

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

\$1.80 Incl. GST



Planners said the proposal – at 9-11 The Esplanade and 2-8 Bass Avenue – would create a net community benefit, with additional tourist spending of up to \$76 million, encouraging year-round visitation with industry conferences and corporate retreats, also filling a shortfall of high-quality accommodation.

New Isle of Wight given green light

MAJOR PROJECTS

Bass Coast Shire councillors have unanimously approved the \$85 million new Isle of Wight hotel on the Cowes Esplanade, the biggest development in the island's history.

Councillors agreed the development was a "game changer", bringing economic opportunities; one councillor acknowledged the seven-storeys would create a height precedent for other projects and the "whopping" car park waiver would result in parking problems.

Shire planners recommended approval, subject to conditions, with the development including a seven-storey (27.5 metres) mixed use hotel to the north with: 163 hotel rooms; four food and beverage premises (pub,

bistro, hotel dining, signature restaurant); three retail spaces (including a yoga studio, gym, and wellness centre); two function rooms; outdoor pool terrace with a bar; and outdoor beer garden on the corner of Bass Avenue and The Esplanade.

There will also be a separate three storey tourist/worker hostel (14.5 metres) with: 49 one-bedroom units; a manager's apartment; rooftop basketball and tennis court; retail premises on the north-eastern corner with a 259sqm retail space along the northern frontage.

Planners said the proposal – at 9-11 The Esplanade and 2-8 Bass Avenue – would create a net community benefit, with additional tourist spending of up to \$76 million, encouraging year-round visitation with industry confer-

ences and corporate retreats, and it "will help address a shortfall of high-quality accommodation both for visitors and workers".

A total of 39 objections and seven submissions of support were received, with objectors concerned about the parking waiver, the height setting a precedent, as well as the impact on adjoining businesses and noise problems.

Height, parking, trees

Planners said while the height exceeded the preferred 23-metre limit, it was still within the seven-storey preference and the development was lower for the remainder of the site.

There will be 197 car spaces in a three-level part-basement beneath the hostel building, which is a shortfall, based on recommended levels, of 935 car parks.

"The potential for adverse on-street car parking consequences are considered to be outweighed by the economic benefits flowing from the mixed-use development," planners said.

Planners said "due to the scale of the proposed car parking waiver" requiring hundreds of extra parking spaces would "severely compromise" the surrounding streets "through the generation of hundreds of extra vehicle movements throughout the day of cars going in and out" "Rather than provide plentiful parking, the proposal is considered to provide a sensible supply that balances conflicting priorities," officers concluded.

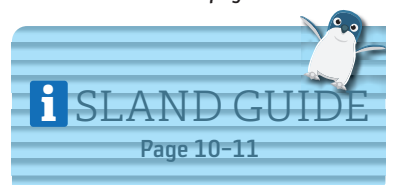
The development will see the removal of 18 trees on-site except for the Moreton Bay fig tree on the corner of The Esplanade

and Bass Avenue.

A condition of the planning permit will also see the hoop pine saved.

Officers said the pine had cultural significance, likely planted by Baron Von Mueller in 1869 at the same time as the Moreton Bay fig.

Continued page 19



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Clifftop rescue at Cape Woolamai

EMERGENCY

Police, ambulance and emergency services were called to Cape Woolamai on Saturday afternoon after a person fell from the cliff at the Cape Woolamai walk.

Ambulance Victoria confirmed paramedics were called to Cape Woolamai around 12.20pm on Saturday, to a report of a person who had fallen off a cliff.

“A woman believed to be in her 20s was stuck for some time with injuries to her back and upper body,” a spokesperson said.

“She was flown to the Alfred in a stable condition.”

Damien O’Connor from the Phillip Island Fire Brigade said units from the local police, ambulance, CFA and SES all attended the scene. Representatives from Fire Rescue Victoria, Life Saving Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Parks were also at the incident.

Damien said the multi-agency response



A helicopter winched a young woman to safety on Saturday, after she fell from the Pinnacles onto the rock platform below. She was transported to the Alfred with injuries to her back and upper body.

was standard procedure, as with motor vehicle accidents, while the team ascertained which rescue services were needed.

He said the woman, believed to be a French tourist, fell from the Pinnacles down to the rock platform below.

“Two friends of the victim climbed down the cliff face to support her, and

stayed with her until the rescue team arrived,” he said, adding the friends had called emergency services.

“Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) has the capacity to perform a high angle rescue, but in this instance, the best option was to get a helicopter and winch the woman to safety,” he explained.

“The helicopter made a brief stop at the airport at Cape Woolamai, and then flew the woman to the Alfred.”

Teams from FRV Dandenong and Richmond stations trained for high angle rescues attended but were not utilised.

“The tide was coming in, but fortunately the woman’s two friends were able to walk out, otherwise FRV would have had to rescue them as well.”

Damien said CFA and SES brigades from Phillip Island, San Remo and Kilcunda attended in case a land-based rescue was needed.

“I want to say a big thank you to everyone; fortunately, they were not needed.

“But the teams need to be on hand, in case the circumstances change.”

The Pinnacles is a popular spot for walkers and photographers. The incident is a reminder of the dangers of people climbing over the barriers at the Cape Woolamai walk, said Damien.

“All too often we are attending rescues out there.”

Red handed thief makes off with hot pink board

CRIME

A young island surfer has had his board stolen from a local supermarket car park.

On Tuesday September 19, at about 5.15pm the 14-year-old’s fluoro pink Chilli 5’8” shortboard was stolen from the Woolworths carpark on Thompson Avenue in Cowes.

