

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



Steph Thornborrow (second right) and a team of volunteers Greg McKenzie, of Rhyll, Genni Storer of Sunset Strip, and Sue Becker and Margaret Spottiswood of Cowes, are pictured last Wednesday at the third last cooking session to be held at the Cultural Centre, before the kitchen is demolished. Read more about the work of this incredible team of volunteers on Page 6.

Grants help island business

Over 50 Phillip Island and San Remo businesses and groups received funding under the Community Resilience Grants announced last week.

Bass Coast Shire Council said \$700,000 was shared across 133 businesses and community groups.

At least 42 per cent of the funding was directed to Phillip Island and San Remo.

Successful applicants included restaurants, cafes, not-for-profit groups, attractions, art galleries and professional services.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said the program received 264 applications, with requests totalling \$3.4 million and it was simply not possible to fund every project.

Application assessments were guided by a Community Leadership Recovery Group that included councillors and a diverse range of 30 community members.

"We worked hard to come up with a formula that would allow us to support as many applications as we could, but also with an amount that would make a difference to the group or business," Cr Tessari said.

"We looked at how they had been affected and if they'd reimagined how to work through this crisis and after it.

"We also looked at the effect a project would have on the community and if it could help employ other local people."

He said Phillip Island was well

represented in the successful applicants.

"Everyone has been smashed by this, but being tourist reliant, there were a lot of Phillip Island groups and businesses doing it tough. They were always going to be supported."

Cr Tessari said council would continue to work with the 130 applicants who missed out on funding, saying he realised they would be very disappointed.

"We'll try and help them to access other streams of funding," he said.

All businesses and groups were contacted early last week and advised of the outcome.

Cr Tessari said he was hopeful money would be issued this week, once successful applicants had

signed off on their grant agreements.

PICAL funding

The funding included \$19,200 for the PICAL Pantry's emergency food relief program.

Earlier this month, PICAL centre manager, Greg Thompson said the organisation was struggling to cover the cost of the increased demand on the food service.

He said calls for assistance had soared and seen the weekly food bill jump to \$3000. A group of volunteers, under the guidance of Steph Thornborrow had turned out thousands of meals since March.

"In normal times, we feed around 350 people per week; a level of demand we could cope with, although

we were growing at around 6.2 per cent per month.

"However, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the local demand for food relief more than doubled overnight.

"We have also experienced demand for food assistance coming from more places than ever before. PICAL is now assisting many other local food outlets in the wider Bass Coast area," Greg said.

"Our greatest fear is that when the Job Seeker and Job Keeper support packages are eventually wound back, and Australia's economy suffers further shocks, this will send demand for emergency food relief sky-rocketing.

Continued page 6

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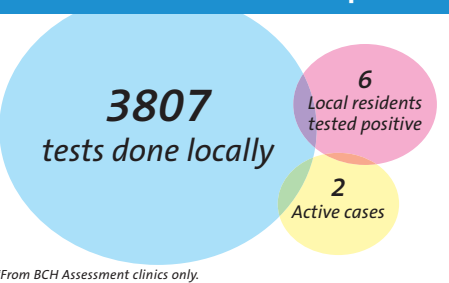
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Bass Coast COVID-19 update*



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Publication No. **VPF 9005897**
Registered by Australia Post.

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Phillip Island Dog Owners Association members, Nick Carlson, Alicia Khan, Jane Halliday and Cheryl Owens, at the Cowes off-leash area, say the new association wants the existing dog beaches to remain as they are.

Hands off our off-leash beaches

The Phillip Island Dog Owners Association wants the current dog beaches, including the recently established off-leash areas, to remain as they are.

Their Facebook page set up earlier this month, quickly attracted over 1000 members.

The first meeting on July 11 saw Greg Price elected as interim president, with August 16 set as the date for the group's first Annual General Meeting.

Greg said the association would provide a united voice for dog owners who were frustrated by what they believe is a sustained campaign to roll back the off-leash areas.

"Those areas were identified through a lot of consultation, but it seems that some people are pushing to restrict them," he said.

Association member, Cheryl Owens said dog owners had worked closely with Council and Phillip Island Nature Parks to find areas that were suitable for dogs.

"I was heavily involved in the proposal for all four off-leash beaches in San Remo and on the island as well as the 24/7 extension at Ventnor."

"This was a proposal that took nine months, and included consultation with Phillip Island Nature Parks, the Bass Coast Shire, and Bird Life Australia," she said.

"Many things were considered like parking, toilet amenities, disability access, but at the absolute forefront was the protection of the hooded plovers and other wildlife while providing a balanced approach between wildlife and people's needs and liveability."

"We feel we came up with very workable areas and in fact the Nature Parks still feel this

is the best set up and are in full support of the current areas."

She said the group would continue to work with the shire to ensure dog owners complied with the regulations.

"Education and behavioural change takes time and we have come a very long way in changing dog owners' attitudes."

She stressed the association was focused on retaining the existing areas and would strenuously resist any attempts to wind them back or adjust them.

"There are 97 kilometres of coastline on Phillip Island of which we have been allocated a mere 800 metres over four areas."

No changes

A question at last month's council meeting about the off-leash area in Ventnor resulted in Council agreeing to monitor the behaviour of dog owners at the off-leash beach to protect hooded plovers.

Dog owners say they are being unfairly targeted, with Council confirming there had been no reports of incidents or attacks on the new off-leash areas since they were established.

Local resident Meg Anderson who asked if council would review the boundaries and timing of the current 24/7 dog area at Ventnor, last week told the Advertiser she felt she had been misrepresented.

She said she was trying to help dog owners, who effectively lost part of their off-leash area for six months of the year due to the hooded plover breeding season.

Greg Price said Meg's suggestion to move

the boundary to the west, would impact on a valued swimming beach and would also come with restrictions.

"At this point in time, the association will be lobbying for retention of current boundaries with greater community education and improved signage, particularly during the hooded plover breeding season."

Cheryl Owens said the busy summer months did provide a challenge due to an influx of visitors, with the council increasing patrols and handing out more fines.

However, the rest of the year locals enjoyed the beach with their dogs.

"These much fought for areas are the culmination of several years of work and research and consulting."

"This year was a very successful plover breeding season, which we like to take some credit for, as now dog walkers know where to walk and what they can do."

She said once the group had completed their formal registration as an association, they intend to contact council, outlining their desire to maintain the existing dog beaches and bring restrictions in line with the rest of the shire.

"We would also like to see money put aside for an off-leash park somewhere on the island in coming budgets."

"We are happy to work with the relevant groups to create greater acceptance and compliance with the regulations and protection of wildlife," she said.

The association has vowed to keep "dogs front and centre" at the upcoming council election.


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Alarm bells sounded

Loss of fish species threat

AGL's proposed gas project in Western Port poses a significant threat to fish species in the bay – and to the recreational angling industry – according to the Phillip Island Conservation Society.

PICS members have been wading through AGL's 10,000-page Environment Effects Statement (EES), with submissions due by August 26, concluding it could take just two fishing seasons "for the loss of fish species to become evident to our fishers".

PICS president Jeff Nottle said AGL's plans would "destroy vital marine life" in the bay, with the company's floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) using seawater for regasification, emergency fire water and ballast; discharging used seawater back into the bay containing residual chlorine and at different temperatures.

"This all requires vast amounts of sea water – up to 468,000 cubic metres per day that will be drawn into the unit via up to six pumps operating constantly," Jeff said.

"Drawing in this water means that trapping of marine life including fish eggs and larvae occurs."

He said Western Port was a nursery area for fish of "ecological, conservation and fishing importance", so important the bay has international Ramsar status.

He said peak destruction to fish eggs and larvae from the project's operation would occur during peak breeding in spring and summer.

"This is the time of year that the larvae of most of the ecologically important, fishing and conservation species are in the water column."

Jeff said the EES states the risks to fish species were "moderate", yet the report also sug-

gests older fish larvae "may be able to avoid the FSRU intake by 'active swimming'".

"We believe the consequences of trapping and destruction of fish eggs and larvae by the FSRU from the Northern Arm of the bay will have long term and accumulative adverse impacts on the marine ecosystem," Jeff said.

"I believe it may only take one or two fishing seasons for the loss of fish species to become evident to our fishers who contribute much to our local economy and way of life."

"AGL currently plan to operate the FSRU in Western Port for 10 years and we will be bearing the costs to our environment and economy virtually from day one."

Jeff urged Phillip Island residents concerned about the impacts of AGL's project on marine life, fishing and tourism to read the EES at: gasimportprojectvictoria.com.au/

Details of the submission process can be found at: engage.vic.gov.au/crib-point-IAC.

He said anyone needing help with a submission can take part in Environment Victoria's submission writing workshops: environment-victoria.org.au/2020/07/02/submission-writing-workshop/

What's planned?

The EES is open until August 26 for the project that will see the FSRU moored at Crib Point jetty.

The FSRU will regasify liquid natural gas by using a heat exchange system, taking in millions of litres of seawater per day, discharging it colder or warmer than the ambient temperature and containing residual chlorine.

AGL's plans would see liquified natural gas transported on up to 40 LNG super tankers –



Phillip Island Conservation Society president Jeff Nottle has long battled to protect the bay: "AGL currently plan to operate in Western Port for 10 years and we will be bearing the costs to our environment and economy virtually from day one," he says.

about 300 metres long and 49 metres wide – per year from interstate and overseas.

The FSRU would be approximately 300 m long by 50 m wide with capacity to store 170,000 cubic metres (m3) of LNG.

Submissions will be reviewed by an Inquiry and Advisory Committee, formed by the Victorian Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

The IAC will review the public submissions, then hold a directions hearing on September 17, which will lead to a public hearing on October 12, to run for up to eight weeks.



Phillip Island CFA attended a call out to the Cowes Post Office on Monday after smoke was seen coming from one of the building's fluorescent lights.

No need for alarm

The Phillip Island CFA attended a call out to the Cowes Post Office on Monday morning – but fortunately there was no cause for alarm.

The ballast in a fluorescent lighting tube in the post office started smoking, prompting a call to the CFA.

Two trucks attended with CFA officers using a thermal camera to check the faulty light.

There was no fire and the crews were soon on their way.

Bob Spencer from the Phillip Island CFA said it was a good news story and a case of better safe than sorry.

"In a situation like this, it's better to call us and make sure," he said.

Dog bait reports continue

Concerns continue about a possible campaign to poison dogs on Phillip Island.

Senior Sergeant Andy O'Brien confirmed police had received a report about rodent poison found in a park at Katherine Circuit in Cowes.

He said he was also aware of numerous Facebook posts on different sites discussing injuries to dogs or allegations of baits on beaches.

Despite claims on social media, police have not received any reports of a dog dying after eating a bait on Ventnor Beach, he said.

"We can't follow up on an incident if it hasn't been reported. But if it has happened, I certainly hope the owners would report it."

"At the current time, police have scant information regarding this. As I mentioned, there's been one report recently of a bait being found, but there have been no official reports of dogs being ill or dying from baits being laid."

A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said they were also aware of a report of rat poison being found at the park in Katherine Circuit.

"Council officers attended the location but did not find any evidence. During beach patrols in Ventnor, our officers have kept a look out for obvious baits but have not identified any at this time and will continue to monitor the area."

Anyone with information about any of the alleged incidents is being urged to contact Cowes Police on 5952 2037.

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Garbage charges just got pricier

Despite concerns over a dramatic escalation in garbage fees to ratepayers, a majority of Bass Coast Shire councillors last week voted to support a price hike for recycling services.

After initially deferring the vote at the June council meeting, to investigate whether there was a way to avoid the hike, councillors last week agreed to approve a variation in the recycling contract with Wonthaggi Recyclers, which remains at \$1.7 million for two years.

The increase will also see an extra \$114,155 for management of the Inverloch and Wonthaggi Transfer Station contract for two years.

Cr Les Larke did not support the vote, saying there had been no “meaningful negotiation” with Wonthaggi Recyclers.

“We appear to be more concerned with Wonthaggi Recyclers investment rather than negotiating a better outcome for the community,” Cr Larke said.

“I’m concerned with the variations and so should the community be.”

He said Wonthaggi Recyclers was part-owned by Cleanaway, which in 2019 earned \$2.28 billion in revenue.

However, Cr Pam Rothfield said there had been “confusion in the wider community” about the variation, explaining that the actual cost to ratepayers was not \$1.7 million, but in the order of \$633,000, or \$10 per house per year.

“We have a different landscape now. We were once dumping mixed recycling on China and at the end of 2017 that changed and we’ve had to address that change,” Cr Rothfield said.

“We are always going to have to pay something like this.”

Cr Michael Whelan agreed saying the alternative was to dump recycling in landfill.

Cr Julian Brown voted against the variation saying he was “still unhappy”.

“I can’t see there’s a fair and equitable sharing of the pain between council and Wonthaggi Recyclers. It’s all falling on council.”

Cr Rothfield disputed concerns the state government wasn’t stepping up to help, saying the EPA was “progressing the circular economy and spending big bucks”.

She said Cleanaway would “clean away” Wonthaggi Recyclers if they failed to perform.

“We have to accept the shire officer’s report and accept it’s correct. There’s no choice,” Cr Rothfield said.

“I don’t think we’d get better if we looked for a new contract, it would be worse, and throwing recycling in landfill would be more expensive.

“We are all ratepayers here and we also don’t want to pay more. But this is a fact of life.”

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

In voting for the variation, Wonthaggi Recyclers is now not entitled to any extra money due to the variations and



A victim of a global problem, or a failure of Bass Coast Shire policy? Either way we’re paying more for the privilege of kerbside garbage collection.

must now provide evidence and supporting documentation for all claims.

