

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



School is back for students on Phillip Island and all across regional Victoria. After months of home learning, Jarrah Rutherford, Archie Robinson and Bodhi Cooper from Cowes Primary School are celebrating the start of Term 4. We're sure the boys are keen to get into the classroom and start on some lessons but catching up with mates is pretty exciting too!

Wetland still a pipe dream

Empty pipes, broken fences and an overgrown paddock is all there is to show of the promised "stunning wetland" at the Shoalhaven Estate.

Since 2014, nearby residents have been asking when the empty block will be transformed into the wetland described on the developer's website.

Despite reassurances it would be completed by the end of summer this year, it appears no closer to completion.

Recent rain has seen the make-shift lake grow in size and although the developer was fined last year for failing to properly secure the site, the gate is open, and fences are pushed over.

There is also an abrupt stop to the newly built footpath link, and pedestrians are forced to walk along Settlement Road.

Cr Michael Whelan visited the site on Settlement Road in Cowes last week and offered a scathing assessment.

"I understand the developers were fined last November – today there is rubbish strewn on the site and no security whatsoever, it looks as if they could not care less," Cr Whelan said.

"The site is in an unacceptable state, the security fence is open in places and in at least one place completely down. You can just drive right into the area.

"Not surprisingly for a proposed wetland there is a lot of water on the site and nothing to stop children from getting into it, so it is also a serious safety issue," he said.

Continued page 13

**COWESBOAT
CARAVANRVSTORAGE**



FULLY SECURED - FULL SURVEILLANCE

NOW AVAILABLE – Solar power to each unit for battery charging. No extra cost.

LK00068AA

OBrien Real Estate
Judith Wright

52-54 Thompson Ave, Cowes 5952 5100
Call Mike Foenander 0408 547 677 or Rental Office 5952 6633

**COWES
SELF
STORAGE**

24 hr Video Surveillance



10% OFF RUGS

Huge range instore

Check out our rug studio

155 Thompson Ave, Cowes.

www.southcoastfurnishings.com.au

59521488

**south coast
furnishings**

**SOUTH COAST
FLOORING XTRA**

VOTE 1

**Ron Bauer
for the
Island ward**

**PUTTING OUR
ISLAND FIRST**

GET IN TOUCH

0419 654 151

ronbauerforbass.com

rbauerbasscoast@gmail.com



**FREEZE THE RATES, COLLECT THE RED BINS
WEEKLY IN SUMMER, BUILD THE AQUATIC
CENTRE NOW**

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, and I pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

Authorized: Ron Bauer PO BOX 996 Cowes VIC 3922

BALLOT PAPER








HOW TO VOTE

- | | |
|----------|-------------------|
| 6 | JOBE, Jeni |
| 3 | SILVA, Darrell |
| 4 | BELSAR, Ash |
| 5 | BARLOW, Mikhaela |
| 8 | WHELAN, Michael |
| 7 | ROOKS, David |
| 2 | CERINI, Trish |
| 1 | BAUER, Ron |

You must number every box

PHILLIP ISLAND

7 day weather forecast

Wed/Oct7	Thu/Oct8	Fri/Oct9	Sat/Oct10	Sun/Oct11	Mon/Oct12	Tue/Oct13
						
SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWERS	SHOWERS EASING	POSSIBLE SHOWER	PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNNY
10 17	11 18	10 18	11 17	10 17	12 18	12 18

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*

As of Monday, October 5

9975
tests done locally

11
Local residents
tested positive

0
Active cases

*From BCH Assessment clinics only since March.

Your Community Voice!

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO
ADVERTISER

CONTACT US:

Classifieds: sport@pisra.com.au

Editorial: advertiser@pisra.com.au

Advertising: ads@pisra.com.au

Sport: sport@pisra.com.au

Suite 2, 60 Chapel Street, Cowes, 3922.

Phone (03) 5952 3201

Fax (03) 5952 3024



Publication No. **VBF 9005897**
Registered by Australia Post.

The Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser is bound by the Standards of Practice of the Australia Press Council. If you believe the Standards may have been breached, you may approach the newspaper itself or contact the Council by email (info@presscouncil.org.au) or by phone ((02) 8261 1930). For further information see www.presscouncil.org.au

LK0374

Online Subscriptions
www.pisra.com.au

Hooroo Exeloo

The infamous Exeloo on the corner of Thompson Avenue and Chapel Street in Cowes is no more! It was quietly removed from its prime position on Monday, and unceremoniously carted to the Grantville tip.

Installation of the facility by the Bass Coast Council on the busiest intersection in Cowes, with the door

facing out on to the street, caused community uproar back in 2011.

It was out of order more often than not; and while 180-degree views are highly desirable in many instances, they are not when ensconced on a toilet, looking out on to a busy street.

One unfortunate individual's

worst nightmare unfolded in the Exeloo's first week of operation when the toilet door malfunctioned.

That case was not an isolated one. Former Council Infrastructure and Maintenance Manager on Phillip Island Clive Grey happened to be passing by when the Exeloo was hauled away on Monday.

"Good riddance" was his fervent comment.

"That facility was an absolute nightmare to maintain from day one. It was nothing but trouble, always blocked, breaking down and left in appalling condition at times."

Others in the street commented that it would not be missed.



Clive Grey retired Council Infrastructure and Maintenance Manager on Phillip Island, happened to be passing when the Exeloo which has stood for nine years on the corner of Thompson Avenue and Chapel Street, was dismantled and carted off to the tip at Grantville on Monday. Hip hip hooray, was his reaction, which will no doubt be shared by members of the community who opposed its installation on the prominent location in the first place. Clive has however appealed to council to promptly erect signage to direct visitors to nearby toilets at the Transit Centre or down the side of the library.



"We would have formed a guard of honour had we known, to see the thing out of Cowes," one wit was heard to observe as the infamous Exeloo was carted away.

Cr Larke Investigation continues

Last week it was revealed Cr Les Larke is under investigation by the Local Government Inspectorate.

The revelations come as Bass Coast prepares to vote in the 2020 council elections.

Some are crying foul on the timing of the revelations to the media.

Regardless of whether the timing of the leak was politically motivated, it's clear the Local Government Inspectorate (LGI) is taking the allegations against Cr Larke seriously.

Last year, less than seven per cent of complaints received by the LGI ended up being investigated.

And any complaint is first referred to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission

(IBAC) for assessment.

An article in The Age on September 25 reported the allegations against Cr Larke were referred to LGI by Bass Coast Shire Council "in 2018 and again in 2020 after receiving an anonymous complaint from the public".

When coupled with the original report, which included email evidence from three separate councillors, the community complaint was the catalyst for LGI opening the current investigation.

The Advertiser understands all the councillors involved were interviewed over the past few weeks and a release of the investigation findings is imminent.

Allegations

The investigation centres around an alleged \$5 million offer by Cr Larke to be spent across the three council wards, to secure the mayoral role in 2018.

Cr Larke denies the allegations and said the details in the incident did not happen "in the way that has been reported".

"The assertions are ridiculous and all I can say is I believe it is the timing of it that is interesting, around the coming election."

Then mayor Pam Rothfield, then deputy mayor Brett Tessari and Cr Geoff Ellis - allege Cr Larke offered to give \$1 million of his own money to be spent on each Bass Coast

council ward, in return for securing the mayoral role.

According to the emails leaked to The Age, when the three councillors asked if Cr Larke was serious, he increased the proposal to \$5 million across three wards. Within minutes of the October 31 meeting in 2018, Cr Rothfield lodged a formal complaint with then CEO Paul Buckley.

Cr Rothfield's complaint was supported by emails on the same day from Councillors Ellis and Tessari.

The Advertiser has seen copies of emails from councillors Ellis and Tessari (these were not provided by the councillors) although all three councillors have refused to comment on the ongoing investigation.

Solar Power Phillip Island & Surrounds



BWD Solar Pty Ltd ABN 15 621 481 696
M: 0466 746 749 E: info@bwdsolar.com.au



- Local Company
- Local Tradespersons
- Save \$\$\$ on electricity
- Residential PV Systems
- Commercial PV Systems
- www.bwdsolar.com.au

Call for a Free Quote – Steve 0466 746 749

Free quotes
tailored to suit
your energy
needs.

STC Rebates
Vic Government
Rebates
Steve Williams
Frank Bilson



M: 0466 746 749
E: info@bwdsolar.com.au
W: www.bwdsolar.com.au

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Newhaven businesses reject RRV road plans

Newhaven businesses have rejected Regional Roads Victoria's proposed road upgrade plans at the entrance to Phillip Island.

The group of businesses – who are set to lose a chunk of land under compulsory acquisition as part of RRV's plans – say they are unable to support the road upgrade as it is currently proposed, adding the plans have “major problems”.

The businesses, which include Rip Curl, The Island Accommodation, YHA Phillip Island, and Phillip Island School Camps have called for “significant” changes, saying the roads authority needed to work with local residents, rather than applying “city solutions” to “our magical island community.”

“Open and transparent feedback from the community must be included and incorporated,” the businesses state in an open letter to RRV.

“We have been discussing these issues with RRV over the past seven-plus years with no satisfactory outcome.”

“We demand not a fix for today, but a longer-term vision for the needs and requirements for local business, local community and tourism alike.”

The Newhaven plans include four lanes on the Phillip Island Road between two new roundabouts at Forrest Avenue and Boys Home Road, as well as a net gain for all of Newhaven of 25 car parks, while the Big Wave will need to be moved to

make room for a new path.

Harold Jackson – the land owner most impacted by the RRV proposal – owns the Big Wave complex, as well as three other blocks of land between Forrest Avenue and Boys Home Road.

He said RRV wants to compulsorily acquire a width of about 90m and a depth between 7-9m from his property.

The letter, signed by Harold as well as Larson Henderson and Scott Jackson, states their main concerns were bottlenecks created by RRV's plans, adding the complex would also have a net loss of car parks.

They believe the plans need to be adjusted, including: left and right turning entry and exit to The Big

Wave Complex; access for all commercial businesses past Rip Curl; maintain or improve current parking, including for buses; provide signage and alternative transport options.

The letter states in order to avoid bottlenecks, when two lanes become one after Boys Home Road and before San Remo, four lanes must start at Anderson roundabout and continue through to the new Back Beach Road roundabout, while the bridge too must be widened to four lanes.

“If all these bottlenecks are not removed traffic flow will not happen.

“If you are not going to build it properly why do it at all.”

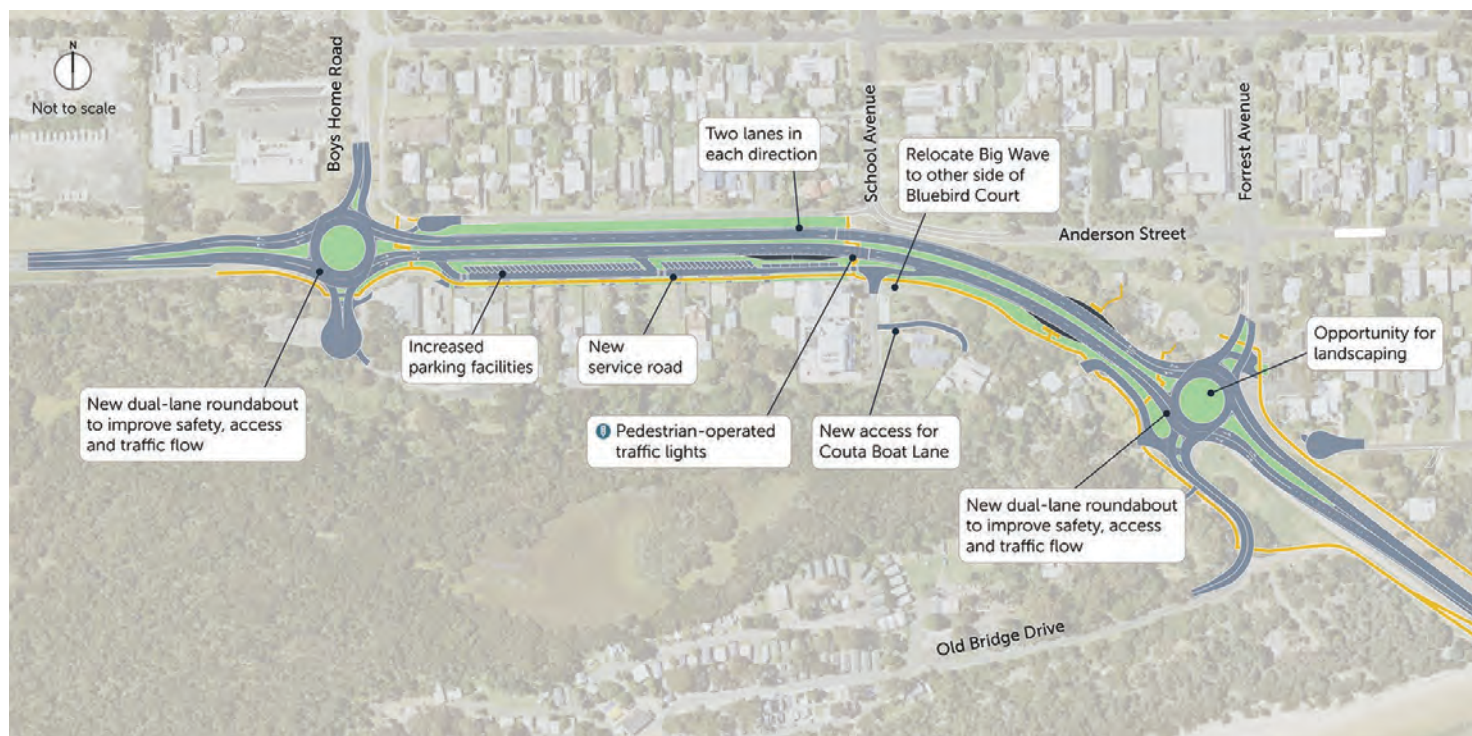
The businesses have called on RRV for more transparent commu-

nity consultation.

They said RRV also needed to take into account transport recommendations made in previous studies, including the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy and integrated transport plans, as well as the soon to be released landscape plan for the entrance to the island.

“On numerous occasions we have asked for the actual data and research to support the affects and outcomes of this project.

“RRV and the Bass Coast Shire needs to engage the community and together create a healthier, safer, and environmentally-friendly infrastructure in keeping with locals needs and requirements.”



The Newhaven plans include four lanes on the Phillip Island Road between two new roundabouts at Forrest Avenue and Boys Home Road, as well as a net gain for all of Newhaven of 25 car parks, while the Big Wave will need to be moved to make room for a new path.



Rip Curl owner Scott Jackson is one of several businesses who have penned an open letter to Regional Roads Victoria, rejecting the roads authority's current plans for Newhaven, calling for more transparent consultation and revised plans.

Road plans should not be behind closed doors

Regional Roads Victoria needs to be transparently consulting with the whole community, rather than seeking to “divide and conquer”, according to Phillip Island's peak lobby group Island Voice.

RRV's proposed upgrades for Newhaven and San Remo – including four lanes, new roundabouts, compulsory land acquisition, even reclaiming a section of Western Port bay – were released last month.

The revised plans build on previous plans dating back to 2015 for Newhaven, and public drop-in sessions in San Remo last year, and because of Covid-19 restrictions have used online feedback.

However, Island Voice spokeswoman Nyree Davis said given the significance of RRV's plans for Phillip Island, the roads authority needed to be releasing all comments and feedback.

“We want to know and hear all the comments, not just from this round of consultation, but previous rounds too,” she said.

“Planning on this project has been going on for more than seven years and yet the only time we are hearing anything is when they release new or adjusted plans.

“I'd like to see a similar level of transparency as was shown in the State Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes plan, where all community comments were on public display.”

Nyree said in addition there should be “no break in the link” between groups, including businesses, Bass Coast Shire and the community reference group that created the Phillip Island Integrated Transport study in 2012.

“RRV should create a more fluid conversation,

open and constructive dialogue.

“Because it feels like divide and conquer, where everyone is consulted separately.

“We want to hear from everyone, their thoughts and grievances.”

Supporting local business, creates local jobs.

RUSSELL BROADBENT MP

Federal Member for **Monash**



46C Albert Street, Warragul VIC 3820 03 5623 2064

russell.broadbent.mp@aph.gov.au [RussellBroadbent94](https://www.facebook.com/RussellBroadbent94)

Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 46C Albert Street, Warragul VIC 3820.

moneytalkplanners

mortgages • insurance • super • retirement

Insurance Advisers

Finding the right insurance can be confusing and complex.

Home – Contents – Car – Caravan – Boat

Business Insurance - Cyber – Management Liability

Business Interruption – Public Liability

- ✓ We make finding the right insurance easier
- ✓ We have access to a broad range of Insurers and products to meet your needs
- ✓ As your local trusted adviser, we act for you and not the insurer
- ✓ We will work with you from policy purchase through to a claim (if it arises), acting as your advocate with the insurer
- ✓ Receive expert and accredited insurance advice and quality cover.



