

# PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST

## BREAKING NEWS

### We're opening up!

From midnight tonight (September 16), Covid restrictions will ease in Bass Coast, as regional Victoria moves to Step 3 in the state

government roadmap.

For a breakdown of what this fantastic news means for families, friends and businesses, turn to page 19.

## Multi-million dollar vision

### San Remo, Newhaven: new road plans unveiled

Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) is pushing ahead with upgrades for Newhaven and San Remo - including four lanes, new roundabouts, compulsory land acquisition, even reclaiming a section of Western Port bay - under multi-million dollar plans released last week.

The revised plans are seeking community feedback until October 5 and build on previous plans dating back to 2015 for Newhaven, and public drop-in sessions in San Remo last year.

RRV says feedback from this current consultation will help "further refine" their as-yet-unfunded upgrades.

The San Remo plans have omitted several unpopular components mooted in 2019, but continue to include widening Phillip Island Road to four lanes between San Remo Parade and Bergin Grove.

The Newhaven plans - which will require compulsory acquisition of private property - include new additions including confirmation there will be a net gain of 25 car parks, while the Big Wave will need to be moved to make room for a new path.

The details and interactive map are outlined online at [www.regionalroads.vic.gov.au/](http://www.regionalroads.vic.gov.au/) and because of COVID-19 restrictions will not involve face-to-face consultation, with the roads authority instead offering a one-on-one online meeting.

According to RRV, the upgrades are required because the area attracts more than 1.8 million visitors each year, a figure which could reach up to 3.5 million annually by 2035.

"This significant number of visitors puts pressure on the island's road network and causes it to reach capacity, with tourists and residents finding it difficult to move around on the island," RRV states.

"Long-term planning for improvements to the road network is crucial to the island's future and tourism."

"Our proposed improvements will address community concerns relating to access, safety and maintaining traffic flow."

An \$8.75 million dual-lane roundabout is currently being built at the intersection of Phillip Island and Back Beach roads, as well as a \$10.48 million roundabout at the intersection of Phillip Island and Woolamai Beach roads, both set to be finished later this year.

In 2017 the roads authority mooted double lanes through Surf Beach, suggesting Phillip Island Road could be a dual lane highway, which saw many residents respond they didn't want to see "Gold Coast-style" development.

Continued page 7

# Park life!

These youngsters lost no time taking advantage of the move to Step 2 on the roadmap to recovery, playing happily at the newly reopened park at Grayden Reserve in Newhaven. Hanging about are Kai and Lila, while underneath at the door and window are Luis, Joey and Layla. Baby Oakley (at the rear) was too busy crawling and exploring to pose for a photo! Turn to pages 18-19 for the latest Covid information.

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7 day weather forecast

Wed/Sep16	Thur/Sep17	Fri/Sep18	Sat/Sep19	Sun/Sep20	Mon/Sep21	Tue/Sep22
						
PARTLY CLOUDY	SHOWER OR TWO	PARTLY CLOUDY	POSSIBLE SHOWER	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWERS	POSSIBLE SHOWERS
8 19	10 15	10 19	13 23	14 20	12 16	12 16

## Bass Coast COVID-19 update\*

As of Monday, September 14

9036  
tests done locally

11  
Local residents  
tested positive

0  
Active case

\*From BCH Assessment clinics only since March.

Your Community Voice!

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO  
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# Wind turbine blows up a storm

Surf Beach residents have called on the Bass Coast Shire to pause the proposed construction of a wind turbine on a residential property until a full health and safety review is completed.

As reported in the Advertiser last month, the 10.5 metre turbine – yet to be erected – is proposed to be built on Dixon Street and does not require a planning or building permit.

Concerned residents have formed the Surf Beach Community Group to campaign against the turbine with a letter drop, while some residents have erected signs along the Phillip Island Road.

Resident Ron Carson said the turbine fell under a planning loophole, which allows them to be erected in residential streets, but he added there was a precedent in other shires for councils to use discretion to stop them.

"Until they investigate the true impact of the turbine on neighbours, there should be no more work done on the turbine," Ron said, adding the owner had started to build the foundations for the turbine.

"It is a health and safety issue, not just a visual disturbance, but also noise and with a flicker effect when the sun strikes the blade.

"It will be the tallest structure in Surf Beach and has consequences for all of Philip Island as these could pop up anywhere until something is done about the regulations."

Ron said he supported renewable energy but said overseas, residential turbines were smaller and had less impact on neighbours.

Cr Stephen Fullarton describing it as "absurd" in a residential area, adding "it can't be built there".

He told the Advertiser he believed the municipal building surveyor should require a building permit for the turbine.

"This isn't a wind turbine in a paddock, it's a structure metres from neighbours' homes and bedrooms and so a building permit should be issued," Cr Fullarton said.

"The whole idea of building regulations is to protect the amenity of residential areas."

At last month's council meeting, 10 questions asked during public question time related to the turbine, including concerns it could impact nearby shearwater rookeries.



Owner of the turbine Rob told the Advertiser he had had followed all planning guidelines to build the turbine to specifications.

A Phillip Island Nature Parks' spokeswoman told the Advertiser they were committed to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030 "and support renewable energies to reduce the effects of climate change".

"We must also consider the significant environmental values on Phillip Island when selecting a suitable type of renewable energy to be generated locally," she said.

"Phillip Island is home to one of the world's largest breeding colony of the charismatic Short-tailed Shearwaters, which are vulnerable to strike hazards from structures."

### Owner

Owner of the turbine Rob told the Advertiser he had had followed all planning guidelines to build the turbine to specifications.

"I've spent a lot of money to investigate the rules and conform," said Rob, who is an electrician.

"If neighbours follow any relevant planning guidelines I'm not going to complain. Rules and guidelines are there for a reason and I'm following them."

He said he had already installed the solar panels to reduce his home's carbon emissions and to avoid the need to burn wood in a fireplace.

He added he needed the turbine to reduce his holiday home's fossil fuel needs and was planning to live on the island.

"I don't want to burn wood like my neighbours, whose chimney stack is too small so the smoke comes in my house."

### Division

In an online Facebook debate, residents seemed divided on their support.

Council candidate Jeni Jobe said while she loved renewables, the Surf Beach turbine "seems a bit close to neighbouring houses".

Several people commented in comparison the average power pole was about 10m high, while others said it will be about 5m away from neighbouring windows, with manufacturers recommending residential wind turbines be 300m from houses due to noise.

Michael Waser said he supported renewables, but this "was a dangerous precedent to set" given

how close it was to neighbours.

Julie Newman suggested residents should lobby politicians to amend existing legislation to include residential areas, with the law "needing to catch up to technology".

Others supported the owner, saying having no carbon footprint "is an absolutely fantastic idea".

### Shire

CEO Ali Wastie has written to the state government highlighting the planning loophole.

Ms Wastie acknowledged resident concerns, explaining the turbine was considered "ancillary to the dwelling", is proposed to be under 11m which does not trigger a planning permit in the general residential zone and the output of energy from it is considered within acceptable parameters for domestic use.

"We are taking the feedback from the community very seriously," Ms Wastie said.

"It is unfortunate that as it stands a planning permit is not required."

"I have also written to the landowner regarding the community concerns."

A shire spokesman last week acknowledged the concerns and said the proposed wind turbine in Surf Beach was causing members of the community anxiety.

"We are taking the feedback from the community very seriously," the spokesman said.

"We are currently working with the landowner to ensure that surrounding residents' safety and amenity is protected. As this is an ongoing investigation we cannot provide further details at this time."

"We are also in discussions with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning regarding the turbine."

## Police raid at Bass

A major police operation at Bass on Friday morning saw two men arrested and charged with drug and firearms offences.

Police vehicles descended on the area near the Bass service station, with traffic stopped on the highway.

A 35-year-old male from

Wonthaggi was remanded for outstanding offences against the bail act and firearms offences.

A 46-year-old male from Wonthaggi was also charged for drug related offences. He had over \$2000 in cash and an ounce of methylamphetamine in his possession.

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# PICAL in another pickle

First came the news the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) would need to find a new home, with the state government set to start constructing a community hospital on their Church Street land in 2021.

With the purchase of an empty block at 16 Warley Avenue in February by the Bass Coast Shire, PICAL's future home looked set.

But now the centre appears to be in another quandary, forced to fundraise \$650,000 to pay for a building sufficient to their needs, as well as an additional satellite site.

Bass Coast Shire last week confirmed they would deliver stage one construction of 400 square metres of floor space, also working to find a home for a secondary "satellite" site, to house PICAL's community gardening programs, with potential for expansion.

But according to PICAL chair Jeff Floyd they required a 550 square metre building.

"A 400 square metre building at Warley Avenue will not be adequate to fit all current PICAL services, nor will it be enough as we continue to expand," Jeff said, adding their need for services were at an all-time high.

PICAL manager Greg Thompson agreed.

"We won't be able to run any of our current leisure and lifestyle activities, nor any of our large-group courses with only 400 square metres," Greg said.

"And we certainly won't be able to fit our community garden, or any of the horticulture training courses centred around the garden, at Warley Avenue, which is why we also need the satellite site".

Jeff said while the shire's support of



PICAL will need to fundraise \$650,000 to complete their new home on Warley Avenue, and to pay for a second "satellite" site for the community garden. Manager Greg Thompson, with staff Juli Shallow (left) and Anne-Marie Emanuele, at their Warley Avenue land, where the building will be constructed.

PICAL's relocation was "very much appreciated", and they had formed a joint working group, the centre would nevertheless need to fundraise.

"PICAL is delighted council has committed to designing a 550 square metre facility for PICAL, and to building and fitting out stage one of 400 square metres by mid-2021," Jeff said.

"PICAL will have to find the extra money to build the extra floorspace at

Warley Avenue and to further extend the community garden at a satellite site, beyond the relocation of the current garden area by council.

"PICAL will commence fundraising to raise this money and we know our local community will get behind us."

He said the shire had committed to relocating PICAL's community garden to an agreed satellite site within the same timeframe, so there would be no interruption to operations.

Shire mayor Brett Tessari said the new facility would meet the growing needs of the centre.

"Council's commitment is to deliver an initial construction of 400 square metres of floor space, but designed to accommodate 550 square metres," Cr Tessari said.

"The additional space, which will be stage two of the project and subject to confirmation of funding, will ensure PICAL's future growth."

## Demand

PICAL provides community services through an emergency food relief service, Centrelink Agency, a community garden, employment services, workshops, adult education and support through referrals to welfare services such as mental health counselling, family violence assistance and emergency accommodation.

Greg said over the past 12 months PICAL had grown significantly, "mainly due to delivering essential services needed by our community and addressing the many local social-welfare gaps".

"PICAL is now the largest emergency food relief outlet in the entire South Gippsland region, where we regularly feed more than 500 people each month.

"We are also the only adult learning outlet on Phillip Island and have been working extremely hard during COVID-19 to ensure we can deliver the type of skills training that will enable many local unemployed workers to obtain jobs in new areas, after the lockdown restrictions are lifted. This is why we need the additional floorspace".

Cr Tessari agreed there had been a significant increase in the demand for the range of community services PICAL offers, particularly during COVID-19.

In 2018 the Advertiser reported the state government bought the land currently housing PICAL on Church Street for about \$3 million, to build a community hospital, next to the health hub.

The 2019/20 annual budget allocated \$1.5 million for the new PICAL building.

# Thirstier, or more here in lockdown?

Cowes' main street seems to be bustling and real estate agents confirm rentals are in high demand.

If you're wondering if and how busy we have been this winter, compared to past years, a good indicator is water usage.

According to Westernport Water data for the past three months, 37 million litres more water has been used from June to August in 2020 compared to the previous year.

Average weekly usage is 463 million litres this winter, in contrast to 426 million litres in 2019.

Although this winter has been a drier season, with rainfall decreasing in the past three months (240mm 2020; 371mm in 2019), a breakdown of the figures tells a more detailed picture.

In June, when pandemic restrictions were eased, there was a 12 per



According to Westernport Water data for the past three months, 37 million litres more water has been used from June to August in 2020 compared to the previous year.

cent increase in water usage.

In July, when restrictions were introduced for Melbourne – but not regional areas – water usage increased by seven per cent compared to July 2019.

And in August, when Melbourne went into stage four lockdown and regional Victoria stage three, there was a five per cent increase in Westernport Water usage, up from 128ML to 134ML.

Accommodation and hospitality businesses have been closed, and no tourists have visited for much of winter.

However, on the flip side a Westernport Water spokesman suggested the water usage rise could be from more local residents staying here for winter, not travelling to the likes of Bali or Queensland.

"We suspect it's from people being

at home more during COVID-19," the spokesman said.

"Please be mindful that these figures are from water produced at Ian Bartlett Water Purification Plant.

"The data isn't real time consumption, as we don't have smart meters. Therefore changes cannot be directly attributed to consumption."

Westernport Water consumers are renowned for being big users.

According to the authority's annual report last year, consumption increased to an average 227 litres per day in 2018-19, a giant leap from 2017-18's average daily 177 litres, and 174 litres per person per day the previous year.

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# Walking with dinosaurs

A masterplan for the proposed Bass Coast Dinosaur Trail between San Remo and Inverloch is underway.

Bass Coast Shire Council allocated \$250,000 in the 2020/21 Budget to complete the masterplan, which will take approximately six months.

Earlier this year, local paleontology enthusiast Mike Cleeland met with the shire to push for the trail.

Working under the umbrella of the South Gippsland Conservation Society, Mike gathered a group of five enthusiasts to form the Bass Coast Dinosaur Discovery Trail Committee and met with the shire CEO Ali Wastie to push the concept.

That concept included a map and artworks or virtual technology at selected sites along the coast, showing the actual appearance of the dinosaurs that lived in these places around 125 million years ago.

At the time, Mike told the Advertiser he hoped

the trail would be ready within five to 10 years.

Mike's dream came one step closer with the announcement by Council that it would fund a masterplan with community and stakeholder consultation a key part of the planning process.

Bass Coast CEO, Ali Wastie, said the aim was to develop a world class Dinosaur Discovery Trail of learning and creativity, integrated with the local environment.

"It will elevate Bass Coast as a year-round tourism destination and provide a unique attraction, by drawing on the significance of the region's prehistoric heritage," Ms Wastie said.

"The Trail will educate users about the diversity of polar dinosaur fossils and the prehistoric fauna found in the region."

Bass Coast has the most diverse range of polar dinosaur fossils and unique prehistoric fauna in the world. It is one of the most significant places in Australia for the discovery of dinosaur fossils.

"It's a community led project, which will offer cultural, educational, sensory and curatorial creative art experiences," Ms Wastie said.

"It will see the commission and installation of significant artworks and informational sites located along the route, supported by a digital platform. These key sites along the trail will be accessible by car, on foot or by bike."

Wayfinding and interpretation will reflect and express science, local stories and values of traditional owners.

"The project offers a key tourism experience where visitors can step in and out of the Dinosaur Trail experiences on offer and interact with local business and accommodation offerings in the region," Ms Wastie concluded.

The Bass Coast Dinosaur Trail will intersect at key points with the State Government funded Yallock-Bulluk Marine Coastal Trail – a walking and cycling path that will run from San Remo to Inverloch.

Council said it is in discussions with both state and federal governments to secure funding for delivery of the project.

## Our prehistoric history

Back in 1990 Mike stumbled across a fossil jawbone – teeth included – that turned out to be a newly-discovered species, now known around the world as *Koolasuchus cleelandi*, a giant carnivorous salamander that lived about 125 million years ago.

He said the find gave a boost to the area's dinosaur exploration project.

Mike's passion for dinosaurs and fossils means for the last decade he has worked as an education officer for the South Gippsland Conservation Society, leading field trips around Bass Coast on the natural world, including dinosaur digs, marine biology, geology and even astronomy.

All up there are five dinosaurs found to have lived in this region, at a time that Australia was connected to Antarctica.

## Dino stars

A star of the trail will, of course, be San Remo's *Koolasuchus cleelandi* which, sadly, is technically not a dinosaur.

"Dinosaurs are reptiles that walk with an upright gait, whereas *Koolasuchus cleelandi* was an amphibian with a sprawling gait.

"It was a fierce aquatic predator, a size and life-style similar to a crocodile, like a croc less active on land than in water," Mike explained.

