

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

\$1.60 Incl. GST

Islanders rise to



Challenge

After visitors to Phillip Island tested positive to COVID-19, it was a race against time to identify exposure sites and test the population. Here's how the events unfolded.

Thursday, July 15

As Victoria went into lockdown on Thursday night, word of the positive test filtered out.

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child confirmed the rumours and said local exposure sites would be listed on the state government website shortly.

BCH workers and local hire company, Over the Top Events went into overdrive, with a bigger tent erected at the Cowes drive through site on Thursday night, to increase the testing capacity.

It was announced testing times at both the Cowes and Wonthaggi Drive Through sites would be extended, running from 7am – 5pm.

Friday, July 16

Phillip Islanders awoke to a growing list of exposure sites, with San Remo Fisherman's Co-op, Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowls and Entertainment and Grumpy's Golf the first local business to be hit with the devastating news.

They were soon joined by the Jolly Lolly Trolley, Coles, Gday Tiger, Phillip Island Bakery and A Maze 'N Things.

By the end of the day North Pier, Phillip Island Coffee Co, Porter



The Cowes drive through testing site was overwhelmed on Saturday, with more than 20 exposure sites listed across Phillip Island and San Remo on the weekend. Testing capacity was bolstered and a second Cowes walk-in site opened on Sunday.

Fresh Poke Bowls, the Nobbies, GP Circuit, and Phillip Island Chocolate Factory had also been listed.

There was a surge in demand for tests, as locals realised they'd attended an exposure site, with the Cowes Drive Through Site working beyond its scheduled 5pm finish.

Saturday, July 17

The queue at the Cowes Drive Through site on Saturday started before the sun rose and by 7am the line of cars stretched for several blocks, as vehicles queued along Chapel Street waiting to enter the

testing site at the Transit Centre.

Despite the new tent and running four testing stations it was quickly clear the demand far outstripped the resources.

At 10am, Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child confirmed an additional three teams were on the way to

Cowes, to assist the four teams already in place. Ms Child said the teams were coming from Sale, Foster and Warragul to bolster local resources, as Bass Coast Health grappled with staffing levels.

She spent the morning walking from car to car in the queue, explaining the delay.

One resident who had arrived before 6.30am said around 8.30am Ms Child spoke to him through the car window.

"She apologised for the long wait, as they lost a lot of staff due to the exposure sites around the island," he said.

"She is making her way down the line of cars."

Another resident who had been waiting three hours was impressed by the CEO's appearance.

"Good to see Jan Child personally fronting the long line of cars waiting to get tested and explain the delay," he told the Advertiser around 9.45am.

"She could easily be sitting in an office or sending a staffer out to speak to those waiting."

However, the long wait caused tempers to fray.

There were reports of heated exchanges between drivers, with accusations of some trying to jump the queue.

"There's a fair bit of angst between drivers," said one person.

Continued page 10

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PHILLIP ISLAND

7 day weather forecast

Wed/July21	Thu/July22	Fri/July23	Sat/July24	Sun/July25	Mon/July26	Tue/July27
						
SHOWERS INCREASING	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWERS	SHOWERS	SHOWERS	SHOWERS
8 13	7 13	7 12	7 13	7 13	8 12	9 13

Victoria's snap lockdown extended

The state government has confirmed the current lockdown will be extended until 11.59 on Tuesday, July 27.

On Monday, flagging the extension of the lockdown, Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said: "There is no absolutely guarantee that we can win against Delta."

"We have to give ourselves the absolute best chance, but we have to recognise just how profoundly challenging it is."

"This will take off if we allow it to."

On Tuesday, the Premier Daniel Andrews said the extension was necessary to avoid a situation like Sydney,

and going into a protracted lockdown.

However, he said there were positive signs the current strategy was working.

"The percentage of cases isolating for their entire infectious period is growing."

"At the end of this seven days, we will have done everything we possibly can to get out of lockdown."

Further announcements on business support will be made on Wednesday.

The lockdown restrictions remain the same, although minor changes will be made to the Authorised Premises and Worker List, to include ser-

vices that operate solely outdoors.

Students with disabilities will be able to return to on-site learning, if learning from home wasn't possible.

The biggest change relates to Red Zone Travel Permits. Victorian residents who are currently in red zones will require an exemption to return home.

The Premier said exemptions would only be granted "in exceptional circumstances".

"If people enter Victoria from NSW without an exemption, they will be put on return flight or placed in 14-day mandatory quarantine," the Premier warned.

Breaking news:

Covid in Island wastewater

Viral fragments have been detected in the wastewater on Phillip Island.

The announcement came at Tuesday's press conference, from Covid Commander Jeroen Weimar.

In the seven days up until July 17, no fragments had been detected in the samples taken at the wastewater treatment plant.

Because of the detection, capacity at the Cowes Drive Through testing site will be maintained at the current level, with residents urged to get tested.

Bass Coast CEO Jan Child said they would ramp up the Cowes

service if needed and confirmed the Walk-in site in Thompson Avenue will run for the rest of the week.

"Please, if you have even the mildest of symptoms, come forward and be tested."

The San Remo site ran as normal on Tuesday, with updated opening times for the rest of the week to be announced shortly.

Basham trial delayed

The Supreme Court trial for alleged murderer Adrian Basham has been delayed until October 25.

The trial was previously set to start on July 12 and is expected to run for two months, with the delay due to resolving pre-trial matters.

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

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

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

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



ADVERTISER EDITORIAL

This is not a drill

It was the weekend the pandemic truly arrived on Phillip Island and San Remo.

We've been living with COVID-19 for more than 18 months now, and we know the drill.

Hand sanitisers and disposable masks are in every handbag and most peoples' pockets.

We can social distance and whip out our phones to scan QR codes.

We've watched press conferences and waited for the daily case numbers.

Most of us have had at least one nose tingling Covid test and everyone found their own way to try and emerge from a lockdown with at least a shred of sanity intact.

While our businesses and the tourism industry has taken a battering – Bass Coast's economy was rated one of the most affected areas in Victoria – actual cases here have been rare.

Even at the worst of it, in 2020 when Melbourne and Victoria experienced the longest and toughest lockdown in the country, and daily case numbers were in their hundreds, the highest number of cases ever recorded in the shire was four.

It was like we were slightly removed from the real action, not part of the main game.

Last Thursday, that all changed. It felt like Covid was all around us.

This time, we were the news, instead of watching the drama unfolding in Melbourne.

As the list of exposure sites grew, it seemed like the entire island would need to be tested.

And the testing lines at the drive through sites in Cowes, San Remo and Wonthaggi proved the point.

On Saturday and Sunday alone, 2363 tests were done.

Everyone had a story about waiting in the queue.

Everyone knows someone in isolation waiting for a result, or in quarantine.

The past few days have shown our vulnerability and our strength.

Just by going about our daily lives, hundreds of us were potentially exposed to the virus.

Residents rallied and came forward to get tested in massive numbers, waiting patiently in their cars for hours.

Overwhelmingly people have been compassionate, calm, thoughtful and selfless.

Local healthcare workers put in long days, worked on their days off and were unfailingly professional and cheerful despite a workload 10 times what they're used to.

Police, event staff and council officers worked long hours helping organise testing sites and keeping the traffic flowing smoothly.

It's been an incredible effort and we can all be proud of what's been achieved so far.

But how we deal with the next week is so important.

It is clear there's no cutting corners with this beast breathing down our necks.

To date, the Department of Health has not been able to confirm how many people here are isolating or in quarantine.

But if you are waiting for your results or in quarantine, don't leave the house, bend the rules, or say "it doesn't really matter, because we're so safe here".

Don't go for a walk, or pop over to see a friend.

If you need help, there are Disaster Relief payments available, assistance from the state government and as ever, the PICAL food pantry is available for anyone in need.

Unfortunately, the lockdown has been extended, but it's important to follow the restrictions, and when they ease, keep checking in everywhere you go.

Finally, if you're eligible for a vaccine, book in now, because the experts tell us until we're all vaccinated, there's no way to live with this virus.

If this week has shown us anything, it's just how vulnerable any community is, and just how strong we are.

Stay safe out there.

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO
ADVERTISER

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LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Harmony Bells stolen

Police are calling for public assistance after the Harmony Bells in the Cowes Town Square were stolen.

Senior Sergeant Andy O'Brien said the exact time of the theft was unknown, but it's believed they were stolen sometime over the weekend of July 11 and 12.

"We are seeking witnesses and any CCTV footage from surrounding businesses," Snr Sergeant O'Brien said.

"These bells weighed 100 kilograms each, so the thieves would have needed a ute or trailer to take them away.

"If you noticed anything at all, please contact CrimeStoppers."

The police estimate at least two or three people were involved in the operation, which they say was pre-planned.

It's believed the thieves used an angle grinder to cut through the poles and then pushed the bells into a wheelbarrow or some kind of carrier before moving them to a waiting vehicle, which could have been parked in the Transit Centre, or Thompson Avenue.

Police also hope the community can help narrow down the time of the theft and are asking if anyone remembers seeing the bells in the square on the Saturday or Sunday.

They believe the theft was well planned and bronze bells will be sold as scrap metal.

Bronze is worth around \$12 per kilo, which means the four bells could fetch up to \$4800.

Spate of thefts

Snr Sergeant O'Brien said there were also two thefts over the weekend at the Cowes Industrial Estate.

While there is nothing linking the three incidents, police say there are similarities.

The two thefts in the Industrial Estate were at neighbouring prop-



The heavy bronze bells, created by Dr Anton Hassell, each featured a "topper" representing part of the island's history.

erties.

At one, like at the town square, an angle grinder was used, cutting the locks on shipping containers.

At the adjoining site, bolt cutters were used to cut through the fence, and on the locks of a warehouse, shipping containers and a metal cool room.

Tools and toolboxes were stolen.

The industrial estate break ins happened sometime between 4pm on Saturday and Monday morning.

Police are again appealing to the community for information,

"These incidents could be related, so information on any of them could help with them all," Snr Sergeant O'Brien said.

"If you noticed anything unusual

around either of these locations, please let us know."

In another twist, the bell at the Kilcunda Community Hall was also stolen last week (see separate story).

As a result, police issued a state-wide alert about the unusual thefts, with the Criminal Investigation Unit looking into the bell robberies.

"There is a trend happening, and police are taking these thefts seriously," Snr Sergeant O'Brien said.

Bell history

The heavy bronze bells, created by renowned sculpture Dr Anton Hassell have been in the centre of Cowes since 2012 and feature artwork that represents the sea, as well as the waves of people who come and go

from Phillip Island.

The bells cost \$55,000 to create and install.

Community reaction to the theft has been swift, with dozens of comments left on the Advertiser's Facebook page.

"Cowes used to be such a safe and neighbourly place ... people nowadays have no respect," said Gaby Bailey.

"So devastating, hope they get them back," Yvonne Christie posted.

"It's really disheartening to know that nothing is safe," lamented Sue Baldizoni

Back in 2012, a Bass Coast Shire Council report said the four "familiar and experimental bell shapes will allow visitors to experiment with and explore interesting sound relationships between and amongst the bells, singularly and in groups."

One bell was in a traditional ship bell style, while another was an Australian Bell's US patented, musically tuned, harmonic bell.

"The shimmering, swelling and shapeliness of the Cowes' Bells, as if a wave is passing through their physical forms, will complement the newly landscaped Square that also features a theme of tidal and wave form transition in its design," the report stated.

Each featured a clapper hanging inside, so the bells could be rung by passers-by.

The bells were popular with local and visiting children, while groups like the local Rural Australians for Refugees group would ring the bells each week, signifying their support for refugees.

If you have any information that could help with the investigation into the theft of the bells, please contact CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

Bell thieves strike again

The Harmony Bells in the Cowes Town Square were not the only bells targeted this week.

The Kilcunda Community bell which is normally outside the local hall has also been stolen.

The group posted on its Facebook page last week.

"We are heartbroken as some disgusting humans have stolen our beautiful bell donated to us all by Alan and Betty Hart.

"Words are not enough to say how angry and sad we all are. The theft has been reported to the police but please circulate this far and wide to help us find it if possible.

"If anyone can remember when they last saw the bell please message as we are trying to determine when exactly it was stolen."

Anyone with information about the bell should contact CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

Or you can message the Kilcunda Community group via Facebook (@kilcundacommunity)

MARY MACKILLOP
CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE
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13

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PETITION

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria

The Petition of Residents, Business People, and Friends of Bass Coast, Western Port and Cardinia Regions draws to the attention of the House the destruction of remnant coastal forest in the Lang Lang to Grantville corridor by the activities of sand mines operating within this forest under historical work authorities. This is the last significant stand of mature forest in the Western Port and Bass Coast region, which supports threatened species and contributes to the character of the community. The petitioners request that the Legislative Assembly of Victoria place an immediate moratorium on sand mining work authorities within this fragile forest corridor to ensure no further expansion of mines operating within and to ensure all existing remnant forest is protected from removal.

To sign the e-Petition to the Parliament:

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Division over Anderson boat ramp plans

Anglers and boaties were divided on their support for plans to upgrade the Anderson Road boat ramp, unveiled at a community meeting last Wednesday.

A decade after being given a \$500,000 face-lift – at the time criticised by fishermen who said it would fail to improve the facility – the Anderson boat ramp is set to undergo another upgrade, which has no detailed budget as yet.

About 30 water users attended the unveiling of the plans at the Cowes yacht club, who all agreed the current ramp needs urgent improvement.

Daily sand build-up makes launching and retrieving vessels difficult and costs more than \$65,000 (2016 figure) annually for a grader to regularly clear the area of sand.

Water users also agree the neighbouring small jetty, built in 2011, is a white elephant and unusable at low tide.

Better Boating Victoria earlier this year commissioned AW Maritime Pty Ltd to create the upgrade plans to improve safety, allow more boats to be berthed and to increase capacity.

The plans recommend:

- increasing the ramp's height to minimise sand build up on the ramp surface and add a patterned surface finish. There will be no edge kerbs, with the width of the ramp reduced. An additional third lane could be built in the future;
- installing timber groynes on either side, to the west and east;
- Extending the existing jetty;
- Dredging a basin at the end of the ramp to 0.5-metre;
- the turning circle at the top of the ramp be realigned, making "manoeuvring cars and trailers easier and safer", as well as improved approach and reversing lanes.

