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Wednesday, October 1, 2025

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The State Government in May announced \$50.4 million in the budget to rehabilitate the Phillip Island bridge. However the government is still yet to finalise the project's timeframes, despite years of concern about whether the bridge is past its use by date. A Department of Transport (DTP) spokesperson told the Advertiser last week based on "our investigations to date, the bridge continues to be safe to use while the project delivers repairs", with onsite investigations continuing, and

## Bridge works still not finalised

#### **MAJOR PROJECTS**

The Victorian government is yet to finalise a timeline to rehabilitate the Phillip Island bridge, after \$50.4 million was allocated earlier in the year in the state budget to the project.

Last week a local resident who has worked in the concrete industry for decades inspected the San Remo side of the bridge and was concerned to see the steel interior of pylons was rusted.

"The reinforcing steel swells when sea water gets in and it rusts, which has popped off a section of concrete on one pylon," said the resident, who asked not to be named.

'You can easily see three or four pylons with cracks and a couple where the concrete has fallen off.

getting pretty bad. shouldn't be cracking like that."

He said the rusting steel, combined with the vibration of trucks and years of wear and

tear, was causing cracking. The bridge is 56 years old and if properly maintained "bridges are much older than that".

He said there were several solutions to maintain the bridge, such as water proofing concrete suggested maintenance works had been left too long.

"You can see evidence of maintenance work that has been done, like drilling holes and injecting in material, but it hasn't stopped the cracking.'

The resident said while he believed the work was urgent, the bridge was safe and suggested a load limit for trucks should be introduced

A Department of Transport (DTP) spokesperson told the Advertiser last week based on "our investigations to date, the bridge continues to be safe to use while the project delivers repair:

"We are finalising delivery timeframes for the San Remo Bridge rehabilitation which will be undertaken by Big Build

Roads," the spokesperson said.

"To further inform our rehabilitation methodology, Big Build Roads will continue onsite utility investigations along with marine and ecology assessments in late 2025, with major works to follow."

#### Rehabilitation

In May the government announced a \$50.4 million rehabilitation project would ensure the bridge "remained safe for generations".

The project is part of the 2025/26 budget, and would include replacement of beams, pier legs, piles and handrails.

In recent years, the Phillip Island bridge has been subject to consistent and progressively more thorough inspections by DTP.

This included DTP inspections over six days in 2021, and install ing sensors to monitor the bridge's structural condition and performance in February this year.

DTP also engaged a consul-

tant for a three-month level-3 investigation, which "collected and analysed optical imagery, lidar, acoustic and thermal data which provided digital insights and accurate defect quantification" of the bridge.

DTP again did not respond

to the Advertiser's request for the results of the reports and inspections undertaken over the

past four years. In 2024, some residents speculated the bridge was well past its original use by date and was showing signs of deterioration, stating several cracks in each pylon are visible at low tide, and there have been reports of 'spalling' - where fragments of concrete break off a larger body - of which concrete cancer is a cause.



## A dry climate, a growing population, desal may be expanded

#### WATER

The desalination plant at Wonthaggi may be expanded, under a proposal to ensure water supply for the future.

The Victorian Government last week released its Water Security Plan, flag-ging options to increase the capacity of the south-central water grid, which this region has been dependent on since drought conditions began.

Options include expanding the desalination plant from its current capacity of 150 billion litres (GL) to produce a further 50 GL of wa-

The plan moots a second desalination plant built in Victoria's west and proposes water efficiency, purified recycled water and stormwa-

"By the end of 2025 the desalination plant will have delivered half a trillion litres of drinking water, or 28 per cent of Melbourne's total water storage capacity," the plan states.

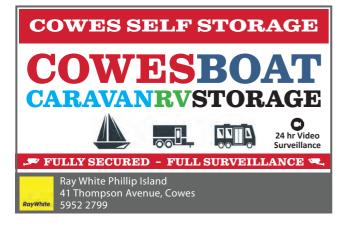
A review of current permanent water savings rules - which regulate the use of hoses and watering gardens - will also be undertaken to help preserve drinking water supplies.

Continued page 3



Your one-stop guide to Phillip Island, San Remo and surrounds.









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## Rules on councillor expenses tightened T

#### COUNCIL

Rules expenses around claimed by Bass Coast Shire councillors have been tightened, under new governance rules endorsed at the September council meeting, which saw heated debate.

During the last term of council, red flags were raised on professional development costs, after some councillors claimed more than \$10,000 in courses and were then not re-

One councillor at the time asked whether the community received "value for money", paying hefty sums professional development even when a councillor doesn't "get re-elected, or doesn't stand for re-election".

At the September meeting, the resources policy, as well as the gifts, benefits and hospitality policy, were endorsed by councillors.

Under the revised policies, any discretionary professional development costing more than \$5000, including the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) course, must be approved by resolution of council, with no councillor eligible for the AICD course in the final year of the term.

Where a cost extends beyond the councillor's term of office, council will only pay the fees and associated costs relating to the portion completed during the councillor's term. Other rules include:

· confidential council information can only be saved



Cr Mat Morgan gave a heated response to debate on governance at last week's council meeting, saying "this is not just a creative interpretation of governance, this is borderline conspiracy".

onto council-provided devices and not on personal

- Councillor Support will manage all councillor invitations received and should be the first point of contact;
- all councillor communication will be through Councillor Support, a relevant manager, or other staff member approved by the CEO;
- overseas travel cannot be booked without a resolution of council;
- the gift register will be made publicly available on council's website; and
- attempts to bribe and gifts from anonymous donors and offers of cash gifts have been included.

Cr Mat Morgan said the new rules were vital given "trust in government is on the decline globally".

"These changes are about strengthening transparency, accountability, and trust between this council and our community," Cr Morgan said, adding "decisions made in this chamber must always be free from undue influence".

"They also bring greater democratic accountability to significant decisions, like overseas travel or professional development."

#### Heated

Cr Meg Edwards said she understood the intent of the policies and "I fully endorse transparency" but she had concerns especially on the policy requiring councillor support to manage all councillor invitations received and all councillor communication

through councillor support.

"This doesn't define what kind of invitation," Cr Edwards said.

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'We need to be very careful of not usurping our responsibility to be clear democratically elected representatives.

"We need to be free to meet with our constituents.

"I feel this point does inhibit that role that we play."

Cr Edwards said she also had concerns she worked in construction industry and met with developers.

"I think we again are not inhibiting our role as councillors.

"If there's something that crosses over with council then obviously clearly we

need to be straight up front. "We should not inhibit someone's ability to be a councillor and still be involved in business in the community."

Cr Mat Morgan responded, saying "the interpretation that councillors can't meet with constituents has never been part of our governance rules and remains not part of our governance rules".

He clarified with a council officer that councillor communications referred to councillor interactions with council staff and not members of the public.

"Please, read the policies, read the points and listen to the clarifications before engaging in debate," Cr Morgan said.

This is not just a creative interpretation of governance, this is borderline conspiracy."

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#### **POLICE** BRIEFS

#### Mobile phone found

San Remo police posted a photo of a mobile phone that was found Children's the Beach in San Remo on September 24.

If it is yours, or you know the owner, please contact San Remo Police Station on 03 5678 5500 or email sanremo.uni@ police.vic.gov.au



#### **Speeding targeted**

Overnight on September 14, local police detected multiple drivers speeding on the Phillip Island Road at San Remo:

A 31-year-old male from Pakenham was fined \$407 and three demerit points for driving 76km/h in a 60km/h zone.

A 19-year-old male from Cape Woolamai received a \$407 fine and three demerit points for travelling 75km/h in a 60km/h zone.

A 23-year-old male from Box Hill was fined \$407 and three demerit points for driving 76km/h in a 60km/h zone.

A 31-year-old female from Cowes was fined \$550 and three-month loss of licence for travelling 85km/h in a 60km/h

A 26-year-old male from Glenroy was fined \$407 and three demerit points for driving 78km/h in a 60km/h zone.

A 32-year-old male from Montrose was fined \$550 and three-month loss of licence for travelling 88km/h in a 60km/h zone.

At the Bass Highway at Dalyston, a 52-year-old female from Sunderland Bay was fined \$661 with three-month loss of licence for driving 95km/h in a 60km/h

## Don't hesitate to contact me, I am here to help. Cr Ronnie Bauer for the Island Ward. Bass Coast Shire

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922 Tel: 0439 535 282 email: Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au Authorised by Ronnie Bauer, PO Box 996, Cowes 3922

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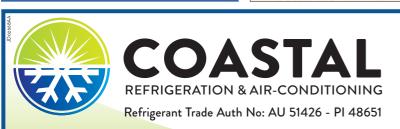


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# Winter record for penguins, region finally rebounds

#### **TOURISM**

The Penguin Parade has recorded the strongest winter visitation on record, with 26 sold out nights in July and August.

Meanwhile, a tourism roundtable held at Berninneit in September was told recruiting and retaining skilled staff remained the top tourism industry concern, with operators highlighting shortages in chefs and young workers, with continued barriers such as housing and transport.

The roundtable also heard residential building approvals in Bass Coast had fallen to the lowest level in a decade, with 385 approvals in 2024/25, with the next lowest in 2013/14 (357), but with an uptick this year.

The roundtable was held by Destination Phillip Island (DPI) and attended by 45 industry representatives, who discussed ways to attract more tourists to the region.

The forum heard the region has finally rebounded from the pandemic, with five per cent growth last year compared to

There has been one per cent growth in total visitation in 2024 - compared to the previous year – to 2.8 million people, but total expenditure is down two per cent to \$875m.

Data showed a rise in day trips but softening of overnight visitation, and ongoing workforce shortages, particularly in hospitality roles.

Operators raised the need to convert more day trips into extended stays, improve transport connections, and continue evolving Phillip Island's image beyond its most iconic attractions.

Bass Coast Shire Council data showed 27 per cent of housing stock was short-stay accommodation, one of the highest levels in Australia.

There is more than \$650 million in planned investment across Bass Coast, including the Isle of Wight (\$130m), hot springs (\$55m) and old boys



Destination Phillip Island held an industry roundtable at Berninneit this month, with 45 attendees discussing ways to attract more tourists.

home in Newhaven (\$15m).

