

# PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

\$1.40 Incl. GST



## Whale removal a vexed question

Thousands of people have flocked to the Forrest Caves beach in the past week to view the 16 metre sperm whale that washed ashore there ten days ago. These two local youngsters were among the many who braved the stench they were confronted with, for the opportunity of being able to view the once magnificent creature at close quarters. As for the stench, we'd better get used to it, as authorities rule out any possibility of it being removed from the site, on the grounds of navigational safety at sea and inaccessibility on land.

The disposal of the 16 metre sperm whale that washed up on Forrest Caves last week has become a vexed question.

While calls for the removal of the whale continue, because of the awful stench being emitted, local contractors agree that it is impossible to access the beach with the earth moving equipment that would be required to bury it.

And local maritime experts agree that if the carcass was towed out to sea, as has been suggested, it would present a hazard to shipping, at least for an interim period.

Last week, a humpback whale which died at sea in Port Phillip Bay after becoming entangled, was able to be removed.

The huge creature was towed in

to the beach at Mount Martha by authorities, to avoid it presenting a hazard to shipping.

Its carcass was then subsequently removed from the beach, and has now been successfully disposed of.

Why not the same treatment here, the Department of Environment, Water and Land (DEWLP) was asked on Monday.

The response: that the Mount Martha beach was accessible for the heavy machinery required for the task, whereas the Forrest Caves beach is not.

"The Humpback whale at Mount Martha was entangled at sea, presenting navigational safety concerns. After an options analysis was conducted, the animal was

bought ashore to reduce navigational safety threats," the spokesperson said.

"The deceased Sperm whale at Forrest Caves Beach, Phillip Island, does not currently present navigational safety concerns as it has washed ashore," the spokesperson added.

Chris Angwin, Regional Manager of Operations (central region) of the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) said on Tuesday that there is a possibility that the whale could be washed back into the sea.

He said the position of the carcass is monitored daily, and it could still wash away.

"It is still a possibility on the right sort of king tide, such as those that we have over Easter,

that the carcass could be washed further along the beach, or even back into the water," Chris said.

He said Fisheries is monitoring the situation closely, particularly in relation to the potential for an increase in shark activity in the area, and the Authority is taking every precaution deemed necessary.

He said a drone was in the air for eight hours over a two day period as weather conditions allowed last week, and will be used again.

Just one small shark, thought to be a bronze whaler, was spotted, which is not particularly unusual, he commented.

Chris said signage has also been erected at local beaches, and the Victorian Emergency App will be updated as required with emer-

gency advice.

"We have also had a boat in the water regularly and are using binoculars from the beach.

"No significant shark issues have presented

"At this stage we have seen no signs of increased shark activity."

### Macabre incident

Meanwhile, in spite of protests about the stench, many thousands of onlookers have flocked to the Forrest Caves beach over the past ten days, to view what was once a grand and noble creature at close quarters.

And in what can only be described as a macabre incident, parts of the whale's jawbone were

*Continued page 2*

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## From page 1

removed by unknown person/s on Thursday night.

It is an offence for members of the public to interfere, take or be in possession of parts of a dead whale, and the incident is being investigated.

A possible motive for such a despicable act could be the fact that an ivory tooth from a sperm whale is currently fetching up to \$1500 on the black market.

A post in the Advertiser's photo contributor's Facebook group last week looked at the whale carcass from a cultural perspective.

"For my culture, we see it (the carcass) as a blessing," the post read.

"Each tribe differs on how they treat the whale. Some try and return it to the sea ASAP for the carcass eaters.

"Other tribes dissect it for many purposes on the land.

"The bones of these whales are

sacred, and taken by local carvers...these bone carvings are our connection to the sea, and a gift valued by whoever receives one."

DEWLP has supplied the following information:

It is an offence for people or their dogs to be within 300 metres of a whale.

Whales are protected under the Wildlife Act – regardless if they are alive or dead.

It is an offence under the Wild-

life Act for members of the public to interfere, take or be in possession of parts of a dead whale.

The washing up of a dead whale presents a unique opportunity to study potential cause of death as well as other unique biological and ecological information.

The information and samples taken will be accessible to researchers from around the world, through Museums Victoria.

Don't hesitate to contact me, I am here to help.



Cr Ronnie Bauer  
for the Island Ward,  
Bass Coast Shire

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# Options for the disposal of whales

The recent events in Forrest Caves have sparked much debate in the community about what should be done with the giant sperm-whale carcass that is now decaying on the shoreline.

Last time a large whale washed up on Phillip Island was fifty years ago in the 1970s, and the then Phillip Island council dissected it into 80 half tonne sections, and craned each section up the cliff to be buried.

Today, whales are protected under the Wildlife Act, regardless of whether they are alive or dead.

The decision by the Department of Environment, Land and Water to allow the whale carcass to decay naturally has been questioned this week as the stench increases; and even residents from as far afield as Rhyll have complained about the smell wafting across to them.

So the Advertiser decided to take a look this week at how whale carcasses affecting residential areas have been dealt with around the world.

The washing out to sea method

On the Yorkshire coast in the UK in December last year, 10 sperm whales died on shore in what is thought to be the biggest mass stranding of the cetacean in England since records began in 1913.

The animals in this case were left to wash back out to sea. Safety patrols patrolled the area, offering safety and informational advice to the public about the whales.

## The blow it up method

In 1970 a whale washed ashore in Oregon. The community was at a loss as to what to do with it, much like the island community is right now.

They decided it couldn't be moved, and no one wanted to cut it up, so they settled on dynamite as the best option.

They blew the whale up, with many spectators gathering to watch the spectacle.

The dynamite created a magnifi-

cent explosion, and it was amazing that no-one was killed.

The consequences had not been fully thought through; and a large piece of the whale landed on a nearby car, crushing it completely under the weight.

## The landfill method

San Onofre State Beach in the US has had a few whales die on its shores. In 2016 a 40-foot whale washed up on its shore, and they decided it was best to cut the whale up and dispose of it in landfill.

They had to keep the public away, because methane can build up inside dead whales and cause natural explosions.

## The burial method

One of the more common ways around the globe to deal with a whale carcass is to bury it on the beach. However, this is said to attract lots of sharks to the area in which it is buried. That means dig-

ging a hole two stories deep, so the whale is safely entombed under at least 10 feet of sand.

Officials have buried whales stranded on San Francisco's Ocean Beach in this way.

While whale carcasses have been dealt with differently around the globe, there is one thing that is universally agreed, and that is: The terrible stench.

The method used depends on factors relating to the demands of the surrounding environment; and because one method worked in one place, it may not be the best solution for elsewhere. On Phillip Island, it seems that we will just have to sit this one out!

Local earth moving contractors agree that it is impossible to get heavy machinery on to the beach to bury the whale.

Seafarers agree that towing the whale out to sea would create a maritime hazard in the immediate future, although it would eventually sink.



Thousands of people have flocked to Forrest Caves where a 16 metre sperm whale lies dead, over the past ten days. Photo: Michelle Cleary



## Macabre act on whale

In a macabre incident parts of the whale's jawbone were removed by unknown person/s on Thursday night.

A possible motive for such

a despicable act could be the fact that an ivory tooth from a sperm whale is currently fetching up to \$1500 on the black market. Photo: Michelle Cleary

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It was ten years ago, in March 2011, when Amanda Drennan created history by becoming the first person to swim the island's 66 kilometre circumference in a shark cage, to raise funds and awareness of Phillip Island's need for 24/7 health care. Fast forward ten years, and Amanda and her team have presented a cheque for \$61,000 to the Health Hub, for the purchase of a state of the art bedside ultrasound machine. Amanda (front left) and Lou Sparkes, Acting CEO Bass Coast Health (front right) are pictured at the presentation ceremony on Monday with some of her her support team: Back from left they are Amanda's mum Anne Drennan, nursing Amanda's baby son Sidney, partner Ben Strong, Cheryl Overton, Rob Wilkinson and Peter McInnes.



Kirsten Weinzierl, Operations Director at the Phillip Island Health Hub, and Liam Nancarrow, Acting Nurse Unit Manager, Urgent Care, admire the Hub's new bedside ultrasound machine, purchased with the funds raised by Paralympian Amanda Drennan.

# Bedside ultrasound machine for Hub

Paralympian Amanda Drennan last week presented a cheque for over \$61,000 to the Phillip Island Health Hub.

The funds are the proceeds raised from Amanda's epic swim, ten years ago back in 2011, when she circumnavigated Phillip Island in a shark cage, in an amazing achievement and one never accomplished before.

The swim was conducted over a

five day period, during which a then 22 year old Amanda, a champion paralympian swimmer, became the first person to swim the island's 66 kilometre circumference.

In completing this impressive feat, Amanda not only created history but also did it the hard way in raising awareness and funds for a 24 hour medical centre to be established in Cowes.

The response to her appeal was heartening and well supported by the local community who dug deep into their pockets and contributed to this event in cash and kind, and attended further fundraising events organised by her.

The final tally of \$61,884 has finally been presented to the Phillip Island Health Hub, and has been used to purchase a state of the art bedside

ultrasound, which enables patients to be immediately assessed.

"This state of the art equipment is the envy of many other health services, and can be used by staff to make quick decisions on the spot without having to wait for radiology," said Lou Sparkes, Acting CEO Bass Coast Health, at Monday's presentation ceremony.

"Medical specialists visiting the

Hub are amazed that we have one."

Lou expressed the sincere thanks of BCH to Amanda and her strong support team, many of whom were present for the presentation ceremony.

"It was a huge effort. Amanda was motivated to raise awareness of the need for improved health on Phillip Island . . . and she did.

"We are very fortunate to have this piece of machinery here."

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Rubber tyre marks can be found on roads around the island, leaving "local roads looking like a drag strip", including here, on the corner of Ventnor Road and Grossard Point Road.

# Driven to distraction by hooners

Hoon drivers are putting the lives of drivers at risk around Phillip Island, say concerned residents.

Meanwhile police say illegal burnout club meets are a growing problem across Bass Coast, including the island.

Acting Senior Sergeant Garth Campbell from Cowes Police said hoon driving had made its way to Bass Coast from Melbourne in recent years.

"There has been a recent increase in hoon activity of late which can be attributed to both an increase in traffic to Bass Coast and more recently illegal club meets arranging burnout meets in the South Gippsland/Bass Coast areas," Acting Snr Sgt Campbell said.

He said police on the island "continually conducted patrols of areas of known high hoon activity", with Bass Coast Highway Patrol.

Burnout skid marks - as well as revving noise at night - indicate island hot spots include Berrys Beach Road, Back Beach Road near the race track and Ventnor Road, but with tyre marks evident along the Phillip Island Road and even the bridge.

Acting Snr Sgt Campbell said hoon drivers were usually young males aged between 17 - 25 years of age.

Concerned residents said burnouts marks and tyre rubber "have left local roads looking like a drag strip".