The youngster was repairing the board and it was beside his family’s car in the car park. He left it for a moment to get something from the shop, and when he came back the board was gone.

Other people in the carpark reported seeing a female with blonde hair, wearing overalls, pick up the board and walk away with it.

Senior Constable Natasha Collison from Cowes Police said as the



board is so distinctive, she’s hoping someone might have noticed it in the carpark or seen it since.

She’s appealed to anyone who was in the car park that afternoon who may have seen the woman with the board, or the board near the car, to contact police.

In addition, she’s asking surfers to keep an eye out at local beaches for the fluoro pink board.

If anyone sees the board for sale through an online site, they are also being urged to contact police.

Anyone with information that could help recover the board for the young surfer, please contact Senior Constable Natasha Collison at Cowes Police Station on (03) 5952 2037.

Alternatively you can report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/ or call 1800 333 000.

Spring is here

LEISURE

The latest edition of The Island magazine is out now.

The free lifestyle magazine celebrating the people and places of Phillip Island and San Remo is available at your local newsagent, IGA, cafes, restaurants and stores, as well as from the Advertiser office in Chapel Street Cowes.

In this edition you meet Tom Neill building an environmentally friendly home using hemp, while Jacob Fry inspires with his story of giving back after his life-threatening accident.

Mitch Burrows and his friend Tegan Carter have catalogued native plants of Phillip Island and turned this into an exquisitely illustrated book, while Sue Hunt, the CEO of the Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation looks back over her life in the arts.

There’s also singing, dancing and the regular handy listing of the best places to eat, play or stay.

Get your copy now.



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Cr Ronnie Bauer

for the Island Ward, Bass Coast Shire

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Phillip Island's future sports hub given a kickstart

SPORT

Cowes' future sports hub will have a larger dog park, car parks around the football oval and room for more sports, after taking on board community feedback.

Bass Coast Shire councillors last week approved the master plan for the proposed centre, on the corner of Phillip Island Road and Ventnor Road in Cowes, which had community consultation in April.

But residents should not hold their collective breath, with the development's 35 projects expected to be rolled out over the next two decades at a cost of about \$120 million.

There is currently no funding for the projects, with advocacy of state and federal governments expected to play a "crucial role in securing the necessary funding for the staged implementation".

While the master plan will serve as a guide for shaping the 32.6 hectare's development, shire officers said immediate projects will include tracks and paths through the reserve, revegetation, an access point off Ventnor Road and the naming of the reserve.

The plan proposes football and cricket ovals, soccer pitches, multipurpose sports fields, netball and tennis courts, athletics facilities, an aquatic centre, skate park, fenced off-leash dog park and bushland areas with walking paths and picnic facilities.

Projects are in one of three staged areas:

- short term: one to 10 years totalling \$6.3 million (including: the dog park \$605,000, sealed carpark \$1.8 million);



The Phillip Island Recreation Reserve on the corner of Ventnor Road and Phillip Island Road in Cowes will be rolled out over the next two decades at a cost of about \$120 million.

- medium term: 11 to 20 years totalling \$38.1 million (four netball courts \$1.5 million, playground \$350,000, pavilion \$15 million); and

- long term: 21+ years totalling \$70.8 million (oval \$15 million, pool \$52 million, multi-purpose sports fields \$2 million).

Cr Ronnie Bauer said it was a "shame" it was a master plan and "will be just that".

"With the state of the Victorian coffers it is unlikely any government will assist in any key elements any time soon," he said.

"The only way forward will be a joint government, council, private equity project.

"I would encourage council to offer the operators of the annual carnival a long-term lease."

Cr Rochelle Halstead said it was a "good news story for Bass

Coast and Phillip Island".

She said the plan was a "beacon" of community engagement "well done".

"The engage Bass Coast website almost exploded under the weight of activity for this master plan and it was pleasing to see the community getting behind it," she said, referring particularly to the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association and the Phillip Island Football Netball Club.

"This goes to show if you do get involved in consultation you can make the changes."

Cr Clare Le Serve said the land was still in the farm zone so would need to undergo a planning scheme amendment, which would take money and time, before the delivery of the master plan can occur.

Consultation

The April consultation received 467 survey responses, with social media posts reaching more than 30,000 people, print media, and three drop-in sessions.

Key themes from the consultation period included the desire for a larger off-leash dog park, car parking around the oval, room for the growth of sports like softball, hockey, rugby, and archery and designated football and cricket ovals.

Results showed 67 per cent of survey respondents were happy with the sporting and recreation facilities included in the master plan, while 33 per cent suggested including additional sporting facilities and 27 per cent mentioned things such as outdoor cinema, ice-skating and indoor community spaces.

The shire spoke to all sporting clubs, with feedback including:

- Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association: members want a fenced dog park at least one hectare in size, with three separate areas: one for large dogs; one for small dogs; and one for training dogs;
- Phillip Island Football Netball Club: Male and female changerooms in the pavilion, a social room with capacity for 250 people seated, a commercial kitchen and bar, and a gymnasium;
- Phillip Island Tennis Club: Eight courts would allow for future growth;
- Phillip Island District Cricket Club: require a minimum of two ovals adjacent to each other, one oval with a turf wicket and one oval with a synthetic wicket.

In 2022, about 2360 Phillip Island and San Remo residents (15 per cent) took part in club-based sport, with football, gymnastics and basketball the highest participated sports in the region.

Participation in the currently available sports is projected to increase by nearly 400 people by 2036. Phillip Island and San Remo's population (15,521) represents about 38 per cent of the total population of the Bass Coast Shire (40,793), up from 35 per cent in 2016.

In 2021, the shire acquired the former carnival site next to the Hilton Chadwick Reserve to create a recreation centre.

