

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

# ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

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Newhaven College celebrated the end of the school year for the current Year 12 students. Coco Hosken, Jasmin Sullivan and Elle Douglas made quite a splash at the activities which included muck up day dress-ups and commando games. Read more on page 10.

## New residential village approved for Cowes west

A new \$14 million residential village in Cowes has been approved by Bass Coast Shire councillors after the developers compromised on the number of units.

In August councillors voted against the 277-lot village at 299-325 Church Street, stretching from Settlement Road to Justice Road, which was described at the time by Cr Ronnie Bauer as a "sardine can" and by Cr Rochelle Halstead as a "glorified trailer park".

However the village was approved at the October council meeting after a reduction in units by 21 to 256.

Cr Bauer last week said he now supported the village following an invitation by the developers to tour a similar retirement village near North Clyde.

He said during the tour he spoke to some of the residents, "who spoke warmly about living there", and visited other residents not on the "official tour".

"What really impressed me was they were very happy with the management, the programs that were

being offered and the staff of the village," Cr Bauer said.

"As I said originally, I am not against this project. I recognise there is a need and a desire for this type of retirement village. My objection was to the number of units being crammed into the site.

"I am pleased the operators are working with council, but believe a maximum of 256 dwellings is a fair compromise."

He said this cap on the number of dwellings allowed for no "wriggle room" and removed any discrepancies.

Cr Halstead said she also took part in the tour of the village and "was lucky enough to speak with and witness residents enjoying the facilities", adding the village "felt safe, well designed and well maintained".

"The applicant has incorporated more open space in the plans and there does not appear to be any breaches to the planning regulations," Cr Halstead said.

"Council needs to provide diversity in housing and with the ap-

plicant's willingness to work with council to negotiate a better outcome I am satisfied my initial concerns have been addressed."

She said the 256 cap also addressed her concerns around over development.

Objectors lodged 15 submissions opposing the plans, arguing the proposed entrance on Settlement Road would affect the amenity of dwellings opposite, as well as concerns about loss of open space and strain on Cowes' infrastructure.

Cr Bruce Kent said he had been contacted by some of the objectors asking for the new plans.

"I'm satisfied the internal changes are improvements and do not make any difference to the objectors," Cr Kent said.

### Affordable

The units will be sold on a "land lease housing purchase model" with a 90-year lease, promoted as affordable housing with a median price of \$498,000.

Planners recommended coun-

cillors approve the development because it would provide new, affordable housing stock of a "quality greater than a caravan park".

The planning permit also allows for the removal of vegetation on the 12-hectare property, which currently has nearly 3340 trees.

Cr David Rooks supported the development saying it met demand, would free up houses in the rest of the community and it was in the town boundaries and so needed to be higher density.

"As people get older they require less. I know as I get older I don't want to live on this five acres," Cr Rooks added of his own property.

He said the developers were planning to build infrastructure including a clubhouse with a kitchen, cinema, gym, library, shared tool supply and pool, with outdoor facilities including barbecues, bowls and croquet, outdoor pool, and a pickle ball court.

The development will include a communal electric vehicle, a community bus, electric bicycle and EV

charging stations.

It will be net zero energy use, with a combined solar PV system of about 350kW, and battery storage, with combined green energy.



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 SHOWERS	 SHOWER INCREASING	 SHOWERS	 SHOWER OR TWO	 SHOWER OR TWO	 SHOWER OR TWO	 SHOWER OR TWO
14 19	13 19	11 16	11 17	11 19	11 14	9 13

# Hoodies need our help

Bass Coast Shire Council, Parks Victoria and Birdlife Australia have all issued pleas to help the Hooded Plovers during their breeding season.

Bass Coast Shire Council said the tiny birds, affectionately referred to as Hoodies, have begun nesting and laying eggs around the Bass Coast and they need our help to support a successful breeding season.

"These plovers are beach-nesting birds and are a threatened species in Victoria. Their breeding season is over spring and summer," a council release said.

"They lay their eggs in shallow nests or 'scrapes' in the sand which can be hard to see, as they line them with seaweed and shells. They lay three eggs and the incubation period for them is around 30 days. They forage at all levels of the beach on a variety of foods."

Council said we can all help hooded plovers by:

- Keeping dogs on a leash. Getting too close to Hooded Plovers will cause them to leave their nest, leaving the eggs exposed
  - Avoiding beaches that are known to be used for breeding
  - Obeying signage and barriers put up for the protection of the birds and making sure to give them a wide berth
  - Walking close to the water's edge
  - Consider joining a local volunteer group dedicated to helping these birds
- Report any incidents to 1300 BCOAST (226 278).



Bass Coast Shire Council, Parks Victoria and Birdlife Australia have all issued pleas to help keep the Hooded Plovers safe during their breeding season.

## Operation SoHo

Meanwhile the Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria and Birdlife Australia have joined forces for the second year running for Operation Save our Hoodies (SoHo), asking Victorians to take note of rules around local hooded plover nests and to give the birds plenty of space.

Conservation Regulator and Parks Victoria Authorised Officers are patrolling beaches in Phillip Island, as well as Cape Paterson, Inverloch, and Waratah Bay to protect the threatened species.

Birdlife Australia volunteers also have a presence at beaches to raise awareness of how beach users can help the plight of beach-nesting birds.

The timing and locations of these patrols will be based on data provided by BirdLife Australia, which coordinates the monitoring of Hooded Plovers along Victoria's coastline.

In 2021-22, as part of the inaugural Operation Save Our Hoodies (SoHo) Authorised Officers conducted more than 150 patrols along the coast, engaging with 900 people and issuing 44 infringement notices for various offences, including dogs off lead in National Parks.

The Conservation Regulator investigates reports of any people or animals harassing Hooded Plovers. Reports can be made to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

# Get your overseas Christmas mail ready

International sending dates are fast approaching ahead of a busy festive season.

Australia Post has announced the need-to-know dates for more than 180 international destinations to help Australians sending Christmas cards and presents to loved ones overseas.

For Economy Air, many destinations require cards and gifts to be sent as early as November 14 but for International Standard and Express there is more time. If posting with International Express, some popular destinations like the USA, the UK, New Zealand and Canada should be sent by December 9.

Recommended last sending dates for posting within Australia will be released in the coming weeks.

Australia Post Executive General Manager, Customer and Commercial Gary Starr said Australia Post had worked closely with international carriers to provide as much notice

as possible so Australians give their cards and gifts the best chance of reaching loved ones in time for the big day.

"We know our last sending dates provide an important guide for people in the lead up to Christmas and we've been preparing all year for another busy peak season to ensure things run as smoothly as possible," Mr Starr said.

"For anyone who wants to send internationally for Christmas this year, we're encouraging them to visit our website and post by the dates advised."

International sending dates vary depending on destination and may be affected by factors beyond Australia Post's control including customs delays and overseas postal disruptions.

Customers are encouraged to stay up to date by visiting [auspost.com.au/christmas](http://auspost.com.au/christmas) and searching by destination country for more information.

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Trees will also be available for sale at the Scout Hall on the following days:

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Delivery is available both on the island and to San Remo.

We would like to thank the community for their ongoing support for Phillip Island Scout Group.

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# Future of Smiths Beach camp uncertain; war veterans to benefit

A five-hectare Smiths Beach camp could be sold and the multi-million-dollar proceeds distributed to war veterans, under a surprise plan proposed to the state government.

The proposal, however, could become a legal battle with the rights to the land currently challenged.

In the wake of the challenge, the managers of the Phillip Island Coastal Discovery Camp last week confirmed a \$6 million redevelopment – approved by Bass Coast Shire in 2016 – will not go ahead, and the property has been closed to the public.

The camp – on Marlin Street – has a complicated history.

In 1949 the Melbourne Young Christian Workers (YCW) created a patriotic fund to finance the camp for the benefit of ex-service-

men who were YCW members, with the camp opened by Archbishop Daniel Mannix in 1952.

The camp was managed by the Melbourne YCW until 1983, when it came under a corporate trustee – the YCW Camp Committee Patriotic Fund Inc – regulated by a trust under the Veterans Act through Consumer Affairs Victoria.

A retired barrister and former YCW member is now challenging the rights to the camp property on behalf of war veterans.

## Beneficiaries

Former barrister Brian Lawrence said because the land belonged to a patriotic fund, the assets must be used to benefit veterans and their dependants – including from the Vietnam war – in accordance with the Veterans Act.

Yet, Mr Lawrence said, “no benefit has been provided to them”.

“They have been overlooked for about five decades,” he said.

“Despite the veterans having had those rights for about 50 years, the trustee of the fund (YCW Camp Committee Patriotic Fund) has not provided one dollar in benefits to those veterans.”

Mr Lawrence said the camp was no longer fit for the purpose it was established for and should be sold and the funds distributed in three ways.

“First, an amount to provide for the reasonable needs of the surviving beneficiaries.

“Second, an amount for Melbourne Legacy, which provides support for the dependents of deceased veterans.

“And third, an amount to be paid to a new patriotic fund called the Daniel Mannix Veterans Support Fund.”

He said the Mannix fund would support veterans, regardless of religious affiliation, who were suffering mental and physical illnesses because of military service.

Mr Lawrence – together with former YCW members – have created a beneficiaries’ support group and last month contacted 200 Mel-



Smiths Beach residents have questioned why the proposed \$6 million rebuild of the camp at the end of Marlin Street has not gone ahead.

bourne church parishes in a bid to track down veterans who were former YCW members.

“If we can locate them, they may have a chance to benefit from the fund established for their benefit, albeit the benefit will come some five decades too late,” he said, adding there could be about 500 beneficiaries.

## Trustee

The YCW Camp Committee Patriotic Fund last week provided a statement to the Advertiser explaining the camp was closed and the current managers, the YMCA, were providing a caretaker to maintain the property.

The statement said the purpose of the patriotic fund in 1949 – “which remains the same today” – was to raise funds to establish and maintain a YCW holiday camp for use by YCW returned servicemen, the sons of deceased servicemen and the sons of ex-

servicemen.

“This does not restrict other YCW members who undertook subsequent service from being eligible to make use of the facilities,” the statement said.

“The Patriotic Fund committee is currently engaging with the state government regulator for Patriotic Funds (Consumer Affairs) to determine the best future use of the asset at Phillip Island, while taking into account the needs of veteran beneficiaries.”

## Consumer Affairs

A spokesperson for Consumer Affairs last week did not answer many of the Advertiser’s questions, instead providing a basic response stating because the land belonged to a patriotic fund the assets must be used to benefit veterans and their dependants, according to the Veterans Act.

*Continued page 4*

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# Future of Smiths Beach camp uncertain; war veterans to benefit

Continued from page 3

“Consumer Affairs Victoria has continued to liaise with the trustees of the patriotic fund,” the spokesperson said.

“CAV understands the trustees are considering their options regarding use of the land.”

FOI

Mr Lawrence said it was only because he carried out a Freedom of Information request last year that he became aware of who should benefit from the patriotic fund trust.

He said the beneficiaries support group had requested a meeting with the YCW Camp Committee to discuss how veterans could benefit, but the invitation was declined, saying they were not obliged to meet.

“The trustee is stonewalling. We have communication but it’s meaningless,” Mr Lawrence said.

Mr Lawrence said while the issue could end up in court, legal proceedings could be avoided if all parties met to negotiate “how best to provide benefits to veterans”, “if necessary through a mediator”.

He added “sooner or later” the trustee had to abide by their legal requirements and benefit veterans.

“I think veterans, especially from the Vietnam era, have been neglected for too long and this is another example of neglect.

“Given they are now in their 70s it’s important for a quick resolution of this matter.

“This will make a difference to veterans. They will have support in their remaining years and it also gives them an opportunity to be engaged with the proceeds of funds from the sale of the asset to benefit other veterans.”

Mr Lawrence said he would gain no personal profit and was providing his services for free, also working pro bono with Bill O’Shea, a former Hawthorn YCW parish president and former Law Institute of Victoria president.



The planned 91-apartment complex is within the shire’s recommended height limit for the former Warley hospital site, at five-storeys.

# \$25 million Warley plans released

Plans for a \$25 million, five-storey, 91-apartment development on the old Warley hospital site in Cowes are now out for public comment.

According to the plans, lodged with the Bass Coast Shire, construction on the 4100m<sup>2</sup> vacant land at 6-12 Warley Avenue will include two five-storey apartment buildings, above a basement and mezzanine carpark, with a total footprint of 4050m<sup>2</sup>.

The maximum overall height will be 16.2 metres, with an alfresco lobby between the two buildings, and an arched canopy overhead.

More than 70 trees will be planted. “The architectural expression will distinguish itself as a leading example of residential development within Phillip Island and the Bass Coast,” the permit states.

There will be 15 one-bedroom apartments, 62 x two-bedroom, and 14 x three-bedroom, with 117 car spaces and a shortfall of six parks for visitors.

“The provision of carparking along the frontage will more than accommodate the visitor requirement while also resulting in

supply for public use,” it states.

## Traffic, height

A traffic survey was carried out on Chapel Street, Warley and Thompson avenues on March 4 this year, between 6.30am and 9.30am, and 4pm and 7pm; and the following day.

The results modelled there will be 546 vehicle trips per day, or about 55 trips per hour during peak periods, equal to one vehicle trip every minute.

“This amount of traffic is considered very low, and is expected to be easily absorbed into the surrounding road network,” according to the permit.

The land is in the residential growth zone. “Cowes is undergoing a significant level of development which will ultimately contribute to achieving the strategic goal of becoming a key tourist destination in Bass Coast.”

The permit says other key developments in Cowes include the Isle of Wight site which will have a multi-storey 180 key hotel with conference and wellness centre.

Others include: 77 Chapel Street, a three-storey residential building with ground floor retail tenancies; and 46-48 Chapel Street (on the corner of Findlay Street), a five-storey apartment building with ground floor commercial tenancies.

The building includes some environmental elements such as reuse of rainwater and energy efficiency.

Under the 2015 Cowes Activity Centre plan, any development on the Warley site could be built to seven storeys, or 23 metres.

However, an amendment to the planning scheme was debated by an independent Victorian Planning Panel in Cowes in 2018.

The panel handed down a report that recommended a maximum five storeys for Warley – and seven storeys at the Isle of Wight – and also supported the public’s right to challenge developments on Cowes’ two iconic land sites.

## Developer

Earlier this year Samuel Property managing director Illan Samuel told the Advertiser he understood the importance of the site to the community and was open to ideas on how to give a nod to its hospital past.

“I would be interested if the community led this rather than me. I don’t think I have the right to lead the discussion but I’m open to a discussion,” Illan said.

Illan has worked in Melbourne’s property industry for 20 years, starting out as a property valuer and 13 years ago starting with the family business as a property developer.

Samuel Property has built 15 projects, the most recent being their largest: a 98-apartment, 16 level building near St Kilda Road.

Most projects have been residential, including a subdivision in Somers and Dromana on the Mornington Peninsula.

He said had visited Phillip Island as a tourist for many years, saying it appealed not only because it was a “beautiful location” but because it had undergone a change in demographics and the real estate market had boomed.

Illan said he was coincidentally friends with the developer of the Isle of Wight site, Ed Farquharson, living near each other in Melbourne, with children the same age.

Designed by Bruce Henderson Architects, Illan said the building was “coastal contemporary” and featured a bagged brick light render.

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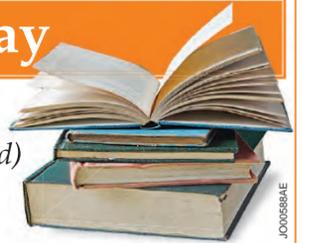
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# Wildlife Coast Cruises to victory



The team from Wildlife Coast Cruises were thrilled with their three awards, which included being named the Bass Coast Business of the Year.

Local businesses were celebrated at the annual Bass Coast Business Awards last week, with Phillip Island's Wildlife Coast Cruises named Business of the Year.

Businesses from the island and San Remo dominated the Business Awards, winning five of the six categories.

As well as winning the Business of the Year, Wildlife Coast Cruises also won the Environmental Sustainability Award and the People's Choice Accommodation and Tourism Award.

The business is proud of reducing its environmental impact as it showcases tourists our Australian Fur Seals, migrating whales, dolphins and coastal birdlife.

The judges said the tourism business was not only making amazing progress in terms of its own sustainability practices, but sharing and assisting the community, as well as other businesses.

"It is a true sustainability leader in the business sector," they said.

Brinnie T Design won the Access, Equity and Inclusion award, while Balance Health picked up the Resilience Award.