Jodie Pratt
Authorised representative

Talk to the experts

1800 24 24 81

69A Chapel Street Cowes



Tony Salvatore
Practice Principal

Resilium

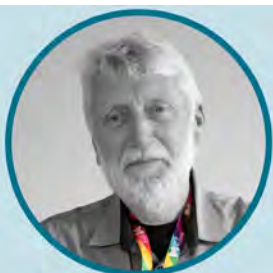
Money Talk Planners is an Authorised Representative of Resilium Pty Ltd ABN 40 098 080 810 AFSL No 232703 and Resilium Insurance Broking Pty Ltd ABN 92 169 975 973 AFSL No 460382.



Bruce Kent



Clare Le Serve



Geoff Ellis

**WESTERN PORT WARD
2020 Council Election**

*Vote for Your Voice,
Making a Difference*

Authorised by Clare Le Serve, PO Box 50, Corinella 3984

Ratepayers want and “deserve” a rebate

A disgruntled ratepayer has accused Bass Coast Shire Council of ignoring the economic hardship faced by residents and holiday homeowners.

Ricardo Cusolito said he believes the council should be offering a rebate to everyone in Bass Coast.

But his attempts to communicate with the council have fallen on deaf ears.

A long-time visitor to the island, Ricardo bought a house in Silverleaves four years ago and is frustrated that the council is not prepared to listen to his concerns.

“I contacted the council and I wrote to the Mayor, but he won’t return my call,” said Ricardo.

“I have a house on Phillip Island that I haven’t been able to use for four months because of the government restrictions.”

He said the council or the state government should offer a rebate.

“The Mayor won’t return my call and he won’t look into it.

“He should be putting the pressure on. He should be communicating and chasing it up and trying to help the community.”

He said many holiday homeowners are in the same position – paying for services such as rubbish collection which they can’t use – and they deserve a rebate.

He believes local residents deserve a rebate as well.

“This is a real topic for everyone in Bass Coast. They’re all struggling.

“The right thing is to look into it and give people a rebate and talk to the government about the issue.”

Ricardo said instead of being able to discuss his concerns with the Mayor, he was “hand-balled” to someone in the finance department.

“If I have a problem with my business, I talk to the person, I don’t handball it to one of my workers.”

He said the council officer told him he “could defer and pay the rates later on, and that a lot of people were doing that”.

“But in a year’s time, if people haven’t got a job, where are they going to get the money from?”

“They (council) don’t want to do anything about it,” Ricardo continued.

“If they did, they’d go and discuss it with the government and push the issue.

“They’re not looking at the big picture – they’re just looking at their own pockets.”

Ricardo also claimed that he was told by Bass Coast Shire Council it was the state government who decided that councils would not offer rebates.

However he said Monash Council was offering a 10 per cent discount to ratepayers.

On top of that, his home in Mulgrave is worth three times the amount of his Phillip Island house, yet he pays \$700 more in rates to Bass Coast Shire Council.

“They can’t justify that. I’m starting to get sick of people in council not doing the right thing.”

A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said: “Council been in contact with Mr Cusolito in regards to this matter. Due to the election period (caretaker) we are unable to provide any further comments on this issue at this time.”

In May, Bass Coast Shire Council adopted a Covid-19 Financial Hardship Policy, to “assist ratepayers who have been impacted by Covid-19 pandemic and are experiencing financial hardship”.

The policy allows for payment arrangements and deferment of rates payments and states “where possible the applicant will be provided with short term assistance to meet their financial commitments.”

The Local Government Act 1989, Section 171 (1) and (2), does allow for councils to waive the whole or part of any rate charge for an eligible recipient or “any other class of persons” on the grounds of financial hardship. A resolution of council is needed for the second option.



Steph Thornborrow is joining the Advertiser team as our community connections reporter, focusing on local views, events and celebrations.

Our community connection

A community newspaper is about much more than hard news and issues affecting our residents.

It’s about what’s happening with our people, organisations, sporting clubs and individuals.

It’s new babies being welcomed, special milestone birthdays being celebrated. It’s capturing all the ways our community comes together to celebrate, commemorate and support each other.

The Covid restrictions of the past six months have had a profound impact on our community. As we gradually re-emerge from lockdown, we’re looking forward to re-connecting with you all and seeing community news return to the pages of the paper.

To help with this, we’re thrilled to announce that island resident Steph Thornborrow is joining the Advertiser team.

Steph will be our community connections reporter and you can expect to see her out and about in the coming months, capturing life on the island and in San Remo, hearing your opinions and documenting your achievements.

If you have events happening, milestone celebrations or new ventures underway, please let us know. We want to hear all about them.

Call us on 5952 3201 or email advertiser@pisra.com.au, or contact us via our website www.pisra.com.au

Concerns about roads proposal

By Clare Le Serve, Candidate for Western Port Ward

Regional Roads Victoria is proposing a solution to a long-standing traffic issue on Phillip Island – to build a four-lane super-highway from Newhaven to Cowes.

There are two roundabouts already funded as part of the proposal, one at Back Beach Road and one at Cape Woolamai, with works almost complete on both.

Funding is yet to be fully achieved for the overall lane duplication from Newhaven to Cowes.

The community is asking council to intervene and to help get their concerns heard.

RRV has conducted community consultation and the community raised their many concerns and they feel that they have not been heard. I support the community on this and we need to prioritise safety first over this duplication and have a shared vision.

Community reference groups have worked hard to get local issues of road safety onto RRV’s agenda. The community wants the priority to be San Remo and the traffic lights that enable cars to safely enter and exit San Remo as a start – before anything else – this would allow breaks in the traffic that increase safety across Phillip Island anyway.

The whole road network plan needs to be

reconsidered due to the extensive community concerns for safety at San Remo. RRV should prioritise this work over any further plans to duplicate the Phillip Island Tourist Road.

The small community of Newhaven, including local businesses will be impacted if the current plan for a further roundabout at Newhaven goes ahead at the bridge before San Remo issues are resolved.

The issue is the traffic flow in peak periods. The RRV proposal is for a dual lane highway with wide verges and a median strip down the middle and a service lane on the residential side. From 2009 until 2013, community groups worked to get the issue of road safety onto the RRV agenda and in 2014 the state government funded the Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study (PIITS). The study offers solution other than duplicating the road from the bridge to Cowes.

A Community Reference Group was formed as part of this project and the community priority for action continued to be safety and access onto Phillip Island Road at multiple points from San Remo to Cowes.

The speed on Phillip Island is in most parts 80km/h. Is there a need for speed or is the plan to enjoy the journey? People from Newhaven to Ventnor are asking for 80km/h to become the maximum speed on Phillip Island. Why build a monster highway down the middle?

A four-lane highway to Cowes, is it what the community wants? From concept to reality, it may be many years away and have RRV listened to the community? Their proposal would encroach onto farmland and removal of vegetation and help the flow of tourists and traffic.

RRV’s priority should be the San Remo safety solution over the planned road super-speedway.

Authorised by Clare Le Serve, PO Box 2050, Corinella, Victoria, 3984. – clare.leserve@gmail.com

VOTE

1

TRISH CERINI

VIC - Local Government Elections

Island

5

JOBE, Jeni

IND

3

SILVA, Darrell

IND

4

BELSAR, Ash

IND

6

BARLOW, Mikhaela

IND

8

WHELAN, Michael

IND

7

ROOKS, David

IND

1

CERINI, Trish

IND

2

BAUER, Ron

IND

Authorised by Patricia Cerini, 2 Beach Street, Cowes VIC 3922

Handley & Anderson

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Servicing South Gippsland & Phillip Island

Locally owned and operated by

Scott & Sharon Anderson 5672 1074

Caring and personal 24 hour Service

Main office Wonthaggi

176 - 178 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

Cowes office (by appointment)

15 Warley Avenue, Cowes 5952 5171

Email: info@handafunerals.com.au

www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au

A.F.D.A.

Election questioned

After details of a Local Government Inspectorate investigation into Cr Les Larke were leaked to the media, questions have been raised about the impact on the upcoming election.

Some in the community have suggested the leaks were politically motivated.

The Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association (BCRRA) committee has written to the Victorian Attorney General and the Local Government Minister saying the leaks have compromised the integrity of the election.

They've called for the investigation findings to be released before ballots are mailed out, or for the election to be postponed.

A former president of the BCRRA has also called for the council election to be postponed, saying the leak about the investigation will have an adverse effect on the election.

Kevin Griffin has been a vocal supporter of Cr Larke and says voters are not able "to make a fully informed decision", and there needed to be a measure of "natural justice and procedural fairness" for Cr Larke.

Regardless of the motivation behind the leaks, or the outcome of the investigation, the allegations have cast a shadow over the upcoming election, which impacts on all candidates, not just Cr Larke.

The Local Government Inspectorate was unable to comment on Cr Larke's case specifically but noted there had been a trend in recent years of councillors leaking information for personal or political reasons.

According to a post on the LGI website, leaks of confidential information to the public or media had a "serious impact on the business of council and the confidence of the community".

"The effect of this behaviour is serious and unauthorised disclosures have the potential to harm the council's reputation and its business of providing community services."

Postpone?

The Minister for Local Government does have the power to postpone the election.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act, the minister can change the date if he is "satisfied that an event or circumstance could adversely affect the conduct of the general election for all Councils or for one or more Councils".

The Minister's office did not respond to the Advertiser's query if it had received any calls for the election to be postponed or if this was being considered in light of the ongoing investigation.

The Minister's office has previously refused to comment on the investigation into Cr Larke, with a spokesperson saying: "The Local Government Inspectorate is an independent body and the government has no role to play in its operations."

Leakers punished?

Under the Local government Act, any leaks of confidential information should be referred to the Local Government Inspectorate.

Mr Griffin has called for an investigation into the

leaks by IBAC, LGI and Bass Coast Shire Council.

Bass Coast Shire Council is currently in caretaker mode due to the election period and was unable to comment on the case or Mr Griffin's calls for an internal investigation.

However, any breach of the Local Government Act is investigated by the Local Government Inspectorate, not the council.

The spokesperson for the Local Government Inspectorate said there are currently no penalties for breaching confidentiality of information about complaints.

He said the LGI "sometimes requests confidentiality when providing information and responses related to complaints", and said it could "serve a Notice to Provide Reasonable Assistance (section 223B of the Local Government Act) where we require it."

"The Local Government Act requires confidentiality for information in certain circumstances and councillors may face penalties if this confidentiality is breached," the spokesperson said.

"Council codes of conduct also often have additional rules around disclosing other confidential information."

A recent newsletter on the LGI website said complaints over the release of confidential information had increased in 2018/19 and recent investigations "have revealed some troubling cases of repeat disclosures of confidential information by councillors to members of the public or the media".

Ongoing spat

Mr Griffin's calls for council to investigate how details of the investigation were leaked to the media is the latest in a series of arguments between

Mr Griffin and the council.

In his role as president of the BCRRA, he was a vocal critic of the council, citing lack of transparency, inflated rates, and lack of community consultation or financial discipline.

However, Mr Griffin recently stepped down from the role and also publicly withdrew remarks he previously made about Cr Michael Whelan.

In addition, in early September, Mr Griffin was involved in an email spat with two of the councillors involved in the Larke allegations – Cr Rothfield and Cr Ellis.

At the time, Cr Rothfield said some councillors felt bullied by "continual negativity" from the Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association and accused Mr Griffin of "prejudice against the councillors and council officers".

Anne Davie OAM
Farmer / former Councillor /
Community activist



David has the experience, enthusiasm and commitment to make a meaningful contribution as a Councillor.

Andrew Phillips
Owner Terry White Pharmacy /
former Councillor



David is a long time friend and I believe he has the qualities that will make a great Councillor.

Ben Fokkens
Small Business Owner /
Scout Leader



David is approachable, listens, and is willing to provide open and honest feedback even if we disagree on a topic.

David Rooks Vote 1

I will protect and enhance
our Islands community
assets, including:

- Our natural attractions
- Environment
- Industries
- People

Full statement on website:
david-rooks.webnode.com/

Authorised by David Rooks, 457 Ventnor Rd, Ventnor VIC 3922



Island Ward Candidate

- 20 year resident of Island Ward
- Lives, works and buys local
- Open, calm and consultative manner
- 14 years community volunteer
- Relevant higher education qualifications
- Strong leadership skills

Complaint compared

How serious is a complaint before it's investigated by the Local Government Inspectorate?

In 2018/19, according to the LGI's annual report, the Inspectorate received and assessed 421 complaints. Only 29 of these were investigated.

As a result of the investigations, eleven warnings were issued, while eight others were prosecuted through the courts.

The cases included: issues with campaign donation disclosures; misuse of position and making improper use of council information; making and using false documents; and misuse of a corporate credit card. One case in South Gippsland related to a councillor providing information to a local resident involved in Supreme Court proceedings against the council.

Failure to declare campaign donations or properly update interest returns are also investigated by the Inspectorate, to identify "any possible conflicts of interest" that may arise in councillors' decision making.

Non-disclosure can attract significant penalties.

In 2018 a Wyndham City Councillor was fined \$26,000 for failing to disclose companies in which he held office, failing to disclose companies he held a financial interest in and failing to submit his returns.

Andrea Blair Dempsey
Chiropractor / Early Childhood
Teacher / President PI Soccer Club



A family friend for 20 years. David demonstrates his passion for local community and the environment through his actions in a range of community groups. I have worked with David on a committee and he is able to lead and also listen for effective results.

Michael McLeod
Owner First National
Real Estate



I have known David for 20 years and watched him work within the Tennis Club and Community always with the bigger picture in mind. He will be an asset for the Phillip Island community and environment.

Lisa Wangman
Business owner / Education,
Training and Communication Mgr



I have known and worked with David for many years on Phillip Island's environmental issues in association with Landcare. I admire his drive to get things done, motivate others and his ability to connect our communities on issues of importance.

PAGE 6 - THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020



The demolition of the Cowes Cultural Centre is almost complete. These two photos, one taken in June 2020 (left), the other just last week, show the rapid progress of the project. After three months, little more than the flag poles remain. Construction of the new building is due to start in May 2021 and is expected to take 12-14 months.

Flags fly, building dies

The flags were still flying high at the site of the old Cultural Centre in Cowes, but little else of the old building remains.

A pair of excavators were removing the last section of the old building last week.

Deconstruction Group took over the site in August and they've wasted no time getting on with the job.

The internal fixtures were stripped first before the machinery

arrived onsite and started demolishing the building.

Draft plans for the new Cultural Centre have been released to the public with the design expected to be finalised by the end of the year.

Construction of the new building is due to start in May 2021 and is expected to take 12-14 months.

Bass Coast Shire Council has said the construction of the project will provide 69 jobs, with the final

building providing the equivalent of 30 full-time jobs.

It also said the delivery of the \$19 million project will help to support a "much-needed post-COVID-19 economic recovery".

In September, Council secured a \$2.5 million grant for the project. \$10 million has been secured via the state government's Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme and \$4 million has been allocated from

council reserves to the project.

A further contribution is expected from the state government through the Living Libraries fund.

Council said it will continue to explore partnerships with other tiers of government for grant funding.

Federal MP, Russell Broadbent has praised the draft plans for the building, saying it will be an "iconic landmark" for the island.

Mr Broadbent said more information on future grants programs and funding opportunities will be available after the Federal budget is handed down this week and he had discussed key priorities and projects with council, including the Cultural Centre and possible funding opportunities.

Draft plans for the new Cultural Centre are available at www.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/cowesccc.

