PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

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YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

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TUIVE COMES COMES

voto⊕ ₩ IQUI MC

LIQUI MOLY AUSTRALIAN MOTORCYCL

PAGE 12







Home hero Jack Miller will be hoping for a better run at Phillip Island this year. Photo: Alia Schonberg.

There's excitement and entertainment in store for fans with the return of the MotoGP to the legendary Phillip Island circuit.

Marc Marguez is currently leading the championship rankings on 545, 183 points clear of nearest rival, younger brother Alex Marquez. Marc will be looking to make it back-to-back wins at Phillip Island.

Francesco Bagnaia will be hoping to continue his run of podium finishes at the island, and is currently sitting at third on the rankings.

Phillip Island winner in 2023,

Johann Zarco is currently at 10 on the rankings, more than 400 points behind Marc Marquez.

Australian rider Jack Miller in 18th place, is looking forward to performing in front of his home crowd, and will be hoping for a better race than last year.

Over in Moto2, Manuel Gonzales and Diogo Moreira are battling it out for top spot, separated by just nine points.

Fans will be keen to cheer on Australian Senna Agius (currently in nineth spot). Moto2 is the breeding ground for MotoGP, with the ranks of previous winners including Jorge Lorenzo, Marc Marquez, Francesco Bagnaia, Remy Gardner and Pedro Acosta.

In Moto3, the crowd will be behind Australian Joel Kelso currently in fifth spot, a jump from his position at nine on the ladder coming into Phillip Island last year.

There'll be plenty of other action on the track, including the Superbikes Masters (page 7) and a heartstopping race between MotoGP legend Casey Stoner and Air Race World Champion Mark Hall in his aerobatic plane (page 5).



Marc Marquez was victorious at the 2024 Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix after an overtake-for-overtake battle against Jorge Martin. Currently at number one on the rankings, he'll be hoping for back-to-back wins at the island. Photo: Alia Schonberg.

All the Action

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

8.30am: Homecoming Ride check in, Marine Parade, San Remo 11.00am: Homecoming Ride departs San Remo

COWES MAIN STAGE

5pm - 11pm: BMW Superscreen, rider interviews, races and movies.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

GP CIRCUIT 2.05pm: Moto2, Practice 8.30am: Gate open 3.00pm: MotoGP, Practice 4.00pm: Airtime FMX & 9.00am: Moto3, Free Practice **BMX Show** 4.05pm: Red Bull Aerial 9.50am: Moto2, Free Practice Activity 10.45am: MotoGP, Practice 1 4.20pm: Superbike Masters, Qualifying 11.35am: Airtime FMX &

5.30pm: Gates close BMX show 12.00pm: Red Bull Aerial **COWES MAIN STAGE**

Activity 6.00pm - midnight: 12.15pm: Superbike Masters, BMW Superscreen practice 6.00pm: Mark Howard 1.15pm: Moto3, Practice 9.00pm: Oz Rock Express

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

GP CIRCUIT 8.00am: Gages Open 8.40am: Moto3, Practice 2 9.25am: Moto2, Practice 2 10.10am: MotoGP, Free Practice 2 10.50am: MotoGP, Qualifying 1

11.15am: MotoGP, Qualifying2 11.35am: Airtime FMX & **BMX Show**

11.45am: Casey Stoner and Red Bull Aerial Activity

Race 1 12.45pm: Moto3, Qualifying 1

2.05pm: Moto2, Qualifying 2 2.25pm: Red Bull Aerial Activity 2.30pm: Airtime presents Chicken Run 3.00pm: MotoGP, Sprint 4.00pm: Airtime FMX & **BMX Show** 4.10pm: Superbike Masters,

1.40pm: Moto2, Qualifying 1

Race2 6.00pm: Gates close **COWES MAIN STAGE**

10am - midnight: 12.10pm: Superbike Masters, **BMW Superscreen** 6.00pm: Imogen Price 9.00pm: Nashville's World 1.10pm: Moto3, Qualifying 2 on Tour

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

GP CIRCUIT

8.30am: Gates open 9.00am: Superbike Masters, Race 3 9.40am: MotoGP, Warm Up 10.15am: Honda Junior GP 10.15am: Airtime FMX &

BMX Show 11.00am: Moto3 Race 12.15pm: Moto2 Race

1.00pm: Casey Stoner and Red Bull Aerial Activity

1.10pm: Airtime presents Chicken Run

2.00pm: MotoGP Race 3.30pm: Airtime FMX & **BMX Show** 5.00pm: Gates close

COWES MAIN STAGE

10am - 11pm:

BMW Superscreen 6.00pm: Rehash Cover Band 7.00pm: 2025 MotoGP race replay 8.00pm: Rehash Cover Band

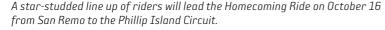


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After travelling from San Remo to Cowes and then the Circuit, riders will get to ride two laps of the iconic track.

Star-studded line up for Homecoming Ride

Fans are set to share the road the circuit ahead of a weekend latest MotoGP race winner on with more international MotoGP™ riders than ever before, as World Champions, rising stars, and Aussie favourites take part in the Homecoming Ride on Thursday, October 16.

The ride, from San Remo to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, is a unique and unforgettable experience for fans to celebrate and ride alongside some of motorsports biggest names.

With four World Championships between them, rookie breakthroughs and homegrown heroes, this line-up is the most star-studded to date.

Australian Grand Prix Chief Executive Officer, Travis Auld said the Homecoming Ride has become a highlight of the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix.

"To have this calibre of talent leading the convoy for 2025 is something truly special for everyone involved.

"It's a rare opportunity for fans to meet and ride alongside their heroes, and we can't wait to see the hundreds of bikes crossing the San Remo Bridge as they make their way towards of incredible racing."

Leading the convoy will be fan favourite and two-time MotoGP World Champion, Casey Stoner, who famously conquered the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit for six consecutive years from 2007 to 2012.

Alongside Stoner will be fellow Australian and current MotoGP rider Jack Miller, who the crowd will no doubt be eager to see back on home soil.

The home heroes will be joined by two-time MotoGP World Champion Francesco "Pecco" Bagnaia, currently sitting third in this year's championship standings, and Enea Bastianini, recently delivering a strong podium finish at the Catalan Grand Prix.

Adding even more international muscle is Marco Bezzecchi, who is sitting fourth in the Championship standings in one of the most consistent campaigns of his career.

Fresh off his maiden MotoGP victory at the Indonesian Motorcycle Grand Prix, rising star Fermin Aldeguer joins the line-up as the newest and

the grid.

Representing the next generation of homegrown talent, Senna Agius, currently inside the top nine of the Moto2™ Championship and continuing to make his mark in the category. In Moto $3^{\text{\tiny TM}}$, Joel Kelso, enjoying his strongest season to date, will be chasing a home podium, while Jacob Roulstone will be coming off the back of a career-best result at the Indonesian Grand Prix.

These up-and-coming Aussie riders will be soaking in the atmosphere and support from local fans, no doubt excited to see them hit the track across the weekend.

The Homecoming Ride will once again bring fans and riders shoulder to shoulder, as the convoy makes its way from San Remo through Cowes township and towards the circuit, where they will ride two laps of the iconic track. The popular ride is one of the unforgettable experiences that makes the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix one of the best events on the calendar.



Leading the convoy will be fan favourite and two-time MotoGP World Champion, Casey Stoner, who won the Phillip Island Grand Prix for six consecutive years from 2007 to 2012.



The Homecoming Ride will travel into Cowes on Coghlan Road, ride along Settlement Road before heading out on the Phillip Island Road to the Circuit.







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Action packed weekend

As well as the action on the track, there's plenty of entertainment for fans trackside, all across the weekend.

Lukey's Lawn

This is the circuit's entertainment hub, keeping the action going off-track.

Lukey's Lawn will host the Game Zone and Airtime FMX + BMX Stunt Show.

Airtime FMX is taking over Lukey's Spectacle, with a mind-boggling program of freestyle BMX and Motocross. Featuring some of the most experienced riders in the world, Airtime FMX is bringing gravity-defying, unmissable bike action. This is the most extreme off-track action – think sky-high and ride-or-die.

Motorbike Simulators

Easily the most popular MotoGP™ activation, the Motorbike Simulators are back in 2025. These are state-of-the-art, and the only MotoGP licensed simulators in Australia. Attracting fans from gates open to gates closed, they are located in Lukey's Lawn and will feature DJs.

Trackside Hill

The Hill hosts unbeatable views and a family-friendly social hub.

As the ultimate GA pitstop, Trackside Hill leaves the hustle and bustle behind for chill vibes and good times.

This year, the MotoGP™ Game Zone is getting a refresh,



There's plenty of entertainment for fans on and off the track, all weekend, including at Lukey's Lawn, the GP Expo and Trackside Hill.

set to excite fans and families. New and improved infrastructure will host themed games like arcade bikes and a reaction tester. There's even more fun out on the lawn, such as Grid Slide and Exhaust Toss, for attendees to try their hand at.

Island Straight

This precinct is for everything motorsport. Located next to the Gardner Straight and across from the Pit Lane, it's a racing haven for all ages.

GP Expo

At the GP Expo, fans can immerse themselves in the ultimate

rider's retreat, featuring the latest motorcycles from top manufacturers, cutting-edge riding gear, and must-have accessories.

Located in the vibrant Island Straight precinct, this free-entry zone is a hub for enthusiasts to explore, shop, and connect with the riding community. with a curated selection of premium brews from Lion and food options from Melbourne favourite Royal Stacks.

With live race coverage on super screens, and motorcycle arcade sim bikes, it's the perfect place to relax and soak up the electric atmosphere of race weekend.



Experience the thrill of a MotoGP ride on the Motorbike Simulators – the only MotoGP licensed simulators in the country.

Fan Forum – presented by Spokes

The Fan Forum is the ultimate destination to hear from MotoGP favourites. The stage will host Moto3, Moto2 and MotoGP personnel, with live Q&A's and rider activities

Hero walk

The Hero Walk gives fans the chance to get close to their favourite MotoGP stars.

Located on the rider's route to the MotoGP Paddock, the Hero Walk features rider appearances, live DJs and roving entertainers.

This is a ticketed section of

the site, where ticket proceeds go on to support Movember.

Helping change and save lives, Movember is paving the way for men's health on a global scale. Their efforts focus on medical research, mental health, prostate and testicular cancer.

The Hero Walk is sold out for 025.

Campground music

MotoGP campers have the added bonus of live campground music on the Friday and Saturday night. Cover bands will showcase the classics, giving the campgrounds the best vibes on the island.



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@pinosphillipisland tag and share your Moto GP Fun!









Casey Stoner, two-time MotoGP World Champion, who conquered the Philip Island Grand Prix Circuit six consecutive years in a row, will return to the circuit riding a Honda Fireblade, during the 2025 MotoGP, in a never before seen display with pilot Matt Hall.



Matt Hall, a former RAAF top gun fighter pilot and the world's most successful air racing pilot in the modern era, will command the skies over the Phillip Island Circuit in his Red Bull aerobatic plane,

Stoner and Hall in world class display of speed

The Phillip Island Grand Prix two-time MotoGP World Cham-Circuit is set to host a neverseen-before performance of two Australian icons, MotoGP(TM) Legend Casey Stoner and Red Bull Air Race World Champion Matt Hall, as they share the spotlight in an extraordinary display of skill, speed and talent.

Stoner and Hall are both masters of their own craft. Stoner, pion, who famously conquered the Philip Island Grand Prix Circuit six consecutive years in a row, will return to the circuit riding a Honda Fireblade, showcasing the power and precision that made him a legend of the sport.

Overhead, Hall, a former RAAF top gun fighter pilot and the world's most successful air

racing pilot in the modern era, will command the skies in his Red Bull aerobatic plane. Hall is renowned for courageous manoeuvres at blistering speed, performed just metres above the ground.

"Joining an already unmissable on-track line-up, this air and track performance by Matt Hall and Casey Stoner will be a showstopper for fans," said Australian Grand Prix Corporation Division Manager – Motorsport, David Corrigan.

"We are so excited by the chance to celebrate two Australian World Champions and their crafts with this unique display, adding to the atmosphere of the Australian Motorcycle Grand

Will Hall's aerial power steal the show, or will Stoner and his skill on the track dominate the stage? Together they will deliver a spectacle that celebrates the speed and bravery of each sport.

This extraordinary display will take place on Saturday and Sunday (October 18 and 19) at the Liqui Moly Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix 2025.





Organisers Janet, Erena and Glenys are among the 36-strong team of volunteers preparing breakfasts at the St Philip's Hall over the MotoGP weekend.



The MotoGP breakfast at St Philip's Hall provides a hearty homestyle cooked breakfast, as well as juice, cereal, coffee and tea, for just \$25 a head, from 7am - 10.30am.

Race in for a brilliant breakfast

For more than three decades, members of St Philip's Anglican church have been serving up delicious and hearty breakfasts during the four days of the MotoGP.

The event aims to provide a welcoming place to come and enjoy a homestyle breakfast at an affordable price. This year the price of a full breakfast is

Whilst waiting for your cooked breakfast, you can enjoy cereal, porridge, fruit juices, coffee and tea. You can then follow up with eggs, bacon, sausages and baked beans to fuel yourself for a day of action at the track.

The dedicated team of volunteers starts at 6.30am in the morning to get ready to serve a hearty breakfast from 7am to 10.30am.

The kitchen team are the heart of the event and work every morning making sure meals are served quickly.

This year, the team has grown to 36, expecting to prepare

over 350 meals across the four mornings.

To do that, they'll be using 70 dozen eggs, 25kg bacon, 35kg sausages, 20kg baked beans and 20kg tomatoes.

The organisers, Erena, Glenys and Janet, are well prepared for the expected influx to the church hall.

The hall is decorated with checkered flags and tablecloths, while the team of volunteers look smart in the new checkered aprons to fit the racing theme.

"This breakfast is not just for motorcycle enthusiasts. Anybody can come along," said Erena.

"The event successfully brings together a diverse group of people. It fosters a sense of unity and community spirit.

"Many interesting conversations are had with visitors from far and wide. We enjoy seeing familiar faces from previous years and welcome newcomers

"As one of our major fundrais-

ers this event raises funds for work on the parish hall. The hall is in central Cowes and used by many in the local community for regular or one-off events.

'The hall is currently being repainted and floor sanded so we look forward to welcoming everyone again," she said.

Parking is available for motorcycles along the driveway with a space allocated inside for helmets and jackets.

St Philip's Hall, 102 Thompson Avenue, Cowes.

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Locals know the Judith Wright tradition. Coastal Stays continues the legacy now with dedicated offices in San Remo, Wonthaggi & Inverloch, helping property owners attract more guests by marketing & cross promotion of Phillip Island homes to visitors exploring the wider Bass Coast region.





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Back where it all began

In a full circle moment for the historic category that first supported the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix in 1989, the Superbike Masters return to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit this weekend.

Representing the golden era of Superbike racing, these iconic machines from the 1980s and 90s have been preserved in their original racing condition and showcase an era that laid the foundation for modern MotoGP™ legends, including Mick Doohan, Chris Vermeulen and Kevin Magee.

Setting the stage for MotoGP as we know it today, these bikes remain in their authentic racing condition and promise to captivate with a distinctive roar that's sure to turn heads across the circuit. A powerful nod to the pinnacle of racing in their time.

