

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST

Residents fed up



Residents vent their frustration at the six year wait for a promised wetland at Shoalhaven Estate, which includes a pathway along Settlement Road.

Roy Brooks describes Cowes West as the "forgotten area within Phillip Island".

"I've tried to be as mindful as possible of my place. It's always very tidy and I take pride in it," he said.

"You take pride in where you live. But Cowes West is not at the top of the council agenda."

Roy lives near the proposed

wetland at Shoalhaven estate and believes failure to construct the wetland is a major safety issue.

He said the lack of progress is in keeping with the council's approach in the area, claiming it is not interested in helping maintain Cowes West.

Part of the construction would include a 550-metre footpath

along Settlement Road, linking the existing pathways.

Roy has repeatedly contacted the council asking for an update on the project.

His major concern is the safety risk for pedestrians.

"The footpath stops there at the start of the Shoalhaven development. You see mothers with

prams walking out on the road. That's the thing that irks me."

Roy said he has previously contacted his local councillor without success and spoke to a council officer in July last year.

"He said he would give me a projection of when the pavement would go in, but he never got back to me."

Continued page 12

Numbers lifted, but not enough!

Hotels, bars, restaurants and cafes can now seat up to 40 people inside, and 70 outside.

The new limits came into place from midnight on Sunday.

However for many venues struggling with more than six months of closures or restrictions, the expanded limits are providing little relief.

Nick Say, who runs the popular Westernport Hotel in San Remo and the Phillip Island Winery said he was disappointed at the latest round of announcements from the state government.

"While I've largely supported the government and the difficult decisions they've had to make, it seems a little 'generic' in its approach, and lacks an attention to detail I, along with fellow business owners, was looking forward to.

"Any increase in patron numbers is positive, but I feel like it's time to be a little more specific in how each region is addressed."

For Sarah Pedersen at Citrus and Vine, the announcement gives them more hope as they work towards re-opening in November.

"The numbers are back to when we could open after the last lockdown. But we would need to encourage two sittings and be full every night (40 capacity limit) to try and break even with the hope of a little profit."

Romina Scarlato from Pino's Trattoria in Cowes welcomed the increase in diner numbers.

"It is great news to have the extra space indoors given that the weather is so unpredictable. To be able to accommodate that extra few tables inside will make a big difference to turning groups away," she said.

"We have had such huge support from our local community and the wider regional visitation, we are just hoping that we can make more steps like this to responsibly increase capacity coming closer to the season."

Samantha Parkin had just opened the doors on her new restaurant Sambros in Cowes when the first lockdown occurred.

She's welcomed the easing of restrictions, although the new outdoor limits pose a challenge.

"We are both relieved and excited about the easing of restrictions and are just grateful to be able to return to work. As our business is in its infancy, being able to open for dine-in is a crucial part of surviving the pandemic."

Continued page 10

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Wed/Oct21	Thu/Oct22	Fri/Oct23	Sat/Oct24	Sun/Oct25	Mon/Oct26	Tue/Oct27
						
PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	PARTLY CLOUDY
10 17	10 17	10 18	11 17	10 18	12 15	12 16

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*

As of Monday, October 19

10,782
tests done locally

11
Local residents
tested positive

0
Active cases

*From BCH Assessment clinics only since March.

Your Community Voice!



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Larke cleared of any wrong-doing

Bass Coast Shire councillor Les Larke says he holds “no ill will” to his fellow councillors after being cleared of bribery allegations.

Last month it was revealed Cr Larke was under investigation by the Local Government Inspectorate (LGI) for allegedly offering millions of dollars of his own money to be spent in each Bass Coast council ward, in return for securing the mayoral role.

The allegations were detailed in The Age newspaper, which published extracts of emails from three councillors – then mayor Pam Rothfield, then deputy mayor Brett Tessari and Cr Geoff Ellis – detailing the alleged offer made during a meeting in Wonthaggi in October 2018.

Last week LGI Acting Chief Municipal Inspector Dr John Lynch confirmed the investigation of Cr Larke had concluded and found no impropriety.

“A complainant alleged that Cr Larke attempted to bribe fellow

councillors in order to secure nomination as mayor for Bass Coast Shire Council in breach of section 76D of the Local Government Act 1989,” Dr Lynch said.

“The complaint alleges that Cr Larke offered each ward \$5 million in exchange for the vote as mayor.

“The investigation did not find evidence that Cr Larke had misused his position in breach of section 76D (2) of the Act.

“The Inspectorate will take no further action in this matter.”

In a statement issued last week, Cr Larke said he had “consistently maintained my innocence” while “suffering from a serious injustice through the anonymous leak of confidential information and an associated smear campaign in the print and social media”.

“Fortunately, this has been remedied with the Victorian Local Government Inspectorate’s decision to set aside any allega-



Cr Les Larke has been cleared of bribery allegations with the Local Government Inspectorate saying they would “take no further action in this matter”.

tion,” said Cr Larke, who is re-standing for Bunurong ward at this month’s council elections.

“I hold no ill will toward my fellow councillors or council officers, and whilst, in my opinion, they seriously misjudged the situation, there is certainly hurt and bitterness enough.

“The point was whether I had committed any wrongdoing, and I did not.”

Cr Larke thanked his supporters and his family “notwithstanding the immense anguish they had to go through”.

“Those who spoke up for me and suffered as a result,” he said.

“Also my deepest thanks and gratitude to all of my supporters and their unwavering resolve to see justice prevail, and to throw light on a manufactured allegation to reveal the truth.”

Bass Coast Shire referred the allegations to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission and the Local Government Inspectorate in 2018 and again in 2020 after receiving an anonymous complaint from the public, according to The Age.

Mat’s in the finals!

Local hero Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands, is a finalist in this year’s Victorian Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

Mat was nominated for the Leadership and Innovation Award, for his work setting up the Free 3D Hands charity to provide assistive devices for people who need them, free of charge.

The local community has thrown their support behind Free 3D Hands, with community fundraising, and generous business support helping the charity to continue to manufacture their devices.

Mat’s work to manufacture and distribute free face shields to local health services during the Covid pandemic was also part of his nomination.

The Coronavirus pandemic brought a temporary change of focus to the Free 3D Hands factory, with production swapping to face shields for essential workers.

Mat said reports of shortages of protective equipment for frontline workers prompted the change.



Local hero Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands, is a finalist for the Leadership and Innovation award at this year’s Regional Achievement and Community Awards. You can also help him win the People’s Choice Award by voting on the VICRACA Facebook page.

To date, over 4000 face shields have been distributed across the country.

Cast your vote for Mat

The island community can also help Mat pick up the People’s Choice award.

You can vote by simply visiting the Victorian Regional Achievement and Community Awards Facebook page, scrolling through the nominations and clicking on Mat Bowtell.

Visit the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/VICRACA) to cast

your vote.

All the award winners will be announced at a presentation on December 4.

Details of the presentation will be announced at a later date, with the format dependent on Covid restrictions.

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No confidence in AGL plans: barrister, experts

Expert witnesses have no confidence that impacts from AGL's proposed gas project on Western Port will be properly managed, especially impacts on tourism and the environment.

The damning assessment was made by barrister Rupert Watters – who is representing both Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula shire councils – in his opening submission last week to the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) hearing the AGL Environmental Effects Statement (EES).

The opening submission comes ahead of expert witness evidence, from November 9-16 on behalf of the two shires, on a range of issues from tourism to marine ecology.

The 10-week IAC inquiry into the environmental impact of AGL's gas proposal is the largest and most complex environmental assessment carried out in Victoria, with 6058 submissions and a record number of public objections (see separate story).

Mr Watters said upcoming experts will show that AGL's EES had failed to provide confidence on a number of issues, from oil spills to bird surveys.

"If there is a theme to the expert reports provided to the IAC by objector parties, it is that the Project (proponent) simply has not done the work to provide the IAC with confidence that its impacts can be properly assessed and managed," said Mr Watters, of Owen Dixon Chambers lawyers.

"The clearest example of the EES' failure to address a potentially significant impact is the failure of the EES to address potential tourism impacts.

"These flaws mean the councils have very little confidence that, if the project proceeds, the project's impacts have been properly identified or assessed or that the mitigation measures adopted will be adequate to deal with the impacts that do arise."

Environment

Mr Watters said experts will also give evidence that "Western Port is one of the jewels in Victoria's crown".

"The significance of Western Port is as an environmental, social and economic asset at a regional, state and even international level which can, and should, be protected for the benefit of current and future genera-

tions," Mr Watters said.

"It is crucial that proposals for significant new development in Western Port are thoroughly and properly scrutinised, both in terms of their strategic justification and in terms of their likely impacts on the environment. It is the councils' submission that the proposal fails on both fronts."

Mr Watters quoted several economic and scientific reports, including one used by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning that valued the bay's non-commercial ecosystem services at \$8.4 billion annually, almost as much as the value of commercial coastal activities (\$9.8 billion per year).

"The results demonstrate the need for decision makers to consider the trade-offs between the benefits of healthy functioning ecosystems and those associated with expanding use and development," he said.

"Not doing so unknowingly puts at risk a large amount of value in the form of natural capital and associated services."

Mr Watters quoted an industry report used in 2014 as part of the then proposal to expand the Port of Hastings, saying Western Port's ecosystems were recognised to be of "international, national and regional significance" as:

- a Ramsar wetland for migratory birds, with three Marine National Parks
- a breeding area and nursery for several fish species – with a commercial abalone and mussel fishery at Flinders
- one of only 65 wetlands in Australia listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
- a Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's program, with habitats only rarely found on the southern Australian coast

Mr Watters said while a gas project could be acceptable in one area, it could be unacceptable in another and "context is always critical in planning decision-making".

Rival

He said Viva Energy already had a proposal for a similar gas project near Geelong. "Clear justification should be required be-



"The significance of Western Port as an environmental, social and economic asset at a regional, state and even international level which can, and should, be protected for the benefit of current and future generations," argues the barrister representing Bass Coast Shire at the hearing into AGL's gas plans for the bay.

fore a proposal is permitted to advance in such a sensitive environment as Western Port when a less impactful alternative is in the planning stages."

Mr Watters said AGL's gas proposal would create significant greenhouse emissions and "entrench fossil fuel use", delaying transition to cleaner energy sources.

He said the onus should be on AGL to demonstrate impacts can be adequately managed.

"If the IAC is not satisfied that this can be done, then it should recommend refusal."




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One week down, nine to go

The hearing of AGL's gas plans for Western Port Bay is the largest and most complex environmental assessment carried out in Victoria, with more than 6000 submissions and a record number of public objections.

Already, in just the first week of a 10-week hearing, there is a clear winner: lawyers and expert witnesses.

Last week's launch of the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) hearing the AGL Environmental Effects Statement (EES) saw a bevy of barristers representing organisations from Bass Coast Shire (sharing a lawyer with Mornington Peninsula Shire), and State Government, to the Port of Hastings and environment groups.

Submissions opposing include Federal MP Greg Hunt, several shire councils (Bass Coast, Mornington, Cardinia), recreational fishing peak bodies, tourism operators, local business owners, environment and climate groups.

The first day saw lawyers for AGL tell the hearing the project would not have unacceptable environmental impacts, the Port of Hastings was already industrialised, and the project would help address the predicted shortfall in the national gas supply.

The IAC then heard from opponents of the proposal.

"Waste disposal"

Environmental Justice Australia represented Save Westernport, Environment Victoria and the Victorian National Parks Association, with lawyer Jane Sharp stating AGL's project was environmentally unacceptable because it would use sea water as its "cooling engine" and Western Port as "its waste disposal".

Ms Sharp said about 470 million litres of seawater would pass through the ship's heat exchange pipes each day, and be pumped back into the bay, "hostile to life" with chlorination.

"It would have obvious risks and impacts, largely unquantifiable, that are inherent and simply cannot be designed out or mitigated by controls. These include a large increase in foreign ship



AGL's project is environmentally unacceptable because it would use sea water as its "cooling engine" and Western Port as "its waste disposal", according to Environmental Justice Australia.

traffic," she said.

"Even if this project were economically positive (on which there are differing expert views), it is a polluting project within a sensitive environment.

"The IAC should advise the Minister that the proposal has significant and unacceptable environmental impacts and that it should not be facilitated.

Cathedral of spirituality

Other submissions were made by:

- The Victorian National Parks Association, which said the proposal did not significantly address the effect on marine biodiversity, including as a result of potential ship collisions, oil spills and gas explosions. Nor did it fully address what effect chlorine discharges and other toxicants would have on marine life
- Save Westernport said the bay community

faced a "death by a thousand cuts", adding the group "love this area so much" they "broke the record for the number of submissions to this process"

• The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation: Uncle Mik said "It's not just land to us, it's our cathedral of spirituality. We don't own Mother Earth, she owns us all."

• Dr Craig Blount and Dr Marcus Lincoln Smith of Cardno Water and Environment were commissioned by Mornington and Bass Coast Councils to review the EES on marine and land biodiversity concluding the EES was "flawed in terms of its approach to assessing the potential for impacts to marine biodiversity and waterbirds and thus its conclusions are unreliable".

More reports on the IAC hearing on page 9.

Chlorine discharge in bay is legally unprecedented: EPA

AGL's plans to discharge up to 47kg of chlorine a day into Western Port is unprecedented and will force the Environment Protection Authority to "carefully consider" the proposal.

Legal counsel representing the EPA Edwina Smith last week told the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) hearing the AGL Environmental Effects Statement (EES) the EPA was in uncharted legal territory and AGL may be forced to prove the discharge will have an environmental benefit.

Under AGL's proposal, a floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) moored at Crib Point jetty will regasify liquid natural gas by using a heat exchange system.

About 470 million litres of seawater will be sucked up (including fish eggs and larvae) through the ship's heat exchange pipes each day, and be pumped back, discharged into the bay about 7C colder than the ambient temperature and containing residual chlorine.

"A significant issue is that the project proposes to discharge wastewater from the FSRU into the waters of Western Port Bay, which is designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention," Ms Smith told the inquiry.

She said under legislation, the EPA was not allowed to approve an application for new wastewater discharge to waters of high conservation value unless the EPA was satisfied the wastewater could be "treated and managed to a level to protect beneficial uses".

Ms Smith said AGL's application "does not clearly explain" how the FSRU would comply with the legislation.

"EPA's records indicate this is the first application for permission to discharge wastewaters into waters of high conservation value," she said.

"The application raises novel issues which need to be carefully considered by the EPA."

Ms Smith questioned whether under the legislation "must an application demonstrate that the wastewater discharge will provide environmental benefits?"

"Can EPA approve a mixing zone for discharges of wastewater to waters of high conservation value? If so, what is the test for approval of a mixing zone in waters of high conservation value?"

She said AGL needed to provide a "more complete" assessment of marine water impact and she would further detail EPA's submission on November 18.





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Shire V pensioner — Frustration mounts

A San Remo pensioner has labelled Bass Coast Shire's actions as "misleading", in his ongoing battle to seek justice after his house was flooded, because of drainage problems at a controversial subdivision.

In April the Advertiser reported Bill Wintle's Back Beach Road house was flooded, blaming blocked drains and subsequent run-off from the nearby Panorama Estate.

Six months after the flooding forced the 78-year-old from his home, Bill continues to be homeless, living at the San Remo Motel, with his house unlivable because of black mould from the flooding, and foundations that have cracked.

Bill earlier this month said he had issued the shire with several requests to mediate, to resolve the issue of who is responsible for the flooding and subsequent damage.