"It is arguably the signature fossil from San Remo in the lower cretaceous period."

The fiercest of the five dinosaurs was discovered at Eagles Nest, near Inverloch, by renowned scientist Tim Flannery in 1978: the *Australovenator wintonensis*.

"Arguably this was Australia's top predator during the days of the dinosaurs, up to 5m long,



Earlier this year, local Paleontology enthusiast Mike Cleeland met with CEO Ali Wastie to push for a dinosaur trail for Bass Coast.

a reduced version of the *Tyrannosaurus rex*," Mike says.

The other three dinosaurs were all herbivorous softies.

At Kilcunda, the front leg bone of the *Serenipaceratops arthurclarkei* was discovered at The Arch, which is a smaller, primitive relation of the more widely known *Triceratops*.

"It was probably about the size of a sheep, about half a metre high and about one metre long."

Australia's newest dinosaur was found in Inverloch last year, *Galleonosaurus dorisae*.

And the final dino was found at the Caves in Inverloch, the *Qantassaurus intrepidus*, a small herbivorous dinosaur, about the size of a wallaby.

Mike said Bass Coast is one of three localities in the world where fossils of polar dinosaurs are found.

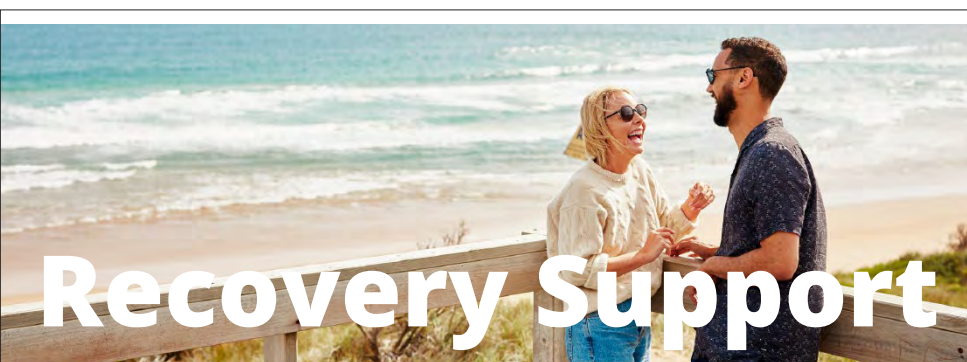
"About 20,000 bones have been recovered in Bass Coast, which are all in the Melbourne Museum, either in storage or on display," he says.

"No full skeletons have ever been recovered here, because bones were washed down stream to this area from where they lived."

Mike says while the dinosaur trail will educate residents and visitors about the diversity of Antarctic dinosaurs in Bass Coast, he also hopes it will raise awareness about a more modern issue: climate change.

"Polar dinosaurs are important to understand because they lived here at a time when Antarctica was ice-free and when carbon dioxide levels were four times what they are now.

"At that time Antarctica was free of ice, so there's a clear correlation between high CO<sup>2</sup> levels and no ice. In other words, if we allow carbon emissions to increase, we will eventually end up with the same results."



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## Horror week for local tradie

A local tradie has had a week he'd rather forget.

Last Thursday, heartless thieves broke into his trailer parked outside a property in Cape Woolamai.

Approximately \$3000 worth of tools were stolen.

The following day, driving home from a job, his Land Rover caught fire and was destroyed.

The tradie, who preferred to remain anonymous, will now need to replace both his car and tools.

The theft is the latest in a series of robberies targeting vehicles and trailers and is a timely reminder of the importance of keeping tools and trailers safely stored.

In July police said there had been a number of thefts across the island, mainly from vehicles and trailers.

At the time, Acting Senior Sergeant Colin Shepherd urged local tradies to "lock cars and keep trailers and tools safely garaged".

"Don't leave tools unattended, unlocked or out in the street."

A photograph of three police officers in uniform. Two women and one man are standing side-by-side, looking towards the camera. They are wearing blue uniforms with high-visibility yellow vests.

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# Going, going ... almost gone

In the three weeks since Deconstruction Group took over the site of the Cowes Cultural Centre, they've wasted no time getting on with the job.

The internal fixtures were stripped first before the machinery arrived onsite to start demolishing the building.

The decision to knock down the old building before the upcoming election and without final plans continues to attract criticism.

Ronnie Bauer, a candidate for Island Ward said he was worried the incoming councillors could "inherit a poisoned chalice" citing concerns about the "costs that may be needed to bring the project to a satisfactory conclusion".

Another candidate, Mikhaela Barlow has called for the project to be put on hold and the plans withdrawn, citing design concerns. She has suggested the area be repurposed as an outdoor eating area until funding and appropriate plans are in place.

Current councillor Michael Whelan has staunchly defended the project, describing it as "a victory for vision and persistence".

Others in the community have said the project should not be a priority in the uncertain economic times.

Bass Coast Shire Council said the construction of the project will provide 69 jobs, with the final building providing the equivalent of 30 full time jobs.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Tessari said the delivery of the \$19 million project will help to support a "much-needed post COVID-19 economic recovery".



By the first week of September, machinery had arrived on site to demolish the existing building.

"Projects like this will help keep local jobs secure and create new and sustainable employment opportunities for the community," Cr Tessari said.

"Once built, the Centre will bring together the cultural and social aspirations of the community and will draw in visitors to showcase the history and culture of the region.

"It will also provide an incredible facility for a huge range of community activities and events."

Earlier this month, Council secured a \$2.5 million grant for the project. \$10 million has been secured via the state government's Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme and \$4 million has been allocated from council reserves to the project.

Cr Whelan said a further contribution was expected from the state government through the Living Libraries fund.

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

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



An upstairs section of the old building stands defiant last Friday.



By Monday this week, it had disappeared, along with large sections of the old building, replaced by a growing pile of bricks.

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

Draft plans for the new Cultural Centre are available at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowesccc](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowesccc).

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## Bail application goes to Supreme Court

Joshua and Taylor Savage, the Cowes men arrested and charged over a series of burglaries across Bass Coast, are taking their bail appeal to the Supreme Court.

The brothers were arrested on August 13 over 19 separate burglaries and the theft of \$650,000 in cash.

The pair were remanded in custody to appear at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court on November 12. At the time, Magistrate Russell Kelly refused bail, describing the men as

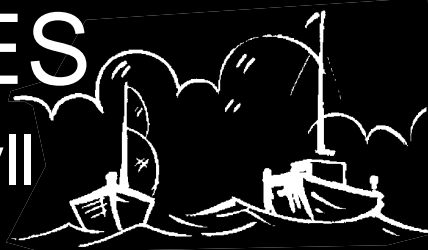
an unacceptable risk to the community.

The Supreme Court Bail application is scheduled for September 28.

Detective Senior Constable Liza Burrows from the Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit said she will be appearing before the Supreme Court via video-link, as will both the accused.

If the appeal is successful, the men could be released on bail prior to their appearance at the Latrobe Magistrates Court in November.

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# Beach access denied

An access track to Ventnor Beach from the carpark has been blocked for almost two months.

Bass Coast Shire Council sealed off the track around seven weeks ago, because of erosion issues.

Local resident Brian Baker said that because of the delay in fixing the issue, people had broken through the barrier and were using the path anyway.

This is raising safety concerns.

Brian said the alternative track to the beach, which heads towards the creek, was also problematic.

"When it is in full flow and the tide is high, there is restricted walking space.

"I would have thought the Council could fix the problem within a day with some treated pine, a few bags of cement and

some gravel."

A council spokesperson said the pathway had been assessed and was deemed unsafe due to its "steep grade and uneven surface."

"The track was closed as a temporary measure until works could be arranged to reinstate the track," they said.

"It is anticipated that works will commence in the coming weeks and once completed the track will be reopened."

The temporary barrier will be replaced "until the track is deemed safe".

A tree in the car park has also been roped off, due to structural damage and limb failure.

"Safe removal of the branch will require Council's elevated work platform," said the spokesperson, confirming the work was scheduled for this week.



An access track from the carpark to Ventnor Beach has been blocked for almost two months because of safety concerns and residents are frustrated at the delay in addressing the issue.

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## Phillip Island Road corridor project

### We're planning for a better and safer Phillip Island Road in Newhaven and San Remo.

We're sharing our plans with you for the proposed upgrades to Phillip Island Road at Newhaven and San Remo that will improve safety, traffic flow and accessibility.

#### Online engagement opportunity

Simply visit [regionalroads.vic.gov.au](http://regionalroads.vic.gov.au) and search 'Phillip Island Road' to view the plans and have your say on the Newhaven design by completing the online survey. The survey will be open for a four-week period closing 5 October 2020.

If you have difficulties accessing the online survey, please contact us at the details listed below.

#### Find out more

Email [easternengagement@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:easternengagement@roads.vic.gov.au) or call 133 778.



regional roads  
victoria



## Record rainfall

If you thought it was wet on Saturday, you'd be right.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, over 35mm was recorded at the Rhyll weather station in 24 hours from midnight September 12.

That means we've already past the half-

way mark for the median rainfall for September.

And it's well ahead of the biggest daily total for August, which was 13mm.

According to the BoM statistics, August is traditionally the wettest month of the year for the island.

OPINION PIECE

## What's to stop this happening in YOUR neighbour's back yard?

By Linda Marston, Island Voice

A wind turbine is being built in a residential street in Surf Beach. Whilst the push for sustainability should be encouraged, we cannot be blind to the effect of inappropriate development in the name of sustainability. This is where our Council Planning department is supposed to protect us.

Let us clarify, we are not talking about PV panels on a house (although the property in question has a great number of them (estimated at 50+ by a neighbour) but an industrial scale wind turbine that will be over 10m tall when constructed. We are not talking about a rural paddock somewhere but a street in Surf Beach.

It appears that under the current BCSC planning scheme a planning permit is not required for this situation.

Yet people need planning approvals for antennae, flagpoles and satellite dishes!

On Phillip Island there is a general building limit of seven metres and to exceed this you need a planning permit.

The structure certainly does not fit in the township character and amenity of Surf Beach. So how can a wind turbine of this size be built without a planning permit when it will affect neighbours and the suburb it sits in?

Consultation with local estate agents indicates that this construction will likely have a significant negative effect on property values, for direct neighbours and anyone in the sight line of.

There is no indication of what levels of noise this turbine will generate, even though it will sit metres from a neighbour's bedroom.

The adverse impact of

turbine noise upon human well-being has recently been explored with the Bald Hills wind farm situation and the Supreme Court found that owners of the turbines have a responsibility to treat noise issues seriously.

Other problems exist such as shadow-flicker effect, which is the change of light intensity as the blades move which will be very disconcerting in a home that is overshadowed by this structure.

There may be issues for people with epilepsy who can be affected by flickering light patterns.

There are reports of turbine failures, collapsed towers, blade throws or disintegration, hub fires and other issues have been documented.

Consultation with an engineer who has specialised in the installation of large fans assures me that mechanical failure of any rotating machine is termed 'catastrophic' for a very good reason.

There are also environmental issues involved, such as significant risk of bird-strike as the planned Surf Beach Turbine will be on a Shearwater migration path.

Whilst these issues may be a problematic if they arise in a paddock, how much more dangerous will they be if they happen in a residential garden?

Due to the risk of these issues, experts recommended that residential wind turbines are monitored by someone onsite at all times, so that these issues can be dealt with.

However, local residents inform us that this property is a holiday home, with no one on site for significant periods of time.

The foundations for such a heavy and tall construction, that is likely to be subject to

extreme wind shear, would surely be engineered to certain standards which would need to be passed by building surveyors. Surely there must be building permits required?

And if not, why not?

BCSC identified back in 2003 that there were significant gaps in their planning scheme that included renewable energy provisions, but they have not addressed this in the past 17 years!

Island Voice strongly advocates that the gap in the planning scheme regarding domestic wind turbine installation be addressed ASAP.

At a minimum we believe that people wishing to build domestic wind turbines in residential areas must lodge detailed acoustic reports, engineering reports on foundation construction, impact on birdlife, visual assessments and pre-building community engagement, with their development applications to alleviate affected owners' concerns.

Whilst this incident applies to a single residential block, the planning scheme will not prevent it happening elsewhere, such as your neighbour's garden.

Join with Island Voice to demand that Council stops construction until the issue can be better understood and community consultation has ensued.

With council about to enter caretaker mode on September 22, this has become urgent.

Whilst council officers will continue working during the caretaker mode, your councillors are your representatives.

Hurry and contact your Councillors, BCSC CEO and our MP Jordan Crugnale, to voice your concern and demand immediate action.



# San Remo, Newhaven: new road plans unveiled

From page 1

However these latest plans do not include any details for Surf Beach.

## San Remo

RRV has combined feedback from 2019 community consultation with their technical investigations to create the upgraded San Remo designs.

Last year, local residents were critical of the then-plans, which restricted Bergin Grove to left in and left out, with businesses concerned the east zone of Marine Parade would be isolated from the western end.

The new revised plans (see separate story) have omitted that element, and also formally concede that the San Remo foreshore will need to be widened to make room for four road lanes between San Remo Parade and Bergin Grove, and a new path.

Last year RRV said the foreshore would have to be reclaimed and extended out about 15 metres to accommodate the four lanes, at an estimate of about \$20 million, including a rockwall.

The reclamation could impact sea creatures, including the nudibranch mollusc, and the Department of Transport said they had undertaken a detailed flora and fauna assessment and were currently preparing a submission for the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.



Under the new plans for San Remo, a set of traffic lights will be installed at Back Beach Road and Phillip Island Road will be widened to four lanes between San Remo Parade and Bergin Grove.

Under the new road plans, there will now be one set of traffic lights, at the intersections of Phillip Island Road and Back Beach Road, and RRV has maintained the popular removal of the right-turn onto Phillip Island Road from Bergin Grove.

RRV says these upgrades will improve traffic flow, and intersection safety for those accessing Phillip Island Road from Back Beach

Road, Marine Parade and Bergin Grove.

## Newhaven

Many Newhaven residents learnt about plans to create two dual lane roundabouts and widen the road to four lanes in 2015.

At the time, 35 landholders said they were impacted by the proposal, mooted to cost about \$25 million, some of whom stated nine metres of their land was required for the road project.

RRV has since not detailed how much land will need to be compulsorily acquired, although they said size would differ between landowners.

In 2018 RRV committed \$750,000 for a Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) in Newhaven, through the Bass Coast Shire, to enable them to acquire property from affected landholders.

"We also held meetings with landowners potentially impacted by the land acquisition and made further refinements to the plans based on their feedback," RRV states.

A Department of Transport spokeswoman confirmed they had not commenced compulsory land acquisition in Newhaven, adding the process could not start until PSA had been completed and a public acquisition overlay was placed on the land.

"The Department of Transport has been preparing for the PSA process and community engagement will form an important part

of this process."

She said the overall process could take 12-18 months and there would also be opportunity for impacted landowners, community members and stakeholders to provide submissions as part of this process.

The new, revised plans (see separate story) continue to propose dual-lane roundabouts at the intersection of Phillip Island Road and Forrest Avenue, and Boys Home Road, with four lanes in between.

The plans confirm there will be a service road between these two intersections, pedestrian-operated traffic lights at the existing school crossing, as well as a net gain of about 25 car parks for the area. The Big Wave would be moved to the other side of Bluebird Court.

RRV says feedback from this latest round of consultation will refine their plans and "we will keep the community updated as the project progresses" and "as we explore funding opportunities".

Email feedback to [easternengagement@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:easternengagement@roads.vic.gov.au)

## What's planned for San Remo?

Regional Road Victoria's plans for San Remo include:

- The widening and strengthening of the San Remo foreshore to make room for four road lanes, and a new path connect existing paths along the foreshore to the east and west. This will also reduce further erosion;
- The widening to four lanes of Phillip Island Road between San Remo Parade and Bergin Grove, which would maintain traffic flow through the Back Beach Road intersection;
- A set of traffic lights at the intersections of Phillip Island and Back Beach roads, where new ac-

cess onto Marine Parade would be created;

- A centre median strip along Phillip Island Road from San Remo Parade to Bergin Grove to reduce the likelihood of head-on crashes;
- Safer access at Bergin Grove with the removal of the right-turn onto Phillip Island Road;
- Installing a new pedestrian zebra crossing on Marine Parade for a safer connection to the bus stops;
- Improved access to and from Marine Parade: Allowing for two-way access to continue along Marine Parade. The eastern end of Marine Parade will have direct access to Phillip Island Road.



