

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

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Arriving at Phillip Island, Championship leader Francesco Bagnaia is 18 points ahead of nearest rival Jorge Martin, and will be looking for a win after his success at the Indonesian Grand Prix last week.

The MotoGP returns to Phillip Island and promises a weekend of great racing and entertainment.

Championship leaders Francesco Bagnaia and Jorge Martin, separated by 18 points, will be battling it out, with Bagnaia keen to further consolidate his lead.

Australian rider Jack Miller will be hoping for a more successful outing in front of his home crowd this year, following an unfortunate crash at Miller Corner in 2022, which had been renamed in his honour the day prior. Miller is currently sitting in ninth position.

Expect some edge-of-your-seat action as the 1000cc four-stroke machines battle it out at speeds that can exceed 330km/h.

Also on track is Moto2, the breeding ground for the MotoGP stars of tomorrow. Previous winners include Jorge Lorenzo, Marc Marquez, Francesco Bagnaia and Remy Gardner.

Current leader Spain's Pedro Acosta (just 19 years old) is moving to MotoGP in 2024, so he's definitely one to watch.

In Moto3, the home crowd will be cheering on Australian Joel Kelso, who is currently 21st out of 35 riders.

Alongside the action on the

track, there are some great activities on offer at the circuit.

If you're looking for fun activities, or to sit back and enjoy some local entertainment, then Lukey's Lawn is the place to be.

You can enjoy lawn games, Airtime FMX stunt displays, remote controlled cars and the Buck and Spin Bull.

Looking for more excitement? Get harnessed up in the Bungee Tramps and try out your best tricks and flips. This is free and suitable for anyone aged five years or more.

For the fans

Hear and see your favourite riders at the Fan Forum Stage in Gardner Village.

The stage hosts appearances from MotoGP, Moto3, Moto2, international riders and VIPs at the Q&A Sessions. Fans can get comfy on the beanbags and watch GPTV outside operational times.

And Miguel Maestre will hold free cooking demonstrations of his famous paella in the 3x3m Paellatron on Friday and Saturday at midday.

The Hero Walk is a unique chance to get up close and personal with your favourite riders. This ticketed event gives fans exclusive access to their favou-

rite MotoGP riders and gives fans the chance to welcome riders to the circuit each morning.

This is the best place to get a selfie or autograph with the event stars.

Saturday's walk is from 8.30am-9.40am, while Sunday is 9am-10.50am.

Expo

It's all about bikes at the GP Expo. Check out the latest bikes from motorcycle manufacturers, browse riding apparel and purchase the latest in accessories.

A variety of exhibitors will bring all the products and services that riders love for you to try yourself. One of the most popular attractions at the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, the GP Expo runs daily from gates open until gates close. Entrance to the event is free to all attendees, with the GP Expo located in the popular Gardner Village precinct, adjacent to Gardner Straight.

At the front entrance to the GP Expo, you'll find Urban Garage, where fans motorbikes are displayed.

ADF

The Air Force Roulettes will be taking to the skies on Saturday and Sunday.

The ADF will also be on the ground, with a Static Rotary Wing Display, and two Australian light armoured vehicles on display: the Bush Master and G Wagon.

Campgrounds

For those fans staying at the campgrounds, the Trackside Stage will present live entertainment from 7pm-10pm on Friday and 8pm-11pm on Saturday night.

You can also test your skills against fellow campers on the arcade games and foosball tables.

Get dressed

Take your MotoGP experience back home with you and visit

the official merchandise outlets to get your merch fix. You won't be short on choice - there are nine outlets around the circuit this year. Pick up your exclusive MotoGP Guru by Gryfyn Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix merchandise, including everything from headwear to T-shirts and special memorabilia.

A wide selection of the latest MotoGP rider and team merchandise is also available. All merchandise outlets are open during gate hours.

To get the most up-to-date schedule information, go to: www.motogp.com.au/schedule

Phillip Island will host the 2024 MotoGP October 18-20.

The Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) has released the 2024 Provisional MotoGP™ Calendar.

2024 will mark the 35th anniversary of the first Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix to be held at the world-renowned Phillip Island circuit in 1989.

In that year, Australian Wayne

Gardner was victorious in front of a rapturous home crowd - a feat he repeated the following year.

"It's an exciting moment to confirm dates for 2024, giving fans plenty of time to plan their visit to the wonderful Phillip Island next year," said Australian Grand Prix Corporation CEO, Travis Auld.



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Track's safety upgrades

Fans returning to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit this year will notice a few changes.

Since last year, there have been upgrades at the track designed to improve safety for riders and spectators. The upgrades began in April and took about six weeks to complete.

Matthew Walton, General Manager of Design and Construction at the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) said the upgrades came about after a report into last year's event from the Fédération Internationale De Motocyclisme (FIM) safety committee.

The safety upgrades are an essential part of being able to run MotoGP events.

"These upgrades to the circuit mean we continue to meet the Grade A standards for MotoGP and Superbikes," Matthew said.

The safety upgrades haven't changed the layout of the track, which is much loved by fans and riders.

"Phillip Island is an incredible circuit with beautiful topography," said Matthew.

"There are no changes to the actual alignment of turns around the circuit."

The key changes are extensions to gravel trap run offs and asphalt run offs, as well as installing concrete barriers and debris fencing.

"At Turns 11 and 12, we've deepened and extended the gravel trap and created a new barrier line with concrete barriers and debris fencing," Matthew explained.

"At Turn 1 the existing gravel trap and asphalt has been extended.

"And around the entire circuit, two metre concrete aprons that vary in length, have been installed.



Since last year's MotoGP, there have been upgrades at the track designed to improve safety for riders and spectators, including extensions to gravel traps at Turns 11 and 12, and the installation of concrete barriers and debris fences. Photo: Russell Colvin.

"All up, there's 1.7km of verges."

While the safety upgrades have not changed the layout or speed of the track, Matthew said MotoGP fans familiar with the island circuit will definitely see the difference.

"The works at Turns 11 and 12 are significant, and spectators can see the gravel trap has been expanded," Matthew said.

"A viewing mound at Turn 12 is gone – it's been absorbed into the track.

"The tree line has also gone with that expansion."

He also said the debris fencing at Turns 11 and 12 will change the level of visibility, "but these fences are not an uncommon thing at race events".

After last year's sodden conditions, Matthew said everyone is hoping for a sunnier, drier event.

But he said conditions this year are very different to 2022, which saw camping and parking abandoned at the circuit.

"Last year, in July and August, the water table was at the surface," he recalls.

"It's different this year. We're not walking through wet paddocks."

While he said the lower rainfall in the winter months might not have been great for the gardens, it was good news for the race organisers.

"I don't want another year like last year.

"I've worked for the GP for 18 years and I'd never seen anything like it."

As for this year's event ... "It's going to be drier, warmer and nicer," he predicted.

"I've got my fingers crossed."

All the Action

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Cowes Main Stage

5pm – 11pm: Rider interviews, races and movies on the BMW Super-screen

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

GP Circuit

8.00am: Gates open
9am: Moto3, Practice 1
9.50am: Moto2, Practice 1
10.45am: MotoGP, Practice 1
11.45am: bLU cRU Oceania Junior Cup, Free Practice
1.15pm: Moto3, Practice 2
2.05pm: Moto2, Practice 2
3.00pm: MotoGP, Practice 2
4.15pm: bLU cRU Oceania Junior Cup, Qualifying
5.30pm: Gates close

At the track

8.30am – 9.40am: Hero Walk – meet the icons of MotoGP
12pm: Miguel Maestra paella cooking demonstration

All day: Lawn Games and activities, Lukey's Lawn, GP Expo
7pm – 10pm: Campground – live music

Cowes Main Stage

6.00pm: Imogen Price
9.00pm: Emotional Rescue – The Rolling Stones Show

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

GP Circuit

8.00am: Gates Open
8.40am: Moto3, Practice 3
9.25am: Moto2, Practice 3
10.10am: MotoGP, Free Practice
10.50am: MotoGP, Qualifying 1
11.15am: MotoGP, Qualifying 2
12.15pm: bLU cRU Oceania Junior Cup, Race 1
12.50pm: Moto3, Qualifying 1
1.15pm: Moto3, Qualifying 2
1.45pm: Moto2, Qualifying 1
2.10pm: Moto2, Qualifying 2
3.00pm: MotoGP, Tissot Sprint
4.10pm: bLU cRU Oceania Junior Cup, Race 2
5.30pm: Gates close

At the track

9.00am – 10.50am: Hero Walk – meet the icons of MotoGP
12pm: Miguel Maestra paella cooking demonstration
2.30pm: RAAF Aerial Display

All day: Lawn Games and activities – Lukey's Lawn, GP Expo, ADF Bush Master and G Wagon and Static Rotary Wing Display
8pm – 11pm: Campground – live music

Cowes Main Stage

10am – midnight: BMW Super-screen
6.00pm: The Laing Bros
9.00pm: Robbie Williams Experience plus Louie and the Party Boys

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

GP Circuit

8.30am: Gates open
9am: bLU cRU Oceania Junior Cup, Race 3
9.40: MotoGP, Warm Up
10.00am: MotoGP, Rider Fan Parade
11am: Moto3 Race
12.15pm: Moto2 Race
2.00pm: MotoGP Race
5.00pm: Gates close

At the track

1.35pm: RAAF Aerial Display, plus post Anthem fly-past
All day: Lawn Games and activities – Lukey's Lawn, GP Expo, ADF Bush Master and G Wagon and Static Rotary Wing Display

Cowes Main Stage

10am – 11pm: BMW Super-screen
6.00pm: Rehash Cover Band
7.00pm: Replay 2023 MotoGP race
8.00pm: Rehash Cover Band

Get up close to your heroes

The Hero Walk returns to the MotoGP™ Guru by Gryfyn Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix for 2023, again giving fans a chance to welcome riders to the circuit.

Motorsport fans will have the opportunity to interact with their favourite MotoGP™, Moto2™ and Moto3™ riders.

Hero Walk provides a chance to meet your favourite riders, with MotoGP™ riders expected to descend on the fan favourite area on Sunday, with the emerging talent of riders in Moto2™

and Moto3™ making their trip down the Hero Walk across the weekend.

Hero Walk is situated along the riders' route to the MotoGP™ Paddock and includes roving performers and a DJ.

It's the best position for fans to get a selfie or autograph with the event's stars.

This is a ticketed event, and all tickets have been snapped up by eager fans.

Saturday's walk is from 8.30am – 9.40am, while Sunday is 9am – 10.50am.



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Last year's ride was lead by Australia's Jack Miller and Remy Gardner, while this year, fans will get to ride to the circuit from San Remo and complete a lap, with Marc Marquez leading the way.

Marc Marquez leads the way

MotoGP superstar Marc Marquez will lead fans on the ride across the Phillip Island Bridge to the Grand Prix Circuit for the second annual Homecoming Ride.

On Wednesday, October 18, up to 500 fans on motorcycles will meet in San Remo and ride to the circuit, completing a lap before finishing on the main straight, led by the eight-time world champion.

Marc Marquez said he was looking forward to getting on

the road with fans before the start of this year's Australian Grand Prix.

"Phillip Island is a really fun race and the Australian fans have a unique character that I enjoy a lot," he said.

"It is always nice to meet them and speak with them about the sport. See you on the island!"

Last year's ride was led by Australia's Jack Miller and Remy Gardner.

The Homecoming Ride wel-

comes back the MotoGP, which kicks off on Friday, October 20.

The 2023 Homecoming Ride will start at the Marine Parade car park in San Remo.

Motorcycles will be checked in and scrutineered from 12pm, before a Q&A session with the MotoGP riders.

The riders will set off at approximately 1.30pm.

All riders must have registered to join the Homecoming Ride.



It was a family affair, with three generations of the Scarlato family at the track enjoying the 2022 MotoGP.

It's the flavour of the MotoGP

A trip to Phillip Island for the MotoGP wouldn't be complete without a visit to Pino's Trattoria in Cowes.

Over the years, owner Rosa Scarlato has amassed an iconic collection of riders suits which hang proudly on the walls of the Cowes restaurant.

And every year, you'll find the Scarlato family enjoying the action at the track, and the riders enjoying the restaurant's authentic Italian menu.

The Pino's collection ranges from the riders of World Superbike races to the Moto GP - covering racers of all different classes and nationalities, donated by the riders to the popular restaurant.

"We never know what will be given each year and we are slow-

ly running out of window space," says Rosa's daughter Romina, who works at the restaurant with her mother.

The display includes the suit of the late Marco Simoncelli (58), and a Jack Miller suit donated back in 2017.

A suit worn by Loris Capirossi during his final race on Phillip Island in 2011 also hangs proudly on the wall.

And there's an original leather suit, inspired by Valentino Rossi, and signed by the superstar.

The collection expanded after the 2022 event, when Australian Moto3 rider Joel Kelso presented Rosa with his suit to add to the collection, topping off a fantastic weekend for the GP-mad family business.

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Once you're done at the track, there's no better place to keep the GP spirit going than in Cowes. A special licenced outdoor area at the bottom of Thompson Avenue will include live bands and the BMW Superscreen.

Cowes gets into the GP spirit

Once you're done at the track, there's no better place to keep the GP spirit going than in Cowes.

A special licenced outdoor area at the bottom of Thompson Avenue will have live bands and race highlights (no live footage) on a superscreen for everyone to enjoy.

On Thursday night (October 19), kick off your MotoGP long weekend with rider interviews, races and movies showing throughout the evening on the BMW Superscreen, from 5pm until 11pm.

After a big day at the track, on Friday evening head into Cowes for some great live music, as well as more race excitement on the BMW Superscreen.

The entertainment runs from 6pm until midnight.

Live performers include Imogen Price at 6pm then at 9pm, Emotional Rescue – The Rolling Stones Show hits the stage ... so get yer ya-ya's out!

There's action all day on Saturday on the BMW Superscreen, from 10am until midnight.

After a day of high-octane excitement at the track, get ready to party with some sensational live acts. Local favourites The Laing Bros are on stage at 6pm, followed at 9pm by the Robbie Williams Experience and Louie and the Party Boys.

Make the most of this world class weekend of racing and head to Thompson Avenue on Sunday, where the BMW Superscreen is operating from 10am until 11pm. At 6pm, Rehash Cover Band hits the stage, then relive all the thrills of the big race, with a 2023 MotoGP race replay, before Rehash return to rock the night away.

Traffic

There's a lot going on over the MotoGP weekend, so planning your trip can help avoid traffic frustration.

On Wednesday, October 18 the Homecoming Ride will see around 500 fans on motorcycles, led by MotoGP superstar Marc Marquez, leave San Remo around 1.30pm and head for the Phillip Island Circuit.

The riders will meet in the Marine Parade car park in San Remo from midday, so things will be busy in the area.

The Barry Sheene Ride, which traditionally arrived on the island on the Thursday before the MotoGP is not happening this year.

The Saturday morning ride from Cranbourne is no more, but it's still expected hundreds of motorcyclists will arrive on the island on Saturday morning, with the first Qualifying Race (MotoGP) due to start at 10.50pm.

After the final race on Sunday, the Blue Line will be in operation on Phillip Island Road between Back Beach Road and the Bass Highway merge on Sunday, October 22 from 2pm to 7pm (approximately).

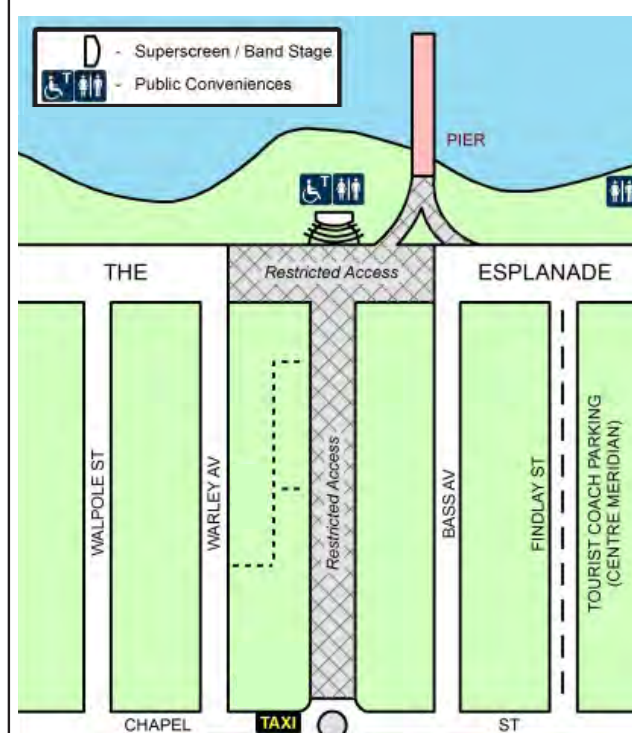
This provides an additional lane of traffic for vehicles leaving Phillip Island, by utilising the emergency lane.

Police will be supervising traffic leaving the circuit and at key intersections, including the roundabout at Back Beach Road.



Get yer ya-ya's out! Emotional Rescue – The Rolling Stones Show will be onstage from 9pm on Friday night at the special GP outdoor licenced area at the bottom of Thompson Avenue.

Road Closures: 2023 MotoGP



Thursday, 19 October 4.00pm to 11.00pm
- motorcycle parking only.

