PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

\$1.60 Incl. GST



To celebrate International Women's Day, we asked women from across our coast about gender equality and challenging preconceptions about the role of women. We also talked to Ella Angarane from the Bass Coast Breakers, a stand-alone women's football team creating change on and off the field. For more on IWD go to page 16. To read about Ella and the Bass

New report: last ditch bid for a community pool

last week.

released by the And the (PIACF), has the backing of our loand a swathe of community groups (see separate story).

PIACF conducted and paid more to-swim combined hydrotherapy

proposed Phillip Island than \$7000 for the report, which area, and 24-hour gym at a cost of looked more favourably on major shire paying for it for ever." aquatic centre should include profit- they hope will bolster the chances about \$45 million. making facilities such as accommo- of Cowes securing a pool, ahead of funding.

The Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Bass Coast Shire feasibility study proposing Phillip Island – whose cal Federal MP Russell Broadbent residents have been lobbying for a pool for three decades – would have a 25 metre x eight lane pool, learn-

The study also recommends a \$41 dation and a criterium cycle track, according to a new report released Bass Coast aquatic centre receives with the current pool built in 1975 - including 25 metre x 10 lanes, a

> Modelling in the feasibility study showed both Wonthaggi and Cowes centres would operate in deficit for several years.

Advertiser all levels of government

projects that run at a profit.

"Government is disinclined to burden themselves with that expense," Mr Broadbent said.

"So you've got to tell government, that a project can be partly selffunding'

"The Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund has come up with innova-Mr Broadbent last week told the tive ideas that might enhance government support, so it's not just the

New facilities

The PIACF report found a future Phillip Island aquatic centre could be built for \$45 million and include a 50-metre pool, a \$500,000 crite um track (a self-contained road circuit) and \$3 million accommodation (three-star bunk-style rooms), but would make a \$1.5m annual profit, based on 70 per cent occupancy.

Continued page 6







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POSSIBLE SHOWER

Sam Treacey and Cooper Corbett went diving off the Cowes jetty on the weekend to retrieve a set of keys and ended up doing a massive clean-up, helped by friends including Will Witkowski.

Diving in to clean up

The official date of Clean Up Australia Day is March 6, but some local boys decided to get in early.

What started out as an attempt to retrieve lost keys last weekend ended up as a great deed for the community.

Sam Treacey and Cooper Corbett went diving off the Cowes jetty on the weekend trying to find a set of lost keys.

In the process, they noticed all sorts of things dumped near the jetty and spent the rest of their day doing a massive clean-up.

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Over the afternoon, they retrieved eight shopping trolleys, four bikes, a few fishing rods and even some watches and other little pieces.

With the help from friends Will Witkowski, Izaya Van Hout and Aaron Saric, the boys managed to pull all the items up and out of the water.

"Pulling all this stuff out of our waters is a very generous and kind thing to do," said Emily Witkowski.

"Everyone was amazed and some were very thankful for the boys doing this."

Councillor left out of pocket by scammers

An Island Ward councillor has urged smart phone users to be on the lookout for tailored email scams, after he lost \$500 to fraudsters.

Cr Ronnie Bauer was last week busy working in his Melbourne business when his iPhone received an email, appearing to be from the personal account of Mayor Michael Whelan.

Cr Bauer said he knew the mayor was in meetings and his text messages were not working, so he didn't think twice about receiving the personalised email.

"The email was asking me to buy five \$100 Apple gift cards, which I then took photos of and sent to Michael," Cr Bauer explained.

"I thought it was a little strange but he was away and in meetings and couldn't do it himself so I thought I'd help him out."

Cr Bauer purchased the cards at a nearby JB Hi-Fi store at about 4.30pm last Thursday, emailed the photos but then quickly realised he'd been scammed.

"By the time I went back to JB Hi-Fi at 4.55pm the money on the cards had been spent. The scammers didn't waste any time," he said, astonished at the highly tailored style of the scam.

"It was a perfect storm. I was at work, Michael was in meetings, his phone was off and his text wasn't working.

"Luckily I can afford to lose \$500 but for a lot of people it would hurt like hell."

Cr Whelan looked at the emails and confirmed "a number of councillors received the email request misrepresenting them as from me".

Shire management then sent a message to all councillors alerting them to the hoax, and explaining "council's email system has not been compromised to send these emails".

A little red-faced, Cr Bau-



Island Ward councillor Ronnie Bauer has urged smart phone users to be on the lookout for tailored email scams, after he lost \$500 to fraudsters.

er sent an email to his colleagues saying now he'd won the "most gullible" award of the week, he had jokingly decided to start a GoFundMe page to "recoup my losses".

"Donations of any amount accepted – I take US\$ and bitcoin," he joked.

"Moral of the story when using an iPhone: double click on the email sender's name to reveal the actual email address."

Email thread

This is an edited version of how the scammers lured Cr Bauer, with the email address name appearing as "Michael Whelan":

Scammers: Hi Ron
Could you please spare
a minute to assist me
in completing a task
discreetly.
Would be glad to receive
your response through
email because i'm presently in a meeting
Best Regards
Michael Whelan

Free quotes

Scammers: I'm in a meeting right now and i need to carry out some urgent tasks and i would be glad if you can assist me in completing Can you help me purchase an Apple gift card 5 pieces - \$100 each at any nearby store? I would reimburse you when am through later today. I would have preferred to call you but i can't receive or call at the moment with my line, let me know if you can purchase them now. Thanks Michael Whelan

Cr Bauer: Sure but what am I assisting you with??

Cr Bauer: Is this a council request or a personal request?

Scammers: Simply pull out the silver panel at the back of each card and email me the pics of the cards here to make it less demanding How will you want me to reimburse you either by cash or check? Thanks I'd be awaiting them.

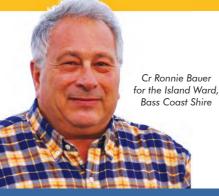
ASAP.

Michael Whelan

Scammers: I haven't hear (sic) from you, how long will it take you to get them? Michael Whelan

Cr Bauer: Walking over to jb Hi-Fi now.

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



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No masking the problem – our wildlife at risk

An alarming number of discarded face masks is putting Phillip Island's much-loved little penguins and other wildlife at risk of entanglement or even death according to Phillip Island Nature Parks.

In January alone, Nature Parks rangers collected a staggering 227 masks from the Nature Parks' reserves and beaches.

One little penguin was found using a disposable mask in its burrow as nesting material, while a swamp hen had to be intercepted running back to its nest with a cloth mask and a raven was spotted with a mask caught around its foot.

Paula Wasiak, Research Technical Officer at Phillip Island Nature Parks, said rangers have not only been finding masks at the Penguin Parade and other popular visitor attractions, but also washed up along beaches that are inaccessible to the public.

She said this suggests masks are not only being dropped but are also washing ashore.

"It's pretty upsetting to witness the impact that masks are having on our local environment here on Phillip Island," Ms Wasiak said.

It's possible for penguins and other birds to become entangled in the masks' ear loops - a disturbing image many of us have seen from across the world during the pandemic.

This entanglement can restrict their movement, ability to fish, or cut off circulation, and can ultimately lead to injury or death.

"It's so easy for a bird to become entangled in a mask but difficult for them to escape. It might be easy for us to stretch and pull the straps off, but penguins don't have that reach to be able to remove it if they become caught," Ms Wasiak said.

"Thankfully I haven't seen any penguins entangled here at the Nature Parks, but we only monitor around five per cent of Phillip Is-



Nature Parks rangers spotted this raven with a mask caught around its foot.

land's colony of around 40,000 little penguins.

"It was fortunate that the penguin we found with a mask in its burrow was being monitored as part of a study site, so we could remove it, but sadly we won't always be so lucky."

Ms Wasiak said face masks were an important public health measure but urged everyone to be mindful when visiting.

"If you accidentally drop your mask, please try to retrieve it, or ask one of our rangers for help - and when it's time to dispose of your mask, always make sure you pull the loops off or cut them before throwing it in the bin," she said.

"If you see someone drop their mask, let them know, and remind them to dispose of it properly. Keeping Phillip Island tidy and safe for our wildlife is everyone's responsibility and we all play an important role.

These are little things we can all do that will make a big different to our little penguins and other wild-



A discarded face mask was even found in a penguin burrow. PINP said the masks pose a substantial threat to wildlife.



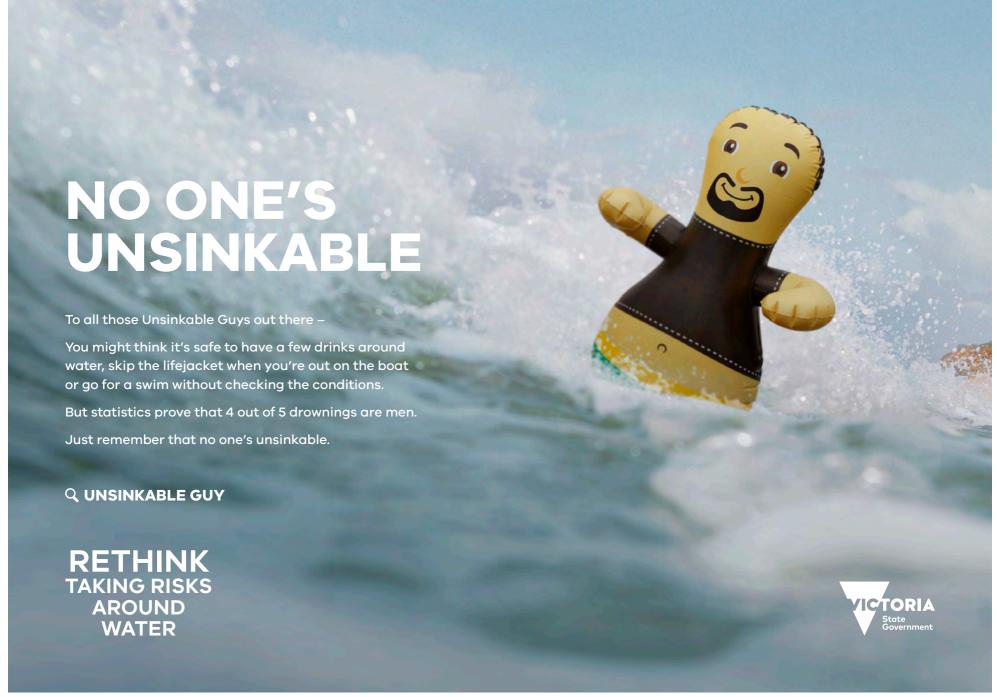
Thank you Snapshot Photography

Last week we missed the photo her images with us, and we apolocredit for the amazing front page photo of the San Remo Channel Challenge, taken by Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

Nici was out on a boat to capture the action and generously shared

gise for missing that important

You can see more of Nici's Channel Challenge photos at pisra.com.au or on her Instagram @snapshot._photography



Shire's social media hit Boost yourself with parking protest

Drivers have voiced their opposition to the rollout of parking sensors on Bass Coast Shire's Facebook

The sensors - to be rolled out before Easter - will see about 500 car parks in Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street, The Esplanade and the Cowes Transit Centre installed with sensors after the shire last month announced they had awarded the \$343,000 tender to Australian Parking & Revenue Control Pty Ltd.

An optional app will let drivers pre-plan parking, while six Variable Message Signs will be installed in Cowes to display real-time parking availability, for drivers who don't

use the app.
Michelle Kane-Di Paolo told the

shire the rollout was "crazy".
"By the time you drive to that parking space, it will be gone and you will have to get on your phone again while driving," she said.

Cecelia Dizz McPhee highlighted concerns around disabled access.

"How is the sensor going to know they have a disabled sticker and are therefore allowed double the time in the parking space?"

Matt Battersby commented that the "smart" system would "notify parking inspectors of overstayers so you can issue more fines".

One respondent summed up ratepayer sentiment, questioning the shire's spin the sensors would "benefit" the community by helping drivers find parks.

"Be prepared to get slugged for parking, people," they commented.

Cowes resident Graham Jolly said he had never had a problem finding a parking spot in Cowes, even during morning peak.

"This is revenue raising. How long will it take to repay the \$300,000 She asked why there was a rush to spend the funding "without refer-



Parking sensors will be rolled out before Easter with about 500 car parks in Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street, The Esplanade and the Cowes Transit Čentre installed with sensors.

spent," he asked.

"Planning permits with reduced parking spaces must stop for any development.

Peter Walton agreed.

"Need to stop permitting new developments with reduced parking provisions. Council had a formula for parking spaces per development, so stick to it, no reductions,

Earlier this month ratepayer advocates said they were "horrified" parking sensors would be rolled out in Cowes with no public consultation or council vote, agreeing it will be a "major revenue raiser".

Island Voice spokeswoman Linda Marston asked for more transparency.

"How was this even decided to be a priority for the island? We have had many priority lists over the years and parking sensors was not one of them," Ms Marston said.

ence to the community or a priority list" when there were so many other pressing issues.

Cowes resident Peter McMahon said the project sidestepped community consultation because CEO Ali Wastie "used her discretionary power and established a tender and announced the winner"

Following the Covid outbreak in 2020, Ms Wastie's spending limit was increased from \$250,000 to \$1 million, which means the CEO can singlehandedly spend \$1 million on shire projects, without the need to seek councillors' approval.

"My concern is why does the CEO have the ability to use up to \$1 million, which was increased for Covid issues?" Mr McMahon said.

"This needs to be addressed and should be reduced to the pre-Covid \$250,000 limit.

"No issue that impacts the com-She asked why there was a rush munity should be put in place before community consultation.

Bass Coast residents have responded strongly to the call to boost their areas that have second-dose Covid defences with a third vaccine.

Currently third dose rates on Phillip Island and San Remo are at 65 per cent and above and as high as 85 per cent in some areas.

This compares to the state average of 56 per cent.

Last week, the state government said an average of eleven vaccines a minute have been administered by Victoria's state-run services since the COVID-19 vaccination program commenced 12 months ago today.

Professor Rhonda Stuart, the first person to diagnose a COVID-19 case in Australia, was the first Victorian to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on 22 February 2021. Initially commissioned to deliver a third of the program, Victoria's vaccine centres have since delivered 42 per cent of the 14,105,757 doses administered statewide.

vaccination rates higher than 95 per cent among people aged 16 and over.

The focus is now on ensuring people 16 and over receive their third

dose, and vaccination of children. The Novavax vaccine is now available through selected state centres, as well as GPs and pharmacies.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on immunisation recommends the Novavax vaccine be given in two doses at least three weeks apart.

Vaccination against COVID-19 is still recommended for those who have recently recovered from the illness, because any natural immunity gained from infection is short term.

To get your third dose, book at a GP or pharmacy at www.health.gov. au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-clinic-finder or book (or walk-in) at a vaccination centre at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine.

Bass Coast Covid vaccination rates by postcode — third dose

Postcode	Percentage of eligible population to receive third dose					
3925	60 – 65 %					
3923	80 – 85%					
3925	65 – 70%					
3984	55 – 60%					
3995	60 – 65%					
3996	70 – 75%					
3990	50 – 60%					
3991	40 – 55%					

Currently third dose rates on Phillip Island and San Remo are at 65 per cent and above and as high as 85 per cent in some areas.

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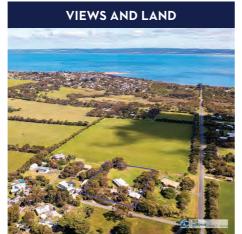
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Tom Kapitany with Rosie. Pic: Flying Fox Productions



It was back in the 1990s that the former Wildlife Wonderland Giant Earthworm Museum took possession of the shark, with part of the roof of the museum removed in order for it to be housed in a specially-designed tank.

Tom goes into battle for Rosie the Shark

Rosie the Shark is still without a what was to be a temporary home permanent home after a Melbourne council rejected plans for a shark education centre.

Three years after he rescued Rosie from Wildlife Wonderland Giant Earthworm Museum in Bass, owner Tom Kapitany is now taking his proposed development to VCAT.

In February 2019 Tom, who runs Crystal World in Devon Meadows, removed Rosie from her formaldehyde-filled tank at the derelict museum in Bass, and trucked the fivemetre-long fish to Crystal World.

In a massive operation, 15,000 litres of the carcinogenic formaldehyde was removed and a crane hoisted Rosie and her 10-tonne tank on to a truck, driven 60km to in Crystal World's carpark.

But Tom said Rosie continued to live in the carpark in her tank, on display free of charge.

He said his plan for the "most well-known shark in the world" was to build a 400m² exhibition building, including a specially designed concrete slab to hold Rosie's

"But we are still fighting with council (the City of Casey)," he told the Advertiser.

"They rejected it because they don't think it's an appropriate place for an exhibition area.

"So we're taking them to VCAT." Tom said an initial VCAT meeting would be held this month, with the full hearing in September.

"We are determined. My town planner believes it's a weak objection and it will be overruled."

Rosie became a social media sensation and hit the international headlines in 2019 after a series of YouTube videos - filmed by a subculture of trespassers known as urban explorers – went globally viral, spawning unwanted vandals and trespassers.

Tom is a geologist, botanist and entrepreneur who travels the world chasing fossils and who also owns the National Dinosaur Museum in Canberra, with Crystal World selling geological specimens, fossils, meteorites, crystals and minerals.

He has erected the jaw of a megalodon near Rosie, an extinct shark

Preserved for eternity

In the meantime, Rosie was looking better than ever.

"She's very stable. The glycerine is looking after her very well. She's better off than when we got her," Tom

After initially washing out her tank with water (neutralising the water with baking soda), Tom and his team opted to preserve Rosie in glycerine a colourless, odourless, sweet, nontoxic liquid.

Glycerine costs \$300 for one litre and they have so far used 5000 litres (\$16,500) to fill the tank.

"The glycerine never deteriorates and keeps her stable and safe and we only occasionally need to inject some into her dorsal fin.

Tom said the public interest in the shark – which was donated to Crystal World - continued to grow, with updates regularly posted on their Rosie the Shark Facebook page.

"It has been crazy since Covid, we can't handle any more business.

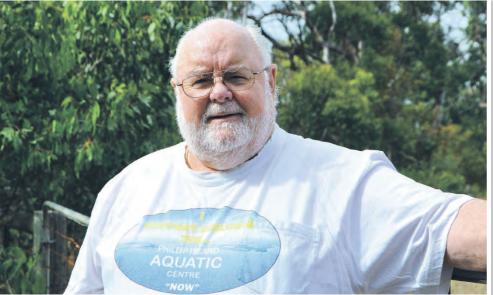
We still get messages from around the world, thanking us for saving her and taking care of her.

When school children do shark projects they contact us and the YouTube videos continue to get a lot of hits."

Despite the considerable costs and logistical headaches of housing Rosie, he does not regret taking on the responsibility of the shark, which was donated to Crystal World.

"No, I don't regret it. At the end of the day Rosie will always be looked after. She'll be preserved for eternity.





PIACF secretary Peter McMahon said: "This is do or die for Phillip Island now."

New report: last ditch bid for a community pool

The facility would sit within the larger 32-hectare sporting hub, on the corner of Phillip Island Road and Ventnor Road, with the shire last year purchasing the carnival land for a future Phillip Island Recreational

The PIACF report, which uses figures from the shire's feasibility study, acknowledged more facilities would come at a higher capital cost but they would "create an opportunity for the centre to bring in additional streams of income".

"Aquatic centres, in general, cost a lot of money to build and do not run at a profit," the report said.

The key to reducing these losses is to include accommodation and meals income in the centre's turnover.'

The report, written by Negawatt Projects, added a 50 metre pool was also "essential" because visiting endurance athletes and sporting teams require this at a training venue.

Energy, emergency

The PIACF report said energy was one of the largest costs in a community pool and under their proposal a future Cowes aquatic centre would have "clear energy goals at the

"Reducing glazing, lowering the heights of buildings and insulating at every opportunity results in very low energy buildings where heat can be easily recovered and reused in the system," it said, adding solar power would also be a critical element.

In addition, the centre could act as an emer-

gency centre.

"The option to have one or more self-powered buildings that can provide shelter, light, warmth, hot showers and meal service in times of an emergency should not be overlooked during this development."

Federal, shire support

Mr Broadbent said he supported any proposal that reduced power use and costs and added in renewable energy.

kind of report should have been produced by Bass Coast Shire.

They want an aquatic centre.

"I've now asked the group to go back to council for support ... the Federal government takes its priorities from local government because they are closest to the people.'

He said the shire would need to apply for funding under the Building Better Regions federal fund.

'I don't speculate on funding. I have a list of 50 projects in this region seeking funding and I would like every one of them to be

A shire spokes person said they had carried $\,$ out community consultation on their feasibility study last year.

"However, we are always open to receiving new ideas on how to make our community facilities as good and as cost effective as they can be," the spokesperson said.

"Officers will review the committee's proposal and provide a considered response in

Cr Ronnie Bauer said the report was a "game changer" adding council had voted to support the feasibility study and councillors would now have to vote on this.

Commonwealth Games

PIACF president Don Turner said in producing the report they had worked with the

"Council has been involved in this from its infancy and are aware of the detail," Mr Turner said.

PIACF secretary Peter McMahon said the report had been written "with extensive conversations" with other communities around Australia who had similar facilities.

"From this we found the dollar values in the feasibility study were over the top and more realistic of a 50-metre pool than a 25-metre one," Mr McMahon said.

"The shire will say they want funding for two pools but can you see the Federal government funding that? Managed correctly this can help the shire with their two-pool strat-

egy to government.
"This is do or die for Phillip Island now."

He added the centre could be a major sell-He would not be drawn out on whether this ing point in Victoria's bid for the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

'There are many potential benefits from "At least these people are really proactive. this and the shire would be crazy not to con-



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A.F.D.A.

Sports clubs desperate for new facilities, "bursting at the seams

Local sporting groups behind a new report proposing profit-making facilities for the proposed Phillip Island aquatic centre (see separate story).

Phillip Island Football Netball Club president Chris Ross said their club was "absolutely bursting at the seams" with more than 700 playing members and they had "very quickly outgrown our existing facilities"

Our numbers are so high we send three teams of netball (50 girls) to Cranbourne to play each week," Chris said.

