

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021

\$1.40 Incl. GST

Breaking: AGL proposal rejected, see page 7.



The CFA and members of our local community are throwing their support behind the annual Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. For a full run-down on local fundraising activities, see pages 11 and 12.

Dig deep for Good Friday Appeal

Weekend of tragedy rocks island

Two men have died, another remains in a critical condition in hospital and one is missing after what has been described as a horror weekend on our roads and beaches.

Senior Sergeant Andy O'Brien praised the work of police and emergency service staff but said it was a weekend he would not like to repeat.

On Saturday afternoon, two unrelated road accidents occurred on Phillip Island within hours of each other.

Around 1pm, a 66-year-old male sustained life-threatening injuries

when his car slammed into a tree.

Police said he was travelling east on Ventnor Road and was just past the intersection with Ventnor Beach Road when the car veered left and collided with a large pine tree.

"There's no indication why the vehicle left the road, but it was travelling at speed and there was extensive damage to the vehicle," Snr Sergeant O'Brien said.

The man, who had recently moved to the island from Loch Sport in Central Gippsland, had to be cut free and was then airlifted to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Hours later, around 4.30pm, there was a fatal accident on Back Beach Road, just past the intersection of Berrys Beach Road.

"There's nothing to indicate why the vehicle went off the road and hit a tree at high speed," said Snr Sergeant O'Brien.

"Police are still investigating."

The driver, a 51-year-old male from Cowes was the only passenger in the car.

Police are asking anyone who witnessed either crash or who has dashcam footage to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit

a confidential crime report at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

Missing fisherman

Local police continue to search for a missing fisherman.

Around 10am on Sunday, police responded to reports a man was swept off rocks adjacent to Shanty Lane in Kilcunda.

"Other people noticed him fishing on the rocks, then a large wave hit the rock face," Snr Sergeant O'Brien explained.

"They didn't see him get washed in, but when the wave was gone,

there was no one on the rock."

Police Air Wing, Life Saving Victoria and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service searched the area without success.

"There was no debris in the water, and no vehicles parked near the area," Snr Sergeant O'Brien said.

"If someone was fishing in that area Sunday morning, could they please contact the police."

"And if you have any concerns about someone who hasn't come home who could have been fishing, please let us know."

Continued page 5

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PHILLIP ISLAND

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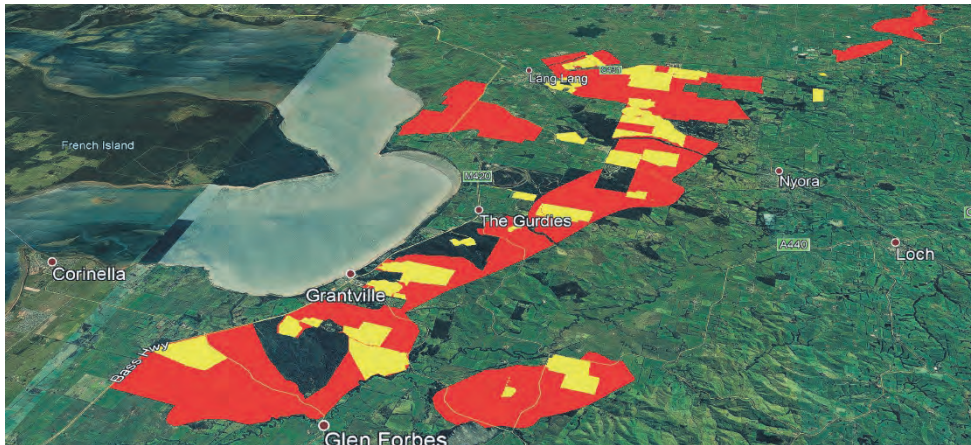
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The red images on this satellite map show the area earmarked by the Victorian Government for future mining activity. The yellow shows the existing work authorities, being current and inactive sand mines. "This battle with Dandy Premix is just the first; we're only just getting warmed up," say residents.

Grantville will become Morwell "dust bowl"

High-value forest at the back of Grantville will be transformed into a Morwell-style "dust bowl" open cut mine, say residents fighting the Dandy Premix expansion plans.

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

The proposal will remove the equivalent of eight MCGs worth of vegetation and has been described by Bass Coast Shire councillors as "Melbourne-centric", with no benefit – only distress – to the local community.

Save Western Port Woodlands spokesperson Tim O'Brien last week said maps shown during the panel indicated the sand mine pit will be about 1.2km-wide.

"Grantville residents will be appalled at the scale of the open cut mine that is at risk of being approved right on their doorsteps," Mr O'Brien said.

"The maps we've seen as part of this panel process showing the immensity of this pit, more than 1.2km across is nothing short of horrifying.

"So too its potential impact on land and home values. If approved, this will do what the open cut did for property around Yallourn and Morwell, but without the jobs and without community benefit.

"This site, and the adjacent Holcim site, and the expansion of other mines north, south and east of Grantville are turning this beautiful part of the Western Port shoreline and coastal forest into a giant ugly, dusty hole."

He said removing high value forests – including groves of grass trees, endangered orchids and wildlife – for "low value sand for bridges and carparks for Melbourne was plundering regional Victoria for the convenience of Melbourne".

"This is not Brazil, we should not be plundering and ripping out mature forest. We should not be dropping heavy metals and poisons near local communities, and anywhere near Ramsar wetlands."

He called on Minister Wynne and Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio to protect the coastal forest corridor – "the last remaining forest in Bass Coast" – and reject the Dandy proposal.

Telstra 5G rollout in Cowes



Telstra has started the roll-out of Telstra 5G on Phillip Island, with two sites in Cowes now on air.

Telstra has started the roll-out of Telstra 5G on Phillip Island and has announced its first two 5G sites here are now on air.

Telstra Regional General Manager Loretta Willaton said that further upgrades and roll-outs are planned in other areas on Phillip Island and Bass Coast over the coming weeks.

"We've switched on the first Telstra 5G sites on Phillip Island, bringing our new network to Cowes locals and visitors for the first time," Ms Willaton said.

"Additional Telstra 5G coverage means more customers with 5G devices can get faster download speeds and enjoy greater capacity during busy periods on the mobile network."

The company has made a commitment to roll-out its 5G network to 75 per cent of Australia's population by the end of June.

Ms Willaton said the roll-out in regional areas, including Cowes, will also improve capacity and speeds for Telstra's existing 4G customers.

Further easing of Covid restrictions

From 6pm on Friday, March 26, CovidSafe settings were further relaxed in Victoria.

While masks must still be carried at all times, you only need to wear them on public transport (including rideshare vehicles) and sensitive settings such as aged care facilities and hospitals.

Masks also must be worn on all flights to and from Victoria and indoors at airports.

It is strongly recommended you wear a face mask when at a private gathering or when you cannot maintain 1.5 metres distance from other people.

You can now have up to 100 visitors to your home in a day and outdoor gatherings can increase to 200.

Offices can reopen, but must have a Covid-safe plan in place, with a density limit of one person per 2 square metres.

Business should record the details of anyone who visits the office for more than 15 minutes (including staff) to support contact tracing.

Density limits have been further eased for gyms and exercise classes. There will no longer be limits on class sizes for outdoor and indoor physical recreation or fitness classes.

Indoor non-seated entertainment venues will increase from 50 per cent to 75 per cent capacity, however, the limit of 1000 people per space remains.

More information is available at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au or call the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Vaccinations

The national roll-out of the vaccine to priority group 1B began on March 22. This group includes adults aged 70 years and over, health care workers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged 55 and over, adults with an underlying medical condition or significant disability and critical and high-risk workers.

To see if you are eligible to be vaccinated by your local GP, go to covidvaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility

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PICAL HQ, community hospital inch forward

A new Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) is a step closer after Bass Coast Shire councillors last week agreed to boost the building budget by nearly \$300,000.

The approval means a community hospital is also closer.

In 2019, the State Government announced it would buy PICAL's existing Church Street site to allow for the construction of the new hospital.

Last year the shire confirmed they would allocate more than \$1 million for stage one construction of 400 square metres of floor space at 16 Warley Avenue in Cowes; also working to find a home for a secondary "satellite" site, to house PICAL's community gardening programs, with potential for expansion.

PICAL chair Jeff Floyd last year said they required a larger building, about 550m².

Last week, councillors agreed to boost the budget by \$275,900, which will include stage one design and construction, as well as design for a future stage two (150m²), commercial kitchen, landscaping, fire engineering, fencing, driveway, and car park.

Mr Floyd last week said he was "absolutely delighted" councillors had given the green light for PICAL's new building in Cowes.

But, he added, the new building and site would not accommodate all of PICAL's services.

"PICAL is working closely with the council to identify a new site for its community garden and Boomerang Bags activities and is hopeful that the site will be finalised by May so that planning can commence," Mr Floyd said.

"PICAL will now prepare a budget



An artist's impression of the new PICAL facility on Warley Avenue

bid to council for the second stage development of the new Cowes building, and to build the new community garden.

"This development will underpin PICAL's services to the community for decades to come."

The total build will be more than \$1.7 million with the shire able to recoup costs from the sale of Church Street.

Welfare

Cr Ron Bauer said PICAL was an important island institution, and the move is part of a "jigsaw".

"Once they move it will open up the area for the community hospital, so it's a win-win," he said.

Cr Bruce Kent said the community could see a problem with extra costs on major projects.

"But these extra costs are related to a future stage two and we'd be mad not to make sure we can accommodate that."

Cr Clare Le Serve said the new building was a "long time coming", with council previously approving a rebuild in 2019 before the State Government's purchase of the Church Street site.

"They do great work for the community, not just education but support services," she said.

PICAL provides community services through an emergency food relief service, Centrelink Agency, a community garden, employment services, workshops, adult education and referrals to welfare services such as mental health counselling, family violence assistance and emergency accommodation.

During last year's COVID-19 lockdown, PICAL grew significantly, mainly due to delivering essential services.

PICAL is the largest emergency food relief outlet in South Gippsland, regularly feeding more than 500 people each month.

Breaking up is hard to do

Locals and officials keeping a close eye on the whale washed up on Forrest Caves beach earlier this month, say the giant mammal is starting to break up.

Officers from Parks Victoria who are leading the response team, are closely monitoring the situation and reported parts of the skeleton have separated from the blubber and are being buried above the high tide line.

The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) had previously advised allowing the whale carcass to break down naturally was the most environmentally friendly option.

The process is expected to take at least six to eight weeks.

The area is being regularly monitored by Fisheries Victoria and it is still recommended to avoid the area until the whale breaks up completely. It is hoped the high tides over Easter will help further break up the carcass and move it off shore.

Beachgoers are reminded to stay at least 300 metres away from the



Officials from Parks Victoria say the whale washed up at Forrest Caves is starting to break up. However, swimming between Surf Beach and Woolamai Beach is still not recommended and beachgoers must stay at least 300 metres away from the carcass.

carcass. Whales, alive or dead, are protected under the Wildlife Act and it is an offence for members of the public to interfere, take or be in possession of parts of a dead whale.

Swimming in the area between Surf Beach and Woolamai Beach is not recommended.



A boat being towed home last week ended up on the Phillip Island Road near San Remo, after the bolt on the trailer broke. Photo courtesy of Eyewatch-Bass Coast Police.

Boat takes an unexpected road trip

Last week a local boat took an unexpected road trip.

Police said last Wednesday (March 24), a resident was towing his boat home when the shackle bolt on the trailer broke, dropping the boat onto the middle of Phillip Island Road near San Remo.

Other motorists helped to move the boat to the side of the road, as

traffic banked up behind the incident.

Police thanked the public for pitching in to help, but said traffic remained congested until the boat was professionally removed.

Motorists are reminded to slow down to 40 km/h when passing police and emergency vehicles with their lights flashing.

RUSSELL BROADBENT MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MONASH

Your life is precious

Please drive to the conditions of our country roads this Easter



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Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 46c Albert Street, Warragul VIC 3820

Step
Outside

move your way

Local residents the
face of new
campaign to keep
active and healthy

Local residents are the stars of a new campaign encouraging people to 'Step Outside and Move Your Way'.



Last week photoshoots were held at locations across Bass Coast and South Gippsland including Inverloch, Cowes, San Remo, Foster, Fish Creek, Mirboo North and Korumburra.

The photographs will be used as part of a campaign to increase the amount of walking and activity people aged 55 years and older do in our local natural spaces including beaches, trails and parks.

The campaign was co-designed with local residents. Everything from the logo, key messages and images were designed by our local community.

Rebecca Scott, Prevention Manager at the South Coast Primary & Community

Partnership, thanked all the people who contributed ideas for the campaign. "It is really important to involve the community right from the start of the project. They know the local area, have insights as to what might motivate local people and are keen to encourage others to get active".

She said that moving more as we age has many benefits, even starting out with small steps. "We're encouraging locals to build outdoor recreation into their daily routine and explore where they live".

The campaign will be delivered over 12 months and will include activities, resources and prompts to get you out and about.

For information about the campaign please go to <https://www.southcoastpcp.org.au/>
For media queries or more information please contact
Rebecca Scott on M: 0418 672 135 or E: rebeccas@southcoastpcp.org.au



Cr Brett Tessari with Member for Monash Russell Broadbent and members of the CUC Board and community celebrated the official launch of the Bass Coast Country Universities Centre.

Bass Coast university opens its door

The Country Universities Centre (CUC) Bass Coast was officially opened last week.

The event was headlined by several guests, including the federal Member for Monash, Russell Broadbent, and Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, who joined the local CUC Board and community members to celebrate the opening of the Centre.

The CUC Bass Coast is located at 21-23 Baillieu Street, Wonthaggi and has been refurbished to provide a positive and vibrant learning space for local students to focus on their studies.

The Australian Government has committed \$1.32 million, including \$480,000 for capital works, to establish the Centre. The hub will provide students with access to study spaces and technology like computers, high-speed internet, and video conferencing equipment to assist with their studies.

Mr Broadbent said that the newly opened Centre would give local students unprecedented facilities and support, which will play a crucial part in enabling students to succeed in higher education.

"State of the art facilities like the CUC places Bass Coast amongst the most preferable regional locations around the nation to both live and work," Mr Broadbent said.

"This dedicated learning and study space has been designed for regional people by regional people. It has a team of local community champions behind it who will ensure local students have access to the technology, high-speed internet and academic support, which will allow its students to thrive and succeed in their studies.

"I happily threw my support behind this project, as it will support local higher education students as



The Centre will provide students with access to study spaces, computers, high-speed internet and learning spaces.

they navigate through their higher education, without having to leave the region."

CUC CEO, Duncan Taylor, acknowledged the significant contributions towards the establishment and operations of the CUC Bass Coast from government.

"We are very grateful for the support we've received. Without the Federal funding and Council support, we wouldn't be standing in the CUC Bass Coast today," Mr Taylor said.

"Importantly, our CUCs are community-driven and managed. We also want to thank and recognise the Bass Coast community to which this Centre belongs.

"Without our community champions, the volunteer board members, our amazing Centre Manager, we wouldn't be here celebrating today."

Cr Brett Tessari said that the establishment of the Bass Coast CUC in Wonthaggi is wonderful news for the local community.

