



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST



New Western Bulldogs recruit Zac Walker has been overwhelmed by the reaction after he was drafted to the AFL last week. More photos at pisra.com.au

Swapping kennels: Zac heads to Western Bulldogs

FOOTBALL

Keeping his colours red, white and blue, local footballer Zac Walker has been recruited to the AFL's Western Bulldogs.

The young player's feet have barely touched the ground since last Wednesday's announcement, telling the Advertiser things still felt "pretty surreal".

Trading one Bulldogs club for another, the 19-year-old Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) player has already moved to Melbourne to begin training with the Western Bulldogs.

Zac had an AFL Sports Ready Traineeship at Newhaven College, and the school celebrated

with him on his final day, saying they were thrilled with the news.

Eager students swarmed Zac last Thursday, wanting his autograph, offering paper, footballs, water bottles, shoes, lip balm containers and even some foreheads for him to sign.

A similarly enthusiastic reception awaited the new recruit when he attended a Phillip Island Bulldogs training session that night.

Cam Pedersen, himself a former AFL player, the club's head coach and a teacher at Newhaven College, was full of praise.

"Zac is a hard-working, dedicated individual who seeks feedback and acts upon it to better

himself," said Cam.

"Talented but humble, he makes connections with those around him. Phillip Island Football Club has long supported Zac and could not be prouder of the man he has become."

Chris Ross, President of PIFNC said the draft result was "seriously the greatest news I've heard all year".

"The club couldn't be any prouder of Zac. He's an extremely humble, genuine, wonderful young man, and all his hard work is paying off.

"He started there on Monday morning, and is straight into becoming a full-time footballer."

Zac joined the PIFNC as a

youngster, starting with the AusKick program.

Chris described his selection – the first local player to be drafted to the AFL since Sam Docherty – as a feel-good story, saying Zac showed perseverance and resilience after he got cut last year from Gippsland Power.

"It has brought the club so much joy to see him reach this goal in his football career," said Chris.

"This is a community club; it's about families and supporting each other, and Zac's story illustrates that. Everyone has a stake in this."

That stake was clear to see when Zac attended last Thurs-

day night's training session and the weekend games, with kids running up to him to get autographs.

Scott Huther is part of the senior coaching team at PIFNC and said it was great to have one of the local kids drafted to the AFL.

"He has inspired his mates, and the kids coming up through the club, even the 20- to 23-year-olds," Scott said.

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King's Birthday
Real Estate
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10 14	10 15	9 15	9 15	9 13	9 13	10 13

Community leaders recognised

AWARDS

Phillip Island's Sarah Pedersen was named 2025's Community Leader, in recognition of her charity work supporting breast cancer care.

The Contribution to Sports Leadership Award was won by the Bass Coast Breakers women's football team.

Twelve-year-old Isla Fillery won the Next Generation Award, while the Community Group award went to the Bass Valley Community Group.

Sarah's award recognised her work as co-founder of Shades of Pink, a charity which raises over \$100,000 each year, through events like the football Pink Round and ladies' luncheons. Sarah is also a fixture at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, volunteering rain, hail or shine.

In presenting the award, the council said, "Sarah's commitment to community and quiet leadership make her a shining example of compassion in action".

The Bass Coast Community Awards honour the region's most dedicated volun-

teers and inspiring community leaders.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead presented awards across four categories: Contribution to Sports Leadership, Next Generation Leader, Community Group, and Community Leader.

Taking home the Sports Leadership award, the Breakers were heralded as champions of inclusion, leadership, and connection. Their annual Pride Match and advocacy for causes like road safety and organ donation are testament to their far-reaching impact – on and off the field.

The Community Group Award recognised the essential support provided by the Bass Valley Community Group, from aged care and digital access to social connection and hardship relief.

Next Generation Award winner Isla Fillery was praised for her "extraordinary compassion and leadership ... from supporting peers facing mental health challenges to volunteering with local charities".

The award presentation night at the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club coincided with National Volunteers Week.



Phillip Island's Sarah Pedersen was named 2025's Community Leader, in recognition of her charity work supporting breast cancer care. Photo: Piers Buxton.

Health Hub anything but trivial

FUNDRAISER

A sold-out Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary's annual trivia fundraising night, held at the Bowling Club in Cowes on Saturday night, was a great success.

Approximately \$3000 was raised which will go towards the cost of updated anaesthetic machines for the facility.

Auxiliary members Gill Scrase, Michelle Gaunt, Amanda Drennan, Wayne Stanley and Harold Jackson presented the winning team Silverleaves Electrical, with their prize. From left: Brian and Bev Bond, Jessica Trigg, Phoenix Coulton, Elaine Lloyd, Toby Wall, Carly Bond and Inge Royce.



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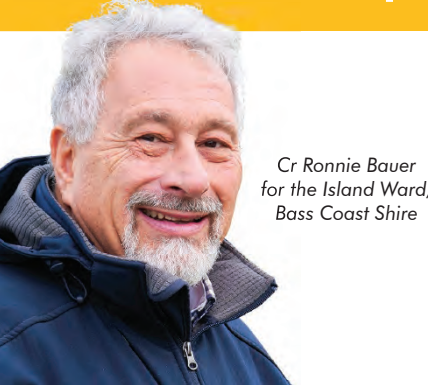
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Unofficial drought, as water restrictions on the table

CLIMATE

Autumn was the driest recorded on Phillip Island, according to the Rhyll weather station, while farmers are reporting the driest weather conditions in a century, amid an unofficial drought.

Almost half our water supply has been sourced from Melbourne for about a year, with Westernport Water now changing its language around the potential for restrictions, saying it is “actively considering options to manage demand in response to low rainfall”.

So far this year the island has had just 105mm, with 69mm in autumn. The Bureau of Meteorology says this comes on the back of a “severe deficiency” of rain in this area since 2023. This March total rainfall was 28.4mm, compared to the average 38.6mm.

April’s total was 13.8mm (average 59.7mm), the lowest recorded at the Rhyll weather station. May was 27.4mm, a dramatic drop on the average of 73.3mm, which is roughly the equal lowest recorded.

When this year’s autumn rains are tallied, no other autumn was drier, with Ventnor’s records going back to 1915 and Rhyll’s to 1994.

According to Rhyll, the next driest autumn was in 2005 when the tally was 90.8mm.

The next lowest in Ventnor was in 1945, where March recorded 15.7mm, April 17mm, but May made up for the loss with 72.5mm (total 105.4mm).

The Bureau of Meteorology’s drought report showed for the 25-months since April 2023, Phillip Island recorded serious rainfall deficiencies, which are record low rainfall totals in the lowest

five per cent since 1900.

While drought declarations are no longer used by government, the State Government last month acknowledged the drought by offering support for farmers in Bass Coast, acknowledging the rapidly deteriorating conditions and the failed season.

Last week the government also announced because of the drought farmers would be spared an increase to the contentious emergency services and volunteers levy for 25/26.

Nationals’ Melina Bath said primary producers in Bass Coast were under “enormous stress”.

“Local beef and dairy farmers concerns are consistent – little to no fodder, soil moisture gone, dams drying up, looking at or forced to de-stock, financial hardship, mental anguish, and inadequate support from government,” Ms Bath said.

“Meanwhile the government is using water from the Wonthaggi desalination plant to supply gardens in Melbourne and Geelong, but our farmers are high and dry.”

Local farmers agreed they were under considerable stress.

Rhyll sheep farmer Ian McFee, a fourth-generation farmer, said he had never seen it drier at this time of year.

“It’s the worst conditions I’ve ever seen by far,” said Ian, 76.

Ventnor dairy farmer Adam Eldridge last week secured silage from Dubbo, with two trucks of feed costing \$24,000, which will last three weeks.

“Yes I agree, it’s the worst I’ve seen,” Adam said.

Surf Beach beef farmer Bill Cleeland said conditions had “become much worse”.

“There is very little feed in the paddocks and we’re hand feeding daily. Hay supplies in Victoria and South Australia have dried up so we are now getting hay from NSW,” Bill said.

“This will also become scarce as they will need it up there for flood affected areas so there is hay coming down from Queensland now.”

Restrictions?

Candowie Reservoir has been sitting at a perpetual 42 per cent for several weeks, or 1900 million litres (ML), with Westernport Water taking 45 per cent of our 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.

A spokesperson for the water authority said there remained 20 months’ worth of demand from the Melbourne allocation, which meant supply remained “secure”.

“Westernport Water will continue to supplement supply from the Melbourne Water Supply System whilst inflows remain low,” the spokesperson said.

“This has enabled us to keep our local water supply stable.”

However, when asked about the potential for restrictions, the spokesperson said Westernport Water was “actively considering options to manage demand in response to low rainfall”.

In April, the water authority answered that question by saying “while there are currently no plans to introduce water restrictions, we are keeping a close eye



Phillip Island farmers, including Rhyll’s Ian McFee, say conditions have “become much worse”. Bill Cleeland at Surf Beach says there is scarce feed in paddocks and they’re hand feeding daily, with hay supplies in Victoria and South Australia unavailable and hay being carted from NSW and soon Queensland.

on conditions”.

They explained the connection to the pipeline that runs from Melbourne to the desalination plant was in Bass.

“At any one time, water can only flow one way. If Westernport Water is accessing water from the Melbourne Water Supply System, it is sourced from the Desalination Plant when it’s running (water flows from the plant towards Melbourne via Bass).

“If it’s not running, water is flowing from the other direction from the Cardinia Reservoir towards Bass.”

To see if the desalination plant is running go to: melbournewater.com.au/water-and-environment/water-management/water-storage-levels/desalination-data

Details: farmers visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or phone 136 186.

Above average bushfire risk this winter

CLIMATE

Phillip Island and Bass Coast face an increased bushfire risk in winter after a warm and dry autumn, according to the Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook.

March and April saw the fourth highest temperatures on record, below average rainfall across much of Victoria and an extension of the Fire Danger Period in some parts of the state for the first time since 2019.

According to the outlook, these conditions – coupled with existing underlying dryness –

has led to a higher level of dried grass and vegetation.

In grassland, halted pasture growth has led to grazed-out or bare conditions.

As a result, an above average bushfire risk is predicted for much of southwest Gippsland, extending into central, southwest and northwest Victoria, as well as parts of northeast Victoria this winter.

“The increased risk isn’t for long-running bushfires, but events caused by uncontrolled burn-offs and other activities,” the outlook said.

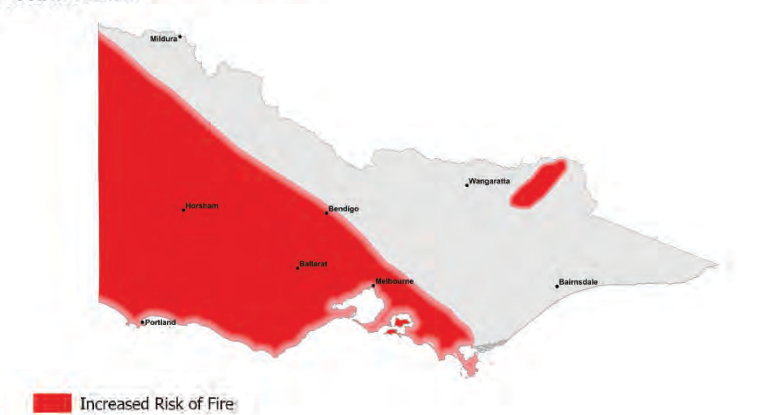
Normal rainfall is expected

this winter, however fires are possible on dry and windy days in areas with dry or cured vegetation.

The outlook recommends registering a burn-off and monitoring weather conditions, having sufficient equipment and water to stop a fire spreading and never leaving a burn-off unattended.

The Seasonal Outlook for winter is developed by the Australian and New Zealand Fire and Emergency Services Council (AFAC) with the Bureau of Meteorology, and state fire managers.

Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Winter 2025



The Victorian seasonal bushfire outlook for winter shows an increased risk of bushfire in Phillip Island and across Bass Coast.

Bridge still safe, says government

INFRASTRUCTURE

The State Government has said the Phillip Island bridge is safe for all users, and the \$50.4 million rehabilitation project announced last month would ensure it remained safe for generations.

The project is part of the 2025/26 budget, and would include replacement of beams, pier legs, piles and handrails.

The announcement prompted one local resident to ask if “someone, professional or otherwise” could provide an assurance the bridge was “safe to traverse until the \$50 million repairs can be carried out”.

“Or do we just cross our fingers, pray for deliverance and hope our affairs are in order, just in case,” they queried.

A Department of Transport

and Planning spokesperson said the bridge was safe to use.

“The Victorian Budget 2025/26 has invested \$50.4 million to rehabilitate the San Remo Bridge, ensuring the Phillip Island community remains connected to the mainland and can cater to the 3.5 million tourists that visit every year.

“Works are progressing to finalise delivery timeframes for the San Remo Bridge, including expected completion dates.”

In recent years, the Phillip Island bridge has been subject to consistent and progressively more thorough inspections by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).

This included DTP inspections over six days in 2021, and installing sensors to monitor the bridge’s structural condition and performance in February this year.

DTP also engaged a consultant for a three-month Level 3 investigation, which “collected and analysed optical imagery, lidar, acoustic and thermal data which provided digital insights and accurate defect quantification” of the bridge.

The DTP did not respond to the Advertiser’s question if the results of the reports and inspections undertaken over the past four years, would be made publicly available.

In 2024, some residents speculated the bridge was well past its original use by date and was showing signs of deterioration, stating several cracks in each pylon are visible at low tide, and there have been reports of ‘spalling’ – where fragments of concrete break off a larger body – of which concrete cancer is a cause.



The State Government said the Phillip Island bridge is safe for all users, and it is working to finalise delivery timeframes for the \$50.4 million rehabilitation project, including expected completion dates.

Parking debate: more or less cars

COUNCIL

More parking may be made available on council-owned land to ease the parking squeeze in towns, with Bass Coast Shire councillors debating the problem.

At the May meeting, councillors voted six to two in support of a motion moved by Cr Ronnie Bauer to prepare a report that will also examine expanding boat trailer parking to cars with no trailers in peak season.

The report will also investigate making illegal parking on streets outside the main CBD of towns, as well as extra disability parking. In the last term of council Cr Bauer unsuccessfully moved a similar motion to expand parking options, but was defeated by one vote, with councillors at that time arguing the upcoming Integrated Transport Study (ITS) would detail parking options.

Now, with the release of the ITS and a new group of councillors Cr Bauer had more success. The draft ITS, which was open for community feedback until May 11, states building new carparks is not a key priority, but making better use of existing carparks is.

It states building more parking spaces "in an attempt to absorb spikes in demand during a very small portion of the year" is not a good use of assets, is costly and does not add to the attractiveness of towns.

However, Cr Bauer said he was a "realist" and the only way to get to Bass Coast was by car.

"The ITS deals mainly with methods of transport when you get here and is very light on strategies on how we accommodate the cars," Cr Bauer said.

"Community members constantly bail me up begging me to do something about the parking."

"If we want to project ourselves as the premier tourist destination, then we have to provide much better parking arrangements."

"Hoping people will ride bikes and use public transport on demand buses will require a monumental mind shift."

Cr Bauer said Airbnb's added to the parking squeeze.

"This problem will not disappear."



Cr Ronnie Bauer successfully moved a motion for council to prepare a report to examine expanding boat trailer parking to cars with no trailers in peak season. In May 2024, Cr Bauer failed to get support for a similar motion to address parking issues in Cowes.

"We need to look at the here and now. We have to alleviate the parking congestion."

Opposed

Cr Tracey Bell voted against the motion – with Cr Mat Morgan – and said she supported boat ramps being used for cars with no trailers in the off season and some of the parking around Airbnb's was "getting out of hand".

"The answer to where to put the car: Visitors drive to Bass Coast and drive to their accommodation and leave it there," Cr Bell said.

"Families would be happy on holidays to walk or ride their bike to town."

"The key that is missing is not parking but safe infrastructure to ride or walk."

"I'd much prefer the money be spent on that than multi-level carparks."

