YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE! Wednesday, September 10, 2025 \$2.00 Incl. GST

Liberty Media, which owns Formula 1, is now the majority stakeholders of the MotoGP, with the company planning to grow the event in "underpenetrated markets". Industry insiders say the Phillip Island event could soon be ramped up: "rather than running a motor race they run a spectacle ... They will do to the MotoGP what they have already done to Formula 1."

Under new ownership, future MotoGP now being negotiated

MOTORSPORT

Negotiations to secure the MotoGP at Phillip Island beyond the 2026 event are underway, following confirmation of the global event's new ownership.

And if locked in, future MotoGP events on the island could be bigger and showier.

The announcement comes as MotoGP great Wayne Gardner last week said the event at Phillip Island was dying a "slow death" and flagged the event should be moved to another state (see separate story).

In July it was announced the USA-based Liberty Media – which already owns the Formula

1 Grand Prix – had completed its four billion Euros (more than \$7 billion) majority stake in Dorna.

Dorna holds rights to 2060 to run MotoGP, currently in 22 races around the world, which they have done since 1991, as well as the Superbike World Championship.

The current 10-year contract to run the MotoGP at Phillip Island was reached in 2016 between Dorna and the State Government and will expire after the 2026 event.

According to industry insiders who spoke to the Advertiser, contract renewals this year have been announced at or around the 2025 MotoGP at the venue,

including in Germany and Barcelona, leading to speculation the event will be confirmed around this year's October 17-19 event on Phillip Island.

Australian Grand Prix Corporation CEO Travis Auld last week confirmed discussions were "underway regarding the contract for the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix beyond 2026".

"Phillip Island holds a special place in the hearts of MotoGP fans and is celebrated as one of the sport's most iconic venues," Mr Auld said.

"We are proud to host this world-class event in such a renowned location, which not only showcases elite motorsport but also plays a vital role in boosting tourism and supporting the broader regional economy."

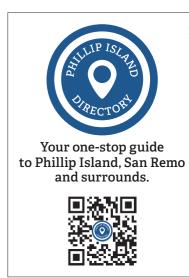
Phillip Island?

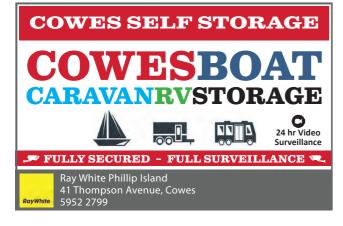
Sources said they were confident the MotoGP contract at Phillip Island would be renewed, saying "it's not a matter of if, but how much the contract will be worth".

"They would want to have a contract in place going forward, to give them the ability to invest," the source said.

"The hold up has been simply the bigger picture – you don't want to deal with Dorna if the new owner is changing.

Continued page 6











Mon/Sep15

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Fred gets the Father's Day prize

Shaz Martello-Howard told us her father Our Father's Day gift pack Fred has always been her "best mate".

"My business couldn't have survived without his support," Shaz said, describing how her father worked countless days with her, refusing to be paid.

"I don't have enough words for how much I appreciate everything he does

for our entire family," she said. Hopefully this Father's Day gift pack goes some way to showing her appreciation. Congratulations Fred. We hope you enjoy your prize.

contained:

- A surf lesson from Island Surfboards
- Protect and Shine gift bucket from Auto Pro
- Fridgy can cooler from Cowes Batteries & More
- Two \$30 bistro vouchers from the Westernport Hotel
- A \$45 voucher from H Bombs Barber-



The Forrest Caves beach access project started in February has been completed, with the stairs now reopened to the public.

Forrest Caves stairs reopen

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Forrest Caves beach access has been upgraded to improve safety for beachgoers.

Phillip Island Nature Parks said improvements include a reconfiguration of stairs and landings to the north and south stairway and replacement of deteriorating timbers and fixings. Non-slip materials were implemented to improve safety.

The Nature Parks construction team, together with local contractors delivered

the project which was undertaken in several stages to prevent disruption during peak summer season and during shorttailed shearwater fledging period.

The beach access closed in February with the final stage of the upgrade started in June. The project was scheduled to be completed before the start of the September holidays.

The Nature Parks extended thanks to the local community and beachgoers for their patience during required closures.

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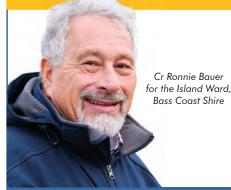
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What's happening with Newhaven's jetty

INFRASTRUCTURE

Supporters of the Newhaven jetty wants clarification on the beloved local jetty's future.

Amanda Keilar is one of the key voices behind the campaign to save the Newhaven Jetty and she said she's alarmed that Corinella's jetty has been closed off since the start of the year.

"It's also in need of repairs, and we want to know when both jetties will be fixed?

The government commissioned a detailed underground inspection of the Newhaven Jetty in March this year, and Amanda said she believes the cost to fix the jetty "is a lot less than they (the government) expected".

But six months have passed and there is still no update on the Newhaven Jetty's fate.

Nationals MP Melina Bath said the future of Corinella Jetty is also in doubt, seven months after the government ordered a partial closure of the facility.

Ms Bath called on the Minister for Ports and Freight in state parliament to commit to a timeline for its repair and reopening.

'The closure feels like history is repeating itself for locals after the Newhaven Jetty was closed indefinitely last year," Ms Bath

"Corinella residents were hopeful their asset wouldn't suffer the same fate as Newhaven's, but after months of stagnation their hope is evaporating.

Newhaven

Ms Bath has been a vocal supporter of the community campaign to see the Newhaven Jetty repaired and reopened.

At the one-year anniversary



Bass Coast locals are frustrated with the government's inaction following a partial closure of the Corinella Jetty in January, says Nationals MP Melina Bath, following on from the closure last year of the Newhaven Jetty.

of the Newhaven jetty closure in May, Ms Bath said "leaving the jetty to disintegrate behind mesh fencing is unacceptable".

"This much-loved public asset deserves to be upgraded and reopened.'

Amanda Keilar said it was "a matter of continually rattling the cages and saying, we're not going to just sit down and watch it fall into the ocean".

In March this year, Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale confirmed marine coastal engineers were "inspecting the structural integrity of the jetty and exploring options to restore pedestrian and boater access to the jetty in

At the time, Ms Crugnale said "it is important we work with the local community to explore opportunities, understand what activities people want to see happen, and ensure we are engaging the right stakeholders".

She said the detailed inspection was "a positive step forward".

However last week Amanda said there'd still been no progress on the project and the jetty remained blocked off.

She said jetty supporters had a plan for repairing the jetty in sections, and called on the government to release the results of the inspections.

The continuing drought is a major mental health challenge for farmers. Next week's event, Shed Talk, will focus on pressure, stress, and how farmers can look out for themselves and others.

Amid the drought, farmer support event

MENTAL HEALTH

Farmers are being invited to step away from the paddock and into the shed for a conversation that could make all the difference, at Surf Beach next week

On September 17, 10am-2pm, AgMind Australia will host a free Shed Talk workshop at 1510 Phillip Island Road, Surf Beach.

The event is designed to provide farmers with practical tools, relatable stories and support by people who know life on

AgMind Australia, founded by local farmer and accredited mental health social worker Nikole Schellekens said the program delivered peer-led wellbeing.

"Farmers don't need another clinical campaign that doesn't speak their language. They need real strategies they can use when the pressure builds, and they need to know their mates have their back," Ms Schellek-

"Shed Talk is not therapy and

it's not a lecture or a powerpoint presentation. Instead, it opens the doors to honest conversations about pressure, stress, and how to look out for yourself and others.'

She said sessions were practical, non-clinical, and evidencebased, drawing on research into what actually works for farmers at risk of suicide.

Male farmers in Australia are estimated to die by suicide at two to three times the rate of the general population.

"Despite this, many farmers avoid asking for help due to the culture of stoicism and self-reli-

The upcoming Bass Coast Shed Talk includes lunch and is supported by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government's Drought Support Package, with partnership from the National Centre for Farmer Health.

Bookings are essential. Register via the QR code, text or call 0419 699 965, or email hello@agmind.com.au

Stamp of approval for new health network

The Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas has approved the voluntary merger of five health services to form Bayside Health. This will see Bass Coast Health (BCH) join with Alfred Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service, Kooweerup Regional Health Service and Peninsula Health - from January 1, 2026.

The health services are already working together to improve patient care and identify areas for service improvement and development.

Alfred Health and Peninsula Health are working together to public neurosurgery consultations at Wonthaggi Hospital, so people living in the Bass Coast region will soon have specialist care close to home - building on an existing arrangement that already delivers a neurosurgery clinic at Frankston Hospital.

A new process to share critical patient information and resources across the five health services will deliver faster care for patients - once a referral is accepted and a bed is booked patients will be transferred within 24 hours.

A new board will be formed for the health network. Recruitment for the incoming board has also



of five health services - including Bass Coast Health - to form Bayside Health, from January 1, 2026.

commenced, with members to include representatives from the existing boards of the five services. The new board will be responsible for appointing a Chief Executive Officer.

Under the merger, all existing hospitals and healthcare sites will continue to deliver programs and services for their communities and will keep their individual names.

It is not yet clear which, if any, administrative processes will be shared across the network.

In June this year, Prof Simone Alexander, Interim Chief Executive Officer of BCH said the formation of Bayside Health was "just the first step to bring Bass Coast Health and the other four health services together as one".

While it will take some time to complete the process, integrate our systems and tie together the best of what each of us has to offer, it's a change that promises to improve health outcomes for everyone across our region."

The new network was announced in January this year, and in March, the board of BCH formalised the decision to join the merger.

Aldred calls for action on drowning report

BEACH SAFETY

Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP met with Roval Life Saving Australia after its latest report showed Australia recorded its highest number of drowning deaths since records

Ms Aldred said the report stated:

- There has been a 74 per cent increase in drownings in the age group of 65 years and over.
- Drowning rates nearly tripled in regional and remote areas compared to those in city areas.
- Coastal locations accounted for 43 per cent of drownings.
- More than a third of drowning deaths were people who were born overseas.

Ms Aldred used a speech in the Federal Parliament to draw attention to the report, as well as support for South Gippsland and Bass Coast coastal areas.

"Tragically, Phillip Island has seen a number of drownings in recent years.

"Lives have been lost, families remain in grief and first responders carry lifelong scars. There are a number of really valuable findings in the report, which I look forward to enga ing with our local community on," said Ms Aldred.

Ms Aldred also raised concern about the Victorian State Government cost shifting surf patrols to local government.

"Last year, Bass Coast Shire Council contributed \$98,000 towards the Royal Life Saving Society surf patrols. This year they have been requested to fund \$260,000. That is a 160 per cent increase with minimal consultation—outside standard budget

"This is a looming disaster. Our community deserves so much better," she said.

You can access the full report at: www.royallifesaving.com.au

Social housing construction set to start

After several years of delays, Cowes' social housing construction is expected to start late in 2025. When originally proposed in 2021, construction of five x two-bedroom dwellings on council-owned land between Roydon Road and Wyndham Avenue in Cowes was set to be finished in 2024.

Last week a spokesperson for Community Housing Limited (CHL) - the not-for-profit community housing provider responsible for the operation and maintenance of the development - said the project would soon start construction.

"The team at CHL has been working with Bass Coast Shire to repurpose the land as residential, allocate titles, and connect essential infrastructure," a CHL spokesperson said.

"The work to get the building permit finalised and approved is underway and construction is expected to start late in 2025.

"While the pre-construction phase of our collaborative ap-

proach to increasing affordable housing in local communities has taken longer than expected, once the homes are completed, they will provide essential homes for people on low incomes in the community who are on the Victorian Housing Registry priority list."

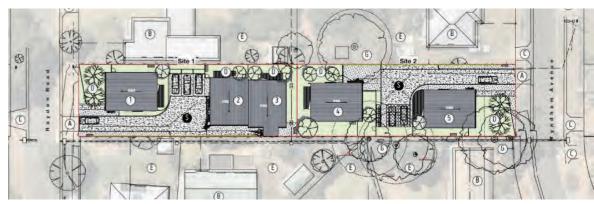
The spokesperson said CHL would provide tenancy and property management services and would link tenants into local support groups as required on completion of the project.

