

# PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



## New councillors for Island and Western Port wards

Based on interim counts from this year's elections, it looks likely David Rooks, Michael Whelan and Ronnie Bauer will be the councillors for Island Ward.

### Counting underway

Interim counts from this year's elections indicate Michael Whelan will return as a Bass Coast Shire councillor.

Joining him at the table will likely be Ronnie Bauer and David Rooks.

Whelan topped the interim count with 1945 first-preference votes, followed by Bauer on 1619 and Rooks on 1584.

The next closest candidate was Jeni Jobe on 694.

With preferences still to be distributed, the results are not yet confirmed.

It is worth remembering that in the 2016 election, the third-highest vote winner in each ward did not become a councillor once preferences were distributed.

However given the lead of the three top candidates, it's unlikely any other Island Ward candidate will be able to catch up through preferences.

Trish Cerini was in fifth position (554), followed by Ash Belsar (500), Mikhaela Barlow (303) and Darrell Silva (252).

Interim votes show Western Port Ward is experiencing a shake-up, with newcomer Rochelle Halstead polling strongly.

Current councillor Bruce Kent received the highest number of first preference votes (2474), followed by Halstead with 2055.

Clare Le Serve (1848) and Geoff Ellis (1435) will battle it out for the third spot.

The result is seen by some as a protest vote by Newhaven and San Remo voters against council's handling of the siting of a regional skate park first at San Remo and then at Newhaven, and opposition to the provision of off-leash dog areas at Cape Woolamai by Cr Geoff Ellis in particular.

### Tentative celebrations

The incoming councillors in Island ward on Monday were hesitant to claim victory before the expected declaration of the poll today (Wednesday) but both said they were humbled by the results.

*Continued page 14*

# Devastating blow for Mario's

Mario's at San Remo is shut until further notice, after a fire in the popular restaurant last Tuesday night.

Caused by an electrical fault, the fire started in a newly opened section of the restaurant, destroying toilets, laundry facilities and a storage room.

The rest of the premise, including the two dining areas and kitchen have smoke damage.

It's a devastating blow for the family restaurant, run by Mario Zinellu and wife Linda, who had already endured the toughest of years due to the Covid pandemic.

Mario described it as an "absolute kick in the guts".

"It's something I didn't really need."

But things could have been much

worse, if not for the quick thinking of some fellow San Remo traders.

Driving past on Tuesday night, Nick Say from the Westernport Hotel noticed water pouring out of the restaurant.

A melted water pipe had sent water gushing through the new section of the restaurant and out the door.

After calling Mario – "he said, I think you've got a plumbing issue" – Nick joined forces with Sammy Farah from Beand café who had a spare key to the restaurant.

The pair opened the back door to discover the rooms were on fire.

They grabbed a fire hose fixed to the back of the building trying to put out the fire and made a call to Triple Zero.

By the time Mario arrived, the



The fire destroyed the laundry and storage area of the new section of the restaurant (formerly the Cobra café).

CFA crews were on hand and the fire was under control, contained to the back rooms of the new section.

"I really want to thank Nick and Sammy," an emotional Mario said.

Despite the early detection, the impact of the fire on the restaurant was devastating, with the new dining area and main restaurant filled with smoke and covered in ash.

Three Sulo bins of food had to be discarded due to smoke contamination.

A number of tables and chairs and several baby seats were destroyed, as well as a washing machine, dryer, sink, shelving, food supplies and storage equipment.

Jars filled with Mario's home marinated tuna and pickles are also now unusable.

### Expansion plans turned to ash

Just prior to the pandemic, Mario leased the adjoining building (formerly the Cobra café) and expanded the dining area for his busy restaurant.

The redecorating plans, put on hold during the lockdown, had been completed a month ago.

All the plastering had been replaced, a new floor installed, and bathrooms upgraded with new sinks and toilets.

Double barn-style doors were put in to connect the two dining areas.

Having the new space had helped the restaurant to reopen with the Covid restrictions.

*Continued page 10*

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7 day weather forecast

Wed/Nov4	Thu/Nov5	Fri/Nov6	Sat/Nov7	Sun/Nov8	Mon/Nov9	Tue/Nov10
						
SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	POSSIBLE SHOWER	POSSIBLE SHOWER	MOSTLY SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY
17 23	11 15	10 16	10 15	10 19	13 18	14 21

Bass Coast COVID-19 update\*

As of Monday, October 26  
(Due to long weekend)

11,250 tests done locally

11 Local residents tested positive

0 Active cases

\*From BCH Assessment clinics only since March.



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

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Could this streetscape be transformed into a pedestrian mall? A partial road closure in Thompson Avenue is being floated as part of plans to allow for expanded outdoor dining. Photo Michelle Diggins.

# Slow progress for Cowes outdoor plans

Discussions to establish outdoor dining areas in Cowes appear to have stalled.

While San Remo is moving ahead with creating new outdoor areas and Inverloch traders are developing plans for street closures, no decision has been made for Cowes.

Key to the plans for Cowes is the potential closure of Thompson Avenue between Chapel Street and the Esplanade, creating a plaza or mall-like pedestrian area.

Traders in Thompson Avenue said they were approached by Council and representatives from the new Phillip Island Business Network several weeks ago but have heard nothing since.

Lois Gaskin from Turn the Page said she was asked about the idea of a half road closure in Thompson Avenue.

"But that was a few weeks ago and I've heard nothing since."

She supports the idea, but believes there is concern from some locals about losing parking in the street.

Romina Scarlato at Pino's Trattoria said they were also approached and fully supported a street closure.

"We were definitely all for the bold move by council to push for that street closure for the Christmas period

"It will mean more space for pedestrians to walk around and to maintain social distancing."

Romina said although Pino's didn't want to offer footpath dining, they supported the move and said it would make a lot of sense for smaller venues.

"Logistically for us to service another area, it was more of a challenge.

"We are fortunate enough to have the space and an extra handful of tables didn't warrant the extra work."

However she was enthusiastic about the plan, believing it was the opportunity to create a great atmosphere and market the local area.

"It's about promoting people to meander around, to walk. Then they're more likely to gravitate to retail stores, to grab an ice cream."

"I think the biggest challenge is some retailers have that mindset that they need the carparking out the front of their business."

She feared the "old school mindset" could mean a lost opportunity for the town, "if we aren't going to be bold enough to make those sacrifices for the short term".

"It's been so hard for businesses. This year, let's just come together."

But she was concerned time was running out to establish the new area.

"You don't just want to put tables and chairs out in the street, so it's not aesthetically inviting."

"I just thought because we hadn't heard anything since, it had fizzled out."

Expressions of Interest

Geoff Moed, from the newly formed Phillip Island Business Network said there had been discussions with traders and council about road closures to expand outdoor dining options.

As far as he knew, nothing had been finalised for Cowes.

He said it was up to business to decide what would work best, with council able to facilitate what the traders want, not dictate what could happen.

"Traders were supposed to put in an expression of interest," he said.

Ocean Reach Brewing is one business that had responded to the call and lodged an EOI request for expanded footpath trading.

Wayne Bismire said they were interested in using the footpath or the parking spaces directly outside their building and were waiting to find out the parameters of what would be permitted.

"Council has asked us if we'd be concerned if there was a road closure," he confirmed, describing the discussion as a positive one.

"We're supportive of anything that creates economic activity in the street."

"But the road closure is 100 per cent in council's court."

A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said it was still considering a number of outdoor dining applications in Cowes.

"Plans are still being developed in consultation with traders, with meetings scheduled this week."



POLICE BRIEFS

Car damage Cape Woolamai

Police are seeking assistance over a car damaged in Cape Woolamai on October 31. Between 12.30am and 1.30am, police say an unknown offender kicked a white Toyota station wagon parked in the Esplanade, between Manly and Southport streets, causing a dent in a panel. Anyone with information that may assist the investigation is asked to contact Leading Senior Constable Julian Wildenberg at San Remo Police Station on 5678 5500.

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# Ex-College teacher sent to County Court for trial

A 60-year-old former Newhaven College music director has been sent for trial to the Melbourne County Court on November 12.

Kirk Skinner, a college department head until stepping down from the role earlier this year, appeared at a committal hearing at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court on Thursday, charged by the Morwell Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT).

In February Mr Skinner, who lives at Woolamai, was charged with two counts of sexual assault of a child under 16, and in August detectives laid a further 10 sexual offence charges.

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

Earlier this year the Victorian Government's school regulators – the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority and the Victorian Institute of Teaching – confirmed it was reviewing Newhaven College's compliance and handling of the issue.

Last month, in a three-page letter to parents, guardians, students and alumni, the College released the details of a child protection review, written by board chair Greg Price who acknowledged "the seriousness" of the criminal case.

"Understandably, these



Former Newhaven College music director Kirk Skinner will appear at the Melbourne County Court on November 12, facing multiple sexual offence charges.

proceedings raise significant concerns for many in our community," Mr Price wrote. "Our thoughts remain with the alleged victims and their families ... and I ask that we all be sensitive to their privacy at this difficult time."

Mr Price said every student at the College had a "right to be safe", and the school had "a zero tolerance for child safety risks".

"Following the criminal allegations against the former

Director of Music, the Board and the Principal have been extensively reviewing the College's child safe strategies, policies and procedures."

He said the review included employment practices, the school's child protection policy and responsibilities, risk identification, staff code of conduct and reporting and responding to child protection concerns, all of which will be regularly reviewed.

# Isle of Wight site for sale

The iconic Isle of Wight site on the Esplanade in Cowes is up for sale!

Situated on prime foreshore land, the site has been vacant since fire destroyed the hotel in 2010.

Over the years there has been fevered speculation on its fate.

Greg Price from Alex Scott Real Estate in Cowes said the land was being offered for sale by expressions of interest.

"This is a genuine vendor," Greg said.

"They aren't in the hotel businesses so decided it was better for the land to go to someone more in tune with hospitality and tourism."

Divided into five blocks, there is the option to sell the blocks individually or for all blocks to be bought together.

The land measures 8624 square metres (approximately), with individual blocks ranging in size from 4047 sqm to 1012 sqm.

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

A second block measuring 1541 sqm is also on the



The iconic Isle of Wight site, described as the most significant "commercial property ever offered on Phillip Island" is up for sale, with expressions of interest open until January 2021.

Esplanade.

The three remaining blocks along Bass Avenue are all 1012 sqm.

The land is zoned "mixed use" and provides the opportunity for significant

development.

The sale has been described as the most significant "commercial property ever offered on Phillip Island".

Expressions of interest close on January 20, 2021.

# Schoolies on notice

The usual schoolies activities and services are not being rolled out this year.

Bass Coast Shire Council has confirmed it is not promoting Phillip Island as a schoolies destination or offering support services.

However this hasn't stopped school leavers eager to celebrate the end of school from making plans.

A Facebook page "Schoolies 2020 Phillip Island" set up last week has already attracted over 300 members.

A spokesperson for council told the Advertiser it has "no authority in accepting school leavers to the area, regardless of their location".

"If relevant Covid restrictions were still applicable, the movement of youths to Phillip Island for schoolies would be discouraged," they said.

Council said Covid restrictions may include limits to the number of individuals in indoor and outdoor spaces.

"We recommend that they register their attendance at the Good Times Great Breaks

website at [goodtimesgreatbreaks.wordpress.com/#post-4](https://goodtimesgreatbreaks.wordpress.com/#post-4) which includes helpful tips on staying safe with links to available youth support networks."

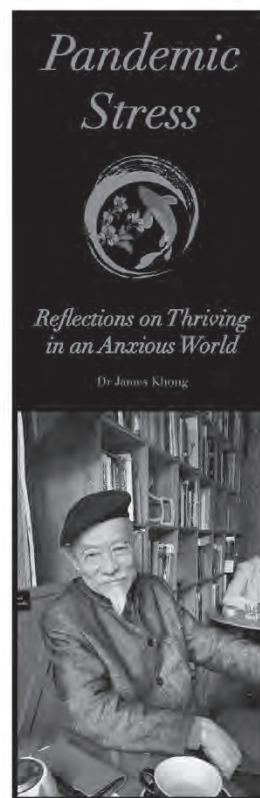
The statewide Good Times Great Breaks program includes local councils (Bass Coast, Mornington and Surf Coast), Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, local businesses and volunteer agencies, and aims to help young people have a great time and stay safe.

Volunteer organisations Red Frogs and DanceWize are also part of the program, providing outreach support to young people including free transport, barbecues and cooked breakfasts.

Victoria Police said it was currently assessing resourcing options in relation to Schoolies 2020, with more information to be provided at a later date.

However a police spokesperson stressed police will be enforcing the Chief Health Officer directives in place at the time.

Schoolies 2020 is set to run from November 21 to December 6.