- Thompson Ave closed from Chapel St to The Esplanade
- The Esplanade closed from Warley Ave to Thompson Ave

Friday, 20 October 12.30pm to Monday, 23 October midday - motorcycle parking only

- Thompson Ave closed from Chapel St to The Esplanade
- The Esplanade closed from Warley Ave to Bass Ave

All closures are subject to change depending on crowd numbers and traffic conditions.

For more information please contact Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.



Let me entertain you! The Robbie Williams Experience hits the stage on Saturday night at 9pm.

Roulettes return

For the first time since 2019, the Air Force Roulettes return for the MotoGP.

The Roulettes are the Royal Australian Air Forces aerobatic display team and will perform breathtaking displays in the skies over Phillip Island as part of GP celebrations.

The Roulettes are a six aircraft, seven-member team, and pilots fly at speeds of up to 685 kilometres per hour, flying as low as 80 metres.

Flying as close as three metres apart, the team showcases the level of visual judgement and hand-eye coordination that pilots in the Air Force are able to achieve.

The Roulettes' pilots may experience up to six times the normal force of gravity during a display in their PC-21 aircraft, one of the most advanced training aircraft in the world.

The manoeuvres on display are an extension of formation, aerobatics, low level flying and airmanship skills, taught to Air Force pilots.

Watch out for their spectacular aerial displays from 2.30pm to 2.45pm on Saturday (October 21) and on Sunday (October 22) between 1.25pm and 1.40pm.

The timing of the displays may be subject to weather conditions.

Pet owners are reminded that the display can be loud and frighten animals, so keep an eye on your pets at these times.

www.facebook.com/AirForceRoulettes



For the first time since 2019, the Air Force Roulettes return for the MotoGP. Photo: Air Force Roulettes Facebook page.



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Current PICAL chair, Graeme Turner at last year's MotoGP. PICAL has once again been named as one of two official charity partners for this year's event, and money raised through the partnership will be used to support the vital work PICAL does in the community.

PICAL hits the track

For the second year, the Phillip Island Community and Learning centre (PICAL) has been named as one of two official charity partners for the 2023 MotoGP.

Money raised through the partnership with the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) will be used to support the vital work PICAL does in the local community.

To support this great local charity, you can buy a ticket in the GP Raffle and go into the running to win a Yamaha motorbike, or one of a series of six helmets, painted live over the event by a First Nations artist.

Tickets are just \$20 and will be on sale at the circuit across the three days of the MotoGP.

PICAL volunteers will serve as front of house staff for the Marshals dinner, helping the Australian Grand Prix Corporation give back to the incredible volunteers of MotoGP.

At the end of the MotoGP, surplus food from the event will be donated

to the PICAL food bank.

The food bank run by PICAL has grown into the largest emergency food outlet in South Gippsland.

During the Covid pandemic, demand for the service skyrocketed.

However the rising cost of living has seen more families than ever accessing the service.

The program is now seeing more people on a daily basis than at the peak of Covid.

The number of visitors to the food pantry is over 200 people each week, with an estimated 350 people being fed.

The PICAL pantry issues hampers with enough emergency food rations to last one person for a week. These hampers include fresh produce, packaged staple foods such as flour, pasta and rice, and frozen complete meals cooked by another team of PICAL volunteers.

PICAL also offers learn local training programs (including hospitality, sustainability and digital technology), workplace

training and a wide range of community services, and functions thanks to the support of a team of dedicated volunteers.

It also maintains a community garden, which supplies fresh produce for the pantry and provides horticulture training, workshops and local food swaps.

If you're at the track this weekend, make sure to visit the PICAL stand or grab a ticket, to support the organisation's vital work.

Off the track, anyone wishing to support the work of PICAL can donate home-grown fresh produce and packaged goods, which can be dropped to their headquarters at 16 Warley Avenue in Cowes (open 9am – 3pm, Monday to Friday).

Cash donations can also be made online at www.pical.org.au/supportus (scroll down to click on the Try Booking link) or go directly to www.trybooking.com/au/donate/emergencyfoodrelief



Members of the St Philip's Anglican Church cook up hearty breakfasts annually for visitors to the Motorcycle Grand Prix, for the bargain price of \$20.

Best value breakfast in town

For the last three decades, members of the St Philip's Anglican Church, in the main street of Cowes, have been cooking hearty breakfasts for visitors to the Motorcycle Grand Prix.

The church's gesture, which commenced with the island's first GP in 1989, certainly adds to the sense of welcome and goodwill extended by Cowes to the thousands who ride in for this international event.

As well as serving up fantastic home-cooked breakfast, volunteers from the church group keep a watchful eye on any bikes parked outside the hall.

Hungry fans can treat themselves to

a breakfast feast for just \$20.

For starters there are cereals and porridge, and unlimited toast, tea, coffee and orange juice, followed by a cooked breakfast of bacon, eggs, tomatoes, sausages and baked beans.

Organiser Erena Norfolk said the price had been deliberately left at \$20, "because of the cost-of-living difficulties many people are experiencing".

Along with the satisfaction of providing a warm and wholesome welcome to hundreds of visitors over the weekend, these breakfasts are a major fundraiser and provide much needed funds for the upkeep of the church hall.

Get cooking this GP

Beloved Spanish-Australian chef Miguel Maestre is set to get taste buds sizzling, when he brings his iconic Paellatron to the MotoGP.

An ambassador for the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix and an avid motorcycle fan and rider himself, Maestre will be holding special presentations on Friday and Saturday at midday.

The Paellatron, a three-metre-wide dish, can cook up to 1500 serves of Paella at a time. It will be the first Victorian outing for the Paellatron, which holds 150kg

of rice and 450 litres of broth.

"Spanish heritage runs deeply through MotoGP and I can't wait to see my loves for cooking and motorsport combine at the beautiful Phillip Island circuit," said Miguel.

"This will be the very first time the Paellatron will be in Victoria, and I can't think of a better group to cook for than the sport's passionate fans."

Maestre has worked in some of the world's best restaurants, including Tony Bilson's Number One

and the renowned El Bulli in Spain. His talent for incorporating Spanish ingredients and techniques into his menus helped cement his recipes as favourites, as evidenced by his three best-selling books.

Maestre will be giving his signature high-energy demonstrations during the three-day event, giving fans the opportunity to learn (and taste) his famous paella recipe first-hand.

Don't miss Miguel Maestre's Paellatron demonstrations at midday on Friday and Saturday.

Don't blow your Moto GP budget on bottled water



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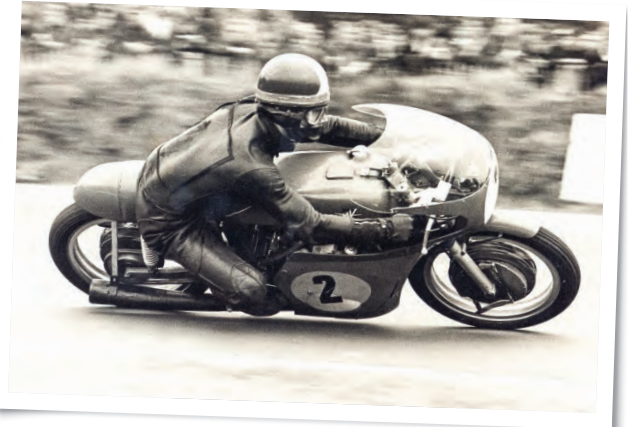
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A history of motorsports

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; head-

ing 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 kilometre) race.

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 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.

But issues with dust and visibility, plus the outbreak of war put an end to the era of on-road races.

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.

A circuit was designed and built (with advice from the Zan-

dvoort 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 Armstrong 500.

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

It wasn't until the Cameron family purchased the land in 1978 that Phillip Island's love affair with MotoGP 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 years).

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.

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The top three riders at last year's MotoGP in action.

Shutter speed

A self-described motorsports fanatic, any time there's action at the GP track, you're sure to find the Advertiser's Alia Schonberg. Don't let her youthfulness fool you. She's an expert photographer and an old hand when it comes to capturing the excitement of race day.

"Photographing at the Circuit is always special for me," Alia said. "I grew up pretty involved in

the motorsport industry so it's a given that it's my favourite place to shoot on the island."

She admits she's addicted to the smells and sounds of motorsport and loves capturing the "insanely quick movement" of the MotoGP bikes.

When the MotoGP returned in 2022 after a two-year Covid enforced absence, Alia was at the track to capture all the action on

the day.

The thrilling contest saw Team Suzuki Ecstar's Alex Rins take top spot on the podium, alongside Marc Marquez (second) and Francesco Bagnaia (third).

This weekend, Alia will once again be trackside, providing regular photographic updates on social media, and her MotoGP coverage will feature in next week's paper.

Find her on Instagram: @sch0ny.



Australian rider Jack Miller in action at the 2022 MotoGP. Turn four at the track is now named after him, joining Mick Doohan, Casey Stoner and Wayne Gardner, who are also immortalised at the track.



Aussie Joel Kelso competed in Moto3 during his first home Grand Prix last year, and returns to Phillip Island this year.



The 2022 MotoGP riders coming out of Siberia.



Last year's winner, Spaniard, Alex Rins. All photos: Alia Schonberg.



The Phillip Island SES Unit will be at Lukey's Lawn during the Moto GP and invites the local community to come by, say hello and learn more about what they do.

Race in and see the SES

Members of the Phillip Island SES Unit will be at the track over the MotoGP weekend.

For once, these dedicated volunteers will be relaxing and talking to the community, rather than dealing with any emergencies.

Deputy Controller Bri Reid said the track has its own response team, so the event is an opportunity for members to get out and connect with the community.

"It's a chance for our members to educate people on what we do and what's involved with VICSES," Bri explained.

"We'll be set up at Lukey's Lawn from Friday through to Sunday, so come and say hello.

"Parents can check out the VICSES search and research equipment while the kids have a play with our miniature children's play truck.

"You can also grab some home and emergency safety information."

Bri said members are happy to answer any questions about VICSES, including how to become a member.

The unit's members are available 24/7 for road rescue, storm and flood damage and emergency events within the community.

And while their trucks are a familiar sight, most people would be surprised to learn the number of volunteers that make up the Phillip Island team.

"The unit averages between 20-30 members, and the number

of active members available to respond to jobs varies between 10 and 15," Bri said.

"Many of our members work full time, or run their own business, plus sometimes people are away on holidays.

"Our road rescue team is only about eight.

"We have our neighbours at San Remo and Wonthaggi, but it's a big area, with a small pool of volunteers."

She said new members were always welcome.

"We're looking for not only operational members (those responding to physical events), but also support members," she said.

"You might have other skills, like administration or equipment maintenance.

"If you're interested, there's a job for everyone."

She hopes Phillip Islanders coming along to the GP on Friday's locals day will stop by and find out what's involved in being part of VICSES.

"All of the training is provided by VICSES at no cost.

"It's a great way to learn new skills and push yourself outside your comfort zone."

Bri has been a volunteer for five years and said she finds the work very rewarding and full of variety.

"I also like the connections, meeting so many different people across the SES and other emergency services.

"It's a great way to give back to the community."

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Motorsports journalist Matt Clayton and MotoGP race winner Chris Vermeulen voted Casey Stoner as the most dominant rider for the Phillip Island event.

Top 5 island winners

Phillip Island's GP circuit is one of the most revered in the world, and all the greats of MotoGP have raced here.

So who do you think are the top five winners on this iconic circuit?

In the lead-up to this year's event, Chris Vermeulen, MotoGP race winner sat down with motorsport journalist Matt Clayton for the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix official YouTube account, to put together their top 5 most dominant riders for the Phillip Island event.

Here is their countdown ... do you agree?

5. JORGE LORENZO

"He only won here once in premier class – he had great riders to compete against – but I think the track really suits his style and when he was on form, man he was quick around here," said Chris, explaining the selection.

4. WAYNE GARDNER

For Matt, Gardner had a record that was hard to question.

"Two premier class starts and

two wins, and he was hugely instrumental with the race even being at Phillip Island in the first place," Matt said.

"And there were no easy wins. Both of them were dramatic."

3. MARC MARQUEZ

"This is a circuit that is absolutely made for him," said Matt of Marc Marquez.

"It's anti-clockwise, it goes left. We know how good he is on those sorts of circuits.

"He's probably won the two best races we've had in the

world championship era, 2015 and 2017."

Chris agreed, describing Marquez as "intensely quick".

2. VALENTINO ROSSI

No Phillip Island list would be complete without Valentino Rossi.

"He has won eight times at Phillip Island, six times in the premiership class," said Matt.

"In that period of the late 90s/early 2000s ... he was just unstoppable."

Chris said Rossi's record

as nine times world champion speaks for itself.

1. CASEY STONER

The undisputed number one was Australia's Casey Stoner.

"He raced here seven times in the premiership and won six of them, the last six in a row," Matt said.

For Chris, as a fellow rider, Stoner's incredible speed "was disheartening".

"The guy ran this place. He's very special."

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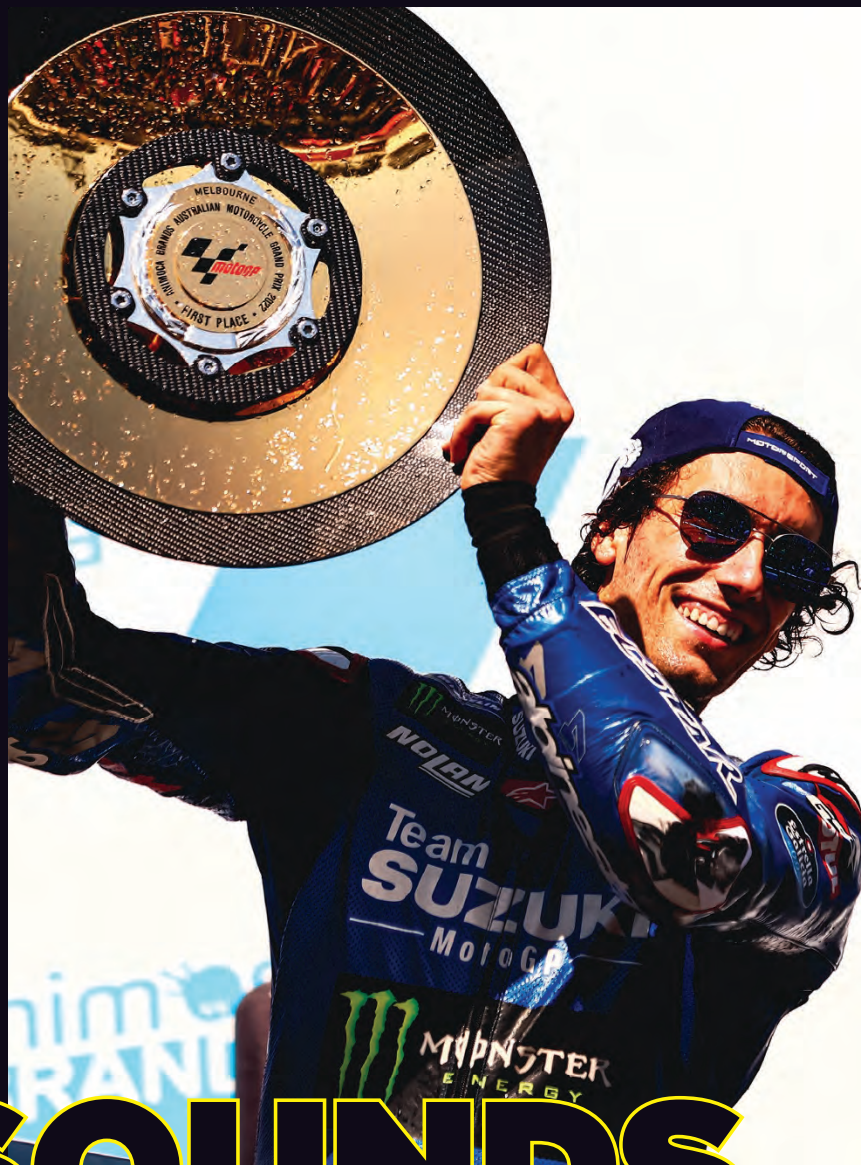
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Phillip Island's Scarlett Rennie took out both the Under 12 and Under 14 girls' events at the Surfing Victoria Groms Competition at Torquay on the weekend. Photo: Ange Zorica, Surfing Victoria. For more surfing, including the Boardriders Presentation Night, see pages 24 - 26.

Victory for residents

Contentious Surf Beach/Sunderland Bay scheme abandoned

ROADS

On Friday night, a post on the Bass Coast Engage website quietly announced the end of an 18-month battle by residents of Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay over a proposed road and drainage upgrade.

Submissions on the proposed Special Charge Scheme in the two estates closed on October 11.

On October 13, a statement was posted on the council website saying "the feedback that has been processed so far indicates the majority of property owners within the estates have submitted an objection to the proposed upgrade which means under the Local Government Act 1989 legislation, the project will not proceed".

The council thanked all the

property owners that supplied feedback.

The Say No group formed to oppose the scheme said the news that it would not proceed was an enormous relief to residents.

The group waged an ongoing campaign against the proposal, accusing the council of failing to listen to their concerns.

It presented four petitions with over 600 signatures, and

claimed these clearly showed the majority of residents did not want the scheme to proceed.

They were also critical of the plan adopted by the council.

"The Say No group always believed council did not have the support of the community with their current proposal and would welcome Council being transparent on the final figure received against the scheme,"


group spokesperson, Maxine Sando said.

"The Say No group were stonewalled by council during this whole process, by not acknowledging special charges questions in council meetings and ward councillors not willing to meet with the core group, so this announcement from council is a welcome outcome."

