

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

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Good sports!

Sport is serious business for young Oakley Denblyden and Scarlett Oudshoorn, who kept a firm grip on the ball at last week's soccer training. With restrictions easing, there's plenty of keen sports people returning to the field, the gym, the greens and the water. Turn to page 32 for a full rundown of local sport, including a dazzling return to competition cricket for our island teams.

New councillors officially announced

It was like the first day of school for Bass Coast Shire's new class of 2020, at the official announcement of new councillors in Wonthaggi last Friday.

Of the total nine councillors who will represent the shire's three wards, five are re-elected old guard, including Michael Whelan for Island Ward, and Westernport Ward's Bruce Kent and Clare Le Serve, the longest-serving councillor now on her third term.

Four are new kids on the block including Island Ward's Ronnie Bauer and David Rooks, as well as Rochelle Halstead in Westernport Ward.

In Bunurong Ward, Brett Tessari –

mayor for the past two years – was the most popular with a staggering 6372 first preference votes.

The most controversial is Cr Les Larke, who only gained 1327 first preferences (compared to Michael Nugent at 1639, but who lost on preferences), possibly in part because his campaign was marred by accusations of corruption, later dismissed by the Local Government Inspectorate (see separate article).

"I look forward to working in a productive and conciliatory way with you all," Les said at the official announcement.

Leticia Laing is the sole new rep-

resentative for Bunurong Ward, saying her priorities were to protect the environment and ensure better facilities, especially in Wonthaggi, while supporting economic recovery post-Covid.

Brett Tessari told the four new councillors to "strap themselves in", adding "hopefully the five old councillors will help you out".

The new council was sworn in on Monday.

Westernport Ward

Rochelle Halstead said her immediate priorities in council would be to focus on erosion control, especially Kil-

cunda, and ensure Shetland Heights Road in San Remo was sealed.

"It needs to be done for the proposed junior high school, but also if there's ever an issue with the Phillip Island Road, traffic can be detoured along this road," Rochelle said.

She added that a priority will be to streamline planning to ensure projects, such as a proposed Grantville supermarket, will get the green light.

Rochelle described her politics as "conservative with an environmental and social conscience".

"I sit in the middle and am open-minded to all views."

Clare Le Serve recognised that

three women will once again sit on council – which last occurred in the 2012-16 term – but said more broadly it was "team Bass Coast".

"Even though we are in wards we will work together."

Clare said her three immediate priorities were to support businesses and farmers in the wake of the pandemic, start work on major projects such as the Cowes Cultural Centre and community pool, and review the planning scheme to ensure the region remained rural.

"We don't want to urbanise ourselves," Clare said.

Continued page 7

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SHOWERS	SHOWER OR TWO	POSSIBLE SHOWER	POSSIBLE SHOWER	SHOWER OR TWO	POSSIBLE SHOWER	POSSIBLE SHOWER
19 28	14 21	13 19	12 18	12 26	13 17	12 16

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*

As of Monday, November 9

12,192
tests done locally

11
Local residents
tested positive

0
Active cases

*From BCH Assessment clinics only since March.

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New twist in Larke saga

The Local Government Inspectorate (LGI) has cleared Bass Coast Shire Council following a complaint of alleged leaking of confidential information.

The complaint followed a leak to The Age newspaper of councillor emails from 2018, detailing that Cr Les Larke allegedly offered millions of dollars of his own money to each Bass Coast council ward, in return for securing the mayoral role.

Mr Larke was last month cleared of any bribery allegations following an investigation by the LGI.

However last week shire CEO Ali Wastie said the shire had received a request to investigate the alleged leaking of the confidential information.

"The alleged leaking of confidential information is a serious matter and I have referred the complaint to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) for investigation," Ms Wastie said.

A spokesperson for IBAC last week told the Advertiser "IBAC confirms that we are not currently investigating Bass Coast Shire".

However, LGI Acting Chief Mu-

nicipal Inspector Dr John Lynch confirmed the LGI had "assessed a complaint related to an alleged leak of information from Bass Coast Shire Council about Mr Les Larke".

"The information in question was not considered confidential or in-confidence under the Local Government Act 2020 and consequently there was no breach of the Act," Dr Lynch said.

"The Inspectorate will not be taking any further action on this matter."

This week Council's CEO Ali Wastie said she had also asked council officers to undertake a thorough internal review of all emails relating to the investigation.

"Based on the findings from this review, I can confirm that no emails were sent from Council's email server in relation to the 2018 IBAC complaint regarding unauthorised external recipients," Ms Wastie said.

"I have taken the allegations raised very seriously; however, there is no evidence that the alleged leaking of any information related

to the investigation came from council officers or councillors.

"Council provides comprehensive information privacy training across the organisation on a regular basis and this will continue into the future.

"I now confirm the matter related to this complaint to be closed and look forward to working in partnership with the new Council to deliver the best services and outcomes for the Bass Coast community."

Mr Larke told the Advertiser he was "precluded from commenting on any IBAC investigation".

"That said, I reserve my rights otherwise available for consideration in due time given the serious nature of this matter," Mr Larke said.

The LGI recently highlighted that complaints related to the release of confidential information had increased in 2018/19 across Victoria, adding that Inspectorate investigations had revealed cases of repeat disclosures of confidential information by councillors to members of the public or the media.

The LGI said the effect of this behaviour was serious and unauthor-

ised disclosures had the potential to harm council reputation and its business of providing community services, the LGI said.

Allegations

The Age published emails from three councillors - then mayor Pam Rothfield, then deputy mayor Brett Tessari and then Cr Geoff Ellis - detailing the offer made during a meeting in Wonthaggi in October 2018.

Dr Lynch last month confirmed the investigation of Cr Larke had concluded and found no impropriety.

"A complainant alleged that Cr Larke attempted to bribe fellow councillors in order to secure nomination as mayor for Bass Coast Shire Council in breach of section 76D of the Local Government Act 1989," Dr Lynch said.

"The complaint alleges that Cr Larke offered each ward \$5 million in exchange for the vote as mayor.

"The investigation did not find evidence that Cr Larke had misused his position.

"The Inspectorate will take no further action in this matter."

Cray concerns ahead of season opening

San Remo cray fishermen are nervously watching trade tensions between China and Australia after tonnes of live lobsters were stranded at Chinese airports.

According to news reports, the lobsters were stranded after waiting to be inspected by customs officials last week, coming after months of increasing trade blows.

San Remo Fisherman's Co-op general manager Paul Mannix confirmed the lobsters held up in China were from interstate, and not from local fisheries.

"Our local lobster season doesn't open until November 16," Paul said.

"So although our cray fishermen haven't been directly affected

yet, they certainly have cause for concern once our season opens.

"This year has been frustrating for all sorts of Australian producers - grain, timber, livestock and now crays."

Earlier this year San Remo cray fishermen were inadvertent casualties of coronavirus, with the local industry flooded with crayfish following China's ban on live imports.

At the time Paul said about 95 per cent of southern rock lobsters caught in Bass Coast were exported to China each year, but after China imposed a temporary ban on seafood imports because of coronavirus fears, local fishermen had been left with thousands of dollars' in excess stock.



San Remo cray boat skipper Johnathon "George" Brocklesby on the "Hannah Ann G".

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How do we live with wildlife?

Is it possible to find a better way to live alongside the island's wildlife?

That's the question addressed by the draft Wildlife Plan released by Phillip Island Nature Parks this week.

The community is being invited to have their say.

The first draft of the plan on the Engage Vic website is open for comment for four weeks.

As the island's two populations – human and wildlife – continue to grow, there's been increasing concern about the best way to manage what are at times conflicting needs.

PINP Chief Executive Officer Catherine Basterfield said the Wildlife Plan aims to bring a holistic approach to living with wildlife on Phillip Island.

"The whole of Phillip Island is blessed with lots of wildlife," Ms Basterfield said.

"The challenge is to manage the benefits of wildlife with issues in sustainable agriculture and the intersection with community activities, particularly the conflict on the roads."

It also examines the wildlife populations in the context of conservation and tourism activities.

She is hopeful the plan – a joint effort between the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP), Bass Coast Shire Council and the Nature Parks, with input from the Bunurong Land Council – will provide better outcomes for wildlife and people

Targets

The plan specifically targets three native species with rising populations that are significantly impacting on the local environment, agriculture and tourism.

One of the aims is to better understand the island's Cape Barren geese, swamp wallabies and common brushtail possums populations and the best way to manage them.

Cape Barren Geese have a major



Nature Parks CEO Catherine Basterfield said the new PINP Wildlife Plan aims to bring a holistic approach to living with wildlife on Phillip Island. The draft plan is open for comment for four weeks. Photo Nick Kohler.



Increasing populations of swamp wallabies and common brushtail possums are impacting on native vegetation and the plan looks at potential control measures, including the use of browsing repellent. Photo Nick Kohler.

impact on agriculture, while the biggest impact of wallabies and possums is seen on revegetation projects.

"The means of controlling wildlife at the moment are really limited," Ms Basterfield.

"That's the crux of this plan. We want to expand those and find non-lethal means of population management."

"This is the preferable option for the Nature Parks and farmers don't want to resort to culling activities."

"That's not a desirable outcome for anyone."

Trials and research – including electronic fencing and studies into the economic impact of wildlife on agriculture – are already underway.

Ms Basterfield said other options

for population control, including egg removal, fertility control and traditional harvesting had been discussed.

"We're keen to get more suggestions from the community on how to manage these populations."

"We're very open to including new suggestions or modifying ones that are already there."

Ms Basterfield said research, tests and processes had been running while the plan was being drafted.

"We've had studies into the wallaby population, there's been Cape Barren geese counts, and an electronic fencing trial."

Part of the plan would include trialling different methods to assess their suitability.

"We need to get some runs on the ground."

"The more things we test, or the more we do to support other processes that already exist, the better we will be."

She stressed the plan shouldn't be seen as a plan targeted at culling wildlife.

"It's the opposite of that. We're looking for population and ecosystem management that doesn't require going to lethal methods and will deliver other community benefits as well."

Have your say

Online feedback includes a survey and the option to submit general

comments.

The Nature Parks will hold a number of online forums in the coming month to gather input from people.

The feedback will then be reviewed and a revised version will go back to the Nature Parks, DELWP, Bunurong Land Council and Bass Coast Shire Council.

The final plan is expected to be completed by early next year.

Ms Basterfield said the joint ownership of the plan means that it will go through the approval processes of all the organisations to be endorsed, adopted and resourced.

The first draft of the Phillip Island Wildlife Plan is available to view on the Engage Vic website engage.vic.gov.au



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Farmers and wildlife: finding the balance

Farmers are a driving force behind the new Phillip Island Wildlife Plan.

Agriculture accounts for 60 per cent of land use on Phillip Island and the growing population of Cape Barren geese in particular is causing significant damage to crops and pastures.

Phillip Island Nature Parks CEO Catherine Basterfield said local farmers had struggled with the problems created by wildlife populations for a long time.

“They’re keen for action and in some senses, they’ve driven the process.

“They have continued to raise concerns with us and DELWP and that really came to a climax 18 months ago.

“I don’t want to generalise for the whole farming community, but the feedback I’m hearing is they are glad something is happening that will support them on the ground.”

Research undertaken so far identifies Cape Barren geese as the biggest threat to agricultural sustainability.

Research conducted with local farmers by Federation University showed between 50 – 100 per cent of summer forage crops were lost to grazing geese.

The cost to farmers to replace their lost crops was calculated at \$2,250 per hectare.

Despite this impact, many landowners said they did not want to use “lethal control”



The new Phillip Island Wildlife Plan identified Cape Barren geese as a major threat to agriculture and looks at non-lethal ways to manage the population. Photo Nick Kohler.

to reduce the population.

“There is a strong desire for more effective and sustainable control options,” the plan states.

“We enjoy having abundant wildlife,” said Ms Basterfield.

“But it’s certainly having an economic impact on the farming community.

“The rest of the population of Phillip Island loves the landscape, but it’s only there while farming land is viable.

“It’s in all our interests

to maintain the green pastures and rolling hills, so we need to ensure farmers can continue to farm.

“This is the solution we’re looking for.”

Proposed actions in the plan include establishing three-year plans with control options that include non-lethal methods, including egg removal, egg replacement and adding (causing fertilised eggs to become infertile without breaking the shell).

A register of landholders

wanting to trial alternative control methods would be set up immediately.

Other trial actions include planting decoy crops.

The plan also recommends grant opportunities for farmers, introduction of wildlife corridors and recognising and protecting the island’s rural landscape in strategic and planning documents.

Possums and wallabies

The biggest impact of possums and wallabies is on native vegetation and revegetated areas.

“It takes a long time to establish vegetation,” Ms Basterfield explained.

“There’s not much natural seeding or revegetation because it’s been so heavily browsed by these species.”

Ms Basterfield said more research into the populations was needed as well as more work to identify activities that would have a real impact on the activities of the possums and wallabies.

Suggestions so far include trialling the use of browsing repellents on revegetation areas and reviewing deterrent and enclosure opportunities.

Exploring the role of native predators on controlling native wildlife, including introducing or attracting native predators such as owls or quolls is also a recommended action.

No plan for wildlife rescue

The draft Wildlife Plan for Phillip Island does not include a model for a wildlife rescue service.

Ms Basterfield said she was aware of community calls for a wildlife rescue service; however the focus of the Wildlife Plan was population management.

“The plan is about trying to maintain a healthy eco-system and populations, so I’m not entirely sure what part wildlife rescue will play in that.

“I know the community wants to see wildlife rescue on the agenda, but I don’t see how escalating wildlife rescue services will contribute to controlling wildlife.

“We haven’t looked at a means of population management crossing over with the wildlife rescue process.”

She said she fully expected push back from the community on the issue but saw wildlife rescue as “an add on to this plan”.

However she said data on wildlife injuries – which animals are injured and where – would help to develop strategies on how to manage those populations.

Plan actions

While it does not include a model for wildlife rescue services, the Wildlife Plan does address the issue of wildlife roadkill.

Proposed actions include identifying the key factors that result in sick, injured or orphaned wildlife on Phillip Island, understanding the movement of wildlife populations and assessing the effectiveness of virtual fencing on reducing roadkill.

It also supported input into a review of speed limits on island roads.

Establishing alternative fresh water sources is another recommended action to help reduce roadkill.

“Phillip Island Conservation Society had a lot of good suggestions for the plan and this might have come from them,” said Ms Basterfield.

“It’s providing animals with a water source where it’s good for them to congregate. It’s a way to attract animals to places where you want them to be.”

With animals drinking water from



The local community has long supported increased measures to decrease roadkill and a 24/7 wildlife rescue service.

roadside drains and puddles, alternative water sources could help remove animals from key traffic areas Ms Basterfield said.

Volunteer service still on hold

Since the Phillip Island Wildlife Rescue Service run by volunteers Kaylene Mendola and Colleen Gilbee closed down in 2019, there’s been no 24/7 wildlife rescue service operating on Phillip Island.

Ms Basterfield said volunteers had been recruited to help deliver a wildlife rescue service, but the project had been put on hold due to the pandemic.

As Covid restrictions continued to ease, she said volunteers would be slowly brought back and hopefully the plan would be reinstated.

In March this year, PINP announced sixteen volunteers were being trained to help respond to afterhours wildlife incidents.

The volunteers would provide an after-hour incident response for reports of sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife from the public.

They would then co-ordinate with the Wildlife Rescue and Transportation volunteers who will undertake the rescue with another volunteer or a Nature Parks ranger.



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The historic Isle of Wight hotel was due to be demolished for redevelopment when a fire gutted the building in May 2010.



This was the most recent design to be released for the Isle of Wight in 2007, showing a set-back from the street level. Under planning laws, five to seven-storeys across the site can be built.

Isle of Wight owner clarifies sale

The owner of the Isle of Wight site has put the land on the market because it is "unfair to the community" to leave the "iconic" property undeveloped.

John Matthies, who also owns Banfields Aged Care in Cowes, last week told the Advertiser it would be about five years before he would consider developing the Isle of Wight site.

"I've decided to have a go at selling it because I have four or five projects I'm currently working on in aged care," Mr Matthies said, adding the projects included an extension to Banfields (see separate story), as well as developments in Melbourne.