"These legendary bikes, representing the golden era of racing are sure to add a whole new layer of excitement to an already action-packed weekend," said Australian Grand Prix Corporation Division Manager - Motorsport, David Corrigan.

Complementing an already thrilling on-track line-up, with the schedule featuring talented Australians in every category, the Superbike Masters will bring a flair of history and legacy to the circuit, offering fans a chance to witness the raw power of these iconic machines and the precision required to master



In a full circle moment for the historic category that first supported the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix in 1989, the Superbike Masters return to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit for this year's MotoGP™.

The three Superbike Masters races at Phillip Island will cater to Period 6 (1983-1990) and Period 7 (1991-1999) machines under Motorcycling Australia (MA) rules and regulations, with the competition to be just as cutthroat as it was when they first graced Australian racetracks.

Motorcycling Australia Chief Executive Officer, Peter Doyle said Superbikes Masters is spectacular racing, with "the sheer diversity of machinery" another drawcard.

"A large chunk of the riders are also the same ones who competed at the elite level in Australia in the 1980s and 1990s, but their competitive instincts are still as strong as ever,' he said.

"I can't wait to see the Superbike Masters riders putting on a show at Phillip Island."

With the Superbike Masters races at Phillip Island spanning two decades, a huge variety of makes and models will be on the grid - representing a history lesson for some and a flood of memories for others.

Step back in time and soak up the glory of these historical machines, proudly on display National Support



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Local volunteers from the Phillip Island SES unit will be at Lukey Heights all weekend during this year's Moto GP, with information about emergency preparedness, plus free activities for the kids.

SES on track for GP

Volunteers from the Phillip Island SES unit will have a community education stand at this year's Moto GP.

You'll find the SES at Lukey Heights all weekend, with displays, free emergency preparedness information, kids' giveaways and the opportunity to hear all about volunteering with VICSES.

And there's plenty of activities for the kids, including:

- storm snakes and ladders game • miniature kids play SES truck/
- miniature kids storm house emergency repairs
- · miniature kids house sandbagging
- kids colouring

Stop by and chat with one of the friendly volunteers who would be happy to answer any questions you may have about joining VICSES, and ways you can get involved.

Find out more about the important work of our SES units, visit www.ses.vic.gov.au

Traffic tips during this year's GP

Homecoming Ride

On Thursday October 16, the Homecoming Ride leaves San Remo at approximately 11am. The route will see the cavalcade of bikes travel into Cowes on Coghlan Road, ride along Settlement Road before heading out on Phillip Island Road to the Circuit.

With over 400 hundred bikes taking part, motorists can expect some delays. The ride is scheduled to finish by 12.30pm.

One-way-in operation

There will be one-way-in operation on Saturday October 18 and Sunday October 19, from approximately 7.30am to 12.30pm, on Phillip Island Road between Back Beach Road and the Phillip Island Circuit.

Resident access Smiths Beach: Residents should use Smiths Beach Road (north) to Phillip Island Road to avoid heavy event traffic. Back Beach Road can still be used in the one-way direction, but delays are likely.

Sunset Strip: Residents must enter/exit via Bermagui Crescent onto Phillip Island Road. Service road access to Back Beach Road will be closed during one-way operations.

Blue Line Operation (Sunday only)

The Blue Line will be in operation on Sunday October 19, 2.30pm to 7pm, on Phillip Island Road between Back Beach Road and the Bass Highway merge.

The blueline provides an additional outbound lane by utilising the emergency

Post-event delays

Monday morning, October 20, delays are expected along Phillip Island Tourist Road between Cowes and the Bass Highway.

For more information: www.motogp.com.au/ event/community

Shuttle bus

Shuttle buses are operating to the track across the week-

Gate 1 Bus Interchange: Services running from Cowes Central, Cowes West, San Remo and Cape Woolamai

Gate 3 Entrance: Rhyll, Silverleaves, Cape Paterson, Inverloch

At night, shuttle buses will operation from the Circuit camping ground to central Cowes.

Timetable details: www. southcoastbus.com.au/time-



Changed traffic conditions



Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix 2025

Expect delays to and from Phillip Island from Thursday 16 to Monday 20 October.

Traffic restrictions will apply on several roads. Please follow signs and drive to the conditions.

Thursday 16 October - The Homecoming Ride will see hundreds of motorcyclists travel from San Remo to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit. Expect delays on key routes.

Saturday 18 October - The Phillip Island Community GP Ride will bring riders from Caldermeade to Phillip Island. Be aware of increased traffic.

Sunday 19 October - The blue line road marking system will be in place to help vehicles leave Phillip Island safely and efficiently. It divides the Melbourne-bound lane into two by utilising the emergency lane.

Keep an eye out for changed traffic conditions, plan ahead and allow



Plan ahead, Scan or visit transport.vic.gov.au







A timetabled shuttle bus service will operate to and from the event all day, This covers four routes which includes Cowes Central, Cowes West/Ventnor, San Remo to GATE 1 and Rhyll/Silverleaves to GATE 1 connecting with Cowes Central Service. Service operates 8am to 6pm.

To access the timetables online go to: www.southcoastbus.com.au/timetable Further information contact South Coast Bus 5951 4600.

TICKET COST: \$18

We would like to wish all the riders good luck in the 2025 MOTO GP!

NEWSAGENCY



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Cowes comes alive with entertainment

The MotoGP™ Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix 2025 will bring tens of thousands of fans to the island for three days of racing, live music and entertainment.

The Cowes Entertainment Precinct transforms Thompson Avenue into a hub of music and fun. As the biggest sporting event in regional Victoria, the $MotoGP^{TM}$ is expected to attract up to 100,000 attendees over the three days.

"Phillip Island is the place to be this October, and the MotoGP is the headline event of Bass Coast Shire Council's events program," said Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead.

"The event injects millions into our economy, supports local jobs and hospitality, and showcases Phillip Island on the international stage.

"Phillip Island has proudly hosted the Australian MotoGP for nearly 30 years at the Grand Prix Circuit, and the celebrations spill into Cowes with our family-friendly street party. Last year, the Cowes MotoGP Entertainment Precinct drew over 6000 people and this year we're ready to make it even big-

Thompson Avenue in Cowes will remain the entertainment hub and will be filled with live music and entertainment with the BMW Superscreen showing race footage, rider interviews and movies throughout the weekend to keep the party go-

Highlights include perfor-



Described as a family-friendly street party, last year the MotoGP Entertainment Precinct drew over 6000 people.

mances from Nashville's World on Tour, Rehash Cover Band and Oz Rock Express, as well as local performers Imogen Price and Mark Howard.

If you're heading into Cowes

after a day on the track, just remember road closures will be in effect from Thursday October 16, at 7am to Monday October 20, at Midday.

closed from Chapel Street to The Esplanade and The Esplanade closed from Warley Avenue to Bass Avenue

, at Midday.

Only motorcycle parking
Thompson Avenue will be will be available along Thomp-

son Avenue, creating a familyfriendly MotoGP™ experience in Cowes.

For more information visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/









Celebrate your Mo!

The Official Charity Partner of this year's Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix is Movember. The partnership will see the beloved charity bring a unique and impactful experience to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, in the second year of a two-year partnership.

Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health on a global scale, with a focus on prevention, early intervention, and health promotion. Since 2003, the charity has created a men's health movement, funding men's health projects around the world, challenging the status quo, shaking up men's health research, and transforming the way health services reach and support men.

Whether fans are rocking a handlebar, a chevron, or just starting their moustache journey, it's the perfect opportunity to join forces and celebrate your Mo, strike up a conversation and display your commitment to an important cause.

"This partnership with Movember embodies our commitment to supporting important causes and enhancing the fan experience," an Australian Grand Prix Corporation spokesperson said.

"We look forward to seeing our community come together to support men's health while enjoying the thrilling world of MotoGP"

Proceeds of the sold-out Hero Walk tickets will help fuel Movember's game-changing work



Movember is the official charity partner of this year's Australian Motorcycle

in men's mental health, contributing to their innovative medical research, and ground-breaking tests and treatments for prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

Movember Director of Partnership and New Business Kieran Ryan said they were thrilled to join forces with the Australian Grand Prix Corporation.

"This partnership provides an incredible platform to continue our work in raising the profile of men's health by sparking important conversations and raising vital funds to support Movember in delivering cancer research and survivorship programs, community-focused mental health programs and supporting men

when they need it most."

The Movember Foundation has funded over 1320 men's health programs globally. It has invested \$100 million into the Movember Institute of Men's Health.

Research by Peter Mac, partfunded by Movember has led to a break-through in the treatment of early-stage prostate cancer. The study found a targeted therapy known for treating latestage prostate cancer can also dramatically improve outcomes for patients in earlier stages of the disease.

Find out more about the work of the Movember foundation or make a donation at au.movember.com

Four top spots

Marc Marquez

93

Ducati

POSITION POINTS **545**



Alex Marquez

73

BK8 Gresini

de la companya de la

2 362



Francesco Bagnaia

63

Ducati

3 274



Marco Bezzecchi

72

Aprilia

POSITION POINTS





Decades-long love affair with motorsports

Phillip Island's enduring love affair with the MotoGP started in 1989, but the history of motorsport on the island dates back to the 1920s.

In the modern era, the Motorcycle GP has been held at the Phillip Island Circuit since 1997, also hosting the World Superbikes and numerous motorsport events. Motorcycle competitors now consider it the best circuit in the world.

But it was a decision in 1927 by the Victorian Light Car Racing Club to hold a long-distance race that was the start of motorsports on the island.

The club considered Phillip Island to be the ideal place for the race. It was self-contained, its roads carried no through traffic, and as a tourism destination, accommodation for large crowds was available.

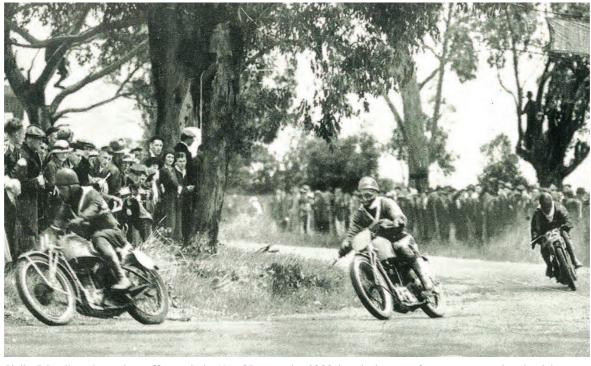
A 6.5 mile (10 kilometre) square circuit using the island's existing narrow and dusty roads was mapped out, starting and finishing at Heaven Corner (now Ventnor Road and Berrys Beach Road corner). travelling clockwise east to Young and Jacksons Corner - now Ventnor Road and Thompson Avenue corner; heading south to Gentle Annie Corner (now Gap Road and Ventnor Beach Road corner); then heading west through The Needle's Eye cutting (a narrow section of what is now Ventnor Beach Road); continuing west to Hell Corner (what is now Ventnor Beach Road and Berrys Beach Road corner); heading north to the finish line.

The first race date was set for March 28, 1928. Spectators arrived in their thousands by ferry and on the San Remo-Newhaven punt to watch 17 competitors complete the 101-mile (162 kilo-

The winner over the 16 laps was Arthur Waite driving an Austin 7. The race proved to be hugely popular. Every available bed on Phillip Island was rented out, and if a bed was not available, visitors simply camped out.

That 1928 car race is now acknowledged as Australia's first Grand Prix.

However, the club was informed after the 1929 event, that



Phillip Island's enduring love affair with the MotoGP started in 1989, but the history of motorsport on the island dates back to the 1920s.

racing on the King's Highway was against the law.

This hiccup was resolved when the Motor Car Act was successfully amended in 1930, allowing roads to be closed for the purpose of motor racing.

A bridge onto the island was another 10 years away, so drivers, mechanics, spectators and vehicles all arrived by ferry or punt. This added to the general festivity and excitement which surrounded all race weekends.

The following seven years saw the circuit grow in popularity and fame, becoming the best-known motor racing venue in the southern hemisphere at that time.

Interstate entries poured in annually for the Australian Grand Prix for cars, and also for the Australian Tourist Trophy, the motorcycling equivalent.

It was an exciting time for Phillip Island - but it was also short-lived.

Lack of visibility because of dust was a growing, dangerous and continuous problem, which eventually led to the circuit being abandoned by the Light Car

Sealing the route was economically impossible for the small local shire.

By 1938 it was clear the circuit could not keep pace with the demands of higher speeds, and the Australian Grand Prix for that year was scheduled for Bathurst. The circuit's last major car event was a 1938 Cup Day Meeting.

Circuit secured

After World War II, interest in motorsports rekindled and the search began for a suitable property to build a circuit on the island.

By 1951, a group of businessmen found and secured an ideal 120-hectare site for £12,500.

The Phillip Island Auto Racing Club (PIARC) formed in 1952 and called for 7000 subscriptions of £10 each to buy and develop the site.

A circuit was designed and built (with advice from the Zandvoort track in Holland, as well as leading racing car drivers) and throughout the 50s, 60s and 70s, it hosted an array of motor races, including the first endurance race in 1960 - the Arm-

In 1962, the Armstrong 500 resulted in extreme damage to the racetrack, with PIARC unable to afford the expensive repairs required to the bitumen surface. As a result, the track sat idle for two years, with PIARC eventually selling the property.

Len Lukey, founder of the famous Lukey Muffler brand agreed to purchase the property on the condition that car racing would be revived. He would develop the property while PIARC would undertake repairs to the track surface, and agree to run four events annually for

Following extensive repairs, the circuit reopened for racing in 1967 and was used by PIARC and the Hartwell Motorcycle Club until Len Lukey's death in

Thanks to Lukey's timely intervention and investment, the damaged race track had been given new life. His contribution to motor racing on Phillip Island is commemorated in the modern era through the naming of turn nine – the highest elevation over the circuit - to Lukey Heights.

However, from the mid to late 70s, the track again deteriorated, and racing declined on the

It wasn't until the Cameron family purchased the land in 1978 that Phillip Island's love affair with MotoĠP really began.

"Initially, we were looking at it in terms of farming. It was a nice farming property that included the old circuit, which was by then in a total state of disrepair," explained former circuit managing director Fergus Cameron.

"We were astonished by the number of people who came to us and asked when we were going to restart motorsport on the island.

"Then an opportunity came up to bid for the rights to hold the Australian Motorcycle GP as part of the world championship."

They secured the rights to the 1989 event, and the rest, as they say, is history.

After the initial event, the bikes returned in 1990 before heading north to Eastern Creek in NSW. By 1997 the Motorcycle GP was back and, apart from during the two years at the height of the Covid pandemic, has remained at Phillip Island ever since.