Dave, from Cowes, said it was clear hoon driving and its excessive speed was on the increase and he was concerned about taking his teens out on the roads for night driving on their L-plates.

"I think the risk of an accident at one of those intersections is real," Dave said.

"These hooners obviously have no concern for the safety of other road users.

"If there aren't further police patrols I fear a serious accident will occur.

"It's a common occurrence that seems to be worsening, with the noise of burnouts being heard nightly."

Dave called on police to step up patrols and arrests.

Acting Snr Sgt Campbell said police rely largely on the public to inform them of hoon activity adding the public can report activity on the Crime Stoppers Hoon Hotline (1800 333 000).

"Hoon drivers pose an enormous risk to the safety of the public and property," he said.

"Police have witnessed time and time again where drivers engaging in hoon activities have lost control of their vehicle colliding with stationary objects such as parked cars, trees, or signs and at times onlookers and pedestrians.

"Hoon drivers rely on the perception that they have control of their vehicle when in reality it takes one error that can end in life changing consequences for both victims and the driver of the vehicle."

If a person is found guilty of three hoon-related offences, their vehicle can be permanently forfeited.

# Appeal for lost ring REWARD OFFERED

A young woman is appealing for the return of her family heirloom engagement ring, should anyone have found it, after it was lost last Friday (March 12) possibly in San Remo, but also possible in Cowes.

The ring has huge sentimental value for the woman and her family, who are devastated by its loss.

The young woman met friends for morning coffee in San Remo, visiting a couple of shops there.

And then shopped in both Coles and Woolworths supermarkets in Cowes.

When she arrived home she went to put the key in the door and saw that her ring was missing from her hand.

She has no idea at what point the ring slipped her finger, but is appealing to anyone who may have found it to call Helen on 5952 5449. A reward is offered.

# What's killing the rabbits?

Some residents have noticed an increased number of dead rabbits on the roadsides around Cowes and Silverleaves.

Allan Pollock of Silverleaves raised the issue with the Advertiser recently, querying if a new dose of myxomatosis had been released to address the issue of the growing rabbit population.

However, Phillip Island Nature Parks has confirmed there's no baiting program or new release of myxomatosis currently underway.

"This is naturally occurring and we tend to get spates of susceptibility and immunity as the myxo mutates over time," a Nature Parks spokesperson said.

"A wet summer has meant more rabbits but also more mozzies which spread the myxo around."

# Travel delays on bridge

People travelling on Phillip Island Road over the Phillip Island bridge between 14-19 March (weather dependent) may experience travel delays of up to ten minutes while maintenance inspections take place.

Lane closures and reduced speed limits will be in place between 7am and 4pm and could result in travel delays in both directions. Drivers are encouraged to take this into account when planning their journeys.

The works are part of Regional Roads Victoria's routine bridge inspection program.

Real-time traffic conditions, including road closures, are available at [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au) or via the VicTraffic mobile app.

For more information go to [transport.vic.gov.au](http://transport.vic.gov.au), [ptv.vic.gov.au](http://ptv.vic.gov.au) or [vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://vicroads.vic.gov.au).

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**Council Update**

**BASS COAST**

**Tender No 21007 – Annual Supply of Tree Maintenance**

Council is seeking to establish a register of approved contractors to supply personnel and/or select items of plant as and when required, to assist in Council's tree maintenance program. The tender is for a five-year contract. The tender period opens 9.00am on Wednesday, 17 March 2021 and closes at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 7 April 2021. Tender documents can be downloaded free of charge from <https://basscoast.etenderbox.com.au>

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# Overhanging branches a serious driving hazard

A local earthmoving contractor is calling on the Bass Coast Shire to attend to unsafe overhanging trees across the roadways it controls, across the entire island.

Neal McRae has lived here for 53 years, driving large trucks locally for 27 of them.

And he says he has noticed a sharp decline in the maintenance of trees on shire roads on the island, particularly over the last six months, resulting in conditions that are unsafe and dangerous.

Neal said the Cowes Rhyll Road is of particular concern, but by no means the only concern.

For me to travel on that road, I have to cross on to the wrong side of the road in four places," he comments.

There identified another danger spot in Harris Road, Ventnor, where Neil's revolving safety beacon on top of his excavator was knocked off earlier this year by an overhanging branch.

Neil said he has contacted the shire three times over the past six weeks to raise the issue, to no avail.

He said that the person who took his call said they would file his comments, and an appropriate officer would get in touch with him.

However, his calls have

gone unreturned and he has not heard from anyone.

"These overhanging branches are very unsafe, and there are now so many of them," Neal said last week.

"I have been driving earthmoving equipment here for 27 years, and I have noticed the situation has got a lot worse in the past six months.

"I am concerned that I could knock a branch and it could hit the car behind. I am concerned that I am often forced to go on the wrong side of the road.

"I know many other heavy vehicle drivers who work locally who also share my strongly held concerns."

Neil said that when he rang the shire and said a branch had knocked his safety beacon light off his vehicle, he was sent a link to make an insurance claim.

"But I am more interested in getting the problem resolved, before something worse happens.

"Overhanging branches need to be swiftly addressed. The problem is not contained to any one road."

Neal said that Vic Roads routes across the island are "pretty good" with regular maintenance occurring.

He is urging the shire to address this issue as a matter of urgency.



Save Western Port Woodlands spokesperson Tim O'Brien, from Cowes



The Dandy Premix quarry site, on the fringe of Western Port.

## Waterline residents prepare for mine fight

Grantville residents have questioned next week's State Government's planning process into the proposed sand mine expansion, saying it is biased in favour of the developer.

Last year Victorian Planning Minister Richard Wynne used his powers to override Bass Coast Shire and call in the Dandy Premix expansion plans, convening a planning panel on March 22 to provide advice on the application to expand the sand quarry.

The proposal will remove the equivalent of eight MCGs worth of vegetation and has been described by councillors as "Melbourne-centric", with

no benefit - only distress - to the local community.

Last week the Save Western Port Woodlands said they were concerned Dandy Premix had successfully sought an extension to the deadline for submitting expert witness reports a day before the March 5 deadline.

"Dandy Premix appear to have gamed the panel hearing," Save Western Port Woodlands spokesperson, Tim O'Brien, said.

"We contend the actions of the Panel Chair in acceding to this request - despite the tissue-thin reasons provided by Dandy Premix, and despite the

disadvantage to the community in granting these extensions - casts a serious shadow over the integrity of this panel and this process."

"The Victorian community can have no confidence in the outcome with such a taint of partiality to the favour of Dandy Premix."

He said the dates for lodging witness reports to the panel were advised on December 23.

"Why wait until the day before the due date to formally request an extension?"

He said he received an email from Planning Panels Victoria that stated Dandy's late request was "less than ideal".

"Yet still it granted the request," Tim said.

"The people of Grantville, and the environment of this state, deserves better than this.

He said sand mining was destroying the fragile coastal forest ecology and its rare and endangered wildlife.

"Environmental vandalism on this scale is to the great discredit of Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio and Planning Minister Richard Wynne."

Councillors were last month unanimous in their opposition to a proposal to expand the Dandy Premix sand quarry, which has been mining since 2013.

## Cry me another riddle!

Given your recent article re Ross River Fever, should we accept this open drain at Rhyll which has been openly discussed with Councillors and Council for many years, says Peter McMahon : Acting Secretary Island Voice.

Why should we be asked to wait to have it rectified.

Is the following the type of response from council to our concerns that we should be

happy with.

"The stormwater can exit through the existing water pathway. However during periods of dry weather ,a small amount of stormwater is captured at the outfall and is flushed away when rainfall occurs."

Is this an acceptable response and decision from council, given the environment we live in.



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The heritage-listed buildings old Boys Home has a long recent history of vandalism.

# Old boys home locked up, secure

The new owners of the old Newhaven Boys Home have this week visited the property to inspect and secure it.

Realtor Ranjith Panangala of the Australasia Real Estate Group said the future of the heritage-listed property – which sold last November to a Melbourne company just shy of the asking price of \$3.5m – would be determined by the new owners later in the year.

“In the meantime they came earlier this week to secure the windows and ensure the building’s safety,” Ranjith said.

“At this stage they’re going through all options to find out what’s the best for this historic property.”

The 1.4ha site at 54-61 Forrest Av-

enue – including the chapel – was bought for \$1.65 million in 2015.

Last year the previous owners spent about half a million dollars gutting the buildings, cleaning up the site and erecting a perimeter fence.

Bass Coast Shire last year confirmed there was a planning permit for the site that allowed for: subdivision into 21 lots; partial demolition of existing buildings; construction of road and subdivision works; removal of vegetation; construction of a garage building and 10 dwellings; and making alterations to existing buildings.

The building was established by the Mission of St James and St John in 1928 to house delinquent boys aged between 9 and 16.

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## ANZ to close Cowes bank

The Cowes Branch of the ANZ bank in Thompson Avenue has informed customers by letter that it plans to close its doors in August.

The bank recently reduced its opening hours.

The letter informs customers that more of them are choosing the convenience of doing their banking when and where it suits them, and that they will be able to manage most of their banking from the comfort of their own home.

## Fire danger period ends

The Fire Danger Period (FDP) finished at 1.00am on Monday (March 15) in the Bass Coast Shire.

According to the latest Australian Seasonal Outlook, above average summer rainfall has led to

a reduced bushfire risk for the autumn period.

These conditions have led to a reduced fire activity in both grasslands and forests this summer.

Much of Victoria will continue to experience milder conditions and lower bushfire potential over the coming months.

“Victoria’s south east has been fortunate to receive some great rainfall over the past several months, reducing the bushfire risk in many parts of Gippsland” said CFA Deputy Chief Officer South East Trevor Owen.

DCO Owen emphasised that while the FDP is coming to an end in some areas, it is still

important to remain vigilant.

“We’re urging everyone to stay safe, whether you’re living in or travelling to high bushfire risk areas,” he said.

“Please monitor the conditions on hot, dry and windy days, as we may still see some days of elevated fire risk.”

While the Fire Danger Period will come to an end, it is still important that residents check the

local conditions are safe for any burn-off they were considering undertaking.

“You must register your burn-offs, check weather conditions and follow local council laws and regulations,” DCO Owen said.





End of Life Consultants Ajanta Judd (Mentor, Advocate, Counsellor and Tutor/Mentor at Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) and Heather Livingstone (Nurse specialising in Mental Health) pictured, will be presenting an End of Life Choices Information and Planning Session at the Cowes Senior Citizens Club on March 27.

# End of life choices

By Ajanta Judd

Death and dying are non-discriminatory. Illness, possibly less so. Life and death are two all-encompassing elements on a continuum. They are both worthy of our full attention.

However, we are usually so focussed on life and commonly, so fearful or, actively deflecting thinking about death, that we avoid preparing for death. And mostly, to our detriment.

Living a rich, responsible, and fulfilling life can, and should, translate into a responsible attitude accompanied by pro-active behaviour toward illness, dying and death.