Silverwater Resort received a Victorian government grant in April to fund the construction of 16 new apartments, providing 32 rooms.

DPI said they continued to wait for the State Government's decision on its proposed tourism association merger for San Remo and Phillip Island, continuing to advocate to remain

A tourism merger with Mornington Peninsula or Gippsland has been rejected by Bass Coast Shire councillors, who have instead opted to stand alone as a solo tourist association.

The government proposal is for Bass Coast to opt for one of three options: merge with the Gippsland region; merge with Mornington Peninsula; or Phillip Island/San Remo join with Mornington Peninsula and the balance of Bass Coast to remain in Gippsland.

#### Penguins, visitors

According to the Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) board September report, visitation for July and August has seen 26 sell out nights, with Nature Parks recording the strongest winter visitation on record.

There was a strong increase

in visitation at the Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island, which "indicates visitors to Phillip Island this winter have been staying longer (and) are taking in more than just penguins".

DPI board member and PINP CEO, Catherine Basterfield, presented data at the roundtable showing softening overnight visitation, an increase in day trips, and a resurgence in international markets, particularly to the Penguin Parade.

There were 484,000 international visitors to the Penguin Parade for 2024.

Last week data from Tourism Research Australia's Domestic Tourism Statistics and International Visitor Survey showed to the year ending June 2025, the international expenditure to Phillip Island, Mornington Peninsula, and Geelong and Bellarine more than doubled compared to the year ending June

Victoria had 24.7 per cent market share of Australia's total visitor spend to June this year, overtaking Queensland.

Victoria also led all states for visitors, nights and expenditure from the Indian market.

China remains Victoria's top market for international visitor

## Figure 1: Map of the South-Central Water Grid South-Central region Groundwater extraction

Map of the south-central water grid, which this region has been dependent on

## A dry climate, a growing population, desal may be expanded

From page 1

The plan states seasonal conditions "remain challenging" across many areas of the state and "Victoria is also experiencing unreliable rainfall and worsening climate conditions", with rainfall becoming less reliable.

This past summer was the driest in Victoria since 2013-14, and the fourth warmest on record for all summers since 1910, with inflows into dams decreasing by 17 per cent.

Water demand has increased by about 25 per cent, while the population has grown by more than 23 per cent.

Demand for water is set to "increase rapidly" over the next decade as the population continues to grow and the climate gets drier.

By 2030 the south-central water grid – which services 80 per cent of Victoria's population in-

cluding Melbourne and regional water authorities like Westernport Water - will need to provide an additional 95 billion litres of water, over and above what the existing desalination plant is able to deliver.

By the end of summer 2024-25, the grid used 99 million litres more water per day than the year before, enough to fill more than 39 Olympic-sized swimming pools every day.

The plan states investigations into water security will be informed by an expert Water Security Taskforce and looks at options to be implemented in the next 10 years, and longer-term options of 20 years or more.

The Victorian Housing Statement has set a target for 800,000 new homes over the next decade, but demand for water is already overtaking our current supply.

## Vote for our Golden Cypress

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

Phillip Island's Golden Cypress Avenue in Cowes is a finalist in this year's National Trust Tree of the Year Award.

It is one of nine entries shortlisted for the award, which the National Trust said represented a diverse mix of locations across the state.

The annual competition attracts thousands of public votes, and highlights the importance communities place on trees and the crucial role they play in supporting biodiversity, enhancing communitie serving our natural heritage.

Pamela Rothfield from the Phillip Island and District Historical Society said she was delighted the trees had been shortlisted.

"Winning this award would not only be an honour for our community but would also strengthen the protection of the Avenue for generations to come.

"To achieve this, we need strong community support for the public vote."

She encouraged everyone to visit the National Trust website and vote for the Golden Cypress.

The National Trust said the avenue of Golden Cypress was "rare in uniformity and scale"



Phillip Island's Golden Cypress Avenue in Cowes is a finalist in this year's National Trust Tree of the Year Award, with voting open until October 23.

"These trees are more than botanical specimens - they are living heritage. The avenue stands as a powerful example of early 20th-century civic pride, community action, and landscape foresight."

Other finalists include: a Golden Elm at the intersection of Punt Road and Alexandra Avenue; one of the state's largest olive trees at the Plough Inn in Beechworth; and a rare African Sumac Tree in Camberwell.

Victorians can view the full list of finalists and cast their vote at nationaltrust.org.au/ treeoftheyear

Or go direct to www.surveymonkey.com/r/9TTFVD5

Voting is open until midnight, Tuesday, October 23 and the winner will be announced on October 28.

## Ventnor tree removal now approved

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

A month after Bass Coast Shire councillors refused the removal of two mature eucalypts in Ventnor, last week the permit was

At the August meeting, counmors argued we have to light like hell" to protect trees and stop Phillip Island becoming "Pakenham by the Sea" after a planning permit at 24 Hastings Street, Ventnor, sought the removal of a Sydney blue gum and a southern blue gum.

The permit received 22 objections, with objectors arguing the trees were in good health and were being removed by the owner due to the "inconvenience of leaf and bark litter" and their removal would lead to habitat loss and privacy concerns.

Council officers recommended granting a permit, with two arborists' reports stating the trees were in declining health, with risk of limb failure, and had low useful life expectancy, with remedial works "unlikely to prolong the life of the trees". The permit – originally re-

fused - was approved at the September meeting, with Cr Jan Thompson saying council was reassured the replanting of eight canopy trees and 52 indigenous understory shrubs and grasses would address habitat loss.

"There has now been strict provisions put in place by the owner of the property to provide to council a replacement planting plan," Cr Thompson said, adding the owner had notified council of a branch falling in the

"This plan must be submitted before the two trees are re-

"A timeframe of three months is given to the property owner to plant the trees and shrubs. This will be monitored by the planning authority and if not adhered to civil action will be

Council officers said the replanting requirements were "considerable" for a permit to remove two trees, but addressed the "previous removal of vegetation from the site".

Cr Tim O'Brien - joined by councillors Ronnie Bauer and against the permit, saying the trees "had stood the test of time".

"The proponent bought into an area where there is evident tree canopy," Cr O'Brien said.

"His neighbours quite rightly expect their neighbourhood character to be preserved.

"Leaving a denuded block, I'm opposed to that."

Cr Brett Tessari asked council officers about the ramifications if the three-month plan was not adhered to.

An officer said they would ask the owner for the replanting to occur and if there was further non-compliance council would either refer the matter to the Magistrates' Court or VCAT.

## Special charge scheme cost hike questioned

#### COUNCIL

A special charge scheme on The Esplanade between Sunderland Bay Road and Batman Street at Surf Beach will go ahead, after 53 per cent of residents supported it.

However, both a councillor and residents have questioned the hardship payments and rising costs.

Council said it had undertaken deliberative community engagement with property owners to identify any problems and to prepare a concept plan to resolve any issues.

In July and August last year, council officers consulted with affected property owners on a range of concept options and costs, so a preferred option was understood.

A total of 11 (65 per cent) submissions were received from the 17 affected property owners and occupiers, with two (12 per cent) objecting to the scheme and nine (53 per cent) submissions of support, and six (35 per cent) did not provide any response.

Four people said their main reason for support was to reduce dust, while two were concerned about the increase in cost from the abandoned 2023 Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach special charge scheme.

Following the feedback, minor changes were made

to the charge, including the provision of an updated hardship repayment option and a correction to council's contribution.

The total project cost is \$1.6 million, with the maximum levy to be recovered from property owners \$409,391 and council's contribution \$1.19 million.

Cr Jan Thompson said she was concerned about the interest rate applied for those who seek financial hardship.

"This is something we should address in the future," she said.

"When a homeowner can't afford it – in particular those on pensions and benefits – they are forced to pay twice the amount of others. We may need to address this in the future."

A property owner can apply to VCAT within 30 days of receiving the levy notice from council.

The road was identified as the second-highest priority for an upgrade by the council and was scheduled for consideration in 2025.

A council spokesperson last week responded to Cr Thompson's comments, explaining ratepayers deemed eligible under council's financial hardship policy would be "considered on a case-by-case basis for a plan to best suit their situation".

"They will not be charged interest on overdue payments," the spokesperson said.

"Any property owners experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to contact council's revenue services team.

"Officers are available for a confidential discussion on payment options, considering their current situation."

#### Price hike

At question time, resident Philip Davy said council costs to construct a narrow 5.4m wide residential street had doubled in cost from \$2 million to \$4 million per km in less than two years.

"This is not cost of living but appears contractor gouging. What is council doing to ensure contracts are value for money for ratepayers," Philip said.

Council CEO Greg Box responded saying construction costs had increased across all sectors after the pandemic due to labour and material shortages, and "prices are now beginning to stabilise".

"Council has several measures in place to ensure value for money for the community."

He said capital expenditure projects with a value of more than \$300,000, including roads projects, went through a public tender process, with minor projects subject to a com-

Free



Cr Jan Thompson said she was concerned about the interest rate applied for those who seek financial hardship on special charge schemes: "When a homeowner can't afford it - in particular those on pensions and benefits - they are forced to pay twice the amount of others. We may need to address this in the future."

petitive quotation process. "Council has also established annual supply con-

tracts to secure construc-

tion rates for up to three

s. years," Mr Box said.

"Council works with industry bodies to review construction rates."

At the September meet-

ing, councillors voted to access statewide road volume discounts and collaborative buying group opportunities.

## Mystery of the dumped plaque

#### HISTORY

A historical plaque lost since the destruction of the old Cowes cultural centre has suddenly been found after residents grilled Bass Coast Shire Council.

At the September council meeting, Cowes resident Sue Chadwick said for many years a plaque honouring the service of volunteer ambulance drivers was on the garden outside the former cultural centre.

"Councillors, will you find this plaque and restore it outside Berninneit? As unpaid volunteers will always be the nucleus of any community and rarely acknowledged," Sue said.

Council CEO Greg Box replied the plaque was installed on a fountain at the front of the former Cowes Civic Centre and removed "some time before the building was demolished".

"The present location of this plaque is unknown," Mr Box said.

"Council recognises and values the substantial contribution made by volunteers to our community."