Plans include widening the foreshore, widening Phillip Island Road between San Remo Parade and Bergin Grove and a new set of traffic lights at Back Beach Road.



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# Community response to road overhaul

Businesses and residents have cautiously supported Regional Roads Victoria's revised plans for San Remo and Newhaven.

San Remo residents appear to be the most satisfied saying RRV has listened to community concerns, while Newhaven businesses say several problems still need to be ironed out.

Many agree Phillip Islanders need to be clear whether there is community support for a highway across the island because – as one respondent said – “that’s what RRV ultimately wants”.

And they agree the proposed four lanes in the two towns will merely create new bottlenecks, including around subdivisions at the entrance to San Remo as well as the bridge.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Transport last week told the Advertiser they were “investigating options to improve traffic flow on the Phillip Island bridge”.

“The proposed improvements at Newhaven and San Remo can be undertaken as standalone projects, without the need to upgrade the bridge,” she said.

## Newhaven

Harold Jackson is the landowner most impacted by the RRV proposal.

He owns the Big Wave complex, as well as three other blocks of land between Forrest Avenue and Boys Home Road and says RRV wants to compulsorily acquire a width of about 90m and a depth between seven to nine metres.

“They’re yet to offer me a price because they say they haven’t applied the planning overlay to start the process,” Harold said.

“I’m not happy about losing the land, but ultimately I think it’s a good thing for Phillip Island.”

Harold said the Big Wave complex would also lose up to four carparks, which puts them below the number required by the shire.

“Car parking is the lifeline of all business, we need more parks not less.”

The 78-year-old said he was first approached by the roads authority about the road upgrade at Newhaven a decade ago and given it is yet to be funded by government, is unsure “whether it will happen in my lifetime”.



Rip Curl owner Scott Jackson said initially RRV had suggested the Big Wave be demolished, before they agreed to move it about 10m.

“They haven’t given me any timeline.”

Rip Curl owner Scott Jackson said even though RRV’s road plans could see him lose several car parks, and require him to move his Big Wave, overall he supported the upgrade.

“I believe it needs to happen, but as long as it’s done correctly and tastefully,” said Scott, who has run the surf business for 16 years.

“It shouldn’t be a concrete eyesore, but be planted out and kept green. It’s the gateway to Phillip Island and should represent the area well.

“When finished the road upgrade will improve the business and the whole area for the future.”

Scott said initially RRV had suggested the Big Wave be demolished, before they agreed to move it about 10m.

“I told them that was impossible. It’s part of Phillip Island’s heritage

and a surfing pioneer (Dave Fincher) built it, so we got them to keep it.”

He said several car parks would likely be lost from the shopping precinct surrounding Rip Curl, but was uncertain at this stage of the numbers lost, adding that the majority of planned new parks were at the other end of the upgrade, near Boys Home Road.

Scott said while a new service road would be added outside the Big Wave complex, he was also concerned the section of the Phillip Island Road could become a rat run.

“If a driver has been stuck behind a slow car and they see a double lane then they’ll speed up here to overtake.

“I’ve raised the speed limit concern with RRV and they said they’ve designed the road to avoid that.

“RRV have been willing to work with the community in tweaking issues and tell us we can contact them

at any time, and they are happy to come out to talk to us.”

The Department of Transport spokeswoman confirmed they had not commenced compulsory land acquisition in Newhaven.

## San Remo

Resident Trevor Brown – who is part of the town’s community consultation group on traffic, said the revised plans showed RRV seem to “have listened to the residents”, incorporating “the most important suggestion in their revised plan”.

“I would like to make one further suggestion. That is to extend the widening of the tourist road all the way to the east of Potters Hill Road, to where the speed limit is reduced to 60 km/hr,” Trevor said.

“I believe that this would give greater safety to several internal roads that interact with the tourist road.”

Resident Chris Day, who also has been lobbying to improve San Remo’s roads for many years, said overall the recommendations were “excellent”.

“They have taken real notice of the issues raised at the public meetings last year plus the numerous meetings of small group of residents who have met with RRV staff for several years,” Chris said.

“They have been excellent to deal with in a very complex situation with no easy answers.”

Chris said he still had major concerns for traffic flow in San Remo, including queues at proposed traffic lights in peak season, and bottlenecks at either end, when four lanes become two.

“I would think long-term the four lanes will need to be extended to the new town boundary,” Chris said.

“Besides local traffic, Silverwater adds enormous amounts at peak times. Then throw in the fact that Potters Hill Road is almost certainly the site of the new junior secondary college and clearly this intersection and the main road will need major changes.”

Chris said internal San Remo roads – which fall under the authority of Bass Coast Shire, not Regional Roads Victoria – will also need upgrading to cope with new subdivisions.

Two years ago Chris and other residents criticised the state roads authority for failing to include internal road concerns highlighted in 2012 in Bass Coast Shire’s San Remo Access Strategy.

Prepared by consultants, the strategy offered solutions to the limited road connections between “new” and “existing” San Remo, especially when the Phillip Island Road is congested.

The strategy recommended multiple routes running from east to west throughout the town be created, especially an extension of Shetland Heights Road to Wonthaggi.

Chris said residents were frustrated the strategy had gathered dust, with not one of the recommendations since acted upon or implemented.

“Building a secondary school in that area probably lifts the possibility of that road extension occurring.”

Email feedback to [easternengagement@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:easternengagement@roads.vic.gov.au)

# Be smarter on traffic congestion: councillor

A Bass Coast Shire councillor has described road upgrades at Newhaven as “excessive”, warning Phillip Island’s lifestyle should not be destroyed to cater to congestion.

Cr Michael Whelan called for smarter traffic management across the island, saying congestion in summer was largely driven by day visitors, “who contribute little to the island economy”.

“The focus should be on a well-designed and contained road corridor that focuses on efficient flow of traffic, but that does not destroy the island’s amenity to cater for a destructive traffic volume,” he said.

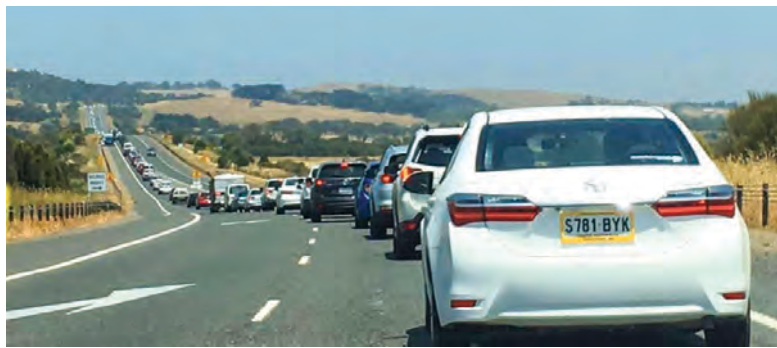
Cr Whelan said Regional Roads Victoria’s plans for a “massive” roundabout at Forrest Avenue in Newhaven were “excessive”, as was the four-lanes, which will “split the township”.

In contrast, he said the plans for San Remo had thorough community consultation, while the roundabouts at Cape Woolamai and Back Beach Road “were necessary to address serious safety issues”.

He noted that plans mooted by RRV in 2017 for double lanes through Surf Beach were not included in the new, revised upgrades.

But he said if this was allowed to go ahead through Surf Beach it “would lead to the destruction of island values and scenery, given the large loss of farmland required to duplicate the road”.

Cr Whelan said the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy, commissioned by the shire and the state government, recommended against day visitors instead to multi-night visitors, who contribute more.



“The numbers of day visitors are projected to rise dramatically in the future if not addressed. This runs the risk of reducing Phillip Island to a beach and a highway,” Cr Michael Whelan has warned.

“The numbers of day visitors are projected to rise dramatically in the future if not addressed. This runs the risk of reducing Phillip Island to a beach and a highway,” Cr Whelan said.

“Exceeding the capacity limits of the island’s attractions will become a real threat to the region in future.

“Rather, fewer visitors will allow the quality of the environmental assets to be preserved, while achieving greater value to the Island economy.”

Cr Whelan said the Phillip Island Integrated Transport study called for a focus on “demand management”.

“In other words, directing people to other locations during peak periods. Something that is not considered in the RRV plans but should be.

“Clearly a two hour wait on a hot road is not attractive if people are aware that will be the case, they can make sensible decisions about alternative destinations or the time of travel.

“On the Mornington Peninsula they are considering ways to move away from this impact and to bring

liveability back to beachside areas that have been dominated by the Nepean Highway.”

He said RRV should consider managing demand and redirecting traffic during peak periods.

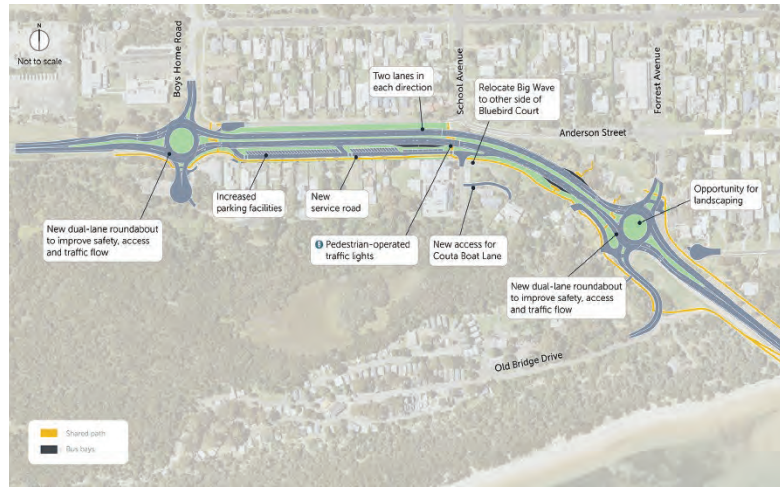
## Kent response

Cr Bruce Kent said overall he was “satisfied” with the design work for San Remo, but had concerns for Newhaven.

“It does address egress and entry issues as well as addressing road and pedestrian safety,” Cr Kent said.

“My main concerns for the Newhaven design is that I feel issues raised by commercial property owners and tenants have not been addressed.

“Due to the design, some are concerned about the tight entry into the service area, a drop in customers due to no direct entry when travelling from Cowes and more consideration to address a low speed shopping precinct that is more pedestrian/cycle friendly.”



Regional Roads Victoria’s plans for Newhaven includes two dual-lane roundabouts and two lanes in each direction, plus a service lane between the two intersections.

# What’s planned for Newhaven?

Regional Road Victoria’s plans for Newhaven include:

- A dual-lane roundabout at the intersection of Phillip Island Road and Forrest Avenue;
- A dual-lane roundabout at the intersection of Phillip Island and Boys Home roads;
- 2 lanes in each direction on Phillip Island Road between Forrest Avenue and Boys Home Road;
- Construction of a service road for safer access to commercial and residential properties between these two intersections;
- Pedestrian-operated traffic lights at the existing school crossing near Bluebird Court;
- Angle parking along the proposed service road to enable easier access to local businesses. The de-

sign proposes about 55 car parks, a net gain of about 25 car parks for the area;

- Improved public transport facilities: upgraded bus stops and improved access to the bus stops on both sides of Phillip Island Road;
- The Big Wave would be moved to the other side of Bluebird Court to allow for the construction of the new shared path and widening of Phillip Island Road.
- Landscaping: RRV would work with the local community and Bass Coast Shire to develop landscaping plans.

The Victorian Government has funded a Planning Scheme Amendment to compulsorily acquire land to allow for the development of this plan.



# Local support for food bank The future of Bass Coast Aquatics

PICAL's emergency Food Relief Program received a \$793 cheque from Local Clothing last month.

The money was raised from sales of t-shirts and hoodies, as part of Local Clothing's community support program.

The unique community partnership model means each month a designated group receives 10 per cent of the company's monthly turnover.

The funds for PICAL will provide much-needed assistance for the Food Relief program, also known as the Phil Dixon Pantry.

During the pandemic, PICAL has become the largest emergency food relief outlet in South Gippsland, helping to feed over 500 people per week.

Almost 40 per cent of those are children.

The program is coordinated by volunteers and relies on cash and food donations to produce the hundreds of meals prepared each week.

Next month, Local Clothing will partner with Cowes Primary School, after it was nominated by parent Carly McShane.

Any funds raised will be used to purchase new furni-



Mark Underwood from Local Clothing presenting a cheque to PICAL Manager Greg Thompson to support the emergency Food Relief program.

ture for the classrooms.

In the past few months, Local Clothing has expanded its successful t-shirt range to include hoodies, kids hooded poncho towels and face masks.

New stock of the poncho towels is due in soon after the original batch sold out in a week.

Local face masks are made from a four-layer breathable material, with adjustable ear

loops and nose bridge.

A range of 11 stickers has also been released.

T-shirts are available in a range of adult and children sizes.

Local Clothing can be ordered online at: [local.clothing/](http://local.clothing/)

To nominate a Phillip Island / Bass Coast-based community group go to [local.clothing/pages/nominate-a-local-community-group](http://local.clothing/pages/nominate-a-local-community-group)

By the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund

As Islanders know, the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund (PIACF) has been advocating for an Aquatic Centre for Phillip Island for a quarter of a century.

Going into this LGA election we believe that the BCSC has secured the land for this project, a major milestone in this project and must be celebrated. We have also heard that a firm has been employed to develop two sets of plans for two Aquatic Centres, one to be built in Wonthaggi and one on Phillip Island.

The Bass Coast Shire population is scheduled to grow across the Shire, with both the Phillip Island and Wonthaggi population forecast to double in the 15 years from 2015-2030. In an ideal world, BCSC would build two equivalent '50m sister pools' in the Shire, helping heal any 'us/them' divide that exists in the shire. Whether this is possible, we don't know, but it would be a wonderful outcome for the community and a great example of equity for all residents and ratepayers. Even the building of two equivalent 25m pools, designed to be extended to 50m if finances allow, is desirable. Economic modelling leads PIACF to believe that a 50m Aquatic Centre will pay its way on Phillip Island plus provide a huge boost for tourism in the shire and its economy.

Phillip Island has a huge amount of accommodation available meaning that a Phillip Island pool can be marketed for multi-day training camps and carnivals. The drawcard of holding such events in a tourist destination appears to be very strong with the committee already approached about these, even though we have no pool! There is also a seasonal demand from tourists and school camps (estimated at 40 – 50,000 people p.a.), that could be tapped into on the island. These factors lead PIACF to strongly motivate for a 50m Aquatic Centre on Phillip Island.

When building two Aquatic centres, PIACF believes that the order with which they are built is very important. If Wonthaggi is built first, all those who currently use the centre will not be able to swim/exercise/learn to swim for some 18-24 months. By contrast, if a new centre is built on Phillip Island first, then current users can still swim/exercise/learn to swim by travelling to the island.

Will the candidates running for this year's LGA election continue with the historic behaviour or will they change the course of his-



Details of what the new Aquatic Centre might look like will be on display at the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund AGM on October 6.

tory and make the decision to build two 50m pools centre and build the first Aquatic Centre on Phillip Island?

Growing tourism is critical for Bass Coast Shire to blossom post-COVID; a Phillip Island pool will move us in the right direction!

Why not become a member and hear more of our ideas at our upcoming Virtual AGM on October 6. [www.piac.org.au](http://www.piac.org.au)

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## Heritage trees will get the chop under road plans

Newhaven's golden cypress trees – at the entrance to Phillip Island – will need to be lopped to make way for a four-lane road, according to Regional Roads Victoria.

Last year 10 of the cypresses were heritage listed by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

RRV last week confirmed their new road designs, cur-

rently out for public comment until October 5, "will impact some of the golden cypress trees in Newhaven".

"The Department of Transport has arranged for a specialist arborist to inspect these trees," a spokeswoman said.

They said the exact number of trees to be impacted would be determined by the final de-

sign and the Department of Transport was working with Bass Coast Shire to investigate possible future replacement planting at this site.

The spokeswoman confirmed the proposed road infrastructure plans would not impact Bass Coast Shire's current proposal for a regional skate park and play space at Grayden Reserve.

