

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

\$1.60 Incl. GST



Rob Newall in the co-pilot seat of the Hercules C130 that arrived from Point Cook last week.

The fuselage/cockpit section of a Lockheed C-130A Hercules is about to become the newest exhibit at Phillip Island's National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

It arrived on the back of a large semi-trailer from Point Cook, providing a spectacular sight for fellow travellers down the highway as it made its way to Phillip Island last Tuesday.

The aircraft – A97-214 – from which it was retrieved, enjoyed a long service career, that included supporting RAAF forces in Thailand and Vietnam, as well as providing relief to Darwin following Cyclone Tracey back in 1984.

Speaking last week, General Manager at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Braxton Laine said the forward fuselage/cockpit section of the plane will now be restored, and placed on display at the Museum.

He said unfortunately, the entire aircraft, which was stored at the RAAF Base in Laverton for 10 years before being sent to the RAAF Museum at Point Cook, was badly corroded – and beyond sensible economical and practical repair.

“It could not be preserved in its entirety.”

“However, the aircraft hasn’t been lost completely as the Air Force was able to preserve its forward fuselage/cockpit section.”

Mr Laine said the restoration will be carried out in stages over the next 18 months.

There is a team of 40 volunteers who will be involved in the project, who are looking forward to the museum’s latest project.

“They are already planning the work, which will start in a couple of weeks,” he said.

The first stage of the operation is installing the fuselage in the current museum building, so visitors can have access and view it while work is underway.

Stage two will involve the development of an interactive display and the provision of a flight simulator so visitors can interact and enjoy a hands on experience of piloting a Hercules plane.



This fuselage/cockpit section of a Lockheed C130A Hercules created a great deal of interest as it was transported down the highway from Point Cook to its destination on Phillip Island last week. After a long and slow trip, it was safely delivered to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Newhaven, where restoration work will soon get underway.

“Once restorations works are completed, it is our intention that visitors will be able to walk up the stairs and

sit in the cockpit and gain an understanding of how big these planes are, and how they operated.

“We want to engage a far broader audience, and this is our first dabble with entering a space which seeks to engage youth in a flight simulator.”

Mr Laine said the Air Force’s donation of the forward fuselage/cockpit section to the NVVM fittingly reflects A97-214’s service during the Vietnam War.

“The NVVM is a proper and appropriate custodian for A97-214, to honour the service of both the aircraft and the 60,000 Australians who served during the Vietnam War,” he commented.

He has also extended a special thank you to the RAAF for donating it and IAS Fine Art Logistics who financed the move from Point Cook through a donation covering the cost of the move by Hi-Haul transport and Gows cranes.

The aircraft commenced service back in 1959. It was operated by No. 36 Squadron, part of the RAAF’s Transport Wing, and participated in many notable RAAF operations.

A97-214 was withdrawn from service in 1978.

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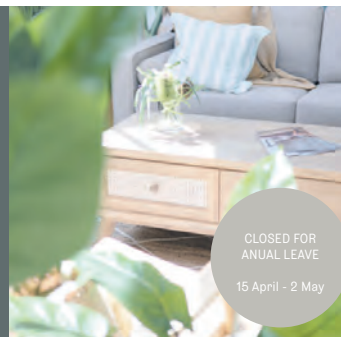
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15 21	14 20	14 21	14 21	13 22	14 19	14 20

Basham “controlling, dominating, dismissive” in couples counselling

WARNING: This story contains details that will be distressing to some readers.

The Supreme Court trial for alleged murderer Adrian Basham has resumed following a delay of seven days after a jury member tested positive for Covid.

Last week Justice Lesley Taylor informed the jury of 12 – and two alternates – that the forewoman had developed symptoms, with a positive rapid antigen test.

Yesterday (Tuesday) Justice Taylor said the trial could resume because “as far as we’re aware everyone is well”.

Adrian James Basham is pleading not guilty to the murder of the mother of their three children, Samantha Fraser, 38, at her Cowes garage on July 23, 2018.

Phillip Island psychologist Terence Melvin gave evidence on Tuesday morning that Ms Fraser said her estranged husband had told her, “if I can’t have you no one will”.

Mr Melvin provided both couples counselling sessions for Ms Fraser and Mr Basham, as well as individual consulting.

When asked by counsel for the prosecution Lachlan Cameron what his observations were of the interaction between Mr Basham and Ms Fraser, Mr Melvin said he was “controlling of the conversation”.

“He tended to dominate and talk over Sa-

mantha,” Mr Melvin said.

“I noted his tendency to use put downs and was dismissive of her opinion.”

Mr Melvin said Mr Basham believed the primary blame for the relationship breakdown lay with Ms Fraser.

“It struck me early on Adrian took very little responsibility for his behaviour or contribution for what was happening in the relationship. I heard lots of blaming language from him,” Mr Melvin said.

He added Mr Basham felt Ms Fraser was “not attentive to his needs” and “he felt he wasn’t being heard”.

Mr Melvin said the “trajectory” of Ms Fraser’s mental health moved from initial distress and depression and later sessions she was “much clearer and herself”.

“For her, the children were the most significant thing in her life and I felt reassured she was not suicidal.”

Mr Melvin noted Mr Basham was “particularly highly strung and quite tense in sessions” and he urged him to continue individual counselling. Mr Melvin left two follow-up messages, but Mr Basham never returned those calls or attended a further session.

Counsel for the accused Ashley Halphen asked Mr Melvin whether a person’s emotional state could change in a short period of time, to which Mr Melvin agreed.

Guns

A Bass Coast Health social worker who was seeing Ms Fraser as a client gave evidence the last discussion they had on July 20, 2018, Ms Fraser said she felt unsafe and was more vigilant because Mr Basham had been sighted on Phillip Island, but Ms Fraser confirmed another counselling session on July 23.

The social worker said Ms Fraser reported harassing phone calls and texts from her estranged husband, including one that said, “you never know when someone will break into your house and do you harm”.

She added at one point in early 2017 Ms Fraser reported Mr Basham’s guns were being stored by his father in a safe “unknown” to Mr Basham.

A Newhaven Chinese medicine practitioner gave evidence she treated Ms Fraser between 2013 and June 2018. The practitioner said in 2016 she became aware of Ms Fraser’s “husband wife problems”, explaining Ms Fraser felt her husband was “aggressive”.

“She felt low in confidence, on the verge of a panic attack and was not able to eat well and experienced tightness in the chest preventing her from breathing well,” the practitioner said, adding her client was generally “discrete and well contained”.

The practitioner said in contrast by June 2018 at her last consultation, Ms Fraser was “stronger and stronger and on that occasion, she was joyous”.

Senior Constable Andy Lone, who worked at San Remo police station in 2017, confirmed Ms Fraser had sought an intervention order against Mr Basham. Later Mr Basham had sought an IVO against Ms Fraser and her mother Janine.

A Phillip Island locksmith gave evidence he changed locks at Ms Fraser’s Seagrove Way home in late 2017, providing four matching keys, while he also recoded an alarm system.

A friend of Ms Fraser’s told the court that Ms Fraser had never failed to pick up her children from Cowes primary school and on the day of her death she left multiple phone messages on Ms Fraser’s phone after she didn’t appear at school pick-up.

The court case continues.

R v Adrian Basham is being held in court 11 and all media have been requested to view proceedings online, because of Covid restrictions. Mr Basham cannot be viewed online.

Mr Basham is also facing another set of charges which cannot be reported due a suppression order.

If you or anyone you know needs support, contact the National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service on 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732).

For updates see: pisra.com.au



This photo was taken in the early 1990s of a haybaler that – as legend has it – catapulted off the San Remo cliff crashing to the rocks below. Now a local natural history buff would like to speak to anyone who can explain how it got there.

Hit the hay

The Punchbowl in San Remo is renowned for its spectacular views, coastal walk and more tragically for lethal rock fishing.

But according to old time locals, the rocks near the end of Punchbowl Road are notorious for a quirk of history: a 40-year-old agricultural accident.

According to Phillip Island’s Mike Cleeland there is an old farming relic that fell from the cliff in the 1980s and smashed onto the rocks below.

“The story – as I understand it – is the machine was baling hay in the paddock above, and somehow became disconnected from the tractor and rolled downhill and over the edge, then landing in a heap at the bottom of the cliff,” Mike says.

“Apparently there were a couple of fishermen sitting there having their lunch about 20 minutes before the haybaler arrived on the scene.”

“I can’t remember how I heard the story but I can’t think of a reason to doubt it, as I’m sure the haybaler didn’t float in there under its own steam.”

Mike – the education officer at Bunurong Coast Education – knows these rocks well, having searched them for decades for dinosaur fossils.

He found his first fossil around these rocks, which he says are known as the Haybaler, “the machine that gave its name to the fossil locality”.

Mike says his sister took this photo in the early 1990s and he’d like more information from any long-term locals who remember the incident.

“I know it looks like some kind of prehistoric lobster, but believe me it’s really a haybaler,” says Mike.

“There’s almost nothing left of it now. Last time I went there in 2020 there was just a chunk of the engine block showing. The rest seems to have rusted away as a result of exposure to seawater.”

Mike says the baler was an old-fashioned one that produced square bales.

“If I ever get back there I’ll take a picture of what’s left of it, but it’s down the bottom of a big cliff at a pretty remote site.”

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Vaccination rate slows as Covid cases rise

Bass Coast Health is urging people not to become complacent about Covid.

Covid cases are rising in the community as the more contagious BA.2 subvariant spreads quickly throughout Victoria and according to Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child, it's never been more important to be vaccinated.

"Bass Coast residents are at significant risk of contracting the new contagious subvariant of Covid, with up-to-date vaccination rates much less than when two doses were mandatory," she said.

"Three doses of a Covid vaccine is now considered to give the best protection against the virus, and a fourth dose is now highly recommended for aged care residents, people living in disability accommodation, and other vulnerable groups also considered to be most at risk of serious illness."

People recommended to receive the fourth dose include:

- adults aged 65 years and older
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 50, and
- people aged 16 years and older who are severely immunocompromised.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends anyone in the vulnerable groups receive their COVID-19 Winter dose four months after their initial booster dose.

Rates lagging

Third dose numbers across the shire are lagging well behind the 95+ per cent of the second dose.

Rhyll currently has the highest uptake, with 85 – 90 per cent of residents having already received their third dose.

The remaining areas of Phillip Island are sitting between 65 and 80 per cent third dose rate, with the 3922 postcode (Cowes and surrounds, including Ventnor, Summerlands, Smiths Beach and Silverleaves) on



Third dose numbers across the shire are lagging well behind the 95+ per cent of the second dose and BCH is urging people not to be complacent and book in for their vaccination. Travis Hockley was recently vaccinated by Bass Coast Health Immunisation Nurse Mary Sylvester at Bass Valley Children's Centre.

65 – 70 per cent and 3925 (San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai, Surf Beach) on 75 – 80 per cent.

The lowest uptake in Bass Coast is in the 3991 postcode, which includes Bass and Coronet Bay, currently sitting around 50 per cent.

"We know there are still too many people in the Bass Coast Shire who are yet to receive a third dose or booster," said Ms Child.

"There is also low uptake of a vaccination among 5-11-year-olds in the Bass Coast Shire.

"According to the Department of Health, up to 45 per cent of Wonthaggi children aged 5-11 had received a first dose and up to 15 per cent a second dose. In Inverloch, up to 60 per

cent had had a first dose and up to 20 per cent a second.

"In the San Remo postcode, up to 70 per cent had received a first dose and up to 25 per cent a second. In Cowes, up to 55 per cent had got their first dose and up to 25 per cent a second.

"In Bass and Coronet Bay, up to 60 per cent had received a first dose and up to 15 per cent a second."

Ms Child said these rates are too low, and the complacency is worrying.

"Our community held off Covid spread pretty well in the past few waves because we had high vaccination rates.

"With low booster rates we are once again very vulnerable and we

are seeing this in the increase in the number of cases locally.

"Vaccination is the best protection we can give ourselves against COVID-19. We are already starting to see the rising numbers of the Omicron subvariant BA.2 in our Emergency Department and in our inpatient beds, and we have many more people isolating at home with Covid who need support."

Ms Child said in addition to reducing transmission, COVID-19 vaccines are also highly effective at preventing severe disease and death.

According to the Victorian Department of Health, a COVID-19 case is far more likely to be admitted to hospital or ICU if they are unvaccinated,

and far less likely to be admitted if they have received three doses.

According to state figures, the majority of people who have died with COVID-19 have been partially or unvaccinated, with 53 per cent of deaths occurring in unvaccinated people compared to 1.7 per cent who had received three doses of vaccine.

"Our vaccination rates in our community are not as good as they should be and many people are coming to the six month point when their vaccine efficacy will wane," Ms Child said.

"This will mean they are not protected. It's more important than ever for everyone to get their third dose and for vulnerable people, to get their fourth—to protect themselves, their community, and their loved ones.

"Unfortunately, we know there are still some people who have chosen to have no vaccination. These people are taking a very high risk.

"It is not too late for unvaccinated to get their first and second dose—in fact, it may actually save their life!"

Bass Coast Health is holding additional outreach clinics to make it easier for people to get a Covid vaccination.

"We recently held outreach vaccination clinics at Cowes, Newhaven College and San Remo, in addition to our regular clinic at the Wonthaggi Town Hall," Ms Child said.

"These clinics were successful, with a total of more than 100 people vaccinated at two clinics at Cowes, 12 at Dalyston, 31 at Newhaven College and 48 at San Remo."

To make an appointment at the Community Vaccination Clinic at the Wonthaggi Town Hall, call the COVID-19 Hot line on 1800 675 398 or book online at portal.cvms.vic.gov.au.

Vaccinations can also be booked through your local GP or pharmacy via covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/.

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Right now, Victoria Police are out in force catching drivers doing the wrong thing. Catching these drivers helps protect them from harming themselves and other road users. Please drive safely, for everyone.

TAC **VICTORIA** State Government

Cases continue to climb

Local cases are back to their highest level since February, with the shire now recording 355 active cases.

Case numbers have tripled in the past three weeks.

Given the relaxed rules around testing and isolating, health officials say it's likely that there are many more cases undetected in the community.

With winter approaching, people are being urged to do all they can to protect themselves.

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child said the organisation was preparing for a further surge in cases and hospitalisation, which are likely to hit in mid to late April.

"Whilst we are very ready to treat Covid patients, and our usual patients, and keep them all separated and safe, we need the community to help."

"Like every industry, we continue to be short staffed, and what we need to do is prevent people from getting sick whenever we can," Ms Child said.

"Every wave is different, and

what we know about this BA.2 variant is that this variant is said to be 50-70 per cent more infectious, and the peak is going to land right in the middle of school holidays and Easter where our community is busier and co-mingling more."

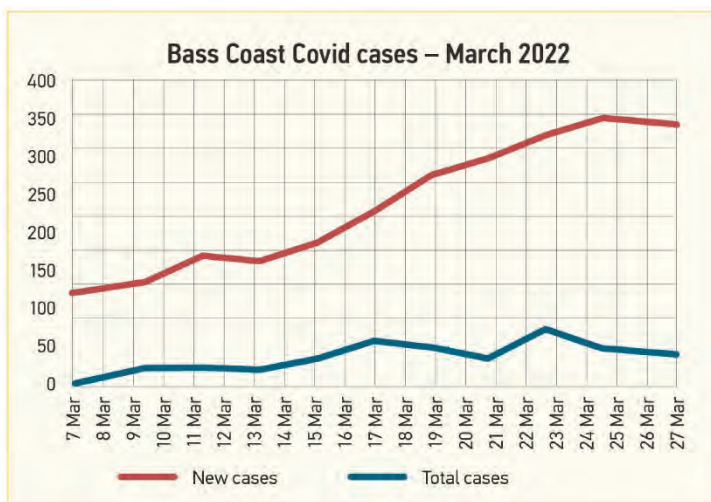
Ms Child said although the numbers vary day by day, it was now "routine" to have several Covid patients in the emergency department and inpatient areas every day.

"We have in excess of 40 people being cared for at home by our Hospital in the Home Covid Pathway team, on the moderate (higher monitoring level) pathway."

She said the next few weeks would see health services stretched.

"We understand how important it is for the broader community to get back to 'Covid normal', so we have already begun to introduce safeguards to keep ourselves and our patients safe."

There were things everyone could do to help slow the spread of the virus, she said.



Local Covid cases are at their highest level since February and have tripled since the start of the month. Cases were at 355 as of Monday, March 28.

"Good ventilation, meeting outdoors, avoiding crowds, restricting visitors and movement, maintaining distance, and most importantly, wearing a N95 mask, are just some of the things we can all do to prevent the spread."

"Importantly, we ask people to please not ignore symptoms, and get tested. Testing and isolation remain key to stopping transmission to vulnerable people."

A rapid antigen collection service is available for eligible people

from the Health Hub in Cowes and is currently operating from 9.30am – 11.30am Mondays and Thursdays.

The drive through clinic at Watt Street in Wonthaggi is currently open 9am – 1pm every day except Sunday.

These times are subject to change and the latest hours are available on the BCH Facebook page and website: www.covid-basscoasthealth.org.au/covid-19updates.



A slithery snarl of snakes

Avert your eyes if you aren't the David Attenborough type with a love of the natural world.

Ventnor's Nigel Hungerford was walking the path between Berrys Beach and Pyramid Rock last week when he came across this tangle of serpents.

"Mating copperheads perhaps," suggested Nigel, although at times it looked like the wriggling creatures were making war not love.

Either way they were more interested in each other than him, which is the best approach to any snake.