The circuit has also hosted more Superbike races than anywhere in the world and has been home to the World Superbikes event every year since 1990 (bar 1993 and the Covid pandemic

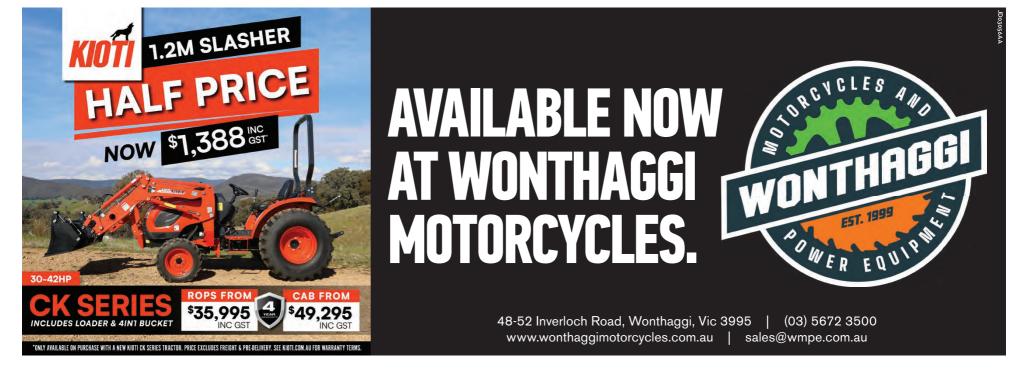
Fergus said the men who designed the track back in 1952 absolutely got it right.

"Most of the circuits today are computer designed and technically correct, but they are very stop/go circuits.

"Phillip Island is a very, very fast circuit. In fact, for motorcycles it has the fastest average speed in the world.

"In motorcycle sports, the riders consider it the best in the world."

An extract from "Once upon an island the early days of Phillip Island". On sale at Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser, 60 Chapel Street, Cowes, Turn the Page bookshop and Visitor Information Centres. RRP: \$45.00.



Join the GP community

The annual Community GP Run returns this year, travelling to Phillip Island from Caldermeade Farm on Saturday October 18.

Registration is essential. Numbers will be capped so register online at eventbrite.com.au (Phillip Island Community GP Run) to avoid disappointment.

Several hundred riders are expected to take part. The ride, organised by Dead 4 Eva Designs and Tattoos, Trust No One SMC and Phillip Island Toy Run, will leave from Caldermeade Farm, 4385 South Gippsland Highway, Caldermeade, with stands up at 11am.

Everyone is encouraged to arrive early at Caldermeade Farm, where doors open at 8am. Enjoy friendly hospitality and a special GP Breakfast of a brekkie roll and coffee. The full cafe will open at 9am for those that want to order something more substantial.

The ride will continue along the highway through to the island with the option of heading off at the roundabout to the track in time for the Moto3 qualifying and plenty of time for the remaining afternoon's races.

Alternatively, make a day of it and ride into Cowes and head to the entertainment precinct at the bottom of Thompson Avenue, which is open from 10am.

Everyone is welcome to join the Community GP run, but all bikes must be legal, roadworthy, registered and riders must have a valid licence.



The annual Community GP Run returns this year, travelling to Phillip Island from Caldermeade Farm on Saturday October 18, departing at 11am.

"Caldermeade Farm has organised a traffic management plan, there will be police with us on the day, and cars will be placed throughout the ride," organisers advised.

"Learner riders will be placed together within the pack for safety purposes. There will be a tail car and experienced riders in front of the car to support slower riders.

"Remember, this is not a race. Your safety and the safety of other riders is the utmost priority.

"We would just love your company and to go on a great ride," the spokesperson said.

The riders will head off at 11am and expect to arrive in San Remo around 11.35pm and be in Cowes by 12pm. Those heading

to the track should arrive from 11.55am onwards.

As this is a community and rider organised event, all riders ride at their own risk.

"Organisers will not be held accountable or liable for any loss or injury incurred," said a ride spokesperson, who stressed the MotoGP Corporation and its affiliates are in no way associated with the event.

Ride organiser Dead 4 Eva Designs is a locally owned and operated family business, which also includes Dead4eva Tattooing incorporating a tattoo studio, a piercing specialist, scooter

store and streetwear. Follow the Phillip Island Community GP Run 2024 Facebook page for details.



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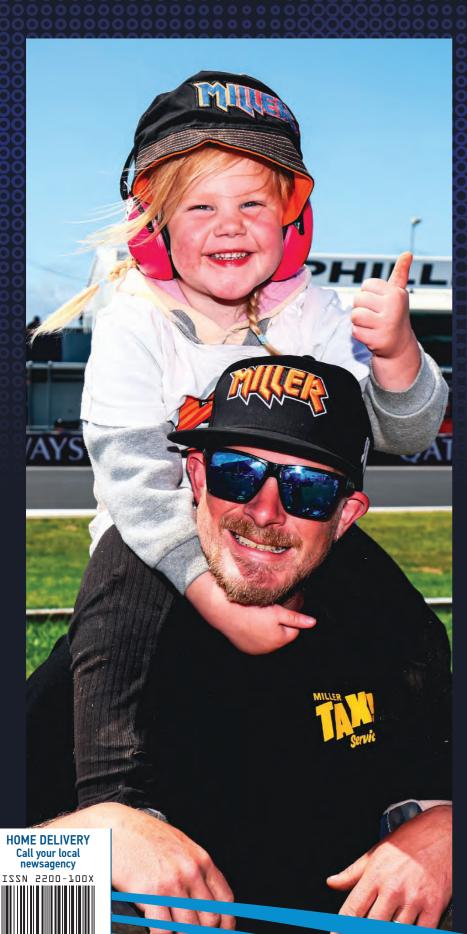




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Six-year-old Tahlyn had a lesson in firefighting from CFA volunteer Wayne Carter, who has been a volunteer for six years, at the Get Fire Ready Open Day on Saturday. More details on page 19.

Island's pool officially scuttled

COUNCIL

It's official: a community pool for Phillip Island is off the agenda. For now.

Bass Coast Shire councillors at this week's meeting are expected to vote in support of the amended Bass Coast Shire Aquatic Strategy, which has Wonthaggi's pool upgrade as the priority.

The strategy states planning and advocacy for Phillip Island will start following completion of the Wonthaggi redevelopment.

"Rather than pursuing the simultaneous construction of multiple facilities, council will adopt a prioritised, staged delivery model," the strategy states.

"This approach focuses resources on the current centre as a first step, addresses immediate service and asset needs and ensures best value in the allocation of capital resources."

The original strategy was released in 2015, which supported a two-pool strategy - both Wonfollowed in 2021 by feasibility studies supporting two pools.

The 2025 amendment re-focuses attention, saying Wonthaggi has Bass Coast's only existing pool, which is nearing the end of its life and needs about \$10 million to keep it open.

"As the only aquatic centre serving the Bass Coast Shire, it is essential to keep this facility open to meet community needs.

"Deferring its redevelopment to pursue both centres concurrently presents risks to service failure and sudden closure, leaving the shire without a functioning aquatic facility.'

The 2025/26 budget allocates \$500,000 to start the detailed designs of the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

The strategy states there are a range of risks in continuing to pursue a two-pool strategy.

Since 2015, the Wonthaggi North East Precinct Structure Plan has been gazetted, altering the future population of Wonthaggi, with 5000 new homes or about 2,000 new residents planned.

In addition, advocacy to state and federal governments for two-pools has "failed to achieve

"During advocacy discussions, council was provided feedback to prioritise a single pool for initial delivery," the strategy states.

"Continued pursuit of two centres simultaneously does not align with state or federal funding feedback.

"Continuing advocacy in this manner presents a high risk of securing no funding, delaying both projects indefinitely.

"Persisting with a two-pool concurrent delivery strategy against the advice of funding bodies undermines council's advocacy credibility and weakens council's ability to secure external investment.'

Furthermore, funding two pools would put "unsustainable" pressure on shire budgets and increase "long-term debt exposure".

Background

Residents have been waiting more than three decades for a community pool.

Successive pool committees and residents have worked to establish an aquatic centre on Phillip Island, since the first pool committee was formed in 1991.

vember 2023 the Ph lip Island Aquatic Centre Fund (PIACF) proposed Bass Coast Shire Council should consider closing Wonthaggi's existing have a "district level" 25m x 8

pool and revising the proposed new Cowes aquatic centre to be profit-making.

PIACF at the time was responding to analysis of Victorian councils, which showed they were struggling with the complexities of building large, costly and environmentally damaging aquatic centres.

The analysis, by The Age newspaper, stated councils were "walking into a minefield" when embarking on large-scale pool developments, arguing needed to be open to cost-saving designs, offering a range of services to generate council income.

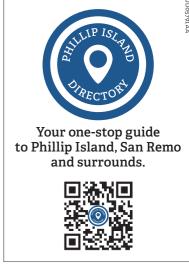
The analysis showed Yarra Ranges Council had decided to close its 50-year-old Kilsyth pool and was looking for funding for a new aquatic centre.

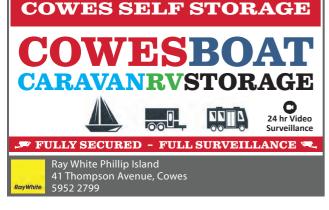
The \$50 million Rosebud Aquatic Centre opened in 2021 and uses natural gas boilers to heat its pool, with energy bills estimated to be in the millions, despite the facility offsetting e costs with rooftop sol

In 2021 a Bass Coast Shire study recommended Cowes lane competition pool, combined learn-to-swim and hydrotherapy area, and 24-hour gym, at a cost of \$45.7 million.

The study also recommended a \$41 million new pool for Wonthaggi: 25m x 10 lanes, with a larger gym, new spa and sauna.

PIACF secretary Peter Mc-Mahon said they had released their own report showing the Cowes pool could be profit-making with accommodation and a criterium cycle track.











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Sat/Oct18

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Sun/Oct19

Mon/Oct20

Tue/Oct21

Couple narrowly escape tree crush

ACCIDENT

A driver and passenger were lucky to escape unharmed last week when the rental truck cabin in which they were driving through Silverleaves was crushed by a falling branch.

Witnesses said if the truck had been travelling a "fraction" faster, the occupants would have been seriously injured.

Police, paramedics, fire crews and SES all attended the incident last Tuesday afternoon in Martin Street.

According to resident John Matthews, the tree branch fell from a gum on his property just as the rental van was driving past.

"The couple in the vehicle were probably in their 60s and had rented it to move furniture," John said.

"The passenger came out of the cabin rubbing her head. The roof came down on her head but not so far as to injure her.

"If it was a fraction later, the cabin would have been entirely squashed."

He called Triple Zero and then rang Bass Coast Shire Council as he said about three months ago he had alerted them to the risky tree branches on his nature strip.

"I could see the dead branches. The branches weren't small; they were the size of an actual tree.

"About three months ago they came and inspected the nature strip, removed one whole tree and said they would be back the next week to deal with the other one.

"They never came back and that's the branch that just dropped on the van."

John said council officers inspected the tree last Wednesday and returned Friday to clear the site, with the tree branch blocking access to John's home entry.



Police, paramedics, fire crews and SES all attended the incident, when the cabin of a rental truck was crushed by a falling branch in Silverleaves

He said his wife Sally had just returned home and was getting out of her car when the branch fell, also narrowly missing her.

'It's frustrating the shire has left it so long to deal with.

"I love trees but there comes a time where they have to be managed."

An Ambulance Victoria spokesperson said they were called to an incident in Silverleaves around 1.10pm.

'Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedics were on scene. No emergency treatment or transport to hospital was required," the spokesperson



Witnesses said the passenger of this rental truck emerged out of the cabin rubbing her head: "The roof came down on her head but not so far as to injure her," the witness said.

BRIEFS

Cowes accident

Police, ambulance and the SES responded to a single car accident at 1.50am on Thursday, October 9 at the corner of Phillip Island Ventnor roads in Cowes.

18

SES members assisted in extracting the driver of the vehicle, who was airlifted by helicopter to hospital for treatment.

Cigarettes and alcohol stolen

Two people were arrested following a series of alleged commercial burglaries across the Bass Coast last week, where almost \$100,000 worth of cigarettes and alcohol were allegedly stolen.

It's alleged the duo targeted multiple service stations and grocery stores between October 6 and 8, using a stolen vehicle.

None of the thefts were on Phillip Island, but approximately \$72,000 worth of alcohol and cigarettes were stolen from a supermarket and bottle shop in Inverloch.

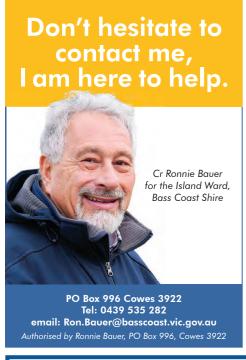
The other incidents were at Tarwin Lower, Fish Creek and Mirboo North.

The incidents were investigated by Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit detectives, with support from Leongatha, Korumburra and Wonthaggi.

A 22-year-old Leongatha man was charged with handling stolen goods, possessing cocaine, a controlled weapon and proceeds of crime. He was bailed to appear at Korumburra Magistrates Court on December 11.

A 16-year-old boy from the Bass Coast area was charged with theft of motor vehicle, theft, driving disqualified, and handling stolen goods. He was bailed to appear at a children's court at a later date.

It is expected further charges will be laid. Police have also recovered a stolen vehicle which was allegedly used during the incidents. All allegedly stolen items have since been seized by police and returned to the affected stores.





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DAIKIN

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 | THE ADVERTISER 3



After all three Island Ward councillors lobbied hard to develop the future Phillip Island recreation reserve after last year's elections, councillors finally last week voted for the Council Plan, which prioritises a functional layout for the

Councillors start making their legacy

COUNCIL

A "functional layout" for the future Phillip Island recreation reserve and detailed designs for Wonthaggi's pool upgrade are among the 12-month priorities for Bass Coast Shire Council after councillors last week voted in support of three key plans.

With a bumper October agenda, there are two council meetings this month, with another this Wednesday.

At last week's meeting councillors approved the Community Vision 2045, Council Plan 2025 – 2029 and Annual Action Plan 2025 - 2026, which - a year after they were voted in – finally sets in stone their planned legacy projects, setting the direction for the next four years.

There were three rounds of consultation on the plans, including in August this year, as well as engagement with a 45-member community panel, described by the council as "one of the most comprehensive community engagement proj-

ects Bass Coast has ever undertaken".

Community feedback in August included: "a need to balance tourism with residents' quality of life", a "greater focus and funding on core services" such as roads, footpaths and housing, as well as greater support on coastal erosion, and support for small business, shops, trades and services and agriculture.

Council officers responded these themes were captured in the 21 priorities of the Council Plan, with the next tier of planning including a "more specific focus".

Mayor Rochelle Halstead told the meeting the plans in the next 12 months would focus on achieving layout of the island's recreation reserve, designs for Wonthaggi's pool upgrade, a review of the rating system, a mid-term review of the climate change action plan and a review of the Bass Coast planning

"We will continue to find ways to make it easier and simpler for

customers to engage with us," Cr Halstead said.

"Like all local government areas, we face real challenges: rising costs, growing community expectations and increasing financial pressures."

Cr Tracey Bell said she looked forward to the Phillip Island recreation reserve's layout "so we're shovel-ready when all those grants come in".

She said the community panel identified housing as a priority "and I'm glad to see an action to develop partnerships with housing providers as we advocate to increase affordable housing".

Cr Mat Morgan said the plans reflected the "distilled voice of our community".

"It's about where we want Bass Coast to be in 20 years' time," Cr Morgan said.

"It compels us to think beyond election cycles and to plan for intergenerational outcomes.'

Details: www.basscoast.vic. gov.au/towardsabetterbass-



Island Ward councillors Tim O'Brien, Tracey Bell and Ronnie Bauer, were sworn into council about a year ago.