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# AGL bay project could be “catastrophic”

Surfers, Phillip Island’s oyster hatchery and an array of community groups have weighed into AGL’s proposed gas plant in Western Port, outlining their concerns in submissions.

AGL is proposing to build a 290 metre Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) terminal at Crib Point, which will suck up about 470 million litres of seawater – including fish eggs and larvae – with water discharged into the bay about 7C colder and containing up to 47kg of chlorine a day. The FSRU will receive LNG from up to 40 super tankers per year.

AGL’s Environmental Effects Statement (EES) received more than 6000 submissions, with an Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) currently hearing EES submitters and expert witnesses until December 17.

The IAC is the most complex environmental assessment carried out in Victoria.

A damning submission from the Federal Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, written by Thomas Sands, states “fundamental issues” “have not been satisfactorily assessed” by AGL, and nor had the company assessed “potential cumulative impacts of the project”.

The federal government submission details a long list of information AGL must now provide, such as impacts from increased shipping, pollution and contamination impacts, collisions from ships, as well as impacts on fish, whales, leatherback turtles and waterbirds.

“The potential for additional spills/pollution associated with the increase in shipping needs to be discussed and addressed,” Mr Sands writes.

“Is there a plan to restrict ships to a minimum arrival frequency to reduce cumulative impacts and allow the site to recover somewhat before the next ship arrives?”

AGL’s EES states there is a low risk from the discharge of chlorine and colder water on waterbirds, mangroves and seagrass, however Mr Sands said



Phillip Island Oyster Hatchery director Steve Cooper said he was concerned by the impact of chlorine pumped into the bay and doesn’t believe the project warrants “the risk to our reputation.” Photo Ben Stern-unsplash

“this statement is too simplistic and does not address the cumulative impact of the additional port activity and shipping movements on the Ramsar site”.

## Oysters

Phillip Island Oyster Hatchery director Steve Cooper in his submission wrote he was concerned by the impact of chlorine pumped into the bay.

He said the EES failed to examine the effect of chlorine on all species at a larval stage, “which is extremely susceptible to chlorine at extremely low doses”.

“The effect on all fish stocks at a larval stage could prove catastrophic to an area that already suffers from low recruitment due to water quality,” said Mr Cooper, who is also Flinders Oyster Company director.

“Australia is known for its clean green credentials. I do not believe that this project warrants the risk to our reputation.”

## Surfers

Arthur O’Bryan, from the Surfrider Foundation, agreed, saying there was a precedent for the damaging effects of chlorine in the marine environ-

ment “just up the coast” at Gunnamatta Beach.

Mr O’Bryan said several years ago Melbourne Water released effluent treated with ammonia and chlorine – roughly the same amount of chlorine proposed by AGL – which stripped seaweed off reefs in a vast area, killed algae and had “a deadly effect on the ecology”.

“This destruction only ceased when community lobbying and a water crisis caused by drought, forced Melbourne Water to modify its effluent treatment; replacing chlorine with environmentally sustainable potable standards to achieve the potential for reuse,” he said.

Mr O’Bryan quoted 2002 EPA guidelines, which states “the use of chlorine as a wastewater disinfectant shall be avoided where there is any practical alternative.”

“This is the first large-scale floating gas transfer station of its kind and therefore an untested experiment.”

## Silverleaves, Seagrass

The 6000 submissions also include:

- Silverleaves Conservation Association president Marjory Johnston wrote the proposed AGL project’s dredging could further erode Cowes east beach-

es. The submission highlighted the fragile ecology of the bay, which saw past proposed industrial projects rejected, including: 1987 – Western Mining ammonia-urea plant; 1992 – Shell-Mobil “super-tanker” project; 2007 – Boral bitumen plant; and 2011 – Port of Hastings Container Port;

- Corinella Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management Dr John Lippmann wrote AGL’s EES modelling was not comprehensive and “in some cases totally inappropriate”. He said current Victorian laws prohibited the discharge of wastewater in high conservation value such as Western Port and the FSRU could “impact Phillip Island as a popular tourist destination”;
- Western Port Seagrass Partnership Ian Stevenson wrote the EES had “lim-

ited research” on the effects of discharging cold and chlorinated water on marine organisms. “There is the potential for environmental impact at all stages of construction and operation,” he said;

- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation wrote the construction and operation of AGL’s gas plant “would significantly harm” Aboriginal cultural heritage, with the EES “ignoring” or not taking into account Bunurong knowledge and expertise.

At the end of the hearing, the IAC has 30 days to report to the Victorian Planning Minister Richard Wynne, who has 30 days to respond and make his decision. The Minister can ignore the committee’s recommendations.

Details: [www.engage.vic.gov.au/crib-point-IAC](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/crib-point-IAC)



Storm clouds stretched across Cape Woolamai last week.

## Stunning storm

As storm clouds rolled in last Thursday, local photographer Nici Marshall at Snapshot photography raced to the Colonnades at Cape Woolamai to capture the moment.

“It was amazingly beautiful,” she said.

“So quiet and still, no wind just a delight to photograph.”

Despite the ominous appearance, not one drop of rain was recorded at the Rhyll weather station.

But the storm front capped off a wet and windy October, which recorded rainfall of 95.8, plus wind speeds of up to 52 km/h. And in case you’re wondering, temperatures ranged from 7.6 to 26.4 degrees.



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# San Remo's great outdoors

The plan to create more outdoor dining areas in San Remo is taking shape.

A number of local businesses have already submitted Expressions of Interest to Bass Coast Shire Council.

The EOI process is a way for businesses to register their interest in expanding outdoor dining options. This could include expanded footpath trading, using a car park area or setting up dining sections on closed roads.

The state government announced last month it would streamline planning approvals to make it easier for existing businesses to create new outdoor dining areas.

Work is already underway to create a new outdoor dining area for the San Remo Hotel.

Hotel Manager Ben Fisher said with limited space available on the footpath, he was looking "to do a bit of work out the front and the side, to get a bit more outdoor space".

The Westernport Hotel is also looking at options to create an extra outdoor dining area on the footpath directly out the front of the hotel.

Nick Say from the Westernport said the hotel had submitted an expression of interest to



Work has already started alongside the San Remo Hotel to create an additional outdoor dining space.

the council for outdoor dining as part of the council's 'parklet' initiative.

"We're very keen to see indoor patron numbers increased as soon as possible given our

industry's ability to manage a Covid safe environment and given the fickle nature of the Victorian weather, but we do see the ability to expand our operation onto the streetscape as a positive," he said.

"With many businesses along the main strip collaborating on design and with the council's support, the San Remo streetscape will have a very different feel this summer, and that's exciting."

Craig Edmonds, President of the San Remo Tourism Business Association said the two hotels were leading the way and plans for what could be done in the street were being drawn up.

This would include additional tables and chairs along the grassed foreshore area.

Paul Mannix from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op said the local traders met with representatives from council and the plans were looking "positive".

He said the Co-op did not put in an EOI with council, as the space they had was enough.

"We have our own outdoor dining area already, overlooking the jetty," he said.

"We moved some of our tables to meet the

Covid regulations and have got enough space for 60 people."

However he was impressed with some of the suggestions being put forward to help San Remo traders make the most of the summer visitors.

"Plans for the area include al fresco dining out the front of the pubs and putting more tables in along the foreshore.

"We're excited about it. This could end up being a great feature of San Remo," Paul said.

"I think a busy summer is definitely on the cards. We're ready for it. And lots of other businesses are getting ready too.

"As a community we are all heading in the right direction."

Several other non-hospitality traders along Marine Parade said they'd been approached by council and supported suggestions of closing off part of the street to allow increased outdoor dining.

## Boys Home plans paused until post-Covid

The owners of the old Newhaven Boys Home say redevelopment plans are on ice until the end of Coronavirus.

Owner spokeswoman Jane Wang told the Advertiser last week "spending money at this time is stupid".

"If they opened the doors to Australia that would give property investors hope," Jane said.

"At the moment we are happy to put everything on hold until the situation is clear, because Australia has shut down. We don't want to put any money into it (the old boys home)."

Jane confirmed they had no plans to sell the 1.4ha site at 54-61 Forrest Avenue.

She said investors, including herself, had already lost money on other property investments because of the pandemic, including in their Melbourne hotels and medical centres, where tenants were unable to pay rent.

"In this industry no one wants to take a risk to spend any money right now."

Jane said once business was back to normal they would meet with Bass Coast Shire planners.

A group of 10 investors own the property and at the beginning of the year started work gutting the site, which has been vandalised and neglected since they bought it in 2016.

Jane said they had planned a three stage \$9 million development, with the first stage including a restaurant in the chapel, as well as accommodation for 14 in the Boys Home, which it had been hoped would be finished by December.

Jane, from Fusion Project Acumen vowed to maintain the historic structure of the property.

The shire earlier this year confirmed there was a live planning permit for the site that allowed for: subdivision into 21 lots; partial demolition of existing buildings; construction of

road and subdivision works; removal of vegetation; construction of a garage building and 10 dwellings; and making alterations to existing buildings.




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# Here's hoping for a busy summer!

It looks like we're in for a busy summer. And businesses couldn't be happier. The phones started ringing "literally before the Premier had finished his announcement last week", said Serena Cabello from Phillip Island Glamping.

Every weekend for the family-run glamping business between now and Christmas is fully booked, with some midweek dates as well.

"This is normal for us in November, which is one of our busiest months, so we are relieved," she said.

From hotels to apartments, caravans to camp sites, accommodation providers are breathing a sigh of relief as holiday bookings come in.

The news that Melbourne was finally coming out of lockdown and the prospect of welcoming city visitors back from November 8 is a light at the end of the tunnel for local businesses.

"People were booking up until the second lockdown, then it stopped dead," said Catherine Drazzi, Manager at the Sea Horse Motel in Cowes. "From the announcement (of the end of lockdown) bookings were coming in thick and fast, for November through to January."

"We get a lot of regulars who come back year after year."

While Christmas bookings are looking normal, so far November is anything but.

"November is looking good, but it's not our normal levels," Catherine said.

"We got about a quarter of the bookings we'd normally have for the Melbourne Cup weekend."

Over at Anchor Belle Holiday Park, it's a similar situation.

"Normally Cup weekend is booked out weeks in advance, but this year I think there were four cabins booked (out of 20 plus cabins)," said Amy James.

The summer holidays are a different prospect. "We're pretty much booked out for the first fortnight, and they're long bookings," said Amy.

In contrast to the previous two summers, where people were mainly interested in short stays, this year customers are booking in for a week, or 10 days.

"It's amazing and a huge relief to actually have bookings coming through."

Amy said the popular holiday park lost between 70 - 100 per cent of their income from April to October.

"It's brutal for everyone. We went from 15 staff



*Nalan Glass from Silverwater Resort said the end of lockdown had provided certainty for the months ahead, with bookings for Christmas looking like a normal season.*

down to six."

And now the team is working overtime, to ensure the park is offering a Covid-safe holiday for their guests.

"It's our duty to protect staff, the community, guests and our business," Amy said.

"We just keep rolling with the punches. It's nice to be able to open."

## Christmas vacancies

Every accommodation provider the Advertiser contacted said they'd been inundated with queries and bookings over the past fortnight.

The VisitBassCoast website reported an increase in accommodation enquires in the past week, but said there were properties available for the summer period.

Sally Matthews from Getaway Phillip Island said people were still hesitant about booking accommodation.

"We need to explain that yes, we will refund if another lockdown happens."

With many regular guests, she said bookings were looking fairly normal, although there were less properties on the books than usual, with many owners using the properties themselves this summer, as they hadn't been able to travel this year.

Ramada Resort General Manager Michael



*While bookings for November are improving, Catherine Drazzi from the Sea Horse Motel in Cowes said it was well below the usual level.*

Armour said Christmas holiday bookings had been relatively strong and he expected to be fully booked out within weeks.

"Demand is always strong for that period, but to be almost sold out by early November is very positive."

At Silverwater Resort, Director of Revenue Nalan Glass said the end of lockdown provided certainty for the months ahead, with bookings looking like those for a normal season.

"We are always booked out over summer and it's not any different this year," she said.

"People book in a year ahead, reserving their apartment for next year as they're checking out."



Encouragingly, bookings during November are also increasing, although down on the average.

"People are more cautious," she said.

"We were booked out for the Melbourne Cup weekend, but when the restrictions didn't get lifted, they all cancelled."

Nalan said the past six months had been terrible for all local accommodation, but the resort had remained open.

Silverwater was one of the state's "Hotel for Heroes", picked by the Department of Health and Human Services to house essential workers, including staff from Bass Coast Health.

"It was a pleasure to work with them," Nalan said, praising the hard work of the medical staff.

"It made us feel that we were contributing."

She was confident the demand for accommodation within Victoria would ensure a full house over summer, even if the state borders didn't reopen.

"It will have an impact if the borders don't reopen, but I think we will get more demand from local (Victorian) visitors."

