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Wednesday, July 9, 2025

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SPECIAL WHALE FESTIVAL FEATURE

For the love of whales

**Immerse yourself in
the world of whales**

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**A life among
the whales**

PAGE 4

Island Whale Festival July 11–13

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Immerse yourself in the world of whales

Larger than life, mysterious and magical ... whales capture our imagination like no other.

Zev Landes, the man behind this year's interactive experience at the Whale Festival Experience Hub, has set out to capture all this, and more, about the whales that visit Phillip Island each year.

For last year's festival, he created an underwater scene, teaming with the marine life on our doorstep including not just whales, but also fish, squid, seals, dolphins, orcas and sharks.

"Last year, I asked myself, how can I immerse someone in the underwater world that is just metres off our shore," he explains.

"If you dive in underwater at peak hour at Pyramid Rock or near The Nobbies, you'll see most of these creatures."

This year, he wanted to build on that, using technology, art and science.

"We're using audio technology, projectors, integrating AI and photography to create an interactive experience," he says.

"We're using photos of our local whales that are just off Phillip Island and there are stories of local whales from local researchers.

"It really is an immersive, massive experience that brings together the science and the art of our oceans.

"Every organisation involved

in the festival has contributed to this with advice, knowledge, wisdom and skills."

While the exhibition is grounded in fact, that doesn't mean there isn't room for fun.

"We're going to have a life-size staring/blinking competition with a humpback whale, and a whispering mama - where you listen to the whale whisper and work out what she is saying to her calf," says Zev.

There's even going to be a neon pink whale-poo selfie booth.

While this is sure to be a fun favourite - who doesn't want a photo with a giant whale poo emoji - there's serious facts behind the giggles.

"It's actually a celebration of the incredible, central, integral role whales play in the ecosystem," explains Zev.

While there will be plenty of opportunities for people to marvel at the mystery of whales, Zev is keen to direct our attention to the things we have in common with these magnificent creatures.

"Whales are mystical, but they are also so familiar. They are mammals, they drink milk and have names for each other.

"It's about connecting with one of the largest creatures that ever lived, that also plays and cuddles just like us."

Visitors entering the festival hub get a passport, and there's a

series of missions, or interactive experiences, to complete. You get a stamp for each one and there's a reward at the end.

Zev hopes people will love the experience, but more importantly, fall in love with whales.

"I want people to protect and look after our oceans and whales, and to do that, they need to fall in love," he says.

"I feel very lucky to get the chance to share these stories in a fun and playful way.

"And it helps connect people with the natural world that is just off our shore."

Whale Festival Experience Hub, Berninnet, Cowes



A life among the whales



Dr Wally Franklin has spent more than two decades floating gently through the waters of Hervey Bay, eye to eye with humpback whales. This year, the marine scientist brings his remarkable story and scientific insights to Phillip Island as a keynote speaker and panelist at the Island Whale Festival.

Dr Franklin and his late partner, Dr Trish Franklin, began

their journey with whales in 1989, when a spontaneous visit to Hervey Bay turned into a life's calling. In 1992, they launched a long-term research project through their not-for-profit organisation, The Oceania Project, dedicated to understanding and protecting humpback whales.

Over 25 years, the Franklins spent 1155 days on the water, documenting more than 17,000 individual whales and 7000 pods using a non-invasive method known as photo-identification.

Their research contributed significantly to what we now know about the social behaviour, reproduction, and population recovery of humpback whales along Australia's east coast.

"When we started, the east-

ern humpback whale population had only just begun to recover from commercial whaling," Dr Franklin explains.

"There were perhaps 1000 whales in the early 90s. Now, we estimate that number is around 40,000 – a full recovery."

A key part of his presentation at the festival will focus on this so-called "miracle" of recovery – and why the story is both one of hope and responsibility.

"We've been privileged to witness this incredible bounce back," he says.

"But with that comes the duty to continue monitoring these whales, especially in the face of climate change."

Connecting people and nature

Dr Franklin is deeply enthusiastic about the role festivals like

the Island Whale Festival play in education and conservation.

"These events are more than celebrations. They connect people to the natural world and show them how they can be part of protecting it. It's an honour to be involved."

Today, he continues his work through partnerships with emerging researchers and institutions such as the University of the Sunshine Coast and collaborates with platforms like Happywhale, an online citizen science project using AI to match whale fluke photos.

"Anyone with a camera can now contribute to whale research," he says.

"It's empowering – and it opens the door for broader public engagement."

Dr Franklin will appear as part of the science panel and de-

liver his keynote speech on Sunday afternoon at the festival.

As part of the festival's broader program, Dr Franklin will also appear in Whales, Culture and Conversation: A Deep Dive with Leading Voices on Saturday, July 12, from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Berninnet theatre.

Hosted by ABC's Belinda Smith, the panel discussion will bring together Dr Franklin, Dr Chels Marshall and Dr Jodi Edwards for a rich conversation on how Western science and Indigenous knowledge can work together to advance marine conservation.

Tickets are \$25 for adults (16+) and \$20 for concession holders.

EVENTS AT—MYLI

Join us for a whale of a time at the Phillip Island Library, where a sea of fun-filled activities awaits you and your family!



Whale Festival Origami

Friday 11 July - 2.30pm

Whale Festival Storytime

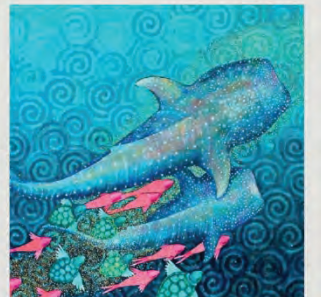
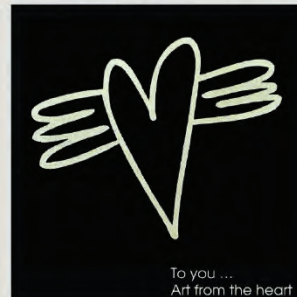
with Julie Murphy

Saturday 12 July - 11am

Whale Festival Crafts

Sunday 13 July - 11am

www.fionakennedy.com



In celebration of this year's Island Whale Festival, Pino's Trattoria has invited local artist Fiona Kennedy to showcase her work in our venue. Select pieces will be available to purchase and will be on display over school holidays and the Island Whale Festival.

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Top family highlights

Whether you've got a toddler who loves sea creatures or a curious tween with a science streak, the Island Whale Festival is bursting with fun, educational, and awe-inspiring experiences designed with families in mind. Here's your curated guide to making the most of the festivities with little ones in tow.

Festival Experience Hub

The best way to start your whale of a weekend is at the Festival Experience Hub at Berninnet in Cowes, where tickets start from \$5.

Kick off your visit with an interactive scavenger hunt through marine-themed art installations. Kids will love collecting stamps in their Festival Passport – and claiming a reward at the end. Along the way, get hands-on with conservation exhibits that make learning fun.

Your festival hub pass gets access to four great areas:

Immersive Room: An immersive soundscape experience. Step inside the marine world of Millowl in this captivating sound and light experience that transports your family underwater.

Under the sea – virtual reality experience: “Snorkel” the Great Southern Reef without getting wet. A family favourite, this VR experience is great for kids.

Festival experience hub passport: Go on a scavenger hunt through interactive art installations and learn about marine life and conservation through hands-on exhibits. Collect stamps as you go to complete your Festival Passport and claim your reward.

Theatre program: Hear from ocean experts and storytellers in a packed program of fascinating talks and presentations. Perfect presentations for all ages at Berninnet, Cowes.

A Short History of Whales: Tiktaalik to Tursiops. Included in Festival Experience Pass.

Travel 50 million years in under an hour. Palaeontologist Ruairidh Duncan takes you from land-dwelling ancestors to today's ocean titans. You'll never look at a whale the same way again.

Clash of the Prehistoric Sea Titans: Megalodon vs Livyatan. Included in Festival Experience Pass

Discover the fossil secrets of Megalodon and Livyatan – Victoria's an-

cient ocean giants. Join palaeontologist Ben Francischelli as he reveals epic prehistoric predators.

Spot-a-whale

A must for marine-loving families: enjoy a 50-minute talk by local researchers followed by a guided whale-spotting session and interactive kids' activities featuring real whale bones, ocean sounds, and games. Woolamai Beach Life Saving Club. Tickets \$10/\$15. Bookings essential.

Careers in marine science

Got a curious teen? Join this inclusive panel exploring paths into marine science, from fieldwork to conservation – including options for kids who aren't bookworms. Woolamai Beach Life Saving Club. Free.

Get creative

You can get creative and learn more about whales through a series of fun activities.

Creative Workshops at Clay & Co Studio: Drop in for relaxed, ocean-themed craft sessions for all ages. Various prices.

Flesh and Bones – Recreating ancient whales and sharks: Join palaeontologist Ben Francischelli for



a hands-on, kid-friendly drawing session where prehistoric marine life comes to life on paper. Berninnet, Cowes. Tickets \$15.

Whale origami: Fold up some free family fun at the Phillip Island Library at Berninnet, Cowes. Friday July 11 at 2.30pm.

Wooden whale arts and crafts: Tap into your creativity by designing your own unique whale on wooden cutouts. Included in Festival Hub Experience Pass. Berninnet, Cowes.

A whale of a story time: Join beloved children's author Julie Murphy at the library for a cozy ocean-themed story session that'll enchant little readers. Saturday July 12 at 11am Berninnet, Cowes. Free session, but bookings essential.

Whale Discovery Trail

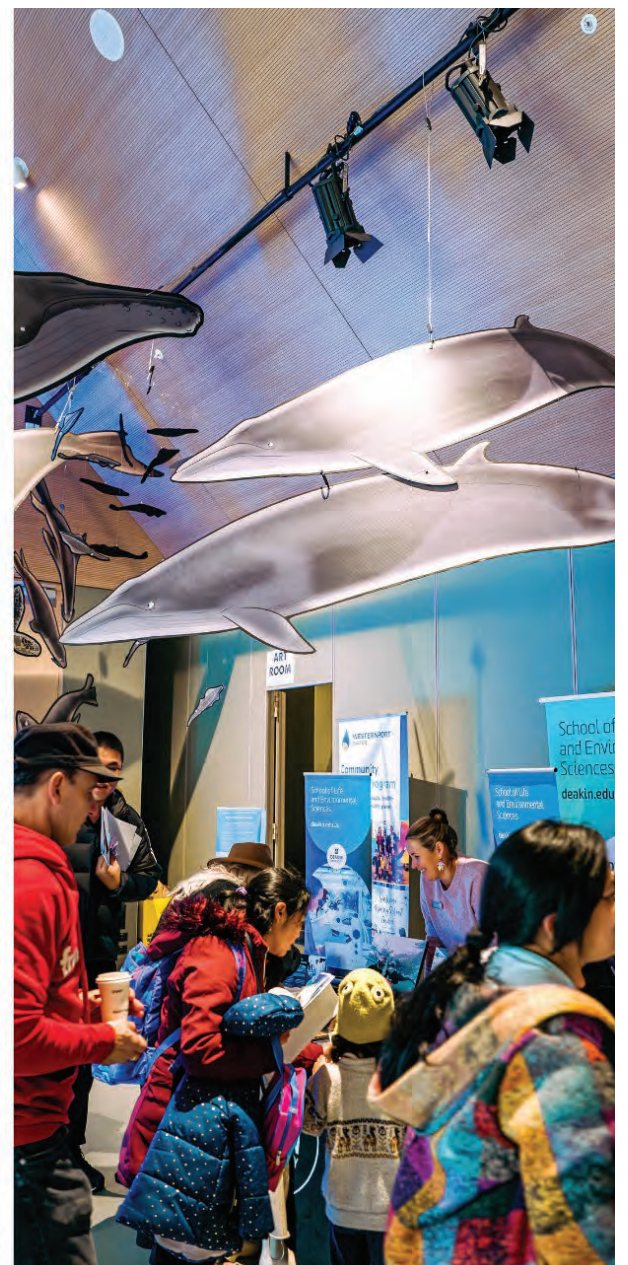
Take a self-guided adventure along Phillip Island's scenic coastline – and maybe even spot a real whale.

Whale Festival Weekend is a chance to connect

your kids with nature, spark their curiosity, and make coastal memories to last a lifetime. Don't miss it.

Hot tip

For the full program and session times, head to www.islandwhales.com.au. To avoid disappointment, book early for ticketed experiences. Many activities are free or low-cost – perfect for family budgeting.



Get eco-conscious

From thought-provoking talks to immersive film, art, and unexpected nature encounters, this itinerary is curated for grown-ups who want to engage, unwind, and be inspired.

The Festival Hub

Start at the heart of the action. With entry into the immersive room, virtual reality experience, and engaging theatre talks, this all-in-one destination hums with energy. Expect live entertainment, hands-on displays, and opportunities to chat with marine scientists and local community groups. Berninnet, Cowes. Tickets from \$5.

Ocean Film Festival

Settle in for a cinematic plunge into the deep blue. Featuring award-winning marine documentaries and underwater storytelling, this is an emotional, awe-filled journey into the lives of whales, seals, and ocean ecosystems rarely seen up close. Berninnet, Cowes. Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 7pm. Tickets from \$20.

Whales, Culture and Conversation

A festival highlight. Join Dr Wally Franklin, Dr Chels Marshall, and Dr Jodi Edwards for an evening that explores how Western science and Indigenous knowledge come together to deepen our understanding

of marine life and the future of ocean conservation.

Hosted by ABC's Belinda Smith, this session is perfect for those with curious minds with a passion for nature, marine ecosystems, and the stories that connect people to place. Saturday July 12, 7pm, Berninnet, Cowes. Tickets from \$20.

Photographing whales is no fluke

Join local eco-photographer Peter Fogarty for a relaxed, visual storytelling session on the art and ethics of whale photography. Ideal for photographers, travellers, and citizen scientists alike. Berninnet, Cowes. Included Festival Experience Pass.

A dive into dolphin science

A great stop for curious minds, especially older teens and young adults. Learn how dolphin researchers use fins to track individuals and monitor populations in the field. Fascinating, hands-on, and a real-world intro to marine fieldwork. Saturday and Sunday, 11am, Berninnet, Cowes. Tickets \$15, bookings essential.

Dr Chels Marshall and Dr Jodi Edwards

Hear from Dr Chels Marshall, a Gumbaynggirr marine ecologist and Indigenous sustainability expert, and Dr Jodi Edwards, a Yuin and Dharawal knowledge holder exploring cultural con-



nections between whales and First Nations communities. Berninnet, Cowes. Included in Festival Experience Pass.

Pop-Up Art Show

Drop by Clay & Co, a creative coastal studio, to explore ocean-inspired works and connect with local artists who bring the marine world to life through paint, ceramics and mixed media.

Spot a whale and whale tales

Pair learning with wild views. After a primer on local whale populations, head out on a guided land-based spotting session with researchers. You might even hear a whale song through real-time

acoustic tech. Hosted by Two Bays Whale Project and the Dolphin Research Institute. Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club From \$15. Bookings essential.

Phillip Island Sauna: whale music edition

Unwind with a difference. Step into a wood-fired sauna overlooking the coast, breathe in the scent of cedar, and let ambient whale songs wash over you. The ultimate blend of grounding and indulgence. Cleeland Bight Beach, Cape Woolamai. Tickets \$45.

Tree planting

Want to get your hands dirty and give back to our beautiful island when you visit for Is-

land Whale Festival? Join the dedicated team at Phillip Island Landcare for a tree planting session, plus a tour, followed by lunch at the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve. Corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads. Saturday 9.30am.

