



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

# ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

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## Cowes Fisheries won't close; staff future uncertain

### FISHERIES

In a major victory for people power, Cowes Fisheries office will now remain open following a three-month campaign opposing the State Government's planned gutting of Fisheries.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) on Wednesday confirmed four Fisheries officers will also be based from Cowes.

But in a bitter-sweet outcome it is understood all four current officers will be required to re-apply for their jobs through an Expression of Interest (EoI) process.

More broadly Fisheries will still be significantly gutted across Victoria, with Fisheries officers in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port alone reduced from 29 to 12, a reduction of 59 per cent.

The number of officers in Victoria will be reduced from 69 to 39, a reduction of 44 per cent.

The Fisheries officer role has been redefined in responsibilities to shift from enforcement to education, no longer with enforcement responsibilities or to operate vessels.

A VFA spokesperson said the Cowes, Mornington and Queenscliff stations will remain open and four Fisheries officers will work from each of these locations.

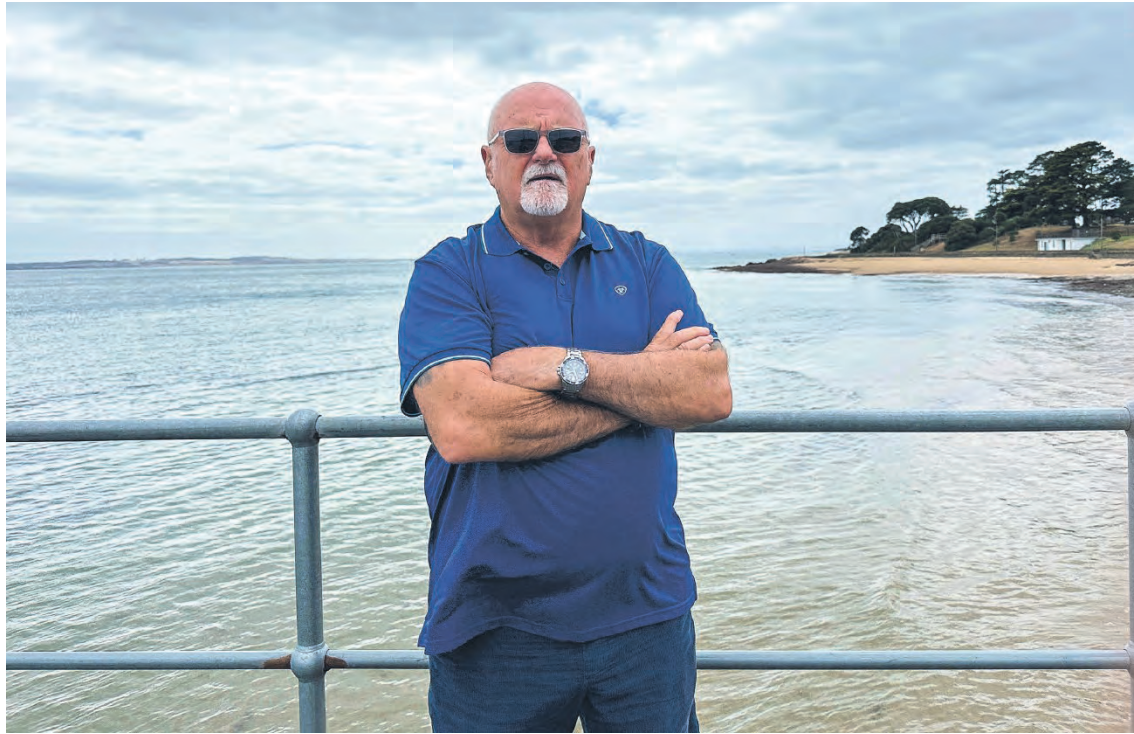
Staffing arrangements will be finalised in coming weeks, the spokesperson said.

They said following "consultation" adjustments had been made to the VFA's operating model, and there will be 35 less positions within the VFA including 15 Fisheries officer positions.

"Following extensive consultation, we have reached an outcome that will allow us to modernise our approach to fisheries management including an increased focus on community engagement," the spokesperson said.

"The outcome allows us to continue protecting our fisheries while focusing more on education and engagement with the recreational fishing community in a way that positions the VFA for long-term success.

"These changes will strengthen our capacity to engage with recreational fishers across Victoria and to focus on



Phillip Island resident Kevin Brown worked 40 years in Fisheries, including more than a decade as Victoria's Chief Fisheries Officer. He welcomed the decision to now keep the Cowes Fisheries office open, but was highly critical of the four local staff members having to reapply for their jobs through an Expression of Interest.

major fisheries crime.

"We have consulted with employees and the union on changes being made within the organisation and have a range of support services for impacted employees through this transition."

The spokesperson said the Major Fisheries Crime Unit will target organised illegal fishing with additional resources.

Braeside and Altona offices will close, a loss of 11 officers.

### Bad news

Phillip Island resident Kevin Brown – who has worked 40 years in Fisheries – said while it was "great news for the island's fishing fraternity" it was bad news for Cowes staff who would now have to reapply for their jobs through EoI.

"It's good news they've finally recognised this area needs policing," Mr Brown said.

"But it's bad news these guys with years of experience will not automatically stay here.

"These are four highly trained staff and now, after everything, they still have to fight for their survival because they showed resistance (to government cuts). They're being penalised and have to fight for their positions.

"It's destabilising."

He said the VFA CEO was "doing as he pleases" in making staff reapply for their jobs.

Kevin said more broadly, following last week's final Fisheries announcement, the government hit to Fisheries was significant:

- All current Fisheries officer vacancies (16) in the state will be abolished.
- Swan Hill, Bendigo, Wodonga and Tatura fisheries stations will be reduced to one officer and Portland, Mallacoota and Lakes Entrance fisheries stations will be reduced to two.
- Regional managers will be abolished (four).
- Advantageous qualifications for the Fisheries officer role now also include: "marketing, media, communications, public relations, arts, and humanities".
- The Statewide Investigations Group will be renamed the Major Crime Unit and will be reduced from six Investigators to four.

Kevin said the cuts meant just 39 officers would patrol Victoria's 2512km coast, and 170,000 kilometres of inland water frontage.

"The bottom line: Fisheries officers, as we know them, will no longer exist in the state of Victoria," he said.

"Our fisheries will be left completely unprotected, unlawful poaching activity will skyrocket, and all our Fisheries Officers will be able to do is try to educate offenders."

### Details

As announced in February, from April 19 four staff in the Cowes Fisheries office were to have their roles terminated and the building on Dunsmore Road was to be sold.

Early in April a VFA spokesperson said there would be no job losses in Cowes on April 19.

Under the previous cuts, five Fisheries offices in Western Port and Port Phillip bays were to be closed, including Cowes, and 27 staff were to lose their jobs.

There was to be no enforcement officers in Victoria, except for four in a Melbourne-based crime unit.

There were to be just nine new positions created for Fisheries "engagement officers", with three new offices opened: Tooradin, Carrum and St Leonards.

However, now those proposals have changed.



"Cuts to frontline Fisheries enforcement positions undoubtedly mean the sustainability of Victoria's marine and freshwater resources will come under immediate threat with the inevitable increase in poaching activity," said the union following last week's final Fisheries cuts.

## The fight continues

### FISHERIES

Phillip Islanders have applauded the decision to keep the Cowes Fisheries office open, but said the fight was not over until local officers kept their jobs.

On social media, Toni commented local officers were "hard-working and conscientious" and should retain their roles.

Corey agreed.

"Nobody is more qualified for this than the existing officers," Corey said.

"The relationships they've built with the community and the local knowledge of our rugged offshore waters comes from years of experience on field. They deserve recognition for their skills."

Elaine said the "worry and stress" now foisted on Cowes Fisheries offices was "just wrong".

Craig said the win was small and asked whether the Cowes Fisheries office would be run as it currently is, or "will it become a public engagement hub or shopfront?".

"We don't need a fisheries public engagement hub we need compliance and enforcement," Craig said.

"The fight is a long way from over and I feel for all the Victorian Fisheries Officers statewide that have been made to apply for the few positions available."

Ron said the Victorian government should not be congratulated for "reinstating our assets".

"Great news for our fishery that would have been unrecoverably decimated through another poor Andrews/Allen decision," Ron said.

Continued page 15

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SHOWER OR TWO	POSSIBLE SHOWER	POSSIBLE SHOWER	PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	SHOWER OR TWO
12 16	12 17	13 18	12 17	9 18	11 16	11 14

# A hotel with heart

## COMMUNITY

Congratulations to the San Remo Hotel, which won the Heart of the Community Award in this year's AHA Victoria State Awards for Excellence this month.

A crowd of over 1200 attendees gathered at Crown Palladium for the awards presentation night.

The hotel was a finalist in seven categories, but a spokesperson for the team admitted the "Heart of the Community" award was the one they wanted to win.

"Tears were shed," they said.

"The other one we were hoping for was the 'Local Legends' category for Vee and Barry Williams.

"Whilst they didn't win, we learned there were 490 applicants in that category, so to be in the Top 5 finalists is amazing."

The San Remo Hotel's position at the heart of the local community is cemented by its ongoing support for a range of local initiatives, including the iconic San Remo Channel Challenge and



The team from the San Remo Hotel celebrate their win in the "Heart of the Community" category at the AHA Victoria State Awards for Excellence.

fundraising ventures such as the Good Friday Appeal and the Big Freeze.

This year's Big Freeze is on June 8, raising money for Fight-

MND.

Congratulations also to the Middle Hotel in Korumburra, which won the award for Best Non-alcoholic Beverage Menu.



An engineer, boatbuilder, historian, author and most of all a true gentleman, John Jansson passed away on May 25 at the age 76. Photo: Jason Cameron.

## Vale John Jansson

### COMMUNITY

The island is mourning the passing of lifelong resident John Jansson who died on Sunday, May 25.

On its Facebook page, the Phillip Island & District Historical Society (PIDHS) paid tribute to its "dedicated life member".

"He was an engineer, boatbuilder, historian, author and connected to countless community associations but most of all a true gentleman.

"John passed away at age 76 after a period of declining health due to Parkinson's disease," the post announced.

"Born into one of Phillip Island's oldest maritime families, John was a quiet force behind the preservation of our island's stories. He was Dux of his year at Wonthaggi Tech without fail, and earned a degree in civil engineering from Melbourne Uni, leaving his mark on many local projects — including the Grand Prix Circuit.

"John was a skilled boatbuilder, Alfa Romeo enthusi-

ast, and a tireless contributor to local history."

From documenting shipwrecks with Flinders University to publishing several books including the compilation of every Western Port shipping movement, John's work was meticulous and enduring. His collection of maritime and historical photos was extensive and his assistance with the Advertiser's book on Phillip Island history, "Once Upon an Island", was immeasurable.

"He also built a comprehensive Phillip Island family tree and reconnected countless families through his genealogical research," PIDHS said.

"Though reserved, his warmth and intellect left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

"To lose John feels like the end of an era," PIDHS said.

"His legacy will live on through the boats he built, the stories he saved, and the hearts he touched.

"Thank you, John. You will be deeply missed."

## POLICE BRIEFS

### Road safety forum

Local police are holding a Bass Coast Road Safety Forum on June 5, at Wonthaggi Town Hall, from 1pm – 3pm.

The forum is open to local services and community members who want to talk with police about

what's important in our community to reduce road trauma.

Topics will include:

- Road policing
- Local road trauma statistics
- Top issues contributing to serious collisions

- The safe systems approach

The forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel and will take questions from the audience throughout the event.

The forum is free, but you must register via eventbrite to attend.

Go to [eventbrite.com.au](https://eventbrite.com.au) and search for Bass Coast Road Safety Forum, Wonthaggi.

Melina BATH MP

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon VIC 3844

[melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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MelinaBathMLC

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

Cr Ronnie Bauer  
for the Island Ward,  
Bass Coast Shire

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922  
Tel: 0439 535 282  
email: [Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au)  
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DAIKIN



# Funding finally for school upgrade

## BUDGET

The San Remo Primary School community is celebrating, after securing \$5.3 million in the State Budget for upgrades to the school.

Principal Karen Bowker said they were “ecstatic” to hear the budget announcement last week.

“This is a well overdue upgrade for San Remo Primary School and will provide our students with buildings that will support and enhance their learning,” Ms Bowker said.

“Some of our students are learning in buildings designed for learning in the last century. This upgrade will provide two new classrooms with learning opportunities inside and also outside, a new administrative area, much needed student toilets and staff facilities.

“This has been a huge undertaking by our local member Jordan Crugnale, and our School Council advocating for our children by writing letters to the Education Minister and the Premier.”

Ms Bowker thanked the local community who supported the campaign, also writing to the Minister, Premier and local member.

“I do think the icing on the cake, that got us over the line though, were the amazing letters the Grade 5/6 students wrote to the Premier a couple of weeks ago.

“Their heartfelt wish for buildings for our students in the future were very poignant and compelling.”

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said she was thrilled the school has received the “funding it deserves”.

“This investment is a testament to the strength, passion, and persistence of our local community.

“Thank you to every parent, teacher, student and resident who raised their voice and to the year 5/6s for penning so many letters,” Ms Crugnale said.



Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale with San Remo Primary School Principal Karen Bowker, who are thrilled the school received funding for Stage 1 of a planned upgrade to the school.

“Your continued advocacy made this possible. Together, we’re building a brighter future for our kids and our town.”

## Masterplan

Ms Bowker said work was done in 2023/24 to prepare a masterplan for the school, including an initial scope of works for stage 1 of the upgrade.

“This means that we have plans ready to go to tender, making this project something that can begin straight away.”