Continued page 10

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	8 20	12 23	13 22	13 22	11 16	11 14	8 24

The Littlest Penguin on the page

BOOK

A new book, raising money for the Penguin Foundation, has been released.

The Littlest Penguin and the Phillip Island Penguin Parade was created in partnership with the Penguin Foundation and based on the amazing journey behind Phillip Island's Penguin Parade.

It includes a non-fiction section with all you need to know about these wonderful little birds. The book follows the ocean adventures of one of Phillip Island's penguins.

The adorable little penguins come waddling and tumbling out of the water and up the hill, back to their burrows on the island ... But where have they been? What adventures did they have?

Join Little Penguin, Scruffy, Cheeky and Big Chick as they go out to sea for the very first time and learn everything you need to know about the real-life penguins along the way.

Beautifully illustrated on every page and packaged as a small gift-hardback format, this is as irresistible as the cuddly little birds the story is based on.

The Penguin Foundation relies on charitable donations to continue their incredible work to protect Phillip Island's native wildlife; to maintain their wildlife clinic which helps all southern sea birds (not just penguins), to run education programs, as well as research and conservation efforts that threaten the colony.

Penguin Random House will



The Littlest Penguin and the Phillip Island Penguin Parade was created in partnership with the Penguin Foundation and based on the amazing journey behind Phillip Island's Penguin Parade.

be providing funding to the organisation that will be used for Little Penguin research projects and work contributing to Little Penguin protection, rescue, and rehabilitation.

Treasure trove

Jedda Robaard is an Australian author, illustrator and designer, based in Southern Tasmania. She has been writing and illustrating children's books since 2011 and has more than 50 books published.

Her books are sold internationally and have been published in many languages.

The Littlest Penguin is a treasure trove for young minds, offer-

ing not only a captivating story but also a window into the fascinating world of the penguin.

With its unique blend of narrative and nonfiction, this book becomes more than just a tale—it's a companion for exploration and learning. A child can carry it with them, discovering the magic of Phillip Island and the incredible life of a Little Penguin, all within the pages of this special book.

Phillip Island Nature Parks Senior Research Officer Paula Wasiak worked alongside the Penguin Foundation and the book's author and illustrator on the field research for The Littlest Penguin.

"Guiding the talented writer, Michelle Madden, and illustra-

tor, Jedda Robaard, through the heart of the penguin colony allowed us to capture every subtle nuance of these tenacious birds' lives – from their feeding habits to their distinct calls and behaviours," Paula said.

"It was essential to provide an authentic portrayal of the Little Penguin's world, down to the last detail.

"This not only ensures a rich and accurate narrative for young readers, but also pays tribute to the remarkable ecosystem and environment that these resilient birds call home," Paula continued.

"The Penguin Foundation's commitment to funding critical conservation and research projects on Phillip Island has played a huge role in protecting the precious natural haven and the incredible wildlife that inhabits it, including the much-loved Little Penguins.

"In partnership with Penguin Foundation and Penguin Random House, we are thrilled to bring 'The Littlest Penguin' to life, bridging the gap between the magic of storytelling and the urgent need to inspire the next generation of Earth's protectors.

"We hope this collaboration instils a greater love and respect for the environment from the people who read it.

"Together, we're creating a brighter, more sustainable future for Phillip Island and all its remarkable inhabitants."

The Littlest Penguin is published by Puffin and recommended for children aged 4 – 8 years.

RRP \$24.99

Lights out in Cowes

ELECTRICITY

The island's electricity supply was again interrupted, with over 3000 customers in Cowes losing power last week.

There were reports of flickering lights, brown-outs and total black-outs from residents.

An AusNet spokesperson confirmed 3240 customers experienced an outage on October 12, at 7.20pm, due to a connection failure. While 2375 customers had power restored within five minutes, the remaining customers were off until repairs were completed at 2.57am. One local resident said the outage was not like a normal black out, with the lights at their home flickering on and off repeatedly.

When the power came back on, they had to reset their fuses to get their appliances to work. Other residents said they didn't lose power completely, with the lights continuing to run, although more dimly than usual.

In what turned out to be a false alarm, fire crews attended an aged care facility, after reports of smoke from the building switchboard, however no fire was detected, and power was quickly restored.

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

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Grantville, San Remo and Cowes Community Banks are proud to have donated a tractor to Dalyston Recreation Reserve and a new oval mower to Glen Alvie Cricket Club, to assist with keeping grass short and available to play on for the summer days ahead. Pop into a branch today to find out how your everyday banking can help benefit your communities!

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Renters feeling the squeeze

HOUSING

Local estate agents say the Phillip Island and San Remo rental markets are reflecting trends across the state, which saw rental conditions deteriorate further in the last month.

The proportion of rental properties sitting vacant hit a new low, according to the September Property Track Market Report.

Vacancies were down in both capital city and regional areas, with renters feeling the squeeze across the country.

In Australia's regional areas, every state has seen vacancy rates fall by at least 20 percentage points over the last quarter.

As a result, increased competition for rentals and rents are predicted to continue rising at above trend levels over the coming months.

"Declining vacancy rates are increasing competition for rentals and placing growing pressure on rents. As a result, rents are predicted to continue rising at above trend levels over the coming months," the report stated.

Ongoing rapid rate of population growth coupled with the persistent reduction in supply of properties available for rent was also blamed for this increasing problem. The median advertised house rental price across the state is currently \$550 a week.

Property managers on Phillip Island suggest average rate for a four-bedroom home is slightly

lower on Phillip Island, in the \$450 to \$500 range.

Few properties

However, renters on Phillip Island and San Remo are feeling the squeeze, with fewer rental properties available across the district than last year, and rental prices increasing.

Chris Funslow, Property Manager at First National in Cowes, believes interest rate hikes are the prime cause of the rental charge increases being experienced locally.

And that everyone, both landlords and renters, are feeling the pinch.

"The problem we find is a lot of landlords increase the rent when the lease comes up for renewal, because of the interest rate rises they are having to pay on their mortgage on the property.

"A lot of our tenants are then finding the extra \$30 to \$40 a week rise very difficult to find."

Chris said demand for rental properties has also increased, affecting available supply.

"When we get a house in for permanent rental, it is gone within a week; with at least 10 applicants applying."

A number of rental properties have been removed from her books this year, sold by owners to buyers from the housing market.

"The situation is far from ideal, and has created real hardship for many people," Chris said.

"At the moment, it is very difficult for many renters, and I can't



Local estate agents agree conditions in the rental market have deteriorated and like the rest of Victoria, renters on Phillip Island and San Remo are feeling the squeeze.

see it improving in the short term.

"A lot of our tenants have kids, and the rising cost of living has an additional impact on them."

She said while there is rental assistance available for those who find themselves in arrears from places like the Salvation Army and Quantum, "they can only do this once a year."

On a personal level, Chris finds the situation very hard to handle.

"It is hard not to be affected," she said.

"We work for the landlord, renting out a home, and understand why this is being done."

"But you don't feel good having to put up the rental rate when

a renewal lease is due, and a family is going to struggle.

"We can see the situation from both sides. We know times are tough, and so many are doing it hard."

"Living in a small community, where everyone knows everyone, does not make our job easy at all."

Megan Thomas, Property Associate at Stockdale and Leggo, said there had been a dramatic drop in available property rentals on Phillip Island and San Remo this year.

"A few months ago, 65 properties were listed on the rental market across all agencies in the area. This number has dropped

to 32 this week," she said.

Megan wonders if owners are opting for the holiday rental market, with the GP and summer holidays approaching, over permanent rental.

She agrees that the rise in interest rates over the past twelve months has exacerbated the problems being faced by the rental market on Phillip Island, and like Chris across the road says she also finds the situation difficult.

"We do our best to negotiate," she said.

"We do not want to put owners in a position where they lose out on rent, and we want tenants to be able to afford the rent."

Across the bridge at San Remo, Scott Lethbridge, of Garth Lisle Property Consultants, said from his observations, San Remo was in line with the Victorian trend of rising house rentals.

"We do not do property rentals, but from my observations rental rates are rising ... absolutely."

Scott agrees the cause is interest rate rises, which have put pressure on landlords who must increase rents to service loans.

"And inflation and cost of living pressures are increasing the pain," he added.

In his view, short term, things are not going to get better.

"There will be more families moving into San Remo, in time for the new school year, looking for housing, and that will drive rental prices up even more."

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Power to the PICAL!

COMMUNITY

There's plenty of activity at PICAL, as the centre gears up for a busy term four.

While there have been a lot of changes for the organisation in the past 12 months, including a move to new premises in Warley Avenue, a new board chair and a new centre manager, the PICAL team is all systems go.

New centre manager David Rooks said the team of dedicated volunteers are working on a big variety of projects, including the community garden, food pantry and rolling out the new term four courses.

The relocated community garden in Blue Gum Reserve has now been up and running for several months.

"Our volunteers are there Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30am – 12.30pm," David said.

"It is open to the community, and people are very welcome to come down and help."

The section of the garden dedicated to the PICAL pantry is well underway.

There will also be a community section of the garden, but this is yet to be established.

"There will be an opportunity for people to have their own space in the garden, and plant things for their homes," said David.

"It is a fantastic set up. Council and the PICAL volunteers have done really well; there is growth everywhere."

David said the ultimate goal is to have the garden

open six days a week, but that relies on sourcing additional volunteers.

"We need more volunteers to be able to open it up more days."

Another long-term plan is to run horticulture courses from the garden; David is hoping some local gardeners will put their hand up to run the courses.

"We need people who are passionate about the community to make themselves available," he said.

"To be a trainer, you don't have to have qualifications if you are passionate and want to share your knowledge."

"We aren't looking for qualifications. We want passion, love and knowledge."

PICAL hopes to shortly announce an official opening date for the new community garden.

"It will be in spring, and we'll invite everyone down to celebrate," David said.

Food pantry

The PICAL pantry operates from the new Warley Avenue site every weekday, while the cooking group is enjoying the new building's commercial kitchen.

While there is a key team of 10 volunteers who get together each fortnight to cook up hundreds of meals for the pantry, David said new volunteers would be welcome.

"We are always happy to accept new volunteers, as our team needs back up all the time."

"It would be nice to see a few more males involved. We know some men love cooking," he said.



PICAL volunteers with new centre manager David Rooks (front). David said the team is working on a big variety of projects and would love to have some more volunteers come on board.

The team is coordinated by Annette McKenzie, who is also the president of the Phillip Island Community Orchard (PICO).

"There is a lovely connection there with PICO, who often provide produce and herbs for the meals as well," David said.

The cooking sessions utilise produce donated from Aldi, Coles and Woolworths, as well as the San Remo Butcher and donations from the public.

This is topped up by PICAL's fortnightly orders from Food Bank.

The meals are then frozen and distributed through the food pantry.

If members of the public would like to contribute to the food pantry, donations can be dropped at the PICAL reception.

"The best and easiest way to support the food bank is donations of pasta, rice, long-life milk and tinned food," said David.

The food bank cannot accept home-cooked dishes.

Volunteers – more needed

Although there are 80 volunteers on the books, David said the organisation is always looking for new volunteers to join them.

"We have around 50 active volunteers, and only 10 per cent of them are men."

"We'd definitely like to have more males. There are plenty of opportunities for men as well. We need help with building, maintenance and gardening," he said.

"We're also looking for a team that would like to

take on the backyard garden at Warley Avenue.

"We hope to have it filled with kitchen produce – fruit trees, vegetables and herbs that can be used by our cooking team."

"It could be a community group, or an interested group of friends that take it on."

The backyard has been landscaped and had garden beds installed thanks to a grant from the Bendigo Community Bank.

Facilities

The newly built PICAL building has excellent facilities that are available for the community.

As well as meeting spaces, the commercial kitchen can be hired by community groups and private citizens.

There are spaces that can be used for meetings, or for community groups to catch up.

"I see PICAL as a facilitator of community needs," David explained.

"It is a great space with excellent facilities."

"If there is a group that wants to meet here, they can use the facilities and they'll get to see what PICAL has to offer."

David said while a big part of PICAL's work is with the most vulnerable in the community, he also hopes to expand community partnerships.

"PICAL is for the whole community and we can provide a partnership if there's something you'd like to do," he explained.

"For instance, we are working with St Vinnies on the Christmas hampers this year."

"And the Mycelia Energy Collective is running some meetings and workshops at PICAL, as it has grants to do some low-income energy assessments."

David said he expects to see a greater emphasis on sustainability in PICAL courses in the coming years.

"The Australian Centre of Further Education (ACFE) supports us with our Learn Local program and one of their pillars in 2024 is sustainability."

He encourages anyone who has a potential project or who is interested in becoming a PICAL volunteer to get in contact.

"If you have an idea, come and share it," he said.

"I want this place full. We want to be full all the time."

Island vote follows Victorian trend

REFERENDUM

Despite a decisive no vote in the Monash electorate in the weekend's referendum, there was stronger support for the Yes campaign on Phillip Island.

According to the Australian Electoral Commission's breakdown of the referendum votes,

the No vote in Monash was 66.46 per cent, with just 33.54 per cent voting yes.

However on Phillip Island, the figures mirrored the Victorian trend, which saw the state record the highest Yes vote in the country.

The breakdown of the Phillip Island and San Remo polls saw 45 per

cent support for the Yes vote, with 55 per cent voting no.

In Rhyll, the two sides were separated by just one vote, while Newhaven was the only polling booth to record a win for the Yes campaign.

Across Bass Coast, Inverloch, Cape Paterson and Kilcunda all voted Yes.



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Rooks settles in at PICAL

COMMUNITY

Appointed in July this year, new PICAL centre manager David Rooks sat down with the Advertiser to reflect on the first few months in the job.

"There's so many areas that PICAL covers, so trying to get a grasp on all the different areas and where it all fits has been challenging," he admitted.

"I also didn't know the internal structure of the organisation. There are so few paid positions, so dealing with a lot of casual volunteers is a different way of operating."

However he says with decades of volunteering history through his work with Landcare, Scouts, the tennis club and kindergarten committee, he believes he brings strong skills to the job.

"In all my volunteer roles I was the chair, so I have a history of leading volunteers, which is a good fit for this role."

That depth of experience has been vital.

"I was surprised at the level of reliance on volunteers," he said. "We can't run without them."

"The challenge is to get the right policies and procedures in place to get a consistent approach."

"For example, we have 10 shifts each week in our food pantry, which means 10 volunteers, so we are training 10 people."

"But one thing I'm big on is

empowering volunteers."

To this end, he has created team leader roles in the different volunteer areas, such as the garden, the front office and the food pantry, and special project roles.

"Our team leaders are volunteers and they're being recognised for their skills."

"Some of the people I have met in the last few months are awesome. They bring incredible skills to this place."

He's hoping more people will join the team, bringing their skills and expertise to help strengthen the community.

"There is a definite gap with trainers – we need more of them."

"People don't need to be formally accredited. They could have expertise in cooking, art or anything."

"The highest level of interest is in courses on digital support and hospitality," he said, noting there was a strong need for more trainers in these areas.

Hospitality and first aid are also popular courses offered by PICAL.

David is also keen to look at innovative ways to get more young people involved with the centre and facilitate more connections with the community.

"I'd be happy to see this place used as a stop over for young people before they go out on a Friday night."

"For example, perhaps there could be a pizza cooking training night."



New PICAL centre manager David Rooks says decades of volunteering experience meant he was well suited to the new role.

Concerns

As a current councillor at Bass Coast Shire Council, David's appointment was questioned by some, in light of tensions between the two groups during

the relocation to the new site.

However David is firm about keeping the two roles separate and refuses to discuss council issues.

"I work for PICAL. This is

what I do," he said, pointing out other councillors also have jobs.

"There's nothing complicated about that."

So is his role as councillor a strength or weakness?

"I am used to dealing with external stakeholders and I recognise their value to the organisation," he said.

"Council is a key stakeholder, and it is really important to have positive relations with all the agencies that we deal with."

He dismissed suggestions of grumblings from volunteers over his dual role.

"I have a good connection with the volunteers."

"I have been in this community for 10 to 20 years and in my previous roles I've built up good relationships."

He meets with the board once a month and is in regular communication with the chair Graeme Turner, saying the pair "work really well together".

He said he is looking forward to the opportunities the future holds for PICAL.

"The PICAL brand is a positive brand in the community."

"The role of PICAL is to respond to the community, so it is an evolving beast."

"I would like to think PICAL is grassroots, bottom up and the community dictates where we should be," he said.

"That's why a good internal structure is important, so we are ready to respond to community needs."



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Rhyll residents who took their objections to the Rhyll Brewery approval to VCAT negotiated "a few concessions", with most changes relating to noise control and opening hours.

Small gains for Rhyll residents at VCAT

PLANNING

VCAT has upheld a permit for the Rhyll Brewery at 11 Beach Road, issued by Bass Coast Shire Council in February, with some changed conditions.

A group of Rhyll residents who went to VCAT to challenge the permit say they negotiated "a few concessions", with the major changes relating to noise control and opening hours.

However the parking waiver granted by the council remained, and the brewery will only provide five spaces, a reduction in 31 spaces under the planning scheme recommendations.

Nikki Taylor from Devcon Planning Services attended the VCAT mediation sessions with the residents' representatives. The sessions were also attended by Bass Coast Shire Council and the developer Justin Jamieson, his architect and lawyer.

The residents said their key concerns were the impact of the brewery on the amenity of the town and nearby residents, asking for decreased opening hours, including the use of the outdoor areas.

