PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ERISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST



Phillip Island's Under 18s finished their junior journey in style, claiming another premiership to cap off an incredible era. This core group of boys have now celebrated two U16 premierships and two U18 premierships together - a back-to-back achievement at both levels. For many, this was their final game before heading off to university, work, or senior football, making the win even more meaningful. A close-knit bunch on and off the field - whether it's footy, golf, surfing or fishing - they've built a special bond that showed in their dominant Grand Final performance. After Inverloch beat them earlier in the finals, the Bulldogs bounced back at full strength, combining brilliantly to secure a much-wanted premiership in emphatic fashion.

CHAMPIONS

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U18s celebrating the win with Jess Gislingham. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

BACK-BACKPREWIERS











Cooper Walton in action against Inverloch.



Jeremy Kelly clears the pack with assistance from Benji Chihotski and Captain Isaac Savona.









Cooper Walton celebrating the victory after the siren. Reef Ricky taking the mark.

Huge support from the coaching staff and bench through- No.1 cheer squad in action for the U18 boys out the game.

Bailey Hennessy showing off his skills accompanied by Archie Ross, Will Hill, Jack Kennedy and Jack Briggs.

Cha Cha Fischer using his crafty half forward skills





Netball Cheer Squad in action.

U17 netballers running through the banner. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

A GRIPPING BATTLE - JUST FALLING SHORT

NETBALL

The U17 netballers entered the Grand Final as underdogs, having finished the season in third place. They fought their way through a tough finals series, including a nail-biting win in extra time to secure their spot in the decider.

four-goal buffer heading into the last break, but in a gripping final term the margin swung back and forth until they were edged out by just two goals.

It was a gallant performance, and the team The Grand Final itself was just as tense, with the lead changing hands each quarter. The girls held a portantly, the entire side is made up mostly of bottom-age players, giving them every chance to push for another Grand Final appearance - and hopefully go one better – next year.



GD Olivia Holmes and GK Jasira Derham doing their job



Aisha Hibbert played an amazing game as always.



What a Grand Final against Cora Lynn, such a close game,



WA Piper O'Brien feeds the ball into the goal ring.



Ellie Hennessy soaring high in the U17 Grand Final against Cora Lynn.







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U12A Mixed soccer Premiership team.

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Levi Sylvio and James Titmarsh in the U14 Mixed team applying the pressure. U12A Mixed Henry Kennedy diving for the ball.









U15 Girls celebrating their win after the Grand Final.

U14 Mixed team battled it out against Wonthaggi, unfortunately it wasn't their day.

Judd Bland (Goalie), Nash Adams (Captain), Hannah Titmarsh and Zach Coldora in action. Hannah Titmarsh controlling the ball supported by Zach Coldora and Isabella Gajewski.





Jacob Gwynne (Vice Captain) was awarded the Best and Fairest in the Reserves Grand Final.



Congratulations to all the Titmarsh family for winning Best and Fairest Awards in their respective teams (L-R): U12B Mixed Gabrielle Titmarsh, Senior Women Evie Titmarsh and U14 Mixed Hannah Titmarsh.

MIERSHIP BREAKERS

SOCCER

The Phillip Island Soccer Club is immensely proud to have had seven teams reach this year's Grand Finals – with four coming away as premiers.

Grand Final winners were the Senior Women, Reserves, U15 Girls and U12A Mixed Breakers teams – a huge achievement for the club.

With the club continuing to grow at a rapid rate, it's a testament to the strength of its committee and the many dedicated members who give their time to coordinate and support so many teams. Well done to the Breakers Soccer Club on an outstanding season!



Harry Sivori was awarded the Best and Fairest in the U12A Mixed Grand Final.



The Sivori family proudly supporting Harry in his U12 Grand Final, (L-R) Graham, Harry, Stephanie, Violet and Lily Sivori.



U14 midfielder Angus Farman in action.

DVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

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Planning policy risks "our most treasured places"

COUNCIL

A Bass Coast Shire councillor has criticised a controversial planning policy, saying it will damage Phillip Island's environment and lead to overdevelopment outside town boundaries.

Cr Tim O'Brien successfully moved a motion, supported by all three Island Ward councillors, at last week's council meeting for a council report on the Bass Coast Unlocking Rural Tourism Strategy (BURT), which was adopted by council in 2023 (see separate story).

The report, which will come to the November meeting, will examine how the BURT will impact the new State Government Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL), which now protects the environment and stops development in sensitive areas.

However, in a confused and awkward council meeting Cr O'Brien was prevented from elaborating on his concerns, with Mayor Rochelle Halstead interrupting debate, instead referring councillors to discuss the need for a report only.

Cr O'Brien said originally he intended to call for the policy to be rescinded, but after advice from the council's governance team, he "followed process" and instead called for a report to be delivered to the November meeting, when councillors would then vote on its "discontinuance".

Last year farmers, community groups and conservationists opposed the BURT, calling on council candidates to scrap it and describing it as "dumb, narrow and misconceived".

Cr O'Brien told the meeting the BURT undermined the "intent in the DAL around preservation of character, protecting environment and curtailing development and growth into sensitive areas".

"Preserving the rural character of Phillip Island and the Bass Coast region is a primary responsibility of council," Cr O'Brien said.

"The region's sweeping ocean vistas and shorelines, framed by its scenic landscapes and undulating farmlands, define a unique rural character of national and international significance.

"This is what the ill-conceived BURT puts at risk."

nlained the BURT aimed to facilitate "mid- to large-scale tourism development" in areas now restricted by farm zoning, which brought "a host of poten-



Cr Tim O'Brien (second from left) said a planning policy "pleases almost no-one" and "has little to no support from the community". He was supported by Cr Ronnie Bauer (left), but Crs Mat Morgan and Jan Thompson (right) were not so convinced.

tial unintended consequences".

Under current zoning, activity is limited to small scale initiatives such as farm stays and farm gate sales.

The BURT encourages 'land bank' purchasing, pushing up the price of farmland and capital values.

"No farm land is safe. It poses risk to some of our most treasured places, hinterland and shorelines.

"The BURT pleases almost no-one ... It has little to no support from the community."

He said the BURT adopted the "developer's playbook" and "should carry a chill" for every-

Council officers said BURT was created to examine why there was "limited or inappropriate tourism investment" in the designated rural tourism areas.

"The strategy was prepared in the context of the DAL ... and directly references the need for rural tourism to align with this," officers said.

Cr O'Brien was extensively quoted in last weekend's Sunday Age, which featured a full-length story about the BURT on page three, highlighting concerns by local residents and farmers that big tourism developments on farmland would forever alter

Phillip Island's identity and environmental character.

Debate

Cr Ronnie Bauer said in the last council he voted against BURT.

"I thought then as I do now this policy does not value add to our island and since the introduction of the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Policy (DAL) has become problematic," Cr Bauer said.

"During the last election campaign the BURT was often raised as a policy that was not suitable for Phillip Island and I

"The BURT has a real possibility of undermining the fundamental intentions of the DAL."

Cr Halstead interrupted, saying councillors weren't debating whether they support the BURT, but whether they support the re-

Cr Jan Thompson said 95 per cent of tourism operators on Phillip Island were small businesses that employ 20 or less

"If a large-scale tourism enterprise wants to run a business on farmland they will bypass council and go straight to the Victorian planning authorities in the State Government," Cr Thompson said.

As Cr O'Brien was summing up, Cr Mat Morgan called a point of order.

"According to our new governance rules summing up motions need to be relevant to debate points during that motion," Cr Morgan said.

Cr Halstead said new governance rules didn't allow a summary unless a councillor spoke against the motion.

However, when Cr O'Brien continued discussing the BURT, Cr Halstead interrupted multiple times, reiterating it wasn't about whether he supported the BURT but the report.