A Bass Coast Shire spokesman has repeatedly claimed the shire was "in correspondence with Mr Wintle and we are arranging a meeting with him", which is disputed by Bill.

"The shire's response is misleading to say the least," said Bill, who was a commercial



"I have never been dealt with directly by anyone who has authority." San Remo pensioner Bill Wintle is in an ongoing battle with council after his home was flooded.

shark fisherman in San Remo before retiring.

"Throughout the six months I have been dealing with this dilemma, I have only received one letter from the council related to the flooding, which was in August.

"When the flooding occurred six months ago I reached out to the council in regards to setting up a meeting with them to discuss remediation and housing, and they promised to set a date. I have not heard from them since. I have never been dealt with directly by anyone who has authority."

Bill blamed the flooding – which occurred

twice, in April then May – on filters installed by the Panorama Estate developer on drainage outlets on the estate, which had effectively blocked drains.

Following his home's flooding, an independent building surveyor's report concluded the foundations of Bill's home had dangerously sunk.

"The shire are the ones who allowed the development and who ordered the work on the drains."

Bill is claiming damages, stating both the shire and the developer were negligent "causing my property to become uninhabitable".



Workmen took advantage of a break in the windy weather last week to lower the new bus shelters into place at the Cape Woolamai roundabout.

Gimme shelters

New bus shelters are now in place at Cape Woolamai.

The installation is part of the \$10.5 million upgrade at the intersection of Woolamai Beach and Phillip Island roads.

Bus stops on either side of the road have been relocated closer to the new dual-lane roundabout.

The project also includes new street lighting and footpaths, and upgraded pedestrian crossings.

The roundabout is now fully operational, although landscaping work is yet to be completed.

Sara Rhodes-Ward, Regional Director (Eastern) at the Department of Transport advised both the Cape Woolamai roundabout and the roundabout at Back Beach Road are ahead of schedule and expected to

be completed later this year, instead of early 2021 as originally planned.

"We're in the final stages of construction of the two new roundabouts on Phillip Island Road, well ahead of schedule and in time for the upcoming peak holiday season.

"We're very grateful to the community for their ongoing patience during these very important upgrades," she said.

"We expect there will be minor traffic delays in the coming weeks while we finalise works at both sites.

"We discussed our designs for the two roundabouts with Bass Coast Shire Council during the planning phase and we'll continue to work with them as we finalise the landscaping plans," Ms Rhodes-Ward continued.

"Any landscaping decisions will be made in consultation with council and will consider the local environment, whilst ensuring each roundabout can serve its primary road safety function."

With traffic increasing as restrictions ease, students return to school and visitors return to the island, Cape Woolamai residents are enjoying the traffic flow of the new roundabout.

Many have commented on the improved access and ease of making right-hand turn towards San Remo.

"It's a relief not to have to worry about getting out of the estate," said one.

To keep track of the Phillip Island roundabout projects, visit regional-roads.vic.gov.au.

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PINP is calling on the community to help protect the Hooded Plovers. Refuges set up on the beach help protect the tiny birds which have already started nesting.



Often referred to as plovers, Masked Lapwings, characterised by their bright yellow faces, are different to the Hooded Plovers and are commonly also seen away from beaches in our gardens and neighbourhoods.

Help protect the plovers

Phillip Island Nature Parks has called on the community to help protect Hooded Plovers.

The tiny birds have started nesting on some beaches along the coastline.

The nests are frequently in areas shared with beach goers.

To help protect the parents and their eggs, the Nature Parks said protective areas had been set up on a small number of beaches.

Simple rope fences, signage and small timber shelters have been installed above the high tide line. These are important refuges that enable parent birds to get on with the job of protecting eggs and chicks from fluctuating temperature, wind, rain and natural predators.

They also give adult birds the space to feel comfortable while they incubate their eggs and protect the

tiny chicks that must feed themselves from the moment they hatch.

Refuge areas allow the chicks to roam safely as they look for food along the high tide line and to shelter from weather and predators.

“Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council rangers regularly monitor nesting sites on the beaches that each organisation manages, as we continue to work together to care for this threatened species,” says Ben Thomas, Phillip Island Nature Parks’ Ranger In Charge.

“Each refuge is carefully placed to play an important role in ensuring the survival of Hooded Plover nests and chicks, while allowing maximum space for residents and visitors to enjoy our beaches.

“These structures might look simple, but are actually a very effective and targeted state-wide

strategy that has been refined over more than 20 years. Along with local community support, they have been major factors in reversing the trend of declining Hooded Plover numbers.”

“Before refuges were introduced, an average of only two chicks fledged per year on Phillip Island – that average has lifted to 12 fledglings per year,” said Ben.

“We know our community supports us in protecting wildlife, and responsibly sharing our beaches, so that we can all enjoy our beautiful island environment.”

Ben urged beach goers, however well meaning, not to interfere with the chicks, or try and move, relocate or damage the refuge sites, signage or rope barriers.

“Any deliberate act that causes damage to these refuges or harm

to the birds is an offence under the Wildlife Act 1975 which carries significant penalties. We appeal to our community to report any sightings of deliberate harm to the police or Crime Stoppers immediately.”

Council’s Local laws and/or Phillip Island Nature Parks Regulations are also in place to protect wildlife and infrastructure.

You can help by:

- Staying clear of signed and/or fenced areas where birds are nesting to give them a much greater chance of success.
- Reading nest update signs.
- Keeping dogs on a leash in on-leash areas, and under control and away from refuge areas on off-leash beaches.
- Walking on the wet sand when passing a refuge.
- Not lingering in front of a refuge

as they are only in place when birds are nesting.

Some refuges may remain in place over the summer to give the parents and chicks the best chance of survival as they will often try again if their first nesting attempt fails.

Hooded Plovers are small grey and white shorebirds, only seen on beaches, and are sometimes misunderstood and mistaken for the larger, brown and white Masked lapwings, which many people also refer to as ‘plovers’.

Both species have black heads however, Masked Lapwings are characterised by their bright yellow faces, and are commonly also seen away from beaches in our gardens and neighbourhoods. They are wonderfully diligent parents and will actively protect their chicks if they feel they are under threat.



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Business Network reborn

The newly formed Phillip Island Business Network held its first Annual General Meeting last week.

The network replaces the Phillip Island Tourism and Business Association (PITBA) and is focused on helping local businesses achieve their business goals.

In a statement to members last week, the Network said: "Now more than ever is a time for Phillip Island Business Network to work together and maximise the potential of our region."

Members voted on a new committee at the meeting, electing Claire Sawatzky as President, Kimberley Brown as Vice President, Simon Manning as Treasurer and Dianne Holberry as Secretary.



The new committee was elected at the Phillip Island Business Network AGM last week. From left to right: Shane McLaren (SMAC), Paul Coleman (Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit), Treasurer: Simon Manning (Coastal View Financial Services), Secretary: Dianne Holberry (Ripples'N Tonic), Geoff Moed (A Maze'N Things), President: Claire Sawatzky (Barefoot Potential), Vice President: Kimberley Brown (North Pier Hotel), Joanne Brooks (Flowers of Phillip Island) Absent: Kate Adams (Phillip Island Nature Parks) Kim Storey (Destination Phillip Island), John Dickie (Wildlife Coast Cruises)



Covid patrols

Local police have reminded the community – and any potential visitors – they are still enforcing the public health directions of the Chief Health Officer.

This means anyone living in metropolitan Melbourne, can only travel to regional Victoria if they have a permitted reason to do so.

"Fish and chips on the Cowes pier is definitely not one of those reasons," said Bass Coast Police, in a post on their Facebook page.

Local police confirmed there are still units rostered on for Covid patrols and reminded everyone to follow the restrictions and to wear a mask when outside of the house.

To find out more about the restrictions,

visit the Department of Health and Human Services website or call the dedicated COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398.

Any suspected breaches can be reported to the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

Corinella crime watch

Late in the hours of Sunday night, October 11, Police say there was a series of criminal damages in the Corinella area.

Police believe that local residents may have information or CCTV to assist investigators in identifying and catching the offenders.

They are requesting anyone with information to contact Senior Constable Geoff Prater at the San Remo Police station on 5678 5500.

Rainy day season

The predictions of a very wet spring appear to be true.

This October is already much wetter than normal.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, 57.4mm of rain fell on Phillip Island in the first two weeks of October, with 22mm falling on a single day (October 9).

The BoM's average, or median rainfall, for October, is 58mm. By Monday this week, 77.2mm had

fallen.

Last month the Bureau of Meteorology declared that La Niña has developed in the Pacific Ocean, which typically means a wetter-than average spring.

Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) said it was preparing for what could be a very wet spring, and so should residents.

VICSES said the last significant La Niña event in 2010 – 2011 had

a devastating effect right across Victoria.

In September, the weather station at Rhyll recorded 84.4mm, well above the median rain fall of 61.8mm (September 1991 – 2020).

According to the BoM statistics, August is traditionally the wettest month of the year for the island. This August 80.8mm was recorded which is in line with the median recorded rainfall.



With above average rainfall over the past months, there is plenty of water lying about. More than 50mm of rain fell in the first fortnight of October and we've already exceeded the average monthly rainfall.



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The potential for economic loss is significant when Phillip Island is "so heavily reliant on nature-based tourism".

Phillip Island tourism at risk from AGL project

Phillip Island's tourism industry would be at financial and reputational risk from AGL's proposed gas plant on Western Port, with potential to cause up to \$38 million in losses.

Stewart Moore, CEO of Earthcheck, last week told the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) hearing the AGL Environmental Effects Statement (EES) that while modelling was not available to assess the potential economic impact on the Phillip Island and Bass Coast economy, there was potential for economic loss "when the region is so heavily reliant on nature-based tourism".

Mr Moore said based on 2019 data, a 20 per cent reduction in nature-based tourism would result in the loss of about \$38 million in visitor expenditure; a loss of 10 per cent could see a decline of about \$28 million.

"The key issue with regard to assessment of tourism in the ESS is that it fails to consider the project's potential impacts on tourism in Phillip Island and Bass Coast," said Mr Moore, whose company EarthCheck wrote the Phillip Island And San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035.

Mr Moore - who gave evidence on behalf of Bass Coast Shire - pointed to global ma-

ior incidents where fossil fuel projects resulted in significant impacts to local tourism, including the recent ammonium nitrate explosion in Lebanon (2020), the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant disaster in Japan in 2011; and the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

He said AGL's proposed project posed environmental risks, with potential for direct and indirect reputational impacts.

"This environmental damage would have the potential to directly lead to financial loss for businesses and communities reliant on tourism.

"As Bass Coast Shire and Phillip Island are omitted from impact considerations, EES documentation contains no consideration of investigation, avoidance, and minimisation of impact on the region's visitor economy."

He said nature-based tourism made up about a quarter of visitors to the Phillip Island region, or about \$192 million in 2019, with more than 51,000 nature-based tourism visitors expected by 2025.

AGL response

In response to Mr Moore's evidence, Chris McNeill, the director of Ethos Urban, gave evidence on behalf of AGL.

"I broadly agree with Mr

Moore's contentions in relation to the importance of tourism to the Phillip Island and Bass Coast Shire economies and the important role played by nature-based tourism," Mr McNeill said, adding that he disagreed a financial figure could be put on any tourism loss.

"Mr Moore states the project's potential impacts on tourism to Bass Coast Shire are not considered by the EES. In my view, this observation is correct.

"In my opinion, the potential for tourism or other businesses in Bass Coast Shire to observe impacts attributed to the project's construction or operational phases is minimal and does not warrant its inclusion as part of the ... analysis."

Mr McNeill disagreed the AGL project would impact on the island's premier tourist brand, given Crib Point's "long-established role as a location for fuel storage and industry".

He acknowledged while an environmental disaster would "indeed be disastrous", global catastrophes could not stop "the delivery of major infrastructure in Australia if the potential for impacts has been addressed and appropriate mitigation measures implemented to manage risks".

High profile AGL opponent

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt believes AGL's gas proposal for Western Port will bring "negligible economic benefits" to the region and could have detrimental effects on industries such as tourism and fishing.

Mr Hunt, whose electorate of Flinders takes in the gas project location of Crib Point, lodged a submission opposing the project, saying the project does not belong in an area "deemed to have

worldwide significance" under the Ramsar Convention and as a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

"My constituents tell me, and I agree, that Crib Point, and its surrounds is a distinctly non-industrial area that is known for its quiet and peaceful setting," Mr Hunt wrote.

"Crib Point is the wrong location for this kind of large-scale industrial facility."

Mr Hunt said at least two

other locations - "both heavily industrialised" - were rival potential sites for a similar gas project.

"A clear preferable alternative is Port Kembla in New South Wales and the other is near Corio in Victoria," he said.

"These are vastly better alternatives from an environmental perspective.

"Some issues find popular support both for and against. This is not one of them."

A snapshot of AGL's Western Port Bay proposal

The project

AGL is proposing to build a 290-metre floating gas import terminal at Crib Point in Western Port Bay.

The terminal, known as a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), would receive liquefied natural gas (LNG) via shipments from interstate or overseas, on up to 40 LNG super tankers per year.

The FSRU would then convert this LNG back into gas for distribution via a new 60km pipeline from Crib Point to Pakenham.

At peak times, the FSRU would discharge the equivalent of 47 kilograms of chlorine a day into Western Port, an area with high conservation values.

About 470 million litres of seawater would be sucked up - including fish eggs and larvae - through the ship's heat exchange pipes each day, and be discharged into the bay about 7C colder than the ambient

temperature and containing the residual chlorine.

The hearings

Two energy companies, AGL and APA, have proposed the project. In October 2018, the Victorian Minister for Planning required the companies to submit an environment effects statement (EES).

AGL took two years to create the 11,000-page EES, and the community was given 40 days to respond in July and August, during stage four lockdown restrictions.

A joint Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) was appointed to consider the EES and submissions and give advice to ministers and government agencies on the project.

The hearings will be held online from Monday October 12 to December 17.

Expert witnesses for Mornington Shire and Bass Coast Shire are scheduled to be heard on November 9-16.

The submissions

More than 6000 submissions are publicly available on the IAC website, and more than 9000 were attached to Environment Victoria's submission. The previous record for most submissions to a Victorian EES was the Mornington Safe Harbour project with 2018 submissions.

What next?

At the end of the hearing, the committee has 30 days to report to the Victorian Planning Minister Richard Wynne. The Minister has 30 days to respond and make his decision. The committee's report is not public until after the Minister has decided, and the Minister has discretion to ignore the committee's recommendations. (In the recent North-East Link EES, the Minister approved the project and dismissed key findings of the panel.)

All documents relating to the hearings, including public submissions, are at: www.environment.vic.gov.au/crib-point-iac

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Monday to Friday

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Wonthaggi Medical Group 1pm to 5pm
(WMG by appointment Ph. 0492 036 568)

Saturday, Sunday and Public holidays

Wonthaggi Hospital 10am-2pm

Phillip Island:

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Phillip Island Health Hub, Urgent Care Centre
Pre-operation testing between 2pm-3pm



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Nick Say from Phillip Island Winery said he was disappointed at the latest round of announcements.



The latest announcement means San Remo Fisherman's Co-op has reopened its outdoor eating area, said manager Paul Mannix.

Numbers lifted, but not enough!

From page 1

“Although we have opened a new alfresco dining space, it certainly doesn’t allow for 70 people so negotiating maximum outdoor numbers is proving difficult especially as it is not viable for footpath dining,” she said.