A year on, how do Island councillors rate?

COUNCIL

Island Ward councillors will push for more red bin collections and accelerated development of the proposed Cowes sports hub in their second year of the coun-

A year into the job, following last October's local government elections, the three councillors have spoken to the Advertiser, sharing their frustrations, successes and failures, as well as their 2026 ambitions.

One of the surprising admissions - compared to the fractious previous group - is the councillors admit all nine representatives "work so well together", respectfully finding compromise.

The two new councillors -Tim O'Brien and Tracey Bell say their greatest surprise is the number of constraints on council, with local communities having a "limited" ability to "shape their own future".

And, unfortunately, one of the "tough" surprises of the job for Cr Bell, has been "constant" criticism, "often personal".

Both Crs Bauer and O'Brien said with the kerbside waste contract soon up for renewal, they would lobby for changes.

"It is my fervent hope the three extra red bin pick-ups and a yearly hard rubbish pick will be negotiated as part of the contract," said Cr Bauer, who has long fought for increased red bin

collections over summer.

"That would be the cleanest solution to the problem as the extra pickup would not be a variation to the contract but part of the contract."

Cr O'Brien said he would advocate for a "user pays" red bin levy for short term rental properties "to pay in full for an additional service for these properties over holiday periods".

He said Island Ward councillors would be "be all over" the proposed Phillip Island Recreation Reserve in the next three

Cr Bell agreed. "This longpromised project is essential for our growing community," she

"I'll continue pushing for progress and transparency as we move toward delivery."

Cr Bauer added he hoped the land earmarked for the reserve - on the corner of Ventnor Road and Phillip Island Road - was "rezoned as soon as stage one is finished", which will help progress a community pool.

"Even though a pool is not in council's long-term plan, I have managed to keep the aquatic centre alive with money being allocated to the project in the "future plan". That way it is shovel ready when the miracle occurs," he explained.

Cr Bauer said he would advocate for a shared footpath along

Continued page 9

Smiths Beach power boosted

ENERGY

Last Wednesday, AusNet services installed a pole-top battery in Smiths Beach, to help provide to houses and businesses on the island.

The battery installed in Barramundi Avenue, is a way to store excess energy generated by local rooftop solar panels.

"This stored energy is then distributed across the community in high demand periods, such as during the evening and in summer," an AusNet spokesperson said.

"Pole-top batteries benefit everyone in the area, regardless of whether you have solar panels on your property."

Each pole top battery includes two pole-mounted cabinets with a 40kVA/85kWh battery storage system. These units are roughly

the size of a mini-fridge and can store and release energy when needed. Funding for the poletop battery is part of the government's 100 Neighbourhood "reliable and sustainable" power Batteries program, "to improve energy reliability, provide energy storage capacity for locally generated solar power, increase access to renewable energy and help lower electricity bills'

The seven neighbourhood batteries on Phillip Island were funded under the same program.

Neighbourhood batteries

Six of the new neighbourhood batteries were turned on in September this year, with the final battery, located at Berninneit, yet to be fully installed.

The neighbourhood batteries will provide a combined 900kw/1845kWh of energy storage capacity. The six batteries are located at Seagrass Avenue (205 kWh), Kembla Road (410 kWh), Goodwood Drive (410 kWh) and Katherine Circuit (205 kWh) in Cowes, Hallway Drive in Wimbledon Heights (205 kWh) and the council depot in Settlement Road (205 kWh).

The battery at Berninneit in Cowes (205 kWh) is expected to be operational by late 2025 or early 2026.

Unlike the other six batteries, it will be "behind the meter", which means it will be able to generate power during power outages, providing an emergency centre for charging devices.

For more information on pole top batteries, visit: www.ausnetservices.com.au/projects-andinnovation/current-projects/ pole-top-battery-program

For information on neighbourhood batteries: mondo.com.au/projects/phillipisland



Last Wednesday, AusNet services installed a pole-top battery in Smiths Beach, to help provide "reliable and sustainable" power to houses and businesses on the island.



Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale and Kerryn Ladell (PICAL Assistant Centre Manager) at the launch of the Bass Coast Emergency Management Dashboard, and the Energy Resilient Community Hubs network.



From Victoria Police, Acting Senior Sergeant Bass Coast Cluster Adrian Condron and MICA Paramedic and Bass Coast Senior Team Manager Duncan Roney. More photos at pisra.com.au

Emergency resilience in focus

Emergency services, council, community groups and other agencies gathered last week for the formal launch of the Bass Coast Emergency Management Dashboard, and the **Energy Resilient Community** Hubs network at the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL).

The Energy Resilient Community Hubs are able to provide power during outages and will act as community safe spaces during emergencies. There are currently 10 operating across the shire.

The Emergency Management Dashboard collates emergency information and services into one site, providing residents and agencies with reliable information and planning resources during emergencies.

Island Ward councillor Tim O'Brien opened the proceedings, highlighting the importance of the work being done.

"These are critical partnerships for responding to emergencies and for recovery."

Cr O'Brien said the projects are a partnership between council, emergency services, AusNet, the government and the community.

about thinking ahead, about how prepared we are as a community to respond to emergency events.

'We know local communities are the first responders. A prepared and connect-

ed community will respond more effectively and recover more quickly."

Cr O'Brien said the Energy Resilient Community Hubs - located in Cowes (PICAL), Newhaven (Visitor Information Centre), Cape Paterson, Grantville, Glen Alvie, Kernot, Wonthaggi, Kilcunda, Corinella and Coronet Bay – would provide a focal point for local communities and safe places in emergencies.

The real value is in building shared responsibility and community," he said.

Operating alongside the community centres, the new Emergency Management Dashboard "provides reliable information and resources during an emer-

He said the dashboard was created in response to feedback from community workshops which showed "access to clear, trusted information" was a top priority.

Resilience

The launch was attended by representatives from Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC), Ambulance Victoria, Victoria Police, CFA and AusNet, as well as Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale and various community groups.

PICAL Centre Manager Kerryn Ladell spoke of her experience at the Corinella and District Community Centre during the storms in February 2024 which saw

most of the area without power for three days.

"We were able to open our doors, and stay open longer. We learned the centre was not just a place to come to charge batteries and get food. It was all that and more," she said.

With little to no communication, no power and no access to petrol, Kerryn said the community centre soon became a central gathering place.

"On the first day, people came in, charged their phones and kept to themselves," she explained.

"By day three, we had created a space to come and to connect, and not be isolated."

She said it was a powerful reminder of the ability of centres like PICAL to give back to the community during emergencies.

PICAL now has solar panels and a battery that exist "behind the metre", meaning it will have power, and can act as a hub, in times of emergency.

Kerryn said having a network of similar spaces provided resilience for the com-

Council said the sites for the new hubs were carefully chosen to provide good geographic coverage across the shire, strong links to their local communities, and essential facilities such as kitchens, bathrooms and gathering spaces.

Bass Coast Shire Coun-

cil's Nick Grant-Collins (Social Impact - Affordable Housing - Emergency Management) said the network of centres and the new dashboard was "what community resilience looks like in real life".

"Build it now and test it during an emergency," he

Dashboard

The new dashboard can be accessed from all devices and has different language options, catering for residents and visitors to the

It includes information from Vic Emergency, CFA, Bureau of Meteorology and Beachsafe, as well as details of road closures, power outages, flood warnings, fire danger rating, public health alerts, tides, weather warnings and river and rainfall information.

There is also information on how to prepare for an emergency, what to do during an emergency and the

A map shows the location of the Energy Resilient Community Hubs, as well as Neighbourhood Safer Places Bushfire place of last re-

Other details include drought support, power outage planning and a guide to local health services.

Visit Emergency Management Dashboard: emergency.basscoast.vic.gov.au/

Prayers not answered by council

A petition calling for the Lord's Prayer to be read at the start of Bass Coast Shire Council meetings has been rejected, with one councillor saying the petition "created division".

Wonthaggi resident Karen Thorp spoke to councillors from the public gallery in support of the petition, which was signed by 194 people, saying it was an "error" to remove the prayer from council's order of business in 2014 and calling for it be to reinstated.

"This unfortunate move to secularise council proceedings did send a clear message that faith has no place in the community," Karen said, after reading the prayer to the meeting.

She said since 1857, the prayer had been part of the formal processes of the Victorian Parliament, "acknowledging the responsibility one has to the people they are serving".

However, councillors - except Cr Meg Edwards – voted to continue the current practice of opening with a councillor statement, which includes pledges to act "without bias or prejudice" and to disregard personal interests in favour of public duty.

Cr Tim O'Brien said he believed the petition was "making mischief" and creating "division outside the chamber", adding it was "a waste of time to consider"

"I grew up a Catholic and can do the full Catholic Mass enchilada, but like so many Australians I have got as much religion as a cat," Cr O'Brien said.

"I take issue with a lot of things in this petition.'

He said he supported a secular Australia, with the last census identifying multiple religions were being practiced.

Cr Ronnie Bauer said Australia was multicultural with 1500 religions and belief systems on the planet, "each one as relevant as the next".

"I do not see why we should privilege one above the other. The most ecumenical solution is not to introduce any non-secular prayer," Cr Bauer said, adding he supported the separation of church and state.

"I cannot state strongly enough how against this petition I am.

"Let's leave prayers and praying in church and concentrate on the business of council in council."

Council officers said it wasn't a legal requirement to start meetings with a prayer, with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights protecting every person's freedom of religion and belief.

"Council recognises the significance of Christianity in the development of postcolonial society in Australia and the important role of religion more generally in Bass Coast communities," council officers said.



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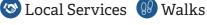
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"Double thumbs up" for shire finances, despite rising borrowing

COUNCIL

Despite concerns about increased borrowings, Bass Coast Shire Council's bank balance has been given a "double thumbs up" by external auditors, according to councillors.

With a bumper October agenda, there are two council meetings this month, with another this Wednesday.

At last week's meeting, councillors voted in support of the annual financial report, which showed net borrowings had increased by \$5.9 million to \$29.2 million.

The report also showed the adjusted underlying net result is a \$6.8 million deficit, which is in the Victorian Auditor-General's (VAGO) high-risk band.

The report said the damage to the coffers came from a payment of \$3.2 million to the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust for the transfer of Wonthaggi and San Remo cemetery management and \$2.9 million for capital works including the Inverloch to Wonthaggi Trail and



Cr Ronnie Bauer said he was concerned by increasing borrowings, with the council's annual financial report showing borrowings rising by \$5.9 million to \$29.2 million.

Cowes Activity Centre Plan.

The budget was also impacted by higher than budgeted depreciation of \$5.1 million due to the increase revaluation cost of council's infrastructure assets.

There were also increased "one off" council employee costs of \$1.1 million, because of organisational redesign, "staffing costs for theatrical performances and an increase in the long

service leave provision".

The finances show Council CEO Greg Box receives a wage in the \$350,000 - \$359,999 brack-

"The financial sustainability risk indicators for 2024-25 prepared by the Victorian Auditor General are on balance in the low-risk zone," the report said.

The report said revenue for the past year was \$123.7 million, higher than the budgeted \$103.5 million, thanks in part to \$6 million in unbudgeted developer contributions, as well as grants.

Cr Ronnie Bauer said he was "concerned by increasing borrowings".

"I've been assured by the officers the (borrowings) are in the margins of safety. Increasing borrowings needs to be watched with caution in the future," Cr Bauer said.

Cr Brett Tessari responded the council's risk and audit committee had gone over the finances with a fine-toothed comb, while external auditors and VAGO had both given the finances "a double thumbs up".

He said Cr Bauer would be the "one to put up his hand and want something done on the island".

"It's us as councillors who keep putting forward the projects and pushing the expenditure up and it's got to be funded somehow and our rates dollar only goes so far," Cr Tessari said.

Cr Tim O'Brien said complex budgets relied on external monitoring and information "and I do believe we get that", agreeing external auditors had given the budget a "double thumbs up".

He said competition between wards and councillors for limited resources was a "balancing act".

The report showed waste diversion from landfill decreased for the 2024-25 financial year to 70 per cent down from 75 per cent in 2023-24, due to a decrease in recyclables through kerbside bins because of the Container Deposit Scheme.

Quarterly performance

Councillors also voted in support of the quarterly performance report, the final report of the Annual Action Plan for 2024-2025 and Council Plan 2021-2025.

According to the report of 21 actions in the plans, 19 have been completed, with the remaining two not completed "due to circumstances outside council's

A planning scheme amendment to incorporate the housing strategy and neighbourhood character study is only 75 per cent complete because of State Government changes.

A plan to transition council's car fleet to EVs is only 60 per cent complete because no EVs on the market meet the mandatory fivestar ANCAP safety rating.

EVs and hybrids currently make up 35 per cent of the fleet.

Actions completed include: 1810 new street trees planted in towns, solar and battery systems installed at eight community facilities including PICAL, award of Bass Coast Leisure Facilities contract and adoption of the Integrated Transport Strategy

The report also provided an overview of council's 2024-2025 financial performance.

Access interrupted to Penguin Parade on Thursday

TOURISM

There will be interrupted daytime access to the Penguin Parade car park, boardwalks and Summerland Beach on Thursday October 16 between 7am and 4.30pm due to planned works on the boardwalk redevelopment.

Anyone visiting the area is asked to follow the directions of Nature Parks staff who will be on site

"A helicopter will be operating in the area during this period to lift materials into place with all works overseen by qualified wildlife officers and guided by sensitive methodology to ensure the surrounding wildlife and habitat is protected," a Nature Parks spokesperson said.

The Penguin Parade Visitor Centre will be open to the public from 5pm. There is no impact on the nightly Penguin Parade.

Public amenities on Summerland Peninsula are available at Shellys Beach and Flynns Beach.

Visitors can still access other Nature Parks attractions including the Koala Conservation Reserve (10am-5.30pm) and



There will be interrupted daytime access to the Penguin Parade car park, boardwalks and Summerland Beach on Thursday October 16 between 7am and 4.30pm due to planned works on the boardwalk redevelopment.

Churchill Island (10am-5pm).

Please note, the Nobbies Centre, cafe, toilets, car park and boardwalks are closed.

More information about the Penguin Parade Boardwalk and Stand Redevelopment Project is available at www.penguins.org. au/about/our-community/projects-and-maintenance/



Council quizzed at meeting on the cost of lighting the outside walls of Berninneit. The cost of the permanent programmable weatherproof lighting, including installation, was \$24,442.

How much does it cost for a light bulb?

BERNINNEIT

Drive past Berninneit at night and you'll see the building illuminated by a red glow.

Or more recently the lights changed to blue to honour fallen police officers.

But how much do you think that lighting cost?

Resident Ernie was curious, asking the question at the October Bass Coast Shire Council

"Would council please confirm the actual cost for the supply and installation of the red display light that lights up a front wall to the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre at night?" Ernie said.

Council CEO Greg Box said the total cost of supply for permanent programmable weatherproof lighting, including installation, was \$24,442.

Mayor Rochelle Halstead confirmed the light's colours could be changed to suit different themes.

Resident Bill Wilson also asked how much it cost council to have a battery installed in Berninneit "so that the power can be used when the grid is not operational".

Mr Box said the battery was being installed and managed by Mondo, "at no cost to council".



