



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST



Extraordinary voices tell their stories

MC Gil Tucker with journalist and media advocate Peter Greste, at this year's Festival of Stories on the weekend. Gil is well known to Australian audiences for his years on television, in series such as *Cop Shop*, while the former foreign correspondent was catapulted to world-wide attention when he was arrested and imprisoned in Egypt in 2013.

LITERATURE

This year's Festival of Stories opened on Friday night with a full house at the screening of "The Correspondent", a film starring Richard Roxborough, based on the story of Australian foreign correspondent Peter Greste.

The movie traces Greste's arrest on terrorism charges in Cairo in 2013, where he was detained in Egyptian prisons for 400 days, and his fight for press freedom.

The film perfectly set the scene for the first session of the literary festival on Saturday morning, which featured Peter Greste himself.

On Saturday morning, officially declaring the festival open, Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead said the event was an opportunity to "walk beside some extraordinary voices – to hear truths, imagine futures, reflect on histories and maybe even laugh until we cry".

She applauded the volunteer

committee who put the event together, saying their work helped to "cement Phillip Island's reputation as a hub for creativity and culture".

"It's a joy to be here today to officially open this truly special event – one that invites us to slow down, to listen, to share, and to connect."

Saturday's MC was Gil Tucker, well-known to Australian audiences for his role in the TV series *Cop Shop* (among others). He guided an attentive group

of attendees through the day's sessions, which began with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Steve Ulula Parker.

Peter Greste – "Trust is not the only casualty"

It was another full house when journalist Gideon Haigh interviewed Peter Greste, in a wide-ranging discussion covering how it felt to see himself portrayed in a film, the 10-year anniversary of his release from

prison, his journalism career, the importance of media freedom, and of course, his arrest and imprisonment in Egypt.

Since his return to Australia, Peter has become a vocal campaigner for media freedom – including in his role as Executive








Continued page 10

Tax Time
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	SHOWERS 9 12	SHOWERS 9 12	SHOWERS 10 12	SHOWERS 9 13	MOSTLY SUNNY 8 14	SHOWER OR TWO 11 14	SHOWER OR TWO 10 14



David, Angela, Donna and Amy at Cowes Newsagency celebrating the sale of a \$100,000 prize-winning Instant Scratch-Its ticket.

Birthday scratchie surprise prize

COMMUNITY

A Cowes local received the ultimate birthday surprise after discovering a \$5 Instant Scratch-Its ticket sent by their sibling was worth \$100,000.

The ticket, purchased at the Cowes Newsagency, had been sitting in the winner's mailbox for about a week before it was opened.

"I'm not sure if it's quite sunk in yet. I'm still a bit numb," the winner said.

"It was quite funny. When I scratched it, I realised I had a win and thought, 'Yay, I've probably won \$5 or \$10'. Then I scratched

the prize amount and I was gobsmacked.

"I thought it had to be some sort of fake ticket. I'm really glad it wasn't.

"My sister gifted me a few different Instant Scratch-Its tickets for my birthday. She sent them via mail and they were sitting in my mailbox for probably a week before I got to them.

"I'm not sure how she feels. I told her and I think she was even more shocked than me."

The winner hasn't made any firm plans for the prize yet but said a new phone and a celebratory dinner might be on the cards.

Cowes Newsagency owner

Angela Banik said the win had created a real buzz among staff and customers.

"We were thrilled to hear the news. Our whole team is so excited," Angela said.

"Our customers have already congratulated us on the win. It creates talk about how people would spend the money and how great it is to hear of a win at our outlet.

"This is our second big prize and it gives us goosebumps to think about how this will change a person's life.

"Congratulations to our winner. We hope it brings joy and happiness to you."



If you've sighted missing cat McIntosh, please call owners Mike and Pip Cleeland on 0400 753 783. A reward of \$100 worth of chocolate is on offer.

Tasty reward for missing cat

Can you help find McIntosh?

The two-year-old ginger cat has been missing for six weeks now, and owners Mike and Pip Cleeland are hoping someone has seen their little runaway.

And they're offering \$100 worth of chocolate to the person who finds him.

McIntosh was last spotted at Scenic Estate, Boobialla Road at Surf Beach. While there's been a couple of false leads, Mike remains hopeful that their beloved pet

can be found.

"We've heard quite a few stories of cats going missing for months, or sometimes even years, so that gives us hope," he said.

As well as posting flyers on poles around the neighbourhood, large painted signs have been erected on a fence at Surf Beach, alerting drivers to the missing feline.

McIntosh is described as ginger with a white underbelly.

Anyone with information on McIntosh, please call 0400 753 783.

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Bass Coast Shire

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Lull in cruise ships visiting Phillip Island

TOURISM

The number of cruise ships visiting Phillip Island drops to just three in 2025/26 but will increase to seven the following year, a cruise ship industry forum was told last week.

Representatives of Australia's major cruise operators spoke last Monday at the Penguin Parade's visitor centre, with the forum told there was a current lull in the industry, after a peak in 2023/24.

The forum heard anticipated visits by cruise ships to the island in the next year are: December 23 Noordam; January 1, 2026 Seven Seas Explorer; and April 4, 2026, Carnival Adventure.

Destination Phillip Island's Kim Storey told attendees given the cruise season ran from October to April, the current "quiet time" should be used to "refresh the offering" of Phillip Island's attractions for cruise ship itineraries.

"We will think about what we can do over the coming months and years because your programs are years out," she said.

"We are keen to work with you to improve itineraries."

"We want to expand the number of offerings and customise to demographics and ship passengers' profiles. We have a range of boutique experiences that could create some very attractive shore excursions."

"We will be working with industry and the shore excursion companies to explore the various opportunities."



Representatives of Australia's major cruise operators spoke at a cruise ship forum at the Penguin Parade's visitor centre last week. From left: Visit Victoria's Chris White, Australian Cruise Association CEO Jill Abel, Matthew McKeown (Princess Cruises), Philip Lark (Intercoast), Paul Bruning (Akorn), Athena Mok (Carnival Cruise Line), Stuart Jamieson (Bob Wood Cruise Group), Phillip Island Nature Parks' Amber Ferguson and Destination Phillip Island's Kim Storey.

The forum did not hear about the Victorian government's decision to raise Melbourne port fees by 15 per cent in 2023, the equivalent of about \$4 per passenger, which industry insiders say has had a flow-on impact to the sector.

Kim told the Advertiser the fee was having "somewhat" of an impact on the number of cruise ships visiting, in addition to global issues, such as the Middle East crisis.

Lull

Matthew McKeown from Carnival told the forum Princess Shore Excursions showed Phillip Island had the highest passenger rating satisfaction score for Australia and New Zealand.

Visit Victoria's Chris White said there was a "dip this year" after a previous "big season", while the State Government was currently creating the Victorian Cruise Strategy to boost the sector.

Australian Cruise Association CEO Jill Abel told the forum in 23/24, 151 cruise ships visited Victoria, the second lowest only to South Australia's 88. The highest was Queensland at 464.

Jill said globally there was confidence in the industry, with 77 new ships on order to be built by 2035, each costing about \$1 billion.

"Globally the sector is forecasting there will be 42 million passengers to cruise in 2026, with

cruisers average age 46," Jill said.

The average passenger spend per day was \$455, with global trends for food and agritourism products and shore excursions for multi-generational groups.

In March this year, P&O Cruises Australia ceased operations and folded into Carnival Cruise Lines.

"We have a big task in Australia to make sure growth can happen and that requires infrastructure investment," she said, adding the industry was conscious of their environmental footprint.

As reported last year, Rhyll jetty will undergo a multi-million-dollar upgrade – which is yet to be funded – including a new pontoon and a wider landing zone for cruise ship passengers.

In recent years Phillip Island residents have raised concerns about the environmental impact of cruise ships in Western Port, which is Ramsar listed.

Western Port Biosphere Foundation CEO Mel Barker told the Advertiser given the international significance of Western Port – recognised through both its Ramsar status and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation – there was "a need for a very high standard of processes and controls to minimise the risk to the marine environment".

Risks can include things like introduction of marine pests or an oil spill, Mel said.

Details: vicports.vic.gov.au/cruise-shipping/Pages/cruise-ship-schedule-2.aspx

Sore feet, but an extraordinary feat

FUNDRAISER

Phillip Island tattooist Jack Montgomery completed a grueling 110-kilometre run around the island on July 19 raising over \$26,000 for Newhaven-based charity Free 3D Hands.

What started as a \$2000 goal quickly surged as the community rallied behind him.

"Before I'd even started, the support just took off," Jack said.

"It added pressure, but it gave the whole thing real meaning."

His training for the run was interrupted by a minor injury, forcing a three-week break, with the July 19 run his first effort back.

"It was pretty tough physically and mentally," he admitted.

"The weather didn't help – the wind was insane, sometimes blowing right in my face."

Despite pain and fatigue, Jack never considered quitting.

"I didn't want to let anyone down. Every dollar meant another hand or arm going to someone who needed it."

Friends joined Jack for parts of the run, including his friend Eli, who ran the last 50km alongside him.

"That motivation was crucial," Jack said.

He relied on energy gels every 40 minutes, water mixed with carbohydrates, salt tablets to prevent cramping, and the thought of the cause to keep going.

"I just kept moving forward, zoning out a lot, thinking about things like when to take my next gel or salt tablet."

After 14 hours and 38 minutes, Jack finished at Grenache Wine Bar, greeted by over 100 supporters.

"I was relieved. I asked for a beer straight away."



At the end of his 100km run, Jack Montgomery holds his 3D printed medal, presented to him by Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands. "We made Jack a 3D printed medal to hang around his neck, because to us, he's a true champion," Mat said.

Praise

Among the waiting crowd was Free 3D Hands founder Mat Bowtell, who presented Jack with a 3D printed medal to commemorate the achievement.

Mat was full of praise for Jack, and the "incredible generosity" of the community.

"Jack has supported us since the very beginning," said Mat.

"To think that he set an initial \$2000 goal and ended up raising over \$26,000 – it's absolutely overwhelming. I'm so proud of him."

"Every dollar Jack raised is going directly to helping us con-

tinue providing free assistive devices to anyone, anywhere in the world who needs one.

"I'm incredibly grateful, not just to Jack, but to the whole Phillip Island community for rallying behind this cause," Mat continued.

"Jack has reminded us why we call Phillip Island home, and why this is the heart of Free 3D Hands."

"He's shown what one person can achieve with perseverance and heart. That's the power of one – and it's very inspiring."

Last week, reflecting on the huge effort, Jack admitted his body was still recovering, and that one or two of his toenails were probably going to drop off.

"I'm not going to start training again just yet," he said, agreeing it was probably time to put his feet up, and relax for a while.

But he hasn't ruled out taking up the challenge again next year, possibly supporting Free 3D Hands again.

"They do incredible work. I'm proud to help in any way."

