Football, bike riders secure small win

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

BUDGET

Sporting clubs, bike riders and farmers have secured small victories from the final Bass Coast Shire Council 25/26 budget.

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

The Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) had previously slammed the council for "ignoring the wishes of Phillip Island residents" and allocating just \$250,000 to the proposed future recreation reserve, on the corner of Ventnor and Phillip Island roads.

But in the final budget – approved by councillors at last week's meeting – the reserve has been given \$440,000, with the extra \$190,000 for planning.

Council officers said the full implementation of the Cowes recreation reserve master plan is \$115 million, for which the council will need external funding.

Officers said the current 10-year Long Term Financial Plan 2021-31, adopted in 2023, did not include the reserve, but the plan would be reviewed mid-year.

The Mountain Bike Association had previously been given no allocation in the budget for future bike trails, requesting \$500,000 in budget hearings.

In the revised final budget there is now \$50,000 for bike trails, with Phillip Island set to secure four of five sites (see separate story).

And while farmers had called for a change to the "unfair and inequitable" rating system, the current budget does not amend their rates costs. It does however allocate \$35,000 for a review later this year.

Three submissions from farmers called on the council to adjust farm rates, with Phillip Island farmer Nathan Cleeland saying the total general rates raised from farmland was forecast to increase six per cent.

"This is inappropriate this year; 2024 was the driest year since 1983 in Bass Coast, and the third driest year on record, creating huge shortages of livestock feed and water," Nathan



An extra \$190,000 has been allocated by Bass Coast Shire Council in the final budget to planning a new sporting ground on the corner of Ventnor and Phillip Island roads, after local sport clubs said they were overwhelmed by demand at the current overworked facilities. (File photo).

told councillors.

"Bass Coast is in a drought. Many farms' dams are dry, and many farmers are buying in extra feed because the grass hasn't grown. Milk prices are down, beef prices are down, and lamb prices are down. Farmers are facing incredibly tough trading conditions.

"Council should consider changing the differential to give farmers some reprieve on their rates bill."

Council officers said the \$35,000 review would recommend revised differentials, with changes applied in the 2026-27 budget.

Not so lucky

The draft budget was open for community consultation in April and May and received 25 written submissions, with six heard by council, which saw minor changes to the final budget.

There were many groups who failed to win any changes to the budget.

Phillip Island Aquatic Centre

Fund (PIACF) told the budget submissions hearing the longawaited pool was "ignored" in the draft budget, with \$500,000 instead for design for the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Wonthaggi.

Citizen scientist and Cowes resident Ron Day requested funding from council for reduced speed signage on the Cowes-Rhyll Road, which was set to be part of a stage two speed review on Phillip Island, but is yet to eventuate, on hold for four years.

Council officers responded to Ron's submission, saying they were working on grant funding with state and federal governments and "do not believe a budget item is appropriate at this stage".

Former police officer and island resident Peter Fogarty told the budget hearing enforcement of council's local laws was not being effectively applied.

He said one of the most common offences was by owners of pet dogs, walking dogs off leash

COWES SELF STORAGE

especially in wildlife areas, "deliberately flouting the very laws in place to protect them, their pets, wildlife and the community at large".

Council officers responded saying his concerns would be included in the current Domestic Animal Management Plan community consultation.

Island Voice's submission by Peter McMahon said there was "no reference to cost of living crisis" in the draft budget yet it mentions "the environment some 32 times".

"What benefit does the community receive other than some 28 per cent on capital works," Peter said.

"With a potentially overpriced waste charge, surely, we should expect more for our money. We are not a bottomless pit."

Council officers replied the budget included \$88 million to fund a range of services from planning to building maintenance and community safety.

"Council is continuously reviewing their practices to en-

sure they remain efficient whilst not compromising service standards," officers said.

\$2.00 Incl. GST

Accommodation

One submission was received from Darryl McKean stating the short stay rental accommodation fee was too low and should be "increased dramatically to fund more enforcement".

"An increased fee will pay for council to be able to ensure resident's rights to peace are prioritised over the rights of (short stay) owners to profit at our expense," Darryl said.

Council officers declined the request saying the fee had been established based on community engagement and benchmarking across the emergent short stay rental accommodation regulation sector.

"The fee is reviewed in line with sector partners, and increases will be considered in future budget processes," officers said.

Waste

A submission by George Szeitli argued the new industrial waste charges was "making it impossible to do business in Bass Coast".

"It would be better value and achieve more if fees increased for casual users encouraging them to go to local businesses," George said.

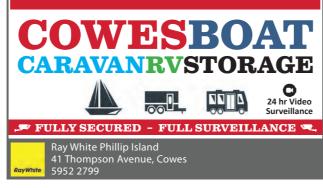
Council officers responded the increase in gate fees for commercial and industrial waste reflected a significant increase in the landfill levy applied by the EPA.

"Council is obliged to collect this fee on behalf of State Government and reflect the increased cost in fees for users," officers said.

More budget coverage on page 10











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 $The \ pod \ of \ Orcas \ spotted \ near \ Pyramid \ Rock \ last \ week \ included \ three \ females \ and \ two \ calves. \ Photo: IanR \ Photography.$

The wonder of whales

With the Island Whale Festival just weeks away, whale sightings in the area are on the rise.

Every winter, Phillip Island transforms into a breathtaking coastal stage as humpback and southern right whales visit the surrounding coastal waters.

The whales travel along the coastline, on a journey from the Antarctic to warmer water off Queensland for breeding.

There have been almost daily reports of humpbacks off our shores in the past week, including two humpbacks sighted in Cowes, just 500m off the Anderson Road boat ramp.

Last week, whale watchers were also treated to the spectacle of a pod of Orcas near Pyramid Rock.

Unlike humpbacks and southern right whales, Orcas are not migratory.

Paola Lacetera is studying Orca movements for her PhD at Deakin University.

She said Orcas "literally follow their food".

"They go wherever the environment is more productive; wherever they can find prey. 'Orcas are not comparable

to humpbacks or southern right whales; they don't behave the same.

"We have lot of Orcas around the world and they eat and behave very differently from each other, and from other whales.

"Each pod is very different." The Orca pod was spotted by ex-

cited members of a Wildlife Coast Cruise, who said the five Orcas - three females and two calves were travelling west from Pyramid Rock, very close to shore.

The Island Whale Festival is a celebration of whales and runs from July 11 - 13.

The weekend includes familyfriendly events, marine education, whale spotting opportunities, and more, as well as incorporating the Ocean Film Festival.

For details and to book tickets, visit islandwhales.com.au/



POLICE BRIEFS

12

Grantville break in

Police from the Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit are investigating a burglary at the Grantville Transaction Centre on

Monday June 16. Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed several buildings at the site were significantly damaged.

Burglary

Several mountain bikes and a PlayStation were stolen from a property in Bondi Avenue in Cape Woolamai on June 17. Police from the Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit are investigating.

Holiday reminders

Local police have reminded the community that offenders are looking for "easy targets, especially with residential burglaries and theft from motor vehicles"

"Offenders try enough doors and eventually they find ones that are unlocked," said Sergeant Chris Brinkman from Cowes police.

"We would like people to make it harder for offenders; please don't leave doors of homes or vehicles unlocked, and don't leave any valuables in vehicles."

He also cautioned surfers against leaving keys on their vehicles.

"We still see surfers hiding their keys rather than using a key safe," he said.

"Unfortunately, sometimes see vehicles stolen using keys that have been hidden in or close to the vehicle. People need to realise that if this occurs, whilst Police will most certainly investigate the matter, their insurer may refuse to honour any insurance claim."

E-bikes and scooters

Police remind all e-bike riders the same road rules apply as for regular bicycles. That means always wearing a helmet, not using a mobile phone while riding and using lights in low light.

For e-scooters, you need to be 16-years or older, wear a helmet and not travel over 20km/h.

It is also illegal to carry a passenger and to use your mobile phone on the scooter.

E-scooters can only be ridden on shared pathways (not footpaths) or roads with a speed limit of up to 60km/h.

More details on electric bikes available at: sport. vic.gov.au/road-rules-andsafety/bicycles/electricbikes

E-scooter information at: www.police.vic.gov.au/ electric-powered-scooters-e-scooters

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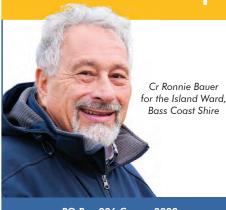
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NEWS

"Maintain the rage" at new state tax

EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND

Bass Coast Shire councillors have joined with a growing number of other councils across Victoria calling on the State Government to ditch the unpopular Emergency Services Volunteers Fund (ESVF).

The new tax takes effect from July 1, after passing state parliament in May to replace the former Fire Services Levy (FSL).

Last month council officers reported the levy collections on Bass Coast ratepayers will increase from \$10 million to \$16 million annually, which represents a 53 per cent increase, or \$5.52 million.

Cr Brett Tessari at the June meeting "called on the State Government to listen to our community and immediately repeal the implementation of the ESVF", a move which follows Loddon Shire Council seeking sector wide support to fight the levy.

Cr Tessari said while the government had, following "unprecedented pressure", paused the levy for farmers, the ESVF will still pass on significant increases to other ratepayers in 2025/26.

"This levy will have significant, unfair and inequitable impact," Cr Tessari said.

"Ratepayers in other property classes especially commercial and industrial ratepayers will be impacted by significant increases in levy payment.

"All ratepayer property classes, including residential ratepayers – who will experience a 26 per cent increase – will be impacted.

He added council's reputation will be impacted, as the government requires councils to collect the levy

Cr Tessari said he'd heard from several ratepayers they did



CFA volunteers last week protested against the new State Government levy, including hundreds of firefighters on the steps of Parliament House.

not intend to pay the levy, which – if eventuated – would see the burden fall on council to collect the debt.

Hardship

Cr Tim O'Brien asked council officers if ratepayers could apply for hardship and an officer replied the ESVF would be in included in the whole rates notice and only in "very exceptional cases" – such as domestic violence or prison – would the waiver be applied.

"It's astonishingly unjust. We will maintain the rage," Cr O'Brien said.

Cr Jan Thompson said the ESVF was a "tax by stealth".

"Roll on the 2026 election. We will not forget," Cr Thompson said, saying the levy was paying off the government's "incompetency".

"Get your hands off our money and go and do your own dirty work."

Mayor Rochelle Halstead said even with the 12-month pause for primary producers, the ESVF would still hit Bass Coast ratepayers.

"The extra millions being taken out of our local community where it may have been spent at the local bakery, restaurant or sporting facility," Cr Halstead said, saying it was "not too far away" that the state's debt would burden to \$200 billion.

"This has got nothing to do with emergency services. This has all to do with them filling a massive black hole they have been digging for the last 10 years,

the big Melbourne projects that have blown out of budget."

Cr Ronnie Bauer said it was a "vicious tax imposed on the citizens of Victoria by a cash strapped state government", hitting all taxpayers but particularly farmers.

"Owning a multi acre property does not mean that you are running a highly cash liquid business," Cr Bauer said.

"Sucking this tax out of our struggling rural sector could in some cases bring them to their knees."

The increases include:

- Residential ratepayers: from 8.7c to 17.3c per \$1000 of Capital Improved Value (CIV);
- Commercial ratepayers: from 66.4c to 133c per \$1000 CIV;
- Industrial ratepayers: from

81.1c to 133c per \$1000 CIV.

 Farmers will pay the fixed charge plus 71.8 cents for every \$1000 of their property's CIV. They currently pay 28.7 cents.

Under the ESVF, a new property classification, Principal Place of Residence (PPR) must be applied to determine the appropriate fixed charge.

Properties not classified as PPR will be charged a higher, non-residential fixed rate (anticipated to be \$276).

The levy broadens the scope of funding beyond the CFA and the Fire Rescue Victoria to include the SES, Triple Zero Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria, Forest Fire Management Victoria and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

The Block for sale

REAL ESTATE

The Block property, at 113-119 Justice Road, is now on the market for sale.

The news will come as no surprise to local residents driving past the celebrated property, which has sat empty and unused since the euphoria of the reality TV show left town last year.

Billionaire businessman Adrian Portelli last week announced the sale on his Instagram page, with the property not yet listed by any real estate agents.

"For Sale. EOI. The Phillip Island Block Resort. Selling complex complete. Everything included. Will not sell houses separately," Mr Portelli posted, with an "express interest here" link.

Mr Portelli sent shock waves through the local real estate market after forking out more than \$15 million on November 9 to secure the entire property from the 2024 season of the Channel 9 show, including \$3.5 million for the winning house renovated by sisters Maddy and Charlotte.

Local agents last week said it will be difficult to achieve those same prices in the current market. Following the auction, all five houses were listed on Mr Portelli's LMCT+ website, in a giveaway offering the whole five homes or \$8 million in cash, with the winner – a 34-year-old Ballarat healthcare worker – opting to take the cash.

Mr Portelli then retained the resort, saying he would keep the property for himself and hold events there.

The only sign of life at the property since then was in January when the businessman helped unload three McLarens and three Lamborghinis off the back of a truck, telling passersby the cars were there to help celebrate his son's first birthday party.

Mr Portelli last week told Domain he was looking for a "quick, easy sale on the lot".

"Otherwise I'm happy to keep them," he said.

"I'm open to genuine offers." He confirmed he would not sell the homes individually.

"It's too much of a headache having to set up a body corp and then trying to sell five individual houses. I'd rather just keep them if that's the case."

Mr Portelli told *realestate.com*. *au* he would not run another giveaway because it was too costly.



Property investor and well-known figure on The Block, Adrian Portelli, (right) at the auction at 113-119 Justice Road last year.

"I've purchased (the homes) twice now," he told the website.

"I think everyone forgets that the resort is one half of the cost. "It's really difficult to try chase the money back for it."

Mr Portelli also said he would not take part in another Block auction.

Market

Local agents said the price Mr Portelli paid for the Block was "probably supported by the hype and publicity".

"But it's hard to find any comparative sales to support that price in the current market. It would be hard to try and get to those numbers," the agent said.

"We wish him all the best and for the sake of the Phillip Island market let's hope he gets the price.

"The publicity The Block gave the island was very good. We all enjoyed the experience."

A nearby – albeit older – property on a larger block of land is listed for sale up to \$1.25 million, with some new, modern houses on the outskirts of Cowes listed around the \$1 million mark.

Grantville break in

COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed the Grantville Transaction Centre was broken into on Monday night last week.

CEO Greg Box said there was significant damage to several of the buildings on site, and a safe was stolen.

"Thanks to the swift action of council staff and Victoria Police, the stolen safe was recovered and all funds have been accounted for.

"We are extremely grateful for the prompt response and professionalism of everyone involved.

Despite the damage, the Grantville Transfer Station remained open and operational.

Mr Box said some areas of the site were restricted while the police investigated and there were some minor delays for visitors due to repair works.

He thanked the community for their patience and understanding, as council worked "to restore full functionality" to the centre.

Police said the break in was being investigated by the Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit.