"There is a critical need for more social and affordable homes across Victoria, including in Bass Coast Shire," they said.

The council owns the 97 metrelong road reserve and CHL has a 30-year lease with the council.

The project will be delivered and funded through the State Government's Big Housing Build, with the Planning Minister the responsible authority and not Bass Coast Shire Council.

At the August council meeting, resident Terry Burke asked for an update to the Bass Coast Affordable Housing Strategy



The road reserve between Roydon Road and Wyndham Avenue was originally set to be completed last year into five social housing dwellings, but will now go ahead later this year.

'Council is well-progressed in the implementation of the strategy and on track for full implementation," CEO Greg Box said, adding seven of 10 actions were complete.

"These actions are supporting affordable housing and service support outcomes for local community members across the shire."

Stress

According to housing.id.com.au/

four per cent of households in Bass Coast (672) need affordable housing, with the average weekly house rental in the shire at December 2024 the same as the regional Victorian average at \$480.

However, the median house price is above the state average (\$577,000) at \$700,000 in Bass Coast. Just 1.5 per cent of housing sales are affordable to lowincome households and about 11 per cent of rentals.

About 8.5 per cent of Phillip Island homeowners are experiencing mortgage stress and 35 per cent of renters are in financial

Housing stress is where a household spends more than 30 per cent of their gross household income on either rent or mortgage repayments.

Details: chl.org.au/about-us/ our-developments/cowes-phillipisland-victoria/

\$25,000 from reused bottles raised for charities

COMMUNITY

Phillip Island and San Remo residents have collectively donated about \$25,000 to local charities - and saved tonnes of waste from landfill - through the Container Deposit Scheme.

And the National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM) has raised almost half of that amount, with \$10,000 in CDS donations.

Other local causes to benefit from about 200,000 eligible returned containers include the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (more than \$5000), cricket club and Board Riders (more than \$1000), SES, Penguin Foundation, schools, the Good Friday Appeal and others.

"Across the Bass Coast, more than 23 million eligible containers have been returned though the scheme to date, giving to \$2.3 million back in the pockets of Victorians," a CDS spokesperson told the Advertiser.

"Statewide, the scheme has recycled more than two billion containers to date, providing over \$200 million in returns.

NVVM volunteer Phil Dressing has mostly singlehandedly collected about \$10,000 worth of bottles and cans – totalling 100,000 – from the Phillip Island Golf Club.

Phil first started collecting in January last year and collects



Council is calling for feedback on proposal to introduce 30km/h speed limits on local roads within Surf Beach, Sunderland Bay, Smiths Beach, Silverleaves and Sunset Strip. Feedback closes on September 26

weekly from 7am on a Thursday in summer twice a week - for two and a half hours, checking all bins on the golf course and in the club

He then drives the golf cart to the CDS centre in the Cowes industrial estate.

"It's a win-win, with the golf course saving on the amount of rubbish they create, and the museum fundraises," Phil said.

"I love it, getting out on the course, seeing the wildlife, first thing in the morning."

As previously reported, Jess Gislingham has been running the

Can-Man project to collect cans as a fundraiser for the footy club.

The Container Deposit Scheme allows Victorians to return eligible drink containers for a 10-cent refund at over 640 return points across the state. Containers are then processed to make new items, reducing waste and working towards a circular economy.

Since CDS Vic launched in November 2023, charities and community groups have used it to raise funds for grassroots activities across the state, and about 615 jobs have been created.

Details: cdsvic.org.au

Council proposing lower speed limits

ROAD SAFETY

Bass Coast Shire Council is investigating the possibility of introducing 30km/h speed limits on local roads in Surf Beach, Sunderland Bay, Smiths Beach, Silverleaves and Sunset Strip.

They're calling for the community to provide feedback on the proposal.

The council said the proposed change is driven by community concerns about the current 50km/h limit. According to a council statement, roads in these estates are unmade and narrow with open drains, no footpaths and often with trees close to the edge, forcing pedestrians and cyclists to share the same space as cars.

"Lower speed limits lead to fewer and less severe accidents, making the roads safer for everyone, especially more vulnerable road users like children and the elderly.'

Council said traffic surveying found generally most cars are travelling at around 25-40km/h on these unsealed streets where the current speed limit is 50km/h.

"Lower speed limits not only improve the safety of the area for everyone but also improve amenity by reducing dust.'

Not all the streets in these estates are proposed to change to 30km/h. On the busier more "main" roads such as Sunderland Bay Road, Smiths Beach Road and Beachcomber Road, council is proposing to change the speed limit to 40km/h.

Also, carparks at beach locations in these areas are proposed to change to 20km/h speed limit.

'We're asking for community feedback on the proposal with a simple survey to gauge the level of support for these proposals," council stated.

Speed limit changes are required to be submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning for approval by the Minister for Transport to ensure the alignment with speed zoning guidelines.

You can have your say on the proposals by visiting engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ speed-reviews-and-parkingimprovements

Feedback closes on Friday September 26.

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Neighbourhood batteries - what are they all about?

ENERGY

Last month's announcement that six of the proposed seven Phillip Island neighbourhood batteries had been turned on prompted a flood of questions and angry accusations on social media.

People queried how much houses would be paid for the solar exported to the batteries. Others described it as a cheap power grab as solar tariffs continue to drop and asked if the solar power exported from the batteries would be charged at the same low rate as the tariffs.

Another said the energy companies had "stuffed up the grid" and now needed "incredibly expensive batteries" to maintain electricity supply.

Many were doubtful that the batteries would do anything to improve the efficiency of the local grid. "We are told lies, the whole system is an absolute joke," wrote one resident.

However Mondo the company that installed the batteries, in conjunction with Bass Coast Shire Council and Totally Renewable Phillip Island, said installing the batteries "supports our priorities and the community's priorities in reducing emissions and providing energy resilience".

The batteries will a combined provide 900kw/1845kWh of energy storage capacity.

The six batteries are located at Seagrass Avenue (205 kWh), Kembla Road (410 kWh), Goodwood Drive (410 kWh) and Katherine Circuit (205 kWh) in Cowes, Hallway Drive in Wimbledon Heights (205 kWh) and the council depot in Settlement Road (205 kWh).

The final battery at Berninneit in Cowes (205 kWh) is expected to be operational by late 2025 or

Unlike the other six batteries, it will be "behind the meter", which means it will be able to generate power during power outages, providing an emer-

COLLEGE

To address community questions and concerns, Mondo has provided key details about how the batteries work and what they will provide to the island's energy mix.

Why do we need neighbourhood batteries?

Victoria's energy grid was originally designed for a one-way flow of power, moving energy from where it's made to where it's needed. Rooftop solar generation, and other renewable power generation, has introduced a more dynamic, two-way flow of electricity; something that the original electricity network was not designed for.

To maintain a stable electricity supply and to harness as much renewable energy as possible, we need more storage at the network, district, neighbourhood and property levels.

How do the batteries work?

The batteries will be charged and discharged with electricity from the wholesale energy market, typically charging from the grid during the day with solar energy and storing this energy until it is needed in the evening or early morning, when demand is high, and renewable energy supply is limited.

Will the batteries prevent power outages?

No. The batteries' function is to improve the local network's ability to absorb excess solar energy during the day and export during periods of higher demand. They will not operate or provide back-up power during an outage.

However, by storing excess solar the stored electricity may help address challenges associated with summer peak loads which have overloaded parts of the local grid and have caused outages in the past.

Will the neighbourhood batteries provide an alternative solution to home batteries?

gency centre for charging No. The purpose of this



How will the neighbour batteries help the island's electricity supply? Mondo, the company that installed the new batteries addresses people's concerns.

energy storage is to improve the capacity and efficiency of the grid in handling solar power thereby reducing our reliance on fossil fuel energy sources and reducing energy costs

Home batteries are primarily for the homeowner's benefit, storing their solar and providing backup. The neighbourhood batteries will complement other storage connected to the grid, inducing home batteries.

Will the batteries affect my retail electricity plan?

No, your personal electricity plan and your choice of energy retailer will not be impacted.

How were the battery locations chosen?

The criteria for selecting locations included consideration of:

• The existing and expected solar generation in the local network.

• Suitable electrical connection points close to the distribution transformers.

- Accessible, appropriate, safe and available land that supports the community needs.
- Consideration of ecological and cultural heritage impacts.

Is there enough solar to charge the battery cells?

The batteries have been strategically located in areas with substantial local solar generation. If there is any shortfall of locally generated solar energy,

the battery will be charged from nearby solar or other generation sources on the

Are the batteries safe?

Mondo has selected quality, proven, utility grade storage solutions to ensure the community's safety. The batteries will utilise the stable lithium-iron phosphate (LFP) battery chemistry, have multiple protection systems and remote monitoring. Mondo is responsible for the ongoing maintenance and vegetation management around the batteries. The

battery is in locked cabinets of a similar strength to other electricity network equipment. The expected operation life for each battery is approximately 15 years.

Hoω will the community donation work?

Mondo has worked closely with Bass Coast Shire Council and TRPI to finalise a community donation arrangement that is fair, equitable and transparent. The fund will be managed by Bass Coast Shire Council alongside the Energy Innovation Cooperative on behalf of the community and will be used to support local renewable energy and efficiency projects for the island community.

Who pays for the batteries.

The batteries have been funded by \$2.1 million from the State Govern-Neighbourhood ment's Battery program, with Mondo paying the balance of costs.

How many homes can they power and for how long?

One battery – 205kW / 18.7kWh (average annual Victorian consumption for three-person home) = 11homes for 24 hours.

The batteries are designed to power more homes for less time – ie focusing on discharge at peak demand times.

neighbourhood The batteries are a joint project of Mondo Energy, Bass Coast Shire Council and TRPI, with support from the Phillip Island Business Network, the Energy Innovation Cooperative, the Gippsland Climate Change Network, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Westernport Water.

information: More www.mondo.com.au/projects/phillip-island



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information

future MotoGP now being negotiated

"I reckon it's a done deal. There's nowhere else to go.'

The source said Phillip Island was the most suitable venue, with Albert Park not suitable for bikes, the mooted Lindsay Foxbacked Avalon home of motorsport yet to be funded, "Bathurst is not in contention", and only South Australia was a "possibil-

"But Phillip Island is one of the iconic circuits of the world," the industry insider said, "it's a legacy heritage circuit."

Showbiz

The source said Liberty Media had distinguished themselves as promoters of the Formula 1, with their style "entrepreneurial" and "rather than running a motor race they run a spectacle".

"When you get Liberty involved you're talking superstars, star quality to appeal to a whole new demographic of fans.

"We can expect the MotoGP in Australia under Liberty's ownership to substantially ramp up. It won't happen tomorrow but over the next five years. They will do to the MotoGP what they have already done to Formula 1.

"A few of the diehard fans don't want the sport to look like movie stars, so it's controversial."

Liberty Media owns interests in media, sports and entertainment and acquired 84 per cent of MotoGP rights, with Dorna management retaining 16 per cent of the business.

Since the acquisition on July 3, it was confirmed Carmelo Ezpeleta, CEO of Dorna since 1998, would continue to run the MotoGP along with his management team.

According to a July media release, the acquisition would enable Liberty Media to "open the door to a new era for the sport" and "accelerate MotoGP's international appeal and bring racing to a wider global audience".

'Liberty Media will leverage its expertise in developing sports and entertainment assets to further expand MotoGP's fanbase and grow the sport commercially," said Derek Chang, Liberty Media President and CEO.

"We believe the sport and brand have significant growth potential, which we will look to realise through deepening the connection with the core fan base and expanding to a wider global audience."

Mr Chang said the sport and brand had "significant growth potential".