Ms Taylor said she believed council erred in requiring an acoustic report as a permit condition, rather than beforehand.

"I believe this could potentially result in changes to the design, which the objectors should have a right to comment on," she argued.

Mr Jamieson said he was prepared to shift the hours of operation, to close earlier than the original permit requirements.

However the final VCAT conditions

saw changes to both opening and closing times, with the venue opening times amended to 8am – 10pm Sunday to Wednesday and 8am to 11pm Thursday to Saturday.

Previously, the opening hours granted by council were 7am – 11pm Monday to Sunday.

The sale of alcohol has been restricted to 10am – 10pm Sunday to Wednesday and 10am to 11pm Thursday to Saturday.

Previously the sale hours were 10am – 11pm Monday to Saturday, and 10am – 10pm Sunday.

The new ruling also introduced a limit of 25 patrons on the outdoor terrace after 8pm, unless there was prior written consent of the responsible authority.

The outdoor terrace must close by no later than 10pm during daylight savings and 9pm during non-daylight savings.

The sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises is not allowed after 10pm.

The conditions also now stipulate tables and seating must be provided for at least 75 per cent of patrons present on the premises at any one time.

No live music, live entertainment or amplified music is permitted on the site at any time, although background music is allowed.

VCAT also placed restrictions on the hours of beer production to between 8am and 5pm, with no more than one production day per week, without written consent from authorities.

An amenity clause now stipulates that all brewery and distillery production must not detrimentally affect nearby properties through transport of materials, noise, light, vibration, smell, dust,

fumes, smoke, odour, steam and wastewater or waste products.

Odour filters must be installed, and signs erected at the entrance and exit requesting patrons leave the building "in a quiet and orderly manner so as not to disturb the peace and quiet of the neighbourhood".

Acoustic report

Before works can begin, an acoustic report has to be submitted and approved, addressing eight conditions including:

- The use and development of the brewery and distillery
- Acoustic treatments to protect the "amenity of dwelling occupants"
- Vibrations along the northern boundary by plants
- Wall construction on the northern boundary not to directly interface with the boundary wall of 10 Beach Street
- Acoustic treatment for ventilation paths
- No bottle or can collections between 8pm and 9am other than inside the building
- Acoustic screening (1.8m high) on the north side of the outdoor terrace to screen noise to the dwelling at 10 Beach Road
- Refrigeration plant for the cool room to be located within the services enclosure

Prior to construction the plant must be assessed by a qualified acoustic consultant to ensure adequate mitigation, and before use starts, another assessment to ensure regulatory noise limits are complied with.

Mr Jamieson was approached but did not respond to a request for comment.

Former teacher's guilty plea

CRIME

Criminal proceedings against former Newhaven College teacher Kirk Skinner continue.

Multiple suppression orders were lifted last week, after he was found not guilty at trial on two charges relating to assaults on children under 16.

However Mr Skinner has pleaded guilty on two other matters.

These are listed for a plea on November 29.

In October 2021, Mr Skinner was directed for trial at the Latrobe Valley County Court, after facing a two-day committal hearing, where alleged victims gave evidence to a closed court for offences spanning from 2015 to 2019.

He was committed on five charges of sexual assault, three charges of indecent assault against a child under his care and authority, and one charge of indecent assault. A tenth charge relating to sexual assault was struck out.

From mid-2022, three separate suppression orders were in place, which prevented any media coverage. These were lifted last week.

Mr Skinner was originally charged in February 2020 by the Morwell Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT).

According to the charge sheet, the offences occurred across multiple locations, including Phillip Island, Woolamai and Wonthaggi.

College

Newhaven College provided an update to parents on the criminal proceedings, in a letter from Principal Tony Corr.

"As some of you may be aware, Mr Skinner faced trials in the County Court in relation to alleged criminal offences relating to children and young people," Mr Corr wrote.

"Some of these offences allegedly arose during Mr Skinner's employment at Newhaven College, whilst I understand that other offences related to Mr Skinner's employment at another school.

"Earlier this year Mr Skinner did plead guilty to criminal charges in one proceeding before the County Court.

"Last week, Mr Skinner was found not guilty in relation to criminal charges being dealt with in a separate proceeding.

"Up until now, a suppression order has restricted the College's ability to share with you further details," Mr Corr explained.

"The next step in the criminal process will be a sentencing hearing, and whilst Mr Skinner's criminal proceedings remain before the Courts, there are limits on what the College can say to its community, and the actions it can take in response.

"As your Principal, I remain ashamed that an individual, and in this case a former staff member, has betrayed the trust that our community places in those expected to protect children and young people.

"The Board shares my views, and together we remain committed to doing all we can to ensure the care, safety and welfare of our students.

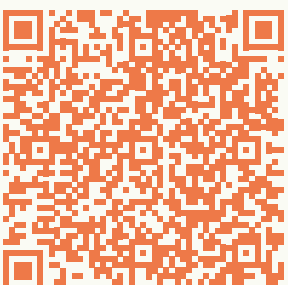
"The College's immediate concern is for those current members of our school community who are directly affected by these matters. I would like to reiterate that support is available, and I encourage those who require support or assistance at this time to reach out."



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The newly appointed College Captains for 2024, with Principal Tony Corr (second left) are Alice Mabilia, Max Arceo, Tahlia Williams and Tom Bird.



The 2024-Year 12 student leadership team for Newhaven College.

Newhaven College 2024 Year 12 Leadership Team

EDUCATION

Newhaven College announced its School Captains and the student leadership team for the year 2024, following an assembly held on October 3.

The newly appointed College Captains for 2024 are Max Arceo, Tom Bird, Alice Mabilia and Tahlia Williams.

These exceptional individuals will be responsible for guid-

ing a Year 12 student leadership team, each taking on leadership roles in their respective areas of expertise.

The House Captains for the four College houses are as follows:

Bass House Captains: Will Campbell, Becky Heffer, Sienna Mitchie and Jack Ryan

McHaffie House Captains: Ella Berry, Archer Herbert, Sonny McMillan and Sienna Steiner

Sambell House Captains: Claire Banks, Heidi Driscoll, Finn Russell and Amelia White

Clarke House Captains: Daniel Caffieri, Neave Dunston, Jade Ruffin and Leo Savona

Additionally, the College introduced the remainder of the Year 12 Leadership team:

Music Captains: Liam Fuery and Jasmine Turton

Sport Captains: Harry Butcher and Lily Mewett

Drama Captains: Jemima Aitkin and Dean Lyle

Visual Arts Captains: Chloe Harris and Phillipa Thompson-Lord

Social Justice Captains: Tilia Pires-Andersen and Gabriel Winterson

Wellbeing Captains: William Bar Bar and Georgia Reich

Environment and Sustainability

Captain: Tahlia Lindley
Announcing the leadership

team, the school said the young leaders had demonstrated a strong commitment to the values of Newhaven College and will play a crucial role in shaping the school's culture and success throughout 2024.

"They are congratulated on their well-deserved appointments and we look forward to a year of growth, learning and achievement under their guidance."

ISLAND VOICE PRESENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

Fundraiser for Cowes Carols By The Bay

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AUCTIONS

SPECIAL GUEST

Best value breakfast in town

MOTOGP

The Grand Prix long weekend on Phillip Island provides a unique opportunity for two different community to come together in a mutually beneficial and convivial way.

For the last three decades, members of the St Philip's Anglican Church, situated in the main street of Cowes, have been cooking hearty breakfasts for visitors to the MotoGP.

The church's gesture, which commenced with the island's first GP in 1989 certainly adds to the sense of welcome and goodwill extended by Cowes to the thousands who ride in for this international event.

In charge of the breakfast time festivities at the church this year is Erena Norfolk, a deacon at St Philip's.

Erena has taken over from Pauline Ledischke, past co-ordinator for many years, and all is now in readiness for this year's GP. A roster of 25 volunteers, all church members, has been drawn up, and tasks assigned.

From the fabulous cooks in the kitchen, who Erena says she is in awe of, to the volunteers from the church who act as security outside the hall, everyone has a task in this well-oiled undertaking.

"Part of the appeal for the bikers who come is the ability to park their expensive machines at the front



These MotoGP fans in years gone by, tuck into the hearty home cooked breakfast on offer at St Philip's Anglican Church Hall. At just \$20, it must represent the best value in Cowes.

door and enjoy breakfast while a church volunteer stands outside keeping an eye on them," says Erena.

"There is space set aside in the hall for helmets and jackets as well."

Going on past years, about 450 breakfasts will be served, the majority on the Saturday and Sunday, weather depending.

And the choice and value offered is second to none. For starters there are cereals and porridge, and unlimited toast, tea, coffee and orange juice.

Followed by a cooked breakfast of bacon, eggs, tomatoes, sausages and baked beans.

All for the price of \$20, which must represent the best value in Cowes.

"We have deliberately left the price at \$20, because of the cost-of-living difficulties many people are experiencing," Erena said.

"We want to offer an affordable price for everyone. You don't have to be a biker to come in."

Last year, there was excitement as one of the GP teams came for breakfast at the hall, and some local Airbnb operators are now buying vouchers for their guests, rather than cooking themselves.

At this stage, 80 dozen eggs (donated by MakEggs), 26kg of bacon, 25kg of tomatoes, 35kg of sausages, and 48 cans of baked beans have been ordered ... and Coles is just over the road should supplies run out.

With the countdown beginning, excitement is building, says Erena.

"I love the atmosphere and the whole four-day weekend. It is exhausting, but we all enjoy it immensely and have a fun time."

Along with the satisfaction of providing a warm and wholesome welcome to hundreds of visitors over the weekend, these breakfasts are a major fundraiser and provide much needed funds for the upkeep of the church hall.



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Contentious Surf Beach/Sunderland Bay scheme abandoned

From page 1

"The community has spoken – we want to maintain the rich flora and fauna, enjoy the annual arrival and departure of the shearwaters and relax in our seaside village moving forward."

"We know there are better solutions out there so Council we suggest you present these more appropriate solutions to the community."

"Come and chat with us, we are confident that there is a way forward that could be embraced by all."

Maxine said the Say No group wanted to thank the Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay community for all their support, commitment and tireless work over the past two years.

Disappointment

Although the majority of residents in the two estates opposed the scheme, there had been a concerted campaign by residents of The Esplanade for council to address the dust and traffic issues in the area.

Since the council removed the dust suppressant seal from sections of The Esplanade in 2019 and 2021, residents claimed the new gravel surface exacerbated the dust problem.

They said the road was frequently used by local surfers and tradies and dur-



Bass Coast Shire Council abandoned a special charge scheme proposed for Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay, after the majority of property owners objected to the proposed upgrade.

ing holidays and weekends, there is a constant stream of visitor traffic, clouding their homes in dust and making life "unbearable".

Over the past two years, these residents lobbied successfully to have speed limit signage and measures to slow down traffic along the road, however they said it did not adequately address the dust issues.

It's unclear what options are now available for these residents, who previously had called for the dust suppressant to be reinstated.

Announcing the abandonment of the special charge scheme, council acknowledged some residents may still want to lobby for road upgrades.

"We acknowledge that some residents that supported the upgrade will

be disappointed with the result," the statement said.

"At this point in time, there is not enough support from the community to proceed further with the upgrade project."

"If there was a particular street or smaller area that at least 70 per cent of property owners actively supported an upgrade project in the future, it can be considered in accordance with the Council's Urban Road and Drainage Policy."

Council said a report on the feedback and submissions and objections would be prepared and released "in due course".

Outside of the website statement, there has not yet been an official announcement from the council about the scheme.

Tourism in the spotlight

CONFERENCE

The annual Destination Phillip Island Tourism Conference was held at the Phillip Island Winery on October 5.

There were over 65 attendees who heard from a range of speakers on topics designed to help local businesses.

The conference was opened by the Chair of Destination Phillip Island (DPI), Catherine Basterfield who provided some overview of the Board's work in advocacy for the tourism sector.

Keynote speaker Nick Morris focused on the importance of making businesses accessible to all, and how to communicate access for visitors.

Matt Sykes presented on the Phillip Island Regenerative Tourism Alliance being developed by DPI, discussing how the industry can deliver positive impact opportunities to visitors supporting local environmental initiatives.

The Tourism Collective shared an update on the new Destination Management Plan and next steps for important engagement on the draft later this month.

Visit Victoria Social



Keynote speaker at the DPI Tourism Conference, Nick Morris from Morris Goding Access Consulting focused on the importance of making businesses accessible to all.

Guru Bec Russo shared some very handy tips and tricks for getting the most out of social media channels.

Attendees also learned about the latest traveller trends and sentiments from Booking.com.

"These provided some context to consumer sentiment at this time," said DPI's general manager Kim Storey.

Kim presented the latest visitation data to June 2023.

Guided by Marketing Manager Alva Hemming, a panel of experts in international marketing shared

insights to the rebound of travel and what opportunities lie ahead for the Phillip Island region.

The delegates also heard about the state's plan, Experience Victoria 2033 and the opportunities it will support in the future.

"In the new experience space we heard from Phillip Island Hot Springs, Rhyll Distillery and Brewery and the Cowes Cultural Centre upcoming program," Kim said.

"Phillip Island Winery provided a welcoming space and provided excellent catering for the day."

Volunteer rescuer grateful for support

WILDLIFE

A leading wildlife carer has thanked the local community for their help with caring for injured wildlife.

Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Shelter Phillip Island and Bass Coast rescuer Colleen Gilbee said she was extremely grateful for supplies from local businesses, which help wildlife rescue volunteers.

Supplies, including carrier baskets, gloves, head torches, batteries, hi-vis vests, sanitiser and marking paint have been donated by Warriors 4 Wildlife, Mitre 10 Cowes and a local nurse.

The supplies have been distributed to new and existing volunteers, to help them with their rescues.

Colleen said she wanted to help new volunteers who had recently completed Wildlife Victoria training.

"We had some Phillip Island locals and Bass people participate in the training and they reached out to me for support."

"I'm mentoring them for rescues, so they feel supported, have extra training with me as needed and can have all their questions answered," Colleen explained.

"I know how hard it is to start up and how scary it can be rescuing for the first few times. I didn't want them to feel alone."

To help the new volun-



Colleen Gilbee with Grant from Mitre 10 in Cowes and the donated goods organised by managers Simon and Craig for the wildlife rescue volunteers.

teers, Colleen approached Mitre 10, Warriors 4 Wildlife and her friend Casey, a nurse, and all were happy to support the rescue work.

She said the supplies meant all the volunteers were now well set up, could operate more successfully and had enough supplies for six to eight rescues.

"I also personally want to thank Warriors 4 Wildlife," Colleen said.

"They gave me supplies for my shelter and also purchased a humidity crib for me, to care for tiny babies."

"This is a massive dona-

tion and support to me."

Colleen said she will continue to mentor the new volunteers.

"All rescues are different; they will have different things happen that they will need assistance with," she said.

"They are all going really well so far."

For rescues and assistance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, please call Wildlife Victoria on (03) 8400 7300. Or report online at www.wildlifevictoria.org.au/wildlife-information/report-a-wildlife-emergency

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Island Voice committee members Andrew and Linda Marston and President Peter Paul. The group's recent AGM covered a range of local issues and concerns.

Island Voice AGM highlights concerns

COMMUNITY

Island Voice is a local organisation formed to provide a voice for the island and community members, on a diverse range of issues.

At its recent AGM, accountability and transparency of local, state and federal governments was the advertised topic up for discussion.

To the disappointment of those present, guest speaker Dean Hurlston from Council Watch was a late cancellation, unable to attend due to an unforeseen family health crisis.

The void was filled by Island Voice president Peter Paul, who reported at length on the issues Island Voice have tackled over the last 12 months.

Concern was aired at a perceived lack of communication between the council and the community, over a number of issues.

"You cannot have effective discussion without communication. As the community is not getting a hearing by the Bass Coast Shire Council on many issues of concern, they remain unresolved," Mr Paul said.

Along with the concerns around the timeline for sporting facilities in the new recreation reserve master plan (Advertiser, October 11), a range of local issues and concerns were discussed.

Parking:

Parking problems continue to be an issue in Cowes. It was suggested these were a result of the consistent waiving of parking requirements for new developments by successive councils over the past two decades.

Carols by the Bay:

Island Voice has taken over the running of Carols by the Bay, an annual pre-Christmas event on the Cowes foreshore.

Its future was looking uncertain after the withdrawal of the Combined Churches from the organising committee last year.

Island Voice stepped in, and the event was a hugely successful night with an estimated crowd of 4000.

"It is a highlight of the island year, as far as bringing community groups together," Mr Paul said.

Volunteers, performers, and sponsors work together to pres-

ent the evening, and Bass Coast Shire Council funds the wonderful fireworks display that concludes the celebration.

Island Voice is holding a fundraising trivia night on Wednesday October 25 to raise money to help offset the costs of the children's entertainment provided on the night. (See advertisement in this edition if you would like trivia tickets).

Phillip Island a national park:

Island Voice said it will discuss an issue raised by Jeff Floyd, former Phillip Island Nature Park Board Chair, in a letter to the Advertiser last month. Mr Floyd suggested that Phillip Island should be declared as a national park.

"How do we preserve what we have here, because when it is gone it is gone forever," was the question raised by Mr Paul at the AGM, as a follow up.

"Would national park status make this possible? Would extending control of all beaches on Phillip Island by PINP make a positive difference?"

The Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Strategy:

Island Voice called on the state government to release the findings of the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) Strategy, commissioned back in 2018.

