

# PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

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Wednesday, November 15, 2023

\$1.80 Incl. GST



Among the first anglers to test the new ramp was David Thompson. Boaties last week were critical of the upgrade, but at a public meeting in May, BBV director Katherine Grech said the upgrade was "as good as it's going to get based on constraints".

## Boaties reporting damage at new ramp

### ANGLING

Boaties are reporting problems at the newly upgraded Cowes boat ramp, with rocks at the end of the ramp – not there previously – damaging their hulls and propellers.

Others said with no end of ramp markers some boaties had gone over the edge of the ramp and needed towing help.

Meanwhile the state government has confirmed ramp cameras were installed at the Anderson Road boat ramp carpark and at the ramp, so boaters can view conditions.

And more than 60 cubic metres of concrete was poured to form the ramp and side panels, under the \$2.8 million upgrade.

Last week the Outdoor Recreation Minister Steve Dimopoulos confirmed the five-month upgrade was officially complete and the ramp re-opened, with the camera vision available through the free Boating Vic smartphone app or at [boating.vic.gov.au](http://boating.vic.gov.au).

Mr Dimopoulos said the longer ramp meant boaters could use the facility in a greater range of tides.

The minister said a 20-metre extension was carried out on the adjoining jetty, with works also raising the lower landing.

"Phillip Island's reputation as a go-to boating location for many Victorian families has been further enhanced," Mr Dimopoulos said.

"This is another example of boaters' licence and registration fees being reinvested into a project that will really make a difference for boaters."

The \$2.8 million project follows a \$4.5 million redevelopment at Rhyll completed in 2022, and Better Boating Victoria is now developing concept designs for future improvements at Newhaven boat ramp.

### Response

Last week boaties continued to give their appraisal, with Kim saying there were "already is-

sues on lower tides with trailers stuck over the end".

Rod said the lack of end of ramp markers meant trailers were "going over the edge of the ramp and having to get help".

"Sand build up is such, every launch vehicle is a four-wheel drive," Rod said.

"The jetty is still too far from the launch facilities, and during a northerly, forget even using it."

"You had feedback prior to the upgrade, and failed to listen."

Mick said he launched on the weekend and the sand build up on the ramp above the water's edge "made it difficult to retrieve".

"I had to bounce on the tow ball to get traction."

"There is also a rock or something below the surface about 15m out from the high tide line in the centre of the ramp as reversing off the trailer it hit and put a small bend in my propeller. Never had that happen there before."

Stephen confirmed rocks at the end of the ramp "will put holes in the hulls of boats and destroy props" and John added the rocks were on the right-hand side looking down the ramp and "can't be seen at high tide".

Julian, however, said he had launched at the ramp and it was "brilliant".

"Big improvement."

Kevin said while he was yet to use it, he heard reports the new ramp was a better angle but "the sand will always be an issue".

"It was never going to be a high tide ramp," Kevin said.

"Waiting to see what they come up with for Newhaven. Better be good. It's the busiest ramp on the island now with people after the tuna off shore."

### Response

Better Boating Victoria (BBV) responded saying they had consulted on the jetty and feedback was to leave it in its current location, but to extend into deeper

water.

"We added a further 20 metres to it," a BBV spokesperson said.

"Sand is a big issue at Cowes. We can't stop the sand, but we can reduce the need to clean it off the ramp as often. This is why we raised the ramp by over one metre in height. It's effectively a beach launch – the current flat seabed and significant sand movement don't allow for many other solutions."

At a public meeting to discuss the ramp plans in May, BBV engineers told boaties that despite initial concepts suggesting the ramp could have groynes, revised plans showed groynes or a rockwall couldn't be built in the water off Anderson boat ramp because it would cause sand build up on the westerly side and require constant dredging.

BBV director Katherine Grech told the boaties the upgrade was "as good as it's going to get based on constraints".

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<div>Wed/Nov15</div> <div> </div> <div>CLOUDY</div> <div>11 17</div>	<div>Thu/Nov16</div> <div> </div> <div>SHOWER OR TWO</div> <div>12 18</div>	<div>Fri/Nov17</div> <div> </div> <div>CLOUDY</div> <div>11 18</div>	<div>Sat/Nov18</div> <div> </div> <div>CLOUDY</div> <div>12 19</div>	<div>Sun/Nov19</div> <div> </div> <div>MOSTLY SUNNY</div> <div>12 23</div>	<div>Mon/Nov20</div> <div> </div> <div>PARTLY CLOUDY</div> <div>14 18</div>	<div>Tue/Nov21</div> <div> </div> <div>PARTLY CLOUDY</div> <div>14 20</div>
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POLICE BRIEFS

**Crash on Phillip Island Road**  
A vehicle crashed into the trees on the side of Phillip Island Road near Forrest Caves last Wednesday. Ambulance Victoria paramedics responded to an incident at Surf Beach around 12:15pm. An AV spokesperson said a man in his 70s was taken to Bass Coast Regional Health Wonthaggi in a stable condition. Police confirmed it was a single vehicle accident, because of a medical episode with the elderly driver.

**Fence**  
A vehicle crashed through a fence at the Bass Avenue carpark in Cowes last week. Police said the driver, an unaccompanied learner, lost control of the vehicle and went through fence at the car park, hitting the adjacent building. A number of penalty notices were issued for the incident, including careless driving.

Chinese visitor numbers to the Penguin Parade have skyrocketed, with overall international visitor numbers up by 20 per cent. Photo: Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Chinese regain top spot at Penguin Parade

TOURISM

Chinese tourists have regained the title of number one overseas visitors at the Phillip Island Penguin Parade for the first time since before the pandemic. There have been 13,115 visitors from China from July to the end of October this year, compared with 3873 for the entire 12 months until the end of June. Demand has accelerated since China en-

dorsed group tours to Australia in August. International tourists are an incredibly important market for the Penguin Parade, and there have also been strong lifts in visitors from Singapore, USA, the United Kingdom, Korea and India in recent months. Phillip Island Nature Parks tourism general manager Mark Anderson expects the strong growth to continue. "Traditionally, China has been our biggest and most important market at the Penguin Parade. Pre-pandemic overseas visitors represented 54 per cent of visitors, with China alone making up 21 per cent," Mr Anderson said. "We have seen our international visitors lift over the last couple of months and China has become our number one international market again. We are now seeing up to 40 buses each night, and there is still a lot of pent-up demand. "Overall, international visitation has grown to 20 per cent but trends are very strong and our target is to get back to 40 per cent over this year." Mr Anderson and Phillip Island Nature Parks sales manager Debbie Buschmann will lead a Nature Parks delegation to China with Tourism Australia in the first week of December to re-build connections and accelerate the trend. Phillip Island Nature Parks continues to re-build following the COVID-19 pandemic, and the rebound has been stronger than expected. Overall visitation is back to 80 per cent of its pre-Covid levels, driven by strong domestic visitation, particularly local Victorian visitors, followed by NSW and Queensland. Over the most recent school holiday period in September, the Penguin Parade experienced 12 sold-out nights. "With international trends being so positive and a strong domestic market, we are expecting a very busy and successful summer period at Phillip Island," Mr Anderson said.

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# Love Phillip Island? New campaign to give back

## TOURISM

Visitors who enjoy Phillip Island's flora and fauna will be encouraged to reciprocate – and care for the environment here – under a new tourism campaign to be launched on December 1.

The "Love Phillip Island (Millo) – Give Back this Summer" campaign is also calling for 30 local businesses to be champions of what is described as a new global tourism movement.

The campaign has a goal to raise about \$20,000 for tree planting and wildlife protection on the island from December to March 22 (World Water Day) – the "equivalent of five cents per person for everyone who visits the island in peak season".

Created by Destination Phillip Island (DPI), the campaign has different options for tourists, and events and hospitality businesses to be involved – through donating and volunteering – in partnership with local organisations.

The "most impactful" option, according to DPI, is an "optional \$5 positive impact purchase", where the 30-plus local businesses can use QR codes, display a poster or offer booking systems, for example, so visitors can donate \$5 to either Phillip Island Landcare's bushcare tree-planting project, or Nature Parks' Penguin Foundation

wildlife protection project.

Another option is for visitors to take part in a range of environmental activities on the island over the peak season, such as citizen science projects.

Part of this "voluntourism" will be organised clean up events, including on Clean Up Australia Day, educating on avoiding single use plastic, plastic bags and litter.

DPI has created a new group, the Regenerative Tourism Alliance, to oversee the campaign, led by Melbourne-based consultants Regeneration Projects.

## Global trend

Matt Sykes, from Regeneration Projects, said the campaign was designed to inspire visitors, the community and businesses to give back to the "incredible island".

"Without the penguins, whales, seals, shearwaters and wildlife there would be no tourism industry here, so they are effectively our business partners and definitely stakeholders," Matt said.

"The future of the industry is dependent on wildlife. We are in business with them and this is a way to formalise that. It mainstreams issues that are hard to grapple with such as biodiversity loss and plastic pollution."

He said there was a growing



Give Back this Summer campaign will be launched on December 1. "Without the penguins, whales, seals, shearwaters and wildlife there would be no tourism industry here, so they are effectively our business partners."

global movement for the tourism industry to operate sustainably, seen in such places as Love Wanaka in Aotearoa New Zealand, where they raise funds and awareness for environmental action.

"There has been a culture shift, especially since Covid."

"If people come here and don't connect or give back it becomes an unfair relationship."

"Visitors crave connection with social and environmental benefits. It's about giving back more than taking, about leaving a place better than you find it."

He said Phillip Island tourism businesses already had a "strong culture of caring for the environment", which had a commercial benefit.

"There is a motivation for Phillip Island to distinguish itself from other regions in Victoria and for international visitors."

"It's about using the island's superpower, if you like, to advantage, so when they think about Phillip Island and its amazing wildlife they are able to participate in that and connect."

"They get to see the beautiful attractions and enjoy the food but participate as well. It's how people want to do tourism now."

Matt said young employees in the tourism industry were also calling for jobs "with purpose that tackle things like climate change and reconciliation".

Already Wildlife Coast Cruises had a positive impact purchase, where visitors can donate \$5 to the Bass Coast Landcare Network.

"On every tour they run there are a number of people who have made this purchase. It's not everyone. But it's part of (WCC's) culture."

"We are just scaling this up."

## Feedback

In September, in a separate project, DPI released a draft management plan, which took on board feedback from survey responses and workshops with industry, community and government for future tourism directions.

According to survey responses, while tourism is recognised as a "vital lifeline" for the island, tensions arise when some developments "appear to threaten" the environment, and in peak holiday periods "the island is bursting at the seams ... disrupting the laid-back pace of life that many locals have come to cherish".

As a result, the draft suggested Phillip Island be promoted as "Victoria's Island Sanctuary", "recognised nationally and globally as a world-leading sustainable tourism destination", with proposals including: a visitor contribution fund to invest in conservation; wildlife as equal stakeholders; and "giving back" opportunities where visitors have opportunities to give back to the community and environment.

"Love Phillip Island (Millo) – Give Back this Summer". If you're interested in being involved, email [info@visitphillip-island.com.au](mailto:info@visitphillip-island.com.au) by November 17.



## Breathtaking Aurora

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Local photographer Peter Fogarty was out until the early hours of Monday, capturing this sensational light display.

Peter said the Aurora started around 9pm and continued throughout the night until 4.30am.

"Both of these shots were taken at Anzacs Beach at 2am Monday morning," Peter told

the Advertiser.

Peter recently held two successful Aurora Australis information sessions at PICAL, and he said he was thrilled some of the people who attended were out with their cameras and "beautifully captured" the phenomenon.

Due to demand, Peter is currently working on setting up another beginners' session of photographing the Aurora.



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# Local response times buck Gippsland trend

## HEALTH

Ambulance Victoria said their latest data shows paramedics are getting to the most critically ill patients faster in the Gippsland region than they were a year ago, with performance in Wellington, Latrobe and East Gippsland LGAs improved.

