



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

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Hemsworth adds to Aussie star power at MotoGP

Phillip Island was buzzing with excitement over the MotoGP weekend, with Chris Hemsworth adding star-power off the track, while Australian riders Senna Agius (Moto2) and Joel Kelso (Moto3) celebrated on the podium. Despite qualifying third for the big race, unfortunately, it wasn't the year for Australian MotoGP rider Jack Miller, here with Chris and Craig Hemsworth trackside. Photo courtesy of AGPC. See more MotoGP photos and coverage on page 12-13.

Nose dive: after more than 30 years island pool again shelved

AQUATIC CENTRE

Bass Coast Shire's mayor said it was a "tough" decision to delay a community pool for Phillip Island and she empathised with residents who had fought for one "for a long time".

As reported last week, councillors at the October meeting voted in support of the amended Bass Coast Shire Aquatic Strategy, which has Wonthaggi's pool upgrade as the priority.

The strategy – which is open for community feedback until November 6 – states planning and advocacy for Phillip Island

will start following completion of the Wonthaggi redevelopment.

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

Mayor Rochelle Halstead told the meeting and about 40 residents in the public gallery at Berninnet "I feel for Phillip Island, I really do".

"I know they have been advocating for a long time," she said.

"It's a difficult situation with funding limited at state and fed-

eral levels. We can't deliver assets without the support of government.

"We have advocated hard for a two-pool strategy and we have fallen flat.

"I congratulate councillors for making this tough decision. It hasn't been an easy decision because we know how strongly our communities feel about this.

"I hope people realise it wasn't an easy decision.

"We haven't taken Phillip Island off the future plans and if a sooner opportunity presents, we will be all over it."

Cr Ronnie Bauer said for

years he had "total commitment" to a Phillip Island pool, but he was "also a realist and pragmatic".

"In the current climate our advocacy only allows for one aquatic centre," Cr Bauer said.

"The Wonthaggi pool does need some very urgent attention. Not if but when it breaks down, we have nothing comparable in the shire.

"From a population centre perspective, renovating the Wonthaggi swim complex makes sense and quite frankly is our only option.

Continued page 9



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SHOWERS	CLOUDY	POSSIBLE SHOWER	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWERS	WINDY	CLOUDY
12 20	10 15	10 16	10 19	12 17	10 13	10 14



Monash University and Life Saving Victoria (LSV) need people aged 18+ to help with a research project on how to design more effective coastal safety signage, at sessions on October 30, at Berninnet (4pm-7pm) and the Penguin Parade (4pm-7pm).

Virtual Reality beach safety session

WORKSHOP

Monash University and Life Saving Victoria (LSV) are looking for anyone aged 18+ to help with a research project on how to design more effective coastal safety signage. Participants will take part in a short virtual reality experience to test signage and provide feedback. There are two opportunities to be involved, on October 30. The first session is at Berninnet, from 12pm – 4pm, with another at the Penguin Parade from 4pm – 7pm. Each virtual reality experience runs for 20-25 minutes, with participants filling out two surveys (one before and one after). The sessions are part of a study undertaken by Monash University and LSV to try and improve beach safety signage. Victoria has experienced record summer drowning tolls in recent years, with the Bass Coast

and Mornington Peninsula identified as the highest-risk areas. “Our project aims to refine and evaluate coastal safety signage to improve public engagement, understanding, and prompt action at these locations,” said Dr Hannah Graefe, Manager – Research and Evaluation at LSV. “The signs will complement and not replace current safety signage in these areas. “The study is informed by community engagement, including recent focus group participation, and seeks to address the needs of diverse beach visitors, including local residents, international tourists, and families.” The signage being tested in the virtual reality sessions, were designed based on feedback from focus groups. After feedback from the virtual reality sessions, Dr Graefe said the signs will be further re-

finied “and eventually installed at high-risk coastal locations for the summertime”. A previous consultation session on Phillip Island in September attracted less than a dozen people. After four people drowned at Forrest Caves in January 2024, there were repeated calls by locals for improved signage, more patrols and multiple suggestions, both in the newspaper and social media, for ways signage could be improved. The virtual reality sessions on October 30 are an opportunity for locals to provide vital feedback on the best signage options to improve safety at local beaches. Virtual reality beach safety sessions, October 30. 12pm – 4pm: Berninnet, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes. 4pm – 7pm: Penguin Parade. To register your interest, scan the barcode or go to: www.surveymonkey.com/r/L2DLQWX



Lisa Hennessy (right) is taking over the advertising role, with Jane Dore Daly taking a step back after three decades at the Advertiser.

Changes in our advertising team

After three decades at the Advertiser, Jane Dore Daly is taking a step back and handing over the advertising reins to Lisa Hennessy. From this week, Lisa will be the key person for all advertising enquiries – you can reach her on ads@pisra.com.au or call the office on 03 5952 3201. Jane is looking forward to having more time to relax – and socialise – and says Lisa will bring a new energy to the team, and even drag the advertising

system into the 21st century. “No more word docs and handwritten notes,” she claims. Everyone at the Advertiser will miss the joy and chaos Jane brings to every day at work – we couldn’t do what we do without her. We’re happy to report Jane isn’t disappearing completely. She’ll still be helping out and filling in when needed. Anyone wanting to contact Jane can call the office, or email ads and we’ll pass it on.

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

Cr Ronnie Bauer
for the Island Ward,
Bass Coast Shire

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Bass Coast is legally a protected area under State Government law, after the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) last week was approved by the Governor in Council.

DAL is now law

PLANNING

Bass Coast is legally a protected area under State Government law, after the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) last week was approved by the Governor in Council.

After six years, a lengthy planning panel, hundreds of submissions by residents and intense lobbying by developers, the DAL now ensures town boundaries across Phillip Island will not be expanded.

The exception is at Newhaven to Samuel Amess Drive, as well as San Remo's town boundary will expand to allow housing development through to Punch Bowl Road.

Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny announced the approval by the Governor in Council, which now locks in the strongest planning protections in the state and forms part of the Victoria Planning Provisions.

A Bass Coast planning scheme amendment will now embed protections, to ensure "the landscape, environment and lifestyle that define the region are preserved well into the future" the minister said.

Bass Coast joins the Bellarine Peninsula, Surf Coast and Macedon Ranges as one of four DAL areas.

"Bass Coast is one of Victoria's most iconic regions – from the Bunurong cliffs to the beaches of Phillip Island," Ms Kilkenny said.

"This is about ensuring they can be enjoyed for generations to come and about protecting the landscapes, coastlines and communities that define Bass Coast, while supporting the industries and jobs that sustain it."

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale added Bass Coast's coastline, farmland and townships "make it a truly special place to live, work and visit – now we've locked in protections to keep it that way".

The new policy sets a 50-year vision for the region's future, locking in 24 settlement boundaries across most Bass Coast townships, with changes



Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny (left) with MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale, celebrating after Bass Coast finally and officially became a Distinctive Areas and Landscape.

to the DAL now requiring ratification by both Houses of Parliament.

Reactions

In July Bass Coast Shire councillors endorsed the DAL, describing it as the "most influential decision" they will make, while council planners said the DAL would "impact most decisions that council makes".

However, the vote in support of the DAL was not without contention, with two councillors raising concerns about the implication of the DAL on homeowners "who face the threat of retreat with no insurance cover ... and no indication from the State Government for compensation".

According to the DAL, existing structures and assets should be "decommissioned or relocated" "away from areas that are or will be harmed by natural hazards".

Bass Coast Mayor Rochelle Halstead last week said protections – especially for the Western Port Woodlands – were a milestone.

"The Western Port Woodlands are one of Victoria's last remaining coastal forests and an ecological treasure," she said.

"Council is currently seeking State Government support to complete further environmental assess-

ments that will ultimately lead to greater protection of the Woodlands. We hope the state will come to the table and assist council with this process".

She said the DAL acknowledged "what locals have always known, that Bass Coast is special".

"These long-term protections will help us preserve our environment, our townships and our way of life for generations to come."

Community groups were "disappointed" that Newhaven's town boundary would expand, but were broadly supportive of the final DAL.

Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) president Greg Johnson said it was a significant strategic landmark document, particularly for Phillip Island.

"Permanent settlement boundaries should prevent urban sprawl into landscapes of state and regional significance, many of which PICS has cared for over the years. These landscapes include the island's farmland," Greg said.

Island Voice president Peter Paul said he was "cautiously pleased" with the DAL.

"Without the DAL there would have been continued arguments and problems. This has put a lot of that to rest and it will leave a legacy for the future," Peter said.

Nobbies precinct closed again

TOURISM

Phillip Island Nature Parks has advised the Nobbies precinct on the Summerland Peninsula has again been closed to visitors while further safety works are carried out, after strong winds earlier this month caused damage to the building's roof and solar panels.

Nature Parks said it made this decision to remove any risk to the public while the area is assessed and made safe.

"Unfortunately, this means the car park and boardwalks will stay closed until further work can be completed by our construction contractor to reduce the risk to visitors," a spokesperson stated.

"This work will involve completely removing the rooftop solar panels, securing roofing materials and removing any further redundancy infrastructure mounted to the roof."

"We understand the timing of this closure is disappointing. While we share in the community's frustration, our priority is ensuring public safety at all times."

Following further assessments and inspections, critical repair works will commence from this week. It is hoped the car park and boardwalk will reopen before the Melbourne Cup weekend after



Phillip Island Nature Parks has advised the Nobbies precinct on the Summerland Peninsula has again been closed to visitors while further safety works are carried out, after strong winds earlier this month caused damage to the building's roof and solar panels.

works are completed and assessed.

The Boulevard (Southern Road), running along the South coast of the Summerland Peninsula, between the Nobbies and the Penguin Parade, remains open for moving traffic (no parking).

The Penguin Parade Visitor Centre is open from 12pm daily, with café and retail options and bathroom facilities available. Public toilets are also located at the Penguin Parade car park.

Repeated closure

Back in June, the Nature Parks confirmed the Nobbies Centre, carpark and boardwalks would remain closed until the end of the month.

At the time, Nature Parks CEO Catherine Basterfield said an engineering assessment took place, "with initial works focused on ensuring the building structure is safe to enable access to the true attraction of this site – the boardwalks, the views and the blow hole".

"Rectification works will be required on parts of the visitor centre's exterior," Ms Basterfield said.

While the centre remained closed, in early July, the Nobbies boardwalk and car park reopened in time for school holidays, until the most recent closure.

The centre has been closed since June, with engineers confirming it is not safe to re-open.

Cowes Streetscape work to recommence

INFRASTRUCTURE

The first section of the initial phase of the Cowes foreshore project was completed before the MotoGP.

With the MotoGP over, the next phase is now underway and the remaining work is expected to take until December 21 to complete.

The site will then be reopened to the public, with work not recommencing

until February 2026.

Council said contractors Fulton Hogan will "re-mobilise the site" with hoarding and set up works starting this week.

This latest phase will include:

- Demolition works on the Esplanade West (same section as part 1) with changed pedestrian movements.
- Reconstruction of the road, lighting, pave-

ments and landscaping.

- Kerb and footpath work and stormwater drainage upgrades.

There will be no access for pedestrians or vehicles between Thompson Avenue and Bass Avenue during the work. An alternative pedestrian access route is via the foreshore pathway.

Project updates at: en-gage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowesforeshoreprecinct

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Wellness retreat approved, despite community opposition

PLANNING

Despite 150 objections opposing it, a wellness retreat in Ventnor has been given the green light by Bass Coast Shire councillors.

The permit for 109 Lyall Street, Ventnor, is for a holistic health and wellness retreat in a low-density residential zone, for which council planners recommended approval.

Under the proposal, the 4000sqm property would have no building works, but the use of the dwelling would see accommodation for a maximum of five clients and up to two visiting medical and holistic practitioners.

Clients would attend “low intensity”, “appointment-only” retreats for one week to one month with “integrated, evidence-based services focused on whole-person health”.

“The proposed model draws inspiration from leading therapeutic frameworks, such as The Banyans Wellness Centre, and aims to provide personalised, multi-disciplinary care to individuals seeking support in managing mental health, emotional wellbeing, and lifestyle-related conditions,” the permit states.

The Banyans Wellness Centre website describes itself as offering “discreet and luxury rehab” in Brisbane.

However, objectors said the planning permit was “misleading in the extreme”, with one stating while the permit did not say clients will be treated for drug rehabilitation and dependency “despite the fact this is one treatment Banyans health care do”.



