

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

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\$2.00 Incl. GST

Saved! Jetty battle gets a win

COMMUNITY

A community group fighting to save the much-loved Newhaven Jetty is celebrating after the State Government announced the jetty would be restored, repaired and reopened.

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale this week confirmed \$5.5 million in funding through Better Boating Victoria to repair the jetty.

"We know how important the jetty is to the local community and I'm thrilled to announce funding to begin the process of renewing access for boating and fishing," Ms Crugnale said.

"Reopening this facility will support local tourism, recreational fishing and boating while preserving the character of Phillip Island's iconic waterfront."

Ben Dennis, whose restaurant is located next to the jetty, is one of the locals who led the campaign to have the jetty reopened.

"We are very happy to see it moving forward," Ben said of the announcement the jetty would be repaired.

He also thanked Amanda Keilar, a passionate local fisher, for her advocacy and "amazing support".

"She's been the backbone of this whole movement and the driving force."

"We appreciate Jordan's involvement and the pressure Melina Bath (Nationals MP) put on the government."

"We look forward to being part of the (rebuilding) process and having some local input into the design."

He also thanked the local community who supported the campaign.

Amanda Keilar said she was "beyond stoked that the community gets to retain its asset and see it reopen".

"I'm grateful to the Newhaven residents for the pressure they've put on the government."

Back in September, Amanda told the Advertiser she believed the cost to fix the Newhaven Jetty would be "a lot less than the government expected", and called for the government to release the details of inspections undertaken on the jetty.

At the time, she vowed to continue "rattling the cages", saying "we're not going to just sit down and watch it fall into the ocean".

Nationals MP Melina Bath de-



In May this year, supporters gathered to mark the one year anniversary of the Newhaven Jetty closure. Their campaign to get the jetty repaired and reopened has resulted in the government allocating \$5.5 million to the project.

scribed the government's "backflip on the permanent closure" of the jetty as a hard-won victory, "driven by unwavering community leadership and persistent political advocacy by The Nationals".

She congratulated everyone involved in the campaign, particularly Amanda and Ben and the Newhaven residents for their "tireless campaigning".

"Newhaven Jetty should never have been closed without notice or consultation," Ms Bath said.

"Our outdoor recreation assets are vital to local communities and the visitor economy, and their maintenance must be treated as a priority, not an afterthought."

"My focus now turns to ensuring the delivery of this project is prioritised for locals. The people of Newhaven deserve a jetty that is safe, accessible and maintained for generations to come."

Impact

Back in November 2024, Ben spoke to the Advertiser of his "deep frustration" at the closure of the Newhaven Jetty and the severe impact it had on his business.

"Our venue, cherished for weddings, functions and community gatherings relies heavily on the jetty's aesthetics and accessibility as a drawcard," Ben said.

"Since the partial closure in 2018 and now its complete shutdown with locked gates barring entry, we have experienced a sharp decline in bookings, particularly for weddings where the jetty is central to the experience."

This week, he confirmed that after being closed for some maintenance, the restaurant was due to reopen next week.

Beyond the impact on his restaurant, Ben said he witnessed firsthand the disappointment of recreational fishers who arrive at the jetty on a daily basis, only to find locked gates.

Designs

Ms Crugnale said structural inspections of the T-shaped jetty have been undertaken since its closure and this will inform the drafting of the detailed designs and approvals needed before construction can take place.

She said the jetty's lower landing would be rebuilt to make

it easier to hop on or off boats, with room for three to four vessels to be tied up at a time.

There will also be new cleats and ladders on the lower landing.

The broader jetty structure will have new solar lighting and fendering to protect boats while moored.

Assessments of the current jetty have recommended replacement of timber decking, capping and beams, remediating the tops of wooden piles and restoring full pedestrian access.

Ms Crugnale said funding for the project was part of the 2025/26 Recreational Boating Action Plan.

The design work and approvals will be managed by the

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), working with Parks Victoria and local user groups.

It's expected the design work will begin later this year or early in 2026.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank locals Amanda Keilar, Saltwater's Ben Dennis, Lisa Webster, the Newhaven Residents Group for leading the advocacy to repair and reopen this much-loved community asset," Ms Crugnale said.



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	10 17	12 21	14 23	12 17	11 18	11 15	11 17

A community hospital update

HEALTH

The Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group invited Bass Coast Health's interim CEO Simone Alexander to make a presentation about local health services on October 30. Professor Alexander's presentation included an update on the Phillip Island Community Hospital, and the Bayside merg-

er and what it means for Bass Coast Health. It also included a sneak peek at the staff accommodation facility being built at the rear of Wonthaggi Hospital on vacant land next to Kirrak House. The presentation followed the PIMHAG AGM, which included committee elections and a lifetime member award to Linda Marston.



Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group invited Bass Coast Health to make a presentation after their AGM last week. Peter Paul, Kerry Griffiths (BCH), Bruce Procter, Gary Simmons, Marnie Chadwick, Kirsten Weinzierl (BCH), Simone Alexander (BCH), Mim Kershaw (BCH) and John Matthews.

Expect delays on Phillip Island Road

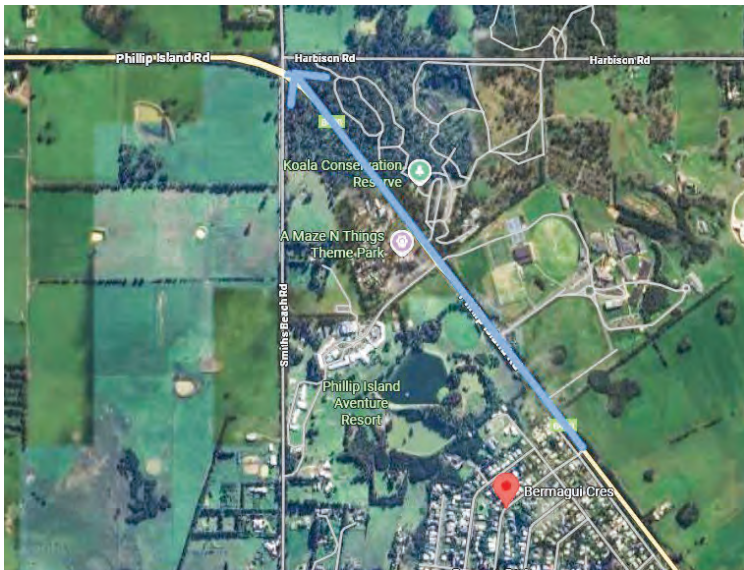
ROADWORKS

Transport Victoria has advised of traffic disruption during rehabilitation works on Phillip Island Road for the next month. The work, on Phillip Island Road between Bermagui Crescent in Sunset Strip and Smiths Beach Road will take place from early November to mid-December.

Crews will be working at night, between 6pm and 5am, with motorists advised to allow up to 10 minutes extra travel time, as the road will be reduced to one lane, with lane closures and reduced speed limits in place.

"Traffic management will be on site to guide traffic through the area, one direction at a time," Transport Victoria advised.

The impacted section of Phillip Island Road is north of the Back Beach Road roundabout, and passes the Adventure Resort, A Maze 'N Things, Newhaven College and the Koala Conservation Centre.



Work on Phillip Island Road between Bermagui Crescent in Sunset Strip and Smiths Beach Road (section with blue arrow) will take place from early November to mid-December, with motorists advised to expect delays between 6pm and 5am. Photo: Google Maps.



A climate for change

Climate action priorities over the next four years were discussed at a community workshop held at Berninnet last week.

The workshop was part of a mid-term review of the council's climate change action plan, which has also included pop-up sessions since August and a panel Q&A focused on the role of young people in driving moral leadership in climate action.

Consultation will continue until the end of November. Details: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/climate-change-action-plan-mid-term-review or email basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Don't hesitate to contact me, I am here to help.

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“Open secret” that Phillip Island may lose MotoGP

CIRCUIT

Speculation is rife that Phillip Island will lose the MotoGP, with global media suggesting there may be a “brief stay of execution” after next year’s event, “before falling off the calendar”.

Two London-based motorsport media outlets – The Race and MotoGP News – have written articles in the past fortnight including “Why Phillip Island’s MotoGP future is in such jeopardy” and “Albert Park circuit considered as Phillip Island replacement – but deal unlikely”.

The outlets have reported it was “an open secret” for “some time” the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) and MotoGP promoter Dorna “have been looking at alternative locations” for the Australian race.

As reported in the Advertiser in September, negotiations to secure the MotoGP at Phillip Island beyond 2026 – the final year of its contract – were underway.

At the same time MotoGP great Wayne Gardner said the event at Phillip Island was dying a “slow death” and flagged the event should be moved to another state.

The Race online motorsport news said this year’s MotoGP on Phillip Island at the end of October attracted fewer fans than every other race on the planet, except Qatar and Hungary.

This year’s Phillip Island event “took place amid a backdrop of fresh rumours about the track’s future on the calendar and doubts over whether the historic circuit will get a new contract when its current deal expires in 12 months’ time”.

“There’s been speculation for some time about what exactly the future holds for Phillip Island given both its somewhat chronic lack of investment and a relatively isolated location that does limit the number of possible spectators,” The Race reported.

It states Phillip Island was given a 10-year deal in 2016 to run the MotoGP on condition there would be significant investment in the circuit’s facilities.

“But it’s hard to argue that has happened,” The Race journalist Simon Patterson wrote, adding it was “still very much one of the most old-fashioned tracks” with “no sign of significant changes” since 2016.

The problem was “compound-ed” by Phillip Island being two hours from Melbourne, with the



According to a London-based motorsport online media outlet, “it’s been something of an open secret for some time that both the Australian Grand Prix Corporation and series promoter Dorna have been looking at alternative locations for the Australian GP”.

bridge causing “traffic chaos”, as well as a lack of accommodation.

This made Phillip Island “one of the most expensive” for racegoers to attend, with many instead opting to travel to cheaper Asian MotoGP events.

“As a result, it’s been something of an open secret for some time that both the AGPC and series promoter Dorna have been looking at alternative locations for the Australian GP,” The Race said.

New location

Online motorsport media outlet MotoGP News also reported this year’s majority takeover of MotoGP by Liberty Media – which also owns Formula 1 – had “generated widespread expectations” the sporting event will move in Formula 1’s direction.

MotoGP News journalist David Comerford agrees with The Race that Albert Park – the home of Australian Formula 1 – was a possible option.

“It’s believed that AGPC has spoken to Dorna about whether it would be possible to run both MotoGP and F1” on the street track, although it adds this was unlikely given the number of trees that would need to be removed.”

Another more viable option was Lindsay Fox’s proposed Home of Motorsport at Avalon, which the

State Government has provided funding for initial stages.

But given construction was yet to start, The Race suggests while Avalon is being built “Phillip Island receives a brief stay of execution before falling off the calendar”.

“But it unfortunately does feel like only a matter of time before MotoGP no longer visits one of the sport’s most iconic and beloved venues.”

MotoGP News goes further, speculating the “problem here is that if Phillip Island can’t negotiate a new deal and the Victoria (Avalon) track isn’t ready, then the Australian GP could be absent from the calendar for a number of years”.

“A short-term renewal for the current venue might therefore make the most sense given the importance of the market.”

While the media outlets suggest there has been a stalemate between circuit owners the Fox family, Dorna and the State Government over the Phillip Island MotoGP contract renewal, fans speculated the Fox family’s tactic has been not to invest in the island.

“(The Fox family will) get an extended race extension on the cheap (for Phillip Island), custom build their own track on their own land (at Avalon air-

port), and then charge airport fees for the cargo and possible passengers that will inevitably land next to the track,” fan Tim wrote on The Race’s chat.

Tsundoku wrote “Phillip Island is the best MotoGP track in the world”.

“It would be criminal if it were to leave the calendar,” he wrote.

Debate

As reported by the Advertiser, in July it was announced the USA-based Liberty Media had completed its four billion Euros (more than \$7 billion) majority stake in Dorna.

Dorna holds rights to 2060 to run MotoGP, currently in 22 races around the world, which they have done since 1991, as well as the Superbike World Championship.

The current 10-year contract to run the MotoGP at Phillip Island was reached in 2016 between Dorna and the State Government and will expire after the 2026 event.

According to industry insiders who spoke to the Advertiser, contract renewals this year have been announced at or around the 2025 MotoGP at the venue, including in Germany and Barcelona, leading to speculation the event was to be confirmed around this year’s October 17-19

event on Phillip Island.

But that did not eventuate and the AGPC told the Advertiser there was yet to be an update, and a Victorian Government spokesperson said conversations were commercial in confidence.

“The Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix is synonymous with Phillip Island; we are proud to back this much-loved, iconic event that showcases the best of the Bass Coast to a global audience,” the spokesperson said.

Motorsport fans weighed into the debate about the future of the MotoGP at Phillip Island following comments by MotoGP great Wayne Gardner.

Some fans supported the event’s move to The Bend, the Shell-V Power Motorsport Park, at Tailem Bend, South Australia, or alternatively the Sydney Motorsport Park at Eastern Creek. One fan even proposed it be moved to Circuit Italia, a new, privately funded circuit, near Raymond Terrace in NSW, designed to be an international-standard track able to host high-level events.

However, many fans supported the event continuing at Phillip Island, but said costs were too high, the weather in October poor and track facilities “sub-standard”.

Boardwalks reopened

TOURISM

The Nobbies boardwalks and car park re-opened last Thursday October 30, in time for the Melbourne Cup weekend.

“On the way to soak up the views at the spectacular Nobbies boardwalks, visitors can stop in at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre, open from mid-day each day, to pick up a hot beverage and to access bathroom facilities,” said a Nature Parks spokesperson.

“Public toilets are also available at the Penguin Parade car park.”