ANTIWRINKLE TREATMENTS

207 Settlement Road, Cowes
Part of Phillip Island Sports
and Physio clinic

Contact Mel
for appointments

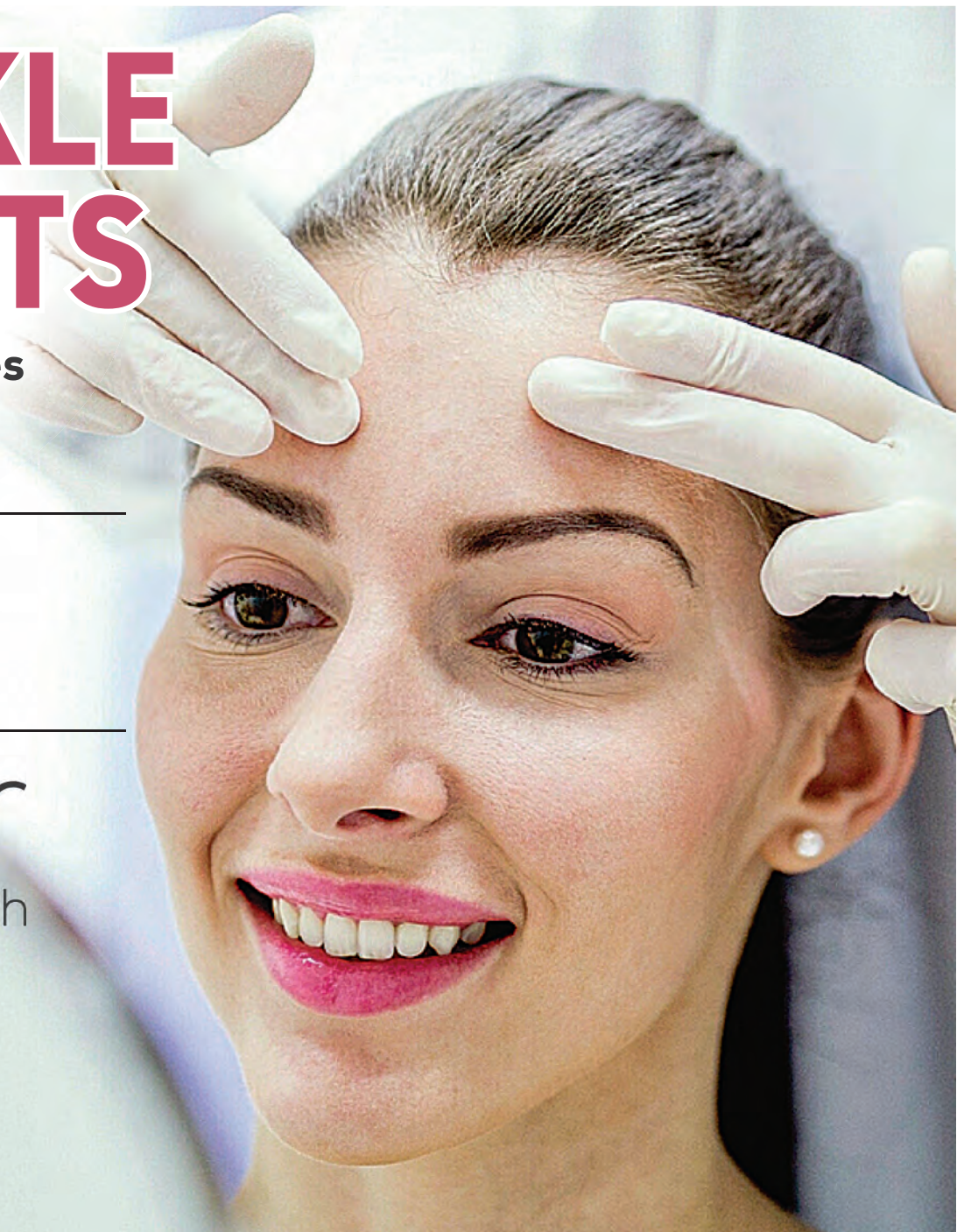
9592 1550

régénérer

renew • restore • refresh

@REGENERERMEDICALCOSMETICS

Forehead from \$120
Frown lines from \$290
Crown lines from \$290





It's important to get tested for coronavirus at the first sign of any symptom and stay home until you get your result.

- Bass Coast Health - Phillip Island Health Hub
Daily: 9.00am - 5.00pm
- Wonthaggi Respiratory Clinic
By appointment only please call 0492 036 568
Weekdays: 9.00am - 12.00pm
- Bass Coast Health - Wonthaggi Hospital carpark
Daily: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Bookings are required at some testing locations.

Opening hours subject to change.

Getting tested means you keep yourself, your friends, family, workplace and your community safe. It's not over yet.



For more details visit vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Rothfield bows out

Island Ward councillor Pam Rothfield is not re-contesting the council elections next month.

With just one more council meeting before she steps down, and councillors now in caretaker mode, Cr Rothfield has issued a reflection on the past four years, the successes, challenges, and her hopes for the next batch of councillors.

A reflection – by Pam Rothfield

“Almost four years on, I feel so lucky to have been part of this team. These councillors all have so much to offer and are all dedicated to their community.

We didn't always agree and in fact many debates were robust.

But after defeats, and wounds were licked, we would move forward, because despite differences, we had the common desire to achieve for our communities.

The successes for this Council include:

- 24-hour medical facility for Cowes, constructed and operating;
- A hospital which starts construction in 2021 in Cowes;
- A \$120m sub regional hospital for Wonthaggi; construction commenced;
- Land acquired for a new Transfer Station for Phillip Island;
- Commitment from the state government for a high school to be located in San Remo;
- A new secondary college for Wonthaggi; constructed and operating;
- Land acquisition for a recreational precinct in Cowes, including aquatics, with a masterplan underway;
- Cultural Centre in Cowes, which starts construction in 2021;
- Cowes foreshore erosion mitigation – \$1.1m commitment from Federal government;
- Skate facility for the Island – still to be decided; and
- Preservation of town boundaries – introduction of the Distinctive Areas Landscape

In order to achieve anything in council it is essential to have the numbers: that is to gain the support of the majority of councillors. This means that concession and compromise is essential.

The next step in the learning ladder is the importance of advocacy. I learned that in order to achieve anything on my long list of infrastructure projects, which the community was demanding for the island, it was obvious that we would need the funding support of both state and Federal governments.

Hospitals and schools don't come cheap. We were relentless in our advocacy activities and pursued both

the state and Federal governments with a vengeance and the results we have achieved for our shire have been breathtaking.

However, there is a distinct difference between business and Council. Council provides hundreds of services to the community. It provides infrastructure and a support framework to maintain and promote a connected, healthy and economically sound community. It's not just about the bottom line.

Having said that, I do believe that councillors with business acumen and financial experience can bring a level of competence to the chamber that is invaluable, especially when combined with the expertise and understanding of financial governance, which council officers offer.

Councillors ideally should have a good handle on their community's wants and needs.

I believe a councillor should reside in the ward in which they are representing.

Each day when they take a stroll outside their front door – they meet their community members and hear first-hand what issues are pressing and thus they are not relying on what purely may be a group-think phenomenon sometimes espoused on social media.

It has been a surprise to me to see how close we become to fellow councillors.

I have also gained enormous respect for the council staff – who are, in reality, community members working within council offices.

Council staff are often limited in the breadth of their decision-making ability as they work to specific policy guidelines and under specific local laws, which I know frustrates many within our community.

The legislated processes in Local Government does make for slow progress, however that is the nature of beast and is the system which has developed over time.

Challenges ahead

While I believe we have achieved enormously for our community over the past four years, there is still much to be done.

All nine of us are better councillors at the end of these four years than what we were at the beginning.

It would be wonderful to see the next council has the experience and leadership from the very beginning of its term in order hit the ground running and to continue to progress the work we have started.

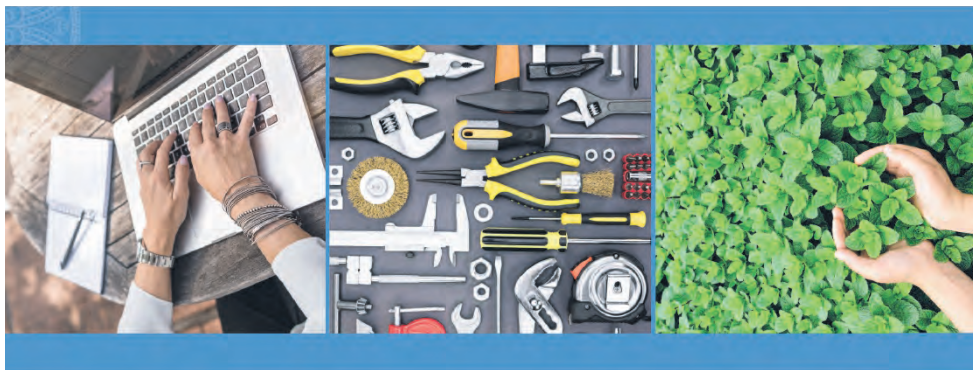
I sincerely hope those councillors standing for re-election are successful, as the knowledge and experience they bring would assist the newly elected councillors in the navigation of the systems and processes.

If I have any advice for candidates, I would say: do not be distracted by a tiny minority who will badger you relentlessly.

Go out and listen to your community and do not lose sight of why you stood for council, and perhaps avoid (or minimise) reading social media.

Good luck.

For more election coverage, see pages 16 and 17.



PHILLIP ISLAND COMMUNITY & LEARNING CENTRE Term 4 2020 Course Guide Now Available!

First Aid Training
RSA & Food Safety
Macrame & Crochet
Computer for Beginners
Women Connect Hotspot Office
Resume & Cover letter assistance
Traffic Management & Traffic Control
Discover Horticulture with Rick Coleman
Introduction to Construction | White Cards

Talk to us
about
volunteering

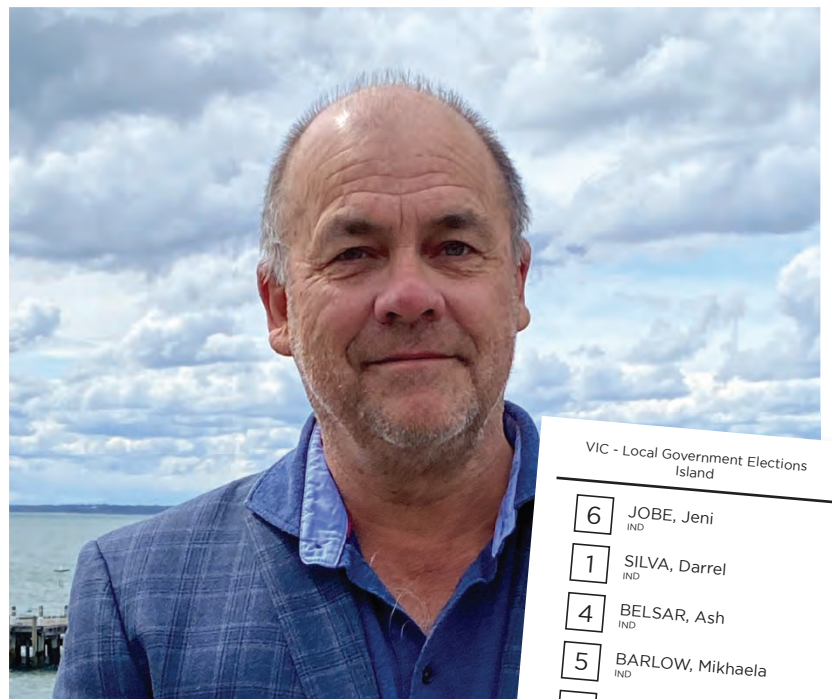
Job Ready Training | Leisure & Lifestyle



56 - 58 Church St, Cowes
PH: 5952 1131
www.pical.org.au



Vote 1 Darrell Silva



VALUE FOR MONEY FOR PHILLIP ISLAND RATEPAYERS

VIC - Local Government Elections Island	
6	JOBE, Jeni IND
1	SILVA, Darrel IND
4	BELSAR, Ash IND
5	BARLOW, Mikhaela IND
7	WHELAN, Michael IND
8	ROOKS, David IND
3	CERINI, Trish IND
2	BAUER, Ron IND

AUTHORISED BY DARRELL SILVA, 12 ALPHA COURT COWES, 3922

Stephen Fullarton farewells council

Outgoing Island Ward councillor Stephen Fullarton has urged successful candidates in the upcoming election to carry through projects initiated in his term of government.

"We have achieved a lot for Phillip Island in the past four years, such as the transit centre and the jetty triangle. Suddenly funds are coming on to the island, which wasn't happening before" Cr Fullarton said.



Island Ward councillor Stephen Fullarton has a word of warning to the next batch of councillors: "I'd hate to see what we've achieved over-turned."

"But there are some projects just started that need to be carried through, including the construction of the Cowes Cultural Centre and the purchase of the carnival site, with the subsequent sport hub and aquatic centre.

"My great fear is that if we get Wonthaggi-centric Island Ward councillors – who aren't prepared to strongly support this community – we'll be in strife. One candidate for the Island Ward for heaven's sake has even vowed to stop the Cultural Centre.

"I'd hate to see what we've achieved over-turned."

Cr Fullarton said it was critical any successful candidate understood the detailed history of many projects and he would be prepared to mentor candidates to instruct them on the complex background of plans.

"Some people don't understand the background to Olive Justice Place for instance.

"The Cultural Centre is a result of decades of community planning and we will finally get a 250-seat cinema, func-

tion area capable of seating 400, a magnificent new library and historical centre. It will be a genuine hub of the community."

With both Crs Fullarton and Pam Rothfield not standing at the October election, the only remaining current councillor recontesting his seat is Michael Whelan.

Regrets?

Cr Fullarton – who has a business in Cowes – was also a councillor on the Phillip Island Shire from 1983 to 1989 and said the role had changed considerably.

He said he was not re-standing because of the time commitment involved.

"When I was on the shire we'd meet once a month, but now its several times a week and because my office is in the main street of Cowes I get people speaking to me all day.

"That is my role, to be accessible to the community and I gladly support the community. The current issue of the wind turbine at Surf Beach has been taking about four hours of my day every day."

Cr Fullarton admitted he had regrets from his four-year term, including not expanding the bike and walking tracks around the island, and not rolling out more bitumen on dirt roads.

"Nothing happens quickly in local government."

Before he nominated to be a councillor four years ago, Stephen was the president of Stand Alone, seeking to secede from Bass Coast Shire and become an independent island shire.

"Stand Alone paled into insignificance once the ALP came into power and said it wouldn't happen under them. So maybe it would be reinvigorated under a new government."

Cr Fullarton said he wouldn't yet endorse a new candidate, adding he hoped there would be a balance between conservation and progress.

With his personal time once again his own, he hopes to spend more time following his passions.

"I'll have to concentrate on my business, but also do more surfing and stand-up paddle boarding. I'll get some of my life back."

For more election coverage, see pages 16 and 17.



Within a week of being planted, the barrier tree around the new tree was pulled down. Council then installed event fencing to protect the young tree.

Golden Cypress watch

The replacement Golden Cypress planted in Thompson Avenue continues to be monitored. The young tree, planted after the former Golden Cypress was vandalised, is already showing signs of wear and tear.

With street furniture pushed right up to the barrier, the tree's branches are brown in places. Council has said members of their outdoor team are "continuing to monitor the tree as it establishes".

The new tree replaces one that was planted three years ago as part of a program to maintain the iconic trees along Thompson Avenue.

In March, police were called after men were seen vandalising the tree. Bass Coast Shire Council investigated the incident and issued an infringement notice to the responsible party.

After the attack, Council's Arboriculture Team removed some limbs in an attempt to keep the tree alive.

"The tree was going well for several weeks before we noticed a rapid decline in its health, with the tree completely dying within a matter of days," a council spokesperson said.

"We can't confirm whether or not the tree was poisoned."

Friends of the Golden Cypress group were devastated and angry at the attack on the tree.

At the time, Anne Davie from the group said it was a "deliberate attempt to destroy or damage the tree".



The replacement tree, planted in Thompson Avenue after the former Golden Cypress was vandalised, is being regularly monitored by council.

Anne said she was horrified at the vandalism. "We have got to be so vigilant."

The Golden Cypress trees in Thompson Avenue are iconic to the Bass Coast community and are recognised to have heritage status.

BEAUTIFUL QUALITY TILES at reasonable prices



Exclusive range of floor & wall tiles for your next project

Comprehensive selection of glues, grouts, membranes and tools available

White wall tiles 600 x 300 ready in stock now

Friendly personal service – Discerning advice
See us today!

WONTHAGGI TILE & HEATING

6/6 Cyclone Street, Wonthaggi. Phone 5672 2543.

PHILLIP ISLAND COMMUNITY
& LEARNING CENTRE

RAINBOW CONNECT

ISLAND LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY

Wed Oct 14 7-8 pm
Weekly for 6 weeks

CONNECT WITH OTHER LIKE
MINDED ADULTS FOR
FRIENDSHIP AND
CONVERSATION

Want to know more?
Please call Linda 0431 693 313



56 -58 Church St, Cowes

KEEP IT LOCAL

DIRECTORY

AUTOMOTIVE

Service Centre
Phillip Island Tyre Service
 101 Settlement Rd, Cowes 5952 1480

Cowes Curry Club
 Home Delivery Service
 Open Wed-Sun 5pm-9pm
 www.cowescurryclub.com.au
 Call 0455 673 312

Don't buy a lemon
CARFIND
 0419 930 666

G'DAY TIGER
 3/34 Thompson Ave, Cowes
 OPEN 7 DAYS from 7.30ish
 Text orders to 0422 151 324

BEAUTY

Mobile Hairdresser
 Over 20 years experience
 Claire Sunderland 0408 566 620

Burgers & Beers
 Open 4pm-7.30pm
 Closed tuesdays
 9 Vista Pl, Cape Woolamai 5956 6552

MARIOS
 Phone: 5678 5365
 93 Marine Parade,
 San Remo, 3925

FIND OUR PRODUCTS ONLINE
 www.permanentbeauty.com.au
 86 Back Beach Rd, San Remo 5678 5566

PHILLIP ISLAND WINERY
 Open Fri/Sat/Sun 11:30-5:30
 P: (03) 8595 2155
 www.phillipislandwinery.com.au

COMMUNITY

Phillip Island Community & Learning Centre
 56 -58 CHURCH ST, COWES
 PH: 5952 1131 | www.pical.org.au
 Emergency Food Relief | Adult Education | Social Welfare

CO-OP
 FRESH LOCAL SEAFOOD SALES
 TAKE AWAY
 FISH & CHIPS
 OPEN 7 DAYS 10.30-7pm
 ORDERS 5678 5206

FASHION

wear. support. local.
 10% of all sales donated locally each month
 range available at www.local.clothing

THE waterboy CAFE
 58 Chapel St, Cowes Ph: 5952 5765

FINANCE

Your local bank for locals
Bendigo Bank
 San Remo (03) 5678 5833
 Cowes (03) 5952 3383
 Grantville (03) 5678 8773

ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF
 Est. 1886
 alexscott.com.au 5952 2633

moneytalkplanners
 mortgages • insurance • super • retirement
 69A Chapel Street Cowes
 For appointments Tel 1800 24 24 81

FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE
 We're working remotely,
 but it's business as usual!
 www.phillipislandfn.com.au 5952 3922

LEISURE

PHILLIP ISLAND MARINE
OPEN 7 DAYS
 5956 9238 14 Beach Road, Rhyll

OBrien Real Estate
 Judith Wright
 obrienrealestate.com.au/cowes 5952 5100

WORKWEAR

WORK & CASUAL WEAR EMBROIDERY
Allmake Clothing
 2/69 Chapel Street, Cowes 5951 9941

RayWhite
 We're not in the office, but we're still open for business!
 5952 2799
 raywhitephillipisland.com.au

Stockdale & Leggo
 Contact us today on 03 5922 9300
 45 Thompson Avenue, Cowes VIC 3922



Burgers & Beers



Open 4pm-7.30pm Closed Tuesdays

9 Vista Pl, Cape Woolamai 5956 6552

Workwear – HiVis
 Work boots – Casual wear
 Kid's workwear & work boots – Towel sets
 Golf towels – Hospitality – Chef wear
Embroidery
 for gifts or workwear

NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL

2/69 Chapel St, Cowes
 5951 9941

Allmake Clothing

www.allmakeclothing.com.au

A lucky break!