Response

Ian Samuel, a boat user and past commodore and life member of the Cowes Yacht Club, was a key critic of the 2011 Anderson boat ramp upgrade.

He welcomed the current upgrade, saying if the correct engineering studies were undertaken it would see "boats able to be launched in the majority of conditions", adding the three-metre tide in the area meant low tide would always be difficult.

"What this plan does is overcome the sand build up that stops launching and retrieving in most tides," Ian said.

"So by extending the ramp out and increasing its height it should provide improved access." Ian however had some reservations.

He urged Better Boating Victoria not to build the easterly groyne.

"The predominant sand movement here is west to east so if you put just one groyne at the west and not the east that will hold back the sand and protect the ramp."

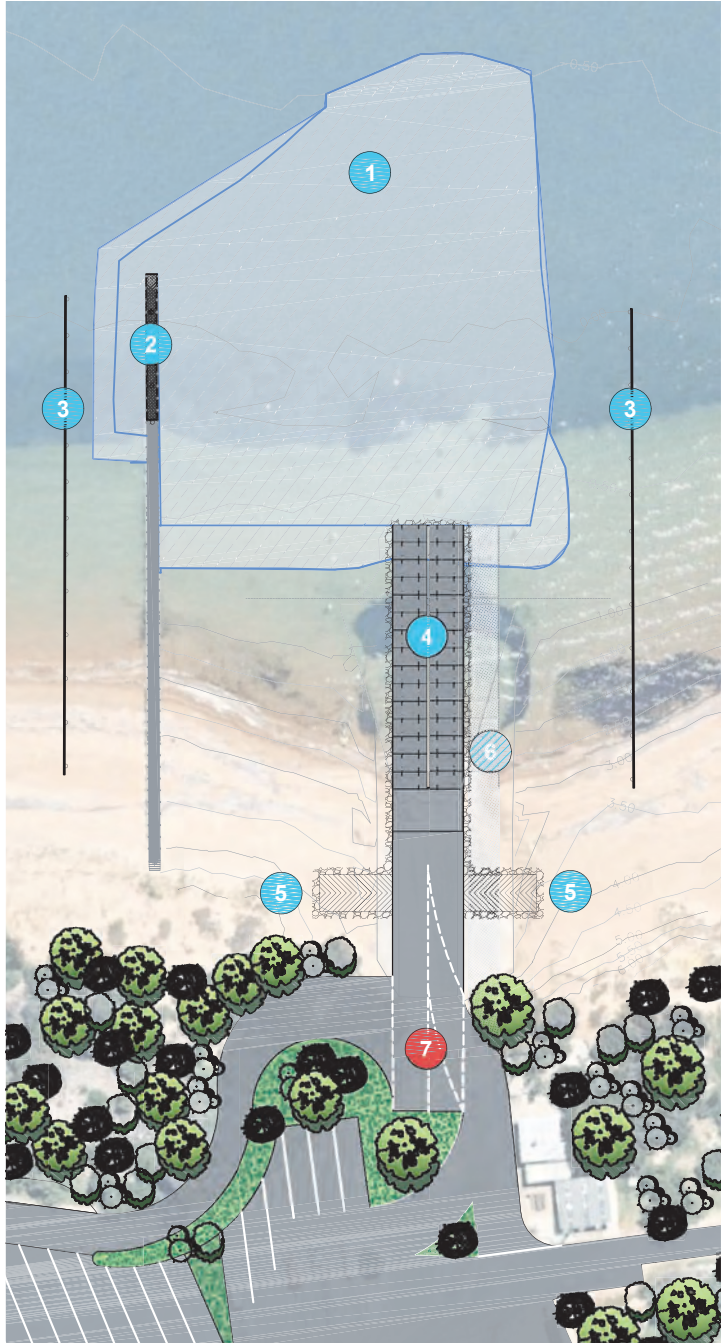
Ian also said the best option would be to remove the current jetty and replace it with a floating one.

"Floating pontoons are the only way but because of the heavy seas it would be subject to damage."

"The jetty is inadequate and extending it will help."

He added he was uncertain about the impacts of dredging and its impacts should be examined thoroughly by a hydrologist.

"The whole plan is certainly in the right di-



Better Boating Victoria earlier this year commissioned AW Maritime Pty Ltd to create the upgrade plans to improve safety, allow more boats to be berthed and to increase capacity. The plans include: increasing the ramp's height, with the width of the ramp reduced; installing timber groynes to the west and east; extend the existing jetty; and dredge a basin at the end of the ramp.

rection but needs more investigations. It also requires significant input from the fishing public."

Lionel Bradley, who has been fishing off Anderson ramp for 60 years, said he opposed most of the design upgrades.

"At the moment four cars can launch off the ramp but this design is making two lanes so the ramp will be useless," Lionel said.

"Why cut it in half? A lot of people drive down and turn their cars around instead of backing down 50 metres, but under this plan you won't be able to do a U-turn."

He said the smaller ramp would also add to congestion.

"Under this plan waiting times will be far worse. It will double."

Lionel said while he agreed the current jetty

was unusable, the proposed extension was not enough and it needed to be extended at least another 20 metres.

"We told them last time in 2011 what needed to be done but no one takes any notice of the people who use it."

"Overall I'd give this new design five out of 10 at the best."

Angler Warwick Cumberland said the groynes were too close to the ramp and he was also not in support of the current four-lane ramp halving to two lanes.

"There's already congestion at the moment so this will make it much worse," Warwick said.

Beach users

One lady at the meeting, who asked not to be named, said the needs of beach users and

the wider community were not catered for in the plan, which made it more difficult for families to walk across the beach.

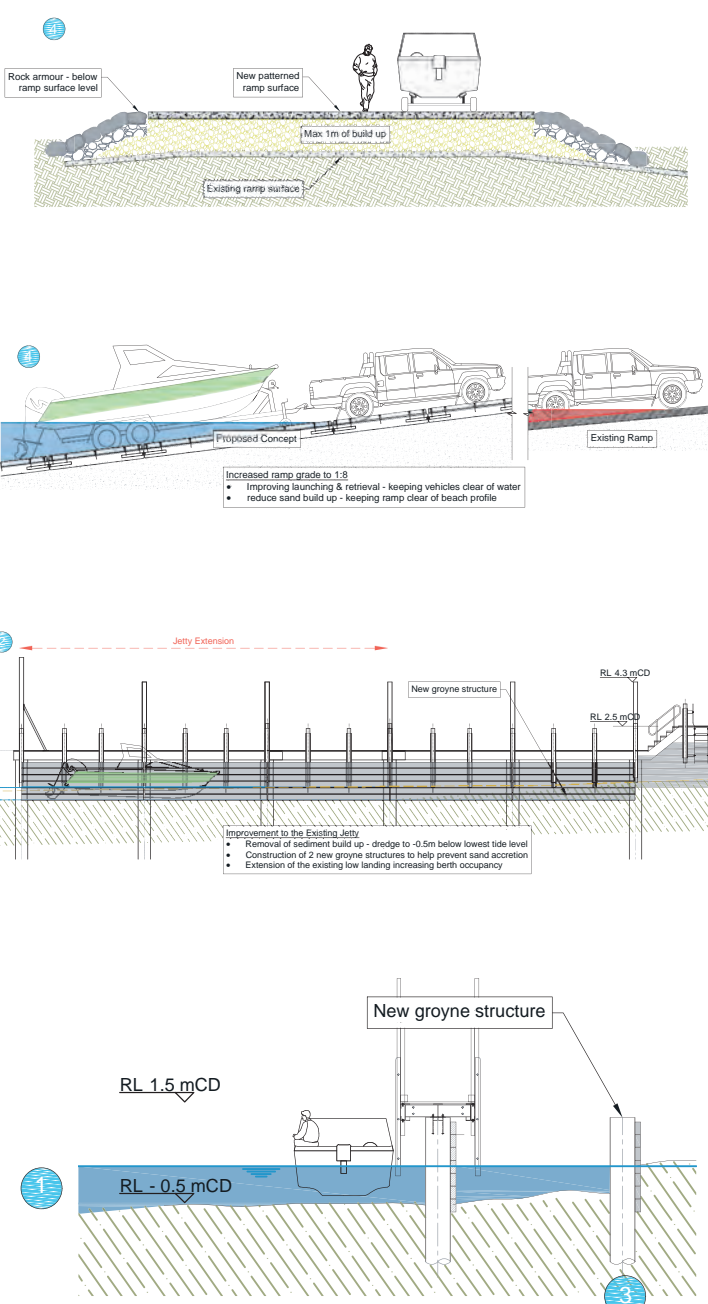
Angler Joe said there needed to be better safety warnings for beach users.

"There used to be signs saying 'no swimming' but they were knocked off and council hasn't put them back up," Joe said.

"So a mum and her three kids will be swimming off the ramp while we're trying to manoeuvre boats. It's dangerous."

"In the past we could point to the signs but now with them gone we just get the finger when we ask them to move on. It needs to be a no-swim zone."

The current facility includes a single-lane ramp, jetty, about 30 car and trailer parking spaces and is managed by Bass Coast Shire Council.



Cr Ronnie Bauer

"This upgrade is overdue. The little jetty currently there is totally unusable and the ramp in its current configuration is not suitable, especially in lower tides. The billion dollar question is whether the work they're proposing will stop the daily sand build up."



Ian Terry, Cowes

"I appreciate what they have done to stop sand build up but they need a breakwall. The groyne as they're proposing it won't be high enough. You need a 10-foot bluestone wall to stop sand coming across so you can get boats in at any time."



Ian Samuel, Cowes

"The whole plan is certainly in the right direction but needs more investigations. It also requires significant input from the fishing public."



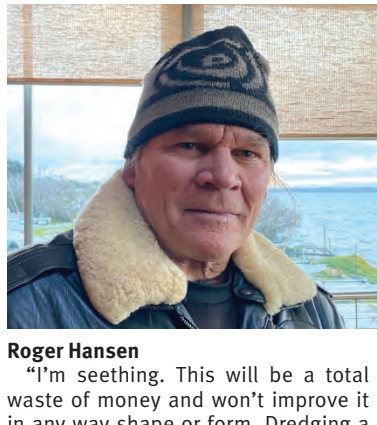
Bernie Andrews

"They need to put an angle at the top of the westerly groyne to reduce the amount of sand on the ramp. The plan is going to make it better. It couldn't get any worse than it currently is."



Lionel Bradley

"We told them last time in 2011 what needed to be done but no one takes any notice of the people who use it. Overall I'd give this new design five out of 10 at the best."



Roger Hansen

"I'm seething. This will be a total waste of money and won't improve it in any way shape or form. Dredging a hole is not going to stop the current problems. It needs to have an all-weather boat ramp protected from the prevailing north-westerly wind, two breakwalls either side and a floating pontoon jetty."

Anderson Road boat facility: history

Last week's unveiling of redesigned Anderson boat ramp and jetty plans follows more than a decade of problems at the area:

Anderson Road jetty construction, 2015
Cost: \$577,000

A new 60-metre jetty opened in 2015 because the previous jetty wasn't suitable for all boat users.

But boaties have ever since been unhappy with the half a million-dollar jetty, reporting a variety of problems with the design: difficult to launch at low tide, sand collects on the jetty and the pontoon is inadequate in certain tides. On high tide users are forced to beach the boat in order to use the pontoon.

Upgrade of the Anderson Road boat ramp, 2011
Cost: \$548,385

The design for the new ramp was strongly opposed by local users, during the consultative phase for the project back in 2011.

The old ramp used to go straight down and level out in the water and was not problematic.

However, in 2011, the level to which concrete slabs were dug down, below the water line, was deeper than the natural shift of the sand.

The result: sand is deposited at high tide all over the ramp surface.

The ramp has a long-term problem of sand build-up, and it costs \$65,000 (2016 figure) a year for a grader to regularly clear the area of sand.

The sand is removed, then the next tide dumps it right back again.

What disappoints and frustrates long time users is that their input, which if acted upon would have prevented the problems, aired at stakeholder meetings prior to the ramp being built, was rejected by council.

"Council was told by everyone present at those meetings that the new ramp should be raised, not dug in," said Lionel Bradley back in 2018.

"They refused to listen to us or acknowledge the experience and local knowledge of this beach we all brought to the table. They dug it in, on the basis that beach users might trip over it if it was raised."

"The result, as we unanimously warned them it would be, is that the ramp is often unusable, and requires costly sand shifting daily, which was never the case before."

"This all could have been avoided if council had listened to us in the first place," he said.

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Council Update

Wonthaggi Public Art: Join the Working Group

Council is establishing a Working Group to steer the delivery of a Public Art Commission, to be located in Wonthaggi. The Working Group will consist of local residents and stakeholders who can guide the process and ensure the local community is represented and expressed throughout the project. This is an opportunity to be involved in the process of contributing to the identity and character of your town. The first meeting will be held in the foyer of the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on Monday, 9 August from 5.30pm until 6.30pm. To participate, contact Team Leader Arts and Culture, David Burrows on david.burrows@basscoast.vic.gov.au or on the numbers below to register. It is anticipated that the Working Group will meet at least five times over the commission period:

1. Establish the theme and site for the artist brief (August 2021)
2. Review and approve the artist brief (August 2021)
3. Select the shortlist of artists from the field of entries (November 2021)
4. Select the preferred project from the shortlisted artists (January 2022)
5. Celebrate the delivery of the project (June 2022)

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

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46C Albert Street, Warragul VIC 3820
Tel: 0439 535 282
email: russell.broadbent.mp@aph.gov.au
Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 46C Albert Street, Warragul VIC 3820

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

Cr Ronnie Bauer
for the Island Ward, Bass Coast Shire

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922
Tel: 0439 535 282
email: Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au
Authorised by Ronnie Bauer, PO Box 996, Cowes 3922



Smoke Stack Rhino are bringing their blues rock to the Westernport Hotel on Friday, August 6.

Smokin' blues at the Westernport

Blues rock band Smoke Stack Rhino reckon they're going on 'Highland to Island' tour, visiting Victoria's High Country and surf zones.