The Boulevard (Southern Road), running along the South coast of the Summerland Peninsula, between the Nobbies and the Penguin Parade, re-

mains open for moving traffic (no parking).

“To ensure the site is structurally safe, further critical repair works are being undertaken on the building from October 2025 through to March 2026,” advised the Nature Parks’ spokesperson.

“The Nobbies Centre will remain closed while planning is underway for the updated Summerland Peninsula Master Plan.

“As part of this, we are seeking the views of our community, visitors, and key stakeholders on the future of the Nobbies site. We want to ensure any further investment in the Nobbies facility helps to achieve the community’s long-term aspirations for this site.”



The Nobbies boardwalks and car park re-opened last week, but Phillip Island Nature Parks said the centre will remain closed with critical repair works being undertaken through until March 2026.

RIP NIMBY: new laws crush objectors' rights

PLANNING

Sweeping new planning laws introduced by the Victorian government last week could mean neighbours will no longer be able to object to a new development in their street or over their fence.

Planning observers said the government was pandering to developers and objectors were being “unfairly scapegoated”, adding the new law won’t solve the problem of housing affordability (see separate story).

They say given Phillip Island – but not San Remo – now has town boundaries locked in under the DAL, all development will be infill and so the Bill will impact people locally.

A source told the Advertiser it was not clear the exact impact from the Bill, with details yet to be clarified.

However, the Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 is the biggest shake-up of Victoria’s planning system in decades, introduced to Parliament and most likely set to be passed this year.

Planning permits for homes, duplexes, townhouses and low-rise apartments will require no notice and have no third-party appeals to VCAT.

For larger, higher density apartments, only those who are directly impacted – like neigh-



Local planning observers say given Phillip Island – but not San Remo – now has town boundaries locked in under the DAL, all development will be infill and so the Bill will impact many people. Under the new Bill, in Parliament last week, planning permits for homes, duplexes, townhouses and low-rise apartments will require no notice and have no third-party appeals to VCAT.

bours in the area – will get notice and be able to appeal.

Planning Minister Sonya Kilkeny said Victoria had the broadest third-party appeal rights in the country – allowing anyone to object to a planning permit – even if they lived nowhere near the proposed development.

She said this had led to homes being delayed for years by people who were not directly impacted.

“Neighbours have a right to have their say about a high-density development, but new homes shouldn’t be delayed by people

who don’t live anywhere near a proposed project. It’s not common sense,” Ms Kilkeny said.

Just this year, Bass Coast Shire councillors have dealt with many controversial planning permits that received numerous objections.

For example in June a plan to build three double storey dwellings, with a three-lot subdivision, at 23 Birdwood Avenue, received 20 objections and was approved by the majority of councillors but voted against by Island Ward councillors.

Planning permits

In addition, the Bill will reduce the time it takes to approve a planning permit.

Currently, a planning permit on average takes 140 days to get approved – and according to the Minister if there is an objection, it could blow out to more than 300 days.

Ms Kilkeny said under the existing Act, most projects – no matter how big or small – go through the same process, so a single home was assessed the same way as a multi-storey apartment block.

The new Bill creates three separate paths for planning approvals, with stand-alone homes and duplexes set to take 10 days, townhouses and low-rise developments to take 30 days, and larger apartment buildings to take 60 days to approve.

Ms Kilkeny introduced the bill to state parliament on October 28, updating the Planning and Environment Act 1987, saying it would slash approval times, cut red tape and update Victoria’s “NIMBY” planning laws.

The Bill also allows councils and the government to update local planning rules or planning scheme amendments.

She said simple updates like fixing a zoning boundary or adjusting a local policy would now be easier, while more complex proposals – like rezoning land

for a completely different use – would go through a more detailed process.

Concern

Last year local planning observers were highly critical of the Planning Minister’s “unprecedented” intervention to approve the Isle of Wight development – amid VCAT delays – and also the Vietnam Veterans Museum, after it was rejected by VCAT.

Ms Kilkeny used her then new powers to make an amendment to the Bass Coast Shire Council planning scheme to green light the \$85 million Isle of Wight development.

The new powers, part of the government’s Development Facilitation Program (DFP) to expedite faster planning approvals for larger commercial developments that have “significant economic benefits”, came under fire on Phillip Island.

Local planning observers said the decision was “undemocratic” and should be “of enormous concern to everyone”, saying it set a precedent to approve any major development, such as the highly unpopular Kitty Miller Bay resort, which was overturned by councillors in 2023.

Changes to planning schemes are usually lengthy processes, requiring public exhibition and a planning panel.

Don’t blame objectors for housing crisis

PLANNING

The Victorian Government is pandering to developers and objectors are being “unfairly scapegoated” by a proposed new planning law, say local planning observers, adding it won’t solve the problem of housing affordability.

The government last week introduced the Planning Amendment Bill 2025, which – once passed – will see planning permits for homes, duplexes, townhouses and low-rise apartments requiring no notice, with no third-party appeals to VCAT (see separate story).

But local planning observers said the proposed legislation was troubling.

Phillip Island Conservation Society president Greg Johnson said planning objectors were being “unfairly scapegoated” by the new law.

Greg said there had been a cri-

sis in housing supply for a decade or more “but it hasn’t been caused by so-called NIMBY planning laws”.

“It’s an affordability crisis caused by the tax system allowing investors to accumulate multiple houses to rent-out as landlords, funded by excessive bank lending, which fuelled the house price boom,” Greg said.

“Cashed up investors can easily out-bid young people needing a home and no government has had the courage to do anything about it because of election sensitivity.

“Planning objectors are being unfairly ‘scapegoated’ in my view.”

He said rather than tackle the real problem, the State Government was increasing supply by speeding up planning, “so any minor delays in the approval process is seen as a bigger problem than it really is”.

“Removing objectors’ rights

will please the property industry but I doubt it will make houses more affordable or get more built in the short term.

“Recently the problem has been made worse by a shortage of skills and materials.”

Furthermore, Greg said, the new law was an added burden on planners.

“If objectors trying to ensure builders stick to decent neighbourhood character design rules can’t do that anymore, who is going to police the system?”

“The onus will be on council officers who don’t have the capacity.”

Victorian National Trust (Bass Coast branch) president Ross Lloyd agreed, saying he was “extremely concerned” about the new proposed legislation.

Ross said under the new Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) for Bass Coast, which became law last month, as well as the council’s own neighbour



Planning observers say given Phillip Island – but not San Remo – now has town boundaries locked in under the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes for Bass Coast, all development will be infill and so the Victorian government’s proposed new planning laws will impact many people.

character strategy, different buildings were deemed suitable depending on where it was proposed to be built, such as “a town as opposed to a hamlet”.

“I am not sure whether the new proposed legislation would respect the importance of this area’s special significance, as rec-

ognised by the DAL,” Ross said.

“If it does not, that would be extremely unfortunate.”

Planning observers say given Phillip Island – but not San Remo – now has town boundaries locked in under the DAL, all development will be infill and so the Bill will impact many people locally.



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Newhaven boat ramp to receive facelift

ANGLING

After a two-year delay, final designs to upgrade the Newhaven boat ramp are set to be released next year.

The confirmation comes after the State Government last week gave a \$75,000 grant to Bass Coast Shire Council for structural repairs to the ramp, (not to be confused with the neighbouring Newhaven jetty which just received \$5.5 million to be repaired and reopened).

In 2023 the community gave feedback to a draft plan for a multi-million-dollar upgrade of the boat ramp, which currently includes a two-lane concrete ramp, jetty, fish cleaning facilities, and parking.

The draft proposed:

- Construction of a third boat ramp lane and an extension to the existing ramps by nine metres to allow for easier access during low tide;
- Existing jetty to be removed and replaced with a new jetty with a lower landing and extended

with a gangway and floating pontoon, which will require an area (the size of which is currently unknown) to be dredged to allow suitable depths for vessels;

- An additional 23 car and boat trailer parking spaces, which requires the reclamation of about 1300sqm land on the west side of the existing boat ramp car park to widen the area (currently there are 48 formal and informal car-trailer parks, with the upgrade set to create a total of 56). This will require the current seawall to be rebuilt and extended.
- Two rigging bays, a Boating Victoria camera and the existing fish cleaning tables will be relocated. There will also be an extension to the path and a beach access ramp.

Boaties in 2023 said the draft needed to be significantly modified to make car parking and vessel launching safer.

It would require a range

of environmental approvals for proposed dredging and land reclamation.

In mid-2020 engineering condition inspections and structural assessments were undertaken that showed the 50-year-old structure was “nearing the end of its design life”, recommending an upgrade over the next five to 10 years.

2026

A Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) spokesperson last week said they were working on detailed designs for the ramp.

“We anticipate appointing engineers in early 2026 to draw up detailed designs, with a view to having final designs complete late next year,” the spokesperson said.

“We’ve recommended discussions with Bass Coast Shire Council about upgrade plans for Newhaven boat ramp with a view to progressing detailed designs and next steps.”

In 2023 the community

meeting was told by government representatives they had commissioned environmental assessments to inform the concept designs and “would progress the necessary approvals before any work is undertaken”, adding the beach at Newhaven would be retained.

They said the size and shape of the dredged area, and frequency of dredging, would be based on “further advice from maritime engineers taking into account user needs, environmental impacts and available funding”.

Problems boaties encounter with the current ramp include a lack of space and configuration of berthing and tie up points; limited car-trailer unit parking – on peak days overflow extends into surrounding roads; insufficient ramp length for launching, particularly at low tide; and the existing jetty poses access challenges.

Details: betterboating.vic.gov.au/ramp-upgrades/newhaven/



Under this 2023 draft concept plan for an upgrade of the Newhaven boat ramp, there will be a dredge area to create better access for boaters at a range of tides, an extension to the seawall and rock revetment, which will require environmental assessments, alongside a third boat ramp lane, ramp extension and pontoon.

Opp shop supports maternity care

HEALTH

The San Remo Opportunity Shop Auxiliary has donated \$180,000 for new hospital beds and an upgraded foetal monitor for Wonthaggi Hospital.

The Auxiliary gave \$90,000 towards 20 modern beds with improved ergonomics and additional functions to assist staff to deliver quality care to patients.

Patients benefit as they can adjust many features

of the bed themselves, so they are comfortable and can be in a position to eat, read or lie down.

The Auxiliary also gave \$90,000 towards an upgraded foetal monitor that monitors a baby's heartbeat and a mother's contractions during pregnancy and labour.

“Bass Coast Health is fortunate to receive substantial fundraising support from the San Remo Opportunity Shop,” Bass Coast Health Volunteer

and Fundraising Manager Kerry Redmond said.

“Last financial year alone, the Op Shop raised \$190,000 for hospital beds, CTG machines, stroke rehabilitation equipment and a portable electrocardiogram (ECG) machine for Bass Coast Health.

“This equipment extends the range of services we're able to deliver to our community to provide them with more care closer to their homes.”

Op Shop Auxiliary President Sara Fleisner said the volunteers were proud to be able to support such a vital service as BCH.

“To see the beds now in action is fantastic as this is why we do what we do – to give back to our community,” she said.

“Our volunteers are passionate about serving the community through not only raising funds, but also through providing a service where people can buy affordable goods and a service that reduces impact on the environment by minimising

the amount of waste that goes to landfill.

“The Op Shop is also a place for our volunteers to connect with other like-minded people and be able to give back to the community in which they live.”

This year, the Op Shop volunteers commemorated the milestone of raising more than \$1 million for Bass Coast Health since the Op Shop Auxiliary was formed in 2016.

Since 2016, the Op Shop has donated to the L Rigby Centre for cancer care, district nurses, dental clinic and ma-

ternity services, as well as items like scanners, an ultrasound machine, adjustable beds, chemotherapy chairs, two haemodialysis chairs with armrests, and furniture for Griffiths Point Lodge residential care centre and more.

The San Remo Opportunity Shop is open Monday-Friday, 10am – 2.30pm, at 65D Back Beach Road, San Remo.

If you can't make it to the San Remo Op Shop, you can also browse through their eBay store: www.ebay.com.au/str/lorrainespreloved



REALISING A DREAM

I am beyond proud to officially take ownership of Her Day Spa. This is a goal I've been working towards for the past few years, and I feel incredibly grateful. I truly love everything about what we do, and thank my team for their incredible support. I am so excited for what's ahead. Phillip Island is such a special place, and I am passionate about creating a spa experience that reflects that.
Keturah, Owner – Her Day Spa



BCH Volunteer and Fundraising Manager Kerry Redmond, second from right, with members of the San Remo Opportunity Shop Auxiliary, from left, Helen Andrews, Marj Wagland and Caroline Talbot, and the upgraded foetal monitor and one of 20 beds the Auxiliary funded.

Fullarton's GP contribution recognised

GRAND PRIX

Stephen Fullarton has received a special presentation from the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) acknowledging his contribution to the success of the event on Phillip Island.

The award was presented on Monday morning after this year's MotoGP.

Stephen was involved in traffic management for the event from 1997 until 2023, as well as running the Lukey Heights and Siberia carpark for several decades.

Stephen said his carpark operation employed dozens of locals and over the years developed into a well-oiled operation, parking up to 2000 cars a day.

There are plenty of tales of battling wet weather, traffic hiccups and liaising with local police to get the vehicles swiftly off the roads and into the car park.

However his involvement with the Grand Prix goes back to the 1980s and well beyond traffic management.

When it was first announced the GP would run on Phillip Island in April 1989, there was an outcry from the local community, with many opposing the event on health and safety grounds.

Stephen was one who passionately advocated for the event and was chairman of the local GP liaison group that was formed to assess and address the impact of it on the local community.