Nature Parks confident no job losses

Phillip Island Nature Parks is confident more than 20 catering staff won't lose their jobs, after the attraction's catering company ended its contract.

Caterers Delaware North, who provided food and beverage services at Nature Parks sites for about five years, will finish services mid-year, with an expression of interest (EoI) process closing this month.

PINP spokeswoman Nicole Hill said the EoI was advertised locally and nationally and received wide interest.

"The interview process will now begin with

the aim to appoint new caterers by mid-year," Nicole said.

"Most of the current food and beverage staff live locally to the island and are a skilled team of more than 20 people, who we think any new caterer would want to employ."

She said Nature Parks had contacted local hospitality owners to submit an EoI.

"In the meantime, we'll continue providing our food and beverage offering across the Nature Parks."

"Our key focus is ensuring minimal impacts on our business continuity, a smooth transi-

tion, and retaining great people."

PINP board chair Kevin Love said Delaware North had implemented many improvements, especially the elimination of single use plastics.

"The return of international visitors in the coming months will create opportunities for business growth at the Nature Parks and we look forward to finding the right partner to grow with us," he said.

"The Nature Parks is working with Delaware North to ensure the orderly transition of the food and beverage business including staffing arrangements."

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Tally of Cowes parking fines begins

More than 870 parking infringements were issued to drivers in Cowes in December and January.

At the March Bass Coast Shire council meeting Gay Jolly asked how many parking infringement notices were issued by officers in Cowes from December 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022.

Shire CEO Ali Wastie said 871 infringements were issued in Cowes in peak season.

The question comes ahead of the rollout of parking sensors in about 500 car parks in Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street, The Esplanade and the Cowes Transit Centre, due before Easter.

Earlier this year the shire awarded the \$343,000 tender to Australian Parking and Revenue Control Pty Ltd.

Locals have continued to voice their opposition to the rollout.

On the shire's Facebook page, one ratepayer commented the "smart" system would "notify parking inspectors of overstayers so you can issue more fines".

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



Council reveals more than 870 parking infringements were issues in December and January in Cowes, ahead of the roll out of parking sensors in Thompson Avenue, The Esplanade, Chapel Street and the Transit Centre.

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

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.

Last 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".

Few official complaints about red bins

A small fraction of calls to Bass Coast Shire's waste services team in summer was about frustration with fortnightly red bin kerbside collection.

According to CEO Ali Wastie, out of the 744 customer requests lodged by the public between December 1, 2021 and February 28, 2022 a mere nine "reported dissatisfaction with Council's fortnightly kerbside service".

Cowes resident and council watchdog Peter McMahon asked how many complaints were received over the holidays regarding the red bin problem at the March council meeting.

This follows a last ditch bid to re-

solve Phillip Island and San Remo's "festering" annual holiday season waste problem, when Bass Coast Shire councillor Ronnie Bauer in December narrowly lost a bin vote.

Cr Bauer proposed residents shire-wide could upsize for free their 120lt red bin to a 240lt red bin – which normally costs \$59.

In September, in a 5-4 vote, Cr Bauer lost a motion calling for the red, yellow and green bins to be collected weekly from Boxing Day 2022 to the last Friday in January annually.

Mr McMahon also asked if Ms Wastie could provide an update on

the process of bin lid uniformity with other councils, which includes the soon to be rolled out purple lid for glass recycling.

Ms Wastie explained Bass Coast bin lid colours were in line with the incoming statewide standards and would not need to be changed.

She said according to the Local Government Waste Services Report 2019-20, by Sustainability Victoria, 53 Victorian councils provided a three-bin system, while a further four councils used a four-bin system, introducing a separate kerbside collection of glass.



The Nature Parks is hosting a community drop-in session on Saturday, April 2 at 10am at the Forrest Caves car park to provide information about the upgrades to the beach access stairs, due to start in May.

Forrest Caves stairs upgrade

Phillip Island Nature Parks is carrying out upgrades to strengthen the staircase to Forrest Caves beach in coming months, in response to ongoing coastal erosion.

The works will involve large machinery on the beach that will install 10 screw piles to stabilise the staircase.

The works are weather dependent and are anticipated to occur between mid-May to the end of June. Updates will be provided when the exact dates are known.

The staircase to Forrest Caves beach from the main car park will be closed for approximately two weeks while the works are occurring. All access to the beach and Forrest Caves during this period will be via the Bruce Avenue access track.

Nature Parks Projects and Planning Manager Jarvis Weston said erosion had impacted the staircase footings and the works were important to ensure ongoing safe access.

"These vital works will stabilise

and strengthen the staircase structure to ensure ongoing safe access to Forrest Caves so the local community and visitors can continue to enjoy this beautiful beach," Jarvis said.

The works have been timed to occur out of Short-tailed Shearwater and Hooded Plover breeding seasons and impacts to vegetation will be minimised through using an existing track to the beach.

Impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage will be avoided by following the conditions of a Cultural Heritage Permit issued by the Bunurong Land Council.

Phillip Island Nature Parks said it would like to thank the community and visitors for their patience while it completes these important works.

The Nature Parks is hosting a community drop-in session on Saturday, April 2 at 10am at the Forrest Caves car park to provide the community with the opportunity to seek further information.





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THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022 5



Advocates for a Phillip Island pool have rejected a council study which said there was no urgent need for a new indoor stadium. Phillip Island Football Netball club president Chris Ross said the club was “bursting at the seams”, with three netball teams being sent to Cranbourne to play each week.

Sporting clubs “desperately” need facilities

Phillip Island pool advocates have hit back at a Bass Coast Shire study, which found sporting clubs are not in urgent need of new indoor sports stadiums.

As reported on the front page of last week’s Advertiser, the Bass Coast Indoor Stadium Facility feasibility report found while there was “support from local sporting associations and clubs for additional indoor courts on Phillip Island”, the need was not urgent and should be considered in the next five to 10 years.

“The participation data and current demand evidence shows that a new two court facility does not need to be developed by council within the next three to five years,” the report states.

But the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund (PIACF) secretary Peter McMahon said he had statements from several sports groups indicating there was “a need for improved facilities as soon as possible”.

“The report failed to outline some very important wishes of other clubs,” Peter said.

Phillip Island Football Netball Club president Chris Ross has long said their need was urgent.

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

“Our club is absolutely bursting at the seams with players, members and volunteers and have very quickly outgrown our existing facilities. We have more than 700 playing members throughout our football/netball/Auskick and Net Set Go.

“The club desperately needs another playing oval, with lights.”

Chris said an aquatic centre would be an ideal training centre.

“In a sporting hub, our players would be able to take advantage of swimming and weights sessions instead of slugging it out on wet and muddy ovals in the extremely cold winters we are famous for.”

Peter said he was concerned a pool would not be built in Cowes for a decade, despite lobbying for it for 36 years.

The shire is forging ahead with a “two-pool strategy”, at the March council meeting voting to seek \$79.3 million funding from state and federal governments for Phillip Island and Wonthaggi aquatic centres.

Independent candidate backs Cowes aquatic centre

Voices for Monash endorsed independent candidate at the upcoming Federal election, Deb Leonard, says she strongly backs the proposed Phillip Island Aquatic Centre.

Ms Leonard said that if elected, securing Federal funding necessary to proceed with the Aquatic centre will be one of her highest priorities for the area.

“I met with the Mayor and another senior representative of Bass Coast Shire to discuss their advocacy priorities.

“I have indicated to them that one of my main priorities for this area is to secure funding to ensure this project proceeds. The current representative has indicated support, but despite this project being an issue for over a decade, we are yet to see any funding commitments from the current Federal government.”

Ms Leonard said it was time for this area to get its fair share of funding, to “support a truly worthwhile community project”.

“In such a populated community and being such a popular tourist destination, it is ridiculous that Phillip Island does not have an aquatic centre.”

She said the Council had advised if funding is secured, the pool could be built within 12 months.

“If I’m elected, it will be my aim for the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre to be constructed before the end my first term.”

Ms Leonard also voiced support for the latest proposal by the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Inc (PIACF), despite council voting at its March meeting to support the current Aquatic strategy, which doesn’t include the PIACF suggestions.

“PIACF has put together a comprehensive report on how to fund an Aquatic Centre that



Deb Leonard, the Voices for Monash endorsed independent candidate, at the site of the proposed Phillip Island Aquatic Centre. Ms Leonard said if elected, securing the necessary Federal funding for the project will be one of her highest priorities.

would enhance the tourism market and present a multitude of opportunities for the community,” Ms Leonard said.

“Not only would the proposal provide a much-needed Aquatic centre, but also provide additional facilities for sporting clubs and community groups that are currently bursting at the seams with the influx of new residents to the area.

“The business case for provision of an Aquatics centre is obvious,” Ms Leonard said.

Ms Leonard reiterated that she supported the Council’s two pool strategy, and recognised the need for the upgrade to the Wonthaggi pool.

“With the right strategy, and an independent voice in parliament to draw attention to the needs of our electorate, this is achievable.

“The Aquatics Centre needs to be funded in this round of election promises, otherwise it is likely to be another 10 years before we see any progress.”

Ms Leonard is campaigning on a platform of community, accountability and climate action. She has pledged to listen

to the community and respond to the issues that are most important to them.

She said she hopes that, as an Independent, she will be able to bring some attention and funding to the area for much needed infrastructure such as this.

Earlier this month, when asked about the PIACF proposal, current Federal member for Monash, Russell Broadbent said he supported any proposal that reduced power use and costs and added in renewable energy.

“The Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund has come up with innovative ideas that might enhance government support, so it’s not just the shire paying for it for ever,” he said, telling the Advertiser all levels of government looked more favourably on major projects that run at a profit.

Labor’s candidate for Monash, Jessica O’Donnell has also met with Bass Coast Shire Council to discuss its priorities for the upcoming election, including the aquatics campaign.

Sand mine tree removal cleared

An investigation into a Grantville sandmining company has cleared them of wrongdoing following the removal of hundreds of mature trees.

Last December Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie said the Barro Group would be investigated by the Victorian mining industry regulator after two large strips of forest – about 5ha – on a proposed sand mining site within the Grantville forest was removed.

Neil Rankine asked a follow up question at this month’s council meeting, question-

ing whether the investigation was complete and any action had been taken.

Ms Wastie responded that the vegetation removal was considered to be exempt from the need of a planning permit.

“The vegetation removal was undertaken for fire prevention purposes and an exemption under the planning scheme is afforded to the land owner to undertake these works,” Ms Wastie said.

In 2020 State Planning Minister Richard Wynne used his powers to override the shire and call in plans by another

miner, Dandy Premix, to expand their mine, convening a planning panel last March to advise on the application.

There has been no indication when Mr Wynne will make a decision.

If successful Dandy’s open cut mine will operate for up to 40 years and remove the equivalent of eight MCGs worth of vegetation.

It would also see 120 trucks every day use the Bass Highway using new traffic lights, which residents say adds up to about four hours of stoppage on the highway.

Council Update



Proposed Lease - Kilcunda Community Hall

At the Meeting held on Wednesday, 16 February 2022, Council resolved to commence statutory procedures to lease the Kilcunda Community Hall, situated on part of the Kilcunda Community Purposes Reserve at 3513-3515 Bass Highway Kilcunda, to Kilcunda Community Association Inc (Incorporation No. 0019824P) for a period of 20 years.

Council hereby gives public notice of its intention to lease the property pursuant to Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council’s Community Engagement Policy.

Interested persons are invited to make a written submission to Council. Submissions on this lease proposal will be considered by Council before a decision on leasing is made. Submissions must be received by Saturday, 30 April 2022 and should be addressed to Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi, 3995; delivered to the Council office at 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi; or emailed to basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Any person making a submission and requesting to be heard in support of their written submission is entitled to appear in person at the Council meeting, or may be represented by a person acting on their behalf, before the Meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday, 15 June 2022.

After considering all submissions, Council will decide whether or not to lease the land for the stated purposes.

Enquiries: Vicki Tuchtan on (03) 5671 2211 or email vicki.tuchtan@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | DX 34903 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

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CEO spending powers approved

Bass Coast Shire CEO's controversial \$1 million spending limit has again been given the green light by councillors.

The limit – which was increased from \$250,000 in June 2020 – means Ali Wastie can singlehandedly spend \$1 million on shire projects, without the need to seek councillors' approval.

At that time shire officers said the CEO procurement policy needed to be increased to "streamline the delivery of a record capital works program" in light of Covid.

Last December several councillors said while they had "full confidence" in Ms Wastie, they believed spending powers needed to be kept in check and agreed to delay a vote on the policy.

Cr Les Larke was the first to question the \$1 million limit last year.

"Levels of delegation are out of kilter and should be reined in significantly," Cr Larke said at the time.

Cr Ronnie Bauer supported Cr Larke saying \$1 million was "a lot of money that can be approved unilaterally" and Cr Rochelle Halstead said she too had concerns about the CEO's financial delegating powers, saying "council needs to have a look at it and reduce those delegations".

Community groups also were concerned with Ms Wastie's spending powers, especially after the \$350,000 upcoming rollout of parking sensors in Cowes was approved with no community consultation.

Cowes resident Peter McMahon said consultation was sidestepped because Ms Wastie "used her discretionary power and established a tender and announced the winner".

Approval

However, at the March council meeting, councillors voted to maintain the limit of up to \$1 million (and within the lesser of 20 per cent or \$100,000 of the budget allocation).

"More than one person will be involved in, and responsible for, each transaction with appropriate authorisation obtained and docu-



Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie's controversial \$1 million spending limit has again been given the green light by councillors.

mented," shire officers explained.

Cr Ronnie Bauer said his concerns had been allayed.

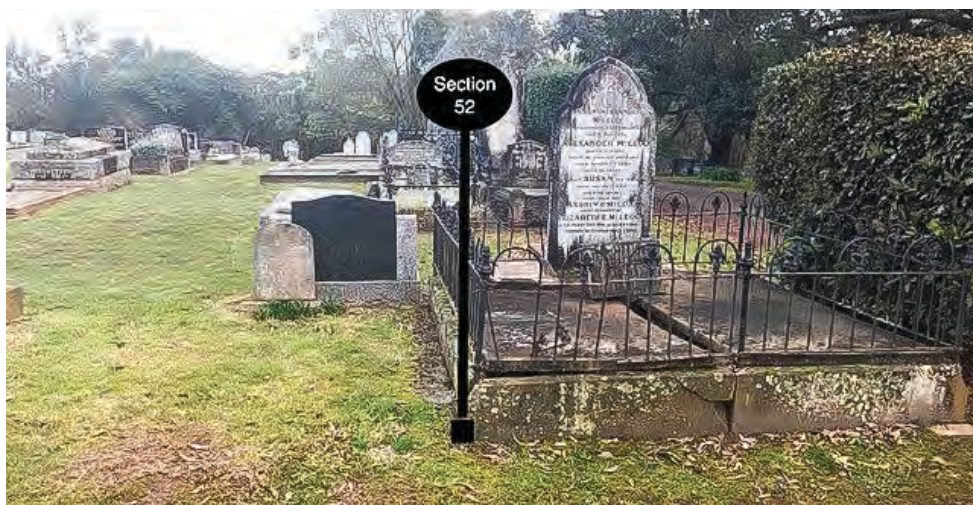
"I have had discussions with council officers on this and I was one of those who last time had reservations," Cr Bauer said.

"But since those discussions with the general manager I'm now comfortable with the policy and will support it."

Cr Brett Tessari said the policy had been "covered off" by the auditor's committee and "looked at by all different angles".

"That is enough for me," he said.

Last year a comparison against other shires showed Wellington's limit was \$400,000, Latrobe City Council was \$500,000, Baw Baw \$750,000 and Yarra Ranges Council \$1 million.



A mock up of the new section signage at the Phillip Island Cemetery. Six new signs will be installed, thanks to funding from the Federal government and Rotary.

Good signs for cemetery

The Phillip Island Cemetery Trust has received a grant from the Federal government for a signage project.

Last week, it was announced the Trust received \$3000 from the Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism (CHART) program.

With additional funds from Rotary, six section signs will be installed, to help visitors locate gravesites.

Pamela Rothfield, Secretary of the Phillip Island Cemetery said they were delighted to receive the funding.

"Whilst visitors are able to pinpoint graves' locations of their ancestors and loved ones on the Trust's website under the 'Deceased Search' function, we find that when visitors arrive at the cemetery there is a further need for way finding," Pamela said.

"Armed with the information gained on the website, these section signs will make the locating of graves just so much easier."

Each sign costs \$750 and the CHART grant combined with a further grant from the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo will allow six of the signs to be installed.

"There are 40 heritage sections within the cemetery – so this is a long-term project, and step by step we will achieve our goals," Pamela said.

"The cemetery is now over 150 years old and

has numerous historic graves dating back to 1870.

"It attracts many visitors interested in the history of the Island. The cemetery is volunteer-run and the Trust is always on the lookout for ways of improving the facilities

"We have a wonderful group of volunteers who take great pride and ownership of the grounds – which is why we are recognised as one of the most beautiful rural cemeteries in Victoria."

The six signs are the start of a long term project and Pamela said the Trust intended to install new signs each year until the project is completed.

Federal Member for Monash, Russell Broadbent said the funding flowing from the CHART program will assist regional communities and economies to re-emerge from the pandemic.

"Offering appealing cultural tourism experiences in our regional communities is more important than ever following two years of disruption," Mr Broadbent said.

Further funding is available under the program, with applications open until April 29.

"I encourage arts, cultural and heritage organisations in Monash to apply for a CHART program grant today, which will support rebuilding local economies and preserve Australia's cultural heritage in regional areas."