Cr Bell said older residents would still have access to carparking or could use motorised buggies and there should be a trial of on demand buses in summer.

"We have an opportunity with the ITS that moves towards the ideal," she said.

"Destination Phillip Island and Nature Parks are promoting Phillip Island as an eco-destination and we should be getting on board to support that brand. Dis-

couraging the overuse of cars is key to that."

Support

Cr Meg Edwards agreed with both arguments.

"We need to lead as a council in how we behave. Are we using public transport or carpooling when we can?" Cr Edwards said.

"That leadership starts with us. Until we start walking the talk we can't push it on our communities."

Cr Jon Temby said carparking was recognised as a problem in parts of the shire, especially in high usage times of the year.

"But it's really important the ITS occur because it looks at all the factors," Cr Temby said.

"It's important the big picture is investigated prior to (when) individual decisions are made."

Cr Tim O'Brien said we were "stuck with cars for a long time", but issues need to be addressed soon.

"Roads are not just for cars but for people to get around," Cr O'Brien said.

"We can't get ahead of the game. We have to absorb both things that are happening."

"We have to work out what to do within the nexus."

Cr Jan Thompson said she was a disabled person who found it difficult to get parking in Bass Coast, especially in Cowes, and the area's older population can't use buses or footpaths.

"However I see the merits of bus on call," she said.

"I see the merits of both."

A council officer confirmed it could be premature to implement some of the actions detailed in the motion if the community sentiment from the consultation was different.

"There is an opportunity for councillors through consideration of the ITS in coming months to incorporate actions from the notice of motion into the document. That would be a cleaner way," the officer said.

Cr Bauer responded the motion would be implemented into the ITS and he supported alternative ways to travel around the island.

"I'm bringing it forward to tailor the ITS, not replace the ITS" he said.



Newhaven College's Prep to Year 12 campus fosters connections across all age groups, with mentorship and cross-age tutoring actively embraced by the entire school community. Learn more at the upcoming College Tour on Wednesday June 18.

Newhaven College enrolment call

Junior years near capacity, senior students invited to enrol

Newhaven College is experiencing an exciting surge in enrolments for its Prep to Year 8 classes, with nearly all year levels approaching full capacity for 2026. This growth reflects the community's strong confidence in the College's nurturing environment, excellent teaching, and commitment to small class sizes that support individual learning.

The demand is so high the College is actively welcoming interest from families considering Prep enrolment for next year with the view for potential expansion.

Principal Tony Corr says, "We are thrilled by the response from families who value the quality education and strong community at Newhaven College. Keeping class sizes small is a priority for us."

The Junior School is also poised for exciting growth with plans underway for new classrooms, pending final approvals. These new facilities will provide modern, flexible learning spaces designed to inspire curiosity and creativity, reinforcing the College's commitment to fostering the whole child.

While Prep to Year 8 buzzes with increasing enrolments, Newhaven College's Senior School (Years 9 to 12) continues to offer a dynamic and enriching curriculum that prepares students for success beyond school.

Limited places are still available in the Senior School for this year, and beyond, providing an excellent opportunity for new



The Perpetual Motor Program (PMP) helps develop key motor skills and supports cognitive growth, concentration and classroom readiness. Prep Sunny Jose enjoys the program on a weekly basis.

students to join a vibrant learning community focused on academic excellence, leadership development, and real-world skills.

Families interested in enrolling for Senior School are encouraged to explore the range of programs with a suite of extra-curricular opportunities tailored to develop confident, capable young adults ready for the challenges of the future.

Anyone interested in learning more about the College is encouraged to attend the upcoming College Tour on Wednesday June 18.

Book through the College website: newhavencol.vic.edu.au

For more information or to register interest in Prep or Senior School enrolments, contact the College Admissions Team admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au or 03 5956 7505.

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Founded by Dr Carmen Brown, Magnolia Women's Health is a dedicated private practice focused exclusively on the care and support of women experiencing perimenopause and menopause.

Dr Brown is a dual-certified obstetrician and gynaecologist, holding fellowship with both the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). With over 20 years of clinical experience across the United States, New Zealand, and regional Australia, Dr Brown brings a truly global and expert perspective to her care.

As a proud member of the Australasian Menopause Society, the International Menopause Society, and the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health, Dr



Magnolia Women's Health believes women navigating menopause deserve more than generic advice or rushed consultations, and offer specialised, respectful, and evidence-based care that's tailored to your individual needs. Photo: FreePik.

Brown remains at the forefront of the latest research and treatment innovations. She offers both hormonal and non-hormonal therapy options and believes in crafting care plans that are evidence-based, personalised, and holistic – because no two women experience menopause the same way.

What sets Magnolia Women's Health apart is not just clinical expertise, but a deep commitment to accessibility. As a resident and active member of our regional community, Dr Brown recognises the barriers women can face when seeking menopause support in rural and regional settings. Too often, women are left to navigate this stage of life without guidance or are forced to travel long distances to find knowledgeable, compassionate care.

At Magnolia Women's Health, we are changing that. Whether you are struggling with brain fog, fatigue, mood changes, hot flushes, sleep disturbances, low libido, vaginal dryness, or just feel that something

is "off", help is available – and it's local. You don't have to suffer in silence or be told it's just part of ageing.

We aim to offer a supportive environment where women feel seen, heard and empowered. Our consultations are designed to take the time needed to understand your symptoms, lifestyle, health history and goals. Together, we create a care plan that fits you – not a one-size-fits-all approach, but a collaborative journey to wellness.

If you are in perimenopause, post-menopause, or just starting to ask questions about what comes next, Magnolia Women's Health is here for you. Let us help you rediscover energy, confidence and balance during this transformative stage of life.

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/ Sponsored article /



A helicopter delivers new material and removes demolished material at Forrest Caves, ahead of the final stage of construction of beach access in the area.

Access upgrade in final stage

FORREST CAVES

Last week, a helicopter delivered new material and removed demolished material at Forrest Caves, ahead of the final stage of construction of beach access in the area.

Phillip Island Nature Parks said the aerial delivery occurred following the departure of the short-tailed shearwaters, and aimed to minimise impacts on the environment by ensuring the sensitivities of the dune site are maintained and work can be conducted safely and efficiently.

"Importantly, our construction timeline ensured there was limited work undertaken through the short-tailed shearwater fledgling period, which finishes

each year in early to mid-May," the Nature Parks spokesperson said.

"Construction of the southern stairway is now underway and the upgrade completion and reopening of the site is scheduled for September.

"We would like to thank the community for patience as we continue to upgrade infrastructure throughout the Nature Parks beaches and reserves."

Nature Parks also advised a helicopter would be used this week to lift materials from Summerlands to Seal Rocks, "for critical maintenance works to our research hut". Depending on weather conditions, the work is due to take place on Thursday, June 5.



THE WATERBOY CAFÉ

New owners of The Waterboy Café, Parjit and Aman have taken the reins of this well-known and much-loved establishment in Cowes. The local couple bring decades of hospitality experience, and are excited to welcome new and familiar faces to their café. Currently open from Wednesday to Sunday, 8am to 2.30pm (with plans to open six days a week soon). Pop in and say hi — you'll be welcomed with big hearts.



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Another lifesaving defib unit installed

HEALTH

What started as a frightening emergency has turned into a story of community, compassion, and action – thanks to the generous support of Community Bank Cowes.

Last week, PI Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre received a brand-new publicly accessible defibrillator and outdoor alarmed cabinet, fully funded and donated by Community Bank Cowes.

The lifesaving equipment will be installed between PI Tenpin and the adjacent 24-hour gym, where it will be available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This donation comes in response to a traumatic incident that deeply affected the local community.

Just weeks ago, an 86-year-old man – a much-loved regular bowler – went into sudden cardiac arrest while playing at PI Tenpin. In those critical first moments, fellow patrons rushed to his aid and performed CPR until paramedics arrived.

Over the next two hours, more than ten emergency responders – including an air ambulance crew – worked tirelessly to stabilise him. He was eventually airlifted to hospital. Remarkably, he has since made an incredible recovery – discharged from hospital in late May.

In a heartwarming moment, he even returned to PI Tenpin last week to watch his team bowl on Thursday night.

The situation was a wake-up call.

“It was one of those moments that stays with you forever,” said Craig Holmes, Managing Director of PI Tenpin.

“We all did everything we could, but there’s no doubt that having a defibrillator on hand could have made a huge difference. We knew we had to act – not just for our venue, but for the whole community.”

A proposal was quickly drafted and shared with local organisations, and Community Bank Cowes was the first to



At the presentation of a defib unit by the Community Bank Cowes is PI Tenpin’s Craig Holmes, John Matthews (Community Bank), Jeremy Westaway (PI Tenpin), Leonie Brown and Vanessa Verzaci (Community Bank). The defibrillator will be located outside the building to allow emergency access by community members.

respond.

Thanks to the support of the bank’s board of directors, including Vice Chair John Matthews, the full cost of the defibrillator, outdoor alarmed cabinet, and delivery has been covered. The unit will soon be installed and clearly signposted, bridging a critical gap in local emergency preparedness.

“We were proud to support this lifesaving device in this accessible location,” John Matthews, Vice Chair of the Board of Community Banks of San Remo, Cowes and Grantville commented.

“This defib can make such a difference in a life-or-death situation and gives the Cowes community peace of mind as well.”

Vanessa Verzaci, Company Secretary to the Community Bank Board, said it was the 68th defibrillator the bank had placed in the community since 2013.

“From Grantville to Dalyston, San Remo to Cowes and many places in between, we’re honoured to be able to do

this. And it’s all thanks to the support of our wonderful customers and their everyday banking – we couldn’t do it without them.”

PI Tenpin will take responsibility for ongoing maintenance, ensuring the defibrillator remains ready for use with monthly checks and timely replacement of pads and batteries. It will also be registered with Ambulance Victoria, making it visible to GoodSAM responders and Triple Zero operators during emergencies.

“This is a gift that will never stop giving,” said Jeremy Westaway, Managing Director of PI Tenpin.

“It’s not about ticking a box – it’s about knowing that someone walking by at midnight, or a young family visiting us on the weekend, could get the help they need in seconds.

“We’re beyond grateful to John, the board, and everyone at Community Bank Cowes for making this possible. This defibrillator is for all of us.”

Nobbies closed due to building concerns

TOURISM

Phillip Island Nature Parks closed the Nobbies Centre over the weekend, following issues with the building on Friday morning.

On Friday, Nature Parks CEO Catherine Basterfield said the area had been cordoned off and VMS boards put in place to inform visitors and the community.

“The Nobbies Centre has been temporarily closed as a precaution following an infrastructure issue at the building this morning.

“The issue occurred on the part of the building nearest to the visitor car park and boardwalk entrance and will require rectification works,” Ms Basterfield said.

The building, car park and boardwalks were closed for the weekend, with an engineer’s inspection expected this week.

Over the weekend, the Penguin Parade Visitors Centre opened early, from midday, to accommodate any visitors requiring facilities on the Summerland Peninsula, including food, drink and retail options.

Public toilets were also available at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre carpark.



The Nobbies Centre was temporary closed over the weekend, due to “infrastructure issues” with the building, the carpark and boardwalks also closed. Photo: Connor Vaughan.

Living Lightly

Bass Coast

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Sunday, 22 June – 10am

Coronet Bay Community Garden

| Free

Circular Solutions

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Tuesday, 24 June – 10am

Wonthaggi Library

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San Remo, Cowes and Grantville

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Community Grants Program is a management account of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund). The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. 1409006-1409008 OUT_44379675

Olive Justice “done justice” with new loos

COUNCIL

Olive Justice Place in Cowes will have a new toilet block faster than planned after Bass Coast Shire councillors voted in support of the upgrade.

Cr Ronnie Bauer at the May meeting moved a motion to construct a public toilet block at Olive Justice Place, as part of the Cowes streetscape project, which is about to start stage one and received an \$8 million Federal government grant.

Originally the upgrade of the area was due in stage five, but councillors voted to bring it forward to stage two.

Cr Bauer said a loo could “unobtrusively be tucked in the northwest corner of OJP” and was “desperately needed in the centre of Cowes”.

“The current thinking is that the people can go to the Cowes Cultural Centre. I believe that’s unrealistic. People will be too embarrassed to go to that imposing building to use the loos,” Cr Bauer said.

Cr Bauer said stage one of the Cowes streetscape will make Thompson Avenue one way and “plant a bunch of trees with pretty lights” but “won’t bring an extra tourist or an extra dollar”.

“What we do need is facilities to service the people, resident and tour-

ist alike who visit the CBD of Cowes.”

Originally Cr Bauer wanted the new loo as part of stage one, but council officers said stage one had already been tendered and it was too late to include in the project.

Cr Tim O’Brien said Olive Justice Place had plastic grass at one end and a 20ft shipping container chipped open on the other end and “is not really a reflection of the generosity of the gift”.

He said the beautification in stage two rather than stage five would “honour that generosity”, adding those in wheelchairs would find Olive Justice Place easier to access than the Berninnet or the lower Thompson Avenue toilets.

Cr Tracey Bell said she didn’t see the need for toilets at Olive Justice Place as it was a block to other toilets.

“I’m curious to know how far people in other towns have to walk to a toilet. I’m pretty sure it would be more than one block,” Cr Bell said.

“The reason there was a toilet there previously is because it was the bus stop, the transit centre, but now that transit centre has moved and the toilet block has also moved.

“I do want to see Olive Justice done justice. It would be nice to go back



The site was the former home of Olive Justice, granddaughter of original 1868 settler Charles Grayden. When Olive died in 1995 aged 99 years, she bequeathed the property to the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army placed the property on the market and it was purchased by the Bass Coast Shire Council.

to the original bequest and see why the land was given and what was the original intention for that bit of land.”

Cr Jan Thompson said as a disabled person “walking one or two blocks is a long way”.

Cr Jon Temby said there was logic in having toilets in central Cowes, hav-

ing them available sooner rather than later.

Controversy

Use of the site has been mired in controversy for two decades.

The site was the former home of Olive Justice, granddaughter of original 1868 settler Charles Grayden.

Despite what many in the community believe, Olive Justice did not leave the land to the community. When Olive died in 1995 aged 99 years, she bequeathed the property to the Salvation Army.

The newly-amalgamated Bass Coast Shire Council then purchased the property at market price

for public use when it was put up for sale by the Salvation Army.

Early plans to turn it into a public park and rest area were opposed by members of the business community who argued the area was required for car parking to service the Cowes commercial area.

In 2010 the council of the day decreed Olive Justice Place was surplus to requirements, given parking spaces existed at the rear of the Cowes Cultural Centre and moved that the site be sold.

To facilitate the sale, in 2011, the Exeloo located on the land was relocated to the prominent corner of Thompson Avenue and Chapel Street; a move which was met with community outrage.

All of Phillip Island’s real estate agents of the day then unanimously refused to take any part in selling the land, on the grounds it was not in the community’s best interests for them to do so.

The land was then placed by the council with a Wonthaggi based agent, and put on the market.

The sale of Olive Justice Place, which had not attracted any buyers, became an election issue in 2012 with the sale process then suspended and the site remaining in council ownership.

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Silverleaves hit by sea surge

EROSION

Just weeks after Silverleaves residents felt reassured with the construction of a new rock bag wall comes renewed calls for more fortification of the coast following last week's sea level surge.

Vic Emergency last Monday and Tuesday released new coastal hazard warnings stating abnormally high tides could lead to sea water flooding of low-lying areas, which then saw Silverleaves hit by more erosion.

Silverleaves Conservation Association (SCA) president Louise Hill said the erosion was most serious east of the new 165-metre rock bag wall, with sand carved out behind the bags, causing a large bank-sia to fall.

"Consultants recommended emergency rock bags extend well past this point to near the Silverleaves Reserve track, which is 700-800 metres further," Louise said.

"It has been constructed far shorter than this."

Resident Natalie Gray said given the new erosion, "how can we have confidence in the recommendations of the consultant and the implementation under the management of Bass Coast Shire".

