

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



The streets of Coves were busy over the weekend, with traffic in Thompson Avenue at summer holiday levels.

A bumper weekend for local traders

Visitors from Melbourne converged on Phillip Island over the weekend, enjoying their first weekend away since lockdown ended.

The island was abuzz with activity, with local businesses reporting a massive increase in trade. The IGA supermarkets in Coves and San Remo were both extremely busy.

"It was flat stick for us, we noticed a lot of extra people," said Konny Behre from IGA Coves, describing it as on par with a busy long weekend.

Shayne Crawford, manager at IGA San Remo agreed.

"On Friday, it went mental. Saturday was our busiest day, and it was equivalent to summer or Christmas sales."

As soon as the "ring of steel" officially disbanded from midnight on November 8, visitors and homeowners started arriving.

Konny said customer traffic built up across the week, although there was a definite increase before the end of lockdown.

"It started well and truly before the Monday," she said.

Shayne described it as a gradual incline, before exploding over the weekend.

"There were flocks of people everywhere. There was not a car space in San Remo all weekend.

"Our sales have been consistent through Covid, but now it's gone to the next level.

"We're going from the busiest winter we've ever had to what's probably going to be our busiest summer."

"Insane"

Local retailers and hospitality were also run off their feet, with restaurants booked out across the weekend.

Neil Gillin at Rusty Water Brewery Restaurant and Bar said the restaurant was fully booked for dinner both nights by Friday afternoon, with just a few spots left for lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

In Coves, coffee shop G'day Tiger experienced "pretty substan-

cial" numbers over the weekend, with Jonathan Bentley likening it to the summer holidays.

"Sunday morning was probably our busiest morning ever. It was huge."

Cheryl Owens from Cape Winds giftware store in San Remo said it was "the most insane weekend we have ever had", and even with the 10-person limit instore, they had record sales on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The huge demand made monitoring the numbers instore tricky.

"We had to put an extra person at the door to control the 10-person limit.

"But sales-wise, it was absolutely incredible."

The only sour note was a confrontation on Friday with a customer refusing to wear a mask when asked.

"She was straight up angry, saying 'it's my right. I don't have to wear it'.

"I explained to her, it was the government guidelines. I'm trying

to protect the community, other shoppers, staff and myself," Cheryl said.

"But mostly people were great. They said how much they'd missed us."

Traffic

Traffic was busy over the weekend, reminiscent of summer numbers.

Mostly traffic flowed smoothly, although motorists faced delays getting off the island on Sunday night.

Reports on the popular Phillip Island Traffic Check Facebook page showed travel time between Coves and San Remo on Sunday afternoon was over one hour.

Another person reported traffic was banked up to from the island to Bass.

The heavy traffic was the first real test for the new roundabouts at Woolamai Beach Road and Back Beach Road, which they passed with flying colours, making life easier for drivers trying to access Phillip Island Road.

Christmas booked out!

Christmas is just six weeks away and the holiday bookings are coming thick and fast.

Victorians keen to enjoy a festive season after a tough year are snapping up houses across Phillip Island, eager to secure themselves a happy holiday.

Simone Fox, the Holiday Rental Department Manager at O'Brien Real Estate in Coves described it as "crazy", saying she had no properties available between December 27 and January 3.

"That was the first week to book out, but we've got people wanting to come the week before Christmas, and we're getting bookings right through to Easter."

Melbourne coming out of lockdown and the end of the "ring of steel" prompted a flurry of calls.

"We walked into the office to hundreds of booking requests," she said.

Adding to the workload, in the same week, the schedule for the 2021 Moto GP was announced, confirming October 24 as the date for the race on Phillip Island.

"As soon as the date was released, everyone was trying to book for the Moto GP."

And the phone kept ringing, with plenty of people keen to visit Phillip Island over the weekend.

"I walked in on Monday and there were over 40 requests from people wanting to come this weekend."

The busy workload is a relief after Covid restrictions decimated bookings for the past eight to ten months.

"It's so much nicer being flat out and busy. I'm grateful for it, that's for sure."

Other agents experienced similar demand and are predicting a busy holiday season.

Alex Scott Real Estate in Coves said the first two weeks of Christmas holidays were already fully booked, while First National Real Estate said they were fully booked from Boxing Day until mid-January.

Michael McLeod from First National said holiday rentals were extremely busy, with bookings going all the way out to February.

Bookings for the Moto GP were also strong and he called it "a perfect storm" when the GP announcement coincided with the end of lockdown.

"It's really nice to have the phones going and everyone is busy," he said.

With enquiries about holiday bookings continuing to flood in, Michael said they were looking for new properties to meet the demand and predicted a busy summer.

Owners return

The high demand has been exacerbated by some owners deciding not to rent out their properties during the holidays.

"Our owners have been in lockdown too and many are wanting to use the properties themselves," explained Simone.

Continued page 4

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Classifieds: sport@pisra.com.au

Suite 2, 60 Chapel Street, Cowes, 3922.
Phone (03) 5952 3201
Fax (03) 5952 3024



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Cafes, restaurants and bars across the island were filled with visitors happy to escape the Melbourne lockdown.

Police pleased with weekend

Extra units were rostered on for the weekend to deal with the influx of visitors, with local police saying there were no major incidents.

Cowes police said it was a very busy weekend and there were regular patrols to check on Covid compliance.

Acting Senior Sergeant Craig Van Breugel from Victoria Police said they maintained a visible presence across the weekend.

"We had additional units from Latrobe Valley down for the weekend because of the expected surge."

He described the weekend as "a bit like the start of a normal holiday period" and said that general-

ly people had been well behaved.

"We knew there would be a lot of people coming into the area and we wanted a decent police presence, in light of the fact there are still restrictions in place."

Acting Senior Sergeant Van Breugel praised the local hotels for their management of the crowds.

"We contacted the licensees before the weekend, because we were aware there were going to be a significant amount of people," he said.

"They were keen to work with police to ensure they weren't inadvertently breaching restrictions."

He also said police were available to help any local businesses enforce the Chief Health Officer's orders.

In response to reports of customers arguing with store owners about wearing masks, he said no one "should have to put up with that".

"Business owners have the right to admit people or reject them as they see fit."

"Owners are entitled to ask someone to leave their shop and if the person refuses, police will come and assist," he said, saying people could be charged with trespass or breaching the peace.

Highway patrols and Operation

Compass - focusing on traffic behaviour and following the road rules - were also in action.

"Overall, it was a good result, good for business and we were pretty pleased with the way people conducted themselves," Acting Senior Sergeant Van Breugel said.

With many busy weekends ahead, he said police were prepared for a busy season.

"We will be ready. There will be extra police here over summer."

"We normally increase numbers from mid-December, and with Schoolies coming up, we will have extra police down here from the end of November until the end of January."

Green waste collection grows

With holiday homeowners returning to the area, green waste bins filled to the brim could be seen on every kerb across the island.

Bass Coast Shire Council said over 900 travel exemption permits were issued in the week before the "ring of steel" was disbanded.

While Melbourne was still under lockdown, the permits allowed owners to come and

prepare their properties for the bushfire season.

This was followed by an influx of homeowners and visitors once Melbourne's lockdown formally ended.

A council spokesperson said there had been an increase in the amount collected from kerbside green bins over the past two weeks.

"This could be attributable to

both people now being able to visit their properties, and the spring weather. With warmth, then rain and then warmth again, this has made conditions perfect for plant growth."

Although council said the first weeks of the fee-free green waste period had been quieter than usual, they were expecting the next two weeks to be extremely busy.

Anyone visiting the council

waste facilities is reminded they must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

"We also ask you to stay in your vehicle until directed by an attendant," the council spokesperson said.

"In periods of high demand, a facility may close 30 minutes before the scheduled closing time, to allow for the unloading of vehicles already on site."

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Nature Parks walks razor's edge on wildlife plan

Conservationists have been critical – with some support – of the Phillip Island Nature Parks' wildlife plan, which seeks to control growing populations of Cape Barren geese, wallabies and possums.

The draft Wildlife Management Plan, released last week and open for community feedback until January 17, walks the razor's edge for a wildlife body such as PINP because it proposes a "range of control options, including non-lethal methods" for these animals.

It seeks to strike a balance with the island's growing human population and comes in response to concerns expressed last year by farmers and other groups – such as the golf course and Newhaven College – that Cape Barren geese were "pooping and chewing" their way through the landscape.

The Grand Prix circuit also reported dangerous bird strike for drivers, while residents reported significant damage from wallabies and possums to gardens and businesses such as a winery.

The wildlife plan calls for further research to understand goose internal parasites, with "concerns by some community members about the spread of pathogens by the geese", which is currently being investigated by Federation University and Nature Parks.

The wildlife plan – which has been created with PINP, Bass Coast Shire, farmers, and state government – suggests methods to control these animal populations including:

- Issuing of Authorities To Control Wildlife (ATCW) permits for up to three years, including geese egg removal and adding (temporarily removing fertilized eggs to terminate embryo development);
- introduce native predators on Phillip Island such as owls and quolls;
- the use of browsing repellents (such as Sen-tree) on revegetation areas;
- exclusion netting/fencing to protect pasture, and decoy crops to remove pressure on commercial pasture;
- alternative fresh water sources for wildlife away from roadsides; and
- The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation could access wildlife on Phillip Island for cultural use by its members, such as harvesting eggs, in a similar way to the harvest of mutton birds on Bass Strait islands. BLCAC CEO Dan Turnbull said while the details had yet to be decided, this measure would once again



Feedback is now open until January 17, 2021 on the Wildlife Plan, which is looking at ways to control populations of Cape Barren Geese, along with wallabies and possums on Phillip Island. Photo Katrina Lawrence.

allow traditional owners to access resources to keep cultural practices alive.

The Plan does not rule out lethal methods, and adds "the number of applications for lethal control (of geese) have increased in recent years" across Phillip Island, but acknowledges this has had limited effectiveness because of the mobility of the birds.

It also acknowledges lethal control is a "point of contention" in the community and that farmers prefer to avoid harming birds or "impacting the island's reputation".

"Where the management of wildlife is justified, it will be appropriate, humane and effective in achieving the desired result," the plan states.

Conservation response

Conservationists said they were still reading the details of the report, with Phillip Island Conservation Society president Jeff Nottle critical of the initial timeframe of 23 working days for community response, describing it as "unrealistic", arguing for a longer 90 days.

The Nature Parks has since announced consultation will be extended until January 17, 2021.

"It is important the community be given every opportunity to consider the issues, many of which are considered sensitive," Mr Nottle said, adding anyone still concerned with the timeframe should contact the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning at swp@delwp.vic.gov.au

"It should not be rushed through particularly with pandemic restrictions in place preventing indoor meetings and the issues the community is facing at this time."

He said the draft plan seemed to lack "evidence-based decisions", while it also needed to address the "urgent issue" of destruction of habitat and felling of mature trees on private properties.

"Living with wildlife is a key issue for conservationists and those who recognise the importance of our natural world in our local community and worldwide," he said.

"Our wildlife is a key foundation of the Phillip Island community and economy and getting this plan right is most important."

Mr Nottle acknowledged the draft plan included PICS feedback, including the suggestion that

drinking water be available for wildlife away from roadsides.

The PICS Facebook site had several early comments about the plan, with one respondent stating: "Why are they proposing to 'manage the wildlife' and not the humans?"

Another respondent agreed, also critical of the short time frame for comment on a "contentious" issue, saying there was little time for the plan to be "widely circulated in the community to residents, wildlife rescuers and welfare volunteers, or for anyone to get their head around what this wordy jargon actually might mean for our precious wildlife".

Long-time conservationists Patsy Hunt and Maurice Schinkel criticised the Nature Parks for releasing this draft wildlife plan, with the organisation now no longer producing their regular Environmental Management Plan.

"The last EMP was for 2012-2017 and covered the whole area of PINP land site by site, and dealt with the matters such as actions to deal with perceived populations of wildlife. The discontinuing of the EMP is an unfortunate occurrence," they said.

Consultation period extended

The consultation period on the new Phillip Island Wildlife Plan has been extended

Originally scheduled for a four-week consultation period, the draft plan will now be available for feedback on the Engage Victoria website until January 17, 2021.

A spokesperson for the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning said the decision to extend the consultation

came after a number of requests from the community.

She said it would allow for careful consideration of the draft plan and provide time for community groups to meet before submitting their feedback.

View the draft plan and comment at engage.vic.gov.au/development-phillip-island-millowl-wildlife-plan

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Wildlife plan: the numbers Christmas booked out!

Farming

• Cape Barren geese are costing Phillip Island farmers about \$2250 per hectare in crop damage, or \$22,500 for a 10-hectare crop. A three-month study last year by PINP and Federation University, on a Phillip Island sheep and beef farm, found wildlife – of which 99 per cent were geese – were responsible for decreased yield of spring crops by 40-65 per cent and summer crops by 50-100 per cent;

• Phillip Island land use: 60 per cent agriculture, 20 per cent residential/commercial, 20 per cent PINP.

“Despite the impact of Cape Barren Geese on crops and pastures, many landholders have reported a desire to avoid the use of lethal control due to not wanting to harm the birds or impact the Island’s reputation, safety issues associated with the use of firearms and the possible repercussion from the community,” the wildlife plan states.

“There is a strong desire for more effective and sustainable control options.”

Cape Barren Geese

• There are few records of geese on Phillip Island before 1970. In the mid to late 1970s they were released at Conservation Hill near Rhyll.

• Annual counts of Cape Barren Geese have been undertaken since 1993 and numbers increased significantly in response to the successful eradication of foxes from the island. There are now about 3000 on the island, up from under 200 in the early 90s.

Currently the only option for controlling Cape Barren geese on Phillip Island is exclusion, scaring or lethal control. Fencing is ineffective unless the area can also be covered to prevent the birds from flying in. Scaring has also proven to be ineffective as the birds have become habituated to humans or the deterrent devices.



Swamp Wallabies were first recorded on Phillip Island between 1850-1880. Photo KateCrock @packupandflyaway

Swamp Wallabies

• First recorded on Phillip Island in the 1850s to 1880s. Through the 1930s to 1950s they were scarce and rarely seen through to the 1970s. Numbers increased through the 1980s;

• GPS trackers attached to 48 wallabies in 2018 showed they appeared to be more likely to cross roads where there are higher speed limits, in more rural and less densely populated areas;

• A 2014 study found at least 300 wallabies are killed each year just on the main roads of Phillip Island;

• Wallabies in the Oswin Roberts Reserve have been monitored from 1998 to 2018 indicating the population increased for five years.

Wallabies may have benefited from the removal of foxes, but the increase is more likely due to revegetation projects increasing habitat and food

Common Brushtail Possums

• Established on Phillip Island in the 1920s after being introduced by local residents;

• They are now abundant on Phillip Island particularly in areas with high vegetation, including urban zones;

• No repeated surveys have been conducted

Exclusion fencing, tree banding and control through Authorities To Control Wildlife (lethal and non-lethal) have been used, including on eucalyptus trees at the Koala Conservation Reserve, to control possums with “limited success”.