Shocked

Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association president Kevin Griffin earlier this month responded to the draft 2020-21 budget, which detailed that households will pay \$496.50 for the privilege of kerbside waste removal.

This is an 11 per cent increase, up from \$449, following another 11 per cent hike the previous year. In 2017-18 we paid \$374 for garbage charges.

Mr Griffin said many ratepayers will be “shocked by the massive escalation” in contract costs, specifically the \$1.7 million to Wonthaggi Recyclers.

“And perhaps even more shocking is that most of the current councillors appear quite willing to wave these increases through largely unchecked, and they seem eager to avoid scrutinising council processes around the massive increases,” he said.

Mr Griffin said BCRRRA had instigated a Freedom of Information request last year following “frustration” at the increases but had received little information, adding he was “seeking the urgent release of these documents in order to further evaluate Council’s draft budget and the proposed garbage increase of \$46.60”.

“The association is concerned not only at the impost these cost increases will have on ratepayers, but it is also concerned by what appears to be a somewhat cavalier approach taken by some councillors in regard to foisting these higher costs onto ratepayers without due and proper scrutiny.”

In June, councillors approved another price hike impacting garbage costs, for environmental monitoring of landfill sites at Rhyll, Grantville and Wonthaggi by contractors Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment Pty Ltd.

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

			ORGANICS		WASTE		RECYCLING		
Garbage charge *	Levy/ service charge		Weekly	Fortnightly	Weekly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly		
Wodonga	\$224.30	\$100.70	240L	240L	120L	140L	240L		
Indigo	\$352.70		240L			140L **	240L **		
Corangamite	\$359.20		120L			240L	120L	240L	
Nillumbik	\$419.56							120L	240L
Moirra	\$467.00							120L	140L **
Wangaratta	\$489.00	240L							
Bass Coast	\$496.50		240L	-		120L	240L		
Greater Shepparton	\$510.00		240L	240L	120L	120L	240L		
Benalla	\$530.00						80-240L ***		
Strathbogie	\$564.00						240L		

* prices are for urban garbage charge, ** bin sizes can be upgraded at additional cost, *** residents can select recycling bin size for no additional cost.

Of the ten councils studied, Bass Coast has fourth highest garbage charge for a three bin green organics service.

How big is our bin charge?

The proposed 11 per cent increase to Bass Coast’s garbage charge has many in the community questioning the cost of the service.

Critics have pointed to the modest \$217 fee being proposed for neighbouring South Gippsland as opposed to \$496.50 in Bass Coast, as further cause for concern.

South Gippsland’s three-bin service has a weekly waste collection with green collection and recycling on alternate weeks, but does not include a green organics bin.

Comparing Bass Coast’s garbage charges to other shire across the state is difficult, as only around a third of Victoria’s 79 council’s offer a three-bin system which includes a green organics.

Some shires also have a waste levy or waste management charge on top of their garbage charges.

Comparison

So do we pay too much for our kerbside collection?

The Advertiser looked at nine other shires offering a green organics waste service to see how Bass

Coast’s charges compared.*

It’s not an exhaustive search but provides a snapshot of the cost of similar services across the state.

Bass Coast offers a weekly organics collection (240L bin), with fortnightly collections for waste (120L) and recycling (240L). The draft budget proposes a garbage charge for 2020/21 of \$496.50.

Of the nine shires – Wodonga, Strathbogie, Indigo, Corangamite, Nillumbik, Benalla, Wangaratta, Moira and Greater Shepparton – none offered the exact service provided by Bass Coast.

Some offered the same sized bins, but a different collection frequency. Others had the same collection schedule, but with different bin sizes. The closest was Benalla Shire.

Residents of Benalla pay a garbage charge of \$530.00 for a weekly collection of their organics bin, and fortnightly collections for waste and recycling. While the organics and waste bins were the same size as Bass Coast, residents are able to select their preferred size recycling bin (from 80L to 240L) without affecting the cost.

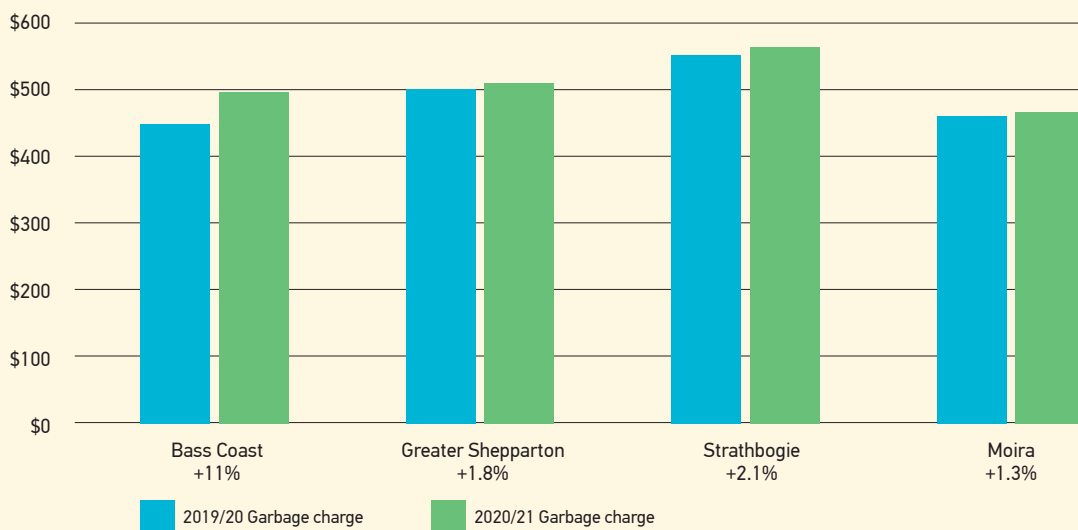
Likewise, Strathbogie Shire offers a comparable service with a smaller weekly organics bin (120L) collection, plus fortnightly collections of 120L waste bins and 240L recycling. Residents pay \$564 but have an option to upgrade to large (240L) bins for waste and organics, which could push the price as high as \$944.

Wodonga had the lowest charges (even factoring in a \$100 levy), while Strathbogie topped the list for the most expensive service.

If you’re keen to find out more about the costs of providing kerbside waste collection, most councils have details of their services – and charges – on their websites.

Sustainability Victoria also surveys local governments each year and compiles a report on waste services. You can find it at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Government • *Note: The shires selected in this article have comparable waste services and are all in the top 15 of Sustainability Victoria’s list of local council kerbside diversion rates (Victoria 2017-18). Bass Coast topped the list, with a 70 per cent diversion rate.*

GARBAGE CHARGE – COMPARISON



Even for councils with comparable garbage charges, Bass Coast’s increase this year is significantly higher.

Wonthaggi Hospital Expansion Industry Briefing webinar

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PICAL Pantry: 4724 meals and counting

Since February and the start of the COVID crisis, Steph Thornborrow and a team of PICAL Pantry volunteers in the Cowes Cultural Centre kitchen have prepared 4724 meals for community members in need.

But with the impending demolition of the Cultural Centre, a new kitchen must now be found for this work to carry on.

When the Phillip Island and San Remo tourism economy took a huge and unexpected hit back in February, caused by the COVID crisis, and local business were forced to close, volunteers at the PICAL pantry immediately stepped up production.

But it was obvious that demand for this important meal service was about to dramatically increase as job losses soared across the district.

Led by Steph Thornborrow, a group of volunteers swiftly took over the Cowes Cultural Centre kitchen once a week, which was freely provided by the Bass Coast Shire. They began churning out hundreds of nutritious and healthy meals each week for those in the community hard hit by the circumstances in which they suddenly found themselves.

Since February, when they commenced, an amazing 4724 meals have been prepared.

Cost of the meals (an estimated 51 cents per serve) has been kept to a minimum, thanks to donated ingredients that have come in on a daily basis to PICAL.

And each week, recipients have commented on the variety and quality of the delicious food provided.

The variety is thanks to Steph, who has done wonders over the last four months coming up with recipes based around the produce and goods that confront her when she inspects the donation table.

Purchases are made to enhance the donated items and the menu over the past four months has included: Beef stroganoff, vegetarian moussaka, vegetable and lentil curry, tuna mornay, chow mein, curried sausages, spaghetti Bolognese, vegetarian frittata, lamb casserole, zucchini and bacon slice, chicken and vegetable stir fry, pumpkin soup, and fried rice, just to name a few.

At the end of each cooking session (usually about six to seven hours) individual meal portions are sealed into containers and frozen,

ready for collection from PICAL, as needed by community members.

Last week, lasagne was on the menu using produce from PICAL's own garden.

A huge donation of bananas from Coles was also put aside on the day for a looming banana cake making session.

Steph said the figure of 4724 meals distributed by the PICAL Pantry included 650 prepared by the staff at the Adventure Resort for the pantry, also using donated produce.

An additional 500 serves of muffins were made by the CYC (Christian Youth Camp) on PICAL's behalf, and a further 600 cakes have been baked by the team of volunteers using donated fruit and ingredients.

The fully equipped kitchen has been a god send for the PICAL team, in these testing times, but sadly, its days are numbered and a new venue must be found.

Along with the rest of the Cowes Cultural Centre, it is to be demolished by the Bass Coast Council within a few weeks, to make way for a \$19 million arts and cultural facility planned to be built next year.



Volunteer Ajanta Judd will be one of the careers services professionals engaged by the Women Connect program which received \$21,709 from the Community Resilience Grants. The program will deliver employment and career counselling services to 50 local women.

Grants help island business

From page 1

"This COVID-19 Resilience funding, and any other sources of funding we can secure, will assist our entire community in ensuring that all local families will have enough to eat, when that time comes."

PICAL's Women Connect program was also supported, receiving \$21,709 for further education, employment and small business opportunities.

"We have been overwhelmed with the number of women seeking our services following the Coronavirus pandemic," said Courtney Wallace from Women Comment.

"This project will provide comprehensive employment and career counselling services to 50 local women in the Bass Coast Shire."

She said with tourism, hospitality and retail being hit hard by the pandemic, a large number of women lost their jobs and were facing financial insecurity.

"Women are over-represented in local unemployment rates, and most continue to carry the additional burden of higher domestic workloads and increased family responsibilities arising from the pandemic.

"We know that many employability skills can be transferred across a range of industries and applications," she said.

"Our professional career counselling service will provide local women with the tools and resources they need to navigate a new pathway into the industries emerging strongly post-COVID 19."

Other winners

Other major winners included Ocean Reach Brewery, which received \$20,000 for new fermenters to enable the shift to wholesale production. Earlier this year, the company was awarded \$25,000 under the state government's Small Scale and Craft grant program, only to have it revoked 24 hours later on a technicality.

Wildlife Coast Cruises received \$10,000 to ensure their boats were COVID-19 ready and Free 3D Hands received \$8,000 towards solar panels and Tesla power walls at their factory.

Rusty Water Brewery Restaurant and Bar received \$12,960 to create a permanent space for the local producers food hub they introduced when the COVID restrictions began.

A Maze'N Things was funded \$9,182 to help upgrade their facilities while the San Remo Hotel received \$11,000 to establish a separate upstairs kitchen in the venue.

Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowls received \$16,760 to install an automatic sliding front door, while the Phillip Island Wedding Group was funded \$9,650 to create videos promoting Bass Coast as a wedding destination.

Once they receive their funding, all grant recipients have six months to complete their projects.

"We made it very clear that there is flexibility, and we will work with them to make it as easy as possible," said Cr Tessari.

Any business or group that received funding is also obliged to provide a full grant acquittal report within 30 days of completing their project.

A full list of recipients is available on council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/resiliencegrants

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Free entry to Nature Parks

Phillip Island Nature Parks has announced new temporary opening hours and entry arrangements for its attractions effective from next week. And locals are the big winners, with free entry on offer.

The Penguin Parade will now only open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and remain closed during the week.

The Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island will open only on Saturdays and Sundays.

Local residents will be able to access all the attractions for free.

“These actions will allow our business to continue to contribute to our local and regional Victorian economy whilst playing our part in keeping our staff and communities safe, and slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19),” said Nature Parks CEO, Catherine Basterfield.

“We are also delighted to be able to offer free entry to our communities in regional Victoria from Friday, July 24.

“This goodwill measure will help to support our local community throughout this challenging time and allow us to showcase our wonderful Nature Parks that we are all

so proud of.”

Online bookings are essential for all visitors (including infants). Numbers will remain limited to 100, and physical distancing and enhanced hygiene measures will continue to be implemented and enforced.

Local residents and Victorians living in regional areas outside metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will be able to book their free tickets online at www.penguins.org.au from Tuesday, July 21, with tickets being released in two week blocks.

Each adult visitor (including local residents) will need to present photo identification (eg. drivers licence) showing their primary place of residence in regional Victoria.

Nature Parks walking tracks, boardwalks, reserves, and beaches are open for recreational use by regional Victorians with appropriate physical distancing. Essential conservation activities will also continue behind the scenes including caring for wildlife, scientific research, pest plant and animal control and revegetation.

The Antarctic Journey and Nobbies visitor centre will remain closed for the time being.

Golden Cypress gone

The Thompson Avenue Golden Cypress tree attacked earlier this year has died.

The tree, on the footpath between Chapel Street and the Esplanade, was planted three years ago as part of a program to maintain the iconic trees along Thompson Avenue.

In March, shop owners were horrified to see workmen hacking off branches and called the police.

Bass Coast Shire Council also investigated the incident and confirmed an infringement notice had been issued to the responsible party.

The tree was inspected and roped off, but unfortunately did not survive the attack.