"We would like to trust all levels of government. We need an explanation as to how this has happened and what is being done about it," Natalie said.

"The only area where sand is building up is where there are groynes."

As reported in November last year, an expert cautioned erecting a new wall could have an impact on erosion downstream.

FSC Range consultant Andrew Pomeroy said a sandbag wall (now rock bag wall) would hold the line of erosion in the current location, but would not recover previously lost land.

"That does not mean there might not be erosion in other areas not managed by this



Before: Before the sea surge, this banksia was teetering on the edge.



After: Following the sea water flooding of low-lying areas of Phillip Island, another tree bit the dust at Silverleaves.

particular intervention," Mr Pomeroy said at the time.

"Hopefully there will be minimum impacts downstream, although impacts may still occur.

"Where the works end we will probably expect to see impacts at that location as well."

A new study released by Nature last month indicates sea level rise will become unmanageable at just 1.5C of global heating and lead to "catastrophic inland migration," displacing hundreds of millions from coastal areas.

The scientists said the loss of ice from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets had quadrupled since the 1990s due to the climate crises and was now the principal driver of sea level rise.

Adaptation plan

A Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action spokesperson said the

rock bag wall had protected the most vulnerable section of Silverleaves during the weather event.

"Constructed ahead of Easter 2025, the intention of the rock bag wall was to protect against further erosion of the Crown land foreshore behind the structure footprint," the spokesperson said.

"DEECA continues to work with Bass Coast Shire to monitor coastal hazards in Silverleaves through the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program as well as onsite inspections."

The spokesperson said given community interest following the weather event, DEECA had extended the closing date for consultation on the draft East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan until June 8.

The long-term management of the Silverleaves foreshore was in the draft, they said, with planning "an ongoing, continuous process which will not cease".

The final report will "encompass community sentiment" and will be released by the end of June.

Response

The SCA at the end of May released its response to the draft East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan.

The SCA urged the State Government to reconsider the use of groynes and progress a proposed trial of a reef construction to absorb wave energy.

"While we understand that groynes are an engineered rather than a nature-based approach, we believe a careful assessment of their feasibility, effectiveness, and potential side effects along the full length of Silverleaves beach would be valuable," Louise said.

The SCA said continued erosion monitoring was "essential".

The SCA said while rock bags were "a critical first step", Silverleaves "requires a long-term, coordinated commitment that addresses the full extent of environmental threats, including both coastal erosion and land inundation".

The draft plan recommends no major new engineering projects such as groynes and rock walls for Silverleaves to stop erosion in coming decades.

Instead, it recommends various "nature-based" solutions of "low-profile rock sills, shellfish reef or rock berms" to absorb wave energy, as well as beach nourishment and shoreline plants in the area currently most impacted by erosion.

Towards the easterly end of Silverleaves, the draft says this area is relatively stable compared to western Silverleaves and recommends non-intervention, "reflecting the lower immediate erosion risk".

Details: engage.vic.gov.au/silverleaves-coastal-adaptation-pathways

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Wonthaggi Medical Group expands

HEALTH

The Wonthaggi Medical Group has expanded its healthcare offering, opening a dedicated skin cancer clinic – the sister clinic to the highly regarded Icarus Skin Cancer Clinic in Koo Wee Rup.

The new Wonthaggi-based clinic offers the Bass Coast community expert, local access to vital skin checks and skin cancer treatments without the need for a referral.

Wonthaggi Medical Group Practice Manager Gayle Bloch says the decision to open the clinic had been in the works for some time, but the timing finally felt right.

“Skin cancer management is a big part of the care we provide, and we’ve seen an increase in the need for this service from our community,” she said.

“We’ve seen just how well Icarus is serving the Koo Wee Rup community and now feels like the right time to bring that same level of care and service to Bass Coast.”

Dr Thomas Solano, a rural GP with a Masters in Skin Cancer Medicine from the University of Queensland, will be consulting at the new clinic three days a week. He brings with him a wealth of experience, having previously worked in various



Dr Thomas Solano (centre) will consult at the new Wonthaggi Skin Cancer Clinic three days a week. Here with Clinic Manager Emily Yeilds and Wonthaggi Medical Group Practice Manager Gayle Bloch.

skin cancer clinics across Australia, and alongside dermatologists and plastic surgeons.

“I’m really excited to be part of the new Wonthaggi clinic,” Dr Solano said.

“We’re establishing it to operate exactly like Icarus in Koo Wee Rup – with a clear focus on skin, streamlined patient care, and a holistic view of skin cancer management and prevention.”

Early detection crucial

Australia has the highest rates of melanoma in the world, with two out of three Australians likely to develop some form of skin cancer in their lifetime.

“Early detection is cru-

cial,” Dr Solano explained.

“Regular skin checks with your doctor can save lives. Most melanomas actually appear as new lesions on the skin, not necessarily in areas with sun exposure.”

A typical skin check at the new clinic involves taking a medical history, assessing risk factors, and performing a thorough examination using a dermatoscope.

“It’s all about making patients feel safe, comfortable and informed. We’ll talk prevention, check the skin, and tailor a treatment plan if needed – whether surgical or non-surgical.”

Dr Solano encourages

anyone over the age of 20 to start getting their skin checked regularly, even if they’ve never had skin cancer before.

“It’s not just about a full-body check. If you have one mole or spot that you’re unsure about, our door is always open.”

Patients don’t need a referral to book a skin check – appointments can be made directly by phone or online.

Icarus Skin Cancer Clinic Manager and qualified nurse Emily Yeilds says having a dedicated clinic allows for faster diagnosis and treatment, as well as enhanced post-operative care.

“It provides the community with a facility focused solely on skin health,” she said.

“Our goal is better patient outcomes and shorter wait times for surgery. We’re also looking to expand the service with a dermal clinician who can offer laser and light therapies to improve skin health and appearance.

“Our mission is to ensure patients feel supported throughout their entire skin journey – from diagnosis through to recovery and ongoing care.”

Icarus Skin Cancer Clinic, 42 Murray Street, Wonthaggi (side entry)
Phone: 03 5671 6439

/ Sponsored article /

UK Knitting Nannas help our little penguins

WILDLIFE

The ‘Knitting Nannas’ knitting group at Hazelgrove Court Care Home, in Saltburn-by-the-Sea, England has produced over a dozen mini jumpers for the Penguin Foundation.

When the home’s activities coordinator heard about the program to knit jumpers for toy penguins, raising money for the Penguin Foundation, they immediately turned to the ‘Knitting Nannas’ who love getting involved and using their lifelong skills to support others.

The group, made up of residents ranging from their 80s to over 100 years of age, set to work producing colourful little jumpers for the Foundations’ Knits for Nature program, which has been hugely successful for over 20 years.

It is not the first time this incredible group has taken up their knitting needles for a wildlife cause. Last year, they made national and international headlines when they produced blankets for orphaned baby rhinos in South Africa.

“The Penguin Foundation is so grateful for the support from generous knitters around the world,” a spokesperson said.

“To continue raising vital funds for the Penguin Foundation, we gladly ac-



Hazelgrove Court Care Home resident Joyce Wooffindin (83) holding one of the knitted jumpers the residents created for The Penguin Foundation.



Resident Judith Pearson (79), with the package of little woollen jumpers destined for Australia.

cept jumpers, which are sold with plush penguin toys in retail stores at Phillip Island Nature Parks.”

Knitting and crochet patterns can be found at Penguin Foundation website with patterns available for knitters and crocheters.

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Side Entry, 42 Murray Street, Wonthaggi



Occupying a generous 740sqm block, 21 A & B Kenwyn Court delivers two fully self-contained residences on a single title – an increasingly rare find in today's market.



Whether you're chasing a flexible dual-income stream, a multi-generational family home, or a prime asset for your SMSF portfolio, this property ticks every box.



Oozing warmth and personality, the second home features soaring exposed beam ceilings, a feature fireplace and a classic coastal aesthetic.

Dual living; double the opportunity in coastal Cowes

Tucked away in one of Cowes' most desirable and tightly held pockets, this exceptional dual-living property presents an unmatched opportunity for savvy investors, lifestyle seekers, and extended families alike.

Positioned just 400 metres from the golden sands of West Cowes Beach and a mere 50-metre laneway stroll to the local General Store, this is coastal living at its most convenient and versatile.

Occupying a generous 740sqm block, 21 A & B Kenwyn Court delivers two fully self-contained residences on a single title – an increasingly rare find in today's market. Whether you're chasing a flexible dual-income stream, a multi-generational family home, or a prime asset for your SMSF portfolio, this property ticks every box.

Main residence: Space, sophistication and flexibility

Set across two stylish levels, the main home boasts four generously proportioned bedrooms (all with built-in robes), including a luxurious master suite with ensuite and direct garden access. A total of three bathrooms and three distinct living zones cater effortlessly to modern family living, while a sleek, contemporary kitchen with island bench, dishwasher, and alfresco bar window is perfect for entertaining.

Upstairs, bedrooms open onto private balconies, adding a tranquil touch of retreat.

With the addition of a separate kitchenette, the main residence lends itself beautifully to flexible

dual-living arrangements – ideal for guests, teens or multigenerational households. Year-round comfort is assured with four split systems, ceiling fans, and a five-camera security system.

A double garage with internal access and a private alfresco area bordered by mature hedging complete the offering.

Second residence: Character, comfort and charm

Oozing warmth and personality, the second home features soaring exposed beam ceilings, a feature fireplace and a classic coastal aesthetic.

Comprising two spacious bedrooms with built-in robes, two versatile living areas and a full kitchen with gas cooktop and dishwasher, it's a perfect space for tenants, in-laws, or

Airbnb guests.

A family-friendly bathroom with bath, separate laundry, and charming veranda overlooking the spacious yard round out the appeal.

Why you'll love it:

- Two full homes on one title – unbeatable value
- Prime court location offering privacy and tranquillity
- Walking distance to beach, shops, cafes, and amenities
- Subdivision potential (STCA)
- Ideal for Airbnb, dual rental income, or extended family living
- Low-maintenance gardens and appealing street presence

This is not just a property – it's a lifestyle investment that offers unmatched flexibility and enduring value in one of Victoria's premier seaside destinations.

With inspections available over the King's Birthday weekend, the time to act is now.

Open for Inspection:

- Thursday June 5: 5.15pm – 5.45pm
- Saturday June 7: 12pm – 12.30pm
- Sunday June 8: 12pm – 12.30pm

This is a rare chance to secure two homes, one title and endless possibilities in beautiful Cowes – don't let it pass you by.

Address: 21 A & B Kenwyn Court, Cowes
Price: \$1,050,000 – \$1,150,000
Contact: Marius, Flynn Estate Agents, 0425 853 055
Closing date sale (unless sold prior): Friday June 20 at 5pm



One Exceptional Property

21 A& B Kenwyn Court, Cowes

A rare find just 400m from West Cowes Beach! This dual-residence property offers exceptional value on a 740sqm block in one of Cowes' most sought-after pockets.

Main Home: 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 living zones, modern kitchen with alfresco bar, dual-living potential with separate kitchenette, double garage, private garden, balconies & security system.

Second Home: 2 bedrooms, 2 living areas, full kitchen, feature fireplace, classic coastal charm & veranda. Ideal for guests, tenants or Airbnb.

Why you'll love it:

- Two fully self-contained homes on one title
- Walk to beach, shops & cafes
- Subdivision potential (STCA)
- Dual-income, Airbnb or family flexibility

INSPECTION:

Thurs 5 June: 5.15–5.45pm

Sat 7 June & Sun 8 June: 12–12.30pm

\$1,050,000- \$1,150,000

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ESTATE AGENTS

KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND REAL ESTATE

Advertising Feature



The George Bass Hotel in Bass is for sale, with an opportunity to purchase the freehold together with the fit out.



The hotel includes a bistro lounge, sports bar, sitting areas, drive through bottle shop and a three-bedroom owner's apartment.

Bass Hotel, a brilliant opportunity

CRE Brokers present this opportunity to purchase a freehold hotel together with the fit out for an immediate re-launch back to its once vibrant self.

George Bass Hotel is located just off the Bass Highway in the township of Bass en route to Phillip Island and the South Gippsland coastline.

This well fitted out hotel of-

fers a sports bar, bistro lounge, various sitting areas, drive through bottle shop, a three-bedroom owner's apartment and very good back of house facilities and toilets.

A popular spot, customers are drawn from day trippers passing through to locals from nearby townships including Grantville, Woolamai and Coronet Bay,

as well as from further afield including San Remo across to Wonthaggi.

George Bass Hotel sits on a 3936sqm site which offers a 90-metre street frontage. The land is zoned "township".

Located at the rear of the hotel is another 6181sqm of township zoned land which can also be purchased. This additional

land (subject to title registration) can be further subdivided into five house blocks.

The hotel which is situated on Lot 1 is available to purchase with Vacant Possession including the current fit out (furniture, fittings, chattels, plant and equipment) on a where is, as is basis (except for the billiard tables and kids arcade games).

The selling price is \$1.1 million plus GST.

Lot 2 (vacant land) at the rear of the hotel is available for sale. Selling price is \$650,000 plus GST.

Contact: Dan Ryan 0427572718 and Kevin Connolly 0412 772 290 at Connolly Roberts Estate Agents Pty Ltd
For more information: rea-webbooks.com.au/CRE-Brokers/GEORGE-BASS-HOTEL

FOR SALE - FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION THE GEORGE BASS HOTEL - 24-32 HADE AVENUE, BASS



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- 3936m² (approx) of Township Zoned land
- Sports bar, bistro lounge, various sitting areas, drive through bottle shop
- Including current fit out (furniture, fittings, chattels, plant and equipment)
- 3 bedroom owner's apartment

**** Also available 6181m² Vacant Land - 4 Lot Subdivision with conditional Town Planning Approval**

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Contact: Kevin Connolly 0412 772 290
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Perfect holiday location

Everything you need and more is in this clean and spacious holiday apartment, which is located directly opposite the beach in Cowes, and walking distance to restaurants and shops.

On the third floor (lift access) of Cowes' most popular apartment block, "The Waves", is this well presented spacious studio apartment which sleeps four and offers great water views from your own private north facing balcony.

Enjoy the north facing/ beach view from the balcony while watching the sunset or simply just sit back, relax and watch the world go by.

Step inside to an open plan kitchenette/sleeping area with two king single beds.

The kitchenette area has a fridge, microwave and ceramic cook top, while the lounge area has couches, TV and a Queen size bed.

The bathroom has a shower, basin, toilet and

corner spa bath.

There is secure underground parking for one car and the apartment has free WiFi.

Linen is supplied for all bookings.

Relax and enjoy a fantastic getaway in this five-star reviewed property.

Address: Unit 340 The Waves, The Esplanade, Cowes

Features: Entrance/kitchenette - two x king single beds; Lounge with TV - one x queen bed.

Contact: First National Phillip Island 03 5952 3922.



Enjoy the north facing/beach view from the balcony in this centrally located holiday unit in Cowes.



The open plan apartment sleeps four (two king singles, one queen size bed), while the lounge area has couches, TV and free WiFi.

FIRST NATIONAL PHILLIP ISLAND

12 HONEYEATER AVENUE, SILVERLEAVES
\$845,000

Nestled in a quiet pocket just a short stroll to the Silverleaves General Store and Golf Course, this charming home offers the perfect retreat for permanent living or a relaxing holiday getaway.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130

20A SETTLEMENT ROAD, SILVERLEAVES
\$1,720,000 TO \$1,790,000

Nestled on a sprawling 4737sqm of landscaped gardens, this private oasis offers the ultimate in relaxed coastal living. Single level residence with polished floors throughout, this home is designed for effortless indoor - outdoor entertaining.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130

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CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034

18 KENWYN COURT, COWES
\$770,000 TO \$845,000

When land and house size matter, this very large home sits in a quiet court with excellent beach access. The north facing balcony flows to the upstairs second living area and kitchen. Two living areas and two balconies.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034

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Year 12 Art student Sienna Bell (left) designed and painted the Bridging Now to Next banner. Sienna and fellow Year 12 student Mackenzie Slidders led the College Reconciliation Walk with the banner.