This time last year, the school was devastated to learn there was no funding in the state budget for the planned upgrades. The school council started a petition, calling for the money to be reinstated.

At the time, the then school

council president told the Advertiser the school was ready to go to tender and they were concerned costs would continue to rise if the project was delayed.

“This is a wonderful school, much loved by the community, and it achieves excellent learning outcomes,” the president said, adding the excellent reputation of the school, coupled with the strong growth in San Remo, meant enrolments at the school continued to climb.

The masterplan for the school upgrade includes new classrooms, admin and multi-purpose areas and a library. Budget constraints saw the project broken up into stages, with stage 1 to include two classrooms and one administrative area.

# Animal management plan meeting

## PETS

Concerns about aggressive dogs and a potential future dog park at Rhyll have dominated the Cowes community drop-in about Bass Coast Shire Council’s Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).

The DAMP 2026-2029, open for community consultation until June 9, aims to ensure “responsible pet ownership” and sets out how council manages domestic animals, trains authorised officers, and supports a balance between pets, owners and the community.

On Phillip Island, it identifies off-leash locations for Blue Gum Reserve, Cowes and Rhyll Recreation Reserve.

Rhyll residents dominated last Tuesday’s drop-in at Berninait, with a range of responses both supporting and opposing a dog park at Rhyll’s reserve.

Rhyll Community Association president Jim Kiley said the association opposed the park for a variety of reasons including the park was a community asset used for markets and was set to house an exercise circuit.

“Rhyll’s park is unsuitable for a dog park because it abuts houses, and has a large amount of wildlife including echidnas and wallabies,” John said.

Resident Lois Gaskin how-

ever said she would like to see a dog park in Rhyll, given dogs were required to be on leash around the town.

“Having a dog park will let dogs run off leash and then they can be on leash around the town, to protect the wildlife,” Lois said.

Also at the drop in was retired Cowes vet David Cassells who said he was regularly presented with cases of animals injured by aggressive dogs.

“As a vet my concern is that more needs to be done about the issue of aggressive dogs, large ones in particular, attacking other pets, farm animals, wildlife and people,” David said.

A draft DAMP will be released later this year for further community feedback.

The previous Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25 included the phased rollout of 24/7 cat containment, upgraded pound facilities, improvements in signage, more beach patrols, and community education campaigns that boosted awareness around registration and responsible pet ownership.

It is a requirement under the Domestic Animal Management Act 1994 to develop and implement a DAMP every four years.

Details: [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/DAMP](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/DAMP)

More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)



Lois Gaskin, Rhyll

“I would like to see a dog park in Rhyll. Having a dog park will let dogs run off leash and then they can be on leash around the town, to protect the wildlife. I’d like to see more dog parks around the island, including fencing Blue Gum Reserve.”



Jim Kiley, Rhyll Community Association president

“Rhyll’s park is unsuitable for a dog park because it abuts houses, and has a large amount of wildlife including echidnas and wallabies. Three times a year we hold markets in the park and it would be difficult to have a dog park next to that. The association has also put a proposal to council for an exercise circuit, for which we have raised funds, and there will also be a master plan for the park to look at its various uses.”



David Cassells, retired vet, Cowes

“As a vet my concern is that more needs to be done about the issue of aggressive dogs, large ones in particular, attacking other pets, farm animals, wildlife and people. I hope people would agree that more needs to be done about this and the shire will engage with the community and people with expertise in this area to help make it safer for animals and their owners. It is good to see the shire engaging with our community about the DAMP.”



Mary-Anne Schroder, Rhyll

“I own a Groodle and I’d like to see a dog park in Rhyll. I agree dogs should be on lead around wildlife and that is why they need somewhere to run. There is nowhere else to run them. Dogs that get exercise and are socialised are better behaved. It should be fenced so they don’t chase anything.”

# Hospital on the horizon

## HEALTH

Last week, the State Budget touted the opening of the Phillip Island Community Hospital, but there is still no date confirmed by the government.

Local MP, Jordan Crugnale said the new hospital “will be a gamechanger for our community, offering more care, closer to home”.

“Services at the community hospital will open progressively, with the urgent care clinic opening first and I have been informed that our government will have a more specific timeline in the coming weeks,” Ms Crugnale said.

“My expectation is mid-year or soon thereafter.”

The expanded Urgent Care Centre will be located on the ground floor of the new hospital, with day surgery theatres and an area for chemotherapy and dialysis located upstairs.

The new hospital will also include a radiology precinct offering CT scans, ultrasound and general X-ray, and a central sterile supply department.

The final hospital will also offer mental health services, allied health and rehabilitation and pharmacy services. It is being constructed in Church Street, Cowes, next to the current urgent care centre.



Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said she expects a “more specific timeline” for the opening of the new Phillip Island Community Hospital in the coming weeks.

## Election promise

The Phillip Island Community Hospital was one of ten hospitals promised by then Premier Daniel Andrews back in 2018.

The government committed to build or improve facilities in 10 locations: Phillip Island, Whittlesea, Cranbourne, Craigieburn, Eltham, Fisherman’s Bend, Pakenham, Point Cook, Sunbury and Torquay.

This year three hospitals, Cranbourne, Craigieburn and Phillip Island, are due to open.

According to the Victorian Health Building Authority website, the Sunbury Commu-

nity Hospital was completed in 2024 and started treating patients that year. It lists three other projects as currently underway.

- Pakenham Community Hospital: construction started in May 2025.
- Point Cook Community Hospital: construction due to be completed in 2026.
- City of Whittlesea Community Hospital: due for completion in 2025.

There is no update on the remaining three promised hospitals at Diamond Cree, Emerald Hill and Torquay.



# Hotel developer goes to VCAT

## MAJOR PROJECTS

The developer of a \$2.5 million, triple-storey hotel planned for Cowes – which was rejected by Bass Coast Shire councillors earlier this year – is taking the plan to VCAT.

The developer has questioned the costs of councillors' refusal, saying that given council planners recommended approval, his chances of success at VCAT were high, with mediation in August and a hearing in October.

As reported in February councillors refused a planning permit for 13 Warley Avenue and 44-46 and 48 Thompson Avenue, which covered the development of a residential modular hotel and use of the land for a restricted retail premises, and reduction in car parking.

The hotel on Warley Avenue included 15 suites, modular construction and would be just over 10 metres high, and 576sqm in size.

Although council officers recommended approving the development – including a waiver of six car parking spaces – subject to 37 conditions, Cr Ronnie Bauer moved an alternative motion, refusing the permit.

The motion said the proposal was inconsistent with provision of parking and impacts of traffic under the council's planning scheme.

Cr Tim O'Brien agreed.

"It's time to put a stake in the ground in terms of car parking waivers, particularly in that area," Cr O'Brien said.

"It's time this policy was reviewed and we stop these waivers."



An artist's image of the proposed hotel on Warley Avenue, Cowes.

## VCAT

One of Phillip Island's biggest developers – renowned boxing promoter Brian Amatruda this month told the Advertiser he was now taking the hotel plans to VCAT, which was likely to be a waste of council money and resources, given planners had recommended approval.

Mr Amatruda said he was disappointed by the council's refusal, saying the project would be good for the Phillip Island economy, employment and accommodation offering.

"I'm disappointed councillors went against planners' recommendation to approve the development. We believe they are the experts."

He said he understood councillors ran on platforms at the recent council elections vowing to not waive carparking requirements, but his project was short by only six.

"If that's such a problem, then look at the Isle of Wight, council passed that with a waiver of 697 carparks."

"I also own the carpark next door that has 22 spaces and the public currently use that, which

I have no problem with.

"We briefed councillors along the way, so it was no surprise to them."

Mr Amatruda said there was a "common belief" among builders and developers on the island that council rejected developments for them only to be approved by VCAT.

"Locals then blame VCAT. But it shouldn't go to VCAT, especially over something so trivial as this."

"It should have been mediated."

No external buildings and works were planned for 44-48 Thompson Avenue, which has a leasable floor area of 80sqm and is currently being tenanted by The Reject Shop.

The hotel will have nine car spaces, while the retail area will have 18 but requires 24, thus the permit seeks a six-park waiver.

Mr Amatruda also owns Newhaven's old Boys Home, and last week confirmed plans to build a 72-room hotel at the site had been withdrawn, now seeking variation to a previous planning permit approved in 2010 by VCAT.

# Drought assistance offer

## ENVIRONMENT

Bass Coast has unofficially been declared in drought, with the State Government adding the region to Victoria-wide drought support packages for farmers.

Agriculture Minister Ros Spence announced \$15.9 million in additional drought assistance in the state budget, expanding support to farmers in 13 more Local Government Areas on top of those announced in September in south-west Victoria.

The On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grant program has been extended to farmers in 11 LGAs including Bass Coast, French Island, South Gippsland, Mornington Peninsula and western and central Victoria.

The drought package includes financial counsellor support and a mental health program, which Bass Coast Shire councillor Meg Edwards criticised in the May council meeting, explaining the package was announced after the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) passed parliament (see separate story).

Cr Edwards said the drought package was "salt in the wound" for farmers.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) welcomed the new drought support measures but said the package does not go nearly far enough to address the mounting pressure facing Victorian farmers and rural communities.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the limited scale of the package fell well short of what was required, especially when compared with more substantial efforts in other states such as South Australia.

"Farmers are not asking for handouts. They are asking for meaningful recognition of the strain this drought is putting on their livelihoods, their fam-

ilies and their mental health," Mr. Hosking said.

## Forecast

Agriculture Victoria will continue to monitor conditions in the critical period leading up to spring, ensuring support is getting to farmers who need it most.

The Bureau of Meteorology said it had been a drier than average start to the year for most of Victoria with the exception of central Gippsland and East Gippsland, with the forecast dry for May and neutral for June and July, putting pressure on water storages.

While Phillip Island has dodged water restrictions because Westernport Water is accessing Melbourne water storages, some towns such as Apollo Bay have stage three water restrictions, meaning gardens can be watered only on alternate days using a hand-held hose with a trigger nozzle, bucket, watering can or dripper watering system.

Regional Drought Coordinator Ralph Cotter said farmers were experiencing tough drought and dry conditions and were "urged to reach out".

"We are here to help through connecting you with the financial grants, technical advice or wellbeing support to help you navigate this difficult time."

Agriculture Victoria said drought declarations were no longer in use, with the government using a "Drought Preparedness and Response Framework to guide decisions about when, where and how to assist farmers and communities affected by prolonged dry conditions".

Details: [agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons) or phone 136 186.

See next week's paper for an overview of autumn's weather conditions and rainfall summary.

# Dog owners on alert after poison bait

## ANIMALS

A dog died last week after eating poisoned bait at the off-leash dog area in Blue Gum Reserve in Cowes.

Several other baits were located in the area and disposed of.

The Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association confirmed the incident, and warned dog owners to remain vigilant if walking their dogs in the reserve.

"The area has been checked and appears clear; we're hoping it's a random incident," said Cheryl Owens, President of the Dog Owners Association.

She said the owners of the poi-

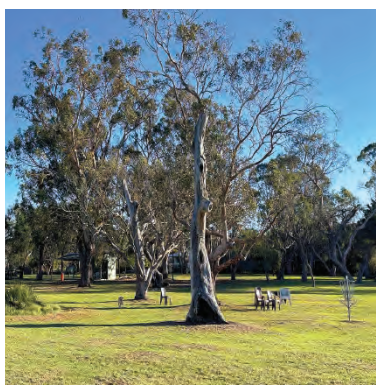
soned dog searched for and disposed of several other baits, fearing other dogs might find them.

It is a crime to poison a dog, however Cowes Police said they had received no reports of the incident.

If anyone has information about the poisoned baits, or security footage from the area, please contact police, or the Dog Owners Association, via its Facebook page.

"It's a very disappointing situation," said Cheryl.

"They want us at dog parks, then bait dogs there. I can only assume this is a very sick individual."



Dog owners are warned to remain vigilant if walking their dogs in Blue Gum Reserve in Cowes, after a dog died eating poisoned bait in the area.

# Rewilding clarification

The "Rewilding the Island" dinner reported in last week's Advertiser (May 21) was hosted by Phillip Island Landcare and the Penguin Foundation. The event was

to celebrate the collective efforts of the community via Phillip Island Landcare and Phillip Island Nature Parks in restoring biodiversity on Milawul.

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# “Blood boils” at state’s new tax

## COUNCIL

A new State Government “unfair, unjust tax” will cost Bass Coast Shire ratepayers more than \$5 million, hitting farmers the hardest.

Councillors at the May meeting were highly critical of the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), which passed state parliament last week and replaces the former Fire Services Levy (FSL).

Councillors have vowed to continue to fight the ESVF, which takes effect from July 1, with one emotional councillor describing it as a “hideous tax” that made her “blood boil”.

In April councillors requested a report to the May council meeting detailing the full impact of the ESVF on ratepayers and council, with council required to collect the ESVF by including the charge on annual rate notices.

The report found levy collections will increase from \$10 million to \$16 million annually, which represents a 53 per cent increase, or \$5.52 million.

“Primary producers alone will pay an estimated \$955,000 more, equating to \$956 per farm, over 50 per cent more than the state-wide average of \$600,” the report notes.

“The ESVF is expected to generate an additional \$2 billion in revenue compared to the FSL.”

Cr Meg Edwards was strident in her opposition of the levy,

saying it was “centralised control and patronising” with “zero consultation and zero listening”, with council required to collect the “hideous tax”.

“This tax is unfair, unjust and I advocate for it to be abolished,” Cr Edwards said, adding the levy made her “blood boil”.

“It’s a callous act from a cruel government.”

Cr Tim O’Brien said he was “appalled” by the tax that was “unfair overreach”, predicting small farm businesses would now be swallowed by larger ones.