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

Tourists face fines for disturbing penguins

ENVIRONMENT

Visitors have been warned they face fines for interfering with penguins and their nests, following a number of tourists flouting Nature Parks' rules.

The warm weather in recent weeks over the school holidays saw bumper to bumper traffic on the Summerland Peninsula's scenic South Coast Road.

But according to witnesses, visitors have been spotted stopping their cars on the road and hiking across Nature Parks land to personally find and inspect penguin nesting boxes.

A Nature Parks spokesperson said the entire Summerland Peninsula was reserved for conservation for the protection of wildlife.

"While Nature Parks has not observed this as a growing issue, from time to time, curious visitors do approach the more obvious penguin nesting boxes," the spokesperson said.

"We may issue fines if visitors are wilfully disturbing penguins or interfering with nests.

"Nature Parks rangers also regularly patrol and work in areas around the Summerland Peninsula and edu-

cate visitors about the importance of preserving habitat and not disturbing the penguins."

The spokesperson said penguins were wild birds with a sharp beak that can cause injury.

"Penguins are not cuddly pets.

"Unless you are properly trained, approaching penguins can cause stress and distress to them.

"The greatest thing you can do for wildlife is to keep it wild. Please always keep your distance and remember how lucky we are to be able to share our beautiful island home."

Nature Parks is planning to develop a series of trails across the peninsula. The spokesperson said one of the aims of the trails project was to respond to issues such as tourists walking through penguin habitat, "by keeping people to defined paths, boardwalks and lookouts".

The Summerland Peninsula is home to Phillip Island's 40,000 strong penguin population. While the Penguin Parade is home to several thousand of these penguins, there are many others who nest on the peninsula.



"Penguins are not cuddly pets": The entire Summerland Peninsula is reserved for conservation for the protection of wildlife and people are not allowed to access the land in search of penguins, despite a recent uptick in the activity.

Making a splash in your Community!

The San Remo, Cowes and Grantville Community Banks are proud sponsors of water activities, supporting Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, PI Boardriders Club, Channel Challenge, Cowes Classic and the Newhaven and Cowes Yacht Clubs, to name a few. But we can't do it without you! Dive into one of our friendly branches today to find out how your banking can help your community thrive.

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Responding to complaints about parking officers targeting the TIDAL festival last week, Bass Coast Shire Council said of the thousands of people who attended, only 19 fines were issued.

Complaints over TIDAL parking fines

Residents say the success of the recent TIDAL festival in San Remo has been marred after a parking blitz by Bass Coast Shire Council.

One San Remo trader said even volunteers working at the event received fines, describing the council as "mean spirited" for targeting the event.

"Where were people supposed to park without getting fined," asked one resident.

"Awesome for the community, but sour taste parking fines everywhere ... boo Bass Coast," said another.

However, the council said from the thousands of festival goers, only 19 infringements were issued.

Craig Edmonds, President of the San Remo and District Tourism Business Association (SRDTBA) said it was disappointing that people coming to the event had been fined.

"We had absolutely no control over the parking inspectors nor any control to stop them on the weekend and it was nothing to do with the festival," he said.

"We have naturally been in touch with the council because it does reflect badly on our festival and it's not just our event, it has happened numerous

times before.

"Do they target event weekends? Of course they do. I don't remember seeing them walking the streets during the middle of winter or on quiet days."

Looking ahead, Craig said plans were already being discussed for next year's events, "with more favourable traffic and parking controls".

Calls for waiver

A council spokesperson said of the 19 infringements issued during the festival, five were for people overstaying the allowed time.

"On significant event days, our parking officers' key focus is always on safety and accessibility.

"We acknowledge it is disappointing to receive a fine, however, if people believe their infringement was incorrectly issued, they can request a review through Council.

"The process of disputing a fine is on the back of the issued infringement notice."

Craig urged anyone who was fined to contact him, especially any volunteers impacted.

He also called for a new approach to parking restrictions during events.

"Volunteers and business owners put hundreds

of hours and dollars into these events to bring people to the area with the hope of them returning, which is the agenda of the council's tourism plan," he said.

"Is this really the look we want visitors to take away with them?"

"These situations would only happen a handful of times during the year," he said.

"Surely we can waive the parking restrictions for these events?"

"The reason people usually overstay is because they have been to the event and have then headed around town to have a look and hopefully spend a few dollars."

The council said it would continue to work with all events organisers, volunteers and partners "to ensure events are a great experience for everyone and that the increasing amounts of visitors can be safely accommodated".

"We encourage all visitors to check parking signs."

The spokesperson said council supported the Tidal Festival with \$6000 funding through its annual event grants and with event officer support, equipment, fencing, marquee and signage.

Savage case further delayed

CRIME

The next court appearance of Joshua and Taylor Savage has been moved to November.

The two men, facing charges over 19 separate burglaries conducted over six months on Phillip Island and in South Gippsland, were due to appear at the Latrobe Valley County Court at the end of August.

That has now been transferred to the next County Court sitting, which begins on November 8 at Morwell.

A specific date for their court appearance is yet to be determined.

On June 8, the two men appeared before the Melbourne County Court.

An indictment presented to the court by the Office of Public Prosecutions covered the 19 charges.

Both Joshua and Taylor were arraigned and entered a plea of guilty.

In August 2020, the men were arrested during dramatic early morning raids on four Cowes properties, with cash, jewellery, a boat, motorbike, jetski and vehicles seized.

