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ADVERTISER

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Wednesday, March 5, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST



It was a race that broke records for competitor numbers and marked the end of another successful Bass Coast Series. Local competitors rose to the challenge, taking top spot in many race categories, with several securing category wins in the overall series as well. For more coverage, turn to page 20. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

State cops can Good Friday tin rattle

COMMUNITY

Members of the Phillip Island CFA are “devastated” and “extremely disappointed” after their traditional permits to rattle tins and raise funds for the Good Friday Appeal along Thompson Avenue in Cowes were rejected by Victoria Police.

Each year the Good Friday Appeal raises money for the Royal Children’s Hospital, with last year nearing \$24 million dollars raised, and this year announcing \$3 million would be given to regional health services.

Last year on Phillip Island, the CFA “tin rattler” volunteers raised over \$19,000 for the Appeal.

However, according to Simon Hartley of the Phillip Island CFA, around six weeks ago the group were notified their permit to rattle tins at the corner of Thompson Avenue and Settlement Road had been rejected.

Highway permits are required by any person or organisation wishing to collect money from vehicles on a public road or at an intersection, and are issued by the Chief Commissioner of Police.

The Victoria Police website states collections may only be conducted at intersections where the speed limit is no greater than 70km/h, and where “there are lights controlling the

flow of traffic.”

When contacted by the Advertiser, the Victoria Police media unit declined to comment, stating the paper would be required to lodge a Freedom of Information request – a costly and often very lengthy process – to ascertain why the permits were rejected.

Mr Hartley said he believes the permit was rejected because there are no traffic lights on the corner of Thompson Avenue and Settlement Road. This is despite members of the CFA safely rattling tins on the very same intersection for decades.

“We’ve been doing it (on the corner of Thompson Avenue

and Settlement Road) for about 15 years now with no incidents whatsoever,” Mr Hartley said.

“It’s unbelievable that we’re qualified enough to go out and do traffic control at a major incident or a car accident, but we can’t stand on the side of the road and shake tins. We’ve always put in place a very stringent safety regime when we’re there.”

Tin-rattling on Thompson Avenue is the Phillip Island CFA’s primary fundraiser for the Good Friday Appeal, and the volunteer organisation estimate they will lose up to \$16,000 in donations for the state’s most-in-need children.

Statewide issue

Mr Hartley says setting up a collection station at the pedestrian lights on Thompson Avenue adjacent to Woolworths would be “much more dangerous” than at the roundabout intersection.

Continued page 10



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17 29	17 26	18 28	18 28	18 27	18 24	17 21



Last Thursday, a helicopter delivered building materials to Forrest Caves, as part of a Nature Parks project to upgrade the main beach access stairs.

Flying in for Forrest Caves upgrade

INFRASTRUCTURE

Phillip Island Nature Parks is upgrading the main Forrest Caves beach access stairs.

Last Thursday, a helicopter delivered building materials to the site.

Nature Parks General Manager Infrastructure and Planning, Jarvis Weston, said the aerial drop was to minimise impacts on the dunes. New material was delivered, and then the helicopter removed demolished material from the old northern stairway.

“This approach ensures the sensitivities of the dune site are maintained and work can be conducted safely and efficiently.

“Importantly, our construction timeline means there will be limited work undertaken through the short-tailed shearwater fledgling period, which usually starts in late April when they commence their migration north,” Mr Weston said.

The beach entry and car park at Forrest

Caves has been closed since early February to allow for the construction, which is expected to take between six and eight weeks, possibly through the April school holidays.

Access to the beach remains available for beachgoers via the nearby Bruce Avenue access track.

The third stage of the project to the southern stairway is due to start in mid-May. A second helicopter lift has been scheduled after the shearwaters depart.

Nature Parks urges all visitors to the island to download the Surf Life Saving Beachsafe app and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.

Warning: swimming is not advised at Forrest Caves; see penguins.org.au/visit/safety for more information.

For current project updates visit: penguins.org.au/about/our-community/projects-and-maintenance/

POLICE BRIEFS

Car theft

Another car was stolen in Cowes on Sunday March 2 by unknown offenders around 2am. It is alleged the offenders gained access to the house where they stole multiple sets of car keys and made off with a Subaru station wagon which was later recovered in the area. Police are reminding the community to keep their cars and doors locked, and to hide car keys in the house.

Burn-off warning

Local police are warning they are actively prosecuting those caught burning-off during the Fire Danger Period which will last until May 1. Senior Sergeant Brent Muir said there has been an increase in fire activity in the area, on both public and private property. The Senior Sergeant said there has been a subsequent increase in prosecutions, and reminded the community that burning off during the Fire Danger Period is illegal.

New vehicle

The local police fleet now includes an all terrain vehicle – a Polaris Ranger Crew XP 1000.

The five-seater vehicle will assist local police with proactive beach patrols, community engagement and searches in otherwise inaccessible areas.

It is fitted out with a suite of operational police equipment such as blue and red flashing lights, sirens, winch, radios and medical equipment.

The vehicle is currently allocated to the Cowes Police Station, but will be attending all coastal areas from Port Welshpool to Tenby Point.

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A community petition to stop the termination of Fisheries officers has already amassed over 13,000 signatures.

Fight for Fisheries continues

PETITION

A community petition, to stop the termination of Fisheries Officers has already amassed over 15,000 signatures.

The petition was launched on February 15, following the announcement the State Government plans to close five fisheries offices in Western Port and Port Phillip bays (including Cowes) and fire 27 staff.

The four staff in the Cowes office have been told their roles will be terminated, and the building will be sold.

The fishing industry, recreational fishing groups, former staff, conservationists, the Liberals, Nationals, unions and the Victorian National Parks Association have all condemned the proposal.

There will be nine new positions created for Fisheries Engagement Officers, with three new offices opened, including one in Tooradin.

The government said existing staff will be able to apply for one of the nine new roles.

A spokesperson for the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) said "going forward we will be more focused on education and engaging the community with fishing".

"Some workforce changes have been proposed to reflect this," they said.

"Our workforce will focus on keeping compliance levels high, and on major fishing crime,

while working closely with the community to provide them the education and resources they need to fish responsibly."

However critics say the decision could open the floodgates for illegal operators and will not provide the protection fisheries and marine parks need.

Local resident Kevin Brown, the former Victorian Chief Fisheries Officer said if the changes go ahead Victoria will be the only state or territory in Australia that won't have a dedicated fisheries officer workforce.

He said the risks to fisheries stock and marine parks is immense, as is the potential impact on boating safety, describing Fisheries Officers as the "eyes and ears on the water".

With less officers, working from remote locations, "who is going to see the illegal activity when it's going on" queried Kevin.

To sign the petition, scan the QR code, or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3mr8wyp9>



Marine Parks

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) has called on people to contact their local representative to stop the changes going ahead (Jordan.Crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au).

Last week it issued a statement describing Fisheries Officers as "the guardians of our ocean", saying it needed to ensure the plan to cut numbers doesn't go ahead.

"Our marine national parks are sanctuaries where wildlife is safe from exploitation. Our marine guardians watch over these refuges, protecting iconic wildlife like Giant Spider Crabs, abalone and snapper.

"Without the vigilance of these officers, our marine havens face imminent threats from illegal and unregulated fishing.

"Fisheries officers patrol and protect our marine parks and wildlife. They're our frontline workers for nature protection, not an optional extra.

"The number of officers will be slashed from 73 to just 36, leaving our marine parks vulnerable to illegal fishing.

"Right now, only 5.3 per cent of Victoria's waters are protected in no-take marine areas, the lowest of any state. The last thing we need is fewer officers enforcing these protections."

VNPA called on the community to contact "your elected representatives to halt these absurd cuts and prioritise the protection of our marine habitats and wildlife".



The local member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale confirmed further inspections of the Newhaven Jetty have taken place following a debate in state parliament, as local advocates wait with bated breath. Photo courtesy of Save Newhaven Jetty.

"Positive step" for Newhaven Jetty says MP

INFRASTRUCTURE

Following a community stakeholder meeting with the Minister for Ports and Freight and a subsequent debate in the upper house of parliament, last week Better Boating Victoria and independent marine coastal engineers were onsite inspecting the Newhaven Jetty.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale confirmed the teams were "inspecting the structural integrity of the jetty and exploring options to restore pedestrian and boater access to the jetty in the future."

The inspection comes after an almost year long fight by the local community to save the jetty which was closed without notice and indefinitely in May last year.

"It's taken a community rally, one paper petition, one electronic petition, a number of requests for an update from the Minister, debates in parliament and eventually a brief meeting with the Ports Minister to bring about what was requested by Parks Victoria years ago," local fishing advocate Amanda Keilar said.

"Finally a step in the right direction."

Ms Crugnale said "it is important we work with the local community to explore opportunities, understand what activities people want to see happen, and ensure we are engaging the right stakeholders".

"That's why we have brought the Victorian Fisheries Authority's Better Boating division into the conversation. They were (at the jetty) again last week, and we

also had a company conduct a more detailed inspection. This is a positive step forward."

Many locals were incensed after Freedom of Information requests obtained by National's Senator for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath revealed the jetty was closed on a visual assessment.

During the community stakeholder meeting with the Minister for Ports and Freight, the Minister said her office was going to look into the visual assessment which deemed the jetty not fit for purpose. "Fingers crossed the pylons are not too bad," Amanda said.

Ms Crugnale said once more information regarding the latest investigations is available the State Government will have a better understanding of what options are available and specific costings.

"I want to thank the very passionate locals for their continued advocacy and determination to see (the jetty) reopened and returned to community use.

"The meeting with the local representatives and the Minister recently was positive and all along I have been making very direct representations on their and the wider community's behalf."

Melina Bath, who sponsored the petition debated in parliament to save the jetty, said "after almost 12 months of intense lobbying from the community ... it is pleasing to see an inspection on the public asset".

"Clearly the community deserves to be kept abreast of the assessment results and subsequent plan for capital works."

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Cowes speed review criticised

SPEED LIMITS

A proposal to change speed limits in Cowes East has been criticised by Island Voice, for its lack of community engagement.

On February 28, a map highlighting the roads impacted by the proposed changes was posted on a new page on the Engage Bass Coast website.

It showed sections of Settlement Road, Church Street, Chapel Street and The Esplanade were earmarked for a reduced speed limit of 40km/h, as were roads running between these streets.

Several sections were earmarked for a 20km/h speed limit, including at the Cowes Recreation Reserve, Transit Centre, the Bass Avenue and Warley Avenue car parks and the section of Thompson Avenue between Chapel Street and The Esplanade.

The Esplanade between Bass and Warley avenues was designed

nated a 10km/h shared zone.

Peter McMahon, Acting Secretary of Island Voice said the speed zones were only listed on the Engage website on February 28, with feedback closing on March 3.

"In mid-February, the Advertiser ran an article about money received from the TAC to put speed humps and other treatments in both Church and Chapel streets," Peter said, noting there was no mention of changes to speed zones.

"Now we see we could only raise concerns until March 3 regarding this new position of changing all the speed zones to 40km/h, over and above what had been shared earlier.

"Engage Bass Coast is supposed to be the communication arm of the shire, but surely we should get more than three or four days to respond.

"Who or what is controlling all these decisions? It would be inter-

esting to see how many accidents have happened in these areas to bring about any changes," Peter stated.

Consolidation

However council said a restructuring of the Engage page – including the new Speed Reviews and Parking Improvements page published on February 28 – saw information on a number of projects consolidated into one.

In November, council posted a proposal to reduce speed limits in Chapel Street, Church Street and Dunsmore Road to 40km/h, with a survey available for feedback until December 15.

However, Peter McMahon said that original survey covered three roads, "but now out of the blue, it is every road".

"This was never part of the discussion," he said.

The Cowes East Traffic Management project, which included pedestrian crossings and speed



A new post on the Engage website on February 28 showed a series of streets in Cowes East have been earmarked for a speed reduction to 40km/h. After Island Voice criticised the council for the lack of engagement on the project, the deadline for feedback has been extended to March 24.

humps, was originally published on the Engage website on February 5.

Responding to community concerns, council confirmed the time frame for consultation for Cowes

East listed on the new Speed Reviews and Parking Improvements page has now been extended until March 24. engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/speed-reviews-and-parking-improvements.

Road clearing request knocked back by council

ENVIRONMENT

A planning application to clear vegetation for a road upgrade in Grantville triggered a wider discussion about protecting native vegetation and the impact of sand mining at the February council meeting.

There was a large audience in the gallery to hear the decision.

The application to remove native vegetation at Stanley Road and McGrady Road reserve in Grantville and Glen Forbes received 58 objections.

In presenting the item, Council's General Manager Future Places Damian Prendergast said the concerns raised had been considered and officers had worked with the applicant to minimise vegetation loss.

The proposed vegetation removal would allow Stanley Road to be widened, and footpaths constructed, at the entrance to the Hanson Quarry.

Although officers recommended the planning permit be granted, Cr John Temby proposed an alternative motion, to refuse the application, "on the basis of damage caused to wildlife corridors, the environment and native vegetation".

The motion also said the proposal was inconsistent with



Stanley Road at the western end of the proposed works area. Councillors rejected the proposal to remove native vegetation along the road as part of the road access to Hanson Quarry sand mine.

state and local planning policies around removal of native vegetation and loss of biodiversity.

Cr Temby said thousands of important habitat plants would be removed under the proposal, and the removal of native species and vegetation would "add to the degradation" of the environment.

"We need to take the rapid loss of biodiversity seriously," he said.

Cr Tim O'Brien supported the alternative motion, saying he didn't believe the proposal had merit.

He said the community, who

had been living in the area for 25 years, deserved better.

"Our job is to represent those communities and act in their interests.

"We can't try to second guess what VCAT is going to do and use that as a way of making a decision," Cr O'Brien said.

"Our job as leaders in this community is to show a bit of spine and hit this one out of the park."

He described sand mining as a contentious issue in the community, and noted that the community did not receive a royalty for all the sand removed.

"The sand miners have had a very good run. We need to get this sorted out, get back to the table and come up with a plan that doesn't involve the removal of trees.

"I won't be told there is only one solution to this."

Cr Jan Thompson was attending the meeting online, and due to technical issues, her comments were not audible on the live stream.

Cr Mat Morgan said refusing the permit "should not be a contentious decision".

"How much environmental

vandalism has been done for corporations," he asked.

"You know who can't submit applications? The animals we share this space with, kids, who are the next generation of Gippslanders."

He also noted there was no First Nations consent for the project.

Cr Brett Tessari said initially he was "on the fence" over the proposal, but agreed with his fellow councillors. However he sought clarification from officers that if the amendment was adopted, there would be the opportunity to negotiate for a better solution.

He was told if the applicant went to VCAT, there would be the opportunity to come up with a better solution.

"I am mindful that we are voting on a road and removal of vegetation – not who does or doesn't have sand mines," Cr Tessari said.

"The sand mines will continue to use the road if it's sealed or not. We need to get a better outcome for the residents. My preference is for them (the mines) to pay for it, and find a better solution to the vegetation removal."

Cr Ronnie Bauer supported the amendment, saying "the community has spoken".

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Free camping? Residents pay the price

COMMUNITY

The issue of illegal camping has again been raised by residents, after the CFA was called to a fire on the beach at Kitty Miller Bay on Saturday evening (March 1).

According to a local resident, two fire trucks attended the fire, which they say is the fifth lit at Kitty Miller this summer.

"I'm sure no one was charged, as the campers didn't pack up until about 11am on Sunday morning.

"They also decided to leave all their rubbish, as well as ripping trees out of the sand dunes."

The resident said they told the people it was illegal to camp in the Kitty Miller car park, but were ignored.

"I contacted the council at 8.20am on Sunday, to be told there was no ranger on duty and to contact them tomorrow."

However Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed there was a ranger on duty on March 2.

"The ranger was indeed on call on the day in question. On-call jobs are prioritised based on urgency and acuity, and the message may have been misinterpreted," a council spokesperson said.

Residents in the area say they are increasingly frustrated at the lack of action by the council to deal with a growing issue.

"During January and February 2025 there were 161 illegal campers at the Kitty Miller Bay car park," one resident told the Advertiser.

"That would have been revenue of \$48,300, as per the \$300

fine per car noted on the council website.

"I have been contacting the council for years and nothing gets done.

"They say it is too dangerous for the rangers to go and book illegal campers, but it seems it's not too dangerous for residents to have to deal with this behaviour."

They said they suggested council hire security guards for the peak holiday periods, "as they would well and truly cover their costs, but this also fell on deaf ears".

The resident said illegal camping was an issue at all the car parks across the island, and said if council policed the issue, it "would be a big revenue raising campaign".

"This is also a huge loss for local businesses, as these people are free camping, not staying in their establishments."

Council

A council spokesperson said council had responded to and actioned multiple enforcement requests in relation to Kitty Miller car park, and issued infringements for illegal camping.

