



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

# ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

\$1.80 Incl. GST

## PICAL insolvent, to close, future uncertain

It is understood a meeting of PICAL's 300 volunteers was held on Friday morning to explain the shock news the organisation would be wound up, declaring insolvency.

**COMMUNITY**

The Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre is set to be wound up after being unable to meet debts incurred from an “administrative inaccuracy”, un-

derpaying wages to employees for more than a decade. The shock news means the doors to the 44-year-old community house will be closed, most likely along with the emergency food relief program – which

feeds about 300 people a week. Also impacted will be the Centrelink and Services Australia agency, employment services, welfare referrals, education courses and several community groups who are hosted by

PICAL, such as the community garden. However, in a public statement issued Friday lunchtime, the PICAL board said they would aim to continue all existing services “for as long as we

are permitted”, with a “focus of supporting continuity moving forward”. The statement said a special general meeting of members had been called for November 14

*Continued page 12*

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**Tim O'BRIEN**  
**David ROOKS**

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Authorised by T. Bell, PO Box 1106, Cowes 3922

**VOTE 1**

**Ron Bauer**

Island Ward, Bass Coast Shire

A vote for Ron is a vote for our island

**A VOTE FOR RON IS A VOTE TO**

- ✓ Build the sporting precinct and aquatic centre NOW
- ✓ Collect the red bins weekly in Summer
- ✓ Freeze the waste levy
- ✓ Ensure responsible use of ratepayers money
- ✓ Complete the existing bike paths before new ones
- ✓ Preserve foreshore habitat, no bike path Cowes to Ventnor

**BALLOT PAPER**

**HOW TO VOTE**

1	BAUER, Ron
2	SILVA, Darrell
3	CHADWICK, Marnie
5	BELL, Tracey
7	ROOKS, David
4	TRIGT, John
6	O'BRIEN, Tim

Voting for the island ward is as easy as 1,2,3 but remember to number every square.







# FOI documents reveal decision to “do nothing”

## NEWHAVEN JETTY

The engineering assessments which led to the indefinite closure of the Newhaven Jetty in May have been released under Freedom of Information (FOI), following a request from The National's Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath.

The executive summary of the report, finalised in March and prepared by Parks Victoria for the State Government, states that the jetty is in “very poor condition” with “more than 60 per cent of the beams showing signs of heavy deterioration”.

“Most of the timber decking planks, longitudinal beams and cross beams are either heavily deteriorated or failed,” the report stated, “posing serious tripping hazards and reduced structural capacity below limits that could eventually lead (to) structural failure and serious injuries”.

The report, which was based on a “limited visual condition (Level 2) inspection”, proposed three options.

Option 1 was to “do nothing”, involving full closure of the jetty to vehicles and pedestrians. Option 2a and 2b required immediate corrective maintenance to be undertaken over the course of 18 months, but would have prolonged public access to the jetty.

Option 2a proposed to maintain pedestrian access for the jetty approach and central head - the runway ‘stem’ of the jetty’s ‘T’ shape; while Option 2b proposed maintaining pedestrian access on the jetty approach and central head, as well as the northern arm of the jetty.

The southern arm of the jetty has been closed since 2018.

Partial pedestrian access would have been maintained to the jetty while Option 2a and 2b works were completed.

However, the report also states a proposed further Level 3 engineering inspection would have “very likely” uncovered similar or more significant defects in “all timber elements” of the jetty.

The report costed the “minimum” corrective maintenance to be “at least \$120,000”, taking into consideration the Level 3 inspection would likely have found further defects.

It is unclear in the report how long Option 2a and 2b would have prolonged public access to the jetty.

After inspecting the document, Melina Bath MP said: “It is clear from the documents that maintenance would have allowed the jetty to remain open for a further 10 years before being replaced”.

The report recommended “to proceed with Option 1 due to the overall very poor condition and associated ongoing major repair works required over the next five years”.

According to the report, the recommendation to “do nothing” took into consideration “the current low Level of Service (LOS), availability of resources and priority of repair works at more significant piers and jetties.”

### Our small, important rebuild

Amanda Keilar, a San Remo resident and local fishing advocate, started a petition following the closure of the Newhaven jetty



Melina Bath MP, who visited the Newhaven Jetty on Monday, asked: “Why wasn’t the community consulted? I think the really sad thing is the first time the community really knew about (the closure of the jetty) was when there was a closed indefinitely sign put on the gate.”

which Melina Bath MP is set to deliver to parliament on Thursday October 17.

Although the report cited “the current low level of service” as a reason for the jetty’s indefinite closure, Amanda’s petition amassed more than 2300 hard-copy signatures, and a further 1163 online signatures.

“Our community feels really abandoned and let down by the findings resulting from the FOI questions,” Amanda said.

“The FOI answers also revealed that the jetty was repairable. It was deteriorating decking and cross beams (in need of repair) It wasn’t the whole jetty. It’s really disappointing that they just put a fence around it and that was that.”

“Doing nothing is a big loss to not only the locals who use and

love it. It is a lost opportunity for regional tourism and land-based anglers who choose to come and stay and play in our area.

“It’s not a big build project. It’s our small, important rebuild.”

Owner of Saltwater, the restaurant adjacent to the jetty, Ben Dennis, stressed how important the jetty was to his local family business.

“I personally feel the government has let us down and misled us, with no support at all.

“The Newhaven Jetty is one of the most heavily utilised assets in the region for locals and tourists.”

Ms Bath also visited the Newhaven Jetty on Monday.

“Why wasn’t the community consulted?” she questioned.

“I think the really sad thing is the first time the community really knew about the closure was

when there was a closed indefinitely sign put on the gate.”

Jordan Crugnale MP, local member for Bass, said the jetty was closed on May 1 this year, for public safety.

“Engineering assessments revealed structural failures of the jetty meaning it is not safe to access.

“We know maritime facilities deteriorate over time, which is why staff monitor the condition of assets as part of routine patrols and arrange detailed engineering inspections when required.

“The jetty will continue to be prioritised under the Sustainable Local Ports Framework for future investment.”

Ms Crugnale said the government understood the important role the jetty played in the local community for recreation, including fishing and walking.

**VOTE 1**  
Island  
Ward  
Bass Coast

**MARNIE CHADWICK**



A vote for Marnie is a vote for your community's voice!

### BALLOT PAPER

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 2 | BAUER, Ron       |
| 3 | SILVA, Darrell   |
| 1 | CHADWICK, Marnie |
| 5 | BELL, Tracey     |
| 7 | ROOKS, David     |
| 4 | TRIGT, John      |
| 6 | O'BRIEN, Tim     |

This is a guide only, please remember to number every box.

"I will represent ALL of Phillip Island, we are one!"

- ★ Recreation Reserve: Sporting Hub & Pool
- ★ Roads, Rates, Rubbish
- ★ Improve Council Communication & Consultation
- ★ Active Transparency of Council Agenda
- ★ Sensible Planning Decisions
- ★ Integrity, Transparency & Social Justice!

All of these are necessary!!

Authorised by Marnie Chadwick, PO Box 4076, Cowes 3922 | marnberm@gmail.com



## ADVERTISER EDITORIAL

# Local council election

This week, the Advertiser received several complaints that a letter from the local branch of a state political party was advising its members on how to vote in the upcoming council election.

We received a copy of the letter and chose not to publish it for a number of reasons.

Firstly, we don't believe political parties should be involved in our council election.

Secondly, we felt publishing the letter amplified its message well beyond its original intended audience.

Political party membership levels are at historic lows. A letter sent to local branch members of a party represents a very small fraction of the local population.

We then received some letters to the editor which included extracts from the original party letter, which we also chose not to publish.

None of us can control what a political party says at their own branch meeting, or which candidates they discuss.

However, it is important to note that no political party has formally endorsed a candidate in the Bass Coast council election.

Are any of the current candidates paid up members of a political party? Possibly.

Do all of the candidates have political leanings or regularly vote in support of a particular party in state or federal elections? Definitely.

Over the years, councillors of very different political persuasions have managed to function together effectively.

It is a reflection of the divisive nature of politics at the moment that there's an automatic assumption that people who are grass roots members of a political party are automatically not going to put their community first, or are only capable of thinking strictly along party lines.

It's an easy political tactic to focus on our differences, but the truth is, we have much more in common.

Regardless of political stripes, we believe all the current candidates care about making things better in the place where we live. It's up to each of us to decide which ones we think will do the best job. And we believe that should be dictated by their connection to community, their willingness to listen to other points of view and their ability to work constructively with their fellow councillors.

This week, ballot papers from the Victorian Electoral Commission will be mailed out.

On our website ([pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)) we have statements from every candidate in the Island and Western Port wards. There are also links to various groups that have surveyed candidates on special issues, and coverage from a local candidates' forum last month.

Read up. Find out which candidate you think will best represent you and has a good focus on the key challenges the area faces.

Don't get distracted by outrage or political party posturing.

Ensure your vote is in the mail (or delivered to the election office in Wonthaggi) before 6pm on Friday October 25. Make your vote count.



# Big win for environment, loss for sand mining

## CONSERVATION

In a major victory for Bass Coast Shire's only remaining forest, the State Government last week announced Grantville is no longer a priority sand mining area, effectively stopping any future quarries.

The move could pave the way for Bass Coast's first national park.

Resources Minister Lily D'Ambrosio announced Bass Coast was excluded from future sand mining under draft planning controls to secure Strategic Extractive Resource Areas (SERAs), which instead puts the focus on other areas of Victoria.

Save Western Port Woodlands (SWPW) campaigners applauded the announcement, saying the minister had "heeded the call that Bass Coast's last functional forest should not be sacrificed to supply sand for Melbourne's Big Build".

"It doesn't mean the closure of sand mines already operating in the woodlands in Bass Coast, but it will make it difficult for companies to get planning permits for new mines or extensions of existing permits," SWPW spokesperson Catherine Watson said.

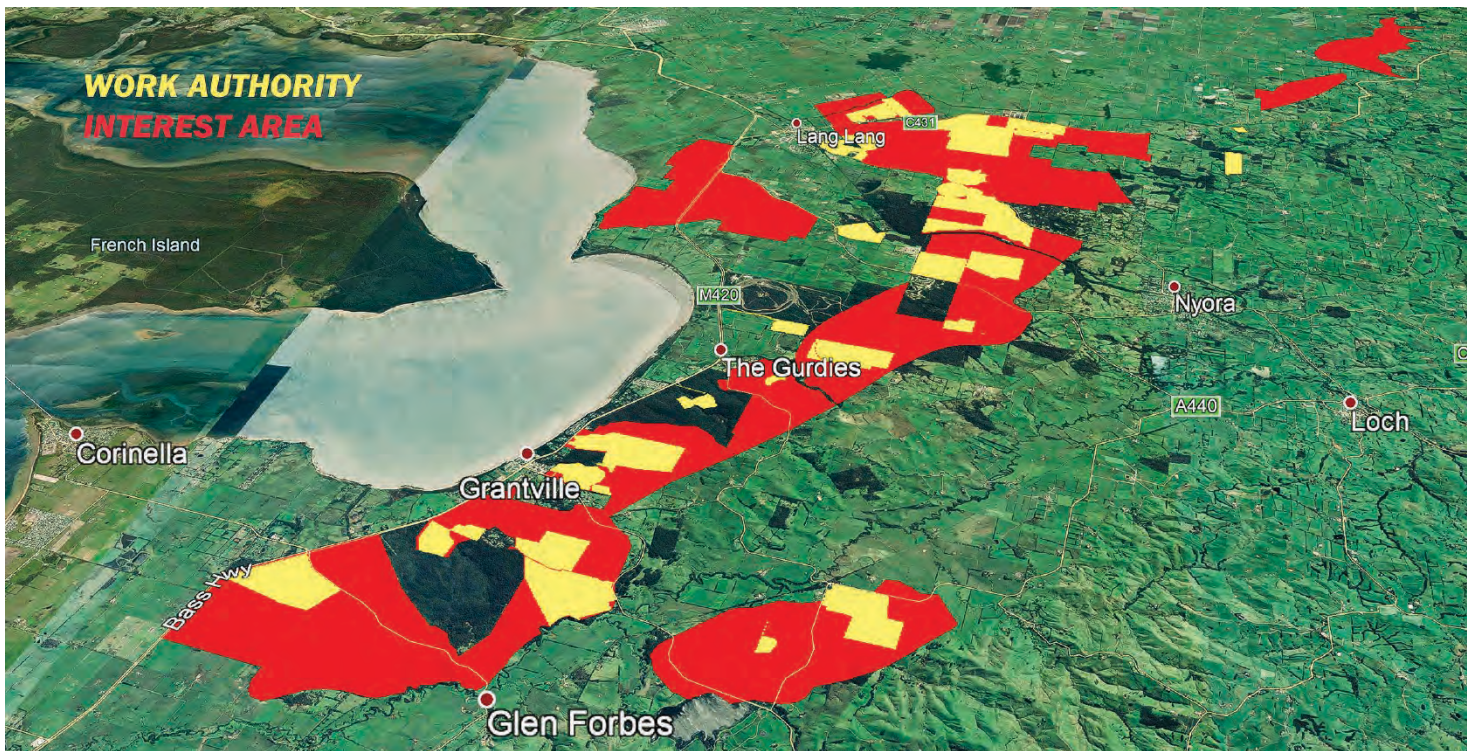
"Instead sand companies will be encouraged by fast-tracked planning approvals to look towards major sand resources on cleared farmland in Cardinia (around Lang Lang) and Baw Baw (Trafalgar North).