San Remo's Terralab won Business Innovation category and Cape Woolamai's Connect

2 Electrical Services picked up the Marketing and Communications Award.

Lioness Fit of Cowes was the People's Choice for Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle.

Grantville's Sunscape Solar and Bass Coast Boats and Caravan Storage both picked up People's Choice Awards.

This year the community's participation in voting for their favourite local businesses was one of the highest it has been in the awards' 15-year history. There were 61 entrants in the judged awards and over 100 local businesses received 1192 votes in the People's Choice Awards.

The Awards were announced at a presentation dinner at Silverwater Resort in San Remo on Friday 21 October attended by 170 people.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Michael Whelan congratulated all the winners and finalists.

"The past couple of years have been very challenging for all businesses and we are privileged in our community to have such innovative, resilient and successful businesses," Cr Whelan said.

"Through sheer hard work, commitment to customers and passion our local businesses are succeeding and doing us all proud."

## 2022 Business Award Winners

Business of the Year sponsored by Bass Coast Shire Council	Wildlife Coast Cruises
Access, Equity and Inclusion sponsored by Westernport Water	Winner: Brinnie T Design. Runner up: Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre.
Environmental Sustainability sponsored by Harman Wines	Winner: Wildlife Coast Cruises. Runner up: Bass Strait Direct, The Only Straw and French Island Cottage.
Resilience sponsored by Bass Coast Shire Council	Winner: Balance Health Phillip Island. Runner up: My 24/7 Gym and VORTEX Surf Skate Snow.
Business Innovation sponsored by NBN Local – Gippsland	Winner: Terralab. Runner up: Wattle Bank Farm.
Leadership sponsored by Silverwater Resort	Winner: Maru Koala and Animal Park. Runner up: Sunscape Solar.
Marketing and Communications sponsored by Destination Phillip Island	Winner: Connect2 Electrical Solutions. Runner up: Bass Coast Boat and Caravan Storage.

## 2022 People's Choice Award Winners sponsored by Bass Coast Shire Council

Accommodation and Tourism Attraction	Winner: Wildlife Coast Cruises. Runner up: NRMA Phillip Island Beachfront Holiday Park.
Food and Beverage	Winner: Harman Wines. Runner up: Mon Dieu.
Hair and Beauty	Winner: Hair by Sarah Azzato. Runner up: Hair by Karra.
Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle	Winner: Lioness Fit. Runner up: Wonthaggi Allied Health.
Online, Mobile and Home-based Business	Winner: Gippy Organics. Runner up: Graham Lyle Insurance.
Retail and Services	Winner: Bass Coast Boat and Caravan Storage. Runner up: Bass Strait Direct.
Trades and Services	Winner: Sunscape Solar. Runner up: Connect 2 Electrical.

The Awards are sponsored by Destination Phillip Island, NBN Co., Silverwater Resort, Westernport Water and Harman Wines.

The Award judges were Kim Storey, Heidi Hamm, Rebecca Massaro, Andrea Evans-McCall, Marcus McKenzie, Peter Clayton and

Paul Drew with the support of Jayne Simpson.

For more information on the 2022 Bass Coast Business Awards finalists visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/business/bass-coast-business-awards](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/business/bass-coast-business-awards)

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Bass Coast Health's Community Advisory Committee members and staff review wayfinding in the second floor corridor of the Wonthaggi Hospital Expansion that leads to the linkway. In this corridor, there is a large photo of the famous trestle bridge at Kilcunda. From left: Lynne Winterburn, Paulette Burt, Vicki Riley, Joyce Ball, Louise Sparkes, Hilary Kerrison and Gill Scrase.

## Community informs wayfinding at Wonthaggi Hospital Expansion

When the Wonthaggi Hospital Expansion (WHE) opens to the community in December, Bass Coast Health (BCH) is proud to say consumers will be able to find their way around the new facility with ease.

Signs are installed at strategic locations, directing consumers to the service they need. Everyone can take heart in knowing the signs have been tested by fellow community members, who have been an integral part of the planning and design of the expansion.

Community members and consumers have spent hours working on the WHE and their input has been beneficial in all aspects of the design, from colour palettes to model of care and carparking.

This week the valued members of BCH's Community Advisory Committee spent several hours with Lou Sparkes, BCH Executive Director WHE Commissioning and Lynne Winterburn, BCH Director Support Services to provide valuable input into wayfinding at the WHE, internally and externally.

They toured all floors of the WHE and inspected signage in the Emergency Department, Theatre and the Surgical Ward. CAC members also inspected the carpark and external buildings to provide feedback to improve BCH's wayfinding strategy.

"As always, they came up with fantastic ideas and gave a great perspective as community members and users of the service. We are so lucky to have them on our team at BCH," Ms Sparkes said.

The WHE will include large photographs showing local icons, such as the famous trestle bridge at Kilcunda and coal mining scenes, as well as Indigenous artwork, to celebrate the Bass Coast's rich heritage and BCH's pride in being part of the local community.

Everyone will be invited to a community open day to celebrate the opening of the WHE, with tours and more. Stay tuned for more information.

/ Sponsored Article /

## Jobs EXPO a great success

The Bass Coast-Gippsland Jobs Expo held at St Philip's Church hall last Tuesday proved to be a great success for Paul Mannix, General Manager at the San Remo Fishermen's Co-Operative, and others in attendance.

By mid-morning, Paul had already met, employed and organised shifts for two job seekers, both retirees seeking permanent part time work, and was in discussion with others about a job at the Co-op.

Paul said that currently, finding staff is a problem affecting most businesses in the district, and the Expo was a great way of connecting employers with job seekers.

The aim of the Expo was to connect local employers and prospective employees in a friendly environment, and to exhibit to job seekers the diverse range of employment opportunities that exist in the region.

Attendees had the chance to talk face-to-face with exhibitors about available positions, and also about apprenticeships and careers pathways in Bass Coast and the surrounding area.

Paul said the informal atmosphere at the Expo was friendly and positive, and provided a great forum where employers and job seekers could meet one another.

He said as well as the two new staff members he signed up that morning, he needed at least another six staff members, to fill casual

summer shifts as well as more permanent positions.

"Not only young people but able-bodied retirees have come along today. We are pleased to welcome retirees to our team. They are able to choose the hours they work to fit in with any pension benefits they may be on."

Michael Dixon, from AGA Apprenticeship Plus, who connects employers with young people seeking apprenticeships and training was a wealth of information, for both employers at the Expo thinking about taking on an apprentice, and young people who are considering their options at the end of the 2022 school year.

Employment support and training to young people throughout their apprenticeship period is provided by Michael. Apprentices generally complete a Certificate III as part of their apprenticeship, and this also organised by him. Jo Dixon, Mas National Business Consultant, was also able to provide Australian Apprenticeship Support information.

Simone Sturges visited the Expo to check out employment opportunities as she prepares to return to the workforce, and was extremely impressed with the information and opportunities presented.

The Expo was run by Bass Coast Shire Council in conjunction with the Australian Government's Local Jobs Program (LJP).



At the Bass Coast-Gippsland Jobs Expo held at St Philip's Church hall last Tuesday are from left Lauren Van Strip, Owen Chapman (TAFE Gippsland), Angela Tumina (Work Force Australia Support Officer), Josh, Paul Mannix (General Manager San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op) and Jo Dixon (Mas National, Business Consultant).



## Bass Coast Health invites everyone to our Community Forums

Join us for an opportunity to hear about:

- The \$115m Wonthaggi Hospital Expansion
- The Phillip Island Community Hospital
- Our growing services

Thursday, October 27 ..... Inverloch Community Hub, 5.30pm-7pm

Friday, October 28 ..... Newhaven Yacht Squadron, 10am-11.30am

Proudly supported by our Community Advisory Committee, Auxiliaries and PIMHAG

RSVP to register. Phone 0459 068 719

book online at [basscoasthealth.org.au/roadshows](https://www.basscoasthealth.org.au/roadshows)

or email: [publicrelations@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:publicrelations@basscoasthealth.org.au)



## Volunteer with Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is proudly supported by more than 200 volunteers who help to enhance our services to deliver positive health outcomes.

As a Bass Coast Health volunteer, you will help to support staff, visitors, patients, families and carers while engaging in volunteer forums and making a valued contribution to our community.

### We currently have roles in our

- Concierge Service
- Transport Driving
- Residential Care
- Gardening Program
- Pet Therapy Program
- Car Washing



To learn more or become a volunteer, call our Volunteer Support Team on 5671 3372 or check out our website:

<https://www.basscoasthealth.org.au/about/volunteers>

# Roads in the spotlight

Bass Coast Shire Council say there's a lot more work to be done to improve the state of local roads.

Council officers recently attended the Gippsland Regional Roads Roundtable with Minister for Roads Ben Carroll MP and Minister for Regional Development Harriet Shing MP to advocate with industry for further assistance.

Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan said the ministers spoke of their state-wide \$780 million road maintenance effort which is currently underway.

"I was pleased to personally see work being done to fix potholes on the Bass Highway the other day," Cr Whelan said.

"The ministers acknowledged the catch-up road maintenance effort was required, as drivers on our roads will testify.

"Our region is growing strongly – 37 per cent in the last decade – which is great for local businesses and jobs, but it does put extra pressure on our roads and therefore requires more funding, with further growth anticipated."

The Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 states that Phillip Island can expect an additional 4,300 visitors per day by 2035. Phillip Island is the second most visitor reliant economy in Australia behind Uluru.

Cr Whelan said road priorities discussed at the meeting were:

San Remo – Back Beach Road intersection. Council supports Regional Roads Victoria seeking funding of \$26 million for the implementation of the Phillip Island Road transport infrastructure improvements in San Remo at Back Beach Road intersection to tackle significant safety and access issues onto Phillip Island Road. Current access and congestion issues are anticipated to worsen.



The Liberals and Nationals recently announced \$10 billion funding over 10 years for roads. Melina Bath (MLC) and National's candidate Brett Tessari are pictured inspecting deterioration on local roads.

Wonthaggi – As the Wonthaggi North East Precinct gets underway spurring significantly more growth there is the need for a \$1 million study and design for an alternative freight route bypassing the Wonthaggi township.

"We also discussed important planning for the Bass Highway and Phillip Island road corridors," Cr Whelan said.

"Earlier this year, the Victorian Government announced a \$7.8 million investment to improve safety and accessibility for locals and visitors in Kilcunda. We look forward to these works commencing."

The Mayor said council will continue to strongly lobby the Victorian government for the roads the region deserves.

## GP concerns

On the GP weekend, roads crews were out carrying out patching

work on dangerous potholes.

At the time, a Victorian Department of Transport spokesperson responded to concerns about road safety for motorcyclists on the Phillip Island Road and South Gippsland Hwy, saying crews would be on site to complete emergency patching work when the weather allowed.

"In the lead up to major events at Phillip Island, extra crews inspect the roads to ensure any repair works that need to be undertaken can be completed as soon as possible," the spokesperson said.

"Periods of heavy rainfall like we are currently experiencing with La Niña can cause greater damage to our roads and make it harder for crews to undertake work to undertake road repairs."

The Transport Department said more significant rainfall was predicted for Australia's east coast, and with extended periods of wet weather

er limited work could be undertaken to repair the road network.

Potholes can occur when water gets onto the pavement structure – the water first weakens the pavement material and then traffic breaks apart the affected area causing a pothole.

The spokesperson said the department needed to wait for warmer, drier weather to be able to deliver long-term repairs, adding it was not practical to deliver major resurfacing or sealing work in wet or cold weather as this "drastically increases the risk of the works failing".

Conditions can change quickly. Roads may close with little or no notice, and motorists are "urged to use extreme caution when driving".

Drivers who come across potholes or any other damage on roads should report them by calling the Regional Roads Victoria line 133 778.

## Funding promise

Last month, the Liberals and Nationals announced \$10 billion in funding over 10 years to fix the state's road system.

The funding increase will be delivered through the annual road asset management budget, increasing spending from around \$600 million to \$1 billion annually.

As part of this investment, there will also be a review of construction standards, increasing accountability of VicRoads and contractors and a reduction in red and green tape that often escalates construction costs.

There will also be an audit of all state-managed roads.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) called on both sides of politics to commit funding certainty for regional road maintenance declaring the terrible condition of country roads has reached crisis levels.

"More than 50 per cent of all road fatalities occur in regional Victoria, despite it being home to 24 per cent of the State's population. We won't accept that," VFF President Emma Germano said.

As part of its 'Fair Go for Regional Victoria' campaign, the VFF has called for a minimum of \$2 billion over the next four years for targeted arterial road maintenance.

The plan has been supported by the State Opposition, but with less than two months until the Victorian State Election, regional communities are waiting to hear the government's plan.

"It's time for our leaders to stand up and put an end to the country road maintenance crisis. Driving on safe roads is a top priority for regional communities at this election and we need both sides of politics to deliver certainty," Ms Germano said.

## KINDER YOU CAN COUNT ON

The Victorian Government is making it easier for families to find a three and four-year old kinder learning program they can count on.

- 1 LED BY A QUALIFIED TEACHER**  
The Kinder Tick recognises kinder programs that are led by a qualified teacher.
- 2 PLAY-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM**  
It highlights kindergartens and long day care centres that offer play-based programs to help children learn and grow, before they start school.
- 3 FUNDED AND APPROVED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT**  
It also identifies services that are approved for Victorian Government funding.

**LOOK FOR THE KINDER TICK**

# KINDERGARTEN

Victorian Government Approved

Find out more at [vic.gov.au/kindertick](http://vic.gov.au/kindertick)

**VICTORIA**  
State Government



The opening of the new San Remo campus of Bass Coast College.

# Community at Heart #2

From Jordan Crugnale MP

What a massive four years and together we have achieved a lot. As I mentioned last week, it has been an amazing privilege working with and for you to deliver the funding, services, infrastructure and supports our community needs and deserves.

Hospitals, schools, cost of living supports, safe and secure homes being built, a cleaner economy from our solar homes program through to our nation leading emissions reductions, net zero targets, and new renewable industry supports like offshore wind right here off our coastline.

Yallock Bulluk Coastal Marine Park has been created, and Wilsons Prom is to become our largest conservation sanctuary in the state with improved visitor experiences too.

We are leading the nation with Treaty and Truth. First Peoples Assembly elected, Treaty Authority Bill legislated and the Yoorook Justice Commission continue to hold hearings across the state.

Victoria's Mental Health system is being rebuilt from the ground up to make sure we can access treatment, care and support closer to home. Progress already made on 90 per cent of the Royal Commission's recommendations – we are the only major party to fully adopt, fund and commit to its implementation – it is an invest-

ment after all.

Our legislative agenda has seen many Australia firsts. Wage Theft a Crime, IVF publicly funded, targets for off-shore wind set, licensing scheme for businesses working with engineered stone to protect workers from silica dust exposure, Mental Health and Wellbeing Bill - the list goes on.

Kinder Free for all families from next year, Tafe with more free courses and places, school students involved in our Headstart program of apprenticeships and traineeships one of the highest in the state.

Our sporting clubs have new pavilions, our ovals proper lights, scout halls upgraded, halls maintained, men sheds expanded.

Dedicated grant programs have allowed businesses to be innovative, reduce emissions, expand, create jobs and boost our economy. Creative events, ventures and artistic pursuits supported – we are all the richer as a society with them and the arts at the core.

Projects that bring us together, connect us, like the path from Bass Valley Primary School to Corinella, Wonthaggi to Inverloch, the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre, play spaces for Rhyll Foreshore and Anderson Street Reserve – all thanks to our flagship Growing Suburbs fund.

There is a 'to do' list of course. If re-elected I will continue to work for more of everything – including school upgrades and rebuilds, a mental health hub to be located right here in the Bass Coast, more social and affordable housing, workable bus timetables and better routes, even more pathways for our young people to secure long-term local jobs and upskilling opportunities for the rest of us, diversifying our economy, protections for our precious environment.

It's the election season and already I have seen disinformation, warped figures and untruths get thrown around. As my dad Fernando used to say (translated) – do the research, fight with the facts, give credit where it's due, admit when you are wrong.

As an FYI our Andrews Labor Government 22/23 budget allocated 35 per cent of new infrastructure spend to regional Victoria because we are worth it.

The Phillip Island Community Hospital is also funded, happening, construction starts this month. It was always on the public record as being completed in 2024.

A newsletter with a selection of projects and initiatives we have achieved together will be in your mail box this week. Any questions or if you need more information, please sing out – my team and I are here to help.