They also said additional patrols had been initiated, and signage installed in the area "to enhance compliance".

"Council's approach regarding illegal camping is to achieve compliance outcomes through the local law, prioritising voluntary compliance through engagement in the first instance," the spokesperson stated.

"In cases where a community



Residents are again calling on Bass Coast Shire Council to crack down on illegal camping at Kitty Miller Bay, saying between January and February this year, there have been 161 vehicles camping in the car park.

member is experiencing homelessness, Council works closely with VicPol, Salvation Army and other key agency partners to facilitate service referral while ensuring neighbourhood safety and amenity."

Council confirmed that between 2021 and March 2025, it had logged seven requests about illegal camping in Kitty Miller Road.

They said two infringements had been issued, signs have been installed in the area, and they have used cam-trails to

monitor the area, with limited success.

The spokesperson said while there was a ranger on call on Sunday, "a call was not received" about illegal camping at Kitty Miller.

However they confirmed council was contacted on Monday morning about the issue and were following up "with appropriate enforcement action".

The spokesperson also confirmed that illegal camping was not considered an emergency, and officers would not attend alone at

night, due to safety concerns.

They believed the resident who reported the campers on Sunday morning may have misinterpreted the response they received when they tried to report the incident.

"If the call reached Oracle, our afterhours provider, they would have been told to call back again at 8.30am if illegal camping activity is still occurring."

The spokesperson said the standard response also noted that officers did not always have the ability to attend illegal camping afterhours, and would only do so after assessing their safety.

It also directed people to call Victoria Police on Triple Zero (000) if campers were creating a nuisance.

The issue of illegal camping is an annual one, especially over the busy summer season.

In 2022, residents called for action on the rising number of illegal campers, including enforcement, education and better signage.

As well as Kitty Miller Bay and Cowes, free campers were reported on the beach at Clelland Bight in Cape Woolamai, and the Anzac's, Cottesloe Avenue and Colonnades' car parks, as well as Surfies Point, Smiths Beach, Red Rocks, Ventnor and Anchorage Road Beach.

At the time, former CEO Ali Wastie said there were regular patrols in summer, and rangers did respond to calls from the public, citing Cowes and Kitty Miller Bay as the worst hotspots for illegal camping.

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Newhaven College Open Day – Saturday March 15

Newhaven College is excited to invite all future and prospective students and their families to explore the College campus at this year's Open Day, Saturday March 15, 9am-1pm.

Current families and friends are also welcome to come along to experience the daily life of the children in their lives.

College staff and student leaders will offer visitors guided tours of the stunning college grounds and facilities. Activities will be held throughout the day in Junior, Middle and Specialty Wing. Students and teachers will also perform demonstrations in the Specialty Wing science labs, music performances in the Performing Arts Wing, art displays and hands-on demonstrations in the Trade Centre.

What makes Newhaven College special?

Newhaven College is the leading independent co-educational school in the Bass Coast region, catering to Prep-Year 12.

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Beyond academics, an incredible range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are on offer – with camps and outdoor education for all year levels.

There are opportunities in visual arts, performing arts, sports and outdoor activities. The



Middle School student leaders Isabella Stead and Amelia Baxter teamed up to guide groups around campus in 2024.

College also offers specialised academies for tennis, surfing, equestrian and mountain biking as each student is encouraged to explore their interests. Visit the College website to see everything on offer.

Every child finds their place

The College campus is made up of three sub-schools: Junior School, Middle School and Senior School, plus the highly popular Year 9 Environmental Centre.

Each sub-school creates a strong sense of community. As students progress, they gain opportunities to build confidence through leadership programs. Year 9 students take part in a unique year-long experience that encourages them to care for our environment.

The size of the College allows for each student to be known, seen and heard. By knowing

each student as an individual, students are helped to discover their strengths.

This personalised approach inspires young people to engage with their world with a sense of purpose.

Let your child surprise you ...

When you enrol in Newhaven College, your child will grow in ways you can't yet imagine, with the holistic approach bringing out the best in students.

Newhaven parents often comment how delighted they are to see their children develop in directions they had never imagined.

Newhaven College students and staff look forward to welcoming you on Open Day. If you are unable to attend and would like to arrange a private tour, please contact our Admissions Officer Bec Anderson on 5956



Senior student Felix Fothergill leads a family around campus on a guided tour on Open Day 2024.



Past students reconnect at the 2024 Alumni Reunion.

7505 or admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Alumni Reunions

Newhaven student who graduated in 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015.

We warmly invite you to attend your Alumni Reunion from 10am-12pm on Saturday March

15. The event will start with a complimentary morning tea, followed by a guided tour around campus with Director of Learning, Karen Milkins-Hendry.

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

/Sponsored article/

Bargains galore at Lion's Steptoe store

COMMUNITY

If you are looking for second hand household goods and furniture at low, low prices ... Steptoe's Emporium should be your first stop.

The Phillip Island Lions Club runs Steptoe Emporium in Dunsmore Road, Cowes and profits from the enterprise fund the wonderful community support program it has operated for the past 55 years.

The affectionately named Steptoe Emporium raises funds by accepting donations of good quality household goods which are then put on display and sold on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Donated goods can be dropped off on Saturday and Sunday mornings, while pick up of larger items by the Lions' truck can be arranged.

Donations arrive constantly at the Dunsmore Road shed and there is a high turnover. Items must be in good condition, although those that have seen better days, but can easily be repaired, renovated or painted, such as outdoor furniture, are also accepted.

Larger items or full houses of donated furniture and chattels (such as from a deceased estate or holiday house sale) can be picked up by arrangement with the club.

The Lions also provide a delivery service for a small charge. Shoppers range from people setting up a holiday house, students starting out on a tight budget, as well as those on the lookout for a particular item, or simply interested spectators keen to snap up a bargain. Second fridges for the garage, for example, are in high demand.

Lions' members say the Steptoe Emporium is a very happy place, where buyers are delighted with their affordable finds.

Community

All profits from the sale of the donated goods goes directly back into the community through the Lions Club.

Recent donations include:

- \$3000 to Cowes Primary to assist with back to school necessities for students in need and its breakfast program



This beautiful leather reclining chair was snapped up in no time at Steptoe's Emporium. Trying it out before it was sent on its way is Deb, the Lion's second hand goods shed co-ordinator.

- \$1000 to the disabled surfers
- \$5000 to the new Community Hospital toward Dialysis chairs
- \$500 to Wild Life Rescue

Other donations include to homeless youth, the PICAL pantry, St John's Church weekly community meal, St Philip's Drop In Centre, Flying Doctors, Doctors Without Borders, Newhaven Primary wildlife campaign, Kids with Cancer Group, plus many more.

The friendly Lions Club members are on hand to help with delivery of donations and to help bargain-hunters pick up pre-loved bargains of furniture, hardware or bric-a-brac on Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 12 noon.

Call in and help out our community with each purchase, and each donation.

If anyone would like to assist, the friendly and generous bunch of Lions at Steptoe's would welcome new volunteers.

Steptoe's Emporium is in Dunsmore Road, Cowes, near the Settlement Road intersection and just about opposite Blue Gum Garden Supplies.



NEWHAVEN
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Open Day

Saturday 15 March
9am - 1pm

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Cath Stephensen	Les Corson	John and Pam Christensen
Mark Toomey	Gwendolwyn Brown	Carey Family
Anne Schmitt	Carly Pearson	Griff Stewart
Michael Vernon	Jo McKenzie	Chris Chapman
Glenn Barry	Anthea Dacy	Jennie Brown
Brett Smith	Ken Savage	Liz Glab
Coralie Snell	Ray Fallu	Stephan Ward
Neil Prentice	Tony Askwith	Ian Batton
Warren Smeal	Mary-Ann Ahern	Karen Egan
Jessie McLennan	Emmett Ahern	Clare Riddoch
Stephen Gough	Liam Ahern	Lorraine Bull
Judith Schrever	Dare Ahern	Wendy Davies
Wendy Steendam	Deborah Harris	Geoff Hayes
Leigh Candy	Melinda Martin	Cait McMahon
Andrea Reupert	Rob James	Peter Ghys
Matthew Ryland	Anna Langley	Kevin Hill
John Tebbutt	Kylee Hudson	Kathy Hill
Paul Ahern	Neroli Raff	Richard Kentwell
Rebecca Holloway	Leslie Adams	Shane Ellis
John Godfrey	Erika McInerney	Priscilla Alderton
Sarah M Crinall	Philip Batty	George Baker
Malcolm McKelvie	Daryl Standfield	Sarah Bone
Helen Matthews	Helen Sheppard	Sally Willshire
Julianne Spithill	Lisa Upton	Ian Rees
Julie Gillespie	Shannon Bassed	Bill Legge
Ross Larson	Aileen Vening	Margaret Healy
Babette Casey	Paul Kirkpatrick	Noel Maud
Jane Sultana	Melijah Maghanoy	Kate Spiller
Peter Flahavin	Alicia Miran-Khan	Amanda Jackson
Heather Buntine	Leni Foster	Peta Condon
Hannah Farthing	Margaret Walker	Don Gillies
Beryl Turner	Lynne Healy	Gero Gardener
Don Foster	Gary Kane	Keith Lovell
Petra Hohmann	Stephen Gough	Lindsay Linnell
Margaret Young	Bronwyn Chapman	Alisha Hill
Alice Grant	Kiran Hayes	Brendan Condon



As a true Independent, Deb doesn't answer to a political party, she represents our community. That means her policies come directly from us! **You can subscribe to her newsletter, sign up to help volunteer or donate at debleonard.com.au.**

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha 3953

Deb **Vote 1**
Leonard
INDEPENDENT

Broadbent readies for 'minimalist' campaign

ELECTION

Russell Broadbent, the federal Member for Monash, announced in early February he was recontesting the seat as an independent in the upcoming federal election, running what he says is a "minimalist" campaign.

Mr Broadbent is currently sitting on the crossbench following his shock exit from the Liberal Party after losing the preselection vote (161 to 16) in 2023 to candidate Mary Aldred.

"The Liberal Party had never defined my life in politics, and they weren't going to define it at this point either," Mr Broadbent said in an interview with the Advertiser.

"My intention was to continue on (in federal parliament) until such a time the truth around our Covid response comes out in full."

Mr Broadbent has made consistent and strident calls over the last three years for a Royal Commission into the Covid response, as well as advocating on behalf of vaccine-injured people across Australia.

Mr Broadbent vehemently denied his anti-vaccine advocacy was out of touch with the constituency and had come at the expense of other issues in the electorate.

"We've been dealing with people who are suffering, and those things are not being addressed at all. In fact, they're being ignored," Mr Broadbent said.

"They're all out there. It's not as if I'm dealing with some far away group; I'm dealing with people that have come out of my constituency too."

"I have been fully committed to what happens in the electorate at any given time."

Mr Broadbent, who is 74 years of age, also rebuffed questions whether he was too old to effectively serve another three years in parliament.

"It seems only the Liberal Party say that to me; I don't get that anywhere else. I'm probably making a point that older people have a contribution to make, not only in politics but everywhere."

"I'm better able to do my job than I ever have been the whole of my career."

Priorities

Mr Broadbent said his priorities if re-elected would "depend on the circumstances we face nationally".

"In terms of national priorities, they are good governance and fair distribution of resources across all electorates."

Locally, Mr Broadbent said he had identified 17 different infrastructure projects across Monash which needed federal support in order to get across the line.

When pressed to give examples, Mr Broadbent cited Warra-gul Hospital, the lifesaving clubhouse at Inverloch, "and then small things like Cowes Bowling Club".

However, Mr Broadbent was staunch on not making promises.

"I was getting a lot of flack (last election) because I wasn't making any promises, but I wasn't making any promises for one reason: unless I could deliver that money, I wasn't going to say 'I will get you money for that'."



Russell Broadbent, the federal Member for Monash is running for re-election in what he described as a "minimalist" campaign.

Energy stance

Since leaving the Liberal Party, Mr Broadbent has also been outspoken about "the reckless Net Zero agenda", calling for a returned focus on coal for base-load power and gas for peaking.

"We have an abundant supply of coal and gas," Mr Broadbent said, "and Latrobe Valley supplies Australia with the cheapest power we can possibly get."

"In regard to nuclear, I can now say, not being a member of the Liberal Party, that there's no nuclear without community support."

"I'd much rather see that money put into the Yallourn Power Station, which is a perfectly good power station."

"You've got to get the price of

energy down. The community is suffering because of it."

"I wouldn't subsidise one renewable energy project. I'd let them (happen) if it's a goer, and if it works it should be able to stand on its own."

Funding and preferences

Mr Broadbent said he will be rejecting and returning any and all campaign donations and would be funding his campaign "only by my own resources".

"I don't know how the no donations is going to play out, because there won't be much of a campaign from me, but we'll just have to do our best."

"There's a lot of money being poured into this electorate from outside to influence the

election campaign, and that's never been the case before," Mr Broadbent said, alluding to the campaign of fellow independent Deb Leonard, who has received over \$200,000 from Climate 200 amongst other weighty donations.

"Unless I get 51 per cent of the primary vote, which I don't expect to get, I'd have to swap preferences with others. I've put the feelers out for those who would like to swap preferences, but I haven't had any responses yet."

"I'd preference Deb Leonard if Deb Leonard preferenced me."

Deb Leonard has stated on the record she will not be doing preference deals with other candidates.

Preselection loss

Mr Broadbent said there was "no bad blood" between himself and the Liberal Party following his preselection loss to Mary Aldred and subsequent exit from the party room.

"I just drew a line in the sand," Mr Broadbent said.

Of the considerable swing against him in the preselection vote, Mr Broadbent said it could be put down to "a couple of things".

"They used my age, and I have been a difficult backbencher for a long time. I wasn't the perfect Liberal because I stood up for things."

"I think my stance on vaccines was a strong reason why (the Liberal Party) turned against me, but let's see who is vindicated in the long run."

VICTORIA'S CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

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CDS VIC

VICTORIA
State Government



State cops can Good Friday tin rattle

From page 1

"It'd cause too much chaos at the pedestrian lights, and we can't control it as well as we can control the intersection," said Mr Hartley, adding that continuously hitting the pedestrian crossing button would be an unfair impediment to traffic.

While \$16,000 in lost fundraising for the Good Friday Appeal would be a significant blow, Mr Hartley said Victoria Police's rejection of collection permits has a much more wide-ranging impact.

"It's not just us," Mr Hartley said.

"It's all of rural Victoria, any town or rural centre that doesn't have traffic lights will not be allowed to shake tins.

"Not many of these rural areas have traffic lights. They might have a pedestrian crossing, but they don't have traffic lights controlling intersections. It's all roundabouts in rural areas.

"I think if the person who made the decision (to reject the permits) went out to the rural areas and saw how it's done, how it's managed and certainly how we manage it, they wouldn't have a problem.

"Even if they spoke to the local police and asked them for input, maybe they'd get a clearer picture of what does on down here."

Last year the CFA raised \$1,819,800 for the Good Friday Appeal, much of which Mr Hartley says would have been raised from tin rattling.

Alternative avenues

Mr Hartley said without the proper permits the CFA



CFA volunteer Simon Hartley (centre) with Anne-Marie Branch (left) and Courtney Debono (right) said members of the CFA are "devastated" after their permits to rattle tins on Thompson Avenue were rejected by Victoria Police.

would engage in other ways to fundraise for the Good Friday Appeal.

"We're just trying to raise as much money as possible, and that's why we're doing other things now to try and raise money elsewhere," Mr Hartley said.

The Phillip Island CFA will have tins set up in businesses such as the Phillip Island Winery and The Store in Ventnor. Hotel in Cowes have also offered to donate an amount of money from each pint of a select beer sold.

Mr Hartley said the organisation is also considering other

methods of fund raising such as door-knocking and visiting local caravan parks.

Rebecca Cowan, Executive Director of the Good Friday Appeal said "our regional volunteers are incredibly important to the Good Friday Appeal, and we are committed to making sure they conduct their activities in the safest way possible.

"We know how disappointed the Phillip Island team is. We will continue to work with them and our other volunteers to find new ways to fundraise and support The Royal Children's Hospital."



HEALTH MATTERS

Emergency numbers up over summer

Bass Coast Health (BCH) staff treated over 3500 patients in the peak summer break, between December 22 and January 19.

The Urgent Care Centre (UCC) in Cowes saw 1567 patients, just 285 less than presented at the Emergency Department (ED) in Wonthaggi.

Both centres are open 24/7.

Cancer care close to home

Bass Coast Health (BCH) has praised its compassionate clinicians supporting cancer patients through life-changing diagnoses and treatment.

BCH said the team at L Rigby Centre at Wonthaggi Hospital "always places patients' best interests at the forefront of the work they do. Together, they provide excellent care close to patients' homes, saving them the emotional, physical and financial toll of travelling to Melbourne or the Latrobe Valley where possible".