All volunteers, they worked tirelessly to ensure the concerns expressed by opponents of the event were addressed.



Ben Hartung from the Australian Grand Prix Corporation presented the award to Stephen Fullarton, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, 1996 - 2023.

In February 1989, the Advertiser reported a large number had attended a public meeting in January, making their feelings clear about the proposed event. "They did not want it in any way, shape or form", the article stated.

Convened by local Anne Davie, who opposed the GP coming to Phillip Island, the meeting was described by then shire president Cr Stan Gates as "a fiasco and the denial of the opportunity to present the facts by those in support to those who were concerned".

At the meeting, local doctor Jim Khong expressed fears about the event impacts, including road congestion, difficulties of emer-

gency access, potential health problems associated with portable toilets and high noise levels. He was also concerned about crowd size and access to alcohol.

"The Grand Prix is too big for Phillip Island and will change its character forever," he is quoted as saying.

Phillip Island Conservation Society also raised their concerns over fires, illegal camping, and the possible destruction of local flora and fauna.

At the time, Stephen was a councillor for the Shire of Phillip Island.

The article said that at this meeting, Cr Fullarton was "not

permitted to continue after the eight minutes allocated for his speech had expired", thus depriving those present of valuable information.

A separate article outlined the details from the committee report, which was not allowed to be heard at the meeting, addressing community concerns around accommodation, car parking, catering, entertainment, services (phones, electricity, water), policing, roads and CFA presence, outlining how the island would be able to accommodate the demands of the event.

Stephen Fullarton also defended the work of the committee at a subsequent council meeting.

"A huge amount of time, and massive amount of work have gone into planning for this major event", he said, dismissing the vote of no confidence in the council that emerged from the public meeting.

The importance of the work done by the GP liaison group prior to that first event cannot be underestimated.

The high level of public concern that existed prior to the inaugural GP event saw the State Government call a meeting, chaired by then Minister for Youth Sport and Recreation Neil Trezise, and attended by representatives from police and various government departments, to get an update on preparations for the Grand Prix, to address local concerns.

Embraced

Despite all the noise and fury,

once the event arrived, there was a stunning change of heart.

In its edition of April 13, 1989, the Advertiser reported: "In what could be described as an amazing turn of events, residents and local people took the bikers to their hearts ...".

Crowd behaviour was described as good. The consensus from "both the police and the community at large was that this group of visitors were far more preferable than the New Year's Eve crowd that Cowes attracts annually".

Stephen is quoted as saying he and the liaison committee were "elated" and that the event was "a success beyond our expectations and reward for those who had faith and vision in the island's ability to host a major international sporting event".

He described the local community's response as "fantastic".

Thanks to the vision and dedication of Stephen Fullarton and the other members of the Phillip Island council's GP liaison committee, the Grand Prix is now firmly embedded in island life.

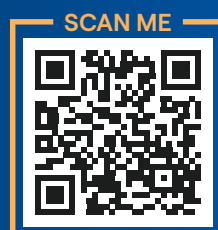
In the following decades, the MotoGP has grown to be the centrepiece of events in Bass Coast and is the biggest sporting event in regional Victoria.

Each year the event injects millions of dollars into the local economy.

This year's attendance was estimated to be the biggest since Casey Stoner's last win in 2012, with the total estimated attendance at 91,245, with a race day estimated attendance of 38,645.

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MADE FOR MORE

Emporium permit refused

PLANNING

Following months of controversy and threats of legal action, a planning permit that sought retrospective approval for the Aussie Outdoor Emporium has been refused.

As reported last year, the owner of the landscape garden supplies business at 2124 Phillip Island Road was told by Bass Coast Shire Council in April he had 60 days to remove “all goods and materials associated with the operation of a retail premises” or else face fines or court action.

The owner had operated the business, next to the Ramada Resort, for a decade without a planning permit, but was adamant he was being unfairly treated.

A petition with 377 signatures was at the time lodged with council, stating it “beggars belief why council wants to close down the nursery Aussie Outdoor Emporium” as it had “enhanced” Cowes.

In June councillors confirmed legal action against the owner had been put on hold after he agreed to lodge a planning permit.

That retrospective permit was released at the end of last year, seeking the use and development of the land for landscape gardening supplies in a farming zone, a reduction of car parking requirements and display of business identification signage.

However, the agenda for October’s council meeting states the permit had been refused.

A council spokesperson said the Emporium was defined as either retail or restricted retail, which were prohibited in the



Following council direction, signs were removed from the site.

farm zone.

“As the use is prohibited, no permit can be granted,” the spokesperson said.

They said the permit was inconsistent with council planning policy, including protection of agricultural land with no agricultural benefit, and was “an out of centre development that ought to be located in a commercial or industrial area”.

“The access and car parking arrangements were unsatisfactory and did not demonstrate the supply of parking was adequate or that the access to the property was safe.”

Compliant?

The retrospective permit in 2024 stated the business – also home to the Phillip Island Strawberries – aligned with the farm zone requirements, and the garden supplies did not “adversely affect the

use of land or the surrounding land for agriculture”.

“The current land use activities and associated building and works are considered appropriate and warrant approval,” the permit stated.

The business has 13 car spaces, arguing the required 6,614sqm of land required to be set aside for car parking “would clearly be an oversupply of parking for this site and use”.

The owner had responded to requests by the council to remove all non-complying signage, with the exception of one sign – Phillip Island Strawberries – to the front of the site.

In May last year the council sent a letter to the landowner stating failure to comply with planning enforcement orders “may incur the following penalties of up to \$230,772.00 and \$11,538.60 for each day offence continues”.



Island Astronomy and Cosmology Association has announced an exciting new partnership with Newhaven College. Set up and ready to explore the universe: Allan Grover, Andy Stavrou, Ian Hope and Wes Stecher.

Astronomy inspires young minds

EDUCATION

Island Astronomy and Cosmology Association has announced an exciting new partnership with Newhaven College, designed to support students and their families in exploring the wonders of the universe.

A spokesperson from Island Astronomy and Cosmology said the collaboration aims to “spark curiosity and deepen understanding of astronomy and cosmology, while encouraging young learners to look to the stars – both literally and figuratively”.

Through this partnership, students will have opportunities to take part in hands-on stargazing sessions, educational workshops, and guest lectures from local astronomy enthusiasts and professionals.

Parents are also being wel-

comed to join in, fostering a shared appreciation for science and discovery within the community.

“We’re thrilled to work alongside Newhaven College to inspire the next generation of astronomers,” the spokesperson said.

“When students and parents learn together, the whole community grows.”

Newhaven College staff echoed the excitement, noting the partnership will enhance classroom learning and encourage students to see how science connects to the world around them – and the Bass Coast region.

“With the night sky as their classroom, this partnership shines as a wonderful example of how education and community spirit can come together for the betterment of all.”



BASS

COAST

Living Lightly

Bass Coast

November Events | Practical Workshops Across Bass Coast

Energy Evolution

Introduction to Solar

Thursday, 25 November, Cowes – AM | Wonthaggi – PM

In person

Free

Future Foods

Reducing Food Waste in the Holidays

Saturday, 15 November – 10am

PICAL Community Garden Cowes

Free

Garden Gems

Container Gardening

Sunday, 9 November – 10am

Coronet Bay Community Garden

Free

Circular Solutions

Upcycling for Christmas

Saturday, 29 November – 10am

TBC

Free



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Visit: thecap.com.au for more information

*Dates and locations may be subject to change.

Visit thecap.com.au for the most up-to-date information.



Covering Phillip Island, San Remo and surrounds

Your one-stop guide to:

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Dining

Local Services

Attractions

Beaches

Walks



Scan the QR Code or visit www.pisra.com.au/phillip-island-directory

We're giving away Phillip Island Directory fridge magnets.

Grab yours from 60 Chapel Street, Cowes



Your one-stop guide to shopping, dining, walks, attractions and services across the island and beyond.

ROADWORKS NOTICE

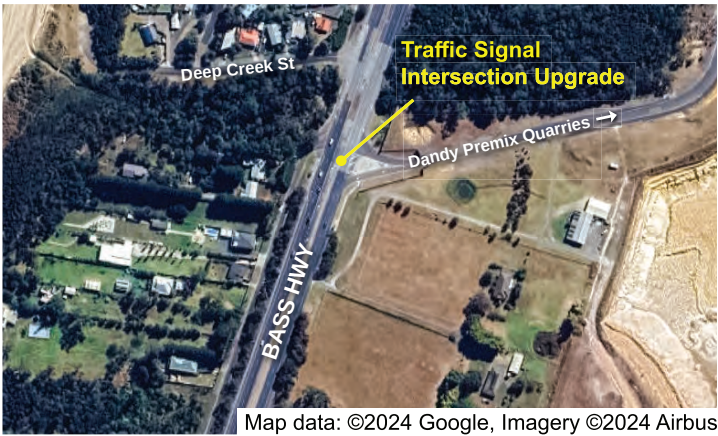
REGIONAL
GROUP AUSTRALIA



Bass Highway (M420), Grantville Traffic Signals Installation

New traffic signals will be installed at the Dandy Premix Quarries intersection to reduce truck traffic through Grantville and improve safety for pedestrians and motorists using the Bass Highway.

Works commenced July 2025, approx. 4-month duration
Lane closures, reduced speed limits, contra-flow traffic
Deep Creek St and Bass Hwy Service Rd access impacted
Bass Hwy southbound bus stop temporarily relocated



COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF ROADWORKS

Stage 1 Roadworks confined to the existing quarry intersection commenced early July 2025.

Stage 2 Roadworks on the Bass Highway Northbound carriageway commenced 14 August and were completed 19 September 2025.

Stage 3 Roadworks require temporary closure of the Bass Highway Southbound carriageway and the introduction of contra-flow traffic to the Northbound carriageway.

The left lane of the Northbound carriageway will continue to be used for northbound traffic and the second lane for southbound traffic after diversion across the highway median to share the Northbound carriageway. During **Stage 3 Roadworks**, each of the two lanes of the Northbound carriageway will have traffic moving in the opposite direction.

During **Stage 3 Roadworks** there will be reduced speed limits through the Bass Highway construction zone with modified traffic layouts and traffic controls in place to assist motorists.

ROADWORK TIMES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Stage 3 Roadworks will generally be undertaken Monday to Saturday (6 days/week) between 7.00am and 7.00pm. Some short-term roadworks may be carried out overnight.

Stage 3 Southbound carriageway roadworks will be carried out in two (2) phases –

- **Stage 3A** being the smaller section of roadworks north of the Quarry Entrance, with
- **Stage 3B** being the larger section of roadworks south of the Quarry Entrance.
- **Stage 1 Quarry Entrance** roadworks will also be completed during Stage 3A and trucks will commence right turn Quarry departure onto the Bass Highway northbound carriageway via portable traffic lights as part of Stage 3B.

Stage 3 Traffic Controls will include Variable Message Signs (VMSs), Safety Barriers, Portable Traffic Lights, Traffic Controllers and Truck Mounted Attenuators (TMAs) in operation.

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Deep Creek Street and the Bass Highway Service Road traffic will be temporarily impacted during Stage 3 roadworks.

Deep Creek Street: temporary use of Bonney Road for Bass Highway access and egress, including for Smith Street, Broome Court, Stewart Street, Malcolm Drive and Panoramic Drive traffic.

Bass Highway Service Road (southbound, eastern side of Bass Highway): temporary southbound egress to Bass Highway under traffic controller supervision. This will impact on traffic attending Grantville Cemetery, the temporary southbound Bus Stop and 1421 Bass Highway.

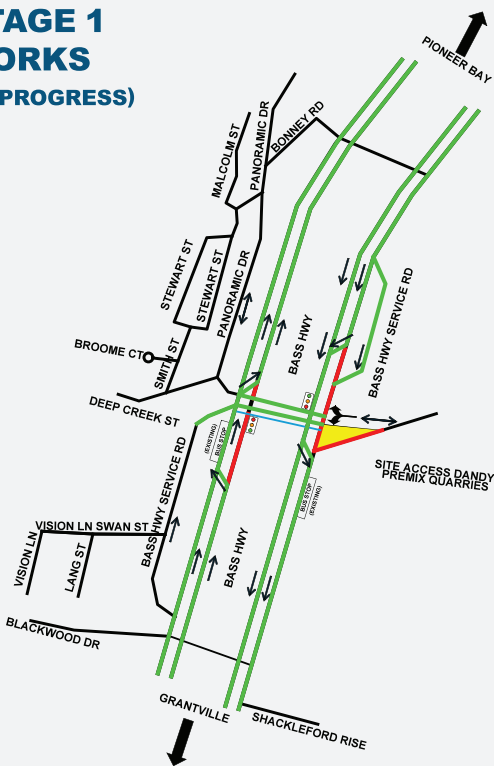
BUS STOP - SOUTHBOUND

The Bass HWY southbound bus stop located in the Stage 3 roadworks zone will continue to be temporarily relocated further north (approx. 220m) in the Bass Highway Service Road (southbound) with signage, waiting area provision and pedestrian protection provided.