/ Sponsored article /

# Flying Doctor Wellbeing expands to Bass Coast

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria is expanding its mental health service, Flying Doctor Wellbeing, to Bass Coast Shire to help address the significant lack of accessible mental health support.

The expansion will see a locally-based fully qualified clinical psychologist offer face-to-face and telehealth appointments to community members aged 18 and above, completely free of charge.

Officially commencing in the first week of November, the service will initially operate in Wonthaggi one day per week and in Grantville one day per week, with additional days to be offered on Phillip Island from January 2023.

"It has been known for some time that there are unmet mental health needs in the region," says Carol Kahn, Health Services Manager for Mental Health and Wellbeing at RFDS Victoria.

"It is our hope to have a positive impact on the emotional wellbeing

of individuals in communities of the Bass Coast."

Flying Doctor Wellbeing was launched by RFDS Victoria in 2017 to provide vulnerable rural and remote Victorian communities with free access to quality mental health services. The service is part of RFDS Victoria's commitment to helping decrease mental ill health in rural communities, and breaking down barriers to accessing quality health care and wellbeing support.

"No cost services are particularly important in rural locations where resources are quite limited, so we are delighted to offer the services at no charge," says Carol.

The expansion of Flying Doctor Wellbeing to the Bass Coast Shire is made possible by funding from the Gippsland Primary Health Network.

Community members who are interested in learning more about the service are encouraged to contact the Flying Doctor Wellbeing team on (03) 8412 0480.



The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria is expanding its mental health service, Flying Doctor Wellbeing, to Bass Coast starting Wonthaggi and Grantville in November, and expanding to Phillip Island from January 2023.

# WANTED

People to try the world's first **invisible-style** hearing aids

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Book your free\* hearing check at Audika Cowes today!

\* Free hearing check is available to adults aged 26 years or older. T&Cs apply.

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 or Scan **QR code**



**Audika**  
Hearing Clinic

# Delivering for our community

## COMMUNITY AT HEART

JordanCrugnaleMP



### Health & wellbeing

- **Wonthaggi Hospital – \$115M expansion project. New ED with 18 additional treatment spaces, 3 new operating theatres and a procedure room, 32 bed inpatient ward.**
- Phillip Island, Cranbourne and Pakenham Community Hospitals. Small public hospitals will provide a range of services including urgent care, day surgery,

- diagnostic, chemo, dialysis, mental health services, Family safety and crisis support services, specialist appointments and public dental. (2024) For proposed services visit: [vhba.vic.gov.au](http://vhba.vic.gov.au)
- Casey Hospital Emergency Department will double its capacity as part of a \$236M investment
- Armitage House refurbishment Wonthaggi \$2.5M
- L. Rigby Cancer Centre Wonthaggi \$2.2M for ongoing costs

- Clyde Nth Ambulance Station
- Early Parenting Centre in Clyde Nth – a free primary health service that will provide specialist support for families with children aged 0 to 4 yrs
- Frankston and Blackburn Public Surgical Centres – 15,000 elective surgeries per year (2022)
- Mental Health Royal Commission – implementing all the recommendations to rebuild this system from the ground up

- Mental Health Professionals in all State Secondary Colleges.
- Mental Health and wellbeing programs in all state and low fee primary schools
- 17,000 nurses and midwives will be trained and recruited as part of a package making study and training free from 2023.
- 400 paramedics recruited in 2022 (almost 2,200 extra paramedics since coming to government in 2014)

### Safe & secure housing

**Our community members most at risk of homelessness include women and children fleeing family violence situations, young people and women over 50.**

- Landmark \$5.3B Big Housing Build investment is delivering 12,000 new homes state wide with more than 6,300 completed or underway.
- Casey, Cardinia and Bass Coast are priority areas.

For local housing projects: [homes.vic.gov.au](http://homes.vic.gov.au)

### COST OF LIVING

#### Guaranteed Sick Pay up to 38 hrs for casual and contract workers in certain jobs visit [service.vic.gov.au](http://service.vic.gov.au)

- **\$250 Power Saving Bonus**, claim here: [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](http://compare.energy.vic.gov.au)
- **Funded Kinder** for 3+4 yr olds saving families up to **\$2,500** per year per child
- **Free L's and P's**
- **Smile Squad** – free dental care to all Victorian public primary and secondary school students
- **Free TAFE** – 10,000 more places, more than 60 free courses
- **Get Active Kids \$200 Vouchers**: to help cover the costs for membership and registration fees
- **50% discount** on car registration for Trade Apprentices
- **Solar Panel \$1,400 rebate** plus option of an interest free loan
- **Solar Battery rebates** of \$2,950

### Education & early years

- FREE 3, 4 y.o kindergarten in 2023 saving families up to \$2,500 per child
- Newhaven PS – new onsite kindergarten
- Wonthaggi PS – kindergarten expansion
- Phillip Island Early Learning Centre expansion
- Clyde Township Family & Community Centre (2023)\*
- Eliston Family & Community Centre\*
- Bass Coast College – \$50M San Remo Campus
- Bass Coast College – \$31M Senior Campus
- Bass Coast Specialist School – \$1.9M upgrade (budget 22/23)

- Bass Valley PS outdoor and learning areas modernised
- Bayles PS - undercover outdoor area
- Clyde Creek Primary School
- Clyde Grammar – \$5M towards new primary school
- Clyde Primary – \$23M major upgrade including new gymnasium
- Clyde Secondary – new
- Cowes Primary – \$5.5M gymnasium and STEM classrooms
- Cranbourne South Primary – \$5.9M upgrade
- Edenbrook Secondary – new
- Grayling PS – new school
- Hillcrest Christian College – \$5M towards new STEM and Performing Arts facility
- Koo Wee Rup PS \$6.87M gymnasium + \$2.5M upgrade

- Lang Lang PS – \$1.5M new learning areas
- Our Lady Star of the Sea – \$5M towards stage 1+2
- Pakenham Consolidated – \$10M upgrade
- Pakenham Lakeside PS – \$856K drainage works.
- Pakenham PS – new school
- Powlett PS new amenities and modernisation.
- Ramleigh Park PS – new school
- Land Acquisition funding: Clyde Creek North Primary, Thompson West Primary and Clyde Creek North Secondary (interim names)

**All our government schools have received funding for a range of projects e.g. shades sails, outdoor learning areas, inclusive playgrounds, minor capital works**

### Roads, rail & buses

- Kilcunda/Bass Hwy \$7.8M safety upgrade incl pedestrian crossings.
- Koo Wee Rup/Healesville Rd duplication
- Clyde Five Ways/Fisheries/ Sth Gippsland Hwy \$15.4M new signalised intersection.
- New Clyde Bus routes 881, 888, 889, 897

**The Cranbourne and Pakenham lines are the busiest on the network. We want to run more trains, more often, reduce road congestion and improve safety.**

- Dandenong – Cranbourne track duplicated year ahead of schedule
- Planning Clyde Rail extension
- Cardinia Rd Level Crossing removed
- Fast tracked McGregor Rd, Main St and Racecourse Rd level crossings for removal (underway)
- Building a new Pakenham Station with Bus interchange, accessibility improvements, more parking open to passengers in 2024
- Creating more than 6 MCGs worth of new open space.

### Sport & recreation

**Over 200 Sport & Recreation Clubs supported with grants for recovery, programs, capacity building, skills development, uniforms and equipment.**

- Catani Cricket Club - new nets and training lanes
- Clyde Recreation Reserve\* Redevelopment
- Cowes, Dalyston and Inverloch Rec Reserves – \$1.08M oval lighting\*
- Inverloch and Koo Wee Rup Scout Hall upgrades
- Inverloch Cricket Practice nets\*
- Kilcunda Skate Park\*
- Koo Wee Rup Recreation Reserve – upgrade including new pavilions, courts\*
- Pakenham Lions Netball Club – netball courts resurface
- Phillip Island and Wonthaggi Croquet Clubs new pavilions\*
- Wonthaggi and Newhaven Rec Reserves – Female friendly facilities for Soccer Clubs\*.
- Wonthaggi Soccer lighting and pavilion project\*

### Emergency services

CFA, SES and Life Saving Clubs funded with equipment, vehicles, programs and upgrades.

**New Builds:** Cape Paterson SLSC – \$2.4M\*, Wonthaggi SLSC – \$4.5M (budget 22/23), Phillip Island CFA, Wonthaggi SES, Clyde CFA and Clyde SES (land acquisition stage), Clyde Nth Fire Station and Police Station

### Parks & open space

- Yallock Bulluk Marine & Coastal Park – 40 km walk San Remo to Inverloch \$20.7M
- Clyde Regional Park – 120 hectares of parkland incorporating new sporting precinct
- Cardinia Creek South Parklands (250 x MCG's)

### Boating

- Upgraded ramps at Corinella \$1.4M and Rhyll. \$4.5M. Upgrading Mahers Landing \$4M, Cowes \$2M.
- Warneet Boating Precinct Plan including jetties – final design stage
- Lang Lang and Inverloch – final design stage

### Museum

National Vietnam Veterans Museum – \$10M towards a new premises.

**GROWING SUBURBS FUND is about getting critical infrastructure into our community sooner than later. Some of the projects delivered in partnership with councils:**

Cardinia Cultural Centre	\$3M	Main St Pakenham Revitalisation	\$1M
Comely Banks Rec Reserve	\$3M	Pakenham My Place Youth Facility	\$3M
Cowes Cultural and Community Centre	\$3.3M + \$10m low interest loan	Pearcedale Rec Reserve Pavilion redevelopment	\$2M
Guy Road Shared Path Corinella to BVPS	\$1.4M	Rhyll Foreshore Playspace Stage 2	\$235K
Inverloch -Wonthaggi inland shared path	\$3M	Tooradin Public Hall upgrade	\$350K
Koo Wee Rup Bowling Club Pavilion	\$1.6 M	Wonthaggi Guide Regional Park	\$1.1M

\*Funded in partnership and delivered by council.

**jordan crugnale mp**  
STATE MEMBER FOR BASS

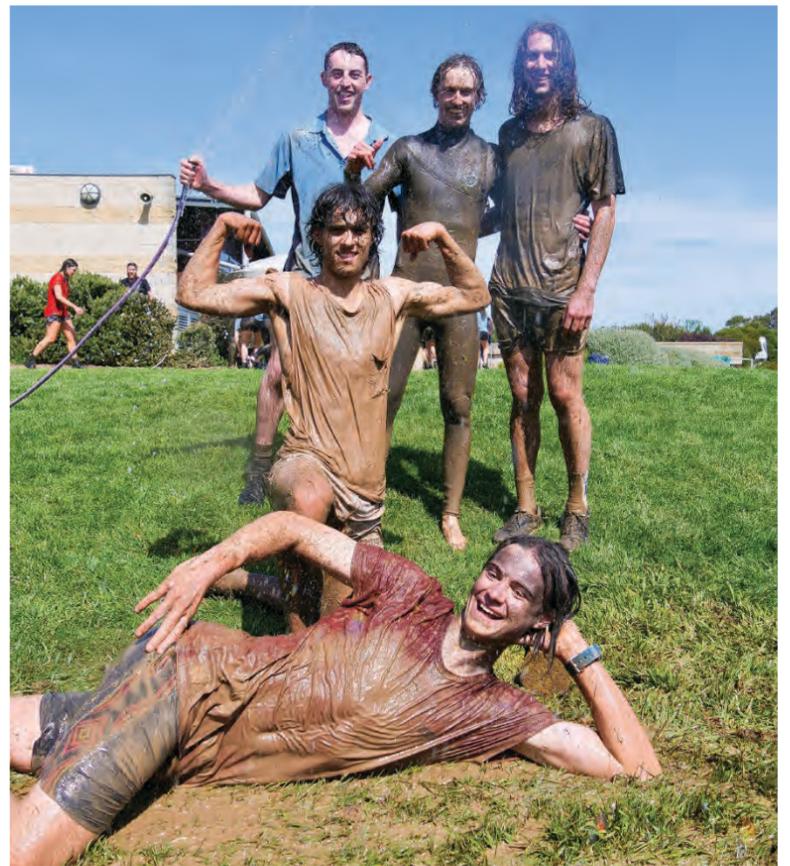
JordanCrugnaleMP

Telephone 03 5672 4755 Email [jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au)  
9 McBride Avenue Wonthaggi VIC 3995





Releasing the doves. Left-Right: Principal Tony Corr, Chairperson of Board David Jobe, Deputy Chairperson Megan White, with outgoing School Captains Jack Papas, Orlando Kane-Gillard, Coco Hosken and Laura Vivian.



Things got muddy on Muck-up day.

# Newhaven College farewells Class of 2022

This week Newhaven College's Year 12 students said their farewells to school life.

The festivities started with a bit of clowning around, students dressed as Superheroes, followed by 'muck up' day dress-ups and commando games, squelching through the mud at the Year 9 Environmental Centre.

The students had the opportunity to release some energy and tension before the more emotional formalities of their last all-school assembly and final farewells. The release of the 51 white doves (representing the 51 students at Newhaven College in its first year) concluded the last day activities. A Valedictory dinner at Silverwater Resort with teachers and parents was a fitting final event to enjoy time together as a Year 12 cohort.

Principal Tony Corr addressed the assembled 2022 Year 12s.

"The journey of each year level is different but yours has been especially unique. Unique because your journey has not always been clear. The path intended for you detoured into the unknown a few times.

"That ability to adapt, to handle the unexpected, and the attitude

you have shown towards it, will serve you very well in the future," he said.

"As you go into the world, we hope you take some of what we value here at Newhaven College with you. Not just a love of learning, but the love of the outdoors, the benefits of physical activity, the value of creative endeavours, the importance of respect and the place of community.

"They are what we value as a school and we hope have nourished you in your time here."

The presentation of awards at their final assembly highlighted the talent found at Newhaven College.

Awards were presented to students in each Year 12 subject with the highest grades and who have made the greatest contribution to the development of the subject for the benefit of all students. Plus, awards were presented to those who displayed House values, excellence in sport, and the recipients of Gold Duke of Edinburgh.

These were followed by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Future Innovators Award, going to Hamish Brosnan, and the ADF Long Tan Leadership Award which went to

Madison Grand-Court.

The two most prestigious awards were the final presentations. The Principal's Prize went to Nicholas Thomas and the Papworth Prize went to Jasmine Sullivan. These students represent Newhaven College with their excellent academic achievements and values.

This particular group of Year 12s represents the last ties to the Boys Home Road campus. Thirteen of the 2022 Year 12 students were from the last Prep class at the old school before moving to the environmentally diverse 83-acre campus in Rhyll. These students, along with the whole Year 12 cohort, are dedicated to their school and will have life-long ties to Newhaven College, as well as the surrounding community.

## Students who received one Academic Award

- Accounting – Nicholas Thomas
- Business Management – Sasha Allen, Alexander Lees
- English – Michael Furniss, Rosa Green
- Food Studies – Seisha Bar Bar
- Geography – James Buxton
- Health and Human Development –

Jack Butcher

- Languages (Japanese) – William O'Neill
- Media – Archie O'Neill
- Mathematical Methods – Liam McDonald
- Physical Education – Jack Papas, Ben Taylor
- Psychology – Poppy Marshall
- Product and Design Technology (wood) – Darcy Wilford
- Studio Arts – Sinead Williamson
- Systems Engineering – Riley Harris
- Theatre Studies – Laura Vivian

## Students who received two Academic Awards

- Chemistry and Visual Communication and Design – Will Carter
- Geography and History – Sam Robson
- Legal Studies and Further Mathematics – Ella Beasley
- Outdoor and Environmental Studies and Health and Human Development – Lara Standish

## Students who received three Academic Awards

- Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics and Physics – Hamish

Brosnan

- English Literature, Further Mathematics and Psychology – Jasmine Sullivan

## Sport Awards

- Athletics – Sasha Allen and Jarah White
- Swimming – Elle Douglas and Riley Harris
- Cross Country – Lucy Norton and Tully Dickie
- SEISA Sports Certificate – Jarah White and Hunter Tiziani
- Major Sports Award – Darcy Hilford and Ivy Hunter

## Values Awards

- Bass House – Lara Standish and Hunter Tiziani
- Clarke House – Jaimee Amato and Steffi Dixon
- McHaffie House – Jack Butcher and Megan Westerling
- Sambell House – Jenna Harman and Ben Comerford

## Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

- Sasha Allen
- Lara Standish
- Kirsten Sandy
- Chris Axford



Papworth Prize winner Jasmine Sullivan with Board Chairperson David Jobe.



Principal's Prize winner Nicholas Thomas pictured with Principal Tony Corr.