A report on the DAL was handed to the state government in August, after an independent planning panel heard from more than 70 parties and 30 witnesses, as well as receiving 750 written submissions.

The submissions were in response to a draft Statement of Planning Policy (SPP).

In August, the Department of Transport and Planning told the Advertiser it was "currently considering the findings and recommendations".

The department said the draft SPP would be endorsed by public entities following consideration of public submissions and the independent advice of the committee.

Island Voice said it was unclear why the findings and recommendations are yet to be released by the government.

Island Voice supports the retention of current township boundaries and opposes any ex-

tension of these.

"We are at a tipping point. Phillip Island needs planning protection, and it needs it now," is the Island Voice stance.

"Development outside existing town boundaries must be contained.

"We call on the state government to release the findings of the DAL.

"Island Voice finds it disturbing that the state government has not released the findings of this much anticipated report, which was completed months ago. We need it now. Not tomorrow.

"Overdevelopment is a major community concern. But until this report is released, we are unable to move forward in terms of the development of appropriate planning provisions for Phillip Island."

Revegetation of CA79:

Former Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie was approached by Island Voice two years ago with a proposal to plant out the perimeter of the 32-hectare Sports Hub site on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads, so that established vegetation will be in place as sporting facilities there are developed.

"Island Voice envisages a community project, supported by sponsorship, similar to the project undertaken 100 years by island benefactor WE Thompson which resulted in the establishment of the Cowes avenue of cypress.

"Ms Wastie did not get back to Island Voice on this proposal. There has been no interest from council in following up on this request.

"This is still something that Island Voice would like to pursue, as a major whole community event, involving sporting and other clubs."

Wildlife kills:

Island Voice believes more need to be done when it comes to reducing wildlife fatalities on local roads and supports Island Voice member Ron Day in his crusade to have speed limits reduced in high risk areas to address this problem.

"The number of road kills on Phillip Island is totally unacceptable and requires immediate and ongoing attention."



At the official opening of Our Lady Star of the Sea's stage 2 masterplan development. From left: Alan Cubbon - Director of Crosier Scott Architects, Fr Manny Lomagno - St Mary's Parish Cowes, Catherine Blackford - Principal, Jordan Crugnale MP, and Paul Velten - Director, Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited.

Our Lady Star of the Sea stage 2 opening

EDUCATION

Staff and students at Our Lady Star of the Sea (OLSS) Catholic Primary School in Cowes celebrated the blessing and official opening of Stage 2 of the School's Masterplan development which has created additional classrooms, library, and outdoor learning areas.

Father Manny Lomagno, Parish Priest of St Mary's Parish, Cowes officially blessed the new facilities.

He was joined by Jordan Crugnale MP - State Member for Bass, Paul Velten - Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Sale (DOSCEL), Principal Cathy Blackford, invited guests and friends of the school, parish and the wider community.

The official party unveiled plaques to commemorate the occasion.

The Stage 2 development project was principally funded through the Victorian Government Capital Funding Program via a grant of \$3,295,000 and a Catholic Development Fund (CDF) loan.

Mrs Blackford said the project had been transformative for the school which opened in January 2018 in a three-room demountable building on the grounds of St Mary's Church, with an enrolment of 18 students.

It was relocated to the current site in June 2018 and has rapidly increased enrolments to 133 students in 2023.

"The ground floor extension has created an additional four general learning areas, library and a lift," Mrs Blackford said.

"A new outdoor kitchen space has extended opportunities for learning and social activities, and a roof structure has been

added to the hardcourt.

"A sports oval, additional carparking, and extensive landscaping has significantly enhanced the school's environs."

Mr Velten commended the efforts of the project team, school, and parish community.

"Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School is the first Catholic Primary school on Phillip Island, and the result of efforts of a small, dedicated group of parishioners, with the assistance and guidance of Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited," he said.

"To witness the growth of the school over the past five years is testament to their commitment and vision to provide excellent education and to nurture a strong Catholic learning community at Philip Island.

"These new facilities are providing the necessary resources and spaces for students to thrive academically, spiritually, and socially."

Mr Velten thanked the Victorian Government and Catholic Development Fund for their support in bringing these extended projects to fruition.

The school is situated on a seven-acre block of land near the St Mary's Catholic Church. A priority for the initial steering committee was to ensure that the natural amenity and the environmental aspect of the site was acknowledged and reflected in the master plan.

The school's vision is to provide a welcoming environment open to all that seek a Catholic education. It aims to foster a sense of stewardship for the natural environment and promote global citizenship underpinned by expert teacher practice that nurtures a progression of learning for all children.



Unveiling the plaque at Our Lady Star of the Sea. From left: Jordan Crugnale MP, Catherine Blackford - Principal, Fr Manny Lomagno - St Mary's Parish Cowes, and Paul Velten - Director, Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited.

Island
HOME

Advertising Feature

YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE



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



The home's open fireplace with a period timber mantle piece is a real showcase.



The fully appointed kitchen has American oak solid timber cabinetry with stone benchtops and black glass splashback.

Relaxed beachside living

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

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

Designed to accommodate a big family, this large north-facing home offers open-plan living with nine-foot ceilings. As you walk through the entrance you are greeted with a light bright sunny living space and formal dining area with bay windows showcasing the uninterrupted views of the golfers playing the ninth hole. The open fireplace with a period timber mantle piece is a real showcase.

The second living area

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

A Coonara wood-fired heater and split system is a welcome touch and complements this living area.

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

This traditional Federation style home features ornate cornice, ceiling roses, dado rails and fretwork. The traditional exterior brickwork consists of sol-

dier course bricks above the windows, bullnose bricks on the window ledges as well as corner and plinth bricks. The double garage, with plenty of storage and a workbench, is located at the front for ease of access.

This home offers the ultimate beachside lifestyle with its close proximity to the beach. The popular Silverleaves General Store is a five-minute walk away and the cafes and shops of Cowes are just a short stroll along the beach or along the newly completed beach track.

All that the Island has to offer is within easy reach.

An exciting opportunity awaits to also purchase the adjoining block of land with a huge double garage to accommodate a boat and/or caravan.

Call Alex Scott and Staff on 5952 2633 to arrange your private inspection. You will not be disappointed.



This family home overlooks the ninth fairway of the Cowes golf course, and is just a short stroll to the beautiful north-facing beach of Silverleaves, or the shops and cafes of Cowes.

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Bass Coast College students Michael, Dreyton and Jye give the thumbs down to dog owners not picking up after their pets. Students have launched a campaign to help keep the school grounds clean.

Pupils' plea: pick up your dog poo!

DOGS

Students at Bass Coast College in San Remo are asking the local community to pick up their dog poo, due to a growing problem on the school grounds.

Principal Emma Harris said since opening in 2022 the campus has allowed residents open access to their outdoor facilities for various activities.

"This has been a display of community spirit to strengthen the bonds between the school and the community.

"The use of school grounds for recreational purposes, such as jogging, exercising, shooting hoops, scootering and dog walking is gaining in popularity as the population grows," Emma said.

"While these activities have been largely well-received by the community, there have been instances of littering and pet waste being left behind."

Emma said school

members and local users are now teaming up to remind residents of the importance of respecting these shared spaces.

An ongoing campaign has been launched to highlight the significance of picking up after pets, particularly dog waste, to ensure a clean and safe environment for all users.

"Students have produced a flyer which will be dropped into local letterboxes urging users to work together to ensure the cleanliness and safety of shared facilities," Emma explained.

"They're asking residents to demonstrate their commitment to making their community a better place for all.

"We are delighted to see our community members enjoying our school grounds, particularly as there is little public open space provided in newer housing developments, but it's crucial that we all do our part to keep them

clean and safe.

"Unfortunately, students are being confronted by large deposits of dog waste daily; this is their learning and play space.

"We believe that fostering respect for our shared spaces, including proper disposal of pet waste, is a valuable lesson for everyone. We don't want to be forced into implementing bans on dogs."

San Remo resident and facility user Jacinta made a public plea on a community Facebook page for dog users to clean up after their pets with many agreeing with her stance.

"We are so lucky to have the luxury of a beautiful school oval to let our dogs run around, but I am sadly picking up multiple dog's poo's as well as my own dogs.

"Please let's all do the right thing and keep this area clean so it can continue to be a valuable resource for our community."

Cruising back into Cowes

Phillip Island can expect 11 cruise ship visits between December and April 24, according to Destination Phillip Island (DPI)

The new cruise ship schedule shows visits from eight different ships, including a first time visit from P&O Pacific Adventure.

There are four visits scheduled in January while four will visit in a week in February 2024.

The ships capacities range from the Silver Whisper with 382 passengers and 295 crew through to the P&O Pacific Adventure, which carries 2636 passengers and 1100 crew.

The Seabourn Odyssey is scheduled to visit three times – December, January and February, while the Grand Princess will visit in

December and January.

Last year's cruise season saw 11 ships visit, bringing 6304 passengers and 4892 crew.

DPI said there were 3391 tours around the island pre-booked through the cruise operators, while many others took private tours or disembarked and explored the island under their own steam.

A DPI spokesperson said they will be happy to welcome the shuttle buses from Rhyll back to the transit centre, rather than the temporary location at Olive Justice Place used last year.

"It is a much better set up for passengers arriving in town, with the cultural centre available then also."

In the 2019/20 season, the economic benefit for

the area from the cruise ship visits was \$3.57 million. Figures for the 2021/22 season are due soon.

The full schedule of cruise ship dates is:

December 10 – Seabourn Odysseys
December 14 – Grand Princess
January 9 – Seabourn Odyssey
January 11 – Noordam
January 19 – Regatta
January 28 – Grand Princess
February 10 – Silver Whisper
February 11 – Viking Sky
February 14 – Viking Neptune
February 17 – Seabourn Odyssey
April 27 – P&O Pacific Adventure

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Aged Care

- What you need to know

By David Caporale,
Investment Manager of Gippsreal Limited

First and foremost aged care is complex and can seem overwhelming. It is therefore important to seek financial advice if you are considering aged care for yourself, a parent, partner or loved one. This editorial is written to provide a high level understanding as simply as possible.

To begin if you are 65 years or older you may be eligible for government-funded aged care. The services available can be categorised as follows; help at home, aged care homes, short-term care and respite care, with the first two being explored further below. In order to determine the care services that you are eligible to receive you will be required to undertake an assessment prior to accessing these services. Following this you will receive an assessment result and, if eligible for services, a support plan.

The next step involves finding a provider that suits your care needs. The Australian Government's MyAged Care website (<https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/service-finder>) is a great tool to explore and compare providers in your area. In addition to researching the providers it is also essential to understand the fee structure of aged care services as there are various costs involved, such as accommodation fees, basic daily fees, and means-tested care fees. Your income and assets determine how much financial assistance is subsidised by the government.

If you have been assessed for a Home Care Package (care whilst at home) you and, if applicable, your partner's income will determine your income-tested care fee. Income is calculated in accordance with Centrelink income tests, including your pension entitlements. Depending on whether you are over or under the income threshold, you could pay anywhere between \$17.97 and \$35.95 per day.

In addition to this a Basic Daily Fee is payable and is calculated up to 17.50% of the age pension equating to \$12.53 per day as at the time of writing.

Therefore the maximum single age pension payment would reduce from \$78.12 per day (\$1,096.70 per fortnight) to as low as \$27.31 per day

(\$383.39 per fortnight).

If you have been assessed for an aged care home then the fees and charges consist of accommodation costs plus a basic daily fee and means-tested cared fee (if applicable) as well as any extra/additional services.

The upfront cost of accommodation (which is refunded after leaving) for entry into an aged care facility can be paid as a lump sum (known as a Refundable Accommodation Deposit or RAD), a daily payment (known as a Daily Accommodation Payment or DAP) or a combination of the two.

Age care facilities publish the price of their RAD on their website and the MyAged Care website noted earlier. According to Rachel Lane, principal of Aged Care Gurus, the average cost of a RAD in Australia is currently \$470,000.

The DAP is calculated on any amount of unpaid RAD at a government set interest rate, currently 8.15% as at 1 October 2023.

Any amount of RAD you pay will be an exempt asset for the calculation of your age pension entitlement. However, your RAD will be included in the calculation of assets for your means-tested care fee.

A Basic Daily Fee also applies and is calculated at 85% of the Age Pension, currently \$60.86 per day. For some an extra contribution known as a means tested care fee, as determined through a means test (assets and income above thresholds), also applies. The means test care fee can be between \$0 and \$400.08 per day.

In summary when deciding what is the right choice you need to consider a range of factors; the ability to access the care you want, whether or not care will be affordable, different aged care costs, the impact on pension entitlement, potential tax consequences and the effect on estate planning. As you can now appreciate aged care is complex and seeking quality financial advice from an aged care specialist is highly suggested to navigate the complexities.

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

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Community Orchard turns 10

GARDENING

A major event to celebrate the Phillip Island Community Orchard's (PICO) 10th Anniversary will be held on Sunday October 29.

The celebration at the Wimbledon Heights property will run from 10am – 3pm.

The now well-established orchard has come a long way since its inception in 2013 with over 100 fruit and nut trees, shrubs and vines growing organically on the one hectare block, thriving on Class A recycled water provided by Westernport Water.

"It's amazing to see what local volunteers can do when we work together," says founding member and current Vice President, Lars Olsen.

"It was hard to imagine the orchard in its current thriving state when we first started digging holes, running irrigation and planting trees. I am so proud of all that's been achieved."

The 10th Anniversary celebrations, kindly sponsored by Bass Coast Shire Council and Westernport Water, will kick off at 10am with official proceedings and welcome by the Orchard's President, a Westernport Water spokesperson and Bass Coast Shire's Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan, followed by a tree planting by founding members.

A feature of the day will be the four guest speakers, whose specialist topics will be a drawcard for many:

- Tim Sansom, CEO of the Diggers Club Foundation;
- Craig Castree, edible gardens guru;
- Jude Mayall of Outback Chef fame; and



The Phillip Island Community Orchard celebrates its 10th anniversary on October 29. The celebration from 10am – 3pm includes guest speakers such as local beekeeper Gary Morton.

- Local beekeeper, Gary Morton.

The talks are free to attend, but bookings are requested through Humanitix to ensure a seat on the day.

The speakers will be under cover in case of rain – though usually not a problem amongst the hardy gardening fraternity!

Other highlights on the day will include performances by local musicians, Travis Thompson from 11am to 1pm and the Bass Coast Pickers from 1pm – 3pm who will keep the fun vibes rolling in the picnic area.

PICO will be providing wholesome hot foods, fresh seafood, vegetarian and salad

options, delicious connoisseur cordial drinks, fresh homemade cakes and slices to eat on the day along with Mamacita's Coffee Van for hot drinks.

PICO will also have a homemade and fresh produce stall stocking all manner of pickles, preserves, potions and potted plants – many made from the orchard's own produce.

Westernport Water will be attending with their Hydration and Information Station as well – so bring your refillable water bottles along.

Entry on the day will be by gold coin donation.

We encourage people to ride their bikes but parking

will be available in Hallway Drive or Ventnor Beach Road with a drop-off point for the disabled just inside the PICO driveway gates.

A fundraising raffle with nine great prizes donated by local businesses will be drawn on the day. Tickets are currently available from Anerie Store and Café in Silverleaves, Phillip Island.

For more information, please go to islandorchard.wordpress.com or visit www.facebook.com/islandorchard.

To book tickets for the talks go to events.humanitix.com/tours/pico-10th-anniversary-celebration (Donations are accepted).

/ Sponsored article /



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INFO & TICKETS



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SUN NOV 5 2023 / 1PM / FREE EVENT FOR ALL

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INFO & TICKETS



Akmal

Not Dead Yet

FRI NOV 17 2023 / 8PM / \$49.90

Akmal returns because he was not careful with his money when he was funny and popular. He's still funny, however due to the avalanche of brown and black comedians has finally succumbed to the thousands of requests to perform nude...



INFO & TICKETS



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Island Story Gatherers Presents

SAT NOV 18 2023 / 9.30AM & 7.30PM / FROM \$35

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INFO & TICKETS



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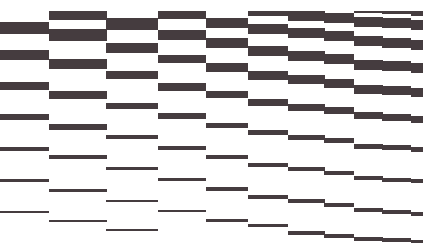
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SAT NOV 25 2023 / 7PM / \$49

This international festival hit celebrates the 50th anniversary of Richard Branson's first release on his fledgling Virgin Records. Selling 30 million albums- kick-starting the Virgin empire – and soundtrack to the cult-classic film, The Exorcist.



INFO & TICKETS



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Screening of Bruno Gröning documentary

A screening of the Bruno Gröning documentary will be held at PICAL on Saturday, November 11.

The film is presented by the Bruno Gröning Circle of Friends, and runs from 10am – 4pm. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Organiser James Gillan said the film may be of interest to people burdened

with intractable health problems, and those who want to avoid developing illness.

Bruno Gröning is described as a mystic and miracle healer. He was active in Germany in the 1940s and 1950s, after World War II.

"Newspapers print special editions, radio and newsreels report about him. A film is made," said James.

"Wherever he goes, thousands of people throng from all over to see him.

The documentary film "The Phenomenon Bruno Gröning – on the Tracks of the Miracle Healer" traces the dramatic events of that time with original film and sound recordings, archival material, more than 50 eyewitness interviews, as well elaborate film re-en-

actments.

