerns the ramp entrance is too narrow, especially on outgoing tides that run faster, making it dangerous to manoeuvre three boats and risking collisions with other boats or pylons.

Some said cleaning stations were too small, with less parking and no dress down areas.

“It seems they have used an off-the-shelf standard design, which may be great elsewhere but is not best suited to Rhyll,” Tas Roussos said.

“They should have taken into account the big swing in tides and the fast tidal nature.”

There was also positive feedback.

Rhyll Angling Club president Albert Abram said he had received positive feedback from members.

“I believe that the project has been successful, particularly with all the constraints on the area,” Albert said.

Tas said floating pontoons were lower so it was easier to dock a boat now than before.

On social media Kris said “most people absolutely love it”.

Falling

Many took to social media to air their concerns.

Roger Hansen argued the top section of the ramp now has a broom finish, but below this was “like standing on slimy glass”.

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14 24	17 26	19 27	18 27	17 23	15 17	15 19

San Remo business NBN award finalist

San Remo business Terra Lab is a finalist in the national NBN grants program.

The environmental and GIS consultancy is a finalist in the agriculture category of the \$15,000 innovate with NBN program, which aims to help regional businesses transform ideas into products and services.

Winners are announced on February 22 in Canberra.

Terra Lab, run by Harley Shinagl (pictured), creates hardware and software solutions for tracking weed management, which retrofits to weed control equipment and automatically records the equipment's location and activity to review data, plan work, view statistics, publish maps, and report to clients.

NBN chief development officer Gavin Williams said 13 finalists were selected from more than 150 nationwide entries, with the overall winner also given \$20,000.

"We launched this program to unearth fresh ideas and support businesses that are using the NBN network to develop products or solutions that improve productivity and social outcomes for Australians," Gavin said.

www.stallogger.com



Harley Shinagl runs San Remo business Terra Lab, which is a finalist in the national NBN grants program, for its hardware and software solutions for tracking weed management.



Heidi the Rottweiler with Peter List and owner Matt Scavo. After an anxious 31 days, Heidi was finally found on Peter's property near Pyramid Rock and reunited with her family.

Hurray – Heidi is finally home

Heidi, the nine-year-old Rottweiler that went missing from Cowes around 8pm on New Year's Eve has finally been found and reunited with her family.

Local farmer Peter List spotted the dog on his property near Pyramid Rock last week and contacted owner Matthew Scavo straight away.

With the help of Peter's drone and quad bikes they were able to quickly locate her and get her to safety.

Matthew posted the news on Facebook and thanked everyone in the community for their ongoing support.

"Remarkably Heidi is ok after spending 31 days in paddocks/bush land of Phillip Island," said Matthew.

"She is very tired, underweight and has some grass seeds lodged in her paws that need to be surgically removed.

"I'll keep everyone updated in the coming days as to how her recovery is travelling."



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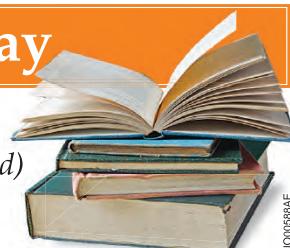
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International Women's Day lunch

Bass Coast Shire Council invites the community to celebrate cultural diversity this International Women's Day, by joining a special lunch on Thursday March 9, at Phillip Island Winery, from 12pm – 2.30pm.

Join keynote speaker Div Pillay, guest speaker Nicky Chung, MC Deputy Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, alongside women from all backgrounds – and allies.

International Women's Day is a time for inspiration and change. Every year since 1911, this global day marks the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, while calling to accelerate women's equality.

For this year's Bass Coast event the theme is embracing cultural diversity.

"Council celebrates any opportunity to embrace and empower all communities in Bass Coast in their diversity," said CEO Ali Wastie.

"This event will bring to life our mission to increase equality and appreciate all our uniqueness.

"Our International Women's Day event underpins the Healthy and Inclusive Community Aspiration of the Bass Coast Community Vision 2041 created with residents last year.

"It embodies our goal to be caring, connected and welcome all people, celebrating and supporting diversity plus uniqueness.

"Gender inequality is not experienced in the same way by all women," Ms Wastie continued.

"All elements of identity – including race, geography, sexuality and disability – influence how we experience the world, personally and professionally.

"Yet we know that diverse teams are better at solving problems, which is vital as we tackle the climate emergency and reconnect post-pandemic.

"Embracing cultural diversity is essential in challenging stereotypes and promoting societal change. Gender equality is a key pillar of this. Ending discrimination and bias – consciously and unconsciously – is a key priority for Council, as we end inequality across our entire community."

Council invites the community to join it and to hear stories from women within our community and be inspired by our keynote speaker Div Pillay, CEO of MindTribes and Co-Founder of social enterprise, Culturally Diverse Women, plus Guest Speaker, Nicky Chung, CEO of Australian Vietnamese Women's Association, President of Rotary Club Wonthaggi and Deputy Chair of Bass Coast Health.

This event is not just for people who identify as women: everybody is welcome.

International Women's Day is a time for us all, regardless of gender identity, to acknowledge the progress that women have made towards equality – while remembering there is still much to do. Achieving equality, building allyship and dismantling damaging stereotypes is as important for men as it is for women, so everyone is welcome to attend.

Bass Coast Shire Council sincerely thanks its sponsors Bass Coast Health, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Westernport Water for their continued support.

Tickets for Bass Coast International Women's Day: Embracing Cultural Diversity are on sale now from basscoastinternationalwomensday.eventbrite.com.au

Thursday, March 9 from 12 noon to 2.30pm at Phillip Island Winery, 414 Berrys Beach Road, Ventnor.

Tickets \$35 per person (includes two course meal and speakers).



CARING FOR SAM'S CHILDREN

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

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

Surgeries cancelled at Wonthaggi, amid health concerns

Patients with private health insurance – including an aged pensioner – have had surgeries cancelled at Wonthaggi Hospital, and told to go on public waiting lists or travel to Melbourne.

Two Phillip Island patients who spoke to the Advertiser said they were “upset” and “disheartened” by the situation, saying Melbourne surgery was a difficult option for them and after decades as private patients they were considering cancelling their insurance.

Sources also told the Advertiser that “unless a private hospital turns up locally”, privately-insured local residents had limited advantage.

While the issue is a post-Covid state-wide public hospital problem – new, but largely unpublicised – sources said some other regional areas were showing more leniency and Bass Coast Health (BCH) was rigorous in rolling out the policy.

The problem has been exacerbated after several well-known Melbourne surgeons – who have operated both privately and publicly at Wonthaggi for decades – recently left disgruntled, allegedly because of BCH’s new focus on salaried staff and contractual arrangements (see separate story).

Hard hit

A Phillip Island couple, who are elderly pensioners, said they had kept their health insurance “at great cost so we could avoid the difficulties of being on public waiting lists”.

The wife, who didn’t want to be named, said her husband had surgery in Wonthaggi Hospital in December.

“My husband was booked into the hospital for further surgery in early January. We received word from the



Patients with private health insurance say they have had surgeries cancelled at Wonthaggi Hospital, and have been told to go on public waiting lists or travel to Melbourne.

doctor’s rooms the hospital was no longer taking private patients and now he is on the public waiting list,” she said.

She said driving to the surgeon’s other operating rooms in Melbourne “would be very difficult for us”.

“It will be a particular problem for regional areas such as ours where there is no local private hospital.

“This decision has exacerbated

our concern our new community hospital in Cowes is not going to be a real hospital, in that there will be no capacity for overnight stays. We feel very disheartened.”

She said none of their friends knew about the private health surgery issues at Wonthaggi “and I suspect most in the community will be unaware of this development”.

“There may be a danger that other

pensioners like ourselves will consider withdrawing from health insurance, thus causing a problem there.”

Cowes resident Ron Day had surgery at Wonthaggi in November last year and his second surgery was scheduled for early February but was cancelled in December.

He was told he could have his surgery as a private patient in Melbourne, or be a public patient at

Wonthaggi and wait 12 months, which is the option he opted for, currently waiting for surgery.

“I wasn’t given a reason but I was upset, especially as I understand private patients whose surgeon charges a gap fee to operate will no longer be performing at Wonthaggi Hospital.

“If specialists in the area can’t use the facility then they will move away.”

One surgeon told the Advertiser the implications for patients were “horrendous”.

“Think of the people who have moved here who carry private insurance only to be told they can’t use it at the local hospital.

“What’s the point of moving to the area?”

The surgeon added private patients could use Wonthaggi Hospital, they would “just have to join the queue” as normal, with another surgeon explaining BCH had removed any benefit for a surgeon to treat a private patient in the public facility.

According to betterhealth.vic.gov.au private patients can use their private health insurance at public or private hospitals (if their insurance package covers the costs of the procedure they are having). Medicare pays for 75 per cent of the associated medical costs and the patient or private health insurer pays for the remaining costs, including accommodation and other associated costs.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital states being “admitted as a private patient allows us to bill your health fund”.

For more on this story, turn to page 10



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Emergency visit by Premier

The Premier Daniel Andrews and Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas visited the new emergency department at Wonthaggi Hospital last week, with stage one of the development now open and operating.

Touring the ED, the Premier spoke with Phillip Island resident Yvonne Morgan who was full of praise for the health service.

A dedicated member of the Health Hub Auxiliary, Yvonne told the Premier the Urgent Care Centre in Cowes and the hospital "saved her life".

Currently being treated for cancer under a shared care arrangement with The Alfred, Yvonne was in the ED due to problems with fluid retention.

After visiting the ground-floor ED area, the Premier was shown through the day surgery recovery unit before addressing the waiting media, which included metropolitan news outlets.

Mr Andrews said he had never been prouder nor more pleased "to drive in here today and see these fantastic new buildings".

"There's no better way for us to thank staff ... than to give them first class facilities that match the quality of their care, the high level of their skills and the amazing commitment that they show to their patients and their community every single day."

The Health Minister, Mary Anne Thomas said the extended hospital now had 18 new emergency points of care, all able to receive Covid patients, and would enable health professionals to deliver the very best care.

It also includes 32 new inpatient beds and has doubled the hospital's surgery capacity, with three new theatres and a procedure room.

In declaring the new section open, the Premier described them as "the best facilities anywhere in regional Australia", saying the local community deserved nothing less.



Yvonne Morgan from Phillip Island is a dedicated member of the island's Health Hub Auxiliary, who has experienced the care firsthand. She met with Premier Daniel Andrews when he visited the new Wonthaggi Emergency department, along with Jordan Crugnale (MP for Bass) and Mary-Anne Thomas (Minister for Health).

Mr Andrews thanked Kane Constructions for their work on the new building, which he said not only delivered fantastic facilities, but also provided an economic benefit for local trades and suppliers.

Stage two

As part of last year's election campaign, Mr Andrews committed \$290 million to stage two of the hospital redevelopment and he reconfirmed that commitment, with a completion date of 2027.

"We have a record of doing what we say."

He praised the work of the hospital management team, and the staff.

"Thanks to every member of the team here, who all do an amazing job."

The \$290 million second stage of works at Wonthaggi Hospital, will deliver two new wards, a new labour and delivery complex, and a new outpatient clinic with around 25 treatment spaces.

Better at Home

The Premier and Minister also spoke of the government's ongoing commitment to the Better at Home program and a need for national reform to Medicare and the primary care system.

"We're making sure Bass Coast families have the world-class emergency care they need, close to home – but we're also working to prioritise the reform of Australia's broken primary care system to get people the

most appropriate care, as soon as they need it," Mr Andrews said.

He said the new Better at Home program freed up hospital beds for other patients.

"In 2021-22, Bass Coast Health provided 1846 days of care to patients recovering at home – and across Gippsland more broadly, 14,466 bed days were provided at home," he said.

"People are, as the program title suggests, better at home, and I can say that, not just as the Premier, a former health minister, but as a patient."

"Better at Home, was for me and my family and for thousands more, a really important change."

The Premier said the number one focus of the National Cabinet meeting, which took place last Friday, would be "fixing the broken health care system".

He said reforms needed included changes to Medicare as bulk billing rates had fallen.

Caucus at Silverwater

Labor MPs, including the Premier Daniel Andrews slipped quietly into town and spent two days meeting at Silverwater Resort in San Remo last week.

The politicians kept a low profile, with few locals aware of their presence until the Premier took time out from the caucus meeting to travel across to Wonthaggi and tour the new hospital emergency department (see separate story).

At a press conference with the Minister for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas, he also announced Victoria would be pushing for reform of the country's primary care system when he attended the National Cabinet meeting last week.



The Premier took time out from the two-day caucus meeting at Silverleaves Resort to tour the new Wonthaggi Hospital emergency department, with Jordan Crugnale (Member for Bass) and Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas.

"We need to train more GPs and pay GPs more," he said.

"Medicare is not where it is supposed to be."

He said people unable to access bulk billing medical care were putting additional strain on emergency departments, as they "used the only option available".

He said it was essential to get bulk billing rates up and make ED's for emergencies, rather than issues that could be dealt with by GPs.

"That will be number one on my list at the National Cabinet meeting. The Federal government have shown genuine commitment to do something and we are there to be equal partners in that effort."

Before leaving, Mr Andrews again praised the new Wonthaggi facilities, describing them as "just stunning".