However Bass Coast's performance has declined.

The data showed response times were slower and the percentage of Code 1 responses meeting the state-wide target of 15 minutes or less had also dropped.

In 2021/22, there were 2714 Code 1 cases in Bass Coast, with 58.9 per cent responded to within the 15-minute target. The average response time for a Code 1 incident was 16 minutes and 45 seconds.

In 2022/23, Code 1 cases rose to 3064, with an average of 58.05 per cent responded to within 15 minutes. The average response time had risen to 16 minutes and 57 seconds.

Code 2 cases response results were also worse.

There were 2123 Code 2 cases in 2021/22, with an average wait of 41 minutes. By 2023/23, the number of cases had dropped slightly to 2117, but the average wait time had increased to 44 minutes and 25 seconds.

The Advertiser asked Ambulance Victoria why the response times had declined in the past year, and if additional resources were being considered for the area.

"We are working with hospitals to improve transfer times, relieve pressure in the system and ensure ambulances can become available to respond to emergency cases in the community," said Acting Gippsland Regional and Clinical Operations Director Paul James.

"And a further 178 new graduates paramedics started their careers with Ambulance Victoria since July including new graduates in Cowes, Wonthaggi and Grantville."

Mr James said in the Bass Coast Local Government Area (LGA), paramedics attended 710 Code 1

cases between July and September this year.

He said during that time, paramedics attended 55.2 per cent of Code 1 patients within 15 minutes compared to 58.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2022/23. The average response time to Code 1 patients was 17 minutes and 35 seconds (almost a minute slower than the first quarter the previous year).

Ambulance Victoria said response times are influenced by many factors including traffic, road and weather conditions, distance required to travel, availability of ambulances and demand for services.

It also said additional resources were sent to Phillip Island each year, to meet increase demand over summer and for major events.

Ambulance Victoria was not able to provide a further breakdown of the Bass Coast figures to show Phillip Island response times.

## Gippsland

Mr James said performance in the region improved thanks to more paramedics and people in the community accessing alternative and 'virtual' care services.

"July to September saw ambulances across Victoria called to 96,594 Code 1 cases – 2002 more than a year ago – making it the fourth busiest quarter in our history," Mr James said.

"Despite this high demand, ambulances arrived at 'lights and sirens' cases on average 23 seconds faster than a year ago and 52 seconds faster than the previous quarter.

From July to September, paramedics across Victoria responded to 66 per cent of Code 1 cases within the state-wide target of 15 minutes – up from 61.7 per cent for the previous three months and 64.3 per cent a year ago. As a result, the state-wide average response time to Code 1 emergencies dropped to 15 minutes and 12 seconds.

## Referrals

According to Ambulance Victoria,

virtual care is helping paramedics arrive faster across the Gippsland region.

Mr James said more paramedics were safely referring people to the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED), which is supporting patients to get the most appropriate care at home and easing pressure on the whole health system.

"This avoids unnecessary trips to hospital and helps us get back on the road quicker to attend more life-threatening emergencies," Mr James said.

"Since October 2021, paramedics have referred more than 47,000 patients to the VVED, while a further 2500 have been referred to the VVED following assessment by our Secondary Triage team."

Acting Chief Operations Officer Anthony Carlyon thanked the community for helping reduce demand by saving Triple Zero (000) for emergencies and accessing alternative care options for less urgent healthcare.

"While ambulances are always provided to patients when required, about one in five calls to Triple Zero (000) do not need an emergency ambulance response.

"From July to September, 36,566 people who did not need an emergency ambulance were instead connected by paramedics and nurses in our Secondary Triage team to more appropriate care.

"Every call that isn't an emergency puts significant strain on our crews to reach those who need us the most, which is why we've tripled the size of our Secondary Triage team.

Mr Carlyon said the entire health system was working together to deliver the very best and safest care when and where it's needed and improve ambulance availability across the state for emergencies.

"Ambulance Victoria and hospitals from across the state are members of the Timely Emergency Care Collaborative – a Department of Health project to improve patient flow and speed up the transfer of patients," Mr Carlyon

## Bass Coast ambulance response times:

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

CODE 1	% Responses <= 15 minutes	Average response time	Total number of first responses
Q1	58.8%	16:31	738
Q2	58.6%	16:57	830
Q3	56%	17:15	756
Q4	58.8%	16:26	740
CODE 2		Average response time	Total number of first responses
Q1		42:59	468
Q2		45:50	505
Q3		46:46	572
Q4		42:43	572

Ambulance Victoria data shows average response times in Bass Coast were slower than the previous year, with the percentage of Code 1 responses meeting the 15 minute target also slightly down.



Setting the scene for the birthday luncheon are lady golfers and party organisers (from left) Pam Rothfield, Joan Nicholson, Marlene Gibson, Ros Reid, Rhonda Boyd, Mary Taylor and Jill Zelman.

## 0 what a birthday!

### COMMUNITY

There was cause to celebrate for the ladies of the Phillip Island Golf Club when 19 of their clan reached a special, and unidentified, 0 age milestone this year.

Held last Friday in the club rooms, this occasion

was a time for all to come together and enjoy the fun and frivolity that only a birthday can bring.

Along with the blowing out of the candles, singing of the song, and gaggles of laughter this occasion was a rousing success and a welcome return, post Covid to the ladies' social calendar.

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According to the Weatherzone website, sea mist or sea fog forms when warm and humid air moves over cooler water.

# Misty morning

## WEATHER

Last Friday, Phillip Island was shrouded in fog, which eventually burnt off to a brilliant blue sky 25-degree day.

According to the Weatherzone website, sea mist or sea fog forms when warm and humid air moves over cooler water.

"As the warm air moves over cooler water, the air cools enough for its water vapour to condense into fog.

"Interestingly, breaking waves release salt particles into the air that can aid in the formation of sea

fog by helping initiate the condensation process," the website explained.

As well as impacting visibility on the roads, sea mist can restrict work on offshore rigs and the use of helicopters.

Friday's fog was the second sea mist event for the week, with fog rolling in on the Wednesday afternoon as well.

While the team at Phillip Island Helicopters enjoy the spectacle, Friday's mist saw the flights cancelled.

"It cut visibility to 200 metres," said Jason from Phillip Island Helicopters,

explaining this meant they were not permitted to fly.

He said warm air temperatures, cool sea and light winds was the perfect recipe for a sea mist.

Fortunately morning bookings were able to be rescheduled, with flights resuming later in the day.

The mist on Wednesday also meant flights had to be rescheduled.

"It looked pretty cool, but unfortunately it stopped us from flying," Jason said.

He said sea mists were relatively common on the island during summer and spring.

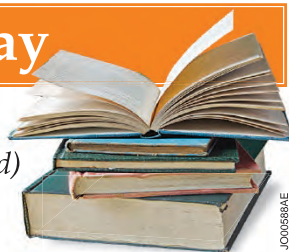
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## Tradies

Other residents questioned whether local trades would be used, with many saying The Block used their own teams.

"They can't use local trades as they are on a strict timeline and can't drop days just because the surf is up," Bruce joked.

Added Fiona: "We can't get a tiler to do our bathroom – been waiting months – so unless they are bringing in tradies from Melbourne, it's going to be a long,

# The Block: \$3.3 million plans lodged

## REALITY TV

The producers of Channel 9's The Block have lodged an application for a planning permit with Bass Coast Shire Council to develop their Cowes property.

The permit seeks the \$3.3 million construction of five dwellings and removal of vegetation on the property at 113-119 Justice Road, which has a vegetation protection overlay.

The permit is in the early planning stages – yet to be publicly advertised – and does not mention the demolition of the current Island Cove Villas, which can accommodate 56 guests on 2.5 acres with a pool, tennis court, and barbecue pavilion.

The permit follows a rare announcement by Channel 9, in the past fortnight confirming the 20th season of the reality TV show in 2024 would be on Phillip Island.

On social media, locals greeted the news of the planning permit with mixed reactions, with one local summing up the general sentiment saying "it's a good thing and a bad thing".

Nearby residents said they were concerned with the amount of traffic The Block would create, as well as noise.

"I live in the middle of Justice Road and that road just isn't wide enough for all the traffic," Robbie said.

Charlie said the current construction and future opening of the lifestyle subdivision on the corner of Justice and Settlement roads made it "busy enough".

Sally suggested the public open day for The Block auction "will be like Australia Day".

"No one will be able to get in or out. At least it's only one day I suppose."

Jenni agreed.

"There have been many complaints from previous neighbourhoods the show has been filmed in because of the way the production crew and the contestants behave with little regard for locals, so I can understand people not being happy about it."

Some suggested the film crew would take away critical housing, with the rental shortage already impacting current workers.

slow production. Probably be ready for viewing in around 2030."

Janine said she was concerned about the removal of "yet more protected vegetation".

"Why can't these architects plan around nature instead of "dig up and rip out", she said.

"I really do hope The Block sees and understands the vital significance of these plants and trees and work around them and incorporate the greenery into the plans."

Heather went one further.

"Channel 9 is about mass consumerism and profit, whereas the island is about nature and the environment," she commented.

"Obviously this could have been an opportunity for teams to renovate existing buildings in a reuse/recycle manner for use as crisis or social housing."

Liz added that given the TV show will be under more scrutiny, they would be more likely to "abide by regulations regarding environmental issues", she said adding she hoped "Phillip Island puts its best foot forward".

## Support

Many were also supportive.

Island Cove Villas – bought by the previous owners in 2017 for more than \$2 million – was on the market this year for \$9.5 million.

"Only five houses? They'll be looking to sell them for around \$3 million each to recover their costs," said Adrian.

"They are not ripping out anything of historic significance. What is the issue?" Martin commented.

"It's quite contained and probably no more disruptive than most other builds and certainly less disruptive than building a new estate or lifestyle village. It will certainly be quicker.

"It may just bring some good publicity to the island. I really don't see why there is so much negativity around this."

Jennifer wrote: "Please Phillip island people just go with the flow. Nothing is perfect anywhere. Have fun. Enjoy the advertising."

Dwayne said The Block would improve the economy and "we need the infrastructure to keep expanding", which saw some respond they lived on the island for "its simplicity" and "progress is not a necessity", while development was a "bit frigging much sometimes".

One resident suggested the crew should "provide their own generators etc as the infrastructure on this once beautiful island cannot cope now".

The Block producers recently abandoned the show's production at Daylesford after locals looked to take the planning application to VCAT.

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# First big festival for centre launches with big names

## ENTERTAINMENT

The revamped Phillip Island Festival of Stories is on this Saturday (November 18), the first major annual event at Berninnet, boasting a wealth of big names.

And on Sunday there will be a free “words and music” afternoon at Corinella.

Australian showbiz legend Brian Nankervis – who has a home on Phillip Island – will headline the event at 7.30pm, giving a taste of his four-decade career, including from the live music trivia TV series and stage show, Rockwiz, alongside guest Jane Clifton.

At 4.15pm, in the auditorium, the Penguin Foundation with Puffin Books will officially launch the new book, *The Littlest Penguin*.

There will be a strong First Nations’ presence, with the event opened at 9.30am in the forecourt with a smoking ceremony by local artist Uncle Steve Ulula Parker.

This will be followed at 10am with a deep listening and truth-telling panel including Auntie Fay Stewart-Muir – state government appointed Koori Court Elder in juvenile, County and Magistrates’ courts – as well as artist Daniel Church, whose work is exhibited at the National Gallery of Victoria.

For wannabe authors, there are sessions on how to break into publishing, with industry insider Sue Hines, while at 3.15pm author Megan Rogers will tell how she went from being a work-from-home mum to getting her debut novel published.

Author talks will include Lorin Clarke at 11am, the creator of the award-winning audio fiction serial and podcast, *The Fitzroy Diaries*, while she also writes regularly for children’s TV and has written a children’s book.

Sam Drummond at 2.15pm will discuss his memoir *Broke*, which explores housing insecurity, regional disadvantage, and intergenerational trauma.