Free 3D Hands has provided assistive devices to thousands of people in 56 countries so far.

Through sharing their designs under open-source licenses, there are over 10,000 volunteers and organisations around the world now making their designs to create an exponential impact.

Currently, 15-year-old Laila from New York is visiting Australia with her mother to do a two-week internship with the team in Newhaven. She makes the open-source Kinetic Hand and Kinetic Arm design back home and provides them to people in need all over the world.

To find out more about Free 3D Hands or to make a donation, go to: free3dhands.org/



Mary Aldred MP with Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon Milton Dick MP, during her visit to Canberra last week.

Mary goes to Canberra

POLITICS

The new Member for Monash, Mary Aldred, was sworn in as part of the 48th Parliament in Canberra last week.

Mary described it as a whirlwind week, saying it was "a tremendous honour and privilege" to be sworn in as the Member for Monash.

"I'm here to do a job on behalf of all of our community," she said, listing the challenges of drought impact on farmers, housing, and the cost of

living.

She pledged that every day she was in the nation's capital, she would be representing the people of Monash, "addressing the issues that matter" to the community.

Her maiden speech on Tuesday July 29 at 4.30pm, was available live on the government's website: APH.gov.au

You can follow Mary on her Facebook page, at maryaldred.com.au or email her at mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au



The Imaging Associates team including Sadie, Lucy, Kade, Scarlett, Jan and Samantha, welcome the local community to the new Radiology service at Phillip Island Community Hospital, which opened this week.

New Radiology Clinic opens

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Imaging Associates opened its newest radiology clinic on Tuesday July 29, in the newly built Phillip Island Community Hospital at 50-58 Church Street, Cowes.

Delivered in partnership with Bass Coast Health, Imaging Associates Cowes is a purpose-built clinic offering high-quality medical imaging services, including low dose CT scans, ultrasound, X-ray, and dental OPG (orthopantomogram).

The new clinic is part of the broader redevelopment of the Phillip Island Health Hub and has been designed to meet the growing healthcare needs of the local community.

With a focus on accessibility, quality, and patient-first care, Imaging Associates Cowes will provide diagnostic imaging services for residents across Phillip Island, San Remo, and the wider Bass Coast Shire, helping reduce the need to travel long distances for non-urgent imaging.

"This is a significant step forward in providing local, integrated healthcare," said Dr Raja Devanathan, Clinical Director of Urgent Care Clinic Cowes, Bass Coast Health.

"The opening of Imaging Associates' radiology services within the Phillip Island Community Hospital is an exciting milestone. It enables patients to access X-rays, low dose CT scans, and ultrasound services locally, delivered by an experienced and trusted provider."

The clinic is open Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm and will support both pre-booked and walk-in appointments, with bulk billing available for eligible CT, ultrasound, and X-ray services.

Imaging Associates Cowes will also provide out-patient services for the Urgent Care Centre at the hospital, enabling faster diagnosis and treatment for minor injuries.

Experts

The service complements the recently opened Imaging Associates clinic at Wonthaggi Hospital, further expanding access to appointments and easing pressure on regional healthcare services.

Led by a team of expert sub-specialised radiologists, the clinic operates a doctor-led model of care focused on clinical excellence and collaboration with local GPs and healthcare practitioners. Patients will benefit from free on-site parking and convenient access to imaging services within the hospital precinct.

"At Imaging Associates, we are committed to delivering compassionate, patient-focused care using the latest in medical imaging technology," said Dr Johan Smalberger, Clinical Director for Imaging Associates Wonthaggi and Cowes.

"Our team is proud to be working alongside Bass Coast Health and local providers to support the health needs of this vibrant and growing region."

Founded in 2008, Imaging Associates was established to bring together world-class radiology services with a commitment to people-centred care.

Owned and operated by a team of leading radiologists, Imaging Associates provides a comprehensive range of imaging services across 14 clinics in metropolitan Melbourne, regional Victoria, and Wagga Wagga, NSW.

With more than 350 radiologists, sonographers, radiographers, and operational staff, Imaging Associates also partners with several public hospitals to provide expert reporting services across Victoria and NSW.

Imaging Associates Cowes
– Phillip Island Community Hospital
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Cowes crash at post office

TRAFFIC

Traffic came to a standstill in Thompson Avenue around 2.30pm on Monday afternoon (July 28), after a silver Hyundai crashed into a fence next to the post office.

It's believed the elderly driver accidentally put her foot on the accelerator and drove forward rather than reversing from a parking bay outside the post office.

Police said the vehicle crossed the footpath and "came to rest against a fence on the southern side of the post office, causing minor structural damage".

The accident damaged the car and a fence around the Telstra Cowes Exchange.

Local police, paramedics, Phillip Island fire brigade and SES were in attendance.

No one was injured, however police said Ambulance Victoria paramedics spoke to the driver, who declined further medical treatment.

The damaged fence has been temporarily repaired by the SES and the vehicle was towed from the scene.



An elderly driver crashed into a fence next to the post office on Monday afternoon, around 2.30pm, after accidentally accelerating rather than reversing from a parking bay.

Police said it was unclear yet if any further police action was needed, but the officers who attended the scene will submit a report outlining the possible cause of the accident.



The Newhaven College Youth Parliament Team, Tilly Stecher, Matilda Feehan, Miranda Zalunardo, Gabriel Di Falco, Nissa Campbell Walker and Jasmine Ruffin were very proud that their Bill passed in the chamber.

Newhaven College Youth Parliament

EDUCATION

Newhaven College's Youth Parliament Team took part in the Victorian Youth Parliament, held at the Legislative Council (Upper House of the Victorian Parliament) during the winter school holidays.

A College spokesperson said the team displayed exceptional preparation, articulation and debating skills throughout the sessions.

The team's bill, "The Establishment of Community Gardens Initiatives 2025", streamlines the process for establishing and maintaining community gardens across Victoria by simplifying permits and removing barriers.

It provides essential resources and expert guidance to support sustainable gardening practices, integrates community gardening into the primary school curriculum to educate future generations, and prioritises environmental protection, including native wildlife and cultural heritage preservation.

The bill also promotes inclusivity by ensuring accessibility and offering oppor-

tunities for vulnerable groups to engage through community service.

The College Youth Parliament Team consisted of Tilly Stecher, Matilda Feehan, Miranda Zalunardo, Gabriel Di Falco, Nissa Campbell Walker and Jasmine Ruffin.

Matilda Feehan received the Chamber Spirit Award for enthusiastically participating and creating remarkable contributions throughout the entire week.

Year 12 student Miranda Zalunardo described the experience as "insightful".

"It provided us with the opportunity to engage with a rich tapestry of young people, each with their own insights and perspectives."

Head of Senior School, Brett Torstonson, said the students' enthusiasm, "represented the College superbly".

"They proposed legislation that would increase accessibility to Community Gardens throughout Victoria. Their legislation passed with flying colours – 46 votes in favour and two votes against."

He congratulated the team for their hard work throughout Term 2 to write and edit their bill.

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College Tour

Wednesday 6 August
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Once finished, by the end of the year there will be 46 predominantly three-bedroom apartments at 46-48 Chapel Street, which received council approval in 2016.

Development crane to farewell Cowes

MAJOR PROJECTS

The developers of a \$40 million apartment complex – whose crane has dominated the Cowes' skyline for several years – say the development is slated for completion in late 2025.

S&D Property's residential project "Atrium on Phillip Island", at 46-48 Chapel Street, received council approval in 2016, after the developers bought two blocks of residential land in 2015.

S&D Property co-founder Steve Boutros said once finished there will be 46 predominantly three-bedroom apartments and a handful of multi-level four-bedroom penthouses with gardens.

Designed by Petridis Architects, and constructed by Loumain, each apartment features open plan living and dining, and various balcony and courtyard arrangements, with an atrium in the centre of the building.

Of the 46 units, 15 have been sold, with the intention to sell about five more and hold the balance as short-term accommodation. The ground floor has been designed to be retrofitted into a cafe, restaurant, or retail space.

Other developers have told the Advertiser increasing construction costs and reduced property prices on Phillip Island have tightened the development industry.

Steve said their development had been backed by Jadig Finance "when others

didn't" finance them.

"We were able to break ground in 2023 after streamlining the town planning process, achieving the funding requirement, and securing finance just a year prior in 2022," he said.

Jadig Finance managing director Adam Gringlas said they provided development finance for the project and would continue to support S&D Property with a residual stock loan on the balance of retained stock once Atrium finished this year.

"The partnership between S&D Property and Jadig Finance signals a broader shift in development behaviour in Victoria as developers look to non-bank and private lenders to secure development finance for their higher risk appetite," said Adam.

When approved in 2016, the five-storey apartment building was given a permit for 44 dwellings, a cafe and basement car-park. The permit stated the cafe would be at street level and seat 40 patrons.

The permit allowed for 61 car spaces, including four for building and cafe staff and 57 for residents.

Cafe and apartment visitors would park on the street, with the permit seeking a reduction in patron parking requirements.

"Based on our experience with similar developments across Victoria and understanding Cowes and associated strategies and policies, it is submitted that this car parking arrangement is appropriate," stated the permit at the time.

San Remo food relief continues to grow

COMMUNITY

Nearly four months after opening its doors, San Remo's grassroots emergency food relief initiative is quietly making a big difference – offering not just groceries, but dignity and a sense of belonging to those in need.

Every Wednesday morning, between 10am and 1.30pm, the back room of St Augustine's Anglican Church Op Shop on Marine Parade hums with activity.

Locals who arrive are greeted with a smile, and guided to shelves stocked with basics: pasta, cereal, long-life milk, toiletries, snacks, pet food, and, more recently, fresh bread, thanks to the generosity of Beachside Bakery.

The initiative is run by San Remo residents Samiro Douglas and Jane Ross, who are both deeply committed to supporting the community.

"This is guilt-free food," says Jane.

"There are no criteria, and the only questions we ask are how many people are in the household and if there are children. That helps us guide people to the items they might need.

"We supply bags, but if people bring their own, that's helpful," she adds.

While San Remo Food Relief operates independently and is not part of PICAL (Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre), the two groups have a strong working relationship. Through this partnership, San Remo Food Relief is able to purchase groceries at minimal cost via Foodbank, which ensures the service can continue to offer affordable, essential supplies.

Anglican Deacon, the Reverend Erena Norfolk plays a key role in coordinating efforts between San Remo Food Relief, PICAL and the Anglican Parish Council of Phillip Island, San Remo and Bass, ensuring smooth communi-



San Remo Food Relief co-ordinator Decon Erena Norfolk stacks donated goods into the pantry at St Augustine's Op Shop on Marine Parade, which opens every Wednesday between 10am and 1.30pm.

cation and support.

In March, the Rector of the Anglican Parish of Bass/Phillip Island, the Reverend Ruth Hanlon told the Advertiser she was "thrilled that we can partner with community volunteers to offer emergency food relief through St Augustine's".