Year 10 Preps from Old Boys Home Campus. Back L-R: Tully Dickie, Spencer Miles, Steffi Dixon, Michael Furniss, Makayla Morris and Victor Adams. Front L-R: Tahlia Mumby, Jake Munday, Sarah Wines, Zoe Reiter, Josie Green, Chelsea Webber and Jordane Dobson.



ADF Long Tan Award recipient Madison Grand-Court with Sharon Paterson, Megan White and Tony Corr.



ADF Future Innovators Award recipient Hamish Brosnan with Tony Corr and Karen Milkins-Hendry.

# CARE - LESS IS NOT AN OPTION

Philip Island is surrounded by Westernport and some of the planet's most important ecosystems.

Wetlands are a haven for wildlife, they filter pollution and they're important stores of carbon. But they're also one of the Earth's most threatened habitats, disappearing three times faster than forests, threatening thousands of animal and plant species.

The biodiverse wetlands of Westernport are part of the global RAMSAR agreement for the protection of wetlands. They deliver vital ecosystem services to humanity that have remained protected by the agricultural uses of the surrounding lands.

These wetlands and coastal landscapes are at risk from re-zoning and development. The people of Phillip Island, San Remo, French Island, Mornington Peninsula, South Gippsland and all areas surrounding Westernport Bay require a genuinely independent administrator with the power to enforce environmental standards and regulations.

We are seeking your expression of support. By submitting your contact details you will be supporting a petition to ensure a better future is possible for our children's environmental future.

**Respect and care for the land, the waters and the people who live, work, visit and enjoy this natural environment.**



**DON'T LET PHILLIP ISLAND GO TO THE D.O.G.S.**

*(Developments of Government and Shire)*

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT : [www.care4phillipisland.au](http://www.care4phillipisland.au)**



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Office 7A, 34-38 Lochiel Avenue, Mount Martha, 3934

# More funds for Community Garden

At the October meeting, councillors voted to increase the budget to construct a new Community Garden at Blue Gum Reserve, with the budget now revised to \$384,000.

The garden was part of the PICAL site in Church Street and needs to be relocated due to the construction of the new Community Hospital.

Council officers said the majority of the price increase was due to the rising cost of delivering essential services – power and water – to the site.

The report to Council stated the increased cost would be offset by \$106,000 from the Bass Coast Phillip Island RSL Trust, which has been allocated to the garden.

There would be no increase in the contribution required from Council (\$239,343) or PICAL (\$38,764); however, as the proposed increase was more than 20 per cent of the original budget, Council approval was needed to allow the work to progress.

Moving the motion, Cr David Rooks cited the great benefits of the garden, but said it was “frustrating” prices for essential services were so high.

He also noted the garden would be complemented by the arts groups and Boomerang Bags, which would be housed in the former

CFA building at the site.

“I am hoping we can introduce something for youth in the future, to form a complete community hub.”

Cr Ronnie Bauer said the increase in cost for the project highlighted just how difficult it was to implement capital works approved as recently as last June.

“The work PICAL does for our community cannot be measured in dollars,” Cr Bauer said.

“The Community Garden is an integral part of their program. Without it PICAL cannot economically grow the produce it requires for the meals which are given to the needy every day.

“It is a bonus to the Cowes community in general that an area has been set aside for individuals to use.

“As I said, some things cannot be measured in dollars. The cost is what it is. There are other capital works where savings can be found if we have to.”

## Defended

The Community Garden is being relocated to Blue Gum Reserve, as there is not sufficient space at the new PICAL site in Warley Avenue.

Cr Rochelle Halstead supported the motion, but defended Council against recent criticism from PICAL, over the delay relocating services

from its Church Street site.

She said Council officers had worked tirelessly on the PICAL move to Warley Avenue.

“I know this has been an incredibly long journey for all involved.

“The wheels were set in motion on this project by the previous Council and there have been a number of hurdles to overcome, not the least of which were out of Council’s control and driven by the unavailability of sites within desired timeframes.

“Recent local media reports give the impression that Council is responsible for the hold ups however these statements are untrue,” Cr Halstead said.

“Currently Council is waiting on securing vacant possession of the CFA building that is a state government site in Settlement Road, and are unable to offer a home to Boomerang Bags and local arts groups until this occurs.”

Cr Halstead noted that PICAL is moving to a \$3 million plus purpose-built facility.

“The unwavering commitment by volunteers to deliver programs, provide support and offer nourishment to those in our community who really need it, is what has kept Council steadfast in our commitment to support them by providing a home where they can continue to do the great community work

that they do.”

Cr Bruce Kent fully supported the community garden, but noted that if there were future plans for the location, “I would hope that we do future planning now”.

Cr Rooks asked for an update on the Boomerang Bags situation, with Council officers stating they were working with all the community groups to support them until the CFA building was available.

Originally the CFA was due to vacate the building in August and move to its new premises on Ventnor Road.

At the start of this month, a CFA spokesperson told the Advertiser inclement weather had delayed construction of the new station, but it was expected to be completed by the end of October, “with the brigade to move in shortly after”.

Council has not been able to provide a timeline for when the renovations of the old CFA building will begin, or when Boomerang Bags will be able to move in.

PICAL manager Greg Thompson has stated he believes it’s unlikely Boomerang Bags will be in their new home until after March 2023.

PICAL has made numerous public appeals for a temporary space to house Boomerang Bags, without success.



Council estimated economic benefit from MotoGP™ to Bass Coast was \$42 million, with 91,000 fans attending the track between October 14-16. Photo: Alia Schonberg.

## GP a multi-million dollar boost

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrated a multi-million boost to local tourism as the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix 2022 wrapped a phenomenal, record-breaking weekend.

The biggest crowd in 10 years visited Phillip Island for the Australian MotoGP™ from October 14 to 16.

Over 91,000 attendees returned to the race over the weekend, the first held since 2019, which is the biggest crowd recorded since 2012.

Council estimated economic benefit from MotoGP™ to Bass Coast was \$42 million.

Businesses shire-wide warmly welcomed visitors for weeks before and after the event, enjoying a positive impact to commerce across the Coast.

“The Australian Moto GP is incredibly important for our local businesses as it provides an important boost to our economy outside of school holidays and the peak summer period,” Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan, said.

“Our spectacular coastline and natural environment, as well as plenty of off-track activities, were also broadcast around the world to remind visitors how special our region is.

“I would like to congratulate the Australian Grand Prix Corporation and other partnering organisations that contribute to making it such a fantastic event.

“Thank you to our community for once again welcoming fans from all over the world back to Phillip Island.

“To have the biggest crowd in a decade is testament to how much fans and riders love the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, we just love hearing time and time again how Phillip Island is their favourite track. It was so good to see everyone out enjoying themselves.

“Council is proud to host the Cowes entertainment across the weekend in partnership with several local businesses. Cowes really came to life on Saturday night with over 3000 people enjoying the free concert on the foreshore.”



Another suit for Pino’s collection. Australian Moto3 rider Joel Kelso (No 66) presenting Rosa with his suit to add to her collection.

## Rosa’s collection grows

The collection of rider suits on display at Pino’s Trattoria in Cowes has expanded after this year’s MotoGP. Australian Moto3 rider Joel Kelso presented Rosa with his suit to add to the collection, topping off a fantastic weekend for

the GP-mad family business.

Not only did Pino’s welcome riders, teams and fans over the weekend, the entire family made it out to the track to enjoy the thrill of the race up close.



The Nationals in Government will deliver

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for Regional Victoria



Authorised by M. Harris - The Nationals Victoria, L13/30 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000

# VOTE FOR THE WOODLANDS



Less than half an hour's drive from here an ancient forest is waiting to welcome you.

The Western Port Woodlands is the last remaining forest corridor running parallel to the bay between Lang Lang and Bass.

Enter this magical place and watch for the flash of a scarlet robin. Marvel at a grass tree forest. Listen to the melodic trilling of a grey shrike thrush. You might be lucky enough to see a tiny mayfly orchid – or a giant lace monitor.

Stand still, be very quiet, and let the forest seep into you.

## **Yet this unique ecosystem faces extinction.**

Despite enormous sand reserves outside this precious corridor, the State Government has designated 70% of the woodland area as a sand extraction interest area for Melbourne's Big Build. Ten sand mines already operate in the woodlands and nine more have been approved.

To date, the Labor Government has failed to respond to the community's concerns.

## **Before you vote**

All candidates for the Bass Electorate in the upcoming election EXCEPT Labor have committed to some level of action to protect the woodlands if they are elected.

The ALP candidate and current MP for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, is the only candidate who has not yet committed to any action.

We will assess candidate commitments and publish a scorecard prior to the election.

In the meantime, please contact:

Jordan Crugnale, Bass MP, Ph 5672 4755,

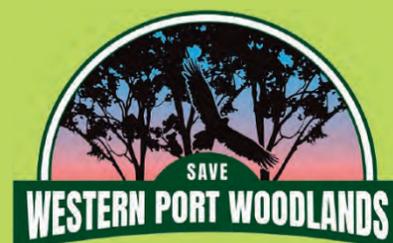
[jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Lily D'Ambrosio, Environment Minister

[lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au)



**Come on Labor! Get your act together.  
Save our woodlands before it's too late.**



[savewesternportwoodlands.org](http://savewesternportwoodlands.org)

[savewesternportwoodlands@gmail.com](mailto:savewesternportwoodlands@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/Savewesternportwoodlands](https://www.facebook.com/Savewesternportwoodlands)

# Captain of her ship

Out of all the skippers to captain Wildlife Coast Cruises' ferries – or for that matter any ferry, anywhere – it's fair to say not many are female or teenagers.

So when 19-year-old Alyssa Duffy from Rhyll this month earned her Master 24 skipper ticket she was breaking new ground as the first female captain for WCC.

Not that being a trailblazer really occurred to Alyssa, who grew up on boats with her diving dad Noel and who can be seen buzzing the bay and ocean on a jet ski on her days off.

"I never really thought about it like that," she says, "most of the (36) crew here are girls.

"And at the (Australian Maritime) College where I studied there were two female teachers and there were six women out of 23 students in our class."

What's arguably more impressive for Alyssa is that she is now occasionally the boss of her mum, Tania Fraser, who is WCC's bookkeeper and at times part of the crew, as well as her younger sister Regan, who is also a crew member.

"I'm sort of mum's boss at times – when she comes on the boat. It's a funny dynamic. I don't have the guts to order her around. She's always the boss," Alyssa says.

"My sister doesn't always listen to me that well."

## Training

The third generation Phillip Islander says for as long as she can remember she's loved the sea.

"Dad is a commercial diver who does the moorings and salvage around the island and I'd always go with him out on the boat after school and especially over summer, helping him a bit."

She attended Cowes primary school and then Wonthaggi secondary, first working as crew at Wildlife Coast Cruises at age 15, in year nine.

A year later she left school to work at the company full-time.

"When I was 14 I did work experience with one of the skippers, Brett, in the wheelhouse and I just always thought it was cool driving boats. It was fun and I loved being on the water."

So from crew she then made the big leap to gain her skipper certificate.

After four years and 600 days on the water she qualified to attend the Australian Maritime College in Launceston, Tasmania.

For two months in August and September she studied full-time, with subjects including safety and collision, first aid, theory and damage control.

"We also did vessel handling on the Tamar



This month, 19-year-old Alyssa Duffy from Rhyll earned her Master 24 skipper ticket, breaking new ground as the first female captain for Wildlife Coast Cruises.

River – driving different boats including jet and fishing boats."

Alyssa was no fan of school but this was different.

"Being back in the classroom was a bit strange but I was keen, so it was completely different. I enjoyed learning."

In November she will complete a two-day radio training course and in January she'll finish a three-week engineering certificate, adding she knows her way around the basics of an engine after working alongside her dad.

And then?

"I'll skipper if the boss will let me."

## Behind the wheel

Wildlife Coast Cruises' owner John Dickie says Alyssa is their first female skipper.

"There certainly appears to be more guys still skippering however we are slowly seeing more females – there are a couple in Port Phillip bay," John says.

He says Alyssa will get behind the wheel of one of their ferries "when we are confident her boat handling skills in the challenging conditions of Bass Strait are good enough to keep all onboard safe".

John says the skills of a captain are vast, including making sure all machinery and electronics are working properly and paperwork is complete each trip.

"Any captain needs a range of skills. Apart from formal AMSA and local knowledge qualifications, you also require the skills to safely handle a vessel close to rocks in open water swells near marine-life, the confidence and knowledge to quickly act if something goes wrong, and the ability to handle a vessel in the strong tide conditions found around some of our jetties.

"A skipper needs the ability and judgement to drive a vessel in sometimes turbulent waters and give the customers a comfortable and safe ride, all while being aware your crew are

watching and looking after the passengers.

"They give a calm and informative commentary, and are always aware of what's in front and around, like that little kayak out in the half dark, the jetty jumper diving in as you're manoeuvring, or the scuba diver without a flag. There's nothing to it."

## Whale watching

Alyssa says she prefers the ocean to the bay, because "it's more exciting", but admits when she first started working for the company she experienced severe sea sickness.

"There was one day in particular we were down at Wilsons Prom and the weather wasn't great and I was fixing pumps with my head down and I was crook as.

"But I haven't been sick in a while. "If the weather is really bad we don't go out on trips anyway."

She says her most memorable day on the water so far is seeing a pod of orcas this year off Cape Woolamai.

But one of the skills she didn't learn at maritime college – which she'll need working off Phillip Island – is how to spot whales.

"There's a bit of skill to it and some of the older skippers probably have their secrets to spotting whales.

"But for me it has been lucky. I tend to look up and see a blow and know they're there.

"Some days are rough, wet and cold, and we work sunrise to sunset, but I love being out there.

"When I was in Launceston we didn't see much ocean and to me that felt weird."

## Council Update

### Additional Council Meeting - Wednesday 26 October at 9.15am

The Mayor, Cr Whelan has called a Council Meeting to be held virtually on Wednesday, 26 October 2022. This Meeting will be open to the public via livestream from 9.15am. View agenda or join the livestream here: [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2022meetings](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2022meetings).

Items that will be dealt with as part of the Council Meeting agenda: Annual Report 2021-2022

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995 | 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77 | [basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au) | [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au)



## CARING FOR SAM'S CHILDREN

Please support the fundraiser for Sam Fraser's children, to help cover the cost of their care and education. To donate, go to [gofund.me/b6e777cb](https://gofund.me/b6e777cb), or search [gofundme.com](https://gofundme.com) for "Caring for Sams Children".

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# The Liberals will give Victoria the fresh start we need.

## Here in Bass, our Plan includes:

- ✔ \$10 million for new Vietnam Veterans Museum Stage 1
- ✔ \$42 million to build an aquatic centre in Cowes
- ✔ Build the Phillip Island Community Hospital
- ✔ \$350,000 to build Phillip Island Football and Netball Club Social Rooms

Aaron **BROWN**  
LIBERAL FOR BASS

[AaronBrown.com.au](http://AaronBrown.com.au)



Find out more



Authorised by C. McQuestin, Level 12, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

# Island moves – young gun agent builds post-pandemic business

San Remo Stockdale & Leggo Director, Jaime Morris, has welcomed the opportunity to expand her business by opening a second office – this time in the prime Phillip Island location of Cowes.

It comes as the post-pandemic real estate market begins hotting up with an expected influx of summer tourists looking for a sea change, as well as locals who are ready to make a move.

According to Ms Morris, it was a perfect time to boost the business.

“Trust and experience are a big factor here. It is a great opportunity to broaden our scope of the area,” she said.

“We already have a strong position in San Remo, and understand we need to be very local to maximise your chance of success. This new office gives us that opportunity.”

Ms Morris says the new Cowes office also means job opportunities for locals.

“I will be looking for more staff who can provide great service. Currently, we all live and work locally on the Island or in San Remo. We are out there helping vendors get the best price and helping buyers realise their dream.”

Stockdale & Leggo Chief Executive Officer, Charlotte Pascoe, says 28-year-old Jaime was a natural choice to take on the new office.

“Jaime is such a great person – she operates with honesty, integrity and authenticity in everything she does. She’s exactly what our brand is about, and we are so honoured to have her representing us on Phillip Island, San Remo and surrounds.”

Ms Pascoe added, “When we were looking to bring a new face to such a well-known and respected brand on Phillip Island, she was a natural choice for us. Having looked after so many people in her career in the area, she is respected and respectful, energetic and passionate.”

So, what does the future hold?

Ms Morris says, “Over the next 12 months, my main priority is to provide a positive and supportive environment for my staff and offer clients an innovative and professional service. Our experienced team is excited and ready for you to come say hello!”