The Wellbeing team leads the Newhaven College community in promoting wellbeing and provides counselling and social work support to students, parents and staff. From left: Tahnee Brown (Head of Wellbeing), Andre Whitton (Chaplain), Christina Aitken, Sarah Derham and Emma Gale.

Nurturing hearts and minds

EDUCATION

At Newhaven College, student wellbeing is at the heart of the school's culture. The College is committed to holistic pastoral care, offering a range of support systems designed to nurture each student's emotional, social and academic development.

From enrichment programs to leadership opportunities, every student is encouraged to grow in confidence and character. The College's vertical House structure plays a key role in fostering strong relationships and a deep sense of belonging across year levels. Students are supported daily by dedicated House Leaders and mentors, who guide and connect with them in meaningful ways. Each morning begins with Home Group, where students from different year levels come together to reflect, collaborate and focus on areas such as wellbeing, academic goals and community spirit.

New to Phillip Island, before sending her children to the College, parent Kyoko Blondel has built strong connections within the College community.

"The staff are caring and passionate, taking the time to truly know each student and support their unique strengths and interests. There's a genuine sense of community here, and the values of respect, curiosity, and kindness are lived every day, not just spoken about," she says.

Newhaven's size is another advantage. Smaller than many schools, it offers a more personal environment where students are known and supported as individuals. This attentiveness enables students to flourish, both personally and academically, as they're encouraged and challenged in ways that suit their unique strengths.



Middle and Senior School House Mentors support students to foster strong relationships and a deep sense of belonging across year levels. Senior School House Leaders, Cam Pedersen, Sharon Paterson, Hannah Blake and Hugh Wilson provide support to senior students, as well as having some House competition fun along the way.

Pastoral care at Newhaven encompasses more than welfare and behaviour management - it is about caring for the whole person. Respect and trust between students and staff are foundational values, and this philosophy is evident across all year levels. In the Junior School, class teachers are the primary providers of pastoral care

As students move into the Middle and Senior Schools, their pastoral journey continues through the College's House system.

Support also extends through specialised services. The College Chaplain plays a vital role in promoting the emotional, social, and spiritual wellbeing of students, staff, and families. Working alongside the wellbeing and allied health teams, the Chaplain contributes to a comprehensive support network.

The Counselling Team at Newhaven includes professional psychologists and social workers who are available to all students. Whether seeking a one-time conversation or ongoing guidance, students are welcomed with compassion and care. The goal is always to promote positive mental health and to help students navigate challenges with resilience and self-awareness.

At Newhaven College, wellbeing is not an add-on - it is embedded in every part of the school experience. It is a place where students are safe, supported, and truly able to become their best selves.

Mother of three students at the College, Pharrah Underwood says, "We've had such a positive experience with Newhaven College".

"The school provides a nurturing and inclusive environment where our children feel supported, challenged, and genuinely excited to learn each day."

Newhaven College has regular College Tours throughout the year, but private tours can also be arranged by contacting the Admissions Team on 03 5056 7505 or admissions@newhavencol.vic. edu.au

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Questions about new network makeup

Earlier this month, Interim CEO for Bass Coast Health (BCH), Alexander greeted Health Minister Mary Anne Thomas when she visited the new Urgent Care Centre in Cowes.

However, the state opposition has raised questions about the future of the CEO's role. In a statement released to the media, the Liberal and National parties said it had been confirmed the new Bayside Network would have one CEO and one board.

The network will incorporate Alfred Health, Bass Coast Health, Calvary Health Care Bethlehem (Caulfield South), Gippsland Southern Health Service, Kooweerup Regional Health Service and Peninsula

Under the government's plan, BCH and the other six health services will voluntarily amalgamate into Bayside Health (working title), from January 1,

The names of local hospitals and healthcare sites will remain

The Advertiser has been told there is still a formal process of approvals and milestones before reaching the January 1 date, including the appointment of a Board of Directors who would then recruit a Chief Executive for the new health service.

It is unclear if any of the existing BCH board members will be included in the new Bayside board, or what the future management structure of BCH will look like. It is also unclear what, if any, administrative processes will be shared across the net-

Prof Simone Alexander, Interim Chief Executive Officer of BCH said the formation of Bayside Health was "just the first step to bring Bass Coast Health and the other four health services together as one".

"While it will take some time to complete the process, integrate our systems and tie together the best of what each of us has to offer, it's a change that promises to improve health outcomes for everyone across our region."

Bayside

When the plan to create 12 health networks was announced, Bass Coast Health was originally slated to join the Gippsland Network.

Peter Paul from the Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG) said the original proposal to be part of the Gippsland network would have been a huge step backwards and PIMHAG lobbied strenuously for BCH to be part of the Bayside network.

When the final networks were announced in January this year, Simone Alexander said the move further strengthened existing partnerships with Alfred Health, Peninsula Health and Kooweerup Regional Health

"These are relationships we've worked so hard to develop over the last several years and we're pleased input from our staff and our community was included in the final decision about the network structure."

However the state opposition has expressed concerns about the new networks, saying the government was unable to explain how individual health services would remain publicly accountable.

In a statement to the media, the Liberal Party said at the recent Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearing, the Health Minister had "failed to clarify whether there will be job losses, or what savings - if any will flow back to the health budget, and whether a connected IT platform will be ready to share vital patient information".

Shadow Minister for Health, Georgie Crozier said the Minister's responses cast serious doubt on the government's claim that the new network structure will improve patient care.

She stressed the importance of Victorians retaining oversight of local public health service delivery.

Victorians need confidence that their local hospital will remain responsive to local community needs and be accountable," Ms Crozier said.

'Many questions remain around how these networks will operate, what job losses there will be and what the reporting requirements are."

The new network was announced in January this year, and in March, the board of BCH formalised the decision to join the merger.





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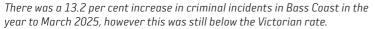
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Wonthaggi was still the number one area for crime, while across the shire, houses, retail and supermarkets were among the top 5 locations for offences.

Crime keeps creeping up

CRIME STATISTICS

The latest report from the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) shows crime figures for the year ending March 2025 continue to climb in Bass Coast and Victoria.

There was a 13.2 per cent increase in criminal incidents in Bass Coast in the year to March 2025, however this was still below the Victorian rate.

The rate of incidents per 100,000 population in Bass Coast was 5662.6 compared with the Victorian rate of 6692.2

While Bass Coast Family Incidents showed a 10.7 per cent increase, this was less than the increase recorded in the previous figures (for the year to December 2024) and represented just five more incidents. The rate of incidents remains above the state average.

The biggest jump was in the Alleged Offender category which recorded a 34 per cent increase (up by 10 per cent on the previous figures).

Wonthaggi was still the number one area for crime (1080 incidents), followed by Cowes (570), Inverloch (412), North Wonthaggi (310) and San Remo (156).

Locally, breaches of family violence orders was again the top offence, followed by criminal damage, theft, stealing from a motor vehicle and stealing from a retail store.

In terms of Alleged Offender incidents – the category which saw the biggest increase – assault and related offences topped the list of offences, followed by breaches of orders, theft, property damage and burglary/break and enter.

In Bass Coast, the number of young offenders (10-17) rose from 236 (in year to December 2024) to 284. The single highest age category for local offender incidents remained 45 years plus (355), however, the number of offenders aged between 10 and 44 was 1067.

Overall, men were represented at three times the rate of women in the offenders category

The Offences Recorded category highlights both the top locations, suburbs and types of offences, showing the majority of offences in Bass Coast occurred in a house (1563), followed by the street/footpath (311), other retail (128), supermarket (108) and unit/apartment (107).

Victoria Police said theft from retail stores has hit a record high across the state, "as cost of living pressures bite".

They said the five fastest growing crimes are mostly property crimes, "which is traditionally the case in difficult economic times".

Statewide figures

Police said when population growth was factored in, the Victorian crime rate rose by 15.2 per cent on the previous 12 months, and represented 8839 offences per 100,000 people.

They also said, for a third consecutive quarter, Victoria Police recorded the most arrests since electronic records began in 1993, and most likely, in Victoria Police's 172-year history.

Theft from motor vehicle remains the most common and fastest growing crime in the state, driven heavily by theft of number plates.

Police regularly run community safety days to help the public fit anti-theft screws, which can also be purchased from hardware stores, automotive parts stores and petrol stations. "Opportunistic offenders also look for valuables such as wallets, cash and tools left in vehicles," police said.

They said there were some simple measures the community can take to prevent falling victim.

"With as many as half of all theft from motor vehicle offences showing no sign of forced entry, we urge the community to always lock their cars, remove valuables, and park off street where possible."

In terms of retail theft, police said alcohol theft had never been higher, as well as organised groups of shop stealers "working together to steal goods and on-sell them for profit".

Statewide, motor vehicle theft is at its highest levels since 2002.

"More than one in five cars are stolen in circumstances where the owner reports retaining their keys," police said. "This has coincided with

an increase in offenders using electronic devices capable of programming or mimicking keys to steal cars."

Holdens, Toyotas, and Subarus with push start technology are the most targeted cars using this methodology. Theft (other) offences was the fourth fastest growing crime with petrol the most common item stolen in this category.

Family violence order breaches increased as Victoria experienced a record 106,247 family violence incidents. Most breaches are committed using technology, with offenders using mobile phones and social media to target victims.

Yout

Despite the rise in child crime – currently at the highest levels since electronic records began in 1993, children only account for 13.1 per cent of all offenders processed by police.

However police say they are over-represented in serious and violet crimes such as robberies, aggravated burglaries and car theft.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations David Clayton said overall crime was higher than both the community and the police would like.

"That's why every police officer is working tirelessly to reduce crime and hold criminals accountable – as they did in these twelve months with a record 75,968 arrests.

"We know the community has strong concerns around young offenders breaking into homes to steal cars, which are then driven at high speeds on our roads.

"This offending has led to catastrophic consequences in the past year, with stolen cars involved in more than 760 crashes and six people losing their lives."

Censorship or fair call? Mayor quashes question time

COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire Council's mayor has cracked down on council question time, refusing to read or answer questions she deemed inappropriate.

At last week's council meeting, resident Ian asked a question about the council's urban roads and drainage improvement (URDI) policy, saying council had an "aggressive push" to seal all the roads "against the wishes of the majority of residents".

Cr Halstead then highlighted the word "aggressive".

"I don't believe that's the case," Cr Halstead said.

"I have allowed the question to go through. But that language won't be acceptable in the future."

A question by Louise about the same policy asked whether it was "council's intention with the divisive URDI policy to pit neighbour against neighbour".

After reading the question, Cr Halstead then disallowed it, not allowing CEO Greg Box to reply with an answer.

"Again, I'm not happy with the language in this question," Cr Halstead said.

"I'd like to withdraw that question.

"To say council's policy is divisive is an incorrect statement."

Cr Halstead then criticised a third question by Cowes resident Sue about wildlife roadkill.

The question asked whether council could work with Nature Parks to clean up dead animals on the roadside, "otherwise it would be good to rename our island 'the dead wildlife attraction".

"I think we will just move to the next question," Cr Halstead said.

"Really that's not called for.

"I won't allow for unruly, nasty words to be put up in the council chamber.

"Referring to our beautiful island as something so awful will not be accepted anymore."

A member of the public gallery stood to make a comment, but Cr Halstead also disallowed questions from the floor, "there's no questions from the council floor".

There are many ways you can give us a hand.

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Phillip Island scores new bike tracks

Phillip Island will be home to four out of the five proposed new bike trails in Bass Coast, after councillors last week voted to approve a new implementation plan.

The plan also received \$50,000 in the 25/26 council budget, approved last week.

The implementation plan for the Mountain Bike/BMX/Pump Strategy identifies as short to medium term projects:

- Gap Road, Ventnor: jumps, mountain bike trail network (Westernport Water land), and pump track, estimated to cost \$2.2 million;
- Five Ways Reserve, Phillip Island Road, Cowes: micro trail, estimated cost \$81,700;
- Sunset Strip Reserve: jump lines and micro trails, estimated cost \$67,300;
- Sunnyside Reserve, Cape Woolamai: a small asphalt pump track, estimated cost \$277,200; and
- West Area Road (State Coal Mine Site), Wonthaggi: hybrid pump track, and mountain bike trail network, estimated cost \$1.9 million.

However, according to the plan, delivery of trails will now be dependent on grant funding "so a staged delivery is intended", with \$50,000 basic design work



The large open site of Gap Road is intended to be developed as an urban bike park incorporating jumps lines, a small pump track and mountain bike trails.

from the budget, and smaller trails to be delivered concurrently at Sunset Strip and Five Ways Reserve.

As reported last year, the much-anticipated final Mountain Bike/BMX/Pump Strategy was supported by councillors, despite it failing to commit to any specific project.

The strategy provided an overview of more than 30 sites, with a shortlist of about 11 on Phillip Island for either dirt jumps, micro trails, mountain bike, or pump tracks.

Because of the "vague" strategy, Cr Rochelle Halstead at the time moved a successful alternative amendment to create an implementation plan by June 2025 that detailed locations, costs and timeframes for delivery.

The Bass Coast Mountain Bike Association last month gave a presentation at the draft budget submissions hearing, calling for \$500,000 to be allocated, which was about 12 per cent of the total estimated \$4 million project cost.

Sites

Council officers and representatives from the Mountain Bike Association in the past year have met with Parks Victoria (West Area Road), Phillip Island Nature Parks (Five Ways Reserve), Regional Roads Victoria (Sunset Strip) and Westernport Water (land adjoining Gap Road) to discuss projects at these sites, with Gap Road and Sunnyside Reserve council owned.

"Each of the landown-

ers have expressed support," the implementation plan states.

The plan says Gap Road has the potential for multiple off-road cycling elements "that will attract the local community of Phillip Island as well as visitors", with a range of beginner to intermediate trails, including a small asphalt pump track for beginners.

Five Ways Reserve has an existing gravel shared use path and "additional discussion with PINP will be required to obtain approval to develop this land further".

"The intention is to have minimal impact on the native vegetation located on this site," the plan says, adding a short easy graded cross-country loop is proposed.

Sunset Strip Reserve currently has some informal jumps tracks that have been constructed by locals, with a short easy cross-country loop proposed, as well as two short easy to intermediate jumps trails.

A petition was received from Cape Woolamai residents in June 2024 to develop a masterplan for Sunnyside Reserve, with an asphalt pump track for bike, skate and scooter riders proposed.

Cr Mat Morgan said there was not enough activities for young people in Bass Coast and there had been "a lot of conversation happening around youth crime and antisocial behaviour, this is what we need".

"If I could just send a quick message to the State Government when it comes to youth justice, stop building prisons and build us some bike jumps," Cr Morgan said.



Retiring after 20 years of service, Dr Azad Kadom's room was filled with flowers and gifts from grateful patients and colleagues at Cowes Medical Centre.

Farewell to Dr Azad

COMMUNITY

After 20 years of devoted service to Phillip Island and its surrounds, Dr Azad Kadom is hanging up her stethoscope and stepping into a well-earned retirement.

For two decades, Dr Kadom has been a familiar and trusted presence in our community caring for generations of families.