Newhaven College Reconciliation Week walk

EDUCATION

Now in its fifth year, Newhaven College students, staff and parents gathered once again to walk two laps of the school oval in a show of solidarity and respect for First Nations Peoples.

National Reconciliation Week, observed from May 27 to June 3, marks two key milestones in Australia's reconciliation journey: the 1967 referendum and the High Court's historic Mabo decision.

Newhaven College proudly supports Reconciliation Week each year and honours the region's rich Indigenous heritage, formally acknowledging the Boonwurrung/Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land.

Before the walk, Year 9 student, River Hume, a Boonwurrung of the Yallock-Bullock clan, welcomed everyone to Country. The 'Bridging Now to Next' banner was designed and painted by Year 12 student



Braving the cool weather, Year 4 Teacher, and organiser of the walk, Fiona Smart with Year 4 students (from left): Ava Brown, Millie Van, Georgia Evans, Savannah James, Lucy Pedersen and Lily Solibakke.

Sienna Bell, and she and friend Mackenzie Slidders led the walk around the oval with the banner.

After the walk, Junior and Middle School students participated in class activities while learning more about reconciliation

and what it means to us all.

This year's theme of 'Bridging Now to Next' is a reminder for all Australians to reflect on the ongoing connection between past, present and future, and calls on all Australians to step forward together.

Volunteers rewarded

HEALTH

During National Volunteer Week, Bass Coast Health (BCH) paid tribute to the 134 active volunteers who help it deliver care to the community.

They were acknowledged for their contribution across the health service at Wonthaggi, San Remo and Cowes. BCH also presented awards to long-serving volunteers.

Those acknowledged included Phillip Island's Amanda Drennan, Joan Gaunt and David Scrase who were presented with awards for five years of service.

Mari Mills received a 10-year award for volunteering at Griffiths Point Lodge in San Remo.

Volunteers help BCH through its concierge service, transport driving, residential care visiting, gardening, community advisory committee, wayfinding, administration, ward visiting and auxiliaries.

"We're so grateful for the dedication our volunteers show, the empathy they display, and the time and effort they contribute so that others may benefit," BCH's Interim Chief Executive Officer Simone Alexander said.



Volunteers to receive five-year service awards were, from left, Joan Gaunt, Amanda Drennan, David Scrase, Toni Cornelius and Terry Hall, with Bass Coast Health's Volunteer and Fundraising Manager Kerry Redmond and Coordinator Snezana Colley. Absent: Alison Dixon, Ross Kelly, Alan Pittard, Grant Wadeson and Graeme Bright.

The Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary was acknowledged for its Woolamai Race Day, trivia nights, barbecues and markets. The Auxiliary donated funds to supply a trolley and diagnostic machine for Midwifery, and is now fundraising for the upgrade of two anaesthetic machines for the Phillip Island Community Hospital.

The San Remo Op Shop Auxiliary has donated \$1 million over the shop's operation, and are now fundraising for 20 hospital beds and two Cardiotocography machines for monitoring fetal heart rates and uterine contractions in Maternity.

A full list of service awards and contributions at [pisra.com.au/health & wellbeing](http://pisra.com.au/health&wellbeing)



At this year's Festival of Stories, Peter Grete talks about press freedom and his 2013 arrest and imprisonment in Egypt. His story is also told in the film "The Correspondent", starring Richard Roxburgh, showing on Friday night (July 25). Photo: Louie Douvis.



Comedian and broadcaster Sammy J is the Saturday night performer (July 26) for this year's Festival of Stories. Photo: Dara Munnis.

What's Your Story?

LITERATURE

Phillip Island Festival of Stories is back this winter with a powerful program of voices and community connection.

Now in its eighth festival year, the much-loved Phillip Island Festival of Stories, from July 25 to 27, will transform Berninnet in Cowes into a vibrant weekend gathering place.

Festival Chairperson Lois Gaskin said this year's theme "What's Your Story?" is an open invitation for us all to reflect on the ability of stories to bring people together.

"The Festival of Stories is about celebrating the voices that shape our community and the world. Whether you're a life-long local or just visiting for the weekend, everyone is welcome to join us for this special event," she said.

Here's a sneak peek at the 2025 program highlights:

- Friday night film screening: The Correspondent, starring Richard Roxburgh as award-winning journalist Peter Grete
- Saturday morning: Peter Grete takes to the stage to talk about press freedom and the ghastly reality of his story of imprisonment and resilience
- Saturday: celebrated garden designer Paul Bangay tells us about changing fashions in gardening
- Saturday evening: comedian Sammy J entertains us with a playful night of stories

and music

- Sunday: authors Jane Caro and Candice Fox explore the public's fascination with crime stories
- Sunday: food writer and ABC broadcaster Alice Zaslavsky shows us how to cook delicious food with joy
- Sunday: Beau Vernon shares the highlights of his journey to a bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympics

Sessions will also cover social and environmental issues, children's literature and more.

The Festival opens on Saturday with a Smoking Ceremony acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of Millowl and concludes on Sunday afternoon with a community After Party featuring live music from Newhaven College students.

Held in the heart of winter, the Festival of Stories supports local businesses during the quieter season, encouraging overnight stays and extended visits to explore the island's natural and cultural attractions.

Tickets are now on sale with a range of affordable day and weekend passes available. Locals are encouraged to book early, with many sessions expected to fill quickly.

"Storytelling connects us across cultures, generations and experiences," says Lois.

"This year's Festival will once again enable people to share in that magic."

Tickets at: www.pifestivalofstories.com and TryBooking





New artwork to be unveiled at Berninneit

ART

A special ceremony will be held on Saturday June 14 to unveil the new public artwork by renowned artist Maree Clarke.

The work, titled Yawa (Long Journey), comprised of 30 intricately crafted Murrini glass panels, will form a breathtaking glass canoe suspended overhead in the grand hall at Berninneit in Cowes.

Fabricated at Canberra Glassworks, Yawa spans an impressive 5000 x 565 x 290 mm (LWH), crafted from glass, stainless steel wire, and powder-coated steel.

Integral to Yawa's creation were community workshops held in January 2025, where over 300 participants contributed to the patterns adorning the Murrini glass panels.

The unveiling event on Saturday June 14, from 2pm, will be open to the public and include a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and speech by Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead.

Clarke, a celebrated First Nations artist of Yorta



Renowned First Nations artist Maree Clarke at a workshop earlier this year, where over 300 participants contributed to the patterns adorning the Murrini glass panels.

Yorta, Wamba Wamba, Mutti Mutti, and Boon Wurrung heritage, brings her profound cultural insight and collaborative cre-

ations to Yawa.

For more information about Yawa, visit basscoastculturalvenues.com/berninneit-art-gallery

The ocean comes to Berninneit

ART

"Warreeny Ngulu (Ocean Voice)", is a compelling new exhibition by Millowl artist Steve Ulula Parker, showing at Berninneit Art Gallery until July 20.

The exhibition showcases Parker's latest works, featuring a blend of painting, traditional objects, and songline audio recordings that reflect his ceremonial and contemporary practices.

A descendant of the Boonwurrung, Yorta Yorta, and Erub peoples, Uncle Steve Parker is not only an accomplished artist but also a respected cultural educator and surfer.

Through "Warreeny Ngulu", Parker invites audiences to engage with the healing nature of Millowl, exploring themes that resonate deeply with his ancestral roots.

"People need to tune into their own murrin marrup (body and spirit)," Steve said.

"The land has been walked on for thousands of years and the more you connect in a deeper way to Country, the more Country and the Ancestors will show you. I believe our songlines are still here, it's about bringing them back in this part of Country



Steve Ulula Parker with Ezra (left) and Wryker, at the launch of "Warreeny Ngulu" on the weekend. More photos at pisra.com.au/entertainment

where they have been lost."

Attendees are invited to immerse themselves in Parker's artistic journey, which embodies both tradition and innovation.

Painting on canvas, as well as contemporary objects such as surfboards and skateboards, Parker makes his work accessible to diverse audiences and communities. A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said they were thrilled to present the exhibition.

"The exhibition is a significant cultural event for

our region and community."

The exhibition opening event on the weekend started with a traditional smoking ceremony.

An in-depth interview with Steve Ulula Parker is available in the Autumn edition of The Island Magazine, available now.

"Warreeny Ngulu (Ocean Voice)" runs until July 20 at Berninneit Art Gallery, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes. Free entry.

Gallery Hours: Mon - Fri: 9.30am - 5pm. Weekends: 10am - 4pm.

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KING'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND WHAT'S ON

Advertising Feature



From Shaw to shore Big Freeze at San Remo

ART

Artist Kate Shaw, who splits her time between Collingwood and her Smiths Beach studio, is in the running for the inaugural Sorrento Art Prize.

The prize will shine a spotlight on 60 of Australia's contemporary artists, with one to receive the life-changing \$125,000 prize.

Kate's work channels the elemental beauty of nature, deep intuition, and a lifelong sense of wonder and connection to the landscape which has been central to her practice since childhood.

"I've always been an artist for as long as I can remember," she says.

"As a child, I saw nature as wondrous-and I still do."

Her paintings are known for their kaleidoscopic reflections of the natural world - lush, luminous, and often bordering on the otherworldly.

She draws inspiration from artists like Georgia O'Keeffe, Hilma af Klint and contemporary force Tracey Emin, whose recent work she admires for its emotional depth and strength. Shaw's inspiration remains simple and consistent.



Artist Kate Shaw, who splits her time between Collingwood and her Smiths Beach studio, is in the running for the inaugural Sorrento Art Prize, worth \$125,000.

"Nature. Always.

"I meditate every day to stay emotionally distanced from all the things in the world that upset me," she says.

Her favourite places are wherever natural beauty and her favourite people intersect - and says when she's close to the sea or immersed in the bush, she feels most alive.

And when she's not in

the studio, you can find her "singing, swimming in the sea, and walking in nature."

Kate Shaw's work will be exhibited at & Gallery, 21 Morce Avenue, Sorrento, from June 28 to August 31. The winner of the Sorrento Art Prize will be announced the opening event on June 28.

More at: www.andgal-leryaustralia.net

FUNDRAISER

The Big Freeze is back at the San Remo Hotel on Sunday June 8, raising money to help fight Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

The fun kicks off at 12pm and includes the infamous ice bath dunk tank, as well as great prizes to be won, a sausage sizzle and live entertainment from The Times.

Big Freeze merchandise will also be for sale, with all funds raised on the day going towards FightMND.

Last year's event raised over \$23,500 for the Fight MND charity co-founded by AFL great Neale Daniher who is battling the disease, and the organisers are hoping to beat that total.

At the San Remo event, a range of locals have volunteered to be dunked to help raise funds. The list is being added to daily, with announcements on the hotel's social media.

The line up of those already signed up to take the plunge includes: Kerry Dow, Cam Sinclair (Crusty Demons), Todd Miller, Dean "General" Blake (PIF-NC), Kane Wookey (KBF-NC), Amanda Black, Sofie Dall'Oglio (Island Pilates), Susie Jacob, Craig "Crackles" Baumann, Kadek from Woolamai Beach SLSC,



Suited up. Michael Scott, Manager of the Bendigo Community Bank in San Remo took the plunge in 2024. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

Michael King (Bowens) and Mark Andrighetto (Newhaven Medical Centre).

You can also buy a "dunk tank" ticket, to be in the running to pull the dunk lever on your dunker of choice.

Prior to the event, dunk tickets will be available from the individual dunkers as well as from the bar at the hotel. Tickets will also be available on the day of the event.

Once again, the Big Freeze has been generously supported by local businesses, with a range of terrific raffle prizes in-

cluding: a month of free groceries from San Remo IGA, Phillip Island Sauna voucher and gift pack (\$300), Yeti Coolers, and vouchers from Her Skin-spa, IM Hairdressing and Wildlife Coast Cruises.

Raffle tickets available on the day.

Check the San Remo Hotel Facebook page for regular Big Freeze updates.

If you can't attend, you can still support the cause. Scan the QR code to donate direct to the San Remo Hotel fundraising page.

fightmnd.org.au

GIG GUIDE

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7/6 SECOND HAND NEWS- A TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC - 9PM \$25+BF

8/6 LAING BROTHERS 3 - 5PM

14/6 SADDLE UP - 9PM \$21.50+BF

17/6 ANDREW HAMILTON - 7PM \$30.30+BF

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Zac heads to Western Bulldogs

From page 1

"He's shown there's always an opportunity if you work hard."

Sinking in

For Zac himself the reality was yet to fully sink in when he spoke to the Advertiser on Friday.

"It has calmed down a little. It will take a week or two to settle in; it all feels a little unreal at the moment."

After the draft announcement – which was caught on video, showing Zac and his friends celebrating – Zac received a call from Head Coach Luke Beveridge congratulating him on his success.

A club representative also travelled to the island that night to meet with him.

On Friday, he visited the club, describing the experience as "pretty crazy", including meeting football legends like Bontempelli and Liberatore.

With a new and exciting phase of his football career about to get underway, Zac was full of praise for the local football club which has been part of his life since he was five.

"To be honest, I've spent more hours at that club than I have at home," he said.

"I started there with Auskick as soon as it was available."

He said the support of his friends and the club had been pivotal in achieving his AFL dreams.

"I am where I am today because of great friends. You are the person who you surround yourself with," Zac said.

He also singled out four people from PIFNC for special praise.

"There are four big names; Chris Ross, Cam Pedersen and Scott Huther, plus Andy Bolton when I was younger.

"Scott is a mentor and has always been there for me, and the unreal support from Chris Ross is at levels I can't explain.



Zac with Cam Pedersen, PIFNC head coach and a teacher at Newhaven College. More photos at pisra.com/sport

"I owe everything to them and whatever happens, I'll always have a place in my heart for them, and the club."

He said head coach Cam Pedersen had some words of wisdom and practical advice.

"He said not to be nervous and to go in there and feel like part of the club," Zac said.

"And to always be early ... if you're on time, you are late."

Resilience

Scott Huther has known Zac since his days in junior football, and said he was always struck by Zac's willingness to get better, and go the extra mile.

"I believe he was drafted because of his 'never say die' attitude and his willingness to give everything a go," Scott said.

"He is humble, well mannered and has a team attitude in the way he approaches stuff."

Over the off season, Scott and Zac worked one-on-one to improve aspects of his game, and Scott believes Zac's resilience and determination played a big part in the Western Bulldogs' decision to recruit the young player.

Like everyone in the club, Scott will be closely following Zac's AFL career.

"I can't wait to watch his journey and I have no doubt he will do everything he can to get to where he needs to be.

"It's a great story from a kid that wasn't the best footballer, but was willing to do the work," Scott said.

Zac is now sharing an apartment for the next two weeks with the Bulldogs' other draft pick, Western Australian Michael Sellwood, and encouraged others wanting to pursue their sporting goals.

"You have to be patient and keep your head down. If you keep working and doing the right things, opportunities will come to you," Zac said.

"Continue working on your craft and stay fit, running 24-7 and getting to the gym when you can. The biggest thing is choosing the right times to have fun and when to settle down and stay disciplined."

Western Bulldogs

Announcing the draft pick on its website, the Western Bulldogs said the childhood Bulldogs supporter was an "impressive intercept defender and reads the ball well in the air".

Speaking on his addition to the team, Player Acquisition and Strategy Manager, Michael Regan commended Zac's resolution to overcome setbacks and find himself in a position to join an AFL club.

"Zac's a really exciting, raw prospect from Gippsland Power," Regan said, describing him as having "great athletic traits".

"He's done it the hard way.

"He was actually cut from Gippsland as a 17-year-old but, got to work on himself with his family and friends down at Phillip Island Football Club – who put a lot of work into him, and at Gippsland Power who have done the same over pre-season."



Sandra Dentry recently completed volunteer training for the Bass Coast Winter Shelter, due to launch later this month.

Strong support for Bass Coast Winter Shelter

COMMUNITY

The Bass Coast Winter Shelter is one step closer to becoming reality, with 44 local volunteers now fully trained and ready to support this vital community initiative.