Over in San Remo, Paul Mannix at the Fisherman’s Co-op said the increased numbers was good news for many.

“This is good news for local hospitality businesses, especially the smaller operations with limited seating. This could mean “close to normal” for a lot of cafes.

“Looking forward, every business will need to find their “covid normal” to minimise the risk of transmission when cases inevitably pop up again,” he said.

The weekend announcement meant the Co-op could open up outdoor seating, although they are still

not offering dine-in.

“We don’t want to push the social distancing boundaries with people placing food orders, buying seafood and sitting inside too.

“We’re dying to see the place buzzing with full tables inside, but we’ll just have to be patient for now.

“We’ve opened up the outdoor seating and spread out the tables, provided a smartphone sign-in, and have sanitiser everywhere,” he said.

More is needed

Nick Say said hospitality operators had “a history of being able to operate successfully in a highly regulated environment” and deserved more.

“I feel that we as an industry deserve credit for our strong track record. We deserve to be back to, at the very least, the numbers we were restricted to on our way into lockdown.

“This would allow us to begin

planning for our peak season, to begin employing staff again, supporting our suppliers, booking music again and to be able to do what we got into this business to do – to provide hospitality to our loyal customers.”

Ben Fisher from the San Remo Hotel agrees.

“For us, it would have been nice to open up more, because we have been providing a Covid-safe environment.

“The hardest thing is our fixed costs. Electricity, rates, insurances, office costs, mortgage interest, it is all still accumulating.

“But we will work to whatever we can do.”

At Citrus and Vine, they’re crossing their fingers for another announcement soon, as “further reductions on restrictions will give us more breathing space”.

“We’re hoping to start to get

Christmas functions, so numbers really need to increase so we have a fighting chance,” Sarah said.

“We lost six weddings along with many birthday celebrations this year and it’s been heartbreaking watching the days, weeks and months go by without operating like we were.”

Visitors welcome?

The lack of visitors from Melbourne remains a vexed issue for the island.

Some local residents have expressed concern about opening up too soon and seeing infections spread from Melbourne, as happened recently in Shepparton and Kilmore.

But for many businesses, the lack of tourists make it impossible to operate successfully.

“Not being able to have Melbourneans still is another hit for us as a

tourist island,” said Sarah Pedersen.

“But the local support has been amazing, and we can’t thank them enough for helping keep our businesses alive.”

At Sambreros, Samantha Parkinson said they were “always looking at ways to ensure everyone is able to enjoy a Mexican feast safely and within the social distancing requirements”.

“We are definitely ready and looking forward to a big summer,” she said.

Nick Say agrees and said hopefully soon the island would be able to open up.

“We can’t wait to welcome everyone back to the Westernport and the winery, albeit in a ‘new-normal,’ but for now, it is what it is.

“We’re much luckier than our fellow business owners and residents of metropolitan Melbourne – our hearts go out to them.”

Permit to visit holiday homes

From midnight today (Wednesday, October 21), holiday homeowners will be allowed to visit their properties to make sure they are fire ready.

Owners living in Melbourne will be able to apply for written formal approval from Bass Coast Shire Council to visit the area.

Since the Premier announced the fire-ready changes, the council has been inundated with calls from non-resident ratepayers, wanting to know when they can come and check on their properties.

Normally the council, in conjunction with the CFA would issue Fire Prevention Notices to property owners, compelling them to clean up around their property.

This year, due to the Covid restrictions, the process has been reversed.

Owners wanting to check their property will need to provide relevant details to the council, including

the type of work needed and the date of the visit, to be issued a permit.

On Tuesday, a spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said they were waiting on further advice from the state government about the process.

A post on the council website said it was “unable to provide accurate timeframes and eligibility at this stage”.

Once details on how to apply for the fire prevention permits are available, it will be posted on the council’s website.

In the meantime, council advised anyone unable to travel to Bass Coast to maintain their property could look online for “local slashing and gardening businesses that provide grass cutting services”.

Any resident of metropolitan Melbourne visiting their regional properties will be required to comply with the restrictions in place in Melbourne. This includes not dining in

at local cafes, hotels or restaurants.

Announcing the new permit process on the weekend, Premier Daniel Andrews warned residents of metropolitan Melbourne it was “not an invitation to use this as an opportunity to travel to regional Victoria”.

Residents who live in regional Victoria can travel to a second property, holiday home or business in regional Victoria to prepare it for an emergency.

Local councils will also continue to issue Fire Prevention Notices where it is deemed necessary to place an obligation on property owners. Residents issued with a Fire Prevention Notice are legally bound to oblige and can travel to their property to clean it up.

Visit vic.gov.au/fireactionweek2020 for a list of activities and online events happening throughout Victoria during Fire Action Week. For more information on Fire Safety Essentials sessions, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/about/whats-on

service is now available between 9am – 1pm, Monday to Friday and 10am – 2pm on weekends and public holidays.

You can also book a test with Wonthaggi Medical Group, Monday to Friday from 1pm – 5pm. Pre-operation testing between 10am – 11am. Ph: 0492 036 568 or www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/wonthaggi-VIC-3995/wonthaggi-respiratory-clinic/doctors.

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

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

Testing is available at:

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

Take the test

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

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

Restrictions ease

More people in cafes and bars, indoor pools re-opening and the household bubble restrictions lifted are just some of the measures announced on the weekend for regional Victoria.

From midnight on Sunday, the “household bubble” rule for regional Victorians has been dropped and two adults, plus their children will be able to visit your home, once a day.

And hospitality venues – cafes, bars, restaurants and hotels – will be able to host up to 40 customers indoors and up to 70 outdoors (see separate story).

Libraries and toy libraries can open – with a maximum of 20 people indoors.

Indoor pools will open again for those under 18, with a maximum of 20 people.

Outdoor religious gatherings for up to 20 people are now allowed.

Restrictions have also been eased in metropolitan Melbourne, but the Premier said the “ring of steel” around the city remained in place and there would be increased checks on the highways.

“Only those who need to and have a lawful reason should travel to regional Victoria,” he stressed.

Melburnians who own property in regional Victoria and receive a fire or flood preparation notice from their local council would be able to travel from Melbourne to prepare their property.



Cafes, bars, restaurants and hotels can have up to 40 customers indoors and 70 outdoors. Photo Clay Banks, Unsplash.

However, they must have the notice and a letter of support from the council, and the stricter rules in place in Melbourne would apply to those people while in regional Victoria.

The Premier warned there were significant fines in place for anyone caught unlawfully visiting regional areas.

If case numbers remain low, restrictions will be further eased at the start of November.

All Victorians must wear a face mask when outside their home, continue social distancing and are being reminded to get tested as soon as any Covid symptoms appear.

You can read the full statement from the Premier on the DHHS website.

Information about the roadmap for easing restrictions is available at dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus



This photo shows the boundary of the Cowes Foreshore Tourist Park, with the top left designated for the glamping tents.

Cowes caravan park goes to VCAT

A proposed \$900,000 upgrade to a Cowes caravan park will go to VCAT, after the developers say Bass Coast Shire failed to grant a planning permit within the prescribed time.

The controversial Cowes Foreshore Tourist Park development, which has received 22 objections, proposes 12 new ensuites, studio units, four glamping buildings on the beach, but just 17 new car parks.

There will also be a new swimming pool, jumping pillow, pool shed and fencing, which will all require the removal of 20 trees, including several significant, healthy natives.

Last week the developers, Across Australia Parks and Resorts Pty Ltd, submitted an application to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, with a hearing scheduled for May 31 and June 1 2021.

The park is on Crown land at 164 Church Street, so park managers are effectively taking their landlords – the shire – to VCAT.

Cowes west residents are set to battle the development at VCAT, saying for years they were promised an upgrade by managers of the caravan park, which was set to alleviate an overflow of parking problems, mostly in summer, where surrounding streets are log-jammed with visitor cars.

The upgrade was also hoped to address concerns about noise, as well as encroachment on foreshore vegetation, with residents concerned “trees have strangely disappeared over a number of years” and “foreshore has been claimed and developed by stealth”.

“Inadequate”

The 22 objections detail resident opposition to the proposal.

Many of the submissions, lodged with the shire, argue 17 carparks was “inadequate”.

“In peak periods the amount of traffic flow in Church Street prevents me from entering and exiting safely from my property,” writes one objector.

“The extra allocated car spaces will increase the traffic flow significantly making it more dangerous and congested.”

Another objector said the majority of visitors at the park in peak periods “arrive with two or three cars and the same cars stay for days if not weeks”.

Resident Rhonda Barnett said given the expansion of facilities in the upgrade, the number of allocated car parks was a “joke”.

“The planning application is to increase the number of sites to 169 and only provide an additional 15 parking

sites within the caravan park for patrons, boat, jet ski and yacht trailers, patrons’ guests, disabled parking and staff. Where will they all park?

“The answer is: in the surrounding streets with no care and no respect for the area,” said Rhonda.

“I’m disappointed in this plan because it continues to disrespect residents.”

Residents also oppose the four glamping tents, arguing they are permanent structures that will change the beach vista.

One objector wrote public foreshore land should not be used for “commercial gain”.

“The erection of the dwelling structures within meters of the sand is counter to council’s aims of regenerating foreshore land,” they said.

“Caravan and tent sites have moved closer and closer to the beach destroying the vegetation in the process.”

“The addition of these permanent dwellings on foreshore land has no precedent on Phillip Island.”

Another commented: “The caravan park has over time moved tent sites closer and closer to the beach destroying the vegetation on the foreshore in the process.”

Another objector highlighted the Crown land had no public access, with the planning permit transforming the caravan park to a “resort”, changing the character of the neighbourhood and adding considerable noise.

“There has been no respect for the local surrounding residents in the design and location of the new amenities,” they said.

“Anti-social”

The objector added the caravan park had a history of “drunken, anti-social behaviour” and the new planning permit failed to address these security issues, with the managers’ office closing at 8.30pm.

“We have been pelted with full bottles (of alcohol) from across the street very late at night,” they wrote.

Rhonda said for years residents have lived with noise and “complete lack of respect for the surrounding area” by patrons and visitors.

“I have even had them park on my driveway simply for shade.”

Some objectors also highlighted the failure by the developer in its duty to alert residents to their plans, with limited permit notifications and no advertisements in local papers.

“If there is insufficient community consultation regarding this application, we shall be adversely affected

by not having the views of our local community.”

Rhonda added the planning permit application had been “handled badly” by the shire, not only in failing to advertise the proposal, but also in failing to grant a permit in the prescribed time.

“I am hoping that this was not a ploy from Bass Coast officers,” she said.

“They have been aware of the parking problems, for instance, and have done absolutely nothing to assist the ratepaying local residents in the area at any stage.

“The matter should have been handled much better. I am disappointed in the council’s lack of duty of care and support to us.”

“Poor business”

Under a lease agreement signed in 2018, the former caravan park leases the Currans, (who took over tenancy of the Church Street property in 1995), requested their lease be transferred to Across Australia Parks and Resorts, with no public tender process.

The Currans secured a new 21-year lease in July 2015 with an initial annual rent of \$255,000.

According to the shire, the lease did not go out to tender because no submissions were received after the lease was publicly advertised in 2015.

The lease requires the shire to pay to the tenant an annual works contribution to the value of 20 per cent of annual rent. Of this contribution 10 per cent can be used for maintenance and the remaining amount for capital works.

Across Australia Parks and Resorts director is Mark Manteit, who was the Phillip Island Nature Park CEO for seven years from 2003.

Rhonda said the lease was “very poor business management for Bass Coast”.

“The only people to make a profit were the Currans and the new leasees, not Bass Coast Shire,” Rhonda said.

“Bass Coast Shire provides a 20 per cent reduction of the rates which, if you do the maths for blue chip real estate beach frontage, is way below commercial value.

“Profits from the Crown land go to private enterprise, not the public.”

Earlier this year a shire spokesman said the caravan park paid a commercial lease rate, “the same rate as any privately-owned caravan park”.

“This is a commercial lease and like most commercial leases the tenant strives to make a profit from its enterprise on the land and the landlord in return receives a rental income,” the spokesman said.



The Phillip Island SES crews cleared this tree from Bayview Road in Silverleaves within an hour.

Tree toppled

The ongoing heavy rain claimed another tree on Saturday, with the Phillip Island SES called to Silverleaves on Saturday morning around 8.45am.

The tree had fallen across Bay-

view Road, but fortunately, there was no damage to surrounding properties. Police were on site to deal with potential traffic issues.

SES crews had the area cleared within an hour.



The tree toppled over around 8.45am on Saturday morning, blocking a road in Silverleaves.

Island author wins the prize

For the second year in a row, a Phillip Island writer has been awarded the Bass Coast Prize for Non-Fiction.

This year Linda Cuttriss has won the award for *At Screw Creek*, part true detective story, part local history, part family history.

Last year, well-known Phillip Island writer and historian Christine Grayden took out the top prize.

The judges commented that Linda’s story was local history at its best – not just a succession of dates and events but an engaging story with a narrative drive and a search for understanding.

Second prize went to Drouin writer Jeannie Haughton for *Who Speaks for the Trees and Creeks?*

Equal third prize went to Lucinda Bain of Eltham for *Paper Thin* and Max Hayward of North Melbourne for *Sometimes Nothing Can Happen But Fire*.

There were also four Highly Commended awards: Karen Bate-man, of Inverloch for *No Place Like Home*; Jillian Durance, of Moyarra, for *Nothing We Liked Better*; Lauren Burns, of Inverloch, for *Cape Connection*; and Fiona Power, of Glen Iris, for *On the Shore of the Wide World*.

The Bass Coast Prize for Non-Fiction is one of the richest non-fiction prizes in Australia, with \$10,000 in prize money.

This year’s competition was brought forward to provide an outlet for housebound writers during the Covid lockdowns.

Sponsor Phyllis Papps, who established the prize to encourage Gippsland writers, said she was



Phillip Island’s Linda Cuttriss has won the 2020 Bass Coast Prize for Non Fiction for “At Screw Creek”, described as part true detective story, part local history, part family history.

thrilled with the number of entries and the quality of the writing.

In its second year, it drew 44 entries from Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Latrobe, East Gippsland and South Gippsland.

Judges Geoff Ellis, Anne Heath Mennell and Catherine Watson were impressed by the standard of entries and the breadth of topics. The winners tackled some meaty issues and topics – climate change, the bush fires, Covid – in an engaging manner.

With the prize now well established on the local writing scene, the team behind the prize will seek sponsorship and hope to run it again in 2021.



Local resident Roy Brooks is not hopeful the wetland will be completed this summer. "There's too much water in that area," he said.



Since our story earlier this month, there's been an attempt to secure the Shoalhaven wetland site, with the front gate padlocked and the area roped off.

Residents fed up

From page 1

He and other residents have been calling on the council to compel the developer to finish the wetland and install the pathway for the past six years, without success.

They've also called for upgrades to roads in the area.

Roy said despite endless emails and calls to council, nothing has progressed on the site.

"The frustrating part is council seems to just be observers without any input into when the wetland gets started and finished," he said.

Earlier this year, a 60-metre section of footpath from the roundabout at Justice Road was completed but stops abruptly with a 150mm drop onto gravel.

Roy contacted Council on September 29 to find out what was going on.

A week later, a council officer emailed and confirmed they'd spoken with the developer.

"She told me the developer had advised as part of the wetland works the footpath will be extended along Settlement Road to connect with the existing path.