After the council meeting, Cr Halstead told the Advertiser if the motion was to rescind the BURT, "then speaking for or against would be appropriate but the motion was calling for a report seeking further information to inform a decision".

That report will be provided at the November meeting where I expect a well-informed, robust debate will take place around whether council should keep this strategy or remove it," she said.

out having received the information you are requesting, is counter-productive and a breach of governance rule 39.1."



Local groups warned the BURT was a "land grab for massive developments" on Phillip Island.

What is

PLANNING

The Bass Coast Unlocking Rural Tourism strategy (BURT) makes way for rural land – especially along Phillip Island's south coast - to be rezoned for tourism

developments.

BURT was passed by Bass Coast Shire councillors in March 2023, but is yet to go through a planning scheme amendment, with the strategy currently able to inform but not dictate planning policy.

The council was awarded a grant from the Victorian Planning Authority to prepare a draft BURT in 2022.

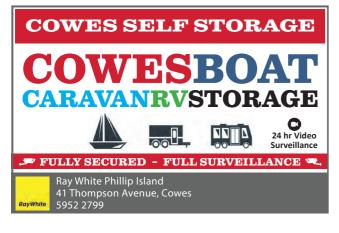
Local groups at the time warned the strategy was a "land grab for massive developments", and that an development "economic agenda is driving the draft".

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Your one-stop guide to Phillip Island, San Remo and surrounds.









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Cowes foreshore upgrade officially underway

INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal Senator Michelle Ananda-Rajah visited Cowes last week for a sod turning to mark the official start of the Cowes Foreshore Precinct project.

The project, delivered through \$8 million funding from the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program and \$1.6 million from council, will upgrade Thompson Avenue North The Esplanade between Bass and Warley avenues.

Council said work will roll out across seven stages to minimise disruption for businesses and the community, and keep the area accessible for locals and visitors throughout construction.

Stage 1 will run from September to December 2025 focusing on essential upgrades to water, sewer and stormwater, as well as new kerbs, lighting and

landscaping.
"This will help deliver a more pedestrian-friendly precinct with improved pavements and space for outdoor dining," the council stated.

At the official opening, Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead described the project as "a major milestone for Cowes and Bass Coast".

"It is about connecting our township with the foreshore, reinvigorating the character of Cowes and creating streets designed

for people.
"We know how important this foreshore is, not only as a place of natural beauty, but also as the heart of community life and a destination for visitors," Cr Halstead said.

"I look forward to seeing this project unfold and the opportunities it will create for our community.'

Senator Ananda-Rajah said it had been around 10 years since her last visit to the island, and it had "changed a lot, for the bet-

"I love what has happened here on the foreshore," she said.

"This is a real partnership (that) will not only refresh the appearance but will improve the amenity and accessibilty."

The Senator also acknowledged Fulton Hogan as the construction partners for the project, noting many local workers and trades would be employed.

"We don't speak enough about the impact of these infrastructure projects on skills acquisition.

"It is incredibly important for our next generation of tradies and engineers.

"It is projects like this that enable those skills to be learned shoulder to shoulder with more experienced engineers and other workers.'

Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Greg Box described the project as transformation of the area, "enhancing walkability, enhancing the liveability".

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'This is a beautiful place and the setting will be an amazing one ... to come down that hill and experience that transformation."

Timing

Council said the timing of the project, which builds on the Cowes Streetscape Masterplan, was designed to minimise disruption for locals and visitors.

With the MotoGP - one of the island's major events - just weeks away, council confirmed the project will shut down completely around the event, with the jetty area set up as an outdoor entertainment precinct.

"Everything will be open for the Grand Prix," a spokesperson said

"After that, roads works will begin."

Work will shut down again on December 21, and there will be no roadworks during Christimas and the peak summer period.

Residents wanting to stay updated on the project - including project shutdown dates - can visit the Engage Bass Coast website, and subscribe to the council newsletter.

Key closure dates will also be promoted through council's social media



Cr Tim O'Brien, Cr Tracey Bell, Senator Michelle Ananda-Rajah, CEO Greg Box and Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead at the turning of the sod, marking the start of the Cowes Foreshore Precinct project.

Design

The work on The Esplanade is the first part of stage one of the project, which includes significant upgrades to the including streetscape, formalising one-way traffic on Thompson Avenue (from Chapel Street) and The Esplanade, as well as increased retail, outdoor dining and public space.

The design plans for the project are available online: engage.basscoast.vic.gov. au/thompson-ave-nth-andesplanade

It includes landscaping (garden beds, instant turf, tree planting), hardscaping (for example, paths, walls) and improved pedestrian

There will also be a reduction in car parking, with Thompson Avenue between the Esplanade and Chapel Street to have 36 car spaces down from the current 53.

Along The Esplanade, car spaces will reduce from

All work will be restricted to Thompson Avenue and The Esplanade.

Further stages

Stage two is to "reimagine" Thompson Avenue north, "where outdoor dining and trading and open space facilitate a people focused town centre".

Stage three to six redetailed design auires before construction for Thompson Avenue South, Chapel Street, Church Street, Bass Avenue and Olive Justice Place can take place.

The masterplan timeline includes projects in the first three years, plus ones scheduled in three to 10

Projects in the first three years include:

• formalise one-way vehicle

traffic east and west from Thompson Avenue;

- implement trial for oneway vehicle access northbound only on Thompson Avenue from Chapel
- transition car parking on Thompson Avenue between Church Street and Chapel Street to shortterm managed parking restrictions (length of stay, time limits);
- reduce speed limit to 20km/hr along Thompson Avenue north of Chapel Street;
- reduce speed limit to 30km/hr along Thompson Avenue between Church Street and Chapel Street:
- install a new public toilet at Olive Justice Place, ensuring the design and location can be incorporated into a future overall upgrade to the broader Olive Justice Place area.

Projects in three to 10 years:

- transition vehicle traffic to one-way access northbound on Thompson Avenue from Chapel Street;
- retrofit Chapel Street roundabout to accommodate change to vehicle access to Thompson Avenue:

10-plus years:

design and construct a permanent pocket park at Olive Justice Place.

Details: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowesforeshoreprecinct

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CONTACT US:

Editorial: advertiser@pisra.com.au Advertising: ads@pisra.com.au Sport: sport@pisra.com.au Classifieds: ads@pisra.com.au

Suite 2, 60 Chapel Street, Cowes, 3922. Phone (03) 5952 3201 Fax (03) 5952 3024







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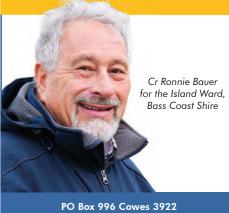
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Fans debate MotoGP future

MOTORSPORT

Motorsport fans have weighed into the debate about the future of the MotoGP at the Phillip Island Circuit.

As reported this month, negotiations to secure the MotoGP at Phillip Island beyond the 2026 event are underway, at the same time MotoGP great Wayne Gardner earlier this month said the event at Phillip Island was dying a "slow death" and flagged the event should be moved to another state

Hundreds of fans responded to the Advertiser article on social media, with some supporting the event's move to The Bend, the Shell-V Power Motorsport Park, at Tailem Bend, South Australia, or alternatively the Sydney Motorsport Park at Eastern Creek. One fan even proposed it be moved to Circuit Italia, a new, privately funded circuit, near Raymond Terrace in NSW, designed to be an international-standard track able to host high-level events.

On Facebook, Wombat predicted "the Bend will get it".

"The Victorian Government won't fight for this," Wombat said.

Shao said Sydney Motorsport "would be ideal and generate plenty of interest and money".

However, many fans supported the event continuing at Phillip Island, but said costs were too high, the weather in October poor and track facilities "substandard".

Subpar?