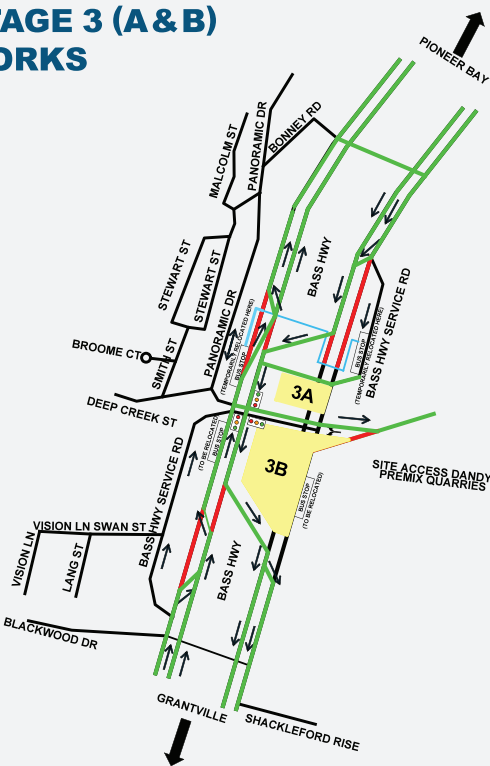
PROJECT OUTCOMES

Installation of the Traffic Signals will enable trucks to turn right, northbound onto Bass Highway, resulting in a major reduction in quarry trucks through Grantville. The Traffic Signals will also improve Bus Stop pedestrian safety and assist safer Deep Creek Street traffic flows onto Bass Highway.

STAGE 1 WORKS (IN PROGRESS)



STAGE 3 (A & B) WORKS



Motorists are urged to obey speed limits and traffic controls during the roadworks.
Your cooperation will greatly assist the safety of workers, pedestrians & other motorists.

Please contact us for further information or to share your feedback.

Applicant

Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd
(Regional Group Australia)
Garry Cranny, Sustainability Manager
Email: gcranny@dandypremix.com
Mob: 0419 587 440

Head Contractor

R&C Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd (Austek Roads)
Simon Varghese, Construction Manager
Email: simonv@rcasphalt.com.au
Mob: 0427 480 668

LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ROAD CLOSURE | TRAFFIC SIGNAL |
| LANE CLOSURE | SOUTHBOUND DETOUR |
| PEDESTRIAN CROSSING | NORTHBOUND DETOUR |
| WORK AREA | |

Golfers take up the challenge for cancer

FUNDRAISER

The Longest Day is a Cancer Council challenge to play 72 holes of golf in a single day, while raising funds for people impacted by cancer.

On Phillip Island, the day at Red Rocks Golf Course on November 10, has a deeply personal meaning for Andrew Hewett.

The former 3AW journalist and Phillip Island resident for the past six years, lost his father to melanoma earlier this year, and then shortly after faced his own cancer challenge when he was diagnosed with a rare form of melanoma on his lip.

"I had been vigilant about my preventative skin care, seeing a specialist in Wonthaggi routinely for the past couple of years," Andrew said.

"Last year I was told that the weird sensation in my lip was nothing more than a cold sore. After my father died I sought a second opinion, and I was quickly diagnosed with a rare form of melanoma."

Andrew has since gone through multiple surgeries and has now started radiotherapy.

"To raise awareness



Andrew Hewett (left) and Sean O'Brien have organised the Longest Day Cancer Council challenge at Red Rocks Golf Course on November 10, to raise funds for cancer, and are encouraging others to register and join the event.

and a little cash, we are hosting a Longest Day golf event at Red Rocks Golf Club on Monday November 10," he said.

"Anyone can join us on the day. A \$10 donation will get you some brekky and a drink – then we hit the course for as much golf as you can handle."

If 72 holes sounds like a bit much for you, players can register for the Long Day (36 holes) or the Longer Day (54 holes).

Sean O'Brien, manager at Red Rocks said the club was excited to support the event, with the day starting at around 7am with

breakfast.

He said using the online link (www.longestday.org.au/fundraisers/redrocksgolfclub) people can donate to an existing team, "or create their team and join the fun".

"We are also more than happy for people to give us a call and we can help them over the phone – 03 5919 0019," Sean said.

Support Andrew and help raise funds for people impacted by cancer at the Longest Day at Red Rocks Golf Club on November 10.

Register or donate at: www.longestday.org.au/fundraisers/redrocksgolfclub

Students raise over \$14,000

EDUCATION

Newhaven College students have raised over \$14,000 for Bali Children Foundation (BCF), through the Year 12 Leadership's fundraising.

Each year, Newhaven College Year 12 Leadership selects a charity for the College to support. This year, Bali Children Foundation (BCF) was chosen. Since starting in 2002, Bali Children Foundation has helped thousands of children living in remote areas of Bali complete their education, find employment, and improve the lives of not only themselves but also their families and the wider communities. The foundation is currently working to expand its reach to Sumba, an island in the far east of Indonesia.

The Year 12 Leadership team led the College community to raise \$14,198 for this worthy cause and were delighted with the participation and enthusiasm from students, staff and parents right across the school. This was the largest amount raised in College fundraising history, so the captains were thrilled with the result.

The fundraising events included dress up days, Year 12 trivia night, a Movie Night and raffles for an official team-signed Western Bulldogs guernsey and five nights' ac-



College Captains Grace Howlett, Isaac Savona, Abby Papas and Gabriel Di Falco welcomed Founder of Bali Children Foundation, Margaret Barry to the College, to discuss the benefits the College's fundraising will provide for children in remote Bali.

commodation in Bali. The College Parents and Friends Association also helped out at some of the fundraising events.

At the Year 12 final assembly, 2025 College Captains Gabriel Di Falco and Abby Papas, presented a cheque to BCF representative, Mr Patrick Barry. Mr Barry gratefully accepted the cheque, commending the Year 12 Leadership team for their hard work and the outstanding result they achieved.

Earlier in the year, the Founder and CEO of Bali Children Foundation, Margaret Barry, visited the Year 12 Leadership team to explain the benefits that would result from the fundraising dollars.

"Thank you, Newhaven College students, your fundraising is educating

and preparing Bali's children for lifelong success," Margaret said.

Principal Mr Tony Corr expressed his admiration for this year's fundraising efforts, stating, "Our Year 12 student leaders chose the Bali Children Foundation for 2025 because so many in our community enjoy holidaying in Bali, and would like to give something back. I am incredibly impressed and proud of our students' dedication to fundraising in such a meaningful area. They deserve to be congratulated."

The 2026 charity will be decided by the incoming Year 12 Leadership team early next year.

Anyone wishing to find out more about BCF can visit balichildrenfoundation.org

Get giving early this Christmas for Toy Run

COMMUNITY

Preparations for the annual Phillip Island Toy Run on December 7, are well underway.

Registrations for the ride, which begins at Caldermeade Farm and finishes in Cowes, are open, and organisers are already accepting gift donations.

Over 150 people have already pre-registered for the event. Although you can register to ride on the day, pre-registration helps makes the marshals job easier on the day.

Organised entirely by volunteers, every gift and voucher goes to local families in need.

"One hundred per cent of gifts go to local families, with all remaining gifts going to various Rotary groups across Bass Coast and Gippsland for distribution to families in need," said organiser Samantha Halstead from Dead 4 Eva Designs in Cowes.

Gift vouchers, children's toys, and suitable gifts for teenagers and parents are all welcome.

"Last year, we supported nearly 100 families, providing gifts to 217 children from local schools and organisations," Samantha said.

"Every contribution counts and together we can ensure that no family is left without joy this holi-



The Annual Phillip Island Toy Run is on December 7, riding from Caldermeade Farm to Cowes, collecting gifts and vouchers to help local families in need this Christmas.

day season."

As the event grows in popularity, there's plenty of fun to be had – both on and off the bike, at the start and finish of the ride.

This year, as well as a DJ, you can expect an appearance from Santa, free showbags, facepainting, food trucks, market and Show n Shine.

Special Toy Run merchandise is also available.

The official ride leaves Caldermeade Farm at

11am, with a competition for the Best Dressed bike. Gates open from 8am with breakfast available.

The ride is expected to arrive in Cowes between 12pm – 12.30pm.

For more details on how you can support this fantastic community event, follow the Annual Phillip Island Toy Run Facebook page, or contact Samantha Halstead on 0438 378 061 or email samantha.hampstead@outlook.com



Sandi Wallace (left) award winning author, and Gea Lovell (right) President of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo.

A night of crime and conversation

ROTARY

It was an evening of laughter, intrigue, and a touch of mystery when Phillip Island's own award-winning crime writer, Sandi Wallace, joined members and guests of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo at the San Remo Hotel.

Sandi quickly had everyone hooked as she shared stories from her fascinating life – one that's almost as full of twists as her novels. Before becoming a full-time writer, she worked in all sorts of roles: banker, paralegal, cabinetmaker, journalist, and even personal trainer. She admitted she once came close to joining

Victoria Police – an experience that, looking back, helped fuel her fascination with the criminal mind.

Her decision to follow her passion for storytelling clearly paid off. Sandi's debut rural thriller, Tell Me Why, won the Davitt Award Readers' Choice, and her short crime fiction has earned several Scarlet Stiletto Awards. She spoke about how her love for the Australian countryside shapes her writing – capturing both the beauty and the darker undercurrents of small-town life.

Living on Millowl/ Phillip Island, Sandi said she's hard at work on her next book but always enjoys chances like this to

connect with locals. The relaxed, conversational interview gave everyone a glimpse into her writing process, her inspirations, and what it's really like to "live inside the mind of a crime writer".

The night wrapped up with plenty of smiles, lively questions from the floor, and a real sense of pride in seeing one of our own make such a mark on the literary world.

"It's amazing how much talent we have right here on the island," Rotary club President Gea Lovell said at the end of the evening.

It was a memorable evening that left everyone inspired – and maybe just a little more suspicious of their neighbours.



Plan for your coastal retirement

Planning for retirement can often feel like an overwhelming task. Where will you retire? Will you have enough money? What government benefits are you entitled to? Do you need to sell your home to finance your retirement? What lifestyle do you want to have when you retire?

The list of questions to answer feels endless. The truth is, planning your retirement isn't about having all the answers immediately. It's a journey that might take you years, but how you prepare for it can make a huge impact on what your retirement looks like.

You might have put off retirement planning for years, or you might have been chipping away. Whatever stage you're at, knowing how to prepare is crucial and makes the task more approachable.

At Lifestyle Communities, we believe retirement planning should be empowering, giving you a peek into what your next chapter could look like.

For many homeowners at Lifestyle Communities Phillip Island, retiring by the coast, with a lifestyle that felt like a holiday everyday was their focus.

That's why we have partnered up with Bec Wilson, best-selling author, podcaster and retirement expert to bring you an informative session about how to plan an epic retirement. She will be coming along to our next Open Day at Lifestyle Communities Phillip Island to give you the confidence to plan the retirement you've dreamt of.

Join us on November 15 between 10am and 2pm for a fun day out for the whole family.

Bec's session will commence at 12 noon so be sure to visit that one. Grab a bite to eat, wander through our resort-style clubhouse and leave with the knowledge you need to retire your way.

Register for this event on our website or drop by on the day: www.lifestylecommunities.com.au/Phillip-Island-Open-Day



Lifestyle Communities Phillip Island's Open Day on November 15 from 10am - 2pm is a fun day for the whole family. Bec Wilson, best selling author, presents an information session on planning for your retirement at 12 noon.

New homes from
\$635,000*

Special guest
Bec Wilson
12pm: Free information session

ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF
Est. 1886

39 GRAMPIAN BOULEVARD, COWES

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- Set on a generous 540m² allotment, this immaculate property features a spacious double garage with internal access. The expansive master bedroom serves as a luxurious parents' retreat, complete with its own air conditioning unit, ceiling fan, a full walk-in wardrobe and a sleek ensuite featuring a large shower. Three additional generously sized bedrooms provide ample space for family and guests.
- The heart of the home is the open plan kitchen, dining & living area. The gourmet kitchen boasts elegant stone benchtops, a high-quality 900mm oven, and stainless-steel appliances. The dining area opens onto a large, covered alfresco space, perfect for outdoor entertaining, while the living area has sliding door access to the rear yard and is equipped with an air conditioning unit, providing year-round comfort.
- A second living space offers a separate zone ideal for relaxation or entertaining, ensuring everyone in the family has their own space. The family bathroom is well-appointed with both a bath and a shower. Additional features include solar electricity, contributing to energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Residents of the Whytesands Estate enjoy access to park areas with BBQ facilities, a basketball ring, and a flying fox, making it an ideal environment for family fun and outdoor activities.
- Don't miss the chance to make this dream home your own. Contact Alex Scott & Staff Cowes at 5952 2633 to arrange your private inspection today!

Phillip Island

Open day

with special guest Bec Wilson

Come and experience the Lifestyle Communities difference. Explore the community, meet the team, and discover what life could look like in your next chapter.

Free Information Session at 12pm with Bec Wilson

Join Bec Wilson – author, podcaster, and one of Australia's leading voices on modern retirement, as she shares practical tips for building a fulfilling, flexible, and financially confident future.

Registration is essential and closes Wednesday 12 November.

Saturday 15 November
11am to 2pm

Lifestyle Communities
Phillip Island, 498
Settlement Rd, Cowes VIC

Scan the QR code or
call 1300 50 55 60
to register.

lifestyle communities

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*Price correct as at October 2025. Subject to change.



Barry Plant farewells Jenni Kent

After nearly two decades in local real estate, much-loved team member Jenni Kent has officially hung up her clipboard and keys to begin a well-earned retirement.

Jenni first joined the business in 2007, quickly becoming a familiar face and trusted professional to countless property owners and buyers across the island and San Remo. Her care, local knowledge and genuine connection with people have been hallmarks of her career.

After facing some health challenges in 2024, Jenni decided it was time to slow down and enjoy life on her own terms – swapping open homes for open roads. She’s now travelling through Queensland in her van, enjoying sunshine, freedom, and a new chapter of adventure.

The entire Barry Plant Phillip Island and San Remo team thanks Jenni sincerely for her many years of service, dedication and friendship. She leaves behind an incredible legacy within our team and community.

A growing future – and new opportunities

As Jenni embarks on her next journey, our business continues to grow, with the recent expansion to a fourth location.