Whale Discovery Trail

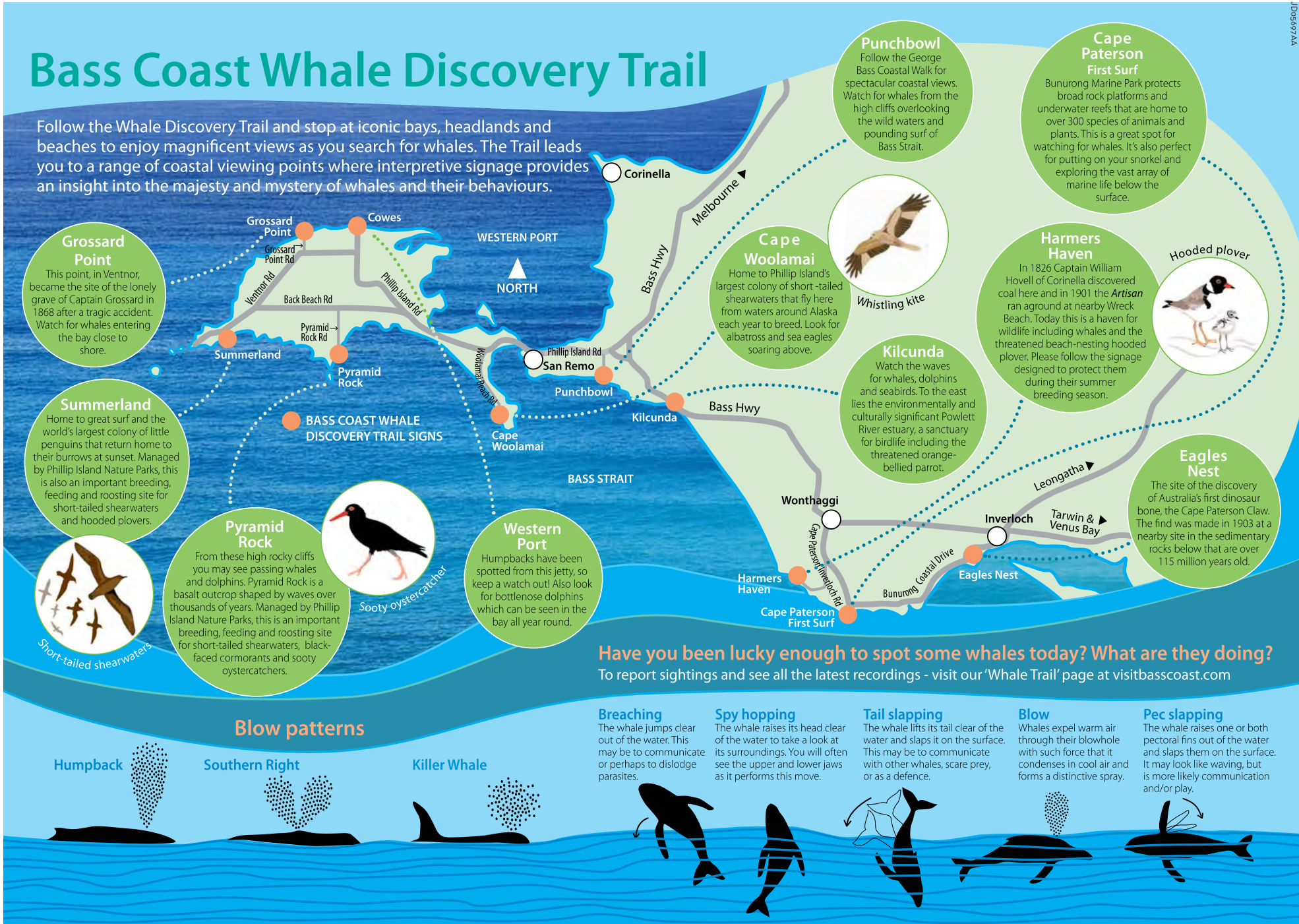
Take a self-guided adventure along Phillip Island's scenic coastline – and maybe even spot a real whale.

Pro tip

For full program and session times check out www.island-whales.com.au. Pre-book your tickets to avoid disappointment.

Bass Coast Whale Discovery Trail

Follow the Whale Discovery Trail and stop at iconic bays, headlands and beaches to enjoy magnificent views as you search for whales. The Trail leads you to a range of coastal viewing points where interpretive signage provides an insight into the majesty and mystery of whales and their behaviours.



Have you been lucky enough to spot some whales today? What are they doing? To report sightings and see all the latest recordings - visit our 'Whale Trail' page at visitbasscoast.com

Breaching

The whale jumps clear out of the water. This may be to communicate or perhaps to dislodge parasites.

Spy hopping

The whale raises its head clear of the water to take a look at its surroundings. You will often see the upper and lower jaws as it performs this move.

Tail slapping

The whale lifts its tail clear of the water and slaps it on the surface. This may be to communicate with other whales, scare prey, or as a defence.

Blow

Whales expel warm air through their blowhole with such force that it condenses in cool air and forms a distinctive spray.

Pec slapping

The whale raises one or both pectoral fins out of the water and slaps them on the surface. It may look like waving, but is more likely communication and/or play.



Art Exhibition
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Enjoy some adult time

Ready to swap screen time for sea time? Whether you're chasing a weekend of coastal calm, deep conversations, or a touch of marine magic, the Island Whale Festival invites you to slow down, tune in, and reconnect. From immersive art to whale-spotting, science talks to saunas, this is a festival suitable for adults looking for something a little different.

Pop-Up Art Show

Drop by Clay & Co, a creative coastal studio, to explore ocean-inspired works and connect with local artists who bring the marine world to life through paint, ceramics and mixed media.

Ocean Film Festival

Settle in for a cinematic plunge into the deep blue. Featuring award-winning marine documentaries and underwater storytelling, this is an emotional, awe-filled journey into the lives of whales, seals, and ocean ecosystems rarely seen up close. Sessions run Thursday, Friday and Sunday night from 7pm at Berninnet in Cowes. Tickets from \$20.

Phillip Island Gallery

Come and see some of the most beautiful, innovative and affordable art and craft works by the local people of the Bass Coast. Show a printed or digital copy of the Phillip Island Gallery whale logo and choose a free unique handmade keyring. All keyrings have been handmade by members of the Phillip Island Gallery. 119 Settlement Road, Cowes.

Whale blessing ceremony

Traditional custodian, ceremony maker and artist Uncle Steve Ulula Parker will facilitate a ceremony to bless the whales and wish them safe passage on their migration past Mil-lowl (Philip Island) to the warmer northern waters. Cowes Foreshore Beach, Saturday 10am.

Creative Arts Station – Whale of a Time

Come and view arty whales made by local artists. Engage with the creators of the mosaic and ceramic creatures. Mosaics exhibition opening night, Friday July 11 from 5pm to 7pm; open Saturday and Sunday (July 12 and 13)



from 10am to 4pm. 119-133 Settlement Road, Cowes.

Art from the heart

Award winning local artist Fiona Kennedy is showcasing a handpicked selection of prints at Pino's Trattoria. Each print is numbered, signed and available for sale. Visit Pino's at 29-31 Thompson Avenue, Cowes to immerse yourself in fabulous food and incredible art.

Boonwurrung Ngargee Dance Group

Ngargee means 'ceremony' in the language of the Boon-

wurrung People of the Kulin Nation. Boonwurrung Ngargee Dance Group is a collective of First Nations young women living on Boonwurrung Country. Berninnet Theatre, Saturday July 12, 1pm.

Whisky, Wine and Whales

On July 12, an intimate candlelight concert with bold drinks, hearty food and soul stirring live music. At Churchill Island's historic shearing shed enjoy food and drinks from local producers, listening to a mix of classic hits and

covers performed by Cedar Collective. Bookings essential. Tickets \$60. Two shows at 5.30pm and 8pm. www.whiskywineand-whales.com

Paint and Sip or Clay and Sip

Get hands-on in beginner friendly workshops where you'll create your own ocean-inspired piece. All materials (and a glass of bubbles) are provided, with local artists guiding the way. Clay & Co Studio 6pm – 8pm. Paint and Sip – July 11 (\$65). Clay and Sip – July 12 (\$85).

Dive into dolphin science

Learn how dolphin researchers use fins to track individuals and monitor populations in the field. Fascinating, hands-on, and a real-world intro to marine fieldwork. Adult sessions, July 12 and 13, 11am at Berninnet, Cowes. Tickets \$15, bookings essential.

Phillip Island Sauna: whale music edition

Unwind with a difference. Step into a wood-fired sauna overlooking the coast, breathe in the scent of cedar, and let ambient whale songs wash over you. The ultimate blend of grounding and indulgence. Cleeland Bight Beach, Cape Woolamai. Tickets \$45.

Whale discovery trail

Take a self-guided adventure along Phillip Island's scenic coastline – and maybe even spot a real whale.

Pro tip

For the full program and session times check out www.islandwhales.com.au. Pre-book your tickets to avoid disappointment.

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Newhaven breakthrough to help marine forests

Newhaven's SeaGen Aquaculture is hoping to restore undersea forests, with CEO Dr Chris Gillies describing the breakthrough - producing baby golden kelp to help restore undersea forests - as "a great moment for local conservation efforts".

ENVIRONMENT

A Newhaven company is hoping to restore undersea forests across Bass Coast and southern Australia, which have "suffered severe decline" in recent years.

SeaGen Aquaculture, which operates from the Newhaven hatchery between the Phillip Island bridge and Saltwater restaurant, has produced 250,000 "kelpings", or baby golden kelp, a native species of seaweed vital to Victoria's underwater ecosystems.

The miniature kelp are being cultivated at SeaGen's oyster hatchery in Newhaven, in a newly designed aquaculture system, currently used to help restore kelp forests in Port Phillip Bay, where overabundant native sea urchins have devastated underwater habitats.

SeaGen Aquaculture

CEO Dr Chris Gillies described the breakthrough as "a great moment for local conservation efforts".

"Until now, we haven't had the capacity to produce kelp at this scale. It's a real step forward in our ability to restore the health of our oceans," Chris said.

Giant kelp in the sea are like trees on land, he said, but unlike forests on land, there was only one species and without kelp the entire ecosystem disappears.

SeaGen this year developed a new aquaculture system that allows the kelpings to be grown on cotton twine and small rocks.

The twine and rocks are then planted out into urchin barrens by divers from the global conservation organisation The Nature Conservancy, helping re-establish the kelp forests "that serve as underwater nurseries for marine life".

Chris said the new kelp-

growing system had the capacity to produce more than a million kelpings each year and could be used in other restoration efforts, including along the Bass Coast, where kelp forests had also "suffered severe decline".

"One future goal is the restoration of giant kelp forests, which once thrived along the Victorian coast but have all but disappeared - likely due to rising ocean temperatures.

"Giant Kelp are like the Mountain Ash forests of the ocean. They can grow more than 12 metres tall, and diving through a kelp forest is an otherworldly experience."

He said Bass Coast had the right physical conditions to restore giant kelp and the community was motivated to help in conservation efforts.

"Many of the ocean bays

around Phillip Island and the Bass Coast area are ideal because they have the right physical conditions to restore giant kelp."

Chris said there had been similar projects in Tasmania showing giant kelp restoration was possible.

"Combining aquaculture and conservation can not only restore degraded ecosystems but also create new marine habitats for penguins and other wildlife, as well as attract dive tourism to the region."

Conservation

As reported in March, Chris' company also created a world-first, cultivating 100 different species of sea sponges to help restore the seafloor for the oil and gas industry, and for future wind farm projects.

Chris started his company in Newhaven in 2022 and two years ago

moved with his family to Cape Woolamai, with his daughter now attending Newhaven Primary.

After completing his Antarctica stint - where he studied food chains by diving off the frozen continent for three seasons - he then worked for The Nature Conservancy for eight years rehabilitating seafloors using oysters and shellfish.

He opted to start his

own companies because "I decided we needed more private sector involvement in conservation".

"On land we have plant nurseries to restore forests, but so far there isn't the equivalent for the marine environment."



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Hope in a Suitcase: Colleen’s mission of kindness

COMMUNITY

Cowes local Colleen Brown is on a heart-felt mission.

In honour of her late partner, Paul Crosby, who passed away from pancreatic cancer just over three months ago, Colleen has begun filling children’s suitcases with warm clothing, books, toys and toiletries for children entering foster care.

Inspired by an article she read in the Advertiser about the Hope in a Suitcase initiative undertaken by the CWA Phillip Island Twilight branch, Colleen felt moved to take part — not just with one small item, but with entire suitcases tailored to different age groups.

“When I saw the story, it made me feel sad for the kids going into care, not having anything of their own,” she said.

“I couldn’t just donate pyjamas — I had to pack a whole case. I thought about what each child might like based on their age and just went from there.”

Each suitcase includes essentials: new clothing, pyjamas, something to read, something to draw, a cuddly toy, and toiletries. But Colleen often adds extra items too — sometimes packing so generously that it’s hard to close the cases.

To date, she has completed seven suitcases, with an eighth underway for a 12-year-old boy. The finished cases are dropped in to the Advertiser, collected by the Twilight CWA group, who then deliver them to Hope in a Suitcase. From there, they are distributed to foster children via agencies like Anglicare and others, ensuring each child receives something entirely their own — and all brand new.

While the project has helped others, it’s also helped Colleen personally, offering purpose during a time of grief.

“It distracted me. I love to shop, and my daughters told me to stop buying things



Colleen Brown delivered three suitcases filled with brand new items for children in need to the Advertiser office last week for collection by the CWA Twilight branch as part of the Hope in a Suitcase initiative.

for them. So, I started buying things for children who need it more. It gave me something to focus on.”

The CWA Twilight branch is collecting items until the end of July. Pyjamas from size 2-16 boys and girls will be gratefully received at The Advertiser office (60 Chapel Street in Cowes),

To learn more or get involved, visit Hope in a Suitcase: www.hiasc.org.au



A contingent of local business and tourism operators took part in the two-part AI Workshop organised by Destination Phillip Island last month.

AI support for everyday work

BUSINESS

A contingent of local business and tourism operators took part in the two-part AI Workshop organised by Destination Phillip Island over two days at the Silverwater Resort in San Remo last month.

Led by Stephen Toms from Marketing Growth Academy and supported by Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions Industry Development Fund, the sessions explored how AI can support everyday work across the visitor economy.

The focus was on prac-

tical tools that save time, reduce repetitive tasks, and help teams work more efficiently and creatively. From content writing and customer service to business planning and product development, AI is now part of the toolkit for many local businesses.



POLICE BRIEFS

Water bomb warning

A warning to drivers on the Phillip Island Road after a car driving towards Cowes was hit with force by water balloons at the Cape Woolamai roundabout.

The driver was travelling just under 80km/hr heading towards the roundabout on Saturday

evening (July 5) about 11.30pm when a large bang hit the windscreen and their vision of the road was gone.

The driver reported they thought they were initially hit with a brick, given the loud noise, but quickly registered a windscreen full of water.

The driver doubled

back and saw about five youths in hoodies beneath trees near the roundabout.

Triple 0 and Cowes police were notified of the incident, with the driver warning the incident could cause any driver to lose control or hit an object, given the loss of vision and noise.

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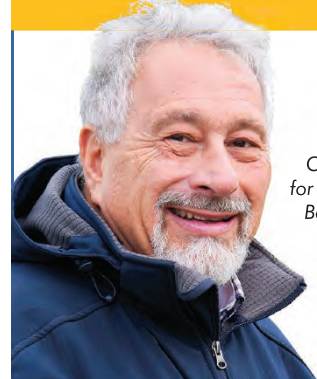


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All eyes on the skies for rainfall

WEATHER

Local water storages may soon be boosted after a year of dry conditions, thanks to an uptick in rainfall.