Comments included:

Cameron: "Philip Island is an amazing track and very iconic. The riders love it. But the actual event is sub-par when compared to other MotoGP events around the world."

Lance: "Phillip Island is regarded as one of the best in the world and a rider favourite.

"It's just a pity the spectators are forgotten about. General admission gets nothing, grandstand prices are so expensive, and all they get is a seat, and the off-track stuff is a joke. Have been for so many years, and this year we will take the family on a holiday, and just watch the telecast, as the kids get a holiday, and will actually cost us less money. It's just so over-priced now.'

Adelino: "I have been going to the World



Hundreds of fans on social media responded to the Advertiser's article on the future of the MotoGP, with some supporting the event's move to The Bend (the Shell-V Power Motorsport Park, at Tailem Bend, South Australia), or alternatively the Sydney Motorsport Park at Eastern Creek, with others arguing the "Phillip Island circuit is one of the best on the planet".

Superbikes and MotoGP for over 20 years travelling from SA. It's a special place to watch racing. I will admit that the facilities could be better. But the old school nature of the event is what makes it charming ... They need better activities and displays, music etc. The V8 supercars in Adelaide has all this and Phillip Island should use that as an example and model it."

Drew: "Phillip Island Circuit is one of the best on the planet. But if you look at every other circuit on the calendar, our facilities are third world. I'd say they wouldn't have the MotoGP there if it wasn't for the track. Plus accommodation is sky high.'

Alistair: "The track ownership is the problem, not the event itself ... overall the facilities have barely changed ... Spectator facilities are still way behind the rest of the world."

Morgan: "I think numbers are down from 35 years ago due to cost of living more than from people wanting to go.'

Garry: "Accommodation is through the roof. They should look at alternating between the Bend, Sydney Motorsport and Phillip Island."

Simon: "There is no suitable alternative track available in Australia. So how can it

Chris: "Most of the riders love the track

and the racing, but they also point to the weather at the time of the year it's scheduled. Compared with other tracks around the world, spectators certainly get a raw deal at Phillip Island for what they pay ... To lose Phillip Island would be sad, but money must be spent if it is to continue."

Aaron: "The island is the best track in Australia. The thing killing it is the price."

Greg: "Change the date when it's warmer then you will get me back. Four years of cold and rain turned me off. Asian tracks are close and cheap to watch. A much better option."

Mark: "Great track for racing but absolutely third world class facilities, food and entertainment."

David: "Perhaps it is not best for motorcycle sport in Australia the MotoGP and World Superbikes are both at Phillip Island. It would be better if one of those events went

Andy: "I'm no fan of Gardner but he's correct on this one. The best track in the world with the worst facilities. Overpriced entry, overpriced food and drinks and sub-standard amenities all add up to poor value for

Daniel: "It's cheaper to go to the Malaysian GP for two weeks than Philip Island for



National Police Remembrance Day on September 29 coincides with Victoria's Blue Ribbon Day and is also dedicated to honouring police officers who have died in the line of duty.

National Police Remembrance Day: Monday, September 29

COMMUNITY

National Police Remembrance Day coincides with Victoria's Blue Ribbon Day and is also dedicated to honouring police officers who have died in the line of duty.

Recent and ongoing events in regional Victoria are a reminder to us all how the nature of police work can be incredibly danger-

On September 29 we honour the lives and service of fallen police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty or as a result of their duties. National Police Remembrance Day (NPRD) is a solemn occasion to pay tribute to the courage, commitment, and dedication of police officers who protect our community.

The Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation perpetuates the memory of members of the Victoria Police who have died in the line of duty through the support of worthwhile community projects within Victoria.

It aims to encourage the public to remember the sacrifice of officers who have fallen in the line of duty and to show all serving members of Victoria Police that their work and commitment are valued by a caring community.

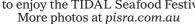
This year, Victoria Police Legacy has set up a fundraiser to support the victims of the Porepunkah shootings. You can donate at: www.policelegacyvic.

For information on National Police Remembrance Day: npm. org.au/about/remembrance-

day-services/ Details of the Blue Ribbon Foundation: remember.org.au/

Seafood celebrated at TIDAL Festival

The wet and windy conditions couldn't dampen the spirits of locals and visitors who came to San Remo on the weekend to enjoy the TIDAL Seafood Festival.





Musician Steph Strings at the TIDAL festival. Crowds braved the wind and rain to see the local musician who is making waves internationally.



Bruce & Luke from the Bendigo Community Bank.



Keeping it colourful in a nautical themed suit.



The Westernport Hotel team were kept busy cooking at the festival.

Additional Council Meeting

Bass Coast Shire Council will be holding an additional Council Meeting on Wednesday, 8 October.

The meeting will commence at 1:00pm in the Council Chamber, Bass Coast Civic Centre, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider the Community Vision 2045, Council Plan 2025-2029, Annual Action Plan 2025-2026 and the 2024-2025 Financial Statements.

The agenda will be available on Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings.



New Cowes hotel given green light

MAJOR PROJECTS

A \$2.5 million, triple-storey hotel planned for Cowes - which was rejected by Bass Coast Shire councillors earlier this year has now been given the green light following VCAT mediation.

As reported in February, councillors refused a planning permit for 13 Warley Avenue and 44-46 and 48 Thompson Avenue, which covered the development of a residential modular hotel and use of the land for a restricted retail premises, and reduction in car parking.

The hotel on Warley Avenue included 15 suites, modular construction and would be just over 10 metres high, and 576sqm in size.

Although council officers recommended approving the development - including a waiver of six car parking spaces - subject to 37 conditions, councillors moved an alternative motion, refusing the permit.

The motion said the proposal was inconsistent with provision of parking and impacts of traffic under the council's planning scheme.

Following refusal, the developer took the council to VCAT in April.

A Bass Coast Shire Council spokesperson last week confirmed in late August the development was set aside by VCAT and a permit approved, with an amended car parking management plan "satisfying" council's parking concerns.

"The hotel will be afforded the use of three car spaces within the neighbouring property on an as needs basis, with these spaces available to the public at all other times," the spokesperson said.

One of Phillip Island's biggest developers - boxing promoter Brian Amatruda - told the Advertiser the hotel would be open next year after eight months of construction, with a speedier build because of the modular design.

Parking

No external buildings and works were planned for 44-48 Thompson Avenue, which has a leasable floor area of 80sqm and is currently being tenanted by The Reject Shop.

The hotel will have nine car spaces, while the retail area will have 18 but requires 24, thus the permit seeks a six-park waiver.

However, Mr Amatruda said because he owned the adjoining car park, which has 22 spaces and is currently used by the public, three parks would be taken from this section to be used by the hotel.

Amatruda previously said he was disappointed by the council's refusal, saying the project would be good for the Phillip Island economy, employment and accommodation offering.

"I'm disappointed councillors went against shire planners' recommendation."

Mr Amatruda also owns Newhaven's old Boys Home, and last week confirmed renovation of the heritage building would this month be complete, with plans to open it as Airbnb-style accommodation next year.

The developer also owns the hotel at 349-357 Church Street, Cowes, on the corner of Justice Road, which also uses modular buildings.



Local farmer and mental health social worker Nikole Schellekens (left) held a farmer mental health workshop at Surf Beach last week at the property of Bill and Amanda Cleeland.

Farmers unite for support

DROUGHT

A farmer mental health event has called on the public to be aware of a potential increase of cattle on roads, saying the drought was seeing some animals seek green fodder on road

The free Shed Talk workshop at Surf Beach last Wednesday heard farmers agree the public needed to understand the pressures facing those on the land, with fencing currently a problem.

"There are cattle getting on to the road because they're that hungry (for green pasture) they bust the wires on the fence," a farmer said.

"Some drivers go faster, but they need to slow down.'

As previously reported, local farmers have been buying hay and silage from as far as Queensland at a cost of about \$22,000 a truck load to get cattle through the current drought.