Check spots for skin cancer

Bass Coast Health is taking part in a clinical trial to develop more efficient and effective screening for the early detection of melanoma, rather than relying on mole mapping undertaken by the human eye.

BCH is one of the trial sites due to the high incidence of skin cancer in the community, given the farming and coastal lifestyles.

If you're concerned about any new spots, or changes to exist-

ing spots, visit your GP as soon as possible.

Melanoma: regional Victorians and men at higher risk

Cancer Council Victoria's Sun-Smart program is reminding Victorians to stay vigilant about sun protection, as data shows melanoma diagnoses are on the rise, with people living in regional areas and men more likely to be diagnosed.

According to Cancer Council Victoria's annual Victorian Cancer Registry (VCR), 3182 Victorians (1860 males and 1320 females) were diagnosed with melanoma in 2023, up from 2884 new cases in 2022.

Of these new cases, 1205 came out of regional Victoria, where people are 54 per cent more likely to be diagnosed with melanoma than Victorians living in major cities.

Paediatric care

A leader in the field of paediatric and adolescent gynaecology is caring for patients with gynaecological concerns right here on the Bass Coast.

Professor Sonia Grover – the Director of Gynaecology at the Royal Children's Hospital – provides care to infants, children and adolescents with a variety of problems, from skin irritation and pain, to genital appearance, heavy or painful periods and more.

Read the full stories at pisra.com.au/health-wellbeing

FSA/DETS2011

JDO4569AB

**Best Start
Best Life**

Free Kinder: Enrol for 2025.

Free Kinder is available for three- and four-year-old children in Victoria at participating services. Free Kinder is available in sessional (standalone) and long day care (childcare) settings, saving families up to \$2,563 each year, per child.

At kindergarten, your child will:

- learn language, literacy and numeracy skills through play, art, music and dance
- learn to express themselves and make friends in a safe and caring environment
- build skills and confidence before primary school.

Contact your preferred kinder service or local council to learn about how to enrol for 2025.

Visit vic.gov.au/kinder

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YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE

Advertising Feature

Secluded resort style living

Nestled on a sprawling 4737sqm of landscaped gardens, this private oasis offers the ultimate in relaxed coastal living.

Featuring a single level residence with polished floors throughout, this home is designed for effortless indoor/outdoor entertaining.

The expansive alfresco area overlooks a stunning pool and Bali style gazebo creating the perfect retreat for year-round enjoyment.

A huge 10m x 10m shed, unit accommodation which is away from the house, 2.5 car garage with internal access, solar power and a spring fed water bore add to the home's functionality and sustainability.

Located within a short walk to Silverleaves Beach and Cowes Golf Club, this property offers the best of both seclusion and convenience.

A rare lifestyle opportunity in a sought-after location – don't miss out.

The house consists of four spacious bedrooms with ceiling fans in every room, three bathrooms and ample parking area for up to six cars.

The tropical style manicured gardens add to the relaxing ambiance and resort style atmosphere.

Address: 20A Settlement Road, Silverleaves

Price: \$1,750,000 – \$1,850,000

Contact: First National Phillip Island, 03 5952 3922



The expansive alfresco area overlooks a stunning pool and Bali style gazebo creating the perfect retreat for year-round enjoyment.



This private oasis offers the ultimate in relaxed coastal living.



Featuring a single level residence with polished floors throughout, this home is designed for effortless indoor/outdoor entertaining.



Located within a short walk to Silverleaves Beach and Cowes Golf Club, this property offers the best of both seclusion and convenience.



FIRST NATIONAL PHILLIP ISLAND

20A SETTLEMENT ROAD, SILVERLEAVES
\$1,750,000 TO \$1,850,000

Nestled on a sprawling 4737sqm of landscaped gardens, this private oasis offers the ultimate in relaxed coastal living. The expansive alfresco area overlooks a stunning pool and Bali style gazebo creating the perfect retreat for year round enjoyment. A huge 10m by 10m shed, unit accommodation which is away from the house, 2.5 car garage with internal access, solar power and a spring fed water bore add to the homes functionality and sustainability. The house consists of 4 spacious bedrooms with ceiling fans in every room, 3 bathrooms and ample parking area for up to 6 cars.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130



SECLUDED RESORT STYLE LIVING

127 MCKENZIE ROAD, COWES
\$670,000 TO \$699,000

This bright and spacious home has been freshly painted and new carpets throughout, with an easy walk to Cowes Foreshore an added feature. The open plan living area flows to a north facing court yard which is fully fenced. Created with low maintenance in mind. With excellent rental potential another option.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034



LOW MAINTENANCE, BEACH ACCESS

2/56 ANDERSON ROAD, COWES
\$690,000 TO \$740,000

The perfect package awaits with north facing views from the upper level, the ground floor is bathed in natural light and creates a warm and inviting setting which flows to a large deck and court yard. Designed with low maintenance and coastal living in mind it is the ideal setting to let the stress from Melbourne wash away. An early walk on the beach or launch your boat from the Anderson boat ramp. Easy access to Cowes central is but a short walk. There is huge potential for holiday rental or just enjoy with family and friends and have the perfect entertaining location.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034



LOCATION/ LOW MAINTENANCE/VIEWS

1/266 SETTLEMENT ROAD, COWES
\$600,000 TO \$630,000

This ideal property set over a single level has excellent access to Cowes central and Foreshore, with a north facing living area and kitchen that flow to a large deck, it creates the perfect entertaining space for family and friends after a day on the beach or taking in all Phillip Island has to offer. The low maintenance just helps with the peace of mind that you can enjoy this light filled environment, or lock up and travel in the knowledge no work is required when you arrive home.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034



LOW MAINTENANCE/ EXCELLENT COWES ACCESS

3 BRIDGEVIEW DRIVE, CAPE WOOLAMAI
\$890,000

Experience the perfect blend of modern comfort and coastal charm in this beautifully renovated double story home, ideally located in the popular area of Cape Woolamai. Featuring a spacious kitchen with striking spotted gum, multiple living areas across both levels, and 2 undercover decking areas ideal for entertaining, and perfect for a holiday rental property. Complete with 4 generous bedrooms, 2 stylish bathrooms, and a prime location just moments from the beach, shops, bars and cafés, this home is the perfect beach side retreat, family getaway, or family home.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130



IDEAL BEACH LIFESTYLE/ FULLY RENOVATED

62 EVERTON DRIVE, COWES
\$950,000

This lovely property is located in the popular area in Cowes and is close to the Golf Course and Silverleaves beach. Positioned on a corner block with dual access which makes it ideal for boat or Caravan storage. This clever design is perfect for family living with a large open plan which flows out to the alfresco area that looks over the private rear yard. Set on a large 682sqm block complete 2 double garages would be perfect as a work from home office that could have it's own entrance from the street or huge games area. The house also feature 4.9kw solar power as well as solar hot water which is an added bonus.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY 0410 595 130



PLENTY ON OFFER HERE



O'Brien expands its team

We are excited to share some important moments for our agency – both in terms of the addition of a new team member and the remarkable growth of our business overall.

We are thrilled to introduce Christie Spargo as the newest member of our sales team. With a strong background in Real Estate, proven success on Phillip Island, and reaching Elite status (top 11 per cent of all agents across the state) with her previous brand, Christie brings a wealth of experience to our team and our clients.

At O'Brien, we believe remarkable things happen when enthusiastic individuals, who share our driving values come together, and we are confident Christie will be an invaluable asset as we move forward.

As we welcome Christie Spargo, it is also the perfect time to reflect on the incredible growth we have experienced over the past two years. Thanks to the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of every team member, we have achieved significant milestones that continue to push us forward.

Being recognised by our clients for not just one, but two

consecutive years, is a tremendous honour. The Rate My Agent Awards are unique because they reflect the opinions and experiences of those who matter most to us: our clients. This recognition speaks volumes about the trust and confidence they have in us.

Winning these awards highlights our ongoing efforts to exceed expectations and build long-lasting relationships. It is not only about making deals but about understanding and addressing the unique needs of everyone. Our clients' positive feedback is proof that we are on the right path.

This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of our entire team, whose hard work, expertise, and passion are felt by every client we serve. Being recognised across both the sales and property management space, shows just how consistent our team is across the entire business.

As a business, we stay focused on fostering a culture of innovation and growth. We are always looking for ways to improve and adapt, staying ahead of industry trends while maintaining the values that have been central



O'Brien Real Estate is thrilled to introduce Christie Spargo to the sales team, and celebrates the hard work and unwavering commitment of its entire team.

to our success.

Director Jodie Hanssen remains committed to driving a set of core values that define who we are and how we operate through our business. These values – integrity, honesty, open communication, accountability, and always giving your best –

are the foundation of everything we do. And as this has become embedded within our culture. We have seen not only the success of our business but also the thriving careers of long-term team members and newcomers who align with these principles.

Our agency has seen fantastic

growth, both in terms of the results we have achieved and the strength of our team. New team members who share the same commitment to integrity, accountability, and excellence have seamlessly integrated into our business, flourishing in an environment that values collaboration and continuous improvement.

As we continue to grow and evolve as a business, we remain committed to our core values. We believe our success lies in the strength of our people, which is further bolstered by Jodie's belief that by fostering an environment that is flexible and understands the value of family and work/life balance, we can ensure we have a healthy, happy crew who thrive both at work and at home.

This ensures they apply the best version of themselves to everything they do, which reflects in our clients' experiences with us, and our recent awards.

We are proud to offer a unique approach to working in real estate, which in turn ensures we will continue to attract quality team members, improving our business overall and of course outcomes for our clients and community.



O'Brien Real Estate



Welcoming CHRISTIE SPARGO

TO OUR AWARD-WINNING SALES TEAM!!!



BACK TO BACK WINNERS ratemyagent

AGENCY OF THE YEAR 2024 - 2025



Cowes
5952 5100

San Remo
5678 5885

Wonthaggi
5672 5558

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**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

Est. 1886

1/35 STEELE STREET, COWES



- Exquisite modern masterpiece less than 500mt to the beach and main street
 - Gas log fire, dual ovens, induction cook top, marble benchtops, 2 living areas
 - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 car garage with huge storage
- \$1,550,000**

2/8 VAUGHAN STREET, COWES



- Nestled in a sought-after area just a short stroll to the beach and main street
 - Modern kitchen, spacious courtyard, ducted heating & cooling, private balcony off both bedrooms
 - 2 bedrooms/1 bathroom/1 car
- \$699,000**

39 GRAMPIAN BOULEVARD, COWES



- Two living areas, gourmet kitchen, stone benchtops, large undercover alfresco area
 - Fully fenced and landscaped allotment of 540m² (approx.)
 - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 car garage
- \$795,000**

100 GRAMPIAN BOULEVARD, COWES



- Featuring 2 inviting living spaces, hostess kitchen, wood heater and split systems
 - Stunning undercover outdoor area leading to a private & peaceful backyard
 - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 cars
- \$789,000**

7-9 STEELE STREET, COWES



62 THE ESPLANADE, SUNDERLAND BAY



- Rare foreshore location with amazing 180deg water views and just a short stroll to the beach
 - Open plan living upstairs leading to a full deck, indoor spa, fully fenced and secure yard
 - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 car garage/2 carport
- \$1,350,000**

6/34-36 DUNSMORE ROAD, COWES



- Situated over 4 split levels, open plan living, balcony overlooking Cowes Golf Course
 - Short stroll to Cowes main street and north facing beach
 - 2 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/1 car
- \$589,000**

10/157-159 MARINE PARADE, SAN REMO



- Stunning apartment with breathtaking views of the bridge and bay beyond
 - Large open plan living, chef-inspired kitchen, secure with key access and gated entry
 - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 cars and storage locker
- \$1,250,000**

2A CHICORY AVENUE, COWES



- Situated in a well sort after area, close to Cowes main beach, restaurants and shops
 - Light filled open plan, recently renovated main bathroom, covered deck, fully fenced
 - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/1 car garage with storage
- \$810,000**

1/3 BENAMBRA COURT, COWES



- Stunning townhouse with a Japanese inspired feel positioned close to the heart of Cowes
 - Open plan living, private courtyard, short stroll to beach
 - 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom/2 cars
- \$839,000**

6/37 STRADBROKE AVENUE, COWES



- Stunning double storey townhouse located less than 100m from north facing beach
 - Open plan living and kitchen leading to undercover deck, perfect for entertaining
 - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 cars
- \$790,000**

102 RED ROCKS ROAD, COWES



- Elevated block offering breathtaking views of surrounding rural landscape and the bay beyond
 - Spacious open plan living and expansive undercover deck
 - 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom
- \$775,000**

11 WALDORF ROAD, COWES



- Open plan living that flows seamlessly onto undercover alfresco area with beautifully manicured backyard
 - Fully fenced yard with space behind double gates for boat/caravan
 - 3 beds/2 baths/2 cars
- \$850,000**

532 VENTNOR BEACH ROAD, VENTNOR



- This stunning property offers the perfect blend of peaceful acreage living and convenient coastal access. Situated on a sprawling 4000m² (1 acre) in a Low-Density Residential Zone, this property presents a unique opportunity for a 2-lot subdivision (Subject to Council Planning Approval). The beautifully renovated home is designed for large families and holiday gatherings, boasting two expansive living areas, a brand-new open plan kitchen, three generously sized bedrooms, and two renovated bathrooms. A separate cottage/bungalow provides additional space for guests or teenagers. Enjoy breathtaking bay and peninsula views from the living areas and deck, while the groovy alfresco dining area with motorized blinds is ideal for year-round entertaining. Just a short stroll away, you'll find the Store Cafe and Island Butchers, as well as a pristine swimming beach at the end of your road. A large double garage/workshop completes this exceptional offering.
- \$1,595,000**

1 BEACH STREET, COWES



3 SUNSEEKER COURT, COWES



18 KING STREET, VENTNOR



Greg Price
0419 337 441



Brian Silver
0407 347 509



Chase Watters
0423 272 819

113a Thompson Avenue, Cowes
5952 2633 ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU

Mayor: We've had enough

COUNCIL

There was a swift seat shuffle when item 8.7 at the February council meeting was debated, with the Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, briefly replaced in the chair by Deputy Mayor Brett Tessari.

The report before the councillors sought permission to submit motions to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting on May 16, and the Australia Local Government Association (ALGA) 2025 National General Assembly in June.

The first MAV motion called on the State Government to articulate its role and actions to manage coastal erosion in Victoria, and establish an ongoing fund for emergency works to address coastal inundation.

A second motion called on the State Government to assume direct responsibility for collecting the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund; while the third asked the government to urgently review its Development Facilitation program, to allow for great transparency and ensure council is compensated for application reviews.

The motion to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly called for the establishment of a National Coastal Adaptation Strategy and associated funding.

Cr Halstead took aim at cost



Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead vacated the chair to debate a report for council to present motions to the MAV meeting in May and the ALGA General Assembly in June.

shifting, the State Government "using local government as a shield" and the need for a unified approach to erosion across all levels of government.

She said it was "nice to be back on the floor to enter the debate" but joked to her Deputy not to get "too cosy" in the Mayoral chair.

"I have recently been elected to deputy chair of One Gippsland and have a nomination for the board of the MAV.

"This is a critical notice of motion that I think the whole sector of local government is going to get involved in."

She said when new rates notices are sent out, the fire service levy will be doubled.

"This is not something council

has imposed on our community," Cr Halstead said.

"It's an increase in a State Government charge, but will give our community the impression that it is one of our increases.

"The state has the opportunity to take this back and manage it themselves.

"I think it is a way of the State Government using local government as a shield against their continued increases in rates and charges.

"But the sector is pushing back, and I hope this council will be loud about this."

Cr Halstead said the erosion motion to ALGA was on an issue the community felt strongly about.

"We are very aware of what is happening along our coastline," she said.

"Other tiers of government need to move on these issues and give us the tools to manage what is coming at us.

"There's no framework and we don't have the resources to put this framework together."

Cr Halstead promised to be very loud in her belief "that this needs to go back to the State Government".

Support

The other councillors supported Cr Halstead's comments.

Cr Temby said the council shouldn't be doing the State

Government's dirty work.

"It's really important, especially in the context of climate change, that these issues are tackled at a state, federal and local level ... and dealt with in a consistent, rational way."

Cr O'Brien said it was important council engaged on these issues, saying he believed council could "do good" through the association, especially the Development Facilitation Program.

"This is another instrument for removing decision making from local communities," he said.

"It's important that councils push back hard against this."

Both councillors Bell and Bauer described the situation as the State Government "passing the buck" and cost shifting.

Cr Halstead said the financial sustainability of the local government sector was a real issue.

"This continuation of cost shifting, resource draining, things dumped on local government and we're expected to pick them up ... it is putting the squeeze on us.