"The club desperately needs another playing oval with lights so we can schedule training nights for them all

"We seriously struggle to give all our players a decent amount of time to train with the one oval. Our senior footballers generally start pre-season in December and find it extremely hard as the cricket club have control of the oval."

Chris said junior footballers start pre-season in late January and "suffer the same access to the oval".

He said the club had this year started an over-35s group with about 35 players already signed up and Auskick had 200 boys and girls.
"I couldn't think of a bet-

ter training facility than an aquatic centre. In a sporting hub our players would be able to take advantage of swimming and weights ses-

Soccer, swimming

Phillip Island Soccer Club president Andrea Blair Dempsey said they had 160 members aged from four to 50 and were one of the biggest soccer clubs in the league.

She said members play at reserve with new change rooms being built this year

have thrown their support ticipation, particularly female participation".

"As soccer continues to grow in popularity as a sport in our region we anticipate ongoing growth in our club," Andrea said.

"We have recently shifted to a two-day competition for juniors to accommodate the increase in participation.

"With this growth in mind the club would benefit in the future from access to another playing field, particularly an all-weather, synthetic pitch. The club would also like to include futsal (indoor soccer program) in the future, which would necessitate accessing an indoor facility.'

Phillip Island Swim Club president Lucy Gallyot said with Phillip Island's recent population growth in population, the club had a significant increase in enquiries to

"Unfortunately due to the limited lane space we are having to turn these swimmers away as we simply cannot access any more sessions or lanes," Lucy said.

With an aquatic centre on Phillip Island our club could potentially double in size and keep those that live surrounded by water safer in the water."

Club swim coach of 15 years Diddy Cuthbertson agreed, saying growth had been "continually hampered by two long-term barriers".

"It is at least 40 plus minutes travel time to and from Wonthaggi for training each week or even twice a week for some families," Diddy

Triathlon Victoria has also thrown its support behind the report, which proposes a \$500,000 criterium track (a self-contained road circuit).

Woolamai Beach Surf Lifesaving Club life memthe Newhaven recreation ber Hamish Derricks said and playing fields, as well an aquatic centre with additional facilities would be

"due to an increase in par- "eagerly supported" by the club.

"As the SLSC evolves and grows with many events and services - Bass Coast Series, patrols, nippers, lifeguards, jet ski patrols – so too must the training and education facilities to retain existing users and attract those in coming years, Hamish said.

"While the Penguin Parade continues to dominate national and international attention it is the total package of the island that keeps people returning and living here."

Triathlon Victoria executive director Grant Cosgriff said the group was "consistently seeking high-quality and integrated swim, bike, run facilities" for regular training, as well as weekly and camp training.

Case studies

The Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund report details two case studies to highlight how a "world class sports training centre featuring aquatic facilities" would op-

The Gold Coast Performance Centre has a 50-metre outdoor pool, a 20 metre indoor warm pool for exercise and learn to swim lessons, as well as an outdoor gym, athletics track, rugby, hockey and soccer fields, with criterium cycle track

Accommodation is threestar and costs about \$25 per person per night, with some groups staying for months at a time.

'The site is designed to be flexible and attracts teams from both domestic and international markets," the report states.

During holiday breaks Geelong Grammar School offers their facilities to groups for training, with a 25-metre indoor pool, gym as accommodation and a dining hall.



The masterplan for the proposed aquatic centre and indoor sports courts on the corner of Phillip Island Road and Ventnor Road, released by Bass Coast Shire last year.



Juggling Covid jabs and reno jobs

When Simonne Liberman is not giving COVID-19 jabs as a nurse at Bass Coast Health's vaccination clinic, she runs a Cowes B&B, welcoming guests and cleaning rooms.

"Nursing is a service industry and so is accommodation so there are a lot of similarities," Simonne says.

"Each requires a high level of service. Going from cleaning rooms to vaccinating is easy. And I was once the head of the sterilising department, which means I understand the principles of infection control."

Simonne and her husband, Marcus, who is a pro golfer, bought the historic Genesta House, on Steele Street in Cowes in 2019 after originally moving to Phillip Island 20 years ago, raising their daughter Stephanie here, who is in year 10 at Newhaven College.

Since then, they have extensively renovated the three-bedroom self-contained accommodation, which was built in 1914, and was used by four generations of the Ewen family until 1961, when it was converted into a guesthouse.

So when she's not vaccinating or taking care of guests, Simonne even dabbles in DIY renovations and interior design.

The Libermans have installed solar panels, replaced all three bathrooms and updated the décor, as well as restoring the garden and protecting the 60-year-old lilly pilly and strawberry trees, planted by the original owners.

Their next project is to entirely renovate their own living area, which was built in the 1960s.

"In renovating we've found some treasures, the best one being the original cedar shingles are still on the roof, now under the Zincalume.

"It is such a simple build and it has not changed a lot over the years. The walls are still lathe and plaster and so we will be insulating them, while maintaining key pieces, such as the



When she's not administering the Covid jab, Simonne Liberman – with her husband, Marcus and their daughter Stephanie – runs Genesta House, on Steele Street in Cowes.

big chandelier in the fernery and adding in wainscoting to the Lilly Pilly room."

They have maintained the mid-Victorian iron lace on the south facing verandah, as well as the Edwardian design verandah.

Long careers

Simonne has worked as a nurse for 27 years, including two decades in operating theatre in Melbourne and Sale in East Gippsland.

When the couple moved to the island, she worked for 15 years in Wonthaggi Hospital's operation the

But then – like so many in the industry – she realised she needed a break.

"I wanted to do something different but I had no idea what. When you do something for a long time it's hard to envisage what could replace it so I thought by just making a break

something would present itself."
It was around the same time Mar-

It was around the same time Mar cus spotted Genesta House for sale.

"We never thought about doing anything like that before but it's a really good fit for us."

Like his wife, Marcus had never been in the hospitality industry.

He had played VFL football as a teen when he fractured his kneecaps and had a car accident, which sidelined his AFL career.

So about the age of 20 he started his professional golfing career, securing a traineeship at the Northern Golf Club in Melbourne.

"He'd never picked up a golf stick before that, so it was an incredibly fast progression," Simonne says.

When the couple moved to Cowes, Marcus was the Phillip Island Golf Club's inhouse pro golfer, teaching lessons, holding clinics and running competitions for 18 years.

He now works two days a week



Simonne even dabbles in DIY renovations and interior design, replacing bathrooms and updating the décor in the B&B.

as pro golfer for the Riversdale Golf Club in Melbourne, while running a home gardening business called Genesta Garden Care.

Simonne got back into nursing in June last year after seeing the overwhelming demand placed on nurses in vaccination clinics and she has since completed her full immunisation course which "post-Covid will be an alternative income in the quiet season of the B&B".

History

According to the Libermans, Genesta House was formerly known as Cowan Brae, built by George Ewen, a building contractor from Melbourne.

George, his wife Catherine and their children originally came to the island by stage coach to Hastings then ferry to Cowes.

The railway was put through to Stony Point in 1889 and connected

as pro golfer for the Riversdale Golf with the ferry, making transport Club in Melbourne, while running easier.

He built Cowan Brae, a weatherboard and roughcast plaster rendered building, which in 1946 saw his daughter Elsie and her husband Percy retire there.

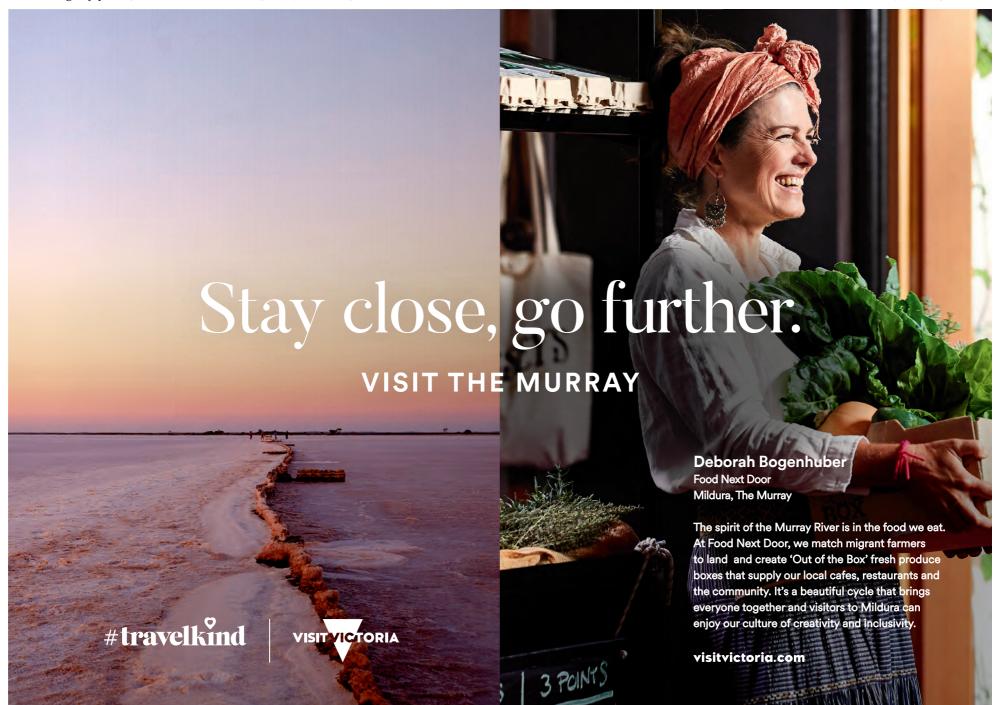
"Building materials were impossible to get during the war, but Cowan Brae needed repairs and upgrading.

"The cedar shingles were leaking and there were buckets placed around to catch the drips. There is much correspondence between Percy and the Department of War Organisation of Industry to get permission to buy the required building materials."

Simonne says while their lives are busy, she loves living by the beach.

"People ask us if we'd consider moving back to Melbourne but definitely not

"I love walking our five-year-old Cavoodle Max every day on the beach, which is my calming place."





This block in San Remo, at 125 Marine Parade, has a permit application before council, seeking to build a four-storey mixed use apartment building. Photo: Google Maps.

Cowes-Rhyll Road subdivision planned

subdivision on the Cowes-Rhyll Road.

A planning permit for the subdivision at the Blue Gum Estate at 35 Cowes-Rhyll Road – in the general residential zone - is currently out for community feedback.

The permit states the block sizes will range between 506m2 to 865m2 with two reserves on the 1.3 hectare property, which has a vegetation protection overlay.

Concerned residents took to social media to highlight the subdivision will see a lake on the land filled in with "still no provision for any recreational spaces, playgrounds or the like".

"And there's a pedestrian only exit onto Rhyll Road," the concerned resident said.

An arborist report states a field survey of the land was carried out in May 2019, finding 84 native and exotic trees and shrubs will be removed, or about 0.4 hectare.

"The property itself is largely devoid of native vegetation but for a few small patches and three scattered native trees," the report states.

"All other vegetation on site is comprised of exotic, or non-indigenous native trees and shrubs which have been planted or have become naturalised on the site.

"Opportunities to avoid and minimise nacleared to make way for a proposed 16-lot tive vegetation removal at the site are extremely limited.'

The report states trees and shrubs protected by the vegetation overlay were not "significant from a conservation perspective, and they do not form part of a recognized wildlife corridor"

"The site is surrounded on its north, east and west sides by residential development and borders a narrow strip of roadside vegetation in the south.'

The developers will be required to pay for vegetation offsets and the subdivision does not generate the requirement for a public open space contribution "as this contribution has already been paid in a previous subdivision".

Some on social media opposed more subdivision, arguing Cowes was becoming a suburb, while others said it was reasonable given it was in town boundaries.

More planning

A new permit for a four-storey mixed use apartment building at 125 Marine Parade in San Remo is being sought and is in the early stages of development with Bass Coast Shire

Looking out for our koalas

The state government is looking for feedback on its new draft Victorian Koala Management Strategy.

The government said based on the best available science, the draft strategy will guide how koalas in Victoria will be conserved into the future - outlining ongoing actions to ensure their security, sustainability and health.

The strategy was developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, in collaboration with Traditional Owners, scientists, animal welfare organisations, wildlife carers, the blue gum plantation industry, veterinarians and other government agencies from Victoria and inter-

Estimates from the first state-wide koala abundance model, which was developed by scientists from the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, are also reflected in the draft strategy.

The model estimates a state-wide koala population of 460,000, with an estimated 413,000 koalas in native forest and woodland and a further 47,000 koalas in eucalypt plantations.

Koalas have recently been listed as endangered in Queensland, the ACT and NSW but are not threatened in Victoria.

However local Friends of the Koalas believes the state's koalas are under threat.

"Koala populations are being affected by bushfires, land clearing, logging, disease and climate change," said Friends President Patsy Hunt, in an update published



The government is asking for community feedback on the new draft Victorian Koala Management Strategy, design to ensure the health and sustainability of the state's koala population.

in the Advertiser earlier this sound koalas in Victoria are

"Koalas in Victoria are currently not regarded as threatened, as those in NSW and Queensland are, on the basis that there are still some areas with high populations.

"However, this is misleading as most of Victoria's koalas are descended from animals relocated from Phillip Island and French Island and are now becoming inbred and genetically poor.

genetically "The only

the Strzelecki koalas whose numbers are not accurately known, especially after so many were killed in the recent bushfires.

"Thankfully, realisation of the importance of the Strzelecki koalas is now growing but more needs to be done.

To view the draft strategy or provide feedback visit: engage.vic.gov.au/VKMS.

Consultation closes April 3.





When the game ends, this city is just getting started. Plan where you play at visitmelbourne.com

Phillip Island Classic Historic Racing set for major motorsport event

11-13 the Phillip Island Classic 'Festival of Motorsport' returns to the Phillip Island Grand Prix

It will once again be a major Victorian attraction, with more than 400 spectacular historic vehicles from the early 50s to the late 80s racing, with entries from every state except WA, due to Covid restrictions.

Event organisers, the Victorian Historic Racing Register (VHRR), supported by long time sponsors, CoolDrive, Penrite and Shannons, have confirmed that along with the 400 entries for the three-day event there will be some 240 entrants practising at the Island Grand Prix Circuit on the Thursday this year under the direction of the VHRR.

Although there is an absence of international historic cars this year due to the pandemic, four overseas drivers including Richard Tarling from UK, Gislain Genecand from Switzerland and Xavier Michel from France will each be driving Formula Fords whilst Andy Newall from the UK will be racing Bob Harborow's 1966 McLaren M6B.

There are maximum grids in a number of categories, especially the Formula Fords where 57 FA, FB and FC cars will be racing on Sunday morning and afternoon for the prestigious Perkins his son Jack driving the ex HRT

Overthelong weekend of March Cup. This field includes Tim Blanchard, Team Principal of the Blanchard Racing Team. Tim's father, John Blanchard will not be racing due to an injury and his seat in the Formula Ford will be filled by Brian Soule.

Maximum grids are also registered in the Group S Sports Cars and 66 cars in the Regularity racing plus other categories, once again confirming the importance of this event on the Australian and International Motorsports calendar.

The 50th Anniversary of Peter Brocks famous 1972 Bathurst Win in a Torana XU1 will be celebrated with a grid of eleven cars from Queensland, South Australia, NSW, Tasmania and Victoria each racing for the Peter Brock Trophy on the Sunday.

Special guest, Bev Brock, will be at the circuit to present the trophy to the winner of this event.

Feature races over 12 laps on the Sunday will include Q & A Touring cars, Group S Sports Cars and Touring cars over two

Of particular interest this year will be a field of more than 30 five-litre Super V8 Touring Sprint cars built between 1993 and 2002 and invited high speed cars. This field includes the highly competitive Larry Perkins driving the Castrol BZ Commodore and



Over the long weekend of March 11-13 the Phillip Island Classic 'Festival of Motorsport' returns to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.

V8 Super Car that he drove at Course Michael Herlihy. Bathurst.

Two feature races will be held on the Saturday for Q & R Racing and QR Sports categories including Guido Belgiorno-Netti's spectacular 1985 Ferrari 156/86 F1.

Throughout the event Michael Stillwell will act as Driving Standard Advisor with Event Director Ian Tate OAM and Clerk of the /Sponsored Article/

The weekend promises to be a welcome return to exciting racing in what is regarded as the largest historic racing event in the Southern Hemisphere with past and present champions of the sport.

Tickets for the weekend of spectacular historic motorsport will be available at the circuit gate.

FREE PASSES: The Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser have three free double passes to give away to this historic racing event. These will be available from our office (60 Chapel Street, Cowes) from 11am on Wednesday. One double pass per person.



Enjoying last year's successful race meeting are Amanda Drennan and Sid.

Health Hub race day returns

The Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary is again partnering with the Woolamai Racing Club to raise money for vital health services on the island.

The third Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day is on this Sunday, March 6.

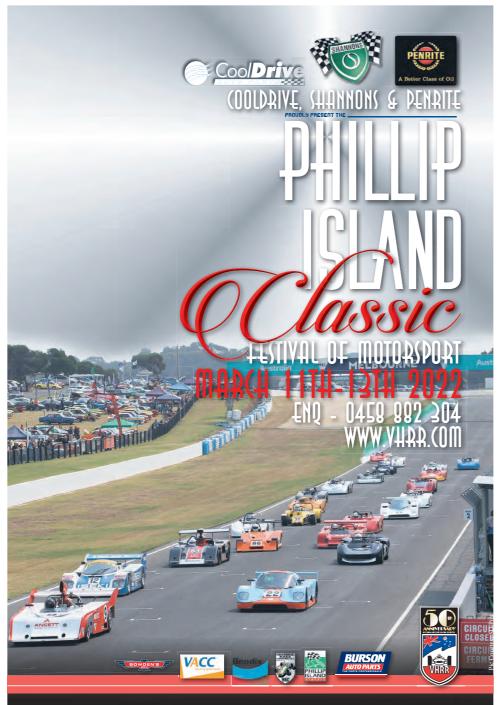
Previous events have both raised more than \$6000 towards vital equipment for the hub.

The Auxiliary members are inviting everyone to enjoy a great day at the beautiful Woolamai racecourse. Bring your family and friends, pack a picnic or get something to eat or drink on course.

Funds raised this year will be used to upgrade local maternity services and the Woolamai Racing Club generously do-nates \$5 from each adult entry ticket to

the Health Hub Auxiliary.
Gates open at 11am. In line with government requirements, vaccination status must be provided on entry.

Bookings can be made at country.rac-ing.com/calendar/2022-03-06/woolamaiphillip-island-health-hub-race-day





helping raise funds to support Bass Coast Health in improving and upgrading maternity services in our community

PHILLIP ISLAND HEALTH HUB

Health staff thanked for their dedication

Bass Coast Health has welcomed the recruitment response and thanked staff for their dedication.

In the past weeks, Bass Coast Health has recruited over 20 new staff on a permanent basis, following a campaign seeking additional employees to help the health service meet the needs of the growing Bass Coast community.

The new staff come to the health service with a mix of clinical and non-clinical experience, and join a team of extraordinary BCH staff who have been working harder and longer than ever due to the demands created by the recent Covid Omicron surge.

The newcomers are welcomed by our extraordinary existing teams and are now working across all sites across the service.

Bass Coast Health has also recruited many short-term staff during the recent Covid surge to help manage the extra workload.

'We are thrilled to have received such a strong response to our recruitment drive to ensure we can not only provide services for our community now, but also help recruit to the Wonthaggi Hospital expansion project," Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child

"We will continue to seek additional permanent clinical staff who will bring a mix of experiences, skills, and contemporary practice to our health service."

Ms Child also thanked existing staff who went above and beyond and stepped up at the most difficult time thus far for the pandemic, to ensure healthcare could continue to be delivered at Bass Coast Health and manage the extra demand for services during the surge.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors and Executive of Bass Coast Health, I want to take this opportunity to thank our staff for being so special, agile, caring and responsive during the recent surge," she said.

"Staff worked so many 12-hour shifts and sometimes even longer, in



Enrolled endorsed Nurse Maddie Slaney (left) and Clare Stinton, Nurse Unit Manager of sub-acute ward, are among the newly recruited staff to join Bass Coast Health.

equipment for hours on end.

"Many of them cancelled their leave, even though they hadn't had a break for many months and sometimes years, just to make sure their local community could receive services - vaccination, testing, other Covid care and our usual services were busier than ever.

"The last few months, and also the past two years, have been a tremendously trying time for everyone, but particularly for healthcare staff due to their extreme workloads.

"Thank you so much to those staff who have helped us to be there for our community.

Enrolled endorsed nurse Maddie Slaney returned to South Gippsland from Melbourne and joined Bass Coast Health after responding to the health service's recruitment advertis-

She is now combining working with studying for a registered nurse degree, and eventually plans to be a midwife and study a master's degree in wound care.

"I'm working across the acute and

hot and stifling personal protective sub-acute wards, and also working at the vaccination centre at the Wonthaggi Town Hall," she said.

"I love it here. The staff are very supportive and I've been able to work in different areas. It's a great opportunity to get clinical experience while I'm studying."

Clare Stinton responded to BCH's recruitment campaign and secured a role as nurse unit manager of subacute ward.

Clare and her family relocated from the Mornington Peninsula, where Clare had lived her entire life.

She came from Peninsula Private Hospital, where she was most recently nurse unit manager of the surgical/ medical ward and before that, nurse unit manager of the oncology/haematology ward.

"Everyone has been really welcoming and you can see the staff are passionate about providing high quality healthcare to the community and there is great support from the allied health team," she said.

"That's made the transition so much easier for me." / Sponsored Article /



Bass Coast Health Social Worker Sharyl Brockett and her Guide Dog Daisy chat with patient David Lloyd at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Daisy brings in the sunshine

Sharyl Brockett and her Guide treats for her work," she said.

og Daisy are welcome new mem
This is Sharyl's first role in a hos-Dog Daisy are welcome new members of the Bass Coast Health (BCH)

Sharyl has relocated from Geelong to bring her social work skills to the surgical and medical ward at Wonthaggi Hospital.

In her role, Sharyl ensures patients have adequate services and assistance in place for when they return home, either through family support or formal agencies.