"All this makes the film a deeply impressive experience," said James.

"See this film and convince yourself about the Phenomenon Bruno Gröning."

A three-part documentary film (each part approx. 95 minutes in duration)

Admission is free, donations are appreciated.

Phillip Island Community Orchard's

10th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

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Offshore Theatre Group's 2.20 AM opens this Thursday. From left, cast members Annie Khoury, Lauren White, Chris White and Mel Beynon. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

Offshore breaks the silence

THEATRE

This Thursday Offshore Theatre Group opens their new season at the Newhaven Black Box Theatre.

Rebecca Lister's play 2.20 AM presents a group of three people and their facilitator in a writing group; all are grieving a relative who has suicided.

One might well ask why the director, Melissa McMillan has chosen a play about suicide for her directing adult drama debut?

Andrew Hamilton a re-

viewer for Eureka Street theatre magazine helps explain.

"Suicide is a topic clothed in silence. Many shy away from a subject that brings such despair. It is difficult to talk about; to know what to say. The silence breeds fear and isolation in the people who grieve. Lister's play is hopeful then because it breaks the silence."

The play's trajectory is from isolation and silence to conversation, companionship and concerted action. It models a way of responding

with reason and open hearts to suicide. The play is involving, informing, moving, not depressing.

Rebecca Lister is a social worker and her programs inspire her work as a playwright.

2.20 AM is authentic, illuminating, moving and hopeful.

Huge credit to Melissa McMillan and her cast, Mel Beynon, Lauren White, Annie Khoury and Dave White for bringing this sensitive, beautiful and very important piece to audiences on Phillip Island

and Bass Coast Shire.

Performances are at Newhaven College Black Box Theatre.

October: Thursday 19, Friday 20, Saturday 21; Thursday 26, Friday 27. All performances at 7.30pm.

Matinee: Saturday October 28 at 2pm.

Parental Guidance recommended.

Tickets at: www.trybooking.com/CLKNV

Details: www.facebook.com/OffshoreTheatre/

/ Sponsored article /



Cowes resident Jaylynn Jacobsen is running a marathon on November 26, raising money to support Lifeline.

Jaylynn's running for Lifeline

FUNDRAISER

Jaylynn Jacobsen is getting ready to run.

The Cowes resident is running a marathon next month (November 26) at Mount Lilydale. The Run for the Young Charity Fundraiser is now in its 10th year, but this is Jaylynn's first every marathon.

She's currently running about 50kms a week in training for the big event. Jaylynn is hoping to raise \$500 for Lifeline and is already past the halfway mark.

As well as raising much needed funds, she wants to raise awareness about mental health.

"I originally decided to do the marathon to get into shape, but wanted to do something good at the same time, by raising money for a charity," she explained.

"I chose Lifeline as I believe it's a valuable resource for people who may be struggling and need help.

"Mental health is such an important aspect of our overall health.

"I aim for people to be able to speak about mental health without the stigma."

To support Jaylynn, go to: fundraise.lifeline.org.au/fundraisers/jaylynnjacobsen

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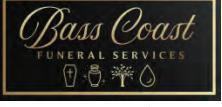
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Movie club stitched up Inner Wheel gets rolling

FILM

This month's film from the Phillip Island Movie Club, "A Stitch in Time" will screen on Thursday, October 26 at the St Philip's Hall.

Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

"A Stitch in Time" is an Australia drama, directed by Sasha Hadden.

It is a heart-warming story about former dress-maker Liebe (Maggie Blinco: The Nightingale, Crocodile Dundee), who reinvents herself after befriending a young Chinese fashion designer Hamish (Hoa Xuande: Top of The Lake, Hungry Ghosts).

When Liebe's partner Duncan (founding front-man of Little River Band Glenn Shorrock) loses his job singing at the local pub, Liebe throws herself into helping Duncan realise his dream to record an album.

Inspired by Hamish, Liebe decides to make clothes again to support Duncan financially, but quickly reignites a long-forgotten passion for her craft.

With Duncan intent on shutting down her dreams, Liebe packs her bags and moves in with her best friend, Christine (television and theatre favourite Belinda Giblin), and her unsuspecting husband, Justin (John Gregg: Bodyline, To End All Wars), to reclaim her life and discover where she belongs.

According to Sasha, the film is about more than appreciating creativity, whether it be our own or others' and about seeing each other as an addition rather than a burden.



On October 26, the Phillip Island Movie Club presents "A Stitch in Time" at St Philip's Hall in Cowes. Doors open at 7.30pm.

"Hadden never shies away from emphasising feminist concerns, including sexist double standards and the importance of financial independence and at the heart of the film, he hopes we will find community and compassion," says movie club secretary Margaret Byrne.

"The film was released during Covid and obviously didn't get the exposure it should have.

"Sasha has not released it to the Film Distributors as it doesn't have an international rating.

"He has allowed us to show the film and he is going to send an introduction to the film after he returns from his honeymoon," Margaret explained.

"In allowing us to show the film, Sasha has one request that members send a rating to IMBD."

IMBD is an online database of information related to films, television series, podcasts, home videos, video games, and streaming content online – including cast, production crew and personal biographies, plot summaries, trivia, ratings, and fan and

critical reviews.

Australian films will not be picked up by overseas distributors unless they have an IMBD rating.

"At the moment, there have been only 219 ratings and that is not enough to get overseas interest. This is a great way to participate in promoting Australian films."

To rate the film, go to www.imdb.com, create an account and then search for "A Stitch in Time 2022", or go to www.imdb.com/title/tt13834986

Doors open at 7.30pm, film starts at 8pm. It runs for 98 minutes and is rated M.

Entrance to this film is by 2023 membership only (not 2024 members).

2024 membership is now open and applications can be made at phillipislandmovieclub.org.au

The movie club's next film "Summerfield" will be shown on Thursday November 30.

There will be an earlier start of 7pm. Doors will open 6.45pm for drinks and nibbles.

Please mark this in your diaries.

COMMUNITY

Phillip Island hosted the Inner Wheel Australia conference last week with approximately 300 women and partners from all over Australia attending.

The President of Phillip Island Inner Wheel, Chris Wickes is the Conference co-ordinator who, with her organising team, has planned sightseeing, meetings and functions all over the Island.

Thanks to the Cowes Primary School, who have generously supplied the use of the beautiful new Gym as the main conference venue.

The conference was opened by the Inner Wheel Australia President, Susan Chisholm, last Thursday.

At the opening session,



Phillip Island Inner Wheel members Julie, Kate, Jan and Christine got into the beach party spirit. More photos at pisra.com.au

everyone was enthralled by the presentation by Mat Bowtell, the founder of Free 3D Hands.

Inner Wheel sponsors some of their amazing work.

Sisters and Mistresses –

minus most Mistresses – provided some enjoyable entertainment.

The Gym came alive with music, food and friendship on Thursday evening where the theme was a Beach Party.

Choir opens conference

MUSIC

Local Phillip Island singing group Sisters and Mistresses performed as part of the opening ceremony at the National Conference for Inner Wheel Australia in Cowes last week.

The audience really enjoyed the performance and ended up singing and dancing along.

"It was wonderful to see some of the gentlemen in the audience lend a helping hand by performing to make up for the missing Mistresses," said choir leader Irene Bennetts.

Sisters and Mistresses is in its fifth year on the Island and now have in excess of 70 members.



Sisters and Mistresses getting ready for their performance at the Inner Wheel National Conference in Cowes last week. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

They have recently returned from a winter break to get ready for this performance along with many of the Christmas bookings

they have in December.

Contact Irene on 0412 822 126 or visit sistersandmistresses.com.au for more information.

New Reverend has a calling for social justice

RELIGION

St John's Uniting Church in Cowes last week welcomed its new minister, Reverend Jennie Gordon.

Jennie – who replaces Ian Turnnidge who finished in June – was a midwife for 20 years before two decades ago becoming a minister, the third generation in her family to follow the calling.

"In midwifery you have really strong relationships and it's the same in ministry. They're both about sitting, listening and being in tune with what is going on for people," the 61-year-old said.

Jennie has had ministries in Melbourne, the Yarra Valley and for the past five years has been overseeing pastoral care for all Uniting Church Gippsland ministers, about 12 in total including Ian.

During that time she has lived in Cape Paterson, in the house her parents built 50 years ago as a holiday home, and she will now continue to live there, rather

er than the Cowes church manse, next to St John's.

Her role will also be part-time.

The mother of two and grandmother of one is married to Arnie Wierenga, who is also a Uniting Church minister and has just taken up the role of Reverend for Leongatha, Korumburra and Loch-Poowong.

Big shoes?

Knowing Ian well through her previous Gippsland pastoral care role, she said she doesn't feel "I'm stepping into his big shoes."

"I'm mature enough in ministry to know we all bring gifts," Jennie said.

"I'm nowhere near as theatrical as Ian and I wouldn't try to be.

"I'm happy to bring what I bring, which is an openness and listening and a heart for justice.

"For a long time, the church was bounded by a building on a Sunday, but now more and more we are looking beyond to ev-

ery day of the week, while being faithful to our tradition."

Jennie said issues close to her heart were justice for First Nations' people and the environment, with her first sermon about the upcoming referendum.

"The congregation were left in no doubt as to where I stand on the issue.

"As for the environment, I love that when you come to Phillip Island there's a sense of honouring and acknowledging we exist as part of everything here. That we are a small part of the whole and we have a responsibility."

Jennie – who said she is looking forward to working with the inter-church council – was attracted to the Uniting Church because it wasn't "scared to talk about the big issues", adding she believed the church was the only one to come out in support of the referendum.

"We are not scared to have the hard conversations, with respect, and hold diversity.

"At times it has broken us apart and other times it has put us back together and it's not always easy.

"But it's about the voice of Jesus speaking for the voiceless and lost, the people on the edge. It's about humility and not seeing himself as better than anyone else."

When she's not in minister mode, Jennie loves writing, including poetry, and making sourdough bread.

And she continues to miss midwifery.

"I miss babies and will clutch one when I can," she laughed.

"But when I made the decision to become a minister it was fairly quick. My mum's dad was a Methodist minister and my dad was a Methodist then a Uniting minister – I'm old enough to remember when it became the Uniting Church.

"I've always been involved in the church. In the language of the church, this is what God wanted me to do."



New minister, Reverend Jennie Gordon, at St John's Uniting Church in Cowes.



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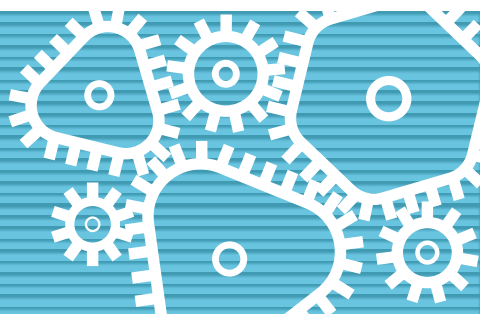
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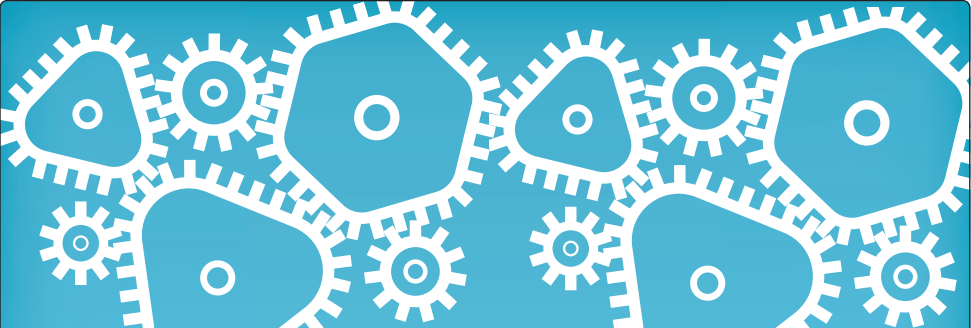


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FEATONBY, Jan:

Passed away on October 11, 2023.

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Loving Mum and mother-in-law of Scott and Sharee, and Lynne.

Fond Memories

Sadly Missed

HATHAWAY, Bill:

The Board of Management and all members of the Phillip Island Bowling Club regret the passing of our member Bill Hathaway. Bill was a respected member, and an asset to our Club.

Our thoughts and sincere sympathy are extended to Bill's wife Johanna and both families.

RYAN, Frank:

7.10.2023

Lasting memories of a true and caring friend for many years to Michael (dec), June and Kaye.

Our grateful thanks for all your help and kindness in 2010.

Love and sympathy to Christine, Annette, Trevor and families.

Will be sadly missed.

June and Kaye.

Mr Frank Ryan

Service Details:
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Australian Army

The President, Committee, Members, Management and Staff of the Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch deeply regret to announce the passing of Frank Ryan, a respected Service Member of our Sub-Branch. Our sincere condolences are extended to The Ryan family.

LEST WE FORGET.

FUNERALS

FEATONBY:

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Jan Featonby will be held at The Rhyll Hall, Lock Road, Rhyll on **MONDAY** (October 23, 2023) commencing at 11:00am.

Please wear colourful clothing and gentlemen no ties.

A Private Cremation will follow.

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Ted and Gwen Jeffery's family were one of the original settlers at Newhaven.

The Cleeland family descendants: seventh generation

Without question the family that can stake the greatest claim to Phillip Island's heritage – one of the families to live here the longest – is the Cleelands.

HISTORY

Captain John Cleeland established his 2800-hectare property on a south-eastern chunk of the island – roughly from Cape Woolamai to Smiths Beach – and today many of his descendants still live on the island and even on sections of that farm.

Aside from the Cleelands, cousins and various relations still living here include the McFees, Dixons, Dickies and Forrests.

Ted Jeffery, who lives on a 30-acre slice of the original Captain Cleeland estate at Newhaven with his wife Gwen, is the eldest great grandchild of the early settler.

While Ted says he never met his great grandfather, he does remember his grandfather John (junior), who had nine children (hence the widespread number of relatives).

The 87-year-old says he even lived during World War II at Captain Cleeland's Woolamai House with his mother Rita, while his father was at war.

"I remember the big Christmases we would have at Woolamai House with all the relatives, sitting at a very long table," says Ted, who was born in the old Warley hospital.

"A few years ago we had a family reunion at Woolamai House and there were dozens there. We have a very big family.

"So you have to be careful about what you say and who you say it about."

Ted and Gwen have four children and six grandchildren – three of whom are on the island, making them the seventh generation of Captain Cleeland descendants to live here.

"Although they aren't the only seventh generation, my brother Barry and sister Judy (Dickie) have children and grandchildren here too and there are cousins with grandchildren too," Ted adds.

Memories

Ted says one of his earliest memories of growing up on the island is riding his bike down the Phillip Island Road, which at that time was gravel and corrugated, to Newhaven Primary.

"Arnie Walton would drive his tip truck right by me, from Wonthaggi with coal for the Cowes power station, which was next to where the police station is now.

"I went to school with the boys from St Paul's boys' home. It was a stupid situation but we weren't allowed to play with them.

"I remember the big celebration at the hall when the power was turned on to Newhaven.

"Also in those times I remember the Phillip Island Farmers Co-op was formed

to help with hay baling and ploughing, for those who did not have the capital to buy their own equipment.

Ted played some football and helped on the family farm (brother Barry farms nearby), and also at the age of 18 started Jeffery's Transport, now run with his son Steven.

"I remember the dances we'd go to at Newhaven, Cowes and Ventnor. They were good times on Phillip Island, no doubt about it."

History

Ted says Captain Cleeland – a gold prospector and trader on the south seas – earned some of his riches after his racehorse Wollomai won the Melbourne Cup in 1875.

"He won 1200 pounds for winning the Melbourne Cup but apparently bet on his own horse and took 22,000 pounds, which was a vast sum in those days," Ted says.

"We think he then purchased land off some of the original settlers, like the Rennisons and the Fletchers."

Aside from horseracing, Captain Cleeland also ran the Albion Hotel in Bourke Street, Melbourne for 22 years.

"Our family believes he made his money not just on the races and the hotel, but earlier on the Victorian goldfields."

The Cleeland's contribution to the island's history, and later the Jeffery's, did not stop there.

Ted's mother Rita Cleeland grew up on the island – schooled at Woolamai House with a governess – and met his father, Ted, when he was managing Churchill Island.

"Mum and her sister Eileen ran a tea-room at Newhaven, offering people a cup of tea as they came off the punt (before the bridge was built)," Ted says.

Future

Ted says he worries Phillip Island is becoming over-developed.

"People come here to look at our natural beauty, not bricks and mortar.

"If we keep going the way we are, I think it will be ruined with the amount of people coming here.

"We can't keep going at the rate we are or we'll risk killing the goose that laid the golden egg, so to speak. We'll change the face of the island forever, all because of the mighty dollar.

"Developers aren't interested in looking after this place. They just take the money and go, while the shire just wants more and more rate income.

"But I still love the island, especially the friendliness of people we chat to in the shops, and of course the natural beauty."

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Welcome news

I welcome the news that Bass Coast Shire Council has abandoned the Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Special Charge Scheme. I also thank council for not prolonging the ratepayer financial and liveability stress any longer than necessary and announcing the outcome prior to the proposed December council meeting.

I accept there are some people who are angry at the decision by council to abandon the scheme. Those people now have the opportunity to talk to council to find a resolution to their own dilemma and to address the issues that affect them instead of lumping 1041 ratepayers in to one bundle. Some people may even move to an area that has what they desire – bitumen and concrete.