Council planners have reassured the community saying an approved wellness retreat in Ventnor will “not be for drug rehabilitation nor will it revolve around medication”, but rather will be “a calming environment for relaxation and rejuvenation”.

A continuing theme from objectors was the location was not suitable for a drug and alcohol rehab centre, with concern for personal safety and safety of children and families.

Council planners said the “extent of community response” was so large it was “relevant” under the Planning and Environment Act, indicating potential to have a “significant social effect on the community”.

However, officers then clarified the key concerns and “confusion” raised by objectors with the applicant.

Officers concluded the proposal “does not seek to provide

substance abuse rehabilitation or medicinal care in its suite of services”, would not follow the Banyans’ model and with minimal neighbourhood impact.

“Ultimately, the proposed use of the site will not be for drug rehabilitation, nor will it revolve around medication,” officers said.

“It is about holistic health practices aimed at guiding individuals through the wellbeing process.

“It is not expected that this business will result in an exposure of crime to the local area. The Wellness Retreat is to be a calming environment for relaxation and rejuvenation.”

Officers said the traffic from the centre was “unlikely to cause issues”, with six on-site car spaces.

Humming

Councillors voted in support of the permit, with conditions, including the preparation of an operational management plan, which will manage any “potential adverse amenity”.

Cr Ronnie Bauer said all three Island ward councillors supported the permit, also acknowledging objections.

“We need to vote on what is in front of us, not the conjecture and whispers that have been swirling around,” Cr Bauer said.

“I have visited the site. It is perfect for what this application is asking to do. It is modern, quiet, secluded and serene.

“Until we have proof to the contrary, I see no reason to refuse this application.”

Cr Tim O’Brien said he lived around the corner from the proposal and had been approached by concerned residents, but agreed councillors were voting on the permit “in front of us, which is for a wellness centre”.

“People standing on one leg humming is not going to greatly disturb the environment,” Cr O’Brien said.

“It’s for people to find themselves.”

He said wellness would be a “far better use” of the home than its current use as an Airbnb.

Cr Tracey Bell said the centre would benefit the tourism economy.

Cr Jon Temby said the permit had his “full support” and he couldn’t see clients “being a nuisance in any way”.

He said he was reassured the use of the centre couldn’t be changed without council approval and agreed Airbnbs created more problems for neighbours.

The planning permit says the wellness retreat will include psychology and therapeutic counselling sessions, yoga, meditation and mindfulness practice, nutritional and lifestyle education.

“Stays will be guided by a tailored program developed in consultation with allied health professionals, designed to support early intervention, stress recovery, and general wellbeing,” the permit states.

Rhyll subdivision a step closer

PLANNING

Rhyll is about to get a little bit bigger. Since 2007, Rhyll residents have been fighting over-development on the former Swan Bay caravan park site, on Lock Road.

Their battle came to an end when in 2020 VCAT approved a proposal for 9-11 Lock Road for 15 townhouses and the removal of vegetation.

Around the same time, separate plans were released for 5 Lock Road: a \$2 million development for seven units, which includes one double storey and six single storey units, as well as the removal of all existing vegetation.

Now a planning permit for 3 Lock Road to build seven single

storey dwellings has moved a step closer, with the developers lodging documents with Bass Coast Shire Council to formerly subdivide the 2045sqm land to make way for construction.

The planning permit was approved in 2023, with the developers at the time arguing housing in the municipality had “become increasingly unaffordable”, and the development was needed to address “greater diversity in housing types to cater to the community’s needs, including housing for older people”.

This leaves 1 Lock Road and 7 Lock Road as the only sections of the former caravan park site open for development.

In 2020, residents said if 7

Lock Road was developed at a later stage, “then cumulatively it could be a very big development”.

Dating back to 2007, the old caravan park land has had various rejected proposals, opposed by the community including the group Rhyll RAID (Rhyll Residents Against Inappropriate Development).

One proposal in 2010 (the third proposal) included an 84-room residential hotel, with a restaurant, meeting room, childcare facilities, café and bar, gym and swimming pool, conference centre and 33 serviced apartments, as well as a retail component, alongside 34 dwellings to be used as serviced apartments. VCAT rejected this plan.



The former Swan Bay caravan park site, on Lock Road in Rhyll, has been the subject of community debate for almost a decade. Developers are currently finetuning the planning permit for 3 Lock Road to build seven single storey dwellings, ahead of construction.

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Silverleaves gets its final plan to deal with erosion

ENVIRONMENT

An artificial “rock sill” will be built off Silverleaves’ eroded foreshore, with potential for a field of new groynes in the future, according to the State Government’s final erosion report.

Last week, the government released the East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan, which provides \$1.4 million funding to Bass Coast Shire Council to implement the recommended designs and phase one of construction to protect the coastline.

The plan is the final chapter in years of anxiety for residents, with an initial report in August last year showing in two years, in a “hotspot” near Sanders Road, about 16 metres of foreshore had been lost to erosion.

This led to an angry community meeting in September 2024 when attendees asked for explanations and fast solutions to the erosion.

In April the draft East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan was released, and a rockbag wall constructed in the hotspot zone, with the final report now out.

While light on details and broadly a replication of the April draft, page 39 of the final report details planned erosion solutions.

The plan states the first line of defence will be to “manage and renourish (bulldoze sand) in the “upstream” groyne fields in Cowes east “to restore sand to the system”.

The 1970s existing rockwall east of Coghlan Road will be repaired.

The eastern end of this rock wall will “transition to a low crest-



This map, on page 39 of the final East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan, shows the planned actions to protect Silverleaves from erosion, including an artificial rock sill (4) and potentially groynes in the future (5).

ed rock sill”, although no detail is provided of what a rock sill is, its design or construction material.

The plan states natural solutions will be trialled around the rockbag wall area, including continued bulldozing of sand, and revegetation behind the rock sill.

“Discrete rock fillets may be used to naturally bury the rock sill for visual integration.”

Further east, the plan states there is an “option” to construct four groynes, as well as additional groynes – up to 17 towards the end of Silverleaves – “in the future to enhance dune resilience and beach amenity”.

Finally, the plan states the farthest section of shoreline will be monitored and “if the erosion trigger is realised” there will be further revegetation and bulldozing of sand, alongside those additional groynes.

The only details provided on rock sills in the plan are that “modelling may be required to ensure the effectiveness of the rock sill or breakwaters design”.

“These models will help assess their ability to protect the shoreline and vegetation, while also

directing tidal flows to minimise erosion and ensure the long-term stability of the ecosystem.

“Low crested structure may be lower than traditional seawalls or revetments.”

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) will work with the council to hire a consultant to develop designs and plan for construction.

Bass Coast Mayor Rochelle Halstead welcomed the \$1.4 million funding, saying delivery of these works was now the priority.

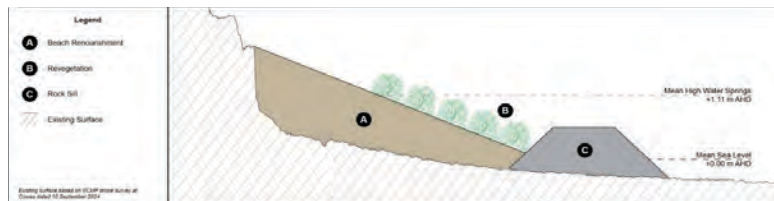
“The plan provides a roadmap for action and has been developed with extensive community input and scientific guidance,” Cr Halstead said.

“Council is now working closely with DEECA to plan and stage these works to ensure the best possible outcome.”

Reaction

Resident Stephen Lapin welcomed the final plan as “a good result for Silverleaves”.

“The council now has funding and can go ahead to commence engineering drawings and put



This is a cross section of the planned works in the erosion hotspot near Sanders Road, which will include tree planting, continued bulldozing of sand, and a rock sill.

the project out to tender,” Stephen said.

“My only concerns are: will the rock sill work, as it is experimental? And will council finish the works before the storm season and high tides in March next year?”

Stephen said he and fellow residents met Cr O’Brien and Cr Bell on the beach last weekend and also had a “reassuring” email from Mayor Rochelle Halstead saying the council was “primed to get things going now that they have funding”.

Resident Natalie Gray said she looked forward to seeing a project program and more details on the rock sill.

Cowes East Foreshore Preventative Action Group (CEFPAG) chair Ken Hailey said despite the “rather worrying delay”, residents were happy the plan was underway and funding was secure.

“Although the littoral reef (rock sill) is no doubt experimental, at least the latest plans recommend groynes as the next stage if the planned works do not succeed,” Ken said.

He said it was imperative the works were finished before the start of next winter.

“We are confident council will make every effort to achieve this

and the mayor and Island Ward councillors are all committed to make this happen.

“Credit must go to Jordan Crugnale for her work behind the scenes to make this happen.”

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos said the plan was created from community input, and scientific and geotechnical assessments.

He said community feedback indicated a “distinct preference” for nature-based intervention methods and “strong support” for the solutions in the plan including dune reconstruction, rock walls, and groyne fields.

Revegetation in key locations, by planting native shoreline plants suited to living in waves, would help relieve the pressure on the beaches and prevent erosion, the minister added.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale said the adaptation plan was a welcome step in addressing coastal erosion and management.

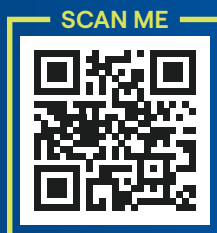
“I want to thank community members and local residents for being active, involved and advocates outlining what they value most about this stretch of Western Port,” Ms Crugnale said.

Details: engage.vic.gov.au/silverleaves-coastal-adaptation-pathways

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Spu thanks the community for support

FUNDRAISER

The family of Smiths Beach former sparkie Anthony "Spu" Susic – who is confined to a wheelchair because of multiple sclerosis – has thanked the generosity of the community for a major fundraiser.

Last November, a call was put out for funding and tradie support to renovate their house to ensure Spu could use the bathroom independently.

The call not only saw more than \$19,000 raised through a GoFundMe campaign, but a host of tradies gave their time to build the new accessible bathroom.

Spu's wife Mandy said it was difficult to convey her gratitude in words.

"Oh my god, the difference it has made is huge," said Mandy, who is Spu's full-time carer.

"In the old, small bathroom manoeuvring was so hard and was getting worse. He fell dozens of times and injured himself and the only way we could get him up was with a hoist.

"Now he needs no help and can be in the bathroom independently. It's given him confidence."

Mandy said the renovation took three months and saw a former bedroom transformed into the bathroom thanks to: Christian from Lamaro Homes who oversaw the build, helped by Daniel from Plumbers Now, electrician Lars List, Reece Plumbing, Stephen Fullarton Design, Lightique, and Jo Viney who sourced disability equipment. The entire fundraiser

was organised by Peter List, who first met Spu in the late 80s through surfing on the island.

While the GoFundMe paid for fixtures, all trades gave their time free, which Mandy estimates was up to \$40,000-worth of skill.

Desperate

Spu and Mandy, who have two children, Dylan, 21, and Alanah, 17, tried for seven years to receive National Disability Insurance Scheme funding to renovate their bathroom, but were knocked back on every application.

"The NDIS told us we didn't fit the criteria for funding and said we should create a schedule for who can use the bathroom," Mandy said.

"But with MS, Anthony can be in the bathroom for an hour and when he needs to go, he needs to go.

"And he had dozens of falls, was really bruised and once cut his head.

"We tried everything to make it work. We got to the situation where we tried to get a loan but because we're on pensions, they wouldn't give us one.

"We didn't want to think he'd ever go into a home."

Spu, 59, ran Cape Woolamai Electrical from the early 90s to 2014, and 24 years ago was diagnosed with MS – a degenerative chronic neurological disease which affects the central nervous system. He took to a wheelchair about a decade ago, when Mandy became his full-time carer.



Local trades have kindly donated their time over three months to build a fully accessible bathroom for Anthony "Spu" Susic, who has had multiple sclerosis for 24 years. Here he shows off the new bathroom, with his teacup poodle companion dog, Poppy.

Obituary – Dr James Khong

Dr James Khong arrived on Phillip Island in 1978 to take over the reins from Dr Ben Weiss, the only resident doctor on the island.

As job descriptions go, this one was all-consuming – sole medical practitioner to islanders and visitors, on call 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

But James Khong – known as Jim to his many friends – was well-qualified for the position: his career included surgical registrar at Melbourne's Queen Victoria Hospital and directing emergency departments at the Preston/Northcote and Austin hospitals.

Jim, who recently passed away at the age of 84 after a short illness, was the last doctor to work alone on the island.

