

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

\$1.80 Incl. GST

Smiths Beach rescue base future still uncertain

SURF LIFESAVING

The decaying Smiths Beach rescue base still faces an uncertain future, despite fundraising efforts.

As previously reported, Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WBSLSC) has this year been seeking \$140,000 in funding – including a failed attempt with Bass Coast Shire councillors – to ensure the safety of the rescue base structure, which was built only six years ago.

The rescue base is critical for public first aid, as a training hub, surveillance and shelter, as well as storage, and since being built in 2018 harsh conditions have caused decay and rust and the base requires urgent repairs.

On Saturday the Smiths Beachcomber Association donated \$1000 toward the rescue base repairs, which adds to the total of about \$25,000 that has been raised so far.

WBSLSC president Jason Close said the club was most appreciative of the support from the Association.

“It was great to meet some of the Association members on site recently. Both organisations exist to serve the local community and we have the common goal of ensuring that Smiths Beach has



Richard Robin, Phil Wright, Jason Close and Phil Dressing. The Smiths Beachcomber Association has donated \$1000 to the rescue base rehabilitation fundraiser.

a lifesaving facility that can keep swimmers and surfers safe.

“Whilst Smiths Beach is renowned as a family friendly surf beach that is extremely popular due to its wide beach and waves which are friendly to beginners through to experienced surfers,

it is not without its dangers,” Jason continued.

“Smiths Beach does still have rips which can sometimes be difficult to get out of. This is one of the reasons the rescue base is so important as it provides a facility for lifesavers and lifeguards to

observe swimmers and surfers, carry out first aid cases and store rescue and first aid equipment.”

Fundraising

Jason said fundraising for the rescue base was continuing,

Continued page 2

Grand Final Feature

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 - New football oval
 - Basketball courts
 - Complete existing bike tracks before starting any new ones
 - No bike track along the foreshore from Cowes to Ventnor; preserve the foreshore habitat

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Authorised by Ronnie Bauer, PO Box 996, Cowes 3922

PHILLIP ISLAND
7 DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Wed/Sep11	Thu/Sep12	Fri/Sep13	Sat/Sep14	Sun/Sep15	Mon/Sep16	Tue/Sep17
SHOWER 11 16	SHOWER OR TWO 9 15	SHOWER OR TWO 9 15	SHOWER OR TWO 9 14	MOSTLY SUNNY 8 15	MOSTLY SUNNY 11 15	PARTLY CLOUDY 10 14

Museum shortlisted for prestigious award

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Phillip Island and District Historical Society's Museum at Berninnet has been honoured as one of the five finalists in the prestigious Small Project of the Year (Museum) category by the Australian Museums and Galleries Association of Victoria this week.

Pamela Rothfield, Secretary of the Historical Society, said it was fitting recognition of the society's perseverance to preserving and sharing the rich history of Phillip Island, from its early days of European settlement to the vibrant community it is today.

"The journey to this achievement has been both challenging and rewarding," said Pamela.

"After the move and subsequent demolition of the old Heritage Building in 2021, which housed our original museum, the society faced the significant task of operating in a much smaller space.

"With the expertise of Convergence Design, we collaborated to create a new, thoughtfully curated space. Although we had to reduce the selection of artefacts on display, the museum continues to be a vital resource for both locals and visitors, offering a window into the island's past."

However, the transition has not been without its difficulties.



The Phillip Island and District Historical Society's Museum at Berninnet is one of five finalists in the Small Project of the Year (Museum) category by the Australian Museums and Galleries Association of Victoria.

The reduction in space at Berninnet has sparked concerns within the community, as many cherished exhibits had to be scaled down or reimagined, creating an off-site storage issue for the society.

The winner of the Small Project of the Year award will be announced on October 1, and the society eagerly awaits the

outcome.

Regardless of the result, being shortlisted for such a significant award is a feather in the cap for the society and a reflection of their efforts to bring Phillip Island's history to life.

Stay tuned for updates and be sure to visit the museum to see the work that has earned this well-deserved recognition.

Smiths Beach rescue base future still uncertain

From page 1

with most donations "from generous members of the local community".

"There are no plans to demolish it if we don't get funding," Jason said.

"It is more the case that the stairs may need to be closed and the rescue base may not be able to be used.

"Based on expert advice, we believe it can continue to operate this summer, but the longer we take to carry out these repairs the worse the corrosion will become, and we will need to review the safety of the structure and staircase beyond this period."

He said the club would like to undertake the necessary repairs between the summer seasons, "to minimise the disruption to beachgoers and to have the least impact on the

local environment".

WBSLSC will continue to work with local authorities and apply for grants, and is also planning fundraising events.

Earlier this year WBSLSC asked councillors for \$30,000, as part of the 2024/25 budget, saying the funding would be "critical to remain operational, otherwise the base will be closed this year and condemned".

At that time a spokesperson for WBSLSC said the total required was \$128,000.

However, shire number crunchers did not support funding on the basis that "Phillip Island Nature Parks is the land manager for Smiths Beach".

To donate, go to: www.woolamaiibeach.org.au/donate and select 'Smiths Beach Rescue Base' when filling out the donation form.

September meeting date changed

COUNCIL

The date for the September Bass Coast Shire Council meeting has been changed.

Previously scheduled for Wednesday September 18, last week the council announced it would instead be run on Monday September 16 at 1pm, at the Civic Centre in Wonthaggi.

The date change is to enable councillors to vote ahead of the caretaker period, in the lead up to October local

government elections, which starts on Tuesday 17.

A shire spokesperson explained the change was made "to avoid the 2024 election period".

"The State Government brought forward the election period start date so we had to move the meeting forward to enable decision making on the items," they said.

The agenda will be released on council's website on September 12.

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DAIKIN

Waters Edge San Remo development: "Savvy investors take note!"

PLANNING

The developer of the Waters Edge complex on Marine Parade in San Remo has until February 2026 to commence building.

A renewed permit for the four storey, 22-apartment complex with four retail shops at 131-133 Marine Parade, adjacent to the San Remo IGA, now has a start date of February 7, 2026.

The permit will expire if the development is not then completed by February 2028; however the developer can apply for a permit extension.

If building commences in February 2026, it will mark six years since the permit was first granted to the developer in the VCAT hearing *McKenzie v Bass Coast SC* [2020], which overturned council's previous rejection of the project in 2019.

The original proposal in 2019 attracted strong criticism from councillors and objectors over the amount of parking spaces, the use of car stackers, neighbourhood character and the height of the complex.

The site was then the centre of further controversy, when in 2021 the developer sought to add a further rooftop terrace on top of the already disputed permit.

At the time, San Remo residents described the proposed amendment as a "blight" and "outrageous", with residents and businesses alike vowing to fight it.

The amended plans were rejected by VCAT in 2023.

Since 2019 the site has remained seemingly dormant, with many in the community questioning what the future holds for the controversial Waters Edge development.

Who owns Waters Edge?

The applicant for the original

planning permit in 2019 was Authur McKenzie – a known builder and developer across Melbourne and Phillip Island.

As Mr McKenzie explained to the Advertiser, however, Waters Edge San Remo Pty Ltd, is owned by his family trust.

According to ASIC records, Mr McKenzie went bankrupt on May 1, 2023, which Mr McKenzie said was not uncommon in his line of work.

"I don't own any properties," Mr McKenzie said, "it's all the family trust basically."

"People that have companies, when (stuff) goes south then you liquidate the companies and that's how it is. It's business."

"(Waters Edge) has got nothing to do with me, personally. On the job I'm the builder only."

"I was lucky enough that the family trust bought (Waters Edge), because of all that court stuff with Martin."

In 2021, Martin Clark, head of building company Pugwall Pty Ltd, took Authur McKenzie Investments Pty Ltd (AMI) to the County Court of Victoria after the pair fell out over a joint business venture involving a development in Seaford.

The County Court ruled AMI was to pay Pugwall nearly \$1.3 million for 50 per cent of the joint venture losses, as well as a further \$210,959 for "specific losses arising from a failure to exercise reasonable care and skill" during the development build.

Pugwall alleged AMI failed "to complete the development on time or within a reasonable time; carrying out building work not authorised by building permits"; and failed "to carry out building work to an acceptable standard".

Mr McKenzie rejected Mr Clarke's claims of improper building practice to the Advertiser.

"He just tried to throw me



Since 2019 the site has remained seemingly dormant, with many in the community questioning what the future holds for the controversial Waters Edge development.

under the bus pretty much," Mr McKenzie said, "which is all standard in court."

"We walked off the site for a while ... then (stuff) goes wrong or doesn't get passed."

"I've never had anything on my (building) licence, or call-backs or anything in my 30 years of building."

Previously sold apartments

In 2023, while the additional planning amendment for Waters Edge was heard in VCAT, a brochure from then estate agent Garth Lisle showed 11 of 18 apartments on floors one and two as being already sold.

Scott Lethbridge, Director of Garth Lisle, confirmed to the Advertiser his estate agency was no longer handling the Waters Edge development.

According to Mr Lethbridge, Garth Lisle dealt with four buyers who opted to trigger the sunset clause in their agreement and

step away from the development.

"They weren't too happy about it, but it was out of our control," Mr Lethbridge said.

The Advertiser understands at the time both Garth Lisle and Mr McKenzie were handling sales of apartments in the development.

Mr McKenzie said there were five buyers who opted to exercise their sunset clause, and a further five who are still waiting on their apartments.

"We were trying to sell when we first started doing it," Mr McKenzie said, "and then Covid hit. So that stopped monies, stopped heaps of stuff, and slowed the project down."

"We had our budget and that got blown."

He said with the economy slowing, they were upfront with the buyers and gave them the option to opt out.

"When we talked about it, we said we've got problems, we're

looking to sell ... we don't know what's going to happen."

Future

Mr McKenzie could not give an exact date when building would commence at 131-133 Marine Parade, saying Waters Edge was still seeking different financing options, but said they're not interested in selling further apartments yet.

"We'll wait until it's locked up," Mr McKenzie said.

"Hopefully by the time next summer comes up, next January (2026) ... then people can come in and check out the apartments and actually view them, and understand that they're going to be built."

A current listing for Waters Edge on [realcommercial.com.au](https://www.realestate.com.au) advertises 22 apartments, four retail tenancies and four luxury penthouses.

"Savvy investors take note!" the listing begins.

The Block goes fishing

REALITY TV

If you missed The Block last week then you missed the teams' trip out on the bay with Newhaven Fishing Charters.

The trip was a challenge, with the prize a \$120,000 Bar Crusher fishing boat.

The first part of the challenge, which went to air last Wednesday night, saw the contestants fish off Rhyll, and then return to The Block to cook the fish and present it for judging.

Ricky and Haydn, who fish away from The Block, won the challenge and the boat will be parked in the driveway and sold along with their house to the successful buyer on auction day.



Hosts of the Channel 9 reality TV show Scott Cam and Shelley Craft at Rhyll.



Block contestants Ricky and Haydn won the fishing challenge.

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Phillip Island's only dairy farmer said the warm and dry season meant they were destocking some cows "because I'm predicting a long, dry summer and a shortage of hay". Photo: Nick Fewings, Unsplash.

Driest end to winter on record

WEATHER

Residents enduring the current wet and wild weather, may be surprised to learn Phillip Island has had the driest end to winter on record, with long-term weather watchers saying it's the driest they can remember.

August recorded 16.4mm of rain, below the average August rainfall of 77.4mm.

The next lowest August rainfall was 24mm in 1998, with records first kept at Rhyll in 1994.

Winter's total was 114mm.

The island also experienced its driest start to winter in two decades, with less than half the average rainfall in June at 29.4mm (the June average is 66.8mm).

July was the best month, which helped boost the winter total, with 68.8mm of rain, just above the average of 67.6mm.

This time last year Candowie Reservoir was 100 per cent, but last week it was at 70 per cent.

Phillip Island's only dairy farmer Adam Eldridge said the warm and dry conditions had meant a successful season, with no cow or calf losses to the usual cold and wet, as well as good milk production.

"Everything is early. The weather we're getting now is like early October and the grass is pushing up seed heads which normally happens in November," Adam said.

"The next few weeks are critical. 'I'd like to see 100mm of rain by the end of September so we can get half decent hay and silage cut.'"

Adam said the warm and dry season meant they were cutting pastures for hay now, much earlier than usual, and they were destocking some cows "because I'm predicting a long, dry summer and a shortage of hay".

"There's been no hay because western Victoria has been in drought all year and we've chewed through our hay reserves."

Adam said his dams were full because he received the run-off from nearby housing developments, but other farmers were not so lucky and were not happy with low dam levels.

Water for wildlife

The Phillip Island Conservation Society posted on social media saying only a few decades ago, every August was wet and cold and windy.

"It was gum boot time," PICS said.

"This August has been one of the driest many old islanders can remember."

PICS said many plants were flowering early with masses of flowers, and birds were well into breeding season.

"These are not necessarily good signs.

"All we can do is keep the bird baths clean and full – because yes, the wildlife are really in need of water even at this time of the year."

