



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

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Halstead cruises in as mayor, unopposed

Newly elected Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari. Both were elected unopposed as last week's council meeting.

COUNCIL

Cr Rochelle Halstead is Bass Coast Shire Council's new mayor after an uncontested vote at last week's council meeting, the first post-election meeting of new councillors.

Deputy mayor is third term councillor Brett Tessari (and three time mayor), from Bunurong Ward, who was also voted into the role unopposed.

Councillors voted for both roles to run one year.

Cr Halstead, re-elected for her second term from Westernport Ward, was nominated by new councillor Jan Thompson, seconded by Cr Ronnie Bauer, and in the absence of any other nominations shot through to the top mayoral role.

Cr Tessari was nominated by Cr Bauer, seconded by Cr Halstead.

Cr Halstead said the six new councillors had shown "great trust" in the mayoral vote, because they had "limited opportunity to build a strong working relationship" with her.

"Our community has chosen well with this group who will all bring a professional approach to the challenges Bass Coast faces and a willingness to tackle those challenges together," she said, thanking her husband Tony and voters who gave support.

"I look forward to working with this united team of councillors. It certainly has been united over the last week or so."

Cr Tessari said Cr Hal-



The new class of 2024: six new faces have joined council, along with three returning councillors. Front Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and Deputy Mayor Brett Tessari. Back from left: Councillors Meg Edwards, Jan Thompson, Mat Morgan, Ronnie Bauer, Tracey Bell, Jon Temby and Tim O'Brien.

stead would be a "fair and just" mayor.

"I'm sure you'll guide this new council in the direction we're hoping to

go," Cr Tessari said.

Cr Bauer said he did "not have to sell the credentials" of Cr Tessari, saying he would be an "invaluable

shoulder to lean on".

Cr Bauer – who was voted back into council – controversially described the last council team as marked by "acrimony", "distrust" and "factionalism", commented on the "cooperation" of new councillors and the "smooth election" of the roles.

"Even though we have been together for one week I am confident we will work together as a team to achieve the best outcomes for the residents and ratepayers."

Erosion

The council meeting was largely uneventful, with Cr Meg Edwards requesting a group photo not be in front of flags (Australian, Victorian, Torres Strait

and Aboriginal), but instead in front of a shire logo.

Cr Edwards wasted no time in fulfilling an election pledge, successfully moving an urgent business motion to request shire officers prepare a report by the end of December to look at urgent solutions to protect key assets from erosion at Inverloch.

Cr Edwards said erosion had accelerated even last week at the hotspot near the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club and key public and private assets were now under threat.

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Wed/Nov27	Thu/Nov28	Fri/Nov29	Sat/Nov30	Sun/Dec1	Mon/Dec2	Tue/Dec3
SHOWERS	SHOWER OR TWO	PARTLY CLOUDY	POSSIBLE SHOWER	CLOUDY	SUNNY	PARTLY CLOUDY
17 26	16 22	16 24	16 23	15 21	15 20	16 24

POLICE BRIEFS

Man arrested after fleeing accident

Cowes was crawling with police cars in the early hours of the morning last week before successfully arresting a man who fled the scene of an accident after having been driving erratically around Phillip Island.

Local residents in the Settlement Road area reported seeing several police cars about 4am on Thursday, including one with a spotlight.

Cowes police confirmed officers were searching for a known offender who was driving disqualified and was wanted on warrants.

“Police received a number of reports relating to erratic driving which included driving onto the beach access ramp at Smiths Beach and a collision in which the driver left the scene,” Sgt Chris Brinkman said.

He said the 49-year-old male from Knox was later arrested, remanded in custody and his vehicle was impounded at a cost of \$1275.

The man was bailed by the court and will reappear at a later date.

Police car rammed on the Phillip Island Road

Police arrested a Melbourne man after a police



A Melbourne man was arrested after a police car was rammed near Surf Beach last Thursday.

car was rammed near Surf Beach last Thursday.

A Victoria Police spokesperson said officers observed an unregistered vehicle on Phillip Island Road just before midday.

“They attempted to pull the vehicle over when it is alleged the driver drove at the police car, damaging the vehicle,” they said.

No one was physically

injured.

The 27-year-old Cardinia man was taken into custody and interviewed.

The damaged police car was taken away by a tow truck, near the entrance to Forrest Caves.

Traffic on the Phillip Island Road was banked up between Surf Beach and Cape Woolamai for several hours.

Shire’s EV fleet in doubt

COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire’s plan to transition fleet cars to electric vehicles has hit a speed hump.

Councillors at the November meeting voted in support of the quarterly performance report, which provided an update of key projects and also revealed the shire’s budget has a high-risk underlying deficit.

The report states the electric vehicle transition aimed to reduce emissions but was at risk of not being achieved.

“Electric or hybrid vehicles currently account for 31 per cent of council’s light vehicle fleet,” the report states.

“This is below the 50 per cent target for the 2024/25 financial year which is unlikely to be achievable due to the lack of suitable EV options with towing and off-road capability for deployment by council’s depot and outdoor workforce.”

The report states the shire is on target to start stage one of the Cowes Streetscape Master Plan to “deliver an attractive social, dining and retail environment”, despite all Island Ward councillors in the council election being critical of the plan.

The report says there will be a review of the



Council is below the 50 per cent target for its electric vehicle transition, due to the lack of suitable EV options “for deployment by council’s depot and outdoor workforce.”

2022-2025 Tracks and Trails Strategy next year, with the development of a new 2025-2028 strategy.

The San Remo Town Plan, to guide the growth to 2041, is 60 per cent complete, with community consultation on a draft expected next year.

The development of a draft transport strategy is 30 per cent complete, while an annual urban forest planting program to increase tree canopy is a quarter completed.

High risk

The performance report forecasts a full year net surplus result of \$9.9 million, however the adjusted underlying result is forecast to be a \$1.3 million deficit, which is a high risk according

to the Victorian Auditor General.

According to shire officers, the result was due to the “timing difference or operational programs carried forward from previous financial years”.

Officers added VAGO’s “preferred profitability measure” was the net result rather than the adjusted underlying result “which is distorted by the omission of grants revenue”.

The forecast full year capital works for 2024/25 is \$30 million, more than \$6 million higher than budgeted due to the forecast completion of \$11.4 million of works carried over from 2023/24.

The report states the forecast capital works expenditure will be reviewed next year.

RUSSELL BROADBENT

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Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, Warragul

Melina BATH MP

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Island ready as Schoolies arrive

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Dale Larkin is no stranger when it comes to schoolies, having been the general manager of Cowes nightclub Hotel for six years.

After buying the business in August, Dale and his wife Emily are gearing up to open their venue for eight nights straight for late-night post-school revelry. Dale said for most schoolies it's their first time in a nightclub or licenced drinking venue, and the week on offer is about providing a fun, safe late-night experience for school leavers.

"We're the only late-night nightclub venue on the island, and we do eight nights of schoolies because it gives them something to do and gets them off the street," Dale said.

"The kid's aren't a problem (at Hotel), they're a problem on the street. It's a good event. The staff love it, the kids love it."

However, Dale said his security and staff are on high alert – especially when it comes to fake IDs and signs of intoxication before schoolies get through the door. Typically, the Hotel owner said his staff would confiscate between 12 and 24 fake-IDs on any given weekend night. Over the coming week Dale said he expected the number to be upwards of 100.

In recent years fake IDs, easily available for purchase online and which are near indistinguishable from real IDs, have flooded venues across the state.

"There are a few different

ways you can spot them," said Dale.

"There's the feel of them, whether it's thickness and they don't bend, or they're too thin. Then there's the holograms on the front which show up under UV light."

Before a busy shift, Dale said his security and management staff will meet to discuss what they're on the lookout for and how best to keep patrons safe.

"We just try and get 250 to 350 kids through the doors, and 250 to 350 out safely."

Police presence

Victoria Police said a "substantial number" of extra resources had been drawn from Latrobe Valley, South Gippsland, Bass Coast, local Highway Patrol and the Public Order Response Team.

"Over the next two weekends, we will ensure community safety by providing a visible police approach and a focus on engagement," Victoria Police told the Advertiser.

"We aim at preserving public safety for everyone including our school leavers on holiday. We will also focus on road policing in an effort to reduce the potential road toll on the island over the next two weeks."

"We want to send the message that if you are here on the island as a school leaver, enjoy what the island has to offer and ensure you stay safe while doing it. Reach out to services like Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria



Owners of Cowes venue Hotel, Dale and Emily, are gearing up to open for eight nights straight of late-night post-school revelry. "We're the only late-night nightclub venue on the island, and we do eight nights of schoolies because it gives them something to do and gets them off the street," Dale said.

and Red Frogs if you need assistance."

Victoria Police confirmed on Monday no major incidents connected to schoolies had occurred, and the behaviour of schoolies had been well across the board.

Bass Coast Shire Council has also partnered with Victoria Po-

lice, Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police to ensure schoolies enjoy a "fun, safe and memorable week".

A council spokesperson said the Cowes Jetty Triangle will be a hub of activity, with a late-night barbecue serving up sausages in bread. The Red Frogs will also staff safety marquees offering

snacks, water and friendly support.

Nightly meetings will be held with key stakeholders to keep everything running smoothly, the spokesperson said, while council's Open Space and Amenity teams will be working throughout the week to ensure the area is kept clean.



National Party MPs (left) Tim McCurdy, Shadow Minister for Water and Consumer Affairs, and (far right) Melina Bath, who represents the Eastern Region, with Silverleaves residents Jude Doyle and Ken Hailey.

Nationals chat to locals

POLITICS

Coastal erosion, homelessness, and cost of living pressures were among the issues highlighted by Phillip Island residents at a meeting with National Party MPs last week.

National Party MPs Tim McCurdy, Shadow Minister for Water and Consumer Affairs, and Melina Bath, who represents the Eastern Region, met with local residents for a series of one-on-one meetings at the RSL on Friday.

Among those who met with the MPs were Silverleaves residents Jude Doyle and Ken Hailey who discussed the urgency of coastal erosion and the need for the State Government to fund a promised sandbag wall at an erosion hotspot.

VCAT refused a planning permit for Jude to build a house on her Silverleaves Avenue land, because that road fails to meet

Melbourne Water flood safety thresholds, leaving the vacant land a lemon.

Ms Bath vowed to ask the state environment minister in Parliament this week when funding for the sandbag wall would be made available.

"My commitment is to raise this with the minister and call for emergency funding to be fast-tracked for the already-proposed sandbags," Ms Bath told residents.

Other issues highlighted by residents at the Nationals' meeting included homelessness on Phillip Island, rental affordability and the high price of water bills.

The MPs also visited Saltwater Restaurant in Newhaven to discuss the impact of the closure of the jetty on the business, as well as the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op to highlight safety at the San Remo jetty between the public and the commercial fishing fleet and cruise boats.



New Bass Coast Shire councillors at Silverleaves last week: (left to right) Crs Brett Tessari, Jon Temby, Ronnie Bauer, Meg Edwards, Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Jan Thompson, Tracey Bell and Tim O'Brien.

New councillors waste no time on big issues

EROSION

All nine Bass Coast Shire councillors last week toured the Silverleaves' erosion hotspot, seeing "first-hand the urgency of measures" needed.

Island Ward councillors, Tracey Bell, Ronnie Bauer, and Tim O'Brien took councillors from all Bass Coast wards to Silverleaves to the hotspot near Sanders Road, who were "shocked at the extent of the gouging beyond the end of the revetment and the threat to residents' homes", Cr O'Brien said.

Councillors agreed coastal erosion was high among the items of business for the new council.

As reported, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) have proposed a planned sandbag wall as an interim measure to stop further erosion, but funding has yet to be made available.

MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale

confirmed the estimated cost of a 100-metre-long geotextile bag wall was in the \$400,000-\$500,000 range and alongside DEECA she was "actively working to secure funding".

"I have put this also up for consideration in the May 2025 budget as a back-up but certainly want to get this funded sooner," Ms Crugnale said.

"We have the costings, we have the designs, we just need the funds so we can get going."

"It is something I have raised with the Minister and his office repeatedly and will continue to do so."