He said MotoGP was already evolving to unlock its full potential, with record crowds, new venues, growing audiences, a strong cash flow profile, and a significant opportunity to grow, in "underpenetrated markets' outside the EU.

The Liberty Media release said MotoGP had significant reach with 677 million cumulative viewers around the world and three million race attendees, broadcast in over 200 countries through 117 media partners, which provides 45 per cent of revenue, in addition to eight global sponsorship partners.

Revenue in 2024 was 462 million Euros, or about \$830 million and the cost to stage all events about 232 million Euros, or \$414 million.

It states one rider, Marc Marquez, has 7.6 million social media followers.

In 2022 the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix contract at Albert Park was extended by the Victorian Government to run until 2037 under a 12-year agreement.

Subsidised

As reported last year, the MotoGP at Phillip Island posted more than a \$26 million loss and received State Government subsidies of nearly \$20 million.

The AGPC 2024 annual report showed the event had a total revenue of \$32.9 million, including subsidies of \$19.4 million, with sales revenue of \$9 million.

The cost to stage the MotoGP was \$39.8 million.

With government subsidies taken out, losses totalled more than \$26 million, down from \$27.3 million in 2022.

Circuit sale?

Last year rumours circulated around Australia that Lindsay Fox was looking to sell the Phillip Island Circuit to potentially fund the Avalon motorsports park.

At the time industry media reported the Shahin Family owners of The Bend - were interested in adding the racetrack to their portfolio.

But sources told the Advertiser the track was not for sale.

Under new ownership, MotoGP needs to revive to survive

MOTORSPORT

Phillip Island's MotoGP event needs to be moved to a warmer month – and operators need to stop "price gouging" attendees - if it is to remain a popular national sporting event.

That's according to the former president of the Motorcycle Riders Association of Australia (MRAA) Damien Codognotto, who last week spoke to the Advertiser about his concerns for future events.

His comments follow statements by 1987 world champion Wayne Gardner who last week told the Herald Sun the event was "disappearing in a slow death under the current management as budgets are cut every year".

"Maybe it's time for another state and venue to take over the current management," said Mr Gardner, who added he was yet to be invited to this year's MotoGP on the island.

Damien, who is the MRAA spokesperson, said while he believed the event should stay at Phillip Island, he agreed with Gardner it was dying a "slow death".

He said the MotoGP should be moved from its current October slot to March or April.

"High prices and bad weather deter people, and me, from attending the Phillip Island Moto GP and that is a terrible shame," Damien said.

"If the Victorian Government wants to revive the Phillip Island Motorcycle Grand Prix and repair a major tourism/sporting asset, the very first thing to do is get a March/April date back."

He said the first MotoGP in

crowd of 93,000 people on the Sunday with 14,000 campers.

"There has never been anything like it in the 36 years since. In 1989 the Melbourne Cup pulled 92,000 and the footy Grand Final pulled 94,000 on the day.

"The 1990 GP was moved to September, the worst time for weather on the island. Crowds were down at least 30 per cent.

"Better weather is essential to attract the big crowds again."

While the international body does set the global MotoGP dates "that does not prevent the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) and the Victorian Government "from lobbying for change".

"I suspect the car GP takes precedent over the motorcycle

He questioned the counting of crowd numbers, saying they were tallied across four days - "meaning a person who attends for four days is counted four times" - with counting previously on a Sunday before numbers dropped.

In July it was announced the USA-based Liberty Media which already owns the Formula 1 Grand Prix – had completed its four billion Euros majority stake in Dorna, which holds rights to 2060 to run MotoGP (see separate story).

Costs

Damien said feedback from MRAA members, and his own experience, showed there was profiteering at the circuit during the GP, "astounded at the cost of a Coke and pie".

He suggested rather than having big companies catering to the

1989 was in April and pulled a crowd, local businesses should operate as they "care about value and don't price gauge".

"Get rid of the just-for-profit caterers and service providers and get more small, local businesses involved, which will help with reasonable prices. The atmosphere locals present is fantastic.

"In 1996 Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett won the motorcycle GP back for Phillip Island and that saw big business - that had nothing to do with motorcycling - take over most race activities and businesses and prices went through the roof."

Damien said he understood local accommodation operators needed to make money, but there should be more affordable camping options.

He said organisers failed to understand and cater to the 2.5 million Australians who have motorbike licences. Most tourers were "well heeled", aged over 40 and "want value for money".

"The AGPC and Tourism Victoria don't engage with the crowd," Damien said, suggesting the GP runs from Cranbourne to Cowes should be restarted.

Damien, who lives in Tasmania, said the vast majority of riders supported the race staying at Phillip Island, with Eastern Creek in NSW "like a suburb without the atmosphere of the island".

He said South Australia was "not on the east coast where the domestic market is based" and both Bathurst and Albert Park were not suitable for motorcycle racing for a variety of reasons.

"Phillip Island is special. For MotoGP and Superbikes, it's the island or nowhere."

Silverleaves working bee

ENVIRONMENT

On Saturday (August 16) the Silverleaves Conservation Association (SCA) had a working bee, with many residents, members, and even the Phillip Island Scout group lending a hand.

The working bee saw 330 trees planted on the foreshore from the Sanders Road track to the west, behind the new rock bag wall, with the trees also aiming to help reduce

Volunteers also removed invasive plant species and rubbish.

For details of future working bees or to join the SCA mailing list go to silverleaves.org



Volunteers at the Silverleaves Conservation Association working bee on Saturday August 16, which planted 330 trees on the foreshore.







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Foster care enriching lives

COMMUNITY

Back in 2016, faced with the prospect of becoming empty nesters, Rhyll couple Rosemarie and David Foulkes looked into becoming foster carers.

"Both our kids went to university, and they had to move to

Melbourne," David said.
"We had friends who'd done foster care, and we were aware there was a real need.

"We thought, we've got a house with room to spare, so why don't we give it a go."

The couple approached Anglicare Victoria, who talked them through the process, which included an induction and further training.

"It was nearly a six-month process," said Rosemarie.

"From the inquiry phone call, doing the training, having our home check. They are quite thorough - looking into our backgrounds and our life stories

By 2017 they were registered and able to start fostering chil-

Since then, they've cared for scores of children – some stayed for over a year – while others were emergency placements until a suitable long-term solution could be found.

Throughout it all, David and Rosemarie said they've always felt well supported.

"Being a foster carer is being part of a team," Rosemarie said.

"If we are finding something challenging or difficult, or we don't have enough information about a child, we can ring our case worker.

"It really is teamwork. It takes a village to raise a child ... that is very relevant to foster care."

They say fostering has been overwhelmingly positive.

"I was kind of nervous of having really little people," David admitted.

"We had a brother and sister, and the little boy was quite developmentally delayed. We had him for six months, and to see the progress he made, it was re-



Local foster carers David and Rosemarie Foulkes urge anyone considering foster care, to "definitely look into it". Anglicare Victoria is holding a free online information session on Wednesday September 17, for anyone interested in finding out more. Photo: Shelia Regita Pasaribu, Unsplash.

ally amazing."

For Rosemarie, the rewards came in little ways.

"His little grin, when you were giving him a push on the swing, or when you're cuddling him, giving him his bottle and he looks up at you with these deep eyes and connects with you.

"You can just feel he is feeling warm and safe and nurtured."

Letting the children go can be hard, as usually due to privacy, they are not able to get updates on their progress.

David said a fellow foster carer told them to "think of yourselves as safe stepping stones", and the children hopefully move on, to another safe place.

The couple had both worked in education, David as a teacher and Rosemarie as an integration aide and a school nurse, which meant they went into foster care with experience working with children.

But it's not a prerequisite.

"I think anyone who's got a passion for children, and they've got a spare bedroom, it's certainly worth exploring.

"There are way more benefits that totally overshadow those occasional challenging days."

For anyone daunted by the prospect of taking on such an important role, Rosemarie said it was important to realise how

many options were available.

"Maybe think about offering to do respite care first," she ad-

'Respite is like giving a child a sleepover, a weekend away.

"Someone may be able to offer to do respite one weekend a month; that might be manageable with their job and their lifestyle," Rosemarie said.

"And it still makes a big dif-

The couple are now what they call a "hub home", for a group of other carers.

This means, they regularly provide respite care for children within this group.

"They come for sleepovers

and school holidays," Rosemarie and David said.

"These children have come to us before, when their carer needs some time off.

"Because they've gotten to know us, they know what their rooms are like. They're quite keen to come.

"And sometimes they ask if they can have a weekend with Rose and David. Which is nice."

The arrangement is based on a concept called the "Mockingbird model", initially trialled in Bendigo. When a Gippsland trial started, David and Rosemarie volunteered.

"We're both in our 60s, and we'd had a little boy that we would have loved to have kept,"

"But he was two and I was 66, and I thought, it's not fair on him. When he's 18, I'm going to be 82.

"So when Anglicare approached us about being a hub home, we thought it would suit. And we were the perfect location ... on an island, at the beach."

The couple urge anyone considering foster care, to "definitely look into it".

Overall, the couple say being foster carers has enriched their

"Having all these precious people helps float our boat," Rosemarie said.

"As much as we give to them, they give to us."

There is a desperate need for more local foster carers. Being able to house the children close to home, means a normal school routine could be maintained, and there are familiar surroundings.

Anglicare Victoria is holding a free online information session on Wednesday September 17, for anyone interested in finding out more about foster carer.

Details: www.anglicarevic. org.au/our-services/foster-care/ foster-care-information-sessions/or by calling 03 5135 9555.

You can also attend a morning tea on September 11 at 10am at 188-190 Commercial Road Morwell. RSVP at gippsland. carers@anglicarevic.org.au

Interested in finding out more about foster care?

This Foster Care Week, September 14 to 20, Anglicare Victoria is calling on compassionate individuals and families across Gippsland – including Phillip Island and San Remo – to consider becoming foster carers. With hundreds of children in need of safe and loving homes, the demand for local carers has never been greater.

- Foster carers provide safety, care, and support to vulnerable children, making a life changing difference.
- There is a need for more foster carers across Gippsland to ensure every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and nurturing home.
- Local children need local carers, keeping kids close to their families, schools, and communities is vital for their wellbeing.
- Foster carers come from all walks of life, people of all ages, genders, backgrounds, and cultures. You can be single, married, live in a house

or an apartment, Anglicare is happy to discuss any situation.

• As Victoria's largest provider of out-of-home care, Anglicare Victoria offers expert training, ongoing support, and financial reimbursement

In the past year, Anglicare Victoria supported 844 children • Approval and matching – and young people through foster care. There were 326 households providing foster care to children and young people in the last year.

What does a foster carer do?

Foster carers provide temporary care for children and young people who cannot live safely with their birth families. This includes meeting their daily needs, offering emotional support, and helping them stay connected to their culture and community.

The process of becoming a foster carer involves:

• Initial inquiry – Contact

Anglicare Victoria to express

- Information session Attend a free online session to learn
- Assessment and training Participate in interviews, home visits, and complete training.
- Once approved, carers are matched with children based on their capacity and prefer-

According to Anglicare Victoria, it's critical to get more foster carers in the Phillip Island and San Remo area.

'Children thrive when they remain close to familiar surroundings," said Anglicare Program Manager Rebecca Virtue.

'Recruiting carers in Phillip Island and San Remo helps keep children connected to their schools, friends, and cultural identity - minimising disruption during a difficult time."

Ms Virtue said while foster caring can be emotionally de-



There is an urgent need for local foster carers. Anglicare Victoria is holding a free online information session on Wednesday September 17, for anyone interested in finding out more about foster carer. Photo: Andriyko Podilnyk, Unsplash.

manding, Anglicare Victoria provides 24/7 support, expert training, dedicated case work-

ers, financial reimbursement and peer support networks. Details: anglicarevic.org.au

"I'm waiting for a bomb to hit": bee crisis

ENVIRONMENT

Phillip Island's commercial apiarist has warned the honey bee killing parasite, varroa mite, would inevitably impact local bee populations, saying it was a matter of "when, not if".