The Bureau of Meteorology has released its 2024 long-range forecast, showing Victoria has an increased chance of warmer than usual spring temperatures.

At the end of last year Westernport Water released its annual water outlook for December 2023 to November 30, 2024, which stated water restrictions for the next year were not expected, despite predictions of above average summer temperatures and below average rainfall.

The report states in recent decades there has been a trend in the region to higher temperatures and more hot days, reductions in rainfall during the cooler months, and increases in extreme, short duration rainfall in some locations.

"Some of the rainfall declines in the cooler months can be attributed to increases in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere."

Year 9 Environmental Centre information evening



Year 9 teacher Carly Heislers finds students are more engaged when they study in the stunning outdoor setting behind the Year 9 Environmental Centre.

EDUCATION

Year 9 can be a particularly challenging time for many young people. As students move deeper into adolescence, they begin to gain greater independence from their parents and teachers while undergoing significant physical, social, emotional and intellectual changes.

At Newhaven College, we understand these challenges and have developed a purpose-built program to guide Year 9 students through this critical stage of their development. The Year 9 program is interdisciplinary and highly experiential, encouraging students to connect and apply knowledge across different subjects.

The College sees Year 9 as marking an exciting and transformative chapter as students embark on a dynamic and highly experiential program designed to challenge and inspire them in new ways.

Throughout the year, students will be working towards a peak experience that will serve as the culmination of their efforts. This significant event will allow them to showcase the skills and knowledge they have gained, highlighting their growth and achievements.

To provide more details about the specifics of this program, Newhaven College is holding an Information Evening at the Year 9 Environmental Centre on Tuesday September 17. Families are welcome to attend to gain more information about the program and what it has to offer.

Contact the Newhaven College Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson on 5956 7505 or email admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au to register your interest.

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A highlight for many Year 9 students is participating in the Cows are Careers program, where students are responsible for caring for two calves for a few months.



The Commando Games are the focus toward the end of the year. A chance for the Year 9s to really challenge themselves and have some fun.



2025 Year 9 Information Evening

Tuesday 17 September

To find out more visit our website or contact our Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505 or email: admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au



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"People may not be able to live where they live now," a parliamentary committee hearing into the risks of climate change impacts such as sea level rise and erosion was told last week, which follows a report on the erosion emergency in Silverleaves.

Home buy-backs, retreat proposed for sea level rise

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Victorian Government needs to create a fund to buy back homes in areas most exposed to climate change impacts, such as sea level rise and erosion, a Victorian Parliamentary committee hearing was told last week.

And the committee heard a future fund should be created to pay for climate impacts, in addition to a new variable rating system – beyond the rate cap – for homeowners, so councils can prepare and respond to impacts of climate change.

The climate change resilience committee hearing was held in Traralgon, with submissions made by dozens of organisations including Bass Coast Shire Council, Insurance Council of Australia and Natural Hazards Research Australia.

The committee was well timed, following the release of a new government report on erosion that found there may be "significant loss" of private property and public assets at Silverleaves and an area of Cowes East in the next five to 10 years.

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

Bass Coast Shire planning manager Donna Taylor told last week's hearing the Victorian Government should create a similar climate change response to the Black Saturday bushfire response, adding that shires should be able to implement special rate variations for specific funding.

"Access to a dedicated additional level of funding beyond existing rate cap provisions could supplement the level of resources ... to better prepare and respond to the well understood impacts of climate change," Ms Taylor said.

She said the current planning system prioritised growth over environmental protection and so guidance on retreating from high-risk areas was "insufficient".

"This is problematic as it overlooks the need to limit development in vulnerable areas," Ms Taylor said.

"Additionally, the approach to managing coastal inundation seems to lack consistency, with varied outcomes in areas like Pioneer Bay, Rhyll, Silverleaves, and Inverloch.

"A standardised, science-based approach is necessary to ensure all coastal regions are adequately protected."

Ms Taylor said Bass Coast was highly dependent on ecotourism and "wildlife and habitat are extremely vulnerable to climate change".

"Sea temperature rise is already above most predictions.

"Penguin and Shearwater colonies are extremely sensitive to temperature increases. Investigation into these environmental impacts, and resultant economic impacts is required to better understand and prepare for the impacts of climate change on tourism."

Risks

The Insurance Council of Australia said insurance affordability and availability in vulnerable areas would continue to grow.

They agreed the Victorian Government should implement a program similar to Queensland and NSW following the floods of 2020.

"Funding is being deployed to buy back homes within the most extreme exposure zones and raising/retrofitting homes in lower (but still unacceptable) exposure areas," said the Insurance Council in their submission.

"Too many homes are in the direct line of flood, fire, or at risk from the sea, because at the time of planning and approval, not enough account was given to the extreme weather risk.

"Many of these properties are now cheaper to buy or rent because of this risk, and some are home to those who are least able to afford adequate insurance, compounding the impact of extreme weather events."

Natural Hazards Research Australia warned many towns were "untenable for ongoing housing".

"People may not be able to live where they live now. The elimination of risk entirely is only possible by removing houses and businesses from areas at risk of natural hazards," the research body said.

"Major buy-back schemes are now being implemented in some parts of NSW and Qld to relocate homes from floodplains, but not for the first time in Australia, and the efforts will not be without difficulties.

"Voluntary buyback programs are expensive, disruptive and rely on willing sellers. Not everyone will want to move. Ideally, such programs must be planned well before a major disaster strikes so that communities can decide their future."



September Council Meeting

Due to the upcoming 2024 Council Election, the September Council meeting will now be held on
Monday, 16 September 2024.

The meeting will commence at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, Bass Coast Civic Centre, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi. The agenda will be available on Council's website on Thursday, 12 September at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings. Public questions can be submitted no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Please note that the 16 October 2024 Council Meeting will not have an opportunity for public questions due to our Election Period Policy.

Testing gives clean tick to our drinking water

PFAS

Westernport Water has reassured customers testing of local water shows it is safe.

The Advertiser asked for a response after WaterNSW disconnected a Blue Mountains dam after tests returned elevated traces of PFAS, known as "forever chemicals".

In May this year Westernport Water undertook independent testing for the suite of PFAS compounds and their precursors with results not able to detect any of the chemicals.

"The tests confirmed compliance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines," a Westernport Water spokesperson said, adding the guidelines are set by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

"A risk assessment found Candowie Reservoir and its contributing waterways to be low risk as there is no history of bush fires in the catchment, industrial activity or fire-fighting activities, therefore levels in the local environment are low."

The Victoria Department of Health requires Westernport Water to undertake routine testing of source and treated water, with results published in the annual Water Quality – Westernport Water report.

The most recent report for 2022-23 included analysis of about 20 tests, including E. coli, trihalomethanes, cadmium, cyanide, and lead, with results all meeting standards.

The report states raw water from Candowie Reservoir is treated using a combination of oxidation, adsorption, coagulation, flocculation, dissolved air flotation, filtration, pH correction, fluoridation and disinfection.

"On-going testing will continue to en-



In May this year Westernport Water undertook independent testing for the suite of PFAS compounds and their precursors with results not able to detect any PFAS chemicals. Photo: Imani, Unsplash.

sure WPW provides safe drinking water to our customers," the spokesperson said.

"Water utilities in Australia are highly regulated, including for health and the environment."

Australia's drinking water guidelines for PFAS are currently being reviewed by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

This independent review will consider recent guidance and reviews from international and national jurisdictions and determine whether they are suitable to adopt or adapt for Australia.

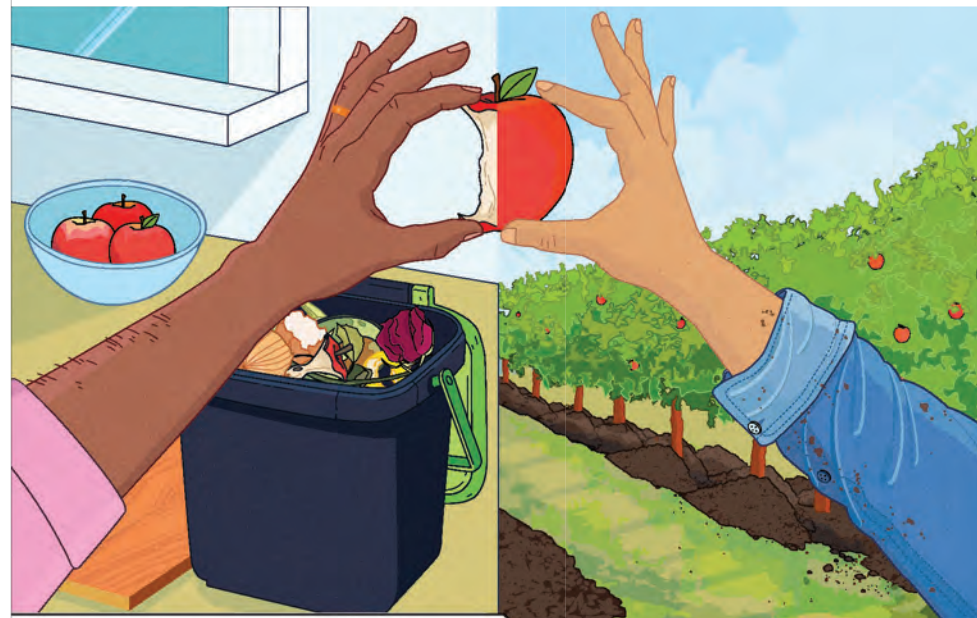
In 2014 Friends of the Earth made claims about Westernport Water's drinking water which were refuted at the time.

In 2021, the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia awarded Westernport Water best tasting tap water in Victoria.

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Docherty's "miraculous" return... but no miracle for Carlton

FOOTBALL

Former Phillip Island footballer and current Carlton player Sam Docherty returned to football last weekend, earlier than anticipated.

Six months after rupturing his anterior cruciate ligament in the opening round, which was to take the midfielder off the field for 2024, he instead made a comeback in the elimination final against Brisbane.

The Blues announced last Tuesday Sam would play on Saturday night at the Gabba, the same ground where he suffered the ACL injury.

Carlton were defeated by Brisbane, ending their season, with Docherty finishing the game with 16 disposals and a goal in the final quarter.

Players typically take nine to 12 months to return to the field after a knee reconstruction, with Melbourne media describing the comeback as "miraculous".

In his career, the former skipper has suffered three ACL injuries, as well as recovering from testicular cancer in 2022, which had spread to his lymph nodes, lungs and stomach, and required 12 weeks of chemotherapy.

In 2013 Sam had just joined Carlton when he was at a camp in Arizona and received a phone call telling him his dad, Eddie – an island premiership player, a coach of multiple teams, and a Phillip Island Football Club life member – had passed away.

National media described Sam, saying his "endless kicks



Natalie and Sam Docherty (holding Ruby), and brother Joshua Docherty (holding Kai) and his partner Jes Butterfield. Sam made a "miraculous" return to the field for Carlton's final game of the season.

in the guts show us the power of overcoming adversity".

Mental health

Earlier this year Sam – who last year was awarded the Jim Stynes Community Leadership Award that recognises commitment to helping others and making a difference – gave a candid interview with former Carlton teammate Daniel Gorringer on the "Dan Does Footy" podcast.

"Things are going to happen to you whether you like it or not. You don't get the choice of some of it, some of it you're not going to like, some of it you'll love," said Sam on the podcast.

"Some of the great moments of my life, you're privileged to have them. The bit you do get control of is the way you react

to it – your body language, your mindset, your work ethic, that's what you can control."

Sam, who left the island at the age of 18, said he'd realised his impact beyond footy was "greater than winning premierships and best and fairests".

"I get joy out of that, being able to have an impact on people that are doing it quite tough and being an inspiration of what can be done when you're going through a really shit time."

"I'm a big believer that your journey is meant to teach you things in life, and coming to Carlton and going through what we've gone through has taught me the bigger values I have in my life. Footy's not everything to me anymore, and it was at one point."



Phillip Island San Remo Legacy Widows Club president Marian Brennan (centre) prepares to cut the club's 38th birthday cake, with club secretary Maureen Matthews (left) and treasurer Diane Holtrop.

Cheers and smiles for 38th birthday

LEGACY

There was "cheer, not a tear and smiles that lasted for a while" as a soldier dressed in World War I Army uniform marched into the Cowes RSL Anzac Room last week, to the Dame Vera Lynn song Wish Me Luck as You Wave Me Goodbye.

The soldier was RSL Committee member Michael Crump, a member of the Australian Great War Association.

Phillip Island San Remo Legacy Widows Club president

Marian Brennan invited Michael to the club's 38th birthday lunch, as a tribute to Legacy founder Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Savige, who served in both world wars.

The lunch was held during Legacy Week.

A total of 49 widows and Legatees shared the warmth and friendship that are the hallmarks of the Legacy Movement.

Guests travelled from Korumburra, Leongatha, Inverloch and Hastings and were well catered to by RSL staff.

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Pam Cale, from Tooradin, has been a volunteer wildlife rescuer for more than 55 years Pam lost most of the shelters and enclosures she provides for injured wildlife during the recent storms.