"Special thanks to Bass MP Jordan Crugnale, who has advocated for us over the past year to achieve this. Undoing decisions that were made decades ago was never going to be an easy task."

There are currently 10 sand mines in the forest between Lang Lang and Grantville, at the rear of waterline communities, including five in nature conservation reserves.

Nine more quarries have been approved and another seven are under application.

Catherine said SWPW's aim has not been to close the current mines, but to stop new ones from opening.



In this map yellow indicates work authorities for sand mining, including 11 existing sand mines. The red indicates interest areas for future mining, which is now defunct following last week's State Government decision.

"The immediate impact is that it will make it difficult for mining companies to get work authorities and planning permits in the Western Port Woodlands.

"Our great fear had always been that the entire woodland corridor would be carted to Melbourne one B-double truck-load of sand at a time."

### National park

As detailed in last year's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) hearings, experts gave evidence that sand mining posed the greatest threat to Bass Coast's only remaining forest and if it continued there

will be "ecological disaster", with local plant and animal extinctions.

Experts at the DAL argued instead the woodlands should be Bass Coast's first national park.

"The turning point (in their campaign) was last year's DAL panel hearing where the woodlands were recognised as being of national ecological significance, critical habitat for a range of rare and threatened plants, animals and fungi," Catherine said.

She said the "Open for Sand Business" sign that has been hanging over the Western Port Woodlands since the 1990s would now be removed. But she warned their

work was not done.

"The Adams Creek Nature Conservation Reserve at the northern end of the woodlands (outside Bass Coast) remains vulnerable.

"The future of the Holden Proving Ground is still uncertain. We are still seeking an Environmental Significance Overlay over the entire Western Port Woodlands.

"But those are battles for another day. For now, we're celebrating what we've achieved together."

Details: [engage.vic.gov.au/sera-lang-lang-oaklandsjunction-trafalgar](https://engage.vic.gov.au/sera-lang-lang-oaklandsjunction-trafalgar)

## Rescheduled clean up this Saturday

### ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife Coast Cruises has rescheduled its annual beach and foreshore clean-up for this Saturday, October 12, meeting at 10am outside the Rotunda at the Cowes Jetty Triangle.

The previous clean up on Saturday September 14, was cancelled due to bad weather.

A spokesperson for Wildlife Coast Cruises said with the recent windy weather and storms last month, they expect there will be a lot of debris to collect.

"We have plenty of clean-up bags, gloves, and other clean-up equipment that will be at the check-in gazebo," they said. The event is open to all ages and abilities.

Over the last three years, the Wildlife Coast Cruises team, supported by other volunteers, have collected over 100kg of rubbish that would have likely ended up in our oceans and impacted our marine life.

The local Bass Coast Shire Council waste team will be on hand to help everyone sort the collected waste into the correct bins. There are cool prizes up for grabs, including \$250 worth of Wildlife Coast Cruises vouchers and wine packs from the Hidden Sea.

"We would love to see as many of the community there as possible. Bring your family and friends."

Details: [wildlifecoastcruises.com.au/spring-clean-up-2024/](https://wildlifecoastcruises.com.au/spring-clean-up-2024/)

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A.F.D.A.



**VOTE 1**  
**Darrell Silva**  
for Phillip Island

**VOTE FOR COMMONSENSE,  
AND TRANSPARENT  
DECISION MAKING.**

### HOW TO VOTE:

- 2 BAUER Ron
- 1 **SILVA DARRELL**
- 3 CHADWICK Marnie
- 5 BELL Tracey
- 7 ROOKS David
- 4 TRIGT John
- 6 O'BRIEN Tim

**BE SURE  
TO NUMBER  
ALL BOXES**

Authorised by Darrell Silva, P.O. Box 996, Cowes 3922  
[dsilvaforbasscoast@gmail.com](mailto:dsilvaforbasscoast@gmail.com)





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# House permit poses “risk to safety, health and life”: VCAT

## PLANNING

In another blow to Silverleaves, VCAT has refused a planning permit for a home in Silverleaves because of risks to future occupants from coastal inundation and sea level rise.

In Doyle v Bass Coast SC, the owner of 32 Silverleaves Avenue was seeking to build an elevated single level, three-bedroom home on a property with a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO).

Under an LSIO, the permit was referred to Melbourne Water who objected and Bass Coast Shire Council was required to refuse the permit, in July last year.

VCAT heard while it is council policy to discourage development in Silverleaves east of Coghlan Road – and development in areas where an environmental hazard has been identified is discouraged – council planners supported the permit.

Planners argued “site by site refusals” for development was “not an approach for managing the risk of inundation” and the behaviour of flood waters from coastal inundation meant residents could evacuate early or isolate for hours, rather than days or weeks.

The owner agreed and argued the land was one of the last remaining vacant blocks to be developed and approval of this permit would not set a precedent.

The landowner said the floor level of the proposed home would be 3.47 metres, above the predicted flood level of 2.77 metres.

However, Melbourne Water maintained its opposition to



VCAT found that while wading through the flood levels projected to occur in Silverleaves “might be deemed safe, there remains a risk of injury”, refusing a planning permit for a house in Silverleaves Avenue.

the permit arguing the permit failed to manage inundation impacts, which would result in “unacceptable risk to the safety, health and life of people”.

VCAT heard Melbourne Water argued in the future sea level rise and storm events would increase and become more frequent and variable and future residents “may not have the opportunity to evacuate early and behave irrationally when faced with periods of isolation”.

VCAT members Ian Potts and Geoffrey Code said the history of residential development in Silverleaves occurred mostly before authorities were aware of climate change impacts, sea level rise and the potential for coastal inundation.

“So while we acknowledge the present degree of development has occurred, it has done so in the absence of knowledge about the hazards,” the VCAT members concluded.

“Further, and perhaps more importantly, the objectives for planning require us to consider whether the development results in a secure, safe and pleasant living environment and balances the present and future interests of all Victorians.

“We find the overall balancing of policies favours a cautious approach and avoidance of further urban development in Silverleaves unless such risks can be demonstrably shown to be satisfactorily minimised.”

VCAT acknowledged while

the “risks of flood water velocities sweeping people into deeper floodwaters” was not an issue in Silverleaves and tidal and storm levels rises were limited, there was however “time for emergencies to occur or people’s anxiety to build and cause hastily ill-conceived need for egress”.

Flooding would come from both Rhyll Inlet and the northern coastline.

“Even with lower tidal levels, inundation under 2100 conditions requires people to wade along inundated streets or use very short windows of opportunity to use a vehicle,” VCAT members said.

“The Flood Guidelines highlight that while wading through the levels projected to occur in Sil-

verleaves might be deemed safe, there remain a risk of injury.”

## Precedents

As reported in the Advertiser last month, a new government report on erosion found there may be “significant loss” of private property and public assets at Silverleaves and an area of Cowes East in the next five to 10 years.

The report also found since 2022, in a “hotspot” near Sanders Road, about 16 metres of foreshore has been lost to erosion.

Last year, there has been a spike in planning permit refusals in Bass Coast, with Melbourne Water having the power to veto a permit application.

The owner of 2 Settlement Road, Silverleaves, had their application for an extension of time to build a house rejected by VCAT, with Melbourne Water stating there was “a significant level of risk to life and property resulting from the predicted depth and frequency of flooding” on Settlement Road.

A million-dollar property at 13 Woodland Avenue in Silverleaves had a planning permit for a new home refused. The applicant appealed at VCAT and an agreement to address flood risk was reached, which saw a planning permit approved in July.

Also last year a planning permit for 2 Bruce Road was approved. Melbourne Water did not object, despite the significant flood risk impacting the land, mainly because the proposed building was a replacement dwelling with the same number of bedrooms as the existing dwelling to be demolished.

## Vote for these local candidates, 1, 2, and 3 in YOUR preferred order

### David Rooks Caring for our community



Seeking re-election for Island Ward

Experienced community leader and active local resident (an Islander for 24 years), with Tourism, Human Resources and Teaching Degrees.

#### I am proud to have supported the following council achievements since 2020:

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- Delivered Berninnet Cultural Centre
- Endorsed the Urban Forest Strategy to revegetate our townships
- The upgrade of Rhyll and Cowes boat ramps with Newhaven on its way

#### Still to do:

- Maintain our town boundaries
- A network of pedestrian and cycling paths
- Continue caring for our land and community.

TO FIND OUT MORE, go to:  
<https://david-rooks.webnode.page/>

### Tim O'Brien ISLAND FIRST representation & ACTION



I am a Phillip Island resident, a Gippslander born and bred, and previously owned the Phillip Island Winery - you might have visited.

#### If elected, my unwavering focus will be:

1. NEW ovals/facilities for Phillip Island Football Netball club. The club has WAITED long enough!
2. COASTAL erosion impacting on Silverleaves (and elsewhere). Residents there deserve better
3. ENVIRONMENTAL protection for Westernport Woodlands
4. A GENERAL rates cap, better support for our farmers
5. OPPOSITION to the half-baked Bass Coast Unlocking Rural Tourism Strategy (BURT).

**My promise: ISLAND FIRST representation and ACTION.**

TO FIND OUT MORE, go to:  
<https://TimOBrien.vote>  
fb: Tim O'Brien Candidate for Bass Coast Council  
- Island Ward

### Tracey Bell Together we Thrive



I care about a community for everyone – for all ages, cultures, and demographics where all can participate and feel connected and cared for.

#### I stand for:

- Youth engagement: creating opportunities to participate, contribute, and thrive.
- Building community: supporting families, new residents, and visitors
- Sustainable development: balancing environment with economic opportunity.
- Responsible tourism: protecting our natural and cultural heritage for next generations.

My son and I live, work and learn on Millowl.  
I value honesty, transparency and accountability.

**I am passionate about fostering community and seeing Council DELIVER for Phillip Island.**

TO FIND OUT MORE, go to:  
[www.traceybell.com.au](http://www.traceybell.com.au)  
[facebook.com/traceybell4islandward](https://facebook.com/traceybell4islandward)

Authorised by T. Bell, PO Box 1106, Cowes, Vic 3922





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# “Lucky I wasn’t killed”: resident in shock after tree falls on Ventnor Road

## ROAD SAFETY

A Red Rocks resident said she “didn’t have time to break or react” when a large, overhanging dead gum tree fell in front of her car while driving on Ventnor Road on Saturday September 28.

Sixty-seven-year-old May (name changed for privacy) said it was “lucky (she) wasn’t killed” after the approximately 50-foot-high tree fell immediately in front of her car while travelling at 55km/h at around 9pm.

According to May, it was a “windless” night, and while only sustaining minor injuries to her hand, the crash caused significant damage to her car and sent her into a state of shock for several days.

“I turned off McKenzie Road onto Ventnor Road travelling west, and I’d just gone past the fire station,” May said.

“Nothing’s on the road, I’ve got clear vision, clear night, no wind, and all of a sudden it was like a dream: there’s these two big branches, thicker than your arm, heading straight towards my windscreen.

“I didn’t even have time to brake or react.”

May described the upper branches of the tree as a “tripod”, and said luckily there was a third branch that broke the initial impact, because otherwise the two other branches would have gone “straight through the

windscreen and into (my) face”.

The Red Rocks resident said she had been concerned about the number of overhanging dead trees in the area for a long time, and now feels it is simply too unsafe to drive down Ventnor Road – which is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), not Bass Coast Shire Council.

“Somebody’s going to get killed, and I’m lucky I wasn’t,” May said.

A spokesperson for the DTP told the Advertiser on Monday “we’ll carry out roadside inspections along Ventnor Road this week to ensure the road remains safe for everyone.”

## Public outrage

As reported last week in the Advertiser, local resident Jeff Williams said low hanging trees on Phillip Island Road are also a serious safety concern.

Jeff told the Advertiser he contacted VicRoads in August about a low hanging branch near the Koala Conservation Reserve and is frustrated nothing has been done since.

“This low hanging branch originally extended right across the road and several metres of it have been broken off by some unfortunate higher vehicle,” Jeff said.

Jeff said the response from VicRoads was “not good enough”.

When May’s daughter-in-law



May said she didn’t have time to break or react when the approximately 50-foot tree fell immediately in front of her car at 9pm on Saturday September 28.

posted to Facebook about the crash on Ventnor Road, there was an outpouring of public outrage.

Rohan said: “every time you drive that road you are playing Russian Roulette ...”

Francine said: “this was an accident waiting to happen,

these dead trees will kill someone before too much longer.”

Tiffany said: “we all knew that was coming, those trees should have been tended to years ago.”

Rose said: “they really need to do some tree maintenance on that road before someone is

killed.”

May also said she was now highly concerned for other drivers who use Ventnor Road daily, and said “it’s just madness” the dead trees have not been cleared.

“It’s people’s lives. We’ve got an international event coming up soon, we’ve got people at the Penguin Parade every night and that’s the road they use. And let alone all the locals,” May said.

“They call gum trees ‘widow-makers’, because a limb can just drop off with no warning.

“When the trees have been dead for over ten years, and they’re getting more and more on a lean, they just drop. It doesn’t have to be a windy day or anything.

“And there’s some that are really leaning on that road.”

The Advertiser has asked the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) if the trees on Ventnor Road will be cleared before summer.

The DTP said they encourage members of the public to notify them of any hazards on the roads.

“Our crews regularly inspect every kilometre of our road network, including weekly inspections on Ventnor Road and Phillip Island Road, to identify any issues or hazards and maintain the roads in a safe condition” the spokesperson said.

To report hazards, call 13 11 70.