"A patient may have had an injury or illness and require extra support to return home. We can assist to arrange these supports and services to ensure they receive the care they need at home," she said.

"I can also provide emotional support to patients on the ward and can arrange referrals to our team of community counsellors if they need help with any personal matter."

As she lives with a visual impairment, Sharyl is accompanied by her Labrador-Retriever Daisy, who is not only helping Sharyl navigate the hospital but also form bonds with patients and staff alike.

"Daisy certainly helps with breaking down any barriers to conversation, especially if a patient is anxious and finding things really difficult.

"Having a dog helps them to calm down. Daisy gets paid in weekly dog

pital; she has previously worked in community services and with government agencies.

"I'm really enjoying it. I've found everybody to be welcoming. Accessibility has been a problem for me in the past but here I've been supported in the use of assistive technology," she said.

"I'm pleasantly surprised by the knowledge and interest that the BCH IT team already had regarding

assistive technology.

"The support and time they have put in to help set-up programs so I can do my role has been amazing.

"I use a computer program that enlarges my screen and reads out everything that is on my screen. I'm also getting a new device - Envision glasses - that are able to read handwritten notes.

"The Envision glasses camera will even read street signs when I'm out and about, and read the names back to me. The technology just blows me away.

Sharyl said she is proud of Bass Coast Health for supporting her and Daisy, and for embracing the assistive technology she uses.

"I feel this is one of the most supportive workplaces that I have worked in," she said.

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TO SUBSCRIBE

Thank you, Bass Coast Health staff

On behalf of the local community, the BCH Board of Directors says a huge thank you to all our staff for their extraordinary service during the COVID pandemic. Thank you for being compassionate, skilled, agile, committed, responsive, kind, respectful and caring. Thank you for your 12 hour shifts; for wearing stifling PPE for hours on end; for giving up your leave; for being our front line; and for staying the course to serve our community.

We are truly grateful and proud.



Thanks also to our new staff who have joined our teams to support our community during these difficult times. We are grateful for your skill, energy and passion, and hope you will stay and be part of our exciting future!



• Wonthaggi Hospital • Phillip Island Health Hub • San Remo

Meet Phillip Island's new bush stone-curlews

Phillip Island recently became home to bush stone-curlews for the first time in decades and the community is now invited to see the critically endangered birds up close.

After arriving to Phillip Island Nature Parks in mid-2021 from Moonlit Sanctuary in Tyabb, the two bush stone-curlews have now moved into new specially designed aviaries in the Koala Conservation Reserve.

'We encourage the community to come and 'meet' the critically endangered bush stone-curlews, understand their plight and learn about the recovery efforts to bring them back from extinction on the island," said Thomas Nixon, Phillip Island Nature Parks Threatened Species Officer.

"You can learn more about the role Phillip Island will be playing for their future survival and recovery efforts across Victoria, and more importantly meet one of us and ask questions," he said. "Bush stone-curlews can be a

relatively cryptic species, so the opportunity to see them up close before they are returned to the wild is unique and special."

Predation by foxes is a major threat to bush stone-curlews and was a key contributing factor to them becoming extinct from Phillip Island in the 1970s.

But now the island is fox-free, there is a unique opportunity to work towards the successful re-



After arriving at Phillip Island Nature Parks in mid-2021 from Moonlit Sanctuary in Tyabb, the two bush stone-curlews have now moved into new specially designed aviaries in the Koala Conservation Reserve.

establishment of a self-sustaining representatives and regional expopulation, similar to eastern barred bandicoot recovery efforts.

The Nature Parks is part of a coordinated recovery effort in southeast Australia which is working to create a series of safe havens where bush stone-curlews can be safely returned and the birds can prosper. Funding for the program on Phillip Island has been generously provided by the Penguin Foundation.

"Bush stone-curlews were identified through a structured decisionmaking process with community

perts in 2019, as a priority species for reintroduction to Phillip Island" Mr Nixon said.

"Bush stone-curlews have no foreseen negative impacts on the existing values of the island and we hope to proceed with a wild release within the near future.

"One of the most exciting parts about this project is speaking to people that remember seeing bush stone-curlews on the island and telling them we have the opportunity to



Bush stone-curlews can be a relatively cryptic species, so the opportunity to see them up close before they are returned to the wild is unique

One such resident is Les McFee, who remembers hearing the curlews only a few decades ago.

"I remember in the late 1960s on the hill north of Smith's Beach on the old Cleeland farm hearing that eerie screech of a curlew coming from what is now the Koala Conservation Reserve. It seemed so close, but in reality it was well over a kilometre away," he said.

A dedicated team of volunteers have been feeding and caring for the curlews since their arrival last year, including Visitor Engagement

Volunteer Karen Duffy.

"I love observing the birds we have and watching and learning their behaviours. Seeing them regularly, showing them to the visitors and being part of their care team is truly rewarding," Karen said.

'It is a small part of a big picture, knowing that the result is hopefully these birds will again be resident on our beautiful island in the future."

To find out more about the Koala Conservation Reserve, including opening times, visit: www.penguins. org.au/attractions/koala-reserve/

Council Update



International Women's Day - free community event

International Women's Day is a day to celebrate our resilience, reinvention and to connect. It is a day for inspiration and change. Join us to celebrate with a light breakfast followed by an hour with inspirational local speakers representing Women for Change. Gippsland Women's Health, Bass Coast Shire Council and Totally Renewable Phillip Island. This event is not just for women and we encourage everyone to attend. When: Tuesday, 8 March, 7.30am - 9.00am

Where: Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, 96 Graham Street This is a free event but bookings are essential. Please book your place online at www.trybooking.com/BXGNP

Have your say: Communications and Engagement Strategy

We're reviewing our Communications and Engagement Strategy and we want to hear from you. This review is your opportunity to tell us how you would like to hear from us, how often and the types of information we can provide to keep you updated. We also want to know what we need to do differently, or keep doing when it comes to engagement You can fill out our survey online at www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au or paper copies are available at any of our Customer Service Centres. We're also holding pop-up sessions where you can come and have a chat on:

- Rhyll: 1/9 Beach Road (My Seaside Café), 9.30am to 11.30am
- Cowes: 149 Thompson Avenue (PetStock), 1.00pm to 3.30pm

Thursday, 10 March

- Grantville: Grantville Transaction Centre, 1504-1510 Bass Highway, 10.00am to 11.00am
- Corinella: 56 Smythe Street (General Store), 11.30am to 12.30pm
- San Remo: 153-155 Marine Parade (Sanny Bakehouse), 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Thursday, 17 March

- Inverloch: Inverloch Community Hub, 16 A'Beckett St, 9.30am to 11.30am
- Wonthaggi: Apex Park, Graham Street, 1.00pm to 3.00pm

• Inverloch Expo: Inverloch Community Hub, 16 A'Beckett Street, 4.00pm to 7.00pm

Cowes Classic: Changed Traffic Conditions 5 March

The Esplanade in Cowes will be closed between Bass Avenue and Finlay Street from 6.00am to 5.00pm for the Cowes Classic event. There will be restricted access in Bass Avenue, Chapel Street and the Gordon Street/Rose Ave area between 2.00-3.00pm fc the run stage of the event. Race starts at 2.15pm.

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995 | 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77 basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au | www basscoast.vic.gov.au

More funding for island's bandicoot project

program to help save Eastern Barred Bandicoots from extinction has received a funding boost from the state government.

Nature Parks is one of 14 projects that shared in \$870,000 in funding to support the ongoing protection of icon species, including the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Southern Bent-Wing Bat, Burranan Dolphin and Eltham Copper Butterfly.

A spokesperson for the Nature Parks confirmed it received \$15,000 to support research into the "economic and functional benefits of small digging mammals on farmland".

"This will be a collaboration between Phillip Island Nature Parks, Deakin University and the Eastern Barred Bandicoot Recovery Team, and engage a PhD student.'

The PhD candidate has not been selected but the spokesperson said this should happen in the coming months and then an update on the project would be provided.

Project

Eastern barred bandicoots (EBBs) are one of Australia's most endangered mammals and in 2015, a small population of about 20 captive-bred EBBs was released onto fox-free and feral cat-free Churchill Island.

In 2017 a second population of 67 individuals was released onto the Summerland Peninsula.

The endangered species continues to thrive in its island home and is effectively now



The tiny Eastern Barred Bandicoot has been the focus of a project to re-establish a population in the wild on Phillip Island. PINP recently received a \$15,000 grant to support research into the "economic and functional benefits of small digging mammals on farmland".

living as a wild population after being declared extinct in the wild across the rest of the

Nature Parks researchers monitor the population with the help of volunteers who have now contributed more than 3100 hours, assisting in over 3000 "captures and releases" across both Churchill and Phillip Islands.

"We are seeing many signs of success from this Eastern Barred Bandicoot program, with the population thriving, and beginning to distribute more widely across the island," Phillip Island Nature Parks' Threatened Species Officer, Thomas Nixon told the Advertiser last year.

"We have received verified sightings of EBBs in Newhaven, Cape Woolamai, Surf Beach and even near Pyramid Rock, all outside their initial

release zones of Churchill Island and Summerland Peninsula, so locals can expect to see bandicoots in their neighbourhoods and backyards in the near future, which is great news for our ecosystem.'

When the funding for the Eastern Barred Bandicoot project was announced last month, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio also announced \$5 million to build a new Platypus Conservation Centre at Zoos Victoria's Healesville Sanctuary.

The centre will be used by world-leading platypus researchers to conduct biological and behavioural resear to help Australia-wide conservation efforts. It will also provide enhanced capacity to treat and care for wild platypus affected by extreme weather emergencies.



Engage Bass Coast. Every Idea Counts

Visit www.engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au











COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Sunday 6, March 2022



FREE* entry to Nature Parks attractions: Penguin Parade (General viewing), Antarctic Journey, Koala Conservation Reserve & Churchill Island.

Walks and talks with rangers, researchers and volunteers

Kids activities

Exclusive presentations

Full timetable of activities penguins.org.au/buy-tickets

BOOKINGS penguins.org.au/ buy-tickets

Limited tickets available pre-booking essential







We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work and learn, the Bunurong people. We pay our respects to

* Entry to activities and attractions is free for residents, landholders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members and students of Bass Coast Shire. Proof of residency such as rates notice, drivers licence, bill etc is required to gain free entry.

Free entry for household only. Accompanying friends are welcome. They are required to purchase tickets.

All other terms and conditions apply. Check penguins.org.au/buy-tickets for details.

Full program and updates: penguins.org.au/buy-tickets #PhillipIslandNP f 🍑 🖸

Info: community@penguins.org.au or call 5951 2830 during office hours.



29th ANNUAL COWES CLASSIC SAT MAR 5

Shortened run leg in the Cowes Classic

After a great day recently at San Remo with the very successful running of the 36th Channel Challenge, the Bass Coast Series organisers are hoping for another big turn out at this weekend's events.

The organisers, made up of members of the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WB-SLSC) and the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) are hoping the Little Penguin Dash and the Cowes Classic Aquathons to be held on the Cowes Foreshore will be equally successful

Plenty of interest has been created with the Cowes Classic entries of several elite national triathletes who are revisiting the island after their top rate performances at San Remo.

Once again we will see Callum McClusky competing, the Channel Challenge winner with a world ranking of 116, who is attempting to take out the double.

Tristan Price, the former No.1 Aussie Junior who is now 18 and taking on the seniors will again be there to push him out.

In the women's section at least two of the four elite standard triathletes who competed at San Remo, have entered for Cowes already - runner-up Chloe Bateup and Tokyo Olympian, Rebecca Henderson.

This year will see the run leg reduced to a $2.7 \mathrm{k}$ run because of construction works in a section of the usual course (see map).

to 14-year-olds will kick off in two divisions: a 200m swim and 200m run for the seven to 10-year-olds and a 400m swim and 400m run for the 11 to 14-year-old category.

There are more than sixty entries in already for the kids, as this event keeps increasing in

At 2.15 the 29th Cowes Classic will start from Mussell Rock and head around the pier to Erehwon Point and transition at the jetty triangle.

Once again, competitors are reminded that they need to register online and this year the race centre will be in front of the North Pier Hotel. not inside.

Presentations will take place at 4pm for both the Cowes Classic and the Bass Coast Series on the North Pier deck.

Bass Coast Series

The Cowes Classic will now be the second and final leg of the Bass Coast Series. There will a total of \$3400 in prizemoney handed out to the sixteen winners of the male and female winners of the junior, senior, masters and veteran categories.

Both open and local winners will receive prizemoney in each category.

In the senior male category, we should once again see the aspiring Olympians, Callum Mc-Clusky and Tristan Price fight out the open

section while locals, Hamish Harrison, Mark Rowe and Nathan Hicks are favourites for their

Chloe Bateup and Rebecca Henderson will definitely figure in the finish of the senior female category, while it will be interesting to see if Olympian Emma Jeffcoat will again be competing at Cowes. In the local section we should see Zoe Adams, Carina Royce and Lucy Monahan up near the lead



Waiting for the start at the 2020 event. This year, the 29th Cowes Classic will start from Mussell Rock at 2.15pm and head around the pier to At 10.30am the Little Penguin Dash for seven Erehwon Point and transition at the jetty triangle.

The elite open junior male who won at San Remo, Ryan McKenzie, is competing at Cowes and will again face stiff opposition from local lads, Luke Muir, Kuga Heenan and Toby Challinor, who will fight out the local prize.

The open junior females from Melbourne will probably prevail and have Remy Kenyon in the lead, while in the local section there was a large number of competitors led by Abbey Clarke. McKenzie Wain and Elle Douglas.

(O/40) categories have continued to increase and their performances are also improving with locals Justin Tilley, Kris Harris and Marcus Bond leading both the Open and Local Male sections.

In the Masters' Female section we also have locals Debbie Mahon, Sarah Smith and Emma Moore, fighting out the open and local categories.

The Open Male Veterans (O/50) again sees a

The numbers of competitors in the Masters very close contest between local, Rob Fleisner, and visitor, Aurel Wachter, who were only separated by seconds at San Remo. Another local, Jim Corbett, is also in the mix along with Andy Chisholm.

An Open Female Veteran Jo-Anne Elvish, posted a very fast time in the Channel Challenge but local girls, Virginia Baxter, Rebeka Fincher and Suzie Herrington will all be trying to catch her while competing for the local prize.



Wishes competitions and organisers a successful 2022 Cowes Classic

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29th ANNUAL COWES CLASSIC SAT MAR 5



Organisers are hoping for another big turnout to this weekend's Cowes Classic. Competitors pictured at the end of the 2020 race (from left) Tarquin McMillan, Virginia Baxter, Jim Corbett and Melina Van Der Weerd-Arceo

Course change due

to rock wall works

The course for this year's Cowes Classic has been amended, due to works on the fore-

shore at Cowes East. The run leg has been reduced to a 2.7k run because of construc-



The Phillip Island Football Club's coach Beau Vernon was accompanied by his daughter Leyla for the last 100-metres to the finish line in the 2020 event.



10.30am Sat 5 March

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Registration

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Race Starts approx 2.15pm at Cowes Jetty

For more event details go to: www.islandevents.org.au



The 29TH ANNUAL

tion works in a section of the usual course.



Changing the climate of gender equality

The 2022 International Women's Day theme is Changing Climates: Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow—a theme that recognises the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are working to change the climate of gender equality and build a sustainable future.

We asked some local women to share their thoughts about gender equality and the women that inspire them. We also took the opportunity to get their insights on ways to tackle climate change – to help us live sustainably both which each other and the planet.



Jessica McKelson Conservation Manager,

Phillip Island Nature Parks

Do you think it's important to have equality between the genders?

No gender is superior to the other. Promoting and actively practicing gender equality reduces discrimination and creates more opportunities for women to grow, develop and be independent without bias.

Do you think gender equality is an issue in your workplace or group?

Gender inequality is a big issue in the conservation field globally. When working abroad, I noticed very few women working in this field due to the symptoticing that in this field due to the expectations that men are the only ones capable of doing the work. In fact, the reality was that it didn't matter about the gender and a lot of women
Is there anyone you admire who has made had much to contribute.

It is hard to encourage women into a field already dominated by men where the physicality and pressures of the job are built into position descriptions, which also means that those women who make it in often don't stay. This gap is changing, but not quickly enough and relies on organisational change to make it safe for women to confidently apply for roles in conservation.

Are there any steps you've taken at PINP to support and promote gender equality?

In our organisation we're really proud of our female leaders, who provide strong role models for women wanting to work in conservation and eco-tourism. Within the conservation team we work really hard to promote a safe and inclusive environment, encouraging women to apply for roles and supporting skills development. This comes right down to the way we advertise and recruit for roles.

We are also currently undertaking a gender equality audit in order to develop a gender equality action plan. There are provisions being included in our new Enterprise Agreement to support this action toward gender equality.

In my personal time I also mentor women in conservation under a program named 'Jungle Sistas', where I have mentored women across the world into wonderful positions, thriving and really making a significant impact. Most of the concerns are all around self-esteem and confidence and with my support, experience, and direction I can help encourage them to become professional leaders within their own field. I am so proud of those who have had the trust and courage to take the next steps and now they are doing great stuff.

a real difference to gender equality – either locally, nationally, or internationally?

Internationally I really admire Jacinda Ardern, she promotes not just gender equality but equality for all. She sticks to her values while in the international spotlight, she's not just the leader of her country but her authentic self - promoting herself as a mother, woman, and leader. I find her inspiring.

Locally I admire Grace Tame for stepping up and calling out inequality. She is her genuine, authentic self, giving women hope and empowerment.

And of course, I have to mention Jane Goodall, who was a real role model to me growing up. She helped break down a lot of the stigma around women in science, particularly working with primates. Jane provided confidence for many women's communities, especially in Africa and now

globally. I was able to meet and present with her and it was very encouraging to promote women in conservation across international audiences.

If you were PM for a day, what would you do to change the climate of gender equality?

I would ensure equal pay for all genders and create better policy around gender equality within political parties. I also think it's important to have women making decisions around women's issues and bringing men along for the journey.

I would also ensure immediate change towards supporting women who live in abusive situations. It's really sad that today in Australia, we still have not nailed this, and we all know it's not a good situation with under funded programs to support women, the associated stigma for both genders, and we all hear or know that someone is having a rough time and the support systems are all over the place. We need to do a lot more in educating and supporting men to stand up against violence and call it out. We have so much to do in this space and we can't continue to band-aid the severity and be polite.

I would make an immediate change towards funding and future change for women who suffer suppression, violence, or any form of abuse. I also believe the same should be equal for men who are in abusive

Finally I would also make sanitary items, and surgeries (women's health related) such pay so much money for these health-related items.

How will you celebrate International Women's Day?

We will be celebrating IWD with a luncheon hosted by Bass Coast Shire Council in partnership with Bass Coast Health, Westernport Water and Phillip Island Nature Parks, which will involve hearing stories from women within our community. Our People and Culture Manager, Melissa Nolet, will be part of a panel discussion, sharing her stories of resilience throughout the pandemic and, importantly, those of Nature Parks' staff and volunteers as well. I look forward to supporting Mel to step up and tell her

What kind of things is PINP doing to promote sustainability and address the impact of climate change?

As an organisation we have developed a 30-year vision, outlining our goals and strategies to ensure resilience and adapt to the challenges of the future, primarily the threat of climate change. This vision is broken down into five-year plans detailing the steps we will take in our journey to protect nature for wildlife and inspire people to act.

While we are working to mitigate the

impacts of climate change, we are also reducing our impact on the environment by incorporating sustainable business practices and infrastructure across our sites. For example, our new Penguin Parade Visitor Centre boasts 666 solar panels, a 150,000-litre water tank and was built with low carbon building materials. We also eliminated single use plastics from our food and beverage outlets in 2019. We set ourselves a goal to reduce our carbon emissions by 50 per cent by 2023, which we are on target to achieve and to become carbon neutral by 2030. We still have more work to do to improve our operations to reduce our impact but we will achieve these goals!

Is there anything an individual can really do to address climate change? Isn't it up to the big companies that are polluting to change their way, and for the government

Absolutely, it is up to every one of us to address the issue of climate change. We need to change our consumeristic culture and start thinking about where our products are coming from and where our waste goes when we are done with it. Ask questions and challenge businesses to make changes for our environment. Who you vote for also goes a long way in affecting the action taken to address climate change. We all need to start respecting our natural environment, it's not somebody else's problem, if you're not part of the solution you're part of the

Why should we care about climate change?

Climate change is already altering our entire ecosystem, which will have significant consequences for the future of not just wildlife but each of us individually and financially. We need to understand that we are not above nature.

What can I do to help?

One of the best things you can do to help is join local volunteer programs and community groups working to make a difference, such as we have here at the Nature Parks. You can also support local businesses working to make positive change.

If there's was one thing you could do locally to create a sustainable future, what would it be?

I would create a circular economy, investing in local food and resources to reduce the community's carbon footprint. The ecosystem and natural environment should also be improved through capital expenditure, developing infrastructure with nature at the forefront of our minds.

#IWD2022 #BreakTheBias









Deb Leonard

Voices for Monash Independent Candidate and part owner of Leonard & Associates Solicitors.

Do you think it's important to have equality between the genders?

Through my work as a lawyer, I have witnessed first-hand how gender inequality can lead to family violence, financial vulnerability, and inferior opportunities for women. Supporting gender equality means improving safety and independence for women.

Women need an equal seat at the table we have different and valuable experiences to bring, that will result in better outcomes for business and community.

We have never had a female Federal government representative in our electorate. In 2022, that is ridiculous.

Do you think gender equality is an issue in your workplace?

As an employer, I have always remained acutely aware of providing equal opportunity to men and women. But unfortunately not all workplaces are the same. In my first year as a lawyer, I became aware that I was being paid less than my male colleague, who graduated from the same legal training organisation in the same year as I did.

What steps have you taken in your business to support and promote gender equality?

I have actually employed far more women than men, and I have always been careful to make sure that wages are paid based on the role, not the gender.

Is there anyone you admire who has made a real difference to gender equality - either locally, nationally, or internationally?