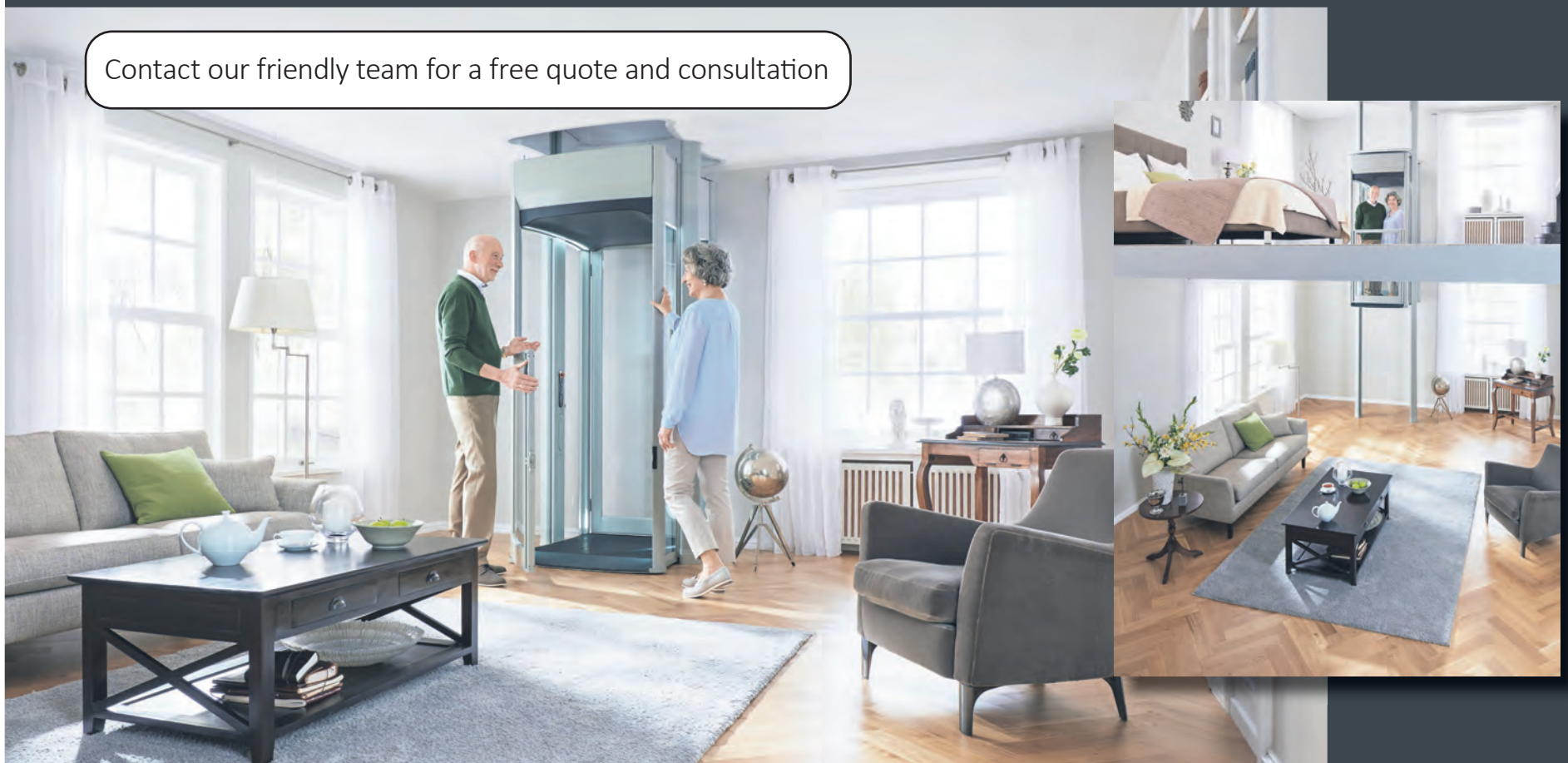
"We will be back – there will be ribbons involved when stage two is completed," he promised.



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Nearly 600 competitors were already registered for the San Remo Channel Challenge when organisers announced the event was postponed and moved to December 2, due to unfavourable weather.

Disappointment as Channel Challenge put off until December

Last Friday, organisers of the San Remo Channel Challenge made the difficult decision to cancel the event, due to the forecast for high winds and dangerous water conditions.

Ron Nicholson from the Channel Challenge committee said organisers met at the San Remo jetty on Friday morning and came to the unanimous decision that the conditions would not be safe for the race to go ahead.

"While the strongest swimmers would have been able to get across the Channel it is the least capable and least experienced 200 competitors that the concerns centred around and with them in mind, we had no option but to call the event off," he said.

"We also knew the high winds would make it difficult for water safety personnel on the water to hold their positions, especially the board paddlers.

"With the eventual weather being pretty rough on the Saturday morning we are confident that the correct decision was reached."

Although weather was more favourable on Sunday, the nominated back-up date, the required number

of water safety people needed to run the event were not available.

The Channel Challenge has now been moved to the first Saturday of December, as there were no suitable dates and tides available this summer.

The Cowes Classic on February 18 will become the second leg of the Bass Coast Classic, with the third leg now the Channel Challenge on Saturday December 2.

The Race Centre opened at the San Remo Hotel from 9am - 12pm on Saturday morning to answer any queries and process any refund requests.

"It is a big disappointment," said Ron of the postponement due to weather conditions – only the second time in the event's history.

"We were heading for a record number of entries. We nearly had 600 already and if the weather had been good, we would have been well over the record.

"After 32 years of holding special events in the Bass Coast Shire from 1986 to 2017 without a hiccup, the organisers are feeling a bit like a punching bag after the events of the past six years," Ron continued.

"It started in 2018 with Michael

Gordon's fatal heart attack in the Phillip Island Swim Classic and the subsequent postponement of the 2018 Cowes Classic.

"Then in 2019, with the US Triathlon team in town and lined up at the start of the Channel Challenge, the wind gusts peaked at nearly 60kms an hour and the 2019 Channel Challenge was postponed to a later date – minus the Americans.

"In 2020 all events at Cape Paterson, San Remo and Cowes were cancelled due to Covid lockdowns and then in 2021 Cape Paterson was again cancelled while the 2021 Cowes Classic had to be postponed and rescheduled.

He said the cancellation also impacted local traders and community groups like the Scouts and Guides, who had purchased food for the day, intending to sell bacon and egg rolls and hamburgers.

"It's an unfortunate outcome after such a good summer," Ron said.

"This is quite tiring and draining for the organising teams involved from the Cape Paterson SLSC, Woolamai Beach SLSC and the Phillip Island Football Netball Club.

"The registrations for last weekend

show that there is a strong demand for these events within our local community and we also know they bring many visitors to Bass Coast.

"The Shire officers and councillors have always been very supportive of the events and discussions are ongoing about how to reschedule the 2023 Channel Challenge and restructure the Bass Coast Series for 2023."

The decision to rescheduled to Saturday December 2, the first Saturday of next summer means the \$10,000 worth of T-shirts and trophies with 2023 printed and engraved on them can still be used.

All entrants have been told their registrations can be rolled over into that new date or they can request a refund.

Organisers said about 100 requests for refunds have been received so far and are being processed by volunteers.

Cowes Classic

Organisers are hopeful that with competitors missing out on the San Remo event after training hard for months, there will be a surge in registrations for the Cowes Classic

Aquathon on Saturday, February 18.

The Little Penguin Dash for seven- to 14-year-olds will also be held on that morning at the Cowes foreshore. Enter online www.bass-coastseries.com.au

Some of the prizemoney allocated for the Bass Coast Series will still be awarded for points won over the two events held this summer – the Cape Paterson Aquathon (January 22) and Cowes Classic (February 18).

There will be smaller cheques issued for winners of all 16 categories in the series: Open and Local; Male and Female – Junior, Senior, Over 40 and Over 50.

Points are awarded for competitors who finish each event with the top twenty home in each category receiving bonus points according to their finishing position.

The rest of the prize money will be allocated in December at the Channel Challenge for points awarded in that event.

"Thanks to all of our sponsors, donors and volunteers who have been involved so far this summer and let's see if we can finish off with a big community event in Cowes on the 18th," said Ron.



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From left: Phillip Island Bowls Club Board member Chris Fricke, Cowes branch manager Tanya Donnan, Cowes Community Bank Chair Peter Paul, Bowls Club Chair Wayne Barr and Cowes Community Bank Director John Matthews.

Your bank, Your community space

Phillip Island Bowls Club (PIBC) now has a brand-new outdoor BBQ and social space ready for the community thanks to a successful Cowes, San Remo and Grantville Bendigo Bank grant worth almost \$30,000.

The club applied for the grant in 2022 and received their "big cheque" at the official ceremony in Dalyston in September last year.

Works have now been completed and members of the community who wish to hire the facility and have a bowl and a BBQ can enjoy the stylish space immediately.

"Phillip Island Bowls Club wished to create an area for social and community gatherings outside of the club house environment. This outside area now provides excellent facilities for anyone needing a venue for their celebrations or events," Chair Wayne Barr commented.

"This will be of great benefit to many others too, as the local schools will be able to rest in the shaded area in between the PE lessons of lawn bowls."

In the past PIBC has been able to offer visitors a venue for 100 people. The new PIBC/ Bendigo Bank BBQ and social space will allow greater numbers from community groups

to be accommodated at the club in a comfortable area.

Chair of the Community Banks, Peter Paul, was happy the bank could help.

"This is the community's bank. Thanks to the support of this wonderful community, we've been able to give \$5 million back to locals since we began almost 20 years ago.

"The more people that support the local Community bank, the more we can give back in sponsorship and grants."

Assistant Branch Manager Tanya Donnan commented, "We're really proud that we can be open and available for the local Cowes and San Remo community 9.30am to 5pm, five days a week".

"We encourage anyone interested in sponsorship or a grant for their group to pop in and have a chat in those times."

The grants information night for 2023 will be held at the San Remo Bowls Club, 6pm to 7pm on Wednesday March 1. For further information contact admin@srdfs.com.au or pop into one of the three friendly branches at Cowes, San Remo or Grantville.

/ Sponsored article /



Phillip Island Bowls Club received a grant in 2022. L-R: John, Ray, Chris, Lindsay, Barry, Tanya (Cowes branch) Peter (Chair, SRDFS), Wayne, John, Brian and Jimmy

San Remo, Cowes and Grantville Community Banks Grants Information Night

A 2023 Community Grant may be just what your organisation needs to make a great idea happen. So we're having an information session on applying for a grant on **Wednesday March 1 from 6pm to 7pm** at the **San Remo Bowls Club, Wynne Rd, San Remo.**

Light refreshments provided and all Community groups welcome. RSVP to admin@srdfs.com.au or any of our friendly branches at San Remo, Cowes and Grantville.

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Community Enterprise Foundation™

The Cowes Community Grants Program is a management account of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. OUT_2034279

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Bass Coast Shire's leniency in issuing warnings to owners with dogs off leash on beaches over summer, has been described as hypocritical compared to parking infringements.

Shire fines inconsistent between dogs, drivers

Residents have questioned Bass Coast Shire's leniency in issuing warnings to owners with dogs off leash on beaches over summer, describing it as hypocritical compared to parking infringements.

The response came after shire CEO Ali Wastie appeared on ABC 774 radio last week for a state-wide discussion about where dogs should be allowed off leash.

Ms Wastie told radio listeners shire rangers this summer had seen an improvement in compliance on beaches by dog owners, despite some beach goers reporting the opposite.

"We do take an education approach. We believe people don't want to do the wrong thing so often we issue a warning, but if it's a second offence or a serious issue it's an on-the-spot fine," she said.

Ms Wastie explained a fine was \$185 for dogs off leash in areas where they are required to be on lead, while a failure to look after a dog – such as picking up dog poo – was up to \$370.

"We love dogs, the environment and people. We take a balance. We have options for

people and their dogs including off lead parks, on lead, and areas where dogs are not allowed to go because we need to protect the environment including nesting hooded plovers," Ms Wastie said.

On the shire's Facebook page, Darren said the focus on warnings did not deter dog owners from "poor behaviour", adding the shire did not show such leniency to other infringements.

"When I requested warnings be given to people parking on the nature strips, I was told warnings would not be given, fines would be handed out, so it's a bit of a double standard," Darren said.

"I was also told the same about drivers parking too close to corners: no warnings, just fines handed out. Some consistency would be nice."

Chris said he had never seen a single ranger on patrol while living on the island, while Sussi said Ms Wastie should have explained "that it is not policed".

Heather responded saying more rangers were needed to police dogs incorrectly off

leash, adding the shire was "greenwashing" the issue.

The Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association replied saying they would always work with the shire and Nature Parks to "protect our fragile marine environment".

"We absolutely advocate for responsible dog ownership. However, rules are only as good as their enforcement," the association said.

"Our group promotes the relevant bylaws in our newsletter and provide links to the "Where Can I Walk my Dog" brochure.

"We are always open to discussions with the shire as to how we can promote responsible dog ownership."

PINP CEO Catherine Basterfield last month clarified to the Advertiser previous Nature Parks comments that it had been a positive summer for dogs on beaches, adding this was because compared to previous years there had been no aggression from the public to rangers.

She acknowledged there had been owners breaking on-leash rules.

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Tides of Rhyll posted this photo showing that customers who parked in the empty Rhyll ramp car park were nevertheless fined.

Boat parking squeeze needs fairness: traders

Rhyll traders have called on Bass Coast Shire to ease boat parking restrictions to allow for customer parking.

In January Tides of Rhyll fish and chips posted a message on social media saying while there were no boats on the water and the ramp parking was empty of trailers, "our customers are getting fined for parking there as normal car parks are full".

On social media, residents weighed in on the debate.

Vicky said she saw a disabled man fined along with several others in the area.

"There was a lot of yelling," Vicky remarked.

Judy commented there was not enough parking in Rhyll to cater to businesses, with Scott adding it would be worse once the proposed distillery was built.

"This is not the suburbs. Most of the people living here bought their houses and pay their rates to live in a quiet,

peaceful area, not one filled with cars parked in front of their homes," Judy wrote.