Support

Since launching in March this year, there has been a groundswell of support for the initiative.

"We've had excellent support from the community," says Samiro.

"Parishioners donate groceries, as do random visitors, friends, and residents at the Lifestyle Village at Cowes.

"Beachside Bakery in San Remo has begun supplying bread and other baked goods, and the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association donate tinned and dried dog food whenever we ask.

"San Remo IGA has

also been keen to assist, and we've been trialling a donations trolley with very encouraging results. The community response has been truly heartening."

The IGA trolley continues to be well supported, but it's not the only way to contribute.

Anyone wanting to donate non-refrigerated groceries – such as sweet and dry biscuits, snacks like cereal and fruit and nut bars, honey, jam, marmalade, Milo, or coffee – is welcome to drop them directly at the op shop, particularly during opening hours on Wednesdays.

Donation baskets are also available at both St Augustine's in San Remo and St Philip's Anglican Church in Cowes, providing more options for those who want to help.

As the need grows, so too does the importance of local generosity – helping ensure this service can continue supporting those doing it tough.



ISLAND PILATES

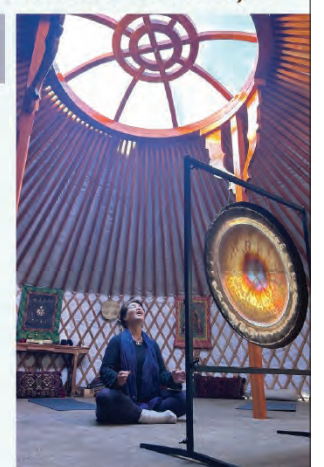
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The wait is over – it’s time to lodge

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is advising it is time to lodge, as most taxpayers with simple affairs will now have their information pre-filled into their accounts.

Assistant Commissioner Rob Thomson said that the ATO had completed pre-fill of over 91 million pieces of information available for individual tax returns from employers, banks, government agencies and private health insurers.

“You’ve been patiently waiting, but now you’re good to go. Whether you lodge using a registered tax agent or lodge yourself through myTax, pre-fill information will now be available,” Mr Thomson said.

Taxpayers should check the pre-filled data to ensure accuracy, add anything that may be missing and then include any deductions they are entitled to claim.

“Don’t forget that you need to include all sources of income in your tax return. This includes side-hustles, linked income from providing ride sourcing services or selling services via an app.

“Remember, the ATO has 40 industry and occupation specific guides to assist you in what you can claim and what records are required to prove it,” Mr Thomson said.

To help keep your personal information safe and protected,



“Don’t forget that you need to include all sources of income in your tax return. This includes side-hustles, linked income from providing ride sourcing services or selling services via an app.”

the ATO’s app now has powerful new safety features designed to give users real-time control over their tax affairs through alerts and instant account locking to help stop fraudsters in their tracks.

“Fraudsters are getting smarter, but so are the protective features in the app. The ATO app will send you real-time messages when changes are made to your ATO record, and you can quickly lock your account to prevent unauthorised access or fraudulent refunds.

“These features provide peace of mind knowing your account is protected and you remain in control of your tax affairs anytime, anywhere,” Mr Thomson said.

The ATO app and ATO online services through myGov also allow taxpayers to see the progress of their return once they or their registered tax agent have submitted it.

“Most refunds are finalised within two weeks and this process cannot be sped up, even if you call us,” Mr Thomson said.

Taxpayers have until October 31 to lodge their tax return or to get on the books of a registered tax agent, which may allow them more time to lodge.



ATO Assistant Commissioner Rob Thomson said it’s now time to lodge your tax return, whether you use a registered tax agent or intend to lodge yourself.

Mel Cane - Owner

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Mick Mahoney



Don't get a shock tax bill this year

Workers participating in the gig economy could be in for a shock tax bill this year, says Australia's largest accounting body, CPA Australia.

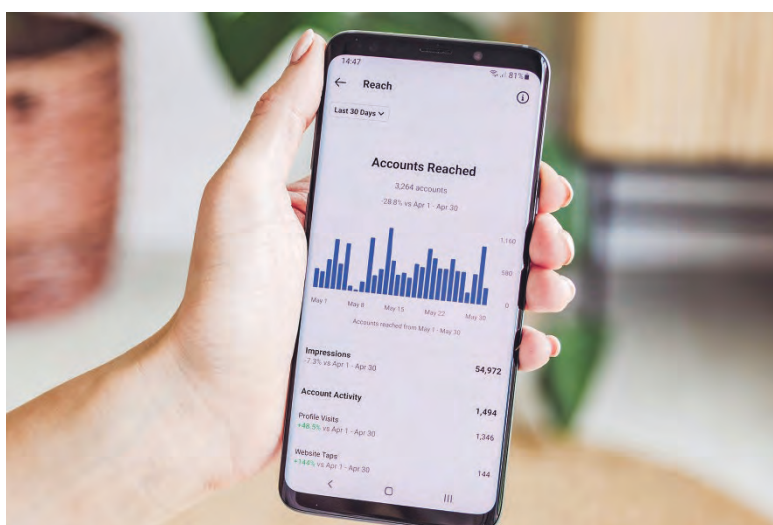
Income generated from side-hustles has become a major focus for the Australian Tax Office, with digital service platforms now legally required to report the income earned by their users under the Sharing Economy Reporting Regime (SERR).

CPA Australia Tax Lead Jenny Wong says anyone who has earned money through platforms such as UberEats, Airtasker, YouTube and OnlyFans and does not report and pay tax on these amounts on their tax return risks an amended return, extra tax bill and possible penalties.

"The Sharing Economy Reporting Regime is expanding this financial year, meaning the ATO will be aware of any income you have received through these types of gig economy platforms," she said.

"This brings them into line with other third parties that already provide the ATO with the data it uses to pre-fill tax returns, including banks.

"Until this year, individuals have been required to self-declare the income from their side-hustles. Now nothing will go under the radar. If you deliver food



Gig economy workers may be able to claim work from home expenses such as mobile phones, internet and power. Photo: Georgia de Lotz, Unsplash.

with DoorDash, work some casual jobs through Airtasker, or make content for Patreon, YouTube or OnlyFans, these sites are now reporting your earnings to the tax office.

"These rules apply to a broad range of services, not just the most well-known. If you use a website to rent out a car parking space or your designer handbag, this income will be recorded, and you'll need to pay tax."

Ms Wong says individuals who have enjoyed a strong year of earning activity through sites such as YouTube and OnlyFans could be in for the biggest shock.

She also reminds influencers specifically of their obligations to declare any gifts and gratuities received as a form of payment.

"You must pay tax on income you earn above the tax-free threshold of \$18,200," she said.

"So, if you've had a successful year earning money through advertising revenue and streaming subscriptions, as well as through gifts and gratuities, the ATO will be expecting you to cough up. Yes, this even includes free cars, holidays, clothes and anything else you're lucky enough to receive as a

form of payment.

"Depending on how much you've earned during the year, this could be a significant amount, maybe even tens of thousands of dollars."

Ms Wong says the expansion of the SERR helps resolve the ATO's challenge of dealing with the gig economy and ensuring that Australians fulfil their tax obligations. The data-matching regime started in July 2023 with platforms such as Airbnb, but has now expanded to include a much broader range of activities, like content creators.

"The current level of tax compliance from digital economy users has largely been a mystery," she said.

"Though people might not consider earnings from digital platforms as income in the same way as their regular job, it is all viewed the same way by the ATO. Chances are that many people have simply not been declaring this income at tax time. That all changes now."

CPA Australia's tips for gig economy workers:

- **Declare all income:** Ensure that all earnings are reported in your tax return, regardless of the amount or frequency. This includes gifts and gratuities.
- **Maintain accurate records:** Keep detailed records of income and expenses to support

your deduction claims.

- **Understand your obligations:** Familiarise yourself with your tax requirements, including ABN registration and GST obligations if applicable.
- **Seek professional advice:** Consider consulting a professional tax agent to navigate your tax affairs and ensure compliance.

What expenses can gig economy workers claim?

Australians working in the gig economy may be entitled to claim some work-related expenses, but only if they are directly linked to the income they've earned, they have not been reimbursed, and they have a proof of the purchase. Examples include:

- **Work from home expenses:** Such as phone, internet and energy costs.
- **Travel costs:** The cost of travel between work locations could be deductible.
- **Motor vehicle expenses:** Delivery drivers could claim for fuel, repairs and other expenses, but must identify the percentage used for business purposes.
- **Tools of the trade:** For example, a video camera, editing software and professional lighting. This must only be for business use, not private.



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A group of volunteers from AusNet joined local Landcare members in a planting day at the site of the new Phillip Island Recreation Reserve in Cowes.

Planting for National Tree Day

ENVIRONMENT

To coincide with National Tree Day a group of volunteers from AusNet arrive to assist with a special planting day at the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve last week.

Working alongside volunteers from the Phillip Island and Bass Coast Landcare groups, the volunteers planted indigenous seedlings at the site.

Trial sites were established in July this year by Landcare, supported by AusNet funding, trialling 10 different types of revegetation.

The aim is to study the best techniques for local indigenous plant growth, with 10 separate areas, each 10m x 15m, using various planting styles.

"It was fantastic for our volunteers to work alongside the Landcare Australia team and local community members on a project to protect and restore the local indigenous vegetation," said AusNet Communications Advisor Kathy Burgstahler.

We look forward to seeing how the project progresses over the course of the three-year trial."

Wallaby proof fencing has recently been completed, and gates installed on site to give the new seedlings the best chance of surviving.

Rabbit skirting (made out of wire) is due to be installed soon.



James Link, Head of Corporate partnerships, Landcare with AusNet Communications Advisor Kathy Burgstahler at last week's planting session, attended by AusNet volunteers. More photos at pisra.com.au

Landcare has received \$20,000 annual funding for the next three years from an AusNet Community Landcare Grant.

The funding is being used to kickstart revegetation works in the new Phillip Island Recreation Reserve in Cowes.

When the funding was announced last June, Chairperson of Phillip Island Landcare, Carolyn Atherton, explained the group would work to revitalise the area and enhance endangered vegetation.

"We'll be working with council to guide us in planting and where we need to revegetate," Ms Atherton said.

"It's going to be a long-term investment for the community down the track when the area becomes a reserve."

Ms Atherton said they had also been experimenting with bespoke fencing methods in order to stop rabbits and wallabies from destroying plants in their infancy.

"Rabbits and wallabies put a lot of stress on any native plants that have popped up. We've been trying different things that are proving quite successful in stopping the rabbits and wallabies from destroying the seedlings before they get a chance to establish."



Junior School Council opening the new playground at the end of Term 2.



School Captains opening the new Rope Climber at the start of Term 3. Students from left: Brock, Frankie, Nicholas, Elsie and Ella.