Joshua and Taylor Savage remain on bail but are prohibited from living in Bass Coast or South Gippsland. They cannot visit the area without police permission,



The Savage brothers, arrested in dramatic early morning raids in Cowes in August 2020, are scheduled to appear in the next session of the County Court in Morwell, which begins on November 8.

can't stay overnight and have stringent conditions around any visit. Police said the men have been complying with bail conditions.

On the bus and carbon offset

ENVIRONMENT

Newhaven College is one step closer to its goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Much of the College's building infrastructure and planning has been designed to ensure it operates in a sustainable way, including the extensive use of solar panels.

Now the school's bus fleet is becoming part of the carbon solution.

South Coast Bus runs 12 different routes for Newhaven College students, across Bass Coast and South Gippsland, including Nyora, Leongatha and Tarwin Lower.

With so many bus routes, the school was conscious of the impact on the environment and decided to act.

The College is working with Greenfleet in conjunction with South Coast Buses to offset carbon emissions as part of their commitment to lessening its carbon footprint.

Greenfleet is a leading not-for-profit environmental organisation protecting the climate by restoring forests.

They plant native biodiverse forests to capture carbon emissions and help fight the impacts of climate change.

Newhaven College's support alone will enable Greenfleet to plant enough native trees to absorb 355.00 tonnes of CO₂-e.

Newhaven College Principal, Tony Corr is thrilled to be a part of a community with such a focus on environmental action.

"The offset planting the school will be providing through Greenfleet will take place in Glendalough in South Gippsland," Mr Corr said.

"In Glendalough there is a cleared 240-hectare property which our planting will help return to native ecosystems.

"The property will provide a significant vegetation link for the critically important Strzelecki Koalas as well as habitat for native birds such as the Yellow-faced Honeyeater and Grey Fantail."

The CEO of Greenfleet, Wayne



Artist's impression for the back of Newhaven College's new bus wrap, showcasing the school's commitment to lessening its carbon footprint.

Wescott praised Newhaven College's commitment.

"Greenfleet is focused on delivering climate action and by offsetting their bus emissions with us, Newhaven College is enabling the restoration of native forests that will remove this carbon from the atmosphere through the rest of this century," Mr Wescott said.

"Thanks to the support of organisations like Newhaven College, Greenfleet can continue to grow our impact and protect our climate."

Since 1997, Greenfleet has planted over 10.5 million trees across 550 forests in Australia and New Zealand.

As they grow, these forests absorb carbon, improve soil and water quality and restore habitat for native wildlife, including many endangered species.

For more on Greenfleet's work go to greenfleet.com.au

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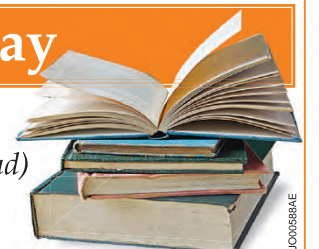
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International Nurse Jericho Savilla with daughter Aeya (left) his wife Tam (right) and CEO Jan Child, Jordan Crugnale MP and Premier Daniel Andrews, during the Premier's visit to Wonthaggi, spruiking the government's plans for improving housing affordability in the regions.

State short stay trumps council's new fee

ACCOMMODATION

Premier Daniel Andrews visited Wonthaggi last week, to spruik the government's plans for improving housing affordability in regional Victoria, accompanied by Danny Pearson, Minister for Consumer Affairs.

He confirmed the new Short Stay Levy was a statewide system that would supersede any local measures that had been introduced, including Bass Coast Shire Council's new \$300 short stay rental fee.

"Councils won't be able to levy those charges after January 1, 2025," Mr Andrews said.

"Let's not have 79 different systems. That would lead to confusion, and I think it would be a barrier."

He defended the lack of consultation with local councils on the issue, stating he was "not elected to have endless discussions".

"Sometimes you have got to get on and get things done."

When queried whether a levy would be placed on short stay rentals run through real estate agents, the Premier said the issue would have to be worked through, but whatever platform they were on, short stay rentals should "make a contribution" to building housing.

Premier Andrews said revenue generated by the government's new Short Stay Levy would go to building and maintaining social and affordable housing, with 25 per cent of funds invested in regional Victoria.

"Regional Victoria is booming – and so is demand for homes across our regions. We know the best thing we can do to make homes more affordable

is to build more of them, and that's exactly what we're doing," he said.

The Premier said \$150 million would be invested in a Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, to provide new housing options for regional communities, where key workers are struggling to find affordable housing.

Regional share

With 46.7 per cent of Airbnb listings in regional Victoria, the Premier was asked why only 25 per cent of the revenue from the Short Stay Levy was being directed to the regions.

He said the levy on the 36,000 short stay properties across the state would yield about \$75 million per year.

"We are spending \$2.3 billion on social and affordable housing through the Big Building package in regional Victoria."

"It's a massive investment, well above 25 per cent."

The Premier was also asked if there was state owned land in regional areas that might be released for housing, such as the site of the old Bass Coast secondary school in Wonthaggi.

He would not be drawn on specifics, but agreed there would be further potential sites across the state.

"Ultimately, we have found 45 sites that we think can be home to around 9000 people."

"We think there will be more sites than that, but we have to go through the proper process," Mr Andrews said.

"There will be big land holdings in regional Victoria that can be offered to the market with planning certainty, and I think that will mean more houses will be built."

Health workers

The new Wonthaggi hospital was chosen as the location for the Premier's latest doorstep, in part due to Bass Coast Health's (BCH) own approach to securing housing for staff.

BCH currently owns 24 properties in the district, which provides 80 rooms per night for staff accommodation.

"This health service spends about \$750,000 per year to have 24 properties, because there isn't enough housing in Wonthaggi and district to house all the staff," the Premier said.

Without these properties, he said staff wouldn't be able to work at BCH and the community wouldn't be able to get the care they need close to home.