Wildlife shelter gutted in storms

FUNDRAISER

A wildlife shelter that cares for injured animals from Phillip Island has lost most of its enclosures, some brand new, following storm damage over the past fortnight.

Pam Cale from Tooradin, who has been a volunteer wildlife rescuer for more than 55 years, lost 80 per cent of her sheds and enclosures after trees came down in recent gale force winds.

According to Colleen Gilbee from Wildlife Rescue and Rehab Shelter Bass Coast and Phillip Island, Pam with her husband Rob, have sunk their life savings and superannuation into helping care for injured wildlife.

"These enclosures and sheds cannot be saved or repaired and

Pam has used all their money on wildlife already over the years, so cannot replace them," Colleen said.

Colleen said Pam needs urgent financial support to get new wildlife enclosures and sheds built to enable her to continue caring for wildlife.

"We are hoping people can generously donate so Pam can then purchase and get specially built new enclosures/sheds to replace what she has lost."

She said Pam cared for hundreds of animals every year, including bandicoots, sugar-gliders, koalas, wombats, echidnas, microbats, flying foxes, reptiles, birds of prey, and native birds.

"Pam has taken into care hundreds of animals from the

island and Bass Coast over the years. She took on two babies for me just last week," Colleen said.

"Pam and Rob do everything . . . from rescuing, transporting, caring, euthanising, assessing and rehabilitating wildlife.

"Pam also supports and mentors many other wildlife carers. Her care and knowledge for wildlife is amazing.

"Wildlife in this area really needs Pam to be able to keep doing what she has done for over 55 years."

If you would like to help Pam with her work, her details are as follows. Pam Cale, Tooradin - Sleepy Hollow Wildlife Shelter BSB - 063 250 Acc# 10089825



SES Unit controller Phil Friedlos said last week's storm damage was the worst experienced in the last two years, despite no catastrophic damage.

Exhausted SES volunteers on the job 24/7

STORM DAMAGE

Just when we thought the wind couldn't blow any harder, last week it did just that.

SES Phillip Island unit controller Phil Friedlos said across two weeks of wild gales, the volunteer SES team of a dozen crew worked 24-hour days to clear 88 jobs.

He said the busiest period was from midnight last week from Sunday to early Tuesday morning.

"The call outs were mostly to trees across roads, or on driveways and houses, with no sig-

nificant damage to house rooves, fortunately," Phil said.

"The crews also cleared main roads proactively over that period, driving around the island and removing trees down as they went."

Phil said it was the worst storm damage in at least two years that he had experienced and despite no catastrophic damage there were a number of calls to remove tree limbs from cars.

"The team did a fantastic job and it was lucky the wind calmed down eventually because we were all getting to a point of exhaustion,"



More storm victims

Another victim of last week's wild winds and storm, this yacht ran aground at San Remo last Thursday, opposite the post office.

High powered EV session

ELECTRIC CARS

On a crisp Saturday morning in Cowes last month, over 20 enthusiastic locals gathered at PICAL for a special event to explore the wonders of electric vehicles (EVs).

Presented by Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI), the event was organised to show how to plan and enjoy road trips with your EV.

EV enthusiasts provided valuable insights, practical tips, and real-life experiences during the session.

The buzz on the day wasn't just about EVs – it was about coffee too.

With a flick of a switch, the BYD Seal EV powered up Mamacitas coffee van, enabling piping hot coffees to be served using power straight from the car's battery.

The star of the morning was the BYD Seal, owned by local sustainability expert Werner Theinert, who demonstrated the

vehicle's impressive Vehicle to Load (V2L) function.

Werner connected the car's battery to the coffee machine of Mamacitas, owned by barista David Cardenas, who then served up delicious coffees without putting a dent in the battery. Just a mere 2kW was used, leaving the car nearly fully charged.

This hands-on demonstration was an event highlight, showing just how versatile EVs can be.

Werner, well-known for his Sustainable Electricity courses at Bass Coast Adult Learning (BCAL) and TRPI, shared his EV expertise alongside other seasoned panel members.

Topics ranged from understanding different EV charging options, planning trips, and charging station connection, with attendees soaking up the practical tips and personal stories.

Garry Busowsky, a key organiser and a long-time advocate for EVs, led the two-hour session.

A member of the Tesla Owners Club of Australia (TOCA),

Garry's passion for electric vehicles shone through as he presented a wealth of information for anyone curious about the EV world.

Panelists, including Gill Wright (BYD), Mary Whelan (Tesla), and Mayor Clare Le Serve, shared their own experiences with EVs.

Cr Le Serve, driving the Mayoral Tesla Model 3, announce Bass Coast Shire Council's plan for four new EV charging stations to be installed soon across the Shire.

These chargers, made possible through grant funding, will be located in Grantville, Wonthaggi, Inverloch, and on Phillip Island.

The Cowes Transit Centre will also soon unveil four new EV chargers, making Bass Coast even more EV-friendly.

The Mayor proudly spoke about Council's ongoing commitment to sustainability, with all council buildings now fully powered by renewable energy, and a plan in place to transition the



Last month, over 20 enthusiastic locals gathered at PICAL for a special event that explored the wonders of electric vehicles (EVs).

fleet to electric vehicles.

She said Bass Coast is truly paving the way locally for a greener future.

For anyone looking to dive deeper into the world of EVs and debunk some common myths, TRPI recommends checking out The Little Book of EV Myths from FairCharge UK.

Organisers said the energy at the session was palpable as community members and panellists

shared their passion for EVs, and the exciting possibilities they offer.

"Whether it's powering up your morning coffee machine or driving towards a more sustainable future, electric vehicles are proving to be a game-changer," they said.

For more information go to www.faircharge.co.uk/post/faircharge-publishes-little-book-of-ev-myths

A man with a beard is sitting in the driver's seat of a car at night. He is holding a yellow and orange breathalyzer device in his mouth and blowing into it. The device has a red screen and some text on it. The car's interior is dimly lit, and the background is dark.

Stop kidding yourself. If you drink, don't drive.

Thinking about driving after a couple of drinks? Think again.
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including fines, losing your licence, getting an interlock installed
in your car and having to blow zero for three years.

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An enthusiastic group of volunteers took just over an hour to plant 80 plants in the sand dunes between Red Rocks and Penguin Point in August. The next working bee is on Sunday September 15.

Plenty of green at Red Rocks

ENVIRONMENT

After a successful planting day at Red Rocks in August, a working bee is planned for this weekend. Organised by the Red Rocks and Saltwater Coastcare group, in August an enthusiastic group of volunteers turned out to help plant 80 trees in the dunes. Meg Anderson, who assisted John Eddy to plan and set up the event, said the sunny conditions helped make the event a happy and successful one.

Meg said the group un-

dertook infill planting in the north-west sand dunes between Red Rocks and Penguin Point, as well as planting 10 rounded noonflowers in the clay bluff at Penguin Point. The different species planted in the dunes also included seaberry saltbush, white correa, knobby clubbrush and coast daisy brush. "We generally see a 50 per cent survival rate amongst dune plantings, due to the harsh conditions and animal predation," Meg explained. "So we are now hoping for some good rainfall in the com-

ing days, weeks and months to help the plants get established and stabilize the dunes and bluff." "Thank you so much to all the wonderful volunteers who turned out to help. We are most grateful for your support and efforts." The team worked so efficiently that the whole job was completed in just 70 minutes. "Many hands certainly make light work," said Meg. The working bee on Sunday September 15, will cover weeding along the Red Rocks firetrail.

All the stars on show

JAZZ

The Todd Sidney All Stars return to Phillip Island on September 15, presented by the Phillip Island Jazz Club. Accompanying Todd will be Dean Addison on bass, Gideon Marcus on drums, and Eric Budd on various brass and woodwinds. Todd is a top line pianist, and he has certainly selected three musos to accompany him that are worthy of the name All Stars. Their experience and skill is undisputed. This stellar performance is at the Phillip Island Bowling Club, 40 Dunsmore Road in Cowes. Come along, enjoy the music and have a relaxing afternoon, from 2pm - 4.30pm. Tickets are \$20 for Jazz Club



Todd Sidney All Stars return to the Phillip Island Bowling Club on September 15. Members and \$25 for visitors. For more information, please ring Robin on 0432 814 407 or Jill on 0417 416 300.

Join the clean up

ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife Coast Cruises is running its annual beach and foreshore clean-up on Saturday September 14, meeting at 10am outside the Rotunda at the Cowes Jetty Triangle. "With the strong winds and weather lately, we are expecting there will be a fair bit of debris to collect," said a Wildlife Coast Cruises spokesperson. "We have plenty of clean-up bags, gloves, and other clean-up equipment that will be at the check-in gazebo." The event is open to all ages and abilities. Over the last two years, the

Wildlife Coast Cruises team, supported by other volunteers, have collected over 100kg of rubbish that would have likely ended up in our oceans and impacted our marine life. The local Bass Coast Shire Council waste team will be on hand to help everyone sort the collected waste into the correct bins. There are cool prizes up for grabs, including \$250 worth of Wildlife Coast Cruises vouchers and wine packs from the Hidden Sea. "We would love to see as many of the community there as possible. Bring your family and friends." Details: wildlifecoastcruises.com.au/spring-clean-up-2024/

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The Phillip Island Community GP Run will begin at Caldermeade Farm and Café on October 19 and make its way to the Phillip Island Circuit.

Community GP run

MOTO GP

On Saturday October 19 2024, Dead4eva Designs, Trust No One SMC and Phillip Island Toy Run will host The Phillip Island Community GP Run beginning at Caldermeade Farm and Café.

This ride is a replacement for the original Moto GP Ride that used to begin in Cranbourne, which ceased prior to Covid.

The ride will leave from Caldermeade Farm on the South Gippsland Highway, with stands up at 11am. It will continue along the highway through to Phillip Island with the option of heading off at the roundabout to the racetrack in time for the Moto3 qualifying.

Alternatively, riders are invited to make a day of it and head into Cowes.

Organisers said retailers, cafe owners, restaurateurs and publicans "have been allocated the lower half of Thompson Avenue early on to ease your belly or quench your thirst after the ride".

As this is a community and rider organised event, all riders ride at their own risk.

"Organisers, their partners, and heirs will not be held accountable or liable for

any loss or injury incurred," said a ride spokesperson, who stressed the Moto GP Corporation and its affiliates are in no way associated with this event.

Everyone is welcome to join, but all bikes must be legal, roadworthy, registered and riders must have a valid licence.

The ride is free to enter, and no ride registration is required.

"We would just love your company and to go on a great ride," the spokesperson said.

"If people want to put various meeting points down before the actual one, please do not hesitate to do so and list them."

"We will be having assistance from Victoria Police, Eastern Region for traffic management."

Follow the Phillip Island Community GP Run 2024 Facebook page for details.

The Phillip Island Toy run will take place on the first Sunday in December. It is run by Run by Dead4eva Designs & Trust No One SMC.

Dead4eva Designs is a locally owned and operated family business, which also includes Dead4eva Tattooing incorporating a tattoo studio, a piercing specialist, scooter store and streetwear.



Former San Remo resident Jacqui Swallow completed the Melbourne Marathon last year, and has now published a book, "The Bipolar Runner" about living with bipolar disorder and the marathon experience.

Running and writing

BOOK

Former San Remo resident Jacqui Swallow completed the Melbourne Marathon last year, raising thousands of dollars for Beyond Blue.

At the time, she was also working on her book, "The Bipolar Runner" about living with bipolar disorder and the marathon experience.

That book is now being released by Pepper Press (sister company of Fair Play Publishing) and is already available for pre-sale on the Fair Play Publishing website.

The official release date is October 8, just in time for this year's Melbourne Marathon.

The official book launch is on Friday October 11, at the Sandown Park Hotel, from 6-8pm.

Jacqui has invited her supporters from San Remo and Phillip Island to join her at the launch, where the book will also be available to purchase. You can RSVP by scanning the barcode.

Tim Oberg, founder of Healthy Kids Project and Parkrun Australia said the book is inspiring.

"Jacqui writes with humour, heart and vulnerability and

clearly illustrates the power of running and community connectedness in improving both physical and mental health," he said.

"In an age where so many people live with their head buried in a digital device, this book inspires us all to get up, get out and get active, regardless of whatever barriers we may be facing."

Jacqui was born and raised in San Remo and attended primary school in Newhaven and Wonthaggi.

"My father and stepmother, Graham and Val Swallow still live in San Remo, and I will always consider it home," she said.

Jacqui said she will be donating a percentage of profits from the book to Beyond Blue, an organisation she credits with saving her life.

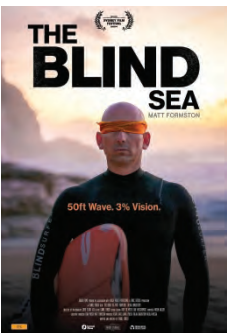
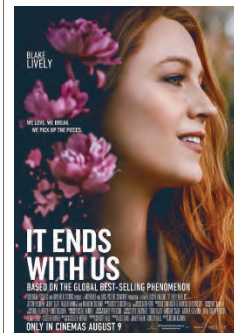
The book outlines her struggles with mental health, diagnosis and treatment, and the resulting weight gain.