We now proudly service the

Bass Coast and South Gippsland regions from offices in Cowes, San Remo, Wonthaggi and Inverloch.

The continued expansion of our business – across four thriving office locations – has created an exciting period of opportunity for those looking to build a long term career in real estate within our region.

Over the past three years, under the leadership of CEO Jodie Hanssen, our business has undergone a complete transformation. Drawing on high-level experience leading Melbourne operations while deeply understanding the values and lifestyle of the Bass Coast, Jodie has reshaped the organisation into a modern, progressive and people-centred real estate group.

We deliberately operate differently. While many regional businesses still follow traditional structures, we have invested in contemporary systems, advanced technology, efficient workflows and a strong operational backbone that empowers our people to work smarter – not harder. We combine the warmth and personal connection of a local team with the professionalism and capability of a high-performing Melbourne agency.

Our culture is built on care, flexibility and the belief that



After nearly two decades in local real estate, much-loved team member Jenni Kent has officially hung up her clipboard and keys to begin a well-earned retirement.

when we support and nurture our people, the business succeeds in return. Work-life balance is not just a slogan here – we tailor roles around the individual. That is why so many of our young parents choose to build their careers with us and stay long-term, and why some team members have followed Jodie from previous workplaces. Loyalty grows naturally in an

environment where people feel respected, supported and able to put family first.

As we continue to grow, we are welcoming new team members across several areas of the business – from sales and leasing, to marketing, administration and customer service roles. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, we work with candidates to shape positions to suit

their strengths, stage of life and professional goals. Importantly, we also offer higher salaries and the most competitive OTE sales commission structure in the Bass Coast, allowing high performers to thrive and be truly rewarded for their contribution.

Our recent alignment with Barry Plant Australia’s Major Network of the Year further enhances the opportunities available to our people. Through industry-leading training, technology, resources and a highly regarded brand, our team benefits from the support of a major network while still enjoying the closeness and culture of a local, family-focused business. This partnership also elevates the service we offer our clients, providing a Melbourne-standard experience right here on the Bass Coast.

With record growth, strong leadership, a supportive culture and the right systems in place, we are exceptionally well-positioned for the future – and we invite driven, values-aligned individuals to be part of our continued success story.

Whether you’re an experienced agent ready to grow your career, or someone looking to enter real estate for the first time, there’s never been a better time to join our team.

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Greg Davis 0488 279 740 | Phillip Island 03 5952 5100
www.barryplant.com.au/philipisland

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FINANCIAL LITERACY MADE SIMPLE

Cash flow in Retirement:

The Inflows and Outflows

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELCapital

When you move from earning a regular wage to living on superannuation, investments, or the Age Pension, one of the biggest adjustments is getting used to a different rhythm of money coming in and out. Cash flow in retirement isn't just about how much you have, it's about how and when it moves.

Where the Money Comes From

For most retirees, income comes from a mix of sources; the Age Pension, account-based pensions from superannuation, investments, rental income, or part-time work.

Some of these arrive fortnightly, others monthly or quarterly, so income can feel uneven compared to a regular salary.

Understanding that pattern helps you plan spending with fewer surprises.

Where the Money Goes

Day-to-day expenses usually stay steady (groceries, fuel, utilities, insurance) but bigger costs like home maintenance, medical bills, or helping the kids can crop up unexpectedly. Many retirees also spend more earlier in retirement, when they're active and travelling, and less later on.

Keeping track of these patterns helps you avoid the feeling that money is "disappearing" faster than expected.

Making Cash Flow Work for You

You don't need to be a numbers person to get a handle on your cash flow. What matters is setting up a rhythm that works for you.

Start by thinking about your regular costs, the things that happen every week or month, and your bigger, less frequent bills, like rates, insurance, and car registration.

A simple trick is to work out what those quarterly or yearly costs add up to, divide by 12, and set that amount aside each month in a separate account. That way, when the bill arrives, the money's already there.

Some retirees also find it useful to have two bank accounts: one for everyday spending and one for bills. Your pension or super income goes in, and automatic transfers send money to each account on a regular schedule. It's simple, automatic, and avoids surprises.

Small Adjustments Make a Big Difference

Understanding your cash flow can also highlight where small tweaks can stretch your money further such as switching to a cheaper phone plan, reviewing insurance premiums, or adjusting how often you draw from your super. Even modest savings can add up over a year.

Why It Matters

Good cash-flow planning doesn't mean going without. It's about peace of mind, knowing that the money coming in covers what's going out, without stress.

Retirement should be a time to enjoy what you've worked for, not to worry about whether the next bill will tip things over. With a little structure, you can make sure your finances support the lifestyle you want comfortably and confidently.

The information above does not constitute financial or other professional advice and is general in nature. It does not take into account your specific circumstances and should not be acted on without a full understanding of your current situation and future goals and objectives by a fully qualified financial advisor. Before you make any decision about whether to acquire a certain financial product, you should obtain and read the relevant product disclosure statement.

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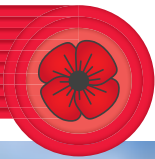
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REMEMBRANCE DAY



Phillip Island RSL invites everyone to join the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in Cowes, from 10.45am until 11.30am on November 11.

Remembrance Day in Cowes

By Peter Paul, Phillip Island RSL President

A Proclamation about the observance of Remembrance Day was signed on October 30, 1997, some 28 years ago by Governor General Sir William Deane, on behalf of the Australian people.

That national declaration called for one minute's silence, formerly two minutes, to encourage remembrance of the sacrifice of those who died or otherwise

suffered in Australia's cause in wars and conflict throughout the world.

It is encouraging this year to see schools, businesses and individuals who will observe Remembrance Day across Phillip Island joining with the Phillip Island RSL for a minute's silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.

We remember Gallipoli and the Western front in Europe, across the jungles

and desert, and the sacrifice of over one hundred thousand Australian soldiers, sailors, and airmen and service women who remain where they died, on every continent and in every ocean of the world.

We also remember all of our service people for their contributions to the welfare of Australia.

Thankfully, a great many Australians have no personal experience of war, but we are forever grateful for the freedoms that we enjoy, by those who fought for them.

The daily press reminds us that many other countries and millions of people do not enjoy these same freedoms ... to be educated, to speak, to worship, to vote, to travel, and the privileges of a legal system and to live as an individual.

Their sacrifices are why we have freedom today.

Earlier this year the Phillip Island RSL committee visited the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, and the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, plus the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on ANZAC Avenue, Canberra

Together we paid our respects and laid a wreath of remembrance at the Shrine and the Australian War Memorial. Each a very special occasion.

Prior to Remembrance Day, RSL committee members Michael Crump and Ray Young will be conducting talks locally.

This Thursday (November 6) the RSL will be holding short services at Phillip Island's local aged care facilities.

Last week, the Phillip Island RSL approved its Welfare Committee to explore further ways of connecting with veterans and schools on Phillip Island.

The RSL intends to conduct visitations for local people to the Shrine of Remembrance.

The Committee also agreed to sponsor two Year 11 local secondary school students to participate in the Kokoda Track Walk in New Guinea on an annual basis from 2027.

The RSL takes this opportunity to thank all who have participated in the Annual Poppy Appeal, and for the community's generous support.

We invite you all to our Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph, which will commence at 10.45am, and conclude at approximately 11.30am."

This year will feature Mack Cameron, piper, Craig Marinos, bugler, Natasha Crestani, singer, and a short but special poem "An inquisitive mind of a child" read by Cheryl Overton and Holly, a Year 6 student from Cowes Primary School.

We are also fortunate to have Captain Paul Scott from HMAS Cerberus, joined by a catafalque party, also from Cerberus, officiating at the ceremony.

A flyover is anticipated at 11.30am to conclude the service.

If you wish to lay a wreath, please check in with Brad Carter in the vicinity of the cenotaph, no later than 10.30am, prior to commencement of the service.

May the weather be kind to us.

Remembrance Day Service

2025

10:45AM November 11th

Cowes Cenotaph

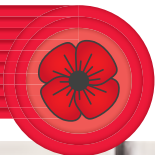
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STATE MEMBER FOR BASS

REMEMBRANCE DAY



A Remembrance Day service will start at 10.30am on November 11 at the San Remo Cenotaph with the State Treasurer of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Maurice Benson, delivering the commemoration address.

Vietnam veteran medic to deliver address

The State Treasurer of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Maurice Benson, will deliver the San Remo Remembrance Day commemoration address.

Maurice was a medic in Vung Tau during the Vietnam War.

The service will start at 10.30am on Remembrance Day November 11, at the San Remo Cenotaph.

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, will lay a wreath, as will other dignitaries. Members of the public will be offered the chance to do so too.

Poppies will be available for those wishing to place one at the Cenotaph.

San Remo and Newhaven school students will be there to pay their respects. Everyone is welcome.

Morning tea will be served afterwards at the San Remo Hotel and members of the small group organising the event are grateful the town's two hotels which are prepared to continue a long-standing tradition of taking turn to provide the refreshments.

The commemoration is auspiced by the Vietnam Veterans Sub Branch VVAA.



During World War II Cowes Primary school children were called to Thompson's Garage in Cowes, to roll old car tyres down to the foreshore near where North Pier now stands. The tyres would be collected and recycled for the war effort.

Island sacrifices in war

Like small communities across Australia, many islanders went off to war never to return.

Of the 45 young Phillip Island men who enlisted to fight in World War I, 21 did not return, with many now lying in unmarked graves.

These photos capture some of the memories of the impact of war on the island community.

Five Phillip Islanders being farewelled from the Cowes Pier in 1915, after enlisting to fight in World War I. From left: Harry Heard, Len McFee, Bob White, Allan McFee and Jim Smith. Only Len McFee and Bob White came home.





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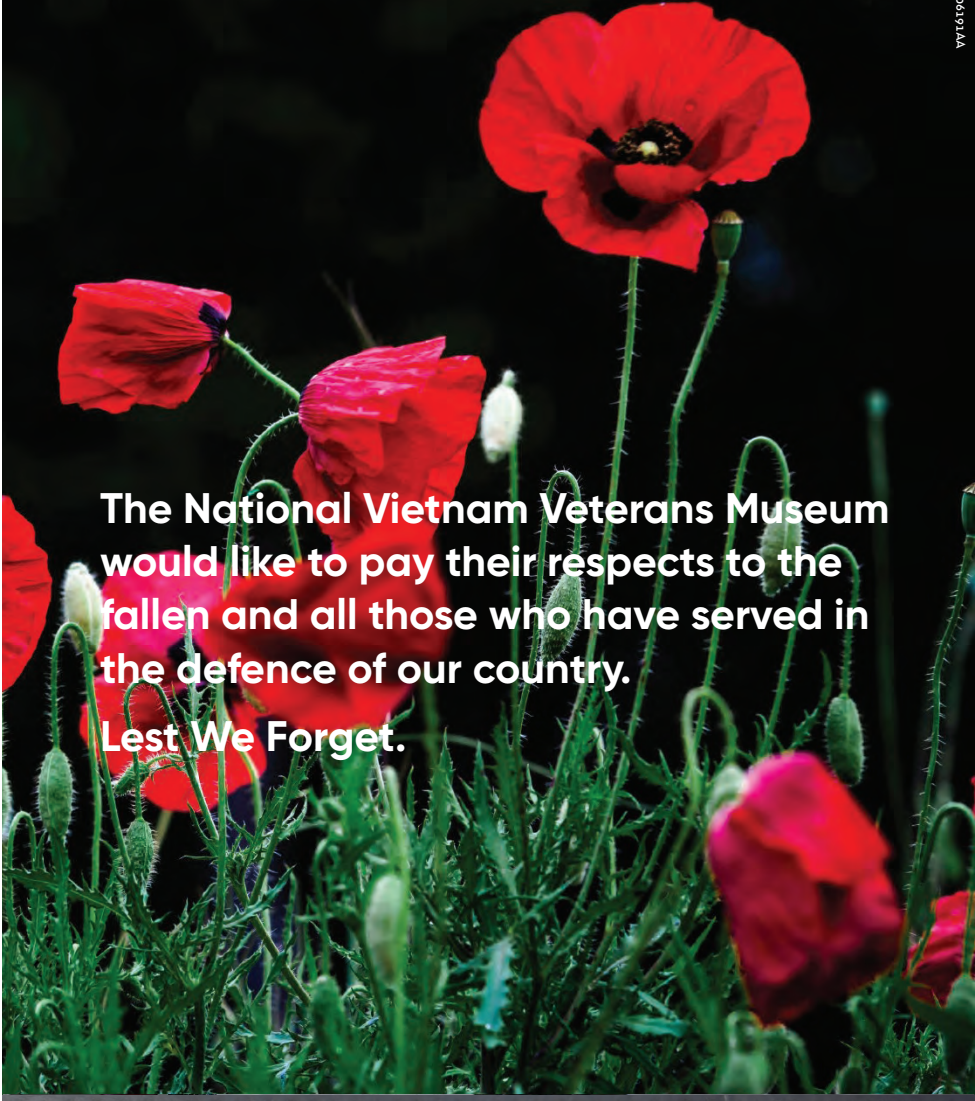
On Remembrance Day, we honour those Australians who gave their all for our country and our way of life.



 03 5614 3600

 mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au

Authorised by M Aldred, 46C Albert St, Warragul VIC 3820



The National Vietnam Veterans Museum would like to pay their respects to the fallen and all those who have served in the defence of our country.

Lest We Forget.



The National Vietnam Veterans Museum

Our unique, interactive museum seeks to remember, interpret and understand the experience of the veterans of the Vietnam War.

Start your tour with the light and sound show, see the iconic Huey helicopter, an American Jeep and a Centurion tank.