**ALEX SCOTT  
AND STAFF**

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# New home for art & craft gallery

The Phillip Island Community Art and Craft Gallery has a new home at PICAL and is opening its doors today (September 16).

The gallery was formerly located in the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre but had to close on March 19 due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

During the closure, they were advised by Bass Coast Shire Council they'd need to vacate the building by June 30, when work began on the new cultural centre project.

This left the popular community gallery without a home.

"Basically we were told we'd have a place in the new centre, but there was nowhere for us for 18 months," explained gallery secretary Aleta Groves.

Aleta said she was concerned an 18-month closure would spell the end of the gallery.

"Closing a community group for 18-months means you will never start again," she said.

"In 18-months, people's lives change, they find other things to do. It would be really difficult to restart."

She said the group was determined to find an alternative to shutting down. She approached Greg Thompson, manager at the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre and told him the group's dilemma.

The response was instant. "He said, 'we will find you a spot here', and they welcomed us with open arms," said Aleta.

Greg offered the community gallery use of the PICAL computer room. With a separate entrance, it meant the gallery could operate independently.

Group members swung into action, renovating the room and gardening around the entrance.

Then they slowly transported items from the old gallery across to their new home.



Setting up the new space for the Phillip Island Community Art and Craft Gallery at PICAL are: Snow Lacco – Vice president, Debbie Wright – President, Maureen Ellard and Pamela Doyle – committee members.

## Forging new friendships

Despite the uncertain times, Aleta said good things have come out of the move.

"Greg has been so good to us. He is the most awesome, community minded person," she said.

"One of the best things from all of this is developing a relationship with another community group."

She said they are already talking with PICAL about future opportunities to work together in the arts and craft area.

"That's the most positive thing, the relationship that has come out of this and the things we can do together."

## Opening hours

The Community Art and Craft Gallery will initially operate Monday to Friday, 11am until 3pm.

Aleta said the plan is to move to seven days a week, but for now, they wanted to reopen for their local customers.

"We've had a lot of support from local residents over the years. They know this is a place they can go to buy reasonably priced gifts, not made in China."

The gallery is the result of a passionate group of 43 members, who create the work on display and take turns running the gallery.

For 26 years, this volunteer-run gallery has provided locals and visitors with a range of unique and locally made gifts and artwork.

Members include photographers, painters, woodworkers, needleworkers, knitters, textiles, card makers, jewellery makers, and silversmiths. The work on show ranges from general handicrafts to jewellery and artwork.

"This is not work that people are creating for a profit," said Aleta.

"Yes they sell it, but it's not for profit ... it's to buy more craft supplies. We're not talking shop prices."

Over the years, many locals and visitors have snapped up a bargain, as a special gift or a memento of their island visit.

Although the room is smaller than the old space in the Cultural Centre building, Aleta said they can still represent all their members.

"We think the new space looks great," said Aleta, adding the Coronavirus restrictions meant the group had been able to take their time getting the new space set up.

They have also undergone training to ensure all members and visitors to the gallery are safe and numbers inside the gallery will be restricted to five visitors at a time. Aleta said the

members were excited to reopen and were looking forward to welcoming back their loyal customers.

"One of things that's been the hardest is we never had opportunity to tell everyone we were moving."

## Uncertain future

In last week's Advertiser, Aleta expressed her frustration and dismay at the draft plans for the new cultural centre after the group found out they "don't in fact have a dedicated space" in the new building.

She said the lack of a dedicated space could spell the end of the community gallery.

The group flagged similar concerns over plans drafted in 2016 and at the time, council passed a motion in favour of the community gallery having a dedicated space.

"Obviously the vote and decision of the previous councillors has been ignored by this current group of councillors and council employees."

A council spokesperson said: "Council values the contribution made by the Community Art and Craft Gallery over 23 years and has never indicated that a Community Art and Craft Gallery cannot operate within the new centre."

However Aleta said the space the group had been allocated was not the dedicated space they'd been promised, but "some sort of community co-operative space that will have arts and crafts in it from all sorts of people in the community".

Council said a key design principle of the new centre is the building needs to be "as flexible and adaptable as possible, for the needs of the entire community".

"As a result, there are no exclusive spaces being provided within the centre for any community group," a council spokesperson said.

The Gallery can be contacted on 0466 361 086, at website [www.phillipisland-gallery.com.au](http://www.phillipisland-gallery.com.au) or on Facebook.

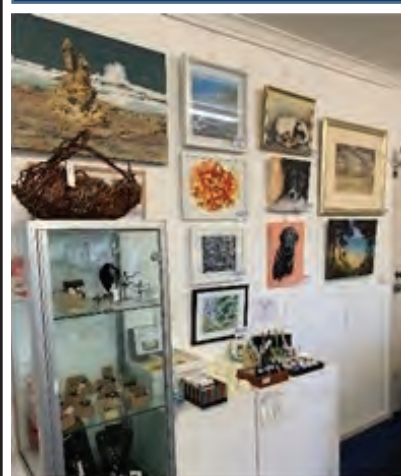


## Phillip Island Gallery Is Back!

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# A HISTORY AT SEA

San Remo's proud fishing tradition celebrated



*The residents of San Remo and surrounds should have been celebrating on Sunday, at the town's annual and very popular Fishing Festival.*

*The Festival brings the community together each year, to have fun, and honour the community's proud fishing history and the traditions that have been kept alive by its seafaring people. Sadly, the pandemic has put paid to that.*

*We take a look instead this week at San Remo's rich fishing heritage, as a way to celebrate the industry's history.*



Reverend Jo White blesses The Metis, tied up on the San Remo pier at San Remo's 2016 San Remo Fishing Festival. Reverend Jo is pictured with fishermen Charlie Marlow and Luke Hill, Margie Hill and San Remo Fishermen's Co-operative Manager Paul Mannix. The annual blessing of the San Remo fishing fleet began in 1955, and was a tradition that had been consigned to the past post the 1970s, until 2018 when it was revived.

## Blessing of the boats

The Blessing of the Fleet ceremony is now an integral feature of the annual San Remo Fishing Festival. The first San Remo Blessing of the Fleet was held in 1955. The tradition of blessing the fleet to provide a safe and plentiful season for the fishermen originated in Sicily centuries ago.

The San Remo tradition first began in 1955 and asked for God's blessing on San Remo's proud sea heritage, and the contribution made to the township by commercial fishermen, tour boats and ferry operators, and recreational anglers.

The blessing recognised the fishermen's love of the sea, respect for its natural resources, and its beauty and fragility.

After an hiatus of 35 years, the tradition was resumed in 2018 to launch the San Remo Fishing Festival.

On that day Anglican Minister Reverend Jo White presided, described the community's important relationship with the sea as many things. "Funny, heroic, beautiful, sad and even full of dread," she commented.

She acknowledged that tragedy could and did happen and asked for God's favour upon the sailors, fishermen and women, coastguard and all others who go out on the water, and noted that the Bible is full of stories about the sea.

Each vessel tied up at the San Remo wharf was individually blessed.



Fishermen Stephen Brockwell and Graham Swallow rolled out the cray pots in preparation for the annual Fishing Festival deckies race back in 2003.



Unloading fish on to the pier circa 1950.



Boats, fish, nets and men have been synonymous with San Remo since the early 1900s. This photo was taken at the 2003 Fishing Festival. John Farley (left) and Bob Young had 100 years of crayfish pot making between them, and these old men of the sea demonstrated their craft to fascinated onlookers throughout the day.



About 60 couta boats fished commercially from San Remo in the 1940s.



This graphic photo taken decades ago at San Remo is a reminder of the hazards faced by the San Remo Fishing fleet, before the days of accurate weather forecasts and GPS equipment. Thankfully these boats were safely moored at the pier.



In days gone by, the San Remo jetty was a work place for some and a place of interest and fun for others. It remains the same today, and is an historic landmark, and a reminder of the village's proud history.



The Blessing of the boats at San Remo circa 1970s.





# A HISTORY AT SEA

San Remo's proud fishing tradition celebrated



San Remo's fishing industry began with the couta boats. The "Dawn" (pictured) was built by Mitch Lacco about 1926 for Queenscliff fisherman Jocka Todd. In the 1920s and 1930s there was an annual migration of Queenscliff fishermen to San Remo to follow the couta and several of the Todd family settled here at about that time. The Dawn was later bought by Herb Kirkland of San Remo. This photo shows the Dawn in a regatta at San Remo with Jocka Todd at the helm. She won the San Remo regattas in 1939 skippered by Syd Todd and 1945 and 1949 skippered by Herb Kirkland. Photo: Tim Phillips collection.



Large trawlers and cray boats along with these smaller couta boats are pictured at a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony held in the 1950s, when the tradition was created. The ceremony became an annual event that attracted large crowds of spectators to the jetty at San Remo. Photo: John Jansson collection.



The Lady Di, a cray boat out of San Remo since 2006, and the large family who run it. Pictured from left are Joan Gordon, William and Joanna Harry, Thomas Gordon, James Harry, Daniel and Michelle van Zanen, Lauren and Joan Gordon, and Skipper Matthew Harry.



Shark fishermen Josh Rule, nursing Imogen, and Chris Bone, showed Reverend Jo White over "The Sand Grop-er" during the blessing of the fleet.



Deckie's Race champions for 2018 were crayfisherman George Brocklesby and wrasse fishermen Richie Blakemore, proudly holding their trophy.



This memorial cairn erected on the San Remo foreshore is a solemn reminder of what the fishing community of San Remo encountered in pursuit of their livelihood.

## Sea tragedies remembered

Local fishermen lost at sea are remembered through a memorial cairn on the San Remo foreshore.

The cairn is dedicated to the memory of 19 fishermen who worked out of the port and who perished at sea between 1919 and 1994; and is a solemn reminder of what the fishing community of San Remo encountered in pursuit of their livelihood.

Many local families have been touched by the tragedies that have occurred over past decades.

Some fishermen were lost in heavy seas or disappeared after their boats capsized.

The cairn, built in granite and bluestone, features a navigation light.

The monument, a focal point for the town, also includes a large anchor and a propeller on a compass rose.

Overlapping circles include a map of the Eastern Entrance, marking Cape Woolamai, San Remo, Griffiths Point and Newhaven.

A notice board provides information about the port of San Remo, originally called Griffith Point.

The cairn was erected on March 9, 2008.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, San Remo Foreshore Committee member and fisherman over the previous six decades, Ray Dickie, recalled fishing in an era without navigation aids, global positioning systems and accurate forecasts.

When he started fishing at age 15, there was no such technology.

He said the worst part was travelling at night without radar.

He recalled his worst time ... caught in a massive storm off Wilsons Promontory, where the lighthouse recorded winds of 90 miles per hour.

The monument was built by the San Remo Foreshore Committee, with support from the Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary Club, to preserve the history of the fishing industry.

Larry BANGS	1919
Leslie MARKS	1928
Walter MARKS	1928
Herman KRISTIANSEN	1932
Arthur FARLEY	1933
Vivian HEAZLEWOOD	1936
Cecil ANDREWS	1936
Peter BAGLEY	1945
Neil CHURCHILL	1949
Reuben CHURCHILL	1949
Walter THOMPSON	1950
Clarrie CHILCOTT	1952
Claude CHILCOTT	1952
William FARLEY	1952
Sam BAGLEY	1954
Robert BUCKINGHAM	1954
Brian ROBB	1966
Ken ROBB	1966
Len WATTEREUS	1969
Keith TODD	1974
Barry CHURCHILL	1985
Bert JOHNSON	1994

The names of 19 fishermen who worked out of the port of San Remo and perished at sea are inscribed on this foreshore monument. The names are a constant reminder of the sacrifices made by San Remo families to the local fishing industry.





# A HISTORY AT SEA

San Remo's proud fishing tradition celebrated



*The San Remo Fishing Festival celebrates the proud fishing history of the area, with the Fisherman's Co-op a drawcard for visitors and a support for local fishermen.*

## San Remo's fishing heritage

The history of fishing in San Remo stretches back tens of thousands of years.

The local Bunurong people would travel to the coast every spring to dine on fish, crayfish, abalone and mutton bird right through every season.

Following European settlement, a commercial fishing industry sprang up in the early 1900s in San Remo and has continued through to the present day.

At the heart of the modern industry is the Fisherman's Co-operative, located at the San Remo pier.

Today the co-op has five shark boats, one trawler and five cray boats, and is a mecca for tourists for its daily feeding of the pelicans and fish and chips at the Pelican View restaurant.

It is a very different business to when it first started in 1948, when it served about 60 cuta boats, fishing for barracouta. And crays were netted in Western Port bay.

The wooden cuta boats were about 20 to 30 feet long.

Those early fishing boats were

sturdy but not particularly comfortable and fishing was a tough and dangerous occupation.

Fishermen were always versatile, changing methods to catch whatever was available at that time.

In the 1940s it was popular within the industry to fish for flathead on long lines.

At that time, fish were prolific in the spring, before the start of the barracouta season, and two men using long lines could catch up to 15 boxes a day.

With each containing 35 to 40 kilos of fish, it was a lucrative sideline.

The period from Show Day in September to Cup Day was always regarded as flathead time.

And November was cuta month.

Cuta were caught by towing several lines behind the boat with a hook on the end baited with a piece of cow hide.

Long line fishing was very labour intensive, with hundreds of baits having to be attached individually.

Cuta was sent to the Melbourne fish market and a cannery, with up to two semi-trailer loads going to

market every day.

But the industry hit a setback when the barracouta fishery disappeared and has not recovered since in commercial quantity.

Danish Seine trawlers had started to sweep the area from Eden to Cape Otway in the 1950s, and things changed.

The port's fishermen reported a reduction in cuta numbers, and few were caught from then on along the Victorian coastline.

The same applied to blue fin tuna, once relatively plentiful in the area and the flathead catch reduced.

The Fisherman's Co-Operative building, which became operational in 1952, was one of five similar facilities built along Victoria's south coast.

The objective was to assist in the further development of a state wide fishing industry.

Freezer rooms were installed primarily to address the seasonal glut of fish and to stabilise prices.

But they were never quite large enough to contain the catch, and a more effective distribution system was necessary.

By the 60s the large fleet fished the Victorian coast, King Island and Flinders Island, with a growing market in shark.

In the next decades the introduction of restricted fishing licenses into the shark fleet, as well as the reduction of net length and different categories of licenses, reduced the size of the fishing fleet.

Crayfishing reached a peak in the 1970s, and the Co-op freezer was used to store both fresh and cooked cray.

As time went by, small boats were replaced with larger ones.

Technological advances saw modern fishing boats become larger and expensively equipped, with electronic and mechanical navigational aids and echo sounders to locate fish.

About 26 local boats were operating out of the port at the start of the 1990s, with most tying up at San Remo.

A flaked iceworks had been added at the Co-op in 1986.

The ice was used to preserve fish in the boats. Transportation of the catch improved dramatically; with refrigerated vehicles ensuring

freshness.

The Co-operative was given a new lease on life in 2010 with assistance from the Federal government, with an expanded fish and chip shop and retail outlet built and the 60-seat Pelican View restaurant overlooking the pier.

The Co-op is a drawcard and the focus of San Remo as visitors take in the daily pelican feeding attraction created by Warren Dickie in the 80s, and go down on to the jetty to look at the boats.

Today the Co-op has a retail focus, but its primary purpose is still to serve members, supplying ice and fuel, and unloading the catch.

About 90 per cent of the catch is sent to processors in Melbourne, with 10 per cent – or about eight tonnes of flake annually – sold to hungry visitors.

In 2018 the Co-op sold 100 tonnes of chips a year.

These days gummy shark is the firm favourite on the San Remo boats, but other boats target crayfish, scallops, squid, wrasse, and trawl fish.





Bass Coast Health staff Chrissy Vojkovic, Mel Munro, and Carrie Bobrowski enjoying the spring sunshine while waiting for their Thankyou Box.



Scallop fishermen Jake Watts, Mark Forbes, Greg Beaumont, and Zac Chester giving the thumbs up to health workers.



Co-op staff Kate Pabalan, Ryan Stephens, Emma Cooper and Reece Tompsett cooking up another batch of Thankyou Boxes



Shark fisherman Jake Cripps on his boat the Daryl R

## Generous thank you to health workers

More than 150 health workers from across Bass Coast were given Thankyou Boxes from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op last Thursday, in appreciation of their work during COVID-19.