He delivered many babies at Cowes Warley Hospital and saw multitudes of emergencies during his 13-years on the island. Many will recall Jim's practice rooms beneath the hospital. Warley closed in 2008 and was demolished in 2020, a huge loss to the island.

In 1981 Jim was joined by another resident GP, Dr John Dixon, who established a practice in San Remo.

The knowledge that John Dixon was also an anaesthetist sent a sigh of relief across the island: these resident medics meant there was year-round access to emergency surgery at Warley Hospital for the first time. And Jim Khong was a fine surgeon.

Born to a Chinese family in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1941, Jim was the sixth of nine children.

At age 12 he announced to his family that he wanted to be a doctor, and at 15 travelled to Melbourne to attend Melbourne Grammar school.

Jim studied medicine at Monash University, graduating in 1967.

While Jim's work on Phillip Island was demanding he had an infectious zest for life, enjoyed socialising, and made many lifelong friends.

They included the late artists Eric Juckert and Jason Monet – Jim remained close to Doris Monet and her four daughters – Island Surfboards co-founder Matt Ryan and his wife Jill, and other islanders too numerous to mention here.

In addition to medicine Jim was in-



Dr James Khong with his daughters Natasha and Sophia. Dr Khong arrived on Phillip Island in 1978 and was the last doctor to work alone on the island.

involved with the film industry through his friendship with the late director Paul Cox, and he was on the board of the Australian Film Institute.

After leaving the island Jim had practices in South Melbourne and the Queen Victoria Centre, wrote a book, and continued to life to the full.

Jim retired in 2017 after 50-years in medicine. His children – Ben, Dan, Natasha and Sophia – decided to honour their father's remarkable life with party rather than a conventional funeral.

"It's more Dad's style," said Ben at The George Hotel in South Melbourne recently, which was filled with Jim's family and friends, including many from Phillip Island.

Speakers included Jim's sister, his children, granddaughter Isabella, and former island GP Dr Paul Flood.

Jim assisted at the birth of Paul and Narella Flood's daughter, Alexandra, at Warley Hospital. Today Alex Flood is a well-known opera star.

Her magnificent soprano voice soared across the venue as she sang Ave Maria to farewell Dr James Khong – a kind, generous, caring man loved and admired by so many.

Dr James Khong is survived by sons Ben and Dan, daughters Natasha and Sophia, and grandchildren Isabella, Olivia, Ollie, Orlando and Ryan.

Support for gambling harm

HEALTH

The Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS) Gambler's Help team provides support for those experiencing gambling harm. As pokie losses continue to worsen across Gippsland, LCHS is hosting drop in sessions and guest speakers to highlight responsible gambling practices and available support services, as part of Gambling Awareness Week (October 27 – November 2). The 2025 campaign 'set before you bet', highlights how setting limits can reduce someone's risk of experiencing gambling harm.

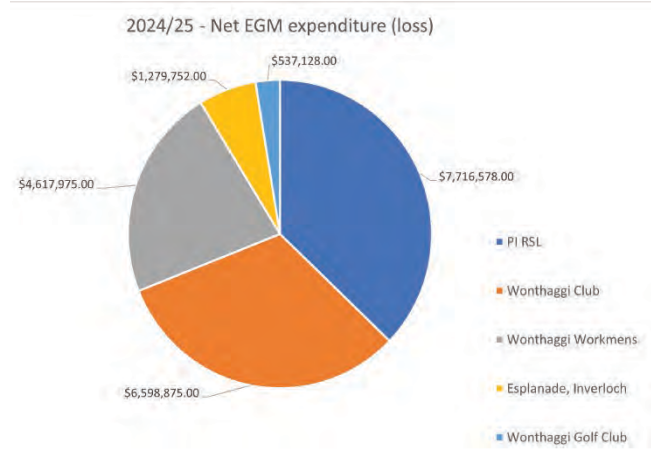
"This year, we want people to remember that gambling products are designed to keep you playing.

The immersive nature of gambling can make it hard for people to keep track of how long they have been playing and how much they are spending," LCHS Gambler's Help Team Leader, Chipso Chiyangwa said.

According to data from the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC), people in Gippsland lost \$159 million to electronic gambling machines in 2024-2025, an increase from \$154 million spent the year before.

"There are strategies people can use to stay in control, including setting a deposit limit, checking betting statements, setting reasonable time and money limits with the Your Play gaming card at venues, and taking regular breaks," Ms Chiyangwa said.

"Our events are designed to showcase these



The LCHS Gambler's Help team is hosting sessions during Gambling Awareness Week (October 27 – November 2). There are currently 210 poker machines in the Bass Coast Shire, with Phillip Island RSL recording the highest expenditure at \$7.7 million.

strategies and highlight the types of supports we have available to anyone concerned with their gambling habits," she added.

The free events hosted by LCHS for Gambling Harm Awareness Week will feature information, resources, and morning tea or lunch, with events planned across Gippsland. While there are no sessions scheduled for Phillip Island, there is a special online session on October 30, from 12.30pm – 1.30pm, launching a new video "AGD & Me: Putting the G (gambling) into Alcohol or other Drugs".

Contact Judy Avisar to receive the Zoom link javisar@sharc.org.au or for more information, contact Tim Brooks on 1800 242 696.

Gambling harm

In Bass Coast, gambling losses in 2024/25 rose to \$20.8 million – compared to \$20.6 million in the previous year.

However the 10-year trend shows a steady rise

(aside from Covid years), with yearly losses growing by \$4.48 million since 2015/16.

The latest data compiled by the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission shows in Bass Coast in the past 12 months the highest monthly losses were in January 2025 (\$1.95 million), followed by November 2024 (\$1.85 million).

There are currently 210 poker machines across five venues in the shire, with Phillip Island RSL recording the highest expenditure at \$7.7 million. It also recorded the highest loss per machine of \$133,044.

If you or someone you know is impacted by gambling, contact your Gambler's Help team at Latrobe Community Health Service by phoning 1800 242 696, or emailing gamblingsupportservices@lchs.com.au

For support outside of Gippsland, phone 1800 858 858.

Not budging: financial plan unchanged after consultation

COUNCIL

Residents have challenged Bass Coast Shire Council's budget priorities, calling for a redirection of funding in the final Long Term Financial Plan.

However, their calls have fallen on deaf ears, with the final plan largely unchanged compared to the draft that was released in August for community feedback.

The final plan was endorsed by councillors at the October meeting and is one of the most important council plans, detailing funding commitments for the next 10 years.

The biggest project to receive funding was \$114.6 million for the redevelopment of the former Wonthaggi Secondary College into a cultural centre.

There was also \$41 million allocated for aquatics and leisure centres, but with the focus on Wonthaggi, with no specific funding for a Cowes pool.

Phillip Island's future sporting hub will be funded \$9.9 million over the next decade, a first step to the \$120-million-plus needed to rollout all sporting projects.

Other major projects to receive funding in the LTFP over the next decade include: \$7 million for tracks and trails including \$1.4m for Rhyll stage four and five and \$2 million for a Ventnor to Cowes trail; \$1.5 million for the implementation of the mountain bike strategy and \$1.7 million for skate park upgrades from 2026 to 2031 including \$250,000 next year for Newhaven Graydens Reserve and \$1.5m for a sub-regional skate park at Wonthaggi.

Consultation

According to feedback from August and September, residents called for funding to be prioritised for a Phillip Island pool over tracks and trails.

Council officers responded tracks and trails funding of \$7 million was tied to projects currently underway or committed to by council.

Residents called for funding for redevelopment of a football



Following community consultation, residents called for funding for redevelopment of a football field and multi-purpose pavilion at the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve, to which council officers responded there was already funding of \$9.94 million for reserve development in the long-term financial plan.

field and multi-purpose pavilion at Phillip Island Recreation Reserve, to which council officers said there was already funding of \$9.94 million for development of the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve in the plan.

Residents called for allocated funding for the mountain bike strategy to be brought forward, including a pump track at Cape Woolamai, with officers responding the plan had \$500,000 for the strategy in 2026/27, when "appropriate sites and deliverability will be determined".

There were also resident concerns about coastal erosion at Smiths Beach, and opposition to foreshore trails at Smiths Beach.

Council officers responded funding has been allocated for 2030/31 "to delay development to ensure the proposed developments align with the community's priorities".

Calls for parking to be retained in Cowes for shops and restaurants saw officers reply "council will continue to consider projects and construction impacting parking availability".

There was a call to balance revenue raising from visitors with maintaining cost of living for locals.

Officers replied council "will consider increasing existing fees or implementing new fees, where appropriate, to help offset these costs".

Aquatics

Cr Ronnie Bauer said he "fought tooth and nail to keep the Phillip Island aquatics alive albeit on life support", with a line entry in the plan for Bass Coast aquatics (plural).

"To some this line entry will appear to be superfluous but to those who still live in hope for an aquatic centre at the recreation reserve, this is a crucial entry," he said.

"By being listed in the long term plan it still remains part of our advocacy. Remember, until last year the entire recreation reserve was on the 20-year list and now is the top major project for the island.

"If during a future election the opportunity presents itself, we can reprioritise not only our long-term plan but also our four-year plan to accommodate the Phillip Island aquatic centre.

"We can say with hand on heart, it is a shovel ready project."

Details: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/long-term-financial-plan



Members of Phillip Island Rotary during a recent trip to Timor Leste met with The Minister for Education to discuss the clean water program. From left: Duncan Hedditch, Brother Adriano (Director, Don Bosco Technical School), Her Excellency Ms. Dulce Soares (Minister for Education), Max Bird and Brian Ashworth.

Local Rotarians and life-changing clean water program

COMMUNITY

Members of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo have returned from a humanitarian trip to Timor-Leste, where they worked with Disaster Aid Australia and Rotary Projects Timor-Leste East to expand a life-changing clean water program.

During the visit, the volunteers helped install and audit ultra-filtration clean water systems in schools and communities and met with Timor-Leste's Minister for Education. That high-level meeting is expected to yield a joint commitment to roll out these safe water units across government schools, greatly widening the project's reach.

Over the past eight years, the Rotary-led initiative has installed 34 ultra-filtration systems across Timor-Leste, now providing access to safe drinking water for an estimated 44,000 students.

Recent audits confirmed that all units are in excellent working condition – notably, even the first system deployed in the country about eight years ago remains fully functional. This durability is a testament to the technology's robustness and the Rotary team's diligent maintenance efforts.

These ultra-filtration systems are innovative, gravity-fed water filters that use advanced membranes to remove 99.9 per cent of waterborne contaminants.

Each unit can purify up to 10,000 litres of water a day without needing electricity or chemicals, enough to meet the daily needs of a school or village. This access to clean water has sharp-

ly reduced waterborne illnesses and improved day-to-day life and school attendance for students, who can now drink safely on site rather than fetching or boiling water.

The shift also brings environmental benefits by curbing reliance on purchased water in disposable plastic bottles, or using wood fires to boil water, reducing both plastic pollution and deforestation.

The local Rotary contingent's meeting with the education minister is aimed at extending the clean water program into many more state-run schools, potentially benefiting thousands more children soon.

This project highlights what a small community-driven team can accomplish on the global stage.

The Phillip Island and San Remo Rotarians – all volunteers – together with many Rotary clubs around Australia, have poured time and resources into improving lives abroad, in partnership with Timorese communities.

"It's a fantastic project – simple, sustainable technology that's truly life-changing," said Rotary Phillip Island and San Remo spokesperson Duncan Hedditch.

"Once a system is installed, the local community maintains it, and it just keeps giving clean water year after year."

The club's ongoing commitment, from fundraising at home to hands-on work in the field, reflects Rotary's ethos of "Service Above Self" and the power of a local initiative making a worldwide impact.

Local Landcare groups get the grants

ENVIRONMENT

Phillip Island Landcare, Bass Coast Landcare Network and the Bass Valley Landcare are among eight groups sharing in environmental conservation grants totalling over \$145,000 in the Bass electorate.

The grants from the State Government are part of the Victorian Landcare Grants program, helping fund on-ground works, community education and engagement activities, group development, and small grants supporting administrative functions, including insurance, incorporation and operational costs.

Project grants up to \$20,000 have been awarded to Bass conservation groups for their projects including:

- Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) will empower schools and the wider community to learn seed collec-

tion, propagation, and planting skills through workshops and education programs at the Bass River Garden, Arboretum, and local farms.