The new Stockdale & Leggo Phillip Island franchise at 45 Thompson Avenue, Cowes opened Monday October 24.



San Remo Stockdale & Leggo Director, Jaime Morris, has welcomed the opportunity to expand her business by opening a second office – this time in the prime Phillip Island location of Cowes.



**THE NEW FACE  
OF STOCKDALE &  
LEGGO PHILLIP  
ISLAND**

**JAIME MORRIS**

**0408 367 310**

**Stockdale & Leggo**

*We see more than property*



Set on a large allotment, just one street from Cowes' main shopping strip, this three-bedroom home offers many possibilities.



*Dream big!*

A unique opportunity to restore the original circa 1870s home to its former glory, set on a magnificent 6935 square metre allotment with water views.

## Prime location, unlimited potential

Set on a large allotment of approximately 1949m<sup>2</sup>, this three-bedroom home offers many possibilities.

You will love this location. Only one street away from the main shopping strip of Cowes, with its restaurants, cafes, and supermarkets all within easy walking distance, plus only five-minutes walk to the beach, medical facilities and the school.

This neat and tidy home consists of a large living area, separate kitchen, dining

area, three bedrooms, family bathroom and a separate toilet off the laundry. Attached to the rear of the home, there is an additional living space/bedroom, which once housed an office area separate to the main home.

Large garage/shedding in the back yard is perfect for storing vehicles, boats, or suitable for a workshop.

With the potential for a development or subdivision (STCA), this property offers unlimited potential for the

astute developer or investor.

Whether you are looking for a permanent home, holiday home or investment property, look no further. The opportunity to own a home in this great, central location, doesn't come around often, so call our office now, to arrange your inspection.

For sale by Expression of Interest. Call Alex Scott & Staff today on 5952 2633 to arrange a private inspection. You will not be disappointed.

Exciting development opportunity in an outstanding location, this property has the potential of an exclusive subdivision (STCA) and/or a dedicated renovators dream with an abundance of history.

Set on a magnificent 6935m<sup>2</sup> allotment with water views, this signature piece of land introduces a unique opportunity to restore the original circa 1870s home to its former glory and/or prosper with its subdivision potential (STCA).

Features of the circa 1870s four-bedroom home:

- Original doors
- Original hardwood floors

- Soaring 12 ft ceilings
- Pressed metal and ornate ceiling roses
- Metal cornices
- Original Sash windows
- Original Oregon woodwork

Features of the property:

- Magnificent 6935m<sup>2</sup>, allotment with water views in quiet established area
- Low density residential zoning
- 6m x 12m shed
- Fully fenced

The undiscovered potential of this piece of exclusive land and home in an exceptional position in original San Remo is not to be missed.

One of the few remaining opportunities in a private, established area. Within a walk from the shopping village, beaches and nearby schools and kindergarten and located in the beautiful Bass Coast region, just 90 minutes from Melbourne CBD, your chance to DREAM BIG has arrived.

For Sale via expressions of interest, closing December 2, at 4pm, if not sold prior.

Disclaimer - All information above is gathered from sources we deem to be reliable. However, we cannot guarantee its accuracy and interested purchasers should rely on their own enquiries.

**FOR SALE**

*Dream Big*

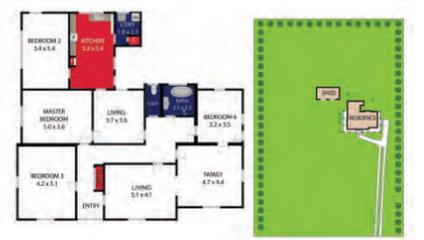
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- CIRCA 1870'S COUNTRY HOMESTEAD
- SUBDIVISION OPPORTUNITY (S.T.C.A)
- LAND SIZE 6935m<sup>2</sup>
- ZONING: LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL LDRZ
- ONE OF THE LAST OPPORTUNITIES TO DREAM BIG IN AN EXCEPTIONAL SAN REMO LOCATION ONCE IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE!

**FOR SALE VIA EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
CLOSING FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER @ 4PM IF NOT SOLD PRIOR**



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Property Consultants



**Scott Lethbridge 0407 543 154**

**SHOP 3, 129 MARINE PARADE SAN REMO**

**5678 5878**

**143 PYRAMID ROCK ROAD, VENTNOR**



- 'Kurana' – one of the districts finest farms set on 156 acres (approx.)
  - Four bedroom home with an additional two bedroom cottage
  - First time offered in 80 years
- EOI BY 4PM NOV 17TH**

**7 SETTLEMENT ROAD, SILVERLEAVES**



- 3.5 acres (approx.) with a modern farmhouse
  - Adjacent to Cowes Golf Club and walking distance to popular Silverleaves Beach
  - 4 bed/2 bath/2 car
- \$2,100,000 to \$2,200,000**

**216 COWES-RHYLL ROAD, RHYLL**



- Totally self-sufficient, 7-star energy rated home.
  - Set on 4.48ha (approx.) with sweeping views of Westernport Bay and French Island
  - 3 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom/4 Cars
- \$3,100,000**

**43 BATMAN STREET, SURF BEACH**



- Located on The Esplanade at Surf Beach with superb ocean views from Cape Woolamai to Pyramid Rock
  - Massive 3 bay garage with entry into the home
  - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/3 cars
- \$2,250,000**

**10 DUNVEGAN CRESCENT, SURF BEACH**



- Historic homestead with amazing water and rural views
  - Set on an impressive 1956m<sup>2</sup> allotment
  - 4 bed/2 bath/3 car
- \$2,000,000 to \$2,100,000**

**60 REID STREET, RHYLL**



- Specially designed, wheelchair accessible home
  - Indoor-outdoor space to enjoy a BBQ
  - 4 bed/2 bath/2 car
- \$1,100,000 to \$1,150,000**

**10 GLAMIS ROAD, VENTNOR**



- Secluded 3.7 acres with sweeping views of Bass Strait
  - Well fenced for horses, shedding & workshop
  - 5 bed/2 bath/8 car
- \$2,600,000 to \$2,800,000**

**18 DOUGLAS ROAD, COWES**



- What a location! One street from main shopping strip
  - Set on a huge 1949m<sup>2</sup> allotment
  - 3 bed/1 bath/2 car
- EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**3 PARKRIDGE CLOSE, COWES**



- Located in Shearwater Estate, 5-minute walk to Cowes Golf Club
  - Undercover alfresco area
  - 3 bed/2 bath/2 car
- \$780,000 to \$809,000**

**LOT 2 COWES-RHYLL ROAD, COWES**



- Approx. 80 acres with views over Westernport Bay and the Rhyll Inlet
  - Offering excellent sites for a home STCA
- \$1,500,000 to \$1,600,000**

**206 THOMPSON AVENUE, COWES**



- Extensively renovated throughout
  - 300m from the RSL and short stroll to shops
  - 1 bed/2 bath/2 car
- \$800,000 to \$840,000**

**52B WALTON STREET, COWES**



**19 ANCHORAGE ROAD, VENTNOR**



- Perfect weekender; just a short 150m walk to the beach
  - Large private yard
  - 3 bed/1 bath/1 car
- \$780,000 to \$810,000**

**29 BUNYA DRIVE, CAPE WOOLAMAI**



**7 HOTHAM CLOSE, COWES**



- Nestled within secluded yet central court
  - Short stroll to north facing beach
  - 5 bed/2 bath/2 cars
- EOI BY 4PM NOV 11TH**

**23 FOAM STREET, SUNDERLAND BAY**



**4 CRAFTERS CRESCENT, VENTNOR**



- Classic seaside cottage on a large 950m<sup>2</sup> allotment
  - Short stroll to beautiful Ventnor Beach
  - 2 bed/1 bath
- \$795,000**

**2 FISHER STREET, VENTNOR**



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- \$659,000**

**12 BARRY STREET, SUNDERLAND BAY**



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  - Open plan kitchen and living area
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# ASPIR Cup Weekend exhibition is back

This weekend the Arts Society Phillip Island Region (ASPIR) will be holding their first Cup Weekend Exhibition since 2019. This exciting Exhibition will be held in the foyer of the wonderful new Performing Arts Building at Newhaven College. Newhaven College also hosted ASPIR for the Easter Exhibition this year, and the Society is very grateful for this support. Members have entered nearly 200 works to be judged in the categories, Best Contemporary (any medium), Best Painting, Best Other Medium, Best 3D, Best

Digital Artwork/Photography. Awards will be awarded in each and highly commended in each category. The November exhibition also includes junior art awards. Committee member Jan Taylor works with art teachers from local primary schools to encourage young people to participate, enjoy and enter an Art Show. This year the subject will be portraits. The exhibition opening will be held on Friday October 28 starting at 7pm. Parking will be in front of the Centre and everyone is welcome.

Judging will be on Friday afternoon and winners of all awards will be announced at the opening. This year a very experienced judge, Regina Hona will consider entries in all categories and judge winners. A local experiences raffle will be held over the weekend with prizes generously donated: Pet Portrait by Lori Head, meal voucher Wooli Tavern, Super Cruiser E bike ride, Skin Spa (Her), Mr Grumpy mini golf. Appreciation goes to the wonderful sponsors, some longstanding and some new. The success of

the exhibition relies on the support of these businesses and it is hoped they are supported by all: Bendigo Bank Cowes, Phillip Island RSL, Alex Scott Real Estate, Philip Island Winery and Westport Hotel, Brinnie T Design/Lightique. ASPIR has welcomed many new members each month and it will be exciting to see their talents and of course the wonderful work of our members. The Exhibition will be open on Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th and Monday 31st. / Sponsored Article /

# Palm Lake Resort Spring Market

After a hiatus of two years the residents of Palm Lake Resort are having their Annual Spring Market on Sunday October 30, the Cup weekend. All the stalls will be under cover in the Hall at the Resort, so don't worry about the weather. Palm Lake is located at 48 Settlement Road, next to the golf course. Doors will be open from 10am till 1pm, and all types of goodies will be on sale from artworks, craft, second-hand books and DVD's, bric-a-brac, pre-loved clothing, plants, cards, gifts, just in time for Christmas! There will also be a demonstration of wool spinning running continuously. A yummy sausage sizzle will be running all day, with onions of course, or perhaps a delicious Devonshire tea. Soft drinks for the kids will also be on sale. Get there early - it's the early bird that catches the worm! Enter by Gate 2, nearest the golf course, and parking attendants will direct you to the nearest spot. See you on Sunday October 30 at 10am. / Sponsored Article /



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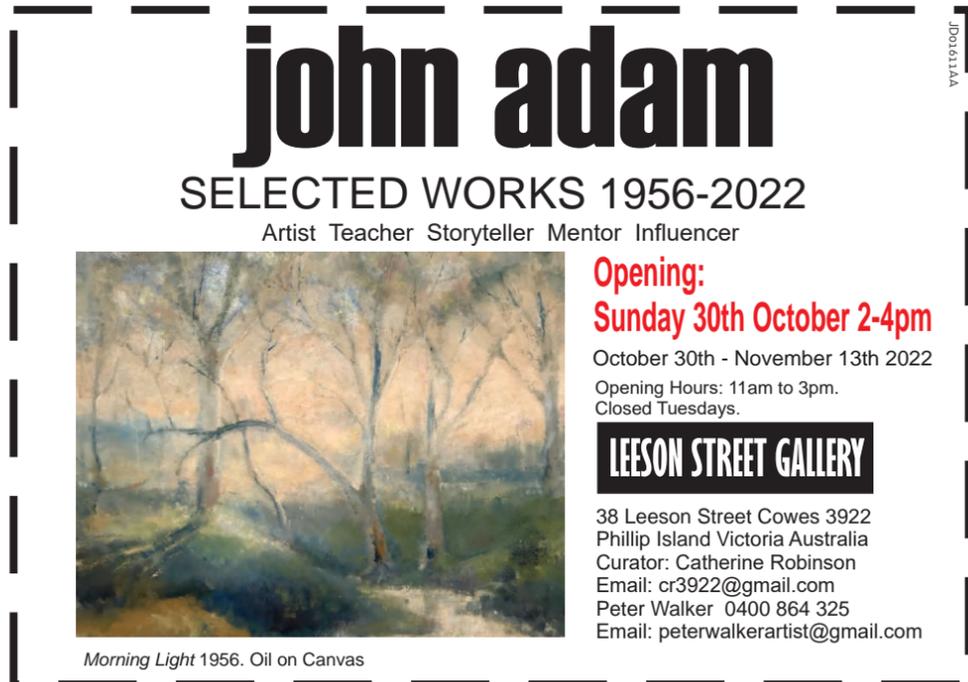
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*Morning Light 1956. Oil on Canvas*



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**ART EXHIBITION CUP WEEKEND 2022**

Opening Oct. 28 7pm Oct. 29-31 10am-5pm

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Artwork Courtesy of Bill Binks

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**World Vision Afternoon Tea**

World Vision is raising funds by holding a Devonshire Tea event on **Sunday November 6, 2022** at historic Richardson's Cottage in Rhyll from 2pm - 4.30pm. Come along and enjoy some delicacies and re-live the history of the cottage and the tea rooms that operated in the early 1930s by Josie Richardson. Hear about the Richardsons and their life as early settlers at Rhyll. Optional glass of bubbly plus the traditional 'Rhyll' strawberries and cream. Tickets are \$15 per head and can be pre-purchased at [www.trybooking.com.au/CDMGA](http://www.trybooking.com.au/CDMGA)

*Richardsons Cottage circa 1890*

## Phillip Island Patchworkers Display this Cup Weekend

After two years without a quilt display, Phillip Island Patchworkers are back and looking forward to showcasing quilts and associated crafts.

They would love to have you visit.

The display will be open from Saturday October 29, through to Tuesday, November 1 from 10am to 4pm at the Newhaven Hall, Cleeland Street Newhaven.

There will be the many fine pieces of patchwork made by this group of talented ladies, and the wonderful work produced by the Wonthaggi Woodcrafters will also be on display.

Jeanette Clark from Patchwork Maze will also have a shop set up where you can purchase a range of patchwork fabrics, patterns and accessories.

Jeanette is a fabulous supporter of the group and every year organises a pattern and donates the fabric for the group to create raffle quilts. Members will also be sewing quilts for the Comfort Quilt program which will be donated to community members in need.

There will be a trading table with lots of goodies to purchase, and the famous Devonshire Tea available for \$5.

Entry is \$5 with all profits going directly to local emergency services.



Phillip Island Patchworkers member Lyn Makin, who won the President's Choice Award at the most recent show in 2019.

"We have not been able to donate to our emergency services for the last two years but we are hoping to be able to do so again this year, to help support their fabulous community work," Patchworkers President Gayle Rowden said. "Our patchwork group is 37 years old and we have 159 members in all age groups. There are several of our founding members who are still with the group.

"Our love of craft and friendship is what brings us together. We all enjoy what we do, we like to share skills and of course have a chat.

"This year, because our meetings are spread throughout the month, we initiated a Saturday Sit and Sew on the first Saturday of the month at Newhaven Hall and it is very popular. BYO lunch and mug. "Come along and join in the fun and friendship - new members are warmly welcomed."

If you would like more information or would like to join - please contact President Gayle Rowden on 0400 634 282 or catch up with one of the members on Cup Weekend.

Pick up an information flyer and yearly calendar.

## Open Garden this Sunday

Garden lovers are in for a Sunday treat on October 30 with the chance to visit three delightful private gardens in Inverloch, thanks to Open Gardens Victoria.

First stop, set just 300m back from the Inverloch surf beach, Jenny and Erin's Sophorae garden (1 Sylvia Court) was redesigned in 2012 to enhance the views from the house and to frame a century-old Banksia integrifolia. It is essentially an Australian native plant garden with formal bones - structured and clipped elements give form and contrast.

Sophorae won Open Gardens Victoria's 'Creative

with Natives' competition during Covid 2020.

Across the court at 4 Sylvia Court, visitors will discover an appealing small garden with creative, whimsical and quirky touches to make visitors smile. The garden has evolved over 20 years, filled with succulents, cycads, native shrubs and container plants. The established plantings in the garden provide a backdrop for an array of interesting plants and succulents in fabulous containers.

Just three minutes away garden devotees will discover 8 Jazmine Court - a beautiful quarter acre garden designed by local landscape architect Steven

Cornelissen. Owner Susan Alexander's concept from the beginning was for a native garden, without lawns, hard paving or annual flowers, with hidden fences and requiring minimal garden maintenance.