Co-op manager Paul Mannix said doctors, nurses, ambulance paramedics and aged care workers all visited the Co-op for the Thankyou Thursday event, showing their ID cards to pick up their box, which had items all donated by the an-

glers of the co-op.

Each box contained a piece of Bass Strait gummy from five shark boats (FV Metis, FV Marylou, FV Endeavour, FV Sharben and FV Daryl R), as well as a Bass Strait scallop, from the crew on the scallop boat Northern Star, and of course chips, lemon and house made aioli.

Paul said 151 boxes were given away to the value of more than \$2400.

"The inspiration came at the sug-

gestion of one of our fishermen – two of his family work in aged care and he has seen first-hand how hard they are working and the relentless stress they are under," Paul said.

"Being such a small community, most of us know someone who works in health care.

"All of us at the Co-op wanted to show them our gratitude for what they are doing so we came up with the Thankyou Box idea."



Co-op staff member Ryan Stephens with one of many prime Bass Strait gummy shark, donated by the San Remo fishermen for Thankyou Thursday



Fishermen Brendon Jones and Rowan Draper, while working down in the engine room of the Metis, took time to come up on deck to give their thumbs up.



Co-op manager Paul Mannix with Stephen Allan of Griffiths Point Lodge, holding an esky full of Thankyou Boxes for the Griffiths Point staff.



Skipper Jim Papas with Frank Orlandi on board the Marylou.



Welcome sign on Thankyou Thursday.



Local nurse Sarah Dinger, heading back to San Remo Medical clinic with a stack of Thankyou Boxes.



The Thankyou Box featured fresh local gummy shark and scallops, alongside hot chips and house made tartare.



Shark fisherman Paul Bone says thankyou from the Endeavour.



Icing Bass Strait gummy shark, caught by the crew of the Daryl R last week.



# Throw-away catwalk creation

Phillip Island student Mia Stratmann has transformed marine debris into haute couture.

The Year 12 student at Newhaven College is studying Product Design and Technology for VCE and decided to incorporate protecting the environment into her final piece for the subject.

"I am a very naturalistic person who is conscious of the environment," Mia said.

"I decided my final piece would centre around sustainability and using waste materials."

Mia created her own materials out of the by-product from making fermented tea, kombucha.

Other aspects of the design included using marine debris collected from local beaches (supplied by Phillip Island Nature Parks), as well as single-use plastic bags, scrap fabric and even dried pig intestines!

"My final garment is called the "Sea Mermaid" and it incorporates a handmade couture dress, intestine shawl and SCOBY bacteria removable overskirt," Mia explained.

"The dress uses blue and green coloured marine debris random machine embroidered onto the bodice as well as a hand ruffled plastic bag skirt. The entire dress is lined with vintage scrap lining and uses a corset style back fastening with can tabs.

"The overskirt uses marine debris fishing net layered with individually grown SCOBY bacteria circles, each hand-dyed with organic cabbage dye I made myself."

The final result is a stunning creation fit for any catwalk.

"Through my project, I hoped to demonstrate to others the possible beauty of materials we throw out on a daily basis," Mia said.

"I want people to turn to alternate ways of using waste materials and open their minds to a more sustainable way of living.

"My other wish is that my piece inspires others to be creative, think outside of the box and to push themselves to the limits. Although at first it seems scary, the possibilities, outcomes and benefits are endless."



Year 12 student Mia Stratmann's "Sea Mermaid" dress includes a SCOBY bacteria removable overskirt. It was created as her final piece for Product Design and Technology.



The dress features a ruffled plastic bag skirt and a bodice embroidered with blue and green marine debris.

# Libraries temporarily closed

A report from West Gippsland Libraries

Many would already know that West Gippsland Libraries have shut their doors again in line with the Stage 3 restrictions, but be assured that the library staff remain committed to helping you stay connected with resources and importantly, with your community.

"We're extremely grateful for the patience and understanding of all our patrons, and your recognition of the challenges of this ever-changing environment means so much to all our staff who are determined to continue to offer their support in any way they can," said Leanne Williams, CEO.

Although West Gippsland Libraries will be closed for public access until further notice, you'll still be able to access a number of resources to help you keep as mindfully active and stimulated as possible.

Through some great advocacy from Public Libraries Victoria and Victorian Library CEO's, the state government has modified its Stage 3 restrictions to allow libraries to offer a "click & collect" service which is currently available from West Gippsland libraries at Phillip Island, Wonthaggi, and Waterline (Grantville), as well as Warragul, Drouin, Foster, Inverloch, Korumburra, Leon-gatha, Mirboo North, Poowong and Welshpool during current branch opening hours.

A Home Delivery Service is also available to all library members. While they can't offer you spe-

cific titles or authors, librarians handpick a selection of items that fit the broad themes and styles you're interested in. This special "Librarians Choice" service may open up a whole new world of reading and resources to you. Call a branch or register online for your selection to be delivered free via Australia Post right to your front door.

The Libraries' Digital Resources have proven to be very popular and offer something for the entire family. Choose from e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, digital newspapers, kid's activities and reading resources. West Gippsland Libraries have also got your entertainment needs covered with a fantastic variety of streaming movies and documentaries. Want to use this time to learn a new skill? Try one of the free online study courses available to library members. All these digital resources can be accessed online anytime.

If you need help with any Digital Resources, the library is just a phone call away. Book a Tech Talk for a Librarian to step you through setting up and using them. The support team is also online Monday-Friday 9am-5pm for a live chat on the website.

We're all eagerly awaiting the day when libraries reopen again, but in the meantime, we hope you discover and enjoy all the services that are currently on offer at West Gippsland Libraries. For the latest updates, visit [wgrlc.vic.gov.au](http://wgrlc.vic.gov.au), sign up for email updates and follow us on Facebook.

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## How to back your local businesses

during the COVID-19 restrictions

Bass Coast locals are strong supporters of local businesses and traders. Here are some ideas of how you can help and continue to give them your backing.



Use social media to follow, like and tag businesses



Order online or over the phone



Write a positive review online. Share your recommendation with your family and friends



Sign up to businesses' e-newsletters for updates and offers



Be considerate of businesses and traders who have to temporarily close



Support businesses by purchasing a gift voucher that you can use later



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# Road to Covid normal! Business support

What will the journey out of lockdown look like for local businesses?

Bass Coast, along with the rest of regional Victoria, has moved to Step 2 in the state government's recovery roadmap, and as regional Covid numbers continue to fall it's likely we will move to Step 3 this week.

Step 3 means retail and hospitality venues can once again open their doors.

However, all venues must comply with density limits and for cafes, restaurants and bars, the emphasis will be on outdoor seated service, with a 10-person group limit.

Kim Storey, General Manager at Destination Phillip Island believes life will look different in the 'Covid Normal' world and creative thinking will play a big part in the road to recovery.

She said DPI had already had discussions with the Department of Jobs, to get more clarity around the cap on numbers for attractions and tour operators.

With the Step 3 emphasis on outdoor dining, they're also working with Bass Coast Shire Council on ways to streamline and fast-track outdoor dining permits, to allow businesses to make the most of the loosened restrictions.

DPI is also encouraging businesses to talk to Council about ideas they have on how to best work within the restrictions.

"We're encouraging council to talk with business owners and asking businesses to think outside the square and take those ideas to council," said Kim.

One idea being floated is creating pedestrian malls in high retail traffic areas like Thompson Avenue.

This would allow more outdoor dining and seated areas and safer spaces for crowds.

"It's not just about space for outdoor dining, it's about the shopping as well," said Kim.

"It opens up a space to move up and down the street, so people are comfortable moving from shop to shop."

Such a move would take "engagement and support from the retail precinct" said Kim, who confirmed that the Department of Jobs was already working with Regional Roads Victoria, DELWP and Liquor Licensing to allow councils to instigate such initiatives.

"Council seemed really open to it and are already looking at it," Kim said.

Other states had taken a similar shift to outdoor dining and Kim said areas like Bendigo and the Mornington Peninsula had already put together plans to support their shopping areas.

"We are coming into the best time to do this. Let's hope there's plenty of opportunity for outdoor dining."

## Roadmap impact

While the possibility of a quick move to Step 3 has been welcomed by everyone in regional Victoria, the head of the Australian Retailers Association, Paul Zahra said 50 per cent of small businesses would be "wiped out" by the government's roadmap.

A survey by Glow Research for Sensis paints a slightly brighter picture, with regional businesses more confident of recovery under the plan.

Nineteen per cent of small to medium businesses in Melbourne believe it will take more than a year to return to profit, while only four per cent of regional businesses felt the same.

In fact, 43 per cent of regional businesses said the roadmap would have "no impact" on their survival, compared to 25 per cent of their Melbourne counterparts.

However, Kim said businesses on the island and in San Remo did not fit neatly into the regional business mould, for a number of reasons.

"We have the lowest number of permanent residents to visitors in Victoria," said Kim.

"That means the pool of income opportunity is much smaller than other regions."

With 35 per cent of the local workforce employed by tourism, Kim said a lot of local families have lost some or all of their income.

The high percentage of older residents also impacted on the local economy, with many having their income effected by super changes and low interest rates on their investments.

While DPI doesn't have any official figures on how many local businesses have closed due to the pandemic, Kim said they always predicted "the crunch" would be in September and October, particularly for businesses with high fixed costs.

"High costs like rent, electricity and insurance are usually offset by the peak season, and they haven't had that."

"Small businesses might have a cash reserve, but that would be whittled down now, and those costs are enough to accumulate a big debt after six months without income."

## Looking to the future

Reopening cautiously so there can be a return to some kind of normalcy by the summer holidays is the focus of the roadmap.

Kim said in DPI's discussions with the government, the Premier said the goal was to have the state operating again for Christmas.

With limited travel opportunities available she agreed Phillip Island was well placed to benefit from Victorians keen to enjoy a holiday. She said it was vital that plan-

ning started now to reduce the congestion in key areas.

"What are the creative things we can plan now, to make people feel more comfortable with those spaces?"

"It will require some creativity from our attractions, in their timing with bookings," said Kim.

She believes the emphasis on outdoor dining will see people continuing to support takeaway options.

"There will be a lot more picnicking and takeaway, so how will our businesses package those options?"

"I can see some really nice opportunities to set up tables and chairs at the bottom of Cowes. We have lots of open spaces and should be able to deliver that."

With no international or even interstate visitors on the immediate horizon, DPI is currently working with Visit Victoria on region to region marketing, although that would be tied to government directives on promoting travel between regions.

"The one positive of the border closure is it will encourage tourism within the state," said Kim.

"We're thinking about how we can talk to other people in Gippsland and the northern area about travelling here."

The digital and social media campaigns will be targeted so they don't hit the Melbourne market.

Any business reopening under Step 3 will also need to have a Covid Safe plan in place.

"Again we are seeking clarification and understanding of these plans which should be designed to consider to the size and footprint of the business," Kim said.

"Many local businesses have also been working on their Covid cleaning plans."

"We acknowledge that business and community want a simple plan, but we do understand the health imperatives and that various business sector openings have various impacts for the government to manage."

DPI will also be watching the upcoming council elections with interest.

"It would be rather concerning if a candidate hadn't started thinking about economic recovery in the region," said Kim.

"We'd be very interested in hearing their thoughts. We highly recommend that candidates consider their platform on economic recovery and the economics of the region going forward."

Businesses wanting to be part of DPI's partnership promotion can visit [destinationphillipisland.org.au](http://destinationphillipisland.org.au).

For full details of the state government's roadmap to reopening, including details of restrictions under each step, visit [www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-roadmaps](http://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-roadmaps).

The government has announced a \$3 billion support package for businesses, including cash grants, tax relief and cashflow support.

The Premier said the package is designed to help businesses survive the pandemic.

Over \$1.1 billion in cash grants will be directed to small and medium sized businesses.

A dedicated \$251 million Licenced Venue fund has been set up to support bars, restaurants, pubs, clubs, hotels and reception centres. Grants of between \$10,000 and \$30,000 will be available.

Local business groups will be eligible for grants of up to \$20,000 to assist their members.

Kim Storey from Destination Phillip Island said the announcement of further support was very welcome.

"We look forward to seeing the detail this week and sharing information with our local industry. I encourage all businesses to review the content of the future announcements to check their eligibility," Kim said.

"I hope that there will be some good news for regional Victoria to move to Step 3 shortly, which will provide further opening opportunities for local businesses"

"In the meantime, we encourage businesses to consider the health

and wellbeing of themselves and their staff given the continuing economic and social impacts of this pandemic."

## What's on offer

Around 75,000 eligible businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million will receive grants of \$10,000, \$15,000 or \$20,000 depending on their size.

The Government will now defer payroll tax for businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million for the full 2020-21 financial year.

There will also be a further \$137 million in waivers and deferrals of charges including liquor licence fees, the congestion levy and increases to the landfill levy.

The 50 per cent stamp duty discount for commercial and industrial property across all of regional Victoria will be brought forward to January 1, 2021 and the Vacant Residential Land Tax will be waived for properties that are vacant in 2020.

The package also includes \$20 million for small businesses to access off-the-shelf digital programs such as Shopify or Squareonline, training and workshops designed to help businesses adapt to online operations.

For information about coronavirus visit [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 675 398.



The government says its new Covid home safety plan will help keep people safe as Victoria takes its first steps in the roadmap to Covid Normal. Photo: Kelly Sikkema, unsplash.

## Keeping your home Covid safe

The government has released a COVID-19 Home Safety Plan to help families as restrictions start to ease.

As well as reinforcing things the community is already doing – like washing hands and keeping 1.5m apart – the plan sets out the steps you can take to keep safe inside your home. These include regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, recognising the symptoms of

the virus, and planning for potential illness.

Outside the home, the plan includes suggestions like keeping a record of where you've been or who you've seen and wearing a face covering.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Home Safety Plan is available for download at [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid-19-home-safety-plan](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid-19-home-safety-plan).

# “Click for Victoria”

With businesses across Victoria still under lockdown restrictions, the 'Click for Vic' campaign is a way to connect with local producers, creators and businesses across the state.

The new website encourages Victorians to support local businesses, and Victorian fresh food, wine, galleries and homewares are featured on the site.

By Clicking for Vic, Victorians will be connected to online offerings from the Victorian Country Market, Providoor, Co-Lab Pantry

and many more.

The Victorian Country Market – a digital version of a country market – is home to more than 250 stalls including fresh produce, drinks, arts, crafts and homewares from across regional Victoria.

The government said not only is the market helping regional producers survive the economic impacts of the pandemic, it's also supporting the music industry by providing opportunities to out-of-work music staff for home deliveries.

A \$1.5 million e-commerce and

marketplace transition package will assist Victorian farmers and producers to diversify into online markets by providing training and support to help them build a sustainable online presence.

There's an industry tool kit to guide any local businesses that want to get involved that can be downloaded from the Visit Victoria website.

To treat yourself to local produce and support Victorian businesses go to [visitvictoria.com/clickforvic](http://visitvictoria.com/clickforvic).



Treat yourself to Victorian fresh food, wine, galleries and homewares and support local businesses – [visitvictoria.com/clickforvic](http://visitvictoria.com/clickforvic).



# Lockdown lowdown

After a high last week, on the back of her personal training regimen, Smiths Beach's Lisa McLure says her family then hit a dip in the lockdown rollercoaster.

And the main culprit? The iPad, with Lisa suggesting her kids – Angus, 10, and Evie, six – have a change in attitude after spending too much time on devices in lockdown.

"I'm looking forward to the end of lockdown.

I know a few weeks ago I said I wanted to relish this time with the kids, but some days I just wish a magical angel would come down and give me some time to myself.

It's been normal family rollercoaster stuff that you'd get any time of the year, but magnified by the sheer volume of time we're spending together in lockdown.

Last weekend I wanted to concentrate on me for a bit and get my personal training business on track, so the kids were on their iPads more than usual.

But iPad time was creeping in further and further and after a while they don't want to get off.

Trying to get them off is like getting blood out of a stone. It's so exhausting getting them outside and off their screens.

It's a catch-22: they enjoy being on their screens, with their mates, and I get stuff done.

Yet when they get back into the world, they're not very nice. When they've been on their devices for a length of time they turn into surly children.

Their whole demeanour changes. You can really tell the difference in kids when they have been on their iPads for a long time.