David Severino has run Phillip Island Honey since 2010 - beekeeping since the age of 11 - and said he had never seen more threats to bee populations.

His comments come after the killer pest - first detected in Newcastle in 2022 - was detected in the south-east Gippsland town of Yarram in August.

"I predict varroa will be in Bass Coast by Christmas," David said, spreading rapidly through Gippsland when weather picks up and bees forage more.

"Wild bee colonies will die first because they're not managed and then will come the commercial bees.

David said he would maintain his business as long as possible – "I have a duty to provide honey to locals" - even sourcing it from other areas of Victoria if necessary.

But realistically "I'm waiting for a bomb to hit" and he was considering additional employment.

"I'm still hopeful someone will come up with a fix and we will bounce back.

But it's been around the world for 20 years and no one has come up with a solution yet."

Bees are vital because they pollinate most of the world's flowering plants and one-third of all food crops. Varroa mite is considered one of the greatest threats to Australia's honey and pollination industries, with economic losses estimated to reach up to \$1.25 billion over 30 vears.

Authorities gave up trying to eradicate the mite - which feed on the adult bees and their larvae about 15 months after it first arrived in Australia, instead leaving it to the apiary industry to man-

David said at a cost of \$500 per hive per year it was too expensive to treat varroa and the treatment wasn't a cure.

"Years ago business was booming and now I'm watching it crash," he said.

More threats

David said his bees had been fighting an uphill battle for several years, with weather changes dramatically reducing population numbers.

For example, he said, in 2022 he removed 400 wild bee colonies from local homes, which reduced to 70 in 2023 and then just seven last year.

"Our weather patterns are changing. Everything is warmer, and plants are still flowering but the optimum temperature for nectar production is later.

No nectar means bees don't produce enough honey for us to extract and they don't have enough of their own food stores for

"Gardeners are seeing it too – they're finding it difficult to grow beans, peas, corn, pumpkin and other vegetables and fruit."

David said trees, particularly eucalypts, had been dying off across the island, most recently because the 18-month drought meant deep rooted trees were so dry they were dying.
"I've never seen it this

"Phillip Island is a beautiful place but we're still going through extremes 've not seen before.

"And there seems to be no relief or no way out of it. I can't buy hay, change crops or feed water like other farmers do. I belong to one of two main industries that completely rely on nature, beekeeping and fishing.'

Last week it was announced the Victorian Apiarists Association and the State Government will fund more than \$205,000 to educate and inform beekeepers on the biosecurity risks posed by the mite.



David Severino has run Phillip Island Honey since 2010: "Years ago business was booming and now I'm watching it crash", with threats not only including the impending varroa mite, but also weather changes dramatically reducing population numbers. "I've never seen it this bad."



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Big names backs new documentary

WESTERN PORT

Few family names become part of the common vocabulary of a country.

But for Cape Woolamai's Andrew Furphy, his surname has rich links to both Australian history, language and even beer.

According to Wikipedia, John Furphy and his water cart – first produced in the 1880s – became part of Australian vernacular in World War I when "telling a Furphy" came to mean telling a tall story, a rumour.

But Andrew – a fourth generation Furphy (John is his great grandfather) – says the Furphy name is now helping to protect Western Port Bay.

This year he has been working hard to get support for a new documentary, Western Port Down Under, set to be released in 2026, including fundraising and organising meetings with groups and stakeholders.

Andrew says he first approached documentary maker and marine biologist Sheree Marris about making a film about the bay a few years ago, after he viewed Sheree's documentary about Port Phillip Bay, called Melbourne Down Under.

"Western Port is a magnificent bit of water, even more unique than Port Phillip," says Andrew.

lip," says Andrew.

"I've long enjoyed being on top of the water, seeing the birds, particularly the shearwaters, and of course the penguins, but what's really amazing is what lies beneath, the coral reefs, sponge gardens, the mangroves that act as filters, the seagrass that is a breeding ground, and even the fact elephant sharks breed in the bay."

Andrew says given the increasing development pressure on the bay – such as the proposed wind turbine hub at Hastings – he felt strongly it needed to be preserved for future generations.

"Knowledge is power. It's about informing people to help Western Port in its hour of need."

Andrew has for 45 years been connected to Phillip Island through his Cape Woolamai holiday house, shared with his wife and two children, and grandchildren, but lives full time in Shepparton.

In 2019 he started his own film making company, Bush Lit Productions, with his first production about great grandfather John's brother Joseph, who wrote the well-known Australian book, "Such is Life".

Andrew's more recent film features his granddaughter Harriet helping to explain the larger Furphy story.

This film was produced after Andrew helped research a book on the family history, titled "Furphy: The Water Cart & the Word".



Andrew Furphy – a fourth generation Furphy – says the maker of the famous Furphy Farm Water Cart was John, his great grandfather. In World War I "telling a Furphy" came to mean telling a tall story, a rumour. Now the Furphy name is supporting a new documentary, Western Port Down Under", showcasing what lies beneath our oceans.

History

Andrew says John Furphy was 22 when he began his blacksmith and wheelwright business in 1864, soon after adding Furphy's Foundry, inventing and producing various farm and agricultural implements in Shepparton.

But it was the Furphy Farm Water Cart – a solution for efficiently transporting water – that is part of Australian history.

During World War I the cart was used in Broadmeadows where troops were trained and it was here it became the water cooler or social media platform of its day.

Troops would gather at the back of the Furphy to share information or gossip, and soon after the word entered the broader Australian vernacular.

Andrew ran J Furphy and Sons through his career, retiring 15 years ago when his son Adam took over.

The company still manufactures tanks, albeit stainless steel including tanks for the production of Furphy Beer in Geelong.

And no, the family does not make the beer, but approved the use of their name on the beverage.

Details: westernportdownunder.com.au/ or bushlitproductions.com.au/

An extended version of this story is available in the spring edition of The Island magazine, out now.



Bre (HR) and Gabby (Learning and Development Undergraduate Coordinator) from Bass Coast Health at last week's Jobs Expo in Cowes.



Amanda Keilar at the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op stall said there had been a lot of enquiries about summer positions

Jobs Expo returns to Cowes

EMPLOYMENT

The Bass Coast Jobs and Careers Expo returned to Cowes on September 5, at Berninneit.

The Cowes event followed on from the successful expo held in Wonthaggi on August 7, which saw attendance figures more than double from 2024.

Now in its fourth year, the expos are a vital connection point between local job seekers and employers, providing direct pathways into a wide range of industries, including tourism, healthcare, construction, education, mining, hospitality and conservation.

Exhibitors included local organisations such as Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Health (BCH), as well as government agencies and other service providers.

Amanda Keilar was at the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op stand and said they'd received a lot of enquiries about summer positions, while BCH said there had been a steady stream of visitors to the stand throughout the day.

For Kylie and Melanie from Mecware aged care providers, most of the queries had been about how to access services, highlighting the high demand on aged care providers.

A physical Jobs Board featured current vacancies from local employers, in-



Kylie and Melanie at the Mecware stand at the Cowes Job Expo last week.

cluding those who were not be exhibiting on the day.

The day also included representatives from the Gippsland Skills and Jobs Centre, offering free one-on-one advice to help polish resume and improve interview skills.

The Business Victoria Small Business Bus was on site with information and advice for aspiring entrepreneurs.



The Bass Coast Jobs and Careers Expo returned to Cowes on September 5, at Berninneit.

Curl up this chilly spring with a book.

Spring special, \$80 for two books plus a free Advertiser online subscription (valued at \$70).



Kelp and the Sentient Sea

A new exhibition by local artists Kim McDonald and Jasmine Susic, titled "Kelp and the Sentient Sea" opens at Berninneit Art Gallery on September 13.

Inspired by the extraordinary marine life of the Bass Coast and the Yallock Bulluk Marine Park, the exhibition explores the beauty, power and sentience of the ocean through a collaborative practice spanning printmaking, film, dance and instal-

Both artists are deeply connected to the Bunurong and Gunai Kurnai oceans and coastlines, where they live. Their work creates a sensory experience that heightens awareness of kelp forests and the sea's life force, energy and dynamism.

Jasmine Susic said immersing themselves daily in the local ocean environment inspires their artistic practice.

"In our work, printmaking becomes performance and performance becomes printed marks made on surfaces. Our disciplines cross over, intersect and overlap, not unlike the forces of oceanic environments and their elements.

"The aim for our exhibition is to create an immersive, inclusive sensory space that heightens ocean awareness within the Bass Coast community, by sharing our interpretation of the mystery and wonder of our coexistence with the kelp forests of the Great Southern Reef.'

Jasmine is a Bunurongbased contemporary dancer



Kelp and the Sentient Sea, by local artists Kim McDonald and Jasmine Susic is showing at Berninneit Art Gallery from September 13 to October 26.

who works across improvision, installation, performance and dance theatre. She is currently touring the award-winning Melbourne Fringe Festival show, "Running into the Sun".

Kim McDonald is an interdisciplinary artist who was born in Leongatha. She has studied printmaking, painting and drawing and her work is represented in private and public collections. She is a three-time winner of The Great Southern Portrait Prize and a finalist in The National Monoprint Prize (2021, 2023, 2025).

The exhibition is an intergenerational collaboration, with

Kim and Jasmine being aunty and niece.

There is a special performance and artist talk on Saturday October 25, from 2pm - 4pm.

Exhibition details

"Kelp and the Sentient Sea" -Kim McDonald and Jasmine

Berninneit Art Gallery, September 13 to October 26.

Free entry.

Open Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 5pm. Weekends 10am

www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/live-at-berninneit-



Comedian Dave Thornton's hit standup show comes to Berninneit this Saturday, September 13. Photo: Ian Laidlaw.

Dave Thornton -"Nothing's Unpossible"

COMEDY

Dave Thornton is taking his smash-hit standup show to Berninneit in Cowes on September 13.

"Nothing's Unpossible" is a red-hot hour of inmissable comedy. It's a show asking those midlife-rising-cost-of-living questions like "why am I paying for the stems on the broccoli?"

Come and check out a performer who's spent almost half of his life doing what he loves. With his stand-up clips routinely getting millions of views on-

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UNSCAPE

For many years, the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo's

BBQ trailer has been a fixture at community events, helping us raise

With our BBQ trailer beyond repair, we launched an appeal to replace it

We are especially grateful to Sunscape Solar, Bendigo Bank, Priceline Pharmacy, Alex Scott & Staff, Klepner's Fine Antique Jewellery Melbourne, Phillip Island Winery and The Advertiser, for their

Their support means we will soon be able to secure a new BBQ trailer,

line, there will be some bangers in this show. If it's an hour of laughs you're after, this is where you'll get them.

As seen on The Project, Sam Pang Tonight, The Big Trip, The Cheap Seats, The Back Page or really stretching his acting chops as Troy in Upper Middle Bogan.

Book now to avoid missing out. Berninneit, September 13 at

Tickets at www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/live-at-berninneit-cowes

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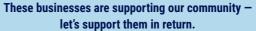
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Located in the heart of Cowes, Phillip Island, The Yurt Experience is a stunning 9-metre Traditional Mongolian Yurt – a unique and inspiring space for community connection. Available for hire by facilitators, teachers, and event hosts offering workshops, gatherings, and experiences that uplift and expand the Phillip Island community.

Enquire now to book your date









A Special Thank You to Our Donors









CONTACT US

PICES group exhibition PIMHAG continues its at Leeson Street

For the third consecutive year, Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space Inc (PICES) is presenting its exciting September Members' Group Exhibition at Leeson Street Gallery, Cowes in collaboration with gallery owner Peter Walker.

This is a unique opportunity to see a thrilling array of artwork and to purchase that special piece of art from a local not-forprofit community group whose aim is to support artists and bring contemporary art to Bass Coast and beyond.

Whether you are looking for a colourful painting, a limited-edition print, or a ceramic piece, this is an opportunity not to be missed. First in, first served.