Browsing pressures from possums – and wallabies – is impacting on vegetation regeneration and the recovery of some plants listed as vulnerable in Victoria, with possums even contributing to tree dieback.

Christmas booked out!

From page 1

“So while we’re busy, there are not going to be as many guests.”

A representative for Alex Scott said they have had to cancel some bookings because owners decided to use the house themselves.

And she said as well as the regular annual visitors, there’s plenty of new bookings too.

“We’re mainly booking families. They want to come for a week or so, not just for three nights.

“Most of our bookings are for seven nights or more.

“It’s definitely busier than usual,” she said, predicting a busy summer based on bookings so far. “January is looking pretty full.

“We hope the weather is good so everyone can get out and about. It will be fabulous.”

Holiday hiccup

For one local landlord, the Christmas wasn’t looking quite so festive, after a glitch in the Airbnb website

lost all their holiday bookings.

The glitch cancelled her bookings and wiped her profile from the booking site.

With no way to access her profile, she couldn’t contact any of her bookings to explain the house was still available.

“I had bookings through until late next year, including a week booked at Christmas.

“They’d paid a deposit, but I couldn’t get their details or contact them.”

The certified “super host” who has been with Airbnb since 2012 was in limbo and potentially missing out on one of the most lucrative summer rental markets in years.

After several days and many frantic phone calls, the site restored her profile and she said she was getting more inquiries than normal.

Despite the relief of Airbnb restoring her site, she’s feeling fed up.

“This is the third time now I’ve had my site compromised.”

Wildlife rescue continues

Who can you call if you need help with injured wildlife?

While a wildlife rescue model is not included in the draft Wildlife Plan, there are a number of wildlife rescue services currently available on Phillip Island.

Between 7.30am and 4pm contact Phillip Island Nature Parks on 5951 2800 and select Option 2.

After 4pm, contact Colleen Gilbee of Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Shelter

Bass Coast on 0409 428 162. Colleen will attend if possible or provide advice on what to do. Injured animals can be cared for at the shelter and Colleen is also a qualified snake catcher.

From 4pm – 7.30am contact Wildlife Victoria on 8400 7300. (phones are staffed until 7pm on weekdays and 6.30pm on weekends, with messages taken outside those hours). Cases can also be logged at: wildlifelifevictoria.org.au.

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No clear vision for Cowes

Outdoor dining plan moving slowly

Between 30 – 40 local business operators came to a drop-in session at Pino's Trattoria in Cowes last Friday, to discuss plans for outdoor dining in the Cowes town centre.

Hosted by the Bass Coast Shire Council business support team, the session outlined potential options for Cowes over the summer season.

While other areas of the shire, including Grantville, Inverloch and San Remo have moved ahead with plans, there is yet to be an agreed approach from Cowes traders.

Plans presented at the session included Covid circles and temporary picnic tables in the Jetty Triangle and on the foreshore, a pop-up dining area to seat up to 165 at Olive Justice Place, laneway closure, and a town takeaway system using QR codes and online ordering. Examples of signage for parklets and fabric space dividers were also on display.

The need for more public toilet facilities was highlighted repeatedly as well as who would be responsible for cleaning the public spaces.

A "no alcohol" stipulation in the proposed town takeaway system was also a problem for several traders.

Feedback from North Pier stated: "Love this, but to link to our online takeaway would require alcohol service as well. If we have the licence, why can't we?"

Pino's Trattoria also questioned the alcohol ban.

"How would we police this, if it's already part of our online ordering," they said.



Teresa Mahood and Johana Radford from Bass Coast Shire Council with Kristie Cameron from Over the Top Events and Rosa Scarlato from Pino's at a drop in session to discuss outdoor dining options for Cowes over summer.

No road closure

The most contentious issue, the potential closure of Thompson Avenue, was not included in the options presented at the drop-in session.

Instead Council proposed partial road closures and one-way traffic in sections of The Esplanade

According to feedback on the Traffic Management Plan, many traders, including Priceline, Not Just Shoes, Wing Lock Restaurant, Anything Goes, U-Neek Souvenirs, Front Room Boutique, Pollyana, Turn the Page and Skunk Ware were opposed to a Thompson Avenue closure.

Other traders are lamenting what they see as a "missed opportunity". Rosa Scarlato from Pino's could not hide her frustration.

"We have a magnificent view and we don't do enough with it," she said. "We need to embrace the view, have party lights and make it (Thompson Avenue) more for everyone."

She criticised the council for not doing more to improve the area, saying there was "nothing appealing" about the current streetscape.

"We're paying rates and making money for the council, but get nothing," she said.

"How much is a coat of paint? They need to work on improving the streets. There's no toilets. No facilities for tourists."

"Council should be driving this process and it needs an overall vision. The street is missing out."

She believes a trial closure of Thompson Avenue "would be very good".

"Everybody lost money with the virus. We should make something everybody can participate in."

Teresa Mahood from Bass Coast Shire Council said while some traders wanted the trial closure, others opposed the move, with some stating it would lose them up to 70 per cent of their business.

She said there was the option to close Thompson Avenue between

Chapel Street and The Esplanade in the evening over Christmas.

Council will collate all the feedback from the session before finalising any plans for the area.

Dressed up

Local events businesses will be contracted to help dress the outdoor spaces, with representatives from Over the Top Events attending the drop-in session to explain different options.

Suggestions included artificial grass, timber flooring, clear spanned marquees, picnic-style tables, festoon and pea style lighting and tidying of existing garden spaces.

The state government is providing grants of up to \$5000 for individual businesses and up to \$250,000 for local councils, to organise additional outdoor dining spaces.

Last month it announced it would streamline planning approvals to make it easier for existing businesses to create new outdoor dining areas.

So far, Ocean Reach Brewing, Grenache Wine Bar, Hotel, North Pier and M&O have applied to create "parklets" or outdoor dining areas.

Some attendees told the Advertiser the lack of an established traders association was hampering discussions in Cowes.

The new Phillip Island Business Network was only established last month.

"Other areas have active business associations that have really driven the process," one said.



Over 30 local business operators came to the three-hour drop-in session at Pino's Trattoria in Cowes last week to provide input on plans for outdoor dining in Cowes.

5G comes to Cowes

Tech geeks will celebrate, while conspiracy theorists may not.

A notice has been erected on Chapel Street advising an existing site mobile phone tower will be upgraded to 5G.

The upgrade will see the removal of six panel antennas, to be replaced with three 5G panels, as well as three remote radio units.

Anyone wanting to make a submission can do so until November 26 through consultation@acquirecomm.com.au.

A statement from Australia's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy, earlier this year said there was no evidence telecommunication technologies, such as 5G, caused adverse health impacts.

Telstra has also issued a notice advising there are no established health effects from 5G in relation to Coronavirus.

"These claims have no basis in science, and they have been dismissed by both the Australian and global scientific and healthcare communities," the organisation states.

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Council Update



Ordinary Council Meeting - 25 November

Council's next meeting will be live-streamed at 1.00pm on Wednesday, 25 November 2020. Join us on the live stream link at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings.

The proposed items Council may consider:

- Determination of the Period of Office for Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- Election of Mayor
- Election of Deputy Mayor
- Determination of Allowances for Mayor and Councillors
- Recording of Oath or Affirmation of Office by Councillors
- Appointments to Council Committees and External Committees

The agenda is released on Council's website on Friday, 20 November 2020

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings. There is an opportunity in the Council meeting for public questions. If you would like to ask a question please submit your questions in writing no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Celebrate Social Inclusion Week and International Day of People with disAbility

We're hosting a free online Screening of Award Winning Australian and International Short Films to celebrate Social Inclusion Week, 21 to 29 November, and International Day of People with disAbility 2020, Thursday, 3 December. Visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/access for more information or contact our Community Planning Team on the numbers below.

Fee-Free Green Waste Disposal

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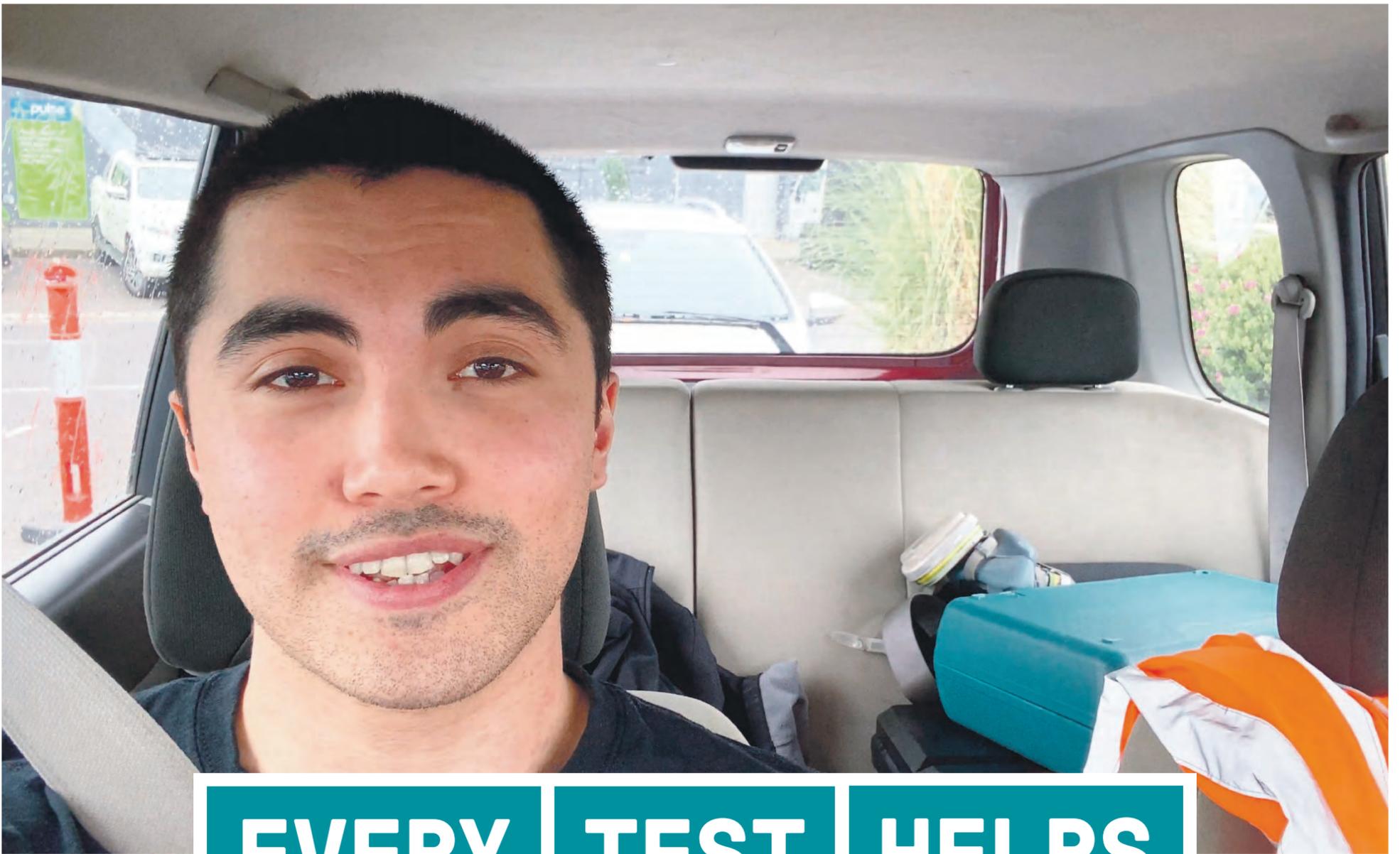
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Clampdown on Ventnor foreshore encroachment

A Ventnor foreshore homeowner has criticised Bass Coast Shire for destroying a private beach access track that has been used by three generations of the family.

The criticism comes as the shire confirmed several hundred sites were currently being investigated for encroachment.

Emma Grose said in late October shire officers ripped up stairs – leading to the beach on Crown land – that had been built and maintained by her grandfather and great grandfather and used by four neighbouring houses.

“My grandparents are heart broken, as is our entire family,” said Emma, whose family home is on Tyro Street.

“We believe this is unfair. At no time were my grandparents consulted or even advised of the closure. We feel this is going to destroy the beautiful atmosphere of the island we love so much.

“The track is used by an elderly resident who cannot use the steep purpose-built stairs further down the street.

“There are many tracks and trails that people utilise for beach access, that are not maintained by council, but appear after years of use and maintenance by residents.”

After dismantling the stairs the shire erected a small sign explaining the “informal beach access” had been closed for public safety and impact to the environment.

“Clearing of vegetation on Crown land is illegal,” the sign said.

“Coastal vegetation protects the foreshore and provides essential habitat for wildlife. Please use the nearest official track.”

A shire spokesman last week confirmed the stairs had been removed as part of an ongoing program, with six other private stairs removed in October alone across the shire.

“Works under this program are



“Clearing of vegetation on Crown land is illegal,” the Bass Coast Shire sign reads, erected after officers destroyed privately-built stairs to the beach at Ventnor.

being prioritised according to safety and risk to the public,” the spokesman said.

“Given these stairs in Ventnor were not constructed to Australian Standards, they were deemed a significant risk and a high priority for removal.

“As officers identify sites across the municipality deemed to be illegal and high risk, these will also be addressed accordingly.”

The issue comes after councillors have been unanimous in their opposition to private use of public land, voting to support a clamp down on illegal vegetation clearing.

370 sites

The spokesman confirmed about 370 sites were currently being investigated for encroachment across the shire.

“Encroachment activities that pose the highest risk to public safety are currently being addressed as a priority,” he said.

“Where an encroachment activity appears to be directly linked to an adjacent property, the relevant landholder is notified in writing.

“In contrast, an access track and/or stairs such as those in Tyro Street are not necessarily

clearly linked to any one private property. As such, the shire does not notify adjacent landholders but rather acts promptly to best protect public safety.”

“Cheeky”

Last year councillors called for fines to be increased to “\$100,000 or more”, as well as a roll-out of surveillance, and more “tree vandalism” signs erected where vegetation has been removed.

In 2019 a full-time coast and bushland encroachment officer started at the shire, who carried out an audit of council-managed coastal and bushland reserves.

Council has overseen a program to address encroachment since 2011, clamping down on foreshore property owners furiously extending their front yards into foreshore land.

This has included one owner parking their caravan on Crown land, other cases saw householders erect swing sets, sheds, a trampoline, firewood storage, and a fire pit in a deep hole.

Stairs have also been in the shire’s crosshairs, because they are not only an encroachment issue but also a safety concern, when installed by a homeowner and not constructed professionally.

Earlier this year, the Advertiser reported that trees along Grantville’s foreshore had been illegally removed by nearby residents so they could erect homemade boat ramps.

Former councillor and Silverleaves resident Peter Paul said encroachment had long been an issue on the foreshore, saying the “deliberate” appropriation of Crown land was “beyond cheeky”.

“The foreshore belongs to the people, everyone has a right to access it.”