"I feel a bit of an obligation to the community and it would be at least five years before I could do anything with it and it seems silly to let it sit there while I have other projects on the go.

"It's a fantastic, iconic site, north facing with fantastic views, hard to find better. It needs to be developed for the whole of Phillip Island and Victoria's tourism."

When asked whether the current economic climate had influenced his decision Mr Matthies said "yes and no".

"A few weeks ago when I made my decision I was thinking with the pandemic tourism has been affected, but at the same time maybe regional tourism will increase, with more demand."

Mr Matthies bought the land on the corner of the Esplanade and Bass Avenue in 2016 and initially had an architect draft plans to build a \$40 million boutique hotel, subsequently having several meetings with Bass Coast Shire councillors.

"Council has always been keen to do something with the site and our meetings were along those lines," he said, clarifying that there were never any plans to turn the land into aged care.

"I didn't progress the plans at that stage because I was concerned about the financial viability of it.

"I engaged consultants to do a feasibility study and after that put it on the back burner because I had other projects and I've not done anything since. I'm a believer in sticking to your knitting (concentrate on a familiar area rather than diversify)."

Sale

The site is being sold through Alex Scott Real Estate in Cowes, with agent Greg Price explaining it was being offered by expressions of interest, which close on January 20, 2021.

Divided into five blocks, there is the option to sell the blocks individually or for the site to be purchased as a whole.

The land measures 8624 square metres, with individual blocks ranging from 4047sqm to 1012 sqm.

The biggest lot has water frontage and is on the corner of The Esplanade and Bass Avenue.

A second block (1541sqm) is on The Esplanade, with the three remaining sites along Bass Ave.

"It would be ideal if someone bought it as a whole, but if that doesn't happen you could still develop a hotel on the largest block, which is one acre."

Mr Matthies said ideally the land should have a boutique 4.5-5 star accommodation

business.

"It shouldn't be too big because the demand is not there.

"It should be boutique because there's nothing on the island that is five stars. There's really nothing of that standard for the tourists who come to the penguin parade or the Grand Prix circuit.

"Some people may rather build more apartments to a lower standard, but I think the island needs something better than that, if it stands up from an economic point of view."

Mr Matthies would not say how much he bought the land for nor how much he was asking.

"Put it this way, I never like selling things at a loss."

Height, car ferry

Mr Matthies said he spent considerable money in 2018 advocating for height limits to a Victorian planning panel.

The panel ruled that any future develop-

ment on the Isle of Wight site should remain seven storeys at the front half of the site along The Esplanade, increasing the rear half to five storeys.

"I didn't want the site to be adversely affected from a planning point of view," he said. "Effectively I got the height we wanted."

The panel also said any redevelopment must design around and make a feature of the significant Moreton Bay fig tree on the corner of the land, ensuring a qualified arborist "undertake any investigations necessary" to ensure the safety of the tree.

Mr Matthies has over the years advocated for a car ferry, although he was unconvinced the Cowes jetty was the best location.

"The island needs a car ferry. If we had a car ferry operating there would be more people coming to the island.

"I don't mind if it's on the jetty, but I don't think that's the ideal spot for it. Ideally it would be down the road a bit so all the traffic didn't come into the centre of town."

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A piece of Cowes history, the iconic site of the Isle of Wight is up for sale.

A piece of Cowes history

The vacant Isle of Wight sold in 2016 to Mr John Matthies, after being on the market since 2014, when the former owner of the Continental and the Isle of Wight went into liquidation.

Around 2015 a protracted year-long sale fell through after a would-be buyer failed to come up with the funds.

In 2016 an agent said the asking price was “north of \$6 million”.

The Isle of Wight was first given a planning permit for redevelopment by the former Phillip Island Shire and since 2005 has had a planning permit, which had been amended and subsequently approved by a planning panel.

The pub was due to be demolished for redevelopment, when fire gutted the building in May 2010.

More than 100 fighters responded

to the blaze but could not save the hotel.

In 2011, the Bass Coast Shire refused to extend the permit for a third time, and it expired.

The historic hotel famously played host to Fred Astaire, Ava Gardner and Gregory Peck during their filming of the movie *On the Beach* in 1959.

The same year, the Australian Women’s Weekly reported that tennis champion Frank Sedgman purchased the Isle of Wight Hotel at Cowes, with fellow professional tennis players Ken Rosewall, Lew Hoad, Tony Trabert, Pancho Segura, and Richard Gonzales.

“Although Sedgman would not disclose the price, he said up to £40,000 would be spent renovating the two-story building,” reported the magazine on May 27, 1959.

Banfields’ expansion plans

A Cowes aged care facility has lodged a planning permit to build a \$10 million, 43-bed extension.

Banfields Aged Care, at 192-198 Thompson Avenue, is planning the additional wing on vacant land to the north of their site, which will bring the total number of beds to 132, including the existing facility.

The permit states additional bed licences have been allocated by the Commonwealth Department of Health to the site “in recognition of the shortage of beds in the Cowes

area”.

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

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

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

The land is about 1.8ha, 63 metres

wide, with a northern boundary of 240 metres, which was previously a cypress-lined driveway to the historic Rhyllston Park property.

Owner of Banfields Aged Care John Matthies, who also owns the Isle of Wight site (see separate article) said the facility currently employed about 120 staff and the extension would see a further 20 jobs.

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

End of an era at Rhyll General Store

After 17 years behind the counter, Korral and Charlie Guy are closing the door on their time at the Rhyll General Store.

In December, they pass the keys over to new owner Angela Mahoney.

More than just a shop, the General Store is a hub for the Rhyll community.

“We have a community notice board, the defibrillator, and we do the bookings for the hall and the tennis courts,” explained Korral.

“That’s a great community connection.”



Korral Guy and husband Charlie from the Rhyll General Store hand over the keys to the new owner on December 1, after taking over in 2003.

With no mail street delivery in Rhyll, the store is the Australia Post outlet.

“It’s a big part of the service, people have mailboxes, collect mail and pay their bills,” Korral said.

“It was a big change when the Post Office went electronic three years ago.”

Parcel delivery rates have increased enormously in the past couple of years with the rise in online shopping, and doubled during the Covid lockdown.

“I can’t see that changing.”

But the human connection remains strong.

“People come in to pick up their mail and it is a way to keep an eye on what’s happening with our older customers.

“If they don’t come in for a few days, we say ‘what’s going on.’”

Over their time at the store, Korral said they’ve seen a lot of changes “in Rhyll and everywhere on the island”.

They’ve made a few of their own, including installing a cool room and introducing a line of local produce.

“We stock Purple Hen wine and Kitehaven olive oil and olives. We’ve also got a mosquito repellent that no one else stocks and a special range of Victorian-made biscuits that are only sold to independent stores.”

The General Store has been a way

of life for the entire family, and Korral said she will miss the community connection.

“It’s been a lifestyle for our family. Our kids were nine and 11 when we came here, so they grew up with the people.

“They both worked in the store as well.”

The couple’s retirement coincides with one of the most challenging years for local businesses.

“Covid didn’t impact on us much,” Korral said, although it did prompt a change to the business hours, giving the couple a few precious extra hours of spare time.

But she won’t miss the stress of having to make sure people wear masks and sanitise their hands when they enter the store.

And she predicts a busy summer.

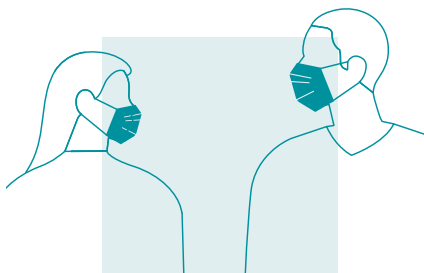
“I think it’s going to be ridiculous down here – everyone will come down and that will be good for local business.”

It’s certainly going to be a different holiday season for Korral and Charlie, who will be able to relax and enjoy the summer for the first time in 17 years.

“Having Boxing Day off – that’s what I’m looking forward to.”

EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING

IS KEEPING US ON TOP OF THIS VIRUS



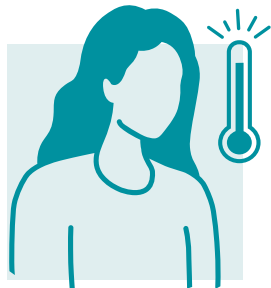
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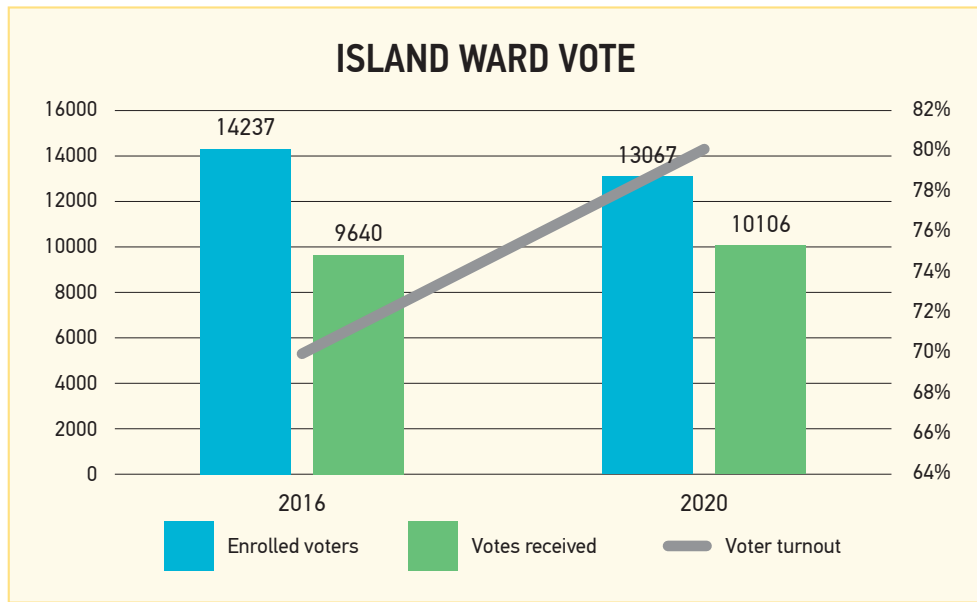
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Although there were 1170 less enrolled voters, voter turnout in Island Ward was up on the 2016 election, with 80 per cent of registered voters sending in their ballot.

Voters keen to have their say

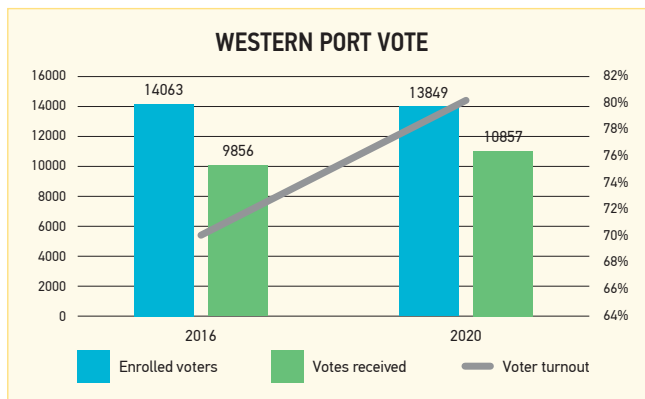
A snapshot of voter numbers show people were keen to vote in this year's election.

Despite 1170 less enrolled voters in Island Ward this year compared to the last election in 2016, 466 more votes were cast, with 80 per cent of registered voters sending in their ballot. This compared to 70 per cent in 2016.

The pattern was repeated in Western Port Ward.

Although there were 214 less registered voters, 1001 more votes were received than in 2016, with an 80 per cent voter turnout, up eight per cent from 2016.

Bunurong ward's enrol-



The pattern was repeated in Western Port Ward, with votes up by 1281 and turnout rising to 83 per cent.

ment remained stable, but an eight-point jump in turnout were up by 1281 with out to 83 per cent.

Election results breakdown

Under the proportional voting system for multi-councillor wards, the successful candidates have to reach a required quota of votes to be elected.

In Island wards, only Michael Whelan received enough first preference votes to reach the quota. Ronnie Bauer and David Rooks relied on distribution of preferences.

However the top three candidates all ended up making it through.

In Western Port Ward, both Bruce Kent and Rochelle Halstead reached quota on first preference votes, with Clare Le Serve being elected after distribution of preferences.

The most complicated count was in Bunurong Ward.

Brett Tessari was the clear winner, picking up almost 50 per cent of the vote.

Dogged by controversy over leaked details of an investigation by the Local Government Inspectorate, which was subsequently dismissed, Cr Les Larke was returned after ini-

Candidate	First preference votes	Percentage	Elected
Michael Whelan	2544	25.17%	1
Ronnie Bauer	2239	22.16%	2
David Rooks	2135	21.13%	3
Jeni Jobe	985	9.75%	
Trish Cerini	740	7.32%	
Ash Belsar	708	7.01%	
Mikhaela Barlow	438	4.33%	
Darrell Silver	317	3.14%	

Candidate	First preference votes	Percentage	Elected
Bruce Kent	3428	31.57%	1
Rochelle Halstead	2872	26.45%	2
Clare Le Serv	2485	22.89%	3
Geoff Ellis	2072	19.08%	

Candidate	First preference votes	Percentage	Elected
Brett Tessari	6372	49.91%	1
Leticia Laing	2212	17.33%	2
Michael Nugent	1639	12.84%	
Les Larke	1327	10.39%	3
Julian Brown	1217	9.53%	

tially polling fourth in the primary vote count.

Redistributed preferences from Brett Tessari and Julian Brown boosted his vote, with

Cr Larke finally reaching the required quota 25 votes ahead of Michael Nugent (who had received the third highest primary vote).

Missing ballot packs – Voters denied

Some non-resident ratepayers are complaining they missed the chance to vote in last month's elections.

So too permanent residents. Chris Day, who has a property in San Remo, wrote to the Bass Coast Shire CEO last week complaining the ballot pack arrived at his Melbourne address on October 26, three days after voting closed.

A lifelong Cowes resident said on Monday she did not receive a ballot pack, and has therefore been denied her opportunity to vote in the council election.

Another resident, currently residing in a different shire, said ballot packs did not arrive at her Phillip Island address.

And despite contacting the electoral officer and asking for the ballot to be directed to her

new address, nothing arrived there either.

Another resident reported receiving ballots at an overseas address – again after voting had closed.

There seemed to be some confusion over the election process, with ballots mailed out based on a combination of state electoral roll registrations and a council-based list.

Any resident who had moved to a new house needed to update their details on the state electoral roll to receive a ballot pack at their new address.

Non-resident ratepayers wanting to vote in the election had to lodge an application with council to receive a ballot pack.

These details were then passed onto the VEC, based on information from the council's

ratepayer database.

"Whilst the VEC is responsible overall for certifying that the voters' rolls are complete and accurate, councils are ultimately responsible for providing up-to-date and accurate information about council-based enrolments for the purposes of municipal roll production," the VEC stated.

For the 2020 election, a Bass Coast Shire Council spokesperson confirmed there were 14,209 voters details supplied to the VEC on August 28.

"We were contacted by a number of ratepayers who weren't automatically enrolled to vote," the spokesperson said.

Election results were announced on November 6 (see separate story). For more information go to vec.vic.gov.au.



New kids and old guard: Bass Coast Shire's councillors for 2020-2024 are from left (back): David Rooks (Island), Brett Tessari (Bunurong), Michael Whelan (Island), Les Larke (Bunurong). Front: Leticia Laing (Bunurong), Ronnie Bauer (Island), Rochelle Halstead and Clare Le Serve (both Westernport). Absent: Bruce Kent (Westernport)

New councillors officially announced

From page 1

"Even in residential areas I'm concerned about growth."

Bruce Kent was the only candidate not to appear at the official announcement on Friday, but he told the Advertiser his wish list for the next term was to focus on coastal protection and to maintain town boundaries.

"I think it's a more 'green' council this time, which will entail a lot more advocating," Bruce said.

"We need to look at minimum size blocks that can be subdivided. We're seeing an increase in developers wanting to halve the 700-800m large blocks, but we don't want to lose what we've got. People come here for that – if we lose it, everybody loses out."

Bruce said he would also like to see the main street of Cowes developed.

"It needs a make-over, a tidy up. I think of the number of seaside townships in NSW/QLD that I visit – they're beautiful, with one-way main streets and landscaping."