A concurrent session at 2.15pm in the library will be a Q&A session on writing creative non-fiction.

## Sunday

The Festival of Stories continues on Sunday (November 19) with “Words and Music at



Australian showbiz legend Brian Nankervis – who has a home on Phillip Island – will headline the Phillip Island Festival of Stories at 7.30pm on November 18, giving a taste of his four-decade career.

La Provincia” in Corinella, from midday to 3.30pm.

The event is free but bookings are essential and patrons are encouraged to pre-order a tapas, buy drinks at the bar, and then enjoy an afternoon of stories and music. The program starts with a music performance by Jess Geyer.

This will be followed at 12.30pm by Darren Mort who will discuss his new book, *Isla’s Song* and how artistic practice enhances his work as a barrister in the family law courts.

At 1.30pm there will be music, followed from 2pm-3pm by Alan Pentland’s performance of words as images and emotions with deeply held misgivings about common sense.

This will be followed by a meet the author event with book signings. Tapas is available for \$25 and drinks are at bar prices.

## Rebrand

Island Story Gatherers president Lois Gaskin said they were honoured to be the first major community festival at Berninnet.

“We will now be able to seat 260, which is about 100 more than in the past, so we’re accepting both bookings and walk-ins,” Lois said.

“No topic is off limits – a diverse group of people will tell their tales in their favourite form. “The program is a mix to suit different tastes, good quality and challenging.”

The 2023 Festival of Stories was originally set to be held in early August but was rescheduled to be held in the new cultural centre, following its official opening a fortnight ago.

Initially called the Literary Festival and started in 2017, the festival had a forced hiatus thanks to the pandemic, with the last major festival in 2019 and small online events for the past three years.

Previous speakers have included TV presenter Andrew Denton, indigenous Olympic medallist and former politician Nova Peris and Australian novelist Thomas Keneally.

For details of the Festival of Stories: [www.pifestivalofstories.com/2023-festival-of-stories](http://www.pifestivalofstories.com/2023-festival-of-stories)



Construction is underway on the new community hospital at 50-58 Church Street in Cowes, with the first pour of the concrete slab and installation of underground services completed.

# Hospital slowly emerging

## HEALTH

Work continues on the Phillip Island Community Hospital, which is due to open in 2024.

The construction site – between the existing health hub and the transit centre car park – is gradually revealing progress, with initial work covering the concrete slab and underground services.

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child said construction is progressing well, with the first pour of the concrete slab and underground service installation also completed.

“The ground floor slab will be completed by the end of the month,” Ms Child said.

“There is much work happening behind the scenes to fine tune all the planning already completed, and the contracting team is working well together to co-ordinate the construction activities.”

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said interface works with the existing Health Hub were underway with “demolition works occurring and alternative staff access being provided”.

“When complete, which is expected in late 2024, the Community Hospital will have a larger Urgent Care Centre as well as day surgery, dialysis, chemo, dental and a swathe of support services including mental health, AOD, family safety and crisis,” Ms Crugnale said.

Ms Child said the expanded services are vital to meet the demand for medical services from the growing island community.

The double-storey hospital will be at 50-58 Church Street

and the expanded larger Urgent Care Centre will deal with lower complexity medical issues.

Ms Child said the new hospital will have day surgery across two operating theatres, providing colonoscopy, gastroscopy, ophthalmology, dermatology and other non-complex surgery.

“A Central Sterile Supply Department will be established to service the theatres and dental unit,” she confirmed.

“There will also be low complexity dialysis, chemotherapy and dental services. A radiology precinct will offer CT scans, ultrasound and general x-ray, and there will be a non-retail pharmacy for the provision of medication internally.”

Ms Child said while construction is underway, patients and clients will still be able to access specialists and the Urgent Care Centre as usual.

“Whilst we have lost parking due to the construction site, visitors can park at the Health Hub and staff and contractors are parking off-site.”

She said the expanded and additional services offered by the new community hospital will help take pressure off the Wonthaggi Hospital, allowing staff there to focus on critical care and high acuity health issues, emergency care and more complex surgeries and procedures.

The project is being delivered by the Victorian Health Building Authority and will be operated by Bass Coast Health.

At this stage, BCH is scheduled to open some of the new areas in December 2024, with the remaining coming online in 2025.

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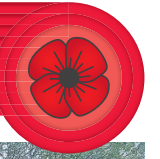
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# REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023



Members of the 317 Army Cadet Unit, comprising students from the Bass Coast College San Remo campus and the Bass Coast College Wonthaggi campus, raised flags and were involved in the ceremony.



The contingent from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) who formed the catafalque party at Remembrance Day ceremonies in Cowes, following the service with RSL president Chris Thompson (right) and RSL vice president Peter Paul.

# Fallen not forgotten

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Phillip Island RSL president Chris Thompson welcomed a large crowd to the Remembrance Day service at the Cowes cenotaph on Saturday.

"On this day, above all days, we remember those Australian men and women who died or

suffered in the great tragedy of war," Chris told all present.

Chris spoke of the morning of April 25, 1915 when Australian and New Zealand soldiers first landed under fire at Gallipoli, and of the violent and lengthy campaign that followed, through which the ANZAC tradition was forged.

The poem "Lest We Forget", that Chris said encompassed Remembrance Day, was then read by Christine Thomas.

"May we and our successors prove worthy of their sacrifice," said Chris at the poem's conclusion.

RSL Vice president Peter Paul then read The Ode and Cheryl

Overton led the Lord's prayer.

A bugler played the Last Post.

Members of the 317 Army Cadet Unit, comprising students from the Bass Coast College San Remo campus and the Bass Coast College Wonthaggi campus were involved in the ceremony as was the Royal Australian Navy catafalque party from Cerberus.

Wreaths were laid at the base of the cenotaph by Bass Coast councillor Ronnie Bauer, Laurie Jones from the Vietnam Veterans Museum, Kirsten Wienzierl on behalf of Bass Coast Health, and representatives of a number of other local groups.

More Remembrance Day coverage at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)



Community members lay poppies in an urn to commemorate the fallen.



Thirteen-year-old Hamish Brinkman, a member of the Army Cadet Unit, participated in the Remembrance Day ceremony held on the foreshore at the Cowes cenotaph on Saturday. Hamish with family members Amie and Chris Brinkman (left) and Michael Brinkman (right, his granny Dianne Crompton (centre) and aunt Emma Harris (second right).



Cr Ronnie Bauer (right) who was accompanied to the ceremony by Acting CEO James Stirton, laid a wreath on behalf of the Bass Coast Shire Council.



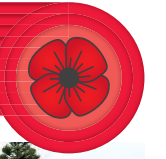
Phillip Island Rotary Club president Rob Robertson (right) and member Garry Simmonds (left) jointly laid a wreath on behalf of Rotary.



From left wreath layers on Saturday included Chris Cannin (Philip Island RSL), Glenyce Paul and Tanya Donnan (Cowes Community Bank).



# REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023



Kate Bindley with son Buster Jones, Captain at San Remo Primary School, who laid a wreath at the San Remo Service.



John Methven was the MC for the event, while Peter Buitenhuis (rear) played the Last Post at the San Remo Remembrance Day service.



Gordon Skidmore laid a wreath on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans Museum.

## Windswept ceremony at San Remo

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

The rain held off, but the windy conditions made things difficult for the Remembrance Day event at the San Remo foreshore.

Adding to the woes, organisers were unable to access the power source on the foreshore, so presenters were without a microphone as well as battling the winds.

The small but appreciative crowd moved closer to compensate for the lack of amplification.

In his speech, MC John Methven acknowledged the war time feats of the Australian Navy, which he said often went unrecognised. "It's not because we don't regard them; it's because we don't hear about it as much."

When World War I began, the Australian Navy had just one ship and two submarines, John said.

"By the end of World War I, we had 37 ships, and 171 men had been killed."

The Oath was recited by John Turner, an ex-air force veteran,

Peter Buitenhuis played the Last Post and the crowd observed a minute's silence.

Afterwards, guest speaker Jane Ross, Legatee, spoke movingly of the contributions of Koorumburra's Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Savage.

Sir Stanley served in both World Wars and was awarded the Military Cross. He was instrumental in the establishment of Legacy – a charitable organisation focused on supporting war widows and orphans.

Wreaths were laid by representatives from the Vietnam Veterans Museum, Bass Coast Shire Council, Bendigo Bank, Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary, Bass Coast Health and Jane Ross.

The younger generation was represented by San Remo Primary captain Buster Jones, while Eden and Arthur Howard laid the wreath for Newhaven Primary School.

John Methven made special mention of the many who had

helped organise the event over the years, including Norm King, Jane Ross, Krishna Methven and Bill Noble.

He also thanked the many community members for their support, including Nick Say from the Westernport Hotel, Mark Howard, the chairs provided by the San Remo Recreation Centre and programs printed by the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

More Remembrance Day coverage at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)

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## MADE FOR MORE



# Is a community pool a financial, environmental “minefield”?

## AQUATIC CENTRE

Bass Coast Shire should consider closing Wonthaggi's existing pool and revising the proposed new Cowes aquatic centre to be profit-making.

That's according to the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund who responded to new analysis into Victorian councils, showing councils are struggling with the complexities of building large, costly and environmentally damaging aquatic centres.

The analysis, by The Age newspaper, stated councils were “walking into a minefield” when embarking on large-scale pool developments, arguing they needed to be open to cost-saving designs, offering a range of services to generate council income.

The analysis showed Yarra Ranges Council had recently decided to close its 50-year-old Kilsyth pool and was now looking for funding for a new aquatic centre in Lilydale.

In Melbourne's west, Brimbank spent \$9 million on operation costs for its Aquatic and Wellness Centre, which opened last year and was expected to generate revenue of up to \$12 million.

The \$50 million Rosebud Aquatic Centre opened in 2021 and uses natural gas boilers to heat its pool, with energy bills estimated to be in the millions,

despite the facility offsetting some costs with rooftop solar panels.

In 2021 a Bass Coast Shire study recommended Cowes have a “district level” 25 metre by eight lane competition pool, combined learn-to-swim and hydrotherapy area, and 24-hour gym, at a cost of \$45.7 million.

The study also recommended a \$41 million new pool for Wonthaggi: 25 metres x 10 lanes, with a larger gym, new spa and sauna.

The shire has since forged ahead with a “two-pool strategy”, officially seeking \$79.3 million funding from state and federal governments for Phillip Island and Wonthaggi aquatic centres.

The two-pool strategy is in conflict with the shire's long-term financial plan 2021-31 which only “provides for the delivery of one of these facilities within the next 10 years”.

The shire's proposed Cowes pool will make a financial loss in initial years.

### Wrong path?

Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund (PIACF) secretary Peter McMahon said last year PIACF released their own report showing the Cowes pool could be profit-making with accommodation and a criterium cycle track.

“They refused to respond to our option to produce a recre-



Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund secretary Peter McMahon. Currently Cowes' future sports hub, on the corner of Phillip Island Road and Ventnor Road, has an aquatic centre scheduled for the long term, at least 21 years away.

ation centre to be self-funding,” Peter said.

“Our council still think they will design and build a cost-effective centre when the analysis proves they can't.

“They are going down the wrong path and not prepared to ask for assistance.”

He said like Lilydale, closing Wonthaggi's old pool could be an option.

“More time and investigation should be done. Maybe the idea of closing Wonthaggi could be the right approach,” he said.

“The visitations at Wonthaggi's pool includes at least 10 – 20 per cent from Phillip Island, with very little in tourism numbers, so why not just have one centre able to meet the increased demand.

“Build Phillip Island first to then generate funds to build Wonthaggi. We have tried for

more than 30 years and now they want us to wait another potential 25 years.”

The PIACF report – which had the support of Federal MP for Monash Russell Broadbent – found a future Phillip Island aquatic centre could be built for \$45m and include a 50-metre pool, a \$500,000 criterium track (a self-contained road circuit) and \$3 million accommodation (three-star bunk-style rooms), and would make a \$1.5 million annual profit, based on 70 per cent occupancy.