Bass farmer and accredited mental health social worker Nikole Schellekens ran the event, saying while farmers always faced a range of challenges, the current drought was adding extra pressure.

"It looks green out there but it's not," said Nikole, who is the founder of AgMind Australia.

"At this time of year we should be up to our ankles or knees in mud. Many farmers locally have had to destock, which is a big stress.

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

Surf Beach farmer Bill Clee-

land hosted the event in his woolshed and said he supported "whatever can be done to help farmers in these extreme condi-

"We are still struggling for rainfall. Days are getting longer and warmer and the wind is playing a huge role.

"We'll get a couple of millimetres and then seven days of wind and everything is dry and

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

"Despite this, many farmers avoid asking for help due to the culture of stoicism and self-reliance," Nikole said.

Proud

A retired dairy farmer said farmers were "proud people and don't ask for help", adding when he was working the land there was no mental health support, and any resources were a welcome addition to the industry.

'I go for a walk, support and talk with other men now. Things like R U Ok? are so important. We should make time to talk with neighbours and mates," the retired farmer said.

"People say grown men shouldn't cry but they go home and cry. There's no shame in that."

A beef farmer said they lost three pregnant cows in one night, which knocked him "flat" but then he realised others had it worse with another farmer losing 15 in a night.

Another farmer agreed saying a friend lost 19 calves in a month, which forced the family to cancel the following year's holiday.



The Phillip Island RSL Day Club provides friendship, laughter and purpose. RSL President Peter Paul (left), with Chris Mead, Elaine Inglis and Cheryl Overton (Committee Member), congratulated the group on its achievements.

Celebrating Phillip Island RSL Day Club

COMMUNITY

Established in 2006, the Phillip Island RSL Day Club provides friendship, laughter and purpose.

"At Phillip Island RSL, community is at the heart of everything we do," said President Peter Paul.

"One of the finest examples of this spirit is our Day Club. Next year marks a milestone anniversary, and it is the perfect time to pause and recognise the incredible group of women who bring this club to life each week.

quiet achievers of Phillip Island," he said.

"They gather each Monday in the ANZAC Room, sharing stories, enjoying activities, listening to guest speakers, and heading out on excursions together. But more than that, they create a safe, welcoming place where connections flourish and loneliness is eased.

"As President, I wish to extend my gratitude and admiration to each and every member of the Day Club.

"You remind us that commu-"Our Day Club ladies are the nity is not just built through big events, but also through the consistent kindness of people who show up for one another.'

New members are invited to come along and see for themselves what the Day Club is all about.

"Whether you are seeking friendship, a sense of belonging, or simply a good cup of tea, a wholesome lunch and conversation, you will be welcomed with open arms," Peter said.

"Here's to the Day Club ladies of Phillip Island RSL. May the coming year be one of celebration, joy and continued companionship.



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Some of the Submerge team who have organised a Morning Tea fundraiser on October 25, for the Brain Cancer Centre, with over 20 members of the group signed up for the Point 2 Pinnacle half marathon in November. From left: Deb, Brenda, Julie, Maree, Sharon and mascot Luna.

Submerging in a marathon

FUNDRAISER

Members of the Submerge cold water swim group are swapping the waters of Phillip Island for the mountain trails of Tasmania in November.

The group have signed up for the Point 2 Pinnacle half marathon raising money for the Brain Cancer Centre (founded by Carrie's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer).

Speaking on behalf of the group, member Julie McKnight said over 20 women from the island were part of the 50-strong "Sarah's Hope" team, founded by friend and part-time islander Sarah Kelly, who was diagnosed with brain cancer several years ago.

The Point 2 Pinnacle is a 21.1km run – and 1271 metres elevation – known as the world's toughest half marathon, Julie explained.

Julie and Sarah have a long running history together, and have competed in other marathon events. They are also both members of Submerge – a group that meets every day at the Cowes Jetty at 7am weekdays (and 7.30am on weekends).

Julie joined the group when she moved permanently to the island about four years ago, and then invited Sarah to join as well.

"None of the rest of the group knew Sarah until she came to Submerge," Julie explained.

"And none of them have done an event like this before, but they jumped on board to support her."

She described the Submerge community as really special, saying it attracts all ages.

"For anyone going through tough times, the ladies are there.

"They come in the morning, have a dip and a chat ... put the world to right."

That cold water community has rallied together to support Sarah.

"When an individual is diagnosed, people rally, then life goes on," said Julie.

"It's groups like this that make the difference. Various people in the group are going through different things, and everyone is cooking for them, supporting them.

"It's constant. It's an every day thing."

Julie said they are all inspired by Sarah, who describes herself as "living with brain cancer".

"She won't let the brain cancer define her," said Julie.

"It's a big part of her life, but what she's done outside of that is extraordinary.

"She connected with the Brain Centre and is now involved in research, fundraising and events."

That includes giving talks for local organisations, CWA, Rotary and schools. Anyone interested in booking Sarah for a talk can contact her on 0425 749 698.

Fundraiser

As part of their fundraising efforts for Point 2 Pinnacle,

the women have organised a morning tea fundraiser on October 25 at St Philip's in Thompson Avenue, Cowes, from 9am onwards.

"The Submerge women are catering," Julie said.

"Various members have donated tea, coffee, jams, their time.

"Even the ladies who aren't doing the marathon are going to help us on the day."

St Philip's has generously donated the use of the hall for the event.

People can support the fundraiser by coming along on the day to enjoy tea, coffee and scones, buying a raffle ticket or making a donation.

To donate to the fundraiser visit: tinyurl.com/36uju5c5 (or grassrootz.com) or scan the QR code.

To support the fundraiser by donating raffle items contact Julie McKnight on 0407 080 702.

What is BURT?

From page 1

More than 300 people gave feedback on the draft, arguing Phillip Island would be "changed forever" if it went ahead.

Following the community pushback, the final strategy admitted the draft largely ignored environmental issues, with the final BURT stating it would "ensure environmental and landscape preservation are adequately considered".

BURT currently states its aim is to make planning align with economic development to create jobs and allows changes to the planning scheme that previously "may have restricted tourism investment".

It allows for seven key rural tourism precincts on rural land across Bass Coast.

al land across Bass Coast. On Phillip Island this in-

- land to the north and west of Sunset Strip;
- land between Pyramid Rock Road and the Phillip Island Racetrack; and
- land between Surf Beach and Samuel Amess Drive, Newhaven.

Last year farmers, community groups and conservationists organised a public meeting to oppose the BURT, alarmed by its full impact after the Victorian Planning Minister intervened to approve the Vietnam Veterans Museum at Newhaven.

The government cited BURT as "effectively identifying all of Phillip Island as being suitable for tourism uses".

A key speaker at the meeting was Jeff Floyd, former Tourism Victoria and AAA Tourism CEO, former CEO and chair of Parks Victoria and former chair of Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Jeff said he was "protourism", but BURT was a "dumb approach, narrow and misconceived".

They called on the council and councillor candidates to scrap BURT.

War on rabbits declared

ENVIRONMENT

Feral pests are in the crosshairs of Bass Coast Shire Council, with councillors voting in support of measures to tackle the rabbit "plague" on Phillip Island.

Cr Ronnie Bauer moved a motion calling for a report by council officers for the eradication of rabbits, as well as feral cats and deer on the mainland.

Cr Bauer said the rabbit population on the island was "out of control", causing thousands of dollars damage, including to residents' gardens.

"Since last year's council election the two questions I have been most asked is what is happening with the recreation reserve, and what is council doing about the bloody rabbits," Cr Bauer said, adding rabbit holes were also a tripping hazard.

"The rabbits are burrowing under people's homes and digging up everybody's gardens.