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More than 40 free events and activities are on offer at local libraries these school holidays, including drumming workshops, crafts, zombies and Easter fun.

Meet up at the library these school holidays

By Myli – My Community Library

There's a festival of more than 40 free events and programs at your local library these school holidays. Join in t-shirt designing, dragon egg making, movies, crafts, play Minecraft and Dungeons and Dragons, join the zombie apocalypse and discover the wonderful world of gems – and that really is just the beginning.

The 2022 Meetup festival of events for young people is being held in the first week of the Term 1 school holidays. Meetup is a festival of fun and unique events for teens and young adults hosted by Myli – My Community Library across Bass Coast, Baw Baw and South Gippsland Shires.

Local events include Eggscellent Easter Craft on Tuesday, April 12 10am – 12pm at St John's Uniting Church, and an Easter Hunt at 10am on Thursday, April 14 at Erehwon Point Park.

On Wednesday, April 13 at 11.30am, join in the Monster Mania at San Remo Library or from 10am – 12pm on Tuesday, April 19 at St John's Uniting Church or at 11.30am.

Enjoy Easter Storytime at San Remo Library on Thursday, April 14 from 10.30am or Claymation Workshops at 2pm on April 19 and 20.

There's more fun and excitement at libraries across the region.

Harness your imagination and explore a fantastic world of adventure with Dungeons and Dragons on Saturday, April 9 at Wonthaggi at 10am and Wednesday, April 13 at Warragul at 1pm.

Get creative with an introduction to Aerosol Art workshop with State of the Art Murals on Monday, April 11 and at Drouin at 9.30am and

1.30pm.

Play Minecraft side by side with friends on Monday, April 11 at Warragul at 4pm.

Join an African drumming workshop with master drummer Abli for a hands-on, fun-filled interactive experience on Monday, April 11 at Foster at 11am and Leongatha at 4pm.

Learn to Draw Manga with Kenny Chan on Tuesday, April 12 at Trafalgar at 11am and Warragul at 2pm.

Join a Playstation and Xbox Party on Tuesday, April 12 at Drouin 3pm and 4pm.

Transform yourself into a ZOMBIE with latex, face paint, fake blood splatters and join the Zombie Apocalypse on Wednesday, April 13 at Mirboo North at 11am and Korumburra at 3pm.

Try the Bollywood Jai Ho! Dance Workshops on Thursday, April 14 at Wonthaggi at 11.30am and Inverloch at 2.30pm.

And there's so much more school holiday fun to be had including Easter activities, a wide range of craft, stop motion workshop and movies.

Don't forget to explore all the free resources available at Myli Libraries:

- Borrow outdoor equipment including surfboards, skateboards and frisbees
- Borrow e-audiobooks and e-books
- Borrow digital magazines including Total Girl, K-Zone, National Geographic, Minecraft World and Animal Tales
- Learn to code with Busy Code and Coderz
- Get creative with CreativeBug online video craft tutorials

For more information including event bookings please visit myli.org.au or call 1800 HI MYLI (1800 44 6954).

/ Sponsored Article /

Phillip Island set to host Surfing Teams Challenge

It's back! The surf is set for Phillip Island National Surfing Reserve's seventh annual Surfing Teams Challenge to be held at Cape Woolamai on Saturday, April 2.

The competition with its unique approach was the brainchild of Geoff Owens, long-time Island surfer and one of the founding members of the Phillip Island National Surfing Reserve Working Group.

The contest is a favourite on the annual surfing calendar due to its unique format which showcases different surfing styles and ages and allows everyone to take part in the exciting competition.

This year's event is set to be a fiercely-fought contest as each team will try to have their name at the top of the six-year honour board. Team Crushers captained by Nick Fostin won the last contest held in 2019 and will be back again to defend their title, along with teams featuring the island's and region's top surfing stars.

The event is scheduled for Cape Woolamai, although the final location will be determined by the swell on the day. One thing is for certain – the Surfing Teams Challenge will take to the waves at one of the four Phillip Island quality beaches that make up Victoria's only National Surfing Reserve.

The Reserve was launched in 2013 by surfing great Layne Beachley and is made up of four sites along Phillip Island's coast: Cape Woolamai, Smiths Beach, Summerland and Cat Bay.

The inaugural competition was held in 2014 and reflects what surfing and the Reserve are all about – fun, family, community and great waves.

Once again, Phillip Island Nature Parks is presenting this popular surfing comp with strong support from Bass Coast Shire Council, Westernport Water, Phillip Island RSL, Newhaven Col-



The Surfing Teams Challenge returns to Cape Woolamai on Saturday, April 2 – a fun day for competitors and spectators as surfers of all ages take to the waves.

lege, Cape Kitchen, Ramada Resort, Rip Curl and Island Surfboards, among others.

With great prize money on offer and awards in each category, there is also a list of other accolades including awards and amazing prizes for best unsponsored surfer, team spirit, best emerging surfer, outstanding performance and highest scoring wave.

"We know it's been a difficult few years and we are thrilled to be able to hold the contest that was planned for 2020 and can now proceed," said Event Organiser, Geoff Owens.

"We are blown away that so many local businesses are supporting this event and helping us celebrate the surfing culture of the Island. These prizes will provide a great boost for the young surfers of tomorrow – which is after all what the National Surfing Reserve is all about."

Along with the surfing action, there will be a Welcome To Country to begin the day and a BBQ along with information and stalls. The pre-

sensation at Phillip Island Boardriders Club (from 5pm) is also a lot of fun with the bar open, complimentary snacks and the all-important presentations including the Dave Fincher Memorial trophy.

See you there! Teams can sign up via Trybooking www.trybooking.com/events/landing/874198.

Live updates throughout the day, follow us on Facebook @PhillipIslandNSR, Instagram (PhillipIslandNSR) and Twitter (NSR_PI) or call Geoff Owens, Event Organiser, on 0418 521 425.

Surfing Teams Challenge Honour Board:

The following teams have their names on the Dave Fincher Memorial Trophy:

- 2014 – Pirates Blue Captained by John Mason
- 2015 – Island Surfboards Captained by Sandy Ryan
- 2016 – Wave Pinchers Captained by Walter Hiatt
- 2017 – Archysurf Captained by Luke Archibald
- 2018 – Island Surfboards Captained by Sandy Ryan
- 2019 – Team Crushers Captained by Nick Fostin

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Lions roar for help

The San Remo/Newhaven Lions Club needs your support.

The club has been part of the fabric of San Remo and Newhaven communities for over forty years, but a shortage of members is now threatening its future.

Hampered by covid restrictions, health issues and the loss of valued members who have left the district, the club is now putting out an urgent plea for new members.

"If the club is to continue in its present form we need local support," said club president Michael Newton.

"There is no binding commitment, members contribute only where they can. We meet on a monthly basis, around ten times a year, and have a range of social and fundraising activities each four to six weeks.

"There is a great deal of satisfaction to be had working in a collective group, identifying a need and making a positive difference, where it's needed. I would urge anyone who can make this small commitment to get back to me," said Michael, who can be contacted on 0432 115 334.

Since forming over four decades ago, the club has raised and distributed in excess of \$800,000, much of which has been channelled back into the community.

Now only a small club, it is often said it punches above its weight in light of achievements in recent years.

It is hoping the community will step up and help it continue its important work.

The club is running a membership information night, at the San Remo Recreation Centre, 1 Wynne Road, San Remo, on Wednesday, April 13 at 7.30pm, with tea, coffee and a light supper provided.

"All will be made most welcome, including those who may be considering joining, or just want further information about Lions," Michael said.

"This meeting could determine the fate of the club. It would be sad to lose something that has achieved so much, over such a long period."

To assist with catering numbers, anyone interested in attending on April 13 is asked to contact Michael on 0432 115 334.

The club has always actively supported the local community over many years. Annual disbursements to the SES, the San Remo Fire Brigade, the Recreation Centre, plus the San Remo and Newhaven primary schools and the Kindergarten are welcomed and appreciated



The San Remo/Newhaven Lions Club is calling for new members to help the club continue its important work. Recently, President Michael Newton (left) and Secretary-treasurer Andrew Page presented a certificate of appreciation to Cr Rochelle Halstead, acknowledging council's support for the club over many years. Photo courtesy of South Gippsland Sentinel Times.

by those groups.

"Carols by Candlelight, a Lions club initiative, is a feature on the local calendar and a huge task we are happy to coordinate," said Michael.

The club has always been generous in supporting victims of natural disasters. The recent bush fires in East Gippsland, flood relief in NSW, and the cyclone emergency in WA, being some of the most recent.

These causes, plus the "need for feed" project, that saw Lions clubs from this district come together and deliver much needed stock feed to drought stricken farmers both here and interstate, form part of the Lions philosophy "Lions, Making a Difference".

The Lions club sponsor a Smith Family child, and provide funds to send disadvantaged children to holiday camps in rural Victoria. They donate to Kids Cancer Research, and the Cord Blood foundation.

"These are just a few of the worthy causes, we have supported over the years and hope to continue doing so. It wouldn't be possible to list the many more groups or individuals who have been helped along the way," Michael explained.

"At every turn the San Remo/Newhaven Lions Club is helping make a difference where it's needed and desperately needs the support of the community to continue.

"Now, at this stage in the clubs long history, is the time to get involved," said Michael.

Occupational therapy now available at Scope in Cowes

One of Australia's largest providers of disability support services has opened rooms in Cowes.

Scope, now established in Warley Avenue, has been providing individual therapy support to people of all ages and their families for over 70 years.

It is a not-for-profit organisation that exists to support people with physical, intellectual and multiple disabilities by helping them achieve their goals.

"We're passionate about providing high-quality and individualised support, currently helping more than 6000 individuals and their families across Victoria and employing over 1800 staff members," said Melissa Barnes, Scope Team Leader and Speech Pathologist here.

"Our therapy team are dedicated to helping your child achieve their goals in everyday life.

"We work very closely with you to understand these goals and build their skills and confidence to take part in everyday activities."

Melissa said Scope's team of experienced therapists use a variety of strategies and therapeutic activities in natural environments such as school, kinder and the community to help children increase their participation in everyday activities.

"We work together with families and children to develop a plan that helps them reach their goals in achieving independence in everyday routines and activities.

"Our therapists work alongside the other important people in a child's life, such as extended family, their kinder, school teachers and support workers, to build the skills of each child's support network.

"Our priority is to help your child build the skills and confidence to take part in everyday activities. We love to see them thrive."

See the person

"We see the person. This is the heart of Scope. It guides everything we do.

"It's how we deliver services," Melissa said.

"We are one of Australia's leading providers of support services for adults and children with disabilities, autism or developmental delays.

"We work with corporate and community organisations, to create a more inclusive society for people with a disability.

"Our mission is to enable each person to live as an empowered and equal citizen."

Scope was founded more than 70 years ago by families who wanted better support for their children.

Today, it is one of the largest not-for-profit disability service providers in Australia, supporting thousands of people with complex intellectual, physical, and multiple disabilities.

Its great team of people includes specialists in communication and positive behaviour support, dedicated to working in partnership with its clients and their families.

They know the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and have supported people to successfully move to this new system since it began in 2013.

Scope has been active in research for more than 30 years and this helps deliver the positive outcomes it achieves.

Scope has also led the way in working with the wider community to remove barriers to social inclusion.

Scope's vision

Scope's vision is to inspire and lead change to deliver best practice and better outcomes in the work they do.

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- Provide leadership to influence strategy and policy;
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- Build on its foundation for success through expertise in service delivery, workforce development, quality improvement, and research.

Scope's mission: Is to enable each person it supports to live as an equal and empowered citizen.

Scope is one of the largest not-for-profit disability service providers in Australia, supporting thousands of people with disabilities. Scope is a registered NDIS provider.

Scope is located at 1/15 Warley Avenue Cowes.

Contact number is 1300 472 673.

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Occupational Therapy Now Available



Surf Beach road costs weigh heavily

A Surf Beach resident has mooted state government funding to upgrade their roads, given the area's high tourist usage.

At the March Bass Coast Shire meeting Surf Beach homeowner Neil Wilmot asked about the area's proposed special charge scheme, with councillors voting to proceed to the next stage to investigate costs and plans.



A Surf Beach resident has mooted state government funding to upgrade their roads, saying 70 per cent of households did not live permanently in Surf Beach and recent traffic counting indicated high tourist traffic.

Mr Wilmot said given that 70 per cent of households did not live permanently in Surf Beach – and recent traffic counting indicated high tourist traffic – would the state government contribute.

“What percentage are you asking landowners to contribute and what does that amount to in actual dollars?” Mr Wilmot asked.

Shire CEO Ali Wastie responded the split of costs for a special charge scheme at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay between council and the community had not yet been determined.

“This work is undertaken at a later date during the planning phase,” Ms Wastie said.

“Cost estimates for (these) projects, including the potential cost distribution between council and property owners, is included in the project planning phase.”

Resident Susie Wickes asked a further question, comparing what is proposed for Surf Beach to the current special charge scheme on 227 properties in Pioneer Bay.

“What are the costs per property based on previous special charge schemes?” Ms Wickes said.

Cost estimates

Ms Wastie referred Ms Wickes

to a complicated outline of Pioneer Bay's current \$4.6 million scheme, for 2.7km of roads and 2.9km of underground drainage, including pavement, storm water, kerb and channelling, nature strip works, speed humps and pedestrian paths, as well as a \$2.5 million Melbourne Water upgrade project of new storm water.

The shire's total contribution to Pioneer Bay is \$1.1 million.

Different properties were given different estimated costs based on the area and frontage length of each property.

“Generally, a larger property with a greater frontage and/or area would have a higher estimated cost,” the shire said.

“It is impossible to determine the final cost of the project until construction is complete.

“Should the actual costs exceed estimated costs, council may decide

to recover these additional costs. However, the increase in liability of any person to pay the special rate or charge must not exceed 10 per cent.”

The roads included within the project are Beach Boulevard, Whiting Street, Loter Avenue, Daisy Avenue, Wendy Street, Sonia Crescent, Alec Street (south), Kallay Drive, Short Street, Bream Avenue, Helen Street and the service roads within Pioneer Bay Estate

Councillors at the meeting voted to proceed to the next stage of a potential scheme for road and drainage upgrades at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay, including development of concept plans, cost estimates, including the cost distribution between the shire and property owners, and further community consultation.

Councillors would then vote on the concept plans and funding for consideration on whether to proceed.



The Coast Action group said it has reported “this deliberate damage, along with damage at other parts of Cape Woolamai” to the council, but no action has been forthcoming.

Foreshore vandalised says Coast Action

Cape Woolamai Coast Action group has called on Bass Coast Shire Council to stop the destruction of the foreshore along Cleeland Bight.

The group has been actively involved over the past 22 years in maintaining and restoring the foreshore along the Cleeland Bight coastline.

During that period volunteers have planted thousands of native species and removed numerous invasive and problematic weeds.

However it says over the past 12 months in particular, the efforts of the volunteers have been seriously undermined by what it describes as “reckless and ongoing destruction of large areas of the foreshore”, by a group intent on building bike tracks and jumps through the foreshore underbrush.

Peter Dumergue from the Cape Woolamai Coast Action group said numerous areas along Cleeland Bight have been impacted.

“Most recently at the end of Bondi Avenue over 200 plants were delib-

erately removed and thrown aside as well as extensive digging into areas to create jumps.

“There has also been considerable cutting down of ti-tree and pruning branches in order to facilitate access for these activities,” he said.

“This deliberate damage, along with damage at other parts of Cape Woolamai has been reported to the Bass Coast Shire Council on a number of occasions, but no action has been forthcoming from them.

“The efforts of volunteer groups such as the Cape Woolamai Coast Action are being thwarted by these individuals who wish to destroy the foreshore habitat for personal gain.

“It is time the council stepped up and started to take a pro-active approach to ensuring this kind of activity is stopped before the damage becomes beyond repair.”

Peter urged anyone who witnesses or notices recent damage being carried out to contact the Shire, either by phone or via the Reporting Portal online.

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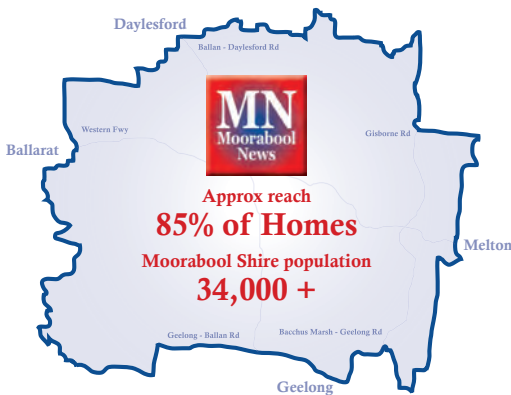
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An aerial view of the nine-hole Aussie Golf Ranch at Saltwater Creek west of Cowes.

New golf course buzz

If you want to create a social media storm, then just mention the word “golf”.

That’s what Aussie Golf Ranch’s owner Rohan Walker found when he recently posted a question on Facebook, asking “what is your opinion on building a golf course like this on Phillip Island or in the Bass Coast area?”.

“Would certainly add another attraction to our magnificent coastline. Yes or no?” Rohan asked, with a photo of an 18-hole coastal course.

After receiving hundreds of responses, Rohan, who runs the nine-hole course at Saltwater Creek west of Cowes, told the Advertiser he posted the question as a “hypothetical”.

“There are no concrete plans and at the moment; it’s just talk,” Rohan said.

But opinion was divided, with many supporters posting a simple “yes”.

Long-time local Elizabeth Shaw explained a golf course planned for the Grand Prix track several decades ago was “knocked back on environmental grounds”.