Lynda called for the shire to use common sense in dishing out parking fines and David said single cars parking in an empty car park was making best use of the asset.

However, Lulu said it was a designated boat parking area, funded by boat registrations and fishing licences.

"There is parking for people who want to park legally in Lock Road and surrounding streets. The problem is they just don't want to walk," Lulu said.

"If it is a good day for fishing and the carpark was used by single cars where do the boat trailer cars park? Keeping in mind they can go out for three to eight-plus hours at a time and they're anywhere from eight to 10 plus metres long."

Last year owners of the Boat Ramp Café Caroline and Darren Collis said the new eastern carpark at the Anderson

boat ramp in Cowes should be made into a dual-purpose park for both trailers and single cars.

The couple have run the café for 15 years and Caroline said in that time she has carried out her own surveys of the carpark to see when it fills.

"Nine days per year – maximum – it will be full and overflowing into the streets," she said.

"So the new car park is totally unnecessary, including the removal of the three trees.

"If beach users get to the carpark by 6am then too bad. We shouldn't try to stop people from parking."

"Why should boaties have everything? There's still plenty of trailer parking in the west carpark and 90 per cent of the year that's not full."

The Advertiser has asked for a response from the shire for the past three weeks but did not hear back before this week's deadline.

Best Start, Best Life: free kinder is here

Up to 140,000 children and families will benefit from Free Kinder this year says the state government, thanks to its "once-in-a-generation" kindergarten reform making it easier, and cheaper, to give kids the very best start.

Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt last month announced that more than 2750 early childhood services across the state are offering Free Kinder for Victoria's three- and four-year-olds in 2023.

Ninety-seven per cent of Victoria's kindergarten providers have opted-in to Free Kinder, including sessional kinder and long day-care centres, with 100 per cent of kinder services in 44 local government areas opting-in to the government's Free Kinder program.

"For young families Free Kinder means more choice, more flexibility, and more money in their pockets," Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt said.

"With this reform we're making sure every child gets the early education they need to thrive.

"Free Kinder doesn't just give our littlest Victorians the best start in life, it also gives parents, particularly mothers, the freedom to go back to work if and when they choose."

With 90 per cent of a child's brain developing before the age of five, early education has a profound effect on the way our kids develop.

Ms Stitt said that was why the government promised to deliver Three-Year-Old Kinder – "making sure Victorian kids



Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt and Premier Daniel Andrews with the new kindergarten kits, which will be distributed to all children enrolled in three-year-old kinder.

are ready for school and set for life, while also saving families thousands of dollars in stand-alone kinder fees".

Under the \$270 million initiative, children enrolled in Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will receive between five and 15 hours of funded learning each week, and those in Four-Year-Old Kindergarten will receive 15 hours per week.

The impact is life changing, Ms Stitt said.

Free Kinder will save families up to \$2500 in fees per child each year and give more than 28,000 Victorians – the majority of whom are women – greater flexibility to return to work if they choose.

Participating kindergarten programs will receive funding directly from the state government, so families are not out-of-pocket and do not have to

claim the savings back.

The Minister said the reform is good for more than just play-based learning, too – with Best Start, Best Life investment supporting almost 8000 construction jobs across the state as the government builds new kinders for a growing Victoria.

The program has created 50 government-owned and operated childcare centres and established Pre-Prep, an extra year of play-based learning that will also save families money and help more women back into work.

All children enrolled in funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will receive a free Kinder Kit full of fun and educational toys, books and resources, helping them to grow and thrive through creativity and play.

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Best Start Best Life

Free Kinder is here!

Three- and Four-Year-Old Kinder is now free across Victoria at participating services – saving families up to \$2,500 per year per child.

Over the decade, we'll also transition Four-Year-Old Kinder into Pre-Prep to become a 30-hour a week program, and establish 50 Victorian Government-owned and affordable childcare centres.

Learn more at vic.gov.au/kinder

Summer surge marks post-Covid comeback

Traders have reported post-Covid summer success, with at least one outlet experiencing the busiest season in eight years.

And while there were initial concerns about a lack of staff and supply issues, hospitality venues said they were able to meet their requirements.

San Remo Fisherman's Co-op manager Paul Mannix said it was their eighth summer in a row "that was bigger than the last".

"An extra challenge this year was supply issues, most especially chips," Paul said.

The Co-op's operations manager hunted across the state and was able to source chips from multiple suppliers.

"She found us 17.2 tonnes of chips which were cooked and eaten by holidaymakers – and some seagulls – since Boxing Day."

Paul said most visitors were in good spirits and "happy to be holidaying with less concern about Covid".

Phillip Island Winery's Misha Say said January was the busiest the winery had seen post-Covid.

"Both patronage and spend per head was up," Misha said.

"After some initial concerns regarding a lack of staff, we found there was a late charge for employment in December, and we were able to staff accordingly."

"Everyone, both staff and patrons alike, were just excited for things to be busy and back to normal."

"It was an extremely high vibe summer all round, and it helped that the weather was kind to the island as well."

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan said the



San Remo Fisherman's Co-op manager Paul Mannix says the summer holidays "were crazy, but good crazy", despite a potato chip shortage.

shire's vacancy mapping showed a 96.2 per cent occupancy rate in San Remo, Cowes and Inverloch.

He said the figures showed accommodation businesses were "run off their feet with flow on business for hospitality and retailers".

Policing

Bass Coast Police Acting Senior Sergeant Scott Morison said the increase in visitor numbers over the holiday period was "considerable compared to pre and during Covid".

"This year we have seen an increase in our jobs and crime in the area," Acting Snr Sgt Morison said.

"As we do each year, an increased workload is experienced across the board by Cowes and San Remo members."

He said aside from two fatal collisions in December and break-ins at the Cowes and San Remo IGAs in January, there was an increase in shop thefts with the influx of tourists and unlocked cars "certainly is our biggest cause of items being stolen from vehicles".

"Family violence continues to be the greater majority of our work."

Fire

Meanwhile CFA has reported a drop in summer call-outs.

Between December 25, 2022, and January 29, 2023, there were 25 call-outs for the Phillip Island brigade.

By comparison 2021-2022 had 32 incidents, with 33 and 30 incidents the previous two years.



Karl Winslade, Ash and Denni Slorach at Print It Fast in San Remo can look after all your printing needs – large and small.

If you need to print it – Print It Fast

Tucked away behind the car wash in San Remo, is Print It Fast, the only full-service printer in the area.

A locally owned family business, run by Denni Slorach with her husband Ash and brother Karl Winslade, it can look after all your printing needs.

Whether it's 100 business cards or a full range of signage for your new shop, Print It Fast has got you covered.

The company has expanded massively since 2010, when Denni started doing small print jobs from the garage of her Surf Beach home.

Over the past decade, the company has been on the move, both in terms of expanding its services, and its locations, with previous stores based in Wonthaggi and in Cowes, where they initially operated under the name PurpleX, before rebranding as Print It Fast.

"We thought we should have a name that said what we do," Denni said.

And while they certainly live up to the promise in the company name, their service is about much more than speed.

Moving to the current premises in San Remo almost six years ago allowed the team to bring in more equipment and larger printers.

These days, the company also has an inhouse sign writer, and services range from large outdoor signage, right through to personalised greeting cards.

Without knowing, you'll have seen their work – either

when you've driven past a sign, picked up a business card or looked at a menu in a local café.

While Print It Fast does work with large local organisations like Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council and Bass Coast Health, Denni said the team has the expertise to help local businesses and sole traders get themselves noticed.

A qualified graphic designer with a marketing background, Denni said she can help with artwork, design a logo or even put together a full re-brand.

Their local focus means Print It Fast can provide customised signage and printing in small amounts.

"We can print 100 business cards, or do signs for one car," Denni explained.

"Or we can help you completely rebrand your business."

"We can sort out what you need, and no matter how big or small the job is, we can help."

Locally based, quick and affordable, the team at Print It Fast is uniquely placed to work with local business, not just because of their expertise in printing, but also because of their understanding of the local area.

In fact, they are in the process of putting together a small business/tradie pack, to help people promote their business.

Fiercely community minded, Denni and the team support local charities and organisations, including Wildlife

Rescue, Bass Coast Community Foundation and South Gippsland Animal Aid, and regularly support or sponsor local groups and events.

They also understand the challenges of small business and consider every print job an important one, even when the quantities required are small.

As well as business, there are many local groups and families that take advantage of the services offered by Print It Fast, creating individualised gifts such as calendars, prints or a small run of T-shirts.

If you have a special project in mind, Denni said the team is there to help.

"Come in or give us a call and we can talk you through it."

Print It Fast services include: business cards, signage, corflutes, decals, stickers, flyers, books, posters, laminating, large photographic prints, artwork reproduction, magnets, stationery, photocopying, flags, banners, t-shirts and caps, greeting cards and calendars.

They also provide sustainable options including recyclable labels and packaging. Is there anything they can't do?

"We don't print coffee cups," laughed Denni,

"But we can print you a sticker to put on it."

Print it Fast, 2/60 Genista Street, San Remo (directly behind the car wash). Call 1300 952 225 or visit www.printitfast.com.au / Sponsored Article /

Less parking fines this summer

Despite concerns fines would skyrocket following the rollout of sensor parking in Cowes, Bass Coast Shire said there were less infringements issued this summer compared to last.

This peak season, from December 2022 to January 2023, shire officers issued 315 parking infringement notices in Cowes.

"This is down a third (32.98 per cent) on the previous year, when December 2021 to January 2022 470 notices were issued," a shire spokeswoman said.

In comparison, only 123

notices were issued between December 2020 and January 2021, down 51 per cent from the 2019-2020 tally of 250, because of the impact of the pandemic on reducing mobility.

The controversial \$377,000 sensor parking project saw 506 underground sensors go live at the end of December: 375 in on-street bays on Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street and The Esplanade; and 123 off-street bays at the Cowes Transit Centre; as well as 262 in Wonthaggi.

CEO Ali Wastie argued the sensors would "notify parking inspectors when a

car has overstayed its time limit", meaning more fines will be issued, but "the sensors are not paid parking".

"Smart parking" will not have an impact on the current number of parking bays and there won't be any changes to parking limits/restrictions, the shire states.

The sensors have come under heavy criticism by the community because they were introduced with no consultation, with many arguing they were not needed outside peak tourist season and would push parking into residential areas.

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This exhibition was organised by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria.

Top left and bottom: **Alexander McQueen Look 15** (detail), from the *Horn of Plenty* collection, autumn–winter 2009–10. Photo © Robert Fairer © Alexander McQueen. Model: Kamila Filipcikova; Centre: **Frans Pourbus II** *Portrait of Louis XIII, King of France as a boy* c. 1616 (detail), The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William May Garland. Photo © Museum Associates / LACMA; Centre right: **Alexander McQueen Look 30** (detail), from the *Dante* collection, autumn–winter 1996–97. Photo © Robert Fairer © Alexander McQueen. Model: Kristen McMenamy



Disgruntled leading surgeons leaving Bass Coast

Several well-known Melbourne surgeons – who have operated both privately and publicly in Bass Coast for decades – have left the area after being disgruntled with management at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Surgeons, including in urology, plastic surgery and orthopedics, as well as anaesthetics, have stopped operating at Wonthaggi Hospital and offering consultation in rooms there, allegedly because of Bass Coast Health's (BCH) new focus on salaried staff and contractual arrangements.

A source told the Advertiser they were concerned there was now not the same level of competency or skill as offered by previous surgeons.

One surgeon said he had worked at Wonthaggi Hospital for 20 years but finished after BCH initiated rules and contract changes “completely different to the rest of Australia”, which he would not sign.

The surgeon – who is based in Melbourne, mainly in private practice – said these conditions included significant changes to working conditions, which he considered “onerous” and “unsafe”, including a necessity to remain on call and within 20 minutes of Wonthaggi Hospital for about 48 hours.

He added in contrast Melbourne tertiary hospitals required surgeons who were on call to be within two hours of a hospital.

“No hospital outside BCH required a surgeon to stay in the hospital for a 24-hour period after routine surgical procedures. Such an obligation does not exist in any other healthcare network throughout Australia,” he said.

“In 20 years of working there I was always available to come back within two hours.”

The surgeon said he visited Bass Coast up to twice a month, as a public surgeon, and his departure impacted about 100 patients.

He said several long-term visiting medical officers had left Wonthaggi Hospital, which was reiterated by other surgeons and medical professionals who spoke to the Advertiser.

One source said BCH had lost highly qualified surgeons – who had all operated in the area for many years because there are overseas doctors who are prepared to move here.

“They are using rules and regulations not normally used to get rid of staff because they have an agreement with a new provider,” the source alleged.

This is the full response supplied to the Advertiser by Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child.

A report was tabled by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) in June 2019, in relation to Managing Private Medical Practice in Public Hospitals. This report recommended the Department of Health (DH) “evaluate private practice arrangements to measure and monitor the benefits and share results with health services to inform their practice”.

The VAGO report also noted that health services have not taken enough action to ensure that their private practice activities comply with the NHRA, the Health Insurance Act 1973 and national MBS billing requirements.

Non-compliant practices included not ensuring patient consent for private treatment, and billing Medicare for services already paid for by the state and Commonwealth under standard activity-based funding arrangements for public services.

Following that report, BCH undertook a review of its Private Practice arrangements, and determined that there was broad compliance with patients who were receiving surgery, but there were opportunities for improvement in the pre- and post-surgery (outpatient) arrangements.

Some Bass Coast patients were required to travel to Melbourne for specialist appointments, some were charged rates exceeding average private practice rates in Melbourne, and BCH was not offering public options in many craft groups.

In some cases, BCH had given medical specialists the use of public hospital facilities, including support staff and facilities services, to run their private operations for no or minimal cost.