One day we must all face the inevitable and decisions that we make now - when we are still able to - may lessen the stress related to illness and dying and potentially ease the burden for loved ones.

On March 27th local End of Life Consultants Ajanta Judd (Mentor, Advocate, Counsellor and Tutor/Mentor at Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) and Heather Livingstone (Nurse specialising in Mental Health) will be presenting an End of Life Choices Information and Planning Session at Cowes Senior Citizens Club.

End of Life Consultants or, Death Doula's fulfill the role of providing information, educating, and supporting a person and their loved ones through the process of illness and dying.

Their role is to objectively support, guide and advise in pre death planning and to provide a

calming, dependable presence holding everything steady for the people involved throughout the end of life transition.

The time preceding a person's journey toward death is laden with emotion, overwhelm and vulnerability for everyone concerned.

It is also a time of complex decision making and information overload.

To ensure that we all have the best possible transition into death and that appropriate arrangements proceed according to the dying person's wishes is highly important.

The End of Life Choices Planning and Information presentation will expand your knowledge of choices and services available for end of life care and post death arrangements.

We will cover topics such as: the role of End of Life Consultants; the importance of writing a will and establishing end of life wishes; advanced care planning; medical power of attorney; plus pre and post death choices and arrangements.

This important and informative session will run for three hours from 10 am to 1 pm Saturday March 27 (registration 9.45 am) at the Cowes Senior Citizens Hall, Lions Court, Cowes.

The entry fee is \$15 per head.

Refreshments and an information pack (gold coin donation) will be provided.

Preferred booking is online through: <https://www.trybooking.com/726736>. Please contact Ajanta on 0430 104447 for help to book or, for further information. This Session is part of the PICAL Term One program.



## SHORT STACK

### A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

#### Business mentors

Need help or advice on how to recover from Covid, implement business plans, improve time management and identify new opportunities?

The Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring program runs until December 2021 and provides fresh eyes and expert advice for small businesses and sole traders.

For more information, including on other small business initiatives ranging from online short-course training to digital adaptation grants of up to \$1,200, and wellbeing and mental health support, visit [business.vic.gov.au](http://business.vic.gov.au).

#### Your view on social housing

The government is inviting Victorians to have their say on social and affordable housing as part of a 10-year strategy on safe, suitable and secure housing.

A discussion paper has been released to seek stakeholder and community feedback, and inform the development of the strategy, which will be released later this year.

Consultation is open until April 9. To download the discussion paper and have your say, visit [engage.vic.gov.au](http://engage.vic.gov.au).

#### Super Connector Award

In recognition of her efforts to improve regional innovation and support for Gippsland entrepreneurs and founders, Dr. Elena Kelareva, GippsTech CEO, has been awarded the Super Connector Award, as part of the 2020 Pause Awards by Pause Fest.

The award honours the significant contribution that Elena has made to her many clients and the community. Elena has a passion for growing

startup and tech communities in regional areas, and helping to create regional jobs. She has been the instigator and driving force behind the Startup Gippsland and Work My Own Way programs, to support regional founders and small business owners to build and grow their businesses. GippsTech, which is a social enterprise, investing 50 per cent of its profits back into the Gippsland community, is also home to both large- and small-scale innovation, technology, and digital projects.

#### New women's startup fund

Women-led startups can look forward to dedicated investment support with the \$10 million Alice Anderson Fund - named after a pioneering Victorian businesswoman and innovator - to open for applications in July.

In 2019, only 20 per cent of early-stage funding went to startups led by women. To address this imbalance, the Victorian Budget 2020/21 funded a new dedicated investment fund to be developed and led by the state's startup agency LaunchVic.

The Alice Anderson Fund will operate over three years as a sidecar investment fund committing between \$50,000 and \$300,000 into between 40 and 60 startups led by women.

Eligibility criteria will follow two pathways. Either the startup is 50 per cent owned by at least one woman, prior to any investment, or there is a 30 per cent ownership stake by women, including one woman in an executive role - such as chief executive officer or chief technology officer.

Applications for the Alice Anderson Fund open on 1 July 2021. To learn more about the fund and apply, visit [launchvic.org/general/angel-sidecar](http://launchvic.org/general/angel-sidecar).

# Our Bass Coast. Our Future.

What do you want for the future of Bass Coast? We want to hear from you! Your ideas will help shape the Council Plan 2021-25, Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25, long-term Community Vision and 10-year Financial Plan. We'll be popping up at community events and markets and also inviting you to attend drop-in sessions which will be held at:

- **Cape Paterson** – Tuesday, 16 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
Cape Paterson Community Hall
- **San Remo** – Wednesday, 17 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
San Remo Recreation Centre
- **Wonthaggi** – Monday, 22 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
Wonthaggi Workmen's Club Kirrak Room
- **Kernot** – Tuesday, 23 March, 11.00am to 12.30pm  
Kernot Hall
- **Rhyll** – Wednesday, 24 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
Rhyll Mechanics Hall
- **Cowes** – Monday, 29 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
Venue to be confirmed
- **Grantville** – Tuesday, 30 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
Grantville Community Hall
- **Inverloch** – Wednesday, 31 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
Inverloch Community Hub Hall
- **Facebook Q&As** – Tuesday, 23 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
Tuesday, 13 April, 6.30pm to 8.00pm  
[www.facebook.com/BassCoastShire](http://www.facebook.com/BassCoastShire)

You can also get involved online by filling out a survey at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ourfuture](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ourfuture).

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | DX 34903  
PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995 | 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or  
(03) 5671 2211 [basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au)  
[www.basscoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au)



#### Revised Strategic Plan 2021-25 and Draft Budget 2021-22



The West Gippsland Libraries revised Strategic Plan 2021-25 and Budget 2021-22 are available for public comment.

Both documents are available for inspection on our website [wgrlc.vic.gov.au](http://wgrlc.vic.gov.au) and in hard copy in all of our library branches and mobile library.

Written submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 on any proposal contained in these documents are invited and will be received until 3pm on Friday 16th April, 2021.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer  
West Gippsland Libraries  
2/65 Victoria Street, Warragul VIC 3820  
Email: [ceo@wgrlc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ceo@wgrlc.vic.gov.au)



# Lifelong adventures start at the Nature Parks

**From the Phillip Island Nature Parks**

Bells have tolled, knots have been tied, and vows exchanged by several loving and happy couples over the last few months as celebrations and events are once again on the cards at Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Melissa and Jose started the ball rolling with an intimate ‘elopement’ ceremony, celebrated with family in the Nobbies function centre.

The stunning sea views on offer in the upstairs function space were only surpassed by the beautiful and sophisticated room styling by Kristie Cameron from Over the Top Events.

Photo opportunities abounded as Melissa and Jose headed out to the clifftop boardwalks, where photographer Claire Davie from Gumnut Photography worked her magic, with the Nobbies rock formation and Bass Strait providing a spectacular backdrop for some lasting memories.

In contrast the grounds of Churchill Island saw two beautiful ceremonies proceed, each with their own unique flavour and backstory.

Wonthaggi couple Tamara and Paul had made four previous attempts to get married during 2020, but each time they were foiled by Covid restrictions on travel or gatherings.

They were finally able to celebrate their love and commitment to each other in early February, at a beautiful ceremony on the manicured lawns outside the historic Rogers’ cottage.

The most recent celebration saw Rachael and Tom tie the knot on Churchill Island in early February, and even a spot of rain didn’t dampen their enthusiasm or their love.

Tom felt very much at home at Churchill Island.

“Everything was beyond our expectations, and we couldn’t have asked for a more perfect day. The venue was beautiful, and very “us”, with little touches of nature, and a spectacular view of the bay,” Tom said.

“The whole Nature Parks team went above and beyond. Nothing was too much effort, and the little touches the staff provided made the day so special. We cannot recommend Churchill Island more highly, we loved every single moment.”

Melissa Cashman started working at the Nature Parks as Events Co-ordinator last



The cliff boardwalk at the Nobbies made for a stunning wedding location for this couple.

year, and has brought with her many years of experience managing all types of events, from corporate functions and conferences to music events and weddings both big and small.

“Since starting with the Nature Parks, we’ve been able to put together the very successful and well-attended Sunday Summer Sessions on Churchill Island, a series of small conferences at the Penguin Parade visitor centre, and my personal favourites – the weddings,” said Melissa.

“It’s been an absolute privilege to be involved in three such beautiful and yet distinctly different celebrations of love over the last two months.

“Each couple brought their own personalities and styles to their ceremonies, and we

were so delighted that we could deliver on their visions.”

**A range of packages**

Melissa has developed a range of wedding packages to suit all occasions and styles, from celebratory drinks to a 3 course sit-down meal.

“Churchill Island offers so many different opportunities and settings for couples. There are sweeping bay views, picturesque heritage gardens, sculpturally inspired ancient moonah trees, and gorgeous historic buildings.

“We can host an intimate dinner, or for larger groups, set up a marquee on the lawn overlooking the water. The opportunities are virtually endless.

“Why wouldn’t you want to say, ‘I do’ to



Picturesque Churchill Island is proving to be a popular wedding venue location.

your loved one right here, on your own private island for the day?”

Melissa personally manages each wedding, function or conference right across the Nature Parks locations, which includes some great facilities at the new Penguin Parade visitor centre, the Nobbies and of course Churchill Island.

“Churchill Island especially is incredibly versatile, and is the perfect location for intimate weddings, corporate groups and even large music concerts, so be sure to contact me with any enquiries for whatever your function, big or small.”

Melissa can be contacted at [events@penguins.org.au](mailto:events@penguins.org.au) and more information is available at [www.penguins.org.au/events](http://www.penguins.org.au/events)

/ Sponsored Article /



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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and learn, the Bunurong people. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.





The penguin parade experience was a little more low-key in 1981.



Filling the tank at the Grantville petrol station. Julie said she noticed this location when she drove down a few days earlier. "The petrol station at Grantville with a tin shed in the background ... that sticks out a mile to photographers".



Photographer Julie Millowick said she has not been able to identify the woman from Summerlands walking to the beach.



When the Phillip Island Historical Society posted this shot on its Facebook page, it helped identify these young surfers – Mark Christopher, Frank Berra and David Luscombe at the Surf Beach store. Committee member Anne Davie's daughter Elizabeth said: "The one eating the pie is my husband, Mark Christopher and that's his VW Beetle." Claire Davie also helped out. "My grandpa Bob Davie said this is definitely the Surf Beach store, and that his father and brother built it. He also said this was the first ever coin slot operated self-serve petrol bowser on Phillip Island."

# A day in the life of Phillip Island

This month, forty years ago, Phillip Island was part of an incredible photographic experiment. A Day in the Life of Australia captured life as it was on March 6, 1981.

The brainchild of American photographer Rick Smolan, the project saw 110 photographers from across the world, including 41 from Australia, spread out across the country, capturing the Australia way of life in a 24-hour period. One of those was Julie Millowick, a young photographer working in Melbourne.