"When I asked for a time frame, she told me it was in the hands of the developer, saying they had advised it would be completed by the end of summer.

"She didn't have a clue. I found that a bit sad.

"Personally, it seems an absolute cop out. I am less than impressed with the situation."

Within a week of that exchange, earth moving equipment started working on the site.

Roy said it looks like the path, which is approximately 550-metres, will run on the other side of the existing row of trees and drain.

"Are they going to remove the trees along Settlement Road," he asked.

He's not holding his breath for answers.

Will there ever be a wetland?

Work has resumed at the site of the proposed Shoalhaven wetland.

However it appears the work is for a new pathway to link the existing footpaths on Settlement Road (see separate story).

There is still no indication when the wetland will be finalised.

Melbourne Water said the developer had a contractual relationship with them to construct the wetland as part of the estate.

"The developer has given Melbourne Water a letter of commitment that works will begin at the start of summer, at the latest, and that we will be provided with regular updates."

Similar assurances have been provided in the past, but for six years residents have called for the wetland to be completed, without success.

Bass Coast Shire Council said it was unable to comment on the situation, as it was in caretaker mode due to the upcoming election.

Previously the council had ad-

vised it did not have the authority to force the developer to complete the project and said the wetland was a Melbourne Water asset.

Calls to the Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale did not produce any additional reassurance for residents.

"I can certainly understand the frustration of residents regarding the lack of completion and upkeep of this promised wetland area," Ms Crugnale said.

"Given the contractual nature of their relationship, I'm encouraged to see the commitment from the developer to Melbourne Water that works will begin by the start of summer."

Movement on site

In an article earlier this month, the Advertiser noted recent rain had seen the makeshift lake grow in size, with the site's gate left open and fences pushed over

There's since been an attempt to secure the area.

The front gate is padlocked closed

and signage on the half-completed footpath has been put back in place.

Earth moving equipment has appeared on site.

But for resident Roy Brooks, it's an all too familiar story.

"What are the expectations with this wetland," he queried.

"I've been told by council the developer is up to date with expectations. It seems to me council has no control or input over what happens."

Despite the recent activity, Roy believes once the pathway along Settlement Road is completed the developer will "take their foot off the accelerator".

"In 2020 they said they won't be making a start on the wetland because there was too much water in that area.

"This was after years of drought conditions."

With a wetter than average summer forecast, Roy isn't hopeful of any progress this coming summer.

"Does that absolve them from

making a start," he asked.

"I think they'll hide behind it. I just don't think we're any closer despite all the emails. Nothing ever changes."

One thing that has changed is the website promoting the estate.

The previous website listed a "stunning wetland" as a selling point, but this has now been downgraded.

Old plans showing areas on the estate earmarked for future subdivision have also been removed.

Roy Brooks is convinced there'll be no progress on the wetland until the area at the corner of Justice and Settlement roads are opened up for sale.

"Personally I get the impression that area is going to be a further subdivision."

Plans previously displayed on the Shoalhaven website clearly marked the areas next to the wetland for future development.

The developers, Lauders Group, did not respond to requests for comment.

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One smart cookie!

An idea to help fill in time during lockdown has blossomed into a booming online business for islander Brooke Hill.

Island Cookie Box creates customised cookie boxes for all occasions.

With Covid restrictions making it hard for many friends and families to catch up, the cute and colourful boxes provide a perfect way to let someone know you're thinking of them.

The idea came about after Brooke found her work hours reduced due to Covid. At home, with time on her hands, the naturally "arty" type decided she needed to do something creative.

"It was Mother's Day, so I made some cookies for my mum, some friends' mums and some of the ladies at work, and they all loved them," Brooke said.

After that, she started to do things for friends who encouraged her to do it as a business.

At home with her daughter, Brooke decided to create an Instagram page and see what kind of response she got.

Within a week hundreds of people had liked the page.

"I thought, oh wow! I don't actually have a product, but I'd better think of something."

The former construction industry estimator also has a marketing degree, so with help from her partner, she put together a business plan.

"I did all of the right things. I got my public liability, registered the business, created logos, created branding stickers and all that."

Fitting her new business in around home schooling meant Brooke had to be super-organised – working very late and very early.

Even now, with her daughter back at school, she sticks to the schedule.

"I get up most mornings around 4.30am, start baking, then continue after I've dropped my daughter at school."

A new, stand-alone, purpose-built kitchen in the backyard is also going to help the busy business run more smoothly.

"I needed a space, somewhere that I could just put everything and 'do', because as much as I'm very organ-

ised it can be interesting working from home."

The cookie boxes can be personalised, delivered locally or posted anywhere in Australia.

"I've posted things as far up as Byron Bay and Tweed Heads," Brooke said.

"I can post them quite safely. I figured out a way to post pretty much every product that's packaged."

"I get people contacting me from the most random places because they have Googled something."

Brooke said her marketing degree has helped make sure she's got great online placement.

And her identical twin sister has lent a hand as well.

"My sister also lives in Heathcote Junction and she owns a shop called Wondong Collective and they sell lots of beautiful local handmade products there and she's a huge supporter," said Brooke.

"So she's kind of filtering me through there as well."

And there's plans brewing to expand and "make things bigger and better."

"I don't want to give it away, but I've looked at a few really quirky things to do, that are just a bit different."

Starting Island Cookie box has introduced Brooke to a whole new world, including locally.

With decals on her car, she said she gets stopped constantly with people saying "Oh, you're the Island Cookie Box girl".

"Because I've got the signage on the car, even a neighbour four doors down that I hadn't met before, came up and knocked on the door and said would you mind if I ordered some cookies."

"I love the community down here. I love being part of it."

"It's just such a nice community feel."



Brooke Hill's Island Cookie Box business has taken off during lockdown, with boxes being delivered locally and across the country.



The boxes can be customised for any occasion.



This Father's Day pack includes Brooke's personalised cookies, along with other treats.

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Farewell Jim “Gizza” Gislingham



Chris Ross – club president, with Jim’s son Shayne, grandson Jess (holding Jim’s plaque) and Jim – on his last day on the gate in September 2019.

The Phillip Island Football Club has lost one of its most dedicated supporters

Jim Gislingham passed away on October 5. In a Facebook post, the club described him as one of the club’s “all-time greats”.

“How lucky we were to have had you at every home game for 30 plus years,” the post said.

Club members flooded the site to pay tribute, describing Jim as a “true gentleman”, “absolute legend” and “the best game-day gate man ever”.

When Jim called time on his cherished role as gatekeeper in 2019, he shared some of his memories of decades of island football with the Advertiser.

“I looked forward to Saturdays. I’d talk to everyone as they came in. There was always a bit of banter at the gate,” Jim said at the time.

Mostly people were friendly he said, except when the admission price went up. And over the years, he endured plenty of jokes about

his devotion to Richmond in the AFL.

Firm friendships were forged and that was evident on his final day on the job, with one lady driving over from Warragul to say goodbye and present him with a card and a tatts lotto ticket.

Over the years, Jim saw plenty of changes at the club.

His stories of finals from bygone years included whole town celebrations, with all of Cowes decked out with flags and streamers and the streets covered in red, white and blue.

There was also a bit of bone-crushing.

“In the old days, we always played Wont-haggi. There were broken ribs and broken noses. There was a headline in the paper one year – Bass Valley Blood Bath,” he recalled.

He was glad things on the field calmed down, but he missed the festivities that used to accompany the big game.

“In those days, everyone was interested. It was a different game back then. Footy was the focus of the town.”

Through it all, he never lost his enthusiasm for the game, or his belief in the importance of footy for the island’s young players.

“Football gives them something to do and shapes their outlook on life,” he said.

“That kept me interested, seeing these kids growing up.”

Many of those kids he watched play are now grown up and have kids of their own. In his own family, he went from barracking for son Shayne, to watching his adored grandson Jess take to the field.

On his final day as gatekeeper, the club presented Jim with a plaque, commemorating his years of service.

Then all the footballers came out and gathered around him, to wish him farewell.

“They came and shook my hand. That felt great. It’s good to be acknowledged.”

And he’s being acknowledged still.

In a tribute published earlier this month the club described Jim as an “esteemed Life Member and lifetime volunteer”.

“The top gate just won’t be the same without Jim,” they said.



Australian Government

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OUR COMEBACK
THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

AUTHORISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, CANBERRA.

Cake stall still on track

There may be no GP this year, but we’re not missing out on every GP tradition.

Lovers of cakes and sweet treats will be pleased to learn the CWA Cowes branch is still going ahead with their yearly homemade bake sale.

The cake stall is on this Saturday, October 24, from 9am until 12pm unless sold out earlier.

You’ll find it out the front of the CWA branch at 94 Thompson Avenue, Cowes.

The stall is fundraising for local charities.

The CWA Cowes shop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays in October. In November, it will open Tuesday to Friday and Saturdays when local markets return.



There will be home baked cakes and wonderful sweet treats at this weekend’s CWA cake stall, raising money for local charities.

Photo: Ramble & Drift Creative



A beautifully presented home on four acres overlooking the golf course and wetlands.

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For more information please contact Mike Foenander at O'Brien Real Estate on 0467 360 260.

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- Greg Price, Alex Scott & Staff

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The main bedroom features its own balcony with views of the bay as well as ensuite and WIR. Other features include polished hardwood floors, spacious kitchen with stone benches and 900mm cook top. The large main living area also features open wood fire and reverse cycle heating and cooling.



This light and bright home captures all the northerly aspect and is perfect for entertaining.

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With timber decks and an established native garden, this Silverleaves home is a hidden gem.

Silverleaves hidden gem

Located in the leafy and exclusive Silverleaves Avenue, this home is perfect for those looking for something special. Thoughtful contemporary design with the natural surroundings in mind provide light filled spaces for relaxed living.

The home features ground level entry, and a second level huge open plan living space, kitchen and dining zones. Glass doors lead out each end to elevated timber decks, ideal for those warm summer evenings. A bathroom and laundry combine on this level. Stairs lead up to another living space

and second bathroom plus two large bedrooms with built in robes.

Timber floors, high ceilings and some quirky extras like the antique timber slide servery to the outdoor deck add to the home's charm.

A large carport gives you undercover private access to your new home.

A wood heater and a split system together with upgraded insulation, double glazing upstairs and comport glass on the first level offers year-round comfort.

This property is in a great location and just a short stroll to the

incredible north facing beach of Silverleaves, Rhyll Inlet and the Phillip Island golf course.

A 2.8 Kw solar power system feeds back to the grid, while an established native garden completes the picture. All this on approx. 700m2.

Call Alex Scott & Staff on 5952 2633 and we would be pleased to arrange a private viewing.

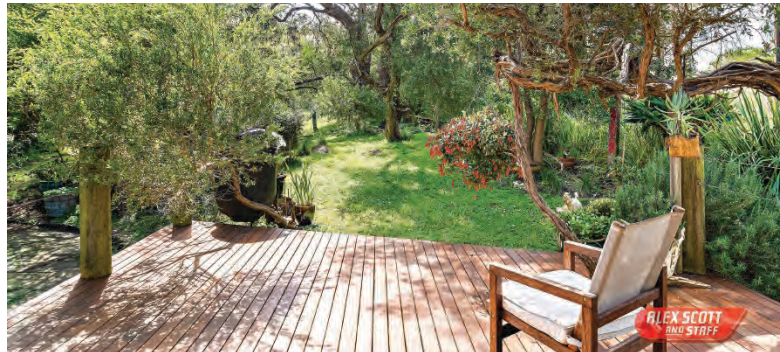
44 Silverleaves Avenue, Silverleaves.

\$949,000

Two bedroom, two bathroom, two car garage.



Glass doors lead out to timber decks, ideal for warm summer evenings.



Located in leafy Silverleaves, this home is perfect for those looking for something special.



Timber floors, high ceilings and some quirky extras add to the home's charm.



FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE

URGENTLY NEED PROPERTIES FOR SALE

For Sale \$459,000
118 Red Rocks Road,
Cowes

The perfect beach house awaits. The downstairs features a separate living and bathroom area which is perfect for guests or additional family members. Upstairs comprises of 3 bedrooms kitchen, dining and living area which flows out to the decking area. Relax on the decking area whilst taking in the surrounding views of farmland and the Ventnor area. The property is fully fenced and is low maintenance all round which makes the perfect holiday property.



RED ROCKS RETREAT

For Sale \$610,000
19 Back Beach Road

There's more than meets the eye with this property with a fantastic position, water views and a total separate 2 bedroom self contained area downstairs. Located on the flat side of San Remo and backing onto the council reserve, and within easy walking distance to the beach, shops and parks. The property is perfect for future renovation to create the perfect seaside lifestyle.



THIS WILL SURPRISE

For Sale \$475,000
3 Kramer Rise,
Wimbledon Heights

The ideal low maintenance home awaits, created with a second living area and double garage, there is nothing to do but shift in. Enjoy the quiet area of Wimbledon Heights with easy access to all Phillip Island has to offer, a safe bike or walking access track is another feature. This home could be the perfect start to an investment portfolio, just so many options.



LOW MAINTENANCE/ PERFECT INVESTMENT

For Sale \$559,000
39 Goodwood Drive,
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Walk in and just enjoy all the creature comforts you could require. This single level home is the perfect start with two living areas, the rear one flows to an outdoor fire pit. Ideal for investment or just move in. With the peace of mind of the balance of new build warranty. Walk to the beach and take advantage of all Phillip Island has to offer.



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\$549,000

- Built in wood burning fireplace
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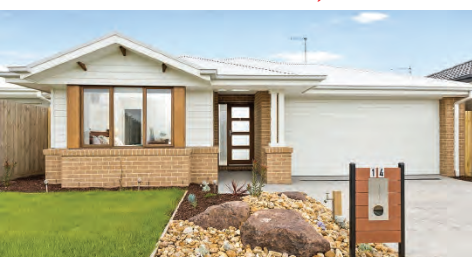
31 ALEXANDER AVENUE, COWES



\$595,000

- 3 bed/2 bath
- Centrally located
- 4 car garage

14 MONTEREY AVENUE, COWES



\$619,000

- Brand new home opposite park
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79 ANCHORAGE ROAD, VENTNOR



41 RHYLL/NEWHAVEN ROAD, RHYLL



44 SILVERLEAVES AVENUE, SILVERLEAVES



\$949,000

- Silverleaves location
- Contemporary design
- Established native garden

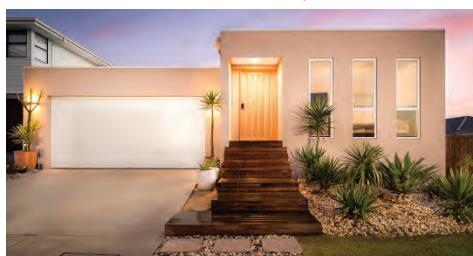
5 BLOSSOM ROAD, COWES



\$595,000

- 4 bed/2 bath
- Undercover patio area
- Oversized garage

21 WHIMBREL WAY, COWES



\$699,000 - \$715,000

- 4 bed/2 bath
- Custom built
- Undercover Kitchen/alfresco

10 DEVON AVENUE, COWES



\$690,000 - \$725,000

- Only 100m to beach
- 3 bed/1 bath
- Large covered deck

15 RHYLL/NEWHAVEN ROAD, RHYLL



\$925,000

- Large deck with bay views
- Modern kitchen
- 7 bed/3 bath

1 HERWARD CLOSE, COWES



\$875,000

- 4 bed/2 bath
- Premium location
- North facing allotment approx. 980m2

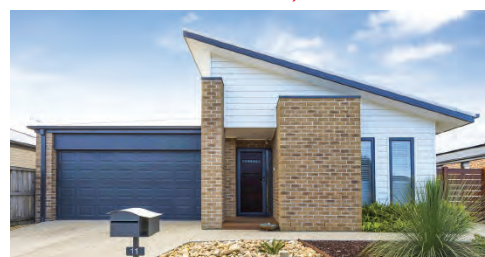
6 DARRYL COURT, COWES



\$549,000

- Central Cowes
- 3 bed/2 bath
- Large undercover entertainment area

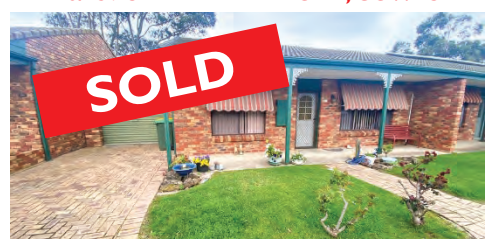
11 MITRE COURT, COWES



\$599,000

- Immaculately presented home
- 3 bed/ 2 bath
- Covered alfresco area with heating

16/137 SETTLEMENT ROAD, COWES



105 LYALL STREET, VENTNOR



27 LAVER DRIVE, WIMBLEDON HEIGHTS



4 THE ESPLANADE, SUNDERLAND BAY



1 SHELLY COURT, COWES



19 MANNA GUM DRIVE, COWES



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THE WORD

Voting for the 2020 Council Elections closes this Friday and we asked local residents what their number one issue is. Here's what they had to say.