Another boost for Community Hospital

HEALTH

The Phillip Island Masonic Lodge and the Victorian Freemasons Foundation have donated \$15,000 to the Phillip Island Community Hospital.

Representatives from the two groups presented the cheque to Bass Coast Health (BCH) interim CEO Simone Alexander last week, and were then taken on a tour of the new facility.

The money will be used to purchase nurses' trollies – six large and six small – plus one anaesthesia trolley.

The donation consists of \$5000 from the Phillip Island Masonic Lodge plus a grant of \$10,000 from the Victorian Freemasons Foundation.

The Phillip Island Masonic Lodge was established in 1937 with monthly meetings in the St Philip's Anglican church hall until the current lodge building in Church Street opposite Coles was built in 1962.

"Charity is a fundamental part of Freemasonry," Lodge member Ian Samuel told the Advertiser, explaining the funds were raised from hire of the hall.

"The donation is in recognition of the important role that a local 24/7 hospital has in supporting both local residents and visitors with urgent care and specialist services."

The Lodge also supports the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary, providing a prize for one of the races at the Woolamai Cup, the Auxiliary's major fundraising event.

Attending from Freemasons Foundation Victoria, Matilde Andre said the Foundation supports a wide range of organisations across Victoria.

She said trolleys, which are



Members of the Phillip Island Masonic Lodge, Colin Cordery, Michael Saunders, Bruce Procter, Ian Samuel and Tony Heppleston with Matilde Andre (Freemasons Foundation) presented a cheque for \$15,000 to Bass Coast Health's Simone Alexander (interim CEO), Kerry Redmon and Kerryn Griffiths.

not included in government funding, were essential to ensuring local nurses can deliver first-class patient care and the donation was part of the Foundation's ongoing commitment to contributing to a stronger and healthier Victoria through improved educational, healthcare and community welfare outcomes.

The Foundation's CEO, Sandra Jacobs said they were proud to partner with the Phillip Island Lodge, "helping ensure local nurses can provide the best possible care for families and the wider community".

Hospital tour

The group were full of praise for the new facility, which they noted had been passionately supported by the community.

BCH's Kerryn Griffiths guided the visitors through the unopened sections of the new hospital, pointing out the location for the new public dental clinic (currently under construction in the old Urgent Care Centre).

She said the Urgent Care Centre (UCC), now operating in the new hospital was one of the busiest in the state, and "one of the few that was open 24 hours".

The space had been designed to allow the UCC to "flex up and down", depending on seasonal demand.

The new hospital has two pathology centres and a medical imaging area, offering CT scans, ul-

trasounds and X-Rays, already in operation, and open to the public.

The Day Treatment Unit will be the next section of the hospital to open (February/March 2026). It will initially offer haemodialysis three days a week, then expand to include chemotherapy and other infusions on the remaining two days.

The tour also took in the central sterilising department, with Kerryn explaining the importance of the different air pressure in each room, and the different sterilisation units (including low temperature and UV).

The group visited the new theatres which have an "almost identical" design to those in Wonthaggi, to make it easier for staff

to work between the two centres.

CEO Simone Alexander said the surgeries performed at the new hospital would be "based on community need", and the "new theatres will be capable of delivery day surgeries including ophthalmology and dermatology".

A 15-bed recovery space is located next to the theatres.

Ms Alexander said there will also be specialist clinic services available in Cowes, that will be introduced "in a staged way".

"We will get the theatres up and running first," she said.

BCH is holding an open day for the community to visit the new Community Hospital on December 13, with details of the event to be released closer to the day.

Winter Shelter wraps up first season

COMMUNITY

The Bass Coast Winter Shelter officially concluded its 2025 season on September 12, following eight weeks of operation in Cowes.

The inaugural shelter, an initiative of the Interchurch Council of Phillip Island, was established to support community members experiencing homelessness. Strongly backed by local residents and community groups, the shelter operated from church buildings to offer an evening meal, dormitorystyle accommodation – and importantly, a safe, welcoming space for care and connection – three nights a week throughout the winter season.

Establishment and operation of the shelter was no small task.

"Put simply, the inaugural Bass Coast Winter Shelter could not have happened without the extraordinary generosity of our local volunteers, donors and partner organisations," explains Wendy Elson, Project Coordinator.

To celebrate and acknowledge the incredible efforts of everyone involved, a special volunteer thanksgiving event was recently held at St John's Uniting Church in Cowes.

The thank you event was an opportunity for the 50 plus volunteers to come together, reflect



Bass Coast Winter Shelter volunteers were celebrated at a recent thanksgiving event.

on the season and recognise the hard work and heart that made the Bass Coast Winter shelter possible.

"Volunteers were truly at the heart of the Bass Coast Winter Shelter – they stepped forward and trained up to make the shelter a reality. Some worked behind the scenes looking after logistics, cooking meals and more, while others offered a listening ear and a welcoming space.

"It is thanks to the efforts of these incredible locals that the shelter gave hope. It really did create community during the hardest time of the year," says Wendy.

"We're deeply grateful to every single person who contributed. From volunteering, to donating supplies and spreading the word – this has been a community effort. Support from the Bass Coast community has been inspiring," adds Wendy.

"As we wrap up our inaugural season, we will take time to reflect on what was achieved and how we can build on this for next year. The need for a winter shelter remains and we know that the strength and generosity of this community will continue into next year."

Next year

Looking towards the 2026 Bass Coast Winter Shelter, the committee will now review the inaugural season to see how it can further increase the connections between the shelter, local service providers and those experiencing homelessness.

Plans for the 2025 Bass Coast Winter Shelter evolved from the homelessness think tank forums run by Bass Coast Shire Council in 2023.

Establishment of the shelter was underpinned by the churches that form the Interchurch Council of Phillip Island including the Uniting, Baptist, Anglican, Catholic, Surf Church and Equip Church.

Assisting the churches to deliver the Winter Shelter were the Bass Coast Shire Council, Salvation Army Homelessness Services – Gippsland, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) and Housing Matters Bass Coast (HMBC) which is auspiced by Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre (WNC)

Stable One, a registered charity that has successfully operated the Yarra Valley Winter Shelter since its inception in 2017, also supported and guided plans for the 2025 Bass Coast Winter Shelter.

Bass Coast Winter Shelter extends its heartfelt thanks to the entire community. Every act of kindness has made a difference.



After reports of fox sightings in May, the Nature Parks conservation team caught and removed a fox, using deployment of camera traps, searching for

Island again fox free after May sightings

CONSERVATION

Phillip Island Nature Parks said the island remained fox free, after reports from the community of fox sightings in May this year.

A Nature Parks spokesperson said the Conservation team responded to each report and "investigated using a number of techniques including the deployment of camera traps, searching for prints and using our conservation dogs".

"During surveys, fox scats and prints were subsequently found to confirm the reports and resulted in the team undertaking trapping and night-time surveillance using thermal equipment to locate and remove the fox.

"The fox was subsequently trapped and humanely euthanized within three weeks of ini-

"Prior to this, we have been fox-free for eight years apart from one incursion in 2022.

Phillip Island was declared fox-free in 2017, after around 25 years of dedicated effort.

"Removing the threat of foxes has always been a priority for the Nature Parks," the spokesperson said.

"There are ongoing measures in place including a fox control buffer zone on the mainland to reduce the threat of reinvasion, the use of Conservation dogs and night vision equipment, and ensuring the Foxcam on the Phillip Island bridge remains operational."

Nature Parks encourages the community to report fox sightings on Phillip Island by calling 0419 369 365.

Help shape the future of climate action in Bass Coast

WORKSHOP

Bass Coast Shire Council is inviting the community to take part in an interactive Climate Action Plan Review Workshop at Berninneit in Cowes on Saturday October 25, from 10.30am to 3pm.

The workshop is part of the mid-term review of Council's Climate Action Plan 2020-2030, offering locals the chance to reflect on what's been achieved so far, share lived experiences, and help set the priorities for the next five years of climate action

across the region. Council's Manager Sustainable Environment, Simon Woodland, said the event is about harnessing the collective knowledge and energy of the commu-

nity to guide the next stage.
"Bass Coast has a strong history of community-led climate action," Simon said.

"This workshop is an opportunity for residents, businesses and community groups to share what matters most to them what's working, where we can do better, and how we can continue to make meaningful progress together.'

Facilitated by a climate expert, the workshop will include group discussions, creative thinking, and opportunities to explore key themes such as energy transition, sustainable transport, waste and the circular economy, land and nature, resilience, equity and climate



Bass Coast Shire Council is inviting the community to take part in an interactive Climate Action Plan Review Workshop at Berninneit in Cowes on Saturday October 25, from 10.30am to 3pm.

justice, and local leadership.

Participants will also have the opportunity to help prioritise which actions and focus areas matter most for Bass Coast's future, helping Council refine the plan to ensure it reflects community aspirations and remains achievable, effective, and bold.

Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead encouraged the people of Bass Coast to get involved and be part of the conversation.

"The first five years of our Climate Action Plan have seen incredible progress driven by community partnerships and local leadership," Cr Halstead said.

Now we want to hear directly from our residents and businesses about where we should

focus our energy next, so that Bass Coast can continue leading the way on climate action."

The workshop will be an engaging, hands-on session - with opportunities to collaborate, share stories, and connect with others who care deeply about the future of the region. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

If you can't make it to the workshop, you can still have your say by completing the online survey at: engage.basscoast.vic. gov.au/climate-change-actionplan-mid-term-review

Places for the workshop are limited, and registration is essential: www.trybooking.com/ events/landing/1446190

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COMMUNITY

In the treasure trove of Australian showbiz memorabilia stored in Gil Tucker's Rhyll home, there's one piece of paper that

This is the cast list for the first Mad Max film," Gil says, pointing to the list.

There, on the catalogue is his name, in his role as the People's Observer, recorded just above

"I used to drive Mel home," Gil recalls.

"He was a lovely bloke, very quiet.

"I knew him well before he became famous, in Cop Shop.

Gil, who has lived on Phillip Island for the past seven years, is one of the gems of Australian small screen.

Across five decades in the industry, he has landed key roles: in the TV miniseries Power Without Glory, performing as a boxer, trained by Gus Mercurio; The Flying Doctors, House Rules, Blue Heelers and Neighbours to

Older viewers would remember him from the glory days of Australian broadcasting: Homicide, Division 4 and Matlock Police.

(My career) happened to be in the formative years of Australian TV. There was not much influence from the US at the time and local shows were big," he recalls.

"It was a more naïve time, in a good way, more parochial.

"I was happy. I never felt jad-

But it was one role that solidified Gil's career: playing Constable Roy Baker on Crawford Production's Cop Shop.

To this day he occasionally still gets called Roy.

"Roy was a young, fresh-faced officer, overly earnest but loveable.

"Police would tell me there was someone like Roy Baker at most stations, trying too hard and putting their foot in it."

Island life

Gil and his wife Jo moved to the island seven years ago to a more "tranquil" life, running an Airbnb and growing a large edible and ornamental garden.



Rhyll resident Gil Tucker is one of the gems of Australian small screen, with a fivedecade career in the TV industry including some of the nation's best-known shows.

Jo is a former casting director with Crawford Productions, who cast the first Neighbours' stars and following in the family footsteps, one of their twin daughters is now a casting director, and lives on the Mornington Peninsula.

Gil says on the island he relishes being a member of the men-only book club Island Reb-

He is also part of the Movie Club and this year became a committee member for the Festival of Stories, including acting as MC at Berninneit at this year's event.

Through the festival he has

rekindled contacts with former colleagues including Brian Nankervis and Bryan Dawe.

Gil continues to act and do voiceovers, and adds he would even love to direct a play locally.

"It wasn't until Berninneit came along that I really felt at home here. It was like culture came to the island. I love the building, the cathedral ceilings and hardwood pillars from the original bridge.

"I'd love to do a show there one day, or direct something."

An extended version of this interview is available in the Spring edition of The Island magazine, out now.



discarded caravan trailer in a local street, which they believe is breaking local laws about camping and littering.

Dumped trailer causing angst for residents

LITTERING

Residents in San Remo have complained about the lack of action to remove a discarded caravan trailer in a local street.

They said the trailer has been sitting in a quiet San Remo street since September, surrounded by other discarded items and rub-

They said they've made multiple complaints to the council

Police said they aren't authorised to act unless an offense has been committed, while council officers said they need to follow a prescribed process, despite residents believing local laws about camping and littering have been broken.

Residents are fed up with the mess and frustrated with the bureaucracy.

Council officers can remove the items 60 days after they've placed a sticker on the offending items, or earlier if the van's registration expires," the residents told The Advertiser.

They said the registration expires on November 11, and that a council sticker was placed on the trailer at the start of October, which means the mess will remain until place until early December - unless the registration lapses.

"Meanwhile, nearby lawabiding residents will be left to manage their distress at the intrusion," residents said.

"If someone decides to camp in your street, or their van has been plonked there by a third party, don't expect removal action any time soon."

However Council said it is actively investigating the matter and "working with all parties toward a resolution".

"The investigation is ongoing, with the issue being addressed through our Parking and Community Safety Teams, per the legislated processes," a council spokesperson said.



COUNCIL

Rate cap concerns

Residents continue to pressure Bass Coast Shire Council to commit to rate capping, amid concern the Municipal Association of Victoria is advocating to the government to scrap the cap.

At the October council meeting, Kevin Griffin said the State Government introduced the cap in 2016 to "stop excessive and uncontrolled annual rate hikes by Victorian councils"

"In August council advised it has not resolved an advocacy position on rate capping," Kevin

"When will this council resolve its position on rate capping?"

Council CEO Greg Box said council did not have an "endorsed position on rate capping and does not have plans to develop one at this stage".

CEO dodges rec reserve question

Council CEO Greg Box has dodged a question about grant applications for the future Phillip Island recreation reserve.

Woolamai resident Graham Jolly asked how many individual projects were shovel ready at the reserve and therefore submitted to governments to seek grants.

"Council must have projects shovel ready, designs and full costing for grants," Graham

seven grant applications submit-

Mr Box replied council had

ted and pending decision with the state or federal government. He said the pending applications were with the Commonwealth Road Safety Program, Regional Partnerships & Precincts Program, Safer Local

Roads Infrastructure Program,

and two each with the Federal

Black Spots Program and TAC Road Safety Program.

"The applications support various projects including the revitalisation of the former Wonthaggi Secondary College Site Precinct, Stewart Road Kernot Bridge, and traffic calming in Settlement Road Cowes, an others," Mr Box said, failing to list one project relevant to the recreation reserve.

Dust suppressant funding?

Resident Darren Murphy said in the minutes from council's August 2013 meeting, Beach Street, Rhyll, was listed as having received a dust suppression seal in 2005/6, and funding for a new spray seal via the Roads to Recovery program in 2016.

Why can't our roads be fixed with funds from this program?

Council CEO Greg Box responded the section of Beach Street between Walton Street and Waterloo Street was resealed in 2016.

"At that time, the road met the resealing criteria due to the high performance of the pavement and seal components," Mr Box

"Council's current approach to permanently sealing urban roads is via its Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement Policy

"Roads to Recovery Program is a recurrent funding program. Council utilises this funding source to subsidise council's non-discretionary capital program."

Vale John Trigt

Cr Ronnie Bauer has paid tribute to 2024 election candidate for the Island Ward - and former council watchdog – John Trigt.