"Council has been involved in this project since its inception, so it is great to see the Centre up and run-

ning," Cr Tessari said.

"Sadly, students from Bass Coast and South Gippsland are currently less likely to complete year 12, less likely to go to university and less likely to complete a degree, when compared with their metropolitan counterparts.

"We look forward to changing these statistics. Having this Centre in Wonthaggi will open up some amazing opportunities for students across Bass Coast and surrounding areas. It is a game changer for the whole region," Cr Tessari concluded.

The Chair of CUC Bass Coast, Martin Keogh, said the opening of CUC Bass Coast is a major milestone for the community of Bass Coast and beyond.

"Working alongside CUC Central, CUC Bass Coast looks forward to contributing to reducing the gap in higher educational opportunities for regional students," Mr Keogh said.

Any interested students should feel free to contact the CUC Bass Coast Centre Manager, Andrea Evans-McCall, on andrea.evansmccall@cucbasscoast.edu.au

Shadow Health Minister updated by PIMHAG



The Shadow Minister for Health Georgie Crozier, and Upper House Member Ed O'Donohue, met with PIMHAG president Peter Paul, and committee members John Matthews and Gill Scrase last week, to gain an update and insight into the health needs of Phillip Island.

The Shadow Minister for Health Georgie Crozier, and Upper House Member Ed O'Donohue, met with members of PIMHAG last week, to gain an update and insight into the health needs of Phillip Island.

PIMHAG president Peter Paul described the meeting as a very positive one.

Mr Paul said the Shadow Health Minister was given a detailed briefing from PIMHAG representatives on the issues the community is facing in relation to the delivery of health services for a rapidly growing population.

Topics discussed included the need for the development of plans for the mooted community hospital to be in line with community expectations; the need for more public aged care beds; and problems relating to accessibility onto and off Phillip Island in peak periods during medical emergencies.

Mr Paul said PIMHAG very much appreciated the visit by Ms Crozier and Mr O'Donohue and the frank discussion held.

"We appreciate the opportunity of being able to outline firsthand the

complex health issues Phillip Island is facing.

"We have a growing and ageing community, and we have complex needs going forward," he said.

"PIMHAG was born out of the closure of Warley Hospital, and has lobbied strongly over the past decade to achieve what has been achieved. Ten years after the closure of Warley, 24/7 medical assistance was finally restored.

"But our work is not yet done!"

An immediate issue for PIMHAG is the delivery of the pledge made by the state government prior to the last state election, that a new community hospital would be built in Cowes.

"The community does not know what is happening in relation to that promise.

"We need an assurance that planning is underway, and that the plans will be in line with community expectations and need."

Ms Crozier thanked PIMHAG members at the meeting for the work that has been carried out by their group on behalf of the community.



PHILLIP ISLAND BICYCLE USER GROUP

Whether young or old, new to the island, permanent or weekender, if you enjoy cycling and would like to do some group rides, the PIBUG could be for you!

Membership of this group provides the opportunity to get fit and see beautiful parts of our Island and surrounding districts from the advantage of your bicycle seat. You can enjoy making new friends over coffee and make friendly conversation along the way.

We meet every Wednesday and Sunday at 'A Maze'N'Things' on Phillip Island Road at 10am for Island rides.

More challenging off Island rides are also offered on Sundays.

If riding a bike is a new challenge you might like to explore, but feel unsure of, a short training course can be offered to help you gain confidence to ride with a group on roads and bike paths.

If you are interested in joining us, you can get in touch with:

Ruth Scott (Secretary): rascott501@gmail.com

Chris Phillips (President): chrisdphillips123@gmail.com

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Cancer care now available locally

Surf Beach's Glenice Loughnan (pictured) was one of the first patients to be treated at Bass Coast Health's new cancer care centre when it officially opened on Monday.

"If this service wasn't available I would have had to drive to Traralgon, which would have been a nightmare, especially if you don't feel well on the way home," Glenice said.

The Integrated Care Centre – also known as The L. Rigby Centre – was officially opened at Wonthaggi Hospital this week, for the first-time offering locals treatment including chemotherapy, infusions and supportive



therapies.

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child said the centre's opening meant local residents now no longer have to travel to Melbourne or Traralgon for com-

prehensive cancer care, with services provided by Alfred Health.

The centre was built with \$1.46 million from the Federal Government, as well as \$2.2 million in state government funding for ongoing costs.

Local groups such as the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary have also contributed about \$245,000 for furniture and equipment.

"I'm in good hands, I'm feeling great," said Glenice, who is pictured here with nurses Genevieve Harvey and Erin Passarin.

More details in next week's paper.

Latrobe helps Bass businesses grow

The Latrobe Valley Authority's Business and Industry Capability Fund is now accepting applications, to help local small businesses grow.

In support of this Fund, Bass Coast Shire Council's Business Support Concierge, Claudia Tivendale, is available to help local businesses determine their eligibility and to make their application.

The Fund is offering grants of up to \$5000 through Stream One, for developing skills and capabilities, including engaging professional services and training.

Grants of up to \$25,000 will be available through Streams Two, Three and Four, for feasibility studies, infrastructure and equipment upgrades, as well as collaborative business activities where associations or businesses join forces across two local government boundaries.

The Fund is available to small businesses that are less than three years old, with a turnover under \$1.5 million. It's also available to new owners of a small business, if they've been running it for less than three years.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, said the Concierge model takes a coordinated approach to help local people access the many government and private sector programs that exist to support businesses.

"Get in touch with Claudia if you are keen to apply for this funding, or to connect with relevant information and services, both locally and across Gippsland," Cr Tessari said.

If you are interested in expanding and growing your business in Bass Coast, please contact Business Support Concierge Claudia Tivendale on 0435 197 579, 03 5671 2211 or email claudia.tivendale@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Weekend of tragedy rocks island

From page 1

He said to date, no one had been reported missing.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or with information is urged to contact Wonthaggi Police on 5671 4100.

An extensive two-day land and sea search in Cowes for a missing person was called off late on Monday, after a body was located.

Police said the death was not being treated as suspicious.

SES

Volunteer crews from the Phillip Island and San Remo SES assisted with the search for the missing man in Cowes, as well as the two road accidents over the weekend.

"Both teams worked together along with our partner agencies Phillip Island CFA, Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria to free the trapped driver on Ventnor Beach Road where we then left him in the safe and capable hands



Police, ambulance, CFA and SES units attended two serious road accidents, one fatal, on Saturday. A search continues for a fisherman believed to have been swept off the rocks near Kilcunda.

of Ambulance Victoria," Unit Controller Michael Kenny said.

He said both units also assisted the police at the second accident.

He described the weekend as

the contribution of the SES.

"The job the SES volunteers do is magnificent. We wouldn't survive without them," he said.

"We are lucky to have people like that in our community."

Easter traffic blitz

With Easter and school holidays approaching, Snr Sergeant O'Brien said the weekend events were a tragic reminder of the need to drive carefully and take care in the water.

"Come and enjoy your holiday, but please drive carefully," he said.

"We're hoping for a quiet Easter and we're asking people to look after themselves and each other."

A state-wide road policing operation – Operation Nexus – is starting this week.

The high visibility road policing operation will target drink and drug driving, speeding, fatigue, distraction and seat belt offences.

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Jan Taylor from ASPI (left) and artist John Adams (second from right) made the case for a permanent home for Phillip Island's artists to CEO Ali Wastie, and Cr Michael Whelan.

Arts on the agenda for Rhyll community

There was a strong focus on the arts at last week's community forum at the Rhyll Hall.

The forum was part of a series held by Bass Coast Shire Council to help shape the council direction for the coming four years.

Bass Coast CEO, Ali Wastie said there had been some "fabulous" suggestions about the arts from the Rhyll community.

"I'm not surprised by that. We've got a really creative community here.

"We've got some wonderful suggestions and we need to take that onboard and consider those in the context of everything else," she said.

"We're really open to the feedback. We value everybody coming out and taking the time and it's a testament to how much people are invested in their communities."

Issues raised by residents included finding a permanent home for Phillip Island artists, protecting the Ramsar listed areas of Westernport, dogs on beaches, protecting the natural environment, controlling development and traffic congestion.

Mary-Lu Burt said she didn't want dogs on the beaches because of wildlife.

"The council also needs to make it easier for dog owners to clean up after their dog by providing compostable or paper bags."

Joy Brentwood, Ian Pascoe, Marg McCubber, Jan Taylor and John Adams all attended to put forward the views and concerns of local artists, including finding a permanent home for the Artists Society of Phillip Island (ASPI).

Grazyna Mackiewicz from Cape Woolamai said it was important for local residents to make their views known, as the island had unique needs.

"We're different to Wonthaggi and other areas of Bass Coast, particularly with preserving the natural environment and wildlife on the island," she said.

Ms Wastie welcomed the input.

"It's really important that we get as many views as we can, and that those views are reflected in the council plan," said Ms Wastie.

"It is the key strategic document for council for four years and that's what will guide what council does."

Rude residents "threaten", "bully" shire staff, councillors

Badly behaved ratepayers are harassing Bass Coast Shire staff and councillors, with threats of violence and court orders sought to stop aggression.

In one case "predatory questioning" saw one resident send about 1000 emails to a staff member on one issue, while last year a ratepayer sent more than 450 emails, costing 80 hours of officer time on phone calls.

Cr Michael Whelan at the last council meeting detailed shoddy, sometimes illegal actions by a minority of residents, successfully moving a motion to develop an "unreasonable customer conduct policy" to provide "employees, councillors and contractors with a framework within which the shire will manage unreasonable conduct by customers".

However, the proposed policy was criticised by one councillor and some residents who said it was a threat to free speech.

Cr Bruce Kent voted against the motion, which was supported by five councillors, with Cr Whelan arguing that with rights come responsibilities.

"We have lost a number of good officers because of the behaviour they had to suffer from a small number of members in the community," Cr Whelan said.

"Hounded in their job by demand after demand accompanied by an entitled attitude and relentless pursuit.

"Councillors also are subject to rude and aggressive behaviour at times. I was recently told by a councillor that she often receives ongoing multiple aggressive messages from a resident.

"Another was being harassed by a resident through many SMS calls in a single night and repeated over time late into the night, taunting her to attend to an issue."

He said whenever council became concerned for the safety of staff, they have "had to arrange a Personal Safety Order against individuals through the court ordering them to desist from their behaviour".

"Councillors have been jostled at resident meetings to the point where they have had to seek counselling.

"Others have been threatened with violence – for example he or she 'should be careful as he (or she) is in their sights'."

Cr Whelan said the right for respect must be balanced "with someone's 'human right' to be unreasonable or to persist where persistence equates with harassment", adding the shire had a responsibility to create a safe work environment.

He acknowledged the overwhelming number of residents were respectful and reasonable and the policy would impact a minority.

"There has been some reaction to this

notice of motion. Let me say this, if you think this targets your behaviour, that alone should cause you to reassess how you deal with others."

Criticism

Cr Bruce Kent said he would not support the policy because the shire already had ways of ensuring employee safety, including through personal safety orders.

"I personally think council officers have not brought issues to the attention of management soon enough and allowed things to build up and I feel sorry for them," he said.

Cr Kent – who in the past has voted against live streaming council meetings because it could lead to bullying of councillors – said the policy was well intended but ratepayers who sent emails ultimately "hold us accountable".

"They educate us on their views, even when we don't always agree with them."

Cr Ron Bauer said the issue walked a "fine line" between occupational safety and civil liberties.

"My instincts tell me we should deal with people who are difficult to deal with, who are bullies, rude and vexatious on a case-by-case basis," Cr Bauer said.

"We must not cast a broad net over all the ratepayers, newspaper editors, TV stations news editors, Facebook bloggers or trolls or other persons or media."

Cr Bauer said if the policy was approved in the future, he had been reassured by CEO Ali Wastie that ratepayers would still have contact with staff and councillors.

He added he would only support the final policy if it was scrutinised by a qualified civil liberties lawyer as well as councillors.

"If these two provisos are not met I am foreshadowing that I will oppose the policy."

Cr Rochelle Halstead said it was a tough vote, as she had received emails from the community concerned about attempts to stifle freedom of expression, but ultimately – having seen staff in tears – she would vote in support.

"Politicians, including councillors, are easy targets for abuse and that seems to be acceptable behaviour in some parts of the community."

Resident Kevin Griffin said he was concerned the policy could be used "to stifle legitimate criticism of Bass Coast Shire and its councillors".

"Councillors must clearly explain what safeguards will be put in place to protect the community from misuse and abuse of this policy," Kevin said.



Artists Joy Brentwood and Ian Pascoe at the Rhyll Forum last week.

Parking fines review illegal, council told

Bass Coast Shire Council was one of 12 municipalities in the state identified by State Ombudsman Deborah Glass as acting illegally by outsourcing internal reviews of parking infringements.

Bass Coast Shire apparently outsourced internal reviews of infringements between 2007 and 2009.

All municipalities involved have now agreed to set up refund schemes, as the practice was illegal.

However, CEO Ali Wastie said Council no longer held records of parking fine reviews from the period, so is unsure of how many people may have been affected.

Ms Wastie said the council immediately notified the community of the Ombudsman's finding via its website in May 2020.

"Since May 1, 2020, we have not received any requests for a review of a fine received between 2007 and 2009.

"Council has not used external contractors since 2009 for the review of parking fines and has advised on its website that requests from motorists

who made internal review applications between 2007 and 2009 will be considered on a case-by-case basis," Ms Wastie continued.

"Council is satisfied it responded promptly when this matter was raised and would encourage the State Government to amend the Infringement Act as recommended by the Ombudsman's February 2020 report, to ensure it is clear who can conduct internal reviews of parking infringements."

Council notified the community via its website in May last year of the Victorian Ombudsman's completion of its investigation into the outsourcing of parking fine internal reviews.

The post read: "Following this investigation, and consistent with how Council has managed similar issues, Council will consider requests on a case-by-case basis, of parking infringements that were the subject of an internal review between 2007 and 2009.

"Any review request must be accompanied with an accurate record of the infringement."

AGL proposal rejected: community rejoice

In breaking news as we went to print, the state government announced it has rejected a proposal to establish a gas import terminal at Crib Point, due to environmental impacts.

The news will delight local conservation groups and residents who campaigned strongly against the proposal, saying it would have severe impacts on the island's economy and environment.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne concluded marine discharges from the proposed AGL and APA project would have unacceptable effects on the environment in Western Port, which is listed as

a Ramsar wetland of international significance.

"This has been an exhaustive, open and transparent process and this is the right outcome for the local community, the environment and Victoria as a whole," the Minister said.

"It's very clear to me that this project would cause unacceptable impacts on the Western Port environment and the Ramsar wetlands – it's important that these areas are protected."

Many local groups and residents, including Phillip Island Conservation Society, Wildlife Coast Cruises and Bass Coast Shire Council

made submissions opposing the proposal.

The Minister said his decision is based on an Environment Effects Statement (EES) produced by AGL and APA Group, around 6000 public submissions and a report into the findings of the statement by an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC).