Sandra Dentry, Cowes – I'd say animals and wildlife. I think there's got to be something between dog owners on the beach being aware of wildlife. And speeding on our roads. The road kills are so distressing.



Michele Hynes, Cowes – I'd like to see more pedestrian and bike paths on the Island. You see so many walking up the middle of the road virtually because there are no footpaths.



Greg McKenzie, Rhyll – I want council to lock out any further subdivision to maintain the current balance. Also, to give wildlife a chance why not limit speed to 80km/h anywhere on the island.



Greg Thompson, PICAL – I'd like to see the council lobbying the Victorian state government strongly for local social housing and inpatient mental health services.



Jodie Doman, Rhyll – I'd like to see visibility of the candidates. It's been really hard to find out information on what they're standing for and where they live.



Margaret Bowers, Cowes – We need bike paths to connect across the entire Island. Currently you can't take kids around the Island on push bikes as it's not safe.



Mel Marks, Cowes – Definitely a swimming pool. We've been waiting for 20 years. There should be no further extension of residential areas and council needs to stick to their guns on the AGL regasification.



With Covid-19 case numbers dropping, the ladies are cautiously excited at the prospect of running their annual Christmas stall and raffle.

Inner Wheel keeps turning

A report from the Inner Wheel Club of Phillip Island

It takes more than a pandemic to keep the ladies from the Inner Wheel Club of Phillip Island from promoting friendship, supporting worthwhile causes and fostering international understanding.

COVID-19 has certainly had a significant impact on "normal" club activities, curtailing the ability to get together in person for meetings and social gatherings, but the small and dynamic group of members quickly transitioned to virtual meetings and morning and afternoon teas.

"It has been really significant for our members to maintain social interaction during these isolating times," says Simonne Liberman, Membership Officer and Club Historian.

"Our virtual afternoon teas have been vital, as we pour ourselves an "iso-cuppa" and share our worries and triumphs. The pandemic has been particularly frustrating for our ladies as we have been unable to get about our normal business of fundraising for our local, national and international projects."

Inner Wheel is an international organisation with members in over 104 countries and a global membership of 100,000 plus. Inner Wheel Australia is the umbrella organisation for the Phillip Island Club, and is the brainchild behind Cord Blood Research, which has thus far raised just shy of \$3 million nationally.

Recently, the Phillip Island Club successfully proposed local charity Free 3D Hands as the recipient for their International District Project, which will see all 11 clubs in the district raise funds for this valuable cause.

Free 3D Hands, located in Cowes, uses 3D printing

technology to provide assistive devices for children both within Australia, and internationally, who are born without bones in their fingers. They design, make and provide these devices free of charge. With fundraising efforts severely impacted, the ladies are selling face masks, with all proceeds going directly to Free 3D Hands.

The masks are a unique design, with duckbill pleating over the nose which greatly assists to reduce fogging when wearing glasses. They are three layers, sleek and fashionable, coming in a range of fabric designs. The masks are a bargain at \$6 each. For more information or to purchase masks, please contact Simonne Liberman 0412 032 173.

Further fundraising for this fantastic cause is planned with preparations underway for an Open House and Garden in February 2021, at the recently restored Genesta House in Cowes.

The historic property built in 1912 by George and Catherine Ewen was constructed over both Victorian and Edwardian time periods. George was a keen gardener, and to this day, the garden and house have retained special memories for many members of the Phillip Island community.

The day will see both the house and garden open to the public for the first time in many years, produce and plant stalls and homemade refreshments. Stay tuned for further details.

Kids of Phillip Island (KOPI) is another project close to the heart of many members at the club. According to the most recent VCOSS (Victorian Council of Social Service) figures, 23 per cent of children under 15 years living on Phillip Island, live in poverty.

KOPI is aimed at addressing the gap between primary school children, who, through no fault of their own, miss out on educational opportunities.

The project currently provides support to students at Cowes and Newhaven Primary Schools, with hope to expand to include more children and other schools. A cascade effect will be supporting the parents of these children.

The funds are presented to the schools annually and are acknowledged through an "Inner Wheel Award" for Resilience through Schooling.

The recipients are determined by the schools and the amount of each award is dependent on the needs of the child.

The funds provide for not only educational necessities, but also for attending school excursions, camps, and other extra-curricular school-based activities, enabling students to benefit from a sense of inclusion and belonging, so important to the overall development of every child.

The enormously successful Annual Inner Wheel Fashion Parade, which has previously raised all the funds for this project has been postponed until the first half of 2021, when the ladies are hoping we will be able to enjoy lunch and release our inner fashionista to support our kids.

With Covid-19 case numbers dropping, the ladies are cautiously excited at the prospect of running their annual Christmas stall and raffle, as well as being able to get together in person for their monthly meetings and social functions.

If you are interested in learning more about Inner Wheel, visit www.innerwheelaustralia.org.au or contact Simonne Liberman at simonneliberman@gmail.com or 0412 032 173.

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Elements Hair Room remained open during the winter and is grateful to be serving their community when many other businesses have been forced to close. Leanne and the crew's mission is to make every client look and feel amazing from the moment they walk in the door. Delivering on that mission are Chloe Griffiths and April Gritzalis!



Launched by Neil Gillin in March during the first Covid lockdown, the Local Produce Hub is about local businesses supporting local businesses. Located at Rusty Waters Brewery the soon to be permanent mini store stocks produce from over 10 local suppliers.

Back in Business

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

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



Lisa McLure runs small group training sessions for "ladies who swear and don't do burpees". While fitness is certainly achieved, it's just as much about a laugh, some good company and a break from the isolation of being stuck at home. At this session: Abi Bainbridge, Tahnee Brown, Katie Bland, Lisa McLure with Casey's new bub "River" in her lap, Sandra Duff, Casey Cleeland, Rachel Robinson, Melissa Rodakis (with son Lucas), and Lawri Piera



Kelly Osborne and Paul Osborne from Bass Strait Direct, pictured with Curt Trewavis, found trade slowed down a little initially during the Covid restrictions. But it then picked up again because locals unable to travel or go overseas have turned to seafood feasts to help celebrate special occasions!



The pandemic has been challenging but Korral and Charlie Guy at the Rhyll General Store have done an outstanding job servicing the community of Rhyll.

Asthma, hay fever and coronavirus

The government is urging everyone to get a Covid test if they have a runny nose or are short of breath.

What does this mean for people who suffer from hay fever and asthma in spring?

Doctors are saying it is more important than ever to speak to your doctor to manage your hay fever and asthma. If your symptoms are new or different to usual – you must get tested for coronavirus.

Hay fever or asthma can produce symptoms similar to coronavirus such as a runny nose, cough or shortness of breath, and while good management can help prevent these, medical experts stress it is critical to get tested

for coronavirus if these are different to your usual symptoms.

The government has said wearing a mask, maintaining physical distancing and practicing good hand hygiene remains critical during the pollen season. People who are sneezing and coughing from hay fever or asthma may produce more droplets and if they have coronavirus, it could spread quickly.

People with asthma and hay fever symptoms may also touch their face more frequently, increasing their risk of being infected with coronavirus if they are not practicing appropriate hand hygiene.

Grass pollen season officially begins on Oc-

tober 1, bringing an increase in asthma and hay fever and the chance of thunderstorm asthma. Victoria's thunderstorm asthma risk forecasting system will also be switched on and will run until the end of December.

Thunderstorm asthma is where many people experience asthma over a short period of time and is thought to be triggered by a type of thunderstorm when there are high amounts of grass pollen in the air.

Those considered at risk of thunderstorm asthma include people with asthma or hay fever, including those with undiagnosed asthma. The best protection is to have good control of your asthma or hay fever, and where

possible avoid exposure to springtime thunderstorms and the wind gusts that come before them.

People with asthma, and particularly those with mild asthma, should see their GP to develop or review their asthma action plan and make sure any associated hay fever is well managed during the pollen season.

Thunderstorm asthma risk forecasts will be available from October 1 on the VicEmergency app and website at: emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare/#thunderstorm-asthma-forecast

For coronavirus updates or to find out where to get tested visit: dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Batteries in bins start fires

Don't bin your batteries.

That's the message Bass Coast Shire Council is sending out to residents, stating waste facilities and collection trucks are seeing an increase in fires and smoulders.

And the most common cause is batteries that have been disposed of in kerbside bins.

Batteries, battery operated electronics and e-waste should be recycled at one of Council's waste facilities, not disposed of in any kerbside or street bins.

While all batteries are a fire risk if they are punctured or come into contact with metal, rechargeable lithium-ion batteries (used in

laptops, mobile phones, power drills and toys) can overheat on their own and start a fire.

Some common household batteries (AA, AAA, C, D and 9V only) can be dropped off at ALDI supermarkets, while batteries of all types can be taken to Council's waste facilities free of charge.

The batteries Council collects are recycled and importantly, kept out of landfill.

Council's waste facilities are located in Cowes, Grantville, Inverloch and Wonthaggi. For more information on waste facilities and how to dispose of waste correctly, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/waste.



Incorrectly disposing of batteries in landfill can start fires. Never put batteries in the bin.

Prepare yourself and property this Fire Action Week

Fire Action Week kicks off today and Victorians are being urged to prepare themselves and their properties for this year's bushfire season.

With above average rainfall forecast from now to December, this year's fire season has the potential to be a grassfire-dominated season, with shorter-duration fires in grass and dry forests during hotter and windier days.

CFA Acting Chief Officer Garry Cook said any bushfire season in Victoria has the potential to be a bad one and warned against complacency.

"Fire Action Week is a great reminder to Victorians to get a better understanding of their fire risk and what to do about it," Mr Cook said.

"Preparing your property means you minimise the chance of property damage during a fire, even if you plan to leave early.

"Keep trees, overhanging branches and shrubs to a minimum near your home and keep grass shorter than 10cm.

"Move your winter wood pile away from the house and clear debris from gutters.

"A big clean-up before the fire season can make a huge difference to the safety and survival of your home in a bushfire," he said.

"You also need to plan and prepare for your personal safety by understanding your risk and having a fire plan.

"Plan for all situations by talking to your family and friends about your triggers to leave, where you'll go and how you'll get there.

"Get into the habit of checking Fire Danger Ratings on the VicEmergency website or app daily to understand the fire risk in your area.

"It's up to all of us to stay informed by using

more than one source of information, understanding the three levels of warnings, what they mean and what you should do."

In the lead-up to summer, CFA will be running Fire Safety Essentials online sessions to help Victorians understand their fire risk and help you prepare. Check What's On in your area.

Visit cfa.vic.gov.au for more information about bushfire planning and preparation, and about leaving early.

This Fire Action Week, follow some simple planning and preparation tips to make sure you're ready for the upcoming bushfire season:

Prepare your property; it can minimise property damage even if you leave early:

- Move furniture, woodpiles and mulch away from windows, decks and eaves
- Prune tree branches so they are not overhanging the roof or touching walls
- Keep grass shorter than 10cm. Regularly remove leaves and twigs
- Don't have plants higher than 10cm in front of windows or glass doors
- Before you leave, make sure you remove all flammable items from around your home. Houses have been lost from things as simple as embers landing on a doormat
- Check that your home and contents insurance is current and includes a level of cover in line with current building standards and regulations.

Please note: Restrictions are in place across Victoria due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. To find out more about what restrictions apply in your area – including provision for those who've received a Fire Prevention Notice – visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

cfa.vic.gov.au

Licence tests are back

Anyone wanting to get a learner permit and licence testing including drive tests can book in now.

Licensing operations resumed in regional areas on September 21.

The first priority under the staged resumption will be to re-book tests for those in regional Victoria whose appointments were postponed in March due to the initial coronavirus restrictions.

The Chief Health Officer has outlined a range of measures to allow drive testing to commence safely for the workforce and public across regional Victoria. No one should be participating in a driving test if they are unwell.

Regional customers with a postponed appointment will be contacted by VicRoads directly to reschedule their test in the

order of cancellation. New appointments will be available once the backlog of postponed tests is cleared.

When driving tests across Victoria were initially suspended in March and again in August, there were approximately 5,000 licensing appointments postponed across regional Victoria.

VicRoads is investigating options to increase access to online registration and licensing services.

Victorians are reminded that while VicRoads Customer Service Centres remain open, they should not visit unless their matter is urgent, and are strongly encouraged to complete their transaction online. For more information, visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

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Foundation student Ollie as a clown, celebrating being back at school



The Village School celebrated getting back to school after months of remote learning.



It was a hands-on and concentrated effort from students in pottery class. From left to right: Anya, Mahli, Isis, Ruby and Indah.