- Bass Valley Landcare Group will work with six landholders, local schools, and volunteers to plant 6500 native plants and restore gullies and waterways, creating habitat for threatened species such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot.
- Phillip Island Landcare Group will collaborate with landholders and the Bunurong Land Council to plant 3000 indigenous plants in endangered Swamp Scrub, install wallaby-proof fencing, and host a community planning session to guide future landscape restoration.

Grants were also awarded to the Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group, South Gippsland Conservation Society as well as Anderson Inlet,

Three Creeks and Devon Meadows Landcare groups.

Member for Bass Coast Jordan Crugnale said the grants recognised the work of local Landcare groups, "who are restoring habitats and waterways through revegetation, habitat creation, weed control, and fencing".

"They're also engaging and educating the community, building the skills we need to strengthen both our environment and the community connections that care for it."

David Bateman from BCLN said its supported Landcare groups received eight \$20,000 grants.

"The impact of these grants will see over 40,000 plants in the ground and 100s of volunteers engage in Landcare. A big thank you to Jordan Crugnale for her support."

Three support grants of \$500 have also been awarded to the French Island Landcare Group



Jordan Crugnale MP with Newhaven College Students with Education, Training and Communications Manager Lisa Wangman, EGM Dave Bateman and BCLG board members and team.

Inc, Powlett Project Landcare Group and Westernport Swamp Landcare to assist with costs such as insurance, incor-

poration and operational needs. For more information visit www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-landcare-grants

PICAL's second manager brings first-rate expertise

COMMUNITY

As the new PICAL assistant centre manager, Kerry Ladell has hit the ground running.

Working alongside manager David Rooks since June, Kerry is now in charge of projects, programs and networking at the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre.

In the four months since she started, Kerry has helped transform PICAL into an energy resilient community hub in the event of power outages, where residents can recharge their mobile phones or seek shelter.

She has helped revamp the fix it café, is extending a community garden at the rear of the centre, is working with Anglicare to create a youth hub, and alongside Bass Coast Adult Learning is expanding course options.

"When you manage a neighbourhood house by yourself you don't have time beyond daily work. The day disappears," Kerry said, adding the new role of assistant centre manager allowed for big picture thinking.

"David's vision for growth fitted in with my capabilities."

Kerry's capabilities are perfectly suited to the role.

She has studied an advanced diploma in managing not-for-profits and for the past two decades has worked as a neighbourhood house manager at three centres on the Mornington Peninsula.

In 2019 she moved to Phillip Island, in that time working at the Corinella and District Community Centre as manager, where she helped start a Walk Against Domestic Violence in the town.

She was also centre manager at Corinella at a pivotal moment, helping install solar and batteries to make an energy resilient community hub.

"It was two months old when the power went out for three days," she recalls.

"It made a huge difference. The first day people were charging their devices, the second day they began to share stories and the third



Kerry Ladell, PICAL's new assistant centre manager, who is job sharing the role with manager David Rooks.

day the whole community was using the service.

"It became about township connection."

Island life

Beyond her skill set, Kerry said having two managers at PICAL helped in other ways, including bouncing ideas.

"It's great to share ideas with someone, we check in with each other through the week."

David works Monday to Wednesday and Kerry works Thursday and Friday, each at the centre 9am to 3pm.

Kerry, a mum of one and grandmother of three, who is married to Andrew,

says she has personally benefitted from neighbourhood house classes, having learnt to draw, a hobby she now relishes.

"I love working in community services."

"There's never a day that is exactly the same. Yesterday, for instance, I was working on cooking, then had a launch with the shire for their emergency services dashboard."

"Today I'm focused on CPR classes and other programs that connect the community."

"It's all about helping and connecting with people, making a difference at a grassroots level."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Koala suggestion

Reading of the problem of koala overpopulation on French Island, in The Advertiser (October 8), I wonder if the Ventnor Reserve on Ventnor Road could be restored to again take some koalas. This might partially resolve the problem, as was apparently done previously in the 1920s. Another group of koalas away from the Koala Reserve, on the Cowes Road, would help with diversifying the groups and perhaps help with the koalas long term survival.

Jean Verwey, Ventnor

Support for SCS?

At the October BCSC meeting when moving the Links Street Special Charge Scheme (SCS), Cr. Bell stated "there were only two objections out of 12 houses" and this "reflects a general desire by the residents ... to improve safety, access and liveability in their neighbourhood".

This is an inadequate representation of the factual data council collected.

Rather than focusing on the two No votes, council should have openly outlined and clarified the factual composition of the final vote.

The Bass Coast Engage page factually shows:

1. The initial petition was signed by around 75 per cent or nine out of 12 ratepayers.

2. In the final vote resident support for the project fell by 33 per cent and only 41.5 per cent or five out of 12 ratepayers voted for the scheme.

3. Equally, 41.5 per cent of ratepayers did not vote at all.

4. Combining non-votes with No votes reveals that 58 per cent or seven out of 12 of the residents did not vote to support the scheme.

5. As it does, BCSC used non-votes as support for the declaration of a scheme which did not even achieve 50 per cent ratepayer support.

Having failed to implement the Sunderland Bay/Surf Beach SCS, BCSC made targeted changes to its URDI policy to make it easier to initiate an SCS, lowering from 70 per cent to 50 per cent, the required percentage of signatures needed to lodge a SCS petition. This made SCS schemes easier to initiate, but extremely difficult to stop.

Once proposed by petition, the only way to stop a scheme is for 50 per cent plus one of affected ratepayers to vote against it.

This is demonstrated by both Links Street, and the Pioneer Bay SCS where the only votes were 27 No votes. Not a single vote was registered in favour of that scheme, yet BCSC

pushed it through.

Residents need to be very careful about signing a special charge petition. You may find that doing so results in the loss of any influence or control over the future development of your street.

Ross Bencraft, Surf Beach

Editor's note: Under the rules of the special charge scheme, which are set out in legislation, for a scheme not to proceed, more than 50 per cent of property owners have to object. Therefore, a scheme does not need to achieve support of 50 per cent of property owners to proceed.

We say Yes!

I had my holiday house built on The Esplanade at Surf Beach 40-years ago when Surf Beach was mostly mown building blocks. From my house I could see the traffic on Phillip Island Road and the cattle and sheep grazing in the distant paddocks. Now the view is housing and vegetation and the Esplanade is a busy road.

If Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay are not urban developments, as defined by the Oxford Dictionary, they are large island communities of permanent residents and holiday homeowners, with modern housing, electricity, mains water and sewerage. Unlike Cape Woolamai, a similar community on the island, Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay have a network of unmade roads and a totally inadequate drainage system. The Woolamai housing area has not been destroyed by the construction of these facilities.

My wife and I would like to congratulate Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) on its endeavours to bring the Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay communities into the modern world with upgraded roads and a modern drainage system. We are tired of the dust, speeding cars and inadequate drainage.

For the Special Charge Scheme the BCSC, and 'Yes' supporters, have kept us very well informed as to the processes that need to be followed, cost arrangements, timings, design options etc and BCSC has allowed for plenty of resident input.

At the same time a small group of 'No' supporters seem obsessed about public meetings with 'rigorous' discussion. We feel adequate discussion and community input has been allowed and the right decisions have been made. Most holiday homeowners would find it inconvenient and not necessary to attend local meetings, especially when they have been kept so well informed with the very good BCSC planning information.

C Roby and R Elder, Surf Beach

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Nose dive: after more than 30 years island pool again shelved

From page 1

"The Wonthaggi pool will do the job for the shire until such time we are able to build the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre."

Cr Bauer also said he had "fought tooth and nail to keep the Phillip Island aquatics alive albeit on life support", with a line item in the 10-year long term financial plan for Bass Coast aquatics (plural).

He added projects could quickly be reprioritised with "one election promise".

Cr Tim O'Brien said the priority for Phillip Island was to progress the recreation reserve, on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads, specifically a "critical mass" of sporting facilities such as football ovals, after which the pool would follow.

"For Phillip Islanders who may have wanted us to press ahead with both pools, it was never going to happen," Cr O'Brien said.

"It was far too costly. This is getting things in the right order, keeping Phillip Island on the agenda."

Cr Brett Tessari said since 2016 council had advocated in Melbourne and Canberra for two pools but "it didn't work".

"We were told we were never

going to get the funding for two pools," he said.

Cr Meg Edwards said Wonthaggi was the only public pool in Bass Coast and its current disrepair meant "we are at risk of having no pool", which would be "catastrophic".

"Phillip Island's pool is not off the table," she said.

"How do you eat an elephant? Take one bite at a time."

Cr Halstead said the decision was a pragmatic response to current financial realities.

"Redevelopment will allow us to continue delivering vital aquatic and leisure services to our community, while positioning us to attract future funding for a Phillip Island facility," she said.

Strategy

The original Bass Coast Shire Aquatic Strategy was released in 2015, which supported a two-pool strategy – both Wonthaggi and Cowes – which was followed in 2021 by feasibility studies supporting two pools.

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

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

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

Since 2015, the Wonthaggi North East Precinct Structure Plan has been gazetted, altering the future population of Wonthaggi, with 5000 new homes or about 12,000 new residents planned.

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

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

In 2021 a Bass Coast Shire Council study recommended Cowes have a "district level" 25m x 8 lane competition pool, combined learn-to-swim and hydrotherapy area, and 24-hour gym, at a cost of \$45.7 million.

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

Details: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/bass-coast-aquatic-and-leisure-centre-redevelopment-concept-plan



The Phillip Island Aquatic Fund Inc was formally launched in 1999, with pool patron Dawn Fraser in attendance.

Phillip Island pool: a potted history

AQUATIC CENTRE

A 1994 a State Government funded feasibility study supported the establishment of a pool on Phillip Island, but the study was shelved in 1995 following amalgamation of the Bass, Phillip and Wonthaggi councils . . . by the new Bass Coast Shire Council's appointed administrators

Over the next decade, through the island community's repeated calls and fundraising, three successive pool feasibility studies were funded by the community, with help from council.

All had the same outcome: recommendations for a pool to be built on the island.

In 1999, then premier Jeff Kennet, during a visit to Phillip Island, committed his government to fund a pool on the island, on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Inc (PIACF) was formally launched in 1999, with pool patron Dawn Fraser in attendance.

The group raised money to fund a community pool.

In 2013 Bass Coast Shire Council resolved to redevelop the existing Wonthaggi pool; and consider a facility for Phillip Island in another 15 to 20 years.

Following strong and sustained objections from islanders, a consultant's survey was conducted by council, which led to a further council resolution early in 2014: that two aquatic centres would be supported by council, one at Wonthaggi and one on Phillip Island.

In 2015, council ratified land behind the Cowes Cultural Centre site as the site for a new pool.

In 2017 council overturned that decision, agreeing to seek an alternative location.

In 2020, buyback of the carnival land, on the corner of Ventnor and Phillip Island roads, was completed.

This led to a masterplan for the 32-acre site in 2023, which listed an aquatic centre as a long-term future project, 20 to 25 years away.

In April 2023 a community consultation survey conducted by council resulted in 80 per cent of respondents identifying a Phillip Island pool as their priority for that site.

In January 2025, the Aquatic Centre Fund committee released 24 years of financial reporting following persistent community questioning on the use of donated funds.



This photo was taken in 2006, when hopes for a Phillip Island Aquatic Centre were running high.

Keep the pool "fight alive"

AQUATIC CENTRE

The community group that has lobbied for decades for a Phillip Island pool said they would continue to fight for a pool.

Bass Coast Shire councillors at the October meeting voted in support of the amended Bass Coast Shire Aquatic Strategy (see separate story), which states planning and advocacy for Phillip Island will start following completion of the Wonthaggi pool's redevelopment.

Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund (PIACF) secretary Peter McMahon responded to the decision.

"Our committee will not sit still, we will endeavour to explore every alternative way to come up with an aquatic centre for Phillip Island, but as we age we need help," Peter said.

"This has not come as something we didn't expect, as everyone is aware for the past 30-plus years the island has had to fight Wonthaggi for anything."

He said PIACF thought the first government funding would be for the island but "again that doesn't suit the shire".

"We are told by the change to the advocacy process things will

happen faster, well again we just sit and wait but keep supplying the shire with (almost half) its rate revenue."

Peter called for community members to join the group "to keep the fight alive" – with very low membership of the group in recent years – and contact him on 0418 533 256.

Reaction

On social media reactions were against council, with many calling for a reboot to Stand Alone, which was the group that led a failed move to reverse the Kennet Government's 1994 amalgamation between the Phillip Island Shire and Wonthaggi.