However, local farmers – who say in the past year they have experienced the driest weather conditions in a century – are still having to truck in vast quantities of hay, costing tens of thousands of dollars, with dormant pastures only set to start growing again in spring.

As reported, autumn was the driest recorded on Phillip Island, on the back of a dry year.

A spokesperson for Westernport Water last week said the last significant increase to Candowie Reservoir was on July 15, 2024, when the storage increased by 134ML from 2676ML to 2810ML.

“Since this time, there have been 19 days on which the storage increased by five megalitres (ML),” the spokesperson said.

They said because conditions had been so dry for so long, recent rainfall had soaked into the soil and not flowed into the reservoir from surrounding rivers or from rainfall.

The Rhyll weather station tallied 64mm of rain in June (average 66mm).

And the 24-hour rainfall on July 3 totalled about 16mm.

“Recent rainfall is a good



The last significant increase to Candowie Reservoir was on July 15, 2024, when the storage increased by 134ML from 2676ML to 2810ML. Recent rainfall has soaked into parched soil, but it is now hoped the reservoir will start to increase following a year of drought. Candowie has hovered about 43 per cent capacity for several months, thanks to supply from Melbourne. (File photo).

start but much more is needed to create meaningful inflows,” they said.

“While this recent rain has provided some relief to the area, a significant amount of rain is required to wet the catchment before we see any surface water inflows to Candowie Reservoir.”

Candowie has been totalling about 43 per cent for several months, or 1918ML.

In May Westernport Water said they had taken 45 per cent

of overall demand from Melbourne since July 1, 2024, or 1011ML.

According to Westernport Water policy, if Candowie drops to 2150ML then stage one water restrictions would be considered.

A decrease to 1650ML could see stage two restrictions.

The Westernport Water spokesperson said they were constantly monitoring water resources and “planning for

the future”.

“This includes full consideration of water restrictions as outlined in our Urban Water Strategy should they be required.

“With rain forecast in the coming weeks, we’ll continue to keep the community updated as the situation evolves.

“In the meantime, we encourage everyone to use water wisely and look for opportunities to conserve where possible.”

Farmers

Ventnor dairy farmer Adam Eldridge this week received a delivery of hay from Queensland that cost him \$22,000, with the transport costing him more than the hay.

“Each bale costs about \$75 but with transport added it’s about \$300 a bale,” Adam said.

He said he hoped this load – which would feed cows for a month – would be the last before pastures started growing in early August, with Phillip Island “usually getting an early spring”.

Nevertheless, he said it would take him about two years to repay debts incurred from the past year’s drought, presuming conditions improve this year.

“We will hopefully start to make money again once pastures grow, but then repayments for what we’ve spent during the drought will take up to 18 months.”

Surf Beach farmer Bill Clelland said he was also carting hay from south-western NSW at a cost of \$12,000 “that will hopefully get us through” until pastures grow in spring.

“That load of hay was booked a couple of months ago and would be much dearer now and very hard to source,” Bill said.

“A truck loaded with four-bales high only just gets through the Burnley Tunnel.

“Dams are still empty and will take months of rain to fill.”

Nobbies boardwalks open; centre to remain closed

TOURISM

The Nobbies boardwalks and car park re-opened last Friday in time for school holidays, but the centre has remained closed, with engineers confirming it is not safe to re-open.

Following the structural issue that occurred at the Nobbies Centre last month, engineer inspections last week confirmed it was not safe to re-open the building at this stage, Phillip Island Nature Parks CEO Catherine Basterfield said in a statement.

“We have prioritised securing the site so the boardwalks and car park can be freely accessed,” Ms Basterfield said.

“In the coming weeks, Phillip Island Nature Parks will begin consultation for the updated Summerland Peninsula Master Plan. As part of this, we will be seeking the views of the local community and organisations on the future of the Nobbies Centre.

“We want to ensure that any further investment in the Nobbies facility helps to achieve the community’s long-term aspirations for this site. This means the building will remain closed while this planning is undertaken.”

As the Advertiser reported last month, the area was closed off after what was described as an “infrastructure incident” at the Nobbies Centre building.

“The Nobbies facility was built nearly 30 years ago and is in a highly exposed environment that is subject to damage



The Nobbies Centre will be closed for the foreseeable future after engineer inspections last week confirmed it was not safe to re-open the building at this stage. The boardwalks, however, were opened on Friday in time for the school holidays. Photo: Connor Vaughan.

from high winds and corrosion,” a Nature Parks spokesperson said.

“In this instance, corrosion at the base of an external column holding up the eaves caused irreparable damage to that column. As a result, the structure has been compromised and requires repair.

“During this time, we have been following the advice of engineering specialists and WorkSafe, to provide a safe perimeter around the structure, which has resulted in the short-term closure of the carparks and boardwalks.

“The Nature Parks is managing initial works to ensure the building structure is safe to en-

able access to the true attraction of this site – the boardwalks, the views and the blow hole.”

Ms Basterfield said during the Nobbies “downtime”, the Penguin Parade would be the primary visitor hub for the peninsula, open at midday each day, so visitors could access bathroom facilities and food and drink services.

Public toilets were also available at the Penguin Parade car park.

“We will also be hosting activities, movies and additional tours throughout the school holidays.”

To view the full program or to book, go to www.penguins.org.au/whats-on/

On again, off again: power outages muddle

ELECTRICITY

Cowes businesses and residents were left frustrated last Wednesday after closing their doors or hiring generators to prepare for a planned power outage, which never went ahead.

Energy provider AusNet gave advance warning there would be power outages in Cowes, Rhyll and Ventnor on July 2, between 8.30am and 4.30pm.

“The outage is to allow bushfire mitigation and maintenance works on the powerlines on Phillip Island,” AusNet said.

However, on Wednesday morning about 9.20am businesses and residents received an SMS stating the planned outage had been cancelled.

“Outages can be rescheduled due to operational reasons, or to reduce the impact on the community,” the SMS stated.

“We’ll contact you again to let you know when the outage will take place.”

Locals responded on social media, with Donna asking: “Why would you cancel an outage scheduled for 8.30am at 9.20am when everyone has made plans for the day?”

Mr Isla’s Coastal Coffee said they were open because

they had sourced a generator, but The Store at Ventnor said they had closed in preparation for the outage.

“If you happen to have a spare \$20,000 to buy a generator lying around contact us, otherwise, we’ll be back at 7am Thursday with the power on,” The Store told customers.

An AusNet spokesperson said they apologised to customers for cancelling the planned outage.

“Our field crews had hoped to proceed with the work, as there had been a considerable amount of planning done for it, but on the morning determined that the weather conditions posed a considerable risk to our people undertaking the work,” the spokesperson said.

“A revised date for these essential maintenance and inspection works is still being determined, and customers will be notified.”

The outage was déjà vu for some, with the same problem in August last year, when Cowes businesses were given a series of confusing messages by AusNet.

At that time Youki’s owner estimated his business lost between four and five thousand dollars and Phillip Island Bakery also said business losses were in the thousands, with a large amount of stock wasted.

San Remo committee demands change

FORESHORE

The San Remo Community Association is seeking to take over responsibility of the San Remo foreshore.

Five years ago, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) took over management of the area from a previous San Remo Foreshore Committee of Management.

The Association has the support of Nationals MP Melina Bath, who raised the issue in parliament last month, calling for the San Remo Community Association to be put in charge.

Ms Bath told parliament the amenity of the 27-hectare foreshore reserve has been declining since 2019, with locals citing sporadic maintenance and stalling of important works, and that this once well-kept area is looking neglected.

She said the San Remo Community Association has good governance and is brimming with talented and motivated local volunteers, and Bass Coast Shire Council, which recently adopted a proactive San Remo Structure Plan, is supportive of a reconvened community group.

She said the Association has a strong vision and plan to improve accessibility, infrastructure, signage and safety, using revenue generated through the foreshore's caravan park.

"Locals unanimously support foreshore management returning to the community with clear lines of accountability and action," she stated.

"Handing over ownership and empowering locals is a sensible decision that will deliver improved social, environmental and economic benefits."

"This change (back) would be a positive win for both government and community."

Foreshore committee

For three decades prior to 2020, the San Remo Foreshore Committee of Management, a volunteer led group, played a pivotal role in preserving and enhancing approximately 27.5 hectares of coastal Crown land and seven kilometres of



Sue Alcock, San Remo Community Association secretary, with Nationals MP Melina Bath. The association is seeking to take over responsibility for the San Remo foreshore.

foreshore at San Remo.

It was proactive and progressive, undertaking local foreshore maintenance and improvement projects with the backing of the San Remo community.

An income stream generated from the San Remo Foreshore Caravan Park, as well as regular state and federal government grants, enabled the committee to establish infrastructure (toilets, paths, parks, playgrounds, walkways and signage) and undertake coastal erosion and environmental rehabilitation.

However, in 2019, during fraught negotiations over the lease for the Foreshore Caravan Park, the local committee was replaced as the management authority by DEECA.

According to San Remo Community Association president Mark Jamieson and his members, very little has hap-

pened since.

"Since 2019, there has effectively been no active management of the foreshore and the deterioration is plain to see.

"The foreshore is central to both our identity and our future. It needs urgent reinstatement, management, and proper planning, something only a dedicated, local committee can provide.

"San Remo is the fastest-growing town in the region, surrounded by water on three sides, and the current level of management is unacceptable."

Deteriorated

Mark said residents are disgusted with the condition of the once well-kept foreshore, and his association is committed to returning the 27.5-hectare foreshore reserve to community management — "something that worked extremely well

for decades."

"The tracks are overgrown, and the rubbish collection service and signage have all deteriorated. The condition of the stairs at Griffith Point is poor — and walking there is now inaccessible for many.

"There is minimal expenditure by Traralgon based DEECA on maintenance, and DEECA flatly refuses to meet with the association.

"We want to enhance our township and public open spaces. There is much to be done. Our plans include establishment of an all-abilities coastal walking track from the police station to the Fisherman's Co-operative, and back around to Griffiths Point, upgrading the existing infrastructure, signage and facilities."

But Mark has been told the funds generated from the caravan park, previously used for such projects, are sitting in a State Government bank account.

"Those funds have certainly not gone back into infrastructure and maintenance, and it's showing.

"Our projects are exciting, but we are unable to access grant funding to enable them to go ahead unless a changeover in management is decreed. DEECA cannot access grant funding.

"With the potential growth of San Remo (expansion of its town boundaries was approved by the government last month to accommodate another 2000 residents), we want to be involved in supporting council's strategic development plans for our area.

"The community has made it clear we want the foreshore returned to local, accountable hands. We're not just volunteers; we are an incorporated association with experienced, committed and locally engaged, committed members. We have a clear plan to improve infrastructure, access and amenity for all.

"San Remo deserves better," Mark said.

"The current neglect and lack of accountability needs to change."

The Minister's response to San Remo's request is due on July 19.

The best in the business

BUSINESS AWARDS

The finalists for the 2025 Bass Coast Business Awards have been announced, with the winners to be revealed at a special event on August 22 at Silverwater Resort in San Remo.

Eighteen finalists across the Judged and People's Choice award categories are Phillip Island and San Remo businesses.

Leading the charge was Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre, which is a finalist in the Access, Equity and Inclusion category, as well as Environmental Sustainability and Marketing and Communications.

Made.By Bronte is a finalist in the New Business and the Marketing and Communications categories, as well as being a finalist in the People's Choice Online, Mobile and Home-based Business category.

Things are definitely heating up for Phillip Island Sauna, finalists in the New Business category and in the People's Choice for Health and Lifestyle.

Congratulations also to our other finalists: San Remo Fisherman's Co-op, Ocean Sounds 2025, Anchor Belle Holiday Park, Wildlife Coast Cruises, Beachside Bakery, Hotel, H Bombs Barbershop, Studio 13, Foodies on Phillip Island and San Remo Butchers.

Announcing the finalists, Bass Coast Shire Council said the awards shine a spotlight on local success stories through two streams: the Judged Awards, recognising outstanding performance and innovation, and the People's Choice Awards.

The judged categories are assessed by a panel of independent judges who volunteer their time to judge the submissions.

This year's Judged Awards attracted 46 entries, the council said. Business Innovation proved to be the most popular category, followed closely by New Business.

In the People's Choice Awards, nearly 2000 votes were cast across the seven categories, recognising 149 different businesses.

Food and Beverage was the most popular People's Choice category, with the highest number of business nominations and almost a quarter of all votes.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead said the awards are a chance to stop and recognise just how far our local businesses have come:

"I talk to business owners every day and I'm constantly blown away by their passion, adaptability and drive, whether they've been in the game for decades or just starting out," Cr Halstead said.

"I hope everyone who entered the awards takes a moment to reflect on how far they've come. These awards are your night to celebrate your achievements, enjoy a well-earned night off, and connect with others who are building something special here in Bass Coast - especially in a year where nearly 150 businesses were nominated by the community itself."

Winners will be announced on Friday August 22, at Silverwater Resort in San Remo.

Tickets are now available: 2025BassCoastBusinessAwards.eventbrite.com.au.

A full list of finalists available at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au



The finalists for the 2025 Bass Coast Business Awards have been announced, with winners revealed on August 22. Eighteen finalists across the Judged and People's Choice award categories are Phillip Island and San Remo businesses, including Wildlife Coast Cruises, seen here at the 2024 Awards night.

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Shock de facto gutting of Cowes Fisheries

FISHERIES

In a move described as “deceptive”, the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) has re-employed just two of the four Fisheries officers in the Cowes branch.

Despite all four officers reapplying for their positions – and no one else in Victoria applying for the roles – the branch now has a vacancy for two members.

As reported in May, in what was a victory for people power and a dramatic reversal of policy, the VFA confirmed four Fisheries officers would be based from Cowes, meaning the Cowes office would also remain open.

However, all four current officers at the time were told they would need to reapply for their jobs through an Expression of Interest (EoI).

Last week, it was revealed following the EoI two officers who applied for their existing roles were instead given departure packages, which commentators have described as a “cynical” de facto gutting of Cowes Fisheries.

Phillip Island resident Kevin Brown worked 40 years in Fisheries, including more than a decade as the state’s chief Fisheries officer, last week said the move was “quite deceptive”.

“You add two and two together and tell me it’s not a move to reduce staff numbers. It’s blatant,” Kevin said.

“It’s a terrible outcome. There are red flags everywhere. I’m so glad I’m not a part of this organisation now.”

“This government just does not care.”

A VFA spokesperson did not answer questions around the future of the Cowes Fisheries office, other than to say “we have completed our restructure process and as announced there will be four staff based at the Cowes station”.

Kevin said it was a further crushing blow to staff who had already gone through a “justification process of keeping the station open”.

“Once it was proved and management accepted this, staff were then forced to go through an Expression of Interest to keep their jobs, which they had already justified.”

“During that process the four positions at Cowes were open to staff state-wide and no one else in the state applied. There were no other applicants.”

“Yet two staff were re-appointed and two were told they were no longer required. The station will remain open with two vacancies.”

He said rostering would



In May Phillip Islanders celebrated a victory for people power with a State Government U-turn on closing the Cowes Fisheries office and sacking four staff. However last week it was revealed only two of the four officers have now been reemployed in their roles, a “blatant” and “cynical” move to cut staff numbers, say experts. (File photo).

be difficult with two staff, with two months of the year down to one officer with holidays, not including sick leave.

“They will work to public service hours and will be engagement rather than enforcement work.”

“There will be times when stations will be unmanned.”

“They are going back to the 60s when coverage was similar but since then the population has exploded alongside the popularity of fishing.”