Organised by the Interchurch Council of Phillip Island, the shelter will provide evening meals, safe overnight accommodation and a place of connection for people experiencing homelessness across the region.

Behind the scenes, volunteers have already begun supporting key operational areas such as administration, co-ordination, accounts and training. Once the shelter opens, the remaining volunteers will take on frontline roles, including driving and providing general support across three evening shifts per night.

Volunteers recently completed comprehensive, face-to-face training covering topics such as homelessness, trauma-informed care, mental health, shelter operations and safety protocols – ensuring the team is well-equipped to provide compassionate, informed support.

Trained winter shelter volunteer Sandra Dentry says, "I volunteer at Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) and have seen how much need there is here on the island. Many people are struggling to make ends meet and it can happen so quickly.

"There are a variety of people experiencing homelessness here, but unlike the city it's hidden," Sandra said.

"I often meet women, just like me. We are all vulnerable, anyone of us could experience homelessness in our lifetime.

"The volunteer training was great. It really did confirm the need for a winter shelter in our region."

An additional 37 people have registered their interest in volunteering, a further show of local support for the shelter's mission. A final training session will soon be held for those individuals.

"It's a necessity"

Michael, a Phillip Island resident who has been experiencing homelessness since September last year, knows firsthand how urgently this shelter is needed.

"It wasn't a crisis or a major event. I had a good job but just couldn't find a rental that would accept me and my dog, Toast," he explains.

"It wasn't about money – it

was about availability and suitability. I'm living in my car now and doing my best to stay respectful and move around."

On the shelter, Michael is clear.

"It's a borderline necessity. Homelessness isn't always caused by crisis. Sometimes, it's just the harsh reality of the housing market today."

Launch

Planning for the inaugural Bass Coast Winter Shelter was for a June 1 launch. However, this date will be pushed out, as securing the necessary planning and building permits is proving more complex and time-consuming than expected.

Once operational, the shelter will provide up to three nights of accommodation each week during June, July and August in Cowes.

The program will be open to guests from across the Bass Coast region, with all guests assessed for suitability to ensure safety and wellbeing for all involved.

To bring the shelter to life this winter, organisers are now calling on the community to help raise the final \$8000 needed to reach the \$20,000 target.

Nearly \$12,000 has already been pledged through generous community donations.

"Since announcing the shelter, we've been overwhelmed by the generosity of our community," said Project Co-ordinator Wendy Elson.

"People have stepped forward to volunteer, donate and lend support in every way imaginable."

A local philanthropist from Wonthaggi has donated \$3700 toward essential permits.

PICAL has provided a trailer for daily operations and other donations have helped purchase bedding and supplies.

Financial support has also come from Housing Matters Bass Coast, St John's Uniting Church, the Baptist Church of Cowes, St Philip's Anglican Church, the Lions Club of Phillip Island and many others.

"This is a true community effort," Wendy added.

"Now we're reaching out to everyone – every dollar helps. Your donation, no matter the size, will go directly to essentials like food and heating. Together, we can make a real difference this winter."

To donate or learn more, visit: www.basscoastwintershelter.wordpress.com

A celebration of cultures

EDUCATION

Recently, Prep students at Cowes Primary school embraced Education Week with great enthusiasm, diving into the theme "Celebration of Cultures."

A spokesperson for Cowes Primary described the week "as a wonderful opportunity to highlight the rich diversity of our school community and to reinforce the importance of every child feeling safe, valued, and welcome at school".

Throughout the week, families were invited to share their cultural heritage with the Prep classes.

"The response was truly heartwarming," the spokesperson said.

"Each presentation brought a unique perspective and offered the children a meaningful glimpse into the traditions, languages, and lifestyles of people around the world.

"One highlight was learning the classic song Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes in Filipino. Students eagerly joined in, discovering not only new words but also how music connects us across cultures.

"Another two sessions took



One school family shared delicious Macedonian snacks, while the students heard about Macedonian traditions. More photos at pisra.com.au/education

students on a journey to Canada, where we explored its location on the world map and compared its wildlife, food, sports, and currency with our own.

"The children were fascinated to learn about animals like moose and bears, the love for ice hockey, and how Canadian money looks and feels different from Australian coins and notes."

A special treat came in the form of delicious Macedonian snacks, generously shared by one family.

"The students delighted in tasting something new and listening to stories of Macedonian traditions.

"We also spent time learning more about Australia's own Indigenous cultures, deepening our understanding of the First Nations peoples and their profound connection to the land we live on."

The school described each presentation as "engaging, interactive and informative".

"The sessions sparked curiosity, encouraged questions, and helped students appreciate the beauty of cultural diversity," the spokesperson said.

"They also reinforced the idea that while we may have different backgrounds, we share many common values and experiences."

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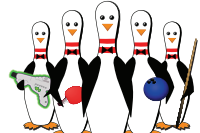
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New Cowes medical centre refused

COUNCIL

A proposed medical centre in Cowes has been rejected by Bass Coast Shire councillors following objections by 23 nearby residents.

As previously reported, the new \$3.2 million, nine-doctor medical clinic was set to be built at 227-229 Settlement Road, on the corner of Market Close, currently the site of a self-storage building.

The permit proposed to subdivide the land into two lots, constructing a double storey medical centre with nine practitioners, and five tenancies, as well as a residential dwelling.

The permit also sought to reduce the car parking requirement, with 28 on-site spaces in lieu of 31, although creating confusion, the proposal claims to be meeting the requirement.

Council planners at the May council meeting recommended approval, explaining that following objections by residents, the developer had reduced the number of doctors to eight, which meant the plan met car parking requirements.

However, Cr Tim O'Brien successfully moved an alternative motion – which he said was supported by all Island Ward councillors – to reject the proposal.

Cr O'Brien said objectors and councillors were not opposed to a medical centre, but opposed to the building's impact on



This proposed new medical centre on Settlement Road has been refused by Bass Coast Shire councillors who say it doesn't respond to objectors' concerns.

neighbourhood character, especially the predicted parking and traffic in the "quiet cul de sac" of Market Close.

"No one is saying they don't want a medical centre.

"It's about access to the centre ... and the residents whose right to a quiet amenity are being run roughshod.

"The plan has been developed without sufficient consultation with the community."

Objections

Cr Ronnie Bauer said all three Island Ward councillors visited the site and after discussions with residents, "it is clear to me that if we approve this application, the residents will appeal it and if we reject the application the developer will appeal it".

"From looking at the

plans and the footprint of the development, I can't understand why the Settlement Road access is not better utilised," Cr Bauer said.

"To my untrained eye all access to the various parts of this development could be achieved via Settlement Road. Market Close is narrow and very hard to manoeuvre in."

Objectors' submissions said there was insufficient car parking and the building would reduce property values.

Council officers said VCAT had "consistently found property values are speculative and not a planning matter".

Planners recommended approval saying there was an overall benefit to the community, operating hours were "modest", and the site was currently underutilised.

Cowes to Ventnor path resuscitated

TRANSPORT

A long-awaited Cowes to Ventnor shared path is a step closer after Bass Coast Shire councillors voted to fund its design and construction.

And the final stages of the Cowes to Rhyll trail have also been given the green light.

As reported in February, a proposed Cowes to Ventnor walking trail was put on ice, after councillors supported a motion to protect the shoreline vegetation between the two areas.

In the Tracks and Trails strategy 2022-2032 adopted by the previous council in November 2022, a trail along the foreshore between Cowes and Ventnor was identified as a high priority.

At the time, there was a concerted community campaign opposing the trail, with the Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) also not supporting the proposal due to its impacts on sensitive flora, fauna and dunes. PICS said the foreshore reserve provided an "essential and finite" corridor for wildlife.

At the May council meeting, the new Cowes to Ventnor trail location was not identified, but council officers said funding had been secured to deliver the design and construction, with a \$1 million grant and \$1 million from council.

Design will be completed in 2025-2026, community engagement and procurement in 2026-2027, followed by construction in 2027 to 2029 financial years.

Council officers said stages one and two of the Cowes to Rhyll trail were complete, stage three was under construction, with stages four and five in the final stages of design.

"With completed designs council can apply for grant funding," officers said, adding construction will cost \$700,000.

Councillors at the May meeting also voted to fund the Wonthaggi to Inverloch shared path, which is already underway, and has a budget of \$3.7 million including a grant of \$1.5 million.

The total funding commitment from council over the two delivery plans is

\$7,000,000, which equates to \$1 million a year.

Cr Tim O'Brien said while he was committed to alternative transport and reducing carbon emissions "I'm not sure if the community is right with us".

Cr Mat Morgan said unless there was a "dramatic reduction in speed limits", for the safety of cyclists the council should advocate for funding to state and federal governments for active transport.

Support

In 2022 an online petition calling for a path between Cowes and Ventnor was signed by more than 400 people.

The petition called for a shared path for pedestrians and cyclists between the two towns.

"There is currently no safe route between the two locations," the petition stated, adding there is no link between Cowes and Ventnor other than by car.

The petition said local roads were not designed with cyclists in mind, and were particularly unsuitable for young families.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MADE SIMPLE

RBA's Rate Cut

- Implications and Reactions

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELCapital

In a move anticipated by many, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has reduced the cash rate by 25 basis points, bringing it down to 4.10%. This decision marks the first rate cut in over four years and signals a pivotal shift in Australia's monetary policy. The implications of this adjustment are multifaceted, affecting borrowers, savers, and the broader economy.

Impact on Mortgages and Loans

For homeowners and prospective buyers, the rate cut offers a glimmer of relief. The big four banks have announced corresponding reductions in their home loan variable interest rates by 0.25% per annum, effective from February 28, 2025. This reduction translates to tangible, albeit small, savings for borrowers. For instance, on a \$600,000 mortgage, monthly repayments could decrease by approximately \$92.

However, the benefits extend beyond the offerings of the major banks. Research indicates that Australian homeowners could save nearly \$40,000 over a 30-year mortgage on a 5.59% variable interest rate which is currently being offered by some non-bank lenders. This competitive environment empowers borrowers to shop around for more favourable terms, potentially easing the financial burden amid rising living costs.

Returns on Savings

While borrowers may rejoice, savers face a different reality. Interest rate cuts typically lead to reduced returns on savings accounts and term deposits. Financial institutions may adjust their deposit rates in response to the RBA's decision, meaning individuals relying on interest income might see diminished returns.

Economic Outlook and Future Rate Cuts

The RBA's decision is rooted in its assessment of the current economic climate. Deputy Governor Andrew Hauser emphasised the need for additional positive news on inflation before considering further interest rate cuts. While policymakers are optimistic about receiving favourable inflation reports, they require concrete evidence of this improvement

before easing monetary policy further.

Economists, including Dr. Shane Oliver, Head of Investment Strategy and Chief Economist at AMP, have weighed in on the potential trajectory of interest rates. Dr. Oliver suggests that the RBA may continue its easing cycle, with the cash rate potentially falling to 3.6% by the end of the year. This projection is contingent upon various economic indicators, including inflation trends, employment figures, and global economic conditions.

It's important to note that while rate cuts can stimulate economic activity by encouraging borrowing and spending, they are not without risks. Prolonged low-interest environments can lead to asset bubbles and may not address structural issues within the economy. Therefore, the RBA is likely to approach future cuts with caution, ensuring that each move aligns with the broader goal of sustainable economic growth.

Broader Economic Implications

Beyond the immediate effects on loans and savings, the rate cut reflects the RBA's commitment to steering the economy towards its inflation target of 2-3%. The decision comes in the context of easing inflationary pressures, with underlying inflation recorded at 3.2% in the December quarter, indicating a faster-than-expected decline.

This monetary policy adjustment aims to support economic growth, particularly in sectors sensitive to interest rates, such as housing and consumer spending. However, the effectiveness of this strategy will depend on various factors, including consumer confidence, global economic trends, and fiscal policy measures.

Conclusion

The RBA's recent cash rate cut signifies a strategic response to current economic indicators, aiming to balance the needs of borrowers and savers while steering the economy towards sustainable growth. As the year progresses, all eyes will be on the RBA's subsequent moves and the unfolding economic landscape, with stakeholders across the spectrum adjusting their strategies in response to these developments.

*www.amp.com.au

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Dust settles on road concerns

COUNCIL

The planned removal of dust suppressant from streets in Cowes west and Rhyll has officially been paused until April 2026, in a major Bass Coast Shire Council U-turn.

At the May council meeting, councillors voted to pause all dust suppressant seal removal works on: Outlook, Scenic and Bayview drives, Park Lane and Maxwell Street, Cowes, as well as Reid Street, Rhyll.

At the meeting updated petitions were lodged by residents, including one signed by 58 Rhyll residents urging a postponement of works, as well as another 121 signatures from residents in the Koala Estate in Cowes west, also calling for a halt to works.

As reported, in early March property owners on these streets were sent letters advising them of the council's intention to remove the dust suppression seals.

"Between 2005 and 2007, council treated a selection of unsealed roads around the shire with a dust suppressant product as a trial, to control dust issues," council officers explained.

"The treatment has now deteriorated and council routinely removes remaining dust seals in accordance with its management strategy, adopted in 2013.

"This practice sees the removal of the remaining dust suppressant seal to return the roads to a compacted gravel surface."

Following sustained opposition by residents, the council has now agreed to pause the removal of the dust seals.

Property owners interested in options under the Urban Roads and Drainage Policy (URDI) would continue to be supported through this process.

URDI allows large road upgrade projects to be broken into smaller ones and community-initiated road projects to be made easier to achieve.

A minimum of 50 per cent of property owners in a particular area are required to contribute to an upgrade to be considered for reprioritising a priority project list.

Cr Meg Edwards acknowledged resident concerns about removal of dust suppressant but also acknowledged "there's a history here perhaps people



After 2023's Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay scheme for 1000 properties was abandoned following a bruising two-year campaign, a special charge scheme will now go ahead along The Esplanade between Sunderland Bay Road and Batman Street, Surf Beach.

weren't aware of when they purchased their property that a dust suppressant status was in place" and "council has listened and delayed accordingly".

"At the same time we need to find a way through this that is economically viable and meets their concerns," Cr Edwards said.

Cr Tracey Bell said she hoped there was sufficient progress to ensure "we don't reach April next year with the same concerns and we have solid plans with these communities".

Surf Beach upgrade

Meanwhile, a special charge scheme will finally go ahead at Surf Beach.

Councillors at the May meeting voted for a preferred concept option and funding for a road and drainage upgrade project along The Esplanade between

Sunderland Bay Road and Batman Street, Surf Beach.

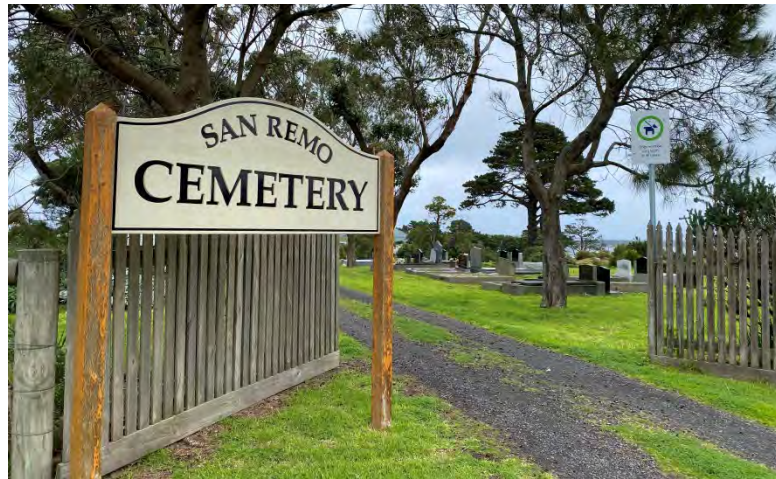
The total project cost is \$1,601,748, the maximum total levy to be recovered from property owners is \$409,391 and the total council contribution is \$1,192,357.

Construction will start in 2026-27 and will not include the carpark at Surfies Point.