You will also have the thrill of voting for your favourite exhibit in the People's Choice Award. The winner will be drawn at close of the exhibition and the lucky artist will receive a \$200 voucher from Senior Art Supplies

There is a special exhibition opening on Sunday September 14 from 2pm

The exhibition runs until September 28.



This monoprint with hand retouching - "Woman with Butterfly" - by Peter Walker, is part of the PICES September Members Exhibition at Leeson Street Gallery from September 14 - 28.

Open six days a week from 11am to 3pm (closed Tuesdays).

Leeson Street Gallery is an inviting, purpose-built art gallery with a growing

reputation. It is situated at 38 Leeson Street, Cowes.

See you there at the PIC-ES 2025 September Members' Group Exhibition. /Sponsored article/

mental health advocacy

HEALTH

Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG) is offering a special mental health first aid course next month.

The two-day course on October 8 and 9, at the Phillip Island RSL has been subsidised by a grant, reducing the cost to \$30 per person.

Participation is limited to 24 persons and applicants must be able to complete the two full days on October 8 and 9, for certification.

Peter Paul, President, and Jenny Lonergan, Acting Secretary, said they are excited that PIMHAG was able to present the Standard Mental First Aid course (MHFA).

"The course is being presented in conjunction with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), and Latrobe Regional Health," Peter said.

"This course is for adults to assist adults, and follows our very successful Mental Health forums in September 2024 and February 2025.

"Normally the (MHFA) course would cost \$80 for community groups, but with our successful grant



PIMHAG received a grant of \$4900 from FRRR for a Mental Health First Aid course on October 8 and 9.

of \$4900 from FRRR, the the course." cost has been reduced to

"We are very appreciative of the Phillip Island RSL providing their facilities in order to undertake

Please use the QR code to register.

For further information, contact Jenny Lonergan on jenny.lonergan@

INVITATION

PICES SEPTEMBER GROUP SHOW

You and friends are warmly invited to join us for the opening of the 3rd PICES September Group Show!

Opening: Sunday 14th September 2-4pm.

Closes: Sunday 28th September at 3pm. Open: 11am to 3pm daily (closed Tuesdays)

At Leeson Street Gallery, 38 Leeson Street, Cowes, Phillip Island. M.O4OO 864 325

Do join us for drinks and nibbles!



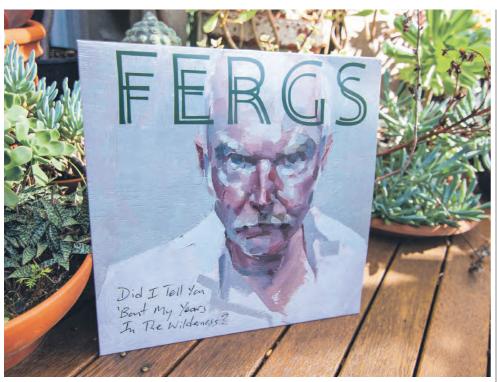
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FERGS (aka Chris Ferguson), formerly of Melbourne indie-blues-rock greats Mississippi Barry is showcasing his new solo project "Did I Tell You 'Bout My Years in the Wilderness?" at the Archies Creek Hotel on Sunday September 14, from 2pm.

Special launch for local muso

On Sunday September 14, FERGS (aka Chris Ferguson), formerly of Melbourne indie-blues-rock greats Mississippi Barry and The Fergs, will be showcasing his new solo project "Did I Tell You 'Bout My Years in the Wilderness?" at the Archies Creek Hotel.

The album was painstakingly recorded over 25 years in his beachside studio - while battling the challenges of Parkinson's Disease. The songs tackle the universal and the very personal, reflecting upon memories of his youth and the challenges of now.

Chris rose to prominence in the late 1990s Melbourne music scene as the driving force behind the musical expeditionary force that was Mississippi Barry. The Barries, as they were affectionately known, released a slew of great albums and became a staple of a diverse pub rock circuit.

Join Chris for the afternoon to celebrate this musical achievement, with an all-star band of musicians paying homage to his wonderful songs, both new and old. Show starts at 2pm, and children under 12 are free.

Tickets \$15 at www.trybooking.com/ events/landing/1433996 or visit www.archiescreekhotel.com.au/

First love by the beach

A novel about first love set in a beachside resort. in part inspired by Phillip Island, is released on September 16.

"Summer, in Between" centres on 17-year-old Cat Kelty, and her last summer before Year 12, as she tries to figure out her future.

Author Holly Cardamone grew up on a farm outside Wonthaggi and attended Newhaven College's old Boys Home Road campus, and the beachside setting came naturally to her.

"I've spent every summer at the island and at Cape Paterson my entire

life," she said.
"I actually wrote three drafts of this novel on writers retreats on the island to immerse myself in the setting of a small town by the beach that's a hot spot for tourists."

In the novel, Cat should be spending her summer buried in books, prepping for the future she's determined to claim.

Instead, she's trapped in a house with rowdy brothers, mortifyingly affectionate parents, and a cantankerous Nonna. Then, to make things worse, Paul GD Lightwood - a walking surfer god, king of the Neander-



Author Holly Cardamone grew up on a farm outside Wonthaggi and attended Newhaven College. Her book "Summer, in Between" is out September 16.

thals, all abs and an infuriatingly disarming smile - shows up to work for her

Cat's plan is simple: escape this testosterone-fuelled town and never look back. But life - and Paul have other ideas.

"Summer, in Between" explores the tender moments of adolescence and the teenage angst between girlhood and woman-hood, while deftly exploring deeper themes of identity, cultural heritage, and anticipation for the future.

Holly Cardamone won the 2024 Hawkeye Publishing Manuscript Development Prize. She was a finalist in the 2025 Romance Writers of Australia Opal Award for an unpublished manuscript, the 2024 Romance Writers of Australia Sweet Treats Anthology and longlisted in the 2023 Furphy Award. She now lives and writes in Melbourne.







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Middle School students, Eden Miller, Miranda Howlett, Georgie Callis and Ruby Mowlam got into the spirit of the Colour Explosion Run at Newhaven College.

olour Explosion Run fun

EDUCATION

Newhaven College's Parent and Friends Association (PFA) organised its annual Colour Explosion Run. for Junior and Middle School students last

Students ran through an obstacle course while parent and student volunteers ensured they exploded with colour. A group of Junior School teachers and support staff also dressed up in crazy blowup costumes.



Junior and Middle School teachers and staff got into the spirit of the Newhaven College's PFA Colour Explosion Run, creating many laughs for the students. More photos at pisra.com.au/education

Angel Chambers, was thrilled with the enthu-President of the PFA, siasm shown by all who

participated and is proud of the PFA fundraising ef-

Wind hub EES open for feedback

ENERGY

Further community consultation on State Government approvals for Western Port's proposed wind turbine hub is currently open.

At the end of last year, the first round of public consultation was held on the state's Environmental Effects Statement (EES) for the Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal (VRET).

Last week the Department of Transport and Planning released updated draft EES scoping requirements - which consider initial feedback - for a second round of public comment, open until September 24.

All comments received will be considered by Victoria's Planning Minister for the finalisation of the EES scoping requirements, which will determine what will be investigated by the

Port of Hastings as part of the EES.

In a separate process, last month the Federal Environment Minister declared the VRET a "controlled action" as part of the Commonwealth's EPBC Act referral, indicating nationally significant environmental impacts were considered likely.

The Port of Hastings is hosting a community information session on French Island for residents on September 20, midday to 2pm at the community hall.

The Port of Hastings is seeking approvals on behalf of the State Government for a revised VRET, after the former Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek last year knocked back the original plan because of national environmental concerns.

If approved, dredging

in the bay will take place for about five months 24/7, with dredged material taken to a land reclamation site, with potential for further dredging for the berth pocket and quay wall.

There would be an extra 130 ships per year, with VRET construction starting in 2027, operational by the end of the decade, with a 50year design life and unlikely to be decommissioned.

Under the proposal, wind turbine components manufactured overseas would be brought to the VRET for assembly, before being shipped out to Bass Strait for construction.

Details: www.planning. vic.gov.au/environmentalassessments/browse-projects/referrals/victorian-renewable-energy-terminal;

renewableenergyterminal.com.au/planning/commonwealth-epbc-referral



Play Music on the Porch on August 30, turned into play music inside day at Berninneit. About 18 musicians took over the great hall, watched on by an audience of around 25 people who braved the winter weather. The day, which started in the USA, encourages everyone to go outside and play music as an antidote to the current state of the world, and is now celebrated by musicians in over 70 countries. The Cowes day was led by the Bass Coast Pickers and the Phillip Island Ukulele Group, and also featured short sessions by local musicians Travis Thompson and Tim O'Brien.

Aldred calls for NDIS regional travel cuts to stop

COMMUNITY

Federal Member Monash Mary Aldred has called on the Federal Government to pause its cuts to National Disability Insurance Scheme providers in regional areas, saying it is disadvantaging people living with a disability.

Ms Aldred said after meeting with a number of NDIS providers, allied health professionals and plan managers from South Gippsland, Bass Coast, West Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley, she wrote to the Prime Minister and NDIS Minister in July, asking them to pause the cuts.

"These changes have reduced physiotherapy funding by \$10 per hour and halved travel funding for allied health professionals," Ms Aldred said.

"For regional communities like Monash, these cuts threaten the sustainability of specialist support services for people who need them most.

"I want to thank people living with a disability in Monash who have met with me to discuss how these changes will impact them, along with local providers, allied health professionals and plan that he is in pain. managers." "His speech the

Ms Aldred said she wrote to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Disability and the NDIS on July 8, "outlining how these changes will hurt regional Australians living with a disability and those who support them".

"There has been 'crickets' from the government on this, despite the coalition very reasonably asking for a modest three-month pause on the implementation of these changes, which were due to come into effect from the start of the financial year, to be able to properly account for their impact,' said Ms Aldred.

During her speech in Parliament on the issue, she said these are not "hypothetical case studies and numbers on a spreadsheet; the consequences of these changes are to real people".

"Among the stories that have most impacted my view on this issue are those of the teenage girl from the Latrobe Valley receiving weekly physiotherapy, without which she would return to being confined in a wheelchair, and the non-verbal child who cannot communicate

"His speech therapy is the key that makes the difference every week. The reduction in travel funding poses a significant risk to the provision of necessary and ongoing care for people living with a disability in regional communities. It limits the ability of therapists to reach participants, thereby reducing access to vital services.

Ms Aldred said she supported "meaningful and practical efforts to ensure the NDIS is run efficiently", but disproportionately impacting regional communities is not the way to achieve this.

"Many of these providers are small businesses; they are not huge corporations and simply cannot absorb the cuts. They will close their doors or not travel to towns where their services are needed the most. In regional Australia, we lack the market density of city and metropolitan areas.

'This extends to services like the National Disability Insurance Scheme. I will continue to advocate for my community on this issue in the strongest terms possible because they deserve better."



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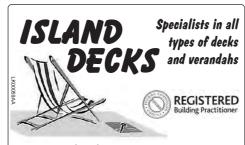
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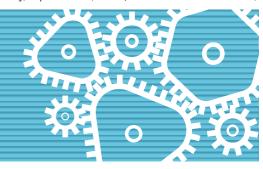
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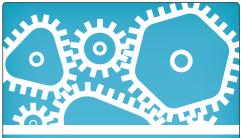
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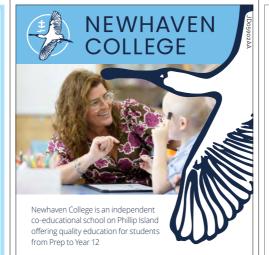
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POSITION VACANT:

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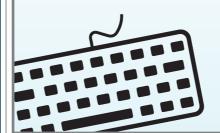
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

The real cost

The average price quoted by council for special charge schemes (SCS) on The Esplanade in Surf Beach/Sunderland Bay is around \$25,000. At the August meeting council was asked how much interest a ratepayer would repay on a \$25,000 hardship loan over 20 years. CEO Box responded, "A \$25,000 hardship plan repaid via monthly instalments over 20-years, with an effective interest rate of 5.605 per cent would equate to a repayment of approximately \$16,630 interest."