It's very much like sugar. I don't know what it is about the screen, whether it's the flashing images, but it changes them.

So many parents say the same thing. We always think we're the only ones but we're not. Parents have their own work to do and they feel bad they're not taking their kids out.

Anyway, the other day it turned



The class of 2020, home schooling, from left, Lisa, Angus, Evie and Tim McLure.

into a bit of a screaming match and everyone was over everyone.

I start off asking nicely and then it slowly becomes a high pitch 'I'm Mary Poppins keeping it together' voice. Then all of a sudden, I'm losing it and tipping over the edge into cold blooded rage and an axe murderer.

Let's just say I was not using my inside voice when a family walked past our house and the windows were open.

I saw her later on the beach and said I was sorry, and she just said I should hear her.

After all that we banned the iPads for three days and it was amazing,

the kids actually played Lego together.

Just hearing their laughter and happiness was such a change, having fun and enjoying being kids.

It only lasted two days though and then they wanted to strangle each other again.

I told the teachers we had a couple

of mental health days last week and they said we absolutely did the right thing, to take days off and come back to it refreshed, and don't put pressure on myself.

Now we're back to limited iPad time, just 4pm-6pm. You have to set limits. It's easy to let them play more than that, but then you pay the penalty at the other end.

I swear: even if they've been on their devices for five hours, and I have to drag them kicking and screaming to go for a bike ride, at dinner time every night they say their favourite thing that day was going for a ride or being on the beach. That's what they remember. They never say they had the best day because they were on their iPads.

I'll take a picture of the kids on the beach and put it on social media and then other parents feel bad they're not doing the same, but those pictures don't show the four hours before that on the iPad and the drama involved in getting out the door.

It took two hours one day just to get out the door – 'where's your shoes and towel, what do you mean you can't find your wetsuit'.

Some days by 3pm I'm so tired and over it. Some days I just want to build an adult fort and climb in.

Yesterday I cracked the sh\*t's and sat on the couch but then Jay my personal trainer texted me to say, 'come on, get up and go for a run'. He must be spying on me.

So I did get up, go for a run in the dark, put my headphones on and it was awesome.

Tim came home from work and cooked dinner, made the beds and we worked as a team.

Hopefully we won't have this lockdown time again, but at the same time my family won't be this age ever again.

It's a weird juxtaposition: loving the time together but desperately yearning for some time to myself.

It's like when the kids go away for the weekend, I think 'great, I'll clean up and have some quiet time'. But once the house is clean, I miss them and want them back."

# We're stepping out!

From midnight tonight (September 16), Bass Coast, along with the rest of regional Victoria, moves to Step 3 in the state government roadmap.

The news means families and friends will be able to meet again – both at home and outdoors, with no restrictions on leaving home and up to five people allowed to your home, within a "household bubble".

Businesses can reopen their doors, but anyone who can work from home must continue to do so.

Cafes, pubs, bars and restaurants will also be able to serve up to 20 patrons inside, across two areas. The 20-person rule is subject to several conditions, including a maximum of 10 people per area and subject to the four-square metre per person rule.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said he was very happy with the announcement.

"It's great our businesses can concentrate on getting themselves re-established, and council is committed to helping businesses move forward."

Cr Tessari said, like most people

in the community, he was looking forward to reconnecting with family.

"It's such a relief to be able to go and visit again and have visitors around. I've missed my mother having an 80th birthday celebration and like many people, haven't been able to attend funerals.

"To be able to get back to a certain amount of normality is a great relief."

The Mayor said he was also happy to hear the Premier announce there were going to be strict controls on the border between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Border controls will be strengthened said the Premier, to prevent the virus moving from the city to regional Victoria.

This includes extra roadblocks and more cars being pulled over. There will be increased fines for anyone visiting the regions without a valid reason.

No one is permitted to go to their second residence in regional Victoria, with the Premier saying to do so was "unlawful and should not be happening".

Regional Victorians will be able to travel within the regions.

It is still mandatory to wear a mask outside your home and social distancing requirements remain in place.

## What's Step 3

The key points:

- No restrictions on leaving home
- Up to 10 people can meet outdoors
- Household bubbles with one nominated household, allowing up to five visitors from that household at a time.
- Childcare and early learning centres open
- Schools return
- Hospitality open – with predominantly outdoor seated service and a maximum of 20 indoors across two areas, subject to density rules
- Retail open, including hairdressers and beauty salons (only services where a mask can be worn)
- Private inspections for real estate
- Outdoor contact and non-contact sport for under 18s

Outdoor non-contact sport for adults

Outdoor skateparks and fitness areas reopen

Increased limits for weddings and funerals

Travel within regional Victoria allowed

Accommodation open (caps per the social bubble)

Some outdoor venues and events to return, subject to pre-approved plans

Details at: [www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria](http://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria)

## Take the test

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

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

Testing is available at:

- Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. People are encouraged to present

between 1.30pm and 3pm to minimise wait times.

- Wonthaggi Hospital drive through testing service is now available between 10am-4pm, 7 days a week.

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

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



# Safe delivery for Bass Coast babies

The Carver/Lombard family from Phillip Island has a new addition!

Despite baby Malibu arriving in the midst of the Covid pandemic, parents Elly Carver and Bryce Lombard said the service from Bass Coast Health put any anxiety to rest.

BCH said their midwifery team were delighted to welcome baby Malibu, with Elly getting to know the obstetrics and midwifery team, who checked in on Elly and Malibu's health in the lead up to the birth.

When Malibu was ready to appear, it happened quickly.

"When we arrived at Wonthaggi Hospital it was go time. The midwifery team were calm and knew what to do for my rapid birth," said Elly.

Having the staff so well prepared – and covering all the Covid requirements, Elly said she was just "able to breathe and focus on the birth. I felt comfortable and nurtured".

Partner Bryce said the new Covid processes at the hospital, designed to keep all the mothers and babies safe, put him at ease.

The midwifery ward offers mums and partners their own birthing suites equipped with all of the essentials including private bathroom, wardrobe, a fridge, and personal touches added by the midwives.

BCH said directly employing the midwifery team and obstetricians provides continuity of care and connection, because the same staff follow the prenatal, birth and early post-natal journey.



Pictured from left Bryce Lombard, Kaizer Lombard holding baby Malibu Lombard and Elly Carver at home in Phillip Island

The continuity of care has been part of the positive experience for Elly and Bryce, now receiving visits from midwives in the comfort of their home.

For expecting mums or families planning their birth, Elly had this message: "Come in with an open mind and trust in the midwives and obstetricians, they are such a great support."

"We had the most amazing time and felt really looked after under the wonderful care."

To access free and bulked billed services during the ante-natal, birth and post-natal period phone (03) 5671 3201.

# Fund our future

The Bass Coast Climate Action Network (CAN) is organising a day of action on September 25.

It's been timed to coincide with the School Strike 4 Climate Global Day of Action, which is calling for the government to fast-track solutions to climate change and transition Australia to renewable energy.

The "Fund our Future Not Gas" action day wants to stop the planned Federal govern-

ment investment in the gas industry.

Here in Bass Coast the Climate Action Network is asking everyone to make yellow signs spreading the message to "Fund Our Future Not Gas".

"We're asking people to take a selfie with their sign and then email it to us by Wednesday, September 23," said Aileen Vening from CAN.

"We will create a collage of the photos and release it to the media on September 25."

Bass Coast CAN is also urging people to hang signs in their windows, on their fence or in a public place, and to email their sign photos to Federal member Russell Broadbent (Russell.Broadbent.MP@aph.gov.au).

Because of the Covid restrictions, the rally originally planned for Wonthaggi has been cancelled.

For more information, visit [www.schoolstrike4climate.com](http://www.schoolstrike4climate.com).

## Nominations open for council election

Nominations for this year's council election open this week.

The nomination period runs for six days, from Thursday, September 17 until midday on Tuesday, September 22.

Safe Campaigning guidelines are available at the Local Government Victoria website.

Under the guidelines, public meetings are not permitted, including having small meetings in private residences. Doorknocking is also not permitted. Traditional campaign methods like attending community events, or setting

up a campaign table on the street or at a local shopping centre are not allowed.

Letterbox drops and handing out leaflets are permitted, but physical distance and hand hygiene must be maintained. Billboarding or putting up posters is also allowed.

Anyone handing out leaflets, putting up posters or letterboxing must carry a bottle of alcohol-based hand sanitiser and wear a mask. Carpooling is not allowed for any of these activities.

The government has funded a campaign (It's Our Time)

encouraging prospective female candidates to stand for election. There is also a program of online forums and podcasts to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to stand for council.

All candidates for the 2020 elections must complete the Local Government Candidate Training Course before they nominate. The online course will close at midday on Tuesday, September 22.

For more details visit: [localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-elections-2020/elections-2020](http://localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-elections-2020/elections-2020).

# Your feedback on water and sewerage services

More than two thousand customers across six water corporations, including Westernport Water, will be surveyed over the coming weeks for their feedback on water and sewerage services.

The survey is being conducted by Insync and TKW Research over the

telephone, with a random sample of 400 residential customers being contacted over the next six weeks.

"This annual survey is an important tool to help us gauge how well we are performing with our products and services. The results will inform our planning for the future,"

Westernport Water's Managing Director, Peter Quigley said.

"I encourage customers who are contacted to be as honest as possible about their experience with us over the past 12 months. The survey should take less than ten minutes to complete."

The telephone survey commences this week and customers should note that TKW Research will clearly identify themselves and will not engage in any sales pitch for a product or a service.

Westernport Water said if customers receive calls from people selling

water filters or any other device, it is in no way connected with this survey.

Joining forces for this annual customer satisfaction survey are East Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Water, Gippsland Water, Westernport Water, Coliban Water, Central

## FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE

### URGENTLY NEED PROPERTIES FOR SALE

**For Sale \$769,000**  
**11/4 The Esplanade, Cowes**

This outstanding location on the Cowes foreshore has unparalleled views. Nestled in the C- Scape complex on The Esplanade, time can really stand still as you admire the outlook. Park 2 cars in the underground garage and enjoy all Cowes has to offer. The size of this unit is such an asset as you could retire to this property or there is huge potential for a holiday rental income.

**OUTSTANDING APARTMENT!**

**For sale \$699,000**  
**36 Fisher Street, Ventnor**

This substantial 6 bedroom home is set on the hill and within walking distance to the beach, the home has been crafted to provide the perfect place to gather together and enjoy coastal life. The downstairs section features a second kitchen and bathroom making it fully self contained. The large entrance fills the home with natural light and the second storey allows an expansive outlook and partial views. The open fire is sure to please those on cold winter days, and the hardwood floors gives it that coastal feel. The extra large garage is perfect for additional storage. This large home is sure to please and would be perfect for holiday living.

**HUGE FAMILY HOME**

**For Sale \$825,000 | 15A Beach Road, Rhyll**

Here's the ultimate lifestyle with a foreshore position making coastal living a dream. Located opposite the Rhyll jetty and within easy walking distance to cafe, Tavern, boat ramp and park. This light and bright captures all the northerly aspect and is perfect for entertaining family and friends on the large north facing decking area. The main bedrooms features it's own balcony with views of the Bay as well as ensuite & WIR. Other features include polished hardwood floors, spacious kitchen with stone benches and 900mm cook top. The large main living area also features open wood fire and reverse cycle heating and cooling. This highly sought after foreshore property has a great permanent rental history also, returning \$1647 per month making it the ideal investment.

**FANTASTIC FORESHORE**

[www.phillipislandfn.com.au](http://www.phillipislandfn.com.au)  
 60 Thompson Ave, Cowes

**OPEN 7 DAYS**  
 5952 3922

## GREEN ROOM CONCEPT STUDIOS

# SONG WRITING COMPETITION

**Open to all young songwriters in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland area aged between 12-18 years of age.**

## MAJOR PRIZE!

**The winner of the song writing competition will get their song professionally recorded, produced and released as well as \$250 cash!!**

**Entries must be the exclusive original work of the entrant(s) and must not infringe any copyrights or any other rights of third parties.**

**Entries Open: Monday 7th September**  
**Entries Close: Friday 9th October**

**For more information go to:**  
[www.greenroomconceptstudios.com/song-writing-comp](http://www.greenroomconceptstudios.com/song-writing-comp)



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# In support of Western Port

In the decade Dr Laura Brearley and her husband Terry Melvin have lived on Phillip Island, they have become known as a dynamic duo.

Laura co-founded the Shearwater Biyadin Festival eight years ago, then in 2018 she established the intercultural arts program of the Whale Festival.

Laura is also co-ordinating an environmental arts project, Coastal Connections, funded by Bass Coast Shire, which is focussing on "special places in the natural world that local community members love".

In their spare time, Laura - a musician and researcher - and Terry a film maker, photographer and former psychologist - have most recently compiled a series of four films dedicated to Western Port bay.

Available on their YouTube channel, the films were initially inspired by the couple's walks in the first COVID lockdown, capturing on video the bay's beauty.

"The star of the film is Western Port itself and the many beautiful forms of interconnected life that it supports," says Laura, who also has a background in intercultural and environmental arts.

"Terry and I have spent a lot of time during the COVID era walking in local places of natural beauty, with Terry photographing and filming as we go.

"The light is wonderful at sunrise and sunset and so we had a lot of very early mornings and late dinners over the last few months. We have discovered many beautiful places that we had not visited before."

## AGL

Laura, a member of the Phillip Island Conservation Society, says she and Terry then decided to harness that footage to send a clear message against AGL's plans to establish a floating gas plant at Crib Point.

So the first three short films were combined in one longer piece, running 13 minutes 26 seconds, titled For Western Port, which Laura included in her submission to AGL's

Environmental Effects Statement for the gas project.

"We have a special love for the birdlife and the peace of Western Port. It is that love that led to our decision to develop a creative submission for the Save Westernport from AGL campaign," she says.

"We strongly believe that Western Port's eco-system is too fragile and significant to risk the damage that AGL's project would cause."

The entire film project has been a massive undertaking, almost a full-time project for Terry, while Laura wrote four songs used in the films, also acting as narrator.

The couple harnessed the talent and knowledge of about 50 contributors including Phillip Island residents, musicians Lyndal Chambers and Brian 'Strat' Stratting and members of the Gippsland-based Climate Calamity Choir, led by Jane Coker, and the Melbourne Climate Choir, led by Jeannie Marsh.

Given the second lockdown, the choirs performed on Zoom in the film, holding up placards sending a message to AGL saying "NO WAY" to their proposed gas project for Western Port.

Laura says already the film footage has been used by ABC news.

She has also requested she speak to her EES submission at the State Government's public hearings in October, when she also hopes the film will be allowed to be viewed publicly.

## First Nation

Laura said she and Terry had been taught by their First Nation friends and colleagues that knowledge can be represented in different ways, including song, story and artworks.

She says her PhD, completed in 2001, focussed on how knowledge is represented.

"For these reasons, we chose to incorporate film and song into our submission in response to AGL's proposed gas jetty at Crib Point," Laura says.

"Teachings from First Nation peoples have shown we are in rela-



The couple harnessed the talent and knowledge of about 50 contributors for the films, including choirs who performed on Zoom, holding up placards sending a message to AGL saying "NO WAY" to their proposed gas project for Western Port.

tionship with Country.

We believe that damage done to fragile eco-systems such as Western Port diminishes us all. The damage is not separate from us. We have a responsibility to listen to Country, to respect it and care for it."

Laura said the Shearwater Biyadin Festival and the intercultural arts program of the Whale Festival have both featured strong representation from Boon Wurrung/Bunurong Elders and artists.

## Black Saturday

Laura said at the time of the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009 she and Terry were both working at Churchill campus of Monash University, living in the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges, and were evacuated twice in five days.

"It's a confronting experience to go around the house, looking at everything you own and deciding what to take.

"We realised that all we really needed was each other, the cat, the guitar and our computers.

"We realised that the protection of life is what mattered most. Recognising that really clarified how we wanted to live."

The following year they moved to Cape Woolamai, with Laura leaving her role as an Associate Professor in education at Monash University, and Terry leaving his role as senior psychologist at the Churchill campus.

"We love the natural beauty of the region and we love the community here."