Recently, the courage of Brittany Higgins and Grace Tame to come forward and talk openly about their experiences have been inspiring. More open discussion is needed to remove the "taboo" of talking about sexual assault, and allows us as a community to acknowledge the systemic problems and work to change them.

Can you think of any local examples where gender equality is being promoted or taken seriously?

Bass Coast Shire recently introduced 16 weeks paid parental leave for both parents. I hugely support equal paid parental leave

for both parents – when talking about gender equality we also need to support men to take on non-traditional roles such as primary caregivers. Equal leave enables each parent time to bond with their child at a really important time in their lives.

If you were PM for a day, what would you do to change the climate of gender equality?

With a bit of luck (and a lot of hard work) I may even be working with the PM soon! If I get into parliament, I would immediately push to implement the recommendations of the "Respect @ Work" Jenkins Report regarding sexual harassment, and support workplaces to implement measures to ensure safe workplaces for women. I would also advocate for equal paid parental leave, and better childcare subsidies to ensure all parents, particularly women, are not disincentivised to return to work.

How will you celebrate International Women's Day?

Campaigning! I am planning on attending IWD events all over the electorate.

What kind of things is your business doing to promote sustainability and address the impact of climate change?

Last year, we implemented a policy at Leonard & Associates to be 100 per cent carbon neutral. We calculate our emissions each year via a website and then offset our emissions with the Phillip Island Landcare Bush Care program. Landcare then plant trees in our local area to offset the emissions.

We are almost paperless and waste free. with a comprehensive waste sorting system, and we are installing solar panels soon.

I have committed to running a carbon neutral campaign and at the end of the campaign we will calculate the carbon emissions attributable to the campaign (as best we can) and offset them.

Is there anything an individual can really do to address climate change? Isn't it up to the big companies that are polluting to change their way, and for the government to do something?

Government should be making policies to address climate change, but until they step up and make some meaningful commitments, we need to do whatever we can as individuals.

Individuals as a group can make a huge difference. Already we are seeing the benefit of a mass migration to renewable energy. Energy companies are responding to the increased demand for clean energy and are switching their operations away from fossil fuels.

General comment:

Girls dream they can do anything - we have a duty to give them that opportunity. I want to be a role model for my kids, for my nieces, for the women of Gippsland, so they can dare to believe that women can have a place at the table in Canberra.



Kimberley Brown North Pier Hotel

Why do you think it's important to have equality between the genders?

Australia's first IWD was born from a movement of women calling on equal pay for equal work. As such gender equality is often referred to or highlighted in singular instances, in conversations around the pay gap, or more recently, board appointments, management roles, or sports.

But it is bigger than that, for me personally, it is about treating each other fairly, equal opportunities based on personal abilities, not gender. A gender equity, if you like. Simple human rights that are not relevant to what gender someone may be, being available to all.

IWD helps remind us of change, celebrates women's achievements, and highlights barriers that still need to be broken down, not just in our own circles, but across the globe.

Do you think gender equality is an issue in your workplace or group?

I don't see gender equality as an issue in our workplace. It's all about the right person for

the job, and what they bring to a role based

Is there anyone you admire who has made a real difference to gender equality – either locally, nationally, or internationally?

There are many - I admire greatly, anyone breaking those glass ceilings, pushing boundaries or venturing into areas 'usually' associated with a particular gender. In my role as a board member of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, I am particularly in awe of females entering the typically male dominated, competitive racing world, the automotive industry generally, engineering and tech sciences.

How will you celebrate IWD this year (professionally or personally)?

Most likely pop a bottle and be grateful for all the women who have gone before to create change.

What kind of things is your business doing to promote sustainability and address the impact of climate change?

We recycle our cardboard and glass, which may not sound like much, but we have an enormous amount of cardboard boxes and glass bottles pass through our business every day. We have water saver heads on all of our showers and whenever something needs replacing we make an effort to find the most sustainable option, whether it's LED lighting etc.



When was the last time you paused for a minute to 'breathe?' Cape Pilates moves beyond simply exercising, it harmonizes the mind to your body in a meditative manner. The aim is to welcome a feeling of calmness and a steady flow of energy throughout your body, not to criticize or judge, but rather to recognize your body's capabilities through motion and flow all while motivating movement.

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Community Accountability Climate Action

Authorised by Deb Leonard Level 1, 82 Thompson Ave, Cowes 3922

#IWD2022 #BreakTheBias





Dona Tantirimudalige Managing Director, Westernport Water

Why do you think it's important to have equality between the genders? Do you think gender equality is an issue in your workplace? Are there any steps y

It is really important to me that I do my part to create a fair, equitable, and inclusive society, where we all feel welcomed and included, and everyone has the opportunity to make the most of their skills, talents, and lives.

Gender equality prevents violence against women and girls, and we all benefit when we value women and men as equal—it creates safer, healthier, and more prosperous societies.

Do you think gender equality is an issue in your workplace? Are there any steps you've taken in your business to support and promote gender equality?

Westernport Water and the water sector is deeply and fully committed to breaking down bias, and creating an environment where each and every person is set up to be successful. It simply makes good business sense to create an environment where every individual can make the most of their own unique skills.

I'm pleased and proud to be the Managing Director of Westernport Water. Our Board has five female and four male Directors, so from a senior leadership perspective it's important to me that we are setting a good example.

In 2016 Westernport Water created its first Diversity and Inclusion Plan which was delivered over the following four years. This was replaced with a new three-year strategy last year (2021). Gender Equity is one of the four key focus areas in our strategy and following recent completion of our workplace gender data audit we are finalising our Gender Equality Action Plan that will provide actions and activities over the next four years to support and promote gender equality.

Is there anyone you admire who has made a real difference to gender equality – either locally, nationally, or internationally?

The people I admire are very close to home for me personally – awesome women, who have been such huge influences in my life.

I deeply admire my gorgeous grandmother (Blanche De Livera) who, with nine children in tow, continued working in an era when that was not quite accepted. She and my grandpa created a family that not only deeply values family, but one where we all work to support each other to achieve whatever we want to achieve.

I deeply admire my wonderful mother (Lorna T Don), a passionate teacher who founded and ran a Montessori primary school in Nigeria where we lived at the time, and hired mostly women, focussed on a different way of education.

And I deeply admire my great-grand aunty (May Ratnayake – nee De Livera) who was Sri Lanka's first female doctor (graduated 1916). By the end of her career, she had been chief surgeon at the hospital she worked at, had been the President of the Sri Lankan Medical Association, and was deeply involved in the Medical Women's International Association.

Can you think of any local examples where gender equality is being promoted or taken seriously?

I think the way local business, sporting clubs and the community have come together on the Bass Coast to champion an end to gender-based violence has been incredibly important. International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and empowerment of women. However, it's also about breaking down entrenched bias and barriers to success. If women cannot feel safe to explore the world and opportunities how they wish – we will not be equal participants. The contribution of the Bass Coast community to advocate for change really is encouraging.





NORTH PIER HOTEL

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Celebrating International Women's Day

This International Women's Day, we'd like to acknowledge our female staff in STEM roles, who look after our drinking water, recycled water, wastewater and our response to climate change.

At Westernport Water we are breaking the bias and stereotypes every day.





International Women's Day



If you were PM for a day, what would you do to change the climate of gender equality?

Simply though, listen, hear, and act to empower.

How will you celebrate IWD this year (professionally or personally)?

This International Women's Day we will celebrate our resilience, reinvention and connection by coming together to hear stories from women within our community and be inspired by our keynote speaker Dr Nicki Vincent, Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Sector.

We are meeting with our friends at the Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Health and the Phillip Island Nature Parks at the Phillip Island Winery, and I'm MC for the event. I'm excited to lead the discussion and have the conversation on women's equality to break the bias, stereotypes and discrimination. Together we can all make a difference.

What kind of things is your organisation doing to promote sustainability and address the impact of climate change?

Westernport Water has committed to a 90 per cent Emissions Reduction Target by 2030 and Zero Net Emission by 2035 including a whole of government pledges to use 100 per cent renewable energy by 2025. But responding to climate change is more than just transitioning to renewable energy. Westernport Water is looking at how we manage our water and wastewater services with climate change being front of mind - all the time.

Water scarcity is addressed in our Urban Water Strategy and we are looking for nature based wastewater solutions such as wetland systems that improve recycled water quality, provide a net carbon sink, and address the challenges of population growth and asset renewals. Furthermore, our team is exploring land re-forestation, regenerative farming practices to store carbon and provide biodiversity and habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Why should we care about climate change?

The impacts from our changing climate effects not just future generations, but us today, impacting everything – whether it is changing rainfall patterns, water availability and more extreme weather events, to impacts on coral reefs or rainforests, to impacts on how we produce food, and even deeply impacting bees.

We should care deeply about climate change because rainforests are awesome, snorkelling over coral reefs are breath taking, and turtles and puffins and polar bears and bees are glorious – and I want to do my part to leave behind a world where all those things thrive.

Although we can already feel its impact, we still have time to make a difference, by both limiting that impact, and adapting.

What can I do to help?

Every action helps, but if we all do a little, it all adds up.

Everyone can help by being mindful of their water use. This reduces the volume of water harvested from waterways, reduces electricity (emissions) used for water treatment and ultimately the volume of wastewater that we have to manage at the other end.

There are fantastic community organisations doing a lot of work in this space, such as Totally Renewable Phillip Island, and Phillip Island Conversation Society. I'd encourage people to look them up and learn from their experience. We know that the community wants greater action on climate change response, so we are working to reflect this in our planning.

If there's was one thing you could do locally to create a sustainable future, what would it be?

There are so many ways that we can all find a way to contribute. As the responsible authority for wastewater services it would be remiss of me not to mention responsible flushing. Only the 'Three Ps' – Pee, Poo and (loo) Paper, should be flushed down the toilet. Food scraps, fats, oils and grease can all contribute to blockages, which are costly to clean up and pose a risk to the environment and waterways. The marketing of flushable wipes is also a cause for concern. Just because something says it is flushable, doesn't mean that you should flush it.

#IWD2022 #BreakTheBias







Misha Say Phillip Island Winery

Why do you think it's important to have equality between the genders?

Equality in terms of how the different sexes are treated and respected is crucial. It forms how we view ourselves and others and forms the basis of our relationships. The stereotypes start early in life and stay with a person into adulthood, so it's vital that we focus our attention on our children and ensure the message

our schools from the get-go.

I also think it's important to acknowledge our differences, and the fact that as humans, we are actually quite 'unequal' in nature. My strengths may not be my husbands or male work colleagues' strengths and vice versa. I believe this is where true power lies. If we can acknowledge our own weaknesses, encourage others strengths, and fill one another's gaps, as a team, amazing things can be

I also think it's important to note that men can often get forgotten in all of this and that I have witnessed first-hand the pressure men can feel trying to live up to these traditional stereotypes of having to be a 'real man', not allowing themselves to be vulnerable, emotional beings and feeling like they need to be the main income provider and supporter of the family. Again, it comes back to not feeling like we need to be all things, to all people at all times, it's ok to share the load.

Do you think gender equality is an issue in your workplace?

No I don't. We've always worked very hard to ensure the same opportunities are available to both males and females, and that their roles are rewarded equally. We try to promote a team building environment, whereby someone's weakstrengths.

Are there any steps you've taken in your business to support and promote gender equality?

We always try and ensure a balanced workforce to enable this balance of skills to exist. We also promote respect and the value of each person's role no matter how big or small. Respect is sharing the power and the roles and valuing our differences equally.

Is there anyone you admire who has made a real difference to gender equality – either locally, nationally, or internationally?

The females in my family have always been huge influencers and powerful role models in my life. We were raised to be very independent. My mother always had her own business alongside my dad and they balanced and shared their parenting roles well.

Growing up on a farm, and close by to my grandparents, it was my grandmother who actually showed me how to deliver a calf! But just as important as the females in our life are, our male role models are equally as influential. My father, my grandfathers and my husband were, and are, amazing supporters of women. This has had a huge impact on me. Know-

regarding equality starts at home and in nesses are supported by someone else's ing that the men in my life think I can achieve anything, instils an unshakeable confidence that I never take for granted, and I see this repeating itself with my own two girls.

If you were PM for a day, what would you do to change the climate of gender equality?

I think education is key, and it doesn't always get reinforced in the home. I think schools, workplaces and sporting clubs are powerful places of influence, especially for our children. A program that perhaps visits these places to highlight just exactly what gender equality is and how it effects everyone would be a great

How will you celebrate International Women's Day?

We have a fabulous event planned at Phillip Island Winery organised by the wonderful Sam Bennett from our local council. Some fabulous local leaders will be in attendance and I'm so looking forward to hearing what they have to say!



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A second round will open in June with a focus on women working in traditionally maledominated industries.

Women continue to be underrepresented in leadership across our community. By supporting more women into leadership, we are working to actively address gender inequality in the

To apply or find out more, visit: www.vic.gov.au/joan-kirner-emerging-leaders-program



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#IWD2022 #BreakTheBias









Robyn Montague Lifestyle Team Leader at

Banfields Aged Care Facility

Why do you think it's important to have equality between the genders?

Equality is about ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents. It is also the belief that no one should have a poorer quality of life chances because of the way they were born, where they come from or what they believe.

What steps have you've taken in your work to support and promote gender equality?

Banfields employs a broad range of male and female staff members from all walks of life. Everyone has the same opportunities.

Is there anyone you admire who has made a real difference to gender equality - either locally, nationally, or internationally?

My mother was a woman who was way before her time. My very first job was at Safeway when I was 16. I came home upset and explained to mum that managers were asking the young girls to go up and see them in an area we called the catwalk. This was a section above the store floor, where managers could keep an eye on what was happening. If we didn't go, then we'd get into trouble. I knew some girls

had been up there alone with managers and although I didn't know what it was about, it didn't seem right. Mum called it out for what it was and got those managers removed. She protected us all.

My mother continued to call out this kind of thing for her whole life. She inspired me to stand up for myself. She always stood up for what was right. She said everyone deserved to be treated equally and taught us right from wrong. She was an incredibly strong influence in my life.

Internationally, I admire Susan B Anthony. She played a pivotal role in social reform and women's rights. She was a leader in the suffragette movement and at age 17 she introduced "anti-slave" petitions.

If you were PM for a day, what would you do to change the climate of gender equality?

Elevate more women. End gender-based violence. Level the law – government have the legislative power to remedy the gender discrimination laws. I would get things done.

How will you celebrate International Women's Day?

Banfields will be supplying all the residents with a purple ribbon to wear. Staff will be invited to wear something purple for their shifts. The dining rooms will be dressed with purple flowers and gorgeous place settings. Of course, a beautiful lunch will be served including a purple desert.

At our morning tea catch up we will discuss famous and inspirational women and the contribution they have made in our lives. Photos and a short history on these women will be given out to all residents, so our residents who have trouble hearing will be able to participate. We will ask our residents if they have a woman in their life who inspired them.

The morning will finish with staff and residents singing "I am Woman" by Helen Reddy. This is a favourite song to sing. The female residents sing it strong and true.



Rochelle Halstead

Councillor at Bass Coast Shire Council

Why do you think it's important to have equality between the genders?

Gender equality is important to ensure future generations are set up for success and happiness. Ensuring there are both male and female role models for our children to aspire to so they may live a full, productive life full of opportunity. Gender equality is good for the overall health and wellbeing of society where both men and women can be proud of their contributions in the workplace, the home and socially.

Do you think gender equality is an issue in your workplace?

No, in fact I am proud of the work we do to ensure gender equality is taken seriously.

Are there any steps you've taken in your business to support and promote gender equality?

Bass Coast Shire Council recently introduced equal prize money for female and male events across our shire and in these early days it has already

shown an increase in participation by female competitors.

Is there anyone you admire who has made a real difference to gender equality - either locally, nationally, or internationally?

Our CEO Ali Wastie has driven gender equality within the Bass Coast Shire Council organisation and took the bold move of ensuring events in Bass Coast offered equal prize monies between genders. It was a courageous move and one that is already paying dividends.

Can you think of any local examples where gender equality is being celebrated, promoted or addressed?

All large employers in Bass are supporting campaigns against Domestic Violence, LGBQT rights and gender equality to name just a few. Some examples are Western Port Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council. We are a community which cares and works hard to be inclusive on all levels. I am so proud to be a part of a community who not only talks the talk but walks the walk.

If you were PM for a day, what would you do to change the climate of gender equality?

Educate the community on the benefits of equality and the long-term outcomes of treating men and women based on their abilities rather than their gender. There are positives in health, education, workplaces and socially when people are empowered and in control of their own destinies and when women can contribute to debates and policy. The different aspects through different out-

looks can result in positive contributions.

How will you celebrate International Women's Day?

I will be MC at an International Women's Day Breakfast, a free community event being held at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre. That will be followed by an International Women's Day Luncheon at the Phillip Island Winery celebrating resilience, reinvention and reconnection.

General comment:

Bass Coast has so many wonderful women who are trailblazing in the area of gender equality. Recently I was delighted to congratulate Hannah Eisen who was elected the first female president of the Phillip Island Boardrider's Club. Special mention to Cr Clare LeServe who this year serves her 10th year on council and Cr Leticia Laing in her first term as a councillor and elected Deputy Mayor. Community members Jeannie Chapman (President Newhaven Residents Group), Joy Button (Coronet Bay Christmas Club and Living Library), Neroli Heffer (General Manager Maru Koala Park), Catherine Basterfield (CEO Phillip Island Nature Parks), Dianne Goemanf (Grantville Business Community Association Secretary), BCSC Arts and Culture Community Advisory Committee Members: Andrea Lemon, Barbara Moje, Dianna Holmberg, Sandra Peeters, Sarah Rearke, Patrice Mahoney and Miranda Sage.

Congratulations to all women who are working hard to close the gap and contributing to gender equality, sometimes without even being aware of it.



Zoë Geyer Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI)

Why do you think it's important to have equality between the genders?

Gender is an intricate issue in our culture. We now see more awareness and acceptance of a range of gender identities as we move away from the structured stereotypes of 'male' and 'female'. In fact there are seven defined gender types and sexualities which equate to our roles, rights, responsibilities and interactions - as well as identity. Personally, I like to think of gender as less structured and 'defined' and more fluid; and accept each person for who they are.

However, as I see daily in raising a six-yearold daughter, the pattern of gender-stereotyping is deeply ingrained in our culture, in both social and commercial spheres. The sex ratio worldwide is practically on par with 49.6 per cent female. There are still roles and responsibilities that are very strongly gendered as male/female. For instance, according to the World Economic Forum 'Global Gender Gap Report 2021' women make up only 26 per cent of parliamentary seats worldwide and 27 per cent of leadership positions – not to mention discrepancies in pay equity.

The preamble to the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (Vic) recognises that "all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights ... human rights are es-

sential in a democratic and inclusive society that respects the rule of law, human dignity, equality and freedom ... human rights belong to all people without discrimination, and the diversity of the people of Victoria enhances our community". So regardless of recognising the spectrum of gender types, on a structured 'male' and 'female' gender basis - we've got a long way to go yet for equality.

Do you think gender equality is an issue in your group?

As witnessed in many community groups, there is an overwhelming number of women volunteering their time for community. This can be linked to an historic societal valuing of 'paid' and 'unpaid' work roles which is a broader part of gender equality. At Totally Renewable Phillip Island, we seek out 'gender parity' by actively inviting more men to contribute to our mission. From our six working groups at TRPI, only two are led by men.

Are there any steps you've taken in the organisation to support and promote gender equality?

At Totally Renewable Phillip Island we advocate for an inclusive community working together toward our mission of carbon neutral by 2030. The transition to carbon neutrality and 100 per cent renewable energy within the next eight years requires a systemic shift in how we operate across education, regenerative carbon farming, clean transport, food and waste, and clean energy, and the built environment - to name a few. As with acknowledging the traditional owners and working towards reconciliation, the shift to a carbon neutral Phillip Island also requires a just transition that leaves no one behind. After all, we're all in this together.

Is there anyone you admire who has made a real difference to gender equality – either locally, nationally, or internationally?

The example of independents stepping up to politics as part of the 'Voices for' movement sweeping Australia shows a shifting balance

of power to women entering Federal politics to speak on behalf of their communities rather than towing the party politics line. We saw Cathy McGowan elected in 2013 and reelected in 2016 for the seat of Indi (our neighbours to the north), successfully followed by current Federal member Dr Helen Haines in 2019. In 2019 Zali Steggall overthrew Tony Abbott's seat in NSW. Now in 2022 we see over 38 active Voices groups across 35 electorates in Australia.

Can you think of any local examples where gender equality is being promoted or taken seriously?

Leading the way locally is Phillip Island resident, Deb Leonard, who was selected by Voices for Monash to run for Federal parliament this year. Thanks to Deb for putting her hand up to speak up for our community. As the Financial Review reported last week, "Women are set to deliver poll shocks: Professional women will cause the biggest election upsets for the big parties, which are ignoring Australia's fastest growing demographics to their peril".

If you were PM for a day, what would you do to change the climate of gender equality?

I believe representation is of critical importance. If leadership isn't representative of community then the decisions being made at leadership level won't meet our community

How will you celebrate International Women's Day this year

This International Women's Day I will be speaking about women and Climate at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre breakfast alongside some fantastic local speakers.

What kind of things is your organisation doing to promote sustainability and address the impact of climate change?

Totally Renewable Phillip Island is working together with our community, partners and the Shire to be carbon neutral by 2030.

We have 15 member organisations including Nature Parks and Westernport Water, and six working groups that focus on Education, Regenerative Carbon Farming, Clean Green Transport, Clean Energy, Carbon Accounting, and Food and Waste.

We have been meeting with passionate people in Bass Coast's local waterline communities who are keen to take whatever action they can to find more sustainable ways of living, growing, and working. We're continually inspired by the energy and support of our communities to embrace change for a more positive future.

Is there anything an individual can really do to address climate change? Isn't it up to the big companies that are polluting to change their way, and for the government to do somethina?