I know of a garden in Cowes ... where according to the owner, at least \$20,000 damage has been done by these pests.

"They must be costing council a fortune in both appearance and maintenance of our public assets."

Council officers said they worked with Phillip Island Nature Parks (PINP) and Bass Coast Landcare on rabbit control on Phillip Island, "while minimising risk to native wild-life", including baiting under protective cages, fumigation, and rabbit proof fencing.

They said next year a PINP trial run by a PhD candidate will study the effectiveness of control methods and determine the risk to Eastern Barred Bandicoots and other animals.

Council funds Bass Coast Landcare to provide advice to residents on measures, with landowners responsible for rabbit control on their land.

Pindone

Cr Mat Morgan said feral animals were a problem across the shire.

"I'd love to say this report will come back with a magic solution," Cr Morgan said.

Cr Tim O'Brien agreed saying even feral pigs had been found in the Western Port Woodlands at Grantville, where a range of pests eat low to mid-level plants.

Cr O'Brien said while the council tackled weeds across the shire, the same "affirmative action" needed to be extended to feral animal control.

He flagged the poison Pindone was no longer used because of "unintended risks".

"It's very easy to walk out to your garden and see \$200-\$300 worth of plants put in the day before all gone," Cr O'Brien said.

Mayor Rochelle Halstead said earlier this month she saw on social media deer on the road, adding feral animals were a safety risk.



Rabbit in the headlights: According to one Cowes resident, at least \$20,000 damage has been done to their garden by rabbits, with Bass Coast Shire councillors now planning a report to tackle the ever-breeding bunnies.



Last April the Advertiser reported the council had allocated funds for the repair work of the wall, on The Esplanade, in the 2024/25 budget. The wall is yet to be repaired.

Hitting a brick wall on Erehwon repair work

COUNCIL

Cowes residents are calling on Bass Coast Shire Council to fulfill an overdue promise to fix the bluestone wall at Erehwon Point.

Last April the Advertiser reported the council had allocated funds for the repair work of the wall, on The Esplanade, in the 2024/25 budget.

However, residents last week said after about 18 months there was still no progress, with large chunks fallen over and gaps in the wall.

Resident Jeff Floyd said with this year's installation of parking bumpers to stop cars hitting the wall "there is now no excuse not to get

vour maintenance team in alike are disgusted and it to do the work before sum-

"Why can't simple, essential maintenance tasks just happen, without a community campaign," said Jeff.

"This wall is highly valued by the community, (but) looks a disgrace and is unsafe."

On social media, Christine agreed, commenting with the current Cowes streetscape masterplan underway "it seems ridiculous to be spending heaps of money beautifying the main street when the children's area on the main beach esplanade looks der-

"Tourists and locals structed in the 1950s.

is very dangerous. One of those big bluestone rocks falling would crush a toddler," she said.

Ann said it was "dangerous and a massive eyesore".

"It's an iconic wall and I can't believe it's in such disrepair."

Last week a council spokesperson said minor repair works would happen before Christmas.

Last year a council spokesperson said staff would inspect the site and undertake minor works to mitigate risk to public safety, including the removal of pieces of bluestone.

The wall is more than half a century old, con-

Fire brigade celebrates 88th birthday

COMMUNITY

A part of its 88th birthday celebrations, the Phillip Island fire brigade held its annual dinner and awards presentation this month.

Eight members received service medals:

- Five Year Certificates: Phillip Hodges, Kaye Johnston
- 15 Year Service Medal: Tim Anderson, Robin Adair
- 20 Year Service Medal: Sylvio Zanforlin, Simon Hartley
- 25 Year Service Medal: Susan Waterton, Terry Quarrell

National Medals

Four members, Robin Adair, Rhyce Davis, Paul Haves and Rebecca Ouarrell received a National Medal.

The National Medal was created by Royal Warrant and is awarded by the Governor General to personnel in Australia's emergency services.

The medal is awarded for diligent long service to the community in hazardous circumstances, including in times of emergency and national disaster, in direct protection of life and property.



As part of its 88th birthday celebrations, Phillip Island fire brigade held its annual dinner and awards presentation this month.



Kyle Murdoch with Anita Reid who won the Artie Murdoch Firefighter of the Year Award, named in honour of Kyle's grandfather.



Paul Hayes (left) and brigade captain Lino Drazzi, receiving the Captain's Award.

Brigade Awards

A number of brigade awards were also presented:

- Captain's Award: Paul Hayes
- Artie Murdoch Firefighter of the Year Award: Anita Reid
- President's Award: Phillip Hodges
- Kipp Stratmann Award

for the best new recruit: Irene Christy

• Brigade Life Membership: Gary Grace

Chris May from Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb also came and presented Rebecca Quarrell with trophies for Fastest Female time for the day and first in her category.



GIG GUIDE

27/06 AFL GRAND FINAL **28/09 NICK CARVER - 5PM**

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Partnership against pests

ENVIRONMENT

Learn your local weeds and the most effective ways to control them, as well as information on local rabbit and fox control programs with Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) at a series of field days coming up this spring across the region.

BCLN is working with our local Landcare groups to deliver four sessions designed for anyone on any sized property, with one each at Phillip Island, Korumburra and Kilcunda/ Wonthaggi as well as an online session on the various apps and technologies in play to help identify, track and map invasive species.

These will be free sessions, with the first one on Phillip Island at Berninneit and the new Phillip Island Recreation Reserve in Cowes on Saturday October 4, 10am to 2pm, including a catered lunch.

 $Eac\bar{h}\, of\, the\, sessions\, will$ follow a similar format but with a focus on weeds and pest animals that are more relevant to each area.

Hear from various BCLN staff at these days, who will share their extensive experience in weed spraying, woody weeding, community programs, rabbit and fox control.

BCLN's Works Crew Leading hand, Bill Barry will show samples of various weeds, answer your questions and discuss the most effective control methods and timing to get better impact for your weed control efforts.

The BCLN Invasive Species team, will share information on control



Learn your local weeds and the most effective ways to control them, as well as information on local rabbit and fox control programs with Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) at a series of field days, starting with Phillip Island on October 4.

programs and methods, featuring Jack Harriss, on rabbit control programs including exclusion fencing techniques, as well as Aaron Stephens, who will share information about fox control programs.

BCLN's Lisa Wangman, Education, Training and Communications ager, will also facilitate a short session on working together, discussing needs and pooling resources for better impacts on controlling invasive species.

Each of the days will include a guided walk at a local reserve, highlighting some of the local weeds, demonstrating removal techniques, and discussing impacts across the region.

This free series has been made possible with funding from Agriculture Victoria through the Partnerships against Pests program for the BCLN project, 'Building capacity against complacency'.

To book your place at

the first session on Phillip Island on Saturday October 4, please go to: www. trybooking.com/DFQLP

Online

The next sessions in the series will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

An online webinar focussing on new Tech, Apps and other ways we can identify, map and manage invasive species is also in planning for November, as well as the release of an online, Bass Coast specific Weed calendar, all part of the BCLN project.

Please check the Bass Coast Landcare Network News and Events web page for updates and confirmation of dates, locations and details for events in the series at www.basscoastlandcare.org.au/ newsandevents

For enquiries on this series, please contact Lisa Wangman on lisa.wangman@basscoastlandcare. org.au

/Sponsored article/

Clare Bowditch comes to Archies Creek

MUSIC

Aria-award winning artist Clare Bowditch performs at Archies Creek Hall on October 5, as part of a 20th anniversary tour for her album "What was

"What Was Left" stands as an extraordinary anomaly; a stunningly instrumented, profoundly inti-

mate, cheeky, rebellious, heart-breaking, uplifting, and now uniquely beloved time-capsule of emotions and topics the majority of pop songs did their darndest to avoid, like grief and motherhood.

The year the album was released. Bowditch won the coveted Best Female Artist ARIA thanks to this little album that could.