Cr Ronnie Bauer has helped solve the mystery of the missing plaque, which honours the service of volunteer ambulance drivers and was previously located outside the former cultural centre.

However, in a mysterious about-face, the council issued a statement five days later saying the plaque had "now been located in a paddock on Phillip Island".

"At the time of the council meeting, the plaque's location was unknown," the statement said.

"Council will restore the plaque to display at Berninneit as soon as is practicable.

"Council sincerely thanks the community for their input to locating the missing plaque."

Cr Ronnie Bauer shed

some light saying he was contacted by a resident who found the plaque – which is mounted on a granite stone – in a paddock of the councilowned land on Gap Road.

"The resident called me and I informed the mayor and it was quickly rectified," Cr Bauer said.

"But I'm furious our island's history is treated with such disrespect. The plaque deserves a much better place than among the weeds in a paddock."

Cr Bauer said the old lights from the cultural centre were also dumped at the Gap Road property.

#### BASS Living Lightly COAST Bass Coast **Bass Coast** October Events | Practical Workshops Across Bass Coast **Energy Evolution Summer Comfort** Thursday, 9 October - 7pm Online Free **Future Foods** Farmer's Markets, Food Swaps and Veggie Boxes Sunday, 12 October – 10am Wonthaggi Community Garden Free **Garden Gems** Water Resilience and Drought Proofing Saturday, 18 October – 10am Free Corinella and District Community Garden **Circular Solutions** Save Energy, Save Money



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## Crime continues to climb

#### **CRIME STATISTICS**

The latest data released by the Crime Statistics Agency - showing the 12 months to the end of June 2025 – sees a 15.7 per cent increase in the number of criminal incidents in Victoria.

Bass Coast's incident rate increase remains below the state's, rising 10.4 per cent on the previous year.

Once again, Wonthaggi (798) was the area with the most criminal incidents (although it was down on the previous year), followed by Cowes (458) and Inverloch (321), then North Wonthaggi (182) and San Remo (115).

The top location for crime was a house, followed by street/footpath, retail, supermarkets and then driveways.

The highest principal offence group continues to be breaches of family violence orders, followed by criminal damage, theft, assault and stealing from a retail store.

Children aged between 10 – 17 were the second highest offender group (278), after 45+ year olds (341).

The number of victim reports in Bass Coast rose by 7.2 per cent, with more women filing reports than men. The largest cohort were people aged over 55.

Family violence continued to be the area where Bass Coast's figures were above the state average.

The number of incidents rose by eight per cent. The highest number of reports involved people in the 35-44 years age group, with women represented at almost three times the rate of men as those affected by family violence.

For the year ending June the family incident rate per 100,000 population for Bass Coast was 2102.6, compared with the Victorian rate of 1499.6.

#### Police

Police said, when population growth is considered, the state crime rate rose by 13.8 per cent from the previous twelve months (8998.9 offences per 100,000 people).

"As a society, we simply cannot allow the level of crime we are seeing to become normalised and accepted," said Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations Bob Hill.

The five fastest growing offences are:

• Theft from motor vehicle (86,351 offences, +24,409 or 39.4 per cent) remains the fastest grow-

ing and most common crime in Victoria. Number plates are the most common item stolen, accounting for almost 40 per cent of all theft from motor vehicle offences (32,481 offences, +10,750 or 49.5 per cent).

- Motor vehicle theft (33,018 offences, +9,786 or 42.1 per cent) is at its highest level since 2002.
- Family violence order breaches (64,713 +9,252 or 16.7 per cent) increased as Victoria experienced a record 106,427 family violence incidents (+7,617 or 7.7 per cent).
- Theft from a retail store (41,667 offences, +9,004 or 27.6 per cent) continues to persistently increase.
- Theft (other) offences were the fifth fastest growing crime (58,593 offences, +7,931 or 15.7 per cent), with petrol the most common item stolen in this category (5,891, +1,188 or 25.3 per cent).

Police said knife crime remained a major concern, along with offending by children.

While children only account for 12.8 per cent of all offenders processed, they are overrepresented in serious and violent crimes such as robberies (62.2 per cent), aggravated burglaries (47.7 per cent), and car theft (26.4 per cent), police stated.

Police also said a small cohort of repeat offenders remain responsible for a large proportion of total crime recorded in Victoria.

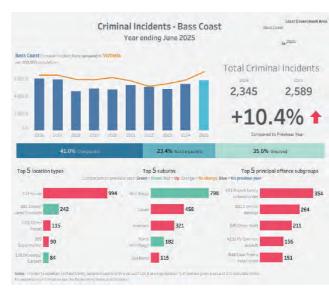
Organised crime is also a factor in a range of crime categories, including retail crime where police said there were retail theft syndicates stealing goods worth up to \$10 million dollars.

"We are working on new approaches that will deter repeat offenders and help stop these crimes before they can occur," Deputy Commissioner Hill said.

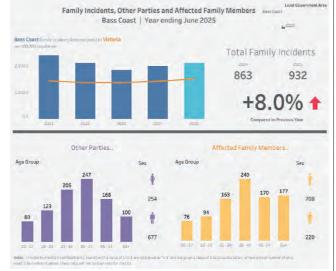
"This includes a focus on how we can get more police out on the streets. We will continue to work with government and our partners on developing strategies and solutions for preventing and responding to crime in Victoria.

"And we will encourage the community to keep taking simple steps to help prevent crime, such as locking doors and considering anti-theft devices for vehicles.

"Victoria Police has set an ambitious target of reducing serious and violent crime by five per cent each year. There is no doubt this will be a challenge, but it is a fight we are up for to ensure our community remains as safe as possible."



The number of criminal incidents in Bass Coast rose by 10.4 per cent, but the rise is below the state's increase of 15.7 per cent.



Figures for family violence in Bass Coast were above the state average. The family incident rate per 100,000 population was 2102.6, compared with the Victorian rate of 1499.6.



Children aged between 10 - 17 were the second highest offender group (278), after 45+ year olds (341). Across the state, police said offending by children remained a major concern.



**ISLAND VOICE** 

## Concerned about BURT?

Is the BURT (Bass Coast Unlocking Rural Tourism Strategy) suitable for Phillip Island? The discussions in the newspapers last

week reinforces the view that it is not. The articles highlight the need for an urgent, planned vision for Phillip Island.

Twelve months ago, Island Voice, Phillip Island Conservation Society and the Bass Coast Branch of the National Trust Victoria and local farmers came together to form a United Voice against the implementation of

At a subsequent meeting for council candidates the BURT was a hot topic.

Candidates Tim O'Brien and Ronnie Bauer strongly opposed the BURT and stated they would reject the BURT and were duly elected. Jeff Floyd also added his voice to reject.

Nearly twelve months to the day the BURT was in the Age newspaper last week with a comprehensive rejection of BURT by Tim O'Brien and Anne Davie.

Earlier this year the Victorian Government released the DAL (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) policy. The United Voice group strongly supported the implementation of the DAL.

The DAL conflicts with the BURT.

Many see the BURT permanently damaging the island landscape and every parcel of land we slice off is gone forever. It is patently clear that the BURT is not a one-size-fits-all in the Bass Coast shire. It certainly doesn't fit Phillip Island.

What the BURT has done is bring into focus the question of "What do we want Phillip Island to look like in 2050?'

Will it be a vision realised or a vision that was forsaken. Bass Coast Shire Council needs to put forward their vision for our future. The State Government must do same. The vision must surely recognise the environment as being of local, state, national and international significance and in doing so a legacy for all, and legislate accordingly. Anything less would be unsatisfactory.

This is a moment in time where we can all make a difference.

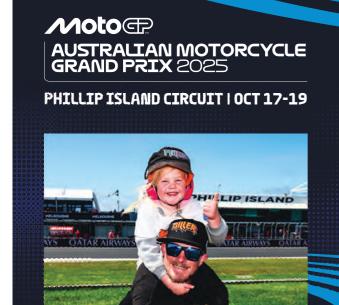
Bass Coast Shire Council will meet in November to discuss the BURT. The resulting decisions will have an everlasting impact on the vision for Phillip Island. October gives the community an opportunity to make a statement now.

Bad planning and bad policy guarantee bad outcomes. This is not a NIMBY reaction to the BURT but a reaction to an ill-conceived BURT. Let the natural beauty of the island be, and treasure it for posterity.

Future generations will proudly reflect on our advocacy.

Peter Paul, President, Island Voice

You are most welcome to attend the Island Voice AGM on Tuesday October 28, 5pm at Phillip Island RSL.







Daniher's Fight MND drives into San Remo

**FUNDRAISER** 

On October 10, the annual Daniher's Drive for FightMND, is coming to San Remo.

Close to 250 cars have registered for the drive, which aims to raise awareness and funds for the fight against motor neurone disease (MND). It's a major fundraiser for FightMND, the charity established by former AFL player and coach Neale Daniher.

The drive, which started in 2015, travels to regional areas, this year stopping in Marysville, San Remo and Torquay.

Jan Daniher, Neale's wife, has been on every drive, and is looking forward to visiting San Remo, an area she knows well.

"My parents had a holiday house in Cowes for about 30 years," she said.

"I love the island. It's a beautiful part of the world."

There is also a strong connection with the San Remo Hotel, which holds a Big Freeze event each year. Jan said she is so grateful for the support.

"They've been amazing over the years. I'm looking forward to dropping in."

Jan expects many of the participants in the drive will visit the hotel on Friday afternoon, before heading to the auction and trivia night at Silverwater Resort.

Although tickets to the night have already sold out, Jan said there'll be plenty of opportunities for locals to interact with the Daniher Drive, which is expected to arrive in San Remo around



Neale Daniher and his family. Wife Jan and daughters Bec and Lauren, are taking part in this year's Daniher's Drive, which is staying overnight at San Remo on October 10.

4pm on Friday.

The drive then heads out to the Phillip Island Go Karts on Saturday morning (October 11), before departing for the final destination in Torquay.

"You won't miss us. There are decals on the cars, and there will be a lot of participants in Cowes and San Remo.

"If you see anyone wearing a Daniher's Drive polo or cap, stop and say hello," she said.