New playgrounds for Cowes Primary

EDUCATION

Cowes Primary School students returned to an exciting new addition this term, with a brand-new rope climbing structure unveiled on the school oval.

Designed for students in Years 3-6, the climbing frame offers opportunities for active play, balance, and strength-building during break times.

In addition to the main structure, two sets of tumble bars – a popular request from students – have also been installed. To

celebrate the new equipment, Golden Ticket winners (students recognised by staff for consistently demonstrating the school's values) were given the first chance to try it out, with other classes following on a rotational basis.

This installation follows the replacement of equipment in the undercover playground at the end of Term 2, guided by ideas generated by the Junior School Council. Their thoughtful input helped shape a refreshed play space for younger students and highlights

the school's commitment to listening to student voices.

"It's pretty special," said Principal Rod McKenzie.

"Many students go through their entire primary years without seeing the addition of a new playground. To deliver two in less than a term is something we're incredibly proud of."

Cowes Primary continues to invest in student engagement, wellbeing, and play, ensuring facilities evolve to meet the needs and ideas of the children who use them every day.



COUNCIL BRIEFS

Cypress trees, wildlife future

At the July Bass Coast Shire Council meeting, Thompson Avenue Golden Cypress group president Pauline Taylor asked if council had a policy on the protection and management of the trees in Cowes.

Council CEO Greg Box replied the Thompson Avenue Golden Cypress were protected by a heritage overlay under the Planning Scheme and feature in the council's Significant Tree Register, while council adopted a maintenance and replacement strategy in 1999.

Sue Chadwick asked if council would consider removing the remaining golden cypress storyboard from the Thompson Avenue Esplanade and relocating it to the Berninnet site.

"The storyboard is of National Trust significance, and I believe it deserves a more suitable and respected location for public viewing," Sue said.

Mr Box responded relocation of the remaining storyboard would be considered as part of the Cowes streetscape stage one project.

Sue also asked how council could nurture wildlife and prevent roadkill.

"Fast developing tourism and island urbanisation is causing conflict as to how we

can care for our native wildlife. There must be some protection for our indigenous fauna," she said.

Mr Box said council officers had worked with Phillip Island Nature Parks and the State Government on the Phillip Island Wildlife Plan.

"Council recognises that the natural environment of Bass Coast is valued by residents and visitors alike," he said.

Bridge demolition

Councillors have voted for the Kilcunda Viaduct Bridge – on the land side of Kilcunda – to be demolished.

Officers told the July council meeting the bridge had partially collapsed and was currently fenced off because of public safety concerns and "risks of further collapse".

"Whilst many residents are urging council to preserve the bridge for local history and heritage reasons, the bridge has failed and is beyond preservation," officers said.

They said the bridge had not been maintained since the closure of the rail service in 1978.

Demolition will cost \$32,000, compared to \$27,000 for a fence to be installed around the bridge, or \$54,000 to \$65,000 for restoration.



Artist John Adam (right) with Maggie Fooke, at his "Vision and Reality" exhibition, showing at Berninnet until August 6.

John's vision on show

ART

The exhibition by local artist John Adam, which coincides with his 90th birthday, was open at Berninnet over the weekend.

"Vision and Reality" is showing until August 6, and entry is free. Throughout the Festival of Stories, visitors to the festival visited the exhibition during the breaks between sessions.

A special opening night celebration was held on Sunday July 27, from 2pm until 4pm.

The exhibition features a selection of paintings spanning 70 years, and captures John's continuing experimentation and his belief – to quote the late Brett Whiteley – that "painting is a difficult pleasure".

Berninnet is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5pm and weekends from 10am until 4pm.

Don't miss The Mikado

OPERA

Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*, presented by Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Victoria, is coming to Berninnet in August.

There are still tickets available to the show on Sunday, August 10 at 2pm, although Saturday's performance has sold out.

An afternoon of song, wit and live music, *The Mikado* is an enduringly popular comic opera with memorable music, endearing characters and some of the wittiest lyrical comedy in the English language.

Featuring much loved songs such as "I've Got A Little List" (the better-known title of "As Someday it May Happen"), "A Wand'ring Minstrel I", "Three Little Maids From School Are We", "The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring" and many more.

The *Mikado* is touring regional Victoria accompanied by Geoffrey Urquhart on piano.

Nanki-Poo loves Yum-Yum but she's betrothed to Ko-Ko, the new Lord High Executioner. When the *Mikado* (or emperor) orders a beheading, Nanki-Poo and Ko-Ko try to come to an arrangement that doesn't involve anyone losing their head. However, the arrival in town of the spurned Katisha turns everything topsy-turvy. With melodious mischief and preposterous plots, the tangled web unravels; will the punishment fit the crime?

Gilbert's imagined Japan was enriched by a London exhibition featuring a Japanese village inhabited by 100 citizens and the European obsession with ev-



There are still tickets available to *The Mikado*, presented by Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Victoria, at Berninnet on August 10 at 2pm.

everything Japanese following its re-opening to the world. The distracting beauty of his Japanese setting allowed Gilbert to get away with poking fun at the staid social norms, absurd etiquette, and weighty bureaucracy of a colonising Victorian England.

The opera enjoyed immense popularity throughout Europe where 17 companies performed it 9000 times within two years of its premiere in 1885. And, in 2006, the Japanese Tokyo Theatre Company presented *The Mikado* as part of the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in England.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Victoria Inc (GSSV) was founded in 1935 by JC Williams with the University of Melbourne, and is one of the three oldest continuously performing groups in Australia.

Its performing arm, Gilbert

and Sullivan Opera Victoria, offers high-quality and modestly priced live theatre experiences, specialising in sparkling Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, classic Golden Era musicals and the rediscovery of charming musical and theatrical gems from the late 19th to early 20th century.

The Society is a registered charity, independent and self-funded.

Get your ticket now for Sunday, August 10 at 2pm.

Tickets available at Trybooking or from the venue box office: www.trybooking.com/DBWKD

All tickets: \$55. Seating is allocated. Wheelchair spaces and companion seating available. Bar and kiosk available.

Berninnet, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes.

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A special rhubarb cake, baked by local private chef Kara Williams (of Foodies on Phillip Island) is on the menu this Friday at Anerie General in Silverleaves. For every slice sold, \$1 will go towards local food relief in the community.

Heart bake for a great cause

FUNDRAISER

Local private chef Kara Williams, who manages the notarial local Foodies on Phillip Island page, is joining forces with Cryss Plummer, owner of Anerie and Anerie General in Silverleaves, to raise money for local food relief.

The two local women connected over a common interest in quality seasonal food and community.

Kara was invited into the kitchen by Cryss and this Friday will bake a mouthwatering rhubarb cake in the kitchen at Anerie General in Silverleaves, picked direct from the garden on-site at the historic corner store.

The cake has a special meaning for Kara, bringing back memories from her childhood when her grandfather used to grow rhubarb at their Silverleaves holiday home, just a few metres from Anerie.

The rhubarb cake will be available until sold out on Friday (August 1), and \$1 from every slice sold will go towards assisting local food relief within our community.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to enjoy a coffee and freshly baked cake, while supporting a great cause.

The regular full menu will also be available to enjoy from 8am on Friday.

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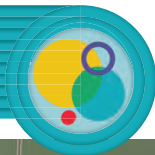
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FESTIVAL OF STORIES 2025

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Local garden lovers Lara Olsen and Fi Blackmore were thrilled to meet landscape designer Paul Bangay and have their books signed after his session on the changing fashions in gardening.



Dr Ann Jones (right) and Nature Parks' Paula Wasiak had the audience gasping and giggling with tales of the natural world.



Cartoonist Judy Horacek (left) was part of the Saturday festival line-up, with author Jane Caro (right) who spoke about her new crime novels in a session on Sunday morning.

Extraordinary voices tell their stories

From page 1

Director of the Alliance for Journalists' Freedom – inspired by his detention.

"The Egyptians tried to take my voice away and tried to silence journalism." Speaking out, and telling his story "is a way of saying screw you" to the Egyptian government he said. "Retelling (the story) weaponises it in my favour."

Paul Bangay – Changing fashions in gardening

There were a lot of gardeners on the island keen to hear the thoughts of leading landscape designer Paul Bangay. In conversation with Story Gatherers' Sue Hines, Bangay spoke of his childhood, his parents rewilding land near Wilsons Prom back in the 60s, and where his love of gardening came from.

As well as sharing the story of how he created his own gardens, and some of his favourite gardens across the globe, he had some good tips for the backyard gardener. "A garden is not a hospital," he said about choosing plants for your garden. "Give it a year, if it doesn't work, then throw it out."

Ann Jones – What the duck?

Speaking with Phillip Island Nature Parks' Paula Wasiak,

ABC's "nature nerd" Ann Jones kept the audience entertained with her tales of the strange and wonderful behaviour of animals. Describing herself as a "professional dork", Ann admitted radio (or audio) was her favourite medium, as it gave the audience the space to imagine and insert themselves.

Her tales included gay male swans in Perth, all-female gecko populations and mating rituals of dung beetles. No one in the audience will ever look at an alpaca in the same light after Ann's description of their (very) lengthy and slightly gruesome mating habits. "Sorry to anyone who has their alpaca jumper on today," she joked. There was also a gasp from the audience when she said local wallabies eat bird carcasses.

Kon and Sia Karapanagiotidis and Jordana Silverstein – Food: much more than a meal

The role of food in maintaining culture and breaking down barriers was the theme of this session, and gave the audience plenty of food for thought. They directly addressed the situation in Gaza, where Kon said the Israeli Government "was using food as a weapon war". As the child of holocaust survivors, Jor-

dana spoke of a "collective fight for justice", saying at the moment, "the Palestinian are the most oppressed" and are also dealing with wide-spread and institutional racism that is not being addressed. "What Israel is doing is bad for everyone," she said.

Sia spoke of her experience being a migrant in Australia and the importance of food for family and community, saying she had cooked every day for the last 55 years, because she loved it. "Always cooking is an act of love."

Kon, who founded the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, said we must not lose our collective humanity, with the day's session focused on the "power of food and storytellers, and the way the community can fight back". "Keep your hearts open, your minds curious and always be kind," he said. "We don't need higher walls; we need longer tables."

Judy Horacek – It's easy being green

Cartoonist and illustrator Judy Horacek shared her cartoons and thoughts on "being green", including "Where is the green sheep", the book she wrote with Mem Fox, which she described as a "magnificent success". She



Comedian Sammy J delighted the crowd at Saturday night's performance – "Sing a song with Sammy". Photo: Mat Bowtell.

said her cartoons could be found on fridges and toilet doors (a cartoonist's greatest honour), and shared highlights of her career, juggling her love of creating cartoons and illustrations, with her commitment to environmental issues. "One is joyous fun; one is an unfolding tragedy."