Ms Crugnale said she understood there was angst in the Silverleaves community.

"I thank them for being proactive, working as a collective, reaching out and offering support in my quest for funding and being creative also in what they can do to help," she said, adding she supported locals writing letters to the Minister.

She said she wanted to see all levels of government working in funding the works, especially the Federal Government given erosion, storms, storm surges, wild weather, and inundation would continue to occur.

There should be "a quick response funding program that is agile and ongoing" from the Commonwealth, she suggested, with the state and local governments contributing a portion.

This month residents have also warned falling trees from eroded cliffs pose a risk to tourists and the proposed sandbag wall must be funded and constructed before the summer holidays.

At last week's council meeting, Cr Edwards wasted no time in fulfilling an election pledge, successfully moving an urgent business motion to request shire officers prepare a report by the end of December to look at urgent solutions to protect key assets from erosion at Inverloch.

Government releases bay turbine hub plans

WESTERN PORT

The Victorian Government has released the first details of their rebooted plans to build a wind turbine hub in Western Port, including proposed dredging of the bay.

As reported in July the government is pushing ahead with a new, significantly different version of the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal (VRET) project, after the Federal Government knocked back the original plan in January because of environmental concerns.

The Port of Hastings (PoH), as part of a new approval process, last week released the draft scoping requirements of the VRET Environment Effects Statement (EES) process, open for public comment until December 11.

The draft scoping requirements are a preliminary list of issues to be investigated, including identifying timing for works to avoid impacts on migratory species (see separate story), and examining the potential economic and social effects from the project, such as disruption to tourism and recreational users such as fishing and boating.

In parallel the PoH will create a community reference group for the VRET and this month held public information sessions.

The draft scoping requirements state that if the project is



An artist's impression of the new proposed renewable energy terminal in Western Port. If it goes ahead, the project will be 43ha and require dredging of the bay. The previous mooted terminal was much larger at 146ha, with 92ha to be dredged.

successful, dredging of the bay will be required to allow ships to approach and manoeuvre near the berths.

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

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

"Longer term, the facility may be used to support maintenance, repowering and decommissioning activities of the

offshore wind infrastructure," the draft scoping requirements state.

The VRET is proposed at the Old Tyabb Reclamation Area (OTRA), between BlueScope's steel manufacturing plant and Esso's Long Island Point fractionation plant, which borders the Western Port Ramsar site, "an area identified to be of international importance, particularly to waterfowl habitat".

Construction would start in late 2027, with the terminal expected to be operational by 2030.

The final scoping requirements will be released by the

government in the second quarter of 2025, with the EES prepared from now until 2026.

The EES will assess its potential effects on the environment and assess alternative layouts and designs to avoid effects.

Refused

Last year the Victorian Government announced the Port of Hastings had been selected to be the VRET, which was to be 146 hectares, including reclaiming land, and dredging 92 hectares for a 600-metres long, 100-metres wide wharf.

But in January this year the Federal Environment Minister

refused that VRET because it would pose an "unacceptable" and "irreversible" risk to the bay and its endangered wildlife, which is listed as a globally significant wetland under the United Nations' Ramsar convention.

At the time the Victorian Government was blindsided by the decision and vowed to deliver the project, able to appeal against the Federal Government decision by taking the matter to court with a claim of legal error; or alternatively the state could submit a revised application, the option they have now taken.

Western Port Biosphere Foundation CEO Mel Barker said while they "strongly supported the accelerated transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy to achieve deep cuts in carbon emissions, all renewable energy transition projects must be designed, implemented and regulated to protect Western Port's critical habitats, flora and fauna".

The VRET is considered central to the State Government's ambition to achieve 95 per cent renewable energy generation by 2035.

Details: engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-renewable-energy-terminal-ees-scoping-requirements;

Or: planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects/referrals/victorian-renewable-energy-terminal

How would a turbine hub impact the bay's fish, birds?

ENVIRONMENT

More than 30 endangered bird species are found to live in Western Port in the area proposed for the Victorian Government's wind turbine hub.

And 13 threatened marine species – such as southern right whales and loggerhead turtles – are also found to be near the proposed hub site.

In January this year the Federal Environment Minister refused the State Government's first proposed turbine hub in Western Port because it would pose an "unacceptable" and "irreversible" risk to the bay and its endangered wildlife.

When the State Government first proposed that initial project in 2023, several studies were released showing the potential environmental impact of the project.

According to one 2023 study, penguin tracking showed penguins from Phillip Island "seldom" travelled into the bay's lower North Arm, where the hub will be located, near Crib Point.

"There is also a small breeding colony of little penguins off the northwest corner of French Island in the upper North Arm and penguins are expected in Lower North Arm," the study said.

"Little penguins can acclimate to human presence and shipping as demonstrated by the colonisation of the St Kilda Breakwater."

Other studies also examined the impact of a proposed turbine hub on fishing.

The 2023 studies said while commercial netting was banned in Western Port in 2009, and only eight commercial fishers remain using line fishing methods in Western Port and Port Phillip bays, recreational fishing in Western Port was "very important".

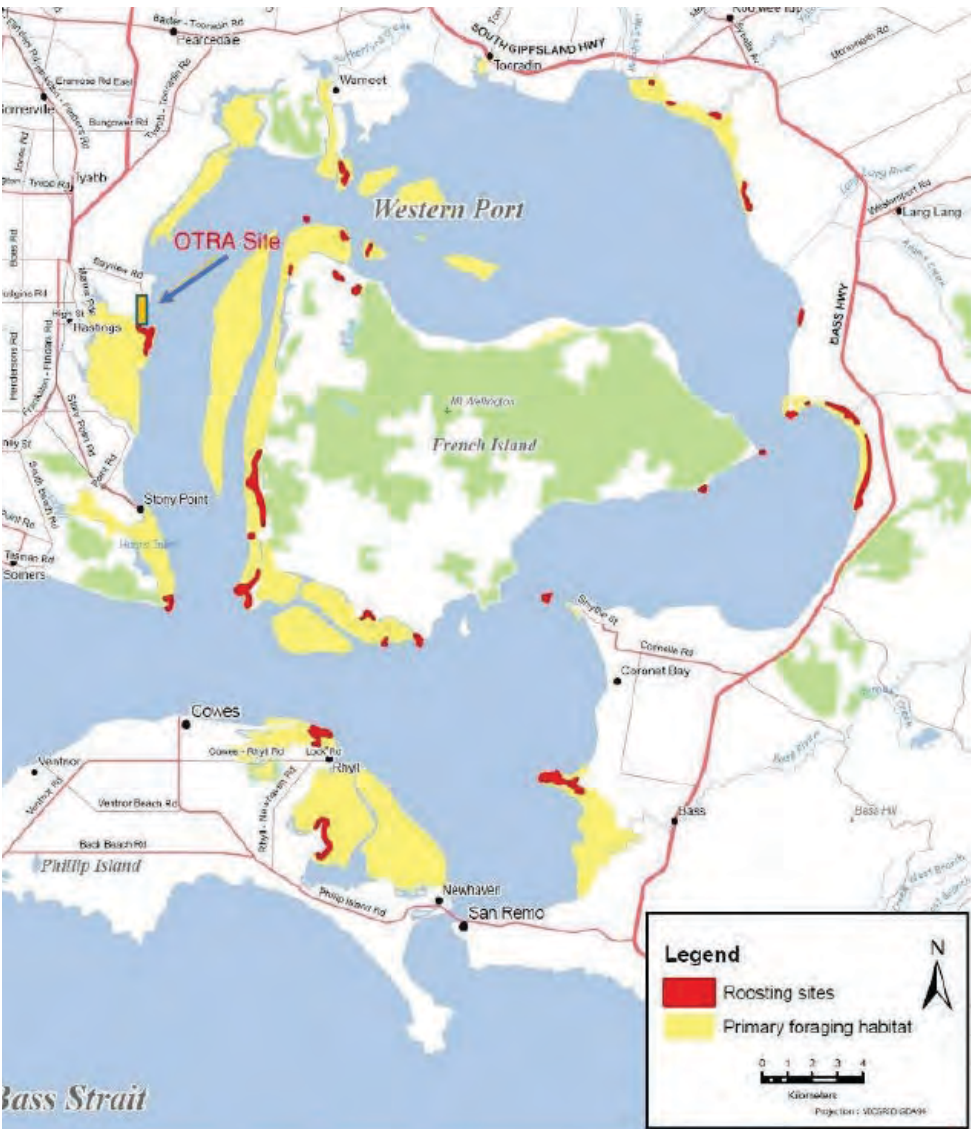
The study said Western Port was the second-largest recreational fishery in Victoria.

"Recreational fishing pressure in Port Phillip and Western Port has replaced or exceeded that from commercial fishing

as Melbourne's population and standard of living has increased," it said.

Studies showed an area of within 2km of the proposed hub was home to 13 marine species, other than birds, listed as threatened under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

And within a 5km radius of the first proposed turbine hub, there are 34 listed waterbird species, including the fairy tern, red-necked stint, and great knot.



The location of shorebird roosting sites and foraging sites within Western Port. Within a 5km radius of the first proposed turbine hub, there are 34 listed waterbird species.

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Deb Leonard launches campaign for Monash

ELECTION

Phillip Island lawyer Deb Leonard officially launched her campaign for the federal seat of Monash on the weekend, at the Phillip Island Boardriders Club.

Around 150 people were on hand to support Deb, who is running her second campaign for the federal seat.

In the 2022 election, Deb picked up 10.98 per cent of the vote, on the back of a “three-month whirlwind campaign”.

In August this year, Voices for Monash (V4M) announced Deb as their candidate at the next election.

This time around, the campaign team has hit the ground running, with more time to prepare and lessons learned from the previous campaign.

In front of the enthusiastic audience at the launch, Deb outlined her reasons for again putting her hand up to run for parliament.

“Whether you live here in Bass Coast, in Warragul, Moe, Foster, or anywhere in between, you deserve better representation than we are getting from party politics,” she said.

“I want my kids to be able to afford a home of their own in this region. I want them to have the same job opportunities that kids in the city have, and I want them to be able to enjoy this beautiful place where we live.”

“Our electorate of Monash deserves more, and our children deserve more.”



Phillip Island lawyer Deb Leonard officially launched her campaign for the federal seat of Monash on the weekend, at the Phillip Island Boardriders Club.

Momentum

With a date yet to be confirmed for the upcoming election, Deb said it could be as early as March 2025, or be held in May.

Either way, months out from the possible date, she said the momentum with her campaign is already as high as her previous attempt.

“We have a fantastic volunteer base already and lots more volunteers signed up on the weekend after the launch,” she said.

“We had people at the launch from all over the electorate – Drouin, Warragul, Foster. This time around, there are a lot more

people willing to travel to get involved with the campaign.”

She believes the increased interest is due in part to a raised awareness of independents in the parliament.

“They are seeing other independents achieving tangible outcomes for their electorates and their integrity as a whole.”

Deb said while a major party had represented Monash, it had been ignored.

“Our roads are in a state of disrepair – while our cars must be roadworthy, many of our roads aren’t car worthy” she said.

“We want our towns and

small businesses to flourish, our families to succeed, our environment to thrive, our young people to prosper in this region.

“I’ll get us the regional investment we deserve.”

She confirmed her support for an aquatic centre on Phillip Island.

“Torquay was promised \$20 million in federal funding for a pool. We’ve been asking for funding for a pool for Phillip Island for decades. The major parties have ignored our requests.”

“As an independent, I can work with either side of politics to get us the federal funding we

deserve.”

She also highlighted her support for improved education opportunities for young people.

“We have a perfectly good TAFE in Wonthaggi that is sitting empty, meanwhile our young people travel to Frankston or Dandenong for tertiary education.”

The campaign plans further events, including a possible launch in Warragul, and fundraisers.

Alongside her team, Deb is conducting regular surveys (both in person and online) to find out the key concerns for the community, with the results published (and regularly updated) on her website.

The survey results will shape her policies, she said.

The campaign currently has a hub in Leongatha, open five days a week, staffed by volunteers, with plans for offices in Warragul and Wonthaggi in the coming months.