In February last year council received a petition from property owners requesting a road and drainage upgrade project.

After 2023's Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay scheme for 1000 properties was abandoned following a bruising two-year campaign, councillors last year approved the revised URDI.

Since then, URDI has proved popular with some residents in those estates and there have been many petitioning for a road upgrade in their area.



The transfer of the San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries out of Bass Coast Shire Council hands and to the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust has helped thrust council into further debt.

Grave debt concerns

COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire Council is further in debt after councillors approved refinancing of a loan.

And council's financial performance for the past quarter shows a forecast \$4.8 million deficit.

At the May meeting, councillors voted to refinance the interim loan of \$12.5 million and a new loan of \$5.9 million, making a total of \$18.4 million loan.

The new borrowings are tied to funding for the Cowes Activity Centre Plan (\$725,000), new tracks and trails (\$2.2 million – see separate story) and maintenance of the Wonthaggi and San Remo cemeteries (\$3 million).

Council officers recommended council capitalise on a reduction in short-term interest rates from global instability.

"In Australia the financial instability has weighed on the impact to our major trading partners, and this has resulted in the market now expecting a sharper interest rate easing cycle.

"This has resulted in a divergence between short-term rates, which have fallen sharply, and long-term rates, which have not moved."

As such officers said loans should be packaged into \$8.4 million over three years and \$10 million over ten years.

Financial performance

Councillors at the May meeting also voted to approve the quarterly performance report, which showed a forecast full year op-

erating surplus of \$7.5 million, but forecasts a full year adjusted underlying net result (which excludes capital grants) of a \$4.8 million deficit.

Council officers said the deficit was due to \$3.25 million for the transfer of the Wonthaggi and San Remo Cemeteries to the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust.

The deficit result is in the high-risk band by the Victorian Auditor General.

The report includes results of the Annual Action Plan for 2024/25, which shows the Cowes Streetscapes project is at risk of not being completed.

"While Council successfully obtained funding for the Cowes Streetscapes project, delays in securing the funding agreement have postponed the start of on-site work, which is now anticipated to begin in the fourth quarter," the report states.

The transition of council's fleet to electric vehicles to reduce emissions is only half complete, and at risk of not being achieved.

"Electric and hybrid vehicles currently make up 32 per cent of Council's light vehicle fleet and it is projected that this will increase to 36 per cent by the end of the financial year," the report states.

"The 50 per cent target is currently unattainable because while electric vehicles are available for deployment as tools of trade utility vehicles, none of the Australian market entrants meet the mandatory 5-Star AN-CAP safety rating."

New councillor expenses revealed

COUNCIL

At Bass Coast Shire's May council meeting, the first councillor expenses were revealed since last year's October elections.

The expenses show Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead (total \$9468) and Deputy Mayor Brett Tessari (total \$3982) had the highest totals, with those roles requiring more travel.

Cr Halstead is on seven committees and Cr Tessari on three.

Next highest was Island Ward councillor Tracey Bell with a total of \$4298, which includes \$3900 in professional development.

The Advertiser asked Cr Bell, who sits on one committee, for the details of the training, and received a reply by

the council's communications team, who said as a first-term councillor, Cr Bell was committed to building "knowledge and skills".

"It's expected that new Councillors may undertake more training in their first year than those with several years of experience," the council spokesperson said.

"Under the Local Government Act 2020, all Victorian Councillors are now required to complete professional development activities each year from the second year of their term."

The spokesperson said Cr Bell started professional coaching in February.

Following Cr Bell was Cr Tim O'Brien at \$2005, which included \$1530 in travel expenses.

Cr O'Brien sits on one committee and said he had made no major trips.

"Just a lot of running around – having a V6 Ute puts me at a higher rate of reimbursement on travel costs," Cr O'Brien said.

"My travel claims are normally made monthly, but there is a two month claim in there."

He said travel costs were at a set rate, including all trips into and out of Wonthaggi to council meetings, briefings and other council matters.

"I can support all of my claims on kilometres travelled and the purpose of the trip."

The five remaining councillors all had expenses totalling between \$103 (Cr Meg Edwards) and \$259 (Cr Jan Edwards).

Value for money?

In 2023 then Mayor Michael Whelan defended councillor training expenses, saying it was important to ensure councillors had the skills needed to properly carry out their duties.

One-term councillor David Rooks, who was voted out at the last election, in 2023 had a financial year claim of \$14,367, which included \$9499 on professional development.

Island Ward councillor Ronnie Bauer at that time said while he had no problem with councillors doing courses – "the more educated the councillors are, the better" – he believed the system could be fine-tuned.

"Do we get value for money?" he asked.

"Councillors are elected every four years, so what value does the community get if they

don't get re-elected, or don't stand for re-election?"

He believes for more expensive courses, councillors should pay upfront, then for every year of tenure, a portion of the course fee is refunded.

This would ensure the council gets the best possible value from its investment he said.

At that time Cr Halstead, who completed a company director course, said you don't put your hand up to be a councillor for the money.

"We all know the remuneration is incredibly low and the commitment of hours high if you wish to do the role justice," Cr Halstead said.

"Investment in professional development allows councillors to operate at their optimum and this can only hold a positive benefit for our communities."

Penguins show grit in spirited battle at Wonthaggi

SOCCKER

U12A Penguins

The Phillip Island under 12A team had a fantastic game against Wonthaggi on the first day of winter.

The Breakers got off to a strong start and were moving the ball around nicely.

There was lots of great movement off the ball and switching of play. At half time the Breakers led by five goals to nil.

Wonthaggi came out hard in the second half and attacked really well only to be denied by Micah in goal making some great saves along with some good defensive work from the team.

The game finished 9-0 to the Breakers with goals from Harry and Flynn (2), Micah, Lily-Mae, Wes and Henry (1) and an own goal.

U14 Stingrays versus Inverloch

The U14 Stingrays played an excellent home game against Inverloch, showing determination and grit from the first whistle.

Inverloch played a great game which saw the Breakers down by 5-2 at halftime.

The Breakers never gave up and continued to pressure their opponents throughout the match.

The final score was 6-3 in Inverloch's favour, but it was a performance filled with heart.

Every Stingrays player worked tirelessly to slow down the opposition, contest every ball, and chase hard across the field.

Their effort and teamwork were sensational, and they should be very proud of the way they played.

Callum scored twice and was central to the attack.

Jordy held strong in defence, and Manny impressed with a solid shift at the back after time in goal.

Oscar earned the weekly award for his fearless efforts, particularly post-injury.

More soccer reports at pisra.com.au/sport



U16 Boys: Back (L-R): Daren Dempsey (Coach), Aaron Kelly, Quincy Hay, Sam Scott, Thai Townley, Lincoln Newton, Peeraphan Panyo (Captain), Fletcher Middleton, Daniel Prentice and Tony Bals. Front (L-R): DJ Meadows, Myka Sylvio, Stefan Tumino, Josh Taylor, Jonah Foster, Will Langley-Jones and Heath Clifford. More team photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Gippsland Soccer League's Representative Squad presentations

SOCCKER

On Saturday May 31, the Gippsland Soccer League celebrated their 2025 Representative Squads with a Jersey Presentation at Drouin Dragons' new facility.

With their biggest event, the Country Championships, taking place next weekend, this was a chance to acknowledge our teams and share in the excitement prior

to the long weekend.

The event saw over 300 attendees across three age group presentations, cheer on our Representative Squads.

The main event of the Representative Squad season is the annual Country Championships which sees all country soccer associations gather for a three-day tournament across the long weekend. This year our squads will travel to Albury Wodonga

and face opponents from leagues such as Geelong and Sunraysia.

This year the GSL is sending six squads: U12, U14 and U16 boys and girls teams.

It is the first year the league has submitted equal girls and boys teams.

The GSL would like to thank Drouin Dragons for hosting the event and wishes our representative players and families a safe and fun tournament.

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, May 27

Men's Comp 18H Stroke Mid-Week Monthly Medal

Winner: Mike Fitzmaurice (19) Nett 70.

A Grade winner: A-1 Michael Taylor (10) Nett 71 c/b.

A-2 winner: Craig O'Neill (11) Nett 71.

B Grade winner: B-1 Mike Fitzmaurice (19) Nett 70.

B-2 winner: Michael Coghlan (17) Nett 74 c/b.

C Grade winner: C-1 Kristien Formasa (28) Nett 71.

C-2 winner: John Daire (25) Nett 74 C/B.

BDL to Nett 75.

NTP: 5th Bob Fabiny, 7th Sam Orr, 10th Tony Shannon and 17th Gino Manfredi.

Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: John Monk (24) 20 pts, Richie Nettleton (26) 20 pts C/B.

BDL to 16 pts C/B.

Wednesday, May 28

Women's 4 Person Knockout Ambrose 18H

Winners: Kim Rippon-King/Pam Rothfield/Maureen Ellard/Emma Hall 61.25.

Runners up: Lesley Meadowcroft/Miyuki Yamaguchi/Liz O'Neill/Ada Anglin.

BDL to 68.375.

NTP: 5th Cheryl White, 7th Stacey Meder, 10th Pam Rothfield and 17th Ada Anglin.

Women's 9 H Stableford

Overall winner: Carolyn Roberts (33) 15 pts C/B.

BDL to 12 pts.

Thursday, May 29

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Art Lyons (22) 41 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: A-1 Morgan Ward (11) 41 pts.

A-2 winner: Paul Cashman (12) 39 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Rickardo Meder (18) 37 pts.

B-2 winner: Rowan Wales (15) 35 Pts C/B.

C Grade winner: C-1 Art Lyons (22) 41 pts.

C-2 winner: Warren Barratt (26) 39 pts.

BDL to 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Sam Orr, 7th Craig Morris, 10th Leigh Hayhurst and 17th Rowan Wales.

Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winners: Brian Baker (20) 21 pts, John Withington (24) 19 pts.

BDL to 17 pts.

Saturday, May 31

Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Chris Reynolds (11) 43 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Chris Reynolds (11) 43 pts.

A-2 winner: Michael Taylor (11) 40 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Stephen Mack (18) 41 pts.

B-2 winner: Mark White (14) 39 pts.

C Grade winners: C-1 Peter Rymer (19) 38 pts

C-2 winner: Bob Fabiny (19) 37 pts C/B.

BDL to 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Neville Thurgood, 7th Graeme Niven, 10th Wayne Morris and 17th Chris Sander-son.

Women's 18H Stableford

A Grade winner: A-1 Vicki Ram- age (18) 35 pts C/B.

A-2 winner: Trish Jamieson (31) 35 pts.

BDL to 30 pts.

NTP 5th N/A, 7th Vicki Ram- age, 10th Trish Jamieson and 17th Deb Orr.

Open 9H Stableford

Winner: Steve Rieger (126) 18 pts C/B.

BDL to 16 pts.

Sunday, June 1

18H Stableford

Winner: Chris Ross (9) 37 points.

Runners up: Max Mattock (16) 36 pts C/B.

BDL: 33 pts.

9H Stableford

Winner: Ken Ballingall (40) 15 points.

Phillip Island Round 6 results

SOCCKER

Senior Men's: Phillip Island Breakers 3 d Wonthaggi United 1.

Senior Women's: Phillip Island Breakers 12 d Wonthaggi United 1.

Men's Reserves: Phillip Island Breakers 6 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 2.

Under 17 Mixed: Phillip Island Breakers 2 d Wonthaggi United 1.

Under 15 Girls: Wonthaggi United 3 d Phillip Island Breakers 2.

Under 14 Mixed: Wonthaggi United 3 d Phillip Island Penguins 0. Inverloch Stars 6 d Phillip Island Stingrays 3.

Under 12 Girls: Wonthaggi

United 8 d Phillip Island Breakers 7.

Under 12A Mixed: Phillip Island 6 d Wonthaggi United 0.

Under 12B Mixed: Phillip Island Penguins 9 d Wonthaggi United 4.

The Gippsland Soccer League have a bye round over the King's Birthday weekend and Round 7 will be played on Sunday June 15.

Full GSL results at pisra.com.au/sport

International Women's Golfing Week

GOLF

The Red Rocks Golf Club proudly joined the global celebration of International Women's Golfing Week, which runs from May 27 to June 4, by opening its course to women of all skill levels for a fun and inclusive day of golf and camaraderie.

The event, held under perfect skies, featured a relaxed team Ambrose competition – a format ideal for beginners and experienced golfers alike. The day was part of the worldwide Women's Golf Day initiative, which aims to engage, empower and support women and girls through the game of golf, while also contributing to charitable causes at a local level.

The response from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Many remarked on how the event not only encouraged more women to take up the sport, but also highlighted the joy of the game's social aspects. Laughter, teamwork and a touch of friendly competition made for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

After the final putt dropped, players gathered at the clubhouse for a celebratory afternoon tea,



A day to celebrate International Women's Golfing Week was held recently at Red Rocks Golf Club, with a relaxed team Ambrose competition.

complete with wine and good company. The relaxed setting allowed new friendships to form and the spirit of the day to continue well beyond the final scores.

Red Rocks Golf Club is to be

commended for embracing the vision and mission of Women's Golf Day – making the game of golf accessible, inclusive, and, above all, fun for women and girls in the local community.

Red Rocks results

GOLF

Saturday May 31

Par Plus

Winner: Pamela Rothfield

(21) PIGC – +3.

Runner up: Ray Pobjoy (4) +2.

Sunday June 1

Stableford

Winner: Victor Petropoulos (15) 42 points.

Runner up Phil: (18) 35 points.



U14 Red award winners: Zane Larsson, Bowie Edwards, Jaxon Summerfield and Jasper Reynolds-Mallo.



U12 Red award winners: Olly Spottiswood, Billy Easton, Ryan Brett and Oliver Wright.

Young Reds show growth and great footy

FOOTBALL

U10 Red

On a crisp, sunny morning, Levi N stepped up as captain with late notice and delivered a rousing speech to fire up the Pups for their match up against Wonthaggi Power.

They hit the ground running, spreading out just as coach Steve had asked.

The backline stood tall all game, taking strong marks and manning up brilliantly.

Across the ground, players worked hard to get in front, showing great awareness and effort.

There was excellent shepherding as the ball moved end to end in a tenacious contest. The team maintained their intensity all game, showing real improvement and teamwork.

A fantastic all-round effort from the Pups. Awards: Harvey E, Leo, Mason and Sol.

U12 Red

It was turning into a beautiful sunny day as the Dogs took to their home ground to face Wonthaggi Power, led by captain Nic.

The team came out firing in the first quarter, with selfless acts and shepherding standing out.

Billy was outstanding, slotting several goals and assisting a couple more.

The Dogs were on a roll in the second quarter, moving the ball cleanly out of the centre and setting up big opportunities in the forward line to extend their lead.

Wonthaggi started the second half with the momentum, but the Dogs soon steadied and fought back.

There were strong contests through the middle, with effort lifting across the ground as the Dogs gradually extended their lead.

Reef's incredible sprint to save a certain goal showcased the team's commitment. An outstanding team performance.

Phillip Island: 10.10.70 defeated Wonthaggi Power: 4.2.26.

Awards: Billy Easton, Ryan Brett, Oliver Wright and Olly Spottiswood.

U14 Red

Phillip Island Red Doggies were at their home ground, playing Wonthaggi.

The Dogs played a strong game, their communication and skill throughout allowed for them to hold the lead for the first three quarters. Unfortunately, with 30 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Wonthaggi kicked a goal, allowing them to take the lead.

A disappointing finish for the Bulldogs, however they should be very proud of their game.

Wonthaggi - 4.6.30 defeated Phillip Island Red - 03.10.28.

Goals: Xavier Holmes, Denver Preddice-Firth and Zane Larsson. Best: Zane Larsson, Harvey Patterson, Jaxon Summerfield, Flynn Doig, Loklan Newstead and Bowie Edwards.



Great win for our U14 Girls footy team against Leongatha.

The girls take victory against Leongatha under lights

FOOTBALL

U14 Girls

The Under 14 girls celebrated their first win for the season against Leongatha on Friday night.