# Jetty shed summer closure

## TOURISM

The restaurant in the Cowes jetty shed has been closed by Bass Coast Shire Council this summer for urgent building works.

As reported in July the historic jetty shed was inspected by council officers following concerns it was falling into disrepair.

Last week The Jetty Phillip Island restaurant owner Gab Caffieri, who has operated it from November to April for the past six years, said he received an email from the council asking him to remove his equipment and explaining he couldn’t open this summer.

Gab said since July the council and Westernport Water had examined the building and found a range of problems, including the need to replace the restaurant’s grease trap.

He said the grease trap problem had been flagged five years ago and so works could have happened sooner and not in summer.

“Planning could have been better,” he said.

“The timing is not ideal. It could have been dealt with earlier.”

Gab said the full range of repair works were not yet fully scoped, but would most likely include the outside rotting decking as well.



The Jetty Phillip Island restaurant will be closed by the council this summer for repairs. But owner Gab Caffieri said it’s “good they’re finally spending the money it deserves because it’s such a great location”.

“The plan is to give it a go-over.

“Tourists will be disappointed, but it’s good they’re finally spending the money it deserves because it’s such a great location.

“I would love to continue operating it, but whether it’s me or someone else, ideally the building gets fixed properly and it becomes a great spot again.”

Gab also runs Kristo’s Charcoal Rotisserie in Cowes and 3925 Espresso in Newhaven.

“I do lose a summer of

income from not running the cafe, but it’s not my only business. This allows me to concentrate on my other businesses.”

The heritage jetty shed dates back to 1870, with the jetty managed by both Parks Victoria/the Department of Environment and the council.

Some local residents have suggested no large funding had been pumped into the jetty shed because there was still uncertainty about the future of a potential car ferry.

## Vote 1 - John Trigt for Island Ward

### Council Election 2024

**It’s time for a NEW Direction**

**I would like to introduce myself to all residents of the Island Ward. I have been a holiday home owner since 1985 and permanent resident since 2001. My background is in the manufacturing industry in various roles including project coordinator and site manager. I am now retired. I am a member of the Island Voice and previously a member of Bass Coast Rate Payers Assoc.**

**I have put myself forward as an independent candidate who is concerned about the way our Council has operated over the years.**

**Council has:-**

- **Spent double the budgeted amount on the Cowes Cultural Centre.**
- **Produced an Arts Policy with no ability to exhibit Phillip Island / Shire memorabilia within the confines of Berninnet.**
- **Decided not to re-zone the Carnival Land & Hilton Chadwick Reserve for 10—20 years. This will further delay the Aquatics and Sporting Facilities being built on these sites.**
- **Been unable to make any permanent decision on more red bin collections over the holiday periods. It’s difficult for Councillors who have never seen the Waste Contract to make informed decisions.**
- **Failed to apply pressure to State & Federal Governments to devise answers for inundation for the whole of the Shires coastline.**

**How to vote:- Bauer 2, Silva 3, Chadwick 4, Bell 5, Rooks 7, Trigt 1, O’Brien 6.**

Authorised By : J Trigt PO Box 6076 Cowes 3922    M: 0479071175    E-mail: [johntrigt4phillipisland@gmail.com](mailto:johntrigt4phillipisland@gmail.com)



# Radiology transition at Bass Coast Health

## HEALTH

Bass Coast Health (BCH) has officially transitioned to its new radiology provider, Imaging Associates, which commenced providing imaging services at Wonthaggi Hospital on October 8. This partnership represents a significant milestone in enhancing radiology services for the Bass Coast community and aligns with BCH's strategic objectives for the region.

A key highlight of this transition is the installation of a state-of-the-art, low-dose, cardiac-capable CT scanner.

Installation of this advanced equipment is currently underway from October 8 – 18. During this 10-day period, CT services will be temporarily unavailable at Wonthaggi Hospital. Medical clinics and healthcare providers across the region have been notified in advance of this disruption, with detailed plans in place to manage patient needs and ensure minimal impact on care.

In preparation for the transition, BCH has worked closely with Ambulance Victoria to ensure paramedics are fully briefed and have the necessary clinical support.

This assists paramedics to determine the most appropriate hospital destination for patients requiring CT scans during the installation period. If necessary, patients will be redirected to other hospitals equipped with CT scanning facilities, prioritising patient outcomes and timely care throughout the transition.



Imaging Associates is the new radiology provider for Bass Coast Health, representing a significant upgrade to radiology services in the area.

### Radiology services

There is expected to be little to no disruption to other radiology services. Ultrasound, MRI, and intra-operative imaging will continue as normal, ensuring critical diagnostic services remain available to the community. X-ray services will also be maintained through the use of a mobile X-ray unit, which has been set up in the mammography room at Wonthaggi Hospital to ensure uninterrupted access to essential imaging.

To further support patient care during this period, Breast Screen Victoria's mobile screening van will be on-site at Wonthaggi Hospital from October 14 – 23. This mobile unit will perform 100 breast screens during this time, covering the services typi-

cally provided in the hospital's mammography room. Women aged 40 and above can book their appointments by calling 13 20 50 or visiting [breastscreen.org.au](http://breastscreen.org.au). This continuity of care ensures that vital screening services, particularly those related to early breast cancer detection, will continue without delay.

BCH CEO, Jan Child, acknowledged the short period of service disruption but welcomed the enhanced radiology service the partnership with Imaging Associates will bring.

"We appreciate everyone's patience during the transition and are pleased to welcome the Imaging Associates team. These enhancements will greatly benefit the Bass Coast community," Ms Child said.



Imaging Associates is now providing imaging services at Wonthaggi Hospital. Bass Coast Health has outlined some minor disruptions to CT services as the new equipment is installed.

"Our priority remains ensuring the best health outcomes for our community, and we have planned meticulously to make this transition as smooth as possible."

Imaging Associates is committed to further upgrading radiology services at Wonthaggi Hospital.

As part of their long-term plans for the service, Imaging Associates plan to upgrade MRI and mammography services. These upgrades are aligned with BCH's strategic vision to expand access to high-quality imaging and ensuring the community benefits from the latest advancements in radiology. By investing in cutting-edge equipment and technology, Imaging Associates will help BCH

deliver world-class diagnostic services that meet the evolving healthcare needs of the Bass Coast region.

Imaging Associates is doctor-led provider of medical imaging solutions in Victoria and Wagga Wagga NSW, offering a comprehensive range of diagnostic and interventional radiology services. With a focus on quality, accessibility, and innovation, Imaging Associates is dedicated to improving patient outcomes and supporting healthcare providers with advanced imaging technology, expertise and compassionate patient care.

For more information about Imaging Associates and its services, visit [imagingassociates.au](http://imagingassociates.au)

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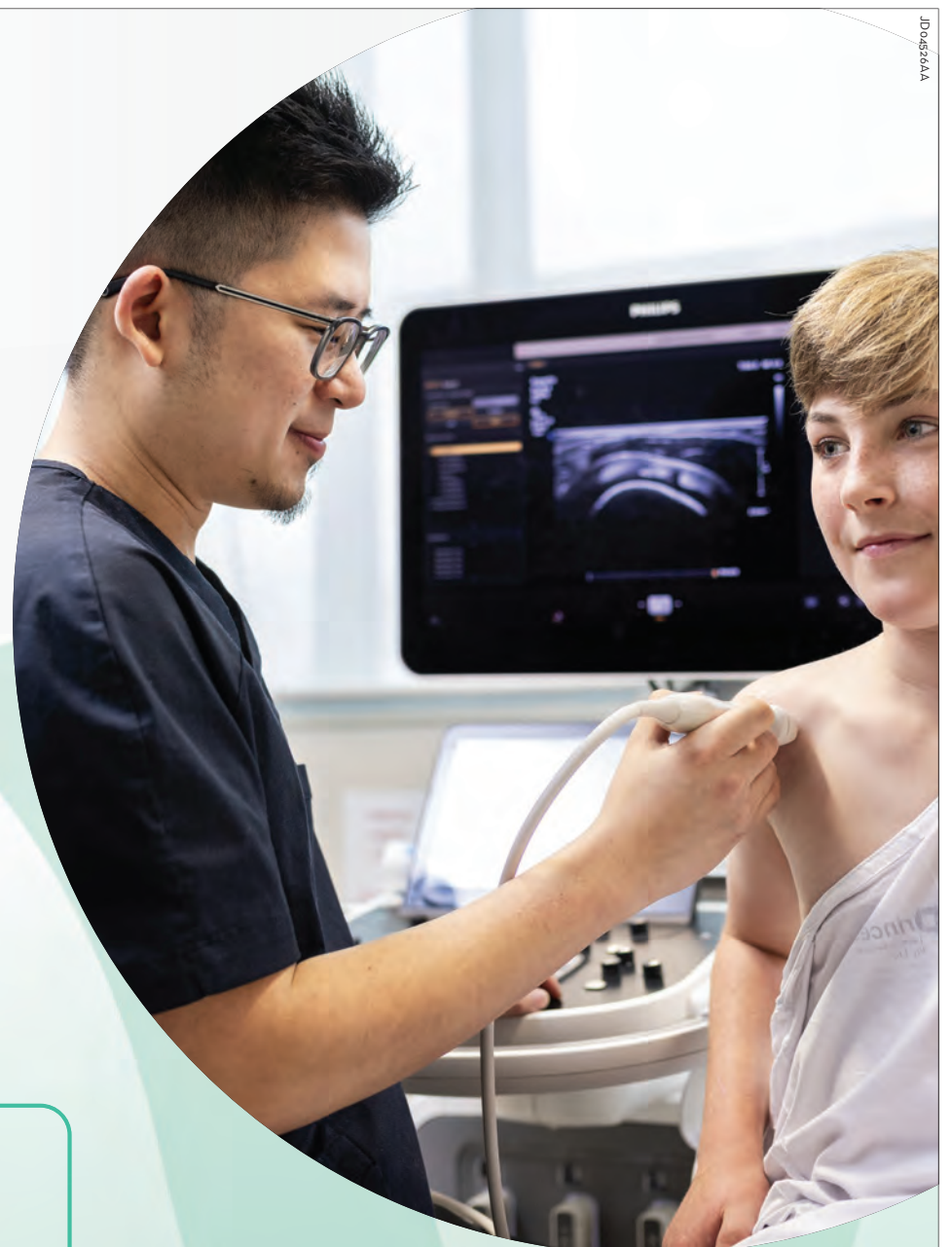
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- X-Ray
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For bookings call 03 5644 2050 or visit [imagingassociates.net.au](http://imagingassociates.net.au)





# Pyramid Rock health farm house gets VCAT green light

## PLANNING

VCAT has overturned Bass Coast Shire Council to approve a home on Phillip Island's "state significant" south coastline, despite concerns about its visual impact.

In the findings handed down last month in the case Pyramid Rock Pty Ltd v Bass Coast SC, VCAT said a permit for the development of a home on 18ha on Pyramid Rock Road, Ventnor, had already been approved under an old, previous permit issued in 1999.

That 1999 permit, known as "Wintersun", also approved a mixed-use development including a convalescent or health farm, golf course, and 24 dwellings on a large land parcel of a number of allotments.

This permit is due to expire at the end of this year, on December 31, 2024.

However, in this case the owner was seeking to have a plan for the home approved, which shire planners had refused to approve because it would be "detrimental to the State significant coastline".

According to the VCAT finding, the shire did not argue a home couldn't be built on the site, but instead their refusal was based on the appropriateness of the siting of the proposed home.

The shire said the siting was contrary to planning policies – including a significant landscape overlay (SLO) – that aim to protect ridgelines and prominent coastal areas.

The SLO was introduced after the original permit was granted in 1999.

The owner agreed the home would be visible from the coast but added it would be "restrained in its appearance and limited in its impact on any views".

The owner said "little weight" should be given to the State Government's declaration of Bass Coast as a Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL), because it had not published its final report.

VCAT member Sarah McDonald agreed with the owner and overturned the council's refusal.

Ms McDonald said there was "no dispute" the site was in a sensitive coastal location" but added it was "not a pristine natural landscape setting", with numerous other homes located on Glamis Road and Victoria Road.

She said even though the single storey home would be large scale, it would have a flat roof form and would "not be overwhelming or dominant".

"I am satisfied the dwelling will not have an unacceptable impact on locally significant



VCAT said if the landowner wanted to progress an already approved planning permit for the health farm and home on 18ha at Pyramid Rock Road, the plans would need to be amended.

views and vistas," she said.

Ms McDonald said she also considered how the proposed home would interact with the endorsed plans for the health farm.

"If it is the intention of the landowner to act on both permissions for the health farm and the dwelling, one or other (or both) of the plans would need to be amended," she explained.

## Wintersun

A council spokesperson last week explained when the Wintersun permit expires after De-

cember 31, 2024, all the land that was once subject to the planning permit will then become subject to the requirements of the Bass Coast Planning Scheme.

"The expiry of the permit does not affect the validity of anything done under that permit before the expiry," the spokesperson said.

"The subject land is within the Farming Zone of the Bass Coast Planning Scheme and a large portion of the land is affected by the Significant Landscape Overlay."

## Caravan park

The council also lost another VCAT case in September, relating to the Anchor Belle Holiday Park in Cowes, which has been owned and operated by the Wolfenden family for decades.

In about 1970 they purchased a residential property opposite, at 20-22 Hartley Street.

In Wolfenden v Bass Coast SC, the Wolfendens claimed existing use of land at Hartley Street, which includes a dwelling and a shed, including a more recently constructed three bay garage.