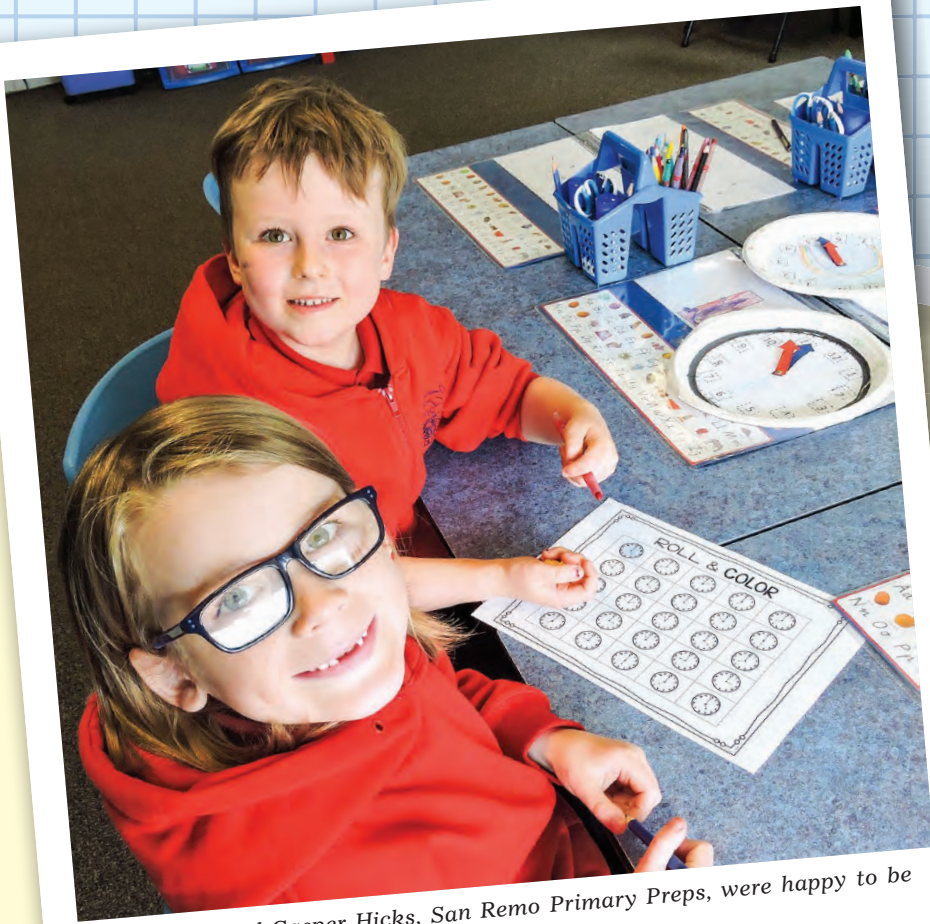
A whole school birthday celebration was part of the first week back for Village School students.

Star of the Sea returns

Our Lady Star of the Sea celebrated the return to school for Term 4, with students quickly settling into the new classroom routine.



Year 3 student Scout was keen to check on the school garden when classes returned.



Jack Franks and Casper Hicks, San Remo Primary Preps, were happy to be back at school.



Prep students Lola Stepto and Sophie Blake settled quickly back into the school routine.

Back to school at San Remo

Students and teachers at San Remo Primary School were thrilled to finally be back in the classroom for the start of Term 4.

Prep teacher Tracey Wilson said the children were “very happy to be working and playing with their friends after time away from school during remote learning.” Grade 3/4 teacher Mrs Houston welcomed her students back with personalised cookies.

“It was all smiles and excitement on the first day,” she said.

“Students completed team building challenges throughout the day, giving them the opportunity to work in small groups and interact with their peers.”



Grade 3 students Hope Tucker, Talia Gunn and Kai Glover with their personalised cookies.



Meila, Year 1, was happy to be back when Our Lady Star of the Sea students returned to the classroom for Term 4.



Prep student Emmett took the return to school very seriously!



From left to right, students Olivia, Declan and Zac walk the red carpet on the first day back at Newhaven Primary



Skippping back to school – Phoenix, Jazzy and Ava were thrilled to be back.

Red carpet return

Newhaven Primary School welcomed their VILP (Very important Little People) back to school on Monday, October 5, with a walk down the red carpet.
Principal Sharyne Munday said all the staff were there “to warmly greet the students as we couldn’t wait to get them back to school.”
Despite the wet weather, she said “smiles were aplenty” amongst the students and staff.



Staff rolled out the red carpet to welcome students back to school. Kavish took it all in his stride.



Students kept their masks on during class. Lucy Griffiths, Larnah Rigby, Lily Fox, Faith Hollyoak, Dylan Beck, Flynn McMahon, Jack Wilson, Kaitlyn Treacey, Angus Bradford, Harry Anderson

College celebrates return to school

Students from Prep to Year 12 are back at school for Term 4 at Newhaven College.



Charlie Box and Felix Bathgate, Year 5 were happy to be back in the classroom.



Year 5 students Mia Kelly, Charlotte Hall, and Sybelle Perry were happy to be back together at school



Feral cats

Further to E. Heine's letter (October 7), I live directly above the Ventnor foreshore and have the perfect view of what happens on our beaches and upper foreshore areas between Fisher Street and Anchorage Road in Ventnor. After nearly a decade of seeing the local lapwing chicks being killed by dog attacks on the upper protected foreshore area, this year it has changed. Dog attacks have not been sighted as local pet owners are far more responsible than the visitors who are usually here during holidays and adhere to no local rules (lack of clear signage remains a big problem).

However, at dawn one morning I witnessed the fatal attack on the lapwing chicks by a feral cat. The lack of survival this year of lapwing chicks around this general area suggests this has become a serious issue. Bass Coast Council had no answer to the problem and PINP did not respond to any of my emails.

If authorities do not care about Phillip Island wildlife then who does? I fear for the hooded plover breeding season as they will have no chance against these killing machines.

David Henstridge, Ventnor

Absolute disgrace

Stradbroke Avenue, Cowes is a short stretch of road flanking one of the most beautiful north facing bay beaches in Victoria. It offers views of Westernport, French Island and the Peninsula. It is also possibly the most overgrown, weed infested and poorly maintained section of foreshore land on the island.

Whilst the foreshore in this area is subject to ongoing erosion, there is no excuse for this land to be ignored by Bass Coast Shire (BCS).

The land between Dunsmore Road and Rose Avenue is overgrown with weeds, dead vegetation, plastics, bottles and paper.

It's a forgotten wasteland. Three years ago, there was a haphazard attempt to revegetate this area by BCS and nothing has happened since.

The result?

Over 200+ white plastic bags on sticks – in various stages of degradation – protecting about thirty of the remaining plants. The plastic sleeves are now an eyesore themselves, despite several requests to BCS for a clean-up.

This area is desperately in need of attention.

In 2001 BCS implemented an environmental foreshore rehabilitation project in an area halfway along this road.

A controlled area was fenced off and a large sign erected to trumpet this conservation and how it would be monitored for future environmental purposes.

The sign is totally overgrown, is barely visible from the road and cannot be easily read through the jungle within the fenced off area.

People walking past would not know this "significant" area existed as it has not been maintained in all that time.

In an attempt to stop cars parking on this stretch of foreshore, BCS has indiscriminately "planted" pine posts. This just adds to the hotchpotch on what could be a most beautiful stretch of foreshore.

What do BCS learn from ignoring the rehabilitation area for almost 20 years? When will they clean up and replant the full length of this road? When will BCS develop a masterplan to protect, beautify and maintain Stradbroke Avenue?

Please BCS address this embarrassment now so we can be proud of our environment and enjoy the vista of a well-kept foreshore and a beautiful beach.

W. Stanley, Cowes

Take note

new Councillors.

Will the new councillors take note, will they listen to ratepayers and take absolute control by addressing these 12 issues?

1. Review the waste contract and the model document by asking for public comment, including why council is making a large profit from our rates charges. Set key performance indicators for all types of waste.

2. Permanent live streaming of all councillor and council meetings.

3. Change the 50-word limit set for community questions time to a higher word count (100 - 120) by seeking public comment.

4. Review the Media Engagement Policy 2020 so that councillors can have a democratic right to free speech.

5. Review the Procurement Policy 2020 by lowering the \$1 million purchase allowance given to the CEO by reducing the figure to \$100,000. Seek public comment.

6. Review council's Investment Policy strategy so that all investments are to be approved by councillors at a council meeting and the two-year duration limit be changed to 90 days unless councillors approve a greater number of days.

7. Review the Public Transparency Policy 2020 by asking for public comment.

8. Set a Local Law rule for the inclusion of any contingency (just in case works) costs being currently added to a contract tender cost before any project is started. Currently five to 10 per cent is being added.

9. Review all of council's performance reporting documents and spreadsheets to give clear understandings on a quarterly basis to ratepayers. Seek public input.

10. Set performance monitoring for completed/not completed capital works projects as separate reports. Seek public comment.

11. Establish and review all Township Strategy Plan reports. Seek public comment.

12. Reset the rules to council's Special Charge Scheme for road upgrade. Seek public comment.

A Notice of motion at council is a strong tool towards changes. Ratepayers are demanding change as it's our cash paying for all at council. What are the savings? Will you listen and act?

Graham Jolly, Cape Woolamai

Confusion rules

I wonder how many business in the region understand as from last Sunday they are responsible to ask every customer or client of any business for ID to show they are from the area and not from the Melbourne "Ring of steel". This is directly because of the Kilmore/Shepparton breakout.

It is getting so ridiculous now to even know the rules from day to day. The Victorian Government just add and subtract laws on the run.

Ian Bray, Ventnor

Road improvements overdue

In my view the RRV proposal to make road improvements at Newhaven and San Remo are long overdue, for road safety and ease of access, for both residents and all other road users. The roads authority is the body with the appropriate skills to determine the extent of work necessary after consultation with all stake holders. As a long time, Phillip Island rate and taxpayer, I am appalled at the lack of enthusiasm shown by some existing and intending Council representatives, when it comes to road upgrades in our municipality.

As a former member of the CRG

appointed by Bass Council to consult with VicRoads on these types of projects, it is my hope that most of the community remains supportive. VicRoads officers hold no secrets that there are many other regions screaming out for their expertise and funding. Because of the major tourist activity, our road network is now a state government issue for road safety issues, and local agitators may have less say.

Norm Hall, Cowes

San Remo makeover

San Remo has undergone a Spring facelift.

Bollards and some of the railing at the jetty have been painted, as have the barbecue rotundas on the foreshore.

Public outdoor bench seating and tables have been re-varnished.

New shrubs have been planted in the grassed area opposite the supermarket and the Lone Pine near the Cenotaph, which had been looking a little unwell, has been doctored and is now protected by its very own fence.

Two of the town's popular cafes have had makeovers and there are new bollards preventing vehicles from taking over too much of the foreshore opposite the corner bakery.

In line with the sprucing up, I am having my hair done this week!

Jane Ross, San Remo

Wake up PICS!

Reading last week's comments by the Phillip Island Conservation Society and National Trust, I would ask where have you been for last few years? The last thing we need is more reports, we need action. The Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study was launched in January 2014 by the Victorian Government, Bass Coast Shire Council and VicRoads.

Community groups have had every opportunity to be involved in numerous VicRoads information days and consultation processes. The VicRoads staff involved in this process were excellent to deal with and certainly it was not "a flawed process".

The Advertiser has played a leading role in keeping the Phillip Island and San Remo communities informed with numerous articles and letters published over the years.

The reality is ultimately the ability to get funding from State and Federal governments determines what proceeds and what sits on "the waiting list" sometimes for ever.

The Phillip Island community groups have done a great job to get some projects off the ground.

One thing is for sure, if you don't have a viable plan that overall the community supports, it will never happen.

There are hundreds of potential projects that Victorians want to happen.

To recover from the pandemic tourism is essential for the Victorian and Australian Economy and for San Remo and Phillip Island.

That's our best chance of getting to the top of the list. If we waste the opportunity now don't complain when it gets back to hours to go a few kilometres to get on/off the island. Regional Victoria can't sit in isolation from the rest the state or world for much longer. The bucket of Federal money some are currently living on will dry up very soon.

Chris Day, San Remo

Investigate the leak

Generations of Australians have fought to defend and protect the liberties and way of life that we enjoy in this country. Each of them are heroes. Many of them made the ultimate sacrifice.

If we are to honour their legacy by continuing to conserve and pro-

tect those liberties, then it is essential that citizens abide by the laws and proper standards of our civilised society.

Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of Australian citizens do so.

This requirement applies doubly so to those in positions of public power and authority.

At the local level, the community expects councillors and council officers to always uphold the highest level of integrity and propriety.

This includes a zero tolerance of unauthorised disclosure of personal information from Council.

Now that the Local Government Inspectorate has exonerated Cr Larke, the community can rightly expect the outgoing councillors, along with each new candidate, to come out strongly and publicly acknowledge Cr Larke's exoneration, and to call for investigation to identify and hold to account those responsible for the intentional leaking of personal information from Council.

Or will they remain silent, thereby failing the public leadership test, and possibly giving a wink to those responsible?

If any councillor, candidate, or council officer knows anything about who leaked the personal information, they have a both a moral duty and a civic duty to make that information known to the proper authorities.

And, as the leader of the Council administration, it is incumbent upon the Shire CEO Ali Wastie to immediately initiate thorough and transparent actions to unearth the leaker(s) and hold them to account.

Failure to do so will only further erode the community's confidence in governance and integrity at Council.

CEO's are paid the big bucks, and the buck now stops with Ms Wastie.

And if any councillor or candidate has been in any way complicit in this disgraceful episode, then they should immediately withdraw their election nomination.

These are the honourable and decent things necessary to be done to protect our liberties and to honour our heroic Australian forebears.

Kevin Griffin, Wonthaggi

Perspective needed

Re: article "Newhaven road plans not justified" (October 14 Advertiser)

Let's put some things into perspective.

Park and Ride – This works very well in a lot of places, e.g. Bath, England. Parking facilities are not far from the township, all the sites are able to be visited via a relatively short bus ride. The bus ticket allows you to get on and off at multiple sites and visitors are able to walk from one place of interest to the next and then get back on a bus. Most visitors stay for just a few hours and leave. So there is a regular turnover of parked vehicles. The number of people using

this facility is large and bus timetables are such that buses are moving in and out constantly.

Philip Island's attractions are diverse and spread out. The many reasons for coming to Philip Island would make this type of operation difficult to manage. Since the Council's Transport Strategy was created in 2013 the permanent population on the island has increased from 9400 to 11500. This rises to 40,000 during holiday periods. In addition to this, some 3.7 million tourists visit Philip Island annually. Of these 71 per cent stay for a minimum of one night and 61 per cent stay for two nights or more. There are currently 90 coaches per day travelling on Philip Island's roads. A park and ride facility would require a huge investment in infrastructure and rolling stock that would be heavily under used for long periods each year and clog up the road during peak periods.

User pays – This would indicate a toll, most likely at the bridge. How would this be achieved? A toll booth manned 24/7, camera technology or some other means? Every year we see the problems of getting traffic over the bridge during peak periods even without any incumbrances. We have seen the chaos when vehicles are stopped at the bridge for any reason. Camera technology, how do you differentiate between residents travelling locally and visitors? Perhaps residents should also be forced to pay tolls. The list of potential problems is large.

Trevor Brown, San Remo

Vote of thanks to the community

On behalf of the outgoing Western Port Ward Councillors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their ongoing support over the past four years. It has been enjoyable meeting and embracing the varied communities and people across the Western Port Ward. We have endeavoured to meet, reach and be available and to be a voice for the community on Council. We care greatly for the different towns and communities and we love where we live and work and we want to say thank you.

Cr Clare Le Serve, Cr Bruce Kent and Cr Geoff Ellis – Western Port Ward Councillors 2016 – 2020

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).

Grand Final – without the fever!

To comply with Covid-restrictions, local hotels are taking a different approach to this year's Grand Final.

But much like the real game, tickets have been snapped up quickly by eager fans.

The Westernport Hotel will have the match on the big screen with room for 40 people to watch.

All 40 seats have been booked - "Hopefully all by Tigers Fans," said owner Nick Say.

"C'mon Tiges!"

The Westernport will also be showing the replay on Sunday for anyone interested who may have missed out watching the game live.

Footy die-hards snapped up the

\$50 tickets to the San Remo Hotel's special footy night, before they were even advertised.

The lucky patrons will get to watch the match on the big screen, enjoying a selection of food before the match, as well as half-time footy snacks.

For those who want to recreate the atmosphere at home, the hotel is offering a footy food pack delivered to your door. Check their Facebook page for details. The usual menu plus specials and alcohol is available for home delivery and takeaway.

The North Pier's Grand Final broadcast is also already booked out.