Kevin acknowledged it was still a win to keep two

staff and keep the Cowes branch open, which “gives us the opportunity when there is a change of government to rebuild again”.

Toothless

Kevin said under new position descriptions rolled out since the final May announcement, Fisheries officers have lost a range of responsibilities, from carrying out serious compliance duties to enforcement, boat and night work.

Furthermore, last week it was announced all remaining Fisheries officers would be barred from responding to emergencies, in addition to the anticipated merger of the VFA and the Game Management Authority.

Kevin said all these actions combined was “an abrogation of Victoria’s responsibilities” nationally and internationally.

“The Fisheries Act was established for regulation of the fisheries resource and outlines duties and respon-

sibilities. Officers must follow it.

“Now the government has said ‘no we’d like to do other things’. No one is keeping management to account. They are a law unto themselves.”

“There are penalties for failing to carry out responsibilities in public office.”

“I struggle to understand how someone can justify all these changes.”

Ross Winstanley, former director of Fisheries research, told the Advertiser in the big picture, the Victorian Government’s gutting of Fisheries was “unprecedented”, asking who would be on the water to protect fish stocks from “being looted”.

“What is happening in Victoria has never happened anywhere else. No western government agency around the world has ever dismantled Fisheries enforcement and gutted the capability of commercial Fisheries resource,” Ross said.

“This is unparalleled.”

Kevin said Game Management and Fisheries were separated 35 years ago because it was recognised the two functions were “totally distinct with separate skills and different locations”.

“It’s a minefield.”

He said the government was also “turning its back on commercial fisheries responsibilities”.

“Who will do inspections of commercial fisheries now?”

“Saving money is one thing, but Labor is also going soft on crime.”

“At a time the Commonwealth is expanding its vessels with more staff, Victoria is doing the opposite.”

The VFA spokesperson said Fisheries officers would still be Authorised Officers who carry a badge and can issue fines and undertake inspections.

They said the VFA would continue to provide the resources, services and education “the fishing community needs, as required by legislation”.

Kevin added the VFA CEO had been travelling to angling clubs “telling them how great it’s going to be”.

“Sure for two years recreational fishers will go hell for leather but then the impacts on the resource will ultimately hurt them and the environment.”

A petition opposing Fisheries cuts – which include reducing full-time employed officers from 69 to 39 positions, and calling for an inquiry into VFA’s slashing – has been signed by more than 13,000 people.

Details:

www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/sign/ (search for Fisheries)

cpsuvic.org/campaigns/



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Car damaged by new speed humps, claims driver

TRAFFIC

A Cowes resident is seeking compensation from Bass Coast Shire Council after one of Chapel Street's new "unpainted, unsigned" speed humps damaged his car last month.

Trevor Field said he was driving from east Cowes on a night in June after the speed humps were newly constructed, driving over one without realising it was there, which split his car's under carriage splash tray and causing an oil leak.

"They were not painted and had no reflectors or signage on all of them making it very difficult to see them at night," Trevor said, adding he had driven down Chapel Street for 25 years.

"I had been told of them hours earlier in Church Street by a friend who at the time just drove over them for the first time and did not realise they were there."

"He could not believe how impactful they were on his four-wheel drive. He could not understand — like many who I have now spoken to who live locally — the height of them."

"In the dark it was difficult to see it and at 40km/hr it split my splash tray."

Trevor said BMW Mornington had given him a verbal quote for the damages of about \$1600, adding there had since been an oil leak from the turbo line.

Trevor said a council staff member told him the compensation threshold was \$1680.

He said he would receive a formal quote in the next fortnight and depending on the cost would take the compensation issue further.

Too big?

The works in Church and Chapel streets, by Bass Coast Civil and Excavation, are funded by the Traffic Accident Commission (TAC) as a safety improvement project for pedestrians.

Six speed humps have been installed along Chapel Street, between Dunsmore Road and Thompson Avenue.

A new path and a wombat crossing (a raised pedestrian crossing designed to improve safety for pedestrians) is being installed at the intersection of Chapel Street and Dunsmore Road.

On Church Street, at the intersection with Dunsmore Road a raised intersection has been constructed.

There are now two new speed humps and two wombat crossings along Church Street, between Dunsmore Road and Thompson Avenue.

In March, a draft report released by Infrastructure Victoria, an independent expert advisory body, proposed 30 km/h per hour speed limits on local streets to improve safety and promote walking and cycling.

Trevor questioned the need for the speed humps, saying the two streets were not black spots for drivers or pedestrians, commenting pot holes should be a greater priority.

"I know of others who have complained of the height of these humps who also have speed humps in their streets that are manageable to drive over."

"These are way too high compared to the other ones."

He said when he discusses the speed humps with other residents, many supported his concerns, with many saying they now avoided driving on Chapel and Church streets and used Settlement Road instead.

"I have been involved in a local schools and kindergarten child safety program on the island for nearly 20 years and I am one of those people who actually pick up road-kill, and I dislike drivers that hit and leave our animal friends on roads," Trevor said.

"I would appreciate a new limit at dark of 60km/hr on Coughlan Road and others leading to Rhyll at those times."

Response

A council spokesperson said the newly installed speed humps were designed to



"They were not painted and had no reflectors or signage on all of them making it very difficult to see them at night," said the driver who claims his car was damaged by a Chapel Street new speed hump last month.

the Watts Profile Speed Hump specification, "which is widely used to reduce vehicle speeds and increase safety for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users".

The spacing and number of speed humps were determined by traffic engineering best practices, with spacing at intervals to ensure consistent speed control.

"Permanent and temporary signage, including advance warning signs and reduced speed advisory signs (20km/h), were in place throughout construction," the spokesperson said.

They said the project was informed by two rounds of community consultation, the first in 2023, through Engage Bass Coast and was funded by TAC.

"Crash data shows three injury crashes recorded over the past five years in this area, though this may not reflect near misses or non-injury incidents which often go unreported."



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BE WATER WISE



Dog owners using the Blue Gum Reserve off-leash area are being warned to be vigilant after another suspected poisoning, with council urging owners to report any suspicious activity or suspected poisoning to police.

Warning for dog owners

COMMUNITY

Local dog owners have been warned to be vigilant after another suspected poisoning in the off-leash dog area in Blue Gum Reserve.

This follows reports of a dog eating a poisoned bait in the reserve in May.

Bass Coast Shire Council said it had not received any official report of another poisoning, but staff were aware of the incident through posts on social media and had notified police of the incident.

"Council's Open Space team has mown the grass in

the area on Monday morning, so it is now very short and provides a clear line of sight for people walking their dogs in the area," the spokesperson said.

"Our Community Safety Officers have also walked the area with regular dog owners, and no additional baits have been located."

"We will arrange for some temporary cautionary signage to be installed as soon as possible, particularly with school holidays and more visitors expected in the area."

"We strongly encourage

any suspicious activity of this nature to be reported directly to Council and/or Victoria Police, so it can be properly investigated."

Cheryl Owens, President of the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association echoed the call for the public to report any suspected poisoning or suspicious activity in the Blue Gum Reserve.

She said anyone who found a suspected bait, should photograph where it was found, then bag it and take it to the police, or contact the Dog Owners Association.



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Bridge toll? Four-lane road? Congestion solutions flagged

TRANSPORT

Residents have flagged a bridge toll, paid parking, improved public transport, and widening the Phillip Island Road to four-lanes as possible solutions to tourist traffic snarls.

Last week the Advertiser reported a Nature Parks submission that stated Bass Coast Shire Council's transport plan failed to deal with the "huge influx" of day trippers driving to Phillip Island.

In its submission to the final Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS), Nature Parks states many of the 2.87 million visitors to Bass Coast were day-trippers in vehicles, with "domestic day trips accounting for about 50 per cent of total visitors".

"This is the critical challenge for the residents of San Remo and Phillip Island," the submission stated.

The article saw a flurry of social media responses.

Jeffs wrote there should be a double lane road in and out.

"Upgrade roads to suit current, modern population and tourist growth. It's very overdue," Jeffs said.

But Penny responded, asking where would you put the double lane in and out?

"I have lived here for over 20 years and I don't seem to have a problem," Penny said.

"I am a little over 'we need this we need that'. Sure it can be a little bit chaotic in the silly season, but I just stay out of the way and plan my movements ahead of time.

"It doesn't matter where you go it will always be the same. Look at the Peninsula, Great Ocean Road, they all have the same problem with traffic."

John said it was more than just roads.

"It's total infrastructure. Power, water, parking, medical and the list goes on. The island cannot cope now. There were studies done in the 70s to say it couldn't cope, and little has been done since," he said.

Tom commented no government "of any persuasion" would fund a four-lane bridge.

"And once on the island you surely can't expect any government to fund a four-lane highway to Cowes," Tom said.

"So traffic has to bottleneck somewhere. The movement on will always be heavy but if you know the times you can miss most of the time.

"The traffic off is better these days as you only have the single lane to the Bass Highway then it's four lanes all the way to the Monash Freeway."

Bridge

Fiona argued there should be no new housing estates, while Brian said he moved away because the island became so busy.

Derek said Phillip Island was suffering a chronic "over-loved problem".

"We need to think about the island as a special resource and not an extension of medium density housing," Derek said.

"At some point, you have to manage that resource or you will degrade it."

Nathan replied the island had "passed the point" of managing the resource.

"Way too many houses and businesses on the island to try and preserve it," he said.

"All the businesses want the influx to sustain their businesses. So we need to manage this influx more effectively and efficiently."

Some flagged a bridge toll free for residents to fund local infrastructure upgrades, with others suggesting building another bridge from the mainland around Coronet Bay to the island.

Derek said paid parking in Byron Shire Council generated millions of dollars in the first year of operation and helped the council to bring their road repair budget under control.

"A 'bridge tax' is a very easy to implement and equitable way to raise revenue.

The existing toll owners could install a tag reader and collect the revenue for a nominal cost as the gantry for the tag reader is only two lanes wide."

Some suggested a car ferry would provide a partial solution, but others said it would just add to the problem, while several said improved public transport was the answer.

Jill said cutting Thompson Avenue down to one lane, "will make life interesting".




With many of the 2.87 million visitors to Bass Coast being day-trippers in vehicles, local residents on social media proposed solutions, with one saying "a bridge tax is a very easy to implement and equitable way to raise revenue".


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 **Australian Government**

Satisfaction improves in 2025 survey

COUNCIL

Satisfaction with Bass Coast Shire Council's performance is on the rise, according to the latest Community Satisfaction Survey.

Council's overall performance received a score of 56, up three points from the 2024 result. It was also three points higher than the state average, and six points above the average for similar sized rural councils.

The council was rated highest for its customer service (66) and waste management (65), while it was weakest in the categories of value for money (46) and overall direction (47).

Residents over 65 years of age were the most dissatisfied with the council's overall direction, while older residents, and residents in Island and Western Port wards were most critical of its value for money.

Unsurprisingly, given the continued frustration of Phillip Island residents over the summer holiday red bin collection, the lowest scores for council's waste management came from Island Ward.

The survey report said perceptions of overall performance "have improved slightly over the last 12 months, following a period of incremental decline over the past few years".

It also recommended an increased focus by council on consultation and engagement, which "remain council's two lowest performing service areas".

On a positive note, the survey found Bass Coast performed significantly better than the Large Rural council group.

While older people are the biggest critics of council, the survey found ratings of customer service had significantly declined in the 18-34 aged group, recommending "extra attention to be paid to interactions with this cohort over the next year".

Breakdown

There were no significant declines in performance ratings for the council in 2025, with slight improvements in every category.

The survey's detailed find-

Summary of Bass Coast Shire Council performance						
Services	Bass Coast 2025	Bass Coast 2024	Large Rural 2025	State-wide 2025	Highest score	Lowest score
Overall performance	56	53	50	53	35-49 years, Bunurong residents	Residents, 65+ years
Value for money	46	46	43	47	Bunurong residents	65+ years, Island residents, Residents, Western Port residents
Overall council direction	47	44	44	46	18-34 years	65+ years
Customer service	66	67	65	66	Non-Residents	18-34 years
Waste management	65	63	62	65	Bunurong residents	Island residents
Sealed local roads	52	50	39	45	Non-Residents	Residents
Consultation & engagement	51	48	48	50	18-34 years	65+ years
Community decisions	50	48	46	49	Bunurong residents	65+ years, Island residents

Satisfaction with Bass Coast Shire Council's performance is on the rise, according to the latest Community Satisfaction Survey, with waste management the highest rated service.

ings show that Bunurong Ward and non-resident ratepayers rated the council's overall performance higher.

In terms of infrastructure and services, 40 per cent of those surveyed rated council as "very poor" or "poor", with a further 27 per cent saying their performance was "average".

While non-resident ratepayers rated the council's value for money in services and infrastructure at 50, local residents, those aged over 65, and people in Island and Western Port wards did not share the optimism, rating council at just 43 in this area.

Waste Management continued to be council's highest performing area, however 15 per cent of resident and non-resident ratepayers believed this was the area most in need of improvement.

In terms of customer service, non-resident ratepayers scored the council 13 points higher than residents, 74 compared to 61.

The highest approval for the council's overall direction came from 18-34-year-olds (52) and 35-49-year-olds (50), with the lowest from those aged over 65 (43). Residents, non-resident ratepayers and Island Ward residents all rated council's overall direction at 47.

Island Ward residents were not impressed with council decisions in the interest of the com-

munity, scoring it at 46 compared to 55 in Bunurong Ward and 50 overall.

In the contentious area of "sealed local roads", Council scored 50, well down from its peak of 55 in 2021, but significantly higher than the 41 registered in 2016.

Surprisingly, given the vocal protests against special charge schemes and complaints about road maintenance, Island Ward residents were not the harshest critics in the "condition of sealed local roads in your area" category, rating council at 53, the same as Western Port Ward and higher than Bunurong (50).

Those surveyed listed sealed road maintenance, waste, consultation and environmental issues as the top four areas for improvement.

The Community Satisfaction Survey is conducted by the Department Government Services on behalf of participating councils, and participation by councils is optional. It is now in its 26th year.

For the survey, a minimum of 400 local residents and ratepayers in each municipality over 18 years of age are selected at random.

View a copy of the full report at: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/community-satisfaction-survey

Petition seeks to overturn question time changes

COUNCIL

A petition fighting Bass Coast Shire Council's proposed changes to public question time is gaining traction online.

Resident Ross Bencraft started the petition, which has been signed by about 100 people, entitled "Stop Bass Coast Shire Council from unfairly changing the rules of public question time".

As reported last week, changes to public question time include a question will not be read out if the person is not present at a council meeting and question time will be for a maximum of 30 minutes unless extended by a council resolution.

The changes are part of the council's draft governance rules 2025, open for community feedback until July 17.

The draft states if a person is not present at question time, the question will not be read out or included in the minutes.

It will instead be included in the Engage Bass Coast web page.

"Questions and responses will not be included in the minutes where the submitter of questions is not present in the chamber at the time their name is called," the draft states.

"The submitter will have the



A petition fighting Bass Coast Shire Council's proposed changes to public question time is gaining traction online.

opportunity to read out the question or request the chair to read the question. The submitter may not raise additional questions."

In the petition, Ross states "each time there's a change of council, they roll out a review of their governance rules, and predictably, they're at it again".

"The proposed policy will deny farmers, business owners, business employees, factory workers and essential service workers and anyone unable get to chambers at 1pm for question time, access to the democratic process of submitting questions to council," Ross said.

Details:
Draft governance rules: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/governance-rules-2025

Petition: change.org (search for: Bass Coast Shire Council).

Powering up local live music

FUNDING

Three local venues received a live music boost in the latest round of funding announced by the State Government.