“There will be knock on effects from this thoughtless impost,” he said.

Deputy Mayor Brett Tessari said the farming community would be disproportionately affected by the levy, emphasising council should not collect state taxes.

“Our council has actively advocated against the State Government’s ESVF, raising concerns about its potential financial impact on local communities and the administrative burden it places on councils,” Cr Tessari said.

“Councils right across the state have come together with a united voice. We are in this fight together, standing up for the communities we serve.”

“Council’s role as a state tax collector is inefficient, burdensome, and reputationally risky.”

Rural Councils Victoria was also highly critical, saying the government had “sacrificed ru-



Councillors described the new State Government Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund as an “unfair, unjust tax” that will cost Bass Coast Shire ratepayers more than \$5 million, hitting farmers the hardest. The new levy will fund the CFA, SES, Triple Zero and a range of other emergency services.

ral communities on the altar of budget repair”.

## Costly

The ESVF will be paid by Victorian property owners, calculated by applying a fixed charge that varies by property type, and a variable charge based on property value.

Residential charges will rise from 8.7 cents to 17.3 cents.

Farmers will pay the fixed charge plus 71.8 cents for every \$1000 of their property’s improved value. They currently pay 28.7 cents.

Under the ESVF, a new property classification, Principal Place of Residence (PPR) must

be applied to determine the appropriate fixed charge.

Properties not classified as PPR will be charged a higher, non-residential fixed rate (anticipated to be \$276).

The levy broadens the scope of funding beyond the CFA and the Fire Rescue Victoria to include the SES, Triple Zero Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria, Forest Fire Management Victoria and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

## Response

MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale last week responded to the opposition saying eligible emergency

services volunteers, including SES and CFA members, do not have to pay the tax.

There are also discounts for pensioners, veterans and single-farm enterprises.

“I know this is a very difficult time for many members of our community, particularly farmers, with drought conditions and bad harvests,” Ms Crugnale said.

“Every single dollar raised by this new fund will support our emergency services – this is an extension of the Fire Services Levy which brings in the SES who currently have to pay, for example, for their own fuel, protective uniform, extinguisher checks and equipment repairs.”

“These changes will give emergency services the funding and equipment they need as they face natural disasters which are happening more often and becoming more destructive.”

She said following protests, changes to the levy had been made last week, including reducing the cost to primary producers and providing refunds for farmers in drought impacted areas.

“Eligible farmers in declared drought impacted areas will be able to claim an additional partial rebate in 2025/26.”

“This means that these farmers will have no increase in their Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy rates compared to those they paid the previous year for their Fire Services Property Levy.”

## Their best start, starts with Free Kinder



Free Kinder is available for three- and four-year-old children at standalone sessional kindergartens and long day care centres across Victoria – saving families an average of \$2,400 per child, per year.

From 2026, some children will be eligible for more time at Four-Year-Old Kinder each week. Visit [vic.gov.au/pre-prep](https://vic.gov.au/pre-prep)

At kindergarten, children will learn:

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

Contact your preferred kinder service or local council to learn about how to enrol for 2026. Visit [vic.gov.au/kinder](https://vic.gov.au/kinder)

FSW/DETS2375



Department of Education



**Best Start  
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# Start of streetscape project for Cowes

## COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire Council has gone to tender for a contractor to work on Stage-1 of the Cowes Streetscape Masterplan. Council said Stage-1 would include significant upgrades to the streetscape, including formalising one-way traffic on Thompson Avenue (from Chapel Street) and The Esplanade, as well as increased retail, outdoor dining and public space. It would also include landscaping, hardscaping (for example, paths, walls) and improved pedestrian access.

Council expects a contractor will be appointed in August this year; however construction timelines are not yet finalised.

The updated landscape plan includes garden beds, sections of instant turf, additional tree planting, stone pavers, hardwood decks and pavement.

Proposed furniture and fixtures include handrails, bollards, timber slat seating, stone seats, cascading timber seating and bar tables and stools.

There will also be a reduction in car parking, with Thompson Avenue between the Esplanade and Chapel Street to have 36 car spaces – down from the current 53.

Along The Esplanade, car spaces would reduce from 10 to six. All work would be restricted to Thompson Avenue and The Esplanade.

Once a contractor is appointed, council said “project timelines will be communicated with ample notice and a dedicated



A tender is out for a contractor to work on Stage-1 of the Cowes Streetscape Masterplan, which will see one way traffic on Thompson Avenue (from Chapel Street) and The Esplanade, as well as landscaping, hardscaping and improved pedestrian access. The red outline shows the areas included in Stage-1 of the streetscape project.

ed project contact established to ensure information is available in advance”, with disruption to businesses kept to a minimum.

## History

In November 2024, the Federal Government announced \$8 million funding to the Cowes streetscape masterplan, which will see Thompson Avenue become a one-way thoroughfare and car parks removed.

The funding announcement was in response to the council’s 2024 Federal Advocacy Priorities report, which requested \$25 million total investment for the Cowes streetscape masterplan, also listing \$12 million investment to deliver stage one and two of the project.

However at the 2024 council elections, all the Island Ward councillors were critical of the Cowes streetscape masterplan, saying any available funding should instead go as a priority to the proposed sports hub on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads.

Stage two of the project is to “reimagine” Thompson Avenue north, “where outdoor dining and trading and open space facilitate a people focused town centre”.

Stage three to six requires detailed design before construction for Thompson Avenue South, Chapel Street, Church Street, Bass Avenue and Olive Justice Place can take place.

The masterplan timeline in-

cludes projects in the first three years, plus ones scheduled in three to 10 years.

Projects in the first three years include:

- formalise one-way vehicle traffic east and west from Thompson Avenue;
- implement trial for one-way vehicle access northbound only on Thompson Avenue from Chapel Street;
- transition car parking on Thompson Avenue between Church Street and Chapel Street to short-term managed parking restrictions (length of stay, time limits);
- reduce speed limit to 20km/hr along Thompson Avenue north of Chapel Street;
- reduce speed limit to 30km/hr along Thompson Avenue between Church Street and Chapel Street.

Projects in three to 10 years:

- transition vehicle traffic to one-way access northbound on Thompson Avenue from Chapel Street;
- retrofit Chapel Street roundabout to accommodate change to vehicle access to Thompson Avenue;
- install a new public toilet at Olive Justice Place, ensuring the design and location can be incorporated into a future overall upgrade to the broader Olive Justice Place area.

10-plus years:

- design and construct a permanent pocket park at Olive Justice Place.
- [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/streetscapescowes](mailto:engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/streetscapescowes)

## Cowes east roads to slow

## ROADS

Controversial construction of three raised pedestrian crossings, nine street humps and one raised intersection has begun in east Cowes.

The works, by Bass Coast Civil and Excavation, are funded by the Traffic Accident Commission as a safety improvement project for pedestrians.

The works are part of a proposal – detailed in March – to change speed limits in Cowes east, which divided the community, receiving hundreds of online comments.

In Cowes east, sections of Settlement Road, Church Street, Chapel Street and The Esplanade are earmarked for a reduced speed limit of 40km, as are roads running between these streets.

Several sections are 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 is designated a 10km/h shared zone.

The initial period for feedback on the speed zones was extended following community criticism.

As reported, opposition to the proposal on social media was strident, while there was also support.

Details: [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowes-east-traffic-management](mailto:engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowes-east-traffic-management)



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THE ROAR OF THE ISLAND







Members of the OBrien Real Estate team at the Biggest Morning Tea at the Cowes office (from left): Kellie Morgan, Michael Wilkin-son, Hayley Stephenson and Christie Spargo.



Greg Price with Cr Tim O'Brien, who spoke movingly of his own cancer journey, at the Alex Scott and Staff morning tea.



Laura Haisma, Lisa Hennessy and Darlene Melrose toasted the success of the Penny Lane Biggest Morning Tea, which raised over \$1000 for the Cancer Council.

# Thousands raised at Biggest Morning Tea

## FUNDRAISER

A Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser hosted by Alex Scott and staff in Cowes has raised \$3214.25 for Cancer Council Victoria.

The event last Thursday saw over 100 people visit the office in Thompson Avenue, between 10am and 12noon.

Entry was by donation, and attendees enjoyed an incredible spread, with home-baked treats donated for the event, as well as coffee from the Chillin' Eats & Coffee van.

The highlight of the morning was a heartfelt and inspiring address from Island Ward coun-

cillor Tim O'Brien of the Bass Coast Shire, who shared his personal journey as he bravely battles stage four cancer.

"So many of us know someone touched by cancer, and I've had the opportunity in the past few months to know that up close," Cr O'Brien said.

"I'm a newly minted councillor but I'm also a newly minted cancer patient."

Cr O'Brien said he received the diagnosis the day after his birthday in February.

"The intriguing thing about cancer for me is that many people with cancer kind of look well. And I feel well.

"I'm on the bus, sitting up the back and hoping the driver doesn't drop me off too soon," Cr O'Brien said, revealing his latest report showed the cancer had stopped growing.

He praised the care he'd received throughout his treatment, including at Wonthaggi Hospital, and the work of the Cancer Council, to support patients, and to help find a cure.

"It's with the support of people like Greg and Alex Scott, and all those who support the Cancer Council, that we're going to be able to find the hammer that cracks the nut," he said.

Greg Price, Director of Alex

Scott and Staff, said Cr O'Brien's moving words highlighted the importance of early detection and resonated deeply with those in attendance.

The event raised \$3214.25 through generous donations – both financial and culinary.

Greg Price extended his sincere thanks to the local community for their overwhelming support and generosity.

"This event wasn't just about raising money, but about raising awareness," Mr Price said.

"We're incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, donated, or simply came along to show their support."

## OBriens

In a week of fund raising for the Cancer Council in Cowes, the team at OBrien Real Estate hosted a Biggest Morning Tea at the front of their Thompson Avenue office last Tuesday, raising \$703.

## More than pennies

Penny Lane Café in Cowes also hosted a Biggest Morning Tea last week, raising just over \$1000.

Guest enjoyed a delicious array of cakes, sandwiches, coffee and scones, and even a glass of prosecco, all in the name of a very good cause.



Bill and Deb Guy with Stephen Fullarton and Matt Ryan, at the Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser hosted by Alex Scott and Staff.

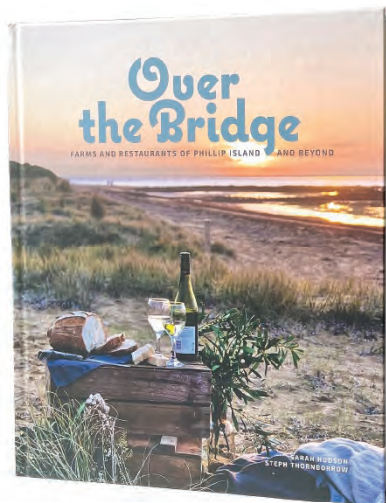


Vicki, Sandy, Helen, Mary, Jenny, Annie, Kerri and Gaye put a dash of top hat refinement into their table at the Penny Lane Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser last week. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)

# Wonderful Winter reading.

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# Bass Coast joins for National Sorry Day

RECONCILIATION

Over 130 First Nations and allies of the Bass Coast community gathered at Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generation survivors and reflect on how to play a part in the healing process. The day began with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony led by Traditional Owner Robert Ogden with local Bunurong Elder Uncle Anthony Egan. Robert thanked everyone for coming and noted the smoking ceremony is about starting a healing journey of truth telling, and asked allies in the community to be “trail blazers” in change.

“It’s about going on a journey of truth telling – until we acknowledge truth we can’t be sorry. For me it’s about listening, learning and understanding,” said Robert. “Change is not moving as fast as it should be. We still have a long way go – sorry is more than a word – it’s an action and in time the wheels will turn and in a few years on Sorry Day we can say there has been change.” The group then moved upstairs to hear First Nations speakers share their experiences of the effects of the Stolen Generation on their lives and echo the call to work together to ensure we don’t wait another generation for change.

Acknowledging National Sorry Day in Bass Coast is an annual event supported by Bass Coast Reconciliation Network that includes membership from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, Bunurong Land Council, Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Health, Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group, Myli – My Community Libraries and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. National Reconciliation Week follows Sorry Day with events happening across Bass Coast. [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation)



Kat Knight (Westernport Water), Bunurong Elder Uncle Anthony Egan and Marg Lynn from the Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group at the Sorry Day event at Cape Paterson. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)



Harriet Numan (Bass Coast Shire Council), Safina Stewart and Bindi Murray (Headspace) at Sorry Day 2025



Members of the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network at the Sorry Day community Gathering on Monday, held at the Cape Paterson Surf Lifesaving Club.



Bass Coast Shire councillors Jon Temby and Mat Morgan with Xero, at the Sorry Day community gathering.



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tional website and see the many options such as this beautiful home only four minutes to Cowes, all the creature comforts you could ask for. Shoalhaven Hideaway provides 5-Star reviewed accommodation: "A beautiful house, well-appointed

with everything you need. Good location, easy to get to the shops or site seeing. Highly recommend". This impeccably appointed four-bedroom single storey home includes a large open-plan living area, opening out onto a spacious undercover al-

fresco deck with BBQ, outdoor furniture and ceiling fan for a relaxing holiday. There's a separate TV and gaming lounge for kids of all ages, with Netflix and PlayStation. For the adults, a Nespresso Coffee machine, fully fitted Butler's pantry, air conditioning and heating ensures you can relax and enjoy your getaway. The house sleeps eight people, with all linen and bath towels provided. Features:

- Bedroom 1: Queen bed, ensuite and air con
- Bedroom 2: Queen bed
- Bedroom 3: Queen bed (and study nook)
- Bedroom 4: Two single beds
- Large bathroom, and separate powder room/toilet

Contact: First National Phillip Island, 03 5952 3922.