Dr Kadom's patients have praised her for bringing "heart and humanity" into every consultation, saying she always had a reassuring word and took the time to listen.

She will be missed not just by her patients but also her colleagues at Cowes Medical Centre, who wish her all the very best for her next adventure



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Residents quiz Port on major bay project

TERMINAL

Phillip Island residents have been shown artist images of ships carrying 200-metre tall wind turbine towers off the Cowes jetty.

The images were part of a community information session in Cowes last Thursday - attended by more than 30 people - to discuss the Victorian Government's rebooted plans to build a new, significantly different version of the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal (VRET)

Last year the then Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek knocked back the original VRET because of national environmental concerns to Western Port Bay, with a new approval process now under way, including an Environmental Effects Statement (EES).

The Port of Hastings held the information session explaining, if approved, VRET construction would start in 2027 and be operational by the end of the decade.

The session heard from landscape specialist Hayden Burge who explained the north shore of Phillip Island would see ships in the bay channel - about 2km offshore - about once a week carrying wind turbine towers up to 200 metres tall.

The towers would be carried in an upright position, for about an hour off the island's coast, then transported out to Bass Strait where they would be constructed about 200 nautical miles offshore.

The Advertiser asked for copies of the images screened during the session but were told they were currently not available.

The presentation was one of several highlighting the impact of the VRET on Western Port.

However, no environmental presentations were made on the impact of the project on the bay, which is one of only five UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Australia, and is also a Ramsar wetland of international importance, designated in 1982 to protect critical waterfowl habitats.

Impact

VRET project director Peter Watt told the session the Ramsar declared area was about 60.000 hectares and the hub would reclaim about 18 hectares, aiming for the "right balance between reclamation and dredging".

Peter said the VRET would

cover 40ha, with dredging required for about five months to allow the berthing of vessels.

The amount and final extent of dredging was yet to be determined, with dredging material reused on the reclaimed area.

He said components manufactured overseas would be brought to the site for assembly, before being shipped out to Bass Strait for construction.

Earlier this year community groups called on the Victorian Government to release analysis showing why Western Port was chosen for a wind turbine construction hub, ahead of seven other ports.

Peter said Western Port was closest to offshore wind zones and had a naturally occurring deep water channel, making it the most economically viable.

"We know we are in an environmentally sensitive wetland so there's been a lot of work to design a facility that has minimal environmental impact," Pe-

Currently more than 20 studies are underway as part of the EES process, including dredging modelling to determine the distribution of sediment and silt, which showed the most impacted area was the western shore around Hastings.

Concerns

Phillip Island Conservation Society member Graeme Burgan said he had several unanswered questions after attending the information session.

Graeme, a former community representative on a Port of Hastings committee, said he was concerned dredging from the VRET area would impact the whole bay, while dredging may also be needed in the shipping channel.

"I asked whether there would be dredging in the channel and they didn't have an answer," Graeme said, also not receiving an answer on the size of VRET

In past years the port had carried out maintenance dredging of the channel, dumping spoil off French Island, with the dredging plume lethal to seagrass meadows.

"That's what I'm worried about. Dredging happening higher in the bay impacting the north shore of Phillip Island's seagrasses.'

Graeme said he was also concerned about the total number and size of vessels in the bay



A range of experts gave presentations at the community meeting last week.



be 43ha and require dredging of the bay for about five months to allow the berthing of vessels. Phillip Islanders have questioned the downstream impacts of the dredging plume.

"but they couldn't tell me how many movements per week there would be".

In the 1990s there was a moratorium applied to Western Port's shipping channel, prohibiting more than one large ship travelling at a time to avoid potential collisions and oil spills.

"I asked if they were going to continue the moratorium on only one ship in the channel at one time. Accidents can happen.

"We don't have nearly as many vessel movements in the bay as 20-30 years ago, but how many will come with the VRET?

"You can fit two ships going past each other with room but only 50 metres room in certain locations. If there's an accident there it impacts Phillip Island."

He said he had concerns about the visual impact of the ships carrying turbine towers, especially at the Nobbies and he also questioned the future of the VRET once the wind turbine zone was at full capacity.

"What happens after the wind farms are installed?

"It's a political question. Any future use of the port may become a threat to the bay and therefore Phillip Island."

Threatened Species Conservancy ecologist Mitch Burrows asked why the EES didn't have extra precautions and regulations, "given it's such a sensitive ecosystem".

"Why isn't there stricter measures, a higher bar for Ramsar areas," he asked.

Totally Renewable Phillip Island's Simon Helps said largescale offshore wind generation will be required for Victoria to close coal power stations by

"To achieve a 100 per cent renewable Victoria the port and the State Government need to complete this development with consideration of the local environment and minimise the impact on Western Port," Simon

Details: renewableenergyterminal.com.au/

Door closed after window shatters

BERNINNEIT

The front door to Berninneit in Cowes was closed last Wednesday morning, after an internal window spontaneously shattered near the entrance.

A local resident who was in the library at the time said they heard a loud bang, then saw an internal window had completely shattered, but was still in place in its frame. The window was located in the foyer on the left, in front of the entrance to the library.

Staff quickly cordoned off the area, with visitors to Berninneit directed to enter via the door near the theatre.

Entry to the library via the great hall was also blocked off, with visitors entering via a side

door off the internal courtyard.

safety of staff and visitors was their priority, so the area was blocked off.

"The area was immediately made safe by Council staff at the time of the incident, and access was redirected as an extra precaution while our internal maintenance team attended," the spokesperson said.

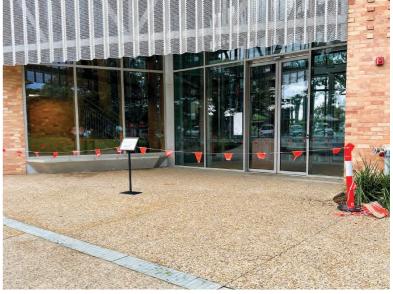
"Upon inspection, the window functioned as designed; while the internal pane shattered, the safety glazing remained intact and contained.

"No glass fell, and at no stage was there a risk to the public. The break appears to have been spontaneous, with no evidence of external force or tampering. It's likely the pane will be replaced

Later in the afternoon, a vehicle from Bettsy's Glass was parked outside the building.

The cause of the break has not been confirmed.

There are a number of reasons toughened or tempered glass might shatter including: poor edge quality (nicks or chips to the edges of glass panels that occur when it is being packaged, shipped or installed); thermal stress (a difference in temperature between the centre and the edge of the glass); or fabrication defeats, such as accidental inclusions of nickel sulphide (most commonly caused by use of stainless steel machinery in the glass making process).



The front door to Berninneit was closed last Wednesday morning, after an internal window spontaneously shattered near the entrance, with visitors directed to enter via a door near the theatre.

Bang for the buck: fireworks to stay, for now

COUNCIL

Despite concerns for the environment, pets and wildlife, end of year fireworks will continue in Cowes and other Bass Coast towns

A three-year review of fireworks by Bass Coast Shire – at Cowes, Inverloch and Coronet Bay – ruled out alternatives including drones, laser shows, and quiet fireworks, which are more costly than standard fireworks.

The review included a survey, environmental impact assessment, and analysis of attendance data.

About 2330 people took part, with results showing 84 per cent support for fireworks, with respondents saying they boosted the economy and helped businesses.

There were 76 per cent local residents, while 59 per cent said they came to Bass Coast for the fireworks.

A desktop assessment by environmental consultants on the effects of fireworks on wildlife found "it is likely large summer crowds and illegal fireworks throughout the year will have more impact on wildlife than a once-yearly fireworks display".

"The main known issues to wildlife from fireworks are noise/light and pollution of chemicals into the air, soil and water," the review found.

"However, the long-term impacts of fireworks on wild-life and how far spatially these impacts span are understudied, and therefore it is difficult to draw definite conclusions

about the impacts within the study areas."

Alternatives were examined but found to be too expensive, including laser shows (up to \$50,000), drones (up to \$100,000), and quiet fireworks (up to \$20,000), with "technical challenges, and lower public appeal make them impractical at this stage".

Council's annual budget for fireworks is \$52,300: \$11,200 for the Cowes Carols by the Bay fireworks and \$41,100 for the three New Years Eve events.

"These options can reduce environmental and noise impacts while still providing visually engaging experiences," the review said

"Fireworks remain the most cost-effective and popular option."

It concluded traditional fireworks would continue for the next three years to 2027.

The review said while celebrations provided benefits, there were also risks, including increased visitor numbers straining infrastructure.

"Fireworks debris can enter public areas, waterways, and vegetation," it said.

There was also resourcing pressures on police and other emergency services.

Overseas, the death of an endangered red panda in Edinburgh Zoo – which this year died from stress caused by fireworks, choking on her vomit – saw animal welfare charities call for tighter restrictions on fireworks, saying they cause fear and distress for pets, live-



Council's annual budget for fireworks is \$52,300, with drones, laser shows and quiet fireworks – which are all better for the environment and wildlife – currently too expensive to adopt. A councillor said Phillip Island's ecosystem meant Cowes was not the place for fireworks.

stock and wildlife.

"Not in Cowes"

Cr Mat Morgan said while he liked fireworks, "in Cowes, it's not the place".

"The island is a delicate ecosystem, centred around our environmental assets and fireworks don't belong on the island," Cr Morgan said, apologising for being the "fun police".

He said a bat wildlife shelter had written to him with concerns about fireworks in Cowes and "I wholeheartedly agree with them". "The grey-headed flying fox is a listed threatened species, and they are impacted by these fireworks.

"The number of orphaned pups needing assistance in Victoria has ballooned tragically in the past couple of years.

"I know we all love the fireworks, but we need to at least move them away from environmentally sensitive areas."

Cr Tracey Bell said she was "torn" by fireworks, saying she loved attending fireworks with her son and friends, in the "great community atmosphere".

"On the other hand the environmental impacts are hard to stomach," she said.

"I'm glad it's a three-year plan which will give us time to get the drone shows down in price. The alternative to fireworks is very expensive we probably can't easily justify when council has so many other financial priorities to deal with."

Cr Tim O'Brien said concentrating the fireworks in Cowes in one spot was better than the "ratbag" fireworks along the coast, "which spreads the risk to wildlife in a larger area".

Cr Jon Temby said he didn't approve the use of fireworks over water, as it "guaranteed the pollution of the sea", impacting Western Port's RAMSAR Biosphere area, or "anywhere else where the waste can't be collected and disposed of properly".

Cr Ronnie Bauer said it was "always wonderful to see the delight on the faces of our community and especially the children".

"We should not be worried about our council operated events, but be looking at the real danger," Cr Bauer said.

"The illegal fireworks let off on our beaches and hinterland. That is a bushfire waiting to happen."

Cr Brett Tessari said he loved fireworks and the joy they brought to the community.

"It brings money to the community. It puts you in good spirits to start the new year," Cr Tessari said.

"It might not be kosher but I'm excited by this plan."



Budget passed, expect pain in the wallet

COUNCIL

Average householders will pay rates bills of about \$1725 this year, after Bass Coast Shire councillors last week approved the final 25/26 budget.

The budget will see a rate rise of three per cent, in line with the State Government's mandated cap.

The garbage charge will increase by 7.4 per cent or \$42 to \$617.

When combined with the rates charge, the real rate increase is 4.9 per cent.

The major projects budget increased slightly from \$31.3 million to \$31.5 million, after extra funding was given to some projects, including an additional \$190,000 to the future Cowes recreation reserve (see separate story).

The budget projects an operating deficit of \$1.5 million, returning to surplus in 2026-27, with the deficit – according to the council – due to Wonthaggi landfill rehabilitation works.

There will also be: \$3.5 million for the Inverloch to Wonthaggi Trail; \$3 million for Cowes streetscape improvements; \$2 million for Bass Recreation Reserve netball pavilion; \$1.9 million for Wonthaggi netball pavilion and; \$650,000 for Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement (URDI).

There will be \$2 million in new borrowings.

The council's CEO office has wages of \$499,000, for the CEO and their assistant, rising to \$519,000 next year and \$562,000 in 28/29.

Scrutiny

Cr Ronnie Bauer – who voted against the budget with Cr Meg Edwards – argued the budget was based on the last council's four-year plan.

"I can hear the non-elected councillors from the last council saying we don't need to be there, they are doing our plan anyway," Cr Bauer said, adding this council's plan should have been



Cr Ronnie Bauer – who voted against the budget – said the proposed new Cowes recreation reserve secured extra funding "because Cr O'Brien and myself have been yelling from the rafters".

completed before the budget.

He said increasing budget costs needed "closer scrutiny", questioning why the Cowes streetscape plan received \$8 million from the Federal Government yet council was adding a further \$3 million.

"That \$3 million could be better spent on the Cowes recreation reserve which only has received a poultry \$440,000."

He said the reserve originally had only \$250,000 and it was "only because Cr O'Brien and myself have been yelling from the rafters that we received a token doubling".

"Council has an operational expenditure of \$86.9 million. You cannot tell me that we can't find \$1 million savings that can be allocated to the Cowes recre-

ation reserve."

Cr Rochelle Halstead said council officers were questioned about current council priorities and the "response was fair", "wanting the new council to be in chairs (of committees) to make it our own".

"There is a process that has to be followed," Cr Halstead said.

"We have our fingerprints all over this budget ... To say we don't have some ownership of this budget and it's the last council's budget, I don't agree.

"We don't have infinite buckets of money so we gave the Cowes recreation reserve as much money as we could for this budget."

Cr Brett Tessari said budgets were never easy, but "this is not just a budget for Phillip Island".

"We have to spread the love,"

Cr Tessari said.

"I too would like to snap my fingers and have a couple of million for the school site (in Wonthaggi).

Bass Coast Shire Council's CEO office has wages of \$499,000, for the CEO and

their assistant, rising to \$519,000 next year and \$562,000 in 28/29.

"I was hopeful to have a blonde afro but we don't always get what we want."

Cr Tim O'Brien said budgets were never "wholly good or bad", but "parts of this budget are disappointing", particularly the unchanged 80 per cent rate differential for farmers.

"I feel we have let our farmers down," he said, explaining surrounding areas had a significantly less differential.

Cr O'Brien said he still hoped the budget would have allocated \$1 million for the Cowes recreation reserve.

He argued in the next 12 nity approach."

months funding would be redirected to current priorities.

Cr Jon Temby said the budget failed to reflect funding for the environment, which was ratepayer's "highest priority", as shown in community surveys.

"We're putting over \$4 million into sports but nothing into the environment. Some rebalance is required," Cr Temby said.

Councillors also voted for the 2025 revenue and rating plan.

Cr Mat Morgan said rates impacted all the community, including renters who don't pay rates but still needed shire services.

"I share a lot of sympathy with farmers. I come from a farming background," Cr Morgan said.

"We need a whole of community approach."

Packed agenda pushed through at June meeting

COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire councillors approved a record number of policies from a jam-packed agenda at the June meeting.

Policies that only a month or two ago were seeking community feedback were passed last week, including the San Remo structure plan, the Integrated Transport Strategy, and the 25/26 budget.