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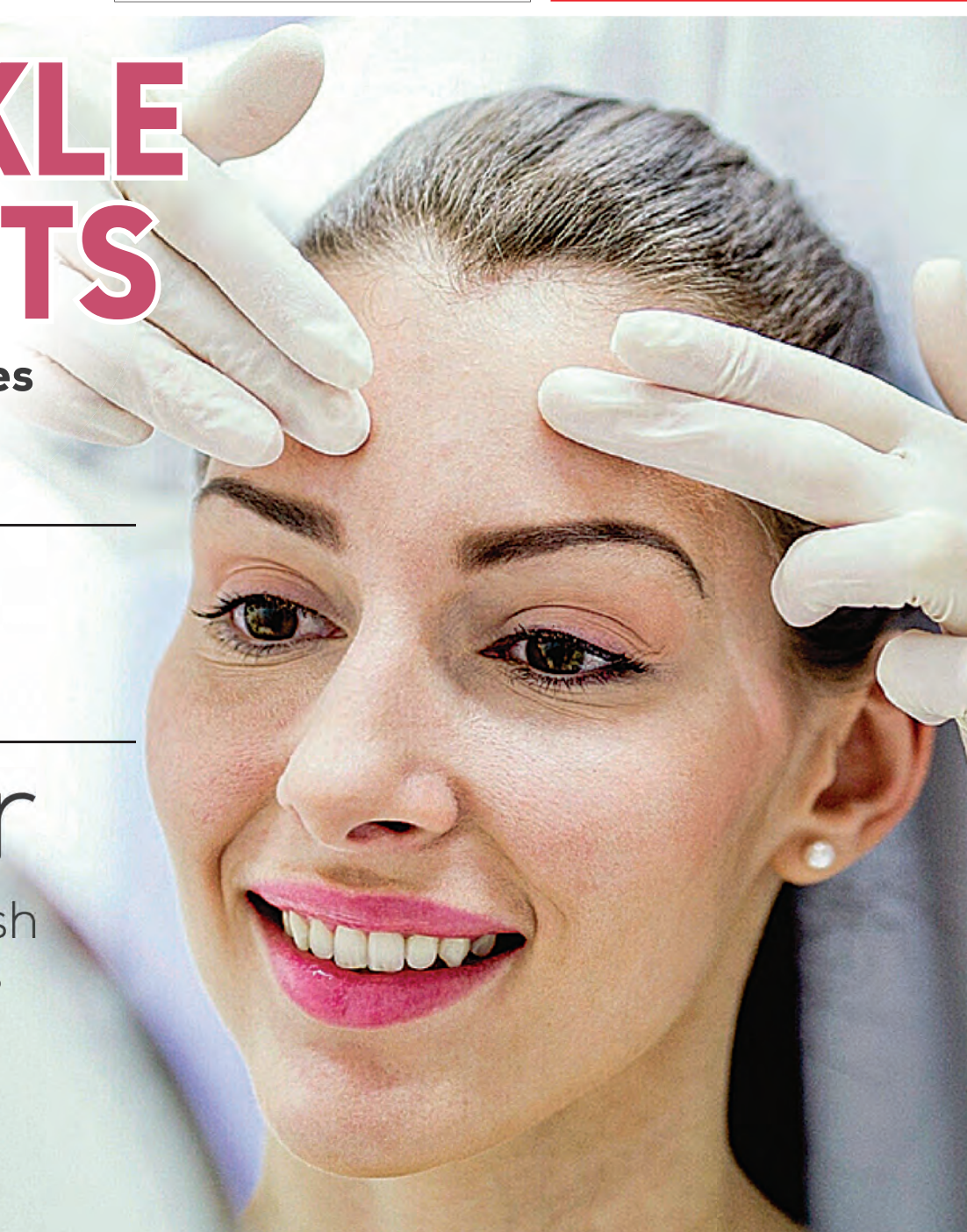
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# Doors open at the Nature Parks

All three of Phillip Island Nature Parks attractions will reopen daily from next week.

The Penguin Parade, Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island will recommence daily operations from Thursday, November 12.

“This is a very significant moment in the State’s roadmap to recovery, and we are just so thrilled that our friends and neighbours in metropolitan Melbourne will be able to join us soon,” said Catherine Basterfield, Nature Parks CEO.

“Our team has shown phenomenal resilience over the past several months, and we are all looking forward to showcasing our attractions which are looking fantastic after a lot of focussed maintenance activities.

“The penguins have definitely come to the party as well, with an early breeding season in full swing, so there are chicks everywhere, and the penguin viewing is sensational.”

The Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island are sure to be popular spots with their open spaces, fresh air, and plenty of room to move around freely and safely.

Churchill Island will also be hosting its first Farmers Market for the season on Saturday, November 7.

All of the Nature Parks’ attractions are operating under a comprehensive Covid-Safe plan to keep visitors and staff safe with capacity management, and enhanced cleaning and hygiene procedures in place. Online tickets are required for entry to each of the attractions, and bookings are essential at the Penguin Parade due to limited capacity.

Please refer to [www.penguins.org.au](http://www.penguins.org.au) for latest updates on visiting the Nature Parks.

## Looking ahead

“Like all Phillip Island businesses, we are re-opening in a very different world, and looking ahead we are working on strategies that focus



While closed to the public, Nature Parks staff tackled over 164 hectares of weed control with the team putting in huge hours tackling woody weeds across sensitive Coastal Reserves.

on our domestic visitors in the short term, but continuing to support our international markets and industry colleagues so we are top of mind and ready when we can welcome overseas visitors again,” Ms Basterfield said.

“Live Penguin TV has played a huge part in not only raising the awareness of the Nature Parks and Phillip Island, but also creating a real connection with our audience. We recently reached the incredible milestone of over 20 million viewers in the nine weeks since we launched, but we aren’t stopping there.

“We’ve got some exciting plans

for Live Penguin TV over the next few months, so watch this space!”

Ms Basterfield said as the Nature Parks prepared to re-open, it was a great opportunity to look back on the last six months, and “reflect on some of the Nature Parks’ many positive achievements, thanks in large part to the funding support received from the State Government”.

As a State Government entity, Nature Parks’ staff were not eligible for any of the wage subsidy programmes such as JobKeeper, so the funding received allowed for the retention of nearly 200 permanent staff members who were redeployed



During the lockdown, revegetation of the penguin habitat around the new Penguin Parade visitor centre was completed.

across the Nature Parks.

The redeployed staff achieved significant wins for conservation including:

- Providing critical care, rehabilitation, and recovery for 13 bushfire affected koalas
- Reaching a significant milestone in bringing Eastern Barred Bandicoots back from the brink of extinction by providing 56 bandicoots for release onto neighbouring French Island.
- Rehabilitating 26.4 hectares of habitat with 36,246 plants in the ground and removing Sea-spurge across the entire Nature Parks

coastline.

- Over 164 hectares of weed control with the team putting in huge hours tackling woody weeds across sensitive Coastal Reserves.

- Planting out old management roads in the Summerland Estate to create wildlife habitat and also planting groundcovers around new bollards at Shelley Beach. A total of 58 trees were put in the ground and guarded along with 80 ground covers.

- Preparation work for the upcoming fire season.

- Rare plant surveys and protection measures.

- Completing revegetation of the penguin habitat around the new Penguin Parade visitor centre.

- Analysing thousands of images for scientific research.

- Having a successful trip out to Seal Rocks disentangling four out of five Australian Fur Seals entangled in fishing line, nylon baling string and trawl net. Two of the seals were pups, two juveniles and one was an adult female.

- Successfully completing grant and award submissions.

Other team members have also contributed their skills and talents in projects such as cataloguing an historic lace collection at Churchill Island, taking superb photos of workers in the field to record our journey, and making cushions for children’s play areas to name a few.

“We are also eagerly awaiting the staged and safe return of the Nature Parks’ incredible team of volunteers, who we have sorely missed over the past months,” Ms Basterfield said.

“We are excited to be continuing on this journey, and I would like to take this opportunity to personally acknowledge the strength of our team and our community, and I look forward to us playing our part in the continued recovery of Phillip Island and the wonderful state of Victoria.”



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# Airfield plans take flight

Bass residents fear plans for a new airfield and plane hangar will devalue property prices, scare livestock and pose a threat to native animals.

The \$45,000 development is proposed for a 40ha property at 79 Netherwood Lane in Bass, with a planning permit currently open for public comment through Bass Coast Shire.

Under the proposal, the airfield would be restricted to a maximum of 20 flights – one take off and one landing – per day and operated by the property owner, who is a member of the Southern Microlight Club.

The permit states the airfield will not be used as the headquarters or clubhouse of the club, with members flying “the smallest and quietest class of aircraft” and are “enthusiasts with a common interest in flying microlight aircraft”.

“But it is not a commercial or profit-making organisation,” the permit states, adding each aircraft owner will bring their own fuel.

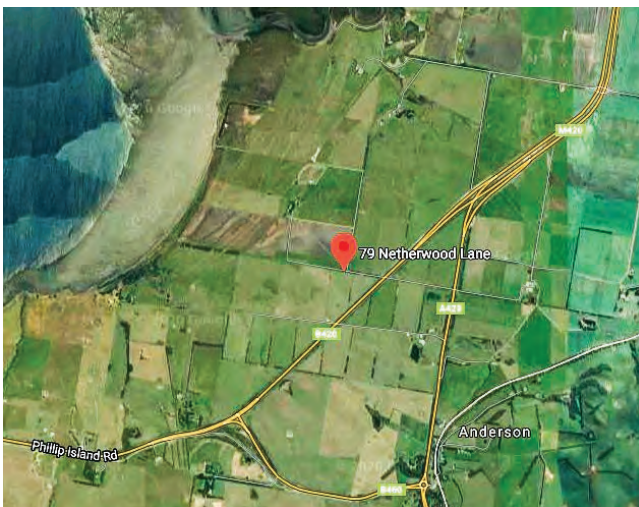
“Each aircraft owner will fly their own aircraft for personal recreational purposes and will not give flying lessons or act as sight-seeing tourist operators with fee paying passengers.

“Use of the airfield will be restricted to recreational aircraft with a maximum of two seats with one passenger.”

The airstrip will be 550m long, while the 240m<sup>2</sup> Colourbond aircraft hangar will house a maximum of 10 planes.

The airfield would operate between 7am and 7pm from April to November and 6.30am to 9.30pm from December to March, with no lighting required.

There would be no employees and the maximum number of patrons would be capped at 20.



A planning permit for a new airfield and plane hangar at a property in Bass has received over ten objections.

According to the plans, the flight path will generally follow the Bass Highway and then turn to land directly onto the airfield.

Alternatively, the flight path could follow the beach, depending on conditions.

## Objections

About 16 submissions have been lodged with the shire, mainly objecting to the airfield proposal.

One objector said they were concerned the plans would devalue surrounding properties, adding they were concerned the airfield would soon become commercial.

“Who wants to live near or next to an airport,” they wrote.

“The visiting aircraft and their noise are for the enjoyment of a small group with an unwanted and unnecessary sight and sound that is an intrusion to our daily life.

“I feel the applicant’s planning application is in disguise

as a private/hobby nature and in reality creating the base for a commercial business.”

Several objectors detailed their concerns for wildlife, particularly birds in the nearby internationally-recognised Ramsar area of Western Port Bay.

“It seems absurd that this proposal be given the go ahead when it goes against all existing related organisations and individuals’ efforts to protect this fragile environment,” an objector wrote.

One objector, a farmer, said the plans offered no guarantee “to ensure the aircraft will not send our stock through electric fences”.

“Our goats, sheep, cattle and horses are used to the quiet of the area, therefore they are placid.

“However, it is the nature of animals to be startled and skittish with unexpected and unfamiliar noise and visuals, one animal can send all into an uncontrollable panic.”

# Get to know your Nature Park

The Nature Parks team is loving the chance to welcome locals back to enjoy nature, wildlife, fun and wide-open spaces.

We would also like to remind you of the exclusive Locals Pass which offers the Bass Coast community free-roaming all year, with entry to all attractions for the price of just one visit. Perhaps the biggest bonus is that the pass brings you into the Nature Parks family with exclusive updates, offers and events.

“We love our locals and want to share the Nature Parks story with you and get to know each other more,” said Sally O’Neill, Phillip Island Nature Parks Community Engagement Officer.

“Locals Pass members receive regular updates on what’s happening in nature and across the Nature Parks, including ‘inside information’ and invitations to experience our conservation and ecotourism programs with our passionate conservation team.”

“It has been an extraordinary year, and we are looking forward to being together again with our local community. We hope you too will fall in love with your local Nature Parks – its stories, its wildlife and their Island haven home.”

The Nature Parks is a not for profit organisation and all visitors, including our local community, contribute to the work we do to protect nature for wildlife.