A public hearing on the proposal was held by the IAC over ten weeks from October to December 2020. The IAC submitted its report to the Minister in late February 2021.

Full coverage of the result and response to the decision in next week's paper.



COUNCIL BRIEFS

Canberra lobbying

Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie and Mayor Brett Tessari last week travelled to Canberra to meet senior cabinet Ministers and MPs to advocate for Gippsland (see photo).

Meetings were held with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communication and Local Government Mark Coulton, Darren Chester Member for Gippsland and Russell Broadbent Member for Monash.

Fee hike

Shire fees and charges will increase by an average five per cent, after being approved by councillors at the March meeting.

The price hike – which make up about eight per cent of shire income – includes an increase for ratepayers to upgrade a 120L waste bin to 240L, rising from \$55 (20/21) to \$59 (21/22).

Animal registration fees will be up from \$39 to \$41 and native vegetation offsets for developers taking out swamp scrub of high conservation value will increase from \$267,029 to \$271,035.

Fees and charges are usually adjusted annually but were frozen last year because of the pandemic.

The hike will include a catch up from the 2020 freeze to "bring non rate revenue growth in line with our long-term financial plan projections".

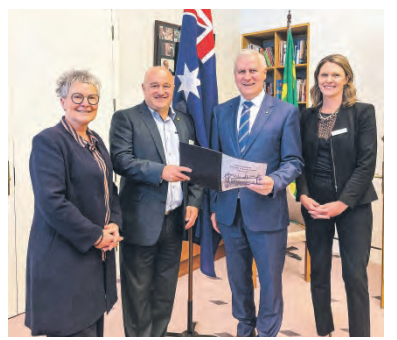
Footpath trading application fee remains the same at \$105.

Dinosaur trail

A Bass Coast Dinosaur Trail masterplan is a step closer with the awarding of a \$136,000 contract.

Dino enthusiast Mike Cleeland and the South Gippsland Conservation Society created the Bass Coast Dinosaur Discovery Trail Committee, last year lobbying the shire for masterplan funding.

The trail will feature a map and



Food and Fibre Gippsland CEO Nicola Pero, Bass Coast Shire Mayor Brett Tessari, Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie.

artworks or virtual technology at selected sites along the coast, showing the actual appearance of the dinosaurs that lived in these places around 125 million years ago.

If the decision is made to opt for artworks or sculptures, up to \$250,000 would be required to get the trail off the ground.

All up there are five dinosaurs found to have lived in this region, at a time when Australia was connected to Antarctica.

Cultural Centre grant application

A grant of \$5 million is being sought for the rebuild of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre.

Councillors last week approved the Federal Government grant application, in addition to a \$1 million grant for the planned new library.

The CCCC project – currently in the detail design phase – has already received \$12.5 million from the State Government (a \$10 million low interest loan and a \$2.5 million grant from the Growing Suburbs program).

The shire has allocated \$19m towards the project, which will have a library floor space allocation three times greater than the existing Cowes library.

Divided over subdivisions

The battle between rural charm and urban density continues with Bass Coast Shire councillors again arguing over a proposed subdivision.

Cr Ron Bauer last week unsuccessfully sought to refuse a planning permit for 7 Hereward Close, in Cowes east, which received 12 objections from neighbours.

The permit sought to split a large block into two, measuring 602m² and 539m², including an existing shed.

Cr Bauer said it was an "opportunistic" subdivision and residents had bought into the area because of the ambience of the large block sizes.

"We need to send a message to developers about being sensitive to the aesthetics of an area," he said.

"This is deleterious to the original intention of the estate."

Cr Rochelle Halstead said the permit was "indicative of what is happening across Bass Coast Shire".

"These things do tend to get passed because they are in the current guidelines which shire planning officers are tied to," Cr Halstead said.

"That is the reason why I argue for the creation of a housing strategy by the shire."

"It is a Catch-22 in that the state requires local governments to provide housing. Hopefully through the Distinctive Areas and Landscape (DAL) process there is a requirement to set town boundaries to end the urban sprawl."

"So therefore we're limited in

our capacity to provide that extra population without reducing block sizes. I think there needs to be a balance."

Cr Bruce Kent said some councillors had been fighting for a minimum 500m² block sizes and this application "falls right into that".

Objectors said the permit – which councillors approved – would impact neighbourhood character, devalue properties, create traffic problems and impact vegetation.

The third round of DAL community consultation is expected in April and will see the release of the draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy (SPP), which will include a 50-year vision for Bass Coast, and a plan for guiding the future use and development of land.



GRADE 6 ACTIVITY DAY

Tuesday 11th May 2021

Information session to be held at MMCRC on this date for prospective families at 7:30pm (7:00pm for a tour)

Grade 6 Students from all Primary Schools welcome!



Mary MacKillop
Catholic Regional College

For further information or to register please visit our website or contact the College:

03 5662 4255

ckitchingman@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au



Shetland Heights Road residents met with Shadow Health Minister Georgie Crozier and Edward O'Donohue (Member for Eastern Victoria) who are supporting the community calls for the road to be upgraded as part of the construction of the new junior secondary campus.



Shetland Heights resident Bill McIntosh, a former engineer, discusses the health and safety issues with Shadow Health Minister Ms Crozier at a meeting on site last week.

Growing calls for Shetland Heights upgrade

Shadow Health Minister Georgie Crozier has added her voice to calls for Shetland Heights Road to be upgraded.

Ms Crozier described the safety and health concerns raised by local residents as “significant issues for the community”.

Visiting the area last week with Edward O'Donohue, Member for Eastern Victoria, she met with residents of Shetland Heights Road who are demanding the road be upgraded as part of the construction of the new junior secondary campus in San Remo.

Residents say the gravel road is not suitable for the volume of traffic the new school will generate. They're also calling for proper drainage, footpaths and improved lighting.

Ms Crozier said the government needed to take responsibility for the road upgrade as part of the campus construction.

“It really is about finishing the project,” she said, noting she supported the school being built and it was needed.

“But it has to be safe.”

Residents needed to be protected from the ongoing issues of dust, Ms Crozier said, and once the campus was complete, vehicles and pedestrians needed to be able to commute to the school safely.

“We will keep doing what we can to keep the pressure on the government, so a sensible outcome can be achieved.”

Mr O'Donohue said he had already raised the issue in Parliament and asked Education Minister James Merlino to meet with a delegation of the residents.

He said he'd continue to make “a case to government for added investment to finish the job” and provide safe access to the new campus.

Residents have started a petition to have the road upgraded, which Mr O'Donohue will present in Parliament.

This is the latest instalment in a long-running campaign by local residents to have Shetland Heights Road upgraded, due to health and safety concerns and increased traffic.

More recently, strong winds blew dust from the campus construction site, engulfing nearby homes and adding to the residents' frustrations.

If the road remains unsealed, residents also say the prevailing winds will blow dust from the road across the campus and playing grounds, creating a health risk for students.

Ongoing concerns

At the meeting residents discussed a wide range of safety concerns, including the steep grade of the road which had recently caused a car to topple into the roadside ditch.

“What they're doing is all wrong,” Bill McIntosh, a former engineer, told Ms Crozier.

Other residents said they had to wear masks while they were gardening because of the dust from traffic and the construction site.

Residents also called for the traffic study done as part of the campus project to be released, with many sceptical that a traffic count during Covid lockdown would accurately reflect how busy the road was.

Jake Wright said a traffic assessment five years ago counted 236 cars and 37 buses in one day, and that would have increased.

“It would be at least double that now,” agreed Steph Davidson, another local resident.

“The population is booming.” Residents said the road is often used as an alternative access route during peak periods by motorists

trying to avoid the congestion on Phillip Island Road.

They believe the new school will add to the traffic woes, with facilities used seven days a week for sport and other community activities.

“It's just going to make that bottleneck 20 times worse.”

To date, the state government has refused to commit to upgrading the road, insisting it is a council responsibility.

Bass Coast Shire Council has said the road could be upgraded as part of a Special Charge Scheme, but that process could take up to four years.

The Safer Roads for San Remo committee petition calling for an urgent upgrade for Shetland Heights Road is available at local retail outlets across the shire, or online at: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/petitions/electronic-petitions/view-e-petitions/details/12/323

On track for a terrific cause

Sometimes doing something great really is as simple as putting one foot in front of the other.

Just asked AFL-great Matthew Richardson.

The former footballer is coming to San Remo as part of a 24-hour treadmill challenge at the San Remo Hotel on April 7 and 8, raising money to support children, families and individuals in need across south east Victoria.

The treadmill will run continuously from 2pm on April 7 until 2pm on April 8 and organiser Colleen Williams is hoping the local community will get on board – literally.

As well as walking herself, she's looking for volunteers to run or walk on the treadmill, to keep it moving for the full 24 hours.

A schedule of 30 or 60-minute slots has been drawn up, and people can nominate the time they'd like to walk or run on the treadmill.

If stepping out isn't your style, you can come down and cheer people on, or sponsor the treadmill athletes for an hour or two.

The unique challenge is one way Colleen is raising funds as part of the Windermere's Cape to Cape Trek to Keep Kids Safe in October this year.

“Everyone doing the walk has to raise money,” Colleen said, explaining each participant aims to raise at least \$2500.

“We're hoping people will sponsor the treadmill for a dollar or two an hour.”

She said family members and staff at the San Remo Hotel will fill in any gaps in the schedule to



Colleen Williams said family and San Remo Hotel staff will help to keep the treadmill running for 24 hours on April 7 and 8, as part of her fundraising effort. She's hoping others in the community will sign up for a stint on the treadmill. Stepping up for the challenge are Ben Fisher (Fish), Colleen and Peter Williams and Daniel Mock (Mocky) from San Remo Hotel.

make sure there's someone on the treadmill for the entire 24 hours.

Matthew Richardson, the Windermere trek ambassador, has already signed up for the final leg of the challenge.

He'll be at the hotel between 2pm and 5pm on April 8, and as well as getting on the treadmill to walk the walk, he'll be auctioning off a signed football jumper to help the fundraising effort.

Donation tins will be on hand and there'll be a raffle as part of the fundraiser.

Come down to the San Remo Hotel on April 7 and 8 to cheer on

the walkers, support the challenge and enjoy the fun.

Anyone wanting to sign up for a stint on the treadmill or sponsor it for an hour or two can contact Colleen on 0419 898 798 or email Colleen@sanremohotel.net.

The 80 km trek along the Cape to Cape track in Western Australia is designed to raise money and awareness for Windermere and its work to keep the community's most vulnerable children safe.

You can also support Colleen on her trek with an online donation at www.windermere-c2c-2021.raisely.com/colleen-williams

Banfields' expansion plans approved

A Cowes aged care facility has been given approval to build a \$10 million, 43-bed extension.

Banfields Aged Care, at 192-198 Thompson Avenue will build the additional wing on vacant land to the north of their site, after Bass Coast Shire councillors last week gave unanimous support.

Cr Bruce Kent said with an ageing population it would be “remiss of us if we didn't approve an opportunity like this”.

The approval will bring the total number of beds to 132, with additional bed licences allocated by the Commonwealth Department of Health to the site “in recognition of the shortage of beds in the Cowes area”.

The development will create new vehicle access to Thompson Avenue, with the existing access discontinued.

“The single storey wing is well setback from Thompson Avenue and will not readily be viewed from the public realm,” the permit states.

“The interface to Thompson Avenue will essentially remain unchanged with no impact expected to the existing golden cypress trees.”

The land is about 1.8ha, 63 metres wide, with a northern boundary of 240 metres, which was previously a cypress-lined driveway to the historic Rhylston Park property.

Owner of Banfields Aged Care John Matthies, who earlier this year sold the Isle of Wight site, said the facility currently employed about 120 staff and the extension would see a further 20 jobs created.

“This is an additional wing that will connect to the existing building, making a total of six wings in the facility,” Mr Matthies said.

There is a heritage overlay to a small section of the site's Thompson Avenue frontage to protect the golden cypress trees, but an assessment by VicRoads and the shire found new access road construction will be “reasonable and acceptable”.





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Bass Coast Health- Sexual Assault Support Services

Recently there have been multiple stories in the media relating to sexual assault. This may have raised concerns for you or someone you know.

Bass Coast Health offers sexual assault support services including:

- Individual counselling including therapeutic interventions
- Information, referral, support and advocacy
- Support for affected family or friends
- Community education and prevention initiatives

The service is free of charge and support is available for adults, young people and children affected by recent or historical sexual assault.

We offer telehealth, phone and in-person consultations. You can refer yourself or you can be referred by your carer, doctor, other health care professional or other agency.

To make a referral please contact our Access team on 03 5671 3175 or access@basscoasthealth.org.au



Violet, Lewis, Lucy, Miley and Billy enjoying life at the Early Learning Centre in Cowes

Kindergarten and daycare enrolments soar

Families with young children attempting to get their children into kindergarten and/or daycare might struggle, with enrolments soaring and waitlists getting longer and longer.

As we have seen with the real estate boom, there are lots of people looking for a change of scenery and making the move to Phillip Island and surrounds.

This has bought new families to the area and kinders and daycares are having to increase their capacity to keep up with demand.

Sio-Ching McFee from the Phillip Island Early Learning Center (PIELC) said that whilst there is always a waitlist for daycare, it just keeps getting longer.

"Usually, people understand that there is a waitlist, but people moving down from Melbourne expect that they will just be able to get their child in because you have that luxury in Melbourne," she said.

"They are shocked to find that there is a waitlist."

PIELC has increased the size of two of their

kindergarten classes and employed an extra kindergarten teacher, in an attempt to service the strong demand being experienced.

Currently the Early Learning Center is running at full capacity, with 230 pre-school age children.

Newhaven College does not have an early learning centre, but new principal Tony Corr told the Advertiser he has been fielding requests about enrolling children in kindergarten.

"I have had cold calls already from parents, saying the school needs an early learning centre," Mr Corr said.

"There is strong population growth here and with more people working from home in the wake of the pandemic, the demand will only grow," he commented.

Mr Corr believes that some serious thought needs to go into providing this influx of children with a place to start their learning journey.

"There is a massive demand."

"Kids need to grow and learn in a calm, relaxed and safe place and this area provides that," he said.

Our Bass Coast. Our Future.

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

- **Grantville** – Tuesday, 30 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Grantville Community Hall
- **Inverloch** – Wednesday, 31 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Inverloch Community Hub Hall
- **Facebook Q&A** – Tuesday, 13 April, 6.30pm to 8.00pm
www.facebook.com/BassCoastShire

You can also get involved online by filling out a survey at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ourfuture.

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | DX 34903
PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995 | 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or
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Handing the appeal baton on

After twenty years as Area Managers of the Phillip Island Good Friday Appeal, Helen and Reg Excell are handing the baton on.

Helen and Reg took over the job from Bob Hailes in 2001, and have been the face of the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal on Phillip Island since.

The job was a constant one.

They made it possible for the whole community to come together to support this important fundraising day.

Their work over two decades was not just confined to Good Friday.

It went on throughout the year, dropping off and picking up collection tins to local businesses, and other administrative duties.