Anne Davie from the Friends of



This Golden Cypress tree in Thompson Avenue died after being attacked in March this year. A new tree will be planted in its place in the coming weeks.

the Thompson Avenue Golden Cypress said they were appalled at the destruction of the tree.

“The trees are hard to establish and this one was thriving. It is difficult to understand, as what appears to have happened, is the tree was destroyed because it was a nuisance.”

“The Avenue with its planting commencing in 1912 is the town’s priceless icon. It connects the community to the past, is valued by the present and must be preserved for future generations to enjoy and to take pride in.”

A council spokesperson confirmed a new tree was scheduled to be planted in the coming weeks.

“We will be installing a guard around the area for the protection of the new tree to ensure it survives and is not vandalised again.”

Path of “destruction” on Rhyll Road

Conservationists say they are concerned large numbers of trees have been cut down to make way for a path into one of the island’s most-loved conservation reserves.

A new gravel pathway about 680 metres long and 2.5 metres-wide – including 80 metres of boardwalk – will join an existing path on the Cowes Rhyll Road to the informal Oswin Roberts Reserve carpark, with works by the Bass Coast Shire starting this month and taking up to three months to finish.

The new path will clear about .1ha of trees and make a shorter journey, with pedestrians and cyclists currently having to divert into the reserve and back to the car park to continue to Rhyll.

Citizen scientist and local resident Ron Day

said it was ironic trees were being destroyed so people could enjoy nature.

“I understand and appreciate the convenience of this link for a limited number of users. But whatever the justification, it is another example of bit by bit human destruction continuing to eat away at our natural environment and wildlife habitat,” Ron said.

Phillip Island Conservation Society Jeff Nottle agreed, saying urban trees in particular were being increasingly cut down, with no new replacements.

“PICS is always concerned with the loss of significant trees and vegetation on our island,” Jeff said.

“It also causes loss of habitat for our wildlife who become displaced leading to roadkill and

seeking refuge where possible including on private farms and properties.

“Maintaining and enhancing habitat is important to sustain our wildlife, biolinks and natural ecosystems.”

Ron has been undertaking the gruesome task of tallying roadkills on the Cowes-Rhyll Road for a university study, where he has counted more than 300 dead animals in a year on a 3.6km section of the Cowes-Rhyll Road, part of a new virtual fencing trial to reduce these deaths.

PICS is currently creating a significant tree register, in a bid to protect Phillip Island’s most important vegetation.

Jeff said the register had been delayed because of the pandemic, but a report would be

given to the council by the end of August.

A Bass Coast Shire spokesperson said about .1ha in vegetation would be removed to make way for the path, with trees offset.

“Some non-native vegetation has already been removed or relocated,” the spokesperson said.

“We are currently awaiting approval from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to remove the native vegetation.

“The trees will be offset, which is a requirement of the permit.”

The spokesperson said the new path would create jobs.

“Council is committed to supporting businesses and the local community in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

FREE ENTRY for our community

The Nature Parks invites members of our regional communities to visit our attractions FREE OF CHARGE.



To keep our staff and communities safe, and to help contribute to our local economy, we’re staying open to regional Victorians with some new, temporary opening hours.

- Penguin Parade open Friday, Saturday, Sunday nights only
- Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island open Saturday and Sunday only

Online bookings essential for all visitors (including babies), with numbers capped at 100 to maximise physical distancing.

Each adult visitor will need to present photo identification (eg. drivers licence) showing their primary place of residence is in regional Victoria (no exceptions).

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Students return for term 3

Last week, students across Bass Coast returned for term three.

Regional schools in Victoria were able to open their doors, while in metropolitan Melbourne students from Prep to Year 10 returned to online learning, due to the latest COVID-19 outbreak.

Although there were no additional requirements mandated by the government for regional schools, Newhaven College said it has stepped up its safety and hygiene regime, to keep staff and students safe.

The College has implemented daily temperature checks for all students and essential visitors on arrival at school.

With the support of the chemists on the island, and a donation from a parent, they obtained a dozen non-contact thermometers for the temperature screening.

Students are encouraged to wear masks when traveling on the College buses, and staff are encouraged to wear masks when social distancing is not possible.

Principal Gea Lovell said: "We have done and will continue to do all we can to make the College clean, hygienic and as safe as we possibly can during face to face learning."

She acknowledged the cooperation of all students, but in particular the secondary students who are also taking responsibility for hygiene throughout the day by cleaning their desks.

"All students are repeatedly reminded about the personal hygiene expectations especially in relation to hand washing."

The school has employed extra cleaners who are onsite all day cleaning high touch areas throughout the school.

The school said when weather allows, windows and doors have remained open, "to ensure that good ventilation and fresh air is circulating".

Sanitiser stations are also set up in every building.

Mrs Lovell said: "We are pleased that our parents have been extremely supportive in adhering to the staggered arrival and departure times for

students, and that they are following the guidelines to ensure social distancing. We have also greatly valued their input as we work together to minimise risks.

"This is a challenging and difficult time for all, but it has also given us the opportunity to learn new ways of working with students, families, teachers, and our community. We always aim to provide a safe College and want to limit the risks to our College community."

Secondary College

Darren Parker, Principal at Wonthaggi Secondary College said as Bass Coast was outside the current lockdown area, the hygiene requirements remained unchanged.

"We are doing a deep clean all day, every day on both campuses," he said, explaining cleaners were on site wiping all high contact areas such as door handles and railings throughout the day.

Student and staff were expected to maintain social distancing and there were hand sanitising stations throughout both campuses.

The school has also implemented staggered class times, to minimise contact.

Mr Parker said face masks had been discussed with students and there were a number who were wearing them.



Newhaven College receptionist Salome Rapson does a temperature test for Year 8 student Allison Hall, as part of Newhaven College's extra return-to-school safety measures.

"We made it clear students could wear masks if it makes them feel more comfortable."

He said "students have returned well" and are doing a great job settling into the new school term.

"All the measures we've had in place continue this term," he said, adding that "at this stage" there were no plans to expand them.

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Failed San Remo golf course leaves a mess

An historic planning anomaly that has hamstrung property owners in San Remo will now go to the Victorian Planning Minister for a solution.

Amendment C150Basc seeks to rezone part of a failed golf course development - dating back to the '90s - on land at 126 Shetland Heights Road, from low density residential zone to general residential, which requires a planning panel and ministerial approval.

Councillors at last week's Bass Coast Shire meeting agreed to "clean up the historic mess", which has seen 27 submissions to the amendment process, including 19 in support and five objections.

The site is known as Bass Resort and includes 46 accommodation units spread across four apartment blocks.

Back when it was developed, the units were developed and sold through land tenure provided to individual purchases in 399-year leases, common at the time, according to a shire planning officers report.

In 2007, shortly after completion of 46 of the units, the site went into receivership for five years and during this time development ceased construction.

The report states 60 per cent of the units at the time remained vacant, thus resulting in limited funds being available for maintenance and improvements.

It said in 2012 Bass Coast Resort purchased the freehold land on which the resort is constructed.

A separate company Bass Coast Owners Pty Ltd was set up as the de facto owner's corporation.

The report stated that with no resort facilities and golf course, Bass Resort has been left with a non-conforming land use, which cannot be further subdivided, "resulting in the land staying in single ownership with a leasing structure that has proven to be problematic for managing the business, encouraging investment and securing bank funding".

The amendment seeks to resolve these issues by placing the land in the general residential zone, allowing the apartments to be subdivided without a restrictive minimum lot area.

This means rezoning would turn what was created as resort accommodation into strata title apartment blocks, creating individual titles for each of the apartments, and allowing them to be sold individually.

Council briefs

Vegetation wins over development

A proposed subdivision on land abutting the Cowes' coastal fringe has been refused by Bass Coast Shire councillors, against the advice of shire planning officers.

Officers recommended councillors approve the subdivision of land at 27 McRae Avenue into two lots, which would see the removal of about 10 swamp paperbarks, some of moderate significance.

Nine objections were lodged against the planning permit and Cr Michael Whelan at last week's meeting moved an alternative motion to refuse the permit.

"This is on the coast and to treat it as being in Cowes is not appropriate," Cr Whelan said, adding the proposal was not in keeping with neighbourhood character and had an unacceptable impact on native vegetation.

Cr Whelan said the planning scheme was "one size fits all" and did not allow for exceptions such as this property.

Cr Stephen Fullarton agreed saying McRae Avenue was already a busy street in a quiet part of Cowes and the subdivision would "unacceptably add to congestion".

Livestream

A move to make livestreaming of Bass Coast Shire council meetings permanent has failed.

Cr Geoff Ellis at last week's meeting moved a motion calling for council to cease its current six-month livestreaming trial, recognise its success, and resolve to continue permanently.

The motion also stated a report on its effectiveness was not required, as previously agreed by council.

"The feedback I'm getting from the community I believe is overwhelming, it's a success," Cr Ellis said.

"I don't think we'll ever go back to not livestreaming. It should be considered a fundamental way we do business."

However, Cr Ellis lost the vote after the majority of councillors agreed to finish the six-month trial and receive a report on its effectiveness.

"We have been forced into this (because of the pandemic) and it's working really well," Cr Pam Rothfield said.

"I feel it's a decision for the next council to make and they do need a report to analyse how well it's doing and costs for the long term."

Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association president Kevin Griffin questioned why the current draft 2020/21 budget does not contain any allocation for the continued funding of livestreaming of council meetings.

Boring but important

Community feedback is being sought on Bass Coast Shire's draft Governance Rules, including the revised Election Period Policy to Council for consideration.

Cr Les Larke said while the issue was dry, it impacted the community "so it's important to get meaningful feedback".

The rules will be open for community consultation for two weeks from July 16 and adopted at the August 19 council meeting.

A second item that received councillors' support was the Administrative Procedures Local Law, which will see a member of the public able to be fined \$825 if they are acting in a disorderly fashion in council meetings.

Council Update



Have your say: Governance Rules and Administrative Procedure Local Law

Draft Governance Rules

We're looking for your feedback on our draft Governance Rules 2020 and revised Election Period Policy 2020. This is an opportunity to shape public question time and the timelines and conduct of Council meetings. The Governance Rules will replace our existing Meeting Procedure Local Law 2018, and cover procedures including the election of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor. They also address the Good Governance Principles in the Local Government Act 2020 and include an Election Period Policy and an enhanced approach to addressing Conflict of Interest.

Feedback can be sent to basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au, or by post to Manager Governance and Property, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi, 3995. Feedback to be received by the close of consultation period 5.00pm Thursday, 30 July.

Administrative Procedures Local Law

We're looking for your feedback on the draft Administrative Procedures Local Law which addresses the Common Seal and offences. Submissions can be sent to basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au, or by post to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi, 3995. Submissions to be received by the close of consultation period 5.00pm Thursday, 12 August.

Viewing the draft documents

The draft Governance Rules, revised Election Period Policy and draft Administrative Procedures Local Law 2020 are now available to view on Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings and paper copies are available at the Bass Coast Civic Centre (airlock) in Wonthaggi and the Grantville Transaction Centre, as well as Bass Coast libraries.

The final draft Governance Rules 2020, revised Election Period Policy and the final draft Administrative Procedures Local Law 2020 will be tabled for adoption at the Ordinary Council Meeting on Wednesday, 19 August 2020.

Special Council Meeting

A Special Meeting of Council to hear submissions regarding the proposed 2020/21 Budget will be livestreamed at 11.00am on Wednesday, 29 July 2020. Join us on the livestream link at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings. The proposed 2020/21 Budget is available on Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget. The agenda is released on Council's website on Friday 24 July www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings.

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



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Flourishing Figures

Last year, Shelley Beilharz of Flourishing Figures expanded her accounting businesses and set up an office in Cowes.

The move came after she bought Mick Mahoney and Associates, with Mick staying on to help ensure a smooth transition for all customers. Mick has now retired, and the Cowes office has had a makeover.

There have also been a number of system upgrades, which is very fortunate given the current climate of COVID-19. We are able to work remotely and provide a flexible approach to Tax Time this year.

We will have limited in person appointments and we encourage the use of masks. We can also offer phone appointments and we have an easy to use form on our website (go to ff.tax/taxreturn and find the blue section).

Normally at this time of year we are looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones, however we understand that we won't be seeing all of you this year.

Appointments can be booked online via the website www.flourishingfigures.com.au or by phoning 1300 865 624.



Shelley Beilharz, of Flourishing Figures, is an experienced and qualified Chartered Accountant (CA) with an office in Chapel Street in Cowes.

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- Melaleuca Lodge
- Men's Shed of Phillip Island
- National Vietnam Vets Museum
- Newhaven Primary School
- Newhaven Soccer Club
- Newhaven Yacht Club
- Offshore Theatre Group
- Phillip Island Artist's Society
- Phillip Island Bridge Club
- Phillip Island CFA
- Phillip Island Community and Adult Learning centre (PICAL)

- Phillip Island Croquet Club
- Phillip Island Early Learning Centre
- Phillip Island Football Netball Club
- Phillip Island Golf Club
- Phillip Island Health Hub
- Phillip Island Historical Society
- Phillip Island Jazz Festival
- Phillip Island Landcare
- Phillip Island Senior Citizens
- Phillip Island Wildlife Rescue
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- Woodleigh Hall
- Woolamai Races
- Woolamai SLC Nippers
- Woolamai Surf Lifesaving Club



Making good things happen

Get your business back on track

The next three months will be the most crucial time small business owners will face in their entire business lives says Simon Manning of Coastal View Financial Services. With Government subsidies in cashflow boosts and Jobkeeper finishing in September, your business needs to start planning now. (Government is expected to announce on 23rd July 2020 if Jobkeeper is to be extended past September for certain industries and businesses and to what capacity).