Island Ward

David Rooks joked it was a long time since he had worked in the corporate world and owned a tie.

"You won't get me back in a tie but I might get some new clothes and a haircut," he said.

Last week David told the Advertiser his immediate goal was to support local business so they can fight back from the Covid economic hit.

"It is important we do this and that we as a community all work together to stay safe and strong, so the island can reopen and recover as quickly as it possibly can for this summer and beyond."

David said he also wanted to address the fact the shire had no face-to-face service centre or tourism information site in Cowes.

Ronnie Bauer described his election win as humbling and said his first priority would be to achieve a weekly red bin pick up over summer.

He will also throw his weight behind the push for a Phillip Island Aquatic Centre.

Ronnie said he believed working as a team with his fellow councillors would achieve the best outcomes across the shire.

"I think after the talks we've had recently we will make a good team."

Sitting councillor Michael Whelan said his major focus in the short term included supporting the State Government's Distinc-



Westernport Ward councillors – who will represent Sunderland Bay, Cape Woolamai, Newhaven and San Remo through to the waterline community and Kilcunda – Rochelle Halstead and Clare Le Serve.

tive Areas Landscape legislation, which will guide planning across the shire.

"We need to make sure the legislation addresses what we as a community have raised, including no further extension of existing town boundaries," he said.

Michael said another priority was the Cowes "carnival site's" proposed sports hub, especially creating a masterplan for the development, in addition to advocating to Federal and state governments for funding on the community pool.

He said the creation of a safe bike path in Thompson Avenue, a shared path from Cowes to Summerland was in his sights for early in the council term, as well as ensuring continued work on erosion control.

Michael and Bruce also paid tribute to the work of Geoff Ellis, who failed to gain re-election.

Council Update



Fee-Free Green Waste Disposal

Council's fee-free green waste disposal period runs until 22 November 2020. During this period, residents and property owners are able to dispose of domestic sized loads of green waste free of charge at Council waste facilities. For facility locations and opening times please visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/wastefacilities.

Weed species and species that cannot be physically mulched (such as palm fronds) will not be accepted free of charge but can be disposed of in your kerbside green-lidded Organics bin. For more information please contact Council's Waste Services Team on the numbers below or visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/waste.

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | DX 34903 Wonthaggi | PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995 | 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service (for people with speech or hearing difficulties) on 13 36 77 | basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au

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Ventnor beach access restored

An access track to Ventnor Beach from the carpark has been reinstated. Timber steps and seating have also been installed. The access track was blocked for over two months, after Bass Coast Shire Council sealed the track off because of erosion. In September, council said the pathway had been deemed unsafe due to its "steep grade and uneven surface. It was closed as a temporary measure until the track could be reinstated. The informal pathway had developed as a short-cut to the beach. Council said increased use and undulating rock along the path made it unsafe. "To address the issue, we constructed new elevated timber steps, including new seating,



The access track from the Ventnor Beach carpark has been restored, with timber seating and steps installed by council.



Timber steps now provide a safe access to the beach at Ventnor.

which was completed in late October," the council spokesperson said. "The new formalised path and steps provides a much safer option for pedestrians accessing the beach." A damaged limb has also been removed from a tree in the carpark.



Australian Government

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SHORT STACK

A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Nominate a young achiever

Nominations for the Young Achiever Awards are now open for young people under 29 from Victoria. Do you know a young person who is a leader and role model, helping others or creating a better future through innovative thinking? Then think about nominating them for the 2020 Awards. There are 13 different categories, covering community, philanthropic and student awards. Category winners will each receive \$1,000 cash and a \$1,000 Bartercard account from Wheelton Philanthropy and Budget Rent A Car and a trophy. One of the thirteen category winners will be chosen as the 2021 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year and will receive a state trophy. To submit a nomination, go to www.youngachieverawards.com select 'VIC' and then click the gold 'Nominate Now'. Alternatively, call 9720 1638. Nominations close January 14, 2021.

Red Socks Appeal

Kidney Health Australia is urging people to "pull on red socks and roam", and walk or ride 60kms to support people living with kidney disease. The 60km challenge during November aims to raise funds for early detection and support activities for those dealing with kidney disease. An extreme 150km challenge is also on offer. To find out more or register for the Kidney Health Red Socks Appeal, visit kidney.org.au/redsocksappeal

Commemorative coin for Furies

The Royal Australian Mint has launched a commemorative coloured \$2 coin to honour those who battled the horrific 2019/20 summer bushfires. The \$2 coin will feature a blaze of orange in the centre, with female and male Fireys either side of it, looking ready for action. \$125,000 of the proceeds from the sale of the coins will go to fire and emergency service organisations across the country, including the CFA. The money will help purchase and maintaining brigade firefighting equipment. The new \$2 coin will be put into circulation and a version of the coin will be made available in a packaging card for coin collectors. CFA is encouraging everyone to purchase a commemorative firefighter coin as a special memento. The release of the coin is a great reminder to those living in bushfire-prone areas to prepare themselves and their properties for the upcoming fire season.

Motorsport funding

Applications are now open for the state's first motorsport and motorcycling funding program, dedicated to backing community clubs, participants and volunteers and encouraging greater female participation. Grants are available under two categories: • Motorsport Club Assistance – initiatives to boost women and girls participation (up to \$5,000); hosting events and activities (up to \$20,000); funding to purchase safety and operational equipment (up to \$10,000); training for volunteers and officials to build club capacity (up to \$5,000). • Infrastructure Upgrades and Equipment – funding to purchase critical facility equipment (up to \$50,000); and deliver minor (up to \$100,000) and major infrastructure developments (up to \$500,000). For more information, visit sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants.

Your say on container deposit scheme

The government will soon introduce a 10-cent refund for aluminium, glass and plastic drink containers returned for recycling. Before the scheme rolls out, Victorians are encouraged have their say on how a container deposit scheme (CDS) could work best for them. Community organisations, charities and small businesses will have options for getting involved, including operating refund collection points and fundraising opportunities. The government wants to know if the proposed model is right for the Victorian community. Have your say via the Engage Victoria website. Consultation closes Monday, November 30. To find out more go to engage.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme.

Carers support

Do you care for a loved one? Do you feel like you could do with a little support or advice? Latrobe Community Health Service runs a monthly peer support group for carers, giving them the chance to connect with others, ask questions and share advice. To find out more about the peer support group and other carer programs at LCHS, phone 1800 242 696 and ask to speak with the Carer Programs team.

Glamp it up in your own backyard

Dreaming of an unobtainable holiday escape? Wondering where to put the family when they come to visit at Christmas?

A backyard glamping package could be the answer.

Phillip Island Glamping is all about camping in style.

Normally the family-based business run by Serena and Alejandro Cabello provides memorable beachside camping experiences for those who want to enjoy some creature comforts as they get away from it all.

Over summer, with their regular campsite spots at the Cowes Foreshore Tourist Park unavailable, the business usually goes into hiatus.

However, Serena explained after a six-month Covid lockdown some creative thinking was needed.

"We've put together a special package for local residents, with discount prices," Serena said.

"All you need to provide is five to six metres of flat space, and we do the rest."

The rest includes tent hire, setting up and packing down, cleaning and the option of a full set up with air mattresses, linen, towels, bedside lights and more.

You can even include a toaster and kettle.

"The tents are like a self-contained apartment, minus the ensuite," she said.

"You can just hire a tent or get one fully furnished, with prices starting from \$70 per night."

Set up usually takes around one hour and tents can be powered by battery or from the house electricity supply.

The backyard glamp is not a new concept for the company, with tents hired for backyard sleepovers and birthday pyjama parties by some of Serena's regular clients.

Tents can be hired for backyard glamping anytime, but depend on availability.

However this is the first time a spe-



Serena Cabello from Phillip Island Glamping has put together a special package for local residents to glamp in their own backyard.



A fully set up tent has everything you'd need for a memorable stay, and includes bed linen, lights, fresh flowers, tea and coffee facilities and more.

cial summer holiday package has been on offer.

"If you have family coming down over Christmas and need some extra space, let us know and put a hold on a tent," Serena advised.

"We have a flexible refund policy and will refund you if the weather is terrible, or someone gets sick."

A total package

The glamping packages can be

customised to suit your needs.

Tents range in size from four metres (recommended for two people) to five metres (ideal for four) and there are eight tents available.

A basic package starts from \$70 a night and includes tent hire, set up and pack down and cleaning. Rugs and air beds can be included as well.

If you want to treat yourself or your guests to a little luxury, you can order a fully set up tent, which

includes all bedding and linen, quilts, blankets and throws, rugs, bath towels and soap, electric heater and fan, bedside lamp, battery lantern, and hot water bottles.

It also includes a kettle with tea, coffee, milk and mugs, a toaster, disposable plates, cups and cutlery and basic cooking utensils.

Throw in battery tea light candles and fresh flowers and the scene is set for a glamorous and

memorable stay.

An extra discount is on offer when you hire a tent for more than one night.

The special offer backyard glamping package is available between December 19 and January 27.

With no campsite bookings for these five weeks over summer, it's the perfect opportunity to treat yourself to a glamorous escape in your own backyard.



A peacock was spotted in a public reserve last month, by local walkers.

Odd spot: a bizarre bird in the bush

Keen Cowes walkers Andrew and Linda Marston were taking a stroll in a public Phillip Island reserve last week when they spotted a "glint of iridescent metallic blue".

"I immediately thought, oh my goodness, that's a peacock," Linda said.

"At first I was watching a wallaby, but then the blue caught my eye, because it's such a foreign object in the Australian bush."

Keen to snap the spectacle, Andrew got within 10 metres of the "regal bird" before it "ambled away".

"And it was an amble," he said.

"He seemed very relaxed but I suppose when you drag along a tail that long you can't be in a rush."

Initially the couple suspected the peacock may have been abandoned by a former owner ("because they can be rather noisy").

Andrew thought the peacock could actually be his namesake, with Churchill Island home to two males of the species, named Andrew and Gregory.

Andrew or Gregory?

Phillip Island Nature Parks spokesman Roland Pick confirmed Gregory had gone missing about two years ago.

Roland said while they couldn't be certain the bird the Marstons saw was Gregory, Na-

ture Parks rangers were aware a peacock was occasionally spotted on the island.

"We have received reports of occasional sightings of a peacock that managed to flee the environs of Churchill Island a couple of years ago," he said.

"Although why he would want to escape is beyond me, as our team make sure that life is pretty amazing for all of the animals on the farm."

Roland said to avoid the peacock being fed by humans or becoming a cause celebre, they preferred to keep his location quiet.

"We do urge anyone who may come across him in their travels to admire from a distance, and not be tempted to approach or feed him, as this could result in him becoming habituated to human interaction, leading to unwanted behaviours."

Peacocks, which are able to fly, are native to India and were historically kept as pets as a sign of wealth, and are kept on Churchill Island as a nod to its historic past.

Apparently in the wild peacocks – which feed on seeds and grasses – are able to elude tigers and were therefore difficult to catch, Roland said.

"Left to his own devices, he's likely to live out a comfortable existence in the woodlands of Phillip Island."

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Reconciliation action

Reconciliation Australia recently endorsed Westernport Water's second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

"On behalf of Reconciliation Australia, I am delighted to see Westernport Water continue its reconciliation journey and to formally endorse its first Innovate RAP," said CEO of Reconciliation Australia, Karen Mundine.

Westernport Water's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group is proud to release its Innovate RAP for the revised NAIDOC Week (November 8 – 15, 2020) under the theme, 'Always Was, Always Will Be'.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held around the country each year to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Australia's First Nations people.

To mark this exciting milestone, Westernport Water acknowledges the contributions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and members of the Bunurong Land Council who give up their time to share their knowledge, culture and experience.

"On behalf of Westernport Water, I'd like to acknowledge the generosity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and the effort that has been put in to assist the development of our Innovate RAP," said Peter Quigley, Westernport Water's Managing Director.

"Achieving positive social change through our support for the national reconciliation move-



"Water Heals". Created by Bass Coast resident Patrice 'Muthaymiles' Mahoney OAM of the Anewan, Nganaywana Nation.

ment is important for Westernport Water as a land and water resource manager.

"Over the last five years, we have worked closely with the inspiring members of our RAP Working Group and the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network to understand, educate and contribute to opportunities with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and I would like to commend all involved on their continued contribution."

Unique approach to reconciliation

The RAP program offers a framework for organisations to advance reconciliation within their spheres of influence. An Innovate RAP provides Westernport Water with the key steps and actions to establish its own unique approach to reconciliation.

"RAP organisations across Australia are turning good intentions into positive actions, helping to build higher trust, lower prejudice, and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures," said Karen Mundine.

Peter Quigley said reconciliation remains a key priority for Westernport Water.

"While the RAP is just a document, it serves as an expression of our commitment to unite with First Nations People and give voice to the true history of the area we care for."

Mr Quigley also acknowledged artists Melissa McDevitt and Patrice Mahoney OAM who contributed

artwork for the RAP, thanking them "for creating such wonderful and meaningful pieces."

To learn more about the actions Westernport Water will be undertaking, or to get involved in the implementation of the RAP, please visit westernportwater.com.au. Through implementing an Innovate RAP, Westernport Water will strengthen reconciliation through business activities, services and programs, and further develop mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations through the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network.

The Bass Coast Reconciliation Network is made up of community representatives, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group, Yowengarra Bun Wurrung Balug Clans Aboriginal Corporation, and four of Bass Coast's leading organisations including Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Health, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Westernport Water.



"Clans Water Connection". Created by Melissa McDevitt-Weston, Boon Wurrung Traditional Owner.

NAIDOC week celebrations

Normally observed in July, this year NAIDOC Week is being celebrated from November 8 to 15.

The week is a celebration and recognition of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

This year, the NAIDOC Week theme is 'Always Was, Always Will Be,' which recognises that First Nations People have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years.

In Wonthaggi, the annual exhibition celebrating local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists is now on at ArtSpace as part of local NAIDOC Week celebrations.

The exhibition, which will be on show until Sunday, December 13, has been organised by the Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group and is available to view by appointment only. To arrange a viewing time, contact Mary Mutsaers at maryemutsaers@gmail.com.

Excitingly, the exhibition will also be available to view online, making it accessible to all during these difficult times at www.naidoc-art.com.au.

Locally, the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network (BCRN) was established in 2019 and works with the community, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and community organisations to create a shared future of recognition, opportunity and true partnerships with traditional owners and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.

As this year has presented challenges with holding community events, the Network is highlighting online opportunities to learn and be involved across Australia, with daily social media posts and looks forward to sharing events together in 2021.

Co-chair of the Network and Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Ali Wastie shared her support of the Week.

"NAIDOC Week provides everyone across Bass Coast with an opportunity to recognise the rich history, culture and achievements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community," Ms Wastie said.

"I highly encourage all of us to enjoy the inspiring and moving artworks on display by very talented members of our local community, who are exhibiting their works as part of the art celebration."

The network comprises community representatives, Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group, Yowengarra Bun Wurrung Balug Clans Aboriginal Corporation, BLCAC and four of Bass Coast's leading organisations - Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Health, Westernport Water and Phillip Island Nature Parks and wishes everyone a happy NAIDOC Week.

For more information on NAIDOC Week activities visit www.naidoc.org.au.



Always Was, Always Will Be.

8-15 NOV 2020

Reconciliation Action Plan out now.

With care, courage and commitment, Westernport Water will contribute to a better future for our community through our Reconciliation Action Plan.

Available at westernportwater.com.au



NAIDOC WEEK 2020

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Karate kids are back

Karate classes with Sensei Lucky Pandelidis from Winged Dragon Martial and Healing Arts have returned to the island.

The classes started up again a fortnight ago, when the restrictions on indoor sport were eased in regional Victoria.

It's seven months since classes were last held face to face.

The Winged Dragon runs schools across a number of locations in Melbourne, but the island school was the first to reopen.

"We're so happy we were able to open up on Phillip Island," Lucky said.

Although Lucky did hold Zoom classes for his students during the lockdown, he said only about a quarter of the students took up the online option.

So far, 50 per cent of the schools 60+ students have returned to class, but Lucky is hoping more students will return in the coming weeks.

He's also hoping new students might want to give karate a try.