All participants will have donation tins, as well as QR codes if people want to make an online donation.

The community can also support the cause by buying a ticket

in the Daniher's Drive Jayco raffle.

You could win a Jayco Discovery Caravan (valued at \$85,990). Tickets are \$40 or three for \$100 and are available at *raffletix. com.au* or via the FightMND website.

Entries close October 26 at 11.59pm and the winner drawn on October 27 at 12pm.

Donations can also be made at all Chemist Warehouse stores throughout October.

#### Like a family

All teams registered for the drive have been fundraising all year, holding community events including trivia nights and sausage sizzles.

As well as the incredible amount of money the event raises for FightMND, Jan said the annual drive is a chance to connect, with many participants personally affected by MND.

"We're like a family. Anyone can join the drive, and we have 10 new teams this year, but people love getting back together.

"It's a very close and tight group. It feels like belonging to something really important – trying to find a cure for this disease."

Once again, Jan says her team – known as the Shady La-

dies – will include a group of friends who have been fundraising for MND for over 10 years.

Other family members, including Neale's brothers Terry, Chris and Anthony will be driving, as well as Jan and Neale's daughters Lauren and Bec.

She said Neale won't be taking part, but hopes to get to some of the stops along the way.

Neale's car from the early events – Rollicking Rowdy – is now being driven by some of his friends.

"It's about having fun, raising awareness," Jan said.

"The days aren't long; there's not a lot of driving. But we try to get to as many communities as we can each day.

"We stop off at venues and towns along the routes. We love catching up with local communities, and always get such a warm welcome."

This is the second time the drive has visited San Remo.

"We came down in year two, and are really happy to be coming back," Jan said.

"And I do want to say a big thank you to the San Remo Hotel, who have raised a lot of money for us over the years."

And while there's no official fundraising target, Jan said every Big Freeze and each drive is "one step closer to finding a cure and good treatment" for the disease.

"One day, if someone is diagnosed with MND, it will not be a death sentence. People will have hope.

"These events give us a really positive way to focus."

fightmnd.org.au/



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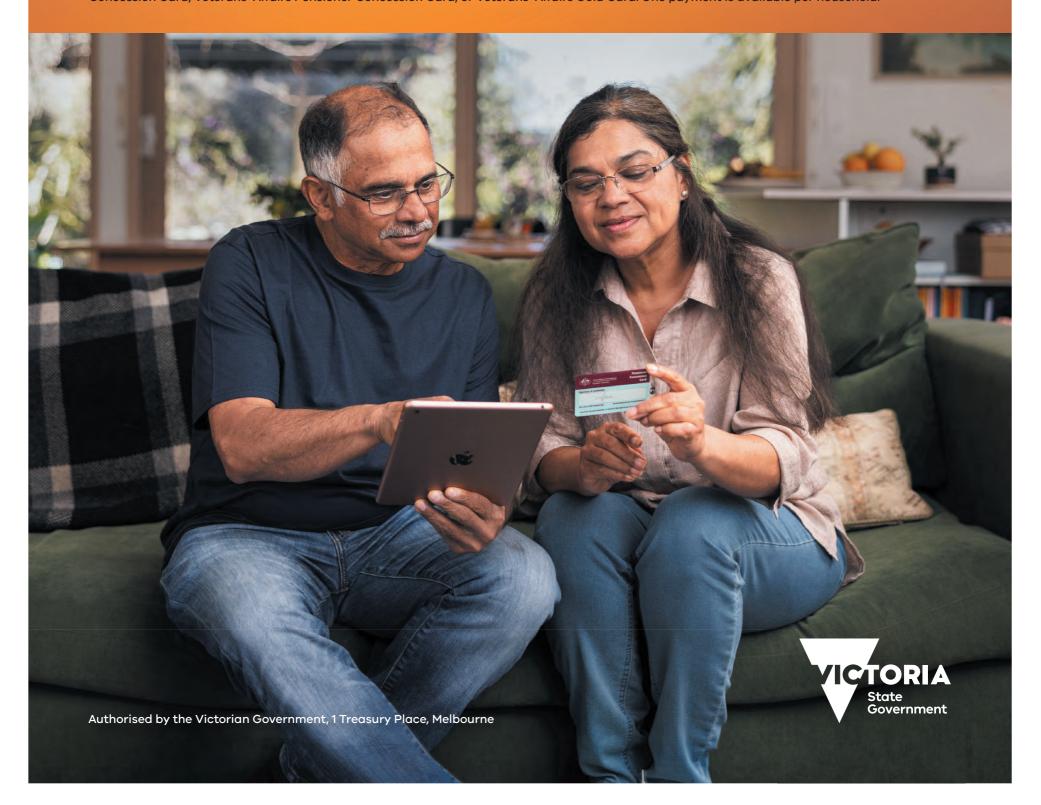
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\*Eligible households need to have a recent residential electricity bill and hold one of the following concession cards: Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card, or Veterans' Affairs Gold Card. One payment is available per household.



## Wimbledon Heights "urgently" needs safe crossing

#### **ROADS**

Wimbledon Heights urgently needs a safe crossing to Phillip Island Road for families and school students, according to a petition.

The petition, currently on *change.org*, was also supported by Bass Coast Shire councillors at the September meeting, with Cr Tracey Bell moving a motion calling for a report no later than the November council meeting on the crossing's progress.

Cr Bell also called for the council to write to state MP Jordan Crugnale requesting her support and for faster grant applications for funding for the crossing.

The petition states a safe crossing near Bowman Road is urgently needed along with a speed limit reduction from 80km/h to 60km/h to "promote independence for young riders, and create a safer environment for all road users and wildlife".

Cr Bell said about 64 pupils who commute from Wimbledon Heights to Cowes Primary, Our Lady Star of the Sea, and Newhaven College every day "rely on their parents to drive them because the crossing is too risky".

"For around 10 years, residents have been working to raise awareness about the dangers of the pedestrian crossing located just after the turnoff to Gap Road, on the way into Cowes," Cr Bell said.

"Despite their efforts towards both VicRoads and Bass Coast Shire Council, there has been little traction."

She said the crossing was "extremely hazardous" because it was in an 80km zone with limited visibility, was poorly marked, and "many drivers are unaware it exists".

"Unlike other intersections on the island, the speed limit does not reduce to 60km/h, making it particularly unsafe for children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities," she said.

"Compounding the issue is the lack of school bus access for families in Wimbledon Heights.

"The suburb is within the catchment area that is considered close enough to walk or cycle, so there is no provision for a school bus. However, the current road conditions make this route unsafe for children."

Cr Bell said the Department of Transport (DoT) contacted the council on September 10 with a promise to investigate crossing options at this site.

"The parents in Wimbledon Heights and I are hopeful for a collaborative effort to ensure the safety of our children."

#### Other concerns

Council officers said the road was managed by DoT who had confirmed they were investigating options including refuges, road markings, signing, and holding rails.

"Changes to the existing speed zones to support these treatments will also be examined," officers said, adding funding options were being investigated.

The officers said it was difficult to de-



An online petition states children are eager to ride bikes to school from Wimbledon Heights but face "safety risks due to high vehicle speeds". Cr Tracey Bell is supporting the call for a safety upgrade.

termine a timeline, with any potential council funding determined through future budgets.

Cr Ronnie Bauer said previously he called for a shared path along Coghlan Road to Phillip Island Road for children from Silverleaves and the Shearwater Estate and last week he also called for a pedestrian crossing at A Maze'N Things so cyclists can cross Phillip Island Road.

"Otherwise, cyclists and pedestrians hit the end of the path at the blind bend at the Coghlan Road intersection and take their lives into their own hands," Cr Bauer said.

Cr Tim O'Brien questioned why it was so difficult for DoT to escalate roads "to our level of concern".

"We can't wait for a child to be injured before it's acted upon," he said.

#### Petition

The petition, so far signed by 123 people, states children were eager to ride bikes to school but face "safety risks due to high vehicle speeds".

"Bike clubs and visitors attending the Phillip Island Grand Prix are also affected by the lack of a safe crossing," the petition says.

Signatory Lee said considering the council's transport strategy wanted more people walking and riding, the safe crossing was "a must".

"In addition to this a simple footpath down Ventnor Beach Road to connect to this crossing and Gap Road are needed," Lee commented.

"My kids would ride to school if there was a safe crossing here. Bass Coast Shire and its councillors need to stop forgetting about the residents of Wimbledon Heights."

Sarah said a safe road crossing was "essential if you want to encourage families and children to walk and ride".

Details: www.change.org/p/safe-road-crossing-wimbledon-heights



Applications for the second round of Phillip Island Nature Parks community giving program are open from October 1 until November 30, to support projects and events that align with the organisation's strategic objectives and values.

# Supporting the community that supports us

#### **GRANTS**

Phillip Island Nature Parks is set to open round two of its Community Giving Program offering support for local not-for-profit, volunteer, community and school groups across Bass Coast.

Applications for the second round of community giving are open from October 1 until November 30.

Each year, the Nature Parks commits funds and in-kind support as a way of 'giving back' to the Phillip Island community.

Community Engagement Officer Kimberley
Dunstan said the Nature
Parks values its connection to the Bass Coast community and is committed
to giving back through
sponsoring projects and

events that align with the organisation's strategic objectives and values.

"The community is a key stakeholder and partner in our conservation achievements, and through this program we aim to support incorporated community groups, management committees, volunteer groups and schools, to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes," Ms Dunstan said.

"We invite applications for sponsorship for events and projects that support the Bass Coast community, educate and raise awareness about nature, conservation and sustainability, and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures."

The Nature Parks has been a long-term sup-

porter of local organisations, charities and events across Bass Coast.

In round one of the program earlier this year, the Nature Parks provided sponsorship and donations across a range of conservation and community initiatives and fundraising events including Arts Society Phillip Island Region Inc, Island Story Gatherers Inc, Phillip Island Landcare, Corinella and District Community Centre, Shades of Pink Phillip Island Football Netball Club, Wonthaggi Power Football Club, Gippsland Wrens Basketball, Phillip Island Scout Group, and various local schools.