She hopes it will inspire other bipolar sufferers to take up running, and for some bipolar runners to find some solidarity and see themselves reflected in the pages.

"The Bipolar Runner" is available online at www.fairplaypublishing.com.au/

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10:30am **It Ends With Us**
[M] 130 mins
Spit the Dummy - Baby Friendly

1:00pm **The Blind Sea**
[PG] 94 mins

4:00pm **Sidonie in Japan**
[PG] 95 mins English/French/Japanese

Friday 13 Sept

4:00pm **Alien Romulus**
[MA15+] 119 mins OCAP

7:00pm **Take My Hand**
[M] 102 mins

Saturday 14 Sept

4:00pm **Evil Does Not Exist**
[PG] 105 mins Japanese with subtitles

7:00pm **Alien Romulus**
[MA15+] 119 mins

Sunday 15 Sept

10:30am **Evil Does Not Exist**
[PG] 105 mins Japanese with subtitles

1:30pm **It Ends With Us**
[M] 130 mins

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Author in residence at Bass Coast College

EDUCATION

Last month, Bass Coast College hosted an Author in Residence Program with Amie Kaufman at the Wonthaggi, San Remo, and Dudley Campuses.

Amie Kaufman is a New York Times and internationally bestselling Australian author, renowned for her contributions to Young Adult science fiction and fantasy.

With numerous awards and a dedicated global fanbase, Amie Kaufman is a leading voice in Young Adult literature.

Over 300 students, across the three Bass Coast College Campuses, attended talks and workshops as part of the Author in Residence program.



Last month's Author in Residence Program with Amie Kaufman at the Wonthaggi, San Remo, and Dudley Campuses of Bass Coast College.

gram.

Students enjoyed meeting Amie and gaining an insight into her journey from

fledgling writer to bestselling author.

Students interested in developing their own writing

skills attended a selection of focused writing workshops with Amie, that included "Get your story started", "world building" and "character voice".

Amie Kaufman has co-authored several acclaimed series, including The Illuminae Files and Aurora Cycle with Jay Kristoff, as well as the Starbound trilogy with Meagan Spooner.

Her work is characterised by intricate world-building, dynamic characters, and thrilling plots that often explore the interplay between technology and humanity.

Kaufman's recent publications such as Isles of the Gods, showcase her talent for weaving magic and adventure into compelling, page-turning narratives.



Lauren Van Stripp and Kirsty Crooks (BCS Business Support Officers) were delighted with the turnout to the Jobs Expo on Phillip Island last week. "This is the third year Bass Coast Shire have run this and it is attracting more participants each time," they said. Big industry as well as small local businesses were represented.



Tara Day and Kirsty Roberts (Early Childhood Traineeship Co-ordinators at Chisholm University) were kept busy fielding enquiries with last Friday's Jobs Expo. Their role is to connect people who would like to work in Early Childhood Education with the region's providers, and Certificate 3 training opportunities, which can also serve as a pathway to a Bachelor of Education.

Jobs Expo well attended

BUSINESS

Berninnet was the ideal venue last Friday for the return of the Bass Coast Jobs Expo to Phillip Island.

The Expo, delivered by the Bass Coast Shire Council in partnership with Workforce Australia and State Government's Skills and Jobs Centre, showcased a variety of employment opportunities across multiple industries, including tourism, early childcare, healthcare, hospitality, retail, conserva-

tion, local government and manufacturing.

Immediate job opportunities ready for community members, from school leavers to pensioners wanting to supplement their income, were also available.

The Expo also ran specialised workshops, facilitated by Skills and Jobs Centres, designed to enhance job search skills.

A Resume Writing Workshop provided expert tips on creating a standout resume and the Interview Skills Workshop equipped participants with tech-

niques to use at job interviews.

The Small Business Bus, provided by Business Victoria, was parked outside Berninnet in Thompson Avenue, offering free consultations for those interested in starting a new business venture.

Those who came along were delighted with the information and assistance provided ... and the icing on the cake was a free cup of coffee from a van parked at the entrance, for everyone in attendance throughout the day.



AGA (Apprenticeship Group Australia) offers employment and training services in a variety of industries across Gippsland. Its officers match employers with apprentices and vice versa; offer ongoing support and mentorship programs to its clients; career guidance; and take the headache out of all of the paperwork throughout for both parties. Jaimie Khan (left) (Workforce Solutions Manager) and Roger Wallis (Field Officer) can be contacted on 130 000 for further information.



Phillip Island's Event Operations Group (EOG) based in Cowes, at last week's Jobs Expo: General Manager Sean Fairthorne (left) and Event Project Director Mel Grice. EOG supports event organisers by supplying staff. Events they support range from the GP, through to music festivals, to building sites. There are a diverse range of roles, on a casual basis, available. Call 0484 014 936 to make enquiries. Enthusiastic teenagers over the age of 18 are currently needed.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MADE SIMPLE

Understanding Risk

- The Key to Smarter Financial Decisions

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELIcapital

In the realm of personal finance, the concept of risk is frequently misunderstood, leading to poor financial decisions that could otherwise be avoided. Whether it's committing to a hefty mortgage or hesitating to invest in the stock market, many people find themselves grappling with a skewed perception of risk. It's time to unravel these misconceptions and foster a clearer understanding of what risk truly entails.

Consider this: many people are more comfortable shouldering the risk of a half-a-million-dollar mortgage for a home than investing a fraction of that amount in the stock market. Similarly, young investors often shy away from high-growth portfolios despite having decades to recover from market fluctuations. And, some individuals are so wary of financial advisors that they end up taking the greater risk of not making any informed financial decisions at all.

These scenarios reveal a troubling pattern: the choice that seems safer is often riskier than the one we avoid. Understanding risk is not about evading it but about managing it effectively.

One reason for the widespread misunderstanding of risk is the common confusion between fear and risk. Fear is an emotional response influenced by anecdotes and media stories, while risk is a quantifiable factor that should be assessed with logic and evidence. The strategies used to alleviate fear often differ from those employed to mitigate risk.

To navigate financial decisions more wisely, it's crucial to redefine how we perceive risk. Instead of labelling investments as either risky or safe, ask yourself, "What are the specific risks involved with this decision or activity?" Every financial choice carries inherent risks, and acknowledging this is the first step towards effective management.

For instance, investing in real estate and taking on a mortgage involves risks such as property depreciation or market fluctuations. Conversely, investing in

the stock market comes with its own set of risks, such as company performance and market volatility. Recognising these specifics helps in making informed decisions rather than simply avoiding risk.

Accepting that risk is an inescapable aspect of financial decisions can be unsettling, but it's a necessary realisation. The illusion of safety often masks the reality that all choices involve some level of risk. By confronting this fact, you're better positioned to manage risk rather than flee from it.

Here's how you can approach risk more constructively:

1. Understand Risk in Context: Rather than avoiding risk altogether, assess the risks associated with different options. For example, investing in a single company's stock exposes you to its specific risks, whereas diversifying through exchange-traded funds or index funds spreads out this risk. Similarly, long-term investments can mitigate the impact of short-term market downturns.
2. Learn to Manage Risk: Instead of trying to escape risk, focus on strategies to manage it. Diversification, for instance, can reduce the impact of poor performance from any single investment. Time is another powerful risk management tool; holding investments over the long term can help weather market volatility and recover from downturns.
3. Make Informed Decisions: Financial success often hinges not on avoiding risk or taking reckless gambles, but on making informed and calculated choices. Evaluate your options, understand the associated risks, and apply strategies to manage them effectively.

By rethinking your approach to risk, you can move beyond fear and make more strategic financial decisions. Embrace the reality that risk is omnipresent, and leverage your understanding to make choices that balance risk and reward. In doing so, you'll navigate the complexities of personal finance with greater confidence and clarity.

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



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Good luck to all sides from Alex Scott and Staff

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

Est. 1886

GRAND FINAL 2024 PREVIEW



All roads for Phillip Island Football Netball Club members lead to Garfield on Saturday, where the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition Grand Final series will be played.

Very best wishes from the island community to the Phillip Island Seniors side, U18 and U16 footy teams, and our U15 netballers, as they strive to bring home four premiership flags.

Full details of competing teams and club insights are included in our ten-page Grand Final lift out.



Phillip Island elite midfielder Haydn Bruce shows the form that saw him presented with the 2024 West Gippsland Football Netball Competition Best and Fairest Award on Monday night. He was also one of four island players named in the competition's "Team of the Year".



2024 West Gippsland Grand Finals

Good luck to all sides from Alex Scott and Staff

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

Est.1886

Footy history in the making

Excitement is in the air at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) as the Island Seniors team prepares to line up on Saturday for its fifth consecutive West Gippsland Football Netball Competition (WGFNC) Grand Final appearance since 2017.

With senior WGFNC premiership wins in 2017 and 2018, the runners up award in 2022 and 2023, and Covid intervening in between, the club is keen to make amends and has its sights well and truly set on a 2024 premiership.

Three other premiership flags for PIFNC teams are also up for grabs on Saturday.

The Under 16s team will be looking for back-to-back flags, after taking the honour last year; and the Under 18s team will be looking to prove a point, after going down in last year's Grand Final appearance.

In a nail breaking result on the weekend, the Reserves side missed a Grand Final berth this year, after losing the lead in Saturday's preliminary final a heart breaking 30 seconds before the final siren.

On the netball front, PIFNC's Under 15 team, the club's sole representative at Garfield on

Grand Final day, will be out there all guns blazing to secure a flag, after the B Grade, Under 17s and Under 11 teams failed to get through at the preliminary finals on Saturday.

Phillip Island Seniors meet Nar Nar Goon in the Grand Final, having been beaten by them during the year.

An optimistic PIFNC president Chris Ross is unfazed by those statistics.

"We are a force to be reckoned with as we head to Garfield on the weekend.

"The good news is we are going into the Grand Final with a full list to pick from, and without the injury worries that beset the club during the season.

Our side is being led by coach (and former AFL player) Cam Pedersen, whose experience and football prowess is second to none.

"Cam has guided and melded our senior side with emerging juniors into a well-oiled team.

"Gun player Haydn Bruce was named best and fairest player at last week's WGFNC vote count. He is certainly a force to be reckoned with."

Another incentive on the day

will be Damian Holmes playing his 300th game with PIFNC.

Thank you

As the footy year draws to a close, Chris has extended his heartfelt thanks to the coaches, team managers and volunteers of PIFNC's 14 football and netball teams, for the tens of thousands of volunteer hours they put in.

He has also extended a huge thank you to the club's generous sponsors, without whose support it would be unable to operate.

Major sponsor: The Bendigo Bank. Platinum sponsors: San Remo Hotel, Terra Firma, North Pier Hotel, Endeavour Petrol, Ray White Phillip Island, Red Rocks Golf, Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Todd Devine Homes.

"There are also numerous local businesses who sponsor and support us, and whom we value hugely.

"It's our fifth consecutive Grand Final appearance and we are out to finish the year as we started," Chris concluded.

"Our goal is and has been a premiership flag. It can only be done with the support of everyone aforementioned."

Zac's our shining star



Stand out U18 Phillip Island footballer Zac Walker was named the Rising Star for 2024 by the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition at Monday night's competition presentations. The Rising Star annual award goes to the best young talent in the competition each year. Such is his prowess, Zac has been playing in the Island's Seniors side for the last few months and will take his place there on the wing in Saturday's Grand Final.



Flying high last week in the U18 semi-final, Noah Forrest's form this year earned him equal third ranking in the U18 WGFNC Best and Fairest vote count last week.



Four Phillip Island players were selected in the WGFNC "Team of the Year" announced at the Leagues presentation night held in Pakenham on Monday night. From left they are Haydn Bruce, also named as the League Best and Fairest on the night; Billy Taylor, elusive and effective island forward; Charlie Bruce, up and coming midfielder; and Jack Taylor, named as vice captain of the elite side.

Come on Bulldogs, you can pull one out of the box. GOOD LUCK IN THE GRAND FINAL!

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2024 West Gippsland Grand Finals

Good luck to all sides from Alex Scott and Staff

ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF

Est. 1886

Scott Huther
COACH



Melissa Cashman
TEAM MANAGER



PHILLIP ISLAND BULLDOGS

UNDER 18s SIDE

1

Sonny
McMillan



Very fast with great skills, look out for him burning down the wing.

2

Benji
Chioski



Great at the ground ball, gets to the front and hits the score board.

3

Alex
Babarti



Small forward reads well off the pack.

4

Jack
Kennedy



Strong defender takes the game on.

5

Beau
Davies



Great defender reads the ball well and is the interceptor.

6

James
Lewis



Speed speed speed is his weapon, will take the game on and give plenty of drive.

7

Finn
Gibson



Twinkle toes, reads the game well.

8

Oliver
Hibbert



Mid fielder, hard at the contest in and under.

9

Daniel
Caffieri



Defender loves to run and carry, elite by foot.