In 2019 the Bass Coast Shire declared a Climate Emergency, one of the early municipalities around the world to do so. Last year the Bass Coast Shire released their Climate Change Action Plan with a pathway of actions to get to net zero carbon by 2030. There are pathways for Council, organisations, and individuals to take action to achieve the goal. At TRPI we are working closely with Council and community through events, awareness, advocacy, and partnerships to make it easy for everyone to make small changes that make big difference.

As an example, TRPI is supporting a joint program 'Island Bush Care' with Phillip Island Landcare to assist businesses and individuals to take simple, local and direct action, committing to a 'tree a day' or 'carbon offset' packages to increase revegetation across the Island, and improve the health and wellbeing of our community and our eco-system.

What can I do to help?

The first Household action of the Bass Coast Climate Change Action Plan is: Join your local community group. Why? Because we can't act in isolation, and there is strength, support and success in working together.









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#IWD2022 #BreakTheBias





Lisa Wangman

Education, Training and Communications Manager Bass Coast Landcare Network

Do you think gender equality is an issue in your workplace or group?

The Landcare Movement evolved in Victoria in the late 1980s through an initiative of Joan Kirner, the then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, and Heather Mitchell, the then President of the Victorian Farmers Federation.

Landcare has now evolved to become one of the largest volunteer movements in Australia with over 5000 groups (with groups in 20 other countries around the world as well) that involve thousands of people of all genders in countless communities.

They work together towards sustainable land use and undertake onground action to protect, enhance or restore areas of land. I think there has always been a higher level of equality in Landcare than other environmentbased workplaces.

In the Environment, Conservation

and Land Management field in general though, gender equality has definitely been an issue in the past.

I remember my male careers teacher in high school in the early 90s saying, "There's no jobs in the environment for girls". Maybe it was this influence that led me to pursue a different career path directly out of school, but my heart wasn't in it, so I decided to retrain in Conservation and Land management years later.

I'd love it if that terrible teacher could see me now, having worked for the Phillip Island Nature Parks in the past and now for Landcare in Bass Coast for 18 years! There are lots of women working with great success in many and varied roles that were traditionally male-dominated in our field.

Are there any steps you've taken in your business to support and promote gender equality?

Bass Coast Landcare Network employs on the basis of gender equality. The volunteers in our Landcare groups and committees also have a diverse mix of genders, as has our voluntary Board of Management for the Network.

Our new Board Chair, Linda Bowden is the first Female Chair of the Bass Coast Landcare Network.

What kind of things is your organisation doing to promote sustainability and address the impact of climate change?

This is core business for Bass Coast Landcare Network where we manage several programs and projects to educate, empower and encourage behavjour and practice changes to reduce the impacts of climate change.

I have been working to promote

sustainability since around 2005 first with Phillip Island Landcare group on the Urban Landcare Program and then on a project called Sustaining Coastal communities. We produced a Sustainable Living Household kit that helps you assess your household, plan some actions and track your progress on implementing actions to reduce your water, energy and waste. Its available as a free download. www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/sustainableliving.html

Last year our team managed the Bass Coast Sustainability Festival, consisting of six weeks of over 60 online and in-person events from October to December with thousands of people and local groups, businesses and organisations participating. We also created a web page of resources from the festival with links to event recordings and information to assist people to make positive climate friendly changes to their homes and lives. www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/ sustainabilityfestival2021.html

This year we continue the Future Homes and Farms series of workshops and video resources which we started back in 2014 in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council who still funds the program. You can find a heap of interesting videos of homes, gardens, past workshops and notices of upcoming workshops at www. basscoastlandcare.org.au/futurehomes-and-farms-for-2040.html

We also have an active Sustainable Agriculture program led by Joel Geoghegan including farmer discussion groups, educational field days and the production and management of the Growing Southern Gippsland web portal. It brings together regionally specific climate change and best practice information that can be used by the agricultural sector to help with climate change planning and adaptation. www.growingsoutherngippsland.org.au/

Is there anything an individual can really do to address climate change? Isn't it up to the big companies that are polluting to change their way, and for the government to do something?

I am a firm believer of the huge impact that lots of individuals can have doing little sustainable actions or making incremental changes to their lifestyle, it all adds up.

That's what I love about working for Landcare, we work to address issues and educate communities, where real change can happen rather than a 'top down' approach.

Take zero waste for example, thousands of people are now trying it the best they can, which has a bigger impact than just a few people doing it perfectly. Never underestimate consumer power either, don't buy the excessive packaging or single use products and suppliers make changes.

All of us can contribute and change our habits, choices and lifestyles little by little, as we can manage and afford. Make gradual, incremental changes starting now, without it being a big overwhelming thing that we put off until 'tomorrow' or when government policies might change.

Of course, it would be great if the big companies stopped polluting and governments did more but what is the use of waiting around for others to act when we can just get on with making changes ourselves right now.

Why should we care about climate change?

There is an old cartoon that I just love that has someone yelling out from a climate summit audience, 'What if it's a big hoax and we create a better world for nothing?'. It's a no brainer really, I think we owe it to future generations that are going to have to deal with potentially catastrophic changes to start caring enough to do something about it right now and create a better world for them.

What can I do to help?

You have to start where you are with what you have. You can buy the reusable item with less or no packaging, buy it from local people, plant local indigenous plants in your garden, grow some of your own veggies or restore a patch of forest on your land (Landcare can help of course!), work with your neighbours to share resources, look at eco options whenever you can afford them or when replacing items, research alternatives and implement them bit by bit.

Get involved with local groups that are making a difference, like Landcare, Totally Renewable Phillip Island, Boomerang bags and more, to find out what else you can do.

Then most importantly, tell all your friends and families about the benefit that your actions and changes are having for you and how you did it as well. Share and encourage that peer to peer learning, its how we establish new social norms around reducing our impacts, and that's the way that effective, lasting change can be implemented and sustained in our communities.

PROM RECITALS PRESENTS

Salon Project

Music, She Wrote (2.0)



WONTHAGGI UNION COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE **SUNDAY 13 MARCH, DOORS OPEN 1.30PM** PERFORMANCE 2.30PM - TICKETS \$55 www.trybooking.com/BWFSI





This performance will be presented under any public health restrictions and COVIDSafe settings applicable on the day



promrecitals.org.au

Celebrating Classical Music in Prom Country

Salon Project and Celebrate Her!

With International Women's Day celebrated around the world on March 8 each year, local organisation Prom Recitals has booked the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre to present a Sunday afternoon program of chamber music by women composers played by dynamic young Melbourne group Salon Project.

The concert on Sunday, March 13 runs from 2.30pm until 4pm.

With plenty of reasons to celebrate the achievements of women in the world of classical music; Prom Recitals' concert at WUCAC will also to be a moment to stop and acknowledge the role of women in our South Gippsland and Bass Coast communities.

One of Prom Recitals' biggest supporters is Michelle Gordon, a Justice of the High Court of Australia and South Gippsland local since

When Michelle (as she prefers to be called) heard about the upcoming "Music, She Wrote (2.0)" concert at Wonthaggi, she pitched the idea that this concert celebrate not just women in classical music, but also some of the incredible women living in our own back-

Michelle says she "is in awe of some of the women she's met here over the last 25 years", and after the difficulties of the last two years, Prom Recitals agrees with her that it's time to pause and thank some of the women who make our two years.

communities the special place they are.

Celebrate Her! Stories of South Gippsland Women is a 12-month documentary project which will launch at WUCAC on March 13.

Before Salon Project tune up their instruments and start to play, there will be a celebration of two special South Gippsland women and a call-out to the South Gippsland/Bass communities to nominate women they'd like to see celebrated in 2022.

Celebrate Her! will conclude on International Women's Day 2023 with the publication of the collected stories of women we celebrate.

To nominate a woman for this project come to the Prom Recitals concert on March 13! Bookings www.trybooking.com/ BWFSI

Or watch the Prom Recitals website for the on-line nomination form to make March 13.

About Prom Recitals

A 2022 Regional Arts Victoria grant recipient, Prom Recitals has generated amazing support from our community since launching in March 2021. We are a not-for-profit group with the simple aims of making classical music more accessible to South Gippslanders and supporting classical musicians who have had so few opportunities for live performance over the last

We're delighted to report that Regional Arts Victoria and Creative Victoria have awarded Prom Recitals a Small Regional Presenters Program grant in 2022.

You do not need to be a seasoned lover of classical music to come to a Prom Recitals event. They are intended for anyone with an ear for music and a curiosity to hear new things. Prom Recitals hates unnecessary formalities. These are events are to be enjoyed!

Memberships available

Concerts to date have sold out well in advance, and an initial offering of Prom Recitals membership packages has been enthusiastically taken up by local music lovers.

Membership of Prom Recitals offers access to early bird ticket sales and after concert events to meet the artists with a complimentary glass of our favourite local wine. With all Prom your nomination after Recitals' concerts selling out to date, it's a great way to secure the best seats in the house.

Prom Recitals membership offer is a \$50 subscription expiring December 2022. For more information www.promrecitals.org.au/ membership

Prom Recitals presents Melbourne collective Salon Project playing "Music, She Wrote (2.0)" at Wonthaggi's Union Community Arts Centre on Sunday March Tickets at www.try-13. booking.com/BWFSI / Sponsored Article /

#IWD2022 #BreakTheBias



Breaking the mould

The Bass Coast Breakers is not your average football club.

The all-female club - all the players, coaches and committee members are women - is punching above its weight.

Since it was established in 2017, the club has won a premiership in 2018, a minor premiership in the Covid impacted 2021 season, produced two AFLW players and currently has three members competing in the VFLW

And last month, Ella Angarane, founder and club president was named the Victorian AFLW Community Ambassador, one of seven community football representatives selected from across Australia.

A passionate football fan since childhood, Ella founded the Breakers to create an inclusive and welcoming space for women who wanted to play AFL.

She remembers training with the boys as a young teenager, when her dad was coach, but having to sit on the bench during the games.

She was in her thirties before she played her first AFL game and has since chalked up over 50 games.

Ella is immensely proud of what the club has achieved during its short history

"It's a pathway for girls who come out of youth girls footy to continue

"We also have girls in their 30s who always wanted to play football and are giving it a go.

"We've got people who have never played, others who can't commit to travelling, so they want to play locally," Ella explained.

"Not everyone aspires to be an elite athlete. Some don't like the competitive atmosphere. We want to be the best team we can be, but we also want to have fun.

"I'm proud of the opportunity it has provided for our girls."

Unique

Although the team comes under the Dalyston Football Club banner, in essence it is a stand-alone club.

That provided the unique opportunity "to create our own culture rather inherit one from the club we're aligned with," Ella said.

Many community clubs don't field a senior woman's team, with women mainly featuring in offfield support roles.



Ella Angarane with her sister Tess Angarane and son Lucca Smith. The founder and club president was named the Victorian AFLW Community Ambassador and hopes to use the role to lift the profile of the Bass Coast Breakers and women's football.

want us to pick up any unconscious

"I wanted to start our own culture, that wasn't influenced by historical ways of operating."

That culture has a focus on inclusivity, which Ella believes comes from the attitude and spirit of the members

"It really comes from everyone. All the girls have been new to football at one stage, so if someone new comes in, they put in a bit of effort."

The club actively challenges the stereotypes of women in football and is proud of the female friendly facilities that are available locally.

The Breakers currently boast five of Gippsland's 11 female coaches.

"We try to encourage girls to get a coaching certificate," said Ella, who herself has been awarded the Gippsland Woman's Coach of the

"It helps build leadership. We have "I didn't like the gender roles in a head coach (Bianca Hellmath-

most established clubs and I didn't Pask) but provide opportunities for others to have a role and be leaders." The Breakers have also lobbied for

changes to the standard uniform. "Women are meant to wear white shorts for away games, but research and surveys show the players don't

feel comfortable in them. The shorts are also a men's cut, which raises other issues.

As a result, the Breakers team only wear black shorts, and Ella is organising for shorts with a women's cut, although the options available are still very limited.

"We want female friendly uniforms so the players can wear something they are comfortable with.

Low membership fees are another hallmark of the club.

"Keeping fees low removes another barrier and other teams tell us they're amazed at our low fee base,' Ella said

Actively pursuing sponsors and

developing great working partnerships with them is key.

"We have retained all our major sponsors and we use the sponsorship to off-set membership fee costs."

Under the rules of the league, unlike their male counterparts, senior female players cannot be paid, so keeping the game as affordable as possible is important.

Ella said wage disparity with the men reflects the situation in the AFL, where the minimum wage in the AFL is \$85,000 while in the AFLW it is \$16,623.

Despite this, she's not lobbying for wages for her players.

Although she'd love the Breakers to receive more financial support, she believes salaries can take the fun out of community sport.

"It makes people put a monetary value on it, rather than an intrinsic

"I'm more interested in funnelling money into ensuring the team has everything they need to operate at a

high level and additional insurance for players, as well as minimising the cost for all players.

"There is always a risk for everyone that plays football, and there are different injuries prevalent in men and women's football.'

Ella is keen for the club to make a difference and for the past couple of years it has been part of a Latrobe University program – Prep to Play - researching injuries and concussions.

"We do warm up and cool down exercises before every game and at training. Then we track our injuries every week.

"The prevalence of ACL injuries is huge in women's football, while in the men's it is hamstrings.'

As the club continues to break new ground, Ella hopes her ambassador role will help lift the Breakers' profile, make women's football more respected in the community and help create equity in the sport.

At home, she's hoping this season the women's teams can play some twilight matches in Dalvston and Cowes after the senior men's games.

For herself, she hopes the new role will give her another platform to promote the sport she loves.

"It's a way to recognise the growth in the sport and the people who have done work on the ground.

"We still get people saying football is a man's sport, but women's participation has gone through the roof.

"The growth areas for AFL are women, and the kids, as they're starting them playing younger.

"You've got to be realistic about giving the girls the opportunity to

After Covid upended the plan for Ella to attend the Captains Call at the start of the AFLW season - "I was shattered when it got cancelled" she's looking forward to meeting with the CEO of women's football and attending an exclusive ambassadors function on Grand Final Day.

But she remains focused on the Breakers being the best club it can

"We lead the way with some of the stuff we do around uniforms and minimising the barriers to participation," Ella said.

"We like to learn from other women's sporting teams, not just football, and pick up the things that we can do to make our team as inclusive as possible.'

Make a break and follow your footy dream

If you're a female who loves foot- some players who are only availball and is keen to be part of a fun able on certain dates." and inclusive club, then the Bass Coast Breakers want you!

With members that range in age from 16 to 40, the club provides a positive, professional space for women to pursue their football dreams.

Åre you a youth girls player keen to continue your football journey or looking for a way to fit footy in around demands of a family or professional life?

Or perhaps you're keen to give footy a try in a safe and supportive environment?

Breakers provides an array of opportunities.

"We have at least 30 players and we're very flexible," said President Ella Angarane.

"You don't have to play every week; we understand people have other commitments and we have

The club prides itself on its flex-

ible, inclusive culture. be themselves here," Ella said.

"Once they're through the door, they have a good time.

"And we have some amazing leaders within our club, including Kelly O'Neill, who brings a wealth of football knowledge as a former St Kilda AFLW player," she said. adding the club is powered by dedicated volunteers.

'Chelsea Connell who is the mor-Whichever stage you're at, the al compass of the group, does an amazing job of making everyone feel comfortable and included, and my sister Tess is a great leader both on field, and behind the scenes.

Gippsland netball community she has utilised the skills to strengthen the Breakers culture and approach.

"I am however really excited by some of the emerging talent coming through," Ella said.

'Imogen Bradford and Sunday "We want people to feel they can Brisbane moved up from Phillip Island Youth Girls last year and got better each week. I am really looking forward to seeing what they can do this year."

Anyone wanting to find out more can contact one of the team coaches through the Breakers' Facebook or Instagram pages.

The club has weekly training sessions at the Dalyston oval on Wednesdays from 5pm. The 14-game season starts at the end of April.

"It's a really welcoming environment and the players support each other," said Ella.

"After training and games, we "As a former leader in the usually go for a meal together. It's a great community."

> www.facebook.com/aflwbcoast/ or Instagram @basscoastbreakers



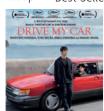
The Bass Coast Breakers trains each Wednesday at 5pm at the Dalyston oval and President Ella Angarane said any women who love football and are keen to be part of a fun and inclusive club should join them. Ella getting a lift from her team mates Montanna Campbell, Kelly O'Neill, Sophie McCracken-Evans, Tess Angarane, Chelsea Conne and Bianca Hellmath-Pask, with Shay Campbell and Missi Joyce (Front).

WONTHAGGI **UNION COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE**

What's On This Week?

Wed 2 Mar

10.00am King Richard [M] 2h24m 1.00pm The King's Man [MA15+] 2h11m 3.45pm Spencer [M] 1h56m 6.00pm Best Sellers [M] 1h42m



Sun 6 Mar

10.45am Drive My Car [MA15+] 2h59m [Japanese]

Golden Globe Award Foreign Language Film 2022

International Women's **Day Community Event**

Celebrating resilience, reinvention and connection

Tue 8 Mar 2022 7.30am - 9.00am

Join us to celebrate with a light breakfast followed by an hour with inspirational local speakers representing Women for Change, Gippsland Women's Health, Bass Coast Shire Council and Totally Renewable Phillip Island.

Bookings are essential for this free event www.trybooking.com/BXGNP







COMING SOON

Celebrate Her Salon Project Project Music, She Wrote (2.0)

MUSIC Prom Recitals The Salon

Sun 13 Mar 2.30pm

THEATRE Mother & Son Fri 18 Mar





MUSIC Lior - Solo Sat 26 Mar 8.00pm

Wonthaggi International Film Festival

Fri 1 Apr - Sun 3 Apr





Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre 96 Graham St, Wonthaggi 3995

find us on Facebook www.wonthaggiartscentre.com.au phone: 03 5671 2470

Events, entertainment and community news



Surrounded by friends, family and a sea of cakes and birthday treats, Emmit celebrated his



Emmit and a scaley friend – brought to the party by Island Pythons.

An unforgettable birthday for Emmit

The Phillip Island and San Remo community came together recently to create an unforgettable birthday for a young boy.

Emmit, who has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) had one wish for his 12th birthday - to have a fantastic party.

In January, his mum Jane put a call out through the local Facebook mum's group for

"My son is turning 12 in about 6 weeks. He is ASD and to be honest doesn't have a whole lot

"Last year he wanted a birthday party and not one person showed up, and I mean not one. None of the friends he does have, none of my girlfriends with or without kids, and none of our family.

"This year for his birthday he hasn't asked for gifts, all he asked for was that people come and help celebrate his birthday with him. He wants people to "come and enjoy food and drinks and cake and to sing happy birthday" and overall to just have fun," Jane posted.

She asked if anyone would be about to help make the birthday one Emmit would never for-

"He just wants to feel special on his special day. He doesn't understand why people don't show up and I honestly don't know how to an-

Denni Slorach from San Remo Print It Fast pro-

vided this special birthday banner for the party.

swer that for him.

"If you would like to come please let me know. "Thank you to anyone that can spare a few hours for my beautiful son, we really appreci-

The response from the community was incredible.

On the weekend, over 100 people were at the Lions Park in San Remo to help Emmit celebrate.

The birthday boy arrived in style, chauffeured to the event in a red Karmann Ghia.

As well as parents and children arriving to enjoy a spectacular party, businesses and generous locals provided all the important ingredients for the day.

Woolworths in Cowes donated food and drink, while local Paul McAskill wielded the tongs behind the barbeque.

Jessica Trigg added colour and joy to the day with her incredible face painting skills, while Denni Slorach from Print It Fast in San Remo provided a banner celebrating Emmit's special

The children were thrilled and fascinated by Island Pythons, who brought their reptiles along to the party.

For local resident Diane McAskill, the party was a heart-warming show of community support. "Jane's message is simple - inclusion is so im-

portant for kids with needs," Diane said. "As a teacher for more than 40 years – I know

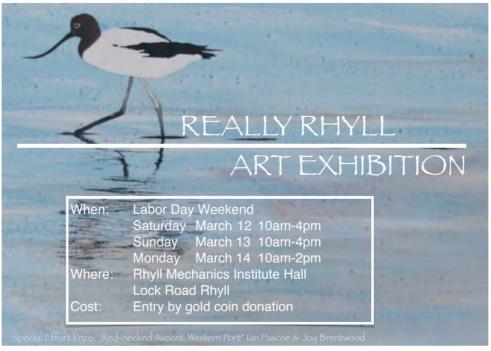
many Emmits. Inclusion is everything." Diane said people arrived throughout the day to wish Emmit a happy birthday.

"It was a stunning response and overwhelming for the family who put themselves out there for their son," Diane said

'It was indeed a fabulous day and Emmit's 12th birthday wish was fulfilled. A huge shout out for the community support."



Steve Messer's Strange Country will be appearing at the Phillip Island Baptist Church on March 5, raising funds for the Chat and Chew sessions.



Raising funds for **Chat and Chew**

A special fundraiser on Saturday, March 5 is raising money to support the Chat and Chew Drop in Centre.

The "Strange Country" concert at 7pm at the Phillip Island Baptist Church in Settlement Road will feature the Steve Messer's Strange Country Band.

Steve Messer's Strange Country cooks fl avours of country, blues and gospel into an original uptown-downhome, pre-post-modern, rhythm'n'bluegrass musical stew.

The band comprises songwriter Steve Messer (harmonica, mandolin, slide guitar, vocals), Steve Camp (guitar, vocals), Rod Boreham (bass, vocals), Michael Stritch (drums), Darryl Thompson (guitars, dobro, accordion, keyboards, vocals). For over thirty years Strange Country has

performed across Victoria and interstate, including many years appearing at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Steve was twice the winner of the Hohner

Golden Harmonica Championship at Tamworth, before being asked to judge the award in subsequent years.

The band's album "Country Bazaar"

earned them finalist nominations at the Tamworth "TIARA" awards and the Victorian Country Music Awards.

Strange Country has years of experience delighting audiences with their lively musical and conversational interplay, and songs rich in stories about life's joys and struggles, hard times, high hopes and the triumph of

Don't miss this unique musical experience, raising money for the Chat and Chew sessions that support our local community.