Ex-College teacher County Court appearance set

A 60-year-old former Newhaven College music director will appear for trial at the Melbourne County Court on December 8.

Kirk Skinner, a college department head until stepping down from the role earlier this year, will also appear on contested charges at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates’ Court on January 29, 2021 for a committal mention.

Mr Skinner, who lives at Woolamai, was previously reported to appear at the County Court last week. In February Mr Skinner was charged with two counts of sexual assault of a child under 16, and in August detectives laid a further 10 sexual offence charges, charged by the Morwell Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT).

According to the charge sheet, the offences occurred across multiple locations, including Phillip Island, Woolamai and Wonthaggi, dating back every year for the past five years.

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Although the new roundabout at Cape Woolamai is fully operational, there is no firm date for when the area will be landscaped. Strong winds over the weekend transformed the area into a dust bowl.

No landscape in sight for roundabout

The landscape around the newly completed roundabout at Cape Woolamai is due for a makeover, but no one can say when.

With Phillip Island set for a bumper summer visitor season, hopefully the area will be transformed from a dust bowl to a green sea of native plants by the time holiday visitors arrive.

Back in August, Regional Roads Victoria advised that landscaping would begin in September, but to date there has been no progress on the site.

When approached again in late October, Sarah Rhodes-Ward, Regional Director at the Department of Transport, said they would continue to work with Bass Coast Shire Council as the landscaping plans were finalised.

"Any landscaping decisions will be made in consultation with council and will consider the local environment, whilst ensuring each roundabout can serve its primary road safety function," she said at the time.

Last week, a spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said 6000 plants would be planted in and around the roundabout, and that planting will be

completed progressively, as weather permits.

The landscape plan includes a variety of native species chosen to reflect Phillip Island's diverse landscapes.

The spokesperson said the landscape design also "incorporates elements such as different patterns and concrete textures".

"Plants were selected for their reliability, low maintenance and safety with low height indigenous roadside plants specifically chosen for their natural forms and swamp scrub for its improved habitat values.

"Council worked closely with Regional Roads Victoria on the project, to ensure the final outcome complemented our unique landscape and did not diminish the visitor experience."

The \$10.5 million project at the intersection of Phillip Island and Woolamai Beach roads includes a dual-lane roundabout, new street lighting and footpaths, relocated bus stops and improved pedestrian access. The work is ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed by late 2020, instead of early 2021 as originally planned.

Rate relief not on the radar

Less than one per cent of ratepayers have deferred rate payments or entered a formal payment agreement under Bass Coast Shire Council's Covid hardship policy.

In the two months since the rates notices went out, a council spokesperson said it had received a lot of requests from ratepayers for information about payment options.

"Most have found they're more comfortable making regular payments without entering into a formal payment arrangement.

"At this stage, we've deferred rates for 35 ratepayers and are waiting on a number of deferral forms to be returned," the spokesperson said.

"Currently 142 ratepayers have entered into a formal payment arrangement."

There are currently just under 34,000 rateable properties in the shire, with roughly half being owner-occupied.

Council confirmed there had been an increase in calls this year enquiring about rate payment options.

"Normally we don't receive calls relating to payment arrangements and hardship until the new calendar year, closer to the pay in full date of February 15," the spokesperson said.

Rate discount?

In October, disgruntled ratepayer Ricardo Cusolito told the Advertiser Bass Coast Shire Council was ignoring the economic hardship faced by residents and holiday homeowners.

He believed the council should offer a rebate to everyone in Bass Coast and said Monash Council, where his Melbourne property is located, was offering a 10 per cent discount to all ratepayers.

An across the board discount would have a significant impact on the overall budget.

"If Council offered a rates discount of five per cent it would have an adverse impact of \$2.5 million on the budget while a 10 per cent rate reduction would impact the budget



Less than one per cent of ratepayers have asked to defer their rates under the Council's Covid hardship policy.

by \$5 million," a council spokesperson told the Advertiser this month.

They said rate deferrals did not impact on the budget, "as the outstanding rates are a secured charge against the property".

Hardship

In May, Bass Coast Shire Council adopted a Covid-19 Financial Hardship Policy, to "assist ratepayers who have been impacted by Covid-19 pandemic and are experiencing financial hardship".

The policy allows for payment arrangements and deferral of rates payments and states "where possible the applicant will be provided with short term assistance to meet their financial commitments."

The council faced a barrage of criticism for sticking with a two per cent rate increase in the 2020/21 budget, despite the economic impact of the pandemic.

Island Voice secretary Linda Marston stated while the shire adhered to a two per cent rate increase, this was based on revaluations of prop-

erty that "have increased significantly in value over the last decade".

"For long-standing residents, or those on fixed incomes, this has led to significant growth in assets but not necessarily in disposable income," Linda said, describing any increase in fees and charges as "an imposition".

"A large proportion of Shire residents are employed in the tourism and retail industries and receive lower rates of pay and indeed many may have lost their jobs during the pandemic."

At the time, Bass Coast Shire Council defended the increase pointing to increased support for ratepayers struggling with payments.

Rates notices went out accompanied by a letter from CEO Ali Wastie.

"We understand that for some in our community the burden of COVID-19 and impacts on their livelihood will be significant," she wrote, urging impacted ratepayers to get in touch with the shire and discuss the hardship policy.

Rates notices were sent out in September.



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Newhaven College



Stage one of the \$7.5 million Performing Arts Wing includes a rehearsal hall, theatre, recording studio and rooms for music lessons. Artist's impression of the external façade of the building, with finishes of concrete, colorbond and anodised aluminium.

A \$7.5 million Performing Arts Wing is being built at Newhaven College.

Local firm TS Constructions will build the latest addition to the college, which includes a rehearsal hall, theatre, recording studio and rooms for music lessons.

Construction will begin this month and is expected to be completed in October 2021.

The building is stage one of a two-part plan. Stage two would see a 450-seat performing arts centre constructed.

Principal Gea Lovell said the new build would be jointly funded by the school and a government grant.

"Last year we received a \$1.5 million grant

from the Federal Government to support this \$7.5 million build.

"Through careful management of funds, we will be able to fund the rest of the building ourselves with our normal revenue and a bank loan."

Building

A three-level construction, the new wing includes a basement and two above-ground levels.

It consists of a concert rehearsal hall, a 120 seat Black Box theatre, state-of-the-art recording studio and rooms for music classes and private instrumental lessons.

Board Chair Greg Price said the building was part of the College's masterplan and would provide a

performing arts school for dance, drama and music.

The external façade of the building will also provide shelter for students waiting for the school buses.

Mrs Lovell said planning for the building had taken two years.

"I thank the Board for all their hard work during this planning phase.

"I particularly thank David Jobe who has led the Board's project control group throughout this process."

Mrs Lovell described the project as "one of the most exciting builds that the College has undertaken."

The second stage of the Performing Arts mas-

terplan is the yet to be designed or funded, 450-seat performing arts centre.

The estimated cost of the centre is more than \$20 million.

Credentials

The performing arts wing was designed by Hayball Architects, who have a long and successful association with Newhaven College.

Hayball designed the school's senior learning centre and a specialist Science, Arts Technology and Media wing (completed in 2017) and the school gym which was formally opened in 2019.

The design of the building takes advantage of the natural slope of the site and will look out

Newhaven College

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The three-level construction includes a basement and two above-ground levels and is part of the College's masterplan to provide a performing arts school for dance, drama and music. Artist's impression of the upper ground foyer, including an in-situ concrete sopranos balcony.



The 120 seat Black Box Theatre will include retractable seating, sprung floors, theatre lighting and block out blinds.

building the future



Standing on the site of Newhaven College's new Performing Arts Wing are (Front left to right): Gea Lovell (Principal) and board members David Jobe and Megan White. At back (from left to right): Board Chair Greg Price, Architect Paris Murphy from Hayball Architect, Stuart Robinson (Business Manager) and Trevor Bowler (TS Constructions)



Construction of the first stage of the Performing Arts Wing is expected to be completed in 12 months. An artist's impression of the upper ground mezzanine level of the new Performing Arts Wing.

across the school grounds and playing fields. TS Constructions also has a history with the college, with Director Trevor Bowler saying they had built the original sports pavilion. The company has extensive experience with commercial construction, including the Urgent Care Centre in Cowes. In recent years they have worked with several local schools including Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cowes and St Joseph's Primary in Wonthaggi. Mr Bowler said the project was an exciting one for the company, which provided opportunities for local employment. "We always use local trades on our projects," he said.

Creating a new campus

The Newhaven College Phillip Island Road Campus was purchased in 2004 and originally served as the site of the Year 9 Learning Centre. A staged plan was developed to move the entire school from the original Boys Home Road location in Newhaven to the 82-acre site. In 2009 work began on the new junior school and by 2011, Prep to Year 6 had relocated to the new campus. In the following three years, sports facilities were expanded, a middle school and trade skills centre constructed, and an administration and library wing built. By the end of 2017, construction of the spe-

cialist wing and senior school was complete and the 2018 school year started with all students attending the new campus. Since then a state-of-the-art gym has been completed and an amphitheatre constructed. New soccer fields should be finished next week, with tennis courts and hockey fields completed by the end of the year. Outdoor netball courts are slated for construction next year. Mrs Lovell said careful planning and financial management was key to the College's approach, including for the performing arts wing. "We are not wealthy. We are a low fee-paying school and this has been in progress now

for 10 years. "For this project, as well as the grant we're using funds we saved and taking out a loan. Then we pay that off and move on to the next one." Plans for a school pool have also been completed. With both state and Federal government looking to support infrastructure projects to boost local economies during the Covid-recovery, Board Chair Greg Price said the pool project was "shovel ready" if grant opportunities became available. "If we go ahead with the pool, it will be built before the performing arts centre," he predicted.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Newhaven College is committed to further developing the College facilities, ensuring that we have an environment where creativity, academic, emotional, spiritual, physical and life skills are nurtured. As can be seen, this won't happen overnight, but the staged implementation of the masterplan has seen huge success.

Our Phillip Island Road property was purchased in 2004 and has undergone extensive building works during the past 16 years.

The College facilities have grown to include 3 sub schools - Junior, Middle, Senior and the Year 9 Learning Centre. Specialist buildings include an Arts, Science and Technology Wing, Trades Skills Centre, Gymnasium, Sports Oval, Multipurpose Courts, Canteen and Open-Air Amphitheatre.

Building works are currently underway for our Wetlands, Synthetic Tennis/Hockey Pitch, and natural turf Soccer Oval. Work on the Performing Arts Centre commences in November.



Newhaven College
1770 Phillip Island Road, Phillip Island.
03 5956 7505, info@newhavencol.vic.edu.au, www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au

- 2004 - 82 acres of land were purchased for future development.
- 2005 - The Year 9 Learning Centre opened with 108 Students.
- 2006 - The oval was constructed and sown and stage one of the Pavilion commenced.
- 2009 - Work commenced on the new Junior School.
- 2011 - Prep to Year 6 relocated from Boys Home Road to the new Junior School.
- 2012 - A second story was added to the Pavilion and the first Multipurpose Sport Court was built.
- 2013 - Two extra rooms were added to the Junior School.
- 2014 - Year 5 to 8 moved into the new Middle School. The Trade Skills Centre and Food Technology Wing were completed. A second Multipurpose Sport Court was built.
- 2015 - The Administration and Library Wing opened. Newhaven College gained registered training organisation (RTO) accreditation. The Boys Home Road site was sold.
- 2016 - Building of the Senior School and Specialist Art, Science and Technology Wing commenced.
- 2017 - A 242kw rooftop solar system was installed on three buildings. The Specialist Wing and Senior School were completed, along with extensive parking, internal roadworks, and the front entry.
- 2018 - History was made as the school came together on one site. First Prep class completed Year 12. The double court Gymnasium was completed.
- 2019 - Boys Home Road Boulevard was completed. Work started on the Amphitheatre, Tennis/Hockey Pitch and Soccer Field. We recieved a grant for the Performing Arts Centre.
- 2020 - We completed the Amphitheatre. The Wetlands, Tennis/Hockey Pitch and Soccer Field are due to be completed by the end of the year. Work on the Performing Arts Centre commences in November.

Rochelle a surprise council winner

Rochelle Halstead arguably pulled off the biggest coup of this year's Bass Coast Shire council elections.

A relative newcomer – who has lived in San Remo for just three years and who by her own admission has “limited community contacts” – ousted popular councillor Geoff Ellis to run second in Westernport Ward, behind Bruce Kent and ahead of long-time favourite Clare Le Serve.

So how did she pull it off?

“I think I listened to the community,” Rochelle says, adding she has already been lobbied hard by residents wanting a Grantville supermarket, and others concerned about the proposed new airfield at Bass.

“The downside of being elected is that an established councillor dropped off, so it's a double-edged sword.”

Most surprisingly, the 51-year-old mother-of-five at the start of 2020 wasn't even considering a tilt at local politics.

So why stand?

Rochelle says “the fire in the pit of her belly” was ignited by no less than the building of a private home near hers during Covid lockdown, which she (correctly as it turns out) believed was being built against regulations.

Like “a dog with a bone” she hounded the shire, then the Victorian Building Authority, which saw a stop work placed on the site.

But the experience – which is still yet to be resolved – showed her the frustrations of local planning and how the system is insurmountable for the average person.

The experience was enough to convince Rochelle – who runs a restaurant with her husband Tony in Tooradin called Tides – to throw her hat in the ring.

But given her victory, did she act in haste, now repenting at leisure?

“I don't regret it at all, but I do know council takes a lot of time if you want to do it well and I do want to do it well. I want to give the community a voice.”

“I'm lucky my husband understands my passion.”

“I think the other councillors, especially those in for a second term, think I fell out of the sky.”

While it may appear Rochelle fell into council, she certainly didn't come down in the last shower and this is not her first foray into local politics.

State politics

She grew up in Western Australia, then Melbourne, working initially in reception at a real estate agency where she met her then husband, (who passed away after illness in 2011).

With no interest and little understanding of politics, Rochelle worked as an electorate officer for two state Liberal MPs: Gary Rowe and Ken Smith for six years.

The work gave her an insight into how politics can help people and so in 2003 she successfully ran for one “heated, volatile” term on Frankston City Council, including as mayor.

“Compared to working in state politics, when I got into local council I felt like I had been slapped across the face 100 times. It was a minefield, and I found the politics, both left and right, confronting.”

In 2006 she was preselected to stand in the Victorian election as a Liberal candidate in Frankston, failing in that bid. She again stood for preselection in 2010 but withdrew when her husband became ill.

Despite clear Liberal leanings, Rochelle insists she is a centrist, only standing as a Liberal candidate because it's easier being part of “the system” in parliament and adding that she disliked the partisan nature of her time at Frankston council.



Rochelle only decided to stand for council this year after a frustrating battle with the planning department: “I know council takes a lot of time if you want to do it well and I do want to do it well. I want to give the community a voice.”

As such, she says her decisions won't be based on politics.