Cr Bauer said John "always took a keen interest in the affairs of the island", as a member of Island Voice, the Bass Coast Ratepayers Association and the local branch of the ALP.

"He was a regular attendee at council meetings. He put the council quarterly reports under the microscope and constantly questioned the workings of council," Cr Bauer said.

'He was a fierce advocate for local issues and he wasn't afraid to heckle from the gallery. At one meeting he even went so far as to be escorted from the lery by the local constabulary.

"John has to be respected because he wasn't just talk. He also walked the walk and stood for the 2024 council elections."

Cr Bauer said John - who moved to Surf Beach in the 1980s with his wife Therese - suffered from diabetes and cancer, which eventually stopped him attending council meetings.

"John was quite a character. As a councillor, he always kept me to account.

"Somehow council meetings will not be the same again."

John's son Adrian – who was in the public gallery - was given a gift on behalf of all council-

Cowes caravan park seeks new development

A controversial "lifestyle" caravan and camping park in Cowes is planning a new \$1.4 million development including a bottle shop, redesigned park layout, reduction in car parking and tree removal.

The new proposal comes after Bass Coast Shire councillors last year approved a planning permit for building works and removal of vegetation, including an amended site layout to 49 sites and installation of six cabins.

At that time councillors took the unusual step of calling in the permit to the council chamber because it was a potential overdevelopment of the site, and "recent activities on the land have been highly publicised".

Former Cr Michael Whelan said the development had been an "unhappy experience in a number of people's lives", quoting an advertisement saying sites were an investment and buyers "own real estate in a prime seaside location"

"I understand you don't own real estate but have a lease on a patch of land," Cr Whelan said.

"I have an unhappy feeling about this development.

"It wasn't sold to these people as a camping ground, it was sold as a home $\bar{\dots}$ then they find out they're in a camping ground. It's not good enough. I don't think this developer has covered themselves in glory so far.'

As previously reported in the Advertiser, two buyers had taken legal action against the developer after they believed they had bought sites in a "lifestyle village", not a caravan park.

The permit received 13 objections, with residents and surrounding businesses concerned about a range of issues, including illegal tree removal to questions about the planning rules of the buildings, and fears the new owners intended to use the residential Watchorn Road for

Now Holiday Lifestyle have lodged new documents with the council seeking an amendment to the approved planning permit.

New proposal

The lodged documents are at the early stages of planning, with the final plans to be released for public comment in coming months or even longer.

While the documents state the caravan and camping park layout will be amended, the proposed layout is unclear.

A site map indicates about 40 individual lots - with no indication of lot size - each with a combination of cabins, tents and caravans, with cabins either single or double storey.

The documents say there will be 31 car spaces and a reduction in the number of car parking spaces, but the documents do not detail the reduction amount.

The site map does not indicate whether there are allocated car spaces on each lot.

While the original Holiday Lifestyle planning permit was



The Holiday Lifestyle caravan and camping park in Cowes is planning a new \$1.4 million development including a bottle shop, redesigned park layout, reduction in car parking and tree removal.

sold to would-be homeowners, this amended permit appears to be focused on holiday rentals, with "flexible accommodation options to meet fluctuating de-

Access to the development will be from Thompson Avenue and all vegetation will be removed, including one native tree, a peppermint gum.

The 1.4ha caravan and camping park is fronted by commercially zoned land, while the rear section is zoned residential.

According to lodged documents, the bottle shop fronting Thompson Avenue does not need a planning permit given it is zoned commercial.

The bottle shop will be a ninemetre tall two-storey, 900sqm building (with 200sqm mezzanine), fronting the main street, which the current owners hope to subdivide and sell, to "allow for separate ownership of the retail and caravan and camping

The driveway will be shared as common property.

There will be a new site office, manager's residence and workshop adjacent to the north end of the carpark, as well as the relocation and construction of a new amenities block and swimming pool midway along the northern boundary of the site.

History

Holiday Lifestyle bought the former Islander Caravan Park in 2021, which had operated since

Crs Ronnie Bauer and Michael Whelan were the only councillors to vote against the permit last year.

At the time Cr Brett Tessari said if councillors rejected the permit, it would go to VCAT and existing conditions could be lost, "so we're damned if we do and damned if we don't".

Planners recommended councillors approve the permit, subject to a range of conditions, because it was consistent with the existing use rights of the land for a camping and caravan park.

Planners acknowledged community and objectors' concerns, including the past allegedly illegal removal of vegetation, but did not provide further details of enforcement "due to privacy and legal considerations"

Planners responded to objector concerns about insufficient parking saying a camping and caravan park has no specified car parking requirement under the planning scheme.

Planners said under the planning scheme cabins were "not limited to being movable or of any particular dimension or design".

Details: cowes.holidaylifestyle.com.au/our-park/; and holidaylifestyle.com.au/

A year on, how do Island councillors rate?

Coghlan Road, work with the state department of transport to get a pedestrian crossing at Amaze'N Things and "make sure that the shire's advocacy strategies concentrate on what our island needs, not what the mainland thinks we need".

Other priorities for Cr Bell include: a youth centre for Phillip Island, better coordination with state and federal government on issues such as housing, coastal protection, and "financial sustainability where we balance ambition with responsibility'

Cr O'Brien said his key focus in the next few years will be protection for coastlines and the Western Port Woodlands, better access for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians, rescinding the Bass Coast Urban Tourist Strategy (BURT) and fairer rates for farmers.

Surprises, frustrations

All three Island Ward councillors agreed their biggest surprise was teamwork.

"I had not expected that, as councillors, we would be able to work as cohesively and supportively," Cr O'Brien said.

"While the political views and backgrounds of individual councillors is quite broad – to the left and right - we all get along well and can genuinely debate matters without rancour. As a council group I think we function quite well."

Cr Bauer agreed, saying all

views were "respected", with "agreeable compromise for all".

Unfortunately, Cr Bell said a "vocal minority" seemed "to believe that wanting to serve your community makes you suspect".

"Criticism is constant, and often personal. It's hard not to take it to heart, especially when you're genuinely trying to make a difference," she said.

'To be honest, this role is not for people chasing big bucks; it attracts people who care deeply, who want to listen, advocate, and lead."

The two new councillors agreed their greatest frustrations were the constraints of local government.

Cr O'Brien: "Local governments now exist more as an arm of the State Government than as a genuine third tier of government," he said.

"Many of the decisions we make when considering matters such as appropriate development, tree canopy removal, car park waivers, and the like, have the sword of Victorian Government policy positions and, subsequently, of VCAT, hanging over our heads.

"It is a surprise to find many of the matters deeply impacting communities around character, environment, and the ability of communities to shape their own future is surprisingly limited. The over-riding power of VCAT, of its use by developers, and of ministers 'calling in' proposals under their discretionary powers, is, in my estimation, a festering disaster for unique and beautiful places like Phillip Island and the Bass Coast region."

Cr Bell agreed.

"One of the biggest surprises has been just how much control State Government legislation has over what councils can and can't do. We're often seen as the frontline problem-solvers, but our hands are tied on many of the issues that matter most (housing, coastal protection, opportunities for young people). It's frustrating to be expected to act, only to find that the authority lies elsewhere," she said.

"Being the level of government closest to the community means we hear the pain, the urgency, and the ideas. But it also means we're the first to be blamed when change doesn't come fast enough - even when the levers of power sit elsewhere.

"We've also had to make tough decisions within tight financial constraints. Not every project could be funded. Not every voice could be answered with action. That's a failure I feel deeply.

"But within these frustrations, there's also clear actions: keep advocating, keep listening and keep pushing for a system that empowers local communities to act, not just ask.'

Cr Bauer said he continued to be frustrated by the State Government cost shifting "more and more onto council".

"The most glaring example of that is the iniquitous Emergency Services Levy."

Halstead honoured with MAV service award

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, was recognised last week with a 10-Year Service Award from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).

The honour acknowledges her decade of dedicated service to local government and her enduring commitment to the communities she has represented, the council said.

'Cr Halstead's career in local government spans many years and reflects her strong sense of civic duty, leadership and community connection," a council media statement said.

"Her public service journev began with her election to Frankston City Council in 2003, where she also served as Mayor.

"Since being elected to Bass Coast Shire Council in 2020, Cr Halstead has represented the Westernport Ward with passion and integrity. She served as Deputy Mayor in both 2023 and 2024, before being re-elected at the 2024 local government election for a further four-year term.

"A graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Cr Halstead brings a strong understanding of governance, transparency and accountability to her role. Her leadership is defined by enthusiasm, openness and a results-driven approach, with a deep commitment to ensuring every voice in the community is heard."

In addition to her role as Mayor, Cr Halstead was elected earlier this year as the Regional Board Director for the MAV rep-



Mayor Rochelle Halstead (left) with Cr Brett Tessari, received an MAV 10-Year Service Award.

resenting Gippsland.

Reflecting on the milestone, Mayor Halstead said her greatest motivation has always been the people she serves

"Representing this community is both an honour and a privilege. Every conversation, every project, every decision is about making Bass Coast an even better place to live, work and visit," she said.

"I'm constantly inspired by the passion and care our residents have for this region, and it's what drives me every day to do my very best on their behalf."

Council described the award as well-deserved recognition for Cr Halstead.

"Her leadership, passion and long-standing dedication to local government continue to make a lasting and positive difference to the Bass Coast community."



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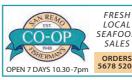
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12 THE ADVERTISER | Wednesday, October 15, 2025

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Visit penguins.org.au or contact our team to explore current opportunities.

Phillip Island NATURE PARKS

penguins.org.au **#PhillipIslandNP**



The Coronet Bay Fun Run and Walk is on Sunday November 2, at 10.30am, starting at the Coronet Bay Hall in the Fred Gration Reserve. Registrations are now open online. Photo: Getty Images.

MYLI presents an author talk by Peter FitzSimons AM at Phillip Island Library on Thursday November

13 at 10.30am. Book now to secure your place.

Coronet Bay Fun Run and Walk returns

COMMUNITY

Now in its 27th year, the Coronet Bay Fun Run and Walk is on again, on Sunday November 2, at 10.30am, at the Coronet Bay Hall in the Fred Gration Reserve.

This annual event brings the township and other areas together for a fun family day

The event was started by local identity Laurie Black in 1997, who coordinated the event for 16 years. David Mildenhall ran the event from 2012-13; most recently Ian Cole was at the helm for 10 years.

This remarkable event is powered by volunteers, and this year a call has gone out for more hands to help. Both volunteers and attendees can book in online via trybooking.com, or volunteers can email secretary@coronetbayca.au.

This year, the local CFA is attending and lending a helping hand to the event, while also raising awareness of the CFA's commitment and contribution to the

ville and District Bendigo Community Bank and supported by Bass Coast Shire

the event grew and the number of participants increased, the organising committee has streamlined the system to tally

ceives a placing and a time. Winners are awarded in each of the eight categories on offer, as well as second and third places.

and giveaways on the day - which de-

cover the cost of the prizes and medallions and the balance goes towards improvements to the flora and facilities around Coronet Bay.

In the three-kilometre course, there are four categories: Female 14 and under; Male 14 and under, Open Female; Open Male.

There is also a five kilometre for Open Female and Open Male.

Everyone is invited to join in. You can run it, walk it or pram it – just come along and enjoy it. Please bring your water bottle, and there are water refill stations around the course courtesy of Westernport Water.

The cost for entry is: Adults \$15 (15 and over); Children \$10 (14 and under); and Family \$40 (two adults, two children).

Register online at www.trybooking. com/DFBQY or scan the QR code. Register on the day from 9am.

/Sponsored article/

Weary Dunlop author to visit the island

LITERATURE

MYLI is presenting a special author talk by Peter FitzSimons AM at Phillip Island Library on Thursday November 13 at 10.30am to discuss his new book, "The Courageous Life of Weary Dun-

The best-selling author will share the story behind his latest book, which is an extraordinary tale of courage, endurance, and compassion.

Discover the life of Ed-

ward 'Weary' Dunlop, the Australian surgeon whose leadership and bravery saved thousands of lives as a prisoner-of-war on the Thai-Burma Railway during World War II. Hear what inspired Peter to tell this story and how he brought one of Australia's most remarkable figures

Peter FitzSimons' passion is to tell Australian stories; our own stories, of great men and women and the stirring events in our

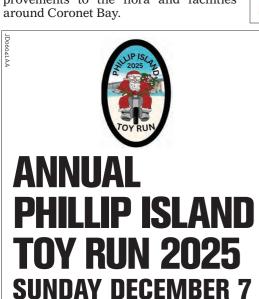
He is one of Australia's most respected writers, known for books on Breaker Morant, Burke and Wills, Monash's Masterpiece, Kokoda, Ned Kelly, and Gallipoli. Books will be available to purchase and sign at the event through Turn the Page Bookshop.

The event is free, but bookings are essential: www.trybooking.com/ events/landing/1482795

Please arrive 15 minutes early to ensure everyone is seated on time.

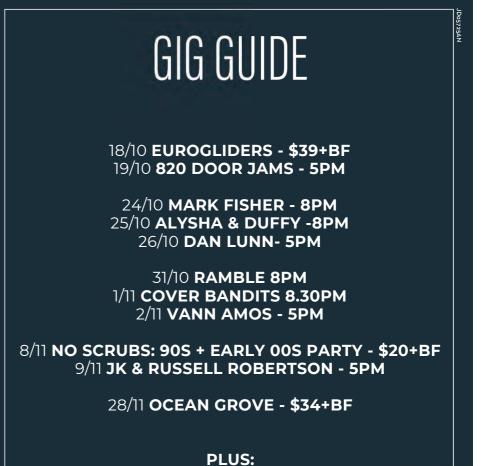






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On October 19, the Debra La Velle Jazztet is performing at Phillip Island Bowling Club, in Cowes from

Debra La Velle returns to Cowes

The Phillip Island Jazz Club presents the Debra La Velle Jazztet on Sunday, October 19 at the Phillip Island Bowling Club from 2pm - 4.30pm.

The club is eager to welcome back Debra La Velle whose last performance at Phillip Island Jazz was in June 2024.

Debra will perform a great selection of wonderful jazz tunes, that will be known by most jazz lovers.

"Hopefully they will do

Caravan, Quando Quando Quando, Shining Stockings, Smile, The Look Of Love and So Danco Samba," said Jill Boyce from the Jazz Club.

"These are just a few of the tracks that we will hear from Debra and her great musicians.'

Joining Debra on the day are Paul Williamson on reeds, Shane Ryall on guitar, David Jones on keyboard, Andy Scott on bass and Ronny Ferella on drums.

Debra has recently re-

leased her new CD and will have some available for sale on the day.

Please book early if possible, to give organisers an idea of how many tables and chairs are needed for the day.

Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for visitors

For more information please contact: Jill Boyce on 0417 416 300

Debra La Velle Jazztet at the Phillip Island Bowling Club, 40 Dunsmore Road in Cowes. October 19, 2pm - 4.30pm.

Rotary Honours Carron Bourke with Paul Harris Sapphire Award

COMMUNITY

In a ceremony on October 6, Rotary District Governor Paul Behm presented a Paul Harris Fellow Award with Sapphire to Carron Bourke of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo.

The honour was bestowed in recognition of his outstanding community service, celebrating his dedication to local volunteer projects and charitable initiatives.