10

Charlie
O'Garey



Mid/forward skilful, light on his feet can kick goals.

11

Cha Cha
Martus



Wing/forward can play a few roles, left footer with great skills.

12

Darcy
Thomson



Midfielder, knows how to get the ball, give his team first options.

13

Max
Taylor



Forward, smart player, leads up at the ball and kicks goals.

14

Jack
Huther



Forward, strong mark, leading goal kicker.

15

Tim
Niven



Defender, ever reliable gets under the opponents' skin.

16

Yianni
Caffieri



Midfielder, knows how to get the ball, gives his team first options, most likely playing Seniors.

17

William
Hill



Defender, fast and has great closing speed.

18

Zac
Walker



Ruck/forward, strong overhead most likely playing Seniors, great leader.

19

Cooper
Walton



Can play anywhere, high energy, good in the air.

20

Bailey
Hennesy



Midfield, very clean and uses first option.

21

Eden
Goldsbury



Defender, give him a job and he will give his all, rarely loses a contest.

22

William
Peppard



Defender, midfield strong over the ball.

23

Leo
Savona



Defender, captain great leader, has a good set of hands.

24

Jack
Briggs



Forward, ruck, good leap and can take a good mark.

25

Jasper
Cashman



Forward, defender, swing man that can play at both ends of the ground.

26

Finn
O'Brien



Midfield, tall strong midfielder that takes the game on, look for him to take control.

27

Noah
Williams



Wing, fast and can run all day, elite by foot.

29

Noah Forrest-
Mabilia



Ruck/forward, great leap, gives his mid first look and can take a great mark.

34

Max
Arceo



Forward/wing, leader gets around his mates, strong at the contest.

37

Ollie
Duggan



Forward, great mark and leads at the ball well, in great form.

40

Heath
Wormesley



Defender gives the team energy doesn't lose a contest.



2024 West Gippsland Grand Finals

2024 West Gippsland Grand Finals



Good luck to all sides from Alex Scott and Staff

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Good luck to all sides from Alex Scott and Staff

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PHILLIP ISLAND BULLDOGS



SENIORS SIDE

Jacquie Stewart
TRAINER



Jacquie is the best strapper the boys could ask for. Very funny and caring and best tapper in the business.

Chris Ross
PRESIDENT



Big chief has led the club for numerous years as president with dedication.

Daniel Larsson
ASSISTANT COACH



Wears his heart on his sleeve, shows passion and care for the group. Has a great tactical mind.

Daniel Pearce



Leader of the backline, hard at it, very skilful and provides aerial support.

Daniel Bourke



Best tap ruckman in the league. Runs all day, skilful by hand and foot.

Billy Taylor



Sublime skilled forward who has taken his game to a new level, great on both feet.

Damien Holmes



The wise left footer will give direction and voice, lynch pin in the backline.

Kai McKenzie



Attacking half back that has speed to burn. Classy left footer.

Coby Olarenshaw



Long kicking key defender who has good leg speed. Has developed into a reliable key defender.

Jaymie Youle



Club great who is hard at it. Wins the contested ball and makes people around him stand taller.

Charlie Bruce



Strong over the ball and explosive out of stoppages a real match winner.

Bryce Hindaugh



Genuine speed and evasiveness on the wing.

Max Walton



Speed, running power and highly skilful. Has a great balance of inside and outside play.

Mark Griffin



Big bodied defender who never gives an inch. Strong right leg with great closing speed.

Jordan Patullo



Good on both sides of his body. Very courageous going back with the flight.



Coby Olarenshaw steadies in defence.



Determination and grit! Orlando Kane-Gillard and the speedy Max Walton charge for the ball.



Damian Holmes plays his 300th game for the Bulldogs in Saturday's Grand Final.

The form that got them there!



Club great Jaymie Youle and Billy Taylor in full flight.



The Seniors side will be in the steady and safe hands of playing coach Cam Pedersen on the field on Saturday.

Marcus Wright



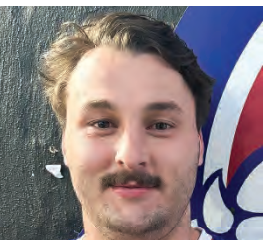
Well balanced winger that provides good coverage and great decision making.

Jack Taylor



Leads by example, hardworking, skilful tall who always provides a contest.

Alex Duyker



Big bodied left footer who has elite hands and provides intercept marking.

Aaron Harris



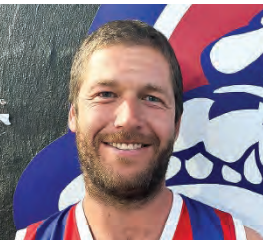
Big Aaron has been a welcome addition, strong bodied defender who competes.

Thomas Baulch



Gut running mid/forward who is very skilful on both sides of the body, provides the X factor.

Travis Woodfield



Crafty forward who presents at the ball. Can bring some magic to games.

Yianni Caffieri



Classy onballer who is clean in stoppages and a great decision maker.

Orlando Kane-Gillard



Extremely fast and lively forward who is a nightmare for small defenders.

Zac Walker



Talented young tall who can play in every position. Very athletic with terrific marking ability.

Cameron Pedersen
COACH



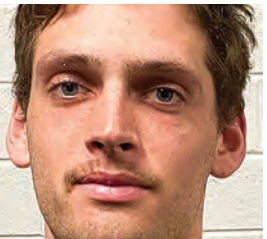
Big target up forward with strong hands, will pinch hit in the ruck.

Hayden Bruce



Best player in the league, competitive beast who loves to dash out of stoppages.

Jesse Patullo



The swing man reads the ball well in the air and takes opposition's best forward and can swing forward and kick goals.



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AND STAFF
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ALEX SCOTT & STAFF
West Gippsland Football Netball Competition
Grand Final – Saturday, September 14, starting at 9am.
Garfield Recreation Reserve

SENIORS:
Phillip Island v Nar Nar Goon
RESERVES:
Nar Nar Goon v Tooradin-Dalmore
U18S:
Phillip Island v Warragul Industrials

U16S:
Phillip Island v Warragul Industrials
U15 NETBALL:
Phillip Island v Warragul Industrials





2024 West Gippsland Grand Finals

Good luck to all sides from Alex Scott and Staff

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AND STAFF**

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It does not happen by chance

The phenomenal growth of the PIFNC Club over the past ten years has seen the incredible number of 690 (570 footballers and 120 netballers) playing from senior through to junior levels, at the Phillip Island footy ground.

It is certainly no mean feat getting each season up and running to a seamless start.

The logistics of accommodating 13 different teams for the competition, biweekly training sessions for them all; Sunday competitive matches for juniors; and running the hugely popular Auskick program for the very young on Friday nights, is certainly a challenge.

It takes an army of volunteers who step up each week to meet this challenge.

The club could not operate without them.

Heading this well-oiled operation is the 12 member Phillip Island and Netball Club committee: President Chris Ross, with Scott Huther (Football Operations) and Naz O'Brien (Netball Operations) also at the fore.

A myriad of volunteers turn out rain, hail and shine to bi-weekly training sessions for



PIFNC Netball Operations manager Naz O'Brien congratulates Maya Huther (left) who took out the Under 17 WGFNC Best and Fairest Award, and Alisha Hibbert, Under 15 WGFNC Best and Fairest Award Runner Up.

each team and Saturday and Sunday competition, over the seven month footy season, to enable the club to function at a professional level. And there is no shortage of them.

Community members, parents and grandparents, step up to the mark each week as coaches, trainers, umpires, time keepers, canteen assistants ... the list goes on.



PIFNC president Chris Ross congratulates young dynamo Charlie Fischer, who won the WGFNC Under 16 Best and Fairest Award at last week's vote count.

With four premierships in the wind this year, the pace quickens come September.

There are extra training sessions to be held, rooms to be decorated, and a Grand Final night

celebration (or commiseration) back at the clubrooms, to be organised, win, lose or draw.

There are banners to be made for the teams to run through, and the traditional colourful bridge send off for our sporting heroes to be arranged.

The massive undertaking is certainly a challenge, particularly for a club with access to only one oval at the recreation reserve, now sadly in a state of disrepair.

But that challenge is always superbly met, with Phillip Island the largest and arguably most successful club in the WGFNC in the last five years.

This Saturday therefore belongs not just to the players, who will give their all on the weekend, but to everyone involved in the club's operation.

Getting into a WGFNC Grand Final, let alone winning it, is indeed a monumental challenge.

No matter the outcome on Saturday, it is a day of celebration of our youth, their sporting prowess, of the club's hard work, the support of its sponsors, and of broader community pride in general.



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Vice captain of U'16's Archie Ross and Captain Lachie Eastwood.

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Your Community Banks are proud to be the major sponsors of our Junior Football and Junior Netball teams.

Congratulations to the Under 16 and Under 18 Boys football and Under 15 Girls netball on reaching the Grand Finals! We wish them and the Seniors football all the best for Saturday and enjoy your games.

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Brendan Cashman
COACH



Anthony Williams
ASSISTANT COACH



PHILLIP ISLAND BULLDOGS

UNDER 16s SIDE

Ralph Arceo
ASSISTANT COACH



Irene Mesic
TEAM MANAGER



1

Jeremy
Kelly



Interleague captain,
elite midfielder.

2

Xavier
Williams



Deputy vice captain –
superstar midfielder.

3

Lachlan
Eastwood



Captain – spiritual leader.

5

Harrison
Carlton



Elite midfielder,
matchwinner.

6

Lewis
De Fazio



All arms, legs and heart.

8

Reef
Riky



Crafty forward.

9

Jack
Larsson



Forward line general.

10

Sam
O'Garey



Forward gun, ready
to explode.

12

Tommy
Newman



Utility with huge voice.

13

Felix
Bathgate



Freakish skill,
matchwinner.

14

Cade
Wragg



Deputy vice captain –
inside bull.

16

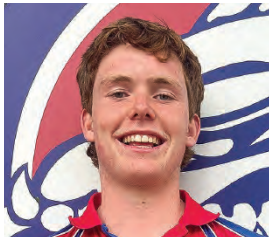
Joe
Kelsey



Versatile backman.

17

Parker
Trappett



Key position beast.

18

Jack
Mascaros



Tackling machine.

21

Harry
Arceo



Hard as nails wingman.

22

Blake
Murphy



#1 Ruck, contested beast.

23

Dean
Rizzo



Loves it hard and tough.

24

Ethan
Ree



Silky skills, always
has time.

25

Alex
Szymanski



The definition of tough.

27

Austin
Finlayson



Defensive beast.

28

Levi
Addison



Elusive goal sneak.

34

Sam
Schueller



Attacking backman.

37

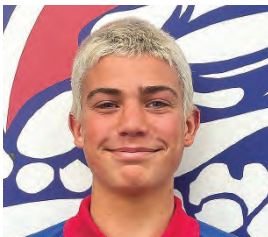
Archie
Ross



Vice captain –
the barometer.

39

Toby
Davies



Great overhead.

40

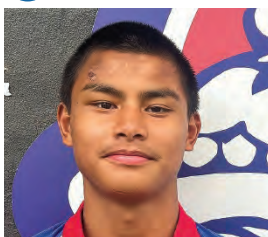
Kai
Cashman



Skilful goal sneak.

42

Charlie
Fischer



League best and fairest,
born for GF's.

45

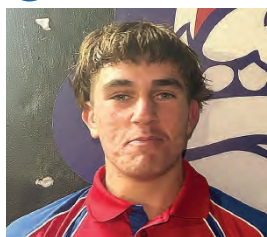
Harry
Bentley



Fast and mobile.

52

Ashton
Smith



Backline bull.

58

Max
Jess



Rangy left footed winger.

77

Archer
Cameron



Tough backman.



2024 West Gippsland Grand Finals

Good luck to all sides from Alex Scott and Staff

ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF

Est.1886



B Grade's quest for a premiership ended last week, in a close match at Saturday's preliminary final. At back: Abbey McCaughan (injured), Anthea Bennett, Isla Cousins, coach Anna Mewett, Emma Hallas, Sophie Gysberts, Meika White, Aisha Hibbert, and Team Manager Amber White. Front: Maddie Taylor and Jess Gysberts. Absent Tilly McKenna. Thanks go to Nikki, Ahlee and Steph for benching over the past few weeks.



Isla Walton was strong in defence on Saturday.



Phillip Island's Under 17 netballers bowed out of the Grand Final race at Saturday's preliminary final, going down to Inverloch in a hard fought match by a narrow margin. Matilda Trew, Ruby Mewett, Ellie Hennessey, Jasira Derham and Matilda McKenna cheering on their team mates



Lachlan Eastwood and Kai Cashman ecstatic to make it to the U16 Grand Final.



Matilda McKenna and Meika White worked well together at Saturday's B Grade preliminary final.



Max Mattock and Tom Niven in an arm wrestle with Tooradin during the Reserves' preliminary final.



Kristien, Leah, and the entire Ray White team want to wish all the PIFNC teams playing in their Grand Final the best of luck!

As proud Platinum Sponsors, we're behind you all the way.

Go Doggies!