### Shire response

A shire spokesperson said they continued to investigate ways to deliver the adopted two-pool strategy.

“In 2020 council developed feasibility studies which consisted of considerable business modelling to ensure both Wonthaggi and Phillip Island Aquatic Centres include components that are not only designed to meet the population needs and forecast growth, but also to ensure the financial viability of the centres as seen in the ten-year projections,” the spokesperson said.

“In line with council's climate change policy, council have allowed a cost allocation of six per cent of the total cost to facilitate environmentally sustainable design and to support reduction to the centres' operating costs.”



Members of the Phillip Island Movie Club enjoyed the Club's first screening in the new Berninnet theatre on November 8.

## Movie club moves to Berninnet

### FILM

There were no first night nerves for the Phillip Island Movie Club, for its opening night in the new theatre at Berninnet.

The movie club screened “Shayda”, kicking off the season for the 2024 membership – which was able to expand due to the seating capacity of the theatre.

The only hitch to an otherwise wonderful evening was some patrons parked outside the centre on Thompson Avenue, which has a one-hour parking restriction.

The parking restriction has been in place since at least 2014, but with no one using the centre for several years during construction, it appears some had forgotten, and had to rush out and move their cars.

All day parking is available in the transit centre behind Berninnet, with easy access to the centre via the car park.

2024 membership applications can be made at [phillipislandmovieclub.org.au](http://phillipislandmovieclub.org.au)

The next 2024 members film, “Past Lives” will be screened on Wednesday December 13, at Berninnet.

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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Cr Michael Whelan

After two years, this is my final Mayor's Message as I come to the end of my term as Mayor.

It has been an absolute privilege to represent Bass Coast and this role has enabled me to meet so many inspiring members of our community who are dedicated to making our region an even better place to live and work.

I've been constantly in awe of the volunteers, the small businesses, the families and the young and old who are the soul and heart of the Bass Coast. As I look back over the past couple of years, I'm especially proud of the resilience shown by our community as we successfully bounced back from the challenges of Covid lockdowns.

Bass Coast Shire Council has never lost sight of the fact that our job is about getting the basic things right that impact ratepayers' lives every day.

In addition, I would like to think that our Council has demonstrated further leadership on behalf of the community to ensure that our future generations are looked after.

Protecting the environment has always been a personal passion – as it is for so many of you. The coastal erosion biting Bass Coast has been distressing to watch, but we are continuing to campaign locally as well as lobby the state and federal governments to ensure that our beautiful region receives the funding and support it deserves.

I am extremely proud of the work we have done with the East Cowes community resulting in the repair to the existing Cowes rock wall with a new revetment. As we know, erosion has intensified in the Silverleaves area. We are continuing to work closely with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to prioritise a study to better under-

stand the coastal processes and to provide a basis for considering the options for the future management of the area. This study will be done in the context of sea level rise due to global warming and a consideration of actually increasing the projected sea level rise prediction beyond the previous 0.8 of a metre by 2100 benchmark.

As I look back, I must admit to becoming a little bit emotional around last month's opening of the Berninnet Cultural Centre at Cowes.

From the significant engagement with community; the naming of Berninnet through Bunurong Land Council; the Program Launch concert; the launch of the Baluk Arts Millowl exhibition putting First Nations first; and finally the family concert and parade through the Grand Hall – it has been wonderful to watch as this beautiful Passivhaus designed building has been claimed by the community.

I thank Gillian, Mark and Josh from the Bunurong Land Council for their continued engagement, friendship and support through the project. Bunurong culture is represented throughout the building, with local Bunurong artist Kobi Sainty creating symbolic artwork for the window decals and carpet in key areas as well as Baluk Arts creating the 'Millowl' exhibition, the first of many First Nations pieces of work.

Berninnet will stand proud as a testament to cultural aspiration and as commitment to excellence and reconciliation for decades to come.

None of these achievements would have been achieved without a committed Council and the many immensely capable and dedicated officers, volunteers and you, the community.

To each and every member of the Bass Coast community, I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to be your Mayor.

## Community at Heart – calling for local gems

## AWARD

We have so many gems living amongst us who make our hearts sing because of who they are, what they do, how they help.

Whether it is an act of kindness, an exemplary service, a community interaction beyond expectation, genuine care for others – they make a difference, change lives for the better and bring a sense of connection and joy.

This is your opportunity to nominate these amazing community minded locals and highlight their awesomeness by writing a few paragraphs on why they have been so special to you, someone you know, or their community.

"I am asking for your help as I too want to acknowledge, recognise and thank those that have shown their true community colours in 2023," said Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale.

"From Pearcedale to Clyde, Tooradin to Bayles, Lang Lang across to Grantville, over to Phillip Island and down to Inverloch, nominations are open to all ages living or working in the Bass electorate.

"Stories are already flooding in, they are heart



Angus Marlborough and Harry de Roth with Jordan Crugnale MP, previous recipients of a community gem award. Nominations are now open for this year's community gems.

warmingly beautiful and just what we need to hear."

Everyone nominated will receive a personalised thank you letter of appreciation. In an active gesture of supporting small businesses and local creatives, five outstanding nominees will receive a hamper of 'all things local' including produce, products, music, books and a gift voucher

to a local nature-based attraction.

To nominate that special someone, go to Jordan Crugnale's Facebook page, press the send email button or you can email [jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au) or call the office on 03 5672 4755.

Nominations close Thursday, November 30.

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## SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION

You can send me an email, post a letter, fb message or call my office.

Please include their name, an address & contact details as well.

Open to all ages living or working in the Bass electorate.

Nominations close Thursday 30 November

**jordan crugnale mp**  
STATE MEMBER FOR BASS

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9 McBride Avenue Wonthaggi VIC 3995



# All day jazz extravaganza

## MUSIC

On Sunday November 19, the Phillip Island Jazz Club presents an all-day jazz extravaganza at the Bowling Club, kicking off at 10am.

Performances on the day include the Todd Sidney All Stars, David Dower Quartet plus One and Lightning Jazz.

Todd Sidney is a brilliant keyboard player in his own right, better known for leading the backing group for Sarah MacLaine. Appearing with Todd are Gianni Marinucci on trumpet, Dean Addison on bass and Dean Cooper on drums.

The David Dower Quartet plus One will set audiences alight.

Leader David is an extremely proficient keyboard player and performing with David are Kim May on bass, James Osborne on drums, Ron Anderson on reeds together with an internationally recognised jazz vocalist Gabriel Lynch.

Lightning Jazz have been playing the jazz scene throughout Victoria



Todd Sidney is part of the All Day Jazz Extravaganza presented by the Phillip Island Jazz Club on November 19, 10am - 5pm.

for several years. Led by Paul Ingle on trombone and vocals, Cameron McIntyre on clarinet, Peter Hooper on banjo, Ken Collins on trumpet and vocals, Herman Schwaiger on string bass and Ron Hayden on drums and vocals.

A great day's entertainment for everyone, it runs from 10am until 5pm, at

the Phillip Island Bowling Club, 40 Dunsmore Road, Cowes

Tickets are \$35 a head and a BBQ lunch is included in the cost for the day.

For more information, please contact Robin 0432 814 407 or Jill on 417 46 300.

This event is proudly supported by Bass Coast Shire Council.

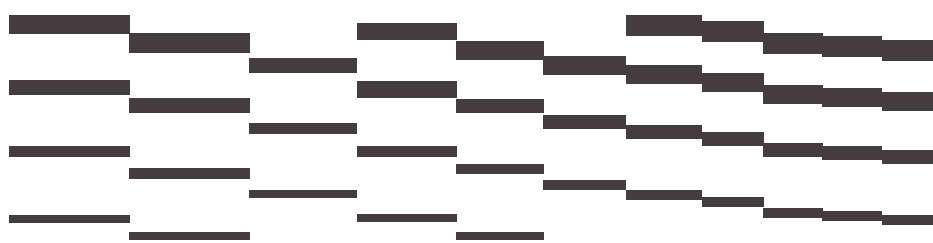


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Mary-Lu Burt, with Garden of the Month winners Jo and Gil Tucker, and Sandy Inness.

## Lush oasis secures the win

### GARDEN

The serene streets of Rhyll have a new star attraction, as the prestigious "Garden of the Month" award was recently presented to Jo and Gil Tucker for their spectacular garden on Hastings Street.

The judges said the award was well deserved, as the Tuckers have transformed their property into a lush oasis, featuring a stunning array of native plants, a magnificent Banksia hedge, and meticulously tended vegetable boxes that leave visitors in awe. The "Garden of the Month" award

in Rhyll is organised by the Rhyll Community Association and proudly supported by Blue Gum Nursery and the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo.

"These local organisations understand the value of recognising and celebrating the hard work and dedication that goes into creating such beautiful and environmentally friendly gardens," an Association spokesperson said.

"The award encourages and inspires others in the community to follow in the footsteps of Jo and Gil and contribute to the natural beauty of the area."



The next Labyrinth walk will commence at 2pm on November 18, and the annual NYE Candlelight Walk will start at 8.30pm.

## More Labyrinth walks to come

### COMMUNITY

Despite the cold, wet and windy weather on the referendum weekend, Lorraine and Geoff Rodda, organisers of the Candlelight walk, said a small group of people

gathered, holding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their hearts.

There are two more walks scheduled for this year.

The next walk will commence at 2pm on November 18, and the Annual Candlelight Walk will begin at 8.30pm on New Year's Eve

"The walks will contemplate matters impacting the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through the Yoorrook Justice Commission to the Victorian State Government," Lorraine said.

"The Commission is seeking submissions on Land, Sky and Waters as the next part of the truth-telling process in Victoria. Applications close on November 17 at [yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au](http://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au)."

Location: Drive along Back Beach Road in San Remo and continue along the unmade road past Lions Children's Park and Picnic

Ground. The Labyrinth is on the right alongside a row of Cypress trees. The Bass Coast Council maintains the Labyrinth.

Contact Lorraine and Geoff, Members of the Australian Labyrinth Network Inc. Email [lgrodda@gmail.com](mailto:lgrodda@gmail.com) or mobile 0400 045 397.

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- Priceline Pharmacy Cowes
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Helen Murray, winner of the President's Choice award, with Gayle Rowden, President of Phillip Island Patchworkers.

## Quite the quilt display

### PATCHWORK

This year's quilt exhibition by the Phillip Island Patchworkers over the Melbourne Cup long weekend was a great success.

Nearly 500 people visited the exhibit in the Newhaven Hall over the four days.

President Gayle Rowden said many were familiar faces, who said they make the exhibition a special part of their Cup weekend.

"One woman told me she came down from Melbourne for the day to visit the display and that it was simply wonderful," Gayle said.

"Other visitors told me they always start with a Devonshire tea, for 'extra energy' before they look at the displays.

"We received so many compliments on the work, with many visitors commenting on the talent on display."

A raffle, which raised money for local emergency services was won by a member of the local community, for the first time in many years.

Each year, the group sets a challenge which was this year changed from themed blocks to pincushions.

"The creative ideas exhibited were varied, wonderful, and a talking point for many of our visitors," Gayle said.

"Our thanks to Jeanette Clark from Patchwork Maze and Wonthaggi Woodcrafters for their support and providing an extra dimension to our display which visitors enjoy.

### Awards were presented for:

#### President's Choice:

won by Helen Murray

#### Viewer's Choice – Quilt:

won by Debbie Love

#### Viewer's Choice – Potpourri:

won by Gayle Rowden

#### Viewer's Choice – Pincushion Challenge:

won by Karen Ablett

For more information or if you would like to join the Phillip Island Patchworkers Club – please contact Secretary, Lyn Arnold on 0429 481 875.