To celebrate the 20th birthday, along with a regional tour, a special, limited edition vinyl has also been released.

Don't miss this unique show and opportunity to revisit "What was Left".

Tickets for the October 5 show at Archies Creek Hall on sale now at www. trybooking.com/events/ landing/1441756

Partnerships Against Pests Spring 2025 Series **Integrated Invasive Species Management** Field days for Bass Coast

Learn your local weeds, the most effective and efficient ways to control them, and information on local rabbit and fox control techniques and programs.

Session I: Phillip Island

Dates/Time: Saturday 4th October – 10am to 2pm Venue: Starting @ Berninneit Cowes 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes VIC 3922. Then self-drive to Phillip Island Recreation Reserve (old carnival site).

Catering: Lunch provided, RSVP essential **RSVP:** Please book your place at www.trybooking.com/DFQLP







Get ready for Seniors Festival

COMMUNITY

This October, the Victorian Seniors Festival returns to Bass Coast.

Bass Coast Shire Council is hosting and working with local community groups to hold events across the region.

With the theme Connect, Create, Celebrate, it's an invitation for older Victorians to re-connect with hobbies, explore new interests, and come together with others.

From social competitions at sporting clubs and card games to band and vocal performances, art and craft events, history tours and lunches, there will be something to suit all tastes and interests in this year's festival.

A highlight of this year's festival is the free art workshops in Coronet Bay.

Council has partnered with Luminous Galleries to provide three free workshops followed by an exhibition on the foreshore.

Each session is capped at 20 people, so bookings are essential.

 Sunday October 5. Garden Plywood Workshop: Participants will paint and decorate their own unique plywood pieces in vibrant colours and take home a varnished



This October, the Victorian Seniors Festival returns to Bass Coast, with the theme Connect, Create, Celebrate. The full program is available at basscoast.vic.gov.au/healthy-ageing. Photo: Getty Images.

artwork to treasure.

Saturday October 11. Fluid Art and Murals Workshop: Explore the magic of bold paint, colour movement and creative play with unexpected tools like hairdryers.

 Saturday October 18. Aluminium Art Workshop: Learn how to create textured, shimmering metallic artworks using glue, foil and imagination.

The program culminates in an exhibition showcasing the creativity on the Coronet Bay Foreshore from October 26 – November 30, with an opening celebration on Saturday November 2 at 4pm.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, said the festival is all about community connection and celebration.

"We're so proud to support the many local groups who have organised events or applied for festival grants this year. These groups are opening their doors to welcome you, so don't be shy.

"Lean into the spirit of the festival and Connect, Create and Celebrate."

To view the full Bass Coast Seniors Festival program, book tickets to the Luminous Gallery workshops, or learn more about Healthy Ageing in Bass Coast, visit basscoast.vic. gov.au/healthy-ageing



The CWA Twilight Group is holding its Spring Bake Sale at St Philip's Church Market on September 27, from 9am

Spring bake sale is back

COMMUNITY

The CWA Twilight group is baking and preserving favourites for the Spring Bake Sale at the St Philip's Church Market on Saturday September 27, from 9am.

Scones, sponges, slices, yo-yos and cupcakes will all be there and fabulous Devonshire teas will be served on the lawn.

"Your support means we can direct funds to vulnerable women, children and families," said Twilight President Sally Ann Matthews. The money raised will help stock the Mum's Pantry at the library in Berninneit

The pantry, in the children's book section, is filled with essentials for mums and bubs who are vulnerable.

It supplies a range of free items such as nappies, food, shampoo and 'feel good products' to the community.

If you have ever thought of joining CWA – come and say hello at the market.

Spring Bake Sale. Saturday September 27, 9amSt Philip's Church Market,





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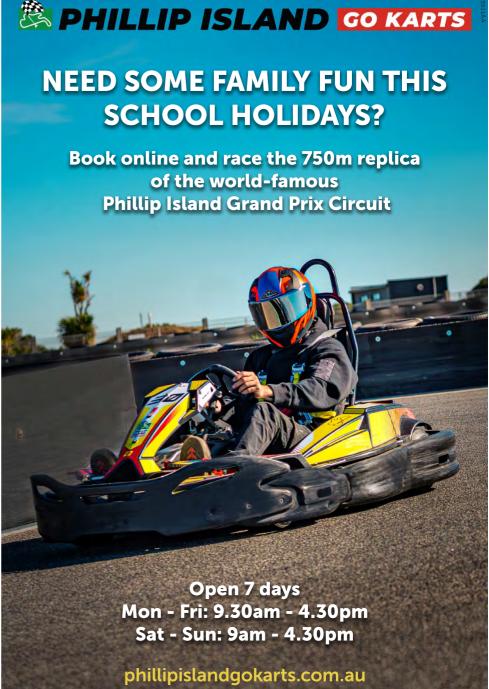


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i SLAND GUIDE

Advertising Feature

Footy and furry friends this Save the Koala Day

HOLIDAY FIIN

The Koala Conservation Reserve will come alive with family fun this Save the Koala Day, coinciding with the AFL Grand Final public holiday and the second half kick-off for the Victorian school holidays.

This Friday September 26 from 11am to 2pm, the Reserve will host a free, footy-themed celebration on the front lawn of the Visitor Centre, including:

- Footy-inspired colouring-in
- Footy face painting
- Goal kicking and handball competitions
- Delicious game-day favourites from Create Catering
- Special appearances from U18 Phillip Island Bulldogs Football Club players, who are helping to run the activities

Visitors are also invited to take part in special experiences inside the Reserve with ticketed entry, where they can join a guided ranger tour, spot resident koalas on the treetop boardwalks, and take part in a scavenger hunt.

Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to share fascinating facts about these much-loved marsupials.

Nature Parks staff will also be collecting donations for the Penguin Foundation, which supports the vital koala conservation and rehabilitation work at the Koala Conservation Reserve.

"Save the Koala Day is a fantastic opportunity for the community to connect with nature, learn more about koalas, and enjoy a great day out with the family," said Daniel Kallstrom, Attraction Manager at the Koala Conservation Reserve.

"We're combining the things Victorians



From left, players from the Under 18's Phillip Island Football Netball Club: Finn O'Brien, Jasper Cashman, Yianni Caffieri, Bailey Hennessy, Dan Kallstrom (Attraction Manager, Koala Conservation Reserve) and Cooper Walton.

love most at this time of year with footy and school holidays, and of course iconic Australian wildlife."

The Koala Conservation Reserve is home to 16 resident koalas and provides a state-of-the-art sanctuary for animals in need of care, as well as those unable to return to the wild.

While koalas are not native to Phillip Island, the Reserve plays a key role in supporting research, education, and welfare of the species.

Funds raised through ticketed activities and eco-tourism experiences contribute to koala welfare and conservation programs.

"By visiting the Koala Conservation Reserve, adopting a koala or making a donation, you're helping us continue our vital work protecting these much-loved Australian animals," Mr Kallstrom said.