Open daily 10am - 5pm - last entry at 4pm

25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven (behind the helipad)

Coffee and cakes in the Nui Dat Café between 10am - 3pm



HALLOWEEN



Halloween island-style

The streets were filled with ghouls, goblins, witches and more as youngsters went out trick or treating last Friday, in a spooky start to the long weekend.



Teddy, Levi, Billy, Ozzy, Ryder, Parker, Sonny, Luca, Jackson and Dallas roaming the streets of Cape Woolamai.

For more photos,
visit pisra.com.au



Hunnie and Winnie in their costumes, they made with some help from dad and mum.



Annika Cohoe, Luca Brebner and Audrey Rose Wilson trick or treating in Cape Woolamai.



Conjuring up the Halloween spirit, Dallas, Thomas, Brock (in the drain) and Parker in Cape Woolamai.



This house in San Remo went all out with Halloween decorations.



Adding some Halloween flavour to the coastal views, as local houses got into the spirit of Halloween.



John Matthews, Chairman SRDFS and Bendigo Bank Staff member Sylvia Watson with Best in Show Certificate for Heather Towns.



Shandelle Nolan, Winner Nature, Environment & Wildlife Award, sponsored by Phillip Island Nature Parks, with ASPIR President Bronwyn Pratt.



Ursula Theinert, Winner of the painting prize, sponsored by Phillip Island RSL, with Ray Young.



Lindy Yeates was the Winner Other Medium, with Sponsor Greg Price, from Alex Scott & Staff. More photos at pisra.com.au

Cup Weekend exhibition got off to a galloping start

ART

There was a large and excited crowd at Berninnet last Friday evening, all waiting to learn of the judges' selections in both the ASPIR Cup Weekend Exhibition and the Young Artist Awards.

Judge, Denise Keele-bedford, congratulated all the artists with works in the show. She talked about how the disciplines presented are diverse, the mediums broad and the presentation of the artworks varied.

Nearly 100 members of ASPIR participated with 272 works on display. The wonderful awards sponsorship ASPIR receives from local businesses and organisations enables the successful running of this event.

Prizes

Best in Show – \$1000 Bendigo Community Bank: Heather

Towns, Silver and Crystal

Nature, Environment & Wildlife – \$500 Phillip Island Nature Parks: Shandelle Nolan, Seaweed Doily

Best Painting – \$500 Phillip Island RSL: Ursula Theinert, Tea Trees on Berry's Beach

Highly Commended Painting – \$100 Bendigo Community Bank: Josephine Allen, Moon-scape

Best 3D – \$400 Brinnie T Design and Flowers of Phillip Island: Dina Goebel, Jellyfish: Lion's Mane

Highly Commended 3D – \$100 Bendigo Community Bank: Leigh Wicking, New Life

Best Digital Art/ Photograph – \$400 Phillip Island Winery: Jillian Mitchell, Majestic

Highly Commended Digital/Photograph – \$100 Bendigo Community Bank: Jennifer Moyle, Contemplation

Best Other Medium – \$400 Alex Scott & Staff: Lindy Yeates, The Composition of Water

Highly Commended Other Medium – \$100 Bendigo Community Bank: Gay Mosby, Raku Fired Rocks with Horsehair

Denise also made special mention of works by Peter Balfe, Deborah Hill, Carolyn Jane, Sally Kirsch and Bruce Wearne.

Young artists

An intriguing and colourful exhibition is how Josephine Allen described the works on show by Grade 5 and 6 students from five primary schools in the Young Artist Award. Before announcing her selections Josephine made special commendation to the teachers for their choice of subjects, and the extensive range of mediums used by the students.

The schools participating were: Cowes Primary, Newhav-

en Primary, Newhaven College Primary, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cowes, and Lang Lang Primary.

1st Prize – Bendigo Community Bank, \$100: Rorey Filsell, Starry Night, NCP

2nd Prize – Bendigo Community Bank, \$60: Isla, Self Portrait, LLP

3rd Prize – Bendigo Community Bank, \$40: Hazel Sebastian, Whispers of Dusk, CP

There were six Highly Commended Awards with Vouchers from Turn the Page Bookshop and Woolworths. Those selected were Louis, Self Portrait (NP); Charlie Matthews, Starry Night (NCP); Willow H, Still Life (OLSS); Henry Kennedy, Geli Plate Magic (CP); Michael Tran, Coral Trout (CP); and Reuben, Self Portrait (NP).

"The Young Artist Award was established by ASPIR, directed

by Jan Taylor, to encourage and recognise the creativity of students in primary school," ASPIR member Miranda Sage said.

"This is proving to be an effective format as ASPIR now sees young people becoming members and joining in the activities on offer. Last year's winner, Sam Bowtell, exhibited in the 2025 Cup Weekend exhibition showing four works painted in oils, at least one of which has sold.

"Many of the hundreds of people who have come to see the Art Show have commented on the beautiful works, the variety of artistic expression, and the high standard of presentation," Miranda continued.

"The ASPIR committee, members and friends, put in an enormous amount of effort to get it all together and are to be congratulated for doing it so well."

ISLAND VOICE PRESENTS

PHILLIP ISLAND

Carols

BY THE

Bay

Thursday 11th December 2025

COWES FORESHORE

5pm Childrens Entertainment

7:15pm Carols

9:30pm Fireworks

Proudly presented by Bass Coast Shire Council

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(Upgrade available for additional \$10)	6ft Tree - \$85	<u>COLLECTION</u>
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SCAN TO PRE-SALE



Tasmeen sharing Diwali with her classmates.



The Makers Market raised an amazing \$160, which will be used to purchase non-perishable goods for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.



The Grade 1/2 class enjoyed the Diwali celebrations at Our Lady Star of the Sea. More photos at pisra.com.au/education

Diwali celebrations and market

EDUCATION

In October, Our Lady Star of the Sea (OLSS) Grade 1/2 students learned about Diwali, as two of their classmates celebrated this special festival with their families.

"Students loved discovering the meaning of Diwali – the Festival of Lights – and exploring its beautiful traditions," said an OLSS spokesperson.

"We enjoyed creating colourful sand art, reading stories, and making light lanterns.

"A highlight was tasting the delicious sweet treats kindly shared by one of our families. It's been a wonderful week of learning, creativity, and cultural celebration."

Makers Market success

Last month, the Grade 3 and 4 students proudly held their Makers Market – a fantastic celebration of creativity, teamwork and generosity.

"Throughout Term 3, students re-

searched, planned, and created their own unique craft goods to sell at their market stalls," the school spokesperson explained.

"They also designed colourful signs and decorations to attract visitors, bringing our learning spaces to life with excitement and creativity."

The day of the market was filled with smiles, laughter and a wonderful sense of community.

Students from the junior and senior levels visited the stalls, donating a gold coin to enter. Families, friends and staff joined in the fun, supporting the young entrepreneurs and admiring their incredible handmade creations.

"Thanks to everyone's generosity, the Middles raised an amazing \$160, which will be used to purchase non-perishable goods for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

"We are so proud of our students' hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm – both in preparing for the market and in giving back to those in need."



Book lovers – save the date

After the success of the 2025 event, which featured journalist and media advocate Peter Greste – seen here with MC Gil Tucker – dates have been locked in for the 2026 Festival of Stories on August 21 – 23.

FESTIVAL

After their most successful event ever, The Phillip Island Story Gatherers have locked in the date for the 2026

Festival of Stories.

The festival will be held at Bernin-neit in Cowes on August 21-23. Book lovers should mark those dates in their calendars.

WALK FOR PANCREATIC CANCER



Pull on your best purple outfit and join the Phillip Island community walking to save lives

Phillip Island RSL

Saturday 22nd November

Event opens 10.30am

Walk starts 11am



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National Trust celebrates 20 years

COMMUNITY

The Bass Coast Branch of the National Trust of Australia (Vic) will be celebrating 20 years of heritage advocacy at its 2025 Annual General Meeting on November 16.

Guest speaker, local resident Kate Cleeland, will present some of her research into the very early artists of Phillip Island.

"Local galleries enable us to

experience and appreciate the works of our contemporary artists, but we may be unfamiliar with those of the 19th century whose works were similarly inspired by the natural beauty of this place," said a branch spokesperson.

Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM in Rhyll's historic Mechanics Institute Hall at 2pm on Sunday November 16, followed by a delicious afternoon tea.



Everyone is invited to the Bass Coast Branch of the National Trust of Australia (Vic) AGM on November 16 at the Rhyll Hall at 2pm, with guest speaker Kate Cleeland, followed by afternoon tea. Photo: Sincerely Media, Unsplash.



Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space Inc (PICES) is calling for new members to join the group, which supports contemporary artists. A recent PICES exhibition, featuring paintings by Rain White and ceramics by Kate Stuart.

Invitation to artists and art lovers

ART

Now in its seventh year, Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space Inc (PICES) has become well known for its successful annual Summer Exhibitions which are now seen as a "must go to" event in Cowes.

Three unique exhibitions will be shown again in the Berninait Art Gallery Cowes from December 12 this year to February 1, 2026.

"The organisation has grown over the years and is now at a very exciting stage where the committee and members, all enthusiastic and committed volunteers, are keen to develop fur-

ther initiatives to support contemporary artists and engage with the local community," a PICES spokesperson said.

"We invite artists, art students, art lovers and other community-minded people to join PICES and contribute to our moving forward.

"We are looking for people to join the committee. Or perhaps you would like to sit a shift or two in the gallery during the Summer Exhibitions, meet the exhibiting artists and learn about curating and running exhibitions," they said.

"Maybe you have specific skills such as marketing or sales or could join one of our

subcommittees and help with developing new ideas and running events during the year. All welcome."

PICES Annual General Meeting will be held for members at 2pm Monday November 24 at the Newhaven Information Centre, 895 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven. There you can learn more about PICES and get to know other members.

Please RSVP by Friday November 21.

For more information, email pices3922@gmail.com or go to www.pices.com.au

Keep up to date on Instagram and Facebook @picesartspace.

/Sponsored article/

GIG GUIDE

8/11 **NO SCRUBS: 90S + EARLY 00S PARTY - \$20+BF**
9/11 **JK & RUSSELL ROBERTSON - 5PM**

14/11 **CORZ 8PM**
15/11 **JIMI KEMPSEY 8PM**
16/11 **MARK HOWARD 5PM**

23/11 **TRAVIS THOMPSON - 5PM**

28/11 **OCEAN GROVE - \$34+BF 8PM**
29/11 **AC/DC THUNDERSTRUCK \$25 + BF 9PM**
30/11 **MarSamJam - 5pm**

19/12
FELIPE BALDOMIR - STRANGERS, LOVERS TOUR 2025
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THU 13/11	SYLVIE (US)
FRI 14/11	JENNY DON'T & THE SPURS (US)
SAT 15/11	ASH GRUNWALD
SUN 16/11	SUZANNAH ESPIE
FRI 21/11	GALLIE
SAT 22/11	BEN OTTERWELL & IAN BALL (UK)
SUN 23/11	19 TWENTY
SAT 29/11	MISS EILEEN & KING LEAR ALBUM LAUNCH
SUN 30/11	TEX PERKINS & MATT WALKER

December

FRI 5/12	KEVIN BENNETT & THE FLOOD
SAT 6/12	FLORIST (US)
SUN 7/12	THE AUDREYS
SUN 14/12	NEIL YOUNG'S ZUMA 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FEATURING NICK BARKER, LISA MILLER & CRACK BAND LED BY SHANE O'MARA
SUN 19/12	THE STETSON FAMILY
SAT 20/12	MAGIC DIRT
SUN 21/12	LOST RAGAS & SILVERSOUND

January

THU 1/1	MICK THOMAS' ROVING COMMISSION NEW YEAR'S DAY SHOW W/ HANNA & JESSIE LEE'S BAD HABITS, DANNY WALSH BANNED & QUEEN OF HEARTS MARIACHI BAND
SAT 10/1	THE BLACK SORROWS
SUN 11/1	THE BLACK SORROWS

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Perseverance Primary's future uncertain

FRENCH ISLAND

French Island's only primary school has closed, with an uncertain future.

Perseverance Primary, which is nearly 130 years old, was one of Victoria's smallest schools, with a State Government exemption for the minimum number of pupils required to attend.

However, following concerns by French Island residents, a Department of Education spokesperson last week told the Advertiser Perseverance Primary currently had no enrolments.

"As a result, the school council has requested the school become non-operational," the spokesperson said.

"The department is examining enrolment forecasts as part of considering this request".

School councils can recommend to the department the school becomes non-operational – otherwise called de-staffed or closed – if there are low or no confirmed enrolments.

However, the non-operational process allows schools to re-open if local demand increases.

"Madness"

Second generation French Island resident Bruce Chandler, who moved there as a four-year-old in 1967, completed his pri-



French Island's only primary school – Perseverance – was exempt from the State Government's minimum pupil requirements and in 2010 had just four students, pictured at the time with their teacher Fiona. The school is now closed for lack of children.

mary education at Perseverance and described the closure as "madness".

"French Island needs a school. We have one," Bruce said.

He said it was the first time in the school's history it had shut full-time, shutting a few months ago.

In a recent Waterline magazine edition, Bruce wrote they poured money into the school to "bring it

up to code" yet now it remained empty.

"Surely we can do better than that."

"Is it a sign of what our community has become with padlocked gates and no trespassing signs and everybody thinking about their own little patch?"

"What about the community? What about the future kids?"

Bruce said at the cente-

nary of the school – which started in 1896 – there had been 250 kids enrolled.

"When I was at Perseverance Primary School our numbers got down to under the recommended amount to keep the school open – which was seven students – and we brought a family in with three kids just to keep the school open," Bruce said, adding it was in the early to mid-1970s.