Cashflow, tax and strategic planning are vital and hard decisions must be made. Some businesses have already closed due to the current pandemic. Business owners have some hard decisions to make. Whether you are looking at re-branding and growing your business or winding it down it all takes careful consideration and lots of planning and decision making. Sometimes though it is hard to do, the best decision may be to walk away rather than risk your personal finances being completely ruined.

Coastal View Financial Services is your local Accountancy Practice who can help you now. They are urging all business owners that now is the time to evaluate and plan for the future. A local practice on Phillip Island for over 25 years offering a broad range of taxation, accounting, bookkeeping, business management, cloud integration, financial planning and mortgage broking, they can set you up to succeed in both personal and business goals.

Coastal View strive to assist clients to achieve their goals in business and in life by helping to build a better business and work life balance. For new clients we evaluate their admin and accounting systems to make sure they are assisting in achieving their goals. We want to empower business owners to concentrate on what they do best. Most business owners say they are time poor; we will work with you to free up time so you are not missing out of being in the moment with your family or that latest Netflix series

Simon Manning is the founder of the business which was set up over 25 years ago. Simon is a CPA and has a specialist Self-Managed Super Fund advisor. Along with his dedicated team headed by Jodie Ross, Director of Accounting & Bookkeeping, Julie Cooper, Deb Robinson, Max Mattock and Mirade Clarke and other associates, they have the capacity to offer a wide variety of services to small business owners and individuals.

They offer a one stop shop for all your business and financial needs. Partnered with the Best Practice Group who are specialised Business Development Advisors and Business Coaches, Fitzpatricks Private Wealth who offer a broad range of financial planning advice and a dedicated Mortgage Broker to help smooth out the borrowing or refinancing process.

Reach out to Simon Manning and his team at Coastal View today to start working on your new work/life balance.



From left to right Simon Manning, Max Mattock and Shane Case.

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Who we are

Coastal View Financial Services is a one-stop shop and we offer a broad range of tax, accounting and business management services for private individuals as well as small and medium sized businesses.

Our Vision

Every day we assist you on your journey to achieve your goals in business and in life.

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We will be regarded as the region's leading firm for building better businesses, creating better work/life balance, and improving your ability to do what you love because we will handle the rest. Our clients will recommend us for our mentoring, that they work smarter not harder, and our ability to grow and protect their wealth.

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Phillip Island Tyre Service
101 Settlement Rd, Cowes 5952 1480

Don't buy a lemon
CARFIND
0419 930 666

New Phillip Island centre planned, but not here

A centre that celebrates Phillip Island's environment is being proposed to be built at Tooradin.

The centre is the brainchild of the Healesville to Phillip Island Nature Link (HPNL) environmental advocacy group, which aims to protect wildlife habitat from suburban development between Healesville and Phillip Island.

HPNL president Dr Pat Macwhirter said while they were yet to receive funding, concept designs had been drawn up for a biodiversity research centre in Tooradin, mid-way between Healesville and Phillip Island.

"The whole impetus for HPNL came after seeing the housing growth of Pakenham and the loss of wildlife corridors," she said, adding the concept designs had been drawn by 13 Monash University architecture students.

"It's happening all over the suburbs. Species become isolated in little pockets and we lose them because there's no way they can connect. "So we really want to plan wildlife corridors within urban areas from Healesville to the island on public and private land."

Dr Macwhirter said the group was formed in 2017 and while it advocates for Phillip Island, it was yet to have a member from the island, with HPNL members including Western Port Biosphere, Dolphin Research Institute, Western Port Seagrass Partnership, and the Platypus Conservancy.

"Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire and local conservation groups have done such a good job with the island, but yes it would be lovely to have them on our group as well. We are united in spirit."



Dr Pat Macwhirter with a designer at the potential location for a biodiversity research centre in Tooradin, to showcase Phillip Island's flora and fauna.

She hoped the centre would be built within five years and include tourism, education, climate change research, technology and a "future foods" plant café, all powered by sustainable energy and built with hempcrete materials, which require no heating or cooling.

The centre would provide experiences to inspire visitors and help them to discover and learn about local land-based and marine life – with the aim of teaching them how to understand, respect and protect our environment, the life within it, and to educate the future caretakers of it.

Dr Macwhirter is also lobbying with water-line residents to ensure the Holden Proving Ground at Lang Lang – currently for sale – is bought by government and retained as a high-value conservation property.



Members of the Cape Woolamai Action Group recently planted 140 native shrubs and grasses along the access track at Broadbeach Avenue.

Coastal action at Cape Woolamai

After months of uncertainty the Cape Woolamai Coast Action Group managed to hold a working bee on Saturday July 11.

A group of eight volunteers turned up to plant 140 native shrubs and grasses along the access track at Broadbeach Avenue, Cape Woolamai.

Plants for the working bee were provided from the Barb Martin Bushbank, by the Bass Coast Shire Council.

"We work in conjunction with the shire and regularly

undertake planting, weed control and maintenance programs along the foreshore at Cleeland Bight," said Peter Dumergue from the action group.

"This area was chosen due to the failure of a previous planting around three years ago. The plants failed to take mainly because of seasonally late planting and lack of rainfall."

The group has undertaken a recruitment drive over the past few months.

"We are pleased that there

has been considerable interest from within the community to join in the ongoing maintenance and care program for the Cape Woolamai foreshore," Peter said.

"Unfortunately, the current restrictions are preventing some of this activity at the moment."

The group's next working bee is planned for Saturday August 8. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Marg or Peter Dumergue on 5956 7372.

School community in mourning

Wonthaggi Secondary College is mourning the loss of a key member of the school community.

Business Manager Steve Plumb, who worked at the school for 20 years, passed away on July 7.

Principal Darren Parker said the sudden loss was "shocking" and the news had "shattered" the school community.

"The news has really hit us hard and knocked everyone for six," he said.

Last week, the school posted a notice on Facebook.

"For 20 years Steve and his family have been an integral part of our community and we wish to extend our heartfelt sympathies to Terra, Zoe, Emma, Josh, Sadie, Sandra and the extended family," the post said.

"Steve's integrity and commitment to social equity were absolute. He worked tirelessly in supporting all staff, students and their families to ensure our young people had access to quality education. Highly regarded for his professionalism and financial expertise, at a recent retirement function



Steve's pivotal role in the realisation of the new McKenzie Campus was celebrated. The WSC Community has indeed benefited from Steve's service to education and will miss him very much."

Mr Parker described Steve as a "top operator" who was deeply connected to both the school and the local community.

The school shared a message from the Plumb family, who said words could not explain their grief.

The family thanked the first responders and the team at Wonthaggi Hospital who attempted to revive Steve, who suffered a heart attack while riding his bike.

"We appreciate all the messages of love and support and kind gestures that have been flowing in. We are all very fortunate to be surrounded by such a caring family and community."

The family has set up a donation page at Noah's Gift in Steve Plumb's memory.

Donations can be made at: www.mycase.com.au/page/230812/in-loving-memory-of-stephen-plumb



From left to right: Archie – grade 1, Hayley – grade 3, Dallas – grade 1, Asha – grade 3 as well as Lorna, Sally and Layla in Prep ready to help themselves to some more yummy fish and chips from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op.

Kids, it's chips ahoy!

San Remo Primary School was delighted to be given a free hot fish and chips lunch from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op last week.

Principal Karen Bowker said it was a big surprise when Paul from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op called and offered the free lunch to the whole school.

"The children were beside themselves to get a hot lunch on Wednesday and thoroughly enjoyed it," she said.

"It was a mammoth task by the San Remo Fish-

erman's Co-op to deliver beautifully cooked fish and chips hot to our door.

"We can't thank Paul and his team from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op enough for our lunch. It was a such a surprise and something that the children will remember for a long while," she said.

"It was just what we needed in these uncertain times and gave us a huge morale boost to sit together and share a lovely meal.

"This is a great reminder of such a wonderful community we live in."



Into The Dark Forest by Rhonda Buitenhuis received a Commended by this month's evaluator, Paul Lucas.

The 'Best of the Best'

A report from Phillip Island Camera Club

Local photographer and member of the Phillip Island Camera Club, Gary Parnell has been advised by Pixoto that his image K190 (a steam train) is in the top five per cent out of over eight million images around the world in the Transport Category for 2019.

Pixoto is a website where photographers can display their images. Each image is set up against another image in a duel, which can then be voted on by other Pixoto photographers.

Paul Lucas was the evaluator for the Black and White Landscape topic. He awarded Highly Commended to Joanne Linton, Gary Parnell, Lynne Cook, Frank Zulian, Phyllis Brereton and Rhonda Buitenhuis with Commended awarded to Lynne Cook, Rhonda Buitenhuis, Kathryn Shadbolt, Jenny Skewes, Jenny Sierakowski, Brenda Berry, Frank Zulian and Helen Stewart.

Into the Dark Forest by Rhonda Buitenhuis was taken

at Churchill Island and was an entry into the Black and White Landscape topic for evaluation. Paul thought the image instantly grabbed the viewer's attention to spend more time viewing it in more detail. He felt it was a simple uncluttered scene demonstrating the concept 'Less is More', had an almost artistic feel, was moody and told a story. It received a Commended.

A link to the video slideshow with the critique has been put

on the website. Another link to a video of the monthly challenge of "Silhouettes" has also been put on the website. This month's challenge is "Cloudscapes".

The continuation of the lockdown has meant no meetings still, but members shall be ready to swing back into action as soon as restrictions are lifted to make up for lost time.

For further information on the Phillip Island Camera Club please phone Susan on 0408 136 717.



K190 at Night by Gary Parnell is in the top five per cent of over eight million images on the Pixoto website.

October election still on Thanks Vinnies

The state government has rejected calls to postpone the October local council elections. Earlier this month, the Municipal Association of Victoria asked the government to defer the elections due to ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They made a similar request in April. The MAV believes the current lockdown will have a serious impact on candidates' ability to campaign and consult with the community.

However the new Local Government Minister, Shaun Leane, said the election date will not be postponed.

"Council elections will go ahead across the state on Saturday, October 24 via postal ballot," the Minister said.

"Victorians have a democratic right to vote for their representatives at all levels of government."

"Local councils are doing some great work in the challenging coronavirus environment and will continue to play a vital role in community recovery."

"Newly elected councillors will have the important task of setting vital four-year plans that prioritise recovery," he continued.

"I encourage Victorians to stand for their council and contribute to this important work."

Minister Leane was appointed after Adem Somyurek was fired by the Premier in June, for alleged branch stacking.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said he attended a meeting with the new minister a

fortnight ago.

"At that meeting, Minister Leane indicated he won't be changing the date," Cr Tessari said.

Lockdown

Thirty-two Victorian councils are currently impacted by the lockdown.

Cr Tessari said when the MAV had raised the issue with the previous Local Government Minister, 95 per cent of councils supported the move to postpone the election.

"I can't imagine coming into this crisis situation as a new councillor," he said.

Reiterating concerns he raised in April this year, Cr Tessari said it was not just about managing the voting process, but an administration issue on how to bring a new council on board.

"It seems a bit hard to consider how you would run an election and bring in a new council in the middle of what we're going through."

"I'm not sure how you'd do it and given the social restrictions, would it be a fair playing field for candidates?"

A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed council made a submission to the MAV in April.

"The submission stated that our preference was to delay the election for 12 months."

The Victorian Local Government elections are scheduled for October 24 this year. www.vec.vic.gov.au

The staff at Vinnies in Cowes have received a big shout out for their support for local families.

Bianca, a single mum from Phillip Island has described the team as "amazing people" saying they've gone out of their way to support her over the past five years.

With so many people experiencing hardship due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Bianca wanted to acknowledge the contribution of Vinnies to the community, and to encourage people needing help to reach out.

After a bad family breakdown, Bianca said she turned to Vinnies.

"They helped me with my rent, with food ... they kept me going."

"Linda and the team at Vinnies are amazing. They've never turned me away and they go out of their way to help."

Money raised in the popular Thompson Avenue op shop supports the work of the Vinnies Conference Team, a group of volunteers who provide assistance for those in need.

Bianca said the team had supported her for the past couple of years, including paying for her son to attend a school camp and helping with school fees.

Earlier this year, they even helped with an urgent roadside repair job.

"I was stuck in Broken Hill when my car broke down. I didn't have enough money to pay for the repairs to get back on the road," Bianca said.

Needing to get back to Victoria to pick up her kids, Bianca said she made a call to Vinnies at Cowes.

Within a few hours, they'd



Money raised in the popular Thompson Avenue op shop supports the work of the Vinnies Conference Team, a group of volunteers who provide assistance for those in need.

helped sort payment for the repairs and she was on the road.

She said this was just one example of the incredible support and care she's received over the years.

"No matter when I call, they're always there. They've never let me down."

She described the Vinnies team as the "ones in the shadows, but they go above and beyond to help people".

"I specifically want to thank Linda, Kaye, Sarah and Terry. They've moved mountains for me."

Bianca said anyone struggling shouldn't hesitate to contact Vinnies.

"A lot of people feel ashamed that they have to ask for help. I was like that," she said.

"But they don't look down on you. They're lovely people who are out to help other

people.

Help the helpers

All Vinnies Shops work hand in hand with locally-run volunteer groups, known as 'conferences'.

The shops help fund local welfare programs run by volunteers, who help with food, fuel, bills, education costs and more.

In Victoria, Vinnies receives less than one per cent government funding. In addition to the shops they rely on annual appeals such as the current Vinnies COVID-19 Winter Appeal.