The Yarra Valley-based blues rock trio are playing a special run of five shows including an August 6 appearance at the Westernport Hotel in San Remo.

The band's vibe is old-school. Think blues-rock and add a dash of psychedelic. It's groovy, it's of the earth, it's authentic.

With a band-name that's one heavy animal away from the legendary vamp 'Smoke-stack Lightning', this trio might have formed

around their love of the blues but are actively pushing into new territory.

They've been at it for a while. Singer-guitarist Ash and drummer Jem started playing in high school, while bass player Shane helped form the band in 2013. Like a rhino, they mostly avoid built-up areas, and generally 'stick to the sticks'. Further explanation? Anywhere near trees, water or beer.

In the spirit of a good old Bunnings BBQ, they're proudly D-I-Y, releasing music under their own label Jamalama and designing everything from art to Pink Floyd-esque light shows.

Live, it's good vibes and feel-good fun. They've played over 20 festivals, toured Australia over 10 times and been praised on community radio and triple J's Roots N All.

In an era of mass-produced music and fake news, Smoke Stack Rhino is something real.

Watch them bring the mojo back on Friday, August 6 - Westernport Hotel, San Remo.

For further information head to www.facebook.com/smokestackrhino or www.instagram.com/smokestackrhino. www.thewesternport.com.au

Business mentoring workshops

Sole traders and small business owners have a unique opportunity to attend a mentoring workshop this month.

Supporting small businesses (one-two business partners), the Phillip Island Business Network, with subsidised funding from the state government, is offering a Business Development Mentoring workshop.

If you're a service provider, tradie or another small business owner, getting the right support in these challenging times is crucial.

Mentor Andy Rookes from Melbourne has more than 27 years of experience growing small and more significant-sized businesses.

This workshop is open to just two groups, each limited to 10 participants for maximum mentoring advantage.

Andy has developed the sessions specifically for businesses of Phillip Island.

Learn why strategy and measurement is so important and how to do this.

Customer sales and marketing, supplier and negotiation and seasonal trade are just some of the key points covered in the workshop.

This workshop usually costs \$800 per person, but is being offered at a special discount price.

PIBN Members will pay just \$100 per person for 2 x 3-hour sessions, while PIBN Members can attend for \$200 per person.

The workshop will be held at the Phillip Island Penguin Parade Visitors Centre.

First Session: Wednesday, July 28.
Second Session: Monday, August 30.

To find out more or to book, visit www.pibn.com.au under News & Events.

Community think-tank kicks off

Bass Coast Shire's new community panel have met for the first time, with 13 members from the Island Ward, 14 from the Western Port Ward and 16 from Bunurong.

A shire spokesperson said the 43 members were chosen to be "demographically representative of Bass Coast", made up of people of different ages, abilities, as well as workers, business owners, residents and young adults.

The members, who all nominated themselves after the shire put out a call, will take part in five workshops through to September and will write recommendations for the shire on their vision to 2041, as well as the long-term financial plan.

"The recommendations in their report will influence council outcomes or decisions," the spokesperson said.

"They will take a deeper dive into the issues relating to the future of Bass Coast, what's possible, rather than what's probable."

Members will be paid \$200 for attending all workshops.

Details: <https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ourfuture>

Plan drafted for Smiths Beach

By Phil Dressing, Smiths Beachcomber Association

The Smiths Beachcomber Association (SBA) has been around for something like 42 years, one of the oldest Bass Coast Community Groups. We have a proud history of working collaboratively with Councils, Nature Parks and other like-minded community groups.

SBA have been heavily involved in this project from day one. In fact, I'd suggest it was SBA's initiatives towards this goal in July 2018 when we wrote to the Shire CEO at the time, suggesting the Shire consider developing a Smiths Beach Master Plan and following presentation of our "More Feet ... Less Footprints" to Councillors back in March, 2019.

And there has been two Council elections since that time.

Council budgeted \$150,000 for the development of the Master Plan. It seems we are all well ahead of the game, at least at this point.

I believe this was one of the most positive community led projects in my memory.

Council hosted two briefings on the plan last

Friday, July 16.

More Feet ... Less Footprints. Not sure whether this concept has been embraced within the report but there's enough impetus to re-visit and reimagine.

I must confess to being somewhat sceptical about the capability/capacity of Bass Coast Shire developing a generational opportunistic Master Plan for Smiths Beach.

Additionally, the draft "Town Plan" briefing provided by Bass Coast Shire last Friday afternoon did nothing to allay my prejudices.

In fact, I communicated my primary bitter disappointment to SBA executives albeit with a caveat that I'd not read both reports immediately after that briefing.

Reports weren't available for public viewing until Friday afternoon at 5pm.

The draft Smiths Beach Town Plan is before Wednesday's Council meeting for adoption.

I was quite critical of Bass Coast Shire officers for not connecting with the majority of Smiths Beach ratepayers in the initial stages of the project seeking a focus on the broader

issues.

Well, even humble pie can taste really good sometimes.

I started reading the Smiths Beach Town Plan Draft Background Report (Volume 1) first thing on Covid Saturday.

Nine hours later and still not finished (I'm up to the Appendices) I became totally enthralled in the report contents. The more I read and noted the more excited I became. Nearly three years of lobbying and a few sleepless nights came to fruition.

SBA members will be able to discuss the Report content at the AGM scheduled for Sunday, August 8.

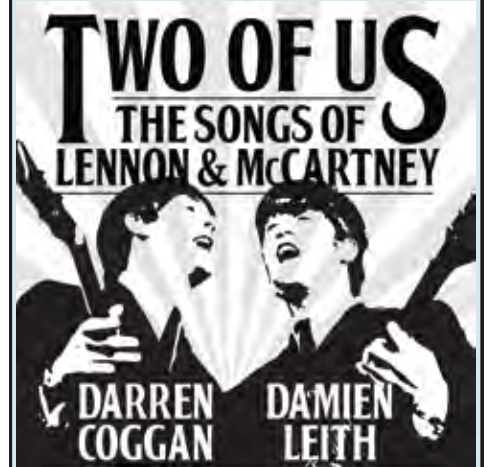
In my opinion Bass Coast Shire councillors should grasp these generational opportunistic reports with both hands.

Congratulations to the Shire and in particular, Austin Cram, for his management of the program and their consultants, Kinetica for their excellent work in researching, community engagement and publishing most professional and thought-provoking reports.

Wonthaggi Arts Centre

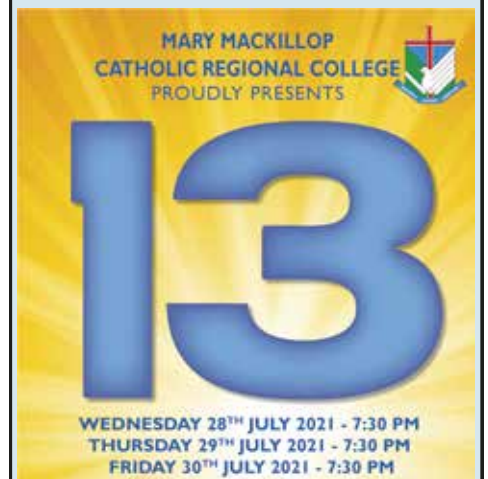
24 July - July 31

LIVE EVENTS



Saturday, 24 July - 8:00pm

Two of Australia's most applauded performers, Damien Leith & Darren Coggan, come together to celebrate the songbook of the most inspiring songwriters of all time, John Lennon & Paul McCartney.



13 (Musical) 28 -30 July



Saturday, 31 July - 7:30

"Light sweet and tasty as befits a cooking Queen."

"There's a song about a pressure cooker here that has the potential to be a chart-topping hit. Seriously." The Australian

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Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre

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phone: 03 5671 2470



Lisa McLure managed to get her second Pfizer shot before news of the Covid-positive case on Phillip Island. Here, she again returns to her lockdown column, explaining how a friend dealt with queuing at a long testing site, and how kids Evie and Angus and husband Tim beat the boredom by dressing up their unhappy cat Eric, who now has an internet following.

"Going into lockdown this time feels almost like waiving the white flag: let's just get it done and hope everyone is ok and I don't end up locking the kids in the cupboard under the stairs.

We actually don't have a cupboard under the stairs but now with lockdown Tim has time to build one.

With our spare time we decided to dress Eric, our ragdoll cat, in a pink penguin jumper.

That gave us the idea to make a number of different outfits for him, including Nurse Eric.

I videoed him in his nurse outfit taking care of a DIY Smiths Beach testing queue of Evie's dolls. I put it on Facebook and quite a few hundred people watched it.

Next we're going to do Press Conference Eric and dress him up like the Premier.

A friend of mine said she's going to make him more costumes, so watch this space.

Eric glares at us for 10 minutes until we take the outfit off him.

He just flops and submits. He deserves it for waking me up at 4am every morning by bonking me on the nose.

I just want to make people laugh, anything to ease people being a bit frightened and anxious, even for a moment. So Eric doesn't realise the joy he's bringing to the world.

I've noticed a bit of tourist bashing on community Facebook sites, but the people who bought Covid to the island were on their holidays having a nice time.

Obviously, they were doing the right thing and used the QR code everywhere and supported local business – pretty much every local business by the looks of it.

It was bound to happen and now it has. Although everyone is in a bit of disbelief.

A weird sense of shock has come over the island. All the businesses have been doing the right thing and trying to look after everyone for so long.

My heart broke when I saw San Remo Fisherman's Co-op manager Paul Mannix on the TV news.

He was so devastated. He's worked so hard to do everything right – and even copped abuse for doing the right thing by some customers – and now he's a Tier1 site.

My friend owns G'Day Tiger café in Cowes, which was one of the Tier2 sites, so his family and his staff are being tested and in isolation.

Another friend was at the Jolly Lolly Trolley at the exposure time.

So on Saturday she got in the car to get tested with her three kids, waiting a few hours with snacks and iPads to keep them entertained.

At the request of Bass Coast CEO Jan Child – who spoke to every carload in the line – they went across to Wonthaggi to take the pressure off Cowes staff.

One of the nurses came out and asked the line of cars if they minded waiting an extra 15 minutes so the nurse staff could have a break. They have been thrown into a massive workload.

I think a lot of people got tested out of fear they may have it.

I got my second Pfizer vaccination last Tuesday, so just before the lockdown.

It was easy: I booked both of them online and just drove up and got the jab.

After each of them I got a headache for a couple of hours, so I drank heaps of hydrolyte and curled up on the couch.

But that was it, no other effects.

As for home schooling again, Cowes Primary is so prepared for snap lockdowns the kids came home with the dreaded paper bag full of their work.

The first home schooling last year was a huge deal.

Now we know what we've got to do.

That's not to say the kids completely comply. There will still be a need to reinvent the wheel every day to get them on board.

My personal training studio was already closed and we of course had to close (Elements) hairdressing studio.

We can't rebook everyone at this early stage because we don't know when that's going to be, how long we're in lockdown.

Now all I have to do is ensure I stay off lockdown online shopping. I keep getting parcels that turn up and I forget what I bought.

Lockdown this time is what it is. Let's just get it done."



Eric, the McLure's cat, gained social media fame on the weekend with his nurse outfit, heading a pop up "Covid testing Smiths Beach", with Evie's dolls as patients.



Eric here wears a pink jumper normally used to dress a stuffed penguin.



"Press Conference Eric", dressed up like the Premier.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tell us your views with a Letter to the Editor (350 word limit). Email to advertiser@pisra.com.au, or submit online at pisra.com.au



Bell heartbreak

The removal of the four Harmony Bells from the Town Square is an act of wanton, heart-breaking vandalism.

Installed in 2012 they were part of Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the site in Thompson Avenue- Stage 2, being the building of a new Cultural Centre.

The Bells make a beautiful harmonious sound, individually and together and are quite unique. They have given [initially they did have their critics], a real sense of place to the square.

Passers by young and older, enjoy giving "them a ring" as they walk by. If in the museum or library their ring is a joyous sound.

Every Friday morning for the last 18 months, members of the Phillip Island Rural Australians for Refugees [RAR] ring the Bells in support of the refugees and asylum seekers who wish to make Australia their home.

RAR performed the Ringing of the Bells during the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network event in Cowes in 2018.

Many people gathered in the Town Square to express sorrow and disbelief when the magnificent 150 years old gum was removed for the construction of a transit centre. The bells were rung for the tree.

The bells were silenced and draped in white when members of the community came to grieve and to give comfort when a young, much loved mother was tragically taken.

We danced and sang around the bells during the Whale Festival.

In the nine years since their installation, they have succeeded in creating a town square that is a welcoming place for people and families.

Their moment of glory was yet to come with the ringing of the bells at the opening of the new Cultural Centre.

But this moment has been cruelly denied.

I am reminded of the famous quotation: For Whom the Bells toll: it tolls for thee.

Anne Davie, Ventnor

Access to Grantville Nature Reserve

On July 1, along with four other walkers, I visited the Grantville Nature Conservation Reserve adjacent to a sand extraction site.

In December 2019, 18 years after the current mining company commenced operations, the reserve's decades-old entrance at the north-west corner of the reserve was blocked by a 'buffer zone' fence. We entered via the gap between the fence and the Bass Highway to access "any of the existing reserve tracks".

On our return, the Quarry Manager and a police van were waiting outside the buffer fence. The manager said we were on "his" land held under a Work Authority.

I told him the local ranger said walkers could use any tracks in the reserve.

He said ERR was the body in charge of the area, not the Parks Vic ranger.

The police in the van took no action.

On re-reading the email giving access permission, I found a rider: ... if you require information around any of the extraction sites ... you'll need to contact Earth Resources Victoria.

When asked for clarification, the Earth Resources Regulator advised: The Work Authority area is greater than the extraction area and the area in between the two is commonly termed the buffer zone. Access into the Work Authority area is typically controlled by the Work Authority holder. Access into the work authority area should only be with prior approval of the Work Authority holder.

Again a rider: Note access under the lease agreement with DELWP may have other conditions or controls that I am not aware of. These may or may not cover access and trails in the area.