The group is now called Island Voice, which has also suffered low membership in recent years.

Former Stand Alone member John Matthews wrote the local government minister rejected Phillip Island separating from Bass Coast.

"The process is enormously complicated and would take an energetic community committee to drive the process," John wrote.

"The issue we have at present is the unelected bureaucrats are running the show and the elected

councillors are blindsided with internal governance guidelines.

"There should never have been a two-pool strategy. A separate strategy for Phillip Island and Wonthaggi would have had better funding opportunities."

Lois said solutions and a detailed plan of how the pool could be funded was needed.

"You could stand for council if you are so aggrieved and do a better job? I am sure if you cost it out, it is prohibitive, so check when the next council elections are and run for office."

Some comments also incorrectly stated the council had funds for the pool.

As reported earlier this year PIACF released 24 years of financial reporting following persistent community questioning on the use of donated funds.

The finances show a total income of \$302,458 since 2000, which includes \$136,000 in fundraising, \$14,000 from the buy-a-brick campaign and \$66,655 in donations.

Peter McMahon said because PIACF was an incorporated body, there were strict government rules for how funds could be discharged.



OPINION

Aquatic call for action

The Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Inc would like to outline where it stands regarding recent amendments/changes the Council passed at its recent meeting.

Firstly, it was never the idea to build two centres at the same time. The council chose to advocate for \$90m for both with government.

We believed the right approach was to build PI's centre first then rebuild Wonthaggi, while maintaining a fully operational centre for the shire. We do understand Wonthaggi needs to be rebuilt or grossly redeveloped.

Our group has amassed an amount of knowledge which obviously doesn't count for anything with our council. Our committee offered help to come up with alternatives, which was rejected.

We did have an excellent working group together with council, which even produced

plans for the PI Aquatic Centre to be built behind the old Cultural Centre in 2016 which council scrapped.

We will keep advocating for an Aquatic Centre on Phillip Island; however, we need your help. The money raised over the 30+ years minus operating costs is still held in a term deposit. Your bricks are still on a register with what you want written on them. Don't get disheartened.

We are holding an AGM on November 19 (via Zoom), where you can get involved. If you are interested, come and be counted in continuing our fight with council. Several ideas are being considered. We just need willing workers to come and make them happen.

For a zoom link to the meeting, email: info@piac.org.au or contact Peter McMahon on 0418 533 256.

Peter McMahon and Don Turner, PIACF Committee

PICAL Garden Open Day

COMMUNITY

Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) invites everyone to celebrate community and connection at its Garden Open Day on Saturday November 1, from 10am to 3pm.

Set to take place at PICAL's Pantry Garden at Blue Gum Reserve (119 Settlement Road, Cowes), the event promises to be a fun-filled day for all ages while raising funds to support the PICAL Pantry Garden and highlighting its important role in the community. Visitors will enjoy:

- Guided Garden Tours (10am to 11am). See firsthand what's growing in PICAL's Pantry Garden
- Worm Farming Workshops (11am and 1pm). All you need to know about having and managing a worm farm
- Composting Workshops (11.30am and 1.30pm). Learn about the benefits of composting and how to transform everyday kitchen waste to feed your garden
- Seed Raising Demonstrations (12pm and 2pm). A demonstration of seed raising and how to do this at home

Children will be invited to pot up a lettuce to take home and discover the joy of gardening.

There will also be plant and preserve stalls offering fresh seedlings, herbs, vegetables and preserves made by PICAL's Preserve Group from the garden's produce. A sausage sizzle and



Shane and Neil are two of the dedicated local volunteers who keep the PICAL Pantry Garden thriving. The community is invited to an Open Day on November 1.

cold drinks will also be available.

"We're so proud of our Pantry Garden and our wonderful volunteers who have made the garden what it is today," says David Rooks, Centre Manager PICAL.

"The open day is not just a chance to raise funds for the garden; it's an opportunity to showcase the amazing work of our dedicated garden volunteers and share the garden's benefits with the wider community.

"It's incredible to see what some community spirit and dedicated locals can achieve."

The volunteer-led Pantry Garden plays an important role in supporting PICAL's emergency food relief program while also providing education and opportunities for community members to connect, learn and grow.

All produce grown at the

Pantry Garden goes straight to PICAL's Community Kitchen where it's transformed into nutritious meals and PICAL's Emergency Food Relief Pantry for locals who are doing it tough. Any excess produce goes to PICAL's preserve group who transform the produce into something yummy, the preserves are then sold with all funds raised going directly to PICAL's pantry.

PICAL Garden Open Day – event details:

- PICAL Pantry Garden, 119 Settlement Road, Cowes (behind the Creative Arts Station)
- Saturday November 1, 10am to 3pm
- Gold coin donation entry (children free)

For more information, visit the Phillip Island Community & Learning Centre Facebook page or call PICAL on (03) 5952 1131.



The Phillip Island Movie Club (PIMC) presents Riviera Revenge (2024) on Wednesday October 29 at 7.30pm at Berninneit.

Riviera Revenge at Berninneit

MOVIE

The Phillip Island Movie Club (PIMC) presents Riviera Revenge (2024) on Wednesday October 29 at 7.30pm at Berninneit.

The film is a French comedy, written and directed by Ivan Calberac. This gently accessible family comedy was an audience favourite at the 2025 Alliance Francaise French Film Festival.

Patriarch Francois Meursault (Andre Dusollier) is a retired General whose gruff, authoritarian nature has clearly contributed to the uncomfortable relationship he has with each of his children. François is a former military man who is making the most of his retirement alongside his wife Annie, the only person who seems to be able to put up with his temper and demands. Authoritarian, and uncompromising, he rules his family with an iron fist.

When he discovers that his wife, who he always held in high esteem, cheated on him 40 years ago, he sees only one solution: to file for divorce and confront her former lover who now lives in Nice.

"There is nothing radical about Riviera Revenge, it is a fun filled very typical French farce," said PIMC Secretary Margaret Byrne.

"We had planned it for our last film of year, but due to planning issues it has been moved to October."

Please note the film begins at 7.30pm, our new starting time for 2025.

It is a private event and you must present your PIMC membership ticket and your Trybooking receipt to enter. Membership tickets are non-transferrable.

Riviera Revenge runs for one hour and 34 mins and is rated M.

Triple treat long weekend show at Archies Creek

MUSIC

Escape the city this Cup weekend and join Gut Health, Mess Esque and Shock Corridor at Archies Creek Hotel, Saturday November 1 from 2.30pm.

Following their three-week, 20-date tour across Europe and the UK, where they played a string of headline shows, DIY spaces and festival appearances, Naarm's Gut Health return home for this special show.

This hypnotic and chaotic genre-blurring six-piece band are live circuit favourites. Globally renowned for their standout sets, they've played Meredith Music Festival and Dark Mofo, and toured with artists like Primal Scream, Otoboke Beaver, The Black Lips, Tropical Fuck Storm, Hiatus Kaiyote and more.

Their debut album Stiletto

earned the 2025 AIR Award for Best Independent Punk Album, was nominated for the Australian Music Prize Album of the Year, and featured in Rolling Stone's "100 Best Australian Albums of the 2020s So Far".

They took home the prize of Best Group in the 2024 Music Victoria Awards, and only recently, were nominated for Best Breakthrough Act at the 2025 ARIAs and Best Act in the Rolling Stone Awards.

Mess Esque

Featuring the talents of Helen Franzmann (McKisko) and Mick Turner (The Dirty Three, Bleak Squad), Mess Esque's music has been described as having the raw and visceral edge of Velvet Underground, mixed with a dream pop blur.

What started as a long-dis-

tance collaboration has transformed into three albums of experimental sounds and international tours from a revered musical act boasting some bona fide sonic pedigree.

Shock Corridor

Shock Corridor have sold out The Night Cat, Howler and the Curtin, and recently supported Bleak Squad at the Melbourne Recital Centre. Fitting for a band that makes music grounded in dark wave, trip hop and post punk, that turn your favourite things inside out and back to front. It's haunting, visceral and worthy of your time.

Saturday November 1, at Archies Creek Hotel.

Doors open from 2.30pm.

Tickets on sale now: www.archiescreekhotel.com.au/events/gut-health



Gut Health play Archies Creek Hotel on Saturday November 1, along with Mess Esque and Shock Corridor. Tickets on sale now at archiescreekhotel.com.au

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Newhaven College celebrates VCE Art and Design

EDUCATION

Newhaven College's annual VCE Art and Design Exhibition for 2025, a celebration of creativity and innovation, is currently on display in the College's Performing Arts Wing foyer.

The exhibition showcases the achievements of the College's VCE students, who have worked

throughout the year to produce an impressive array of works in a variety of media.

The exhibition highlights the outstanding Unit 3 and 4 works from Art Making and Exhibiting, Visual Communication Design, Media, Product Design and Technologies, and Systems Engineering.

The College said the exhibi-

tion is "a true reflection of the students' dedication, creativity and hard work".

"Each piece tells a unique story, demonstrating the range of artistic, technical and design skills honed by students during their VCE journey," a College spokesperson said.

"From intricate design concepts to thought-provoking art

and media projects, the display offers something for everyone to enjoy."

Opening the exhibition, the proceedings were presented by Visual Art Captain Sienna Bell. Art teacher Rebecca Power announced the prizes awarded to Michael Mehes for 'Best in Show' and the encouragement award went to Ailish Flynn for

her hard-working and committed attitude.

"There was no doubt these two students represented all of the outstanding talent in the VCE cohort."

Interested future students and their families can contact Bec Anderson, Admissions Officer, at admissions@newhaven-col.vic.edu.au or 03 5956 7505.



Newhaven College VCE student Michael Mehes won the Best in Show for his intriguing work.



Newhaven College VCE student Abby Papas was praised for her 1950s inspired artwork.

Reading from the heart

LIBRARY

Phillip Island Library is delighted to host Logie Award winning actress Maggie Millar for a special reading of Mr Right by the late Elizabeth Jolley, as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival, on October 31.

Elizabeth Jolley wrote Mr Right especially for Maggie, featuring her character Miss Vale, first introduced in Jolley's ABC radio play 'Little Lewis Has Had

a Lovely Sleep' in 1990. After hearing Maggie's performance, Jolley wrote to her saying, "You were superb. Thank you very much for bringing Miss Vale to life so well." The two later became friends, leading to this special collaboration.

Trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, Maggie is renowned for her powerful and nuanced readings. Her performance of "Molly Bloom" from 'Ulysses'

was so acclaimed that she was invited to perform it at the James Joyce Centre in Dublin on Bloomsday.

This is a rare opportunity to hear one of Australia's finest voices bring Elizabeth Jolley's words to life.

Friday October 31 at 2pm Phillip Island Library, Berninnet, Cowes. For bookings: myli.au/maggie

If you require further information regarding this event or require assistance booking your tickets, please contact the Phillip Island Library on (03) 5952 2842.

GIG GUIDE

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25/10 **ALYSHA & DUFFY - 8PM**
26/10 **DAN LUNN - 5PM**

31/10 **RAMBLE 8PM**
1/11 **COVER BANDITS 8.30PM**
2/11 **VANN AMOS - 5PM**

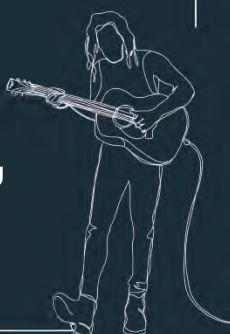
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AUSTRALIAN MOTOGP 2025



Jacob Roulstone, Australian Moto3 rider. Photo: IanR Photography.



Joel Kelso flying the Australian flag after coming second in the Moto3. Photo: IanR Photography.



A very happy Senna Agius, winner of the Moto2 category. Photo: IanR Photography.



Kiwi Cormac Buchanan crashes out on Friday. Photo: IanR Photography.



More photos, at pisra.com.au

Island roars as huge crowds attend the MotoGP

Crowds of motorsport fans flocked to Phillip Island over the weekend, with the attendance at this year's MotoGP estimated to be the biggest since Casey Stoner's last win in 2012.

The Australia Grand Prix Corporation said the total estimated attendance across the event was 91,245, with a race day estimated attendance of 38,645.

In 2024, the total estimated attendance was 80,009 and the race day estimated attendance was 33,571.

Highlights from the final day of the event included Australian Senna Agius winning the Moto2 race. Senna is the first Australian to ever win a Moto2 race in

Australia. There was another Australian on the podium in Moto3, with Joel Kelso finishing second, just behind Jose Antonio Rueda.