People wanting to help Vinnies volunteers continue in their good work can donate to the Winter Appeal by calling 13 18 12.

To contact the Cowes store, call 5952 6856 or email cows.centre@sudp-vic.org.au

Federal Government should buy Holden land

Efforts to protect the "rare" and "unique" 800ha Holden Proving Ground in Lang Lang have been cranked up by Bass Coast Shire councillors, who have urged the Federal Government to buy the land.

Two months ago council called on the State Government to purchase the site, which is currently owned by General Motors, in order to preserve its habitat, home to endangered indigenous plant and wildlife species.

"But we're getting no traction on that so I think we have to ramp up efforts," Cr Clare Le Serve said. The proving ground started in 1957 but is now on the market for sale after an announcement in February by GM that it would wind down sales, design and engineering opera-

tions in Australia and New Zealand and retire the Holden brand by 2021.

Cr Geoff Ellis last week successfully moved a motion requesting an urgent meeting with the Victorian Planning Minister to discuss how to protect the site through planning policies, and calling for the Federal Government to fund the purchase of the land.

"This is our best chance, a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something for this environment that contains more than a quarter of the remnant vegetation on this side of Western Port, it's rare and unique," Cr Ellis said.

"It's fragile bushland that belongs to the people of Victoria. The worst fear for this fragile place is that it is lost to sandmining."

Too blue for whale

The newly installed blue synthetic grass surrounding the whale sculpture at the Cowes Jetty is being removed.

Bass Coast Shire Council said the previous green synthetic grass was faulty and needed to be replaced.

Blue grass was installed by mistake and a Council spokesperson said it "will soon be rectified".

This will be welcome news to many residents, including Wayne Stanley from Cowes, who described the blue grass as "incongruous" in a letter to the editor on July 8.

"Shame on Bass Coast Shire for stuffing up a very expensive work of art," he said.

"Remove the matting and restore the sculpture from being our most recent eyesore."

The \$94,000 art installation created by former Phillip Island artist Victoria Nelson was installed in 2018 as part of the redevelopment of the Cowes Jetty Triangle.

A humpback whale and calf cut from white marble measuring about five metres in length is positioned into the sloping grass, with the adult whale appearing to dive.



While some residents have been scathing of the blue turf around the whale sculpture at the Cowes Jetty, that didn't deter youngsters Finnegan and Fergus from having a whale of a time!

Online literary fest

The Phillip Island Story Gatherers are holding another online author event on Tuesday, July 28.

The event, starting at 7.30pm features celebrated Indigenous author Tony Birch in conversation with local author Chris Flynn.

The pair will be discussing Tony's best-selling novel, *The White Girl*, was shortlisted for this year's Miles Franklin award.

Tickets are \$10 per person and are limited, so book your online place via <https://www.trybooking.com/BKKYB> or visit www.the-philip-island-story-gatherers.com for more details.



Miles Franklin shortlisted author Tony Birch will discuss his novel *The White Girl* in a special online presentation by the Phillip Island Story Gatherers at 7.30pm on July 28.



FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE

URGENTLY NEED PROPERTIES FOR SALE

13 Bella Vista Road, Cowes \$750,000

This original beach house is the perfect start; with so much potential because of the land size and north facing aspect. Create the dream home with ample room for boat or caravan. Another option is to make three lots, all with north facing environment (STCA). We haven't mentioned the easy access to the Cowes Foreshore or walking distance to Cowes main street.



LAND AHoy!

118 Red Rocks Road, Cowes, \$459,000

The perfect beach house awaits. The downstairs features a separate living and bathroom area which is perfect for guests or additional family members. Upstairs comprises of 3 bedrooms kitchen, dining and living area which flows out to the decking area. Relax on the decking area whilst taking in the surrounding views of farmland and the Ventnor area. The property is fully fenced and is low maintenance all round which makes the perfect holiday property.



RED ROCKS RETREAT

11/4 The Esplanade, Cowes \$769,000

This outstanding location on the Cowes foreshore has unparalleled views. Nestled in the C- Scape complex on The Esplanade, time can really stand still as you admire the outlook. Park 2 cars in the underground garage and enjoy all Cowes has to offer. The size of this unit is such an asset as you could retire to this property or there is huge potential for a holiday rental income.



LOCATION/VIEWS – OUTSTANDING APARTMENT!

www.phillipislandfn.com.au
60 Thompson Ave, Cowes

OPEN 7 DAYS
5952 3922

Drive through tests at Wonthaggi

Bass Coast Health is now offering drive through testing at Wonthaggi Hospital in a bid to test more people and help contain any outbreak of coronavirus in the region.

The new facility is part of the state government's drive to increase testing in regional areas.

While coronavirus numbers are far lower in regional areas than metropolitan Melbourne, over the past two weeks there have been around 40 cases recorded across non-restricted areas.

In a media statement, the government said: "The new and expanded sites are focusing on areas with higher case rates and recent cases, based on the public health advice. We will continue to monitor for any gaps and adjust our testing sites and locations as necessary including additional access planned for Gippsland and Ballarat."

Regional public health teams have also been established to provide case management and improve contact tracing. There is currently no team proposed for Bass Coast, although the government said they would be introduced to more regional locations as required.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, was at Wonthaggi Hospital last Friday to see the marquee set up and the first community members drive through.

"I strongly encourage people to get tested even with the mildest of symptoms," Ms Crugnale said.

"Drive in, get tested, it's so much quicker and the BCH staff are just wonderful. We all have to work together, be that model of good behaviour and safe practises, do our bit to track the spread and drive the numbers down."

BCH has conducted over 4000 tests since March 14 and looks forward to conducting more tests with the drive through facility.

Fast and simple

Registered Nurse Gabby O'Connor swabs people at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Gabby said people may be frightened of being tested because of rumours they've heard about the test being scary. Patients are swabbed in the throat and nostril, and the test is fast and simple.

"It's uncomfortable up the nose but



Bass MLA Jordan Crugnale, with Registered Nurses Wendy Lions and Cath Jones at the drive through testing clinic, Wonthaggi Hospital.

it is very quick. I have tested babies through to elderly people here. Babies and young ones handle it well with their parents' assistance with positioning and distraction," Gabby said.

"We try to make it fun and light, and joke around with the little kids.

"We provide reassurance and comfort throughout the testing process, and enable the patient and their families to ask any questions they may have."

Once patients drive into the hospital car park, they will be directed to wait in a queue and will not have to

leave their car.

Testing at the Phillip Island Health Hub continues 24 hours per day, where anyone entering the hub is screened at the door. They are asked questions relating to symptoms of COVID-19 to ensure anyone with potential symptoms is identified.

Jan Child, Bass Coast Health CEO said even with the mildest of symptoms, people should still present for testing.

"This is an extremely important measure that will save lives. I also ask people to be patient.

"Victoria is doing in the order of 30,000 tests a day and the increased numbers of testing may create some delays in results. This can be anything between one and five days based on the influx of the day."

Testing is available at the Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day) and Wonthaggi Hospital (10am-5pm, 7 days a week).

You can also book for a test at Wonthaggi Medical Centre, Monday to Friday (Ph: 0492 036 568 or www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/wonthaggi-VIC-3995/wonthaggi-respiratory-clinic/doctors).

Visitors evading restrictions? Island in "anti tourism ad"

Victoria's Department of Transport has warned holiday home owners making last-minute lockdown-inspired changes to their addresses could have their motives questioned.

Following Melbourne's lockdown in the past fortnight, there have been concerns some holiday homeowners have moved to the island - despite restrictions requiring them to stay in their primary place of residence.

It comes as local residents say police checkpoints leading to Bass Coast have been hit-and-miss, with random drivers pulled over, while some Melbourne residents travelling on the V-Line bus have come to the island with no ID inspection.

A Transport Department spokesperson told the Advertiser "additional measures" had been put in place to "ensure any changes of address are for genuine reasons".

"We are reviewing all changes to licence holders' addresses in Stage 3 restricted areas to ensure anyone who has changed their address has done so because it is necessary," the spokesperson said.

"We all have a part to play in helping slow the spread in Victoria, following the rules will help reduce transmission and keep all Victorians safe."

Before the latest round of restrictions were introduced for Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, the De-

partment of Transport introduced controls to determine the validity of applications from residents in affected areas, including disabling the capability for them to update their details online.

The department is now contacting customers requesting a change from metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, to provide additional information to substantiate their change.

The spokesperson said allowing customers to change their address online through myVicRoads had made it significantly easier and quicker for customers to update their details, rather than doing this over the phone or in person at a customer service centre.

The department said it was an offence for anyone to falsify official documents or lie to Victoria Police about their name or address when asked.

Anyone lying or withholding information to Victoria Police about their name or place of residence faces a maximum fine of up to \$825.

People must continue to follow the stay at home directions, with only four reasons for people in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire to leave home - shopping for food and supplies, care and caregiving, exercise, work and education, if unable to do it from home.

At first glance this ad appears to be a generic tourism poster, seeming to encourage visitors to "Enjoy Picturesque Phillip Island".

But on closer inspection there's a sting: "on Google Streetview, you ***", with fine print reading "COVID-free", and a play on the State Government's logo: "Do Not Visit Victoria".

The "anti-tourism" ad campaign uses colourful language to urge lockdown Melbournians to stay away from rural Victoria, and was last week rolled out by a couple of Melbourne graphic designers, aiming to shock non-compliant travellers into staying at home.

The posters aren't just focused on Phillip Island, with other tourist destinations in the frame, including Lakes Entrance, Apollo Bay, Ballarat, Mansfield and others.

The campaign comes after reports Melbourne residents moved to rural towns, including the island, in the 24 hours before and after lockdown a fortnight ago.

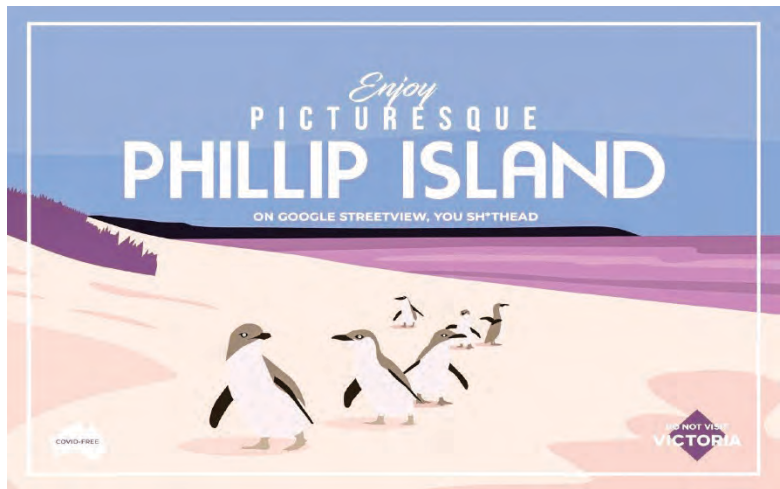
Destination Phillip Island general manager Kim Storey responded to the unofficial ad campaign, saying now was not the time to "create angst and tension between communities".

"But to remember we are all Victorians and will want to explore and support all our towns and cities when safe to do so," Kim said.

"The tourism industry was one of the first industries to be affected by Covid-19 and will be the last to recover, impacting thousands of peoples livelihoods throughout the community and state-wide."

Kim said during a pandemic, the most important action was to observe social distancing restrictions, in addition to kindness.

"This virus does not distinguish



Phillip Island is one of a range of tourist destinations featured in an irreverent "anti-tourism" campaign, urging people to not visit Victoria.

where you live, work or play, and we will all face a long-term recovery.

"For the people who are affected by the virus, whether personally, through family, their business or employment, this is devastating.

"I hope energy can be put into kind acts and that people think about where their support can be best applied."

A Cowes resident who downloaded some of the posters and online merchandise warned would-be buyers after he was slugged in US dollars and a hefty shipping fee, once he'd agreed to purchase and pay for the products.

Popular

The "Do Not Visit Victoria" was created by Melbourne advertising director Jess Wheeler, with collaborator Guillermo Carvajal.

Mr Wheeler told the ABC they created the campaign on the back of the

second lockdown because the gravity of the situation "appears to have eluded some".

"We were reading about how people from Melbourne were fleeing to regional Victoria, either to their holiday homes or just trying to shack up in hotels," Mr Wheeler said.

"It was quite distressing for the towns that don't have the infrastructure to handle an outbreak."

The designs were released on Facebook, also selling merchandise online, with the duo saying the aim was not to make money.

"But a lot of people were saying to us 'Can I purchase these?' or 'Are you going to make t-shirts or prints or tea towels?', which seem to be extremely popular for some reason."

Residents from other rural areas of Victoria not included in the ad campaign have since requested to be included.

Government clarifies service directive

The government has provided further clarification for regional businesses on rules of service.

Last week, local business owners told the Advertiser they were confused and stressed by the requirements, especially around licence checks.

This week, Destination Phillip Island provided clarification of the directive from government.

Any café, hotel or restaurant offering dine-in service must refuse service to anyone from metropolitan

Melbourne or Mitchell shire.

There are no restrictions on takeaway service.

Retail stores are not required to check ID, but must conform to other requirements in terms of social distancing and hygiene.

Hairdressers and beauty salons must record customer details and refuse service for anyone from the restricted areas.

DPI urged any businesses with concerns to contact them.

Temperature checks

At the start of this month, the state government supplied 300 infrared thermometers to Bass Coast, to help safeguard the community during the school holidays.

A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said the thermometers have been distributed to 66 accommodation properties, 17 attractions and 13 other businesses, including gyms, health and wellbeing businesses and real estate agents.