"This is a resource issue. It has an impact on our budget. It impacts what we can deliver for our community.

"I'm confident we will see a strong sector-wide push back. I'm looking forward to it," she said.

"By gosh, we've had enough."



COUNCIL BRIEFS

Quarterly performance report

There was no discussion of the performance report, which charts council's progress against the five themes of the council plan.

The report showed four projects had been completed, with 12 on track.

A further four were classified as needing attention. One was considered "at risk" and unlikely to be delivered.

The report stated the transition of the council's fleet to EV's is at 31 per cent, below the 50 per cent target, due to the lack of suitable EV options with towing and off-road capability for the depot and outdoor workforce.

According to the report, the Urban Forest Planting Program is 70 per cent complete, with 1422 planted, with a watering and maintenance program implemented.

Standalone solar and battery systems have been installed at Kilcunda and Coronet Bay Community Halls, the Grantville Transaction Centre and PICAL.

The Arts and Culture Strategy is 50 per cent completed, with planning for the 2025 program launch almost completed.

The 2024 program exceeded attendance and engagement targets the report stated.

Sale of discontinued road parcel

Councillors agreed to sell a discontinued road parcel at 29 Park Road in San Remo, to the adjoining land owner.

Cr Tessari, who moved the motion, described it as purely procedural.

Statutory Reports

The reports were moved as a block.

Cr Edwards requested the minutes be amended to reflect her attendance at the council briefing in December 2024.

Cr Temby voiced his concern about tree removals and parking waivers in report 9.2, which covered planning and building statistics for November 2024.

He said the council needed "shire wide overlays", and councillors should be strict on the issue, to "avoid death by a thousand cuts on environmental issues".

In November 2024, there were 12 planning permits issued in Island Ward.

Overall, 87.5 per cent of applications were determined within the statutory timeframe, with 75.60 days the average time to process.

There were nine complaints that required investigation, with 25 current building enforcement cases open.

In December, there were also 12 planning permits issued in Island Ward, with 78.72 per cent completed within the statutory timeframe.

There were 13 complaints requiring investigation.

Closed meeting

The meeting was closed to the public, as councillors considered the report to award a tender for operation and management of BCS leisure facilities, currently managed by the Y.

Later in the week, it was announced the contract had been awarded to Aligned Leisure.



Attendees gathered at the Thrive 2025 celebration at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on the weekend.



The leadership team of AVWA with guests at the Thrive 2025 celebration, including MP for Bass, Jordan Crugnale.

Vietnamese community thrives

EVENT

A special event was held on the weekend at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum to honour the courage and resilience of Vietnamese refugee communities, and veterans who served in the Vietnam War.

Dignitaries at the event included the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Lynne Cosgrove and a range of state and Federal politicians.

Federal members included Russell Broadbent, Julian Hill, Daniel Mulino, while state MPs included Ingrid Stitt and Natalie Suleyman, and local MP Jordan Crugnale.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, as well as Vivienne Nguyen, Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission,

Dat Van Dang, President of the Vietnamese Veterans Association and other leading members of the Vietnamese community were in attendance.

The Australian Vietnamese Women's Association (AVWA), in partnership with the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, held the commemorative event, to "celebrate the vibrant multicultural fabric that unites us all".

As well as speeches, there were musical and traditional dance performances, honouring Vietnamese heritage.

Nicky Chung, CEO of AVWA described the day as "one of the most memorable days of my life", dedicating it to her parents.

"It has been wonderful working with the National Vietnam

Veterans Museum," Ms Chung said.

"Together with our AVWA team, we have been able to bring 300 people together to reflect on the service of the Veterans, their sacrifice, and the sacrifice of many refugee parents, to ultimately the success of the Vietnamese community."

Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt said, "On the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, we honour not only the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans, but the remarkable resilience of Victoria's Vietnamese community who are an integral part of our state."

Federal MP Julian Hill, Assistant Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, noted the sensitivity of the anniversary

of the fall of Saigon.

"But 50 years on it is also a time to celebrate the remarkable contribution of Vietnamese Australians to our nation."

The Vietnam War shaped the lives of many Victorians – both those who served and the Vietnamese families who sought refuge here.

Victoria's Vietnamese community makes countless ongoing contributions to the rich social, economic and cultural fabric of the state, which is a testament to their strength and resilience.

Six decades after Australia became involved in the Vietnam War, Victorians also pay respect to the 60,000 Australians who served for more than a decade including 3000 who were wounded and 521 who lost their lives.

Most dangerous beaches: after the flags go down

Last summer, six people tragically lost their lives at beaches across the Bass Coast, as drowning figures across the country continue to rise.

The Advertiser's summer safety series highlights some of the island's most dangerous beaches for visitors and anyone not familiar with local conditions.

This week, we're reminded of the dangers of swimming after the lifesavers have gone home.

Beachgoers are being reminded about the dangers of not only swimming at unpatrolled beaches, but at patrolled beaches after hours. Currently Woolamai Beach and Smiths Beach are patrolled on Saturdays from 1pm – 5pm, and Sunday from 10am – 4pm.

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WBSLSC) President Jason Close flagged earlier in the season that several after-hours incidents had occurred which could have ended in devastation were it not for the actions of off-duty life savers and other beachgoers.

"In each instance the people were extremely lucky," the Club President said. Others in the past have not had the same good fortune.

In January 2016, two people tragically lost their lives getting caught in a rip at Woolamai Beach while swimming in a group shortly after patrols had finished for the day. Seven swimmers were rescued just after 7pm, five of whom were hospitalised.

Daniel Webber was a senior lifeguard at WBSLSC and performed CPR on one of the pa-

tients brought to shore.

"Two of the (other lifeguards) were just out for a swim after their shift, and started pulling in bodies of some people who'd got stuck in a rip after being swept off the sandbar," Daniel said.

"They were in shallow, knee-deep water, and then on low tide a big set came through and just picked them off the sandbar and took them straight into the rip."

According to reports at the time, 17 off-duty lifesavers came to their aid.

"I think it was like six or seven unconscious, not breathing adults at one point," Daniel said.

The patient Daniel performed CPR on later died.

"The person I was working on, he passed away just due to lack of oxygen to the brain. There was nothing we could have done, he was just gone for too long."

Along with the devastating impact on the families and friends of those who die at Australian beaches, a profound impact is felt by first-responders, surfers, and members of the community who are involved in such harrowing events.

"It's a pretty big thing to deal



WBSLSC President Jason Close said "as nice as our beaches can be on a warm evening, when the lifesavers take the flags down at the end of the day, this is the best time to leave the water and go home safely."

with when you see someone die, or you're involved in a death or a rescue of that sort of level," Daniel said.

"I think it hit the area pretty hard. There were probably at least 30 or 40 people involved."

Flags down, go home

Ash Smith is a current lifeguard at WBSLSC, and across the lifeguard season saw "hundreds" of people swimming at patrolled beaches after hours.

Ash said when he finishes work for the day "it's hard not to have that lifeguard brain" and inherent concern for people still on the beach.

In January this year, by

chance Ash caught sight of a lone swimmer waving for help in a rip between Woolamai and Magiclands from the clubhouse tower, and responded with fellow lifesaver Lachlan Casey and Club President Jason Close.

Ash said that while the swimmer was close to the bank where the flags had been set up during the day, without lifesavers on-duty and flags set up it was a highly dangerous situation.

Along with lifesavers to direct swimmers when they get close to rips, Ash said the flags themselves are an incredibly important visual reference for where it is safe for swimmers.

"If the flags aren't up, you

have to rely on your own knowledge of where you're meant to be, what the currents are doing and all these sorts of things."

Club President Jason Close said "as nice as our beaches can be on a warm evening, when the lifesavers take the flags down at the end of the day, this is the best time to leave the water and go home safely."

With a long weekend ahead, the club is appealing to beachgoers to only swim between the flags at patrolled beaches.

Woolamai and Smiths Beach will be patrolled between 1pm and 5pm on Saturday, and between 10am and 4pm on Sunday and Monday's public holiday.

STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

As we enjoy more beautiful weather, the Bass Coast region is calling all beachgoers to come and enjoy the sandy shores safely.

To help you stay safe, we encourage everyone to **download the Surf Life Saving Australia, Beachsafe app** and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website (lsv.com.au) and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



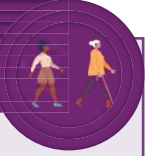
beachsafe.org.au

Always swim at patrolled locations whenever possible, and in hot weather, take steps to protect yourself and others by keeping cool, staying hydrated, planning ahead and checking in with others.

We want everyone to keep safe when exploring the amazing coastline of Bass Coast.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025



Marching on towards equality

International Women's Day was begun by the United Nations three decades ago, to champion gender equality and empower women across the globe.

This year on March 8, the focus is on equality: equal rights, equal opportunities, equal power.

UN Women Australia has called for a "March Forward" for a gender equal future.

In the past 30 years, "we've seen women break barriers, reshape policies and ignite global movements", the IWD website states.

But there is still more to do.

This year, in recognition of IWD, the Advertiser talks to local women who have overcome personal adversity and marched forward to achieve their dreams and goals. Along the way, they also offered a helping hand to others,

lifting up the women and girls around them.

Hopefully their stories will be an inspiration to us all.

You can find more IWD news at www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day and www.iwd.net.au

Constructing change

Tayla Fairthorne is no stranger when it comes to overcoming adversity. Diagnosed with cancer as a child, she forged an alternative tertiary pathway, and is becoming a leader of change in a male-dominated industry.

At age four, Tayla was diagnosed with a Wilms tumour – a children's cancer that affects the kidney. In Tayla's case, the disease had also spread to secondary tumours in her lungs. Yet after a year-long course of chemotherapy and radiation Tayla said she was "on the mend."

Tayla graduated from Wonthaggi College, where she studied biology, psychology, outdoor and environmental studies, English and general maths. Shaped by a strong connection to nature growing up on the coast, Tayla said she "always loved biology, and always loved environmental science".

"Particularly growing up in Surf Beach," Tayla said, "my brother and I were allowed to just free roam over in the sand dunes. Dad would always be surfing down on the beach, so we spent a lot of time on the sand and in the rock pools. Even now, that's a place that I like to go and feel connected and grounded."

Although now a leader of environmental sustainability in the construction industry, Tayla initially thought her dream career may have been out of reach.

"I always knew that I was going to study environmental science, but when I finished year 12, I didn't get the score that I needed. I thought 'well maybe that's not going to work out'."

After a foray into the fashion world, Tayla resolved to find a way into university.

"By that time I was 21, technically a mature age student, and thought 'I can pretty much get into anything I want'. And that's when I started (a Bachelor of Environmental Science/Environment and Society) at RMIT," Tayla said.

"There are always multiple ways about getting to the same spot. Don't be afraid to explore different pathways to get to where you want."

Leading decarbonisation

Since graduating from university, Tayla is making waves leading sustainable approaches to building in the construction industry – which makes up approximately 18 per cent of Australia's carbon footprint.

As the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Manager of Kapitol Group, one of the fastest growing construction companies in the country, one aspect of Tayla's job is to find ways to dramatically reduce carbon emissions.

"We're now really focusing on the decarbonisation aspect," Tayla said.

"We're looking at reducing fuel in construction practices, looking at materials, what concrete we are specifying."

Last year, Kapitol achieved a cement reduction of 32 per cent in precast panels used for a student accommodation project in the CBD. All of the company's tenders have an option for an electric crane or electric battery set up. According to Tayla, currently electrification is "the most logical path forward" for decarbonisation in the industry. While other options such as alternative fuels and hydrogen fuels are being explored, Tayla explained electrification is currently "where the technology sits".

"The technology for electrification is probably progressing quicker, and more

people are open to that," Tayla said.

She hopes the progress Kapitol is making towards decarbonisation influences the industry.

"We're always trying to publicise what we do, and we're very open that we don't have it all worked out ... but these are the benefits we see, or these are the roadblocks we're having."

"I think it's important we share it all, because there could be a smaller company reading the things we post and market and they could learn from that. Then it saves them time and money not having to make the same mistakes or have the same issues we've had."

Women in construction

Along with leading the approach to more sustainable practices, Tayla is also at the forefront of the company's social and governance direction, last year being the committee chair of Kapitol's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Additionally, a main focus in the role is the practical implementation of strategies to drive female participation.

"The construction industry is male dominated," Tayla said.

"I think off the top of my head the construction industry average (rate of) female participation is at about 13 per cent. At Kapitol Group I think we're sitting at about 26 per cent."

"And a fair chunk of that is in our younger workforce, so our grads and cadets and project coordinators, which is really cool. It shows we are starting to have influence at a high school and university level where females are now choosing the construction path."

Although Tayla has many memories of being the only female in the room, the industry leader says it is "definitely" getting better.

"You'd walk into a room of 100 men, tradies, all different types of roles, and you'd be the only female standing there."

"It was like 'wow, statistically you'd think there'd be more of us here'."

"I'm more comfortable with it now, particularly working at Kapitol Group. We do have good, female representation, particularly in senior roles and the leadership team. But I think you also just get that confidence with experience."



Tayla Fairthorne is leading the construction industry when it comes to decarbonisation and inclusion in the workforce, but the island-born environmental scientist has never taken the traditional path.

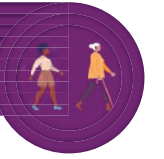
March Forward turning promises into progress

At Westernport Water we work hard to turn our commitments into action, driving change to ensure a truly equal future for all women and girls.

We acknowledge and celebrate all women who work in water.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025



How Liz turned adversity into opportunity

Liz Allen says living on Phillip Island is like "being on holidays all the time".

"We feel so lucky to live here," says Liz of her move to the island in 2022.

"We live in paradise."

And, strange as it sounds, she has cancer to thank for the move, explaining the life-threatening diagnosis was "life changing" in many positive ways.

The 48-year-old mum of one says she was working in Melbourne in corporate roles, especially human resources, when she was diagnosed with aggressive stage three breast cancer in 2019.

"It was one of those 'stop everything you are doing' moments," Liz says.

"I was told I was young at the time and for that reason they chuckled everything at it."

Liz underwent six months of chemotherapy, followed by radiotherapy and then surgery, explaining that it's largely thanks to medical advances that her treatment was successful.

She was classed as cancer free in 2020 and has since undergone a proactive double mastectomy and removal of her ovaries.

As difficult as those two years were, including against the backdrop of Covid, Liz says ultimately the experience has been a positive one.

She and her partner (now husband) Ben Pollock decided to immediately have a big party and

got married.

And when their respective bosses said they could work from home, the couple and their daughter Zoe decided to move to Phillip Island, where Liz holidayed through her childhood.

"We had always thought Phillip Island would be where we'd retire but retirement is not guaranteed."

"Everything happened really quickly – selling our Melbourne home, buying here – so it felt like it was meant to happen."

"The cancer was a trigger for a whole new life, particularly the connection with nature here."

"In Melbourne I was doing that treadmill thing where I would go to work, come home and repeat. I asked myself 'how did I end up here, is this what I want?'."

"The diagnosis made me really understand what it is to live in the moment and live your life."

Art

Soon after moving here, Liz immersed herself in art, becoming "obsessed" with Phillip Island's vast sky, particularly the watermelon pinks of sunrise and sunset and the kaleidoscope of an aurora.

Working off her iPad, she then added the animals of Phillip Island, in a touch of magic realism.

Liz's art is now showcased in her Cowes shop My Island Creations, which opened last year. The designs are made in the studio

in the shop and feature on t-shirts to tea towels, prints to coasters.

The shop has this year become something of a de facto drop-in for residents who want to chat, including about cancer.

Liz says her welcome mat was unofficially put out when she posted a comment on social media explaining about being a five-year cancer survivor.

"Thirty years ago, my stage three diagnosis would have been a very different story. But thanks to modern medicine, I'm not only here, I'm thriving," Liz wrote.

"I'm sharing this here because I want to extend a hand to my local Island community. If you or a loved one is navigating a cancer diagnosis and feel the need to talk with someone who has been there, my shop door is always open."

Liz says she's surprised how many people have taken her up on the open-door offer.

"People like to share their story and like to be listened to. Because we're so busy in our lives we don't always listen."

She says there has been "tears and hugging" with people who drop by, while others who feel lonely simply drop by for company.

One of the most common questions she gets asked is what present to give to someone with cancer.

"For some reason Google suggests socks as supposedly people having treatment get cold feet. I got so many socks, but I recom-



Liz Allen's Cowes shop has become an unofficial open door to locals in need of a chat, or even to shed a tear.

mend comfort items or something easy to read while having chemo like an easy-to-read book or magazine or a puzzle."

Liz says having a background in human resources means she's well equipped to ensure a balance in helping others and attending to her own needs.

When she's not working she spends most of her time im-

mersed in nature, walking their dog on the beach followed by an ice-cream at Isola di Capri.

"I even love the variety of living here between the busyness of summer and then the quiet, it's still a novelty."

