

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



The Penguin Parade live stream was an instant success, attracting millions of viewers in its first week.

Superstar! Millions tune in.

Last week a record number of people watched the penguins arrive at the Penguin Parade, despite Phillip Island Nature Parks being closed due to Covid restrictions.

Several million people experienced the joy of the parade, with the online stream of the nightly arrival of the Little Penguins an instant success.

More than 770,000 devices tuned in on the first night and Roland Pick, Communications Director at Phillip Island Nature Parks described the reaction as "sensational".

"It's blown us away. We always thought it would be popular, but we underestimated how much. It's the story a lot of people needed right now, to make them smile."

Roland said with 1.4 million devices tuning

in over the first six days, the penguins were potentially watched by two to three million people.

Victorians tuned in en masse, with 85 per cent of viewers on the first night coming from greater Melbourne and Victoria.

With Melbourne in stage 4 lockdown, Roland believes the penguins provided some much-needed relief for families, who were experiencing "lockdown fatigue".

Feedback via emails and social media has been "heart-warming", he said.

"We've been sent photos of kids watching the penguins with their toy penguins lined up. Overwhelmingly, people have said thanks for bringing some brightness into a tough time."

So far, viewers from overseas only account for five per cent of the audience, with the remaining ten per cent of viewers coming from other Australian states.

First-night nerves

There was plenty of behind-the-scenes work and extensive dress rehearsals before the penguins went live to the world.

Ranger Skye Nichol was the first commentator, taking to the microphone to an audience of hundreds of thousands of excited penguin fans.

Roland said, as a teacher and a drama enthusiast, Skye was the perfect choice for opening night.

Continued page 7

Full speed ahead on road review

Community consultation on speed limits around Phillip Island and San Remo – initially planned for late August – has been delayed several weeks.

The consultation has been long-awaited by several community groups who have been lobbying for safer, slower roads.

Bass Coast Shire councillors at the August meeting accepted a petition signed by 120 people that requests the shire and Regional Roads Victoria act "as a matter of urgency to cut speed limits and improve signage" in residential areas of Ventnor, also calling for a neighbourhood traffic calming plan.

"We are particularly concerned about safety along Ventnor Beach Road and its interfaces with Lyall Street and Harris Road, specifically the numerous access points to walking trails and nature reserves, public playgrounds and toilets, the pony club precinct, car parks and dog beaches," the petition stated.

Councillors said community consultation on RRV's speed limit review of Phillip Island and San Remo was due to start in late August.

However a shire spokesperson last week confirmed it had been delayed by several weeks.

"The joint Draft Communication and Engagement Plan is complete and currently in an approval process with RRV," the shire spokesperson said.

"Once signed off, the engagement will commence with contact of key stakeholders in the first instance then followed by the broader community."

The review will be a two-staged process, with the first stage reviewing 100km/h sealed arterial and council-managed roads and the second stage looking at implementing lower speeds on unsealed roads.

RRV and the council are currently preparing stage one of the review.

Cr Bruce Kent said he supported local residents in their campaign.

"They are the ones who have to live there and it's their local knowledge that should be taken into account by RRV in their investigation," Cr Kent said.

Cr Les Larke said he often travelled to Ventnor and he found the roads "generally a poor standard – the quality of roads and surface apart from the speed," Cr Larke said.

Danger


The petition follows a campaign in March by a coalition of Phillip Island community groups calling for a speed reduction on island roads to protect wildlife.

The Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group, Island Voice, Rhyll Community Association and a Cowes citizen scientist – who has been researching roadkill for a year – called for a speed reduction to 80km/hr on the five island roads that currently have a 100km/hr limit: Back Beach Road, Ventnor Road, Rhyll-Newhaven Road, Berrys Beach Road and a section of Ventnor Beach Road.

In addition the coalition of groups was concerned sealed roads on the island – Gap Road and Smiths Beach Road, between the Phillip Island Road and Back Beach Road – have no speed limit signs and therefore by default – by law – became 100km/hr roads.

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SHOWERS, WINDY	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWERS EASING	SHOWERS	PARTLY CLOUDY	SHOWERS	PARTLY CLOUDY
9 19	10 18	10 15	8 13	7 14	14 18	11 16

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*

As of Monday, August 31

8413 tests done locally

11 Local residents tested positive

0 Active case

*From BCH Assessment clinics only since March.

Your Community Voice!

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Last Thursday's storm front saw the SES units in San Remo and Phillip Island inundated with calls, mainly for trees down on roads.

It took three hours for the San Remo SES to clear this massive tree from a driveway in Newhaven on Saturday.

Storm wreaks havoc

Wild weather over the past week has kept local SES crews busy. Last Thursday's storms saw crews respond to more than 40 calls for assistance in one night. Phillip Island SES said they received over 30 call outs, mainly for trees down.

Unit Controller Alan O'Connor said Coghlan Road was one of the worst affected areas.

"Coghlan Road had multiple trees down and was one of our

biggest jobs for the night, needing three vehicles and all available crew to clear."

He said a number of smaller jobs had been cleared "by concerned local residents" by the time the SES crew arrived.

The San Remo SES crew were equally busy, with Unit Controller Michael Kenny saying the calls started coming through around 5.30pm and came in steadily as the storm front hit.

The majority of the calls received were for trees down, although there were two for building damage.

"While we only had 13 calls for assistance, all the trees that came down were quite large and took some time to clear," he said.

"We had all of our calls for assistance completed by midnight. All in all, it took 11 members over 60-man hours to get through the calls."

Calls continue

Both SES units reported residual jobs associated with the weather front.

Over the weekend, the San Remo SES crew received several calls from Newhaven, including one for a massive tree which had fallen over a driveway. It took the crew three hours to clear.

The Phillip Island unit also responded to a number of calls for assistance with fallen trees.

Lucky escape

It was a lucky escape for a young Cape Woolamai resident when last week's storm blew in his bedroom window.

Eight-year-old Kai was lying on his bed reading when a ferocious gust of wind blew the window in on top of him and ripped his bedroom door off its hinges.

Fortunately, he was unhurt.

Kai's mum was at work, but her partner Darren was home with Kai and his older brother Jacob.

Darren said after the wind struck, the youngster bolted downstairs and he had to settle him down before assessing the damage.

"He was pretty upset and shaken, but there wasn't a scratch on him – which is amazing."

Darren said no other room in the house was affected, although some outdoor furniture was tossed around the backyard.

Kai's bedroom window faces the ocean and copped the full brunt of the storm.

"I couldn't believe it. The wind had whipped through the screws and the plaster."

Some quick repair work by Darren, and Kai's grandfather David saw the window frame tarped up and the window put back into place.

"One of the local SES crew knocked on the door to see if we needed help. They must have seen the damage from outside," said Darren.

Miraculously, eight-year-old Kai who was lying on the bed reading when the window fell on top of him, was unhurt.

While the family wait for an insurance assessment, Kai is sharing his brother's room.

"He was a bit shocked for a day

or two, but we just reassured him it was a freak wind," said Darren.

"He's got quite a story to tell his mates."

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AGL dismissive of safety risk: councillor

A Bass Coast Shire councillor has given a scathing assessment of AGL's safety and environment record, saying the company was too willing to "cut corners" and had failed to consider the dangers of its proposed Western Port gas terminal.

Cr Michael Whelan's submission to the Environmental Effects Statement for the Crib Point Gas Import Jetty states the EES fails to properly detail how a major incident would be handled and "conveniently" dismisses risk rather than dealing with it.

"This approach is fine for the company when it is the community that will bear that risk," writes Cr Whelan, who was a senior fire officer and headed the CFA's research and development section.

"Westernport's intrinsic values and the existing economic value from eco-tourism, fishing and boating far exceed the economic output from this (project) yet are threatened by it."

Cr Whelan – who also has qualifications in economics and environmental science – said AGL had been fined \$7.2 million in recent years for a range of offences.

He said in 2018 the Victorian Essential Services Commission questioned "whether AGL had the technical capacity to operate in accordance with its licence to operate in Victoria".

"My concern is that AGL's behaviour seems to demonstrate a culture of good enough, a disregard for environmental standards, cutting corners, and pay the fine when you are caught," Cr Whelan writes in the submission.

"As a former firefighter I consider

the worst case and consider whether arrangements are in place to handle it.

"Its analysis is at best convenient and dismissive."

Phillip Island

Cr Whelan said his key concern for Phillip Island was the EES failed to assess the at-sea risk of the LNG tankers crossing the bay and at anchor off northern beaches, with risk not only to the health and safety of residents, but also the internationally recognised environment of the Rhyll Inlet and the tourism economy.

"The EES takes comfort in the safety record of LNG tankers however they do not reveal that LNG tankers are regularly involved in collisions with other large ships with often severe consequences to the other ships," Cr Whelan states.

"Similarly, the EES fails to explore the potential if an incident ... does occur."

Cr Whelan said risk aside, the running of AGL's proposed project would impact the island's cruise ship market, recreational fishers through to residents' lifestyle.

"Anchoring a cruise ship beside a massive industrial LNG ship that runs generators constantly will not be an attractive proposal and it is likely that business would evaporate very rapidly," he said.

"Recent experience with the oil rig the Noble Tom Prosser moored in the east arm led to many complaints of noise and light pollution, as the lights and generators were run all night.

"As well the additional restrictions on boating because of the tight security required to protect LNG tankers



Cr Michael Whelan has given a scathing assessment of AGL and its proposed Western Port gas terminal.

in transit or at rest would severely impact recreational fishing and boating and impact the local economy."

Hot air

He said Bass Coast Shire had made a submission in response to the EES, which highlighted the AGL project would "have strong adverse impacts on the ecology of Western Port and its Ramsar listed wetlands and in turn on the Phillip Island Visitor Economy that relies on eco-tourism".

"As well the council advised it has declared a climate emergency and sees the proposed fossil fuel facility

as being contrary to that declaration."

Cr Whelan argued the gas project and its "huge capital investment" was not justified or needed in the context of climate change.

He said the Australian Energy Market Operator saw gas being phased out through to 2040.

"Investment in intergenerational gas infrastructure will embed gas, a fossil fuel, into Victoria's energy grid for a generation retarding Victoria's response to climate change.

"The time for gas has come and gone, it cannot compete into the future with renewable energy."

He said Western Port was "highly valued" among ecologists and scientists for its environmental values, who acknowledged more research was needed to understand the ecological significance of the bay.

"This work is required to spare us from the convenient and often self-serving assessments that are undertaken on behalf of proponents of major projects in Westernport – the AGL EES is an example of this."

Process

AGL's plans would see liquefied natural gas transported on up to 40 LNG super tankers – about 350 metres long and 50 metres wide – per year in Western Port.

A floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) moored at Crib Point jetty will regasify the liquid natural gas by using a heat exchange system, drawing in up to 480,000 cubic metres of bay water per day into the unit via up to six pumps operating constantly.

Marine life including fish eggs and larvae will also be drawn in with the water.

This water will then be discharged back into the bay 7C colder than the ambient temperature and containing residual chlorine.

A 55-kilometre pipeline will be built from Crib Point to Pakenham to pipe the gas.

The EES closed on August 26. A directions hearing is scheduled on September 17, which will lead to a public hearing on October 12, to run for up to eight weeks.

AGL did not respond for a request for comment.

United Nations weighs in on AGL bay project Full speed ahead on road review

AGL's proposed bay gas project should not go ahead because it will "inevitably" harm the environment, according to the United Nations'-backed Western Port Biosphere Foundation.

In its submission to the Environmental Effects Statement for the project, the foundation – established by UNESCO in 2002 – also questions AGL's environmental track record, saying "in the quite recent past, AGL has suffered failures".

This is the latest in a growing long list of submissions to be highly critical of the EES and the impacts of the AGL project.

"The Foundation considers it inevitable that the project will result in harm to the Western Port environment," the Biosphere submission states.

"As an organisation that has stewardship over aspects of the Western Port environment, the Foundation looks for a high degree of confidence that if the project does go ahead, the risks posed can be mitigated. This EES has yet to deliver that high degree of confidence."

Biospheres have been established by UNESCO in sensitive environments around the world to promote

sustainable development based on sound science.

However the foundation says the science used in the EES is "under-researched", failing to provide "the most basic" data, with key "omissions, short-comings and misrepresentations".

The submission states there will "inevitably" be risks in a proposal "that involves large quantities of natural gas, regasification using sea water as a heat exchange, chlorination, transport of large volumes of liquid nitrogen and the disturbance of acid sulfate soils".

In the EES AGL concludes "there is negligible risk to the ecological character and no significant impacts for threatened and listed species".

However the Biosphere states "this simply cannot be supported by the evidence presented".

"The environmental impacts of the use of sea-water and associated entrainment, impingement and discharge of chilled and chlorinated water, have been significantly under-researched.

"The proposed management of acid sulfate soils and possible groundwater contamination does not provide confidence that there



An artist's impression of the proposed AGL Crib Point Receiving Facility. The United Nations' backed Western Port Biosphere Foundation says AGL's proposal will "inevitably" harm the environment.

will be no adverse environmental consequences.

"The (EES) conclusion states that risk studies continue to be developed as the detailed design of the project progresses. Within this it is implicit that the proponent considers that the project should be approved before these are completed."

Biosphere Chair Jo McCoy said the Western Port community looked to the Biosphere Foundation to act as an "informed steward on its behalf".

"It is important that projects such as this are subjected to real scrutiny. The environment of Western Port cannot be treated lightly," Jo said.

"The marine and terrestrial life along with regional communities would have to bear the costs if the project, as set out in the EES, goes ahead. In the view of the Foundation, these costs are unacceptable."

Details: www.biosphere.org.au/hot-topics/our-response-to-the-agl-ees/

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Ron Bauer for the Island ward

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

Authorized: Ron Bauer 324 Lt Collins Street Melbourne 3000

No more Foreshore Committee

The San Remo Foreshore Committee has been quietly disbanded.

The role of managing the foreshore has been taken over by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP).

DELWP's Regional Manager of Gippsland, Jeremy Neilson said the department was currently looking at potential future management options.

However, they did not confirm if and when a new committee would be appointed.

Former committee president, Andy Chappell said it would be good if a new committee was appointed, although a foreshore committee administration officer continued to answer emails and communicate with DELWP.