Sammy J – Sing a song with Sammy

Storytelling in a different form took over the stage at Saturday

night's session. Sammy J, well known comedian, storyteller, composer and musician, most recently of ABC fame, regaled his audience with an hilarious blend of the musical satire he is famous for, and stand-up comedy on the stage.

His highly entertaining segment took his audience on a nostalgic trip down memory lane, in a masterful performance, leaving them laughing, reminiscing, thinking ... and calling for more.



Attending the Peter Grete session, sponsored by the Phillip Island RSL was President Peter Paul (right) with his wife Glynnis, and Rosie Brewin (left) and Trish O'Brien.



Kon Karapanagiotidis (second from left) and his mother Sia (third from right) with the Story Gatherers President Lois Gaskin (left) and volunteers.

FESTIVAL OF STORIES 2025

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Beau Vernon was the final presenter at this year's Festival of Stories and afterwards chatted with locals Nick and Lisa.



Michelle Lesh, with her daughter Melila, and Gideon Haigh, signing books after their session "The price of love", on Sunday morning. More photos at pisra.com.au

Sunday session of stories

LITERATURE

It was an early start for literary lovers on Sunday, with the Festival of Stories back at Berninnet at 9.30am.

The day's MC Brian Nankervis expertly kept the crowd entertained and enthused, as well as amused, getting people to link arms and sing along to get the festival started.

Gideon Haigh and Michelle Lesh with Foong Ling Kong – The price of love

It was a serious start to the day, as the two authors spoke of their memoirs; Gideon of his brother Jasper died, at the age of 17, in a car accident in 1987. Michelle was in the early stages of grief when she edited her husband Mark Raphael Baker's memoir "A Season of Death", written after his diagnosis with terminal pancreatic cancer.

Gideon's book was written decades after his younger brother Jasper died, at the age of 17, in a car accident in 1987. Michelle was in the early stages of grief when she edited her husband Mark Raphael Baker's memoir "A Season of Death", written after his diagnosis with terminal pancreatic cancer.

Both spoke of the incalculable loss and what the writing process meant for them, coming to terms with that loss and their own grief. "Mark's voice is palpable in the book; it was a way for him to be with me after he died," said Michelle. For Gideon, who had "an aversion to self-enquiry", writing the book brought conflicting feelings, unlocked memories, and prompted conversations with his mother, "that we couldn't have had in 30 years". Publisher Foong Ling Kong described the



MC Brian Nankervis enjoying afternoon tea with Kylie Lindorff from Turn the Page bookshop, who was kept busy all weekend with festival goers eager to buy books after each session.

books as a "fabulous artefact against forgetting" those we love.

Jane Caro and Candice Fox – The Mystery of Murder

Story Gatherers' president Lois Gaskin was tasked with wrangling the exuberant conversation between two crime writers: the self-described newbie to the genre Jane Caro, and Candice Fox who "grew up surrounded by crime" and has written 11 crime novels, and co-authored a further seven with NY Times best-seller James Patterson.

Jane described herself as an "idea and issues driven writer", who sets her stories in real places. "Fiction doesn't have to be true, but it has to ring true," she said.

Candice Fox, when not writing crime, is a dedicated wildlife rescuer, regaling the audience with hilarious stories of her res-

cues, interwoven with her tip to "just kill someone", if she feels the narrative is stalling in a book she's writing.

The popularity of crime novels with women was due, in part, because "we live in a society where we feel less safe than men do," said Jane, explaining it was a way to work through "the worst things that we can imagine happening to us".

Both women agreed the rise of the female detective reflects women's desire to see a woman be "the one that brings the bad guy to justice".

Peter Lalor and Gideon Haigh – From Murdoch to the new media

Bringing their free-ranging podcast Cricket et al to the stage of Berninnet, the two journalists, who have close to 80 years' experience between them, discussed the impact of the internet

on the media. "It broke the business model. Advertisers went, and with them, so did trust," said Peter. "Newsrooms have become ghost towns."

The pair, described by Peter's mother as "two cheeks of the same arse", said their podcast was more fun than they ever had in journalism, due in part to the relationship they've developed with their audience. Analytics, algorithms, Murdoch and Donald Trump were all discussed. And while they admitted the new media landscape has been good for them (with their 10,000+ subscribers), they don't see it as a positive. "I think we are losing something through this fracturing of the media environment," Peter said, where culture wars had "become a business model".

Alice Zaslavsky – In Praise of Veg

The author, radio and TV presenter and chef, talked with Brian Nankervis, for a lively session covering her career and approach to good food and cooking. Both former teachers, Alice said her time in the classroom enabled her to "convey information in a concise, clear way". She talked about her childhood in Georgia, the love of food nurtured by her parents and grandparents, and the thrill of eating tropical fruit on their move to Australia. Paradoxically, her move from teaching started as a desire to inspire her students to join her "Food and Culture" classes, leading her to audition for Masterchef. "I thought if the kids saw me on TV, they would want to come

and do the course". She finished the session gifting the audience an easy mid-week recipe – a four cheese gnocchi cauliflower bake.

Beau Vernon – Olympic-sized dreams

Journalist Peter Lalor talked with Phillip Island's Beau Vernon, about his life in sport – before and after his accident in 2012. They discussed the importance of the local football club, in Beau's life and in local communities more generally, with Beau saying part of his motivation to make the most of his life, was his way of thanking the people who had supported him. Alongside his football coaching victories, sits his personal sporting high point – winning bronze at the Paralympics. "It was a highlight representing my country in front of my kids," Beau said. And the closing ceremony was another; "there were 70,000 cheering for all these people who had disabilities; celebrating their strengths".

He believes he is a better man now than he was before the accident which left him paralysed from the chest down. "The hardest times are where you have the greatest growth. Everyone faces adversity. It's the way you deal with it; it's how you look at it that determines the outcomes."

The festival concluded with everyone enjoying an excellent afternoon tea thanks to the baking skills of the Phillip Island CWA Twilight Group. Story Gatherers' President Lois Gaskin said the success of this year's event guaranteed they'd do it all again next year, to celebrate their 10th anniversary.



Leigh and Allison catch up with festival volunteers Mary Taylor and Sandra Colling at the after party on Sunday.



Journalists and authors Peter Lalor and Gideon Haigh brought their free-ranging podcast Cricket et al to the stage of Berninnet.



Story Gatherers Simonne Liberman, Sue Hines and Lois Gaskin, the team behind this year's Festival of Stories.



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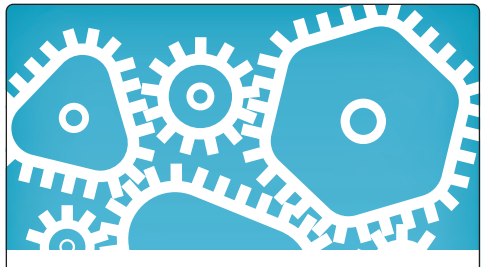


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Long term Bendigo Community Bank Board members celebrate (from left): Greg Meade (10 years), John Matthews (five years), and Peter Paul (14 years).



Bendigo Community Bank Chairman Kelvin Simpson cuts the ribbon and declares the new San Remo Bendigo Community Bank open.



Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead with Mark Nolan, recently retired Bendigo Community Bank Performance Manager, who worked with the local branch to secure the new premises.

A new space – for bank and the community

COMMUNITY

The Bendigo Community Bank in San Remo officially moved into a new and more spacious building last week, marking a significant milestone for both the bank and the local community.

The new premises, located at the entrance to the town, boasts a large car park at the rear, and features a new community gathering space, for local residents and groups to use and enjoy.

Kelvin Simpson, Bendigo Community Bank Chair, welcomed all present to last week's grand opening, which saw past and present board members, staff, customers and regional guests gather for the celebration.

Kelvin reflected on the bank's journey since its estab-

lishment in San Remo in 2003, and highlighted the bank's ongoing commitment to the community.

"Our model is that the community supports the bank, and the bank in return supports the community," Mr. Simpson said.

"These new premises give us the opportunity to have the bank and a community space all in one place, further strengthening our connection with the community."

In the 22 years the Bendigo Community Bank has been in operation at three locations across the local district, the staggering amount of \$6 million has gone back into community projects, and to local groups and organisations.

Kelvin said this financial support fills a void that enables groups to not only oper-

ate but thrive.

Board member Peter Paul emphasised the significance of the bank's ownership of the new premises.

"It is the bank's shareholders that own this property. Banking may change. Other banks may come and go. But this bank is here to stay. This move provides a fantastic legacy for the San Remo community, same as in Cowes, where the bank also owns the premises from which it operates."

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead congratulated the Bendigo Bank Community Board – all volunteers – on their foresight, and applauded the provision of a community space in the new building.

"This will elevate the connection that the bank already has with the community to a new level," she commented.

Cr Halstead also described the bank's \$6 million investment in the community as "an amazing outcome" that could only be achieved with community support.

Bank staff are delighted with their new premises, and especially the large car park out the back, as they will no longer have to move their cars every two hours, due to parking restrictions operating at their previous location.

The San Remo Bendigo Community Bank was established in 2003 by the community after the town's last remaining bank left. With the potential for 2000 new homes to be built in the area over the next ten years, due to the recent extension of town boundaries, the future certainly looks bright for both the bank and the community.



San Remo Bendigo Community Bank staff (from left): Kim Grinham (Customer Office Relationship), Michael Scott (Senior Branch Manager), Tanya Donnan (Branch Manager), Keith Robinson and Em Collie (Customer Service Officers).



First customer at new branch was Brian Skinner.



The opening of new premises in San Remo was celebrated last week by past and present Bendigo Community Bank Board members and staff (from left): Di Clark (former staff member), Miranda Sage (former Board member), Joan Matthews (Foundation Board member and still on the job) and Trudy Jamieson (former staff member).

Sports trivia night to support tradies' mental health

HEALTH

In support of Tradies Health Month, the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary is holding a community-focused sports trivia night and mental health information session on Saturday August 16, at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club.

The event aims to raise funds for the new Phillip Island Community Hospital while also shining a light on the importance of mental health in the trades sector.

The Health Hub Auxiliary is a volunteer group committed to supporting the local health service by raising funds for essential medical equipment for the new community hospital. This trivia night is one of several initiatives aimed at connecting the community while raising

awareness around mental wellbeing — particularly for those in high-pressure trades and construction roles.

Two guest speakers will share their insights on mental health and resilience. Dr Krista Fisher, a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne, will speak about her research into anxiety in men, where she explored how anxiety shows up in young men's lives, and how it can contribute to depression, substance use, and even suicide.

She will be joined by Luke Ross, a registered psychologist and master trainer at Social Intelligence Group, who will discuss practical strategies for managing mental health and building emotional intelligence in the workplace.

Attendees will also receive takeaway information packs

featuring mental health resources, including support for coping with relationship breakdown, thanks to Headspace, whose trusted materials are included to help young people and families navigate life's challenges.