Saturday, March 5th from 7pm at Phillip Island Baptist Church/ 106/112 Settlement Road, Cowes (cnr Dunsmore Road). Cost \$10 pp or \$20 per family.
Supper provided. BYO nibbles and drinks

(no alcohol please).

To book please call Coral 0402 195 777 or Cathy 0458 177 931.

New committee appointed for San Remo Recreation Centre

The Department of Environment the committee, Tess, Elleanor and Karen Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has appointed eight volunteers for a threeyear term to the San Remo Recreation Centre Committee of Management.

Six of the members are new to the committee, while two are previous members.

Attending the committee's inaugural meeting was Pat Lambert, Program Manager Land and Built Environment DELWP, to thank outgoing members and provide an induction to new mem-

Certificates of recognition were presented to long serving committee members Tess Lee (21 years), Elleanor Ross (15 years) and Karen Bowker (15 years). With a combined 51 years of service to

have contributed skills, knowledge and experience within their roles, enhancing public enjoyment of the reserve for countless others as a result.

San Remo Recreation Centre committee member Karen Bowker says the versatility of the centre makes it an irreplaceable asset for the community.

"The community are the beneficiaries of the centre, it's the gem of the town," she said.

"We know the value of the centre and what it brings to the community. We are adjacent to it and every day we see people making use of the facilities. We are extremely fortunate to have the facility nearby and I see so much potential for so

many diverse groups, clubs and events going forward.

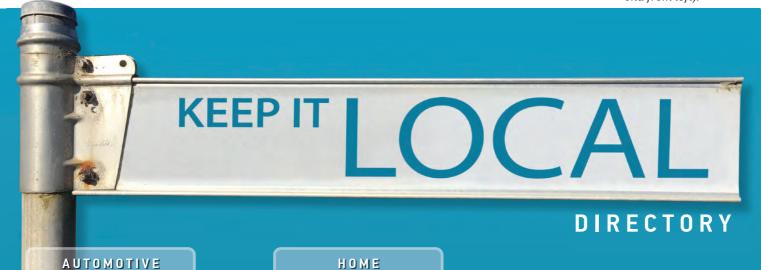
Past, present and future committee members have influenced the essence of San Remo, said Mr Lambert, who paid tribute to the efforts of the committee and its outgoing members.

"DELWP would like to celebrate and recognise the long service of Tess, Elleanor and Karen who have all played a key role in the management and improvement of the San Remo Recreation Centre over a substantial period of years, he said.

"While Karen is continuing on the new committee, Tess and Elleanor have decided to depart the committee after many years of dedicated service.'



Certificates of recognition were presented to long serving San Remo Recreation Centre committee members Elleanor Ross. Karen Bowker and Tess Lee by Pat Lambert from DELWP (second from left).



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On alert: more mossie concerns

on alert after at least 15 people contracted Ross River virus after being bitten by infected mosquitoes.

Now, the state government has warned of potential Japanese encephalitis infections in Victoria, and is urging everyone to protect themselves against mosquito bites.

Possible cases of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) have been identified in pigs in Echuca, NSW and in southern Queensland.

There are no confirmed human cases of the JEV strain in Victoria, however several cases of encephalitis have been identified within the past month.

JEV is a mosquito-borne virus that can develop into encephalitis, which can be potentially life-threatening. Chief Health Officer, Professor

Brett Sutton said the vast majority of Japanese encephalitis infections don't result in the need for clinical treatment but that it can develop into a serious illness.

"Most people with JEV will have no or very mild symptoms, but anyfever, headache and vomiting should see their doctor immediately.

"People with these symptoms can deteriorate over just a few short days, including suffering a loss of coordination, disorientation, generalised weakness and in some cases issues with movement which can last for years.'

Professor Sutton said the disease can't be passed between humans and Victorians can take simple steps to protect themselves.

We can all protect ourselves by avoiding mosquito bites, including covering up, wearing loose fitting clothing and using mosquito repel-

People with increased exposure to mosquitoes may be at a higher risk of infection, particularly those in regional areas and who work with or are in contact with pigs, and people camping, working or spending time outdoors in these regions.

Children aged under five years old and older people who are infected with JEV are at a higher risk of de-

Last year, Phillip Islanders were one who develops a sudden onset of veloping more severe illness, such as encephalitis.

Ross River

Last year there were 15 local confirmed cases of Ross River virus, which is also spread by mosquitoes.

Charter boat owner Glenn Heil was one of several Phillip Islanders diagnosed with the disease and he raised the alarm in the media, claiming not enough was being done to warn people of the danger.

Although his symptoms appeared before Christmas, it was late January before he got a proper diagnosis.

Two men from Cape Woolamai also tested positive and both believe they contracted the disease from a mosquito bite in their own backyards.

A carpenter from Surf Beach and a San Remo holiday home owner also contracted the disease, as well as a number of visitors to a local caravan

More information on Japanese encephalitis is available at www. health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis-virus



The state government has warned of potential Japanese encephalitis infections in Victoria, and is urging everyone to protect themselves against mosquito bites.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

More patrols needed

According to CEO Ali Wastie officers of Council regularly patrol beaches.

We have walked on San Remo back beach for over 20 years, and we have never seen anyone from council patrolling the beach.

Plenty of dog owners, many with off lead dogs. Majority of dogs are no issue.

Council to their credit does look after San Remo foreshore area well including toilet blocks on the foreshore and at Davis Point Road.

Chris Day, San Remo

Rules thrown out

Council threw out the rules at the February Council meeting when approving the development for Longfin Crescent San Remo.

In a 6 to 2 vote, Councillors Whelan, Kent and Le Serve together with Tessari, Laing and Larke voted contrary to the rules of state and local Planning Policy Frameworks and VCAT directives. The meeting can be viewed on Council's website.

Bass Coast local policy sets a target density of 1 dwelling per 450 sqm on land located between 400 to 800 metres from the main commercial area of San Remo. Per Council meeting minutes of August 19, 2015, (page 55) "the site is between 400 to 800 metres distance from the commercial area of San Remo". Was Council wrong then or has it conveniently re-allocated the site to being within 200 metres of an "activity centre" (which allows 200 sqm sites) by passing an increased development density of 1 dwelling per 269 sqm and sidestepping VCAT's directives of the original permit?

An objective of the Bass Coast Planning Scheme is to "discourage" single entry subdivisions. Not only is this a single-entry subdivision, the tight and overcrowded entrance is not physically capable of being serviced by Council garbage collectors. However Council garbage collection fees will still apply, obviously on a fee for NO service basis.

Councillors have failed the ratepayers of San Remo throwing out the rules designed to protect the community from unscrupulous and idiotic development outcomes.

The days of Bass Coast maintaining fishing village characters are gone, and residents only have themselves to blame by voting for councillors of this ilk. Thanks to them San Remo has lost its soul!

Trevor Fothergill, San Remo

Inaccurate attack on Bauer

The Letter to the Editor (The Advertiser, February 16) "Blast for Bauer on Dog Reg Changes" written by Lyn Neibor where an attack was made on Cr Ron Bauer's character and his "ability to ruin Phillip Island" is totally inflammatory, inaccurate and could not be any further from the truth.

Cr Bauer's notice of motion was for minor changes to already existing bylaws for beach access for recreational dog walkers.

Cr Bauer was one of five shire councillors that voted in favour of the notice of motion.

I have a history with this place Lyn 47+ years - and a great deal of respect - and let me tell you we are not unique in any way.

We have the same environmental/ demographic footprint found in other seaboard shire councils around Aus-

Yes, I do agree that the rules need to be more "balanced and not one-sided" because at the moment they are very one-sided and very prejudiced against recreational dog walkers. 99 per cent of other seaboard councils offer extensive access to both land-based/beach-based access for our dogs whereas Bass Coast Shire Council has been dragging its heels for decades.

The data is readily available from other councils showing that off-leash access works well and has for de-

Anne Grose, Surf Beach

Surf Beach dust woes continue

We've spoken to residents in Batman, Dunvegan and Hopetoun streets and The Esplanade about the effectiveness of the temporary road signs. The most common comment was that some drivers slowed down to some extent when the signs were first put up but now most have reverted to their old habits. Some residents were adamant the signs made no difference to the speed levels in their street. All agreed more needed to be done if dust levels were to be lowered.

A simple google search reveals there are affordable and practical traffic calming measures council could put in place:

1. "Rubber Form" has an interlocking system of rubber speed bumps that can be safely secured to dirt roads with an earth anchor screw. They could be removed and re-used when they are no longer needed here.

2. Flexible, temporary bollards. These could be used to reduce the lane widths or to create chicanes.

The article "A Comprehensive Guide to Traffic Calming" on the Reliance Foundry site shows how bollards can be used for these purposes.

3. Cardinia Shire Council has a scheme funded by residents and subsidised by the council to spray streets with a dust suppressant. Mornington Peninsula Shire uses a dust suppressant yearly, at the beginning of summer on some of their unsealed roads. Bass Coast Council could examine these initiatives to see if they would be applicable here.

We presented the petition to council in July last year and were told Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay were at the top of the council's priority list. We've also been told further community consultation must take place before any measures to calm traffic and reduce dust will be discussed. There were no questions related to dust on the last questionnaire, so we don't see how the results of this questionnaire are relevant to our current needs. We have heard nothing about any planned future measures.

What concerns us most is in private conversations with residents, some councillors said the council has no intention of implementing any further measures to calm traffic and control dust. Is this the case?

Transparency and openness should be central to communication from council to residents. An answer to this question is the least we expect

Kay and Mohan Nair, Surf Beach

Unbearable dust

I refer to the article "Rare praise for council" (Advertiser, February 2) in which Darren, a local resident, praised the council on their swift action on doing something about the amount of dust coming across Thompson Avenue from the work going on at the Cultural Centre site, just after one phone call.

He said that and there is now a water truck on the site to control the dust. It's amazing how council can crack

down on a contractor at Cowes, after iust one phone call, yet it allows the deplorable dust condition to continue making life unbearable after months of protest by hundreds of residents at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay.

Where are the water trucks while the shire determines more temporary solutions to support the new signs that clearly has not done enough to stop the selfish, inconsiderate drivers who still drive at inappropriate speeds.

Lou Pecora, Surf Beach

Friends of Scenic Estate

I wish to comment on the article entitled "Final chapter on 50-year

Scenic Estate saga" (Advertiser, Feb-The paragraph stating that "Nature

Parks" now manage the Reserve is inaccurate. In truth the management is a community effort. In 2015 the Reserve was opened to

the public after the compulsory purchase was completed by Bass Coast Shire and the first stage of the boardwalks, picnic shelters and viewing areas were complete.

The official launch recognized the importance of establishing this conservation reserve and the community's effort.

Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve (FOSER) under the auspice of Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc. (PICS) was formed through public meetings held by Bass Coast Shire Council and was a part of the official launch, on November 1, 2015.

The FOSER Committee consists of community members, and representatives from Bass Coast Shire Council and Nature Parks who manage the foreshore on the reserve.

Cr Whelan has been a member of the FOSER Committee since its beginning in 2015, as I have been.

It is time that the former street markings are now erased from any maps of the area as the vegetation thickens and takes hold of what was once arid and degraded land.

Carmen Bush, FOSER Committee

Baffled by bike path response

The Shire response to request to install a short bike path in Shearwater Estate stated "it was deemed that a short isolated section of shared path could not be considered functional as part of a broader link. For this reason, the garden bed, rope and bollard fencing were installed to enhance road safety at this location. Further investigation was undertaken to consider widening of the footpath. It was determined that this would not provide a functional shared link for bicycle riders. Therefore, a bicycle path will not be installed to connect Shelley Court and Shoalhaven Road and the road safety treatment will remain as is."

The vegetation blockade was initiated due to a complaint about mud on the road. The complaint related to a drain that caused water pooling momentarily after heavy rain. This original complaint changed to an issue of safety. Why?

Cyclists daily ride across the vegetation blockade - it has been embellished once. There is a clear cycle track across the blockade ... again. Rate payers have funded the installation of nine bollards, connecting "maritime" rope, a vegetation blockade (embellished once already); and 14 stakes positioned in the vegetation blockade. Because of one complainant. Why?

Along the popular shared path from Cape Woolamai roundabout to the Smith's Beach roundabout, cyclists negotiate 80 driveways and cross over 14 streets. Yet in the Shearwater Estate, cyclists are blocked from crossing over a 20-metre junction of public land. The shire has redirected all recreational traffic to the busiest road in the estate. Why?

Cr Rooks and I met onsite, walked along some of the linking pathways through the estate from Coghlan Road/Rhyll and Ventnor Road to Settlement Road. We looked at a map that clearly shows the junction provides a "functional shared link". I ride it at least twice weekly. Cr Bauer also agreed a shared path was appropriate. What happened?

A petition for a bike path from Ventnor to Cowes has just been released. Is this how we communicate the need to the Shire for bicycle infrastructure - by petitions?

Does Bass Coast Shire Council have any accountability?

Madeleine Pitt, Cowes

Change of government needed

Russell Broadbent, MP for Monash, made a disgraceful admission in Parliament, that he was unvaccinated for COVID-19, but had taken Ivermectin a drug not approved in Australia for treatment of Covid, in an attempt to cure himself.

It seems he has an ignorant disrespect for his coalition members of parliament and certainly his constituents.

Is he more aligned with Craig Kelly and Clive Palmer and colluding with their anti-vax views.

He does not appear to me to acknowledge the sacrifices and hardships we have all endured with this pandemic.

The Morrison government doesn't appear to have any influence over their extreme antics.

Has he any empathy for those who have lost lives, businesses, and jobs during the past two years?

With an impending Federal election we have a true candidate for the Labor party, that will represent the seat of Monash, Jessica O'Donnell.

She will bring an enlightened approach and honest standard of representation for our communities.

We need a change of government in Canberra

David Hoffman, Cowes

Cowes west residents want permanent parkland

Cowes west residents are campaigning for unused road reserves to be converted to permanent green wedges, with a petition set to go to Bass Coast Shire Council.

The Save Our Reserves Action Group was formed last November with residents from four streets -Seascape, Raywood and Highland avenues and Anderson Road - after unused reserves on these streets were pinpointed as possible locations for new social housing projects.

Last month the shire confirmed Wyndham Avenue and Roydon Road would progress to the next stage of social housing development, while the reserves on the other four streets in Cowes west - known as the Haberton Road Reserves - were no longer in contention.

'Due to the importance of this green wedge, the action group opposed the social housing development project proposed for the Harberton Road Reserves," said a spokeswoman for the action group.

"We are thrilled the Harberton Road Reserves have been deemed unsuitable for housing development."

But residents in the group now say the Harberton Road Reserves which are blocks of land owned by the shire as surplus road reserves should be preserved as a permanent green wedge.

"With our reserves deemed unsuit-

able for development, it paves the way for this important wildlife and recreational space to be preserved as a green wedge for the Cowes west community, visitors, and wildlife," said the spokeswoman.

"Our green wedge is something that can never be regained once taken and destroyed by any type of development.

"People love to walk on them every day, use them to move around the neighbourhood and for recreational activities, such as cricket, bike riding, and picnics."

The spokeswoman said the reserves were the only recreational space in the area ringed by the "busy thoroughfares" of Settlement, Anderson and McKenzie roads and Church Street.

She said members had circulated a petition around Cowes west and were lobbying the mayor, councillors, CEO and State MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale, as well as the Phillip Island Conversation Society.

"We need to ensure the prospect of any development and destruction of the reserves never arises again. The only way is to have council designate the reserves as a permanent green wedge," she said.

"The road reserves green wedge promotes a sense of community and wellbeing and provide a place for residents and visitors to engage with Social housing

Late last year the shire was nominated to receive \$25 million worth of grants under the State Government's Big Housing Build, one of nine local government areas targeted by the government in a total \$5.3 billion

Under the build, registered comhousing organisations (CHOs) apply for the grants. The land is then made available for free or at a discount by the shire for the homes to be built.

Shire CEO Ali Wastie said the next steps in the process is for Community Housing Limited to develop their proposals for Wyndham Avenue and Roydon Road – as well as sites in Wonthaggi - for submission to the funding stream.

"If successful they would further develop their proposal including consultation with council and the local community before submitting their proposal to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change for approval."

Under the grant conditions, community consultation would be held in March and April, construction of homes must start by June 2023 and be finished by June 2025.

Wyndham Avenue residents said they planned to form a committee to protest the project.



Residents have started a petition to have the reserves on Seascape, Raywood and Highland avenues and Anderson Road – known as the Haberton Road Reserves - converted to permanent green wedges. Photo: Google Maps.

The business of sustainability

work hosted a special session to talk about Sustainability in small business last week at the Wild Food Farm in Rhyll.

Presenters included Zoe Geyer from Totally Renewable Phillip Is-

The Phillip Island Business Net- land and Phillip Island Landcare, while local businesses Ripple & Tonic, Shampoo Connection and Wildlife Coast Cruises shared tips on how they worked to incorporate sustainability into their businesses.

Zoe's presentation included details

of a new program in partnership with Landcare called "Island Bush care", to help businesses and individuals to take simple, local and direct action, committing to a 'tree a day' or 'carbon offset' packages to increase revegetation across the Island.



Fiona van Meurs – Poppy in the Willows, Jess Patman – Wildlife Cruises Shore Operations Manager and Dianne Holbery – Ripples and Tonic at the PIBN sustainability session.



Voice for Monash Deb Leonard, Brooke Lambeth – Davines and speaker Leah McKay from Shampoo Avenue Hair Salon, at the PIBN sustainability in small business session.



Zoe Geyer – Totally Renewable Phillip Island and David Rooks – President Phillip Island Landcare Group. The groups will be working together on a new program "Island Bush care", to help businesses and individuals to take simple, local and direct action.



COUNCILBRIEFS

Dump motion moved

The upcoming review of camping needs in Bass Coast will consider installing dump points at the Newhaven Tourist Information Centre.

Cr Rochelle Halstead last week moved a motion for dump points the responsible disposing of sewage waste by caravanners and campers - to be included in the review at Newhaven, as well as Grantville, Dalyston and Wonthaggi.

She also said the review should 2022/23 budget.

"As one of Victoria's most travelled tourist destination and a local government with a high population of retirees, these facilities should already be available," Cr Halstead said.

Last December council resolved to review camping needs, with a report due in June.

In-person council meetings

Council meetings will be open to the public to attend in March.

After being held online since the start of the pandemic, the February meeting was expected to be the first hybrid model, offering both online and an in-person meeting.

But that has now been delayed to March, at the Wonthaggi Civic Centre Chamber.

Yallock-Bulluk car park petition

A petition with 123 signatures was last week lodged with council from Kilcunda residents about a proposed car park.

The residents say the car park part of the upcoming Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park, which will run from San Remo to Inverloch – was not part of community consultation discussions but appears in final infrastructure plans.

They say the car park will inexamine other possible locations crease traffic and risk resident safeand include cost estimates for the ty and have called on Parks Victoria to remove the car park plans.

Caravan park leases compared

The Kilcunda Caravan Park has been leased for a 20-year term, starting July 1, with a total return to council of more than \$5 million.

Holiday Retreats Rivergum Pty I td was last week chosen as the new tenant, with rent of \$152,000 per vear, increasing annually by three per cent and subject to a market rent review every five years.

This compares to the shire's Cowes caravan park, on Church Street, which had a new 21-year lease in July 2015 with an initial annual rent of \$255,000.

Under a lease agreement signed in 2018, the former caravan park leasees requested their lease be trans-

ferred to Across Australia Parks and Resorts, with no public tender

According to the shire, the lease did not go out to tender at the time because no submissions were received after the lease was publicly advertised in 2015.

Last year the NRMA acquired the caravan park from AAPR with the approval of council and the Minister responsible for Crown land, again with "no opportunity for a tender due to no break in the lease and the change of management".

Regional skate park?

Bass Coast Shire is seeking State Government funding for two sporting facilities: \$800,000 for a Wonthaggi netball pavilion and playspace project; and \$250,000 for the Kilcunda skate and play project.

However no details were provided on a regional skate park.

Last April councillors voted to dump plans for a \$1.5 million regional skate park at Grayden's Reserve in Newhaven, the second abandoned attempt.

Instead councillors agreed to build a local skate park at the reserve in consultation with the local community.

In May Ms Wastie said "over coming months" they would again review the Bass Coast Skate Strategy to determine a new location for a regional skate park for the shire - as well as designs for a local park in

"The review will take several Council's ongoing sustainable finanmonths to complete," Ms Wastie said at the time.

Hall leased

The Kilcunda community hall has been leased to the local community association for an unprecedented 20vear lease

Shire officers recommended a fouryear lease, but Cr Rochelle Halstead successfully moved a motion for a 20-year lease, saying the Kilcunda Community Association had paid for the hall and its maintenance through events such as the lobster festival.

She said they built the ball in 1994 and had never had a lease since, and now planned to spend significant funds on the hall in the future.

"This is a great deal for council with an ideal tenant," Cr Halstead

In contrast Phillip Island Senior Citizen's Club has a lease of three vears and the Corinella and District Community Centre has a five-year

Budget update

About 22 of 25 major projects are on track or complete, according to the shire's quarterly report.

However, the report revealed a \$3 million deficit, due to a high workers compensation insurance payment following the dissolution of the MAV WorkCare scheme.

Even with this payout, the shire is still in the Victorian Auditor General's low risk category, "confirming frame for its review," she said.

cial position".

Major works completed include Cowes east foreshore groyne construction, while underway is the \$27 million Cowes Cultural and Community Centre project and the Cowes to Stony Point ferry feasibility study. The report said the shire had almost completed a waste management education campaign, including mobile bus 'pop ups' in the Cowes jetty triangle.

Community not to be consulted

A resident has asked the Shire CEO which council policies require community consultation.

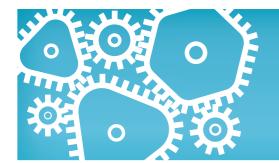
Inverloch's Kevin Griffin posed the question after the council December meeting saw "councillors railroaded into accepting" two polices: complaint handling and procurement.

"Why was neither of these policies put out for public consultation before being presented to council," he asked.