With the help of the Caller, from the Blackberry Jam Bush Band, everyone was up and dancing at the FOCIS Bush Dance at Churchill Island on November 5. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)

## Revellers kick up their heels!

### BUSH DANCE

On a glorious sunny day at the start of November, Friends of Churchill Island (FOCIS) held a successful Bush Dance in the Shearing Shed at Churchill Island.

Supplying the music was the well renowned and loved band from Melbourne, The Blackberry Jam Bush Band.

With decades of experience, it didn't take long for the band to get everyone up onto the floor.

All the dances were "called", with the audience, which ranged in age from five to 85, quickly getting into the spirit of things.

All abilities were catered for, and any missteps were greeted with love and laughter.

"There was lots of laughter and happy, smiling faces, and with the help of the Caller, soon everyone mastered the dances," said FOCIS' Pauline Taylor.

"During one break we were treated

to a Saw Music piece and towards the end we were all delighted to listen to the Digeridoo – absolutely awesome."

Many people brought picnics which enhanced the family feel of the afternoon.

"All of this set against the backdrop of the magnificence of Churchill Island. What more could you hope for," asked Pauline.

It wasn't just the humans having fun. The dancers noticed resident peacock "Andrew" was strutting his stuff by the door.

"He looked to be enjoying the music as he dipped and shook his glorious tail feathers in time to the music."

By 7pm everyone had headed home, with smiling faces and humming some bush tunes.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and volunteers for all the hard work they put into ensuring that this event went off so well," said Pauline.

"It was a truly memorable day."



In swapping mosaics for bubbles these ladies showed their flair on Oaks Day held last Thursday at the San Remo Bowls Club. Back, from left: Annie, Ann, Maxine, Sonya and Deb. Front, Rebecca and teacher Heather Fahnle. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)

## Ladies Oaks Day

### FASHION

Oaks Day proved to be a popular occasion for over 80 ladies when they attended the San Remo Bowls Club last Thursday.

This is the second year the club has hosted a special Ladies Oaks Day, transforming the rooms into an arena of fashion, glamour and racing atmosphere.

Along with the food, wine and fellowship there was ample opportunity to have a flutter on the field and hopefully take home a purse full of winnings.

No matter the odds, all agreed that the Oaks Day was the winner and the ladies are now putting their minds into their outfits for next year.



Oaks Day is all about colour and fashion and these two ladies were rewarded for their choice of style. Jan Klain (left) of San Remo was named Best Dressed, while Michelle Hendrich (right) of Poowong took home the Best Hat prize.

## Local writer releases first novel

### WRITING

November 20 is the release date for Bass Coast writer, Meryl Brown Tobin's first novel, "Broome Enigma".

To celebrate there will be a special launch at the Wonthaggi Library on November 25, at 11am.

The launch is being organised by Programs Officer at the Library, Sabine Aeschlimann. Tea and coffee will be provided. All are invited, and anyone wishing to attend should book on [www.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.eventbrite.com.au) or ring the library on 5672 1875.

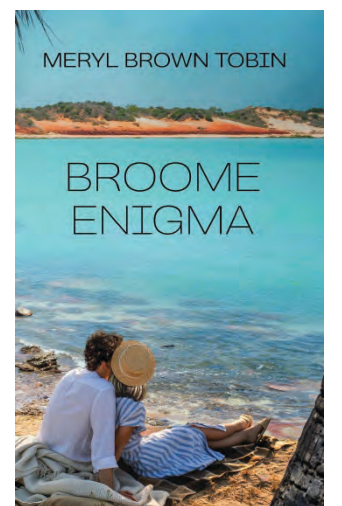
Over a long writing career, author Meryl Brown Tobin has also published 20 other books, several of them with other writers, scores of short stories and photos, hundreds of puzzles, articles and poems and a smattering of cartoons and comic strips.

Copies of "Broome Enigma" will be on sale at the launch.

Published by New York publisher, The Wild Rose Press, "Broome Enigma" is a romance suspense novel set in Broome and Perth. With its remoteness, turquoise sea, rugged red sandstone cliffs and kilometres long stretch of



Bass Coast author Meryl Brown Tobin is launching her first novel, "Broome Enigma" at the Wonthaggi Library on November 25, at 11am.



white sands, Broome is an exotic place for two young people to meet. Kristian Norris' colourful cover evokes its beauty.

On a working holiday in Australia's cosmopolitan outback town of Broome in 1986, the main character, Jodie, a young book designer and artist, is open to romance and adventure.

At the holiday village where she is staying, she meets Joe, a young man who works there. Despite the strong attraction between them, the many unknowns about his earlier life keep them apart. To try to uncover his myste-

rious past, they travel to Perth and back to Broome and are drawn into not only bizarre but also dangerous situations.

"Broome Enigma" is for sale on at least 12 internet sites around the world, including Australia, the UK, USA, Japan, Denmark and Brazil.

Both print books and e-books are available on the Internet for pre-order. The RRP for the 240 pp print book is \$US16.99. Prices on the internet range widely from \$AU29.69 to \$AU44.85.

For details: [sites.google.com/view/merylbrowntobin-author](http://sites.google.com/view/merylbrowntobin-author)





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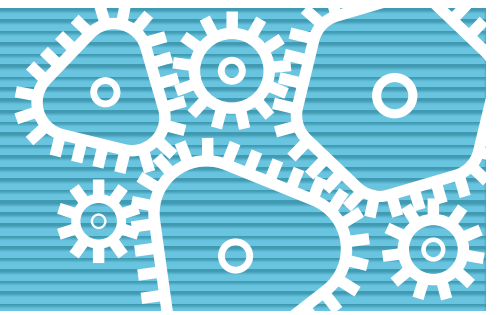


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## More sports support

Applications are open for the 2023/24 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

There are three funding streams providing up to \$300,000 for community facilities, up to \$250,000 for community sports lighting, and up to \$40,000 for planning.

All Victorian councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria are eligible to apply for funds towards a range of community sports infrastructure and recreation developments.

Clubs interested in seeking support through the 2023/24 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund are encouraged to contact their local council regarding the application process.

Applications close December 13. For more information, visit the [sport.vic.gov.au](http://sport.vic.gov.au).

## Fishing grants

The latest round of the Recreational Fishing Grants Program is open.

Project proposals between \$5000 and \$100,000 qualify for the large grants, available across four categories: Fisheries sustainability and habitat improvement; fishing access and facilities; fisheries related education, information and training; recreational fisheries research.

The Program is open to fishing clubs, community groups, incorporated bodies, and government and statutory bodies. Interme-

diates grants for fishing clubs are available for projects up to \$50,000, while smaller grants are on offer for projects of up to \$5000.

Grants are open until February 29, 2024. For more information or to apply online, visit [vfa.vic.gov.au/fishinggrants](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/fishinggrants).

## Access and inclusion

Bass Coast Shire Council is offering grants of up to \$2000 for businesses and community groups to improve accessibility and inclusion.

Projects could include physical improvements like ramps and accessible toilets, alternative information formats such as large print menus for people with vision impairment, or hosting disability awareness training for members or staff.

Applications close at 5pm on Monday, December 4.

For more information, contact Teresa Davison on 0436 281 878 (Tue - Thu), email

[teresa.davison@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:teresa.davison@basscoast.vic.gov.au) or via the National Relay Service 13 35 77 or [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au) for people with communication difficulties.

## Local history grants

Community groups from across Victoria are invited to apply for the latest round of local history grants. Community groups can apply for grants of up to \$15,000 for individual projects.

The Local History Grants Program is administered by Public Record Office Victoria. Applications for grants close on December 11. Visit [prov.vic.gov.au](http://prov.vic.gov.au) for more details and to apply.

## Men's Sheds grants

Applications for grants are now open to help establish, expand, or improve men's sheds.

Applications close at 5pm on Friday, December 8. For information visit: [providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program](http://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program).







# CLASSIFIEDS SEEK, BUY AND SELL



## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Make a splash

#### Payroll Officer

(Fixed term 12 month contract, 24hrs per week)

We are looking for a detail oriented team member to provide specialised payroll support and advice to all staff.

**Applications close:**  
**30 November 2023**

For application details go to  
[www.westernportwater.com.au](http://www.westernportwater.com.au)



## SITUATIONS VACANT



PHILLIP ISLAND HOMES FOR THE AGED

SITUATIONS VACANT

### HOSPITALITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Permanent Part Time positions Cook 18 hrs/fortnight and Kitchen Assistant 31hrs/fortnight.

#### REGISTERED NURSE

Permanent Part Time and Full-Time PM and ND shifts

#### ENROLLED NURSE/PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT

Casual and Permanent Part time staff required for AM/PM/ND shifts.

#### THE BENEFITS

- Competitive Salary + 5 weeks of annual leave
- A flexible workplace
- A wonderful team and great working environment
- Supportive Management and Board
- Salary Sacrifice
- Online Education and Professional development

**Applications to be emailed to nina@phillipislandhomesfortheaged.com.au**



## SPECIAL DELIVERY



#### Welcome Parker

Parker Anthony Bowen was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on October 29, weighing 9.1 pounds.

He is a son for proud parents Anthony Bowen and Megan Jones of Coronet Bay, and a brother for Quade, 11, Lyla, 8 and Hudson, 2.



#### Hello Hendrix

Hendrix Jackson Wright was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on 24 October, weighing 3.12kg.

He is a son for proud parents Jackson Wright and Krystle Paisley of Cowes, and a brother for Harper, 22 months.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

## Board Director opportunities at Bass Coast Health

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, is pleased to invite applications for part time director positions at Bass Coast Health. The positions start on 1 July 2024 and appointments are for two to three years.

These positions provide an exciting opportunity for Victorians to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities. Applicants are selected for their capabilities, including personal and professional attributes, experience, knowledge, and skills that contribute to the strategic leadership and oversight of health care for the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring boards reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. Applications are welcomed from people of all ages, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex and queer people.

Safe and high quality healthcare for all Victorians is a priority of the Victorian Government. Applicants must be able to demonstrate and provide evidence in support of the capabilities they identify in their applications.

Applications close at **Midnight Sunday 19 November 2023.**

Further information about Victorian health service boards and how to apply, please go to the following website: [www.health.vic.gov.au/board-applications](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/board-applications)



Department of Health  
t 03 5671 3333 f 03 5671 3300  
e [info@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:info@basscoasthealth.org.au)  
w [www.basscoasthealth.org.au](http://www.basscoasthealth.org.au)

## PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANTS

*Join us! We are the leading Victorian provider of aged care! We pride ourselves on supporting and developing our staff!*

*Here at BlueCross, we are the largest, and leading provider of aged care in Victoria. We pride ourselves on the exceptional services we deliver to our clients within the community as well as the clients that reside within our 31 aged care Residences. We are passionate about our clients, and we love what we do!*

**We are looking for the "right attitude".** Reporting to the Manager, as a Personal Care Assistant you will be responsible for providing quality care by assisting clients with day-to-day tasks.

**Work on the beautiful Phillip Island in Cowes.** "Grossard Court" is looking for dedicated PCA's to join our dedicated team, we have AM and PM shifts available.

**Permanent part-time opportunities!**

**Imagine getting to live on the iconic Phillip Island, nature, beaches and wildlife on your door step, amazing events and be part of a close community!**

**We can offer relocation, accommodation assistance and additional allowances.**

#### WHY WE WANT YOU:

- You are looking for a place where you can make a difference
- Demonstrable experience working in a similar role
- Certificate III in Aged Care or equivalent e.g. Individual Support
- Excellent customer service skills
- A proven ability to take a holistic approach to client needs
- Exceptional communication skills and ability to demonstrate empathy and understanding to our clients and their families
- A positive and proactive approach to working collaboratively within a team and the broader community
- The ability to use initiative and work under pressure

#### WHAT YOUR DAYS WILL LOOK LIKE:

- Provide personal care to our clients
- Assist our clients with activities of daily living and lifestyle
- Provide clients with nutrition and hydration in a timely manner
- Ensure our client's daily care is provided in a dignified manner
- Provide accurate documentation of daily care notes and observations as required
- Work closely with your team mates to ensure consistent care is provided to all our clients
- Escalate any issues or concerns to your Residence Manager

#### WHAT YOU WILL GET FROM WORKING HERE AT BLUECROSS:

- High level of support from the BlueCross Corporate team
- Competitive salary package with staff incentives
- A range of career development pathways

We value our culture and share a passion and drive to make a real difference in the lives of our residents and clients. We take great pride in recruiting people who share this passion – after all, it's our people that put the magic into aged care and enrich lives. We pride ourselves on providing a workplace for all our team members that are free of discrimination.