"And the community spirit here is incredible. I love going to the supermarket and bumping into five people I know."



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

MARCH FORWARD - TURNING COMMITMENTS INTO ACTION

This day and every day we acknowledge, reflect and celebrate the contributions and achievements of women and girls in our family, our community, our society. It's a day to galvanise our collective efforts to march on gender equality.

The Allan Labor government has an unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for women and girls, our Gender Equality Strategy and Australia's first ever Gender Equality Act is about action + outcomes with 110 of them being delivered across government over the next three years as a start.

We continue to invest in programs + services to increase participation, create opportunities, pathways, supports, scholarships, mentoring in e.g STEM, construction, energy, manufacturing, technologies, sport, media, business, leadership, parity on boards and in our courts.

Our *Change our Game* initiative is leveling the playing field for women and girls in sport + rec, *Making it Equal* is attracting and retaining more women working in manufacturing and investment in public art sees more inspirational women acknowledged and celebrated.

Australia's first ever Women's Pain Inquiry underway, Free pads + tampons in state schools and public places, big systemic reforms like *Best Start – Best Life*, and recently we announced a Virtual Women's Health Clinic opening mid year further to the rollout of 20 women's health clinics across Victoria.

Change is happening - always more to do.

Thank you to all the amazing inspiring people that are walking this journey with us.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Jo O'Reilly Stubbs, Alisha Hill Melanie Wright and Emily Scott (pic) are amongst the many inspiring, exceptional and talented women volunteering in leadership roles in our local community.

We have a suite of programs supporting women of all ages and backgrounds on their pathway to success.

vic.gov.au/our-womens-leadership-programs

Victorian Honour Roll of Women nominations are also open until 16 March.

vic.gov.au/honour-roll-women

Skill up/new careers with more Free TAFE courses on offer.



We Accelerate Action Everyday

At Newhaven College, we celebrate International Women's Day—and 'Accelerate Action' every day. Our teachers and students champion equity, inspire change, and empower one another to discover more. Together, we will create a future where women and girls can continue to lead, innovate and thrive.

To learn more about our College contact our Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505 or email admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au



NEWHAVEN COLLEGE

1770 Phillip Island Road
Phillip Island, Victoria
newhavencol.vic.edu.au

jordan crugnale mp
STATE MEMBER FOR BASS

jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au
T 03 5672 4755 Jordan Crugnale MP
9 McBride Avenue Wonthaggi VIC 3995



Lifestyle Phillip Island residents took a keen interest in Race 2 at Woolamai, the Lifestyle Communities Phillip Island Open Trophy, on Saturday. From left: Ian Barker, Dave and Marg Kane, Julie Watkin, Lilian Wagstaff, Anne Wade, Simone Fox, June and Beau Gloder Daniel, and Phil Wade.



Glenn Odgers and his daughter Eowyn caught the eye of judges at the Fashions on the Field parade held as part of the fun at Saturday's Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day.



Gill Scrase, representing the Health Hub Auxiliary, accepted a donation of \$1000 from the Freemasons Masonic Lodge in Cowes following the running of the Freemasons Maiden Plate. Lodge president Tony Heppleston (right) made the presentation, watched on by Race Day caller Ben Sporle.



Phillip Island Health Hub auxiliary members involved in fundraising efforts at the Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day at Woolamai on Saturday included (from left) Gill Scrase, Deb O'Connell, Rob Jeffery and Lyn Wadeson, at the Fashions on the Field registration table.



The Big Italian Bass Coast Sauce Day on March 16 is a fun community day, and a chance to make your own passata, at Chippn Estate in Woolamai. Tickets available now via Eventbrite.

The big Italian Bass Coast sauce day

FOOD

Come and enjoy a fantastic community day on March 16, and create your own passata.

Hosted by Kara Williams, a local private chef, at Chippn Estate in Woolamai, the day will involve creating delicious tomato sauce from tomatoes grown on the farm.

"Let's make tomato passata sauce together on the permaculture farm, where the tomatoes are grown organically under the Bass Coast sun," invited Kara.

"This is an interactive event to come together as a community, learn, get involved, connect, share stories, have some fun together, and then eat together, Italian style."

Kara is running the event in conjunction with the owner of Chippn Estate, Shane O'Keefe.

Tickets are now available online, and each participant

will receive:

- Coffee and cake on arrival.
- Hands-on and inclusive experience (or feel free to watch).
- Two x 750ml organic home-made passata sauce bottles to take home.
- Plate of pasta with freshly made tomato sauce for lunch at 12 pm.

There will also be live music and "fun vibes", said Kara.

There is plenty of parking on site, but everyone should wear "comfortable shoes, as we are on a farm".

The Big Italian Bass Coast Sauce Day on March 16 runs from 9am until 12.30pm at Chippn Estate, 2 Clementis Road, Woolamai.

Book your tickets now through [Eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au) (search for Big Italian Bass Coast Sauce Day at Woolamai).

Tickets are limited, so please get in quickly to reserve your spot. All are welcome.



PHILLIP ISLAND CLASSIC

FESTIVAL OF MOTORSPORT
March 7-9

Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit
Tickets are available at the gate or online www.vhrr.com.au

Display of historic cars

Friday, March 7, 4 - 8pm
Part of Thompson Avenue will be closed



Chat'n Chew Drop in Centre

Join us for a **FREE** lunch, cuppa, cake and chat.

Open Fridays during school terms.

11am - 2pm, at Cowes Anglican Church (opposite Coles)

GIG GUIDE

07/03 **TOM WATERS & GEOFF ACHISON** - 9PM \$45 +BF

08/03 **TIM HANEGAN DUO** - 9PM

09/03 **THE LAING BROTHERS 4** - 7PM

09/03 **JACK BOTTS** - 8PM \$45+BF

15/03 **JACOB BUTLER** - 9PM

16/03 **ANNA SCIONTI** - 5PM

23/03 **HEY GRINGO** - 5PM

28/03 **MAJALEN** - 8PM \$20+BF

29/03 **LIVE MUSIC** TBC

30/03 **GLEN WAVERLEY & THE MENTONES** - 5PM

02/04 **ZIGGY ALBERTS** - 8:30PM \$86+BF

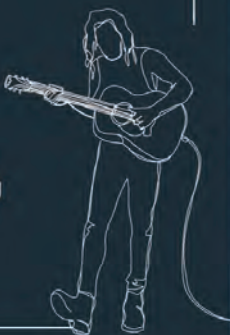
PLUS:

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
\$17 PARMA NIGHT

FRIDAY NIGHT
LOCALS NIGHT MEAT RAFFLE

EVERYDAY HAPPY HOUR
4-6PM

WWW.THEWESTERNPORT.COM.AU



PHILLIP ISLAND
GALLERY

Phillip Island Gallery is Back

We have loads of beautiful new Art & Crafts created by local Bass Coast Residents.

Our new forever home is located in the old CFA Building
119 Settlement Road, Cowes (Next to the SES)

Open Thursday - Sunday 11am - 3pm



The team behind the bar at Sanny Pub Day on the weekend. All photos by Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography. More photos at pisra.com.au

Sea of green for Sanny Pub Day

COMMUNITY

The San Remo community turned out in force to celebrate the annual Sanny Pub Day on Sunday, March 2.

Held on the first Sunday of March each year, the day is a way to acknowledge the hard work of the team at the San Remo Hotel, and its fabulous customers.

This year, customers were entertained by local band Late for Church, and there was free pool, table tennis and other games throughout the day.

There were also lots of prizes and giveaways, plus the chance to win a free month of Parmas with every purchase of a Sanny Pub Day t-shirt.

The month of Parmas went to Sue Gratton, while the other major prize, the AFL experience, was won by Oscar Brown.



From right: Michelle Laughton, Fiona Mitchell, Jacqui Moloney and Danny West enjoyed the sunshine and the celebrations at Sanny Pub Day on Sunday.

"It was such a great day, and a sea of green with everyone in their Sanny Pub Day tees," said a hotel spokesperson.

Stay tuned for more events throughout the year, as the pub celebrates its 150-year anniversary.

A wave of entertainment

There's some great entertainment at Berninnet over the next month.

March kicks off with a performance by the Gippsland Symphony Orchestra, celebrating its 10 year anniversary. Classical music lovers quickly snapped up the tickets, with the show selling out within days.

Next up, running on March 14 and 15 is the Bass Coast Surf Film Festival. There are 10 films – a mixture of shorts and features – which take you on a surf trip around the globe.

You can buy a weekend pass covering all three sessions, or a ticket for individual sessions. The film festival includes an exhibition of surfing memorabilia by the National Surfing Reserve, plus a performance by local band The Foxy Junes on Saturday from 6pm.

If you are quick, you might be able to book one of the few remaining tickets to Bryan Dawe's Road to Tangier show, on Sunday, March 23.

Much loved by the local community, the former Phillip Island resident tells of his travels from Hungary, Poland, Romania and Turkey to Syria, Jordan and finally to his adopted home of Tangier, Morocco.

There are still a few seats remaining for the April 6 performance by Katie Noonan and Karin Schaupp.

"Songs of the Southern Skies Vol 2" sees Katie and Karin reinterpret some of their favourite Australian artists, including Ruby Hunter, Missy Higgins, Kate Ce-



There are still a few seats remaining for the April 6 performance by Katie Noonan and Karin Schaupp, "Songs of the Southern Skies Vol 2".

berano and Sarah Blasko.

If you fancy a trip to the movies, the current selection includes Bridget Jones, Captain America, Widow Clicquot, A Complete Unknown, the Oscar award-winning animation Flow, White Bird as well as Noah's Ark (for the kids).

Check the full program and get your tickets online at basscoastculturalvenues.com

Tickets can also be purchased at Berninnet, open from 9.30am – 5pm weekdays and 10am – 4pm weekends.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND GARLIC festival

Join us to celebrate all things garlic! Learn how to grow and cook this culinary gem, all while enjoying food, music, market stores and more!

Culinary Delights

Live Music Entertainment

Cooking Demos

Free Kids Activities

Saturday March 8th 2025
9am to 6pm
Korumburra Showgrounds

Book Tickets Now!

Adults - \$15, Children (3 to 16) - \$5
Concession - \$10, Family* - \$35
Family: 2 adults, 2 children (3-16)

www.southgippslandgarlicfestival.au



Phillip Island Group Fundraiser

Garage Sale

Sunday, 9 March, 2025

9.00am to 2.00pm

31 Jansson Road, Rhyll

New and pre-loved ladies' clothes, shoes and accessories.

Popular labels. Cash only.

CHANNEL CHALLENGE

Aquathon
and huge
community
day

Competitors in the Junior Female category: Tilly McKenna (9th), Abbey Clarke (2nd) and Zoe Scott (4th). Abbey also won the Junior Female Awards in the Bass Coast Series.



Competitor Courtney Ford and guest starter Bobby Bajram.



Chris Dallinger and his father Brian, who competed in his 39th Challenge. There were three generations of Dallingers in the event, with Brian's grandchildren Lachlan and Archie Dallinger also competing.

Channel Challenge achieves new highs

The 39th Channel Challenge held on Saturday March 1, was certainly one for the record books.

Competitors in the 2025 Channel Challenge, the final leg of the Bass Coast Series, set off under sunny skies in front of a massive crowd of spectators that lined up on the jetty and the bridge.

There was a slight breeze to put a little chop onto the water's surface but that just made the event live up to its reputation as a challenge worth doing.

There were several firsts for this year's event.

- The first time there were 850 registered competitors: 684 Individuals and 83 relay teams.
- The first time there were more than 750 swimmers (767) plus 83 relay team runners.
- The first time entries were closed off once the cap of 850 competitors was reached.
- The first time more than 1500 competitors lined up for the three Bass Coast Series events.
- The first time an Elite Wave was created so that the top Male and Female competitors could race together.
- The first time two winners were declared: the Fastest Female and the Fastest Male: two \$500 prizes awarded.

Closing entries when the capped number was reached on Wednesday afternoon caused a lot of panic and consternation in the local and wider community.

Organisers had been warning this might happen and posted notices locally for people not to leave their registrations until the last minute, but many were still caught out.

Organisers said it was disconcerting to see people trying to swap and trade entries on Facebook and "that was quickly knocked on the head".

The message for next year is to get in early.

With a record number of competitors, accompanied by their family and friends, there was a terrific buzz around San Remo as the race drew close to starting time.

There was a loud cheer when guest starter, Bobby Bajram blew the horn to set the Elite Wave off.

As the five waves of competitors pushed across the Channel there were nine competitors who asked for assistance and a ride back to shore in one of the rubber duckies crewed by the Woolamai Beach Lifesavers.

Race organisers said none of the nine were in any real trouble, they were just not fit enough to get across the channel.

They said it was a low number



Champions Justin Tilley and Zoe Adams. Justin came third overall, and won both O/40 Male Awards and the Lyall Williams Memorial Trophy as the best local competitor in the Bass Coast Series. Zoe was the first woman across the line and ninth overall and won both Open Women sections of the Bass Coast Series.

for such a large event, and advised prospective competitors to ensure they have prepared properly for these events in the future.

Competition was strong and Callum McClusky prevailed in the Men's section after following Hamish McDougall out of the water, but hauling him in on the run leg for his third overall victory in the Channel Challenge.

Local competitor, Justin Tilley, finished third and completed a stellar summer with two overall wins and a third over the three

events of the Bass Coast Series. In the Women's section another local, Zoe Adams, finished the summer unbeaten after overall victories in all three events.

Results

Local competitors dominated the Bass Coast Series results with seven locals taking home the Bass Coast Series Awards for both the Open and Local prizes in their respective categories.

Justin Tilley won both O/40 Male Awards and the Lyall Wil-

liams Memorial Trophy as the best local competitor.

Andre Hetebrueg took out both prizes for the Senior Male Categories.

Zoe Adams won both of her Open Female Categories with three victories in the series events.

Finlay Cameron had a great summer and won the Junior Male Awards, while Abbey Clarke matched Finlay's achievement with the two Junior Female Awards.

Sarah Smith continued her

successes with both titles in the O/40 Female categories, while Rob Fleisner again went home with multiple awards in the O/60 Male sections.

Three other locals – Marcus Bond (O/50 Male), Suzie Herrington (O/50 Female) and Carolyn Rushford (O/60 Female) took home Bass Coast Series Awards.

Thank you

Ron Nicholson from the organising committee thanked Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary for again providing a market and the San Remo Hotel for sponsoring the popular Tug-Of-War Competitions.

"These were won by the Male Team from the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) and the Female Team from the San Remo Hotel.

"Also, thanks to Paul Cooper for his great job as race commentator."

Ron acknowledged the work of the "great team from the Woolamai Beach SLSC" who oversee the organisation of the event.

"Thank you to Melina, GB, Sully, Max, Ryan, Georgie, Michelle and Ron – and they work in conjunction with officers from Bass Coast Shire Council, SES, Rotary, San Remo Hotel, traders, PINFC, to create one of the best community events which is still growing after 39 editions."

There is expected to be a lot of interest in the 2026 Channel Challenge, which will mark the 40th anniversary of the iconic race.

"Now that Brian Dallinger has got through his 39th race he will be eager to reach the finish line next year and retire as the only man on the planet to have finished all 40 Channel Challenge events," Ron said.

More photos at pisra.com.au



Suzie Herrington, Rebekah Fincher, Emma Moore and Sarah Smith. As well as their success on the day, Sarah won both the O/40 Female category in the Bass Coast Series, while Suzie took home the local O/50 Female award for the series.



From Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, President Jason Close and his daughter Erin, Kieran Vessey, Blake Smith and Glenn Vessey.

CHANNEL CHALLENGE

Aquathon
and huge
community
day



Leading the field, Callum McCluskey came flying over the bridge, to win the 2025 San Remo Channel Challenge for the third time.



The Phillip Island Turtle Smugglers showed up en masse to compete in the Channel Challenge. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Adding some glamour to the finishing line, Pip Cleeland said this was her eighth Channel Challenge, but the first time she'd dressed up. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Super Veteran Bob Matthews heads for the finish line at the 39th San Remo Channel Challenge.



Getting ready for the start. A record number of swimmers took to the water in this year's Challenge.



Among the hundreds of volunteers who work to make the Channel Challenge a success were Paramedic Robin Lowe, and Tanya Pinnock and Maddy Reynolds – first aid officers from WBSLSC.