A giant limb crashed onto the footpath in Thompson Avenue on Sunday night.

Fortunately, no one was injured. Phillip Island SES Unit Controller Alan O'Connor said the limb fell from the Golden Cypress tree around 6pm, just outside the Fortuna fish and chip shop.

"It was lucky no pedestrians or customers of the shops were injured as it fell onto the footpath and very close to the outside dining area," Alan said.

He said it was concerning to see people continue to park next to the damaged tree, apparently unaware of the danger.

"Please be aware of your surroundings, as trees are weakened by the run of wet weather

and windy conditions."

Despite the weather, Alan said the weekend had been relatively quiet in terms of call-outs.

The footpath in Thompson Avenue was reopened within an hour of the SES crew arriving on site.



Unit Controller Alan O'Connor was concerned motorists continued to park near the damaged tree, saying drivers needed to be aware of the potential danger posed by weakened trees due to wet weather and windy conditions.



The footpath in Thompson Avenue was closed for an hour on Sunday after a giant limb fell from one of the iconic Golden Cypress trees. Fortunately no one was injured.



Australian Government

We're extending the JobKeeper Payment until 28 March 2021.

The Australian Government is extending the temporary JobKeeper Payment to the end of March 2021. From 28 September, businesses must meet the turnover test and submit their declarations by the 14th of each month.

There will be two new payment rates – one for those who work more than 20 hours per week in the relevant period, and another for those who work less. The employee eligibility date has also changed to 1 July, meaning some businesses could claim for more staff.

It's part of our plan to keep business in business, and Australians in jobs.

28 Mar 2021

JobKeeper
Payment

Visit [Australia.gov.au](https://www.australia.gov.au)

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra



VICSES is warning motorists not to drive through floodwaters, saying it can take just 15cm of water to float a small car. Photo courtesy of Gippsland Water.

Flood alert

It could be a very wet spring – so be prepared for flooding.

That's the warning from the experts.

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

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

It is urging communities to get a plan together now to prepare for spring floods.

VICSES said the last significant La Niña event in 2010 - 2011 had a devastating effect right across Victoria.

"Many parts of Gippsland are already very wet after all the recent rain we've had," said Community Resilience Co-ordinator, Jane Fontana.

"Small amounts of extra rain can cause some areas to flood quite quickly, which is even more reason for those living in and visiting these areas to be prepared."

While you are at home, VICSES urges you to take the opportunity to learn more about your local risks and how you can prepare:

1. Understand the local flood history in your community.

There are a number of Local Flood Guides for at-risk communities on the VICSES website at: www.ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/your-local-flood-information

These documents can help you get to know your local risks, potential impact areas and how a flood might behave in your local area.

2. Never drive on flooded roads.

The SES said the number one cause of death during flooding is people attempting to drive through floodwater. It can take just 15cm of water to float a small car. That's the height of an average pen. "Stay safe by never entering floodwater," they advise.

3. Stay Informed. Everyone can stay informed by monitoring forecasts, river levels and weather warnings at the Bureau of Meteorology website: www.bom.gov.au and downloading the Vic Emergency app and set up a watch zone.

Even with COVID-19 restrictions in place, you can leave your home if you are impacted by an emergency. Think about where you would go and how you would get there and plan for that now.

Visit www.ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready for more information.



"The site is in an unacceptable state," said Cr Michael Whelan who visited the site of the proposed wetland at Shoalhaven Estate last week.



The site of the proposed wetland is again unsecured, despite the developer being fined last year.

Wetland still a pipe dream

From page 1

"This was promised in 2014 and delays of this order are what give developers a bad name – overpromise and underdeliver. When will the people who have bought land and built there in good faith get their wetland?"

"It is time for the developer to deliver on their undertakings. There should be no more excuses, it is time for completion."

Anne Schlade lives near the estate and is astonished that the developers have not been compelled to complete the wetland.

"My understanding when something like this is in a plan, there's a timeline involved," she said.

"Someone has to take responsibility for this. I can't believe they've got away with it for so long."

She described the failure to deliver the promised wetland as fraudulent behaviour.

"People are buying blocks on the basis that there will be a professionally designed wetland there," Anne said.

"I think at the end of the day, the council should stop the developer from selling any more blocks. They're

promoting a wetland that hasn't come to fruition in all these years."

Anne is frustrated that neither the council nor Melbourne Water is holding the developer to account.

"I can't imagine what the people living opposite this debacle for all these years must feel," she said.

"It's devaluing all the homes around that area. If the council doesn't want to take responsibility, Melbourne Water should."

She said there must be legal or other government avenues, to compel the developer to deliver on the promised wetland.

Ongoing issues

Cr Whelan said because of 'caretaker period' he was not able to get details from council on the situation but said he believed the council enforcement team "must get back out there and enforce the provisions of the permit to deliver the wetland and make the site secure".

He said if re-elected, he would make it a priority to pursue the issue within Council.

Anne welcomed the commitment,



A newly installed footpath link ends abruptly with a 150mm drop. Footpath closed signage and witches hats designed to warn pedestrians have been displaced.

but noted that Cr Whelan had been on council for the past four years.

Previously general manager James

Stirton advised that council did not have the authority to force the developer to complete the project and said the

wetland was a Melbourne Water asset.

At the time, a spokesperson from Melbourne Water claimed the developer was responsible for the works and "ownership of this asset won't be transferred to Melbourne Water until works on site are completed."

When contacted last week, Melbourne Water said they had requested an updated timeline from the developer for when the work will be completed.

"We have encouraged them to resume works, weather permitting, as soon as possible to ensure this," a spokesperson said.

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

In the past, the developer has claimed wet weather over summer has hampered the project, and with a current La Niña weather outlook, it's likely this spring and summer will see above-average rainfall.

Lauders Group, the developers behind the Shoalhaven Estate did not respond to the Advertiser's requests for an update on the project.

A long history of inaction

As far back as October 2015, local resident Patsy Hunt called on Council to clarify why the wetland and open space area at the Shoalhaven subdivision hadn't been completed.

She raised the issue again in December the following year.

Last year, residents who had subsequently built there contacted the Advertiser about the state of the site, calling it an overgrown eyesore that was being used as a dumping ground.

In response to complaints in November 2019, Bass Coast Shire Council issue a notice to the owner to cut the grass, remove excavation materials, rubbish and waste material within 21 days.

A second notice was issued to fully fence the site within seven days.

At the time, Council's general manager James Stirton said the wetland was a Melbourne Water asset.

But Melbourne Water stated Council was the authority responsible for the final sign-off on the Shoalhaven development.

In February 2020, council's general manager James Stirton told the Advertiser, "the developer has advised Council the project is still likely to be completed this summer, with landscaping to occur in April."

But summer came and went without any visible progress on the wetland or any landscaping.

In June 2020, nearby resident Roy Brooks voiced his frustration with



The site of the proposed wetland in April 2020.

the lack of progress.

"I was previously 'reliably' informed that the wetlands would be completed by the end of summer," Roy said in an email to council.

"Summer has come and gone, autumn has gone and we are two weeks into winter without any apparent progress. Will the excuse be the Coronavirus outbreak?"

Roy said it was frustrating to watch work continue at the other end of the estate, where new sections were being opened up for sale.

"I can only suspect that the Ventnor Road area is Coronavirus free,"

he quipped.

He said a tradesman working on the site told him work was delayed on the wetlands as council was not "in a position to accept excess water that will be deposited into the bay".

When he raised this with council, an officer told him she was not aware of any issue related to council not accepting excess water.

Council has repeatedly stated "the timing of these works is in the hands of the developer" and said the wet summer had prevented the contractor from completing the internal construction needed for the project.



Six months later, there appears to be no progress on the promised wetland.

Roy Brooks believes wet weather was just another excuse, saying the developers had years of drought where they could have completed the work.

Last year the developer blamed a lack of appropriately qualified engineers for the project not being completed.

In a statement to the Advertiser, Lauders Group said: "Last summer after extensive pumping, we were required to have one of Melbourne Waters approved dams engineers to sign off on the project. Unfortunately, there are only a limited number

of approved dams engineers available and we were unable to get the project signed off prior to the start of heavy inflows, to the frustration of all concerned.

"This summer we have made every effort to have all of our 'ducks lined up' so that we can have these works completed in the appropriate time slot. Once these are complete the following landscape works will transform the area into quite an attractive area for the benefit of all."

Unfortunately, it appears ducks have flown, as another summer passed without any progress on site.



Garth Lisle Real Estate in San Remo has recorded record sales in the past month, with some blocks of land and houses being snapped up within a week.

Housing market hot

Property sales are booming in San Remo and on Phillip Island.

While most agents agree the local market is holding up well, some say they're experiencing record sales.

Scott Lethbridge from Garth Lisle Real Estate in San Remo described the market as very motivated and said house and land sales were strong.

"Recently a vacant block in Cape Woolamai sold within a week. I put the board up and had 12 queries before it even went online," he said.

A house in an adjacent street sold just as quickly.

"We had a house in Seesburg Avenue that sold within a week. There was immediate interest from Melbourne and local buyers," he said.

Another house on The Esplanade at Cape Woolamai generated an "incredible amount of interest" and received five times as many expressions of interest as normal.

The trend was the same in San Remo, Scott said, contributing to the company's highest monthly sales tally in the past ten years.

"We released 10 blocks at the Penniwells estate and sold nine within a week.

"The tenth block is now under contract," he said.

"We've had a record number of sales in the last four weeks."

Pandemic effect

Scott believes the pandemic is having an impact on buying patterns.

"There are a lot of buyers wanting to get out of Melbourne and move to the coast, and that in turn is putting pressure on local buyers," he explained.

Being forced to work from home has opened people's eyes to the opportunity for working remotely as well.

"Covid has made people see the opportunities and motivated them to get moving.

"Why wouldn't you want to live here? It's close to the beach, you can work from home. It's affordable."

He's even sold three properties without the purchasers physically visiting the house.

Despite the economic downturn, Scott said none of the properties he has listed are from "distressed vendors" – people selling because of financial pressure due to Covid.

And the value of local houses remains strong.

"Vendors are getting their asking price. It's a vendors market," he said.

Locals left out?

Traditionally July and August are slow months for house sales, with September "not much better", said Scott.

"Normally summer through to Easter is our peak selling period, but this year has definitely been out of the ordinary."

ly been out of the ordinary."

He said the increased interest has motivated local homebuyers.

"It's not just Melbourne buyers. It's the locals not wanting to miss the market," he said.

"Some people are worried what will happen when lockdown ends and the Melbourne buyers come swarming down."

At the moment, Scott said two thirds of his sales are for investment or holiday homes.

One explanation is while some people in Melbourne might have money to buy, they can't afford to buy in Melbourne, so they're looking for a holiday property to get into the market.

The healthy state of the local rental market is also motivating investors.

Scott said his challenge now is demand is outstripping the number of properties on the books.

"We need more houses, so if you're thinking of selling, give me a call."

Cowes holds its own

Over in Cowes, Michael McLeod from First National Real Estate said the property market is also holding firm.

"We're got a good level of enquiries and a lot of genuine activity," he said.

"We have more people wanting to buy than we have places to sell."

He said interest remains strong from Melbourne buyers, which is traditionally around 90 per cent of the sales market.

"We're selling to young couples, who can get something better here than they could afford in Melbourne."

"Other people are buying investment properties with a long-term plan to move down in 15 to 20 years."

The healthy rental market is an added incentive for investors.

"The rental market in the regions is really strong. A good property would rent out straight away," he said.

While houses aren't selling faster than normal, the low amount of available stock was out of the ordinary.

"I've been here for 20 years and this is the least amount of stock since I've been doing this," Michael said.

With the market holding steady, he said they needed more properties on the books, and so far, there had not been any obvious impact from the Covid economic downturn.

"We haven't had calls from property owners wanting to sell off holiday homes, but that might change next year when Job Keeper stops."

"We won't have issues selling properties, particularly on the foreshore. If people can see value, they are more than happy to pay for it."

Across in the rental market, while the current holidays are quieter than normal, things are looking bright for summer.

"The calls are coming through and already January is looking really healthy," said Michael.

"We're already 90 per cent booked, which is unusual at this point in the year."



After Rhyll resident Jonathan Keyte made repeated calls to Council, the garden bed at the intersection of Lock and Beach roads in Rhyll is finally getting a makeover.

Eyesore at Rhyll resolved

Rhyll resident Jonathan Keyte's campaign to get a dead tree removed from the Rhyll foreshore has had a happy ending.

In late September, Jonathan contacted the Advertiser saying his repeated calls to council asking them to deal with the issue had been ignored.

He said the native tree, located in a garden bed on the foreshore at the intersection of Lock and Beach roads in Rhyll, died in December last year.

"I made numerous calls to council to have it removed. I've been ringing since February," Jonathan said.

He claimed council crews came to Rhyll on five separate occasions to remove limbs from trees directly opposite, but nothing had been done about the dead native.

"The garden bed is overgrown and looks disgusting. Why won't they do anything about it?"

"It's in a terrible state and because it's at the bottom of the hill when you come into Rhyll, it's not a good look."

"Officers have been monitoring the tree and have since confirmed it needs to be removed. Works have been scheduled and will include the removal of the tree and the reinstatement of the garden bed with fresh plants. Works will begin next week."

The spokesperson said the delay was due to a back-log of works, following the last weather event and the supply of plants available at the moment.

Rapid response

Jonathan was thrilled with the result.

the result.

"It now looks amazing and presentable," he said.

A Council spokesperson confirmed they'd been notified the tree was looking yellow earlier this year.

"Officers have been monitoring the tree and have since confirmed it needs to be removed. Works have been scheduled and will include the removal of the tree and the reinstatement of the garden bed with fresh plants. Works will begin next week."

The spokesperson said the delay was due to a back-log of works, following the last weather event and the supply of plants available at the moment.

VOTE 1



Ash Belsar

- ✓ Efficiency
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Community



Ash-Belsar-for-Bass-Coast-Shire-Council-Island-Ward

Authorised by Ash Belsar, Po Box 5702 Cowes, Vic 3922.



Island HOME

Photo: Ramble & Drift Creative



Just two blocks from the main shopping strip, this neat and tidy home is one not to be missed.

Position plus potential

Placed within a family friendly tree-lined street enjoying a fantastic position in the heart of Cowes, this delightful and engaging residence has light filled interiors. This location is a very convenient lifestyle for its next owner, ready for them to relax and enjoy. Boasting a large block of 696m² (approx.) with potential to be subdivided (STCA).

With a pleasing brick exterior this uniquely appealing dwelling affords an inviting street presence. Well-proportioned and comfortable spaces featuring a clever design, incorporating a glorious formal living, and dining area with large windows that provide idyllic views and naturally illuminate the rooms.

The floor plan flows from the front lounge area into to the rear placed kitchen and dining/meals area. The kitchen combines white easy-care cabinetry and is well-appointed with a gas cooktop and electric wall oven. The provision of a breakfast bar is perfect for informal family dining and entertaining, providing space for the whole family.

Furthermore, the three generous sized bedrooms are fitted with built-in robes. The master benefits further from double built in robes and a private ensuite. The family bathroom is equipped with a toilet and shower.

Outside, there is plenty of room for everyone with a level grassed area perfect for children to play.

In addition, at the rear of the property you will find a four-car garage approximately 70m². Additional features:

- Wood burning fire
- Split system heating and cooling
- Fully fenced secured front and rear yard
- Plentiful further off-street parking.

Position is everything here situated just two blocks from the main shopping strip, this neat and tidy home is one not to be missed.

Call Alex Scott & Staff on 5952 2633 today to book in a private or virtual inspection.

31 Alexander Avenue, Cowes
\$595,000



The kitchen includes easy-care cabinetry, a gas cooktop and electric wall oven, plus a breakfast bar for informal family dining.



The large windows in the glorious formal living, and dining area provide idyllic views and light.