"Will council now advise the community as to which policies are scheduled or proposed to be reviewed in 2022 including details as to the date each policy will be put to council and whether each policy will first be put out for community consultation?

Ms Wastie said policies that were "operational in nature" such as those two did not require public consultation.

"This is standard practice with Victorian councils. Each policy contains a review clause on the time-



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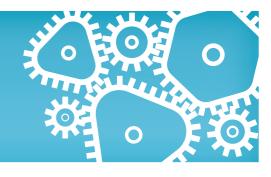
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THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022 29

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BEREAVEMENT THANKS



Kristien & Leah Formosa would like to sincerely thank all their friends and family for their well wishes, flowers and gifts after the recent passing of Jim. A special thank you to Tony & Jen Zoanetti who have also been there for Jim throughout the years and especially Zoa for driving Jim around to his appointments. Your care and support towards Jim and our family has been very much appreciated during this difficult time.

Barb & Denis Keane along with the whole Keane family have been so supportive and caring. Your love and help have been greatly appreciated. A special mention as well to Brad, Geoff & Spencer Pinto for their tribute to Jim at his memorial.

All of our families have been our strength over the last couple of weeks, in particular Amber, Matt, Carly, Jon & Ruby. Thank you for all you've done to help us prepare to say farewell to our Jim. Also, to our work family at Ray White, thank you for all of your support and for holding the fort in our absence.

We are truly grateful for the ongoing care that Dr Henryk Struk, Kev Martin & Kaye Dixon from Cowes Medical Group have given Jim over the years as well as the local paramedics who have attended call outs.

And lastly, thank you to the teams at Handley Anderson Funerals, The Phillip Island Advertiser and the Phillip Island Cemetery Trust committee for your wonderful care whilst we made arrangements to put Jim to rest and to Lisa-Anne Prendergast and the Phillip Island Golf Club for both providing such a memorable send off for him.

"Here I go, singing low" Love you mate, Roughhead

BIRTHS



We are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of Arti Jackson Taylor on 25th February 2022 at 9:33pm. Congratulations to Jono and Carly on your first child and the newest member of the Formosa Fam. We are so excited at the arrival of our first grandchild, AJ.

Lots of love

Nanna & Papa Formosa

IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of Makaela Rose Batty 10/08/2003 -

08/03/2021

Our Dearest Missy,

Time became irrelevant the day you left us. Minutes turned to hours, hours to weeks and weeks to a year... but we are frozen by your absence.

Your time on this earth was short, but the impact you made on those around you will stay with us forever.

We miss you every minute of every day. We will love you forever.

> Shine bright beautiful angel. Your loving family.

GARAGE SALES

COWES:

28 Monash Ave. Saturday 5th March from 9am – 2pm.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Phillip Island RSL Community Men's Shed **REPAIRS AND RESTORATIONS**

From timber to metal small to large projects Reasonable prices Open Tues Wed & Thurs 9am to noon

Contact Terry on 0438 808 428

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-**MOUS:** Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp. Coles) - Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday 11am, 5672 3627. Phone

head office 9429 1833.

1 in 5 people in **Australia** will experience depression.



Initiative of Phillip Island Masonic Lodge

SITUATIONS VACANT

THINGS

HOUSEKEEPING

If you have a passion for presentation and would love to work on Phillip Island please read on. The iconic Amaze'n Things Holiday Park is currently recruiting. Come and join our dynamic Housekeeping Team. Casual roles available, predominantly during school hours.

Please feel free to email your resume to lynelle.p@parklanegroup.com.au



Full time pastry cook/ pie maker required

Morning shift... 3am start. Most weekends off. Experience preferred but willing to train the right applicant, apprenticeships considered.

Only serious applicants considered. For more information please call between 9am and 3pm and ask for Brett 59 5220 27.

Full time baker bread maker required

Night shift 6pm start. Experience preferred but willing to train right applicant.

Only serious applicants considered. For more information please call between 9am and 3pm ask for Sean 59 522 027.

RETAIL SALES ASSISTANT

Full or Part Time

Qualifications & Experience:

- Retail sales and/or previous experience in flooring retail an advantage
- Strong customer service experience, computer skills and independent work ethic required
- Ability to work at pace and provide updates to all team members

Essential Tasks & Responsibilities:

Face to face customer service, with product and colour consultations, booking in home measures and quotes. Create and send written quotations, follow up customers, quotes and orders. Process orders and payments. Ensure store remains clean and tidy at all times. Stay up to date with products and services. Expected to be available for Saturdays.

> Submit resume and cover letter to: Dysstanptyltd@gmail.com Contact Mike: 0409 102 342

SITUATIONS VACANT

SITUATION VACANT

Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT Permanent Full Time Position

We are seeking a highly motivated individual to ioin our Finance Team.

The role will be responsible for all facets of the Accounts Receivable function of the business (in a job-sharing arrangement 2.5 days per week). The role will also include support to the business for HR administrative processes and reporting.

The successful applicant will possess good time management, high attention to detail and competency with spreadsheets

The is a permanent full-time position that requires some weekend and after-hours work.

For position description and closing date please visit our website: www.phillipislandcircuit.co Please email resume and cover letter to cassie.stoppa@phillipislandcircuit.com.au





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Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12. We are seeking applications for the role of:

Property Manager

Full time permanent position

For details on requirements, duties, and responsibilities, visit our website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/ about/ work-at-newhaven

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 11 March 2022 and should be submitted to katrina.lawrence@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Nominations are open for 2022 PIRSL 9th ANNUAL **ANZAC COMMUNITY AWARD**



Applications close March 23, 2022 at 4pm

We invite you to nominate a person who has made an outstanding contribution to our local community – a person who should be recognized for extending a hand beyond the ordinary in helping others and mateship.

Applications available from the Secretary: secretary@pirsl.com.au 0400 989797

SITUATIONS VACANT



Registered Nursing (RN) Staff and Endorsed Enrolled Nursing (EEN) staff required

Positions for permanent part time and casual shifts at Banfields Aged Care

Banfields Aged Care is part of a familyowned Australian Aged Care Group Pty Ltd (AACG), which prides itself on imagination and innovation in caring for the aged.

We are located at 192 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, a short stroll into town for the local beach and shops

Set amongst beautiful landscaped grounds. Banfields Aged care is a 90 bed residential care facility which provides an extensive range of services

We are seeking motivated and dedicated Registered Nurses and Endorsed Enrolled Nurses to be part of our team.

Your responsibilities will be to provide nursing care guided by the Director of Care including medication management, clinical practice and supervision, documentation, wound management, and palliative care;

The successful candidate will have:

- · Registered Nurse qualifications and current AHPRA registration (RN only)
- Current registration with AHPRA as an Enrolled Nurse with medication endorsement (EEN only)
- Previous experience in residential aged care essential
- Ability to lead, motivate & educate staff.
- Strong communication skills.
- Current Police Check.
- Team player qualities. · Current influenza vaccination.
- Both COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Current Victorian Drivers Licence.

We are a non-smoking facility.

If you believe you have the qualities and skills we are looking for please call: the **Acting Director of Care, Elizabeth May** on (03) 5951 2500 or forward your resume to emay@banfields.com.au



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12. We are seeking applications from **TEACHERS** in the following areas:

VET Building & Construction **Legal Studies**

English

Part-time or full-time, permanent and contract positions available.

For details on requirements, duties, and responsibilities, visit our website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/ about/ work-at-newhaven

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 11 March 2022 and should be submitted to

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SITUATIONS VACANT



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12. We are seeking applications for the role of:

Maintenance Manager Full time permanent position

For details on requirements, duties, and responsibilities, visit our website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/ work-at-newhaven

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 11 March 2022 and should be submitted to katrina.lawrence@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

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Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12.

Education Support

(Integration Aide) Full time or Part time.

For details on requirements, duties, and responsibilities, visit our website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/ about/ work-at-newhaven

Applications close 4.00pm, Friday 4 March 2022 and should be submitted to katrina.lawrence@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

SITUATIONS VACANT



PCA positions available (Must have experience)

Banfields Aged Care is part of a familyowned Australian Aged Care Group Pty Ltd (AACG), which prides itself on imagination and innovation in caring for the aged.

We are located at 192 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, Phillip Island a short stroll into town for the local beach and shops.

Set amongst beautiful landscaped grounds. Banfields Aged care is a 90-bed residential care facility which provides an extensive range of services.

As a PCA, your responsibilities will be to provide nursing care as directed by a Registered Nurse.

Casual and permanent part-time contracts are available for these positions.

Applicants must have a positive and professional work ethic with dedication and commitment to high quality care.

Essential criteria:

- Certificate III or IV in Aged Care.
- · Current National Police Check.
- Demonstrated knowledge/ability in providing safe quality personal care to consumers and ensuring the rights of consumers are respected.
- Compassionate and empathetic person.
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal.
- Efficient time management skills.
- Must have flexible availability and be reliable.
- Ability to travel to Cowes on Phillip Island.
- Current evidence of influenza vaccination.
- Both COVID-19 Vaccinations.
- Current Victorian Drivers Licence.

What you can expect from us:

- · A friendly, social & collaborative team A workplace that supports and values
- their staff
- Support from management and ongoing development and education opportunities

Desirable:

· Previous experience in Residential Aged

We are a non-smoking facility.

If you believe you have the qualities and skills we are looking for please call: the **Acting Director of Care, Elizabeth May** on (03) 5951 2500 or forward your resume to emay@banfields.com.au

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PUBLIC NOTICES



SITUATIONS VACANT



Aged Care Lifestyle Team Member

Banfields Aged Care is part of a familyowned Australian Aged Care Group Pty Ltd (AACG), which prides itself on imagination and innovation in caring for the aged. We are located at 192 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, Phillip Island a short stroll into town for the local beach and shops. Set amongst beautiful landscaped grounds. Banfields Aged care is a 90 bed residential care facility which provides an extensive range of services

Either casual and permanent part-time contracts are available for this position. We currently have a vacancy for a vibrant and energetic Lifestyle Team Member to join our small but extremely dedicated Lifestyle team. You will assist with the planning, implementation and evaluation of our lifestyle support / activities programs.

The successful candidate will have:

- Knowledge of contemporary aged care specific activities
- Knowledge & understanding of dementia
- Knowledge & understanding of the Aged
- Care Accreditation Standards Program Development experience in Aged Care
- Current Influenza Vaccination.
- Current Police Check.
- Both COVID-19 Vaccinations.
- · Current Victorian Drivers Licence.

We are a non-smoking facility.

If you believe you have the qualities and skills we are looking for please call: the Acting Director of Care, Elizabeth May on (03) 5951 2500 or forward your resume to emay@banfields.com.au



Laundry Employment **Opportunities**

Permanent Part Time / Casual

Banfields Aged Care is part of the family owned 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

We are located at 192 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, a short stroll into town for the local beach and shops.

We are seeking dynamic and exceptional laundry staff to be part of our team.

As a laundry staff member your responsibilities will be to carry out facility linen and personal laundry services as guided by the Director of

The successful candidate will have:

- Strong communication skills.
- Current Police Check.
- Team player qualities.
- · Current Influenza Vaccination. Both COVID-19 Vaccinations.
- Current Victorian Drivers Licence

We are a non-smoking facility. If you believe you have the qualities and skills we are looking for please call: the **Acting Director of Care, Elizabeth May** on (03) 5951 2500 or forward your

resume to emay@banfields.com.au

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SPECIAL DELIVERY



Hello Myla

Myla Hazel Turner was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on February 3, 2020 weighing 2940 grams. Myla is the first child for parents Lani Payne and Ben Turner of Surf Beach.



SHORT STACK

Junior Landcare grants

Applications are open for the 2022 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants, offering schools and early learning centres up to \$1000 each to develop projects that focus on sustainable food production, improving waste management practices or enhancing native habitats.

Applications close March 18. landcareaustralia.org.au/woolworthsgrants

Boating upgrade grants

Public Boat Ramp managers can apply to the Better Boating Fund for grants of up to \$300,000 to help with the cost of structural maintenance and asset replacement work.

Applications close on Wednesday, March 23. For more information, go to betterboating.vic.gov.au.

Energy action

Organisations can apply for up to \$50,000 through the Community Climate Change and Energy Action program to upgrade heating and cooling, install shading, insulation, double glazing, lighting and renewable energy installations like roof-top solar panels and battery storage.

Social enterprises, not-for-profits, and community groups can develop smarter ways to use resources with grants of up to \$250,000 available through the Recycling Victoria Communities Fund.

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/grants.

Small business mental health

Free access to Mindarma – an online mental health support tool – is available to Victorian small businesses and their employees to help with daily challenges and the uncertainty due to the pandemic.

Victorian small businesses can register for free access to Mindarma until June 30. business.vic.gov.au.

Wildlife Ecology Research Scholar-

The Australian Wildlife Society Wildlife Ecology Research Scholarship is open to postgraduate research students from three Australian Universities undertaking a research project that is of direct relevance to the conservation of Australia's native wildlife.

Scholarships are valued at \$5000 for one year. aws.org.au/scholarships/

Applications close May 31 Australian Wildlife Society University

Research Grants

Grants are available for research projects of direct relevance to the conservation of Australian wildlife - plant or animal.

Applications close May 31. www.aws.org. au/university-grants/



Bryan Staring (Ductai V4R) took out the Alpinestars Superbikes Race One at Phillip Island on the weekend. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

Superbikes roar into town

Round one of the Australian Superbikes was held at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit on the weekend.

Bryan Staring (Ductai V4R) took out the Alpinestars Superbikes Race One, after leader Wayne Maxwell (Ducati V4R) crashed out in lap 5. Maxwell walked away unscathed but the error left Staring in the lead, with a four-second margin over the rest of the field.

lost for words on the podium, saying that he'd been "pretty patient for a in race Two and was able to slowly

pretty long time" waiting for this vic-

"We were chasing (Wayne) all weekend," said Staring.

"I knew that we had good race pace, but I didn't know how good it needed to be though. Once we set out I could see the areas where we were strong and in the end, I kept the pressure

Despite nursing a sore ankle from An emotional Staring was almost his excursion at Hayshed in Race One, Maxwell kept it neat and clean

edge a two-second gap to the fellow Ducati rider to take victory ahead of Staring and Cru Halliday (Yamaha YZF-R1).

Maxwell commended his team on preparing the number two bike to give him the win.

"It was good to get a bit back," said Maxwell. "I've got a few bruises so I'll go and get the body healed up."

Full details and results from the weekend can be found at asbk.com.au.

More photos from the weekend's racing at pisra.com.au

Victorian Junior Lifesaving championships

The 2022 Victorian Junior Life saving championships were held in Lorne over the long weekend.

The Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club was represented by two nippers, Jett Fawaz and Isabelle Thornborrow.

35 clubs were represented by over 860 Nippers.

Both Jett and Isabelle performed very well in the Under 9 age cat-

Isabelle took home a gold medal in the Wade relay, a silver medal in the swim relay and 8th place in the individual Swim race final.

Jett made the semi-final round of Flags and took fourth place in the Wade relay final. Both Jett and Isabelle will be lining up to show their skills in the Little Penguin Dash this Saturday.

With over 200 current Nippers at the club, we hope to inspire more Nippers to participate in our competition team next year.

We had almost 20 compete and train together throughout the season.

All information about the Nippers program is published and regularly updated in the Nippers section of the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club website. www.woolamaibeach.asn.au



Isabelle Thornborrow represented the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving club at the 2022 Victorian Junior Lifesaving championships in Lorne and is proudly displaying her medals.



Jett Fawaz performed well and competed at the Victorian Junior Lifesaving championships, Jett and Isabelle will also be competing in the upcoming Little Penguin Dash this Saturday.

Phillip Island bowls

Midweek Pennant: Division 2 were at Tarwin Lower and have come home with the win 54-47, with 2 rinks having a draw and the other having enough shots up to get us over the line. Division 1 have also won all 3 rinks

Saturday Pennant

Division 1: Played at Leongatha and got up 81-71 and against Leongatha at home we went down 65-76. Division 2: Played away at Toora

where it was drizzly cold and windy, and the Island went down 71-86.

Division 4: Lost to Port Welshpool at home 72-81.

Division 5: Had a big win against Wonthaggi at home 84-68.

Ladies and men's 100 Up

The final of both the men and ladies 100 Up Singles competition has been run and won.

The men's Hans Olierook defeated George Mol and in a nail-biting game. The ladies had the spectators on the

edge of their seats, Marilyn Forrest defeated Beb Hyslop.

Legacy Day bowls

Was an absolutely fantastic day at the bowls club for Legacy Day with two full greens of players from far and wide who dug deep and showed their support for this great cause.

Ninety-six players took to the green in overcast but lovely cool playing conditions and lots of laughter and playful sledging could be heard around the greens throughout the day.

A big thank you to Brian Arnold and his support team for organising it all and the awesome ladies in the kitchen who did an outstanding job with lunch and Greg behind the bar for keeping the troops well-watered.

A big thank you to the RSL Club president, Chris Thompson and his team for sponsoring the day and presenting the shield to the winners.

The winners for the day and get bragging rights for their names on the shield were Peter Forrest, Barrie Goldsbury, Bob Anketell and Trish

Runners up were Trevor Gibson,

Jimmy Kirk, Jan Dyer and Clive Smith, well done everyone.

Mixed pairs bowls

There were lots of games played and very close scores but those progressing through to the quarter final to be played on Sunday morning are: Steve Kantor and Sandra Read – v –

Peter and Marilyn Forrest.

John Batty and Pat Davies - v -Paul Bean and Jan Dyer.

Hans Olierook and Di Pollock - v -Patrick Ryan and Di Bateman.

John Parker and Karen Cashen v - Bob Anketell and Robyn Dennis. Social bowls

Winners: Tony Steward, Elaine Severino, Lance Wearne and Joan

Runners up: E. Smith (Mt Eliza), Bill Hathway, Lynne Thomas and Eric Wilde



The final of the men's 100 Up Singles competition was won by Hans Olierook (L) who defeated George Mol (R).



Marilyn Forrest (L) defeated) Beb Hyslop (R) in the Ladies Singles Up bowling competition.



Winners of Legacy Day bowls were (L-R) Barrie Goldsbury, Chris (RSL club president presenting the shield), Peter Forrest, Trish Williams and

Cowes oval lights up!

Bass Coast Shire Council will in- services and facilities across the stall new oval lighting at the Cowes, Inverloch and Dalyston recreation reserves over coming months.

This project will see each oval fitted out with new LED lighting, which will achieve an average of 200 lux and exceed the required Rules Football. The power capacity will also be upgraded at each reserve as part of the project.

Design work for these three projects is already underway, and is expected to be completed in early

Once the design work is completed, trenching and electrical conduit installation works can begin. Delivery of lighting poles and fixtures is anticipated in late May, with the project to be completed by the end of June, subject to contractor availability and favourable weather.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan said that these field lighting projects were identified as a priority within Council's Active Bass Coast Plan.

"Our Active Bass Coast Plan identifies projects to enhance recreation basscoast.vic.gov.au/projects

municipality over a ten-year period," Cr Whelan said.

These three projects represent yet another significant investment in sport and recreation facilities for the Shire "

The \$1.2 million project has been standards for local level Australian funded with \$1.08 million from Sport and Recreation Victoria's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program: \$40,000 from Council and \$75,000 from the Dalyston, Phillip Island and Inverloch Kongwak Football Netball Clubs.

While work is underway on site, appropriate traffic and pedestrian control measures will be in place, and access might be restricted.

The contractor will make every effort to minimise disruptions to recreation reserve users, however Council appreciates that these works may present an inconvenience and asks for your patience during these times.

This project will include the use of heavy plant and machinery including noisy and vibration works.

For more information visit www.

Olivia's our show jumping champ Phillip Island golf results

Ten-year-old Oliva Curtain from as various Pony Club events around Rhyll won the 2021 Interschool Show the state. Jumping Championship, representing Newhaven College.

The three-round series of the Interschool Show Jumping Championship (ISJ) final concluded at Boneo Park in mid-December after Covid interrupted delays to the series.

Olivia riding her trusty steed Dalgangle Hugs and Kisses (Popeye) was running third in the series after two rounds.

To secure the championship, she needed to win both jumping rounds on the day and rely on her rivals placing down the results.

Olivia and Popeye had been training very hard for this event and put in perfect rounds jumping magnificently to win the day and the prestigious 2021 Petstock Freshman's Champion award.

What a combination these two have been in 2021, winning the Hygain Victorian Interschool Series (VEIS) Freshman's in July 21, as well championships.

The pair also took out the ISJ Freshman's Championship 2021 and were nominated for the Pony Club Victoria Best Achievement by a rider aged 12 years and under.

Unfortunately the ISJ was the last competition for Olivia and Popeye.

Olivia has outgrown him and has moved onto her new pony Indi's Mr Zorba Jones (Mr Jones).

Olivia and Mr Jones competed in two grades up in the 85cm Improvers section competing against kids up to year 12 at the first round of the 2022 ISJ Series placing third, sixth and third overall.

It was an outstanding achievement for Olivia on the day putting her in a great position to do it all again in

Olivia will be competing at the Interschool State championships in April at Werribee Park and has her sight set on making the national



Ten-year-old Oliva Curtain from Rhyll with her trusty stead Popeye won the 2021 Interschool Show Jumping Championship, representing



Olivia and Popeye received the 2021 Petstock Freshman's Champion award in their last event together, as unfortunately Olivia has now outgrown Popeye.



Olivia competed with her new pony Mr Jones in the first round of the

Midweek bowls results

Southwest Gippsland Midweek entertained us with the twist. bowls winners were Peter Gratton, Bob Arnold and Peter Thorley.

Runners up were Vern Elliott, Laurie Bell and Tony Morris.

One Game winners were Peter McWilliams/ Lindsay Russell (co Skips), David Talbot, Bill Williams and Mary Nicholson.

Midweek bowls was played at San Remo in near perfect conditions.

Although the green was lightning fast it was in beautiful condition even though there were some very wayward bowls to start with until we became used to the speed of the green.

As usual good-hearted banter could be heard across the rinks and a few comments about the wayward bowls

The music playing put everyone in a great mood especially our resident Everyone welcome. dancing queen Gwen Jeffery who

Our wrong bias king Jim Nunan did not have any this week but went to Tarwin Lower instead of San Remo to play bowls, sadly he was the only one there.