This impeccably appointed single storey home includes a large open plan living area, as well as a separate TV and gaming lounge.



There are three bedrooms with Queen size beds, as well as a fourth bedroom with two single beds. The house sleeps eight people.

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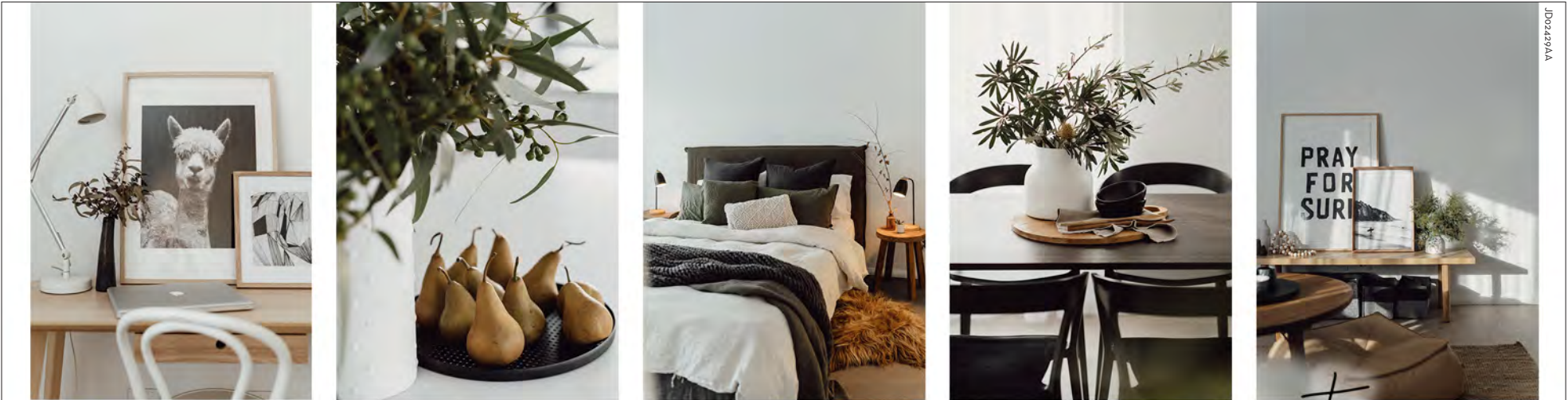
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The ES staff at San Remo Primary School are the backbone to our classrooms: Tracey McIntyre, Nicole Longworth, Holly Shearer, Amy O'Mahony, Nicole Thompson and Addrienne Brown.

## San Remo Primary Education Support Staff are A Grade

### EDUCATION

Friday May 16 was Education Support Appreciation Day, however at San Remo Primary School, they like to celebrate the Education Support (ES) staff daily.

"We spent the day recognising the incredible contributions they provide our staff and most importantly our students," a school spokesperson said.

"These dedicated individuals work to ensure our school runs smoothly, our students are supported, and our learning environments remain safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all.

"You make a lasting difference in the lives of students every day, often in ways that go unseen but never unappreciated.

"Most of your days are made up of 'on your feet' thinking to ensure the best

days for our students. They are so lucky to have you all.

"On Education Support Appreciation Day, we say thank you," said the spokesperson.

"Thank you for your patience, your hard work, your kindness, and your unwavering dedication to the success of every student.

"You are valued. You are essential. We appreciate you."

## Tools, yoga and connection

### COMMUNITY

Women in the Bass Coast community are continuing to connect, learn and grow thanks to a \$5000 grant from the Bass Coast Community Foundation to the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL).

The funding has played a key role in sustaining the popular Girls on Tools program and launching a new wellbeing initiative – Chair Yoga – designed to promote inclusivity, self-care and community connection.

Deb Watson, Executive Officer of the Bass Coast Community Foundation, said the Foundation's focus on women stems from a community needs assessment conducted several years ago.

"The research highlighted the need to better support women in our region. In response, we made women one of our three strategic priorities, investing in initiatives that promote equality and opportunity," explains Deb.

Women volunteer at higher rates than men and are central to the social fabric of the Bass Coast. Yet, despite their contributions, many feel undervalued and over-extended.

"The idea for Chair Yoga was inspired by a desire not only to thank the incredible female volunteers who support our work, but also to promote their ongoing wellbeing," said David Rooks, Centre Manager at PICAL.

"We're extremely grateful to the Bass Coast Community Foundation for their financial support, which has enabled us to enhance the support we offer



Girls on Tools participant Lucille Liberts enjoys the garden chair she built. The course, supported by funding from the Bass Coast Community Foundation, has become one of the most in demand at PICAL.

to women in our community – especially those who are vital to the work we do at PICAL."

Chair Yoga is now running twice weekly at PICAL and offers a gentle, accessible form of exercise to support both mental and physical health. Other forms of yoga have also been added to the program off-site. The classes are open to all women, with a reduced cost for volunteers as a gesture of appreciation.

Alison, a PICAL volunteer and participant in the inaugural Chair Yoga session, said "Chair Yoga is a moment in the week just for us – to slow down, breathe and feel connected. It's exactly what we didn't know we needed."

Meanwhile, Girls on Tools has become one of PICAL's most in-demand courses.

Designed to build skills and confidence in women wanting to work with tools, the program covers a range of DIY projects, from building shoe racks and plant stands to creating shelving units.

The sessions have

earned rave reviews from participants for the practical and knowledgeable approach taken. Testament to this is the waitlist for term three.

### Community Foundation

Since 2002, the Bass Coast Community Foundation has been delivering grassroots solutions to local challenges. With 100 per cent of funds distributed within the region, the foundation partners with donors and community organisations to build a stronger, more equitable Bass Coast.

The Foundation's upcoming Gala Dinner will be held on Saturday July 26 at Silverwater Resort, celebrating community achievements and recognising the generous donors who make the work of the Foundation possible.

To book a ticket go to [www.trybooking.com/CZNQT](http://www.trybooking.com/CZNQT).

For more information about Girls on Tools or Chair Yoga, visit [www.pical.org.au](http://www.pical.org.au) or find Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre – PICAL on Facebook.

## A suitcase full of hope

### COMMUNITY

As winter approaches, CWA Phillip Island Twilight branch has decided to fundraise for "Hope in a suitcase".

"Hope in a suitcase" aims to bring a little joy to those children entering foster care or out of home care, said Twilight Branch President Sally Matthews.

The concept is simple, a case filled with new clothes, toiletries, something to read, an activity and something to cuddle.

"To share a little love with these children, to show they are cared about," Sally said.

"Two of our branch juniors, Edwina and Ruby Rossiter were tasked with shopping for a girl their age.

"They had \$100 each and were quite definite in their choices, discussing their selections and choosing what they would love to receive. It was humbling to watch them carefully curate their selections using the lists on the 'Hope in a suitcase' website," said Sally.

CWA Phillip Island Twilight branch has invited our community to help with a pyjama drive for the charity.

"Julie, the Victorian coordinator and a CWA Rosanna member said pyjamas are essential items," explained Sally.

"In each bag, they pack a winter and summer pair. Just last week they packed 250 suitcases, so that is 500 pairs of pyjamas.

"Two hundred suitcases were sent to Anglicare Morwell to be distributed in Gippsland."

If you would like to assist, pyjamas from size 2-16 boys and girls will be gratefully received at The Advertiser office (60 Chapel Street in Cowes) until July 31.

"We will collect and send weekly to



Junior branch member Ruby Rossiter selecting items for CWA Phillip Island Twilight branch's "Hope in a suitcase" fundraiser. The CWA is calling for donations of pyjamas (size 2-16 boys and girls), which can be left at The Advertiser office in Cowes until July 31.

'Hope in a suitcase' which has headquarters in West Heidelberg and collection points across the state," said Sally.

"If you would like to learn more or collate your own suitcase, please look at the website ([hiasc.org.au](http://hiasc.org.au)). We will be happy to pass them on."

CWA, whilst enjoying friendship and supporting its members, is an organisation that supports vulnerable women, children and families.

Please contact CWA Twilight Branch President Sally Matthews 0409 521 825, for further information.

The branch welcomes you to join them at St Philip's Church, 6pm on the second Wednesday of the month.



Cowes Primary School celebrated Education Support Day with a special luncheon at the Phillip Island RSL, thanking staff for their "kindness, patience and unwavering commitment" to the students.

## Thank you for all your support

### EDUCATION

Last week Cowes Primary School celebrated Education Support Day with a special luncheon at the Phillip Island RSL.

"We extended our deepest gratitude to our exceptional Education Support staff for their kindness, patience and unwavering commitment to the students of Cowes

Primary," a school spokesperson said.

"Our dedicated team play a crucial role in creating the safe, inclusive and effective learning environments we pride ourselves on here at Cowes Primary School.

"From our teacher aides, administrative staff, and grounds maintenance, we thank you. Your work underpins the success of every day."

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4:30PM			MEDITATION WITH CAROLYN		
5:00PM		GONG & YIN YOGA WITH PANIA			

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# Myli mates rates

## ENTERTAINMENT

If the great range of books and items on loan through your Myli membership isn't enticing enough, now Myli is offering exclusive deals for members at upcoming shows at Berninnet and the Union Theatre in Wonthaggi.

"We've partnered with Bass Coast Cultural Venues to bring you Myli Mates Rates on selected shows for the remainder of 2025," a Myli spokesperson said.

"Whether you're after family-friendly entertainment like Imagine Live

and *Beauty and the Beast*, or looking for a laugh with David Scheel: *Growing Old Ungracefully*, there's something for everyone to enjoy!"

To get your discounted tickets, just select the "Myli Member Deal" option at checkout. Remember to bring your Myli library card on the day to show at the venue entrance.

Upcoming shows that include the discount offer are:

**An Evening without Kate Bush** – May 31

**Garry Starr** – June 14

**Imagine Live**: based on the

book by Alison Lester – July 10

**NAIDOC Week** First Nations Screening (Union Theatre Wonthaggi) – July 13

**Cinderella**: Inventi Ensemble – July 18

**Shore Break** – July 30

**1984** by George Orwell – August 16

**Beauty and the Beast**: Victorian State Ballet (Union Theatre Wonthaggi) – September 6

**Whalebone** – September 29

**Growing Old Ungracefully**: David Scheel – October 14

[www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/whatson](http://www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/whatson)

# Get set for an Antarctic experience

## FUNDRAISER

Two special presentations by photographer Peter Fogarty are raising funds for the Phillip Island Centre for Adult Learning (PICAL).

The presentations of Peter's recent trip to the Antarctic Peninsula are on Friday June 20 and Saturday June 21.

"Weather, wind, snow, the cold iceberg glaciers, seabirds, whales, seals, penguins and much more can be found in this awe inspiring place," Peter said.

"We will also have an amazing guest speaker



Two special presentations about the Antarctic Peninsula by photographer Peter Fogarty on Friday June 20 and Saturday June 21 are raising funds for PICAL.

joining us who has spent many years working in Antarctica and will share her experiences with us."

Information on how to obtain a ticket will be online soon.

If you are interested in

the history of Antarctica, photography and life there as it is now, save the dates.

These presentations will be held at PICAL with all proceeds from ticket sales going directly to a program run by them.

# Star of the Sea walks to school

## EDUCATION

On May 16, Our Lady Star of the Sea (OLSS) took part in national "Walk Safely to School" day.

Students, staff and parents met at IGA in Cowes for the walk.

"This is an annual event, and the first without wet weather for a couple of years," said OLSS Grade 3/4 teacher Andrew Inglis.

"It was lovely to see the parents, staff and students walk and talk their way to our school.

"A big thank you to IGA Cowes for donating some healthy and fresh fruit for some energy."



Freya Murn, Prep at Our Lady Star of the Sea, proudly displaying her Walk Safely to School sticker.

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# Why was Western Port chosen as Victoria's turbine hub?

## ENVIRONMENT

Community groups have called on the Victorian Government to release analysis showing why Western Port was chosen for a wind turbine construction hub, ahead of seven other ports.

And Phillip Island's peak green group has rejected the Victorian Government's rebooted plans to build a new, significantly different version of the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal (VRET) project.

Last year the Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek knocked back the original plan because of national environmental concerns, with a new approval process now underway.

At the end of last year, the draft scoping requirements of the new VRET Environment Effects Statement (EES) process were released, which has received submissions from community and environment groups.

The draft scoping requirements are a preliminary list of issues to be investigated – with the final requirements to be released imminently – and state if the VRET goes ahead, dredging of the bay will be required to allow ships to approach and manoeuvre near the berths.

It states the proposed terminal would be about 40ha, and require 18ha of land reclamation, which is less than the previously proposed terminal which was to be 146ha.

Under this revised project, the new terminal would be an assembly port, to provide offshore wind turbine and foundation components.

### Globally significant

In response to the EES process, the Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation made a submission calling on the government to release analysis of eight options that were considered for the hub, including some that had lower environmental impacts.

The Biosphere submission said given other options are available, Western Port's environmental impacts "could be avoided altogether".

The submission states Minister Pilbersek's had "comprehensive" reasons why the impacts of the original VRET would have "irreversible consequences" for the environment.

"It is not clear how the Minister's concerns have been incorporated into the (EES process)," it states.

"One of the Minister's key concerns was the irreversible nature of (land) reclamation, so we request the EES includes an assessment of whether floating port infrastructure could signif-



Environmental groups question why Western Port was chosen for a wind turbine construction hub, as it is one of only five Biosphere Reserves in Australia and part of UNESCO's World Network, in recognition of the international environmental significance of the area. It was also designated a Ramsar wetland of international importance in 1982.

icantly reduce these permanent impacts."