Recommended by John Cato, a legendary Australian photographer who had lectured her in college, Julie was assigned to cover Rosebud, the general area up to Frankston and across to Phillip Island.

About four years into her freelancing career, Julie said the chance to be involved in the ground-breaking program was exciting, and a little daunting.

"I grew up in South Australia and had never been to Rosebud or the island," she admitted.

"I drove to Phillip Island about two days before to check out the locations, working out where I should go and where the potential was."

The team from A Day in the Life organised for her to stay in a caravan park at Rosebud and provided a car and rolls of film.

After that, Julie was on her own.

"I literally walked around talking to people," she said. "I explained the project and said, I'm wondering if I could take your photograph. I think the fact that I was a lone agent, and just walked in and approached people in a low-key way, there was no adverse reaction."

"People were fantastic and revisiting those photos now, 40 years on, it just brings back positive memories."

"People got into the mood of it."

Visiting Phillip Island, she was struck by the number of partially built homes there were.

"People were living in them or in nearby caravans while building."

"It was really noticeable at the time. There were these owner-builders all over the place. I knew it was something I should document."

"I was really lucky for lots of reasons. I photographed ordinary, everyday life."

"It's really interesting to see what people were like 40 years later and there's stuff that really sticks out."

"Like the amount of cigarette advertising outside milk bars, or kids on BMX bikes."

She said in one shot, there's a man in the background carrying four glass milk bottles in a special carrier, "obviously going to get refills".

"All the shopping was in big brown paper bags. There's not a plastic bag in sight."

"It's all ordinary, everyday situations. Two people eating pies with sauce, another guy filling up the car with petrol."

"It's simple stuff, but they still talk to me."

Some of the photos on Phillip Island are Julie's favourites from the day, but at the time, she had no idea if any of the photos would make it into the book.

In this digital age, it's hard to imagine taking photos for 24-hours, without ever being sure exactly what you'd captured.

On top of that, she didn't get to process or edit the photos before submitting them.

At the end of the 24-hours, Julie had to return to base, and hand over all her film and her notebooks.

"They took it all off for processing, then we went on with our lives," Julie said.

"When the book came out in October, I flipped through it madly. I hadn't seen anything. I didn't know if the photos had worked."

"I was thrilled to see a two-page spread, plus another small photo included."

About two months later, a box arrived in the post containing all Julie's negatives and colour transparencies from the shoot.

"That was the first time I saw the photos."

## Revisited

Revisiting the photos more recently, Julie enlisted the help of Christine Graydon and the Phillip Island Historical Society to identify people featured in the island shots.

"Christine was absolutely brilliant. She tracked down the details of the young male surfers, one of them also eating a pie as he sits on the rear bumper of his VW."

"She also identified the couple of owner builders as Doris and Jason Monet. Doris is pregnant with her daughter Louise in the photo."

When it was released, A Day in the Life of Australia was a smash hit, selling 250,000 copies.

The book is currently out of print and can only be found in second-hand book shops or online, with pre-loved copies on ebay priced over \$200.

Seven of the images she took on that day are featured in Julie's most current exhibition "Eye to Eye" currently showing at the Footscray Community Arts Centre.

The project was a life-changer for organiser Rick Smolan, who went on to do similar books in many countries.

"I don't know if it was life changing, but it was a big boost to my confidence," said Julie.

"I was at the beginning of my career and I was getting clients, but all the time you were pushing yourself and at the same time doubting yourself."

"It was such an honour to be asked to be part of it, such a thrill. It's still a thrill."

[www.juliemillowick.com/](http://www.juliemillowick.com/)

View her current exhibition, including seven images from ADILTA at: [juliemillowick.com/portfolio-items/eye-to-eye/](http://juliemillowick.com/portfolio-items/eye-to-eye/)



Doris Monet, a piano teacher at Sunderland Bay, was pregnant with her daughter Louise. She lived on Phillip Island with her husband, Jason Monet a famous sculptor.



A motorcyclist relaxing at the beach, March 6, 1981.



# Spend some time in **NEWHAVEN**

Photo by Michelle Diggins

## Newhaven – a quiet escape

THE delightful waterfront enclave of Newhaven just over the Phillip Island bridge is a favourite spot for fishermen and sailors and a perfect spot to get away from it all.

Explore the small but eclectic range of shops and services, including surf shops, galleries and health studios, relax in the park or drop into a café or restaurant.

Stroll along the waterfront, or if you're keen to explore the waters of Western Port, Newhaven has a public boat ramp and a yacht squadron.

A little further up the road, immerse yourself in history at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum or get a birds-eye view when you book a scenic helicopter flight over the island.

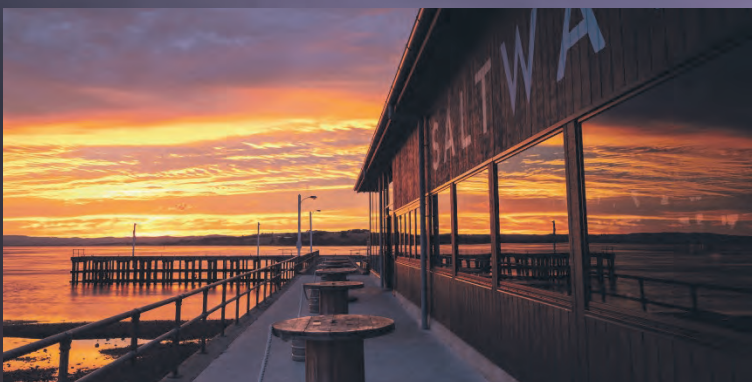


Photo by Michelle Diggins



Photo by Phillip Island Helicopters



Photo by Gary Parnell

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# International Women's Day

#IWD2021 #ChooseToChallenge



## International Womens Day at Silverwater

Guests from across the Bass Coast Shire enjoyed a luncheon together at the Silverwater Resort in San Remo last week to celebrate International Women's Day.

The event, hosted jointly by the Bass Coast Council, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Westernport Water and Bass Coast Health, was held to raise awareness around gender equality and equal participation in the workplace and in society.

Be they social, political, economic or cultural, it's a time to celebrate the achievements of women, was the message from speakers on the day.

Challenge inequity, call out bias, break down the stereotypes of non-traditional careers and actively encourage engagement and participation of women at all levels, to help forge a more inclusive world, was the strong message that came through.



Pictured at Silverwater Resort at San Remo to celebrate International Women's Day are from left Cr Leticia Laing (Bass Coast Shire Council), Carol Blair (Chair Bass Coast Community Foundation), Catherine Basterfield (CEO Phillip Island Nature Parks) Ali Wastie (CEO Bass Coast Shire Council), Dr Renee Kelsall (Chief Medical Officer, Bass Coast Health) Lisa Caldwell (General Manager Corporate and People, Westernport Water), Aunty Dr Doseena Fergie OAM.



Women for Change event organisers pictured at the Archies Creek function are from left Sam Lemann (band) Joanne Dixon BCCF/W4C, Kirsty Mawer Exec Officer BCCF/W4C, Melanie Mumford (Women for Change) Monique di Mattina (band), Rebecca Barnard (band), Carol Blair Chairman BCCF/W4C, Nina Barry- Macaulay and baby Florence. Photo: Snapchat Photography

## Women for Change

This year's International Women's Day generated a big boost to help the Women for Change initiative to improve the lives of women and girls across the Bass Coast.

More than \$5000 was raised over two separate events to grow and expand the Women for Change fund, to support local women to be the best they can be.

An initiative of the Bass Coast Community Foundation, Chairperson Carol Blair said the appeal at the two events during International Women's Day surpassed the Foun-

dation's expectations.

"We are so grateful to everyone who donated at these events – your support will make a big difference in making our grants programs even bigger and better next year."

A concert held in perfect weather on March 7 at Archie's Creek featured renowned musician Rebecca Barnard and resulted in approximately \$2500 in donations.

Attendees at a breakfast event on March 9 hosted by Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Health, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Western-

port Water raised a similar amount.

"Recent data shows us that women in Bass Coast are much more likely to be on lower individual incomes and living in financial stress – we want to put the spotlight on this issue through practical initiatives to address this," Carol said.

"Our work is just getting started but we are humbled by the willingness of local people to support those who need it in our own region."

Donations for the Women for Change initiative can be made directly at [bccf.org.au/donate/](http://bccf.org.au/donate/)



Gracie and Finlay Dempsey, pictured supporting the Women for Change initiative. Photo: Snapchat Photography



Supporting the Archies Creek event are from left Sharyn Hosking, Susan Hulme, Mary Taylor, Nici Cahill, Maria Kirwan, Caroline Coghlan and Deb Fry. Photo: Snapchat Photography



# International Women's Day

#IWD2021 #ChooseToChallenge



Women from across Phillip Island and San Remo gathered together at the Phillip Island Winery last week, to celebrate International Women's Day, and help raise funds for a good cause at the same time, with the White Ribbon organisation benefitting.



Pictured are Susie Ellis, Kate Berryman and Leanne Grisold, at the Phillip Island Winery event.



Margie van der Zalm, Bella Kelly, Kristin Kelly, Delia Cave, Tammy Humphry, Maree McKiernan and Lauren Cave at the Phillip Island Winery last week.



Jenny Cook, Karin Rodger, Jan Klain, Trish Rutter, Lyn Steele and Karen Otto.



Enjoying a day out together and supporting a good cause are. Back from left Trish Cerini, Myra Wood, Nancie Robinson and Mary Ueckerman. Front row from left are Anita Silva, Margaret Fairweather, Rosemary Brown and Faye Courtney.



Karen Timoshenko, Lisa Cooper, Judy Glover and Delyse Graham, at the PI Winery for International Women's Day.



Picture are (front) Kaylene Fusinato, Lisa Barbar and Kellie Nichols; and (back) Carly O'Brien, Lisa-Anne Prendergast, marking International Women's Day.



Melissa Cashman, Rachael Duggan, Lynelle Patch and Jules Morris.