In the meantime, Deb said her website and social media will publicise where she will be visiting, so people can come and meet her and discuss their concerns. So far, she’s been incredibly grateful for the support, saying she believed the community wanted a change in the way politics is run.

Deb Leonard is holding a “Meet the Candidate Coffee catch up” at Island Whole Foods in Cowes on Thursday, December 5, from 10am to 11am.

www.debleonard4monash.com.au

Battle for Monash

ELECTION

Current member, and former Liberal Russell Broadbent, now sitting on the cross bench, is yet to confirm if he will run again in the upcoming election.

He holds the seat by a less than three per cent margin.

Mary Aldred was pre-selected as the Liberal candidate for

the seat in November 2023.

Labor has yet to announce a candidate, but Jessica O’Donnell, who stood in the past two elections, last week confirmed on her Facebook page she would not be running again.

Monash is one of 20 seats across the country currently being targeted by Climate 200.

Climate 200 successfully

backed a range of independent candidates in the 2022 election.

Independent Deb Leonard, who launched her campaign on Phillip Island on the weekend (see separate article) said regardless of who she is running against, she is focused on providing the best possible representation for Monash.

Reform

There is currently legislation before the Federal Parliament to reform campaign funding, but

this will not impact the upcoming election.

However it has been criticised for giving an unfair advantage to the Liberal and Labor parties.

Deb Leonard expressed her dismay that the two major parties had combined to push the legislation through before the end of the year.

“I’m all for donation reform and there should be so much more transparency around who is donating to candidates, and that should be declared before people vote.”

“But this bill effectively gives the major parties more power and hinders the ability of newcomers, independents and minor parties, which is really concerning for democracy.”

“It’s not just the contents (of the legislation) that is concerning. The major parties have teamed up to push it through without any scrutiny and debate,” said Deb.

“It’s arrogant to deny the public the right to have a say, and arrogant to think your version can’t be improved.”

“Vintage Crusaders” take to street for gender-violence

COMMUNITY

On Monday morning residents of Bass Coast Health’s residential aged care facility, Griffiths Point Lodge (GPL), took to the streets of San Remo to raise awareness for the rights of women and girls across the world to be free from violence and discrimination.

Around 20 “Vintage Crusaders” donning bright orange vests took part in the walk, and were joined by members of Victoria Police, independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard, family members, and BCH staff.

GPL Diversional Therapist Tash Stapleton said the walk coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

“Our residents are always keen to demonstrate a positive, proactive stance on social issues. The issue of gender-based violence is something that our women and residents agree is a really important cause, and this is our way of

contributing to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence,” Tash said.

Nurse Unit Manager Clare Stinton said GPL residents are always keen to help and support the community as best they can, even though they’re living in aged care.

“They were really keen to get on board and do the walk again this year, get some fundraising going, and just show they are part of the community and like to get out and about and do things,” Claire said.

Deb Leonard, who is running as an independent candidate in the upcoming federal election, said she came to support the “wonderful” residents of GPL as gender-based violence is an issue “very close” to her heart.

“As a lawyer, I’ve worked a long time in family violence, helping people out with intervention orders and family law,” Deb said.

“(Bass Coast) has one of the highest rates of family violence in Australia. And so when I was invited along to walk with the



Around 20 “Vintage Crusaders” donning bright orange vests took part in a walk to end gender-based violence, and were joined by members of Victoria Police, independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard, family members, and BCH staff.

GPL residents, I thought it’s such a good thing they’re doing to raise awareness and get the message out there that gender-based violence is not okay.”

Ninety-five-year-old Doroth Legg was one of the GPL residents who made their way down the San Remo footpath. Doroth said gender-based violence was

an extremely important issue for GPL residents, and looked forward to some well-earned fish-and-chips for lunch when the group arrived at the Co-Op.

Storied issue of Sunset Strip roads resurfaces

ROADS

Sunset Strip resident John Georgio has said he “will not rest” until a more permanent solution is found to address the state of roads in his estate.

John said the potholes on Sunset Drive and surrounding streets, which undergo regular “band-aid” fixes by council are now a danger to the community.

According to the Sunset Strip resident, cars are being forced to drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid the potholes, with pedestrians also at risk of tripping and dust inhalation.

“Some of these holes, they’re absolutely ridiculous,” John said.

“They can’t keep doing this, just filling in (the potholes) and having these band aid fixes over and over again.

“As you’re turning off the main drag, I would say 70 to 80 per cent of people drive on the wrong side of the road to bypass potholes, and then you’ve got oncoming traffic coming the other way. So as a safety issue, that’s a very big point.”

John said he has had meetings with council, including with maintenance workers on-site.

“All the (council) workers are fed up with filling the holes, that’s what

they’ve been telling me,” John said.

“But I’m not going to let this one rest.”

The Sunset Strip resident of 13 years said now the potholes had reached the stage where his neighbour resorted to filling the holes himself.

A long history

In 2014, the Bass Coast Shire Council announced it would be consulting with residents before imposing a special charge scheme to pay for roads and drainage upgrades.

However, in 2016 the Sunset Strip Road and Drainage Upgrade was abandoned by council, after vehement opposition from many residents.

As reported by the Advertiser at the time, a large number of residents were opposed to the scheme from the outset, mainly on the basis they were unable to afford it.

Just 51 Sunset Strip residents said they would be willing or able to contribute to the costs of the work, as opposed to 163 who said they would not. A report presented to council said a high proportion of property owners simply could not afford the estimated \$15,000 average cost for repair works.

John Georgio said he voted in favour of the Sunset Strip Road and Drain-

age Upgrade in 2016. He believes there is now a “strong” sentiment in his estate to have the state of roads addressed.

When asked if John believed residents of Sunset Strip would now be in favour of sealing the roads, John said “yes, most probably”.

“The way the roads are at this particular moment, the awareness has risen.

“There are more people who have bought around here, and more houses being built. Anyone we pass by and speak to about it, they’re all very concerned about the roads and the dust level.”

John said he was informed by council last week, under the revised Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement (URDI) policy adopted in October, if a majority of people on a certain street are in favour of resurfacing a road, council may complete works on that particular road.

John said he is considering starting a petition to have the roads sealed.

Along with council John has also contacted the Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale about the issue.

Last week the Herald Sun visited Sunset Strip, and posted a three-minute video showing John explain the state of Sunset Strip’s potholes.



John Georgio says the potholes in Sunset Drive and surrounding streets, which undergo regular “band-aid” fixes by council, are a danger to the community. He believes there is now a “strong” sentiment in his estate to have the state of roads addressed.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Cr Rochelle Halstead



I am deeply honoured to have been elected Mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council at our first meeting of this new council term. I sincerely thank my fellow councillors for their vote of

confidence, trust and support. The role of Mayor is not about one person, it is about the strength of a united team, working together to achieve the best outcomes for our community and the Bass Coast.

The value of local councils is significant in terms of the assets we manage, the services we provide, and the role we play in the community. When communities vote, they entrust the council with significant powers to make the best decisions for the issues facing us today and the opportunities of the future. While we come to the role of councillor focused on our ward communities, now as Council we will focus our attention on what is the best outcome for Bass Coast Shire.

An important part of our early work is the training and briefings from the organisation; the diverse issues, governance standards, our individual and collective roles and responsibilities and understanding the current financial position and project commitments. We’ve been impressed by the quality of information and briefings officers have provided to date. These briefings will continue into the early new year and provide us with a shared understanding of our work ahead.

As a council we are committed to listening to, and delivering on the needs of all residents, local business and our visitors. While we each bring different perspectives to the conversation, we share a commitment. To make Bass Coast an even better place.

There are challenges ahead of us – our operating fiscal environment, coastal erosion at Inverloch and Silverleaves, our priorities for community assets and infrastructure. These are complex issues, requiring collaboration with government departments and other partners. As May-

or, I can assure you Council’s commitment will be on working towards solutions and securing results on the ground for our community.

I promise to bring enthusiasm, commitment and a drive to deliver results. Your voice matters to me, and I’m here to ensure that all corners of our community are represented. I will advocate to secure the facilities and opportunities we need for the future. The goal for this Council is to leave our community in an even better place for the generations to come.

This weekly Mayor’s Message will be a place for me to share our priorities, plans and actions as well as celebrate successes and community achievements. Council’s website, the Engage Bass Coast website, Facebook, and our community newsletter Coastell are all important sources of information and where you will find out about opportunities for you to get involved in shaping your community.

In my first days as Mayor, I was thrilled to hear that a recent submission to the Victorian Women’s Public Art Program has been shortlisted by the State Government. This Art Program will celebrate the contributions of women across Victoria, and our submission highlights the inspiring achievements of the Wonthaggi Miners Women’s Auxiliary. This courageous group of women played a vital role in supporting their community and advocating for essential services during challenging times. I encourage everyone to cast their vote and help bring this important story to life, six projects will be chosen out of 13 finalists. Voting is open now and closes on December 8. You can vote at: engage.vic.gov.au/womens-public-art-program

The festive season is also bringing joy to Bass Coast, with decorations arriving in our towns. I strongly encourage everyone to support local as you shop, these businesses help keep our community vibrant and strong.

As we embark on this new term, I look forward to working with our councillors, council officers and most importantly, you, the community. Together, as one team, we can achieve extraordinary things for Bass Coast.



Supporting your community

Your local Community Banks of San Remo, Cowes and Grantville recently sponsored Phillip Island & District Historical Society's new display plinths for their museum.

Let your everyday banking do good things. Pop into your friendly local branch today!

San Remo 5678 5833 Cowes 5952 3383
Grantville 5678 8773

 **Bendigo Bank**

Residents demand demolition of carpark, ramp

RHYLL

About 100 “angry” Rhyll residents have called on Bass Coast Shire Council to remove the “ugly” disabled access ramp and parking space, built last year at a cost of \$650,000.

Residents at a community meeting on Saturday voted on four motions, including calling on the shire to improve community consultation, saying residents were blindsided by the car park and ramp, adding that resident control over the hall had been “whittled away”.

Rhyll hall committee member Peter Balfe told the meeting the heritage hall, which was built in 1891, was loved by the community, but had been “dominated and destroyed” by the new ramp and car park.

“The cattle ramp and helipad for disabled parking is functionally a dismal failure,” Peter said, adding the new car park risked car damage and made it more difficult for able bodied people to enter the hall.

“It limits the use of the area for markets, food trucks and Christmas events and architecturally it’s a disgrace ... a blot on the landscape and a waste of ratepayer funds.”

Peter said the shire had initially discussed the new ramp and parking plans with the hall committee, “but what was actually built was never provided to the committee”.

He said the hall committee had been sidelined in new delegation measures introduced recently by the shire, explaining the committee had even lost the power to take hall bookings.

“The committee is not satisfied with the arrangements,” Peter said.

The meeting moved four motions, all of which were unanimously supported, including:

- to advise the shire about resident anger at the “ugly and dysfunctional” disabled access ramp and its “detraction” from the heritage hall, lack of con-



A packed Rhyll hall on the weekend heard the shire had initially discussed the new ramp and parking plans with the hall committee, “but what was actually built was never provided to the committee”.

sultation about the ramp design and loss of parking spaces;

- request the shire remove the ramp and replace it with a direct path to new parking off Lock Road;
- negotiate a memorandum of understanding between the shire and the Rhyll Community Association for future community consultation arrangements; and
- request the shire vary the current delegation to the Rhyll Hall and Reserve Committee to restore the previous 1998 arrangements.

All three Island Ward councillors attended the meeting, promising to take the issue back to council

Shire head of planning Donna Taylor also attended the meeting and told residents she would respond with a written state-

ment explaining the sequence of events that led to the building of the ramp and carpark.

“You may not like it, but it will be the rationale of the decision,” she said, adding the statement would explain why the design did not follow heritage advice.

Burden

The October council meeting heard community hall committees face losing much-needed volunteers under more stringent governance guidelines.

Community Asset Committees (CAC) were established by council in July 2020 as a requirement under the Local Government Act to manage community assets on behalf of council.

There are 10 Bass Coast CACs, including the Newhaven Hall and Rhyll Hall and reserve.