"We visited a number of businesses

that were closed at the time, and have left messages with the owner(s) that a thermometer was available for their business and to contact our Business Support Team," the spokesperson said.

"We also placed a notice in our most current Business in Bass Coast newsletter that was sent on July 13 for any other businesses with communal customer facilities to contact us if they would like to receive a thermometer."

To date, Bass Coast has only recorded six cases of COVID-19 and current-

ly has two active cases.

COVID-19 tests are available from the Phillip Island Health Hub in Cowes, which is open 24 hours, seven days a week.

Anyone presenting with symptoms of Coronavirus, even if they are mild, should stay home and organise to get tested.

The government has also recommended people in regional Victoria wear masks when out in public where it is not possible to maintain the 1.5 metre social distance requirement.

Covid goes backwards in Bass Coast

Bass Coast only has two active cases of COVID-19, not three as previously reported.

Figures from the Chief Health Officer revised the tally of active cases in the shire, with Bass Coast now showing two active cases and six reported cases in total since the start of the pandemic.

The revision came through last Friday, as Victoria recorded 428 new cases. The statement from the department said 13 cases had been reclassified – largely due to duplication.

Last week, Bass Coast Health set up a drive through testing clinic at Wonthaggi Hospital, with 249 tests conducted between the Emergency Department and the drive-through.

Phillip Island Health Hub conducted 72 tests in the past week.

If you experience even the mildest symptoms, please stay home and organise to be tested.

Testing is available at:

- The Phillip Island Health Hub in Cowes, 24 hours a day. Call 5951 2100.
- Wonthaggi Hospital (10am-5pm, 7 days a week).

• You can also book for a test at Wonthaggi Medical Centre, Monday to Friday (Ph: 0492 036 568 or www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/wonthaggi-VIC-3995/wonthaggi-respiratory-clinic/doctors).

Anxious? Support available

Residents in Bass Coast who are experiencing loneliness or social disconnection due to coronavirus (COVID-19) will be able to call a hotline providing access to local emotional and practical support.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale announced Bass Coast Shire would receive \$58,860 to act as a 'community connector' for people who may be experiencing loneliness or social disconnection as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19).

"This is a great initiative that will enable our local networks to provide people in our community with practical, emotional and social support if they need it.

"If you're feeling lonely, give the coronavirus hotline a call on 1800 675 398 and press three to speak to an Australian Red Cross volunteer who will provide a friendly ear and can connect you to supports

in your local community," Ms Crugnale said.

The government will provide more than \$6 million over the next six months for the Community Activation and Social Isolation (CASI) initiative.

The CASI initiative has two components:

- It will expand the Victorian coronavirus hotline (1800 675 398) by partnering with the Australian Red Cross whose volunteers have been trained in psychological first aid, so they can provide emotional support and help callers who may be distressed or anxious.
- The hotline will also link people in need to 'community connectors'. The community connectors will provide local practical help, emotional support and social activities, such as video chats, online book clubs or fitness groups.

The \$58,860 funding will support a local community connector organisation – council or community service organisations – to build networks and strengthen opportunities for community participation and social connection.

To help older Victorians stay connected and participate in social activities during the pandemic, a Social Support Hub has been set up at the Victorian Government's Seniors website at seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/services-information/social-support-hub.

Seniors can find out what services and activities are available in their local area via the Hub. The Hub will be regularly updated with information and links to other community-based organisations offering support and activities to older Victorians, including information about phone line support and local community connectors.



Police checkpoints remain in place on main arterial roads and highways outside of Melbourne.

Police on the look out

Local police have reminded the community that they need to comply with current restrictions, including social distancing.

Senior Sergeant Andy O'Brien said people should be limiting their movements.

"Don't do things that are unnecessary. The reality is, there are active cases in the area and there is the potential for it to grow."

He said police continued to run two shifts a day checking that people were complying with the restriction, but they did rely on the community to help them manage the situation.

"If you are concerned about any breaches, please call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

"We understand there is a lot of angst out there, and we are patrolling places where there are mass gatherings."

Statewide patrols

Statistics from Victoria Police released last week showed over 540 infringement notices were issued in the first week of Melbourne's lockdown.

One hundred and fifty-one of these were issued at vehicle checkpoints.

Police checked 85,886 vehicles on main arterial roads, to ensure people were not trying to leave the lockdown areas and head for regional Victoria.

Checks on main roads and highways continue. Police are using automatic number plate recognition to scan registration details and identify the residential addresses of licence holders.

They also conducted over 16,000 spot checks on homes, businesses and public places.

Grants to stay connected

Grants are now available to help communities stay connected during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Let's Stay Connected Fund provides grants for community organisations, local government bodies, incorporated not-for-profits and industry groups.

Grants of between \$5,000 and \$200,000 are available to support innovative, community-based initiatives that build connection, reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation and that can be implemented quickly – providing much-needed support across the state.

The \$1.3 million fund could potentially help

community groups continue to operate by adapting the way they deliver programs or events, including through online forums.

Other possibilities include support for communities to improve their digital skills and access online communication channels, or new ways for people to continue volunteering within their communities while maintaining physical distancing requirements.

Applications for the Let's Stay Connected Fund are open until August 31 and applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible at djpr.vic.gov.au/lets-stay-connected.



Regional Victorians are being asked to wear masks to help slow and contain the spread of the virus.

Premier asks – put on your mask

In an attempt to slow the spread of the virus, the state government has called on all Victorians in regional areas to wear masks.

The Premier urged regional Victorians over the age of 18 to "use a face mask when they leave the house but cannot physically distance – such as on public transport or while shopping for essential supplies".

He described the move as an added precaution saying that while rates of infection remained low in regional areas, there was a risk of spread from the metropolitan areas.

Wearing masks, along with increased testing sites and the

establishment of local public health teams is designed to slow and contain the spread of the virus in regional areas.

"By putting a ring around metropolitan Melbourne, we're protecting regional Victorians from this public health bushfire – but we also need to be aware of any emerging spot fires," the Premier said.

"We're increasing our testing in regional areas to find as many cases of this deadly virus as possible, and make sure we stop it in its tracks – which will provide us with more options when it comes to future restrictions."

Health Minister Jenny Mi-

kakos urged people to remain vigilant.

"Like every Victorian, regional Victorians are not immune from this global pandemic. We need everyone, no matter where they live, to play their part: keep your distance, wash your hands - and if you've got symptoms, get tested."

A number of local outlets are making and selling cloth masks, including the San Remo bottle shop and Cape Winds. For information on cloth masks, including instructions on how to make one, visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-masks-covid-19>

Mayor urges caution

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said the current wave of Coronavirus infections is a grim reminder that the pandemic is far from over.

"I think we thought we were through it," he said.

"On the Queen's Birthday weekend, the weather was beautiful, people were everywhere. I think everyone thought, we've done the hard yards and taken a hit, but we're through it."

With Melbourne now in lockdown, and the first cases in the shire since April, he said this is not the time for complacency.

"Experts warned us to be careful of the second wave, and I fear that second wave might be worse than the first."

He said he appreciated people's concerns and frustrations.

"I'm a pretty social type of guy, but I'm spending a lot of time in my house at the moment. My mother has been locked away in her house for months, and she's ringing me in tears.

"But I believe if we continue to listen to the government, remember to socially distance and follow the guidelines, we can get back on top of it."

He said the pandemic had a massive impact on council and councillors, who had to adjust the way they did business.

"It's been really tough, but I'm proud of the way staff have adapted to what they

have to do. All forms of government are scrambling to try and work out the best way to do things."

He particularly praised the work of council's communications and IT staff, who have "got us to the point where we can continue operating virtually".

He believes Coronavirus will have a permanent impact on the way councils operate.

"The way we do things won't be the same again," he said.

"My role as Mayor will never be the same. Now I'm not driving two or three hours for meetings. I just jump online and do it.

"We will all reassess how we have done things previously coming out of this."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Credit where credit's due.

Just have to pay credit here to Westernport Water. Last Sunday we noticed an issue outside our property that looked like a slight leak in the main. I thought maybe I'd try the faults number not really expecting any luck on Sunday but hey, someone answered, yes a real live person, and she was great and actually sounded interested.

The faults on-call person took all details and promised to log job for the coming week. No more than 15 minutes later a ute arrives from Westernport Water to assess the issue, then 30 mins later another employee arrives and we are really impressed.

So on Monday following, the work crew turn up and the problem is fixed in less than 24 hours after initial call. The whole experience from call to completion was first class and done with minimum of fuss, smile on face and what could have been a major mess and real problem for us was averted.

The completed work was so neat and tidy. We are most grateful and very lucky to have such a great local work crew at Westernport Water. It was particularly pleasing for Di, a former employee in the 70s when the office consisted of only four staff to know that Westernport Water is in good hands. Thank you all.

Richie and Di Laing, Surf Beach



Nightlife destruction

I know we live side by side with the animal life, here on the Island.

Why has it got so bad? Do we just give it over to the animals!!!

I live in Manna Gum Drive (at the Rhyll Road end) and we have lived here 20 years. We have some fruit trees - two avocados, a lemon, an orange and a kumquat. Over the years we have lost some avocados to possums, but never the other fruit.

This year they are eating everything! They take lumps out of the avocados. They take the skin of the citrus and leave the fruit still hanging on the tree.

I hear complaints from other resi-

dents but I never hear any action. Is it time for action or not???

Betty Stevenson, Cowes

All in this together

I thank the Advertiser for the excellent coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jan Child, CEO Bass Coast Health, spoke online to the Bass Coast Community Resilience Group during the week.

She conveyed the serious situation of community transition occurring in Victoria and that the Bass Coast community needs to be extremely vigilant.

I felt her two powerful messages can be heeded by us all:

- Think everyone is positive when you are moving about from your home.
- Set yourself up to be safe.

Anne Davie, Ventnor



Resident's worry about restrictions

This photo was taken at the Ventnor foreshore today (Friday) only an hour ago.

Surely blind Freddie can see that this car is most unlikely to be a local resident with half his house on top.

In fact on my walk I can honestly say 30 per cent of the cars in the drives I have never seen on a regular basis.

Surely our police can and should set up check points to stop this. Okay I am not saying all are from the city but let's be honest if we had random road checks and house checks we would find people putting the residents of our beautiful island at risk and we could all breathe easier.

What do the residents think???

Ian Bray, Cowes

Isle of white?

While standing at the end of Cowes Jetty recently, I looked back toward the foreshore and thought how much our foreshore resembles a picturesque Greek fishing village.

With some buildings already painted white, I began to muse the entire area whitewashed ... pretty, fresh and giving us a theme. Annual Greek festival offering music food and dance etc.

But most of all we would have an inexpensive easy and attractive face-lift!

Carol Kelly, Cowes

Cost benefit for Cultural Centre

The cost benefit analysis for the proposed new Cultural Centre in Cowes has been released.

The report was commissioned by Bass Coast Shire Council last year and prepared by consultants SGS Economics and Planning.

Community members have been calling for the release of the document.

According to the report, the new centre is expected to generate \$51.8

million in benefits to the community over its lifespan.

The benefits will include tourism yield, use by the community, and unquantified business development and confidence improvements, enhanced social cohesion and reduction in social disadvantage.

With a \$20 million price tag, SGS said the benefit cost ratio was 2.6.

The report also estimated the

project would generate 69 full time equivalent jobs during construction and 30 full time equivalent jobs once the centre is operating.

A detailed run down on the cost benefit analysis report will be available in next week's Advertiser.

You can read the full report at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/projects/cowes-cultural-and-community-centre-project

Regenerative agriculture videos for farmers

Bass Coast Landcare Network has released a series of short videos to help farmers understand regenerative agriculture.

The videos are designed to further understanding and help farmers decide if regenerative agriculture would work on their farm.

The eight short videos on the key principles of regenerative agriculture have been released by Bass Coast Landcare, in association with South Gippsland and Western Port Catchment Landcare Networks, and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

Hosted by soil scientist Declan McDonald, the videos explain what regenerative agriculture is and how the principles can be applied on all farm types and landscapes within the Western Port Catchment, including beef, dairy, sheep, chickens, horticulture and vineyards.

Topics covered include introducing regenerative agriculture, minimising soil disturbance, maximising crop diversity, keeping soil covered, maintaining living roots systems year round, integrating livestock and trees and how farmers can transition to regenerative agriculture.

"If you're curious but don't know where to start, the videos are a great introduction to the key principles of



Soil scientist Declan McDonald hosts a series of videos about regenerative agriculture, released by three landcare networks, including Bass Coast, and Mornington Peninsula Shire.

regenerative agriculture, and how they might apply to your farm" says Declan.

The videos include local on-farm examples of how to regenerate soils for improved plant and animal health and productivity.

Declan says, "Farmers who have tried regenerative agricultural practices say that working with nature has led to a more robust, resilient farming system, and they have higher levels of wellbeing and satisfaction".

The videos were produced as part of the Smart Farming in Western Port project. This project is supported by the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

The videos can be accessed via YouTube (<https://tinyurl.com/regenagriculture>) or on Bass Coast Landcare website www.basscoast-landcare.org.au/regenerative-agriculture-videos.html

Local Landcare grant for Grantville

Bass Coast Landcare Network has received an Australian Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grant to help restore the Grantville Nature Conservation Reserve.

Last week, WIRES and Landcare Australia announced \$1.185 million was being distributed to 64 groups to support recovery of wildlife habitats impacted by bushfire and drought.

The grants were made possible due to the volume of donations received by WIRES following the Black Summer bushfires.

As the largest wildlife rescue organisation in the country, WIRES rescues, rehabilitates and releases native animals.