A Locals Pass offers free-roaming all year with entry to all attractions for the price of just one visit. Rod and Isla from Cape Woolamai get to know some of Churchill Island’s residents.

We proudly manage many of Phillip Island’s natural areas that locals share and enjoy – most likely an area in your neighbourhood including:

- 25 per cent of Phillip Island’s natural areas
- 115 kilometres of the total 141 kilometres of Phillip Island’s coast and islands
- 42 kilometres of walking paths and tracks
- 4.7 kilometres of boardwalks, 38 viewing areas and 22

shoreline access points

Passes must be purchased in person with your identification at the Koala Conservation Reserve or Churchill Island.

For those who already have a Locals Pass, you’ll be hearing from us soon with offers, and hope that you will consider renewing your pass to keep experiencing all of the member benefits and enjoying free roaming of the beautiful Nature Parks.

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“We’re down but not out” said Mario Zinellu, who hopes to reopen in a limited capacity later this month, after a fire last Tuesday forced his San Remo restaurant to close.



Three bins filled with produce had to be thrown away due to smoke contamination, with many of Mario’s home marinated treats now unusable.

# Ventnor battle-axe block battle

Plans to build a second home on the rear of a block in Ventnor have been refused by Bass Coast Shire councillors because the proposal was “out of character” with the hamlet.

For the third time in a row, councillors at last week’s meeting ignored shire planners’ recommendations to grant a planning permit.

Instead councillors refused the application to build a second dwelling to the rear of a 707m<sup>2</sup> property at 11 Fisher Street, Ventnor, which has a double storey dwelling at the front.

Cr Stephen Fullarton moved the successful motion to refuse the plans saying two houses on a site that size was not in keeping with the character of Ventnor.

“It’s a holiday area with boats, cars and visitors and this just won’t work,” said Cr Fullarton, who did not re-stand at the council elections.

“The whole development is not in keeping with the whole area.”

Cr Pam Rothfield, who also did not re-stand, agreed, saying the development did not “enhance or protect the environment”.

Cr Michael Whelan, who is seeking re-election, said he wanted to wait for the state government’s imminent release of the details of the Distinctive Areas and Landscape policy, which will guide town boundaries and density of development.

# Devastating blow for Mario’s

## From page 1

“We could get up to 80 meals across the two sittings. That made it viable with the restricted numbers,” Mario explained.

He even had two new staff about to start, in preparation for the upcoming holiday season.

“They were due to start on Thursday, and I had to ring them on Wednesday and say you can’t start, there’s been a fire.

“Hopefully they’ll still be there when we need them. It’s hard to get staff down here.”

Still, he keeps looking to the future.

Already operating a small outdoor dining space, Mario has spoken to the council about setting up additional outdoor spaces underneath the restaurant’s verandah.

He’s hoping to reopen the original section of the restaurant in a limited capacity in a few weeks, including takeaway, once he gets the all-clear from the Health Department.

But for now, professional cleaners are hard at work, cleaning both dining areas and the kitchen, and trying to clear out the smoke smell.

Mario is thankful the fire was discovered before it reached the main restaurant and kitchen area.

“If it had got into my kitchen, I wouldn’t be reopening,” he said.

“I’m 60. I’m too old to start from scratch.”

He’s also thankful that he didn’t abandon his insurance when money got tight during the lockdown.

“I was thinking of knocking it back, as it was getting really tough.

Thank god I didn’t. We would have been stuffed without it.”

Insurance assessors have inspected the site, and declared the structure sound, but internally the back of the new section will need to be completely replaced.

## Support

Mario and Linda broke the news of the fire via social media.

“We are down but not out,” the couple posted on their Facebook page, saying they would see all their loyal customers again soon.

Customers and friends flooded the Facebook page with condolences and offers of help.

“We have room to store stuff and we are good cleaners,” said one.

“Bloody hell, as though this year has not thrown enough curve balls,” another customer commented.


“So devastated for you all, after the love and energy with your recent renovations to put things in order before summer,” said another.

His landlord has also chipped in, provided storage space for the chairs and tables in a nearby building, while the restaurant is cleaned.


Mario’s cooking has been an institution in the area for more than 30 years, renowned for his seafood dishes and authentic Italian cuisine.

He and Linda opened the San Remo restaurant five years ago.


Hopefully the local community will rally and support the family when the restaurant reopens.



# Settings



# Switch



# Survive

Follow these steps to turn your phone on Do Not Disturb when driving and turn off the temptation.

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# Farmers market returns

In another sign that life is slowly returning to normal, the popular Regional Farmers Market at Churchill Island returns this weekend.

The market will run from 8am until 1pm on Saturday, November 7.

The Regional Farmers Market has been coming to Churchill Island for 19 years, and Market Coordinator Melissa Burge said they're thrilled to be back.

Regular patrons will see plenty of familiar faces, with over 25 stall holders setting up shop on the grounds at Churchill Island.

"We'll have all our regular lines from our regional traders, with a few new traders on board," Melissa said.

With the "ring of steel" still in place, the market will feature regional traders only, with a strong presence from local and South Gippsland traders.

"A whole range of food will be there, including great local produce," she said.

That includes eggs, olives, fresh flowers, bakery treats, berries, apples, pears and fresh vegetables.

Other stalls will feature plants, dumplings and candles and popular regional providers like Bromley's Bread, Hilltop Meats and Millie and Romeo's will also be on site.

"We're back and ready to roll," said Melissa.

"Our stall holders are so excited to come back and see all their regulars."

While the market has returned, a few things



*The market will feature regional traders only, including Koonwarra's Millie and Romeo's, and payment will be by card, in line with Covid requirements.*

have changed.

One is the date.

Normally held on the fourth Saturday of each month, the Churchill Island market has now been

moved to the first Saturday, starting on November 7.

It's also now a cashless market.

In line with Covid regulations, all shoppers will have to present ID at the gate, to verify they are regional customers and must wear a mask.

There will be sanitiser at the entry and a copy of the Covid-safe regulations will be clearly posted on site.

All the stall operators are temperature checked on arrival and to help maintain social distancing, there will be directional signage to move shoppers in a clockwise direction around the stalls.

While there will be food to eat, you won't be able to sit and eat or enjoy a coffee like the old days.

"Because of Covid, it's a case of shop-and-go at the moment," said Melissa.

With the market heading to plastic bag free status, she reminded shoppers to bring their reusable carry bags.

The Regional Farmers Market at Churchill Island will now operate on the first Saturday of the month, with the following market scheduled for Saturday, December 5.

Melissa is confident the market will also be able to operate weekly throughout January as per normal.

For updates and information, visit their Facebook page: Regional Farmers Markets – Churchill Island.



*Peter Buitenhuis, pictured at last year's Remembrance Day event with Vietnam veteran Rod Legg, will play The Last Post and Reveille at the San Remo Cenotaph.*

## Remembrance Day in San Remo

There will be a brief observance of Remembrance Day in San Remo on Wednesday, November 11.

The flag will be flying at the Cenotaph, which is opposite the IGA Supermarket.

Vietnam veteran John Methven OAM, will read The Ode and Peter Buitenhuis will play The Last Post and Reveille.

Anyone wishing to lay a wreath or flowers is invited to do so then, or at any time during the day.

Those attending are asked to be mindful of COVID-19 safety. There won't be any seating, other than the benches that are there permanently.

Two minutes' silence will be observed at 11am, so please arrive by 10.50am and observe appropriate social distancing.

# A different Remembrance Day

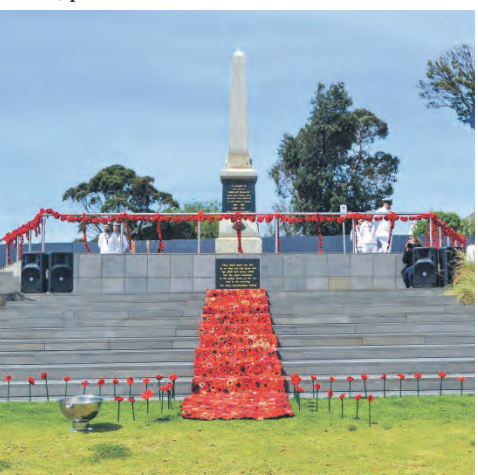
With Covid restrictions still in place, this year's Remembrance Day will look at little different.

While people, schools and workplaces will still hold a minute's silence at 11am on November 11, public commemorative ceremonies have been put on hold.

The Phillip Island RSL will hold a private ceremony, as a full service at the Cenotaph is not possible under the current restrictions.

### Poppies

The Annual Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal has commenced, and poppy badges will be available outside Cowes Newsagents and Coles, plus San Remo IGA.



*Covid restrictions means there will be no public Remembrance Day service at the Cowes Cenotaph as in previous years.*

### Broadcast ceremony

The Australian War Memorial will hold a nationally televised Remembrance Day commemorative ceremony on November 11.

The format of the ceremony has been altered to comply with Covid-safe rules and will be attended by a limited number of invited guests; and broadcast live across Australia by the ABC.

In a post on its website, the War Memorial

said the service will include the laying of wreaths and a minute's silence on the eleventh hour.

"At this time, the Australian public will be encouraged to safely pause in their homes, schools or workplaces to observe the minute's silence to remember not only those lost, but all who came home and also those who follow in their footsteps."

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## Council Update



### Newhaven Public Art - Expressions of Interest

Council is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from experienced artists to create a contemporary public artwork to be installed in the township of Newhaven. Artists are required to register their interest by submitting a portfolio of previous works. For more information on the EOI, the brief and the EOI form please visit our website at

[www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/newhavenart](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/newhavenart) or contact Team Leader Arts and Culture, David Burrows on the numbers below or email [public.art@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:public.art@basscoast.vic.gov.au). Applications close on Sunday, 22 November 2020.

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Pat O'Garey, of Bang Bang in Cape Woolamai is overwhelmingly grateful for local support but is looking forward to welcoming back Melbourne patrons. "Melburnians have been doing it tough over the last few months. I can't wait to see them visiting our little slice of paradise again."



Cheeky Goose Cafe Cowes is back and ready to fly. "It's been a really hard 2020 and it's not over yet, but we're determined to keep fresh local produce, history and fun part of everyday island life," said owners Rob and Rebecca van den Brink. "We've got lots planned for 2020/21 ... we hope you're hungry!"

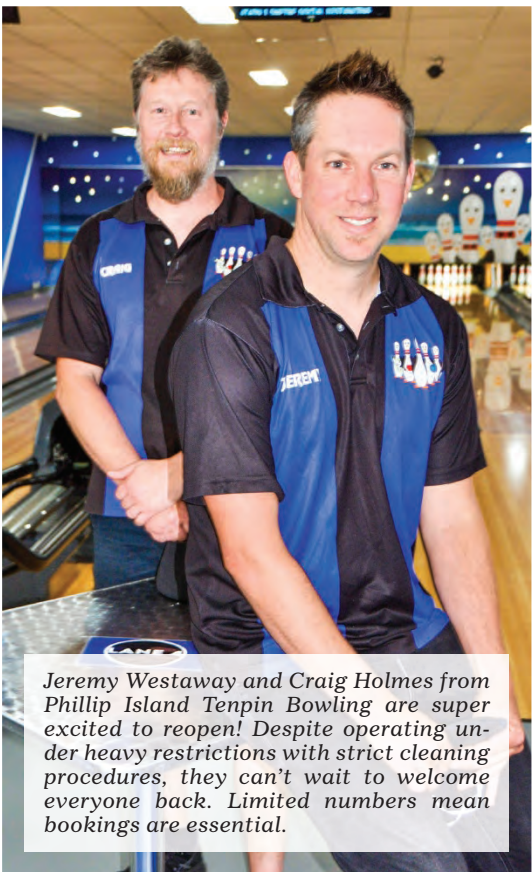
# Back in Business

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

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



Jess Patman, Mel Gibson and the Wildlife Coast Cruises crew are back on the water, running with limited numbers. There have been plenty of whales sighted at Wilsons Prom and the seals at the island have been excited to see the boat back out there. They can't wait to welcome Melbourne visitors on board.



Jeremy Westaway and Craig Holmes from Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling are super excited to reopen! Despite operating under heavy restrictions with strict cleaning procedures, they can't wait to welcome everyone back. Limited numbers mean bookings are essential.



The staff at Kids Play Toys would like to thank the Phillip Island community, saying they feel grateful and humbled by the locals' ongoing support. During Covid, they needed to get inventive, so created an online shop offering a 'click and collect' service to their customers.



# KEEP IT LOCAL

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# New councillors for Island and Western Port wards

From page 1

"It's surreal," said David Rooks, who campaigned strongly on an environmental and community platform.

The immediate goal for David at this stage is for council to get cracking to support local business in every way possible so that they can fight back from the devastating effects of Covid.