At the meeting, Cr Rochelle Halstead asked shire officers why four community asset committees had resigned in the past year, including the Newhaven Hall and Corinella Hall committees.

An officer responded the reasons were varied, with some having difficulties recruiting volunteers, while others had difficulties with new governance requirements.

“I have concerns about community asset committees because we’ve seen so many resign after changes to the governance around them,” Cr Halstead said.

“I wouldn’t like the changes to governance to impact further on people wishing to volunteer out of it because it’s too regulated and too many hoops they have to jump through.”

Cr Geoff Ellis agreed saying “we need to do whatever we can to encourage people to sign up for those committees” and “we don’t want to overburden them”.

Dog park

The meeting also heard there was a mooted fenced off-leash dog park proposed for the Rhyll park, which residents said was “concerning”.

Donna Taylor told the residents there had been feedback to the current draft dog strategy – which will be released for community feedback in coming months – that Rhyll needed a dog park.

“But there is no plan for that or funding. Consultation will occur,” Donna said.

“Rest assured it’s the early stages.”

San Remo Bridge Pipeline Bracket Renewal Project over three quarters complete.

We would like to thank local businesses, customers and the community for their adaptability with occasional lane closures, mass limits and changes to navigation underneath the bridge over the past five months.

KEY INFORMATION	
Services & access	Water and wastewater services continue to remain unaffected. Pedestrian access over the bridge remains open.
Marine users	Mariners must not travel under scaffold on the bridge.
Road users	The 42.5 tonne vehicle mass limit on the bridge has been eased for certain heavy vehicle types. Heavy vehicle operators are advised to refer to the NHVR National Network Map for access information.
Site compounds	An additional site compound has been established at Newhaven. The San Remo and Newhaven site compounds will remain in place until the project is complete in late January 2025.



PROJECT UPDATE - NOV 24



The Nature Parks is undertaking the beach nourishment at Summerland Beach, which involves adding large quantities of sand to counter erosion due to the impact of rising sea levels and storm surges.

Trying to turn tide on erosion

SUMMERLAND BEACH

Summerland Beach will undergo sand nourishment works to combat the effects of erosion and climate change on the sand dunes.

Phillip Island Nature Parks said the work is designed to safeguard the future access of penguins to their breeding grounds on the Penguin Parade.

Nature Parks has stepped out a coastal process study for the beach, detailing short, medium and long-term initiatives to help build the resilience and sustainability of the coastline.

The study, funded by a \$180,000 grant from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), details changeable pathways for the monitoring and management of the beach, including back-passing sand from the eastern side of Summerland Beach to the viewing stands and revegetation of the dunes.

Penguin Scientist at Phillip Island Nature Parks, Prof Andre Chiaradia said the erosion is particularly concerning between the concrete stands, which is the premium viewing position for most visitors.

“Cross-shore erosion modelling shows that, based on projected rising sea levels, erosion at Summerland Beach is expected to increase the current setback of 19 metres to 31 metres by 2040, and 66 metres by 2100,” Prof Chiaradia said.

“The erosion will get worse over time, so we need to act now to protect Summerland Beach and our treasured Penguin Parade.”

The Nature Parks is now undertaking the beach nourishment, which involves adding large quantities of sand to counter erosion due to the impact of rising sea levels and storms on sandy beaches.

Prof Chiaradia said the Nature Parks had also

partnered with the DEECA Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program to conduct regular drone flights to monitor coastal erosion at the beach.

“The team conducted several flights to assess beach conditions in preparation for the upcoming sand nourishment intervention, and it is hoped this ongoing monitoring, coupled with our adaptive pathway, will guide future interventions and management of the entire Phillip Island coastline, which is under pressure from rising sea levels,” Prof Chiaradia said.

“Any interventions will balance the effects of climate change and rising sea levels alongside the care for the Penguin Parade colony, penguin habitat, patron experience and the need to maintain the natural characteristics of the beach.

“Research shows the sea level will increase over time and back-passing will

be required more regularly.

“At some point, we will need to look towards alternatives, which may include replacing the concrete viewing stands with portable alternatives that can be relocated over time as the shoreline fluctuates, or potentially moving the viewing stands closer to land.

“The adaptation planning pathway for the Penguin Parade viewing stand infrastructure will be vital to the ongoing success of this iconic attraction, which has become a treasured piece of Victoria,” he said.

Phillip Island is home to the largest little penguin colony in the world, and each year thousands of people visit – making it one of the top nature-based attractions in Australia.

Latest data shows visitation to the Penguin Parade has returned to pre-Covid levels, with 709,527 people visiting the Penguin Parade in 2023-24, up from 545,148 in 2022-23.



Westernport Water this month released its annual report, which states water bills increased by 7.3 percent in 2023-24, “largely driven” by a seven percent inflation rate.

Water bills hurt, softened by a little help

COST OF LIVING

Average household water bills will increase from \$1223 to \$1331 for owner occupiers and from \$201 to \$221 for tenants in 2024-25.

Meanwhile, Westernport Water has exceeded its targets for helping those struggling with cost-of-living pressures, according to a government report, handing out a record number of utility relief grants.

Westernport Water this month released its annual report, which states water bills increased by 7.3 per cent in 2023-24, “largely driven” by a seven per cent inflation rate.

“These increases are in line with inflation and changes to the cost of debt and Melbourne Water tariffs,” it said.

The report said 57 per cent of customers believe they get value for money, a drop from 59 per cent the previous year.

Meanwhile, the Essential Services Commission last month released its sixth annual water outcomes report, showing Westernport Water far exceeded its targets for hardship grants and also the number of its customers receiving the government’s utility relief payments.

“Westernport Water performed strongly this year, meeting 17 of its 20 output measure targets,” the ESC report states.

“It addressed shortfalls in performance and identified areas for improvement.

“Westernport Water also had the highest customer rating of all businesses in our customer perception survey for overall satisfaction.”

In 2023-24 there were a record number of utility relief grants to customers totalling \$105,000, while customers accessed \$960,110 of financial assistance through concession rebates and hardship grants.

Have weeds, will spray

ENVIRONMENT

Bass Coast Shire Council has reassured residents that when they are spraying in the local area best practice is followed.

The response follows concerns by a resident, who said she had observed spraying on nature strips, parks and around Seaberry Creek Park, on the corner of Wonga Lane and Seagrove Way, Cowes.

“The men who spray always wear masks and nearly always put up signs in the area to warn that spraying is going on in that street,” the resident said, adding the spraying often left a pink stain.

“That’s how toxic this substance must be that people without masks need to be warned to stay away.”

The resident said the island was a conservation area for wildlife and spraying could impact animal health.

A council spokesperson said spraying activities occurred across the shire for

a range of purposes and they followed “best practice and on label instructions at all times”.

“Staff performing these works are highly trained, have the appropriate plant and equipment and only perform when conditions are suitable,” the spokesperson said.

“During the spraying works signage is displayed either on the vehicle or on the ground to inform members of the public.

“Council constantly reviews this work activity to ensure it complies with all requirements applicable. This includes the signage requirements for after spraying activities where appropriate.”

A former spray operator said the chemical was most likely Roundup, which has a half-life of five days in the environment.

“It is carcinogenic but not if the operator follows correct safety procedures,” the former operator said, explaining the pink dye shows what areas have been sprayed.

Roadkill risks on the rise

WILDLIFE

Drivers have been urged to slow down to avoid roadkill, with dry conditions leading to many wildlife species crossing roads to find water.

The Phillip Island Facebook noticeboard had a post this month of long-necked turtles being hit on the Rhyll Road.

“We picked one up from the middle of the road as it didn’t seem to be moving very well,” wrote a local driver.

“We took it to the hospital out at the Penguin Parade, but on the way back to Rhyll we found that a few had sadly been run over.

“That road is a wildlife corridor and we should take care every day. You can move them off the road or roadside in the area you find them to hopefully keep them safe.”

According to the Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS), the Rhyll Swamp is normally home to turtles, “but the water level is down this year, so the turtles will be on

the move more than usual”.

A PICS spokesperson said conditions were “dry, dry, dry and there are lots of species crossing our roads to find water”.

“People are reporting lots of unusual wildlife activity as a result.”

Phillip Island is well below average November rainfall, with 38.8mm falling at the Rhyll weather station so far this month. November’s average is 60mm.

Bass Coast police say they take deliberate animal cruelty seriously, with anyone committing an offence facing fines up to \$40,000, or 12 months’ imprisonment.

Police say witnesses should obtain as much detail about the offender or vehicle as possible.

Anyone who witnesses a deliberate act should call Triple Zero (000) or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Even if not deliberate and an accident, if a driver runs over or sees an injured animal they should stop, make sure the animal is dead and



The Rhyll Swamp is normally home to turtles, “but the water level is down this year, so the turtles will be on the move more than usual”, with conservationists issuing a warning to motorists.

move it off the road, or call for help.

For all wildlife on Phillip Island call Wildlife Victoria 03 8400 7300.

Sick or injured wildlife can be taken to the Koala Conservation Reserve between 10am – 4pm daily or to the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre from 4pm until closing time (about two hours after sunset) or to a local vet before 5.30pm.

penguins.org.au/conservation/wildlife-response/

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CFA urges increased bushfire safety awareness

A recent CFA survey revealed that 45 per cent of Victorians living in bushfire-prone areas are not concerned about bushfire safety despite being at increased risk.

People in these areas were also waiting too long to leave in the event of a fire, putting themselves and their families in jeopardy.

CFA's annual Bushfire Community Survey also revealed that 22 per cent of residents did not interact with CFA within the last six months because they felt they did not require more information or were unaware of CFA's programs and resources.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Hefernan expressed concern over these statistics, urging all residents in fire-risk areas to take their safety more seriously and begin preparation now.

"Many Victorians may not be aware they're living in a bushfire-prone area. It's vital that Victorians know their level of risk and plan accordingly," Jason said.

"CFA has resources available to help people prepare, but it's vital the community seeks out this information before it's too late."

Alarming, a further 30 per cent of respondents would delay leaving during a bushfire event, with 14 per cent planning to assess the situation and 16 per cent intending to wait for instructions from emergency services. Twelve per cent stated they would stay and defend their property.

"These are dangerous decisions," Jason said.

"Bushfires can spread unpredictably and quickly. Waiting to assess the situation or hoping for instructions from emergency services can result in tragedy. The safest option is always to leave early.

"While CFA is well-prepared to respond to emergencies, it's crucial to remember that bushfire safety is a shared responsibility.

"We can't guarantee that every home will be reached in time during a bushfire. Every resident needs to have their own bushfire survival plan and take proactive measures to protect their property."

Know your risk

Some areas on Phillip Island are identified as having a higher bushfire risk and have bushfire management overlays. You can check if your property has an overlay at mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/

Bass Coast Shire Council has emergency resources on its website: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/emergency-information/prepare/resources

The CFA said people should know where to find the best information to stay safe and never rely on just one source of information.

Victoria's integrated warning system includes the Vic Emer-



The CFA is urging people to inform themselves of bushfire risks in their area, including developing a Bushfire Survival Plan.

gency website, app and social media channels, VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226, emergency broadcasters including ABC radio, Sky News TV, commercial radio and select community radio stations.

Warnings are issued when an incident is occurring, and you need to act. Make sure you understand the three levels of warnings and additional messages such as 'Evacuate Now':

- Advice – An incident is occurring or has occurred. Access information and monitor conditions.
- Warning (Watch & Act) – An emergency is developing nearby. Conditions are chang-

ing and you need to act now to protect yourself and your family.

- Emergency Warning – You are in imminent danger and need to act now.
- Evacuation – An evacuation is recommended, or procedures are in place to evacuate.

To prepare for the bushfire season, CFA is asking people to take the following actions:

- Move your winter woodpile away from the house or sheds.
- Prune tree branches so they are not overhanging the roof or touching walls.
- Clear your gutters.
- Keep grass shorter than 10cm.
- Remove leaves and twigs from

around your property.

- Test anything that is part of your fire plan such as sprinklers, pumps, and generators.
- Check that your home and contents insurance is current and includes a level of cover in line with current building standards and regulations.
- If you are burning off to remove green waste, register your burn-off online at Fire Permits Victoria at www.firepermits.vic.gov.au, or call ESTA on 1800 688 511.
- Make sure your household has a Bushfire Survival Plan. Find out how at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfireplan.