To celebrate the return of classes on Phillip Island, the Winged Dragon is running a major special, offering two weeks of free training, on a 'come and try' basis.

"And if you sign up within that two-week trial, you'll get a major discount on the class fee," Lucky said.

"You'll also receive a free karate suit. Together, that represents a saving of around \$400."

Lessons for all

Classes are held on Wednesdays and Fridays in the Industrial estate in Cowes with lessons for all ages and abilities.

"We have specific classes for our Dragon Cubs – under eights. There's also a beginners' class for



To celebrate the return of classes on Phillip Island, the Winged Dragon is running a major special, offering two weeks of free training, on a 'come and try' basis.

anyone starting out," Lucky explained.

"Then we go through the ranks for all the levels through to black belt, with specific classes for specific ranks."

A full schedule of classes is available online, with Dragon Cubs starting at 4.45pm, followed by a beginners' class at 5.30pm.

Classes will continue across summer. Normally the school closes over January, but this year Lucky said they will work right

through.

"We've had enough of a break."

While the two-week trial is free, participants still need to register, in line with Covid-safety requirements.

"There is a limit on numbers for each class. We have participants standing two metres apart, and there's plenty of hand sanitiser," Lucky said.

The Winged Dragon Martial and Healing Arts academy has been running classes on Phillip Island

for seven years.

"We teach a mixture of traditional karate and mixed martial arts and we start from kids as young as three and a half years."

"Everyone trains at their own level and abilities. You don't need to be super fit. It's about precision hitting to maximise your ability."

To find out more visit www.thewingeddragon.com.au, email info@thewingeddragon.com.au, or contact Sensei Lucky on 0419 332 992.



Each year, Red poppies are worn to honour the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our nation. Photo kalineri-unsplash

Remembrance Day message

By Chris Thompson – President, Phillip Island RSL

On this day, above all days, we remember those Australian men and women who died or suffered in the great tragedy of war.

On the morning of April 25th, 1915, Australian and New Zealand troops landed under fire at Gallipoli, and it was then and in the violent campaign which followed, that the ANZAC tradition was forged. The elements of that tradition have inspired and offered an enduring example to later generations of Australians.

Each year we pay homage not only to those original ANZACs, but to all who served, died, or were disabled in their service to this country. They enrich our nation's history. Their hope was for the freedom of mankind and we remember with pride their courage, their compassion and their comradeship. They served on land, sea, and in the air, in many places throughout the world.

I would be remiss at this stage to not mention our latest Victoria Cross recipient. Remembrance Day is not a day to draw attention to any one person's service to his or her Country, but I beg indulgence from you here today, primarily because it has taken almost 78 years for this young man's service to be fully recognized. I enclose part of the Naval citation for Edward 'Teddy' Sheean:

"Shortly before 14:00 on 1 December 1942, HMAS Armidale, by then separated from HMAS Kuru, was attacked by no less than thirteen aircraft. The corvette manoeuvred frantically. At 15:15 a torpedo struck her port side and another hit the engineering spaces; finally a bomb struck aft. As the vessel listed heavily to port, the order was given to abandon ship. The survivors leapt into the sea and were machine-gunned by the Japanese aircraft. Once he had helped to free a life raft, Sheean scrambled back to his gun on the sinking ship. Although wounded in the chest and back, the 18-year-old sailor shot down one bomber and kept other aircraft away from his comrades in the water. He was last seen still firing his gun as Armidale slipped below the waves. Only 49 of the 149 men who had been on board survived the sinking and the ensuing days in life rafts."

Sheean was mentioned in dispatches for his bravery and in 1999 HMAS Sheean, a Collins class submarine was named after him – the only ship in the RAN to bear the name of a sailor.

On August 12, 2020 the Australian Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC, (Retd) announced that HM Queen Elizabeth II had approved a posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to Ordinary Seaman Sheean.

In doing so, Ordinary Seaman 'Teddy' Sheean, became the first member of the Royal Australian Navy to be awarded Australia's highest honour for valour.

We today, honour the memory of all Australians who have fallen in battle; we share the sorrow of those who have mourned them, and of all who have been the victims of armed conflict.

On this day we remember with sympathy those Australians who have suffered as prisoners of war, and those who, because of war, have had their lives shortened or handicapped.

May we and our successors prove worthy of their sacrifice.

Restrictions continue to ease

With Melbourne coming out of lockdown and able to visit regional Victoria, we can expect to see an increase in visitors.

In line with this, a number of other changes were announced, which are in place Victoria wide.

Indoor entertainment venues, including galleries, museums and theatres will be allowed to open.

Rules around visiting aged care and hospitals have been relaxed.

The State of Emergency has been extended until December 6, however the State of Disaster will not be renewed.

People must continue to work from home if they can and fitted face masks must be worn in public at all times (except for those with a specific exemption).

If you have any Covid symptoms, get tested straight away and stay home.

From November 22, the final



While restrictions have eased allowing more venues to open and changes to hospital and aged care visitation, Victorians must continue to wear face masks in public at all times.

step of the roadmap to reopening should come into force.

This includes an increase in numbers allowed at private gatherings, funerals, weddings and religious ceremonies.

The limits on hospitality will rise, to allow venues to have up

to 100 patrons indoors and 200 outside.

The limits for other indoor venues like cinemas, gyms and galleries will also increase.

The patron numbers will depend on the venue size and must adhere to state government den-

sity requirements.

Latest changes in restrictions

- Indoor entertainment venues will be able to open with 20 people per space – movie theatres, galleries, museums and music halls will now be able to open.

- The rules around visiting aged care and hospitals will also be relaxed. Instead of a specific number of visitors – a household will be able to visit together. Once per day and limited to two hours.

- Those under 16 will also be able to visit hospitals and the time limit for partners visiting maternity wards will no longer exist. Please note however, that individual hospitals and facilities may continue to have their own policies, reflecting the needs of their patients and whatever the virus might be doing in the community.

For details visit: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-reopening-roadmap-third-step-victoria

Take the test

Everyone in the community, especially young people, is encouraged to continue to get tested for COVID-19 to build resilience against a third wave.

You should be tested if you display even the mildest Covid symptoms, including: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore

throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste.

With the return of visitors and part-time residents from Melbourne, there is expected to be increased demand for tests and on medical services, so testing times have been adjusted.

Cowes:

- Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100.
- Pre-operation testing 2pm – 3pm daily.
- The quickest time for testing will be before 8am and after 8pm.

Wonthaggi:

BCH is trialling extended testing hours at the Wonthaggi Hospital drive through.

- Friday, November 13 to Mon-

day, November 16: 9am – 5pm

- Tuesday, November 17 to Thursday, November 19: 9am – 1pm

- You can also book a test with Wonthaggi Medical Group, Monday to Friday from 1pm – 5pm. Pre-operation testing between 10am – 11am. Ph: 0492 036 568.

People should phone their doctor or the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 if their symptoms get worse.

Welcome back Melbourne

We've missed you

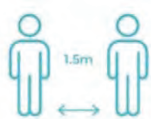
We're putting our best foot forward and rolling out the welcome mat for our friends and family from Melbourne. We can't wait to help you enjoy our beaches and bars, cafes and shops, restaurants and wide open spaces. It's great to have you back.

Photo by Sally Kirsch

Welcome back to our friends and family from metro Melbourne



We are very excited to welcome back our Melbourne community members who will be reuniting with family and friends and visiting their holiday home for long awaited beach time. We look forward to working with you to continue to keep COVID-19 at bay and keep everyone safe. Even in regional Victoria, we must all:



Practice social distancing



Wear our face masks



Remember your hand hygiene

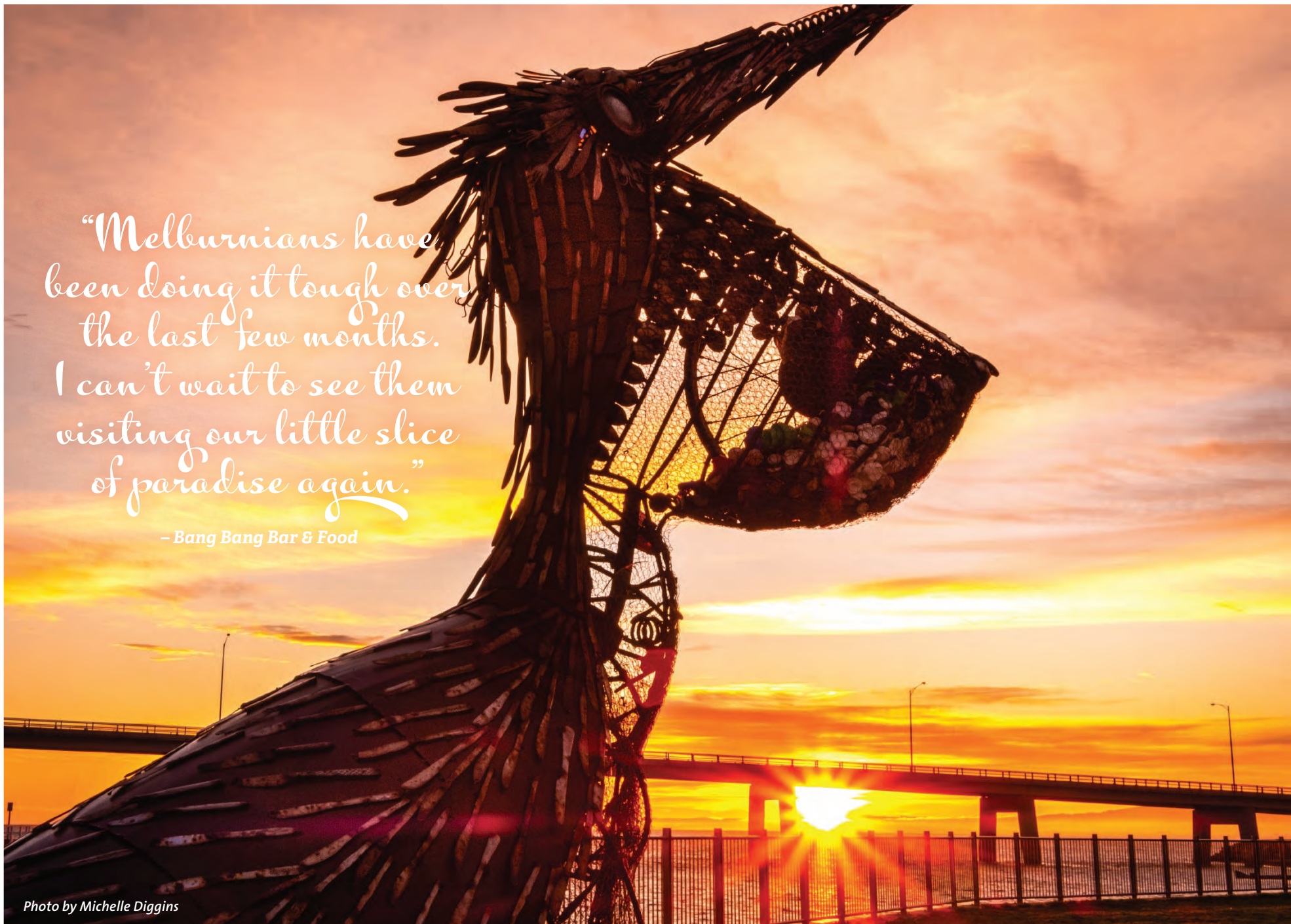


Stay home and get tested if you are unwell



Stay in touch for updates: www.covidbasscoasthealth.org.au/covid-19updates





“Melburnians have been doing it tough over the last few months. I can’t wait to see them visiting our little slice of paradise again.”

– Bang Bang Bar & Food

Photo by Michelle Diggins

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for a well-deserved break!**



Photo by Michael Spiteri



Photo by Kate Crock

"We can't wait to welcome everyone back!"

- Westernport Hotel

Kate Crock



Photo by Katrina Lawrence

Welcome back!

The team at Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre in Newhaven are excited to welcome back visitors and will re-open for face-to-face services Friday to Monday 10.00am to 3.00pm from Friday, 13 November.

Outside of these hours, visitor information services are still available seven days a week, 9.00am to 5.00pm via phone, email, online chat and social media.



Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre



895 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven
1300 366 422



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*"We are just so thrilled that
our friends and neighbours
in metropolitan Melbourne will
be able to join us soon."*

– Phillip Island Nature Parks

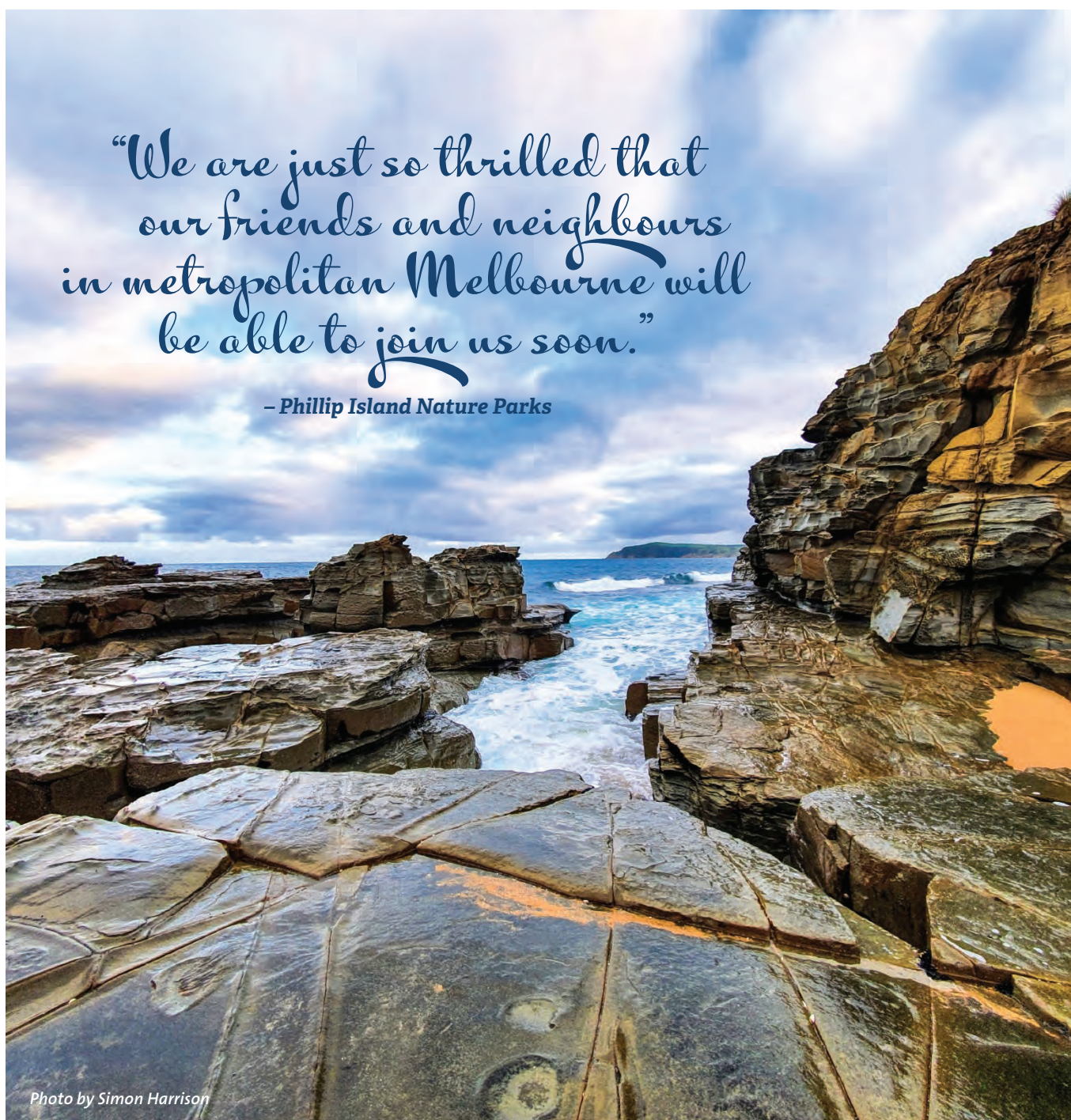


Photo by Simon Harrison



Photo by Michael Spiteri



Photo by Serra Clisby

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- San Remo Fisherman's Co-op

Photo by Mandy Dewhurst

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Photo by Tony Boreham



"Melbourne, we love you!"
— Phillip Island Glamping

Photo by Gary Parnell



Photo by Michael Cleary



We've missed our Melbourne regulars so much.
We're really looking forward to seeing them back and enjoying that buzzy, Summer vibe that they'll inevitably bring with them.