CEO Leanne Taylor said this initiative in partnership with Landcare Australia has highlighted the remarkable diversity of projects and activities being undertaken by groups nationally.

"Regeneration of impacted habitat is key to supporting our vulnerable native wildlife," said Leanne. "This program is an excellent example of how we can use donations to support

grassroot community organisations to make a real difference and deliver positive outcomes for our wildlife now and in the future."

Grantville grant

Bass Coast Landcare successfully applied for almost \$20,000 funding to restore the 384ha site at Grantville.

The Grantville Nature Conservation Reserve is one of the three largest patches of remnant vegetation in Bass Coast, said Robbie Gray, Ecosystems Service Manager at Bass Coast Landcare.

"It's a key link in the shire's largest native vegetation corridor and makes up approximately 14 per cent of native vegetation left in the shire."

"It was totally burnt out in a fire in February 2019, wiping out a huge area of habitat and foraging grounds for fauna."

The project will survey the site for problem areas and identify locations for fauna support, targeting weed and erosion, installing nest boxes and undertaking revegetation work.

"Post fire is a good time to get on

top of weeds," said Robbie.

"Inkweed has exploded and Sweet pittosporum is invading, with blackberry, bluebell creeper plus other weeds getting a foothold."

"Nest boxes will be installed if required for micro bats and sugar gliders."

Landcare will work with the Indigenous Plant Nursery volunteers, and the nursery will grow seedlings for the revegetation project.

"There are areas where the fire was so hot that regeneration will not take place," Robbie explained.

"Protecting waterways and managing erosion along the sandy creek beds is important now that vegetation that holds banks together has been lost."

"Erosion control will reduce stream velocity until plants re-establish to stabilise the banks."

Robbie said Landcare intended to hold information days and working bees from Spring 2020 through to winter next year, where the community can get involved in the project.

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ADVERTISING

To advertise in the business guide

Contact Lisa on 5952 3201
ads@pisra.com.au

DEATHS

GILLINGS, Trevor:
11.7.2020
Died peacefully at home in South Australia. Eldest son of Arthur and Olive Gillings from Rhyll (both dec.).
Brother of Kathy, Rosie, Sally and Stevie.
Condolences to Leanne (daughter).

MARTIN, Pearl Florence:
5.3.1934 – 18.7.2020
Much loved partner and best friend of Wendy for 40 years. Friend to Carol and adopted Aunt of the Walker Clan.
A very generous and loyal lady with a big smile who loved her animals and friends equally. Wendy would like to thank all the medical staff who took care of Pearl with a special mention to Dr. Natalia at PIMG. Her thanks also to all the wonderful staff at Banfields Aged Care Facility.
You only had one failing my love, you couldn't teach me to cook.
Will be sadly missed.
Pearl will be privately cremated

MARTIN, Pearl:
Passed away peacefully on Saturday July 18. We were very saddened to hear of Pearl's passing.
We extend our heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to Wendy, our Lady President.
From the members of the Phillip Island Golf Club.

IN MEMORIAM

Samantha Joy Fraser
22.7.1980 – 23.7.2018
In memory of our beautiful girl on the 40th anniversary of her birth and the 2nd anniversary of her death.
Remembered and acutely missed each and every day.
"We carry your heart, we carry it in our hearts"
Nene, Trev, Jemima, Rex and April

FOR SALE

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Invective blue mobility scooter in good condition.
New Battery - \$800
0439 801 323

PUBLIC NOTICES


"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
Matthew 6:33, KJV

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire: Cowes - Sunday 5-6pm, St Philip's Church (opp. Coles); Wonthaggi - Friday 11am, Salvation Army Hall (149 McKenzie St.).
Phone 1300 652 820 or visit na.org.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

1 in 5 people in Australia will experience depression.

Find out more at www.beyondblue.org.au or call 1300 22 4636.



beyondblue
the national depression resource
www.beyondblue.org.au

MSC7939

Initiative of Phillip Island Masonic Lodge

APC
Australian Press Council

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MSC7943

CHURCH NOTICES

Members should check their church websites for details of service times and guidelines.

UNITING CHURCH:
www.cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php
www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Uniting-Church/828979940479969

BAPTIST CHURCH:
www.islandbaptist.org.au/

HOPE CHURCH:
are emailing members
www.islandhopechurch.com/

CATHOLIC CHURCH:
www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus
www.cdsale.org.au/prayer-and-reflection

ST PHILLIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:
www.anglicanparishbass-phillipisland.org/
www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes/

PHILLIP ISLAND SURF CHURCH:
www.facebook.com/pages/category/Christian-Church/Surf-Church-Phillip-Island-360300548086709/

New shade for San Remo Primary



There's a new shaded area in the playground at San Remo Primary School.
After receiving a Sun Smart grant from the state government, the school was able to install a new shade sail.
Over the holidays Sam from Ezy Shades quietly and efficiently transformed the junior playground into a wonderful undercover area for the children at the school and the many visitors that use the school equipment outside of school hours.
The \$24,000 grant and fundraising money from the school's parent club was used for the transformation.
"It was such a terrible time when we had to dismantle our old undercover structure due to rust and old age. It meant that our children were not able to play sun smart safe in our junior playground," said Principal Karen Bowker.
"This new structure not only looks amazing but it will protect our children during the peak UV times whilst they are playing, keeping them safe and sound.
"A huge thank you to Sun Smart, Sam from Ezy Shade, Bass Coast Temporary Fencing and Fleur and Lesley from our School Council for getting this project up and running."
Ms Bowker said there were a range of projects currently happening around the school. These include a new pathway from the grade 5/6 building linking it to the rest of school, new Replas seating being installed, the continued development of an indigenous garden and beautification of the junior playground now that the shade structure has been erected.
"Watch this space!" said Karen.
"The families and students at our school are very excited about what is happening in our school grounds at the moment."

Pictured are the grade 1 and 2 children nice and dry under San Remo Primary School's new shade sail structure on a rainy winter's day!

PUBLIC NOTICES



Newpol Construction are currently pricing the following project and are looking for local sub-contractor & supplier involvement.

For documentation & details please contact the below.

- Our Lady Star of the Sea Phillip Island Due 03/08

Please send all enquires to
E: estimating@newpol.com.au P: 03 9822 9130

If you are able to help, please donate to

www.kidsfoundation.org.au
or call 1300 734 733.

Any amount will be much appreciated by the Children and Adults.



EDITORIAL GUIDELINES
The Advertiser conducts its journalism in accordance with the guidelines of the Australian Press Council.

The General Principles
Accuracy and clarity
1. Ensure that factual material in news reports and elsewhere is accurate and not misleading, and is distinguishable from other material such as opinion.
2. Provide a correction or other adequate remedial action if published material is significantly inaccurate or misleading.
Fairness and balance
3. Ensure that factual material is presented with reasonable fairness and balance, and that writers' expressions of opinion are not based on significantly inaccurate factual material or omission of key facts.
4. Ensure that where material refers adversely to a person, a fair opportunity is given for subsequent publication of a reply if that is reasonably necessary to address a possible breach of General Principle 3.

Privacy and avoidance of harm
5. Avoid intruding on a person's reasonable expectations of privacy, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
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.

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JO00112

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

Details about the application:

The land affected by the application is located at: **110 Ventnor Road, Cowes VIC 3922.**
The application is for a permit to: **Use and development of the land for the purpose of an Emergency services facility (fire station) in LDRZ, removal of Native Vegetation pursuant to Clause 52.17 and 42.02-2, Signage and creation of access to a road in a Road Zone Category 1.**
The applicant for the permit is: **Country Fire AuthorityC/- Sebastien Delamare, Hellier McFarland.**
The application reference number is: **200045**
You may look at the application and any documents that support the application by visiting Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/planningads
Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority.
Council collects and holds this Personal Information to comply with the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic).
An objection must be sent to the Responsible Authority and include the reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected, in writing, addressed to Bass Coast Shire Council, P.O. Box 118, Wonthaggi Vic 3995 or email basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au
The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available for any person to inspect until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.
The responsible authority will not decide on the application before **14 August 2020.**
If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision.

JO00163AA

SITUATIONS VACANT

Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications for the following positions:

Registered Nurse – District Nursing and Palliative Care
(2 x Positions) Part Time – Closes 31/7/20

Wound Care Nurse
Part Time – Closes 2/8/20


Program Manager A – Primary & Community Care
Full Time – Closes 26/7/20

Physiotherapist – Grade 2
Full Time -Closes 31/7/20

Physiotherapist – Team Leader – Grade 3
Full Time – Closes 31/7/20

Aboriginal Cadet
Fixed Term Full Time – 31/7/20

For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website basscoasthealth.org.au or contact Human Resources via email hr@basscoasthealth.org.au



5671 3333 f 5671 3300
info@basscoasthealth.org.au
www.basscoasthealth.org.au

JO00168AA



APPLICATIONS FOR TENDER (CLEANING OF THE SERVICE)

The contract on offer is for a twelve (12) month period, of which a three (3) month probationary period applies as a new contract. The successful tender is wholly accountable to the Committee of Management (the employer) and the Nominated Supervisor/Coordinator of the service.
All persons undertaking cleaning at the service MUST have a valid Working With Children (WWC) Check.
Cleaning duties must be undertaken after 6.00pm Mondays – Fridays.
Additional cleaning duties are required to be completed over the weekends.
Detailed contract specifications and further information is available from the service on request.

Applications close Friday 31st July 2020.
All enquiries (between 10 am & 4 pm) to:
Ms Dina McMaster – Coordinator
Bass Coast Children's Centre Inc
244 White Road, WONTHAGGI VIC 3995
Ph: (03) 5672 5151
bass.coast.cc@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

JO00164AA



This humpback whale provided a close-up tail slapping display over a sustained period on Friday, to the delight of all on board the Kasey Lee.

Our magnificent backyard

Covid restrictions limiting passengers on board Phillip Island's Wildlife Cruise ferries to 20 have provided a unique opportunity for local community members to enjoy our magnificent backyard this winter ... whale watching on a vessel they have almost exclusively to themselves.

The beautiful July sunshine of recent weeks has also enhanced what is a truly unique experience.

Passengers can enjoy lunch on some cruises, afternoon tea on others, while sitting back, glass in hand, taking in the island's magnificent south coast, and the abundance of marine creatures currently close by.

There have been over 80 whale sightings this season.

Follow the whales via the Wildlife Whales app, available through the Apple Store or Google Play.



Locals (from left) Gail Kennedy from Cowes, Trish Graeske from Sunderland Bay and Evelyn Cameron, Cowes, enjoy a unique experience as a whale breaches close by, on the Kasey Lee whale watching cruise along the south coast last Friday.



Dozens of dolphins and lots of seals accompanied the humpback whales spotted from the Kasey Lee ferry on Friday, adding to this magical experience.



Jess Moulynnox, Mal McCann and Mel Marks are passionate about the benefits of the island's community orchard.

A garden for all

Tucked away in Wimbledon Heights is a gardener's paradise.

Set on a hectare of land and boasting over 70 fruit trees and numerous garden beds is the Phillip Island Community Orchard.

Run entirely by volunteers, it's a meeting place for gardeners of all ages and abilities.

The orchard includes an array of stone fruit and citrus trees, avocados and tamarillos, as well as garden beds producing an impressive variety of vegetables and herbs.

Established seven years ago on land owned by Westernport Water, the community orchard has grown in scope and imagination and now has over 50 members and directly benefits around 100 people.

Class A recycled water, courtesy of Westernport Water, is used to irrigate every tree in the orchard, which are lovingly tended by the community.

Members come together once a month for working bees, and whatever is harvested is shared between them.

Fresh herbs and excess produce from the orchard or garden beds are donated to PICAL, for their food pantry.

President Mal McCann says it's the community aspect he likes the most, describing the garden as "a village".

"Our members have a good cross section of ages and experience levels, and there's a lot of cross-pollination of ideas.

"There's some people with a phenomenal depth of knowledge, but you don't have to be an expert gardener to join."

As well as working on the communal orchard, members are able to set up their own garden beds, which they tend to themselves.

"There's a beautiful relationship between the privately cared for gar-

dens and the orchard," Mal said.

"If we notice a certain garden bed is looking neglected, we will check if the people who own it are okay."

Get involved

For just \$15 a family can join, learn more about gardening and reap the rewards of fresh grown, organic, seasonal produce.

Bass Coast Shire Council and local businesses have thrown their support behind the venture.

"We use about 60 metres of mulch per year and we've been really well supported by the shire and businesses, who have provided us with mulch," said Mal.

"We're really grateful for the support we get."

Westernport Water recently replaced the orchard fencing, which has provided additional security as well as deterring the wallabies.

Before the COVID restrictions kicked in, Mal said local playgroups regularly used the space and people on community-based orders helped out at the orchard.

"They mowed and whipper-snipped for hours. We're really grateful for what they did and hopefully they'll return after COVID. They made a heck of a difference."

He said although the early days were difficult, thanks to the knowledge and perseverance of former president Kate Bennett and the dedication of members, the garden is now flourishing.

"It's satisfying after seven years to see it set up so nicely."

For members the garden provides more than just produce.

"I've had people tell me they need it for sanity's sake," said Mal.

With more young families joining, one garden bed has been set up with

all the children's names on it. Each visit, the kids come and check how 'their' garden is growing.

Mel Marks, a long-time member, is passionate about the benefits the orchard and garden brings to the community.

This year, Mel said she's been able to provide 10 kilos of pumpkins every fortnight, for use in the PICAL meals.

"I have a lovely relationship with Steph Thornborrow (who coordinates the meals prepared by PICAL for food relief)."

For Jess Moulynnox, the orchard is a chance to get involved in the community and explore her own interest in plants.