Community consultation on the Circular Economy Framework 2025 was only held last month, with a statewide summit on the issue held in Cowes earlier in June.

But councillors last week approved the framework, which aims to minimise resource use, waste and emissions, and support recycling and reuse of products

Cr Mat Morgan said the framework was "bold" but would be "undermined for every day the Federal Government sits on their hands allowing producers to keep polluting in their production of plastic".

"The government has just ap-

proved the largest gas export project in the country, you've already failed on climate," Cr Morgan said. "What are you going to do

about the shearwater birds with stomachs so full of plastic that they crunch?

"In Bass Coast we're doing all we can. But we can't tackle the war on waste by ourselves."

Cr Jon Temby said the circular economy minimised our impact on the planet.

"It's better than dig it up, use it and throw it away, which is what we do now," Cr Temby said.

The framework flags potential solutions including processing and use of organic material locally, also supporting a local marketplace for salvaged construction materials.

For the tourism industry, it proposes "waste free tourism" including reducing single-use plastics, supporting nature tourism that regenerates the environment and zero waste events, and introducing energy and water-efficiency.

For construction, it proposes supporting recycled materials,



Councillors voted in support of a large number of new policies last week, which will have widespread impact, including a transport strategy and a circular economy framework.

modular construction and digital platforms for sharing waste materials, as well as establishing deconstruction guidelines for buildings.

For farming, the report encourages composting and repurposing organic waste, alongside adopting regenerative farming,

soil health practices such as nutrient cycling, bioenergy and biochar products.

"The current economic model of 'take, make, use, dispose' is inherently unsustainable. The human economy is now global, yet material resources are finite," the framework states.

More policies

The Integrated Transport Strategy was developed over two years, with more than 1500 residents responding in surveys, pop-up sessions and workshops, including in April this year.

Feedback highlighted the need for improved public transport reliability, and solutions to seasonal parking pressures.

As a result, a dedicated parking strategy has been included as a key council action.

Consultation on the San Remo structure plan was held in April, with 58 written submissions and 69 survey responses received.

Changes made in response to feedback include prioritising road network upgrades, investigating additional parking near Marine Parade, and a shift away from cars and access points in the future growth area between Potters Hill Road and Punch Bowl Road.

For further details on the San Remo structure plan and the Integrated Transport Strategy, see next week's paper.





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It's almost the end of the financial year which means it's also tax time again.

Flourishing Figures looks forward to seeing many familiar and new faces over the next couple of months.

In May this year, we amalgamated offices to simplify operations. It had been a wonderful six-plus years in Cowes; however the time had come for a change.

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Tax appointments can be booked now, either online via www.flourishingfigures.com.au or by phoning 1300 865 624.

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Southside Tax and Bookkeeping has long been a trusted name in Gippsland for reliable, friendly, and professional tax and accounting services.

In April 2024, the firm entered an exciting new chapter when Melissa Cane took over ownership from Frank Pagano. With 13 years of accounting experience under her belt. Melissa brings fresh energy, deep expertise, and a genuine passion for helping people understand and take control of their financial af-

Melissa's journey in accounting has been driven by a love working with individuals and small businesses. Over the years, she has developed a reputation for being approachable, knowledgeable and thorough. She takes pride in demystifying the often-complex Australian tax system, guiding clients with care and clarity so they feel informed and empowered.

Whether it's tax returns, business advice, or long-term business planning, Melissa is committed to building lasting relationships and delivering practical outcomes.

After purchasing Southside Tax and Bookkeeping in April 2024, Melissa continued to operate the well-established Traralgon office, ensuring clients



Southside Tax and Bookkeeping has long been a trusted name in Gippsland, and has now opened an office in Cowes, bringing their expertise to the heart of Phillip Island. Photo: Scott Graham, Unsplash.

experienced a smooth transition and the same quality service they had come to expect. With her strong leadership and clientfirst approach, the business has continued to grow - and now, an exciting expansion is just around the corner.

On June 30, Melissa will open a second Southside Tax location in Cowes, bringing her team's expertise to the heart of Phillip Island. This new office will offer the same personalised service and practical advice that has made Southside a trusted name supported by a talented and ex-

in the Latrobe Valley. The Cowes office is set to become a valuable resource for local individuals and business owners looking for reliable and professional tax and accounting support.

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Senior accountant Mick Mahoney brings extensive knowledge and a calm, problem-solving approach to his work. His years of experience make him a reliable asset for clients with more complex needs.

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Rounding out the team is Karen Carruthers, who handles both bookkeeping and administration. Karen is often the first friendly face clients see when they visit the office, and she ensures everything runs smoothly behind the scenes.

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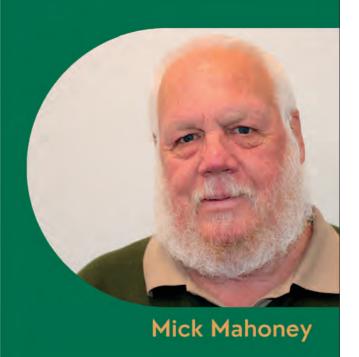
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Shadow puppets, beloved children's stories and a classical music journey are just some of the delights on offer this school holidays at Berninneit and the Union Theatre.

Winter wonders these holidays

ENTERTAINMENT

It's a winter wonderland at Bass Coast venues in July, with shows for all ages to enjoy. Don't let the wet or chilly weather spoil your holidays - there's plenty for kids to enjoy indoors.

On July 10 at 11am, Alison Lester's award-winning children's book, "Imagine" is being brought to life on stage at Berninneit, celebrating creativity, friendship and the natural world.

With the help of the audience, performers play and sing their way through the book, using digital puppetry and animation technology and a beautiful musical score.

Recommended for children four to 10 years, plus families.

Over in Wonthaggi, the love of puppets continues, with two special presentations on July 12. At 11am, join baby owl Poot Poot, studying at Owl School to learn to become wise, in the shadow puppetry performance of The Owl's Apprentice.

Then indulge your love of puppets

even further and join the shadow puppet workshop - Playing with Light, at 12.30pm.

Recommended for children aged three and over. All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets to this workshop are selling fast, so don't miss

The holiday fun continues at Berninneit on July 18 at 2pm, when the Inventi Ensemble presents Cinderella.

The ensemble's performance breathes new life into Prokofiev's Cinderella, weaving together the timeless tale with Whitwell's captivating composi-

Inventi Ensemble is a pioneering force in the Australian classical music scene. Founded in 2014 the ensemble has redefined the chamber music experience through a fusion of traditional repertoire and cutting-edge contemporary works.

A must for music lovers of all ages. Tickets for all show available at www. basscoastculturalvenues.com/

/Sponsored article/

Get set for a Whale of a Time

The Whale of a Time mosaics exhibition has been created collectively by students of local mosaic and ceramics artist - Heather Fahnle from Mosaics by the Bay at Ventnor.

The exhibition, which runs from July 11 until July 13, at the Creative Arts Station at 119 Thompson Avenue in Cowes, is part of the Island Whale Festival.

Students were given carte blanche on their own designs and ideas to create these whales which are made from ceramic tiles, glass, shells and/or porcelain crockery.

Many students have attended Heather's weekly classes for several years, learning and improving their skills as well as gaining the confidence to exhibit their work.

"The classes are more than just mosaic creations, they have become a space where students can share and discuss ideas, critique each other's work, offer support and a shoulder when needed over a cuppa and cake," said Heather.

This is the third student exhibition Heather has choreographed.

The Birds of a Heather Exhibition was held at Yarram Courthouse in February 2024 which saw over 50 mosaic birds on display.



The Whale of a Time Exhibition presented by Mosaics by the Bay at the Creative Arts Station, 119 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, runs from July 11 - 13, as part of the Island Whale Festival.

The Circles of Life Exhibition was held in January 2025.

At both exhibitions, many pieces sold on opening night, so don't miss your chance. Everyone is invited to join the Whale of a Time opening on July 11 from 5pm to 7pm.

Entry is free.

Heather offers half or full day workshops for anyone wishing to learn a new skill within an acces-

sible and inclusive environment.

Full details are available at heatherfahnle.com.

The Whale of a Time Exhibition presented by Mosaics by the Bay at the Creative Arts Station, 119 Thompson Avenue, Cowes.

Opening night, Friday July 11 from 5pm to 7pm; open Saturday and Sunday (July 12 and 13) from

Imagine Live! - Alison Lester

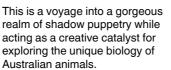
Family Theatre

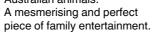
THU 10 JUL / 11:00AM / FROM \$12

Imagine Live! brings Alison Lester's award winning children's book to life on stage. Enjoy digital puppetry and animation technology paired with a brilliant music score and participatory storytelling.



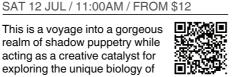
INFO & **TICKETS**





The Owl's Apprentice

Family Theatre



INFO & **TICKETS**

The Union Theatre, Wonthaggi



Playing With Light

Shadow Puppet Workshop SAT 12 JUL / 12:30PM / \$12

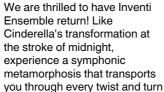
This amazing hands-on workshop teaches children the skills to make their own shows as well as a take-home puppet. Children will finish with a performance of their own stories on a real shadow puppet stage!



INFO & TICKETS

of the story.

Live Orchestra



Cinderella - Inventi Ensemble

FRI 18 JUL / 2:00PM / FROM \$15



INFO & **TICKETS**

Berninneit, Cowes

The Union Theatre, Wonthaggi

Winter School Holidays Program

The Union Theatre, Wonthaggi Berninneit, Cowes



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Ngangga Festival to celebrate NAIDOC

RECONCILIATION

Bass Coast Reconciliation Network is excited to announce the very first Ngangga on Milawul (Phillip Island) – a free event celebrating NAIDOC Week on Sunday July 6.

The event, run in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community, will see First Nations-owned stallholders, volunteers, community organisations, musicians and artists come together to celebrate culture through fun activities, games, live music, deadly (great) information and support, arts, crafts and more.

Aligning with the 2025 NAIDOC theme of Next Generation, Strength, Vision and Legacy, Ngangga aims to empower young people and families to celebrate, experience and learn more of our shared history.

The one-day festival will run from 12pm – 5pm at Berninneit in Cowes starting with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony.

Everyone is invited to come along and be part of the great First Nations' stalls, music, workshops, activities and family fun across the day that will be followed by an evening performance from Uncle Kutcha Edwards (tickets required) in the theatre at Berninneit.

It will be a treat to see First Nations artists Candice Lorrae and Fonzie (Paul) Patten performing as part of the free festival along with local business WKY events running cultural games along



First Nations' artist Candice Lorrae is appearing at the Ngangga Festival at Berninneit on July 6, part of NAIDOC Week celebrations.

with a variety of First Nations stallholders and activities. The event is support by Ab-

original-led partnership Dhelk Dja. Paul Patten is part of the event organising committee and also Chairperson for the Inner Gippsland South Coast Dhelk Dja Action Group.

"We wish everyone a happy NAIDOC week. What better way to celebrate than to be together. There are so many events happening across Bass Coast, come along and celebrate with us," Paul said.

Leslie Briggs, Owner of WKY Events, will be running traditional games and an artefact display



At the one-day Ngangga Festival on July 6 at Berninneit, local business WKY events is running cultural games, along with a variety of First Nations stallholders and activities.

on the day. "To me, the festival means togetherness and recognising our Indigenous Culture and opportunities to gain knowledge and respect," said Leslie.

We bring cultural activities and give our community the opportunity to learn and get hands on experience in Aboriginal Culture. People should come along to learn and engage with our culture to then spread awareness for others," Leslie said.

First Nations Community member and co-Chair of the Network, Dr Bev Munro said the NAIDOC event on Milawul (Phillip Island) holds immense significance, both for her and

the wider community.

"It's an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the rich culture and heritage of First Nations Peoples. For the community, it is a chance to come together, learn, and foster understanding through shared experiences.

"It's also a powerful reminder of the importance of reconciliation and the ongoing journey towards healing and recognition for First Peoples.'

Ngangga (meaning to hear, to understand, to listen in Boonwurrung language) welcomes First Nations Peoples together with our allies and supporters,

residents and tourists to share our history; celebrate our culture, ancestors and Elders; elevate the voices and visibility of First Nations Peoples and create an exciting future for next generations through empowering and supporting our young people to work towards self-determination and economic prosperity.

Bass Coast Reconciliation Network has run many major reconciliation events including a Bridge Walk for Reconciliation in 2022 where over 1000 community members walked across the bridge from San Remo to Milawul.

Want to come along to Ngangga?

We are asking people to register on Try Booking for their free ticket to Ngangga! This is not essential – you can just turn up on the day – it just helps us with planning. See ad for details and more at: www.basscoast.vic. gov.au/ngangga-festival

There are many events happening across Bass Coast this NAIDOC Week including the annual NAIDOC Art Exhibition in Wonthaggi, Birdz & Fred Sounds at Wonthaggi on Saturday July 5 at 7.30pm and a special performance by Uncle Kutcha Edwards at Berninneit in Cowes on Sunday July 6 following the Ngangga Festival (paid tickets for this performance are required).

Get your full guide in next week's papers and on Bass Coast Shire Council's website and socials: www.basscoast.vic. gov.au/reconciliation

/Sponsored article/





at Berninneit.

Sammy J at this year's **Festival of Stories**



Sammy J is an Australian comedian, author, composer and broadcaster. He's performed around the world, had a sitcom on Netflix, is one half of the man/puppet comedy duo "Sammy J & Randy", hosted the ABC Radio Melbourne breakfast show and created viral satirical sketches and songs on politics, parenting, and everything in between.

Sammy J's MC skills have seen him host award shows, interview politicians, and inject much-needed humour into corporate events.

He regularly runs workshops is schools, narrates educational content and his debut middle-grade novel The Long Class Goodnight was published in 2023. Sammy J is a proud Ambassador for Big Brothers Big Sisters and Oxfam. In 2023 he broadcast live on radio for twenty-four hours straight to help raise money for SecondBite.

As part of this year's Festival of Stories, Saturday evening's Sing a Song with Sammy is an amusing stroll through stories and music on the piano.

Don't miss the chance to sing along on Saturday, July 26

Tickets available now at www.pifestivalofstories.com or scan the QR code.



Tickets available now at www.pifestivalofstories.com

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Expressions of interest open for next PICES exhibition

Expressions of interest open next month for the 2025-2026 Summer Exhibition presented by the Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space (PICES). If you or someone you know is an established or emerging contemporary artist, then this opportunity is for you. PICES will hold its seventh popular and successful Summer Exhibition at Berninneit Art Gallery in Cowes from December 12, 2025 to February 1, 2026. There will be three consecutive exhibitions.

The first, the Small Works Exhibition (open entry) will run from December 12 to January 1.

It will be followed by the Contem-

pora Exhibition, featuring two curated exhibitions of works by emerging and established contemporary artists. Entry is by Expressions of Interest and a selection panel.