The Biosphere submission states the organisation supports renewable energy but says Western Port is of international environmental significance and must be protected, calling for more details on cumulative environmental impacts.

"The EES technical studies should explicitly include the risks of oil spills and the introduction of marine pests, and outline potential controls to mitigate against them and reduce risks."

Western Port Biosphere Reserve is one of only five in Australia and part of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves, in recognition of the international environmental significance of the area.

It is also a Ramsar wetland of international importance, designated in 1982 to protect critical waterfowl habitats.

"Western Port, as the core of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a Ramsar-listed wetland, is of international ecological significance, which requires all projects should be designed, implemented and regulated to protect its critical habitats, flora and fauna," the submission states.

### PICS

The Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) submission does not support the VRET design "as proposed".

"We have serious concerns regarding the permanence of its heavily engineered structure and extensive areas of reclama-

tion and dredging," the submission states.

"This will have irreversible and unacceptable effects on the Western Port Ramsar wetland ecological character."

The PICS submission states community trust has already been eroded by the VRET process, with a lack of detailed analysis on site selection and design.

"To restore trust that VRET decisions will deliver optimal environmental outcomes, it is critical the EES process is comprehensive, scientifically rigorous, inclusive of the best available expertise and local knowledge, unbiased in its presentation, and fully transparent."

### Protection

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), supported by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) also made

a submission to the EES draft scoping requirements, calling for the release of analysis into the eight alternative port options.

The VNPA and ACF submission also supports transitioning to renewable energy, but emphasises the need to "make sure all new energy infrastructure is sited appropriately to avoid biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation".

"If left unprotected and overlooked in the rapid energy transition, we risk creating as many problems as we solve."

The VNPA calls for detailed monitoring of the bay, including from dredging, "not only in the project area, but in the broader environment considering the interconnectivity of Western Port's ecosystems".

Both the Biosphere and VNPA submission call for the State Government to create a

framework to manage Western Port.

"Western Port Bay has the highest number of declining environmental health indicators in Victoria, including decreasing populations of snapper and waterbird."

"Western Port has no bay-wide plan for its protection and management."

The VNPA commissioned a review of the adequacy of the draft EES scoping requirements by an ecologist, who calls for a strengthening of the scoping requirements including public disclosure of environmental management, and "transparent and fair" processes for EES public review.

VRET construction would start in late 2027, with the terminal expected to be operational by 2030. The final scoping requirements will be released by the government in the second quarter of 2025.

## Cowes meeting on turbine hub

### WESTERN PORT

A community meeting on Western Port's proposed wind turbine construction hub will be held in Cowes on June 19, 6pm – 9pm at Berninnet.

The Port of Hastings is hosting a series of meetings for the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal (VRET), as the project team and specialists prepare technical studies for the Environment Effects Statement (EES) (see separate story).

The meeting will feature presentations from technical specialists on the assessments underway, followed by roundtable discussions where the public can ask questions, and share feedback.

On online meetings will also be held on June 24, 7pm – 9pm.

Earlier this year, a Community Reference Group (CRG) was established for the project.

Details: [renewableenergyterminal.com.au](http://renewableenergyterminal.com.au) or [renewableenergyterminal.com.au/community/reference-group](http://renewableenergyterminal.com.au/community/reference-group)

# The fight continues

From page 1

Joseph said it was not a victory.

"Anyone who thinks this is a major victory or that common sense has prevailed does not understand the reality of what this means and the implications," Joseph wrote.

"Four staff doesn't even come close to having a 24/7 Fisheries officer's presence – you need six staff minimum to run three shifts.

"Nobody should be resting on this. Everyone should start going harder at the VFA senior leadership, the Minister and the Premier."

Gillian said she couldn't understand why government ever thought Fisheries were dispensable.

"The value to the marine environment of the Fisheries Officers patrolling and monitoring the bays and coastline, in my mind is immeasurable."

A three-month community campaign saw a petition signed by more than 21,000 Victorians tabled in State Parliament

in May, demanding the State Government scrap its planned "gutting" of Fisheries.

Last month the state's leading green group joined with recreational and commercial fishing organisations to condemn the anticipated cuts, which came after a unanimous vote of "no confidence" by Fisheries officers in the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA).

### Serious concerns

CPSU Victorian branch secretary Karen Batt last week released a statement saying Victorian Fisheries Authority CEO Travis Dowling announced to all staff on Wednesday, in a five-minute meeting with a single page of eleven dot points shared on a screen, that alternative proposals put forward had been largely ignored.

"Cuts to these frontline enforcement positions undoubtedly mean the sustainability of Victoria's marine and freshwater resources will come under immediate threat with the

inevitable increase in poaching activity," she said.

Karen said the Fisheries Officers Association had "grave concerns for Victoria's natural resources, safety of the remaining Fisheries officers and safety of the general public, due to an already observed increase in vigilante behaviour".

She added the union was concerned the VFA would fail to meet its legal obligations to protect the marine resource under the cuts.

"These concerns remain with the now finalised plan."

The union said the Fisheries Officers Association group had proposed an alternative, highlighting other areas to achieve "more than the required cost savings", including: a reduction in the millions of taxpayers' dollars spent on events, a reduction in stocking of non-native species particularly in the absence of scientific research, cuts to high paid executive level positions and ceasing VFA paid ambassadorship to public fishing figures.





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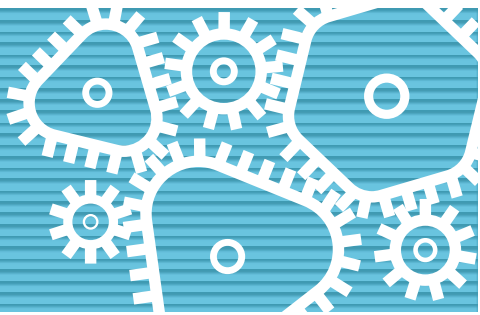
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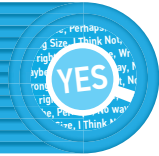


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# CLASSIFIEDS SEEK, BUY AND SELL



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

DEATHS



**JANSSON, John Ewen:**  
1 September 1948 – 25 May 2025

Passed away peacefully at Melaleuca, aged 76, after a period of declining health with Parkinson's disease.

Beloved brother of Raymond and long-time companion of Marion. Son of Helen and Frank (both dec). A proud fourth-generation Phillip Islander, John was a quiet achiever whose intellect, integrity, and deep love for his community defined a life of purpose and contribution.

A civil engineer by profession, John was also a skilled boat builder, author, and respected historian. His tireless work in preserving the maritime and local history of Phillip Island leaves a lasting legacy in the form of books, photographs, historical records, and genealogical research.

John will be deeply missed by family, friends, and the many community organisations he served over a lifetime.

DEATHS



**JANSSON, John Ewen:**  
1 September 1948 – 25 May 2025

Passed away peacefully at Melaleuca, aged 76, after a brave journey with Parkinson's disease.

Dearly loved and loving brother of Raymond, and much loved brother-in-law of Pam. A quiet, gentle soul who lived a life of curiosity, creativity, and immense contribution.

John was a man of remarkable intellect and unwavering humility – a civil engineer, historian, boat builder, researcher, and treasured member of the Phillip Island community. His legacy lives on in the stories he preserved, the boats he built, and the hearts of those who knew him.

The island has lost an icon.

We will miss him deeply, but we are grateful for every moment shared.

Ray and Pam

DEATHS

**JANSSON, John:**  
May 25, 2025

Fond memories of cups of tea and quiet chats. Thanks for being the first person to welcome my parents and me to Rhyll, in 1966. Go gently, John. Lynda (nee Lever), and David Hanlon

**JANSSON, John:**  
Passed away 25.5.25

John was a unique person. He was an outstanding researcher, a quiet achiever, a kind and valued and respected member of our community. The like of which we may never see again. The sad loss of a wonderful friend. Julie and Andrew Box

**EVANS, Robert Arthur (Bob):**  
Passed away peacefully at age 92 on 26th May. Much loved by his daughters, Judy, Gillian, Andrea, Becky and Sarah, his son-in-laws, his 15 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. The family will be holding a private funeral.

**JANSSON:**  
The Funeral Service for Mr. John Ewen Jansson will be held at St. John's Uniting Church, Chapel Street, Cowes on TUESDAY (June. 3, 2025) commencing at 2:00pm. Following the service the funeral will leave for the Phillip Island Cemetery. John's service will be live streamed. Please see [www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au) for details

Handley & Anderson  
Funeral Directors  
Phillip Island & Surrounds

DEATHS



**CURD, Leonard Geoffrey:**  
VALE: Len Curd "Gunner"

Member of the Museum Sub Branch VVAA Vic. and a Volunteer at the NVVM.

Vietnam Veteran, 39042, 4th Field Regiment, Gunner, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Len collapsed and passed away while taking his daily walk on Saturday the 24th May 2025.

The Committee and members of the Museum Sub Branch, VVAA Vic. Pass on our condolences to Lens family and friends.

He will be missed.

R.I.P. Len

SITUATIONS VACANT

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

**Newhaven College is seeking applications for: PRIMARY TEACHER**

Full Time Junior School Classroom Teacher for Semester 2, 2025

For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website.

Commencement Semester 2, 2025.

Applications to be submitted to: [recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au](mailto:recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au)

**Applications close Monday 9 June, 2025**

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.

GARAGE SALES

**COWES,**  
34 Seagrove Way  
Saturday June 7th  
(Kings Birthday Weekend)  
8am – 1pm  
MOVING HOUSE SALE

PUBLIC NOTICES

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:**  
Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi – Tuesday 8pm; AA Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp. Coles) – Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday 11am, 5672 3627. Phone head office 9429 1833.

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Join us at the Nature Parks

The Nature Parks is an inspiring workplace and, as the largest employer on Phillip Island, offers a range of career opportunities. Our people are enthusiastic, committed, and professional in what they do.

Cleaning and Grounds Lead (Facilities)

– Full time

As the Facilities Team Lead, you will oversee and guide a team dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness and presentation across the Nature Parks.

Cleaning and Grounds Officer (Facilities)

– Full time, Part time and Casual roles available

Join our team and help keep our facilities looking their best! In this role, you'll play a key part in maintaining the cleanliness and presentation of buildings, amenities, gardens, car parks, and more.

For more information, please visit:

[www.penguins.org.au/about/work-with-us/employment/our-people-our-work/](http://www.penguins.org.au/about/work-with-us/employment/our-people-our-work/).

Phillip Island  
NATURE  
PARKS

[penguins.org.au](http://penguins.org.au)

Strategic Advisor Skills Bass Coast Region

Fixed term contract role (6 months)

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer

Based at any of TAFE Gippsland's main campus locations (with flexibility to work remotely)

Remuneration commensurate with experience

Job Reference No. 2561

About the role

TAFE Gippsland is seeking a dynamic and experienced Strategic Advisor to lead a region-wide initiative aimed at identifying and addressing current and emerging skills needs across the Bass Coast community.

In this pivotal role, you will drive engagement across government, education providers, industry leaders and community stakeholders to uncover insights and co-develop actionable responses to skills challenges in the region. Your contribution will directly support economic and workforce resilience, and inclusive growth in Bass Coast.

The key responsibilities of the role include:

- Lead the design and delivery of a comprehensive regional skills assessment initiative
- Facilitate meaningful engagement with key stakeholders to gather insights, identify gaps and explore opportunities
- Deliver a stakeholder engagement report summarising consultations, outlining key themes and recommending future considerations
- Produce a detailed strategic report presenting a list of skills and training development solutions, delivery models and infrastructure requirements backed by data and stakeholder input
- Collaborate with local and regional partners to champion initiatives that strengthen local workforce capabilities and align with future economic needs

About you

You're a strategic and solutions focussed professional with a strong foundation in areas such as public policy, workforce development or economic strategy. Your experience includes designing and delivering initiatives that bring together diverse stakeholders to address complex regional or sector-wide challenges. You have a proven ability to engage meaningfully with government, education providers and industry partners drawing on your deep understanding of the education, training or regional development landscape. Your analytical mindset enables you to cut through complexity, identify key trends and translate insights into clear, actionable recommendations. Your exceptional communication and reporting skills mean you're just as comfortable facilitating consultations as you are preparing detailed, high-impact reports. With tertiary qualifications in Public Policy, Business, Education, Economics or a related field along with practical experience working with government, TAFE or industry bodies you bring both credibility and a collaborative approach to every project you lead.

How to apply

For specific enquiries relating to this position or for a copy of the Job Description, please contact Jenna Langley, Manager People and Culture Business Operations on 0459 023 510 or [jlangle@tafegippsland.edu.au](mailto:jlangle@tafegippsland.edu.au).

To apply for this position please visit the TAFE Gippsland website. Applications are to be submitted online and must include;

- a cover letter addressing the key requirements of the role (see Job Description)
- a current resume.

Applications close 2.00pm on Thursday 5 June 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Have your say



Visit [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au) to give your feedback on:

Draft Property Strategy 2025-29

Council's draft Property Strategy provides strategic direction for the management of its property portfolio for the long-term best interest of the community, whilst aligning to the Community Vision 2041.

The Strategy identifies the four guiding principles, strategic guidance and objectives for the retention, acquisition, disposal, use and development of Council owned or managed property to achieve optimum financial and community benefit.

Cape Paterson Local Area Traffic Management

Council has developed a draft Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Plan for Cape Paterson, focusing on road safety, walking, cycling, and parking. Your feedback from Stage 1 helped shape the draft plan, and now it's time for the final round of input.