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Wishing the Phillip Island football and netball teams all the best for 2024 season



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2024 West Gippsland Grand Finals

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PHILLIP ISLAND BULLDOGS



NETBALL UNDER 15s

Aisha
Hibbert



As captain she not only shows amazing leadership on court but her athleticism and accuracy in the ring makes her hard to stop, being a top scoring player every game.

Ellie
Hennessey



Ellie seamlessly links defence and attack with her dynamic ability and speed, calming and controlling the flow of the ball. Can rely on her to run out a strong four quarters in the middle when needed.

Piper
O'Brien



Dynamic and versatile, Piper plays an important role in both attacking and defensive roles, showcasing exceptional speed and poise.

Ruby
Mewett



Being six foot at 15 her height and agility makes her a key player in defence, consistently intercepting passes and blocking shots.

Ava
Blake



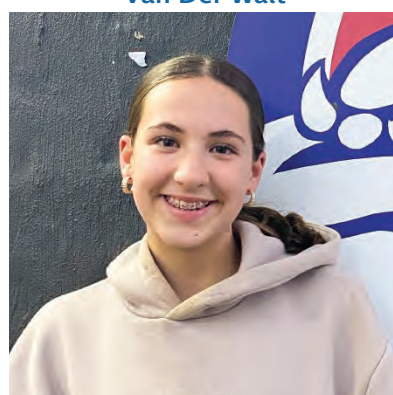
Another strong mid court player, even being bottom age Ava is very mature with her exceptional vision and quick decision making, while also maintaining a high work rate.

Isla
Humphreys



Isla has an amazing voice on and off the court, while also showing off her defensive skills on the wing making it hard for attackers to make an impact on the court.

Maisey
Van Der Walt



Maisey is a smart defensive player who can play anywhere we put her. She's known for her pocket intercepts and fast transition down the court.

Mia
Hughes



Renowned for her accuracy and composure, the team can rely on Mia to finish every shot with her exceptional scoring ability even in pressuring times.

Matilda
Trew



Tilly – another key player in defence. She dominates the defensive circle with her smarts and athleticism, making it hard for shooters to do their job.

Adele
Hecker



Dual threat player, Adele can play a huge role in attacking and defensive roles, being an accurate shooter and smart ring defender, making her a versatile and invaluable asset on the court.

Lily Mewett
COACH





2024 West Gippsland Grand Finals

Good luck to all sides from Alex Scott and Staff

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

Est. 1886



***We need a second
footy oval ... NOW
– NOT in 20 years' time***

*This Under 16 player is looking forward to a long footy career with PIFNC, starting with a Grand Final match on Saturday; but he will be 35 before a second footy oval is developed under the Bass Coast Shire Council's Recreation Strategy for Phillip Island. His joy at the \$300,000 turf refurbishment of the Cowes oval over summer this year was short lived, when it spectacularly failed within months of its completion. **CAUSE:** According to PIFNC president Chris Ross: "We are catering for almost 600 players. There are simply too many people using it." **REMEDY:** "We need a second oval now ... and not in 20 years' time as council currently decrees."*

The deplorable state of the football oval at the Cowes Recreation Reserve has been challenging for PIFNC throughout 2024.

The high hopes of all for a top-notch oval facility were quickly dashed early in the season, when council's long awaited turf refurbishment project ... which cost ratepayers \$300,000 ... spectacularly failed.

Players were wallowing in

mud by mid-July, and come September, there are patches of bare ground across the footy field.

"There are just too many teams using it," said a desperately disappointed Chris Ross on the weekend, as his club sends three of its four teams to play off in WGFNC Grand Finals.

"The oval is no longer capable of accommodating our huge numbers, which are exploding

upward every year. We tried to use it as little as possible, to prevent more damage occurring.

"But there is only one answer to the problem. We need another oval urgently to accommodate our huge numbers ... not in 20 years' time as decreed in the Bass Coast Shire recreation strategy plan, but now."

It was Newhaven College to the footy club's rescue mid-year, as the condition of the

oval deteriorated.

"Without the assistance given to our club by Newhaven College, I am not sure what we would have done," Chris said.

"They gave us access to both their oval and school gymnasium for player training sessions, when our ground was pretty much unusable.

"Without them, we had nowhere else to go.

"I want to thank Newhaven

College sincerely."

Lack of access to the footy oval from September 2023 until March 2024 while the turf refurbishment was carried out, was accepted by both the footy and cricket clubs as "short term pain for long term gain" with a vastly improved oval to be their reward for the six-month lockout.

Where to from here is the question they would now like answered.

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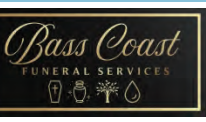
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New facilities for Corinella Bowling Club

ACCESSIBILITY

Bass Coast Shire Council announced new toilet facilities, including DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant access, have been completed at the Corinella Bowling Club.

The project, fully funded by Council at \$428,000, is part of an initiative to renew community facilities across the shire to ensure they are inclusive and accessible to all. The council said these projects are vital for fostering social health and well-being for all residents.

The upgrade included the demolition of part of the existing building and extending the floor area to accommodate the new facilities.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Clare Le Serve, CEO Greg Box and Council Officers involved in delivering this project of the new facilities officially handed over the project to club representatives Steve Bray and Barbara Oats, as well as a contingent of members who were excited to be able to enjoy their new space.

"This upgrade not only improves the facilities at the Corinella Bowling Club but also reflects our commitment to creating inclusive, welcoming environ-

ments for all members of our community," said Mayor Le Serve.

The Mayor said the addition of these new accessible facilities underscores Council's dedication to enhancing community health and well-being.

"Recreational activities, like lawn bowling, play a crucial role in fostering physical activity, social interaction, and mental health.

"Ensuring that community spaces are accessible to everyone means more residents can participate in these enriching activities, promoting a healthier, more connected community."

The Corinella Bowling Club welcomes new members of all ages, including juniors and seniors, and provides opportunities for both social and competitive bowls in a friendly and relaxed environment.

For those interested in getting involved, whether as a member or a visitor, the Corinella Bowling Club Inc is ready to welcome you and experience their community spirit and upgraded facilities.

Learn more about the project: en-gage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/corinella_bowls



Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Clare Le Serve (front right) with CEO Greg Box (third from right) and council officers involved in delivering the project met with club representatives to celebrate the opening of the accessible community facilities.

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



Say No defended

I would like to thank Michelle Jean for her letter (August 28) personally directed at me.

The letter perfectly illustrates (unwittingly I believe) the very point expressed in my letter, regarding the attitude and aggression of some core members of the Yes supporters towards those with a different opinion. In print, there for all to see. It was a personal attack on me rather than trying to present any reasoned alternative opinions.

It's concerning that you seem unable to comprehend the difference between verbal sparring and actual physical threats and intimidation.

In the two years the Say No group worked to defeat the charge scheme, at no point did we publicly name a single Yes voter; even when members of that group accosted Say No members in the street, stole signs and regularly sent abusive emails to its leaders.

Ross Bencraft, Surf Beach

An apology

This is an apology to a young man I nearly collided with outside the Cowes library at 2.30 last Monday.

He was driving along the footpath on his e-motorbike as I was crossing to my car.

I heard "look out" from behind me and jumped out of the way by an inch. Coasting on, he looked back gleefully and turned his phone toward me, laughing.

I was angry.

I saw him again shortly at a nearby servo. I took his phone and asked for an apology.

He laughed at me and denied what he'd done. Outside at my car we argued, tumbled across my car door for the phone, he threatened to "call his crip" on me. I threw his phone, he kicked my side mirror. Some very kind bystanders came over to make sure I was ok.

This boy looked like an undernourished 14-year-old. A couple of his mates arrived, all with that same defiant, disenfranchised pale look. I look like a 70-year-old

woman of slight build and secure upbringing.

There was no meaningful communication to be had. They left, I left.

Hurt people hurt people.

I've done a lot in my life but I've never been a 14-year-old boy. I'm guessing he's been hurt. Maybe not. Either way I wish I hadn't taken the retaliatory path. It will have only confirmed what he already knows. Conflict, us and them, that adults wield power over the likes of him.

I'm not saying he behaved acceptably, but that I could have behaved better than I did.

I'm not sure yet what that might look like. I'm still thinking about it. I feel truly regretful. I wanted then to hit him. Now I kind of want to hug him, show him a better kinder way of being. Don't imagine that would work either.

So I apologise young man. Your future awaits. You can do better, as I hope to.

Name and address withheld

What cost for Cultural Centre?

In this never-ending cycle of electioneering, from local to state to federal to international, candidates behave more like media celebrities than representatives elected by people in times gone by.

They don't care about truth. They refuse to take action to mitigate against Climate Emergency. Even arithmetic, 2 + 2 doesn't = 4.

Did the Shire recently win an award for name choosing for the Cultural Centre?

The Shire was pleased to proclaim, in eight months since opening, no less than 200,000 people had attended successful events at the Cultural Centre.

Here goes with 2 + 2 not = 4. For ease of arithmetic, let's say four weeks per month so 32 weeks for eight months. Then per week 200,000/32 = 6250. This means close to 1000 people per day! The theatre is 250 odd seats but is it ever four full house attendance in a single day?

There are days when it's difficult to see 100 people; more like 10.

Capital cost, just before completion, was \$32 million. Expecting "creative accounting", again for easy arithmetic, let's round up to \$35 million. Then let's say earning 10 per cent per year, so \$3.5 million, maybe high for rate of interest but let's say including operations and maintenance which means it needs to earn more than 10 per cent. So \$3.5 million earning divided by 50 weeks per year amounts to \$70,000 per day.

If they ever did get 1000 people in a day, each would need to pay \$70 for the privilege.

Of course, for any decision more than budget for a sausage sizzle, Shire defers to consultants. Reputations are a bit tarnished right now, since fiasco with PwC and Federal Government. But how much does it cost us to keep our local government representatives in the style to which they're accustomed? And isn't it enough to expect them to do simple arithmetic like this?

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Take action on dementia

With around two-thirds of people with dementia living in the community this Dementia Action Week (September 16-22) we are calling on all Australians to take action to make their communities more welcoming and accessible for people living with dementia.

More than 421,000 Australians are currently living with dementia, but this number is expected to increase to more than 812,500 by 2054. A lack of knowledge and understanding of dementia can lead to people living with dementia feeling excluded and experiencing discrimination.

People living with dementia tell us they want to belong - they want to be part of their community and to feel valued. That's why this year's theme for Dementia Action Week is 'Act Now for a Dementia-Friendly Future'.

All people impacted by de-

mentia deserve to be supported and welcomed in their communities, no matter where they live. So please, find out how you can influence change in your community to create a more dementia-friendly future at dementia.org.au.

Merran Kelsall AO, Chair Dementia Australia

Bobby Redman, Chair Dementia Australia Advisory Committee

Jan Thompson for Western Port Ward

As a former Chief of Staff to a Federal Parliamentarian, I have gained hands-on experience with procedure, research and constituent advocacy, while also developing expertise in various areas of government. This background equips me to effectively navigate council procedures and make impactful decisions for the community.

I currently volunteer as:

- Secretary of the Corinella & District Community Centre (CDCC)
- Member of the Corinella CFA as Grants/Events Officer
- Work with Boomerang Bags in conjunction with Totally Renewable Tenby and CDCC
- Treasurer for two years for Corinella Residents & Ratepayers Assoc now Grants/Events
- Mondays at CDCC assisting residents with issues such as aged care, social security, housing, visas and any other government, or social issue.

My focus will be on fundamental areas such as roads, planning, housing, small business, childcare, land care and management, sports facilities, and community engagement. Priorities include free roadside hard waste collection, negotiating a fair rating system for farmers and low-income housing.

It's time for a new direction - "Back to Basics". Basics need to be done better and deliver value for money.

I am totally funding my own campaign.

Jan Thompson, Corinella

Authorised by Jan Thompson
PO Box 2057 Corinella

Candidate for Western Port Ward
jan.thompson3984@hotmail.com

Pathetic museum

Over the last couple of weeks I have been following with interest the correspondence regarding the new Cowes Cultural Centre and the lack of space allowed for a museum. So I decided to see for myself. I found it tucked away, and I use that word advisedly, behind the library.

I was shocked, disgusted and ashamed, for an island that has such a rich and diverse history it is tiny.

Most of the history is only available in digital format (not everyone lives their lives on IT).

The old museum had numerous informative and interesting displays and books that visitors and researchers could sit in lovely old chairs around a magnificent table.

We, the community need to know where has all the stuff has gone. I would be too embarrassed to take visitors, especially overseas visitors who are used to seeing fantastic museums, to our pathetic attempt at one.

Given the outrageous amount of money spent on the build and so much wasted space it is a great disappointment the Bass Coast Shire Council wasn't able to give the community what it wanted, which was a little shop to display and sell local art works plus a comfortable coffee lounge, somewhere the community could meet and chat.

I would also like to comment on the article entitled "Major artwork for Berninnet" (Advertiser August 28). Why oh why does the BCSC constantly waste ratepayers' money? They want a significant artwork to celebrate the region's unique cultural history - well where is John Adam's picture plus the Patchworker's one? Oh yes! Of course! They are old.