The outcome may have been different if council had conducted true consultation and communication with the ratepayers of the area. The refusal of council and councillors to communicate with ratepayers actually galvanised our community to fight for our ideals and was in fact the difference between keeping our area unique or losing our identity.

The DAL report recommended retaining the individual village and coastal neighbourhood identities. Council bulldozed ahead to a timeframe telling ratepayers of the area that it knew best instead of listening and working together with ratepayers to find common ground and a solution that suited all.

Council has expended more than \$1 million to date on reports and survey without a detailed plan or information how the scheme would affect individual properties. Council had enough information at their fingertips with topographical maps and relevant subdivision information to produce concept plans and pricing without wasting ratepayer funds on a full-blown survey.

Council and councillors ignored questions and suggestions from ratepayers regarding this scheme as council has done with numerous other planned projects throughout Bass Coast.

The more input council receives from the public, the better informed they will be and

the closer they will be to a solution. Council needs to communicate with ratepayers with all projects to find common ground and solutions to situations, not believe they know everything.

Graeme Davy, Surf Beach

Charge Scheme Abandoned

Thank you to everyone from the community who lodged their official objection, who sent us a copy for evidence, attended the community meetings, wrote letters to the local papers, ministers, The Ombudsman, signed the petition, spread the word to neighbours and lodged questions to the Council meetings, thank you.

It has been an intense and long eighteen months filled with confusion with all the questionnaires, the forms, the moving deadlines and the overall process by Council. So, to read on Bass Coast Council's engage page last Friday that the scheme has been abandoned is good news but not a surprise considering the lack of community consultation undertaken and bullish approach Council took with the process.

Add to this Ward Councillors who never showed an ounce of interest in meeting with us and a Mayor who showed complete disregard for our questions at the Council meetings. Shame on you all.

And Council continues with the confusion in putting out the offer on their engagement page that, "if there was a particular street or smaller area that at least 70 per cent of property owners who actively support an upgrade project in the future, it can be considered in accordance with Council's Urban Road and Drains Policy".

What in the world does this mean, how in the world would this be rolled out, how does the governance and legalities work around this desperate statement?

Might we again suggest that Council take on board all the feedback they have received over the last eighteen months from the community, engage with the community in a respectful and meaningful manner and research alternative measures for the dust and drainage issue in our seaside village.

It shouldn't be too hard and it certainly should not have cost

so much to date. A responsible Council would have abandoned this scheme earlier.

Susie Wickes, Surf Beach

Special Charge Scheme failure

Now that Council's gamble of not offering appropriate options has failed, will it abandon this scheme as it did with Sunset Strip and Cape Patterson and move on to the next community for the same outcome.

Or does it accept that this model is seriously broken and needs drastic fixing. A one-size-fits-all approach clearly does not work in such a large and diverse area as Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay.

To walk away and leave hundreds of property owners devastated without a solution to their dust, drainage and traffic safety problems, is a dereliction of council's responsibility and obligation to provide a safe and healthy environment.

I urge those that have been waiting decades to have their third world living standards lifted, to voice your outrage and let the councillors know that "kicking the can down the street" must stop here., and that we demand a solution to our problems.

Lou Pecora, Surf Beach

Council time to go

Green light for Isle of Wight is surely the tipping point for getting rid of the current Council? How can council even think of granting exemption for 935 car park spaces? How many more car park exemptions for Transport Hub shared between beach goers, Cultural Centre, Community Hospital and Hotel adjacent to library?

For all the money they spend on consultants, going back as far as 2010, to develop a complete parking plan for Cowes, where on earth is it? If the council cannot hold Executive to task, on priority 1 plan, now 13 years old, then surely the council needs to be sacked and replaced?

How much time and money did it cost for best expertise for streetscape plans, with community consultation and acceptance? How can one councillor from far away Inverloch intervene on such plan, to reverse direction of traffic? He claims that one way traffic downhill

presents some kind of feeling of "arrival". In practice, even when it's quiet, so many visitor drivers arrive at The Esplanade then hesitate, wondering whether to turn left or right. In busy times, traffic can back almost up to Chapel Street. Per consultants, one way up hill, there's no hesitation turning from Esplanade, especially if that traffic is one way from Bass to Warley avenues.

In other plans for Isle of Wight, they're saying they can host events for more than 2000 people, plus staff, including non-residents. Even if they all arrived and departed by public transport, this means 50 buses with so much time to embark/disembark.

Yes councillors are authorised by being elected but do they have any town planning expertise? How much more incompetence must we endure? Time to go council.

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Mayoral vote

All citizens who understand the principle of a free, open, and transparent democracy know that the right to ask reasonable public questions is a cornerstone of such democracy.

Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association was formed in 2016 with the purpose of seeking to raise the standards of accountability, transparency, community engagement, and financial discipline at Bass Coast Shire Council. The provision of a public question time at council meetings goes to the heart of three of those goals.

But regrettably, some of our elected Councillors do not agree that public question time is a cornerstone of democracy.

Cr Michael Whelan, the current Mayor of Bass Coast Shire, is certainly no fan of public question time at council.

In March 2022 he took the unprecedented action of stopping public questions being presented to the Council meeting. And he later told ABC radio of his view that the need for public questions to be put at Council meetings is a fantasy.

Then, at the August 2022 council meeting, Cr David Rooks attempted to remove all reference to public question time from the governance rules.

That would have eliminated the requirement to have public question time at council meetings. His motion was supported by then Deputy Mayor, Cr Leticia Laing.

These three councillors have made it clear that they do not consider public question time to be a cornerstone of democracy at the local government level.

With the annual Mayoral election upon them, BCRRA is calling for Councillors to not support the re-election of Cr Michael Whelan, nor the election of Cr Leticia Laing nor Cr David Rooks, to the position of Mayor.

BCRRA is calling for a different councillor to stand for the position of Mayor. A councillor who understands and honestly accepts that public question time is a cornerstone of democracy. And the association asks that all other councillors support such a candidate.

BCRRA encourages all community members who understand the importance of public question time, to briefly email all councillors requesting them to not support the election of Crs Whelan, Laing, nor Rooks, as Mayor.

Kevin Griffin, BCRRA

Block it

Can you please tell me if there is any truth in the rumour that Channel 9 TV has brought Island Cove Villas, 113-199 Justice Road, Cowes, for \$9.5 million for their next series 2024? Do hope not, as we have enough building development going on around Cowes!

If so and planning permission is given please, please don't allow them to build a McDonald's; it will kill our village coffee shops and restaurants and spoil the character of Cowes township.

Lynne Pritchard, Cowes

All letters are published at the discretion of the editor. Letters may be edited for length, grammar or legal reasons. Priority will be given to current local issues and events. All letters must include the author's full name and address (only the name and location will be printed).

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CHICORY PUBLISHING

PIFNC AWARDS NIGHT



U16s: Gianni Caffieri (best in finals), Archie Ross (team player), Charlie O'Garey (best and fairest), Benjamin Chihotski (r/up best and fairest), Jack Briggs (impact player). Not pictured: Will Hill (most determined).



U18s: Oliver Hibbert (most determined), Zac Walker (impact player), Kohen Beaumont (best and fairest), Finn Cashman (r/up best and fairest), Darcy Thompson (best in finals). Not pictured: Tim Niven (team player).



U17 awards: Sophia Hungerford (coaches award), Isla Cousins (best in finals), Lily Mewitt (best and fairest) and Maya Huther (r/up best and fairest).



Club awards: Daniel Larsson (Donny Hamilton), Lachie Eastwood (Keith Delooze scholarship), Sophia Hungerford (Margaret McFee), Abbey McCaughan (president's award) and Rachel Duggan (best club person). Not pictured: James McKelvey (Keith Delooze scholarship).



C Grade and D Grade: Casey Bartlett (D Grade coaches award), Tori Cleeland (C Grade best and fairest), Lawri Piera (C Grade r/up best and fairest) and Rose Van Rooy (D Grade coaches award). Not pictured: Abbey Clarke (best and fairest) and Ari White (r/up best and fairest).



A Grade: Christie Edwards (r/up best and fairest), Lexi Walton (coaches award) and Ella Duggan (best and fairest).



Seniors: Hayden Bruce (impact player), Mark Griffin (team player), Jack Taylor (best and fairest), Max Blake (most determined) and Cameron Pedersen (r/up best and fairest). Not pictured: Daniel Pearce (best in finals).



Reserves: James Nicolaci (best and fairest), Leon Matthews (r/up best and fairest), Daniel Larsson (best in finals), Darcy Saw (most determined) and assistant coach Kev Taylor. Not pictured: Tully Dickie (impact player) and Kirby Fuller (team player).

PIFNC AWARDS NIGHT



Veterans: Andy Austin (team player) and Aidan Williams (most determined). Not pictured: Geoff Odgers (best and fairest), Mark Roche (r/up best and fairest) and Mark Riky (impact player).



PIFNC U13s award winners: Ava Blake (best in finals and best and fairest) and Kate McCausland (runner up). Not pictured: Isla Humphries (coaches award).



LDNA U11s award winners: Rylee Dunk (coaches award) and Ruby Woodrup (best and fairest). Not pictured: April Fraser (runner up).



Sophia Hungerford excelled with three awards for the night being B Grade best and fairest, U17s coaches award and the Margaret McFee award. Congratulations Sophia!



LDNA U13s award winners: Frankie Jess (best and fairest), Indi Keady (best in finals) and Ava Graham (coaches award). Not pictured: Verity Rachelle (runner up).



PIFNC U15s award winners: Olivia Holmes (runner up), Aisha Hibbert (best and fairest) and Ellie Hennessy (best in finals). Not pictured: Jasira Derham (coaches award).



LDNA U15s award winners: Izzy Gove (runner up and coaches award), Mia Caile (best in finals) and Pepper Burke (best and fairest).



PIFNC U11s award winners: Ivy Addison (coaches award), Eden Blake (best and fairest), Ella Solohub (runner up) and Milla Cantwell (best in finals).



B Grade: Charli Ross (r/up best and fairest), Abbey McCaughan, Sophia Hungerford, Ahlee Penry (best and fairest), and Kate Williams (coaches award).

PIBC AWARDS NIGHT



Junior Girls winners Zoe Scott, Sarah Seuren and Sonia Seuren.



Cadet Boys winners Toby Davies, Sunny Steiner and Rye Cicero.

Best and brightest celebrated

SURFING

The best and brightest surfers from the Phillip Island Boardriders Club were celebrated at their annual presentation night on Saturday October 14, with the revival of the old-school presentation ball, reminiscent of the golden days of surfing in the 1960s and 70s.

Phillip Island surfing icon, Glyndyn 'Ringa' Ringrose took out top spots in both the Open Mens and Masters Aggregate, earning him the prestigious Club Men's Champion and Masters Perpetual Awards.

Placing second in the Open Men's Aggregate, and presented with the Gung Ho Perpetual Award was club champ, Harry De Roth, who also won the final round of the 2023 Victorian Open Series alongside Sophie Fletcher.

We saw Sam Fullarton take out first place in the Senior Men's Aggregate, winning him the Senior Men's Perpetual award.

Billy Hosking and Matt Krumins also placed in the top three Senior Men's Aggregate division, with Krumins also placing third in the Open Men's Longboard division.

Women's surfing this

year was at an all-time high, with Dannielle Baylis winning the Senior Women's Aggregate, followed by Kellie McDonald and Emily Scott.

Another standout of the year was surfing superstar and Junior Committee Representative, Abbey Clarke. Winning both Open Women's and Cadet Girls Aggregate divisions, she dominated the board, taking home the Club Women's Champion and Most Improved Perpetual Awards, as well as third place in the U/18 Female Longboard division, behind Savannah Bennett and Scarlett Rennie.

Scarlett absolutely crushed it, coming first in the U/18 Female Longboard division, second in Cadet Girls Aggregate, and overall Junior Club Woman in the Perpetual awards.

The talented young surfer not only recently won the U/12 Girls competition in the Rip Curl Gromsearch comp, she also recorded the only 10-point ride of the competition!

Twin sisters and serial shredders, Sonia and Sarah Seuren both placed in the top three in the Junior Girls Aggregate along with Zoe Scott. Sonia also

claiming both second in the Open Women's Aggregate, and the title of Junior Club Women's Champion.

Longboards

In the Longboard Open Men's division, PIBC's Longboard Captain, Andrew McHenry came in second behind Eli Curry, who was also crowned Longboard Men's Champion. Hamish Farman took out the U/18 Male Longboard division, in front of Hunter Williams and Ry Scott.

Sticking with the Longboarders, Nala Taylor scored Most Improved, Jacquie Chambers and Natalie Van Der Heyden both proved they had serious style on the waves by placing in the top three in both Open Women's and Style Masters divisions.

Ebony Maier came out on top in the Open Women's Longboard Division, also winning the Longboard Women's Champion award – her beautiful trophy was actually handcrafted by Longboard Capitan, Andy McHenry himself!

The Junior and Cadet boys really showed what they were made of this year, with Tate Russell claiming the title of Junior Club Men's Champion, and

first place in the Junior Boys Aggregate in front of Sam Patterson and Jai McDonald.

PIBC Cadet Rye Cicero aced it by winning first place in the Cadet Boys Aggregate division, while the Duell brothers, Tyler and Rylee shared the Junior Club Man award.

Legends of the 2022/2023 Aggregate comp were also honoured, with first place going to Mal Gregson, second to Robert Matthews, and third to Billy Yusko, who was also awarded a PIBC life membership ear-

lier this year at the club's 60th anniversary celebrations.

PIBC's Dumbbell Award went to Jake Eisen

"Jake's been around the club three decades, coming up to four! Yep, he turns 40 in November, he's no stranger to the Boardriders and fits right in when asked to public speak or help out – this is his second time getting the prestigious award," says Club President and Jake's sister, Hannah Eisen.

"Another note-worthy mention was the Club Person award, presented to

none other than PIBC's, Geoff Russell."

With the skilled help of the Phillip Island RSL Community Men's Shed, the club was able to restore many one-of-a-kind, handmade trophies from many years ago, and give them a second life.

The celebrations carried into the night with local live-music legends, The Lating Brothers, and delicious food, catered by Dos Amigos Catering.

Full awards list and more photos at pisra.com.au/sport



Senior Women winners Emily Scott, Kelly McDonald and Danielle Baylis.



Men's Open Champion Glyndon Ringrose with President Hannah Eisen.



Open Women's Longboard winners Ebony Maier, Nat Van Der Heyden and Jacquie Chambers.

PIBC AWARDS NIGHT



Sharing Junior Club Person award – Rylee and Tyler Duell.



PIBC's Dumbbell Award went to Jake Eisen, for close to four decades service to the club, presented to him by club president, his sister Hannah.



Junior U18 winners Jai McDonald, Sam Paterson and Tate Russell with Hannah Eisen, club president.



Club president Hannah Eisen with Most Improved Longboarder, Nala Taylor



Longboard Open Champions Eli Curry, Andy McHenry and Matt Krumins.



PIBC Legends Bill Yousko, Bobby Mathews and Mal Gregson.



Club Person Award went to Geoff Russell, with president Hannah Eisen.



Hannah Eisen with Open Women and Cadet Champion Abbey Clarke, and Glyndon Ringrose



The second season of the She's Electric competition is back, running until December 15. Last year, Phillip Island surfer Sage Goldsbury finished in the Top 20. Photo: Andrew Lidsey @bunpix.

She's electric returns

SURFING

Surfing Australia has announced the return of 'Hyundai She's Electric', running until December 15.

The second season will once again recognise and amplify rising female surfers on a national scale.

Last year, Phillip Island's Sage Goldsbury finished in the Top 20. This year the competition has expanded so more Australian female surfers can enter.

The competition is open to all females aged 16 years and over and female members of Surfing Australia affiliated boardriders clubs are encouraged to get involved.

The competition also has a new online format.

Eligible shortboard surfers simply upload their surfing videos to a public platform, and each week Surfing Australia's expert team of judges, led by Head Judge of Olympic Surfing for Tokyo, Glen Elliott will review the clips creating a Hyundai She's Electric leaderboard to rank the athletes.

This leaderboard aims to give female surfers a profile, unearthing breakout talent and creating a pathway to the top – inspiring the next generation of female surfers.

The top five athletes on the 'Hyundai She's Electric' leaderboard at the end of the competition window will be invited to the Hyundai Surfing Australia High Performance Centre for a surf camp.

The camp includes three-days of intensive training, surf analysis from some of Australia's top surf coaches, surf-specific strength and conditioning sessions and workshops run by surfing icons and pioneers of women's surfing.

In addition, the second to fifth placed athletes take home \$1000 each while the winner receives \$5000 and a VIP experience at the Hyundai Australian Boardriders Battle Grand Final with pro-surfer and big wave charger Laura Enever.

The total prize pool is over \$35,000 and includes the newly created 'Bright Spark' award with weekly winners to receive a Go Pro 11.

Hyundai Australia Chief Executive Officer, Ted Lee said: "Hyundai is proud to partner with Surfing Australia to launch season two of our highly successful She's Electric program.

"Hyundai She's Electric is dedicated to unearthing future female surfing stars, no matter where in Australia they're from, to help open a pathway to the very top of this great sport.

"We look forward to inspiring future generations of Australian surfers and making a real difference in the years to come."