For more information, please email community@ penguins.org.au
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# YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE

## Your coastal lifestyle starts here

Nestled on a level acre of land, this remarkable contemporary brick home in Ventnor is more than just a house; it's your very own botanical paradise. From the moment you arrive, you'll feel the peaceful embrace of a coastal lifestyle escape, where the hard work is done and all that's left is for you to relax and enjoy.

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This home comfortably accommodates a large family, with four bedrooms including a private master suite complete with a walk-in robe and ensuite. What truly sets this property apart is its ingenious design for visitors. A separate. self-contained zone offers a sanctuary

for guests, featuring two double bed-rooms, their own bathroom, a beautiful sunroom, and a private entrance. This thoughtful layout is ideal for hosting visiting family, or it could easily be transformed into a fantastic Airbnb, offering a unique opportunity to share this slice of paradise with others.

But the real magic happens outdoors. A magnificent north-facing veranda beckons, creating the ultimate indooroutdoor dining and barbecue space. It's a place for long summer evenings, family gatherings, and lazy afternoons enjoying the sea air. The stunning garden is a true masterpiece – a park-like setting with over 20 established fruit and citrus trees, all protected in a special enclosure so you can enjoy your bounty without sharing with the local possums and birds. The established native garden provides a serene backdrop, creating a sanctuary of natural beauty. The home has a two-car garage with secure entry plus additional

sheds with power, providing the perfect space for hobbies, a workshop or extra storage. Other extras include a huge solar energy installation plus five connected water tanks providing more than 100,000 litres of water to your home and garden. Town water is also connected.

Located just a short, easy walk down Graydens Road to some of Phillip Island's most beautiful swimming beaches, this

home offers both a private retreat and easy access to the best of coastal living. This isn't just a home; it's a legacy of peaceful, joyful living. All the hard work has been done, and it's now waiting for you to write its next chapter.

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The open-plan kitchen and dining area serves as the heart of the home, which can comfortably accommodate a large family

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The generous floor plan flows effortlessly, offering two large living areas, and provides the perfect coastal lifestyle escape.

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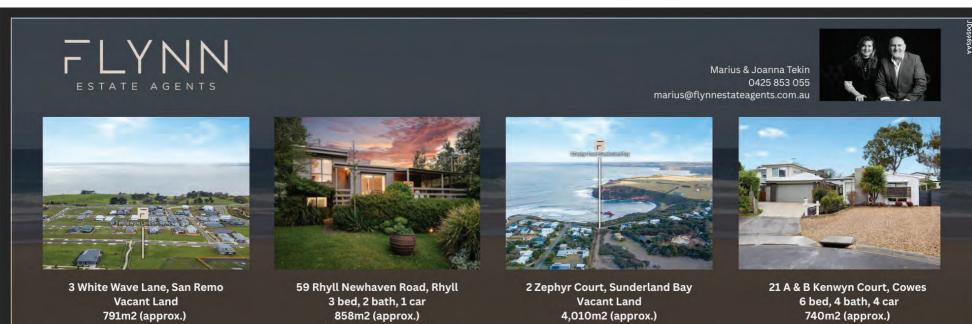




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The Island Sunset cruises start from November and run through until March, with entertainment provided by local musicians.

## Sail into the sunset

#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

This summer, sail into the sunset with Wildlife Coast Cruises.

The Island Sunset cruises start from November and run through until March.

Thanks to a State Government grant through Creative Victoria, every cruise will feature local musicians to entertain passengers.

"The Creative Victoria Music grant will allow Wildlife Coast Cruises to support local musicians for 40 gigs on board our Island Sunset cruises," said Belinda Armour from Wildlife Coast Cruises.

"Our Island Sunset cruises run every Wednesday and Saturday nights for one hour and 45 minutes departing the San Remo jetty.

"The cruises include live music by talented duo musicians (supported by Creative Victoria), a grazing platter which includes fresh fruit, cheddar cheese and crackers.

"There's a licensed bar onboard and sweeping scenery of the bay and its islands, with the chance to see marine life. Passengers also have the option to pre purchase prawn buckets or upgrade the grazing box."

Some of the talented local musicians that will be playing onboard include Olly and Scuzzi, The Times, The Laing Brothers, No Promises, Alysha and Duffy, Wilson and

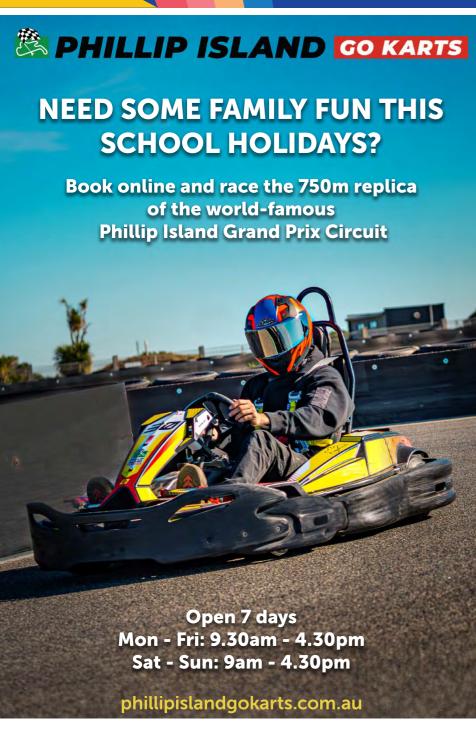
White and Travis Thompson and Adam Booth.

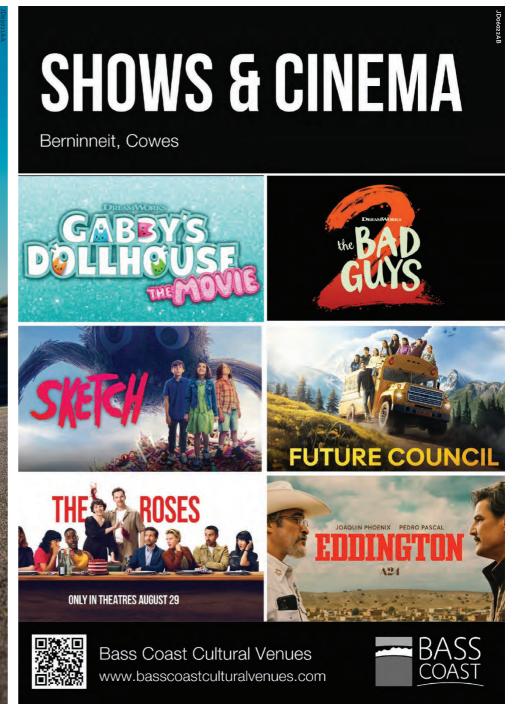
Island Sunset cruise prices are \$75 for adults, \$67 concession, \$52 for children (three to 15) and infants under two are free.

Book for a group of five or more, and the adult price is \$61.50 per person. Check the website for additional cruises during peak periods.

To celebrate the success of Creative Victoria's music grant, Wildlife Coast Cruises is offering 10 per cent off Island Sunset cruises using promo code MUSIC25 (excluding group rates).

For more information, or to book please visit www.wildlifecoastcruises.com.au or call the office on 03 5952 9500.





## i SLAND GUIDE

Advertising Feature

## Loved venue celebrates 20 years

#### **TENPIN BOWLING**

In September, Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre marked a remarkable milestone – 20 years since the bowling alley first opened its doors in September 2005.

What began as a converted go-kart track has grown into one of the island's most loved family and community venues.

The celebration was packed with fun, laughter and nostalgia, as the centre's history and future came together in one unforgettable night.

The original owners, Steve Davie and Ritchie Laing, joined current owners Craig Holmes and Jeremy Westaway, who have proudly run the centre since 2008. Together, they recreated the iconic 2008 handshake photo to symbolise the journey from past to present.

Guests were treated to a party atmosphere complete with balloons, a giant 20 helium centrepiece, a spectacular birthday cake shaped like bowling pins and a ball, and even custom biscuits decorated with the PI Tenpin logo.

The highlight of the night was undoubtedly the live performance by The Laing Brothers – Jim,



Owners Jeremy Westaway and Craig Holmes celebrating Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre's 20th anniversary.

Ritchie and Darren – who had the crowd rocking all evening with music, energy and laughter.

Reflecting on the centre's growth, Steve and Ritchie remarked on how far the business has come since its early days and praised what it has become – a thriving hub for locals and visitors alike.

For Craig, who has been involved since day one, and Jeremy, who started working at the centre in 2007 before stepping into ownership alongside Craig the following year, the celebration was a proud milestone.

"This place has always been about more than just bowling

"It's about community, connection, and creating memories. To celebrate 20 years with so many familiar faces, including the people who started it all, was really special," said Jeremy.

The night was also an opportunity to thank the dedicated PI Tenpin team – past and present – whose energy, warmth and hard work have made the centre what it is today.

Staff members are not just employees, but part of the PI Tenpin family, and their role in welcoming guests, running events and creating a fun, inclusive space has been central to the centre's success.

Today, PI Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre is known not only for bowling, laser tag and arcade fun, but also as an exciting venue for live music, celebrations and functions.

From birthday parties and school groups to community events and corporate nights out, the centre continues to prove that it's a place where people come together, celebrate and enjoy unforgettable experiences.

The 20th birthday was not just a look back at the past two decades, but a celebration of the friendships and fun still to come.

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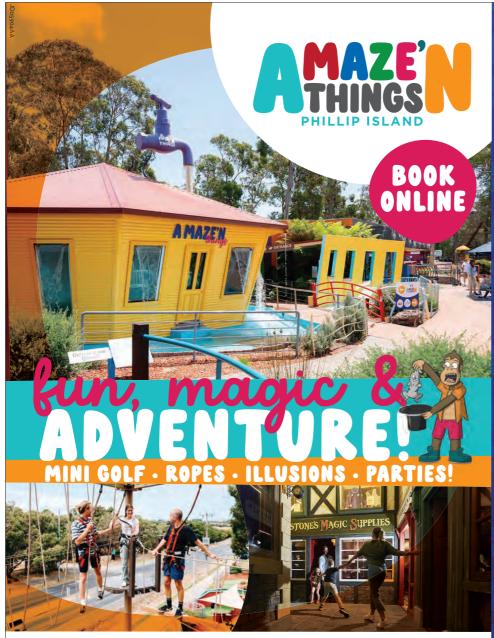
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Organisers of the Annual Phillip Island Toy Run, Samantha and Jason Hampstead are appealing for help from the community to cover storage costs of all the donations collected by the event.