He said the committee usually ran for three years and the normal process would be to advertise and then go through a selection process.

Caravan park dispute

Last year, the Foreshore Committee was involved in a tense, often acrimonious, and months-long dispute over the management of the San



The San Remo Foreshore Committee has been disbanded. The group has run for decades and manage the foreshore area from Potters Hill Road down to the bay, around to Foote's Lookout and along the San Remo back beach to the other end of Potters Hill, including the foreshore abutting the township.

Remo Foreshore Caravan Park.

The dispute involved Copperleaf Pty Ltd, DELWP and the Foreshore Committee, which began after Copperleaf's unsuccessful bid in the tender

for a new lease on the park in June 2019.

Andy described the tender as "an open process" which attracted over a dozen applicants, including Copperleaf Pty Ltd.

After the results of the tender were announced, the tenants of the park received notices to vacate. Copperleaf Pty Ltd said they were unable to offer them another annual lease as their own lease as park managers expired on November 30.

Tenants said the notices sent in June instructing them to clear their sites meant their vans would have had to be destroyed, because they were too old to move. Many had held leases at the caravan park for over 20 years.

In the end, frantic last-minute negotiations saved the vans from destruction.

An agreement to resolve the stand-off between Copperleaf Pty Ltd, DELWP, and the Foreshore Committee was reached just days before the tenants' leases expired.

Under the terms of the agreement, Copperleaf Pty Ltd immediately handed over the park to the incoming managers in September, rather than the original date at the end of November.

Andy said after the caravan park dispute, they wanted "to let things settle", but now "it would be great if a new committee was appointed."

DELWP did not respond to queries if disbanding the committee was related to the caravan park dispute.

However, a former committee member said all the members were asked to resign at the end of their term.

Most of the members of the existing committee were unlikely to return they said, describing the dispute as very difficult.

"We all needed a break after that. We're all just volunteers."

Proud history

The San Remo Foreshore Committee has a long history of working for the local community.

San Remo elder statesman Ray Dickie recalled going to carnivals on the San Remo foreshore as a child, where Foreshore committee members would raise money by selling tickets on spinning wheels.

"Our forefathers had the vision to put in the caravan park, to raise money to help them beautify and maintain the foreshore. That was in the 1940s and it's still there," Ray said.

The committee is responsible for the management preservation of the foreshore environment and the area under their management is extensive. It runs from Potters Hill Road down to the bay, around to Foote's Lookout and along the San Remo back beach to the other end of Potters Hill.

The most populace area by far is the foreshore abutting the San Remo township.

As managers of the land, the committee's focus was to protect the environment and to enable the community to enjoy it.

Over the years, the committee has helped establish walking tracks and foreshore facilities and spearheaded projects to protect the foreshore from erosion.

In 2015, the group put together a strategic plan that included an upgrade for the pelican feeding ground, toilet block upgrade and a new playground.

They also rehabilitated and revegetated a coastal strip adjacent to the highway that was under threat of landslides and destruction.



Demolition underway

Fencing has been erected around the Cultural Centre in Cowes as demolition gets underway.

The building was handed over to Deconstruct Group, the company awarded the tender to demolish the building, on August 24.

Bass Coast Shire Council's Manager of Major Projects, Damian Prendergast said the building's internal fixtures will be stripped first, then work will begin on the outside.

He said the timing of the demolition was due to the possible presence of asbestos on the site, and would allow any asbestos to be removed in a cost-effective manner.

Draft designs for the new building have been shown to community groups and users of the existing centre and are expected to be released to the wider community this month.

Construction of the new building is not due to begin until May 2021.



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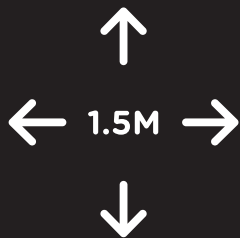
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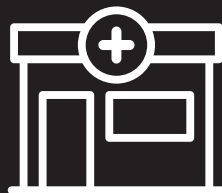
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Climate response must be community-wide

Homes and businesses will be “cajoled” to reduce their carbon emissions, following the release of Bass Coast Shire’s “landmark” climate plan.

The Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030 was adopted at the August council meeting, setting a target of zero emissions within a decade.

Cr Michael Whelan said the “landmark” plan required the whole community to step up.

“We can’t tell the community what to do. Business and households will make the decision,” Cr Whelan said.

“But council can lead and perhaps cajole.”

Cr Les Larke said the plan did not go far enough and consider visitor emissions – buses, cars and trucks, while Cr Julian Brown said households and businesses would reduce their emissions “regardless of the plan”, but instead because it made “environmental or financial sense”.

The 10-section plan details the impacts of climate change on Bass Coast, our shire-wide emissions, and what actions can be taken to reduce emissions.

It states households were responsible for 44 per cent of emissions in 2019 but could help reduce about half of the shire’s zero net target.

Household actions include:

- Buy less. Recycle and reuse more to achieve zero waste
- Reduce energy use. Switch to all-electric and zero-carbon energy
- Improve homes to make them sustainable and climate-resilient
- Switch to more sustainable transport like walking, cycling, ride-sharing and electric vehicles
- Support the natural environment by plant-



As a coastal municipality, Bass Coast is at risk from rising sea levels and storm surges.

ing gardens

- Buy local. Support sustainable and regenerative agriculture

“Every household is different. For example, renter households have a different ability to act than owner-occupied households,” the plan acknowledged.

More than 580 people helped develop the plan, in response to the declaration of a climate emergency last year and a petition signed by more than 1000 people calling for urgent climate action.

The shire will implement it over the next 10 years with regular reviews.

Business, farms

Businesses could reduce a quarter of the shire’s zero net target, according to the plan, through similar actions including: sustainable purchasing, including buying and collaborating with other local businesses; share, recycle, reuse more; and improve buildings and infrastructure.

Farms can contribute 21 per cent of the zero-net target by planting trees and modifying agricultural practices.

“Collaborate and learn with other local farmers to support sustainable and regenerative agriculture,” the plan states.

“To reach zero net emissions by 2030, a number of significant actions are required that are largely outside of the control of Council or the local community.

“These include the development of utility-scale wind and or solar PV projects as well as the delivery of carbon targets by other organisations operating in the community, such as water authorities.”

The shire itself has committed to reducing emissions across all sections of the organisation, including integrating climate risk into financial decision making, powering the shire with 100 per cent renewable energy alongside energy efficiency.

Other actions include expanding tree planting through the Biolinks project, transitioning the vehicle fleet to low emissions and installing energy-efficient street lighting.

“A further suite of actions contained within this plan have an initial capital cost which is quickly recouped through operational savings,” the plan states.

Details: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/climate-action or contact Council’s Climate Change and Sustainability Advisor on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.



Erosion is impacting across the coastline, with this sign in Kilcunda impacting walkers and bikers on the rail trail.

Businesses battle emissions



Case study one:

A Maze’N Things is working to reduce carbon emissions as much as possible.

So far, they have installed 264 solar panels on their roof and have now run out of space, which supplies about half their electricity needs.

They also have a big focus on reducing waste, minimising take away cups and plastic bags.

Staff go through the rubbish at the end of the day

to separate waste into compostables, soft and hard plastics, paper and landfill waste, which reduces expenses as they can dispose recycling waste for free, while waste to landfill attracts a charge.

Case study two:

Bimbadeen is a 340-acre farm at Ventnor, owned and operated by the Davie family since 1955.

The cattle, egg and honey farm has been carbon neutral since 2014, with all water pumps powered by wind or solar, while the house has solar PV and hot water.

Farm emissions are audited annually.

About 30,000 trees have

been planted and a tree canopy covers 17 per cent of the property, with the Davies practicing carbon farming, a variety of agricultural methods that sequester carbon into the soil.

Recycled water is used for irrigation on carbon crops.



Holden Proving Ground an “ark”

Bass Coast Shire councillors have approved an arsenal of measures in a bid to protect the “remarkable” former Holden Proving Ground at Lang Lang.

The 877-hectare has been used since 1957 for testing of Holden vehicles and in February GM announced it would wind down sales, with the site put on the market, reportedly already sold to another vehicle company.

Councillors at the August meeting agreed to consider the offer by Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale to convene and lead a working party, which would include the shire, a Bunurong custodian, Save the Holden Bushland group and the HPG owners.

The group would determine the best option to protect the site and work towards public acquisition.

Councillors also voted to seek an urgent review of the Extractive Industry Interest Area mapping within Bass Coast, in order to exclude the industry in the process.

In addition, they voted in support of a number

of planning controls, including having the land recognised under the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes state policy.

Cr Michael Whelan said he understood the land was given to Holden by the Federal Government and it was “reprehensible” they were now selling it for a profit.

Cr Julian Brown said it was “remarkable” the vegetation at the site had survived.

“It has been growing there for tens of thousands of years or longer,” Cr Brown said.

“There’s not too many place in the state like that ... We need to protect this.”

Cr Geoff Ellis said this was the last chance for Victorians to create an “immovable ark” of endangered species.

“It has undoubted state significance,” Cr Ellis said.

“It is a jewel in the regional crown.”

Cr Ellis said the Victorian National Parks Association had received funding to prepare an ecological assessment of the site.

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Superstar! Millions tune in.

From page 1

"It's very different talking into a camera to potentially 100,000 viewers, to commentating for people sitting in the stands at a normal parade. "She was an absolute ball of nerves, but as soon as we hit the live button, Skye was into it. She loved it," he said.

"She has set the bar pretty high." A select group of rangers will share the commentary duties and Roland said each member will bring their own personality to the task. Although they do have key talking points, each night's commentary is unscripted.

The rangers will work in teams to help field the questions and comments that come streaming in from viewers, taking turns at mic duties.

In the first week, viewers were keen to find out where the penguins go during a day, how fast they can swim and what time they head out each morning.

There were also plenty of ques-

tions about chicks and eggs and just how many babies penguins have.

At this stage, there are no plans to dabble with the format of the live stream, although Roland said in future they would look at mixing it up a little.

"Maybe we can have some guest commentators or include a Q&A session with our research teams."

Star turn

Happily, there's been no diva demands or tantrums from the stars of the show.

"They are the hardest working penguins and least demanding stars we can ask for," said Roland.

"They do what they do, whether we are there or not."

He said the lack of audience in the stands has not resulted in any change to the Little Penguins' nightly ritual.

"Their behaviours don't seem to have changed at all. Primarily, we are a conservation organisation and we are mindful of the impact of hu-

man interaction with penguins."

He said with every single decision, "we ask how does this affect the penguins", and the new building and boardwalks were all designed and built around the penguins' pathways.

Team effort

Aside from a minor hiccup with audio on Facebook the first night, Roland said the live stream had gone seamlessly.

That was due in part to a big team behind the scenes.

Members of the Nature Parks IT team installed the cameras and connected the cables, to get the stream together.

At least six rangers were involved in the practice runs and tests for the new system, with the marketing team helping spread the word through media and socials.

"There's probably about 15 people with hands-on involvement, with a lot of other people involved on the fringes in some small way," Roland said.

Now the stream is up and running, it will only be two rangers plus one staff member from marketing involved on a day to day basis.

That's a minuscule number compared to staffing levels for a normal night at the Penguin Parade.

"Even at our lowest number, we had at least a dozen staff on every night," estimated Roland.

That figure didn't include staff working in other aspects of the parade, such as cleaning, gatekeepers, café and retail staff.

Overseas visitors

With international media outlets now picking up on the story, Roland said they expect to see more overseas viewers tuning in to the nightly feed.

Because of time zone differences, it's expected the strongest audiences for the live feed will come from the UK, Europe and Asian.

And the decision in some parts of Europe to introduce new lockdown

restrictions could be good news for the Little Penguins.

Previously Tourism Australia advised with so much of Europe coming out of lockdown, they'd be less likely to engage with the live stream.

The plan is soon to provide commentary in different languages to cater to the overseas audience.

And Roland believes the online visitors will translate to visits in the real world once the Parade reopens.

"There were some naysayers who said doing a live stream would mean no one would want to come in real life."

"But the feedback we're getting is its connected people with the parade. Overwhelmingly, people are telling us they can't wait to be able to do it in real life."

"Longer term, I believe it's only going to help with visitation."

The Penguin Parade live stream currently starts at 6pm and can be accessed via www.facebook.com/PhillipIslandNatureParks/; or www.youtube.com/user/PIPenguinParade

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What election issues will get votes?

Wildlife protection, more off-leash dog beaches, a community pool and a weekly red bin collection in peak periods have dominated a community debate in the lead up to the council election on October 24.

Island Voice – Phillip Island's peak lobby group for ratepayers – asked its members what they would like to see to improve the island.

About 70 members responded to the online Facebook debate, with some calling for better protection of the environment and wildlife.

"I'd like to see more efforts put towards our wildlife," wrote Serra Clisby, pointing to the sacrifices made by volunteer rescuers.

"Things like permanent signage, training volunteers, and an overnight phone contact. I'd like our council to help look after the wildlife."

Heather Hammonds agreed, saying there needed to be more education for both residents and visitors, "more rangers too please".

Sally Kirsch called for a 24 hour wildlife rescue and shelter, co-funded between Bass Coast Shire and the Nature Parks, as well as a roll-out of virtual fencing, currently being trialled on the Cowes-Rhyll Road.

Island Voice secretary Linda Marston replied that as Nature Parks "make a large amount of money from their supposed stewardship of our wildlife", that organisation was "morally obligated" to look after wildlife, with an animal hospital a potential tourist attraction.

At the same time Sally Kirsch said all off-lead dog beaches should be preserved and more added.

"With over 90km of coastline, only 800m of beach where we're allowed to run our four-legged family members off lead is not enough," Sally said.

"We should open up some current on lead beaches to be off lead."

Susan Leenaars agreed: "I just want to be able to walk my dog off-



More needs to be done to look after injured wildlife on Phillip Island, according to an online pre-election discussion.

leash on a beach. This is such an important aspect to many residents' quality of life."

Cheryl Owens said off-leash beaches should have disabled access, bins and doggie bag dispensers, with upgraded fenced dog parks.

However, some highlighted the ongoing debate around dogs' impact on beach wildlife, with some suggesting cats did more damage to wildlife and a review on current feline laws was required.