Crown Land is owned by the people. With the COVID-19 Pandemic, more than ever walkers need to enjoy the Grantville NCR with its grass trees, other plants and wildflowers and experience the uplift of spirit when close to nature. If visitors, by the stroke of a bureaucratic pen, have been cut off from land they have traditionally walked, something needs to be done to right this wrong.

With good will, a dilemma the authorities through negotiation and conciliation should be able to resolve.

Meryl Tobin, Grantville

Bin response doesn't add up

Your July 14 article "Island Bin Anger" underlines my previous statements on the issue (Letter to the Editor, January 20). The summer collection of red bins issue won't be fixed because it is not a question of organisation, tendering or cost but rather of certain councillors and council staff who are managing their own personal green crusade in direct opposition to the clearly stated demands of their electors and rate-payers.

I respect and commend the significant achievement of the three-bin system - but by Cr Tessari's own admission the population more than doubles over summer. In defiance of simple mathematics it is Green-OK to double the pickup of recycling, but Green-Bad to double the collection of landfill.

Next time the elections come around don't accept anything from your candidates that isn't a clear Yes or No on this issue. We are tired of the rubbish and the weasel words, and sick of being "educated" by people who can't perform basic maths.

Joe Konynenburg, Cowes

Covid economic tally climbs

Korea Garden closes!

The tally of Covid economic victims has again climbed with the loss of Korea Garden in Cowes.

The restaurant closed in early July after opening three years ago.

Amaroo Holiday Park owner Lisa said they leased the building to Korea Garden's owners and gave six months free rent last year.

"They had a lot of support from local customers," Lisa said, confirming the pandemic's economic downturn impacted the restaurant.

"If a business is young and has borrowed money to start a business then they will have found Covid difficult.

"If you're an established business with little risk, own your own property and there is government assistance, then they will not have as many problems."

Sherwoods Restaurant in Thompson Ave also closed in early July but will be reopening as a new venture, "with no firm date as yet".

"Thank you, to our regular customers for your support."

Last month the Advertiser reported 11:eleven café owner Raj Ruthi and partner Kirsten closed the doors of their Thompson Avenue business "after a long and challenging 15 months", describing it as a "sad and uncomfortable time for us".

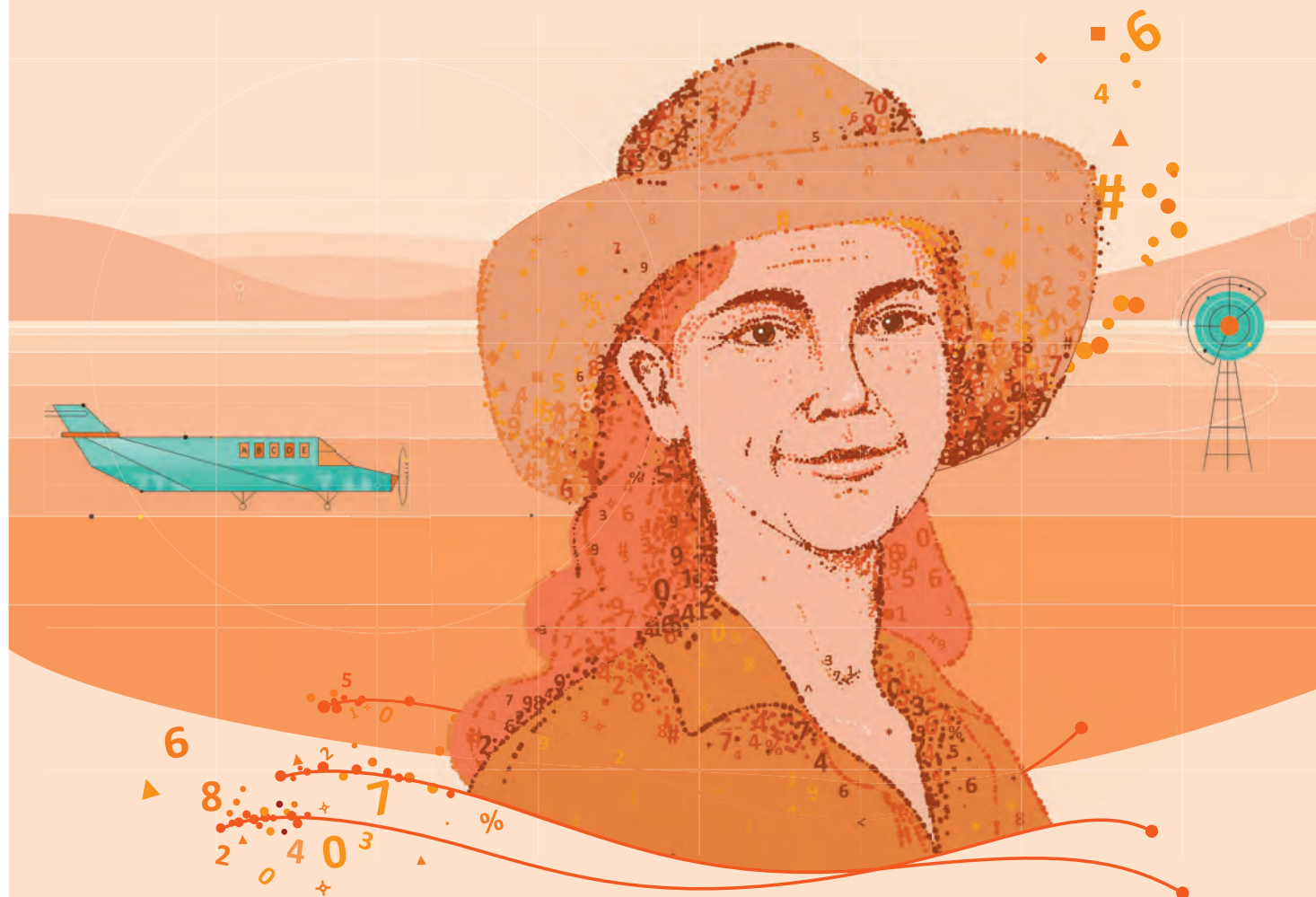
"After last year's events we are in no position to continue any longer," said Raj.

That closure followed the end of Citrus and Vine restaurant in March and last year's news that Fork n Waffle's owners would step away, replaced by new management.



Census

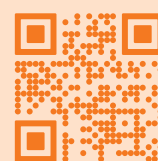
The Census is coming this August.



Every stat tells a story.

Your Census answers don't just make statistics. Local birth rates help plan local playgroups that connect families. The number of people in remote areas tells doctors where life-saving help is needed most. When you complete your Census, you're helping build a better future for all of us.

Look out for instructions on what to do.



Scan or visit
census.abs.gov.au

Authorised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

ISLAND HEATING



A Daikin split system can help save up to 41 per cent on your heating running costs, compared to gas heating.

The answer to rising gas heating bills is Daikin

Coastal Refrigeration and Airconditioning is a locally owned and operated business with over 30 years' experience in the trade and more than 20 years in the Bass Coast area.

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Gas prices are growing year on year and experts are predicting they will continue to climb for more years to come.

This is bad news when your gas heating amounts to approximately 69 per cent of your gas bill.

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Households can make considerable savings of up to 41 per cent* on their heating running costs by switching to a Daikin split system.

Daikin's Research and Development team compared average running costs of a gas heating system versus a Daikin split system. This comparison was based on delivering identical heating running times from both options and then calculating the running cost.

What's more... you'll enjoy all these other benefits with Daikin.

- Better air quality, with a Sensitive Choice approved product by the National Asthma Council Australia.
- Intelligent eye – a human presence sensor can either direct airflow towards you or away from you for draft-free comfort, or if the room is unoccupied for 20 minutes, the unit automatically goes into energy saving mode.

- Comfort mode guarantees draught-free operation by positioning the louvre downwards to drive warm air to the bottom of the room.

- Powerful mode – an intelligent infrared human presence sensor that automatically enables energy saving operations when the room is unoccupied for 20 minutes.

- Smart phone control (optional) allows you to monitor and control your system from virtually anywhere. And with plenty of cold weather still ahead, you can have peace of mind knowing Daikin's reverse cycle technology is more energy efficient than conventional heaters.

Talk to Rick, Deb and the team at Coastal Air Conditioning. They can be relied on to give expert advice on the best product to suit all your heating and cooling needs.

* Daikin Research
/ Sponsored article /

Winter's here ... so check your heating

As Victorians reach for their heaters to ward off the cold, firefighters are urging people to be aware of the fire risks inside their homes.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said winter was the highest-risk periods for residential fires in Victoria due in part to the increased use of home heating.

Home heating includes open fires, wood heaters, fixed electrical and gas-powered appliances and portable electrical heaters or those that use gas or kerosene.

"Many residential fires that result in fatalities or serious injuries start in lounge and sleeping areas," he said.

"Many of these fires are caused by heating systems, appliances and equipment.

"Remember to never leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended and turn off heaters before leaving the room.

"Ensure fireplace embers are extinguished before leaving your house or going to bed."

The CFA said it is vital for all Victorians to check their heaters to ensure they are in good working condition.

Ideally, gas heaters should be professionally serviced every two years.

On average, there are around 3000 house fires in Victoria each year and most could be prevented by taking simple precautions.

"Last year, CFA found that the



Never leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended and turn off heaters before leaving the room, advise the CFA, with winter the highest-risk period for residential fires.

lounge and bedroom areas were the most common room of fire ignition for incidents resulting in serious injury or death," CO Heffernan said.

"Most of these lounge room fires are caused by heating systems too close to combustibles."

He said poorly maintained gas heaters could also cause deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

"There should be no greater reason to have your gas heater inspected and serviced than to ensure the safety of loved ones," CO Heffernan said.

"We have seen tragic consequences of this in the past.

"Another dangerous mistake people make is drying clothes near heaters and fireplaces. Clothes should be kept at least one metre from the heat source.

"Every household should consider their fire safety practices and examine the potential risks around their home.

"We know that in the event of a fire, a working smoke alarm can save lives. Smoke alarms should be installed in all sleeping and living areas and preferably be interconnected so that if a fire starts in one room that smoke alarm will go off and also sound all other interconnected smoke alarms."

For more information on how to prevent fires in your home, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home.



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Islanders rises to Covid Challenge



From page 1
Ms Child acknowledged the long wait was frustrating. “In the main, people have been fantastic, although there have been a couple who have been impatient and disrespectful.”

By the end of the day, a further 11 sites had been added to the exposure list: Liquorland Cowes, Salvos, Cowes Shopping Centre (toilets), U-Neek Sourvenir Stores, Subway, Woolworths, Aldi, Xpress Gourmet Pizza and Pasta, Youkis, One Stop Discount Shop and Vinnies.

San Remo

In San Remo a new testing site at the Rec Centre opened at 9am. By 8.30am, the queue ran the length of Wynne Road and soon stretched along Marine Parade.

The decision was quickly made to bolster team numbers there as well. The two teams were increased to five to help process the waiting cars.

Large queues also formed at the Wonthaggi site, with over 100 cars waiting in line by 8am.

By the end of the day, 975 tests had been done between the three sites.

The Federal government declared Bass Coast Shire a hot spot, from 11.59pm Saturday night.

It might sound ominous, but this is good news, as it means greater support, including access to Commonwealth Covid Disaster Payments.

On a health level, it means if necessary, PPE will be provided from the national stockpile, with additional assistance for contact tracing, and vaccine supplies reprioritised.

Sunday, July 18

The now familiar queues in Cowes appeared early on Sunday morning.

However, additional staff from surrounding areas meant the queue moved faster than Saturday.

By 2pm, Bass Coast Health said the wait time was down to around one and a half hours, with some cars redirected to San Remo and to Wonthaggi.

A new drive through clinic, run by the Koo Wee Rup Health Service opened at the Bass Recreation Reserve at 9am and ran to 4.30pm.

A walk-in test site opened at the Anglican Church in Cowes to cater for those people without a vehicle or anyone with health or mobility issues that made it difficult to access the drive through service.

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child said the day had run “very well” and the team had been bolstered by extra staff from other health services.

“It will all be open same times again tomorrow.”

Talking to people arriving for testing, Ms Child said there were a lot of Tier1 and Tier2 exposures not displaying any symptoms.

“There were also a lot of people coming in who had been at the venues, but not sure what time they were there.”

She praised the community for stepping up to the testing challenge and being very patient, despite the long delays.

“People have been fantastic, so good natured. The support from everyone has been awesome.”

She said it was important people keep coming forward for testing.

On Sunday afternoon, local MP, Jordan Crugnale arrived at the Cowes site, with a carload of goodies for

the hardworking health team, including thermos flasks filled with hot chocolate.

The team’s hard work was also acknowledged by Victorian Covid Commander Jeroen Weimar at the daily press conference, who gave a “big shout out” to Bass Coast Health and thanked the

“sterling efforts of that team”.

Sunday was a massive day, with 1388 tests conducted across the five operating sites.

That evening two new sites were listed: Churchill Island and Caltex Woolworths in Cowes.

Monday, July 19

It was a quieter start to the week, with greatly reduced waiting times at all sites.

Although test numbers (332) were comparable to Saturday’s figures (374), CEO Jan Child said the longest wait time was around one and a half hours (in contrast to eight hours on Saturday).

She said the mood around the site had lifted.

“I think people are feeling buoyed that there haven’t been any positive cases yet.

“The angst has gone out of the line.” A mobile rapid testing unit joined the Cowes site on Tuesday, giving staff the capacity to process swabs from high-risk cases and receive results within two hours.

Ms Child described it as “another string to the bow” of the increased health response on the island.

The van will remain in Cowes all week if required.

The walk-in site at the Anglican Church in Cowes was busy, recording higher numbers than on Sunday, and Ms Child said it would continue to operate for the next few days.

However the Bass testing site has now closed.

San Remo’s drive through ran on Monday and Tuesday and ongoing opening times would be adjusted based on demand.

“The situation is being assessed every day,” Ms Child said, describing the decision to open additional sites as a “day by day prospect”.

Ms Child encouraged people to get tested and urged everyone to keep up to date with the exposure sites listed on the government’s coronavirus website.

“People need to really keep an eye on it, because things can change within a second.

“Be aware, this isn’t over yet.”