It's also a great opportunity for us to acknowledge and thank our wonderful local community too, who have rallied behind us, and supported us through these quieter months, we would not have survived without them

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*“We can’t wait to
welcome Melbourne
visitors on board!”*
– Wildlife Coast Cruises

Photo by Kellie McDonald

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CFA wins in Westernport wager



After losing a Grand Final wager with Nick Say, Westernport Hotel publican, Tony McKearnan washed and polished Brendan Lynch's old ute, raising money for the CFA.

Many locals would have known Brendan Lynch before his passing a number of years ago, including his iconic blue ute and his tireless efforts as a member of the San Remo CFA.

Many would also attest to his one-eyed support of the Geelong Football Club.

So when Geelong made the AFL Grand Final, Tony McKearnan, one of the Westernport patrons, took it upon himself to stir the pot on Brendan's behalf.

"The bet was devised over a couple of beers, as all the good ones are, the night before the Grand Final," said Nick Say, the Westernport Hotel publican.

"If Brendan's beloved Geelong won, I'd have to wash and polish Brendan's old ute.

"If the Tigers won, Tony would do the honours. And we'd pass around the bucket and raise some money for a cause close to Brendan's heart – the San Remo CFA."

Needless to say, Tony, true to his word spent the following Friday night bringing Brendan's old ute back to its former glory, all the while raising over \$220 dollars for the CFA.

Well done Tony – Brendan would have been proud.



Members of Cape Woolamai Coast Action group planted 120 indigenous species as part of their October working bee. The next scheduled planting is this Saturday, November 14.

Coast action at Cape Woolamai

The Cape Woolamai Cape Action group held a working bee last month, planting 1209 indigenous species on the foreshore at Cleeland Bight.

During lockdown, the group's activities were put on hold.

Due to Covid restrictions, the working bee on October 10 was conducted under strict guidelines, with all volunteers wearing masks and social distancing.

A further 120 indigenous species were planted along the Broadwater access path adjacent to Cleeland Bight to help maintain the stability of the sand dunes in this area.

It was also a great opportunity to welcome four new members to participate in the group's ongoing restoration and maintenance program at Cape Woolamai.

The plants for the working bee were all provided from the Barb Martin Bushbank and were allocated by the Bass Coast Shire who oversee the maintenance program.

Following the working bee, the volunteers enjoyed a morning tea at the newly refurbished gazebo and picnic area at Cottesloe Avenue.

"Many thanks to Bass Coast Shire Council and the council workers who have worked on this project during the lockdown period," said Peter Dumergue, Secretary of the Coast Action group.

The next scheduled working bee is this Saturday, November 14.

Anyone wishing to join the Cape Woolamai Coast Action Group can contact Peter on 0499 205 722.

Fundraising feat

An incredible group of local women have raised over \$7000 for Peter Mac's Unite to Fight Cancer challenge.

Team Northy was set up by Deb North in honour of her son Brendan.

"In July 2019, I lost my son Brendan to a rare sarcoma and would like to give back to Peter Mac for the amazing work they do," Deb posted on the Team Northy page.

The Unite to Fight Cancer is Peter Mac's major fundraiser and takes place every October.

Held as a virtual event, due to Covid restrictions, teams had to either ride 200km or

walk 60km over 10 days in October.

A group of local women joined with Deb, setting themselves a target to walk 840kms and raise \$7600.

Deb, Kylie Vines, Mandy Hale, Carmel Mitchel, Shayna Ericson, Chloe Golding, Tia Ware, Jenny Thomson, Terran Allen, Jordi Hodgetts, Jess Bore, Kylie White and Vanessa Ware walked over 600kms in 10 days and so far have raised \$7239.

There's still time to support their amazing effort: my.unitetofightcancer.org.au/northy



Team Northy, led by Deb North in honour of her son Brendan, have already raised \$7239 for the Peter Mac Unite to Fight Cancer challenge.

Call out for Newhaven art

Bass Coast Shire Council is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from experienced artists, to create a contemporary public artwork to be installed in the township of Newhaven.

Bass Coast Shire CEO, Ali Wastie, explained that the key aim for the \$40,000 commission is to provide a poetic

moment of reflection for the residents of the town.

"We want the community to love the artwork and hope it becomes an additional attraction for the area," Ms Wastie said.

"The work needs to be something that really captures the character and serenity of Newhaven."

Artists need to register their interest by submitting a portfolio of previous works by Sunday, November 22.

For more information, the EOI guidelines and the application form, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/newhavenart or contact Council's Team Leader Arts and Culture.

Farewell to a lady – of the canine kind

After 10 years of service, Lady the Conservation Detective Dogs is putting up her paws.

Phillip Island Nature Parks said it was a well-deserved retirement.

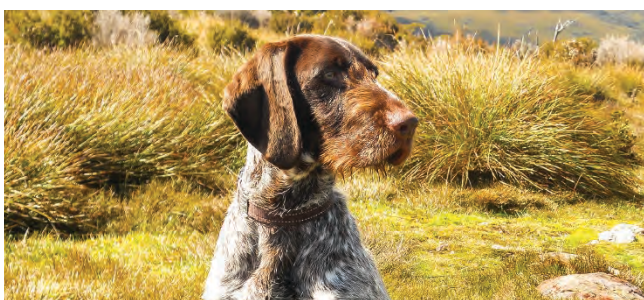
"Lady has worked as a valuable member of two successful fox eradication programs in Tasmania and on Phillip Island," said handler Craig Bester, Senior Vertebrate Pest Officer/Dog Trainer and Handler for Phillip Island Nature Parks.

"She has travelled just over 18,000 km whilst searching for foxes in these programs and contributed a lot to the teams in saving time with her incredible detection skills."

Craig collected Lady from her birthplace in Rockhampton and originally took her back to Tasmania to commence her training.

She started work at nine weeks old and undertook all aspects of tracking work in her training to be a detection dog.

When the Tasmania program discontinued, Craig happily brought her into the team of Conservation Dogs at Phillip Island Nature Parks where he was then working.



Lady is retiring after 10 years of service.

Lady is a German wire-haired pointer with a quiet temperament and steady determination which led to her thorough approach to her work detecting foxes in natural environments.

"She 'tells' everything by ground or air scenting target odour and then tracking it to the source and then goes on point to indicate to me where there is an animal or sign of one," Craig explained.

"She really concentrated on her work and was easy to control."

The pair have been together nearly every day of her working life. Lady even saved Craig from potentially being bitten by a tiger snake by pointing it out to him. Snake aversion is an

important part of a Conservation Dogs' training – ensuring safety of both the dog and handler when working.

Nine years is about the average time for a working dog and with Lady almost 11, Craig made the difficult decision to retire her to a loving home on Phillip Island where she will spend her twilight years.

"Lady will be greatly missed but deserves a well-earned rest from her work duties."

The Nature Parks' Conservation Dog Team will continue to achieve conservation outcomes for Phillip Island and Victoria with fox detection team Sam and Jazz along with Marbee and Milly finalising their training to become feral cat detection dogs.



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Mobile hairdresser Claire Sunderland is grateful she has been able to continue working through the pandemic and feels very lucky she has been invited into people's homes.



"It's great to be open after being closed for almost seven months," said Gary and Lee Marr of the iconic Grumpy's. "We're looking forward to welcoming regional and Melbourne visitors for what we're expecting to be an awesome summer."



Nicki Macdonald and Naomi Tew at Safflower Clinic said they were thrilled to see how many people in the second lockdown were striving to look after themselves and their wellbeing and were proud to support them in their efforts.

Back in Business

As restrictions ease, the doors to local businesses are open and they need your support more than ever.

Since the first lockdown in March, some have boomed while others have struggled to stay afloat. As we all work our way towards Covid-normal, businesses are rearranging and reinventing themselves and there's never been a more important time to shop locally.



Opening two weeks before a global pandemic wasn't part of Jo Viney from Brinnie T Design's business plan. "A massive thank you to all those locals who have supported and encouraged me along the way. And welcome back Melbourne!"



Deborah and Richard Sydenham of the Phillip Island Kennels and Cattery said business slowed over the initial stages of Covid. However many people have acquired new pets over lockdown, so business is back and extra Doggy Daycare days are planned.



While they've been operating on reduced hours, Sue and Anthony from Offshore Design have been busy buying new stock. They're looking forward to returning to normal opening hours and thank the locals for their support during the pandemic.



Juggling three small children and several businesses, Pharrah and Mark Underwood have created a community fundraising connection through their Local clothing brand. Photo Claire Davies.

Local Clothing celebrates first birthday

Local Clothing turned one this month, but it's the community that's received the gift.

Over the past 12 months, the clothing company started by Mark and Pharrah Underwood, has donated \$4827 back to the community.

Their unique business model involves a monthly partnership with a local community group, with the company donating 10 per cent of its monthly turnover.

"When we first started we didn't tell any family or friends and just launched the brand as we wanted them to like, follow and support the idea for it and not for us," Mark said.

"The support from this community has been incredible. They've welcomed us with open arms.

"The best part has been all the amazing people we have met and the connections we have made."

Starting with a two month campaign with the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, over the past year, Local has joined forces with and raised money for Phillip Island CFA, National Surfing Reserve, Change For Sam, Phillip Island Football and Netball Club, Phillip Island Land-

care, PICAL, Cowes Primary School and Phillip Island SES.

To date, the biggest partnership was with the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, which received a \$1040 cheque – a welcome contribution to a club hit hard by the Covid lockdown.

"This month we're supporting Bass Coast Health which need funds for the Wonthaggi Hospital expansion so they can provide more specialist health services locally to save unwell members of our community from the exhausting travel for treatment afar," Mark said.

Local expanded

Starting out, the focus of Local was t-shirts, but it quickly became clear that there was demand for more.

"Since launching, we've released stubby holders, hoodies, beanies, caps, poncho towels, face masks, stickers, gift cards and enamel pins," said Mark.

"We want to thank everyone for supporting us. We see all the likes, follows, orders online and we really appreciate all the models that have

helped us with our photo shoots over the past year.

"And we're seeing our local stickers on cars more and more, which is so cool."

The fledgling company put a hold on things when COVID-19 hit.

"We thought clothing wasn't an essential item, so we took a step back.

"But we got so many messages asking if we were making hoodies for the cooler months we decided to push forward, and they became our most popular product," Mark said.

Community groups wanting to join forces with Local can contact them via their website or social media.

While the name might say Local, the mindset is one of welcome open arms.

"We're about supporting local and giving back to our local community.

"We're very inclusive whether you live in the Bass Coast area or not, have a holiday home here or just love the area.

"We have sent as many orders off the island as here. Lots have gone to metro Melbourne, plus all over Australia, including Tasmania, WA, Queensland and NSW."



In October, sales of Local t-shirts and other merchandise raised \$572 for the Phillip Island SES.



Cowes Primary School was the beneficiary in September, with \$535 presented to Principal Rod McKenzie.

Surfers asked for rescue help

Surfing Victoria has put the call out to Victorian surfers to help understand how surfers keep our beaches and coastline safe with a new research partnership with LaTrobe University.

The partnership with LaTrobe University's Centre for Sport and Social Impact aims to study the impact that surfers have on the safety of Victoria's coastline in helping reduce drownings through rescues and interventions.

As part of the Surfers Rescue 24/7 Program, the study will run for 12 months and will investigate how many rescues surfers perform across the year on Victoria's coastline through a simple monthly reporting system.

"Surfers are often the first responders to rescues on the coastline all year round, however it is not documented how many rescues surfers actually perform," said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

"We want to understand how often rescues by surfers happen throughout the state so we can ensure that the right people are being trained in



Surfers are being asked to be part of a study to help reduce drownings on Victoria's beaches. Photo Surfing Victoria.

CPR and Board Rescue skills."

The study will require participants to report each month via a simple survey the amount of times they have advised someone to not surf or swim in a particular location (an intervention) and any rescues or First Aid performed whilst at the beach.

Interested Victorian surfers can now register to be part of the pro-

gram with a double pass to URBN-SURF Melbourne to be given away each month and as the major prize, a \$1000 King Island Surf Safari Voucher.

Interested participants can register here: <https://bit.ly/SurferRescues> The research is supported by Surfing Victoria, LaTrobe University, Emergency Management Victoria and the Victorian Government.

Help save your local newspaper

Newspaper readers in Bass Coast are being urged to have their say on the future of country media in Australia's biggest survey on local news.

The survey, launched nationally this month, is part of the largest study of its kind in Australia, running for three years with almost \$250,000 backing from the Australian Research Council, one of the Federal Government's main competitive research funding agencies.

Deakin University, RMIT University and Country Press Australia, the peak regional media organisation, of which this newspaper is a member, are leading the study.

The project's lead investigator, Deakin Associate Professor Kristy Hess, said the future of local newspapers depended on support from local audiences.

The survey aims to give people a voice on ways to improve the sustainability of their local paper.

"If you read your local newspaper, then it's absolutely vital you fill in this survey to show your support for local news.

We are depending on you," she said.

"We want to hear your ideas and feedback on the role of country newspapers in these digital times. We want to know what the paper

means to you and how it might improve into the future."

Project partner and Country Press Australia Executive Director, Bruce Morgan, said the project was as much about regional communities as it was about local media businesses.

"Local media outside metropolitan Australia is very much the journal of record for the towns and regions it represents," he said.

"It is not exaggerating to say that, should we lose local media representation, it will impact not just on the fabric of those communities, but the very principles of democracy.

"That is, the ability to record, champion, challenge and hold accountable.

"That is why this highly-credible, well-funded research is vital to those communities and their future," Mr Morgan said.

The survey should take up to 10 minutes and will ask a range of questions that relate to your views on local newspapers.

All participants have a chance to win one of 10 new-release Apple iPads.

The survey will run until the end of November.

Visit this link now to start the survey: localnewsinnovation.org.



Locals raced to snap up a treat at the CWA's recent GP bake sale. The delicious treats, including yo-yo's, chocolate cakes, muffins and of course, scones, were sold out by 12.30pm.

Bake sale a big success

Even without the bikes, the Cowes CWA's GP bake sale was a fantastic success.

The stall was sold out by 12.30pm, raising valuable funds for the CWA.

"Thank you everyone who dropped past and purchased a cake or visited the CWA shop," said President Felicity Newberry.

She said the funds were vital for the work the Cowes branch did to support the local community.

Now in its 85th year, she said the group had "always been enthusiastic, vibrant and innovative".

"COVID-19 hasn't slowed down the group as we have turned to technology to run meetings and keep in touch with members," she said.

Cowes branch members are actively involved in supporting local community charities and families.

"Recently we have been involved in Women Walk the World to raise awareness of women's roles in farming, breast awareness month, becoming a carbon neutral branch, collecting goods for PICAL pantry, sewing reusable vegetable bags for CWA showbags and of course running our annual cake stall," Felicity explained.

"We encourage members to support each other, make a difference in our community and advocate on community issues, sustainable development and the protection of the environment, and social issues.

"We're a whole lot more than stitching and scones," Felicity said.

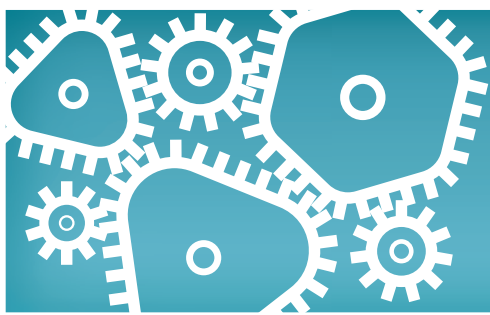
Join the CWA

The CWA Cowes branch has always welcomed new members. As a member of the CWA of Victoria, you're also part of a global network of women via the Associated Country Women of the World, which has non-government organisation status with several United Nations agencies.

The Country Women's Association of Victoria is a long running volunteer organisation with 5000 members. There are 300 branches across Victoria including in Cowes.

The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. is an organisation of women supporting women, children and families. It's a volunteer organisation with a focus on friendship, personal development and advocacy.