While Cheryl said "it would be great if dogs were not treated like spawn of Satan", she understood the need to keep dogs away from nesting plovers.

Bins

Paul Zennaro called for weekly red bin collection in the peak periods.

"I know about 20 people who will base their vote on that single issue," Paul said.

Former Phillip Island Shire councillor John Matthews replied the problem was Bass Coast Shire had a signed contract with contractors not allowing for peak period variations.

"Request your ward councillor to raise it in council and ask new candidates to commit to sorting out the issue," John said.

Paul replied: "council needs to change the contract and act in the best interests of the community."

Susan Leenaars suggested a second contractor could be employed for peak bin collection or a rubbish levy charged to those renting holiday accommodation.

Sports hub

Many in the online forum agreed the long-anticipated community pool should be a top priority, as well as the proposed sports hub on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads.

Brendan Cashman said council needed to deliver on the promised regional skate park, and create a bike path on Coghlan Road.

Mick Flower said spending money on "rubbish" such as the Cowes Cul-

tural Centre upgrade was "a joke before spending money on a pool".

"Just like that ridiculous town square (Olive Justice Place) – the answer to a question no one asked – and the (jetty triangle) upgrade out the front of the old Isle of Wight," Mick wrote. "The people of Phillip Island and San Remo need a pool and have needed a pool for decades."

He added that Wimbledon Heights also needed facilities for children too.

Sonya Robinson asked why it has been so difficult for successive councils to build a pool.

"Let's see if we can really do something about it in the next elections," she wrote.

Development, business

Jo Standaar called for a stop to any further development on the island.

"It is already at a stage of overdevelopment and it needs to stop before it becomes completely out of balance with the areas of green spaces and conservation left," Jo said.

Trish Cerini said traders needed to be consulted.

"Support our businesses and people will come," Trish commented.

Jean Ashley Leeson said Thompson Avenue shopping precinct needed a makeover.

"It looks very dated and run down. Sorrento or Mornington main streets could provide some ideas," she said.

Anne Murphy agreed saying there should be a presentation code for shops.

"Thompson Avenue is really in need of an upgrade. Some business premises have not had a paint job in 50 years.

"Lift your game Wonthaggi Council, Bass Coast Shire."

Thaess White suggested ramps should replace stairs for wheelchairs at beaches.

"Stairs are incredibly dangerous. The couple of ramps onto the beach are always knee-deep in sand."

Bass Coast Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote



Vote by post this October

Voting

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Bass Coast Shire Council election from Tuesday 6 October 2020. Return your completed ballot material by mail ASAP or hand-deliver it to the Election Manager by the close of voting at **6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020**.

If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday 28 August 2020, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by writing to:

Election Manager
Bass Coast Shire Council election
c/- Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Alternatively, you can email your request to:

redirections@vec.vic.gov.au

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign their request.

Requests for redirection must be received by **Thursday 17 September 2020**.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision—please register by **Tuesday 15 September 2020**. To register, call (03) 8620 1222 during business hours.

Request an early postal vote

To apply for an early postal vote, contact the Election Manager from **Wednesday 23 September 2020** on 1300 108 284 and make an application. You must provide a valid reason.

How to nominate as a candidate

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Bass Coast Shire Council **AND**
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected **AND**
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

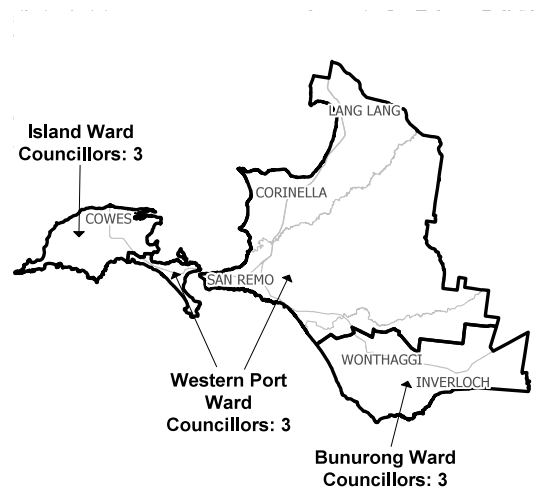
To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the Election Manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from **Thursday 17 September 2020** until **12 noon on Tuesday 22 September 2020** at:

Old Post Office, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi

Visit **vec.vic.gov.au** for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from **Thursday 3 September 2020**.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the Election Manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the Election Manager from **Wednesday 16 September 2020** on 1300 108 284 to make a nomination appointment.



Online candidate information session

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the VEC's recorded candidate information session can be streamed online from **Thursday 3 September 2020** complemented by state-wide interactive candidate seminars based on the information video. To watch the information session or find out how to join an online interactive seminar, visit **vec.vic.gov.au**

Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday 22 September

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at **vec.vic.gov.au**

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Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic



Changing of the guard at Island Voice

The AGM of Island Voice on August 28 saw Peter Paul elected as president and Nyree Davis as Vice President.

Run by the Phillip Island Progress Association, Island Voice is non-political and lobbies all levels of government about projects and issues important to local people.

This year, because of COVID-19 restrictions the group's AGM was run online.

The outgoing president, Jason Cameron said the year had been a challenging one.

Although describing the island as being a "long way from the deadly trouble and strife" he said it was still "feeling the effects of the pandemic". "Our visitor economy is on its knees. Businesses are just holding on."

Jason said the first year of Island Voice saw a new executive and a new committee bedded down, after the Stand Alone campaign officially ended, with the group refocusing its energy on lobbying for better outcomes for Phillip Island.

With 3200 Facebook followers, the group was well placed to air the issues concerning the local community.

"The high level of dissatisfaction with Bass Coast Shire Council continued," he said, noting that the current cli-

mate "was not one conducive to trust".

Mentioning the corruption allegations at Casey and the dismissal of South Gippsland Council, Jason said: "Bass Coast Council is not corrupt or dysfunctional, just plain arrogant."

However, he praised the recent line up of councillors and described the arrival of new CEO Ali Wastie as an improvement.

"Everything is getting better, but the bar was set pretty low."

Jason outlined important issues where council could have performed better, including the car ferry consultation, Wimbledon Heights land purchase, redevelopment of the Cultural Centre (including the lack of consultation around the demolition and the abandoned lease proposal with PINP), the "secret" contract with Wonthaggi Recyclers and the Cowes Jetty Triangle, which he described as a "monument to mediocrity and small-thinking".

All these issues could have been diffused by better communication and more transparency, he said.

Jason also voiced his personal support for the new Cultural Centre - "just show us the plans, please", as well as outlining the benefits of a small car ferry.

He also urged people to continue to

support the Advertiser, saying more than ever the community needed to support independent journalism and free speech.

Incoming president Peter Paul thanked Jason for his commitment to Island Voice.

"I treasure your friendship and applaud the work you have done, and I thank you, on behalf of other members of Island Voice and the community."

Peter said Jason's farewell address provided a good summary of where the group was at and clearly spelt out a way forward.

The meeting confirmed Linda Marston as Secretary and Peter McMahon as Treasurer.

Ken Hailey, Ron Day, Cheryl Overton, Greg Mead and Dave Scrase were all welcomed to the committee.

Peter McMahon urged anyone else interested in representing the island to nominate for the committee, as a number of vacancies remained.

"I implore everyone to come and join the management committee," he said.

"If we can speak for all groups across this island, it makes us a force to be reckoned with."

Anyone interested in joining can contact Island Voice at www.facebook.com/phillipislandvoice



A cyclist was knocked off their bike on Thompson Avenue in recent weeks, leading to calls for improved safety on the main thoroughfare

Cowes bike safety debated

Bass Coast Shire councillors have unanimously voted to support improved bike safety in Cowes' main street, despite disagreeing on the solutions.

Cr Michael Whelan moved a notice of motion calling for a review of safety on Cowes' main thoroughfare and a new bike path between cars and the pavement.

The motion comes after a cyclist was knocked from their bike on Thompson Avenue in recent weeks, with police and ambulance attending.

"It's dangerous. Let's do something before we go to a funeral with a letter of apology," he said.

Cr Whelan said the location of the bikeway at the rear of angled parking was "a recipe for disaster".

"I have discussed this with council officers and there is a clear need for a new approach that puts the bike

path beside the footpath between the curb and the parked cars," he said, adding this was mooted in the Cowes Activity Centre Plan following community consultation.

However while Cr Stephen Fullarton supported the "sentiment" he said practically it was "difficult".

"The problem is it's a very, very expensive alteration because the cy- press trees are there," he said.

"It's only possible to put a path on the other side of the trees and that is a massive alteration."

Cr Whelan said Totally Renewable Island's new safe cycling strategy called for action to make cycling safe and accessible on Phillip Island.

"What is needed is an urgent review of the safety of the current cycling infrastructure and a clear plan implemented to make cycling safe," Cr Whelan said.

Ocean Reach sure can!

Phillip Island's Ocean Reach Brewery made it to the Top 10 at this year's GABS Can Design Awards.

The awards celebrate the very best in craft beer can designs across Australia.

Ocean Reach came in at number eight with the design for their Tropical XPA can, one of the brewery's seasonal releases.

The rainforest inspired design by Jessie Jungalwalla and Emily

Bourke of Craft Instinct features toucans nestled in a luscious leafy background. Colour splashes represented the tropical fruit flavours of the beer.

Although the top spot was taken out by Little Bang Brewing, Ocean Reach made it to the final 10 from the 120 breweries that entered the awards.



Craft beer devotees voted for their favourite design, with the 10 favourites then assessed by a panel of brand and design experts.

As a shortlisted brewery Ocean Reach received a product innovation design and manufacture package with Opal Speciality Packaging.



Worm farms are part of the school's composting program

Newhaven College's sustainable journey

Sustainable systems are part of Newhaven College's commitment to the environment.

Three years ago, the College installed a 243kW solar system, with 760 panels roof-mounted on several buildings. The result? A saving of over 40-tonnes of greenhouse emissions each year.

The College has also installed rainwater tanks to capture its own water using it for the school toilets. A grey water system is used to water the sporting ovals and excess storm water is filtered through the wetlands area. Recently 5000 wetland specific plants were planted to create a future haven for local birds and wildlife.

The College has now introduced a new four bin system as an efficient and sustainable means of managing the school's waste.

Organic bin waste will be used in the College worm farms as approximately 80 per cent of the school's waste is organic matter. Keeping the waste onsite for composting will significantly reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

The other bins will manage the school's paper, general waste and recycling. The new four bin system will see waste stations strategically located around the school.

A college spokesperson said students will also be encouraged to follow more sustainable practices in their food packaging choices and the way they use their learning materials.

"The end goal is for all students to aim to bring 'nude food' or to take home their own food packaging."

Signage, presentations at assembly and home group activities will help the students transition to the new system, develop new habits and create momentum for a positive change.

Supporting local business, creates local jobs.

RUSSELL BROADBENT MP
Federal Member for **Monash**

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



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.

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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



facebook.com/businessinbasscoast
business.support@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Dark days for dance

Covid restrictions have hit dance studios hard, with 92 per cent of studio owners worried their businesses won't survive through to next year.

A new report from Ausdance Victoria, the state's peak body has raised the alarm, saying more support is needed.

Rowena Campbell, who runs the popular Phillip Island Dance Studio said like many dance schools across the state, they were suffering.

But she was loath to complain. "So many people here have lost work, I'm not the only one."

Like community sports clubs, the closure of a local dance school has a big impact on a community.

According to AusSport, dance is the second most popular activity for girls in Victoria, with over 150,000 children attending weekly classes (ABS 2016).

The Phillip Island school, which has over 100 students, closed in March just before the first lockdown was put in place.

"It was all just unknown and scary," said Rowena.

"People were very stressed. Because we're non-essential, we were the first to get shut down and last to reopen."

She said with parents already struggling with homeschooling, the studio took term two off and concentrated on reopening when the restrictions lifted.

"Emotionally and mentally it was hard for me too. Normally I danced for 25 hours a week."

When she finally got the green light, the re-opened classes ran for just three weeks before the current lockdown.

"The three weeks we had face to face were amazing," Rowena said.

"The students were very emotional. It was where they wanted to be."

All up, the studio has only been able to open for fifty days, or ten weeks, this year.

While she's been able to retain all her students so far, Rowena is concerned about what will happen if the school is not able to reopen during term four.

"If we can't reopen, or we keep getting shut down, the school will go down to small numbers."

Zoom in

Rowena is now running zoom classes for her students and says the decision not to go online during term two has worked in her favour.

"I'm hearing about Melbourne schools losing students after two terms on zoom."

"We've only got six students unable to do the (online) classes due to family commitments. Parents have really embraced it."

She believes the classes are vital for the students' mental health.

"I have been really concerned about them, and I worry about the senior students."

"My Year 12s have been through a lot. For them, it's time out from exams and study, a chance to focus on something different."

"I think there's been a huge impact on all the students. Dance is an outlet for creativity, mental health and fitness."

"So far, we've only done three weeks of zoom and I'm hoping we



The Phillip Island Dance Studio has been hit hard by Covid restrictions. Owner Rowena Campbell said the studio has "fallen through the cracks" in terms of government support.

can reopen soon.

"It's been an emotional time. When I shut in term two, I really missed the kids. Seeing them face to face, or even online – it's just been beautiful."

Money's tight

As a sole-trader, Rowena has not been able to access any government grants to help keep the business running.

To date, the online lessons have been free, with no families invoiced since term one.

She's used her savings to fund the school and is currently surviving on JobKeeper.

"I've missed out on any government grants, mainly because I'm a sole trader and I don't employ anyone. A little bit of government help would have made a big difference."

She also missed out on the grants handed out by Bass Coast Shire Council.

"When I rang up originally for the first round of council grants, I felt I had a strong case for keeping students engaged for parents who couldn't afford fees," she said.

Originally the business grants were supposed to run over two rounds.

"I was advised to wait and apply in the next round for help with performances. But they gave all the money away. Now the next round is for not-for-profits, so we can't apply."

Although the Phillip Island Dance Studio has operated for over 20 years, Rowena only took over the business 18 months ago.

Originally operated by Bass Coast Ballet School, Rowena taught at the school for more than 16 years.

Then in January 2019 with just two weeks' notice, Bass Coast Ballet announced it was closing the Cowes studio. Within a week, Rowena made the decision to take over the school, rather than leaving one hundred students and their families with no teacher.