The family claims part of the land had existing use rights for a store and workshop, but the council refused to grant a certificate of compliance because it did not have enough information to prove 15 years of continuous use for the two purposes claimed, with those uses prohibited under current zone controls.

However VCAT member Dalia Cook set aside the council's refusal.

"I do not share council's concerns that there is an absence of sufficient evidence demonstrating the continuous use of the subject land for the purpose of a shed and workshop," Ms Cook said.

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A \$5 million upgrade to the Penguin Parade's boardwalk and penguin viewing stands is underway, with documents revealing the rate of sand erosion at the viewing stands.

## Erosion impacting Penguin Parade

### ENVIRONMENT

The Penguin Parade's beach is expected to erode by about 20cm a year, forcing a change in audience seating in the future.

As reported last week, a \$5 million upgrade to the Penguin Parade gave a sneak peak of part of a new boardwalk and penguin viewing stands.

The design contract for stages three and four of the redevelopment is currently out for public tender, which includes a coastal processes study for Summerlands Beach.

That study explains ongoing coastal erosion exacerbated by climate change is why the concrete viewing platforms – originally built in the 1960s – need to be upgraded.

The study flags the eventual construction of “moveable, modular seating” once sand replacement becomes too costly or even impossible.

It states the Penguin Parade beach is expected to erode by

about 20cm each year, which means the current shoreline could retreat by as much as four metres by 2040 and 10 metres by 2070.

A Nature Parks spokesperson last week said coastal erosion was an issue throughout Bass Coast and many other parts of Victoria.

“Summerlands Beach is not immune,” they said.

“The Nature Parks continues to manage erosion at the Penguin Parade beach through sand re-nourishment (bulldozing sand).

“This method is effective in keeping erosion at a manageable level, while still maintaining and preserving the natural environment for the penguins.”

They said stage four of the redevelopment will – subject to funding – consist of the upgrade of the existing two concrete stands and the skybox, and stage three will finalise the boardwalk loop back to the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre and new amenities.

# Close eye on avian flu

### WILDLIFE

Residents have been asked to stay on the lookout for signs of H5N1, a highly pathogenic avian influenza, in the migratory short-tailed shearwaters which began returning to the island last week.

While there has been no detection of the highly infectious disease breaching Australian shores yet, in July a warning on the impact of the avian influenza was issued by the Western Port Biosphere Foundation.

Australia is the only large continental land mass currently free from the strain, which has had “catastrophic” impacts on bird colonies across the globe according to biosphere science officer Stephen Brend.

“Here in Western Port, we are worried about the migratory shorebirds as well as the number of people who keep backyard chooks,” Stephen said earlier this year.

Stephen said there was little that could be done to stop H5N1's arrival – as it had already been detected in Antarctica – “but we can be prepared”.

If necessary, Stephen said “chickens may have to be kept inside, people will need to be prepared to keep their dogs on a leash, at all times, least they pick up a bird carcass, as this is how foxes and cats become infected”.

A spokesperson for the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) said they are currently working closely with a number



Authorities are on alert for avian influenza, as Shearwaters return to the island. If residents come into contact with sick or dead shearwaters, they should avoid touching or collecting the birds and contact DEECA. Photo courtesy of PINP.

of land managers, including Phillip Island Nature Parks and other relevant organisations to prepare for a potential HPAI H5N1 detection in Victoria.

In the US, the avian flu has led to the death of over 100 million chickens and 10,000 wild birds, as well as infecting dairy cattle, mice, cats, and 17 humans since 2022.

While it is rare for the avian flu to be communicated to humans, there has been a report in the US of hospitalisation due to the disease in a person with underlying health conditions.

### Penguins

Since June, staff at Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) have been preparing for an outbreak of avian flu on the island, with particular focus on protecting the little penguin population.

In a statement in June, PINP CEO Catherine Basterfield said contingency planning was underway, with rangers saying the

main risk for penguins will be in spring when migratory birds return from the northern hemisphere.

Each year approximately 1.4 million short-tailed shearwaters arrive on Phillip Island, with the biggest local colonies located at Cape Woolamai, the Summerland Peninsula and along the southern coastline.

Residents are being urged to stick to tracks when walking in the dunes, to avoid disturbing the shearwater burrows.

### If you come into contact with sick or dead birds, please:

- Avoid contact and do not touch or collect sick or dead birds
- Record what you see, the location the bird was found in, and take photos or videos
- Report any individual dead or sick birds, mass mortality events (five or more birds), or groups of five or more birds displaying signs of sickness to DEECA by calling 136 186.

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# PICAL insolvent, to close, future uncertain

From page 1

and if members agree to the recommendation, PICAL will wind up.

Until that time, the Committee of Management will work with Federal, State and local government "to explore every avenue to preserve as many of PICAL's vital services as possible for our community".

The debts are believed to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and date back more than 10 years, but are not a result of fraud or misappropriation of money.

Instead, debts have been mounting up because of "incorrect classifications" of job roles of past and current employees – believed to number more than 20 – "which led to some individuals being paid on an incorrect pay scale", according to PICAL Committee of Management President Graeme Turner.

PICAL currently employs centre manager David Rooks – also a Bass Coast Shire councillor who is re-standing in the council elections this October – for what is believed to be 30 hours per week, as well as a finance officer for one day a week, and a cleaner.

PICAL also has a Commonwealth financial relationship with Centrelink, with most of its funding from the State Government, while Bass Coast Shire Council is the landlord to PICAL's Warley Avenue headquarters.

## Insolvent

In the public statement Mr Turner explained "estimated historic debts far exceed PICAL's financial reserves or its ability to raise the necessary funds within a reasonable timeframe, rendering PICAL technically insolvent".

"PICAL would like to emphasise it is both illegal and against the responsibilities of the Committee of Management to continue trading when we cannot meet, or demonstrate the ability to meet, our debts.

"Despite our best efforts to resolve this historic issue, we are compelled by law to make this incredibly difficult decision.

"We are fully aware of the impact this will have on PICAL's dedicated staff, clients, volunteers, and the many community members who rely on our services."

Mr Turner explained enterprise agreements PICAL entered into with staff a decade ago "were quite generic and open to interpretation, which contributed to the error that persisted undetected over the years".

"This has led to a significant debt that PICAL is unable to pay.

"It is important to note that this was an administrative inaccuracy and not the result of management, misappropriation or fraudulent behaviour by anyone involved with PICAL.

"While there are no current demands for payment, these historic debts are so significant that they far exceed PICAL's fi-

nancial reserves or capacity to repay, thus making PICAL technically insolvent."

Mr Turner said "after careful consideration and comprehensive legal and financial consultations", the Committee of Management concluded the "only responsible course of action will be to make the decision to wind up".

The November 14 meeting will see members voting on the decision to wind up as well as "possible options and any resolutions that need to be tabled".

"While this is a challenging time for PICAL, all existing services will continue to support our community as they have done in the past for now and for as long as we are permitted, with a focus of supporting continuity moving forward," said Mr Turner.

"We will provide more information to all concerned as soon as we are able."

Established in 1980, PICAL is a part of Gippsland's Neighbourhood Houses Victoria organisation.

The vast majority of Neighbourhood Houses are incorporated associations with a committee/board of governance, but about seven per cent are council managed and two per cent are cooperatives.

The State Government provides core funding to most Neighbourhood Houses with other income from the Federal Government, grants, and in-house funds.

ing PICAL technically insolvent.

After careful consideration and comprehensive legal and financial consultations, the Committee of Management has concluded that the only responsible course of action will be to make the decision to wind up. This will result in PICAL ceasing to exist as a legal entity if the resolution on November 14 to wind up is approved.

Notice of a Special General Meeting for Phillip Island Community and Learning Inc. will be issued to members on October 4. This meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss this issue, possible options and any resolutions that need to be tabled.

While this is a challenging time for PICAL, all existing services will continue to support our community as they have done in the past for now and for as long as we are permitted, with a focus of supporting continuity moving forward.

We will provide more information to all concerned as soon as we are able.

Graeme Turner, President  
PICAL Committee  
of Management

# Services will continue, for now

## PICAL

Urgent discussions have been held between the State Government, Bass Coast Shire and PICAL to ensure community services – including the food pantry – continue.

Meanwhile Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland, the peak regional body representing neighbourhood houses, has confirmed PICAL services "will be minimally disrupted if at all" (see separate story).

Shire CEO Greg Box last week released a statement saying they had held discussions with PICAL management and Bass MP Jordan Crugnale, who had briefed the State Government.

"Finding a solution to this issue is a priority for council to ensure vulnerable members of our community continue to be supported," Mr Box said.

"We will explore all options to ensure these important and much needed services continue to be delivered.

"PICAL management has confirmed it will continue to provide services while these talks continue."

Mr Box said PICAL had notified the shire they faced "serious financial difficulties after recently discovering an historic staff underpayment issue".

"The not-for-profit organisation has been an integral part of the fabric of Bass Coast for decades and it provides essential services for many vulnerable members of our community, including emergency food relief," Mr Box said.

"Demand for their services,



Shire CEO Greg Box said that, with the state government, they would explore all options to ensure PICAL's services continued to be delivered.

largely delivered by community volunteers, has risen during the cost-of-living crisis."

Council currently provides a discounted lease arrangement to PICAL at Warley Avenue, Cowes and Blue Gum Reserve.

Council this year provided grants to fund the purchase of four accessible gardens beds to grow food to be distributed to the community, a new cash register system, training and small facility upgrades.

PICAL only moved into its new Warley Avenue premises at the start of 2023, which cost the Shire and State Government \$1.95 million to build.

The State Government contributed to the purchase of the land, which then incurred additional costs for new feasibility, town planning and building requirements.

# PICAL statement from Committee of Management

It is with profound regret that the Committee of Management of Phillip Island Community and Learning Inc. (PICAL) announces its current financial position.

Unfortunately, estimated historic debts far exceed PICAL's financial reserves or its ability to raise the necessary funds within a reasonable timeframe, rendering PICAL technically insolvent.

We are fully aware of the impact this will have on PICAL's dedicated staff, clients, volunteers, and the many community members who rely on our services.

PICAL, as an Incorporated Association, is required to call a Special General Meeting to move a motion to wind up the organisation on November 14, 2024.

During this time, the Committee of Management will work diligently with PICAL's funding agencies (DFFH and Services Australia), Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland, Jordan Crugnale MP State Member for Bass and the Bass Coast Shire Council to explore every avenue to preserve as many of PICAL's vital services as possible for our community.

PICAL would like to em-

phasise it is both illegal and against the responsibilities of the Committee of Management to continue trading when we cannot meet, or demonstrate the ability to meet, our debts. Despite our best efforts to resolve this historic issue, we are compelled by law to make this incredibly difficult decision.

This historic debt originated over ten years ago due to the incorrect classification of certain roles, which led to some individuals being paid on an incorrect pay scale. At the time, Enterprise Agreements were quite generic and open to interpretation, which contributed to the error that persisted, undetected, over the years.

This has led to a significant debt that PICAL is unable to pay.

It is important to note that this was an administrative inaccuracy and not the result of management, misappropriation or fraudulent behaviour by anyone involved with PICAL.

While there are no current demands for payment, these historic debts are so significant that they far exceed PICAL's financial reserves or capacity to repay, thus mak-

# New charity flagged as solution

## PICAL

The creation of a new charity has been flagged as a way to continue the critical community services provided by PICAL.

Former PICAL board president Jeff Floyd last week released a statement agreeing the "only responsible" action was to liquidate PICAL, and now the focus should be on continuing community services.

"There are a number of ways that service continuity could be maintained. A new charity could be readily established to take on PICAL's role, or an existing charity may be interested," Mr Floyd said.

"The key thing is for everyone to get together and get moving so that PICAL's programs, the pantry and the community garden continue to operate and thrive, with no closure period."

Mr Floyd said he was "shocked and saddened" to hear of PICAL's insolvency.

"I understand that this error, which goes back many years, was only recently discovered by the centre manager and Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland and that the size of the debt is beyond PICAL's resources to pay," Mr Floyd said.

"The PICAL Board has acted



Former PICAL board president Jeff Floyd said the PICAL board was "doing the only responsible thing" to move to liquidate PICAL and the focus now should be on continuing community services.

very professionally and thoroughly to take the lead on this issue and to uncover the extent of the debt owed.

"It is doing the only responsible thing to move to liquidate PICAL."

He said Bass Coast Shire's mayor and CEO had been supportive of PICAL and "I am sure that the incoming council will continue this support".

"Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland has also been of great assistance and advice throughout PICAL's journey."



# State Government responds to insolvency

## PICAL

The State Government has confirmed they are working with PICAL to find solutions to the organisation's debt crisis and continue community services.

MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale told the Advertiser the government was "committed to finding a suitable solution to continue the work they do and the services they provide".

"The work they do should be supported to continue," Ms Crugnale said.

"It's so important workers are paid correctly and I'm hopeful a solution can be found."

"Over the years PICAL has provided an invaluable and life changing connection for community members needing assistance and support. It has also given so many volunteers a place to contribute."

PICAL is partly funded through the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program, which provides \$43 million a year to about 400 neighbourhood houses across the state, including 16 Neighbourhood House Networks, with PICAL falling under the Gippsland network.

A Department of Families, Fairness and Housing spokesperson said PICAL



The peak body representing neighbourhood houses says PICAL services will continue, with a priority on emergency food relief and Centrelink.

had advised them of financial issues affecting the organisation.

"The department is working closely with the local neighbourhood house network, Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland, to find suitable alternatives to continue neighbourhood house services in the area," the spokesperson said.

"We will endeavour to minimise service disruption to the local community through this process."