"You might have a house (or a rental), but if other people can't find a house, everyone pays the price."

"Everyone has an investment in making sure there are more houses built or on offer."

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child said the properties the health service owned were used by doctors, nurses and allied health staff and "were critical for us".

While there was no mention of any specific accommodation project for the hospital during the Premier's visit, Ms Child said she was "always hopeful".

"We have had great support from the government," she said.

Development

The Premier and Minister Pearson spoke about the new Development Facilitation Program, which they say will streamline the planning process for significant regional housing developments.

Housing developments

worth at least \$15 million that deliver at least 10 per cent affordable housing, including build-to-rent projects, would bypass local government, going direct to the state government for approval.

Industry experts and local government representatives have criticised the move, saying it will cut the local community out of important planning decisions.

Mr Andrews said the move would streamline the planning process, which often got bogged down at councils and VCAT.

"Councils have sat on planning applications for a very long time. They had responsibilities and have not necessarily acquitted them well," he said.

Earlier in the week, on ABC Radio, the Premier took aim at the delays and applications ending up in VCAT.

"You look around and sud-

denly VCAT, who were elected by nobody, are planning our city. How is that a good idea? How is that an accountable way of doing things?"

The changes to rental rights and dispute resolution were also outlined, including the introduction of Rental Dispute Resolution Victoria, and professional development for the real estate industry.

The CEO of Tenants Victoria, Jennifer Beveridge was in Wonthaggi, and said the organisation supported the new initiatives around renters' rights and applauded the introduction of the Short Stay Levy.

"For too long Airbnb and other platforms have been unregulated."

"It is great that there are statewide regulations and the money will go into a pool for social and affordable housing."

Block-buster TV show set for island

ENTERTAINMENT

The Channel 9 renovation competition reality TV show The Block looks set to come to Phillip Island.

The Advertiser understands several accommodation operators on the island have been approached to host the film crew, which includes host Scott Cam.

While not confirmed, it is rumoured the property that will feature on The

Block is on Justice Road, Cowes west.

The Herald Sun on the weekend wrote that after a false start in Daylesford, "rumours are swirling about The Block's next season location, which could see a tree-change swapped for a sea-change" at Phillip Island.

A Channel 9 spokesperson for The Block told the Advertiser they do not speculate on the location of future series of the hit show.



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Call for “compassion and empathy” in Voice vote

REFERENDUM

Police escorted a member of the public from last week's Bass Coast Shire Council meeting, after the lone protestor shouted and refused to leave as councillors voted on a motion about the Voice.

Supporters of the Voice, many carrying signs or wearing Vote Yes t-shirts were in the audience, outnumbering the solo protestor six to one.

The interruption came during the motion about the Voice, put forward by Cr Leticia Laing, which called on the council to publicly support “a constitutionally enshrined voice to Parliament for First Nations people”, as well as committing to sharing “clear, credible information” on the proposal and upcoming referendum.

Five of nine councillors voted to support the motion, with the decision met by cries of “shame, shame” from Phillip Island resident John Trigt.

Mayor Michael Whelan asked Mr Trigt to refrain from interjecting, or be removed from the chamber.

When Mr Trigt persisted, he was asked to leave by security.

When he refused, the meeting was adjourned for half an hour and the police were called to remove him.

Support

Cr Laing said First Nations People were in possession of this continent for thousands of years up to 1788.

She said it was unacceptable Aboriginal people were proportionally the most incarcerated group in the world and their life expectancy and health outcomes were significantly lower than the rest of the community.

“It makes no sense to me how this step is seen as divisive,” Cr Laing said.

“This claim ignores the fact that we are in many ways divided by our skills, abilities and that our government and communities do what they can to help us all have equal access to services and quality of life.

“Surely we aren't going to say that ramps for people who are disabled is divisive? The same goes for our First Nations People.”

Cr Laing said there was no mention of First Nations people in the Constitution and the referendum hoped to change that.

“It is acknowledged the vote will be a personal private decision and that is respected by council in this motion.

“It is also accepted some councillors may have opposing views to the yes vote.

“(This vote) will empower council to provide truthful, accurate information to allow the community to make an informed choice.”

She said council was “not just about roads, rates and rubbish” and showed leadership on a variety of issues.”

Cr Geoff Ellis called for the whole Voice vote to be dealt with compassionately and with empathy.

“When people are not on board with what I'm saying I try and change my perspective and say to myself just like me that person is trying to get the best outcome for their people,” said Cr Ellis, who has undertaken compassion training.

“I hope the morning after the referendum we can maybe take a breath and sit down and work out a path forward and not consider winners and losers.”

Cr Clare Le Serve voted in support of the motion, saying like the Welcome to Country at the beginning of



A Phillip Island resident was escorted from the council meeting by police last week after shouting “shame” when five of nine councillors voted to support the Voice motion.



Supporters of the Voice, many carrying signs or wearing Vote Yes t-shirts were in the audience, outnumbering the solo protestor six to one.

council meetings, along with other council policies that support reconciliation, this vote showed “we do understand”.

“It says by our actions and words we hear you and listen,” Cr Le Serve said, adding she had received emails opposing the vote which exhibited “threatening and bullying behaviour”.

“This is an opportunity to help in that reconciliation.”

Cr David Rooks summed up his support of the motion: “by not voting yes, how are you helping First Nations people”.

Opposition

Cr Ronnie Bauer said if he was mayor he wouldn't allow the motion to be on the agenda.

He pointed to the councillor statement at the beginning of each meeting “disregarding councillor's personal interests so as to avoid any conflicts of interest with our public duty.”