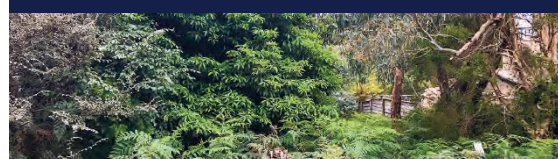
FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE

URGENTLY NEED PROPERTIES FOR SALE

For Sale \$225,000
20 Hopkins Drive, Grantville

Located in a quiet street, here is your opportunity to build your dream home on this vacant allotment. With the possibility of having great water views across the Bay and beyond.

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS



For Sale \$610,000
19 Back Beach Road, San Remo

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

THIS WILL SURPRISE



For Sale \$469,000
Unit 6 / 6 Findlay Street, Cowes

Motivated Vendor
Offers Considered.

Be quick and don't miss this rare opportunity to purchase a quality built 'Fully furnished, two Storey Three Bedroom, Two Bathroom Townhouse' in an unbelievable location in the heart of Cowes! Plenty of space for the whole family with a fantastic open plan living, dining & well-appointed kitchen.

SENSATIONAL LOCATION!



www.phillipislandfn.com.au
60 Thompson Ave, Cowes

OPEN 7 DAYS
5952 3922



GARTH LISLE
Property Consultants

Are you considering selling? Or would you just like to know what your home is worth in the current market?

We have enthusiastic buyers on the look out for properties in this area!

Call us now for a free market appraisal and we can discuss your real estate options.

Shop 3/129 Marine Parade SAN REMO P: 5678 5878 W: glpc.com.au

FREE
MARKET
APPRAISAL

Ph: 5678 5878

THE TOP 10 ELECTION ISSUES

Concerned about potholes on your street?
Paying too much in rates?
Feel passionate about protecting the coast?
Then October is the time to make your issues count with the four-yearly local government elections.

The Bass Coast postal vote will see eight candidates stand in the Island Ward, four in West-

ern Port Ward (which runs from Sunderland Bay, San Remo, and the Gurdies to Dalyston), and five in Bunurong (Wonthaggi and Inverloch).

While candidates stand on varying platforms, these are the big issues on which residents will vote, and on which successful councillors will for the next four years be focused.

In no particular order ...

#1 Garbage

Rubbish collection is the meat and potatoes for a shire.

So when three bins were introduced several years ago, and red bins were collected fortnightly at peak holiday season, it was a red rag to a bull for residents, who continue to call for weekly waste collections in holiday season.

And in further pain, in this year's shire budget, households will pay \$496.50 for the privilege of kerbside waste removal, an 11 per cent increase. In 2017-18 we paid \$374 for garbage charges.

While the high cost of rubbish will be a key issue for the next batch of councillors, they will also have to work on the Phillip Island Transfer Station, set to be built on a 45ha site at Gap Road.

#2 Roads

The big one is Regional Roads Victoria's road plans for the area. At San Remo and Newhaven that includes four lanes, new roundabouts, compulsory land acquisition, even reclaiming a section of Western Port bay.

But in coming years RRV is looking at four lanes through Surf Beach, with the roads authority mooting a four-lane highway across the island.

RRV is also planning to start community consultation to review speed limits on the island.

Then there are ever-present other shire road issues.

Outgoing Cr Stephen Fullarton said one of his big regrets was that he wasn't able to ensure more dirt roads were covered in bitumen, under the expensive, often controversial special charge road schemes.

Sunset Strip, Sunderland Bay, Smiths Beach and Surf Beach are among the most desperate.

#3 Major projects

All our Christmases have come at once on Phillip Island, with a proposed new Cultural Centre in Cowes, and a mooted sports hub on the corner of Ventnor and Phillip Island roads, complete with community pool.

But these are far from a fait accompli, with detailed plans and costings required, some arguing it's money well spent, others suggesting now is not the time to spend big.

Then there's the controversial regional skate park, initially planned for San Remo, but moved to Newhaven after opposition at San Remo.

And of course, the long-controversial Cowes to Stony Point car ferry is waiting state government funding to see whether the Cowes jetty is an appropriate place to park a terminal.

#4 Animals, wildlife

Nothing gets residents more passionate than creatures, of the domestic and wild variety.

And animal admirers are not always on the same side of the fence.

Concerns about roadkill is seeing a push to reduce speed limits and increase spending and support for wildlife volunteers.

Dog owners are lobbying to protect existing off-leash beaches for their pooches, which conservationists say puts native animals at increased risk.

#5 Planning

It's an oldie, but a goodie.

Whether they like it or not, councillors are required to wrap their grey matter around often complex planning permits from small to large developments, which often attract objections and opposition from nearby neighbours.

It is becoming an unfortunate trend for councillors to refuse a planning permit, in defence of the community, only for their decision to be overturned by VCAT.

#6 Covid-19 recovery

So far Bass Coast Shire's support for businesses hit by the economic impact of Coronavirus totals \$4 million.

But as we all know, recovery will be a marathon, not a sprint, and a suite of measures will be needed across a variety of sectors, none more so than tourism and hospitality.

#7 Transparency

Boring, but important, and a bugbear of ratepayers.

Ironically Cr Les Larke – now under investigation by the Victorian Local Government Inspectorate – has always called for councillor transparency.

From live streaming council meetings, to councillor expenses, it is critical that councillors remember their boss is the community and to practice open, honest governance.

#8 Town boundaries, town character

The state government is set to release the next stage of its Distinctive Area and Landscapes (DAL) project any moment, with residents sending a loud message that there has been too much development pressure on Phillip Island and San Remo, and growth should be managed.

While many support a continued freeze on town boundary expansion, others say it should go further, with controls to protect the area, including ensuring new housing designs fit town character, beautiful views be safeguarded, sprawl be avoided along the coast, while urban development close to high-value ecological areas should be restricted.

#9 Phillip Island focussed

Islanders are acutely attuned to anything deemed Wonthaggi-centric.

Since shire amalgamations in the mid-90s Cowes was seen to be the cash cow of the shire.

While our fortunes have turned with the recent batch of councillors, locals will nonetheless keep a watchful eye on the next batch.

This doesn't just mean major projects, but also Cr Stephen Fullarton's pet hate: keeping the island looking schmicko.

Cr Fullarton was a long time advocate of an island facelift: mowing grass, keeping roundabouts floral, hoisting event flags.

Rolling out over the next few years will be an island entrance makeover, following seven years of successful lobbying by a community group.

#10 Erosion, climate change

It's one of the defining issues of our generation.

As a coastal area, Bass Coast is at risk from rising sea levels and storm surges, with council declaring a climate emergency last year.

In Cowes east alone, the million-dollar construction of a rock wall and groynes is set to start next year, an area hit hard by erosion.

The climate ripple effects will continue to emerge across the community and economy, requiring decisive action.

Watch this space.

Democracy survives when we use it

The current events around this year's council election are a good reminder of the importance of safeguards and checks in our system.

It's vital there is a mechanism to allow people to register complaints about the behaviour of those who are voted in to represent us.

It's vital there is an independent body to investigate those complaints. And it's important those investigations are allowed to proceed without being leaked or manipulated for political purposes.

There are definite questions to be answered about who leaked the details of the current investigation into Cr Les Larke, and if the timing was designed to benefit someone's election chances, or to damage Cr Larke's re-election bid.

But these questions should not overshadow the allegations against Cr Larke. Questions need to be answered there as well.

If any councillor allegedly offers \$5 million to be spent across council's three wards, to secure public office, the community deserves to know what was offered, and why.

Cr Larke himself is a champion of the need for more accountability and transparency in government, and regardless of how uncomfortable the investigation process is for all of the councillors, it's an important process and a vital part of the mechanisms that help to hold public officials to account.

Use your vote

But don't let all the noise and drama of the investigation distract you from the real election issue: 17 local people have put their hands up to represent this community.

As election campaigns go, local government is often the poor relation to its bigger, cash-splashing state and Federal government cousins.

But it is the closest level of government to our everyday lives and more than any other level, it provides the opportunity for people to directly contribute to the decisions that affect their community.

Council bashing is a national sport and it's easy to be critical of the decisions councils make.

Voicing your concerns and holding council to account is an important part of our democracy. But so too is providing constructive solutions and being willing to participate and compromise.

If we want more and better from our local council and our councillors – then we need to be more engaged, more informed and prepared to get involved.

We also need to remember that councillors are members of our community, who live and work alongside us, and they are putting themselves forward to try and make our shire a better place.

This election – take the time to read the candidate information. Visit the websites and Facebook pages of Island Voice and Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association, and see how the candidates respond to the questions that are concerning the community.

Ballot papers are being mailed out this week and must be returned by 6pm on Friday, October 23. Make your vote count.

Candidates candid on camera

There were no bloopers or Trumpian tantrums.

But there were a few surprises.

An online meeting last Thursday night – hosted by Island Voice – saw candidates in the upcoming Bass Coast Shire council elections answer an array of community questions, from garbage to dogs-off-leash.

About 30 viewers took part in the Zoom debate – including seven Island Ward candidates (Ash Bel-sar was a no show), as well as four from Western Port Ward. Bunurong Ward candidates were invited, but none made an appearance.

Technical difficulties stalled a proposed YouTube channel, while audio and internet speed meant most candidates introduced their responses with “can you hear me now?”.

Island Voice host Jason Cameron nevertheless navigated the technology and as a former journalist pushed candidates to stay on question.

Jason said they had received hundreds of community questions, which he summarised in specific categories.

Community pool

The award for the most candid response went to challenger Rochelle Halstead – the only newcomer in the Western Port Ward.

Jason asked candidates whether they supported a new, long-awaited pool being built in Cowes, rather than a rebuilt pool in Wonthaggi.

In one of the longest responses of the night, with all participants listening intently, Rochelle said given the island is “one way in and one way out”, locating the shire’s biggest pool in Cowes would create a giant bottleneck.

“If you start to locate regional facilities in Cowes you will cause more problems for the island,” said Rochelle, who added she had learnt about the dangers of poor planning in her previous role as Frankston councillor.

“I hear candidates and councillors talking about the need for less development and environmental sustainability on the island, yet if we see major projects in Cowes, which is the furthest destination from anywhere in the shire, we need to keep in mind it’s one way in and one way out.”

Rochelle said the island had received significant funding in recent years, and funds should be spread across the whole shire, adding the State Government had chosen Wonthaggi as the regional hub.

“It’s got to be balanced and spread across the shire, not the whole focus in Cowes.”

Newbie David Rooks – who did more listening than talking – said the pool would be a community asset in the off-season.

Garbage

Across the two wards that cover Phillip Island and San Remo, there



Candidates and viewers mingled in the online Zoom debate, ahead of this month’s council elections.

are four current councillors seeking re-election and their answers showed they had a clear advantage over new candidates.

Resident Paul asked whether candidates would support a revision of the waste contract to allow weekly red bin collection in peak holiday season.

Michael Whelan led the response saying he understood with the State Government’s soon to be introduced four bin system, it would allow a revision of the current waste contract. “People will also be better informed under the new system,” Michael said.

Clare Le Serve, one of the longest standing councillors, said the new transfer station on Gap Road would also help alleviate waste problems, particularly for commercial businesses.

New candidate Jeni Jobe said part of the solution must be reducing waste at the source, especially stopping single use plastics and using more compostable materials.

First-timer Darrell Silva suggested public education was needed about the three-bin system.

MC Jason replied his experience running a B&B showed “people don’t care about our standards and rules, so good luck educating them, especially the one-nighter who drinks 72 bottles of beer”.

Dogs, bridge

A question about whether the structure of the bridge could ever fail saw current councillor Bruce Kent, who is also a police officer at San Remo, reassure it is “safe and fine” with regular inspections.

He said Regional Roads Victoria had suggested the bridge be transformed to three lanes, to allow for major event congestion.

He added his support for Newhaven businesses in demanding RRV revise its current plans to expand the entrance to Phillip Island to four lanes.

Candidates supported off-leash dog beaches, as well as council

transparency with candidate Trish Cerini highlighting failures in the community consultation around the Cowes to Stony Point car ferry.

Jason asked candidates whether they believed the Bass Coast Shire was effective, asking Ronnie Bauer whether his “Trumpian slogan ‘putting the island first’” was possible.

Ronnie acknowledged he needed to work constructively with the eight other councillors – “I’m not a lone wolf”.

“But if I’m elected to the Island Ward I will listen to my constituents, which is what everyone here is doing,” Ronnie said.

He added he took “a little credit” for some major projects including the junior secondary school and community hospital, after standing as an independent at the last state election.

Re-elect

Each of the current councillors argued for re-election based on “unfinished business”.

“We have secured \$1.2 million for

coastal erosion, the rebuild of the Cowes Cultural Centre, which people have been trying to get on with for decades,” Michael Whelan said.

“But there’s an opportunity to finish unfinished business, including erosion still needs a lot of work, there are new challenges with the land at the carnival site, where advocacy will be crucial, as well as the waste transfer station.”

Geoff Ellis said if re-elected he would instigate a new funding model to bitumen the shire’s unsealed roads, “which won’t bankrupt residents”.

The youngest candidate Mikhaela Barlow – who unsuccessfully stood at the last election – said she deserved to be voted in because “I’m always hearing from the older generation that they would like younger people to get involved in politics”.

She added that growing up as a young child, sitting at the back of council meetings while her father Gareth Barlow was a councillor, also gave her a working knowledge of the shire.

Candidates respond to BCRRA questions

Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association is providing candidate information to help voters make an informed decision when they fill in their ballot at this year’s council election.

“We have created a web page for each candidate to post their profile” a BCRRA spokesperson said. “We will also post their responses to a series of questions from the Association and the community. So far about two-thirds of the candidates have replied,

and each candidate’s response is on their page. And there is a summary of all candidate responses available, updated with each new response we receive.”

The Association posts advice on its Facebook page as further replies are received.

Visit www.basscrra.org for more information about the candidates, the election and the Association. There are also links to other community ‘Meet the Candidates’ forums, and to voting information resources.

How does your vote count?

You understand how voting works, right? The candidate who gets the most votes wins.

Well, not always. Our system of three councillors per ward means counting votes in the Bass Coast local government election is an interesting procedure.

The final result is determined by a complicated counting method, that makes who you preference on your ballot very important.

The system is known as proportional representation and it’s based on candidates needing to obtain a quota to be elected.

That quota is determined by a formula:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Number of formal votes}}{\text{Number of vacancies} + 1} \right) + 1 = \text{Quota}$$

For example in the 2016 election, there were 9640 formal votes in Island

Ward to elect three councillors.

Based on the formula, a candidate needed to receive 2411 first preference votes to be elected.

That part is simple. But then, any votes a candidate receives over the quota are passed on to other candidates according to voters’ preferences.

And if there’s a big field of candidates, it’s possible that no candidate will get enough first preference votes to reach the quota.

If that happens, or if there are still vacancies after all the votes over the quota have been passed on, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded. Their votes are passed on to other candidates according to voters’ preferences. The process is repeated until all vacancies are filled.

A spokesperson for the Victorian Electoral Commission admitted the

proportional representation counting system “is complex and time-consuming, so such counts are conducted by computer”.

Last election, only two councillors (Pam Rothfield and Clare Le Serve) received enough first preference votes to reach the quota for their ward.

Every other spot was determined by preferences. And in 2016, the third highest vote winner in each ward ended up missing out on a seat.

So preferences really matter.

When casting your vote, it’s important to consider who you preference, as history has shown that it’s not always the candidates who receive the most first preference votes who win a seat on council.