She's about to embark on a Bachelor of Environmental Science, majoring in Plant Biology and is leading a group of six members to create a native bush food garden.

Jess also has her own vegetable plot, which helps feed her family.

"If I don't check on my garden daily, I feel out of whack," she said.

Mal said in the future they hope to reintroduce workshops, where members can learn about different plants, and skills like how to prune and graft.

Holding onsite cooking workshops, using produce fresh from the garden is also on the wish list.

He'd love to see double the number of active members.

"This is a community asset that we would love to see developed better."

Annual membership of the Community Orchard is \$10 per person, or \$15 for a family.

To find out more, visit the Phillip Island Community Orchard Facebook page, email islandcommunityorchard@gmail.com or go to islandcommunityorchard.wordpress.com/



The fully irrigated orchard has over 70 fruit trees, including stone fruit, avocado and citrus.



A strong mark on the run by Blue's U14s captain Leo Savona.

Junior footy comp back

From page 24

Goal Kickers
- Daniel Caffieri (2), Jai Coulton (2), Joel Robinson (2), Oliver Hibbert (1), Sonny Merryfull (1), Noah Muller (1), Finn Russell (1), Leo Savona (1)

Under 10s Blue

The Under 10 Blue pups were pumped to be able to kick off the first game of this irregular season at the Kennel against Daylston.

Dalyston had given us the heads up that they required to borrow players which in turn lead to the first bounce of both Phillip Island ruckman Roy and Bailey going up against each other.

The first quarter was a real struggle with the ball not advancing too much into either forward line with both midfields tackling well.

Brinkley was like a ball magnet with all of the mids taking some great marks and hitting targets.

Second and third quarters were again quite even with Dalyston scoring a couple goals and Phillip Island managing to kick a couple points.

At the third quarter huddle Coach Sundo called on the team to run, forwards to lead and defence to stand strong. The pups took all that in and ran out for the last quarter.

Phillip Island twins Xavier and Dawson were playing in defence for Daylston and they cer-

tainly weren't taking it easy on our forwards with some great marks and clearing kicks.

Dustin "Dusty" Naismith then took a great mark close to 25 metres out on an angle and snagged the first goal of the season in his first game.

This set all tails wagging and Phillip Island got the clearance with Dexter streaming towards goal, unfortunately learning the hard way that you can only bounce the ball once in u10s.

Phillip Island mids stood up and got the ball back to our forwards with Dusty kicking his second goal for the game!

Great game for the team with 80 per cent of the kids playing their very first game for the bulldogs.

Woof!

Under 12s Blue

The Phillip Island Bulldogs U12 Blues kicked off their season at home with a stunning win against Dalyston, ably led by game captain Nathan Patch. It was especially impressive to see the first year U12s step up in their first game and show some great running and skills. Coach's mention to Harry Bentley, Zach Hughes, Lewis De Fazio and Connor and Thomas Macmillan. Henry Kelly lined up to put a couple on the score board. The final quarter also saw a spectacular goal from Jack Larsson. Go Blues on an exceptional team effort for the win.



Daniel Caffieri from U14s Blue and Eden Goldsbury helped their team secure a first game win against Dalyston



Jack Larsson marks safely in Sunday's U12 Island Blues match against Dalyston.



Coach Andrew Sunderland and the U10s Blue Football team on Sunday during the half time huddle.



Lewis DeFazio kicks for goal in Sunday's U12 game which saw the island win comfortably.

Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling League results

2's Company: 1st on 2.5pts King Pins, 2nd on 2pts The Hounds and 3rd on 2pts Strike Me Down.

ABL: 1st on 15pts Dreamers, 2nd on 13 pts Lawn Bowlers, 3rd on 11pts Pinpalls.

Business early: 1st on 3pts

Bowling stones, 2nd on 3pts U Drive Me Batty, 3rd on 2pts Wicked and 4th on 2pts ANZ.

Business Late: 1st on 2pts Strike Me Down, 2nd on 2pts Auto Barn, 3rd on 1pt Adventure Resort and 4th on 1pt I Hit One.

Top Bowlers this week are:

168 - Chloe Kent, 166 - Katy Betts, 148 - Joe Batty.

211 - Matt Rees, 188 - Raff Merante, 171- Nick Harris.

Limited team and individual places still available across leagues, contact us on 5952 3977 to secure your spot!

Golf club's extra green

Thanks to a grant from council, Phillip Island Golf Club is now greener than ever.

The club said it was grateful for the grant it recently obtained from the Bass Coast Shire.

"These grant monies enabled us to install solar panels purchased and installed through local Company BWD Solar Pty Ltd," said a club spokesperson.

"We would like to thank the Bass Coast Shire and BWD Solar for all of their assistance and guidance through the process."

With the installation of these solar panels, the club is now environmentally sustainable.



Thanks to a grant from Bass Coast Shire Council, Phillip Island Golf Club has now installed solar panel. From left to right: Frank Bilson (BWD), John Hammon (PIGC Board Member), Jeanette Diss (SGGI President/PIGC Member) and Steve Williams (BWD).

"This will result in significant savings to the club that will be used for future club

and course improvements that will be beneficial for current and future members."

Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, July 14 - Men's Stableford: Winner was David Theriault H/c (18) with 41 points on a countback from Bruce Sherwood H/c (18) also with 41 points.

9 Hole competition winner was Brian Baker with 19 points on a countback from Laurie Petrusch.

Wednesday, July 15 - Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Liz Gleeson H/c (24) with 39 points on a countback from Faye Morris H/c (13) also with 39 points.

Thursday, July 16 - Men's and Ladies Stableford: Winner was Wendy Thompson H/c (44) with 41 points from John Savas H/c (21) with 39 points.

9 Hole competition winner was Anthony Pullan with 22

points from David Scrase with 20 points.

Saturday, July 18 - Men's 18 Holes Stableford: Winner was Craig O'Neill H/c (11) with 39 points from Stuart Crawford H/c (17) with 38 points.

Ladies competition - Ladies 18 Holes Stableford: Winner was Rhonda Boyd H/c (21) with 35 points on a countback from Joanne Disher H/c (25) also with 35 points.

Men's and Ladies - 9 Holes Stableford: 9 Hole winner was Linda Scopel H/c (45) with 20 points from Faye Rosen H/c (45) with 19 points.

Sunday, July 19 - Men's 18 Holes Stableford: Winner was James Fowler H/c (4) with 39 points from Bernie Billman H/c (27) with 38 points.



9 Hole competition winner last week at the Phillip Island golf club was Anthony Pullan with 22 points.

Ladies Competition - Ladies 18 Holes Stableford: Winner was Jen Bilson H/c (31) with 36 points from Faye Morris H/c (12) with 33 points.

Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Generally, this time of the year is difficult enough to put a report together but the Covid-19 virus has made it even harder with no traffic coming out of Melbourne.

It is the same for all the local businesses and anybody that has been around San Remo or the island lately will notice very few people.

There are however several visitors from further up the coast in Gippsland and from northern Victoria, taking advantage of the accommodation deals around.

We think we have had difficult times here over the last six months. That is until you speak to those from the bush-fire areas who are telling us of many businesses that have no idea what the future holds with very little trade since before Christmas.

Hopefully when this is all over or even earlier into the spring, they will get plenty of visitors from these areas helping them to get restarted.

Sadly, for two visiting families that came into the shop their holiday also included the ugly side of the situation we are in at the moment and has tainted their holiday a little.

One family in Cowes on the jetty fishing and the other in San Remo walking down the street were approached by, what they thought to be locals, telling them they shouldn't be here and to go home. When they explained where they were from an apology was offered to one family while the

other was asked for ID.

The family questioned who this person was to ask for ID only to be told they were looking after the interests of the local people, a few words ensued, and they all went their separate ways.

I understand that people are concerned but I would have thought staying home was a better way to stay safe not walking the streets acting like vigilantes, leave the policing to the police.

Reports were very patchy this week, despite several days of perfect weather there was very few out fishing.

Those who did get the boat out fished both in the bay and offshore with both areas having mixed results.

In the bay we had whiting, gummies, salmon and calamari but not a lot of take-home fish.

There were several smaller whiting caught around Dickies Bay and Reef Island with only a handful of keepers.

The better whiting reports came from around tortoise head and off Ventnor with a couple from Cleeland Bight.

There weren't a lot of whiting caught but there wasn't a lot fishing for them so for the amount of reports we had it probably wasn't too bad.

Having said that those successful only had a handful each.

Calamari reports continued to be all over the place with no consistency at all from the boats or from the land and trying to give advice is difficult.

We have seen a couple from

the jetties and from the beaches but not necessarily from the times you would expect so if the weather is good just go and have a fish regardless of the tide.

The boats and kayaks were a little more successful and the calamari we had reported were very good in size and most only managed one or two.

They were caught in a few different spots and from those who were targeting them generally before they headed out to chase whiting.

Gummies in the bay were mostly small and we were only told of one worth taking home caught in a boat off Elizabeth Island.

The better ones were reported from offshore, bigger down towards the windmills and respectable size from off the western entrance.

We also had one reported around 6kg caught off Woolamai in 40m of water.

The catches of the week though go to those who managed to land quality bluefin tuna off the western entrance.

We have seen a big change in the tuna fishery over the last few years with stripey turning up several years back, lasting for a couple of years, then four barrels caught and the two years after that seeing tuna of various sizes turn up for varying lengths of time.

Just before we were shut-down from fishing earlier this year, we saw a run of 20kg to 40kg bluefin caught for about seven weeks.

Now we see another run of barrels again with two over 100kg landed. I just wonder how much longer before we start hearing of the odd marlin or yellowfin tuna caught.



This amazing photo by Alicia Phillips was sent to us by her brother-in-law Mick Cleary. Mick tells us the photo was taken on the Esplanade near the corner of Foam Street at Sunderland Bay during the winter school holidays.

Junior footy comp back

U14s Blue – vs Dalyston (Home)

After a long wait during the Covid-extended preseason, footy was back in force this weekend at the Kennel against local powerhouse Dalyston FNC.

A bright sunny day with a strong wind greeted our U14 boys, meaning that there was definite advantage when kicking to the southern end.

Newly elected captain Leo Savona won the toss and elected to kick with the breeze.

It was an inspired decision, with the first goal coming within the first ninety seconds to Daniel 'Caffa' Caffieri.

Caffa slotted his second a minute later, followed up by a goal on the run by Oliver 'Hibbo' Hibbert soon afterwards.

Dalyston were shellshocked and seemed to have no answers to the strong start of the Blues, who peppered the goals for the rest of the quarter.

Coach Gab's quarter time address was full of praise for the pressure the boys were applying, singling out Anosh Azizi and Alex Barbati for their efforts.

With the wind picking up the boys knew they would have a tougher time of it in the coming quarter.

And tough it turned out to be – the Dalyston FNC team came out with renewed vigour and kept the local boys goalless for the term.

But they did not make the most of their opportunities and the wind advantage, and the Blues were able to maintain a three-goal lead into the half time break.

The Dalyston FNC team were much improved in the third quarter, and the Blues had to increase their intensity to match.

They were up to the job, with a



Local junior football season in full swing and couldn't be done without the tireless efforts of all the parent helpers. Pictured is Terry Robinson goal umpiring in the first game of the season in the Under 14's Blue game.

flurry of nine scoring shots netting two goals apiece for Joel 'Bob' Robinson and Jai 'Big Bugger' Coulton.

The tackling of the Blues was especially impressive, with the extra pressure causing turnovers by the opposition.

The boys' lead into the final break was a commanding thirty-nine points.

The Blues didn't take their foot off the gas in the last quarter, with Finn 'Finno' Russell, Sonny 'Mez' Merryfull and Noah 'Mulls' Muller scoring a goal each, snuffing out any chance of a Dalyston resurgence.

Fittingly it was the freshly minted captain Leo 'Sav' Savona who

kicked the sealer, a strong goal from a set shot with only two seconds left in the game.

It was a compelling first outing for the Blues which bodes well for the rest of the season.

Next week they travel across the bridge to take on Wonthaggi Power, continuing the strong rivalry between these two great sides that has raged for decades.

Final Score: PIFNC Blue 11.12(78) def Dalyston FNC 3.2(20)

What's Hot

- Noah Muller, Oliver Hibbert, Joel Robinson, Jai Coulton, Leo Savona, Sonny Merryfull

- The assistant coach who had a tear in his eye during the team song – team spirit alive and well at the PIFNC Blues.

What's Not

- Simon Russell rocked a too-small hipster beanie which clashed horribly with the hi-vis Venue Marshall jacket. He will need to improve from this fashion faux pas if he hopes to stay in the team for next week.

- Coronavirus – it's your fault that the canteen was closed, depriving the crowd of hot chips and gravy.

Continued page 23

Boardriders battle due to start next month

Surfing Australia has announced dates for the series of eight nudie Australia Boardriders events.

The first event is scheduled for August 22 on the Gold Coast, with the fifth event due to be held on Phillip Island on October 17.

Other heats will be held in South

Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales.

Entries for the series opened last week, but it's unclear how the current border closures and restrictions will impact on Victoria boardrider clubs hoping to take part.

Surfing Australia said: "Due to

the ongoing COVID-19 situation and Surfing Australia's commitment to comply with all State and Federal regulations, series dates are subject to change at any time."

The event is Australia's biggest grassroots boardriders event, involving more than 60 of Australia's best boardrider clubs and

\$112,700 in prize money.

The series is officially sanctioned by the World Surf League (WSL), which allows Australian WSL World Tour surfers (men and women) the opportunity to represent their local boardriders club at respective state qualifying events and the national final.

ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF

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