Find out more at www.facebook.com/CountryWomensAssociationCOWES or visit www.cwaofvic.org.au



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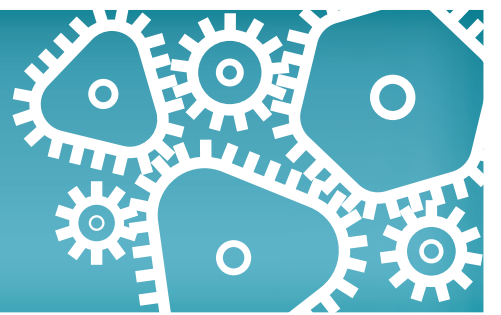
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Remembrance Day

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month each year, we pause to remember the service and sacrifice of our fallen men and women who gave their lives in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Remembrance Day is one of the most significant days of our year. For more than 100 years we have paused in silent reflection of the sacrifice of our service personnel, to demonstrate that we will not forget them.

Originally known as Armistice Day, it marks the day the guns fell silent on the Western Front during World War One. This would not be the last war Australia would see.

Twenty years later Australia was at war again, in the largest global conflict of the 20th century – the Second World War which would see some 39,000 Australians die.

After the Second World War ended November 11 became known as Remembrance Day.

This Remembrance Day I encourage all Australians to commemorate our fallen by sharing one minute's silence in memory of the more than 102,000 Australian men and women who have died in over a century of service in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

I also encourage all Australians to wear a red poppy in remembrance of our fallen. And if you are a member of our veteran community, to wear the Veteran Lapel Pin or Reservist Lapel Pin, provided as part of the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant, to help the community readily identify and acknowledge your service to our nation.

This time can be a very emotional one for veterans and their families. If you are a veteran or a family member who is struggling or in need of additional support during this time, I encourage you to call Open Arms 24/7 on 1800 011 046 or visit OpenArms.gov.au to find more about services available.

Lest we forget.

Darren Chester, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Minister for Defence Personnel

Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling provides free and confidential support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Help is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046 or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

Garbage: answers and actions.

Why are two state government charges imposed, the Landfill Levy and the EPA's Landfill site monitoring included into our curb side garbage charge? How much money has council paid to the state government for the Landfill Levy for each year over the last four years? Councillors have informed us 70 per cent of our waste has been reduced going to landfill sites. What actually is the kerbside garbage charge for residential properties? Should the true cost be \$376 as suggested by an ex-senior council officer or is it as charged \$496 this year going up to \$522 next year? Will we get our red bin picked up weekly during peak periods? Why is the garbage charge added to the rates charge when council reports its 'Rates and Charges' total income figures? Why is the Landfill Levy and the Landfill site monitoring charges to ratepayers not shown as separate charges on our rates payment notice? The state government Fire Service Levy is shown as a separate charge. What is stopping our new councillors from coming out into the open and becoming a fully transparent group and taking actions to a range of rules and matters at council to inform ratepayers as to what actually happens to our hard earned cash when paying our rates?

I want answers. I want actions. I want changes.

Graham Jolly, Cape Woolamai.

Missing ballot pack

Following is a copy of my letter to CEO Bass Coast Council.

With the Victorian government opening up metropolitan and regional areas from Monday (November 9), clearly many owners of property in Bass Coast will be arriving to clean up and see what damage has occurred to their property in the last eight months. Like most, we're looking forward to a walk on the beach and catching up with friends, not looking forward to the clean up!

My question for those returning is did you want to vote in Bass Coast Shire Council elections this year? If you wanted to vote did you receive your ballot paper in time to vote?

We did everything by the rule book, including discussions with Bass Coast Council several times and follow up correspondence with VEC.

The bottom line is Bass Coast Council assured us we were on the voting

roll to receive ballot papers at our Melbourne address. Now VEC tell us we were never on the Bass Coast Council list to receive a ballot paper!

One is telling the truth, one isn't!

Does it matter? Well, it does if as ratepayer you wanted to have your say in who our Council representative is for the next four years. While our main home address is now Melbourne, we lived at San Remo for 15 years and have owned property in what is now Bass Coast Council area paying rates for nearly 40 years. The Rates bills find us, but not a ballot paper!

Margaret and Chris Day, San Remo.

Concern over Bass airfield proposal.

I am writing with reference to the proposed airfield and aircraft hangar at 79 Netherwood Lane, Bass. ("Airfield Plans Take Flight", Advertiser November 4, 2020)

Up to 40 flight events (20 take-offs and 20 landings) per day, 365 days per year on a flight path following the Link Road (not the Bass Highway) will heighten the risk of driver distraction and serious motor vehicle accidents on a busy two way road with cars travelling at 100 kmph.

Up to 40 flight events per day, 365 days per year on a flight path following the shoreline of Westernport Bay will threaten this internationally significant RAMSAR site which is vital for the health of its inhabitants consisting of abundant marine species, birdlife and native animals.

Up to 40 flight events per day, 365 days per year on either flight path will adversely impact livestock on surrounding farmland with the possibility of distress, escape, injury and a consequent decrease in farm income.

Up to 40 flight events per day, 365 days per year on either flight path will be a source of visual and noise pollution destroying the peace and natural beauty of this desirable location.

Up to 40 flight events per day, 365 days per year on either flight path will benefit a minority and negatively impact the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the many residents living nearby.

Up to 40 flight events per day, 365 days per year on either flight path will be regulated by whom?

I trust that the incoming Bass Coast councillors and the community will consider this application very carefully.

Julie Adkins, San Remo



Australia's season-opening round of the Superbike World Championship, normally held in February on Phillip Island has been postponed. Photo GeeBee Images.

Island's World Superbike round postponed

In news sure to devastate fans of motorsports, Australia's season-opening round of the Superbike World Championship, normally held in February on Phillip Island, has been postponed due to the ongoing complexities and risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic on a global scale.

General Manager of the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, David Bennett, announced the postponement this week, with circuit management currently working with the Victorian Government and the world organising body for the category, DORNA WSBK organisation (DWO), to develop an alternative date for the world championship round.

"We have been closely monitoring the situation in Australia and globally, and working with our stakeholders.

"We've delayed our decision as late as possible, but unfortunately with the uncertainty that exists in the world today, we are going to have to postpone our world superbike round," said David Bennett.

He said the circuit will announce a date once the situation is clear.

Australia's Phillip Island was the only circuit on the 2020 world calendar to host a "normal" world superbike event this year.

The Yamaha Finance season opener, held back on February 28 – March 1, came complete with fans and fanfare and was a boomer with great racing and a first-look at 2020's new teams, new riders and new bike liveries.

COVID closed-in on Europe and the rest of the world within days of the world superbike championship leaving Australia, and the teams and organisers went into lockdown.

DWO swung into action to develop a COVID-safe championship and successfully ran seven rounds in Europe from July to October, with Jonathan Rea fighting his way to the final round at Portugal's Estoril circuit to win a record sixth consecutive championship.

Last week, Executive Director of the Championship, Gregorio Lavilla, announced DWO's intention to run a 2021 WorldSBK calendar of 11 to 13 rounds, with the majority to be held in Europe but the possibility for circuits outside the Euro-zone to be included in the schedule.

"The world superbike show will be back," said David Bennett.

"I know this means a longer wait for fans, but the world's leading production riders and their bikes will return to the island for more spectacular racing and the wait, as always, will be worth it."



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Initiative of Phillip Island Masonic Lodge

PUBLIC NOTICES

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire: Cowes - Sunday 5-6pm, St Philip's Church (opp. Coles); Wonthaggi - Friday 11am, Salvation Army Hall (149 McKenzie St.). Phone 1300 652 820 or visit na.org.au

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16 KJV

SITUATIONS VACANT

SITUATION VACANT

Busy Hairdressing and beauty salon in Cowes looking for a reliable and experienced beautician.

Casual position.
Phone 0433 377 836.

JO00382AA

Connect with us online



To read the Advertiser on your computer, smartphone or tablet go to www.pisra.com.au

SITUATIONS VACANT

SITUATION VACANT

Kitchen hand and front of house

We are seeking to employ self-motivated, passionate people to join our busy team environment. Must be available nights, weekends and holidays.

The Foreshore Bar/Restaurant, Rhyll, Phillip Island

Please call 5956 9520 or 0438 523 676 or send resume to enquiry@theforeshore.com.au

JO00387AA



MAINTENANCE MANAGER

General maintenance, electronics, hydraulics, pneumatics.
Experienced people with good reference should apply.

Applications close 28th November.
- Email - maze@amazenthings.com.au for job description.



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

Property Manager

For details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our College Website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 27 November 2020 and should be submitted to katrina.lawrence@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

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

SITUATIONS VACANT



COOKS/CHEFS and JUNIOR COUNTER STAFF

For the summer season and beyond

- Casual hours 15 to 38 hrs/wk (can be tailored to suit availability)
 - Lunch & dinner shifts, including weekend work
 - We pay casual loading, weekend & public holiday rates
 - Relevant experience and qualifications preferred but not essential
- Please email any enquiries/resumes to Paul: info@srfco.com.au

HOUSEKEEPING STAFF

required at
Kaloha Holiday Resort in Cowes, casual position requiring some weekend work.
9.30 am starts.
No previous experience required, just an eye for detail and enthusiasm.
Please call 5952 2179.

Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications for the following positions:

REGISTERED MIDWIFE – Grade 2
Permanent Part Time – Closes 15/11/20

REGISTERED NURSE – Emergency Department
Permanent Full Time – Closes 15/11/20

REGISTERED NURSE – Urgent Care Centre
Casual – Closes 16/11/20

REGISTERED NURSE – Grade 2 Midwife
Permanent Full Time – Closes 16/11/20

PHYSIOTHERAPIST – Grade 2
Fixed Term Part Time – Closes 18/11/20

PHYSIOTHERAPIST – Grade 2
Permanent Part Time – Closes 20/11/20

For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website basscoasthealth.org.au or contact Human Resources via email hr@basscoasthealth.org.au



Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College

Teachers for 2021 with combinations of:

- Religious Education
- Mathematics 7-10
- Physical Education (Possible PE KLA) 7-10
- English 7-12
- Agricultural Science and General Science
- Humanities 7-10

Full and part time positions available

All Staff must demonstrate an active commitment to the ethos of a Catholic school. Mary MacKillop College is a Child-Safe school.

For further information please visit our website or contact the Principal's Personal Assistant, Carly Kitchingman ckitchingman@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au

Applications close 9am, Tuesday 24th November 2020.

SITUATIONS VACANT



POSITIONS VACANT

Phillip Island RSL is looking for customer service naturals!!! Short and longer term positions available.

Positions:

Food and Beverage – Bistro Bar and gaming Kitchen Hand/Dishwashers Cleaning – early morning

If you believe you can assist our team in any of the above positions, please apply with your CV at info@pirsl.com.au or come in and see us.

We are excited to be able to offer employment to our community again.



TAXI DRIVERS WANTED.

South Coast Taxis are preparing for a busy summer and the easing of restrictions by seeking more Taxi Drivers.

The positions would suit both those looking to earn some extra income or those looking for more regular job.

The shifts are available from both our Cowes and Wonthaggi Depots working the areas of Phillip Island, Wonthaggi or Leongatha.

The successful applicants must be experienced drivers, be available to work a mix of days, nights and weekends and hold the appropriate licenses including the Taxi Driver Accreditation. (which can be sourced once successful).

Please phone 5951 4600 or send your resume to Brendan at: operations@southcoastbus.com.au or post PO Box 946, Cowes, 3922



CLASSROOM ASSISTANT – NEURODIVERSITY SPECIALIST

We are seeking a flexible and enthusiastic Assistant Mentor to work alongside our Mentor team and support our neurodivergent students in all years but with a focus on students in years 3 to 6. Applicants should have experience in an educational or child focussed area with a good understanding of neurodiversity and a passion for helping children engage with a program and meet their individual goals. The role is to commence in Term 1 2021, with some transition time in Term 4. Position is full time during our school cycles (43 weeks/year Monday to Friday 8.30am to 3.45pm). We would consider a 3 to 4 day position for the right candidate.

Applications close Sunday November 22nd 2020.

Visit www.pivillageschool.org.au (Join the Team page) to complete your application. If you have any questions not answered in the documentation or would like to arrange a visit to the school before you apply you can email kelly@pivillageschool.org.au

PUBLIC NOTICES



PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE A TELSTRA MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION WITH 5G AT: 75 CHAPEL STREET, COWES VIC 3922

- The proposed works consist of the removal of (6) panel antennas and the installation of (3) 5G Panel antennas measuring 2688mm(h) by 500mm(w) on existing mounts on the rooftop. Ancillary works including the installation of (3) Remote Radio Units, (3) Junction Boxes, cabling and electrical equipment
- Telstra regards the proposed installation as Low-impact Facilities under the *Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 ("The Determination")*
- In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2018 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Emily Wardlaw on behalf of Telstra, 0422 685 472, consultation@acquirecomm.com.au and at www.rfnsa.com.au/3922001 by **Thursday 26 November 2020.**

Island Astronomy Association Inc

is pleased to announce our first Club Members meeting on 16th November at 7.30pm start.

National Vietnam Veterans Museum 25 Veterans Drive Newhaven Phillip Island
Prospective new members are welcome.
Please Phone Eden White 0448 637 172

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

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

The General Principles

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

Fairness and balance

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

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

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

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



From left – Shae White, Holly Buckley, Ann-Marie McLean (Teacher), Fleur Timmins, Caitlin Hunt and Cailen Lone. The five girls received their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award during the recent Year 12 presentation ceremony at Newhaven College.

Newhaven College's golden girls

Five amazing young women from Newhaven College have been awarded the highest level of achievement in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

Year 12 students, Holly Buckley, Cailen Lone, Fleur Timmins, Shae White and Caitlin Hunt were recently rewarded the Gold Award during the Year 12 presentation ceremony.

The award represents many years of commitment.

Achieving a gold award involves a minimum commitment of 12 months in-

volving community service, skill enhancement, physical recreation, participating and organising adventurous journeys and a residential project.

Completing the award has many benefits for future study, scholarships and employability.

The program has international accreditation and is recognised in more than 140 countries.

More importantly though, the life skills learnt through the 12 months are invaluable.

Skills such as working with others, being self-motivated,

being flexible, communicating with adults, keeping records and connecting with local community groups.

Newhaven College is proud to offer the Award and support to those students who choose to take up the challenge.

Given the enormous challenges of the past six months, the five students have shown incredible determination in completing this prestigious award.

Congratulations girls.

Your school and community are very proud of your achievements.



Instructor Rowena Campbell was thrilled to have students back in the studio, and students Shianne Godena (front) and Cherish Crestani (background) were a picture of concentration.

Indoor activity returns

Local gyms, dance schools and indoor pools are back up and running since regional Victoria moved to Step Three in the roadmap to recovery, with every venue subject to density limits and social distancing requirements.

Indoor exercise including gyms is allowed,

with up to 10 people per indoor space and a limit of 20 to a facility.

Dance classes and indoor sports resumed for children up to the age of 18, with up to 20 people allowed.

Indoor pools are now open for all ages, for up to 20 people.



Gyms, including the YMCA in Cowes, have reopened their doors, with exercise classes, gym classes and yoga returning, with strict hygiene and social distancing in place. Embracing the change at the YMCA are Vicki Cunningham (Rhyll), Sue Hoare (Cowes) and Heidi Dixon (Cowes).



Lessons begin again at the Phillip Island Swim School. Keen to get back in the water were Hope Poulton, Nathaniel Kondarios and Kenzie Soussa with instructor Amanda Drennan.

CASUAL POSITION: RELIEF WRITER

Are you a journalist or writer tuned in to local issues? We're looking for someone to work with us on a relief/casual basis.

Our ideal candidate:

- Is based on Phillip Island or surrounds
- Has excellent writing / journalistic skills
- Understands what issues are important to our local community
- Is self-motivated, flexible and good with deadlines

If this sounds like you, then we want to hear from you. Please send a CV and three examples of recent work to sport@pisra.com.au.

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LUK5874

21 years of giving

Wardy's Christmas Tree is a proud Newhaven College giving tradition that has been running for 21 years.

It began when teacher John Ward, now retired, called upon Newhaven College families to think of others at Christmas by donating a gift to families in need.