Goals this week came from Charlee, Madi and Sera and the team as a whole showed great teamwork as they transitioned the ball smoothly through the midfield thanks to our persistent

and tough backline.

The girls had worked hard during the week especially on their handball skills at home and with serious drive and determination their efforts paid off.

Credit to Rej and the coaching team for their unwavering positivity to get the girls to their first win. Awards: Indi K, Jada, Heidi, Ellie and Charlee.

Phillip Island: 3.3.31 defeated Leongatha: 0.2.2.

Blue Bulldogs deliver on game day

FOOTBALL

U10 Blue

The young Bulldogs were roaring to get into the action this week, playing away against arch-rivals Kilcunda-Bass on Sunday morning. The opening quarter was evenly matched, with both teams locked in a fierce midfield contest.

In the second quarter, the Bulldogs found their rhythm, pushing forward with intensity. Skipper Hugo Joyner took a spectacular mark in the goal square and converted cleanly for the Bulldogs' first major.

Kensani Gardner added to the momentum, slotting two impressive goals before the main break.

Kilcunda-Bass responded strongly in the third quarter, dominating the midfield with repeated forward entries.

However, the Bulldogs' defence stood tall, keeping the Panthers goalless for the term.

The final quarter was a thrilling shootout, with both sides trading goals in a fast-paced finish. It was another wonderful morning for the young Pups, who continue to grow both individually and as a team each week.

Award winners: Morrison Conway, Luca Tubino, Aidan Gooderham and Billy Kimber.

U12 Blue

Captain Zed Findlay led his team

out after giving his speech.

Five quick points went to the Island, unlucky with four of them hitting the post.

First goal went to Kash Scheibel.

A really good start with Noah Hollings taking the game on moving the ball forward and Ollie Hellmuth-Pask had a great run with two bounces in his stride.

The Pups kept the opposition scoreless going into the break.

The second quarter was quiet for the Pups as they didn't add to the score, Killy-Bass bagged the only two goals scored for the quarter.

Rylan Lucas was working hard, and Sam Martindale did a great job moving the ball around.

Third quarter there was great moments, and the Pups had all the ball. Sam Martindale assisted Kash Schiebel to bag his second goal.

Otis Joyner got plenty of touches and Nicolas Davidson was scouting around the pack.

Cody Naismith was directing the traffic well and kept Killy-Bass from scoring this quarter.

Last quarter saw Kash Schiebel take a strong mark and kick his third goal.

Cooper Bennett had solid body work and contributed a goal from a set shot.

Oscar Innes played hard, taking a strong mark in the forward with a centring kick.

This was the best quarter for

the Pups as they played well as a team and really came together.

Despite a quick goal to Killy-Bass in the seconds before the siren the Pups were triumphant with breaking away to win 31-15.

Best: Kash Schiebel, Ray Wolfenden, Oscar Innes, Cooper Bennett, Sam Martindale and Oliver Hellmuth-Pask.

U14 Blue

With the winter sun shining, the team scored early in the first quarter and remained in the lead for the game.

There was solid defence from Brax Scheibel, Miller Sund and Riley Whyte.

Contests were fought hard, and the centreline kept control enabling ball movement, pressure and linked play.

Tijian Coldora remained his lightning best, holding possessions and taking off at high speed. Callum Chambers, Jax Marshall, Ry Sheers and Rocco Archer worked hard, with Ari De Fazio, Archie Dallinger and the Smith brothers Aiden and Spencer keeping the ball at Phillip Island's end.

A full team effort resulted in goals and a win. Phillip Island 54 defeated Killy Bass 20.

Goal kickers: Kai Denblyden 4, Balin Riky 2, Taj Piera and Flynn Riley 1.

Award winners: Kolby Carton, Jarrah Rutherford, Robin Bo-daan and Kai Denblyden.



Charlie's Country Academy

Local Phillip Island footy talent Charlie Fischer, who plays for the Gippsland Power, has been selected to join the U16 AFL Victoria Country Academy team. Charlie will take the field

for the representative squad in July, when they head to the Gold Coast for their next clash, a huge achievement and proud moment for Charlie and proud parents Aileen and Glen.

Kilcunda Bass takes on Koo Wee Rup

FOOTBALL

Seniors

This week we returned home, to take on Koo Wee Rup.

As a part of Fight MND round, we pulled on our bright blue socks.

Koo Wee Rup started fast, kicking three in the first term and leading by six at quarter time.

In the second quarter it was a closer game, and fast ball movement was a key part of both teams' success.

At halftime Koo Wee led one. After the major break, Killy Bass had a really good quarter and led by 22 at the final break, then the last quarter held on to win by 14.

Final score: KB 11.9.75 defeated KWR 8.13.61

Best player: Angus McGillivray.

Reserves

Following a tough couple of weeks, the Reserves were keen to get their season back on track.

The start of the game was a good fight.

Through the early afternoon, the weather was beautiful.

The crowd began to pack out the Bass recreation reserve and were treated with a competitive game in the reserves.

Unfortunately, Koo Wee Rup slowly took control of the game, controlling the tempo, and possession for most of the day.

The boys played hard and put up a better fight than the margin shows.

Final score: KWR 10.6.66 defeated KB 5.3.33

Best Player: Ben Wemyss.

U16

At home against a tough opponent in Koo Wee Rup and with several players suffering from illness, the match began as an arm wrestle.



Blake Eden had a great game and named as one of the Best on for Killy Bass U16s against Koo Wee Rup on the weekend.

As the game progressed, our midfield got going.

Led by a strong contested game from ruckman Brodie, the rovers were able to win clearances and get the ball going forward.

With a good spread of goal-kickers and our small forwards causing havoc, the scoreboard started ticking over.

Around the ground saw

plenty of gut running and slick ball movement which set up the talls, Harvey, Gus and Ty, who marked everything that came their way.

A great team effort saw the boys come away with the points and go into the bye week with plenty of momentum.

Best Players: Charlie Burgess, Gus Oats, Perry McKay, Harvey Leary and Blake Eden.



U14 Kilcunda Bass Best on Ground awards: Jackson Henderson, Brady Van Steensel, Seb Rennie, Noah Margrie and Justin Braumann Hall.



U12 Killy Bass team get around goal kicker Bailey Pool.

Killy Bass Juniors fight it out against Island Blue

FOOTBALL

U14

Great conditions down at Bass, the boys faced off against another top four team in Phillip Island Blue.

The first quarter was a great hit out with back-and-forth football, seeing the Island going into quarter time with a one goal lead.

The second and third quarter was much the same with some great passages of play.

Heading into the last trailing by 15 points, the boys ran out of legs with the Island kicking three consecutive goals to finish the game.

A great effort and the team are improving every week.

Keep up the great work.

Best: Justin Braumann-Hall, Sebastien Rennie, Jackson Henderson, Brady Van Steensel and Noah Margrie.

U12

A truly gutsy performance by the Kilcunda Bass U12s on Sunday, showing heart and determination against a much bigger and physically stronger Phillip Island outfit.

Despite being undermanned due to illness and injury, the team never gave up and kept the contest alive right until the final siren.

Led brilliantly by captain Lerah, who set the tone with her physicality and never-say-die attitude, the kids stood tall under pressure.

Max was a standout in defence, using his pace and game sense to turn back wave after wave of Phillip Island attacks.

The team's leadership group stepped up in style, with Miles, Bailey, Alfie and Chaze all putting in terrific efforts across the ground.

Bailey Pool provided the scoreboard highlights, slotting both of Kilcunda Bass's goals with confidence.

While the scoreboard didn't fall in our favour, the spirit and fight shown by every player was something to be proud of.

The kids matched it with a tough opponent and never backed down, a true credit to their character and commitment.

Final Score: Phillip Island: 4.7 (31) to Kilcunda Bass: 2.3 (15).

Goals: Bailey Pool 2.

Best Players: Lerah Schonewille, Miles Leary, Bailey Pool, Alfie Russo, Max Milner and Chaze Poulton.

Awards: Darby Quinlan, Max Milner, Coby Dobson, Alfie Russo and Maverick Loughridge.

Well done to all the players, your bravery, teamwork and effort were nothing short of inspiring.

U10

The kids played so well and fought hard all day.

Killy Bass held Phillip Island Blue scoreless until the second quarter and the game was pretty even the whole way through.

In the last quarter the kids finally got some reward for effort with Benteigh Frith kicking two goals, they were super proud.

The team will enjoy the long weekend break and be back together the following week to play Leongatha.

Island strong against Warranor

FOOTBALL

U16 Girls

This was the match of the round in the Female Football Gippsland Under 16 competition.

Both Warranor and Phillip Island had only suffered one loss for the season so far and were sitting second and third respectively on the ladder.

Led by their captain for the day Ruby Kent-Ford, the Island girls got off to a great start, with Bethany Grenness running amok up forward and snagging a beautiful long goal to set the tempo for the day. Olivia Holmes and Gisele Smith dominated around the ball, while Phoenix Stedman and Mia Ward played great games on the wings.

The second quarter saw the girls put their foot down on the pedal and pile on four goals straight to take a commanding lead in the game.

Scarlette Rees and Kyra Carton were providing strong targets up forward, while Piper Nicolaci and Stellah Tilley were holding their space and getting into dangerous attacking posi-

tions on numerous occasions and were unlucky not to score more goals.

Unfortunately, Luna Bowker went down in the quarter with a wrist injury and had to leave the game. We wish Luna a speedy recovery.

Lily O'Loughlin, Lily (Elbow) Bow and Gemma Fischer once again provided plenty of run and carry for the team, while Tess Ricardo and Georgia Niven were solid and reliable in defence.

The goals continued and a sensational handball assist from Scarlette (Scar) Rees to Ruby in the forward line saw the captain snag her second goal for the day.

This was a fantastic team game, with some exciting passages of play and you can see that the girls are really starting to gel together as a team.

Final Score: Phillip Island 8.11.59 defeated Warranor 0.2.2.

Best: Olivia Holmes, Gemma Fischer, Ruby Kent Ford, Gisele Smith and Mia Ward.

Goals: Olivia Holmes, Kyra Carton, Bethany Grenness, Scarlett Rees, Stellah Tilley, Lily Carville and Ruby Kent-Ford 2.



Kirby Fuller flies high for the Reserves, pulling down a strong mark during Saturday's clash against Dalyston.



Another rising star, Bailey Hennessy stepped up with confidence in Saturday's senior match.



U18's Jasper Cashman launches into the contest with a strong fist pump to spoil during Saturday's match.



Ollie Duggan receives his senior debut jumper in front of proud family members Rach, Steve, and Ella.



Jack Huther proudly receives his first senior gurnsey, No.14, just like his dad once wore, along side family Scott, Cath and Maya.



U11 Killy Bass netballers show their support for MND, proudly wearing their Big Freeze blue socks.



The Kilcunda Bass Under 17 netballers proudly wore their Big Freeze socks on game day to support the fight against Motor Neurone Disease. A fantastic show of team spirit for a great cause.

Kilcunda Bass netballers back the Big Freeze

NETBALL

A Grade

The team had a great hit out again with Koo Wee Rup.

Coming off a win the previous week, the girls were fired up to continue this winning streak.

A great start helped the girls to break away early, however Koo Wee put the pressure on.

The girls played a solid four quarters of netball and showed what they can do as a group; an exciting team game.

Best on court: Sophie.

B Grade

The girls have been putting in the work at training, particularly focusing on refining their set plays and it certainly showed on game day.

They hit the court with intensity and a clear determination to work hard for one another.

This commitment paid off, and by quarter time they had edged ahead with a three-goal lead.

As the game wore on, a few small errors began to creep in, and by three-quarter time the momentum had shifted, with the

girls finding themselves three goals down.

However, showing impressive resilience and composure, the team reset heading into the final quarter with renewed focus.

Sticking to their team goals, they were able to force crucial turnovers and convert under pressure, ultimately claiming a thrilling one-goal victory.

Final score Kilcunda Bass 47 defeated Koo Wee Rup 46.

It was a well-earned win and one the team should be very proud of.

Best on court, and recipient of the Cape Pilates: Isabella Santorini.

D Grade

This week was a milestone for D Grade, with the full side available for the first time this season.

The team started strong, full of energy and focus, and trailed by just one goal at quarter time.

Despite slippery court conditions, the girls adapted well and moved the ball confidently in the second quarter, heading into half time only three goals behind.

Koo Wee Rup gained

momentum in the second half, capitalising on turnovers and extending their lead.

While a few errors crept into the game, the Kilcunda Bass team never dropped their heads, showing fantastic determination and sportsmanship right to the final whistle.

The team continues to build strong connections each week and should be proud of their growth.

Final score: Kilcunda Bass 21 defeated by Koo Wee Rup 37.

Best on Court (Grantville Foodworks vouchers): Lynne Boad, Miranda Eden.

U17s

The Under 17 girls were fired up for their match against Koo Wee Rup, led by a strong pre-game warm-up from co-captain Matilda Feehan.

They brought high intensity and defensive pressure to the first half, transitioning smoothly from turnovers into attack.

Defenders Hope, Matilda, Sadie, Jill, Keely (U15s), and Jya worked tirelessly to contain Koo Wee Rup's strong forward line.

In attack, Maisie, Millie, Alana, Payton and Matilda focused on front cuts and reworking the ball in and out of the ring, applying skills practised at training to create better shooting opportunities.

Despite the scoreboard, the team showed impressive development, with growing confidence and cohesion each week.

Final score: Koo Wee Rup 33 def. Kilcunda Bass 13.

Best on court: Matilda Feehan and Sadie Davies.

U15

This week, the girls showed incredible commitment.

With illness sweeping through the team, every player dug deep and turned up ready to give their all, a victory in itself.

While a win over Koo Wee Rup was always going to be tough under the circumstances, the team gave everything they had and should be proud.

A big thank you to our U13 girls, who train with us each week and support from the bench without hesitation. Your contribution is always valued.

A special mention to Frankie Leary, who

backed up after a full game in the 13s to play in both the midcourt and goals, a true team effort.

Savannah Bennett had a standout game, tagging her opponent, creating key turnovers and helping drive the ball forward.

Best on court (Sanny Pub Voucher): Savannah Bennett for her strength and determination.

Coach's Award: Ciara Santorini for her leadership and grit despite illness.

U13

Under 13 girls put up a brave fight against Koo Wee Rup, but ultimately fell short by a narrow margin, losing by just four goals.

From the outset, the game was a competitive contest, with both teams displaying great energy and skill.

The players showed determination and resilience throughout the match especially dealing with the rain and a wet court.

Despite conceding a few early goals, the girls regrouped well, producing some fine defensive efforts and connecting nicely in attack.

The team moved the

ball with confidence, creating scoring chances that kept the opposition on their toes.

Best on court: Asha and Frankie.

U11

The early morning dew saw wet court conditions for the U11 team.

The girls started positively shooting the first goal of the game, unfortunately, Koo Wee Rup took control after that and didn't see another score for Kilcunda Bass until the third quarter.

Facing stronger and more experienced opposition in the West Gippsland competition is proving challenging week in and week out for our team, most who are new to the game this year.

The players maintain their smiles and enthusiasm and give it their all each week and that's all you can ask.

The team will keep working hard at training and learning the game and hopefully we will see improvement in the second half of the season.

Awards: Sage and Kallani, Zoe (Babe's Chocky Award).

Strong performances from Island against Dalyston

NETBALL

A Grade

Phillip Island A graders put on a great show against Dalyston on the weekend, competing goal for goal all through the game. Unfortunately, Dalyston came away with the end in the final quarter.

Dalyston 47 defeated Phillip Island 41.

B Grade

B Grade put up a fiery performance against Dalyston in a tightly contested match.

The score was locked in at the end of the first quarter, showcasing the intense competition.

The Island girls stepped up in the second quarter, playing with confidence and determination, and took a three-point lead into halftime.

Dalyston found their rhythm in the third quar-

ter, shifting the momentum in their favour and taking the lead.

The fourth quarter was a nail-biter, with both teams giving it their all.