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

David said he was aware that the shire no longer has a face-to-face service centre or tourism information site in Cowes and would like to address this situation as a priority.

Ronnie Bauer described his election as very humbling.

"I consider it a great honour to serve the people of Island Ward, and indeed the entire island," Ronnie said.

His first priority in line with the platform he took to the election will be to seek a debrief from council officers on achieving a weekly red bin pick

up over the summer period.

He will also throw his weight behind the push for a Phillip Island Aquatic Centre to become a reality after over 20 years of striving by the island community.

Ronnie said he believes working as a team with his fellow councillors will achieve the best outcomes across the shire, and he will be doing this.

Sitting councillor Michael Whelan thanked the community for the vote of confidence given him, and outlined his major focus in the short term, with unfinished business on a number of fronts still in the offing.

A priority is to give council support to the Distinctive Areas Landscape legislation going through parliament.

"The legislation will deliver a statement of planning policy. We need to make sure it addresses what we as a community have raised, including no further extension of existing town boundaries."

Cr Whelan describes progressing a new Cowes Recreation Precinct (on the carnival land) and getting a masterplan up for use of this area, as an important priority; along with advocacy to both the Federal and

state governments for funding to proceed with a new Phillip Island Aquatic Centre.

And he has the establishment of a safe bike path in Thompson Avenue, as well as the development of a shared pathway extending from Cowes out to Summerland in his sights for early in the new council term.

With success in gaining funding for erosion prevention and a rock revetment wall any pathway extending from Rose Avenue to Silverleaves, he is keen to ensure that this project proceeds in a timely manner.

## Bunurong results

In Bunurong Ward, current Mayor, Brett Tessari has an unassailable lead with 5366 votes, followed by Leticia Loring (1796) and Michael Nugent (1296).

Preferences will be the decider to see if sitting councillors Julian Brown (989) or Les Larke (1105) will be able to secure a spot.

The Victorian Electoral Commission website states final results of the 2020 election will be available between Monday, November 3 and Friday, November 13.



Staff and Board members with their awards: Front: Joan Matthews, Caroline Talbot, Janice Rowlingson and Bruce Procter. Middle: Emily Slade and Kim Grant. Back: Michael Scott and Pat Russell

## Bendigo Bank: service acknowledged

At their recent AGM, the local Bendigo Community Banks mixed business with pleasure.

As well as the election of a new committee, the meeting was an opportunity to recognise the outstanding contribution of some directors and staff.

Joan Matthews was elected chair, with Peter Paul as deputy.

The Community Bank now has a program to recognise staff and directors for 10, 15 and 20 plus years of service.

"The Community Bank had much pleasure in introducing a Rewards and Recognition Program for our staff and our voluntary directors," said deputy chair Peter Paul.

At the meeting, staff member Emily Slade and Kim Grant, along with San Remo Branch Manager Michael Scott were presented with 10-year service awards.

The service of board members Caroline Talbot, Joan Matthews, Janice Rowlingson, Pat Russell and Bruce Procter was also acknowledged.

Peter Paul said presentations will be made annually.



Tanya Donnan - Cowes Branch Manager, Michael Scott - San Remo Branch Manager, Joan Matthews - Chair and Peter Paul - Deputy Chair at the Bendigo Bank AGM.



Staff 10-year service award recipients - Emily Slade, Michael Scott and Kim Grant.

# Vale: Dr Tim Ealey

There has been an outpouring of condolences across the community after the passing of "Dr Mangrove" Tim Ealey.

A post on the Phillip Island Conservation Society Facebook page paid tribute to Dr Eric Mitchell "Tim" Ealey, for his work through the Western Port Seagrass Partnership, of which he was a director with Phillip Island residents the late Professor John Swan and satirist John Clarke.

Dr Ealey worked with local schools and community groups to plant mangroves in Western Port, which were "frequently sabotaged by ignorant people and rough weather", according to PICS.

The local school children referred to him affectionately as "Dr Mangrove" and loved going out on foreshore planting excursions with him.

"Tim knew that the removal of mangroves by humans had been a grave error which we must work to redress if we are to save many parts of our coastline," the PICS post said.

"He was many years ahead



'Dr Mangrove' Tim Ealey, with Environment Project Officer, Clare Landry and interpretive signage erected at Grantville.

with this thinking."

Dr Ealey worked as a marine biologist in Antarctica for several years and was the first Australian to circumnavigate Antarctica.

He later studied kangaroos in Australia's desert interior, working with indigenous tribes.

In 1999 he retired to Coronet Bay, a decade later kickstarting a community mangrove seedling propagating and planting program to stop coastal erosion along waterline communities.

He celebrated his 90th birth-

day in the Coronet Bay hall in 2017, after which he and his wife Laura moved to South Australia to be near family.

Bass Coast Shire councillor candidate Clare Le Serve wrote: "RIP Tim, your life long work won't be forgotten".

Lisa Brassington wrote: "Tim was an absolute treasure to our world".

"I hope we can have a permanent memorial to his work and passions," Lisa said.

"He was a guardian of so much that we have in our natural environment."

# He was our Dr Mangrove

Bass Valley Primary School pays tribute to Dr Tim Ealey OAM who died last month, aged 93.

Dr Tim Ealey worked with Bass Valley Primary School from 2004, supporting an environmental project with Western Port Seagrass Partnership.

Our teachers, and parents joined Dr Ealey in shared ideas of building future stewardship for the environment in young people and giving them knowledge about their own local ecology. This work was awarded a Victorian Coastal Award in 2006.

Our project began with a trip to Reef Island to gain an understanding of the values of mangrove habitat.

We counted the number of mangrove seedlings in quadrants, measured the height of seedlings in each quadrant and their spacing.

We developed the skills of wading in mud and remaining upright!

We weren't always successful,



Tim Ealey with Bass Valley Primary students, worked to restore mangroves along the waterline.

but Dr Mangrove had it down to a fine art.

At school in our mangrove nursery, Dr Ealey would carefully sort out the healthy mangrove seedlings as we got them ready for planting.

The students referred to him as the 'mangrove doctor', as he

described the reasons why some of the plants might fail and what they needed to grow well.

In our time with Dr Mangrove we waded in mud, picked seed to propagate, nurtured seedlings and planted them to restore stands of mangrove along our waterline.

We gazed out over the water and listened as Dr Ealey explained the links and connections of life in Western Port.

No question phased Tim. He stood in the mud with us leaning on his stick with children coming and going with their stories of discovery and questions.

Someone once asked, "Who's that old guy at our school?"

"That's Dr Mangrove, he's got a really big brain," was the reply.

The teachers and staff of Bass Valley Primary School, past and present, express their condolences to Tim Ealey's family and to all who held him dear.

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**WHEN POSITION COUNTS**

**For sale \$219,000**  
**335/1 Findlay Street, COWES**

Perfect access to all Cowes central and Cowes foreshore you could require. The large open plan living opens onto a large East facing balcony. There are plenty of options with regards to investment or just use the property yourself. The secure undercover parking is an added feature as is the lift access. This unit is larger and more practical than the average Waves unit, an inspection is a must!

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When illustrator Eirian Chapman moved to Phillip Island in 2019, she started drawing the wildlife she encountered on her daily walk as a way to help her get to know the island.

# Colourful characters

The wildlife of Phillip Island has been captured in glorious colour by local illustrator Eirian Chapman.

Her Island Animal cards, packaged in a hand-folded box, are sure to delight children and adults alike.

Featuring some of our favourite residents, including Little Penguins, echidnas and the Eastern-Barred Bandicoots, the cards are a personal homage to Eirian's adopted home.

When she moved to the island in early 2019, Eirian was overwhelmed by the wildlife she encountered on her daily walks.

"I couldn't believe how many weird animals there were.

"I thought it was a good way to get to know the island by taking note of all the animals."

Setting herself a target of one illustration a day, she started drawing every animal she encountered.

A night tour of Churchill Island to observe the tiny Eastern Barred Bandicoots by torchlight inspired more illustrations.

In between her commercial jobs – a professional illustrator Eirian has worked with companies as diverse as Uber, Spotify and Schweppes – she first sketched the animals, then drew them up in Adobe illustrator.

It took about a year to create and



Her Island Animal cards feature some of our favourite animal residents in glorious colour, printed locally on 100 per cent recycled paper.

package up the cards, which are now available online, or at Turn the Page in Cowes and The Store in Ventnor.

The response has caught her a little by surprise, admitting she draws for herself without thinking about the potential audience.

"I am always illustrating for adults to enjoy, but I did think these would be good for kids.

"A lot of my friends have bought the cards for their children."

It's not surprising the whimsical and colourful creatures have captured people's attention.

Eirian is hoping the cards will help share her love of the local wildlife with others.

"We didn't know the island that well when we moved here," she said.

"Initially we thought we'd give it a year, and we got sucked in. We love it."

Watching her friends in Melbourne suffering through the lockdown, Eirian feels like she escaped "in the nick of time".

And she's ahead of her time as well.

As a freelancer, she's revelled in the freedom of living out of the city and working from home – an option that many city-dwellers are actively pursuing in the wake of the Covid restrictions.

"I've been a freelance illustrator for about ten years, so it was an easy transition to work from Phillip Island."

And many of us would have seen her work without even realising it.

"A lot of what I do is promoting a product or a company," Eirian said.

"Graphic illustration is really important at the moment. Everything that you see that is illustrative is communicating something and there's someone at home working on that.

"You just don't see the face behind the illustration."

Island Animal cards are available at Turn the Page, Cowes, The Store, Ventnor and [www.eirianchapman.com](http://www.eirianchapman.com).



Safina Stewart is one of several artists who regularly takes part in the NAIDOC Week art exhibition. Photo courtesy of Safina Stewart.

# Celebration of Indigenous Artists

The Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group is hosting the Celebration of Indigenous Artists for NAIDOC Week for the seventh year.

A stunning display of the work of local Aboriginal artists can be seen from this week at the Artspace, Wonthaggi.

The paintings cover a range of artistic and cultural styles and means of expression, some telling stories, some deeply spiritual, some traditional, some contemporary.

The NAIDOC exhibition is an opportunity to showcase the rich and diverse cultures of our Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Safina Stewart is one of several artists who regularly takes part.

"Some of my pieces have a clear plan and objective, such as my McMillan painting," Safina said.

"It had a specific purpose in bringing Aboriginal perspectives to the foreground of the public's minds. Many of my artworks develop with-

out objectives or structure. They are best described as a 'pilgrimage'. A journey into silent depths, where beauty lays quietly waiting to be found, and truth is waiting to be absorbed.

"For me NAIDOC is about remembering our Aboriginal and Torres Strait heroes and heroines. Those like William Cooper, Pastor Doug Nicolls and Aunty Gladys Nicolls. We remember their challenges and triumphs. We are inspired by their legacies."

Works are on display from November 3 until December 13, surrounding NAIDOC Week (November 8-15). Visitors to the Artspace will need to follow Covid-compliant requirements. The works can also be viewed on-line at [www.naidoc-art.com.au](http://www.naidoc-art.com.au) from November 8.

All works are for sale.

The Artspace is in the Centennial Centre, 1 Bent St, Wonthaggi.

Enquiries should be directed to Mary Mutsaers, [maryemutsaers@gmail.com](mailto:maryemutsaers@gmail.com)

# Cowes customer service still on hold

With Covid restrictions easing, Bass Coast Shire Council has said face to face customer service will return from this week.

The Wonthaggi centre will be the first to reopen, operating from 10am until 2pm weekdays.

"This will help us test working in a Covid-safe workplace while open to the public," a Council spokesperson said.

"We can then consider other centres reopening."

The dilemma for Cowes is where the Customer Service Centre will be located, with the demolition of the Cowes Cultural Centre.

"We are currently reviewing service options for Cowes while the centre remains closed and we will consider what this may look like as more restrictions ease and demand increases," the spokesperson said.

At present, the reopened customer service centre in Wonthaggi will be for "transactional business only".

This includes payments, submitting permits, general enquiries and collecting green caddy liner bags.

"All other services areas will continue to be available to the community online, over the phone, and by appointment."

With the "ring of steel" around Melbourne set to be abolished from November 8, the Newhaven Visitor



The Newhaven Visitor Information Centre will reopen from November 13, but there are no confirmed plans for providing face-to-face customer service in Cowes with the Cultural Centre now demolished.

Information Centre will reopen to the public on Friday, November 13, operating from 10am to 3pm Friday to Monday.

"Our Visitor Information staff will continue to be available via phone, email, the online chat and our so-

cial media channels, seven days a week from 9am –5pm," the council spokesperson confirmed.

"We will monitor the situation and increase days of operation in line with demand for our face-to-face service if needed."

# School launches farmers market

Newhaven Primary School has launched a regular Farmers Market, as part of the school's fundraising efforts.