**Neighbourhood House**  
Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland (NHG) network manager Antonia Halloran-Lavelle said they had been supporting PICAL committee of management in recent weeks.

"Once the administration

error was identified the committee undertook a thorough investigation and sought and complied with independent legal advice," Ms Halloran-Lavelle explained.

"NHG are working with stakeholders and funding bodies with a focus on a continuity of essential service provision with a priority on emergency food relief and Centrelink services."

"It is hoped these services will be minimally disrupted if at all."

Neighbourhood houses are not-for-profit centres where people of all abilities, backgrounds and ages can connect, learn and contribute to their local community. They are autonomous organisations governed by community-based committees of management.



Phillip Islander Heath Kolac is helping promote the new TAC motorcycle safety campaign, following an alarming increase in the number of motorcyclists killed on Victoria's roads.

## Focus on motorcyclist safety this month

### ROAD SAFETY

Phillip Islander Heath Kolac is helping promote the new TAC safety campaign aimed at motorcyclists.

With the MotoGP just around the corner, the number of motorcyclists on local roads will skyrocket, so the message is particularly pertinent.

On Christmas Day in 2004, Heath was riding his motorcycle in Cowes, heading home for lunch.

"I was struck by a vehicle failing to give way," Heath explained.

"As a result of that I suffered some pretty horrific injuries; a traumatic amputation of my left leg and lost the function in my left arm."

It took almost 12 months of rehabilitation before Heath was able to return home.

Heath's story is a reminder for all drivers about the importance of paying attention behind the wheel and looking out for vulnerable road users, like motorcyclists.

He said when he was 19, he thought "it won't happen to me".

"But then it does. It can happen. There's always a risk and motorcycles are at higher risk than other road users."

He knows from experience an accident has a massive impact and can change your life forever.

He hopes sharing his story will help bring down the toll, and raise awareness – for drivers and riders.

"I think my message would be to slow down, look out for each other," Heath said.

"Make sure you're in the right condition to ride, but also the right condition to drive as well."

You're sharing the road space. It's important that everyone does it safely together."

### Awareness

October is Motorcyclist Awareness Month – an annual initiative encouraging both motorists and motorcyclists to share the road.

Road safety authorities are urging Victorians to keep motorcyclist safety front of mind following an alarming increase in the number of motorcyclists killed on the state's roads.

So far this year, 52 motorcyclists have died on Victoria's roads, close to 50 per cent higher than at the same time last year when 35 motorcyclists had died.

New statistics from the TAC show that more than half of motorcyclist deaths this year have involved another vehicle, and almost two-thirds of these deaths have happened at an intersection.

Intersections are highly complex environments where we often see drivers, riders, pedestrians and cyclists interacting to cross a road; highlighting the need for all road users to remain vigilant and obey all road rules, signals and signs to ensure our roads are safe for everyone.

TAC Head of Road Safety Samantha Cockfield said it was devastating to see significant increase in fatal motorcycle crashes and it was a stark reminder of the consequences when something goes wrong.

"Our thoughts go out to all the families and loved ones of people killed by road trauma; the ripple effects of these deaths are far reaching,

and we can't become immune to the increase in lives lost on our roads," Ms Cockfield said.

"Motorcyclist Awareness Month is an opportunity for us to engage with the Victorian community and educate road users how we can all play a role in keeping each other safe; every road user should feel safe, no matter how they get around."

Ms Cockfield said every year there is a rise in the number of motorcyclists killed.

"It's partially to do with the number of motorcyclists on the road, but it does present a really good opportunity to talk to the Victorian community about being aware of motorcyclists."

### Vulnerable

Motorcyclists are some of the most vulnerable road users because they have limited protection, making it crucial for drivers to do their part in ensuring the roads are shared safely.

Drivers can help avoid a crash with a motorcyclist by being aware of their surroundings, looking for motorcycles at intersections and always doing a head check before changing lanes.

Motorcyclists should play their part too, by ensuring they wear the correct protective clothing for every ride and choose safe riding behaviours.

A new TAC digital campaign will encourage motorists to think about the person under the helmet and promote the importance of sharing the road safely, while the 'Only Protected for a Moment' campaign will remind motorcyclists to wear protective gear for every ride.



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**Remember  
Place  
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**For your VOTE  
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1	<b>BAUER Ron</b>
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3	<b>CHADWICK Marnie</b>
5	<b>BELL Tracey</b>
7	<b>ROOKS David</b>
4	<b>TRIGT John</b>
6	<b>O'BRIEN Tim</b>

**After assessing all the  
Candidates responses to a variety of information  
in the media and various surveys, (if they have  
completed them). This is the voting order that  
Island Voice suggests will elect the Candidates  
who are most motivated to achieve the best  
outcomes for our Island Community.**



# HALLOWEEN

Advertising Feature



## “Nightmare on Maze Street”

Prepare for a thrilling adventure as A Maze’N Things transforms into Nightmare on Maze Street this Halloween!

From Thursday October 31, to Saturday November 2, A Maze’N Things will be crawling with spooky surprises and ghastly fun for all ages. With a full schedule of scary activities, it promises to be a Halloween you won’t want to miss.

The festivities kick off with Locals Night on Thursday (October 31), where residents of Phillip Island and San Remo can enjoy half-price entry from 3pm to 7pm. It’s our special way of giving back to the community – come dressed up, ready for trick or treating and get ready for a night filled with scary excitement.

A Maze’N Things will be buzzing with Halloween activities throughout the three days, including Trick or Treating, a Spooky Disco, Face Painting, and Graveyard Golf. For those brave enough, step into the Horror Maze – a thrilling maze of scares that will have you on the edge of your seat!

Don’t forget to get creative with your costumes because we’ll be holding Best Dressed Competitions each day. With prizes up for grabs, it’s your chance to impress us with your scariest, funniest, or most outlandish Halloween getup.

If you are looking for some family friendly and safe fun, Nightmare on Maze Street has something for all. Face painting will transform you into your favourite spooky character, while the Spooky Disco will keep the party going. And of course, no Halloween event would be complete without a sweet haul from



Prepare for a thrilling adventure as A Maze’N Things transforms into Nightmare on Maze Street this Halloween, kicking off with Local Night on Thursday, October 31.

Trick or Treating. Join us for an unforgettable Halloween experience at A Maze’N Things – where every twist and turn

brings a new surprise, and every laugh is followed by a scream. Thursday October 31 to Saturday November 2.

Grab your costumes, bring your courage, and prepare for the spookiest celebration of the year!

## Don’t miss the witch!

As Halloween approaches, witches are popping up around the island and across Bass Coast.

The Great Witch Hunt has 64 witches on display in businesses right across the shire, and tracking them down could see you take home some great prizes.

All you need is a Ticket to Hunt, sharp eyes and a taste for some spooky sleuthing.

When you spot a witch, note down its unique number on your ticket, to then go in the draw to win prizes.

There is a range of great prizes on offer this year from local businesses including family accommodation for two nights at the Kilcunda Oceanview Holiday Park.

This event is hosted annually by the Grantville Business and Community Association (GBCA) and is not-for-profit and run by volunteers, with any funds raised being 100 per cent returned back into the community.

Tickets are just \$5 and can be purchased online or from Visitor Information Centres in Inverloch and Newhaven, Grantville Transaction Centre, at Artspace in Wonthaggi or from Maru Koala and Animal Park in Grantville.

Once you have your ticket, start hunting and then return your completed ticket to any of the outlets listed above or email it back to: [greatwitch-hunt@gmail.com](mailto:greatwitch-hunt@gmail.com).

Get all the latest updates on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/TheGreatWitchHunt](https://www.facebook.com/TheGreatWitchHunt)

Tickets at: [www.visitgrantville.com.au/news-events/the-great-witch-hunt](https://www.visitgrantville.com.au/news-events/the-great-witch-hunt)



The Great Witch Hunt is underway, with over 60 witches to find across Bass Coast, and great prizes to be won.

# THE GREAT WITCH HUNT EVENT

IS ON DURING OCTOBER 2024

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**LOCATE AND LIST THE IDENTITY NUMBER** of at least 20 witches in at least 3 different towns on your ‘TICKET TO HUNT’ and return it to GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN THE PRIZES

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**5TH:** Game of bowling for 4, plus 10min Lazer Tag

**FIND 60 OR MORE WITCHES** and automatically go in the **BONUS DRAW** to win a PIMP 3 park pass for a family of 4

Brought to you by the GRANTVILLE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. For more information or if you would like to display a witch please email: [GreatWitchHuntEvent@gmail.com](mailto:GreatWitchHuntEvent@gmail.com)

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# Fundraising auction for Woolamai life saving club

## SURF LIFESAVING

The Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WBSLSC) is hosting a fundraiser this Friday night (October 11) to raise money for the much-needed Smiths Beach rescue base, along with upgrades to bunkrooms and clubhouse safety improvements.

The event will kick-off at 6pm, with Dave Franklin from The Block TV series on Channel 9 playing MC for the evening.

Local musicians Daisy Spratt and Dan Searle will be playing live music, with finger food provided and drinks at bar prices. The night will be catered for by the San Remo Hotel.

A range of local businesses, and businesses associated with The Block, have provided a range of amazing items which will be auctioned off throughout the night.

Nici Cahill from Snapshot Photography will also be capturing the night of community revelry.

Club President Jason Close said after the “enormously successful” community open day on Grand Final Day eve, the club was greatly excited to open its doors to the public again.

Jason said the club is always looking for ways to raise funds for clubhouse upgrades, as well as repairs to the rapidly deteriorating Smiths Beach rescue base.

“This Friday night is going to be great way to do this, have fun, listen to some terrific local musicians, have something to eat and



Dave Franklin from The Block TV series on Channel 9 is MC for the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WBSLSC) fundraiser this Friday at the clubhouse. Local businesses and businesses associated with The Block, have provided a range of items to be auctioned throughout the night.

drink at the Block Bar and take in the views at your local lifesaving club,” Jason said.

“The Block did a fantastic job, giving our clubhouse a real lift and making it a more comfortable environment for our volunteer lifesavers to spend time in. If you haven’t already seen it, come along on Friday night and check it out.”

The club president explained however, there were still a few necessary upgrades needed to improve facilities for volunteer lifesavers.

“We also have a very big project to carry out repairs to the Smiths Beach Rescue Base that is a very high priority so we can continue to provide a life saving service in this location.”

Event organiser and the club’s Director of Assets, Darrell Clark,

said “we are so grateful to the many local businesses and individuals who are supporting this very important event.

“The San Remo Hotel will be cooking up a storm, and we’ve also had many local businesses donate some great items and prizes that we will auction on the night. Dave Franklin himself will also be helping us out a bit in this space also.

I’m looking forward to seeing a great turnout on Friday.”

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by visiting the Club’s Facebook page.

For further information about the night, ticket enquiries or if you would like to donate an auction item, get in touch with Darrell on 0419 373 744 or assets@woolamai-beach.asn.au



Women storytellers are invited to share ‘tales of the earth’ on Wednesday October 9 at The Barn, Surf Beach, starting at 7pm.

# Stories and Women: Tales of the Earth

## ARTS

On Wednesday October 9 Stories and Women are hosting their third event for the year, with this chapter’s focus being on ‘tales of the earth’.

The evening of storytelling will be hosted at The Barn, Surf Beach, with women invited to either share a personal story about the earth or join as a listener.

“Storytellers can use whatever form they’d like,” said event organiser Sarah Jury.

“They could write a poem, or they could just get up, sit there and talk. They might write out a whole story with notes. There’s not too much structure around it in that way.”

Sarah said that sharing stories is something women do quite naturally, but the idea of having a dedicated space for women to tell their stories was an idea that “kept whispering” to her.

At their previous event, tales of water, Sarah said the intimate storytelling experience was “beyond incredible”.

“Sharing story is an ancient ritual and as well as being a gift for the audience, it is also a dynamic process to move through as the speaker,” the event description reads.

The event starts at 7pm Wednesday October 9, at The Barn, Surf Beach.

More information at: [www.trybooking.com/CVBEF](http://www.trybooking.com/CVBEF)

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# Experience the joy of movement

## SENIORS FESTIVAL

As we celebrate Seniors Month this October, it's important to highlight the profound impact that regular physical activity can have on the health and well-being of our seniors.

Staying active not only promotes physical health but also strengthens social connections, which are essential to a fulfilling life as we age.

At the Y Phillip Island, we believe in creating opportunities that keep seniors moving, engaged, and connected to their community. Exercise isn't just about fitness; it's about staying independent, maintaining mobility, and fostering relationships with others.

This month, we are proud to offer a variety of free events specifically designed for seniors aged 60 and over, including Chair-Based Exercise, Pickleball, and Zumba Gold. These sessions are tailored to different fitness levels, ensuring that everyone can participate and experience the joy of movement.

Friday, October 11 at 2.15pm: Chair-based exercises

Friday, October 18 at 2pm: Pickleball

Tuesday, October 22 at



This month, the Y Phillip Island is offering a variety of free events specifically designed for seniors aged 60 and over.

9.15am Intro to strength based training  
Wednesday, October 30 at 2.15pm: Zumba Gold

Bookings are essential. Please call 03 5952 2811

Beyond these special offerings, we also provide a wide range of regular classes year-round that promote both physical and mental health. From low-impact strength-based training to gentle cardio

sessions, our classes offer an inviting space where seniors can stay active, have fun, and enjoy a sense of belonging.

Join us this October to experience the benefits of staying active and socially connected during your golden years. Let's make health and wellness a life-long journey together!