The review also highlighted that BCH's model needed change in order to support a continuous journey of care for patients – connecting and coordination administration practices within the Health Service was an important platform between acute inpatient and outpatient/primary care services.

VAGO recommended that DHHS should acquire funding and offer outpatient specialist funding to incentivise health services to ensure they deliver a combination of public and private services.

Public growth

The BCH audit meant BCH was in a strong position to secure public funds to facilitate significant public growth. The goal was to bring BCH services in line with other state-wide services where (both public and private) patients could elect to attend outpatient clinics at BCH at no cost.

Victoria's Elective surgery access policy (ESAP) 2015 provides business rules around the management of access to elective surgery services in Victorian public health services.

DH guidance specifies that public health service specialist outpatient clinics cannot be exclusively private. A new policy called *Managing referrals to non-admitted specialist services* in Victorian public health services has been received from DH in January 2023; BCH is currently undertaking a review of this policy to ensure compliance with these business rules.

All surgeons who have been operating at BCH over these past



Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child has defended the hospital's review of its private practice arrangements, saying the changes would bring it in line with other state-wide services.

years, have been regularly appraised of the changes as a result of these audits.

Individual meetings were held with these specialists, expectations were outlined in writing, and specialists were invited to continue surgery at BCH, on the proviso that they provide a mix of public and private clinics, and that their contractual arrangements be modified to bring it in line with the DH requirements, and the Medical Specialists Enterprise Agreement 2018–2021.

The Medical Specialists Enterprise Agreement 2022 agreement is currently being rolled out and BCH contracts comply with these arrangements.

BCH medical contracts have been reviewed by VHIA which is a registered organisation representing the industrial interests of Victorian health and community services. Each contract is also reviewed by a legal firm specialising in health care in Victoria.

Enterprise bargaining in the Victorian public sector is conducted within the federal industrial relations jurisdiction and in accordance with the Fair Work Act 2009.

The agreement sets out the working conditions and pay scales for medical specialists working in public health services. The agreement also specifies that health service processes must be consistent with national health-

care agreements.

BCH is compliant with the EBA. Of note, some specialists in the past have expected conditions that exceed the agreement.

All Medical Officers are credentialled by BCH in accordance with the Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice Handbook of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (in Australia), and in line with Safer Care Victoria's credentialing policy.

BCH credentialing requires that all medical practitioners, including the surgeon, are appropriately qualified for the procedures required of them.

To ensure competency and skills of medical staff are appropriate, BCH has sought agreements with tertiary centres such as Alfred Health and Monash Health whereby BCH contract with those services for the guaranteed provision of their medical staff.

This ensures the staff are supported by the Clinical Governance processes (such as training and supervision) of a Public Tertiary service.

An example of these arrangements is the eight Orthopaedic surgeons from Monash Health who provide public outpatient and inpatient services to the Bass Coast community members. All of these surgeons are engaged to work at BCH with BCH's EBA compliant contract.

Surgeon guidelines

BCH has had regular liaison with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) throughout the years, to ensure compliance with RACS guidelines.

RACS notes the following positions relevant to provision of equitable access to surgery. “As private care requires individuals to either make out-of-pocket payments or have private medical insurance, these services are not realistically available to all members of society. It is therefore essential that high quality and equitable public healthcare is available to all individuals, so that they can receive services when they are needed and in a timely manner.”

RACS notes that “One of the greatest barriers to the equitable provision of elective surgery are the finite resources allocated for public health, as the demand for such services will almost always exceed a country's capacity or ability to supply it ... The management of elective surgery is a key concern for RACS as delays in accessing surgical services can be associated with increased risk of morbidity and mortality. While the philosophy underpinning publicly funded health is the equitable provision of timely healthcare to all, disempowered and disadvantaged groups are still less likely to have timely access to elective services for a range of reasons”.

RACS also has a position paper regarding Rural Health. It notes that “despite geographical limitations, rural and regional patients have the right to expect appropriate access to high quality surgical services according to their needs, of a quality comparable to that available in metropolitan areas ... While rural patients may have to travel further for more specialised surgical care, the majority of elective procedures should be provided as close to home as possible so long as this can be done safely. Rural patients can also expect that, in critical or emergency situations, a system of surgical care will support them throughout their illness.”

All patients are prioritised based on clinical priority, rather than their funding source, in line with DH policies.

Private patients also have the choice to exercise their private health insurance and receive care in a private health setting with a privately funded medical specialist. BCH is a public healthcare facility, not a private healthcare facility.

The RACS guidelines for outreach surgery in regional, rural and remote Australia and New Zealand says that: “Outreach surgery aims to deliver specialist surgical services to regional, rural and remote patients who otherwise would have to travel great distances, often at significant personal cost or hardship to gain access to these services. The key to the provision of safe, appropriate, outreach surgery in Australia and New Zealand is a team approach with a considerable, co-operative, ethical and close liaison between the visiting surgeon and the resident surgeon and/or general practitioner and recognition of the facilities available and the skills of the resident doctors where the outreach surgery has been provided”.

The position paper recognises “that there is a shortage of specialist surgeons in regional, rural and remote Australia and New Zealand. It is also recognised, however, that whenever possible the best situation is to have the specialist surgeon resident in the community in which the service is provided ... Only surgery appropriate to the facilities, personnel and geographic location should be considered ... Outreach surgery is any surgery performed by a surgeon in a town where that surgeon is not resident and may not be available in person for ongoing post-operative care, or follow up”.

Outreach services refer only to situations where the services being delivered are not normally available locally.

It is important to note that as part of its Clinical Services Planning, BCH aims to provide a resident 24-hour surgical service in 2024.

RACS states that “in situations where it is necessary for the patient to be an inpatient, appropriate arrangements for in-hospital care will need to be implemented. Proper surgical practice requires that a surgeon be responsible for pre-operative diagnosis and appropriate investigation, the selection and performance of the operation, and the post-operative care of the patient. Part of this care may be delegated to associates under the surgeon's direction, and the patient should be agreeable to such delegation of care, but the surgeon remains responsible for the patient. Practice arrangements whereby a surgeon regularly performs operations in urban as well as distant centres, but does not arrange for the responsible provision of subsequent care and postoperative management in either setting, are unacceptable”.

The primary clinical responsibility and legal liability for patient care; pre-operative, intra-operative

and post-operative care rests with the operating surgeon.

Requirements

Given BCH does not have a resident surgeon, BCH has required all visiting surgeons must communicate and handover care to a doctor who is equipped to, and has agreed to supervise post-operative care. The visiting surgeon must ensure the delegated doctor is appropriately trained to be aware of potential complications and able to recognise them, is able to resuscitate patients in the event of life-threatening complication, and can provide post-operative management at a local level until the patient is discharged and appropriate monitoring until the patient is next seen by the visiting surgeon.

In line with the RACS guidelines, BCH has requested that “the visiting surgeon should not leave the local area until satisfied that the patient is in a stable condition and unlikely to need their immediate care. The visiting surgeon should be satisfied with the post-operative follow up arrangements and the visiting surgeon should be prepared to stay in the town overnight (or longer) after certain higher-risk procedures, or where a significant complication has occurred or where the surgeon considers a significant complication may occur”.

All BCH on-call specialists (FACEMS, Obstetricians, Anaesthetists, and Surgeons) who are on-call, are required by BCH to stay within 20 minutes (car ride) of the hospital to ensure a timely response to urgent situations.

BCH has also requested that surgeons who have undertaken at-risk procedures be available to return to theatre on the night of the procedure, where alternative delegated arrangements are not in place. These requirements for surgeons are in place as BCH does not yet have a 24-hour surgical team on site. In line with our Clinical Services Plan, our aim is to have a 24-hour surgical team in place in 2024.

It is BCH's position, in line with the RACS guidance, that the quality of care for patients in BCH should be equal to the care expected in an accredited metropolitan hospital.

All surgeons who have in the past operated under a private model, were offered the opportunity to remain at BCH to provide public services. It is Bass Coast Health's position that the Bass Coast Health community has the same access to services, and the same standards of care, provided in metropolitan services.

Over the past four years, BCH have been funded an additional \$50 million, to grow our sub-regional services to ensure we offer equitable access for our community.

BCH will not comment on any individual contractual issues but as CEO, I am happy to personally speak to any patient who may be receiving incorrect information about BCH's surgical services.

I have undertaken a search of my emails and can only find one complaint regarding access to surgery – this was directed to our Quality email on February 1 and the complainant has had subsequent contact from our service.

I have no record of a complaint to our service regarding surgical access in early January but am very happy for you to pass on my phone and email details so they can contact me directly.

You mentioned you now had a couple more people come to you. As previously discussed, I am always happy for you to give them my mobile. I hope you understand that it is not appropriate for me to comment publicly about specific patients or surgeons.



Silverleaves resident Gerry Gibb – who has worked in the safety industry for 30 years and was highly critical of the designs pre-construction – agreed Rhyll's ramp was unsafe.

New Rhyll ramp safety concerns

From page 1

“I watched two boats get launched and neither car could get enough traction to drive up the ramp. Both had to be pushed,” Roger said.

“There will be some broken hips coming up, no doubt at all. It is plain dangerous.”

He also questioned why there were no life rings on any jetty or boat ramp on the island.

Mary, 69, wrote she was attempting to retrieve her tinny at low tide, holding the boat on the ramp as her husband went to get the trailer when she “slipped and dropped to my knees and continued to slip on my knees into the water”.

“We'll only use the ramp at high tide now,” Mary said.

Another user said he had slipped on the ramp and his “wheels spun all the way to the top” and Ricardo agreed the “ramp at low tide is insanely slippery”.

“I saw another car burn rubber trying to get up the ramp as there was no grip.”

Brayden responded, agreeing, saying it was “only a matter of time before someone or a boat gets dragged under the floating walkway and overturns and drowns.”

“They've made the piers too close together so there's no room to safely launch or put three boats on at the same time,” Brayden said.

“There's no give in the ramp if you miss the trailer. You are up against the jetty with no escape route, whereas before it was one jetty and you could back out and drift back to the channel on the angle and try again if need be.”

Falls

Jill was concerned there were no rails to prevent falls, especially children falling into the water or on to the cement where boats are

launching.

“To think how strict they are with pool fencing yet this seems so unsafe,” Jill wrote.

Silverleaves resident Gerry Gibb – who was highly critical of the designs pre-construction – agreed Rhyll's ramp was unsafe, saying designers presented three off the shelf options which were then put to a vote, with the final design different to the three designs presented.

“What type of engineer designs a project that is now harder to launch and retrieve during big tidal flows as trailers are further into the channel and has inside pontoons have poles to negotiate to tie up,” Gerry said.

Gerry said the ramp also had less parking facilities than before the upgrade and he reiterated previous concerns the pedestrian crossing from the boardwalk to the children's playground was through the middle of reversing trailers.

Chris agreed it was “a poor and potentially dangerous ramp” and Stuart wrote he “took one look at the new ramp and decided not for me” because it was “impossible to launch single handed”.

“Ignored”

Several people suggested anyone concerned contact Bass Coast Shire to complain, but others responded saying previous concerns that were voiced were ignored.

“Meetings are just to pretend that it has openly been discussed,” Roger said.

“It has already been drawn up and decided on.”

“The same at Cowes Yacht Club meeting for the Cowes ramp.”

Philip said anyone who complains too loudly to council was banned and Ross agreed, saying anyone who complained was “stonewalled for months”.

“If you persist, they block you completely. They have a long list of blocked callers and emailers,” Philip said.

A spokesman for the state government department Better Boating Victoria – who funded and oversaw the Rhyll ramp upgrade – said the shire was the manager of the ramp, as “they oversee the maintenance program and any associated works”.

Council responds

Bass Coast Shire Council responded to boaties' concerns with the following statement.

“The new boat ramp funded by Better Boating Victoria and delivered by Bass Coast Shire Council features new pontoons providing up to 70 meters of space for vessels to be tied up, two new jetties and all-tide access which is a considerable improvement on the former facility.

“The ramp has been designed with grooves to reduce slipperiness and provide grip to boat trailers and cars and the gradient of the ramp is consistent with marine design standards.

“Council undertakes a maintenance program that includes the removal of seaweed and algae from boat ramp surfaces and will assess the ramp to determine if an increase in ramp maintenance is required.

“The Rhyll boat ramp has three lanes that are each 4m wide, which is in line with current marine design standards. These standards are designed to enable the launching or retrieval of three boats from the ramp concurrently.

“Additional handrails were installed in January to boost safety on the two jetty structures.

“Council is also addressing further improvements to make launching and retrieving easier such as enhanced lighting and rubber fenders.”

Back to school



Prep Student Sidney Hallas.



New staff, from left: Leisa Lomax (HR Manager), Matthew Jackson, Louise Larcombe, Sam Foura, Jenna Harman, (AFL Trainee), Jess Moed, Marc Tillotson, Joanne Savona, Tony Corr (Principal), Melanie Redmond, Tahnee Brown, Luke Kennedy, Ash Ellis and Sarah Taylor.

Newhaven College back to school

The 2023 year has started with much excitement at Newhaven College with students returning to school over Wednesday and Thursday last week.

Teachers and support staff started back earlier, with three days of collaborating, professional learning sessions and planning for the year ahead. Everyone was ready and excited to welcome students back to campus.

The greatest excitement was the arrival of the 2023 Preps.

With three separate classes for the first time in college history, the Preps were welcomed with a parade, greeting every Junior School student with a fist bump, handshake or wave. Although there were some nerves amongst the College's youngest students, they all settled in very quickly.

New Year 7 students enjoyed meeting their teachers, connecting with new friends, and exploring their new school environment.

Year 5 students were excited to spend their first day in Middle School and quickly settled into their classrooms.