## Toy Run needs storage funds

#### **COMMUNITY**

The Annual Phillip Island Toy Run is a volunteer-run event in December that collects gifts for families in need at Christmas.

Each year, hundreds of gifts and vouchers are collected for distribution to local families.

The Toy Run is now appealing for help from the community, to cover storage of all the donations.

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

"This year, we've had to lease a storage unit for the growing number of donations, and our community has been incredible in helping cover the costs.

"However, the burden is becoming challenging.'

the brain

cancer centre

MANY MINDS. ONE FOCUS.

To help cover the cost of storage, the Toy Run has set up a GoFund Me account and is selling a limited-edition t-shirt.

"With the help of the Phillip Island RSL, we're selling tees to fund our mission," explained Samantha.

"Every contribution counts, and together we can ensure no family is left without joy this holiday season."

The t-shirts are \$39.95 each and can be purchased from Dead4Eva Designs in Cowes, or ordered online via the Annual Phillip Island Toy Run Facebook page.

This year's event on December 7 will see hundreds of motorcyclists leave Caldermeade Farm at 11am and ride to Cowes to deliver gifts and raise funds.

To help cover the Toy Run storage costs, visit gofund.me/add9e2b06

For details of this year's event or to purchase a t-shirt online visit the Annual Phillip Island Toy Run Facebook page.

OINT TO PINNACLE

**▼ TEAM CB4BC** 



The Phillip Island Scout Group hosted a celebration for Wayne "Mang" Carter, who is retiring after four decades with Scouts.

#### Celebrating 40 years of Scouts' leadership

#### **COMMUNITY**

Phillip Island Scout Group is celebrating the 40 years of service to Scouts by member Wayne "Mang"

'We are so fortunate to have had Mang as our Cub Leader over the last eight years, thrilling our Cubs and fellow Assistant Cub Leaders with his vast knowledge of Cubbing skills, games and how to make Scouting fun for this age group," said Group Leader Robyn Mylius.

"Mang started as an Assistant Cub Leader at 2nd Knox Scout Group in 1980, then in 1990 he moved to 1st Tyabb Scout Group where he was a Cub Leader until moving to Phillip Island in 2017 with his wife Heather, and became a Cub Leader with the Phillip Island Scout Group."

Robyn said Mang had attended many special Scouting events, including an Australian Jamboree in Sydney, and six Victorian Cuboree camps in Victoria, including three with Phillip Island Cubs (2017, 2021 and 2023).

"After a long and distinguished career as an active Cub Leader, Mang has decided to retire, but will still be available to us in Scouting Fellowship, so he can help us run our kayaking, snorkelling and other water activities that he does in his daily life," Robyn said.

"We had a really lovely celebration afternoon tea for Mang on August 24 at the Phillip Island Scout Hall, with guests from his previous Scout Groups, including 1st Tyabb, and Camp Niall in

Moorooduc, on the Mornington Peninsula.

"Some of these Leaders were Cubs when Mang was Cub Leader, which is a pretty amazing legacy.

"Mang [the bat from The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling] as we like to call him, has mentored many other Leaders in his time at Phillip Island, and also at Ist Tyabb Cub Pack,

"We will miss Mang's weekly involvement in our Cub nights, but are very glad to have had so much fun along with the benefit of his extensive Scouting knowledge for so long, and of course his Halloween celebrations are a highlight of the Cub year."

Wayne Carter is also valued member of the CFA, and is a "truly exceptional community member", said Robyn.



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#### The Great Witch Hunt returns

#### **COMMUNITY**

Fire up your broom and get ready to explore as The Great Witch Hunt returns this month, as we approach Halloween.

Fifty-one witches are on display at businesses right across the Bass Coast Shire and everyone is encouraged to explore our region to hunt down the witches and locate their unique identification numbers.

This annual community event is hosted by the Grantville Business and Community Association. Head to their website (www.visitgrantville.com. au) to purchase an entry ticket for only \$5 and then download the map and get hunting!

There are a range of great prizes on offer this year including first prize of a two-day family get away at Kaloha Holiday Resort in Cowes and three-park pass from Phillip Island Nature Parks. The total prize pool is worth over \$2000 with a special prize for every entrant who successfully locates all of the witches.

The event is sponsored by Panny's Chocolate Factory and the Bass Coast Shire Council.

"This volunteer run community event is a great way to explore Bass Coast businesses and at the same time be donating to a not-for-profit event,"



The Great Witch Hunt returns this month in the lead up to Halloween, with 51 witches on display in businesses right across Bass Coast. Locate them all to be in the running for one of the great prizes on offer.

the organisers.

"Any funds that are raised are 100 per cent returned to the community through the running of other local events.

"Hard copy printed tickets and maps are also available from the Newhaven and Inverloch information centres, the Artspace and information centre in Wonthaggi and Maru Koala and Animal Park in Grantville."

This year 40 of the original large life-size witches have been retired and replaced with the smaller size witches. Those large witch-

es are now being offered for sale to anyone who may be interested in them for their own Halloween decorations. If you would like to purchase one, visit www. trybooking.com/DFRFO.

To stay up to date with the hunt, follow the Great Witch Hunt Facebook page for tips and clues on location of the witches.

This year there will also be three 'virtual' witches only seen on the Facebook

So start flying around our beautiful Bass Coast now and get hunting.

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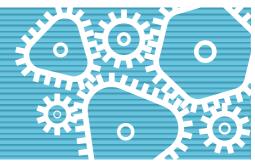
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#### DEATHS

#### **DUMERGUE**, Peter

27/2/1945 - 11/9/25

Soul mate to Marg.

Beloved father of Yvette and Jean-Paul.

'Pete' to Lulu.

You will live on forever in our hearts.



#### TRIGT, John:

Passed away on September 28, 2025 at Beleura Private Hospital.

Beloved Father of Adrian and Judith.

Father-in-law of Sharon and Neil

Cherished Opa of Lauren, Lachlan, Amelia and Connor.

May he rest in peace.

#### DEATHS

#### TRIGT, John: 31-1-1941 – 28-9-2025 villin Island Pros

Phillip Island Progress Association – Island Voice extends our very sincere condolences to John's son Adrian and daughter Judith plus their families on the sudden passing of their father. We found John a very intelligent and principled individual.

intelligent and principled individual.
We will all miss his sharp wit and friendship.
Regards
Peter Paul | President
Peter McMahon

#### **FUNERALS**

#### TRIGT:

The Funeral Service for Mr. John Trigt will be held at St. John's Uniting Church, Chapel Street, Cowes THURSDAY WEEK (Oct. 9, 2025) commencing at 12:30pm.

John's service will be live-streaming, go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au. A Private family burial will follow.



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Commencement 23 January 2026 for the academic year. Applications to be submitted to: recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Applications close Friday 24 October, 12pm

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

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ADVERTISER



Phillip Island Lions Club member Meryl Reid received the Lions Member Achievement Award at the September meeting.

## Meryl awarded for her achievements

#### COMMUNITY

Congratulations to Meryl Reid who was awarded the Lions Member Achievement Award at the Phillip Island Lions meeting in September.

If you have visited the Lions second hand yard – Steptoes – located in Dunsmore Road (next door to the recycle centre), you have probably met Meryl.

She is one of the friendly faces of the operation there. Meryl will meet, greet and chat to visitors to the yard; answer any questions and point you in the right direction to choose your piece of treasure.

The Award was presented by Lions' new President John Jackson, another friendly person to help and assist everyone.

The yard is open to the public every weekend: Saturday 9am – 12.30pm and Sunday 9am – 12noon.

If you have furniture or bric-a-brac to donate please send photos and text description to 0433 191 654.

Better still, if you would like to join our happy group, come to the yard or contact Madeleine on 0423 315 372.



## DELIVERY

#### Hello Violet

Violet Rita Davidson was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on June 22, 2025, weighing 2.57kg.

Violet is a daughter for Tessa Johnston and Cameron Davidson of Cowes.



#### Welcome Isla

Isla Matsunaga was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on August 17, 2025, weighing 3.63kg.

Isla is a daughter for Meagan Sneddon and Koyu Matsunaga of Ventnor.







**SENIORS** (L-R): Hayden Bruce – Equal Best and Fairest, Jack Taylor – Runner Up Best and Fairest, Jaymie Youle – Most Determined, Max Walton – Impact Player, Daniel Pearce – Best in Finals, Cam Pedersen – Coach and Equal Best and Fairest, Billy Taylor – Leading Goal Kicker and absent Mark Griffin – Team Player.



**RESERVES** (L-R): Finlay Cousins – Equal Best and Fairest, Jack Keating – Equal Best and Fairest, Brady Ross – Runner Up Best and Fairest, Ollie Hibbert – Most Determined, Darcy Thompson – Impact Player and Leading Goal Kicker, Ben Taylor – Team Player, Mikka Paulsen – Best in Finals and Brad Thompson – Coach.



**U18** (L-R): Briony McIntosh - Team Manager, Charlie O'Garey - Impact Player, Jeremy Kelly - Best and Fairest, Ayden Fawaz - Equal Runner Up Best and Fairest, Benji Chihotski - Most Determined, Oliver Duggan - Leading Goal Kicker, Isaac Savona - Equal Runner Up Best and Fairest, Jack Briggs - Team Player, Cooper Walton - Best in Finals, Harry Arceo - Keith "Whale" Delooze Award, Hayden Bruce - Coach and Jack Taylor - Coach.



**U16** (L-R): Charlie Fischer – Best in Finals, Archie Williams – Impact Player, Felix Bathgate – Runner Up Best and Fairest, Sam O'Garey – Best and Fairest and Leading Goal Kicker, Ethan Rhee – U16 Team Award, Tarryn Allan – Coach. Absent Hayden Power – Most Determined and Team Player, Lewis DeFazio – Keith "Whale" Delooze Award.