At the time, she told the Advertiser: "I didn't plan on starting my own studio because I loved the mission of the school, where all money goes back to teaching."

"But it's not fair to leave kids here without classes. I want to let them know they're not abandoned."

The new school continued to operate on a not-for-profit basis, to keep fees low.

"I started the business with no

backing, with no money," Rowena said.

"People think this is an old business because the school has been around for over 20 years. But it's actually very new. I've only worked here for five terms."

The fledgling business has no financial buffer and had already paid the full year's insurance and music fees when Covid hit.

"I hope the insurers are going to give us a bit of a refund, or at least a discount for next year. I also believe One Music (the governing body for music), is going to put a hold on their fees, but I haven't heard anything yet."

Rowena said generally dance studios were falling through the cracks.

"It has been a struggle to get the government to recognise dance schools. They're classed as big gyms."

Future plans

Despite the Covid uncertainty, Rowena is working on ways to present the school's Alice In Wonderland end-of-year performance.

As well as a way to showcase the students' achievements, the annual concert is a key fundraiser.

"I'm not sure how that will look – but we do have beautiful beaches to dance on if we have to socially distance," she said.

"Or if we can't go to the theatre, we will film in our hall. My main aim is to do something with the students. As long as they are in costume and have something to work towards."

With five different plans under consideration, covering the cost of the costumes is a major concern.

Parents pay a \$40 fee for costumes each year, but that usually doesn't cover the full cost.

"I'd be more relaxed if I had costume suppliers," Rowena admitted and said she was looking at ways to recycle costumes from last year.

"I just need to get them to the concert."

"I've got children that love to dance. It's their outlet, it's their mental health. Children dance because they want to dance and they're all there because they love it."

While it's impossible to predict what will happen in the coming months, Rowena said she will keep dancing.

"I'm just hoping we can open back up and we can survive somehow through to next year and be in a different place."

"At the end of the day, I am a dance teacher and that's what I do. If we have to start from scratch that's what we have to do."



100 students attend the dance studio, which has only been able to operate for 50 days this year.

What? A duck!

Do you recognise this creature? Photographer Katrina Lawrence snapped this Musk Duck on Phillip Island recently.

These strange and almost entirely aquatic critters are listed as vulnerable in Victoria.

Dr Peter Dann from Phillip Island Nature Parks said there are a few places on the island where the ducks regularly occur and breed.

Birdlife Australia describes the Musk Duck as the "strangest-looking of Australia's waterfowls".

The birds are excellent divers and find the majority of their food underwater, mainly feeding on aquatic insects, crustaceans, snails, shellfish, fish and frogs ... and sometimes ducklings!

Male Musk Ducks fan their tail out – a collection of long stiff feathers – as part of their mating display. The large bulbous lobe of skin under the male duck's bill increases in size at the start of the breeding season.



Male Musk Ducks have a large lob of skin hanging under their bills. Photo to Katrina Lawrence.



A new handrail is being installed on the eastern side of the pier and the walkway will be upgraded with new asphalt.

Cowes Jetty upgrade

The \$1.4 million upgrade to the Cowes Jetty to improve accessibility and reinstate emergency vehicle access continues.

Work includes pile repair works and offsite fabrication of steel crosshead support beams. Crews are also working on the northern low landing to improve low tide access for the ferry and other vessels.

Improvements include a new handrail on the eastern side of the pier and new asphalt on the jetty walkway.

Once complete, the upgrades will allow easier access to the jetty for emer-

gency vehicles. Steel crosshead support beams will strengthen the jetty and allow for higher load capacity.

The jetty will remain open throughout construction, as many of the improvements are focused on strengthening underneath the jetty. Fishing, walking, and boating from the jetty will continue, along with the available ferry services.

The project is funded through the Better Boating Fund in the 2019/20 state budget.

For more information, go to better-boating.vic.gov.au.

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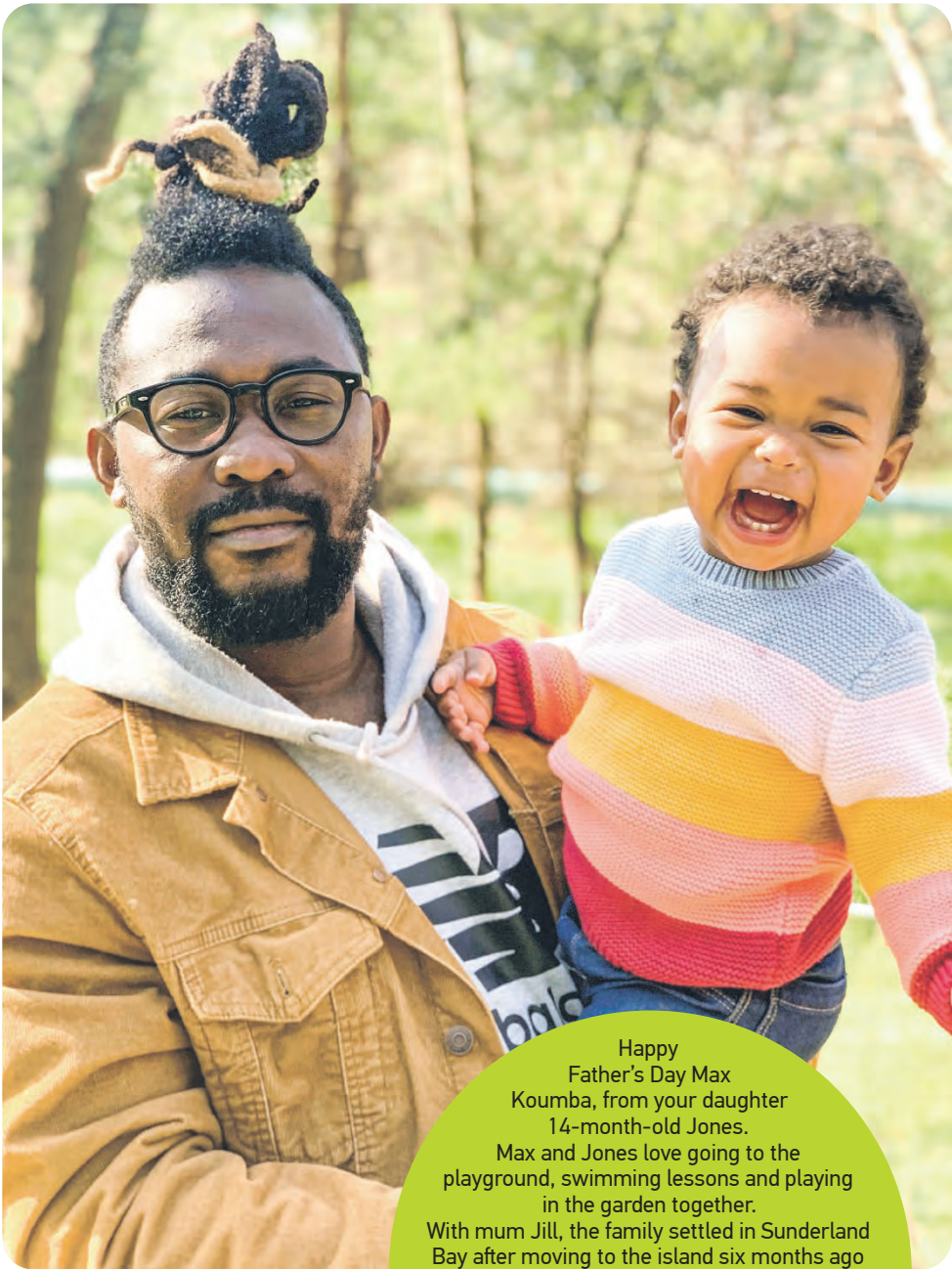
It's Father's Day.



Happy Father's Day David Kelsey. From Max and Joe, (pictured snorkelling with David in Fiji.)
 "There are so many things we love about our dad. He is loyal, caring and wise.
 We especially love watching movies together and going on family holidays."
 David works as a student wellbeing teacher at Cowes Primary School. In his spare time, he loves watching movies, playing video games and going on adventures with his family.



Happy birthday Strachan James, from Hunter (4) and Kalani (2).
 "Our dad is the best, and these are the things we love about him: He gives good cuddles and kisses, he is better than any dad, and he plays silly games with us. Love Hunter and Kalani."
 Strachan, who loves surfing and golf, lives in Cowes and works in civil construction.



Happy Father's Day Max Koumba, from your daughter 14-month-old Jones.
 Max and Jones love going to the playground, swimming lessons and playing in the garden together.
 With mum Jill, the family settled in Sunderland Bay after moving to the island six months ago after living in San Francisco and Sydney.
 Max is originally from Gabon, in Africa and is teaching Jones English and French, which is his first language. He works in sales and loves soccer and enjoying a beer with the boys.
 Jones is his first child, and she keeps him very busy with her adventurous spirit and love of climbing.



Happy Father's Day Dave Heywood.
 "We would like to tell our daddy how much we love him for Father's Day. Thank you daddy for making us laugh every day and playing with us."
 "You are a great cooker daddy. We love you sooooo much. Thank you for being the best daddy ever!! Love your girls Charlotte, Matilda & Lucy xoxo"
 Dave and his young family live in Cowes. He enjoys running, cooking and especially exploring his island home.



Happy Father's Day Simon Orr, from your daughter Milla.
 Milla says she loves her daddy "because we do funny things and he takes me out on the boat and makes me great snacks. Happy Father's Day Dad!"
 Simon is CEO for a global marketing company called Zinc, so his job involves taking care of all the team members and making sure they are having a great time at work so they can do their jobs well. This suits him because he is genuinely a caring guy that loves helping people, says his wife Tina. "Outside of work, he loves nothing more than his family. As well as being a great dad to Milla, he is a wonderful son to his mum Claire who also lives here on Phillip Island, and a great brother, uncle and nephew to his own uncles. And a good husband to me," says Tina.
 He loves gardening and is teaching Milla everything he knows. He also loves living at the beach – he's a member of Cowes Yacht Club and says Cowes beach is the best beach in the world. He enjoys exploring the island by boat and taking Milla out on the stand-up paddle board. She is a true water baby, so this love of the beach is clearly in her genes.



Happy Father's Day Chris Lodge.
 From Chloe, Logan, Aiden and Lucas.
 What makes our dad great?
 Chloe (17): He's always there for us no matter how hard his day has been.
 Logan (13): He drives us to Pakenham and further for rugby training/games.
 Aiden (11): He's not strict and has lots of patience.
 Lucas (4): He watches Moana with me.
 Chris works for Bass Coast Shire in their outdoors team. He plays masters (over 35s) and coaches under 11s for Pakenham Eels rugby league team. He's turning 40 next week and in his spare time is teaching Chloe to drive.



Happy Father's Day Neil Wolfenden.
 From your daughter Amy.
 "I love my dad because ... he is the best role model. He is kind, understanding, hardworking, never judges and is always there when you need him."
 Neil Wolfenden (67) is enjoying retirement after running a Cowes caravan park for many decades.
 He is enjoying having the time to get out on the water in his yacht and loves spending time with his grandkids.

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It's Father's Day.



Happy Father's Day Joe Thompson, from your daughters Mia and Lucy.
"Happy Father's Day to our wonderful Dad (who is a little camera shy). We love you dad because you always make us laugh and you make us very happy. "We love when we go on bike rides, you play on the trampoline with us, and when we go on adventures together. Thank you for always being there for us, we love you so much. You're the best Daddy ever!"



Happy Father's Day
Brendan Cashman from Finn, Jasper and Kai.
"Our dad, Brendan (aka Cashy) is the best!! He takes us to every sporting commitment we have, he encourages us, he pushes us and he is soooo funny. Our dad throws himself into the community to try and make our path as we grow so much better! He does everything for us and we love him for that."



Happy Father's Day Peter Bryan from your daughter Kylie.
"Peter Bryan is my hero. Life has thrown him some curveballs, but he takes every day with strength and courage. Dad is always there to lend a hand and offer advice when we need. Happy Father's Day. Love you Dad. Kylie xx"
Peter, who lives in Cowes and has managed Palm Lake Resort with his wife Leah for 11 years, retired recently because of a prostate cancer diagnosis. His daughter Kylie describes him as a most loving father "always was and always will be" with family the most important thing in his life.



Happy Father's Day
Charles Tuchtan, from Oscar.
"I love my dad because he is all mine! I enjoy play fighting with him, beating him at basketball, swimming in the surf, and going to the footy together. Just don't tell him I sneak his lollies from his car!" says 10-year-old Oscar Tuchtan, of Cape Woolamai.
Charles lectures in Organisational Behaviour at Holmesglen and is studying a psychology degree at present. As the Director who looks after the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club Nippers program, he is busy liaising with Life Saving Victoria at the moment working out what a modified Nippers program might look like for Phillip Island this summer.



Happy Father's Day Daniel McGinley from your brand-new daughter one-week old Neave.
"Happy 1st Father's Day Dad! Thank you for being the most incredible dad a little girl could ask for, you always make me smile and I love you with all my heart! Love, Neave."
Daniel is a primary school teacher at Korumburra Primary School. He's grown up on Phillip Island playing for the Phillip Island Football Club, surfing and enjoying everything the island lifestyle has to offer. He is the proud new father of Neave Rose McGinley, born on August 20 and he is absolutely smitten already!

Happy Father's day Daddy You are the best...



Happy Father's Day
Madu Wijesing.
"You are the best Daddy in the world. Happy Father's Day. Love you so much," from loving daughter Venus.
Maduis, from San Remo, works as a chef at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort. His most favourite thing is travelling with family. His family describe him as a lovely and caring dad.

Venus



Big tech grant for virtual meetings

The state government has given a \$99,932 grant to Bass Coast Shire Council to help with its technology needs.

The funding is part of the \$3.8 million 2020 Rural Councils ICT Infrastructure Support Program, designed to help rural councils with the costs imposed by COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings and workplaces.

The Local Government Minister, Shaun Leane said rural councils had adopted remote working conditions

and virtual meetings to keep essential services running, continue consulting with communities and making decisions.

“We know remote working and virtual meetings have posed some IT challenges for rural councils like Bass Coast Shire Council. We’re very pleased to be able to help them overcome this through this funding package.”