Jordan Crugnale MP announced the local Bass Coast successful recipients of the latest round of 10,000 Gigs: The Victorian Gig Fund and the Live Music Festivals Fund.

Archies Creek Hotel, Kilcunda Ocean View Hotel and Wildlife Coast Cruises were among the 136 venues to receive funding to stage paid gigs for local artists.

Under the Live Music Festivals Fund, the popular Ocean Sounds festival also received funding, along with NYE on the Hill.

"We love live music and we continue to back our local venues, musicians, creatives and festivals through these funding programs," said Ms Crugnale.

"Whilst the live music sector continues to face challenges across the country, this investment will help strengthen our local industry, champion local musical talent, showcase contemporary music which benefits creatives and our local economy too."

The owners of the Kilcunda Ocean View Hotel, Paula Doody and Brett Crellin were thrilled to receive the funding.

"This support will go a long



Kilcunda Ocean View Hotel owner Paula Doody with Jordan Crugnale MP. The hotel was one of three local venues to receive funding from the State Government's Victorian Gig Fund.

way in helping us continue to bring live music to our small regional town and provide a platform for local musicians to showcase their talents," they said.

"Opportunities like this make such a meaningful difference to our community, and we're incredibly grateful for the support."

The Victorian Gig fund offers up to \$22,000 per venue for up to 40 gigs.

The Live Music Festivals Fund will support 11 festivals across the state with grants of up to \$50,000 to help put on new or existing events.

For a full list of recipients visit creative.vic.gov.au.

Island Explorer launched

TOURISM

An exciting new business which aims to enhance transport and tourism locally was launched on Phillip Island over the weekend, with no shortage of takers when the Phillip Island Explorer set out for its inaugural Hop On Hop Off adventure on Saturday morning from Cowes.

On board were four international students from Bangladesh – Insia, Andrika, Ptianti and Sadika – and their trip included The Koala Conservation Centre on the Phillip Island Tourist Road, Churchill Island, and other key island destinations.

The new Phillip Island Explorer offers a two-part transport service: Daily direct transfers between Melbourne (including airport and CBD hotel pickups) and Phillip Island; and a hop-on, hop-off bus loop connecting key island destinations, including a late-night penguin parade run.

Tour operator Ray Staindl said his new initiative aims to encourage longer, car-free stays,



On the first trip for the Phillip Island Explorer bus, were four international students from Bangladesh – Insia, Andrika, Ptianti and Sadika – here at their first stopover, The Koala Conservation Centre, with tour operator Ray Staindl.

thus keeping visitors on the island and thereby supporting sustainable tourism and boosting accommodation and hospitality services.

The new service was officially launched in time for the Phillip Island Whale Festival and is set to resume daily operations in September.

The fight for good journalism

LITERARY FESTIVAL

Peter Greste is passionate about defending press freedom, at every level – from local councils through to the US government.

He hopes his appearance at this year's Phillip Island Festival of Stories will get people thinking about the role of the media, and the importance of good journalism.

Peter Greste became the worldwide focus in a fight for press freedom when along with two colleagues he was imprisoned in Egypt in 2013 for 400 days.

But Greste says the fight for good journalism is crucial at every level, including local newspapers.

"If you think about it, good journalism holds communities together," he told the Advertiser, in the lead up to his visit.

"It gives people a sense of identity, a sense of common purpose. It's a place where the community can come together, an agenda for discussion."

He believes there's a profound impact on a community when its local paper closes.

"If we lose that, we lose something really im-

portant. And frankly, the Facebook pages of our local councils don't fill that gap."

Promoting his book "The First Casualty", which has now been re-titled to tie in with the new film "The Correspondent", Greste is the first speaker at the Festival on Saturday morning, with the film showing at Ber-ninneit the night before.

Since his release from an Egyptian prison, the award-winning foreign correspondent has become a vocal campaigner for media freedom.

War on terror

Greste was working for Al Jazeera in Egypt when he was arrested in 2013 and charged with spreading false information and aiding a terrorist group, the Muslim Brotherhood.

It's not surprising an experienced journalist would write a book about his experience.

However his book is about more than his imprisonment and is set in the context of the impact of the post 9/11 "war on terror" on international journalism and press freedom.

That context for the book was "absolutely key", he said.



Award-winning foreign correspondent Peter Greste is appearing at the Phillip Island Festival of Stories at 10am on Saturday July 26. He will be discussing his book about his imprisonment in Egypt and the importance of good journalism and media freedom. Photo: Louie Douvis.

To find meaning in the story, he said it was vital to place it in an historical context. Early on in his ordeal, he writes it was clear the trial and charges were not so much about him, but about freedom of the media in Egypt.

"But it took a while for me to see it as part of the

much bigger global contest for media freedom," he explained.

The book includes examples from Afghanistan, Somalia and Syrian of extreme assaults on media freedom.

"I did choose the big, dramatic examples, but it happens in all sorts of other smaller and more insidious ways as well."

These include not just threats to sue, or censorship, but regulatory frameworks that made it difficult for newspapers to operate.

He hopes reading the book will generate discussion and help people to recognise and understand the importance of good journalism, and "seeing and understanding the way that good, healthy, sceptical journalism actually helps".

First casualty

The original title for the book, "The First Casualty", is a reference to the saying that truth is the first casualty of war.

However Greste says truth is being sacrificed for national security,

while not making us more secure.

"Australia is a world leader in terms of national security. We've now got more than 90 separate pieces of national security legislation since 9/11. That's more than any other country on earth."

"There's been a broad political consensus and that means a lot of laws get passed without proper scrutiny. And a lot of those laws chip away at our civil liberties."

Greste said the increasing "instinctive secrecy" that governments fall back on is problematic, "and that includes local government".

He said the introduction of media policies that, for example, prevent councillors talking to the local media, is a dangerous precedent.

"It's a breakdown of the democratic role that journalism is supposed to play."

"I understand why local governments, or any level of government want to make sure they're consistent with their messaging, that it's accurate."

"But when you get to

the point where you're controlling the message to such an extent that journalists can't do their job, it makes it dangerous."

He said if there was a whistle that needed blowing, it was important, describing local papers as "the whistle of last resort".

"When the system is working effectively, those 'whistles' become really important," he said.

"That culture of security that really emerged after 9/11 has filtered down through every layer of government, to the point where we accept it without question, that secrecy and security are just part of the way that governments operate."

"I think that's a dangerous assumption."

He also believes the digital revolution has changed the business model of news.

"That's forced journalism into a container that prioritises speed over accuracy, sensational news over serious reporting, rumour and gossip over serious news."

"It has also obscured the way it (the news) is made and made people very cynical online. Pretty much all information looks much the same."

"A credible, serious, sober report looks exactly the same online when you're flicking through Facebook ... it has the same weight as anything else and it's very easy for people to dismiss journalism they don't like as clickbait."

Hear more from Peter Greste at the Phillip Island Festival of Stories.

Friday, July 25 at 7.30pm: "The Correspondent" – the film based on Peter Greste's book, starring Richard Roxborough.

Saturday July 26, 10am: Peter Greste – "Truth is not the only casualty" (Sponsored by Phillip Island RSL).

Tickets at www.pifestivalofstories.com/

An extended version of this interview is available at pisra.com.au



Phillip Island's David Taylor has again won the Best in Show award at the recent 2025 Camberwell Art Show.

David does it again

ART

Phillip Island's David Taylor has again won the Best in Show award at the recent 2025 Camberwell Art Show.

His winning work "Shades of Evening, Weymouth Harbour" took out the \$10,000 first prize at last week's event, and his other entry was snapped up by a keen buyer.

The Best in Show award is a prestigious one, his winning entry up against 1200 paintings by 500 artists from

across Australia.

The Camberwell Art Show is the biggest event of its kind to be held in the southern hemisphere, and celebrated its 60th birthday this year.

David has been a consistent entrant over that time, winning multiple awards including Best in Show several times.

He is renowned nationally and internationally for his work, and for his dedication to teaching and sharing his passion for watercolour, at workshops both on

Phillip Island and across Australia.

He regularly demonstrates his techniques to emerging artists, and did so again at the Camberwell Art Show, on this occasion painting a Tasmanian landscape from scratch for an enthralled audience which was then auctioned when completed to the highest bidder.

David's art, and that of his partner Diana Edwards, is on display at the couple's Iluka Studio Gallery at 28 Settlement Road, Silverleaves.





Over 800 people came to experience the first Ngangga Festival at Berninneit in Cowes enjoying a Welcome to Country and Smoking, stalls, workshops and music by talented First Nations Community members. More photos at pisra.com.au

NAIDOC Week off to a flying start

NAIDOC Week officially started on Sunday July 6 and Bass Coast got off to a flying start with events across the weekend.

ArtSpace Wonthaggi was packed to capacity for the official opening and meet the artists event on Saturday. The showcase of artworks by 13 First Nations artists of Bass Coast was vibrant with colour and the crowd was moved by each artist speaking about their works.

That night, the Union Theatre was buzzing with local artist Fonzie opening for Birdz and Fred Leone who had everyone up and dancing.

Over 800 people came to experience the first Ngangga Festival at Ber-

ninneit in Cowes enjoying a Welcome to Country and Smoking, stalls, workshops and music by talented First Nations Community members including Fonzie Paten, Auntie Lizzie Dalton, Patrice Mahoney, Less Briggs and family for WKY Events and more.

The day ended with Uncle Kutcha Edwards giving a moving performance.

Further NAIDOC events

There are still plenty of events to enjoy this week.

Eight local First Nations artists will be showcased in the Catching the Light exhibition, lighting up the Union Theatre in Wonthaggi and Berninneit in Cowes for NAIDOC Week.

Visit Berninneit to see renowned artist Maree Clarke's latest masterpiece – Yawa (Long Journey) suspended overhead in the grand hall. This captivating artwork, is comprised of 30 intricately crafted Mur-rini glass panels forming a breathtaking glass canoe.

The artwork melds traditional craftsmanship with contemporary vision whilst highlighting the delicate play of light and colour inspired by the surrounding wetlands and ocean.

Over at the Berninneit Art Gallery, Steven Ulula Park's exhibition, Wareeny Ngulu – Ocean Voice, is on display until July 20.

This free immersive exhibition combines paint-

ing, traditional objects, and songline audio recordings. Steve's work brings together ceremonial and contemporary practices, that invite audiences to connect to the nature of Millowl as a place of healing.

On Sunday July 13, from 2pm, the Union Theatre in Wonthaggi presents the Bass Coast Shorts: 2025 NAIDOC Week First Nations Screening, an afternoon of short films created by First Nations' artists from around the world.

Keep up to date with the latest information at www.basscoastculturalvenues.com and www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation

A full wrap of NAIDOC Week events in next week's paper.



Ron Owen who heads the team that looks after the property, with Gwen McRae whose husband Don McRae, with his brother Bob McRae, built the church 50 years ago. More photos at pisra.com.au

Uniting Church celebrates 50 years

COMMUNITY

Some say it "looks like a hat, others say it's a boat with a full sail", according to Uniting Church Reverend Jennie Gordon, but "however you describe it, the Uniting Church building "is a unique piece of architecture".

Earlier this month, the church community celebrated 50 years since the iconic church – on the corner of Chapel Street and Warley Avenue in Cowes – was opened.

Rev Gordon said the celebration included an art show with video-retrospective, dinner and a concert.

"This significant place has hosted people through both difficult and joyous occasions, with weekly gatherings of the faithful," she said, "along with the much-loved Monday Community Meal and now the Bass Coast Winter Shelter."

The Winter Shelter, a project of the InterChurch Council, received about \$1000 from the proceeds of the concert.

"It's more than just a church building, it's a common space of gathering and connection."

Special guest was Gwen McRae, whose husband Don, along with his brother Bob McRae, built the church in 1975.

Whales at the library

ENTERTAINMENT

Every winter, the Phillip Island Library joins the local community in celebrating the Island Whale Festival. Hosting a series of family-friendly events, the library is the perfect place to learn about these gentle giants while enjoying hands-on activities for all ages.

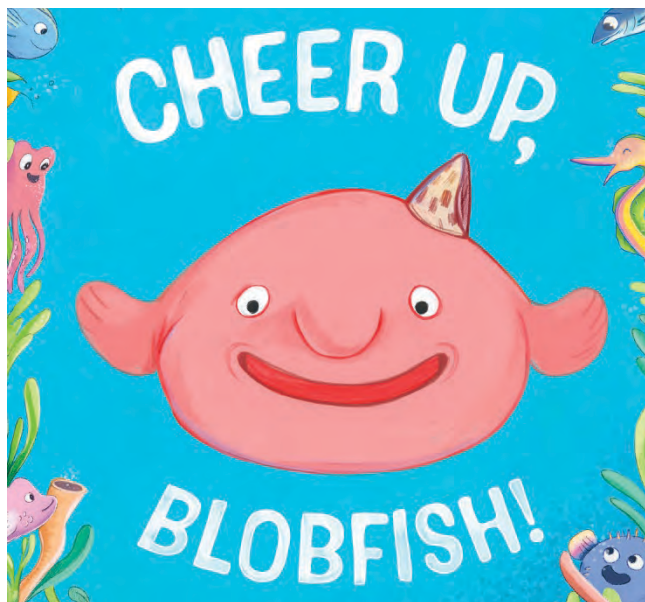
Festivities kick off with a Whale Festival Origami session on Friday July 11 at 2.30pm. Join the team for a relaxing and creative afternoon of folding fun where you'll create beautiful whale-themed origami to take home.

On Saturday July 12 at 11am, bring the family along for a special ocean-themed StoryTime hosted by children's author Julie Murphy, author of 'Cheer Up', 'Blobfish' and 'Dog Beach'. This engaging session will be full of storytelling, laughter, and creativity.

To wrap up the weekend, the library will host a whale-inspired arts and crafts session at 11am on Sunday July 13 – a perfect way for kids and creative minds to end the festival.

Throughout the week of the Island Whale Festival, regular library programs such as StoryTime, Baby Rhyme Time and Book Chat will also feature ocean-themed content.

Whether you're a Phil-



As part of Island Whale Festival on July 12 the Phillip Island Library is holding an ocean-themed StoryTime with the author of "Blobfish", Julie Murphy. It's one of three special events for the festival, and throughout the week regular programs will also feature ocean-themed content.

lip Island local or just visiting for the weekend, the library is a great way to escape the cold during the winter months.

Located in Berninneit, the Phillip Island Library offers free WiFi, public computers, regular programming and a welcoming space to read, explore and connect. And if you're brave enough to face the chilly weather, members can even borrow a surfboard.

To take full advantage of everything the Phillip Island Library has to

offer, sign up for a free Myli Membership today. With a Myli Membership, you'll gain access to all the library resources, from traditional books to eBooks, audiobooks, online resources, the Library of Things and much more.

To sign up as a Myli member, visit myli.au/join.

For further information about Myli Libraries, visit myli.org.au or contact the Support Team on 1800 44 6954 during opening hours, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

GIG GUIDE

13/7 EL ROLLO - 5PM

19/7 THE ALLEY STRANGLERS & OZONE ST - 9PM
\$23.5 + BF

20/7 GRAND BAXTER - 5PM

2/8 AROCKALYPSE NOW - 6PM \$45 + BF

9/8 SHILO A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE - \$35 + BF

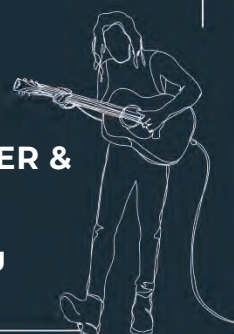
23/8 SCARECROW-THE MELLENCAMP SHOW-35
YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR - 9PM \$35+BF

20/09 FRENZAL RHOMB 'A MAN'S (STILL) NOT A
CAMEL' 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR - 9PM \$53+BF

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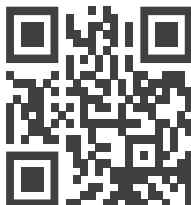
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Imagine Live! - Alison Lester

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

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



The Owl's Apprentice

SAT 12 JUL / 11:00AM / FROM \$12


This is a voyage into a gorgeous realm of shadow puppetry while acting as a creative catalyst for exploring the unique biology of Australian animals. A mesmerising and perfect piece of family entertainment.