Contempora 1 Exhibition runs from January 4 – 15. Contempora 2 Exhibition runs from January 17 to February 1.

Exhibitions feature a broad spectrum of art such as paintings, drawings, ceramics, collage, original limited edition artist prints, photographs, textiles, installations, and video/film.

Applications open on July 1. Visit PICES website www.pices.com.au for further information and applica-



Expressions of Interest for the 2025-2026 PICES exhibitions open on July 1. Kim Wood's "Yellow Glow", one of the paintings on display at the 2025 Pop Up 1 Art Exhibition.

noir-rock"



San Remo resident Matt Fidas is out to make a deal, appearing on Deal or No Deal on July 2.

Matt wants to make a deal

San Remo resident Matt Fidas is out to make a deal, appearing on Deal or No Deal on July 2.

Matt is hoping to walk away with \$100,000 when he appears on the show, which he can use to pursue his passion for unique musical instruments.

"Since Covid I have been pretty obsessed with instruments, and have been building a pretty good collection of wacky and different ones," he said.

"I love the gong because it sends you into this meditative relaxed state, and some of the noises you can

create just hit something inside that feels so goddamn good.

"Whenever anyone comes to my house we always end up having a big old gong sesh!"

The 26-year-old, who runs his own solar panel cleaning business says he hopes his intuition leads him to selecting the right case. And if he wins the major prize he hopes to add a few gongs to his collections, helping the ultimate dream of becoming a sound healer.

Matt's episode of Deal or No Deal airs on Wednesday July 2, at 7pm on Network Ten.

Bleak Squad gets warmed and a full tour in October.

MUSIC

What do you get when you combine members of Dirty Three, Magic Dirt, Art of Fighting, Birthday Party and Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds?

Something pretty bleak. Bleak Squad, new fourpiece band, a rock supergroup of sorts, is coming to Meeniyan on Saturday, August 2.

Featuring Phillip Island's Mick Turner, he will be joined on stage by Mick Harvey, Adalita and Marty Brown.



Bleak Squad play Meeniyan Town Hall on August 2, at 8pm. The rock super group features Mick Turner (Dirty Three), Mick Harvey (Bad Seeds), Adalita (Magic Dirt) and Marty Brown (Art of Fighting). Photo: Felix Oliver

The group has just released their first single "Lost My Head" and their show at Meeniyan will bum release in late August,

only be their second time together on stage, in the lead up to their debut al-

The debut album "Strange Love" has been described as "brooding,

"I think the name Bleak Squad speaks to both this loose collection of misfits and the noirish mood of

our music," says Adalita. "It's a bit goth-blues, but also has a dreamlike, velvety feel. We're not here to soothe. We're here to haunt." Bleak Squad play Meeniyan Town Hall on August 2, at 8pm.

www.lyrebirdartscouncil.com.au/



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Jack's best foot forward for Free 3D Hands

FUNDRAISER

Phillip Island tattooist Jack Montgomery will set off before dawn on Saturday July 19 to run 110km around the island, raising funds for Newhaven-based charity Free 3D Hands.

After smashing his original \$2000 target, he hopes to raise \$4000 for the charity and is well on his way to achieving that goal.

The run will be Jack's second major endurance run, after completing the 100km Buffalo Stampede ultramarathon last year.

"This time, I wanted to run for a more meaningful purpose – and I definitely wanted to do something to support Free 3D Hands," Jack said.

"They're one of the most selfless group of people I've ever met. They just want to help people."

His connection is personal. His mum and aunt went to school with founder Mat Bowtell, and Jack even produced a student documentary on Free 3D Hands while studying film and television. Since then, he has also been part of several fundraising flash-tattoo days for the charity.

Once he decided on the run challenge, Jack set up a training regime, originally running six days a week.

But after noticing niggles", he focused on "listening to his body", incorporating strength work and prioritising recovery to stay injury-free ahead of the run.

He continues to take inspiration from the work of Free 3D Hands, which shares its designs open source and has supplied over 26,249 assistive devices free of charge.

"Just this week, they sent an arm to a girl in a remote Gambian village," Jack said, adding that every dollar raised will help buy materials and cover postage, so devices reach recipients at no cost.

He's hoping the community will get behind the fundraiser, with people able to donate now online, or on the day.

Jack expects to finish his July 19 run between 5.30pm and 7pm at Grenache Wine Bar, Thompson Avenue, where locals can cheer him home.

"There'll be a QR code if anyone wants to donate on the day, and I'll have a beer and just be stoked it's over," he laughed.

"Hopefully I can raise some awareness and some funds and maybe put the spotlight on what amazing people like Mat are doing.

To donate now, scan the QR



Phillip Island tattooist Jack Montgomery is running 110km around the island on Saturday July 19, raising funds for Newhaven-based charity Free 3D Hands. Scan the QR code to donate.



Expanding on the success of the Men's Song Gang, a new choir has been formed, open to men and women. It will meet every second Tuesday at the Westernport Hotel from 7.30pm - 9pm, starting on July 29.



The children and residents read books together, when Island Kids Learning Centre visited Melaleuca Aged Care.

Song Gang expands with new choir

COMMUNITY

Island Men's Song Gang, a new choir is starting next month.

The Song Gang Choir is open to men and women and will meet on every second Tuesday at the Westernport Hotel

The first meeting is Tuesday July 29 from 7.30pm - 9pm, with entry \$15 per person.

Founder of Song Gang, Simon Moule said he decided to start the new choir after receiving a lot of interest from women wanting a similar opportunity to the Men's Song Gang.

He said many of those interested were partners of the men's Song Gang members, or people who witnessed them singing at the pub.

While I occasionally run one-off singing events, I thought it was time to create something ongoing," Simon said.

"The Island Men's Song Building on the success of the Gang will stay as it is - free, a cappella, and non-performance based - which is really important to maintain its saf inclusive vibe where the focus is simply on the joy of singing together.

> "The new choir will be different. It will occasionally include instruments, be performanceoriented, and come with a small weekly fee.

> "This helps support the new group and also contributes to sustaining the Men's Song Gang, which offers benefits that go well beyond just the music.

> A Facebook account (Song Gang Choir) has been set up as well as an Instagram account (Song_Gang_Choir) and Simon said he will announce any updates via social media.

History

Founded by Simon Moule and his friend Liam Jury, the Men's Song Gang started as a casual meet-up in a school hall, inired by a desire for more mu sic in their lives.

With a background in film and TV and a lifelong passion for music, Simon has transformed what began as a simple gathering into a growing community.

The Song Gang has become more than just a singing group; it's a space for connection among men.

"Many cultures around the world get together and sing but being vulnerable isn't really an Australian bloke thing to do. We generally don't want to seem silly or soft so find the idea of singing together a bit weird - myself included," said Simon.

"But it actually feels amazing to get together and harmonise."

Kinder kids brighten aged care

COMMUNITY

Little footsteps filled the lounge of Melaleuca Aged Care Home in Cowes this month when the children from Island Kids Learning Centre made a special visit to spend time with the residents.

This generational connection was a morning of reading, art and shared joy, encouraging empathy in young learners, and bringing companionship to seniors.

"Seeing the children interact with so much curiosity, kindness, and laughter, was incredibly moving and it was beautiful to see how naturally they formed bonds with the residents," said Cheryl Teunissen (Kinder Teacher).

The delighted audience smiled and clapped as the children sang and performed action songs, bringing a spark of youthful enthusiasm to the morning.



Residents helped the children read and draw during the visit to Melaleuca Aged Care from Island Kids Learning Centre.

"This is the best day," said one resident with a big smile.

The day ended with shared hugs and promises of another visit soon.

More photos at pisra.com.au

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ADVERTISING



More Business Guide on next page.

DEATHS

BOYLE, Harley Owen:

22nd July 1937 - 13th June 2025

Devoted husband to Jennifer

Beloved father of Joshua, Rebecca and Freya and father-in-law to Phillip

Cherished grandfather to Gabriel, Ben, Indigo and Audrey

Forever in our hearts.

A celebration of the life of Harley will be held at Christ Church, 36 Station Rd, Foster, at 11.30am on the 27th of June followed by a private burial at Foster Cemetery.

A livestream broadcast will take place.

Please find link on the Gippsland Funeral Services webpage.

MIKKELSEN, **Brian Francis James:**

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Brian Francis James Mikkelsen on the 19th June 2025.

Treasured husband of Anne, loving father of Brian and Adam and Poppy of Jolie, Elle, Charlize, Jack and Nate.

DEATHS

STRUDWICK, **Kay Jacqueline** (née Bradbury):

13/10/1939 - 17/6/2025 Darling and much-loved sister and best friend of Gail.

Beloved sister-in-law of Vern.

Treasured aunt to Jason, Andie, PJ, Kate and their families. An incredible, kind and loving soul - deeply missed and forever loved. My heart is broken. Rest peacefully, my beautiful sis, until we meet again. XX

Cherished daughter of Norma and Len Bagley. An inspiring mother and grandmother to Kendra, Pete, Flynn, Amanda, Damian, Alex and her Sydney family. K is for the kindness you showed to everyone. A is for the awe we feel you endured so much, for so long.

Y is for the yearning I will always carry for my Mum. I promise to take care of your Moopy.

FUNERALS

MIKKELSEN

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr. Brian Francis James Mikkelsen will be held at the Phillip Island Bowling Club, 40 Dunsmore Road, Cowes, TODAY, Wednesday (June 25, 2025) commencing at

11:00am. A private family burial will be held.

FOLLOW US FOR MORE NEWS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

OPTUS Ovodafone

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT NEWHAVEN

- 1. Optus and Vodafone are proposing to upgrade an existing mobile phone base station at 886 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven VIC 3925.
- 2. The proposed upgrade will consist of:
 - Replacement of three (3) existing Optus panel antennas with three (3) new Optus panel antennas (each not more than 2.8m
 - Replacement of three (3) existing Vodafone panel antennas with three (3) new Vodafone panel antennas (each not more than 2.8m in length);
 - Installation of three (3) new Vodafone 5G panel antennas (each not more than 2.8m in length);
 - Replacement of existing Remote Radio Units (RRUs) with twenty (20) new RRUs:
 - Installation, relocation and removal of ancillary equipment, including GPS antennas, mounts, feeders, cabling, combiners, and other associated equipment; and
 - Internal works within the proposed equipment shelter.
- 3. In accordance with Section 7 of the Industry Code C564:2025 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment, we invite you to make comments about the proposal.
- 4. Please direct comments to Vanessa Wan at 0447 240 015 or via email at Optus.submissions@servicestream.com.au or via post at Level 3, Tower B, Zenith Centre, 821 Pacific Highway, Chatswood NSW 2067 by 5pm, Thursday 10 July 2025.

For more information about the proposal, scan the QR Code or visit www.rfnsa.com.au/3925002.



BUSINESS GUIDE

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

ACCESS & USAGE CHARGES 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026

Westernport Water adopted by resolution of its Board, the following charges for the period 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026. This is in accordance with the Water Act 1989 and the pricing decision handed down by the Essential Services Commission.

| Water usage charge (per kL) | \$ |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Residential | 2.5066 |
| Non-Residental | 2.5066 |
| Standpipe Variable Charge | 4.0621 |

| Water fixed charge p.a. | \$ |
|--|--------|
| Residential access charge | 454.15 |
| Vacant land - connected | 454.15 |
| Unconnected vacant land | 227.04 |
| Non-Residential (price varies depending on size of s | ervice |

| Wastewater fixed charge p.a. | \$ |
|--|--------|
| Residential sewer access | 719.28 |
| Unconnected vacant land | 360.25 |
| Non-residential sewer access | 719.28 |
| Non-residential – cistern charge (for each cistern in excess of two) | 265.63 |

| Recycled Water (Class A) | \$ |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Residential access charge p.a. | 33.92 |
| Non-Residential access charge p.a. | 33.92 |
| Recycled Water usage (per kL) | 1.3584 |

| Pension/Health Care Rebate p.a | ı . Ş |
|--|--------------|
| Water sewerage concession (max rebate) | 372.10 |
| Single service concession (max rebate) | 186.05 |

For a full list of all regulated and non-regulated fees and charges for the 2025-26 financial year, please visit our website or call 1300 720 711.

If you are having difficulties paying your bill, support is available. We offer flexible payment options, concessions and access to government grants and programs.

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Bass Coast College is seeking a suitably qualified and / or experienced person to join its team in 2025 for the above positions.

Applications need to be made via School Jobs Vic: www.vic.gov.au/school-jobs Job Vacancy ID's: 1480817 & 1480830

Further details are available on School Jobs Vic or for more information please contact Gabe Windsor – Business Manager on 5611 4000

PUBLIC NOTICES

Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS)

invites you to our General Meeting. Date: Sunday, 29 June 2025 Time: From 1:30 PM Venue: Berninneit

Our guest speaker will be Nikki Taylor from Devcon Planning Services, presenting on: "The Value of Small Coastal Townships"

She will also discuss the current landscape of town planning, including the Bass Coast Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL). Following her talk, Nikki will be available for a Q&A session.



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Petition concern

In the June 19 BCSC meeting CEO Greg Box reminded ratepayers a petition requesting a Special Charge Scheme anywhere in the shire only initiates a scheme; a simple declaration of interest. Many ratepayers sign out of interest, with the intent of discovering aspects of the proposal; cost and changes to infrastructure. They don't consider a petition signature as a binding commitment.

Whilst Mr Box's statement is true, there is another concerning truth underlying signing such a petition. While a petition only initiates a project, ultimat your signature can lead to that project being declared without any further involvement by yourself, or any other ratepayer. Once initiated by petition, it's possible for the process to continue through to declaration, without any further ratepayer

Once council announces its "intent to declare a special charge scheme", it is not necessary for 50 per cent+ of ratepayers to vote "Yes" for the project to proceed. At this point only 50 per cent+1 "No" votes from ratepayers can definitely prevent the scheme from going ahead.

The classic example is the Pioneer Bay special charge scheme in 2018. 27 ratepayers voted "No", and 0 ratepayers voted "Yes". The absence of 50 per cent+1 "No" votes meant the scheme proceeded.

The Government Act 1989 enabling Special Charge Schemes seems undemocratic. How in a democracy can a minority of residents force a substantial financial burden on others? Why does the Act not require 50 per cent+ of residents to vote in favour of a scheme for it to go ahead?

The Say No group has no issue with individual schemes (eg. The Esplanade) where majority ratepayer support of 50 per cent+1 is demonstrable.

However, we are deeply concerned that the existing process is seriously flawed and allows schemes to proceed which fail to meet this standard.

If you sign a petition pay close attention to council proceedings. Ensure you lodge your vote.

Speak to your neighbours so they are aware of the facts.

Be vigilant and be aware; signing a petition might get you exactly what you

Ross Bencraft, Surf Beach

Dedication celebrated

Thank you for last week's front page photograph (Advertiser, June 18: Urgent Care Centre moves to new hospital). It made me smile to see five women, each dedicated in their field, enjoying a happy moment in a day of achievement by our

Christine Grayden, Ventnor

Breeding like, well, rabbits

ENVIRONMENT

Phillip Islanders have reported an unusually high density of rabbit droppings and bunny sightings in recent weeks.