And on Good Friday itself, co-ordinating a team of volunteers who counted the loose change and notes collected from Good Friday Appeal tins from shops, offices and newsagents throughout the area.

This group, under the leadership of Reg and Helen, accepted donations from streams of people who filed into the Heritage Centre throughout Good Friday.

The donations came in from volunteers out in the street and included members of the local CFA collecting from the fire truck, and individuals rattling tins in the street, around the shopping centre, and throughout caravan parks on the island.

As they take a well-earned rest after 20 years on the job, Helen and Reg particularly make mention of the Anderson family, and Artie Murdoch and family, whose untiring support rattling tins for the Good Friday Appeal over the last three decades has been unwavering.



After twenty years as Area Managers of the Phillip Island Good Friday Appeal, Helen and Reg Excell are handing the baton on. This year, the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal headquarters on Phillip Island will be in a marquee outside IGA in Cowes, under new Area Manager Simon Hartley.

This year, donations towards the work of the Royal Children's Hospital can be made not at the Heritage Centre, as has been the case until now, but at a marquee that will be set up outside the IGA supermarket on the corner of Thompson Avenue and Settlement Road, on Good Friday.



Simon Hartley is the new CFA area manager and has taken over organising the Good Friday Appeal. Gearing up for the big fundraising push are members of the local CFA (from left to right). Front row: Stuart Hawking & Silvio Zanforlin. Middle row: Kyle Murdoch (grandson of Artie Murdoch - life member of the Royal Children's Good Friday Appeal and CFA member), Marc Ramage, Tim Anderson, Simon Hartley - Area Manager. Back row: Engelienn Connor and Ray Champion.

Simon says dig deep for Good Friday Appeal

A local fundraising record is expected to be set for this year's Good Friday Appeal, according to Phillip Island's new area manager.

Cowes resident and CFA volunteer Simon Hartley said while he has big shoes to fill – taking over from previous managers Helen and Reg Excell (see separate story) – he expected his inaugural year to be a bumper tally.

“Last year the CFA raised \$400 compared to the average \$12,000 because Covid restricted fundraising to online only, so given people didn't donate last year we expect them to dig deep this year,” Simon said.

“But also given tourists are travelling locally we expect Phillip Island to be extra busy, which means more people will also donate.

“It would be nice to have a record to support the work of The Royal Children's Hospital.”

Simon said the Excell's retirement after 20 years in the role will not be the only major change to Phillip Island's Good Friday Appeal fundraiser.

The Cowes heritage centre will no longer be used as headquarters because of Covid protocols.

“So people wanting to donate should not go to the heritage centre,” he said.

Instead donations should be made to tin rattlers on street corners or roving the streets, with more volunteer rattlers expected to be helping this year.

In addition, donations can be made at the CFA marquee outside the IGA on the corner of Settlement Road and Thompson Avenue.

CFA trucks will be visiting caravan parks around the island.

Simon, a Phillip Island Fire brigade volunteer for 18 years, is no stranger to the Good Friday Appeal having organised the CFA tin rattling for the past decade.

So while he was aware of the Excell's legacy, he was confident in managing the role.

“Helen has been mentoring me and CFA members and is still in the background this year,” said Simon, who is a driver with South Coast Taxis and who used to work at Retravisation Cowes.

“They are both incredible people.” Phillip Island has raised over \$685,000 since the Good Friday Appeal began 90 years ago.



San Remo CFA's Good Friday appeal

San Remo's fire trucks will be out in force on Good Friday, with members on board and walking behind the trucks collecting for the annual Good Friday Appeal.

The San Remo brigade is assisting with the local effort again this year, and its members will be out in force rattling tins at San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay from 9am and throughout the day.

San Remo CFA Area Manager Graham Taylor has been personally involved in the Good Friday collection for the last 18 years, and will be on deck again with members and volunteers

out and about raising funds for this very worthwhile cause.

Pictured on the job at the station pre Covid (the tin rattling could not be held last year) are CFA members Helen Andrews, Keith Thiele, Louk Thiele, Graham Taylor, Ray Symons, Bob Andrews, Corin Spencer and Ruby Spencer.

The appeal in San Remo will be based at CFA headquarters in Genesta Street, where volunteers will accept donations.

San Remo's annual Good Friday Easter Hamper Raffle will be run this year from the San Remo Hotel.

Race in and support the Good Friday Appeal

Bass-based horse trainer Ricky Maund has come up with a novel way to support this year's Good Friday Appeal.

Ricky recently returned from the Adelaide Yearling sales with some outstanding colts, and he's offering a chance for a lucky racing enthusiast to become a part owner of a racehorse.

A five per cent share in a colt is being auctioned at 6pm on Good Friday at the San Remo Hotel, raising money for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

The colt being offered is by the champion sire Rubick.

Rubick was the champion three-year-old Australian sire in 2020.

Other offspring sired by Rubick have earned over \$10 million dollars, including Yes Yes Yes, the winner of the Everest Stakes, Rubisaki, a group two and three winner and Condos Express, which won the listed Mackinnon Stakes.

Don't miss this chance to be part of racing history! Form a syndicate with friends and come along to the auction at 6pm on Good Friday at the San Remo Hotel.



Local horse trainer Ricky Maund is donating a five per cent share in a racehorse to be auctioned on Good Friday at the San Remo Hotel, to raise money for the Good Friday Appeal.

San Remo Easter Fishing competition

\$8000 in prizes

“Last year's event was cancelled because of Covid, so let's make 2021 an even bigger event,” says Craig Edmond of Jim's Bait and Tackle at San Remo.

He's referring to San Remo's annual Easter Fishing competition, which is offering over \$8000 worth of great prizes.

This year's sponsors have gone over and above to make this competition the best one yet!

There's plenty of family fun for everyone, and all money raised goes to the Good Friday Appeal for the Royal Children's Hospital.

“Get your friends and family together and come win some great gear, catch fish and raise money for the kids,” is Craig's message to the district's anglers.

All entries go into a draw to win a helicopter ride!

And everyone who entered before March 26 is in with a chance to win a \$100 restaurant voucher for Silverwater Resort.

Entries are now open.

With over 50 prizes to be won just for entering, your chances are good. A prize draw in this category every hour, all weekend, means every entry has a chance. There's extra fun to be had

this year with a couple of auctions in the lead in to Good Friday.

Wednesday and Thursday will see a couple of regular Jim's Bait and Tackle Facebook auctions. Whatever the auctions make on these nights will be added to the total from the entries and donated to the Good Friday appeal.

Both auction items are valued at over \$300 each and there will be no reserve. Each will be sold to the highest bidder.

For details, go to the Jim's Bait and Tackle Facebook page.

So many ways to win

Early entry prizes

Category prizes: for heaviest fish (adults and juniors): four species. Small Fry: three species.

Secret weight: for each category, weigh two fish each day in each category.

Major lucky entry prize: everybody that enters has a chance.

50 lucky entry prizes: prize draw every hour all weekend, every entry has a chance.

Facebook photos: you could win just for posting a favourite fishing photo over the weekend.

50 kids show bags: first 50 kids to enter receive a show bag worth over \$50.

But best of all 100 per cent of your entry fee goes to the Good Friday Appeal.



goodFridayappeal
THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



The Good Friday Appeal celebrates 90 years of supporting the Royal Children's Hospital

San Remo's Good Friday Walk For the Kids is back

When you speak to people about the Royal Children's Hospital, most will tell you that their kids or someone close to them have had the need for their services.

All children deserve nothing less than the lifesaving care and ground-breaking research taking place at The Royal Children's Hospital.

The problem is all this care and expertise comes at a huge cost and that's where events like San Remo's Walk for the Kids become so important.

Elyse Pratt, from the San Remo Hotel, and her team of volunteers spend many months organising The Walk for the Kids each year with 100 per cent of the entry fee going to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

Elyse started the Walk for the Kids fundraiser eight years ago, and Craig Edmonds, of Jim's Bait and Tackle, and the San Remo Trader's Association has since come on board to assist with the event as well.

There is also much appreciated support from the local CFA, SES, Bass Coast Shire Council and IGA with huge support from South Coast Bus Lines, who have donated all the shuttle buses that will be used for the day.

And there are many other volunteers that work to make the day a success.

Choose which walk!

There are two walks planned to cater for fitness levels and time available, and participants can choose between them or do both, if they so desire.

100 per cent of all entry fees goes to the Good Friday Appeal

Walk 1

Walk 1 is an 8km stretch from Kilcunda to the Punch Bowl along the beautiful George Bass Coastal Walk, on natural



Elyse Fisher (left) and Floss Gorsuch, organisers of the San Remo Good Friday Walk for the Kids event on the weekend, checking out the George Bass Coastal Walk between Kilcunda and San Remo, before Good Friday's Royal Children's Hospital fundraiser.

ground along the cliff tops.

Courtesy buses will take participants from the San Remo Hotel to the starting point at Kilcunda, from 9am; and then return them to San Remo from the Punch Bowl.

There are first aid stations along the route. This walk is along uneven ground and sand which can be difficult for those with mobility issues and prams.

Walk 2

The San Remo town walk follows a leisurely 5km trail. This walk starts and finishes at the San Remo Hotel and has been designed with families in mind. The majority of the walk is on footpaths and hard surfaces so it is easy for those with prams and mobility issues.

The town walk is more than just a stroll, however. When you register you will be given a sheet with trivia questions to answer as you go. It's a bit of fun with a couple of rest stops for the kids. Once you arrive back to the San Remo

Hotel, drop your answers into the box for a chance to win an Easter pack. Trivia sheets need to be in by 2pm.

Registrations

Registrations open at the San Remo Hotel from 8am on Good Friday April 2. Entry forms are available beforehand at Jim's Bait and Tackle; and the San Remo Hotel. Shuttle buses for Walk 1 start at 9am.

The San Remo Town Walk can be done any time from 9.30am but needs to be completed by 2pm to go into the draw for the Easter Hamper.

COVID 19 requirements

- All entrants must check in with the event QR code at the San Remo Hotel on Friday morning.
- No registrations at Kilcunda.
- Masks must be worn on shuttle buses.
- Bring your own water.
- Kids activities afterwards not able to proceed this year.

Nature Parks supports Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal

Phillip Island Nature Parks is supporting the Royal Children's Hospital by dedicating the popular Penguin Parade live stream to raise money for the Good Friday Appeal.

Live Penguin TV on Thursday, April 1 will include a raft of special guests, promoting awareness of the Appeal, and encouraging viewers to donate. Members of the local CFA will also be on-hand to carry on their annual support.

Nature Parks' Chief Executive Catherine Basterfield said the Royal Children's Hospital and the Good Friday Appeal were a vital part of Victoria's DNA and her team are passionate about promoting the event.

"Most families in Victoria have been touched by the important work of the Royal Children's Hospital and we are privileged to have a fantastic platform in Live Penguin TV to encourage people to donate," Ms Basterfield said.

Live streaming of the world-famous Phillip Island Penguin Parade was launched last year when Victorians were unable to travel or visit the penguins in person, and has since been viewed by more than 25 million people globally.

This month a dedicated nightly live stream was created for UK audiences during their lockdown.

To watch Live Penguin TV tune in around 7.15pm to the Nature Parks Facebook page or YouTube channel.

For more information or to donate to the Good Friday Appeal go to www.goodfridayappeal.com.au

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For More Information Contact Ricky Maund
0419 349 627
rickymaund@outlook.com

New exhibition launched at Vietnam Veterans Museum

A new exhibition documenting the day-to-day experiences of Vietnam veterans during the war has found a permanent home at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

Federal Member for Monash, Russell Broadbent was on hand for the official opening on March 26 of the "Behind the Wire" exhibition – a series of photographs and interviews by Susan Gordon-Brown.

Over three years, Susan interviewed and photographed veterans from across Australia and at the launch, she said she was very glad the exhibition, which has toured the country, now had a home.

"This has been a 10-year project for me and this is the next part of the journey," she said.

"You don't often hear people's day to day stories from the war. It was a privilege that people spoke to me and shared their stories."

The exhibition and its accompanying book was the result of a collaboration with writers, proof-readers and fact checkers, Susan said.

"It was huge team and everyone donated their time. They all felt it was such an important story to tell."

"I'm very grateful to be here and to be able to do this. It's been a wonderful journey."

Attending the opening were members of the museum board and volunteers, including Jim and Sue Archbold.

Jim's story is included in



Russell Broadbent (MP) with Susan Gordon-Brown, Gary Elliot (NVVM Board member) and Phil Dressing (NVVM General Manager) at the opening of the "Behind the Wire" exhibition at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

the book and the couple has attended all the exhibition launches across the country.

A strong friendship has grown between Jim and Susan, and in 2015, the families travelled to Vietnam together, visiting spots Jim had been to in 1968.

Jim has been a volunteer at the museum for almost seven years, regularly travelling to Phillip Island from his home in Templestowe.

Funding

The Federal government provided \$47,000 funding for the new exhibition space and Russell Broadbent described the new exhibition as "another string to the bow" of the museum.

"It's another reason to be proud of what you do," he told the assembled board members and museum volunteers.

Mr Broadbent also spoke briefly of his support for a Royal Commission into Veteran Suicides, saying the number of suicides within the defence force was a reason for concern.

General Manager of the museum, Phil Dressing said mental health issues among veterans was an ongoing issue and the impact was inter-generational.

Quoting a report that looked at suicide rates in Australia between 1988 – 1997, he said the rate of suicide among children of veterans was three times higher than the average.

Stories like those included in "Behind the Wire" were an important part of helping veterans and their families come to terms with their experiences in Vietnam, he said.

"It's an honour and privilege to be the keeper of this exhibition."

ASPI exhibition this Easter

This year's Easter Exhibition by the Artist Society of Phillip Island (ASPI) will be held at the Ramada Resort, Phillip Island Road, Cowes.

It will run from April 2 – 5 and is open 10am – 5pm Friday to Sunday, and 10am – 4pm on Easter Monday.

The exhibition has a new category sponsored by Westernport Water. The Sustainability Award has a \$500 prize and work can be in any medium.

The Easter exhibition will include all the other categories and Wearable Art and is an opportunity for members

to share their endeavours with other artists and the general public.

It will also be online at www.artwork.aspi-inc.org.au from April 3 and works will be for sale via the website after the close of the exhibition on April 5.

Local author publishes a slice of Australian history

San Remo local Joy Rainey has published her first book.

"Spuds, Rabbits and Flour Bags" follows the lives of an Australian rural family pre and post-the thirties depression and end of World War II. It is told in their own words, recorded by Joy.

Joy grew up in the Dandenong Ranges. The bush was her playground and she shared it with her two siblings.

"I was a child of the mountains," she says.

She made the move to San Remo four years ago with her husband and loves living here. "We particularly love having all of the birds and the nature," she says.

Growing up, Joy was encouraged to creatively express herself in painting, writing and music; and despite spending the last 30 years practicing as a private psychologist, she has always remained a collector of stories.

"It is so important for us to know this part of our history," is her view.

She says that the idea for



Joy Rainey from San Remo has published her first book. "Spuds, Rabbits and Flour Bags" tells the story of an Australian rural family pre and post-the thirties depression and end of World War II, in their own words.

