

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

\$1.80 Incl. GST



We'll sandbag the beach, say residents

Steve Lapin has written to the shire and the government seeking permission for sandbagging the Silverleaves' foreshore and is waiting a response.

EROSION

Silverleaves' residents say they are willing to pay for – and carry out the work – to sandbag the foreshore to stop accelerating erosion.

The residents, who are most seriously impacted by erosion east of the new rock wall, say in the face of delayed action by the state government and Bass Coast Shire, they are willing to sandbag to shore up their properties and the remaining foreshore vegetation.

As reported in the Advertiser last week, residents along Woodlands Avenue say they are "bitterly disappointed" and "fearful" for properties and human safety after the government and shire have yet to deliver a promised erosion study this year.

The erosion – long believed to be worst in winter – has continued unabated through spring, with a domino of mature trees falling onto the sand since October and the foreshore cliffs eroding as much as 17 metres in some places.

In July the shire, Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) representatives agreed to undertake

a coastal processes study over the next few months, to examine options to stop erosion.

The study has yet to eventuate, but DEECA last week said it should start "before the end of the year".

Given the delay, residents say even in the "best case scenario" it will be early 2025 before any action to stop erosion is budgeted and tendered.

Resident Steve Lapin said until action is taken to stop the erosion, neighbours were prepared to buy sandbags and shovel sand to protect their property.

"One of my neighbours has been able to source good quality sandbags for \$8 each, when they normally cost \$80," Steve says.

"The length needed would be about 100 metres, so we estimate we'd need about 200.

"We could do it in the next fortnight, but hopefully this year as an effective interim management method."

Steve said he had written to the shire and DEECA seeking permission for the sandbagging and was waiting a response.

Resident Natalie Gray said under the planning scheme it was not feasible for private citizens to undertake works on public land.

"Planning policy says the

shire has a responsibility to manage coastal erosion. Owners are not able to defend their properties because the Bass Coast planning scheme specifically discourages the construction of barriers," said Natalie, who is a planner.

"But if we keep losing foreshore at the rate we are, there will be no houses and land here in five years to protect, and maybe much sooner."

Natalie said she had recently spoken to residents in towns along the NSW east coast and in one instance there were "huge textile sandbags that cost \$500,000 that had worked well".

"There are good solutions but someone has to take responsibility and drive it.

"We don't know what the solutions are.

"It's unfair for the government and shire to create so much uncertainty."

Response

A DEECA spokesperson said any works would need to be informed by the coastal processes study, which was the department's "priority" and would allow informed decisions before any other interventions.

"In partnership with Bass

Coast Shire, we will engage with the community's proposal to erect a sandbag wall to better understand how it might mitigate the immediate risk of coastal erosion," the spokesperson said, adding the community would be kept up to date with any changes.

Groynes

Erosion along Silverleaves beach would not be as serious if government had not neglected a series of historic groynes, according to the residents.

They have dug out old photos they say prove Silverleaves was protected by shore protection structures erected decades ago.

"Silverleaves was developed and settled in the 1950s. At about the same time the government put in groynes to stabilise the coast," said resident Natalie Gray.

"It was because of those that settlement was viable. But they have not been maintained, even though it's government's responsibility to maintain them for foreshore integrity."

Cowes East Foreshore Preventive Action Group (CEFPAG) chair Ken Hailey said the onus was on DEECA to protect public assets, such as groynes.

"They have a responsibility to protect those assets, which have

been neglected," he said.

Support

Ken said he "fully supported" the Woodlands Avenue residents push to sandbag the foreshore.

"Because I see regularly how bad erosion has become in Silverleaves," Ken said.

"But we must remember the whole of Silverleaves beach was impacted by winter's incredibly bad storms, so we need to look at the beach as a whole, not just one section."

He said CEFPAG had been working with DEECA, the shire and Ms Crugnale to "make sure there are timely actions on Silverleaves beach before next winter", through the coastal processes study.


"I'm very happy to see DEECA last week said the study would start before the end of the year," Ken said.

"If next winter is as bad as last winter it will be a disaster. The costs to fix a disaster are far higher than taking action in advance."

Shop Local
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Phillip Island Fire Brigade Captain Lino Drazzi in the new turn-out room with volunteer uniforms.



The old fire station on Settlement Road “was too tight for the doors (of trucks) to open in the station so the vehicles had to be driven out so members could get in.” “But now, here, we can enter and exit the truck while in the station.”

Cowes new fire station to be unveiled to the community

CFA

The community is invited to the official opening of the new \$2.2 million Cowes fire station on Sunday, December 9.

The station, at 110 Ventnor Road, was finished mid-year, and with CFA mem-

bers now settled in, the station will be officially opened at 11am, with the community day running from midday to 4pm.

The Advertiser took a tour of the new facility last week with Captain Lino Drazzi describing the new build as a “dream”, making the work of the 57 fire-fighting volunteers (45 operational) considerably easier.

“Everything is under one roof, members love it,” Lino said.

“Everything is safer, cleaner and more efficient.”

The CFA’s old site on Settlement Road, where they had been based since the mid-1970s, was “outdated” and run-down, with volunteers calling for a new station for many years.

The old site had two tankers in the old ambulance station and a pumper and forward command vehicle in the CFA station.

“So we effectively had two stations even though it was one site,” Lino said.

“We had our gear on the west side and members would then run over to the other site.

“It was too tight for the doors to open in the station so the vehicles had to be driven out so members could get in.

“But now, here, we can enter and exit the truck while in the station.

“It makes a hell of a difference, espe-

cially in winter.”

The four-motor room bays even have extraction fans for the diesel engines.

And the efficiency continues throughout the new station.

The previous station had a kitchen that was simply a sink with a hot plate, but now the station has a complete kitchen with double the space, as well as a freezer purchased from community donations.

A new meeting room is double the size of the previous station and already the crew have held training courses on site.

“Before we had to go to other stations to take part in a lot of courses, but now we have an appropriate facility with all the mod cons.”

There are offices for brigade team management, and two turn-out rooms to hang members’ CFA firefighting uniforms “where before we had a make-shift area in the old ambulance station”.

The station is surrounded by concrete which means equipment is easier to maintain and clean, while there is also an outdoor four-bay shed, and inside a drying room, laundry and breathing apparatus room.

Fundraising

The station features a wall dedicated to all the local residents and groups who have donated to the CFA’s buy-a-brick

fundraiser, which totalled \$14,500 to the new build’s fixtures and fittings.

Lino – who took over from former Captain Gary Grace, who retired from the top job in July after a decade in the role – said fundraising would continue through their regular sausage sizzles, and events such as last weekend’s inaugural Santa photos.

He said funds were still needed for items such as an ultralight four-wheel drive with pump and tank, as well as equipment to fight electric battery fires.

The 6400sqm land was purchased in 2018 by the state government, with a planning permit in 2020 detailing a four-vehicle 728sqm building, covering about 10 per cent of the site.

The permit said the fire station was expected to receive about 200 call outs per year.

The station faced numerous delays, expected to be complete by spring 2021.

On social media, local residents have previously expressed concern the new site was a flood risk, with the concrete entry on the same level as the road, with no guttering.

But a CFA spokesman earlier this year said they had worked with VicRoads and the shire “to implement both short- and long-term resolutions to the flooding issue at the Phillip Island Station site”.

Russell Broadbent MP

Federal Member for Monash

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Cowes police numbers boosted

SCHOOLIES

Senior Sergeant Brent Muir has reported a quiet start to Schoolies on Phillip Island, describing the first weekend as very quiet, and positive, although speculating that the weather may have played a part in keeping people indoors.

Snr Sgt Muir estimated up to 500 school leavers were on the island over the weekend, and said so far the behaviour has been excellent.

He said about 30 extra police officers will be stationed at Cowes police station, which will operate 24 hours during the peak of schoolies' celebrations in the next fortnight.

Festivities officially kicking on the weekend (November 25), with extra police – including from highway patrol, the public order response team and offender management division – working at Cowes “around the clock”.

Snr Sgt Muir said based on current accommodation bookings, he believed numbers could be down on previous years, but added if local residents were impacted by issues such as Airbnb noise or fireworks, they should report it to Triple-0.

“We want schoolies to come and have a great time and be safe too, and for the community not to be affected or disrupted too much.”

Snr Sgt Muir said police would be targeting fireworks

and fires on the beach, drug and alcohol use and on the roads speed, mobile phone use and wearing of seatbelts.

“We want to get through the message that water and alcohol don't mix,” Snr Sgt Muir said.

“Some beaches here can be treacherous, and we've had a few cliff and water rescues and helicopter call outs lately.

“We want schoolies to come and have a good time, but be safe. If they drink, don't go in the water.”

Schoolies celebrations run until December 10.

Teams from Dance Wize and Red Frogs are also on the island.

Dance Wize volunteers offer peer-based alcohol and other drugs harm reduction programs.

The Red Frogs team “act as the eyes and ears in accommodation venues and out on the streets, providing a positive peer presence to school leavers”.

Snr Sgt Muir said police, ambulance, Dance Wize, Red Frogs and Bass Coast Shire Council would all be present at the jetty triangle through the schoolies period, and thanked these groups for the excellent support given by them to police.

Anyone concerned about schoolies behaviour or wanting to report a problem can also call the police assistance line (131 444) or the Cowes police station (03 5952 2037).



Senior Sergeant Brent Muir from Bass Coast police.

Kim's to reopen, after the fire

BUSINESS

Nearly three years after fire gutted a Cowes bakery, the much-loved business will reopen in a leased main street shop in December.

In March 2021, a blaze destroyed Kim's Bakehouse and Riley's Fish n' Chips on Thompson Avenue, between the Esplanade and Chapel Street.

About 60 firefighters from 17 fire-fighting appliances – some as far as Oakleigh in Melbourne – battled the flames for two hours.

Now a new look Kim's will open in early to mid-December, according to owner Luke Tran, whose father Kim started the business 32 years ago.

“We're not sure exactly when it will open yet as we need some trades to finish, but it will be before Christmas,” Luke said.

Kim's will open in a leased shop on the opposite side of Thompson Avenue, and without the bakery.

Instead, Luke and his wife Kiew, and for the first time their 16-year-old daughter Leela, will make favourites banh mi, desserts, fish and chips and poke bowls, with a “bit of Vietnamese



In March 2021, a blaze destroyed Kim's bakery in Cowes.

food coming next year”.

Rebuild

Luke said the family still intended to rebuild on the site of their old bakery at 28-32 Thompson Avenue.

Last year they had plans approved by Bass Coast Shire for a single-storey bakery and shops on the 553sqm site.

“But we were advised to maximise the space by our architect and the shire.

“It's a good position and so we plan to build up more. We couldn't wait for the revised plans and rebuild so we decided to open in a leased shop.”

Luke said he had been learning various building trades in the intervening period and was looking forward to cooking again.

“I've been travelling to Melbourne a lot but I'd rather be on the island. I've missed the bakery.”



POLICE BRIEFS



Police said a truck crashed in Coghlan Road after the driver swerved to avoid wildlife on the road.

Coghlan Road crash

Police said a crash on Coghlan Road around 9.50am on Tuesday, November 21 was caused when the driver swerved to avoid wildlife on the road.

While the 10 tonne Hino truck successfully avoided the animal, it then hit a low hanging branch, which caused the truck to leave the road and crash into a tree.

The driver of the truck was flown to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

“The driver has done nothing wrong and there were no drugs or alcohol involved,” police stated.

Fatal E-bike

Police are investigating a fatal E-bike crash in San Remo on Sunday, November 5.