He said the motion was blatantly biased to the yes case.

“It's not council's job to educate the public either for or against on this referendum,” Cr Bauer said.

“We must not be political on such a highly charged emotional issue.”

Cr Rochelle Halstead said while council was committed to local reconciliation and the community want-

ed better outcomes for First Nations people, she was “saddened” at the motion.

“It is an assault on my own democratic right to privacy,” Cr Halstead said.

“I support that council is assisting residents by providing this information when requested however I do not support council putting a position of support for the yes campaign which has become a political battleground.”

She said advocating cost money and funds had already been spent federally, while this motion would require more funding at a local level.

“We should be allowing residents to seek their own information and decide for themselves without influence.

“For council to support this would be seen as an attempt to persuade our community and for me that is atrociously undemocratic.”

Cr Les Larke said council should be apolitical, “but my stance today should not be interpreted as a yes or no vote”.

Cr Brett Tessari voted against the motion, saying he didn't agree the motion should be in the chamber, even though he agreed with the sentiments of supporters of the motion.

“This is another example of council pushing their views on the community,” Cr Tessari said.



ADVERTISER EDITORIAL

We are now in the final weeks of the Voice referendum campaign.

Recently, we've seen thousands of Australians take to the streets in support of the Yes vote.

Last week, Bass Coast Shire Council attracted criticism for a motion at the September council meeting, calling for the council to publicly support the referendum.

Despite the motion clearly stating it respected residents' right to make their own decision, the council has been accused of directing people how to vote.

They've been told to “stay in their lane”.

The flaw in the “stay in their lane” argument is the role of councils in 2023 has broadened beyond the old “roads, rates and rubbish” mantra (whether we like it or not), with local government engaging in a broad range of issues, from social welfare, to housing, health and more.

Stating their support for the Voice is not the council directing anyone how to vote.

In fact the councillors were at pains to point out they respected everyone's right to make their own decision about the referendum.

The council is not the first organisation to state its support for the Voice. Many other councils have done the same. Off the top of my head, the Labor Party, The Greens, Law societies in every state, Qantas, the Olympic Committee, Cricket, Netball and Motorsports Australia, the four big banks, the AFL and the NRL are just some of the organisations who have come out in support of the Yes vote. Wikipedia has even compiled a list of the endorsements: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endorsements_in_the_2023_Australian_Indigenous_Voice_referendum

This referendum is asking Australia to change, and change is hard. Change can be frightening, and when people are frightened, it isn't difficult to sow seeds of doubt and confusion.

In some spaces, the referendum has taken over from Covid as fertile ground for conspiracies.

The No campaign has effectively sold a message “if you don't know, vote no”.

It is true, voting yes requires a leap of faith. But every single time we vote in an election, we take that leap. A party might promise to provide more housing, address the cost of living, take action on climate change. We don't know every detail of how that will happen, or the exact wording of the legislation they intend to bring to the parliament. We vote in hope for the end result, rather than relying on every detail.

The Federal Coalition has said it supports constitutional recognition for First Nations People, but not the Voice to Parliament, as there are not enough details on how the Voice (an advisory body) will operate. Yet how it will operate is in their hands. The details of the Voice will be determined by the parliament which they are members of. They will have the opportunity to shape it, design it and deliver it.

I believe, if you don't know, you should find out.

Ask questions.

Talk to your friends and colleagues.

There is a lot of good information available if you have questions and concerns. The Federal government's website voice.gov.au sets out the basic facts of what is proposed.

If you're looking for analysis of the claims made by both sides, The Guardian Australia has an excellent section on the Voice, fact checking the statements from both the Yes and No campaigns. www.theguardian.com/australia-news/indigenous-voice-to-parliament.

The ABC and RMIT have done a similar analysis: www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-19/fact-check-yes-no-campaign-pamphlets-aec/102614710

If you have questions about the actual voting process, including locations of polling stations, pre-polling dates or even how to fill out the ballot, go to the Australian Electoral Commissions website: aec.gov.au

The referendum should not be reduced to an us or them, Liberal or Labor, left or right argument. It's about humanity and working together to find a better solution.

It's a chance for Australia to decide its future direction and how we will address the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Each of us can use our vote to decide the outcome.

Schoolies safety the target

HEALTH

It's a first aid course with a difference.

The Schoolies or Toolies workshops running next month are designed for young people aged 16 to 20 years, to help prepare them to cope during an emergency.

The course will run on October 7 from 10am – 1pm and October 11 from 5.30pm until 8.30pm, in preparation for the upcoming schoolies celebrations.

As well as providing CPR training, it looks at the best way to deal with drug and alcohol issues, including learning about the recovery position, and what to do for an overdose.

The course is one of a suite of first aid courses run by IstaiddMD, a local company founded by former paramedic Megan Darby.

Bree Stubbs works alongside Megan and says the course was specifically put together for teenagers, with a focus on the issues they may confront during schoolies or when partying with their friends.

"I remember when I was growing up, I had no knowledge of this stuff until I was

at least in my 20s," said Bree.

"We really want to reach that age group, get them CPR certified, and give them the skills so they'll know what to do in an emergency situation.

"We teach them about drug or alcohol poisoning, and how to put their mates into a recovery position.

"We also let young people know that it's okay to call Triple Zero, and they won't get in trouble."

The course teaches the young people to ring Triple Zero straight up, and then what they might need to do if the situation gets worse before help arrives.

"We do give details on what can happen and how certain drugs can impact people," Bree explained.

"We want to let them know the risks, including how serious alcohol poisoning can be."

The discussions also include ways they can look out for each other when partying with friends.