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**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE,
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The best way to keep you and your loved ones safe this fire season, is to make sure you have a fire plan.



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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

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The debutantes and their partners, Back (from left): Meika White, Gianni Caffieri, Jazzy Mau, Max Kelsey, Liv Cummin, Max Taylor, Finn O'Brien, Cooper Walton, James Harmen, Bailey Hennessy, Tilly McHenna, Jack Briggs, Kate Thornborrow and Memphis Trevena. Front: Sophie Gurr, Marnie Banks, Chris and Jodie Ross (PIFNC), Mia Fostin and Maya Huther.

Deb ball a brilliant success

The San Remo Recreation Centre was transformed into a beautiful ball room, for the Phillip Island Football and Netball Club debutante ball held on Saturday night, Nine debutantes and their partners were presented to PIFNC president Chris Ross and his wife

Jodie, in front of over 250 guests. The night was a huge success, with a fun filled evening of dancing with family and friends following the presentation. Trainers were Shane Gray and Heather Power, from Pakenham Dance Studio.



Deb partner Bailey Hennessy (back) with from left his mum Lisa Hennessy, grandmother Carol Grant, Julie Crane and his mate Charlie Wilson (back right).



Both sets of grandparents Eva and John Bakaimis, and Noemi and Daniel Caffieri, along with cousin Enia Temas, watched on proudly as deb partner Gianni Caffieri took to the dance floor.



From left Debutante Maya Huther with young ball guests Kate Briggs, Maya Womersley, Olivia Holmes, Millie Russo and Ellie Hennessy.



Watching on as 11 debutantes and their partners were presented to PIFNC president Chris Ross and his wife Jodie, were family members and friends including Sharon Aylett, Allison Trevena, Scarlett Trevena, Lucy Aylett, Marnie Ferguson, Laura Cininas, Kim Jordan and Holli Aylett.



Proud deb parents Amber White, Bianca Fostin, Bee White, and grandparent Cheryl White, at the ball.



Enjoying festivities at the PIFNC debutante ball held at the San Remo Recreation Centre on Saturday night are back (from left) Ollie Duggan, Oscar Dean, Archie Ross, Jack Kennedy, Will Peppard, Max Taylor and Jack Briggs. Front (from left) Paddy Dwyer and Jasper Cashman.



Proud parents Ireme Mesic and Dave Kelsey (centre) with their son Max Kelsey (back) a deb partner on the night; and friends Kath and Nick Maher.



From left Charlie Ross, Maddie Taylor and Lexie Walton enjoyed watching their siblings and cousins in the PIFNC deb set.

Support still needed for Change for Sam

FAMILY VIOLENCE

The annual 16 Days of Activism campaign, led by Respect Victoria, runs from November 25 to December 10, with events taking place across Bass Coast and the country.

Here on Phillip Island, Change for Sam, the registered charity set up after Samantha Fraser was murdered by her estranged husband in 2018, works year round to make a change.

Change for Sam has developed an all-encompassing program, driven by the community, that seeks to prevent and address family violence.

Change for Sam's latest venture is distributing monitored safety devices – a small pendant that can be clipped on to a bag or worn around the neck.

When pressed, an alert is sent to a security company who can then hear and record what is occurring and can notify emergency services. The cost of each device is approximately \$1300 for 12 months (this includes the 24/7 monitoring).

Lija Matthews from Change for Sam said the group has developed links with family violence agencies in locations across Victoria, to have the devices distributed to those that most need them.

Change for Sam initially partnered locally with the Salvation Army and that partnership led to connections in Latrobe Valley and Bayside Peninsula.

Most recently, family violence support group WRISC which covers central Victoria, has partnered with Change for Sam to distribute the devices.

To fund the program, in the past year the group successfully applied for grants from Phillip Island RSL, Westernport Water, Bass Coast Community Foundation and Frankston and Bass Coast councils, raising close to \$25,000.

Lija said the Phillip Island Rotary group has been amazingly supportive and Roseud/Rye Rotary have funded a safety device for their area.

To date, almost 100 devices have been purchased and dis-



Lija Matthews from Change for Sam said the group has developed links with family violence agencies in locations across Victoria, to have the monitored safety devices distributed to those that most need them.

tributed and Lija is focused on spreading awareness of the program.

"I'm trying to make people aware we are providing the devices to the agencies so they are there in real time and can be used immediately."

Normally, accessing a device can involve an assessment and then application process, which could take weeks, at a time when someone was particularly vulnerable.

Ongoing program

The monitored safety devices are an ongoing program and Change for Sam is looking at the different ways it can fund the operation.

It is currently selling personal safety alarms for \$20 through its website, as a fundraiser.

Lija is also asking the community to continue to donate to support the vital work of Change for Sam.

"This has to be a long-running program and it needs funding.

"We will continue to apply for grants, but there's no guarantee we'll be successful. Grant opportunities are few and far between and they don't provide recurring funding.

"A lot of community grants also won't cover the purchase of products, so that is another difficulty."

She hopes the community will continue to support Change for Sam and suggested local clubs and businesses wanting to help could organise lunches or morning teas to raise money and awareness.

She also urged any organisations or clubs who would like to see the monitored safety devices distributed in their area to contact Change for Sam.

"If you're here on Phillip Island holidaying and want to help in your local area, contact us and we will try and find an agency to work with," Lija said.

Donate at: www.changeforsam.com.au/donate



Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale (left) celebrating Bass Coast Health's award for Medium Health Service of the Year, with the BCH team and Acting CEO Shaun Brooks (right).

Bass Coast Health Service of the Year

HEALTH

Bass Coast Health (BCH) was named the Premier's Medium Health Service of the Year at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards in Melbourne on November 19.

Acting CEO Shaun Brooks said the award was a fabulous achievement for the health service and the community, and a credit to BCH staff and volunteers for their tireless commitment to providing first-class public healthcare.

"The judges noted that while we provide quality care to our community, what sets us apart was our strong community partnerships – our desire to involve our community in our activities and to work with them to ensure we're providing the services they need where possible and bring them along the journey to achieving our service growth aspirations," he said.

"Our partnerships are vital, and there is no doubt we could not have achieved what we have if we didn't enjoy the exceptional collaboration and support that we do."

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale congratulated BCH on its achievement.

"Bass Coast Health is so deserving of this recognition as it reflects the dedication, care and professionalism of our entire healthcare team who work tirelessly to provide high quality of care and support to our community.

"Whether it is in the ED, on the wards, at the front desk, behind the scenes, hospital in the home, residential care, specialist care like cancer and dialysis, the smile squad in our schools and the many other services and programs they offer."

She said along with the community, she was so grateful for the service and commitment of the BCH team to keeping every-

one healthy.

She also thanked the many volunteers, businesses and community groups that supported the health service.

Judges

BCH's strong organisational purpose and commitment to stay the course during a high demand and high growth period was also a key feature for how the award was judged.

The award acknowledged BCH:

- enhanced quality and safety and reduced risks to patients through various patient-centred care initiatives
- strengthened the capacity of individuals, families and communities through effective prevention and health promotion
- had safety and quality of care as highest priority and excellent care was recognised via a series of external accreditation reviews undertaken during the last 12-18 months
- staff showed versatility in response to the major storms, outages, and multiple infrastructure and system upgrades
- improved the work environment, grew staff numbers, and maintained the culture where the "We Care" values guide them to optimise wellbeing of consumers and staff; deliver equitable care; lead with compassion; be accountable for what they do; respect each other's differences; and aim for excellence.

The other finalists in the Medium Health Service of the Year category, were Bairnsdale Regional Health Service and Echuca Regional Health.

BCH was also a finalist in the category of 'Partnering in healthcare', recognising its clinical collaborative partnership with Alfred Health. That section was won by Austin Health and Swan Hill District Health.

New member for Newhaven College Board

EDUCATION

Newhaven College has welcomed new board member Damien McKenna, a principal lawyer of Duffy & Simon.

"Our College Board comprises members of our local community who each bring high-level professional skills and valuable perspectives", says Chair, David Jobe, welcoming Mr McKenna.

"It is a privilege to be involved with such a group of high-calibre individuals who give so generously of their time."

Mr Jobe said Mr McKenna had provided advice over the years for numerous independent schools, focusing on compliance, contractual and policy advice and guiding them through various legal challenges.

He is also involved in the lo-



Newhaven College Board of Directors 2024. From left: Damien McKenna, Rebecca Naughtin, Tony Corr (Principal), Megan White (Deputy Chair), Steve Morris, David Jobe (Chair), Kylie Holmes, Tracey Costello, Alan Norton (Director of Business). Absent: Graham MacGregor.

cal community, providing ongoing legal advice to local sporting clubs and not-for-profit organisations, and participating on

several committees.

Mr McKenna has one child attending the College and another set to enrol in 2025.



At the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards presentation evening were, from left, BCH Board Chair Ian Thompson; Executive Director of Quality, Health Information, Technology and Support Services Emilia Pezzi; Safer Care Victoria CEO Louise McKinlay; Department of Health Secretary Professor Euan Wallace; BCH Executive Director of People and Culture, and Acute Clinical Services Christine Henderson; and BCH Acting CEO Shaun Brooks.

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Students Elisabeth, Charlie, Amelie and Grace lead the weekly lunchtime dance club, open to all junior students.

Inclusive and creative

EDUCATION

At Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cowes, Year Six students are taking the lead in fostering inclusivity and creativity by organising and running lunchtime activities for junior students.

This initiative, aimed at encouraging leadership and collaboration, has been a resounding success, with one particular group of students making a lasting impact.

While all Year Six students have the chance to plan and lead activities for their Foundation buddies, one group of passionate individuals decided to go above and beyond. Their idea? A weekly lunchtime dance club open to all junior students.

The dance club has quickly become a highlight of the school week, attracting at least 15 enthusiastic participants each session. Students gather to learn and practice routines in a fun and supportive environment. The program reached a significant milestone when the dance club performed at a whole-school assembly, delighting parents, teachers, and peers alike with their energy and enthusiasm.

The success of this program is a testament to the power of student voice and initiative. By taking ownership of the project, these Year Six leaders have not only created a space for creativity and fun but have also demonstrated the importance of inclusivity and teamwork.

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Coordinated by the Grossard Court Lifestyle team, the Oaks Day event was a memorable one for residents.

Oaks Day at Grossard Court

AGED CARE

Residents at Grossard Court enjoyed all the fun of the Spring Racing Carnival with a special Oaks Day celebration.

Staff at Grossard Court Aged Care Facility created a special event, "Oaks Day Lunch in the Bird Cage".

Residents were sent an invitation to enjoy lunch in the bird cage.

"Prior to the lunch we asked our wonderful care team to assist residents with their choice of clothing to wear for the big event," said Lifestyle Coordinator Kerrie Barr.

Each resident was then able to choose from an array of hats and fascinators to complement their outfits for the day.

"This event is finely orchestrated by the lifestyle team of myself and Ange Bone," Kerrie said.

"Together we worked consistently with management, care teams and kitchen prior to the event, ensuring it came together to create a very special, memorable day for all our residents."



Enjoying the Oaks Day lunch (from left): Sue Higgs, Anne Lloyd, Vera Dunn, Connie Liprino, Will Vella and Barbara Weston.

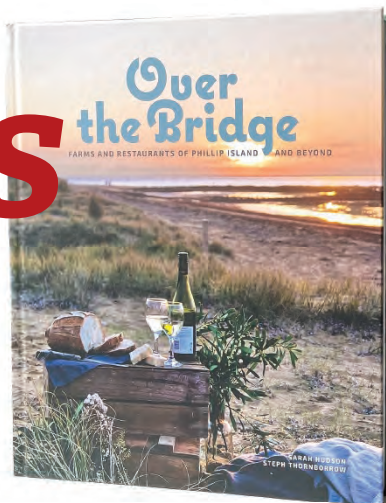


Pat Rayner and Marj Beaton looking glamorous at the Oaks Day lunch at Grossard Court. More photos at pisra.com.au

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Grief, love and a walk for change

FUNDRAISING

Kirri Harvey lost her beloved husband Andrew to pancreatic cancer on July 15, a little over four months ago.