Cinderella - Inveni Ensemble

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


We are thrilled to have Inveni Ensemble return! Like Cinderella's transformation at the stroke of midnight, experience a symphonic metamorphosis that transports you through every twist and turn of the story.



Cinema Program

Weekly Program Updates

Come along to our regular cinema sessions in our comfy theatres at Berninett in Cowes or at The Union Theatre, Wonthaggi. We offer a range of films to suit all tastes including sessions with accessibility options including OCAP.



Winter School Holidays Program

Berninett, Cowes
The Union Theatre, Wonthaggi

UNION THEATRE

Berninett

www.basscoastculturalvenues.com

BASS COAST

Berninett

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1 COWES
2 SilverLeaves
3 Phillip Island Rd
4 Golf Club
5 Rhyll
6 Rhyll Wetland & Bird Sanctuary
7 Churchill Island
8 San Remo
9 Pelican Feeding
10 Cape Woolamai
11 Sunset Strip
12 Grand Prix Circuit
13 Shearwaters
14 Penguin Parade
15 Seal Rock
16 Black Rock

Seal Rock
Black Rock

FUR SEALS
Take a tour around Seal Rock and marvel at Australia's largest fur seal colony

Phillip Island is home to the largest Little Penguin colony in the world. Watch them return from the ocean nightly at dusk.

WHALE MIGRATION
Witness the annual arrival of humpback and southern right whales and even the occasional killer whales from May to September.

PHILLIP ISLAND NATIONAL SURFING RESERVE.
The reserve is made up of four sites along Phillip Island's coast: Cape Woolamai, Smiths Beach, Summerland and Cat Bay.

Patrolled weekends and public holidays until April 14
Sat 1pm-5pm
Sun/Public Holidays 10am-4pm

Patrolled weekends and public holidays until April 14
Sat 1pm-5pm
Sun/Public Holidays 10am-4pm

Patrolled weekends and public holidays until April 14
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2024-25 Investment Markets

Another strong year – But can it last?

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELcapital

Australian investors have enjoyed another year of solid returns across most major asset classes, with the 2024-25 financial year marking a third consecutive period of strong growth.

Despite early concerns around global instability, inflation, and trade tensions, investment markets delivered better-than-expected results. According to AMP's Shane Oliver, the performance was driven by central bank interest rate cuts, easing inflation, and resilience in the global economy.

Shares and Property

Both Australian and global share markets were standout performers. The ASX 200 posted a return of 13.8% over the financial year, led by technology, financial, and telecommunications companies. However, mining stocks lagged, reflecting ongoing concerns about global trade and weaker commodity prices.

International shares fared even better. Global equities returned 13.8% in local currencies, but a weaker Australian dollar pushed this to 18.6% in AUD terms. US and Chinese stocks were particularly strong, buoyed by ongoing enthusiasm for artificial intelligence and easing inflation pressures.

Property investments also rebounded. Listed Australian real estate investment trusts (REITs) delivered a 14% return, while global REITs were up 7.9%. According to CommSec, this marked a turnaround after previous years of underperformance driven by rising interest rates.

Meanwhile, residential housing saw modest growth. Home prices across Australia rose 3.4% overall, with Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide leading the way. The recovery picked up pace in early 2025, again reflecting lower interest rates.

Bonds & Cash

Fixed income and cash investments also made positive contributions, although more modest than equities. Both Australian and global bonds rebounded during the year as interest rates fell and inflation eased. After several tough years, bonds provided capital gains and helped diversify portfolios.

Cash investments delivered a 4.4% return—stable and in line with expectations. This reflected higher interest rates earlier in the cycle, with recent cuts by the Reserve Bank of Australia expected to bring these returns down over time.

Vanguard Australia noted that bond markets “returned to more typical behaviour” as inflation cooled and central banks shifted from raising rates to holding or cutting them. Income-focused investors saw improved results after a long period of uncertainty.

What Comes Next?

Looking ahead, most economists expect returns to be more modest. AMP forecasts average annual growth across diversified asset classes closer to 6-7% over the medium term, due to stretched valuations and ongoing risks.

According to CommBank's Chief Economist Stephen Halmarick, “We've likely seen the peak in returns for this cycle,” citing global uncertainty and the limited room for further rate cuts.

Geopolitical risks remain in focus too. Ongoing tensions between the US and major trading partners - including tariff uncertainty and military activity in the Middle East - continue to cast a shadow. Nevertheless, markets have so far proven resilient, and many expect this to continue if economic growth holds up.

Final Thoughts

After a volatile few years, the 2024-25 financial year proved once again that markets can surprise even in uncertain times but the future is never guaranteed.

The information above does not constitute financial or other professional advice and is general in nature. It does not take into account your specific circumstances and should not be acted on without a full understanding of your current situation and future goals and objectives by a fully qualified financial advisor. Before you make any decision about whether to acquire a certain financial product, you should obtain and read the relevant product disclosure statement. Sources: AMP CommSec Market Wraps, Vanguard Australia, RBA statements.

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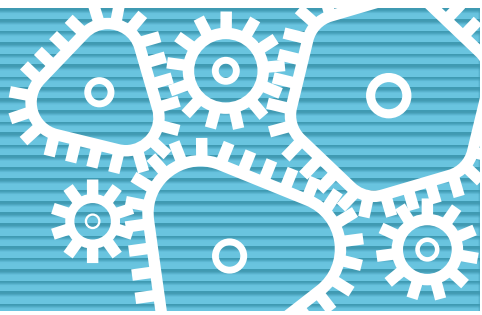
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Glasshouse supports food security

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) has taken another step forward in its mission to tackle local food insecurity, with the installation of a new glasshouse at its Settlement Road community garden.

This marks the beginning of an expansion project funded by a \$24,000 grant from VicHealth's Growing Healthy Communities program.

The new glasshouse is being described as the "engine room" of the garden, enabling volunteers to propagate seedlings that will soon fill an expanded network of garden beds.

In addition to the glasshouse, the funding will provide for:

- Additional raised garden beds
- Soil, mulch as well as garden bed screenings and lining
- An upgraded watering system
- Cold storage refrigeration

- A PV solar energy system
 - Other essential infrastructure
- Since re-launching in July 2023, PICAL's community garden has become a vital part of the local emergency food supply chain.

The garden produces over 30 kilograms of fresh, seasonal produce weekly, which is distributed through PICAL's community pantry.

The community pantry is the major emergency food relief service on Phillip Island and within a 35km radius in Gippsland. It currently supports more than 340 families per month – a number that continues to grow due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

"This expansion allows us to produce more high-quality, locally grown food for those who need it most," said Neil Wilmot, volunteer and PICAL Community Garden Co-ordinator.

"We're not just growing sea-

sonal produce – we're growing community resilience and connection."

Operated by a dedicated team of 25 volunteers, the garden functions under sustainable "circular economy" principles by composting leftover organic waste from the community pantry.

While open to the public when staffed, the garden's primary purpose is to supply the community pantry with fresh food and offer volunteers a meaningful way to connect and contribute to the wellbeing of their community.

With the new glasshouse and other improvements funded by VicHealth's Growing Healthy Communities program, PICAL is reinforcing its commitment to sustainable food access, environmental responsibility and community empowerment on Phillip Island.



The new glasshouse at PICAL's community garden is now complete.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Where's our history?

Every person, organisation, in any locale, at some time will wonder whether their history is noteworthy, visible or invisible in plain sight, and that includes the Bass Coast regional authorities.

I am not sure whether it requires a "back to the future" leap of faith, or there's no budget, or policy restrictions, fear of creativity, or simply too hard, but below is some of the history that doesn't see light of day.

Walk or drive through Thompson Avenue, the intersecting streets in Cowes township, or across the bridge towards Phillip Island.

Then see if you can point to or find, visible in plain sight, any of the following, whether on eye catching wall or footpath plaques, photo and poster montages on large electronic notice boards, billboards, large marine sculptures.

The noteworthy historical and creative Phillip Island related events include:

- scenes shot at the Phillip Island racetrack for the 1959 Hollywood movie "On the Beach";
- Cowes Hotel appearances of actors like Fred Astaire after the movie shoots;
- the taking on water wooden Cowes Ferry as it approaches

the Cowes Jetty;

- 1928-1935 Australian Grand Prix circuit and notable drivers;
- WWII Watch Tower that stood where the Cowes Bakery stands today;
- the all weather steel cut out in 2D or 3D sculptures of King Neptune, mermaids, dolphins, whales, pelicans, next to the Phillip Island bridge;
- huge flag pole at bridge entrance/exit to Phillip Island;
- the toilet block observation platform at the end of Thompson Avenue on top of which is a sign post showing distance and bearing from Phillip Island of various locations like Darwin – 4,398 kms, 333.76 (NNW), Perth – 2,748 kms, 285.22 (WNW), Antarctica – 2,353 kms, 188.09 (S), London – 16,987 kms, 305.06 (NW).

Even just finding the "right person" in council, in the local community, with informed decision making power, to raise the local history, provide informed answers to the "why nots", even on a trial basis, is challenging to say the least.

Gregory Jarosch, Cowes

Question for council

Public Question Time (PQT) at Bass Coast Shire Council meetings is a long held right for our

community. It is fundamental to open and transparent governance at council. We are fortunate to have it, as not all communities are permitted this right.

Since 2016 successive Bass Coast Shire Councils have imposed tighter restrictions on this right. In 2022 some former councillors even attempted to remove this right altogether. But a strong community pushback left councillors in no doubt that the community was opposed, and the attempt failed.

In many ways public question time can be the most important aspect of open democracy and community participation at council meetings. Even council itself acknowledges PQT is the only opportunity for community members to put public questions to council meetings.

But now we see that PQT is under attack once again. The recently elected council is proposing changes that will largely remove public questions from council meetings. Their proposed changes will disenfranchise many community members across the shire. It seems your councillors do not have appropriate respect for community questions, and regard PQT as nothing more than a tedious chore.

Without community participation via PQT the councillors and

senior bureaucrats might just as well hold council meetings in private.

Our community has little time to act to protect this fundamental democratic right. Submissions close on Thursday July 17.

Will you express your opposition to Councillors placing further restrictions on this fundamental right?

Kevin Griffith, Wonthaggi

San Remo's future?

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) is the major body that can assist San Remo in the next decade. Nobody else.

The ITS (Integrated Transport Strategy) admits we have 2.8 million visitors to our coast and many are day trippers by car.

My wife and I are nearly five-year residents of San Remo and know that the only single road into San Remo for the last 8kms will curtail, in my opinion, the future of San Remo.

Michael Quinn, San Remo

Lifestyle development?

The development at 137-245 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, seems to have stalled.

As an investor and four years of waiting for progress, does anyone know if Holiday Lifestyle Bendigo Pty Ltd have any intention of completing this proj-

ect?

Sharon White, Officer

Crackdown on questions

I was shocked to read in the Advertiser (June 25) the article entitled "Censorship or fair call" followed by the article in last week's Advertiser (July 2) "Crackdown on question time". Both articles left me asking "where have our democratic rights gone"?

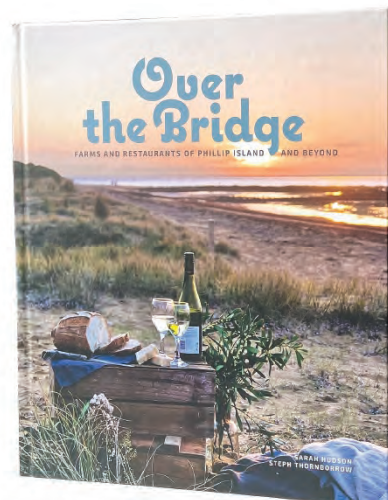
During the last election period we were promised a closer working liaison with council and the community – well that certainly isn't happening. If the proposals to squash down on Question Time and to not address one's questions in the meeting unless you are present goes ahead, it just shows how far removed the councillors have become from their community. I am disabled and am not able to attend most council meetings and some people don't have easy access to the internet so this action will be interpreted as an act of discrimination.

Councillors nowadays receive a reasonable remuneration, and I believe it is about time they acknowledged that the ratepayers – our community – are the people that pay their wages. As such they are supposed to listen to and represent our concerns and interests.

Pauline Taylor, Cowes

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PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO
ADVERTISER



In 2022, Chris Kotsanas won the Best and Fairest Medal for Richmond's Wheelchair Football Development team. This year, he's a key goal scorer for Richmond in the Wheelchair Football League with the team undefeated this season.

Chris on a roll with Richmond

WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL

Cowes local Chris Kotsanas, a member of Richmond's Championship team in the Victorian Wheelchair Football League, is shaping up as a one of the key contributors in his team.

Chris slotted 14 goals in one game, then followed up with 15 in the next.

A member of the Richmond forward line, Chris is quick to credit a collective team effort for his success, describing the on-court connection and support with team members as "really special".

With only five players on

court, teamwork is everything, says Chris, and Richmond's cohesion and shared understanding is clearly paying off. The Tigers remain undefeated and are building strong momentum as the finals approach.

Supported by Richmond Football Club and part of the growing Victorian Wheelchair Football League, the side is focused not only on winning, but on promoting inclusion and growing awareness for the sport.

As the season progresses, Chris and his teammates are eyeing another premiership this year.

Stay tuned as the Tigers continue their charge toward finals.

Island's successful doubles tournament

CROQUET

Over the weekend of June 28-29, the Phillip Island Croquet Club held a Golf Croquet Doubles Tournament at its courts located in the Blue Gum Reserve Cowes.

The tournament attracted croquet players from clubs in Wonthaggi, Drouin, Korumburra and Ballarat.

The tournament manager, Robert Smallwood, welcomed all players, outlined the rules of the tournament and play then commenced amid perfect weather conditions which thankfully lasted for the duration of the tournament.

At the end of play on Sunday, all scores were tallied.

Phillip Island Club's President, Lillian Wagstaff, announced the winners pair of Ray Biffen (Drouin) and Claire Earl (Phillip Island) and runners-up Sue Baker and Tom Lacey.

The tournament manager congratulated the winners, runners-up and all players on a fantastic tournament with many great croquet shots played and wonderful hoop scoring, a sight which delighted the spectators.

A very big "thank you" went out to the club's volunteers for their great work in contributing to the success of the tournament.

Breaker's shine across all age groups

SOCCKER

U14 Penguins

Labelled post-match as the "best game of the year" and "match of the season", Phillip Island Breakers U14 Penguins faced Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow away in Drouin.

As top of the ladder opponents, it was always going to be a tough battle, a challenge the Breakers were ready for after their loss to the same team in the first round of the 2025 season.

And what a game it was, from the first whistle the game was high-intensity, and the pressure was strong from both sides.

In a scoreless first half, spectator hearts were pounding loud and breaths were being held, as both teams showcased sublime passing, strong tackles and multiple scoring shots made at either end.

For the most part, the game play seemed to be facilitated around the Dragons goal.

The Breakers defence however, held dominant and composed, eliminating many balls' chance to reach the intended target.