"We got them a house and work on French Island ... and that's how we kept the school open."

"They built houses to put families in to keep the school open in the past. The community got together to keep Perseverance open."

He said there were currently vacant houses across the island and "why don't we have a family with

children in them?", adding there would be many struggling for affordable housing who would "love" to live on French Island.

History

In 1893 the government established six different settlements on French Island, with each of the families in these settlements given 20 hectares of land and the following year more than 50 children needed schooling.

Three schools were built and in the middle of 1896 a teacher was appointed to teach at Star of Hope and the Perseverance schools.

Perseverance was open five days a fortnight and Star of Hope six days a fortnight.

French Island is not on the grid, so each landowner has renewable power and diesel generator backup; also responsible for their own water, usually from rainwater tanks or dams, and sewage.

With no shire, residents don't pay rates, and the island is an unincorporated territory with the State Government planning minister the responsible planning authority.

There is no health clinic and so for non-urgent health issues residents travel to the mainland and in life-threatening scenarios the air ambulance is called.

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Alby dialled in some of his special people, for the school's Grandparents and Special Person's day.



Baylee with two of her special people. More photos at pisra.com.au/education

San Remo Primary celebrates a special day

EDUCATION

On Monday October 27, the San Remo school community celebrated the special people in their lives.

Grandparents, parents and special friends were invited into the classrooms to join in activities before joining the whole school assembly.

The Prep children and their Grade 6 buddies entertained the crowd with 'knock knock' jokes and a great afternoon was had by all.



Nalani, Koa, Mika with their mum, at San Remo Primary School's Grandparents and Special Person's day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Acts of gallantry

We will remember them. Four simple words. But four incredibly powerful words in the Ode of Remembrance.

It's not "we will remember them when it's convenient", which is the plan by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

An independent statutory agency has accused the Albanese Government of abolishing the rights of Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans when seeking to review our nation's highest awards for bravery.

The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal has made a formal submission to a Senate inquiry regarding the government's plans to limit the time period for reviewing acts of gallantry.

The Tribunal's submission also highlighted that it would've been impossible for the Victoria Cross to be posthumously awarded to war heroes like Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean and Private Richard Norden under the new approach of the Albanese Government.

Under the changes rammed through the House of Representatives without proper consultation with ex-service organisations, all Labor Party MPs voted to introduce a 20-year time limit on reviewable actions.

In effect, it would mean the actions of Australian Defence Force personnel from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and any other conflict outside the 20-year timeframe could not be considered for review.

In its submission, the independent Tribunal strongly disagreed with Labor's approach and said:

"In the view of the Tribunal, the Bill in its present form would work to the very significant disadvantage of ADF members and veterans, their families and other supporters by abolishing existing rights of independent merits review in the Tribunal and would thereby detract from the integrity of the defence honours and awards system."

Our national heroes deserve recognition regardless of the timing of their actions.

The Coalition will continue to campaign against this ill-conceived Bill because we don't believe our solemn commitment of "we will remember them" should have a use-by date of 20 years.

Darren Chester, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Mental health plea

We write to your readers to ask them to make a stronger connection between themselves and people facing mental health issues.

The not-for-profit Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia says it is deeply alarming that there are now 460,000 people who have no access to much needed community support for their mental health conditions.

The numbers, sadly, are continuing to grow.

Our latest campaign highlights the neglect of people in your area who have a mental health issue is on a very significant scale. Put simply, thousands and thousands of Aus-

tralians with mental health issues are ending up in hospitals and emergency departments because they believe it is their only option.

People with a severe mental illness die 23 years earlier than the general population. Obviously, this is shameful.

We are calling on all governments to start taking meaningful action to help people with severe mental illness.

We are also calling on your readers to be aware that we have a powerful not-for-profit initiative that they can be part of. The initiative is called Finding North.

This project connects people with mental health issues with others in similar situations and it is an ideal place to go to if you need support.

To get more information, go to www.findingnorth.org.au

Tony Stevenson, National CEO

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia.

Loss of democracy

Councillors are required to disregard personal interests; however personal biases were apparent at the October 18 council meeting. Reports were tabled with unanimous support and endless self-congratulatory statements. Public questions, submitted in advance, were responded to, but if questions arose during the meeting, the public were shut down immediately.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan has raised concerns from some and support from others however the biased outcome is endless measures of dog/cat control including additional "dog catchers". The plan is about control, not flexibility and inclusiveness, with no consideration for human and animal wellbeing.

The collective opinion was dogs were bad which in 99 per cent of cases is not the case. Surely it is the job of council to base decisions on the evidence available, yet Councillors O'Brien and Morgan appear to believe that native wildlife, such as Hooded Plovers, are frequently murdered by dogs. If they had read the reports commissioned by Nature Parks, they would know that the majority are washed away at high tide and many are taken by birds of prey, with no evidence of dog kills.

Whilst the protection of wildlife is important has it been thought through? For example, Phillip Island is overrun with Cape Barron Geese and rabbits and the reintroduction of species such as the Bandicoot and Stone Curlew may impact on existing species.

Councillors also need to be cautious in their response to the public. For example, a planning application for a Health and Wellness retreat received 150 objections with concerns, amongst others, that the centre was for drug rehabilitation clients. Cr O'Brien's response was there were no grounds for any objections as the intent of the centre was "for people to stand around on one leg humming or standing by a pond". Whilst this

was not an applicable response to the 150 that had objected it also demonstrates a lack of insight into therapeutic care.

In summary should not councils consider the evidence for their policies, the impact of biased views and take a representative stance for their whole community?

Simon Cooper, Ventnor

Pool safety check

As the warmer months approach, Royal Life Saving Australia is urging all backyard pool owners to check their pool fences and gates as a matter of urgency. It is vital to save lives.

Children under five are very curious, quick, and fearless. Their love of water puts them at a very serious risk of drowning. Each year in Australia, we lose on average 19 young children to drowning, with half of these tragedies occurring in backyard swimming pools. The majority are aged just one year old. The risk of drowning triples at this age when children become more mobile. We should all be deeply concerned.

For every child who dies, around eight more are hospitalised following a non-fatal drowning incident; this is over 150 children under five every year. Some of these children will experience long-term health outcomes, which can have life-long impacts on children and their families. This is extremely alarming.

While active supervision is always the best protection, no parent or caregiver can watch a child every second of the day. A functioning, compliant pool fence and self-closing, self-latching gate provides a vital extra layer of protection – for those everyday moments when life interrupts: the phone rings, the doorbell goes, or another child needs your attention.

Royal Life Saving's free Home Pool Safety Checklist can easily be downloaded at www.royallifesaving.com.au/keep-watch

Pool owners should always check that wet weather hasn't loosened fence posts, gates are working and close properly, toys are packed away, and portable pools are emptied when not in use. Just as important, brushing up on CPR skills ahead of summer could well save a life.

By taking the time now to check your pool fence, gate and surrounds – making sure there are no climbable objects nearby – you could prevent a tragedy.

Keep watch and protect the littlest members of your family.

Justin Scarr, CEO – Royal Life Saving Australia

Keep GP on the island

The Motorcycle Riders Association of Australia (MRAA) was involved in the first Phillip Island Moto GP in 1989. We have maintained a strong interest since.

Recent media discussion on moving the event to another venue has promoted the MRAA to make our position clear. The MRAA wants the Australian Moto GP to stay on Phillip Island.

We understand negotiations are underway regarding re-

newing the event contract. The MRAA wants the Phillip Island Moto GP to go back to its original March/April date because the weather is so much better then.

Motorcyclists are weather sensitive. Better weather means a bigger crowd. It also means a safer event. Both on the roads to the island and on the track. A dry track means safer, more exciting racing. Everybody attending the Moto GP carnival benefits from good weather.

Damien Codognotto OAM, MRAA

Halloween praise

I have lived in Cowes for just over a year and decided this year to join in the fun of Halloween and decorated my front yard. I had about 35 children from around the area come to visit. I would

just like to praise the youngsters of Cowes for their politeness and manners. They were a very nice bunch of children with many pleases and thank yous.

Their parents should be extremely proud of them. They are raising some lovely children.

Heather Collins, Cowes

Award accolades

Congratulations the Advertiser newspaper. Your award, Best Special Publication, for producing and publishing The Island magazine presented by the Victorian Country Press Association. To Eleanor, Staffan, staff and the owner of the paper you deserve this award for the second year. You all have set a high standard producing a local magazine. Well done.

Gay and Graham Jolly, Cape Woolamai



SHORT STACK

A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

School safety review and survey

The State Government has released the statutory review into the School Community Safety Order Scheme, which has empowered school principals to issue orders for parents or carers engaging in harmful threatening or abusive behaviour to leave school grounds since 2022.

As part of consultation on how best to implement the recommendations in the review, there's an online survey for principals, teachers, parents and carers to share their views. To have your say, visit engage.vic.gov.au/keeping-school-staff-safe Survey closed at 11.59pm on November 10.

Creative partnerships

Applications are open for the next round of the Creative Learning Partnerships program.

The program provides grants of \$10,000 for schools to partner with an individual artist, or \$35,000 to partner with a creative collective or organisation. The program helps students develop their creativity, express themselves and learn new skills, supporting Foundation to Year 10, VCE Vocational Major and the VPC curriculum. It also provides opportunities for both the teachers and the creative professionals involved to build their creative skills. Applications close on Thursday November 13. For more information visit creative.vic.gov.au

Sports club grants

Applications have opened for the latest round of the Sporting Club Grants Program – with a focus on supporting growth.

Grants of up to \$5000 are available for clubs to improve the skills and knowledge of volunteers, coaches and officials, as well as grants of up to \$4000 to help clubs deliver new programs to the community. Clubs can also apply for grants of up

to \$1000 to purchase uniforms and equipment, and \$750 travel grants are also available to participate in competitions away from home. Applications close November 26. For more information and to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au

Pet welfare grants

Applications are open for the Animal Welfare Fund, which will invest \$1.6 million to support companion animal welfare across Victoria.

This round offers grants of up to \$100,000 for not-for-profit organisations, animal shelters and community foster care networks. Eligible projects include those focused on rehoming, education, emergency animal relief and expanding facilities available to the community during times of crisis. Low-cost vet clinic grants of up to \$50,000 are also available to put towards equipment, upgrades and expansions for not-for-profit and community vet clinics, and up to \$200,000 to establish new low-cost vet clinics. Applications close on November 27. To apply and for more information visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au

Grants for local fishing clubs

Applications are open for the 2025/26 round of the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program – encouraging clubs to apply for their share of up to \$600,000.

The funding can be used in a variety of ways, from clubroom and facility improvements to providing fishing tuition for multicultural groups, women and First Nations people, as well as open days, training, events and running guest speaker nights to share skills and attract new members.

Applications for the grants are open until Sunday November 30. To learn more and to apply, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/strongerfishingclubs



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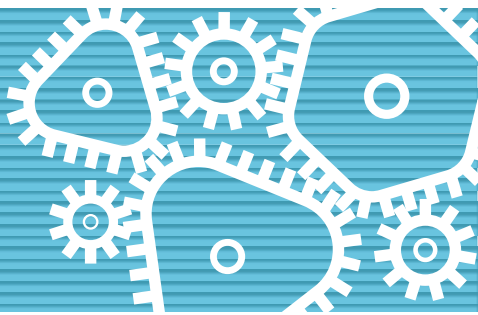
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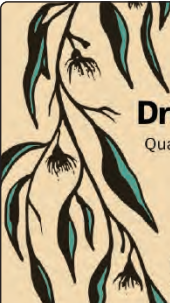
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Gymstar Three team celebrate their successful end of season.



Gymstar Four team enjoying their last event of the year.

Phillip Island Gymstar teams finish on a high

GYMNASTICS

Phillip Island Gymnastics Club's Gymstar Level Three and Four teams wrapped up their season in style, competing at the Bayside Gymnastics club on October 26 for their final event of the year.

The hard work and dedication the athletes have shown throughout the season was clearly reflected in their performances, with many gymnasts achieving their best results to date.

The Gymstar Three Emerald team delivered an outstanding performance, earning an impressive third place, while the Pearl team also shone, securing

sixth place.

In the Level Four division, the White team proudly took third place and the Red team followed closely behind in fourth.

In the individual all-around results, Wynter took out sixth place.

A host of apparatus awards were also presented to individuals from the Phillip Island teams, recognising excellence across vault, bars, beam, floor, parallel bars and rings.

The results capped off a fantastic season for the Phillip Island Gymnastics Club, highlighting the progress and teamwork of its young athletes and coaches.

Midweek at Lang Lang

BOWLS

What a beautiful day it was at Lang Lang today as the family of bowlers turned up to fight it out for team(s) of the week.

The team was welcomed to the club by Bev and John as Vern was kept busy preparing the actual teams. Once the bowlers were told their teams and went to the green, the fun started.

As usual lots of laughter and plenty of friendly banter as friend challenged friend for superiority on the green. As the day passed it was clear that the weather was not in any way going to deteriorate.

Such a beautiful day on such a beautiful green and we can only thank the hosts for such a magnificent day overall.

As usual we have the winners and the rest of the bowlers and the lucky winners on a score of 36: Luke Monckton (S), Max Summers (2), Rob Jeffries (3) and Lou Capsalis (L). Runners Up on a score of 32: Frank Verco (L), David Talbot (S) and Michael Saunders (3).

Best One game winners with a score of 20: Vern Elliott (S), Aggie Gratton (2), Peter Taylor (L) and Laurie Bell (3).

A big thank you to Alex and Laurie along with some help from Frank for setting up the green.