You can read more on the VEC website vec.vic.gov.au/voting/how-voting-works/counting-votes

Business Guide

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

AIR CONDITIONING

ALWAYS COOL
AIR CONDITIONING
HEATING & COOLING SPECIALISTS
1800 931 631
www.alwayscoolair.com.au

Pic tic 45137
Au 34551

BLINDS / AWNINGS

Creative Blinds & Awnings

FREE MEASURE & QUOTE
Mobile Showroom
Peter: T/F: 5952 5092 M: 0417 358 650

CLEANING FLUE/CHIMNEY

Island Flue Cleaning

• CHIMNEY & FLUE CLEANING
• NEW COWLS SUPPLY & FIT

0415 106 443
5956 6888
richandi@hotmail.com

Richie Laing
Since 1987

EARTHMOVING

NEAL McRAE EXCAVATIONS

• 10m³ tipper • Bobcat
• 4 ton excavators • Post hole borers
• Driveways • Rubbish removed
• Quarry materials supplies • Blocks cleared

611 Ventnor Road, Cowes
0418 383 881 - 5956 8615
Email: nmcræ@waterfront.net.au

AIR CONDITIONING

COASTAL
REFRIGERATION & AIR-CONDITIONING
STILL OPEN

03 5678 5190
office@picra.com.au

Coastal Refrigeration and Airconditioning
AU22840

COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC
SERVICE, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND SALES

BLINDS & CARPET

Carpets
Blinds
Furniture

south coast furnishings

SOUTH COAST
FLOORING & TRA

5952 1488
155 Thompson Avenue

CONCRETER

MARK ATLEY CONCRETING EST.1983
"THE DRIVEWAY SPECIALISTS"

• Exposed/Patterned
• Coloured or plain
• Drainage solutions

31 Reid Street, Rhyll. 3923
Ph: 0418 105 262

EARTHMOVING

Bobcat/Excavator Tipper Hire

All aspects of earthmoving, driveways, draining and landscaping

Rubbish removal
0418 418 615
Servicing all Phillip Island areas

Ray's Skip Hire + Earth works

AIR CONDITIONING

southcoast air
Air conditioning & refrigeration
Cooling & heating specialists
Split system sales & complete installation
Service, repairs Electrical contractor

0402 044 377
Dave Miller
PIC. 43216
L109866 REC26099

BUILDER

R & K Burt - Builders
Servicing Phillip Island since 1987

• New homes • Extensions • Renovations
• Decks • Maintenance repairs

Ring Ray 0417 107 835

REGISTERED Building Practitioner
DB - U9108

Member 521191

CONCRETER

RAY MATTOCK CONCRETING AND EXCAVATIONS

• Exposed aggregate paving
• Coloured - Slate - Brick paving
• House slabs - Garages

PH: 5952 3853 FAX: 5952 5103
Mob: 0418 560 202

ELECTRICIAN

JBROWN ELECTRICS
REC: 28634

JOSHUA BROWN
0448 804 321
jbrownelectrics@gmail.com

Your local and reliable electrician, no job too big or too small

ANTENNAS & TV

MAVTV
MASTER AUDIO VISUAL

4 Glen Isla Court
Cowes 3922
E mavtvs@gmail.com
W: mavtv.com.au
ABN 72 837 466 589

Digital antenna installs & service, TV wall-mounting & install, home theatre & surround sound set-up, satellite dish supply, install & service, new house/extension pre-wiring for TV & AV, TV points, telephone & data points & cabling ...and more!
Call for advice or book in today!

0400 722 503

BUILDER

"EXTENSION & RENOVATION SPECIALIST"
OVER 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE

ISLAND DESIGN & BUILD
0417 503 003
ROB NORTON

INSURED & LICENSED BUILDER DB-U 61563

CONCRETER

NEW WAVE CONCRETING

Luke Hinrichs, Specialising in
Driveways, Patios,
Garages, Pattern, Plain, Exposed,
DECORATIVE CONCRETING PROFESSIONALS

0402 454 742

ELECTRICIAN

Onshore Electrical Services
• INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL • DOMESTIC

Text or call
Jason 0409 177 871

R.E.C. 12814

Servicing Bass Coast for 30 Years

ASBESTOS

ASBESTOS REMOVAL/BUILDING DEMOLITION

• Registered building practitioners
• Worksafe approved I Fully insured
• All areas/free quotes

RIEDAU TECHNOLOGIES
Phillip Island
5956 9551 / 0417 141 035

CARPENTER

Island Carpentry
All things timber and much more.
Property maintenance.
Concreting

Glen Aylett
0459287540
glen.aylett.ga@gmail.com

CONCRETER

TIM NEWMAN CONCRETING

• Exposed aggregate • House slabs
• Driveways • Footpaths • Sheds & garages
• All concreting needs

Tel/Fax 5956 8791
RMB 2180 Ventnor 3922 E:newman@waterfront.net.au

0419 312 805

ELECTRICIAN

New homes and renovations
Emergency service calls
Maintenance and repairs
New appliance installations
Fault finding
Phone, data, TV installs and repairs

FREE
no obligation quotes

ROYAL ELECTRICAL
0401 851 831
maxroyalelectrical@gmail.com

LIC: A56425 REC: 27368

AUTOMOTIVE

PHILLIP ISLAND TYRE SERVICE CENTRE

3 HARVEY DRIVE
COWES

03 59 523 305
PHILLIPISLANDTYRESC.COM.AU

CARPET CLEANING

COAST 2 COAST CARPET CLEANING

• Carpet • Rugs • Deck • Floor Tiles
• STEAM CLEANING
• Truck mount machine

Glen: 0405 415 133
Email: coast2coastcc@hotmail.com

CONCRETER

CONCRETING

• EXCAVATOR • BOBCAT • TIPPER
• HOUSE SLABS • DRIVEWAYS • FOOTPATHS
• GARAGES • EXPOSED AGGREGATE • CROSSOVERS

Steve Wheatley 0419 003 052

EQUIPMENT HIRE

ISLAND EQUIPMENT HIRE
Service & Repairs

• Short & Long term hire available with mechanic onsite for service & repairs

20 The Concourse • Cowes
www.islandequipmenthire.com.au
0417 820 565

ADVERTISING

To advertise in the business guide

Contact Jane on 5952 3201
ads@pisra.com.au

CARPET CLEANING

ISLAND CARPET CLEANING EST1981

• Extreme heat extraction - Rapid Dry
• Commercial - domestic - upholstery
• Rental bond specialists
• Fast, efficient service

RICHIE & DI LAING

0415 106 443 5956 6888
richandi@hotmail.com

DECKS & VERANDAHS

ISLAND DECKS

Specialists in all types of decks and veranda's

REGISTERED Building Practitioner

John Johnston 0414 714 179

FENCING

COASTAL FENCES

• All aspects of timber fencing • Gates
• Demolition and removal • Residential homes
• Holiday homes • Repairs

For a free measure and quote
Call Pat 0431 514 518
coastalfences01@gmail.com

Business Guide

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

FENCING

ISLAND TIMBER AND FENCING
HIA MFA

Specialising in: brush, paling, ARC.
Plus timber supplies, sleepers, brush panels etc.
ECOWOOD (Arsenic free) timber NOW AVAILABLE
sales@islandtimberandfencing.com
0414 541 849

HANDYMAN

*Carpentry *Decks and deck staining
*Kitchen and Bathroom Renovations
*Gates and Fences *Paths and Driveways
*Gardening *Gutter Cleaning
and more...

MONKI'S MAINTENANCE
Troy Monk 0418 504 330
monkismaintenancepi@gmail.com

PAINTER & DECORATOR

JULIAN BIRD
PAINTING & PLASTERING

Old homes, restorations, real estate, insurance work, domestic & commercial
Free quotes/over 25 years exp.
Competitively priced/professional reliable service
julianbird8@gmail.com
0431 992 027

RE-STUMPING

KEANE & SON
House Restumping & Levelling

Paul Keane
0427 080 309
keanesrestumping@outlook.com
PO Box 696, Wonthaggi, Vic, 3995

FENCING

MOORE'S TIMBER & RENDERED FENCES

Paling Fencing
Rendered Fencing & Privacy Walls
FREE quote call Ashley 0418 556 645
www.moorefences.com.au

LANDSCAPING

GRACE LANDSCAPES
Design Solutions, Beautiful Landscapes

www.heathgracelandscapes.com
8 Vista Place, Cape Woolamai
Heath Grace 0404 596 504
heath@heathgracelandscapes.com

PEST CONTROL

PHILLIP ISLAND PEST CONTROL
OFFERING FIVE STAR FRIENDLY SERVICE

COMPETITIVE PRICES
Mobile: 0419 543 637

Treatment of all pests

- Termites • Rodents • Fleas • Bees
- Cockroaches • Spiders • Wasps
- Soil treatments • Red Stop Barriers Installed

23 years experience
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

ROOFING

SOUTHERN METAL ROOFING
Metal Roofing Specialists

- Domestic & Commercial • Repairs
- New Installation & Renewals • Maintenance
- Fascia, Gutters & Downpipes
- Aluminium Gutter Guard • Metal Wall Cladding

M: 0431 044 485 E: chrissavona@yahoo.com.au
Lic No 40950

FENCING

SIMPLE FENCING

Phillip Island and surrounds

0406 225 442
simplefencing@hotmail.com

LAWN MOWING

Dave Costello

For all your lawnmowing, landscaping & rubbish removal

Call for a free quote
0411 175 957

PLASTERING

WONTHAGGI plaster
& Construction Supplies

T: 5672 1535 F: 5672 3786
42 INVERLOCH ROAD, WONTHAGGI
wonthaggiplaster.com.au

CEMENTEL GYPROCK CSR NATIONAL MASONRY EARTHWOOL

RUBBISH REMOVAL

RUBBISH REMOVAL

We load for you - No job too small!

FOR A FAST FREE QUOTE
CALL SHANE 0407 599 616 OR 5678 2002

We can also remove unwanted cars, trucks, motorbikes and scrap metal for FREE

LOCAL TOWING NOW AVAILABLE
- 7 days -

GAS SUPPLIES

WRIGHTON GAS SUPPLIES

Agency for **ELGAS**

Servicing Phillip Island & San Remo
For all household gas supplies and appliances sales

Bruce Wright
Tel: 5952 3252 Mobile 0409 164 441

LAWN MOWING

HAWKER'S LAWN MOWING

Lawn mowing, Garden maintenance, end of lease clean, ride on and push mower

FREE QUOTES
Call Brent 0431 075 090
Hawker's Lawn Mowing & Maintenance
bmhawker44@gmail.com

PLUMBING

brenex 24 hours 7 days
plumbing & gasfitting

- Roofing - Gas - Water - Hot Water - Pumps
- Water Tanks - Sewers & Storm water - Blockages

Brendan Duncan 0418 342 649
PIC No. 26296
Email | brendan@brenexplumbing.com.au

SECURITY

STAY SAFE SECURITY DOORS

Brett 0408 508 251

GLASS

BETTSY'S GLASS

Glazing the Island and district

LEWIS BETTS A.B.N. 28 300 150 885

- Residential locksmithing & key cutting • Mosaic glass • Flyscreens
- Shower screens • Re-glazing • Security doors • Glass balustrading

PH: 5952 3555 MOB. 04325 9 7641, FAX 5952 3444
Factory 3, 221 Settlement Road, Cowes
sales@bettsysglass.com.au

LAWN MOWING

LAWN MOWING

- Edging • Clean Up
- Fully Insured • Plus more services

For free appraisal:
Call Russell 0400 626 961
white.rc@hotmail.com

ISLAND HOME SERVICES
www.islandhomeservices.com.au

PLUMBING

CHUNKS PLUMBING

All types of plumbing
24 HOUR SERVICE Lic # 48411

- Gas • Hot water units
- Sewers, storm water, blockages

A local, reliable business
Daniel Campbell - 0438 520 546
chunksplumbing@waterfront.net.au

SEWING & ALTERATIONS

PROWLER PROOF 10 YEAR REPLACEMENT WARRANTY
AUTHORISED DEALER

Specialising in Security Doors, Fly Wire Doors & Security Window Grills

Brett@staysafesecuritydoors.com.au

GLASS

Phillip Island
GLASS WORKS
'when quality counts'

- Reglazing ■ Showers ■ Mirrors
- Splashbacks ■ Balustrading

Darren Anderson
Factory 1/110 Dunsmore Rd, Cowes
5952 5570 0419 525 588

LAWN MOWING

Jim's Mowing
Need it Done? Jim's the One

Call 131 546

- ✓ FREE QUOTES
- ✓ Fully insured
- ✓ Police checked
- ✓ OH&S compliant
- ✓ All work guaranteed

RISK FREE

Lawn mowing, gardening, pruning, hedging, rubbish removal, gutter cleaning, weeding, mulching, odd jobs
www.jimsmowing.com.au

PLUMBING

Same Day Plumbing Service

Morris Brothers Lic 43482

Free Quotes - Pensioner Discounts
0403 116 435

SEWING & ALTERATIONS

Sewing and Alterations

- Handmade sewing creations
- Mending and alterations
- Custom made covers, cushions, curtains for your home decor

Rhonda Kroon
0438 466 583

GUTTER CLEANING

GUTTER-VAC
Clean. Safe...Easy

Vacuum gutter cleaning, gutter guard, solar panel cleaning, ceiling cavities cleaning.

0427 393 291
swgippsland@gutervac.com.au

MOWER REPAIRS

NORTON Power Equipment

Factory 1/98 Dunsmore Rd, Cowes, Phillip Island
5932 0604

LAWN MOWER REPAIRS & PARTS

PLUMBING

RELIABLE PLUMBER
Fast Response at an honest price

Tappy the Plumber
0427 776 808

email: tappy@waterfront.net.au
Fully Licenced & insured. All work guaranteed Lic. No. 119269C

- NO CALL OUT FEE
- Leaking taps & toilets
- Hot water systems replaced
- Vanities & water
- Filters installed
- Gas fitting
- General plumbing

STEEL

ISLAND STEEL

Steel fabrication • Stainless/Aluminium fabrication
Steel sales cut to order • Sheetmetal fabrication
Guillotine and folding • Gal lintels / Retaining wall posts
Truck mounted CRANE HIRE • Genie lift and generator hire

Call for a quote WE DELIVER
14-16 The Concourse, Cowes 5952 1432
Email: sales@islandsteel.com.au

Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

It seems like only a few weeks ago we were clearing out our bait freezers to close the shop during the first lockdown. In reality it has been over six months.

With the exception of the war years it would be difficult to come up with a stranger year than the one we've had so far.

While every year has its challenges, they are generally only short term and quickly forgotten about. Not only will this not be forgotten quickly it isn't even over yet and no one knows how much longer it will go for.

From all the happenings overseas and even in Australia, it is fairly obvious that eradication will not be possible. Even with a vaccine it appears we will have some type of restrictions for a long while yet.

While the current restrictions make it difficult for everyone, with a little thought and patience we can all make it work.

A few people in the shop over the last couple of weeks have taken offence to us asking them to put their masks on or to wait outside for a second until people in the shop leave.

We are not the ones making the rules just simply following them.

Once you enter a shop it doesn't mean you can remove your mask, and we are currently restricted with customer numbers due to social distancing.

Hopefully, these restrictions will be over soon but until then, while there is a fine for not adhering to the regulations, just keep in mind the fines for business are 10 times as much.

We are coming up to a busy time at Cup Weekend and these regulations will make for some testing times for all businesses and there will be inconvenience for all.

Business is doing all it can to accommodate its customers but there is a couple of things that customers can do to help business.

With the restrictions on numbers in the shops, instead of the whole family going in to take up numbers, just one person go in and get what you need. If you think the mask wearing is unnecessary or have a problem with COVID-19 restrictions, it's not the person behind the counter that is making the rules.

We will be trialling a few things

as we come to the busy time to speed up the time people need to spend in the shop so as people don't have to wait too long on the footpath.

We will be posting changes on our social media and through signage on the window.

Over the next couple of weeks we will come up with a list of times/days that we are busiest/quietest so those who want more help to get started or maybe some advice on new tackle could time their visit when we can



Brodie proved that you don't need a boat to catch the big fish!

spend maximum time with them.

Hopefully, none of this will be necessary but until that time we will continue to look at different ways to help all of our customers.

Fishing

The spring winds have dominated again this week but there has been a couple of those spring days we all enjoy, sunshine and warmth in the air and fishable conditions.

Early spring is one of those times you just have to be ready to take advantage of the small windows that come along.

Several did this week and while still patchy the lack of traffic on the bay has made for some very good fishing.

Snapper have been the main target with plenty of bycatch like gummies, whiting and freezer filling

bait fish, cutta, yakkas and salmon. Land-based as well has shown some improvement with a handful of reports: snapper, trevally, salmon, cutta and even a few calamari off the jetties.

While I am a little reluctant to say the calamari is getting better the reports lately have shown an improvement.

The boat and kayak reports were more promising than the land but still not too many getting into double figures.

Some of the better reports of calamari have come from offshore in the deep water and not over the shallow weed beds.

Those caught offshore are all on the bigger side with mixed sizes in the shallow.

We also had a couple of reports of arrow squid in the bay in Cleeland Bight.

The best of the land reports is still off the beaches for calamari but a few more reports from the jetties will see more fishing when the tides are right.

Snapper reports are as you would expect and about the same as normal with only the weather holding most people back.

The size of the snapper and where they were caught came back to what and where you would expect this week.

Even the reefs of Kilcunda where they have been quiet so far produced the quality sized pinkies.

Still haven't had reports from below the bridge in Cleeland Bight and although the other reports are getting somewhere near normal in the areas and snapper size, the numbers are still a little low with most only landing a couple for the boat.

Several good gummies caught this week from those chasing snapper and most were around the 6kg to 8kg mark.

There were the usual 100s of undersized ones swimming with the 100s of undersized pinkies and while it kept the kids busy it soon depleted the bait supplies.

The gummy reports came from along French Island, more towards Elizabeth Island and from offshore.

We also had a report of a school shark caught offshore that tipped the scales to almost 30kg.

There is plenty of bait in the bay, salmon, trevally, cutta and yakkas and it's always worth the effort to head out a little early for fresh calamari.

We are now back to opening seven days a week, 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday and 8am - 5pm on weekends.

As the weather improves, we will start to open earlier during the week and weekends.

Change to cricket season plans

By Phillip Island and District Cricket Club

The ever-present COVID-related restrictions has forced the Phillip Island and District Cricket Club to amend plans for the start of the season.

With the comprehensive precautions that are required, the number of training sessions per week for juniors has been adapted, meaning the training schedule announced last week has now been modified.

And these will naturally change again, as new restrictions are applied to circumstances in the region and across the state.

The preliminary practice arrangements for practice at the Cowes ground are now as follows:

Blasters - Thursday 4-5pm, commenced Thursday, October 22.