The event will run from 7pm to 10pm, with doors opening at 6.30pm, at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club. Tickets are \$25 and can be booked online.

Attendees are invited to bring their own snacks, and drinks will be available for purchase at the bar. The event will feature a lively sports trivia quiz, as well as raffles and giveaways, with sports-themed prizes on offer.

To book your tickets go to: events.humanitix.com/celebrate-tradies-month2025 or scan the QR code.

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Dr Krista Fisher will speak about men's mental health and the importance of social support at the Sports Trivia and Mental Health Information Session at the Phillip Island Football Club on August 16.



Nat and Sam Docherty, with mum Annabel.

Former islander Sam Docherty retires from the AFL

AFL

Former Phillip Island footballer and Carlton player Sam Docherty last week announced his retirement from the game, with his team acknowledging he is “loved and respected not only by the Carlton faithful, but the entire AFL industry”.

Sam played his 184th and final AFL game last Thursday night at the MCG against the Hawks but the former skipper will be acknowledged with a tribute at the club's next home game against the Gold Coast Suns on August 9. Coincidentally his mum Annabel, who lives in Cowes, retired a week before Sam and last week said she looked forward to the next chapter in the family's life.

“I’m excited for the future and spending more time with the family,” Annabel said of Sam’s wife Nat, two children Ruby and Myles, as well as her son Josh, his partner Jess, who have Kai and another grandchild on the way.

In his career, Sam, who left the island at the age of 18, has suffered three ACL injuries, as well as recovering from testicular cancer in 2022, which had spread to his lymph nodes, lungs and stomach, and required 12 weeks of chemotherapy.

In 2013 Sam had just joined Carlton and was at a camp in Arizona when he received a phone call telling him his dad, Eddie – an island premiership player, a coach of multiple teams, and a Phillip Island Football Club life member – had passed away.

National media described Sam, saying his “endless kicks in the guts show us the power of overcoming adversity”.

A Carlton statement said “as a player and as a person, Docherty is resilience personified”.

Career

Arriving at Carlton Football Club from Brisbane at the end of 2013, where he played 13 games, the “boyhood Blue” was a John



Young Sam (left) with his brother Josh, playing for the Phillip Island Bulldogs.

In a podcast last year Sam said he was fortunate as a kid. “My mum and dad provided a great environment for myself and my brother: looking back now, they taught us a lot of habits that have been really healthy.”

Nicholls Medallist in 2016, received All-Australian honours in 2017 before stepping up alongside mate Patrick Cripps in 2018 to take over the captaincy until 2022.

After playing every game for the Blues in 2016 and 2017, Sam was sidelined for the next two seasons after undergoing back-to-back ACL reconstructions.

He returned in 2020 to play but was then diagnosed with cancer, which saw him undergo multiple surgeries and chemotherapy treatment.

His teammates and countless supporters shaved their heads, raising \$219,000 for the Peter Mac Cancer Foundation, an organisation where he became an observer to the board and subsequently raised nearly \$700,000 in two years.

Sam is also an ambassador for the MacKillop Family Services’ Paws4Kids program, an initia-

tive which helps vulnerable children get back into the classroom through the support of therapy dogs.

His off-field work earned him the Jim Stynes Community Leadership Award in 2023.

“When I was a kid my entire family used to climb into a van and drive from Phillip Island to the MCG for Round 1 every year,” Sam said last week.

“For me to get the chance to go on and play in those games, and also captain the club that I grew up supporting – I can honestly say it’s a dream come true.

“Perspective is such a valuable thing, and that is what I am most grateful for in my career. When my career started I thought a footballer had to define themselves by the accolades they achieved: while I am certainly grateful for those that have come my way, I will leave this game with so much more.”

MacLellan came second on 55.56 per cent.

On Wednesday due to several members sunning themselves in warmer climates there were only two table.

However keen Bridge players are not easily deterred.

Players swapped around and thirty boards were played. It was good fun however we look forward to a fuller house as members return.

Anne Hodgson and Caroline Shaw won the day on 61.67 per cent.



The Phillip Island team on finals day (from left): Nala Taylor, Jacquie Chambers, Graeme Burgan, Ebony Maier and Natalie Van der Hayden.

Jacquie takes the title

SURFING

Congratulations to Jacquie Chambers who won the Women’s Over 50 championship at the Australian Longboard Titles in NSW last week.

Jacquie put on a dominant display in the final, claiming her first-ever Australian Championship. She posted scores of 6.17 and 6.67 to secure the win by a 4.77-point margin.

“I’ve been in rehab for a couple of years after a neck injury, so I’ve been hitting the gym and working on my surfing with the goal of returning to compete at the Thermos Australian Longboard Titles,” Jacquie said.

“I was just aiming to give it my best, but to walk away with my very first Aussie title means the absolute world to me.”

Jacquie was one of a contingent of Phillip Islanders who joined the Victorian team at the titles. While five other islanders made it through to the semi-finals, Jacquie was the only one



Phillip Island’s Jacqui Chambers claimed victory in the Women’s Over 50 event at the Australian Longboard Titles last week.

to take it all the way.

Graeme Burgan, surfing with the Victorian team, said the island surfers had a great time at Tweed Heads.

“The Victorian team was voted the team who had the most fun and we came second in the over-all team aggregate to NSW,” he said.



Nine Gippsland swimmers are representing Team Vic at the School Sport Australia Swimming Championships in Brisbane this week. Front: Mackenzie Gibbs (Sale), Levi Jarrett, Miah Roberts and Claudia Croatto (SGB), Phoebe Balcombe (Traralgon). Back: Kody Said (Traralgon), Xavier Gray (Sale), Zayden Burton (Traralgon), Archie Smyth (SGB).

Gippsland swimmers head to Brisbane

SWIMMING

The Chandler Swim Centre is once again the destination for the cream of Gippsland swimming competing in Brisbane this week at the School Sport Australian Championships, with nine swimmers selected in the Schools Sport Victorian team.

Selected in Team Vic are Claudia Croatto, Levi Jarrett, Miah Roberts and Archie Smyth (SGB), Mackenzie Gibbs and Xavier Gray (Sale), Kody Said, Phoebe Balcombe and Zayden Burton (Traralgon).

The swimmers from the three clubs all hail from nine different secondary schools across the region and are part of a 79 strong student team, competing in a range of individual events, as well as state relays.

Miah Roberts is returning for the second year in a row.

“I’m really looking forward to having my friends with me and being able to swim the relays

together representing the state. I’m really proud to be representing the schools of Victoria in the competition.”

Archie Smyth has competed in the primary school section for a number of years, but this is his first year in the secondary section.

“I’m really looking forward to the 50m and 100m Backstroke. They are my favourites. It will be good to see how I go against the others, especially as next year a lot of us can go to the Age National Championships, so it will be a good chance to see who my competition will be.”

Mackenzie has been swimming since she was seven.

“I am looking forward to school swimming, especially the 100m Butterfly, 200m Freestyle and the Relays. This is my third School Swimming Championships.”

The swimmers will return in time to compete at the Country Championships in Bendigo, representing their respective clubs.

From the table

BRIDGE

On Monday Lorrie Reed and her partner Bron Sund won the day with a convincing 68.065.

Marion Wellwood and Rob



Local derby delight – Phillip Island Penguins claimed victory over the Phillip Island Stingrays in a spirited match at Newhaven on Sunday in a great contest showcasing local talent and sportsmanship.

Wins all round for Breakers

SOCCER

U15 Girls

Following the girls' draw last week against Korumburra City, the Phillip Island Breakers U15 team were determined to take a win as the finals fast approach.

Again, facing City at home, the Breakers showed up with intent to secure points.

With an evenly contested start and super switched-on goalies for both teams, the match remained tight and scoreless for most of the first half.

In goal first up, Lily T was a confident voice guiding some superb passages of play away from the lurking opposition attack.

Along the wing Amara and Georgia were a dynamic duo showing skill and cohesion.

Amara dominated with her attempts at goal, finding herself sprinting almost full pitch to take shots.

Closing in on the first half whistle, a magical passage of play by the Breakers resulted in a well pieced one-two between Amara and Ava across the face of goal, catching the City goalie out of play, allowing Ava to secure the first score for the match and the lead for the Breakers.

The second half started fast and furious with an unfortunate own goal from City resulting from a busy hustle and multiple attempts by the Breakers to secure a second on the board.

City did not let this get in their heads, instead they lifted energy and increased their fight.

Lily J held strong through many physical intercepts as she deflected many attempts by the opposition to score.

The second half goalie, Ari-

ana, showed grit and resilience as she faced a barrage of tough yet successful saves, only allowing a well-struck shot into the upper part of the net, meaning she had limited chance of making the save.

Right up to the final whistle, City put the pressure on the Breakers and there were many a moment that could have seen another draw for these tightly contested teams.

Saved by the whistle, the Breakers took the win 2-1 seeing them now in second place on the ladder after 13 Rounds.

U14 Mixed

On Sunday Phillip Island Penguins played the Phillip Island Stingrays in Newhaven.

Both teams showed great sportsmanship and resilience as they ran and played on the muddy ground with friendly rivalry.

The first half of the game saw both teams match each other in game play and speed.

A few unsuccessful shots on goal were had at both ends, until a skilled corner kick from James found the top of Reuben's head rocketing the ball into the back of the net in the last ten minutes of the first half, giving the Penguins a 1-0 lead.

The second half of the game continued with intensity.

Impressive defensive skills were shown by the Stingrays, but with another couple of quick goals from the Penguins the game was running away.

Goalkeeper Manny had many impressive saves, putting his body on the line for his Stingrays team.

In the end the Penguins came away with the win 4-0.

Round 13 results

Senior Men's: Phillip Island Breakers 3 d Trafalgar Victory 2.
Senior Women's: Phillip Island Breakers 5 d Trafalgar Victory 0.
Men's Reserves: Trafalgar Victory 4 drew Phillip Island Break-

ers 4.

Under 15 Girls: Phillip Island Breakers 2 d Korumburra City 1.

Under 14 Mixed: Phillip Island Penguins 4 d Phillip Island Stingrays 0.

Under 12B Mixed: Phillip Island Penguins 5 d Trafalgar Victory 3.

Island takes on Killy Bass

NETBALL

A Grade

In a hard-fought and wet contest, Phillip Island A Grade netball team came away with a solid three goal win over Bass.

Despite the tough, rainy conditions the girls worked together with great determination and team spirit.

Hallie and Aisha were standouts on the court, earning the best-on awards for their strong performances, but it was a true team effort that secured the win.

Every player contributed to a well-deserved victory in challenging weather.

Well done, girls.

B Grade

Phillip Island travelled to Bass, and despite the cold and wet conditions, both teams showed off some awesome skills on a slippery court.

Bass took an early four-point lead after the first quarter, and the game remained tightly contested going goal for goal.