So far, no positive test results had been returned from the testing blitz, but she said the next couple of days were important.

“If you have symptoms, please come forward and get tested,” she said.

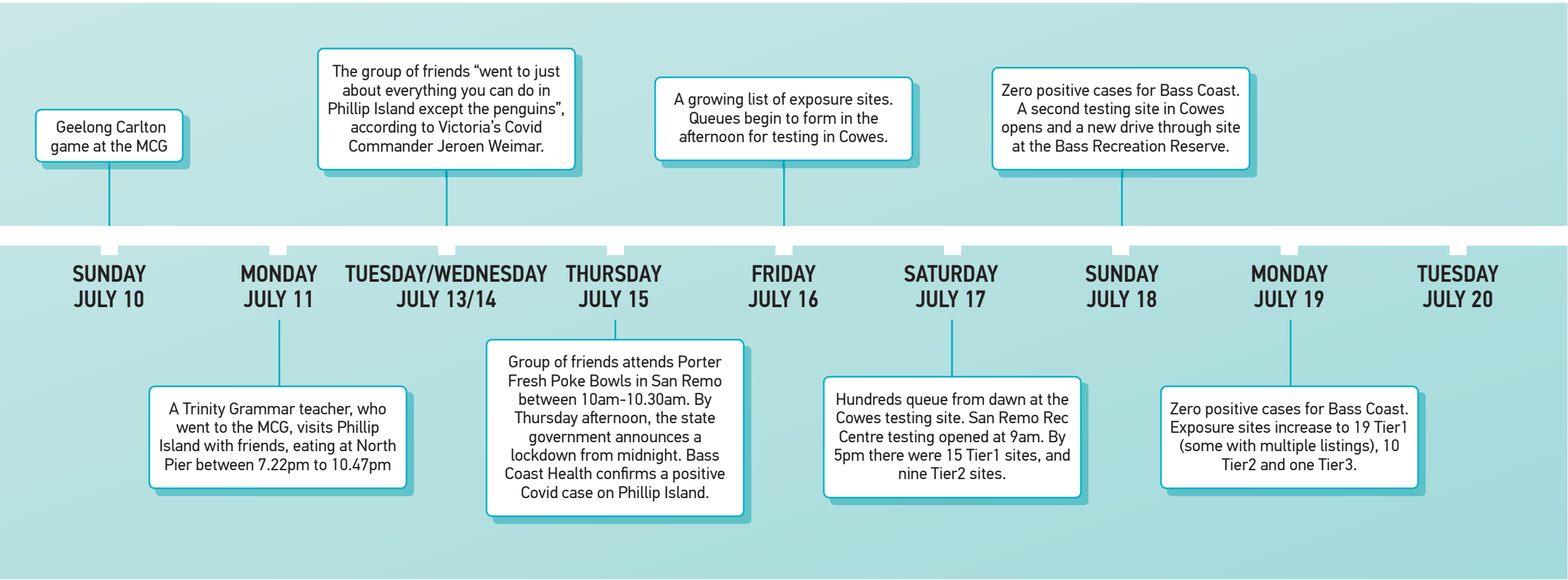
“If you’re not sure if you have been to an exposure site at the specified times, get yourself tested.”

She also urged people to book in for a vaccination, especially those in the 1A and 1B categories.

“We have Pfizer available for all health care workers and we’ve got enough staff to be able to administer them.”

On Monday, police and ADF members were visiting homes checking people were complying with quarantine requirements.

No new venues were added to the exposure list although additional exposure times were added for Coles in Cowes.



Our Covid timeline: as the week’s events unfolded.

Testing times test patient patience



By 7am the line of cars queuing for a test at the Cowes Drive Through site stretched along Chapel Street to Dunsmore Road.

That’s a total of 2363 tests for the weekend.

By comparison, in the first week of July, Wonthaggi and Cowes combined completed just 797 tests in that week, with the busiest days 101 tests at Wonthaggi and 54 at Cowes.

Last year, even in the Covid peak, the biggest weekly testing figure was 1096, the week of August 9.

For the most part, between March and November 2020, BCH was doing 300 or less tests in a week.

Last week’s spike in demand saw nursing staff called in from across Victoria, including Peninsula Health, Foster, Cabrini, Central Gippsland Hospital in Sale, and Warragul.

Joyce Ball thanked BCH on Facebook, adding “I think we are feeling a bit fragile on the island at the moment so this kind gesture really lifts us”.

Phillip Island event hire company Over the Top Events worked through Friday night and Saturday

morning erecting the new testing tent in San Remo and pulling down the existing tent in Cowes and building a larger one.

Bass Coast Health responded to concerns that potentially positive cases could spread the virus if they travelled to distant testing sites.

“Under Covid restrictions people are allowed to travel to be tested but are strictly not permitted to visit any venue other than the testing site,” BCH said.

Confusion

There was also some confusion about who needed to be tested.

While those exposed to the Tier1 and Tier2 sites were required to be tested, other residents who had been to those sites outside the exposure times also felt they were at risk.

“The priority is to get tested if you have been at a site during Covid exposure,” explained Bass Coast Health.

“We also encourage people to get

tested if you have symptoms.”

While waiting in the queue many drivers shared tips on how to spend the time, with technology and snacks a must for those with children.

Chris Walton advised to take “a fully charged phone and tablet, hotspot and watch tv or a movie, and a spare charging lead to plug in”.

One driver said they had watched an episode of ABC TV’s Ms Repre-sented “an amazing history of Australian women in politics”.



Donna Newton, owner of Coffee Co and The Jolly Lolly Trolley – which both received a deep clean from Pete the cleaner (pictured) – told news reporters “We were probably becoming a little smug thinking we were kind of safe it wouldn’t happen here.”

Island Covid linked to MCG

This week’s positive Covid cases were visitors to Phillip Island, including one who had attended the Geelong Carlton game at the MCG.

The visit resulted in over 24 venues being listed as exposure sites across the island and San Remo

Despite the growing number of exposure sites here, when questioned at Saturday’s press conference, Jeroen Weimar, Victoria’s Covid Commander said there was no plan to isolate Phillip Island as “the whole state is in lockdown at the moment”.

He said he believed the current settings were appropriate to slow down the rate of transmission. The press conference also revealed more about the source of the exposure.

“The Phillip Island cases are related to the MCG cases,” the Victorian Health Minister Martin Foley, said.

A Trinity Grammar teacher, who went to the MCG and later tested positive, visited Phillip Island with friends, and spent a few days here.

Jeroen Weimar said the visitors did pretty much “everything there was to do on Phillip Island, except visit the penguins”.

He said he expected there would “absolutely” be more exposure sites listed in the area.

“It is possible other exposure sites will emerge,” he said at the daily press conference.

By 5pm on Saturday, there were 15 Tier1 sites, and nine Tier2 sites on the state government website, but that list was being constantly updated.

During the press conference, officials urged Phillip Island residents to come forward for testing.

However on the ground, local health services were overwhelmed, and asking only people with symptoms, or those identified as Tier1 close contacts to come forward.

CEO Jan Child called on the community to help the health service prioritise the most urgent testing cases.

“If you have no symptoms and you haven’t been at a Tier1 exposure site at the designated times, you don’t



All three major supermarkets in Cowes – Woolworths, Coles and Aldi were listed as Tier1 exposure sites and then closed for cleaning.

need to panic,” she said.

“Please stay home today, then come in a day or two, when we have processed all the other cases.”

Additional testing staff came from across Gippsland, including Warragul, Foster and Sale, to help increase the number of testing teams on site in Cowes, San Remo and Cowes.

Even so, locals faced long delays, some waiting up to eight hours to be tested.

Containment

Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton, freshly returned from a recent holiday on Phillip Island, stressed the importance of the quarantine process.

He said anyone identified as a Tier1 close contact should have been notified by the Department of Health and must immediately get tested and isolate for 14 days (from the date of exposure), even if they received a negative test result.

He said there would be checks made on houses to make sure people were complying with the quarantine requirements.

Meanwhile, the Gippsland Region Public Health Unit (GRPHU) advised it was managing 24 of the exposure sites at San Remo and Phillip Island.

All are listed as Tier1 or Tier2, and GRPHU is responsible for cleaning the sites before they reopen.

Testing capacity

In a statement issued on Saturday, GRPHU said testing staff support came from Sale, Warragul, Latrobe Regional Health, Yarram and Gippsland Southern Health Service, “to meet demand and ensure testing sites can expand times if necessary”.

Additional teams from Peninsula and Cardinia Health arrived on Sunday. A new drive through site, operated by the Koo Wee Rup Health Service operated at the Bass Recreation Reserve (100 Hade Avenue) on Sunday and Monday.

Tier 1, 2 exposure sites respond

The businesses named as Covid public exposure sites across Phillip Island and San Remo have responded with emotion, frustration and even humour.

So far all those contacted by the Advertiser have reported negative Covid results in their quarantined staff, while all shops have been deep cleaned.

San Remo Fisherman's Co-op was named as a Tier1 site with their exposure between 6.15-7.21pm on July 14.

Co-op manager Paul Mannix made an emotional statement on TV news explaining the exposure was a "kick in the guts".

"We have been super vigilant since the pandemic started, for the good of our staff, our fishermen and the whole community," Paul told the Advertiser.

"We've endured regular abuse from conspiracy theorists and anti-maskers, with as much politeness and respect as we could muster.

"After trying so hard for so long, it's a massive kick in the guts to have everything grind to a halt just because a couple of people visited us without knowing they had the virus."

Paul said five staff who had worked during the exposure period had been tested and three had so far received negative results and all were in 14 days quarantine.

He said the co-op had received its deep clean – "so the building is ready to go" – and they were planning to reopen as soon a lockdown was lifted.

"But we will assess the changing situation each day," he said, urging customers to keep updated via Facebook.

In contrast, smaller hospitality outlets that were named as Tier1 sites did not have the same flexibility as larger outlets to reopen if the majority of their staff were in quarantine for 14 days.

North Pier

North Pier general manager Kimberley Brown said they would remain closed until the end of lockdown because of low winter trade, even though only five of their 50 staff were in quarantine, all testing negative.

"There were five staff on the night the positive case came in and they were all wearing masks. Bar staff also require all patrons to wear a mask at the bar," she said.

"In total more than 20 staff got tested just to be sure, even though they weren't all directly linked."

Kimberley said staff were informed North Pier was a Tier1 exposure site (July 12, 7.22pm to



Deep cleaning underway at the Phillip Island Bakery by shire workers, after it was listed as a Tier2 exposure site.

10.47pm) last Thursday, more than 24 hours before it was made public.

"It seemed the department of health initially focused on the Wednesday exposure sites, rather than us as a Monday exposure, maybe due to the infection period."

Kimberley said while another lockdown was "frustrating", she felt more concerned for staff who lost casual shifts.

Grumpy's

Attractions such as the Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Grumpy's Crazy Golf – both Tier1 – are required to stay closed for the duration of the lockdown, irrespective of their exposure level and subsequent deep clean.

Grumpy's owner Lee Marr said two of their staff tested negative and were in quarantine.

"The efforts of our staff stopped the spread so we're very grateful to

them," Lee said, adding they were considered an outdoor venue.

"Just a few days before this happened I actually told one of the staff to pretend Covid is here, even when it's not, so we clean everything regularly, the golf clubs, the balls and have a massive screen across our kiosk."

Lee said while another lockdown was difficult, it was best to happen after the school holidays and mid-winter.

"Like everyone else, we've got no income, but it's as good as it can be under the circumstances given the time of year.

"People on the island have been so lovely, messaging us to see if we're ok."

A Mazed

A Maze 'N Things was named as a Tier2 site, with exposure on July 14 between 3.46pm and 4.48pm that saw 12 staff test and isolate, all re-

ceiving a negative result.

Owner Geoff Moed said having completed their deep clean he could reopen once lockdown lifted.

"I feel deeply for the people who are Tier1," Geoff said, adding that customers and staff were nevertheless mystified why exposure was only in a very defined timeframe.

Geoff worked closely with the health department, with phone calls and emails, and was able to pinpoint the group of men who had caused the island to become a hotspot through CCTV vision.

"We only had two groups come through at that time, an elderly couple and this group.

"They were young men in their 20s and they had masks on and we could see from the vision they were scanning the QR code. They appeared to do everything they were supposed to do.

"There's no one to blame. Some-

times sh*t happens."

He said the event could be positive or negative publicity for the island.

"I'm surprised how many sites these people visited.

"It's a great marketing campaign for the island: you can see everything in a small area in a short period of time."

He said he was uncertain why the authorities contacted him through LinkedIn and not through the phone contact given in the QR app.

While the exposure listing required testing and a deep clean, he said the larger "frustrating, depressing and disappointing" issue was continued lockdowns.

"It makes it difficult to plan for the future, even basic things like staffing.

"It's hard on staff because their wage is turned on and off. Last shut down I ended up paying everyone for the week even though we weren't open."

Chocolate Factory

Phillip Island Chocolate Factory was named as a Tier1 site, which Geoff Moed – who has a stake in the business – said was "devastating".

He said the test and quarantine had impacted all staff, "so they have no one left to staff even takeaway".

"It has been really difficult for Panny, his staff and family," Geoff said.

"They have a no mask, no entry policy and customers say they have an exemption and when staff ask for it, they say they don't have to show them.

"No one wants to have an argument but people have a sense of entitlement. They should be entitled to work in the Covid ward for a while."

A message on the factory's Facebook site states recently "we have faced a number of angry, disappointed customers accusing our business of discrimination".

"Panny has been wanting to reopen the business in the safest way possible.

"Throughout this pandemic we have only tried our best. Tried our best to provide a safe environment, to follow the rules, run our business and take care of our most valuable asset, our staff."

The post explains while only mask-wearing customers could access all public areas of the factory, they would now extend this access to those with mask exemptions after the lockdown.

On Monday (July 19) the list of Tier1, 2 or 3 businesses included 24 in Cowes, two in San Remo, one in Ventnor, one Newhaven and two for the Nature Parks. Some sites were listed for multiple exposures.

Cash support for Victorian businesses during lockdown

The state government will provide new cash grants for businesses affected by the latest lockdown.