“The fertilisers, weed killers, etc were too dangerous for the fragile coastline environment,” Elizabeth said.

Others agreed environmental issues were the key concern.

“Is the suggestion that indigenous flora be replaced with grass, for the benefit of a few? No way, in my opinion,” wrote another resident.

Rohan responded saying the Aussie Golf Ranch had wetlands stocked with native fish, was a “haven” for wildlife and showed golf courses could be a way to protect the environment.

“I believe I have done an amazing job turning a paddock into a lush nine-hole golf course with over four acres of wetlands,” Rohan wrote.

“The bird life in the area has drastically increased since I built the golf course some 17 years ago.

“If all the poisons from fertiliser, insecticides and herbicides had polluted the area I think all my fish would have floated to the surface. This has never happened.”

Over-developed?

Many argued Phillip Island was busy enough with infrastructure struggling.

“I am critical of continuous tourist development without considering the impact on the amenity, beauty and function of the island,” wrote one respondent.

“I have seen what over development has done to many once beautiful locations. Do we need to shoot the goose that lays the golden egg or do we need balance?”

One cheeky local said “nah it’s not the island way”, adding “it’s just new people moving onto the island that are never satisfied with what they have” and suggesting the author was helping the new owners of his property; to which Rohan provided no comment.

Others then said if locals thought there were enough tourists, then “you might want to tell John Pandazopoulos and Discover Phillip Island (sic), they seem to disagree”. “There’s been millions spent on studies and effort to increase tourist numbers.”

Rohan responded saying when he purchased his land as the green wedge between Cowes and Ventnor, council “was relieved I was the only person who didn’t want to subdivide”.

Some argued golf would be better than farmland, to which others pointed out agriculture provided the population with food.

There was heated debate about the Phillip Island Golf Club meeting existing demand.

Emmit tests penguins sensory experience

Phillip Island Nature Parks’ world-famous tourism attractions have become the first in Australia to be officially certified as sensory inclusive.

The Nature Parks has partnered with global organisation KultureCity to provide a sensory inclusive environment for people with sensory processing challenges, often experienced by individuals with autism, PTSD, dementia, stroke, and other similar conditions.

For some local families, the news is especially welcome.

Emmit Cavanagh (12) has Autism Spectrum Disorder. He lives on Phillip Island but has never seen the penguin parade because it could be too noisy for him.

When Emmit is in an environment he finds overwhelming, with noise, crowds and not knowing what to expect, his family said he will “shut down” and go into his own world.

Emmit’s mum Jane Cavanagh says the family avoids going to attractions like the penguin parade in case Emmit feels uncomfortable and upset.

However that has now all changed.

The Nature Parks said designated quiet areas and headphone zones have been introduced in strategic locations across its visitor attractions. Weighted lap pads and sensory bags filled with items such as noise cancelling headphones, fidget tools and verbal cue cards are available for those who may experience sensory overload while visiting.

Nature Parks staff have also completed specialised training to help them identify when a visitor is experiencing sensory overload and understand what they can do to help.

The Penguin Parade, Churchill Island, Antarctic Journey at the Nobbies, and the Koala Conservation Reserve are the first tourism attractions in Australia to be officially certified as sensory inclusive by KultureCity, and is the latest step in the Nature Parks’ longstanding efforts to become more accessible and inclusive to all visitors.

To launch this initiative, the Nature Parks will be holding its first Sensory-Friendly night at the Penguin Parade on Saturday, April 2, World Autism Awareness Day.

Visitor numbers will be capped at a lower number to reduce the sensory input generated by a lot of visitors, and light and noise levels will also be lowered in key locations, to make the experience even more inclusive.

Nature Parks General Manager of Tourism Operations Peta Wittig said she hoped these initiatives would help families and carers feel more confident and comfortable visiting the Nature Parks – so that everyone can enjoy a fun experience.

“We want everyone to be able to



Thanks to the new sensory-inclusive measures introduced at the Nature Parks, Emmit Cavanagh (12), who has Autism Spectrum Disorder, got to experience the penguin parade for the first time, accompanied by parents Jane and Lucas and siblings Marcus and Emily.



Accompanied by ranger Megan Tucker (back), Jane Cavanagh, Marcus, Emily and Lucas Walsh, and Emmit Cavanagh enjoyed the Penguin Parade.

come and enjoy our attractions but we understand it can be an overwhelming experience for those with sensory processing difficulties, which is why this has been a focus of ours,” Ms Wittig said.

“Becoming certified as sensory inclusive and introducing these new initiatives are the next steps in the ongoing development of our Accessibility Action Plan, and the Nature Parks’ journey to be accessible to everyone.”

For Emmit Cavanagh and his family, the sensory inclusive changes means they finally get to enjoy the penguin parade experience.

The sensory distractions at the parade, such as the quiet area and noise cancelling headphones, will mean Emmit feels safe and in control, said his mum, which gives her peace of mind.

“Knowing that we can visit the penguin parade as a family means the world to us. I get worried before

we go somewhere, just in case it’s too much for Emmit.

“When Emmit feels really uncomfortable, he can wander away, which is obviously dangerous and scary,” Jane said.

“If Emmit knows he can retreat to a quiet area or do something distracting with his hands, he will feel a lot more comfortable and start to enjoy what’s happening around him.

“As Phillip Island locals we are so excited to finally watch the penguins come in from the ocean and waddle down to their burrows. I can’t wait to watch Emmit’s face and see him really excited.”

To assist guests to prepare for their visit, a range of Social Stories and sensory features are available on the Nature Parks website and free KultureCity app, providing a preview of what visitors can expect at all of the locations.

Find out more: www.penguins.org.au/accessibility





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Bike-Ed program expands



Mr Earle and Miss Tyrell lead the “Tour de San Remo”, as part of San Remo Primary’s Ride2School day.

The Minister for Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll announced last week that the government is expanding its highly successful Bike Ed program that is run in primary schools.

“We’re expanding our Bike Ed program to reach students grade one to year eight – ensuring more Victorian kids are educated about cycling safety,” Mr Carroll said on Friday.

Mr Carroll said the Bike Ed program uses practical, on the bike lessons to ensure young riders have the skills to ride safely, and older students have the ability and confidence to ride independently on the roads.

The announcement was made to coincide with the state’s annual Ride2School Day last Friday which saw many students at local schools joining in.

The previous bike program was available to grade 5 and 6, but will now reach students from grade 1 to year 8. The Bike Ed School program is a successful in-school program that teaches students about safe riding behaviours, road rules and sharing the road.

It is delivered by school staff, members of the school community and external cycling education organisations who have undertaken accredited training to deliver the program.

It is hoped the expansion of the program will see increasing numbers of people using active

modes of transport, such as cycling or walking, right across the state.

Travelling by bike or on foot supports increased physical activity which plays an important role in the ongoing health and wellbeing of the community, Mr Carroll said.

Even a small shift in the number of people that have the skills and confidence to safely ride a bike will have significant benefits for congestion, health, and the environment.

Ride2School day is held each year, and encourages students to consider safe ways to ride to school and promotes the importance of bicycle safety – including the importance of wearing a helmet and being aware of other users on roads and footpaths.

At San Remo Primary, the school met at the park and undertook a “Tour de San Remo” touring the streets of the town. The local Bicycle User Group (BUG) once again supported the school with Don Turner joining everyone on the ride and donating prizes for the raffle.

New bike laws

The government has introduced significant improvements to cyclist safety in recent years including new minimum passing distances for cyclists. The new law attracts maximum court penalties of up to \$1817 and on the spot infringements of \$363.

Improper overtaking or passing offences incur two demerit points.

The rule makes it mandatory for motorists to give riders at least one metre clearance when overtaking on roads up to 60km/h, and 1.5 metres on roads with speed limits above 60km/h.

Rules have also been changed to allow children 12 years and under to cycle on footpaths, and those 13 years and over who are accompanying them to also cycle on footpaths.

This is on top of hundreds of kilometres of new walking and cycling infrastructure across the state to improve safety and give Victorians more choice about how they travel.

What’s in a charge?

According to the peak water industry website (vicwater.org.au), Victoria has some of the lowest water charges in the country, and the cost has reduced between 2015 and 2020.

Even so, a frequent criticism of Westernport Water is the cost fix charges, which can make up to 80 per cent of the average water bill.

Dona Tantirimudalige, Westernport Water’s new Managing Director, said the current pricing structure will be examined in upcoming community consultation sessions as part of the organisation’s 2023 price review.

But reducing fixed costs would not result in cheaper water bills for everyone she said.

Ms Tantirimudalige confirmed the annual household water bill for Westernport Water property owners is \$1189 – the sixth most expensive out of the 16 Victorian water corporations.

However the annual household water bill for Westernport Water tenants is \$186 – the lowest of all the water corporations. This compares to the state average of \$340.

Westernport Water customers also consume the least amount of drinking water in the state, Ms Tantirimudalige said.

Figures provided by Westernport Water showed the annual average across all Victorian water corporations is 182 kilolitres per household. Westernport Water’s is roughly half of that, at 92 kilolitres per household.

“Due to low consumption, the majority of our revenue is received from fixed access charges. If we were more reliant on variable water tariffs for revenue, the price per 1000 litres would have to increase,” she said.

“Modelling has shown the impact of this shift would impact tenants, large families and business owners the most.”

The large number of holiday homes in the area does have an impact on the water board’s operations.

“There is the cost of infrastructure in the ground, regardless of whether someone is there using the water or not,” she explained.

“There are fixed things that we have to do regardless of how much water is being used.”

The issue of fixed charges and the balance between fixed and variable tariffs was looked at during the 2018 price review, however the organisation said there was not sufficient support for a change.

“Once again, we will be asking for customers to provide their views on our tariff structure in an upcoming focus group as part of the 2023 Price Review,” Ms Tantirimudalige said.

“If our customers want to take different approach – we will explore that.”

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Reference: www.esc.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/rpt-water-performance-report-2020-21-20220309.pdf, Water Performance Report 2020-21, Essential Services Commission.

A glass half full

The new Managing Director at Westernport Water is passionate about making the world a better place and is optimistic about our water future.

Dona Tantirimudalige comes from a long line of teachers and nurses.

"There's a strong service mentality from a family perspective," she said.

"I have a strong sense of making a difference, that the work you do is in the service of others, to create a better society and a better outcome."

As well as her role at Westernport Water, the civil engineer with a Masters in public policy and management is a current board member and former chair of Women's Health in the South East, Chair of the South East Monash Legal Services and is on the board of the Institute of Water Administration.

Alongside all this, she juggles the demands of raising two teenage sons with her husband (a teacher) and looking after a menagerie of pets including a dog, two cats and numerous chickens.

She describes herself as an animal lover and keen gardener who is passionate about social justice and the role of the public sector.

"I probably use the word passionate too much," she cheerfully admits, explaining how important it is to make a difference – both in her work roles and her roles with not-for-profit organisations.

"The water industry literally exists to provide an essential service, now and in the future."

"We don't always cover ourselves in glory, but absolutely our core is to provide service to customers. And from a water sector perspective, we need to figure out how to leave the world a better place."

"You have to look at challenges coming your way. It's a similar driver for not for profits – in that field of trying to create a better world."

Island connection

Reflecting on her first six months in the role, while Covid restrictions have meant she has not been able to get out in the community as much she'd like, Dona reveals a long-term connection to Phillip Island.

"My husband's grandparents lived on the island, and we've been coming here for years," she said.

For the past 20 years, they've contemplated buying a place on the island, but she ruefully admits that they may have



Dona Tantirimudalige the new Managing Director at Westernport Water is optimistic about our water future. "Life is all about embracing those opportunities to make a difference," she says.

missed their chance with the current boom on property prices.

"We have been looking at getting a place, but they all just go so fast."

Until the real estate market eases, she's happy to continue the one-hour commute from Narre Warren.

She said the role at Westernport Water was a chance for her to expand her skills from her previous role as General Manager of Distribution Services at Yarra Valley Water.

"It is a step up. I'm involved in different decisions, in the whole of sector as well as in broader conversations around water policy."

For her part, she believes her broad sector experience will benefit the organisation and the new role is a chance to bring threads from her work within and outside the sector together.

"I have technical and people leadership skills, and I also have a perspective from my work with not-for-profits in securing funding and building relationships."

It is also an opportunity to cement her connection to Phillip Island.

"Coming down here to visit, we would drive past the Westernport Water building and joke that I was going to work there one day."

Now that's a reality, and Dona said she is "absolutely loving" the new role.

"Westernport Water is different from urban authorities and there is a closer connection to community."

She doesn't shy from interaction with or criticism from customers and stressed it was important to have processes in place to have those conversations.

"For me, the whole point is to provide a service. Isn't it wonderful that we have a community that is interested in having that conversation about what they value in the context of what we do?"

"There's always a member of the community or a customer who isn't happy with how things turned out, or who is unhappy with decisions."

"That's okay. It's part of society, part of democracy and when you're working in a role that provides a service – that will always be the case."

"It is okay to disagree and work through it in a respectful open way."

Dona's appointment to the managing director role means the three leading organisations in the shire – Westernport Water, Bass Coast Shire Council and Phillip Island Nature Parks – are all led by women.

"That's pretty cool and it's wonderful to work in that environment," she said.

"I am passionate about diversity and inclusion and removing those barriers for anyone."

"I want my kids to grow up in a world where they can make the best use of their talents without barriers in front of them."

"I want a workplace where people can bring their best self to work."

Conversations

Westernport Water is currently undertaking a review of its pricing structure and holding community forums in April looking at ways to operate in a more environmental and sustainable manner.

Dona is hopeful that customers will take the opportunity to get involved in shaping the future of water supply and water security in the area.

And despite the challenges of climate change and increasing cost of living pressures she is optimistic about the future.

"I am, but it's not blind optimism. I'm an engineer, so it's about problem solving. Let's figure it out and come up with a plan. What are the options?"

"Life is all about embracing those opportunities to make a difference."

Want to have your say? Go to westernportwater.com.au/haveyoursay.

Water issues in focus

During our recent conversation with Westernport Water Managing Director Dona Tantirimudalige, the Advertiser asked her about the key issues facing Phillip Island in terms of water issues.

Affordability

Westernport Water has some of the highest fixed water prices in the state. With the cost-of-living issues people are facing, we asked if there was anything WPW could do to help ease that?

Dona said the organisation's pricing structure will be discussed through the forums, after affordability was one of the key issues raised by customers in initial surveys undertaken last year (see separate story).

"We are aware affordability is front and centre and we want to make sure whatever we are doing is giving us the biggest bang for buck for our customers."

"It's also about making sure we are focused on what is important to customers."

As part of the focus on affordability and cost effectiveness, she said the organisation was looking at opportunities to work with other Gippsland water authorities.

Environment

A more environmental approach to water management is being explored at the upcoming forums, with the organisation putting forward a range of options that could be pursued, from use of solar panels, native wetlands, recycled water and even waste to energy biogas.

"We're exploring if that fits with our customers," she said.

"For example, can we use that biogas in a more efficient way? How can we reduce emissions out of treatment plants? What are the more nature-based approaches to waste water treatments?"

She said the island was fortunate to have Phillip Island Nature Parks and community groups like Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) actively engaged in the environment.

"There is quite a collaborative not-for-profit, local community and public sector that

can work together on these things," Dona said.

"Working with other organisations in the area is a real plus."

She said the current consultation was a way to ensure the organisation kept the things that customers value and expect, front and centre in its decisions.

Taste

Last year, news that Westernport Water was voted as having the best tasting tap water in Victoria, was greeted with scepticism from some customers.

"We know from a customer perspective, good tasting water is a top priority," said Dona.

"It's also about the consistent quality of the water. The organisation has been focused on that for a while."

That focus included a new UV water disinfection system installed in 2018, an upgrade to carbon dosing and new filters.

"We will keep investing in this area; we know we are not there yet."

Climate change

Dona said in the past few years, the organisation had made a big investment in infrastructure to secure and improve local water supply.

This worked in tandem with a broader policy approach on how to tackle the challenges of climate change.

Dona said the entire sector is focused on climate change and what that means for Victoria's water supply in the future, with the state's sustainable water strategy looking out to 2065, and planning for different scenarios.

"And we are in the process of finishing the urban water strategy."

"Water efficiency is one element of water security. We are looking at what more we can do around recycling, how we manage water supply."

A renewed focus on water use is also important.

"The state government has just restarted the Target 155 ad campaign."

"Even in this La Nina cycle we still do need to be mindful about how we use water."



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* Participants can choose between a bill credit or a Phillip Island Nature Parks Family Pass.



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Ride to School Day at Cowes

Cowes Primary School was among schools from around the state to celebrate National Ride 2 School Day last Friday.

It is a day that encourages students to ride, scoot, skate or walk to school.

Teacher in charge Todd Cleeland described the day as a great opportunity to kickstart healthy, active habits.

It also helps contribute to students' recommended daily exercise and is great for your overall health and well-being, said Todd.

Over 250 students rode, scooted, skated or walked on the day, with many parents and older siblings also joining in."

Todd has extended a huge thank you to the Phillip Island Bicycle Users Group (BUG) for assisting students in riding safely from various checkpoints around the Island, and the Island Grocer for supplying fresh fruit to sustain them after their effort.



Prep student, Cailin, enjoyed the ride.



Frankie with her dad skateboarding to school.

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PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER



Netball season 2022 kicks off on a strong note

Phillip Island Football Netball Club's (PIFNC) 2022 season got off to a great start at a practice match against Moe last Saturday (albeit with a few absentees on the day courtesy of the Covid virus).