Every year the College is overwhelmed by the generosity of families and community members who place a gift under our Wardy's tree.

This year has been extremely tough for our community and the school hopes to bring joy to others this Christmas.

All gifts will be delivered



John Ward with Year 7 students Grace McCrimmon and Isabella Santorini. The Wardy's Christmas Tree appeal has been running for 21 years, supporting local families in need.

to the Wonthaggi Salvation Army and benefit local families

If you would like to donate, please drop into Newhaven College with new, unwrapped items for chil-

dren, teenagers and adults of all ages to place under Wardy's tree.

Wardy would like to thank San Remo IGA and Cowes Aldi for supporting this year's appeal.

Girl power – #ThisGirlCanVic comes to Bass Coast

This Girl Can-Victoria celebrates real women giving it a go and getting active no matter how well they do it, how they look or how sweaty they get.

This powerful campaign from VicHealth is designed to encourage, motivate and inspire women to become more active.

As part of the campaign, Bass Coast Shire Council has received funding to produce a number of This Girl Can-Victoria programs throughout the region to help women get active.

"This initiative gives an opportunity for many women of the Bass Coast region who aren't active and haven't been comfortable in the past to try something new," said Gippy Girls Can advocate and GippSport Community Solutions Senior Sports Consultant Michelle Harris.

The majority of programming for the This Girl Can-Victoria funding was originally scheduled for early 2020, however the Victorian Government COVID-19 restrictions had forced these to be postponed to November 2020.

Through the working for Victoria program, Bass Coast Shire Council has been

able to heavily support this initiative. The council has been working closely with GippSport and the #GippyGirlsCan movement to set up a number of activities scheduled throughout November.

"There has been a lot of hard work through the council's Club Sport Coordinators to get these events and programs scheduled and I think they have managed to get an amazing mix of programs and online events that hit the key message around This Girl Can-Victoria," said Harris.

Activities will be taking place in a variety of locations throughout Bass Coast including Phillip Island, San Remo, Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Corinella to give an extensive range for women across Bass Coast to get out and give it a go.

These activities include multi session programs in social tennis, social golf, walking, stand up paddle boarding, surfing, cricket and football with the majority of programs being provided by local professionals and local clubs to the public free of charge.

"It has been a big priority to provide as many programs as possible and provide

great variety over the entire region," said GippSport program co-ordinator Gene Parini.

"We focused on using local professionals as much as possible and working closely with local sporting clubs to provide these opportunities to get active. As these are free sessions designed for women to get out and give it a go, we encourage people to register and get active even if they can't commit to multiple sessions."

During the This Girl Can-Victoria week in Bass Coast, there will be an online Virtual Desk Stretching & Mindfulness session on Tuesday, November 24 with GippSport's Rachel Ronaldson set to get working women active with a midday at your desk stretching session.

In other notable activities, Escaping your Comfort Zone will help women break down the barriers to getting active by offering introductory walking and hiking sessions on November 14th, 15th, 16th, 19th across Bass Coast.

Details for a walk scheduled during the weekend of November 21 will be released shortly.

There will also be an opportunity for participants who register for these programs to receive free swim and personal training vouchers from the Phillip Island and Wonthaggi YMCA to help participants continue their push to get more active.

Activities, dates and times:

- Inverloch Stand Up Paddle boarding – delivered by Inverloch SUP & Salty Seas (Wednesday November 11, 18 and 25)
- Come & Try Surfing – YCW Beach delivered by Girls on Board (EVENT FULL) (Wednesday, November 11, 18 and 25)
- Gippy Girls Can Tennis Wonthaggi – delivered by McNamara Tennis (Wednesday, November 11, 18, 25 and December 2)
- Gippy Girls Can Diamond Football – delivered by Bass Coast Breakers Football Club (Wednesday, November 11, 18, 25 and December 2)
- Coronet Bay Stand Up Paddle boarding – delivered by Inverloch SUP & SUP Sisters (Friday, November 27 and Sunday, November 29)
- Gippy Girls Can Tennis Inverloch – delivered by McNamara Tennis (Thursday, November 12, 19, 26 and December 3)

• Escaping your Comfort Zone walks Wonthaggi Wetlands – delivered by Escaping your Comfort Zone (Thursday, November 19)

• Gippy Girls Can Tennis Phillip Island – delivered by Innovative Tennis Management (Monday, November 16, 23 and 30)

• Come & Try Golf Phillip Island – check website for details

• Gippy Girls Can Tennis San Remo – delivered by Innovative Tennis Management (Friday, November 20, 27 and December 4)

• Come & Try Cricket – check website for dates

• Virtual Desk Stretching & Mindfulness session – delivered by GippSport's Rachel Ronaldson (Tuesday, November 24)

• Escaping your Comfort Zone Bush Walks – Saturday, November 14 (Cape Woolamai), Sunday, November 15 (Churchill Island), Monday, November 16 Kilcunda (Twilight) and over the weekend of November 21 or 22 (check website for details)

For Bass Coast women to register their interest for any program and for more information visit: gippygirlscan.com/opportunities

Change rooms a goal for new councillor

New Westernport Ward councillor Rochelle Halstead hit the ground running.

Formally declared a councillor on Friday afternoon, that night she visited the Phillip Island Breakers Soccer Club's home ground to talk about community soccer and the need for girls

change rooms.

There was plenty of enthusiasm at the club for the concept!

From left to right: Felix Bathgate, Rani Sunderland, Rochelle Halstead, Archie Williams, Cormac Flynn and Aidan Smyth.



FREE EVENTS HAPPENING IN PHILLIP ISLAND & SURROUNDS

- Gippy Girls Can Diamond Football - Dalyston (Wednesdays from November 11th)
- Escaping Your Comfort Zone Bush Walks – Cape Woolamai (Sat Nov 14th), Churchill Island (Sun Nov 15th), Kilcunda (Mon Nov 16th) & Nov 21st or 22nd (check website)
- Gippy Girls Can Social Tennis - Phillip Island (Mondays from November 16th)
- Come & Try Golf - Phillip Island (check website for dates)
- Gippy Girls Can Social Tennis - San Remo (Fridays from November 20th)
- Virtual Desk Stretching & Mindfulness session - Online (Tuesday November 24th)
- Gippy Girls Stand up Paddleboarding - Coronet Bay (November 27th & 29th)

To register your interest for any program and for more information visit: gippygirlscan.com/opportunities



Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Cup weekend has been and gone and now it's a downhill run to Christmas which is only a handful of weeks away.

To say everybody can't wait for the new year and a much better one ahead would be an understatement.

We can only hope for more weekends like Cup weekend where the weather conditions were almost perfect for getting outdoors and probably the best we have had for many years.

As I write this there hasn't been an announcement on Melbourne people being allowed to head to regional and back to the Island for a fish.

All the predictions are for a busy Christmas and the accommodation enquires would also suggest that plenty are looking to holiday locally this year.

When it does get busy, as locals it will take a little adjustment but it's not the end of the world and as quickly as the place is invaded it is vacated again and back to the quieter times.

Holiday people traditionally start late so look for the tides, head out early and return early. Or do an evening fish, head out mid-afternoon return in the evening. These times are generally the best time to fish anyway.

It's pointless heading to, what you will know to be the busiest time then complaining about all these extra people around.

Do it smart and you can still find your piece of paradise. Also remember visitors only get to enjoy it for a few weeks of the year, as a local you have it 365 days a year.

Around 12 months ago the Victorian government introduced a ban on single use plastic bags and at the same time we changed to paper bags instead of plastic.

We now give out far less bags in general and its very pleasing to see many of our customers walking in

with a bag in hand for their bait.

There are still some that are unhappy. I'm not sure what rock they have been living under for the last 12 months to tell us they have not heard of any such ban. Despite being told on a few occasions that it should be part of our business to provide them with a bag we are not changing, and recommend customers bring in a bag to take their bait home.

If you have been in over the last 12 months you will also have noticed we don't automatically offer a paper bag to you but please feel free to ask if you would like one.

Fishing report

It has gone from trying to find fish to report to working out how many of the fish I can get into the report.

Over the Cup weekend we had most species reported and plenty of them. Yes, there were some who missed out and still aren't on the board but that's just fishing as most would say.

With the sun out more the temperature of the bay has come up a bit and we are starting to see the snapper heading to the shallows late in the day.

The very bright sunny days, while helping to warm the bay don't help the fishing in the middle of the day. Most of the time it's best to head out for an evening fish.

If you do want to put a whole day on the water I suggest early start and fish for your whiting or snapper. Then once the sun gets up, head offshore for a feed of flathead or chase a calamari or two.

Snapper reports from the last week have been consistent and the very early fish in the deeper water off Rhyll or towards Elizabeth Island has been the best.

The middle of the day has been hit and miss across the corals and most

are only finding the very small pinkies.

Late afternoon and evening the best has been heading to the shallow end of the corals and up onto the mud where there has been plenty caught.

Most of the snapper are hitting hard now and seem to be hungry taking almost any bait that you put down.

I even had a few reports from customers using the large pilchards we have whole and 4kg snapper having no trouble devouring them in one go.

Undersized pinkies are still a problem wherever you go, and you need to make a decision, stay or move.

We have had plenty of reports from those who stayed to suggest the bigger snapper are traveling with them. It just depends on how much bait you want to go through to catch the bigger ones.

We had our whiting comp on the weekend and weighed around 50 fish with the largest being 625g. While it wasn't a monster nor the longest it didn't matter if it was the heaviest and won the major prize.

We weighed plenty that were 500g to 600g and all very healthy whiting with most telling us they had a good bag full.

The reports came from plenty of different places, Rhyll, Long Point, Dickies Bay and below the bridge in Cleeland Bight. Almost all of the reports said the change of tide, 1 to 1.5 hours before and after the best times and not much outside this.

Several gummies reported from those fishing the snapper areas with the best reported just over 1.3m.

Plenty of smaller ones and no shortage of those under size with the better ones coming from after dark.

Offshore, we had reasonable flat-head reports and while numbers were good, sizes were on the smaller end with plenty needed to be caught to find a feed of something to take home.

There is plenty of bait around at the moment, both offshore and in the bay and make sure you have a couple of lures with you.

Salmon, yakkas, couta, silver whiting all reported this week.



Men's Pairs bowls winners were (L) Glen Cohen and (R) John Batty.

Phillip Island bowls

The past week has been a challenge negotiating the Bowls Victoria Return to Play Guidelines.

It seems we are now aligned with metropolitan guidelines, with groups of 10 and a distance of 10 metres be maintained and no mixing of groups.

The Triples competition at Wonthaggi was cancelled, due to these reclassified restrictions.

It also impacted on our own club competitions and social bowls.

We are waiting for guidelines after Sundays easing of some restrictions. Hopefully, some further clarification is forthcoming.

The Ladies Pairs Championship is in progress.

Men's Pairs Final was won by Glen Cohen and John Batty, with runners up Stuart Cunningham and Wayne Barr.

It was a well fought out final.

The Cup Day bowls was limited to 15 ends.

It was a much lower turnout than previous years and activities limited to reduce interaction.

We still had the Cup Sweep though.

Tables were set up outdoors as per Covid recommendations.

But most of us dressed up for the occasion, some in not so suitably attired fashion, which is often associated with Melbourne Cup wear.



Runners up were (L) Stuart Cunningham and (R) Wayne Barr.

Social Bowls with two wins were Joan Farmer, Reg Excell and Ray Pepper, with runners up Lyn Rogerson, Eric Wilde and Alan Baughurst.

Saturday Bowls was a real mixed bag affair with pairs playing against a triples team.

A welcome return to George Mol. The club coach is back, on his "feet".

Those from the club will understand that implication.

He will be available from this Friday at 3pm, particularly for new members to learn the skills of bowls.



With snapper tails in hand and snapper tales to be told, Senior weight winners Brendan Garlepp (left) and Carrianne Peatey (right)



Squidgie competitor Zachary Gomm and his mouth-watering snapper

Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club Fishing competition results

Weather forecasts improved slightly for the third Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) fishing competition of the season.

The competition, staged over the weekend, enjoyed moments of calm conditions amid gusts of wind up to 20 knots, from the south on Saturday and the east on Sunday.

Despite the adage "wind from the east, fish bite least", many anglers chose to concentrate their efforts on Sunday's better conditions.

Surely, a tale of snapper, or two, was just waiting to be told.

The last weekend of regional Victoria's Third Step of COVID-19 restrictions saw an increasing number of boats on the water.

Consistent with the RPIAC Covid Safe plan, attendees were registered and the requirements for facemasks, physical distancing and good hygiene were reinforced.

A total of 35 fish and three sharks were presented at weigh-in, ensuring weigh-in masters Gerry Gibb and Norm Trickey were not overwhelmed.

Like clockwork, at the conclusion of each day's weigh-in, the weather

settled, and anglers looked out of the clubrooms to the water and wondered about the possibilities.

Despite recent reports of huge snapper entering the bay, the \$5000 incentives for members with extraordinary catches remains banked until the Club's next competition.

The five eligible species nominated for a first-to-catch \$1000 prize, equal to or exceeding the nominated weight, are: King George whiting (1000 grams), snapper (10 kilograms), gummy shark (20 kilograms), mullovey (25 kilograms) and kingfish (25 kilograms).

The Squidgie Mixed Bag competition, for anglers aged nine or younger, congratulated Zachary Gomm with second place after catching a mouth-watering snapper worth 20 points.

The first place was awarded to Denver Firth, the reigning Squidgie champion, after catching two fish, for a total of 40 points.

This weekend's Junior competition, for anglers aged 10 to 16, was uncontested, leaving another seven competitions to decide the championship.

The Senior Heaviest Weight contests were won by the dynamic duo, Brendan Garlepp and Carrianne Peatey, with eye-bulging snapper weighing 4592 grams and 2922 grams, respectively.

The Senior Points competitions were won by Pat Gleeson, for a defiant trevally worth 1736 points (1240 grams), and Anne-Marie Richards, for a snapper worth 1980 points (1980 grams).

The Senior shark competition was close, however persistence paid, and a triumphant Warren Weir delivered a gummy shark weighing 6138 grams to claim the prize.

Opting to play the game of chance, Leah Valente conjured a King George whiting, weighing 196 grams, to win the Secret Weight competition (secret weight 132 grams).

The next competition will be held over the weekend of November 21 and 22, where angling members will compete for the Bill Wallis trophy.

For further information about the club, competitions and rules, please visit the website: www.rpiac.com.



Social Bowlers winners (L to R): Reg Excell, Joan Farmer and Ray Pepper.

Tennis results – Round 1

Section 1: Korumburra 8.71 defeated Koonwarra 1.31, Inverloch Kroams 9.72 defeated Leongatha 0.22, Leongatha North 5.53 defeated Westernport 4.51.

Ladder: Inverloch Kroams 11, Korumburra 10, Leongatha North 7, Westernport 4, Koonwarra 1 and Leongatha 0.

Section 2: Baromi 6.65 defeated Leongatha Barty 3.47, Korumburra Blue 5.58 defeated Leongatha Millman 4.53 and Outtrim 5.59 defeated Korumburra Green 4.59.

Ladder: Baromi 8, Korumburra Blue 7, Outtrim 7, Korumburra Green 4, Leongatha Millman 4 and Leongatha Barty 3.

The first round of tennis was a great one with lovely weather.

Korumburra started the season with a win, winning well against Koonwarra.

Welcome to Tania Cardell (Wight) back playing in the area.

Inverloch also won well against

Leongatha, winning all sets.

The third mixed went to a tie-breaker though.

Leongatha North and Westernport had the closest match of the section with Leongatha North winning by just two games.

The Westernport men won all sets, and the ladies sets all went to Leongatha North, helping the team to their win.

In Section 2 the Leongatha teams both played at Leongatha.

Both teams lost however to Korumburra Blue and Baromi.

The atmosphere was very social with new players feeling the warm welcome. Young players are coming through too and playing well which is great to see.

Outtrim and Korumburra Green finished even on games, but Outtrim walked away with the extra set and with it, the win.

A long day of close sets with the game finishing after 5pm.

A busy start to the season Cricket's back, wins all round!

By Phillip Island & District Cricket Club

It's been a busy start for the Phillip Island Cricket Club this year, with record numbers of juniors turning out as restrictions ease, and four senior sides.