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said the grant will help the council to run virtual meetings and continue

engaging with the community during the Coronavirus pandemic.

“Bass Coast Shire Council has done fantastic work for its community throughout the pandemic and it’s great the state government has been able to support them in this way.

“As we move into recovery from the pandemic, Bass Coast Shire Council will have an important role to play for our community and we’re making sure they have the tools they need to do the job,” Ms Crugnale said.

Homelessness on the rise

A petition calling for affordable housing for the homeless was tabled at the August Bass Coast Shire Council meeting.

The petition was signed by 86 people and called on the shire to fund transitional housing in the 2020 budget, encourage developers to make a percentage of developments accessible and affordable.

It said crisis accommodation from SalvoCare Eastern had increased by 47 per cent since 2016 and in 2018/19 SalvoCare Eastern assisted 778 people experiencing significant financial difficulties.

The petition added that in Bass Coast and South Gippsland in 2018/19, SalvoCare Eastern turned away 769 people.

“Many private rentals are not affordable for people on benefits, due to the low level of Newstart and rising costs of utilities,” the petition stated.

Councillors agreed the petition would inform the shire’s Bass Coast Housing Strategy, included in the 2020/21 budget, to identify suitable land and the needs of the community.

Hits and misses in past four years

The penultimate Bass Coast Shire council meeting before October’s local government elections saw councillors celebrate – and commiserate – four years of successes and failures.

The councillor post-mortem came during two agenda items, the four-year review of the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 and the four year snapshot of the Economic Development Strategy 2016-2021.

Cr Pam Rothfield – who is not standing at the October election – said their term had been positive, up until this year.

“It’s a great story, but the ending sucks,” she said.

Cr Rothfield said if the economic snapshot had been in December, when unemployment was lower, “we really would have had something to celebrate”.

“Now through no one’s fault unemployment is at 11 per cent,” she said, referring to the impact of the pandemic on the local economy.

“We are the most effected council in Gippsland because we are dependent on tourism, the second most dependent in the whole of Australia.

Cr Stephen Fullarton – who is also not standing at the elections – said one of the failures of the visitor economy strategy was the lack of action on the Cowes to Stony Point car ferry, adding a car ferry could have helped the economy in the wake of Coronavirus.

Cr Geoff Ellis responded it was positive the car ferry did not go

ahead as it was currently no longer relevant, especially to international tourists.

Cr Michael Whelan – the only Island Ward councillor to renominate – said the visitor economy strategy “needs a new hair-do”.

“I think we have taken a narrow approach to the visitor economy, which has been good, but not resilient,” he said.

Cr Whelan said key issues such as public transport and safe cycling around Phillip Island needed to be included as part of tourism drawcards.

“This strategy is not dead, but a tart up around the edges would be good.”

Cr Pam Rothfield agreed, saying she hoped the next council would “push for paths and trails to expand nature-based tourism”.

Achievements

According to shire officers, some of the other achievements in the past year detailed in the two reports include:

- a concept design completed for the entrance to Phillip Island along with additional designs for the roundabouts at Cape Woolamai and Back Beach Road, part of current construction works;
- Input into Regional Roads Victoria corridor and highway planning across Phillip Island, (which some residents fear will see four lanes across the island);
- the start of the \$1.4 million upgrade to the Cowes jetty and the design and upgrade of the Rhyll jetty has been completed with works

scheduled to commence in 2020-2021;

- Preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study for the shire to collect and manage information about the heritage, traditions and stories of the Boon Wurrung people; and

- Development of the My Phillip Island Tourism Ambassadors Program completed and launched in October 2019. Twenty-three businesses and 385 students have commenced training and are in the process of receiving accreditation.

Cruise ships

The snapshot states one of the achievements of the past year has been working with the cruise ship industry to promote visits to Phillip Island, resulting in 14 cruise ship visits in 2019-2020.

A further increase projected for 2020-2021 was on hold due to COVID-19.

A shire spokesman said Federal Government cruise ship restrictions ban ships until at least September 17, this year.

“Most cruise lines have made their own decisions to suspend sailings for at least a further month,” he said.

“Phillip Island relies on cruise ships being repositioned to Melbourne from October until April each year, to see regular visits to our region.

“Although we have seen our 2020/21 season decline in scheduled visits, we are still receiving booking requests for 2021/22 season and beyond.”



Magician Dazzling Dan brought some magic to students at Newhaven Primary, with a special online performance.

A touch of magic

Newhaven Primary School has treated students to some magic during remote learning.

Teacher Robyn Smith organised Dazzling Dan to perform an online interactive show for the whole school, including teaching kids a magic trick.

The show was organised to help keep students connected.

“We are finding for remote and flexible learning the second time around, we really need to focus on engagement for our students,” said Robyn.

“The wellbeing of our students and their families is very important to us and this is just one way we are keeping them engaged.”

The online show certainly did the trick, with children and parents reacting enthusiastically to Dazzling Dan’s performance.

“We had lots of fun, and the students interacted via audio,” said Robyn.

“Students could pick a card from the deck and the magician predicted which card they were going to pick. They said the magic words and waved their hands in front of the screen to make magic happen.

“Then, at the end of the show, Dazzling Dan taught all the kids how to make a card levitate in their hands and everyone made them at home while Dan instructed them.”

Students gave the show five-star reviews.

“He taught me a magic trick I could do myself and I couldn’t believe it. I had a pencil and a car in a bag and I twisted it and the pencil ended up on the chair,” said prep student Ruben.

Leah, in grade 3 said her favourite was the shopping trick: “I don’t know how the magician made things appear at my house!”

Marli and Oliver, both in prep, also said the shopping trick was the best, while Jazzy (grade 4) said the mind-reading act and the teleporting act were “outstanding”.

For Jarvis (grade 4), not being able to work out the ring trick made it “feel magical”, while Billie in grade 3 said the ring trick was cool and the show was “amazing”.

As many families struggle with the second round of online learning, one mum said the performance provided a much-needed lift.

“My child really enjoyed the magic show and art sessions this week. I think it gave her a little boost – finding motivation this time around has been harder for her.”

Robyn said many of the students were impressed to see Dazzling Dan’s eight-year-old daughter Isabella helping out.

“I think the kids were impressed that someone their age could participate in the show,” said Robyn.

“I really liked it when Isabella came out of the box. It was amazing,” said Talia (grade 4).

“I loved the teleporting trick when Isabella made the ball go from her pocket into an egg cup. She was really clever,” said Denver (grade 3).

The school also held an online art lesson with local artist Karen Allen, and a Japanese day with a variety of activities families could enjoy together.

The school’s fundraising group also arranged special Father’s Day packages, as the usual Father’s Day stall couldn’t go ahead.

“Everyone in our school community is working hard to keep positive during Remote and flexible learning,” Robyn said.

Boring policy or dictatorship?

Community responses to Bass Coast Shire’s new governance policy have been labelled as “hysteria”, “disgraceful” and “offensive” by one Bass Coast Shire councillor.

More than 20 submissions to the Draft Governance Rules were submitted by the public, including some who were “concerned that council is extending its authority and control over the community”.

However Cr Pam Rothfield said the rules were an update on meeting procedures, with new details including issues such as disclosure of conflict of interest.

“This is a new document, but very similar to the previous meeting procedure in 2018,” she said.

“People in this community delight in whipping up hysteria and offensive claims, maybe to bolster their self esteem ... The remarks have been disgraceful, offensive and defamatory. It’s absurd. One even suggested it was the start of a dictatorship.”

Cr Geoff Ellis said he was “glad people take governance so seriously they send me emails at 10pm”.

A shire spokesperson said changes were made to the draft Governance Rules – which were open for comment in July – following community feedback.

“Consultation with the mayor has been included in setting the Council agenda, the minimum number of petitioners has been returned to three and changes have been made to the Public Question Time section. Other changes in response to feedback have also been included,” the spokesperson said.

“In effect, the Governance Rules 2020 combine and update three existing doc-

uments; the Meeting Procedure Local Law 2018, the Election Period Policy and the Public Question Time guidelines.”

Transparent?

Meanwhile, Cr Les Larke described the failure to consult with the community on another of the shire’s bureaucratic documents – the Draft Public Transparency Policy – as “ludicrous”.

The nine-page policy is mandated by the state government and according to Cr Rothfield is “very prescriptive”.

“Other councils will be adopting very similar policies by September 1,” she said.

“It sets out what information is available to the public, how that information can be accessed and categories of information that may not be accessed.”

Cr Michael Whelan said it didn’t need consultation “because of the nature of the document”.

“But people like to feel they have been consulted,” he said.

Cr Larke – who, with Cr Geoff Ellis voted against adopting the policy – said the shire was “underestimating” the community in not making the document public.

Cr Brown abstained.

An Island Voice spokesperson accused the shire of being “tone deaf” in failing to consult on the transparency policy.

“In other words, we don’t have to consult you, therefore we won’t,” the spokesperson said.

“Could anything be less transparent? A public transparency policy formulated without public input is not a policy, it’s a perversion of council’s responsibility to the community it is meant to serve.”

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/policies

Traffic slow as roundabout work continues

Asphalting work on the new roundabout at Cape Woolamai caused some delays for motorists this week, as the project continues to proceed ahead of schedule.

Traffic islands, lighting and new pathways have all been installed.

Landscaping work is expected to begin this week.

Sarah Rhodes-Ward, Regional Director at the Department of Transport said work was ahead of schedule and was expected to be completed by late 2020, instead of early 2021 as originally planned.

The \$10.5 million project at the intersection of Phillip Island and Woolamai Beach roads includes a dual-lane roundabout, new street lighting and footpaths, relocated bus stops and improved pedestrian access.



Last week, asphalting work got underway at the new roundabout at Cape Woolamai.



The Bali-inspired rear area of the house is perfect for entertaining.

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ter views. In addition to this is another large bedroom and bathroom.

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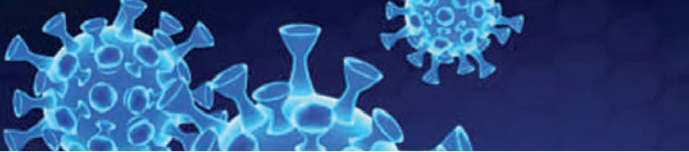
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What are we thinking?

Psychologist Jeff Bond talks to the Advertiser about what influences our behaviour in the current pandemic.

Since the Coronavirus pandemic was declared earlier this year, life for Victorians has changed dramatically. Bass Coast has endured two lockdowns and the current Stage 3 restrictions are set to last until the middle of September.

Aside from the health impacts, it's had a profound effect on people's mental health and psychological well-being.

In Bass Coast, both lockdown announcements saw many in the community raise concerns about the influx of visitors and people who appeared to have disregarded the instruction to stay in their Melbourne homes.

This had led to reports of confrontations on the street and many hostile exchanges on social media.

Hoax and conspiracy theories have also flourished, while some people continue to deliberately flout the restrictions put in place to protect the community.

So what is influencing the way people behave? Are people not following the directives of the Chief Health Officer because the messages are confusing?

Cowes resident Jeff Bond has had a long career as a psychologist and said he is frustrated, but not surprised by the reaction.

"For some, there is a bit of confusion, because the rules vary, but I don't think anyone can claim ignorance. No one can say 'I didn't know'."

But he said people will interpret a rule to suit their own current view

and what they want to happen.

"At a fundamental level, we humans are all selfish. We see and hear what we want to, to support our own positions."

Jeff believes "unconscious bias" – looking for an outcome that supports the position you hold – is a big factor in the way people are reacting to the pandemic.

"If you have thoughts or a mindset that you believe in, you will look for confirmation of that."

He said safety concerns are also a major factor.

"I understand why people want to get away from Stage 4 lockdown, so they come here.

"They want to look after themselves, then their family. Their priorities come first. It's a survival thing in a way."

For other people, a deep mistrust of authority figures drives them to ignore the regulations.

"These people deliberately make the decision to find a loophole," Jeff said.

"Australia has a history of anti-authoritarianism which still pervades our culture. We call it larrikinism. People saying, 'we will make up our own minds', and we're seeing plenty of that."

For a society that overall has experienced a high standard of living and a lot of freedom, the restrictions of the pandemic are hard for some to adapt to, said Jeff.

One example is the "sovereign citizen movement", including refusing to wear a mask.

"This doesn't pass any reasonable test. To say wearing a mask is an infringement of human rights is a joke," said Jeff.

"These people are saying: I will do



Too many people are ignoring the restrictions for social distancing and wearing masks. "At a fundamental level, we humans are all selfish," said psychologist Jeff Bond.

what I want to do and I don't want anyone to tell me otherwise.

"It's dangerous and if we all did it, we'd be in anarchy."

Local concerns

Jeff said he's concerned by the number of people he sees in the community without a mask, and who are continuing to visit their friends.

While it might be difficult, he believes it is important to talk to friends, neighbours and family if they aren't following the restrictions.

"I think it's okay to say to someone, do you realise what you are doing is placing me at risk, or other people around me? Do you understand the rules around wearing masks?"

"It can be difficult when you live in a neighbourhood and you don't want to upset them. If it's someone you know – you have to weigh up the balance of preserving the relationship or the safety issue. In these circumstances, I'd say safety is the priority."

Despite all the government information and medical research, Jeff said there are "doubters out there who still don't believe this is real".

"It doesn't matter how much training I've got, there are some things I can't explain," he said.

"But there is a role for people to step in and do it in a reasonable way. Talk about it, ask a question – do you really understand how serious this is?"

He said young people were more likely to flout the rules, in part because of "maturation of cognitive processes", which means they don't necessarily understand the consequences.

"They think they're invincible. They do need to be reminded. But young people aren't the only ones, older people are doing the same thing.

"Our brains do continue to mature over time in a way that gives us a better perspective. People with life-experience under their belt ought to be able to make reasonable decisions."

With local police reporting a large increase in calls to the Police Assistance Line (131 444), are we becoming a nation of dobbers?

"I think dobber is a derogatory term, which originally implied some sort of personal gain from reporting someone," Jeff said.

"What we're being asked to do now is reporting. Here in a life and death situation, in some cases it makes sense to notify an authority. It's happening, it's dangerous. That's not dobbing in the true sense of the word.

"Too many people are dying unnecessarily and it's wrong."