Bree said the response from parents of young people has been very positive, and she's hoping more teenagers sign up and get skilled up.

"I know CPR and emergency skills are

not things a lot of young people think about; they tend to think they're invincible.

"But the more people we can get the knowledge to, the more people can be saved."

First aid

As well as the Schoolies workshops, IstaiddMD offers a range of targeted first aid courses, including Infant and Child First Aid, courses designed for teachers and carers or dealing with anaphylaxis/asthma emergency and risks.

All the courses include CPR.

Bree said many of the courses are conducted through workplaces, while parents are another regular group of customers.

Reaching young people and older people is the biggest challenge.

"Young people think they don't need it, while often old people think they are too old to learn something new," she said.

Any school leavers or parents interested in the Schoolies or Toolies CPR and Drug and Alcohol Workshop can find out more or book in at www.istaiddmd.com/services



Bree Stubbs (left) and Megan Darby from IstaiddMD, which is offering a first aid course targeted at Schoolies, this October.

You can also contact them through their Facebook page.

The course is \$50, with sessions on October 7 (10am) and October 11 (5.30pm) at the Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre, 239 White Road, Wonthaggi.

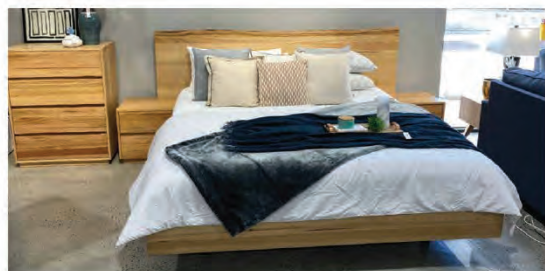
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Public housing to be given a boost

PLANNING

Council-owned land will continue to be made available for affordable housing, with Bass Coast Shire set to review all suitable land.

And council will support state-wide limits to “mitigate the impact of short stay accommodation on local housing affordability and availability”, while also encouraging developers to provide public housing.

Councillors at the September meeting voted to approve the final Affordable Housing Strategy, which was open for community consultation in June.

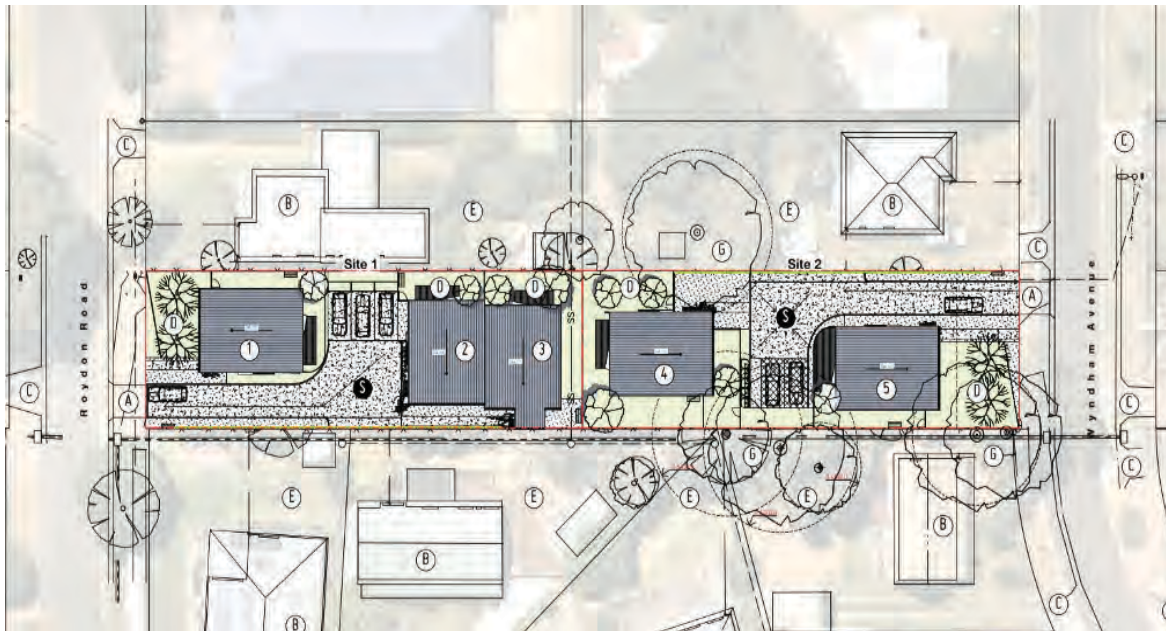
The strategy comes after council-owned land between Roydon Road and Wyndham Avenue in Cowes is soon to be developed by Community Housing Limited (CHL), a not-for-profit community housing provider, into five two-bedroom dwellings.

While social housing is the responsibility of state government, the strategy seeks to progress social housing in Bass Coast through planning, reviewing council-owned land and advocating to developers and government.

Following consultation, 10 submissions were received, including eight from individual residents and two from organisations.

Respondents said there was a critical need for more affordable housing in Bass Coast, near town centres with access to services and employment opportunities.

Submitters urged council to focus on short stay accommodation as a driver of housing



The road reserve will be developed by Community Housing Limited (CHL), a registered community housing organisation, into five dwellings, with the removal of 12 trees.

affordability and availability pressures and underscored the importance of preserving neighbourhood character.

Changes

As a result of feedback, the final strategy beefs up planning, with the shire set to create a guidance document for negotiating developer contributions in multi-lot planning applications to support affordable housing.

The strategy includes assessment criteria on whether a parcel of council-owned land could be suitable for affordable housing.

There is also a focus on short stay accommodation.

“The prevalence of short-stay accommodation is also impact-

ing availability of long-term rental homes in local communities and placing further pressure on local housing markets,” it states.