Peter Chaston, PIFNC netball manager, said training had been underway since early February.

"It's been a really positive start to this year, and all eight sides in the West Gippsland League competition have been filled."

An additional two junior teams will play in the Cranbourne Saturday competition as well, Peter said.

Peter said quite a few junior team players have moved up into the senior sides this year, which augurs well for the club's future.

The club's volunteer coaches are working well with their teams, with the view that Phillip Island will be a strong contender in all grades to make the finals come September.

The club works hard during the year to raise funds to field the teams each week, and Peter said he is al-

ways looking for volunteers to help run the breakfast barbeque that is held courtside at every Saturday home game.

If you can spare a few hours on Saturday from about 8.30am, he would love to hear from you.

The barbeque is sited so that the workers also get a very good view of the games as they get underway.

A new digital scoreboard will be in place this year, which is a pleasing addition to the club's fixtures.

The start of the WGFNL competition kicks off this Saturday at Cora Lyn against Cora Lyn, with the traditional Easter Saturday matches against Kilcunda Bass back on Easter Saturday at the Phillip Island ground.

Netball coaches for this year are: A Grade Kristy Edwards, B Grade Maddy Taylor and Amber Formosa, C Grade Jodie Ross, D Grade Loz Lees, Under 17 Abby McCaughan, Under 15 Cath Huther, Under 13 Anna Mewett and Under 11 Kristy Santorini.



At a warm up match last Saturday at the Phillip Island netball courts in preparation for the start of the WGFNC competition in which eight island teams will compete are from left PIFNC vice president (Netball) Peter Chaston, Cath Huther (Under 15 coach), Anna Mewett (Under 13 coach) Maddie Taylor (B Grade co-coach) Carly O'Brien (netball committee) and Nazz O'Brien (PIFNC Netball Operations).



Footy's back ... and the fans can't wait

The 2022 Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) season opens this weekend, with players, coaches, volunteers and friends all finally looking forward to an uninterrupted competition after two years of Covid lockdowns.

PIFNC president Chris Ross said everyone is ready and rearing to go, after a hugely successful four years, in spite of the interruptions of Covid in 2020 and 2021.

Covid basically denied the Club the chance of bringing home four straight premierships cups.

After winning back-to-back premierships in 2018 and 2019, the island's senior teams ended interrupted seasons in 2020 and 2021 on top of the ladder; but were declared minor premiers, with no Cup awarded because of the number of games not able to be played.

So there's plenty to look forward to and prove in 2022, with training in full swing since early in the year and some new names on the seniors list.

Joining our champions seniors list is Cameron Brown from Tooradin who is now a Bulldog, and to the delight of everyone, Jack Taylor is back on the island after a year in North Queensland, where he played for Trinity Beach.

Beau Vernon is at the helm again this year, coaching the seniors, and with two premierships cups under his belt, he is aiming for three in a row.

Reserves coach this year is James Stirton. Kurt Lane and Alex Duyker will coach the Under 18s, and Steve Duggan is taking on the role for the Under 16s.

Scott Huther is in charge of PIFNC Football Operations.

There are some 2021 Under 18 players enthusiastically advancing into the seniors squad including Coby Olarenschaw, Will Taylor, Cooper Logan and Jack Opitz.

"It's great to see these exciting young players now take their place in the seniors and reserve squad," said Chris Ross.

Numbers wise, the Club is not quite where it would like to be, following the Covid interruptions, he lamented, however.

Covid has taken its toll, with some players not returning to the Club after the two year hiatus.

The problem is not peculiar to Phillip Island. "This is a statewide problem. Clubs across Victoria are experiencing the same thing.



Phillip Island Football Club senior coach Beau Vernon is pictured at last Saturday's practise match with members of the junior football coaching team from left Sean O'Brien, Steve Duggan and Gab Caffieri.

"Hopefully, once the season starts, there'll be former players with itchy feet, and some will come back.

"We will welcome them with open arms," said Chris.

While Phillip Island will field four footy teams in the West Gippsland Football League on Saturdays and seven junior teams every Sunday, as well as a woman's side, other Clubs in the League have been unable to, and there will be gaps in some sides.

A new innovation for Phillip Island this year is an Over 35 footy team, entered into a veteran's football competition operating throughout the AFL's outer east.

The veteran's competition starts on April 10, and will play fortnightly, mainly on a Sunday.

"It's exciting to see some of our great former players pulling on the boots again in this team," said Chris.

Chris commented that Phillip Island is one of just a few Clubs in the League not struggling for

numbers at junior level.

In fact quite the opposite is the case.

"A number of our League neighbours are finding they are having great difficulty in fielding a team at some junior levels," he said.

"It is a very worrying trend."

Chris said the Phillip Island Club has about sixty volunteers who will take their place on and around the ground on Saturday as the season gets underway.

From coaches, trainers, goal umpires, gate keepers, score keepers, timers, runners, it takes an army of volunteers to ensure the smooth running of the day.

Playing on Saturday and starting at 9am will be the Under 16, Under 18, Reserves and Senior sides.

On Sunday, two Under 10 sides, two Under 12 sides, two Under 14 sides and a Youth Girls side will compete.

It is a huge logistical exercise to organise some 100 players into teams on Saturday and

200 players on Sunday, as well as 120 netballers on the weekend.

This is addition to finding space on the ground in a limited time period for bi-weekly training night sessions.

The announcement of a \$350,000 grant to install state of the art lights around the ground has been a god send and will relieve the pressure, said Chris.

This will make a huge difference and extend available training hours.

"It has been impossible to juggle a dozen teams training nights in the very limited day light hours available after school and work and nightfall."

A second grant secured through AFL Victoria to erect netting behind the goal posts is also being hailed.

"It will save volunteers having to climb the cypress trees to retrieve balls mid-match, or even worse, chasing them down along Dunsmore Road when they soar out of the ground."

Auskick for pre juniors will start in Term 2, with Bianca and Alison again at the helm, with the help of a myriad of parent volunteers.

The Auskick program attracts about 150 youngsters each year aged between 5 and 10.

The young players hope to get a guernsey to compete on the mighty MCG at half time during an AFL match, after missing the chance thanks to Covid last year.

Chris has taken the opportunity this week to extend the Club's sincere thanks to the many sponsors, large and small, who enable the Club to tick.

Major sponsors are the Bendigo Bank in Cowes, the Phillip Island RSL, Endeavour Petroleum, Ray White Real Estate, San Remo Hotel, North Pier, Ray White Real Estate, Terra Firma Excavations and McLardy McShane Insurance.

The 2022 season for Phillip Island kicks off this Saturday at Cora Lyn, against Cora Lyn.

The traditional match against friendly rivals Kilcunda Bass is now back in its Easter Saturday time slot.

This year, because of a split draw, the Club's traditional Anzac Day ceremony will also take place on Easter Saturday, in conjunction with the Phillip Island RSL.

Footy farewell for Barry Toovey and Ian Hill

Island stalwarts lost during Covid

The Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) is holding a tribute luncheon in their clubrooms on Saturday, May 7, to honour the memory of two club life members, Ian Hill and Barry Toovey, both of whom passed away during the Covid lockdown.

Former PIFNC president John Weston and a small committee are organising this very special event, and extend a warm invitation to anyone who would like to attend to join in this special occasion.

"Both men died during Covid, when funerals were very difficult to organise, and numbers attending were limited to ten.

"This is one way that the Club they did so much for can pay tribute to them.

"Now that we are finally able to, PIFNC wants to acknowledge and honour the contribution to the Club made by both Ian and Barry over many decades," John said.

Ian Hill died in early 2020, in the early days of Covid.

He was heavily involved in the Phillip Island Football Club over a period of 15 years; in the role of president for ten years and on the main committee for the rest of that time.

"Ian was president when the seniors team took out the 1981 premiership, thanks in no small part to the hard work he put in," said John, who was captain-coach at the time.



Barry Toovey

"He was also president of the Club when the social rooms were built by volunteers, helping to bring this project to fruition.

"The social rooms are still in use to this day," he added.

"Ian was made a life member of PIFNC for his very valuable contribution."

The contribution by Barry Toovey, who died last year, was similarly described by John as significant.

"I don't know of many people who have made a more significant contribution to the Club than Barry," he said.

"As a young man, he was a great player.

"But his football career was curtailed at one point through a leg injury.

"He retired from the game fairly early because of this, taking on administrative roles within the Club, including periods as secretary and treasurer.

"He was secretary of the Club in 1981 when the premiership cup was won by Phillip Island."

John said Barry was one of the main instigators of the building of Clubrooms around this period, along with Wally



Ian Hill

Winder.

"As a builder by trade, his contribution and his skills were so generously given, at no cost to the Club, by Barry."

Tributes

Representatives of both families will be in attendance at the Club, and among the speakers.

Barry's older son Dean has already booked his ticket from WA to be here.

"We are encouraging all past players, old committee members, and supporters from those days to attend.

"And also of course friends of the men from the old days."

John said he expects many old friends and players to arrive on the island on the Friday night (May 6) and said that an informal "meet and greet" evening will be held in the Clubrooms, ahead of the Saturday lunch.

Meals will be available and the bar open.

The lunch will start at midday. To book, see details in the paper on these pages.

For further information, call John Weston (0417 516 983) Kaye Beaton (0412 439 945) or Richie Davie (0400 531 777).

PIFNC Luncheon Saturday May 7

(Home game against Inverloch/Kongwak
to honour Life Members)

Ian Hill and Barry Toovey

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2022 FIXTURE

ROUND 1

Saturday, 2 April

Kilcunda Bass v Tooradin-Dalmore
Koo Wee Rup v Dalyston **N**
Korumburra-Bena v Inverloch-Kongwak
Nar Nar Goon v Bunyip
Warragul Industrials v Garfield **T**

Sunday, April 3

Cora Lynn v Phillip Island

ROUND 2

Saturday, 9 April

Bunyip v Cora Lynn
Dalyston v Kilcunda Bass
Garfield v Nar Nar Goon **N**
Inverloch-Kongwak v Koo Wee Rup
Phillip Island v Warragul Industrials
Tooradin-Dalmore v Korumburra-Bena

ROUND 3

Saturday, 16 April - Easter Weekend

Inverloch-Kongwak v Cora Lynn
Phillip Island v Kilcunda Bass

Saturday 23 April

Bunyip v Garfield
Korumburra-Bena v Dalyston **N**
Nar Nar Goon v Koo Wee Rup
Monday, April 25
Tooradin-Dalmore v Warragul Industrials

ROUND 4

Saturday, 30 April

Cora Lynn v Tooradin-Dalmore
Dalyston v Inverloch-Kongwak
Garfield v Phillip Island
Kilcunda Bass v Nar Nar Goon
Koo Wee Rup v Bunyip
Warragul Industrials v Korumburra-Bena

ROUND 5

Saturday, 7 May

Bunyip v Warragul Industrials
Kilcunda Bass v Koo Wee Rup
Korumburra-Bena v Garfield
Nar Nar Goon v Cora Lynn
Phillip Island v Inverloch-Kongwak
Tooradin-Dalmore v Dalyston

ROUND 6

Saturday, May 14

Cora Lynn v Korumburra-Bena
Dalyston v Nar Nar Goon
Garfield v Tooradin-Dalmore
Inverloch-Kongwak v Bunyip
Koo Wee Rup v Phillip Island
Warragul Industrials v Kilcunda Bass

ROUND 7

Saturday, May 21

Bunyip v Korumburra-Bena
Kilcunda Bass v Cora Lynn
Koo Wee Rup v Garfield
Phillip Island v Dalyston
Tooradin-Dalmore v Inverloch-Kongwak
Warragul Industrials v Nar Nar Goon

ROUND 8

Saturday, May 28

Bunyip v Tooradin-Dalmore
Dalyston v Warragul Industrials
Garfield v Cora Lynn
Inverloch-Kongwak v Kilcunda Bass
Korumburra-Bena v Koo Wee Rup
Nar Nar Goon v Phillip Island

ROUND 9

Saturday, June 4

Cora Lynn v Dalyston
Garfield v Inverloch-Kongwak
Kilcunda Bass v Bunyip
Korumburra-Bena v Nar Nar Goon
Tooradin-Dalmore v Phillip Island
Warragul Industrials v Koo Wee Rup

ROUND 10

Saturday, June 11 - Queens Birthday

Dalyston v Garfield
Inverloch-Kongwak v Warragul Industrials
Kilcunda Bass v Korumburra-Bena
Koo Wee Rup v Cora Lynn
Nar Nar Goon v Tooradin-Dalmore
Phillip Island v Bunyip

ROUND 11

Saturday, June 18

Bunyip v Dalyston
Cora Lynn v Warragul Industrials
Garfield v Kilcunda Bass
Inverloch-Kongwak v Nar Nar Goon
Korumburra-Bena v Phillip Island
Tooradin-Dalmore v Koo Wee Rup

ROUND 12

Saturday, June 25

Cora Lynn v Bunyip
Kilcunda Bass v Dalyston
Koo Wee Rup v Inverloch-Kongwak
Korumburra-Bena v Tooradin-Dalmore
Nar Nar Goon v Garfield
Warragul Industrials v Phillip Island

ROUND 13

Saturday, July 9

Bunyip v Nar Nar Goon
Dalyston v Koo Wee Rup
Garfield v Warragul Industrials
Inverloch-Kongwak v Korumburra-Bena
Phillip Island v Cora Lynn
Tooradin-Dalmore v Kilcunda Bass

ROUND 14

Saturday, July 16

Cora Lynn v Kilcunda Bass
Garfield v Koo Wee Rup
Inverloch-Kongwak v Tooradin-Dalmore
Korumburra-Bena v Bunyip
Phillip Island v Nar Nar Goon
Warragul Industrials v Dalyston

ROUND 15

Saturday, July 23

Cora Lynn v Garfield
Dalyston v Phillip Island
Kilcunda Bass v Inverloch-Kongwak
Koo Wee Rup v Korumburra-Bena
Nar Nar Goon v Warragul Industrials
Tooradin-Dalmore v Bunyip

ROUND 16

Saturday, July 30

Bunyip v Kilcunda Bass
Dalyston v Cora Lynn
Inverloch-Kongwak v Garfield
Koo Wee Rup v Warragul Industrials
Nar Nar Goon v Korumburra-Bena
Phillip Island v Tooradin-Dalmore

ROUND 17

Saturday, August 6

Bunyip v Phillip Island
Cora Lynn v Koo Wee Rup
Garfield v Dalyston
Korumburra-Bena v Kilcunda Bass
Tooradin-Dalmore v Nar Nar Goon
Warragul Industrials v Inverloch-Kongwak

ROUND 18

Saturday, August 13

Dalyston v Bunyip
Kilcunda Bass v Garfield
Koo Wee Rup v Tooradin-Dalmore
Nar Nar Goon v Inverloch-Kongwak
Phillip Island v Korumburra-Bena
Warragul Industrials v Cora Lynn

2022 FINAL SERIES

Saturday, 20 August

Qualifying Final

Sunday, 21 August

Elimination Final

Saturday, 27 August

2nd Semi Final

Sunday, 28 August

1st Semi Final

Saturday, 3 September

Preliminary Final

Saturday, 10 September

Grand Final

N: Night Match

T: Twilight Match

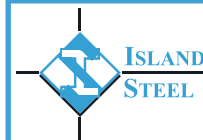
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COUNCIL BRIEFS

Ukraine support

Cr Ronnie Bauer last week called on the Federal government to approve more visas for Ukrainians displaced by the European conflict.

"It is my understanding that as a refugee welcome zone, Bass Coast Shire is open to engage with the Australian and Victorian governments to explore settlement options across our shire for people who have been displaced by war," Cr Bauer said.

"For example, Ukraine is a country with significant experience in agricultural production. These experiences could make it easier for the refugees to be accepted in this region and to work here.

"This would be a comfort for these traumatised people and they would make a positive contribution on many levels."

Cr Bauer said he was shocked at the events in Ukraine, and the shire stood with the people of the Ukraine and "victims of war everywhere".

More dust woes

A petition with 50 signatures was lodged at council calling for Bay Road and Foreshore Road in Jam Jerrup to be sealed.

"All residents have had their say with more than 70 per cent wanting the road sealed ... Our understanding is at 70 per cent plus we can have our road upgrade elevated up the list," stated the petition.

It said the local beach received a considerable amount of tourist traffic and "since Covid this has become increasingly worse", with the dust also a health hazard.

"The road is constantly having to be graded (at council's expense)

due to corrugation caused by the amount of traffic we receive.

"One disabled resident on Foreshore Road who takes his dog for a walk in his electric wheelchair has also complained of the road surface not being satisfactory for wheelchair access, limiting his ability to get around."

Industrial squeeze

Up to 36ha of industrial land is needed in Bass Coast Shire by 2036, according to a new study.

The Bass Coast Industrial Land Study, released last week, said about 8.4ha of industrial land supply remained and the shortage would require the release of land supply, mainly in Wonthaggi and Grantville.

There is about 90ha of zoned industrial land in the shire, with Wonthaggi the largest industrial precinct by land area, however, Cowes has the largest number of business and floor space.

The study is part of the creation of the Bass Coast Industrial Land Use Strategy (BILUS), which will support the economy and jobs.

Cr Brett Tessari successfully voted to move an amendment to the motion, saying the state government's new Distinctive Area and Landscapes (DAL) plan should be considered as part of the industrial land study to "protect the environment and significant landscapes".

Larke disappears

The only councillor to attend last week's meeting online vanished after failing to win support for two of his motions.

Mayor Michael Whelan said Cr Les Larke's online connection had stopped, possibly because Inverloch had power problems last week.