"Spuds, Rabbits and Flour Bags" came from her own family experience and from growing up listening to her grandparents talk about their history.

"This is basic Australian history that helps define who we are as Australians."

"I remember sitting around the big log fire, doing my knitting at my grandparents' farm and just listening to their stories," she says.

For the book Joy has undertaken many interviews with people which she recorded and then carefully transcribed.

All of the people included in the book are part of the same family.

However they all offer different perspectives and experiences of the same time period.

Joy has always been inspired by history, and during her time studying at Melbourne University says she found her biggest inspiration in Geoffrey Blaine.

"He was in charge and a lecturer when I studied Australian History."

Every writer has their own process of writing, Joy says, but the thing that is most unique about her process is that she writes by hand.

"I feel more connected to the page," she says.

Joy is happy to finally have her book published, but she is more focused on writing her next one.

"Spuds, Rabbits and Flour Bags" was released on March 15.



Bad//Dreems is just one the bands hitting the road with the Small Town Big Sound tour. They are excited to play in more regional areas. Photo by Ian Laidlaw.

Aussie musicians hit San Remo

Following more than a year of isolation and multiple lockdowns, light is finally at the end of the tunnel with the announcement of a new tour hitting regional Victoria.

The Small Town Big Sound Tour will be hitting San Remo's Westernport Hotel on Friday, April 23.

The Tour will feature nine bands including Alice Skye, Amyl and the Sniffers, Bad//Dreems, Birdz, Camp Cope, Kee'ahn and more.

Inspired by the colourful late 70s Aussie pub rock scene when some of the nation's next-big blazing bands took to any venue, anywhere, expect a no-frills all-thrills gigging experience when Small Town Big Sound makes its 2021 debut.

Bookings are essential and you can purchase your ticket by going to the Small Town Big Sound website.

Alex Cameron from Bad//Dreems says that one of the silver linings of Covid is that they have been able to play more regional dates

which they always want to do.

"A lot of our music deals with places and people outside of the city, so it's really important to us to take our music there," he says.

The tour is being run by 'Vanessa', the Transport Accident Commission's youth communication program. The Vanessa program has been working for over 15 years to arm young people with the tools to make safe road decisions without judgement.

The Vanessa crew will be present at the event to encourage people to "pre-think", get breath tested and plan their safe journey home.

Meg Jacobs, the TAC Senior Manager says that they want everyone to have a good time at the concerts but that the thing they want most is for everyone to get home safe.

"If you're planning to have a drink, then planning a safe way home should be top priority and our Vanessa staff will be there to help you do that and provide free breath tests," she said.

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Island HOLIDAY GUIDE



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| 5 | SAN REMO FISHERMAN'S CO-OP | 107 MARINE PARADE, SAN REMO..... | P: 5678 5206..... | WWW.SRFCO.COM.AU | | |
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Island HOLIDAY GUIDE

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- BEACH ACCESS & CAR PARKING
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Wonthaggi Arts Centre

Apr 3 - Apr 15

CINEMA



Peter Rabbit 2 [G]

Sat 3	5:00pm
Sun 4	1:00pm
Mon 5	1:00pm
Tue 6	10:00am
Wed 7	12:15pm
Wed 7	5:00pm
Sat 10	2:30pm
Sat 10	7:30pm
Sun 11	4:00pm
Mon 12	1:00pm
Tue 13	7:00pm
Wed 14	10:00am
Wed 14	7:30pm
Thu 15	10:00am



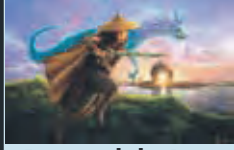
Tom & Jerry [G]

Sat 3	12:15pm
Mon 5	10:00am
Wed 7	10:00am
Sun 11	1:15pm
Tue 13	1:00pm
Thu 15	4:00pm



Wild Mountain Thyme [PG]

Sat 3	7:30pm
Sun 4	10:00am
Wed 14	5:00pm



Raya and the Last Dragon [PG]

Sun 4	4:00pm
Tue 6	1:00pm
Sat 10	12:15pm
Mon 12	4:00pm
Wed 14	2:30pm
Thu 15	7:00pm

Chaos Walking [M]

Sun 4	7:00pm
Wed 7	2:30pm
Tue 13	4:00pm

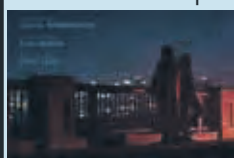


The Marksman [M]

Sat 3	2:30pm
Tue 6	7:00pm
Tue 13	10:00am
Thu 15	1:00pm

Nomadland [M]

Mon 5	7:00pm
Sat 10	5:00pm
Mon 12	7:00pm
Wed 14	12:15pm



Judas and the Black Messiah [MA15+]

Mon 5	4:00pm
Wed 7	7:30pm
Mon 12	10:00am

The Little Things [M]

Tue 6	4:00pm
Sat 10	10:00am
Sun 11	7:00pm

Bass Coast Fine Film Group La Belle Epoque [M]



La Belle Epoque is about, Victor, a disillusioned 60-something whose marriage is on the rocks, opts to relive the week of his life when, 40 years earlier, he met his true love through a company that allows its customers to return to the time period

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Island HOLIDAY GUIDE

Family fun at the Circuit these holidays

The Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit Visitor Centre and Go Karts is a destination for the whole family with many hours of entertainment and enjoyment on offer and these school holidays are the perfect time to visit.

Go Karts and Tandems

If you haven't tried the exhilarating Go Karts then you need to strap yourself into the all-new Sodi Karts for a thrilling session on the 750-metre track – a replica of the world-renowned Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.

With 9-horsepower Honda GX 270cc engines, the French-made karts provides an ultimate karting sensation and are tested to meet the stringent Australian standards.

The RT8 Evo2 single karts can reach up to 65k/mph and feature a high front blade for greater safety and a roll bar with all-round protection to avoid wheel-to-wheel contact. The harness seatbelt and easy to use seat adjusters allow for greater comfort and custom fitting.

The 2Drive tandem karts allow the whole family to get involved as the twin seats provide children the thrill of go karting. The dual steering allows children to get involved while under the safety and supervision of an adult driver. Bookings are recommended.

Grand Prix motorcycle collection at the Circuit

The star exhibit in the History of Motorsport Display is the superb collection of 25 Grand Prix winning motorcycles from the two famous Italian marques, Aprilia and Cagiva, with the two-wheel treasures permanently installed in the display at Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit Visitor Centre.

In total these sleek racing machines have won nine World Championships, 51 Grand



The all-new Sodi Karts provide a thrilling session on the 750-metre track, a replica of the world-renowned Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.

Prix wins and 106 Podiums. Make the time these holidays to take in these magnificent pieces of racing history.

Champions Cafe

After all the excitement, the Champions Licensed Cafe delivers with its fresh menu with plenty of choices. Fantastic coffee and delicious scones, cakes, slices, muffins, pastries, sausage rolls and pies hit the spot.

Merchandise

The gift shop at the Visitor Centre offers a

wide selection of stylish apparel, merchandise and souvenirs to choose from so you can take a memento home with you.

COVID-19 Operating Conditions

Due to current restrictions Guided Circuit Tours, Hot Laps and Push Bike Ride Days will not be available.

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SETTLEMENT ROAD, COWES



The Pelicans and onlookers were very glad to see the midday feeding presentation return.

Dining returns – for pelican and Co-op customers

It's been a great week at the San Remo Fishermen's Co-op.

Last Monday, both staff and customers were pleased to see indoor dining return to the Co-op – as it turns out, quite good timing with the nasty weather that arrived.

Then on Thursday, Co-op staff restarted public presentations at the midday Pelican Feeding for the first time since March 2020.

Co-op management had been waiting for approval from authorities for the daily presentation to resume.

"Huge thanks to Kim Storey from Destination Phillip Island, who liaised with DHHS to get the Pelican Feeding over the line," commented Co-op manager Paul Mannix.

"Today was our first day back. Long term feeder Val Dohl was stoked to have the honour of the first feed – and we had 27 pellicies and about the same number of humans!"

The pelican talk now includes a reference to physical distancing requirements – and new beach signage conveys the same message.

Hopefully this is one more step in getting back to normal.



Island HOME

-- YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE --



This immaculately presented home within walking distance to the beach will be auctioned on site on April 10, at 11am.

Easy coastal living

This immaculately presented single level home is situated within walking distance to both the fabulous bay and surf beaches in Cape Woolamai as well as the local shopping precinct and general store.

This delightful coastal home comprises three bedrooms, a family bathroom, laundry, a very homely living area and brilliant outdoor entertaining space.

The spacious open plan living area includes a wood fire, split system heating and cooling, ceiling fan

and a stylish new kitchen boasting soft close drawers and plenty of bench space.

The three bedrooms are all a great size and feature beautiful timber plank flooring throughout as well as ceiling fans. The family bathroom includes a corner spa bath with a shower over, toilet and vanity.

The wonderful alfresco area, complete with a pizza oven, overlooks the low maintenance garden and is perfect for year-round entertaining.

The property also provides a single car garage, storage shed and a good sized yard.

This excellent property will suit as either a permanent home or fantastic holiday home.

Contact: Yvette Tancheff, Ray White Real Estate Phillip Island on 0414 506 795 to arrange an inspection

Address: 58 Woolamai Beach Road, Cape Woolamai

Property Features: 3 bedrooms / 1 bathroom / 1 car

Auction: April 10, 2021 at 11am on site

Beautifully appointed, large family home with a pool!

This exceptional and contemporary coastal home is positioned on an elevated allotment in a quiet and established court locale in the Seagrave Estate.

Finished to the highest of standards, this double storey home offers a functional floor plan for the whole family.

The ground floor comprises two generous size bedrooms both with built in robes, family bathroom, study/fifth bedroom, laundry and second living room with sliding doors opening out to the outdoor area overlooking the lush surrounds and salt water chlorinated pool.

Upstairs is an entertainer's dream with an expansive open plan living, kitchen and dining area which is accentuated by high raked ceilings and large windows that allow you to take in the beautiful and vast water views across the bay.

The chic kitchen is well appointed and is complemented by 40mm stone benchtops, 900mm gas cooktop and electric oven, stainless steel dishwasher, soft closing drawers, built in microwave, built-in Smeg coffee machine and walk-in pantry.

There is also a partially undercover deck that flows off the main living space via stacking doors and is complete with zip track blinds – you will want to host many gatherings with your family and friends.

There are a further two bedrooms upstairs, the spacious master bedroom has a gorgeous outlook and is complete with a large walk in robe and ensuite with a spa bath.



The living area of this contemporary home opens out to an outdoor area overlooking the lush surrounds and salt water chlorinated pool.

Other great features include seven split system heating and cooling units, wood heater, ducted vacuum system, polished timber floors and brand new carpet throughout, alarm system, double gates for boat/caravan access and a double garage.

All of this is set within a 1,146sqm approx fully fenced allotment with established landscaped surrounds. The home is situated within close proximity to the local shops, schools, cafes and restaurants in Cowes and within easy walking distance to the beach via the rear walking trail.

Enjoy all the pleasures of modern beachside living and comfortably move straight into this exquisite property on a permanent or holiday basis; you will not be disappointed.

Contact: Ray White Real Estate Phillip Island – Amber Formosa 0499 039 289 or Alex Hale 0429 459 150 to arrange an inspection

Address: 19 Water View Rise, Cowes

Property features: 5 bedroom/2 bathrooms/2 car

Price: \$1,370,000 – \$1,500,000



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26 Gemma Street, Sunderland Bay

Room for an extremely large family, the perfect setting awaits, the home has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, which leads to a large alfresco area. The self-contained area has two bedrooms, living area and bathroom plus a large 2 bay garage. Room for the toys and friends, family. A gentle walk to the surf beach is perfect for the start day. Ideal holiday rental or just enjoy with family and friends.



For Sale \$839,000
12 Kenwyn Court, Cowes

Located in a lovely quiet location with excellent access to beautiful Cowes foreshore, this single level perfect family home has been tastefully renovated and meticulously cared for, the court position is perfect for children or grand-children. With three bedrooms, two bathrooms, office, split systems, wood fire, lovely outdoor entertaining areas, double garage, double carport, room for boat/caravan. Walk to beach, cafes & restaurants! Low maintenance – nothing left to do. Inspection is a must!

Call Kendall 0410 595 130 / 5952 3922



For Sale
\$1,000,000 - \$1,100,000
15 Honeysuckle Grove, Silverleaves

The perfect home awaits, nestled in the quiet hamlet of Silverleaves is this large family home set over a single level. The north facing aspect is perfect for entertaining family and friends, with the living and dining area flowing to a protected outdoor entertaining area. Excellent access to the extremely safe north facing beach is another feature for all generations that cannot be replicated. The Silverleaves store and golf club are but minutes away.



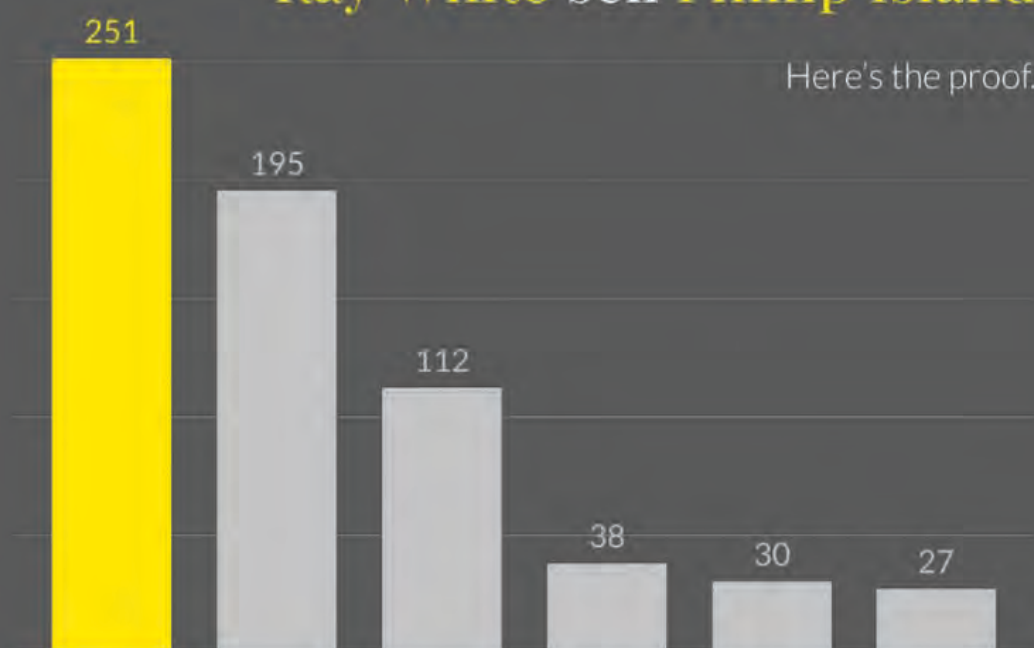
For Sale \$359,000
39 Hasting Street, Rhyll

Nestled in this extremely quiet location is the perfect setting to create your dream home. The filtered views only enhance the complete package. With space for the boat or caravan or both. There is walking access to all Rhyll has to offer, create the perfect lifestyle.