# Wonthaggi Arts Centre

Mar 19 - Mar 21

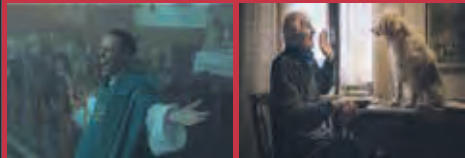
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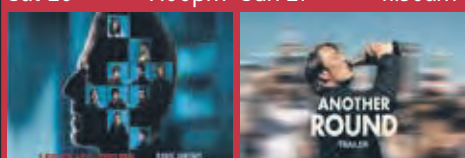
**Pain & Glory [MA15+]** Fri 19 7:00pm  
**Pinocchio [M]** Sat 20 10:30am



**Corpus Christi [MA15+]** Sat 20 1:00pm  
**The Truffle Hunters [M]** Sat 20 4:00pm

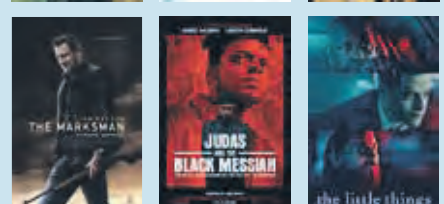
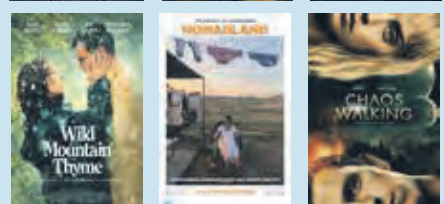
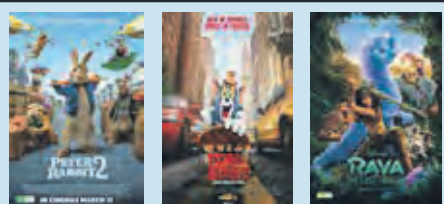


**Minari [PG]** Sat 20 7:00pm  
**The Painter and the Thief [M]** Sun 21 11:30am



**The Translators [M]** Sun 21 2:30pm  
**Another Round [M]** Sun 21 5:00pm

## COMING SOON



Easter School Holidays  
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- You can purchase tickets at our Box office or online
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Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre

96 Graham St, Wonthaggi 3995  
phone: 03 5671 2470



## THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news

# Bass Coast Writers anthology launch

The Bass Coast Writers group is releasing their latest anthology at a launch event to take place on Monday March 22nd at the Community Hub in Inverloch.

The Bass Coast Writers group was founded in 2003 and ever since has been publishing a yearly anthology of work.

The group meets weekly throughout the year and write to a topic; and they are then free to share their work with the group and discuss it.

At the end of the year the writings are compiled into an anthology.

This year's anthology, is entitled 'Waves of Inspiration', and encompasses works from 2019 and 2020.

Due to covid the group was not able to publish last year.

However they did not miss a weekly meeting, making use of online platforms to keep going during lockdown.

The 2019/2020 anthology is dedicated to Ian Fell who was

a talented painter and writer and sadly passed away before this anthology was able to be published.

The book opens and closes with his story.

The launch event promises to be a great night.

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Brett Tessari will open the evening and guest readings from ladies from the Inverloch library will feature.

'Waves of Inspiration' compiles the works of twelve writers from the group, and will be available for purchase from Turn the Page in Cowes, Arts Space in Wonthaggi, News Express in Inverloch and Nextra in Leongatha.

The Bass Coast Writers meet on Thursdays from 1-3 pm at the Inverloch Community House.

If anyone would like more information on the event or about the Bass Coast Writers you can contact Gayle Marien on gayleb@ozemail.com.au



Bass Coast Writer's member Gayle Marien is excited about the coming launch of the group's 2021 anthology "Waves of Inspiration."



Members of the MacLeod Secondary College Big Band gave a wonderful impromptu performance last week, much enjoyed by passers by who happened to be in the right place at the right time on Thursday afternoon.

The students, who ranged in age from Year 7 to Year 12, were enjoying a three day tour on Phillip Island, after having most of their plans and presentations dashed in 2020 because of Covid.

"Last year was tough for them," their music teacher said.

"Performance opportunities fell through, so it is great to be able to go on tour this year."

The Big Band and entourage were staying at the Big Wave Backpackers hostel in Newhaven, so what better place to set up a gig than on the Big Wave itself, with passing traffic enjoying the unusual sight and sounds.

The students gave performances at a number of local primary schools during their visit, as well as fitting in visits to local attractions including the Phillip Island Circuit Go Karts, Penguin Parade and A Maze N things.



Seven time Supercars winner Jamie Whincup, 37, the all-time record holder for Supercars Championship race wins, with 122 career victories — enjoyed dinner at Beach Headquarters on Friday night, in the lead up to the Shannons Motor Sport Championships held at the Circuit over the weekend. Beach HQ staff members Filipe Masilasila and Zac Lewis were delighted to welcome the famous racing driver to the restaurant.



The Phillip Island Scout Group has been working on a project to remove the invasive weed Sea Spurge from the coastline near the Ventnor Beach Rd beach, and took part in a beach clean up there as a Clean Up Australia event. The good news was that just six bags of rubbish were collected this year, compared to 18 in 2020. Which is very good news for the beach!

## Clean Up Australia Day removal of Sea Spurge

Over the last 12 months, the Phillip Island Scout Group has been working with a Nature Parks Ranger and scout dad Pete Cleary, and Bass Coast Shire Council, with support also from Phillip Island Landcare Group, to remove the invasive weed Sea Spurge from the coastline near the Ventnor Beach Rd beach.

The Scout group has focussed on this project for our Clean Up Australia Day events.

The Scout group is focussing on six special interest areas in the new Scouting program, including Creating a Better World, and Environment.

This means not only caring for our world, but actively improving it through taking action on community-based projects, whilst also contributing to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 23 to combat climate change.

This means thinking globally while acting locally, something Scouting does exceptionally well!

The group's most recent Sea Spurge working bee in early March involved Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Leaders and parents working on different sections of the beach, all with QR code electronic recording of attendees due to COVID-19 of course!

While 18 bags of rubbish were collected last year, only six were this time.

The group didn't get anywhere near the 18 bags collected last year, no doubt because of fewer visitors because of the Covid lockdown.

There were just 6 bags this time.

But that's very good news for our beaches! Our Scout group remarked.

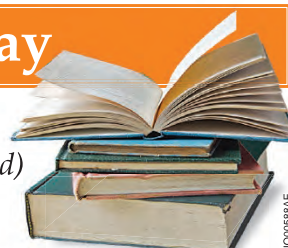
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After four failed attempts to see her father, Peter, during the mayhem of 2020, Lisa finally got to see her dad last week: "I was so desperate for a hug."

Lisa McLure, from Smiths Beach, entertained us through lockdown with a weekly column on how her family - husband Tim, and two kids Angus, and Evie - coped in 2020. Now she is back by popular demand.

Last week Lisa wrote that she was nervously counting down the days to see her father in Newcastle, after four failed attempts during Covid lockdown.

So did she manage to get there without a hitch?

"It was so weird that I just couldn't get excited about going home and seeing dad. I was scared something would happen."

Every other time last year we'd made plans there was a build of excitement and then they would come crashing down.

Even driving from the airport to dad's house last week I was thinking what if I have an accident or a meteor crashes to earth.

It was only when I pulled in to his driveway I thought 'I'm here, I'm here' and I grabbed dad and hugged and hugged and hugged him. Then I hugged my step mum and then again went back to dad and hugged him.

All the stress and anticipation just melted away.

I hadn't realised what a stress it had become, even just thinking throughout last year, please don't let anything happen to them before I can see them again.

It felt like a piece had been missing and I hadn't had that kind of feeling since mum died as a kid.

Other people I know who had plans crumble in 2020 - like weddings - also felt the same thing, too worried to get excited until the event was actually happening.

So once I got there I finally unclenched and just breathed. I was there and could relax and enjoy it.

It was wonderful.

We didn't plan a lot but it was just about being there.

My brother and sister were there also without their partners so it was like we were kids again. We put the mattresses on the floor and had a movie night and my parents couldn't wipe the smile off their faces.

We had coffee in the morning, beer in the afternoon.

I saw my girlfriend for the first time in two years and talked and drank. I think I needed a liver transplant after that catch up.

There were not enough hours to get all the words out with her. I needed a million hours to catch up.

I only went for four days but I would have gone up for one night, just to see them and get a hug. I was so desperate for a hug.

After four days, I started to miss the kids and Tim. Now we've also planned to go up in April again to Newcastle.

My brother is moving to the USA at the end of May to live with his fi-

ancé and become a real estate agent. I think he's bonkers. It's America. I can't see we'll visit him any time in the next two years until the world has sorted itself out.

Being at the airport and on a plane was a bit weird.

The carpark was empty so that was eerie.

Everyone wore masks and they changed the safety message on board to say remove your mask before attaching the oxygen.

But apart from that it was business as usual.

Even at the baggage carousel everyone was jammed in, no social distancing.

It's strange that something that should seem so natural seemed so foreign.

I felt so happy the airline staff had their jobs.

Coming back to the island felt like home.

It's such a special, magical, beautiful place here and sometimes you don't realise that until you leave."

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# Virus claims another economic casualty

Coronavirus has claimed another economic scalp with the closure of a popular Cowes restaurant.

Citrus and Vine owner Sarah Pederson last week announced they would close the doors of their family restaurant on the Phillip Island Road this Saturday (March 20).

"It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we have not been able to recover from the Covid-19 lockdowns. We have had to make the tough decision to close, and we are going to miss you all so much," said Sarah, speaking for her husband Cam, as well as staff.

"With our rental increase, a third lockdown, loss of wedding functions and other parties on top of family health issues, it's time to put life into perspective and decrease our stress.

"If Covid has taught us anything, it's family and health comes first."

The closure follows last year's news that Fork n Waffle's owners would step away, replaced by new management, while other restaurants such as Cheeky Goose's Robert van den Brink reported losing hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue.

News of the closure received an outpouring of sadness and support from about 100 customers on Facebook.

Julie Johnston commented Citrus and Vine was a "wonderful asset to Phillip Island, adding it's 'so tough running a business in a seasonal town'".

Lynda Alcock wrote it was a "shame" and "Phillip Island's loss".

"It's so hard for small businesses to survive due to Covid. You are so right to put family and health first," Lynda said.

Ant Bast wrote: "As a fellow business owner I understand the gravity of this decision but I must say I really respect and admire



"It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we have not been able to recover from the Covid-19 lockdowns. We have had to make the tough decision to close," said Citrus and Vine owner Sarah Pederson.

the tough decision you have had to make".

The restaurant will be open this Thursday and Friday nights (March 18th and 19th) with limited bookings available on their final night at \$45 per head including food, live music and a cocktail shot on arrival.

## No relief

Last April Sarah told the Advertiser they were digging into savings and adding debt to pay bills, only "keeping our heads above water" with takeaway meals.

Since closing in March 2020, they had let go their five casual

staff, but were keeping on their chef thanks to JobKeeper.

At the time Sarah said because her restaurant - on the Phillip Island Road - had only opened in February 2019, she did not have financial security to buffer against the impacts of the closure.

"We're not making a profit because we've only been open a year and now we have a lot of debt. We're making no income but have to keep paying bills. It's hellish.

"If we owe other small businesses money it's not fair we don't pay them.

"Because of the fires, we had a poor summer and no Easter with

the virus, and I don't know how bad winter is going to be or when this will end. We're looking at starting takeaway deliveries but that will be another wage."

Worst of all, Sarah said their landlord was offering no rent relief, despite her continued pleas for empathy.

"It has been a flat no from our landlord and they've said if we don't pay rent then we'll hear from their solicitor," she said, adding both the agent and landlord were not local.