Therefore, the cost to such a ratepayer for the SCS would be \$41,630.

Adding 10 per cent, which council is allowed to do to the initial cost, the repayment total rises to \$45,793. Thus, a proposed charge of \$25,000 can ultimately cost the ratepayer almost \$46,000 – nearly double the initial cost.

Breaking this down further: \$46,000 over 20 years = \$2300 per year (almost twice the cost of yearly rates). \$2300 per year = \$190 per month/\$44 per week, for 20 years.

A recent report by The Australian Institute identified currently "the rate of poverty in retirement in Australia is 22.6 per cent – more than one in five."

One of the major concerns the "Say No" group always expressed is the financial impact any SCS would have on many pensioners and fixed-income ratepayers. We encountered many highly anxious ratepayers, experiencing sleepless nights due to the fear of being forced to pay for a SCS they neither wanted nor could afford.

This situation has not changed. Council's proposed "solution" provides no comfort or peace of mind, only ongoing fear and uncertainty. None of council's touted "community benefits" of SCS's are more

important to them.

It's time council stepped up to really "care" for this group.

Perhaps a means test could be applied. Council could realistically assess what each of these ratepayers can genuinely afford, rather than having an unreasonable burden forced upon them by a minority of ratepayers, who simply want what they want, regardless of the cost or impact on other community members who already struggle on a daily basis just to get by.

Ross Bencraft, Surf Beach

Dementia support

Dementia doesn't just impact the person living with the condition and their immediate carers; it also impacts their family, friends and wider social network.

With an estimated 433,300 Australians living with dementia and 1.7 million people involved in their care, chances are you know someone who is impacted by dementia.

People living with dementia tell us that friends and family often drop away, not knowing how to interact with them once they have a diagnosis.

That's why this Dementia Action Week (September 15-21) we are challenging everyone in the community to reach out and reconnect to someone impacted by dementia because nobody can do it alone.

For some practical ideas about how to reconnect, visit dementia.org.au/dementiaactionweek

For support any time, please contact the National Dementia Helpline on 1800 100 500, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Merran Kelsall AO, Chair Dementia australia

Ann Pietsch, Chair Dementia Australia Advisory Committee



SHORT STACK

A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Gippsland Primary Health Awards

Nominations for the 2025 Gippsland Primary Health Awards are open, celebrating the outstanding work of primary health organisations and teams making a real difference to health outcomes across Gippsland.

There are four categories in this year's award categories covering innovation, quality, culture and partnerships.

The Gippsland Primary Health Awards will be held in conjunction with the Gippsland PHN Annual General Meeting on November 19 at Federation University, Churchill.

Nominations close September 23, with final-

ists announced mid-October.

For details and to enter: gphn.org.au/2025-gippsland-primary-health-awards/

Federal election survey

The community has been asked to provide feedback as part of a review of the last federal election. Mr Jerome Laxale MP, Committee Chair, has said matters widely reported during the 2025 election raise serious questions about safety, security and voter experience. "Voters, volunteers and officials should never feel intimidated, harassed or have such an experience that they are discouraged from participating at future elections." The full terms of reference for the inquiry and areavailable on the inquiry webpage: www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Electoral_ Matters/2025federalelection Submissions addressing any or all of the terms of reference are now invited, prior to the Committee commencing public hearings in mid-October.

Bee part of school art competition

Students are invited to enter the Schools Pollinator Art Competition run by the Wheen Bee Foundation.

The primary and secondary school winners will each receive an individual Bees Are Amazing gift hamper and certificate valued at more than \$100, along with a \$500 voucher to The Centre for Bee Education for a teacher of their choice.

The Schools Pollinator Art Competition runs in the lead-up to Australian Pollinator Week November 8 – 16. Entries close October 26 at 5pm AEDT.

www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/our-work/ events/apw-pollinator-schools-art-competi-

Support for women in local government

The State Government has announced new funding for the Australian Local Government Women's Association Victoria to deliver programs that will help women councillors grow the professional skills and networks they need to thrive in the local government sector. A \$20,000 contribution will make possible a mentoring program connecting 20 women councillors with experienced mentors offering career guidance and support. Applicants who sit as the only woman on council in several municipalities across Victoria will be prioritised for inclusion in the program. The government has also established the Mary Rogers Achievement Award, to celebrate women councillors working to

advance gender equality in the local govern-

ment sector. www.algwa.com.au/

Casey Stoner coming home to the island

MOTORSPORT

Two-time MotoGP™ World Champion and Australian motorsport legend Casey Stoner will make a highly anticipated return to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit this October with a series of special on-track appearances celebrating his remarkable legacy.

Marking the start of his return to the iconic circuit, Stoner will lead the Homecoming Ride on Thursday October 16 alongside hundreds of fans, making their way across the San Remo Bridge to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit. Once there, the convoy will complete two laps of the very track that witnessed so much of Stoner's success, creating a truly unique experience for devoted fans.

The newly inducted Hall of Fame Legend will also return to the track on a race bike in front of fans for the first time since his farewell victory thirteen years ago, making special on-track appearances across both Saturday and Sunday of this year's Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix a homecoming not to be missed.

"Phillip Island has given me some of my greatest career moments, so to return by leading



Two-time MotoGP™ World Champion and Australian motorsport legend Casey Stoner returns to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit this October, including leading the Homecoming Ride on October 16.

the Homecoming Ride and be recognised with a Lap of Honour is very special," said Stoner.

"It's a great chance to celebrate and thank the fans whose passion, energy, and loyalty throughout my career is something I'll always cherish.'

Between 2007 and 2012, Stoner dominated at his home circuit with six consecutive premier class victories, including a fairytale farewell performance in 2012 before retiring from the sport.

In the same year, his legacy

at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit was formalised at Turn 3 – a high-speed, breathtakingly fast, left-handed turn officially named in Stoner's honour and etched into the circuit's history.

Registrations for the Homecoming Ride Presented by Spokes opened on September 4 at motogp.com.au/event/homecomingride. Limited spots are available.

Tickets for the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix 2025 are available at motogp.com.au/tick-



ASBK Championship leader #1 Josh Walters slips under #3 Cameron Dunker at Miller Corner during Superbike practice. Photo: IanR Photography.

Waters extends lead after Phillip Island round

Veterans Josh Waters and Anthony West were the stars of a challenging round six of the 2025 mi-bike Motorcycle Insurance Australian Superbike Championship presented by Motul (ASBK) at Phillip Island on September 7.

Waters (McMartin Racing Ducati) and West (Addicted to Track Yamaha) shared victories in the two 11-lap races, the first one held on a wet circuit before conditions cleared in the afternoon as West broke through for his first win in the SW-Motech Superbike class - one day after

also setting his maiden pole position.

Broc Pearson (DesmoSport Ducati) was also mightily impressive at Phillip Island, with his 2-3 scorecard securing third

With Waters' main championship rival Mike Jones (Yamaha Racing Team) unable to produce his normal front-running deeds, Waters has now extended his lead in the championship to 69pts (306 to 237) with two rounds remaining. West (234pts) is circling in third position ahead of round seven at One Raceway in Goulburn from October 3-5.

Details: asbk.com.au

Phillip Island is the place to be

Phillip Island is revving up for an action-packed month of October, packed with marquee events across Bass Coast, including the Rip Curl GromSearch Phillip Island, the Australian SUP Titles, and the headlining MotoGP™ from October 17 to 19 at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.
The MotoGP™ Australian

Motorcycle Grand Prix 2025 will once again bring tens of thousands of fans to the island for three days of racing, live music and entertainment. Highlights include the local favourite Community Day, where Bass Coast residents can enjoy free entry, and the Cowes Entertainment Precinct, transforming Thompson Avenue into a hub of music and fun. Plus, there are free tickets up for grabs!

As the biggest sporting event in regional Victoria, the MotoGP™ is expected to attract up to 100,000 attendees over the

"Phillip Island is the place to Community in October and the is the headline event of Bass Coast Shire Council's events program," said Bass Coast Mavor, Cr Rochelle Halstead.

"The event injects millions into our economy, supports local jobs and hospitality, and showcases Phillip Island on the international stage.

"Phillip Island has proudly hosted the Australian MotoGP for nearly 30 years at the Grand Prix Circuit, and the celebrations spill into Cowes with our family-friendly street party. Last year, the Cowes MotoGP Entertainment Precinct drew over 6000 people and this year we're ready to make it even bigger.

"And with the \$8 million Fed-



The Cowes MotoGP Entertainment Precinct is back in October. Council is offering the chance to win tickets to this year's MotoGP, with details on their website.

eral Government investment into the upcoming Cowes Foreshore Precinct works, Phillip Island is being firmly placed on the map as a destination where world-class events meet world-class spaces."

A community day will again be held on Friday October 17, which provides free general admission tickets for Bass Coast residents. To receive a complimentary ticket, just present your proof of residency at any gate on the day or avoid the queues by collecting your tickets in advance from Gate 1 on Thursday October 16.

Thompson Avenue in Cowes will remain the entertainment hub and will be filled with live music and entertainment with the BMW Superscreen showing race footage, rider interviews and movies throughout the weekend to keep the party going. Highlights include performances from Nashville's World on Tour, Rehash Cover Band,

and Oz Rock Express.

Road closures will be in effect from Thursday October 16, at 7am to Monday October 20, at Midday, with Thompson Avenue closed from Chapel Street to The Esplanade and The Esplanade closed from Warley Avenue to

Only motorcycle parking will be available along Thompson Avenue, creating a family-friendly MotoGP™ experience in Cowes.

Bass Coast Shire Council has tickets to give away to this year's event. Simply subscribe to Council's email newsletter, Coastell, for your chance to win one of:

- 4 x double general admission tickets for Sunday only
- 6 x double general admission tickets for all three days

Winners will be announced in the September issue of Coastell on Thursday September 25.

For more information on road closures or to enter the draw for free tickets, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/motogp



A million to one wildlife encounter for Max Stauffer on his Yamaha YZF-R1 at the Hayshed. Photo: IanR Photography. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Kingfish bag limit survey

FISHERIES

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) have proposed to reduce the daily bag limit for Kingfish from five to two.

kingfish are considered royalty by saltwater fishers right along the coast, from Mallacoota in the east to Portland in the west, including southern Port Phillip and Western Port.

"Recreational anglers are telling us that the current limit of five kingfish per person per day is too high and that two kingfish is a more reasonable day's take that will better share the stock amongst more anglers across the summer season." Mr Dowling said.

He said the VFA had listened to feedback from anglers and now wanted to consult them about the bag limit change.

"In recent years, kingfish averaging five-10kg have been caught

in Victorian waters such as Mallacoota, Marlo, Port Welshpool, Port Fairy, Portland, inside Western Port, and around the entrance to Port Phillip known as the rip," Mr Dowling said.

"They are a fast-growing cies, capable of reaching Victoria's minimum size of 60cm in two to three years, depending on marine ecosystem productivity and baitfish populations."

Mr Dowling said the proposed change would leave more kingfish in the water to be shared amongst experts and beginners and encourage responsible fishing practices that balance taking home a meal of fresh fish with continued improvements in local stock levels.

For more information visit www.vfa.vic.gov.au/kingfishbag

Recreational anglers are encouraged to provide their feedback to taylor.hunt@vfa.vic.gov. au by October 1.





SGB heads to State Age Championships

SWIMMING

The weekend ahead is a busy one for the 33 South Gippsland Bass Swimmers competing at the State Age Short Course Championships. The swimmers will be racing in distances from 50m to 400m in all four strokes, with a number of the swimmers tipped to do well in the morning heats and make the finals held in the evening.

The swimmers compete against other swimmers their age, who have swum the qualifying times. Coach Dylan is looking forward to seeing how they go.

"This event is the end of the short course

season for most of the swimmers and it is a bit of celebration of how they have gone over the season.

"We have a lot of swimmers here for the first time, who have come up from the ranks of junior swimmers to finally compete at their first States, which is always exciting."