If you have any questions please contact Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Questions for council

Council claims rezoning Cowes 80 Acres Reserve land will cost \$250,000, but where does this figure come from? Are there alternative quotes to consider? Why shouldn't our ratepayers have Lot 79 rezoned for recreation purpose to ensure safe financial stability and recreational opportunities for our community's future? Will the council explore these possibilities?

Why was a Golden Cypress planted in a local park, when these specifically grown trees should be planted in Thompson Avenue. The Shire is not communicating with Friends of the Thompson Avenue Golden Cypress Committee.

Sue Chadwick, Cowes

Bridge concerns

Could someone, professorial or otherwise, please give us an assurance the San Remo/Phillip Island Bridge is safe to traverse until the \$50 million repairs can be carried out?

Or, do we just cross our fingers, pray for deliverance and hope our affairs are in order, just in case?

Jane Ross, San Remo

Plaques and our island's history.

It is so wonderful to see the original Warley Hospital plaques are going to be displayed at the new Community Hospital. If this amazing initiative

can happen, why can't the plaques honouring the island's Volunteer Ambulance Drivers years ago, and the Shire of Phillip Island Councillors Honour Board, which were on display in the original Cultural Centre be found and placed in Berninnet?

Perhaps they have been thrown in a skip like the Golden Cypress History Board. Surely, we need to acknowledge the islanders who made history for our community, or does Bass Coast Shire Council want us only to acknowledge Bass Coast Shire Council as starting a new era? It seems our council wants the present population to recall only their initiatives. Council, please respond to these island issues and explain why you are ignoring our important island past?

Sue & Marnie Chadwick, Cowes

Battery questions

With neighbourhood battery outside our front gate, passersby have been asking if it's a public toilet. Explaining it's a battery but iffy about connections, in context of smart phone, where can they plug in? Almost as wonderful as frisbee golf!

What's happening with the battery at Berninnet? Is there any news at all? Or is it all in limbo pending design for rewiring Cultural Centre for just a few loads?

The box on our doorstep is decorated with vibrant graphics. How exciting will it be when it's fired up? Looks like just one light, high up, red Alarm.

It's in front of playground. Evidently it won't be protected from kiddies by usual chain link fence. So why not a climbing wall, more slides, paint and brushes etc?

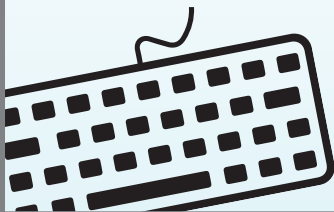
How misguided is this? Of course it will make money for Ausnet, especially if they grab electricity from grid when price is negative. But the community will never know how many kWh or dollars made. Similarly unlikely Shire will ever know. But they promise to make handouts to Shire, periodically, which may even be allocated to worthy causes.

Meanwhile, we're promised increased risk of heat waves, hotter, longer season duration and more frequent, yet no provision of cool room Heat Refuge. Shire has always been proud of Climate Emergency Declaration in 2018 but looks like waiting for flashing lights and sirens before appropriate action can be taken.

Cool room was brief topic at recent forum but pitched as problem waiting for solution. Next topic took over after a query if Shire is liable for financial compensation when lack of solution causes deaths?

Bernie McComb, Cowes

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# Public notice of intention to declare a special charge for the purpose of constructing and improving roads and drainage along The Esplanade (Sunderland Bay Road to Batman Street), Surf Beach

In accordance with a resolution of Bass Coast Shire Council (Council) made at the 21 May 2025 Council Meeting, notice is given that at the 17 September 2025 Council Meeting, Council proposes to declare a Special Charge (Special Charge) under section 163(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 (Act), and otherwise according to law, for the purpose of defraying costs and expenses incurred and/or to be incurred by Council in relation to the construction and improvement of roads and drainage along The Esplanade (Sunderland Bay Road to Batman Street), Surf Beach situated within the municipal district of the Council (Street), such works involving the full upgrade of roads and drainage, including the provision of road pavement and sealing works, the provision of underground surface and storm water drainage in the Street, the provision of kerb and channelling, nature strip works, road narrowings for local traffic management, a pedestrian pathway and other ancillary works necessary to complete the construction of the project known as the 'The Esplanade (Sunderland Bay Road to Batman Street) Special Charge Scheme' otherwise in accordance with the concept plans approved by Council at the 21 May 2025 Council Meeting (Scheme). So far as can be reasonably ascertained from available records of the Council and can reasonably be concluded, Council has ascertained that the roads or any component of the roads for which it is proposed the Special Charge will be declared have not previously been constructed by way of a special rate or charge.

The criteria which form the basis of the Special Charge are the ownership of rateable land in the Scheme area based on equally sharing the costs of some portions, front or side boundaries of the properties in the Scheme (modified where appropriate) for some portions and the area of the properties in the scheme (discounted where appropriate) for some portions which about the roads to be constructed or upgraded and which rateable land is situated within the geographical area of the proposed declaration are included.

Council considers that each rateable property included in the Scheme area that is liable to pay the Special Charge will receive a special benefit through the provision of proper, safe and suitable roads, drainage and property services; and there will be a special benefit to the persons liable to pay the Special Charge because there will be a benefit over and above, or greater than, the benefit to persons who are not subject to the Special Charge and, directly and indirectly, the works to be provided will enhance or maintain the value and the use, occupation and enjoyment of the properties included in the Scheme, through the provision of proper, safe and suitable roads and drainage and property services.

In proposing the declaration of the Special Charge, Council is performing functions and exercising powers in relation to the peace, order and good government of the municipal district of the Council, in particular the provision of proper, safe and suitable roads, drainage and property services in the area for which it is proposed the Special Charge will be declared.

The total cost of the performance of the functions and the exercise of the powers referable to the Scheme (and the amount which the Council intends to declare and levy) is an amount of \$1,553,076 (being the estimated cost of the Scheme works to be undertaken) with Council intending to declare and levy by way of the Special Charge an amount of \$409,391, but excluding other related costs (which will be borne solely by Council) totalling \$48,672 for the contribution towards footpaths.

The Special Charge will commence on and from the making of any Council decision to declare the Special Charge and will remain in force until such time as the Special Charge has been paid in full.

The Special Charge will be declared and assessed in accordance with the amounts which have been calculated and appear alongside each property in the Schedule attached to and forming a part of the proposed declaration of Special Charge (being Schedule 2), such amounts having been calculated based on both a road component cost and a drainage component cost as referable to a combined method of sharing some costs equally and to the length of the frontage and/or sideage of each property included in the Scheme (for the road component) and the area of each property included in the Scheme (for the drainage component).

The Special Charge will be levied by Council sending a notice of levy to the persons who are liable to pay the Special Charge. Incentives will be given for payment before the due date for payment as set out below. The levy notice to be sent will include four options for payment which are as follows –

(a) Payment Option 1: Lump Sum Payment – upfront payment of the Special Charge in full within 30 days of the date of issue of an invoice, with a 5% discount and no interest.

(b) Payment Option 2: Lump Sum Payment – upfront payment of the Special Charge in full within 90 days of issue of an invoice, with no discount and no interest.

(c) Payment Option 3: Instalment Payment Plan – payment of the Special Charge in 40 quarterly instalments over 10 years, with interest. Interest will be charged on the reducing balance of the principal each quarter at the rate of 1% above the estimated borrowing costs of the Council. If a ratepayer is late with payment of an instalment, penalty interest will be charged on the balance of principal due each quarter.

(d) Payment Option 4: Instalment Payment Plan – payment of the Special Charge in 80 quarterly instalments over 20 years, with interest. Interest will be charged on the reducing balance of the principal each quarter at the rate of 1% above the estimated borrowing costs of the Council. If a ratepayer is late with payment of an instalment, penalty interest will be charged on the balance of principal due each quarter. This option is subject to Council assessing the property owner as experiencing financial hardship, in accordance with Council's Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy.

Ratepayers who elect to pay by instalments will receive subsequent quarterly instalment notices.

Because the performance of the functions and exercise of the powers in respect of which the Special Charge is to be declared and levied relates substantially to capital works, the Special Charge will be levied on the basis of an instalment plan being available to ratepayers (being the 'Payment Option 3: Instalment Payment Plan' or the 'Payment Option 4: Instalment Payment Plan'). Quarterly instalments will include a component for reasonable interest costs, which will be charged at the rate of 1% above the estimated borrowing costs of Council in respect of the construction of the roads and the provision of the drainage works by more than 1%.

Council will consider cases of financial and other hardship and may negotiate other payment options for the Special Charge, in accordance with the Council's Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy.

For the purposes of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied under the Scheme, the Council considers and formally determines for the purposes of sections 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act (and in accordance with the Benefit Ratio Statement adopted by Council) that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the Scheme to which the performance of the functions and exercise of powers relate (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to all of the persons who are liable to pay the Special Charge is in a ratio of 0.2636 or 26.36%.

Any declaration of the Special Charge will expire if the Special Charge is not levied to each person liable to pay it within 12 months after the day on which the declaration which relates to the Special Charge is made.

Copies of the proposed declaration of Special Charge, a detailed plan of the Scheme area, a list of the rateable properties included in the Scheme and the amount of the Special Charge payable by each property included in the Scheme are available for inspection at the offices of Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi during normal business hours and on the internet website of Council until 5pm on 16 July 2025.

Any person may make a submission about the proposed declaration to the Council under sections 163A and 223 of the Act. In addition, any person who will be required to pay the Special Charge to be imposed by the proposed declaration has a right to object to the proposed declaration under section 163B of the Act. Submissions and/or objections must be received by the Council by 5pm on 16 July 2025. Submissions and/or objections must be in writing and addressed and sent by mail to the Chief Executive Officer, Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995. In accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act, Council will consider all written submissions and take into account all objections that are received by the closing date.

Any person who has made a submission under section 223 of the Act may request to be heard in support of their written submission. If such a request is made, the person is entitled to appear in person or to be represented by a person specified in the submission before a Committee appointed by Council to hear submissions under section 223 of the Act. The day, time and place of the Committee hearing will be advised in writing.

Council will treat all submissions and objections received (and any personal information contained therein) in accordance with its Privacy Policy and with applicable legislation, including the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.

Any person requiring further information about the proposed declaration of Special Charge should contact Council's Sustainable Transport and Movement Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or email [roadupgrades@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:roadupgrades@basscoast.vic.gov.au).

Greg Box  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





Michelle Fincher (right) won the Over 55 Women at the Shortboard Masters State Title on the weekend.

## SUP and Shortboard titles

### SURFING

Phillip Islanders again brought home the trophies, after a successful weekend at the Victorian State Titles in both Shortboard Masters and SUP Surfing divisions on the Surf Coast over the weekend.

Jarvis Cininas was victorious in the inaugural Over 30s Open Shortboard Division, with Michelle Fincher winning the Over 55 Women, and Sandy Ryan winning the Over 40 men SUP title and taking out second place in the Open Men SUP titles.

Surfing in the inaugural Over 30s Open Shortboard Division, Jarvis Cininas was in top form making the most of the head high clean conditions at Jan Juc.

On the Saturday, the best SUP Surfers from across the state competed in perfect reeling waves at Point Impossible.



Sandy Ryan won the Over 40 men SUP title and took out second place in the Open Men division.

Taking out his fifth Open Men SUP Surfing Titles in a row, Matt Takle (Torquay) was unstoppable, but was closely followed by the island's Sandy Ryan (Phillip Island) who returned to competition after a multi year break.

Full results from the weekend can be found at [liveheats.com/surfingvictoria](http://liveheats.com/surfingvictoria)



Winners of Midweek bowls played at Corinella were Mark Hanrahan (S), Gwen Jeffrey (2), Gillian Harper (3) and Tony Morris (L).

## Midweek heads to Corinella

### BOWLS

Another beautiful day for the family of bowlers last week at Corinella bowls club.

The weather looked promising for the day with no wind to speak of and the occasional break in the clouds allowing the sun to shine down on the bowlers.

As usual all the bowlers excelled themselves with some wonderful bowling. This, however, did not stop the players helping to fill the RCH tin as usual. Lots of laughter and friendly banter on most of the rinks.

Always good to see so many people enjoying themselves and having a bit of laughter.

The winners on 36 points were: Mark Hanrahan (S), Gwen

Jeffrey (2), Gillian Harper (3) and Tony Morris (L).

Runners up on 36 points were: Michael Saunders (2), Rob Paganoni (S), Robyn Coulson (3) and Bob Arnold (L).

Best One Game winners with a score of 20 were: Lou Capsalis (L), Mark Andreatta (S) and David Talbot (3).

A quick "Get Well Soon" to both Elaine and Peter. Both of these wonderful people have been in the war's health wise, and we look forward to their speedy return.

This week we will be playing at San Remo Bowls Club.

Please, be on time as the numbers are getting very close to a full house, and if you are in after the books are full then you may have to miss out.

## Results from the league

### TENPIN BOWLING

**2s Company:** 1st on 26 pts King Pins, 2nd on 22.5 pts Him & Her and 3rd on 21 pts The Hounds.

**ABL (Almost Bowling Legends):** 1st on 172.5 pts Dreamers, 2nd place on 171 pts Storm and 3rd on 155 pts The Fireballs.

**Business Early:** 1st on 9 pts Happy Hour, 2nd on 8 pts The Redundants, 3rd on 7 pts Woolly Rollers and 4th on 7 pts Old Timers. **Business Late:** 1st on 10 pts The

Squeezers, 2nd on 10 pts 3 Blind Mice, 3rd on 8 pts Island Invaders and 4th on 6 pts Balls of Fury.

**Phantom:** 1st on 88.5 pts Hawks, 2nd on 83 pts Tafkas and 3rd on 79 pts Nookie.

Top scores this week across each league:

Men: Jason Bence 189, Raff Merante 187 and Rob Wilkinson 186.