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Competitors

raywhitephillipisland.com.au
Source: domain.com.au (29/03/21) and internal data

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Foreshore views in the heart of town

This newly renovated home is located in a quiet cul-de-sac offering stunning ocean views over Westernport Bay and only 100m from the Cowes northern beach.

Situated on an allotment of approximately 741m² it offers rear under cover parking so you can walk to Cowes, no need to drive!

Entering the home to your left is the large family room, a great space to take in the northern light, complete with wood burning fireplace. Walking down the light filled hallway towards the centre of the home you will find the newly renovated kitchen, living and dining space.

The kitchen has 60mm stone bench tops with waterfall edges, 900mm oven and induction cook top, stainless steel dish drawer, finished off with a beautiful black granite quartz stone kitchen sink.

Opening up from the kitchen/living room is a fully covered alfresco, the perfect place to entertain your guests or enjoy a meal.

There are three bedrooms across the ground floor, one being the master complete with walk in robe and newly renovated ensuite.

Upstairs on the first floor is the third living space complete with kitchenette and the fourth bedroom perfect for guests with private ensuite. The upper floor has been de-



This newly renovated two-storey home offers stunning ocean views and a relaxed family lifestyle.

signed to take in the picturesque crystal-clear water of Westernport Bay and what a view!

This home will be one to inspect and ticks so many boxes being only a stone's throw from the beach and minutes' walk to Cowes shops, restaurants and supermarkets.

Contact: Alex Scott & Staff Cowes on 5952 2633 to arrange your private inspection or find out about the next open house.

Address: 1 Shirley Court, Cowes



This classic property features 1960s architecture and is within walking distance to the foreshore beach.

Retro heaven – stunning 60s styling

Set on a huge double allotment of 1468m² and close walking distance to a beautiful beach, this timeless classic is one of the Islands most iconic properties. Elevated and facing east overlooking the Cowes Bowling Club, the home's classic lines were designed when one piece swimwear and a G&T before dinner was the fashion.

Features include – Classic 1960s architecture with stunning sloping timber east facing floor to ceiling window, a big sunny patio, polished timber floor entry and sunroom with original 60s timber styling; a light filled kitchen and servery with huge windows overlooking the front and rear garden; separate dining room; large lounge with large east and

north facing windows plus direct entry onto the patio; laundry with separate toilet; sheltered back patio; large master bedroom with built-in robes; renovated main bathroom with a walk-in shower; a second large master bedroom with a second renovated bathroom and; a large third bedroom.

Extras include a double garage and workshop, an established perennial garden and more than 40 metres of frontage to Dunsmore Road.

Contact Alex Scott and Staff on 5952 2633 to book a private inspection, you will not be disappointed!

Address: 39 Dunsmore Road, Cowes

Price: \$1,150,000 to \$1,250,000



The 741m² allotment is located just 100m from the Cowes northern beach



Waterfall edge stone bench tops, induction cooktop, 900mm oven and dishwasher are some of the features of the stunning kitchen.



A stunning home, with spacious living areas that blend perfectly with a choice of outdoor living spaces.



The house is designed around breezy, light-filled spacious living areas and the beach is just metres away.



There are both paved and decked outdoor entertaining and living spaces in this beautiful coastal home.

Contemporary Coastal Living

Located opposite the native Banksia trees and dunes of the coastal reserve upon first arrival at this special offering you are welcomed with a relaxed feeling of peace and tranquillity.

Designed around breezy light filled spacious living areas blending perfectly with a choice of outdoor living spaces, the large quality home provides form and function all year round and is perfect for a holiday residence or permanent family living, with the beach track only moments away.

Key Features include:

- Four flexible bedrooms, the master with ensuite, double shower and vanity plus a WIR
- Two modern bathrooms in total with feature tiling and tapware
- Two large living areas with huge soaring ceilings up to 4.5 metres high

- Two car remote garage and exposed aggregate driveway
- 5kw solar power system
- Solar hot water
- 5.8 star energy rating
- Slab heating to the front and rear living

- Feature doors and windows throughout
- Two reverse cycle split systems
- Double sided designer fireplace.

- Internal wet system fire suppression system (possibly the only house on Phillip Island to feature this)
- Polished concrete to the living area and kitchen
- Choice of Sandstone paved and decked entertaining areas

Contact: Greg Davis at O'Brien Real Estate on 0488 279 740 to book your private inspection.

Address: 4 Beresford Drive, Cape Woolamai

Price: \$1,150,000



The open plan kitchen, dining and living area includes a double-sided designer fireplace.



OBrien Real Estate

Judith Wright

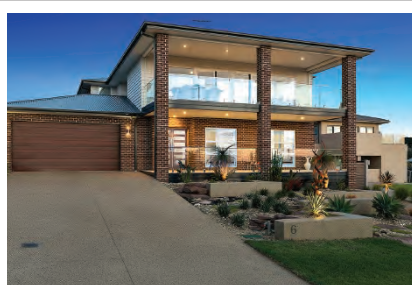


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6 Toscana Rise, **Cowes**

4 2 5

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22 Ocean Reach, **Cape Woolamai**

4 2

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20 Ti Tree Drive, **Cowes**

2 1 1

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4 Anthony Court, **Cowes**

3 2 1

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6 Ventnor Beach Road, **Wimbl. Heights**

3 1 4

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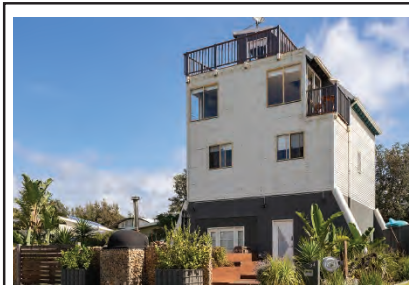


2/27 Chapel Street, **Cowes**

3 2 1

Location, location
\$750,000

Michael Wilkinson 0439 783 294



34 Second Avenue, **Cape Woolamai**

4 3 1

The Lighthouse Cape Woolamai
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12 Industrial Way, **Cowes**
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Mike Foenander 0408 547 677



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AND STAFF**

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39 DUNSMORE ROAD, COWES



\$1,150,000 TO \$1,250,000

- Retro Haven – stunning 60's styling
- Huge double allotment of 1468m² (approx.)
- Short stroll to beach

1 SHIRLEY COURT, COWES



\$1,290,000 to \$1,390,000

- Foreshore views in the heart of Cowes
- Only 100m from the beach
- Fully covered alfresco opening from living room

41 PANORAMA DRIVE, CAPE WOOLAMAI



\$875,000 to \$920,000

- Short stroll to the beach
- 3 bed/2 bath/2 car
- Large entertaining deck with woodfire

17 SEAGROVE WAY, COWES



CONTACT AGENT

- Designer home overlooking wetlands area
- 4 bed/2 bath/2 car
- Great sized allotment of 780m² (approx.)

37 ANDERSON ROAD, COWES



\$650,000 TO \$680,000

- Short walk to Anderson Boat Ramp
- 3 bed/2 bath
- Fully fenced allotment with landscaped gardens

3/10-12 MEDINA ROAD, COWES



\$975,000 TO \$1,050,000

- Ultimate seaside lifestyle
- 4 bed/2 bath/2 car
- Large upstairs alfresco

15 SEASCAPE AVENUE, COWES



\$590,000 TO \$649,000

- Short stroll to the beach
- Double garage and large private backyard
- 2 large living spaces

1 WATERLOO STREET, RHYLL



\$590,000 to \$ 630,000

- Open plan kitchen, living & dining
- 3 bed/1 bath/2 car
- Spacious allotment of 654m²

21 SEACREST DRIVE, COWES



\$650,000 TO \$699,000

- Situated on a corner allotment in Whytesands Estate
- 4 bed/2 bath/2 car
- Spacious undercover rear deck

23/1 WALTON STREET, COWES



\$350,000 TO \$375,000

- 2 bed/1 bath unit in Parklands
- Sunny north facing unit
- Secure & supportive environment

9 VISION CIRCUIT, SUNSET STRIP



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26 CHALE COURT, SILVERLEAVES



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10 SANCTUARY DRIVE, COWES



**UNDER
CONTRACT**

20 PENGUIN AVENUE, COWES



SOLD

149 MCKENZIE ROAD, COWES



**UNDER
CONTRACT**

9 WALTON STREET, RHYLL



SOLD

104 GRAMPIAN BLVD, COWES



**UNDER
CONTRACT**

15 FINDLAY STREET, COWES



SOLD

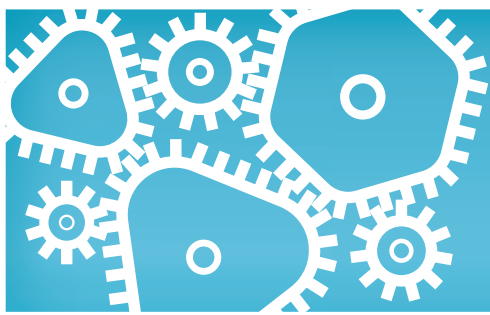
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Traffic update please

Through your paper, I'm asking Regional Roads Victoria, when the corner of Bergin Court and Philip Island Road will have a No Right Turn from Marine Parade erected?

Also at Marine Parade and Back Beach Road, when will the traffic lights be installed to overcome my first problem?

Michael Quinn, San Remo

The tide has turned

I refer to Louise Gillin's Letter to the Editor (March 24, 2021).

Yes, I attended the March 4 Justice in Canberra on 15 March 2021. The following is my statement to the Parliament on the matter.

"This week marked a moment in our history when many thousands of Australians took to the streets to demand respect, justice and safety for women. As both an elected representative, and a man, I hear the anger, the hurt, and acknowledge the disregard for women that has led to this fork in our road.

I am horrified at the levels of abuse, intimidation, harassment, discrimination and violence against women in this our great south land. Women will drive this change. I hope more men will join them.

Politicians, need to be quiet, listen and learn. Actions, not words, count. And I will play my part.

I have written to the prime minister requesting two actions be taken immediately. The first, is to convene a national gathering of women that represent women's peak organisations and every local government area to recommend to parliament the pathway to real and lasting change in our homes, our workplaces, and on the streets.

Next, I have asked the prime minister to introduce a gender impact statement for all cabinet submissions, new policies and legislation.

It is a privilege to be in a position where we can affect change and commit to justice, safety and respect for Australian women of all ages and so enrich the nation. We are all responsible and accountable. It is no accident that we are here for such a time as this.

For the women of Australia this is not negotiable. The tide has turned."

Other speeches on this matter

can be found on my website: www.russellbroadbent.com.au/speeches/
Russell Broadbent, Federal Member for Monash

How refreshing!

Congratulations to Interiors by Brinnie T Design.

I had the pleasure of walking down the laneway and was pleasantly surprised to see greenery, pot plants, hanging baskets with plants and even a trellis with jasmine being trained to enhance the wall, not to mention the lovely perfume when it flowers!

After commenting on how nice and welcoming it was, I was invited to look around her design and gift shop.

This beautification was carried out by Brinnie to entice people to her shop and adjoining businesses.

I do hope our councillors make time to see the difference this makes to our CBD.

We have had large planter pots in Thompson Avenue over the years, unfortunately disrespecting people did dump empty cans etc into them!

Surely some flowering hanging baskets – grown in council nursery – watered by council trucks and baskets rotated with coloured flowers in the different seasons (year around) would be pleasing to the eye!

Thompson Avenue desperately needs a face lift; if they are going to encourage locals and tourists to our town, something needs to be done!

The arcade where (former) Piglets of Cowes were located or behind G'dayTiger Cafe, even the tables, chairs and green matting made such a nice atmosphere and the dangerous roadway closed, made it much safer for pedestrians, transformed during Covid.

Just let's hope the former roadway is returned to a green place to again relax and enjoy once the site is cleaned up after the recent shop fires is completed, and make Cowes a welcoming place for both locals and tourists to visit all year.

J Falkingham, Cowes

How do you like your news?

This was an item in the Advertiser a couple of weeks ago.

Local newspapers do need our

encouragement as they're struggling with so many opinions that social media is taking over, completely.

Good old ABC did a show yesterday, 28 March, "How the death of local news is destroying democracy". This is a big concern. (Find it online by searching for ABC rear vision, past programs.)

One thing that doesn't get mentioned is letters to the editor.

Obviously, they're important to me. More frequently, recently people ask why no more letters in the paper. Generally I've rationed myself to just one per week. But many don't get printed. Then not so long ago, the Advertiser did three weeks in a row without any letters. Asking for explanation, the editor replied that, if less than half a page of letters, it's felt to be not worthwhile, easier to fill the gap with other material.

Some of my letters are concerned with Climate Emergency which might not be so local or immediate, often international and eternal. Surely this deserves some attention? With such an ordinary summer this year, people can easily dismiss the notion of global warming. It's never been claimed to be uniform across the world. Even in Australia, with so much drought, then gigantic bushfires, then massive floods, global warming has destabilised the weather system of the world. Average global warming, for the whole world, has again broken records. Our turn for heat will come again soon.

Anyhow, whatever you care about, to defend and extend our feelings of real community, how about more of us support our local paper by writing a letter, to share what we care about.

Bernie McComb, Cowes

(Editor's note: To clarify, there has not been a three week stretch without letters to the editor in the past year. Our policy is to publish letters as soon as we can, but it's not always possible to include every letter we receive and sometimes letters may be held over until there is available space. Priority is given to letters focused on local issues and events.)



Public spaces in Cowes at The Laneway, and Olive Justice Place will continue to operate through Autumn, thanks to further funding support from the state government.

More funding for outdoor dining. Night lights to be considered

Popular outdoor dining areas for local restaurants, pubs and cafes will continue through a CovidSafe autumn thanks to further support from the state government.

Bass Coast Shire Council has been allocated \$200,000 in the second round of the Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package, one of 22 councils to receive a share of \$5 million in funding.

This comes on top of \$250,000 allocated in the lead in to summer last year to create outdoor eating areas across the shire, in support of local hospitality businesses that have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said the additional funding will allow council to continue to support outdoor dining areas across Bass Coast.

"We will continue to work closely with the Business and Tourism Associations and traders in each township to develop and maintain outdoor dining spaces and will look at what adjustments may need to be made to encourage outdoor dining in the cooler months and how we support this," Cr Tessari said.

"A number of seaside towns and villages Australia wide have installed lighting to enhance the atmosphere, creating vibrant spaces to relax and dine and provide a further night-time economy benefits, and we will explore how that looks for our towns."

The two public spaces in Cowes at Olive Justice Place and The Laneway will continue to operate in coming months.

"It's pleasing to see a number of parklets have confirmed their intention to stay open until June with the

hotels at Inverloch (at the Inlet Hotel) and San Remo (at the Westernport and San Remo Hotel) all still expressing strong patron demand for the outdoor spaces," Cr Tessari added.

"The impacts of the pandemic are still being felt by our hospitality industry. This additional funding will allow us to continue to support these businesses.

"I would like to thank the state government and their continued support – by working together we are able to help our economy recover, faster," Cr Tessari concluded.