On social media Sandra posted a photo asking whether "anyone else was having issues with rabbits this year?".

"I feel like they are at plague proportions at my place," Sandra wrote.

The question got several replies including from Anne who said "definitely in plague proportions, all the lawns are being dug up", while Neroli said Blue Gum Reserve was "riddled with bare patches and holes up to 20cm deep".

Bass Coast Landcare Network invasive species officer Jack Harriss said there wasn't a plague but rabbits had begun to thrive in past years when

there was higher rainfall. He said rabbits "significantly contribute" to erosion, disperse weeds,



Residents have reported an unusually high density of rabbit droppings and rabbit sightings in recent weeks. Landcare said while there wasn't a plague, rabbits had begun to thrive due to higher rainfall in the past few years. Photo: Katrina Lawrence.

compete for resources with native animals and browse on native vegetation.

Jack advised households to ensure there was nowhere on a property rabbits were able to start a warren and reproduce, suggesting pruning dense vegetation so the base is above ground and can be seen.

Also clean up piles of wood and rubbish and ensure rabbits are not living under a house as "this is dangerous for the footings of your home.

He added rabbit exclusion fences, baiting, fumigation, or cages were means of controlling the rabbit population.

Local schools receive biodiversity grants

ENVIRONMENT

Six local schools have received Victorian Junior Landcare Biodiversity grants.

The grants support grassroots environmental action across the state, delivered through a partnership between Landcare Australia and the Victorian Government's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

"Stepping up, getting out! It's incredibly inspiring to see young people across our region stepping up to protect and restore our precious environ-ment," said Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale.

"These grants are not just an investment in biodiversity, they're an investment in our future leaders. By getting their hands dirty and working together, these students are showing us all what community-driven conservation can achieve."

successful The sixschools will now undertake projects that will rehabitats, young leaders, and reconnect communities with the natural world.

- Phillip Island Village School in Ventnor received \$4396 to embark on a "Regenerative Planting" journey. Their project, kickstarting with student leadership training at CERES in Melbourne, will culminate in planting 460 native grasses and shrubs to support local ecosystems.
- San Remo Primary School received \$2850 for a "Bugs Blitz Biodiversity Bonanza". This hands-on program will



Jordan Crugnale MP with Powlett River Primary School teacher Sigrid Tucker and School Captains Noah and Aidan, after the school received a \$4725 grant for their "Indigenous Garden and Habitat" project.

see the entire school engaged in five interactive workshops with Bug Blitz educators, exploring everything from aquatic invertebrates to live spider shows.

- Powlett River Primary ceived \$4725 to create a sanctuary of culture and conservation with their "Indigenous Garden and Habitat" project. Around a central Learning Stone, the school community will collaborate with Indigenous groups to plant native flora, forming a space for environmental learning and cultural storytelling. • Inverloch Primary
- School received \$3865 for a project aimed at restoring crucial habitat within a biolink corridor that connects Inverloch to Wonthaggi. Students will

plant around 1000 native species to support threatened wildlife and help improve water quality flowing into the nearby Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park.

- Bass Coast College (Wonthaggi) \$4150 for the "Sustainable Environments" initiative. Working alongside Bass Coast Landcare, they will contribute to biolink plantings and participate in environmental education experiences, such as bush pantry walks and seed propagation.
- The Village High School in Ryanston received \$4508 to equip students with citizen science tools, biodiversity audit skills, and firsthand experiences in native planting, all designed to turn observation into action.

Public notice of intention to declare a special charge for the purpose of constructing and improving roads and drainage along Links Street, Surf Beach



In accordance with a resolution of Bass Coast Shire Council (Council) made at the 18 June 2025 Council Meeting, notice is given that at the 15 October 2025 Council Meeting, Council proposes to declare a Special Charge (Special Charge) under section 163(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 (Act), and otherwise according to law, for the purpose of defraying costs and expenses incurred and/or to be incurred by Council in relation to the construction and improvement of roads and drainage along Links Street, Surf Beach situated within the municipal district of the Council (Street), such works involving the full upgrade of roads and drainage, including the provision of road pavement and sealing works, the provision of underground surface and storm water drainage in the Street, the provision of kerb and channelling, nature strip works and other ancillary works necessary to complete the construction of the project known as the 'Links Street Special Charge Scheme' otherwise in accordance with the concept plans approved by Council at the 18 June 2025 Council Meeting (Scheme). So far as can be reasonably ascertained from available records of the Council and can reasonably be concluded, Council has ascertained that the roads or any component of the roads for which it is proposed the Special Charge will be declared have not previously been constructed by way of a special rate or charge.

The criteria which form the basis of the Special Charge are the ownership of rateable land in the Scheme area based on equally sharing the costs of some portions, front or side boundaries of the properties in the Scheme (modified where appropriate) for some portions and the area of the properties in the scheme (discounted where appropriate) for some portions which abut the roads to be constructed or upgraded and which rateable land is situated within the geographical area of the proposed declaration are included.

Council considers that each rateable property included in the Scheme area that is liable to pay the Special Charge will receive a special benefit through the provision of proper, safe and suitable roads, drainage and property services; and there will be a special benefit to the persons liable to pay the Special Charge because there will be a benefit over and above, or greater than, the benefit to persons who are not subject to the Special Charge and, directly and indirectly, the works to be provided will enhance or maintain the value and the use, occupation and enjoyment of the properties included in the Scheme, through the provision of proper, safe and suitable roads and drainage and property services.

In proposing the declaration of the Special Charge, Council is performing functions and exercising powers in relation to the peace, order and good government of the municipal district of the Council, in particular the provision of proper, safe and suitable roads, drainage and property services in the area for which it is proposed the Special Charge will be declared.

The total cost of the performance of the functions and the exercise of the powers referrable to the Scheme (and the amount which the Council intends to declare and levy) is an amount of \$338,299 being the estimated cost of the Scheme works to be undertaken) with Council intending to declare and levy by way of the Special Charge an amount of \$261,911.

The Special Charge will commence on and from the making of any Council decision to declare the Special Charge and will remain in force until such time as the Special Charge has been paid in full.

The Special Charge will be declared and assessed in accordance with the amounts which have been calculated and appear alongside each property in the Schedule attached to and forming a part of the proposed declaration of Special Charge (being Schedule 2), such amounts having been calculated based on both a road component cost and a drainage component cost as referrable to a combined method of sharing some costs equally and to the length of the frontage and/or sideage of each property included in the Scheme (for the road component) and the area of each property included in the Scheme (for the drainage component).

The Special Charge will be levied by Council sending a notice of levy to the persons who are liable to pay the Special Charge. Incentives will be given for payment before the due date for payment as set out below. The levy notice to be sent will include four options for payment which are as follows –

- (a) Payment Option 1: Lump Sum Payment upfront payment of the Special Charge in full within 30 days of the date of issue of an invoice, with a 5% discount and no interest
- (b) Payment Option 2: Lump Sum Payment upfront payment of the Special Charge in full within 90 days of issue of an invoice, with no discount and no interest.
- (c) Payment Option 3: Instalment Payment Plan payment of the Special Charge in 40 quarterly instalments over 10 years, with interest. Interest will be charged on the reducing balance of the principal each quarter at the rate of 1% above the estimated borrowing costs of the Council. If a ratepayer is late with payment of an instalment, penalty interest will be charged on the balance of principal due each quarter.
- (d) Payment Option 4: Hardship Payment Plan a payment plan, extended beyond 10 years to a maximum of 20 years, tailored to the individual needs of the ratepayer upon receipt of a completed Financial Hardship Application Form. This option is subject to the Council assessing the property owner as experiencing financial hardship, in accordance with the Council's Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy. Interest will be charged on the reducing balance of the principal each quarter up to the maximum rate of 1% above the estimated borrowing costs of the Council.

Ratepayers who elect to pay by instalments will receive subsequent quarterly instalment notices.

Because the performance of the functions and exercise of the powers in respect of which the Special Charge is to be declared and levied relates substantially to capital works, the Special Charge will be levied on the basis of an instalment plan being available to ratepayers (being the 'Payment Option 3: Instalment Payment Plan' or the 'Payment Option 4: Hardship Payment Plan'). Quarterly instalments will include a component for reasonable interest costs, which will be charged at the rate of 1% above the estimated borrowing costs of Council in respect of the construction of the roads and the provision of the drainage works.

The Council will consider cases of financial and other hardship and may negotiate other payment options for the Special Charge, in accordance with the Council's Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy.

For the purposes of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied under the Scheme, the Council considers and formally determines for the purposes of sections 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act (and in accordance with the Benefit Ratio Statement adopted by Council) that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the Scheme to which the performance of the functions and exercise of powers relate (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to all of the persons who are liable to pay the Special Charge is in a ratio of 0.7742 or 77.42%.

Any declaration of the Special Charge will expire if the Special Charge is not levied to each person liable to pay it within 12 months after the day on which the declaration which relates to the Special Charge is made. Copies of the proposed declaration of Special Charge, a detailed plan of the Scheme area, a list of the rateable properties included in the Scheme and the amount of the Special Charge payable by each property included in the Scheme are available for inspection at the offices of Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi during normal business hours and on the internet website of Council until 5pm on 20 August 2025.

Any person may make a submission about the proposed declaration to the Council under sections 163A and 223 of the Act. In addition, any person who will be required to pay the Special Charge to be imposed by the proposed declaration has a right to object to the proposed declaration under section 163B of the Act. Submissions and/or objections must be received by Council by 5pm on 20 August 2025. Submissions and/or objections must be in writing and addressed and sent by mail to the Chief Executive Officer, Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995. In accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act, the Council will consider all written submissions and take into account all objections that are received by the closing date.

Any person who has made a submission under section 223 of the Act may request to be heard in support of their written submission. If such a request is made, the person is entitled to appear in person or to be represented by a person specified in the submission before a Committee appointed by the Council to hear submissions under section 223 of the Act. The day, time and place of the Committee hearing will be advised in writing.

Council will treat all submissions and objections received (and any personal information contained therein) in accordance with its Privacy Policy and with applicable legislation, including the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

Any person requiring further information about the proposed declaration of Special Charge should contact Council's Sustainable Transport and Movement Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or email roadupgrades@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Greg Box
Chief Executive Officer

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KNOW REAL

Breakers on fire in dominant Vikings and Storm weekend of junior soccer

SOCCER

U17

Phillip Island Breakers delivered a dominant away performance against the Leongatha Knights, securing a commanding 6-1 win in their latest League clash.

The match got off to a lively start, with the Knights striking early to take a 1-0 lead. However, the Breakers were quick to respond, levelling the score through a composed finish from Harvey Jacobs.

Building on their momentum, the Breakers pushed forward with intensity, and soon took control of the game.

Goals from Dylan Gregory and Oli Raso saw the visitors head into the half-time break with a deserved 3-1 advantage.

The second half saw no let-up from the Breakers, who continued to pile on the pressure, with a goal from Harley Drayton and two from Jasper Saunders as the Breakers' attacking prowess proved too much for the Knights' defense to handle.

With a final scoreline of 6-1, Phillip Island showcased not just their finishing quality but also the depth and energy across the squad.

The win strengthens their push in the league and sends a clear message to their rivals. Next week, the Breakers return home to take on Mirboo North.

U14 Penguins

A frosty 0 degrees welcomed the team to Lang Lang's home ground at Caldermeade.

Thankfully, by kick off, the frost had melted enough to see the white lines of the pitch. Initially, the game was evenly matched, with both teams sizing each other up. At the fifteen-minute mark, Georgia put the Penguins in front, and the team's confidence lifted noticeably. A great set up from Blake saw Angus find the back of the net, then a powerful solo effort from Ruben made it 3-0. Solid defending held off a Lang Lang fight back, with the score unchanged going into the break. In the second half, the Penguins rose to another level.

Their communication and passing was a pleasure to watch, and as a result, most of the play was confined to Lang Lang's half. After five minutes, Blake landed a goal, and Angus claimed his



Fletcher Middleton, Ben Westwood and Justin Tran helped to secure the U17 soccer team a great win over Leongatha Knights hite. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

second off a deflection. A cracking run down the left wing resulted in Blake scoring another. The goal fest continued with Hannah nailing two goals within two minutes.

Penguins' goalkeeper Judd swapped with Ruben and headed straight to the centre forward position, where he dominated the remainder of play.

Following a string of near misses, he deservedly smashed one home. Georgia then nailed her second and Judd sealed the 11-0 victory with a goal in the closing minutes.

All in all, it was a powerhouse display from the Penguins.

U14 Stingrays

It was a cold and foggy start in Leongatha when the Stingrays took the field.

The team made a strong start in what was to be a high scoring encounter.

Callum, Cooper and Blair found the net and this put the Stingrays ahead at half time. However, the second half belonged to Leongatha. The defence, lead by strong performances by Jackson and Kavish battled to contain the physical challenge of the Knights forward line. It was another strong team performance with Kavish earning the player of the match award.

Final score of 7-5.

U12 Girls

It was a top of the table clash as Phillip Island U12 girls played against the undefeated Lang Lang United away from home.

The girls got off to a good start creating some early opportunities and Gabrielle Titmarsh opened the scoring.

However, Lang Lang showed

their strength and skill with a solo run under excellent pressure from Lottie Bland to quickly equalise. Many examples of great teamwork and chains of passes down the left-hand side of the pitch from Albury Sherburn, Joselyn Trayford, Tavlah Macdonald and others created many forward runs. Gabrielle Titmarsh and Lily Murphy were able to take advantage of the opportunities and created a two-goal lead.

Unfortunately, the girls let Lang Lang take control of the midfield for the last part of the first half and create many goal scoring opportunities.

Despite great efforts in defence from Lottie Bland, Aubury Sherburn and Nkechi Okoli, and several good saves from Kassandra Rivans in goals, Lang Lang scored twice to get the scores level at 3-3 by halftime. The second half started off like the first with our girls creating several opportunities and Gabrielle Titmarsh scored twice.

However, this time when Lang Lang tried to come back, our defence held strong, and Lalah Miller made several good saves as goalkeeper. Furthermore, the midfield refused to give up control of the game as typified by Kelsey Watson making a great tackle to win the ball and then a driving forward run that resulted in a goal. As Lang Lang's resistance began to weaken, our girls took advantage and Nkechi Okoli, now playing on the forward line, scored a hat-trick late in the second half.

The final score was an 11-3 win to the Breakers. It was a ruthless second half performance and a fantastic team effort to win against one of the top teams in the league. Well done.

charge into Grand Finals

The dartboards were buzzing Monday night as the first week of the finals lit up the arena with a series of nail-biting encounters.

Spectators were treated to an evening of precision throws, strategic plays, and edge-ofyour-seat drama as teams battled for supremacy.

In the highly anticipated A Grade final, the Vikings delivered a commanding performance, defeating Miramar with a decisive 5-2 victory.

This impressive win secures the Vikings a coveted spot in the Grand Final, showcasing their championship aspirations.