Now the Phillip Island local is holding a walk on Saturday December 14 to raise awareness and crucial funds for the disease – which claims as many lives as breast and prostate cancer each year but only receives a fraction of the funding.

Kirri said Andrew's diagnosis came completely unexpectedly, with pancreatic cancer notoriously challenging to detect as initial symptoms are often vague and non-specific.

"Andrew was fine, healthy, he wasn't feeling sick at all. It was just one day his skin and his eyes went yellow," Kirri said.

The pair initially thought it may have been a problem with gallstones, but after seeing a doctor, Kirri and Andrew were told it was stage-four pancreatic cancer. The disease had already spread to Andrew's liver.

Initially hopeful, after trying several bouts of chemotherapy Kirri said the side effects on Andrew were "just horrible". In April, a top-specialist told Andrew and Kirri the best course of action may be "to go and enjoy what life you have left".

The pair flew to Tasmania for a two-week holiday shortly thereafter, only to be cut short as Andrew's health deteriorated further. By July, Andrew had died.

A small chair

Before Andrew's pancreatic cancer diagnosis, the husband and wife used to enjoy riding pushbikes around the island. Often, they would ride to the Wooli Tavern for lunch and around Oswin-Roberts Reserve.

With chemotherapy taking a devastating toll on Andrew, the pair stopped riding bikes and instead would walk a short loop around the Oswin-Roberts Reserve.

Kirri explained there is a small chair in the reserve where the couple would stop to rest, just sitting and talking while Andrew got his breath back.

Before he died, Andrew told Kirri to "make sure you come and sit here and talk to me".

"So I do, every day," Kirri said. "I write KH loves AH in the dirt there every day."

On one walk through the reserve, there was a 20 cent piece on the ground next to the chair where Kirri and her husband would sit. Kirri picked up the coin.

"I said, hey darl, if you're looking out for me and you're with me, I'm gonna hide this behind the chair leg, and I'm going to put it heads up.

"If you're here with me, when I come back tomorrow, I want you to flip it and make the coin tails up."

When Kirri returned the next day, the coin was flipped.

Walk for Andrew

Pancreatic cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in the

country, with roughly 3500-4000 Australians dying from the disease each year. Pancreatic cancer is also known for its low survival rates, with many patients, such as Andrew, being diagnosed at an advanced stage.

Eight out of 10 people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer will lose their life within a year, and only 12.5 per cent survive five years or more.

The walk Kirri has organised in Andrew's memory is hosted in support of PanKind, the Australian Pancreatic Cancer Foundation.

PanKind is the only charity in Australia dedicated exclusively to pancreatic cancer, and aims to triple survival rates by 2030 through cutting-edge research focused on early detection and the development of new treatments.

Kirri said pancreatic cancer is as prominent as breast cancer and prostate cancer, but there are currently no screenings available for the disease.

Kirri implored the community to come down to the Cowes RSL on December 14 to join her walk in memory of Andrew and to raise money for the devastating "silent killer".

"Andrew was just so beautiful," Kirri said.

"Even when he was struggling he was just trying to make things easy for me. He even left a blue folder with step-by-step notes and paperwork for what I had to do when he died, because he knew I'd be a mess.

"I would just love as many people to join the walk and donate. Maybe they'll be able to get some sort of screening done so people don't have to go through this."

The event, Put Your Foot Down, is a 4km family and dog-friendly walk along Thompson Avenue that starts and finishes at the Phillip Island RSL, Cowes, on Saturday December 14.

The walk will commence at 11am, with participants encouraged to arrive at 10.30am. Participants are also encouraged to wear purple, in memory of Andrew and others who have died from pancreatic cancer.

To register for the walk, please go to: putyourfootdown.org.au/philip-island or scan the QR code



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Kirri Harvey with her husband Andrew, who died earlier this year of pancreatic cancer. She is holding a fundraising walk on December 14 to raise awareness and crucial funds for the disease.



PUT YOUR FOOT DOWN

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Recipients of the Phillip Island Jazz encouragement awards (from left): Thomas O'Mahony, Dylan Cleary (Bass Coast College), Jazmin Turton and Georgia Sanders (Newhaven College) (seated) Jill Boyce (Secretary Phillip Island Jazz) and Robin Blackman (Musical Director Phillip Island Jazz).

Phillip Island Jazz supports students

MUSIC

Phillip Island Jazz is proud to acknowledge the commitment of music students from the junior and senior schools of Bass Coast College and Newhaven College through its annual awards program.

Phillip Island Jazz is committed long term to sponsoring these encouragement awards.

A spokesperson for Phillip Island Jazz said it was a pleasure to have Cr Ron Bauer present to at the All Day Jazz Extravaganza Event, but to also present the awards on behalf of Phillip Island Jazz.

Local students embarked on a brief presentation which was a display of their

musical talents to date. The occasion presented an opportunity for the students to perform before a large audience, which will become a focal point of future Jazz Extravaganza Days.

Students receiving the encouragement awards were Thomas O'Mahony who plays alto saxophone, Dylan Cleary who played the euphonium and guitar, Georgia Sanders who plays drums and Jazmin Turton, a vocalist.

The individuals were nominated by the directors from music programs at both Newhaven and Bass Coast Colleges.

The Committee of Phillip Island Jazz wishes all students much success in the future as they follow their choice of music.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Thank you

Now that everything has calmed down following the council elections, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who supported me in various ways during my campaign. I truly acknowledge your efforts and appreciate your belief in me. Although I did not attain the desired outcome, I remain hopeful that the individuals elected throughout the Shire will facilitate the necessary change. Congratulations to those of you who did get in, and to the other candidates, we all showed courage and passion.

Numerous issues surfaced during this campaign, particularly emphasising the community's wish to reclaim their 'power' in decision-making processes and beyond. As a community we must be involved in Council meetings.

Wouldn't it be great to see some meetings at Berninneit?

If you have concerns, put questions to council. We need to be pro-active as community members to help make the change.

Throughout this journey, I uncovered a renewed sense of enthusiasm and passion within myself. This experience highlights the crucial role of 'people'!

The ties of community and human connection are profoundly significant for each individual. Everyone desires to be heard and accepted, and that is what truly matters. Let's come together again and keep in mind the importance of unity. Thank you.

Marnie Chadwick, Cowes

Same old same old

A new CEO but more of the same old, same old. Pathetic answers in Bass Coast Council Question Time. There were six different and specific questions asked regarding Cowes Cultural Centre's passivhaus accreditation. All six questions were lumped together and answered with a single, unspecific and generic response which failed to adequately address a single one of the public questions.

CEO Box's responses were a failure and (he was) unwilling to provide information regarding costs, on-going works, expected

or acceptable timeline expectations and financial considerations. If you find this difficult to believe watch it for yourself on YouTube. Mr Box joined Bass Coast Shire Council in 2020 and prior to his appointment as CEO his areas of responsibility included Communications, Advocacy and Engagement, Economic Development, Customer and Visitor Experience.

Despite Mr Box's public promises upon assuming the role of CEO, his current communication and engagement is far from satisfactory and sadly follows closely in the obfuscated standard set by the previous CEO.

Whilst Berninneit continues to win awards in the 12 months since opening, it remains a failure as far as living up to contractual specifications. I hope none of the awards were based on criteria which included the non-existent passivhaus certification. We, the ratepayers who paid for Berninneit, deserve honest, open and factually specific answers to our questions. By not addressing specific public questions factually and directly, it appears Council is hoping ratepayers will tire of asking questions. Or will council come out and say we are not answering anymore questions on this subject as they have done previously to avoid scrutiny? Stay tuned.

Philip Davy, Surf Beach

Gendered Violence

On Monday, I had the privilege of joining a walk with some of the residents of Griffiths Point Lodge, to raise money for and awareness of gendered violence in our society.

Wearing orange vests, the residents made their way along Marine Parade from IGA to the fishing co-op and back, determined to do what they can to help end such a scourge in our society.

Afterwards, I went home and cried – both for the women and children who have died, been maimed and traumatised by gendered violence and for the pluck of senior citizens who, in their declining years, remain engaged with the world, demanding action.

Jane Ross, San Remo



Winner of the Best In Show, Susan Hall receives her award from judge Herman Pekel.

Landcare art prize

ENVIRONMENT

The inaugural Landcare Art Prize showcased the best of the best in art in many forms as a major fund raiser for the Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund.

Bass Coast Landcare Network Public Fund plan to use the funds raised by the art show in programs that will educate young people, encourage responsible care for our environment, and planting programs to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The opening night saw a record crowd fill the Kernot Community Hall to hear the judge Herman Pekel, who battled holiday traffic to come from Melbourne for the event, make his selection from almost 250 paintings, sculptures and photographs entered by artists from around the state.

And the winners were: Best in Show – Susan Hall; Best Landscape Warren

Thompson Award – Leigh Rust; Best Oil/Acrylic – Greer Arnott; Best Watercolour – Maureen Loughran; Best Pastel – Julie Lundgren Coulter; Best Other Medium – Ellen Doherty; Photography award – Penny Chadwick.

The students awards went to Maya Ribeiro-McKinnon for secondary and Greta Bateman for work by a primary student.

The Landcare Network Public Fund thanked their sponsors who made the event possible;

"We would also like to thank Bass Coast Shire Council for providing the Quick Response Grant without which we could not have got the art show up and running," a spokesperson said.

"And we appreciate the following for providing the raffle prizes; Silverwater Resort, Peninsula Hot Springs, J&A Automotive, and Healthguard First Aid Training."

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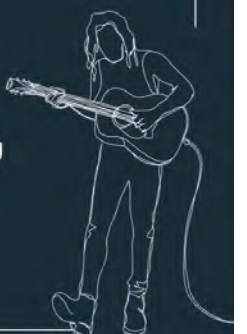
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Sharks battle in hot conditions

From page 24

Kai Wilkinson was up and he watched on as Max was somehow caught down leg side for 17, the Island boys were getting nervous with the score at 4/59.

George joined Kai and the pair survived the rest of the day.

The Island finished on 4/63 with 70 overs still to go next week in order to chase down the remaining runs.

C2

After much ado, the C2 Sharks got their season underway against Glen Alvie at Rhyll on Saturday November 23.

Captain Cleary won the toss and sent the visitors out into the heat to field.

Francis and Niven opened the batting, getting the Sharks off to a steady start.

Francis was caught for 10 after a bowling change which brought Drew Fusinato to the crease.

The pair kept the scoreboard ticking over until the partnership was broken when Niven was caught for 32.

The Skipper joined Fusinato and got the team to drinks break (2/90).

Fusinato and Cleary put on a 52-run partnership, which was only broken when Drew was stumped in an attempt to launch one into the stratosphere.

Seb DiFalco – on his senior debut – joined the Skipper, pushing the score to 137 as Cleary was caught for 48.

Seb went on to make a superb 18, along with Sachin at 19 with some late hitting, and the speedsters



C2's Seb DiFalco holding the ball after getting 2/2 and 18 runs in his senior debut, with Wade Paterson and his son Roy who played their first senior game together.

Jax Marshall and Sonny McMillan ended up not out (score at 184).

Much to the disgust of Glen Alvie, the cool weather change rolled in early just as the Sharks walked out to field.

Cleary and Parry both took early catches off Sonny's bowling to remove the openers.

Sachin got a wicket when keeper Paterson took a catch, Drew got a runout and the visitors were deep in the mire at 4/35.

Sonny got the prize wicket of Cooper Stew-

art – caught by Francis – Jax Marshall sent the stumps flying out of the ground leaving Glen Alvie slumped on 6/47.

Niven took a catch to give Francis a wicket before Glen Alvie dug in.

Seb DiFalco was introduced into the attack and his first ever senior scalp was to remove the Glen Alvie Skipper.

Bailey Parry took a catch to give Drew 1/1 off his one over and DiFalco clean bowled the last batter to have 2/2 off his 3/4 overs.

A great team effort and win by the Sharks.