Unfortunately, Australian riders weren't able to make it a triple podium celebration.

After qualifying third, Jack Miller's run of bad luck at the

island continued, crashing out on lap six during the MotoGP. Spanish rider Raul Fernandez took the victory, his first MotoGP win, ahead of Italian Fabio Di Giannantonio and Marco Bezzecchi.

Bezzecchi also won the MotoGP Sprint on Saturday and during practice time on Friday,

he became the first MotoGP rider to go under 1.27 at the Phillip Island Circuit, setting a new circuit record of 1.26.492.

Last year's winner, and current leader on the Championship points tally, Marc Marquez was unable to race, recovering from an injury in Indonesia at the start of October.



The island's number one MotoGP fan Rosa Scarlato with Senna Agius, up and coming Australian Moto2 rider (currently sitting inside the top nine of the championship), when he visited Pino's Trattoria on Wednesday night.



PIFNC President Chris Ross (right) with his son Archie, at the MotoGP. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Excitement off the track for Katrina Lawrence (centre) and Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead when they caught up with Chris Hemsworth at the MotoGP. Photo: Katrina Lawrence.



Sprint Race winner Marco Bezzecchi gets a thumbs up from teammate Savadori.



Eager volunteers were at the track welcoming the huge crowds that flocked to this year's MotoGP. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Keeping the media centre at the track running smoothly are (front) Anya Grosky, Brace Kopke, and (back) Pam Lewis, Alison Van Den Dungen. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



The Community GP Run arrives on the island Saturday morning, with hundreds riding in from Caldermeade Farm.



Tourism Minister Steve Dimopoulos and Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale (right) snap a photo with AFL legend Robert DiPierdomenico. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Jenny and Rebecca from Salt Law with Stephen Fullarton at the MotoGP Breakfast Club at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.



Pino's Rosa Scarlato with Greg Price (Alex Scott) and Kimberly Brown (North Pier) at the GP Breakfast Club last Thursday, at the VIP Village at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.



Enjoying the GP Breakfast Club and getting close to the trophy are (from left) Greg (Barry Plant) and Leni, Bec and Sarah (Coastal Stayz).



MotoGP legend Casey Stoner signing autographs for fans in San Remo, before the 2025 Homecoming Ride. Photo: IanR Photography.

MOTOGP

Casey Stoner, Jack Miller, Francesco "Pecco" Bagnaia, Marco Bezzecchi, Enea Bastianini, Fermín Aldeguer and Australian Moto2^(TM) and Moto3^(TM) riders Aguis, Kelso and Roulstone led a convoy of more than 500 eager fans from San Remo to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.

The new route saw the riders travel through Cowes on their way to the track.

Hundreds of fans assembled at San Remo for a chance to see their heroes, while spectators lined the roadsides between San Remo and the circuit to wave the riders on.

The ride is a rare opportunity for fans to meet and ride alongside their heroes.

The spectacle of hundreds of bikes in a convoy crossing the bridge to Phillip Island, then driving through the streets of Cowes was a fitting start to an exciting weekend of motorsport.



Some future MotoGP stars at the start of the Homecoming Ride in San Remo last Thursday. Photo: IanR Photography.

Get bushfire ready with the free green waste disposal period

COMMUNITY

The fee-free green waste period is on again, from Saturday November 1 to Sunday November 23.

Domestic loads of green waste will be accepted free of charge at any of Bass Coast Shire Council's waste facilities to encourage preparation for the fire season.

Council's waste facilities are located in Grantville, Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Cowes.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead encouraged everyone to take advantage of this fee-free period to get ready for the upcoming summer.

"Now is the perfect time for everyone to clean up their property before the bushfire season," Cr Halstead said.

"Bushfire hazards include fuel like leaf litter, plants, and other debris. If left to build up, these materials can feed a fire and make it more dangerous."

With the first weekend of the disposal period coinciding with the Melbourne Cup weekend and Council's waste facilities remaining open on Melbourne Cup Day, high demand may lead to queues and delays, particularly on this first weekend.

Disposing of your green



The fee-free green waste period runs from Saturday November 1 to Sunday November 23. Domestic loads of green waste will be accepted free of charge at any of Bass Coast Shire Council's waste facilities.

waste in the middle of the fee-free period may help you avoid delays, so plan ahead.

Those visiting Cowes Recycling Bank should note that large trucks and trailers (over 8' x 5') are not accepted and will be redirected to Grantville Transfer Station during the fee-free green waste period.

Weed species including blackberry, English ivy,

agapanthus, mirror bush and plants that cannot be mulched such as palm fronds are not accepted as green waste at any of our locations, however these can go in your kerbside Organics (green lid) bin at any time.

For more information on what's accepted, locations, and hours of Council's Waste Facilities, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/greenwaste



Some of the drivers from the Daniher's Drive with staff from San Remo Hotel.

Daniher's Drive San Remo stopover

FUNDRAISER

This year's Daniher's Drive has raised over \$1.3 million for Fight MND.

Night two of this year's drive was in San Remo (October 10), where drivers visited the San Remo Hotel, hosted a trivia fundraising night at Silverwater Resort and took to the Go-Kart tracks, before heading for Torquay.

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

The visit to the San Remo Hotel was titled as a "Pit Stop with Purpose" on the official itinerary., describing the hotel as

a "legendary local spot and longtime supporter of FightMND".

"Every year, the hotel goes all-out for their DIY Big Freeze, complete with a dunk tank, 20 brave local dunkees, and plenty of Big Freeze Beanies sold to raise funds and spirits," a Drive spokesperson said.

"On Friday (October 11), Vee and Barry, the dynamic duo behind the San Remo Big Freeze, were there to welcome Drive participants and share how their community continues to rally behind the fight against MND."

The Trivia and Fundraising Gala at Silverwater brought together Drive teams and members of the local community for an evening of laughter, friendly rivalry and big-hearted generosity, raising \$81,000.

More information at: fightmnd.org.au/whats-on/daniers-drive/



Drivers swapped cars for go karts, racing around the Phillip Island Circuit's go-kart track on Saturday morning before heading to Torquay. Photo: Fiona Hamilton. More photos at pisra.com.au

Parking fees help new hospital courtyard

ROTARY

At the weekend's Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, volunteers from the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo took on the huge task of managing parking for thousands of motorcycles and cars at the Phillip Island Circuit.

Clad in bright orange safety jackets, Rotary's dedicated team worked tirelessly to direct traffic and assist arriving spectators, ensuring a smooth and safe entry despite the unpredictable spring weather.

Their efforts weren't just about logistics — every dollar raised from their work will go directly to the Rotary Rehabilitation Courtyard at the new Phillip Island Community Hospital in Cowes.

Despite gusty winds, sudden showers, and bursts of sunshine, the Rotarians remained upbeat and professional throughout the weekend.

Visitors were greeted with warm smiles, clear directions, and genuine community spirit as cars



Rotary Club volunteers Tim Mullen, Cheryl Harvey, Garry Thompson and Kathryn Thompson don bright orange safety jackets as they direct cars into the parking paddocks at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit during a past MotoGP event.

poured steadily into the grass paddocks.

Their efforts embodied Rotary's enduring motto, "Service Above Self," turning a demanding operational role into a visible act of community service at one of Australia's premier sporting events.

Funds raised through the MotoGP parking program will help complete the Rotary Rehabilitation Courtyard — a tranquil outdoor space designed to bring comfort and dignity to patients and families at the new hospital.

Rotary Club President Gea Lovell said seeing the courtyard come to life has been a highlight for the club.

"We thank Fred Reinking, of Dome Security for once again involving our club," she said.

With their high-vis jackets now hung up until next year, the Phillip Island and San Remo Rotarians have once again shown that teamwork, generosity, and community spirit can turn a parking paddock into a powerful driver for local good.

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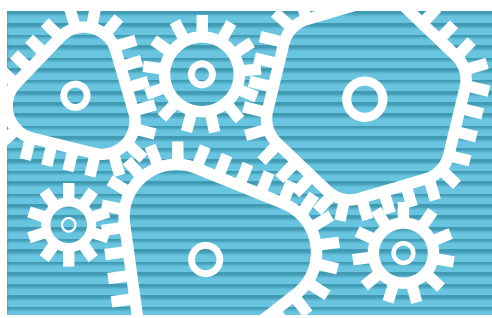
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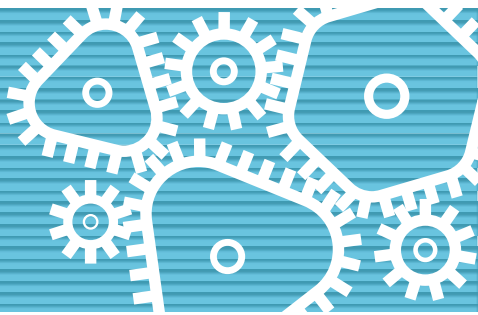
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PALM LAKE RESORT SPRING MARKET

The residents of Palm Lake Resort are having their Annual Spring Market on Sunday November 2nd from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

All stalls will be undercover in the Hall, so don't worry about the weather.

All types of goodies will be on sale from artworks, craft, second hand books & DVDs, bric-a-brac, pre-loved clothing, plants, cards, gifts, etc etc – just in time for Christmas!

A yummy sausage sizzle with onions will be running all day as well as a delicious Devonshire Tea.

Get there early – enter by Gate 2, at 48 Settlement Rd next to the Golf Course – ample parking available.

See you Sunday November 2nd at 10.00am!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that the PIMHAG Annual General Meeting will be held on October 30th, 2025 at 5pm in the ANZAC Room at Phillip Island RSL. All Welcome.

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

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

Join us for dinner at the RSL after the meeting.

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Applications close on Thursday 6th November 2025

Bass Coast College is seeking a suitably qualified and/ or experienced person to join its team in 2026 for the above position.

Applications need to be made via School Jobs Vic: www.vic.gov.au/school-jobs
Job Vacancy ID: 1499671

Further details are available on School Jobs Vic or for more information please contact Gabe Windsor – Business Manager on 5611 4000



Phillip Island Progress Association – **Island Voice Annual General Meeting October 28, 2025**

5pm – 6.30pm
Phillip Island RSL – Anzac Room

AGM business will be conducted from 5pm – 5.30pm, including election of new committee.

Followed by guest speaker Professor Simone Alexander Interim CEO, Bass Coast Health (or another member of the Executive Team) outlining plans for the new Community Hospital

There will be time for questions.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp. Coles) - Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday 11am, 5672 3627. Phone head office 9429 1833.



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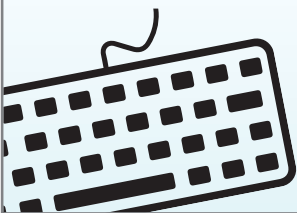
Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at San Remo Preschool 23 Back Beach Road, San Remo

Sunday 16th November 2025 at 11.30am

Business includes confirmation of minutes of previous AGM, presentation of annual reports, and election of new committee of management for 2026.

San Remo Pre-School Committee of Management



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Open Women award winners: 1 Lillian Bassed, 2 Sarah Seuren, 3 Scarlett Rennie.



Mal Gregson and Brian Tancheff – Winners Grand Masters award.

Boardriders celebrate huge year at Presentation Night

SURFING

The Phillip Island Boardriders Club capped off another incredible season with a packed-out presentation night at the clubrooms. The evening had a vintage theme, with catered pizza and music from DJ Lachie Eastwood — last year's Junior Clubman — who kept the dance floor pumping well into the night.

The night celebrated not only the club's surfing achievements but also the strong community spirit that continues to define one of Australia's oldest surfing clubs.

The Best Club Person Award — the most prestigious honour of the night — was awarded to Nat Vander Hayden, recognising her enormous contribution both in and out of the water. Nat not only keeps the club running smoothly year-round but brings great energy and positivity to every comp.

The President's Award followed, presented to Andrew Lidsay for his tireless work and ongoing commitment throughout the season. Andrew's support across

in keeping the club tidy and shooting some outstanding photography at the events has been instrumental in another successful year.

Another highlight was Eddie Maier receiving the Best Junior Clubman Award. Eddie not only impressed with his surfing talent at such a young age but consistently shows leadership, enthusiasm, and a willingness to help at every event. He truly lives and breathes Boardriders and is shaping up as a future leader of the club.

Savannah Bennett and Phoenix Stedman also received big raps for their performance, growth positive contribution both in and out of the water, reflecting the club's strong youth development focus, taking out the best Junior Club Woman award and Most Improved Female awards.