With their major fundraiser, the annual Cup Weekend fete cancelled due to Covid restrictions, the school has organised a Farmers Market on Saturday, November 7 from 8am to 1pm.

The market will be held at an interim pop-up location in San Remo behind the Thirsty Camel Bottle Shop at the San Remo Hotel.

It will feature the best local and seasonal produce and a great range of speciality products.

The school's fundraising coordinator, Jennifer Carroll said Newhaven Primary has partnered with an organisation to deliver the monthly market, to help raise funds for the school.

"It's also offering a service to our local community, supporting our farmers and stall holders," she said.

"Due to the current situation, the market will commence on Saturday, November 7 at a pop-up lo-



Don't miss the Newhaven Primary School's Farmers Market in San Remo this Saturday, 8am until 1pm. Photo Markus Spiske – unsplash.

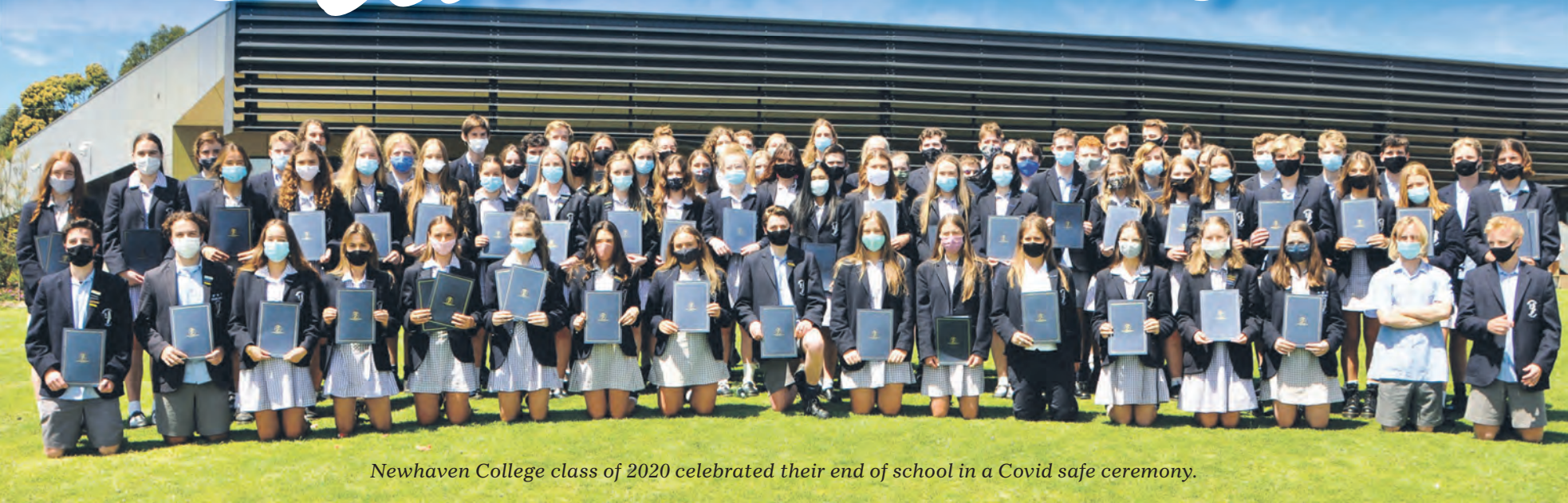
cation behind the Thirsty Camel, thanks to the generosity of the owners of the San Remo Hotel."

She said the market will allow the school to fundraise and give back to local businesses and the community.

The markets will be held at San Remo for the remainder of the year before moving to the school grounds in 2021. Details at [www.facebook.com/NewhavenFarmers-MarketAU](http://www.facebook.com/NewhavenFarmers-MarketAU).



# College Celebrates the end of Year 12



Newhaven College class of 2020 celebrated their end of school in a Covid safe ceremony.

It was a different celebration to mark the end of secondary school for Year 12, but there were still plenty of smiles and emotion.

Due to Covid restrictions, parents were not able to attend.

The morning began with a Year 12 breakfast with students and staff, followed by the House farewell meetings with students and staff speaking about each student.

The Year 12 Presentation Assembly was held in the new Amphitheatre. The prize winners were awarded and each student received their Valedictory Certificate.

Principal Gea Lovell addressed the students, praising them for their hard work and commitment during a difficult year.

"If you are not where you want to be right now don't despair; dig deep, draw on family, friends and the school – we'll still be here for you once you leave –and you'll find the path to where you want to go.

"You can't let Covid be an excuse or allow it to interfere with your goals and what you wish to achieve," she said.

Ms Lovell called on students to think about

what the pandemic had taught them.

"It really is important to think about what we've learned from what's happened to us over the past months. If we don't stop and think about life's experiences, they can pass us by and we can lose an opportunity to learn something from it.

"My personal congratulations to each of you and as you take this next step in the journey of life, I really wish you much happiness and great success because I know you're going to go out and improve our world."

Mayor awards were presented to Sam Taylor (Principal's Prize), Mia Stratmann (Papworth Prize), Faith Hollyoak (ADF Long Tan Leadership Award) and Cailen Lone (ADF Future Innovators Award).

At the completion of the assembly the Year 12 students made their way to the lawn area where they were joined (at a safe distance) by the whole school who came out to witness the traditional 'release of 50 white doves'; a spectacular highlight of the celebrations. Group photos were then held on the Senior School Lawn followed by a celebration luncheon in the gym.



College band Parallel Parking performed as part of the Year 12 graduation ceremony.



Students took part in a smoking ceremony as part of the end of year celebrations.



ADF Long Tan Leadership Award winner Faith Hollyoak with Gea Lovell and David Hynes.



Recipient of the Principal's Prize Sam Taylor pictured with Principal Gea Lovell, and Board Chair Greg Price.



2020 Papworth Prize winner Mia Stratmann with Gea Lovell and Belinda Kinnane.



50 white doves were released as part of the ceremony, witnessed by the entire school.



# KOOKY AND SPOOKY!

The Covid-restrictions didn't stop some intrepid trick or treaters roaming the streets on Saturday night, but overall, it was a subdued Halloween.

With a limit to group sizes, warnings not to enter private property and DHHS recommending treats be individually wrapped and left on the fence, many ghouls and goblins opted for a backyard Halloween celebration.

But Mother Nature came to the party supplying a brilliant full moon for the occasion.



A triple dose of Maleficent. Jenny Low (back) with Alya Williams and Clover Wynen.



Spotted in Cowes, Blair Smyth from Bombshell Bettys Beauty, took a Covid-safe approach to Halloween.



Scooting out to trick or treat in Cowes were Maggie and Finn, as a unicorn and Mario.



Getting into the "spirit" of things, this house in San Remo had gravestones, skeletons, zombies, witches and plenty of cobwebs, sure to delight any trick or treaters.

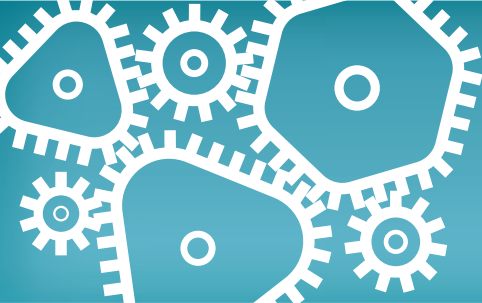


It was a ghoulish and gloomy Halloween with Pumpkin head (aka Sailor Wynen), Finn Middleton and Lily Carville.



Plenty of tricks with this bunch, and a superhero or two! From left: Rori, Jordan, Evelyn, Ayla, Paddy, and Callum.





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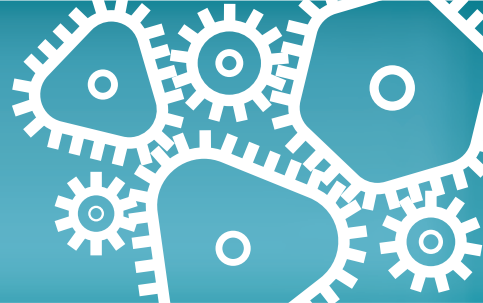
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Road rage projects

As a member of the Community Reference Group for Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study, it was crazy. Most of the year, traffic flow is easy on what is a dead-end minor road.

No change needed. On busy weekends, it's crawling grid-lock. So change makes no difference. Tens of millions of dollars only makes a bigger parking lot.

It was all about safety for starters.

At the turnoff to Cape Woolamai, just a T-intersection. So why not traffic lights? But VicRoads (RRV), attending early meetings, were adamant traffic lights are dangerous, settle for nothing less than empire building, big budget roundabout, dual lane, no less. Shire folks were there also but can public servants ever object to big buck project?

Particularly crazy is speed limits.

From before San Remo, all the way to Visitor Information Centre, its 60kmh then 80kmh. Just 100 metres or so further is the Chocolate Factory on the right, attracting big traffic, big buses, big caravans and lots of cars.

Another 200 metres on the right is turnoff to Churchill Island, again plenty of visitors, especially for major events. Further again on left is Cleeland Rd turnoff to many houses.

Then it's Woolamai Beach Road, followed by Veterans Museum and Helicopters. So even before debating traffic lights, why not keep 60 kmh speed limit until after all these intersections?

Whether it's a report by PIITS, Shire, RACV or VicRoads, first priority is always claimed to develop "active transport" which means walking and cycling.

Why is this priority never delivered?

With speed reduced to 60 and traffic lights, the argument is that you get gaps in traffic so that folks other than car drivers can safely cross.

Other than danger, Vic-

Roads also say traffic lights slow down traffic.

Is there anything wrong with transponders buried in road surfaces, so lights are permanently green on main road, only changing when vehicles need to turn right?

If in doubt check Google maps. Newhaven to Cowes, 15km and 16 minutes, so not 60kmh already, so why not relax, scrap remaining short 80kmh stretches?

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Tackle the job yourself

I wish to reply to Absolute Disgrace, W. Stanley of Cowes (Advertiser, October 21) regarding the foreshore at Stradbroke Avenue.

Personally I do not know this section of Cowes but I can hear your frustration and anger which you have directed at Bass Coast Shire Council.

Surely if "the standard you walk past is the standard that you accept" then nothing will change.

My suggestion is that instead of berating others to clean up the mess you organise with neighbours and other concerned individuals and start tackling the job yourself.

BCSC will assist if you approach them, with tools, gloves, plants and insurance cover.

I invite you to come and see what other local volunteer groups have achieved.

Cape Woolamai Coast Action began in 2000 as a small group of concerned locals and now 20 years later we have a magnificent foreshore along Cleeland Bight.

We meet monthly to weed, remove rubbish and in winter plant. And although Covid has meant we have only met twice in 2020 we have still managed to plant 250 new plants and thanks to the many local walkers who regularly pick up any rubbish, we have a beautiful beach and foreshore.

Scenic Estate is another example of just a few local volunteers meeting regularly, who over the past five years, have transformed an eyesore into a place of beauty.

Marg Dumergue, Cape Woolamai

Traffic review needed

It's good to read the Phillip Island Conservation Society supports the strategic planning of transport, in combination with caring for the environment.

Safety and amenity is important too.

Does anyone know the numbers of new homes built annually on the island over the last 10 years? And the forecast of new homes to be built over the next say five years?

The Bass Coast Shire, Westernport Water and Ausnet Services would have these numbers ... it would be good to print the numbers in the Advertiser.

Just driving on the roads, there is an awareness of there being much more traffic and activity around.

The reality is the volume of traffic (cars, pedestrians, bicycles, commercial vehicles and industrial transports) has increased considerably and will continue to increase over time, and action is needed now.

I have written previously about several areas of concern, including the need for turn-in and turn-out lanes for Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay residents, the questionable safety of the five-ways intersection near the Koala Conservation Centre and the poor condition of Justice Road between Church Street and Settlement Road, and also the section of Settlement Road between Justice Road and Red Rocks Road ... a combination of RRV and Bass Coast Shire responsibilities.

It would be good if other road users could write to the Advertiser with their thoughts too.

A traffic review is needed now and priorities set as a result. The two new roundabouts on the Phillip Island Tourist Road have very much improved traffic flow, and the RRV and all involved should be congratulated.

Lesley Feddersen, Cowes



Characters from the Marrina Mouse Gingerbread Trail are featured in local businesses across the island. Follow the trail to find them all and go in the running for some special prizes.

Follow the gingerbread trail

There's an extra bit of Christmas cheer spreading across the island.

The Marrina Mouse Gingerbread Trail is the brainchild of Belinda Phillips from Marrina Mouse dance school.

It's a unique Christmas journey designed to capture the imagination and help unite the community, with a map to guide children around town to find all the gingerbread pieces.

Belinda said she came up with the concept of the trail using Marrina Mouse to help lift people's spirits.

"It's been a tough year for local businesses and a tough year for the community.