PHILLIP ISLAND	1/14	L.CLELAND 5*
WONTHAGGI	173	Z.BROWN 4/48/17 M.ROYAL 3/38/14
PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB	VS	WONTHAGGI
SAT 23RD NOV WONTHAGGI REC RESERVE		
IGA SAN REMO		

PHILLIP ISLAND	4/63	T.ASURUMUNI 25 M.ARCO 17
INVERLOCH	98	J.ALLAN 5/41/16.5 G.McCAUSLAND 4/14/11
PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB	VS	INVERLOCH
SAT 23RD NOV NEWHAVEN REC		
Bowens THE BUILDERS CHOICE		

PHILLIP ISLAND	7/183	M.CLEARY 48 S.NIVEN 32 D.FUSINATO 23
GLEN ALVIE	96	S.McMILLAN 3/22/7 S.DIFALCO 2/2/3.4
PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB	VS	GLEN ALVIE
SAT 23RD NOV RHYLL CG		
HP fire		

PHILLIP ISLAND	9/193	A.WILLIAMS 61* J.WILLIAMS 28 G.McCAUSLAND 27 H.ARCO 25
U17S		
PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB	VS	LEONATHA
SAT 23RD NOV SCORPION PARK		
Haynes THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN PAINT		

PHILLIP ISLAND	7/69	C.CHAMBERS 18 K.PATTON 12*
FOSTER	7/77	J.MARSHALL 3/3/3 R.HUGHES 2/13/3 D.DICKSON 1/3/2 S.WILLIAMS 1/3/1
PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB	VS	FOSTER
SAT 23RD NOV RHYLL CG		
ADVERTISER		



PIARC's Island Magic returned to the Phillip Island Circuit over the weekend. Putting on a stellar performance in the Victorian Sports Cars, Michael Kokkinos and Courtney Prince piloted their Audi R8 LMS GT3 to first place during Race 1 and Race 2. Photo: Alia Schonberg.

Island puts on magic

MOTORSPORT

Phillip Island Auto Racing Club's (PIARC) Island Magic made its 34th annual return to the Phillip Island Circuit last weekend.

A plethora of categories including the iconic

Porsche 944s, Formula Vee, Sports Sedans, Improved Production, Formula Ford, Formula Ford 1600, Sports Cars, Formula Open and Historic Touring Cars all took to the track in the sweltering heat for Friday's private practice and respective

race sessions across Saturday and Sunday.

The event closes out the 2024 motorsport competition season with racing returning in February 2025.

Island Magic results can be viewed at racing.natsoft.com.au.

Honouring sporting alumni of Bass Coast College

HONOUR WALL

At 11am on December 11, Bass Coast College (BCC) is set to establish its long-awaited sporting Alumni Honour Wall and celebrate the achievements of its first sporting inductees.

The event will take place at the College's Wonthaggi Campus, McKenzie Street Gymnasium.

Significant work on the project was undertaken by the late Dennis Vague and so, importantly the event also enables the College to acknowledge Dennis, his vital role in the project and his 40-year associa-

tion with the College.

Guest speakers on the day will include former Victorian Cricket Captain, Darren Berry and Dennis' son, and current Melbourne Cricket Club Coach, Ben Vague.

Several of the inductees will also be in attendance.

The sporting alumni comprise of ex-students from Wonthaggi Technical School, Wonthaggi High School, Wonthaggi Secondary College and Bass Coast College, who have gone on to compete at the highest level of their respective sport.

Dennis was synony-

mous with the College and he is sorely missed.

"This event enables us to celebrate students and reflect on Dennis' significant contribution to the College, his renowned establishment of positive relationships with students and staff, and his love of community and sport," a college spokesperson said.

Members of the Bass Coast community both past and present are welcome to attend but please register by contacting the College via email (alumni@basscoast.vic.edu.au) or calling on 03 5611 4000 by Friday December 6.

SGB goes the distance in busy weekend

SWIMMING

It was a busy weekend for several South Gippsland Bass Swim Club (SGB) members, chasing times for the upcoming State Championships.

Friday night found several competitors distance swimming with many attending meets for just one race – 400m, 800m or 1500m at locations including MSAC and Warragul.

Impressive times were put on show for many swimmers achieving their personal bests.

Saturday then saw a small group of 13 swimmers and Coach Caiden attend GSI 7 (hosted by Sale Swimming Club).

Hot humid and windy conditions made for a warm outdoor meet, but



Molly enjoys the cool down as she races at Sale.

the swimmers gave it their best in the trying conditions.

Several others raced at events across Melbourne, trying to achieve times.

Additionally, Ryan and Matthew – two junior squad members – completed a triathlon in Melbourne on Sunday November 23.

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Lachie Eastwood, victorious in the Junior Males (U18) category. Photo: Andrew Lindsey (@bunpix).



PIBC Cadet, Max Anagnostou. Photo: Craig Anderson (@craigando2).

Hot comp for PIBC's Aggregate 2

SURFING

The Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) surfing talent and community spirit were on full display on Saturday November 23, as PIBC hosted its Aggregate 2 competition at Cape Woolamai surf beach in hot conditions.

Headed up by club Captain Ash Easton and Head Judge Adrian Sorati, Sorati led the charge with meticulous oversight and valuable judging tips shared with participants ahead of the event.

His guidelines ensured a level playing field and a seamless judging process throughout the day.

The 'judge a heat if you surf a heat' rule was rigorously upheld, emphasizing community collaboration and reinforcing the club's grassroots ethos.

Printed judging notes in the tent further supported both experienced and first-time judges in delivering accurate and fair results. The competition showcased the diverse talent within PIBC, from rising young surfers

to seasoned veterans, while highlighting the club's unique ability to blend professionalism with community connection.

Cape Woolamai's stunning waves provided the perfect backdrop for a day of thrilling heats and lively beachside camaraderie.

PIBC extends its gratitude to all participants, judges and volunteers who made the Aggregate 2 a success, including photographers Peter Fogarty and Craig Anderson.

Along with sponsors: San Remo Butchers for the raffle meat tray, Quiksilver, Island Surfboards and Archi Sign Makers for the prizes.

With more events on the horizon for the 2024/25 season, the club looks forward to continuing its tradition of celebrating surfing excellence and fostering a sense of belonging among Phillip Island's surfing community.

Results

Cadet Females (U16): 1st Scarlett Rennie, 2nd Savannah Bennett, 3rd Phoenix Stedman.

Cadet Males (U16): 1st Arch Rayner, 2nd Dusty James Rayner, 3rd Lennox Archibald.

Junior Females (U18): 1st Abbey Clarke, 2nd Jade Hilford.

Junior Males (U18): 1st Lachie Eastwood, 2nd Jarrah Cicero, 3rd Toby Davies.

Senior Men's (28-45): 1st Ash Easton, 2nd Dan Laing, 3rd Tim Anagnostou.

Senior Women's (35+): 1st Danielle Baylis, 2nd Zoe Adams, 3rd Natalie Van Der Heyden.

Masters (45-60): 1st Adrian Maier, 2nd Peter Stephen, 3rd James Steiner.

Legends (60+): 1st Brian Tancheff, 2nd Mal Gregson, 3rd Dean Langford.

Open Women: 1st Sarah Seuren, 2nd Scarlett Rennie, 3rd Sonia Seuren.

Open Men: 1st Carl Wright, 2nd Harry De Roth, 3rd Dylan Thomas James.

Awards

Best Turn: Eddie Maier.
Best Tube: Tyler Duell.

Angling comp reels in winners

FISHING

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) hosted its fifth angling competition of the 2024/25 season on November 23 and 24.

Anglers were also competing for the prestigious Bill Wallis Trophy, awarded for the highest aggregate of Bill Wallis units for up to two eligible species.

Despite the hot and humid weather with periods of strong winds on Saturday and showers on Sunday morning, the event saw a solid turnout of anglers eager to participate.

A total of 50 fish, two sharks, and one calamari were weighed in over the weekend.

Eligible species caught over the weekend included snapper, King George whiting, gummy shark, flathead and trevally.

RPIAC continues to offer complimentary memberships to children aged 16 and under, fostering a future generation passionate about sustainable and responsible angling.

In the Squidgies Mixed Bag Points competition (for anglers aged up to nine) Byron and Harley Griffin each caught one fish worth 20 points, earning them runner-up spots.

Saige Nicolaci won the competition by catching four fish worth a total of 65 points.

The Junior Points and Junior Weight competitions (for anglers aged 10 to 16) were won by Jack Wright, who caught a King George whiting worth 770 points (275 grams) and a snapper weighing 915 grams.

The Senior Points competitions were won by Kate Jinnette, who caught a flathead worth 1584 points (880 grams) and Sam Linklater with a chunky King George whiting worth 1820 points (650 grams).

In the Senior Weight competitions, Debra Orr and Martin Xuereb were winners with impressive snappers tipping the scales at 3040 grams and 6790 grams, respectively.

The shark competition was won by Sam Orr whose clean gummy shark weighed 4910 grams.

James Nicolaci won the squid/



Debra Orr won the Senior Female Weight competition with a snapper weighing 3040 grams.

cuttlefish competition with a southern calamari weighing 1470 grams.

Chris Leonardos took the Secret Weight prize with a snapper weighing 3685 grams, closest to the secret weight of 3614 grams.

The Bill Wallis Trophy was awarded to Martin Xuereb, who had the highest aggregate of 6790 Bill Wallis units.

Martin's name will be etched onto the trophy, leaving a lasting impression for future generations of RPIAC anglers.

This competition also marked the close of the Heaviest Snapper competition, kindly sponsored by Trevor Thompson, which ran during the RPIAC angling competitions in October and November. At the close of the angling competition on Sunday at 5pm, the heaviest snapper weighing 6865 grams was caught by James Nicolaci who claimed the \$500 prize.

Only four, first to catch, members-only competition weekend incentives for extraordinary catches remain for members in this angling competition season.

The nominated species for a first-to-catch \$1000 prize, for fish equal to or exceeding the nominated weight are: snapper (10 kg), gummy shark (20 kg), mullet (25 kg) and kingfish (25 kg).

RPIAC anglers eagerly await the next competition on the weekend of December 7 and 8.

For further details on upcoming events and club activities visit www.rpiac.com



Congratulations to last week's winners on 36 points: Tony Heppleston (S), Peter Thorley (L) and Stephen Muhi (3) (not shown).



Runners up: Trevor Loughridge (3), Cheryl Floyd (L), Vern Elliott (S) and Ron Hughes (2).

Midweek Bowls at Loch

BOWLS

Forty-six midweek bowlers were welcomed to the Loch and District Bowls Club last week.

Players were welcomed by Trevor, John and Pauline signed players on and Peter prepared teams. Once teams were called and battles commenced, it was evident the weather was headed

towards an extremely warm day. Despite no wrong bias bowls, the RCH tin continues to grow.

The green was in excellent condition and Trevor looked after drinks for players.

Congratulations to last week's winners on 36 points: Tony Heppleston (S), Peter Thorley (L) and Stephen Muhi (3).

Also on 36 points, but just

being pipped at the post on a countback: Trevor Loughridge (3), Cheryl Floyd (L), Vern Elliott (S) and Ron Hughes (2).

Best one game winner on 19 points: Mark Hanrahan (S), Raff Merante (3) and Tony Morris (L).

The club thanks Peter, Pauline and John, the volunteers for their game preparations – including Trevor, John, David and Laurie.

This week the club will be meeting at Lang Lang. Arrive on site by 10am.