Women: Jenny-Anne Sciore 150, Tricia Niessink 150 and Penny Wolswinkel 149.



The OLSS Senior Aerobic Team of Vivi, Eve, Jippa, Isla, Ella, Cordelia, Milly and Meila will now compete in the state competition on June 1, after their success in the regional round of the School Aerobics Competition.

## Star of the Sea heads to state comp

### AEROBICS

On Saturday May 3, the Senior Aerobics Team from Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School lit up the stage at the regional round of the TFT School Aerobics Competition. With a high-energy routine packed with charisma, precision, and passion, the team of eight students impressed the judges and secured a place in the upcoming state qualifiers.

Their exceptional performance showcased not only athletic skill but also months of dedication and teamwork. The students' enthusiasm and commitment shone through every movement, earning them well-deserved recognition and a place in the next round of the national competition pathway.

The team will now compete at the state level on June 1, facing off against top-performing schools from across Victoria.

With rigorous training sessions underway, the team is preparing to give their very best once again.

"We are so proud of this team and everything they've achieved so far," said a school spokesperson.

"Their hard work, spirit, and sportsmanship truly represent our school values."

The whole school community is cheering them on as they continue their journey to nationals. Go team Star of the Sea!

## A dominant performance by junior teams

### SOCCER

#### U15 Girls

Sunday's Round 5 match against Leongatha Knights at home saw yet another great display of sportpersonship from the girls with players volunteering to join the opposition team to make full numbers on the pitch.

Phillip Island took control of play with impressive skills in defence. Lily J was fierce streaming through the centre, and Izzy showcased some solid tackles.

Our cool, calm and collected midfielders powerful in their assists throughout.

Conversions were top-notch in the first half, with goals to Ava (2), Elisabeth, Georgia, Izzy and Lily. The second half again saw many scoring opportunities by the Breakers, however there were some amazing saves by the Leongatha keeper. Goals from Ava, Amara and Georgia sealed a win for the Breakers 9-1.

#### U14 Mixed

Phillip Island Mixed U14 Penguins defeated Leongatha Knights at home on Sunday morning in what can only be described as a gallant performance.

The team piled on nine unanswered goals in the first half. Showcasing their ability to defend and attack, they went on to score another nine goals in the second half keeping Leongatha scoreless for the game.

The Penguins' defence held strong as Leongatha continued to pressure the back line.

The goals were well spread with seven individual goal scorers with James high scoring with six goals. A well-rounded performance from the Penguins.

#### U14

In sunny conditions, the Stingrays put in a spirited performance in their away match against a strong Drouin Maroon side, eventually falling 3-1.

Drouin struck early with two



U14 Mixed Penguins had a great win over Leongatha Knights on Sunday.

quick goals, but the Stingrays responded through Callum, who slotted home a well-taken goal after a beautiful pass from Ferg.

Goalkeeper Manny delivered a standout performance, highlighted by an excellent diving save, and was deservedly named Player of the Match.

The Stingrays' defence worked hard all game, showing grit and determination under constant pressure. Coach Marc praised the team's strong effort and attitude, commending their teamwork and noting the steady improvement seen each week.

Despite the loss, the Stingrays demonstrated commitment, energy, and a growing sense of cohesion on the pitch.

It was a competitive match and a performance that reflected the squad's hard work and focus as they continue to develop throughout the season.

#### U12 girls

Phillip Island U12 girls hosted Leongatha Knights on the weekend. It didn't take long for the girls to take control of the game and start creating opportunities.

Gabrielle Titmarch opened the scoring within the first five

minutes. With their confidence growing, the girls started to string chains of passes together, often moving the ball from defence to attack without the opposition getting a touch.

This created many shots on goal and Gabrielle Titmarch took advantage by scoring five goals in the first half.

In the second half, player rotations meant it was up to some of the younger girls to impose themselves on the game and they clearly demonstrated they were up to the challenge.

In her first game, Taylah MacDonald came close to scoring on multiple occasions. Joselyn Trayford scored a goal, making it two goals in two games for the youngster. Reagan Welsh also scored her second goal of the season.

Late in the game, Lily Murphy finally got a reward for her hard work on the wing, scoring her first goal for the season.

In the end, it was an impressive team effort of passing and sharing the ball that resulted in 9-1 victory.

**GSL scores and fixtures at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)**



# Island Netballers on show at Inverloch

## NETBALL

### A Grade

Inverloch-Kongwak 41 defeated Phillip Island 31.

### B Grade

Despite the windy conditions, Phillip Island produced a strong performance against local rivals Inverloch.

The Island applied strong defensive pressure throughout the court and goalers Abbey and Mieka were reliable and consistent shooters throughout the game. To Inverloch's credit they managed to keep the scores level at half.

Strong performances from young guns Ellie Hennessy and Olivia Holmes helped turn the game in our favour in the second half. The team showed persistence and determination to take away the win 35-40.

**Best on court:** Anthea Bennett and Olivia Holmes.

Phillip Island: 40 defeated Inverloch-Kongwak 33.

### C Grade

Inverloch Kongwak 23 defeated Phillip Island 20.

### D grade

Phillip Island D Grade put up a determined and energetic performance in a high-intensity match against Inverloch over the weekend.

Despite not coming away with the win, the team showed strength and determination and did not give up the fight.

It was a fun match played under blue skies and despite the strong wind, the team managed to keep their passes strong and get most goals in.

Mid-courtiers Jazzy and Eden were relentless throughout all four quarters, constantly disrupting Inverloch's flow with repeated intercepts and clever pressure, both well deserving of being voted best on.

The team will take plenty of positives from the match into next week as they continue to build momentum this season.

Inverloch-Kongwak 29 defeated Phillip Island 19.

### U17

Phillip Island 50 defeated Inverloch-Kongwak 3.

### U15

In sunny but windy conditions, Phillip Island's Under 15 netball team delivered a confident performance to defeat Inverloch.

The shooters remained accurate under pressure despite the challenging breeze. It was a solid all-round effort that reflected the team's growing confidence on court. Coaches awards went to Brylie Peterson and Isla Humphrey.

Phillip Island 23 defeated Inverloch-Kongwak 15.

### U13

Phillip Island 19 defeated Inverloch-Kongwak 14.

### U11

In tough, wet conditions on Saturday morning, the Phillip Island Under 11 netball team faced a strong Inverloch side, going down 26 to 8 in a spirited contest.

The slippery court made for a slow start as the girls took time to find their footing, but their determination never faltered.

As the game went on, the team continued to lift their intensity and kept fighting right to the final siren, showing great resilience and teamwork under pressure.

Eden Hallas stood out with her consistent effort and energy throughout the match, while Millie Humphrey impressed with her defensive work and positive attitude.

Both players were rewarded with well-earned game awards for their performances.

Although the scoreboard didn't go Phillip Island's way, the girls should be proud of their effort and sportsmanship in challenging conditions.

A great learning experience and another step forward for this hardworking team.



A Grade netballers went down to Inverloch with a fight in windy conditions.



B Grade netballer in action.



Under 16 Girls with opposition for Gather Round in Yinnar

## Lily Bow's 50th Game at the AFL Gather Round

## FOOTBALL

The U16 Girls footy team took on Hill End at Yinnar for the AFL Gather Round for Girls.

This wasn't just any ordinary game; it marked a significant milestone for Lily Bow, who proudly played her 50th game.

The Bulldogs U16 Girls showcased their skills and teamwork, dominating the field with an impressive final score of 95 to 0.

It was a great atmosphere, with supporters cheering on the young athletes who displayed incredible talent and passion for the game.

The AFL Gather Round for Girls is more than just a series of matches; it's a celebration of female athletes and their growing presence in Australian rules football.

Events like these provide young girls with the opportunity to shine, fostering a sense of community and encouraging more participation in the sport.

**Best on and awards:** Bethany Grenness, Olivia Holmes, Sadie Davie, Phoenix Steadman, Mia Wardmand Gemma Fischer.

**Goals:** Kyra Carton 4, Jasmine Trapnell 2, Ruby Kent Ford, Lily (Elbow) Bow, Brinkley Nicolaci, Gemma Fischer, Ruby (Kinky) King, Gisele Smith

and Olivia Holmes 1.

### U14 Girls

Despite a lopsided scoreboard, Phillip Island Under 14 Girls showed grit, determination, and heart in their Friday night clash against Inverloch-Kongwak in Leongatha.

IK walked away with a commanding victory, but the numbers told only part of the story.

From the first bounce to the final siren, Phillip Island fought tooth and nail, refusing to let the scoreboard define their effort.

Inverloch's polished ball movement and sharp finishing ultimately proved too much, but Phillip Island's refusal to give in was a testament to their character.

It's not always about the win, it's about showing who you are, even when things don't go your way. The positivity and energy showed exactly what Phillip Island footy is all about.

With the season still young, the Bulldogs will look to build on their effort and continue to develop a squad full of potential and pride.

**Final scores:** PI 0.0.0 to IK 13.8.86.  
**Best on ground:** Heidi Szymanski, Alice Martindale, Amelia Mahon, Ellie Hughes, Sera Szymanski and Indiana Chihotski.

## Championship session

## BRIDGE

The Club Pairs Championship third session was run on Monday May 19, with 12 pairs taking part.

Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour won the day with a score of 62.67 per cent and were overall winners.

Congratulations to our Club Champions. Shirley Stewart and Deb Anglim were second overall, with Neville Chapman and

Lorrie Read coming in third.

Wednesday's Duplicate, contested by eight pairs, was won by Caroline Shaw and Anne Hodgson with 72.02 per cent.

On Monday May 26, Paul Hill will lecture on 'Leads' 10am-12 noon. Bring your own lunch.

Duplicate starts at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Club to play Bridge or take lessons, please contact Caroline on 0418 369 557.

# Strong performance for Killy Bass Netballers

## NETBALL

### A Grade

A Grade came out hungry for a win this week against Garfield.

The girls adjusted to the conditions and played a solid four quarters of netball for each other.

Garfield put their foot down in the last quarter and came back however the girls stepped up to the pressure and ultimately came away with the win.

A great four quarter team effort.

**Best on court:** Gypsy.

### B Grade

After having a couple of losses, the girls knew they needed to fine tune a couple of things and didn't it work today.

The goalers shone with the

tough wind conditions with their movement and accuracy on point.

The mid court with Kiara and Kira dynamic duo had a day out with their feeds and ring work.

Defence was strong all day and it was a true team effort to get a good strong win.

**Best on court:** Kylie.

### U17

There was a good vibe to the day with the girls all feeling positive and keen to hopefully get the first win of the season.

The game started well with the girls having high defensive intensity everywhere on the court.

The attacking end at times was congested, so with a few changes, the play opened, and the team seemed to settle and find their groove.

The girls had a strong defen-

sive end with Hope, Jya, Jilli and Peyton giving it their all every time the ball went down their end.

Hope was the steady hand and helped transition the ball out of defence into the attacking end.

Alana, Millie, Sadie, and Maisie were all very composed and worked hard to get it into the ring.

The shooters Jilli, Maisie, and Millie all had their work cut out for them with the windy conditions when going for goal.

The coaches were so proud of the girls' efforts, positivity, and intensity throughout the game.

The game ended in a draw (Bass vs Garfield 23 - 23).  
**Best on court:** Maisie Van Der Walt and Jilli Wallace.

### U15

Re-setting from a big loss last

weekend the girls went into this game against Garfield with a new mindset and a really positive attitude.

They all got around each other during the week and utilised the training sessions to bring some fresh new energy to the court.

The girls worked extra hard this week to bounce back and take the win over Garfield.

The girls were up and about for the first quarter and pulled away a bit, however some silly mistakes in the second allowed Garfield to come back.

Killy Bass used the half time break to compose themselves and come out firing again in the third.

The last quarter a bit of fatigue kicked in and Garfield stepped their game up a notch, but Killy Bass managed to come away

with the win.

Step by step the team will continue to improve their game, learn from mistakes, work hard and get ready for next week when they take on Koo Wee Rup.

A huge shout out to the defence end who worked hard to create multiple turnovers from start to finish.

**Best on court:** Isabella Stead who played both ends this week getting multiple intercepts and re-bounds in the defensive end and creating opportunities for goals in the goal ring.

Kealey Trewavis worked hard all game playing in the mid court then goals and finished the game in defence where she applied pressure to the Garfield shooter creating multiple turnovers.

Well done to all the girls. It was a team effort today.





U10 Sonny Miller makes a great tackle on his Phillip Island Red opponent.



Congratulations to Killy Bass U14 players for their Best On awards: Timothy Wallace, Jensen Miller, Dominik Acuna and Cooper Brown.

# Fun day of footy for Killy Bass Juniors

FOOTBALL

U14

This week Killy Bass hosted Phillip Island Red. The Island got off to a quick start kicking the first three goals of the game. To Killy Bass's credit they kept the opposition to one goal for the remainder of the game. Unfortunately, the boys couldn't make the most of their opportunities down forward and went down by 15 points. The team will regroup and prepare for next week. **Best on:** Cooper Brown, Timothy Wallace, Dominik Acuna and Jensen Miller.

U12

Phillip Island Red came out firing in the first quarter, dominating early and kicking two goals while keeping Kilcunda Bass scoreless. Their strong start set the tone, with clean ball movement and forward pressure.

In the second quarter, Kilcunda Bass lifted their intensity and started to win more of the contest. Despite their efforts, they struggled to convert opportunities, registering just three behinds. Meanwhile, Red continued to make the most of their chances, adding another goal to extend their lead. The third quarter was a tight and physical battle. Defences from both sides stood strong, with Kilcunda Bass scoring just one behind and Phillip Island Red held scoreless. The game remained within reach, but Bass needed goals to close the gap. In the final term, Phillip Island Red finished strongly, kicking two more goals to seal a convincing win. Phillip Island's ability to take advantage of their scoring chances was the key difference in an otherwise hard-fought game.