"Stay vigilant"

With numbers trending down in Victoria and no active cases currently recorded in Bass Coast, now is not the time to become complacent warns Bass Coast Health CEO, Jan Child.

"We must stay vigilant," said Ms Child. "I am adamant that it is too soon to relax any rules. Our new way forward will need to be cautious and carefully planned. It will have to be gradual and steady because having made significant progress together to curb the spread, we do not want to find ourselves back at exactly the same place we were.

"We want to do everything we can to defeat the second wave properly, and we need to do everything we can to avoid a third wave."

Ms Child said adhering to Stage 3 restrictions was the best way to reduce the likelihood of contracting COVID-19.

"This includes staying at home at every opportunity and avoiding personal contact which is the key source of community transmission.

"Avoid crowds; avoid lining up for coffees; avoid anything that puts you in touch with large numbers of people."

She said good hygiene was essential – washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water, including the webbing of hands and underneath fingernails.

"Practise physical distancing by keeping at least 1.5m distance between you and others. DO NOT hug, kiss and shake hands.

"When out in the community, avoid touching things that others touch and sanitise your hands wherever you can."

She urged people to familiarise themselves with the symptoms of COVID. These include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, and loss of sense of smell or taste.

"If you have even the slightest hint of being unwell, stay at home and arrange to be tested, even with the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms."

Keep testing

Testing rates locally have fallen in the past three weeks, from a peak at the start of August, when BCH conducted 1096 tests in one week. By last week, that number had dropped to 409.

Test numbers at the Phillip Island Health Hub have also fallen dramatically. In the first week of August, 165 tests were conducted at the Hub, compared to 92 last week.

Premier Dan Andrews stressed that testing was a critical part of the strategy for dealing with Covid, saying it gave the government a "more complete picture of how much virus is out there".

He urged anyone with symptoms to get a test as soon as the symptoms appeared.

As of August 31, there were 154 active cases in regional Victoria, with 2620 active cases in the state.

Lockdown relief?

The current lockdown and stage 3 restrictions will be in place until September 13 and the Premier said the government will release a re-opening roadmap on September 6 outlining the steps for coming out of

lockdown.

He spoke of establishing a "new Covid normal" saying this could last for months.

Any easing of restrictions for business and industry would be based on public health advice and four key principles.

- ensuring physical distancing, including following density requirements, making sure staff work from home wherever possible, limiting the total number of staff and customers in an enclosed area, and stopping carpooling

- wearing a face covering at all times in the workplace and ensuring full PPE is worn in high-risk settings

- requiring hygienic workplaces, with high-touch points regularly cleaned, staff regularly washing their hands, and hand sanitisers available for all staff and customers

- continuing to act quickly if staff become unwell by having a strict policy that supports them to stay home and get tested, even if they have mild symptoms. All places of work need to have a plan to act immediately if there is a confirmed case and records must be kept of all staff, customers and visitors.

The government has committed to tailoring guidance to different industries and is encouraging workforce bubbles wherever possible, to limit the number of staff who have prolonged and close contact with each other.

It is also recommending businesses avoid lunch breaks and meetings in enclosed spaces wherever possible and open windows and doors rather than relying on recirculated air conditioning.



Some local children have helped create Spoonville on Phillip Island.

Spoonville in Cowes

A novel idea that started overseas during the first Coronavirus lockdown has spread to Phillip Island.

It involves brightly painted wooden spoons and a little sign saying Spoonville.

Here in Cowes, a Spoonville area has been created on the foreshore under a large cypress tree at the end of Dunsmore Road by some local mums and dads, with the aim of putting smiles on faces during the health pandemic.

And everyone is invited to join in. The happy faces, cartoon characters, monsters, animals and other creations peering up from the sand

have certainly attracted smiles from passers by exercising on Stradbroke Avenue, since "Spoonville" emerged locally in the past few days.

The sign erected is a welcoming one and reads as follows.

1. Spoonville welcomes new residents

2. Place your spoony person during your daily exercise

3. Make sure any attached bits are fastened. We don't want to litter the beach

And there's a special appeal to dog owners to ensure their canines are under control when passing, for obvious reasons.

Sip the joy

One community spirited customer at the Phillip Island Coffee Co decided to share some joy and inspire fellow coffee-lovers to stay positive during the pandemic.

"A customer and member of the Cowes community has left little messages on some of our coffee lids. Spreading smiles and joy with every sip," said a post on the popular coffee café's Instagram last week. A coffee with an extra shot of optimism could be just what's in order.





Lockdown lowdown

The impact of this second lockdown continues to ripple through lives.

Like so many other families, Lisa and Tim McLure of Smiths Beach are again grappling with home schooling #2, with Angus, 10, in grade four at Cowes Primary and Evie, six, in grade one.

Border restrictions also mean they have some new house guests.

"Last lockdown we got our new ragdoll cat, Eric.

This lockdown we got two humans and a dog.

Our neighbours were supposed to move to Sydney this week for a new business. When their lease finished they were homeless, because they couldn't get over the border, and so they put out an SOS.

We have a studio apartment downstairs and so they're living with us until they can go north.

We're always taking someone in. Once it was a couple of Argentinian backpackers, then there was a girl in her 20s who needed a place, and not so long ago some Italians.

Luckily Eric and our dog Audrey get on with their Staffy Solly.

Eric is so naughty, he likes to swing off our pendant light.

Aside from that we're settling into a routine.

Home schooling this time round is definitely better than the first lockdown.

Last time we would run around trying to figure it out and find things. But this time – I suppose because we've had that trial and error – it's much easier and free-flowing.

That's what I'm hearing from others too. We know what it's all about this second lockdown and also partners have got on board.

Tim now has Mondays off work while I go into the salon for the day. Both our employers have been great in letting us work around home schooling.



Eric the ragdoll cat adds to the McLure family's daily mayhem, enjoying swinging off the pendant lamp.

The kids, too, have been fine going into it. It doesn't bother them because we've been here before, whereas the first time round we were a wreck.

Angus says he loves home schooling because he's close to the fridge.

They miss their friends though.

For me it is also so much easier. I'm coping much better this time around. Last time I was swinging off a wine bottle, but now I'm not drinking I'm much more clear-headed every morning. Now when I'm not coping with home schooling, I exercise.

Having said that I have to re-invent the wheel every day to get the kids

motivated.

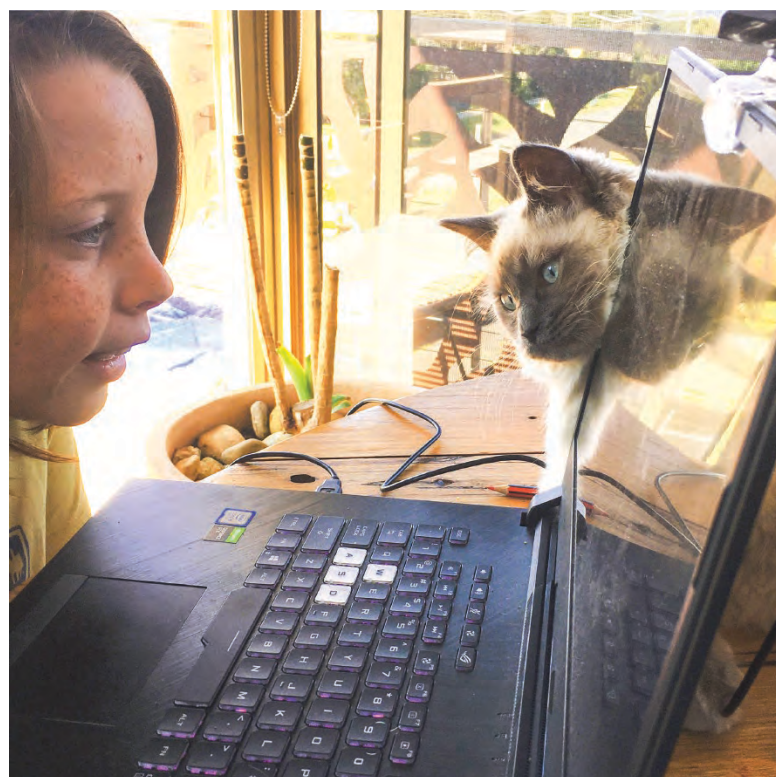
They seem to take it in turns messing with my brain and by Friday night I want to pull my eyeballs out.

One day I put a giant cookie in the middle of the table and told them that if they got all their work done at the end of the day they could have half each.

Then the next day it was \$10 each.

Then I realised it's not good to teach them they will get a reward for doing something they should be doing anyway.

The first lockdown I was concerned they were slipping behind. It's not just six weeks but this time a total of



Eric also likes to take part in Angus' home schooling.

12 weeks out of the school year.

But they're smart little things, even though they pretend not to be.

Cowes Primary has been fantastic, telling us when to turn up and get packs for their schoolwork. With maths and spelling we're much more on to it this time.

Getting them to exercise every day is also a challenge, especially if they're on their iPads.

One day they joined me for a personal training session in the studio, the next day was beautiful so we went surfing, but then the next day Angus had a fit when I suggested a bike ride.

The worst part for me about the second lockdown is that this week I was meant to be in Newcastle to celebrate my dad's 70th birthday.

He's disappointed we're not there, but he told me he won't turn 70 this year. He's putting it on hold because 2020 is not really a year. So he'll stay 69 until we can get up there.

As horrible as Coronavirus is for health care workers, and many are doing it tough, I kind of like having the kids around. I'm enjoying it.

Yes you can sit around being grumpy about it all, but for me, if it means having more time with my family, I'm happy."

San Remo family fined Shield production continues

A family from San Remo were included in the police statistics on Sunday for breaching the Covid restrictions.

Police reported the family – two adults and three children – were stopped at a vehicle checkpoint and said the "driver stated he was picking up medication from his work and they decided to get pizza in Pakenham before heading home."

Police asked why the whole family had to attend and were told the "family had to do everything together".

Although Bass Coast is currently under Stage 3 restrictions, the incident is a timely reminder that anyone travelling into the lockdown area must comply with Stage 4 restrictions.

Under Stage 4, you can only trav-

el up to 5km from your home and only one person per household can leave home to get necessary goods and services. They can only leave once a day.

Anyone travelling to the lockdown area can only do so for one of four reasons: shopping for essential supplies, work or study if it cannot be done from home, caregiving and medical treatment.

The police reported a total of 192 fines issued in the previous 24-hours. This included 20 for failing to wear a face mask, 26 at vehicle checkpoints and 69 for curfew breaches.

14,569 vehicles were checked at the vehicle checkpoints and 4284 spot checks were conducted on homes, businesses and public places.

The Free 3D Hands factory continues to produce face shields for health workers to help deal with the Covid outbreak.

To date, they've distributed 4000 face shields to the health network.

They're now working to fund production of additional shields.

"We have been working with Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Childs, Jordan Crugnale (Member for Bass) and HPV (Health Purchasing Victoria) to fund the cost of producing a further 2000 face shields," said Peta Strachan who works with Mat Bowtell at Free 3D Hands.

"There are still huge shortages of raw materials so in order not to miss out, a few weeks ago we sourced and purchased the required materials from our own funds. We were told that had we been a week or so later that delivery times could be up to four months."

Peta said the priority is to provide shields to Bass Coast Health and local aged care facilities.

The initial 4000 shields were distributed to a range of health and aged care providers.

Peta said around 1000 were provided free to Bass Coast Health, while the remainder were prioritised to local and South Gippsland essential service workers and aged care facilities.

"We also sent shields interstate to organisations such as an Aboriginal Health Service in the NT who work out in remote communities, a Covid testing clinic in QLD and the North Shore Hospital in NSW," said Peta.

"We did not provide any to the na-



Free 3D Hands' Mat Bowtell worked with Bass Coast Health's Infection Control Clinical Nurse Consultant, Nicky Baker, on the design of their face shields.

tional stockpile as at the time they were only accepting deliveries of 20,000 units or above."

Recently, 100 shields were sent to an imaging facility at Berwick Hospital, who had 27 patients test positive for COVID-19.

"Although they had received face shields from the national stockpile, the practice nurse explained that as they were disposable, they were flimsy and she felt they lacked protection," said Peta.

"She said the face shields that Free 3D Hands had provided were very sturdy and had great coverage and they have been giving them to the Covid patients to wear."

Free 3D Hands founder Mat Bowtell, and Nicky Baker, the head of Infection

Control at Bass Coast Health, worked together on the design to improve the coverage and comfort of the shield.

Now dealing with the second wave of Covid infections, Bass Coast Health has again contacted the factory with a request for more face shields.

Peta said the factory was waiting on news of additional funding so they could continue production.

"We are very grateful that the funds raised from the community have allowed us to continue to provide free face shields around Australia where we can," she said.

"We hope that we will get another round of funding from HPV as we don't believe Bass Coast Health should have any out of pocket costs for PPE."

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.

Testing is available at:

- Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100.
- Wonthaggi Hospital drive through testing service is avail-

able 10am-5pm, 7 days a week.

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

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

Bass Coast Health seeks more nurses

Following the recent outbreak at Kirrak House, which was successfully contained by our team, and heeding advice from state and Federal health departments, Bass Coast Health (BCH) continues preparations to protect staff, patients and the wider community.

This planning includes maintaining additional services to provide COVID and non COVID care spaces, and this requires a specific focus on strengthening resourcing, should an outbreak of COVID-19 occur locally.

A recruitment campaign has been launched to strengthen the local nursing workforce, with a focus on increasing nursing availability across the hospital and community teams.

“The recruitment drive in March/April was very successful and since then we have expanded our testing clinics, opened another ward and increased our community nursing services. We have also expanded our residential in reach team to provide extra support to local aged care facilities across Bass Coast and at Koo Wee Rup”, said Bass Coast Health CEO, Jan Child.

Experiences at other health services have demonstrated it only requires a very small number of staff to acquire the COVID-19 virus to have a major impact on rostering and service provision. This is due to all close contacts needing to quarantine for 14 days.

“We absolutely want to avoid a situation of closing wards or reducing services, as has had to occur in other health services, hence another reason to focus on growing our workforce,” said



Registered Nurses Megan Dakin and Liam Nancarrow are part of a growing team at Bass Coast Health and the organisation is seeking more nurses to help provide care for the community.

Ms Child.