“I don't like to commit until I have done all my research – not just relying on reports from shire officers – and have spoken to the community. Then I will consider the best outcome for the majority; although sometimes decisions need to be made that aren't popular.”

“I think it's sad when issues get overtaken by minority groups who often have the loudest voices.”

How can the majority voice be determined? Rochelle agrees it can be difficult and ultimately her decisions are made on “core issues”.

For example, she says, there have been a lot of voices in the debate about whether the Cowes Cultural Centre should have been bulldozed and a multi-million-dollar loan taken out to rebuild.

“Some people think it should just have been renovated. I think with this, it's an argument for future planning. It's not just about now but the future of Bass Coast. The centre will be a fabulous asset for the community.”

Environmental protection

While she hovers around the centre-right, Rochelle says when it comes to the environment, she's all about conservation.

In a pre-election community zoom meeting for all candidates, she received gasps of shock from those watching when she replied to a question about whether she supported a new, long-awaited pool being built in Cowes, rather than a rebuilt pool in Wonthaggi.

Rochelle responded that given the island is “one way in and one way out”, locating the shire's biggest pool in Cowes would create a giant bottleneck.

“I hear candidates and councillors talking about the need for less development and environmental sustainability on the island, yet if we see major projects in Cowes, which is the furthest destination from anywhere in the

shire, we need to keep in mind it's one way in and one way out.”

She says Phillip Island is a “special place that needs to be protected”.

“If we continue to build infrastructure, that will encourage people to go there in their droves and that will have an impact on the island.”

“That's not to say I'm against sensitive development. But we do need to be mindful that more infrastructure puts more stress on the environment.”

She believes Regional Roads Victoria's plans to make four lanes in San Remo is a good idea, but in Newhaven needs further

community consultation, and she does not support four lanes across the whole island.

She is against a regional skate park at Newhaven and believes Shetland Heights Road in San Remo needs to be urgently sealed and upgraded.

Rochelle supports dogs on designated off-leash beaches, as long as wildlife is protected.

In fact when she's not working, her greatest joy is walking her Golden Retriever Invee (named after Inverloch) on the San Remo beach.

“And I'm thinking about getting back to the gym because Covid lockdown hasn't been kind to me.”

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A spectacular hostess kitchen includes waterfall Caesar stone benches, soft closing drawers, a 900mm oven and a huge walk in pantry.

formal dining area complements this area and opens into a large living space with direct access to the undercover outdoor kitchen/alfresco area. Enjoy sunsets sitting in the alfresco overlooking the park. Square set plaster gives you that extra sense of space.

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HUGE FAMILY HOME



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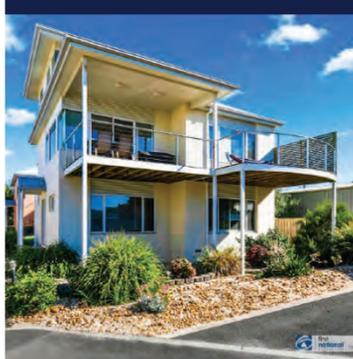
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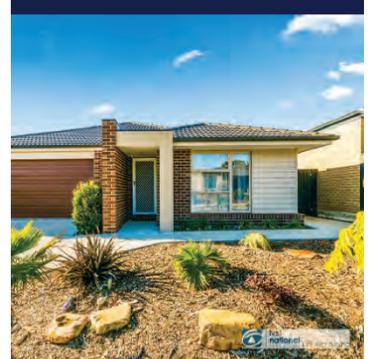
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Talk to Rick, Deb and the team at Coastal Air Conditioning. They can be relied on to give expert advice on the best product to suit all your cooling and heating needs.



Offering spectacular water views, this home is the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle.



The kitchen on the second level includes an electric cooktop and oven and plenty of storage.

Popular surf beach with water views

This incredible home offers spectacular water views to Surfies Point, Pyramid Rock and beyond. Surfies Point is a popular surf beach enjoyed by many locals and visitors and considered to be one of the best surfing spots this side of Melbourne.

This home is perfect for those looking for something very special, a sea change or holiday home away from the hustle and bustle.

The downstairs area consists of a large living space, two large bedrooms and a large bathroom/laundry facilities.

The second level offers a large open living space with great water views looking out to Surfies Point and Pyramid Rock. The kitchen has a functional design and comprises of a dishwasher, an electric cooktop and oven, with the island bench providing plenty of storage and a great preparation area. A separate formal dining area is also on this level.

The master bedroom has direct access to a totally private deck, and the second bathroom is also located on this level.

The sun deck at this property is a great area for entertaining on those balmy summer evenings, or a relaxing spot on a sunny day to read a good book while taking in the incredible water views. Sit back and reflect in

the peaceful surroundings while enjoying big blue water views.

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\$785,000
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Enjoy spectacular water views, and there's plenty of room for a boat or caravan on this 850m² block.



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Old Boys Home on the market

After reassuring Phillip Islanders they had no intention of selling, the owners of the old Newhaven Boys Home last week put the heritage building on the market.

The 1.4ha site at 54-61 Forrest Avenue is for sale at \$3.5 million, well above the asking price of \$2.7 million the current owners were seeking when they last had it for sale.

A group of 10 investors bought the site for \$1.65 million in 2015, with the buildings vandalised and neglected over the past five years.

From the start of this year the owners have spent about half a million dollars gutting the buildings, cleaning up the site and erecting a perimeter fence.

The owners planned a three stage \$9 million development, with the first stage including a restaurant in the chapel, as well as accommodation for 14 in the Boys Home which – pre-Covid – they hoped would be ready by the end of this year.

Agent from the Australasia Real Estate Group Ranjith Panangala said there was an approval for 21 townhouses or the land could be re-developed – subject to council approval – “for a luxurious tourist accommodation including restaurants, reception hall, tennis courts, swimming pool and other sporting facilities and shops”.

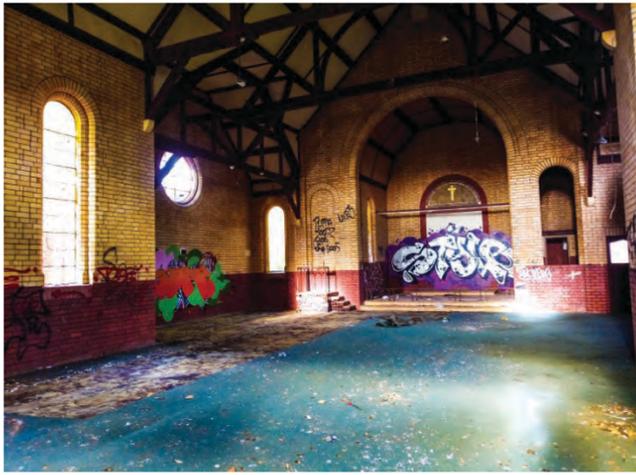
Owner spokeswoman Jane Wang last month told the Advertiser their development plans were on hold because of the pandemic.

“If they opened the doors to Australia that would give property investors hope,” said Jane, from Fusion Project Acumen.

“At the moment we are happy to put everything on hold until the situation is clear, because Australia has shut down. We don’t want to put any money into it.”

Jane at the time confirmed they had no plans to sell and last week did not return the Advertiser’s phone calls.

However, according to another owner Jeremy Wang, infighting had forced the owners to put the site on the market, adding owners had been arguing and having “issues”.



Newhaven residents had welcomed the clean-up of the old Boys Home earlier this year – including the chapel (pictured) – and had anticipated a new development. But now those plans are up in the air with the heritage-listed buildings yet again on the market.

Development history

Bass Coast Shire earlier this year confirmed there was a live planning permit for the site that allowed for: subdivision into 21 lots; partial demolition of existing buildings; construction of road and subdivision works; removal of vegetation; construction of a garage building and 10 dwellings; and making alterations to existing buildings.

The building was established by the Mission of St James and St John in 1928 to house delinquent boys aged between 9 and 16.

It was sold to Knox School in the early 2000s, which applied to develop the site into housing about a decade ago.

Concerned local residents formed the Newhaven Residents Group, objecting to the development at VCAT. Although amendments were made through mediation the development never went ahead and the site was sold to the current owners.

The residents group welcomed the fence and redevelopment this year, after long calling for the neglect and vandalism to be stopped.

While the Knox School had a caretaker for the building, the current owners dismissed the caretaker and let the grounds deteriorate, with vandals wreaking havoc, including smashing the marble altar in the chapel.

Heritage

Last year president of the National Trust’s Bass Coast branch Greg Buchanan wrote to the shire calling for an urgent review to protect the Boys’ Home, which has a heritage overlay.

“We believe there is an urgent need for council to review its approach to this site and strongly advocate at state government level for assistance, and additional legal power if necessary, to protect this significant heritage asset,” Mr Buchanan said.

“We query the point of council having a heritage overlay on the site with strong controls under the planning scheme if it is not able to ensure protection of buildings.”

Last year the shire responded, explaining the heritage overlay was only “reactive” and could not compel the owner to maintain the site any further than is required under building and local law regulations.

“Listing a place on the Victorian Heritage Register at the state level allows Heritage Victoria to issue repair orders, but this is not available for places affected only by the heritage overlay,” a shire spokeswoman said.

The shire is currently reviewing its heritage planning program and the Boys’ Home is expected to form part of that process.

THE WORD

After a challenging year, Year 12 students are looking forward to letting their hair down once exams are over.

We asked local residents if Schoolies should be allowed to come to Phillip Island this year.



Daniel Masny, Cowes – They can’t go over the border into NSW where they often go, so why not here!



Victoria McGregor-Dawson, Cowes – Tourists are tourists and we need them here. My heart goes out to the local businesses who need tourists to survive – without them Phillip Island businesses can’t exist.



Emma Le-Mar, Cowes – I think Schoolies can often be disruptive to the community but I also understand how it can be a valuable experience for the kids. If restrictions were put into place, I don’t think they’d be followed anyway.



Pam Maag, Sunset Strip – Only the well-behaved ones ... so perhaps not!



Kim Carter, Cowes – Yes they should. Personally, I’ve never had a problem with them. There may be the extra odd beer can on the streets, but that’s no big deal.



Derrick Wilkinson, Cowes – Yes, I think they’ve had a very hard year and they should be allowed to celebrate within reason.

Get in the Christmas spirit

Love decorating your home or business for Christmas?

Council is urging every home and business to be part of Bass Coast’s Christmas Display Competition 2020.

Decorate your home or business and you could win one of six hampers full of local goodies.

This competition aims to spread a bit of Christmas joy, after what has been a challenging year. Council said all prizes and other material needed for the competition have been sourced locally, to support our local businesses and community.

Business

Each business located in Bass Coast can enter the competition and upload the best photo of their Christmas display via the entry form on the council website.

The public will then have the chance to vote on their favourite display. A winner will be named in each of the three wards and receive a hamper full of Bass Coast produce.

The Island Ward winner will receive an extra prize sponsored by Phillip Island Business Network.

Business entries close on December 6. Voting will run from December 10 to 17.



Enter the Christmas Display Competition and be in the running to win a hamper full of fantastic local produce. Photo Aswathy-N-Unsplash

Home displays

Every house in Bass Coast is eligible to enter, by simply loading a photo of their display on the council website.

A winner from each ward will receive a hamper of Bass Coast produce.

Entries must be received before Sunday, December 13. The entries will be judged by Bass Coast Shire councillors, with the winners announced

during Christmas week (from December 21).

As always, safety first. Please visit the Energy Safe Victoria’s page on ‘Christmas light safety’ for tips to ensure your Christmas doesn’t end in disaster.

Full details of the competition, including entry forms and frequently asked questions are available at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/reignite-bass-coast/christmas-display-competition-2020

Lights up for Christmas

Looks like one of Santa’s little elves has come to work early.

Last month residents of Shearwater Estate found a note in their letterboxes, suggesting a united Christmas effort this year.

The mystery elf asked people to put up Christmas lights on all the houses from the start of December, as “one small way to end this year and have a bright light to look forward to”.

“To all residents of Shearwater Estate,” the note said.

“2020 has been a very difficult year for everyone, on many levels.

“I have had an idea to try and brighten our days. This would be to get as many homes as possible in our estate to decorate their homes in Christmas lights starting the 1st of December. It is one small way to end this year and have a bright light to look forward to moving into 2021.

“Together we can make this one small area bright, happy and joyous. We don’t not have to go overboard, just some pretty lights at the front.

“I hope we can all join in this together. This



One Shearwater Estate resident is hoping the entire estate can start an early Christmas celebration.

is just an idea.”

The suggestion has been warmly embraced online.

Hopefully this little message of Christmas joy can spread right across the island.

SES: Celebrating support of family and friends

Phillip Island Victoria State Emergency Service volunteers could not look after their communities without the support of their families and friends.

Through a challenging year, Phillip Island volunteers continue to respond to emergencies day and night, with those at home holding down the fort to ensure they can turn out.

“The people in the ‘background’ are still part of our response to emergencies, 24 hours a day, seven days a week” said Alan O’Connor, Unit Controller for VICSES Phillip Island Unit.

“They may not wear the orange uniform,

but their sacrifices are just as crucial.”

Over the weekend, VICSES celebrated the love, patience, and sacrifices of friends and families that helps volunteers to do what they do best.

“The unsung heroes behind VICSES are our family and friends – they cook meals, keep the wheels turning, help with the kids, and also provide a hug and a listening ear after a tough job. We’re grateful for their support,” said Deputy Controller Ray Desem.

For information on volunteering with VICSES in your area, please visit ses.vic.gov.au/volunteer.



Newly elected councillor Ronnie Bauer and Peter Paul, observe a minute's silence at the Phillip Island RSL's private Remembrance Day service.



Left to Right – Back Row: Terry Heffernan – Treasurer, Greg Mead, Peter Paul, Barrie Goldsbury, Chris Thompson – President. Front Row: The Rev'd Jo White – RSL Chaplain, Glenyce Paul, Cheryl Overton, Cr Ronnie Bauer.

A different Remembrance

Remembrance Day in Cowes this year was a different commemoration.

Usually a large crowd gathers at the Cenotaph in the Jetty Triangle for a service officiated over by the Phillip Island RSL.

This year, Covid restrictions meant a public event was not possible, however the day was marked in a small private ceremony at the RSL's Memorial Garden.

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

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

ample to later generations of Australians.

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

His speech also acknowledged the latest Victorian Cross recipient, a posthumous award for Ordinary Seaman Sheean, noting it had taken almost 78 years for the young man's service to be fully recognised.

Also attending the service were members of the Phillip Island RSL community including Peter and Glenyce Paul, former President Greg Mead, Terry Heffernan, Bar-

rie Goldsbury, Cheryl Overton, RSL Chaplain The Rev Jo White, Paul Waylon and Cr Ronnie Bauer.

The flags were at half-mast as a recording of James Morrison performing The Last Post was played, with the notes drifting across the town, where people stood, heads bowed, to observe a minute's silence.

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

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

"May we and our successors prove worthy of their sacrifice."



From left to right: Glenyce Paul, RSL Chaplain The Rev Jo White and committee member Cheryl Overton at the service.