The government said automatic payments will be made to eligible businesses and sole traders across the state to minimise delays and swiftly get money into the pockets of businesses who need it most.

Up to 90,000 businesses that have and will receive payments through the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund and Business Costs Assistance Program relating to the May-June lockdown will receive the new support payments of \$3000 and \$2000 respectively.

Payments are due to commence over the course of this week – with total funding of \$201.8 million. Eligible businesses will include restaurants, cafes bars, event suppliers, tourism and accommodation providers and non-essential retailers.

The Victorian government has also reached agreement with the Commonwealth government to fund income support payments from day one of the lockdown.

These are in line with the pay-

ments being offered to NSW businesses.

- Payments of \$600 will be made to Victorians that lose 20 hours or more of work during the period of the lockdown

- Payments of \$375 will be made to individuals that lose between 8-20 hours of work during the period of the lockdown

- There is no liquid assets test applied to receive these payments

The Federal government will fund payments for those Victorians who work or live in a COVID-19 Hotspot declared by the Commonwealth – that includes Bass Coast, as well as Melbourne, Moorabool Shire, Greater Geelong, Queenscliffe and the Surf Coast Shire.

The Victorian government will fund payments for Victorians who live outside of these areas but are still subject to the lockdown.

All applications can be made through the Services Australia at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au.

More information about businesses support is available at business.vic.gov.au.

Covid – how the community responded

Businesses and residents respond to the news of the positive Covid case in the community.

- Cowes Curry Club offered a free lunch pack last week for "you or a loved one you know who is struggling to put food on the table during lockdown. We owe big time to Phillip Island's community and would like to contribute back."

- Kylie Zennaro thanked the Cowes IGA "for delivering food to my nephew and his friends stuck on the island at Smiths Beach after being at a Tier2 exposure site. They were turned away from testing, due to huge numbers, and were told to go straight to their house and not go anywhere, not even to click and collect food. Thanks so much IGA."

- Wimbledon Heights resident Mykey O'Halloran said he bought "vouchers to spend at a later date from venues that have been shut

down as exposure sites such as San Remo Fisherman's Co-op. Check the exposure site list and reach out to those businesses if you can for support."

- Evona Turner wrote to Phillip Island from Britain: "Thinking of all on Philip Island keep safe love from the UK."

- Melbourne residents also sent their well wishes. Melinda Mariotti-Cupples wrote: "Sending love to all the Phillip Island residents, stay safe, look out for each other, thinking of you from Melbourne"; Vicki Gordon as a person who calls Phillip Island "our second home take care guys"; Michael Nosworthy agreed: "Feeling sorry for people on the Island, all this time and no Covid. We will be back in time."

- Others felt for the unknowing Covid-positive case who visited the island. Local resident Lillian Heflingers wrote: "I feel sorry

for the person who unknowingly bought the Delta variant of Covid to the island. That is something I would not want to happen to anyone"; Tahlia Sweatman agreed: "Those people must feel terrible. As much as we are angry for the reality of it. Can you imagine being that person, going about your day with no clue you are ill and then bam suddenly you are positive and it's because of you an entire island is a hot spot."

- Renee Lowe acknowledged the Tier 1 and 2 exposure sites: "I feel for the poor business owners. They have to shut, deep clean and then try to find staff when they are allowed to open again. But on top of that they have their staff's health and their own health and their families too to think of. They would be feeling it greatly. My love and support goes out to all of them."



Cowes resident Ian Samuel, in the queue on Saturday, said in three hours he had driven from the football ground 50 metres to outside the Seahorse Motel.

Get it straight when you isolate

A reminder, courtesy of the Gippsland Region Public Health Unit (GRPHU), to isolate after your Covid test.

When you have a Covid test you need to stay home and isolate until you get a negative result.

Isolation is not the same as lockdown restrictions. Any movement within the community is not permitted, including exercise.

GRPHU recommends organising for a family member or friend to deliver groceries if necessary. Most local supermarkets also offer a delivery service.

You may be waiting up to 72 hours for results, given the sheer number of local tests conducted in the past few days.

"Be prepared, and ensure you do what you can to make your time in isolation at home comfortable," they advise.

More information on test results and isolating at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/getting-your-results-covid-19

Tier1 close contacts

If you are a Tier1 close contact, you must quarantine for 14 days

from the date of exposure, regardless of your test results.

You will also need to take another Covid test on day 13 of your quarantine.

Quarantine means you must stay home. You cannot leave your house for any reason unless it is an emergency or you need medical help.

If you need help or assistance to quarantine, visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/what-do-if-you-are-close-contact#who-should-quarantine-stay-at-home



Val and Maree, BCH staff, came in on their day off to help at the testing site.

Fresh food to the door – home delivery options

With so many people across the island and in San Remo in quarantine or isolating as they await test results, the need for groceries home delivery is exploding.

Both local IGA stores offer a home delivery service.

Shayne Crawford, manager of the San Remo store said they were offering both free home delivery and click and collect options.

Orders can be placed online at

www.sanremoiga.com.au/, email homedeliveries@sanremoiga.com.au, or call 5678 5337.

However, he asked customers to be patient, as the store was "well under the pump", with Monday's delivery orders more than it usually processes in a fortnight!

On top of the huge increase in demand, Shayne said there were several team members currently isolating and waiting on test results.

"We've thrown all we have at home deliveries today (Monday) to get back on track," he said.

Cowes IGA also offers daily contactless home deliveries.

Customers can ring 5952 1363 to speak direct to Konney, or email info@cowesiga.com.au to place an order by 2pm for next day delivery. Delivery charge is \$10.

The major supermarkets also offer a variety of online shopping and delivery options.



On Sunday afternoon, Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale arrived at the Cowes Drive Through site bearing chocolate and other treats for the staff, as well as Thermos flasks filled with hot chocolate.

A team effort

Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Ali Wastie said council staff were working to support local businesses and Bass Coast Health.

"Our Business Support Team and Destination Phillip Island have been proactively reaching out to businesses, offering support and guidance in response to the impact of the lockdown and positive cases.

"We are also connecting with PICAL and Salvocare to gain a better understanding of emerging social support needs. Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions have also mobilised support staff into Bass Coast and they are meeting with businesses directly impacted," Ms Wastie said.

She confirmed that Bass Coast has been declared a 'Hotspot' for Commonwealth support.

"Declaring a hotspot for Commonwealth support triggers a range of support to businesses and health services in the local government area. It also provides access to COVID Disaster Payment for workers affected, if eligibility criteria are met."

Ms Wastie said understandably some members of the community were frustrated and anxious, and urged people to "practice patience and be kind, especially to our front

line health service workers and fellow community members".

Over the weekend, council staff had also played an important role in traffic management and deep cleaning of impacted businesses.

"As well as supporting Bass Coast Health with establishing testing sites and communications, our Outdoor Staff have been mobilised to help with deep cleaning efforts and traffic management.

"Public toilets near testing sites in Cowes, Wonthaggi and San Remo were professionally cleaned every two hours during peak times, while our cleaning program for public areas, playgrounds, handrails, furniture etc. also continued over the weekend, particularly in San Remo and Cowes," Ms Wastie said.

"Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone in the community for their efforts and support over the weekend.

"Whether it be waiting patiently in the queues to get tested, or helping to mobilise testing sites, or simply providing kind words in this extremely challenging time.

"Our resilience is being tested, but Bass Coast is a strong community and I am confident we will make it through."

Nature Parks attractions exposed

Two Phillip Island Nature Parks locations have been listed as exposure sites.

On Monday, the Nature Parks said the Department of Health had advised on Friday (July 16) that the Nobbies had been listed as a Tier2 exposure site.

"The person with the confirmed case did not enter the visitor centre," said Catherine Basterfield, Chief Executive Officer.

"We were further advised that the person visited Churchill Island on Tuesday (July 13) between 3.32pm and 4.06pm and undertook a walk.

"The person did not enter the visi-

tor centre, café or farm area, so the site has been listed as a Tier3 exposure site.

"We are grateful for the prompt and timely notification of these two possible exposure sites, so that we could inform our staff as well as members of the public who may have been present, so they could take action and get tested if appropriate," Ms Basterfield said.

"We continue to work closely with the authorities, and our thoughts go out to our visitors, staff, volunteers, and our community. Please take care of yourselves and each other as we get through this together."

DPI calls for community support

Destination Phillip Island said it is working with the tourism businesses listed as exposure sites across Phillip Island and San Remo.

"We have been in contact directly and businesses have reported following directions provided by the Health Department and supporting their staff through this challenging time," General Manager Kim Storey said.

"The organisation has been in touch with the State Government Tourism and Visitor Economy Branch to share information and seek support for the broader industry.

"The support and testing deliv-

ery by Bass Coast Health and supporting agencies including Council and from all over the state has been truly incredible and we thank those organisations.

"We encourage everyone to follow the health directions, get tested and there are many opportunities to do this nearby.

"If you're eligible for vaccination then do so by booking your appointment.

"We should all remember this is no one's fault but a result of our current pandemic. Be kind and support our local community and business to get through this trying time."

Lockdown Brain Games

GIANT CROSSWORD

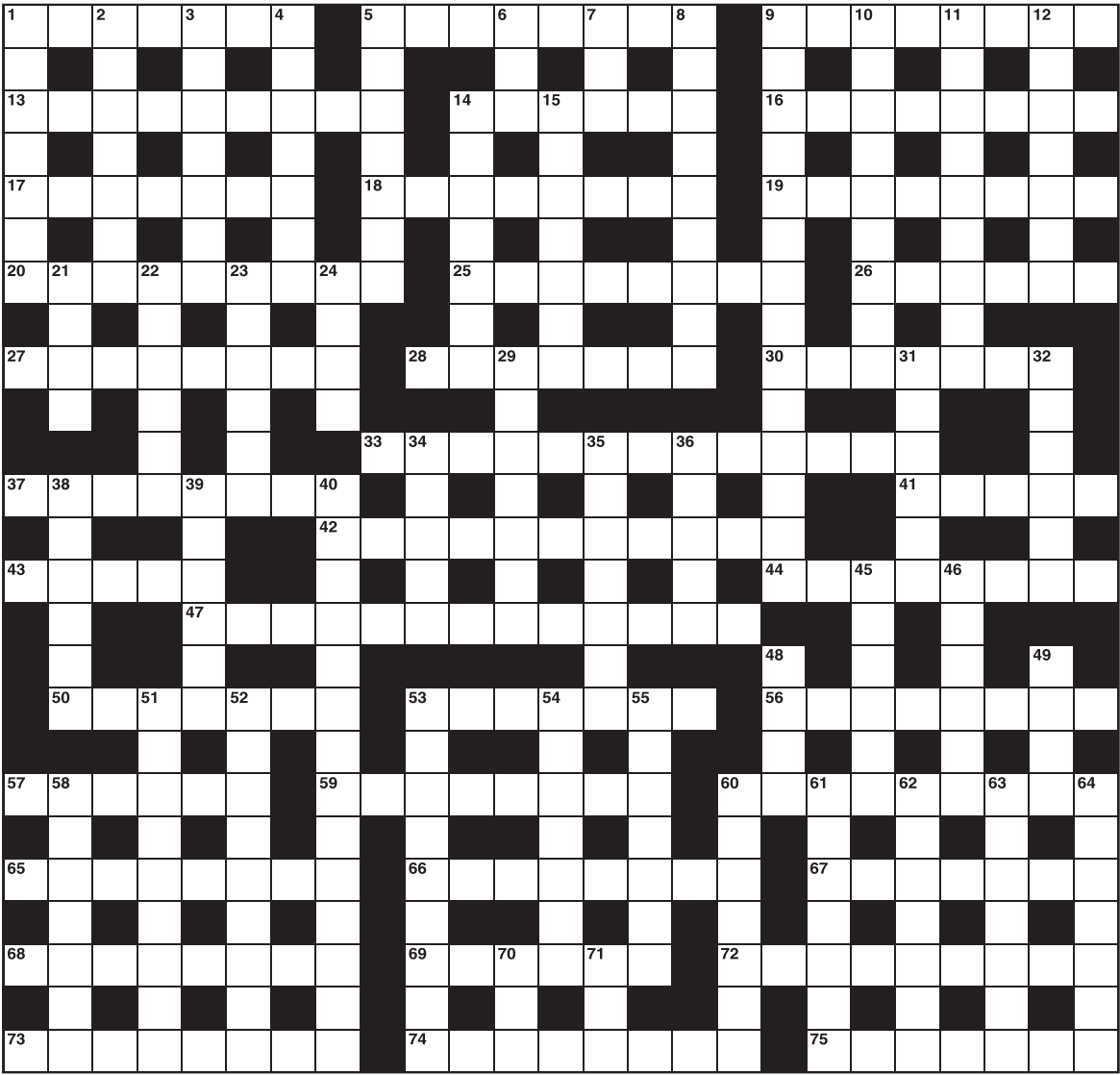
ACROSS

- 1** Extremists (7)
5 Scientists trained in chemistry (8)
9 Carnage (8)
13 Predatory marine fish (9)
14 Edge of a nation (6)
16 Form of visual art (8)
17 Chic (7)
18 Small blade (8)
19 Engrossed (8)
20 Mind (9)
25 Choppers' aerodrome (8)
26 Perches (6)
27 Novice (8)
28 Gifts (7)
30 Sticklers (7)
33 Sufferer of chronic brain disorder (13)
37 Church spires (8)
41 Book of maps (5)
42 Kill by electric shock (11)
43 Idiotic (5)
44 Emphasised (8)
47 Prolonged public disagreements (13)
50 Mathematical proposition (7)
53 Immeasurably bad (7)
56 Slaughterhouse (8)
57 Breakfast table item (3,3)
59 Provided care during one's upbringing (8)
60 Civic official who oversees a wedding, perhaps (9)
65 Fear (8)
66 Originator (8)

- 67** Privateer (7)
68 Italian smoked beef (8)
69 Giggle (6)
72 Easily offended (9)
73 Equipment for horses (8)
74 Hormonal disease (8)
75 Free from error (7)