Google 'For Western Port You Tube Terry Melvin' or go to [www.youtube.be/s4cE0rJUiS0](http://www.youtube.be/s4cE0rJUiS0)

## Holly goes for gold



Holly Buckley (right) with fellow Newhaven College student Ella Osbourne (left) at Wollangarra, as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award challenge.

Even the current COVID 19 challenges couldn't stop Newhaven College Year 12 student Holley Buckley going for gold.

Holly has just been awarded the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

She said the experience was one of the most enriching yet challenging things she has ever undertaken, taking her out of her comfort zone.

"I have learnt so much, about myself and others, and made some incredible friends along the way."

The award challenges included a paddle trip to Lake Eildon, learning to drive and spending time at the Wollangarra Outdoor Education Centre.

"Although it has been quite interrupted by the current lockdowns and global pandemic, meaning I had to delay my award for certain periods of time, I am so glad that I was able to complete it and am very thankful to everyone along the way who made that a possibility," said Holly.

"This has been a very rewarding experience that I would highly recommend to others and a fantastic way to try new things and meet new people.

"A massive thank-you to Newhaven College's Year 9 teacher, Mrs McLean for all the time and effort she has put into these trips and helping us get there!"



Musician and a researcher Laura Brearley has a background in intercultural and environmental arts.



Film maker, photographer and a former psychologist Terry Melvin.

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# Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Over the last couple of weeks there has been a noticeable police presence on the water. Several customers have been confused with some of the things they are being told when checked.

We have also had a lot of phone calls about how and where you can fish in regard to the Coronavirus. Because the situation seems to change often and can be a little confusing, call the government hotline and get the information directly from them.

However, we sent off an email to Marine safety for clarification and here's their response to our questions.

## 1. Are vessels traveling more than 2nm offshore required to have 150 lifejackets?

Rec vessels are required to carry/wear Level 100+ lifejackets when operating in Enclosed and Coastal waters. The 2NM mark doesn't change this requirement, so level 100+ (the old PFD type 1) is all that is required.

## 2. Are vessels required to show navigation, red and green as well as an anchor light while travelling at night?

When underway, a powered vessel must display a port, starboard and an all-round white light.

The confusion here is that people call the all-round white light an anchor light. This is true when at anchor at it remains on with the side lights off, but underway red, green and all-round white must be displayed.

This is because if the white light is off, you are invisible to vessels who are behind you.

## 3. Are vessels no longer permitted to have deck or forward spot/flood lights and they must be removed?

The use of additional lights cannot impact the safety of another vessel. Displaying bright floodlights when other vessels are nearby is not permitted as it can dazzle them plus can distort how they see your nav lights.

If fitted, they can only be used with no other vessels around so as to not impact anyone's safe navigation.

## 4. Are you required to wear a life jacket while travelling at night in a vessel under 12m regardless of how many people are in the boat?

Operating at night falls under heightened risk, so if people are in an open area of a vessel under 12m at night then everyone must have a suitable lifejacket on.

## 5. When are flares actually out of date and is it against the law to carry old flares?

Expiry date of flares is at the end of the listed month.

The Marine Safety Regulations require that you carry an in-date set of flares. Once expired then WorkSafe's legislation says that there is no permitted reason to have expired flares in your possession and they must be disposed of appropriately (at a police station).

## Extra information from Marine Safety:

Boaters are encouraged to check out Boating Vic before heading out for a day on the water and throughout their trip.

Boating Vic provides ramp-specific weather information directly from the Bureau of Meteorology, including temperature, wind, sea conditions, tides and sunrise/sunset timings, plus weather warnings and notifications as conditions change.

It hosts the largest list of Victorian ramps and includes key information such as ramp condition, access and surface type.

Some popular locations including Corinella, Rye and Stony Point also

feature ramp cameras which update every five minutes, giving an idea of how busy the boat ramp is at any given time.

Aside from ramp and weather information, the Knowledge Hub provides a range of educational content. From safety advice, to how-to guides and even tips for buying second-hand boats, all information comes directly from the team at Maritime Safety Victoria, as well as Better Boating Victoria, Victorian Fisheries Authority, Parks Victoria, Victoria Police, Victorian Ports and Emergency Management Victoria.

Go to [www.boating.vic.gov.au](http://www.boating.vic.gov.au), or download the Boating Vic app from your preferred app store.

Regarding fire extinguisher requirements – the size of your extinguisher will depend on your fuel tank size. The information can be easily found on the boating Vic website.

Fishing reports were all over the place in the brief weather windows that we this week. Thursday was the best of the days. The reports were very promising for when the weather and the restrictions improve.

It is quiet on the water with many hoping that the restrictions continue, and the waterways stay quiet. In reality if this happened, locals would be driving much further in the future because local businesses won't survive if we don't get that in-

flux of visitors. With so few out fishing it makes it difficult to get an idea where the fish are. Generally the more fishing the easier to get patterns.

The reports this week were all quality snapper to 6kg from as far up as the fingers then down across the shallow corals and into the deep and onto the shallows of the mud.

We had several reports of very small pinkies as well.

The bite times were very short with everything reported caught in the last half hour of the tide.

Thursday produced a couple of reports of quality size whiting and plenty of them.

Most said they left them biting once they found where they were hiding, and the quality is much better than over the last few weeks.

The best reports came from tortoise head and the area between Reef Island and Dickies Bay.

We had reports from offshore of good flathead, averaging around 40cm to 60cm and good bags of them.

Plenty of salmon schools offshore if you want to do a bit of bait collecting with some up to 2kg.

Not a lot in gummy or snapper reports but once the weather improves, we will see people heading further down the coast.

Calamari are still very frustrating. The best report was from the beach in Cleeland Bight.

# Centenary of the loss of the barquentine Southern Cross

By John Jansson

September marks the centenary of the loss in Bass Strait of the Australian coastal trading vessel Southern Cross. She ran between Tasmania and mainland Australian ports carrying general cargo.

She had a crew of 10 all of whom were lost. Her crew were from Victoria and Tasmania and included John Edward (Jack) Jansson of Rhyll.

Jack was born in Albert Park on September 18, 1901. His parents were Rhyll residents Captain Johan August (Jack) Jansson and Evelyn Ann nee Powell. Jack went to school at Rhyll until around the age of 14 when he began working with his father on his schooner Stephen. Jack wished to make a career on the sea so at the age of 18 he did a seamanship course at Albert Park run by the Society of Ancient Mariners. The school was conducted by Captain Charles Suffern, Inspector of Shipping in Melbourne. If the boys showed promise, the Society of Ancient Mariners would find them



The Southern Cross, a coastal trading vessel was wrecked off the coast of King Island, with young Rhyll resident Jack Jansson on board. No bodies were ever recovered and the vessel's hull was never found.

a place on a square-rigged sailing vessel.

On completion of the course Jack

got a job as able seaman on the 256-ton barquentine Southern Cross.

His first trip left Melbourne for

Hobart on September 11, 1920. She was carrying 400 tons of general cargo in the holds and 1000 cases of benzine on the deck.

The vessel failed to arrive at Hobart. Burnt wreckage was found on the coast of King Island north of Grassey River.

A considerable amount of wreckage was also found around Reid Rocks, 12 kilometres south east of King Island. Thousands of splinters of wood about six inches long were seen between Reid Rocks and King Island indicating a probable explosion.

It was thought that she struck Reid Rocks and flares were let off which ignited the benzene. Benzene was carried in four-gallon tins, two to a wooden box, and was highly hazardous. Leaky tins were the cause of a number of marine fires around the same time as Southern Cross was lost.

Other crew members on the Southern Cross were:

Frank Rule Hodgman, Master, 28 years, Hobart.

F. Watts, Mate, 45 years, East

Brunswick, Victoria.

Stanley Bull, Cabin Boy, Hobart.

Charles Frederick Makepeace, 23 years, Boatswain, Battery Point, Hobart.

D. Dinehy, 19 years, Able Seaman, Hobart.

B. W. O'Connell, 22 years, Able Seaman, Hobart.

L. Sward, 21 years, Able Seaman, Hobart.

W. Moody, Able Seaman, Hobart.

Edward Evans, 17 years, Ordinary Seaman, Hobart.

No bodies were found and the vessel's hull has never been found.

Jack's father never carried benzene on his vessels because of the danger of fire and had he known the Southern Cross was carrying benzene he wouldn't have allowed Jack to go.

Just prior to this tragedy another similar vessel the Amelia J. was lost without trace in eastern Bass Strait and a plane sent out to look for the vessels also disappeared without trace.

References: Australasian Underwater Cultural Heritage Database. The Ballarat Star, Sept 25, 1920. The Herald, Sept 28, 1920.

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## DEATHS

**EVANS – Raymond Anthony:**  
08.05.1942 – 06.09.2020  
Loving husband of Elena.  
Father to Tracey.  
Son-in-law of Alberto & Maria (dec.).  
Brother-in-law of Rosie & Rob, Steve and uncle to Harrison and Nicholas.  
Ray's service will be live streamed on Wednesday 16th September at 11.00am.

To watch Ray's service go to [www.handley-andersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handley-andersonfunerals.com.au)

**My Darling Wally**  
I want to say it was an honour and a privilege to share your life.  
Together we fought your Parkinson's Disease with all that we had, even when it became so difficult.  
I will miss you.  
Always in my heart,  
Your Telly Tubby

Big thank you to the staff at Banfield's Aged Care and Kingston Centre NW1 for all your care and support in recent years.

Dr. Chee, thank you, would have been lost without you.

Dear Ray  
You will forever be remembered, cherished and loved in our hearts.  
We will dearly miss you, your wit and humour and will cherish all the time we have spent together.

All our love,  
Rob, Rosie, Harrison and Nicholas

My Best Mate Ray Evans  
We met by chance 18 years ago.

We've kept this long distance bond going across the oceans.

We've laughed, and cried and caused havoc.

It's time for you to rest my friend.

Thank you for the memories.

They will last a lifetime.  
With love always,  
Ray (Woody) Perrin

## DEATHS

**THRESHER, Pam;**  
11.09.1925 – 04.09.2020

Greg, Rick, Owen, Ziggy, Sien Oai and all the staff at Priceline Pharmacy Cowes remember Pam as a pioneer of women pharmacists. She was an inspiration for those who worked with her here in the Cowes pharmacy over many years and no doubt in her long career in running her own pharmacy.

Our sincere condolences to Jenny, Stephen and family. Rest in peace Pam, we are sure you'll be playing an intense game of "bridge" with the big man upstairs!



### BROWN, David:

Treasured memories of a beautiful Brother who was loved and respected by all who knew him.

Totally devoted to his family and a true gentleman.

Deepest sympathy to Janice and his loving family who will miss him beyond words.

Melva and extended Smith family.

*"They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

Isaiah 40:31, KJV

## FOR SALE

**PAELLA BURNER, PAN AND STAND, NEVER USED, STILL IN BOX**

Spanish made, 70 cm Paella set, 'Chef Inox - Garcima Ibiza' \$200. All you need is the gas bottle, and Ole' Rhyll; 59 569315 or 0407 382 533.

**Top Form, Lift Chair** - \$200, in excellent condition. Inva Care Pegasus Scooter, with 2 new batteries and 1 charger - \$800. 0439 801 323

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**New Astronomy Club** for Phillip Island, San Remo and Wonthaggi area. Phillip Island has been blessed with what astronomer's call "dark Skies" ideal for budding and dedicated astronomer's. You don't have to own a telescope, binoculars will do. For any interested parties wishing to assist with the inauguration of a new Astronomy Club in our region, please contact Eden White by email: [Edendwhite74@gmail.com](mailto:Edendwhite74@gmail.com).

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**Looking for a lifestyle change? Wanting to be your own boss?**



Jim's Mowing is looking for a new Franchisee in San Remo or Grantville area.  
Ph **131 546** or [www.jimsmowing.com.au](http://www.jimsmowing.com.au)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp. Coles) - Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday 11am, 5672 3627. Phone head office 9429 1833.  
**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire: Cowes - Sunday 5-6pm, St Philip's Church (opp. Coles); Wonthaggi - Friday 11am, Salvation Army Hall (149 McKenzie St.), Phone 1300 652 820 or visit [na.org.au](http://na.org.au)

## FOR SALE



### MOVEABLE CHOOK SHED

Brand new, never used! 2.2m long x 0.6m wide x 1.6m high, on wheels. Has nesting box and perch (plus 2 spares). Easy cleaning (hose out), with ramp at front and trap door at back, both with sliding bolts to close, and mesh floor so manure drops straight to ground. No places for mites to hide! Also has water container with two lubing cups. Ideal for free ranging chooks. \$700. Rhyll; 59 569315 or 0407 382533.



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### The Annual General Meeting of Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Inc.

will be held on 6th October 2020 at 6pm via Zoom.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- 1) an update on the progress of the group,
- 2) conducting elections for committee,
- 3) latest version of our Aspirational Recreation Plan,

Conducting an AGM via Zoom during a pandemic is a new situation. It will require that attendees pre-register before the event with your name and email. Details of this pre-registration will be provided via Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Funds website and FaceBook.

Eligible participants will then be sent a unique invitation to the meeting, where members will be able to vote for your new committee, to become a member go to our web page [www.piac.org.au](http://www.piac.org.au)

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications for the following positions:

**Physiotherapist – Grade 2**

Permanent Full Time – Closes 25/9/2020

**Registered Nurse – Midwife**

Part Time – Closes 28/9/2020

**Counsellor**

Part Time – Closes 15/9/2020

**Associate Nurse Unit Manager**

– Aged Care – Kirrak

Part Time – Closes 18/9/2020

**Engineer**

Permanent Full Time – Closes 18/9/2020

**Physiotherapist – Grade 1**

Permanent Full Time – 18/09/2020

**Nurse Unit Manager**

– Emergency Department

Permanent Full Time – closes 21/09/2020

**Reception and Administration Support**

Casual – Closes 23/09/2020

**Enrolled Nurse**

Casual – Closes 25/9/2020

**For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website [basscoasthealth.org.au](http://basscoasthealth.org.au) or contact Human Resources via email [hr@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:hr@basscoasthealth.org.au)**



t 5671 3333 f 5671 3300  
e [info@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:info@basscoasthealth.org.au)  
w [www.basscoasthealth.org.au](http://www.basscoasthealth.org.au)



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12.

### 2021 Positions

- **Director of Music** - Ongoing role. Time fraction negotiable. Experience in conducting an orchestra is desirable
- **Primary Classroom Teacher** - Fixed term for all of 2021 with the potential for ongoing
- **Secretarial Assistant** - Ongoing 0.4 role to commence in 2021
- **Science Laboratory Technician** - Full Time Term 1 replacement 2021
- **Food Technology Assistant** - Full Time Term 1 replacement 2021

For details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our College Website [www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven](http://www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven)

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 2 October 2020 and should be submitted to [katrina.lawrence@newhavencol.vic.edu.au](mailto:katrina.lawrence@newhavencol.vic.edu.au)

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

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## Congrats RRV

I have just had a good look at the revised plans, from Regional Roads Victoria, for the upgrade of the Philip Island Tourist Road at San Remo. I would like to congratulate the Regional Roads Victoria team on the revised plans for the upgrade.

It seems they have listened to the residents that attended their pop-up information kiosks and have incorporated the most important suggestion in their revised plan.

I would like to make one further suggestion. That is to extend the widening of the tourist road all the way to the east of Potters Hill Road, i.e. to where the speed limit is reduced to 60 kph. I believe that this would give greater safety to several internal roads that interact with the tourist road.

*Trevor Brown, San Remo*

## Explain Councillors

Island Ward Councillors earlier this year were very eager in giving full and absolute authority to the CEO of Council to spend a maximum amount of \$1million on any one capital works project while not getting approval from all councillors. The same ward councillors were very quick to raise their hands to increase Council's investment duration to two years under the full authority of the CEO. Investments recently reaching \$46,040,000 comprising of term deposits and shares. Island Ward councillors were first to raise their hands trying to get approval for the increased Waste Contract variation of \$1.7 million per year (C16005) and \$114,155 per year (C16040) for the management of two transfer stations both costing an overall yearly cost of \$6.8 million. The same councillors then approved a variation cost of up to \$171,943 (C19015) for landfill monitoring and at a second council meeting waived through multiple contract variations without any external overseeing investigation. So why do we need councillors? Will the new candidates undo all these wrongs to protect our cash? Which candidate is going to put any Island Ward councillor number two on their ballot paper? Where is the discussion on SAVINGS issues at council or is it just spend, spend and spend more? One councillor recently said "we have the money". No you have OUR money bottom line.