"We did a \$250,000 renovation to this building when we moved in, but they simply don't care."

## Cameras for wildlife, not people

Nature Parks has responded to privacy concerns over wildlife monitoring cameras dotted around the island.

Last month some residents criticised the use of wildlife cameras on Ventnor beach as "a place where cameras don't belong", particularly around children.

However, a Phillip Island Nature Parks spokeswoman said there was currently only one motion-sensor camera on Ventnor beach, which was within the small roped and signed Hooded Plover refuge.

"It is set back on the beach and pointed directly at a nest. The camera has a very short range, it only triggers with movement made within about 2-4 metres," the spokeswoman said.

"Cameras can only be set up after the clutch is complete and egg incubation has started. They are removed once the eggs hatch.

"We started the research project now to capture data for the remainder of the 2020-21 breeding season."

Cameras will monitor up to five Hooded Plover nests on beaches the Nature Parks manages during the 2020-2023 breeding seasons using cameras to "better ascertain the reasons for nesting failure".

"This will greatly assist our efforts in protecting this Threatened Species and supporting the population that call the island home."

She said they were the same sensor cameras used to monitor wildlife in other areas of Phillip Island and were managed in accordance with Birdlife Australia's Protocols for use of remote-sensing cameras at Hooded Plover nests.

During the 2019/20 breeding season (September 2019 - April 2020) 19 Hooded Plover breeding pairs made 41 nests with a total of 90 eggs.

Of the 30 failed nesting attempts that contained eggs - 10 (33 per cent) failed due to unknown causes, with a further 18 (60 per cent) failures being best guesses based on the available evidence.



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## More anger on Marine Parade plans

San Remo residents have urged Bass Coast Shire councillors to reject amendments to an already approved \$6 million complex on Marine Parade, arguing it creates a "dangerous precedent".

Five objections have now been lodged with the shire to the amendment for 131-133 Marine Parade, which seeks approval to add a fifth storey, 151m2 "penthouse" comprised of a living room and deck area on the roof of the building, as well as a basement for storage and car stacker pits.

One objector described the amendment as "a blight on the aesthetics of the foreshore".

"Allowing these changes to proceed will set a very dangerous precedent for future developments in San Remo," the objector wrote.

"I understand that future development is vital for regional employment and prosperity however this application for

amendment is a step too far."

Another submitter agreed.

"The proposed additional development creates a fifth level in further breach of the three-storey limit on Marine Parade with a maximum height of 10.5 metres," the submitter wrote.

"Increasing the height limit in contravention of the planning guideline sets a precedent for future developers who can argue, as this developer has, that as other buildings in Marine Parade are already in breach of height limits, they can go even higher.

"There has to be a clear limit set for heights which is adhered to and which stops this practice of 'height creep'. Precedent is powerful."

A further objection said the fifth level made "a mockery" of the height limit, suggesting the developer doesn't "give a fig for local character" and "got away with bending the

rules last time, so let's see how much further we can bend them".

Objectors said 60 per cent of the parking was in car stackers "and only suitable for small sedans".

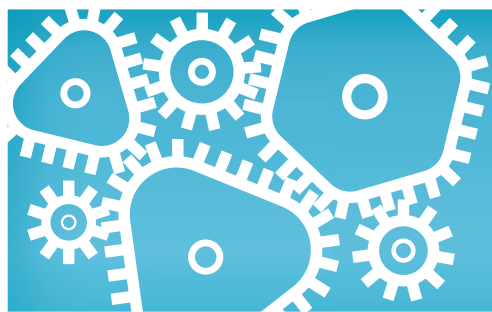
"All parking is locked behind a security door with remote control access with no public parking available," they said.

"There is so much wrong with this ill-conceived project that it needs to be stopped now and be reassessed."

Locals battled the initial plans in 2019, with Bass Coast Shire councillors rejecting the proposal because of concerns about parking, car stackers and height, but with VCAT overturning council and approving plans last year.

The approved plans are for a 22-apartment complex with four retail shops at four-storeys high, above San Remo's three-storey height limit.





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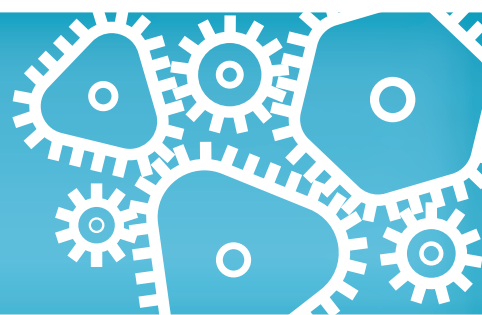
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# COVID-19 vaccine for Lodge residents

Residents at San Remo's Griffith Point Lodge, which is run by Bass Coast Health, were vaccinated last Thursday, as part of the 'Phase 1A rollout to community members deemed most at risk to exposure of COVID-19.

A team of 17 health professionals were involved in the vaccination process with Kirrak House in Wonthaggi being vaccinated on the same day.

Some Griffiths Point Lodge staff members were also vaccinated

"This is terrific news for residents and staff, and offers some relief after twelve months of managing the COVID-19 risk on a daily basis", Louise Sparkes, Acting CEO Bass Coast Health, said last Thursday, after the vaccinations were carried out.

Residents Betty Finnen and Rhonda Schubert also said that they were very pleased to have been offered protection against Covid 19.

The vaccine was delivered by the Gippsland Region Public Health Unit, and is the first of two doses required.

The second will be delivered in three weeks.

Bass Coast Health nursing staff were on hand to assist residents and to monitor their

response to the vaccine.

Joel Sanchez, the new Nurse Unit Manager at Griffiths Point Lodge, said the vaccination process had gone very smoothly, and residents had been monitored afterwards, with no-one experiencing any ill effects.

Ms Sparkes said that there is significant demand for COVID-19 vaccines to help end the COVID-19 pandemic, and this means initial doses available must be allocated to priority groups at greatest risk of COVID-19 infection and serious illness.

Locally, Bass Coast Health's frontline staff working in Residential Care, Emergency, Urgent Care are a priority.

Testing and suspected COVID wards are next in line to be offered the vaccine.

Bass Coast Health is working with the Gippsland Region Public Health Unit to determine when and how the roll out of vaccines will happen beyond Phase 1A.

Residents of Banfields, Grossard Court and Melaleuca Lodge nursing homes, which are privately operated, were vaccinated a fortnight ago.

The COVID-19 Vaccines National Rollout Strategy details the phases in which vaccines will be available.



Griffith Lodge residents Rhonda Schubert (front right) and Betty Finnen are pictured after receiving their Covid 19 vaccination shots last Thursday. The ladies, pictured with Paula Bradley (left) who also got the jab, and Joel Sanchez, suffered no ill effects. Paula is the Operational Director for residential, sub acute and acute care at Griffiths Point Lodge. Joel, who started in the position two weeks ago, is the new Nurse Unit Manager there.

## Vaccination rollout program

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has advised the Australian Government on which groups should be prioritised for the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccination in Australia.

This advice is consistent with guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO).

### Phase 1

Quarantine, border and front line health care workers

Frontline health care worker sub-groups for prioritisation:

- frontline staff in facilities or services such as hospital emergency departments, COVID-19 and respiratory wards, Intensive Care Units and High-dependency Units
- laboratory staff handling potentially infectious material
- ambulance and paramedics service
- GP respiratory clinics
- COVID-19 testing facilities

(All other healthcare workers are included in Phase 1b, including medical and tertiary students with placements in these healthcare settings)

### Phase 1A

- Aged care and disability care staff
- nursing and personal care staff
- allied health professionals who routinely provide care kitchen, cleaning, laundry, garden and office staff
- Aged care and disability care residents

### Phase 1B

- Elderly residents aged 80 years and over
- Elderly adults aged 70-79 years
- Other health care workers
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults
- Other health care workers
- Begin vaccinating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults

### Phase 1b (continued)

People will need to provide proof of these conditions to demonstrate their eligibility for vaccination via My health record, a health professional referral if required, or a declaration form.

- Adults with a disability who have a specified underlying medical condition
- Critical and high risk workers including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing
- Workers will need to provide proof of occupation to demonstrate their eligibility.
- Critical and high risk workers including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing
- (Workers will need to provide proof of occupation to demonstrate their eligibility).

### Phase 2a

Adults aged 60-69 years  
Adults aged 50-59 years  
Other critical and high risk workers

### Phase 2b

Balance of adult population

More information is available on ATAGI's advice to Government on priority population groups for COVID-19 vaccination. These groups may change as more information becomes available.

ATAGI is regularly reviewing data and evidence for vaccines. It may update its advice to government as new information becomes available.

Balance of adult population  
Catch up any unvaccinated Australians from previous phases

More information is available on ATAGI's advice to Government on priority population groups for COVID-19 vaccination.

## Take the test

Everyone in the community is encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 to help contain the spread of the virus, if you display even the mildest Covid symptoms.

These include: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste.

Everyone who is tested is required to self-isolate until test results are received. Waiting times for test results may take 2-3 days.

### Cowes:

\* Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. To avoid delays, the quickest time for testing will be before 8am and after 8pm.

### Wonthaggi Hospital Drive Thru Clinic:

\* 9am – 4pm daily.  
You can also book a test with Wonthaggi Medical Group, Monday to Friday from 1pm – 5pm. Please book online or phone 0492 036 568.

**People should phone their doctor or the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 if their symptoms get worse.**

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# The Discovery of Mr and Mrs 'X'

The identity of the first white woman to set foot on Phillip Island has finally been revealed, 123 years after she was referred to in a newspaper article back in 1897.

Rather than a case of dedicated detective work, the mystery was solved through a happy accident.

Volunteers archiving material at the Phillip Island and District Historical Society, preparing for their move to new premises, found a letter which unlocked the woman's identity.

Pamela Rothfield, secretary of the Phillip Island and District Historical Society shares the story of Mr and Mrs X.

Back in July 1897, The Herald newspaper published a story on the lives of Mr and Mrs 'X'.

The article covered a lady's recollection of her 57 years in Victoria, starting with her 1839 travel from England to Hobson's Bay (Melbourne) with her parents and siblings on board the Westminster, at the age of fifteen. It went on to describe her shipboard romance which resulted in marriage the following year (1840) having attained the age of sixteen. The story captured many other interesting details of her life, however throughout the article the lady's name remained anonymous. As detailed in the article:

"The lady, who presumed to love at fifteen and marry at sixteen, declines to allow us to mention her name. She would not have it made public, she says, for the world, though she is aware that hundreds of friends will recognise the narrative in the account of reminiscences which she is quite willing to give The Herald. The condition must be respected.

The bulk of our readers may know the lady as Mrs X, and rest satisfied with our assurance that Mrs X is really a most charming and entertaining old colonist, with an individuality which is emphasised by the probability that she is the only woman now alive who was married in Melbourne so far back as May, 1840, and the undoubted fact that she was the first European woman to put foot on Port Phillip Island, Westernport Bay, which is now a most delightful and fashionable summer resort, having as its capital a township bearing a no less distinguished name than that of Cowes ..."