Meanwhile, the clash between Joe's Hornets and Aulin proved to be a true thriller.

In a match that went right down to the wire, Joe's Hornets emerged victorious with a narrow 4-3 win, earning them a welldeserved spot in the Semi-Finals.

Aulin, despite their valiant effort, will now have to regroup.

The Gumboot final was no less exhilarating, with teams vying for their shot at glory.

The Storm proved to be a force of nature, overcoming the Breakers in a hard-fought 4-3 contest. This triumph propels Storm

directly into the Grand Final, setting the stage for an epic showdown. In another closely contested

Gumboot match, Deadly Darts lived up to their name, narrowly defeating the Riverboys 4-3. Deadly Darts will now ad-

vance to the semi-finals, keeping their championship dreams

In lighter news, a huge congratulations to Dave for winning the San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle. Enjoy your delicious prize Dave.



Congratulations to Dave Healey for winning the Darts San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle.

This week promises more thrilling darts action with the semi-finals scheduled.

In A Grade, Miramar will face off against Joe's Hornets in what is sure to be a fiercely contested

In the Gumboot division, the Breakers will go head-to-head with Deadly Darts in a mustwatch encounter.

All members are strongly encouraged to attend and lend their support.

Come along to cheer on your favourite teams, assist with scoring, and soak in the electric atmosphere as we get closer to crowning our champions.

Who will prevail and earn their spot in the Grand Finals? Be there to find out.

Round 8 results, June 22

SOCCER

Senior Men's: Phillip Island Breakers 5 d Lang Lang United 1. Senior Women's: Phillip Island Breakers 3 d Lang Lang United 0. Under 17 Mixed: Phillip Island Breakers 6 d Leongatha Knights White 1.

Under 14 Mixed: Phillip Island Penguins 6 d Lang Lang United 0. Leongatha Knights 7 d Phillip Island Stingrays 5.

Under 12 Girls: Phillip Island Breakers 9 d Lang Lang United

Under 12A Mixed: Phillip Island 3 d Lang Lang United 0. Under 12B Mixed: Drouin Drag-

ons White 4 d Phillip Island Penguins 1. Phillip Island Stingrays 6 d Wonthaggi United 0.





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Netball nail-biter: U17s nearly topple Cora Lynn

NETBALL

A Grade

A Grade managed to put on a great team effort to keep up with Cora Lynn for most of the game, however Cora Lynn managed to slip away in the final quarter.

We are congratulating Olivia Holmes again this week, who made her A Grade debut, playing an amazing game against strong opposition.

Also, another big congratulations to Olivia who played her first game for Gippsland Power in the Under 18 Girls side.

What an amazing effort in Olivia's first year of football to make it all the way to a representative side.

Scores: Phillip Island 35 to Cora Lynn 47.

B Grade

Phillip Island B Grade put in a strong effort against Cora Lynn on Saturday at Cowes Recreation Reserve.

Despite a close start, Cora Lynn pulled ahead in the second half, taking the win 42-34.

McCaughan and Abbey Mieke White worked well in the goal circle, while Anthea Bennett, Sophie Gysberts, Sophia Hungerford and Steph Krainer held strong in defence all game.

Jarah White, Ellie Hennessy and Matilda McKenna brought great energy through the mid-

A tough match but plenty of positives to take into the next

Scores: Phillip Island 34 to Cora Lynn 42.

C Grade

Scores: Phillip Island 15 to Cora Lynn 40.

D Grade

Scores: Phillip Island 17 to Cora Lynn 40.

In a thrilling home game, the U17 netball team faced a challenge against top team Cora Lynn.

The match was a testament to the team's resilience and determination, showcasing their skills and teamwork throughout the game.

Phillip Island found themselves down by four goals at halftime, facing a tough battle to regain control.

However, the team demonstrated spirit in the third quarter, rallying together to close the gap and mount a strong comeback.

Piper and Jasira stood out as the best players on the court, making significant contributions both offensively and defensively.

Aisha and Ava were strong in goals, displaying composure under pressure and consistently



Congratulations to Olivia Holmes who made her A Grade debut on Saturday and played an amazing game.

finding the net.

Ellie played a pivotal role in the centre, driving the ball forward and linking play effective-

On the defensive end, Olivia was a force in goal defence, supported by Tilly in the goalkeeper position, who made some crucial saves. Jasira excelled in wing defence, displaying agility and tactical awareness, while Kate stepped up admirably from the U15 team to bolster the wing defence as well.

Piper served as a dependable wing attack, creating scoring opportunities and maintaining the team's momentum.

Despite their efforts, they ultimately fell short, finishing the match with a narrow defeat. Scores: Phillip Island 36 to Cora Lynn 38.

U15

Congratulations to Adele Hecker and Aisha Hibbert on their wins at Netball Victoria Association Championships in U15 and U17 teams.

Congratulations to Adele Hecker U15 team and Aisha Hib-

Championships. Also, a shout out to Abi Derham too, who

played in U15 reserves and came away with runners-up.

bert U17 team on their wins at Netball Victoria Association

A shout out to Abi Derham too, who played in U15 reserves and came away runners-up.

Well done girls.

Scores: Phillip Island 16 to Cora Lynn 42.

U13

Scores: Phillip Island 14 to Cora Lynn 55,

Scores: Phillip Island 11 to Cora Lynn 22.

Grit, growth and great games from Kilcunda Bass

NETBALL

A Grade

A Grade had another tough hit out against Nar Nar Goon on Saturday.

The girls had a strong second half and used the game to try some new combinations. There were some snippets of exciting game play from the team.

Best on court: Sophie.

B Grade

Bass came in as the underdogs, facing off against the reigning premiers but from the very first centre pass, it was clear KB weren't here to play it safe; they were here to fight.

Every single player stepped up and played their role to per-

The intensity was electric, and Bass brought the heat from

Down back, Lizzy and Esther were a defensive dream team. They rattled Goon's usually composed goalers with tight pressure, smart positioning and fearless rebounds.

Their defensive efforts were nothing short of elite, shutting down plays before they could even build.

In wing defence, Ally absolutely dominated, she attacked the ball like a midfielder in finals footy and completely unsettled Goon's attacking line.

Her hunger for every contest and ability to disrupt their flow was a turning point in the game. Kira and Kiara, take a bow, their feeds into the goalers were hands-down the best we've seen all year.

Precision, timing, vision, you name it, they had it.

The crowd couldn't stop talking about it, Kira's calm control paired with Kiaras creativity had the Goon second-guessing every move. Bells had a tough matchup against a physical and experienced GD, but the challenge only fuelled her fire.

She came out swinging, finding space, shooting with confidence, and linking beautifully with Babes.

The Babes and Bells duo in goals was a weapon all game, going goal-for-goal with the Goon until the final minutes.

The ever-versatile Ciara also stepped into WD and once again proved she's a game-changer wherever she's placed, her energy, smarts, and relentless pressure made life miserable for the Goon's midcourt. With just minutes to go, the Goon edged ahead, sneaking away with a 47 to 44 win, but make no mistake: Bass shook the premiers to their

A whole-team effort.

Grit, passion, and heart across every third, this was a performance that made a state-

Kilcunda Bass came away with a solid win this week, with everything the team has been working on at training coming together on court.

The defensive pressure, ball movement, and strong shooting made the difference.

The team worked hard for each other and showed great composure throughout.

Best on court: Jess Egan.

D Grade

After a hard-to-swallow onegoal loss last week, the D Grade girls came into this week eager for another chance to notch up a



U17 Killy Bass Netball, Millie Gold in action on the court.

The challenge ahead was a tough one, facing the undefeated Nar Nar Goon side.

Kilcunda Bass started with strong, controlled play, with every player contributing to a great first quarter performance that saw the team trailing by just one goal at the break.

The defensive unit worked tirelessly to turn the ball over and apply pressure, but unfortunately the girls were unable to fully capitalise on these efforts.

A few unforced errors and missed opportunities across the court allowed Nar Nar Goon to gradually build momentum, and by the final whistle, the girls found themselves 12 goals down.

A great effort against one of

the top undefeated sides. Best on court receiving a Kilcunda Bass Club voucher: Lynne Boag.

The girls had a massive job against Nar Nar Goon with the team being near top of the lad-

Killy Bass didn't get the win but had lots of wins within the team. Defenders did a fantastic job to keep the pressure on, getting plenty of tips on the ball and the attackers worked well together to use their set plays.

Lots to take from this game and the team will get to work

Best on court: Millie Gold and Payton McGregor.

U15

Another week of school camp found the U15 girls down at training again which didn't help the game against the very strong Nar Nar Goon side.

However, the girls that were at training got a great opportunity to run a training session with the U13 team which was great.

The girls who were in the city hit the gym for some cardio work, so they are definitely committed to working hard this season, just missed that connection on court over the last two weeks.

There were some positive plays during the game with the defence working together to cause some great turnovers, just didn't capitalise on them in the goal ring which needs work this week at training.

The team has the weekend off this week, and we will be back full swing into training, and look forward to taking on Dalyston at the next game.

Best on court: Savannah Ben-

U13

The Under 13s came up against a strong Nar Nar Goon side on the weekend and, although the scoreboard didn't go our way, the girls gave it their best right until the final whistle.

Each week this team is building, learning, and gaining more experience on the court and this game was no exception.

We're proud of their effort and resilience and are looking forward to the weeks ahead. where we can really showcase all the hard work and improvements the team has achieved so far.

Best on court: Indi and Emily.

Took on Nar Nar Goon last weekend and were eager to use some of the plays the girls had practiced at training.

While the scoresheet doesn't display it this was the best game the kids have played all season.

These kids shot their highest score for the season and the smiles and enjoyment they shared was fantastic.

The team had plenty of goal scorers and some great passages of play, with each child contributing to a great team effort. Well done girls.

Best on court: Matilda. Maccas award: Zoe.

Luchre results

Ladies winner: Phyllis 6 wins. Men's winner: Bob 7 wins. **Encouragement Award:** John K. Congratulations to our new players this week, Lisa, Andrew and Tony.

Welcome to Thursday night Euchre club.



U16 Girls (from left): Kyra Carton, Lilly O, Jasmine Trapnell and Mia Ward, all award winners of the game. More photos at www.nisra.com.gu/sport

Bulldog Girls build spirit and strength

FOOTBALL

U14 Girls

This week the U14 girls took on Inverloch Kongwak in a tough game in Dalyston.

The scoreboard just couldn't reflect all the persistence and effort throughout the game with the girls going down by 60 points.

Ultimately the team all understand that the pinnacle in sport is the win.

However, when the girls persist and absorb the wins and the

losses, there comes much more. $\,$

The losses strengthen character, build resilience, formulate connections between teammates and make those wins every now and then, an incredibly joyful moment.

Keep up your amazing persistence Bulldogs.

Scores: PI 0.0.1 – IK 9.7.61 Awards: Sage, Eliza, Moo and Evie.

During the week, the team chose their leadership group: Isla, Madi, Sera, Alice, Charlee, Indi and Moo.

These girls' voices, effort and support on and off the field and at training is a huge support and finally formalised. Well done girls.

U16 Girls

U16 Girls lost to top of the table, undefeated Warragul.

The team played a lot better than the last time the girls faced them

The girls are doing an amazing job coming together to play as a team and in full Bulldog spirit

Sun shines on Cross Country series

MOUNTAIN BIKES

Newhaven College proudly represented at Round 2 of the Victorian Schools Cross Country Mountain Bike Series held on Sunday, June 22 at Lysterfield Park.

With perfect winter weather and riding conditions, the event brought together students from across the state for a day of exciting competition on the iconic Lysterfield singletrack trails.

Nineteen Newhaven College students took part in the event with all riders giving their best on the demanding course.

Podium highlights

Under 11 Boys: Austin Mitchell 2nd; Will Walker 3rd.

Under 13 Girls: Evelyn McCabe 3rd.

Under 15 Girls: Lucy Thompson 1st.

These performances are a credit to the hard work and preparation the riders have put in, both individually and as part of the school MTB program.

Newhaven College congratulates all who competed, whose ef-



Newhaven College students Will Walker and Austin Mitchell, proudly displaying their U11 Boys Podium prizes for finishing third and second respectively.

fort and support for one another reflected the spirit of Newhaven College and its MTB Academy.

A big thank you also goes out to the event organisers, volunteers, and supporting families who made the day such a great success.

We look forward to seeing even more riders on the trails as the Auscycling Interschools Series continues with Round 3 on July 27 at Haunted Hills MTB Park.



Miah Roberts (right) was all smiles after racing in the 50m Backstroke at the Australian World Championship Trials, here with her idol and Olympic champion Kaylee McKeown. A special moment on an unforgettable journey.



After years of hard work and dedication, Mostyn Lumsden raced the 50m Butterfly at the national trials in Adelaide. Sharing warm-up space with Kyle Chalmers was the cherry on top of a dream experience.

Full house at Leongatha Splash

SWIMMING

It was a full house at Leongatha Splash over the weekend as the SGB club held the first of their short course events for the winter season.

One hundred and thirty-six swimmers came to compete, with many local swimmers enjoying the opportunity to race in a familiar pool.

They were joined by swimmers from Essendon, Ringwood, Sale, Moe, Traralgon, Warragul and East Gippsland as they competed in a range of events from 25m to 800m.

For many young swimmers, it was their first go at racing, competing in 25m, and there was so much excitement from the competitors as they strode to the blocks at the end of the pool.

The swimmers from Melbourne enjoyed racing against different people and the families enjoyed a mini break away, many staying overnight after racing Saturday and then competing on Sunday, having enjoyed local hospitality venues.

The meet was a great chance for swimmers to achieve their Country and State qualifying times, which are needed to compete later in the year. We had a large number of swimmers excited to see their times come through and know that they have qualified.

"It's just fantastic to see our



Swimmers getting ready to race 100m Breaststroke at Leongatha Splash swimming event. More photos at www.pisra.com.au/sport

juniors racing here for the first time in a serious competition," said Head Coach Dylan Muir.

"They are so excited to finally have a chance to race, as many of these kids have seen their siblings do it and were excited it was finally their turn.

"Our senior swimmers did well, as swimming a PB at this point of the Short Course season is wonderful.

'We had a few already achieving qualifying times, and many also got the times they were working towards which is thrilling to see.

"It's a lot of work for our parents to organise it, but it pays off in the long run when you see the enjoyment for the swimmers. Plus it's an opportunity for their families and grandparents to come along."

The Saturday evening event finished with a hotly contested Skins competition, with barely a millisecond between some of the finishes.

There was great cheering from the supporting friends and families on the sidelines as the swimmers competed for prizes donated by Kimmer Civil Group.

Sunday concluded with a number of SGB swimmers competing in the 800m to see if they could gain a State qualifying time.

There was a lot of cheering from the junior swimmers as they watched them battle it out.

SGB swimmers thrive at World Championship Trials

SWIMMING

The dream of swimming at the Australian World Championship trials became a reality for two SGB swimmers; as Miah Roberts and Mostyn Lumsden took to the pool in Adelaide last week.