However, Cr Larke missed the remainder of the meeting after attempting to move two failed motions for projects that had already received council support.

Cr Larke was seeking to pause construction of the Wonthaggi to Inverloch Inland Trail, which will cost council \$4.7 million when the state government had committed to funding a trail from San Remo to Inverloch.

He was also hoping to pass a 10-year forest plan to "green" Wonthaggi, despite the shire already having started an Urban Forest Strategy.

The majority of Cr Larke's fellow councillors did not support the two motions.

Cr Brett Tessari summed up concerns saying the motions were "incredibly disappointing and disruptive".

"I find it frustrating to see these notices of motion coming forward without any discussion whatsoever and what appears to be no attempt to get support for the notices of motion," Cr Tessari said.

Cr Le Serve said she wasn't sure why the second motion had come to council "other than to make a statement".

Rate cap

The shire's CEO has dodged a public question on this year's rate hike and garbage costs.

Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association Kevin Griffin asked whether the shire could assure the community it would not seek any increase to the 1.75 per cent rate cap announced by the state government.

He also asked whether the 2022/23 budget would "not seek to gouge ratepayers with excessive increases to the garbage charge or to any other council fees or charges".

CEO Ali Wastie responded they were currently developing their proposed 2022/23 budget, which would be considered by council at its April meeting.



A recent clean up day near Rhyll found dozens of plastic dog poo bags left on the roadside or thrown into the bushes.

Doggie do bags are a big don't

A recent clean-up day has yielded a large and stinky haul.

Residents cleaning up roadsides and reserves near Rhyll were astonished to find bags of dog poo left on the roadsides or hurled into the bushes.

One resident described the situation as "confounding and disappointing" and is imploring dog owners to put their dog poo bags in the bin.

"We found bagged dog poo littering several metres of our lovely local scrub," they said.

"It was not only on the ground, but also caught in bushes.

"Such behaviour makes no sense at all. All dog owners and walkers know that dogs do their business when out walking, so please take a bag, pick up after your dog and then put it in the bin.

"There are so many responsible dog owners on our beautiful island, and it is just a few who spoil it."

Leaving dog poo bags on roadsides or in the bushes is not only unsightly, it harms the environment.

Dog poo (in compostable bags) can be disposed of in the green organics bin. Regular plastic bags can be put in the red landfill bins.

No time to read the whole paper?

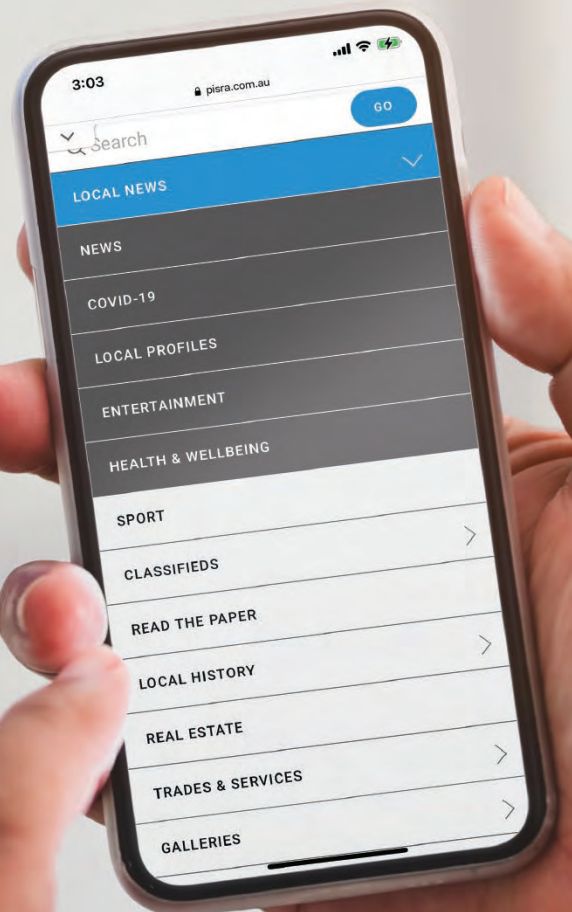
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This stunning residence is set amongst some of the best homes Phillip Island has to offer within the Woolamai House Estate.



The rear entertaining area. includes bespoke landscaped gardens, Travertine French pattern pavers all flowing to the inground heated saltwater pool.

Luxurious home within the Woolamai House Estate

This stunning residence is set amongst some of the best homes Phillip Island has to offer within the Woolamai House Estate. Offering four bedrooms, two spacious living rooms, oversized theatre room, downstairs outdoor entertainment area with saltwater swimming pool and an upstairs alfresco built to take in the amazing water views out to Cape Woolamai safety beach. This exceptional home showcases style and substance designed to meet every demand. From the quality fixtures and fittings, it's one that will tick all the boxes. Entering the home you are pre-

sented with stunning hardwood timber floors and high ceilings which immediately sets a tone of sophistication and luxury. Three of the four bedrooms are on the ground level, all fitted with quality carpets and built-in robes with one of the bedrooms complete with private ensuite. The remaining bedrooms share a family bathroom with a floor to ceiling tiles, spacious shower, and free-standing vanity. Also on this level you will find a laundry with access through to the spacious garage. The 6 x 4.4m theatre room offers a stunning viewing experience complete with your own projector and

screen; this space will be the perfect place to relax. The rear rumpus room with high ceilings has plenty of room for family gatherings, leading out to the rear entertaining area. And what a space – with bespoke landscaped gardens, Travertine French pattern pavers all flowing to the inground heated saltwater pool. Designed with upstairs living in mind you will find the heart of the home. The kitchen presents a highly functional space with a large island bench, quality appliances, an abundance of storage, and a large walk-in pantry.

The kitchen flows into the open plan living room and then onto the alfresco perfectly positioned to take in the water views of Cape Woolamai safety beach and sweeping coastline. The huge master bedroom is located towards the front of the home and offers a beautiful ensuite finished with twin vanities, a walk-in shower, and large walk-in robe. On this level you will also find a powder room, and a fifth bedroom or home office. Additional Features

- Approx. 780 m² allotment
- Inbuilt gas fire with tiled surround and inset TV

- Across the home is 3 x split systems
 - Solar Power 5KW System
 - Open plan kitchen with quality appliances
 - Double glazing throughout
 - Extensive upper and lower decks
 - Rainwater tank connected to greywater
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Situated in the highly sought-after Shearwater Estate is this single level residence is a short distance from the township of Cowes, golf course, Silverleaves Store and north facing beaches.



The large open plan living, kitchen and dining area is the heart of the home. The kitchen is fitted with stainless steel appliances, dishwasher, electric cooking, stone benchtops and a walk-in pantry.

Beautifully appointed large family home

Situated in the highly sought-after Shearwater Estate is this single level residence sitting on a substantial 1,351sqm fully fenced allotment.

The house is a short distance from the township of Cowes, golf course, Silverleaves Store and north facing beaches allowing you to enjoy all the pleasures of this convenient location.

The home itself boasts four robed

bedrooms; Master is complete with two walk-in robes and ensuite. The left wing of the home provides a tucked away teenager's retreat with another living space, central bathroom and two bedrooms.

The large open plan living, kitchen and dining area is the heart of the home. The kitchen is fitted with stainless steel appliances, dishwasher, 900mm electric cooking, stone

benchtops and a walk-in pantry.

The alfresco area is an entertainer's dream! The expansive undercover and closed in area has a kitchenette with sink, ceiling fan and cafe blinds to protect you from the weather.

Outside you will find low maintenance landscaping and side access with plenty of room to park your caravan, boat or extra cars. There is ample space for extra shedding

alongside the already existing 9 x 6m shed.

Additional features include three living areas, evaporative cooling, split system heating and cooling, combustion heater, tiles and carpet throughout, ample storage space, 9m woodshed, outdoor shower, NBN connectivity, 6.5kilowatt solar system and double garage with internal access.

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WONTHAGGI UNION COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

What's On This Week?

Wed 30 Mar

10.00am Cyrano [M] 2h03m
12.45pm C'mon C'mon [M] 1h50m
3.30pm Death on the Nile [M] 2h07m
6.30pm Belfast [M] 1h38m

Wonthaggi International Film Festival

Fri 1 Apr

7.00pm One Second - Mandarin
[Yi miao zhong] [M] 1h44mins

Sat 2 Apr

10.30am Delicious - French
[Déloureux] [M] 1h52mins
1.30pm Never Gonna Snow Again - Polish, Russian
[Śniegu już nigdy nie będzie] [M] 1h53mins
4.00pm Hive - Albanian
[Zgjoj] [M] 1h24mins
6.00pm The Wild Goose Lake - Mandarin
[Nan fang che zhan de ju hui] [MA15+] 1h53mins

Sun 3 Apr

10.30am Quo Vadis Aida? - Bosnian, English, Serbian, Dutch [M] 1h41mins
1.30pm Deerskin - French
[Le Daim] [MA15+] 1h17mins
3.30pm Swan Song - English
[M] 1h45mins

COMING SOON

Bass Coast Shorts

Fri 8 Apr

Sat 9 Apr

Bass Coast Shire Council, in conjunction with the Australian Short Films Festival, is proud to present a regional short film festival – Bass Coast Shorts, presenting short films of different genres and categories.
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THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news



A pink afternoon tea organised by Yowza Wellbeing and Penny Lane Café in Cowes raised over \$400 for the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Pretty in pink – breast cancer fundraiser

Yowza Wellbeing and Penny Lane Café in Cowes held a pink afternoon tea to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer.

Mandy Ransom from Yowza not only helped organise the afternoon tea; she took on the “55-squats-a-day” challenge in March, signifying the 55 Australians that get diagnosed with breast cancer each day.

“The National Breast Cancer Foundation, which I am a speaker for, aims to get to zero deaths by 2030,” Mandy said.

The cause is a deeply personal one.

“Lisa, the owner of Penny Lane

is currently fighting the cancer, and I am a survivor of breast cancer,” Mandy said.

“This is a cause very close to our hearts as there are many people touched by this cancer.”

The afternoon tea raised over \$400, with Mandy raising over \$750 through the squat challenge.

Lisa and Mandy intend to co-host more fundraising events throughout the year.

Anyone wanting to donate to the 55-squats-a-day challenge can still do so at fundraise.nbcf.org.au/fundraisers/mandyransom/the-55-squat-challenge.



From left: Jess Soussa, Lisa Hennessy, Mandy Ransom and Mel Rodakis.



From left: Mandy Ransom, Lisa Hennessy and Karen Treppo all survivors of breast cancer.



Cheryl Fitzjohn and her daughter Mandy Ransom, Roz Fox, Lisa Hennessy, Karen Treppo, Annie Hawley – all survivors of breast cancer.

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The Phillip Island Movie Club will screen the Icelandic film “Woman at War” at the Penguin Parade on Sunday, April 3 at 2pm.

Movie Club presents “Woman at War”

The Phillip Island Movie Club’s next screening with take place at the Penguin Parade on Sunday, April 3 at 2pm.

The club will screen “Woman at War” a 2018 Icelandic drama/comedy rated M. The doors will open at 1.30pm and the film starts at 2pm.

“Woman at War is an interesting film on a number of levels,” said club secretary Margaret Byrne.

“The main protagonist is a 50 year old woman, which is not a usual tactic. The approach to environmental activism, rather than a confronting picture of how commerce is ruining the planet, is an intelligent and intriguing character study.”

She’s hoping club members can make it along to the screening.

“I apologise for the late notice, if you weren’t at our March film.

“Giving details about time was an issue because daylight saving ceases that day, so I had to confirm the time we could start the film.”

She is urging members to keep Sunday, May 15 free.

“We are having a radio play at the Penguin Parade. I cannot give too many details at this point, as it is still a work in progress, other than it is a reading of the script for a film “Christmas in Balwyn”.

“The play is about the Curry family Christmas and as you may remember Andrew Curry was the Producer of the film A Boy Called Sailboat. Andrew’s brother Stephen Curry will hopefully also attend. More details as they come to hand!”

Once again membership and double vaccination are requirements for entry and masks are an individual decision.

“The PIMC only provides free drinks at the first and last film shown during the year. However, drinks will be available at bar prices and we would love people to stay and mix for a while after the film.

“We look forward to seeing you there.”

Feed your fire

The island’s businesswomen are invited to fuel their inner fire and attend a special Women Empowering Lunch on April 6, at Island Whole Foods.

Hosted by Monica Alfing, a holistic health coach, public speaker and writer, the lunch is an opportunity for local women to get together to support each other in business.

The event has been inspired by the launch of a new book “A Woman’s Journey to Empowerment”, which Monica has contributed to.

“The book is full of women in business telling their personal stories and how they got to empowerment,” Monica said.

“The lunch is a chance to enjoy

a meal with like-minded ladies, listen to a talk about empowerment, growth in business, and helping each other thrive.”

Although the lunch is focused on female entrepreneurs, Monica said every woman is welcome.

“Let’s connect, enjoy and have an amazing lunch together.”

The event runs from 11am – 1pm on April 6, at Island Whole Foods, 4/75 Chapel Street Cowes.

Cost is \$35 and includes lunch, tea and coffee.

For details or to RSVP go to Monica’s Facebook page www.facebook.com/monica.alfing or email monica_coachforwomen@outlook.com.

ASPI Easter Exhibition at Newhaven College

After an extensive search the Artists’ Society of Phillip Island is thrilled to announce that their Easter Exhibition this year will be held at Newhaven College in the Middle School Space.

Last year’s successful Show at Ramada could not be repeated.

“It was very disappointing that they could not offer it again,” an ASPI spokesperson said.

“However we are excited and are certain that this Easter at Newhaven will be as good or better than last year.”

Once again all categories will show members works and works will be for sale.

The Exhibition this year will include “Sustainable Future” sponsored by Westernport Water.

“This category brings most thoughtful and interesting works of art, which honours the saving of our natural resources and the re-use of disposables saving them

from landfill.”

“Best Other Category” allows many artists, sculptor, metal and woodworkers, potters and any artistic talent the imagination can create.

“Best in Show” brings together the very best in visual art with wonderful variety.

The “Wearable Art” category returns and is sure, as always to showcase imagination and varied skills.

Entries close on April 4.

The Exhibition opening night is on Thursday, April 15 and it runs until Monday April 18.

The judge is David O’Halloran and the event is sponsored by Bendigo Community Bank, RSL Cowes, Westernport Water, Chemmart Cowes, Turn the Page/ Flowers of Phillip Island, Seniors Art Supplies.

More information at aspi-inc.org.au.

Seven-year-old Sarah cleans up

Earlier this month, as part of Clean Up Australia day, young Sarah Hargrave took to the street to help make a difference.

The determined seven-year-old decided to clean up Millennium Way in Cowes, near where her grandparents live.

Alongside her grandmother Michele, armed with gloves and a collection bag, Sarah headed out for the clean-up.

"Sarah collected one large bag full of rubbish, it was easily five kilos, and a box of paper," said Michele.

"She told me she would like people to stop rubbishing Australia and hurting our wildlife."

Sarah's haul from Millennium Way included plastic water bottles, glass beer bottles, paper, cardboard, food containers, builders' foam, sheet plastic, flavoured milk containers and cigarette packets.

Michele said she was very proud of her granddaughter's effort and thought her dedication to cleaning up the local area deserved recognition.

The clean-up was not a one-off,

with Sarah now regularly out collecting rubbish.

"Sadly the rubbish is all back," said Michele.

"Sarah said to me, it's such a beautiful place and lazy people drop their rubbish."

Michele is hoping people will be inspired by her granddaughter's efforts and do more to keep the local area clean.

"We used to have signs that said, 'Don't rubbish Australia' and 'Keep Australia beautiful', but I haven't seen them around for a long time."



Earlier this month, seven-year-old Sarah Hargrave collected more than five kilos of rubbish from Millennium Way in Cowes. She said she would like people "to stop rubbishing Australia".

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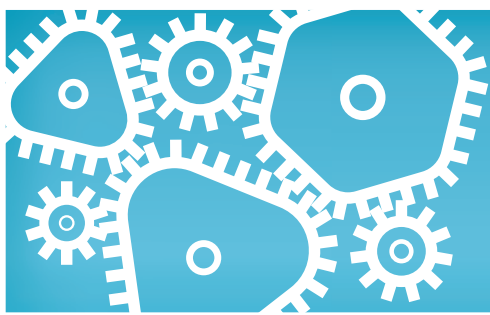
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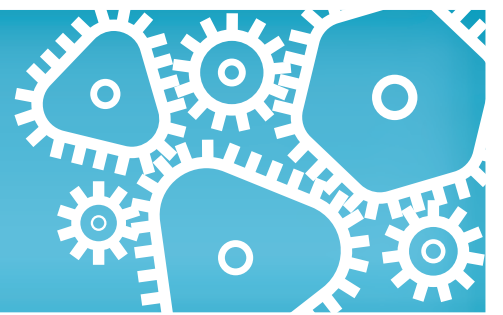
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1946 - 2022
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Adored and much loved brother of Don (Clarrie)
Loved brother-in-law of Tuppy.
Uncle Len to Casey, Scott, Noah and River Todd, and Tori.
Special memories He'll be up on God's stage strumming his guitar.
For ever in our hearts

DAVIES, Megan Elizabeth:
6.2.1964 - 21.3.2022
Passed away suddenly at home.
Loved wife of Ron. Loving Mum of Jack, Hannah and Harry, step-mum to Sam, Mitch, Tayla and all their partners.
Adored sister to Jackie and Vivienne.
Loved and adored by all.