The information or "undoubted fact", that Mrs X was the first white woman to set foot on Phillip Island has intrigued local historians since The Herald article was rediscovered in 1958 with the publication of Phillip Island in Picture and Story written by Joshua Gliddon.

But who were Mr and Mrs X?

According to The Herald article the couple came to Phillip Island in the early 1840s – most likely before David and John McHaffie took physical possession of the Island – and stayed for about three months. The article seems to suggest that trade of certain products such as wattlebark and swan skins may have been the primary attraction for their move from Melbourne.

### Mystery revealed

Fast forward to 2020 – 72 years after Gliddon's book was published and 123 years since the publication of The Herald



Florence Annie Hitchins, the granddaughter of Mr and Mrs X (Mary Ann and Frederick Hitchins) brought the family back to the region in 1893.

article.

In sorting through the Phillip Island and District Historical Society archives as they prepare for relocation due to the building of the new Cowes Cultural Centre, local historian John Jansson came across a letter dated 1888 from Mrs Shirley Cameron of Canberra.

Mrs Cameron was looking for information on her ancestors Mary Ann and Frederick Hitchins. Both had come out from London on the Westminster in 1839 and had married in Melbourne in 1840 and had spent time on Phillip Island in the early 1840s.

John had what is often referred to as a eureka moment, realising these details matched the description of the mysterious Mr and Mrs X of the Herald article.

Unfortunately, back in 1888, when Mrs Cameron's letter was received, no one in the Society associated her ancestors with Mr and Mrs X and subsequently responded to her that they could offer no information on her Hitchins forebears. Sadly, Mrs Cameron passed away three years ago.

Back in 1843, after their three months stay on Phillip Island, the conditions were so primitive and water so scarce, that Mr and Mrs X – now revealed to be Mary Ann and Frederick Hitchins – left the Island with their two small children and headed to Geelong where Mr Hitchins established a successful timber business. Eventually they moved back to Melbourne.

Is this the end of the story?

Not exactly. The investigation into the identity of Mr and Mrs X revealed that descendants of Mary Ann and Frederick Hitchins have returned to Phillip Island – unaware of the significance of their ancestor's early foray into the Island's history.



Marj Beaton, with great grandson Jude, is a descendent of Mary Ann Hitchins, the first white woman to set foot on Phillip Island, when she came here with her husband in the 1840s.

It was Florence Annie Hitchins, granddaughter of our Mr and Mrs X, Mary Ann and Frederick, who brought their descendants back to this region.

In 1893, Florence was working as a telegraph operator in Melbourne and married James McNabb a grazier from Corinella. Florence and James had five children, many of whom continued to live and work within this region.

Granddaughter of Florence, Marj Beaton, is our local link back to Mr and Mrs X.

She moved to the Island some 67 years ago with her husband Tom from Wonthaggi, managing the local grocery store in Thompson Avenue, Cowes. Marj and Tom (who passed away in 2013) had two daughters, Sue and Kaye, both of whom continue to live on Phillip Island today.

Marj, Sue and Kaye were delighted to learn about her ancestors' great adventure to Phillip Island almost 180 years ago.

### Historical Society continues

The Phillip Island and District Historical Society is temporarily closed to the public pending the move to the new premises.

But Pamela said as custodians of the district's post-colonisation history, the Society will welcome the donation of historical items at some point.

"We also welcome new members to our Society, especially those who are interested in learning about the local history and the ebb and flow of growth on Phillip Island and surrounds," she added.

"We look forward to once again presenting our quarterly talks, when COVID restrictions permit."

For more information, [www.PIDHS.org.au](http://www.PIDHS.org.au) or contact Pamela Rothfield at [history@waterfront.net.au](mailto:history@waterfront.net.au)

### SITUATIONS VACANT



## There is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to become a part of Banfields Aged Care

Banfields Aged Care is part of the Australian Aged Care Group which prides itself on imagination and innovation in caring for the aged, with a Mission to excel in providing Quality Care Services and Accommodation. We are located at 192 Thompson Avenue, Cowes and the 90 bed facility is set amongst beautiful landscaped grounds.

Banfields Aged Care is inviting Volunteers to become a part of the 'Lifestyle Teams Innovated Program' which is planned to enhance the residents lifestyle.

Some of the ways you may wish to assist and support the program is by being involved in the: Bus Outings that occur one to two times a week (this varies week to week so flexibility is required); supporting residents with Garden Walks; Wheelchair Walks; Bingo; Hoy; Happy Hour; Men's Group Activities; Craft; Art Therapy; Quizzes; BBQ's; Group Discussion; etc.

This is a great opportunity to become involved with your local community and for further information please do not hesitate to contact the Receptionist on (03) 5951 2500.

It is a requirement that all Volunteers have a Current Adult Aged/ Disabled Care Police Check and evidence of current Influenza vaccination..

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## How do you like your news?

Keeping local and regional newspapers alive is important – to us and to you!

As the debate over the fate of news on Facebook raged, with most media outlets, including the Advertiser, unable to post to their Facebook page for a period, it was gratifying to discover that for many people, local news – and the printed paper – remains a vital part of life.

Late last year, we invited our readers to be part of a survey commissioned by the Country Press Association to find out just what people in regional and rural Australia thought about local newspapers.

The survey is part of a submission to the Senate Inquiry on media diversity and preliminary results of the survey have been released.

One finding was that there was a preference for getting news in print, rather than online.

Turns out we love our newspapers, and while the popularity (and circulation) of metropolitan newspapers is declining, local communities are passionate about maintaining local newspapers.

### Survey results

Results released from the survey show there is a strong demand and passion for print media in regional areas.

Some of the key findings include:

- There was a preference for getting news in print, rather than online.
- Readers preferred online news sites with the look and feel of a printed paper.
- Audiences considered the printed version of their local newspaper as an essential service for the community.
- People believed they should be able to have a say about government policies and decisions that affected the future of local papers.
- In general, people were five times as likely to go directly to a local news website for their local news than Google or Facebook, and almost 10 times as likely to go to the local newspaper website over a local council website for their local news and information.
- Overwhelmingly, respondents said any additional funding for local news should be directed to employing more local journalists, over increasing digital connectivity and digital products.
- With the media landscape increasingly under threat, people surveyed also strongly believed local newspapers should be collaboratively funded by a range of relevant stakeholders to ensure their future.





Section 4 Junior Tennis Team: L to R: Daniel Patch, Lachlan Paterson, Talitha Rachelle, Eli Bowker

## Phillip Island junior tennis

The Phillip Island Section 4 Junior team played Poowong in a very close semi-final on Saturday. Phillip Island won a total of 21 games over Poowong's 17. The win sees the team move into the Grand Final in Wonthaggi next week. This season is the first time the Phillip Island Junior team have played comp tennis; finishing on top of the ladder is an amazing achievement.

### Allambee Mirboo and District tennis association semi finals

Section 1: Inverloch 6.53 defeated Korumburra 1.32 (last 2 mixed sets washed out) and Leongatha North 4.52 defeated Westernport 2.40 (3 mixed sets washed out mid-way through).

Section 2: Outtrim 9.72 defeated Korumburra Blue 0.25 and Korumburra Green 6.53 defeated Baromi 3.44.

Not an ideal day for tennis this week, with some matches pushing through the horrid conditions to get a result.

It was windy and then the rain came through making it pretty cold.

Section 2 were able to finish before the rain set in.

Section 1 were not so lucky but came to a decision in each match.

Let's hope for better weather next week for the grand final.

Inverloch v Korumburra wasn't the closest match of the day, but it looked to be good hitting by both teams.



Pictured is Daniel Patch from the Phillip Island section 4 tennis team, who played in the winning semi-finals against Poowong.

Leongatha North v Westernport was a bit closer, with quite a good contest between both teams.

Outtrim, who have been on top of the Section 2 ladder all year, won well again in the first final.

This match played a little early to try to beat the weather which paid off and they managed to get through before most of the rain hit.

In the Korumburra Green v Baromi match, the men's sets were even and the Baromi ladies won two of their sets.

Going into the mixed, Baromi had a small lead.

Korumburra Green won all three mixed sets and with it the match by 9 games.

Next week will see Outtrim v Korumburra Green.

Next week's grand finals will see:

Inverloch v Leongatha North in Section 1; and

Outtrim v Korumburra Green in Section 2

Korumburra and Westernport need to provide umpires for the Section 1 final and Baromi and Korumburra Blue for Section 2.

Please ensure you are there on time so all matches can get started.

The Presentation night will follow the grand final next week at McCartins Hotel.

Each club needs to provide a raffle donation, so please make sure you work that out.

## Clay Target Shooting results

46 shooters attended our shoot this month.

Congratulations to Jack McFee for shooting a 25.

High Gun: James Wood (68).

AA Grade winners:

1st David Mioni (55).

A Grade winners:

1st Curtis Hillbrick (66), 2nd Jack McFee (63) and 3rd Shane McRae (62).

B Grade :

1st James Thomas (60), 2nd Michael Braden (57) and 3rd Travis Paterson (53).

C Grade winners:

1st Bronislaw Oles (58), 2nd John Burns (34) and 3rd Brendan Goodman (29).

Ladies winners:

1st Kassi Moat (53), 2nd Kerri Moat (37) and 3rd Finlay McIntosh (28).

Veterans winners:

1st Lionel Bradley (65), 2nd Stanley Wade (51) and 3rd Gordon Macalpine (51).

Juniors winners:

1st Jake Wagg (58), 2nd Will Witkowski (55) and 3rd Jordn Moat (47).

Our next shoot is April,

Saturday 17 which will consist of 50 Target Novelty event celebrating our 50th anniversary with nominations commencing at 9:00am.

We are hosting a dinner Saturday, if you would like to attend please contact Jenn on 0408 300 749.

Our April shoot is on Sunday 18th April which will consist of 75 targets.

Clay target shooting is suitable for all ages, genders and fitness levels with juniors shooting for free.

## Phillip Island bowls

The Club championships have now been played.

The ladies 100 Up Handicap was very close with 95 shots each before last end, with Karen Cashen the eventual winner with 102 shots to 98 over Marilyn Forrest.

The Ladies Drawn Pairs winners were Jan Stubbs, and Bev Hyslop with 11 shots to 9 over Di Pollock and Julie Pora.

It was a long hot day for these competitors.

The Men's Triples was won by the team of Hans Olierook, John Parker, and Arthur Denny, with runners up, Russell May, Glen Cohen and Jimmy Kirk.

The rain that was predicted, came with a vengeance and made the last few ends difficult for all.

Congratulations to all that participated in these finals.

We have our Division 1 team in the Midweek grand final to be played at Leongatha against Inverloch.

Their win last week allowed them to maintain 2nd position.