Martin Xuereb (left) won the Senior Male Heaviest Weight competition with a snapper which weighed 6790 grams. He was presented with the Bill Wallis Trophy by RPIAC President Albert Abram.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 27 NOV	THU 28 NOV	FRI 29 NOV	SAT 30 NOV	SUN 1 DEC	MON 2 DEC	TUE 3 DEC
LOW 3:04 am 1.24 m	LOW 4:08 am 1.36 m	LOW 5:20 am 1.42 m	HIGH 12:52 am 2.56 m	HIGH 1:45 am 2.73 m	HIGH 2:31 am 2.89 m	HIGH 3:16 am 3.00 m
HIGH 9:30 am 2.42 m	HIGH 10:17 am 2.33 m	HIGH 11:13 am 2.28 m	LOW 6:29 am 1.42 m	LOW 7:27 am 1.36 m	LOW 8:16 am 1.28 m	LOW 9:00 am 1.20 m
LOW 3:43 pm 0.98 m	LOW 4:37 pm 0.93 m	LOW 5:33 pm 0.86 m	HIGH 12:12 pm 2.28 m	HIGH 1:08 pm 2.32 m	HIGH 2:00 pm 2.39 m	HIGH 2:47 pm 2.46 m
HIGH 10:45 pm 2.30 m	HIGH 11:52 pm 2.41 m		LOW 6:28 pm 0.75 m	LOW 7:16 pm 0.64 m	LOW 8:01 pm 0.54 m	LOW 8:45 pm 0.46 m

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Olivia shines at Australian Showjumping Championships

EQUESTRIAN

The Australian Showjumping Championships – the pinnacle event of the nation's equestrian calendar – took place this year at the stunning Willinga Park, located on the New South Wales coast near Batemans Bay.

Spanning six days of intense competition, the event brought together the best showjumping talent from across the country.

Thirteen-year-old Olivia Curtain from Phillip Island is a rising star in Australian showjumping.

She entered the competition with two of her mares, both of whom contested the Children's Championship for riders aged 14 and under.

This highly competitive event spans three challenging days, with each day seeing increased course heights to 1.15m and varying competition formats.

The pressure to maintain consistency and composure over these demanding days is immense.

Over 50 top competitors from all over Australia vied for a spot in the final, with the last day reserved for the top 16 riders based on their performances throughout the week.

Olivia secured a place

for both of her mares in the final, with her eight-year-old Warmblood, Yalambi's Luciana, qualifying in 14th place and her 11-year-old Warmblood, Ngahiwi Lady Blu, securing an impressive 4th place.

The format of the final required competitors to carry forward any faults from the previous days.

The top two riders started the final with zero faults, while those in third and fourth positions carried four and five faults, respectively, with the remaining competitors starting with higher fault counts.

The pressure was on, as riders needed to navigate the final course without adding additional faults and within the allocated time.

Olivia and Ngahiwi Lady Blu rose to the occasion, securing a podium finish with a remarkable third place.

This achievement was particularly sweet for Olivia, who had only formed a partnership with Ngahiwi Lady Blu in April of this year.

In just eight months, the pair had already claimed several major titles and now stood among the nation's elite in third place at the Australian Championships.



Olivia Curtain took out a stellar third place at the Australian Showjumping Championships in New South Wales recently.

Olivia expressed her gratitude for the support that has been key to her success, including her family, friends and coaching team.

She also extended thanks to her personal

sponsors: Prydes Easifeed, Equissage, Melbourne Brick, and Geohex as well as Lever Equestrian and long-time mentors Phil and Frida for their invaluable guidance.

Now after a demanding

competition season, Olivia and her horses are enjoying a well-earned break before the 2025 season kicks off in January at Boneo Park.

From there, she plans to take on more prestigious

events across Australia and potentially overseas.

With her talent, dedication and solid support network, Olivia is certainly one to watch in the coming years of competitive showjumping.

Club championship awarded Results from the green

TENNIS

The Phillip Island Tennis Club held its 2024 Junior and Senior Club Championships on Sunday November 17.

Around 100 people attended to watch the juniors from 9am and the seniors, which was scheduled to start at 1pm. High gusting winds and a few showers caused a break in proceedings around the scheduled seniors start time, but this enabled attendees to enjoy some great food and conversation before the weather cleared enough to allow play to start.

With start of play delayed, matches continued through to 8.30pm but the late finish did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd who continued to cheer and applaud some great tennis.

Unfortunately the Ladies Singles final had to be deferred, and this will be played at a later date.

Many thanks to Club Coach Paul Rowbottom (Innovative Tennis Management) for looking after the draw and trophies, to everyone who contributed to a fabulous lunch, and to those who participated



Junior Open Singles winner, Jacob Stephens with club coach Paul Rowbottom.

and came from near and far to watch and enjoy a great day for our tennis loving community.

Results

Junior Open Singles: Winner Jacob Stephens, Runner-up Eli Bowker.

Junior Singles: Winner Jack Mannix, Runner-up Ava Mannix.

Junior Doubles: Winners Sam Phillips and Nick Phillips, Runners-up Jack Mannix and Ava Mannix.

Men's A Grade Singles: Winner Petros Goutziomitos, Runner-up Michael Stephens.

Men's B Grade Singles:



Eli Bowker, Junior Open Singles runner up, with Club Coach Paul Rowbottom.

Winner Terry Ahern, Runner-up Shane Dougherty. **Ladies Singles:** Winner to be decided between Edith Kaminsky and Amanda Walker.

Men's Doubles: Winners David Rooks and Geoff Clements, Runners-up Andrew Phillips and Michael Stephens.

Ladies Doubles: Winners Edith Kaminsky and Amanda Walker, Runners-up Fabiola Gonzales Smith and Hayley Dicker.

Mixed Doubles: Winners Geoff Clements and Edith Kaminsky, Runners-up Paul Smeele and Marcelle Monet.

GOLF

Tuesday, November 19

Monthly Medal 18H Stroke
Overall winner: Phil Nicholson (27) with 69 pts.

A Grade winner: Rowan Wales (12) with 72 pts C/B.

B Grade winner: Stephen Mack (14) with 70 pts C/B.

C Grade winner: Phil Nicholson (27) with 69 pts. BDL: 75 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Brent Scott, 7th Jack Huther, 10th Peter Ablett, 17th Stephen Mack.

Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Vic Mitchell (28) with 82 pts from Len Fenton (22) on 17 pts C/B.

BDL: 17 pts C/B.

Wednesday, November 20

Women's Monthly Medal 18H Stroke

Overall winner: Dawn Andrews (18) with 75 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Dawn Andrews (18) with 75 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Rhonda Boyd (21) with 74 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Judith Lawrence (30) with 71 pts.

BDL: 76 pts C/B.

Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Rosemary Bailey (40) with 19 pts C/B from Glenda Longshaw (30) on 19 pts.

BDL: 16 pts C/B.

Thursday, November 21

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Syd Hadley (14) with 38 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: Brady Ross (4) with 37 pts.

B Grade winner: Syd Hadley (14) with 38 pts C/B.

C Grade winner: Kel Gebert (27) with 38 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Barry Grazules, 7th Rob Wood, 10th Oliver Duggan, 17th Dave Egan.

Open 9H Stableford

Winner: Ian Samuel (26) with 20 pts C/B from Richie Nettleton (28) with 20 pts C/B.

BDL: 16 pts.

Saturday, November 23

Men's 18H Stroke

Championship (Round 2)

Red Rocks results

GOLF

Saturday, November 23

Stableford: 1st Ian Murray (18) with 39 pts, 2nd Craig Rumble (13) with 38 pts, 3rd Steve Wurt (5) with 37 pts.

Overall winner: David Nicoll (16) with 68 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: Chris Ross (10) with 68 pts C/B.

B Grade winner: David Nicoll (16) with 68 pts.

C Grade winner: Carl Russo (29) with 68 pts.

BDL: 75 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Lucas Piera, 7th Gab Caffieri, 10th Lucas Saric, 17th Mark Hill.

Women's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Mary Smith (41) with 40 pts from Janice Baker (31) on 36 pts.

BDL: 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 7th and 17th Jan Daff, 10th Barb Haydon.

Open 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Sherl Smith (22) with 21 pts from Simon Furniss (11) on 18 pts.

Sunday, November 24

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Kohen Beaumont (27) with 43 pts from Brandon Lloyd (21) on 35 pts.

BDL: 32 pts.



A Grade's Jobe Williams picked up a wicket in his opening spell in the game against Wonthaggi. Photo: Peter Cleeland.

Sharks battle in hot conditions

CRICKET

A Grade

Travelling over to Wonthaggi for a Grand Final rematch, the Island Sharks knew they were in for a fight.

After being asked to field in the heat and with a few key personnel out, a potential long day was on the cards.

However, the young Sharks had different ideas.

Max Royal got things underway with an early wicket and was well supported by Jobe Williams who picked up a wicket in his opening spell to have Wonthaggi 2 for 17 after 12 overs.

Brothers Tom and Tim Niven maintained the tight bowling before the introduction of spin king Zac Brown immediately had impact, drawing Wonthaggi opener Mitch Thomas, out of his crease and Lochie Cleeland made no mistake to complete the stumping.

Brown's marathon spell continued as he picked up the dangerous Ryan Thomas, caught handsomely by Williams in the deep.

At tea Wonthaggi were 4 for 80 and the match was evenly poised.

Straight after the break Royal struck again, finding the edge of the dangerous Wonthaggi Captain.

As the wicket flattened out and the heat set in, the potential for a middle order assault looked ominous.

However Tim Niven, with the help of his brother, got a key breakthrough.

Shortly after Kurt Lane was able to break the defences of the Wonthaggi version of Rahul Dravid, Stew Beaumont who faced a mammoth 126 for his 44.

Royal came back into the attack with great effect and picked up another wicket and the reintroduction of Brown had immediate impact, taking the last two wickets in two balls.

Wonthaggi finished all out for 173.

Zac Brown (4 for 48 off 17) and Max Royal (3 for 38 off 14) were the pick of the bowlers. They were well supported by the other five bowlers and the remainder of the side in the field.

A tricky six over period ensued. Lochie Cleeland opened with Connor Epifano, who was fresh off his 130 in B Grade last week.

The boys were handling everything thrown at them before Epifano was unluckily dismissed on the second last ball.

The Sharks head into next week at 1 for 14, needing a further 159 for victory.

A great day for the developing side and a big opportunity this week to solidify top spot.

B1

The B1 Sharks welcomed Inverloch to Newhaven for their Round 6 two-day clash. A hot day had both teams praying their Skipper would win the toss.

Unfortunately for the home side, Inverloch called correctly and gleefully chose to bat.

The Sharks opened with young gun George McCausland who was returning from injury.

On the first ball of the day he drew the edge from Inverloch skipper Debono's bat, only for his old man Daniel to drop the catch at second slip.

In confusion the batsmen attempted a single, only for first slip fieldsman Kai Wilkinson to throw down the stumps leading the unfortunate Inverloch batsmen, Butcher run out for a Diamond Duck.

In his last ball of the over, George had Cole trapped in front LBW and it was 2 for 0.

Harry Arceo started from the other end and the pair were giving Inverloch nothing. It wasn't long before George had another LBW decision and Inverloch were reeling at 3 for 7.

Things did not improve as George cleaned bowled the next batsmen for a duck, and when he struck yet again in his next over, Inverloch's top order was in ruins (the score 5/9 off just nine overs).

The next over Inverloch skipper Debono pinged a hamstring and with a small delay in play, Inverloch regrouped and steadied somewhat, putting away any short balls on offer.

A double bowling change produced a result when Tarryn Allan picked up a wicket after a good catch from Max Arceo (Inverloch 6/44 off 17).

Tarryn was at it again, soon after picking up Debono as he dragged a ball back onto

his stumps.

By drinks break, the Sharks were in control (Inverloch 7/59 off 25).

Taz grabbed another just before lunch. Both teams were glad for the break in the hot conditions, however Inverloch were in trouble with the scoreboard showing 8/79 off 34 overs.

The Inverloch tailenders refused to give in after lunch, working hard to keep the Sharks at bay.

It was only a matter of time before Tarryn picked up his fourth and then fifth wicket for the day to dismiss Inverloch for 98.

Taz finished up taking 5/41/17 and George with the unbelievable figures of 4/14/11.

With 21 overs left to bat on the day for the Island, Inverloch were blessed with a cool change that dropped the temperature by at least 10 degrees as they went out to bowl.

The Island openers, Max Arceo and Tharidu made a bright start looking untroubled until T mistimed one to be out, caught for 25 (Sharks 1/35 off 10 overs).

Tom Blackwell was in next, he barely got started when a ball rebounded off his defences and rolled onto the stumps, the bails were tipping off and it was 2/40.

Dave Womersley joined Max and the pair were again travelling well when Dave was trapped in front LBW and the Sharks were 3/55 with three overs remaining for the day.

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