I do despair.

Pauline Taylor, Cowes



Zone Councillor Wendy Walker (left) and Judy Swift, the recipient of VIEW's "Making a Difference Award" for her contribution to the club.

VIEW celebrates birthday

COMMUNITY

In July the Phillip Island VIEW Club held its monthly meeting to celebrate its 29th birthday. The theme was "Op Shop Glam" at the Phillip Island Bowling Club with a two-course meal.

"Our warm thanks to the Bowling Club for allowing us to use their facilities," said a club spokesperson.

"We were fortunate to have our Zone Councillor Wendy Walker in attendance. VIEW Club members from Inverloch, joined with our members with a total of 60 ladies enjoying many fun activities, door prizes and raffles during the day."

It was a special day for club member Judy Swift who received the VIEW "Making a Difference Award" from Zone Councillor Wendy Walker. With the support of two friends Judy is known as one of the "Founding Mothers" of the club.

Phillip Island VIEW Club was established in 1995 and for over 29 years Judy served as a passionate and enthusiastic member taking on varying roles.

"Judy's contribution was inspiring, and

her continuing motivation has been outstanding by building very strong friendships and connections."

Entertainment on the day was provided by Melbourne-born composer, musician, arranger Nathan Glenn. Nathan has won numerous awards for his performances and compositions and his works have been performed by orchestras and symphonic bands in Australia and internationally.

VIEW members across the country support the education of disadvantaged Australian children by raising much needed funds for The Smith Family. Through fundraising activities and social events locally, Phillip Island members raise money that goes directly to the Learning for Live program.

Currently the Phillip Island VIEW Club sponsor six children. Learning for Life sponsorship assists families in need to afford a child's education essentials such as uniforms, shoes and stationery. Currently there are 1700 children sponsored with VIEW nationally.

For further information on VIEW, please contact President Chris on 0406 469 824.

Volunteer drivers needed

HEALTH

Latrobe Community Health Service is in urgent need of volunteer transport drivers from Bass Coast.

The health service provides low cost transport for older Bass Coast residents who need help getting to and from medical appointments – both locally and near the city.

Hundreds of residents from across Gippsland rely on the free transport service to get to booked medical appointments. In 2023-24, Latrobe Community Health Service delivered more than 5000 trips.

"Our transport service is so busy, we are currently providing double the amount of trips than we previously would," Volunteer Co-ordinator Adriana Pezzutto said.

"This service can be the difference between someone getting the specialist medical care they need or missing vital appointments.

"Our current volunteers are incredible, but we need more hands on deck.

"No matter your experience or how much time you have to give, we want to hear from you," Ms Pezzutto said.

Volunteer drivers need a current driver's licence. Latrobe Community Health Service provides the rest: a vehicle, a police check, volunteer training, and coordination of all the trips.

"The day begins for me when I put on my lanyard. It makes me feel proud to know in my small way I will be doing something to help others," Olga, a volunteer transport driver, said.

"I have been asked a few times why I volunteer, I always think of the cliché 'money can't buy you happiness', but volunteer work can give you so much more – the feeling of doing good is priceless."

To express your interest or to find out more, visit lchs.com.au/volunteer, email volunteers@lchs.com.au or phone 1800 242 696 and ask to speak with a volunteer coordinator.



"It makes me feel proud to know in my small way I will be doing something to help others," Olga, a volunteer transport driver, said. Latrobe Community Health Services urgently needs more volunteer drivers.

Crime rates too high, says candidate

FEDERAL ELECTION

Independent candidate for Monash and lawyer Deb Leonard states more must be done to bring crime rates down in the electorate.

Deb Leonard has worked extensively in criminal law as a lawyer in Gippsland. She is often in the local Magistrates Court and sees and hears first-hand the circumstances that lead to offending.

"Family Violence is at critical rates across Gippsland" says Deb.

"More must be done to prevent family violence from occurring in the first place, as well as increased support for victims.

"We need safe houses and early support for potential victims, to enable them to not be locked in financially to a dangerous situation. We also need to address the perpetrators, where a lack of available counselling services, lack of positive lifestyle opportunities, drug and alcohol use and strained financial circumstances, all contribute to increased violence and crime.

"None of these realities are an excuse, but addressing them will lead to lower rates of offending."

The latest data released by the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) state there were crime increases in Warragul of 13.5 per cent, Drouin 8.5 per cent, Longwarry 36.7 per cent, and in the Baw Baw services area of 11.9 per cent, when compared to the previous year.

Deb believes more funding needs to be put into crime reduction in regional and rural areas and said in terms of youth crime, local police have noted youth offending is often motivated by boredom.

"There is a lack of positive activities and opportunities for social connection for



Independent candidate for Monash and lawyer Deb Leonard is often in the local Magistrates Court and sees and hears first-hand the circumstances that lead to offending.

young people in the area.

"I've been involved in several youth programs and can see the positive effect it has on kids. It is vital to keep these kids off the streets and out of trouble," says Deb.

As an independent, Deb is confident she can deliver more for Monash when it comes to crime reduction, family violence support and more facilities for young people.

She plans to speak more to the community and support groups over the coming months, to determine exactly the best way to address these issues for our community.

"I'm not constrained by party politics, so can concentrate my efforts 100 per cent on delivering better outcomes for our electorate," she said.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Cr Clare Le Serve

It has been an incredible journey to meet so many residents, volunteers, and community members throughout my Council and Mayoral term. Time and again, I've seen firsthand how resilient our community is – ready to jump into action whenever challenges arise. Whether facing emergencies or simply celebrating our achievements, Bass Coast pulls together like no other.

This year has had its share of trials, from the tragedy of the drowning incident early on, to the wild storms that have tested us once again. My heart goes out to all affected, and I am so proud of how our community and Council responded in those moments of need. It reminds us how important it is for everyone to enjoy our beautiful environment safely, whether they are locals or visitors.

Throughout this Council term, we've seen significant investment in our community, with major projects and capital works that have transformed Bass Coast. The construction of Berninnet, our award-winning cultural hub in Cowes, has become a hive of activity, bringing people together to celebrate arts, culture, and community connection. We've also delivered over \$16 million in boat ramp upgrades, funded by Better Boating Victoria, enhancing accessibility and safety across the region. These upgrades, along with vital road safety improvements to



rural roads, are essential investments that will serve our community for years to come.

Council, under the strong guidance of CEO Greg Box and the Executive Leadership Team, has proven its dedication to serving the community, from emergency management to delivering key events and celebrations. Their 'can-do' attitude has been crucial in getting the job done, no matter the circumstances.

As Mayor, I've had the privilege of overseeing many civic ceremonies, awards, and events. Advocacy has been a significant part of this role, and I've proudly represented our community at the State and Federal Government levels, as well as through the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Peri Urban, One Gippsland, and the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel, ensuring that Bass Coast's needs are heard.

I also want to extend my thanks to my fellow councillors. Elected during the height of the pandemic, we have faced unprecedented challenges, and I appreciate their unwavering support and adaptability throughout this term.

While my term as Mayor will continue until the election, due to election period rules, this will be my final message. I've made the decision not to run in the upcoming council election, and it is time for me to move on and allow the next council to continue making a positive impact on our wonderful community. I am confident the foundations we have laid together will lead to an even brighter future for Bass Coast.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. Together, we've achieved so much.

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Congratulations to last week's winners: John Nicholson (S), Bob Arnold (L), Laurie Bell (3) and Max Williams (2).



Runners up: Ken Harding (S), Cheryl Floyd (3) and Derek Fenn (L).



Best one game winners: Kevin Kitchen (3), Max Summers (S), Claire Nichols (L) and Bill Williams (2).

Midweek at Lang Lang

BOWLS

Last week, 40 bowlers turned up to Lang Lang, ready to compete in their regular hit out of midweek bowls.

Players were welcomed by Marianne and Colin on the beautiful spring morning, signed on by Pauline and John, whilst Peter arranged team selection.

The day saw a couple of wrong bias bowls, however that did not take away from the quality of bowling that was displayed across the green.

As the weather turned, players continued their competition in the rain however, the day was cut short by a few ends.

Congratulations to winners on 35 points: John Nicholson (S), Bob Arnold (L), Laurie Bell (3) and Max Williams (2).

Runners up, also on a score of 35: Ken Harding (S), Cheryl Floyd (3) and Derek Fenn (L).

Best one game winners on 17 points: Kevin Kitchen (3), Max Summers (S), Claire Nichols (L) and Bill Williams (2).

The club thanks the enthusiastic volunteers who clean the green and club-room after the games, along with Marianne and Colin for keeping the thirsty bowlers happy.

This week, the club will meet at Corinella. Arrive on site at 10am.

Results from the league

TENPIN BOWLING

2s Company (Monday): 1st on 15 pts The Hounds, 2nd on 15 pts Jail and 3rd on 14 pts King Pins.

ABL - Almost Bowling Legends (Wednesday evening): 1st on 98 pts Storm, 2nd on 93 pts Dreamers and 3rd on 87.5 pts Pinnals.

Business Early (Thursday evening): 1st on 17 pts Turkey Slappers, 2nd on 16.5 pts Old Timers, 3rd on 12.5 pts The Redun-

dants and 4th on 12 pts Heros of Steel.

Business Late: 1st on 17 pts The Big D's, 2nd on 17 pts City Lights, 3rd on 13 pts Holy Splits and 4th on 13 pts Gettin' Some.

Phantom: 1st on 103.5 pts Hawks, 2nd on 92.5 pts Towball and 3rd on 92.5 pts HSB.

Top scores for the week across each league:

Men: Charlie Gritzalis 215, Laid 198 and Chris Lawrence 191.

Women: Mary Daroha

and Tricia Niessink 174, Penny Wolswinkel 168 and Valma Peterson 163.

Team members wanted

The Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre is looking for people with hospitality experience and an RSA certificate to join their team.

These casual positions can lead to larger opportunities for the perfect match. If you think this role is up your alley, send your resume to pitenpin.com.au or drop in to 91-97 Settlement Road, Cowes. Must be available to work a rotating roster.



Congratulations to Kody Sheers, Lucy Thomson, Hamish Dakers-Hock and Isla Basterfield. All taking home wins in their respective categories at the Victorian MTB School Series.

Bass Coast riders shine in Victorian MTB School Series

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Eight students from Cowes Primary School brought excitement to the 2024 Victorian MTB School Series over the weekend, with most making their race debut.

Round 4 kicked off in Castlemaine on Saturday, where Kody Sheers dominated the U9 junior category, taking first place, while Ry Sheers powered his way to third in the U13 novice division.

Round 5 in Bendigo on Sunday, saw Isla Basterfield steal the spotlight in just her second-ever race, claiming first place in the U11 girls' novice category.

After crossing the finish line, she asked "how many laps did I do?"

Her proud dad Tom was thrilled to tell her it didn't matter how many laps – she had won.

Isla's face lit up with surprise and joy at her unexpected victory – hands down the highlight of the weekend, watching her confidence and growth overnight was unforgettable.

Kody Sheers continued his impressive run collecting another first place.

The series concluded, with Kody Sheers taking home the gold medal for first place overall in his division.

Joining him in victory were Newhaven College students Hamish Dakers-Hock



Kody Sheers, representing Cowes Primary School, took home the win in the Victorian MTB School Series U9 Junior Boys category.

and Lucy Thompson, who also earned gold in their respective categories.

The Bass Coast kids made a significant impact on the Victorian MTB racing scene, showing that even from a small community, big things can happen.

With fast growing interest in the sport, competitors look forward to seeing more MTB facilities, thanks to the newly adopted strategy by Bass Coast Shire Council – exciting times are ahead for the young riders.

Newhaven College wraps successful season

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Newhaven College's MTB students made the trek to Castlemaine and Bendigo for Rounds 4 and 5 back-to-back events on Saturday and Sunday to cap off an impressive season in the AusCycling Vic Schools MTB XC Series.

Among the highlights, Newhaven College MTB academy participants Hamish Dakers-Hock and Lucy Thompson took home top honours, each winning the overall series in their respective categories.

Their consistent efforts throughout the season have paid off, standing on top of the podium to receive their respective series medals.

Meanwhile, junior Eve-



Congratulations to Lucy Thompson, Evelyn McCabe and Hamish Dakers-Hock, each taking wins in their respective categories at the AusCycling MTB XC Series on the weekend.

lyn McCabe also delivered a strong performance, securing third place in her category for the overall series.

Her resilience and determination throughout the series showcased Newhaven College's younger talent coming through.

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The always impressive Tom Macrokanis in action during the Reserves preliminary final against Tooradin Dalmore.

Reserves finals dream fades with wayward kicking

FOOTBALL

Reserves

The preliminary final was upon us, the Reserves were primed and ready to go after knocking off Inverloch the week before in a great display.

The sun was out and Dalyston had the ground and courts in pristine condition.

The Island came out firing with tremendous speed and intensity at the ball and man.

The tackling pressure was through the roof, there was a genuine hunger that was infectious.