**All applications and queries please email [JessicaL@bluecross.com.au](mailto:JessicaL@bluecross.com.au)**





# Butterflies in Bloom at Cowes Primary

## EDUCATION

The Threatened Species Conservancy (TSC) and Cowes Primary School have recently joined forces to help conserve local butterfly populations.

Incorporated into the grade 2 topic of threatened species, TSC ecologists taught the junior school about the importance of host plants, symbiosis and the significant role butterflies play in ecological function.

This was coupled with the construction of a butterfly garden on school grounds for all students to learn from and enjoy.

Each student planted their own plant and will be able to watch 'their plant' grow over the years and see what butterflies it attracts.

Using their own experiences in butterfly conservation, TSC encouraged students to understand the need to safeguard populations and improve butterfly

diversity through appropriate care and management, notably, by focusing on host plants and their important role in butterfly reproduction and survival.

"Host plants provide food for larvae and are needed for female butterflies to lay eggs," a TSC spokesperson explained.

"A reduction in host plants and native vegetation due to habitat alteration and monocultural aesthetic is correlated with declining butterfly diversity.

"Unfortunately, these threats are exacerbated due to climatic changes, altering butterfly dispersal ability and range, and threatening local extinctions."

Luckily, local butterflies can be supported through butterfly gardens.

Cowes Primary students applied their in-classroom knowledge and planted poas, acacias, everlastings, saltbush and a range of other species.

Local host plant species were donated by the Barb Martin BushBank Nursery,

with each plant specific to one or many butterfly species found in the region.

This project was also supported by Westernport Water's Community Support program which funded interpretive signage to be displayed throughout the garden.

"The collaboration between Cowes Primary School and TSC not only enabled students to think more broadly about butterflies, but improved the diversity on the school grounds and encouraged the return of local butterflies," said the TSC spokesperson.

"Ensuring butterfly populations are maintained in local regions is critical to balance conservation efforts in saving threatened, or endangered, species."

If you would like to support the Threatened Species Conservancy in their efforts to save threatened plants and animals from extinction please head to their website to donate or volunteer [www.tsconservancy.org](http://www.tsconservancy.org)



Grade 2 student Mabel planting a Pimelea in the Cowes Primary Butterfly Garden. The students worked with the Threatened Species Conservancy to help conserve the local butterfly population.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



### Shameful

It has become apparent a council officer is assisting the small section of our community who are not happy with the outcome of the Special Charge Scheme vote, by providing data, stats and locations on the voting.

This would allow this small section of our community to take up the option outlined on council's webpage when advising the project would not proceed: "if there was a particular street or smaller area that at least 70 per cent of property owners actively supported an upgrade in the future, it can be considered in accordance with the Council's Urban Road and Drainage Policy".

Shameful, considering last week a 'Say No' community member emailed Council asking: when the report to Council abandoning the Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Special Charge Scheme will be tabled; how many no objections Council received; and how Council intends to notify rate payers of the decision to abandon the scheme and the timeline for this process.

The response: "We expect that a report closing out the Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Proposed Special Charge Scheme will be presented to the December Council Meeting. The report will address each of your other questions."

My question is: how are we meant to trust the process or this Council when a council officer is sharing information with those that are not happy with the result, and unwilling to share with those that fought hard, did the right thing and achieved the 50 per cent plus one required by legislation to have the scheme abandoned?

The legislation has spoken but Council is still looking for a face-saving option.

Surely someone in Council should be held responsible for this total debacle, or have they already left the building?

Susie Wickes, Surf Beach

to elect Rochelle Halstead unopposed as our next mayor and lead our Council to a brighter future.

It is perhaps timely we also acknowledge the 10 years of service from Cr Clare Le Serve to Bass Coast, a wonderful community achievement by any standards.

John Shaw, San Remo

### Come on council

The people of Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach have spoken and it appears that the special roads project has been quashed.

The council has well and truly divided the community here with this suggested project and survey (which to date has cost the rate payers close to \$400k). The council need to set about restoring the neighbourly and community relationships we once had. Will they now step forward and accept their responsibility to upgrade the drainage at their cost?

On one website I found, it stated: stormwater-related issues beyond the APD (Approved Point of Discharge), are the responsibility of the asset owner – Council, the Department of Transport and Planning or Melbourne Water. If on the Bass Coast it is not the council's responsibility, then they need to lobby the relevant authorities on our behalf!

This needs to be addressed now. The upgrade of roads and footpaths is a moot point for some, but to have an efficient drainage system that prevents the build-up and pooling of stagnant storm-water creating an environment for the breeding of mosquitos and other pests, is everyone's right. If for nothing else then for health reasons.

Perhaps if the drainage issue were solved at the council's cost, the community here may be much more likely to accept, and pay, a substantially lesser amount for the upgrade of the roads (including road sealing and narrowing to mitigate speed), and, in some areas, footpaths.

We pay exorbitant rates here for virtually no works being done; only garbage collection from what I have experienced in Sunderland Bay.

Come on council, do what you have all been elected to do, look after and support your local community.

Rowan Pollock, Sunderland Bay

### No respect

I was quite disgusted to see women letting their children play noisily while the Memorial service for Remembrance Day was taking place at San Remo on Saturday November 11th.

They may have no interest and I certainly did not expect them to participate but I would have expected respect for what was obviously taking place.

Marian Brennan, San Remo



# Girls, Join the team!

Make memories and friendships learning the skills of Cricket.

LDCA Under 12 Girls

Free Come and Try Day!!

Details: Sunday, 10th December (10am-midday)

Inverloch Rec Reserve Scan QR code to register



Sign up Today!

Play Cricket







Violet Robertson placed 6th in the U12/13 girls long jump at the State Championships on November 1.



The girls' relay team placed 8th in the state at the Championships in Melbourne.



The grade 5/6 boys basketball team played three games and managed to win them all, going on to become Gippsland Region Champions.



Fergus Tillotson placed 6th in the state, with a jump of 9.63 metres.

## Cowes Primary heads to State Track and Field championships

### ATHLETICS

On Wednesday, November 1, five students from Cowes Primary School attended the Lakeside Athletics Track in Albert Park for the School Sport Victoria State Track and Field Championships.

Fergus Tillotson and Violet Robertson participated in the individual events whilst three others teamed up with Violet for the U12 and U13 4x100 metre girls relay.

Violet did very well, placing 6th, jumping 4.31 metres in the U12/13 girls long jump, which was a personal best.

To get to states, Fergus broke two records, one at division and one at region; he jumped an ad-

mirable 9.63 metre to come 6th in the state.

The relay team team – consisting of Violet Robertson, Macy Piera, Marni Goulter and Willow Zamfirescu – had to race a heat to qualify for a final later in the day.

There were two heats with the first three progressing automatically and the rest on qualifying times.

The girls came 5th in their heat, with a two second PB from region to qualify for the final.

In doing this, they were able to beat the team that beat them in the region event.

They ran an amazing race to come 8th in the state.

On Thursday, November 2, the grade 5/6 boys basketball

team headed to Traralgon to participate in the SSV South Gippsland Region Basketball Event.

The team consisting of Archie Robinson, Jarrah Rutherford, Flynn Riley, Kolby Carton, Dustin Naismith, Zane Larsson, Kai Opitz, Dexter Goodall, Taj Piera and Bodhi Cooper have been training at school lunchtimes with Justin Edwards and were coached on the day by Naz O'Brien.

They played three games and managed to win them all to become Gippsland Region Champions.

They travelled to Melbourne on Monday, November 13, to play in the State Championships.

## Midweek battles it out at Koo Wee Rup

### BOWLS

This week's game was held at Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club.

It was a great day, the temperature was excellent, not too cold, not too hot, the wind was non-existent, and the sky was overcast – not too bright.

Great green, a bit slow, but that's Koo Wee Rup running true.

A big thank you to the greenskeeper.

Thirty great friends across the green, with a lot of friendly banter and sledging going on.

David did an excellent job of setting up the green for our use, he is always so helpful.

Not too many wrong bias bowls today, but the collection cup is still filling and should be good come Easter.

Winners on a score of 36 were: Michael Dady (S), Rob Jeffries (3), Mark Daly (2) and Tony Morris (L).

Runners up on a score of 34 were: Peter McWilliams/Lindsay Russell (Co-Skips), Frank D'Unienville (3) and Wayne Ste-



This week's winners: Mark Daly (2), Michael Dady (S), Rob Jeffries (3) and Tony Morris (L).

vens (L).

Best one game winners on 24 points were: Sue Stansfield (S), Raffaele Merante (3), Bev Elliott (2) and Max Summers (L).

I would like to thank George for keeping the bar for all our bowlers and to David for cleaning up the kitchen and green.

Peter for all his hard work making up the teams and working out the winners and the prizes and not to overlook Pauline

and John for all their hard work too.

Next week we will be heading to Lang Lang which is always fun.

So, if everyone who is playing could be on site by 10am to allow time for Peter to work his magic getting the teams set up.

Meanwhile, have a great week and to all our pennant players we hope you have a good weekend of playing.



Winners of the summer triples (from left): John Patterno, John Newcombe and Gulio Marcalongo.

## Perfect conditions for summer triples

### BOWLS

Phillip Island Bowling Club's summer triples were held on November 8, with perfect weather conditions for bowlers.

Bowlers from Leongatha, Inverloch, Korumburra, Wonthaggi and Phillip Island battled it

out with four games of 12 ends.

Best last game: Jimmy Kirk, Ray Pepper and Alan Price.

Runners up for the day: Chris Fricke, Ewen Wilson and Barry Grazules.

Congratulations to our winners: John Newcombe, Gulio Marcalongo and John Patterno.



Winners of the AJ Jones Mixed Foursomes championships: Tim Duff and Emma Hall (gross and championship winners) with Jane and Jeff Sellinger (nett winners). This year is the 60th year of the AJ Jones Mixed Foursomes.

## Results from the green

### GOLF

#### Tuesday, November 7

##### Four-person Ambrose

First: Chris Sanderson, Graeme Niven, Ron Young and Glen Marshall with 53.25.

Second: Matt Larkin, Joe Thomson, Paul Kelly and Matt Voce with 54.5.

BDL: 59.125.

Men's NTP: 5th and 7th Matt Larkin, 10th Lawrence Ferrari and 17th Chris Sanderson.

Ladies' NTP: 5th and 10th Emma Hall, 7th Alice Schofield and 17th Emma Hall.

##### Nine-hole Stableford

Winner: Len Fenton (19) with 17pts C/B.

#### Thursday, November 9

##### Open 18-hole Stableford

Overall winner: David Nicoll (18) with 42 pts C/B.

A grade winners: A-1 Daniel McConnon (7) with 42 pts and A-2 Stephen Earl (15) with 39 pts.

B grade winners: B-1 David Nicoll (18) with 42 pts and B-2 Ron Wadey (21) with 41 pts.

C grade winners: C-1 Greg Stewart (25) with 41 pts and C-2 Cecil Andrews (28) with 40 pts.

BDL to 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Barry Gibson, 7th Harry Sterling, 10th Daniel McConnon and 17th Paul Ledwith.

##### Nine-hole Stableford

Winner: Col Cordery (34) with 23 pts from Reg Browne (37) on 22 pts.

BDL to 15 pts C/B.

#### Saturday, November 11

##### Men's and Mixed 4BBB Stableford

Overall winners: Ian Trimble and Terry Crumpton with 46 pts from Daryl Vernon and Geoff Daff 45 pts C/B from Jake Wright and Jack Ross with 45 pts.