To adopt a koala or donate, please go to: www.penguinfoundation.org.au

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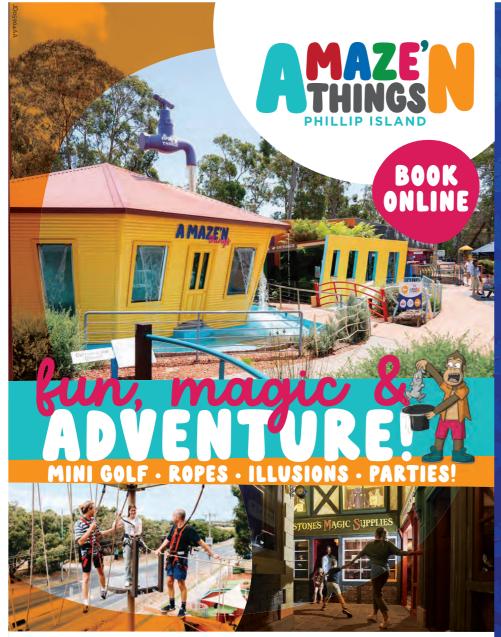






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173 SMITHS BEACH ROAD, SMITHS BEACH



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17 SHOALHAVEN ROAD, COWES



- Open plan living leading to a large, covered alfresco area, perfect for outdoor entertaining
- · Sought after area close to Phillip Island Golf Club, schools & restaurants
- 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 cars
- \$990,000

27 BINGLEY CRESCENT, VENTNOR



- Open spacious living, dining and kitchen area, ideal for entertaining
- Short walk to the beach, large garage plus carport
- 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/3 cars
- \$699,000 TO \$715,000

25 BOOBOOK GROVE, COWES



51-53 HARRIS ROAD, VENTNOR





19 BEACH ROAD, RHYLL





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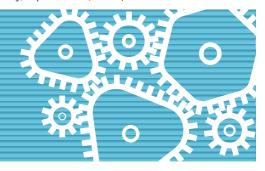
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DEATHS

DEMURGUE, Peter:

Phillip Island Landcare group extends our very sincere condolences to Margaret on the sudden passing of Peter.

A greatly admired environmental protector of our beautiful island home who will be greatly missed.

DEMURGUE, Peter:

27/02/1945 -11/09/2025

Soul mate to Marg Beloved father of Yvette and Jean-Paul

> 'Pete' to Lulu You will live on.

Forever in Our Hearts.



DEATHS

MACARTHUR, Malcolm Kenneth James:

12.3.1930 - 1.9.2025 Husband of Helen MacArthur (nee Darcy) (dec.)

and close companion for many years of Denise Mason, has passed away on Sept. 1st at Monash Health (Dandenong) after a fall at home in Cowes, aged 95 years.

Malcolm's children Robert and Tracey, grandchildren Adam, David, Laura and Bennett, and their partners, will remember him.

At Malcolm's request, a private cremation will be held.

An informal gathering will be held at the Phillip Island Golf Club, Settlement Road, Cowes on THURSDAY (Oct. 2, 2025) from 11am – 1pm. All Welcome.

DEATHS

FOENANDER, Peter Michael:

04.07.1974 - 14.09.2025
Passed away Sunday,
Sept. 14th (Suddenly).
Loved father of Rhyley,
partner of Caroline and
step-father of Karys,
dearly loved and
cherished son of Pam
and Michael,
youngest brother of
Kelly and David,
brother-in-law of Rob

and adored uncle to Piper, Remi, Evie and Jack. Rest peacefully Peter. Gone Fishing A private family funeral will be held.

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Bikes, speakers.

Various other household items

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To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: southerngippslandjuniorfl@gmail.com

Applications close Thursday, 3rd October 2025

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PICAL kitchen: more than just preserves

COMMUNITY

At the heart of the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) lies a kitchen – and it's doing far more than cooking. It's feeding the community, reducing food waste, teaching valuable life skills and providing a safe, welcoming space where people come together to connect and contribute.

PICAL's Preserve Group is the latest initiative to come from the kitchen. It's a weekly volunteer-run group that is transforming excess produce into preserves, chutneys and jellies.

While the end result is a jar of something delicious, the real value lies in the process. A process in which community members come together to learn and share knowledge while also supporting those in need.

Initially formed to help extend the shelf life of fresh produce in the pantry that may otherwise go to waste, the group has turned potential loss into lasting support. Once made, the preserves are sold with all funds raised going directly to PICAL's pantry, an emergency food relief program that supports locals doing it tough.

"It's not just about the produce and the preserves. It's about the people in the kitchen – coming together to learn, laugh and do something meaningful together," explains Rosemary Deakin, founder of the PICAL Preserves Group.

Bringing people together, PICAL's community kitchen has become a vibrant hub of activity throughout the week with numerous activities:

- Tuesday: Pasta-making classes with local chef Tony Goodlet as part of PICAL's adult learning program
- Wednesday and Friday: Meal preparation for the



From left: Christine Robertson, Sue Tanirau, Keitha Griggs and Rosemary Deakin – some members of PICAL's Preserve Group in the kitchen.

PICAL Pantry

 Thursday: Preserving making sessions with the volunteer group

PICAL's term four program will continue to maximise use of the kitchen. The pasta-making class is returning due to popular demand plus the addition of a new cooking class that will focus on modern Australian dishes with a multicultural influence.

"It is exciting to see that our kitchen is growing and is now exactly what we imagined when we moved into our new facility – it's a place for learning, skill-sharing and connection," David Rooks, PICAL Manager, says.

"It's bringing our community together by offering connection and purpose. For many in our community, our kitchen is a gateway into adult education, food literacy and community engagement.

"Sometimes people come in unsure of what they can offer. But once they're in the kitchen, they find a rhythm and a place to belong," adds David.

As a not-for-profit,

community driven centre, PICAL relies on community support. The new preserve group was made possible with the support of a \$500 donation from the Magistrates Court Funding, as the group was able to purchase new jars – a key step in making the preserves program safe and sustainable.

"At PICAL, food is more than nourishment – it's a tool for inclusion, empowerment and resilience," David concludes.

No matter what it is – cooking a meal, bottling a chutney or attending a class – the kitchen offers a warm welcome to anyone ready to be part of something bigger."

The preserves can be purchased from the reception at PICAL, 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes. PICAL is open 9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday.

Local businesses interested in supporting PICAL are invited to purchase preserves in bulk for resale on their own premises. To get involved, please email Centre Manager David Rooks: manager@pical.org.au.

Small object, big story

EDUCATION

This term, Year 3 and 4 students at Cowes Primary School took part in a storytelling project that brought family history to life as part of their Multicultural Australia theme.

Each student selected a special object from home such as old photographs, traditional clothing, handwritten letters or cherished keepsakes that connected them to their cultural roots.

Students uncovered the origins, significance and personal stories behind these items. Through classroom displays and presentations, students invited their peers and staff to learn about their cultural backgrounds and family histories.

The project celebrated identity and heritage and also fostered a sense of connection and respect across the school.



Charlotte with the Bolivia traditional costume, as part of her family history presentation for Cowes Primary School's Multicultural Australia theme.

All Ability Gala Day Bullseye action in round two

TENPIN BOWLING

Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre proudly hosted its annual All Ability Gala Day last week, celebrating the conclusion of a sevenweek Bowlopolis program that welcomed almost 100 participants from across Bass Coast and South Gippsland shires.

Many bowlers travelled each week from towns such as Leongatha, showing the reach and importance of this much-loved community initiative.

Since its beginnings in 2012, the program has given people of all abilities the chance to learn, grow and shine on the lanes. Each participant carried their season averages into Gala Day, where teams went head-to-head, with scores averaged to keep the competition fair and fun.

In the closest finish in the Gala's history, Foxy House captured the perpetual trophy for the very first time, edging out Bass Coast Specialist School by just one pin – 188.83 to 188.73.

Connecting2Australia, Interchange, South Gippsland Specialist School, Yooralla, and Scope also delivered fantastic results across the season, with Scope recognised for their continued involvement despite missing the Gala Day itself.

Every bowler received a medal, and each organisation celebrated a Top Bowler Award for their seven-week program - Rob (Scope), Dan (Yooralla), Mick (Connecting2Australia), Mark (Interchange), Chris (Foxy House), Jay (South Gippsland Specialist

SWIMMING

The last week of term is

always fun for the junior

each week during the

NAB Leongatha and Won-

thaggi branches for spon-

soring the 2025 Junior

race nights, held at the end

of each term.