By the third quarter, Bass was leading by six points, however Phillip Island fought hard, demonstrating resilience and won that quarter, but still trailed by four points. In the end, it was Bass that kept pushing, while Phillip Island seemed to tire and just couldn't keep up the pace.

Kilcunda Bass 46 defeated Phillip Island 34.

Best on Anthea and Steph.

C Grade

The Phillip Island C Grade netball team braved tough weather and a determined Kilcunda Bass side in their weekend clash, eventually going down 25-32 in a hard-fought game played in persistent, wet conditions.

From the first whistle, it was clear that the rain would be a factor, with both teams adjusting to the slippery court and heavy ball.

Despite the challenging environment, Phillip Island came out strong, matching Bass goal for goal across the first two quarters.

The intensity was high, and there were some brilliant passages of play that showed the Islanders' ability to adapt and work together.

While Phillip Island remained well in the contest for three quarters, fatigue and a few costly turnovers crept in during the final term. Kilcunda Bass took full advantage, finding their rhythm late and pulling away to claim a seven-goal win.



The Phillip Island U17s took to the court for the TAC Road Safety Round, helping raise awareness for safer driving on our roads. The round supports the TAC's "Towards Zero" campaign, reminding everyone that every life lost is one too many.

Best on court went to Nikki Williams, who gave 100 per cent effort from start to finish, working tirelessly in both defence and attack through the centre court.

Also, Lawri Piera, who was an experienced wall in defence, providing strength and reliability under pressure in tough conditions.

U17

The Phillip Island U17 team delivered a dominant performance, powering to a commanding 72-4 victory.

The conditions were tough, but the girls showed focus, fight, and fantastic teamwork from the first whistle. In defence, Olivia was a standout, reading the play brilliantly and creating countless turnovers.

Jasira added strength and pressure down back, while Kate stepped confidently into wing defence, keeping Bass' mid-court options limited. Aisha and Ava were clinical in goals, working smoothly together to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

Piper was strong in wing attack, driving hard and delivering sharp feeds, while Ellie was a force in centre, directing play and linking both ends with confidence and composure.

Tilly added her usual intensity in defence, helping to shut down any chances Bass tried to create.

Best on court: Aisha and Olivia.

U15

In an unforgettable match on Saturday our U15 netball team pulled off a remarkable comeback against a strong and determined opposition.

Trailing by four points for the first three quarters, the girls faced tough competition from a side that pushed them at every

turn. In the final quarter the Island team dug deep and were able to claim a well-earned six-point win. It was a great team performance with a fantastic outcome.

Phillip Island 26 defeated Kilcunda Bass 20.

Coach's awards went to Brylie and Macy.

U11

The Phillip Island U11 netball team delivered an impressive performance on the weekend, securing victory over Kilcunda Bass in a thrilling encounter.

The game showcased excellent team play and determination, as the girls came from a tight first half to dominate in the second.

Kilcunda Bass held their own in the opening quarter, matching the Islanders goal for goal.

The score was level at 7-7 at the first break, with both teams showing promise in attack and defence.

Phillip Island found themselves in a narrow lead at half-time, up by just one goal.

The third quarter saw a shift in momentum when Phillip Island's defensive pressure became relentless, and they were able to turn over numerous Kilcunda Bass possessions.

Millie Humphrey was named best on court for playing an instrumental role in moving the ball quickly out of defence and creating multiple options for her teammates.

Eden Hallas also received an award for her tenacious defensive pressure, causing multiple turnovers and disrupting Kilcunda Bass's attack.

With the ball consistently in their hands, Phillip Island stretched their lead, ending the game with a 30-15 victory.

Keep working hard and well-done girls.

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U14 Award winner Zach Bedford slides.



U12 Killy Bass player Rory Nicholas on the run.



U10 August Lidstone kicks his first goal.

Great day out for Killy Bass juniors

FOOTBALL

U14

Killy Bass headed over the bridge to face Phillip Island Red.

This game was a do or die to keep our finals hopes alive.

The kids started strong and didn't stop all game.

Winning every quarter the boys played a great four quarter game coming away with a comfortable win. Great team effort.

Awards: Cruz Bettles, Jensen Miller, Zach Bedford and Logan Magussen.

U12

A gritty and determined performance from the Kilcunda-Bass side saw them claim a well-earned victory over Phillip Island Red in a tightly contested clash at Phillip Island.

From the opening bounce, KB brought the heat.

Their intent was clear early, dominating territory and possession in the first quarter, though the scoreboard didn't quite reflect their effort.

Every player played their role, commit-

ting to the contest and applying relentless pressure all over the ground.

Bailey Pool led the charge with his trademark intensity, setting the standard from the get-go with ferocious attack on the footy and relentless pressure on the opposition.

Miles Leary was a standout with a polished four-quarter effort, showcasing composure under pressure and clean disposal both in the air and at ground level.

Down back, Kilcunda-Bass were rock solid.

Captain Lerah Schonewille was inspirational all game, tough at the contest and smart with her positioning.

Chaze Poulton and Alfie Russo provided great support, cutting off numerous Bulldog attacks with smart intercepts and rebound play.

River Dow was also dependable in the key defensive post, rarely beaten and constantly repelling forward thrusts.

In the ruck, Ethan Lynch had one of his best games of the season, dominating the hit-outs and following up with strong marking and tackling around the ground.

Contributions from Max Milner, Rory

Nicholas, Clancy Quinlan, and Saylor Maund were all important in maintaining the team's intensity and structure.

Though Phillip Island managed a goal on the final siren to narrow the margin, the scoreboard didn't quite tell the full story, KB were the better side across the four quarters and thoroughly deserved the win.

Goal: Alfie Russo.

Best: Miles Leary, Bailey Pool, Chaze Poulton, Lerah Schonewille, Alfie Russo and Ethan Lynch.

Awards: Miles Leary, Bailey Pool, and Ethan Lynch.

U10

The Panthers travelled to Phillip Island undermanned and anticipating a cold and wet tussle.

Well, the game was anything but sloppy.

Both sides fought hard all day with plenty of grit and determination on show.

It was a very low scoring game as the ball struggled to make it out of the centre, both sides ferocious in their attack on the football.



U14 Killy Bass awards L to R: Logan Magnussen, Cruz Bettles, Jensen Miller and Zach Bedford.

As we near the end of the season, we could not be prouder of the effort on show by our wonderful Under 10s side.

A shout out to August Lidstone for kicking his first goal this year. Awesome work.

Killy Bass brings the heat in the wet

NETBALL

B Grade

With finals on the line, the Killy Bass B Grade girls knew this was a must-win and they didn't disappoint.

Lizzy and Esther were rock solid in defence, racking up turnovers and shutting down Island's attack.

Ally was relentless in wing defence, putting the squeeze on Island's midcourt and making every pass a challenge.

Kira and Kiara worked the ball beautifully through the wet conditions, feeding the shooters with pace and precision.

Bells was on fire, sinking long bombs like it was a dry-court final, cool, calm and deadly accurate.

The crowd was loud, the game was fierce, and the Babes were unstoppable, running out 46 to 34 winners.

Best on court: Lizzy and Esther.

C Grade

Kilcunda Bass C grade came away with a good win.

The girls displayed some great netball across the whole court.

The defensive pressure forced lots of turnovers and gave the goalers multiple

scoring opportunities which they converted, and it made the difference.

The team worked together well and come away with a seven-point win.

Best on court: Alice Mabilia.

D Grade

On a dreary morning with showers about, the D Grade team hit the court determined for redemption against long-time rivals Phillip Island.

Killy Bass got off to a confident start, turning over the first centre pass and converting it into a goal.

The first quarter was tightly contested and went into the break all square.

The second quarter saw the team come out firing, scoring six unanswered goals through composed and smart netball.

Killy Bass's ability to adjust quickly to the wet conditions allowed them to play with control, and pressure across all thirds of the court.

This led to multiple turnovers, which enabled the team to be reward with goals.

At half-time Killy Bass had a four-goal lead.

From there the team continued to lift. Staying calm and composed and gradually extended the lead with disciplined play, ending the game with a well-earned 16-goal win, a result to be

proud of.

It was a fantastic team performance, with all players stepping up and contributing across the court.

With so many strong efforts, it was difficult to pick a standout, however the best on court, receiving the Grantville Foodworks voucher, was awarded to Kim Pike.

U13

The U13's came out firing and never looked back, securing a thrilling two-goal victory over their long-time rivals, Phillip Island.

Killy Bass led from the first whistle to the final siren, with incredible teamwork, strong defence and attacking end, the teams unwavering spirit driving forward all game.

The energy on court was electric and the positivity from every player made the win even sweeter.

A massive well done to the U13's, your determination and unity truly shone through.

Bring on next week.

Best on court was another team effort with each player receiving \$10, two stand outs were Lexi and Ash.

Reports for A Grade, U17, U15 and U11 at pisra.com.au/Sport



Winners of Winter Triples bowling competition were, left to right Peter Forrest, Stuart Cunningham and Brian Arnold.

Winter Triples

BOWLS

A very wet and windy day greeted our bowlers and even with these conditions the games were completed.

Congratulations to the winners Peter Forrest, Stuart Cunningham and Brian Arnold.

PICKLE BALL ON THE ISLAND

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30-11.30am. We encourage new players, they are welcome to come for 2 "come and try" sessions.

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Juniors battle it out

FOOTBALL

U14 Blue

The U14 Blue boys travelled to Korumburra this week where the conditions were wintry, muddy and wet.

The Blue team continued their form with a win and another game of teamwork and improvement.

The Dogs started strongly, demanding the footy and winning contests.

At half time, they were 40 points ahead.

The boys were able to read the play, create space and were proud to play well.

The second half saw the team put foot to pedal and extended their lead with a 92-point win.

Final Score: Phillip Island Blue 99 def Korumburra-Bena 7.

Goals: Flynn Riley 4, Hugo Wright 3, Jax Marshall and Kai Denblyden 2, Miller Sund, Balin Riky, Spencer Smith and Riley Whyte 1.

Awards: Spencer Smith, Rocco Archer, Archie Dallinger and Jax Marshall.

U14 Red

It was a chilly morning this past Sunday, where our Phillip Island Red team played against Kilcunda Bass at our home ground.

The boys showed great individual skill in this game, however, struggled to utilise that skill as a team effort, resulting in a loss for our Red Bulldogs.

Final Score: Phillip Island 1.3.9 def by Kilcunda Bass 8.9.57.

Goals: Xavier Holmes.

Best: Zane Larrison, Harvey Paterson, Denver Preddice Firth, Johnny Rizzo, Kane Patton and Ryan Hain.

Well-deserved awards went to: Lachlan Newstead, Denver Preddice Firth, Sonny Williams and Liam Cleary.

U12 Blue

The Blues travelled to Korumburra with Captain Max Ward leading his team.