It's understood a 40-year-old Officer man left a residence on Laurett Avenue, San Remo, to ride the E-bike to a nearby petrol station on Phillip Island Road about 10.30pm.

The man returned home a short time later and informed family he had crashed the bike.

The man soon became unresponsive and was treated by paramedics and taken to hospital where he later died.

Anyone who witnessed the incident, has dashcam/CCTV footage or any other information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or www.crimestoppers.com.au.

Drug bust

In a joint operation, uniform police from Cowes assisted by the Morwell Divisional Response Unit, seized drugs and a number of illegal firearms from a property in McKenzie Road, Cowes. A male in his 40s was charged and bailed to appear in court in February.

Got change? Make a change!

The San Remo, Cowes and Grantville Community Banks have pledged \$200k to the Oncology department of the Phillip Island Community Hospital, when it opens in 2024. There will be donations buckets for the Community Hospital - Oncology at this years Carols on Dec 12th. So if you've got change, you can make a change and help build our hospital!

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According to Bass Coast Shire Council, data from the parking sensors installed at the Cowes Transit Centre show an average monthly occupancy rate of around 25 per cent.

Parking concerns overstated

Concerns raised about lack of available parking space at the Cowes Transit Centre appear to be overstated.

Several Cowes residents have recently complained about the lack of parking, saying the car park was so full of workers from adjacent sites there was no room for the public, or V-Line passengers.

One claimed staff from the health hub and construction workers at the community hospital site were filling the car park.

Sensor parking was installed in the 123 bays at the transit centre in December last year.

Since then, Bass Coast Shire Council said data from the sensors show the average monthly occupancy rate was generally around 25 per cent.

The highest rate recorded

was 93 per cent occupancy on September 26 this year.

Demand on the car park is expected to increase with the opening of Berninnet, the new cultural centre, which also houses a theatre, cinema, art gallery, library and function spaces.

Bass Coast Health confirmed alternative parking arrangements had been made for its staff during the construction of the new community hospital, which is due to be completed late in 2024.

"All hospital construction workers are parking at the football oval as agreed, and staff are parking at both the football oval, and at the transit centre, or adopting other arrangements such as walking and riding to work, or car-pooling," a BCH spokesperson said.

Public purse pays \$29m for MotoGP

CIRCUIT

The state government forked out \$29.5 million to run last year's Phillip Island MotoGP, which was more than double the pre-Covid subsidy.

The Australian Grand Prix Corporation's (AGPC) 2023 annual report showed the event, which ran October 14-16, 2022, had a total revenue of \$14.1 million and expenditure of \$41.4 million.

The report states the actual event had "government investment" of \$27.3 million, with the total cost to government for the financial year at the Phillip Island circuit \$29.5 million.

The additional \$2.2 million was spent on track safety upgrades at the circuit.

In the lead up to this year's MotoGP in October, the Advertiser reported that upgrades at the track – designed to improve safety for riders and spectators – began in April and took about six weeks to complete.

The report shows catering at last year's event cost \$2.3 million, marketing was \$1.5 million and event management and staging was \$17.7 million.

The event received \$1.7 million in sponsorship.

New AGPC chairman Martin Pakula said in the report the MotoGP was "a brilliant showcase of the beautiful scenery and hospitality of our state" and "put Phillip Island and Victoria on a global stage".

Covid

In comparison, in 2019 – the last time the MotoGP ran at Phillip Island before the pandemic – the government subsidy was \$13.3 million, which is less than half last year's \$29.5 million subsidy.

In 2018 the public paid \$12.7 million to host the MotoGP on the island.

However, even during COVID-19 – when no event took place – government subsidised the event (\$7.7 million in 2020 and \$8.5 million in 2021).

"No events took place during the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years," the report states.

"The costs incurred relate to fixed contractual costs and other costs incurred in preparing and planning for the event prior to its cancellation."

Total revenue in 2019 was \$11.2 million, with expenditure of \$25.2 million, (the previous year revenue was \$11.9 million and expenditure \$24.6 million).

Last year's rain-soaked event saw more than 91,000 fans – the highest since Casey Stoner's final appearance at the circuit in 2012 – but many were prohibited from large areas of the campground and carpark because of mud.

According to the report, the public cost of hosting last year's Formula One Grand Prix was \$100.6 million, up from \$78.1 million the previous year.

The report revealed former AGPC CEO Andrew Westacott was paid a salary between \$440,000 and \$459,999, with the

salary of new chief executive Travis Auld in next year's annual report.

Contract

The contract for the Motorcycle Grand Prix at Phillip Island runs until 2026.

Last year Andrew Westacott told a tourism conference in San Remo he was upbeat that Dorna Sports – the commercial rights holder for the MotoGP – would re-sign Phillip Island beyond the 2026 event, which is the last in this 10-year contract cycle.

Mr Westacott said there were "major threats" from rival circuits in South Australia and Bathurst.

In April, the state government announced its support for a Home of Motorsport, at the Avalon Airport Precinct, which led to speculation the new precinct could be in direct competition with the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.

In September new CEO Travis Auld told the Advertiser he was confident the contract would continue.

"I think what is clear is this event is the envy of other states," Mr Auld said last week.

"Dorna has a strong working relationship with the people of Phillip Island and the AGPC."

"There are four events under the current contract and there's a lot of time to have conversations beyond that. There's plenty of tenure in the current agreement."

Health sector all aboard Phillip Island cruise ships

COVID

Cruise ships carrying hundreds of passengers will soon begin arriving at Phillip Island.

While a boon for the local tourism sector, Gippsland Region Public Health Unit (GRPHU) Operations Director Annelies Titulaer said her team was working with Bass Coast Health and Ambulance Victoria to prepare for cruise ship arrivals and possible health events or outbreaks.

The multi-agency partnership was formed last year when the Phillip Island Port first started receiving cruise ships.

"While last year didn't see any health events requiring escalation, it provided us all with some valuable lessons in terms of the relationships and the processes we'll need to step up our

response," Annelies said.

Cruise ships, due to their close quarters and the movement of travellers between various locations, can be associated with an increased risk of infectious diseases, namely respiratory infections (such as COVID-19 and Influenza) and gastroenteritis outbreaks (caused by pathogens like Norovirus or Campylobacter).

When detected and notified, outbreaks of these conditions will trigger a response from land-based health agencies and local public health units.

"Before any ship arrives, we receive a briefing from the Gippsland Region Public Health Unit about any possible risk factors they may have identified during the voyage," Bass Coast Health Chief Executive Jan Child said.

"Based on that briefing, agencies such as Bass Coast Health and Ambulance Victoria (Gippsland) can respond if necessary to ensure passengers receive the best care where needed and the community is protected."

GRPHU said Phillip Island is used to event-based increases in population with the Grand Prix circuit attracting thousands of visitors on particular weekends and the island being a favourite destination over summer for Victorians.

"We are fortunate in some ways to have experience with the need to step up our oversight and provision of service to the island through any given year," Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Emergency Management Coordinator Danny Anderson said.



"With that in mind, the arrival of cruise ships does provide us with an extra challenge but one that the partnership between ourselves, Bass Coast Health, the Gippsland Regional Public Health Unit and the community allows us to be confident that we

have measures in place to manage any health events that the cruise ships may encounter."

This season 11 cruise ships are expected to berth at Phillip Island with the first ship arriving on December 10 and the last on April 27, 2024.

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Another retail, residential development for Cowes

PLANNING

A four-storey retail and residential building is planned for the Cowes Esplanade, with a car parking waiver.

The planning permit is for 18 The Esplanade, on the corner of Warley Avenue opposite Mad Cowes café, which in March saw an old brick house demolished on the site.

The permit, currently out for public comment, details three shops on the ground level and apartments on the upper levels.

The building will be 13.6 metres with the planning overlay for the site stating any construction must not exceed a height of 14 metres and four storeys.

There will be 21 car

spaces in a car stacker system, with the permit seeking a waiver of 16 parking spaces, which includes six staff spaces, nine retail visitor spaces and one dwelling visitor space.

“Short-term parking for patrons of the shops are on streets,” the permit states, adding there are 99 spaces in “the immediate vicinity” with unrestricted parking along the Esplanade and restricted parking along Warley Avenue.

A traffic report states it is expected the proposed shops will generate about nine staff and nine customers at any one time during the peak weekday and Saturday daytime periods. The report states parking surveys were undertaken on Friday June



In March the old brick house on the 754 square metre property was demolished.

3, and Saturday June 4, 2022 between 12pm and 9pm with the Saturday survey showing the peak car parking demand at 9pm was 16 per cent of the available parking supply.

“The subject site is well

served by public transport services with three bus routes operating in close proximity to the site,” the permit states.

An arborist report states the site contains a small tree, and shrubs,

with a neighbouring 17-metre-high Norfolk pine on Warley Avenue encroaching on the site but “negligible”.

In March the old brick house on the 754sqm property was demolished, with

surrounding neighbours highlighting asbestos concerns.

A Bass Coast Shire spokesperson confirmed a building permit had been issued for the demolition of the home.

At that time a planning application was being assessed for a community care accommodation building on the land.

Post-Covid, Cowes has had planning permits approved for residential and retail developments on the corner of Chapel and Genesta streets, near Grumpy’s golf, a hotel next to the new cultural centre, as well as major developments at the Isle of Wight site on The Esplanade and the former Warley hospital site.



This year, Bass Coast Adult Learning Migrant English program, and the Good Shepherd Organisation Supporting Woman are the recipients of Cardell Accountants community donations. Photo: Aamir Suhail, Unsplash.

Cardell community support

Every year the team at Cardell Accountants make numerous donations to both local and national organisations.

Recently staff and clients were encouraged to enter two organisations – one local and one national – into a donation box with two organisations to be drawn.

This year the recipients

drawn were Bass Coast Adult Learning-Migrant English Program in Wonthaggi and Good Shepherd Organisation supporting Women. Each recipient was donated \$1000.

Over the past 12 years, Cardell Accountants have donated more than \$54,000 to various local and national charities. This is in addition to nu-

merous sponsorships of local clubs and discounts to not-for-profit organisations.

Marcus Bond – Principal stated, “Cardell Accountants owe so much to the community and as a firm we value being able to give back and make a difference to the lives of others”.

/ Sponsored article /



A new proposal for speed limit reductions and traffic calming devices on Chapel Street (pictured), Church Street and Dunsmore Road is open for consultation until December 15.

Proposal to increase pedestrian safety

CONSULTATION

After feedback from the community, Bass Coast Shire Council is looking at changes to Chapel Street, Church Street and Dunsmore Road in Cowes, to increase pedestrian safety.

A proposal is now available on the Bass Coast engage website and the council is seeking public feedback on the plan.

The proposal is for a speed limit reduction to 40km/h and traffic calming devices on the three roads.

The council said these changes aim to encourage people to walk and cycle, as well as reducing the risk and severity of crashes.

You can provide feedback by filling out a short online survey, printing out the hard copy feedback

form or emailing Sustainable Transport and Movement Team at basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au

The survey canvasses opinions on the current speeds, safety for pedestrians and cyclists, and how strongly people believe changes need to be made.

Feedback closes on December 15.

engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowes-east-precinct

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Check your vax status

COVID

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases, experts are warning Australians to remain vigilant and ensure their vaccination status is up to date.

Associate Professor James Trauer, Head of the Epidemiological Modelling Unit for the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said the country is current experiencing a significant wave of transmission.

That is being reflected in the wastewater surveillance results and the increase in hospital admissions.

The government and ATAGI (Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation) is recommending eligible people get a booster, with the latest vaccine (targeting common sub-variants of the virus) available from mid December.