U12 - Monday 4-5.15pm, commenced Monday, October 12.

U14 - Tuesday 4-5.30pm, commenced Tuesday, October 6.

U16 - Wednesday 4.30-6pm, commenced Wednesday, October 7.

PIDCC Junior Co-Coordinator, Dave Womersley, announced the amended schedule at the club zoom meeting with parents on Monday, October 5.

Players are eager to get to practice after enduring the restrictions through the winter.

One of the disappointments of revised practice plan is that the extremely popular Blasters program has had to be deferred and will now commence in two-week's time,

on Thursday, October 22 at 4pm at Cowes ground.

Promotional pamphlets are being distributed to schools in the area and registration for Blasters and the PIDCC Junior Cricket squads are open for boys and girls at Play Cricket to PIDCC at <https://www.playcricket.com.au/> or direct to the club at <https://www.playcricket.com.au/club-finder/club-details?Id=1274>

The club is awaiting the release of the Leongatha District Cricket Association 2020-21 season schedule of matches.

It is anticipated junior competition will begin in late October.

This season, PIDCC has planned an U20 Development Training Group, under the guidance of B-Grade captain, Steve McIntyre.

This is aimed at providing a smooth transition for talented junior players into the senior ranks.

In addition, plans are being refined to form a specialist Spin Bowlers Squad, under the guidance of leading spinners, Charith Keerthisinghe and Clint Wilson.

As well as developing individual talent, this squad will aim to enable club teams to adopt varied tactics.

This provides an opportunity for players to learn more about the Asian style of playing cricket from Charith, who was a member of the national Spin Bowling Squad in Sri Lanka.

This season, we may see the PIDCC teams spinning their way to the top of the competition.



Proud parents Mindy and Michael of Phillip Island welcomed their first child, Ocean Aurora Kellam on August 29, weighing 3.160g.

Business Guide

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

STORAGE



Large & Small Units
Boxes & Packaging
Security Monitoring
On Site Manager
24hr / 7 day access

Phone 0400 214 446

4 Industrial Way, Cowes 3922

Alt Ph: 5952 1432 Fax: 5952 5690

Email: storage@islandsteel.com.au

Web: www.islandstorage.com.au

TREE SERVICES



SL Tree Care

NO JOB TOO SMALL

- Qualified
- Tree Maintenance
- Tree Removal
- Fruit Tree Pruning
- Storm Damage
- Lawn Mowing
- Garden Maintenance
- FREE QUOTES

Call Shaun 0423 910 554

WINDOW CLEANING

We promise sparkling windows every time!

Discounts apply for pensioners

PREMIER WINDOW CLEANING

Residential & commercial work

Call Maria 0422 258 948

Email: hansamaria39@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

To advertise in the
Business Guide

Contact Jane on
5952 3201 or email
ads@pisra.com.au

TIMBER & TANKS



WE KNOW
TIMBER, HARDWARE,
RURAL SUPPLIES
& BUILDING MATERIALS

Phone 03 5678 8552

www.vansteenseltimbers.com.au

Cnr Bass Hwy & Dalyston-Glen Forbes Road, Grantville

TREE SERVICES



TREE CARE NOW

- Tree & Stump removal
- Pruning
- Chipping
- Fully insured

Sean 0439 900 091

www.treecarenow.net

WINDOW CLEANING

ventnor property maintenance

free quotes, no job to small

tim waterton

lawn mowing, rubbish removal, cleanups,
windows cleaned, all general odd jobs.


M: 0491 141 580

E: twaterton3@hotmail.com

DEATHS

BROBERG, Patricia Joy:
‘Paddy’
Passed away peacefully on October 1, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. Loved wife of Norman. Loving mother and mother-in-law of Robin & Sylvia, Kristin & Antonio, Nicholas & Debra. Adored Grandma to Kobe.
Forever in our Hearts
Paddy’s service will be livestreamed for details go to www.handley-andandersonfunerals.com.au

FLETCHER (nee Slade), Janet (Jean):
19/01/1925-29/09/2020
Cherished mother of Mal, Mother in Law of Len, Nanny of Adam, Liz and Peter. Great Nanny of Lauren, Jack, Naomi and Emily.
Precious memories are ours to keep.
Thanks to Melaleuca Lodge for all their loving care.



PHILLIP ISLAND BULLDOGS
FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

GISLINGHAM, Jim:
5 October 2020
Esteemed Life Member and lifetime volunteer at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club.
The top gate just won’t be the same without Jim.
Our sincere condolences to Shane, Carol and Jess.
He will be missed!
President, Committee and Members Phillip Island Football Club

PRICE, Stuart:
A highly thought of and enthusiastic member of BCHAC passed away on the 2nd October 2020 and will be missed by all. The BCHAC extends its condolences to the family and friends.
Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc. (BCHAC)

TAYLOR, Ron:
Passed away peacefully on September 27, 2020, aged 98 years.
Loved husband of Connie (dec.)
Loving Dad to Pam & James.
Adored Grandad to Sean & Josie, & Katie.
‘See you later Ron’
A True Gentleman

WANTED

WANTED
I am an old person, local on the Island and are looking for a shed on a paddock where I can house my Ultra Light aircraft and use the paddock to land and take off in my very quiet Ultra Light.
I am a respectful person and will help if required on maintenance for the property.
Regards Ian Lawrence
0409 067 856

WANTED TO BUY

SECOND HAND GOLF BUGGY WANTED
Looking to purchase a second hand Golf Buggy.
Hoping someone may have one not being used and would like to sell it.
0438 595 258

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

CHURCH NOTICES

Members should check their church websites for details of service times and guidelines.

UNITING CHURCH:
www.cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php
www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Uniting-Church/828979940479969

BAPTIST CHURCH:
www.islandbaptist.org.au/

HOPE CHURCH:
are emailing members
www.islandhopechurch.com/

CATHOLIC CHURCH:
www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus
www.cdsale.org.au/prayer-and-reflection

ST PHILLIP’S ANGLICAN CHURCH:
www.anglicanparishbass-phillipisland.org/
www.facebook.com/stphillipscowes/

PHILLIP ISLAND SURF CHURCH:
www.facebook.com/pages/category/Christian-Church/Surf-Church-Phillip-Island-360300548086709/

Phillip Island RSL Community Men’s Shed
REPAIRS AND RESTORATIONS
From timber to metal - small to large projects
Reasonable prices
Open Tues & Thurs 9am to noon
Contact Terry on 0438 808 428

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”
John 14:27, NIV

SITUATIONS VACANT

JOIN OUR TEAM
Real Estate Sales Representative

LJ Hooker Inverloch / Phillip Island are looking for an outstanding sales representative who is passionate about real estate to join us. Therefore, if you have the skills and experience to be successful in this role, we want to hear from you!

About The Role:
We understand that real estate is not just about property, it’s about people! If you are an open-minded individual with a passion for helping people achieve their dreams, and are prepared to commit to achieving a highly successful career, then we are ready to commit to you.

Being a Real Estate Sales Consultant is more than just a job. You’ll love to chat and have a genuine interest in people and their story and the local community. Some of the activities you will be involved in:

- Listing & Selling property • Prospecting and cold calling
- Liaising with vendors and buyers • Conducting open for inspections
- Liaising with solicitors • Property marketing • Business development

We are looking for someone with:

- Prior Residential Real Estate Experience or Sales background, preferable
- Live Locally • An Agents Representative Certificate • Reliable Car and Drivers Licence
- Excellent Written and Verbal Communication Skills • Strong Interpersonal Skills
- Systematic and Organised • Highly Motivated with a Desire to Learn and Succeed
- Effective Listening Skills • Positive Attitude and Boundless Energy

What we are offering:

- A full time sales position • Generous commission structures
- Leading edge technology & support with ongoing training
- A positive supportive culture that promotes teamwork and releases you towards your potential.

For a confidential discussion, please contact
Allan Mann – Managing Director on 0409 855 753

To apply for this position email your resume to:
Managing Director – Allan Mann
amann.inverloch@ljh.com.au
Applications close Wednesday, October 21, 2020 Inverloch | Grantville | Phillip Island





Three exciting opportunities are available at our small, democratic primary school on Phillip Island that would suit applicants who have a natural affiliation for alternative and holistic school settings.
ALL POSITIONS ARE TO COMMENCE IN TERM 1 2021 WITH SOME FLEXIBLE TRANSITION TIME DURING TERM 4.

EARLY YEARS TEACHER

We are looking for a Mentor to join our Early Years team to work with students from Foundation to Year 2. This role would suit an experienced early years trained teacher who would thrive in a team teaching environment. Position is part time (0.8 FTE Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday).
APPLICATIONS CLOSE SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH 2020.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANT - PROJECTS

This role is for a flexible and enthusiastic Assistant Mentor to work alongside our Mentor team and support our students in Years 3 to 6. You would be working with students individually and in small groups to help them design, create and present projects based on their areas of interest. Position is full time 1.0 FTE during school cycles (43 weeks/year).
APPLICATIONS CLOSE MONDAY OCTOBER 19TH 2020.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANT - INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

We are looking for an experienced Assistant Mentor to work with a focus student to deliver a personalised academic and social program in conjunction with our Mentor team. This is a relationship focussed role where rapport and flexibility are essential.
Position is for 20 hours per week, 8.30am to 1.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday during our school cycles (43 weeks/year).
APPLICATIONS CLOSE SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2020.

Visit: www.pivillageschool.org.au
(Join the Team page) for an overview of all of our positions and to complete an online application.

If you have any questions not answered in the documentation or would like to arrange a visit to the school before you apply you can email:
kelly@pivillageschool.org.au

Position Vacancies
Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications for the following positions:

Associate Nurse Unit Manger – Midwifery
Fixed Term Full Time – Closes 12/10/20

Enrolled Nurse – Aged Care
Casual – Closes 15/10/20

Healthcare Worker
Casual – Closes 15/10/20

Sexual Assault Counsellor
Permanent Part Time – Closes 18/10/20

Counsellor
Permanent Part Time – Closes 18/10/2020

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



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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

Summer soccer program

Update from the Phillip Island Soccer Club

The Phillip Island soccer club is running a social competition for players under the age of 18 in Term 4.

We will be using a Go Football program, running a 5-a-side competition.

Registration will be through gofootball.com.au. Select Phillip Island from the pick your location menu and follow the registration steps.

The competition will run for eight weeks beginning on Thursday, October 22 at Newhaven Recreation Reserve.

Game times will be at 5pm and 6pm
The age groups offered will be:
U8s (2012 and 2013 born).
U11s (2011, 2010 and 2009 born).
U14s (2006, 2007 and 2008 born).
U17s (2003, 2004 and 2005 born).

It will be a mixed competition, so we encourage both boys and girls to register.

Players will need soccer/football boots and shin guards are essential. We need a minimum of 24 players to run each age group.

Should you require more details please email phillipislandsoccer@gmail.com

The cost of the competition will be \$40.

We are running this competition at a low cost as we want to support the families in our community who may have been financially affected by the COVID-19 restrictions.

As a community, family-based club we want to provide access to a social competition that is accessible to all abilities and experience.

After such an extended time without school and organised sport we hope this competition can help to improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of the participants.

We want to re-engage with the soccer community and rebuild social bonds in our community.

The club has received a number of grants this year which enables us to offer the lower cost.

We were lucky enough to receive a grant from Vic Health earlier this year which was to help us run a social competition.

We also received the Covid Survival grant from Sport Rec Victoria which enabled the club to buy sanitisers and other hygiene materials which will help us run a Covid safe club.

We will be following Football Victoria’s return to play guidelines and working in conjunction with Bass Coast Shire Council to ensure we follow all the correct procedures in regard to Covid restrictions.

Once players are registered, we will email participants the guidelines to follow.

If you have any enquiries about this competition please email phillipislandsoccer@gmail.com or call Andrea on 0401824252.

Take the test

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

You should be tested if you display even the mildest symptoms of COVID-19, including: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste.

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

Testing is available at:

- Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. People are encouraged to present between 1.30pm and 3pm to minimise wait times.
- Wonthaggi Hospital drive through testing service is now available between 10am-4pm, 7 days a week.

You can also book a test at Wonthaggi Medical Centre, Monday to Friday (Ph: 0492 036 568 or www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/wonthaggi-VIC-3995/wonthaggi-respiratory-clinic/doctors).

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

Wildlife warrior Colleen expands her skills

Well known to Islanders for her work as a wildlife rescuer, Colleen Gilbee now has a new qualification under her belt – certified snake catcher!

With local snakes getting active during spring, this will be welcome news to anyone who finds an unwanted visitor in the yard.

Colleen said she has always loved snakes, but recently underwent official training for a snake catching permit.

She's already had several call outs, including catching a copperhead that had found its way into a backyard in Cape Woolamai.

"She was only young, but she was really fast," said Colleen, who urged people not to attempt to catch or scare off snakes.

"Copperheads are very shy, and people only get bitten when they scare them, or try to kill them.

"There is no need to hurt them. Just remove pets and children from the area and call for help."

As she works full time, Colleen

said she is not always able to attend in person but is happy to provide advice on what to do.

Unlike her wildlife work, the snake catching is not a volunteer service.

"I do have to charge a small fee, to cover the cost of the course, the equipment, and the annual licence fee," Colleen explained.

Wildlife rescue continues

Colleen stressed that although the service she ran with Kaylene Mendola is no longer operating, she still offers a wildlife rescue service.

"I still run Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Shelter Bass Coast to look after injured animals," she confirmed.

"You can call me on my mobile (0409 428 162) and if I'm available I will attend the incident, but I can't offer a 24/7 service, as I work full time."

She said there were a number of different options for anyone wanting to report sick or injured wildlife on Phillip Island.

"During the day, between 7.30am

and 4pm you need to call the Nature Parks," she said, noting that Nature Parks staff can only assist with incidents on the island.

"You can also call Triple Zero (000) and the police will come out. They are awesome," Colleen said.

"And from 4pm onwards, call my mobile."

She said the local vets at Cowes and Newhaven did fabulous work tending to local wildlife and injured animals could be taken there for treatment.

Contact Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Shelter Bass Coast on 0409 428 162.

Between 7.30am and 4pm contact the Nature Parks on 5951 2800 and select Option 2.

You can also contact Wildlife Victoria after hours – 4pm to 7.30am daily, on 8400 7300. (phones are staffed until 7pm on weekdays and 6.30pm on weekends, with messages taken outside those hours). Cases can also be logged at: wildlifelifevictoria.org.au.



At this year's Citizen of the Year ceremony, Colleen Gilbee, pictured with Dylan and Ben Rielly, was nominated for her tireless work for wildlife rescue over the past 20 years.



Maureen Cannizzaro was overjoyed when Sharon Millar from Island Metal Detecting found her wedding ring, which she lost while gardening.

A great recovery!

Eighty-two-year old Maureen Cannizzaro from San Remo was devastated when she lost her wedding, engagement and eternity rings last month.

Her daughter, Doreen Hancock, said initially Maureen feared the rings had gone down a drain.

"She rushed into my work to tell me she'd lost the rings.

"My husband David came and did a search and he asked mum if she'd done any gardening," said Doreen.

When Maureen said she'd potted a plant, David tipped it upside down and found two rings.

But her beloved wedding ring was nowhere to be found.

"I phoned my friend Sharon

Millar from Island Metal Detecting, and she was kind enough to come over and have a search," said Doreen.

In less than a minute, the ring was found.

"Mum was so grateful she was crying."

Doreen said the rings are now with her for safe keeping, until they can be resized.

Maureen and her husband Patrick have been married for 65 years.

The rings are especially precious now, as the couple are no longer able to live together due to Patrick's health.

"Sadly, two years ago Dad had to go into care at Griffiths Point Lodge," said Doreen.

Art is in our nature

A group of acclaimed contemporary artists have come together to increase awareness of the campaign to stop AGL's proposed gas terminal at Crib Point.

Running from October 3 – 25, the exhibition features 54 artists and will raise funds for Save Westernport Inc to mount a legal challenge against the project, in partnership with Environment Victoria and the Victorian National Parks Association.

"I reached out to the broader art community and was struck by the incredibly generous response of artists," said curator Penelope Gebhardt.

"Many have personal connections to the Mornington Peninsula, and it has been heart-warming to hear their stories. Our community is passionate about this issue and the broader community is as well."

Over the last two years the Westernport community has been united in a campaign to stop AGL's proposed gas import terminal which opponents say, if approved, will have devastating impacts on the environment.

The organisers say the exhibition presents a unique opportunity to take powerful collective action for the health and longevity of Westernport by making a donation or acquiring artwork by a leading contemporary artist to help reach the fundraising target of \$100,000 by November. Donations are welcome and can be made on the 'Donate Now' button on the website. 100 per cent of proceeds will be donated to the cause.

Capel Sound artist Rosie Weiss presents one of her powerful watercolour paintings in this show.



David Larwill, Man, 2009, bronze, (32.5 x 23 x 5 cm, edition 6 & 1 A_P) has been generously donated by his estate for the exhibition.

"This image of a dislodged plant fragment ... is striding forward but burdened by a head bubble of pollution, as every living thing in Westernport Bay and out into Bass Strait would be contaminated by this floating industrial complex," said Rosie.