The Dragons hit the cross bar on more than one occasion, and other attempts were denied by some amazing saves by stand in keeper Oisin who remained serenely composed under pressure.

No one was to be fooled by the 0-0 half-time score as the game intensified in the second half with the Dragons obtaining the first goal of the game.

In response, the Breakers rallied with positivity and poise, allowing James to find the back of the net a few minutes later.

All players from both sides were skilfully involved in constant, high pressure mid-field attacks and counterattacks.

Finally, the separation came from the boot of Blake to see the Breakers take the lead and at the final whistle, the win.

First half acknowledgement went to Levi for an outstanding physical game, taking on some much bigger opponents.

James earnt player of the match for his relentless efforts across the pitch and never give-up attitude.

Special mention to the six girls on the team who matched the game's intensity and physicality despite having just finished their earlier U15 Girls game going straight into the mixed match.

Thank you to Coaches Calum and Marco who were ecstatic with the result and super proud of the efforts of their team.



U 14 Stingrays soccer player Jackson was best on ground for his strong defence effort against Wonthaggi.

U14 Stingrays

The Stingrays took on top-of-the-table Wonthaggi in a tough matchup, ultimately going down 6-0.

With no bench and plenty of ground to cover, the team dug deep and showed great resilience.

Jackson was rock solid in defence and deservedly named best on ground for another standout performance.

Kaylan, Hunter and Bailey worked tirelessly in midfield, holding their own against strong opposition.

Cooper battled up front, while Jackson and Kavish anchored the backline.

Despite the scoreline, the Stingrays never dropped their heads, always proud of their effort and grit.

U15 Girls

After two consecutive byes, the Under 15 Girls were full of energy and ultimately unstoppable against the Drouin Dragons Maroon, with the Breakers running away with a 5-0 victory.

The girls showed true sportsmanship throughout the match with Arianna stepping up in the first half to boost numbers for the Dragons who were down a few players this week.

The first goal came quickly with a beautiful set up from Team Captain Georgia giving Amara the opportunity to score.

With the Dragons' defence working together to try and keep the Breakers at bay, it was a hard earned second goal to Ava whose efforts were a standout throughout the game.

The Breakers' goalie Hannah worked her magic, stopping any chance of the Dragons making a comeback in the first half.

Amara came through with her

second goal for the match, bringing the score to 3-0 at halftime.

Player numbers dropped further with the Dragons suffering an injury that resulted in the second half being played 8 v 8 and captain Georgia graciously donning the Dragons jersey to assist.

The goalie gloves were passed on to Ebony, who quickly saved two passive attempts.

The backline defenders worked cohesively, and together with the team's strong passes and tackles, the Dragons couldn't find a successful way through.

Lily T scored a penalty goal which she soon followed up with a spectacular run from midfield scoring the Breakers impressive fifth goal before the final whistle.

An impressive effort by everyone.

U12

On Sunday Phillip Island took on Drouin at Bellbird Park.

From the outset the Breakers pushed forward finding space and passing the ball around the pitch to attack their opponent's goal from all sides and keeping Drouin's goalkeeper busy.

A quick counterattack against the run of play from Drouin led to the first goal of the match.

The Breakers were undeterred and continued to pressure Drouin's defence, scoring four goals to half time.

Drouin stacked their defence to try to repel the constant attacks coming from Phillip Island but were unable to stem the flow of goals.

The breakers continued to show their excellent teamwork with six different goal scorers.

Final score 8-1, a great team effort.

Soccer results

Round 10, Friday, July 4 and Sunday July 6

Men's Reserves: Phillip Island Breakers 2 d Korumburra City 1.

Under 17 Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 3 d Phillip Island Breakers 2.

Under 15 Girls: Phillip Island Breakers 5 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 0.

Under 14 Mixed: Wonthaggi United 6 d Phillip Island Stingrays 0.

Phillip Island Penguins 2 d Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 1.

Under 12A Mixed: Phillip Island Breakers 7 d Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 1.

Under 12B Mixed: Phillip Island Stingrays 4 d Phillip Island Penguins 2.

Full GSL Results and Round 11 fixture at pisra.com.au/sport

PLAYERS WANTED

The Phillip Island District CC is seeking senior players for the upcoming 2025/26 season.

With 4 consecutive A1 GF appearances & 3 Premierships, we are looking for players that can help our young squad continue to strive for the ultimate success.

For more information players can contact Andy O'Brien on 0409 234 410 or Andrew Finlayson on 0480 425 810.

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A Grade darts grand final winners (from left): Vikings Kienan Stray, Paul Gleeson, Anders Geier and Allan Stray. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Darting drama at the grand final

DARTS

In a thrilling climax to the PIDDL darting season, members packed the Dart centre on Monday night to witness the crowning of champions, heartbreak for some and celebrations for many.

The A Division grand final saw a clash of titans as The Vikings faced off against Joe's Hornets in a fiery showdown.

With nerves of steel and arrows to match, the Vikings proved why they've been the team to beat all season, claiming a commanding 5-2 victory.

Their calm and consistent form across the competition was on full display and judging by the grins afterward, their celebrations were as sharp as their throws.

Hats off to Joe's Hornets for a gutsy performance and an excellent season. Over in the B Division Gumboot final, The Storm lived up to their name, blowing away the Breakers with a powerful 5-2 win.

It was a polished and confident performance from the Storm, who saved their best darts for when it mattered most.

The Breakers, who battled

hard all season, showed plenty of promise and will no doubt come back stronger next year.

In the battle to avoid the dreaded spoon, it was Dart Vaders who summoned the Force just in time to overcome the Mustangs and dodge bottom place.

That means the Mustangs are this year's unlucky spoon recipients, but with spirit like theirs, they'll surely be charging back stronger next competition.

The always-popular San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle was taken home by none other than Dave "Iceman" Raso from Miramar, a cool customer both on and off the oche.

Thanks to Des and the San Remo Butchers team for their ongoing and generous support of our league. And with that, we hang up the flights for a short break.

The Spring competition is just around the corner, with the Trophy Presentation Day expected to be held on Sunday, August 10 – venue and time still to be confirmed.

Thanks to all players, supporter, scorers and sponsors for making this season one to remember.

Thrilling finals to end the season

TENPIN

2S Company Winners: 1st place Him and Her on 31.5pts (Mark Copland and Irene Edmonds). Runners up: King Pins on 31pts (Les Peters and Raff Merante).

Top score for season for the men and woman: Raff Merante 215 and Penny Wolswinkel 200.

ABL winners: 1st on 236pts Storm (Ian Cookman, Peter Macinnes, Chris Chivers and Rob Wilkinson). Runners up: Dreamers on 225pts (Jacky Dow, Jacque Kent, Penny and Hank Wolswinkel). Top score for season for the men and woman: Jason Bence 235 and Valma Peterson 182.

Business knockout

In a thrilling night of strikes, spares, and showdowns, the top four teams from PI Tenpin's early business league clashed with the top four from the late league in a high-stakes, high-energy knockout tournament to crown this season's ultimate business league champion. The lanes were buzzing with friendly rivalry as the teams bowled their hearts out under the lights.

Round by round, the competition narrowed and after the third and final round, just two powerhouse teams remained, both hailing from the late league.

It was The Squeezers verse The 3 Blind Mice in an epic finale. Representing The Squeezers were Brett Burrows, Ben O'Brien and Riley Weinzierl.

Up against them, The 3 Blind Mice, Shaun Peterson, Johnnie



2S Company winners: Mark Copland and Irene Edmonds. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Ipple and Owen.

In the end, it all came down to the final frames ... and with clutch performances across the board, The Squeezers squeezed out the victory and were crowned Business League Champions.

Trophy in hand, smiles on faces and pride in their game, a huge congratulations to The Squeezers and a massive shout-out to all the teams who made this night one to remember.

Stay tuned for the next season of the PI Tenpin Business League, where champions are made, and legends are born.

Top score for season for the men and woman: Steve R Clarke 212 and Bec Bertram 177.

This week's reports for Bridge, Euchre, Golf and Bowls at pisra.com.au/sport

Fundraiser for OLSS Aerobics team

AEROBICS

The lanes were glowing, the music pumping, and the community spirit was brighter than ever at PI Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre last week, as it hosted a special Fluro Bowling Fundraiser in support of Our Lady Star of the Sea's (OLSS) aerobics team.

"We are thrilled to share that the event was a huge success, raising \$1950 to help get the team to Hobart for the upcoming National Championships," a spokesperson from PI Tenpin said.

"Families, friends, and local supporters came together in their best 80s-inspired glow outfits, enjoying an afternoon of bowling, laser tag, arcade games, and plenty of fun — all while backing a great cause."

A highlight of the event was the team's energetic performance of their winning routine, giving everyone a taste of what they'll be bringing to the national stage.

Their dedication and passion were truly inspiring, and it's no surprise they've made it this far.

Lisa Bennett, Team Coach and teacher said the event was amazing, thanks to Jeremy and the staff at Phillip Island bowling.

"Their generosity and community commitment is greatly appreciated by the families of OLSS with nothing but praise and gratitude for his support."

Catherine Blackford, Principal of Our Lady Star of the Sea, said



Craig Holmes and Jeremy Westaway from PI Tenpin presented a cheque for \$1950 to the OLSS aerobics team, to help the team travel to Hobart to compete in the National Championships. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

as well as being an excellent fundraiser for the team, the session was a wonderful community-building event.

"We cannot thank Jeremy and his team enough for their enthusiasm, generosity, organisation and support."

PI Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre thanked everyone who attended, donated, and helped spread the word, "especially the families of Star of the Sea, the staff and volunteers who made the event run smoothly, and our community partners for their generous support".

"Events like these remind us just how powerful it is when a community rallies behind its

young people."

If you couldn't make it on the night but would still like to support the team, a GoFundMe page has been set up to help cover the remaining travel and accommodation costs.

Every little bit helps these incredible students chase their dream on the national stage.

Visit: GoFundMe.com and search "Star of the Sea Aerobics" — or follow the links shared on the PI Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre socials to donate directly.

"Every bit helps. From all of us at PI Tenpin, good luck to the team in Hobart — we'll be cheering you on every step of the way."

Blue Pups in a nail-biter at Inverloch

FOOTBALL

U10 Blue

It was a crisp morning at Inverloch as the Blue Pups ran out for another big game of junior footy.

This week, team captain Harper set the tone early, rallying the boys with a reminder to focus on the "one percenters" and most importantly, to have fun.

His message landed perfectly, with the team launching into action from the first bounce.

From the opening siren, it was a tightly contested match, with both sides bringing intensity and effort across all four quarters.

The Doggies maintained strong momentum throughout, thanks to excellent teamwork and a commitment to their coach's instructions: move the ball quickly and keep running.

The boys impressed with their ball movement and support play, constantly getting numbers to the contest and applying fierce pressure through tackling.

Their efforts around the packs were a standout feature of the game.

In defence, Aidan and the half-backs were rock-solid in the second quarter, turning away forward entries and holding the line with determination.

Kody Sheers was in everything, burrowing into contests and finding a way to feed the ball out to teammates, helping drive the ball forward.

Judd and Lachie were electric, bursting out of packs and capitalising on loose balls to set up scoring chances. Up forward, Jordan made the most of those opportunities, slotting multiple goals and giving the Doggies scoreboard impact when it mattered most.

The Blue Pups fought hard



U14s stepped out and helped out the U16 team this week and did a great job. Xavier Holmes, Jeddah Richards, Zane Larrison, Harvey and Roy Patterson, Jarrah Rutherford, Kolby Carton, Callum Chambers and Brax Scheibel.

until the final siren in what was a fantastic, evenly matched contest. A great team performance built on effort, teamwork, and a love for the game.

U12 Blue

On a sunny morning in Inverloch on Sunday, the U12 Blue Pups were certainly challenged by a strong and balanced Inverloch squad. In the first half, the boys' skills were tested.

Struggling to move the ball through a fierce wall of Inverloch defenders and midfield players, the team just couldn't get onto the scoreboard.

The thing about this group, is that they persist and push with drive and determination and don't give up.

They back each other, show incredible teamwork and positivity and respect towards each other.

These strengths held Inverloch to a minimal lead and the third quarter saw the Pups fire up.

The backline remained a force, the midfielders put pressure on and moved the ball to the team's solid and reliable forwards to provide a number of scoring shots in the third quarter.

While all were points, the team kept the ball there and we evened up the scores.

The final chapter and we were on. Back to the original season form, resulting in a couple of match winning goals to seal another win on Saturday.

Well done boys for staying strong and having each other's backs throughout.

Final Score: Phillip Island 2.9.21 to Inverloch Kongwak 2.2.14.

Awards this week: Jett, Jobe, Reeve and Sam.

Island takes on Korumburra-Bena

NETBALL

A Grade

It was a tough day out for our Phillip Island A Grade side as they took on top of the table Korumburra-Bena. With a few players out due to holidays and injury, the team was reshuffled - huge thanks to Meika, Jarrah, Abbey and Anthea for stepping up straight after their B Grade game to help fill the gaps.

The island started strong, maintaining pace in the first quarter and trailing by just six goals at quarter time, 16-10.

In the second quarter, Korumburra got away with a dominant run that created a margin difficult to come back from. Despite the challenge, the girls fought hard right through to the final siren, with every player carrying out their role and giving it their all.

Mid season league MVP leader Ella Duggan was a stand-out, holding down the goaling end, supported by Hollie in the circle.

Plenty of positives to take into next week as we look to regroup and bring our best against Tooradin-Dalmore in order to keep our finals hopes alive.

Best on: Ella, Hallie

Scores: Phillip Island 39 to Korumburra 72.

B Grade

Phillip Island had a thrilling match against Korumburra, with both teams neck and neck throughout the game.

The Islander's defence was solid, shutting down Korumburra's attacks with precision and skill.

Meanwhile, their mid-court players showcased fast feet, transitioning the ball and creating scoring opportunities.

As the game heated up, Phillip Island's shooters went on fire, sinking shot after shot with accuracy.

Their strong fourth-quarter push ultimately paid off, securing a narrow win with a two-goal lead.

It was a nail-biting finish, but Phillip Island's determination and skill came out on top.

Best on court: Jarah White and Meika White.

Scores: Phillip Island 41 to Korumburra 39.

C Grade

What a thriller.

The Phillip Island C Grade netballers held their nerve in a nail-biting finish to edge out Korumburra Bena by just one goal, winning a match that had spectators on the edge of their seats right to the final whistle.

It was a tightly contested game from the outset, with both teams going goal for goal through all four quarters.

Phillip Island showed great composure under pressure, maintaining their intensity and focus when it mattered most.

Raelene Humphrey was a standout, controlling the defensive end with experience and grit, while Abby Morgan impressed through the midcourt with her speed, smart decision-making and accurate feeds into the circle.

The team's determination, resilience, and ability to dig deep when challenged made the difference in this high-pressure encounter.

A fantastic result and a testament to the strong team spirit building within the group.

Well done Island an exciting win.

Scores: Phillip Island 28 to Korumburra 27.

D Grade

Scores: Phillip Island 31 to Korumburra 33.

U17

The Phillip Island U17 girls delivered an outstanding performance in Round 13 win over Korumburra Bena.

With only three U17 players available, the team was filled

with rising U15 stars who absolutely stepped up and impressed across the court.

The attacking combination of Ellie Hennessy and Ava Blake was electric, dominating the goal circle with accuracy and composure.

Their connection and movement kept Korumburra's defence on the back foot from the first whistle.

In defence, Kate McCausland and Isla Humphrey were rock-solid, creating intercepts and forcing errors with consistent pressure.