Bass Coast Health offers excellent training and orientation opportunities that ensure people stay safe, along with longer term educational opportunities.

We have a great team that ensures any new

staff join a friendly, welcoming and supportive environment and we are keen to welcome people with new skills and experience.

For more information and to apply, please visit Bass Coast Health’s recruitment page at: basscoasthealth.mercury.com.au/SearchResults.aspx.



Richie Davie and Ian McFee work on levelling the site for the new Landcare shed in April this year.



A welcome addition to our community. Phillip Island Landcare’s new shed situated amongst gum trees in the Bushbank area of Koala Conservation Reserve.

New Landcare shed a community effort

After 33 years, Phillip Island Landcare Group is excited to finally have a home to store their resources.

The shed sits amongst beautiful gums 100 metres from the Barb Martin Bushbank community plant nursery.

Completion of the shed was a true community effort which started in 2019, when Phillip Island Nature Parks offered Landcare a site at the Koala Conservation Reserve. They then provided further support by managing and financing the required planning permit.

The group’s recently acquired caravan used on planting days and for exhibitor/expo events was the driving force behind the construction of the new shed.

Other items the new shed will store include tree planters, guards and stakes and it will also proudly

display Landcare memorabilia and honour boards. It may also provide a venue for committee meetings in the warmer months.

“Being so close to the Bushbank will offer opportunities for the Nature Parks and our group to share resources to the benefit of both parties,” said David Rooks Group President of Landcare.

“Landcare members who pick up plants from the Bushbank will now have access to a variety of guards and stakes from our stores.”

A successful grant of \$12,650 from the Bendigo Bank provided the necessary funds for the shed’s construction.

A further community grant of \$3,500 from Bass Coast Shire Council provided funding for signage, shelving, plumbing and site preparation.

Initial construction work saw the site levelled by long time farmers and Landcare committee members Ian McFee and Richie Davie.

The Nature Parks again chipped in and supplied a few day’s labour from their building team to bring the shed to frame stage.

Finally, a number of individuals provided further assistance to complete the build, said David.

“Clem Fries (local roof plumber) and Daren Dempsey (local builder) volunteered their time and worked with committee members to sheet the walls and roof the shed.

“We can’t thank the community around us enough. The Nature Parks, Bendigo Bank and Council have all shown a huge interest in our group.

“The shed increases our capacity to deliver on our group’s mis-

sion; to encourage sustainable agricultural land-use, business practices and lifestyles, and promote the conservation and restoration of native biodiversity on Phillip Island and throughout Victoria,” David said.

A grand opening is planned for Sunday, November 29, subject to easing of restrictions.

“It is hoped to be an auspicious occasion with good food, people, speeches and music. We look forward to inviting everyone in the community that touches our group.”

Find out more about Phillip Island Landcare Group at www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/phillip-island.html.

Membership enquiries can be made direct to Robyn or Thirza on 0417 106 361 or phillipislandlandcare@gmail.com

Who’s that bear?

Does anyone recognise this furry little fellow?

Apparently, he originated from a shop once located at 60 Chapel Street (the current address of the Advertiser) called the Round-A-Bout Shop. His label declares he is an Australian made sheepskin toy. His current owners are trying to discover who made him and just how old he might be. Let us know if you have any clues to his true identity.



Do you recognise this bear? He was apparently purchased in Cowes, from a store called the Round-A-Bout Shop in Chapel Street.



SHORT STACK

A quick roundup of news, views and opportunities

Emergency volunteer grants

The latest round of Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grants is now open.

Grants can be used to help purchase new vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft and trailers, other operational equipment and facility improvements.

Volunteer groups can also put the money towards minor facility improvements.

For more information about VESEP and how to apply for a grant, visit www.emv.vic.gov.au/vesep.

Sports club grants.

Sporting clubs can apply for funding to boost their equipment, skills and administration expertise in the latest round of the Sporting Club Grants Program.

The grants provide up to \$1,000 for new uniforms and equipment, up to \$5,000 for the training of coaches, officials and volunteers and up to \$5,000 to improve club operational effectiveness.

For more information including how to apply go to sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/sporting-club-grants-program.

Hotel plan for Coronet Bay withdrawn

Developers of a proposed \$38 million hotel development at Noremens Road in Coronet Bay have withdrawn their planning application. The application was vehemently opposed by local residents who said it was inappropriate “over-development”. At peak capacity, the proposed hotel complex would house more people than Coronet Bay’s population.

Creative grants

Local councils and community groups can apply for grants to fund ideas to boost tourism through the state government’s Creative Activation Fund.

Funding will support projects that have strong potential to become new tourist attractions and contribute to the economic recovery of the region, including public art, murals, sculpture and technological initiatives.

Between \$40,000 and \$300,000 is available for projects commencing from January 1, 2021.

Applications close at 5pm, September 24. Prospective applicants must contact Creative Victoria staff before applying. Visit creative.vic.gov.au for full program guidelines and Creative Victoria staff contact details.

Farm grants boosted

Farm businesses applying for smaller grants will now be able to apply twice for the maximum combined value of \$50,000 allowing them to access support to more efficiently and better plan ahead for their businesses.

The new Agriculture Energy Investment Plan provides grants for energy efficiency assessments, investing in energy efficiency, research and education resources.

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

Tour de Kids

Starlight Children’s Foundation (Starlight) annual cycling challenge Tour de Kids is aiming to raise \$200,000 this September.

The 30-day challenge encourages riders of all ages and abilities to hop on a bike, virtually or from any location and ride the distance for sick kids.

Since Tour de Kids started in 2001, it has raised more than \$7.6 million and helped more than 196,000 sick kids in hospital.

Registrations are now open at www.tourdekids.org.au. Participants can ride the distance and fundraise any time before September 30. tourdekids.org.au/

Jamie’s virtual cooking classes

Jamie’s Ministry of Food has announced the launch of a national school holiday program, offering online cooking classes for keen young cooks.

The five-week program (for ages 12 and above) focuses on Jamie Oliver’s key food principles, offering lifelong skills to improve the overall health and wellbeing of participants and their families.

Jamie’s Ministry of Food program includes a ‘Taster’ class on September 12 and a Nationwide program (school holidays week two) from September 29 until October 2.

For more information and to book visit, www.jamiesministryoffood.com.au/courses/jamies-ministry-of-food-online-program



ADVERTISER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Ode to an artichoke

I'm growing an artichoke
Cauli, sprouts, broccoli and broad
beans too
You might be right to think, the cost of
this will send me broke!
Did I tell you, I'm growing an arti-
choke
But you see, it's not the money that
concerns me
To watch these little babies grow
Simply sets my gardening soul free
I feed them seaweed, fish oil and cow
poop too
Sugar cane mulch thrown in
Oh, and I forgot chook poo
By the way, I'm growing an artichoke
A sense of achievement, peace and
calm
When in the garden, watching Mother
Nature at her best
I silently give her thanks
For allowing me to be her guest
Ian Burns, Rhyll

Thank you, Advertiser

I would like to thank the marvellous
team at the Advertiser for continuing to
operate during these lockdown times.
Many communities have not been as
fortunate as us to have such a commit-
ted local newspaper still operating. As
you have 'gone alone' the paper has gone
from strength to strength.
A big congratulations on the launch
of your new website, it is fantastic! I am
particularly enjoying the history section
at the moment.
Thank you for keeping us informed
about what is occurring in our commu-
nity, especially during these lockdown
times, it really helps us still feel connect-
ed to one another.
Sue Becker, Cowes

Gas Royal Commission

Gas is dangerous, dragging us back-
ward and downward and dirty and
brown. We desperately need to be led
onwards and upwards and clean and
green.
Gas was cheap when subsidised as
disposal of dangerous waste but not
anymore.
The closer you look at gas business,
the crazier it gets. Humans have been
blowing gas, of all kinds, for many cen-
turies. Originally, gas was waste product
from making charcoal, for smelting,
iron, bronze and kiln firing clay, well un-
der way before 500BC. More charcoal;
was needed in mid-900s AD, for black/
gun powder for weapons and fireworks.
Discharging volatile gases from man-
ufacturing charcoal, then coal to coke,
then oil-gas, in early 1800s all became
too much waste and danger to ignore.
Its eventual popularity was lighting – 75
per cent cheaper than oil or candles. In
theatres, then streets it took 200 years
before gas was widely adopted. Then, al-
most overnight, electric light bulbs, put
the fire out for gas.
Electricity is essential, efficient, cheap
and easy to deliver, for 99.9 per cent of
needs. Now wind and solar, with battery
and pumped hydro storage, are cheaper
to install than continuing to run coal and
gas power plants. Isn't it a no brainer to
get on with it?
Gas is a transition to a dead end. In-
creasing extreme weather accelerates
long anticipated BCA (Border Carbon
Adjustment) which jeopardises every
kind of export, because of tariff pen-
alty applied by destination countries,
because we don't have Climate Crisis
policy.
We need gas deception Royal Com-
mission
Bernie McComb, Cowes

Donations welcome for Legacy Week

This week (August 31 to September 5) is
Legacy Week.
Under normal circumstances, members
of South Gippsland Legacy would be out
and about in our local supermarkets, sell-
ing merchandise and raising money for
the organisation.
Because of the virus, we are unable to do
that. Instead, we are inviting members of
the community to make a donation (with
tax deductible status). If you wish to do so,
please ring either myself – Jane Ross – on
0498 064 248 or our treasurer Gaye Carias
on 0416 296 927 to discuss the best way of
doing this.
South Gippsland Legacy cares for just
over 230 war widows living in an area
stretching from Yanakie to Phillip Island.
We endeavour to be a cheery, useful and
supportive presence in their lives and they,
in turn, offer the wisdom of their years and
the occasional welcome cheek!
When we return to post-virus normal-
ity, we Legatees will continue to host our
widows at film days, lunches, concerts,
monthly meetings and on bus trips.
Legacy Week always begins with a spe-
cial non-denominational service during
which both Legatees and our widows have
the opportunity to remember loved ones
who have served their country. Sadly, that
cannot take place.
Those of us at South Gippsland Legacy
would like our widows to know they are
much in our hearts and thoughts – espe-
cially this week.
*Legatee Jane Ross, San Remo
President, South Gippsland Legacy*

Support for Cultural Centre

It is distressing to see two candidates,
Ms Barlow and Mr Bauer, in the upcoming
council elections who seem to be voicing
their disapproval of the Cowes Cultural
Centre Project.
Only a few years ago, the greatest out-
cry from our community was the lack of
capital works spent on the Island in com-
parison to the rates paid by the Island res-
idents.
This imbalance has been rectified by the
current council. Soon we will have a new
cultural centre which will act as an anchor
point in the revitalisation of Cowes. It will
add a massive benefit to the local com-
munity by supplying our community with
a library it deserves, as well as providing
facilities for the arts and culture and other
community spaces.
I'm not sure what economic credentials
Ms Barlow has, but the Economic Impact
Assessment and cost benefit analysis pro-
duced by SGS on the new centre clearly
shows the benefits are real in dollar terms.
Moreover, in the next two years – when
there is no doubt about the need to offer
more jobs within our community – the
construction provides the equivalent of
some 69 full time positions – and after
completion the added jobs will be 30 full
time positions.
The new Cultural Centre is an inter-
generational asset which will support all
forms of the arts – including music, dance,
drama, painting, sculpture, photography,
creative writing, craft, film and video, fash-
ion design and so much more. The value
this provides to our community should
not be underestimated. I don't know what
'community' Ms Barlow believes she is the
'spokesperson' for – but the Phillip Island
community has long asked for improved
facilities for a library, historical centre,
community function centre, various arts
facilities and a cinema. The Island des-
erves such a centre. Contrary to what she
suggests, it certainly will be a drawcard
for visitors to our region, as we can finally
offer a broad range of regional and larger
events. Just as a reminder – if this money

is spent on the Island, I am sure Won-
thaggi residents would welcome such a
cultural centre.
Judy Lawrence, Rhyll

Cultural Centre clarification

I've been asked many times by members
of the community to clarify my position on
the Cowes Cultural Centre redevelopment.
It's true, I don't think the Cowes Cultural
Centre should be a priority – right now. At
this time, with a pandemic going on, and a
global recession looming, I don't think I'm
the only one on the island who thinks we
have more important things to be worry-
ing about.
Let me be clear: I believe we need to
redevelop the Cultural Centre. It is a woe-
fully insufficient building that does not
address the needs of the community, and
the library is too small and out of date. I
have been supportive of a Cultural Centre
redevelopment for years, particularly as it
regards to upgrading the library.

But not right now.
The only way that we can ensure we
have the money to build a centre worth
building is by making sure our local econ-
omy is stable and secure. The only way we
can do that is by supporting our local com-
munity and business owners, and by en-
suring that money is imported directly into
our economy from other parts of Australia
by attracting niche markets with small tar-
geted events as soon as restriction ease.
Only then, when our businesses have
recovered and workers are back to receiv-
ing the wages and hours that equates to
a decent living, then we can build a truly
bang-up Cultural Centre.
It is conceivable that with a hall and a
cinema inside the Cultural Centre, we may
attract tourists from South Gippsland to
come and see some films or some local
productions. It is possible to generate li-
brary tourism as well. That's all true. How-
ever, that stream of income is unreliable at
best.