The 2023 Year 9s have strapped

on their hiking boots and pulled on their ranger-style uniforms ready for a year of adventure at the special Year 9 Environmental Centre. Everyone is looking forward to hearing about their escapades over the coming year.

A special Forum Day was held for the 2023 Year 12 cohort.

Designed to prepare students for their last year of school, the specialised program forms the basis for a successful year. Educational Neuroscientist Jared Cooney-Horvath presented "How to use your amazing brain" – a workshop on how to improve learning practices.

Students enjoyed a delicious lunch with Principal Mr Tony Corr and Head of Senior School Mr Jason Scott in the College Pavilion.

The Year 12s finished the day with a House focused pastoral care activity with Year 7 students, including sharing stories and walking around campus. Year 12 can be daunting, but Newhaven College staff provide excellent support and pastoral care throughout the year so students can achieve their best outcomes.

The College grounds have had a facelift over the summer break, with



The Prep welcome parade through the Junior School at Newhaven College.

the Newhaven College grounds and maintenance crew working to stain decks and facades, create new gardens, install art installations and commence work on a trail around the school grounds. The school campus has never looked so good.

College Principal, Tony Corr welcomes those new to the College community including 10 new and returning staff.

This new group of staff and teachers truly represent the broad range of employment opportunities pro-

vided by Newhaven College. The group includes Matthew Jackson (PE, Maths), Louise Larcombe (Maths, Science), Sam Foura (Humanities, Science), Jenna Harman (AFL Trainee PE), returning teacher Jess Moed (PE), Marc Tillotson (Maths, Science, Biology), Joanne Savona (Library, English), Melanie Redmond (Student Support), Tahnee Brown (Head of Wellbeing), Luke Kennedy (Infrastructure), Ash Ellis (Grounds) and Sarah Taylor (English, Humanities).

To top off the week, College leaders and staff welcomed parents and guardians with drinks and canapes on Friday evening, providing the perfect opportunity to show off the new Performing Arts Centre as an incredible venue for the school and the community at large.

Newhaven College still has limited places available for 2023 in Year 2, Year 4, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12.

Please contact our Registrar, Belinda Manning for details or to arrange a college tour (subject to restrictions) - (03) 5956 7505 or visit www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au

More photos at pisra.com.au



Prep Avery Johns with Mum Meg Newman, Dad Anthony Johns and brother Ray (Year 3).



Prep Remy Russo with family Coco (Year 2), Alfie (Year 4), Mum Lauren and Dad Nick.



Prep Harlow Logan with Head of Junior School, Mr Ralph Arceo, Mum Teagan Jeffree, Dad Kurt Logan and little brother Harry.



Myles, Jarvis, Cobie and Liam, making new friends in Year 7 at Bass Coast College's San Remo campus.

Schools back for Bass Coast College

Bass Coast College (BCC) San Remo Campus welcomed 130 new Year 7 students last Tuesday January 31.

Campus Principal Emma Harris said the new Year 7's settled in well and have made a positive start to the year.

"The extensive transition program that ran throughout 2022 ensured that they were well prepared for the differences from primary to

secondary school."

New student Phoenix said, "San Remo has been really welcoming and everyone is friendly", while Entayah is "looking forward to science" at the new campus.

"I was a bit nervous at first but realised I didn't need to be" said Jye.

This year BCC has rolled out its new pastoral care program "Boost". All students from years 7 to 12

have an hour a week where lessons are focussed on organisation and study skills, respectful relationships, health and wellbeing, community, careers and personal goals.

Enrolments have been growing steadily across all year levels since the school opened in January 2022.

For year 7, 8 and 9 enrolment enquiries please contact Campus Principal Emma Harris on 03 5610 2020.



Tahlia and Ava enjoying Mechanisms in Year 7 at Bass Coast College in San Remo.



Jye and Ryder beginning Mechanisms in Year 7.



Year 9 Student Library Leader Kelly with Sanzh and Aija at Bass Coast College in San Remo.



Year 7 students Jye, Hamish and Nicholas already love the canteen at San Remo.



This week Our Lady Star of Sea welcomed 14 preps to the school.

New shining stars at OLSS

This week Our Lady Star of Sea welcomed 14 preps to the school.

Principal Catherine Blackford said the students "have had a wonderful start and are very settled".

Some of the activities in the first week included a scavenger

hunt around the school to find the green sheep, library time with their Year 6 buddies, and exploring the school's vast, environmentally sustainable playground.

The students also attended their first assembly and have met and made lots of new friends.



Phillip Island Village School Foundation students hanging out in the cubby. From left: Olive, Juniper, Fergus, Jubilee and Aurora.



Phillip Island Village School 2023 Foundation students and Early Years Staff. From left: Annie (Assistant), Jubilee, Aurora, Juniper, Natalie (Mentor), Fergus, Olive, Debra (Mentor). Not in photograph: Ocean, Missy (Assistant) and Vanessa (Assistant).

Community invited to PICAL

PICAL is holding an Open Day on Saturday February 11, from 10am – 1pm to showcase its new Warley Avenue headquarters.

“The community is invited to come and have a look at our new facilities and learn a bit about what PICAL does,” said PICAL General Manager Greg Thompson.

PICAL is now one of the largest volunteer organisations on Phillip Island, and many of the volunteer teams will take guided tours through the new building, and demonstrate the various activities that involve volunteers at PICAL.

In particular, the Garden Volunteers will be showcasing plans for the exciting new Phillip Island Community Garden being constructed in Blue Gum Reserve, Cowes. Anyone interested in volunteering in any of PICAL's activities can also sign-up on the day.

Several other community groups that already operate from PICAL's new headquarters, including the MyLi Cowes Library, will also be talking about their partnerships with PICAL.

PICAL's Term 1 adult learning program will be on display and taking student enrolments,

as well as any suggestions for new learning subjects that PICAL may be able to run later in 2023.

One of the things happening at the Open Day will be a launch of a new Women's Friendship Café at PICAL.

The Friendship Café will cater to all local women, from any background and life experience. The Friendship Café will serve as a safe first-point-of-contact for any women needing assistance and referral to any other services, but it is expected that the Friendship Café will also grow into a positive space for

women to explore a whole range of personal development, social and learning activities.

The Phillip Island Rotary Club is providing a BBQ Sausage Sizzle, and the PICAL Cooking Team will be serving coffee and cakes, to enjoy in a pop-up al fresco dining area.

Any enquiries leading up to the Open Day can be directed to PICAL Reception. Phone 03 5952 1131 or e-mail reception@pical.org.au.

PICAL is located at 16 Warley Avenue. The Open Day on February 11 runs from 10am – 1pm.

/ Sponsored article /



PICAL is holding an Open Day on Saturday February 11, from 10am – 1pm to showcase its new headquarters at 16 Warley Avenue.



PICAL manager Greg Thompson, is ready to welcome everyone to the community Open Day on February 11.

PICAL'S 2023

COURSE GUIDE

TERM ONE

- ✓ Courses in computers, tech problem-solving web design and social media
- ✓ Employment training opportunities in construction, first aid and hospitality
- ✓ Lifestyle and leisure courses in floristry and macramé



Visit pical.org.au or come in and see us at reception!

16 Warley Ave, Cowes 03 5952 1131

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Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday 9.30am - 2pm.



Congratulations PICAL

We hope you enjoy your new building and facilities. Thank you for providing vital community services to our local community.





PICAL hosts many community groups in the new meeting rooms including local embroiderers.



Food pantry volunteers from left Barbara Burns and Nerida Stubbles in the new PICAL building at 16 Warley Avenue.



PICAL finance officer Marie Bursill in one of the new staff offices. The community will be able to visit the building at the Open Day on February 11.



The new PICAL community garden is under construction at Blue Gum Reserve in Cowes. At the Open Day, volunteers will be showing plans for the new garden.



The building was constructed off site, then transported by truck to Cowes, with modules lowered into place by an enormous crane. Residents watched the transport and assembly with interest and can now inspect the completed building at the Open Day on February 11.

WOMEN CONNECT Friendship Café

IF YOU:

- Would like to meet other local women?
- Find it hard making new friends?
- Are interested in helping others?
- Need help to support yourself overcome life's difficulties?
- Have skills you would like to share?
- Would like to learn new things?

Then come in, have a cuppa, a chat and make new friends!

ALL WOMEN WELCOME:

- Gold coin donation appreciated (but come along anyway!)
- Free Tea/Coffee and great company
- Activities, information and new learning

Every Wednesday
9.30am – 12.30pm



PICAL

OPEN DAY

11 February 2023
10am–1pm

- +Meet the PICAL team
- +Guided tour of Facility and Community Garden
- +Learn about PICAL courses
- +PICAL Membership and Volunteering
- +Food and entertainment

CWA Phillip Island Twilight Branch update

By Sally Matthews

The CWA Phillip Island Twilight Branch meet at night to allow women with families, those that work and simply those that want a night out to come together and enjoy the friendship and fun so sought after in our busy lives.

We try to have outings at weekends or in the evening to enable as many members as possible to attend. Recently we painted pottery and lunched during the school break so that our teacher members and juniors could participate.

Our members love to fundraise and actively support this; we try not to have too many of these as we don't want our members to be overwhelmed.

Our three market days support the CWA Scone Challenge in March, and we have a Spring Market and Christmas Market to raise funds in support of women and children. Our members vote to distribute our profits after each fundraising effort.

We as a branch have a strong ethic to support those women and children most in need in our immediate community and in Victoria. We do this through the donations to CWA and relevant organisations.



Before Christmas the CWA Phillip Island Twilight Branch donated vouchers to families in need at the Early Learning Centre in Cowes. From left: Brenda Jongen, Rosie Brewin, centre manager Karen Treppo and Sally Matthews.

Just before Christmas we were able to donate vouchers to families in need at the Early Learning Centre (ELC) in Cowes and a local primary school in Newhaven.

As we were leaving the ELC, the Manager, Karen Treppo followed us out with tears in her eyes, to say that she had just presented a Christmas card and gift voucher to a family, they were overwhelmed by our generosity and the difference it would

make to their Christmas. How fortunate we are to be able to do this, whilst having such amazing fun and enjoying our friendship!

If you would like to come and meet us, we welcome you to join us at our monthly meetings, held at St John's Church Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

Follow us on instagram and facebook or contact Rosie 0409 792 245.

Friends arrive on a Breeze

When the cruise ship Star Breeze arrived on January 24, Angie Luke was ready and waiting.

On board were her friends Kate Livingston and Charles Ewing from New Mexico.

Angie met the couple at the Rhyll wharf and took them on a personal tour around the island, including a visit to the Koala Conservation Centre.

Angie said Kate was thrilled to be back on the island, having loved it so much on a previous visit.



Kate Livingston and Charles Ewing from New Mexico, with Lucian Hannan, Angie Luke's grandson. Angie gave her friends a personal tour of the island, when they disembarked from the Star Breeze cruise ship last month.

Zero emissions? Climate forum will show how

A forum to update the community on climate change projects will be held on February 18 in Wonthaggi.

Run by the Bass Coast Climate Action Network, the forum will be chaired by Bass Coast Shire mayor Cr Michael Whelan who led the push to declare a climate emergency in the shire in 2019.

Totally Renewable Phillip Island coordinator Zoe Geyer will talk about current clean energy projects.

The shire's climate emergency officer Christian Slattery will provide an update on implementation of their climate action plan 2020 – 2030, which aims to achieve zero net emissions by 2030, seven years from now.

Local student Joey Thompson will explain campaigns he is involved in to support a clean energy future to "aid in the transition to a greener lifestyle and planet, both locally and nationwide".

The forum will address how the climate plan implementation is going, as well as what else is happening in the community to support the zero emission goal and how residents can be involved.

The forum will run from 2pm–4 pm at the Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre (BCAL), 239 White Road Wonthaggi.

At 1.30pm the Energy Innovation Co-operative (EiCo) will hold the official launch of the installation of solar panels at BCAL, made possible



Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan (left) and Zoe Geyer from TRPI (right), seen here at the 2022 Kids stand up for climate action rally, will be part of a climate forum on February 18 in Wonthaggi.

by a no-interest loan from EiCo which received part funding from a donation from a community based not-for-profit electricity retailer.

Details: www.facebook.com/BassCoastCAN/




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\$10 for one item and \$20 for 3 items (max)

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What to expect in 2023

Phillip Island and San Remo are experiencing unprecedented boom times, with new projects, plans and buildings announced almost weekly. If you can't keep up, here's just some of the issues that will be on the radar in 2023.

Speed limits

Stage one of Phillip Island's speed review was rolled out more than a year ago by Regional Roads Victoria, which saw roads on Phillip Island which were 100km reduced to a maximum speed limit of 80km/hr, including Berrys Beach, Ventnor Beach and Back Beach roads.

Stage two of the review, expected out this year, has been delayed, and was to focus on high-speed unsealed gravel roads, which currently have a default speed limit of 100km/hr.

These include: South Coast, Pyramid Rock, Harbison, Watts and McFees roads, and Veterans Drive.

The Cowes-Rhyll Road and Coghlan Road – both 80km/hr – were deferred to be considered in stage two.

Electric buses

A new fleet of public electric buses – booked or hailed like a taxi – will be rolled out in a three-year trial across Phillip Island and San Remo, if a multi-million-dollar bid to ease traffic congestion is successful.

Bass Coast Shire last year released a new report, Pilot On-Demand Transport Service, which needs \$6.25 million in government funding to kickstart.

Under the proposed “on-demand” pilot, passengers – commuters, tourists and the community – anywhere on the island and San Remo (up to and including Potters Hill Road) will be able to book or hail the bus via a digital booking system, with their pick-up location, time and destination.

According to the report, routing algorithms are then applied to most efficiently transport users, with pick up and drop off points also in key hubs such as Pyramid Rock, Churchill Island and Shelley Beach.