OPEN: Sunday October 30 (only) 10am - 4.30pm. Tickets - Adults \$10, Students \$6, under 18 free.

8 Jazmine Court - Tickets at the gate or via Trybooking. Sophorae & 4 Sylvia Court (one ticket for both gardens) - Tickets at the gate or via Trybooking.

For more information about open gardens and events, visit: [www.opengardensvictoria.org.au](http://www.opengardensvictoria.org.au)

## Eco-arts events set for launch

A series of new environmentally-inspired arts events, including short films, concerts, exhibitions and workshops will be held around Phillip Island and Bass Coast.

The event program, called For Our Future, will be launched on November 5 at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre by Bass Coast Shire Mayor Michael Whelan.

Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) president Jeff Nottle said the eco arts program was supported by a \$50,000 grant from the shire as well as PICS funding.

"For Our Future is designed

to inspire environmental stewardship in community, deepening a sense of connection with each other and the living world," Jeff said.

He said artists, musicians, conservationists and First Nation cultural educators would create performances, workshops, concerts, exhibitions, an international print exchange and conservation walks and talks.

The program will be around four projects: Country is Listening, Living Water Ways, Ocean Messages and an Eco Arts Community Celebration at the new Cowes Cultural and

Community Centre.

"Four short films will be produced, documenting each of the projects," Jeff said.

For Our Future has been developed by PICS arts working group including Laura Brearley, Anne Davie, Jeff Nottle and Michelle Maes and builds on other similar projects in Bass Coast in the last decade, including the Shearwater Festival, the intercultural arts program in the Island Whale Festival and the Coastal Connections project.

Details: Laura Brearley, Eco Art Culture Hub (TEACH): [laura.brearley@tlc21.com.au](mailto:laura.brearley@tlc21.com.au)

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# Island Wedding

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Get flower power at your wedding

Flowers can be tricky, especially when they're your wedding flowers and you want everyone to love them.

Corrie MacGregor from Morrie and Maisie Event Flowers has some advice on getting the flowers just right for your special day.

"Where to start? Most of us go to Pinterest or Instagram, find pictures we like, and essentially copy that palette. Which is a totally legit way to find your palette," said Corrie.

"But I wanted to throw a couple of other ways at you – these could bring a unique personal twist to your wedding flowers!

"First – be the truest version of your relationship. What colours do you and your partner wear a lot of? What colours compliment you as a couple – are you bubbly extroverts? Whites and neutrals look great on everyone but are they really a reflection of you two?"

"Ignore the seasons (this might be controversial!). But just because it's Autumn, it doesn't mean you have to have oranges, rusts and reds! Just like Winter doesn't necessarily mean deep

dark burgundies, reds and greens. You will get lovely fresh seasonal flowers in all kinds of colour palettes, all year round, so follow your heart," Corrie recommends.

"Don't be a slave to 'trends'. Do you really 100 per cent love the colour trends shown on Instagram/Pinterest or is it just easier to follow the trends? You do you.

"My fall-back advice is ... pick colours that make you happy!

"Choose colours that surround you constantly and you enjoy being around. And if that's a crazy combo like bright yellow, blue and black (I've just plucked random colours here) then that's ok, we can still make them look beautiful!

"It just has to make you excited for your day! On a side note, if chunks of colour scare you, sometimes little pops of bright yellow, blue or black might be all we need.

"Once you've picked two or three of your favourite colours, I can help you choose two or three shoulder colours and we're off on our way to WOW!"



Getting flowers right for your wedding can be tricky. "Choose colours that surround you constantly and you enjoy being around," advised Corrie. Photo: Claire Davie.



"You will get lovely fresh seasonal flowers in all kinds of colour palettes, all year round, so follow your heart," recommends Corrie. Photo: Claire Davie.



You can get inspiration from Pinterest or Instagram, or chose colours that make you happy says Corrie. Photo: Claire Davie.



Corrie MacGregor from Morrie and Maisie Event Flowers has some advice on getting the flowers just right for your special day. Photo: Claire Davie.

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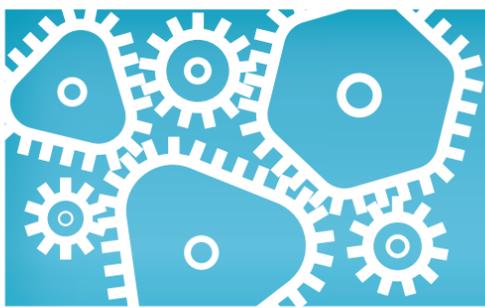


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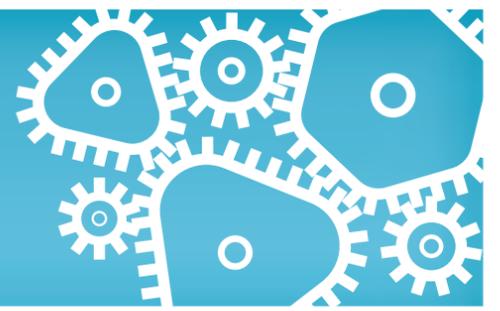
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## DEATHS

### EXCELL, Arthur Reginald (Reg):

11.08.1938 - 23.10.2022

Dearly loved husband of Helen, much loved father of Kym, Craig and Gavin. Father-in-law of David (dec), Carole and Kim, Grandfather of Cassie, Luke, Daniel, Daniel, Stacey, Joshua, Darcy and Ebony. Great-grandfather of 7.

Resting peacefully.

### EXCELL, Arthur Reginald:

Loved brother in law of Marge and Eric.

Uncle of Gil, Peter and Bruce and families.

Sadly missed.

### EXCELL, Reg:

Fond brother in law of Bev.

Now at peace.

### ROBINSON, Barrie (Bazza) William:

27/03/1941 - 20/10/2022

Barrie was a great friend. He was more than a friend. His friendship was personal to everyone.

He cared, was generous and thoughtful. He lived more for others than himself, and contributed to society in a selfless way.

His talents were boundless, playing multiple musical instruments and also was a gifted painter to the Melbourne Theatre scene.

### WHITNEY, Mabel Joan 'Joan':

Passed away peacefully on October 22, 2022.

Loved and loving wife of Eric (dec.).

Loving Mum and mother-in-law of Rhonda & Mark.

Adored Granny to Sara & Luke, and Daniel.

Reunited with the love of her life.

## FUNERALS

### EXCELL:

The Funeral Service for Mr Arthur Reginald "Reg" Excell

will be held at St John's Uniting Church, Chapel Street, Cowes

on MONDAY (Oct 31, 2022) commencing at 11:00am.

At the conclusion of the Service the Funeral will leave for

The Phillip Island Cemetery.



### ROBINSON:

The Funeral Service for Barrie William Robinson will be held at St John's Uniting Church,

Chapel Street, Cowes, on Friday (October 28, 2022) commencing at 2pm.

A Private Cremation will follow

Barrie's friends are invited to attend. No Flowers.



### WELSH:

A Celebration of the life of Margaret Welsh will be held at Anchorage Beach at the end of Anchorage Rd., Ventnor at 11am sharp.

Sunday 6th November - after scattering her ashes, nibbles and coffee and tea will be provided at 16 Richardson Way, Ventnor.

### WHITNEY:

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Joan Whitney will be held at St. Philip's Anglican Church, Thompson Avenue, Cowes on Thursday (Nov. 3, 2022) commencing at 2:30pm.

A Private Cremation will follow.



## GARAGE SALES



# SOLD!

## OR ABOUT TO SELL.

The San Remo/Newhaven Lions Club will be holding a "Car Boot/Garage Sale" on Sunday, November 20, at the Recreational Centre, Wynne Road San Remo.

If you have something to sell - anything - from a boat, a car, a caravan (we have the space) to a boot or trailer full of goods you no longer use, you need to book a site. This is the time to have a clean out and earn some extra cash leading up to Christmas. There will be walk up sites but we suggest you ring Stewart (0408 341 799) to ensure your site, at this "BRING ANYTHING AND SELL IT" sale. Sites are available for \$20 with all proceeds going to the Lions Club.

### CAPE WOOLAMAI:

Clearwater Avenue Sunday, October 30, 9am - 3pm

Five separate Garage Sales, all in one street! In Clearwater Ave, between The Esplanade and Panorama Drive. Balloons out front of participating houses.

### COWES:

53 Katherine Circuit, Sunday October 30, 9am - 3pm, Huge de-clutter garage sale. Loads of bargains/freebies!

Furniture, curtains & fittings, hardware & even the kitchen sink!

No early callers.

### SMITHS BEACH:

228 Smiths Beach Rd, from 8am to 2pm, Saturday, October 29.

Growing Cambodia

### VENTNOR:

2 Fisher Street, Cup Weekend, Saturday October 29 & Sunday 30. Moving Sale - Furniture, Household goods, Collectables and some Antiques.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

# SAN REMO PRESCHOOL CENTRE INC

REG. NUMBER A7730



## Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at San Remo Preschool

**Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 7PM**

Business includes confirmation of minutes of previous AGM, presentation of annual reports, and election of new committee of management for 2023.

San Remo Preschool Committee of Management

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## PUBLIC NOTICES



Meet the Candidates in the State Election 2022 on Nov 3rd 2022 at 5.30pm - 7pm in the ANZAC room at the RSL, Cowes.

Island Voice invites you to Meet the Bass Candidates for the State election and ask them the important questions. We have invited all the declared candidates and Jordan Crugnale (ALP incumbent), Aaron Brown (Lib), Callum Bugbird (Greens) and Jeni Jobe (Independent) have accepted.

Meals are available at the RSL (at your own cost).

Please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

### EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

The Advertiser conducts its journalism in accordance with the guidelines of the Australian Press Council.

**The General Principles**  
Accuracy and clarity  
1. Ensure that factual material in news reports and elsewhere is accurate and not misleading, and is distinguishable from other material such as opinion.  
2. Provide a correction or other adequate remedial action if published material is significantly inaccurate or misleading.

**Fairness and balance**  
3. Ensure that factual material is presented with reasonable fairness and balance, and that writers' expressions of opinion are not based on significantly inaccurate factual material or omission of key facts.  
4. Ensure that where material refers adversely to a person,

a fair opportunity is given for subsequent publication of a reply if that is reasonably necessary to address a possible breach of General Principle 3.

**Privacy and avoidance of harm**  
5. Avoid intruding on a person's reasonable expectations of privacy, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.  
6. Avoid causing or contributing materially to substantial offence, distress or prejudice, or a substantial risk to health or safety, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.

**Integrity and transparency**  
7. Avoid publishing material which has been gathered by deceptive or unfair means, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.  
8. Ensure that conflicts of interests are avoided or adequately disclosed, and that they do not influence published material.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

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## Bass Coast Health

### Current vacancies

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- Support Service Assistant - Environmental Services**  
Permanent Part Time - Closes 30/11/2022
- Registered Nurse - Haemodialysis**  
Casual - Closes 07/11/2022
- Social Worker Team Leader**  
Permanent Full Time - Closes 26/11/2022
- Pharmacotherapy Regional Outreach Worker**  
Fixed Term Part Time - Closes 05/11/2022
- Allied Health Assistant**  
Permanent Part Time - Closes 01/11/2022
- Administration Assistant**  
Casual - Closes 28/10/2022
- Coding Educator/ Auditor**  
Permanent Part Time - Closes 04/11/2022
- Nurse Unit Manager - Women & Family Service**  
Permanent Full Time - Closes 04/11/2022
- Occupational Therapist Graduate Program**  
Fixed Term Full Time - Closes 31/10/2022
- Health Promotion Officer**  
Fixed Term Part Time - Closes 31/10/2022
- Occupational Therapist**  
Fixed Term Part Time - Closes 06/11/2022
- Physiotherapist**  
Fixed Term Full Time - Closes 07/11/2022
- Dental Therapist**  
Permanent Full Time - Closes 31/10/2022
- Registered Nurse/ Midwife - Acute/ Subacute/Emergency/Midwifery/UCC/ Operating Suite**  
Permanent Full Time/Part Time/Casual - Closing dates (please refer to website)
- Workforce Bureau Officer**  
Permanent Part Time - Closes 31/10/2022
- Nurse Unit Manager Perioperative Service**  
Permanent Full Time - Closes 30/10/2022
- Surgical Liaison Nurse**  
Fixed Term Part Time - Closes 30/10/2022
- Associate Nurse Unit Manager**  
Permanent Full Time - Closes 30/11/2022
- Perioperative Services Manager**  
Permanent Full Time - Closes 30/10/2022

To find out more about working at Bass Coast Health and to apply, visit the Careers page on our website or contact our HR team on [hr@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:hr@basscoasthealth.org.au) or 5671 3151.



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# Business Guide

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Email: [san.remo.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:san.remo.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Applications close on Wednesday September 3.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

### Labor missing in action

Many readers will be aware that the Western Port Woodlands are under threat from massive expansion of sand mining. All candidates for Bass Electorate in the upcoming election except Labor have committed to action to protect the woodlands. The woodlands may seem small in the scheme of things but that's just the point. We live in the most cleared region of the most cleared state in Australia and they're all we've got left!

Will Labor be the ones to oversee destruction of the last remaining coastal forest in our region or will they promise to fully investigate the huge alternative sand supplies on cleared land in West Gippsland, close to rail and freeway to Melbourne? Come on Labor. There is still time to act.

Linda Cuttriss, Ventnor

### Council deafness

We live in a special place at Surf Beach, seemingly in the middle of a nature reserve. Low impact design is required.

We strongly object to the pre-determined options presented to residents for the Surf Beach Road upgrade by Council. The four options presented are almost identical, all requiring full underground drainage, sealed roads and kerb/channel.

Roads in estates can be managed with a combination of some sealed roads (for busier routes) and managed gravel roads for the majority of infrequently used roads. Swale edges that still drain can be installed for millions less and excess stormwater can be managed further in some problem areas. Council says this will not work but provides no basis for this and appears intent on over-engineering. Most of the areas naturally drain away and are absorbed.

As for providing footpaths to every road, sometimes both sides, this will cause loss of indigenous natural vegetation and shorttailed shearwater rookeries which are protected by state law and International Treaty. At Surf Beach on the Esplanade where the road is very narrow and there are rookeries on either side the only solution that we see is a combination of vehicular road and pedestrian way. With speed management, such as a curving or meandering road and gentle speed humps if necessary, vehicles and pedestrians can share areas, as at west Woolamai.

We note there has been no examination of permeable road surfaces as an option and are disappointed at this. As architects, we use these constantly in driveways and are compelled by metropolitan councils to employ them in new projects. Why isn't it being optioned for footpaths here? There is a complete negation of the dust retardant surface option which can last 20 years if properly maintained. Lighting is also impossible for the landing birds, disturbing their flight path.

In summary we request Council go back to providing a subtler range of options more respectful to our unique area. Do a proper study of drainage problem areas, solve that with specific localised solutions.

Grant and Pauline Amon, Surf Beach

### Question time questioned

Once again, the mayor Cr Michael Whelan the Bass Coast Council and councillors have ignored the ratepayers and residents of Bass Coast, in the way that they were treated in question time at last Wednesday's council meeting.

I would like to draw the Bass Coast Mayor Cr Michael Whelan's attention to the following:

Bass coast Community Engagement Policy 2021 first paragraph: "Council is committed to actively encouraging individuals, groups, and communities to be involved in local government through community engagement".

How can the community engage with council and councillors when their fundamental right to be heard is disallowed by the Mayor?

Mayor Whelan was in fine form at Wednesday's council meeting in refusing to read out eight questions raised by ratepayers. I understand three other questions were not acknowledged by him. The views of the Mayor, council staff and some councillors are well known regarding question time to be a waste of time.

The governance rule in regard public question time (clause 54.5) needs to be reviewed by councillors and the following sentence need to be removed: "Not all questions are required to be read at the meeting".

Question should only be disallowed if they fall under clause 54.6. I have no objection to the answer to multiple questions being summarised but, however I strongly object to them not being read out.

I am disappointed in you, our councillors, not challenging the Mayor on his refusal to read out questions.

I must remind the Mayor and councillors that we are not citizens of a dictatorship. You are there as our representatives speaking for us, your community.

Which councillor has the fortitude to table a motion to amend clause 5.4?

John Trig, Surf Beach

### Another reason to Say No

A recent article from the Conservation and Wildlife Research Trust (CWRT) again highlights the importance of habitat for our wildlife. The article details the work of Nature Parks, Zoos Victoria and other agencies in helping save the Eastern Barred Bandicoot (EBB) from extinction. The EBB, already extinct in the wild on the mainland, has been successfully released on Summerland Peninsula with more than 60 individuals since October 2017. The EBB has been sighted in Surf Beach and probably Cape

Woolamai. With Phillip Island now fox free the major threat is habitat loss. It is vital that the wildlife corridor from The Nobbies to Cape Woolamai be protected and maintained.