"Marrina Mouse is a symbol to 'Take A Leap', no matter who you are or your age.

"I wanted to shine that light on the community to let them know that together we can achieve anything. Being a performing arts teacher, I wanted to teach the children of Marrina Mouses Dancing House a great lesson. That no matter if the theatre is dark, the world is your stage."

Local businesses have

thrown their support behind the idea with over 20 businesses included on the map.

Belinda said families can follow the map and find the characters, which are featured at the different businesses.

"Each business is bringing their own flavour to the trail.

"Phillip Island Chocolate Factory have got some pretty delectable delights, and Citrus and Vine has special treats planned as well.

"Eleven Cafe is offering a free baby chino or children's hot chocolate with the purchase of a coffee. Each store has something wonderful, so it is worthwhile popping into each as you never know the exciting things you will find," Belinda said.

There are two very special characters along the trail - Picky Penelope and Evie the cool Llama - inspired by children that attend Marrina Mouses Dancing House.

The map, including an audio version, can be accessed on Instagram (@Marrina-MousesGingerbreadTrail) or collected from Citrus and Vine, Phillip Island Chocolate

Factory and Cowes IGA.

The Trail begins at St Philip's Anglican Church in Cowes, at the Elderberry sign.

As you follow the trail, upload a photo with the characters you discover, and tag the business and @marrinamousesgingerbreadtrail, to go into a draw to win prizes from local stores and services.

All prizes and details are available on @marrinamousesgingerbreadtrail Instagram page.

Businesses on the trail include: Marrina Mouses Dancing House, Cowes CWA, Cowes Newsagency, Kids Play Toy Shop, Brinnie T & Design, Island Juicery, Penny Lane, Elements Hair, Eleven Cafe, The Jolly Lolly Trolley, Pino's Trattoria, Neon Circus, Ocean Reach Brewery, Phillip Island Bakery, The Waterboy Cafe, One Stop Discount Shop, Cotton Onto Craft, Cowes IGA, Phillip Island Chocolate Factory, Silverleaves Cafe, Citrus & Vine and Grumpy's Mini-Golf.

Thanks to Sally Matthew's from Getaway Phillip Island for sponsoring the Elderberry sign at the start of the trail.

CWA craft market at Loch

Local CWA branches in Gippsland are combining for a Destash Craft Market in Loch on November 8.

The market runs from 1pm - 4pm at the Loch Hall and includes a fantastic range of craft supplies, fabrics, wool, needlework kits, scrapbooking supplies, vintage patterns, craft books, threads and more.

You'll also be able to enjoy the CWA's legendary Devonshire teas and other light refreshments.

Bass Coast Group President Sally Mat-

thews is encouraging locals to donate unused craft items to sell at the market.

"It has been a tough year for Community groups to fundraise and this is a wonderful event re-homing craft items. Out of the cupboard and box and onto the sewing table and knitting needles," she said.

Items can be left at the CWA shop in Cowes.

The Destash Market, Sunday, November 8. 1pm - 4pm. Loch Hall, 16 Smith Street, Loch Admission \$2. Children free. Refreshments available.

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## DEATHS



**HONKEY, Warren:**  
The Board of Management and all members of the Phillip Island Bowling Club regret the passing of popular and valued member of the Phillip Island Bowling Club Warren Honkey after a long battle with cancer. We pass on our deepest sympathies to Cynthia.



**Mr Derek Hewson**  
Service Details:  
A5436  
Royal Australian Air Force

The President, Committee, Members, Management and Staff of the Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch regret the passing of Derek Hewson, a respected Service Member of our Sub-Branch. Our sincere condolences are extended to The Hewson Family.  
LEST WE FORGET.

## FOR SALE

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

#### Details about the application:

The land affected by the application is located at: **192-198 Thompson Avenue, Cowes Victoria 3922.**  
The application is for a permit to: **100101a - 1 Amend the planning permit for a residential aged care facility for buildings and works (extension), Alteration to road access and removal of a restriction.**

The applicant for the permit is: **Matthies Property Investments P/L and Australian Aged Care Group P/L C/- Fastnet Consulting Pty Ltd.**

The application reference number is: **100101a - 1**  
You may look at the application and any documents that support the application by visiting Council's website at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/planningads](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/planningads)

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority.

Council collects and holds this Personal Information to comply with the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic).

An objection must be sent to the Responsible Authority and include the reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected, in writing, addressed to Bass Coast Shire Council, P.O. Box 118, Wonthaggi Vic 3995 or email [basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au)

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available for any person to inspect until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before **18 November 2020.**

If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision.

JO00377AA



### NOTICE OF Ordinary General Meeting

16 November 2020

4.30pm

Virtual Meeting

#### State Executive Elections

For more information and to register your attendance visit:  
[www.pirsl.com.au](http://www.pirsl.com.au)

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### SITUATION VACANT

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MSC7943

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

## SITUATIONS VACANT



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Casual - Closes 06/11/20

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**For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website [basscoasthealth.org.au](http://basscoasthealth.org.au) or contact Human Resources via email [hr@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:hr@basscoasthealth.org.au)**

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Cathy Felstead  
San Remo Pre-school  
P.O. Box 324  
San Remo Vic 3925

Email enquiries can be made to:  
[san.rem.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:san.rem.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

### SITUATION VACANT



### OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PRIMARY SCHOOL COWES

An exciting opportunity exists at Our Lady Star of the Sea School for an experienced and enthusiastic **Part Time Education Support Officer** commencing January 2021. Applicants must embrace an ethos of working in partnership with colleagues, parents and students to develop a thriving contemporary learning community where relationships are highly respectful, reflecting our school motto of Courage Compassion & Creativity.

#### Applications should include:

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#### Forward applications to the principal:

Mrs. Catherine Blackford  
Email: [principal@olsscows.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@olsscows.catholic.edu.au)  
Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School  
6 Cowes-Rhyll Road, Cowes 3922  
Phone: 5951 1700

*Applications close: Friday 6th November 2020*

Our Lady Star of the Sea is committed to the safety, wellbeing & inclusion of all children.

JO00375AA

## PUBLIC NOTICES



The Westernport Tennis Club AGM meeting in 2020 will be held online via Zoom.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Time: 7.30pm

Club Secretary: Sharyn Blakemore 0421 135 206

(contact the club secretary with your email address to be provided with the zoom meeting link)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### SITUATION VACANT

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1. Ensure that factual material in news reports and elsewhere is accurate and not misleading, and is distinguishable from other material such as opinion.  
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8. Ensure that conflicts of interests are avoided or adequately disclosed, and that they do not influence published material.





Teachers: Tash Robinson and Tori Ryan enjoyed their World Teachers Day treats.



School Captains Sienna Macmillan and Sam Schuller with the messages put together by students for their "superhero" teachers.

# Our everyday superheroes!

Last Friday Cowes Primary School celebrated World Teachers' Day 2020.

This year teachers (with support from parents and carers) have ensured education continues across the country, despite major challenges.

COVID-19 and the move to remote learning has had a massive impact on teachers, students and parents. It has reinforced the significant role teachers play in the lives of children and students, their families and communities.

The students at Cowes Primary School took time last week to write little notes to their "ev-

eryday superheroes". These were collated and presented to each teacher by the school captains, along with a delicious cookie.

Principal, Rodney McKenzie said the teachers at Cowes Primary School and across the broader education community had "navigated new ways of teaching to help their students achieve academically whilst supporting them socially and emotionally through a difficult and scary time".

Thank you to the teachers for their tireless work, collaboration and commitment to the students of Cowes Primary School.



## Wild minds!

There was no dress up but plenty of imagination as Newhaven College celebrated Book Week's "Curious Creatures, Wild Minds".



Darcy Hevern, Prep, got creative as part of Newhaven College's Book Week celebrations.



Prep student Oscar Lamaro was immersed in Book Week.



Last year all the nominations for Citizen of the Year came from Phillip Island or San Remo, with Don Turner eventually taking out the title. From left to right: Don Turner, Lija Matthews, Colleen Gilbee, Michael Kenny, Linda Livett and Cheryl Overton.

# Who's your citizen of the year?

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Bass Coast Australia Day Awards for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

While 2020 has been a challenging year, it has not stopped the many beautiful acts of caring, selflessness, giving and compassion from individuals within our community.

Do you know someone living in Bass Coast who regularly goes above and beyond, you can always rely on for help, or you admire for their contribution to the community?

These Awards allow us to recognise our local heroes for all they do in our community.

Nominating your local hero is easy and only takes a few minutes.

Nominations close on Monday, November 23 and the finalists and winners will be announced in the lead up to Australia Day in January 2021.

This year's Bass Coast Young Citizen of the Year Sophie Bodling, said it was very humbling to be nominated.

"You hear of all the wonderful people who have been previously nominated and to be held to that same accolade is something truly special," Sophie said.

All nominees should:

- have made significant contributions to the Bass Coast community
- have acted above and beyond the scope of their regular employment or duties
- be inspirational role models
- positively impact the lives of others
- live within the Shire

Nominees for Citizen of the Year must be aged 25 years or over on January 26, 2021 and for Young Citizen of the Year must be aged 16 to 24 years on January 26, 2021. Nominations must be for individuals, as those for multiple people cannot be considered.

For more information, visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ausday2021](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ausday2021), email [linda.ryan@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:linda.ryan@basscoast.vic.gov.au), or phone 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.



Pictured at the Ladies 15 End 2 bowl competition are (left to right) Carol Hoffman runner up and Jan Dyer winner.



The Men's 21 Up Handicap was held at the Phillip Island bowls club on Sunday and Dave Hanlon (left) was the winner with Glen Cohen runner-up.

# Phillip Island Bowls

It has been a busy week at the Phillip Island bowls club, with two of the club's competitions being decided.

On Wednesday, the Ladies 15 End 2 bowl competition final was between Jan Dyer and Carol Hoffman.

Jan Dyer was the winner, with the last bowl of the game, it was a neck and neck right throughout.

The Men's 21 Up Handicap was held on Sunday.

It was a long game over three hours, as they had to wipe off their handicap before scoring.

Dave Hanlon was the eventual winner with Glen Cohen runner up.

Social bowls on Thursday had 22 players enjoying their games.

Winners were the team of M. McClimont, M. Micallef, C. Smith and T. Steward.

Runner's up were B. Maloney, L. Rogerson, J. McFarlane and L. Goodman.

The Club's Saturday Select-ed Triples has been a great success to begin the season.

The gusty wind conditions tested many of us.

Winners: Steve Farrelly,

Bruce Puncher and Murray McClimont.

Runner's up: Lou Bellino, Reg Excell and Gwenda Arnold.

The Nominated Triples will begin Saturday, November 7.

28 teams will play over seven weeks.

The Monthly Nominated Triples will begin at Wonthaggi on Wednesday.

This has been a popular intra club competition in the past.

Pennant practice has commenced, even with an undecided commencement date.

SITUATIONS VACANT

# CASUAL POSITION: RELIEF WRITER

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

Our ideal candidate:

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

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

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO  
**ADVERTISER**

## Take the test

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

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

Due to a reduction in numbers presenting for tests, changes have been made to testing times at the Urgent Care Centre and Wonthaggi Hospital.

Testing is available at:

• Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. Pre-operation testing 2pm - 3pm daily.

• Wonthaggi Hospital testing service is now available between 9am - 1pm, Monday to Friday (Pre-operation testing between 10am - 11am) and 10am - 2pm on weekends and public holidays.

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

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





Zac Hughes practising his drive on the batting-tee at PIDCC U12 practice on Monday.

## Skilful pathway for local cricketers

By Phillip Island & District Cricket Club

With the cricket season commencing this Saturday, November 7 after a disrupted winter due to COVID-19, the PIDCC has established a clear pathway for players to learn the game of cricket and have fun.

Keeping kids active in a family-focused environment is a key focus of the club community.

In addition to providing a game for all youngsters, the club pathway is designed to connect with representative cricket for those who may aspire to higher levels of the sport.

During the season, promising, committed players will

be nominated to attend Leongatha and District Cricket Association (LDCA) trials for regional representative teams that can lead into the Cricket Victoria and Cricket Australia player pathway programs.

In this way, the PIDCC aims to build the community of active cricketers and to provide opportunities for committed players who show promise.

All players at the club are exposed to structured practice activities and match simulations, aimed at maximising activity, enjoyment, and learning.

For boys and girls from the Woolies Blasters, to U12, U14, U16, and the U20 Transition Squad, to the four senior teams, the intention is to provide

continuous contact with the ball, whether fielding, wicket keeping, bowling or batting.

Regular repetition enables players to develop skills that enable players to succeed in cricket, which, as a high-speed ball sport, can be quite challenging.

All are looking forward to Saturday's start of the season.

And, Come-n-Try sessions for girls to engage in cricket will be offered in November and December, with matches to be arranged in the LDCA in early 2021.