Despite everyone's hard work, we couldn't quite hang on, and Dalyston ultimately took the win.

Best on: Abbey and Sophia.

Dalyston 49 defeated Phillip Island 38.

C Grade

A solid performance this week, claiming a convincing win over Dalyston.

The game got off to a slow start, with both teams taking time to settle into their rhythm.

However, Phillip Island remained composed and stuck to their game plan, gradually finding their flow.

By halftime, the team had established a strong nine-goal lead, setting the

tone for the remainder of the match.

The second half saw the girls lift even further, with tight defence, smart ball movement and consistent shooting stretching the lead and putting the result beyond doubt.

Awards: Abby Papas and Lawri Piera.

Well done, ladies – a great team performance and a well-earned win

Phillip Island 41 defeated Dalyston 38.

D Grade

Phillip Island 24 defeated Dalyston 19.

U17

The Under 17s brought the heat on a crisp Saturday morning, turning in a brilliant team performance to take a well-earned win over Dalyston at home.

The Island girls started strong, with an 8-5 lead at quarter time, thanks to

sharp shooting from Aisha and Ellie and rock-solid defence from Olivia and Tilly.

Dalyston responded in the second quarter, sneaking ahead 16-13 by half-time, but our girls weren't done yet.

The third quarter saw the momentum swing back our way.

Ava was outstanding through the centre, controlling the pace and driving the play. Jasira, Piper and Abbey were instrumental across the mid-court, applying pressure, creating turnovers, and linking beautifully from defence to attack.

Heading into the final term with a five-goal lead, the girls held their nerve.

Aisha and Ellie continued to convert under the post, while the whole team defended as one to shut down Dalyston's comeback hopes.

Best on: Jasira and Ava.

Phillip Island 32 defeated Dalyston 26.

U15

Phillip Island 31 defeated Dalyston 15.

U13

Phillip Island 32 defeated Dalyston 13.

U11

The girls put on a fantastic display in their match against Dalyston, coming away with a commanding victory.

From the opening centre pass, the team showed great energy and cohesion.

In an effort to continue developing skills and versatility, players were rotated through a variety of positions.

Each player embraced the changes with a positive attitude, adapting well and showing growth

across the court.

It was a great opportunity for the team to explore new roles and build confidence in different areas of play.

Sophie Blake and Mila Potter were named Best on Court for their outstanding performances.

Sophie's strong positioning, accurate passing and defensive pressure were outstanding.

Mila was dynamic through the midcourt, using her speed and awareness to link defence and attack with confidence and composure.

The whole team worked hard, and it was a well-rounded performance and a great example of teamwork, sportsmanship and skill.

Congratulations to all the players on a terrific game.

Phillip Island 27 defeated Dalyston 6.

Indigenous titles at Bells

SURFING

Congratulations to island surfer Tyler Duell who came fourth in the Junior Boys category of the Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles at Bells Beach on the weekend.

Tyler also competed in the Open Men's category.

The Junior Boys was won by Charlie Chisolm (Torquay), while the Open Men's was won by Landen Smales (Noosa Heads), who also took out the Men's Longboard.

Open Women's champion was Lehaini Zoric (Byron Bay) who also won the Junior Girls, with the Women's Longboard won by Melissa Combo (Bundjalung NSW).

Rhys Collins from Red Hill won the Masters Men, while Byron Bay's Kirsty Zoric took out the Women's category.

The Over 50 Men's was won by



Tyler Duell in action at the Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles at Bells Beach. Photo: Elley Harrison, Surfing Victoria.

Jay McKenzie (Cronulla NSW). Zac Maloney (Killarney Vale, NSW) was honoured with the Community Spirit Award for his uplifting attitude and consistent encouragement of fellow competitors throughout the event.

Full scores and results can be found at: www.australianindigenoussurfingtitles.com



More than 30 people attended the event which included the big morning tea and a range of fund-raising games and activities including a Round Robin tournament.

Tennis Club Biggest Morning Tea

TENNIS

The Phillip Island Tennis Club raised \$1282 for the Cancer Council at its recent Biggest Morning Tea.

More than 30 people attended the event which included not only the expected big morning tea plus a range of fund-raising games and activities including a Round Robin, a raffle (with prize donated by Terry White

Chemist), and a bell display with prizes for Most Popular and Prettiest, Smallest, Most Unusual, and Most Annoying.

The fund raising also included over \$200 collected from recycling cans and bottles over the last few months.

Thank you to everyone for their contributions, whether it be helping to set up, playing tennis, donating their time, money and goods or cleaning up afterwards.

Rhyll teen selected for Victorian team

EQUESTRIAN

Olivia Curtain from Rhyll is preparing to represent Victoria on the national stage after earning selection for the 2025 Australian Interschool Championships in Sydney.

Olivia, who is in Year 9 at Hailleybury Pangea, has just been named to the Victorian Equestrian team and will compete at the prestigious championships in September.

She secured her spot following a standout performance at the recent five-day Petstock Interschool State Championships, held at Boneo Park.

Olivia began riding when she was just eight years old and now trains four or five times a week on her 12-year-old mare, Ngahiwi-Lady Blu.

She fits in training, competing and caring for her horse around her online schooling schedule, showing a level of discipline well beyond her years.

"I love everything about horses, riding and competing,"



Olivia Curtain, of Rhyll, in action with her mare Ngahiwi-Lady Blu. The talented Year 9 rider will represent Victoria at the 2025 Australian Interschool Championships in Sydney this September.

Olivia said. "Training and improving your skills is hard work, but so rewarding. It's an amazing feeling when you finally nail something you've been working on."

Olivia currently has three competition horses and often trains for at least three hours a day.

Her selection is a reflection of her dedication, commitment and

love for the sport.

"I'm so proud to be part of the Victorian team, and I would love to represent Australia at the Youth Olympics and the Olympic Games one day," she said.

The former Newhaven College student's passion and work ethic make her one to watch in Australia's rising equestrian ranks.

Midweek at San Remo

BOWLS

A lovely cold morning brought 50 bowlers to San Remo to fight it out in the weekly challenge.

The bowlers were welcomed to the club by the esteemed president John, while Rob and Claire arranged the teams.

It was immediately clear it was going to be a hard day with such great teams on the green.

As usual, there was plenty of laughter and friendly banter between the players and some brilliant bowls being played.

Only a couple of wrong bias bowls today, but it all helps to fill the RCH tin.

Winners of Midweek bowls on 34 points were: Vern Elliott (S), Sue Wright (2), Michael Saunders (3) and Aggie Gratton (L).

Runners up on a score of 33 points were: Peter Taylor (L), David Talbot (3) and Peter Gratton (S).

Best One Game winners on a score of 18 were: Tony Heppleston (S), Gwen Jeffrey (2), Richard Kerr (L), and Steve Edge (3).

Many thanks to all the volunteers, including Mark in the bar as well as Claire and John in the kitchen.

This week we will be meeting at Koo Wee Rup as they return to the fold following their recent re-

build of the club house.

Hoping to have a full house to welcome them back.

The team will meet at 10am to allow time to prepare the teams prior to our 10.30am start.

Please be on time as the numbers are getting quite high and if you are in after the books are full then you may have to miss out.

Euchre results

Ladies winner: Phillis 7 wins.

Men's winner: Darrell 5 wins.

Encouragement award: Mary Anne.

And a very happy birthday to Lorraine.

Vikings reign supreme

DARTS

After nine intense rounds of triples, doubles, and nail-biting finishes, the regular season of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League has officially wrapped up and the stage is now set for a thrilling finals campaign.

Flying high and throwing true, The Vikings have emerged as the team to beat, claiming top spot on the ladder and marching confidently into the A Grade Finals.

Their consistency and precision at the oche have made them the benchmark across the season, and now the real battle begins.

They'll be joined in the A Grade showdown by the other top-tier contenders, positions one to four now locked in. Miramar, Aulin and Joe's Hornets will be fighting for darts glory in what promises to be a fiery finals series.

Meanwhile, those sitting in positions five to eight will battle it out in the beloved (and fiercely contested) Gumboot Final, where pride, passion and perhaps a few good laughs are on the line.

But spare a thought for teams nine and ten, who enter next week staring down the ultimate dishonour: the dreaded wooden spoon.

But before the finals heat up, there's still one more twist, next week's Lightning Premiership, a fast and furious round-robin event where every team plays each other once in a game of 801.

Expect chaos. Expect carnage. Expect darts.

And if that wasn't enough excitement, a shoutout must go to the man, the myth, the meat-tray winner, Jeff, who stepped up as a fill-in and walked away with the mighty San Remo Butcher's meat tray raffle.

They say heroes come in all forms, some even bearing snags.

Congratulations to all teams who've thrown their hearts out this season.

Whether chasing trophies or avoiding spoons, every player has added to the spirit, camaraderie, and fierce competition that makes this league a stand-out in the community.

After next week's lightning clash, the league takes a brief breather for the King's Birthday holiday, before the finals series kicks off in earnest.

Singles tournament

CROQUET

Phillip Island Croquet Club had their annual Singles Golf Croquet Tournament on the weekend.

Players from different parts of Victoria (Queenscliff, Wonthaggi, Sorrento, Kyneton, Drysdale, Monash) played.

Section 1 winner: Paul Andrews; runner-up Marj Prendergast.

Section 2 winner: Claire Earl; runner-up Neil Warburton.

New club president, Lillian

Wagstaff presented the prizes on Sunday and Claire presented the prizes on Saturday.

A huge thank you to all who put on this tournament, especially the tournament manager, Robert and a big thank you to everyone in the club who helped, and the players.

Next tournament is on June 28 and 29.

Anyone is welcome to come and watch at the Blue Gum Reserve on Dunsmore Road in Cowes.

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 4 JUN	THU 5 JUN	FRI 6 JUN	SAT 7 JUN	SUN 8 JUN	MON 9 JUN	TUE 10 JUN
LOW	12:18 am 1.01 m	1:01 am 1.01 m	1:44 am 1.00 m	2:29 am 0.99 m	3:17 am 0.96 m	4:09 am 0.92 m	5:01 am 0.86 m
HIGH	6:39 am 2.55 m	7:33 am 2.48 m	8:30 am 2.44 m	9:30 am 2.46 m	10:32 am 2.53 m	11:30 am 2.64 m	12:25 pm 2.77 m
LOW	12:17 pm 0.94 m	1:02 pm 1.12 m	1:52 pm 1.29 m	2:48 pm 1.43 m	3:51 pm 1.52 m	4:58 pm 1.55 m	6:00 pm 1.53 m
HIGH	7:07 pm 2.82 m	7:42 pm 2.70 m	8:18 pm 2.59 m	9:00 pm 2.50 m	9:47 pm 2.43 m	10:42 pm 2.39 m	11:39 pm 2.40 m

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

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Phillip Island young guns Ollie Duggan (left), Charlie O'Garey (centre), and Jack Huther (right) playing their first senior matches. All three stepped up and played their roles helping the Bulldogs to secure a massive win over Dalyston. More photos on page 25.

Clean sweep for the Island against Dalyston

FOOTBALL

Seniors

Phillip Island went up against Dalyston this weekend at Cowes on the first day of winter in perfect conditions.

The Bulldogs' senior side stormed to another impressive win, controlling the game from start to finish with clean ball movement, relentless pressure, and a potent forward line.

A strong home crowd enjoyed every bit of the 80-point triumph.

Nick Anderson put together a masterclass up forward, finishing with five goals and proving nearly unstoppable.

His effort was matched by consistent contributions from Cam Pedersen (three goals) and Jack Huther (three goals).

A special shout-out to Charlie O'Garey, who impressed again in just his second senior game, showing poise and polish beyond his years.

And the Island couldn't be prouder of Ollie Duggan, who stepped up for his senior debut slotting two goals, a brilliant start to what promises to be an exciting journey.

Hayden Bruce, Charlie Bruce, Jaymie Youle, Tyce Kleverkamp, Jay Ladson and Jack Taylor were all influential across the ground, continuing to drive the Bulldogs' fast-paced and disciplined brand of footy.

Phillip Island 19.15 (129) defeated Dalyston 7.7 (49).

Goal kickers: Nick Anderson 5, Cam Pedersen and Jack Huther 3, Jaymie Youle, Jack Taylor, Charlie O'Garey and Oliver Duggan 2.

Best: Hayden Bruce, Charlie Bruce, Jaymie Youle, Nick

Anderson, Tyce Kleverkamp and Jay Ladson.

Reserves

The Reserves continued their winning momentum, putting on a clinical performance and showing great depth across the squad.

The 71-point margin reflected the Bulldogs' ability to spread the load and play team-first football.

James Nicolaci was simply outstanding, kicking three goals and being named among the best in a performance that had class written all over it. Whether it was clean hands, strong marking, or composure around goal, James delivered.

Connor Thompson, Finlay Cousins, and Jack Keating set the tone early, while Ben Taylor, Damien Holmes, and Lucas Chihotski provided consistent drive.

Nine individual goal kickers underscored a real team performance. This group continues to build nicely, the pressure is on for spots and that's exactly where the team wants to be.

Phillip Island 14.7 (91) defeated Dalyston 2.3 (15).

Goal Kickers: James Nicolaci 3, Bryce Pewtress, Jack Keating and Max Mattock 2, Ben Taylor, Connor Thompson, Mikka Paulsen, Lucas Chihotski and Brayden Kleverkamp 1.

Best: Connor Thompson, Finlay Cousins, Jack Keating, James Nicolaci, Ben Taylor and Damien Holmes.

U18

The U18 boys kicked off the day in dominant fashion, putting together a four-quarter performance that showcased

their teamwork, pressure, and ability to finish.

The scoreboard tells the story, with a strong 66-point win at home.

Max Taylor was on fire up forward, slotting three goals and proving a constant threat.

Jeremy Kelly, ChaCha Fischer and Ayden Fawaz were standouts across the ground, combining grit and class.

Dean Rizzo found plenty of the ball and also hit the scoreboard with two majors, while Harry Arceo and George McCausland contributed to a complete team effort.

A special moment came when Finniss Gibson kicked truly and was mobbed by teammates, a celebration that sparked even more energy in the side and lifted the whole group.

Congratulations to Oliver Duggan, who made his senior debut later in the day. A fantastic reward for hard work and a proud day for the club.

Phillip Island 10.16 (76) defeated Dalyston 3.3 (21).

Goal Kickers: Max Taylor 3, Dean Rizzo 2, Jasper Cashman, Ayden Fawaz, George McCausland, Finniss Gibson and Jeremy Kelly 1.

Best: Jeremy Kelly, ChaCha Fischer, Max Taylor, Ayden Fawaz, Dean Rizzo and Harry Arceo.

U16

The U16 lads were ready to get back on the winners list this week against Dalyston.

It was a dominant first quarter, but the boys were unable to capitalise on the scoreboard, kicking seven behinds.

After the first break the

lads were determined to get the scoreboard ticking over.

Captain Sam O'Garey got the first goal for the island and the dominance continued through the second quarter.

All the play coming off the backline with Felix and Archie reading the ball well and Ethan Rhee running havoc in the midfield.

A four goal second quarter saw the Island lead by five goals at half time.

After the half time break a steady third quarter saw the Island continue to keep the pressure on.

Jack and Hayden took control in the midfield and gave our forwards first look every time.

Goals to Caleb, Lewis and Sam saw Phillip Island increase their lead.

Heading into the last quarter with a 40-point lead, the confidence grew as the lads were able to continue hitting the scoreboard.

Jacko was able to kick his first goal of the year along with Archer.

The backline held incredibly strong only giving up one goal for the entire game.

Phillip Island: 9.18 (72) defeated Dalyston 1.3 (9).

Goal kickers: Caleb Cantwell 3, Sam O'Garey 2, Jackson Allan, Lewis De Fazio, Levi Addison and Archi Bailey-Cox 1.

Best: Ethan Rhee, Hayden Power, Jack Mascaros, Jackson Alla, Archie Williams, Felix Bathgate, Caleb Cantwell and Levi Addison.

More photos at
pisra.com.au/sport

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