Asphalt and kerbing in Surf Beach/Sunderland Bay will destroy habitat and lead to increased road kill. The EBB would have little chance crossing Phillip Island Road alive! The CWRT article describes in great detail the work of so many to protect the EBB and how the EBB has a positive impact on gardens, reserves and farmland by reducing soil compaction, improving nutrient and water filtration.

Finally many pensioners and not so low income households are already stressing about the impact of an additional huge debt.

The Special Charge Scheme is just not sustainable - not for individuals, not for the environment and not for the future of Phillip Island.

Rob and Ineke Humphrys, Surf Beach

### No to asphalt and concrete

Last Wednesday afternoon was a beautiful spring afternoon. Between 4pm and 5.30 pm I walked my dog the entire length of The Esplanade from the Phillip Island Tourist Road entrance to Sunderland Bay and back. As walks go, they don't get any better than this one.

On the outward journey I encountered four people, three cars, no cyclists, no dogs, two wallabies and hundreds of birds. On the return journey I encountered three people, zero cars, no cyclists, three dogs, two rabbits and hundreds of birds.

My summary for Council is that there was virtually no dust, no people, no traffic, no safety issues and surprisingly little water lying around considering the rain we have had. Of course the birds were feeding on and in the grass and other vegetation Council wants to bulldoze and replace with concrete paths. On my estimate Council would remove an area equivalent to approximately 3 MCGs of green space. Talk about habitat loss.

Council says it understands the area has "a unique character in terms of the natural environment". I think they actually have no idea. I don't care what their flora and fauna due diligence studies end up revealing. You don't need to be an expert to conclude you simply cannot remove that much green space and lay asphalt and concrete without a severe adverse impact on the local environment. I am appalled by the destruction they are contemplating.

I think every councillor needs to have a long hard think about their legacy. Roads and paths are not a legacy. Maybe they really do just want to create Chadstone by the sea. Just an abysmal thought.

The destruction is just so wrong. To make residents pay potentially tens of thousands of dollars is just cruel. Say NO.

Ray Cummings, Surf Beach



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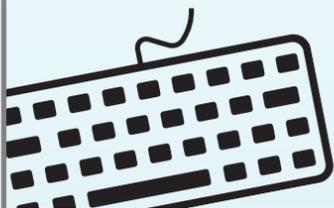
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Weeds are a real threat to Short-tailed shearwaters and other ground-nesting birds – they grow over the burrows and prevent the birds from coming back and refurbishing the burrows.

## Short-tailed shearwaters return to improved habitat

Short-tailed shearwaters have begun arriving at Phillip Island to find newly improved nesting habitat for their breeding season this year.

About 1.4 million of the seabirds return to Phillip Island in late September each year from the waters around Alaska. The timing of their return is usually quite predictable. While they concerningly arrived late for the 2019/20 breeding season, the birds are back to their usual schedule.

Their arrival this year comes as Phillip Island Nature Parks has completed significant habitat revegetation works at Cape Woolamai, which is home to around 540,000 burrows.

Nature Parks Senior Ranger Mark Merryfull said the focus was on removing and preventing weeds that threaten the birds' nesting environment – including treating 17 hectares of weeds and planting more than 6300 native plants.

"Weeds are a real threat to Short-tailed shearwaters and other ground-nesting birds – they grow over the burrows and prevent the birds from coming back and refurbishing the burrows the birds use to breed in," he said.

"We've improved Short-tailed shearwater habitat by treating more than 17 hectares of smothering grasses and by planting native species that are local to Cape Woolamai, which contribute to suppress weeds.

"Habitat restoration is one piece of the puzzle for ensuring the long-term survival of Short-tailed shearwaters."

Another piece of that puzzle is research.

Nature Parks Deputy Research Director Dr Duncan Sutherland said geolocators were continuing to track the birds' return journey between the food rich waters around Alaska and Phillip Island where they come to breed.

Tracking data from 2019/20, when the birds' return was delayed, showed that rather than migrating south as usual, they turned north and spent a few weeks in the Arctic Circle before starting their migration back toward Phillip Island.

Another 25 geolocators were deployed last year and more from previous years could still be recovered, shedding more light on the birds' flight patterns.

"We're interested in the year-to-year variation in movement patterns as they will help us understand the influence of changing environmental conditions on the persistence and breeding success of these trans-equatorial migrants," Dr Sutherland said.

"We are seeing significant changes in the sea temperature and extent of sea ice in the northern Bering and Chukchi Seas, near Alaska, driven by climate change.

"In seasons to come, climate change could see shearwaters pushed further north looking for food in the colder, more productive waters, and further delaying their return to breed, with the possibility of missing the breeding window."

Phillip Island Nature Parks has ramped up its efforts to protect Short-tailed shearwaters with the help of a grant from wildlife advocacy group, WIRES. This includes the habitat restoration, a strengthened rescue capability, enhanced data collection and community education for the benefit of shearwaters.

"Earlier this year we saw a great response from local businesses and residents who turned off their lights and helped reduce light pollution, a simple measure that dramatically reduces the dangers to young shearwaters as they fledge," Dr Sutherland said.

"Local residents on Phillip Island are encouraged to continue playing their part in protecting these breeding birds and their habitat by ensuring they remain on walking tracks in areas where the shearwaters breed, so as not to disturb or destroy the burrows.

"Keeping cats contained on the owners' premises at all times and keeping dogs on leads will also go a long way to minimising the threat to these amazing migratory birds."

## Smiths Beach toilet upgrade

New temporary toilets have been installed at the main carpark at Smiths Beach, in preparation for summer.

The installation coincided with calls from a Smiths Beach resident for an update on the situation, which has seen portable toilets in the area for most of the year.

Rick Livingstone said Smiths Beach was being ignored by Bass Coast Shire Council, with the toilet block at the main carpark fenced off for months.

The block was apparently damaged earlier in the year by an earthquake and has been declared structurally unstable.

Rick is critical of the council's lack of action, describing it as a "downright scandal".

"This is one of the busiest beaches on Phillip Island and the island is a tourist resort.

"The council has no plan in place at the moment to replace the toilets."

He believes the portable toilets are not adequate to cope with the demand over summer.

However the temporary toilets have recently been upgraded to cope with the expected increase of visitors.

The Council confirmed the old toilet block

had suffered structural damage.

"The Smiths Beach toilet block has been assessed by an independent structural engineer and the report has recommended the building is not fit for public use," a Council spokesperson said.

"Council has installed temporary toilet facilities for the community and with summer fast approaching, we have recently upgraded these facilities to larger temporary facility to cater for visitors.

"The accessible toilet in the main toilet block has no structural damage and it is still open to the public."

Council said work was already underway on a design for a new facility.

"The toilet block will be replaced under Council's renewal program. Construction of the new toilet facility date is not yet set," the spokesperson said.

"Information signs will be erected in the next few weeks in relation to the replacement works to help inform the community."

To find out more about this project and follow progress please visit [www.engage.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/sbtoilet](http://www.engage.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/sbtoilet)



An upgraded temporary toilet block has been installed at Smiths Beach main carpark, to cater for summer visitor numbers.

## Residents question road upgrade

Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay residents have lobbied a series of questions to Bass Coast Shire's CEO at the October council meeting about the proposed special charge scheme to seal the area's roads.

Susie Wickes asked the CEO to confirm whether there were 1033 rate payers in the area and if the shire received 517 objections to the scheme it would be abandoned.

Of six questions posed, Neil Wilmot asked whether the shire had investigated the change to expected heat levels, with the proposed sealing of roads for Surf Beach, while Natasha Dunston questioned whether the shire had engaged anyone to assess the impact the proposed scheme would have on the area's environment.

"Will the community reference group's input have any impact on decision making process other than being asked to choose an option?" Natasha said.

Danielle Inwood asked how the shire was communicating to owners the message of a no vote requiring 50+1 for it not to go ahead.

"It isn't enough for mail outs that are getting lost or hidden among other notices from council," Danielle said.

CEO Ali Wastie replied the shire was following the legal process for the road upgrade project, including community engagement "to determine the preferred design, project risks, cost estimate and cost proportion of works".

"Council's engagement includes consultation with every property owner within Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay, a monthly newsletter, email and letter correspondence and a dedicated information page on Engage Bass Coast," Ms Wastie said.

She said a community reference group of more than 100 property owners had been established to guide potential design options, which would be presented to the community.

Ms Wastie said a detailed report was expected to go to council in July 2023.

"Officers will also follow up with each question submitter to discuss their specific enquiries further."



Council approved construction of eight two-storey dwellings at 3 Pike Street in San Remo, described as a "super lot" in the new Panorama Estate.

### Pike Street development approved

Council approved construction of eight two-storey dwellings at 3 Pike Street in San Remo, described as a "super lot" in the new Panorama Estate.

Cr Bruce Kent said the development was before Council due to the cost and had received only one objection. He described it as a "quality development", needed in the area. Cr Clare Le Serve said concerns around waste management had been resolved and she was happy to support it. The Planning Permit was approved, subject to 15 conditions.

### San Remo's unused cash

San Remo resident Sue Alcock asked a question at the October council meeting about how much public open space contribution levy had been raised in San Remo from 2018 until the present.

"How has this been used to the benefit of San Remo?" Sue said. Shire CEO Ali Wastie said since 2018, \$123,250 in public space contributions had been collected. "These funds have not been spent," Ms Wastie said.

### Cape Woolamai approval

Councillors voted to grant a permit for a house at 64 The Esplanade in Cape Woolamai.

The application to build a two-storey home, including a basement, rooftop deck and swimming pool received five objections. However officers recommended granting the permit, subject to eight conditions, and the councillors agreed.

Cr Bruce Kent thanked the community for their submissions and said a lot of work had been done on the application.

"Overall, I believe this is a good design," he said, noting the building would fit in with existing dwellings.

"It is high quality and I believe it is a reasonable height for the area ... the right property for the right location."

Cr Rochelle Halstead addressed concerns about the building height – which would be 8.3 metres in part, above the seven-metre height limit recommended in the planning scheme.

"This is a trigger. It's not saying people can't build any higher than seven metres; in fact they can go to 11 metres."

Cr Clare Le Serve praised the size of the garden, saying it was around 54 per cent of the area, well above the 35 per cent required.

"We are at the point of flipping some of the older generational homes to more modern designs," she said.

"I think it would be a good fit in the area."

### Asset Management Policy

"It's a pretty dry subject," said Cr Clare Le Serve, as she moved the motion to adopt the Asset Management Policy and Strategy Review.

The reviewed Asset Management Policy and strategy documents cover Council's management and care of its infrastructure assets.

The policy estimated assets were worth \$730 million to replace, with the asset management objective to predict what was likely to happen to infrastructure, and address it before costs escalated.

Cr Le Serve said the strategy would help care for the shire's ageing infrastructure, through repair and maintenance.

Cr David Rooks described the documents as "excellent and informative" and noted they had been updated to reflect Council's Climate Change Action Plan and the current climate emergency.

Cr Les Larke asked for clarification on the model used for asset predictions and how this differed from the value assigned to the assets in the budget.

Wayne Mack, General Manager of Business Transformation said Council used a condition-based approach for its asset predictions, while the budget used straight line depreciation, stating the Victorian Auditor General Office was comfortable with that approach.

### No joy for Jam Jerrup

An attempt by some Jam Jerrup residents to have their roads moved up the priority list for Urban Roads and Drainage has failed.

To move up the priority list, an area needs to have a commitment from 70 per cent of residents.

A petition presented at the March meeting asked Council to seal Bay and Foreshore roads in Jam Jerrup, and Council then undertook community engagement, which showed only 46-47 per cent of property owners wanted the upgrade and were willing to pay.

"Not enough people stepped forward to sign up for the scheme, which is disappointing for those that wished the scheme to go ahead," said Cr Bruce Kent.

James Stirton, General Manager Place Making, said interim measures to slow traffic on the roads to alleviate dust issues would be looked at, in line with low-cost treatments rolled out in other unsealed areas in the shire.

Cr Rochelle Halstead asked if the treatments include dust suppression and was told it would be considered. Cr Clare Le Serve was disappointed with the result, saying she didn't think a few "slow down dust signs will cut it with the group".

"Hopefully they can come back with 70 per cent," she said. Jam Jerrup will retain its current position on the evaluation list.

# Great start to Rips basketball season



Well done to the U14 girls who finished fifth in their pool this weekend at the Korumburra Tournament.



The U16 girls finished runners up after giving their all during the match.



The U10 Rips boys had fun and made great improvements in their tournament, finishing fourth in their pool.



The U10s girls fought hard to the end missing out in the dying seconds of their Grand Final, well done on runners up!



Congratulations to the U12 girls who won their Grand Final, 23-10.



Congratulations to Addi who was awarded MVP for the U12 girls Grand Final.



New and existing members of the croquet club enjoying the try out day.

## Croquet come and try day

On Sunday, October 23, the Phillip Island croquet club held a 'come and try croquet' day at their lawns and new pavilion in the Blue Gum Reserve, Cowes. To the club's delight, 15 visitors arrived to learn what the game of croquet was all about. The weather was perfect, the sun was shining, the visitors eager to learn and with many club members there to teach the funda-

mentals of the golf croquet game, the day was a huge success. The visitors enjoyed the experience as many questions were asked along with laughs and frustrated sighs being heard across the lawns throughout the afternoon. Croquet: a game for all ages. For more croquet information please phone Claire 0403 690 237 or Bob 0455 970 557.

## Phillip Island golf results

### Tuesday, October 18, Mens stableford

The winner was John Enbom (18) with 41 points from Chris Lawrence (21) with 40 points.

NTP 5th Anthony Shannon, 7th Ray Reid, 10th Steve Mack, and 17th Ron Owen.

BDL to 32 points countback.

Nine-hole competition winner was Dave Henstridge (23) with 20 points on countback to Ian Bray (31).

BDL to 17 countback.

### Wednesday, October 19, Ladies stableford

The winner was Megan Elbaz (33) with 39 points from Deb Orr (14) with 38 points and Trish Jamieson (38) with 37 points.

NTP 5th Zoe Frost, 7th Sheryl Smith, 17th Cheryl White and 12th Vicki Amato.

BDL to 32 points.

Nine-hole competition winner was Michelle Barker (37) with 20 points.

### Thursday, October 20, Open stableford

The winner was Rowan Wales (20) with 39 points on countback from Ron Davies (18) and Maria Amato (15).

BDL to 32 points on countback.

NTP 5th Faye Morris, 7th Steve Sloss, 10th Robert Purcell, and 17th Mario Amato.

Nine-hole stableford winner was Ian Bray (31) with 21 points on countback from Basil Moloney (16).

BDL to 16 points countback.



The Beyond Blue fundraiser was organised by Reece Jamieson, Heath Kolac, James Fowler, Jake Wright, Jake Wright, Matt Thompson, Jack Ross, Shaun Ambler, Issac Batty and Adrian O'Gorman.

### Saturday, October 22, stableford

Ladies' competition winner was Lesley Meadowcroft (16) with 37 points, and runner up Ada Anglin (13) with 38 points.

NTP 7th Ada Anglin, and 17th Vicki Roff-Smith.

BDL to nett 28 points countback.

Mens results

A grade winner was Phil Ellard (12) with 41 points, B grade was David Nicoll (18) with 37 points on countback and C grade was Rowan Wales (20) with 35 points.

NTP 5th Anthony Johns, 7th Lawrence Ferrari, 10th Greg Hyndman, and 17th Phil Ellard.

BDL to 37 points countback.

Nine-hole competition winner was John Rodakis (34) with 21 points from Tracey Cuff (20) with 19 points on countback from Mark Atley (27).

BDL to 17 points countback.

On Friday, October 21 the golf club hosted the first annual Beyond Blue charity fundraiser day with around \$10,000 raised for Beyond Blue in memory of Makaela Batty.



Pictured from left to right are competitors: Ayla, Asha, Iyla, Paige, Ruby, Charlie and Juliet.

## Gymstar competitors take final win of the season

Competing against 60 gymnasts from around the state, YMCA Phillip Island Gymstar 3 knew they were in for a challenging final competition of the season.

Coach Daniella Mascaros and her team bravely took to the floor, knowing there would be little room for error.

The girls held their nerve, remaining calm and determined, per-

forming routines that outshone the competition, winning first place in the team event.