DAVIES (nee HAVERS), Megan:
Our sincere condolences to Ron and all of Megan's family
"You had a smile for everyone you had a heart of gold you left behind joyful memories that we will always hold"
I will miss you Megs, RIP From Lesley and Paul

DAVIES (nee HAVERS), Megan:
6/2/1964 - 21/3/2022
Phillip Island Golf Club Lady Members are deeply saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend and member Megan. Megan was a bright light at our Club - vivacious, funny, feisty, cheeky and always keen to be in everything.
She ably represented us in SGG Pennant golf and tournaments, always endeavouring to do her very best.
Our deepest sympathy to Ron, and to Megan's extended family.
She will be sadly missed by all.
PIGC Ladies' Committee and Members.

DEATHS

DAVIES (nee HAVERS), Megan:
6/2/1964 - 21/3/2022
Phillip Island Golf Club mourns the sudden passing of our valued member and employee, Megan Havers.
Megan was a talented golfer, and represented the Club in Pennant and many district tournaments.
She worked in both Administration and the Golf Shop, bringing a high level of skill, experience and flair to her respective roles.
She was also instrumental in setting up a competition for new lady members.
We extend deepest sympathy to Megan's husband, Ron and to her children, step-children and extended family.
Megan was a loving, generous, fun-filled and adventurous woman - she will be sadly missed.
Board, Committees, Staff and Members of Phillip Island Golf Club.

FUNERALS

DAVIES:
The Funeral Service for Mrs. Megan Elizabeth Davies will be held at St. John's Uniting Church, Chapel Street, Cowes on FRIDAY (April 1, 2022) commencing at 11.00am.
A Private Cremation will follow.

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DIXON, Russell Winston
A Memorial Service for Mr. Russell 'Winston' Dixon will be held at Cowes Cemetery, Coghlan Road, COWES on SUNDAY 10 APRIL 2022 at 11.45am.

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The club looked back on the club history, celebrating head coach Dylan Muir's 10 years of coaching.

"It's not a swim club, it's a family, You all make my job so much easier," said Dylan.

Ten years ago, when Dylan started, there were 11 swimmers competing at the Gippsland Championships and 30 in the club.

In 2022, 110 competed in the Championship, with numbers heading towards 150 club members.

At the Championship the club has finished second for the fifth year in a row and won the under 14 competition (Ash Delany Trophy) for the third year in a row.

Before lockdown there were 35 swimmers in the whole junior program.

In March 2022 there are that many in the new pre-junior development program and 80 in the junior program.

Word of mouth of how much fun it is, the success of their friends at races and the joy of swimming has seen the club grow, including the hiring of new coach Caiden Gill to help with demand.

Acknowledgement of the impact Covid had on swimmers and club over the past two years - it's

an indoor sport and this meant a lot of shutdowns.

There were the drives to the outdoor Toora pool to train in (thanks Toora team), the fitness zooms and the uncertainty for the coaches as to whether there would be a job for them again, which were remembered as part of the celebration of how far the club has come.

Dylan thanked the parents for their major contribution.

"It is you who drives them all over, fuels them, organises them and supports them. This makes our coaching job so much easier."

The club has had huge success at competitions, finishing fifth at Mildura at the State Country Champs on points in January and 14th at Vic Age Champs out of 150 clubs, with the highest scores at those events ever in the club's history.

The teams sent to these competitions continue to increase with 23 making it the Age champs and 12 ending up in finals.

While many competitions have finished up, many swimmers are aiming for the School Championships at the end of April.

At All juniors 37 swimmers competed with 21 making the finals.

This year, the club has had several swimmers break records, with Rahni Matheson holding the current state 100m and 200m breaststroke

title for her age and Sophie McKenzie and Rahni Matheson breaking the Gippsland 50m breaststroke records for their age groups.

In 18 days, seven swimmers head off to the Australian Championships, beating the previous record of four and the club wishes Sophie McKenzie, Trinity O'Keefe, Rahni Matheson, Sienna Matheson, Milla Laub, Skye Munro and Mostyn Lumsden all the best in South Australia.

The Coaches, Committee, Officials and Volunteers were acknowledged for the ways in which they keep the club running so smoothly.

Brett Kerr, who has stepped down from coaching was honoured.

"Good coaches are hard to find around here - they don't grow on trees, and we were lucky to have Brett with us for a long time," Dylan Said.

"We appreciate that while he has stepped away, we do love having him back from time to time."

The club would like to thank the Wonthaggi Workman's Club who donated to the club as well as the use of the room for the night.

The club will have a two to three week break from training over April before preparing for the short course season that starts in June.

Coaches Awards: Taylah Matheson, Aiden Kelly, Jasmine Ruffin, Brooklyn Packer and

Noah McMillan.

Club Champions: Olivia Holmes and Zac Sherar.

Female Age Champions:

17+: Tomei Dal Pozzo and r/up Sophie McKenzie.

15-16: Sienna Matheson and r/up Trinity O'Keefe

14: Milla Laub and r/up Lara Smyth.

13: Rahni Matheson and r/up Asha Chambers.

12: Olivia Holmes and r/up Miah Roberts.

11: Sienna Hunt and r/up Gypsy Quaife.

10: Eden Roberts and r/up Hannah Lucas.

9: Emily Croatto and r/up Jedda Tagell.

8: Josie Richer and r/up Daisy Gilliam - Rodda

Male Age Champions

17+: Josh Seignior and r/up Luke Muir.

15-16: Cooper Quaife and r/up Hayden Barnes.

14: Mostyn Lumsden and r/up Billy Boyd.

13: Zac Sherar and r/up Josh Hunt.

12: Max Brocklesby and r/up Will Simmons.

11: Blake Sherar.

10: Rex Brocklesby and r/up Archie Smyth.

9: Oisin Flynn.

8: Darby Smyth.

Most Improved:

Georgia Courtney.



Club Champions: Olivia Holmes and Zac Sherar with coach Dylan Muir.



Coaches Award winner and Most Improved: Taya Matheson, Brooklyn Packer, Jade Ruffin and Georgia Courtney.



Award winners and Coaches: Back row: Dylan Muir, Caiden Gill, Will Simmons, Josh Hunt, Zac Sherar, Milla Laub, Billy Boyd, Luke Muir, Hayden Barnes, Locke Degaris and Lori McKenzie. Miah Roberts, Sienna Matheson, Georgia Courtney, Lara Smyth, Rahni Matheson, Sophie McKenzie and Trinity O'Keefe. Samantha O'Keefe, Archie Smyth, Max Brocklesby, Taya Matheson, Sienna Hunt, Rex Brocklesby, Zac Sherar, Jade Ruffin and Olivia Holmes. Oisin Flynn, Brooklyn Packer, Eden Roberts, Hannah Lucas, Darby Smyth, Jedda Tagell and Emily Croatto.



Locke Degaris, Luke Muir and Tomei Del Pozzo.



Club Executives enjoy the night: Louise Sherar and Cindy Munro.



Presentation night fun: Milla Laub, Olivia Holmes, Sienna Matheson, Erin Dell, Hugo Munro, Zac Sherar, Blake Sherar, Max Brocklesby, Rex Brocklesby, Chloe Dell, Rahni Matheson and Taya Matheson.



Saturday Morning semi-finalists with Coaches Sam and Lori.

SGB juniors swim on the big stage

Those swimmers who stormed home to finish top eight in Sale a month ago, finally had their chance to compete in the finals at MSAC on March 19 and 20 at Country All Juniors.

It can be rather daunting for the young swimmers, used to training in the 25-metre pools at Leongatha and Wonthaggi to be at the outdoor 50-metre pool at MSAC, with the blocks, large stands and big screens, but the South Gippsland Bass (SGB) crew took it in their stride, waving to the crowd when introduced to the crowd in the finals.

On Saturday 19, 37 swimmers aged 8-16 dove in for 113 events.

Twenty-one headed through to the finals on Sunday, with the team coming home with 14 medals, including five gold, six silver and three bronze, a stack of PB's and some great memories.

For so many of the young swimmers just starting out, having the honour of swimming at a big event like this is half the fun, seeing your results on the big screen and with their family in the stands and others at home watching the event online.

Under the guidance of their coaches and the older swimmers, they learned so much from the event.

It was wonderful to watch the older swimmers helping the younger ones,

knowing it was once them so nervous on the sidelines.

For many it will be the last meet for a few months with many looking forward to a well-deserved rest before firing up for next summer.

The coaches are so proud of where they have come from at the start of the race season in October to now.

The All Juniors 2022 team: Rebecca Barclay, Emma Barclay, Billy Boyd, Rex Brocklesby, Maximilian Brocklesby, Asha Chalmers, Georgia Courtney, Thomas Courtney, Isabel Croatta, Claudia Croatto, Emily Croatto, Billy Fisher, Annie-Jean Giliam-Rodda, Daisy Giliam-Rodda, Lachie Grimes, Josh Hunt, Sienna Hunt, Holly Hurst, Owen Jones, Mostyn Lumsden, Noah McMillan, Harper Mcrae, Hugh Munro, Trinity O'Keefe, Lachlan Paterson, Cooper Quaife, Gypsy Quaife, Josie Richer, Eden Roberts, Miah Roberts, Blake Sherar, Aidan Smyth, Archie Smyth, Darby Smyth, Lara Smyth, Jedda Tagell and Jarrah Tagell.

Well done to the finalists and medal winners:

Rebecca Barclay: 7th backstroke.
Billy Boyd: 8th backstroke, 9th freestyle.
Rex Brocklesby: 1st backstroke,

1st butterfly, 1st freestyle.

Maximilian Brocklesby: 2nd butterfly, 5th freestyle.

Asha Chalmers: 8th backstroke.

Thomas Courtney: 5th breaststroke.

Claudia Croatto: 1st breaststroke.

Emily Croatto: 4th backstroke, 5th butterfly, 2nd breaststroke, 7th freestyle.

Josh Hunt: 8th backstroke, 8th butterfly.

Sienna Hunt: 4th breaststroke, 6th freestyle.

Owen Jones: 10th backstroke, 7th butterfly, 10th breaststroke, 10th freestyle.

Mostyn Lumsden: 2nd backstroke, 3rd freestyle.

Noah McMillan: 4th backstroke.

Harper Mcrae: 9th butterfly.

Josie Richer: 2nd backstroke, 3rd freestyle, 4th breaststroke.

Miah Roberts: 1st backstroke.

Gypsy Quaife: 6th backstroke.

Blake Sherar: 10th butterfly, 6th breaststroke.

Archie Smyth: 10th butterfly, 2nd backstroke, 5th freestyle.

Darby Smyth: 4th backstroke, 4th freestyle, 2nd breaststroke.

Jedda Tagell, 9th backstroke, 7th butterfly, 8th breaststroke, 4th freestyle.



Saturday Afternoon semi finalists.



12-year-old gold Medal winners Claudia Croatto (breaststroke) and Miah Roberts (backstroke) celebrate their wins.



Sunday finalists ready to race.



The Phillip Island Pennant team, proudly wearing their runner-up medals after the grand final at Inverloch on Saturday. Left to Right: Felix Bathgate, Lucas White and Levi Boost.

Phillip island junior tennis

This summer season the Phillip Island Tennis club fielded five teams in the Korrrine and District Junior competition which commenced in October and concluded with the grand finals on Saturday.

Despite several youngsters having never played competitive tennis before, and others playing in higher sections than what they normally did, the experience greatly improved their tennis.

This was shown with these boys who played their first season in Pennant and finished runners-up.

They lost to Wonthaggi Murray in a highly competitive match.

They, like the rest of the Juniors, enjoyed the challenge of the stronger tennis throughout the season.

The P.I.T.C. wishes to thank the team managers and parent drivers who assisted throughout the season.

Their support is greatly appreciated.

Also, thanks to Sandy Lone, the Junior Co-ordinator and Coach, Paul Rowbottom for their contribution throughout the season.

If there are enough juniors interested, teams will be entered in the upcoming Winter competition, Sandy would like to hear from anyone interested.



Newhaven College students have been enjoying and learning how to play croquet with members from the Phillip Island Croquet club.

Newhaven College students take on croquet

Over recent weeks, some Newhaven College Year 9 students, accompanied by teacher Elizabeth Hall, have been learning to play golf croquet from members of the Phillip Island Croquet Club on their lawns (courts) in the Blue Gum Reserve, Cowes.

According to their club mentors, the students were a delight to teach.

They were enthusiastic, very competitive and took on and excelled in all the basic elements of the golf croquet game.

Both mentors and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Phillip Island Croquet Club is excited that the construction of their new Pavilion in the Blue Gum Reserve is underway.

Construction of the Phillip Island Croquet Club Pavilion underway

Members of the Phillip Island Croquet Club are excited to witness their new Pavilion in the Blue Gum Reserve gradually taking shape.

The Pavilion is being constructed by well-known Wonthaggi building company, TS Constructions.

The new pavilion will include accessible amenities, a multi-purpose/social space, toilets and shower, storage and a kitchenette.

The building will also contain a much-needed public toilet for users of the Reserve such as members of the public, dog walkers and Frisbee golf players.

The planning and construction of the Pavilion is such that it gives pub-

lic access to this toilet directly from the Reserve.

The Pavilion is expected to be completed in June 2022 and the Club will then be in a position to encourage more members of the community to learn how to play the great game of croquet – a game for all ages.

The \$600,000 project has been funded by a \$545,000 grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria, as well as \$30,000 from Bass Coast Shire Council and \$25,000 from the Phillip Island Croquet Club.

Council also acknowledged the significant contribution from the Club towards the detailed design for the pavilion.

Cricket presentation night



President Daniel McCausland with winner of the Graham Gemmell Award, (Best Clubman) Dan Stevenson and Vice President Andrew O'Brien.



B2 COY (cricketer of the year), Bowling and Batting Average David Womersley, Captains Award Connor Epifano.



Winning C2 Blue Premiership Team.



B1 Batting and COY Steve McIntyre, Captains Award Tim Niven and Bowling Clint Wilson.



C2 Wade Paterson, Captains Award Luke Marshall, Bowling Chris Fall and Batting and COY John Manning.



A1 Bowling Simon Kirton, A1 Batting, COY and Club Champion Daniel Mock, Captains Award Jarrod Black and Brodie Johnston.



U17s Coach Connor Epifano, Bowling Tim Niven, Batting and Coaches Award Henry Peppard, COY Kohen Beaumont.



U15s COY Heath Womersley, Coach David Womersley, Coaches Award Harry Arceo and Bowling George McCausland.



Winners of midweek bowls were Bob Arnold (3), John Nicholson (S) and Mike Geddes (L).



Best one game winners were Tony Morris (L), Peter Stansfield (3) and Phil Wright (S).

Midweek bowls results

South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls was played at San Remo. Winners were John Nicholson, Bob Arnold and Mike Geddes.

Runners up were Lindsay Russell/Peter McWilliams co skips, Haydn Cave and Elaine Williams. One Game winners were Phil Wright, Peter Stansfield and Tony Morris.

Twenty-five happy bowlers set off for another day of good bowling and great company.

The green was lighting fast but in good condition, so it took us a few ends to adjust.

The day was perfect for bowling, good, humoured sledging could be heard across the green, as the majority of our bowls were in the ditch.

As usual we had the music playing which made for a great atmosphere and Gwen, Bill and Mike were showing their great dancing moves.

The RCH donation tin did very well as more than a few fell on their sword as usual, and it was done in good spirits.

Thank you to our members who brought in items for the free raffle table.

Still in spite of the lighting fast green our scores were as follows: Winners 35 points, runners up 24 points, One Game winners 23 points.

A big thank you to our volunteers who without their help midweek bowls would not be possible. Gwen Jeffrey in the kitchen and Peter Thorley in the bar. Both great midweek members.

Next week we will play at Tarwin Lower, 10am at the club for a 10.30am start.

BYO lunch. For more information or to register please call Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974 or come early on the day. Everyone welcome. See you on the green.



Pennant midweek bowls Division 1 Grand final winners against Leongatha.

Phillip Island bowls

Pennant Bowls: Midweek and Weekend

A huge congratulations to Division 1 midweek pennant team for winning the grand final against Leongatha.

Congratulations to Division 4 who also won the grand final against Port Welshpool and our Division 5 who made it all the way to the final but unfortunately went down to Wonthaggi.

Social Bowls

Another fun day out on the green on Thursday for our 20 social bowlers and conditions on the Island were beautiful.

Winners: Arthur Oakley, Beb Hyslop and Jools Dusting.

Runners up: Paul Brown, Glenda Grazules, Reg Excell and Lance Wearne.

Ladies drawn handicap pairs: Jan Stubbs and Trish Williams defeated Sandra Read and Glenda Grazules.

Polly Major and Lynne Thomas defeated Di Pollock and Beb Hyslop.

Final:

Winners: Polly Major and Lynne Thomas.

Runners up: Jan Stubbs and Trish Williams.

Thank you to Judie Christie for taking the photos.

Grand Final results

Strzelecki south midweek pennant bowls Grand Final results were as follows

Div. 1: (At Leongatha B.C) Phillip Island (1) 12-61 d Inverloch (1) 4-59.

Div. 2: (At Leongatha B.C) Foster (1) 14-62 d Wonthaggi (1) 2-53.

Div. 3: (At Leongatha B.C) Port Welshpool (1) 12-39 d Fish Creek (1) 0-33.

Tenpin bowls – current ladder

2s Company: 1st on 13pts Strike Me Lucky, 2nd on 13pts Him & Her, and 3rd on 10pts Ally Cats.

ABL: 1st on 86pts Just Bowl Already, 2nd on 85.5pts PinPals, and 3rd on 77.5pts Island Sector.