Most Improved Junior went to Toby Davies who was blowing up all of last season and a future champion of the club.

The Open Men's Champion, Harry de Roth, and Open Women's Champion, Lilli

Bassed, were celebrated for their outstanding seasons. Their wins also secure them the club's coveted wild-card entries into the 2026 Rip Curl Pro Trials, a huge opportunity on one of surfing's biggest stages.

With the new season set to start in just a couple of weeks, Phillip Island Boardriders have a jam-packed calendar ahead, including the World Club Championships at Snapper Rocks in February and the Australian Boardriders Battle National Final in March, where the club's top surfers will once again fly the flag for the island on the national stage.

Presentations

Open Women: 1 Lillian Bassed, 2 Sarah Seuren, 3 Scarlett Rennie.

Open Men: 1 Harry de Roth, 2 Dylan Thomas James, 3 Luke Archibald.

Junior Females: 1 Abbey Clarke, 2 Lillian Bassed, 3 Jade Hilford.

Junior Males: 1 Jarrah Cicero, 2 Rye Cicero, 3 Lachie Eastwood.

Cadet Females: 1 Scarlett Rennie, 2 Savannah Bennett, 3 Phoenix Stedman.

Cadet Males: 1 Arch Rayner and Dusty Rayner, 2 Angus Kennedy, 3 Eddie Maier.

Longboard Division

Mixed Juniors: 1 Savannah Bennett, 2 Scarlett Rennie, 3 Taj Ransom.

Style Masters: 1 Andrew Lidsey, 2 Natalie Van Der Heyden, 3 Warren Fowler.

Open Women: 1 Ebony Maier, 2 Nala Taylor, 3 Jerrie Liberati.

Open Men: 1 Andrew McHenry, 2 Eli Curry, 3 Ben Gerard Taylor.

Special Awards

Most Improved Male: Toby Davis

Most Improved Female: Phoenix Stedman

Gung Ho Award: Jarrah Cicero

Dumb Bell Award: Jai McDonald

President's Award: Andrew Lidsey

Club Person of the Year: Natalie Van Der Heyden

Best Junior Club Woman: Savannah Bennett

Best Junior Club Man: Eddie Maier

Most Improved Longboard: Lucy Camenzuli



Lillian Bassed (2) and Abby Clarke (1) were Junior Women's champs.



Lachie Eastwood, Ry Cicero and outgoing Club Captain Ash Easton.



President's award winner Andrew Lidsay and Best Clubperson Nat Van der Heyden



Savannah Bennett was awarded Best Junior Clubwoman.



PIBC Committee: Sally Ross, Mel Wright, Jo O'Reilly Stubbs, Ash Easton, Emily Scott, Nat Van der Heyden, Nala Taylor, Jake Eisen and Geoff Russell.



Masters Winner Adrian Maier and Senior Men's Winner Ash Easton



Best Junior Clubman Eddie Maier and President Jake Eisen.

Rips hit the court running

BASKETBALL

Phillip Island Rips season began with the first tournament of 2025/26.

This year the Rips have 11 teams representing Phillip Island Basketball at multiple tournaments. This weekend the A teams headed to the Korumburra tournament.

A great weekend all round with lots of smiles and great achievements for the first weekend for the teams.

All teams saw some great games with our U10 Boys finishing premiers, the U14A Boys premiers and U14A Girls finishing runners up.

A big congratulations to Josh (U10 Boys) and Max (U14 Boys) who were awarded Grand Final MVP.

In two weeks' time all 11 of the teams will head to the Southern Peninsula Tournament for the next step in the Rips 2025/26 campaign.



U14 Boys MVP was awarded to Max.



U10 Boys Rips premiers: Ben (Assistant coach) Charlie, Josh, Ashley, Louis, Mark (Coach), Kyoko (TM), Sidney, Arki, Heath and Maximilien.



U14A Boys Rips premiers: Back: Coach Eli Evans, Elija Long, Max Robinson, James Evans, Oliver Hellmuth-Pask, Jasper Goodall, Kian McNamara and Coach David Bennett. Front: Brock Larson, Zed Findlay, Noah Hollings and Cooper Bennett.



U14 Girls Rips runners up: Rachel (Coach), Ella, Milla, Olive, Marley, Kalani, Nyah, Frankie, Olivia and Evelyn.



U16 Boys: Back: Hope Oats (Asst coach), Jarrah Rutherford, Kai Opitz, Zane Larsson, Taj Piera and Abhiraj Sidhu. Front: Miller Sund, Flynn Riley, Harvey Oats, Kris Funslow (coach). Absent: Dexter Goodall and Ziggy Wagner.



U10 Girls: Back row: Kara Weston (TM), Tessa Larsson, Bonnie Robinson, Lana Milford-Robertson, Lacey Adams, Eden Parker and Narelle Lindner (Coach). Front row: Ruby Van, Aspen Rutter, Daisy Weston and Sadie Potter.



U16 Girls: Charlie, Piper, Ivy, Violet, Macy, Ella, Jaz (Coach). Ruby, Maddy, Hazel.



U12 Boys: Chris, Kensani, Wryker, Harry, Jordan, Jordan, Nate, Darcy, Lincoln and Bryce.



U12 Girls: Matilda, Ki Ki, Mila, Madelyn, Frankie, Macey, Bridget, Sophie, Millie and Eden.



U10 Boys MVP was awarded to Josh.



SGB swimmers Jarrah, Billy, Archie, Bec and Miah prepare for the 100m freestyle.

Times drop as temps rise

SWIMMING

The weather was hot, but the times were hotter for GSI 4 at Traralgon on the weekend as 245 swimmers from across Gippsland competed at the event with distances ranging from 50 to 400m.

Swimmers from East Gippsland, Sale, Traralgon, Morwell, Moe, Warragul and South Gippsland Bass all competed.

With several State Championships coming up in the next few months, the more experienced swimmers were swimming targeted events they wanted to get qualifying times for, with great excitement as they were ticked off, or when swimmers edged closer.

For many of the younger swimmers, who are still getting the hang of racing in the 50m pool, it was a good opportunity to see if they could improve their times from competing here a fortnight ago.

It was also great practice for the youngsters before next weekend's Country District Junior Championship at MSAC.

There are nearly 83 swimmers from Gippsland competing against other districts, trying to retain the title they have held since 1993.

The extra practice in the 50m events boosted their confidence and will help tame the nerves.

SGB Coach Lorri was thrilled with their efforts.

"I'm going to be down in Melbourne with the District kids and they are looking really good. I love seeing them get to race on the big stage like their teammates. They put in really good swims today and I look forward to seeing them at MSAC next week."

For many swimmers they were thrilled to improve on their times from last season and see how much they had progressed.

Results from the table

BRIDGE

This week's Monday afternoon session saw outstanding play from Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour, who secured first place with a remarkable 62.5 per cent over four and a half tables.

Wednesday afternoon's nationwide event echoed Monday's success, with

Greg and Jean once again leading the field over five and a half tables.

Their reliable teamwork has made them names to watch in club circles.

A new series of beginner lessons commences Thursday October 28 at 10am.

If you are keen to learn or brush up on the basics, please contact Caroline on 0418 369 557.

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Contact rhylltennis@gmail.com to register for the following:

Beginners Come and Try Sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout October from 10.30am to 11.30am.

PICKLE BALL ON THE ISLAND

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30-11.30am.

We encourage new players, they are welcome to come for 2 "come and try" sessions.

A casual fee applies thereafter although most join the club (\$70/yr October-October; currently \$35 for membership till October 2025).

We are able to give guidance, though no formal coaching available.

Enquires rhylltennisclub@gmail.com

Wednesday October 22 the club will be celebrating All Abilities Week with Come and Try for people with Hearing Impairment 10.30am to 11.30am.

For experienced players there are fixed times available if you are wanting a social game: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am - 12noon., Thursday Evening Social Game from 5pm - 6.30pm.

Rhyll Tennis Club now with Pickleball next to the Rhyll Hall, Lock Road, Rhyll.

play.tennis.com.au/rhylltennisclub



Rhyll Tennis Club is offering Pickleball Come and Try Sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays this month, and a special session for people with hearing impairment on October 22, as part of All Abilities Week.

Inaugural Interschool MTB Race at Newhaven

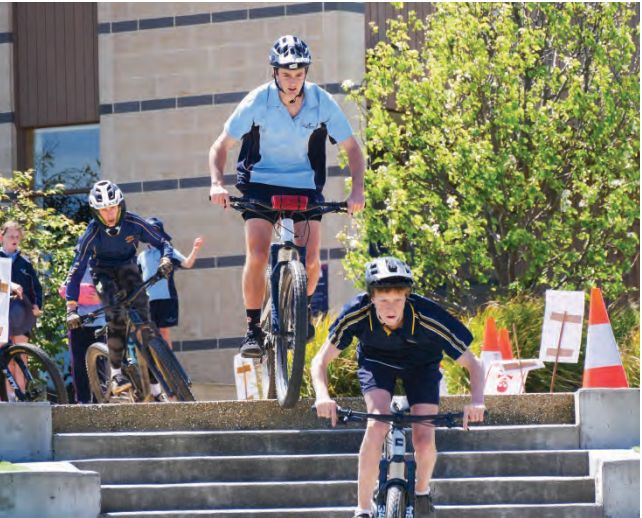
MOUNTAIN BIKE

On Tuesday October 14, five schools competed in the inaugural South East Independent Schools Association (SEISA) Mountain Bike Competition, at Newhaven College, with over 100 competitors riding.

Spectators cheered on the riders as they made their way around the grounds of the College, leaping over intermediate elements including jumps, drops, the Whale Tail and shooting through the Tunnel, a 40ft shipping container.

Utilising the home ground advantage, Newhaven College eventually collected finishing honours, placing in all of the age group categories.

A huge congratulations to Hamish



Riding down the stairs into Newhaven College's amphitheatre created quite a spectacle. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Dakers-Hock and Lucy Thompson, first in their respective competitions; with special mentions for Ryder Evans and Evie McCabe, who each placed second; and to Maxen Mills, Sophia Hardy and Fletcher Middleton, who each placed third.

On the green

GOLF

Tuesday, October 14

Men's 18H Comp Stroke Midweek Medal

Overall winner: John Jackson (32) 65.

A Grade winner: A-1 Anthony Shannon (10) 70.

A-2 winner: Daniel McConnon (10) 70.

B Grade winners: B-1 John Morvic (16) 69.

B-2 winner: Brenton O'Brien (14) 70.

C Grade winner: C-1 John Jackson (32) 65.

C-2 winner: Ray Jansson (20) 69.

BDL to 75 c/b.

NTP: 5th Ray Reid, 7th Paul Prendergast, 10th Peter Gray and 17th John Kneebone.

Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Vic Mitchell (13) 21 pts from Robert Pasoe (10) 19 pts c/b.

BDL to 15 pts c/b.

Wednesday, October 15

Women's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Shannon Trumper (28) 40 pts.

A Grade winner: Shannon Trumper (28) 40 pts.

B Grade winner: Judith Lawrence (30) 39 pts.

BDL to 37 pts c/b.

NTP: 5th Judy Davey, 7th Vicki Ramage and 10th Jan Daff.

Thursday, October 16

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Warren Dickie (20) 40 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Anthony Shannon (9) 39 pts.

A-2 winner: Mark Beaton (12) 35 pts c/b.

B Grade winners: B-1 Mike Fitzmaurice (19) 39 pts.

B-2 winner: Geoff Daff (14) 38 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Warren Dickie (20) 40 pts.

C-2 winner: John David Roberts (21) 39 pts c/b.

BDL to 35 pts c/b.

NTP: 5th Ken Wallace, 7th John David Roberts, 10th Scott Lethbridge and 17th Warren Barrat.

Open 9H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Ian Bray (15) 22 pts c/b from Lou Poortier (19) 22 pts.

BDL to 17 pts c/b.

Saturday, October 18

Men's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Gab Caffieri (26) 45 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Ben Walsh (7) 42 pts.

A-2 winner: Travis Johnson (10) 39 pts c/b.

B Grade winner: B-1 Greg Hyndman (16) 42 pts.

Red Rocks Golf

Saturday, October 18 Stableford

Winner: Kathryn Reese (29) 35 points C/B.

2nd place: Terry Fox (13) 35 points.

3rd place: Rob Stead (10) 34 points.

NTP: Hole 9 Ray Po-bjoy, Hole 17 Kathryn Reese.

Sunday, October 19 Par

Winner: Ian Murray (16) -2.