The Island kicking into a 2-3 goal wind showed poise and great ball movement but could not convert resulting in three behinds for the quarter. Quarter time: Tooradin 9 to Island 3.

Shortly after the second quarter had started the Island kicked their first goal, the ball was living in the Bulldogs' forward but poor kicking for the quarter only registered one goal and four behinds. The premiership quarter was upon us and the Bulldogs were full of run.

Finlay Cousins was very influential all game showcasing his skill – a willingness to put his head over the football.

Ben Taylor was finding space and using the ball well, Brayden Kleverkamp – the swing man – was thrown into the middle to aid the always impressive Tom Macrokanis.

A real arm wrestle was evident for the third quarter with the Bulldogs applying pressure and moving the ball well into the wind.

The Bulldogs registered two goals and a further three behinds. This showed a disappointing three goals 10 behinds going into the last with a slim six-point lead.

Coaches, James Nicolaci, Kev Taylor and Dean Blake spoke to the boys at three quarter time, reminding them they earned their spot to be there, and belief was high.

The Bulldogs hit the lead for the first time of the game.

The Island had the wind in the last and it all looked set to be the fourth Island team in the Grand Final.

Inside 50 after inside 50, the



Brady Ross take the mark during the preliminary final against Tooradin Dalmore.

Island sent it forward and two quick points followed, with the score line reading an ugly three goals 12. Was this going to come back and bite them?

Tooradin pushed the ball forward and levelled the scores.

A down field free kick moments later, and Tooradin kicked another goal to take a three-point lead.

An unnecessary delay in retrieving the ball back from the Tooradin goal cost the Bulldogs around 30 seconds with no time on.

Centre bounce with 30 seconds left, Island win the ball through Jay Ladson, he drives the ball to 15 metres out, the ball spills off hands and Tooradin dive on the ball, the whistle has been put away.

The ball is thrown up at the top of the goal square and the siren sounds.

Heartbreak, the Bulldogs have

had seven more scoring shots but have lost the game by three points.

What a season from a young talented side that have bright futures ahead.

The development of players and the fact that the Seniors have had 39 players this year with 12 debutants is a testament to the strength of the Island.

Scores: Phillip Island: 0.3.3, 1.7.13, 3.10.28, 3.14.32. Tooradin Dalmore: 1.3.9, 1.4.10, 3.4.22, 5.5.35.

Goals: Phillip Island: Nick Anderson – 2 and Ben Taylor – 1. Tooradin Dalmore: Julian Suarez – 2, Nicholas Lang, Anthony Mirauta and Oliver Sail – 1.

Best players: Phillip Island: Finlay Cousins, Connor Thompson, Brayden Kleverkamp, Thomas Macrokanis, Nick Anderson and Ethan Michaelides. Tooradin Dalmore: Jack Grist, Nicholas Lang, Ray Lengyel, Jake O'Donnell, Julian Suarez and Joshua Cope.



Sophie Gysberts gave it her all during the preliminary final against Nar Nar Goon.

Dalyston courts deliver heartbreak in prelims

NETBALL

B Grade

The Island B Grade girls faced off against Nar Nar Goon in the preliminary final at Dalyston, giving it their all in an intense match.

Although Nar Nar Goon capitalised on a few centre passes to take a four-point lead, the Island girls refused to give up, showcasing their exceptional skills and teamwork.

Despite their best efforts, they couldn't close the gap.

B Grade have had an outstanding season, finishing sixth on the ladder and securing convincing wins against Inverloch and Dalyston, earning them a spot in the prelim.

While they didn't take the win this time, their improvement and growth throughout the season is something to be proud of.

Coach Anna and team manager Amber are thrilled with the team's progress, adaptability and strong bond.

The girls have come a long way since Round 1, and their dedication and sportsmanship have made this a memorable and fun season.

Scores: Phillip Island: 39 def by Dalyston: 45.

U17s

The U17s faced off against arch-rivals Inverloch in a thrilling match that would determine a spot in the Grand Final.

Knowing it would be a tough contest, the Island girls brought their A-game, starting strong and maintaining a lead.

However, Inverloch rallied in the second half, bringing a new level of intensity to the court and regaining the lead.

Despite a valiant effort, the Island girls couldn't quite catch up and both teams delivered an electrifying, nail-biting finish.

Although devastated to see their season come to an end, the Island girls can hold their heads



Maya Huther in action during the U17s match against Inverloch in the preliminary final.

high after a fantastic season.

Throughout the season, these talented young players developed exceptional netball skills and formed strong bonds as a team.

Their dedication and teamwork made this a memorable season, and although it's a sad loss, they can be proud of their achievements.

Scores: Phillip Island: 21 def by Tooradin Dalmore: 24.

U11s

The Island U11s showed tremendous spirit in their match, though falling short.

Despite the loss, the girls delivered another stellar team performance.

Their dedication throughout the season was exceptional and reaching the prelim finals is a testament to their hard work.

Well done to the young superstars for their incredible effort and sportsmanship.

Scores: Phillip Island: 6 def by Nar Nar Goon: 14.



Congratulations to Grand Final winners, The Vikings who took out a stellar win against Storm.

Vikings clinch victory in island Grand Final

DARTS

In a nail-biting conclusion to the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League season, The Vikings emerged victorious in a Grand Final showdown against Storm at the darts centre.

The match came down to the wire, with both teams vying for glory in the final doubles encounter. In a display of nerves of steel, The Vikings clinched the championship with a razor-thin 4-3 victory, demonstrating their mastery of the oche when it mattered most.

The Gumboot Final provided its own share of excitement, with The Riverboys ultimately prevailing over Joe's Hornets in a hard-fought 5-2 win.

John Battista enjoyed a particularly fortunate night, as well as being in the winning Gumboot Final, also sweeping the raffle prizes including the San Remo Butchers meat tray and a selec-

tion of beers – his lucky streak added an extra layer of excitement to an already memorable evening.

As the dust settles, the league now looks forward to its well-deserved break before reconvening for the trophy presentation on Sunday, October 6.

With the Spring series set to kick off the following day, anticipation is already building for what promises to be another exhilarating chapter in the Phillip Island darts saga.

League officials have praised the dedication of the committee and members, whose collective efforts have made the 2024 season a resounding success.

If anyone is interested in checking out the darts centre and enjoys a more flexible structure, the Spring season competition is ideal.

Contact Scott Lethbridge at scott@glpc.com.au for more information.

Red Rocks results

GOLF

Saturday, September 7

Stableford: 1st Bernie Cashman - HCP 13, 36 pts, 2nd Ray Pobjoy

- HCP 6, 34 pts C/B and 3rd David Pearce - HCP 18, 34 pts.

Sunday, September 8

Stroke: 1st Neil Malcolm - HCP 17, nett 52, 2nd Ray Pobjoy - HCP 5, nett 54 and 3rd Doug Collins - HCP 16, nett 57 C/B.



Minor Premiers: the U12A Penguins and Coach Liam Jury now look to towards the upcoming Grand Final after their win against the Stingrays.

Breakers prepare for Grand Final

SOCCER

Senior Men's

Despite the wet and windy conditions (plus a delayed start) the Breakers' Senior Men's match against Leongatha was worth the wait.

In a hard fought 90 minutes with both teams unable to secure goals, the game was put into overtime.

The Breakers then proceeded to step it up a gear, walking away

victorious with a 3-1 win sending them to the Grand Final in two weeks.

U12A

Last weekend saw the Phillip Island U12A Penguin and Stingray teams battle to secure their spot in the upcoming Grand Final.

Although out for the match due to injury, Wes played a key role on the bench as assistant to Coach Liam Jury.

It was a close game early on with both teams taking shots at

the goal.

Darby proved great in defence for the Penguins whilst Henry was focused on his role as goalkeeper. He was backed up by Levi who managed to clear the ball after a close scare.

Offensively the team worked cohesively, resulting in individual goals from Jobe, Seb, Silas, Harry and Edie. Overall, it was a 5-1 win for the Penguins who will take the following week off as they wait to see who their opponent will be.

GSL results and fixture

Semi Final (one) results - Sunday, September 8

Senior Men's: Phillip Island Breakers 3 def Leongatha Knights 1.

Senior Women's: Leongatha Knights 4 def Drouin Dragons Maroon 3.

Men's Reserves: Trafalgar Victory 1 (5p) def Inverloch Stars 1 (4p).

U17 Mixed: Drouin Dragons Maroon 2 def Wonthaggi United 0.

U14 Mixed: Korumburra City 5 def Drouin Dragons Maroon 1.

U13 Girls: Korumburra City 6 def Drouin Dragons Maroon 0.

U12A Mixed: Phillip Island Penguins 5 def Phillip Island Stingrays 1.

U12B Mixed: Inverloch Stars 2 def Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow 1.

Semi Final (two) fixture (2nd V 3rd) - Sunday, September 15 at the Newhaven Recreation Reserve

Senior Men's - 3.45pm: Drouin Dragons Maroon V Korumburra City.

Senior Women's - 1.30pm: Phillip Island Breakers V Wonthaggi United.

Successful end to winter series

SAILING

Winter Series

The Newhaven Yacht Squadron 2024 Winter Sailing Series has been completed.

The weather has been kind this winter after a tough, windy and cold 2023 series, with no races abandoned this season.

Winter races are completed in the safety of Westernport Bay.

Winners

Race 1 (April 20): Avocado (Bob Garforth).

Race 2 (May 18): Avocado (Bob Garforth).

Race 3 (June 15): Spin-

drift (Kevin Holt).

Race 4 (July 13): Lunch Cutter (Keith Dunn).

Race 5 (July 27): Joalda (Marcus Bond).

Race 6 (August 17): Lunch Cutter (Keith Dunn).

Summer Series

2024/25 dates

Agg Race 1: September 7.

Agg Race 2: October 5.

Single hander: October 19.

Agg Race 3: November 9.

Commodores Cup: November 16.

Agg Race 4: December 7.

If you are interested in sailing, please contact the Newhaven Yacht Squadron via email at admin@nys.org.au.



Winner of the Winter Series' Race 3, Spindrift.



Josh Waters, Broc Pearson and Glen Allerton – the top three at the weekend's ASBK event on the island over the weekend. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 11 SEP	THU 12 SEP	FRI 13 SEP	SAT 14 SEP	SUN 15 SEP	MON 16 SEP	TUE 17 SEP
HIGH 5:56 am 2.84 m	HIGH 6:34 am 2.79 m	LOW 12:12 am 0.56 m	LOW 12:48 am 0.59 m	LOW 1:32 am 0.64 m	LOW 2:30 am 0.71 m	LOW 3:46 am 0.78 m
LOW 11:31 am 1.05 m	LOW 12:05 pm 1.14 m	HIGH 7:15 am 2.71 m	HIGH 8:02 am 2.62 m	HIGH 8:58 am 2.56 m	HIGH 10:03 am 2.53 m	HIGH 11:16 am 2.58 m
HIGH 5:33 pm 2.69 m	HIGH 6:05 pm 2.63 m	LOW 12:41 pm 1.24 m	LOW 1:22 pm 1.33 m	LOW 2:13 pm 1.39 m	LOW 3:22 pm 1.40 m	LOW 4:46 pm 1.30 m
LOW 11:40 pm 0.54 m		HIGH 6:40 pm 2.55 m	HIGH 7:21 pm 2.48 m	HIGH 8:19 pm 2.40 m	HIGH 9:41 pm 2.37 m	HIGH 11:14 pm 2.45 m

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Josh and Zac give Levi (centre) tips for the finals. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Strong results from SGB at Vic Age Championships

SWIMMING

The South Gippsland Bass (SGB) swimmers had a successful competition at the Victorian Age Championships held on September 6-8 at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre finishing 14th overall.

The event drew the best 12 to 17-year-old swimmers throughout Victoria and included several national level competitors from New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

The 36 competing swimmers, who had swum qualifying times, were the largest team ever sent by SGB to the championships.

In a competition typically dominated by large Melbourne clubs, SGB were noticeable in the finals with several swimmers finishing top 10 in their event, or being emergencies and qualifying to compete.

Those not swimming in finals came along to support their teammates with great celebrations after each swim,

especially when competitors returned with a top three finish.

It was a hectic weekend for the coaches, with two race pools running at the same time as well as warm up, but the coaches took it in their stride.

Coach Dylan was thrilled with their efforts, especially given the disruptions (due to the loss of power) at the Leongatha pool which prevented many from training.

"They are all coming out with PB's and improved re-

sults, the hard work they have put in over the winter months has paid off.

"Their smiles post-race and little celebrations in the lane shows me how proud they are of their efforts.

"Their efforts to compete over the three days is a credit to the swimmers and their determination.

"The support they have from their families and fellow competitors, not just here, but watching at home on the live feed over the weekend has enabled them to do their best."



Congratulations to Emily Croatto who took out third place in the 100m breaststroke.



Former Newhaven College student and national champion, Bowen Gough, now Swimming Victoria's Performance Pathways Coordinator, alongside SGB competitors.



Archie Smyth had a stellar weekend at the Victorian Age Championships, taking home four medals.

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