What I am suggesting is a logical ap-
proach of ceasing unnecessary spending
until the economy has recovered enough
to deal with a record-breaking cap-ex bud-
get. I don't assume that will happen for at
least a couple of years.
But when it does happen – then we can
rebuild the Cowes Cultural Centre.
Just not right now.
*Mikhaela Barlow, candidate for Island
Ward*

Thanks for your input

On behalf of the BCRRA committee, I
wish to extend the Association's grateful
thanks to the many community mem-
bers who responded to the online survey.
Because of the community actions in
letting Councillors know of the concerns
about the proposed rule changes, Bass
Coast Shire Council has been compelled
to relent on some of the draconian rule
changes it was attempting to introduce.
BCRRA presented a substantial sub-
mission to Council in which it pointed
out serious concerns about the proposed
rule changes. Without the help and sup-
port of the Bass Coast community, the
result delivered by Council may have
been much worse.
Whilst some Councillors voiced their
displeasure at the level of commu-
nity pushback, they were nonetheless
obliged to concede to the will of the com-
munity.
This result shows that if the Bass
Coast community is willing to stand up
to the bureaucracy, then change for the
benefit of our community can result.
But unfortunately for our democracy,
Council did not accede to all requested
changes.
This Council, during its term, has in-
troduced other measures that restrict the
ability of Councillors, as the commu-
nity's elected representatives, to freely ex-
press their reasonable personal opinions
about Council decisions and policies.
There is still much work for BCRRA to
pursue into the future in order to ensure
that Bass Coast Shire Council under-
stands that its role is to serve the com-
munity.
BCRRA recognises that its efforts will
likely fall to the next group of Councill-
ors to implement community concerns,
and only time will tell if the successful
candidates have the ability and the will
to stand up to the bureaucracy at all
times and in support of the ratepayers
and residents of Bass Coast Shire.
If elected will they stand at the head of
the community, or will they stand behind
the bureaucrats?
You can view the Associations sub-
mission at basscrra.org/BCRRA_submission_to_Bass_Coast_Shire_Council_draft_governance_rules_2020-21.pdf
Kevin Griffin, BCRRA President



Singer/songwriter Kutcha Edwards released his new single, "We Sing" last week, featuring some of Australia's best-known voices.

Gippsland sings with Kutcha

Singer/songwriter Kutcha Ed-
wards has released his new single,
"We Sing".
Recorded at The Mill Studio in
Woolamai, it features a 120-strong
chorus with some of Australia's
best-known voices, including Paul
Kelly, Archie Roach, Judith Durham,
Emma Donovan, David Bridie and
Joe Geia singing alongside members
of the Gippsland Mass Online band.
On the track Kutcha is accompa-
nied by an ensemble of local musi-
cians – Colin Matthews, Dean Rob-
erts and Marcus Satchell.
Releasing the single, Kutcha post-
ed on his Facebook page: "I know
we're currently in a situation that
has made us disconnect.
"Maybe you can watch this and please
share. If you feel like singing along,
please do so! As loud as possible!"
A member of Blackfire and the
Black Arm Band and celebrated solo
artist, Kutcha combines song writing
and activism and uses music to cre-
ate connections across cultures, gen-
erations and spaces.
"We Sing" is available on Spotify,
Apple Music, Deezer and Tidal.
The official video is available on
YouTube.

Emma's anthem

Phillip Island's Emma Volard has re-
leased her latest single, "Femininity",
an empowering anthem to the female
experience.
The former Newhaven College stu-
dent has already picked up airplay
on ABC, Triple J and Triple R with the
track.
After moving to Melbourne for uni-
versity, Emma continued to follow her
passion for music.
In only one year, she's already made
an impact on the Melbourne music
scene, playing festivals such as the
Brunswick Music Festival, Ocean
Sounds, Isol-Aid Festival and Leaps
and Bounds alongside REMI, Emma
Donovan and The Bamboos.
She's also been featured on Gilles
Peterson's Worldwide FM alongside
artists such as Sampa the Great.
She describes the new single as a
reclamation of power, strength and
beauty.
"As females, realistically we have all
been subject to comments and actions
that have belittled, stigmatised and
diminished our sense of womanhood
and integrity," said Emma.
"In my case, this has seen me being
asked to "smile more" and wear more
"feminine clothes" and asked "why
don't you wear makeup?" and most
recently being told by a male photog-
rapher, "I usually take photos of hot
skinny girls, so this is out of my com-
fort zone".
She said her own experiences and
examples of exploitation of women in
the music industry has left many wom-
en "experiencing a collective trauma".



Phillip Island musician Emma Volard has released her new single "Femininity".

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DAWES, Bev:

"My gorgeous mother and best friend and Peter's girlfriend of 69 years, wife of 67 years passed away on Monday 24th August. Bev (Bevvie) has gone to join their son and my brother Chris who has passed and we hope they are having a "Sherry" together. Please raise a glass for her and toast a wonderful and generous woman. Love you forever Peter & Kerry Dawes"

DAWES, Bev:

Dear friend of Geoff and Pam. Sympathy to Peter and Kerry. Rest in Peace

HILL, Ian:

A lifelong friendship began in 1979, it never faltered. Thank you for all you did for us. The memories will last forever and you will be in our hearts always. Love to Nicole, Katrina and their families. The fight is over Hillie. Rest In Peace John, Barb, Jarvis, Kara, Tatia, Jonathan and Kaye.

HILL, Ian Wallace: "HILLY"

20/8/1941 - 25/8/2020 Passed away peacefully, Aged 79 years. Loving partner of Lucy (dec), very much loved father of Nicole & Katrina. Father in law of Darren & Paul. Poppy to Mia and Levi, adored brother of Elaine & brother in law to Newton. Uncle to Craig, Emily and Simone. Great Uncle to Ky & Jessica. A Private Family Service will be held Tuesday 1st September, followed by a memorial held at a later date.

LAWRENCE, Barbara (nee Wall):

Passed away Aug 28, 2020, aged 89. Loved wife of Roy (dec.). Loved mother of Steve, Nick, Peter and Christina (dec.). Loved Grandmother of Glenn, Kym-Cherie, Damien, Blake, Wade and Chris. Great grandmother to Caitlin, Matthew, Bryce and Duke. Our heartfelt thanks to all the staff at Grossard Court Aged Care, Cowes, Phillip Island. In God's Care

Brenda Bates

17-Aug-2020 A kind, friendly and dedicated life member of the Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club who will be remembered and sadly missed. Deepest sympathies to Len, family and friends.



Hill Ian Wallace "Hilly"

20/8/1941- 25/8/2020

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It was so hard to say goodbye but, we know you are now in peace. Your life will continue on thru your 2 soapy waters who are so proud to call you our Dad.

Great father-in-law to Darren who loved going to the tote with Hilly and Paul who would never say no to a few pigs' ears.

Loving Poppy to Mia and Levi.

Love and remembered always. For now, over and out. Lots of Love Nicole, Darren, Darcy & Flynn. Katrina, Paul, Mia & Levi xx

SCALES, Derek:

John Derek Scales

15/5/1930 - 23/8/2020

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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

PUBLIC NOTICES



NOTICE OF AGM

7 September 2020

9.30am

Virtual Meeting

For more information and to register your attendance visit: www.pirsl.com.au



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on September 10th 2020 at 5.30pm via Zoom.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- 1) an update on the affairs of the group,
- 2) conducting elections for committee,
- 3) voting on special resolutions (if required),
- 4) announcement of Life Membership(s) if awarded.

Conducting an AGM via Zoom during a pandemic is a new and different situation. This AGM will be limited to members only and require that attendees pre-register by the 7th Sept to enable us to track attendance and voting automatically.

After pre-registration, members will then be sent a unique invitation to the meeting.

Pre-registration with your name and email, can be performed via: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMpcuQqrTKiHtGrSfvSQ6axLcWLjdEoj2wh>.

Memberships may be renewed via our website.

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www.cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php

www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Uniting-Church/828979940479969

BAPTIST CHURCH:

www.islandbaptist.org.au/

HOPE CHURCH:

are emailing members www.islandhopechurch.com/

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FATHER'S DAY MESSAGES

From your oldest daughter, I love u, thank you for making so much time for me. From your youngest daughter, you are the only dad for me, I love you. Sofia and Laylah



"Dear Dad, we hope you have a wonderful Father's Day and enjoy your special day! :) Love always your daughters Sarah, Hannah, Emma and Laura."



David Kelsey

To Dad, Thank you for being the best dad ever.

Have an awesome Father's Day. Love Max and Joe xx



"To the best Dad in the world, Pete Matthews, we love you to bits and think you're freaking awesome! Love Zane & Ned xx"



John Duthie, our wonderful Dad and Pa, you are such an important person to all of us and we love you so much. Narelle, Sue, Leanne, Kate and families.



Terry McCormack. You are the best Dad! Hoping to catch up at Phillip Island when we are able and look forward to catching some fish. Keep safe! Xxx Karen



Happy Poppy's Day

We love you!

Love from Rhys, Joel and Chloe



Happy fathers day to the best dad and poppy, Neil. Love you always, from your pineapple and the little tigers xoxoxo



Happy Fathers Day Daddy! We love you so much. Thanks for being the best Dad in the world we're so lucky to have you. Lots of Love Jim & Stevie xoxo



Happy Fathers Day Dad (Steve/Pop Neaky) We absolutely love you to bits and hope you have a wonderful day! Love Sharna and Co xoxo



Happy Daddy Day!!!

We love you and are so grateful for everything you do! Especially bike rides! Love Mummy, Braxton and Isla Rose



Happy Father's Day Ronnie Pops, love ya mate. JD xxx



Perfect Pop: Happy Fathers Day! We are sad that we can't celebrate with you this year but we know nan will spoil you. Sending you lots and lots of love Xx From the Plants Tegan, Ella, and Chloe Xx



Happy Father's Day Dad I love you and I'm going to give you lots of presents. Love Frankie and Arlo X



Happy Fathers Day Dad (father bear) I really hope you have a great day and feel loved. Even though we have hardly been able to see each other this year I know you are always there if I need you, which is the best job a dad can do. Enjoy your day Dad and hopefully we can have a big hug soon. Love Meredith x



Happiest Fathers Day Pooch. Thanks for being an Awesome Dad to our Kids Lots of love Pooch xx



Happy Father's Day Dad We love your sense of humour We love how you care for us We love hanging out watching movies love you <3 Love Madeline, Riley and Olivia



Happy First Father's Day! I am so incredibly lucky to have you as my dad, Love Always Meila xx



Dearest Dad, Happy Father's Day! We love you, we miss you and we are forever grateful for everything you do for our family (You are the best Nunu). Love always Gabrielle, Melissa and Avalon.



Love you Daddy dearest / Poppy Happy Father's Day Thanks for being you. Love Kate, Adam, The big little tigers and ferret.



Happy Fathers Day Pa Thanks for always cheering us on. Love Chloe, Logan, Aiden and Lucas



Poppy Happy Father's Day. We love you. Chloe, Logan, Aiden and Lucas



Dear Dad/Poppy, Thank you for the wheelbarrow rides, dam building and all of the fun games and stories. We love you very much! Alissa, Mack and Duke



Dad (Rick A), Happy Father's Day! You're my rock, best friend and the best dad a girl could ask for. Love You. Love from Nicole xx



Brad Martindale - Happy Father's Day to the best daddy in the world. We love you to the moon and back. Go Bombers! Love Alice and Sam xx



Dear Daddy, We love you so much and love how you make us laugh. You are our hero. Have a great day. Love Harry Violet and Lily Sivori



Happy Father's Day Graeme. Thanks for all you do, love Nik xxx



Freedom in lockdown



Racing to the beach and into the sunlight. "We are so lucky and never forget it," says Jenny Low who captured this image of her children enjoying an escape from the house during lockdown.

Whale Fest is best

In a rare piece of good news for the local tourism and events industry, the Island Whale Festival is in the running for top spot at the Australian Event Awards.

The 2019 Island Whale Festival has been confirmed as a finalist in the 2020 Awards.

The three-day Phillip Island Whale Festival held in July 2019 was a uniquely interactive event inviting participants to explore the natural environment celebrating the arrival of whales in the southern waters of the Island.

As well as a Festival Hub, several venues offered hands-on interactive and educational activities delivered by local organisations and research scientists. The Festival experienced record growth in 2019, attracting over 9000 participants.

Founded by Wildlife Coast Cruises and the Two Bays Whale Project, the festival is coordinated and supported by Destination Phillip Island, in partnership with the Dolphin Research Institute, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council. The festival also received funding from the Victorian Regional Events Fund.

"It has been great to see the accelerated growth the festival has enjoyed with the awesome team at DPI giving so much of their time to give it a big push, and the shire and community getting behind it," said founding member John Dickie from Wildlife Coast Cruises.

John thanked his staff for their involvement, not only at work, but during their own time, saying this had helped the festival's journey. He singled out Mikala Peters (a co-founder), Jen McFee, and Cecelia Roberts "who was representing in 2019" for special mention.

Kim Storey, General Manager, Destination Phillip Island was thrilled to see the festival confirmed as a finalist in the prestigious awards.

"We are super excited that the 2019 Festival is recognised for the culmination of effort from our team and the organising committee.

"We thank the many organisations and community groups who delivered the experiences across the three-day event, many of which were volunteers," Kim said.

Catherine Basterfield CEO of Phillip Island Nature Parks was delighted to see the festival an-



Interactive events at last year's Island Whale Festival, a finalist in the 2020 Australian Event Awards, included climbing into a life-size replica of a female humpback whale.

nounced as an award finalist.

"The event is a collaborative effort and truly showcases Phillip Island's unique wildlife and natural beauty and we are proud to be a part of it."

Bass Coast Mayor Brett Tessari joined the chorus on congratulations, saying it was fantastic the event was receiving the recognition it deserved.

"Congratulations to all involved with the Island Whale Festival and good luck in the finals."

The awards are judged by event industry leaders and experts from around Australia. Entries are judged on all aspects of event management including best practice, innovation, marketing, stakeholder engagement and management, sustainability, and event legacy.

Brenda LaPorte, co-chair of the judging panel applauded the high quality of the events, and said "the entries put forward for judging on average scored significantly higher than last year".

Australian Event Award Winners will be announced on October 21. More information is available on www.eventawards.com.au

The 2021 Island Whale Festival will be on July 2-4.

If you missed the festival in 2019, view the video on @islandwhales Facebook page in the video section.



Woolamai SLS Club has been nominated for two Regional Achievement Awards for providing 60 years of continuous beach rescue and patrol services on Phillip Island, as well as programs such as the popular Nippers program. Pictured is Cowes Primary School student Emily Kirkwood participating in a Nippers board race.

Nominations stack up for Surf Club

Woolamai Surf Life Saving Club has received two nominations for Regional Achievement Awards.

The club has been nominated for the Community Group Award and the Regional Development Victoria Leadership and Innovation Award, for providing 60 continuous years of beach rescue and patrol services on Phillip Island.

As well as lifesaving and rescue patrols, the club runs the popular Nippers Program and lifesaving, rescue, and first aid training programs.

The club has also been nominated for its work to help Mallacoota SLSC replace its club caravan, which was lost in the bushfires at the start of the year.

The award finalists will be announced in October.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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