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College students fight for racehorse welfare

By Wing Kuang

COVID-19 lockdowns may have interrupted their normal school lives, but a team of six students from Newhaven College are using their extra time to fight for racehorses in Victoria.

The students have written a Bill for the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament calling for stricter regulations for the horse racing industry. The Bill was handed to state Youth Minister Ros Spence at the Youth Parliament closing ceremony on September 29.

The students want to establish an industry control board as a regulatory body, prohibit steeplechase and hurdle racing, and restrict the training of immature horses.

Year 11 student Anna Scott has been passionate about this issue since she was 10. She enjoyed horse riding and once owned a retired racehorse. She was upset when she found out how horse racing could negatively affect the lives of horses.

Anna said the Bill aims to change the situation for the horses "from the beginning of their careers" and improve the quality of their lives.

The students, all aged 17, drafted their Bill as part of the annual Youth Parliament.

Participants aged 16 to 25 develop bills on issues they are passionate about and debate them with their peers in Victoria's Parliament House.

This year, 19 teams of young Victorians joined the program and developed Bills in areas including



Six students from Newhaven College took part in this year's Victoria Youth Parliament, drafting a bill calling for stricter regulations for the horse racing industry. From left to right: Anthony Car, Seth Ringrose, Simone Hunt, Anna Scott, Caitlin Hunt, and Charlie Brewis.

school education, regional road safety, animal welfare and mental health support.

Due to the COVID-19 lockdowns, the students missed the opportunity to sit in Parliament House and gain feedback from their peers on their Bills.

But the Newhaven College team still enjoyed their experience with the program.

Caitlin Hunt and her sister Simone are both participating for their second year.

"I think it's a really unique way to have your voice heard and also develop skills to enhance your communication and learn the channels to make a difference," said Caitlin.

Seth Ringrose and Anthony Car, both year 11, were new to the program. Both have a strong interest in

politics and joined in to learn how to draft a bill.

But writing a bill was not easy, and lockdowns have made it even harder.

The team met on Zoom regularly to discuss their Bill, while also studying from home. With help from YMCA volunteers, they researched all state regulations on horse racing, and discussed appropriate punishments for violations.

As regional Victoria's lockdown was lifted on September 16, the team was excited to go back to school and catch up with friends outdoors. They were excited to hand their bill to the Minister of Youth and seeing their Bill contribute to Victorian legislation.

"It feels good knowing we did our best to present a change, even if it's small, to Victorian legislation," said Caitlin.

"I think the biggest lesson I learnt from Youth Parliament is our ability to make change and the importance of politics to reflect the wants and needs of the people."

Elio Celotto, campaign director for the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses, praised the team for their hard work. He was particularly impressed by the Bill's articles which prohibit steeplechase and restrict breeding.

"Even 10 years ago, if you were to put this [Bill] forward, you would probably be laughed at," said Mr Celotto.

"Now we've got young people coming through and being a voice to defend racehorses and horses in general."

The students' local Member of Parliament, Jordan Crugnale, praised the students.

"The fact that they've chosen the issue of horse racing demonstrates compassion and a commitment to animal welfare. The students are taking on that voice and advocating to ensure all practices in and around the industry are safe and humane," said Ms Crugnale.

Ms Crugnale said programs like Youth Parliament offer participants first-hand experience to learn how parliament functions. She also encouraged young people to engage with politics in their daily lives.

"Find an issue that you are passionate about, get involved, lead by example, follow your heart. It starts in your home, in your street, neighbourhood and can expand out so much wider."



The Rhyll Coast Action group received funding to help remove the Blue Periwinkle from the Rhyll coastline

The Blue Periwinkle project

The Rhyll Coast Action group is taking on an environmental weed that has taken hold along the Rhyll coastline.

Although Blue Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) might look lovely, it's listed as an environmental weed in Victoria.

This attractive creeper which is unfortunately sold in some nurseries, is a robust, invasive weed that smothers indigenous fauna such as *Carex breviculmis*, which provides food and habitat for aquatic species and birds on the southern Rhyll coastline.

You can see a large infestation of periwinkle growing along sections of both sides of Beach Road south and under Swamp Paperbark. However thankfully it is soon to be removed.

The coast action group received funding from Coastcare Victoria, to employ an ecological credentialed contractor to gradually eradicate this weed.

The funding will also help the group to support Rhyll residents to recognise the impact of growing environmental weeds in their gardens.

Seeds are easily transported by winds and birds to the coastline even if we live some distance away.

The purpose of the volunteer work of all coastal groups is to conserve and rehabilitate, when necessary, our precious coastline.

Bass Coast talks about dementia

Gippsland Primary Health Network (Gippsland PHN) is working with Monash University to learn more about dementia in Bass Coast.

People in Bass Coast who are affected by dementia are invited to take part in an interview or a group discussion to share their experiences.

The information will help the network plan for the future health needs of the local community

A new 'Tell Gippsland PHN' website has been developed for the project.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Amanda Proposch, said that hearing from the community directly was important to help improve the health and wellbeing of people across the region.

"We rely on information from people

in Gippsland to help us work on what is needed most," Ms Proposch explained.

"Gippsland PHN does not deliver direct services; instead, our job is to make the health system work better, especially for people who find it hard to access the help they need."

Dementia is the first topic on the Tell Gippsland PHN website and the Health Planning team will consider all the information provided.

Dementia affects many people in Gippsland, including over 40 per cent of people in aged care homes. In Bass Coast, 2.3 per cent, or over 800 people have dementia. It is the top cause of death for females and the third most common death for males in the region. These numbers are expected to more than double by 2050.

An improved understanding of dementia in the community and among professionals can make living with dementia easier.

"We will publish summary information on the Tell Gippsland PHN website from time to time to let people know what we have learnt and how the information they have provided us is being used," Ms Proposch said.

Gippsland PHN would like to hear from:

- people living with dementia and people worried about their memory
- family and carers of people living with dementia
- professionals who provide services and support for people living with dementia

Those interested in sharing their

experiences can take part in an interview or group discussion where non-professionals will be rewarded with a \$50 supermarket voucher.

To find out more, go to <https://www.gphn.org.au/tell-gippsland-phn/>, phone Population Health Planner, Maria Garrett on 5175 5444 or email tellmaria@gphn.org.au.

Dementia Australia has recently expanded its services and supports. The National Dementia Helpline 1 800 100 500 is available for free assistance, support and information. Services are available to all Australians, regardless of where they live, and can be accessed in a variety of ways including face-to-face, telephone or online. Operating hours are Monday to Friday, 8:00am - 8:00pm (except public holidays).

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DEATHS

JOHNS, Kerry:
07/06/1958-10/10/20
Our darling sister.
You were so brave and strong through your battle.
We love you, go and get your big hug from mum and dad now.
Loving sister and sister in law of Lisa and Rohan, Dean and Maureen,
Donna and Martin.
Aunt to Rhys, Darcy, Zac, Molly, Stevie, Boh and Bailey.
Now at peace xxxxx.

RANDALL, Elsie Alice:
27-04-1930
- 18-10-2020

In loving memory of Elsie Randall.

So dearly treasured by her family and friends, both in Australia and England.

Elsie was born in Lymington, England to Hilda Bran and Herbert Gregory.

She married her childhood sweetheart, Geoffrey Randall and the two emigrated to Australia in 1990 with her mother Hilda, to be with their children Susan and Michael.

Elsie was a loving mother-in law to Greg and Erica.

She was adored by her grandchildren Kirk, Greg, Aidan, James, Rhiannon and James.

She warmly welcomed into her life her grandchildren's partners, Tammy, Jolene, Sara, Melissa and Tyler and delighted in being a great-grandmother to Flynn, Byron, Wade, Rhys, Sianna, Reid, Maveric, Chloe and Jacob

Elsie had a passion for community and was active in the View Club, Red Hat Society and was a talented quilter and keen cake decorator.

She made life-long friends from those groups.

Elsie happily spent her last few years in Banfields Aged Care in Cowes.

She passed away peacefully on Sunday morning and is now with Dad.

She was irreplaceable and will be deeply missed by the Randall, Wood, and Humphry families.

Elsie's service will be livestreamed, for details go to www.handley-andersonfunerals.com

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Small square hay bales for sale. \$10 each.
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0439 801 323

DEATHS

SIMONDSON, William (Bill):
23.3.1940 - 18.10.2020
Loving husband of Janice.
Much loved step dad to Evan and David.
Pa to Hailee and Josh.
Goodnight my darling.
Always remembered for his smile, laughter and happy spirit.
A True Gentleman
As per Bill's wishes a private cremation will be held.

SIMONDSON, William (Bill):
In memory of a very dear friend.
Will miss our many fun days we had with you.
We will look after our friendship with Janice, while you rest in heaven.
Annie & Kristien Zderski

SIMONDSON, William (Bill):
In memory of our long serving Phillip Island Day Club co-ordinator.
He will be missed by all.
Our thoughts and prayers are with Janice and family.

SIMMONDSON Bill:
"The President, Committee, Members, Management and Staff of the Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch regret the passing of Bill Simondson, A respected Member of our Sub-Branch & President of The Phillip Island RSL Day Club. Our sincere condolences are extended to The Simondson Family, he will be sadly missed."



WRIGHT, Grace:
Passed away peacefully on October 17, 2020.
Loving wife of Graham.
Loved mother of Annette, Linda, Anthony and Phillip.
Adored Nan to her 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.



Mr Ronald Taylor
Service Details:
1072718
Royal Airforce (UK)

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

LEST WE FORGET.

FOUND

Found a pair of ASICS sport shoes at Cowes front Beach.
0438 568 818

SITUATIONS VACANT

HOUSE-KEEPING STAFF

required at
Kaloha Holiday Resort in Cowes, casual position requiring some weekend work.
9.30 am starts.
No previous experience required just an eye for detail and enthusiasm.
Please call 5952 2179.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire: Cowes - Sunday 5-6pm, St Philip's Church (opp. Coles); Wonthaggi - Friday 11am, Salvation Army Hall (149 McKenzie St.). Phone 1300 652 820 or visit na.org.au



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12.

Product Design Technology Assistant

commencing January 2021.

For details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our College Website

www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 6 November 2020 and should be submitted to katrina.lawrence@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

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

Need a fresh start?

We are looking for five dynamic team members to join us at our Phillip Island HQ. Join a safety focused, leading employer that values diversity and inclusion.

Senior Engineer – Network Operations & Maintenance

This position will lead technical services for network operations & maintenance to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of water, wastewater and gas services.

Network Operations & Maintenance Officer

Provides ongoing administration, maintenance scheduling and customer service support to the Network Operations & Maintenance Planning Coordinator.

Network Operations and Maintenance Team Leader x 2

These two positions will lead a skilled workforce in providing ongoing Network Operations and Maintenance services across the Corporation's systems within agreed service standards.

Maintenance Officer

Provides ongoing Network Operations and Maintenance services maintaining the Corporation's water, wastewater and gas systems.

Applications close 28 October 2020

For full position descriptions and to apply, please visit westernportwater.com.au/vacancies or call 1300 720 711



WESTERNPORT WATER



The PIFNC affiliated with the West Gippsland football netball competition requires the services of an experienced person to take on the role of head of netball operations. You will have a passion for netball and preferably experience in a similar or administration role or a high level competitor. You will be required to liaise with and sit on the general committee of the PIFNC.

If this sounds like you please forward your resume or EOJ to

info@pifnc.com.au

applications close Friday 6th November.



PHILLIP ISLAND BULLDOGS
FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

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Casual

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Further Enquiries to: Jodie McNamara, Team Leader on (03) 5133 0633

Applications close: 30 October 2020



For more information and to apply, please visit mercyhealth.mercury.com.au





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NOTICE OF AGM

Sat 7th November 2020 at 2pm
VIRTUAL MEETING

For more information and to register your attendance visit: www.basscrra.org

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SMALL ENGINE MECHANIC REQUIRED

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JO00343AA



Phillip Island RSL Bistro/Function Manager

The Phillip Island RSL is offering an exciting opportunity to become a senior member of our fantastic team. We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual with a passion for food, functions and service. The successful candidate will have the required qualifications/experience and be excellent in what they do. Flexible working hours is a requirement of this position along with solid experience in hospitality, good communication and leadership qualities.

In return the Phillip Island RSL offers a great working environment with ongoing and secure employment. This position allows you to use your flair, experience and ambition to drive sales and enhance service.

Salary based remuneration will be offered to the successful candidate. Circa \$70k including super-annuation.

If you are committed and passionate about food and service and can enhance our Club with your enthusiasm and experience then we would like to hear from you.

**Applications close 30 October 2020.
Immediate start required.**

Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

Please forward a cover letter and resume to:

**The General Manager
Phillip Island RSL
gm@pirsl.com.au
or P.O Box 503, Cowes 3922**

The PIFNC will hold its AGM on Sunday 15th November at 2pm.

It will be an interactive meeting held via the zoom platform due to COVID 19 restrictions. More information regarding login details will follow. If you would like to be part of this meeting or part of the committee please send you EOI to info@pifnc.com.au



**PHILLIP ISLAND
BULLDOGS**
FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

JO00352AA

SITUATIONS VACANT



Dignity Matters Support Service

Support Worker – Aged Care

Casual

Commitment to work at least
15 hours per week

Seeking a professional person to join our small dedicated team providing quality home care services to older people living in our local community.

Whilst qualifications and experience in the health/aged care sector are desirable, so too is a level of sensitivity and maturity required to provide an exceptional service.

You will be appreciated for the skill set you can bring to the team as we grow together and will be provided with training opportunities as we expand the services in supporting mental health. Please visit the website to gain an appreciation of the service.

If you are interested in this position please contact Kerryn Pascoe via email for a position description.

Mature applicants encouraged to apply.

kerryn@dignitymatterssupport.com.au
or mobile: 0488 987 827

Applications close 5pm Friday
the 6th of November 2020

www.dignitymatterssupport.com.au

JO00342AA



NOTICE OF Ordinary General Meeting

16 November 2020

4.30pm

Virtual Meeting

State Executive Elections

For more information and to register your attendance visit:
www.pirsl.com.au

Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications for the following positions:

Executive Director

Full Time – Closes 4/11/2020

Elective Surgery Access Bookings Clerk

Fixed Term Part Time – Closes 24/10/2020

Midwifery Student

Fixed Term Part Time – Closes 25/10/2020

Nurse Unit Manager – Kirrak

Fixed Term Full Time – Closes 31/10/2020

Dental – Oral Health Therapist

Permanent Full Time – Closes 1/11/2020

Podiatry – Grade 2

Part Time – Closes 25/10/2020

Nurse Unit Manager – Griffith Point Lodge

Full Time – Closes 30/10/2020

Associate Nurse Unit Manager – Acute Ward

Fixed Term Part Time – Closes 25/10/2020

For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website basscoasthealth.org.au or contact Human Resources via email hr@basscoasthealth.org.au



t 5671 3333 f 5671 3300
e info@basscoasthealth.org.au
w www.basscoasthealth.org.au

JO00340AA

SITUATION VACANT



MELALEUCA

ENROLLED NURSE – MELALEUCA AGED CARE

Part Time position with possibility of Full Time employment for the right Applicant.

To be successful in this role you will have:

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- Previous experience in residential aged care
- Exceptional communication skills
- Good understanding of Aged Care legislation & regulations.
- Experience with ACFI & the Accreditation process
- Current Police Check.