DOWN

- 1** Fourth-longest river in Africa (7)
2 Very old (7)
3 Altogether (7)
4 Emblem of kingship (7)
5 Sewage cistern (7)
6 Chinese revolutionary (3)
7 Woebegone (3)
8 Those who examine land and buildings (9)
9 Demon featured in German folklore (14)
10 Shone with a soft light (9)
11 Time of day following the morning (9)
12 Foulest (7)
14 Spirit whose wailing presages death (7)
15 Tight curl (7)
21 Require (4)
22 Can be eaten (6)
23 High-protein pulse (6)
24 Pasteboard (4)
29 Saliva, drool (7)
31 Abstruse (6)
32 Maul (6)
34 Statement of beliefs (5)
35 American marsupial (7)
36 Dwelling (5)



- 38** Intended (6)
39 Aggressive maniac (6)
40 Exaggerated and self-indulgent tenderness (14)
45 Despoil (6)
46 Length of army front (6)
48 Scourge (4)
49 Oven (4)

- 51** Captivated (9)
52 Without principle (9)
53 Transported by aircraft (9)
54 Snake (7)
55 One who checks the accounts (7)
58 City in Andalusia, Spain (7)

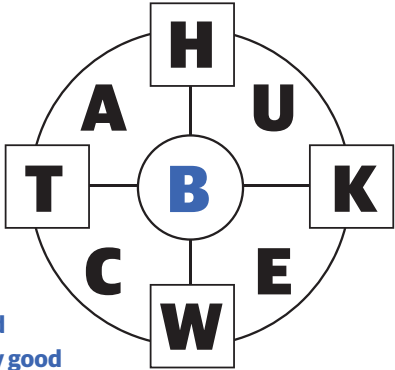
- 60** Cadavers (7)
61 Terse (7)
62 Obstacle (7)
63 Eager desire for wealth (7)
64 Agony (7)
70 Infused drink of dried leaves (3)
71 Needle hole (3)

SUDOKU

		2				9		
							8	1
7	4					8	5	3
	7	6		2				
			4		1			
				5		3	7	
1		9	7				4	5
2	5							
		7				6		

9-LETTER WORD

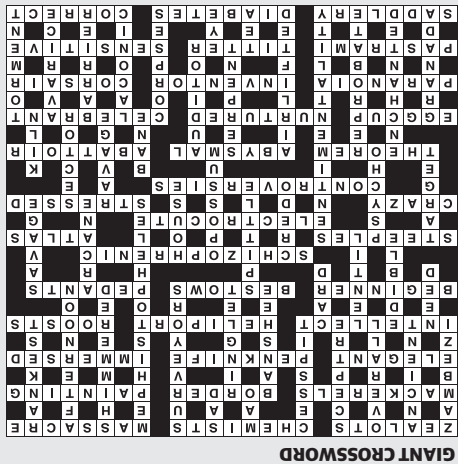
Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included, and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



11 words: **Good**
16 words: **Very good**
22 words: **Excellent**

SOLUTIONS

PAGINATION & PUZZLES CONTENT
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4	3	7	5	9	2	6	1	8
2	5	8	6	1	4	7	3	9
1	6	9	7	8	3	2	4	5
9	1	4	8	5	6	3	7	2
5	2	3	4	7	1	8	9	6
8	7	6	3	2	9	1	5	4
7	4	1	9	6	8	5	2	3
6	9	5	2	3	7	4	8	1
3	8	2	1	4	5	9	6	7

SUDOKU

abst, about, back, bake,
batch, bate, bath, bathe,
beach, beak, beat, bean,
beck, beta, buck, bucket,
BUCKWHEAT, cube, tabu,
tuba, tube

QUICK QUIZ

- 1.** From which country does fondue originate?
2. And is it traditionally a meat, chocolate or cheese dish?
3. Aya Cash (pictured) stars as Stormfront in which US superhero series?



- 4.** From what is the spice saffron derived?
5. Which book is recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's longest novel?
6. The Matildas' biggest win was 21-0 against which team (in 1998)?

- 7.** Which moon is the largest in the solar system: Titan, Ganymede or Europa?
8. Barnaby Joyce resigned as leader of the National Party in February of what year?
9. And how many times has Joyce challenged for the position since?

- 10.** Which bird is the heaviest parrot species in the world?

ANSWERS: 1. Switzerland 2. Cheese 3. The Boys 4. Crocus sativus flower 5. In Search of Lost Time by Marcel Proust 6. American Samoa 7. Ganymede 8. 2018 9. Twice (in February 2020 and June 2021) 10. Kakapo

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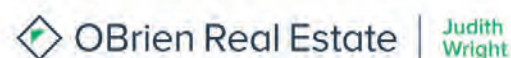
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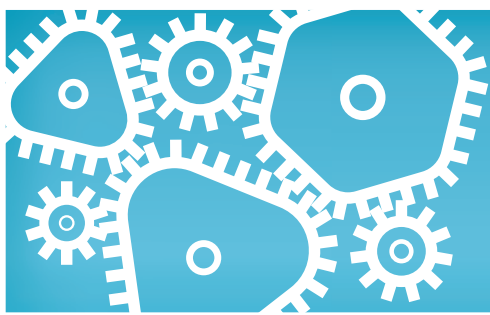
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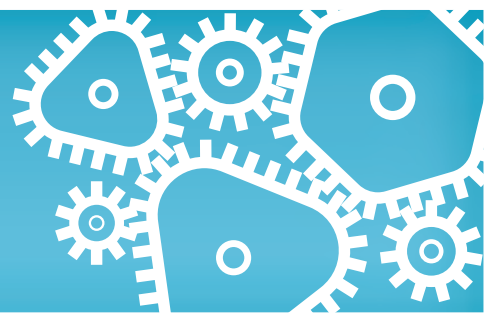
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DEATHS

Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc. (BCHAC)

The BCHAC is saddened at the passing of Anne Longmire who died on the 14th July 2021. Anne was a long time member of our club and enjoyed many club activities with her husband Ray Watson. Our sincere condolences go out to Ray and family.

BEDDOE, Neil:

Long time friend. Professional colleague of Eric. Always generous with his time, talents and knowledge. Coffee sitting in his old office chair on the verandah. You will be missed. Thank you Neil.



Mrs Betty Fry

Service Details: VF388556 Australian Army

The President, Committee, Members, Management and Staff of the Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch regret the passing of Betty Fry, a respected Service Member of our Sub-Branch. Our sincere condolences are extended to The Fry Family.

LEST WE FORGET.

BILLMAN, Bernard Henry John: 'Bernie'

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday 14th July, 2021.

Loved husband of Josephine (Josie).

Loving Dad of Karen and Robyn.

Adored Grandpa of Douglas, Alison and Mark.

Now you can sleep peacefully.

Bernie was farewelled by his family and friends on Monday 19th July.

BILLMAN, Bernie:

The Phillip Island & District Genealogical Society is saddened at the passing of Bernie on 14 July. He was a past committee member and treasurer and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Josie and family.

CHURCHILL, Alfred Francis (Frank):

13.4.1923 – 16.7.2021

Loving and devoted husband of Mavis (dec).

Loved father and father-in-law of Lynette, Colleen and Wayne, Mark and Lyn.

A gentlemen and a gentle man.

Mum and dad together again.

Pa of five and Great Grandfather of nine.

DEATHS

HARRIS - Dennis OAM

1.5.1938 - 18.7.2021

A Life Well Lived
Loved husband of Kathleen.

Father of Kylie and Sarah, father-in-law to Michael and Andrew.

Pa of Aidan, Blake, Leo and Jasper

Always in our hearts
Coming home to the island



HARRIS, Dennis:

Dennis T Harris OAM passed away peacefully on Sunday 18th July at Cabrini Hospital.

The second son of the late Rupe and Bessie Harris of Ventnor.

Much loved brother of Harry Harris (dec), Berta Maggs, Ruth Ryan (dec), Audrey Nicol (dec) and Julie Box. Treasured memories of a lovely man.

HICKMAN, Lorraine Elizabeth:

15.10.1933 - 14.07.2021

Loved wife of Paul (dec.)

Beloved mother of Peter, Graeme, Jim, Brendon and Michael.

Mother-in-law of Diane, Suzanne, Olga and Sharon.

Adored Nanny to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Reunited with Pa. Lorraine's service will be livestreamed. Please go to www.handleyanderson.com.au for details.



SCHAEFER, Joan:

Special friend and mate of Paula.

Sincere condolences to her family.

SZEITLI, Yolanda (Yoli) (nee Tama's Jola'n):

18th December 1929 to 8th June 2021.

Passed away peacefully in care at Grossard Court.

Beloved wife of George (Dec) and loving mother to George and Tom, mother in law to Angela and Jen. Grand Mother to Nathan, Justine, Maxwell and Serena, Great Grand Mother to Arlo and Ria.

Matriarch of the family and a wonderful soul living an amazing life.

She will live in our heart's forever.

Rest In Peace

Yoli's service will be live streamed. Please refer to www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au for details.



PUBLIC NOTICES



Notice of the 2021 Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group Inc. Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Aug 10th 2021 at 7.00pm in the ANZAC room at the Cowes RSL.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- 1) an update on the affairs of the group,
- 2) conducting elections for committee,
- 3) voting on special resolutions (if required),
- 4) Special guest speaker (from 7.30pm) – Dr Charles of the Cowes Medical Group will talk to us about the rewards and challenges of being a GP in rural Australia.

Dinner is available from 6pm at the RSL. You will need to make a booking to avoid disappointment.

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:

Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp. Coles) - Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday 11am, 5672 3627. Phone head office 9429 1833.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him", James 1:5, ESV

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CLINICAL CARE SUPERVISOR

Melaleuca Lodge is a 37 bed Residential Aged Care Facility in Cowes, and is part of Phillip Island Homes for the Aged Assoc. Inc. We are seeking a Registered Nurse Division 1 to fill the role of Care Manager Full time equivalent. (Part time/Job share will be considered for suitable applicants).

The successful applicant should have experience in Residential Aged Care, demonstrate skills and knowledge of ACFI, electronic documentation and Accreditation. The ability to manage the aged care team and co-ordinate holistic care and advocacy for residents will be required.

Applications to be addressed to Secretary, Phillip Island Homes for the Aged Assoc. Inc. 1 Watchorn Road. Cowes Vic 3922 or emailed to admin.melaleuca@waterfront.net.au

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 2. Provide a correction or other adequate remedial action if published material is significantly inaccurate or misleading.

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

 4. Ensure that where material refers adversely to a person,
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 6. Avoid causing or contributing materially to substantial offence, distress or prejudice, or a substantial risk to health or safety, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.

Integrity and transparency
7. Avoid publishing material which has been gathered by deceptive or unfair means, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.

 8. Ensure that conflicts of interests are avoided or adequately disclosed, and that they do not influence published material.

Busy holiday trade

A busier than usual winter holiday season helped ease the pain for local business, before the latest lockdown hit.

Across the island, venues and attractions were reporting good numbers, although Covid restrictions meant most places were still not operating at full capacity.

The Penguin Parade sold out every night but one during the school holidays, based on a maximum capacity of 1000 visitors.

"While these numbers are slightly lower than a normal school holidays period during winter, we're thrilled with this level of visitation, as it's made up entirely of domestic (and almost exclusively Victorian) visitors," said Nature Parks spokesperson Roland Pick.

"This really does speak to the fact that many Victorians are holidaying pretty close to home, and reconnecting with what's in their own backyard."

Visitor numbers recorded at Bass Coast Shire Council visitor information centre in Newhaven were up massively from last year when Melbourne was in lockdown- 3091 compared to 357 in 2020.

However overall visitor numbers were well down on the 2019 figures.

Between June 29 and July 14 in 2019, there were 5086 visitors at the centre, compared with 3091 during the same period in 2021.

However, popular A Maze'N Things attraction had a bumper holiday season.

Owner Geoff Moed said the holiday success came on the back of lower than usual figures in June, saying the story of tourism on Phillip Island was one of high and lows.

"After a large part of June 2021 being shut-down, A Maze'N Things was down about 30 per cent over 2019 figures.

"Though this was better than last year after longer shutdowns then, it was not great.

"During the school holidays, we undertook a bit of TV advertising in Melbourne in conjunction with the Chocolate Factory, and our figures meant that we had our best July school holiday figures ever!

"We had many days that were busier than traditional January days

"If we can get to stay open the whole month, I think we will have our best total July figures."

Hopes shattered

Unfortunately the five day snap lockdown called by the state government last week shattered Geoff's hopes for a lockdown free month.

Even so, he says there is cause for optimism in the July holiday results.

"The figures give us some optimism for local tourism in the coming years when we won't see many internationals.

"We were only reliant on the international market for a small percentage of our numbers, so we will be okay.

"I am more concerned for those businesses that had a very heavy reliance on international visitors."

Local estate agent, Greg Price from Alex Scott said holiday rentals were much busier than last year.

"People who have holiday homes here, that traditionally might have been in Queensland or overseas, they've been down here using their holiday homes.

He said he was expecting a busy summer.

"Hopefully the vaccination roll-out continues and people are able to get access to safe vaccines.

"Then Australia, like Europe can start to come out of this."

Greg said the area had also seen a growth in residential numbers.

"We're going to find there's been population growth in Bass Coast shire," he predicted.

"A lot of people have moved here to live."

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Let's be Frank!

Special guest speaker joins Football Club celebrations

The Back-To weekend for the Phillip Island Football Netball Club next weekend just got bigger.

A special guest has been locked in for the Saturday celebrations.

Simon Manning, a Life Member of the club, tracked down Frank Vergona, umpire of the 1981 Grand Final, who said he'd be delighted to attend.

Frank, a well-known figure in the Victoria Football Association, will be the guest speaker at the lunch on Saturday, July 31 before the game against Cora Lynn.

While we're sure the 1981 Grand Final between the island and Wonthaggi is one his most memorable, during his time at the VFA, Frank umpired six Grand Finals, including 1980, 1982 and 1983 in Division 1, and Division 2 Grand Finals in 1981, 1984 and 1987.

Frank umpired over 250 VFA games during a career which stretched from 1973 to 1989 and was well known for his short stature (5'3") and tight shorts, as well as his "bold" umpiring personality.

Frank's memories of the game are certain to add an extra level of enjoyment to the special lunch.