Several swimmers are also hoping to get qualifying times for the upcoming National Open Championships in Melbourne in October. The event will be live streamed on Kayo and the Swimming Victoria You tube channel, meaning families and friends at home attending other sporting finals can watch on.



Phillip Island will host Round 3 of the Australian Boardriders Battle (ABB) on October 5. Joe Van Dijk in action during a previous ABB event.

Boardriders Battle is back

The Australian Boardriders Battle (ABB), is back for its 13th edition, including Round 3 on Phillip Island on October 5.

This year's ABB Regional Series/Regional Qualifier events will run across every state, starting at Trigg Point, WA, this September with the Victorian round held on Phillip Island.

Phillip Island Boardriders Club will be looking to improve on last year's results, which saw it place fourth, with Peninsula SRC taking out the top Victorian spot.

During the qualifying rounds teams

Boardriders Battle (ABB) Grand Final at the Gold Coast in March 2026.

The series' unique tag-team relay format sees club teams of five-comprising Open Men, Open Women, Junior, Masters, and a Power Surfer—race the clock, with each surfer catching their scoring waves before sprinting up the beach to tag the next teammate.

Strategy, endurance, and surf skill combine to create some of the most intense and dramatic heats in competitive surfing.

Full schedule, dates and further info: www.australianboardridersbattle.com

Midweek heads to Corinella

BOWLS

Midweek bowlers arrived at Corinella to once again fight it out for team of the week. The team was welcomed to the club by Bev and John, while Vern arranged the teams for the day. Really good to see new players turn up and look forward to seeing a lot more of them in the future

After teams were finalised and made it to the green the bowlers were welcomed, in no uncertain terms, by dropping temperatures and quite heavy

Shortly after the rain began to fall.

Therefore, the morning became a bit of a competition to not only beat your opposition, but also to try and keep reasonably dry.

However, wet or dry everyone still had great fun playing against their friends.

After a while it became evident the rain was creating havoc with the timetable, so the first game was shortened by two ends.

After lunch the rain continued but luckily only lasted a few minutes; we therefore managed to complete the afternoons play without reducing the number of ends.

Rain and bitterly cold wind aside, the day was still a lot of fun with a lot of laughter on all the

A few wrong bias bowls today.

Thanks to these charitable members for consideration towards the RCH. As always, unfortu-

nately, all players cannot be winners for the day.

Winners on a score of



Winners of Midweek bowls played at Corinella were Peter Taylor (L), Michael Dady (S) and Laurie Bell (3).



Sherriff (S) were the runners up at Midweek bowls.

34 were: Peter Taylor (L), Michael Dady (S) and Laurie Bell (3).

Runners up on a score of 32 were: David Prosser (L), Ann Graham (2), Barbara Oates (3) and Bill Sherriff (S).

Best One Game winners for the day with a score of 19 were: Max Summers (S), Gwen Jeffery (3) and Tony Heppleston (L).

A big thanks to Terry behind the bar, as well as Gwen in the kitchen, ably assisted by Barbara.

Also, a big call out to Phil who always puts in so much time and effort when the team is at Corinella.

Midweek bowlers could not continue without these volunteers each and every week.

This week we will be meeting at San Remo. Please be on site by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams

Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching capacity there will be a strict 10am cut off time.



MOUNT BIKING

Newhaven College Mountain Bike Academy riders wrapped up the 2025 Aus-Cycling Schools Mountain Bike Series in style last weekend, with a double header of racing in Castlemaine and Bendigo.

More than 16 students from Years 1 to 10 made the journey, facing vastly different conditions across the two rounds.

Saturday at Castlemaine delivered sunshine and heat, while Sunday in Bendigo brought persistent rain and thick mud that tested both skill and stamina.

Despite the challenges, Newhaven College again proved its strength, topping the overall leaderboard to finish first in the Aus-Cycling series.

The result is especially impressive given the Bass Coast's lack of local mountain biking facilities, highlighting the dedication of families who travel across the state to support their

Among many podium finishes across the season,



Congratulations to Newhaven College Mountain Bike Academy riders who secured overall series division titles: Evelyn McCabe 3rd, Lucy Thompson 1st and Austin Mitchell 3rd.

standout results came from the following riders who secured overall series division titles:

- Lucy Thompson: 1st place overall (third year running).
- Austin Mitchell: 3rd place overall.
- Evelyn McCabe: 3rd place

overall.

 Sophia Hardy: 3rd place overall.

The strong results once again showcase the depth of talent within Newhaven College's program and the commitment of students, parents and coaches to the

Competition update

TENPIN

2s Company: 1st place Him and Her on 15pts, 2nd place King Pins on 14pts and 3rd place Jail on 13pts.

ABL: 1st place Just Bowl Already on 92pts, 2nd place Fairlanes on 82.5pts and 3rd place The Fireballs on 81pts.

Business Early: 1st Place Turkey Slappers on 13.5pts, 2nd Place Balls Deep on 12pts. 3rd place Wooly Rollers on 12pts and 4th Place Happy Hour on 11.5pts.

Business Late: 1st place S and R Clarke Auto on 15.5pts, 2nd Place Balls of Fury on 15pts, 3rd Place City Lights on 12pts and 4th Place the Ex-Men on 11.pts.

Phantom: 1st Place Herdy Gerdy on 102 pts, 2nd Place Spin King on 101pts and 3rd place Noddy on 97pts.

Top scores for this week across each league.

Men: 218 Jack Ross, 212 Geoff Watson and 204 Raff Merante.

Women: 181 Valma Peterson, 159 Tricia Neissink and 157 Mary Dardha.



Congratulations to the U18 Girls Volleyball team for bringing home gold at the recent Mornington Junior Tournament. From left, back row: Tamara Miller (coach), Eevee Dennehy, Tara Moodie, Natalie Churchill (Captain), Amelia Hams, Georgia Mills (Vice Captain) and Georgia Scarce. Front row: Jessica Churchill, Chloe Ringer and Yasmin Gloria.

South Gippsland juniors shine at Mornington tournament

VOLLEYBALL

South Gippsland Volleyball Club proudly entered both an Under 18 Boys and an Under 18 Girls team into the hotly contested Mornington Junior Tournament. held across Somerville Recreation Centre and Jubilee Park Stadium, Frankston.

Girls strike gold

The U18 Girls hit the courts with energy and purpose.

Experienced locals and Newhaven College representatives Georgia Mills (Vice Captain) and setter, Yasmin Gloria led the charge in their opening match against the Victorian State U14 team.

It was a thriller. After dropping the first set, they fought back to win the next two, only to fall agonisingly short in a nail-biting finish (1:2, 50-48).

Undeterred, the girls went on to topple Heidelberg (2:1, 51-39), overcame VIP (2:1, 52-43), and dominated the Mornington U18 Division 2 side (2:1, 57–30).

It was also a first tournament outing for Bass local Chloe Ringer, who added great energy to the team as Libero.

After a quick 15-minute refuel and pep talk from Coach Tamara Miller, the girls returned to face Heidelberg again in the

Backed by cheers, airhorns, and the unwavering support of parents and guardians, the team played like a welloiled machine.

With powerful serves, sharp passing and relentless defence, they claimed a fabulous Gold Medal (2:0, 50-40).

Captain Natalie Churchill capped off the day by being named MVP for the Division 2 U18 Girls, a fitting tribute to her leadership and performance.

Boys bring home silver

The U18 Boys, captained by Bass local Christian Ringer, together with Phillip Island local Ethan Findlay, showed grit and determination across four hard-fought matches at Jubilee Park Stadium.

Facing Mornington White twice, they secured a win in the opener before dropping the return match.

Against a powerful Tempo Volley lineup, they fell short in both encounters, but not without moments of brilliance, even catching their more experienced oppo-



U18 Boys volleyball team took away a well-earned silver medal. Back (from left): Christian Ringer, James Parkes, Ethan Findlay, Matthew Churchill and Noah Rodriguez. Front: Jaedon Kindom, Andre Gutierrez, Edward Hams and Mark de Guzman (coach).

nents off-guard.

Crucially, the boys won a must-have set against Tempo Volley to qualify for the Grand Final.

Despite going down 2-0 in the decider, they walked away with a well-earned Silver Medal and a huge sense of achievement

Of the eight players, six were competing in their very first tournament, with Jaedon Kingdom (just 13) and Matthew Churchill (recently turned 14) being the youngest competitors.

Their height, courage and enthusiasm had supporters cheering, with the team's new catchphrase quickly becoming: "Height is Might!"

With medals proudly around their necks, our junior boys and girls now turn their focus to the Junior Country Championships in Horsham over the September long weekend.

The future looks bright for South Gippsland Volleyball and these results are a proud testament to the skill, teamwork and fighting spirit of our juniors, the dedication of our coaching team, and the unwavering support of parents and guardians alike.

Congratulations to both teams.

On the green

GOLF

Tuesday, September 2 Men's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: John Gains (26) 41. A Grade winner: A-1 Paul Prendergast

A-2 winner: Steven Sloss (11) 36. B Grade winners: B-1 Brenton O'Brien Saturday, September 6

B-2 winners: Fred Panozzo (17) 38. C Grade winners: C-1 John Gains (26) 41. C-2 winner: Bez Moustafa (22) 39 C/B.

BDL to 35 C/B. NTP: 5th and 10th Steven Sloss, 7th Daniel McConnon, 17th Garry Thompson.

Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Vic Mitchell (26) 24 pts from Graham Robinson (21) 21 pts C/B. BDL to 17 pts C/B.

Wednesday, September 3

Women's 18H Comp Monthly Medal

Overall winner: Liz O'Neil (29) 72. A Grade winner: A-1 Cheryl White (18) 73. B Grade winner: B-1 Liz O'Neil (29) 72. BDL to 78 pts.

NTP: 5th Vicki Ramage, 7th Emma Hall, 10th Adrianne Anglin, 17th Michelle Par-

Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Lynore Mercer (31) 21 pts from Roz Morris (44) 17 pts. BDL to 15 pts C/B.

Thursday, September 4

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: John Savas (25) 39 pts

A Grade winner: A-1 Mark White (12) 36

A-2 winner: Mark Dykes (10) 34 pts C/B. B Grade winner: B-1 John Kneebone (18) 39 pts C/B.

B-2 winner: Rob Haydon (15) 39 pts. C Grade winner: C-1 John Savas (25) 39

C-2 winner: Gerald Taylor (22) 37 pts.

BDL to 33 pts C/B. NTP: 5th Mario Amato, 7th Mark Reid,

10th Rowan Wales. Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Basil Moloney (15) 20 pts from David Gladman (16) 19 pts C/B. BDL to 17 pts C/B.

Stoke 18H Monthly Medal

Overall winner: Scott Fullarton (2) 69 C/B. A Grade winner: A-1 Scott Fullarton (2) 69 C/B.

A-2 winner: Owen Jolly (8) 70.

B Grade winners: B-1 Max Mattock (18)

B-2 winner: Michael Coghlan (18) 71.

C Grade winner: C-1 Stewart Hamilton (22) 70.

C-2 John Gill (36) 71.

BDL to 76 C/B.

NTP: 5th Scott Lethbridge, 7th John Shaw and 10th Ron Young

Great score: Scott Fulllarton eagle Hole 18, Jack Ross Eagle Hole 18, Jack Smith Eagle Hole 18

Women's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Karen Green (34) 36 pts. A Grade winner: A-1 Karen Green (34) 36

A Grade winner A-2 Jeanett Diss (22) 35 pts C/B.

BDL to 29 pts C/B.

NTP 5th and 7th Karen Green, 10th Stacey Meder, 18th Cheryl White.

Open 9H Comp

Overall, Winner: Robert Pascoe (20) 20 pts from John Monk (24) 16 pts. BDL to 13 pts.