2025 San Remo Channel Challenge results

JUNIOR MALE			SENIOR FEMALE – LOCAL			VETERAN FEMALE		
SHERAR Zachary	1		ADAMS Zoe	1		ELVISH Jo-anne	1	
KRUEGER Owen	2		BARRETT Bethany	2		SPINKS Bern	2	
INCANI Marcel	3		ELLINGWORTH Tiarnie	3		HEISLERS Jeny	3	
JUNIOR MALE – LOCAL			MASTERS MALE / MASTERS MALE – LOCAL			VETERAN FEMALE – LOCAL		
CAMERON Finlay	1		TILLEY Justin	1		MOORE Emma	1	
CHARLESWORTH Matthew	2		ROWE Mark	2		HERRINGTON Suzie	2	
KELLY Jeremy	3		STURT Rod	3		FINCHER Rebekah	3	
JUNIOR FEMALE			MASTERS FEMALE			SUPER VETERAN MALE		
HOLMES Olivia	1		CANN Lara	1		HARDYSMITH Paul	1	
CLARKE Abbey	2		SMITH Sarah	2		CORBETT Jim	2	
TEREK Savannah	3		MAHON Debbie	3		FLEISNER Rob	3	
JUNIOR FEMALE – LOCAL			MASTERS FEMALE – LOCAL			SUPER VETERAN MALE – LOCAL		
HOLMES Olivia	1		SMITH Sarah	1		CORBETT Jim	1	
CLARKE Abbey	2		MAHON Debbie	2		FLEISNER Rob	2	
SCOTT Zoe	3		VAN DER WEERD-ARCEO Melina	3		TANCHEFF Brian	3	
SENIOR MALE			VETERAN MALE			SUPER VETERAN FEMALE		
MCCLUSKY Callum	1		TAYLOR Paul	1		STEPHENS Janice	1	
MCDUGALL Hamish	2		WACHTER Aurel	2		WEBBER Simone	2	
INCANI Gab	3		BOND Marcus	3		RUSHFORD Carolyn	3	
SENIOR MALE – LOCAL			VETERAN MALE – LOCAL			SUPER VETERAN FEMALE – LOCAL		
MUIR Dylan	1		BOND Marcus	1		RUSHFORD Carolyn	1	
CHARLESWORTH Matthew	2		HARRIS Kris	2		BREWSTER Carol	2	
COUSINS Stephen	3		STEPHEN Peter	3		BARBER Stella	3	
SENIOR FEMALE								
ADAMS Zoe	1							
KINCSES Adele	2							
WRIGHT Narelle	3							

Full results at mytimes.com.au



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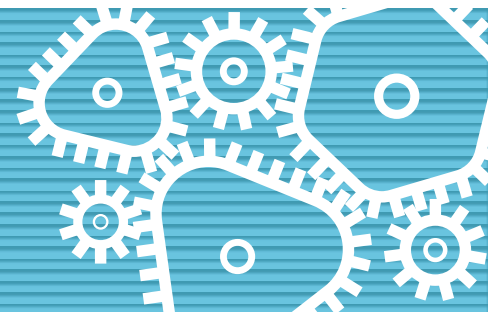
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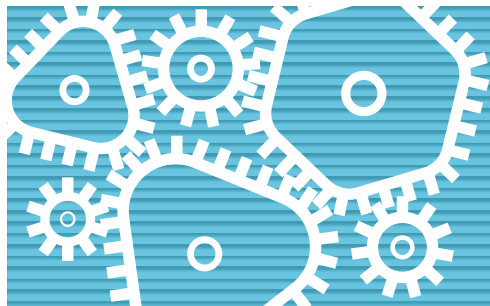
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Batteries alternative?

On February 5 there was a progress report webinar about Neighbourhood Batteries in Cowes.

There are five at 100kW/200kWh and two at 200kW/400kWh; capital cost \$2.1 million.

Objective is to smooth out minor noise on grid power, prevent some of the brown outs and, soak up some excess power on sunny days, which might prevent need to curtail power from your rooftop solar. Excess power absorbed from the grid during the day, when wholesale price is low, is returned to the grid during late afternoon peak demand.

They won't provide any power to the Cultural Centre or houses during loss of grid power. It might be possible to provide limited power to particular power points to enable charging of smart phones.

Let's consider the alternatives. Battery storage is the main component of cost, total 5 x 200 + 2 x 400 = 1800kWh.

As one-off purchase, MG4 (car) costs \$30,000 with 50kWh battery. Neighbourhood Battery project price of \$2.1 million divided by \$30,000 equals 70, project amount of power, including, for free, 70 cars with 240VAC mains power outlet on board.

So as grid power fails, you can connect an extension lead to power essentials, like fridge etc. You're in control of how much power exported to grid and how much you use from battery when grid fails.

I track my daily power usage, so 50kWh battery would last me 20 days, even if the sun didn't shine, with just 4kW solar PV on my roof.

In the event of fire or flood or failure of grid power, with an EV, whether you stay or evacuate, you take the power with you.

Of course, it's not easy to decide who gets each of 70 cars. Instead of \$30,000 for a complete car, it could be rebate of \$3000 each for 700 cars. Alternatively, for more manageable smaller quantity of vehicles, EVBUS might be considered.

In this current cost of living crisis, you could choose to use EV power to your house, whenever you're home, to reduce your power bill. Is this a good alternative to Neighbourhood Batteries?

Bernie McComb, Cowes

World Superbikes

WSBK ... the 'W' stands for World. Maybe our Council should learn this ... not even a flag flying on the bridge welcoming the "World" to the Island.

Seriously terrible.

Anthony Battista, San Remo

Wildlife concerns

We are disappointed at the lack of respect for the iconic native marsupials (Letter: Wildlife concerns, February 19). The majority of people who live on this beautiful island appreciate the variety of wildlife.

Statistics reveal that biodiversity of Australian flora and fauna is declining at an alarming rate. We do not wish to contribute to that by carelessness or wilful destruction. Even now it may be too late.

Jan Fleming and Monika Gardner, Surf Beach

It's our community centre

Shame on you Bass Coast CEO Mr Greg Box.

At the council February meeting in question time the following question was asked by Linda Marston: "Berninnet Art Exhibit. As part of the 'Kids as Catalysts' program some Newhaven primary students created posters promoting awareness of wildlife on Phillip Island. They were unable to exhibit these at Berninnet for free. As BCSC is partnered with this program, shouldn't Berninnet promote such projects as examples of young leadership?"

The response by the CEO Greg Box: "Council does provide support and access for Kids as Catalyst program, however, not every request is able to be accommodated. The group was advised that the best option was to hire a community space in the building. Staff also spent some time with the group advising how best to promote their work and provided key contacts within media."

I have great difficulty understanding the BCSC CEO's reply, "not every request is able to be accommodated" but best option was to hire a community space within the building. Councillors should note, Berninnet is a community centre for the community's use and should be managed by a Committee of Management in conjunction with council. Mr Box would you please explain to the children of Newhaven Primary School, how they raise the necessary money required to exhibit their posters in our community centre? Councillors, please note the children of Phillip Island and Bass Coast are our future, the Bass Coast CEO/Council and councillors should encourage our children. My harsh comments are Shame On You. The ball is in your court Mr Box (and Councillors) to give the children the opportunity to display their artwork which displays the wildlife on Phillip in our community centre for free.

In fact, this is just the thin edge of the wedge. Where is the memorabilia, the community was promised would be rehung in the building once completed?

John Trigt, Surf Beach

Coastal path decision questioned

What an extraordinary decision by our councillors to put a stop to the Ventnor to Cowes coastal shared pathway through a Notice of Motion. In 2022 Council approved its Tracks and Trails Strategy with high levels of community consultation and input into the strategy. The Ventnor to Cowes Coastal path was categorised in the high priority section and listed as number six of importance.

By putting a stop to the pathway this council group has ignored its own strategy. This year the feasibility study around the location of the route was scheduled. Further community consultation would have taken place and help decide a route that met the needs of the community and the environment.

Our community has lost this opportunity through an ill-informed decision by council which didn't recognise the myriad of positive reasons for

this route including a chance to stop the spread of weeds into this coastal vegetation and re-vegetate the areas surrounding the pathway.

The decision by the councillors to stop the pathway has interrupted an internal process established within the strategy and ignored the hundreds of community members who wanted a further say in its location.

Future Notice of Motion decisions like this may put at risk the community confidence in the decision-making capability of this councillor group.

Owen Bentley, Cowes

Heart check

Late last year I was diagnosed with CABG's (Coronary artery bypass grafting surgery) and was operated on at the new Victorian Heart Hospital affiliated to Monash.

The surgery went well and I returned home after a week in Cardiac Rehab Brighton. My cardiac situation was critical as all my main coronary arteries were 100 per cent blocked and required urgent surgery.

For the past 2.5 years, I had been treated and then on several occasions ambulated to Wonthaggi ED for further investigation of what was always thought of as Esophageal reflux and was unfortunately released without a clear diagnosis.

At no stage during this period was I told or suggested, to seek the assistance of a cardiologist. The point of this letter is to alert anybody that has central persistent pain in the chest to be investigated by a cardiologist and don't let doctors tell you to go home - everything is ok now. Seek the proper help and get a proper diagnosis. I could have avoided open heart surgery if I knew early on.

Eden White, Silverleaves

Councillors' blunder

Bass Coast ratepayers shouldn't have to pay for councillors' blunders. The mindless decision of Bass Coast Shire councillors to reject an application by Heidelberg Materials to widen Stanley Road, Grantville, will hit ratepayers with a huge bill to defend their decision at VCAT.

The road widening has long been a requirement of the planning permit previously issued by the shire and was approved by shire planning staff as well as DEECA. Rather than make ratepayers foot the bill, councillors who refused the planning application should be personally liable.

That means all councillors other than Jan Thompson, who had the sense to vote for the application should pay every cent.

It's disappointing that a handful of individuals masquerading as environmentalists has been able to detract from gains made by the community - for example by discounting the Regional Sand Extraction Strategy, Lang Lang to Grantville and threatening the rehabilitation of wildlife corridors.

Philip Westwood, Grantville

Integrity in politics

I know many local people who can no longer watch television news and have stopped reading the daily papers due to the distress caused by an inevitable

story about Donald Trump. The president will attempt to rewrite history, seek to close down scientific research, deport people who rightfully call US home, withdraw from the Paris agreement and more.

In the coming federal election, we have the chance to demonstrate that Australia does not need a style of politics characterised by lies, denial of science and social division. The major parties are both beholden to lobbyists for whom financial gain is the goal. (Why else would we be subsidising fossil fuel production to the tune of \$28,000 a minute and allowing the gambling industry to proliferate?)

The independent candidates seek to represent the will of the people and through this, we can avoid the extremes of populism. Australia does not need to emulate USA.

In our electorate of Monash, we have the opportunity to vote for Deb Leonard, our local independent candidate. Genuine local representation, evidence-based decision making and integrity in politics form the basis of her platform. Now, more than ever we need this.

Deborah O'Connor, Berrys Creek

Cost-of-living bites animals

As Team Leader for RSPCA Victoria's Inspectorate South-East region, my team of six Inspectors and I are seeing first-hand how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting people and their pets.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to impact pet owners and their ability to provide basic care for their pets, such as enough food and access to weather-proof housing.

We're also seeing people unable to provide preventative care like desexing, grooming, and flea and worming treatments that prevent the need for expensive veterinary care later on.

By desexing your pet when they are young, you can avoid an unplanned litter of animals which can be a heavy financial responsibility at the best of times, and it is a challenge we see many pet owners facing.

Heartbreakingly, RSPCA

Victoria receives an average of almost 16 calls every day from people wanting to surrender their pets for a variety of reasons, including financial difficulties.

We're extremely grateful to the community for their ongoing vigilance in reporting animal cruelty. Over the last six months, we received 1242 cruelty reports from the South-East region, resulting in the rescue of 297 animals.

Last financial year, 559 animals came into our care, and sadly it seems we're likely to repeat this total again by the end of June.

As we enter what is historically the busiest time of year, we urge everyone in the South-East to remain vigilant for animal cruelty in our area and to report it to RSPCA Victoria by calling (03) 9224-2222 or online at www.rspcavic.org/cruelty-report.

The community support we see every day keeps us going and makes each day just a little bit better.

If you are one of many who are struggling to care for your pets, please don't be afraid to reach out for help, whether it be to us, to other community-based programs, to your local council, or to other groups who may be able to provide support.

Together, let's end animal cruelty.

Stuart Marchesani, RSPCA Inspectorate Team Leader South-East

Tipping point

After many years, I visited the island and had an excellent outdoors experience. For example, visiting Cape Woolamai.

Imagine that the island had a social and environmental scorecard. If the cons (eg: too many cars) outweighed the pros this would point towards a 'tipping-point' for the island. One significant negative development has been the development of expensive housing on coastal settings. Examples include Berry's Beach and Rhyll.

The coast needs to be protected as a significant landscape and so untouchable. Has the island passed its tipping-point?

Frank Harte, Carlton



Another bumper crop for Mario

Keen gardener Mario Crisafulli is famous for his tomato harvest, and said this year has produced another bumper crop.

He proudly displayed some of his prized fruit, which taste

as good as they look.

He says he shares the harvest with friends and family, and when he's not eating them fresh, he is a master at making tomato sauce.

• FINANCIAL LITERACY MADE SIMPLE

RBA's Rate Cut

- Implications and Reactions

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELcapital

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

Impact on Mortgages and Loans

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

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

Returns on Savings

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

Economic Outlook and Future Rate Cuts

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

before easing monetary policy further.

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

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

Broader Economic Implications

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

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

Conclusion

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

*www.amp.com.au

The information above does not constitute financial or other professional advice and is general in nature. It does not take into account your specific circumstances and should not be acted on without a full understanding of your current situation and future goals and objectives by a fully qualified financial advisor. Before you make any decision about whether to acquire a certain financial product, you should obtain and read the relevant product disclosure statement.



Independent Deb Leonard's recent campaign events includes a youth forum, doorknocking in Drouin and criticism of the new electoral laws passed by Federal Parliament.

Deb Leonard gets busy

ELECTION

Independent Deb Leonard has had a busy few weeks campaigning around the electorate.

Last month, campaign volunteers organised a youth forum, to identify solutions to issues facing young people in the Monash electorate.

Transport, mental health, costs of living and climate emerged as the top concerns, with the young participants proposing forward-thinking policies to address these challenges.

The forum brought together students and staff from local schools and universities.

"We need to listen to the innovative ideas of our young people to move beyond politics and develop genuine solutions," said Leonard.

Key mental health issues included the need for improved services, interdisciplinary teams in schools, better resources and support for staff in public schools.

Employment and further education opportunities in the local area were also raised, and the underutilisation of the Wonthaggi TAFE campus, with suggestions on way to foster connections and combat isolation among young people in regional areas.

Cost of living issues, increasing Centrelink payments and a fairer tax system were raised in the forum.

The environment and climate change were also key concerns.

"Our young people have a vital stake in our region's future. Their voices deserve to be at the centre of this election conversation," Leonard said.

Door knocking

On February 16, 100 plus volunteers took to the streets of Drouin to doorknock for the independent campaign.

A choir of volunteers also performed outside Woolworths as Ms Leon-

ard handed out flyers to passersby.

At a public event in the town, Leonard also made her first major announcement – ensuring funding for a new West Gippsland Hospital.

Integrity and transparency in politics was also announced as a policy to the crowd, with Ms Leonard saying: "I'm announcing my integrity policy first because it is the critical foundation for better outcomes for communities – no matter what the issue".

"If you want to fix a house, start with the foundation," said Leonard.

"If we want to address the cost of living crisis, housing, climate, and funding for roads, we need to fix integrity in government first. Because when politicians act with integrity, taxpayer money goes where it's needed, not into some secret deal, a mate's pocket or where the parties think it will win them the most votes.

"Integrity isn't just about cleaning up politics; it's about building a foundation to ensure decisions are made fairly and transparently, and in the best interests of the community."

Deb Leonard said it was through 1000s of surveys, conversations with the public and over 3500 doors knocked across the electorate so far that these policy priorities were formed. Other leading issues of concern for people are: cost of living, housing, roads, climate action, coastal erosion, NDIS and farming.

Funding for infrastructure is also key to Ms Leonard's platform. "Our region has been missing out when it comes to federal funding for roads, recreational facilities and infrastructure."

Donation laws

Ms Leonard has also criticised the new electoral laws passed by Federal Parliament last month.

"At a time when cost of living is skyrocketing,

the major parties' priority is funnelling millions to their re-election campaigns."

The reform increases public funding to \$5 per vote, channelling an extra \$82 million to the major parties compared to the 2022 election, she said.

"The Coalition alone will get \$6.1 million and Labor \$8.1 million in additional 'administrative assistance' every three years. Meanwhile, independents and minor parties get nothing."

While introducing a \$50,000 cap on donations to candidates' election accounts, the law does not restrict the major parties' ability to bring in unlimited funds to their administrative accounts through a web of state and federal branches.

"The major parties have over 100 associated entities that they can use to multiply donation caps and hide millions in funds from vested interests," Ms. Leonard said.

"Independents simply can't compete under these rules – which is exactly what Liberal and Labor want."

She said the expenditure caps are equally unfair, limiting independents to spending \$800,000 per electorate while allowing the major parties to spend up to \$90 million combined across the country.