Anderson boat ramp

Final designs for the \$2.8 million upgrade of the Anderson Road boat ramp and jetty were released quietly by the state government at the end of last year on their website and according to Better Boating Victoria there will be no further public consultation on the revisions.

Construction is set to be between May to August 2023, and the ramp closed during construction.

Wind turbines

In late December the Federal government formally declared Australia's first official offshore wind zone about 15,000 square kilometres offshore from Gippsland, from Lakes Entrance in the east to south of Wilsons Promontory in the west.

At the announcement Energy Minister Chris Bowen said the Victorian and Commonwealth governments would consider the Gippsland coast west of Wilsons Promontory “over the coming year”.

Tracks and trails

Councillors last year approved the \$44 million Bass Coast Shire trails plan 2022–2032, which identifies 36 new trails on council-land.

The shire's delivery plan for the next three years includes 17 trails including two on Phillip Island: Cowes to Rhyll – Conservation Hill to Beach Road (\$450,000) and then Coghlan Road to Redwood Drive (\$550,000); and in 2025 there will be a \$200,000 feasibility study for the Cowes to Ventnor foreshore trail.

There were two petitions lodged regarding the proposed Cowes to Ventnor trail, one in support (signed by about 400 people) and one opposed (signed by about 900).

Cowes masterplan

The Cowes streetscape masterplan was given the green light by councillors in December, which will overhaul the township to make it more pedestrian-friendly and less car reliant.

Thompson Avenue will be one-way in a northerly direction between Chapel Street and the Esplanade. At the Thompson Avenue – Esplanade intersection, vehicles will turn left/west or right/east only along The Esplanade.

There will be a mix of parking types on Thompson Avenue, with a loss of parking to a total 36 parks.

The rollout of the masterplan is now dependent on both advocacy for more funding from government, and the shire's coffers, with an initial \$2.25 million budgeted for planning, design, and delivery. Projects have been grouped into short term (the next one to three years); medium (delivered within three to 10 years) and long term (projects that may take 10-plus years to deliver).

Social housing

Up to 18 homes will be built in Cowes and Wonthaggi for social housing following \$3.6 million in state government funding announced last year.

The shire confirmed Community Housing Limited (CHL) would develop proposals for Wyndham Avenue and Roydon Road in Cowes – as well as sites in Wonthaggi.

MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale said the government would not disclose locations of the properties, “other than general areas”. According to shire CEO Ali Wastie community consultation was required and was meant to have been held in March and April last year.

Construction of homes was meant to start by June this year – as planning and other approvals are obtained – and be finished by June 2025, she said.



The big battery

Phillip Island Community Energy Storage System (PICES) is a \$12 million, 10MWh lithium iron phosphate battery energy system, comprised of a series of units in a 38m x 34m fenced compound, connected to the electricity grid, on the north-east corner of 380 Back Beach Road – effectively 100 Gap Road.

According to AusNet PICES has been installed and most of the site works have been completed. The system is currently in the testing phase and will be ready for operation in March-April 2023.

It will offer greater reliability in electricity supply for the island, especially during peak holiday periods.

Neighbourhood character

The Neighbourhood Character Study involves design guidelines for new residential developments.

The Housing Strategy will identify housing needs and where housing growth can occur.

The timeline for these projects has recently changed, waiting for the outcomes of the DAL Committee.

Details: www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodcharacterhousing

Skate park

The updated skate strategy was out for community consultation until February 3, with pop-in events in Wonthaggi, Cowes and Newhaven last month.

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

The review says a Cowes sub-regional skate park should be built between 2024–26 at the old carnival site, on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads.

Details: www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/skatepark

Distinctive Areas and Landscapes

In 2019 the state government declared Bass Coast a Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) to guide future land use, last year releasing the final document, the draft Statement of Planning Policy, which proposes a series of beefed-up landscape planning controls and protected town boundaries.

More than 700 submissions to that process will now be heard at a Standing Advisory Committee, set to start on March 6 and run for up to six weeks.

Holiday rentals

Short stay accommodation owners, such as Airbnb, are required to register their homes, from January 2023, with an annual flat fee of \$300 (to be adjusted in line with future CPI).

Councillors voted to set the registration fee to control use of the properties under the new Local Law 2022.

The shire is in the process of establishing an online registration system, and homeowners will be required to register their accommodation by June 30.



Tree register

A long-awaited significant tree register – protecting public and private trees that are significant for reasons such as historical or girth size – came into force on January 1, under Bass Coast Shire's new Local Law 2022.

While the new Local Law was passed by councillors at the July meeting, and was set to be enforced in January, planning manager Donna Taylor in December said the shire would not immediately enforce permit requirements, with the focus on education in the first half of 2023.

And beyond 2023?

Hydrogen

The Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Pilot Project (HESC), which started in 2021, is the largest hydrogen demonstration project in the world, with Latrobe Valley brown coal turned into hydrogen gas, transported to the Port of Hastings, liquefied, cooled to -253C and shipped to Japan. The world-first 116-metre brand new Suiso Frontier was purpose-built for the half-billion-dollar hydrogen trial being carried out on the bay.

If the pilot is successful, the decision to proceed to a commercial phase will be made in the 2020s with operations targeted in the 2030s, depending on the successful completion of the pilot phase, regulatory approvals, social licence to operate and hydrogen demand.

Vietnam Veterans Museum

Plans for the new National Vietnam Veterans Museum will go to a 10-day VCAT mediation this month after objectors failed to agree on a resolution with the museum board.

The plans for the new museum were unanimously approved by Bass Coast Shire in May, with five objectors opposing the development, with one subsequently withdrawing the objection.

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum received a \$10 million commitment from the Victorian government towards the new museum project. The \$50 million project will include a 4206sqm building with exhibition areas, visitor spaces, café and offices, archive and storage areas.



Koolasuchus cleelandi artist illustration by Peter Trusler, courtesy of Melbourne Museum.

Dinosaur trail

A proposed dinosaur trail, running 40km from San Remo to Inverloch, will feature six sites that link polar dinosaur fossils.

About \$7 million in government funding is needed to kickstart the yet-to-be-funded trail, which – according to a masterplan released in 2021 – will include a museum to be built in Inverloch alongside a sound and light installation.

In September 2022, council received \$500,000 to progress the planning stages.

Council Update



2023 Council Meetings

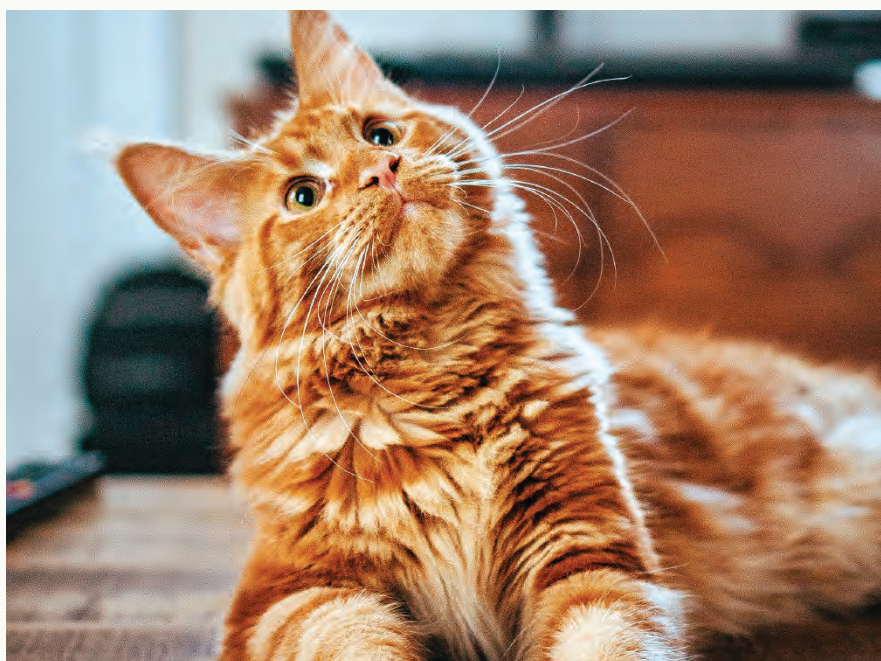
Council Meetings generally occur on the third Wednesday of the month at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, Bass Coast Civic Centre, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi. Council Meetings are open to the public and livestreamed via the link available on Council's website.

2023 Council Meeting dates are:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| • 15 February | • 16 August |
| • 15 March | • 20 September |
| • 19 April | • 18 October |
| • 17 May | • 15 November |
| • 21 June | • 13 December |
| • 19 July | |

Agendas are released the Friday prior to the Council Meeting and are available on Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2023meetings. There is an opportunity at each listed meeting for public questions, if you would like to ask a question please submit your questions in writing no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. For more information please visit our website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings or contact our Governance Officer on the numbers below. Future notices will be provided on our website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2023meetings.

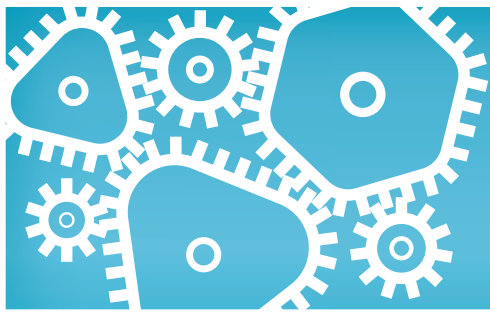
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Cat containment

Bass Coast Shire's 24/7 cat curfew will come into effect from July 1, 2023, when all cats need to be contained to their owners' property at all times.

It is part of a plan to see Phillip Island free from feral cats, as uncontained domestic cats can contribute to the feral cat population.



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DEATHS

Newberry, Bryan:
7/12/1942 - 5/2/2023
Passed away peacefully at St Vincent Melbourne. Loving father to Robert and John, Grandfather to Irwin and Ruth, Father in law to Felicity. Brother to Ron, Marilyn, Lindsey (dec), close companion to Brenda.

Service details yet to come.

NEWBERRY, Bryan:

At peace.

Dearly loved friend / partner of Brenda.

Hope that there are lots of dogs in Heaven.

Love Brenda.

FUNERALS

MIZZI:

Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Ms Gabrielle Mizzi will be offered at

St Mary's Catholic Church, Thompson Avenue, Cowes on FRIDAY (February 10, 2023) commencing at 2:30pm.

In memory of Gabrielle the family have requested for attendees to wear a splash of purple.

At the conclusion of Mass the funeral will leave for the Phillip Island Cemetery.

The Funeral will be Livestreamed for details go to www.handley-andandersonfunerals.com.au

NOTE: Family have requested for a COVID test to be conducted on the day if you will be attending the Funeral.

In Lieu of Flowers the family have requested Donations be made to Amnesty International.

Handley & Anderson
Funeral Directors

IN MEMORIAM

FONTANA, Dorothy Agnes:

(Fonnie Baird)

Happy 95th Birthday Mum for 5th Feb.

Your ever loving son, missing you every day.

Michael Baird



WILLIAMS, Ronald James:

12/3/1938-6/2/2022, Jimbo,
Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasure,
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ISLAND CRAFT MARKET

Thompson Ave., Cowes

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SITUATIONS VACANT



PCA positions available (Must have experience)

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

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

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

As a PCA, your responsibilities will be to provide nursing care as directed by a Registered Nurse.

Applicant must have a positive and professional work ethic with dedication and commitment to high quality care.

Essential criteria:

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

What you can expect from us:

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

Desirable:

Previous experience in Residential Aged Care

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

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



Registered Nursing (RN) Staff and Endorsed Enrolled Nursing (EEN) staff required

Positions for permanent part time and casual shifts at Banfields Aged Care

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

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

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

We are seeking motivated and dedicated Registered Nurses and Endorsed Enrolled Nurses to be part of our team.

Your responsibilities will be to provide nursing care guided by the Director of Care including medication management, clinical practice and supervision, documentation, wound management, and palliative care;

The successful candidate will have:

- Registered Nurse qualifications and current AHPRA registration (RN only)
- Current registration with AHPRA as an Enrolled Nurse with medication endorsement (EEN only)
- Previous experience in residential aged care essential
- Ability to lead, motivate & educate staff.
- Strong communication skills.
- Current Police Check.
- Team player qualities.
- Current influenza vaccination.
- COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Current Victorian Drivers Licence.

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

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Bar/TAB Staff

Full Time, Part Time and Casual hours – RSA minimum requirement

Bistro Staff

Part Time and casual hours

Cleaning Staff

Part Time and casual hours

Maintenance/cleaner

Part time – 30+ hours

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

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

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

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

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

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

Male volunteers are encouraged to apply!



An exciting opportunity exists to join our team at Cowes Primary School.

We are seeking expressions of interest in

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on a fortnightly/three weekly basis.

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Registered Nurse – Sub Acute

Permanent Full Time - Closes 26/02/2023

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Permanent Full Time/Part Time – Closes 12/02/2023

Registered Nurses – Emergency

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Board Chair Ian Thompson and the Board of Directors request the pleasure of your company to celebrate our people and partners at

Bass Coast Health's Annual General Meeting

Thursday 16 February 2023 at 1.30pm
Marquee in Ambulatory Care car park
Wonthaggi Hospital.
Afternoon tea to follow.

Please contact: publicrelations@basscoasthealth.org.au
to RSVP by close of business Friday, 10 February 2023.



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Delusional and disingenuous

In response to Say No group's letters last week to our community. Read Council's January newsletter sent to all ratepayers in our estate where it states: "Council has no other proposal and are not aware of any alternative permanent/long term solution, additional to the three concepts to treat dust, flooding and traffic safety issues in the area that were presented in the November 2022 questionnaire".