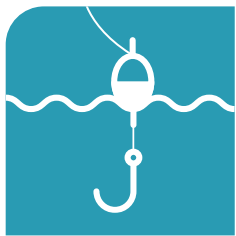
Business: 1st on 18pts Turkey Slappers, 2nd on 12pts 3 Stooges, 3rd on 10pts Old Timers and 4th on 10pts CTD Carpentry.

Phantom: 1st on 9pts Falcor, 2nd on 9pts Blondie, and 3rd on 7pts Rufus.

Top scorers this week

Men: Justin Porthouse 246, Jason Belf 228 and Steve Clarke 209.

Woman: Falcor 201, Elizabeth 164 and Lisa Walker 156.



AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

New Premises

We are settled into the new shop now and have had many of our customers through to have a look.

Mel and I would like to say a huge thanks to everyone for all their positive comments.

Such positivity gives us confidence that we are heading in the right direction and giving our customers what they need.

With the end of the holiday season so close and a bit to do over the next few weeks there won't be a huge number of changes or additions to what we have already done but we will be planning the season over the winter months. Come the start of the season you will start to see plenty of additions.

One addition that will come on board over the next week or so is the thing we have had the most requests for over the years, a long-awaited coffee machine.

Those who have been in will know about the drinks fridge and that we now have ice.

Eskys are back in, and we have a small wall of hardware/tools and stainless-steel nuts and bolts for those emergency repairs.

Next season we are looking at stocking Daiwa again and there will be an increase in our Cressi diving lines as well.

Camping stock is on the agenda over the winter, and we will be agents for Bushman Fridges for your 4 x 4 or caravan. So lots to come as well as plenty we are still working on, but if you have suggestions feel free to let us know next time you are in.

Good Friday Easter Fishing competition

Our Good Friday Easter Fishing competition is ready to go with very few kids show bags left and about half the ladies show bags gone already.

Entries can be downloaded from our socials or just pick one up in store.

There are 12 categories across three age groups, with over \$14,000 in prizes to be won.

There are 100 plus prizes spread over 30 hourly random entry prize draws you can win just for entering, but the best thing is 100 per cent of your entry will go directly to the Good Friday appeal.

The competition runs all week-

end, but entries must be in before 2pm on Good Friday.

Fishing report

It had to come sooner or later; the tuna has moved on for another year so now it's time to concentrate on other species.

Having only had a couple of reports and the odd sightings over the last 10 days or so and similar reports from along the coast, they got what they came for and now have gone to find it somewhere else.

It was the best season we have seen and had been building from the last few years.

Will they come back, that question won't be answered for another 10 months or so, but the next target will be to see if the barrels show up around August again.

In the meantime, if you still need your fix of a good fighting fish don't forget the forgotten kingfish.

Just remember you probably won't get away with the same gear, as kings no matter what size they are will fight hard all the way to the boat.

Personally, I think the kings are a much better fighting fish and they taste a whole lot better than tuna anyway.

With the perfect autumn weather conditions bringing the north easterly wind patterns it has opened up offshore to more of the smaller boats chasing a feed of flathead.

The pattern hasn't changed a lot and if they aren't in 30m they will be in 50m.

While most of the reports are from the eastern side, a few reports are now coming in from those chasing flathead and pinkies from the western side of the entrance towards Woolamai.

Heading much further the other way towards Powlett River/Cape Patterson we have had some good reports of bigger pinkies and excellent gummies.

There is plenty of bait fish to fill the freezer offshore as well with salmon, couta, yakkas and slimmeys, all of them not that hard to find.

Snapper are back customers are telling us, and judging by the photos I have seen it's worth breaking out the heavier gear and heading to your favorite snapper mark to

try your luck. At worse you might pick up a gummy as a by-catch.

The snapper we are seeing are different and this happened about five years ago where we had the normal snapper run then the pinkies over Christmas with a second run just before Easter.

The snapper around now are very bright silver 4kg to 5kg and when you put them side by side with our pre-Christmas snapper the body shape is different.

I have been told 100 different theories, south/west coast versus east coast, Australia versus New Zealand, resident versus new fish.

Whatever they are, they fight the same and have shown up in reasonable numbers with some sounder pictures I have seen looking like a November picture.

Whiting continued their up and down season with the reports not a lot different now than three months ago.

Sometimes deep, sometimes shallow, sometimes all big, sometimes mixed, numbers good and numbers just ok.

I was reading back through diaries looking for something else and it is noticeable how the whiting has changed over the last 10 to 15 years.

Early reports were all of very good numbers and bagging out was almost expected (fish between 27cm and 34cm) and if you didn't catch some then basically you weren't fishing for them.

Shallow water was the go and if you were over 3m you had no hope and the thought of fishing in 12m almost laughable.

In the shop what we sold was very different as well.

Circle hooks were for snapper and there wasn't much small enough for whiting on the market.

The only size longshank we sold was size 8 and with pippies at \$6kg you didn't even consider other baits.

Now pippies are way too expensive, we hardly sell size 8 hooks, 10 companies make whiting circle hooks, there are as many reports from deep as shallow.

While the bag numbers are probably down the average size is considerably different and the expectation is 40cm plus fish with a 1kg whiting is now considered just a good fish not front-page news.

Rhyll Angling Club competition

It was a fairy-tale weekend for the ninth Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) Angling Competition, held on March 19 and 20.

Indeed, the weather was magical, there was a bounty of fish, and the clubrooms were graced by royalty, storytellers, and a jester-or-two.

With weigh-in starting at 4.30pm on Saturday and Sunday, there were many opportunities to hear fishing tales told first-hand, including secrets that revealed the weekend's hotspots and the best techniques.

Facts were generally mixed with a grain of salt and a pinch of humour to deliver some lively laughter.

Certainly, the tips offered opportunities for contemplation and possibilities for future success.

A total of 41 fish and two gummy sharks were presented for weigh-in, with the autumn bonanza including yellowtail kingfish, snapper, King George whiting, trevally, couta, flathead, mackerel, and leather jackets.

At the conclusion of the competition on Sunday afternoon, anglers and supporters were greeted with the barbecue aroma of sizzling sausages.

The royal chef for the weekend, Ron Soolsma, ensured that aficionados could sample the delights wrapped in white slices, supplied by Bakers Delight Cowes.

The post-competition presentation awarded Phillip Island Marine vouchers to all who were crowned victorious.

The Squidgie Mixed Bag Points competition, for participants aged nine and under, was dominated by the reigning Squidgie Champion, Denver Firth.

Denver presented a regal total of seven fish worth 120 points and was delighted with his prize for first place.

The Junior competition, for anglers aged 10 to 16, congratulated Isabella Bland and Pheonix Firth for their stately catches.

Isabella weighed-in a feisty Pinkie Snapper of 540 grams to win the Junior Weight competition, whilst Pheonix presented a princely King George whiting worth 1232 points (440 grams) to win the Junior Points



King for the weekend and Senior Weight competition winner, Pat Gleeson, with his 3605-gram yellowtail kingfish that impressed all onlookers.

competition.

The Senior Heaviest Weight competitions were won by Pat Gleeson and Kate Jinette.

Pat was king for the weekend after bringing a 3605-gram yellowtail kingfish to the clubrooms, the first of the season, which impressed all onlookers.

Kate persisted throughout the weekend and was royally flushed that her 925-gram pinkie snapper was the best in class.

The Senior Points competitions were all won with King George whiting and Duncan Firth had the grandest of the weekend, which was worth 1792 points (640 grams).

Tenille Preddice and Anne-Marie Richards could not be separated in the competition, each weighing-in a majestic 445-gram King George whiting to tie in first place.

The Senior Shark competition was also won by Duncan Firth, who fortunately had an iced attaché case big enough to deliver a 7365-gram gummy shark to weigh-in.

The Secret Weight prize was awarded to Garry Richards for his 420-gram King George whiting that was closest to the weekend's magic number (secret weight 421 grams).

With one more fishing competition remaining in the season, the odds of claiming an RPIAC Extraordinary Catch Incentive are fading.

Each competition weekend has angling members mindful of the \$1000 first-to-catch prizes for eligible species that equal or exceed the nominated weight, none of these have been claimed this season, and some possibilities remain: King George Whiting (1000 grams), Snapper (10kg), Gummy Shark (20kg), Mulloway (25kg) and Kingfish (25kg).

The RPIAC clubroom is located adjacent to the Rhyll boat ramp and is open to members and visitors on Fridays (from 5pm) and competition weekends coinciding with weigh in.

The final angling competition for the 2021/2022 season will be held over the weekend of April 9 and 10, where the Squidgie and Junior Club Champions will be announced.

For further information about the club, events, competitions, and rules, please visit www.rpiac.com.

Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, March 22, Men's Stableford

Winner was Rob Wood (27) with 42 points from Terry Crumpton (11) with 40 points.

Men's Nine-hole competition winner was Bob Leak (28) with 19 points on c/b from Reg Browne.

Wednesday, March 23, Ladies 4 Person drop out Ambrose

Winning team was Faye Morris, Karen Green, Vicki Amato and Pam May with nett 55.

Runners up were Helen Coghlan, Mary Smith, Anne McCallum and

Zoe Frost with 57.25 nett.

NTP: 5th Ira Septiana, 7th Megan Elbaz 10th Helen Coghlan and 17th Zoe Frost.

9 Hole Stableford winner was Wendy Hamilton (28) 15 points.

Thursday, March 24, Open Stableford

Winner was John Gains (22) with 42 points, r/up was Lawrie Downward (14) with 40 points.

Nine Hole Stableford competition winner was Ron Hateley (33) with 19 points on c/b to Reg Browne (35) 19 points.

Saturday, March 26 Stableford

A Grade winner was Luke Zoanetti (10) with 43 points, runner up was Jeff Bennett (10) with 39 points c/b.

B Grade winner was Greg Hyndman (18) with 39 points to Ron Haydon (13) with 38 points c/b.

C Grade Winner was Ralf Faulwetter (25) with 44 points on c/b to Bob Fabiny (24).

NTP: 5th Mark Dykes, 7th Glen Paterson, 10th Ian Smith and 17th Mark Dykes.

The Ladies winner was Tracey Cuff (22) with 38 Points from Sheryl Smith (22) with 37 points.

NTP: 5th Ada Anglin, 7th Stacey Meder and 17th Lesley Meadowcroft.

Nine-hole competition winner was Ian Hendrrie with 19 points on c/b.

Bridge results

Another wonderful week of bridge! Monday competition winners were Greg Nicholson and Deb Anglim, 2nd Don and Trish Stewart -Uden and 3rd Moya Crowley and Michael Dooley.

Wednesday we have in the

money Don and Trish Stewart-Uden, 2nd Bronwyn Sund and 3rd Clare and Jim Murphy.

Bridge is a fascinating game for all ages.

Classes and social games available.

RSL Euchre results

Ladie's winner: Marg Cahill – 6 wins.

Men's winner: Bob Hee – 6 wins. Encouragement

Les Walton.

Please contact Bob Hee for any further Information on 0418 173 388.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 30 MAR	THU 31 MAR	FRI 1 APR	SAT 2 APR	SUN 3 APR	MON 4 APR	TUE 5 APR
LOW 4:34 am 1.23 m	HIGH 12:14 am 2.56 m	HIGH 1:24 am 2.61 m	HIGH 2:26 am 2.69 m	HIGH 2:16 am 2.75 m	HIGH 3:00 am 2.77 m	HIGH 3:36 am 2.76 m
HIGH 10:57 am 2.36 m	LOW 5:56 am 1.15 m	LOW 7:12 am 0.99 m	LOW 8:14 am 0.80 m	LOW 8:04 am 0.63 m	LOW 8:47 am 0.51 m	LOW 9:25 am 0.44 m
LOW 4:57 pm 0.84 m	HIGH 12:30 pm 2.41 m	HIGH 1:53 pm 2.56 m	HIGH 3:00 pm 2.75 m	HIGH 2:56 pm 2.91 m	HIGH 3:42 pm 3.00 m	HIGH 4:20 pm 3.04 m
	LOW 6:23 pm 0.90 m	LOW 7:40 pm 0.89 m	LOW 8:43 pm 0.86 m	LOW 8:35 pm 0.84 m	LOW 9:19 pm 0.85 m	LOW 9:58 pm 0.87 m

All material is supplied in good faith and is believed to be correct. No responsibility or liability for errors or omissions is accepted.



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U16s Girls RIPS team (left to right): Back: Lexi Walton (coach), Isla, Maddi, Qiashi, Matilda and Jarrah White (coach). Front: Hope, Meika, Maya and Abby.

Basketball Country Champs

The 2022 Junior Country Championships are always the highlight of the basketball representative season. The U16/18 Div 1 & 2 was held in Bendigo on February 19 and 20 with Div 3, 4 and 5 held in Ballarat on March 19 and 20 to wrap up these two age groups.

U16 Boys

Earning a spot in the Div 1 and 2 Junior Country Championships in Bendigo, the Rips U16 boys were well prepared for the challenge by coach Terry Robinson.

In their first game against Geelong United the Island boys lead by a point after the first quarter, however gained themselves a slightly larger margin of six points at half time. In the third the Rips stayed strong, but Geelong wasn't going to make it easy and scored 13 points in the fourth compared to the Island's eight.

Leaving their run too late, Terry and team took a 34-to-30-point win.

Game two against the Warrnambool Seahawks was a bigger challenge for the Rips but were in reach of matching Warrnambool after every quarter.

The Seahawks had a steady 11 points in each quarter and took a 44-to-22-point win against the Island.

Regrouping for game three, Terry and the team were three points ahead of the Wodonga Wolves after the first quarter, however finished the first half a point down.

Giving it their all the Rips went strong in the second half of the game to seal a 54-to-45-point win and a spot in the Div 1 Quarter Finals.

Macedon Rangers were going to be a tough team and in the first half they were in front 18 to 13 points.

The Island showed great teamwork and delivered a great third quarter with 15 to 13 points for the Rips boys, but in the last quarter the Rangers were super strong and took the win by 14 points – final score 48 to 34.

That concluded the Phillip Island



U16s Boys Rips team, L-R: Yianni Caffieri, Cooper Walton, Joel Robinson, Jasper Cashman, Jeremy Kelly, Finn O'Brien, Bailey Hennessy, Stirling Hamilton. Absent due to Covid Protocols: Noah Forrest-Mabilia and Austin Finlayson.

Rips U16 boys' representative campaign with some major achievements and grand final wins during their season.

PIDBA acknowledges coach Terry and team manager Jo Robinson for their support of the team this season.

This group of players have had an outstanding season and showcased some impressive basketball.

U16 Girls

The Phillip Island Rips U16 girls kicked off the U16/18 Div 3 and 4 Junior Country Champs in Ballarat with a 50-to-23-point win against Morwell Magic and it was clear this was their game from the start with 24 points in the first half and 26 in the second.

Following on from their convincing win it was then time to face Phillip Island's neighbours – Wonthaggi Coasters.

It's great playing teams from other regions but playing against the Coasters is like playing with friends.

In the first half the Island ensured that they had a big lead with 28 to 8 points going into half time.

Wonthaggi picked up in the second, but the Island girls were strong. Final score Rips 46 to Coasters 23.

Game 3 and the Rips U16 girls are getting it done at the Junior Country Champs (Div 3and4) in Ballarat.

In their first half against Maryborough Blazers the Island girls were up 25 to 7, however the Blazers got in the game in the second half with 20 points to the Rips 15.

Coaches Lexi Walton and Jarrah White and the team were happy to secure a 40-to-27-point win on the final buzzer.

To top off the day Maddison Rogers had a 37-point game which was topped up by team members to secure a 53-to-36-point win against Wallan Panthers.

Wallan scored 18 points in each half, but it wasn't enough.

Undefeated on day one, the Rips girls are through to the Div 3 Quarter Finals against Surfcoast Chargers.

In the Div 3 quarter final against the Surfcoast the Rips had a one-point lead going into half time. They really turned up the pressure in the second to secure a 36-to-25-point win and a spot in the Div 3 Semi Finals.

Once again, the Island team faced Foster Breakers and this Semi Final game was the one both teams wanted.

By half time Foster had a three-

point lead and grew the margin by a further four points in the second, taking a win and a spot in the grand final away from the Island.

The Rips U16 girls and coaches Jarrah and Lexi with the great support of team manager Amber White, had such an outstanding season that although heartbreaking, it's a season campaign that the team should be very proud of – congratulations.

U18 Boys

A great game to start the weekend between Phillip Island Rips U18 boys and Macedon Rangers at the U16/18 Div 3 and 4 Junior Country Champs this weekend.

The game was Live Streamed and saw the Rangers grab a 28-to-13-point lead in the first half, however our Island boys had a brilliant second half scoring 18 points to the Rangers 19.

Final score 31 to 47 points going Macedon's way.

In their second game of the day, Rips U16 boys had a big game against Portland Coasters.

Despite some great basketball, it was a tough game where our Island boys missed out on a win – final score 32 to 57 going Portland's way.

Going into the Div 4 and 5 Cross-over Quarter Finals the boys played an amazing game, however missed out on a win by a single point against Ararat Redbacks but landed themselves in the Div 5 Quarters against Wallan Panthers.

On day two, coach Christian Lloyd, team manager Jodi Kennedy and the team kicked off the day with their Div 5 Quarter Final against Wallan and with only a four-point game going into half time against the Rips, the Panthers dug deep in the second and took a 49-to-36-point win.

The Island boys displayed great teamwork and after many setbacks for the team this season, they showed outstanding team spirit and should be congratulated for giving it their all.

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AND STAFF**

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