Thank you to Peter Thorley and Michael Geddes for tending the bar always with a smile and Gwen Jeffery for kitchen duty.

Thank you to the members who brought items for the free raffle, we have some lovely treasures

All in all, it was one of the best days I can remember

Next week we will be playing at Koo Wee Rup, 10am at the club for a 10.30am start and BYO lunch.

For more information or to register please contact Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974 or come early on the day

See you on the green.



Midweek bowls winners, played at San Remo were Bob Arnold (3), Peter Gratton (S), and Peter Thorley (L).



Tony Morris (L), Laurie Bell (3) and Vern Elliott (S) were the runners-up at Midweek bowls.



Best One game winners were Bill Williams (2), Peter McWilliams (Co-Skip), Mary Nicholson (L), David Talbot (3) and Lindsay Russell (Co-Skip).

Tuesday, February 22: Men's Stableford

Division one winner: Ron Owen (14) with 37 points on countback from Ray Reid, Garry Birch and Owen

Division two winner: Rob Chambers (27) with 39 Points, r/up was Tom Jacobson (32) with 37 points.

Nine-hole competition winner: Alan Tindale (30) with 18 points r/ up was David Henstridge (21) with 17 points.

Wednesday, February 23 Ladies Monthly Medal Stroke

Division one winner: Jo Disher (21) with nett 72 on countback to Debra

Division two winner: Ira Septiana (24) with 75 nett.

Division three winner: Trish Jamieson (38) with 75 nett.

NTP: 5th - Cheryl White, 7th -Lorraine Hammon, 10th – Shannon Trumper and 17th – Wendy Hopkins. Debra Orr won the putting with 26

Nine-hole stableford winner: Liz Telford (27) with 17 points.

Thursday, February 24 Open Stableford

The winner was Cec Andrews (23) with 37 points on countback from Rick Bankfield and Steve Riegnier.

Nine Hole stableford competition winner: John Rodakis (34) with 19 points from Mal David Henstridge (21) with 18 points.

Saturday, February 26: Men's Monthly Medal Stroke Sponsored by Archisign

A Grade winner: Steve Bann (3) with 72 nett, r/up was Paul Russo (11) with 73 nett on countback.

B Grade winner: Steve Waters (16) with 68 Nett on countback to Sean Ambler (18).

C Grade winner: Jeff Sellenger (25) with 69 nett, r/up was Rick Adolphson (19) with 71 nett.

Monthly medal winner: Steve Waters. NTP: 5th - Robert Espernberger, 7th – Stuart Carson, 10th – John Fitzpatrick and 17th - Shane Harding.

The Ladies played Stableford, and the winner was Alice Schofield (24) with 36 Points on a countback from Lorraine Hammon (19).

NTP: 5th - Deb Orr, 7th - Sue Brown, 10th - Debra Orr and 17th -

Sunday, February 27: Open Stableford

Winner: Roz Wells (42) with a great score of 43 points.

Tenpin league results

Current ladders.

2s Company: 1st on 9pts Strike Me Lucky, 2nd on 5pts Pinheads and 3rd on 5pts Palms.

ABL: 1st on 37.5pts Just Bowl Already, 2nd on 36pts Dreamers and 3rd on 36pts Island Sector.

Business: 1st on 9pts Turkey Slappers, 2nd on 6pts 3 Stooges, 3rd on 6pts CTD Carpentry and 4th on 5pts Wooly Rollers.

Phantom: 1st on 3pts Strike It Lucky. 2nd on 2pts Rufus and on 2pts Towball.

Top scorers this week.

Men: Zak Sydenham 199, Rob Wilkinson 199 and Justin Porthouse 198.

Woman: Sue Gale 177, Jacque Kent 173 and Jennifer Murphey 157.

Euchre results

Men's winner:

Les Walton - 7 wins.

Ladies winner: Josie Billman - 6 wins.

Encouragement Award:

Bev Baulderstone. Welcome back Robert Wilkinson

this week. Please contact Bob Hee for any

further Information on 0418 173 388.

The finals countdown

This week saw the Sharks make the trip to Leongatha to take on the Imperials in a Top 4 clash.

After winning yet another toss the Sharks decided to have a bowl and the decision looked a bit questionable early as the Imperials got off to a flyer.

At the drinks break the Imperials sat well poised at 1 for 89 with the Sharks bowling well but unable to make any inroads on a flat Leongatha pitch.

Despite this the Phillip Island bowlers kept toiling and led by allrounder Daniel Mock who finished with figures of 2 for 22 off his 8 overs, the Sharks were able to apply the clamps as they so often do and take regular wickets in the back half of the innings.

Simon Kirton (1 for 11 off 5) and Shiran Rathnayake (2 for 24 off 8) in conjunction with Mock were able to wrestle the Imperials all out for 156.

After the break both openers Lochie Cleeland and Eli Richards fell cheaply bringing Mock and Rathnayake to the crease and together the two made short work of the run chase.

The white-hot Rathnayake was dismissed for 50 off just 33 balls mean while Mock carried his bat through to the end finished with 72 off 67 balls guiding the Sharks to a six wicket win in the 24th over.

Next week the Sharks take on Koonwarra in the final match of the season before a big finals campaign kicks off.

Go Sharks.

B1

B1 took on Leongatha Imperials this week, with Imperials needing a win to keep their finals hopes alive, whilst we were looking to lock in top spot.

Macca unbelievably won the toss and quickly chose to bat.

Macca and Kohen Beaumont opened up the innings, and the pair looked good getting to 33 quickly before Kohen was out, caught for 17.

Angelo came and went quickly, which brought the in-form Tony Hornsby to the crease.

Together the pair batted well, Macca bringing up his 50, and had the innings set up beautifully at drinks with the score 2/111.

The tiring skip was dismissed shortly after the break for a solid 62 off 65 balls.

Tom Niven in next didn't last too long unfortunately, which meant Matt Dennerley joined Horns with the score now 4 for 120, and the pair looked untroubled as they put away anything loose.

They cruised along taking the score to 196 when Horns was caught on 48 trying to be creative with his stroke-play.

Liam Dayson was next in with only a couple of overs left, and he gave the strike to Denners who, on the last ball of the innings, launched a flat bat six into the football clubrooms to bring up a fantastic 53 off 53 balls, the team compiling 5 for 212.

bowling effort, with Tom pulling parted caught behind for 2. rank and coming down the hill and Tim coming up.

The pair bowled well early and saw a couple of chances go down before Tom got the breakthrough on 28. The Imperials opener fending a nasty bouncer off his gloves, the keeper Hornsby getting vertical to snaffle a great catch, he was thinking a John Coleman type effort, the rest of us more Peter Dinklage!

Then Tim joined in picking up three wickets quickly, wrecking the Imperials top order reducing them to 4 for 49.

Heath Womersley and Liam Dayson were then brought into the attack, Heath bowled well and was unlucky to not get a wicket, Dayso on the other hand was not unlucky out. at all, grabbing 4 for 15 off 6 overs,

including a spectacular diving catch from Angelo on the boundary

Clint picked up 2 for 2 off his 3 overs, the result seeing Imperials dismissed for just 80.

A fantastic job wrapping up top spot with one game left in the regular season.

RSL Man of the Match was Matt Dennerley.

The Sharks took on Wonthaggi at Rhyll with this clash to decided third place on the ladder.

The Sharks won the toss and elected to bat and got off to a good start before losing their first wicket to be 1/30.

Keating was batting well ticking the score over building small partnerships with Womersley and Lane.

Keating wasn't troubled by the Wonthaggi bowlers until he was run out for a well-made 82 with the Sharks score on 161. With Keating out the Sharks could only manage

With the total set the Sharks needed a good start, which they delivered to have club 3/20 with Odgers getting 2 of the wickets.

The Sharks changed the bowlers

and soon had Wonthaggi 5/48 and were pressing for more wickets.

Wonthaggi started to build a small partnership before Lane picked up his second wicket, then his third next ball and was on a hat trick to have Wonthaggi 7/81.

Wonthaggi was still being aggressive with the bat, but Tolley got his first wicket to have Wonthaggi 8/107 still needing 64 runs.

The Wonthaggi batters put on 18 runs before Tolley struck again to have them 9/125.

The Sharks just needed one wicket and Wonthaggi needed 47.

With plenty of overs left the Wontahggi kept ticking the score over and the pressure was mounting as Wonthaggi crept closer before Lane struck getting his fourth wicket.

The Sharks held on to win by 12

The C2 blues took on Killy/Bass at Newhaven in the round 14 game.

Killy/Bass won the toss and bat-

The Macmillan boys opened the bowling, and it wasn't long before Connor (2/6) struck twice, clean bowling the opener and followed it up with a catch to Francis.

Connor Macmillan then took a superb catch in the deep to give Francis (1/13) his first wicket, 3/41.

Francis then took his second catch to give Arceo (1/9) a wicket and at the drinks break, Killy /Bass were

Manning and Francis combined to get a run out and Marshall took a catch to give Noah Williams (1/31) his first wicket.

Fall (3/5) claimed three late wickets with catches to Marshall, Manning and Cleary.

Thomas Macmillan (1/18) claimed the last scalp and Killy/Bass were all out for 82.

Fall and Manning opened the bat-The Niven brothers opened our ting for the blues, Fall quickly de-

> When Manning (16) and Patterson (3) were both caught the Blues

were shaky at 3/34. When Marshall (2), Parry (7) and Francis (9) were dismissed in quick succession, the blues were in big trouble at 6/46.

Cleary (11) and Arceo (3) tried to get things back on track but when they were both dismissed, things looked bleak at 8/62.

The Macmillan boys needed to get 20 more runs and chipped away until T-Mac was bowled, leaving Noah Williams the last hope.

He and C-Mac crept closer until Noah was LBW for 5 and the C2 blues fell 7 runs short.

Connor Macmillan ended on 4 not

A tough loss.



The Woolworths Blasters Cricket program concluded on Thursday with a BBQ and presentation. Blaster's coordinators Bec and Mick Cleary and all the little Blasters.



The Under 12s finished their season with a hotly contested scratch match and a fun BBO and presentation. Coaches Darryl Hughes, Tony Hornsby and Ash Larcombe, with the Under 12s players 2021/22.







MA SU	UNDE	H	RY
PHILLIP	7-1 9-1	66	LEONGATHA TOWN
H.PEPPARD	51*	3-27	TI.NIVEN
B.ROSS	51*	2-7	N.WILLIAMS
TI.NIVEN	31*	2-33	Z.WALKER
PHILLIP	ISLAND WON		WICKETS
PHILLIP ISLAND	9-1	21	NERRENA
H.WOMERSLEY	29*	2-5	C.MACMILLAN
T.MACMILLAN	26	2-8	T.MACMILLAN
O.DUGGAN	18	2-9	J.WILLIAMS



Georgie and Olive Callis did well in their swimming heats.



Ava McBean, Kyra Carton and Laila Hadrian all waiting to



Emily Callis was thrilled to win the \$100 lucky number that was sponsored by Island Equipment Hire at the swimming

Phillip Island Swim club carnival

On Sunday, Phillip Island Swim- (including coach Tay). ming club held a home swim carnival.

The swim carnival showcased the strong numbers that Phillip Island currently have, and it was great to see swimmers from Korumburra, Leongatha and Corner Inlet also attend.

It was terrific to see the newest and youngest swimmers from under 8s and 10s jumping in and having a go at all the races including 25metre butterfly and the 100-metre race.

The super competitive Under 11-14 age group was certainly on show, with Phillip Island not only dominating in the water but also swimming a lot of personal best times.

It was also great to see the senior

A lot of the young swimmers were inspired to see how much training and hard work can pay off.

The highlight of the day was all the encouragement, support and great sportsmanship that all swimmers across all the age groups showed to not only Phillip Island swim club but to the other clubs in attendance.

The raffle at the swim carnival was simply amazing and raised some great funds due to generous donations from members and local businesses.

The swim club would like to thank the following businesses Ramada Resort, Luxe Isle, KazMorton Ceramics, Shima Salon, Cowes Corner Takeswimmers battling it out in the pool away, Massage N co and Beand Café.

Also, a shoutout to Island Equipment Hire for the lucky \$100 number and Bakers Delight Cowes and San Remo butchers for their donations towards the sausage sizzle.

Thank you also to the great families in the club who came together to help wherever was needed on the day with cooking BBQ, timekeeping, running canteen, front door, marshalling and helping with the set up/ pack up.

On behalf of the committee, thank you to all members as this was one of the most successful carnivals to

Good luck to all the swimmers that will be at Mirboo North on Sunday, March 6 for Champs Day

Under 14 girls competing in the 50 metre breastroke at the swimming carnival held at Cowes on the weekend.

AROUND THE BAY

The reports this week have been scattered to say the least. This is almost expected for this time of the year and more to do with fewer people fishing that all have their favourite spots.

The other thing that contributes to this is by now, the end of February, the kids are all back in school. Most people who took time off after Christmas have now gone back and settled into the routine of working during the week and fishing weekends.

As we always say, the absence of fishing reports does not equate to an absence of fish it usually means no one fishing

We find this time of the year very targeted fishing as most of the reports come from locals that will fish certain areas and tides and generally not for very long, If they can't find the species they are looking for, they generally don't go chasing something else but simply head home until next time.

As always if someone is visiting or on holidays, these people tend to spend a whole day on the water looking for anything they can find.

While spending all day on the waer isn't for everyone, those who do usually find a feed in the form of a of the time and if you wanted to will be supplying items for our Jumixed bag of species.

Tuna was a little quieter this week. Nothing much to do with the fish itself but those chasing them, but probably the main reason this

week was the weather which was less than ideal for the majority of the week and especially over the

tap again and it just made it too messy offshore to put any time into trawling around.

There were a couple of customers that found the window and said they didn't have too many problems finding the tuna. Getting them to take lures was a little more difficult and they resorted to casting all sorts of poppers, stick baits and even threeinch white soft plastics.

was nothing has changed, and they are in close and along the coast from the entrance to Cape Patterson.

Whiting were the main targets of the bay fishermen this week and while not everyone was successful those who did report catches had some quality fish and good numbers

ports came from with whiting coming from all corners of the bay.

shallow, boats and kayaks so a bit

fish it wasn't always in the spot you nior/Small Fry packs. were planning.

to hide out of the wind in the bay to fish for whiting and one place to keep

weekend. Somebody turned on the easterly

The other report from the tuna

This is where the scattered re-

We had reports from the deep, of everywhere and from everyone.

The weather dictated where mos

Generally, you can find somewhere

in mind is Boys Home channel.

This area is often overlooked but on a windy day and a low tide it's a good place to hide to fish the last of the run out and the start of the run in.

Calamari were a by-catch from those chasing whiting as they often are with both living in the same ar-

We had several reports from the boats, however more from those off the land fishing the jetties and back beaches.

San Remo, Newhaven and Cowes jetties were the best with the back beach at Woolamai and Ventnor for the baited jigs so nothing too un-

The sizes of the calamari were good, and we haven't seen too many of the very small ones this season. While they weren't monsters no one was complaining.

Good Friday Appeal

We are just putting the prize lists together for the Good Friday Appeal Easter Fishing competition as sponsors come on board and hope to have at least the entry forms available by next weekend.

It's with the help of the sponsors that we are able to donate 100 per cent of the entry money to the Good Friday appeal.

Shimano has come on board again and will sponsor all of the Junior and Small Fry categories and several of our long-term sponsors

Victorian Fisheries have come on board also with Women in Recreational Fishing showbags for our lady entrants.

The Westernport Hotel a longtime sponsor is going to be supplying vouchers for every one of our hourly draws over the weekend.

Each year we try and improve on the year before and this year we have taken a huge step thanks to the generous support of MR-S1GN in Leongatha.

While details will be announced over the coming weeks if your boat hull is looking a little dull and could do with a brighten up and you know how to catch tuna or kingfish, this one is for you.

We have more sponsors coming on board daily and will soon be setting up a display in the window of the shop with the entries available soon.

For updates and other information about the weekend keep an eve on our Facebook page or drop into the

Westernport Field and Game **Clay Target Shoot results**

We had 92 shooters attend our annual Westernport vs MCC Clay Target club competition with Westernport falling short by 12 shots.

Congratulations to MCC on the

2 rounds of 38/37 were shot with Robert Passarin and Matt Hall shooting a perfect 25/25.

Sponsor for the event was On Target Products.

Overall scores.

High Gunn, Robert Passarin with a score of 70.

Grade winners: AA Grade: 1st – Bill Zogogiannis (70), 2nd - Jarryd Passarin (68)

and 3rd - Andrew Leech (68). A Grade: 1st - Daniel Fritsch (65), 2nd - Aaron Missen (64) and

3rd - Giovanni Africano (62). B Grade: 1st - Tony Dea (62), 2nd

Mick Braden (55) and 3rd – John Wheeler (51).

C Grade: 1st – Paul Williams

(48), 2nd – Matthew Morgan (48) and 3rd – Sebastian Finocchiaro

Veterans: 1st – Ed Treadwell (65), 2nd - Len Box (60) and 3rd -Tony Power (59).

Ladies: 1st - Anna Wratten (61), 2nd - Sarah Fritsch (58) and 3rd -Brooke Tangey (52).

Juniors: 1st – Jarvis Atkinson (44), 2nd – Joel Passarin (35) and 3rd - Sebastian Africano (24).

Our next shoot is on Sunday, March 20 consisting of 75 targets with nominations commencing at

If this date falls during duck season, the shoot will be cancelled.

Self-nominations will be available through MCMS before the

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

WED 2 MAR THU 3 MAR		IU 3 MAR	FRI 4 MAR		SAT 5 MAR		SUN 6 MAR		MON 7 MAR		TUE 8 MAR		
HIGH	12:43 am 2.64 m	HIGH	1:54 am 2.71 m	HIGH	2:57 am 2.81 m	HIGH	3:50 am 2.89 m	HIGH	4:35 am 2.91 m	HIGH	5:14 am 2.89 m	HIGH	5:46 am 2.85 m
LOW	6:13 am 1.27 m	LOW	7:33 am 1.12 m	LOW	8:40 am 0.92 m	LOW	9:34 am 0.72 m	LOW	10:19 am 0.56 m	LOW	11:00 am 0.46 m	LOW	11:37 am 0.40 m
HIGH	12:25 pm 2.38 m	HIGH	1:53 pm 2.48 m	HIGH	3:08 pm 2.64 m	HIGH	4:09 pm 2.78 m	HIGH	5:00 pm 2.88 m	HIGH	5:45 pm 2.92 m	HIGH	6:24 pm 2.92 m
LOW	6:34 pm 0.64 m	LOW	7:51 pm 0.63 m	LOW	8:56 pm 0.61 m	LOW	9:50 pm 0.61 m	LOW	10:38 pm 0.65 m	LOW	11:20 pm 0.72 m	LOW	11:58 pm 0.79 m

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

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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Tate Russell in action at the Victorian Longboard Titles at Cape Woolamai on the weekend, where he took out first place in the Junior Logger and Longboard. Photo: Tommy Williams, Surfing Victoria.



Jacquie Chambers came third in the Women's Open Logger and first in the Over 50 Women Logger event. Photo: Tommy Williams, Surfing

ongboard glory for islanders

Island surfers young and old fared well in the weekend's Victorian Longboard Titles held at Cape Woolamai on the weekend

Top local competitors included Jacquie Chambers taking out third in the Women's Open Logger and first in the Over 50 Women Logger, and Niamh Moore who was third in the Women' Open Longboard final and won the Under 18 Girls

in the Junior Logger and Longboard and Natalie van der Heyden won the Over 40 Women's Longboard.

Former Victorian Champions Bea Conroy (Pt Lonsdale) and Tas Dunton (Mornington Peninsula) took out the opening round of the Victorian Longboard Titles.

Conroy, who is the reigning Vic-

unstoppable throughout the event in the shifting three-foot waves at Cape Woolamai taking out both the Longboard and Logger divi-

On the Men's side of the draw, it was former Junior Longboard at home on the open beaches of com/surfingvictoria

Tate Russell took out the top spot torian Open Women's Longboard Cape Woolamai, while in the Open the Junior Logger and Long- and Logger Champion, looked Men Logger division, it was former Australian Champion Ben Consi-

dine who was unstoppable.

Round 2 will be held at Point Impossible on May 21 and 22 and entries now open via www.surfingvic.com/events

Full results from Phillip Island Champion Tas Dunton who looked are available at www.liveheats.



Niamh Moore (left) won the Under 18 Girls, ahead of Cookie Robinson and Charlotte Kerrison, and came third in the Women's Open Longboard final. Photo: Tommy Williams, Surfing Victoria.



Natalie van der Heyden won the Over 50 Women's Longboard. while Andrew Lidsay came second in the Over 50 Men Longboards. Photo: Tommy Williams, Surfing Victoria.

Surfing the economic benefit\$

Bass Coast Shire Council said the benefits of hosting the Phillip Island Pro extends beyond the surfing community.

The event has been held annually on Phillip Island since 2017 and was most recently Victoria to secure the Phillip Island Pro for staged at Cape Woolamai from February 10 another three years, until at least 2024. to 13.

Council said the estimated economic benefit of the 2019 Phillip Island was \$217,300 over the four days of the event and this year around 2000 spectators attended over the four-day event.

Council has been a major sponsor and presenting partner of the event since its inception, and in November 2021 entered into a partnership agreement with Surfing

Whelan, said Council is proud of its long- awareness of how our local businesses standing partnership with the event

"We are delighted to be the major sponsor endar" and presenting partner of an iconic event for our region," Cr Whelan said.

"For this year's event, Newhaven and Cape Woolamai businesses were able to offer competitors and event staff gift vouchers to use at local businesses, as part of the Phillip Island Pro QS1000 event voucher program, which was funded by the state government.

Cr Whelan said the vouchers, which were valid until February 26 helped "to boost Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael the economic impact of the event and raise can capitalise on our significant events cal-

> The Phillip Island Pro will return to Cape Woolamai in November.



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