2nd place: Alan Smith (13) -4 C/B.

3rd place: Rob Stead (12) -4 C/B.

NTP: Hole 5 Alan Smith, Hole 10 Ray Po-bjoy.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 22 OCT	THU 23 OCT	FRI 24 OCT	SAT 25 OCT	SUN 26 OCT	MON 27 OCT	TUE 28 OCT
HIGH 2:20 am 2.73 m	HIGH 3:06 am 2.88 m	HIGH 3:45 am 2.99 m	HIGH 4:20 am 3.05 m	HIGH 4:54 am 3.06 m	HIGH 5:27 am 3.04 m	HIGH 6:00 am 2.99 m
LOW 8:03 am 1.08 m	LOW 8:51 am 1.03 m	LOW 9:30 am 0.99 m	LOW 10:05 am 0.97 m	LOW 10:38 am 0.97 m	LOW 11:09 am 0.98 m	LOW 11:40 am 1.01 m
HIGH 2:15 pm 2.52 m	HIGH 2:56 pm 2.56 m	HIGH 3:29 pm 2.60 m	HIGH 4:00 pm 2.63 m	HIGH 4:32 pm 2.65 m	HIGH 5:04 pm 2.65 m	HIGH 5:37 pm 2.62 m
LOW 8:08 pm 0.68 m	LOW 8:47 pm 0.57 m	LOW 9:22 pm 0.49 m	LOW 9:57 pm 0.45 m	LOW 10:30 pm 0.44 m	LOW 11:02 pm 0.46 m	LOW 11:35 pm 0.51 m

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Bang Bang Cup 2025 — Back with a bang!

SURFING

The Bang Bang Bar and Food Cup is back for round two – and it's shaping up to be another classic Phillip Island Board riders showdown.

After last year's epic debut, the season opener will once again bring together mateship, banter, and bragging rights in a fun tag-team format that's all about keeping the stoke alive.

The action kicks off with the sign-up night at Bang Bang Bar and Food on Saturday October 25, with DJ Lachie Eastwood on the decks from 6pm and team announcements at 8pm.

Ten percent of all takings from the night will go directly towards the club's World Cup and ABB campaigns, so get down early, grab a feed and a drink, and get your name on a team.

At the content on October 26, teams will follow the ABB-style format, with groms stepping up as team captains and co-captains, and each team nominating a power surfer.

To keep things fun and family-friendly, there'll be one parent assist per team. Each team will proudly carry the name of one of the club's financial sponsors, celebrating the local businesses that keep the surf scene thriving.

"A huge thanks to Bang Bang Bar and Food for backing the



The Bang Bang Bar and Food Cup is back, kicking off with a sign up night on October 25 from 6pm. Funds raised on the night will also go towards the Boardriders World Cup and ABB campaigns.

event again, and to Quiksilver, who've jumped on board as prize sponsors this year," said Boardriders President Jake Eison.

"Expect a massive raffle on the Saturday night, with a brand-new surfboard as the major prize, plus Quiksilver gear and Island Surfboards vouchers up for grabs."

Pat O'Garey from Bang Bang Bar and Food said the team was pumped to be involved again.

"Last year's event had such

an unreal vibe — good people, good tunes, and great surfing," said Pat.

"We're stoked to get behind it again and help kick off the new season with a bang."

"How good the crew have qualified for the World Cup and Australian Boardriders Battle next year. We're looking forward to seeing the crew smash it on the big screen here next year at our unofficial PIBC clubroom Bang Bang Bar and Food."

PIFNC recognised for sustainability leadership

FOOTBALL

A huge congratulations to the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, who were recognised at the AFL Victoria Community Awards Night last Friday, taking home Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme Sustainability Award.

This honour celebrates an incredible initiative led by Jess Gislingham, a much-loved member of the club, who has combined his love of footy with a deep passion for sustainability.

In his role as the club's very own "Can-Man", Jess collects cans and bottles from home games and recycles them through the Container Deposit Scheme and every single one of the 57,700 cans deposited so far has been collected and sorted by Jess himself.

All funds raised go directly back into the club, helping to purchase new equipment and resources while reducing waste and promoting a cleaner, greener community footprint for the island.

Jess' dedication was also recognised last year when he was named Club Person of the Year,



Jess Gislingham proudly accepting the AFL Vic Sustainability Award.

a testament to his ongoing commitment and community spirit.

Twice a week, Jess and his dad visit the club to collect, clean and deposit bottles and cans ensuring the grounds remain tidy, welcoming, and vibrant.

Thanks to his tireless efforts, funds raised are now helping to purchase a defibrillator for the

netball courts, a vital piece of equipment that will benefit players and the wider community alike.

Congratulations to Jess and the entire Phillip Island Football Netball Club team on this well-deserved recognition and for leading the way in community sustainability across Victoria.

Spring Comp wrap-up

DARTS

Monday night saw 23 keen darters hit the oche for Round 6 of the Spring Competition and what a night it was.

With matches spread across three boards, the competition was fierce and the atmosphere electric.

After some tight battles, the winning team was decided on a countback, taking out the night 5-2.

Congratulations to Team Marilyn made up of captain

Marilyn, John B, Dave Healey and Pete Murphy for their excellent teamwork and steady darts throughout the evening.

The San Remo Butchers meat tray was snapped up by the hard-working treasurer, Meredith a well-deserved and well-earned win.

On the leaderboard, Bob Hee continues to hold firm at the top with 41 points, followed closely by Paul Gleeson on 39 and Dave Healey just behind on 36.

The race is heating up as we move into the second half

of the season.

Special mention this week goes to Diane Holmes, who threw an impressive 160 and Vince Palladino for a brilliant 156, outstanding darts from both.

The league plans to run the Spring Comp through until the end of November, provided we continue to get strong weekly numbers.

So, if you've been thinking about joining in or know someone who might be keen, come along as everyone's welcome.

See you all next Monday for another great night of darts, laughs and friendly competition at the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League.



PIDCC Women's match, debutants (from left): Matilda Patton, Georgia Niven and Maya Womersley.

Grand Final rematch

CRICKET

Phillip Island Women's cricket team headed to Leongatha on Sunday to face off against Koonwarra for a Round 1 Grand Final rematch.

The Island welcomed three debutants for their first match: Georgia Niven, Maya Womersley and Matilda Patton.

Island opened the batting and set a competitive target, which was defended well but was chased down in the final overs.

Final scores PI 4/109 Koon-

warra 6/125. Jess Reed top scored with 27 runs.

A big congratulations to Georgia Niven for being the San Remo Hotel Player of the Match for taking a wicket and hitting a boundary in her first game.

Phillip Island Women's team is still looking for players this season.

Beginners welcome, join us at training on Tuesday and Thursdays at the Cowes nets from 5.15pm. Next match is against Inverloch on November 16. Let's go girls!



Winners of Midweek bowls were Bill Sheriff (Skip), Peter Thorley (Lead), John Kappler (2nd) and Steve Muhi (3rd).

Midweek at San Remo

BOWLS

Midweek bowlers attended the weekly gathering of the South West Gippsland Bowls Group at San Remo on Thursday, October 16.

Hosts John Nicholson and Rob Jeffrey signed everyone in for the day while Vern and Bev Elliott organised the teams.

Treasurer Peter McWilliams along with his wife Pauline was warmly welcomed back after a long illness-related absence.

Once the teams were set, everyone quickly moved out onto the green to be greeted by the first very warm day of the season.

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

A few 'wrong bias' bowls frustrated some and amused others but, more importantly, added to the donations for the RCH tin.

After a competitive day of bowls, winners on a very good score of 38 were Bill Sheriff (Skip), Peter Thorley (Lead), John Kappler (2nd) and Steve

Muhi (3rd).

Runners-Up on 37 were Louie Magri (Skip), Claire Sheers (3rd), Maggie Prosser (Lead) and Mick Sheers (2nd).

Best One Game winners on a score of 20 were John Nicholson (Skip), Luke Monckton (3rd), Steve Banks (Lead) and Derek Fenn (2nd).

A big thank you goes out to Mark Andreatta and Mick Sheers for their hard work behind the bar and to everyone who pitched in to set up the green and kitchen.

At the end of the day thanks to those who helped clean up.

On Thursday October 23 the group meets at Koo Wee Rup for another week of friendly competition.

Everyone is welcome but please be on-site by 10am sharp to allow enough time to organise the teams.

Since the numbers are consistently near the capacity of 56, a strict 10am cut-off time will be enforced.

For euchre results, visit pisra.com.au/sport



C grade cricketers (from left): Mick Cleary 57 not out, Steve Lock got his first PIDCC wicket, Ollie Hodson 52 and Damien Holmes 54 not out.

C Grade Sharks smash OMK with 93-run win

CRICKET

C Grade

KL landscaping had Royal Rhyll looking a treat for Saturday's C Grade game against OMK.

Cleary has hit form winning his second coin toss in a row, and elected to bat.

Hodson and Francis opened the batting, both in their first game of the season.

From the outset the lads took the shine off the ball whilst steadily building a solid opening stand.

The partnership was broken when Francis was caught for 31.

Holmes joined Hodson and they got through to drinks, 1/80. Hodson went caught behind shortly after for a well-made 52.

Parry hit some big shots before he was bowled for 14.

Cleary joined Holmes in the middle and the pair set about ramping up the run rate.

Cleary hit 31 off the first 11 balls he faced, as people moved cars, pets and small children to safer cover as the ball was flying everywhere.

Holmes cleared the pickets and the pair carved up the attack, putting on a 93-run partnership.

Holmes finished on a run a ball 54 not out and Cleary on 57 off 31, getting the Sharks to 3/227.

The Sharks provided a top shelf spread for lunch, covering all the major food groups, then headed out to field and defend their total.

Sonny Mac and Jacko Allan opened the bowling and Jacko stuck first when Bud Marshall took an outstanding catch at square leg.

Jacko backed it up getting a second wicket when Holmes took a catch.

Bud Marshall took another great catch giving Holmes a wicket and OMK got to drinks 3/60.

Parry took a screamer at point just after the break to remove OMK's most dangerous batsman, putting the Sharks right on top.

Mani and Marshall bowled without any luck, whilst Steve Lock got his first senior wicket for PIDCC when he took the middle stump of the OMK skipper, sending the stands into rapture.

OMK batted out the innings and ended on 5/134, giving the Sharks a 93-run victory.

A comprehensive win and a great all round team performance.

A Grade

With the sound of bikes roaring around the island, the Sharks welcomed Imperials to the Shark Tank on Saturday, determined to make it back-to-back wins.

Captain Daniel Mock won the toss and again elected to bowl first, backing his young side to settle into the contest with the ball in hand.

The tone was set early when a sharp piece of fielding from returning youngster Brodie Johnson produced a run-out in just the second over.

The Sharks' ground fielding was again a feature, continuing their relentless pressure from the week before.

McCausland struck soon after, thanks to a sharp gully catch by Tom Niven, leaving Imps in trouble at 2/19.

A steady 40-run partnership helped Imperials regain some control before a rocket throw from the boundary by Jobe Williams removed McLennan for 25.

Tom Niven was then introduced to the attack and made an immediate impact, finding the edge of the Imps captain to reduce them to 4/72.

McCausland picked up his second shortly after, with the visitors 5 down at 106.

Tight death bowling from Williams, Tom Niven and Tim Niven ensured Imperials were restricted to 8/148 from their 40 overs.

Tom finished with outstanding figures of 2/19 from seven overs, while McCausland was equally impressive with 2/24 from eight.

Chasing 149 for victory, the

Sharks made a steady start before Kurt Lane fell for 10.

Recently promoted youngster Max Arceo and Heath Womersley then steadied the innings, rotating the strike well and keeping the scoreboard ticking at around three runs an over.

Womersley was run out for 17 with the score on 2/54, but Arceo continued to build nicely.

A towering six over fine leg saw Arceo lift the scoring rate and when captain Mock joined him at the crease, the pair looked in complete control.

Mock found the boundary with ease, racing past 50, while Arceo anchored the innings.

At the 20-over drinks break the Sharks were well placed at 2/75, and they never looked back.

Arceo eventually fell for a well-made 32 from 78 balls with the score on 130, but Mock and Tom Niven guided the side home comfortably with nine overs to spare.

Mock finished on a brilliant 77 not out from just 54 deliveries, peppering the boundary 16 times in a commanding captain's knock.

The Sharks' seven-wicket win makes it two in a row for the "Baby Sharks," who will be aiming to extend their winning streak to three when they face OMK this week.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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