A 2023 COVID-19 vaccine dose is recommended for the following groups, to be given at least six months after their most recent vaccine:

- All adults aged over 65 years
- Adults aged 18–64 years who have medical comorbidities that increase their risk of severe COVID-19, and
- Adults who have a disability with significant or complex health needs.

A 2023 dose may be considered for other adults aged 18–64 years, based on an individual risk-benefit assessment. You can discuss with your GP or pharmacist.

If you are eligible for a

booster, you can take it six months following a previous dose.

New variants

“Overall, the severity of Covid cases has decreased, with fewer people admitted to ICU than in previous years. This is attributable to high levels of population immunity, which is contributed to by both natural immunity (from past infection) and vaccination-derived immunity, said Professor Trauer.

“Covid is now an ‘endemic’ infection, meaning that the infection cannot be eliminated and transmission occurs continuously.

“When immunity after infection is short-lived, endemic transmission occur in peaks and troughs as immunity from previous waves fades. This is an expected feature of endemic Covid.

“The emergence of new variants is also contributing to these ebbs and flows. Although a few current variants are being closely watched, none of the currently circulating strains seem to cause more severe disease than the preceding strains. Because new variants are contributing significantly to each wave of infection, it is more difficult than ever before to predict when they will peak.”

With Christmas coming up, he said eligible people should consider a vaccine booster.

“Because immunity after infection is so short-lived, reducing transmission in the short-term will have

little effect on the number of times people get infected with Covid over the course of several years.

“Therefore, our most important protection against the effects of Covid is immunity, which can be enhanced through vaccination,” he said.

“As per ATAGI’s recommendations, this is appropriately focused on the most vulnerable to severe outcomes, particularly those aged over 65 or those with risk factors (and especially those aged over 75).

“Anyone who meets ATAGI’s current recommendations for receiving a booster vaccine should strongly consider this. This is particularly relevant as the recently ATAGI-approved monovalent vaccines become available, which induce stronger immunity against the current circulating variants.

“In addition to vaccination, taking precautions when visiting persons at high risk of severe outcomes (eg visiting aged care facilities) remains important.

“This includes testing in advance and wearing face masks during such interactions.

“Persons at risk of severe disease should also consider testing to ensure that antiviral medications can be provided as soon as possible after symptoms of Covid occur.”

For more information, or to book a vaccination, visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination

Residential care remarkable results

AGED CARE

Bass Coast Health’s (BCH) residential care centres have received outstanding results in the most recent Star Ratings survey.

The surveys are completed by residents and their families, and are published on the Australian Government’s My Aged Care website. Kirrak House at Wonthaggi received five stars overall and Griffiths Point Lodge at San Remo received four stars overall. Both centres rated highly for compliance, quality measures, residents’ experiences and staffing.

The surveys are conducted quarterly and the Star Ratings help older Australians and their families compare the quality and safety performance of different services.

BCH CEO Jan Child said Bass Coast Health’s care facilities were literally reaching for the stars.

“These outstanding results reflect the dedication and enthusiasm that our staff show for our residents. They treat them like they were their own family and as such the care they provide is second to none,” Ms Child said.

“Our staff take great pride in the work they deliver. For them, their work is far more than just a job.”

Residents not only enjoy first-class service but also pleasant surrounds that enhance their experience of aged care.

“Renovations at Griffiths Point Lodge are nearly complete and give residents re-



Griffiths Point Lodge resident Betty Pescud chats with Nurse Unit Manager Janette Elliott.

furnished rooms and hallways, making the lodge feel even more like home,” Ms Child said.

“Kirkak House has been renovated in recent years, and the surrounds and ambience are so welcoming and comfortable. Our staff will continue to strive for top marks in future surveys to ensure we can provide the best service that we can to our residents and their families.”

BCH now has vacancies at both Griffiths Point Lodge and Kirrak House.

For potential residents and their families wishing to learn more about life at either residential care centre, contact Griffiths Point Lodge on 03 5678 5311 and Kirrak House on 03 5671 3250. Personalised tours are available.

Information is also available at: www.basscoasthealth.org.au/services/residential-aged-care

Break down social isolation

HEALTH

Bass Coast Health (BCH) is helping isolated people in the community come together and conquer the negative impacts that social isolation can have on one’s mental and physical health.

During Social Inclusion Week (November 18-26), BCH raised awareness of its Social Support Group that brings people together for activities, outing and social events.

Team Coordinator Cathy Smyth said, “Feeling socially isolated can lead to increased risk of depression and also heart disease due to the additional stress that people experience when they feel isolated.

“Not everyone has the support of family and friends, particularly close by, but by joining our Social Support Group, eli-



Members of Bass Coast Health’s Men’s Social Support Group enjoyed a recent outing to Caldermeade Farm. From left, Bob McKenzie, David Rankin, Alan Rye, Richard Casbolt, Hans Spoor, BCH staff member Helen Lynch and Ernest Montague.

gible people can meet like-minded individuals and enjoy the lovely sensation that a sense of belonging brings.”

The group is supported by staff and transport is available. Social Support Group is available to people under the care of My

Aged Care, on My Aged Care Home Care Packages and NDIS Clients.

BCH also has a group especially for men.

To learn more, phone 03 5671 3520 or email Team Coordinator Cathy Smyth on cathy.smyth@basscoasthealth.org.au

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Fabulous at forty

FILM

The Phillip Island Movie Club turns 40 this year and is celebrating four decades of movie madness and enjoyment.

Originally known as the Phillip Island Film Society, it began in 1983, when Lesla Saraghi and Anne Davie bonded over their love of film.

Anne Davie recalls once the two realised their shared obsession, Lesla quickly set about creating a Film Society for local residents.

"Lesla organised all that through her contacts in Melbourne," Anne said.

"She had an amazing ability to woo people, with a real flair for and love of entertainment."

The film society started off showing films at the old penguin parade building, which is why a penguin features in the logo.

From there, the society moved to the Tropicana Motel in Cowes, which was also the location of the first of many film festivals.

Anne said the society also attracted people who had retired and moved down from Melbourne, who were used to going to films and the theatre.

"We had about 60-70 members and it was extremely popular. There was nothing like it in Cowes then."

Unlike today with streaming services, back then, there was no way to see films unless you went to a cinema, or in the case of Phillip Island, joined the film society.

Anne and Lesla had a vision for the kind of films the society would showcase – which was outside of the standard box office hits.

"We'd look at what films were being reviewed, and I think as we went along we got a feel for the audience that came and what they enjoyed," Anne said.

But their choices weren't always met with universal approval.

"I recall in the 1990s, when the four-letter word started to come into films, people wrote into the paper saying they thought there was a decline in the standard of the films."

Over the years, the society showed hundreds of films – too many to recall she said.

"But I remember showing the St Trinian's film and people splitting their sides laughing."

She particularly remembers the contribution of Barrie Robinson, who had run cinemas and theatres in Melbourne.

"We had our own equipment at Tropicana, and it was pretty amateur. We were lucky that Barrie, with all his experience, was the projectionist."

"Before every film he'd talk about the director, the stars, and give some background to the film."

"Everyone enjoyed that a lot."

Banfields

Things moved up a notch in 1989 when Banfields opened, providing a proper cinema where the society could screen its films.

Anne said a core committee of three or four people put together some "wonderful film festivals" at the venue.

"They started on Friday night and finished on Sunday afternoon. We'd show nine films and had guests like David Wenham, Noni Hazlehurst and Susie Porter."

"John Clarke was always a great supporter."

Not content with just screening films, each year the society held "incredible cabarets".

"We could take the seating out of Banfields and convert it, for balls and dancing."

"It was an incredible gift to the island and it was really sad when we lost it," Anne said.

When Banfields was sold, the



Turning 40 this year, the Phillip Island Movie Club was started in 1983 by Lesla Saraghi and Anne Davie (left) and was originally known as the Phillip Island Film Society.

society found a new home at the Continental, before transforming into the Phillip Island Movie Club in 2008, and moving to St Philip's, its home up until now.

Eight years ago, Anne and Lesla handed over the reigns of their beloved club.

"Lesla wasn't well, so we chatted with Margaret and Liz, as we knew they were great film supporters."

"They took over in 2015 and my word they have done a fantastic job."

The new team carried on the grand tradition of the club, enjoying strong support from the community.

However, like many community groups, it was rocked by the Covid years.

During Covid, numbers at the church hall were restricted to 25, so only one film was shown in 2020.

A move to the theatrette at the

new Penguin Parade provided a temporary solution, however after just two screenings, technical difficulties at the venue meant the club returned to St Philip's.

"It was a difficult time and even sitting together in a room to watch a film was quite traumatic for some people," Margaret said.

"Some members didn't come back until this year, but we survived because of our high membership numbers. And it does show the love people have for film through all the adversity."

Future

Although no longer at the helm, Anne is a life member of the club and still an avid film fan.

"Film is such a wonderful medium. The fact that you can share that experience with other people."

"There is nothing I like more than sitting comfortably, sur-

rounded by people who also enjoy films," she said.

"You can get such inspiration from film. It covers all the emotions. I don't think cinema is dead by any means."

The Phillip Island Movie Club now has a new home at Berninnet, with films screening once a month (on a Wednesday), starting at 7pm.

Membership is currently full but there is a wait list for those interested.

This week, the Movie Club presents "Summerfield", the final film to be screened at the St Philip's Hall, on November 30, and the last for its 2023 season, with the night doubling as a 40th birthday celebration.

The Movie Club's next film "Past Lives" will be on Wednesday December 13 at Berninnet – for 2024 members only.

www.phillipislandmovieclub.org.au

Alex on the fund-raising trail again

Back in 2021, Alex Dawson set out to raise \$10,000 for Myeloma Australia.

As part of her campaign she joined international 'Adventure All Stars' television series, as a cast member.

The show is created by Charity TV Global, a company that rewards people for their fund-raising efforts by having them star in a travel TV series; and uses entertainment as a vehicle to steer global audiences into 'giving back'.

Its filming and fund-raising projects benefit charities across the world, and their latest alliance is with Myeloma Australia.

Alex now has been invited back on the show "they ask back the best of the best", as a cast member in their Legends Season for an episode

to be filmed in March 2024. She is hoping to raise another \$10,000 for Myeloma Australia, and is inviting community donations to help her achieve this.

Myeloma is an incurable rare blood cancer and Alex has been part of the Myeloma Australia team for 15 years.

She has strong connections with Phillip Island, having holidayed here with her family for 48 years.

Her grandparents John and Marjorie Ricketts emigrated from the UK to Phillip Island in 1990; and her parents, John and Jennifer Dawson, have lived permanently at Newhaven since 2001.

Alex also owned a house at Cape Woolamai for a period. She describes Churchill Island as her favourite place

here, along with the Nobbies in the middle of winter when no one is around.

Myeloma, also known as multiple myeloma, is a type of rare and incurable bone marrow cancer arising from plasma cells, which are normally found in the bone marrow. Plasma cells form part of the immune system and there are currently around 22,000 Australians living with this condition.

Donations can be made at: www.myeloma-australia-legends.raisely.com/alex-dawson


All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Alex can be contacted on 0417 560 731 or alnoswad@outlook.com

More information about Myeloma Australia can be found at www.myeloma.org.au.



Alex Dawson (with her parents John and Jennifer Dawson) is hoping the community can help her reach the \$10,000 fundraising target for Myeloma Australia.

A man with a beard is sitting in the driver's seat of a car at night. He is holding a yellow and orange breathalyzer device in his mouth and blowing into it. The device has a red screen and the number '99' and 'SV020' written on it. The car's interior is dimly lit, and the background is dark.