Sunday, September 7

18H Stableford

Overall winner: Edgar Gottschalk (17) 32

Red Rocks news

GOLF

Saturday, September 6 Stroke, Monthly Medal

Winner: Anthony Fradkin (17) 53 nett. Second Place: Alan Smith (14) 55 nett. Third Place: Terry Fox (14) 60 nett. NTP: Hole 5 David Pearce. Hole 10 Terry

Putting Comp: Anthony Fradkin 30 putts.

Sunday, September 7 2 Person Ambrose

Winners: Alan Smith and Kathryn Reese

NTP: Hole 9 Rob Stead.

Blitz golf at Red Rocks

Since hosting the Blitz Golf event last December, Red Rocks Golf club kept the excitement alive by maintaining the Stadium Hole and launching a Hole-in-One Competition for all customers.

The challenge kicked off with Red Rocks offering a \$100 cash prize.

Players paid \$2 per shot or \$10 for six, and the jackpot steadily grew.

After an incredible 2888 shots, James Mathias finally landed the winning shot, walking away with a jackpot of \$4914.

Thanks to the success of the competition, Red Rocks brought it back. The rules remain the same - \$2 per shot or \$10 for six - and the Jackpot has already climbed to \$380. And now for the big news: the next Blitz Golf event at Red Rocks golf club has been locked in for January 17, 2026.



After an incredible 2888 shots, James Mathias finally landed the winning shot at Red Recks Golf club, walking away with a Jackpot of \$4,914.

Last year's event was a huge success, and with advertising starting soon, the club expects tickets to sell quickly.

Mark the date in your calendars and secure your spot early, you won't want to miss it.

If last year is anything to go by, this will be another unforgettable day of fun, competition and community spirit.

PICKLE BALL ON THE ISLAND

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30-11.30am. We encourage new players, they are welcome to come for 2 "come and try" sessions.

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

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

Enquires rhylltennisclub@gmail.com

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

WED 10 SEP		THU 11 SEP		FRI 12 SEP		SAT 13 SEP		O SUN 14 SEP		MON 15 SEP		TUE 16 SEP	
HIGH	2:11 am 2.79 m	HIGH	3:07 am 2.96 m	HIGH	3:59 am 3.08 m	HIGH	4:48 am 3.13 m	HIGH	5:36 am 3.11 m	HIGH	6:24 am 3.03 m	LOW	12:03 am 0.31 m
LOW	7:54 am 0.76 m	LOW	8:45 am 0.75 m	LOW	9:34 am 0.77 m	LOW	10:21 am 0.82 m	LOW	11:06 am 0.89 m	LOW	11:50 am 0.99 m	HIGH	7:12 am 2.90 m
HIGH	2:36 pm 2.86 m	HIGH	3:18 pm 2.90 m	HIGH	3:57 pm 2.91 m	HIGH	4:35 pm 2.90 m	HIGH	5:13 pm 2.86 m	HIGH	5:53 pm 2.79 m	LOW	12:34 pm 1.10 m
LOW	8:24 pm	LOW	9:09 pm	LOW	9:53 pm	LOW	10:37 pm	LOW	11:20 pm			HIGH	6:35 pm

LOW 0.65 m LOW 0.45 m LOW 0.30 m LOW 0.23 m LOW 0.24 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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Travis Woodfield and Alex Officer celebrated the Reserves win, securing another chance to proceed to the Grand Final.

Ups and downs for the Bull Dogs

FOOTBALL

Seniors

After the wild weather earlier in the day, the sun came out for the Seniors' semi final at Inverloch.

It set the stage for a hardfought contest between Phillip Island and Cora Lynn, with both sides battling it out all day for a spot in the next final.

The Bulldogs gave everything, but it wasn't quite enough, falling just short by four points.

Max Walton, Daniel Pearce, Jack Taylor, Tyce Kleverkamp, Zak Vernon, and Billy Taylor were named among the best players, leading from the front and showing their effort and determination.

It was a heartbreaking end to the season, but the group can hold their heads high after a strong year of football.

Final Scores: Phillip Island 8.4.52 def by Cora Lynn 8.8.56.

Best Players: Max Walton, Daniel Pearce, Jack Taylor, Tyce Kleverkamp, Zak Vernon and Billy Taylor.

Goals: Nick Anderson, Jack Huther and Billy Taylor 2, Jordy Patullo and Cameron Pedersen 1.

Reserves

In wild conditions at Inverloch, with rain pelting down sideways and the wind dictating much of the play, Phillip Island's Reserves toughed out a gritty win over Cora Lynn.

The Bulldogs adapted best to the weather, playing smart, contested football and locking the ball in their half when it mattered.

Scoring was always going to be tough, but Phillip Island made the most of their chances.

The defensive unit was outstanding, keeping Cora Lynn goalless for the entire match, while the midfield worked tirelessly to push the ball forward in the wet.

This result sees the Bulldogs' Reserves progress further into

Final Scores: Phillip Island def Cora Lynn

Best Players: Joel Galvin, Finlay Cousins, Brady Ross, Darcy



Max Walton takes a great mark on the run, unfortunately the Seniors went down to Cora Lynn in a devastatingly close match. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Thompson, Oliver Hibbert and Mikka Paulsen.

Goals: Brady Ross 3 and Travis Woodfield 1.

The U18 boys started a little unsettled, allowing Inverloch to jump out to an early two-goal lead in the first quarter. From there it was a genuine contest, fought out quarter by quarter.

Inverloch brought their best game and the Island boys struggled to find their trademark ball movement, but through sheer determination they stayed in it

right until the final siren.

In a heartbreaking finish, they fell short by just one point, with Inverloch taking a crucial mark to deny a last-minute Island goal.

The Bulldogs will lift their heads, regroup, and reset for the challenge ahead.

Final Scores: Phillip Island 4.7.31 def by Inverloch-Kongwak 5.2.32. Best Players: Cooper Walton. Heath Womersley, Beniamin Chihotski, Noah Forrest Mabilia, Oliver Duggan and William Hill.

Goals: Cooper Walton 2, Oliver Duggan and Max Taylor 1.



Olivia Holmes played an amazing defence game in the U17 in the finals helping her team secure another chance to proceed to the Grand Final.

U17 girls keep on fighting

NETBALL

Phillip Island's Under 17s stepped up under finals pressure, defeating Tooradin 33–21 in wet conditions at Inverloch to progress to the next stage.

It was a hard-fought opening, but the Islanders stayed composed and chipped away across the quarters to build a steady

Aisha and Ava were reliable in goals, finishing well despite the slippery ball.

Ellie directed play confidently through the centre, while Piper added speed and drive in midcourt.

Macy also came on to help out in wing attack, providing fresh energy and support.

In defence, Olivia was outstanding in goal defence, with Kate, Jasira and Tilly combining strongly to close down Tooradin's attacking options and force turnovers.

Their efforts gave the shooters plenty of opportunities to stretch the margin and keep the Islanders in control.

By the final whistle, Phillip Island had secured a strong 33–21 victory and a place in the preliminary final, against Nar Nar Goon.

Best on Court: Olivia Holmes.



U17 netball team had a great win against Tooradin getting them one step closer. From left: Maya Huther, Lisa Hennessy, Jasira Derham, Matilda Trew, Ava Blake, Kate McClausland and Cath Huther. Bottom row: Ellie Hennessy, Aisha Hibbert, Olivia Holmes and Piper Obrien.

Results from the table

Bridge club members flocked to the tables this week after return-

Monday saw six and a half tables in play, allowing for a classic Mitchell movement, where East/ West pairs move to another table after each round, while North/ South pairs remained in place.

Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson clinched victory among North/South pairs with a solid 57.14 per cent, while Deb Anglim and Shirley Stewart dominated the East/West field, scoring an impressive 66.25 per cent.

Wednesday's Nationwide event brought further excite-Nationwide ment, with Miranda Sage and Rob Maclellan emerging as winners, scoring 63.89 per cent.

Players are sharpening their skills for the club's upcoming

Congress, scheduled for Saturday, September 13 (Swiss Pairs) and Sunday, September 14 (Teams), to be held at the Phillip Island Bridge Club rooms in Newhaver

With anticipation mounting and spots filling quickly, members are urged to submit their entries online via the Australian Bridge Federation.

Euchre results

Ladies winner: Leonie; 6 wins. Men's winner: Tony 7 wins. **Encouragement award:** David.

New players most welcome, come and enjoy a social night of cards.

Even if you don't know how to play, we are most willing to teach you.

For further information contact Bob 0418 173 388.

U12A Mixed team had a nail-biting game against Inverloch Stars and went to extra time with neither team able to score. The result was decided with penalties and the Phillip Island team eventually came away with the win gaining their position in the Grand Final.



The Men's Reserve team had a strong win over Drouin 5-2 and secured a Grand Final position.



The U12 Girls started the day off with a hard-fought win over Inverloch Stars, 6-3 and are through to the Grand Final.



The women's soccer team through to the Grand Final with a strong win against Trafalgar Victory.

Breaker's soccer teams heading to Grand Finals

SOCCER

U12A Mixed

For island families dedicated to junior soccer, this U12 elimination final was a classic.

From the start, the match mirrored the weather, blustery and unpredictable.

Playing into a strong wind in the first half, Island struck first after ten minutes: Harry crossed, Jobe controlled, turned and finished tidily for a 1–0 lead.

Hopes of a smooth win were quickly tested. Inverloch pressed and harried all game, forcing Island to stay composed and rely on their style of playing out from the back.

Defenders Ryder, Mitch, Wes, Elliott and Kelsey produced heroic efforts to hold them out and launch counterattacks.

Half-time at 1–0 looked ideal with the wind to come, but a turnover early in the second half gifted Inverloch an equaliser

Keeper Henry thumped the ground in frustration, but, true to Coach Liam's mantra, "It's how you react", he bounced back brilliantly and continued to play out from the back and pulled off multiple crucial saves.

The midfield of Marlo, Wes, Darcy, Eli and Lily, found space to feed forwards Micah, Flynn and Harry, but Inverloch's players lifted just as strongly.

Extra time could not separate the teams and it all came down to penalties.

It's a huge challenge for kids to face shootouts, but both teams showed excellent sportsmanship, supporting every kicker whether they scored or missed.

Henry took "It's how you react!" to the next level, saving two penalties in the shootout to seal a 4–2 win.

The Breakers advance to the Grand Final in Wonthaggi in two weeks, an outstanding reward for resilience, composure and teamwork under

U12 Girls

Phillip Island U12 Girls travelled to Drouin to face Inverloch in the first semi-final.

The opening was tense, with both teams battling hard in midfield.

Island created the first chances, but two goals were disallowed for offside. Inverloch then struck first with an unstoppable shot.

Our girls responded superbly. Gabrielle Titmarsh equalised before Kassandra Rivans showed her speed and endurance, finding space twice in the box to score a brace.

The Breakers went into half time leading 3–1.

In the second half, Island took control through midfielders Lily Murphy, Gabrielle Titmarsh and Kelsey Watson.

Chelsea Chambers and Lily Murphy both went close, but it was Nkechi Okoli, returning after a long absence, who scored twice to extend the lead.

Inverloch kept fighting, pulling one back through forward pressure, but Gabrielle Titmarsh netted her second to restore the buffer.

Inverloch struck again to make it 5–3, but the Breakers defence, led by Lottie Bland, held strong under late pressure.

In the final stages, Island sealed the result with their sixth goal, completing a 6–3 victory.

It was a fantastic team performance against determined opposition, with standout efforts across the park.

The win secures the Breakers a well-deserved place in the Grand Final.

Read full reports at www. pisra.com.au

Semi-final 1 results: Sunday, September 7

Senior Men's: Leongatha Knights 3 defeated Phillip Island Breakers 2.

Senior Women's: Phillip Island Breakers 7 defeated Trafalgar Victory 0.

Men's Reserves: Phillip Island Breakers 5 defeated Drouin Dragons Maroon 2. Under 12 Girls: Phillip Island Breakers 6 defeated Inverloch Stars 3.

Under 12A Mixed: Phillip Island Breakers 1 (4) defeated Inverloch Stars 1 (2).



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