Charlie Jolly's beautiful routines on all six apparatus saw her win outright, coming in first place in the individual all around, a fantastic achievement.

Ruby Woodrup placed second overall, Asha Graham placed fourth and Juliet Justin and Ayla Williams

formed routines that outshone the competition, winning first place in the team event.

A truly magnificent result team. Credit goes to coach Daniella Mascaros, in her year as a Gymstar coach, for the strength of the team and the outstanding individual all-around results at every event attended this season.

Congratulations and well done for finishing the year on such a high.

## Midweek Bowls results

Twenty-three of our family of bowlers met at San Remo to fight it out once again for team of the week.

As usual there was plenty of laughter and friendly banter, the weather was in the mid 20s but the wind was quite cool which forced many to protect themselves with coats.

It was good to see Peter Gratton back from his extended holiday around our wonderful country and it was also good to see Lindsay drop in after his stint in hospital.

Hopefully he will be back playing very soon.

Today there was only one two game winner (not too surprising with the wind blowing all day), but it was still a fun day for all.

Winners today on a score of 36 were, Michael Dady (S), Terry Floyd (3), and Peter Taylor (L).

Runners up on 23 points were, Mark Andreatta (S), Rob Jeffrey (3), Pauline McWilliams (2), and Tony Morris (L).

Best one game winners on 20 points were, Peter Gratton (S), Laurie Bell (3), Peter McWilliams (2), and Bob Arnold (L).

A big thank you to Gwen in the kitchen, and once again thank you to San Remo Bowls club for the excellent condition of the green.

Next week we will be at Koo Wee Rup, be on site by 10am for a 10.30am start.



Winners: Michael Dady (S), Peter Taylor (L), and Terry Floyd (3).



Best one game winners: Laurie Bell (3), Bob Arnold (L), Peter Gratton (S), and Peter McWilliams (2).



Left to right are winners Trish Williams and Lois May.

## Phillip Island bowls club results

Sunday in near perfect weather conditions the Men's 15 end two bowl event was played.

The final was Dave Hanlon verses Steve Farrelly. Steve played a good game, but the better bowler of the day was Dave Hanlon.

The main event on Sunday was all about the ladies, that being the La-

dies' Pairs Final.

Lois May and Trish Williams verses. Polly Major and Ruth Partridge and after a very tight game it was Lois May and Trish Williams who came out on top.

The standard of bowling was exceptional, and all four ladies need to be congratulated.

## Ladies Bowls

On Friday October 21 the Phillip Island Bowls Club held the Ladies 15 end two bowl competition.

The rain held off and we witnessed some exceptional bowling by all the ladies.

The final was between Polly Major and Beb Hyslop and it was a very close and exciting game with Polly Major winning 11-8.



Polly Major and Beb Hyslop during the Ladies competition.



From left to right are social bowls winners Lindsay Meredith, Joan Farmer and Michael Haack.

## Phillip Island Social bowls results

Another beautiful day on the island. The sun was out with a slight breeze which made conditions perfect for our social bowlers.

Runners up were Skip - Serge

Castel, Third - Elaine Severino and Lead - Eric Wild.

Congratulations to our winners: Skip - Michael Haack, Third - Lindsay Meredith and Lead - Joan Farmer.

## Bridge results

The top three places for Monday the seventeenth was close with Deb Anglim and Greg Nicholson taking out line honours on 54.17 per cent.

Just behind, on 53.65 per cent were Anne Gibson and Graham Mckergow.

In third place was Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles on 52.08 per cent.

Wednesday, October 19 was the

first week of mid-week teams.

First place for this week was a tie between Paul Waylen, Moya Crowley, Caroline Shaw, Leng Haggith Hannah Martin, Maureen Stiles, Ruth Stevenson, and Penny Loughran.

Currently in third position is Phil Rinder, Ann Green, Marion Wellwood, and Jill Short.

Overall winners will be determined next week.

## RSL Euchre results

Ladies' winner: Caroline Fletcher with seven wins.

Men's winner: Mario Amato with six wins.

Encouragement award: Grant Wadeson.

Please contact Bob Hee for any further information 0418 173 388.

## Angling club results

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) welcomed anglers, supporters, and enthusiasts to the club rooms for the third fishing competition of the 2022/2023 season, held over October 22 and 23.

With an ominous weather forecast predicting a 95 per cent chance of 10-20 mm of rain for the start of the competition, only the optimistic made early morning plans.

Despite the forecast being 100 per cent accurate the rain around Rhyll ceased by 10am on Saturday.

Whist the promise of spring snapper enticed many anglers to get an early start, they didn't need to travel far to get to the water.

Thankfully Sunday morning was calm and sunny for anglers to try again, but the wind came with force after 2pm, hinting it was time to leave the whitecaps and prepare for weigh in.

The weigh-in master, Russ Gallagher, and Club Captain, Chris Leonardos, saw many triumphs on each day of weigh-in and a total of 43 eligible species and two sharks were weighed in.

Reports were snapper-centric, al-

though king george whiting, gummy sharks, trevally, salmon, flathead, calamari, and barracouta were also mentioned. Again, timing and location appeared to be crucial and most of the big fish were caught on Saturday.

With recent reports of huge snapper entering the bay, the \$5000 incentives for angling members with extraordinary catches, during a competition weekend, remains in the bank.

The five eligible species nominated for each first-to-catch \$1000 prize, by equalling or exceeding the nominated weight, are: king george whiting (1000 grams), snapper (10 kilograms), gummy shark (20 kilograms), mullo-way (25 kilograms) and kingfish (25 kilograms).

The post-competition presentation on Sunday was a great celebration of participation, which would not have been successful without the efforts of the volunteers on the day and the contributions from RPIAC sponsors.

RPIAC encourages participation in recreational angling and children, aged 16 and under, receive complimentary membership to the angling competitions to develop skills and an interest in sustainable and responsible angling.

The squidgie mixed bag competition, for anglers aged nine or younger, was uncontested and many opportunities for prizes in this competition remain.

The weekend's junior competition, for anglers aged 10 to 16, saw Lucas Chihotski claim the junior weight prize for a snapper weighing 4580 grams. The junior points prize was awarded to River Hume for a snapper worth 1508 points (1885 grams).

The senior heaviest weight contests were won by Pat Gleeson and Kate Jinnette, presenting eye-bulging snapper weighing 7010 grams and 4900 grams, respectively.

The senior points competitions were won by Peter Cubeta and Ténille Preddice, for a salmon worth 2390 points (2390 grams) and a king george whiting worth 1386 points (495 grams), respectively.

Peter Hall blitzed the senior shark competition with a gummy shark, weighing 4230 grams, to claim the prize.

Steve Bland won the secret weight competition with a respectable snapper, weighing 2895 grams, which was closest to the magic number (secret weight 2693 grams).

The next competition will be held over the weekend of November 5 and 6.

For further information about the club, competitions and rules, please visit [www.rpiac.com](http://www.rpiac.com)



Kate Jinnette won the senior female's category with a snapper weighing 4900 grams.



Lucas Chihotski impressed all with his high-performance angling, winner of the junior weight competition with a 4580-gram snapper.



Surf Her Way clinics will be held at Inverloch this summer, as part of a series of Surfing Victoria Surf Clinics. The first session is this weekend, October 29. Photo: Liam Robertson/Surfing Victoria

## Surf Her Way

Surf Her Way clinics will be held at Inverloch this summer, as part of a series of Surfing Victoria Surf Clinics.

The new series of coaching clinics for women and girls are taking place at beaches around the state this summer.

The Surf Her Way Surf Clinics supported by Rip Curl have been created to help women and girls who are beginner-intermediate surfers looking to improve and progress their surfing.

Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson said he was stoked the Surf Her Way movement was evolving and excited for the many women and girls who will benefit from the sessions.

"It's amazing to be able to bring the Surf Her Way Clinics to life for this upcoming summer across the state," said Robertson.

"Having Rip Curl on board the program means each participant walks away with a prize pack and voucher as well as some handy surfing tips.

"Progression is so satisfying at all levels, especially in a sport like surfing, and to be able to learn new skills in an inclusive, fun and friendly environment like these sessions, it's just so conducive to progression and enjoyment."

There will be more than 20 sessions taking place over the next six months across Victorian beaches including Torquay, Thirteenth Beach, Ocean Grove and Inverloch. And

each participant receives a Surf Her Way surf guide and Rip Curl pack.

"Girls and women across the globe are dominating the line-up and the Surf Her Way program provides an opportunity for aspiring Victorian females to take part at a grass-roots level," said Shasta O'Loughlin, Environmental Social Governance Manager at Rip Curl.

"Rip Curl are stoked to be helping support more females to participate in surfing through this inclusive and supporting Surf Her Way program."

The Surf Her Way Surf Clinics supported by Rip Curl have partnered with Surfing Australia qualified coaches who will be offering a tailored coaching approach and look forward to helping you improve your surfing experience.

Inverloch sessions will be held on October 29, November 26

For more information, and to book your spot head to [www.surfherway.com.au](http://www.surfherway.com.au)



Winners of the Open Men's Final at the WorkSafe Tradies Challenge at URBNSURF from left: Phillip Island's Harry de Roth (third) and Codie Jeffery (second) with winner Cole Fox. Photo: Noah Clifford, Surfing Victoria.



Arthur McKenzie took out the Masters Title at the WorkSafe Tradies Challenge at URBNSURF. Photo: Noah Clifford, Surfing Victoria.

## Islanders blitz Tradies Challenge

Cole Fox from Jan Juc won the open men's final of the WorkSafe Tradies Challenge at URBNSURF, holding off strong challenges from Phillip Island's Codie Jeffery and Harry de Roth.

The competition was tight all day with the adjusted leaderboard format forcing each surfer to go big from the start in order to come out on top over the field. Codie and Harry put on an impressive display of surfing but were unable to clinch the top

spot.

In the newly introduced body-board division Chris Watson (Rosebud) flipped his way to victory

On the Masters' side of the draw Arthur McKenzie from Cowes pulled out a few tricks to impress the judges and come out on top of his competitors. McKenzie was able to put together multiple hammering turns and carves to earn himself a 9.33 point ride and the victory.

Throughout the event the judges

were on the lookout for the best one wave and Harry de Roth was rewarded with a Milwaukee radio for taking out this achievement.

"It was my first time doing the Tradie Challenge and it was a really good atmosphere amongst all the crew," de Roth said.

"Everyone was shredding so I was stoked to come away with the wave of the day," he added.

Full results from the day can be found at [www.surfingvic.com/live](http://www.surfingvic.com/live)

### Phillip Island Pony Club – Member of the month

Name: Keely.

Age: 15.

Horse Name: Diablo and he is a brumby.

Horse Age: 13.

Height: 14.2.

How old were you when you started riding? Three.

When did you start at PIPIC?

I started at pony club when I was eight.

What's your favourite discipline and why?

Dressage – the way you have to work with your horse to get the movements.

What's the best thing about PIPIC?

Seeing all of my friends.



## TIDE GUIDE

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

	WED 26 OCT	THU 27 OCT	FRI 28 OCT	SAT 29 OCT	SUN 30 OCT	MON 31 OCT	TUE 1 NOV
HIGH	1:58 am 2.68 m	2:53 am 2.91 m	3:44 am 3.08 m	4:31 am 3.17 m	5:17 am 3.20 m	6:02 am 3.15 m	6:46 am 3.06 m
LOW	7:42 am 1.11 m	8:35 am 1.04 m	9:24 am 0.97 m	10:09 am 0.93 m	10:53 am 0.92 m	11:37 am 0.93 m	12:21 pm 0.95 m
HIGH	2:00 pm 2.53 m	2:47 pm 2.61 m	3:31 pm 2.66 m	4:13 pm 2.70 m	4:54 pm 2.72 m	5:36 pm 2.71 m	6:20 pm 2.66 m
LOW	7:55 pm 0.67 m	8:41 pm 0.48 m	9:26 pm 0.33 m	10:10 pm 0.24 m	10:55 pm 0.21 m	11:39 pm 0.25 m	

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Chris Kotsanas with his Best and Fairest Medal for Richmond's Wheelchair Football Development team.

# Best and Fairest medal tops off a stellar season

Last month, Phillip Island's Chris Kotsanas wrote himself into the Richmond Football Club's history book.

At the Jack Dyer Medal Event at Crown Palladium, Chris won Best and Fairest for Richmond's Wheelchair Football Development team.

It was a dream come true for the self-described "die-hard Richmond supporter", who only took up the sport this year.

"I've always been athletic, but this was the first team sport I've played in my adult life."

In February, he saw an ad on Facebook for a Wheelchair Football Come and Try Day at Richmond, and decided to give it ago.

A paraplegic since a car accident 10 years ago, Chris had never heard of Wheelchair AFL, but thought it sounded like something different.

And although he hadn't played much football before his accident, he wasn't going to pass up a chance to play for Richmond.

He surprised himself by making the draft, then being presented with his Richmond jersey.

Suddenly, he was living the dream - playing for Richmond and travelling to the city every week for training.

"It was a little surreal," he admits. "I didn't know what to expect. Everyone takes it really seriously, which is fantastic and makes it really competitive."

"It makes you push yourself, which I really enjoy."

Much like the more high-profile Wheelchair Rugby, Chris says there is plenty of speed and contact on the court.

"A sports chair is very different to a normal wheelchair. It's like being in a Toyota and then jumping into a Ferrari," he jokes.

"It's lighter, faster and reinforced, because we do crash into each other."

"Plus you're strapped in, as a lot of the time, the whole chair will go over."

"I'm pretty good at hitting the deck - I seem to be able to do it on my own, without help from anyone," he jokes.

While he's quick to point out that some of his teammates have far greater skills - "some of the guys are like the Dustin Martin's of the league", he's clearly caught the eye of the coaching staff, playing games in both the Seniors and the Development team.

The Development team didn't drop a game all season and in his first year, he played in two Grand Finals, and picked up awards for Best and Fairest and Best on Ground, including scoring seven goals in the Development team's premiership victory.

## Camaraderie

But it's not just about the wins. Chris said the camaraderie within the team is a huge part of why he's so committed to the game.

"Everyone is there for their teammates."

"To hear their amazing stories and for people I barely knew to embrace me, it's like nothing I've experienced before."

He said he feels amazingly lucky when his teammates from Nigeria and Sri Lanka share their struggles of growing up with a

disability, often without access to a wheelchair.

One had polio while the other was paralysed by shrapnel from a bomb when he was 11.

"They've got stories of crawling three miles to school, but both are the most happy, bright and lovely people you will ever meet."

He said both the Richmond players and the AFL women's team throw their support behind the team.

"The Richmond players come and talk to us and presented our medals, while the women's team come and support us a lot."

The club also provides free tickets to all home games.

## Competition

The AFL's Wheelchair Football competition might still be under the radar for many fans, but it's growing in size and popularity.

There are currently five clubs fielding teams - Richmond, Hawthorn, St Kilda, Essendon and Collingwood, with Geelong looking at joining in the 2023 season.

The Richmond team trained weekly in Kew and played every second Sunday, usually at MSAC or a sports centre in Bulleen.

Chris said the sport is attracting a growing following, with 800 people watching this year's Grand Final.

And there's plenty for AFL fans to enjoy.

"We still have goal posts and scoring is the same," he explained. "Many of the rules are the same."

The only real difference is when the ball goes out of bounds, it's not a throw in. Whoever it came off, the ball goes to the opposing team.

"A handball is like a kick. A pass or underarm throw is like a handball."

Each team has five on the court, with each player given a number classification according to their ability from five to one.

"An able-bodied person in a wheelchair is a five, while I'm a two," he said, explaining each team can only have 16 points on the court at a time.

Chris recently bought himself his first sports chair, and although the \$8500 chair arrived too late for him to try out for the Victorian Squad, there's always next year.

In the meantime, he is already looking forward to the 2023 season and getting back on the court.

"It's a little hard to train at home, as I need a basketball court and I don't have a training partner down here," he explained.

Regular training will probably start in February, with the first round of competition in March 2023.

"When I'm with the team, I leave training on a high at 8.30pm."

"I work a full day, drive straight to Kew, train for two hours and then drive back to Phillip Island, and go to work the next day. I love it."

He said anyone interested to learn more can check out the Victorian Wheelchair Football League's Facebook page.

"I do encourage everyone to come along and get involved. Even if they want to come to a training session. Everyone is welcome."

[www.facebook.com/VicWheelchairFL](http://www.facebook.com/VicWheelchairFL)

**ALEX SCOTT  
AND STAFF**

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