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Earlier this year, during the DAL hearings, a lawyer representing owners of land between Potters Hill and Punchbowl roads lobbied for the land to be included in San Remo's town boundary.

San Remo's growth still uncertain

PLANNING

The future of San Remo's town boundary is still uncertain, Bass Coast Shire councillors were told at the November meeting.

Resident Fred Morris asked if the Planning Minister had informed council whether the San Remo town boundary would be set at Punchbowl Road, following the yet-to-be-decided Bass Coast Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) process.

Acting CEO James Stirton said council had not yet been informed of any changes to the

San Remo town boundary.

"We anticipate that finalisation of the DAL process, including confirmation of changes to the town boundary will occur in mid-2024," Mr Stirton said.

In October, the government announced an extension to the DAL declaration.

It said more time was needed to consider the report from the advisory committee, which was submitted to the government in June.

Earlier this year, during the DAL hearings, a lawyer representing owners of land between Potters Hill and Punchbowl

roads lobbied for the land to be included in San Remo's town boundary.

"We acknowledge San Remo's role to potentially take some growth and some pressure off Phillip Island. It's a balancing exercise," the lawyer said.

"There is potential for expansion but it needs to be carefully done, with further work to interrogate that in detail."

At the time the lawyer argued the lack of community opposition to more housing development in San Remo showed there was support for an extension of the town's boundaries.

The barrister represented owners of 140 Punchbowl Road, Springway Corporate Group, believed to be a Chinese investor, who are seeking for their 124ha property to be included in San Remo's town boundaries.

The shire is currently seeking feedback on the San Remo structure plan, with community consultation on the plan open until December 8.

Community feedback and technical reports will guide the town's development to 2041, including planning controls, transport, infrastructure, and services.



COUNCIL BRIEFS

Special charge

Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay residents have questioned councillors about a special charge scheme for a road upgrade in certain areas of the hamlets.

Resident Ross Bencraft asked why council had provided information regarding a scheme to members of the Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay Improvement Group on Facebook, "but has refused to provide the same information to the 'Say No' group when requested via email".

Resident Leanne Sumpter said data relating to voting percentages and locations were also given to some residents.

Acting shire CEO James Stirton responded that details to explain the process for a community-initiated upgrade project were provided to some community members.

"This has occurred as property owners supportive of an upgrade have enquired about council's urban road and drainage upgrade policy 2019 mechanism for a community-initiated upgrade project," Mr Stirton said.

"The 'Say No' group have not requested the same information."

Mr Stirton confirmed the shire had spent \$488,225 on the special charge scheme, which residents rejected, "to undertake extensive community engagement, develop concept plans and a cost estimate for the project considering various project risks".

He said objections to the project would remain confidential and a one-page summary of submissions and objections had been published on the project page on Engage Bass Coast.

Rate your home

The South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) has pitched a new blueprint to change the way climate impacts are managed in the south east of Melbourne.

The plan – SECCCA 2024-28: Working Together for Stronger Climate Action – identifies programs in nine local councils, including Bass Coast Shire, for the next four years including: residential home resilience ratings tool; small business climate adaptation toolkit; transitioning to electric or hydrogen heavy-duty vehicles in council or contractor fleet; review the vulnerability of council assets; and purchase of carbon offset opportunities.

Former shire mayor Michael Whelan and SECCA chair said the resilience rating would make it easier to adapt homes to the changing climate, by providing a single home assessment, integrated recommendations and ratings certification capability for bushfire, storm, flood, cyclone, heatwave, thermal comfort, and energy efficiency.

"We are at a crucial stage where we need to act quickly and together," he said.

Community members needed

COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire Council is calling for members of the community to join a panel and be part of the engagement process for the upgrade of Graydens Reserve in Newhaven.

A new page has been created on the engagebasscoast website, calling for expressions of interest.

"We strongly believe in the power of community engagement and inclusivity," the council post states.

"As a Community Panel member, you will play a key role in facilitating and promoting opportunities for others to provide feedback on the design of Graydens Reserve.

"Selected Panel members will be required to attend a three-hour workshop in Newhaven on Thursday February 15, 2024 to help co-design the engagement process.

"We encourage open conversations and welcome diverse perspectives to ensure that everyone's voices are heard and considered.

"Together, let's create a space where community members feel empowered to share their ideas, opinions, and aspirations.

"Join our panel and help us create a truly collaborative and community-driven process."

Expressions of interest close on December 20 and can be lodged online, by downloading a hard copy, picking up a copy at a visitor information centre, or having one posted to you.



Bass Coast Shire Council is calling for members of the community to join a panel and be part of the engagement process for the upgrade of Graydens Reserve in Newhaven.

Contentious

Graydens Reserve has been at the centre of a long-running debate between council, local skaters and residents.

Residents overwhelmingly objected to the 2019 proposal to build a regional skate park at the reserve, which was abandoned in 2021 by council.

When the Bass Coast Skate Park Strategy Review was released in September 2022, it instead recommended a local level skate park for Newhaven, with "mini ramp and basic street elements".

At the time, a council spokesperson said the skate park would be between 250-500sqm,

compared to the current skate ramp area of 280sqm, and was a much smaller scale park than the original proposal for a regional park, which was fiercely opposed by residents.

However residents remained unimpressed with the proposal.

At a consultation in January this year, the majority of residents in attendance were against the proposal, despite the strategy review stating that previous engagement undertaken for a regional skate park in Newhaven, showed there was "a lot of community support for a local scale facility" at Graydens Reserve.

One skater described the pro-

posed upgrade as a great opportunity to create a multi-use park.

"It is skate friendly, not skate specific," they said.

Many residents did not agree with some saying they'd prefer to see the existing ramp repaired, while others said they were angry, as council was only listening to the "skaters with the loudest voices".

"It needs to cater for the culture of this park and the people who use it," one resident said. "That's mothers with little ones and a baby on their hip, not 40-year-old skateboarders."

Details: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/graydens

Expenses in the spotlight

COUNCIL

In the latest report on councillor expenses, tabled at the November meeting, Deputy Mayor Rochelle Halstead topped the councillor expenses for professional development, notching up \$12,400.

She was followed by Cr David Rooks at \$10,326 during the current term to September.

But it was now-former mayor Michael Whelan who tallied \$44,060 in travel expenses, (he sits on eight committees), a considerable amount more than the next most expensive travel expenses of Cr Brett Tessari, at \$19,528 (who sits on three committees).

Total expenses for Cr Whelan was \$59,890, followed by \$34,290 for Cr Tessari.

The least expenses came from Cr Ronnie Bauer (total \$6787), and Cr Les Larke (\$6811) and newly-sworn in councillor Geoff Ellis (\$608).



According to the report tabled at the November council meeting, now-former mayor Michael Whelan has tallied \$44,060 in travel expenses, with Cr Tessari recording the next highest travel expenses, at \$19,528.

In July Cr Halstead – who, like Cr Rooks, is completing a company director course – said

“you don’t put your hand up to be a councillor for the money”.

“We all know the remuneration is incredibly low and the commitment of hours high if you wish to do the role justice,” Cr Halstead said.

“Investment in professional development allows councillors to operate at their optimum and this can only hold a positive benefit for our communities.”

In July Cr Whelan defended the decision of several councillors to undertake the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) course, which cost between \$7449 and \$9213.

He said it should be a requirement for all councillors to have appropriate governance qualifications.

Cr Bauer said while he had no problem with councillors doing courses – “the more educated the councillors are, the better” – he believed the system could be fine-tuned.



Phillip Island and Bass Coast Dog Owners Association Secretary Karen Skinner (left) with her dog Jack and PICAL pantry manager Erena Norfolk.

A pawfect gift for PICAL

DONATION

Thanks to the members of the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association (PIBCDOA) there will be less likelihood of any local dogs going hungry.

The group recently donated \$650 worth of dog food to the food bank at PICAL.

The food was purchased thanks to a combination of generous donations from association members and several fundraising efforts.

“The day we dropped the donation to PICAL there was al-

ready a man and his dog waiting for food,” said Association Treasurer Catherine Gregson.

“We were really pleased that we could make such an immediate and positive difference.”

The group also have a small number of items, such as dog crates and beds that can be borrowed at no cost.

If there are any people needing dog food, please email philipislanddogs@gmail.com. If members of the community would like to join PIBCDOA please email the group at the same email address.



The new playspace features rock carvings and traditional play elements for climbing, sliding and swinging, and a rubber undersurface will ensure it’s a safe space to play and have fun.

Killy park officially opened

SKATE

The Kilcunda Skate and Play park was officially opened last week.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale joined Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve and the local community to officially open the new Kilcunda Skate and Play facility, which received \$250,000 from the government’s Local Sport Infrastructure Fund.

Works at the park have created a new skate bowl with roll in for beginners and a deep end for more advanced skaters.

“Kilcunda and the Bass Coast are home to a passionate and growing community of skaters of all ages and it’s brilliant to see a new skatepark with the adjoining playspace come to life,” Ms Crugnale said.

“This new Skate and Play space is undoubtedly back-dropped by the most stunning seascape in Victoria and it’s sure to be a drawcard and focal point for locals and visitors alike.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank the Kilcunda Community Association for



The skate park at Kilcunda includes a new skate bowl with roll in for beginners and a deep end for more advanced skaters.

their determined grit and advocacy, passionate skaters, locals and also Bass Coast Shire for their significant contribution and project management. Great things happen in partnership and I’m thrilled to be part of this one.”

The new playspace features rock carvings and traditional play elements for climbing, sliding and swinging, and a rubber undersurface will ensure it’s a safe space to play and have fun. There is also a shelter, seating

and accessible ramp entrances from both the rail trail and the foreshore sides.

With a barbecue shelter, water fountain, bins and bike racks and toilet block also installed, it’s an idyllic outdoor setting for families to enjoy beachside vibes, foreshore gatherings and active play.

The Kilcunda Skate and Play facility was designed in consultation with young local residents and the Kilcunda Community Association.



The inaugural Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association's Christmas Dog Walk on the weekend was a huge success.

Christmas dog walk

What a fantastic morning!

Despite the early drizzle the inaugural Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association's Christmas Dog Walk was a huge success.

Co-organiser Cheryl Owens thanked all of the humans and dogs who attended the happy event.

“We really appreciated your support. How good was it to see all the dogs enjoying their off-lead beach time? Not a single problem, and so good

for our physical and mental health, and social connectedness,” said Cheryl.

Cheryl congratulated award winners Bodie and Deena, who won the prize for best Christmas dressed dogs, with handmade dog coats complete with bells and Christmas cards to Santa (all they wanted was chew toys with squeakers and some dog treats).

“We look forward to seeing you all next year and a merry woofness to all,” Cheryl said.



Dogs and owners were in their Christmas best at the off-lead beach in Cowes.

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Blazing a trail, on water

BOATING

Since Alyssa Duffy officially became the youngest – and only female – skipper to captain Wildlife Coast Cruises' ferries, she's had to brush off the occasional boorish comment.

"I definitely get comments, not from the other skippers, but people on the jetty or customers," says the 21-year-old from Rhyl.

"They mostly comment on my age. They ask how old I am. There was only one smart alec who made a comment about me being female. But I say nothing."

The Advertiser last spoke to Alyssa in 2022 when she was just completing her Master 24 skipper ticket, attending the Australian Maritime College in Launceston, Tasmania, in August and September last year.

Then last November she completed a two-day radio training course and in March this year completed a two-week engineering certificate.

Alyssa received her final ticket on the road to become a skipper in August when she had a "local knowledge" test with Western Port's harbor master in Stony Point, where she was quizzed on topics from water speeds and depths to pilot boarding areas.