Then we may see girls from the Island connecting with the fabulously successful Australian Women's Cricket programs.

## Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Cup weekend and the weather couldn't have been any better with sunshine, light winds creating plenty of opportunity to head out for a fish.

Once the easterly stopped the reports were good in the lead up to the weekend. Saturday was patchy but picked up for the rest of the weekend and we had some very good catches reported.

Being Cup long weekend there were plenty of visitors from other regional areas and it was good to see the tables out the front of the pubs, restaurants and cafes full with people enjoying the sunshine while helping put some money into the local economy.

Overall, the fishing has been ok but patchy over the last couple of weeks but with the warmer days it's showing signs that the fishing is on the improve.

We have seen some very good land based catches this season so far and hopefully the weather will settle soon, and we will start to get reports from those waiting to fish offshore.

Land based this week has continued to be consistent and at times out fished the boats, especially for calamari.

The beaches at Ventnor and in Clelland Bight produced plenty with some that were first thought to be clumps of weed they were so heavy.

There was a mixture of baited jigs and artificial ones under floats and we had several reports from customers starting to cast and retrieve off the beach catching a few.

If you are not using a float and casting off the beach just remember not to let it sink too much as it will get caught in the weed and the jig will be gone. It takes a bit of practice to get it right. Finally some better numbers off the jetties and plenty of

ink stains to go with the reports, artificial jigs the preferred and most successful but some using baited jigs did ok. It's just a little harder off the jetty using a float with other people fishing.

Boating and the calamari were ok with most at least finding a couple to use to upgrade to a red or two.

Most in boats now are only putting in very short sessions for the calamari, and are usually on their way to look for a snapper or some whiting, which is probably why the numbers are down a little in the boats. Squid jig colours are very difficult to work out and we had times again in the shop with customers discussing the best colour, all different of course which shows the importance of building up a variety.

Snapper haven't started spawning as yet with the water temperature a bit low, but are still far more aggressive than they have been.

There are still the odd bigger fish that is just mouthing baits and not really hitting it hard so make sure you have options with your hook types and sizes.

Most of the reports came from the deeper snapper areas but with the warm days we are starting to see more in the shallows late in the day.

There is plenty of smaller pinkies being reported and not a lot you can do if they were annoying you other than move. The problem is most of the bigger fish are with the pinkies so extra baits and perseverance is needed.

The reports are also changing with more size pinkies being reported and most catches are a mixture of pinkies and snapper.

Baits don't seem to be too critical either with customers telling us one day it's pilchards

the next it's squid then the next it's anything.

The bait with the slight advantage over all the rest is fresh. Head out early catch some calamari, salmon, cuta or yakkas then head over for a snapper fish.

Whiting reports are up and down but much better now than a month ago with bigger fish and bags being reported.

We held our whiting competition over the weekend and while I have to write this before the competition finishes on Tuesday afternoon, we have had several good whiting from both boats and land weighed in. Somebody will walk away with a \$200 rod and reel combo on Cup Day.

The whiting reports were concentrated at one stage below the bridge in Clelland Bight with boats gunnel to gunnel all getting good fish.

It then changed and the reports are coming from all over the place and its back to a guessing game as to the best spot to go, but when you find it you will quickly get a good feed.

As the weather is warming up and the days are getting longer, we are extending our shop hours, seven days a week, 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 5pm weekends.

Our stock levels are getting better but it's still a struggle with suppliers having plenty of issues of their own.

We have a good local supply of fresh octopus heads for your gummy, snapper and whiting fishing as well as a large variety of baits and berleys.

We will start our guess the weight competitions on Facebook soon and continue our auctions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with the odd clear out of stock on weekends. So if you haven't started following us on Facebook yet now is the time to do it.

We will also have details soon of a competition we are running during December and if you enjoy a pub meal this one's for you.

## Female cricket comp begins

By John Schelling, President, Leongatha & District Cricket Association

Female junior cricket has floated along over many years in the Leongatha and District Cricket Association mostly due to the efforts of Rob Wood and others with a number of local girls going on to represent their state, region and our association.

This situation has always been viewed as "o.k. but could be better" and therefore needs more work.

With thanks to the Committee of Management, a number of our clubs and the foresight of Geoff Wyatt, Rob Wood, David Hynes and Adam Sinclair we will now see the birth of our first competition.

These four people with the assistance of Luan Sinclair and Melissa Whelan will form a Sub Committee to promote the competition to the wider community starting with come and try afternoons at the East Campus nets in Leongatha and the superb new complex at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve during November/December.

The aim is to create an under 16 competition with at least four teams who will play each other in a round robin competition on a Sunday over the months of January and February 2021 in the region. This will then lead the girls

### Female Cricket

Under 18  
Come and  
try days

Leongatha Imperials  
Cricket Club training nets  
13th November 4.30-6pm  
20th November 4.30-6pm  
27th November 4.30-6pm

Wonthaggi Football Ground  
training nets  
11th November 4.30-6pm  
18th November 4.30-6pm  
25th November 4.30-6pm

Any further information  
please contact  
David Hynes 0429236718  
Or  
Adam Sinclair 0459515772

into opportunities to participate and learn the game in a controlled environment which will aid their skill strengths and improve their all-round abilities.

The Association is looking for girls aged 12 to 16 to come along and have a go with the possible provision for slightly older girls to be involved as well.

Female players such as Gabby Hynes and Jess Bohn who have both been involved with cricket at a higher level will assist where possible and

there is no requirement at this stage for girls to provide any gear themselves until they are comfortable playing the sport.

This is an exciting opportunity to try something different and the possibilities also exist for girls to play in the male competition on a Saturday as well should they like to test themselves.

All information is provided on the flyer and we look forward to progressing female cricket in our area as is provided in many associations throughout the state.



The Thursday night ladies comp is back at Cowes, running from 6.30pm until 8pm. The group has been meeting for more than 10 years.

## Thursday tennis ladies returns

The Thursday night ladies comp started up again last week at the Cowes tennis courts.

The group, which has been running for more than 10 years meets at 6.30pm for a few hours each Thursday.

"We bring a plate to share at half time, and perhaps a sneaky wine," said one member.

Organised by Joanne Dixon and Caroline Kennedy, the social tennis group is open to women from Phillip Island and the Bass Coast area.

The spring/summer competition is already underway, but more players are always welcome.

Anyone interested in joining can contact Caroline Kennedy on 0408 595 729.

## Midweek Ladies Tennis

Midweek Ladies are back on the court after a break due to the lockdown rules.

All players were very happy to be back hitting the tennis ball again as well as catching up with their teammates and opponents.

COVID-19 rules apply to all the matches which means BYO lunch, along with other health rules.

Recently the rescheduled AGM was held at the Wonthaggi Tennis Club. Cindy from Phillip Island remains president, Marg from Leongatha takes over the secretary position from Karen of Wonthaggi, Janine remains the score secretary and Chris from Inverloch is the treasurer.

Thanks to all these ladies for helping the Association run smoothly, especially in this changing climate. At the AGM it was decided due to the shortened season re Covid, there will be no finals this competition.

Matches will be played up to December 8 where the Christmas break begins.

Safe hitting everyone!

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**Phillip Island Football Netball Club**  
are seeking enthusiastic  
**U18's Football coach**  
for our 2021 season

Please send applications and enquiries to  
[scott@phillipislandmarine.com.au](mailto:scott@phillipislandmarine.com.au)

**PHILLIP ISLAND**  
**BULLDOGS**  
FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB





The Go5s program: Thomas Fokkens, Jake Munday, Rory Fuery, Robbie Lamond, Solo Scarlett, Emmanuel Scarlett, Cocco Stafford, Niamh Moore, Mackinley Thompson, Annie Dempsey, Gracie Dempsey, Toby Challinor and Lucas Chihotski.

# High 5 – soccer is back!

By Phillip Island Soccer Club

The Phillip Island Soccer Club has had a positive start to their first ever Go5s soccer program.

Go5s is a modified, social version of soccer for all ages and abilities. With the lack of opportunities to play sport this year the club wanted to offer this program to provide an opportunity, not only for sport but also for community connection.

We had a fantastic response and currently have over 110 players aged from 6-17 playing in the competition in Under 8s, Under 11s, Under 14s and

Under 17s.

The competition has drawn in players from Korumburra, Inverloch, Wonthaggi and Mirboo North. We have a mix of players totally new to soccer and others who have played for several seasons.

To run this program, we have needed coaches and we are thankful to all the parents who have volunteered. Junior members of the club are also getting the opportunity to referee the games allowing them to build and share their soccer skills.

The competition will run for six more weeks every Thursday at 5pm and 6pm.



Kelsey Dal Pozzo and Oscar Plenkovich in the Go5s program, which attracted over 110 players aged from 6 to 17.



Players were keen to get back on the field after limited opportunities to play sport this year. Wil Kliszewski (background), is pictured with Matt Thornborrow and Callum Chisholm.



Phillip Island's Jarvis Cininas, the 2018 Open Champion, will be back attempting to reclaim his title at the Worksafe Tradies Challenge on November 28.

## Tradies paddle out

The Worksafe Tradies Challenge surf comp is returning and Phillip Island's Jarvis Cininas is hoping to defend his 2018 title.

The competition, presented by Surfing Victoria and Worksafe, pits the top surfing tradies against each other.

Held at Jan Juc Beach on November 28, the event will bring together 50 of the top surfing tradies from around the state to battle it out for bragging rights.

Open to all tradies such as carpenters, painters, builders, plumbers, electricians, surfboard shapers and more, the event will feature three divisions of male and female including Open, Over 35

and a Pairs event.

This is the third consecutive year that Worksafe, Fagg's Mitre 10 and Belmont Timber have supported local tradies through the event.

"We're happy to continue our association with Worksafe, Surfing Victoria and the sponsorship of the Tradies Challenge in 2020. It really is a feel good and laid-back event that is open to all levels of ability," said Fagg's Mitre 10 General manager Andrew Pitman.

"We can't wait to see the end of COVID-19, the beginning of summer and the 2020 Tradie Challenge."

All competitors will receive a competitor pack

and there are over \$2000 in prizes to be given away throughout the day.

"After a rocky 2020, we are stoked to have events back again and particularly the Tradies Challenge," said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson. "This is a great event to bring people together after a tough year. It's not just about the surfing, it's about people coming together to catch up and have a great day at the beach."

All events will be run under the Surfing Victoria COVID-19 Risk Management guidelines.

Entries for the event are now open via [www.surfingvic.com](http://www.surfingvic.com).

## Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, October 27 – Men's Stableford: Winner was Greg Williams H/c (15) with 42 points from Steve Davie H/c (29) with 41 points.

9 Hole Stableford competition winner was Reg Browne H/c (33) with 20 points on a countback from Bob Pascoe H/c (11) also with 20 points.

Wednesday, October 28 – Ladies Stableford: Winner was Cathy Jones H/c (30) with 39 points from Stacey Meder H/c (28) with 38 points.

### Matchplay finals results

Congratulations go to the winners of the Matchplay finals in each division. There were some good contests and great golf. Well done ladies.

A Grade: Faye Morris defeated Karen Green 17th.

B Grade: Lorraine Hammon defeated Cheryl White 19th.

C Grade: Miyuki Yamaguchi defeated Lynore Mercer 3/2.

D Grade: Pam Arden defeated Charlene Duthie 18th.

Thank you to the referees, caddies and supporters.

9 Hole Stableford competition winner was Faye Rosen H/c (45) with 16 points from Maureen Elard H/c (45) with 13 points.

Thursday, October 29 – Mens and Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Michael Taylor H/c (13) with 41 points from Barry Melven H/c (29) with 39 points on a countback from Rod Ward H/c (14) also with 39 points.

9 Hole competition winner was John Roadkis H/c (34) with 21 points from David Schofield H/c (22) with 19 points on a countback from Basil Moloney H/c (13) also with 19 points.

Saturday, October 31 – Mens Monthly Medal – Stroke – Sponsored by Hollands Transport.

A Grade winner – Steve Bann H/c (3) with 67 points.

A Grade r/up – Morgan Ward H/c (8) with 72 points.

B Grade winner – Syd Hadley H/c (16) with 71 points.

B Grade r/up – Ricky Jenkins H/c (15) with 72 points.

C Grade winner and Monthly Medal winner – Ron Wadey H/c (20) with 67 points.

C Grade r/up – Ryanne Avery H/c (30) with 70 points on a countback.

Ladies – Stroke: Winner was Ros Reid H/c (30) with 71 points from Joanne Dishner H/c (23) with 72 points.

Men's and Ladies – 9 Holes Stableford: 9 Hole winner was peter Wrigley H/c (10) with 20 points from Bruce Smith H/c (37) with 19 points.

ALEX SCOTT  
AND STAFF

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