In his first official duty as a councillor, Ronnie Bauer laid a wreath at the private Remembrance service at Phillip Island RSL.



Newly retired RSL President Greg Mead laid a wreath in the Phillip Island RSL memorial garden.



Barrie Goldsbury with the flag at half mast, during the Phillip Island RSL's Remembrance Day service.



Paul Waylon place a wreath on behalf of the Bendigo Community Bank.



Vietnam veterans Gordon Skidmore (left) and Bill Noble (right) with Bass Coast Shire Citizen of the Year and former Army reservist Don Turner at the San Remo Remembrance Day commemoration.

Wreath laying her first official duty

Rochelle Halstead's first official duty as a Bass Coast Shire councillor, was to lay a wreath at the San Remo Cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

She and her councillor colleagues were sworn in last Monday.

Cr Halstead said she was delighted to be undertaking the solemn task, both on behalf of the shire council and in honour of her grandfather Eric Brokensha, who served as an engineer in Papua New Guinea in World War II.

Bass Coast Shire Council Citizen of the Year Don Turner, also laid a wreath, remembering his own military service as well as that of his father Cliff Turner, a member of the 2nd/14th Field Regiment, which saw action in Borneo and New Guinea during World War II.

Don was in the Army Reserve and Citizen Military Forces as a member of the 2nd/15th Field Regiment based in Dandenong. He said in the early 1980s, the 2nd/14th was looking for a flag bearer for the Melbourne Anzac Day parade. Don



Bugler Peter Buitenhuis, who gave a flawless rendition of *The Last Post and Reveille* at the San Remo Cenotaph.

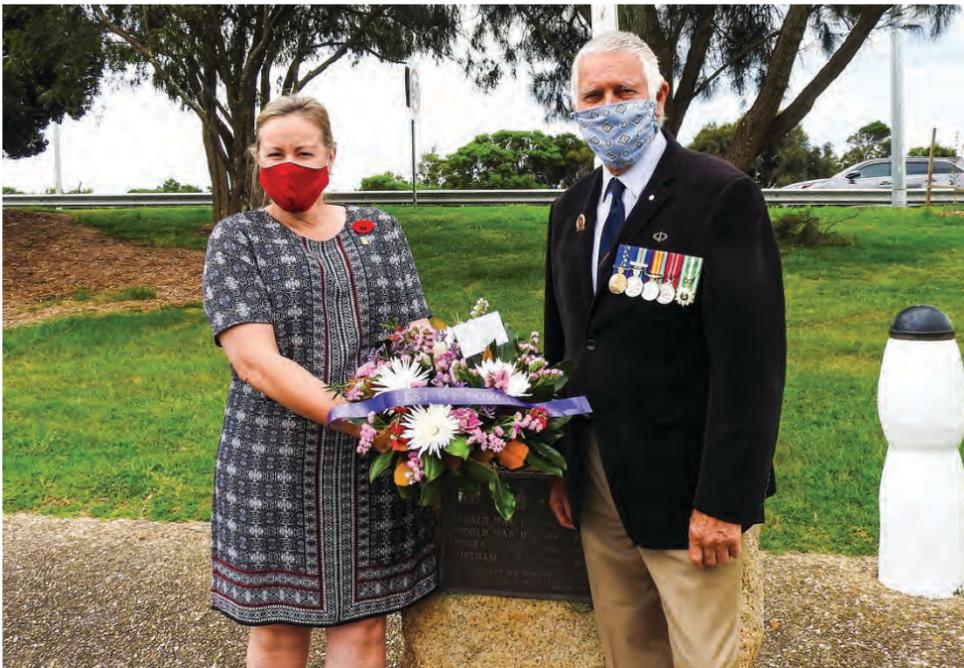
proudly took that honour as a tribute to his father.

Vietnam veteran John Methven OAM led last Wednesday's brief commemoration. Fellow Vietnam veteran Bill Noble read *The Ode* and in her capacity as president of South Gippsland Legacy, Legatee Jane Ross

read the poem *In Flanders Fields*. Fellow Legatee Krishna Methven responded with the poem *The Answer*.

Peter Buitenhuis delivered a moving rendition of *The Last Post and Reveille*.

Those gathered did their best to sing the National Anthem through their Covid masks.



Cr Rochelle Halstead, newly minted Bass Coast Shire Councillor, undertook her first official duty by laying a wreath at the San Remo Cenotaph on Remembrance Day. She is pictured with Vietnam veteran John Methven, who led proceedings.

A private Remembrance

Remembrance Day has always had a special significance for Alex Hayward.

The 92-year old from Cape Woolamai said her family holds a heartbreaking record.

Her four uncles – Frank, Cyril, Edward and James Watherston, as well as their cousin Sidney were all killed in World War I.

Alex said war historian Charles Bean told her "that was a record for an Australian family, but in England it was six brothers."

Alex's mother Christina was the youngest sister of the four brothers killed in the war.

The siblings were all extremely close after the nine children were orphaned when their parents died in a boating accident.

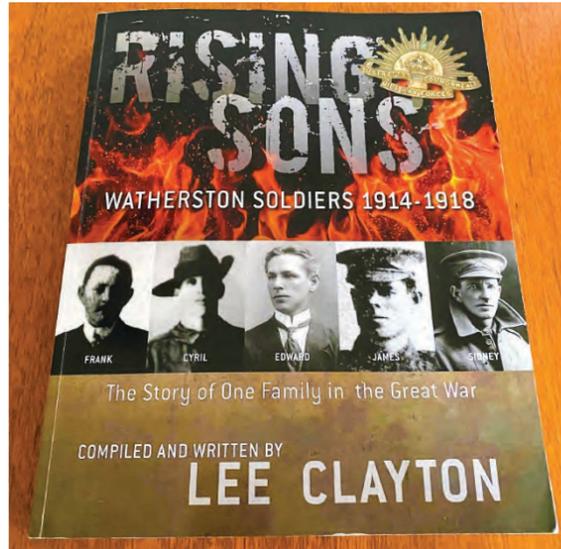
Alex said Remembrance Day was always a special

day in their family, although it was usually a private occasion.

"My mother had cards naming all the brothers and she and her sisters talked about them all the time.

"But I'm not sure they went to any of the official ceremonies."

The story of the Watherston brothers caught the attention



Historian Lee Clayton has written a book about the four Watherston brothers, and their cousin, who were killed in World War I.

of historian Lee Clayton after he purchased two plaques at an auction near Port Lincoln in South Australia.

The WWI Supreme Sacrifice Plaques, also known as "Dead Man's Pennies" were presented to relatives of soldiers, sailors and nurses killed in the war.

The ones purchased by Lee were for Cyril and Edward Watherston, and he eventually located all five Watherston plaques.

His research lead him to Phillip Island in 2012/13 to meet with Alex.

Lee said Alex's memories provided him with "a wealth of anecdotal family stories going back many decades".

"Her knowledge and wit was extensive," he wrote in the introduction to his book "Rising Sons – The Watherston Soldiers", which documents the family's war story.

A voice from the past

Alex Hayward still has a transcript of a letter written by her uncle Private Edward Watherston to his sister (Mrs S J Trestrail) describing the Gallipoli landing.

The letter was written from the Southern General Hospital in Birmingham, where he was recovering from his wounds.

Extracts from the letter are included below.

"As the moon was shining very brightly we had to wait until it was down and that was after 3 o'clock. By the way, each destroyer was towing six dinghies from the transport ships to take us ashore. About 4 o'clock or before we could see land and knew then there was something not far ahead for us to do. If you or anyone had seen us that night before we changed on the destroyer while we were on our own boats, they would never have thought we were going into action.

"They would have thought we were near Australia or going on furlough with a pocketful of money. We absolutely went mad. Singing, dancing and carrying on until the officers came down and stopped us and put out the lights. After we got on the destroyer it was perfect silence and no smoking. No lights to be shown on deck under any consideration. Of course we managed to sneak a few smokes by getting below in the sailors quarters."

Private Watherston praised the work of the navy men who helped them ashore, saying they "were splendid. It's impossible to say enough about them. They are absolute heroes."

Filled with fervour he described the charge as "splendid", describing the enemy as "very treacherous".

But his letter also capturing the mayhem, pain, hunger and fatigue of the troops, many who were mere boys.

Describing being separated from his Company, with another soldier Percy Mackay, he said:

"In the advance we had got cut off from the other crowd. We stayed together until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, shrapnel and bullets dropping around us like hailstones.

"At that time, we were with men from every battalion. I think MacKay got hit with shrapnel in his arm and as things were too hot to leave he decided to stay a while, but a short time afterwards he got a bullet in the heel. We stayed there for about half an hour after that, and up till then I had not been hit, but there was a shell burst about ten feet in front of us when a young chap from the 5th Battalion I think, got the most of it in the forehead. It made a ghastly wound, exposing his brains. He never lived long. I got part of it in the right buttock – only flesh, and a little later on a bullet through the over lapping sole of my boot and another through the heel of the boot."

Despite his wounds, Private Watherston continued to fight.

"We got in the line with the 9th and stayed with them until the next evening at 5.30.

"All that night we were kept awake and firing at intervals. We kept in readiness for a bayonet charge as it was thought the Turks might make a charge, but they did not, worse luck.

"It was a remarkable thing that no one thought of eating or smoking. I had a few dry bits of biscuits which I had in my pocket and a mouthful of water.

"The next day was pretty quiet. On the left flank the Turks were making some very fierce attacks. The New Zealanders were there and they held out splendidly. It was

splendid the way the Australians acted, not a man funkied it and the young boys were like old and tried soldiers. There were many casualties on Sunday, nearly 2000 I think, but on Monday there were less. Tuesday was a very still day on some parts of the line, and the New Zealanders lost heavily."

After a brief respite, that included rations and finally some sleep, it was back into battle.

"The 3rd brigade (the remains of the) about 300 men, had received orders to go back to the firing line and act in reserve ... well, it happened while advancing up a wide gully where our artillery was, which had got into position the night before. The enemy were sweeping the gully with shell fire in search of our batteries. This was the fire which we had to advance under, and it was then that I got knocked."

Soon after he was taken back to the beach and then onto a transport acting as a hospital ship, finally arriving at the hospital in Birmingham.

"I think in this hospital every regiment in the British army is represented. Most of the British troops are from France and some of their chaps have been out there for nine months. They can tell some stories. I am in hopes of being sent out there. There were a lot of chaps in here suffering from poisonous gases. That is a terrible thing as it affects the internals and finally reaches the heart and then "good night".

"Well Syd, I can't think of anything more at present. I hope to be able to write more later from experience if I get the chance."

Lance Corporal Edward Watherstone was killed in action in France on July 23, 1916.



Neil Gillin at Rusty Water Brewery Restaurant and Bar said the new Local Produce Hub is a way to showcase quality products from Phillip Island and surrounds.

A Covid silver lining

A new Local Produce Hub at the Rusty Water Brewery Restaurant and Bar is helping promote Phillip Island producers and has forged new business relationships.

Like most local businesses, this year's Covid lockdown had a devastating impact on business.

But it also brought a new opportunity.

"When Covid hit initially, we closed down for two weeks," said Neil Gillin.

"In those two weeks, we looked at what was happening in the restaurant trade on the island. Everybody reverted to takeaway."

Neil was keen to create a point of difference and came up with the concept of creating space in their restaurant for local produce.

"We always wanted to do something like this, but you get busy doing the day to day routine, and we never got around to it."

"Covid gave us the opportunity to sit down and analyse how we wanted it to work, what products to have in there, and give it a trial."

The new Local Produce Hub at Rusty Water Brewery features products from Phillip Island and Bass Coast businesses.

Purple Hen Wines, Green Gully Brewing Company, Phillip Island Wine Estates, French Island Vineyards, The Gurdies Winery, Phillip Island Honey, Bassine Specialty Cheeses, Farmhouse Fudge Compa-

ny, Top Hill Farm Meats, Kitehaven Olive Oil, Phillip Island Brewing Company, a mix of teas, relish and jams from the Wild Food Farm, and pasta from Prego Pasta are all available.

Neil said the Hub created a point of difference for the restaurant, helped support other businesses and forged new relationships.

"We have always believed in taking a collaborative approach, and we were trying to develop a win-win situation, that was good for all parties."

"For example, the Farmhouse Fudge Company is a relatively new business that focused on selling at markets," Neil said.

"When those stopped, they needed another way to sell their product. We were able to help with that."

As well as providing an outlet for other producers, the new relationships has led to Phillip Island Brewing Company beers being available at Purple Hen and Phillip Island Wine Estates and will soon arrive on French Island.

Neil's also working with the other producers to put together Christmas Hampers that will be available locally and through the Click for Vic website.

"We're excited about the opportunity the hub will provide to showcase the island and Bass Coast produce."

"And it brings another dimension to our business."

"You're welcome to drop in and buy something, you don't have to be eating in," Neil explained.

"Just drop buy, have a look and hopefully take home some local products."

On display

Initially conceived as a temporary measure, a grant from Bass Coast Shire Council's Covid support fund has helped turn the Local Produce Hub into a permanent fixture.

"We applied for money to remodel the lower bar area, filling in some walls and creating additional space for the hub," Neil explained.

"Part of the application was for custom made shelving for the venue."

Receiving the grant provided support for two more local businesses.

"Dave from McLaren Builders did all the remodelling and restructuring work, while Luke Marshall Cabinets designed and built the custom-made cabinets."

"Now everything is really well displayed and it's easy for customers to look at and buy," said Neil.

"We're really excited about how it will go now Melbourne people are back on the island. There's people everywhere - it's great. It's what we wanted."

"It's been a pretty tough six months for everybody. Seeing people back is good for the spirits and good for the island."



A government grant has enabled the Vietnam Veterans Museum to purchase a new Education Facility, built by local firm EcoLiv Sustainable Buildings.

Museum open once more

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum formally reopened its doors last week on Remembrance Day.

"Coronavirus has certainly had significant impacts upon our Museum," said General Manager Phil Dressing.

"Although our Nui Dat Café was open throughout the pandemic, offering take away food and drink, the Museum proper was closed from March 25 after the first wave, reopened on June 1 then closed again August 5."

"We've already seen an influx of visitors and we suspect that this year's holiday season will be bigger than ever, once again proving we are a resilient lot. We knew we'd come back stronger than ever."

While the doors were closed, work at the Museum continued in the background.

"We successfully applied to the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund for a grant to have a forty (40) square metre Education Facility constructed by EcoLiv Sustainable Buildings," Phil said.

"The building was delivered and set down on a pre-prepared foundation around four weeks ago. It will be used as an adjunct to our Vung Tau Room and our Caribou Classroom."

A further grant from the Bass Coast Shire enabled the Museum to fit out the room with a small fridge and television.

A formal opening of the new facility is being arranged and Phil said invitations have been extended to the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs, The Honourable Darren Chester MP, local Federal Member, The Honourable Russell Broadbent MP and local councillors.

"Additionally, our unabashed ambition to build a new, purpose-built Museum on land recently purchased fronting Phillip Island Road continues."