Great score: Mark Jamieson (eagle on the 6th)

BDL to 41 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Jack Ross, 7th John McKechnie, 10th Peter Cartwright and 17th Mark Jamieson.

##### Ladies 4BBB Stableford

Overall winners: Trish Jamieson and Megan Elbaz with 44 pts along with Wendy Hopkins and Adrienne Anglin with 43 pts.

BDL to 41 pts.

NTP: 5th Vicki Roff-Smith, 7th Lynn McCole, 10th Megan Elbaz and 17th Lesley Meadowcroft.

##### Open 9-hole Stableford

Overall winner: David Henstridge (21) with 20 pts.

BDL to 16 pts C/B.

#### Sunday, November 12

##### Foursomes Championship

Overall winner: Jane Sellenger and Jeff Sellenger, 74.

Second: Greg Williams and Ros Reid, 74.5.

Third: Adrienne Anglin and Travis Johnson 75.

Gross winners: Tim Duff and Emma Hall, 82.

BDL to 76.5.

Men's NTP: 5th James Bain, 7th Greg Williams, 10th Doug O'Keefe and 17th Gino Manfredi.

Ladies' NTP: 5th Lorraine Hammon, 7th Ros Reid, 10th Jeanette Diss and 17th Jeanette Diss.





The inaugural PIDCC Seniors Women's Team played their first game at Leongatha against Leongatha Town on Sunday.

# First senior women's match held on Sunday

## CRICKET

The inaugural PIDCC Seniors Women's Team played their first game at Leongatha against Leongatha Town on Sunday. Captain Bec lost the toss in true Cleary household tradition and was sent in to bat. Openers Sienna and Winnie got off to a cracking start with a 25-run partnership. Rosanna and Jess kept the runs flowing, getting the score to 36. Next partnership saw both Jay and Claudia hit fantastic bound-

aries, taking the total to 62. Kate and Emma displayed great running between wickets, to have the Island sitting nicely at 80. Bec and Jill closed out the innings with the Island 3/92. Great effort Winnie, with a top score of 15 runs. Sienna and Jess opened the bowling and got the Island off to a great start. Winnie and Claudia continued the good bowling, and Jay and Emma bowled with true Shark spirit and determination. Kate then claimed the Island's first wicket ever, clean bowling

the opposition and sending the bails flying! Shortly after, Bec and Jill brought the Island to the half-way point. The bowling attack tightened up, but the Island was narrowly beaten. Player of the match was Kat: 3 overs, 1/5. Congratulations to all involved. Great first game! Make sure you head to Rhyll Oval this Sunday (November 19) for the PIDCC Senior Women's first home game at 11am.

# Round 6 of league's season

## DARTS

Darts enthusiasts in the Phillip Island & Districts Darts League were treated to a night of edge-of-the-seat excitement during Round 6. The spotlight shone on the incredible showdown between Team Bob and Team Meredith. The final outcome? A resounding 5-2 victory for the triumphant trio of Team Bob comprising Bob, Paul and Laurie. In a match that could only be described as epic, Team Bob showcased their impeccable darts precision, securing a well-deserved win. But the thrills didn't stop there; the other two games of the night proved to be no less intense, with the fate of both matches hanging in the balance until the final doubles leg. It was darting drama at its finest! The accolades continued as new league member, Tony, emerged victorious, walking away with the prestigious San Remo Butcher's meat tray. The crowd displayed their appreciation as Scotchy was named the "Beer Champion" and Col received the title of "Chocolate



Round 6 winners: Laurie, Bob and Paul.

Connoisseur". The cheers and applause resonated throughout the venue, highlighting the camaraderie and sportsmanship that define the league. As Round 6 concluded, the Spring leaderboard update was unveiled, revealing Paul's dominant lead, closely pursued by Will and Bob. The looming question on everyone's mind is whether these frontrunners can maintain their positions or if other contenders will rise to the challenge with just two rounds remaining in the season. But that's not all, the league has exciting news for its future as five teams have al-

ready registered for the upcoming season. The enthusiasm is contagious, with more teams and individual players expressing their eagerness to join the league. The 2024 season is set to kick off in February, promising more epic darts battles and excitement. Stay tuned for further details, as anticipation builds for what's sure to be an incredible season. New players are always welcome. If you are interested in being involved and enjoy a friendly environment with young and old alike, male and female, please contact Scott Lethbridge on 0407 543 154 or email [scott@glpc.com.au](mailto:scott@glpc.com.au).

# This week's league results

## TENPIN BOWLING

**Phantom:** 1st on 14.5pts Drag-onfly, 2nd on 13pts pba9x and 3rd on 13pts Alleygator.  
**2s Company (Monday afternoon):** 1st on 30pts King Pins, 2nd on 27pts Tinabe and 3rd on 24pts Him & Her.  
**ABL - Almost Bowling Leg-**

**ends (Wednesday evening):** 1st on 183.5pts Knackers, 2nd on 179pts Pinpals and 3rd on 164.5pts Just Bowl Already.  
**Business Early (Thursday evening):** 1st on 14pts Balls Deep, 2nd on 12pts Woolly Rollers, 3rd on 11pts Old Timers and 4th on 10pt Heros of Steel.  
**Business Late (Thursday**

**evening):** 1st on 13pts Jd's, 2nd on 11pts Team Rich, 3rd on 10pts Bananas in Pyjamas and 4th on 9pts Loose Knuckles.  
Top scores for this week throughout all leagues are:  
Men: Matt Edwards 229, Clinton Armour 222 and Jason Bence 201. Women: Chloe Else 173, Karen Klym 169 and Lynda 140.

# Evenly poised as Sharks eye victory

From page 24

keeping out the good balls and taking advantage of anything loose the bowlers provided, taking the team to drinks with score 3/54 off 20 overs. The pair passed the opposition shortly after the resumption, and with the skipper keen to get as many ahead as possible by the close of play, Henry played a loose shot trying to lift the tempo and was out for a well-made 22. Kurt joined Tinman and he quickly plundered 14 and the score was now 5/84 and 11 overs remained. Tim Niven was up next and after looking good for a few overs, he copped a ball that jagged a long way and kept low, trapping him LBW for a well-made zero off 14 balls in a 26-run partnership that saw the Sharks 6/120 with just five overs remaining in the day. Angelo was in next, quickly hitting a boundary to get off the mark and the next over unselfishly ran a dangerous single to help get Finno to his 50, much to the delight of the team, the C grade boys having finished joining in as they watched on as well. Angelo was then roughly adjudged to be out LBW and two balls later Andrew Tolley was inexplicably given out the same way considering how much bat he got on the ball!

Jobe Williams joined Finno to see out the last three overs, but the pair took advantage of the tiring bowlers, picking up thirty runs, including a mammoth six from Finno that almost landed in the new Town change rooms! Stumps were called with the Island 8/145, The Tinman unbeaten on 63 and Jobe on 12, a lead of 83 and the Sharks eyeing off a chance at a rare outright victory.

## C Grade

The C graders headed over to Leongatha to take on Leongatha Town in a two-day game. Cleary found a new way to lose the toss this game by doing it over the phone. He has now lost 16-coin tosses in a row, unprecedented. Cleary and Niven opened the bowling without luck as the Scorpions were intent on getting off to a flying start. Fall was introduced and stemmed the flow of runs. Francis and Parry came on to bowl and Parry took a catch off his own bowling to finally get the first wicket. Cleary wound back the clock to take a diving one-handed catch to have Town 2/109 at drinks. Francis then took another wicket, bowling the number three batsman. Mani was introduced with immediate success, Cleary taking his second catch. Parry then took a great outfield catch and took his third catch in gully. When Cleary took his third catch, the Island had got themselves back into the game, having Town 7/151. Francis then bowled another batsman and got his sixth wicket when Dave Fusinato took a diving catch. Bud Marshall then only took three balls to end the innings, with Jonty Manning taking a straightforward catch. Town all out for 205.

A magnificent effort by Peter Francis, 6/47. The Island had 19 overs to bat and Manning and Dave Fusinato set about chipping away at the target. The pair batting beautifully, hitting the boundary and taking sharp singles. Dave was caught for 25 and Manning caught behind shortly after for 59. Mani was out LBW and a disastrous run out on the last ball of the day, saw Drew run out, leaving the Sharks 4/92 and the game evenly poised.

LEONGATHA TOWN

225

SHIRAN T.NIVEN 6/61/28 3/35/11

A1 GRADE

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICTS CRICKET CLUB

PHILLIP ISLAND VS LEONGATHA TOWN

NOV 11 @ 1PM NEWHAVEN REC RESERVE

IGA SAN REMO

PHILLIP ISLAND TRAIL

4/92

J.MANNING 59 DA.FUSINATO 25

C1 GRADE

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICTS CRICKET CLUB

PHILLIP ISLAND VS LEONGATHA TOWN

NOV 11 @ 1PM GUMP

Bowens THE BUILDERS CHOICE

PHILLIP ISLAND LEAD

8/145

A.FINLAYSON 63\* H.PEPPARD 22

B1 GRADE

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICTS CRICKET CLUB

PHILLIP ISLAND VS LEONGATHA TOWN

NOV 11 @ 1PM SCORPION PARK (TURF)

RSL PHILLIP ISLAND

PHILLIP ISLAND

3/142

J.WILLIAMS 50\* D.FUSINATO 43\*

U15S

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICTS CRICKET CLUB

PHILLIP ISLAND VS LEONGATHA TOWN

NOV 11 @ 1PM SCORPION PARK 2

ADVERTISER

PHILLIP ISLAND TRAIL

1/164

T.ASURUMNI 86 T.BLACKWELL 88\*

B2 GRADE

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICTS CRICKET CLUB

PHILLIP ISLAND VS GLEN ALVIE

NOV 11 @ 1PM RHYLL

Haymes PAINT Australia's first family of paint.

PHILLIP ISLAND

3/92

W.CUTHBERTSON 15 J.TILLETSON 13 C.PRESCOTT 13

WOMEN'S

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICTS CRICKET CLUB

PHILLIP ISLAND VS LEONGATHA TOWN

NOV 11 @ 1PM SCORPION PARK 1

Bowens THE BUILDERS CHOICE



# Fourth competition for the season

## FISHING

The Rhyll Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) hosted its latest angling competition, turning November 11 and 12 of into a showcase of skill, community spirit and some truly spectacular fish tales. The anglers faced a mixed bag of weather, starting calm before daylight with winds picking up on both Saturday and Sunday. Of course, catching eluded some anglers as they put in some recreational overtime to get their reels turning.

Either way, at the close of the weekend's competition the anglers and supporters had smiles, sharing their tales of triumph and persistence. Alex Bowden, the RPIAC weigh-in master, kept the 4.30pm to 5.30pm weigh-in window open on each day and was rewarded with the latest fishing reports.

The species for the weekend included snapper, king george whiting, trevally, gummy shark, salmon, and some impressive calamari. A total of 28 fish, one shark, and two calamari went on the scales and members were eager to congratulate participants at the post-competition presentation.

The \$5,000 incentives for angling members with extraordinary catches, during a competition weekend, remains banked.

The five eligible species nominated for each first-to-catch \$1000 prize, by equalling or exceeding the nominated weight, are: king george whiting (1000g), snapper (10kg), gummy shark (20kg), mullet (25kg) and kingfish (25kg).

RPIAC encourages participation in recreational angling and welcomes newcomers to learn more about participation in the club's activities.



Carrie Anne Peatey won the senior female weight competition with an eye bulging snapper weighing 6700 grams.



Byron Griffin was excited to weigh in two magical fish, worth 40 points, to finish second in the squidgie competition.

RPIAC offers complimentary membership to children, aged 16 and under, so they can develop skills and an awareness of sustainable and responsible angling.

There are also opportunities to take part in the scheduled competitions and compete for angling competition prizes and the club championships.