Of the 22 councils allocated funding, 13 are in metropolitan Melbourne, five are interface or peri-urban and four, including Bass Coast Shire are regional.

At the announcement last week, Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane said the funding would help continue and expand outdoor dining areas and pocket parks, as well as waiving permit fees and cutting red tape for businesses looking to set up outdoor dining.

The funding was prioritised to the councils experiencing high demand for outdoor dining infrastructure following an increase in patronage to local businesses, Minister Leane said.

"Councils have put our support for outdoor dining to good use over the last few months and this expansion will allow popular programs to continue across the state, giving our world-class hospitality industry a much-needed boost.

"Councils are key contributors to local economies and we're giving them the support they need to create jobs and help drive our economic recovery."

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Know Your Nature Parks – Autumn 2021

A regular column from
Phillip Island Nature Parks

The Nature Parks is a not-for-profit conservation organisation caring for over 20 per cent of Phillip Island (Millowll) and offering visitor experiences at the Penguin Parade, Antarctic Journey, Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island. They care for many of the Island's beaches Here's an update on what is happening in nature this Autumn.

Little Penguins

The average number of penguins crossing the beach at the Penguin Parade in February was 1,948 penguins per night. This is an increase of 170 per cent from the 712 penguins recorded in February 2020.

Most chicks have already grown and left their burrows to go to sea, with a few older chicks remaining and being very well fed by their parents. Most adults have finished breeding (earlier than last year) and are coming ashore to moult, where they double their body weight and spend 17 days on land fasting as they grow a complete new set of waterproof feathers and "spruce up their winter tuxedos" for the cold months ahead.

Meanwhile out on Seal Rocks ...

During autumn, Australian Fur Seal pups are growing strong and their new silver, waterproof coats enable them to spend more time in the water. Adults are hauling out onto the rocks to undertake their annual moult where they lose their fur and grow a new coat. Fur seals have two layers of fur while other seals have only one. Their coats consist of a woolly underfur with long coarse outer hairs to trap air. This double layer of fur combined with their body fat keeps them insulated and toasty warm.

Our team visited Seal Rocks in early March and disentangled an adult female from a length of recreational fishing line that was hooked through her mouth and under her nose. They also released a juvenile male from a fish scaling net (also used as a burley bag). They recorded the birds they saw and collected 50 seal scats for diet analysis.

Around our coast and on our beaches

Short-tailed Shearwaters

Adult shearwaters are preparing to take off to start their 16,000-kilometre migration north to waters around the Aleutian Islands off of Alaska. This means they will leave the chicks alone in the burrow as they finish growing their adult flight feathers. In mid to late April, the chicks will start taking off on their own for the first time – often 'crash landing' on roads. During this time, we will undertake our annual Shearwater Rescue program to assist their safe travels. This will include turning lights off on the bridge, lowering speed limits in 'hotspots' across the island and ranger patrols. Many thanks in advance for your support in driving carefully and contributing to yet another incredible conservation story.



The PINP team visited Seal Rocks in early March and disentangled an adult female from a length of recreational fishing line that was hooked through her mouth and under her nose

Hooded Plovers

Phillip Island's Hooded Plover breeding season had quite a good start with the first nest found at Anchorage Beach in August 2020 which produced three fledglings. To mid-February 2021 there were 18 pairs making 46 nests with 101 eggs laid. Of these, 20 have hatched and eight have fledged to date. We are hopeful for a strong finish to the season as there are still a few more chicks waiting to fledge. We will report on the season soon and, in the meantime, please remember to stay clear of signed and fenced areas and keep your dogs on a leash. This helps us to continue this amazing community effort of providing an island haven and giving these threatened birds the best chance of survival.



This breeding season, 20 Hooded plovers have hatched and eight have fledged so far.

Eastern Barred Bandicoot health check

Our team and volunteers recently captured 29 Eastern Barred Bandicoots on Churchill Island. They selected the 10 most suitable individuals (six females and four males) for release into a new home near Skipton, Victoria as part of a 'guardian dog' trial in which Maremma dogs will keep foxes away from the sheep on the property, and keep the bandicoots safe in the process. The bandicoots were also fitted with radio-transmitters that will be used to track their movements and assess their survival.

Wildlife rehabilitation

Our Conservation Team continues to rescue and care for sick and injured wildlife and respond to calls between 7.30am and 4pm.

The team is caring for moulting penguins who had not been able

to take in enough food before the moult and were found starving.

As we approach winter, we expect to have a few larger seabirds arriving on our shores who will need care as they are very far from home and often exhausted. In the past we have treated species such as Fiordland Crested and Rockhopper Penguins and albatross.

Please watch for wildlife on the roads day and night.

What's happening in nature?

Autumn is an exciting time in nature with calm days and clear nights perfect for stargazing.

- Fungi of all shapes and colours appears. Autumn is the peak season for fungi when we get to see the fruiting bodies of these incredible structures that remain hidden underground for the rest of the year. Look for mushrooms, toadstools, earthstars, puffballs and more. Some even glow in the dark!

- Constellations including Aquarius, Aries and Pisces and planets such as Mercury, Venus, Mars and Jupiter are visible in the night sky.

- Pacific Gulls bring their chicks from islands off the coast of Wilsons Promontory to feed along Phillip Island's coastline. Pacific Gulls reach maturity at approximately four years of age and are listed as significant fauna in the Nature Parks.

- In backyards and reserves, Red Wattlebirds feed noisily on nectar, using their thin curved bills to dip into flowers. They can also be seen making large flocks.

- Migratory birds such as Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Short-tailed Shearwaters and Eastern Curlew leave our shores on their long-haul flights to feeding grounds in the northern hemisphere.

- Local migrants such as Yellow Robins, Flame Robins, Striated Pardalotes, Tree Martins and Marsh Harriers arrive after flying across Bass Strait from Tasmania.

- Gum emperor caterpillars are in eucalypt trees.

- Baby cowfish can be seen in rockpools.

- Nautilus shells wash up on beaches.

- Dolphins come close to our shores.

Keep in touch at www.penguins.org.au/community



A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Easter holiday changes for Centrelink

There will be some changes to payments and services over the Easter holiday period for Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support customers.

Service centres and most phone lines will be closed on Friday, April 2 and Monday, April 5.

Self-service options will be available during this period.

Reporting dates may have changed because of the Easter public holidays.

Find out more about holiday period reporting and payment dates at servicesaustralia.gov.au/holidays

Hooded Plovers friends grant

The Friends of the Hooded Plover Bass Coast received a grant of \$8788 from the state government's Volunteering Innovation Fund.

The conservation project will unite Friends of the Hooded Plover groups, Birdlife, and local Men's Sheds to monitor the Hooded Plover and strengthen the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts.

Wage subsidy fund for business

Applications are open for the Jobs Victoria Fund, a wage subsidy program that supports businesses to hire people whose employment has been most affected by the pandemic. Small and medium-sized businesses, sole traders, local councils, social enterprises, universities and not-for-profits can apply for a wage

subsidy of up to \$20,000 per eligible employee to meet the costs of taking on new workers for the first 12 months of their employment.

For more information, eligibility criteria, or to apply for the Jobs Victoria Fund go to jobs.vic.gov.au/fund.

Community history awards

Entries are open for the Victorian Community History Awards.

Presented by Public Record Office Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the awards celebrate the people involved in community history projects who are dedicated to telling their local stories and help Victorians to better understand their past.

There are 10 different categories, with prize money ranging from \$500 to \$5000.

All entries must be received by 5pm Wednesday, July 7. Visit prov.vic.gov.au for details.

Keen for a holiday?

You can win a two-night accommodation and experience package in Port Phillip, as part of a 'Stay and Play' summer staycation campaign.

The two prizes up for grabs, a family trip and an urban grown-up getaway, have been designed to take the guess work out of a weekend away, showcasing the very best of the City.

For more information, go to: www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/live-love-local/support-port-phillip/win-a-port-phillip-getaway



A reader sent in this photo of what he believes to be a trashed hoon car, abandoned a few weeks ago at the end of Gap Road, next to the race track. Hoons allegedly buy cheap cars, trash then dump them.

Hoons threatening lives of all drivers

Residents across Phillip Island have shared their experiences of hoon drivers following an Advertiser report.

Earlier this month a concerned Cowes resident said hoons were putting the lives of drivers at risk around the island, while police acknowledged illegal burnout club meets were a growing problem across Bass Coast, including the island.

Last week householders responded with Ebony Wood commenting that at Cape Woolamai hoon drivers doing burnouts "basically happened every single night".

"It's only a matter of time until someone innocent is killed," she said.

"It's insane. The rubber in the roads – they must have shares in a tyre company."

Sara Wilson agreed, adding hoons frequented the roundabout in front of Cape Woolamai: "that gets a flog regularly".

Rellie Roche said she saw the problem on Back Beach Road.

"Our island is turning into hoon territory," Rellie wrote.

Another commented that burnouts occurred "even outside the po-

lice station in Cowes".

Lorraine Ingbritsen predicted at Bass "there would be a huge crash one night".

Rob Burns suggested setting up a number plate recognition camera on the bridge.

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

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

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

Dave from Cowes said burnouts marks and tyre rubber "have left local roads looking like a drag strip" and he was concerned about taking his teens out on the roads for night driving on their L-plates.

To report hoon activity phone the Crime Stoppers Hoon Hotline (1800 333 000).

Support for women on councils

Women elected to their first term on council will have the chance to develop skills and learn from experienced and capable mentors over the next three years, with Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane welcoming participants to the launch of the Australian Local Government Women's Association – Victoria (ALGWA Victoria) mentorship program last

week.

The state government has provided \$29,000 to ALGWA Victoria to continue and expand the mentoring program after a successful first term from 2016-20.

The program paired 43 newly elected female councillors with experienced mentors from across the state.

The mentors – all current or former councillors – share ad-

vice, support, guidance and coaching to help the new councillors develop governance skills, grow in the role and make a difference in their communities.

The 43 mentees are among the 272 women elected to council at the 2020 local government elections – representing 43.8 per cent of councillors, a record high for Australia.

Thanks for a wonderful job!

By the Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group (BCSGRG)

Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group paid tribute to Anne Davie OAM with an afternoon tea at their meeting in March.

Anne has been co-chair of the Group for fifteen years and has decided to stand down. Geoff Ellis has replaced her, joining Florence Hydon as co-chair.

Anne has had a lifelong commitment to social justice and righting the wrongs perpetrated against Indigenous people, which brought her to the newly formed Group back in 2005. She has made an extraordinary contribution to the Group, always inspiring with her passion, her wide reading on Indigenous culture, and her activism across a broad community front.

She reflected on the many actions and achievements of the Group, citing the film festivals, engagement with Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week, including running the NAIDOC week art exhibitions for the last seven years, and hosting many speakers, notably The Honourable Justice Peter Gebhardt who addressed the Group a number of times about the work he did through Trinity College in mentoring aspiring young Aboriginal scholars.

Anne recalled the 2015 meeting with Russell Broadbent MHR she attended with Sonia Weston, a local Boon Wurrung woman and member of the Group, early in our campaign to change the name of the McMillan electorate.

The Group went on to make a sustained and significant contribution to a successful name change, but regrettably not an Aboriginal name.



Outgoing chairman of the Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group Anne Davie with Geoff Ellis, a former shire councillor, who will take over the role, at an afternoon tea recently held in her honour.

The Reconciliation Group has a growing membership and Friends Group, with over 200 on the combined mailing lists. They meet every month to educate themselves about Aboriginal history, culture and the contemporary impacts of dispossession and discrimination, and to promote understanding and community awareness.

The Group welcomes the newly announced Yoo-rrook Justice Commission which will be something similar to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, based on truth-telling, a necessary precursor to healing.



Rehearsals are in full swing for the production of Mamma Mia by the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group. The cast includes 10 Phillip Islanders, and the show opens on May 28. Tickets on sale from April 1.

Mamma Mia ... Here we go again

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group is excited to be bringing back musical theatre to the people of Bass Coast this year. It is even more excited to be welcoming 10 Phillip Island locals to the cast of its production of Mamma Mia!

Mamma Mia! Which blends some of ABBA's greatest hits into a fun, brightly coloured musical is set on a Greek island, so it is only fitting that the cast be packed full of people who live on their very own island.

Abigail Boucher from Cape Woolamai plays Sophie, the young, energetic and wildly in love girl whom the show is centred around.

"I am super excited to be up on stage again and have loved every bit of the rehearsal period so far," she says.

Simon Furniss, who plays Harry Bright, one of Sophie's potential fathers, says he is enjoying the rehearsal period just as much as everyone.

"It's such a fun show, the songs and dancing will be incredible. I'm just looking forward to the audience having a party every night," he says.

Cast members have been working hard since February to put together dance numbers, dialogue and of course singing and now a few months out from opening night, they are feeling like

things are starting to come together.

ABBA holds a very special place in some of the cast's hearts. They remember growing up with the songs and buying their CDs. Nick Carlson, a member of the Greek ensemble says he couldn't pass up an opportunity to be in the show.

"ABBA was my favourite band growing up. It's amazing to now be singing and dancing to ABBA three times a week," he said.

The show opens on May 28 and tickets will be on sale from April 1. To book please head to their Facebook page or www.wtg.org.au/

Newhaven College charity recipient announced

The Year 12 Newhaven College Cabinet announce their chosen charity recipient for 2021 is the Lighthouse Foundation.

Lighthouse Foundation provides homeless young people from backgrounds of long-term neglect and abuse, with a home, a sense of family, and around-the-clock therapeutic care that is individually tailored, trauma informed and proven to work. For over 28 years Lighthouse has successfully supported over 900 young people to break the cycle of homelessness, move into employment and educational opportunities, and overcome damaging life experiences.

Each suburban Lighthouse home pro-

vides safety, therapeutic counselling and guidance for up to four young people, supported by two live-in carers and a dedicated team of psychologists and health professionals. Through their Lighthouse experience, young people can heal, learn again to relate to others and start to rebuild their lives.

Lighthouse depends on generous community support to enable their important work to continue and the Year 12 Cabinet are excited to get the whole school involved. With several fundraising events already planned they are hoping to raise \$10,000 by the end of the school year.

Writers Group launch anthology

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Brett Tessari and Cr Leticia Laing were special guests at the launch of "Waves of Inspiration" the seventeenth anthology of stories and poems written by members of the Bass Coast Writer's Group since its launch in 2003.

Seventeen years ago Shirley Buckley, Jellie Wyckelsma and Jane Denton had a dream to form an inclusive and supportive writing club.

In 2003 that dream gave birth to the Bass Coast Writers Inc.

The founding trio defined goals which remain in place to this day. The group is a writers' support group, where members' work is shared, not workshopped, and where critiques are only given on request.

Members learn from each other and through friendly discussion during the meetings.

The annual production of an anthology, the first of which was published in 2003, encourages members through the publication of their work.

In March this year, the seventeenth anthology of the Bass Coast Writers "Waves of Inspiration" was launched.

It includes a diverse selection of poetry and prose from the members.

Weekly meetings

The writers group meets weekly and members are presented with a theme or prompt which forms the basis of the writing to be shared at the following meeting.