Also, a big thank you to Marianne along with some help from Colin for looking after all the thirsty bowlers. And let's not forget Marianne, Diane and Laurie for cleaning up the kitchen along with the hall tables once the day came to an end.

Also, thanks to the marvelous bowlers, who make the weekly challenge so much fun each and every week.

This week the team will be meeting at Loch and District Bowls Club. Please be on site by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams.

Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching capacity there is a strict 10am cut off time.

Until then, have fun and stay safe.



The winners of Midweek bowls played at Lang Lang were Luke Monckton (S), Max Summers (2), Rob Jeffries (3) and Lou Capsalis (L).



Frank Verco (L), David Talbot (S) and Michael Saunders (3) were the runners up at Midweek bowls.



Best One Game bowlers were Vern Elliott (S), Aggie Gratton (2), Peter Taylor (L) and Laurie Bell (3).

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, October 28

Men's 18H Comp Stableford
Overall winner: Don Stewart-Uden (30) 42.
A Grade winner: A-1 Paul Pendergrast (8) 38.
A-2 winner: Geoff Daff (12) 37 c/b.
B Grade winners: B-1 Peter Wilson (17) 41.
B-2 winner: Paul Ledwith (14) 37.
C Grade winners: C-1 Don Stewart-Uden (30) 42.
C-2 winner: Geoff Williamson (30) 39.
BDL to 35 c/b.
NTP: 5th Ian Barnes, 7th Peter Cartwright, 10th Paul Pendergast and 17th Alf Micallef.
Men's 9H Comp Stableford
Overall winner: Robert Leek (16) 23 pts from Martin Giblin (10) 21 pts c/b.
BDL 18 pts c/b.

Wednesday, October 29

Women's 18H Comp 3 or 4 Person Ambrose

Overall winners: Mary Taylor, Sarah Gordon, Diana Holmberg and Jeanette Diss 63.75.
From Liz O'Neill, Stacey Meder, Naoko McRae and Adrienne Anglin 64.375.
BDL to 65.625.
NTP: 5th Judith Lawrence, 7th Noako McRae, 10th Liz Gleeson and 17th Rhonda Boyd.
Women's 9H Comp Stableford
Overall winner: Helen Brewin (28) 22pts c/b from Sandra Barker (22) 22 pts c/b.
BDL: 17 pts c/b.

Thursday, October 30

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: John O'Brien (19) 45 pts.
A Grade winner: A-1 Brady Ross (3) 40 pts.
A-2 winner: Barry Gibson (13) 39 pts c/b.
B Grade winner: B-1 John

O'Brien (19) 45 pts.
B-2 winner: Shane Palmer (17) 41 pts.
C Grade winner: C-1 Don Thompson (26) 41 pts.
C-2 winner: Brian Gloury (28) 40 pts c/b.
BDL to 36 pts c/b.
NTP: 5th Anthony Shannon, 7th Ray Smith, 10th John Movric and 17th John O'Brien.
Great score Brady Ross Eagle Hole 18
Open 9H Comp Stableford
Overall winner: John Niven (13) 21 pts from Brian Carvell (15) 20 pts c/b.
BDL to 17 pts c/b.

Saturday, November 1

Men's 18H Comp Stableford
Overall winner: Joel Panozzo (16) 44 pts.
A Grade winner: A-1 Rohan McDonnell (12) 39 pts.
A-2 winner: Ian Smith (9) 37 pts c/b.
B Grade winner: B-1 Joel Panozzo (16) 44 pts.
B-2 winner: Rob Haydon (16) 38 pts.
C Grade winner: C-1 Simon

Furniss (21) 42 pts.
C-2 winner: Ugo Mascitelli (26) 40 pts.
BDL to 35 pts c/b.
NTP: 5th Jeff Bennet, 7th Owen Jolly, 10th Daniel McConnor and 17th John Daire.
Women's 18H Comp Stableford
Overall winner: Julia Mascitelli (30) 44 pts.
A-1 winner: Tracey Cuff (23) 41 pts.
A-2 winner: Emma Hall (5) 38 pts c/b.
B-1 winner: Julia Mascitelli (30) 44 pts.

Red Rocks results

GOLF

Friday, October 31
Friday Chook Run
Winner: Kathryn Reese (15) 21 points.
Saturday, November 01
American Foursomes
Winners: Anthony Fradkin and Steve Wurt 42 points C/B.
2nd Place: Kathryn Reese and Alan Smith 42 points.

B-2 winner: Jillian Tyrell (29) 40 pts.
BDL to 37 pts.
NTP: 5th Susan Brown, 7th and 17th Debra Orr, 10th Emma Hall.
Open 9H Comp Stableford
Overall winner: Marilyn Jamieson (17) 21.
BDL to 19 pts c/b.
Sunday, November 2
Open 18H Comp Stableford
Overall winner: Fraser Mascitelli (33) 37 pts from Brandon Lloyd (17) 36 pts.
BDL to 32 pts c/b.

3rd Place: Chris Fall and Rob Stead 40 points.
NTP: Hole 5 Victor Petropoulos, Hole 17 Steve Wurt.
Sunday, November 02
Stableford
Winner: Alan Smith (15) 39 points.
2nd Place: Ben Walsh (6) 38 points C/B.
3rd Place: Steve Wurt (5) 38 points.
NTP: Hole 8 Steve Wurt, Hole 10 Ray Pobjoy.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 5 NOV	THU 6 NOV	FRI 7 NOV	SAT 8 NOV	SUN 9 NOV	MON 10 NOV	TUE 11 NOV
HIGH 12:20 am 2.64 m	HIGH 1:33 am 2.89 m	HIGH 2:37 am 3.10 m	HIGH 3:34 am 3.25 m	HIGH 4:27 am 3.30 m	HIGH 5:16 am 3.27 m	HIGH 6:03 am 3.18 m
LOW 5:51 am 1.19 m	LOW 7:10 am 1.16 m	LOW 8:15 am 1.09 m	LOW 9:13 am 1.02 m	LOW 10:03 am 0.97 m	LOW 10:51 am 0.92 m	LOW 11:38 am 0.90 m
HIGH 12:17 pm 2.50 m	HIGH 1:21 pm 2.63 m	HIGH 2:19 pm 2.63 m	HIGH 3:13 pm 2.70 m	HIGH 4:02 pm 2.75 m	HIGH 4:52 pm 2.74 m	HIGH 5:41 pm 2.74 m
LOW 6:17 pm 0.63 m	LOW 7:22 pm 0.42 m	LOW 8:19 pm 0.24 m	LOW 9:13 pm 0.14 m	LOW 10:03 pm 0.11 m	LOW 10:52 pm 0.16 m	LOW 11:40 pm 0.29 m

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A great turn out for the Teal Day at Phillip Island Golf club raising an amazing \$15,000 to support ovarian cancer.

Teal Day at Phillip Island Golf Club

FUNDRAISER

The Phillip Island Golf Club once again turned into a sea of teal as members and guests gathered for Teal Day, the club's annual fundraising event in support of ovarian cancer research.

This year's event raised over \$15,000, with every donation, no matter how small helping to make a difference and the total is still rising.

The Ladies Teal Day Committee has received a generous donation of a second corporate box for six people at the One Day Cricket in January, which will be raffled in December.

With only 400 tickets available at \$5 each, Committee Chair Helen Coghlan said, "We're hopeful of selling out, which would add another \$2000 to an already fantastic result."

The event began three years ago, sparked by the courage and determination of local woman Christine Hammond, who had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

Although Christine sadly passed away last year following a four-and-a-half-year battle with the disease, her courage continues to inspire.

This year's event was

especially moving, with Christine's husband, Peter and two daughters, Michelle and Tracy, attending as special guests and sharing powerful words with those gathered.

Michelle reminded attendees that this disease often strikes silently.

"When Mum was first diagnosed, she barely had any symptoms and at first just dismissed them, as busy women so often do.

By the time it was picked up, it was too late."

She went on to explain there is currently no early detection test for ovarian cancer, a stark contrast to other cancers where screening options exist: mammograms for breast cancer, blood tests for prostate cancer, and at-home kits for bowel cancer.

"We need one for ovarian cancer. Mum wrote to many politicians pleading for more funding into research but with no success. When she died, we promised her we would never stop fighting for change. That's why we're here today."

Tracy echoed her sister's message.

"It's so lovely to see this room filled with warmth, friendship, colour and purpose. Last year, just fifteen

days after Teal Day, we lost our beautiful Mum. One of her happiest moments in those final weeks was being here at this event surrounded by the incredible sense of community that this club embodies."

Ovarian cancer remains the most lethal reproductive cancer, with treatment protocols unchanged in decades.

Chemotherapy remains the frontline defence, but the journey is gruelling and the cancer often returns.

The survival rate, once diagnosed, is just 49 per cent, yet with early detection, it could jump to over 90 per cent.

"This day isn't just about our Mum," Michelle said.

"It's for you ladies — your mums, daughters, sisters and friends. We all deserve better, and we need to keep fighting for it."

Every dollar raised on the day goes directly to research into early detection and better treatments.

The Teal Day committee, led by Helen and supported by a passionate golfing community, was deeply thanked for continuing this now-annual tradition.

Raffle tickets for the corporate box are available at the Pro Shop at Phillip Island Golf Club.

Results from the table

BRIDGE

The Phillip Island Bridge Club enjoyed another lively week at the tables, with both newcomers and seasoned players taking part in a full schedule of lessons and competition.

The club launched its free beginners lessons on Tuesday October 28, with an excellent turnout.

Participants arrived from 9.45am for a 10am start and enthusiasm was

high among those eager to learn the game.

Lesson two will take place on Tuesday November 11, continuing weekly every Tuesday right up until Christmas.

At Monday's competition, first place among five tables was shared by the pairs Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour, and Caroline Shaw and Janusz Wolnik, both scoring an impressive 63.43 per cent.

Shaw and Wolnik con-

tinued their fine form midweek, taking first place again on Wednesday with a 60.65 per cent score across five and a half tables, a strong follow-up performance that solidifies their reputation as a consistent and well-matched partnership.

The club looks forward to welcoming both new learners and regular players in the coming weeks as bridge activity builds toward the festive season.

Euchre results

Ladies winner: Leonie 6 wins.

Men's winner: Bob 6 wins. Encouragement award: Mary.

Welcome new player

Rick who held his own on his first night.

New players are most welcome to join our group every Thursday night.

Even if you don't know how to play, players will gladly show you.

For further information contact Bob on 0418 173 388.



Winning team celebrating their darts competition were (from left) Marilyn, Vince and Paul.

Thriller at the Oche

DARTS

A lively crowd of 26 darters packed in for round eight of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League's Spring Series on Monday night, with the oche sizzling from start to finish.

The atmosphere was electric as teams battled for supremacy, and when the final dart thudded home, it was Team Marilyn, Paul and Vince who emerged with a commanding 6-1 victory.

Their accuracy and teamwork was on full display, earning them well-deserved bragging rights and perhaps a few nervous glances from the competition.

Luck was clearly smiling on Vice President Vince, who didn't stop at just helping his team dominate.

He also took home the magnificent San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle, capping off what can only be described as a dream night on the oche.

As the league is head-



Vice President Vince won the San Remo Butchers meat tray.

ing toward the pointy end of the season, the leaderboard is tightening.

Bob Hee remains in front on 50 points, closely shadowed by Paul Gleeson on 49, while David Healey isn't far behind with 41 points.

With just a dart's width

separating the top two, the Spring Series title is still anyone's game.

So, get some practice in, sharpen those doubles and be ready to peg back the leaders.

The race to the top is heating up and every dart counts.

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Captains, coaches, team managers and officials celebrate the Country Junior District competition win for Gippsland Juniors swimmers.

Gippsland wins Country Junior District Comp for 42nd year in a row

SWIMMING

It was an exciting weekend of racing for the 83 Gippsland Juniors Swimmers as they represented Gippsland as District 21, racing at MSAC in the Country Junior District Competition.

Gippsland again led the way, retaining the title as most successful District, winning the competition for the 42nd year in a row after first winning it in 1983.

The District finished on 2631 points, with the 2nd placed district Central District on 941, highlighting the dominance of the region.

The team was led by captains Tahlia Maccubbin (Trl) and Hayden Rawson (Trl).

The meet was a great chance for many of the young swimmers to compete at their first state event, with the excitement of seeing themselves and results on the big screen and the stands full of families watching on.

The swimmers did a fantastic job at containing their

nerves and competing against the best swimmers from regional Victoria.

The swimmers had Gippsland Coaches, Trinity O'Keefe (SGB), Chelsea Spencer (Wgl), Dave Vercoe (Trl) and Lorri McKenzie (SGB) on hand to help them with advice on racing and their efforts and Team Managers, Josh Szwarek (Trl), Brooke Said (Trl), Sarah Packer (SGB) to help them make it to marshalling.

A huge thanks to the coaches and Team Managers for organising them all on the day and giving them the opportunity.

Their smiles in the team photos shows just how much these kids relished the opportunity.

Gippsland had outstanding results on the day, with most of the 83 swimmers finishing top 10 in an event, with some events having six to seven Gippsland swimmers in the top 10.

The event is a wonderful stepping stone for the young swimmers, with many of

Gippsland's best swimmers starting off their major event racing career as a member of the District 21-team.

Many of the swimmers on the day gained Personal Bests and several of the older

swimmers gained qualifying times to allow them to come back and compete at the State Sprints Championship next month.

Team list and results at pis-ra.com.au/sport



At the 2025 Annual General Meeting on October 8, the Phillip Island Tennis Club awarded club members Alison Fitzgerald, Robyne Lunn, Helen McCormick and Michael McLeod with Life Membership for their services to the club over many years.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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