[phillipisland.ymca.org.au](http://phillipisland.ymca.org.au)  
/ Sponsored article /



Peter Walker, 'The Sea', oil on canvas, is part of the PICES October Group Show at Leeson Street Gallery in Cowes, running from October 13 until October 27.

## PICES at Leeson Street Gallery

### ART

An exciting Art Exhibition is opening soon by the artists of local Art Group PICES (Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space Inc). The Exhibition is in conjunction with Leeson Street Gallery in Cowes.

Many Phillip Island and regional artists will be exhibiting, including internationally exhibited artists. If you are looking for a colourful painting or perhaps a drawing, sculpture or ceramic piece,

drop in to see what's on offer.

Leeson Street Gallery is situated at 38 Leeson Street, Cowes. The Exhibition opens on Sunday October 13 from 2pm to 4pm.

The show runs six days a week from 11am to 3pm, closed Tuesdays and finishes on Sunday October 27 at 3pm.

You and friends are warmly welcomed.

See you there at the Leeson Street Gallery October Group Show!

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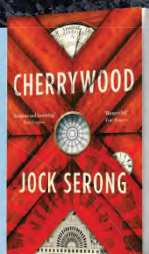
This event is supported by Turn The Page Bookshop. Jock's book 'Cherrywood' is available at Turn The Page and for purchase at the event.



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**ABOUT JOCK SERONG:** Highly acclaimed author of many genre defying books including *Quota* (winner of the 2015 Ned Kelly award for best first fiction) *The Rules of Backyard Cricket* (shortlisted for 2017 Premier's award for fiction and finalist in the 2017 Indie Book Awards Adult Mystery Book of the Year) *On the Java Ridge* (winner of the inaugural UK Staunch Prize) and the widely praised trilogy of historical novels *Preservation*, *The Burning Island* and *The Settlement* set in and around the Furneaux Islands in Bass Strait and south-east Australia. Editor of *Great Ocean Quarterly* and feature stories writer across Australia's surfing media. Jock also enjoys a strong association with Phillip Island, where he first learned to surf at Berry's Beach.

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## • FINANCIAL LITERACY MADE SIMPLE

## Interest Rates in Australia Post-COVID

### - Navigating the Rising Tide

By David Caporale,  
Chief Investment Officer of RELCapital

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia, like many nations, has navigated a turbulent economic landscape marked by unprecedented fiscal measures, fluctuating inflation rates, and shifting unemployment figures. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has played a pivotal role in trying to help steer the economy through these choppy waters, by manipulating interest rates in response to both local and global economic conditions.

At the onset of the pandemic in early 2020, the RBA slashed the cash rate to a historic low of 0.25% to stimulate spending and investment during a period of uncertainty. This aggressive monetary policy aimed to cushion the blow from lockdowns and economic slowdown. Homeowners were quick to benefit from these low rates, with many refinancing mortgages and enjoying cheaper repayments. Business investments, although initially stunted, also found a lifeline in this favorable borrowing environment.

However, as the economy began to rebound in late 2021 and early 2022, inflation emerged as a significant concern. The combination of supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, and increased demand for goods and services led to rising prices. By mid-2022, inflation rates in Australia had surged to levels not seen in decades, prompting the RBA to act decisively. The central bank began a series of rate hikes, culminating in a cash rate increase to 4.35% by end-2023 and has remained there since. This rapid escalation was intended to rein in inflation at the time of 7.8%, which had soared beyond the RBA's target range of 2-3%.

The rise in interest rates has had a direct impact on the Australian economy. Borrowers are now grappling with increased mortgage repayments, which has dampened consumer spending and led to a cooling of the housing market. Meanwhile, businesses are feeling the pinch of higher borrowing costs, which could lead to reduced investments and potential layoffs.

The unemployment rate, which had seen a post-pandemic low of 3.5%, now hovers around 4% as the economy adjusts to the tightening of monetary policy.

Looking ahead to the next 6 to 12 months, economists and analysts from the big four banks offer mixed forecasts. Some predict that the RBA may hold rates steady or consider slight adjustments depending on inflation trends and economic indicators. Others caution that if inflation persists above target levels, further hikes could be necessary, particularly if the global economic environment, particularly in the United States, remains volatile.

Comparatively, the U.S. Federal Reserve has also raised interest rates aggressively, with the current federal funds rate hovering around 5.00%. This tightening cycle is reflective of similar inflationary pressures faced by both nations. Although Australia's interest rates remain somewhat lower than those of the U.S., the U.S. Federal Reserve recently cut their federal funds rate by 0.50% which will potentially impact the RBA's decisions going forward.

There is a complex and intricate interplay in the relationship between interest rates, inflation, and unemployment. While higher interest rates are a tool to combat inflation, they can also stifle economic growth and lead to higher unemployment if businesses reduce hiring or lay off workers in response to increased costs. This delicate balance is one that the RBA must navigate carefully in the coming months.

In conclusion, the trajectory of interest rates in Australia since the COVID-19 pandemic has been one of rapid adjustments in response to evolving economic realities. As we move into 2025, the outlook remains uncertain, influenced by both domestic conditions and global economic trends. It is essential for policymakers to remain vigilant, monitoring inflation and employment metrics while providing a supportive environment for growth. The path ahead will require careful calibration of monetary policy to foster stability without inhibiting recovery, ensuring that Australians can weather any economic storm in the future with resilience and optimism.

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

# Jason Scott honoured

## COMMUNITY

Retiring Newhaven College Vice Principal Jason Scott was recently honoured for his dedication to Rotary youth programs.

Throughout his tenure, Jason was not only a respected educator but also a passionate advocate for Rotary Youth Programs, which the local club said significantly enhanced opportunities for students to engage with these transformative initiatives.

Brian Holloway, a member of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo, said that Jason's deep understanding and commitment to his students allowed him to thoughtfully select those who would benefit most from these programs.

"He knows his students extremely well," said Brian. "Jason's support for a range of Rotary programs has left an indelible mark on the Newhaven College community."

"He was a strong proponent of the Rotary Model United Nations Assembly, where students debate global issues, honing their diplomatic and critical thinking skills."

"Additionally, Jason championed the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, which focuses on developing leadership potential in young people, and the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness



Jason Scott (left) and Brian Holloway of The Rotary Club Phillip Island and San Remo. Jason's dedication to education and his unwavering support of Rotary Youth Programs was acknowledged at a recent presentation by the club.

program, which educates students on safe driving practices," Brian continued.

"Jason's advocacy extended to the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment, aimed at helping young people build self-confidence and leadership abilities, and the National Youth Science Forum, which provides students with opportunities to engage in advanced scientific learning and research."

In recognition to his unwavering commitment to these programs, the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo recently honoured Jason, congratulating him on his retirement.

At the presentation, the club expressed deep grati-

tude for his role in ensuring that Newhaven College students consistently participated in these valuable programs, which Rotary trusts have significantly enriched their educational experience and personal development.

Acknowledgement of Jason's dedication to education and his support for Rotary Youth Programs was met with enthusiastic applause from all members of the Club.

"As he begins this new chapter in his life, the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo extend their heartfelt gratitude for his years of service and wish him every success in his retirement," Mr Holloway said.



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### Down the toilet

Well, well, congratulations to the council for closing the toilets for repair with the MotoGP coming up, and then not even opening again during the summer season! I am completely amazed they haven't been replaced by temporary portable toilets. In a town that already has insufficient facilities for the tourists, why has the council not seen fit to do this?

Mine and other businesses have been left to take the load of people wanting to use our toilet facilities, whilst not buying our services; yet another cost added to the small business owner. We constantly have people parking in the carpark behind our premises, coming through our back entrance and using the toilet and then exiting again. We are therefore functioning as a public toilet! After 35 years of providing this service, maybe we should be compensated for toilet paper and water?

The council has a duty to provide services and facilities for the tourists who are the town's lifeblood, yet they provide very little, besides giving parking tickets – maybe some of that revenue should be used to hire toilets throughout the season? I look forward to a response from the council.

Rosa Scarlato, Cowes

### Women for council

I am excited and heartened to see two women, Marnie Chadwick and Tracey Bell, who are also parents of school aged children running for council in the Island Ward this year.

For a variety of reasons too long to explore here, councils are generally dominated by a certain demographic. I certainly have nothing against men over the age of 50, they do a lot for our community. However, we need more diversity on council and in other levels of government if we are going to make sure we are meeting the needs of all people in our community.

Councillors, naturally, will rely on their own experiences when making decisions for council. For younger people, or women, or parents of young

children, their experiences are different, and therefore their priorities are different. Decision-making informed solely by one demographic's perspective inevitably misses out on the benefit of a range of experiences being brought to the table to better serve the needs of the community.

Both Marnie and Tracey understand the needs of working families, they understand the importance of providing opportunities to keep kids active and out of trouble, they have recent lived experience of the kindergarten and childcare system and know what needs to be done to improve these services. They understand the increasing difficulty in balancing the cost of groceries with increasing rates or rent and skyrocketing power bills. These two women will bring knowledge, experience and solutions to the table that the other candidates may never realise.

I sincerely hope they get elected.

Deb Leonard, Cape Woolamai

### Still no Aquatic Centre

Council continues to disappoint the Phillip Island community by removing Aquatics from the Ten-Year Financial Plan, and from the Advocacy Strategy, which is how council advocates for grants from state and federal governments.

CEO Greg Box, in response to questions from residents infers there's "nothing to see here" because there's no funding allocated in council's ten-year plan.

When asked if council made an application to the Commonwealth Regional Development Fund, which specifically mentions pools and improved sporting infrastructure in the list of eligible projects, he infers why bother, as they will ask for council co-contribution. We don't have any funds allocated in the ten-year plan, so there's no point in putting in an application.

When asked about rezoning for the land (CA79), he says there's no hurry as it's not in the ten-year plan to develop the land.

Recently the council-man-

aged Leisure Centres in the City of Yarra, commissioned a consulting group to examine the social value of operating their three aquatic and leisure centres in Fitzroy, Richmond and Collingwood.

Their modelling estimates that across the three centres, the average social value in the last financial year was \$5.07 million. Benefits examined included mental health, chronic or dementia programs and learn to swim.

If you consider these benefits per year, multiplied over the life of the facility, it seems clear it's cheaper to build and operate these facilities, than to say "nothing to see here".

Our shire reported in last year's Annual Report it cost ratepayers \$1.845 million to operate our recreation and aquatics. They are currently tendering for a future organisation to operate them. Why can't they look at other alternatives, just like the City of Yarra?

Have you seen the Cowes Recreation Reserve ground recently? It looks like a mangy dog. If it was my dog, I'd have it put down. Council spent hundreds of thousands improving the playing surface. It came up a treat. Now, because of the success of the football/netball club in recruiting new members, the grass is worn out. Solution – develop a new oval at the land allocated – CA79. It's a no brainer.

Don Turner, San Remo

### Local issues first

I was wondering how major political parties influence local council agendas. I have been made aware it is not just lobby groups, but political parties that instruct their members how to vote. This is done with direct communication to members.

The result of this action is that council becomes divided and ends up focussing on state and federal issues rather than the needs of the local community.

The Local Government Act 2020 (v 021, 2024): Part 2 describes the roles and powers of a council and includes items around community consultation

requirements and acting for the best interests of the community.

If elected to council, I will advocate that the prioritisation remains on local issues.

Vote 1 – Darrell Silva for community-based decision making.

Darrell Silva, Candidate for Island Ward

### Keep election local

I am informed that the local branch of a major political party is suggesting how its members should be voting in the upcoming council election. They want it to be a political competition, not based on the ability of the candidate or the needs of the community.

A letter sent to members urges them to "encourage friends and neighbours to support" particular candidates.

They then warn them which candidates not to support. Hypocritically, they even accused one of these candidates of being a proxy for another party.

I believe that this is dirty politics and should be called out.

This election should focus on the needs of our community.

Do you want the same old equity, diversity, inclusivity, reconciliation, LGBTQIA and climate change that we have had shoved down our throats over the last four years?

If you want a change of direction to roads, rates, rubbish, recreation, footpaths, drains, parking, beach reconstruction and transparency, vote: 1 Rochelle Halstead, 2 Jan Thompson, 3 Nikole Shellekens (Western Port). 1 Meg Edwards, 2 Les Larke, 3 Prudence Scholtes (Bunurong). 1 John Trigt, 2 Darrell Silva, 3 Ron Bauer (Island).

Rob Parsons, The Gurdies

### Cowes roundabouts

Do people understand the road rules concerning roundabouts and pedestrians?

The following is from Transport Victoria on giving way at roundabouts.

Before entering a roundabout, you must give way to:

- any vehicle already in the roundabout
- any tram entering or approaching the roundabout.

Giving way means you must slow down or stop to avoid a crash.

At roundabouts, give pedestrians the time and space they need to cross. You don't need to give way to pedestrians at roundabouts unless there is a pedestrian crossing there.

In years past there were painted signs on the road surface to assist pedestrian safety.

The sign stated to pedestrians "give way to vehicles". In the interest of public safety, it is time to repaint the signs, especially given the increasing population during summer.

Darrell Silva, Cowes

### We're hopping mad!

We've just become aware the local branch of a major political party is trying to influence who will be elected in Bass Coast Shire. The party has emailed its members telling them not to vote for particular candidates.

Now, we have no issue with anyone belonging to a political party and voting accordingly at State and Federal elections. After all, that's what democracy is about. But for a political party to try to take over local government and influence the decisions councillors make, is completely inappropriate. Local government should deal with local issues.