The writing can be in any form, including a story, an essay, a poem, an anecdote, a memory, or an article.

Members are encouraged to participate in the week's writing, but attendance is not conditional on having a written piece to read. Time permit-



Bass Coast writer Aileen Mitchell, one of the founding members, delivers a reading at the launch of an anthology of stories and poems written by members of the Bass Coast Writers Group.

ting, following the readings, there is a ten-minute writing exercise to a given topic, an endeavour that produces some entertaining results.

After the meetings, members gather at a local café for a social get together.

Writers of all styles and capabilities are welcome.

The Bass Coast Writers is a supportive, non-competitive group where no member need feel intimidated by the works of any other.

2020 provided some new challenges for the Bass Coast Writers when restrictions to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic forced them to abandon face-to-face meetings.

This resilient group forged ahead, continuing their weekly agenda and sharing members' written work, comments, news, triumphs and hellos, through recorded readings on YouTube and even welcomed new members from aboard.

During this time the Bass Coast Writers participated in Neighbourhood House Week

through the production of public readings for sharing by the Inverloch Community House and also shared their COVID-19 experiences in the National Museum Australia - Bridging the Distance project.

Members' writing achievements often extend beyond the group. In 2020 the group congratulated Eden White on the publication of his business book, "Innovative Selling - A Guide to Successful Corporate Professional Selling"; Dilene Hinton on the publication of her collection of stories titled "Once Upon a Story"; and Barbara Moyle on her prize-winning entries in the Country Women's Association competition.

The Bass Coast Writers meet every Thursday between February to mid-December from 1pm to 3pm at the Inverloch Community House in the Inverloch Hub in Reilly Street.

You can contact them through the Inverloch Community House on 5674 2444 or email office-ichi@dcsi.net.au



Probus gets social

Along with a variety of activities and interest groups, the San Remo Probus Club organises a monthly dine out for its members. Members of the Club are pictured enjoying a recent meal together at Social 157 in Marine Parade, San Remo. The Club meets at 10am on the second Monday of each month in the Newhaven Hall and visitors to the meetings are most welcome.

Westernport Tennis Club Inc.
Wynne Avenue, San Remo
westernporttennisclub@outlook.com

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Newhaven swimming team had its most successful results yet at the recent Regional Swimming Carnival. Team members (from left to right) Olivia Holmes, Aisha Hibbert and Nelly Fox.

College students swimming success

The Newhaven College Year 3-6 swimming team continued their winning streak completing at the recent Regional Swimming Carnival in Sale. The team experienced its most successful results yet. Congratulations to all swimmers on their hard work, effort and achievement!

The following students competed at the Regional Swimming Carnival: Isabella Lynch, Sebastian Rennie, Nelly Fox, Aisha Hibbert, Aisha Glass, Anna Dixon, Archer Cameron, Cormac Flynn, Riley Herbert and Harvey Strachan.

Special congratulations to Archie, Smyth, Oliva Holmes and Aidan Smyth who each placed first in an individual event and have qualified to compete at the State Swimming Championships.

Midweek bowls

South West Gippsland midweek bowls winners were Tony Heppleston, Peter Graton, Pauline McWilliams and Wayne Stevenson.

Runners up were Peter McWilliams, Haydn Cave, Bill Williams and Elaine Williams.

One Game winners were Dennis Talbot (Triple), Lindsay Russell and Graham Turner.

Midweek bowls was played at Corinella with 21 bowlers. Sadly the weather put a lot of our bowlers off as in the morning it was pouring with rain and we had many cancellations.

It turned out to be a lovely day and we bowled our two games in sunshine on a slow green so there were lots of short bowls.

As the day progressed the green became faster, and some very high scores were recorded.

As usual laughter could be heard across the green. Our gun bowler Graham Turner contributed to the donation tin with a wrong bias which he was very happy to pay.

Thank you to Phil Wright who tended the bar and kitchen for us always with a smile.

Next week there will be no bowls as it is the start of Easter.

We will resume midweek bowls on April 8 at San Remo and BYO lunch. 10am at the venue for a 10.30am start. Everyone welcome.

For more information or to register please contact Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974

Just a reminder to our members please be on time and please ring if you have your name down and need to cancel in consideration for the organisers who put so much time and effort into making the day happen. See You on The Green.



Midweek bowls winners played at Corinella bowls club last week were Tony Heppleston (S), Wayne Stevens (L), Pauline McWilliams (2) and Peter Graton (3).



Peter McWilliams (S), Elaine Williams (L), Bill Williams (2) and Haydn Cave (3) were the runners up midweek bowlers.

Midweek ladies tennis ladder

Section 1: Inverloch Diamonds 27, Leongatha 26, Westernport/Grantville 23, Inverloch Emeralds 19, Wonthaggi Chooks 18 and Bena 15.

Section 2: Korumburra 35, Inverloch 22, Nyora 21, Bena 20, Phillip Island 17 and Foster 11.

Section 3: Wonthaggi Owls, Inverloch Blue 27, Phillip Island Red 23, Phillip Island Green 14 and Kongwak Kookies 10.

RSL Euchre results

Men's winner – Brian Cahill 7 wins. Ladies winner – Mary O'Brien 6 wins.

Encouragement award – Rick Banfield 1 win.

Dining tables booked for those wishing to have dinner prior to games at 6pm.

Games begin at 7.30pm.

Welcome to this week's new players Robert and Rick.

Please come and have a great night.

Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Easter 2021

As I write this Sunday afternoon it would appear that we are going to make it this year but as we all know between now, Sunday and Friday there is plenty of time for things to change – Queensland has just proved that.

Let's look at it from a positive side and all is well, minimal restrictions, weather forecast couldn't be any better and the fish are still around, both in the bay and offshore.

Over the long weekend we will extend our hours and open every day, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday at 6am for those who want an early start. Don't forget daylight savings finishes on Sunday as well.

After Easter we will slowly go to our winter hours, especially once the school holidays finish. Just keep an eye on our Facebook page for current hours.

That doesn't mean the fishing will finish and as most who fish here all the time know, this can be some of the best fishing days for the year with a variety of fish available.

Easter weekend also means there is plenty happening. Everybody in San Remo is open and with the good weather the commercial boats will have arrived back with plenty of fresh fish for the restaurants to serve up.

The Co-op has been able to restart the pelican feeding and if you haven't been here before it is on every day at the jetty from about midday.

Looking for something to take in the sights while raising money for the Royal Children's Hospital? The George Bass Walk for the Kids is on Good Friday, registrations from 8am at the San Remo Hotel or quickly visit to see us and we can give you more details.

There are two walks to be involved in – see the Good Friday Appeal coverage (page 12) for details.

Then there is the big event in town, we think so anyway, our Easter fishing competition where, like the George Bass Walk, 100 per cent of your entry money goes to the Good Friday Appeal.

Both of these events rely heavily on sponsorship and it's because of this sponsorship that 100 per cent of the entry fee can be donated.

We have had more sponsors come on board this week and there will be a few more spot prizes given away.

One entry has already won by getting in early. Congratulations to Marie Bursill who won the \$100 voucher to the Watermark Restaurant at Silverwater.

We are well on target to break our last donation of \$2850 with just on 100 entries received so far. But the

best part is it's almost a 50/50 split between adults and kids, exactly what we designed this competition for, the family having a bit of fun together over the Easter break.

I mentioned sponsors before, and we have been overwhelmed this year with the support we have received and have now almost \$9000 in prizes.

Around about half of that amount will be given away just for entering with our hourly random entry draws.

Something we have added this year is two auctions, open to anybody, Wednesday and Thursday. There will be no reserve and they are valued at over \$300 each.

You can enter the competition until 2pm on Good Friday. Drop into the shop or give us a call.

Fishing report

Not a lot of fishing this week with some less than favourable weather keeping most at home.

It was typical of a week before a long weekend where most only head down if the weather is perfect, something we certainly didn't have, also keeping most locals indoors.

There was someone fishing though, and we did get a handful of reports.

The whiting on the San Remo side of the bay is still a little patchy and frustrating but a small handful of reports from the Rhyll side were quite good and more consistent in size and the bags were better in number.

We have seen a couple of bags of snapper and caught up with a couple of customers that have had some success over the last month of good snapper/pinkies from 36cm to 50cm.

The majority of the fish were caught after dark except for one customer who told us he has had a couple of bags all caught during daylight.

He said he was fishing across the corals and finding a spot with very little weed, which has been a problem of late in the channels. He only fished one hour either side of the tide change and used plenty of berley, fresh caught cuta and tuna for bait while others caught theirs on the usual squid and pilchards.

There seems to be plenty of salmon on the surf beaches, problem is of the dozen reports we got they told us a dozen different times of the tide so anybody's guess.

The same was on the jetties with a handful of reports coming in from all over the place.

There were a few sightings of whiting swimming under the San Remo jetty but as usual if you can see them the chances of actually catching them is almost zero.

Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, April 23 Stableford: Winner was Paul Cochrane (6) with 41 points, r/up was Ron Davies (19) 38 points on a countback from Peter Mannix (27).

9-hole competition winner was Brian Baker (19) with 19 points from Basil Moloney (13) with 18 points on countback from Peter Matthews (31).

Wednesday, March 24 March – Stroke Monthly Medal today was sponsored by Emg Consulting, – Liz Gleeson and Marilyn John. A Grade Winner, and Monthly Medal – Dawn Andrews (15) 70 nett.

B Grade winner – Ros Reid (26) 73 nett. C Grade winner – Kaye Johnston (44) 76 nett.

Putting – tie with 29 putts, Vicki Roff-Smith and Naoko McRae.

Thursday, March 25 Stableford: Carl Russo (21) was the winner with 43 points from Morgan Ward (7) with 37 points on countback from Allan Schache (6).

9 Hole competition winner was Malcolm MacArthur (28) 21 points from Steve Rieger (24) with 19 points.

Saturday, March 27 Stoke Monthly Medal sponsored by Archisign.

A Grade winner was Tim Duff (6) 70 nett from James Bain (4) 72 nett.

B Grade winner – Scott Shears (16) 73 Nett from Max Disher (16) 74 nett c/b.

C Grade winner Len Fenton (20) 70 nett c/b from Ron Davies (20).

Travis Johnson had an eagle on the 18th hole.

9 Hole winner was Chris Hailes with 17 points.

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN RED							
WED 31 MAR	THU 1 APR	FRI 2 APR	SAT 3 APR	SUN 4 APR	MON 5 APR	TUE 6 APR	WED 7 APR
HIGH 3:28 am 2.80 m	HIGH 4:14 am 2.85 m	HIGH 4:57 am 2.87 m	HIGH 5:38 am 2.87 m	LOW 12:10 am 0.81 m	HIGH 6:01 am 2.76 m	LOW 12:39 am 0.97 m	LOW 1:24 am 1.06 m
LOW 9:15 am 0.53 m	LOW 10:03 am 0.33 m	LOW 10:50 am 0.20 m	LOW 11:35 am 0.14 m	HIGH 5:19 am 2.83 m	LOW 12:03 pm 0.27 m	HIGH 6:45 am 2.66 m	HIGH 7:33 am 2.53 m
HIGH 4:08 pm 3.03 m	HIGH 5:00 pm 3.17 m	HIGH 5:50 pm 3.23 m	HIGH 6:38 pm 3.22 m	LOW 11:19 am 0.17 m	HIGH 7:10 pm 2.99 m	LOW 12:47 pm 0.43 m	LOW 1:33 pm 0.62 m
LOW 9:45 pm 0.76 m	LOW 10:35 pm 0.75 m	LOW 11:23 pm 0.76 m		HIGH 6:25 pm 3.13 m		HIGH 7:56 pm 2.84 m	HIGH 8:45 pm 2.69 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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Section 4 Junior Phillip Island tennis team grand final winners (from left to right): Talitha Rachelle, Daniel Patch, Lachlan Paterson and Eli Bowker. Section 4 Korrine and District Junior Tennis Association tennis grand final was played last Saturday. The Phillip Island Section 4 Junior team secured a fantastic win to come away as Premiers in the grand final against Inverloch. The team, who played competition tennis for the first time this season, won a total of 26 games over Inverloch's 19.

Autumn Bowls Carnival Phillip Island Bowling Club

The 28th Autumn Bowls Carnival will be conducted from April 26 – May 2.

It will be played over seven days instead of the normal nine largely due to Covid.

Changes have been made to the Singles and Fours events with both now attracting Bowls Australia points toward the Australian Bowler of the Year which should ensure that play is keen and exciting.

Seven former Singles Champions will return to take part in the O'Brien Real Estate Judith Wright Singles Championship with four times winner Neville Brown looking to make it five.

This year will see a number of new faces, most of whom are playing at the top level in the State.

Program details Monday, April 26 – 3 bowl Pairs; Tuesday, April 27 – 2 bowl Triples; Wednesday, April 28 – Friday 30 – Singles and Saturday, May 1 and Sunday 2 – Fours.

The Carnival Dinner has been moved from Saturday evening to Friday with a feature being the presentation of trophies to the winner of the O'Brien Real Estate Judith Wright Singles Championship.

Tickets are limited to 100 due to Covid restrictions.

The event will commence at 6.30pm and conclude at 10pm.

The evening entertainment will be The Jackson Combo Blues which has been impressing audiences across Australia and internationally since 2013, from Melbourne to San Francisco, London to Devonport with their swinging cool blues and infectious New Orleans beats.



Neville Brown is aiming to win his fifth Bowls Championship; he last won it in 2016.

There'll be a two-course spit roast with salad and desserts at \$35 per head.

Resting Toucher will again have their shop on site for the entire event and they have advised that if anyone has special requirements to please contact them on 03 8520 9600 and they will arrange for them to be brought down.

Spectators are most welcome at what should be an outstanding week of bowls.

A special thank you to all our Sponsors for their ongoing support of what has become a major bowls event in South Gippsland.

For more information regarding the Carnival and Dinner please contact Robin Blackman 0432 814 407 or Jill Boyce on 0417 416 300.



Corporate comp champs, Jeff, Ben and Eric from the Victor Bravo team.

Bowled over!

The Phillip Island bowls club received some high praise recently from the Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale.

Ms Crugnale was thrilled to be at the final of the corporate bowls competition, singing its praises on her Facebook page.

"I just love, love, Bowls Clubs and all the very fine people that make them rock," she posted.

"Massive round of applause to the Chair Wayne Barr, George Mole aka the tournament powerhouse extraordinaire and all the fabulous volunteers – where would we be without them?"

"Did you know back in 2008 they started a juniors' program with kids from Cowes Primary?"

"Thanks to the continued tuition and mentoring of John Newcombe and Kevin Wagner the kids are regulars at state championships and they head off this year too."

Ms Crugnale congratulated this year's Corporate champs – Victor Bravos, the local Victorian Fisheries Authority team, and runners up Haymes Paint.

"Thanks to all the sponsors of this tournament and the local Businesses that participate," Ms Crugnale said.

"This club just goes from strength to strength, is super active in bringing community together, they look out for each other and are all heart."

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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- Fully covered alfresco opening from the living room

26 CHALE COURT, SILVERLEAVES



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