Midcourt support from Matilda Trew, Charlee Pedersen and Macy Piera kept the game flowing, with clever passing and relentless drive.

Despite being short on senior players, the team showed depth, determination and unity running out the game with energy and confidence.

Best on court: Ellie Hennessy and Macy Piera.

A proud moment for this young group, proving that age is just a number when you've got heart, hustle and teamwork.

Scores: Phillip Island 41 to Korumburra 20.

U13

What a game, Phillip Island came away with a thrilling one-point win over Korumburra in a nail-biter from start to finish.

A huge shoutout to Kalani and Liv Clark from the U11s for stepping up and filling in. Your support made all the difference.

Best on court goes to Evie, Alice and Eden Blake, who made an incredible impact in her welcome back game after injury.

Awesome to have you back, Eden.

Well done girls such a gutsy and exciting win for the Island.

Scores: Phillip Island 26 to Korumburra 25.

More netball reports, at pisra.com.au/sport



Lisa Jones in defence in the Kilcunda Bass A Grade match.

Killy Bass and Dalyston battle it out

NETBALL

A Grade

Killy Bass girls came out with a strong first quarter, levelling with Dalyston at the quarter break.

However Dalyston's physical pressure couldn't be matched and they managed to sneak the lead away.

Killy Bass girls had some great patches of play, out-skilling their opponents however the margin was too far out, and Killy Bass let the game slip.

Onto another tough competitor Inverloch next week.

Best on court: Sophie.

B Grade

After a challenging few weeks with two close losses, the girls came together determined to support each other and leave everything on the court.

They started with a positive mindset, which showed in their strong, composed play, taking it right up to Dalyston and heading into half-time with a four-goal lead.

Dalyston responded with a good third quarter, closing the gap and overtaking by three-quarter time.

Kilcunda Bass never gave up, fighting hard to the final whistle and producing some of their best netball of the season.

While the win just slipped away, the girls proved they can compete at this level and will keep pushing for the next victory.

Final Score: Kilcunda Bass 44 to Dalyston 48.

Best on court: Kiara Brusamarello.

More netball reports, at pisra.com.au/sport

Grand Final success:

A massive congratulations to the U13 PIFNC Casey team who won their netball grand final. With scores level at half time, the girls gave it their all in the third quarter to take and then hold the lead. Final score 14-18.



U15 grand final winners

An amazing grand final performance from the U15 Casey team, securing the game in a convincing 17-9 win. A big congratulations to Miranda who was named Best On Court in the game. Thanks to the coaches, team managers and parents for supporting the girls throughout the season.

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 9 JUL	THU 10 JUL	FRI 11 JUL	SAT 12 JUL	SUN 13 JUL	MON 14 JUL	TUE 15 JUL
LOW 4:03 am 0.84 m	LOW 5:00 am 0.81 m	LOW 5:57 am 0.76 m	HIGH 12:44 am 2.45 m	HIGH 1:42 am 2.52 m	HIGH 2:35 am 2.59 m	HIGH 3:26 am 2.65 m
HIGH 11:34 am 2.70 m	HIGH 12:31 pm 2.78 m	HIGH 1:26 pm 2.88 m	LOW 6:49 am 0.70 m	LOW 7:39 am 0.66 m	LOW 8:26 am 0.63 m	LOW 9:11 am 0.65 m
LOW 4:59 pm 1.61 m	LOW 6:02 pm 1.58 m	LOW 7:00 pm 1.50 m	HIGH 2:15 pm 2.96 m	HIGH 3:00 pm 3.03 m	HIGH 3:41 pm 3.06 m	HIGH 4:18 pm 3.06 m
HIGH 10:35 pm 2.38 m	HIGH 11:41 pm 2.39 m		LOW 7:51 pm 1.40 m	LOW 8:37 pm 1.28 m	LOW 9:19 pm 1.15 m	LOW 10:00 pm 1.01 m

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Award winners for U12 Red Fletcher Hennessy, Taj Henzen, Nic Ramage and Tanner Lee.

Phillip Island Red juniors defend home turf

FOOTBALL

U10 Red

What a cracker of a day for our U10 Red team side against Leongatha.

Led by our creative and inspiring captain Darcy, who delivered a ripper pre-game address, the team hit the field full of energy. Seb F and Sid were great in the midfield feeding the forward line where Ryker led beautifully.

The second quarter saw plenty of tackles, handballs and shepherds.

Mason also had a rock-solid quarter playing a kick behind the play, and Harvey also gave it his all. In the third, the action stepped up with Ryden and Rusty holding their positions well, and found space for easy kicks.

The final term had plenty of positives too. Jethro and Logan were fantastic on the wings, and Xander saved a certain goal with a sensational tackle.

Awards: Darcy, Ryden, Mason and Logan.

U12 Red

Led by this week's captain Ryan (aka Dusty), our team faced off against Leongatha, the second-best team in the competition.

We came out firing, with Alfie kicking the first goal of the match and setting the tone early. But as the game wore on, Leongatha's height and strength started to show, gradually swinging the momentum in their favour.

Despite this the team never gave up.

A spirited second-half comeback kept the pressure on and showcased the resilience and heart of all the players.

In the end, Leongatha came away with the win, but there was plenty to be proud

of.

Final Score: Phillip Island 16 to Leongatha 40.

Special mention to the Player of the Match, Fletcher, for his outstanding performance.

A big shoutout to the coach Mick and his coaching staff for the respect, kindness and inclusivity they bring to our team each and every week. Mick's leadership makes all the difference.

Goals: Alfie and Taj.

Awards: Fletcher, Nic, Tanner and Taj.

Well done team, heads held high and onto the next one.

U14 Red

It was another perfectly sunny Sunday morning for the Phillip Island Red team to play at home against the Leongatha Parrots.

The Red Doggies played an incredibly impressive game, where they showed not only their ball skills, but also how they work well as a team, allowing them to stay in the contest throughout the game.

It was a close match, with every quarter being a point or two difference.

Unfortunately, with a one-minute left on the clock, Leongatha were able to score a goal, ending in a loss for the Red Bulldogs.

Final Score: Phillip Island 5.6.36 to Leongatha 6.5.41.

Goals: Xavier Homes 3 and Jaxon Summerfield 2.

Much deserved awards went to: Flynn Doig, Ziggy Wagner, Dexter Goodall and Roy Paterson.

Best players went to: Bowie Edwards, Jaxon Summerfield, Roy Paterson, Harvey Paterson, Xavier Holmes and Dexter Goodall.



Travis Tuck fends off in style in the Seniors match against Dalyston. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Kilcunda Bass face off with Dalyston

FOOTBALL

Seniors

A beautiful day at Dalyston last week and Killy Bass headed down the highway full of hope.

Dalyston started quickly, but in the first half the team were able to control them and limit the margin going into the half time break.

After the break, Dalyston played very hard and Killy Bass struggled to adjust.

A bitterly disappointing loss, but the team will look to bounce back next week.

Best on ground: Travis Tuck.

Final score: Killy Bass 48 to Dalyston 97.

Reserves

It was also a tough day in the twos.

The score was close in the first quarter, and Killy Bass boys battled hard all day.

A tough final quarter extended the lead that Dalyston had all day and Killy Bass went down 32

to 55.

Best on ground: Ned Bradley.

U16

Up against a team desperate for a win on their home deck, the boys were prepared for a tough contest.

The first quarter saw Dalyston jump out of the blocks with a quick clearance and goal in the first 30 seconds.

Following that wake-up call, the team got to work putting their heads over the ball.

As the territory game started to go our way, the forwards got in on the action, with Harvey, Cooper and Ty offering strong leads out front and supported well at ground level by Cruz and Bryce.

A crafty centring pass by Cruz saw Ty get the Panthers' first goal of the day.

The second and third quarters saw some of the hardest footy the boys have played this season,

with both teams putting their bodies on the line and not taking a backwards step.

As the game went on, through hard work and great discipline, the young Killy Bass side managed to stretch the lead with Harvey, Juzzy, Gus and Bryce all goaling.

The backline was simply outstanding.

With non-stop tackling pressure and hard running, the boys were able to get the ball back and with precision passing, turn defence onto offence time and again.

A strong contribution from every player for the full four quarters, saw the boys grind out a well-earned 32-point win.

Best players: Tyler Duell, Bryce Lawrence, Justin Braumann-Hall, Ty Amato, Jem Hennekam and Cruz Maund.

Goals: Harvey Leary 2, Ty Amato, Bryce Lawrence, Justin Braumann-Hall and Angus Oats 1.

Kilcunda Bass set for clash with Wonthaggi

FOOTBALL

U14

Another sunny Sunday at Wonthaggi.

Coming up against the top team, Killy Bass knew it was going to be a tough game.

The boys started strong giving every contest 100 per cent and it showed on the scoreboard.

Leading for most of the game, the boys were playing great team football.

An unlucky 25 metre penalty gave Wonthaggi a shot at goal after the siren to give them a win by four points.

What a great game of football. This just goes to show what the team is capable of.

Awards: Dominik Accuna, Noah Margarie, Travis Hockley and Jackson Henderson.

U12

Kilcunda Bass took on Wonthaggi Power at Wonthaggi on a sunny winter's day.

Bass were dominant across all areas of the

ground, controlling possession and dictating the tempo of the game.

The only thing missing was scoreboard impact, as they let several opportunities slip in front of goal.

Despite that, the style and spirit of play were outstanding.

Their teamwork and ball movement were on full display, resulting in some beautiful passages of play that showcased how far they've come.

Defensively, Chaze Poulton and Lerah Schoneville were rock solid, continually pressing up and cutting off the opposition's forward entries.

In the midfield, Bailey Pool once again led from the front with his relentless tackling and pressure around the contest.

Out wide, Saylor Maund and Clancy Quinlan found plenty of the ball and used the space to great effect, providing strong link-up options throughout.

Maverick Loughridge brought real physicality at both ends of the ground, leading the way with multiple smotherers and pres-

sure acts. Up forward, Alfie Russo worked tirelessly to provide a target and was involved in several scoring chains.

Final scores: Kilcunda Bass 2.12.24 to Wonthaggi 1.4.10.

Goals: Bailey Pool and Saylor Maund.

Best Players: Chaze Poulton, Bailey Pool, Lerah Schoneville and Saylor Maund, Maverick Loughridge and Alfie Russo.

Awards: Byron Dinnie, River Dow, Dallas Bettles and Coby Dobson.

A great team performance and a terrific sign of the development across the group.

Well done to all.

U10

Kilcunda Bass got off to a good start, kicking the first goal.

It was a very even game overall, with all the kids playing well and continuing to improve week by week.

A big thank you to the Wonthaggi kids who helped the team out with numbers due to illnesses in the team.

Great sportsmanship all round.



Well done to Charlie Fischer on making his debut for the Gippsland Power Under 18s team. Charlie, who is part of the Under 16s program, earned the exciting call-up to the U18 side and proudly pulled on the jumper for the first time at Craigieburn's Highgate Recreation Reserve. Here at his jumper presentation with proud parents Aileen and Glen.



Gemma Fischer, with her parents Aileen and Glen, has been selected to play AFL football in Sydney this July, an incredible achievement and exciting opportunity to showcase her talent on the national stage.



Max Taylor had a career highlight kicking five goals in the U18 match.



Darcy Thompson played his first Seniors match and was presented with his jumper.



Tyce Kleverkamp played his role in the Seniors match and named in the best on ground.

Island clean sweep against Korumburra-Bena

FOOTBALL

Seniors

The Seniors produced one of their most complete games of the season, dominating from start to finish in a comprehensive 97-point win.

The midfield group, led by the experienced Cameron Pedersen, gave the forwards silver-service delivery and they made no mistake in converting opportunities.

Jack Taylor continued his red-hot form with four goals, while Max Walton and Nick Anderson were ever dangerous around goal.

Hayden Bruce led from the front with toughness and clean disposal, while the Bruce brothers Hayden and Charlie each hit the scoreboard and contributed to the win with physical presence.

The defensive unit held strong throughout, with Tyce Kleverkamp and Daniel Pearce breaking lines and creating rebound from the back half.

This strong performance positions the Bulldogs well heading into a key clash next round. **Final Score:** Phillip Island 18.17.125 def Korumburra Bena 4.4.28.

Goal Kickers: Jack Taylor 4, Max Walton, Jack Huther, Jay Ladson, Darcy Thompson and Nick Anderson 2, Hayden Bruce, Charlie Bruce, Billy Taylor and Charles O'Garey 1. **Best Players:** Hayden Bruce, Max Walton, Cameron Pedersen, Tyce Kleverkamp, Daniel Pearce and Jack Taylor.

Next weekend, the Bulldogs return home for a blockbuster clash against Tooradin-Dalmore.

With finals fast approaching, this match will be a key



Beau Davies showing off his skills in the Reserves match against Korumburra.

opportunity to solidify top-four positions across all grades.

Let's pack the boundary and get behind the boys as they look to keep their momentum going.

Reserves

The Reserves delivered a powerful and polished performance, executing a complete team effort across all four quarters.

The Bulldogs' forward line functioned cohesively, with Travis Woodfield finishing with three majors and eight other players adding their names to the goal scorers list.

James Nicolaci's forward pressure and goal sense were excellent, while Joel Galvin had a standout game, dominating both in the air and at ground level.

The midfield brigade led by Finlay Cousins and Ethan Michaelides provided drive and clean delivery into the forward line, while Max Mattock and Timothy Niven held strong in defence, repelling

Korumburra Bena's forward entries and setting up attacking plays from the back half.

The depth and versatility on display in the Reserves is a promising sign heading into the final rounds of the season. **Final Score:** Phillip Island 18.8.86 def Korumburra Bena 3.7.25.

Goal Kickers: Travis Woodfield 3, James Nicolaci and Oliver Hibbert 2, Thomas Niven, Finlay Cousins, Ethan Michaelides, Bryce Pewtress, Alexander Officer and Joel Galvin 1.

Best Players: Joel Galvin, Finlay Cousins, Max Mattock, Timothy Niven, Ethan Michaelides and James Nicolaci.

U18

The Phillip Island thirds continued their dominant season with a commanding win over Korumburra Bena.

From the opening bounce, the Bulldogs asserted control, demonstrating impressive structure, clean ball use and relentless pressure.

Max Taylor was unstoppable

up forward, kicking a game-high five goals and providing a constant threat inside 50.

Finn O'Brien's three goals and dynamic play through the midfield and forward line made him a standout, while Bailey Hennessy contributed both on the scoreboard and with his pressure around the contest.

Ayden Fawaz's strength at the coalface helped drive the ball forward consistently, with Max Kelsey and Yianni Caffieri also applying scoreboard pressure.

The team's ability to spread, link up through the corridor, and finish their work in front of goal was a testament to their training and on-field discipline.

Final Score: Phillip Island 17.12.114 def Korumburra Bena 2.1.13.

Goal Kickers: Max Taylor 5, Finn O'Brien 3, Cooper Walton, Yianni Caffieri and Max Kelsey 2, Bailey Hennessy, Ayden Fawaz and Blake Murphy 1.

Best Players: Bailey Hennessy, Ayden Fawaz, Max Taylor, Noah Forrest Mabilia, Max Kelsey and Finn O'Brien.

U16

Nine U14 boys filled in for U16 to win a thriller at Korumburra with a goal kicked from the boundary with seconds to go to win the game.

Final Score: Phillip Island 3.8.26 def Korumburra Bena 3.3.21.

Goal Kickers: Caleb Cantwell, Ry Scott and Charlie Fischer all kicking 1 goal each.

Best Players: Charlie Fischer, Jack Mascaros, Hayden Power, Roy Paterson, Sam O'Garey and Jesse Moschetti.

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