If the Say No group knows of alternatives – please explain them to our community before we vote rather than state generalisations such as they are "wanting to address dust and drainage issues".

They are delusional if they think Council will "negotiate" with them on alternatives outside the legislated process and make all Bass Coast Shire ratepayers pay for the legacy dust and drainage problems in our estate to be fixed. It's just not how the system works – read the Local Government Act! If you don't like it, take it up with the state government, work on changing the Act.

The group are disingenuous and leading our community on, making vulnerable people think the group will be able to force Council to fix the problems without us contributing to the cost.

In my opinion, they are also conspiracy theorists making up stories about sizes of gravel on our roads insinuating Council are using surfaces that make more dust. Come on get real! It's typical marketing smoke and mirrors.

Gavan O'Connor, Surf Beach

Not options at all

When my Grandma was a child, the suburb of Box Hill was mostly eucalyptus forest. When I was a teenager, it was well-established suburbia. Today, my kids know Box Hill as a little city with high rise apartments.

The problem with the council's proposed Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay upgrade is that by asphaltting and concreting the area, we lose the beautiful, semi-rural feel we live here for, and we will never get it back. In fact, it will also make it easier for more development in the future, because the environment will already have been degraded.

In Surf Beach, we are blessed with a beautiful array of wildlife, including shearwaters, wallabies, lizards, snakes, yabbies, ducks, hooded plovers and if rumour has it, bandicoots too. It is a magical thing to watch the stars while listening to the chorus of frogs on a cool summer evening.

The current options put forward by the council are not options at all. They offer unnecessarily expensive suburbanisation of an ecologically sensitive regional area. The council has failed to listen to feedback from residents for many months now and has lazily persisted with issuing surveys and forms instead of facilitating open discussion.

We have a real opportunity now to address the issues being experienced by residents through engagement and dialogue between the community and council. Not just for Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay, but for all our precious Phillip Island coastal hamlets. What kind of Surf Beach will my kids show their children one day?

Catherine Ward, Surf Beach

Costs could be higher

In Letters to the Editor, a section of Phillip Island residents have questioned the suggested cost to individual ratepayers for the Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Special Charge Scheme. The Say No group has stated a figure of between \$25,000 to \$30,000 is realistic, based on BCSC's project estimate of between \$26.5 and \$32.4 million.

Some residents have suggested that those figures are unrealistic and are being used as "scare tactics".

What is genuinely scary however, is that if BCSC's handling of the Cultural Centre's construction budget is any indication of their financial management skills, those early project estimates could actually be low!

The Cultural Centre was initially budgeted to cost \$19 million, but last year rose to \$31.03 million – a cost increase of more than 50 per cent. It remains well overdue and still unfinished.

So ... If we apply the same expertise and project cost management skill that BCSC has demonstrated on the Cultural Centre build, it is quite possible the Special Scheme cost could blow out to a range of \$39.75 – \$46 million plus, leaving individual ratepayers with a bill of between \$37,000 and \$43,000!

Now that's genuinely frightening!
Emily Clarke, Surf Beach



Local schoolboy Gabe Smith has been chosen to represent Australia in two international horse riding competitions and has started a GoFundMe campaign to help cover the costs.

Gabe representing Australia – help fund his dream

Local schoolboy Gabe Smith has been chosen to represent Australia in two international competitions.

The first is in March at Horse of the Year (HOY) in Hastings New Zealand.

He will form part of the U/18 team and is the only Victorian rider.

Then in October he will ride again for Australia at the International Mounted Games Association (IMGA), which will be held in Victoria for the first time in 35 years.

Last year, the 16-year-old from Phillip Island was selected to represent Victorian in the National Interschool Competition in September, in Sydney, and the National Mounted Game Championships in Canberra in October.

To help fund the trips, and realise his dream

of competing in the 2023 World Championships, Gabe raised funds via a sausage sizzle and raffle, to help cover the cost of entry fees and travel.

He's now looking for help to get to New Zealand and to compete at the IMGA, and as he is only 16, one of his parents will also need to travel with him.

He's set up a GoFundMe page, hoping to raise \$4000.

Gabe has been a member of the Phillip Island Pony Club for 10 years and has been selected to represent Victoria in both Show Jumping and Mounted Games.

To help Gabe pursue his horse riding dreams, go to: gofundme.com and search for Gabe Smith or "Help Gabe get to New Zealand".



This year's soccer coaches are Jake Taylor – senior women's coach, Callum Golightly – Reserves coach and Daren Dempsey coaching Seniors along with Steve Murphy assistant coach.

Soccer coaches announced

The Phillip Island Soccer club are pleased to announce their senior coaches for the upcoming season.

Jake Taylor will coach the senior women's team once again after doing an amazing job last year, taking his young team to the grand final.

Jake is hoping to see some new women players join the team this year. If you are interested in improving your fitness and being a part of a friendly social team, come along and join in. You don't have to be an experienced player, all players are welcome.

The reserve team this year will be coached by Callum Golightly, who also coached the reserves last year to the semi-finals.

The senior men's team will be coached by Daren Dempsey and this year he will have Steve Murphy as his assistant.

Daren is looking forward to the year ahead

and continuing the hard work all the players put in over the year to win the 2022 grand final.

The coaches are hoping to bring more of the junior players into the senior teams, giving them the opportunity to prove themselves at a senior level.

We are delighted to have Steve on board this season as an assistant coach. His many years experience of playing at a high level in England and Melbourne will be instrumental in developing the younger players and taking the more experienced players to a higher level.

The senior ladies commenced their preseason training on February 2 at 6.30pm and will continue every Thursday during the season.

The senior men train every Tuesday and Thursday at 6.30pm at Newhaven Rec Reserve. New players are welcome.

For any enquiries on the senior teams please contact Daren on 0412 349 893.

Midweek bowls

Twenty-seven of our bowlers turned up to Koo Wee Rup to once again fight it out for team of the week. Good to see everyone.

The weather was always going to be a challenge.

It started off fairly cool on 14C with a few gusts of wind but soon warmed up and the wind built up to what became a great day for bowls (quite a challenge for many players).

Everyone appeared as usual to have a lot of fun, with many great bowls being played.

Winners on 36 points were: John Nicholson (S), Frank D'Unienville (3) and Bill Williams (L).

Runners up on 34 points were: Tony Heppleston (S), Robyn Dahl (3) and George Crynes (L).

Best One Game winners on 23 points were: Vern Elliott (S), Sue Stansfield (3) and Tony Morris (L).

Many thanks to George behind the bar, David who set up the greens and David, Luke and Laurie for tidying up after everyone had left for the day.

Also thank you once again to Peter, Pauline and John for all their work getting the game together and the teams sorted and out to the greens.

Next week we will be at Lang Lang to once again challenge for the week's best teams.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.



Winners of Midweek bowls played at Koo Wee Rup on 36 points were: John Nicholson (S), Frank D'Unienville (3) and Bill Williams (L).



Runners up of Midweek bowls on 34 points were: Tony Heppleston (S), Robyn Dahl (3) and George Crynes (L).

Phillip Island Bridge results

North south winners on Monday 30 were Deb Anglim and Greg Nicholson on 64.64 per cent. Anne Gibson and Lois Dwyer followed with 56.43 per cent. Lorrie Read and Neville Chapman finished third on 52.50 per cent.

Maureen Stiles and Hannah Martin claimed first place for East West with 62.70 per cent. In second place were Matti Shub and John Quayle on 53.33 per cent. Third place went to Caroline Shaw and Ann Hodgson on 52.92 per cent.

Caroline Shaw and Leng Leng Haggith kicked off February with a 61.67 per cent win. In second place were Deb Anglim and Greg Nicholson on 52.50 per cent. Karen Klym and Paul Waylen took third spot with a neat 50 per cent.

On the day club president Don Stewart-Uden, presented a cheque for \$400 to Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands, which was chosen as the worthy recipient of funds raised from the Christmas raffle.



Bridge club president Don Stewart-Uden presenting a cheque to Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands.



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U14 Girls – Celebrating the big grand final win.



U18 Boys were runners up in the grand final and Most Valuable Player was presented to Leo Savona.

Rips basketball teams excel

Last week saw all 11 of our Rips basketball teams take on the challenge of the Eltham/Dandenong Tournament.

A fantastic weekend saw great improvement from our teams, and some great results with nine of the 11 teams making finals and four teams making the grand final.

Congratulations to all teams and coaches involved.

Results

U10 Girls – Semi-finalists.

U10 Boys – Premiers, winning the grand final by one point with 4.8 seconds to go.

U12 Boys – Premiers, winning the grand final in overtime by three points.

U12 Blue Boys – Fantastic tournament improving each game.

U12 Girls – Played a great tournament and lost the semi-final by only 2 points.

U14 Boys – Semi-finalists.

U14 Girls – Premiers, winning the grand final by four points.

U14 Blue Girls – Semi-finalists.

U16 Girls – Semi-finalists.

U16 Boys – A great tournament missing finals by percentage.

U18 Boys – Runners up, in a game that came down to the last few minutes going down by seven.

The Rips basketballers also had three Most Valuable Players awarded in the grand final games: U14 Girls – Adele Hecker, U12 Boys – Taj Piera and U18 Boys – Leo Savona.

A very exciting four days of basketball for all.

We now work our way towards Country Championships for our U12-18 teams as well as the Casey and Warragul tournaments.

The next calendar date is the Division 1/2 Country championships for our U18 Boys in February.



Adele Hecker celebrates the grand final win and topped it off with the Most Valuable Player award.



U12 Taj Piera played an amazing grand final match and was presented with the Most Valuable Player medal.



U12 boys – Won their grand final by three points in overtime.



U10 Boys - Premiers, winning the grand final by one point with 4.8 seconds to go.



U12 Boys Blue played a fantastic tournament improving each game.



U14 Boys played their hearts out and had some good results.



U14 Girls Blue played a great tournament.



U12 Girls played a ripper of a tournament and went down by only two points in the semi final.



U16 Girls were semi-finalists and played solid matches as always.



U10 Girls gave their all and had a great tournament.



U16 Boys played well improving throughout the tournament and are building as a team.



Joe Van Dijk caused an upset in the Open Men's heat when he defeated World Junior Champion, Jarvis Earle.

Boardriders head north to do battle

Phillip Island Boardriders Club team travelled to Newcastle on the weekend, to compete against the best boardriders clubs in the country in the Australian Boardriders Battle (ABB).

In the end, it was Byron Bay who took home the title.

Byron Bay Boardriders Club (31.83) beat Snapper Rocks Surfboarders Club (31.21), with Merewether Surfboard Club (30.13) coming in third and Avoca Boardriders Club (22.73) taking out fourth spot in the final.

Phillip Island was knocked out in the heats, coming in third, behind eventual winners Byron Bay.

However in the Open Men's, Joe Van Dijk caused an upset when he beat World Junior Champion, Jarvis Earle in his heat.

Van Dijk told Surfing Australia: "It was good fun. I only caught one wave. In any other contest I probably wouldn't have made the heat, so this format is pretty sick. Just need one good one. Jarvis is on another level. It's good to just share a heat with surfers like that, it's inspirational."

Club President, Hannah Eisen said "just making it to Newcastle is an honour in itself and I am so proud that Phillip Island Boardriders Club qualified to go".

"We had such a talented team, led by Club Captain Ash Easton, and team members Carl Wright, Joe Van Dijk, Blake Green and Sage Goldsbury, who have trained so hard in the lead up to the event," she said.

"Unfortunately we didn't get the result on the day being beaten by Byron Bay in the last minute of the heat.

"What we did get was a fantastic weekend in NSW with a great bunch of people; we witnessed some of the best surfing in Australia and had a ball as a team.

"The standard of surfing in 2023 for both men and women is out of this world," continued Hannah.

"The skill and technical ability of surfers is so great to see in a grassroots boardriders event like this.

"I am just really proud of the team for getting to ABB and representing us so well. Bring on ABB 2024!"

Full results at: australianboardridersbattle.com/live/#livescore

For more photos, visit pisra.com.au/sport



Blake Green was the junior surfer for the PIBC at the Battle of the Boardriders at Newcastle on the weekend.



Sage Goldsbury, the open women's team member for PIBC, at the Battle of the Boardriders at Newcastle on the weekend.

Scarlett scores at Junior Surfing Titles

Cape Woolamai's Scarlett Rennie received the Woolworths Fresh Move award for consistently impressive performances at Round 1 of the Victorian Junior Surfing Titles held at Phillip Island over the weekend.

The judges were impressed by her performance, including in the final where she scored a 7.33 point ride on a set wave.

Scarlett also came second in the U14 girls competition, behind Rose Holland of Dromana.

Other successful local surfers were Evie Lutz of Cowes (fourth in the U14 girls) and Inverloch's Arch Rayner (second in the U14 boys). Sandy Point's Eva Bassed came second in the U18 girls, while Jarrah and Rye Cicero came second and fourth respectively in the U16 boys.

The final day of competition was held at Smiths Beach.

Round 2 of the Victorian Junior titles will be held at Bells Beach on February 18 and 19. Full scores at: www.surfingvic.com/live



Scarlett Rennie won the Woolworths Fresh Move Award for consistently showing impressive performances, at the Victorian Junior Surfing Titles held on Phillip Island last week. Photo Tommy Williams Photography.

A wet and windy start to Festival of Surfing

Members of the Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) braved the cold and the rain to celebrate the launch of the club's Festival of Surfing.

The launch, held at Bang Bang in Cape Woolamai including a smoking and water ceremony by Steve Ulula Parker.

The Festival of Surfing is a month-long celebration of surfing and the Phillip Island Boardriders Club's 60-year history.

The club describe the festival as

a time "to come together, share the stoke and our rich history through surfing, music, art, and surf culture".