If you are an accomplished aged care professional with a passion for Residential Aged Care, please forward your resume to:

hayley@phillipislandhomesfortheaged.com.au
Applications close 4.11.20

JO00339AA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Key strategic leadership opportunity
- Growing sub regional health service
- Positive, dynamic and pro-active team environment;
- Culture focussing on care and kindness

Bass Coast Health, a major public healthcare provider, offers a broad range of acute and community services across the Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shires. Situated in an idyllic location with a unique combination of unspoiled coastline and picturesque hinterland and just 90 minutes from Melbourne, Bass Coast Shire is one of Victoria's fastest growing rural municipalities.

This is a career and lifestyle opportunity for an experienced senior leader to join our Executive team and play an influential role in better serving our local communities.

Bass Coast Health is motivated by its mission to deliver person centered care and improve health, wellbeing, care experience, and health outcomes within our community.

Our Values are at the core of what we do; These values – Wellbeing; Equity; Compassion; Accountability; Respect; and Excellence – set the scene for our expectations of all Executive members, and all staff.

We are committed to providing safe and high-quality care and we enjoy strong clinical partnerships with Alfred Health and Monash Health. We value collaboration with our Regional and Sub-regional colleagues, our Primary Care providers, and our visiting specialists. Most importantly, we value our Community and Consumers who are partners in every way.



We are in an exciting phase of service growth, about to commence work on the \$115 million Wonthaggi Hospital Expansion project. We are developing plans for a new Community Hospital in Phillip Island; and we will soon open the doors of a new Integrated Cancer Centre. We aim to attract and retain an outstanding team who are rewarded with an organisational culture that values its employees, their contributions, and provides growth and development opportunities.

In its current capacity, this Executive role is responsible for the leadership, management and strategic development of Human Resources, Support Services, Quality, Risk, Consumer and Community engagement, Organisational Development, Volunteers and Public Relations. We are however, keen to talk to any leaders who

want to make a difference for this community. You may have strong leadership experience in other sectors; you may have significant health experience. We are purely interested in bringing in a contemporary and dynamic leader with an Executive skillset who is committed to making a difference.

To apply please submit your resume and cover letter addressing how you would meet the Mission, Vision and Values of Bass Coast Health, and also address the following key selection criteria:

- Qualifications – must be a Bachelor Qualified Health or Management professional with relevant post graduate qualifications and a commitment to completing a Masters.
- Experience – must have substantial senior

management, senior leadership experience; clinical experience across various settings is advantageous; experience in public health is highly desirable.

- Demonstrated Knowledge – must have proven ability to meet funding and performance targets, improve quality and safety, and manage and mitigate risk;
- Demonstrated Interpersonal capacity – must be able to demonstrate strong communication, problem solving and negotiation skills, and a proven ability to inspire and influence continuous improvement; manage change and culture transformation and maximise community, consumer and employee contribution.
- Desire to be part of a supportive, high performing team with a united and common goal.

A National Police Check is also required for this position.

For a confidential conversation about the role, please contact Jan Child, Chief Executive Officer on 0472 846 355 or email jan.child@basscoasthealth.org.au

**Applications close
Wednesday 4 November 2020.**



t 5671 3333 f 5671 3300
e info@basscoasthealth.org.au
w www.basscoasthealth.org.au

Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Melbourne Cup weekend is just around the corner and while it appears there won't be much of a crowd from Melbourne here, we are still expecting several from regional Victoria to head this way for a few days away.

We will have our usual cup sweep guess the weight competition for a horse in the Melbourne Cup. As a thank you to everyone for their support over the last few months we will be putting up a prize for the biggest whiting caught over the long weekend.

Details will follow as we get closer to the Cup weekend but it will be very simple with no entry or entry fee. Simply bring your whiting into the shop to weigh and be in with a chance to win. Information will go up on Facebook.

Fishing reports this week have been good although the opportunities again were limited, especially if you simply looked at the forecast.

While the forecast and the actual weather over the last month or so haven't been too different we had a few days this week where it was almost completely opposite.

There were a couple of days that turned out to be perfect despite the forecast of moderate ordinary conditions and the lucky few that could, took advantage and headed out.

What they found were some very good numbers and quality of fish, not straight away but after a little bit of searching.

Calamari are still inconsistent but certainly better in numbers and still on the improve both on land and from boat.

The best out of everywhere has been the beach in Cleeland Bight where we

have had several reports of people catching very close to their bag.

Boats in Cleeland Bight have done well but for some reason the numbers aren't as good as off the beach.

The beach at Ventnor and the jetty at Cowes are getting better but with less numbers and very mixed sizes.

Newhaven jetty has produced several, and the other boating spots like Reef Island and Dickies Bay have also produced.

While they started a little slow, the size of the calamari is more than making up for it and you almost feel disappointed with anything under 1.5kg.

Snapper reports are continuing to come in and are now typical of where and when you expect to find them.

There is the odd report of bigger snapper coming from the corals, but most are very small which will change as the temperature comes up in the bay.

The majority of the reports coming from the spit point and fingers area with the deeper areas further down along French Island and off Rhyll the best.

There have been some solid snapper 6kg and over, with the majority around 4kg to 5kg with several baits successful. A little more temperature is needed to get them to spread out where we will see reports of multiple snapper caught as well.

Reports of whiting numbers were good this week and were probably the best for the season so far, customers bagging out or getting very close.

The quality of whiting was good and most had several in the 40cm.

The average size was up on the last few months with the condition of the

whiting improving as well. The best we had reported this week was a once in a lifetime 50cm plus one caught from a land-based customer.

The best boating spot this week was below the bridge in Cleeland Bight and make sure you have a squid jig ready with several reports of calamari following up their hooked whiting.

There are still plenty of salmon swimming around in the bay but not much has changed and they are slow off the beaches and jetties.

A handful of trevally reported from the jetty at Newhaven and from the rocks at Smiths Beach.

There is still the odd report of draughtboards coming in but it will only be a matter of a few warmer days to send them back to the depths offshore.

We haven't seen any mackerel as yet but plenty of yakkas for those chasing some baits.

Gummies have been the very small ones and only the odd bigger one this week.



Steve caught a quality pair of reds during the week.



Honorary islander Jonathan Rea made history on the weekend when he became the World Superbikes Championships first ever six-time champion.

Record breaking Rea

Jonathan Rea made history when he secured his sixth consecutive World SBK title in a stunning fight-back in Portugal on the weekend.

Rea finished in fourth place, with Toprak Razgatlioglu winning the race, but that was enough to secure him the championship.

His wife Tatia and two boys watched on from home.

"In a year with so much uncertainty and restrictions you raised yourself even higher than I thought you could go," posted Tatia on Instagram after the race.

"You keep aiming for the stars and ending up beyond them. We are so damn proud of you on and off the track."

She said the family couldn't wait to have him home.

"You are everyone's hero in 2020."

Tatia, Jonathan and their two boys have a home in Cowes and we're sure their many Phillip Island

friends are looking forward to celebrating Jonathan's history making win next time they're on the island.

WorldSBK Championship

1. Jonathan Rea - Kawasaki, 353 points to win the 2020 WorldSBK title

2. Scott Redding - Ducati 281 points

3. Chaz Davies - Ducati 242 points

4. Michael van der Mark - Yamaha 203 points

5. Toprak Razgatlioglu - Yamaha 200 points

WorldSBK rd 8 Estoril, Portugal. Race 1 - top four results

1. Toprak Razgatlioglu (PATA YAMAHA WorldSBK Official Team)

2. Chaz Davies (ARUBA.IT Racing - Ducati) +3.039s

3. Garrett Gerloff (GRT Yamaha WorldSBK Junior Team) +4.220s

4. Jonathan Rea (Kawasaki Racing Team WorldSBK) +9.645s

Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, October 13 - Men's Stableford: Winner was Howard Black H/c (15) with 42 points from John Gains H/c (25) with 40 points.

9 Hole Stableford competition winner was Reg Browne H/c (34) with 20 points from Bob Pascoe H/c (11) with 19 points.

Wednesday, October 14 - Ladies 9 Hole Stableford: Winner was Liz O'Neill H/c (35) with 36 points on a countback from Marilyn John H/c (32) also with 36 points.

9 Hole Stableford competition

winner was Maureen Ellard H/c (45) with 16 points from Wendy Hamilton H/c (32) with 14 points.

Thursday, October 15 - Men's and Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Matt Brown H/c (9) with 40 points from Kristien Formosa H/c (31) with 39 points.

9 Hole competition winner was Paul Beckham H/c (32) with 19 points on a countback from Ron Hateley H/c (32) also with 19 points.

Saturday, October 17 - Men's Stableford - 9 Holes only competition:

Winner was Stuart Carson H/c (11) with 23 points from Colin Morris H/c (30) with 22 points.

Ladies competition - Ladies Stableford - 9 Holes only competition: Winner was Alice Schofield H/c (27) with 21 points from Helen Coghlan H/c (17) with 20 points.

Men's and Ladies - 9 Holes Stableford: 9 Hole winner was Jill Tyrrell H/c (27) with 20 points from Anthony Pullan H/c (33) with 19 points.

Sunday, October 18 - AJ Jones Foursomes - Honour Board Event: Winners were Faye Morris and James Fowler - Scratch winners with 78.

Nett winners were Sheryl and Ray Smith - 83/69 Nett.



The winners for the AJ Jones Foursomes - an Honour Board Event at the Phillip Island Golf Club were Faye Morris and James Fowler.



Sheryl and Ray White were the runners-up of the AJ Jones Foursomes golf event.

Tennis update

By Allambee Mirboo and District Tennis Association

The Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, October 8 at the Leongatha Tennis club.

Each club was represented by one delegate due to restrictions.

Berry's Creek is not entering a team this season and so not able to

do the club's duty on the committee.

Well done to Warren Littlejohn who put his hand up to be President, Frank Dekker as Secretary, Sean Fraser as Treasurer, and Mary Jepson as Score Secretary.

The 2020/21 season is to commence on Saturday, November 7.

Draws are currently being put together and booklets will be out before the season starts.

fore the season starts.

Clubs, please have the names of your teammates to Mary Jepson as soon as possible either by dropping off at 14 Noel Court, Leongatha or by phone 0429 495 350.

The season is a month later starting than normal, so a few less rounds. Six teams in both sections, so everyone will play twice plus a couple.

Please be aware of restrictions as the season goes on. No afternoon tea and restricted numbers in the club house.

Enjoy the game and the company of all players.

Sporting clubs hit hard

A national survey has revealed that \$1.2 billion is needed to support the country's 70,000 community sports clubs survive the impact of the coronavirus crisis.

The Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) conducted a national campaign to help determine the impact of Covid-19 on community sport across the country.

Community sports clubs have already lost an estimated \$1.6 billion to date due to Covid-19 and with lockdowns continuing in parts of Australia and sport still in jeopardy, this figure is set to rise.

ASF said alarmingly the survey revealed that over 16,000 (approx. one quarter) of community sports clubs nationally are thought to be at risk of closure if funding support isn't provided within the next six months.

On top of the financial impact, 70 per cent of small local clubs are forecasting a reduction in the number of participants due to loss of interest caused by the period of inactivity and/or concerns around health and hygiene, while 43 per cent forecast a decline in volunteers, which are so vital to the running of community sport.

Australian Sports Foundation CEO Patrick Walker said the survey showed without financial support, thousands of clubs risked insolvency.

"This presents a real risk to the physical and mental health of our communities. This is not just a sporting crisis, but a national crisis.

"And the return to sporting activity, whenever it happens, does not mean the crisis is over - indeed, it is just beginning," he said.

"To solve a problem of this scale requires a collaborative approach, so we are calling on all who care about the role of sport in creating healthy, inclusive communities to help us fund grassroots sport's recovery."

The survey revealed:

- Most main sources of revenue ceased or declined (with up to 80 per cent of clubs reporting declines in one or more of memberships, sponsor-

ships, fundraising and events/hospitality)

- 91 per cent of small local clubs (an estimated 42,600 clubs around Australia) recording ongoing expenses such as utility bills, affiliation fees, maintenance and rent

- 93 per cent of all clubs lost money due to ongoing expenses coupled with the loss in revenue

- Losses were funded by clubs drawing down on savings or going into debt.

ASF believes the survival of thousands of clubs is under threat if financial support is not provided quickly. The responses to the survey showed that community clubs have little in the way of capital or cash reserves with over half of all clubs reporting less than 6 months funds available, and one quarter citing insolvency risk as one of their major challenges.

"Our task now is to help community sport survive COVID-19. Having highlighted the unfolding crisis, and now quantified the scale of the problem, we want to work with Australia's political, philanthropic and corporate leaders - and everyone who cares about the role community sport plays in our way of life - to help solve the issue," said Mr. Walker.

"Community sports clubs face multiple challenges in the months and years ahead, including reduced revenues and increased costs, together with pressures on the affordability of sport for participants, and projected declines in volunteers due to health concerns.

"These clubs are about more than the sport itself - they are the lifeblood of communities all over Australia," said Mr Walker

The national survey commenced on May 20 and was open for five weeks and asked respondents for detailed information on how the COVID-19 crisis has affected community sports clubs, its participants and its volunteers.

The survey collected 4,337 responses from 4,127 unique organisations and covered around 100 different sport types.



A most welcome visitor!

Brandon Corvino has just recently built and moved into a new house in Rhyl. "Our first and only visitor so far, due to Covid, was this little guy doing an inspection of our new backyard," he said.

Women connect thanks to new grant

Women Connect's "Strong, Safe and Well" project received \$2000 from Australia Post's Community Grant round to support local women experiencing social isolation following the COVID-19 pandemic.

This project will empower women in our region to re-connect with their community, rebuild their confidence and develop lasting social networks.

Women Connect is an ongoing initiative of the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL), providing practical solutions for local women who are navigating pathways to further education, employment, and small business start-ups.

The welcoming co-working space provides a secure and supportive place for local women to work, connect and access support.

The local economic impact of the COVID-19 restrictions has driven a high number of displaced female workers and small business owners to seek assistance and support from Women Connect.

Coordinator Courtney Wallace said many are experiencing extreme levels of distress, with employment prospects and financial security in our region remaining uncertain.

"For women experiencing job loss or small business collapse for the first time the resulting impact on their confidence levels has caused them to withdraw from social and community networks.

"Our project will support women to re-engage socially with a range of positive, safe and well-supported community activities and workshops."

Once established, the community activity groups will give the women participating in a supportive social network, connection



From left to right: Phylis Macklin, Michelle Adams and Courtney Wallace (Women Connect Coordinator)

tion to their community centre, and a renewed sense of purpose and direction.

Courtney said the funding from Australia Post will help establish three new social group activities:

1. Gardening Group - with a range of activities to suit all levels based in the garden at PICAL. Resident horticulture trainer Rick will provide some tips and hints along the way. Starting on November 4, it will run fortnight-

ly at 10-11 am with morning tea afterwards.

2. Walking Group - Gentle walking group facilitated by a volunteer leader. This is an opportunity to explore Cowes and chat with others. Commencing on November 5, it will run fortnightly at 10-11 am with morning tea afterwards.

3. Book Club - A casual book club with a difference, supported by local bookshop "Turn

the Page". First Monday of each month at 6.30 pm commencing November 2. Light refreshments will be provided.

To ensure social distancing and Covid safe practices, groups will be limited to 10 people per group per week.

Casual bookings can be made by emailing women.connect.pi@gmail.com or by calling 0416 970 687 Tuesday - Thursday, between 9am - 3 pm.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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