**Final Score:** Phillip Island Red: 5.0 (30) defeated Kilcunda Bass: 0.4 (4). **Awards:** Chaze Poulton, Miles Leary, Bailey Pool, Jack Caffery and Lerah Schonewille. **U10** It was a mild and sunny Sunday morning, perfect conditions for footy – as the Killy Bass U10's took to the field for their home game against Phillip Island Red. The kids showed fantastic energy and teamwork, continuing to develop their skills with every game. It's great to see their hard work at training paying off on the field. A strong effort from everyone, well done, team. Choccy award: Sage for implementing and practicing at home the goaling technique that was practiced at training. Well done girls, we love your enthusiasm for our game and love watching you grow stronger each week.



Under 10 Blue award winners went to Captain Max, Ryan W, Ryan M and Marlin for their outstanding contributions. Read U10 Blue report at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

# Sunny conditions for Junior footy

From page 24

U12 Blue

Playing Korumburra Bena, the Bulldogs kicked off with a brilliant first quarter, with Louis working hard on the wing and the team building a wall to lock the ball in the forward line. Dash was everywhere and absolutely smashed it. The boys took the game on, moved the ball forward with confidence, and kept celebrations respectful. Cody's chase back to save a goal was top effort, Otis brought the physical pressure, and Noah laid the best shepherd we've seen all season. The team shared the ball well, left space in the forward line, and kept the pressure on. Captain Kingston led by example with his first goal of the season as did Oliver. A fun, team-first performance with great spirit shown to the opposition. Keep up the great work and

enjoy your footy, Bulldogs. **Awards:** Dash, Yadin, Cooper, Otis, and Kingston. **Goals:** Cody and Max 4, Kash 2, Lenny, Oliver, Rhylan and Kingston 1. **Final Score:** Bulldogs Blue 93 defeated Korumburra Bena 1. **U10 Red** It was another beautiful sunny Sunday morning this past weekend, where the Under 10s Red pups travelled over to Bass for their game. The team came out strong from the first quarter, with each player using determination and team effort to stay in front of the ball. The pups were able to move the ball effectively through the field, using their communication and playing skills. **Goal kickers:** Nate Regnier, Jaxon Smith, Sid Elliot and Ryden Summerfield. **Awards:** Rusty Maier, Blake Ramage, Nate Regnier and Jaxon Smith.

# A tough day at the office for Killy Bass

FOOTBALL

Seniors

Following the loss against Cora Lynn, Killy Bass came up against Garfield on Saturday. The boys have had a rough run with injuries lately, and with winter setting in, illness has plagued the playing group as well. The wind blew viciously at Garfield and had to start kicking against it. The first quarter was slow, and scrappy, in fact, which was the pattern for the entire first half. One positive is that debuting Dylan Susie kicked both our goals in the first half. Garfield poured on the pressure all day and controlled the tempo for majority of the game. A disappointing result, now look to Koo Wee Rup at home next week. **Final score:** Kilcunda Bass 38 defeated by Garfield 71. **Best on:** Bradley Awdwell.

Reserves

After a tough loss to Cora Lynn last week the Reserves were keen to bounce back this week. Travelling to Garfield, the

team knew it was going to be a hard-fought battle. First half was tough but managed to stay with Garfield. After halftime though the opposition ran over the top, and the team only managed to get one more goal for the rest of the game. The opposition poured on the heat and ran away with it. **Final score:** Kilcunda Bass 17 defeated by Garfield 59. **Best on:** Jack Soroczynski. **Veterans** Devon Meadows delivered a dominant performance from the outset, piling on six unanswered goals in a blistering first quarter that set the tone for the match. Kilcunda Bass, already facing a tough task with a depleted lineup due to injuries, struggled to gain momentum throughout the game. Despite showing patches of resilience, the home side couldn't bridge the gap as Devon Meadows maintained control and continued to apply scoreboard pressure. **Final Score:** Kilcunda Bass 1.3 (9) defeated by Devon Meadows 13.10 (88).

U16

A sunny day greeted the young Panthers for a danger game against an improving Garfield side. After conceding the first goal shortly after the opening bounce, the boys knew they would have to work hard all day to come away with the points. Led by our 100 gamer Charlie Burgess, the midfield got going with repeated forward 50 entries due to relentless tackling pressure by the forward line. Several players were able to take advantage and get the scoreboard flowing, with Blake Eden finishing with six goals and Bryce Lawrence, Cruz Maund and Eli Baker-Keys our other multiple goal kickers. A special mention goes to the constantly improving backing who repelled anything that came their way, led by Darcy Gorsuch and young Noah Slavovich's attack on the contest which saw the ball exit the defensive 50 on numerous occasions. A great team effort saw the boys come away with a fantastic win. **Best players:** Charlie Burgess, Blake Eden, Gus Oats, Perry McKay and Eli Baker-Keys.

# Storm and Miramar strike as finals frenzy begins

DARTS

The Darts Centre was crackling with anticipation on Monday night as Round eight of the Phillip Island and District Darts League delivered a storm of its own. Storm and Miramar unleashed dominant performances that have reshaped the leaderboard with just one regular round left before the Lightning Premiership and finals series. The stakes have never been higher, and the tension was palpable as every dart thrown carried the weight of a finals berth. While full match scores are under wraps, it's clear Storm and Miramar seized the moment, delivering commanding wins that could prove to be the decisive factor in the cut-throat race for glory. Their victories send a clear message: they're here to play, and they're aiming for the top. With only one regular round remaining, the pressure is immense. Every point, every leg, every throw in next week's matchups will directly influence the finals

picture. Teams are jostling for position, and the battle for supremacy promises to be epic. The format for the highly anticipated finals will be unveiled next week, adding another layer of intrigue to an already thrilling season. But the drama wasn't confined to the dartboard. Lady Luck was in the air, bringing smiles to some lucky attendees. In a delightful twist of fate, Grummo and Shannon both hit the bullseye in the ever-popular San Remo Butchers Meat Tray Raffle, proving that lightning can indeed strike twice. Not to be outdone, Tony toasted a refreshing win with the beer prize, while Chris secured a sweet victory, walking away with the chocolates. As the dust settles on Round 8, the message is clear: the Phillip Island and District Darts League is heading for a nail-biting conclusion. Bring your best game next week – it's going to be a round to remember as the finals loom large.

# TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 | HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BLACK. LOW TIDE IS MARKED IN RED.

WED 28 MAY	THU 29 MAY	FRI 30 MAY	SAT 31 MAY	SUN 1 JUN	MON 2 JUN	TUE 3 JUN
HIGH 12:15 am 2.64 m	HIGH 1:18 am 2.68 m	HIGH 2:15 am 2.73 m	HIGH 3:11 am 2.75 m	HIGH 4:03 am 2.75 m	HIGH 4:55 am 2.71 m	HIGH 5:46 am 2.64 m
LOW 6:24 am 0.39 m	LOW 7:24 am 0.31 m	LOW 8:18 am 0.29 m	LOW 9:11 am 0.33 m	LOW 10:00 am 0.43 m	LOW 10:47 am 0.58 m	LOW 11:32 am 0.75 m
HIGH 1:49 pm 3.21 m	HIGH 2:46 pm 3.29 m	HIGH 3:40 pm 3.30 m	HIGH 4:29 pm 3.25 m	HIGH 5:13 pm 3.17 m	HIGH 5:54 pm 3.06 m	HIGH 6:31 pm 2.94 m
LOW 7:24 pm 1.29 m	LOW 8:22 pm 1.22 m	LOW 9:14 pm 1.15 m	LOW 10:02 pm 1.09 m	LOW 10:50 pm 1.04 m	LOW 11:35 pm 1.02 m	

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Reserves had a solid win against Inverloch; Brayden Kleverkamp takes a specky.



Yianni Caffieri had a cracker of a game on the weekend in the Seniors match.

# Impressive win for the Bulldogs

## FOOTBALL

### Seniors

The Seniors turned in a dominant display in Round 7, overpowering Inverloch-Kongwak by 100 points.

From the opening bounce, the Bulldogs were in control, slotting nine goals in a blistering first quarter.

Led by the ever-reliable Cameron Pedersen and an impressive performance from Yianni Caffieri kicking four goals, the Phillip Island Seniors team managed to maintain their intensity and execution across all four quarters and came away with a well-deserved win.

**Final Scores:** Phillip Island 19.15.129 defeated Inverloch-Kongwak 4.5.29.

**Best Players:** Cameron Pedersen, Hayden Bruce, Joshua Ryan, Jaymie Youle, Jordy Patullo and Yianni Caffieri.

**Goal Kickers:** Yianni Caffieri 4, Max Walton and Billy Taylor 3, Charlie Bruce, Jaymie Youle and Nick Anderson 2, Hayden Bruce, Zak Vernon and Jack Taylor 1.

### Reserves

A commanding four-quarter performance from the Reserves saw the Bulldogs cruise to a 47-point win on the road.

Phillip Island controlled the contest from the outset, holding Inverloch-Kongwak to just one goal across the first three quarters.

With clean ball movement and relentless pressure, the Bulldogs extended their lead at every change, finishing the game with a powerful final term.

**Final Scores:** Phillip Island 10.7.67 defeated Inverloch-Kongwak 3.2.20

**Best Players:** Finlay Cousins, Connor Thompson, Saxon Mau, Mikka Paulsen, Bryce Hindhaugh and Max Mattock. **Goal Kickers:** Jack Huther and Mikka Paulsen 3, Ben Taylor 2, Connor Thompson and Max Mattock 1.

### U18

The U18 boys, continued their winning streak on the weekend. In a low-scoring contest, Phillip Island set the tone early with a dominant first quar-



Charlie O'Garey was presented with Jumper 31 for his first game in Seniors team.

ter, keeping the hosts goalless while piling on 22 points.

Despite a strong final term from Inverloch-Kongwak, the Bulldogs' early scoreboard pressure and consistent effort across the field were enough to secure a seven-point win.

**Final Scores:** Phillip Island 6.7.43 defeated Inverloch-Kongwak 5.6.36.

**Best Players:** Jack Briggs, Jack

Larsson, Max Taylor, Benjamin Chihotski, Ayden Fawaz and Noah Williams.

**Goal Kickers:** Oliver Duggan 3, Benjamin Chihotski, Max Taylor and Ayden Fawaz 1.

### U16

In a tightly contested match, Phillip Island showed plenty of fight but ultimately fell short against a composed Inverloch Kongwak outfit, going down by 17 points.

Despite the final scoreline, the Bulldogs matched Inverloch for much of the game, with their midfield pressure and defensive efforts keeping them well within striking distance.

**Final Scores:** Inverloch Kongwak 6.8.44 defeated Phillip Island 3.9.27

**Best Players:** Charlie Fischer, Archie Williams, Archer Cameron, Max Jess, Levi Addison, Flynn Dengerink.

**Goal Kickers:** Sam O'Garey 2, Ry Scott 1.

More photos at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

# Sunny conditions for Junior footy

## FOOTBALL

### U 14 Red

Nothing stirs the competitive juices quite as much as taking on the neighbours in sport, Kilcunda Bass, and the Red Bulldogs were looking forward to putting up a great contest from the outset.

Kicking with aid of the wind in the first quarter the midfield took early control with Dexter Goodall showing that he has the run and leap to go through the ruck.

Tackling pressure from Kai Sturt and repeated forward entries from Denver Firth lead to crumbing goals to Zaine Larsson and Flynn Doig.

With most of the quarter played in the forward line the Bulldogs would feel like they could've capitalised a little more.

Knowing that it would be harder work in the second

quarter the team continued to make sure Kilcunda Bass earned every possession.

Looking for the overlap run, the side was able to enter the forward line multiple times.

A sharp snap from the pocket to Bowie Edwards saw the score stretch to a three-goal lead.

With a 30 seconds remaining Killy Bass put together their best ball movement and took it deep into the forward line for a goal.

The Panthers came out full of run in the third quarter and immediately put the Bulldogs under pressure.

Johnny Rizzo and Ziggy Wagner took some telling marks across half back to repel the opposition.

This lifted the team as Kane and Will Patton continued to run and create opportunity. In one of the forays into the forward line Xavier Holmes snapped truly to deliver a goal

from nowhere.

The backline did a great job to keep their opponents goalless for the quarter.

With the game still in the balance the Bulldogs needed to remain focussed on the job at hand. Harvey and Roy Paterson were enormous throughout the quarter with relentless run and attack on the football, both capping off great games.

Halfway through the last quarter Killy Bass took a mark in the forward line that was well converted for a goal.

From here the Bulldogs were able to lock up the footy and held onto its advantage through to the final siren.

In what was a good contest, the team is building trust in each other and can see the level of effort required to be competitive week in, week out.

Both teams are to be commended on the sportsmanship

shown after the game as many are mates at school.

PI Red 4:6.30 defeated Kilcunda-Bass 2:3.15.

### U12 Red

The team played an excellent game right from the first siren against Killy Bass.

The pups are showing great skill and determination which kept the game flowing nicely.

The 12s did an exceptional job at not only reading the field but also using their communication skills.

This led to them taking home a win, well done team.

**Goal kickers:** Taj Henzen, Archer Summerfield, Brock Larsson, Braxton Willcocks and Ethan Cleary.

**Awards:** Braxton Willcocks, Reef Elliot, Max Parry and Tate Steward.

Phillip Island Red: 05.00.30 defeated Kilcunda-Bass: 00.04.04.

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