**U16 GIRLS** (L-R): Scarlette Rees – Team Player, Gemma Fisher – Most Determined, Bethany Grenness – Impact Player, Lily Bow – Most Versatile, Gisele Smith – Best in Finals, Olivia Holmes – Best and Fairest, Justin Tilley – Coach, Diddy Cutherbertson – Coach. Absent Ruby Kent-Ford – Runner Up Best and Fairest.



**VETERANS** (L-R): Anthony Young – Best and Fairest, Mark Riky – Runner Up Best and Fairest, Jim Lees – Impact Player, Jarrod Henzen – Most Determined, Nick Moltsen – Team Player, Mark Blundell – Best in Finals, Callan Scheibel – Players' MVP and Joel Goodall – Coach.



**UNDER 11** (L-R): Jac Clarke - Coach, Olivia Clarke - Runner Up Best and Fairest, Misha Rutherford - Coaches Award, Eden Hallas - Best in Finals, Kalani Piera - Best and Fairest and Emma Hallas -Team Manager.

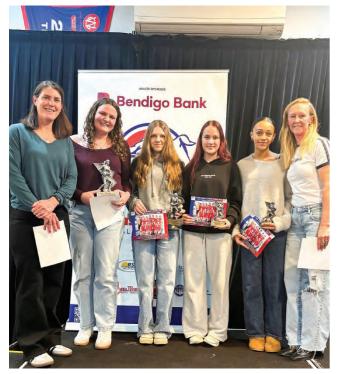


**UNDER 13** Casey (L-R): Ruby Pedersen - Best and Fairest, Bella Oudshoorn - Runner Up Best and Fairest, Elsie Williams - Coaches Award, Indi Keady - Best in Finals and Meg Oudshoorn - Coach.



UNDER 13 (L-R): Carly O'Brien - Team Manager, Alice Martindale - Equal Best and Fairest, Eden Blake - Equal Best and Fairest, Ella Solohub - Equal Runner Up Best and Fairest, Piper O'Brien - Coach, Aisha Hibbert - Coach, Ruby Woodrup - Coaches Award, Frankie O'Brien - Equal Runner Up Best and Fairest and Ivy Addison - Best in Finals.

#### PIFNC AWARDS NIGHT



UNDER 15 CASEY (L-R): Trish Callis - Team Manager, Aliza Summers - Best and Fairest, Willow Zamifirescu - Runner Up Best and Fairest, Alexis Wilson - Coaches Award, Alexis Osabutey - Best in Finals and Christie Edwards - Coach.



UNDER 15 (L-R): Ava Blake - Runner Up Best and Fairest, Kate Mc-Causland - Best and Fairest, Charlee Pedersen - Coaches Award, Adelle Hecker - Best in Finals and Maxine McNamara - Coach.



UNDER 17 (L-R): Cath Huther - Coach, Olivia Holmes - Runner Up Best and Fairest and Best in Finals, Aisha Hibbert - Best and Fairest, Jasira Derham - Coaches Award, Lisa Hennessy - Team Manager and Maya Huther - Coach.



**D GRADE** (L-R): Rose Van Rooy - Best and Fairest, Meg Oudshoorn -Coach, Hollie Kee - Coaches Award. Absent Jazz Mau - Runner Up Best and Fairest.



C GRADE (L-R): Lawri Piera – Runner Up Best and Fairest, Matilda Walton - Coaches Award, Emma Hallas - Coach. Absent Raelene Humphery - Best and Fairest.



**B GRADE** (L-R): Mieka White – Best and Fairest, Steph Krainer – Runner Up Best and Fairest, Jarrah White - Coaches Award and Abbey McCaughan - Coach.



A GRADE (L-R): Emma Hallas – Assistant Coach, Charli Ross – Player, Lexi Walton - Player, Hollie Castagna - Coach and Runner Up Best and Fairest. Absent Ella Duggan - Best and Fairest and Hallie Mau - Coaches Award.



Carly and Nazza O'Brien were presented with gifts as thanks for all their hard work and support as outgoing junior co-ordinators.



Congratulations to the Phillip Island Football & Netball Club on their outstanding achievements at the West Gippsland League

Award Recipients: Back Row (L-R): Jack Taylor - Seniors Forward Team of the Year, Billy Taylor - Seniors Forward Team of the Year, Hayden Bruce - Seniors Best & Fairest (back-to-back) and Midfield Team of the Year, Yianni Caffieri - Rising Star Award, Bailey Hennessy - Rising Star Nominee and Ella Duggan - A Grade Netball Team of the Year. Front Row (L-R): Finlay Cousins - Reserves Best & Fairest, and Aisha Hibbert - U17 Netball Best & Fairest and Rising Star Award. A fantastic effort by all, well done, Bulldogs.

#### PIFNC AWARDS NIGHT



Margaret McFee Awards: Chris Ross President, Aisha Hibbert, Piper O'Brien and Jodie Ross (PIFNC Treasurer).



President's Award: Nazz O'Brien and Chris Ross (PIFNC President).



Best Club Person: Harry Anderson, Charli Ross, Chris Ross (PIFNC President).



Donald Hamilton Award: Damian Holmes, Carol Hamilton, Maya Huther and Chris Ross (PIFNC President)



Jess (Gizza) Gislingham being presented with the U18's Premier-



Jess (Gizza) Gislingham presenting his cheque to PIFNC President Chris Ross from Can Collect.

## On the green

#### **GOLF**

#### Tuesday, September 23

Men's 18H Comp Stableford Overall winner: Max Mattock (16) 41 c/b.

A Grade winner: A-1 Darrell Clark (10) 38 c/b.

A-2 winner: Andrew Hewett (6) 38.B Grade winner: B-1 Max

Mattock (16) 41 c/b. B-2 winner: Zak Allen-Ryan

(14) 41 c/b. C Grade winner: C-1 Peter lunden (27) 41.

C-2 winner: Denis McNamee

BDL to 37 c/b.

NTP: 5th William Lang, 7th Hary Sterling, 10th Brendon Corvino and 17th Andrew Hewett.

#### Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Vic Mitchell (25) 24 pts from Peter Pillar (29) 22 pts c/b.

BDL to 20 pts c/b.

#### Wednesday, September 24 Women's Comp 13H **Committee Day Irish**

Stableford Teams 13H Overall winners: Jeanette Diss, Kaz Egan, Julia Mascitelli and Joan Baker. 84 pts.

Runners up: Cheryl Smith, Marilyn John, Gill Scrase and Jennifer Fitzgerald. 83 pts.

NTP: 5th Vicki Ramage Karen Green, 10th Kerri Dalton and 17th Cheryl White. Women's competition:

#### **Committee Day Footy Double Points Stableford**

Winners: Marlene Gibson, Diana Holmberg, Wendy Hopkins and Michelle Pardoe. Women's Ladies

**Committee Competition** 

Winner: Joan Nicholson 29 pts. Runner up: Marilyn John 29

Women's 9H Stableford No Competition.

#### Thursday, September 25 Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Mario Amato

(26) 39 pts c/b. A Grade winner: A-1 Travis

Johnson (9) 38 pts. A-2 winner: Michael Taylor

(12) 37 pts. B Grade winners: B-1 Mario Amato (26) 39 pts.

B-2 winner: Chris Vanderhayden (19) 39 pts.

C Grade winners: C-1 Ugo Mascitelli (26) 38 pts.

C-2 winner: Trevor MacFarlane (26) 38 pts.

BDL to 35 pts c/b. Williams, NTP: 5th Neil 7th John Slight, 10th Michael Coghlan and 17th Peter Gray.

Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Richie Nettleton (21) 20 c/b pts from Neil Dewar (31) 20 pts.

BDL to 17 pts c/b.

#### Saturday, September 27

#### Competition Men's and Mixed 4BBB Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Glenn Paterson and Justin McBean 47 pts c/b.

2nd Rod Ward and John Monk 47 pts.

3rd John McKechnie and Don Steward-Uden 45 pts.

BDL to 40 c/b.

NTP: 5th Steve Bann, 7th Barry Grazules, 10th Michael Janson and 17th Chris Sander-

#### Women's 18H Comp Women's 4BBB Stableford.

Overall winner: Lynn McCole and Julia Mascitelli 46 pts.

2nd Jeanette Diss and Sarah Gordon 43 pts c/b.

BDL to 40 pts c/b.

NTP: 5th Mary Taylor, 7th Susan Brown, 10th Joanne Disher and 18th Lesley Meadowcroft.

Open Comp 9H No Competition. Sunday, September 28 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Adrian Crane (28) 36 pts from Mark Griffin (11) 35 pts.

BDL: to 34pts.

#### Red Rocks results

#### **GOLF**

#### Saturday, September 27

Winner: Neil Malcolm (16) +4. 2nd Place: Anthony Fradkin (14) +3.

3rd Place - Angus McLaurin (10) +2

NTP: Hole 10 Anthony Fradkin, Hole 17 Neil Malcolm.

#### Sunday, September 28 Stableford

Winner: Rob Stead (13) 40 points

Runner up: Steve Wurt (2) 40

NTP: Hole 6 Steve Wurt, Hole 17 John Kneebone.

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

WED 1 OCT		THU 2 OCT		FRI 3 OCT		SAT 4 OCT		SUN 5 OCT		MON 6 OCT		O TUE 7 OCT	
HIGH	6:37 am 2.76 m	LOW	12:13 am 0.64 m	LOW	12:49 am 0.72 m	LOW	1:35 am 0.82 m	LOW	3:36 am 0.93 m	LOW	4:56 am 1.01 m	HIGH	12:37 am 2.50 m
LOW	12:09 pm 1.14 m	HIGH	7:15 am 2.66 m	HIGH	8:00 am 2.56 m	HIGH	8:54 am 2.49 m	HIGH	10:58 am 2.46 m	HIGH	12:06 pm 2.49 m	LOW	6:22 am 1.01 m
HIGH	6:09 pm 2.55 m	LOW	12:44 pm 1.23 m	LOW	1:25 pm 1.29 m	LOW	2:18 pm 1.32 m	LOW	4:30 pm 1.28 m	LOW	5:50 pm 1.12 m	HIGH	1:11 pm 2.57 m
		HIGH	6:46 pm 2.46 m	HIGH	7:33 pm 2.37 m	HIGH	8:41 pm 2.31 m	HIGH	11:09 pm 2.34 m			LOW	7:00 pm 0.88 m

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# Big weekend of bridge on the island

#### **BRIDGE**

It's been a huge week of bridge on the island, starting with players converging from near and far for a packed weekend of competition and camaraderie.