All ages are catered for starting with boys and girls at Blasters, and then leading on to U12, U14, and U16 years teams, through to a Transition Squad; Senior A, B, C1 and C2 sides, and currently there are Girl's and Women's teams emerging, with tryout days planned as soon as restrictions allow.

Cricket is introduced to the youngest players in the Blasters sessions, which is an interactive program for players aged from four to 10, where the emphasis is on learning skills and having lots of fun.

The kids then graduate to district competition level with three junior teams.

As Covid restrictions begin to ease, it is planned to extend current training sessions with two practice sessions per week now planned for each junior team.

More about that soon.

Mick Cleary is the young Blasters co-ordinator, helped by Rebecca Overeem, Tony Hornsby and Scott Boyack.

They play at the Cowes ground on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm until December 17 and will take a school holiday break, resuming on February 4.

The Under 12 team is in the capable hands of Luke Marshall, Tarryn Allan and Clare Bailey.

Practice is on Mondays from 4.15pm to 5.30 pm, and games commence this Friday (November 13).

Play is competitive, but scores are not recorded for this age group.

The Under 14 team sees Dave Fusinato and Dan McCausland in charge.

Practice is on Tuesday nights from 4.15pm to 5.30pm and competitive district matches started last Saturday.

Dave Womersley is at the helm for Under 16 players, with practice on Wednesday nights from 4.30pm to 6pm.

Competitive matches commenced last Saturday.

Under 20 transition players are



Zac Walker keeps his eye on the ball in the Cowes cricket nets last week.

under Steve McIntyre and practice is on Wednesday nights from 4.30pm to 6pm.

The A Grade Squad and Senior teams will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Matches commenced last Saturday. (See reports on these pages).

Representative opportunities

During the season, PIDCC will nominate selected players to attend trials for Leongatha and District Cricket Association representative

squads as part of the Victorian and Australian player pathway programs.

Cricket for Girls and Women.

Leongatha District Cricket Association proposes to conduct competition for Girls and Women in early 2021.

To prepare for this opportunity, the PIDCC is planning to hold Come n Try Cricket sessions for girls in November and December 2020. More information on these sessions, shortly.

Phillip Island golf results Sport survival grants

Tuesday, November 3 – Cup Day – Men's, Ladies & Mixed 4 Ball.

Men's competition winners – Andrew Hewett and Leigh Hayhurst with 47 points.

Men's competition r/up – Rob Sparkmen and Harry Sterling with 46 Points on a countback.

Ladies competition winners – Lorraine Hammon and Vicki Roff-Smith with 44 points.

Ladies competition r/up – Ros Reid and Anne Sherwood with 41 points.

Mixed competition winners – Mark and Patricia Jamieson with 47 points.

Mixed competition r/up – Max and Jo Disher with 45 points on a countback.

9 Hole Stableford competition winner was Chris Sanderson H/c (19) with 19 points.

Runner up was Peter Wrigley H/c (11) with 17 points.

Wednesday, November 4 – Ladies Stableford – 4BBB: Winners - Miyuki Yamaguchi H/c(30) and Naoko McRae H/c (35) with 45 points.

Runners up – Jeanette Diss H/c (21) and Vicki Roff-Smith H/c (22) with 44 points.

Thursday, November 5 – Mens and Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Men's winner was Brian Gloury H/c (28) with 39 points from Garry Birch H/c (18) with 38 points on a countback from Harry Sterling H/c (17) also with 38 points.

Ladies winner was Janice Baker

H/c (37) with 35 points.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole competition winner was Reg Browne H/c (33) with 22 points from Bob Pascoe H/c (11) with 18 points on a countback from Charles Mizzi H/c (34) also with 18 points.

Saturday, November 7 – Mens and Ladies 4BBB Stableford and Chairman v Captain Trophy.

Men's competition winners – Steve Duggan and Jay Piera with 48 points.

Men's competition r/up – Vince Colella and Rianne Avery with 47 points.

Ladies competition winners – Ira Septiana and Di Ray with 49 points.

Ladies competition r/up – Faye Morris and Karen Green with 47 points.

Chairman v Captain Trophy was won by the Chairman by 1 point.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole competition – Stableford winner was Jan Daff H/c (33) with 21 points on a countback from Ron Hateley H/c (32) also with 21 points.

Next week's event for Men is Round 1 of the Club Championships and September Monthly Medal sponsored by Phillip Island Car Find.

Sunday, November 8 – Men's Foursomes Championships.

Scratch winners – Isaac Batty H/c (0) and James Fowler H/c (2) – 74/73.

Nett winners – Reece Jamieson H/c (14) and Mark Jamieson H/c (14) – 79/65.

Nett runners up – Ray Smith H/c (6) and Jeff Bennett H/c (10) – 79/71.

Sports clubs on Phillip Island, at Bass Valley and Wonthaggi are among 14 local groups to receive grants under the second round of the state government's Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Short-term Survival Package.

The Phillip Island and District Basketball Association, Phillip Island Auto Racing, Phillip Island Bicycle Group and Girl Guides all received grants.

Other successful local groups included the Anderson Inlet Angling Club, Bass Valley Community Group, Bass Coast Strollers and two guides groups in Wonthaggi.

With community sport hard hit during the pandemic, the sport survival package is designed to help clubs to support players and volunteers.

The latest round of government announcement on Covid restrictions includes the first major steps in the return of community sport in Victoria.

Full grant details sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/community-sport-sector-coronavirus-covid-19-short-term-survival-package

For the latest roadmap information www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-roadmaps

From page 32

Parsons was next in to start building a partnership with Beaumont before Parsons fell, caught behind leaving the Island 2/50 off 12 overs. Beaumont was still there batting well, then the Island had a middle order collapse losing four quick wickets which included Beaumont who was hitting the ball well before mistiming one and was caught for a well-made 37.

Leaving the Island 6/73 off 18 overs.

Walker joined Wright at the crease who was looking solid and ready to try and build a partnership.

Wright was taking his time to hit the loose balls to the fence for a while. Walker held up one before Walker was bowled out leaving the 7/107 off 29 overs.

Young joined Wright in the middle, the Island boys nervously sitting on the sideline needing 31 to win off 11 overs and three wickets in hand.

Wright was going along nicely hitting the loose ball slowly creeping up on the target before Young started to get into the act punishing anything short and over pitched, bringing the target down and eventually hitting the winning runs.

Wright finished 37 not out and Young 23 not out getting the Island over the line for a win in a great effort by everyone.

C2 cricket

With all that has gone on in the last six months finally we were able to get out on the sporting fields and get a bit of outdoor activity happening.

For Phillip Island's cricketers it meant the season was about to begin.

With the late start it means we will be playing one-dayers all season.

On Saturday Phillip Islands C2 welcomed the boys from Leongatha Town to play a COVID safe adapted first game.

The town boys were runners up last season, so we knew we had a tough game ahead.

This year's captain, John Johnston, lost the first toss of the covid coin and was asked to field.

We welcome new players Steve Birchell and Taryn Allan to the side, and it wasn't long before they combined to get the first wicket.

Taryn took a blinding one-handed airborne catch with some saying he has already surpassed his much-lauded father in law, A. O'Brien in the catching stakes.

The opposition got off to a good start at 1-60 but the old silver fox, Peter Francis stepped up and claimed two quick wickets and got us in game.

The catching was the highlight with John Manning and Mark Forrest claiming two apiece and Mick Cleary one.

The bowling tightened up and we found ourselves chasing 157 off 40 overs.

Wickets were shared with Franga and Johnno claiming two and Froggy, Cleary and new guy Steve one each.

We opened with evergreen Carl Muscat and John Manning.

They put together a fine 42 run partnership to get us going.

Carl 17 and Jonty 33.

Pete Francis chipped in with 20, hard hitting 36 from Cleary, a lucky but crucial 24 not out from Patto and 15 not out from Steve Birchell to finish off a fine debut for club.

We finished at 7 for 175 and a great first up win.

We are very grateful that we can play our game albeit under strange conditions and congratulations to the club achieving a rare all four sides winning.

Let's keep it up.



Ollie Hibbert is a picture of concentration as he faces the ball at a practice session last week.

Under 16s

The under 16s kicked their season off against an undermanned Glen Alvie at Daylston.

Captain Kohen Beaumont won the toss and elected to bowl.

Opening bowlers Zac Walker (2/5) and James Lewis (2/9) immediately reaped the rewards of a committed pre-season, destroying the Glen Alvie top order.

When wicket keeper Henry Peppard took a diving leg side catch, Glen Alvie were 4/14 and with Max Arceo (2/1 off 2 overs) continuing the rot, Glen Alvie were all out shortly after for 21.

Opening batsmen Kohen Beaumont (33) and Henry Peppard (12) both made solid starts, before Kohen unleashed on the Glen Alvie attack, striking six boundaries and proving to be a class above the opposition.

When both players retired, the game was already over and won.

Max Arceo (21) and Heath Womersley (15) compiled a solid partnership and Will Peppard chipped in with 9 not out to finish the innings.

A great start to the year.

Under 14s

The U14s Sharks started their season against Glen Alvie well with captain George McCausland winning the toss and electing to bat.

Jake Hughes and Connor McMillan opened the batting, but both fell early in the innings.

Thomas McMillan and George McCausland came in and led the team into a great position before both retiring for an unbeaten 25 and 26, respectively.

Glen Alvie struck again before Sam Bennett and Xavier Godena displayed excellent batting before Sam fell for 24.

Xavier and Harry Arceo saw out the rest of the innings. The Sharks made 134.

Knowing they weren't out of it yet, Connor McMillan and Sam Bennett displayed some magnificent bowling before an excellent effort in the field by Sam Bennett dismissed another batter.

Tyler Duell sent down a magnificent ball which clipped the top of middle stump.

In the last over of the game, Drew Fusinato took two wickets and Jake Hughes displayed awesome fielding skills to complete a team hat trick.

Even though the scorebook doesn't display a wicket Justin Tran, Harry Arceo and Sienna McMillan bowled extremely well.

The teamwork and exceptional cricketing skills kept Glen Alvie to just 38.

Well – fought win sharks onto Inverloch next week.



It was a welcome return to junior and senior cricket last week, after the long Covid lockdown. Players and officials at the Phillip Island Cricket Club are pictured at a training session last week, preparing for a full complement of matches on Saturday. Back Row from left are Peter Spence (Junior Co-ordinator) Lee Fuller (Bowling Coach), Prish Soni, Heath Womersley, Tom Niven, Blake Young, James Lewis, Kohen Beaumont and Carl Muscat (Specialist Coach and Club Vice President). Front Row from left are Dave Womersley (Junior Co-ordinator) and players Zac Walker, Henry Peppard, Max Arceo, Ollie Hibbert and Tim Niven.

Cricket's back, wins all round!

Phillip Island & District Cricket Club report

A Grade

After a long off season, it was time for cricket to resume at Cowes for the island boys and after a solid pre-season there was optimism throughout the group.

Round 1 saw Inverloch make the trip across the bridge on a cold but dry Saturday afternoon.

After winning the toss Phillip Island had a bat, losing the first wicket of Jarrod Black for 7.

First drop Eli Richards came to the crease and formed a solid partnership with other opening batsmen Lochie Cleeland.

The two put on 50 before Richards was dismissed caught behind, bringing Shiran Rathnayake to the crease who batted and ran well for a run a ball 28.

When Cleeland was dismissed after a classy 53 the wheels fell off for the Sharks losing 7 for 9 before some lower order hitting from Henry Shawcross dragged the total to a defendable 148.

After the break the Inverloch openers came out with guns blazing and put on 63 for the first wicket in good time.

A change to spin from both ends seemed to do the trick for the Sharks with the Sri-Lankan duo of Rathnayake and Charith Keerthisinghe halting all the momentum the Stingrays had built, allowing the Island to apply pressure from both ends.

From here the game swung the Island's way taking the final 8 wickets for just 19 runs to knock over Inverloch for 120 with superb bowling efforts from Simon Kirton (7 overs, 2 for 23) and Geoff Odgers (6 overs, 2 for 16).

The star of the day however was Keerthisinghe as it so often is with the champ, finishing with

4 for 15 off his 7 overs spinning the Sharks to a gutsy win.

Next week we go to Outtrim to try for an away win that has eluded the A Grade boys for far too long. Go Sharks.

B Grade

The title defence for B grade started off with a trip to Inverloch turf. Upon inspection the pitch looked green and reasonably hard, which made for a good day of cricket.

New captain Steve McIntyre won the toss and decided to have a bat.

Early on in the innings Inverloch had the upper hand after opener Epifano smashed one straight to mid-off and first drop Hornsby smoked the greatest pull shot ever to short fine leg, both without troubling the scorers.

At this stage the Island were 2-7 and in early trouble before Dave Wommersley took to the crease.

McIntyre and Wommersley worked the ball around brilliantly to form a crucial 60 run stand before Dave hit the ball 100m straight up in the air and was caught by the keeper for 29.

The middle order continued the great form shown by the first few batsmen as 12-year-old Liam Dayson came to the crease at number five.

He was quickly dismissed for three, as was Kev Taylor for a duck.

As the collapse continued, McIntyre continued to hit the ball around the park to reach his 50.

Andrew Tolley then came to the crease and smoked a few balls before hitting a full toss straight down mid wicket's throat ending up on eight.

Tom Niven then joined the skipper and preceded to be caught and bowled by a bowler who he claimed was "not that good" for two.

At this stage, the Island were 7-111 with a handful of overs to go.

However, cometh the moment, cometh the man, as Andrew Finlayson walked out to bat at number 9.

He proceeded to smoke the ball off the bat from the first ball, smashing a quick fire 31, before being bowled out in the penultimate over.

Josh Excell was next in and the Sharks ended with a competitive total of 8-163 with, McIntyre carrying his bat through the innings to end with 81 not out, in a superb captain's knock.

After the quick break between innings, we set out to attack with the ball.

Opening with the new ball was young Tom (no ball) Niven and Josh Excell who both bowled reasonably well to start with. Excell picked up an early wicket thanks to a one handed, horizontal diving catch by Andrew Tolley.

As the saying goes one quickly turns into two, and as the pressure kept rising, Liam Dayson provided the goods with a brilliant direct hit run out to the non-strikers end to pick up the second wicket and put Inverloch on the back foot at 2-22.

Inverloch then built a partnership hitting the bad balls away with some gloriously lofted drives much to all-rounder Wommersley disgust, before Excell, who was bowling a fantastic spell, combined again with Tolley to get the breakthrough, leaving the score at 3-71.

From here, the Island started to apply the pressure with spinners Liam Dayson bowling some unplayable deliveries on his way to picking up two wickets and Clint Wilson his usual miserly self to finish with 3.

A great second spell from Wommersley produced a wicket and another fantastic direct hit run from Josh Excell this time, had the sharks in sight of victory but it was tight with Inverloch getting

within a run a ball required.

Tom Niven came back on and bowled a fantastic over under pressure and Wilson cleaned up the last two next over to have us bowling Inverloch out for 141 with some excellent spells of bowling.

Overall, it was a solid performance, with plenty of rust to shake off, but a win is a win especially on the road.

Carn the Sharks!

C1 cricket

Cricket is back with the Phillip Island Sharks taking on MDU in C1 over at Leongatha.

The skipper won the toss and decided to send MDU in to bat first as it was the first game of the year and having an inexperienced team with five Under 16 playing to help settle the nerves.

Matt Wright and Soni Prashant opened up the bowling with some tight bowling. After seven overs MDU were 0/22.

Zac Walker replaced Prashant. Walker bowling tight grabbed the first wicket to have MDU 1/38 after 14 overs. Not long after Walker had his second wicket leaving MDU 2/44.

Blake Young came on and grabbed a wicket in his first over to have MDU 3/57 off 17 overs.

The Sharks soon had another wicket with young Tim Niven getting it. Niven had replaced Walker who finished with 2/19 off five overs.

Young finished with 2/19 off eight overs, and the Sharks bowled some tight lines to keep the scoring slow and ended up restricting MDU to 7/137 off their 40 overs.

It was the Island's time to bat chasing 138. Kohen Beaumont and Daniel McCausland opened up taking their time to get settled, before McCausland fell LBW to leave the Island 1/15.

Continued page 31

ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF

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