Since officially becoming a skipper at the end of winter,



Third generation Phillip Islander Alyssa Duffy, 21, officially became a captain this year of Wildlife Coast Cruises' ferries.

Alyssa is now able to captain the ferries without supervision, one of about five skippers in charge of the fleet.

"The first time I drove solo I was nervous. It was at San Remo and there's a fair bit of tide there.

"But once I'd done it once by myself I was ok."

She now heads out on the Kasey Lee or Brianna Lee – both 19 metre vessels – about three times a week, or full-time when another skipper is on leave.

Her skipper ticket allows her to captain vessels up to 24 metres, but she's yet to take on the Arafura Pearl, which is about 24

metres and more challenging to navigate.

She covers the Cape Woolamai cruises, as well as seal trips and sunset cruises, but is yet to do the whale watching because she hadn't gained her licence in time for the season.

"Every day is different be-

cause the winds, tides and swells are always different."

In the family

Alyssa is the boss of her mum, Tania Fraser, who is WCC's bookkeeper and at times part of the crew, as well as her younger sister Regan, who is also a crew member.

The third generation Phillip Islander says for as long as she can remember she's loved the sea.

"Dad (Noel) is a commercial diver who does the moorings and salvage around the island and I'd always go with him out on the boat after school and especially over summer, helping him a bit."

While she loves cruising the bay, the next obvious career step would be completing masters' certificates to captain larger vessels, right up to the massive tankers that frequent the bay.

And, she says, she doesn't see herself as a trailblazer for her gender.

"Most of the crew here are girls.

"And at the (Australian Maritime) College where I studied there were two female teachers and there were six women out of 23 students in our class.

"I don't really think about being a young female. I'm too focused on what I'm doing. It's good fun."

This network means business

The Phillip Island Business Network supports business.

Its latest initiative, two late night shopping events across the island is just one of a range of programs and activities the newly revamped network has undertaken this year.

The Phillip Island Business Network (PIBN) was formed four years ago, replacing the Phillip Island Tourism and Business Association.

A state government decision to set up regional tourism boards provided the impetus for the new network to redefine itself.

Representing retail, hospitality, tourism, trades, industry, agriculture and all services, the network's core aim is to support all facets of local business.

Since its inception, membership has grown to over 100 members with the network committee regularly organising events, workshops and training opportunities for members.

This year alone, it has run a business breakfast and several networking evenings with guest speakers on a range of topics, including the NBN and cyber security.

Thanks to a government grant, it hosted a wellbeing evening, with music and comedy, providing members a chance to reconnect, relax and enjoy themselves, after the torrid years of Covid.

In conjunction with the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, PIBN hosted the "Brake Fast" breakfast before this year's Mo-toGP, and will finish the year with a special Christmas networking event.

Committee member Simonne



The Phillip Island Business Network committee. Back: Jess Janson – PIBN Marketing Officer, Lauren Van Strijp, Kimberley Brown, Judi Pay, Jess Patman and Megan Darby. Front: Kim Storey, Jo Dixon, Peta Wittig, Simonne Liberman, Dianne Holbery, Kally Van Venrooy.

Liberman said there are a lot of reasons to join the business network.

"It's a chance to network with like-minded businesses, who are dealing with the same issues, problems and successes that you are.

"Many small business owners can feel extremely isolated and get bogged down in the day-to-day stresses of running a business," she said.

"That age old concept of a problem shared is a problem halved is so true. And a success shared is very positive."

As well as providing networking opportunities and access to business resources, getting together with other local businesses is a great way to get exposure for your business and support each other.

"Attending our events puts you on the map, gets you out there and introduces you to people," she said.

"A lot of people don't even know what businesses we have here."

The network also helps promote its members' businesses, via its website and social media.

"For businesses that aren't public facing (for example, a landscaper, or a plumber), how do people find out about your services?"

"What are the best ways to get exposure for your business? PIBN does that for you, for a very reasonable fee."

To find out more about the benefits of being part of the Phillip Island Business Network, go to: www.pibn.com.au/

/ Sponsored article /



Sammy the Seal, with Jack from Wildlife Coast Cruises, was a big hit at the first late night shopping event, posing for many photos with locals and visitors. The second late night shopping is on December 8.

Another chance to love local

BUSINESS

The second late night shopping event organised by the Phillip Island traders is happening on December 8.

The shopping events (the first was held on November 23), have been put together to help

take the stress out of Christmas shopping.

Local shops across the island will keep their doors open from 5pm – 7pm, with family friendly entertainment organised in Cowes. See the advertisement in this week's paper for a list of participating stores.



Jo Viney from Brinnie T Designs was in the Christmas spirit during the late night shopping, and hopes more people will take up the opportunity to shop locally at the event on December 8.

Island HOME

YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE

Advertising Feature



Designed to accommodate a big family, this traditional style custom built Federation home is nestled amongst established gardens and native trees, and overlooks the Cowes golf course.



This home offers the ultimate beachside lifestyle with its close proximity to the beach Golf course views – relaxed beachside living.

Relaxed beachside living

First time offered in many years is this traditional style custom built Federation home overlooking the ninth fairway of the Cowes golf course, and just a short stroll to the beautiful north-facing beach of Silverleaves.

Here you will find this grand style home nestled amongst established gardens and native trees.

Designed to accommodate a big family, this large north-facing home offers open-plan living with nine-foot ceilings. As you walk through the entrance you

are greeted with a light bright sunny living space and formal dining area with bay windows showcasing the uninterrupted views of the golfers playing the ninth hole. The open fireplace with a period timber mantle piece is a real showcase.

The second living area offers a huge light filled north facing living, dining area and fully appointed kitchen with American oak solid timber cabinetry with stone benchtops and black glass splashback.

A Coonara wood-fired heater

and split system is a welcome touch and complements this living area.

The expansive master bedroom is situated at the back of the house for privacy and offers a full ensuite. The remaining two bedrooms, all generously sized, have built-in robes and a modern family bathroom services this area. Plantation shutters throughout with carpet and new vinyl plank flooring give you a modern feel.

This traditional Federation style home features ornate cor-

nice, ceiling roses, dado rails and fretwork. The traditional exterior brickwork consists of soldier course bricks above the windows, bullnose bricks on the window ledges as well as corner and plinth bricks. The double garage, with plenty of storage and a workbench, is located at the front for ease of access.

This home offers the ultimate beachside lifestyle with its close proximity to the beach. The popular Silverleaves General Store is a five-minute walk away and the cafes and shops of Cowes

are just a short stroll along the beach or along the newly completed beach track.

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The Island Harmony Singers are performing a Christmas concert at St John's Uniting Church in Cowes, Sunday December 3.

Choir's Cowes Christmas concert

MUSIC

If you have wandered past St John's Church in Cowes on Tuesday afternoon you'll have heard the Island Harmony Choir rehearsing their Christmas concert, to be held on Sunday December 3 at 2pm.

The concert is titled "Christmas Under the Southern Cross", with a focus on Australian Christmas carols, including a piece written years ago by former musical director John Perrin's daughter, Melissa, before she died, explained the choir's Terry Norquay.

"It is called simply The Southern Cross and is lovely," Terry said.

The choir performs two major concerts each year, as well as in aged care facilities, for Probus, recently at Churchill

Island's open day, and will be at the Carols at Corinella in December.

"We are an un-auditioned choir and many of our members are not musically trained, but can follow the music," Terry said, adding they were guided by musical director, Cecily Woodberry, and pianist, Olena Kosaruk.

"The choir is about 30 strong but would love to have more singers join us.

"Whether you are a long-term islander or have recently moved here, why not come and give us a try and, hopefully, join us. We all find that being part of this choir is a rewarding experience."

Rehearsals start up again in February, on Tuesday at 1.30pm at St John's Uniting Church.

Details: Tony on 0418 134 709, or at www.islandharmonychoir.au

Vote for the Dropkicks

MUSIC

No, this is not a political campaign.

The Dropkicks are a young local band and they need your help to get on the bill for NYE on the Hill.

NYE on the Hill along with Triple J Unearthed are running a contest for a local Gippsland band to fill a 'local spot' in the line up at this year's 10th anniversary sold-out NYE event.

To be eligible, the band needs to have made a submission to Unearthed. The contest closes on December 3 and fans just need to tag their band on the NYE on the Hill's Instagram post.

The Dropkicks are hoping everyone will jump online and tag them (@thedropkicks_official) and let the organisers know they should be on the bill.

Esta Christensen – guitar and backing vocals, Liam Fuery – drums, Dean Lyle – lead vocals and Callan Spencer – bass/songwriter are all students at Newhaven College and have been playing together for around 12 months.

They played their first paid gig back in June at the Caledonian Hotel in Wonthaggi.

Describing their sound as "mostly rock with a



Local band The Dropkicks need your vote, to join the bill for NYE on the Hill this year. Voting is via the NYE on the Hill Instagram page and closes on December 3.

mish-mash of a few different things", their influences range from The Fratellis to the Arctic Monkeys, which usually feature on the set list, along with a few crowd pleasers like the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

They also write their own material and recently recorded a track mixed by local musician Maddy May.

The four juggle their band duties with study and theatrical production commitments. They all also lend a helping hand to other kids at the college, performing in different bands.

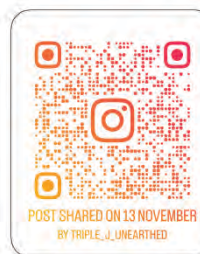
If they secure enough votes to play NYE on the Hill, it will be the biggest gig of their career so far.

"Getting on the bill will give us more exposure to the music community and help get our name out there," said Liam.

"Plus we'll be doing what we love doing."

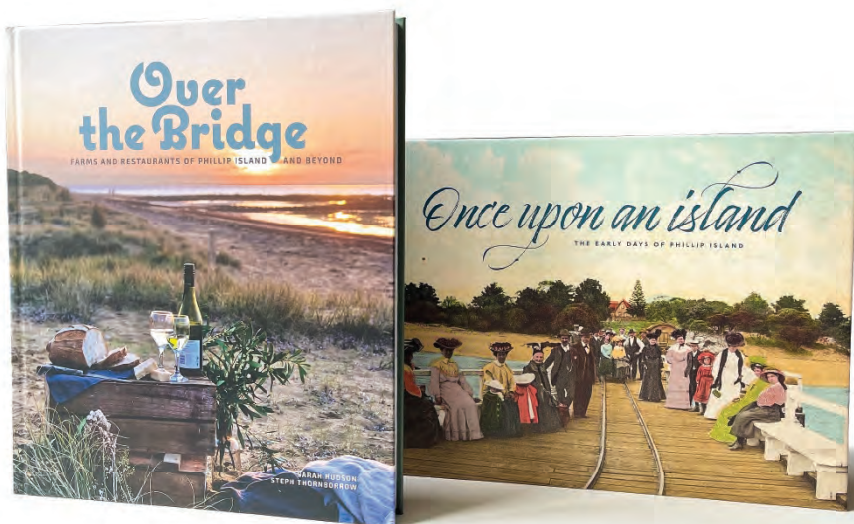
To vote, scan the QR code or go to the NYE on the Hill Instagram page and vote on the post from November 13: NYE on the Hill, 10th anniversary comp open now.

Voting closes December 3.



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Rotary members busy serving pupils at San Remo Primary Pancake Day.

Cooking up a storm

ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo hosted a delightful Pancake Day for the students at San Remo Primary School on November 15.

The dedicated Rotary Club Youth Committee, which tirelessly supports breakfast programs in various schools throughout Phillip Island and

San Remo, had their hands full with a bustling morning filled with laughter, smiles, and of course, delicious pancakes.