Councillors are the community's elected representatives, whose sole responsibility is listening to their constituents and achieving the outcomes the community wants, not some masters in Spring Street who have no idea what local people want/need.

So think very carefully when you vote this month. Do you want community minded councillors, or puppets for a major party making decisions that suit the party, not the locals. Policies should matter, not party politics!

If party politics dominate, then why have councils at all? We could all save a lot of money.

BTW – look at the Council Watch Survey and see if any of candidates admit to being endorsed by any political party.

Linda Marston, Island Voice

# Island Ward candidates online

## COUNCIL ELECTION

A free online community forum is being held for residents and ratepayers in the Island Ward to hear from candidates about their vision and plans for Bass Coast Shire and ask questions about issues that are most important to them.

Independent for the federal election, Deb Leonard, is hosting the forum to give the community the opportunity to assess the values, ability and priorities of each candidate.

Having followed the progression of council campaigns across other

regions, Deb said she noticed that there had not been much opportunity for community members on the island to hear from their candidates in a formal setting or have the opportunity to ask questions in a public forum.

"I feel it is so important to encourage community engagement at all levels of politics, and facilitate connection between community and decision makers," Deb said.

During each session, candidates will deliver a brief presentation outlining their objectives as potential councillors.

Following the presentations, audience members will have the chance to ask questions directly to the candidates.

The online forum will be held this Sunday October 13 at 7pm. Registrations are essential via the QR code to the right.

Deb believes strongly that informed voting is the key to democracy working properly at every level of government.

"Hearing directly from candidates better equips us to make the best choices at the polls for our region," she said.

For further information, please contact Deb Leonard at 0437 180 962.

## BASS COAST SHIRE COMMUNITY

Meet your Island Ward Candidates!

**Sunday 13 October**  
**7pm – 8.30pm**  
**FREE ONLINE EVENT**

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Doubles Champions – Bob Hee and Vince Palladino.



Most 140's – Jamie Martin, Paul Gleeson, Vince Palladino.



Highest Scores – Jamie Martin, Scott Lethbridge, Alan Stray, Paul Gleeson.

# Winter season presentation day

## DARTS

This past weekend, the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League came together to celebrate a fantastic winter season with a grand presentation day.

Held at the Darts centre, the event saw players, sponsors, and supporters unite in a show of camaraderie and sporting achievement.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of trophies to the standout players of the season.

Awards were handed out for various categories, recognising individual excellence and team spirit throughout the competitive winter months.

The winners were met with applause as they stepped up to receive their well-earned accolades, but the day was not just about the champions – it was about celebrating every player who contributed to the league's success.

Attendees were also treated to a sumptuous luncheon, the centre piece of which was a delicious spit roast, kindly prepared by David Healy.

The meat, generously supplied by the league's major sponsor, San Remo Butchers, was enjoyed by all.

Heartfelt thanks to San Remo Butchers for their support, which has been vital to the league's continued success.

Gratitude also to the league's other sponsors, including Bendigo Bank and Boutique Tails, whose contributions have ensured that the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League remains a vibrant part of the local community.

As the winter season drew to a close, anticipation quickly shifted to the upcoming spring season, which begins this week.

The league encourages both current players and newcomers to join in a relaxed match format designed to suit all levels of ability.

Whether seasoned competitors or those just learning the ropes, all are welcome to take part in what promises to be another exciting season of darts in the district.

With a strong foundation of community support and a welcoming atmosphere, the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League looks forward to another successful season ahead.

New players are always welcome and encouraged to contact Scott Lethbridge on 0407 543 154 for more information.



Presidents award – Steve Nelson.



Most 100's Will Kennedy.



Highest Peg – Angus Dempsey.



Lightning Premiers – Darren Dempsey, Peter Murphy, Angus Dempsey, Gareth Ellison.



Gumboot Premiers – Meredith Parker, Scott Lethbridge, John Battista, Marilyn Smith, Graham "Snow" Smith.



John Battista and Vince Palladino accepting the Joseph Rizzo Memorial Doubles Award



# Breakers award presentation day

## SOCCKER

After a fantastic season of soccer for all our Breakers teams, the weekend was spent celebrating our junior players achievements with a special thanks to our sponsors at the Phillip Island Bowling and Entertainment centre for hosting us.

Congratulations and well done to all of our players, coaches and families on their commitment every week, tremendous efforts on the field, support on the sidelines and for making our club such a welcoming environment for others to join.

From a recent report released by the Gippsland Soccer League, Phillip Island is the fastest growing club in the league, and we are excited to see what the future holds for the Breakers. This year also marked the first year of what will be an annual award in honour of former player, friend and teammate Jake Munday.

Junior coaches each nominated a player who they feel demonstrates characteristics such as respect, good sportsmanship, persistence, willingness to play anywhere for their team and a love of soccer.

Nominees included Harvey Jacobs, Fletcher Middleton, Michaela Marr, Talia Thomas, Angus Farman, Zen Dalli, Tamsin Walton, Lily James, Cadell Tsioulakas and Josh Vojkovic.

The recipient of the 2024 Jake Munday Trophy was Jasper Saunders (U14 and U17 Penguins player) and was presented by Jake's parents Meg and Mark Munday.

A huge thank you as always to our junior club sponsors Sivori Concrete, Exclusive Painting, Pannys Chocolate Factory, Event Ops, Yellow Brick Road (Phillip Island branch), Goat Mowing, Ready Steady Go Kids and Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling.

Congratulations to all the individual award winners.



2024 Jake Munday Trophy was awarded to Jasper Saunders (U14 and U17 Penguins player) and presented by Jake's parents Meg and Mark Munday.



Club Person of the Year - Megan McDonald and Jake Taylor (not pictured).



U12 Penguins - Eli Rogan (Best in Finals and Best and Fairest), Coach Liam Jury, Seb Stellmach (Players Player) and Silas Van Berlo (Coach's award).



U17 Stingrays - Justin Tran (Coach's award), Josh Vojkovic (Best and Fairest), Bailey Leed (Players' Player).



U14 Penguins - Jasper Saunders (Best and Fairest), Mia Hyslop (Coach's award), Hunter Janson (Best in Finals) and Fletcher Middleton (Players' Player).



U12 Sharks - Max Stellmach (Best and Fairest), Marlo Jury (Players' Player) and Michael Christofi (Coach's award).



U14 Stingrays - Nash Adams (Best and Fairest), Jakob Storey and Zac Coldora (Joint Players' Player) and Harley Drayton (Coach's award).



U12 Stingrays - Coach Chris Dalli, Casey Greer (Coach's award), Cooper Davis (Most Valuable Player), Zen Dalli (Best and Fairest) and Jackson Davis (Best in Finals).



U17 Penguins - Angus Dempsey (Best and Fairest and Best in Finals), Balian Prendergast (Coach's award), Jasper Saunders (Joint Players' Player), Joss Geronimo (Coach's award) and Hamish Farman (Joint Players' Player).



U13 Girls - Sponsors Jeremy and Craig of Phillip Island Bowling with Coach Megan McDonald, Lily Thomas (Players' Player), Georgia McDonald (Best in Finals and Best and Fairest) and Lottie Bland (Most Improved).



# Boardriders: Girls Can Shred

## SURFING

On Sunday October 6 Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) welcomed 30 participants for their Girls Can Shred surf and yoga 24/25 season program.

The program has been enabled by a Victorian Government Change Our Game grant of \$9960.

PIBC is running a six-week girls surf and yoga program to connect girls to all things surfing, competition, judging, media, youth development, career, mindfulness, mental health and community.

Change Our Game research has demonstrated that while there are some positive attitudes towards women and girls in sport and their right to equal opportunities and access, change is still required in terms of underlying attitudes and behaviours.

It showed women were more likely than men to see or experience negative behaviour and gendered discrimination in community sport, and people overall felt women had fewer leadership



Girls can Shred participants. The six week girls surf and yoga program aims connect girls to all things surfing, as well as mindfulness, mental health and community.

opportunities in sport than men.

PIBC aims to address these topics in their program, engaging providers Ringa Surf, Girls on Board, Dominique Salerno Yoga and Claudia Tivendale Photography, as well as PIBC committee volunteers.

This includes Secretary Emily Scott designing the program and t-shirts, Clubhouse Manager Nat Van Der Heyden for all clubhouse logistics, and Treasurer/Surfing Australia Surf Judge Jo O'Reilly Stubbs who wrote the original grant application.

# Successful year for Gymstars

## GYMNASTICS

Bright and early Sunday morning, Reach Gymnastics club hosted what was to be the final competition for the Phillip Island YMCA Level 6 and 7 Gymstar teams.

The whole team came together for this special event, well supported by friends and family packing the stadium to celebrate what has been a truly successful year.

While much smaller than previous competitions, all gymnasts performed beautifully, making the most of their final opportunity to show off their hard work and powerful routines.

Cheers of support for one another could be heard throughout the event showing the strong team spirit and connection the Phillip Island girls have.

All gymnasts received multiple apparatus awards with Sommer placing 1st, Lacey 3rd, Frankie 4th and Isla 6th in the Level 6 individual overall competition.

In Level 7, Amillia once again



Final competition for the year for the Phillip Island YMCA Level 6 and 7 Gymstar teams. Back (from left): Coach Jay, Rori, Saoirse, Amillia, Rori, Willow, Evie and Lacey. Front: Stellah, Kailey, Mia, Frankie, Isla and Sommer.

secured 1st place individual overall, with Rori hot on her heels in 2nd and Evie in 4th.

In the team competition the Level 7 team came in 1st, as did

the Level 6 Pearl team, with Level 6 Opal a very close 2nd.

Congratulations girls on an incredible competition season this year.

# From the rink

## BOWLS

Lang Lang was the meeting point for last week's weekly challenge.

The bowlers were greeted by John and Bev while Vern and David arranged the teams.

When the bowlers went outside to begin play, they walked out into summer in October.

The temperature over the day was bordering on hot and as there was no wind to speak of it was somewhat of a shock to the system with no build up over any timeframe.

However, weather aside, it was a great day. Wonderful people, magnificent bowling from all rinks and lots and lots of friendly laughter.

Winners on 37 points were:



Winners of midweek bowls played at Lang Lang were Raff Merante (3), Sue Wright (2), Marianne Scales (L) and Tony Heppleston (S).

Raff Merante (3), Sue Wright (2), Marianne Scales (L) and Tony Heppleston (S).

Runners up on a score of 36 were: Luke Monckton (S), Jenny Smith (L) and Derek Fenn (3).

Best One Game winners on 19 points were: Steve Edge (S), Diane Kessen (L), Robyn Coulson (3) and Gwen Jeffery (2).

The green was in excellent form and Lang Lang's green keeper deserves to be congratulated.

A big thank you to all those who helped inside and out to clean up including Jenny, Bev,

David, Vern, and Laurie.

Also, a big thank you to Marianne and Colin for keeping the thirsty players happy all day.

I would like to pass on our fondest wishes to Peter who is still laid up and look forward to his speedy recovery.

The following week we will once again meet up at Corinella to fight it out for team of the week.

But this week will be a fight off between Corinella and San Remo. Unfortunately, both sides can't be winners so all we can do is wish both teams well.



Pam Cameron and Peter Forrest were the winners of the Phillip Island 15 End 2 Bowl Ladies and Men's competition on Sunday.

# Social comp exceptional

## BOWLS

With weather conditions improving, so are the numbers competing in the social bowls competition.

Runners up for the day: Maureen Oats, Judy Christie and Derek MacDonald.

Congratulations to the winners: Ash Alibone, Murray Anderson, John Batty and Terry Dawes.

Phillip Island 15 End 2 Bowl Ladies and Men's competition was held on Sunday, October 6.

With only a five-minute delay due to rain, the day went off

without a hitch.

The standard of bowling was exceptional and the a large crowd on hand witnessed some great and very close games.

The Lady's final between Pam Cameron and Marilyn Forrest, was a very close game, with Pam Cameron the eventual winner.

The Men's final between Peter Forest and Russell May was also very close, with Peter Forrest taking the win.

The Phillip Island Bowling Club would like to thank all of our volunteer's for making the day a great success.

# Results from the green

## GOLF

### Tuesday, October 1

#### Men's Comp Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Tony Sheahan (17) 44.

A Grade winner: A-1 Anthony Shannon (8) 37.

B Grade winner: B-1 Tony Sheahan (17) 44.

C Grade winner: C-1 George McCausland (40) 42.

BDL to 35 c/b.

NTP: 5th and 10th Danny Hibbert, 7th Peter Rowan and 17th Adam Walker.

#### Men's 9 Hole Stableford

Overall, winner: Clive Scott (24) 20 pts c/b from John Niven (26) 20 pts.

BDL 17 pts.

### Wednesday, October 2

#### Women's Competition Stableford 9H

Overall winner: Maureen Ellard (37) +5.

A Grade winner: Vicki Ramage (19) -1.

B Grade winner: Alice Schofield (26) +1 c/b.

C Grade winner: Maureen Ellard (37) +5.

BDL -1 c/b.

NTP: 7th Jane Sellenger, 10th Vicki Roff-Smith and 17th Cheryl White.

#### Women's 9 Hole Stableford

Winner: Wendy Hamilton (30) 23 pts c/b from Sara Gordon (45) 23 pts.

BDL to 17 pts.

### Thursday October 3

#### Open Stableford 18H

Overall winner: John Maglica (27) 42 c/b.

A Grade winner: Danny Hibbert (14) 42.

B Grade winner: John Morvic (16) 41.

C Grade winner: John Maglica (27) 42 c/b.

BDL to 34 c/b.