Rotary officials note that the Paul Harris Fellow recognition is one of the organisation's highest honours, used to acknowledge individuals for significant contributions to making the world a better place.

"As Rotarians, we live by the motto 'Service Above Self,' and Carron truly embodies that spirit," club President, Gea Lovell said during the presentation.

She praised Carron's years of service, adding "his dedication to helping others has made a significant impact on our community".

Carron has been a member of Rotary for over 30 years and club members say he has been a driving force behind numerous local projects – from fundraising for com-

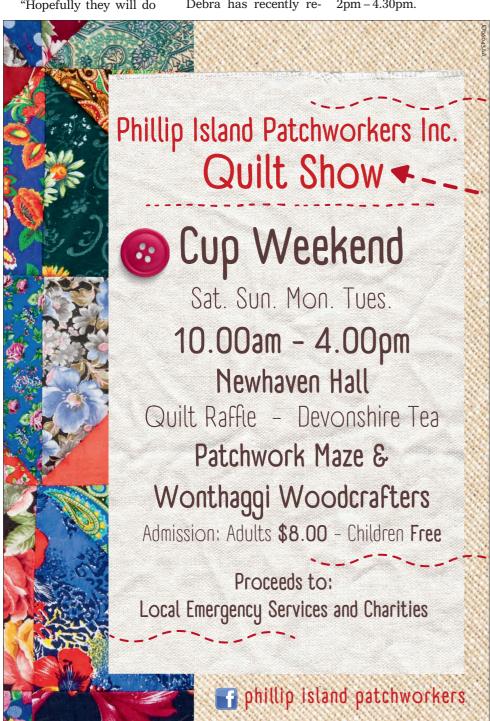


Carron Bourke (left) was presented with a Paul Harris Fellow Award with Sapphire, by Rotary District Governor Paul Behm, recognising his outstanding community service.

munity facilities to supporting youth programs – always willing to roll up his sleeves for those in need.

The Paul Harris Fellow Award was established in honour of Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, and is traditionally accompanied by a pin and certificate.

A sapphire inset on the pin signifies an additional level of distinction: in Carron's case, it denotes that he has been recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow more than once.





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PUBLIC NOTICES



Notice of AGM

For San Remo District Financial Services Ltd, operators of San Remo, Cowes and Grantville Community Bank Branches. When: Wednesday 29 October 2025 Where: Community Room, 57 Phillip Island Rd, San Remo (door entry via San Remo parade)

San Remo, Cowes and Grantville Community Banks

San Remo District Financial Services Limited ABN 20 102 770 150

Time: 5.30pm

PLEASE NOTE THAT I, **DALE BURGDORF**

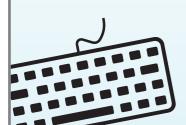
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PUBLIC NOTICES



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 1st November 2025 at 10.00am

Venue: PICAL Meeting Room 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes.

To RSVP or for further information: islandcommunityorchard@gmail.com

PICO Committee of Management

Social Annual General Meeting

Saturday 25th October 2025 The San Remo Hotel 3pm to 6pm including nibbles, drinks at bar prices and dinner available for purchase afterwards.

Featuring presentations including:

- Dieback Sub-Committee members and new PHD research student Evie Cowling, on the past and present status of our investigations into dying eucalypts on Phillip Island.
 - Phillip Island Land Alliance overview

RSVP is essential by 23rd October

For details/Committee nomination forms/RSVP contact us at phillipislandlandcare@gmail.com

mg at the AGM to change their Model Kules, where the model would change from Jul I π - June 30th to I π - 31 π Decembe

Notice is hereby given that the PIMHAG Annual General Meeting will be held on October 30th, 2025 at 5pm

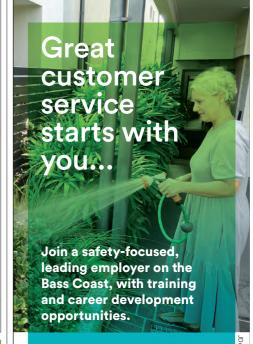
> in the ANZAC Room at Phillip Island RSL. All Welcome.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be conducted from 5.00pm until 5.30pm.

Our Guest speaker from our new PI Community Hospital will detail the services to be available and discuss the Community Open Day to be held on Saturday December 13th. Questions from the floor welcome.

Join us for dinner at the RSL after the meeting.

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Iskender (9) and Macey (5) learnt cardiopulmonary resuscitation on CPR dummies with Ambulance Victoria.

CFA fire station open day

COMMUNITY

Hundreds of locals attended the Country Fire Authority open day on Saturday, to see firsthand the fire station on Ventnor Road, and the work of all emergency services, including the SES, Ambulance Victoria and police. The open day coincided with a statewide Get Fire Ready campaign, helping the public prepare for the upcoming fire season.

Local fundraising has helped purchase extra equipment for the new facility, while donations from Phillip Island RSL and Bendigo Bank funded an extension the station's carparks.

Tim Anderson, the Community Safety Coordinator with the Phillip Island Fire Brigade said the day was a way to acknowledge the community support for the new station, as well as providing information on how to prepare your property and fire



Leading senior constable Nick Carlson said many people who attended the open day were concerned about the rise in youth crime. He said the police message was prevention: "lock your doors, don't have your keys or bag in sight, put up sensor lights, alarms and even a camera as deterrents." More photos at pisra.com.au

PICAL helps locals access Power Saving Bonus

COMMUNITY

Eligible Victorian concession card holders can now apply for the State Government's \$100 Power Saving Bonus with the support of Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL).

The program provides a oneoff \$100 payment to help concession households with the rising cost of electricity. Applications are now open and locals are invited to apply in-person through PICAL, a participating community organisation

To qualify, households must have a recent residential electricity bill and must hold one of the following concession cards: Health Care Card; Pensioner Concession Card: Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card; or Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.

Only one payment is available per household.

Local resident Julie Azzopardi, who recently applied through PICAL, said the process was

"The volunteers at PICAL made it so easy for me to access the Power Saving Bonus. All I needed to do was book an appointment and bring in a recent electricity bill. Within a short



Volunteer PICAL volunteer Grace Wilkinson (left) helps Julie Azzopardi apply in-person for the State Government's \$100 Power Saving Bonus.

time it was sorted and I know the \$100 will really help with my upcoming bills," explains Julie.

A number of PICAL volunteers are now trained and ready to help eligible locals access the scheme.

PICAL is taking bookings for Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays mornings (9am to 12pm) and Fridays. To make an appointment call (03) 5952 1131 or visit PICAL at 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes.

Walk-ins are also welcome.

"At PICAL, we're always here to help," David Rooks, Centre Manager, explains.

"By offering this free service, we hope to make it easier for eligible households to claim the Power Saving Bonus and ease the pressure of rising energy costs."

For more information about the Power Saving Bonus visit compare.energy.vic.gov.au.



Organisers Steve, Krystal and Warren Davie at the Growing Cambodia Trivia Night fundraiser, which raised over \$40,000 for the charity.

Thousands raised at trivia fundraiser

COMMUNITY

The Phillip Island community came together on the weekend to raise money for Growing Cambodia, a charity founded by local Steve Davie.

Growing Cambodia's purpose is to offer rural Cambodians an opportunity to improve their quality of life through education and health and wellbeing support.

The Growing Cambodia Trivial Night held at Berninneit raised over \$28,000 for the charity, with attendance at a record high.

Organiser Steve Davie said 260 people attended, having a fantastic night of trivia, karaoke and games.

'It was topped off by a standing rendition of Sweet Caroline - so good," he said.

Ticket sales for the raffle, drawn on the night, raised another \$12,000 before the evening, so the overall fundraising total will exceed \$40,000 Steve said.

"We are amazed by the loyalty and generosity of the Phillip Island community in supporting the Trivia Night each year - including our attendees and amazing donors and many others that assist in bringing the evening together," he said.

"A special shout out to Ash Reed and Warren and Krystal Davie who compered and ran the evening meaning there was never a dull moment.'

The winning team on the night, Professor Penguin and the Bandicoot Boffins, was made up of staff from Phillip Island Nature Parks.

The trivia competition was hotly contested with just seven points separating the top five teams.

The Trivia Top 5 were:

- Professor Penguin and the Bandicoot Boffins: 110 points
- Tide of Knowledge: 107 points
- The 3D Handfuls: 105 points The Unlikely's: 104 points
- Eva's Divas: 103 points

Guest speaker during the event was Pam Cameron, a local resident who visited the Growing Cambodian schools on a recent holiday, who was able to report back on the impressive operation she witnessed, the work of the dedicated teachers, and the happy and enthusiastic students she met. She spoke of the poverty she witnessed in a country still trying to recover from war, and why the work being undertaken by Growing Cambodia is so important for its students, by providing the opportunity to learn English as their pathway to meaningful employment.

Achievements

Over 900 students are attending free English lessons at the schools established by Growing Cambodia in four rural villages. Lessons are conducted by local Cambodian teachers with help from volunteers.

Growing Cambodia also provides scholarships for students to attend public school if their families are unable to afford the mandatory uniforms to attend.

Students leaving the schools are also offered university sponsorships. Thanks to its Tertiary Patrons program, Growing Cambodia is currently supporting 23 university students.

Patrons are needed for the Class of 2026, for those school leavers who are looking to start their courses in January 2026.

Being a Tertiary Patron involves donating AUD\$1000 per annum over four years of a tertiary course. If you would like to become a Tertiary Patron, Growing Cambodia would love to hear from you.

To support the work of Growing Cambodia, make a donation direct to their bank account: BSB: 633 000 A/C: 150 148 583, or online at www.growingcambodia.org.au/donate/



Megan and Trevor "Bugsy" Ryan with Torrie and Todd Cleeland at the Growing Cambodia Trivia Night fundraiser.

SOCCER PRESENTATIONS 2025



Kellie Cox, Women's Coaches Award.



Yarlini Baum, Women's Players' Player Award.



Patika Reed, Women's U18 Development Player Award.



Evie Titmarsh, Women's Most Valuable Player.



Joss Geronimo, Jake Munday Award.



Kelly Wall, Club Golden Boot Award.



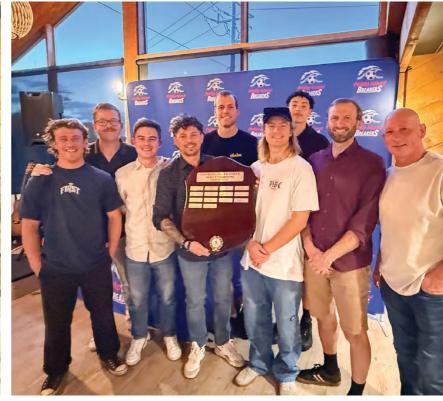
Annie Dempsey, Women's Best and Fairest (Dempsey Award).



Annie Dempsey and Evie Titmarsh, Women's Best in Finals. Absent Luka Alford.



Senior Women's Soccer Team.



Senior Men's Soccer Team.



Reserves Men's Soccer Team.



U12B Penguins: Angus Curson, Best in Finals; Luka Phillips, Most Improved; Banksia Cavender, Players' Player; Gabby Titmarsh, Best and Fairest.

SOCCER PRESENTATIONS 2025



Max Arceo, Seniors Men's Best in Finals.



Jay Sunderland, Reserves Coaches Award.



Jacob Gwynne, Reserves Most Valuable Player.



Callum Farman, Reserves Best and Fairest (Dempsey Award).



Joris Kerstens, Senior Men's Best and Fairest (Dempsey Award).



Jay Panopulos, Senior Men's Most Valuable



Joris Kerstens, Senior Men's Players' Player Award.



12 Girls: Lottie Bland, Players' Player and Gabby Titmarsh, Best and Fairest.



12B Stingrays Award winners: Tyler Stilgoe, Most Improved: Flynn Inglis, Best in Finals: Harvey Deaton, Best and Fairest: and Henry Abbott, Players Player.



U14 Stingrays Award winners: Cooper Davis, Best and Fairest: Fergus Tillotson, Players' Player; and Blair McDonald, Most Improved.



U14 Penguins: Zach Coldora, Best and Fairest; James Titmarsh, Players' Player and Best in Finals; and Ariana Ward, Most Improved.



U12A: Wes Gijsbers, Equal Best in Finals; Mitchell Thomas, Coaches Award; Liy Murphy, Most Improved; Flynn Jury, Best and Fairest; and Harry Sivori Equal Best in Finals.



Mark and Meaghan Munday with the Jake Munday Award nominees.



U17: Fletcher Middleton, Best in Finals; Aidan Smyth, Most Improved; Justin Tran, Best and Fairest and Players' Player.



U15 Girls: Lily James, Best in Finals; Grace Zalunardo, Most Improved. Absent Hannah Titmarsh Best and Fairest and Players' Player; and Georgia MacDonald Best in Finals.



Aubrey Sherburn U12 Girls Most Improved.

Byron (left) and Harley Griffin excelled in the Squidgie Mixed Bag competition amassing 75



Anne-Marie Richards had a great weekend, taking out the Senior Female Weight and Points competitions with a leatherjacket and a trevally, respectively.

Winners of Midweek bowls played at Corinella were David Prosser (Lead), Enid Johnston (2nd), Laurie Bell (3rd) and Steve Bray (Skip) (Not shown).



Neil Andreatta (3rd), Vern Elliott (Skip), Bill Williams (2nd) and Tony Morris (Lead) were the runners

Angling Club rides out wild weather

FISHING

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) held its second weekendlong competition of the 2025/2026 season on the weekend.

Despite wet and windy conditions throughout the weekend, dedicated anglers once again took to the water and managed to record some impressive catches.

Over the two days, from 4pm to 5pm, a total of 25 fish and two sharks were weighed in, proving that even in tough weather, RPI-AC members are up for the challenge.

Special recognition goes to Weigh-in Masters Duncan Firth and Martin Xuereb for their excellent work managing the weighins and recording results on both days.

In the Squidgies Mixed Bag Points Competition, Byron Griffin took first place with three fish worth 55 points, while the reigning Squidgie Club Champion, Harley Griffin, finished second with one fish worth 20 points.

Reigning Junior Club Champion Denver Firth continued his strong form, winning both the Junior Weight and Junior Points competitions.

He claimed the Junior Weight competition with a snapper weighing 490 grams and the Junior Points competition with a King George whiting worth 1330 points (475 grams).

In the senior divisions. Anne-Marie Richards had a standout weekend, taking home two prizes winning the Senior Female Points Competition with a trevally worth 1176 points (840 grams) and the Senior Female Weight Competition with a leatherjacket weighing 560 grams.

The reigning Senior Male Club Champion, James Nicolaci, secured the Senior Male Weight Competition with a snapper weighing 5025 grams.

Frank Kastoras also performed strongly, winning the Senior Male Points Competition with a King George whiting worth 1624 points (580



The Senior Male Club Champion, James Nicolaci, caught the best snapper of the weekend, weighing 5025 grams.

grams) and taking out the Shark Competition with a gummy shark weighing 6320 grams.

The Secret Weight Prize was awarded to Stephen Degering for his King George whiting weighing 320 grams, which came closest to the secret weight of 315 grams.

The Game Fish and Squid/Cuttlefish Competitions were uncontested this time around.

After the presentations, angiers and supporters gathered at the clubrooms to enjoy a relaxed and social atmosphere, celebrating the weekend's results and sharing stories from the blustery conditions.