A big thank you to the



Winners of this year's All Ability Gala Day was the Foxy House team, pictured with Craig and Jeremy from Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre.

School) and Caleb (Bass Coast Specialist School).

The individual competition on Gala Day saw Quinn (226) crowned champion, followed closely by Scott (225) and Taylor (219).

Beyond the scores, the day was filled with smiles, laughter and camaraderie. Veteran bowler Ray summed it up best.

"I just love it! It's great exercise and good fun."

Phillip Island Tenpin has long been recognised for its leadership in the All Abilities and Accessible Tourism space, holding Quality Tourism Accreditation and multiple community awards for inclusion. Delivered in partnership with GippSport and supported by the Victorian Government's Together More Active program, the league continues to grow stronger

every year. GippSport Program officer for inclusion Shiv Wheeler praised the atmosphere.

"Athletes lift their skills every season, but what stands out most is the sense of friendship and joy in the room."

The Gala was made possible thanks to generous local backing. Rotary Club

SGB junior race night

of Wonthaggi contributed \$750, and the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo served up a celebratory BBQ for athletes, carers and volunteers.

Looking ahead, organisers hope to secure further sponsorship and funding so future programs can remain free for participants, easing the cost on families and ensuring this unique event continues to thrive in Term 3 and beyond.

The All-Ability Gala Day is not just about strikes and spares - it's about community spirit, inclusion, and the joy of achieving together.

"This program is one of our proudest achievements," said Phillip Island Tenpin Manager Jeremy Westaway.

"It proves that bowling is for everyone, no matter your ability. To see nearly 100 bowlers take part this year shows the strength of our community and the friendships formed here.

"The Gala is more than just a competition - it's a celebration of belonging. We can't wait to see how it continues to grow in the years ahead.

The Phillip Island and Districts Darts League was buzzing on Monday night as 30 players turned out for Round two of the Spring Series.

The atmosphere was electric, and the competition fierce, with three teams locking in identical 5-2 results by the end of the night.

To break the deadlock, the crowd was treated to a sudden-death showdown at the bull.

With nerves of steel, it was Allan's team, joined by Marilyn, Alby, and Vince, who held their composure and claimed the night's honours.

Adding to the excitement, the ever-popular San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle was drawn, and this week's lucky winner was none other than John Battista.



With the winning chocolate (from left): Marilyn, Allan, Alby and Vince.

BBQs coming your way.

On the leader board, Bob continued his hot form, collecting another nine points to extend his lead with a strong total of 21 after just two weeks.

Paul sits in second on 12 points, while Vince and Brendon are close behind

Nice work, JB, plenty of in equal third on seven points apiece.

> The league isn't taking a break for the school holidays, the action keeps rolling with Round three set for next Monday night.

> Darts fans, sharpen those arrows and join the fun, it's anyone's game from here.

The Old Timers crowned **Business League Champions**

TENPIN

On Thursday September 18, eight teams gathered for the grand finale of the 2025 Business League Season

Vying for glory were Balls of Fury, Balls Deep, The Turkey Slappers, City Lights, S&R Clarke Automotive, The Wooly Rollers, The Ex-Men and The Old Timers.

Each team had bowled their way through a tough season to earn their place in the finals.

Round One kicked off with intensity. Balls of Fury outlasted Balls Deep in a tight match (593-565), while The Turkey Slappers brought serious firepower to topple City Lights (661-534).

On the other side of the draw, S&R Clarke Automotive edged out The Wooly Rollers (568-543), and The Old Timers delivered a composed, clinical victory over The Ex-Men (622-587).

Semi-Finals heat up

In the first semi-final, The Turkey Slappers and Balls of Fury went strike-forstrike in what many called the match of the night.

But when the final frame ended, it was The Slappers who stood tall, 657 to 640.

Meanwhile, The Old Timers were quietly, confidently doing what they do best, staying steady.

Against a spirited S&R



Business League winners Old Timers Glenn Collins, Katy Betts and Gerard Munnink.

rolled to another victory, 628 to 603, earning their place in the final.

Clarke Automotive, they

The final showdown

As the last two teams took their places for the grand finale. It was The Old Timers (Katy Betts, Gerard Munnink and Glenn Collins), up against The Turkey Slappers (J.L, Jack Ross and Ben O'Brien).

Two teams with wildly different styles.

Frame by frame, they went blow for blow.

Strikes, spares, missed chances, the lead changed hands more than once.

But when it came to the closing stretch, The Old Timers found another gear. calm, composed, and collected, they closed the game with trademark precision. Final score: 622 to 603.

The Old Timers - champions of season three.

Season four: will you roll with us?

Season four is just around the corner and spaces are now available for new teams to join the fun.

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swimmers with a race night at both Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre and YMCA South Gippsland Splash. Race nights are an introductory relaxed swim nab JUNIOR meet for the junior swimmers to put together the skills that they work on

Raph is very happy with his ribbons from his first junior race night - an amazing effort.

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

WED 24 SEP		THU 25 SEP		FRI 26 SEP		SAT 27 SEP		SUN 28 SEP		MON 29 SEP		TUE 30 SEP	
HIGH	2:31 am 2.79 m	HIGH	3:14 am 2.89 m	HIGH	3:50 am 2.95 m	HIGH	4:24 am 2.97 m	HIGH	4:55 am 2.96 m	HIGH	5:28 am 2.92 m	HIGH	6:01 am 2.85 m
LOW	8:14 am 0.87 m	LOW	8:56 am 0.87 m	LOW	9:31 am 0.89 m	LOW	10:04 am 0.92 m	LOW	10:35 am 0.95 m	LOW	11:06 am 1.00 m	LOW	11:37 am 1.06 m
HIGH	2:39 pm 2.73 m	HIGH	3:12 pm 2.73 m	HIGH	3:40 pm 2.73 m	HIGH	4:07 pm 2.73 m	HIGH	4:35 pm 2.72 m	HIGH	5:04 pm 2.69 m	HIGH	5:35 pm 2.63 m
LOW	8:27 pm 0.65 m	LOW	9:02 pm 0.56 m	LOW	9:34 pm 0.50 m	LOW	10:06 pm 0.48 m	LOW	10:38 pm 0.48 m	LOW	11:09 pm 0.51 m	LOW	11:40 pm 0.57 m

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His former clubmates surrounded Zac Walker after the Footscray Bulldogs Grand Final VFL win. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Grand Final success for Zac

FOOTBALL

The Phillip Island Grand Final success story continued on Sunday, when new Western Bulldogs recruit Zac Walker played in the VFL Grand Final, which saw the Footscray Bulldogs win the VFL flag against the Southport Sharks.

Supporting the former Phillip Island Bulldog, the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) hired a bus to travel up to the match, in lieu of the usual Mad Monday celebrations.

All up, around 100 islanders travelled up, either in the bus or by car, to watch Zac's Grand Final game, with many more watching from home.

They weren't disappointed, with the Footscray Bulldogs taking out a 14.5 (89) to 11.13

(70) wieterw

The win finishes a dream come true season for the new recruit, who has been supported throughout by his old club, with his fellow teammates frequently travelling up to watch his games.

Returning the favour, Zac has often been seen on the sidelines of local games this year.

He might have moved clubs, but it appears Zac's pre-game preparation remains the same, telling PIFNC Jodie Ross that he stuck to his Phillip Island spaghetti bolognaise meal on the night before the game, plus "a sneaky bit of chocolate".

"All of his Island teammates are so proud of him. It's great to see he has made such strong connections with his new VFL club," Jodie said.



Zac Walker with his VFL grand final medal – with former coach, PIFNC's Cam Pedersen in the background.



PIFNC's Finn Gibson celebrates Zac Walker's Grand Final VFL win with the Footscray Bulldogs.



Zac Walker signing autographs after the Footscray Bulldogs Grand Final VFL win.



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