"Our political system is broken, with the major parties more interested in preserving their own power than representing the people.

"We need more independents in Parliament to fight for integrity, transparency and fairness.

"I'm running to be a strong voice for Monash and to make politics about people again, not just a game of self-interest for the major parties. It's time we brought integrity, transparency and common sense back into politics."

Deb Leonard's policies can be found on her website: debleonard.com.au

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CLASSIFIEDS SEEK, BUY AND SELL



DEATHS

MITCHELL, Robert James
'Bob'/'Dick':

29.11.1934 – 26.02.2025

Loved husband of
Lorraine.

Loving Dad and father-in-law to Shane & Lucy, Jason & Linda.

Adored Pa to Blaze, Shana-Lee & Dylan and great grandpa to Kainen.

'Are you free'



Robert MITCHELL

Service Details:
3/749860
Australian Army

The President, Committee, Members, Management and Staff of the Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch deeply regret to announce the passing of Robert Mitchell (Bob), a respected Service Member of our Sub-Branch. Our sincere condolences are extended to Lorraine and the Mitchell Family.

LEST WE FORGET.



PETERS, Ian Bruce
'Bruce':

Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on 26.2.2025

Dearly loved husband of Joan. Adored and loved father of Leanne, Ashley, Rohan & Melissa. Father in-law to Shane, Debby, Laura and Brendan.

Loved Pa to 9 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Rest in peace, a life well lived.

GARAGE SALES

COWES

40 Church St.

Saturday March 8.

8:00am - 4:00pm.

Loads of plants (inc Bird of Paradise, Bromeliads and Succulents), cutlery, crockery, homewares, linens and haberdashery, collectibles, crafts, wood and tools etc.

GRANTVILLE

2A Loughridge Court.
Saturday March 8.

8am - 3pm.

Household, garden, fishing and clothing items plus much, much more. Cash only.

MONSTER GARAGE SALE

228 Smiths Beach Road.

Saturday March 8,
8am - 3pm.

All proceeds to Cambodian children.

FUNERALS

MITCHELL:

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of

Mr. Robert (Bob) Mitchell will be held at the Phillip Island RSL, Thompson Ave, Cowes on FRIDAY (March 7, 2025) commencing at 11:00am.

Ex-Service Personnel are respectfully invited to attend.

Privately cremated.

Handley & Anderson
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

PETERS, Bruce:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Ian 'Bruce' Peters will be held at

The Korumburra Uniting Church, Bridge St, Korumburra on Wednesday 5th March, commencing at 3:00pm.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Korumburra Cemetery. Bruce's service will be live-streamed, click or scan the links below.
www.cogaudiovisual.com/ian-peters

FOR SALE

Mingara Gallery will hold a huge clearance sale.

Due to retirement after 23 years.

All stock must go and most paintings have been reduced by up to 50% until Sunday 30th March. Open Thurs, Fri, Sat 10am - 4pm, Sun 11am-3pm. Contact the gallery. Ph 59 523 722 or 0457 343 771.



Vintage Singer treadle machine
\$60

Circa 1940's and made in Scotland. This sewing machine is in good order and comes complete with original manual and accessories: oil can, sewing attachments in its original box, needles, bobbins and spare treadle belt. Machine operates within an enclosed and transportable wooden cabinet but missing one of the four foot castors. Dimensions H 77cm, D 43cm, W 53cm. Pick up in Cowes. Cash sale only.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ISLAND CRAFT MARKET

Thompson Ave., Cowes

The next market is on Sat, March 8 9am-2pm

Inquiries: Monica
0412 710 276

GARAGE SALES



Garage Sale

Sunday, 9 March, 2025

9.00am to 2.00pm

31 Jansson Road, Rhyll

New and pre-loved ladies' clothes, shoes and accessories. Popular labels. Cash only.

PUBLIC NOTICES



NEWHAVEN COLLEGE

Alumni Reunions

Classes of
1985, 1995, 2005
& 2015

are invited to return to Newhaven College to celebrate their 10, 20, 30 & 40 year reunions

Saturday 15 March
10am - 12pm

To book your ticket visit
www.trybooking.com/CZMMM



EDITORIAL GUIDELINES
The Advertiser conducts its journalism in accordance with the guidelines of the Australian Press Council.

The General Principles
Accuracy and clarity
1. Ensure that factual material in news reports and elsewhere is accurate and not misleading, and is distinguishable from other material such as opinion.
2. Provide a correction or other adequate remedial action if published material is significantly inaccurate or misleading.

Fairness and balance
3. Ensure that factual material is presented with reasonable fairness and balance, and that writers' expressions of opinion are not based on significantly inaccurate factual material or omission of key facts.
4. Ensure that where material refers adversely to a person,

a fair opportunity is given for subsequent publication of a reply if that is reasonably necessary to address a possible breach of General Principle 3.

Privacy and avoidance of harm
5. Avoid intruding on a person's reasonable expectations of privacy, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
6. Avoid causing or contributing materially to substantial offence, distress or prejudice, or a substantial risk to health or safety, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.

Integrity and transparency
7. Avoid publishing material which has been gathered by deceptive or unfair means, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
8. Ensure that conflicts of interests are avoided or adequately disclosed, and that they do not influence published material.

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PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

SITUATIONS VACANT

School Crossing Supervisors



- Casual and part-time positions available

Are you committed to the safety of children in our community?

We are seeking dedicated individuals to serve as School Crossing Supervisors at various locations across Bass Coast.

Training is provided and you can make a difference by helping ensure safe passage for students to and from school.

Visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/careers or contact Myka Johnston, Team Leader Roads and Compliance Operations on 0407 781 649 for more information.

Applications close 16 March 2025

KEEP CONNECTED

Read the Advertiser on your computer, phone or device, go to www.pisra.com.au

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER



SITUATIONS VACANT



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12

Newhaven College is seeking applications

TEACHER

Newhaven College is seeking a full time VCE Outdoor Education, Physical Education and Middle School Health Teacher to work in our specialised Year 9 Environmental Centre program.

Fixed term contract position commencing on Monday 2 June 2025 until end of Semester 1 2026. Extension beyond this is possible by negotiation.

For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/discover/work-with-us or contact Director of Business, Alan Nolan 03 5956 7505.

Applications (cover letter and CV) to be submitted to: recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au
Applications close Monday 17 March 2025 at 5pm

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

Supporting Healing For Families
Community Engagement Workers – part time

GLaWAC considers that being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage is a genuine occupational requirement for this position

We are looking for three passionate community members to join the Supporting Healing for Families (SHFF) Initiative, a program that amplifies community voices in the journey of individual and collective healing.

These roles are auspiced by GLaWAC, meaning GLaWAC will provide salary and IT support, but your day-to-day work will be directed by the Inner Gippsland Healing Model (IGHM) team.

As a Community Engagement Worker, you will design, deliver, and evaluate community engagement training and healing activities as outlined by IGHM. Your focus will be on strengthening connections to culture, supporting community resilience, and promoting healing through education and awareness.

Your role will involve strong community engagement and relationship-building within three Local Government Areas —Latrobe Valley, West Gippsland (Baw Baw), and South Gippsland/Bass Coast – and you will ensure mob-based best practice principles and integrity are upheld while working within locally developed cultural protocols.

You will have:

- A strong understanding of the Healing Model.
- Deep respect for confidentiality, integrity, and cultural safety.
- Experience working both independently and as part of a team.
- Strong interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills.
- Good time management, organisational, and administrative skills.
- Experience working with community-based committees and stakeholders.

Applications close: Sunday 9th March

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to
Mardi Edwards at jobs@glawac.com.au



Oli Bayliss kicked off the 2025 WorldSSP season with PTR Triumph Racing recently at the Phillip Island Circuit. The 21-year-old put on a consistent performance placing seventh in both Race 1 and Race 2. Photo: Alia Schonberg.

Bayliss talks WorldSSP and Phillip Island favourites

MOTORSPORT

Round 1 of the 2025 MOTUL FIM WorldSBK season kicked off at the Phillip Island Circuit from February 21 – 23.

Aussie WorldSSP rider Oli Bayliss delivered a consistent performance with his new team, PTR Triumph Racing, placing seventh in both Race 1 and Race 2 (currently placing him fourth in the riders' championship with 18 points).

The Advertiser sat down with Oli for a quick chat over the race weekend.

Q. How are you feeling about the 2025 season based on your results so far?

A. "So far I feel really comfortable with the team.

"It was a bit tough with yesterday's race (Race 1), I was just hanging onto the front group and couldn't really make any moves from there, but all in all it's the closest I've been to the front and I think we're going to have a really

good season."

Q. Would you say the island is an easier or tougher track to race on?

A. "It's probably one of the best tracks to race on.

"It's like a vacuum, once you're in that (front) group it just kind of sucks you along.

"But to come here for the first time it can be one of the toughest tracks to learn, just because it's so fast.

"I wouldn't like to go back seven years and learn it again for the first time."

Q. In the WorldSSP season what's your favourite track?

A. "Definitely Phillip Island first and Portimao second."

Q. How much does a WorldSSP bike differ from an Australian Supersport bike?

A. "They're quite different, it's a lot faster.

"When I raced 600cc here in Australia my best time was 1'35.8 and on my (WorldSSP) bike last year I did 1'32.1 and we basical-

ly matched that on the test here with the Triumph.

"It's also different not just with the engine but also the electronics and the guys [team] working around you."

Q. Other than the track, what do you like the most about the island?

A. "Pino's. Thank you Rosa for creating a masterpiece."

Correction

A photo on page 9 of last week's Advertiser (February 26), was incorrectly captioned as Wayne and Remi Gardner.

The photo actually features former WorldSBK champion Troy Bayliss (left) and his son, WorldSSP rider Oli Bayliss, with DPI's Kim Storey.



Doubles runner-up: Luke and Eamon with winners Ben and Felix.

Korrine and District annual tournament

TENNIS

It was a fabulous turnout at Newhaven College on Saturday, February 22 when 38 junior tennis players from the Korrine and District Junior Tennis Association represented their respective tennis clubs in the annual tournament.

All the juniors are to be commended on their true sportsmanship and perseverance as the mercury rose throughout the day.

A special thank you to all the players, parents/guardians and committee members for their efforts and support on the day.

The results were:

Pennant: Singles winner: Felix B, runner-up: Luke A. Doubles winner: Ben W/Felix B and runner-up: Eamon A/Luke A.

Section 1: Singles winner: Maddison VdB, runner-up: Avery H. Doubles winner: Maddison VdB/Avery H, runner-up: Eli B/Archer H/Yasmin G.

Section 2: Singles winner: Jordy M, runner-up: Archer H. Doubles winner: Matthew C/Jess



Congratulations to KDJTA pennant singles winner Felix Bathgate (left) with runner up Luke.

C, runner-up: Sam/Archer H.

Section 3: Singles winner: Asher J, runner-up: Emerson S.

Section 4: Singles winner: Daniel H, runner-up: Corin P. Doubles winner: Corin P/Daniel H, runner-up: Jack M/Ava M.

Section 5: Singles winner: Ava M, runner-up: Lilly VdB. Doubles winner: Ray J/Evie F, runner-up: Aiden H/Lilly VdB.

Drama unfolds in thrilling opener

DARTS

The Phillip Island and Districts Darts League has returned, and if Round 1 is any indication, this season is going to be a bumpy ride – strap in, folks.

With all five matches going the full distance and every contest decided by a razor-thin 4-3 margin, the competition has never been tighter.

The biggest change this season, the 801-team leg being played last instead of first was met with enthusiastic approval.

In a rare moment of unity, players agreed that finishing with a team battle rather than throwing doubles players to the wolves was a stroke of genius.

Results

The Breakers lived up to their name by breaking the hearts of last year's grand finalists, Storm, in a 4-3 thriller.

Meanwhile, Aulin threw a wrench in the Vikings' championship defence, stunning the 2024 winners 4-3.

Elsewhere, Joe's Hornets delivered a sting in the tail to Miramar, who were inches from victory before the Hornets swooped in for the peg-out.

Deadly Darts scraped past The Mustangs, while Riverboys sank the Dart Vaders thanks to Marilyn's ice-cold finishing in a last-leg showdown.

It was a night where clutch finishing was king, and nerves of steel were a requirement.



Allan Stray was thrilled to have finally won the San Remo Butchers meat tray after years of trying at the local Darts competition last week.

Off the oche, there was just as much excitement – especially for Allan Stray, who finally won the San Remo Butchers meat tray after years of trying.

Reports suggest he had to check twice to believe it, and there is speculation he may now retire from the raffle circuit undefeated.

With Round 1 setting the darts world (or at least Phillip Island) on fire, all eyes are now on Round 2.

Can the Storm regroup? Will the Vikings recover from their early shipwreck? And can Allan Stray go back-to-back in the meat tray stakes?

Stay tuned, keep your flights straight, and let the darts drama continue.

Game on!



All the families at the end of season junior cricket match, parents verse kids.

C2 Sharks secure a finals birth

From page 32

The two combined for a 55-run partnership with Sonny eclipsing his previous best score with the bat by nearly 20 runs.

At the other end Seb showed that he has a good temperament for batting and finished on 33 not out which rounded out a tremendous personal game.

The Sharks may have fallen short of the total but the positive sign from the younger players is there for all to see.

Well done lads.

PHILLIP ISLAND
192
B. JOHNSTON 39
K. LANE 37
K. BEAUMONT 25
IMPERIALS
136
G. McGAUSLAND 3/25/15
Z. BROWN 3/50/17
T. NIVEN 2/10/9
A1 GRADE
DEF BY
IMPERIALS
SAT 22ND FEB
COWES RESERVE
IGA
SAN REMO

PHILLIP ISLAND
120 & 1/90
H. WOMERSLEY 27
M. ARCEO 23
&
H. WOMERSLEY 45*
T. BLACKWELL 23*
WONTHAGGI
3/146d
D. WOMERSLEY 2/17/4
T. ALLAN 1/26/5
B1 GRADE
DEF BY
WONTHAGGI
SAT 22ND FEB
McMAHONS RESERVE
Bowens
THE BUILDERS CHOICE

PHILLIP ISLAND
8/160
J. PARRY 40
T. HORNSBY 33
S. DIFALCO 31*
S. McMILLAN 23
NERRENA
6/240
S. DIFALCO 2/22/7
R. HUGHES 1/19/2
N. HORNSBY 1/25/3
C1 GRADE
DEF BY
NERRENA
SAT 1ST MAR
VELODROME
PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO
ADVERTISER

PHILLIP ISLAND
3/181
D. MANI 57*
D. JIVEY 51
W. PATERSON 26
KOONWARRA
7/189
D. JIVEY 4/35/7
B. MARSHALL 2/40/7
C2 GRADE
DEF BY
KOONWARRA
SAT 1ST MAR
RHYLL CG
HP fire

PHILLIP ISLAND
54
J. WILLIAMS 18
J. TRAN 10
Z. HUGHES 10
IMPERIALS/NERRENA
8/121
G. McGAUSLAND 4/19/8
J. TRAN 2/42/6
J. WILLIAMS 1/6/8
H. WOMERSLEY 1/21/7
U17's
DEF BY
IMPERIALS/NERRENA
SUN 2ND MAR
LEONGATHA RESERVE
Haymes
THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN PAINT

PHILLIP ISLAND
27
R. HUGHES 7
K. CARTON 6
U15's
0/28
GLEN ALVIE
SUN 2ND MAR
GLEN ALVIE RESERVE
PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO
ADVERTISER

A week on the green

GOLF

Tuesday February 25

Men's Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Mitch O'Brien (36) 39 pts c/b.

A Grade winner: A-1 John Enbom (13) 37 pts c/b.

B Grade winner: B-1 Ian Rowell (19) 37 pts c/b.

C Grade winner: C-1 Mitch O'Brien (36) 39 pts.

BDL to 34 points c/b.

NTP: 5th Jack, 7th Steven Sloss, 5th John Gains and 7th Peter Ablett.

Men's Stableford 9 Holes

Winners: Laurie Petrusch (25) 20 pts from Len Fenton (23) 19 pts.

BDL to 17 pts c/b.

Wednesday February 26

Women's Stableford 18H

Overall winner Cheryl White (20) 40 pts.

A Grade winner: Cheryl White (20) 40 pts.

B Grade winner: Lynn McCole (29) 38 pts.

C Grade winner: Wendy Hopkins (34) 39 pts.

BDL to 33 pts c/b.

NTP: 5th N/A, 7th Michelle Pardoe, 10th Vicki Ramage and 17th Emma Hall.

Women's 9 Hole Stableford

Overall winner: Barbara Moloney (39) 16 pts from Lorraine Carrigan (45) 15 pts c/b.

BDL: 15 pts c/b.