A hearty post-presentation dinner, generously sponsored by Bakers Delight Cowes, was enjoyed by all.

The club extends its sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped out over the weekend, ensuring the competition ran smoothly.

None of the RPIAC Extraordinary Catch Incentives were claimed, and the members-only, competition weekend, \$1000 first-tocatch prizes for senior competitors remain in the bank.

The incentives up for grabs are for eligible species that equal or exceed the nominated weight and include King George whiting (1000 grams), snapper (10kg), Gummy shark (20kg), mulloway (25kg), and kingfish (25kg).

All junior anglers who participate receive complementary membership to RPIAC, allowing them to compete for prizes and the club championships in the Squidgie (anglers aged nine or younger) and Junior (anglers aged 10 to 16) categories.

The next fishing competition is scheduled for October 25 and 26.

The RPIAC clubrooms are open on Friday nights from 5pm, providing a great opportunity for members and visitors to socialise and share their fishing stories.

For more information about RPIAC and upcoming events, visit www.rpi-

Midweek at Corinella

BOWLS

The greens at Corinella were buzzing again as 52 bowlers gathered for another round of friendly competition.

Hosts Bev and John gave a warm welcome, while Vern expertly organised the day's teams.

After the teams were set, everyone moved out onto the green, which was in excellent condition.

The air was filled with laughter and friendly chatter, a testament to the fun and great bowling happening across all the rinks.

A few 'wrong bias' bowls added to the fun and, more importantly, to the donations for the RCH

Winners on a score of 34 were: David Prosser (Lead), Enid Johnston (2nd), Laurie Bell (3rd), and Steve Bray (Skip).

Runners-up on a score of 28: Neil Andreatta (3rd),



Best One Game winners Mark Hanrahan (Skip), Amanda Bozelle (3rd) and Jim Nunan (Lead).

Vern Elliott (Skip), Bill Williams (2nd) and Tony Morris (Lead).

Best One Game winners on a score of 19: Mark Hanrahan (Skip), Amanda Bozelle (3rd) and Jim Nunan (Lead).

A big thank you to Steve and Phil for their hard work behind the bar and to everyone who pitched in to clean the kitchen and hall at the end of the day.

Your help is always appreciated.

Get ready to bowl again this week when we meet at San Remo to compete for Team of the Week."

Please be on-site by 10am sharp to allow enough time to organize the teams.

Since the numbers are consistently near capacity, there is a strict 10am cutoff time.

Euchre results We are always looking to welcome new players.

Ladies winner: Faye with 8 wins. Men's winner: Bob with 5 wins. Encouragement award: Sandy.

Congratulations Faye without losing a

round, not a regular occurrence.

new players.

Even if you don't know how to play, we would love to have you come and learn every Thursday night at 7.30pm for an enjoyable and social night.

Results from the table

BRIDGE

It was another stellar week at the PI Bridge Club, with Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour dominating the competition.

On Monday, the dynamic duo triumphed over five tables, scoring an impressive 67.13 per cent.

Their winning streak continued into Wednesday, where they claimed top honours across three tables, posting a solid 61.67 per cent.

Club attendance dipped midweek, as several members headed off for their annual pilgrimage to Rutherglen, where they spent a few days immersed in playing bridge.

Looking ahead, the club is eagerly preparing for its special introduction to bridge session, held in celebration of Seniors Week.

Scheduled for Wednesday October 22, the event aims to welcome newcomers to the game, offering expert guidance from experienced members.

Anyone keen to join in is encouraged to contact Caroline on 0418 369 557.



The Phillip Island Level Six Gymstar team delivered an incredible performance at the Knox Gymnastics Club on Sunday, October 12. Back row: Franzi, Asha, Madi and Ayla. Front row: Kailey, Anna, Frankie, Stellah and Mia.

Phillip Island Gymstars shine at Knox competition

GYMNASTICS

On Sunday October 12, the Phillip Island Level Six Gymstar team stepped onto the competition floor at Knox Gymnastics Club with a mixture of excitement and nerves.

Their months of dedication and hard work were on full display, as they delivered polished routines and rallied around each other with enthusiastic support and encouragement throughout the event.

Both Gymstar teams impressed the judges and crowd alike, securing an outstanding

first and second place overall.

In the individual all-around results, Frankie and Kailey shared sixth place, Madi took fifth, Anna finished fourth and Stellah earned an impressive second place.

A host of apparatus awards were also presented to individuals from both Phillip Island teams. Coach Ava expressed immense pride in her athletes, praising their progress, teamwork and sportsmanship.

All participants left the competition beaming with pride, their achievements a testament to their commitment and camaraderie.



Congratulations to the new SGB Captains and Vice Captains, from left: Mostyn Lumsden, Asha Chalmers, Hugh Munro, Rilly Fisher and Larg Smyth

SGB swimmers enjoy competing at home competition

SWIMMING

Leongatha Splash was busy on Sunday as the South Gippsland Bass Swim club hosted GSI 3.

The 130 swimmers from throughout Gippsland raced in a series of 50 and 100m races.

There were also a handful of Under 8s having their first racing experience, doing the 25m.

The centre was full of extended families making the most of

being able to come and watch their nieces and nephews or grandchildren compete.

The event was the first home meet for the summer 25/26 season with Head Coach Dylan announcing the captains for the year ahead.

The captains were chosen not just for being great swimmers, but as the role models they are for the younger swimmers.

The Head captains for 25/26

are Lara Smyth, Asha Chalmers and Billy Fisher.

The Vice Captains are Mostyn Lumsden and Hugh Munro. The swimmers were well fuelled up for the meet, after having a day from nutritionist Ali Miles, a founder of the Fuel School who specialises in helping athletes with the dietary needs, including ensuring they have enough food and how to help improve performance with your food intake.

Tenpin bowling comp update

BOWLING

2s Company week 10: 1st place King Pins on 20pts, 2nd place

Jail on 20 pts and 3rd place Him and Her on 18pts.

ABL week 10: 1st place Fairlanes on 124.5pts, 2nd place Just Bowl

already on 122pts and 3rd place the Fireballs on 118pts.

Phantom week 8: 1st place Herdy Gerdy on 210 pts, 2nd Place Spin King on 205pts and 3rd place Love Muscle on 168pts.

Business Early week 1: 1st place

NTC on 3 pts, 2nd place The Redundants on 2pts, 3rd place Wooly Rollers on 2pts and 4th place Happy Hour on 2pts.

Business Late week 1: 1st place S & R Clarke auto on 3pts, 2nd place the Ex-Men on 2pts and

3rd place the Ballbarians on 1pt. Top scores for this week

across each league were: Men: Steve Clarke 200, Raff Merante 194 and Jason Bence 182. Woman: Tricia Neissink 186, Mary Dardha 154 and Katy Betts 1.

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, October 7 Men's 18H Comp Stableford Back 9 x 2

Overall winner: Ian Smith (9) 42. A Grade winner: A-1 Ian Smith

A-2 winner: Gino Manfredi (12) 35.

B Grade winner: B-1 Stephen Mack (17) 36.

B-2 winner: John Enbom (17) 36. C Grade winner: C-1 Phil Nicholson (23) 39.

C-2 winner: Garry Skelton (22) 34. BDL to 32 C/B.

NTP: 5th, 7th and 10th Stephen McAllister and 17th Shane Palmer.

Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Ian Barker (22) 19 pts from Steve Rieger (13) 18 pts

BDL to 16 pts C/B.

Wednesday, October 8 Teal Day

Another great event well done to all involved.

Winners: Pam Ardern, Jan Daff, Anne McCallum and Jillian Tyrell score 35.25.

Runners up: Mary Bourke, Gwen Mather, Gill Scrase and Jill Trickey score 35.625.

Thursday, October 9

Open 18H StablefordOverall winner: Peter Rymer

(17) 41 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Mark White (12) 36 pts c/b.

A-2 winner: Anthony Shannon (9) 36 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Peter Rymer (17) 41 pts. B-2 winner: Rickardo Meder (15)

40 pts. C Grade winner: C-1 Craig Mor-

ris (24) 40 pts C/B. C-2 winner: Vicki Amato (27) 40 pts C/B.

BDL to 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Daryl Vernon, 7th Alan Airey, 10th Kevin Archer and 17th Heath Grace.

Saturday, October 11 Men's and Mixed 18H 4BBB Stableford

Overall winners: Alex Andrews and John McCaffrey 48 pts C/B. Second place: Dennis Hackling and Peter Rymer 48 pts.

Third place: Phillip Dressing and Stuart Carson 45 pts C/B. BDL to 41 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th and 7th Harry Bentley, 10th William Haslett and 17th Stuart Crawford.

Women's 18H Comp 4BBB Stableford

Overall winners: Lyn Dunne and Jillian Tyrrell 46 pts from

Maureen Ellard and Joanne Disher 46 pts. BDL to 41 pts C/B. NTP: 7th Helen Coghlan.

Sunday, October 12 Open 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Max Mattock (16) 40 pts from Zakk Allen-Ryan (13) 39 pts. BDL: to 35 pts C/B.

Red Rocks golf results

Saturday, October 11 Stableford

Winner: Rob Stead (15) 39 points.

Runner up: Alan Smith (14) 33 points.

NTP: Hole 5 Steve Wurt, Hole 17 Rob Stead.

Sunday, October 12

Stableford Winner: Robert McLaurin (11) 39 points C/B.

Runner up: Rob Stead (12) 39 points.

NTP: Hole 3 Steve Wurt, Hole 10 Neil Malcolm.

WED 15 OCT

LOW 12:44 am 0.36 m

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

WED 15 OCT FRI 17 OCT SAT 18 OCT SUN 19 OCT **THU 16 OCT** MON 20 OCT ■ TUE 21 OCT HIGH 1:24 am 12:14 am LOW LOW LOW HIGH LOW 0.36 m 0.55 m 1.10 m 2.39 m 7:52 am 8:38 am 2.73 m 9:28 am 2.58 m HIGH | 10.2 : 2.48 m 10:24 am 11:28 am 2.43 m HIGH 7:05 am 1.13 m HIGH HIGH HIGH LOW LOW 2.89 m 1.15 m 1:29 pm LOW LOW HIGH HIGH 1.02 m 1.09 m 1.15 m 1.09 m 2.43 m 2.47 m HIGH LOW

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Five father/son pairs were part of the C-Grade cricket game on Saturday. From left: Roy and Wade Paterson, Bailey and Jon Parry, Mick and Liam Cleary, Shane and Max Carville, Cal and Graham Chambers (team manager).

Cricket returns for a new season

CRICKET

A Grade

After a tough opening round, the Sharks regrouped during the week and came out firing against Town, starting perfectly when George McCausland struck in the first over.

Town's openers, Jesse Giardinia and Jack Hume, counter-attacked with a string of boundaries on the fast Cowes deck before captain Daniel Mock shuffled the bowlers, bringing Jobe up the hill and Tim

A fielding mishap saw Connor Epifano step on the ball and retire hurt, forcing a surprised Tom Blackwell, still in shorts, onto the field until Justin Tran arrived fresh from the fryers at Kim's.

Jobe soon broke through, removing Giardinia for 25, before young Heath Womersly joined the attack.

After a scratchy start, Heath found rhythm, dismissing Hume caught behind to Mock, leaving Town 3-65.

Jobe's tight spell of 1-19 off eight overs set the tone.

After drinks, Kurt Lane and Heath built pressure until a mix-up gifted a run-out.

Heath then struck twice in two balls, reducing Town to 6-80. Despite resistance from Mo Mudusanka, who top-scored with 50, the Sharks' fielding held strong through efforts from Tran and Archie Williams. Tom Niven's pace burst broke the seventh wicket stand, followed by tidy spells from both Nivens. Tom took 2-9 off four, Tim grabbed 2-36 off 7.4, and Heath finished with 3-16 off eight as Town were dismissed for 143.

After tea, openers Kurt Lane and Max Arceo made a solid start. Arceo rotated the strike while Lane attacked with power, clearing the rope and racing to 35 from 28 before holing out with the score at 1-51.

Heath added 12, and Arceo fell soon after for 13. Mock and Tharidu "T" Asurumuni steadied things at 4-77, combining patience with aggression.

T's clean hitting and sharp running saw the pair cruise past the target in the 31st over, finishing unbeaten, Mock on 38 and T on 36.

It was a complete team performance: disciplined bowling, sharp fielding, and composed batting sealed a much-needed win for the Sharks, who now look ahead to hosting Imperials next week with renewed confidence. Read full A Grade report at www.pisra.com.au

After a wash out round 1, Phillip Island B1 team travelled to Scorpion Park to take on Leongatha Town.

Captain Tarryn Allan lost the toss and was told to bowl, with Harry Arceo and Jacko Allan opening.

Both bowled tidy spells, getting a wicket each. Aidan Williams and Tarryn Allan came onto bowl after the openers.

Leongatha got on top of our bowling for a bit before Phillip Island was able to peg it back, with both Aidan and Tarryn picking up two wickets each.

Debutant Damien Holmes then came into the attack after drinks and bowled an extremely tidy spells picking up two wickets. Bud Marshall and Jacko Allan picked up the last two wickets to keep Town to 145 after 38 overs.

After lunch the Sharks went into bat with openers Bud Marshall and Sarith Angelo. After a four from Angelo he was caught at point. Tony Hornsby came to the crease, hitting a couple boundaries, then was caught at mid-off for nine.

Sitting at 2/20 after five overs a solid partnership from Henry Peppard and Bud Marshall saw the Sharks steady before Bud was caught behind.

Damien Holmes was then in and didn't look like going out and gave Leongatha no chances. Henry went out shortly after to bring out Andrew Finlayson for his first hit of the year.

Both Damo and Finno steered the Sharks to victory with Damo finishing 51 not out and Finno on 23.

Man of the match Damien Homles with 51 and 2/18 off 7.

C Grade

The first game of the year for C Grade was held at the immaculately presented Bass 2 oval. Captain Cleary shocked everyone by winning the toss and elected to bat.

With a few new faces, Paterson and senior debutant Cal Chambers opened the innings. Cal departed quickly bringing Jon Parry to the crease.

Parry and Paterson started building a solid partnership, both hitting the boundary. Parry nearly landed a huge six into the Bass River, before he smashed the ball at the bowler, it ricocheted off his leg hitting the stumps and Patterson was run out for 14. Parry then was caught on the boundary for 23.

Hughes went cheaply bringing Cleary and Sonny Mac together. The pair got the Sharks through to drinks at 4/55.

Cleary and Sonny put on a 64-run stand, ending when Cleary was caught behind for 53.

Sonny went shortly after for nine. The tail didn't wag, Lock (1), B Parry (1) and S Carville (1). Roy Paterson and Max Carville closed out the innings - both not out.

Max was on his way to a big score and was quick to remind his dad that he outscored him. Sharks 9/115.

After the luncheon interval, the Sharks headed into the field. Cleary and Sonny Mac opened the bowling keeping it tight.

Chambers and Lock were brought into the attack, and both bowled brilliant spells.

Steve Lock on debut bowled with great pace and aggression. Cal got his first senior wicket when the skipper took a diving catch.

Bass kept chipping away at the total, and the Sharks couldn't get another wicket. Bass passed the total with five overs re-

A well-deserved victory for Bass in a game played in great spirit.



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