## Results

The squidgie mixed bag competition, for anglers aged nine or younger, saw a charming sibling rivalry with Harley Griffin securing the top spot with three fish totalling 55 points and Byron Griffin following with 40 points.

In the weekend's junior competition, for anglers aged 10 to 16, RPIAC's reigning junior club champion, Denver Firth, showed his growing expertise by winning both the junior weight and the junior points competitions with a trevally of 860 grams and a king george whiting worth 812 points (290 grams).

The senior heaviest weight contests were won by Carrie Anne Peatey and Garry Richards, presenting eye-bulging snapper weighing 6700 grams

and 5370 grams, respectively.

The senior points competitions were won by reigning the senior club champion, Duncan Firth and Lauren Wright, each presenting king george whiting worth 1946 points (695 grams) and 1274 points (455 grams), respectively.

John Wright claimed the shark competition prize for a gummy shark, weighing 4860 grams.

The prize for the squid/cuttlefish competition, for an impressive squid weighing 1300 grams, was awarded to Anne-Marie Richards. Sam Orr won the Secret Weight competition with a snapper, weighing 3600 grams (secret weight 3344 grams).

The presentation was followed by a culinary delight of pizza, from Cafe Bazzare and salad, with great thanks to Peter, John and Jill who ensured anglers and supporters were looked after.

The club's next competition, where anglers will compete for the Bill Wallis Trophy, is eagerly awaited and will be held over the weekend of November 25 and 26.

For further information about the club, upcoming events, competitions and rules: [www.rpiac.com](http://www.rpiac.com).



Swimmers marshal for their 400m events at the start of the day.

# SGB race for State and National Championships

## SWIMMING

Saturday was a busy day for the 72 SGB swimmers who raced at Warragul.

For many, it was a day of trying to swim qualifying times for the upcoming State and Country Championships.

Three swimmers, Billy Fisher, Claudia Croatto and Rahni Matherson had a successful meet and qualified to swim at next year's National Age Championships. The weather was not ideal for trying to get qualifying times, but this did not deter the swim-

mers, with several of them swimming times that qualify them for upcoming championships.

Racing paused at 11am as all swimmers united for Remembrance Day.

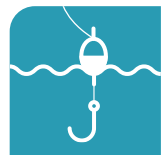
For the younger swimmers, it was another chance to practice racing in a 50m pool and using the blocks, which was great experience for them.

There were plenty of smiles among them as they improved on their times from previous weeks.

Next week racing returns to Leongatha for the Duel in the pool on Sunday.



SGB ready for the 200m freestyle.



## AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

## FISHING

Not a lot of consistency with the reports of snapper yet, there has however been some very good fish.

From the reports over the last couple of weeks they are definitely on the move with the majority of the reports coming from Elizabeth Island and below over the Cup weekend along with less reports from the top end around the fingers (Temby Point areas).

We have had some very respectable and solid 7kg fish reported but not sure too many genuine 20lb ones have been found this year.

From the reports the average size has been closer to the low 5kg mark, a change from a couple of years ago where the average would have been closer to high 6kg.

Some very small pinkies are showing up along with some ex-

cellent tables size ones as well.

Almost every report has told us they have had good stacks of arches on the sounder but only managing a couple of snapper off that school.

Occasionally there has been the typical 15 minutes of fishing for your bag but very rare so far.

Water temperature is still a little low and majority of the fish are still in deeper water with odd reports from shallows.

It won't be long before we get the typical pattern of them heading to the shallows of an evening to spawn, high tide midday/early afternoon with plenty of sun to warm up the mud, incoming tide on dark.

This season it's good to see that people are trying different ways of catching snapper from plastics to micro jigs and with so much bait in the bay we have even had the odd one reported on live baits.

We saw and weighed some excellent whiting over Cup weekend with good numbers and sizes around.

We weighed several between the 700g and 800g mark and while these whiting were not that long they were difficult to get your hand around and very healthy.

Numbers were good with plenty telling us they managed well into double figures without too much trouble.

The whiting reports came from many different areas and depths of water so the best suggestion is to work the areas you know and don't be surprised if one grabs a hold of a snapper bait.

Some told us the days they went out, the wind and tide weren't favourable to where they wanted to fish. They headed to somewhere more sheltered and managed some good whiting – so be prepared to move around.

Try something different if your spot is too busy or not fishable; the same should be said for baits.

While some have just given in to the high price of pippies

others have been working on using other baits. Now they don't even consider pippies and are still catching fish while saving money.

Plenty of bait in the bay now, salmon, mullet, cutta, yakkas and even a few mackerel, so take a bit of time out of your fishing trip to collect some fresh baits.

Calamari reports have been better but still nothing to write home about. The land probably still better than the boats.

Some of the salmon being caught both off the boats and land-based spots have been some of the biggest salmon we have seen in our time in the shop. Many well over 70cm and some of the bigger ones over 80cm.

The salmon are that big you take a second look to see it's not actually a kingfish.

Customers catching them, especially in the boats have also told us that you don't need to have big lures.

You might need big hooks, but most are being caught on metal slugs no bigger than 40g, white the best colour.

With Mel back at work now we are starting our ladies' nights

at the shop with the Women in Recreational Fishing (WIRF) group.

The first one for this season will be on Tuesday night and from the enquires will be booked out again.

If you want to be involved in future nights just drop in and see Mel to be included on a mailing list. The night caters for all age groups and experience levels and is a great night for ladies to get together and learn or discuss different fishing techniques with snacks, trivia, door raffle and we have some special discounts.

Black Friday is coming up and last year we had some unbelievable deals on select Shimano rods. Again this year Shimano has given us a select range to sell at a ridiculous price. More details on our Facebook page as we get closer.

We will also be a used mono fishing line recycling centre where you will be able to bring in your old line which will be sent off for recycling.

We are still working out the exact details but will put information up on Facebook once we have it.

# TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 15 NOV	THU 16 NOV	FRI 17 NOV	SAT 18 NOV	SUN 19 NOV	MON 20 NOV	TUE 21 NOV
HIGH 3:06 am 2.98 m	HIGH 3:51 am 3.10 m	HIGH 4:35 am 3.15 m	HIGH 5:17 am 3.14 m	HIGH 6:00 am 3.09 m	HIGH 6:40 am 3.00 m	LOW 12:16 am 0.45 m
LOW 8:49 am 1.15 m	LOW 9:32 am 1.09 m	LOW 10:14 am 1.04 m	LOW 10:54 am 1.01 m	LOW 11:35 am 0.99 m	LOW 12:17 pm 0.98 m	HIGH 7:21 am 2.90 m
HIGH 2:45 pm 2.51 m	HIGH 3:28 pm 2.57 m	HIGH 4:10 pm 2.61 m	HIGH 4:51 pm 2.63 m	HIGH 5:33 pm 2.62 m	HIGH 6:19 pm 2.59 m	LOW 1:00 pm 0.96 m
LOW 8:41 pm 0.45 m	LOW 9:24 pm 0.35 m	LOW 10:06 pm 0.31 m	LOW 10:49 pm 0.31 m	LOW 11:31 pm 0.36 m		HIGH 7:10 pm 2.54 m

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Olivia Curtain has won the Australian Showjumping Championship's 1.05m Junior Opal Series.

## Olivia junior showjumping champion

### EQUESTRIAN

Olivia Curtain has won the Australian Showjumping Championship's 1.05m Junior (under 18) Opal Series at Sydney International Equestrian Centre.

The pinnacle of showjump-

ing in Australia is the Australian Championships.

After coming third last year to win it this year on her very talented gelding Indi's Mr Zorba Jones has just topped off what has been a terrific year for Olivia and her ponies.

The training behind the

scenes and dedication that Olivia exerts daily for a 12-year-old athlete is second to none and is testament to her results.

Olivia and her ponies have had a big year travelling over 20,000 kms to shows over the past 12 months with the Vic-

torian State Titles the next big show next weekend.

As always Olivia would like to thank her mum and dad for all their support, her coach Frida Lingren and Phil Lever from Lever Equestrian and her sponsors Melbourne Brick and Geohex.

## Evenly poised as Sharks eye victory

### CRICKET

#### A Grade

The new home of cricket, Ne-whaven Rec Reserve, played host to last year's Grand Final rematch between the Island Sharks and Leongatha Town.

Losing the toss, the island boys were asked to have a bowl in blustery conditions.

Simon Kirton opened up with the breeze and struck the first blow removing the dangerous Abeyasinghe in the fifth over. Down the other end, George McCausland was causing all sorts of problems for the Town top order netting 13 play and misses in his six over spell, yet somehow wasn't rewarded with a wicket.

At 1 for 51 the Town batters were starting to build a good partnership before the in form Tom Niven removed the dangerous Giardina for 31. Into the breeze Shiran Rathnayake began to get into his work and along with Tom, started making inroads into the Town batting line up, to have them 5/95.

A patient 70 run partnership by the Town batters saw the Scorpions ready to launch into a final hour blitz, however a timely wicket by Shiran got the breakthrough the Sharks needed. From there Max Royal, Zac

Brown, Tom Niven and Shiran put the clamps on, resulting in the huge wicket of Ratnaike who made an unusually reserved 86.

From there Tom and Shiran smelt blood and we managed to take the last four wickets for three runs, supported by some good fielding.

A great day in the field saw the Scorpions restricted to 10/225. Shiran finished with a 6/61 off of a marathon 28 overs, Tom Niven continued his rapid rise with 3/35. At the halfway point the game is well and truly in the balance with an interesting run chase ahead on week two.

#### B Grade

With three wins from three to start the season, the Sharks travelled to Scorpion Park to take on Leongatha Town in the first of the seasons two-day fixtures. With conditions overcast and the turf presenting a nice tinge of green, skipper Kurt Lane finally won a toss and chose to send the home team in.

Tim Niven and Harry Arceo opened and it was evident from the first ball that it was going to be tough work for the batters, the surface providing plenty of movement and some variable bounce. Tim finally found his

range in the fifth over picking up two wickets in the space of three balls with a great catch by Lane and then bowling the Town number three.

Over the next eight overs the Town batsmen couldn't make headway as Tim and Harry conceded just six runs before Harry struck, his brother Max hanging on to a straight-forward catch to have Town 3/25 off 16 overs, Max delighted to be now allowed back to the family dinner table. Kurt made a double change bringing himself and Jobe Williams on, the pair continuing to tie up the opposition and at drinks Town were 3/32 off 20 overs.

Following the break, the tight bowling continued as Town looked to steady their innings, but Jobe found the edge and a great catch by the skipper Lane, ably assisted by keeper 'Tinman' Finlayson, and it was 4/46. With the score creeping to 59 off 30 overs, the criminally under bowled Kohen Beaumont was thrown the ball with immediate success, as he picked up a wicket with his second ball, removing Bruce LBW, who had been providing tough resistance.

Kurt got in the act getting one in the next over and the Sharks were on a feeding fren-

zy when Kohen in his second over picked up two wickets and was on a hat-trick!

Unfortunately, he wasted his chance at glory with a wide ball down leg side, but when Kurt picked up yet another scalp the opposition were dismissed for just 61. Kohen finished with the unbelievable figures of 3/1/2, Tim Niven an excellent opening spell of 2/10/8 with Kurt snagging 2/12 off his eight overs.

#### Batting

Lunch was taken, and when we resumed the Sharks had 35 overs to face to finish the day's play. Connor Epifano opened the batting with Max Arceo but, as Town had discovered, it was going to be tough work, especially against the new ball.

The Island were in early trouble when Max edged one behind in the first over and when Kohen dragged one back onto his stumps, it was 2/14.

Henry Peppard joined the fray and the pair were looking good as they moved the score to 30, but the Town skipper Ashton found edge of Connor's bat and he was out for 18.

President Andrew 'Tinman' Finlayson was promoted up the order and together the pair began to build a solid partnership,

*Continued page 22*

**ALEX SCOTT  
AND STAFF**

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