Thursday February 27

Open Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Bez Moustafa (23) 42 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Anthony Shannon (9) 40 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Shane Palmer (18) 41 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Bez Moustafa (23) 42 pts.

BDL to 35 points c/b.

NTP: 5th and 7th Stephen Earl, 10th Ian Cookman and 17th Tony Vollebregt.

Men's 9 Hole Stableford

Winner: Len Fenton (21) 21 pts from Vic Mitchell (26) 20 pts c/b.

BDL to 16 pts c/b.

Saturday March 1

Men's Comp Stroke Monthly Medal 18H

Overall winner: Steve Regnier (16) 67.

A Grade winner: A-1 Rohan McDonnell (12) 68.

B Grade winner: B-1 Steve Regnier (16) 67.

C Grade winner: C-1 Harry Sterling (20) 68.

BDL to 71 c/b.

NTP: 5th Gerard Ferrari, 7th Heath Grace, 10th Greg Holland and 17th Gerard Ferrari.

Women's Stableford 18H

A Grade winner: A-1 Jennifer Poon (34) 40 pts A-2 Jeanette Diss (18) 36 pts c/b.

BDL to 32 pts.

NTP: 5th Vicki Ramage, 7th Lynn McCole, 10th Helen Coghlan and 17th Septiana Cochrane.

Open 9 Hole Stableford

Winner: Steve Rieger (24) 21 pts from Len Fenton (23) 17 pts c/b.

BDL to 15 pts c/b.

Sunday March 2

Open 18H

Winner: Zakk Allen-Ryan (16) 34pts from David Werner (13) 30 pts.

BDL: 26 pts c/b.

Midweek battle of champions

BOWLS

Another great Thursday with temperatures in the mid 20s and players in the mid 50s as we were made welcome at San Remo for our weekly battle of the champions.

As usual we were signed in by Pauline and John as Peter sweated over the makeup of the teams.

Out on the green we all took our places in the selected teams and settled down to fight it out.

As always plenty of fun on the green with friendly banter between our wonderful members.

Some excellent bowling could be seen across the green.

A couple of wrong bias bowls for today, but these are always welcome as they assist the RCH each year.

A big thank you to Clair for all her work in the kitchen, Mark for all his work in the bar, as well as all those who helped set up and clear up the rinks.

Also a big thank you to John for taking centre stage during the lunch break with the raffles each week.

As always there are winners and there are the rest of us, and today's winners on a score of 33 were: Max Summers (3), Phil Nielson (S), Marianne Scales (L)



Winners of Midweek bowls played at San Remo last week were, Max Summers (3), Phil Nielson (S), Marianne Scales (L), and Katherine Bray (2) (Not shown).

and Katherine Bray (2).

Runners up also on a score of 33 were: Michael Dady (S), Lou Capsalis (L) and Raff Merante (3).

Best One Game winners on a score of 19 were: Peter McWilliams (L), John Nicholson (S), Gwen Jeffery (2) and Laurie Bell (3).

To all our members who are still playing in the pennant finals, we wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you all win this year's trophies.

Next week we will be meeting at Loch and District Bowls Club.

Please be on site by 10am to allow our organisers time to arrange the teams. Until then, good luck and stay safe.

Results from the bowling league

TENPIN

2s Company: Palms in 1st place on 9pts, The Hounds in 2nd place on 9pts and King Pins in 3rd on 8pts.

ABL: Storm in 1st place on 48pts, Pinpals in 2nd place on 46pts and Dreamers in 3rd on 46pts.

Business Early: Balls Deep in 1st place on 9pts, NTC in 2nd place on 8 pts, Woolly Rollers in 3rd on

7 pts and Turkey Slappers in 4th on 7pts.

Business Late: City Lights in 1st place on 10pts, Team Rich in 2nd place on 6pts. S&R Clarke Auto in 3rd on 6pts and Balls of Fury in 4th on 0 pts.

Top scores this week:

Men: Les Peters 204, Scott Lynch 188 and Jason Bence 188.

Women: Tricia Niessink 173, Barbra Burns 157 and Mary Dardha 156.



Life Members Shield Day winners (from left): Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour (presented by Don Stewart-Uden).

Shield Day for life members

BRIDGE

The Phillip Island Bridge Club AGM (February 24) was followed by the Life Members Shield Day.

This popular Red Point event was won impressively by Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour with a score of 64.17 per cent.

Runners up were Life Member Don Stewart-Uden and his wife Trish (59.44 per cent).

Placing third were Diane

Coleman and Karen Klym (55.28 per cent).

Diane and Karen were both re-elected to the Committee.

Wednesday's Nationwide competition club results were N/S 1st Marnie Myall and Caroline Shaw, E/W 1st Lorrie Read and Judy O'Connell, N/S 2nd Jill Short and Barbara Jacob, E/W 2nd Clare and Jim Murphy.

Particular congratulations to Barbara who officially joined the club on the day and won her first Masterpoints.

Euchre

Ladies winner: Caroline 7 wins.

Men's winner: Les 6 wins.

Encouragement award: Carol.

Good to see another fantastic attendance, a record for the first month this year.



Harley Griffin won a Clip 'n Climb Phillip Island prize for finishing first, with three fish worth 55 points, in the weekend's Squidgie Mixed Bag competition.



Saige Nicolaci finished a close second place in the Squidgies Mixed Bag competition, with three fish worth 50 points, and also received a Clip 'n Climb Phillip Island prize.



Denver Firth won the Junior Weight and Junior Points competitions with a 415-gram snapper, and a King George whiting worth 1386 points (495 grams), respectively.



Martin Xuereb won the Shark Competition with a clean gummy shark that weighed 14100 grams.

Angling fishing competition

FISHING

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling club (RPIAC) held the tenth angling competition of the 2024/2025 season on March 1 and 2.

The weather, like the fishing, was a mixed bag with a mix of sunny and cloudy, calm and windy, and dry with wet.

Generally, the conditions over the weekend were good in the morning and challenging by noon.

Anglers who made it onto the water reported both success and frustration, catching fish from the deep and just watching fish surfacing, respectively.

At the conclusion of weigh-in a respectable number of eligible species were presented, including King George whiting, snapper, flathead, trevally, leatherjacket, tailor, and sharks.

A total of forty-three fish and three shark made it to the RPIAC scales and Club Captain, Chris Leonardos, was entertained by the variety of stories and species.

None of the \$1000 first-to-catch prizes offered in this season's RPIAC members Extraordinary Catch Incentives were claimed this weekend.

Whilst the 1000-gram King George whiting prize was claimed in November, and two weekend competitions remain, angling members are optimistic about catching any of the four remaining eligible species that equals or exceeds the nominated weight: snapper (10 kg), gummy shark (20 kg), mulloway (25 kg) and kingfish (25 kg).

RPIAC encourages all anglers to develop skills and awareness of sustainable and responsible angling and welcomes young anglers to engage in their angling competitions, offering complementary membership to children aged sixteen and under.

Participation involves bringing eligible species, caught during the competition weekend, to weigh-in at the RPIAC clubroom between 4pm and 5pm on Saturday and/or Sunday.

At Sunday's competition conclusion a post-competition presentation celebrates the camaraderie and outstanding efforts of all angling members and supporters.

Pizza and garlic bread fed this weekend's attendees, followed by some delicious slice delights.

Results

The Squidgie Mixed Bag Points competition, for anglers aged nine and under, was a close contest and opportunities to participate in the last few competitions are still available.

Saige Nicolaci caught three fish, worth 50 points to finish the weekend in second place, whilst Harley Griffin caught three fish, worth 55 points to take out first place.

Saige and Harley were thrilled to win Clip 'n Climb Phillip Island prizes and are fully prepared to scale new heights with some indoor climbing.

The Junior competition, for anglers aged 10 to 16, was dominated by RPIAC's reigning Junior Champion, Denver Firth. Denver weighed in a 415-gram snapper, to claim the Junior Weight competition, and a King

Gorge whiting worth 1386 points (495 grams) to win the Junior Points competition.

The Senior Heaviest Weight competitions were won by Brendan Garlepp and Carrienne Peatey, each weighing in a snapper, of 2515 grams and 1505 grams, respectively.

The Senior Points competitions were won by Trevor Gleeson and Tenille Preddice. Trevor had a massive tailor, worth an impressive 2213 points (885 grams), whilst Tenille scored 1246 points (445 grams) with a King George whiting.

With no entries in the Game Fish competition or Squid/Cuttlefish competition only two possibilities for a prize remained.

In the Shark competition, Martin Xuereb, won with a cleaned gummy shark, weighing 14100 grams, and Michael Stefanakis was awarded the Secret Weight prize for a 425-gram King George whiting, which was closest to the secret weight (421 grams).

The RPIAC clubroom is located adjacent to the Rhyll boat ramp and is open to members and visitors on Fridays (from 5pm) and competition weekends coinciding with weigh in.

The next angling competition is scheduled for the weekend of March 15 and 16.

There are still many opportunities to take part in the scheduled angling competitions and compete for comp-weekend prizes and the club championships.

For further information about the club, events, competitions, and rules: www.rpiac.com



AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Over the last few weeks there has been lots written about the recent decision to reduce the fisheries officers. A lot of it is true and some not so true, especially from the bean counters at Spring Street who are still saying it's a proposal.

Two things I can't get my head around; if it's a proposal why then have notices and end dates been given and, the one question everyone has is why? I get the government needs to cut costs and or sell things, but if a builder was doing it tough, he wouldn't then sell his tools. We have a recreational and commercial fishing industry that has had tens of millions spent on it over the last few years, all with the one aim, so the government says, to make fishing sustainable and viable for the future. Now we are going to waste those millions and go back to the start. All of this is based around a figure of \$9 or \$10 million saving.

But one can guarantee it will cost probably triple that to set up their new idea and once they realise it doesn't work and still haven't paid for the changes, they will need to spend much more to get back to where we are now.

The spread sheets tell a story, less people doing the wrong thing, better fish stocks than ever before. Because those who make decisions have forgotten what common sense is, they simply look at the numbers without knowing what the process has been to get to this situation.

In fishing our tools to get the job done are the fisheries officers who passionately invest far more time than they get paid for to the fish stocks. Now we are selling off those tools and replacing them with rubber hammers and plastic saws called engagement officers.

No doubt the plan will be to simply educate us and tell us not to do the wrong thing. If the powers that be think the status quo will be maintained with a healthy fishery, if they think people will take any notice of extra signage, advertising or do their own policing by phoning the fisheries number, then they are completely delusional.

There are petitions online to sign, or write to your local member and voice your opinion with them. Over the years I have worked very closely with the guys from Cowes and have seen firsthand their dedication, their passion to the job and being part of the community, and they will be sadly missed. I also suggest if you like abalone you use the available days left this season because in a month or so when there are no fisheries officers around, stocks will be depleted very quickly.

Briefly on the fishing front not much has changed except the weather. We are seeing good catches of all species but that's not to say it's been easy. The wind and the tide have been talking to each other and working together to make sure they are always opposite, making it difficult at times to get to your spot.

Tuna reports have been far less. The tuna, although plenty around still, seem to be so full of food they aren't interested in taking lures. We have started to see some better quality with a couple close to the 40kg mark. Kingfish have been good offshore and it's the best Mako season for some years.

We see 100s of people a week so naturally we get plenty of reports of all species. One common factor over the last month has been, no one is bagging out easily and most in the bay are well below their limits with the quality making up for the lack of numbers. It's not like the fish have simply gone, it's more that they have moved around in smaller schools, gone deeper, gone into breeding cycles and probably 100 other factors. No one is finding or catching them easily but those who are patient, persevere, try a few new things, new spots, are at least finding a feed.

Entry forms are out for the Good Friday easter competition. Be quick if you want you kids to receive a show bag; there are only 50 and will go to the first 50 paid junior entries.


We are also running a tackle night in March for those who want to get into fishing. It is a night designed for the very beginner or someone who wants to get into fishing and has no idea. If you know what you are doing, it won't suit but we will look at another night in the future for you. For information on any of the above, check instore or on our socials.

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 | HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BLACK

WED 5 MAR	THU 6 MAR	FRI 7 MAR	SAT 8 MAR	SUN 9 MAR	MON 10 MAR	TUE 11 MAR
HIGH 5:30 am 2.92 m	HIGH 6:08 am 2.90 m	LOW 12:36 am 0.83 m	LOW 1:19 am 0.94 m	LOW 2:03 am 1.06 m	LOW 2:49 am 1.18 m	LOW 3:45 am 1.28 m
LOW 11:25 am 0.21 m	LOW 12:08 pm 0.14 m	HIGH 6:45 am 2.85 m	HIGH 7:24 am 2.76 m	HIGH 8:05 am 2.65 m	HIGH 8:51 am 2.51 m	HIGH 9:50 am 2.37 m
HIGH 6:20 pm 3.13 m	HIGH 7:08 pm 3.11 m	LOW 12:50 pm 0.16 m	LOW 1:31 pm 0.26 m	LOW 2:15 pm 0.40 m	LOW 3:02 pm 0.58 m	LOW 4:00 pm 0.76 m
LOW 11:51 pm 0.74 m		HIGH 7:54 pm 3.02 m	HIGH 8:41 pm 2.88 m	HIGH 9:30 pm 2.73 m	HIGH 10:24 pm 2.59 m	HIGH 11:27 pm 2.50 m

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U11 cricket team (L to R); Mick Cleary (coach), Billy Kimber, Zane Lunn, Van Papas, William Laughton-McConnon, Dex Lunn, Elijah Laughton-McConnon, Tyler Stilgoe, Seb Ferretto, Michael Tran, Thomas Grogan, Oliver Wright, Elliot Hodson and Ethan Cleary.

C2 Sharks secure a finals birth

CRICKET

The C2 Sharks hosted Koonwarra at Rhyll on Saturday.

The skipper lost the toss and Koonwarra decided to bat.

Cleary and Allan opened the bowling but neither could get a breakthrough. Ivey and Bud Marshall came on as first change bowlers and removed the openers.

Bud got an LBW and Ivey a bowled.

Ivey then grabbed the next two wickets with catches to young guns Marshall and Allan.

Ivey then returned the favour taking a magnificent one-handed catch to give Marshall his second wicket.

Koonwarra 6/99. Allan and Mani both got wickets by bowling the Koonwarra batters.

Koonwarra finished on 8/179.

Ivey 4/35 and Bud Marshall 2/40.

After a feed and refreshments, the Sharks went into bat.

Paterson and Marshall opened the batting.

The pair got off to a solid start, Paterson punishing the short stuff.

Marshall was caught for nine trying to clear the infield and Paterson was bowled for 26; the Sharks 2/38.

Ivey and Mani came together and steadied the ship. Ivey then set about tearing the attack apart, smashing the ball to all parts of Rhyll.

Ivey hit six fours and two large sixes on his way to 51.

He was bowled shortly after passing the half century.

Mani and Ivey had put on a



U13 Coaches Award: Riley Whyte and U13 Sharks Spirit Award: Max Carville.

91-run partnership.

Mani soon passed his half century as he and Cleary cruised to victory with 10 overs to spare.

Mani hit 10 boundaries on his way to 57 not out and Cleary was 22 not out.

This victory secures a finals birth with two rounds to go.

C1 runs galore at the velodrome

A youthful Sharks side ventured to Leongatha to take on ladder leaders Nerrena.

In a poor toss to lose the

Sharks were told they needed to field.

Nerrena got off to a quick start and put the Island side under pressure from the first over.

Sachin bowled a good spell from one end while the Sharks looked for an option at the other end.

The two Sonny's (McMillan and Williams) toiled at the top and then were replaced by Seb DeFalco with his wily off-spinners.

Seb quickly got into his stride and managed to snare the first wicket of the day with a classic delivery that clipped

the off stump.

Seb went on to produce a fantastic spell of seven overs in which he snared another wicket.

Looking for bowlers from the other end the captain turned to the youth of the side.

First it was Nash Hornsby Ramage who dragged the batsmen out of his crease with his first delivery and got a stumping.

This was followed by Ryan Hughes getting an edge for the catch to be taken by his brother Zach who had the keeping duties.

In the end Sonny Williams came back on for the final over and he also claimed a wicket.

Between the junior players they were able to claim five of the six wickets taken.

A tremendous result.

Nerrena knocked up an imposing 240 off their 35 overs.

The chase didn't start well with the opening bowlers claiming three early wickets of the senior players.

This brought Zach Hughes to the crease to face one of the quicker bowlers you will face in C grade.

He stood his ground and managed to get to 11 before getting out.

John Parry strode out to the crease and seized control with some lusty hitting.

He was able to put on a 50-run partnership with Tony Hornsby before the latter fell for 33.

Parry continued to hit the ball hard before he fell for an entertaining 40 from 29 balls.

It looked like the Sharks might not see the overs out, but Seb DeFalco and Sonny McMillan had other ideas.

Continued page 29

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AND STAFF**

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