Miah, who swam in the 50m Backstroke, loved racing at the event.

"It was an amazing feeling being able to compete in the same pool against my idols, especially Kaylee McKeown," Miah said.

"Experiences like this are important steps in me becoming a strong swimmer; the more race practise I get in a 50m pool at an elite level, the better my swimming becomes."

Miah was proud of her swim, which had the added pressure with the disqualification of Kaylee, which added some nervous tension to the atmosphere, but she did a fantastic effort, swimming a great time.

"I am thankful to my coach Dylan who couldn't be there but took the time to talk to me on the phone and the coaches from Propulsion who assisted me in my warmup."

Mostyn swam in the 50m Butterfly. He was joined in the stands by his brother Kai who was there as coach and support team.

"I really loved the atmo-

sphere, and it's really got me motivated to train hard and get back there next year.

"After many years of training and racing, I was proud that it has paid off," said Mostyn.

"Kyle Chalmers jumped in my lane for warm up and I was so excited to see him swimming so close by. He was amazing to watch. It was great having my brother by my side coaching me"

TIDE GUIDE

WED 18 JUN ↑ THU 19 JUN FRI 20 JUN SAT 21 JUN SUN 22 JUN MON 23 JUN TUE 24 JUN HIGH 5:05 am 2.62 m HIGH 2.63 m LOW 12:15 am 0.90 m LOW 0.80 m LOW 0.80 m LOW 0.69 m LOW 0.69 m LOW 0.69 m LOW 0.60 m LOW 0.60 m LOW 0.60 m HIGH 10:03 am 0.80 m LOW 0.60 m</

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Killy Panthers show Bulldog juniors deliver skill, progress and power

FOOTBALL

U14

Another great day at Korumburra, the boys started the game well with an early goal.

The first quarter was back and forth from both ends. Credit to Korumburra for slowing the game down and preventing the team from scoring.

Heading into the second quarter with a narrow lead the boys found their stride and kicked consecutive goals going into half time with a handy lead.

The third was much the same with the boys kicking seven consecutive goals.

In the last Killy Bass ran away with a comfortable win.

Great to see multiple goal kickers and hardworking defenders applying great pressure.

Top Six: Ryder Van Steensel, Byron Humphry, Kayden Webber, Travis Hockley, Hunter Bettles (5 goals) and Trey Christian.

U12

On a cold and frosty morning in Korumburra, the Kilcunda Bass U12s put together a fantastic fourquarter performance to record a comprehensive win over Korumburra-Bena.

From the first bounce, Bass players brought energy, teamwork and an unselfish approach to the game, which led to some brilliant passages of play and a well-earned victory.

Bass started strongly, with Alfie Russo hitting the scoreboard early.

The run and attacking rebound off half-back from Chase Poulton and Russo gave the team momentum, while Bailey Pool, Max Milner and Miles Leary were fierce at a disciplined wing role,



Smiles all round for Killy Bass U12 team after their win. More photos at www.pisra.com.au/sport

the contest in the middle of the ground. It was a great platform to build from.

Kilcunda Bass really clicked into gear in the second term, with goals from Bailey Pool and a second to Alfie Russo.

River Dow was immense in the contest, winning hard ball after hard ball, while Ethan Lynch, Maverick Loughridge and Byron Dinnie were excellent up forward, presenting well, marking strongly and keeping the pressure on.

Russo's intercept marking across half-back and Pool's aggressive run helped control the quarter.

In a lower-scoring term, Kaiden Evans stepped up with a lively effort up forward and nailed a classy goal.

The Quinlan brothers, Clancy and Darby, were outstanding; Clancy with his running and team-first play and Darby with his strong overhead marking and repeat efforts.

The team's commitment to sharing the ball was on full display.

Bass finished strongly with Levi Fisher booting two goals to cap off a terrific final quarter.

Clancy Quinlan played

providing width and smart link-up options.

Darby Quinlan continued to be a marking presence, while Miles Leary looked threatening up forward.

Midfielders, Poulton and Pool, maintained their intensity to see the game out in style. Goal: Alfie Russo 2, Levi Fisher, Bailey Pool and Kaiden Evans 1.

Best Players: Chaze Poulton, Alfie Russo, Bailey Pool, Clancy Quinlan, River Dow and Miles Leary. Awards: Clancy Quinlan, Maverick Loughridge, Levi Fisher, Byron Dinnie, Ethan Lynch, Kaiden Evans and Taio Braumann-Hall.

On a cold and frosty morning, the Panthers travelled to the land of the Giants.

This side comfortably had Killy Bass's measure in Round One, so the challenge was to see how much the team had grown.

Killy Bass played with great energy and effort for the full four quarters.

Congratulations kids, you absolutely did show just how far you have come and we look forward to what the rest of the season brings.

spirit and teamwork

to the wing and a kick to the pocket with a goal to

The quarter saw great tackling pressure from the

Forward, middle and backs held strong for an even quarter, one a piece.

Same message for the last quarter, "see ball get ball" and a solid centre clearance with great teamwork in the forward line being exactly that, rewarded by a goal for their effort.

Staying with the theme of the day Dalyston replied quickly with another goal from the far pocket.

The sun was out, and the dew was drying up making for some good skills.

Both teams were a lot cleaner with the football and using it well.

The Maggie's got a goal late, but it was a hardfought game by both teams and great day for football down at the Kennel.

Fantastic effort by the team, enjoy the choccy milks!

Best on ground: Lathan, Hugo, Harper and Lachie.

Thanks coaches and all involved on the day, great to see the boys improving every week.

Go Doggies!

U14 Red

Phillip Island Red bulldogs headed over to Inverloch to take on the Sea Eagles.

The team played well and communicated well throughout the game.

The Dogs moved the ball smoothly and efficiently across the field, using great skill and teamwork, utilising their handball skills to keep the game flowing and controlling the pace of play for the first half.

Unfortunately, in the second half of the game,



U12 Red awards went to: Archer Summerfield, Baylin Elliott, Eddie Maier and Archer Paxton.

Inverloch Kongwak were able to take the lead. Although Phillip Island played hard, they were unable to get back in front.

Scores: Phillip Island Red 03.05.23 – Īnverloch Kongwak 05.04.34.

Goal Kickers: Xavier Holmes, Flynn Doig and Zane Larrson.

Well-deserved awards to: Johnny Rizzo, Bowie Edwards, Jaxon Summerfield and Will Patton.

Best players: Bowie Edwards, Jaxon Ramage, Will Patton, Johnny Rizzo, Kane Patton and Flynn Doig.

U12 Red

The Red pups travelled to Inverloch for their Round 8 clash on a crisp morning.

The Red Pups welcomed Baylin Elliott for his first game of the season as Captain Braxton fired up his team before leading them out.

The first quarter saw a great midfield battle with both teams having chances up forward.

Inverloch kicked two goals and led 12 to 1 at quarter time.

The second term saw Inverloch kick two goals early on and skipped away to a handy lead.

Archer Summerfield kicked a magnificent running goal to keep the pups in touch.

The score at halftime was 26 to 8.

A tough arm wrestle in the third term saw both teams only add one point each setting up a big last quarter.

The Red pups battled hard, but the Sea Eagles scored a couple of goals early and ran away with the game and deserved the win.

A credit to the Red pups who battled hard and never gave up.

Final score 48 to 11. Best on ground: Archer Summerfield.

Awards to: Archer Summerfield, Baylin Elliott, Eddie Maier and Archer Paxton.

U10 Red

It was a glorious frosty Sunday morning on Sunday, when the Phillip Island Red pups headed over to Inverloch to take on the Sea Eagles.

The team played well, showing understanding of the game, using their skill and communication to keep the ball moving efficiently through the field.

Well done pups on a great game.

Awards to: Quill, Nate, Jethro and Harvey O.

Fighting spirit shines through

FOOTBALL

Seniors

showed patches of grit in a 116 to 30 defeat to a welldrilled Nar Nar Goon out-

The game started well for Killy Bass, but the opposition ran away with the win later in the game.

While the scoreboard didn't reflect the overall effort, the boys never dropped their heads.

Plenty to take forward as the team regroup for next week's clash.

Final score Nar Nar Goon: 116 def Kilcunda Bass 30.

Best on ground: Lochlan Scott.

Reserves

In the reserves clash at Nar Nar Goon Recreation Despite a tough outing at Reserve, Kilcunda Bass Nar Nar Goon Recreation battled hard but couldn't match the strength and structure of Nar Nar Goon, going down 126 to 28.

The cool, clear conditions, hovering around 10.8 degrees during play set the tone for a fast-paced game.

Despite the scoreboard, the KB boys showed glimpses of promise, particularly in the second half.

The group remains focused and determined to bounce back stronger in

the coming rounds. Best on ground: Ashden Grenness.

U16

Up against Nar Nar Goon on their home deck was



U16 Angus Oats.in the U16s match and named in Senior Travis Tuck displaying his skills in the the best players this week.

always going to be a tough challenge.

In the pre-game address, coach Dan empha-



the whole team and that's

match against Nar Nar Goon.

sised work rate, tackle pressure and working for each other and across

what they did. The midfield machine in Brodie, Pez, Blake and Charlie had their work cut out all game but performed magnificently. On the wings, Harvey

and Juzzy ran all day and provided great link up options from defence with Harvey also laying a handful of strong tackles whilst outnumbered.

Also, a special mention to young gun Hayden Fenwick who played a great game down back when given the tough task of minding the oppositions dangerous forwards.

The boys should be proud of their efforts against a well drilled side who will no doubt go deep into finals.

Best players: Perry McKay, Charlie Burgess, Blake Eden, Brodie McMillian. Harvey Leary and Angus

Seniors and Thirds roar as Reserves show fight

FOOTBALL

Seniors

The Seniors bounced back from last week's loss, with a powerful performance, storming past Cora Lynn with a 45-point win in front of a home crowd.

The Bulldogs looked sharp all day, applying scoreboard pressure and winning contests around the ground.

Jay Ladson was electric up forward, booting four goals in a best-on-ground display.

He was supported by Max Walton and Billy Taylor (two each), while singles came from Charlie Bruce, Charlie O'Garey, Jack Huther, Finlay Cousins, Jack Taylor, Nick Anderson, and Brendan Kimber.

It was a full team effort, with Max Walton also influential through the midfield.

Mark Griffin dominated in the ruck, and Brayden Kleverkamp, Daniel Pearce and Bailey Hennessy stood tall in key moments to help seal the win.

Phillip Island 15.11.101 defeated Cora Lynn 8.8.56.

Reserves

The Reserves faced a tough battle this week, going down to a strong Cora Lynn outfit by 28 points.

Despite a promising start



Jaymie Youle flies high in a fierce contest during the Bulldogs' dominant win over Cora Lynn. More photos at www.pisra.com.au/sport

and some great moments of ball movement, the Bulldogs couldn't quite maintain momentum in the second half.

Brady Ross led the way up forward with two goals, while James Nicolaci, Harry Anderson and Bryce Pewtress each added one to the tally.

Darcy Thompson was a standout through the midfield with his contested ball work, while Thomas Niven and Ethan Michaelides provided solid support.

Ben Taylor showed great defensive efforts and Max Mattock and Beau Davies gave consistent effort across four quarters.

Phillip Island 5.3.33 defeated by Cora Lynn 9.7.61.

Thirds

The Phillip Island Thirds de-

formance in Round 11, dismantling Cora Lynn with a 102-point win at the Kennel.

The Bulldogs were relentless from the first bounce, piling on scoreboard pressure and keeping their opponents to a solitary goal.

It was a true team effort up forward, with 12 individual goal kickers, Oliver Duggan led the charge with three majors, while Lachlan Eastwood slotted two.

Other contributors included Noah Williams, Cha Cha Fischer, Max Taylor, Cade Wragg, Ayden Fawaz, Jack Larsson, Harry Arceo, Heath Womersley, Jasper Cashman and Samuel Schuller.

Best afield honours went to Noah Forrest Mabilia for his strength around the contest, supported by the ever-reliable Finniss Gibson and dynamic efforts from Cade Wragg, Jasper Cashman, Noah Williams and Jack Larsson.

A dominant display from a team on the rise.

Phillip Island 15.18.108 defeated Cora Lynn 1.0.6.

Next Game: Round 12, Saturday June 28, Phillip Island verse Warragul.

The Bulldogs hit the road for a big clash – let's keep the momentum going.

Final score: PI 45 def Dalyston 1.

Best: Oliver Hellmuth-Pask,

Kash Scheibel, Jett Fawaz.

Noah Hollings, Max Robinson

It was a cold start down at the

Kennel for round 8 of the U10s.

A heavy dew made the ball slippery, but that didn't faze either side getting stuck in early.

Dalyston scored the first goal and Phillip Island was

At the start of the second quarter the boys came out fir-

quick to reply but only with a

ing in the middle with a goal in the first two minutes, but

Dalyston was quick to reply

with a goal and another point.

flexed with a 40-metre roost

The boys in the backline

and Louis Brodie.

U10 Blue

point.

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- Exquisite property with breathtaking water views including Phillip Island bridge & Cape Woolamai · Large upstairs balcony designed to take in those
- · 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, study, hostess kitchen
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15 HALCYON AVENUE, SAN REMO



- Discover coastal living in this family home with everchanging water views
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Bulldog juniors deliver skill, spirit and teamwork

FOOTBALL

U12 Blue

It was a beautiful day for football on home turf.

Captain Zaine Liddle led out his team against Dalyston, with the belief that they will be stronger.

The Blues had a strong first quarter coming out fast with every player contributing.

They kept Dalyston scoreless with the first goal kicked by Kash Scheibel. The backline was superb

with Louis Brodie and Pheonix Durdin pushing up the field. Hellmuth-Pask Ashton

had strong marking with his brother Oliver using his speed and moving the ball forward. Q1 score PI 10 - 0. Second quarter was im-

pressive with Kash Scheibel bagging another two goals for the team. Max Robinson was great pushing forward and Noah Hollings was a big contributor

ing the ball and had many players at once on him. Jett Fawaz assisted his team with many possessions.

who did a fantastic job shar-



U12 Blue team had a strong win against Dalyston at their home ground on Sunday. More photos at www.pisra.com.au/sport

Third quarter saw Cooper Bennett assisting on the wing and Otis Joyner taking strong marks and using bodywork in the backline.

Hellmuth-Pask Oliver kicked a beautiful goal from a set shot. Q3 score 30 – 1.

Fourth quarter was sensational with the Blues working hard as a team.

The backline was strong with solid work by Cooper Bennett, Max Robinson and portive putting his body on

all over the ground.

marks and scored a goal.

Blues

captain Zaine Liddle was sup-

Ray Wolfenden was back in the ruck with a high work rate

and Rylan Lucas took great message after half time how-Another goal to Kash

Remi Monet was in the play

Scheibel who scored four for

to half back, stopping a late scoring opportunity from Dalyston, sending a message for halftime.

"See ball, get ball" was the ever Dalyston managed a clearance and a quick goal in the first ball up.

The Doggies weren't hav-A pleasing result for the ingit though with a switch out

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