Renowned artist Vera Möller's paintings and sculptural works bring the underwater world that so few of us ever see – to the surface.

The artist transcribes her impressions of the extraordinary flora and fauna in beautiful patterns, luminescence, colour and form. Möller generously contributed a hauntingly beautiful oil painting to this exhibition, created specifically for this project.

The David Larwill Estate is also supporting the cause with David Larwill's 'Man', a limited-edition

bronze sculpture.

Larwill was for many years a Mornington Peninsula local and is a highly acclaimed and much-loved artist known for his exuberant fresh style.

His wife, Fiona Larwill, said: "David was very passionate about the environment, helping with many causes over the years. Having grown up and then eventually living on the Peninsula this would have angered him and he would have fought to stop this."

Co-hosted by Merricks General Wine Store and Silver Leaf Art Box, the exhibition will continue across the two venues (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) and will be live on the website on Saturday October 3 at 12pm.

Details and online exhibition at www.silverleaf-artbox.com.au.

Phillip Island Go Karts are OPEN

**Weekdays
11am - 3.30pm**

**Saturday & Sunday
9am - 5pm**

Get back to the track!

For pre-booked customers only

We are operating at reduced capacity & restrictions apply.

Visitor Centre & Go Karts
Back Beach Rd, Cowes
Phone 03 5952 9400
Circuit Enquiries 03 5952 2710
phillipislandcircuit.com.au

the ride is only half the experience
phillip island grand prix circuit



ADVERTISER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tell us your views with a 'Letter to the Editor', (350 word limit). Email: advertiser@pisra.com.au

Council breach investigated

Bass Coast Shire CEO Ali Wastie should be alarmed at Council's recent serious breach of the Local Government Act and the Privacy and Data Protection Act.

The leaking of confidential and sensitive internal Council documents to national and regional newspapers casts serious doubts over the integrity of conduct at Bass Coast Shire Council.

Given the nature of the documents, it is entirely unlikely that this breach has not come from within Bass Coast Shire Council, or from someone connected to Council.

The CEO must now act quickly to reassure community members, including Councillors, that their private and confidential information will not be further misused or made public, that action is being taken to prevent further breaches from occurring on her watch, and that action is underway to uncover and bring to account those responsible.

In my opinion it is imperative that the CEO quickly undertakes the following actions:

1. Immediately refers this breach of both the Local Government Act and the Privacy and Data Protection Act to IBAC and VLGI

2. Conduct a transparent internal investigation to determine who at Council may have leaked this confidential information to the media

3. Review internal privacy and data protection systems currently in place at Bass Coast Shire Council to ensure that no further breaches can occur

4. On completion of the investigation and review;

- make public Council's finding and actions to be undertaken to prevent any future breaches
- advise what action is being taken to hold to account the person(s) responsible

This serious breach of the Acts comes on the eve of local government elections, and it can be reasonably expected to have a materially adverse effect on the ability of voters in Bunurong Ward to make a fully informed decision when determining how to vote.

In order to allow Bunurong Ward voters (of which I am one) to make a fully informed decision when voting, I believe that it is essential that the upcoming local government election for Bass Coast Shire be postponed.

Such postponement will also allow some reasonable measure of natural justice and procedural fairness for Cr Larke.

Kevin Griffin, Wonthaggi

Hard times ahead voters.

Our prime minister recently announced, Australia is now in recession. Both Federal and state governments have alarming financial problems.

When travelling through the Cowes and San Remo shopping and business areas it very quickly brings to light the local financial problems. Shops are shut, businesses have closed permanently leaving the remaining ones struggling to survive.

Recently the Bass Coast Shire councillors approved their 2020-21 Annual Budget. Councillors eagerly announced and promoted the Capital Works spending program costed at \$28 million, they promote a record spend amount. Now let's put that spend into perspective. The budget informs ratepayers the Total Income

(year) will be \$82,563,000 and the Total Expenditure (year) \$79,458,000. Part of the Total Expenditure (\$79,458,000) is the \$28 million Capital Works spend program leaving \$51,458,000 to be expended on other matters.

To achieve all these financial figures our councillors took virtually no notice of the financial hurt affecting ratepayers, business owners and landlords of businesses and council went ahead increasing our rates to a maximum allowed of 2 per cent on average, 3.3 per cent Residential, fully knowing at the same time council had \$46,040,000 invested (June 30, 2020) and a month later (July 31, 2020) \$44,040,000 invested in Term Deposits and Shares. These investment details were not disclosed at draft budget time. Which is OUR cash.

All these goings on when the prime minister said this is the worst recession encountered in our life time. Where are the discussions on savings? Why would you vote for a current councillor? Garbage charge \$496 going up. Waste contract in question. Green waste sent out of our Shire. COVID-19, No income and a rate rise. Councillors stopped 26 Capital Works Projects 31/3/2020 that were shovel reading while council had \$46 million invested. Why did it cost \$200,000 for a Climate Action Plan 2020/2030, 80 pages? What's going on! Has our Council become our Investment Banker?

Graham Jolly, Cape Woolamai

Experiences of a councillor elect

This week you will receive your ballot paper for our local election and I thought I'd update you on what it's like being a first-time candidate.

First up, many people say, "Good on you for giving it a go"; you get just as many saying "you're mad", or "I couldn't do it". This makes you feel good, but also raises your levels of doubt.

I've been surprised by the individuals and groups who have approached me, interested in where I stand on various issues. It's great, as it shows people are passionate about how they want our community to look in the future. I've had approaches via the newspaper, emails, phone, Facebook, surveys, online forums and face-to-face.

I'm really pleased to answer any approach – I will always be upfront and direct about where I stand and the things I put my energies into for the future of this community.

Unfortunately, due to COV-19, there have been no photo opportunities holding a baby or wearing a hardhat and high-vis vest.

In trying to get elected all candidates respond with answers that hopefully please the audience. Sometimes, however, I feel words come too easily (in all local government elections) and there are lots of empty promises that get an airing in the pursuit of votes.

I hope to differentiate myself by acknowledging my commitment to the Island Ward having lived, worked and volunteered locally for 20 years.

During this time my character has been tested many times as president of four different community groups, as a local primary school teacher and event organiser. I'm pleased I have managed to build trust and integrity into relationships through my open and honest approach to things. Recently I met with Geoff Moed of A Maze'N Things, and we were looking over my time here. He stated: "I can't think of any mud I have on you". (Thanks Geoff!). I hope my character and the commitments I've made to work hard for you, and to be honest and open always, encourage you to vote for me.

David Rooks, Island Ward candidate

Ideas for improvement

With Shire elections upon us, it's a good time for each member of the Bass Coast community to consider one or two projects which would make their area safer or more amenable. Combining all these thoughts might highlight areas of greatest need.

Two suggested proposals for the Island are:

1. Widen Coghlan Road between the Rhyll Road and the Phillip Island Tourist Road, and provide a bike path so that students attending Newhaven College from Cowes East have a safe thoroughfare to ride along. There is no way they can ride along Coghlan Road now.

2. In Cowes West, improve the section of Justice Road between Church Street and Settlement Road. It is one of the busiest sections of road in the area but is in very poor condition ... narrow, no formal gutters and a dirt footpath.

With new Estates including Seagrove, Whyte Sands, Shearwater and Shoalhaven bringing so many more people and cars to the Island, the condition of all roads and footpaths should be re-assessed and re-prioritised, for example:

How safe is the intersection of Coghlan Road, Harbison Road, and Smiths Beach Road with the Phillip Island Tourist Road ... the "5-Ways intersection"?

How easy or difficult is it for Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay residents to enter or exit the Phillip Island Tourist Road?

Lesley Feddersen, Cowes

Where's the bus?

After knocking over mature trees, at least one more than 100 years old, now replaced by masses of concrete and asphalt, adjacent car park with two way traffic on upper level, so only single side parking in lower level, how do we feel about such precious bus schedule (photo supplied of empty schedule)? Just in case it's not clear, title is "Cowes via San Remo"! How clever is that?

Any chance we can get reports of how many passengers, dollars collected in fares and amount of subsidy? What percentage extra would it cost to test more people possibly attracted to buses if they were free of charge? Would it have made more sense to lose a few car parks for incoming bus stop alongside Coles with outgoing alongside Woolies?

Transport hubs in other visitor welcoming towns include more shelter, lockers for bikes and even showers. Should upgrade opportunity be pitched to State Government, shovel ready already?

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Protect our wildlife

In reply to Dr LM Hanlon's letter (September 30) we too are totally frustrated at the lack of responsibility by some pet owners. We live in Ventnor and were proud to call a pair of plovers "resident". Year after year they produce four chicks and sadly on the first day after hatching one chick is lost, then another and this year because our neighbouring property was vacant, the pair brought their two remaining chicks into the back yard where we observed them every day. Then we saw either the female or one of the chicks mauled in Bembridge Cr, we believe killed by a cat. Only one of the plovers, the male, is left now. Over the recent months I have come across cats roaming the Ventnor beach foreshores. Swamp hens keep getting run over on our roads, so unnecessary!

E.Heine, Ventnor

Western Port Ward Council Election

Our three councillors for Western Port Ward are all standing again. They are campaigning robustly and apart from heaping accolades upon themselves for their personal qualities, dedication and achievements, they are heaping accolades upon their fellow ward councillors. Each claims to be a political independent, yet in effect they are presenting as a de facto group – the Ellis, Le Serve, Kent party (ELK).

Well, to some not inconsiderable extent, continuity within council is desirable, yet voters should seriously evaluate the contributions of our councillors during the current term.

There are many pertinent questions and these include: On which council achievements has each been conspicuously proactive? Have they

seriously pursued matters pertaining to their own constituency and also those relevant to Bass Coast Shire overall? What evidence is there that they look at important issues objectively? Within their own constituency are they visible, perceptive of issues, the ramifications of their decisions? Do they actually try to maximise the thoroughness of both their communication and, very importantly, consultation? Do they tend to focus on some sub-area within Westernport ward? Do they have the acumen expected of those responsible for substantial financial decisions?

What a thankless task being a shire councillor can be – poorly remunerated, hour after hour of work, much criticised for decisions which are unpopular, etc.

Nevertheless, those who nominate will have confidence in their ability to perform in the role, and now it is up to voters to ensure the most suitable aspirants are elected. Over to you now voters – please take council elections seriously.

Russell Riseley, Newhaven

Wildlife endangered

A Barred Bandicoot that had been run over was found recently just past Shelley Beach.

It looked like he ran from the beach side of the road. He didn't make it.

A friend brought me the body for identification.

Phillip Island Nature Parks. Hmm! Is that the place you go for a surf, spend a bit of money, see the sites and if you are lucky you can run down a bit of endangered wildlife.

Mutton birds, wallabies, scrub hens, Cape Barren Geese and now the Barred Bandicoot.

We used to have koalas roaming the streets on Phillip Island looking for a tree to feed from. What happened to that little tourist drawcard? What! It didn't put money in the till.

We would have had to save their trees to keep them? In the end we had got wild koalas here down to 20 odd. We had to lock them away from us nature lovers.

Yes, we close the road off at night for the penguins to run free. They have it all to themselves with the ferals. But what happens when the penguins move to a better climate and a cleaner hunting ground? Do we put in robot Penguins?

Who cares? The show must go for a dollar a head.

It seems the original idea of cleaning out the ferals and re-establishing the natural environment back on Churchill Island to reintroduce bandicoots, had a run over of many badicoots.

The remainder were released on the main island as an after-thought. The ferals remain.

I gave up the cars years ago.

Name supplied, Smiths Beach



REGISTER NOW FOR TWILIGHT SUMMER COMPETITION 2020/21

(Last day to register October 14)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LADIES COMP

Contact: Sharyn Blakemore 0421 135 206
Grading **Wednesday, October 7 and 14 from 5.30pm**
Comp begins **October 28 at 5.30pm**

THURSDAY NIGHT MENS COMP

Contact: Ben White 0438 079 822
Grading **Thursday, October 8 and 15 from 5.30pm**
Comp begins **October 29 at 5.30pm**

For general inquiries contact:
Derek Peters on 0407 330 590
www.westernporttennisclub.com.au
Westernport Tennis Club - Wynne Road San Remo



WONTHAGGI SC THANKS PARENTS, CARERS AND STUDENTS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT DURING THE CHALLENGES OF 2020

#wscworkingtogether #wscproudhistoryexcitingfuture

2021 ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES

www.wonthaggisc.vic.edu.au
OR call the General Office

DUDLEY CAMPUS

Years 7-9
03 5672 0900

MCKENZIE CAMPUS

Years 10-12
03 5611 4000

FLO CAMPUS

Flexible Learning Options
Wonthaggi
Webb's Shed

SAN REMO CAMPUS

Years 7-9

COMING SOON

Full moon fever



We're sure last week's full moon contributed to a few restless nights. While some might have found it difficult to sleep, local photographers were out and about keen to catch the moon at its magnificent best. Anna Carson from Seabrae Photos took this stunning shot of the bridge and wharf with a gigantic moon nestled in the hills behind San Remo.

The shearwaters are back!

Phillip Island's shearwaters are safely back ... although they were four days later than usual this year.

These amazing birds are usually extremely punctual, typically starting to arrive on September 25 annually.

The strong winds that bring them home annually, known locally as the muttonbird gales, have certainly been in evidence over the last week.

The good news is that they have returned from their amazing 15,000 km migratory flight this year ... from the Bering Sea near Alaska to Phillip Island ... in great condition.

They are healthy, shining and looking well-fed.

Shearwaters are glider birds, so strong winds help them in their journey.

With this assistance, they can travel vast distances, very quickly. In some cases they have been

known to complete the journey in the space of two weeks.

They prepare well for their flight home by feeding up in advance to amass body weight.

By storing fat in their muscle structure the birds can sustain such a long journey, without the need to feed.

Now home, they will spend the next six months courting, mating, renovating their burrows and raising a chick.

The main purpose of their flight back to Phillip Island is in fact to mate.

They return to their former nest or burrow, and a lot of the birds will keep a mate for several years.

Once back the birds locate their burrows and begin the process of cleaning it out and getting it ready for nesting. Burrows comprise a sloping earthen tunnel from four to six feet in length, lined at the end with dry grass.

Having not eaten for weeks, they need a feed and are a familiar and spectacular sight every evening at sunset on the island's south coast, when they return to their burrows after feeding close by in Bass Strait. (In fact the best time to see this spectacle is over the next three to four weeks.)

Housekeeping chores complete and having found a mate by the end of October, they will head off to the Antarctic to feed in early November.

Creatures of habit, the shearwaters will return and start laying their egg (they only have one chick per season) by late November.

The peak day for egg-laying is November 27.

The chicks are hatched after an incubation period of fifty-three days.

Each parent takes its turn to sit while its mate goes to sea to obtain food, returning at dusk to feed the "sitter."

After hatching, the young bird

is looked after by each parent in turn until April, when it is left to its own resources.

The shearwaters are then ready to take to the skies on their annual northbound journey.

Aided again by strong winds, the adults are the first to set off, flying in a north north-west direction to Japan, which they reach in about three weeks; and then swinging northeast, to the Aleutian Islands in the southern Arctic.

Now in the northern hemisphere summer, they feed for about three months.

The chicks follow in another two weeks, leaving for the open sea at the end of April and joining in the annual flight to the far north Pacific.

As this year's breeding season gets underway, residents are alerted to take extra care when driving along the Esplanade and surrounding areas, especially at Surf Beach.



After an epic 15,000km flight home from Alaska, Phillip Island's shearwaters arrived last week and are now settling back into their burrows and getting ready for the breeding season.

HOME DELIVERY

Call your local newsagency

ISSN 2200-100X



9 772200 100002

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO
ADVERTISER

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

19 GRANDVIEW GROVE, COWES



\$649,000

- Centrally located
- 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms
- Large allotment 1000m² (approx.)

9 BARRY STREET, SUNDERLAND BAY



\$729,000

- Water Views
- Undercover deck
- 3 living/ 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms

19 MANNA GUM DRIVE, COWES



\$615,000

- 3 bedrooms/ 2 bathrooms
- Like new north facing home
- Set on 1000m² (approx.)

**WE HAVE CASH
BUYERS READY TO
PURCHASE NOW!**

**RENTAL
PROPERTIES
URGENTLY
WANTED**

2/204 THOMPSON AVE, COWES

1 Bed, 1 Bath, 1 Car, utilities included, fully furnished **\$350 pw**

206 THOMPSON AVENUE, COWES

1 bed, 2 bath, 2 car **\$380 pw**

73 ANCHORAGE ROAD, VENTNOR

3 bed, 1 bath, 1 Car **\$350 pw**

**5 PHILLIP ISLAND ROAD,
SUNDERLAND BAY**

2 bed, 1 bath **\$285 pw**

**37 HAPPY VALLEY DRIVE,
SUNSET STRIP**

4 bed, 2 bath, 2 car **\$395 pw**

56 HENDERSON STREET, VENTNOR

2 bed, 1 bath **\$325 pw**

**WE HAVE QUALITY
TENANTS WAITING**

**113a Thompson Ave, Cowes
www.alexscott.com.au**

5952 2633