On Saturday and Sunday (September 13-14), the Phillip Island Bridge Club hosted its annual Congress - a highlight of the local bridge calendar - attracting more than 80 players from Melbourne, interstate and local clubs.

Saturday's Swiss Pairs event saw top honours go to the visiting duo of William Jenner-O'Shea and Vanessa Brown from Canberra, who outplayed a strong field to take the title.

On Sunday the Swiss Teams event was won by a formidable Melbourne team comprising George Lovrecz, Thilak Ranasinghe, Paul Ruan and Philip

Whilst local players didn't make the winners' circle this year, the Congress was nonetheless a terrific opportunity for island-based bridge lovers to test



Phillip Island locals enjoying the Sunday Swiss Teams event (from left): Diane Coleman (Committee Member), Jim Murphy (Club Treasurer), Moya Crowley (Club Member) and Clare Murphy (Club Bridge Director).

their skills against experienced competitors - and learn a thing or two along the way.

Regular club play continued on Monday September 15, with 15 pairs taking to the tables.

North/South winners were Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour, finishing with an impressive

64.58 per cent.

East/West honours went to Anne Ferrari and Don Stewart-Uden on 57.14 per cent.

Wednesday's competition was Nationwide Number 18.

Club winners on the day -Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour with 62.50 per cent.

The Darts night's top honours went to the formidable trio of Team Paul, Alby, and Brendon, who secured a decisive 6-1 victory.

## Bullseye Blitz

#### **DARTS**

The darts flew and the competition heated up on Monday night as the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League held a thrill-

A total of twenty-six players enjoyed a sensational evening, but one team stood head and shoulders above the rest.

The night's top honours went to the formidable trio of Team Paul, Alby and Brendon, who secured a decisive 6-1 victory in their matchup, showcasing a masterclass of precision and teamwork.

The excitement wasn't just limited to the team standings, as the individual competition saw some major shake-ups.

Dave Healey, known around the club as much for his culinary skills as his darting prowess, had a night to remember.

Healey was in scorching form, racking up nine points for the round and hitting a magnificent 180.

This stellar performance propelled him up the leaderboard into third place with a total of 15 points

Current league leader Bob Hee held onto his comfortable lead, sitting on 25 points.

Paul Gleeson in second place is "just clinging" to the position with 17 points, highlighting the intense battle for the top spots.

In other good news for Dave Healey on the night, the darts champion's luck extended off the oche as he happily accepted the coveted meat tray raffle prize, a big thank you to Des and the team at San Remo Butchers for their generous sponsorship.

The league rolls on next Monday, promising more thrilling darts action.

Players are reminded to arrive before 7.15 pm to ensure their names are entered for the

Don't miss out on what is shaping up to be another cracking night of darts.

## Results from the table

It was a week of celebration and strong competition at the Phillip Island Bridge Club.

Monday's Duplicate Bridge session drew a turnout of five and a half tables.

Rising to the top were Jean Barbour and Greg Nichoson, who claimed first place with an

On Wednesday, new member Janus Wolknik earned himself an early birthday present by taking top honours alongside his partner, Caroline Shaw.

The pair finished with a commanding 62.5 per cent across three and a half tables.

Adding to the celebration, Janus' wife, Malgorzata, delighted

members with a traditional Polish birthday cake, which she brought to share with the club at the conclusion of play.

The gesture was warmly received, marking a cheerful end to the session.

The club continues to welcome new faces and celebrate both the game and its community spirit.



Croquet club members with the banner outside of Coles, as part of this month's membership drive.

## Membership drive for club

#### **CROQUET**

A big thank you to all for supporting the Phillip Island Croquet Club in our raffle and membership drive, at the beginning of September.

We received quite a few en-

quiries and sold lots of raffle

All the proceeds will go to-

wards the upkeep of the club.

The winner of the raffle was Kay, a member of the public, and second prize went to the club president, Lillian Wagstaff.

Well done to them both.

There is a "Come and Try Croquet Day" on October 12 (10am-2pm) at the Croquet Club, 120 Dunsmore Road, Cowes.

Please come and enjoy a cuppa, scones and have a friendly game or two of croquet.



Darren Bellingham, Alan Clements and Roy Down (from left to right) were the winners of the Phillip Island Bowling Club Spring Carnival Triples.

## Spring Carnival Triples

The competition was held on September 18 and 19.

Phillip Island Bowling Club Spring Carnival Triples (September 18-19) attracted bowlers from all over Victoria and interstate, competing for substantial prize money.

We witnessed some exceptional bowling during the two days of competition.

Events like this cannot happen without a dedicated group of volunteers. The Bowls Committee ensuring the event runs smoothly and our wonderful ladies and men in the kitchen prepared breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea for 84 hungry

Phillip Island Bowling Club would like to thank the sponsors of the Spring Carnival, Phillip Island Grove Care Community, as without sponsors like this, these events would not happen.

#### Results

Best overall game: Thursday: Andrew Bellino, Steve Bellino and Frank Bellino. Friday: David McIlfatrick, Les Firth and Dennis Throup.

Third Place: Chris Owen, Anthony Hall and Craig O'Brien.

Second Place: Ken White, Grant Pask and Hank Metselaar.

Congratulations to the winners: Alan Clements, Darren Bellingham and Roy Down.

# Heading to open national championships

#### **SWIMMING**

There will be 16 Gippsland representatives amongst Australia's best swimmers as they compete in the 2025 Australian Open Short Course championships at MSAC next weekend.

The team consists of five swimmers in the multi class section and 11 in the able-bodied section.

The swimmers have swum a qualifying time to be at the event and are really looking forward to it.

The Gippsland swimmers are in seeded heats, meaning they are often swimming against people they have idolised. Just to be there at the event is exciting, but to be competitive against them is even more amazing.

Well known Australia swimmers such as Felix Dressel-De Bruyn, Tara Kinder and Ahmed Kelly will be amongst those the Gippsland Swimmers are lined up with.

A number of the Gippsland MC swimmers have been setting Victorian Records for their classification this year and any Personal Best in those events will mean records will



Congratulations to Emily, Claudia and Bel Croatto who are representing Gippsland in the 2025 Australian Open Short Course championships at MSAC.

continue to fall.

For young swimmers like 13-year-old Emily Croatto from SGB, it is a huge step up, swimming at the open event, when at the start of the year she wasn't even old enough to swim at the National Age Championships.

Added to the excitement, Emily and her sister Claudia have qualified for the same event, the 200m Breaststroke.

"I'm so excited to race against Australian dolphins and it's going to be so much fun," said Emily.

Claudia said she was thrilled "to have the opportunity to race at such a high level and a big thanks to my coaches who have helped me get there".

For some of the older swimmers, the years of hard work have paid off, with swimmers like Ashley Nicholes from Traralgon ranked in the top 10 and hoping to make finals.

Many Gippsland swimmers will be heading down to watch the event.

For those unable to attend, the event will be broadcast on 9Now

#### Gippsland representatives:

Isabelle Nash- Warragul.
Olivia Ballie- Traralgon.
Zayden Burton – Traralgon.
Jessica Whiting – Traralgon.
Ashley Nicholes- Traralgon.
Darcy Connell- Traralgon.
Brody Cargill – Traralgon.
Miah Roberts - South
Gippsland Bass.
Claudia Croatto- South
Gippsland Bass.
Emily Croatto - South
Gippsland Bass.
Sophie Mckenzie- South
Gippsland Bass.

#### Multi Class swimmers:

Ayvah Dennis- Warragul. Tyra Jensen – Warragul. Lockie Bellion – Traralgon. Levi Jarrett - South Gippsland Bass. Gemma Cook- South Gippsland Bass.

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- Short walk to swimming beach and playground \$890,000

SGB success at state championships

#### **SWIMMING**

It was a big weekend of racing for the SGB swimmers racing at the Victorian Age Short Course finals at MSAC in September.

There were 33 Swimmers aged 12-18 who raced in a range of distances from 50m to 800m, over the three days in all strokes. Swimmers raced heats in the morning and then those who were lucky enough to qualify for finals returned to compete at night.

It was a busy place, with two pools running side by side during the heats. The spectators had plenty of action to watch and provided plenty of cheering from the stands and from the swimmers' supportive teammates and families. The event was also live streamed with fans able to cheer them on at home. Coach Dylan was thrilled with the weekend's efforts.

"It's been quite a short season of Short Course racing this year, so to have one of the largest regional clubs here is fantastic.

"They all dug deep after countries and worked on some areas they wanted to try and improve and to see these results is really pleasing. They should

be very proud of themselves." Coach Lorri loved seeing the swimmers do so well.

"Seeing our first timers up there on the blocks always makes me smile, over the years they train hard, and the lucky ones are able to qualify and swim here.

"They are always so excited to get their state cap and towel and wear them for the first time."

Archie Smyth broke the Victorian Record in the Boys 13 years 200m Backstroke.

The club did well in the points score. Despite being up against clubs with over 100 swimmers, SGB came 12th in the overall rankings.

The swimmers at the meet Madison Andreatta, Emma Barclay, Bec Barclay, Asha Chalmers, Nyah Chapman, Gemma Cook, Zoe Cox, Claudia Croatto, Emily Croatto, Isabel Croatto, Billy Fisher, Maggie Fisher, Cormac Flynn, Jordan Gallicchio, Daisy Giliam-Rodda, Lachie Grimes, Josh Hunt, Sienna Hunt, Levi Jarrett, Ava Lucas, Hannah Lucas, Mostyn Lumsden, Isabella Lynch, Brooklyn Packer, Josie Richer, Miah Roberts, Zac Sherar, Aidan Smyth, Archie Smyth, Lara Smyth, Jarrah Tagell and Kaela Welsh.



Friends Bel and Bec prepare to line up next to each other.



Levi Jarrett with his medals from Night 1.



Miah is excited with her win.

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