Rotary believes that every child deserves a great start to their day, and unfortunately, there are many students in our area who attend school without breakfast.

That's why Rotary is

committed to offering these youngsters something special to get their minds working and their tummies happy.

Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all the members and volunteers who made this event possible and continue to make a difference in the lives of our youngsters.

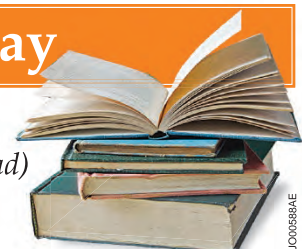
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Second annual toy run kicks off

CHARITY

Phillip Island's second annual charity toy run will be on December 10, with a route taking riders from Tooradin to Cowes.

Following the success of the inaugural event last year, Cowes parents Sam and Jason Hampstead – who run Dead4Eva in Thompson Avenue – have again organised the run, which will leave the Pelican Café in Tooradin at 11.30am.

The ride will follow the South Gippsland and Bass Highway through San Remo, with the final stop at 12.30pm, at the Phillip Island Baptist Church, on the corner of Settlement and Dunsmore roads, Cowes, with the event finishing at 4pm.

"A group will be leaving Dead4Eva Designs Cowes at 8.30am to head for Tooradin, if you'd like to join us," Sam said.

"This is a rider and community organised event, so anyone is welcome."

Toys will be distributed by the Phillip Island Baptist Church on Monday and Tuesday after the ride, with disadvantaged children and families from Phillip Island, San Remo, Bass, Corinella, Coronet Bay, Grantville, and Kilcunda regions given the donations.



Last year's inaugural ride saw a cavalcade of more than 80 riders.

She said while all toys were accepted, the ride caters for ages 0-17.

"Often teenagers get forgotten about, so gift cards are suitable and appreciated."

They do not accept toys that are wrapped, with all toys sorted before being distributed to children and families.

Sam said "donations keep rolling in", including two boogie boards and vouchers to local businesses.

"The true generosity

of our community and its spirit has begun to shine," she said.

"One local came in and said 'I have some toys in the car for you for the toy run' and we walked out to the car and her generosity blew us away. She said she'd been putting a little bit aside all year."

"I was genuinely speechless and hugged her. She wanted to be there on the day but couldn't make it."

Details on Facebook – Annual Phillip Island Toy Run.



Jane Weisner of Chatters on Cowes hands President of Phillip Island World Vision Club, Lynne Kharanda a cheque from the Buy for a Cause night on November 17.

Shopping for a great cause

WORLD VISION

Phillip Island World Vision Club held a 'Buy for a Cause' event held at Chatters on Cowes, on November 17.

The fun event not only gave guests the opportunity to buy something chic to wear at Christmas, but also to enjoy each other's company and the delicious nibbles prepared by Club members, while raising money for a great cause.

Charles Watson performed barman duties, greeting guests as they arrived.

"We are grateful to Jane Weisner, of Chatters On Cowes, for hosting this event which was our final fundraiser for the year," said club president Lynne Kharanda.

"Phillip Island World Vision Club is proud to have raised just over \$20,000 this year for World Vision Australia – supporting our sponsored children and communities, and donating funds to alleviate crises."

New members are always welcome – contact Secretary, Kerry Francis for details: piworldvision@gmail.com.

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This year's Carols by the Bay on December 12 has free family entertainment and fireworks. Bendigo Bank is a sponsor of the popular community event.

Lots of fun at the carols

After many months of planning by Island Voice, the finishing touches are being applied to the 2023 Christmas Carols and Free Family entertainment event.

Set for December 12, the evening will kick off with free family entertainment for all of the kids. There will be free rides and lots of fun, with a visit from Santa a highlight before the start of the Carols by Candlelight program. And a magnificent fireworks display is set to conclude the festivities.

The Carols organising committee thanks all sponsors for their generous contributions.

"The aim of Island Voice is to keep

the Carols night a free family community event, with children's entertainment a highlight. It is the sponsors' generosity which enables this annual and free family event to be staged every year," said Island Voice president Peter Paul.

"It is always pleasing to see our local community groups participating in this event, plus our emergency services. The Cowes Fire Brigade always make sure that Santa arrives safely and on time."

"Mark Tuesday December 12 down in the family diary, and hopefully the weather will be as kind as last year."

ISLAND VOICE PRESENTS

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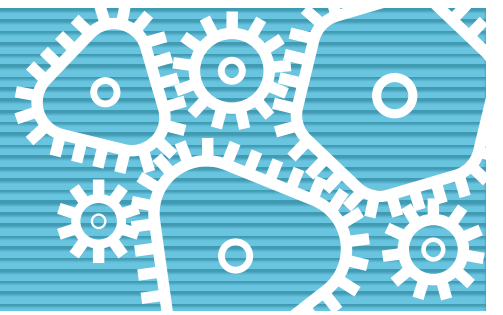
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Restore democracy

The on-going mess that's called the Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Scheme has become the joke of the decade. The "say yes" people wanted a democratic process. Despite the Council's early machinations, they got it, and lost.

Now they have a different view of democracy: "if you don't side with us it's undemocratic". Despite the 80 per cent "no vote". It has been suggested that the Council has been giving support to the "yes voters" to aid their overturning of the result. In my view, if true, this needs a judicial enquiry.

It is time that our unrepresentative Council was replaced by a

temporary, independent administrator to restore democracy on the Island.

Chris Rowles, Surf Beach

What's going on?

The shenanigans at play in Bass Coast's mayoral election demonstrate that our community should not expect any sincere improvement in transparency or accountability from the current crop of councillors as they head into their final year.

With Michael Whelan not chasing another stint as mayor, the public widely expected that Deputy Mayor Rochelle Halstead would be elected unop-

posed. The recently returned Geoff Ellis had nominated Rochelle for mayor, and he had declared support for her.

But at the eleventh hour, out of nowhere, Clare Le Serve emerged to make a grab for the top job. Geoff immediately proceeded to vote against Rochelle, in favour of Clare.

The action blindsided almost everyone, apart presumably from those who had concocted the last-minute coup.

The Sentinel-Times reports that some insiders have described Geoff's move as "treachery". Yep, that's how I would describe his move also.

Other than his cryptic remark that 'not everything was as it appeared on the surface', Geoff appears unwilling to explain his motives for voting against Rochelle. No transparency there then.

And perhaps Clare was equally surprised to be elected? Uncharacteristically she seemed ill-prepared, showing some uncertainty, and several procedural missteps. Clare herself acknowledged the need for improved fluency as chair.

Worryingly for me is Clare's assertion that she is committed to continuous overall improvement of Council's governance. Having observed council for some years,

I see that 'governance improvements' usually lead to further restriction against, and censoring of, reasonable public questioning or criticism.

The bloc behind Clare's election comprises at least three councillors, perhaps more, who are opposed to public question time at council. Last year some of them pushed to remove public question time from council meetings. Perhaps now, with Clare in the big chair, another attempt will be made?

Yes Geoff, perhaps it is as you say. Perhaps not everything is as appears on the surface.


Kevin Griffin, Wonthaggi

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DEATHS

BAXTER, David:

It is with much sadness that we announce that David Baxter passed away peacefully on Sunday 19 November 2023 surrounded by his much loved family.

David was the devoted husband of Sue, caring father of Christopher, Sarah, Kathleen, and Stuart, stepfather of Daniel, brother of Ian, Michael, Paul (dec.) and grandfather of many beautiful grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

FUNERALS

BAXTER:

The Funeral Service for Dr. David Baxter will be held at

St. John's Uniting Church, Chapel Street, Cowes

on WEDNESDAY (Nov. 29, 2023) commencing at 2:30pm.

A Private Cremation will follow.

David's service will be live-streamed, for the link go to www.handley-andandersonfunerals.com.au

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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Jordan Crugnale Member for Bass, Labor Party

Electorate Officers play an important role in providing services to the Victorian community and require a high degree of trust and integrity.

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Applications close 6 December.

jordan crugnale mp
STATE MEMBER FOR BASS

SITUATIONS VACANT



We are expanding into Year 12 next year and have a number of positions available for teachers interested in working in a small, student centred, democratic school environment.

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How to Apply

1. Visit our website to familiarise yourself with our philosophy and approach to teaching and learning.
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3. View the general position description.
4. Complete the application form.
5. Email admin@villagehighschool.org with any questions.

Closing Date

Monday 11th December 2023



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SITUATIONS VACANT

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

**CANTEEN MANAGER**

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For a copy of the selection criteria please phone

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Applications close at 4pm on Tuesday 5th December, 2023.

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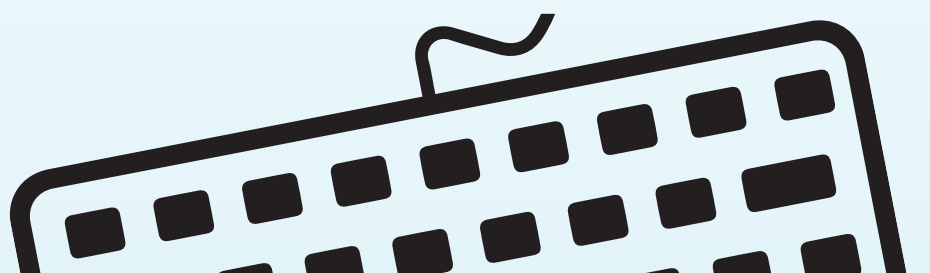
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Enjoying the fun of the fete, Avia Scarlett, Abigail Birch and Zara Schnerring.

It's a fete accompli Schools hit the surf

EDUCATION

The Newhaven Christmas Fete on November 17 was the first school fete held in 25 years.

The fete was an initiative of the re-established Parents and Friends Association (PFA).

It has been a busy year for this industrious team, bringing a positive and vibrant energy to the College community through a number of exciting events.

The Christmas College Fete was a terrific way to wrap up the year.

What a terrific day it was, with perfect weather and a large turn out from the College and local community. The rides were a huge success, especially with the younger children.

The Star Lotto Raffle created a buzz, with incredible prizes on offer. Food and wine from local vendors was enjoyed by families who stayed to soak up the atmosphere.

Music performances by students of all ages boomed out from the sound stage for everyone to enjoy. The event was MC'd by funny and talented Newhaven College



One of the highlights of the event was sliming some of the College leadership team: Head of Junior School Ralph Arceo, Head of Operations Brett Torstonson, Principal Tony Corr, and Head of Middle School Geoff White.

mum Natasha Crestani.

The highlight of the event, for many, was the 'sliming' of some of the College leadership team: Principal Tony Corr, Head of Junior School Ralph Arceo, Head of Middle School Geoff White, Principal PA Katrina Lawrence and the most 'slimy' attention was given to teacher and Head of Operations, Brett Torstonson.

A Newhaven College spokesperson extended a huge thank you to the PFA

team, parent volunteers and staff "for their tireless efforts to bring this incredible event together".

"Newhaven College's sense of community is enhanced by a strong support network, and events like these play a crucial role in fostering a sense of unity and pride among students, parents and staff.

"Congratulations to the Newhaven College PFA for a successful year of community team building and fundraising."



Kellie and Kordelia Kossena running the ever-popular cake stall that sold out within the first hour.



Lucky bottle winners Zane Matthews, Jem Hennekam and Harvey Leary.



Abigail Simpson, enjoying a cuddle with a bunny in the petting zoo.



26 local primary school students from grades four to six, and their parents, friends and teachers attended the competition at YCW.

SURFING

A surfing competition earlier this month saw local schools pitted against each other on the waves.