*Graham Jolly, Cape Woolamai*

## A public eating area

As I've previously stated, I don't believe now is the time to be redeveloping the Cultural Centre.

After reviewing the Draft Concept Designs, I am even more certain of this.

There is no designated space for the Arts and Crafts Gallery, only a Community Enterprise Centre which may 'showcase' the Arts and Crafts Gallery. There is no room for the Library to expand.

The Plans need to be redrawn, which means at least a couple of extra months delay.

The logical choice would be to postpone the redevelopment until we have the money and the right plan.

However, there is still a slight issue of a big empty hole in the middle of Cowes now. We need some new concepts on how to use the space in the meantime to make sure it remains a community asset.

I've got an idea.

With the restrictions currently in place, patronizing our local cafes and restaurants has become difficult. If you want to have something to eat while you're out, you must either eat standing in the street or wait to get home to eat.

I propose that we use the land that has been cleared to erect temporary, socially distant seating so that our community will have a spot to sit and finish their meal.

First, we make sure the land is clear and flat and lay down some gravel or instant lawn. Then, we can

set up tables and chairs. All these tables would be set 1.5 metres apart, or more, possibly with some shaded off areas. Council can employ a couple of people who have lost their employment due to COVID-19 to sanitise and clean every table ensuring that the public areas stays safe. This designated Public Eating Area could also have signage pointing out our cafes and local businesses to make it easier for visiting tourists to find what they're looking for.

Once we have the correct budget, and the correct Plan, we can remove the temporary seating and build a Cultural and Community Centre that we can actually be proud of.

*Mikhaela Barlow, Candidate for Island Ward*

## A vision for the future

Four years ago, I was sworn in as one of eight brand new councillors. It was a steep learning curve. Today I know how to get things done. I know how to listen to the people we represent as they tell me what matters.

As Western Port Ward Councillors, Clare, Bruce and I combined our individual strengths into a positive driver of Council's long-term strategies. We focused on delivery of better local infrastructure and community support.

That success includes big upgrades at Dalyston, Bass and Newhaven sports grounds. The Carnival Site, Cowes, acquired for a new sporting precinct, \$700,00 in Community Covid Resilience Grants have been distributed across the shire.

Three Community Planning officers, who will be the eyes and ears of Council, are now based in Grantville, Cowes and Wonthaggi. They will work directly with residents and ratepayers.

As Bass Coast recovers from the pandemic, we will provide strong leadership. Here is part of my vision:

Climate variation – A shire/region wide approach, not just local band aids.

Unsealed urban roads – In Yarra Ranges and the adjoining shire strong local advocacy gained \$10,000,000 from the Commonwealth to subsidise sealing of urban roads. Their special charge schemes are capped at \$7000 per property. Together, we can make that happen here.

Education and jobs. The opening of the Uni hub means our kids have local access to tertiary education. Our infrastructure-led recovery will ensure local work.

Planning scheme amendments: Ensure roads in new estates are wide enough for emergency service vehicles and enshrine effective controls that protect your amenity.

LGBTIQ. More safe spaces with accredited Rainbow Friendly venues. I will keep flying the Flag.

Communication. Newsletters, live streaming and direct conversations.

Four years ago, it was time for change. Today Western Port Ward has a proven team with runs on the board. We are well prepared for the opportunity of a second innings.

I ask that you vote for me to be your voice on council and for the proven combination of Geoff Ellis, Clare Le Serve and Bruce Kent.

*Geoff Ellis, your Candidate for Western Port.*

## Well done Regional Roads

A big well done to Regional Roads Victoria's new plans for the upgrade of the Philip Island Tourist Road.

Overall the recommendations for San Remo are excellent and have taken notice of the issues raised. Not all the suggestions and recommendations have been incorporated in this latest plan but what Regional Roads Victoria has settled on does include the majority of recommendations.

There are things that would improve this plan however they could possibly be considered for future development if not able to be included now.

ed now.

First: begin the additional lanes on the Philip Island Tourist Road at the 60Kms sign on the way into San Remo. There has been an enormous increase in housing and development between Potters Hill and Back Beach roads. At this stage this traffic would need to exit via either Panorama Drive or Potters Hill Road and the extension of the widened main road would improve safety immeasurably. The proposal for a brand-new Secondary College on Potters Hill Road would add significantly to the danger of leaving this section of the road in its current form.

Second: as recommended in the San Remo Access Strategy, create a real alternative road into San Remo, by extending Shetland Heights Road to the Anderson Roundabout. Benefits would include (a) giving local residents and holiday makers a way to and from Wonthaggi without accessing Philip Island Tourist Road, (b) creating an alternative route in the case of an accident on the tourist road, (c) providing access for emergency vehicles (d) providing safe access to the proposed secondary school (e) easing the volume of traffic using the tourist road.

The problems of access from the internal streets, roads and pathways to the tourist road and in fact internal throughout San Remo have never been a priority or of interest to Bass Coast Shire Council. This is borne out by the abysmal lack of infrastructure created to cater for the doubling of the town's population.

*Trevor Brown and Chris Day, San Remo*

## Governance concerns

As a candidate for the upcoming Bass Coast Shire Council elections for Island ward, I have read through the Bass Coast Shire governance rules 2020 which were adopted at the August Council meeting.

Having been the constitutional officer for various jewellery industry bodies (1991-2013) and having contributed to the writing of the constitution of the Reason Party (Victoria) (2017-8), I am concerned with some sections of the document. I am aware that this document is subject to the Local Government Act 2020, but the Shire governance rules are meant to be a ready reference document for the governance officer of the Council. The Act states (part 2 61.4) "a quorum at a council meeting shall be an absolute majority." Bass Coast Shire has nine councillors so why not state in Division 2 13.1 A quorum for a Council meeting shall be five councillors.

The Local Government Act Part 3 Division 1, 55-56 emphasises the importance of public engagement with councils. The Bass Coast Governance rules Division 8, 53.9 state that a "Questions must be limited to 50 words inclusive of any preamble and additional information." This severely limits the ratepayer's participation in the council process due to the word limitation and the question maybe so truncated as to not give its full intention. It goes to the heart of engagement and accountability. In this day and age of electronic media, I believe a video question (two-minute length) should be able to be submitted and put on the screen during question time. Putting a face and nuances to the question will greatly increase the community's engagement with Council.

*Ronnie Bauer, Candidate for the Island Ward*

## Cultural Centre a winner

The response from the community to the Cowes Cultural Centre has been so encouraging. The comments I have received acknowledge the architects have listened and are producing a building that will serve the whole community. A member of the Arts and Culture Strategy Group based in Wonthaggi said, "Cowes is so lucky to be getting such an asset." And locally I sense in the tough economic times the town is facing, the new Cultural Centre is a sign of hope and a belief in our future.

Paul Zahra of the Australian Retail Association said recently: "Retail has a symbiotic relationship with arts and culture" and this project will benefit the whole of Thompson Avenue bringing festivals, events and concerts to the heart of Cowes. When the economy is down it is time for government to invest in productive new infrastructure on which to build the recovery.

This project is a victory for vision and persistence. The Cowes Activity Centre plan spoke of linking a revitalised Jetty Triangle into Thompson Avenue with a new landmark building creating a focus for events and activity. The plan was produced after extensive community consultation in 2014. Community members who contributed can see that grand plan coming together. The Visitor Economy Strategy also stressed its importance and listed it as a Game Changer Project to provide new events infrastructure – it will be capable of handling events with 400 people.

The Jetty Triangle and the Transit Centre are in place. Soon we will see a beautiful new cultural centre emerge as the jewel in the crown, a building befitting our town.

Council is benefitting from concessional borrowing rates through the state government, part of the government's incentive for councils to invest for stimulus on infrastructure investment. The government recently further endorsed Council's plan by contributing \$2.5 million to the project. Council also expects a further contribution under the Living Libraries fund toward a new generation library about three times the size of the existing library.

This is an inter-generational project and its returns will be enjoyed for a long time to come.

*Cr Michael Whelan*

## Cloak of secrecy?

Alarm bells should be resounding in each residence throughout BCSC. Why? Mr Griffin has criticised the councils "new governance rules for stopping the automatic recording of councillor votes in minutes" – and rightly so! (War of Words Erupts - PISRA 09/09/2020).

Given that the new "set" of incoming councillors (the Island ward in particular) could be a case of the "Three Amigos" the publication of said votes at council meetings holds the individual councillor accountable and is the only way that we can be assured that they are voting in the best interests of those they purport to represent.

Without this accountability there is a great potential risk of deep-seated cronyism and back room deals amongst the three Island ward seats. It is quite alarming and

downright dangerous to have no councillor accountability in place whatsoever in the public arena.

Publication of councillor voting numbers is the only true litmus test available to us – in the words of the esteemed Don Chip (1977) it is the only way to "keep the bastards honest".

*Charlie Ruby, Surf Beach*

## Library

Regarding the Draft Concept Design for the Cowes Cultural Centre make the following observations:

In 2012 the plan for redevelopment of the CCC envisaged a building focused around the Library. This is for the simple reason that over 40 per cent of the community are already library members. The universal experience is a new library experiences a significant increase in membership, visitation numbers, diversity of services accessed, and time spent on site. In other words, an already busy library gets much busier. It makes sense therefore to collate other functions at the same part of the building so that they can benefit from the library traffic. This includes the Visitor Info Centre, the Gallery and the Shire's front desk.

A café should also be co-located. A "pop-up" café, lacking a kitchen or food prep areas, catered by an existing local café from their own kitchen and cold store, so only beverages are prepared on site. This encourages spontaneous visitation, further increasing traffic.

Negotiate with the Historical Society and ASPI to permanently exhibit or rotate parts of their own collections and stage exhibitions in the library proper, encouraging visitation into their own spaces when they are open but promoting their existence and collections even when closed.

The Shire's presentation was notable also for what it did not say. Successfully obtaining government grants will be critical to the business case for the CCC. The library would receive a Living Libraries Grant, the Visitor Info Centre a Tourism Victoria Grant, ASPI, the Arts and Crafts Society and the Historical Society could apply for sundry Arts, Museums Vic and philanthropic trust grants. The project overall will get something from RDV and that's basically it. Due to Arts Victoria guidelines there won't be a grant for their wonderful theatre. Performing Arts Grants go to Regional Theatres. The Cowes theatre would be a local one.

It will not receive a government grant. The whole bill for the Performing Arts space will be borne by the ratepayer. And that space is the key to the Shire's Design Concept.

Something to think about, isn't it?

*Mikhaela Barlow, Candidate for Island Ward*

# Mayor's Message

*by Cr Brett Tessari*

An exciting project I wanted to mention this week is a visiting pod that will soon be installed near the entrance of Kirrak House in Wonthaggi. This incredible project will help people visit with their loved ones in Bass Coast Health's (BCH) aged care facilities. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, BCH closed its nursing homes to visitors, due to the vulnerability of residents. While residents of Kirrak House and Armitage House have stayed in contact with their relatives and friends via phone and video they would all love to see each other in person.

The visiting pod is an innovative solution that responds to the persistent risk of community transmission. The new pod will enable 'in person' interaction, without compromising the safety measures BCH has put in place to date. A clear screen will be built into the middle of the pod with an intercom system. Residents will enter from one side of the pod with a nurse and relatives will enter from the other side. They will be able to

see and hear each other and move around their independent spaces. This wonderful initiative is sure to bring joy to all involved and I would like to say a huge 'thanks' to all of the local businesses that didn't hesitate to come on board and help make the idea into reality.

Unfortunately, not everything can be good news and I was saddened to learn last week that the 2021 Bass Summer Agricultural Show has been cancelled – 101 years after the show was abandoned in 1919 due to the Spanish Influenza outbreak. I know it must have been a difficult decision for the committee to make, but I am positive the show will be able to return bigger and better than ever in January 2022.

As we head into the election period, this is my last Mayor's Message for this term. I would like to thank the community for their support during my last two years as Mayor, as well as my two Deputies, Cr Bruce Kent and Cr Geoff Ellis. I am hopeful that I'll be able to continue representing the community I love following the October election.



# Quiet calm



With all the turbulence and uncertainty of the Covid pandemic, it's important to find ways to relax and stay calm. "Amongst the current COVID restrictions, it's nice to remove yourself and appreciate the beauty that is our backyard," said Katrina Lawrence, who took this stunning photo at Rhyll.

## A helping hand for Bec

Phillip Islanders have dug deep during the Covid lockdown, to assist former island hairdresser Bec Trollip, who was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year.

A GoFundMe fundraiser has been set up by her friends Jess and Kyle Asbury, to help the mother of three young children as she battles her illness.

Bec moved to Phillip Island as a teenager, and worked at Spice hairdressers in Cowes before moving to Tasmania two or three years ago with her husband Rowan.

She is well known and loved especially in the local skateboarding and surfing communities.

After arriving in Tasmania the young family soon settled into their new community, and Bec continued with her hairdressing career.

But in February she was given the devastating news that she had an aggressive form of breast cancer that had already spread to the lymph nodes. She was still breast-feeding twins when the diagnosis was made.

Bec underwent a mastectomy soon after, and this was followed by chemotherapy treatment.

Family, friends and clients surrounded her with all the support they could give.

Her local community set up a "food train" to help out with meals and daily essentials.

But it was and still is a terrible time for the young family, with Covid pandemic rules and regulations forcing Bec to go through her mastectomy and ongoing treatments in hospital on her own.

Bec starts her next round of treatment this week – a radiation course which will involve her going through daily treatment five days a week for five weeks.

Because of Covid regulations, Bec will have to drive an hour from her home to Hobart each day ... alone. After radiation treatment she will then have to drive back home again ... also alone.

Fellow Phillip Islanders Jess and Kyle Asbury, and their son Jai moved to Tasmania a year after the young Trollip family.

Jess and Bec were great friends here, having forged a close friendship through their mutual



Bec Trollip, (right) holding Ossian and Harriet, and Jess Asbury (nee Ware) nursing Elanore, are pictured enjoying time together in Tasmania following Bec's diagnosis. Jess and her husband Kyle have set up a GoFundMe account to raise money for Bec's treatment. She is currently forced to drive an hour each way daily for radiation treatment in Hobart, and because of Covid regulations, must do this on a daily basis five days a week for five weeks.

love of skateboarding and surfing.

They kept in constant touch, although from the opposite ends of Tasmania.

Jess lives in the north near Launceston, while Bec and Rowan settled in the Huon valley in the south with their young children Ossian and twins Elanore and Harriet.

The confines of Covid regulations severely limited their options when it came to assisting Bec.

With the family surviving on one wage, and, says Jess, far too independent to ever ask for

help, Kyle suggested that he and Jess should run a Dry July fundraiser with an online GoFundMe account, to take some of the worry away.

With a huge, amazing support team of cancer specialists in various fields of medicines, specialty diets and supportive treatments, bills were mounting.

At the end of August an incredible \$28,112 from 231 donors had been raised.

"This blew us all away," says a very grateful Jess.

"This money has come mostly from the Phillip Island and San Remo community.

"The Seaside Provider in Newhaven sold daffodils and raised \$862 towards the tally.

"People from overseas got behind it as well."

Bec and Rowan both originate from South Africa and still have family and friends there.

Bec has also spent a lot of time in Sweden, where her mother and sister live.

"But the main support came from Phillip Island, and we are so very grateful to everyone who contributed," says Jess.

"Some people participated in Dry July, some sponsored others that did; and another group supported the fundraiser with a direct donation," said Jess.

"We want to say a massive thank you to everyone involved."

As she starts on the gruelling round of radiation ahead of her this week, again under Covid regulations, which makes Bec's journey lonely and hard, Bec is strengthened by the good wishes and messages of encouragement that have been sent along with the donations, and has thanked everyone who has supported her fight.

While Dry July is over, the GoFundMe page set up for Bec and Rowan and their three small children is still open.

Jess and Kyle want to raise funds for Bec's ongoing care, and hope to make enough money to enable her to stay in Hobart during her radiation treatment, instead of driving there and back in a two hour round trip ... alone.

If you would like to make a contribution, you can go to <https://gf.me/u/yr9bvz>

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