NTP: 5th Daryl Vernon, 7th Neville Thurgood, 10th Brian Gloury and 17th Gregory Stewart.

#### Open 9 Hole Stableford

Winner: John Niven (26) 22 pts from Bryan Pirouet (23) 21 pts.

BDL to 18 pts c/b.

#### Mary Broadbent Bowl Women's Comp Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Jane Sellenger (34) 41 pts c/b from Mel Naismith (35) 41 pts.

3rd Jan Daff (27) 37 pts c/b.

### Saturday, October 5

#### Men's Monthly Medal

Overall winner: Alex Andrews (13) 66.

A Grade winner: A-1 Daniel McConnon (8) 68.

B Grade winner: B-1 Alex Andrews (13) 66.

C Grade winner: C-1 Finn O'Brien (21) 69.

BDL to 73 c/b.

NTP: 5th Bailey Hennessy, 7th Isaac Batty, 10th Geof Daff and 17th Peter Cartwright.

Great score Gino Manfredi Eagle Hole 11.

#### Women's Comp Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Megan Elbaz (28) 37 from Lorna Evans (42) 32 pts c/b.

BDL 19 pts.

NTP: 7th Lesley Meadowcroft.

#### Open Stableford 9H

Winner Laurie Petrusch (21) 20 pts from Basil Moloney (8) 18 pts.

### Sunday October 6

#### Open Comp Stableford

Winner: Archie Ross (23) 43 pts from Connor Epifano (21) 42 pts.

BDL 36 pts.

# Red Rocks results

## GOLF

### Monthly Medal:

#### Stroke on Saturday, October 5

1st Place: Doug Collins - HCP 17 - 56 nett.

2nd Place: Victor Petropoulos - HCP 16 - 58 nett.

3rd Place: David Pearce -

HCP 20 - 61 nett c/b.

#### Stableford: Sunday, October 6

1st Place: Phil Hicks - HCP 17 - 36pts c/b.

2nd Place: Raymond Pobjoy - HCP 4 - 36pts.

3rd Place: David Pearce - HCP 17 - 34pts.



# Angling Club tames wild weather for exciting competition

## FISHING

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) held its second thrilling week-end-long competition of the 2024/2025 season, showcasing the talents of its members on October 5 and 6.

The weather forecast predicted strong winds and rain, but luckily, there were brief periods where conditions calmed down, allowing anglers to make the most of the competition.

Over the weekend, a total of 42 fish were weighed in, including snapper, King George whiting, tailor, flathead, salmon, grass whiting, and trevally.

In the Squidgies Mixed Bag Points Competition for anglers aged nine and under, Saige Nicolaci won first prize with three fish worth a total of 55 points.

Brothers Harley and Byron Griffin, reigning RPIAC Squidgie Club Champions, tied for second place, each catching one fish worth 20 points.

The Junior Points and Junior Weight competitions were both won by reigning RPIAC Junior Club Champion, Denver Firth.

Denver weighed in a Technicolor grass whiting worth 700 points (175 grams) and a chunky 1415-gram salmon, respectively.

In the Senior Female Points competition, Kim Muscat emerged victorious with a tailor worth 1350 points (540 grams).

Trevor Gleeson won the Senior Male Points competition with a King George whiting worth 1554 points (555 grams).

Tenille Preddice claimed the Senior Female Heaviest Weight Competition with a snapper weighing 4450 grams.

Kevin Reid won the Senior Male Heaviest Weight competition with an impressive snapper weighing 6200 grams.



Kevin Reid made the best of the weekend weather, winning the Senior Male Heaviest Weight competition with a snapper weighing 6200 grams.



Tenille Preddice won the Senior Female Heaviest Weight competition with a 4450-gram snapper.



Saige Nicolaci had a great weekend, winning the Squidgies Mixed Bag competition with 3 fish worth 55 points.



Harley (left) and Byron Griffin both finished the weekend in second place in the Squidgie Mixed Bag competition.

Kevin is currently in the top position for the RPIAC October-November Heaviest snapper competition, which runs during the four weekend competitions in October and November.

Angling members still have three weekend competitions to weigh in their

heaviest snapper to win the \$500 prize, donated by Trevor Thompson.

Using the new brag mat/catch and release system, angling members who prefer to release their snapper can "weigh-in" with photographs of their catch, where the weight of snapper will be determined

by overall length.

The Shark competition, Game Fish competition, and Squid/Cuttlefish competition were uncontested this time around.

The Secret Weight Prize was awarded to Brendan Garlepp for his snapper, which weighed 2515 grams, just shy of the secret weight of 2543 grams.

After the presentations, anglers and supporters were treated to a roast chicken dinner.

Special thanks to Lorraine and Nicky for their outstanding efforts in food preparation and kitchen excellence, and to Bakers Delight Cowes for their continued support.

None of the RPIAC Extraordinary Catch Incentives were claimed, and the members-only, competition weekend, \$1000 first-to-catch prizes for senior competitors remain in the bank.

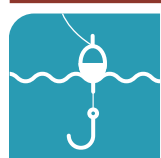
The incentives up for grabs are for eligible species that equal or exceed the nominated weight and include King George whiting (1000 grams), snapper (10kg), gummy shark (20kg), mullet (25kg), and kingfish (25kg).

With the weather set to improve, there are 10 weekend competitions remaining this season, and members can compete for weekend prizes and the club championships.

All junior anglers who participate receive complementary membership to RPIAC, allowing them to compete for prizes and the club championships in the Squidgie (anglers aged nine or younger) and Junior (anglers aged 10 to 16) categories.

The RPIAC clubrooms are open on Friday nights from 5pm, providing a great opportunity for anglers to get hooked-up and share their fishing stories.

For more information about RPIAC and events, visit [www.rpiac.com](http://www.rpiac.com).



## AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

## FISHING

The early spring weather in September has been horrible and the opportunity for getting out for a fish have been non-existent so to say customers are frustrated is an understatement, especially with the very small windows producing plenty of fish.

All we need now is the sunny, calm weather.

For those who don't live local it has been very frustrating because with the exception of one weekend in the last month or more, the windows for fishing have been very small.

The season so far has taken a step back 10 years, to the very good calamari fishing in August, jig colours of reds, oranges and pinks and mutton bird winds that blow for days and days in a row. September snapper fishing with very limited opportunity but very good quality table sized fish.

It's like our season is having a retro round and stepped back into the past.

Looking back through diaries when we get this type of start, we get an extended run, especially

with the snapper fishing well up to Christmas with the bigger fish, then get the swap over to the smaller ones. I guess time will tell if that is the case this year.

## Snapper

While we have seen a few genuine 20 pounders the quality of the smaller ones has been excellent.

We are getting the reports as usual for this time of the year, from the top end of the bay but plenty from further down towards Rhyll.

Observation, Silverleaves and Elizabeth Island with the corals and the mud off Coronet Bay a little quiet as yet.

A pattern that did come out of last weekend was the snapper were good in the deeper water early but once there was a lot of boat traffic the fish pushed into the shallower areas around the popular deep spots.

Baits haven't changed with squid and pilchards accounting for the majority of the reports.

The change of the low tide was slightly ahead of the high tide but not by much and I think you need to give either a go.

## Calamari

Calamari have been excellent this season, especially compared to last year where they didn't really show up at all.

The size and the numbers have been good from all types of fishing which is very handy with all the wind making boating difficult.

The bad weather has made it difficult at times with all the weed around, you just need to persevere.

It's still about 50/50 which type of jig to use, baited or artificial, but high tide is definitely better off the beaches and jetties.

## Whiting

Reports were scattered over the last month with the weather not allowing you to get to where you need to be or simply just not able to get to your favourite whiting spot.

It's also snapper time and many have headed out looking for them and not bothered with the whiting.

Those who have no interest in the reds have found good quality but not big numbers. But as one customer told me, he would take ten 40 plus ones over twenty mid 30's any day.

The best area is difficult to advise, because the reports have come from so many different spots, out of the wind.

## Mental health

A little over a week ago we heard the tragic news that a young local had sadly taken his own life. Knowing him as a customer it still just doesn't seem right even saying it.

Our thoughts go out to his family and close friends. While nothing can change what has happened it's important to keep the memories and that's exactly what we will be doing, remembering a customer that was always up for a chat, polite and friendly.

It's also important to remember that you just don't know what others are going through.

## Euchre

Ladies winner: Joanna King.

Men's winner: Les Walton.

Encouragement award: Mary-Ann.

Considering the school holidays were still on we had a reasonable turnout. Plenty of laughs and not too much taken seriously.

We've had a few new players in recent weeks including Robyn's partner Darren who held his own at cards and was a welcome new member. New players are always welcome to join us every Thursday night at 7.30pm.

For further information please contact Bob Hee on 0418 173 388.

You might take the grumpy person behind the counter as rude or not interested, there could be something far more serious happening. That works both ways for the person serving behind the counter to their customers. Something to think about before you jump on social media to vent.

There are always many questions that will never be answered in these situations, and you might be surprised which one of your good friends is going through serious mental struggles. We all have an obligation to sometimes just listen more closely.

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# TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31   HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BLACK						
WED 9 OCT	THU 10 OCT	FRI 11 OCT	SAT 12 OCT	SUN 13 OCT	MON 14 OCT	TUE 15 OCT
HIGH 5:56 am 2.99 m	HIGH 6:31 am 2.94 m	LOW 12:08 am 0.49 m	LOW 12:42 am 0.53 m	LOW 1:20 am 0.59 m	LOW 2:07 am 0.68 m	LOW 3:07 am 0.81 m
LOW 11:34 am 0.98 m	LOW 12:08 pm 1.03 m	HIGH 7:08 am 2.85 m	HIGH 7:47 am 2.76 m	HIGH 8:30 am 2.66 m	HIGH 9:21 am 2.58 m	HIGH 10:22 am 2.53 m
HIGH 5:34 pm 2.67 m	HIGH 6:06 pm 2.63 m	LOW 12:42 pm 1.10 m	LOW 1:17 pm 1.16 m	LOW 1:58 pm 1.21 m	LOW 2:49 pm 1.22 m	LOW 3:56 pm 1.17 m
LOW 11:35 pm 0.46 m		HIGH 6:40 pm 2.57 m	HIGH 7:17 pm 2.50 m	HIGH 8:04 pm 2.44 m	HIGH 9:11 pm 2.39 m	HIGH 10:38 pm 2.41 m

All material is supplied in good faith and is believed to be correct. No responsibility or liability for errors or omissions is accepted.



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# Groms search complete

## SURFING

Congratulations to Phillip Island's Scarlett Rennie who was runner up in the U14 Girls division at the Rip Curl Grom-Search held on the island last week.

Two hundred of the top junior surfers from across the country arrived on Phillip Island to compete.

The event running from October 1 – 5, featured Boys and Girls divisions for Under 18, Under 16 and Under 14 divisions, and gave a handful of local surfers the opportunity to compete against the best in the country.

Lily Bassed made it through to the quarter finals in the U16 girls, while Evie Lutz and Sam Patterson made it to round 2 in their respective categories.

Full results at: [surfingvic.com/ripcurlgromsearchphillipisland/](http://surfingvic.com/ripcurlgromsearchphillipisland/)

*Congratulations to Scarlett Rennie (centre) runner up in the U14 girls division at the Rip Curl GromSearch on Phillip Island last week. Photo: PIBC.*



# Not Island's day at Boardriders battle

## SURFING

Despite a promising start in the Victorian qualifier for the Australian Boardriders Battle, Phillip Island Boardriders finished fourth in the competition on the weekend.

On a brighter note, Phillip Island's Codie Jeffery took out the Oakley Prizm Performance award at the event, which was held at Smiths Beach.

In a dominating performance, Peninsula Surfriders Club took out first place in two to three foot onshore waves.

In Semifinal 2, Phillip Island delivered the goods through consistently strong surfing, with Carl Wright posting a 7.67 ride on his first wave, setting the tone for the rest of the team to follow. After a consistent run of sixes, the team had already achieved the highest total of the day by their fifth surfer. As the semi-final concluded, Phillip Island finished with the highest heat total of the day, 39.34.

Heading into the final, the stakes were high with the top three teams qualifying for a coveted spot in the Hyundai ABB Grand Final, to be held at Burleigh Heads early next year.

In the final, Phillip Island soon found their rhythm again, with Codie Jeffery picking up a bomb wave and unleashing three huge backhand snaps, temporarily propelling them into first place with his 7.17 ride. This



Phillip Island's Codie Jeffery took out the Oakley Prizm Performance award at Australian Boardriders Battle at Smiths Beach on the weekend. Photo: Noah Clifford (moshxmmedia), Surfing Victoria.

ride, along with many others across the day, earned Jeffery the Oakley Prizm Performance award.

Unfortunately, after being on the wrong side of positioning for waves a few times in a row, Phillip Island couldn't maintain their lead and the door opened for the other teams to forge ahead.

Throughout the final, 13th Beach were consistent, while

Peninsula took the lead when Sara Hickson delivered three massive backhand snaps, earning the highest score of the day with a remarkable 8.33. score.

Peninsula's remaining surfers consistently outscored their competitors with Sara's brother, Lucas Hickson, bringing it home by catching a quick wave to finish on time and avoid a five-point de-

duction. This secured a solid win for the thrilled Peninsula SRC at stop number three of the Hyundai ABB, with 13th Beach also excited to come in second.

**Hyundai ABB Victorian Qualifier Results:**  
1st: Peninsula SRC, 27.47  
2nd: 13th Beach BRC, 22.56  
3rd: Jan Juc BRC, 22.07  
4th: Phillip Island BRC, 21.44

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