Frank Vergona who umpired the 1981 Grand Final will be a Special guest speaker at the lunch on Saturday, July 31. Photo courtesy of Cameron Towson VFA collection.

The two-course lunch, for \$30 a head starts at midday and is open to everyone, not just the returning premiers players, but bookings are essential.

Radio

ABC radio's Coodabeen Champions will also be crossing live to the Phillip Island club rooms on Saturday for the reunion.

Organiser John Weston will be put on the microphone, as coach of the 1981 Premiers team.

"They're also keen to talk to David Murdoch, as part of the father and son premiers combination," John said.

David's father Artie Murdoch was part of the 1951 winning team, while David played in the 1981 grand final.

"It's the only father son combination in these premiers years and it is one of the few father son premiers combinations in the club's history."

John is hoping to share the media spotlight with fellow organiser Ritchie Davie, who was also part of the 1981 Premiership team.

The Back-to Weekend kicks off with an informal get together on Friday night (July 30) at the club, including a welcome from Club President Chris Ross and a tribute to former Club President Ian Hill.

Saturday includes a lunch at midday before the game, as well as player introductions and present day awards that evening.

To book your place for lunch on July 31, go to www.trybooking.com/bomil, or contact John Weston (0417 416 983), Ritchie Davie (0400 531 777) or Kaye Beaton (0412 439 945).

Past footy glories celebration

The club record set by the Phillip Island Reserves Football team back in 1979, 1980 and 1981 of three straight premierships in a row will be celebrated at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club reunion next weekend (July 30 and 31) along with the Seniors 1951 and 1981 grand finals wins.

Three consecutive premiership victories is no mean feat, and the achievement has remained unbeaten over the ensuing four decades of PIFNC history. The club pulled off a double premiership in 1981, which was a sensational year for island football, with both the Seniors and Reserves teams bringing home grand final flags.

Captain-Coach for all three reserves premierships was Gabby Fenech, with player Richie Laing holding the unique distinction of playing in all three grand final matches.

Gabby coached for six years straight back in those days, tak-



The Reserves Premiership team! The club record set by the Phillip Island Reserves Football team back in 1981 of three straight premierships in a row still stands.

ing the reserves team into five grand finals, winning four (one

in 1975) and just missing a fifth when the team went down in 1982.

Forty years down the track, 2021 is shaping up again as a record-breaking year for PIFNC.

The club with Phillip Island seniors coach Beau Vernon at the helm, is going for the hat trick, having won seniors premierships in 2018 and 2019, and on track to take out third consecutive victory in 2021. (Covid thwarted the 2020 footy season).

The island is currently on top of the seniors ladder; and the Reserves side is well in contention for a flag, sitting solidly in fourth position.

"While there is a focus on the 1951 and 1981 premierships, we are hoping that club members from every era will come along for this Back to Weekend," John Weston, captain coach of the 1981 senior premiers, and co-organiser of the weekend, said last week.

"It really is a celebration of the Club's history."

Phillip Island Bridge club results

Monday, July 12 was week one of the winter pairs red point event with five tables competing.

Four pairs claimed points starting with Deb Anglim and John Sutton on 54.63.

Bron Sund and Hannah Martin came third with 56.48 per cent.

Husband and wife team Don and

Trish Stewart-Uden laid down a challenge for first place with 58.80 per cent but were beaten to the finish line by Lois Dywer and Anne Gibson who scored 62.96 per cent.

Sadly, the second week of the competition is cancelled until further notice due to recent Covid restrictions.

On Wednesday, July 14, a small cheerful group enjoyed a day's play. Paul Waylen and Karen Klym were in the master points

with 55 per cent. Don and Trish Stewart-Uden finished with 57.50 per cent. The stars of the day were Bron Sund and Penny Loughran with a whopping 75 per cent.

Covid once again keeps us at home, so face to face bridge is cancelled until further notice, however online sessions are available on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 1pm. Please monitor the club web page and your emails for updates. Stay safe and well.

Euchre

Men's winner: Les Walton – 8 wins.

Women's winner: Caroline Smith – 6 wins.

Encouragement award: Graeme Kelsall – 0 wins.

Due to lockdown, Bob will advise current members by SMS about future nights.

Please contact Bob Hee on 0418 173 388 for further details.

THIS WEEKEND DRAWS

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION
Round 15, Saturday July 24

CANCELLED

SOUTHERN GIPPSLAND
JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION
Round 11, Sunday July 25

CANCELLED

YOUTH GIRLS FOOTBALL COMPETITION
Round 8, Sunday July 25

CANCELLED

WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION LADDERS

SENIOR FOOTBALL

	W	L	%	PTS
Phillip Island	10	1	302.99	40
Inverloch-Kongwak	9	2	156.80	36
Tooradin-Dalmore	8	3	154.31	32
Nar Nar Goon	8	3	129.14	32
Cora Lynn	8	3	123.17	32
Garfield	7	4	114.47	28
Warragul Industrials	5	6	111.62	20
Bunyip	4	7	75.33	16
Kilcunda Bass	3	8	73.80	12
Korumburra-Bena	2	9	54.10	8
Koo Wee Rup	1	10	48.00	4
Dalyston	1	10	33.44	4

RESERVES FOOTBALL

	W	L	%	PTS
Tooradin-Dalmore	10	1	384.56	40
Bunyip	9	2	343.87	36
Inverloch-Kongwak	8	3	172.86	32
Phillip Island	7	4	172.33	28
Nar Nar Goon	7	4	153.40	28
Cora Lynn	6	5	145.23	24
Koo Wee Rup	6	5	103.06	24
Warragul Industrials	6	5	90.42	24
Kilcunda Bass	3	8	51.24	12
Garfield	3	8	44.40	12
Korumburra-Bena	1	10	29.77	4
Dalyston	0	11	18.19	0

THIRDS FOOTBALL

	W	L	%	% WON
Garfield	8	0	424.68	100.00
Inverloch-Kongwak	7	2	364.18	77.78
Nar Nar Goon	7	2	245.23	77.78
Phillip Island	6	3	319.58	66.67
Korumburra-Bena	6	3	181.10	66.67
Cora Lynn	4	5	82.45	44.44
Bunyip	2	6	45.10	25.00
Koo Wee Rup	2	7	66.93	22.22
Kilcunda Bass	1	6	17.29	14.29
Dalyston	0	9	10.04	0.00
Warragul Industrials	0	0	0.00	0.00
Tooradin-Dalmore	0	0	0.00	0.00

FOURTHS FOOTBALL

	W	L	%	% WON
Tooradin-Dalmore	9	0	1029.36	95.00
Cora Lynn	8	1	377.35	85.00
Garfield	8	2	352.38	80.00
Inverloch-Kongwak	7	3	167.85	70.00
Phillip Island	6	4	202.83	60.00
Kilcunda Bass	6	4	200.00	60.00
Nar Nar Goon	4	6	58.99	40.00
Korumburra-Bena	3	7	35.64	30.00
Bunyip	2	8	30.70	20.00
Koo Wee Rup	1	9	21.37	10.00
Dalyston	0	10	10.67	0.00
Warragul Industrials	0	0	0.00	0.00

NETBALL

A-GRADE	Pts	%	C-GRADE	Pts	%
Dalyston	44	180.99	Inv-Kongwak	42	176.25
Kor-Bena	36	176.68	Dalyston	40	132.29
Tooradin-Dal	36	137.53	Bunyip	36	146.44
Bunyip	34	170.61	Cora Lynn	32	133.09
Warragul Indus	30	139.89	Nar Nar Goon	24	136.16
Nar Nar Goon	20	78.65	Koo Wee Rup	24	117.86
Phillip Island	16	91.70	Warragul Indus	20	117.33
Inv-Kongwak	16	76.23	Tooradin-Dal	18	122.77
Koo Wee Rup	16	67.20	Phillip Island	16	112.26
Cora Lynn	12	76.20	Kor-Bena	8	88.15
Garfield	4	46.71	Kilcunda Bass	4	26.66
Kilcunda Bass	0	2.27	Garfield	0	34.74
B-GRADE	Pts	%	17 & UNDER	Pts	%
Phillip Island	40	187.79	Inv-Kongwak	40	217.51
Tooradin-Dal	40	152.62	Koo Wee Rup	36	212.87
Inv-Kongwak	36	117.38	Phillip Island	36	186.73
Warragul Indus	32	119.47	Cora Lynn	32	148.70
Bunyip	24	114.99	Kor-Bena	30	150.57
Kor-Bena	24	112.02	Warragul Indus	24	133.70
Koo Wee Rup	18	101.09	Tooradin-Dal	22	86.71
Cora Lynn	18	88.11	Dalyston	20	118.64
Garfield	16	80.12	Bunyip	12	70.25
Dalyston	8	83.17	Nar Nar Goon	8	78.84
Nar Nar Goon	8	55.44	Kilcunda Bass	4	43.27
Kilcunda Bass	0	58.89	Garfield	0	7.89

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 21 JUL	THU 22 JUL	FRI 23 JUL	SAT 24 JUL	SUN 25 JUL	MON 26 JUL	TUE 27 JUL
LOW 2:02 am 0.54 m	LOW 2:59 am 0.51 m	LOW 4:04 am 0.50 m	LOW 5:15 am 0.48 m	HIGH 12:15 am 2.59 m	HIGH 1:26 am 2.64 m	HIGH 2:31 am 2.69 m
HIGH 9:21 am 2.77 m	HIGH 10:29 am 2.82 m	HIGH 11:38 am 2.89 m	HIGH 12:46 pm 2.98 m	LOW 6:26 am 0.46 m	LOW 7:30 am 0.45 m	LOW 8:27 am 0.48 m
LOW 2:34 pm 1.31 m	LOW 3:42 pm 1.40 m	LOW 4:59 pm 1.43 m	LOW 6:16 pm 1.36 m	HIGH 1:50 pm 3.06 m	HIGH 2:47 pm 3.12 m	HIGH 3:38 pm 3.13 m
HIGH 8:42 pm 2.67 m	HIGH 9:45 pm 2.60 m	HIGH 10:59 pm 2.57 m		LOW 7:26 pm 1.24 m	LOW 8:25 pm 1.10 m	LOW 9:16 pm 0.96 m

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



Siblings Ella and Jacob Solohub from Cowes Primary will both go through to the state competition to be held later this year.

Local kids off to state cross country

Jarvis McDonald of Newhaven Primary School competed at the Gippsland Region Cross Country Championships last Thursday, held at Lardner Park in Warragul.

Jarvis ran in the 11-year-old boys race, on a muddy and hilly three kilometre course in sunny conditions, amongst 50 competitors.

Jarvis was thrilled to place 10th, with the top 12 place getters going through to compete at the State Event to be held in the Yarra Valley later this year.

"He loves running so much and does it for fun, but he's never put much focus on training," said proud mum Kellie McDonald.

"This may change now!" Jarvis raced alongside other local friends, Jasper Saunders (Cowes Primary School) and Aidan Smyth (Newhaven College).

Jasper led the field for much of



Jarvis McDonald of Newhaven Primary placed 10th in the 11-year-old boys race at the Gippsland Region Cross Country Championships and will now go onto to compete at the state titles.



Ava Blake from San Remo Primary competed at the Regional Cross Country at Lardner Park, coming 17th in a field of 50.

the course, finishing third and receiving a medal for his great efforts.

Other local students also performed well at the event, including Cowes Primary School siblings Jacob and Ella Solohub, who both made it through to the state level.

Violet Robertson and Kate McCausland, from Cowes Primary ran in the 9/10 girls division. Kate placed third for a medal and will also go to the state competition.

Harvey Strauchen from Newhaven College is also heading to the state event, after placing seventh in the 12/13 boys event.

Ava Blake from San Remo Primary also competed at the Lardner Park event, coming 17th in a field of 50 runners.

Teacher Virginia Baxter said: "We at San Remo Primary are so proud of Ava's efforts and wanted to celebrate her achievement."

Phillip Island bowls

Well, what a week it has been down here on our beautiful island.

We have managed to get some bowls played before the gates were once again slammed shut for lockdown number 5 and that nasty little germ called COVID-19 made its presence felt here.

Tuesday was a somewhat cloudy and cool day as forty-two players took to the green for another round of Winter Triples.

It was lovely to have players from Inverloch, San Remo and Wonthaggi join us and it was the boys from Inverloch and Wonthaggi, Giulio Marcolongo, Frank Cimino and Martin Hannaford (Inverloch) that

were our winners with a +22. The runners up were Barrie Goldsbury, Chris Fricke and Karen Cashen who filled in for the lovely Julia Pora.

A big thank you to our sponsors of the day Harvey Norman.

Thursday Social: What a splendid day it was here on the island for our social bowlers to take to the green.

Winners of the day were (skip) Lance Wearne, (second) Reg Excell and (lead) Joan Farmer.

Runners up were (skip) Neville Stevens, (second) Marg Rogers and (lead) Rob Tyers.

A big thank you to Ray Pepper and Judy Christie our volunteers for the day.

Well done everyone stay safe and see you back in the green again soon.

Midweek bowls

Midweek bowls was played at Corinella with 28 happy bowlers on a slow green which saw some very short bowls that brought laughter.

Across the green it was a little cool to start with but turned out to be a perfect bowling day and as usual everyone was in good spirits and enjoying their bowling and the company.

Some high scores were recorded, winners 39 points, runners up 38 points and one game winners 19 points. Everyone was very pleased with their performance.

Midweek bowls is a great atmosphere with friendly people.

Thank you to Phil Wright who served our drinks, always with a smile and Sue and Phil for looking after the kitchen, they are devoted members of Corinella that

look after the midweek bowlers very well.

Thank you to our members who brought in goods for the free raffle table, we had some lovely items. We also had two wrong bias this week - Mr Rob Hill and Pauline McWilliams.

Next week and the week after (depending on lockdown) we will play at San Remo two weeks in a row as Tarwin Lower is not available. Therefore, please note that on your calendar.

As usual 10.30am at the club for an 11am start. BYO lunch, two games of twelve ends and maybe something special for morning tea.

To register or for more information, please contact our treasurer Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974 the night before coming and have a great day of bowls and friendship.

See you on the green.

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