"Town planners have been appointed to develop and lodge a planning permit with Council and an architect, experienced in similar projects, has been appointed to draft a primary design."

Phil said that these projects are being carried forward despite Coronavirus impacts.

"It was important to maintain the fabric of our Museum moving forward into a different future than we expected," he said.

"Our biggest challenge is to now generate significant local and tourist interest enabling us to become more financially secure allowing us to move confidently forward."

Take the test

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

You should be tested if you display even the mildest Covid symptoms, including: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste.

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

Cowes:

- Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100.

- Pre-operation testing 2pm - 3pm daily.
- The quickest time for testing will be before 8am and after 8pm.

Wonthaggi:

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

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

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

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

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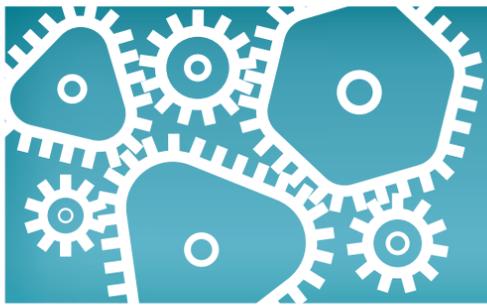
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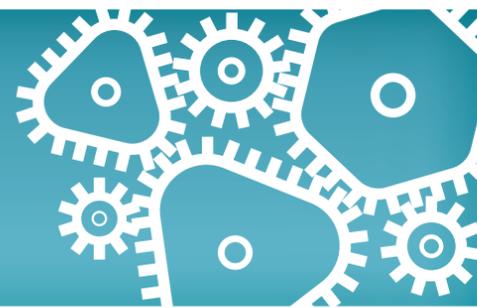
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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Wildlife plan a joke

Shame on Phillip Island Nature Parks! Instead of embracing all the wildlife on our beautiful island you are disposing of them in the cruelest way.

The Millowl Project is frankly a joke as locals know there have been at least 100 geese killed already; you don't care what the public consultation period says as you've already started the killing!

I am appalled that this project went anything past the first email, the wildlife was here first.

If farmers have issues, then they can build fencing, obtain their own "management" licence, or they are welcome to relocate. The island could be an amazing natural attraction, but instead the very people that are meant to be looking after it are destroying it. Wonder how PINP would feel if people started complaining about their little money penguins? This is disgusting, it's all about money and that's not what our island should be about.

J Burns, Cowes

Wildlife plan concerns

The Draft Phillip Island (Millowl) Wildlife Plan to "manage" Cape Barren Geese, Swamp Wallabies and possums is on the Engage Victoria website for public consultation.

While appearing nice and having some good suggestions, like Strategy 1 that actions should be evidence-based and Task 26 to trial providing alternative water for wildlife to lure them away from congregating at farmers dams and roadside ditches, it also has some very concerning proposals.

Are people aware methods of "wildlife management" include "harvesting and lethal control"?

Some proposals are particularly concerning - to issue long term ATCW permits to landowners giving them authority to "control" Cape Barren Geese, Swamp Wallabies and Possums; develop conditions to facilitate the use of carcasses for "research" and "cultural purposes".

There are many unanswered questions: which animals, how many to be killed, by what means, who would oversee it to ensure the killing was humane?

Why are no animal welfare, rescue, pro-wildlife groups included on the Steering Group working on this Plan?

The proposal to look at the feasibility

of authorising "commercial use" of wildlife including commercially harvesting Cape Barren Geese eggs is also concerning, when their own data (Appendix 1) shows numbers have stabilised and have actually been decreasing in the last couple of years. Phillip Island is a special place because of its natural environment and precious wildlife.

Cape Barren Geese are unique, found nowhere else except a few small areas on the south coast of Australia.

Our Swamp wallabies are shy and solitary, living mostly in dense vegetation with research (Appendix 2) showing wallaby grazing has no significant impact on vegetation diversity or cover.

I know our community, visitors and tourists love our geese and wallabies, they're a drawcard to be spotted in the wild.

I encourage everyone to read the draft Plan and respond to the survey if you have any objections or concerns to any of the proposals.

If you don't have your say now, silence will be taken as consent, that you agree with what is being put forward to "manage" and "control" our precious wildlife on Phillip Island.

Grazyna Mackiewicz, Cape Woolamai

AGL wildlife risk

I am unable to understand how the AGL proposal for a gas import terminal in Crib Point is being considered. The proposed gas import facility is in an area protected for migratory birds under the international Ramsar agreement; Australia should stand by this agreement. Westernport Bay is a wetland tidal bay, holding the second most southerly forest of white mangroves in the world, the most southerly is at Tidal Bay abutting Wilsons Prom. Mangroves have been shown to sequester large amounts of carbon, and to put this at risk is unacceptable. To put the wildlife, dolphins, seals, whales, penguins, unique underwater wildlife at risk is unacceptable. Businesses of Phillip Island and the Mornington Peninsula rely on the natural experiences that bring people to the area, to put this and the wildlife at risk is unacceptable.

Del Skinner, Somers

Environmental wonderland destroyed

Australia is a major exporter of gas yet AGL continues pushing for a gas import terminal and industrialisation of Crib Point in Westernport Bay.

Monstrous, 300m length liquefied gas ships will enter our beautiful bay almost weekly and dump 47 kilos of chlorine into the sea daily while converting to gas.

What about the wildlife - penguins, dolphins, fish, sea-grasses and the birds taking sanctuary in the Ramsar wetland of international importance, not to mention all the residents who vehemently oppose this proposal?

The directors of Rio Tinto were forced to resign after blowing-up indigenous rock shelters in WA, but AGL's directors should resign now, before this magnificent environmental wonderland is destroyed. It will be too late afterwards.

Lynn Trakell, Somers on Westernport Bay

Noise, noise, noise

The Covid shutdown period had some positives. The best outcome for the island was the return of birdlife.

The morning and evening sound of native birds included the appearance of many species missing for the last 30 years.

Wedge tailed eagles, black cockatoos, wattle birds, kookaburras, magpies and many small visitors.

Suddenly, that is a memory. The racetrack has resumed 95 dBA for nine hours a day for 300 days per year. Helicopters are a constant in the afternoons.

The noise discharge is a blatant announcement of fossil fuel burning. It is in direct contradiction to Council's climate change emergency. Phone calls to EPA are told it is a Council problem. BCSC says it is EPA. Collectively, there is no control.

Both authorities argue that there are minimal complaints. That is correct. Since 1989 when the church hall was full to the brim with concerned locals complaining about constant noise, the numbers willing to resist have dwindled.

There is no response to requests for control, what can people do?

The Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) states that the environment is the economy. It can be argued that the racetrack and helicopters create jobs.

So does coal mining. The island is now able to take advantage of the new international travel restrictions with greater demand for local destinations.

There is a need to deliver an environmentally sensitive product. Is it time Council set up a complaint

phoneline where it is easy to register unacceptable noise?

In line with the VES, all businesses should be required to develop an Environmental Management Plan in which all impacts including solid waste are reduced each year.

Pizza boxes come to mind. Other local sources of unacceptable noise are small planes, jet skis, dogs barking on the beach and all night.

Do we have an entitlement to peace and bird listening? The wind and the ocean make their own music.

Phil Wright, Smiths Beach

Don't destroy thriving biosphere

I am a resident of Crib Point, a small town south of Hastings on Western Port Bay, and I am strongly opposed to the proposal by AGL to install a Floating Regasification Storage Unit at the end of Crib Point jetty.

I am sure you are aware that AGL have presented an Environment Effects Statement (EES) to the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DWELP), which is currently undergoing Hearing Procedures following the receipt of a record 10,000 Submissions against the EES.

AGL intend to daily dump over 40 litres of chlorine into Western Port Bay in order to clean their vessel, as well as withdrawing hundreds of thousands of litres daily from the Bay, returning it at temperatures that will potentially kill seagrasses, fish, waterbirds and destroy a thriving biosphere.

The Crib Point community has many concerns regarding AGL's proposal, but I write to emphasise serious threats which also impact on other communities bordering Western Port Bay, such as Tooradin, Pakenham, Phillip Island and the Shires of Cardinia, Mornington Peninsula and Bass Coast, which rely heavily on a large tourist industry, supported by Fairy Penguins, Koalas, Vineyards, hospitality and more.

As we emerge from the winter hibernation that lockdown enforced upon us, we acknowledge our dependence on the beautiful assets of Western Port Bay. We are reminded of the fragility of our environment and encroaching effects of climate change. We cannot allow AGL's dirty gas proposal to threaten this natural balance. By allowing an annual increase of at least 40 huge gas tankers into

the bay we compromise the safety of whales travelling north; we endanger penguins, seals, dolphins and other important life in our waters; and we increase the risk of a collision that would have irreparable repercussions to the ecology of our coastline.

Sara Elizabeth, Crib Point.

Cowes possible progress?

As Phillip Island heads into traffic jam season, everybody has an opinion about how to get more people here, or fewer. One recent report on general problems with traffic informs that proportion of urban real estate now dedicated to cars is more than 20 per cent. For a town wanting to attract visitors, obviously this percentage needs to be bigger.

It was front page news in Advertiser recently that another small part of Cowes Activity Plan might happen soon, partial closure of Thompson Avenue, between Chapel Street and Esplanade. Evidently traders flip and flop between opinion that they'll lose trade if customers can't park their car on the door step and opinion that vehicle movements are already too many and too noisy, especially when big trucks, buses and boy racers roar up and down.

On the day of Melbourne Cup, when relaxation of regulations allowed outdoor dining, it was too late notice for anybody to do anything. What an opportunity missed, to make the whole street pedestrian only? With regular visits to Sydney, a few years ago, one particular street near The Rocks was completely transformed with upside down umbrella type shades, connected to be even rain proof, with market and other stalls of interest. And heaps of people. In comparison, no business in Cowes can ever be viable based on customers from precious car parking space in front of their shop.

Cars are the problem, not solution, from a bloke old enough to know life before cars. In Australia, the score is as low as 1.2 people per car on the road. If all plans, by all planners, from Shire to Tourism to even good old VicRoads aim to deliver more people into Cowes, then cars need to stay out, at least as far as the carnival site, with free shuttle bus, electric of course, back and forth down Thompson Avenue to Chapel Street. Surely there's enough time to organise it this year, before Thompson Avenue is choked, noise and smell going nowhere, no pleasure for anybody?

Bernie McComb, Cowes.

Business Guide

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Best quality canvas with full size zippered and fully enclosed annexe. Excellent condition \$2900.00 ONO.
Phone 0407 900 989

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God,"

1 John 4:7, NKJV

PUBLIC NOTICES

ARTISTS' SOCIETY OF PHILLIP ISLAND INC. **Annual General Meeting** for 2020 will be held by Zoom. Sunday 29th November at 2.00pm

Due to uncertainty of Corona Virus rules the AGM Members wishing to attend by Zoom will need to register before Friday 27th November 2020.

To register: Email your name and email address to barbaraowen1943@gmail.com
Barbara Owen, Secretary.

Appointments to the boards of directors of public hospitals (including multi purpose services and early parenting centres)

The Minister for Health, Martin Foley MP, is pleased to invite applications for part time board positions of public hospitals (including multi purpose services and early parenting centres) with terms of office commencing from 1 July 2021.

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

These positions provide an exciting opportunity for members of the Victorian public with relevant experience and qualifications to contribute to the strategic leadership of public health care delivery to the community.

Bass Coast Health (BCH) is seeking applications for board director positions; board meetings are normally held monthly on the fourth Thursday, during business hours. Board directors are encouraged to join a board sub-committee; these meetings are normally held on the same day as the board meeting.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring boards and committees broadly reflect the diversity of the Victorian community. Applications are welcomed from women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people of all ages, people with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse and intersex people.

Applications close at 5.00 pm
Monday 30 November 2020.

Further information including how to apply, please visit
www.health.vic.gov.au/governance

BCH Bass Coast Health
t 5671 3333 f 5671 3300
e info@basscoasthealth.org.au
w www.basscoasthealth.org.au

SITUATIONS VACANT

RETAIL STAFF WANTED

Well established shop in Cowes, Great opportunities of seasonal or long term Retail Assistant jobs. Enthusiastic, reliable and experienced candidates are welcome.

Please contact:
ChiChi 0407 550 480

PUBLIC NOTICES

Phillip Island RSL Community Men's Shed

REPAIRS AND RESTORATIONS
From timber to metal - small to large projects
Reasonable prices
Open Tues & Thurs 9am to noon

Contact Terry on
0438 808 428

CHURCH NOTICES

Members should check their church websites for details of service times and guidelines.

UNITING CHURCH:
www.cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php

www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Uniting-Church/828979940479969

BAPTIST CHURCH:
www.islandbaptist.org.au/

HOPE CHURCH:
are emailing members
www.islandhopechurch.com/

CATHOLIC CHURCH:
www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus
www.cdsale.org.au/prayer-and-reflection

ST PHILLIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:
www.anglicanparishbass-phillipisland.org/

www.facebook.com/stphillipscowes/

PHILLIP ISLAND SURF CHURCH:
www.facebook.com/pages/Christian-Church/Surf-Church-Phillip-Island-360300548086709/

SITUATIONS VACANT

SITUATION VACANT

BAR AND WAIT STAFF

We are looking for bar and waiting staff who are focused on providing excellent customer service.

Experience is preferable but not essential.

Applicants must be available to work evenings and weekends.

Current RSA required.

Current TAB accreditation is an advantage.

Please forward your resume to:
Ben Fisher, San Remo Hotel-Motel,
145 Marine Parade, San Remo 3925
office@sanremohotel.net



SITUATIONS VACANT



Program Coordinator S/S Grade 4: \$ 28.70 per hour + super

An amazing opportunity awaits two community focused, fitness leaders to join the Y Bass Coast in the position of Program Coordinator at each of the YMCA Bass Coast and Phillip Island centres. With responsibility to lead the health & wellness teams and drive the growth and excellence of fitness and stadium based programs at the Y.

For more information please contact:
rebecca.wilson@ymca.org.au
Applications close 23 November 2020.

The YMCA is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to the safeguarding of children and young people.

Go online for the full Position Description and other careers at www.ymca.org.au/careers



Gippsland Disability Advocacy is a community-based Disability Advocacy organisation covering the Gippsland region. Our mission is to advocate, promote, and be responsive to the welfare, rights, and interests of people with disabilities, and to build a more inclusive community. Our vision is that through advocacy, people with disabilities are empowered to exercise their rights.

As a result of new ILC funding, an opportunity exists for enthusiastic, self-motivated, and self-disciplined individuals for two place-based positions.

Project Coordinator – Information Linkages and Capacity Building.

18 hours a week (0.5 FTE)
– Fixed Term period ending October 1st, 2022.

- 1 position located in East Gippsland
- 1 position located in Bass Coast or South Gippsland.

Using a Community Development focus, Individual Capacity Building (ICB) activities build the collective capacity of people with disability by ensuring they have the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to set and achieve their goals. The activities must be for the primary and direct benefit of people with disability, developed and delivered in collaboration with people with disabilities. Establishing and supporting Peer-Led Support groups in designated townships is imperative to these roles.