Surfing Australia's Head of Partnerships Clarissa Pike said: "After an amazing year uncovering female talent within the Hyundai Australian Boardriders Battle rankings, it's so exciting to see the evolution of the Hyundai She's Electric platform into year two and beyond.

"By broadening the criteria, we will unearth even more female stars, and in turn inspire and encourage other women to join their local boardrider club community.

"By doubling down on their commitment to female athletes, Hyundai have demonstrated a tangible outcome for Aussie female surfers and we're honoured to work with them in this space."

More details including how to enter at surfingaustralia.com/sheselectric

Scarlett doubles up

SURFING

Phillip Island's Scarlett Rennie took out both the Under 12 and Under 14 girls events at the Surfing Victoria Groms Competition at Torquay on the weekend.

Scarlett catapulted her way to the lead in the Under 12 final "by blitzing a right-hand runner all the way through to score a 9.33 point ride," said a Surfing Victoria spokesperson.

"This incredible ride put her ahead of her competitors and gave her the win."

Scarlett said her dad had advised her to "go for the big sets, as big waves equal big scores", and she repeated the approach in the Under 14 finals, again taking out top spot.

As the winner of the Under 14 Girls, Rennie was awarded the invite to the Woolworths Surfer Grom Comps National Final Surf Camp at the Surfing Aus-



Phillip Island's Scarlett Rennie took out both the Under 12 and Under 14 girls events at the Surfing Victoria Groms Competition at Torquay on the weekend. Photo: Ange Zorica, Surfing Victoria.

tralia High-Performance Centre (HPC).

Also receiving an invite to the camp was Arch Rayner (Inverloch, VIC) as the highest ranked Under

14 Boys Victorian surfer of the event.

Arch came third in the Under 14 Boys, while Dusty Rayner took at second spot in the Under 12s.

Junior titles here next month

SURFING

Three Phillip Island surfers, and two from Inverloch are part of the Victorian Junior Surfing Team that will compete at the Australian Junior titles at Phillip Island next month.

Scarlette Rennie, Evie Lutz and Angus Kennedy have been selected, along with Arch and Dusty Raynor of Inverloch.

Rye Cicero, Lillian and Eva Bassed from Sandy Point are also members of the team.

Held on Phillip Island the seven-day event will feature over 180 competitors from across the country.

Thirty of Victoria's best and brightest surf stars will compete with surfers to watch including current third place on the National Rankings Willem Watson (McRae), Victorian State Champions Sarsha Pantic (Blairgowrie), Jerry Kelly (Barwon Heads), Sara Hickson (Rye), Arch Rayner (Inverloch) and Rose Holland (Dromana).

"It's always special to have the Australian Junior Surfing Titles on home soil in Victoria" said Surfing Victoria High Performance Coaching Director Cahill Bell-Warren.

"We have one of the most geographically diverse teams in recent memory with an even spread across the coastline showing the depth of talent in Victoria at the moment.

"Last time we had the event at home in Victoria we not only scored great waves but had one of the most successful years ever and took home three individual Australian Titles.

"This squad is well prepared through the work they have done with the Surf Better Now coaching team, the stage is set for



Islanders Scarlett Rennie (in action at the Victorian Junior Surfing Titles earlier this year), Evie Lutz and Angus Kennedy have been selected for the Victorian Junior Surfing Team to compete at the Australian Junior Titles at Phillip Island in November. Photo: Noah Clifford, Surfing Victoria.

the Vic Mafia to show off their skillset on home turf."

The Opening Ceremony will be held at the Phillip Island Penguin Parade on Saturday November 25 with surfing to begin on Sunday November 26. The event will be completed on Sunday December 3.

Surfers will compete in individual divisions including Under 14, 16 and 18 age groups along with Allstars and MR Shield Schools divisions.

The primary location for the event will be Cape Woolamai.

Backup locations across the island include Penguin Parade, Smiths Beach, Right Point and Surfies Point.

Full coverage of the Woolworths Australian Junior Surfing Titles can be found by following Surfing Victoria's Instagram page @surfingvictoria and @surfbetternow.

More information on the event can be found at

www.australianjunior-surfingtitles.com

The Victorian Junior Surfing Team is presented by Surf Better Now and supported by Surfing Victoria

FULL TEAM LIST:

U/18 BOYS: Willem Watson, Lucas Hickson, Isaiah Norling, Jack Bassett, Remy Roberts.

U/18 GIRLS: Sarsha Pantic, Eva Bassed, Mia Holland, Sophie Thompson, Juliet Muscroft.

U/16 BOYS: Jerry Kelly, Rye Cicero, Remy Filer, Oscar Kerr, Jack Lindsay.

U/16 GIRLS: Sara Hickson, Ava Holland, Sophie Wilkinson, Dune Pruvot, Lillian Bassed.

U/14 BOYS: Arch Rayner, Dusty Rayner, Harlem Pec, Angus Kennedy, Charlie Chisholm.

U/14 GIRLS: Rose Holland, Scarlett Rennie, Chloe Muscroft, Evie Lutz, Anise Pruvot.

2023 NETBALL COACHING APPLICATIONS

Phillip Island Football Netball Club are seeking enthusiastic netball coaches for our 2023 season for all grades of netball

A, B, C, D, U17, U15, U13, U11
in WGFNL & LDNA competitions.

Email Nazza O'Brien: netball@pifnc.com.au
0404 019 852.

Expression of Interest closes 30/10/2023.



PHILLIP ISLAND
BULLDOGS
FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

Angling competition season well and truly underway

FISHING

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club's (RPIAC) second angling competition for the season was held over the weekend of October 14 and 15.

Battling suboptimal conditions, valiant anglers faced off against rough and windy weather, which stretched their skills and patience.

But as the old angler's adage goes, a challenge thrown by the elements only amplifies the thrill of the catch!

The season, boasting 12 week-end-long competitions, is in full swing and all RPIAC members are heartily invited to participate.

Juniors even get a golden ticket (complementary RPIAC membership) so they can develop their fishing skills and go straight to the squidgie and junior championship arenas.

Despite Mother Nature trying to play spoilsport, the lure of the snapper season kept our fisherfolk on their toes.

And let's be honest, who needs an umbrella when you've got a fishing rod?

Alex Bowden, RPIAC's Weigh-in Master, and Chris Leonardos, the Club Captain with a penchant for large catches, entered a total of 27 fish, one shark and two calamari during the 4.30pm to 5.30pm weigh-in hustle on Saturday and Sunday.

The squidgie's competition, for budding anglers aged nine or younger, was uncontested.

A tide of post-competition excitement grew with the presentation for the junior competition, for anglers aged 10 to 16.

Denver Firth, the reigning

junior club champion, won the junior points competition with a stranger whiting worth 600 points (150g).

In the senior division, Duncan Firth, the current senior club champion, won the heaviest weight for males with a snapper tipping the scales at 5040 grams.

Tenille Preddice, matriarch of the Firth family, topped the female category with her snapper weighing 3755 grams.

The senior points competition saw Duncan Firth and Tenille Preddice each clinching the lead with king george whiting scoring 1386 points (495g) and 1568 points (560g), respectively.

Clearly, when it comes to the Firths, fishing isn't just a sport, it's becoming a family tradition.

With a broad grin, the Club Captain commented, "The Firths are a triple threat! Duncan's masterclass, Denver's budding expertise, and now Tenille's stellar win - they're making it a family hat-trick!"

"I've got half a mind to join their next family picnic, maybe some of their angling luck will rub off on me."

With Dad holding his championship title, Denver ruling the junior waters, and Mum now on the winners' board, the RPIAC is left in delightful suspense: What's next for the Firth family? Is there a family fishing mantra they chant? Or perhaps a secret bait recipe?

RPIAC members are playfully plotting to get a sneak peek into the Firth family's tackle box.

All in good fun, of course!

Vinco Anticevic reeled in victory in the shark competition with a gummy shark weighing 3990g.

Duncan Firth showed versatility by winning the squid/cuttlefish competition with a southern calamari weighing 1370g.

Debra Orr's snapper of 2895g, inched closest to the secret weight of 2655g, sealing her win in the secret weight competition.

No competition is complete without a hearty meal and RPIAC celebrated the generosity of Bakers Delight Cowes and Kristos Charcoal Rotisserie Cowes for the delectable post-competition feast - the true unsung heroes behind every successful angler's strength!

The RPIAC Extraordinary Catch Incentives remain untamed and the members-only, competition weekend, \$1000 first-to-catch prizes for senior competitors stay banked.

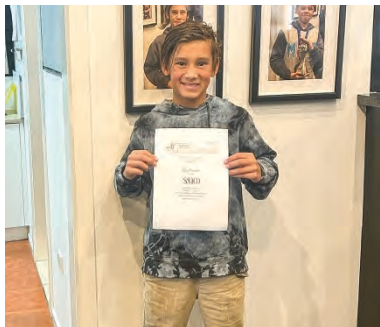
The incentives up for grabs are for eligible species that equal or exceed the nominated weight and include king george whiting (1000g), snapper (10kg), gummy shark (20kg), mullet (25kg) and kingfish (25kg).

With two rounds down and a deluge of 10 more to come, the club champion titles remain as slippery as a wet fish.

Mark your calendars for a splashing good time on October 28 and 29, where the third competition coincides with RPIAC's double anniversary: 35 years strong and 25 years at the clubroom adjacent to the Rhyll boat ramp.

RPIAC's clubroom is open to members and visitors on Fridays (from 5pm) and competition weekends coinciding with weigh in.

For more information, swim over to the clubrooms or cast your net on the website: www.rpiac.com.



Denver Firth, reigning RPIAC junior club champion, won the junior points competition with a stranger whiting worth 600 points.



RPIAC's senior male club champion, Duncan Firth with the 5040-gram snapper that he caught this weekend. Duncan won the senior male weight, senior male points and calamari/cuttlefish competitions.



Tenille Preddice, matriarch of the Firth family, won the senior female weight and senior female points competitions.



This week's winners: Gullio Marcolongo, Ron Burge and John Paterno.

Perfect conditions for summer triples

BOWLS

Phillip Island Bowling Club Summer Triples was held on October 11, with weather conditions perfect for bowling.

With brilliant sunshine, no wind and both greens full of bowlers from San Remo, Wonthaggi, Inverloch, plus teams

from Phillip Island, the standard of bowling was exceptional.

Best last game: Bob Carter, Dave Hofman and Phil Martin.

Runners up for the day: Mark Hone, Gary Storer and Dave Saric.

Congratulations to our winners: Gullio Marcolongo, Ron Burge and John Paterno.

Gymstar brings great results for end of season

GYMNASTICS

It was another successful competition for YMCA Phillip Island Gymnastics Club, with Gymstar Level 6 at BTYC Gymnastics Club, competition no.2.

Two teams placed first and second in their second competition of the season.

The competition was held at BTYC Gymnastics Club in Doncaster on September 18th, with the gymnasts competing against clubs from across the state.

The YMCA Phillip Island Diamonds Level 6 team clinched victory in the team competition, securing first place all around.

Second place was awarded to the YMCA Phillip Island Pearls.

Congratulations to the girls for their outstanding individual all-around results, with Saoirse taking first place, Amellia in second place, Evie in fourth place, and Willow in fifth place.

Apparatus results were as follows:

Vault: Willow 2nd, Amellia 3rd, Evie 5th, Saoirse 6th.

Bars: Saoirse 1st, Amellia 2nd, Rori 4th, Evie 5th.

Beam: Amellia 1st, Willow 2nd, Evie 4th, Miranda 5th.

Floor: Rori 4th, Willow 5th, Amellia 6th.

PBars: Saoirse 1st, Evie and Alexis 3rd, Amellia 4th, Willow 5th, Rori and Miranda 6th.

Rings: Saoirse 1st, Evie 2nd, Amellia 3rd, Miranda 4th, Alexis 5th, Willow 6th.

Highett Youth Gymnastics Club, competition no.4

This weekend saw the conclusion of the gymnastics competition season for our Gymstar level 5 team. The girls have shown enormous growth in both skill and mindset over the course of the year.

They received an additional award in this competition for sportsmanship, being the club to have shown the highest level of support for one another and other teams. Congratulations on a fantastic competition season girls! I cannot wait to see what next year brings.

Team results: Team Pearl 5th place overall and Team Opal 4th place overall.



Phillip Island GymStar 6: Abigail, Willow, Evie, Amillia, Rori, Saoirse, Miranda and Alexis.



Kailey, Raven, Lily, Lacey, Stellah, Mia, Sommer, Frankie, Isla and Heidi of level 5.

Cowes boat ramp on track for November opening

BOATING

The upgrade of the Cowes boat ramp is on schedule to be finished in November, according to Bass Coast Shire Council.

The finishing date, however, is "subject to favourable weather conditions and contractor availability", a council spokesperson confirmed.

A Better Boating Victoria

(BBV) spokesperson in June said the boat ramp was on schedule - even though work began after May as promised.

They said the ramp was "expected to be completed in spring", with BBV previously saying by the end of October.

The \$2.8 million upgrade will extend the jetty to provide more space to tie-up, as well as lengthening and increasing the height

of the concrete ramp to reduce sand accumulation.

The council is managing the project, with construction carried out by Bridgewater Marine.

Earlier this month the council confirmed a large storm in early September breached the wrap-around dam wall at the Cowes boat ramp, flooding the dry area and causing a four-day delay.

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BLACK						
WED 18 OCT	THU 19 OCT	FRI 20 OCT	SAT 21 OCT	SUN 22 OCT	MON 23 OCT	TUE 24 OCT
HIGH 4:14 am 3.01 m	HIGH 4:54 am 3.07 m	HIGH 5:33 am 3.07 m	HIGH 6:13 am 3.03 m	HIGH 6:53 am 2.95 m	LOW 12:29 am 0.43 m	LOW 1:11 am 0.52 m
LOW 9:56 am 0.97 m	LOW 10:33 am 0.95 m	LOW 11:11 am 0.96 m	LOW 11:49 am 0.99 m	LOW 12:28 pm 1.04 m	HIGH 7:34 am 2.84 m	HIGH 8:18 am 2.73 m
HIGH 4:00 pm 2.66 m	HIGH 4:36 pm 2.68 m	HIGH 5:11 pm 2.67 m	HIGH 5:46 pm 2.65 m	HIGH 6:24 pm 2.60 m	LOW 1:07 pm 1.09 m	LOW 1:51 pm 1.12 m
LOW 9:56 pm 0.44 m	LOW 10:33 pm 0.38 m	LOW 11:11 pm 0.36 m	LOW 11:49 pm 0.38 m		HIGH 7:05 pm 2.54 m	HIGH 7:58 pm 2.47 m

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It was a sea of purple in the new club bathers, as 117 swimmers raced in GSI 2 at Leongatha Splash on Sunday.

SGB creates a sea of purple at GSI 2

SWIMMING

It was a sea of purple in the new club bathers, as 117 swimmers raced in GSI 2 at Leongatha Splash on Sunday. The event was a great opportunity for many of the newer swimmers to compete in an environment, that for many who train there, is very familiar to them and helps build up their confidence.

There were a number of new families, or younger siblings racing for the first time, but the club prides itself as a family club and there was plenty of help for the newbies.

The other Gippsland clubs ventured to the meet, with swimmers coming from Moe, Morwell, Sale, Warragul, Traralgon and East Gippsland.



Trinity and Ethan from the SGB club at the event in Leongatha.

The events at Splash are always very popular and well attended, with swimmers needing to attend three GSI meets to swim at the Gippsland Championships in March and with this being one of the rare Sunday meets it was perfect for those who play Saturday sports.

It was not just the swimmers enjoying the day, but the officials for the day included several new SGB parents who have been training and stepped up for the first time to become Marshals, judges and officials.

It wasn't just the kids rac-

ing, with several parents, including coaches Dylan, Lorri and Sarah racing and inspiring their charges.

There was a lot of cheering from the sidelines from their students, keen to see which coach was the fastest.

For some of the older swimmers, there was fierce competition between them and their coach with it coming right down to the touch.

The were many excited SGB swimmers, with a number placing and taking home a collection of ribbons and others improving their times with new PBs.

The event was a great success, and the club looks forward to welcoming everyone back in a month's time.

Legends return and tense competition ensues

DARTS

In a captivating evening of darting excellence, 29 enthusiastic players convened for the second round of the spring darts series, setting the stage for a season filled with excitement.

This week witnessed the comeback of two darting legends, David Healey and Darren Dempsey, proving their mastery in the game remains unwavering.

The climax of the evening brought an astonishing twist, as not one, but four champi-

ons emerged in a closely contested count-back finish.

The darts precision of Allan Stray, David Healey, Darren Dempsey and Bruce Lindsay left the audience in awe, injecting extra excitement into the competition.

Beyond the darts action, the raffle added its own element of thrill.

Bob Hee seized the coveted meat tray, while John Battista toasted his victory with a refreshing beverage.

A cheer erupted as the chocolate prize was claimed

by the president, Scott Lethbridge!

Special thanks and appreciation went to Des and the San Remo Butchers for their generous contribution of the mouthwatering meat tray prize, enhancing the evening's delight for all.

Laurie Jones retained the top position on the darts leaderboard, with Allan Stray, Paul Gleeson, and William Kennedy locked in a fierce battle for the second spot.

The upcoming weeks promise more darting excellence

and remarkable achievements in the Spring Darts Series as these skilled players vie for supremacy on the leaderboard.

As the spring series unfolds, dart enthusiasts eagerly await the surprises and accomplishments the following rounds will bring.

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

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