A family-friendly, sustainable program of events that appeals to all kinds of surfers of all ages and abilities has been assembled, culminating in the Cutback Festival on February, featuring live music, surf movies, memorabilia, skateboarding activities and mural painting.

For details, check out the Phillip Island Boardriders Club website: pibc.com.au/



Geoff Russell (Vice President of PIBC), Nat van der Heyden, Steve Ulula Parker, Mal Gregson and Andrew Lidsey at the launch of the Festival of Surfing.

Surfers on hand to protect beaches this summer

Surfers across Victoria are set to help keep beaches safe this summer with the Surfers Rescue 24/7 Program skilling local surfers up in life-saving techniques.

The program has been running since 2019 and has had over 3000 surfers skill up in life-saving board rescue and CPR techniques.

"Surfers are at the beach all year round and frequent non-patrolled locations such as Forrest Caves, Cape Woolamai and many other locations across Phillip Island," said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

"Surf Life Saving Australia noted in their annual coastal safety report that 49 per cent of drownings happen more than five kilometres away from a life-saving service.

"By training up surfers in lifesaving techniques, we are increasing

the level of beach users who are able to assist in an emergency situation and ultimately save lives."

Surfers who complete the course are trained in how to spot a person in trouble in the water, rescue that person using readily available flotation devices such as a surfboard and perform CPR. All courses are led by professional First Aid and Water Safety instructors.

There are two free courses available this February in the Phillip Island area during the Festival of Surfing. Spaces are limited.

Registrations are open via www.surfingvic.com/surfers-rescue-24-7

Surfers Rescue 24/7 is an initiative of Surfing Victoria and is supported by the Victoria Government and Emergency Management Victoria.

Phillip Island Boardriders Club FESTIVAL OF SURFING Celebrating 60 Years

Festival Program*

11th February

P.I.B.C Cat Bay Longboard Classic

P.I.B.C Supergroms Smiths Beach

12th February

DSA - Smiths Beach

15th - 16th February

24/7 Surfers Rescue Program

18th February

P.I.B.C Twin Fin Event

18th - 19th February

Indigenous High Performance Training Camp - Surfing Australia

25th February

Victorian Open Round 3

CUTBACK FESTIVAL

P.I.B.C 60 Years Celebration

26th February

Victorian Teams Titles

*For more details please head to our website and social media. Dates and locations may change.

www.pibc.com.au



SGB Masters of the pool

A small, but spirited group of swimmers attended GSI 8: Moe Don Coupe Meet on Saturday, January 28.

Many were the younger swimmers, returning to the pool after a few weeks off racing.

It was a chance to get in some race practise and see what their times are like, in the lead up to the peak part of the long course season with both schools racing and the All Junior and Gippsland championships coming up.

The 22 swimmers in attendance enjoyed racing in the good weather with many of the juniors improving their times.

One of the fun parts of the meet is always the Skins Race, where the fastest swimmers race for cash prizes. After each heat the slowest is eliminated leaving the last person to win the cash.

Several SGB swimmers came home with the cash – Billy Boyd 1st (M 13 and O), Bec Barclay 2nd (F 12 and U),



Skins Race winners, winning the cash prizes – Billy Boyd, Bec Barclay, Coach Samantha O'Keefe, Isabella Lynch and Maddy Boyd celebrate.

Maddy Boyd 3rd (F 13 and O) and Isabella Lynch 3rd (F 12 and U).

The meet is named after Don Coupe, a stalwart of the Gippsland Masters team. SGB is currently launching their masters group, with trainings on Mondays 6am-7.30am and Thursdays 6.15am-7.30pm at Leongatha.

Masters squad is for those who wish to extend their swimming skillset in fitness or for a particular goal.

We have swimmers who are looking at the Masters Swimming competitions, Triathlons and some for fitness only.

For anyone interested contact sgb@sgbswimclub.com.au

Bass Coast College gets into the swim of things

The whole of Bass Coast College (BCC) came together on Thursday February 2 at Korumburra pool for the House Swimming Carnival.

There was fierce competition across all events including the staff donut eating competition. In a dramatic battle, Luke House was the overall winner coming in just eight points ahead of Lovett.

Congratulations to all participants and supporters for a spectacular day of swimming and fun. BCC is looking forward to seeing its swimmers compete at the regional level.

Age Group Champions

12-13 girls: 1st Rebecca Barclay, 2nd Kyra Carton
12-13 boys: 1st Finn Middleton, 2nd Samuel Harris
14 girls: 1st Miah Roberts, 2nd Ruby Mewett



In a dramatic finish, Luke House won the carnival, just eight points ahead of Lovett. More photos at pisra.com.au.

14 boys: 1st William Simmons, 2nd Jarrah Tagell
15 girls: 1st Abbey Clarke, 2nd Teagan Harris
15 boys: 1st Seth McBean, 2nd Isaac Meyer
16 girls: 1st Milla Laub, 2nd

Madeleine Maund
16 boys: 1st Mostyn Lumsden, 2nd Finn Gibbson
17 girls: 1st Ella Smith, 2nd Louisa Poll
18 girls: 1st Tahlia Gallyot, 2nd Chloe Woolley



Volunteer at the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club performed 2686 preventative actions from December 23 until the end of January, as well as rescuing three people and providing first aid.

Busy summer for surf lifesavers

The Woolamai Surf Life Saving Club (WBSLSC) volunteers had a busy summer season.

From December 23 until the end of January, the club registered 2686 preventative actions – which is classified as direct action taken to reduce or eliminate the probability of a specific rescue or incident.

Over the same period, volunteers rescued three people and provided 21 instances of minor first aid, and one major.

There was also one instance of a missing person, who was successfully located.

The estimated attendance over the period was 13,459.

These statistic do not include any assistance or rescues provided by the paid lifeguard service which operated six days a week at Woolamai over the summer.

From December 26 to January 26, WBSLSC ran patrols



From December 26 onwards, WBSLSC ran patrols seven days a week from 10am-6pm at Woolamai, Smiths and Cowes beaches.

seven days a week from 10am-6pm at Woolamai, Smiths and Cowes beaches.

From now until February 19, Smiths Beach and Woolamai will be patrolled from 10am – 6pm weekdays and weekends.

Then, through to Easter, patrols will only operate on

weekends and public holidays at Smiths and Woolamai: Saturday 1pm – 5pm and Sunday 10am – 4pm on both beaches.

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

www.facebook.com/woolamaibeachslsc

Phillip Island golf results

Tuesday, January 31

– Men's 18 Hole Stableford

A Grade winner: Wayne Morris (9) with 40 points from Christian Lloyd (15) with 38 points.

B Grade winner: Alf Micallef (21) with 38 points c/b from Shane Harding (22).

C Grade: Bez Moustafa (26) with 37 points c/b from Geoff Williamson (31).

NTP: 5th Brett Pascoe, 7th Colin Morris, 10th Alf Micallef and 17th Colin Morris. BDL to 34 c/b.

Tuesday, January 31

– Men's 9 Hole Stableford

The winner was David Gladman (16) with 20 points c/b from John Rodakis (35). BDL to 18 points.

Wednesday, February 1

– Ladies 9 Hole Stableford

Winner was Shannon Trumper (24) with 16 points. BDL to 14 points.

Ladies 18 Hole Stableford A Grade winner was Judy Magill (22) with 36 points.

B Grade winner was

Sue Brown (23) with 35 points.

C Grade winner was Judy Griffin (35) with 36 points c/b.

NTP: 5th Dawn Andrews, 7th Sue Brown, 10th Debra Orr and 17th Helen Coghlan. BDL to 33 points c/b.

Thursday, February 2

– Open 9 Hole Stableford

Winner was Reg Browne (35) with 20 points from Bob Pascoe (14) with 19 points.

BDL to 16 points.

Men's Stableford

A grade: Greg Williams (15) with 40 points from Dan McConnon (7) with 37

points.

B Grade: David Nicoll (19) with 38 points c/b from John O'Brien (20).

C Grade: Peter Blunden (26) with 42 points c/b from Peter Gray (24)

BDL to 34 c/b.

NTP: 5th Stephen Mack, 7th Bryan Pirouet, 10th John Sava and 17th Danny Hibbert.

NTP: 7th Barry Grazules and 10th Septiana Cochrane.

Saturday, February 4

– Stroke Monthly Medal

Men's results

A grade winner Matt Brown (9) with 70 nett from

Lucas Piera (5) 71 nett. B Grade winner Scott Sheers (16) with 70 nett from Chris Ross (16) 71 nett.

C Grade winner Garry Blair (22) with 73 nett from Stuart Crawford (20) with 76 nett c/b.

BDL to 78 nett/b.

NTP: 5th Neville Thurgood, 7th Neil Buttery, 10th Lawrence Ferrari and 17th Craig O'Neill.

9 Hole Open Stableford winner was Ron Hatley (34) with 17 points from Basil Moloney (16) 16 points.

Ladies Stableford results

Ladies competition winner

was Pam Williams (43) with 37 points from Lesley Meadowcroft (11) with 34 points.

NTP 5th Cheryl White, 7th Lesley Meadowcroft, 10th Ros Reid and 17th Lesley Meadowcroft.

BDL to 31 points c/b.

Sunday, February 5

– PIGC Open day, four person Drop out Ambrose

The winners were Liz and Craig O'Neill, Pam Rothfield, Ray Jansson with 58.625, runners up were Steve and Camille Morris, Craig and Wayne Morris with 60 nett.

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 | HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN RED

WED 8 FEB	THU 9 FEB	FRI 10 FEB	SAT 11 FEB	SUN 12 FEB	MON 13 FEB	TUE 14 FEB
HIGH 3:52 am 2.78 m	HIGH 4:29 am 2.82 m	HIGH 5:00 am 2.84 m	HIGH 5:30 am 2.83 m	HIGH 5:59 am 2.82 m	LOW 12:03 am 0.82 m	LOW 12:42 am 0.90 m
LOW 9:41 am 1.08 m	LOW 10:18 am 0.95 m	LOW 10:51 am 0.84 m	LOW 11:23 am 0.72 m	LOW 11:56 am 0.62 m	HIGH 6:27 am 2.79 m	HIGH 6:57 am 2.74 m
HIGH 3:42 pm 2.45 m	HIGH 4:27 pm 2.54 m	HIGH 5:08 pm 2.61 m	HIGH 5:48 pm 2.67 m	HIGH 6:28 pm 2.72 m	LOW 12:28 pm 0.53 m	LOW 1:01 pm 0.46 m
LOW 9:33 pm 0.70 m	LOW 10:13 pm 0.71 m	LOW 10:49 pm 0.74 m	LOW 11:26 pm 0.77 m		HIGH 7:09 pm 2.75 m	HIGH 7:53 pm 2.75 m

All material is supplied in good faith and is believed to be correct. No responsibility or liability for errors or omissions is accepted.



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Young LDCA cricketers claim their first U15 Junior Country Week title since 2015 in a very clinical and professional display of cricket and our young Islanders excelled.

Island young guns steer LDCA to stirring victory

The Leongatha District Cricket Association U15 Junior Country week team travelled to Sale to take on Bairnsdale in the grand final at the Wurruk Cricket Ground.

Some pre-game drama with a wet patch from a leaking sprinkler in the inner circle and the condition of the pitch the centre of conversation for others.

LDCA Coach Scott Checkley and team manager David Harris insisting the boys focus on playing their best cricket no matter what the conditions, and to block out any outside distractions.

Losing the toss, the LDCA boys were asked to bowl first with George McCausland (Phillip Island) and Isaac Bolge (Imperials) opening the bowling.

Bairnsdale's in form opening pair of Seth Noonan and Mitchell Johnson looked strong until McCausland dismissed Seth Noonan bringing Campbell Moncreiff to the crease.

Noonan and Johnson were looking solid until Heath Womersley (Phillip Island) entered the attack; his skill in cutting the ball off the wicket saw Heath claim Moncreiff, captain Kruze Farley and Cody Southen in a devastating six over spell to leave Bairnsdale 4-61.

There was some solid bowling by Archie Gannon (Nerrena), Archie Casey (Imperials) and Rhys Newman (Inverloch) through the middle overs, plus the run out of Johnson who had played a wonderful patient innings.

The LDCA then gave George McCausland the ball for his second spell, and he proceeded to

rip through the rest of the batting order. Skipper Andot Mankhong (Wonthaggi) taking a screamer at first slip to end the innings with Bairnsdale dismissed for 105.

Fletcher McLennan chipping in with a wicket, George McCausland 5-13 off 9.5 overs, Heath Womersley 3-7 off six overs and a great runout from Archie Casey.

At the lunch break the LDCA boys spoke about the importance of getting off to a good start and Riley Harris 44 (Inverloch) and Heath Womersley (Phillip Island) 20 did just that, putting on 75 in an excellent opening partnership.

Womersley playing straight and patiently and Harris, playing his best innings of the tournament, displaying some magnificent stroke play on a pitch still offering plenty for the bowlers.

With the opening pair then dismissed Rhys Newman and Clayton Quaife showed great maturity and confidence to steer the LDCA boy's home to claim their first U15 Junior Country Week title since 2015 in a very clinical and professional display of cricket.

Full credit must go to these boys on how they grew throughout the tournament and played their best game on the big stage.

The schedule of five Sundays in a row after Christmas was a challenge the boys handled with great enthusiasm.

A fantastic performance from our local lads with Heath Womersley making 20 in a crucial opening stand of 75 to go with his 3/7 off six overs with the ball.

George McCausland deemed Man of the Match for his brilliant figure of 6/13 off 9.5 overs.



Heath Womersley and George McCausland, both played a magnificent game to contribute to the LDCA U15 grand final.



Heath Womersley in action with the bat.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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