To apply, you must supply a covering letter as well as addressing the Key Selection Criteria and Resume including the name of three (3) professional referees to: administration@gdai.org.au

For more information on the role contact Adrian Terranova – Executive Officer Gippsland Disability Advocacy on 0428 971 390.
Position Description can be obtained via www.gdai.com.au

These two positions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 3rd December 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICES



PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE A TELSTRA MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT 46 COWES-RHYLL RD, COWES 3922, TELSTRA SITE ID: COWES RT WWW.RFNSA.COM.AU/3922007

1. The proposed facility comprises the replacement of six (6) redundant panel antennas (2630mm L) with three (3) new 5G panel antennas (810mm L) and three (3) 4G panel antennas (2533mm L); reconfiguration of three (3) existing panel antennas; ancillary equipment to be upgraded including new remote radio units, swap out of tower mounted amplifiers, cabling and feeders; and internal works within the equipment shelter to improve Telstra's mobile phone network including 5G.
2. Telstra regards the proposed installation as a 'Low impact' Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 2018* based on the description above.
3. In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2018 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Planning Consultant on behalf of Telstra, via email to planning.vic@servicestream.com.au, via post to Planning Consultant, Servicestream, PO Box 14570, Melbourne, VIC 8001 by 5pm 4th December 2020.

SITUATIONS VACANT

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN/DRAFTSPERSON – Full Time

Award winning building design company Beaumont Building Design is seeking an experienced architectural draftsman to join our new San Remo office. Candidates will possess relevant qualifications and have experience in documentation of residential and commercial building projects. The ability to prepare production drawings from beginning to end using Autocad OR Revit drafting program is advantageous.

Applications by COB Friday 4th December 2020

Ashley Beaumont

Email: ashley@beaumontbuildingdesign.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS

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SITUATIONS VACANT



MAINTENANCE MANAGER

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

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

SITUATIONS VACANT



STORE MANAGER

We are seeking a passionate retail worker to join us as a store manager to take the reins in store now that we have a thriving online retail presence in addition to our storefront on Phillip Island.

Candidates must have retail experience, an eye for detail, amazing customer service skills and proven sales history. Skills and experience within an online retail platform, visual merchandising, rostering, inventory management and general store management looked upon favourably.

Hours and salary are negotiable for the right candidate.

Please apply with a cover letter and resume to Garane at shop@kidsplaytoys.com.au outlining your relevant experience, your ideal work hours and relevant references.

JD0156A

SITUATIONS VACANT



TAXI DRIVERS WANTED.

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES



The Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser is bound by the Standards of Practice of the Australia Press Council. If you believe the Standards may have been breached, you may approach the newspaper itself or contact the Council by email info@presscouncil.org.au or by phone (02) 8261 1930. For further information see www.presscouncil.org.au

MSC7943

PUBLIC NOTICES

1 in 5 people in Australia will experience depression.

Find out more at www.beyondblue.org.au or call 1300 22 4636.



MSC7939

Initiative of Phillip Island Masonic Lodge

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



Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College

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- Humanities 7-10

Full and part time positions available

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

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

Applications close 9am, Tuesday 24th November 2020.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SCHOOL CLEANING CONTRACTOR

Expressions of interest are invited from cleaning contractors to clean Cowes Primary School.

Cleaners are required to attend a site inspection to be conducted at 3pm on Tuesday 24th November 2020.

Contract documents will be available at that time. Contractors must register their attendance on 5952 2132 prior.

All applicants **must** have Department approved cleaning panel status to clean any Victorian government school.

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications for the following positions:

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Part Time – Closes 22/11/20

PLUMBER
Full Time – Closes 27/11/20

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

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

INTERGRATED FAMILY SERVICES PRACTITIONER
Permanent Full Time – Closes 20/11/20

REFERRAL CLERK
Permanent Full Time – Closes 22/11/20

GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – QUALIFIED CHEF
Casual – Closes 24/11/20

REFERRAL CO-ORDINATOR
Permanent Part Time – Closes 27/11/20

ASSOCIATE NURSE UNIT MANAGER – EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
Fixed Term Part Time – Closes 30/11/20

REGISTERED NURSE – Grade 2
Fixed Term Part Time – Closes 30/11/20

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



JD00415AA

SITUATIONS VACANT

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LK6974



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

Property Manager

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

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

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

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TAKE AWAY



FISH & CHIPS



Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

With good weather days almost equalling the ordinary ones now together with Melbourne visitors allowed back we are starting to see the lines at the boat ramps and 1.5m apart shoulder to shoulder on the jetties.

While the growing number of people is not for everyone, for the business owners it is a welcome sight. It's also great to push the buttons at the end of the day and register more than a handful of dollars in sales.

The place actually looks alive again with people walking in the streets and the tables out the front of the cafes full of people.

It can be a bit frustrating at the boat ramps with a lot of people trying to get in or out, but it certainly helps with the reports and getting an idea where the fish are.

With the fine weather and extra people around the reports this week have been very good with quality size and plenty in the eskies.

We even managed to put the boat in the water for a run and a quick fish on Tuesday.

Following some reports we headed to the Rhyll bank on the last hour of the out-going tide to chase a whiting.

Being only half prepared and armed with some very soft old pilchards and a handful of pippies out of the home freezer it took two minutes before we had our first whiting.

Within the hour another 10, six of which were keepers, four were over 44cm, two salmon around 1.5kg, one pinkie at 38 and lost count of those undersize, four flathead, three leatherjackets and countless amount of toadies we headed home. I decided to take out one of the Hookem scaler bags to give them a try and once I got the speed right, which took a couple of attempts, and had it tumbling in the wake it took no time at all and all scales and slime was gone.

We fished in about 5m of water off the Rhyll bank and the whiting all took pilchard fillet and the pinkies all took pippies then as soon as the tide changed, all stopped.

We had plenty of other whiting reports and most contained several over 40cm but all, regardless of length were in excellent condition.

There were plenty who came back with none and it was a case of you needed to be there at the exact right time or nothing.

Working that out was the hardest thing and almost everyone told us the right time was that hour or so before or after the tide change with virtually nothing outside of those times.

It didn't seem to matter a lot which whiting spot you were fishing around the bay providing you were fishing those times.

As well as pippies and pilchard fillet we had a handful of reports from those using octopus heads and fresh calamari strips.

Calamari, while still elusive to some, are continuing to improve from all areas and if you are in a boat you shouldn't have too many problems finding a couple for a day's fishing.

Land based customers are reporting them to be a little more difficult to find and very timid, chasing jigs but not actually taking them.

You will also find they will probably disappear during the day from around the San Remo jetty while the dredge is working. Evenings or very early mornings might be a better time.

For the first time this season the reports from those using artificial jigs out fished the baited jigs with one thing common to all, the size of the calamari wasn't anything to complain about.

Snapper reports continued to come in and are as regular as expected for this time of the year with the fish showing signs that they are not far off spawning.

The patterns are becoming far more obvious now and they seem to have settled and are schooling up.

Early morning fish head to the deeper water, channel edges.

As the sun gets up start to fish across the corals, deeper areas bet-

ter then as we get into the evening head to the shallows and the mud.

There are always exceptions and tides will have a little to do with exactly where or when but from the reports this week that was the definite pattern.

If you don't like catching very small pinkies, don't go snapper fishing because there is no avoiding them, they are everywhere.

The reports we get from customers that have decent snapper all tell us they had to put up with the pinkies before eventually catching bigger ones.

While we have seen quality snapper this year I would say the average size is below that of the last few years. Only a small handful of snapper over 6kg reported and most closer to the high 4kg but plenty of quality table ones just under, just over 40cm.

Again, we must say a huge thankyou to all our local customers who have been supporting us over the last few months helping get us to where we are today, "still open".

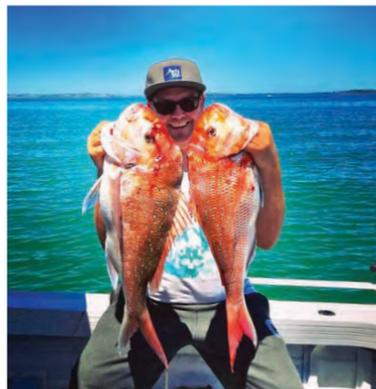
It's also a welcome back to our customers from Melbourne, many who weren't fishing this weekend but just dropped in to say hi, having not been able to come down for a while.

In business you often question if what you are doing is right, especially in times like these, so to have so many Melbourne customers in over the weekend that waited to be able to come in to purchase tackle, rods or reels rather than from one of the bigger Melbourne stores was gratifying and much appreciated.

We had a great response to our Melbourne Cup weekend fishing comp and to continue our theme of giving back we are going to run another during December. It will be free entry, open to everyone and have a prize pool over \$500. Keep an eye on next week's report or on our Facebook page for more information and don't forget our weekly Facebook auctions.



Gummies are always a possibility this time of the year while chasing snapper.



Gareth is pictured with a couple of quality snapper for the dinner table.

Covid-19 brings a temporary halt to historic Island Classic

Boasting a 27-year history of sensational historic bike racing, the International Island Classic held on the Australia Day long weekend, is an institution at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.

But in this brave new COVID world even long-held traditions are subject to change, with confirmation this week the 2021 Island Classic meet for historic bikes will be postponed.

The Phillip Island circuit management announced the decision this week, saying the Island Classic will hopefully be held later in the year, but in 2021 would not feature the hotly contested multi-nation competition, the International Challenge.

General Manager of the circuit, David Bennett, said the ongoing complexities and risk associated with the COVID-19 pandemic had halted planning of the historic bike event.

"We had desperately hoped the situation would be different and would have loved to welcome everyone to another Island Classic.

"But the worsening situation overseas and the ongoing restrictions impacting the events industry locally, has led us to making this difficult decision" said Bennett.



The International Island Classic, normally held on the Australia Day long weekend, has been postponed for 2021.

"We are hopeful of staging an Island Classic in 2021, but not in January.

"Scheduling though will be subject to state borders reopening, quarantine requirements being lifted and government restrictions easing sufficiently to run a viable event. We have to wait to see how the COVID situation evolves locally in the coming months.

"We will continue to review our options to host an historic race meet at some stage in 2021 and look forward

to welcoming Australian riders, historic teams and race fans back to Phillip Island soon."

Run for the past 27 years on January's Australia Day long weekend, the International Island Classic has attracted bike racers, their legendary historic bikes and hordes of race lovers to Phillip Island from around the world.

It is one of the largest historic motorcycle meets in the world today.



Phillip Island's Poppy Corbett (back left) finished fourth in the Rip Curl Gromsearch 16 and Under Girls division on the weekend.

Groms battle the weekend waves

Phillip Island surfer Poppy Corbett finished fourth in the 16 and Under Girls division of the Rip Curl Gromsearch at Jan Juc on the weekend.

The event was dominated by Surf Coast Groms who won five of the six divisions.

In small clean waves, the best 16 and Under surfers from around the state kicked off the new competitive season with an incredible display of innovative surfing.

Ethan Huxtable (Jan Juc) won the 16 and Under Boys final, while Emily McGettigan (Torquay) won the girls' event.

14 and Under was won by Isla Huppatz (girls) and Willis Droomer (boys), with Sophie Wilkinson and Remy Filer taking out the 12

and Under events.

The top three from each division will progress to the National Final to be held at URBNSURF Wave Pool in Melbourne next year.

Finals Results:

16 and Under Girls
1st Emily McGettigan - 13.34
2nd Ellie Harrison - 12.67
3rd Mia Huppatz - 8.57
4th Poppy Corbett - 7.30

16 and Under Boys

1st Ethan Huxtable - 15.50
2nd Willis Droomer - 15.00
3rd Asher Lens - 10.67
4th Charlie Farrer - 9.10

Results for all divisions at www.liveheats.com/events/4179

Tennis results

Section 1: Koonwarra 6.62 defeated Leongatha 3.40, Korumburra 5.59 defeated Westernport 4.58 and Inverloch 9.72 defeated Leongatha North 0.21.

Ladder: Inverloch 22, Korumburra 17, Koonwarra 9, Westernport 8, Leongatha North 7 and Leongatha 3.

Section 2: Outtrim 7.68 defeated Leongatha Barty 2.31, Leongatha Millman 5.57 defeated Baromi 4.56 and Korumburra Green 7.67 defeated Korumburra Blue 2.51.

Ladder: Outtrim 16, Korumburra Green 13, Baromi 12, Leongatha Millman 11, Korumburra Blue 9 and Leongatha Barty 4.

After early rain, the weather was good for tennis.

Teams were looking for fill-ins for both sections this week but managed to field teams.

Alas scoresheets only show the score, not the rallies and recoveries in some of the games.

Inverloch won all sets against Leongatha North in Section 1 this round.

This match was one of those with rallies and recoveries but unfortunately for Leongatha North, no reward in the final result.

Korumburra v Westernport was the closest match of the section.

The Burra boys won all three sets, but the ladies had a tiebreaker

each way – the other set going to Westernport.

The end result, Korumburra by one game.

Koonwarra and Leongatha had a good match, with the win going to Koony.

The young boys Luke Marshman and Harry Taylor-Smith kept the game alive for Leongatha, but unfortunately it wasn't quite enough.

In Section 2 we had the Burra derby, with Green and Blue facing off.

Green were the winners this time, but it was an enjoyable day with all players appreciating the comradery.

Well done to all those players.

Outtrim showed their experience with a win over Leongatha Barty.

It's always a lovely day out at Outtrim.

Baromi v Leongatha Millman was the match of the round this week in Section 2.

Baromi won all the men's sets and the Millman ladies won all their sets keeping the game even before the mixed.

Games were level as second mixed battled it out and finished after a tiebreaker – the set going to Leongatha Millman, and thus the match.

It was a good day's tennis all round with all players pleased to have the game up and running again.

Midweek Ladies Tennis ladder

Section 1: Leongatha 43, Westernport/Grantville 42, Inverloch Diamonds 31, Inverloch Emeralds 27, Bena 25, and Wonthaggi Chooks 22.

Section 2: Korumburra 57, Bena

51, Phillip Island 33, Foster 22 and Nyora 21.

Section 3: Wonthaggi Owls 51, Inverloch Blue 45, Phillip Island Red 39, Kongwak Kookies 27 and Phillip Island Green 21.

Island Sharks go down to OMK

A Grade

The Islands 1st XI made the scenic drive to Outtrim to play the OMK diggers for the second game of the season.

Losing the toss and bowling first the Sharks struggled to get a breakthrough against the talented opposition.

Until Captain Max Royal brought himself on and made it look easy taking a wicket with his second ball getting the dangerous Wyatt with a great catch from L. Cleeland in slips.

The opposition Captain, D. Mock also made the same drive to Outtrim as the Sharks but playing for OMK got off to a flying start with a classy drive for four along the carpet and ended up top scoring with 68.

The diggers put together partnerships and continued to find the boundary as they are known for and ended up making 245 from their 40 overs.