It was a slippery and heavy football, but the Blues adjusted to the climate by kicking short and looking for targets during the first quarter.

Some solid marking and middle work by the Blues, with a snap by Ollie Hellmuth-Pask scoring the first goal.

Noah Hollings kicked a great goal, and Cooper Bennett kicked a banana to score a beautiful goal.

The Blues came out strong with a nice lead at first break.

Quarter 1: Blues 25 – Korumburra 1.

Second quarter Jett Fawaz was tearing through the mid with fantastic clearances moving the ball forward.

Kash Scheibel kicked his second goal, and Jackson Rodakis kicked a goal and was in great form.

Yadin Kershaw kicked a goal



U14 Red awards this week went to Lachlan Newstead, Denver Preddice Firth, Sonny Williams and Liam Cleary.

from an impressive long range.

Every player was finding space, sharing and moving the ball forward.

The Blues dominated the scoreboard increasing to a big lead.

Half time: Blues 61–1.

Third quarter Cooper Bennett scored his second goal, Kash Scheibel another goal to bag three goals for the game.

The Blues held the wall and shared the workload, the middle work of Max Robinson, Noah Hollings and Yadin Kershaw was excellent.

Third quarter 61–0.

Last quarter the quiet achiever Kingston Boisvert came from the mid and kicked a goal and William Naughton-McConnon went hard at the ball and took great marks.

Jobe Lock and Ollie Hellmuth-Pask did a great job and Captain Max Ward attacked the ball and continues to build on each week.

A sensational game once again by every player of the Blues.

The Blues scored a total of sixteen goals, with twelve different goal kickers contributing.

The mercy rule kicked in at half time, the final score Blues 61 – Korumburra 1.

Best: Ollie Hellmuth-Pask, Cooper Bennett, Noah Hollings, Yadin Kershaw, Sam Martindale and William Naughton-McConnon.

U12 Red

Final Score: Phillip Island 1.1.7 def by Kilcunda Bass 1.2.8.

Best: Fletcher Hennessy, Logan Reginer, Leith Cameron, Tanner Lee, Ethan Cleary and Reef Elliott.

U10 Blue

It was a chilly and damp Sunday morning as the Phillip Island Bulldogs Blue team travelled to face the Korumburra-Bena Giants. Despite the slippery conditions, both sides played with great determination and spirit.

A clear scoring end shaped the flow of the game, resulting in a close and exciting battle from beginning to end.

With mud flying and energy levels high, it was winter footy in its purest form.

Well done to all the young Pups.

U10 Red

A home game for the Pups and captain Wryker fired up the team and led them out for a tough match against Killy-Bass.

It was a hard-fought battle through the middle, with great shepherding and teamwork rewarded by a brilliant running goal to Ryden in the first quarter.

The Pups had most of the play throughout the middle of the game and the backline provided a solid wall of defence.

In the final quarter, great moves from Quil and Seb F set up a fantastic goal for Wryker.

The coach urged the players to focus on manning up and the team delivered with tight defence and smart plays.

Another brilliant display of teamwork and determination.

Awards: Seb F, Rusty, Wryker and Quil.



U16 Killy Bass player Cooper Brown Celebrates 100th game on the weekend against Phillip Island.

Grit and glory for girls' games

FOOTBALL

U16

The U16 girls powered through four quarters to secure a convincing win over the Sea Eagles.

With the sun shining and spirits high, the girls showed grit and great teamwork in the lead-up to next week's home game against Warragul.

Lily Bow was outstanding all day and deservedly named Best on Ground for her relentless pressure and composure under fire.

Macey Stubbs added a goal when needed providing clean delivery through the middle alongside teammates Lilli O'Loughlin, Miki Leary, Olivia Holmes and Gemma Fischer.

Piper Nicolaci, playing forward, worked hard all game and was dangerous around goals, while Gisele Smith was solid with two goals and smart ball use.

Brinkley Nicolaci and Bethany Greness also made their presence felt, creating opportunities and holding strong through the contest.

With momentum building and just one round left before finals, the Bulldogs will be looking to carry this strong form into next weekend's clash at home against Warragul.

The team is peaking at the right time, and they're not done yet.

Final Score: Phillip Island 10.11.71 def Inverloch 2.0.6.

Goals: Olivia Holmes and Lily (Elbow) Bow 3, Ruby Kent-Ford, Macey Stubbs, Brinkley Nicolaci and Gemma Fischer 1.

Best: Lily (Elbow) Bow, Olivia Holmes, Gisele Smith, Piper Nicolaci, Ruby Kent-Ford, Bethany Greness, Macey Stubbs and Lily O'Loughlin.

U14

The Phillip Island Under 14 girls football team put up a determined fight in their clash against Leongatha over the weekend.

Despite the scoreboard reading 1.5.11 to 0.4.4 in Leongatha's favour, the young Bulldogs showed plenty of heart and resilience across four quarters.

Coach Rej praised the team's effort, noting their relentless pressure and teamwork, especially in defence.

The girls never gave up and continued to push forward, supported strongly by their coach and the crowd.

While the win wasn't theirs this time, the spirit and determination on display prove that this team is continually building skills from trainings and playing experience.

Keep it up girls.

Awards this week to Heidi, Sera, Indi K and Billie.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 30 JUL	THU 31 JUL	FRI 1 AUG	SAT 2 AUG	SUN 3 AUG	MON 4 AUG	TUE 5 AUG
HIGH 4:37 am 2.72 m	HIGH 5:20 am 2.72 m	HIGH 6:00 am 2.71 m	HIGH 6:39 am 2.70 m	LOW 12:28 am 0.68 m	LOW 1:00 am 0.69 m	LOW 1:36 am 0.72 m
LOW 10:15 am 0.80 m	LOW 10:55 am 0.91 m	LOW 11:32 am 1.01 m	LOW 12:08 pm 1.11 m	HIGH 7:18 am 2.68 m	HIGH 7:59 am 2.65 m	HIGH 8:45 am 2.62 m
HIGH 4:59 pm 2.95 m	HIGH 5:27 pm 2.89 m	HIGH 5:53 pm 2.82 m	HIGH 6:18 pm 2.76 m	LOW 12:44 pm 1.21 m	LOW 1:22 pm 1.31 m	LOW 2:03 pm 1.43 m
LOW 10:49 pm 0.78 m	LOW 11:23 pm 0.73 m	LOW 11:56 pm 0.69 m		HIGH 6:45 pm 2.69 m	HIGH 7:18 pm 2.61 m	HIGH 7:56 pm 2.52 m

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U16 Boys thrilled to have Charlie Fischer back in the team after his Vic Country match at the Gold Coast; the boys had a great win against Kilcunda-Bass on Saturday.



Bryce Hindhaugh juggles the ball in wet conditions in the Reserves match against Kilcunda-Bass on the weekend.

Bulldogs put on a show at Bass

FOOTBALL

Seniors

The Seniors put on a commanding display, running out 59-point winners over a determined Kilcunda-Bass outfit.

Cameron Pedersen was a focal point up forward with three goals, consistently clunking marks and leading with intent.

Nick Anderson matched him with a classy three-goal performance of his own, while Max Walton and Billy Taylor chipped in with two each to keep the scoreboard pressure on.

Nine individual goal kickers again highlighted the side's versatility and depth.

The midfield brigade got on top early, with Connor Thompson and Tyce Kleverkamp working hard at the coalface and delivering clean entries inside 50. Jaymie Youle, Jay Ladson and Hayden Bruce were standouts across half-back and through the middle, disrupting Kilcunda's forward movement and driving transition play.

Max Walton's work rate and polish were on full display, earning him a spot among the best as the Bulldogs tightened their grip on a top ladder position.

Final Score: Phillip Island 15.15.105 def Kilcunda Bass 7.4.46.

Goals: Pedersen and Anderson 3, B Taylor and Walton 2, Youle, Ladson, J Taylor, Kimber and Collison 1.

Best: Bruce, Youle, Ladson, Thompson, Kleverkamp and Walton.

Reserves

The Phillip Island Reserves delivered a dominant performance in Round 16, comfortably accounting for Kilcunda Bass by 75 points.

The Bulldogs controlled the game from the opening bounce, using their spread, pressure



Congratulation to Jaymie Youle for playing his 250th game, alongside him proud teammates Cam Pedersen and Mark Griffin. More photos at pisra.com.au

and clean ball movement to wear down the opposition.

Up forward, Brady Ross starred with four goals, proving too elusive for the Kilcunda defence, while Jack Huther and Travis Woodfield each added two majors of their own.

Jordy Patullo was busy all day and hit the scoreboard with two goals, complementing his strong presence around the ground.

Lucas Chihotski, Harry Anderson and Bryce Pewtress rounded out the scoring with one apiece.

There were standouts across every line, but it was Bryce Hindhaugh, Jordy Patullo and Jack Keating who set the tone with their composure and physicality.

Ethan Michaelides and

Finlay Cousins were also influential, helping control the tempo through the middle of the ground.

The Reserves continue to build momentum as finals approach, showing impressive depth and hunger.

Final Score: Phillip Island 14.11.95 def Kilcunda Bass 3.2.20.

Goals: Ross 4, Huther 3, Woodfield and Patullo 2, Chihotski, Anderson and Pewtress 1.

Best: Hindhaugh, Patullo, Ross, Keating, Cousins and Michaelides.

The Bulldogs now look ahead to Round 17 as they continue to push toward a strong finish to the home-and-away season.

With both squads firing and strong individual per-

formances across the board, Phillip Island is shaping up as a genuine contender across both grades.

U16

After a tough loss and a bye, the U16 lads were ready to get back on the winners list.

A full squad for the first time in a month and a trip to Bass was on the cards.

A fast start saw Phillip Island kick the first four goals of the game with Levi, Felix and Caleb all getting on the score board.

The second quarter was tightly contested.

Charlie Fischer and Sam O'Garey steadied the ship in the middle, with Bailey Parry pinch hitting in the ruck.

At the half time break we were able to keep Bass goalless with great defensive efforts from Jesse Moschetti and Archie Williams.

After the long break Lewis DeFazio inserted his dominance in the ruck and completely dominated in the middle.

Jack Mascaros was a bull in the middle also giving our forwards first look at it. Levi, Felix and Caleb all kicking goals in the third to take a commanding 60-point lead at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter started like the third quarter ended.

Dominance in the middle with Charlie Fischer kicking his first and Felix Bathgate kicking his fifth goal.

A big win for the U16 team beating Bass to keep the finals hopes alive.

Phillip Island 13.6.84 def Bass 1.5.11.

Goals: Felix Bathgate 5, Levi Addison 3, Caleb Cantwell and Sam O'Garey 2 and Charlie Fischer 1.

Best: Lewis DeFazio, Felix Bathgate, Jack Mascaros, Charlie Fischer, Levi Addison and Caleb Cantwell.

**ALEX SCOTT
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