Ten local schools competed in the competition, with schools from Inverloch, Wonthaggi, Phillip Island and the Waterline taking part.

The competition was run with assistance from Bass Coast College year Ten VET students and staff.

The SCPSSA District Surfing Contest was held at YCW beach and attended by 26 local primary school students from grades four to six, and their parents, friends and teachers.

Surf conditions were superb with light offshore winds, sunshine and two-foot swell peeling down a right-hand bank.

Students were scored on their best two rides in each heat with the top two competitors progressing through to the next round.

The overall winner on the day was Inverloch Primary.

Boys champion was Dusty Rayner of Inverloch, while Scarlett Rennie of Newhaven College was the Girls champion.

For many students this



Boys finalists Dusty Rayner, Teo Parmington, Jack Barry and Angus Farman, with Dusty named the Boys Champion.

was their first opportunity to surf in a competition event. Students were also able to learn about heat format, judging, water safety and surf etiquette.

The results on the day were:

Boys Champion: 1st Dusty Rayner (Inverloch Primary School), 2nd Jack Barry (Inverloch Primary School), 3rd Teo Parmington (Inverloch Primary School) and 4th Angus Farman (Newhaven Primary School).

Girls Champion: 1st Scarlett Rennie (Newhaven College), 2nd Amelia Mahon (Cowes Primary School), 3rd Tiffany Clarke (Newhaven College), 4th Sola

Heenan (St Joseph's Primary School).

Encouragement Award: Autumn Ross (Bass Valley Primary School).

SCPSSA would like to thank Bass Coast College for supplying all the contest equipment and to Travis Osmond and Brendan Webb the BCC Year 10 VET Surfing students who helped organise and run the event including judging all the heats and putting the contest site together.

Also, a thank you to local sponsors Vortex Surf Skate Snow (Wonthaggi) and Island Surfboards (Phillip Island) for donating surf prize packs on the day.



Girls finalists Amelia Mahon, Sola Heenan, Scarlett Rennie and Tiffany Clarke. Scarlett took the top spot to be named the Girls Champion.



James Nicolaci and daughter Saige were both winners in the RPIAC angling competition. James set a new club record with a 1075-gram tailor (2688 points) to win the points competition.



Kate Jinnette (right) won the female points competition with a King George whiting worth 1526 points (545 grams) and celebrated with Anna Grogan (left) who finished second in the squidgie mixed bag competition.



Mark Griffin (centre) won this year's Bill Wallis trophy with 7383 units and also caught the biggest snapper of the weekend - weighing 6025 grams.

Anglers shine in lacklustre weather

ANGLING

This past weekend, the Rhyll Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) hosted its fifth angling competition for the 2023/2024 season.

The event was not only a testament to the angler's skills and sportsmanship but also a celebration of the vibrant community spirit that defines the club.

In addition to the weekend's prizes, angling members tried hard to make a lasting impression, competing to have their name etched onto the Bill Wallis trophy.

Changing weather conditions created some ideal opportunities for a weekend of competitive fishing and fellowship.

The barometer fell with the competition's start a midnight on Friday and toggled during Saturday and Sunday to bring some classic bursts of sunshine, rain, hail and every calm.

The weigh-in sessions, held between 4.30pm and 5.30pm on both days, were bustling with activity and anticipation, as supporters assessed the weekend's catches.

A wide variety of species were brought to the scales, including snapper, King George whiting, flathead, trevally, mackerel, salmon, barracouta, garfish, gummy sharks and a surprising catch that resembled a mantis shrimp.

In total, 56 fish and four sharks were weighed in, but notably, there were no calamari or cuttlefish this time.

Alex Bowden, the RPIAC weigh-in master, was in high spirits as he tabulated the weekend's results and sorted through the contenders for the Bill Wallis Trophy.

Whilst the season's first to catch members only competition weekend incentives for extraordinary catches provided additional motivation for members to participate in this weekend's competition, the cash incentives for the five eligible species remain unclaimed.

The nominated species for a first-to-catch \$1000 prize, for fish equal to or exceeding the nominated weight are: King George whiting (1000gm), snapper (10 kg), gummy shark (20 kg), mullo-way (25 kg) and kingfish (25 kg). Angling members were relieved when the competition concluded at 5.30pm on Sunday.

Juniors

The enthusiastic participation of junior and squidgy members was particularly noteworthy, demonstrating the club's success in engaging young anglers.

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

The clubroom served as a hub for socialising and relaxation, where members enjoyed exchanging stories and experiences, enhancing the sense of community.

At the conclusion of Sunday's weigh-in, the club offered a delightful meal, expertly catered and presented by Peter - RPIAC's master chef.

A warming meal of roast chicken, scalloped potatoes, salad and a splash of the club's customary welcoming atmosphere was enjoyed by all.

The squidgie mixed bag competition, for anglers aged nine or younger, was closely contested



Saige Nicolaci won the squidgie mixed bag competition with three fish worth 55 points.

and Saige Nicolaci scored 55 points for three fish to claim the top prize.

Anna Grogan finished second, catching three fish worth 50 points.

The junior competition was dominated by the reigning junior club champion, Denver Firth, who aligned with the lunar phase and opened the bite-window.

Denver won both the junior weight and junior points competitions with a 385-gram salmon and a King George whiting worth 1400 points (500 grams) respectively.

There are still many opportunities for squidgies and juniors to take part in the scheduled angling competitions and compete for comp-weekend prizes and the

club championships.

Consistent with everyone's expectations for big snapper, the senior heaviest weight contests had some notable examples.

The senior male and senior female heaviest weight competitions celebrated the achievements of two anglers - Mark Griffin and Debra Orr - each presenting chunky snapper, weighing 6025 grams and 2350 grams respectively.

The senior points competition saw James Nicolaci set a new club record for tailor, winning the male points for his 1075-gram tailor worth 2688 points.

Kate Jinnette won the female points with a King George whiting worth 1526 points (545 grams).

Alex Bowden, won the battle for the biggest flake, taking the honours in the shark competition with a gummy shark weighing 9680 grams.

Brian Bowers was closest to the mark in the secret weight competition, taking the prize with a 1025-gram snapper (secret weight 972 grams).

The competition for the prestigious Bill Wallis trophy was a notable highlight of the weekend.

This year, the trophy was awarded to Mark Griffin, who demonstrated exceptional skill and persistence.

With a snapper worth 6025 units and a King George whiting worth 1358 units, Griffin achieved a total of 7383 units, clinching the trophy.

The runner-up Chris Leonardos followed with 5903 units and Alex Bowden finished in third place with 4447 units.

The next RPIAC angling competition will be held over the weekend of December 9 and 10, 2023.

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

Euchre results

Ladies' winner: Faye Fletcher, 7 wins.

Men's winner: Greg Moran, 6 wins.

Encouragement award: Ian Brown.

New players always welcome.

Contact Bob Hee for further information on 0418 173 388.

Spring competition final

DARTS

In a cozy gathering of 17 players, the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League concluded its Spring competition on a positive note during week eight.

While the group may have been smaller than usual, the camaraderie and friendly competition remained as vibrant as ever.

Di and Bruce emerged as the stars of the evening, securing a

convincing 5-2 victory in their team game.

Unfortunately, their enthusiasm to enjoy the sweet taste of victory meant there was no time for a winner's photo, as they hurriedly made their way home to indulge in some well-deserved chocolates.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, Tony found himself in high spirits as the fortunate winner of the meat tray raffle (again!).

The league extended their gratitude to San Remo Butchers for their steadfast support, a gesture that contributes to the success and enjoyment of each Monday nights competition.

League president, Scott Lethbridge, expressing appreciation, said, "A big thank you to all our members, both longstanding and new, for making Monday nights a consistently friendly and enjoyable competition."

"Your participation and enthusiasm truly define the spirit of our league."

As the league bids adieu to the Spring Competition, there's a sense of anticipation for the upcoming post-Christmas season.

Plans are underway for a Christmas drinks catch-up in December, where the individual winners of the Spring Competition will be officially announced.

It promises to be an evening filled with holiday cheer, laughter and the celebration of a season well-played.

Reflecting on the season, Scott added, "We're looking

forward to our Christmas gathering.

"It's not just about the darts; it's about the friendships we've forged and the joy we've shared throughout the Spring Competition."

"Here's to more good times ahead!"

New players are always welcome, so if you are interested in being involved and enjoy a friendly environment with young and old alike, male and female, please contact Scott Lethbridge on 0407 543 154 or email scott@glpc.com.au.



Friends, Claudia and Miah celebrate their achievements after swimming at MSAC.

Super Saturday for SGB swimmers

SWIMMING

Super Saturday bought many great results for the SGB swimmers as they competed at two events: the Victorian Qualifying Competition in Melbourne and GSI 6 at Sale.

Sixty swimmers competed at the two separate events, coming home with National, State and Country qualifying times, as well as personal bests for the newer swimmers.

At Sale, swimmers

battled the weather at the outdoor pool, where the storm front ended up coming through and the last 10 races had to be cancelled. However, the officials put in a great effort to ensure most of the program was completed before the weather hit.

Coach Lorri who was there, was really pleased with the swimmers, many of them newer to competing and given the conditions made it harder to swim.

At MSAC, swimmers

were trying to get qualifying times for upcoming meets, with several swimmers achieving their goals and looking forward to attending a range of meets over the coming months.

The friendships made in the pool really shone on the weekend, as swimmers supported each other after each race helping motivate each other after a tough race and celebrated each other's success when they came.

ers and Old Timers.

From our late league:

Team Rich, Jd's, Loose Knuckles and Bananas in Pyjamas.

Interested in a league?

Come down and register for next season (starting February 2024).

More information: www.pitenpin.com.au.

This week's league results

TENPIN BOWLING

Thursday night business playoffs!

This Thursday, November 30, at 6.30pm our business teams will be competing in a knockout round to see who will be crowned this season's winners!

From our early league:

Balls Deep, Happy Hour, Woolly Roll-

Midweek battles it out at Corinella

BOWLS

What a day it was at Corinella. Forty-two of our bowlers turned up for our weekly challenge.

The weather was looking perfect and the company was also looking perfect. The bowling once again was excellent with almost no wrong bias bowls.

There was still some happy laughter around the green as some of us tried hard to keep up with the high quality.

Once again, we thank Peter, Pauline and John for their hard work each week.

Along with Phil in the bar and Gwen in the kitchen.

This week's winners on 36 points were: Phil Wright (S), Margaret Hoy (3), Pauline McWilliams



Winners: Phil Wright (S), Margaret Hoy (3), Pauline McWilliams (2) and Max Summers (L).

(2) and Max Summers (L).

Runners up on 34 points were: Peter McWilliams/Lindsay Russell (Co-Skips), Raff Merante (33) and Claire Sheers (L). Best one game on 21 points were: John Nicholson (S), Luke Monckton (3) and Cheryl Floyd (L).

Next week we will be

heading to San Remo.

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

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

Perfect conditions for social bowls

BOWLS

Social bowls was held on Thursday, November 23.

With summer just around the corner and our club numbers increasing with four rinks full, our bowlers relished in the perfect conditions for bowling.

Runners up for the day: Tony Steward, Elaine Severino, Glenda Grazules and Bev Emmett.

Congratulations to our winners: Derek MacDonald, Eric Wild, Serge Castel and Lyn Rogerson.



Left to right: Derek MacDonald, Eric Wild, Serge Castel and Lyn Rogerson.

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, November 21

Men's Stroke

Midweek Monthly

Overall winner: Chris Zderski (28) with 68 points.

A grade winners: A-1 Daniel Pearce (7) 69 and A-2 Tony Gay (12) 70 C/B.