Kirton 5 for 42 off 8, Royal 3 for 41 off 8, Shiran 1 for 50 off 8 and Charith 1 for 35 off 8.

The Island then went out to bat but lost its first wicket on 1.

Eli Richards then joined L. Cleeland and was batting well before having his off-stump cartwheeling for 10 when the score was on 28.

Cleeland and Shiran put on a partnership of 68, before Cleeland was caught out for a destructive 56. Brodie Johnston put up a good fight for his 30 and Royal found the fence on multiple occasions and cleared it once for a quick fire 28.

The wickets gradually fell, and the scoreboard pressure mounted.

In the end it was too much for the Islands 1st XI.

Unfortunately, this time we were not able to bring home a win from Outtrim.

Next week we will play Wonthaggi Club and can hopefully bring home the points.

Go Sharks!

B Grade

A tough day that started badly and got worse!

A big round two clash saw us taking on rival OMK at Cowes and although we lost openers Niven and Excell prior to the game, we won the toss and elected to bowl.

We opened with Blake Young and it is fair to say it did not go well as he was belted for 22 runs off the opening over of the day.

Big Marn Matty Wright pushed up the hill for his eight

overs bowling very well without luck to finish with 0/26.

Andrew Tolley was brought on after the first over downhill and had a few chances go to ground as well as just wide of fielders, including one just wide off Dave Wommersley, which saw him injure his quad in a diving effort and ended up with 0/41 off his 8 overs.

With Dave unable to bowl, we turned to Liam Dayson who did a good job to pick up two wickets in his spell of 2/44 off 7.

The two old boys Horns and Wilson both bowled well, and were reigning in the scoring well, until Horns went down in his bowling stride with what appears to be a serious knee injury.

Horns finished 1/21 off 6 before his injury and Clint Wilson was best again with 3/16 off his 8.

Fair to say it was not a great 40 overs with OMK finishing 5-187 after their 40 overs with some loose bowling and sloppy fielding not helping along with the injuries.

We didn't get off to a great start with skipper McIntyre getting out to a blinder of a catch on 5, but Connor Epifano

and Kev Taylor dug in and were putting us into a competitive position reaching 51 when Epifano skied one to be out for solid 22.

Toll was in and out quickly and when Kev Taylor ran himself out for a well-made 29 soon after we were quickly in trouble at 4-61.

From there it did not get better with only Clint getting to double figures as the side capitulated to be all out for 80 in a bad day for the team.

A tough day and an early reality check, but a big week on the training track and we will be ready to bounce back next week at home against Koonwarra.

C1 Cricket

Phillip Island batting first lost a couple of early wickets before Captain Matt Parsons (21) consolidated with Tom Niven, who was playing as a batsman only due to a back injury.

Once Matt was out Tom, (54) and The Pres Dan McCausland (37) combined well to see PI post 5/178 after their 40 overs.

Phillip Island then forced the pace in the field getting

through their overs quickly with wickets falling regularly to see the opposition all out for 80.

All bowlers bowled well with the standouts Matt Parsons 5 for 8 and Dan 3 for 9 – in a very good win. Special mention to veteran wicket keeper Liam Keating who executed several classic stumping's standing up to the medium pacers. A good even team performance keeps C1 undefeated.

C2 Cricket

Phillip Islands C2 had to play on Sunday so there were a few changes to last week's side.

We welcomed back Gav Excell and John Parry along with young guns 14-year-old Tim Niven and Heath Wommersley.

Skipper Johnno lost the toss and was asked to bat.

Wade Patterson put his hand up to replace the wily old Muscat but regretted it with a bottom of bat swat to the keeper.

John Manning and Gav then put on a resounding 60 odd partnership in quick time.

Manning out for 30 and Pete Francis joined Gav they put

on a similar partnership when Gav out was out for a very stylish 55.

Wickets came and went but the old boy Franga hung in there and made a brilliant 77. Young Heath made 7 and not out bat Tarryn Allen a solid 18.

We finished at 6-234.

Steve Burchill after making 15 with the bat opened the bowling after two balls.

Dynamic in fielder Dan Stephenson pounced on a ball and threw back to Steve and we had our first wicket.

We continued getting wickets with new guy Tarryn Allen picking up his first wicket for the club, one being a great caught and bowled.

The wickets kept tumbling with the bowling honours going to Johnno 3 – 18, Franga 3 – 3, Tarryn 2 – 20 and a special mention to Gav for stepping into the keepers role after Wade complained of soreness after batting for two overs and making one and Gav picked up three catches to share man of the match honours with Franga.

Good result and we move on to next week against friendly rivals Killy Bass.

Phillip Island bowls

The past week has again proven to be a challenge. It appears this coming week will be much of the same, with hopes the following week will see less restrictions.

Tuesday and Saturday were a mixture of Pairs and Triples.

Tuesday winners were Alan Beddows and Jay Allen-Dale.

Saturday winners, John Parker, Anne Allan and Di Pollock, with runners up John Routley and Alan Beddows.

The Ladies and Men's Singles first rounds have been played.

The Men's has had some surprise winners, which is good for the club.

Sometimes that last point is the hardest to achieve and anything can happen.

The Ladies Pairs final on Sunday was won by Robyn Dennis and Sandra Read, the runners up were Jan Dyer and Di Bateman.

The gusty wind conditions tested the players, but spectators were treated to a good game.

Final score 24 to 12 after 17 ends.

Dee Reynolds and Robyn



Dee Reynolds and Robyn Eames have been extremely hard-working members of the Phillip Island bowls club over the years and are relocating to Bendigo.

Eames are moving to Bendigo this week. They have been hard working members with the club's interest at all times.

They will be missed. We wish them well with their relocation and we are sure a Bendigo club will welcome them.

Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, November 10 – Men's 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Steve Waters H/c (17) with 39 points from Michael Coghlan H/c (22) with 38 points.

9 Hole Stableford winner was Peter Wrigley H/c (10) with 21 points from Brian Carvell H/c (27) with 20 points.

Wednesday, November 11 – Ladies 1st Round Club Championships and Medal of Medalist Stroke Events.

First Round of Club Championships: Leaderboard (gross scores).

These are the top few positions for each grade, and the full leader board will be displayed in the club rooms.

A Grade – Taylah Robinson 79, Karen Green 84 and Faye Morris 85.

B Grade – Kris Anastasiou 94, Lorraine Hammon 97, Vicki Roff-Smith 99, Judy Magill 99 and Dianne Ray 99.

C Grade – Mary Whelan 100, Cathy Jones 103, Marlene Gibson 104 and Lorraine Brown 104.

D Grade – Pam Ardern 116,

Lynne Dunne 119 and Kaye Johnstone 123.

With a further two rounds to go, there is certainly a competition out there in all grades.

Keep up the great golf ladies! Winners of the Daily Stroke event 18 holes: 70 players.

A Grade – Taylah Robinson (12) 67 nett.

B Grade – Liz Gleeson (24) 64 nett.

C Grade – Alicon Bennie (39) 74 nett (Kings Cove visitor).

Medal of Medallists Winner – Lesley Meadowcroft 70 nett

9 Hole Competition – 9 players Winner was Lyn Ward H/c (29) with 19 points.

Thursday November 12 – Mens and Ladies 18 Hole Par.

Men's winner was Michael Taylor H/c (12) with +5 from Paul Waylen H/c (29) with +3.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole Stableford winner was Robert Leak H/c (29) with 24 points from Malcolm MacArthur H/c (29) with 19 points on a count-back from John Rodakis H/c (35) also with 19 points.

Saturday, November 14 –

Men's 18 Hole Stroke – September Monthly Medal, Sponsored by Car Find Phillip Island.

Men's A Grade winner – Jeff Bennett H/c (10) with 65 points.

Men's A Grade r/up – Ian Smith H/c (11) with 69 points.

Men's B Grade winner and Monthly Medal winner – Ron Young H/c (15) with 65 points.

Men's B Grade r/up – Reece Jamieson H/c (14) with 70 points.

Men's C Grade winner – John Hammon H/c (22) with 68 points.

Men's C Grade r/up – Paul Kelly H/c (24) with 70 points.

Ladies competition winner was Dawn Andrews H/c (18) with 67 points from Lorraine Hammon H/c (21) with 70 points.

Next week's event for Men is Round 2 of the Club Championships and October Monthly Medal sponsored by Dryforce.

Men's and Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Reg Browne H/c (33) with 21 points from Marilyn John H/c (32) with 20 points.

Sunday, November 15 – Men's and Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Paul Cochrane H/c (7) with 38 points from Gary Johnstone H/c (9) with 37 points.

Westernport Field and Game November Clay Target shoot results

58 shooters attended our shoot this month.

High Gun: Jarryd Passarin with a score of 65.

Grade winners are:

AA Grade: 1st – David Mioni (59), 2nd – Peter Onley (57) and 3rd – Alan White (57).

A Grade: 1st – Peter Passarin (56), 2nd – John Kamaris (53) and 3rd – Daniel Briscoe (52).

B Grade: 1st – Brayden Robertson (48), 2nd – Graeme Cole (46)

and 3rd – Bill McFee (45).

C Grade : 1st – Robert Gerlach (40), 2nd – Adrian Ward (38) and 3rd – Sam Guzzardi (35).

Ladies: 1st – Sheree Chaplin (34), 2nd – Sarah Fritsch (21) and 3rd – Sandra Jarvis (20).

Veterans: 1st – Warwick Cumberland (50), 2nd – Anthony Stevens (45) and 3rd – Danny Genovese (39).

Juniors: 1st – Jeht Townley

(52), 2nd – Will Witkowski (41) and 3rd – Dusty Braden (35).

Our next shoot is on Sunday, December 20 which will consist of 75 targets.

Pre-nominations are required by messaging Jenn on 0408 300 749.

No nominations on the day. Only Field and Game financial members are allowed to attend due to Covid operating requirements.

PHILLIP ISLAND NETBALL CLUB

Applications for Head Coach, (Playing or Non-playing)

Other coaching positions are B, C, D Grade and Under 17, 15, 13, 11.

All Positions interviewed by Netball Operations Manager.

Submit your resume to netball@pifnc.com.au



PHILLIP ISLAND
BULLDOGS
FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

Great start to junior cricket season

Under 12s

After a well organised and structured pre-season the time had come for the "Baby Sharks" to take to the field for their first game of the season.

Twelve of the boys playing their very first "real game of cricket" so nerves were evident as they arrived. This was quickly put behind them as our warm up B-grade Captain and Transition Squad Coach, Steve "Macca" McIntyre, put the kids minds at ease with some warm up drills and wise words.

With 15 available players and Bass being a bit short it was decided to even up the teams, a big shout out to Ryan Hughes, Arch Cox, Flynn Deng and Jai Larcombe who went across and played for Bass, all boys showing great skills with bat and ball and more importantly sportsmanship!

We opened the bowling with Archie Williams and Cub Cantwell, both first gamers who showed they will be great little cricketers for years to come.

Captain for the week Arch Cameron lead by example along with Hazza Bentley, Ollie Parsons and Zac Hughes all who are our experienced players and it showed with their great talk and encouragement to the younger boys.

Our fielding was a real highlight with all the boys showing great endeavour and plenty of nice returns to our keepers Zac and Harry which was noticed by the crowd in attendance.

Some great bowling from Jacko Allan, Sai Sadhubugga, Bryce Lawrence, and Bud Marshall kept the Bass batsman on their toes.

A special mention to our umpire, Andy O'Brien, who was helping encourage the kids each and every ball and was even heard saying "I would pay to come and watch this".

After a short drink break coaches Tarryn Allan and Luke Marshall got the sharks padded up and ready to bat, with Ollie and skipper Arch taking the shine off the new ball with ease.

Some great running between the wickets from speedsters Bryce, Zac, Koby and Cub was one of the highlights of our batting innings.

Running was not required from Arch Williams with a total of five fours hit from his innings.

A big thanks to all the club members, parents and kids for making



PIDCC U14 team, after their victory over Inverloch at Inverloch on Saturday.

the season start possible in these different times and we look forward to a fun season for the under 12 Baby Sharks!

Under 14s

On a wet and rainy Saturday morning in Inverloch, the U14 Sharks lined up to face Inverloch.

Sad news came through that Sienna McMillan was injured and, in her place, came Heath Womersley. The Sharks lost the toss and Inverloch elected to bat.

George McCausland and Sam Bennett opened the bowling with Sam bowling the opening batter in the 4th over.

Another wicket fell as Jake Hughes took a beautiful catch off the bowling of Thomas McMillan.

The train of wickets didn't end there with Jake Hughes getting a run out.

However, the Sharks weren't able to get any more wickets in the game even though a great, late spell from Xavier Godena, Harry Arceo and Drew Fusinato came close to getting some.

Inverloch finished the innings on 80 runs.

A steady start in the batting from Heath Womersley and Connor McMillan ended when Heath was stumped on 16 runs.

The two brothers (Connor and Thomas McMillan) batted well together until Thomas was caught on seven runs.

Still needing 36 runs to win, George McCausland and Connor McMillan batted well until a mix-up in the calling between the wicket occurred and Connor was run out after a superb innings of 19 runs fell to an end.

Batting debutant Justin Tran strode out to the crease with confidence and hit key runs to keep the score ticking.

George McCausland retired in the 18th over after scoring 25* with the Sharks needing a run to win. Sam Bennett hit the winning runs on his first ball.

Despite the game already over Tyler Duell displayed excellent batting.

A great win for the Sharks as

they take on Koonwarra next week.

Under 16s

Faced with a bye, members of the team had a net session at Cowes, on Saturday morning.

This proved to be a warmup for many of the players who had also been selected to play seniors in the afternoon.

Coach Dave Womersley worked individually with the bowlers to develop their skills and to finetune the way they bowl as an attacking unit.

This was aimed at building on the work PIDCC Junior bowling coach, Lee Fuller has been teaching the players at midweek practice.

Zac Walker has responded well to the encouragement he has received and proves to be a very promising pace bowler for the club, at both U16 and senior levels.

Overall, the team is practising hard and many of the players are showing good promise.

They are hopeful of a particularly good season in 2020-21.

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Island Coach appointed to coach U15 rep team

Phillip Island Club Coach, Charith Keerthisinghe has been appointed coach of the regional Leongatha District Cricket Association team for the current season.

Charith and PIDCC President, Daniel McCausland, were informed of the appointment by LDCA Junior Chairman, Scott Checkley.

Scott told the pair he appreciated that a coach of Charith's standing was available to guide young players and acknowledged the outstanding work Charith did coaching the LDCA U12 team in the 2019-20 season.

Charith is a qualified Level 2 coach and has played First Class Cricket in his native Sri Lanka.

Daniel McCausland said Charith had "a wonderful manner with players of all ages and has much to offer through his deep understanding of the game".

Congratulations Charith.

The PIDCC wishes Charith and the LDCA U15 team every success in the coming representative calendar.



PIDCC President, Daniel McCausland, with Charith Keerthisinghe who has been appointed coach of the regional Leongatha District Cricket Association team for the current season

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