Such a good result with the restricted season of 2021.

I'm sure many of us will be there to support them and hopefully celebrate another flag for the club.

Many of our men will be at Bendigo competing in Country Week.

They will enjoy the competition there.



100 Up Handicap runners up [L] Marilyn Forrest and [R] Winner Karen Cashen.



Pair's runners up [L] Di Pollock and Julie Pora, [R] Winners, Bev Hyslop and Jan Stubbs.



Midweek bowls winners played at Koo Wee Rup were Jim Nunan (3), Vickie Barnes (L) and Rob Jeffries (S).

## South West Gippsland midweek bowls

South West Gippsland midweek bowls winners were Rob Jeffries, Jim Nunan (Triple) and Vicky Barnes.

Runners up were Michael Dady, Robyn Coulson, Pauline McWilliams and Elaine Fitt.

One game winners were John Nicholson, Sue Wood, Marg Dillon and Graham Turner.

Midweek bowls was played at Koo Wee Rup with 29 bowlers.

The usual happy banter could be heard across the rinks.

The green was very slow but in beautiful condition and a pleasure to play on once we managed to master it.

The day turned out to be very pleasant with a very slight breeze.

12 ends were played. The first game as the day progressed it became warmer, so the last game was shortened to 10 ends and we were all grateful to finish and have a cold drink.

Thank you to George who was our very obliging bar man.

Thank you to the members who brought in goods for the free raffle table that consisted of fresh produce, jewellery, books and a variety of Knick knacks.

It's a lot of fun and we all enjoy as you never know



Runners up at midweek bowls were Robin Coulson (3), Michael Dady (S), Elaine Fitt (L) and Pauline McWilliams (2).



Best One Game winners were John Nicholson (S), Graham Turner (L), Sue Wood (3) and Margot Dillon (2).

what you will end up with.

Our money raffle is quite substantial. Also the wrong bias tin for the children's hospital did very well with three of our members contributing to it and as usual Jimmy Nunan was our best customer.

Next week we will play at Lang Lang. 10am at venue

for a 10.30am start.

BYO lunch and everyone welcome to come and have a great day of good bowling and friendship.

To register or for more information please contact Peter McWilliams on 56785974

See You on The Green.



## Phillip Island Golf

Tuesday, March 9 – Men's 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was David Theriault H/c (18) with 41 points from Tony Gay H/c (13) with 40 points.

Men's 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was David Schofield H/c (22) with 20 points from Malcolm MacArthur H/c (29) with 19 points.

Wednesday, March 10 – Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Sue Brown H/c (20) with 39 points from Faye Morris H/c (10) with 39 points on a countback from Lyn Dunne also with 39 points.

Round 2 of the Walton Knockout Singles: Winners were:

Vicki Roff-Smith defeated Lorraine Hammon.

Marg Frith defeated Megan Havers.

Pam Rothfield defeated Liz Gleeson.

Kim Rippon-King defeated Liz O'Neill.

Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Shirley Watts H/c (39) with 11 points from Bet Stevenson H/c (45) with 7 points.

Good luck to all qualifiers playing the Webster Noonan Pairs Knockouts this Wednesday, March 17.

Thursday, March 11 – Men's and Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Mike Fitzmaurice H/c (16) with 43 points from Steve Waters H/c (16) with 41 points.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Brian Baker H/c (18) with 19 points on a countback from Reg Brown H/c (32) also with 19 points.

Saturday, March 13 – Men's and Ladies 18 Hole Stensons Stableford: Men's winners – R. Jansson, S. Orr, J. Savas and C. Russo with 107 points on a countback.

Men's runners up – R. Magill, M. Wyzenbeek, S. Davies & L. Betts also with 107 points.

Ladies winners – D. Orr, J. Juster, T. Jamieson and R. Docker with 99 points.

Ladies runners up – R. Reid, J. Magill, J. Zelman and L. McCole with 92 points.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Basil Moloney H/c (13) with 19 points from Charles Mizzi H/c (32) with 17 points.

## Euchre club results

Men's winner: Brian Cahill - 5 points.

Women's winner: Bet Stephenson - 7 points. Encouragement award: Mary-Ann Uckerman - 1 point.

Please come and join the fun with us. Dinner tables booked for anyone wanting to eat beforehand at 6pm.

Games start 7.30pm.

Call Bob Hee for any queries 0418 173 388.



## Premiers

ABOVE: U18's RIPS Phillip Island basketball team are pictured after winning their basketball grand final against Waverley Falcons in the South East Melbourne Basketball Tournament.

L-R: (Team Manager) Jodi Kennedy, Sonny Maddocks, Tully Dickie, Jed Rosenow, Hayden Lloyd, Dino Masinovic, Tyson Masinovic, Vince Kennedy, Dale Robinson, (Coach) Christian Lloyd.

## Runners-up

LEFT: U14's basketball team recently played in the South Eastern Junior Tournament and were runners up in their grand final against Camberwell, it was a hard fought game, and the final score was 43 to 40.

Pictured from L-R (Coach) Kris Funslow, Xavier Osmond, Sam O'Garey, Austin Finlayson, Ash Smith, Charlie Fischer, Jeremy Kelly, Henry Dean, Jack Mascaros

## Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Events for the last 12 months have been all but extinct, however as things start to make more sense and management of Covid changes, there is the odd event that is in the planning or about to happen.

Confidence seems to be coming back into local markets along with trust in those running them to take all the necessary precautions to make them happen, and attendance is getting better.

Events will start the same way, and be sure that if it is an event with the backing of the Bass Coast Shire, there will have been many conversations around what and how to do things safely.

The Walk for the Kids Good Friday walk is one event coming up that raises money for the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal along the very scenic George Bass Walk.

For those who have been involved you will notice several changes to comply with DHHS and information can be found on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/walkforthekidskildundatosanremo>) or by dropping into the San Remo Hotel or Jim's Bait and Tackle.

We of course have our fishing competition at Easter time, also raising money for the Good Friday Appeal and you can find details and the prize list on our Socials, Facebook, and Instagram pages.

There are also a few other events happening around the area over the next few weeks and Easter.

Jump on to the Bass Coast

Shire's events page to keep up to date with what's on.

It's also important to remember that the event organisers are doing everything and understand the importance of following these guidelines that are required to minimise any risk, and also feel it's important for everyone's mental well-being that we all try to get back to some type of a normal before we head into the usual dreary winter period.

Weather permitting it will be a busy Easter holiday period and based on the reports of the last few weeks there will be plenty of fish still around.

### Tuna are biting

There are reports of tuna being caught in the area this week and it appears that they are in no hurry to go anywhere.

While the size hasn't changed a lot for the whole time they have been here, 15kg to 40kg mostly on the lower end, the lures they are taking has.

It definitely started off with very small skirts and typically different days were different colours whereas over the last couple of weeks we have seen far more variety of lures being successful.

We are still hearing of people finding them and the tuna not taking anything, sometimes for hours before they turn on and will take everything you throw at them.

Finding that time is the problem, and many give up before they do turn on.



The look of delight says it all. Scott Huther had just hauled in this rare beauty off the Nobbies. Reports of other good catches of tuna have been coming in.

Because the tuna isn't taking the lures you are throwing at them don't straight away think you have the wrong colour or type, you simply have the wrong time of that day.

Over the long weekend we had the same story from over a dozen customers, "we trawled around and couldn't get the tuna to take lures and then we changed to x lure and off they went."

The biggest problem with those reports was where every one of those dozen people got them to bite on a different lure and at different times of the day, sort of blows the theory of them only taking one type/co-

lour of lure out the window.

Have variety in size, type and colour and keep changing them around; eventually everything will line up.

One bycatch of the tuna has been some very big 3kg plus salmon and plenty of kingfish.

Several good bags of flathead offshore this week as well.

Back in the bay and the whiting are still a little fussy but better than the last few weeks.

Pinkies are all over the place despite it looking like we were getting a second run, along with a handful of gummies that were all on the smaller side, with keepers that just made it.



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## TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point  
Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31

HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BOLD

Thu 18	5.09am 2.76m	<b>11.01am</b> 0.54m	5.44pm 2.86m	<b>11.23pm</b> 0.84m
Fri 19	5.36am 2.74m	<b>11.32am</b> 0.49m	6.15pm 2.88m	<b>11.55pm</b> 0.88m
Sat 20	<b>6.03am</b> 2.72m	12.03pm 0.47m	<b>6.48pm</b> 2.88m	
Sun 21	<b>12.27am</b> 0.93m	6.30am 2.68mm	<b>12.34pm</b> 0.47m	7.21pm 2.84m
Mon 22	<b>12.59am</b> 0.99m	7.00am 2.63m	<b>1.04pm</b> 0.51m	7.57pm 2.78m
Tue 23	<b>1.31am</b> 1.08m	7.33am 2.55m	<b>1.36pm</b> 0.57m	8.35pm 2.69m

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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Emma Vanderdyt, Wonthaggi Pony Club, and Emily Oliver, Mooroolbark/Lilydale Pony Club, were among about 40 young riders to attend the National Mounted Games annual training camp at the Phillip Island Pony Club last weekend

# National Mounted Games training weekend here

The National Mounted Games held their annual training camp at the Phillip Island Pony Club last weekend.

Mounted Games is a team sport that requires agile and accurate riders and ponies, and is popular with riders and spectators alike.

The (usually) six events at a competition include skills from horse and rider such as turning around barrels or flags on poles, baton handovers, vaulting or mounting quickly, and galloping against other teams.

Teamwork, accuracy, agility, concentration, speed, hand to eye co-ordination and good sportsmanship are required, all the while having fun.

Squads of different age groups from senior down were put through their paces by their coaches, with

riders working hard to for an opportunity to compete at the national event in September.

The squads were selected at Yarrambat Pony Club a month ago, and this was their second training weekend since then.

The days were action packed to say the least, with an adrenaline rush for riders and spectators alike, and nothing like the final gallop to the finish line to get the heart racing.

The training and riding calendar is tight with most riders also being members of the Mounted Games Association; a separate affiliation where the competition extends to open riders.

The combination sees the riders and their steeds travelling all over the state to compete and train.

The local riders involved

are excited to be holding a training camp so close to home.

A strong incentive is being able to have a swim at the beach at day's end, rather than a dip in the ice bucket that is the alternative at other venues.

As Phillip Island is a small club it relies on the community for support.

The Pony Club thanks the numerous local businesses which have donated goods and services to help raise some much needed funds.

Phillip Island Pony Club, located at the Ventnor Recreation Reserve holds its club days (rallies) on the first Sunday of the month, and always welcomes new members and their ponies!

*RIGHT: Gisele Smith, Phillip Island Pony Club, in action last weekend.*



Wonthaggi Pony Club members Gemma Vandeydy carries out some nifty manoeuvres at the Phillip Island Pony Club grounds at Ventnor on Sunday.



Phillip Island Pony Club member Gabe Smith in action at last weekend's traing camp.

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