B grade winners: B-1 Warren Hahnel (18) 70 and B-2 Danny Hibbert (17) 71.

C grade winners: C-1 Christian Zderski (28) 68 and C-2 John Savas (21) 69 C/B.

BDL to 74 C/B. NTP: 5th Ian Rowell, 7th Gerrard Ferrari, 10th Dave Egan and 17th Bez Moustafa.

Men's 9-hole Stableford

Winner: Noel Thomas (34) with 21 pts from Peter Matthews (34) on 20 pts.

BDL to 16 pts.

Wednesday, November 22

Women's 18H Stroke

A grade winner: Helen Coghlan (16) 75.

B grade winner: Mary Taylor (27) 67.

C grade winner: Robyn Chipperfield (40) 74 C/B. BDL to 77 C/B.

NTP: 5th, 10th and 17th Miyuki Yamaguchi, 7th Jane Sellenger.

Women's 9-hole Stableford:

Winners: Pauline Scoble (45) with 21 pts and Trish Jamieson (35) with 18 pts C/B.

BDL to 18.

Thursday, November 23

Open Stableford

Overall winner: John Maglica (28) 41 pts.

A grade winners: A-1 Brodie Mabilia (16) with 36 pts and A-2 Brady Ross (13) with 34 pts C/B.

B grade winners: B-1 Vince Colella (18) with 39 pts and B-2 John Savas (21) with 38 pts.

C grade winners: C-1 John Maglica (28) with 41 pts and C-2 Mark Davey (32) with 39 pts.

BDL to 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Shane Harding, 7th Danny Hibbert, 10th John Savas and 17th Ron Young.

Open 9-hole Stableford

Winner: Graham Robinson (34) with 23 pts from Brian Carvell.

Saturday, November 25

Men's 18-hole Stroke, round two championships

Overall winner: Paul Russo (11) with 66 points.

A grade winners: A-1 Paul Russo (11) 66 and A-2 Steven Duggan (8) 69.

B grade winners: B-1 Daniel Hall (17) 68 and B-2 Greg Holland (18) 70 C/B.

C grade winners: C-1 Dave Egan (22) 69 and C-2 Robert Dean (22) 70.

BDL to 75 C/B.

NTP: 5th and 10th Athol Hill, 7th Brent White and 17th Ron Young.

Women's 18-hole Stableford

Winners: Lorraine Hammon (21) with 36 pts C/B and Janice Baker (33) with 36 pts.

BDL to 31 pts.

NTP: 7th Adrienne Anglin and 17th Lorraine Hammon.

Nine-hole Open Stableford: Winner: Clive Hill (28) with 18 pts.

BDL to 16.

Sunday, November 26

Open 18-hole Stableford

Winners: Brady Ross (13) with 36 pts and Brodie Mabilia (15) with 28 pts.

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14 BEACH RD, RHYLL PHILLIP ISLAND



Dave 'Poison' Ivey made 141 on Saturday at Rhyll against Nyora.

Great effort by Sharks

CRICKET

A Grade

An interesting matchup was on the cards this week for the Phillip Island Sharks A Grade as they travelled over to Korumburra to face last year's A2 premiers on their home turf.

With storms forecasted and an inexperienced team – including four U17s, there was a few unknowns heading into the days play for the Island boys.

U17 captain Max Arceo making his A Grade debut, was presented with his Baggy Cap as the Sharks won the toss and elected to have a bat.

On a very slow outfield Heath Womersley and Lochie Cleeland got us off to a cautious but steady start on a new ball wicket that offered a little to the bowlers.

Runs began to tick as both boys found their shots, before Lochie fell in the 13th over for 18 shortly before the first rain delay.

With the passing storm and a wet outfield, an early tea break was taken before play resumed at 4pm as Daniel Mock and Heath looked to get into their groove.

Five more overs passed before another shower came through, however after a short break the boys went about their business nicely as runs started to come a bit easier.

When another storm rolled in, it put an end to the days play, with the Sharks finishing on 1/68 off 25 overs, Mock not out on 24 and Womersley unbeaten on 18.

An interesting day two is in store with a draw the most likely result, however some good cricket or a bold declaration could open the door for a result on either side.

C Grade

C Grade welcomed Nyora to Rhyll on Saturday for a two-day game.

Captain Cleary lost the toss again, extending his streak to 17 and Nyora sent the islanders into bat.

They got off to a shaky start as Huck Cleeland went in the first over, followed shortly after by Excell and Francis.

The Sharks were 3/29 after 15 overs.

Ivey and Paterson steadied the ship putting on a 54-run partnership, only broken when Paterson was caught for 15.

The skipper joined Ivey and he passed 50.

The pair put on a 63-run stand before Cleary was caught for 26.

Sonny MacMillan and Jonny Parry didn't trouble the scorers and the Sharks went into tea 7/177, with Dave 'Poison' Ivey on 90 not out.

The thunderous clouds opened up and play was delayed after tea. After the break the thunderous sounds came from Ivey's bat as he made an excellent hundred.

Finn Russell and John Johnston offered great support at the other end as Bud Marshall was on the way to a hundred himself as he was left on three not out.

The innings closed when Dave was caught for 141 - one of the greatest innings ever to be played at the Rhyll Cricket Ground.

Dave 'Poison' Ivey's innings consisted of six-sixes and 17-fours, a power hitting display that entertained all that got to witness it.

The Sharks ended on 245.

Having to bowl seven overs to finish the day, Nyora ended on 0/3.

The day belonged to Dave 'Poison' Ivey – congratulations from all at PIDCC.



Kate going for a runout. Photo: Peter Fogarty.

Island women give their all against Inverloch

CRICKET

Phillip Island Sharks hosted Inverloch at Rhyll on Sunday for their round three match.

With major sponsor, Luke Marshall Cabinets on hand, the Sharks welcomed new player, Tierlin, to the team.

After another loss of the toss, the Island women were sent into bat in the gloomy drizzle.

Kate started with an amazing six, while Katie battled on through injury, with the pair putting on a 21-run partnership.

Sienna and Emma ran strong-

ly between the wickets, taking the Island total to 35.

Jess displayed pure skill, hitting three boundaries, while Jay kept up her consistent run-making form.

Bec and Tierlin brought the total to 65, with Tierlin making her first runs for the club.

Rach also made her first runs for the club, partnering well with Claudia.

The Island finished the innings on 72.

The sky cleared in time for Inverloch to bat and Sienna opened the bowling attack.

Captain Bec, Jay and Kate all clean bowled the opposition, while Emma and Rach displayed great skill behind the stumps.

The Island women did a great job in the field, with Tierlin claiming a direct hit from the deep.

However, Inverloch passed the Island's total, making 111.

Players of the match went to Jay (Bang Bang - Cape Woolamai voucher) and Tierlin (Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre).

The next game is at 10am, on Sunday, December 10, at Rhyll.



Sienna put on a strong performance. Photo: Peter Fogarty.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 29 NOV	THU 30 NOV	FRI 1 DEC	SAT 2 DEC	SUN 3 DEC	MON 4 DEC	TUE 5 DEC
HIGH 3:03 am 3.13 m	HIGH 3:52 am 3.17 m	HIGH 4:35 am 3.15 m	HIGH 5:15 am 3.08 m	HIGH 5:51 am 3.00 m	HIGH 6:25 am 2.91 m	LOW 12:01 am 0.67 m
LOW 8:43 am 1.08 m	LOW 9:32 am 1.02 m	LOW 10:16 am 0.99 m	LOW 10:57 am 0.97 m	LOW 11:35 am 0.97 m	LOW 12:12 pm 0.98 m	HIGH 6:56 am 2.81 m
HIGH 2:39 pm 2.57 m	HIGH 3:26 pm 2.59 m	HIGH 4:09 pm 2.60 m	HIGH 4:49 pm 2.59 m	HIGH 5:29 pm 2.55 m	HIGH 6:08 pm 2.49 m	LOW 12:46 pm 0.99 m
LOW 8:36 pm 0.30 m	LOW 9:23 pm 0.30 m	LOW 10:06 pm 0.35 m	LOW 10:46 pm 0.43 m	LOW 11:25 pm 0.54 m		HIGH 6:47 pm 2.42 m

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Angus Farman – first time competitor in the Under 16 Cadet division, on a cranking right hander. Photo: Lachie Eastwood.

Boardriders Club Aggregate two showdown at Cape Woolamai

SURFING

On Saturday, November 25, the Phillip Island Boardriders Club hosted a 10-hour day of surfing for their second aggregate event of the year, showcasing the skills of local surfers ahead of the Aussie Titles.

Mother Nature played her part in creating a challenging yet exhilarating competition environment, as surfers from the Phillip Island Boardriders Club faced everything from perfect offshore conditions to sudden rain showers, gusty winds and moments of calm and sunshine.

Island surfers had to adapt to the changing and unpredictable conditions throughout the day, each eager to make their mark on the competition.

Seasoned surfers and emerging talents alike showcased their commitment to tackling the ever-changing waves of Cape Woolamai.

Early morning surfers and spectators were treated to glassy offshore conditions, with some epic early rides, including tube rides from Billy Hosking to a combination of turns from the juniors as the high tide produced some long rides.

In the afternoon, the wind shifted on shore and the tide had dropped, making conditions tricky for some, but ex-



Harry De Roth was a standout in the Open Men's Division. Photo: Peter Fogarty.

perienced surfers Harry De Roth and Carl Wright saw this as an opportunity to do some aerial manoeuvres.

In a closely contested competition, Harry De Roth emerged as the day's standout performer in the Open Men's division, Sarah Seuren had one of the highest wave scores of the day, winning the Open and U18 Junior Women's and Tate Russell took out the hotly contested U18 Junior Men's division, smashing big power turns out the back.

Phillip Island Boardriders Club Captain Ash Easton said, "Seasoned surfer Adrian Maier was a stand-out on the day, winning both the Seniors and Masters Divisions along with

young cadet surfer Hamish Farman who won his first ever shortboard event.

"I encourage the kids to watch experienced surfers like Adrian and Carl for their powerful vertical turns and the mix of turns and other manoeuvres that they squeeze into their waves.

"As a club, we want to push surfers to get out of their comfort zone and we have instructed the judges to reward surfers who display commitment to their manoeuvres and perform difficult and progressive manoeuvres out the back.

"It was great to see some of the Supergroms making the jump to competition and surfing in the cadets division, pad-

dling out in waves considered double overhead."

The Phillip Island Boardriders Club extends its appreciation to all participants, sponsors, and spectators who contributed to the success of the event as the club now looks ahead to the remaining events for the 2023/24 season.

Results

Cadet Females (U16): 1st Lillian Based, 2nd Scarlett Rennie and 3rd Evie Lutz.

Cadet Males (U16): 1st Hamish Farman, 2nd Angus Kennedy and 3rd Tavis Mahon.

Junior Females (U18): 1st Sarah Seuren, 2nd Jade Hilford and 3rd Zoe Scott.

Junior Males (U18): 1st Tate Russell, 2nd Sam Patterson and 3rd Toby Davies.

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

Senior Men's (28-45): 1st Adrian Maier, 2nd Sam Fullarton and 3rd Adam Vyva.

Masters (45-60): 1st Adrian Maier, 2nd Mark Patterson and 3rd Dumpy.

Legends (60+): 1st Mal Gregson, 2nd William Yusko and 3rd Brian Tancheff.

Open Women: 1st Sarah Seuren, 2nd Sophie Fletcher and 3rd Jade Hilford.

Open Men: 1st Harry De Roth, 2nd Ash Easton and 3rd Carl Wright.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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