“Since the beginning of the pandemic, the cost of rental has increased at the same time as there are fewer properties available to rent.

“These pressures are impacting individual households as well as local communities where housing for key and essential workers is a growing concern.”

Cr Ronnie Bauer said when the affordable housing strategy was first raised he was against the idea of land in Cowes being used and supported Wonthaggi.

“Subsequently the rental crisis

has become so acute that I have had a change of mind,” he said.

“The short-term accommodation industry has stripped our shire and especially the island of our long-term rentals.

“The only way to help this problem is to provide council land.”

Squeeze

There were about 1186 applicants wanting to live in the shire, but only 374 houses available.

According to the strategy, there were 254 applications to live in Cowes, 617 in Wonthaggi and 315 in Inverloch. It states because tenants need to access services Cowes and Wonthaggi will be targeted for social housing, “and potentially in Grantville,

Inverloch, and San Remo too”. “Bass Coast Shire has a significant social housing shortfall relative to community need,” the strategy states.

It states renters in Bass Coast Shire experience housing stress at a “significantly higher rate” than the regional Victoria average: 83.5 per cent of very low-income households, and 52.7 per cent of low-income households.

Cowes

At Roydon Road and Wyndham Avenue building of the houses by Community Housing Limited will start later this year, under the state government’s \$25 million Big Housing Build.

The shire owns the 97-metre-long road reserve.

CHL will enter into a 30-year lease with the council and will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the development for the duration of the lease.

The houses are scheduled to commence construction in late 2023 with completion expected in the fourth quarter of 2024.

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

The new homes will be allocated to people who have applied for housing through the Victorian Housing Register.

Cr Bauer asked whether the land between Roydon Road and Wyndham Avenue would not be used for emergency accommodation and only for affordable housing and a shire officer confirmed this was the case.

CHL details: chl.org.au/about-us/our-developments/cowes-phillip-island-victoria/

Local Landcare groups get the grants

ENVIRONMENT

Local Landcare groups have received a share of the more than \$4.4 million worth of grants announced by the government last week.

The grants for youth and volunteer groups aim to further improve the state’s natural environment.

Jordan Crugnale, the Member for Bass commended the seven local recipients of the 2023 Victorian Landcare Grants which will help volunteers protect and restore landscapes in their respective communities.

“This funding is a fabulous way to support our amazingly committed volunteers who are out restoring, revegetating, protecting and enhancing habitat in our natural environment,” said Ms Crugnale.

“Thank you for all that you do – you make such a positive long-lasting difference.

“I love how children are actively immersed in all things nature, learning more about their surrounds, sustainability and how First Nations people cared for country.”

Successful local recipients include:

- Phillip Island Landcare Group: Community Revegetation – connecting and restoring remnant vegetation across the Island.
- Bass Coast Landcare



Jordan Crugnale MP hands out seeds and talks all things sanctuary during a recent visit to Cowes Primary School with School Captains Macy, Miller, Bode, Luca, Kaia and Principal Rod McKenzie.

Group: Through Westernport Catchment Kids to detecting, restoring, and protecting the catchment.

- Bass Valley Landcare Group: Protecting and Restoring Bass Valley’s Biodiversity: A Community-Led Initiative.
- Powlett River Landcare Group: Restoring the Powlett Catchment: Community-led revegetation for waterway health and biodiversity.
- Three Creeks Landcare Group: Three Creeks Community-Led Ecological Restoration

Project.

- Anderson Inlet Landcare Group: Restoring Biodiversity: Protecting and Enhancing Threatened Species Habitat at Anderson Inlet.
- Kongwak Landcare Group: Revitalizing Kongwak Hills: A Collaborative Land Management and Conservation Program.

A total of 269 environmental volunteer groups have received \$500 grants to assist with administration and running costs and include Western Port

Project.

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- Kongwak Landcare Group: Revitalizing Kongwak Hills: A Collaborative Land Management and Conservation Program.

Catchment Landcare Network, Friends of Woodford Reserve Inc and Westernport Swamp Landcare.

The government also distributed more than \$470,000 through the 2023 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants.

Ms Crugnale said these grants will deliver hands-on projects and outdoor educational activities – giving thousands of children across the state the opportunity to learn more about our environment and biodiversity.

The successful local schools are:

- Cowes Primary School (\$4650) to develop students as stewards of their school sanctuary and involving them in the restoration and care of their sanctuary, planting native plants, removing invasive species, and creating habitats for local wildlife.
- Wonthaggi Primary School (\$3843) to build an indigenous pollinator garden and make connections with learning relevant to the Science program; and to further develop understandings of how First Nations Peoples cared for living things and the environment to ensure survival and sustainability on Bunurong Country.

A full list of this year’s Landcare and Biodiversity Grant recipients can be found at environment.vic.gov.au/grants.



The council has confirmed a large storm in early September breached the wrap-around dam wall at the Cowes boat ramp, flooding the dry area.

Dam breach at boat ramp

Bass Coast Shire Council has confirmed a large storm in early September breached the wrap-around dam wall at the Cowes boat ramp, flooding the dry area.

“The seawater encroached the worksite on September 8 due to the storm conditions. This water was removed and the contractor recommenced works on September 12,” a shire spokesperson said.

They also confirmed sand from the boat ramp was being taken to the Cowes main beach – for erosion works – via Gap Road.

“This was to avoid delays in the boat ramp reconstruction project.”



Themed "Walking together, belonging together", the walk for Yes kicked off with a march from Mitchell House down McBride Street ending in a rally at Wishart Park at 11am on Sunday.



Nicole Findlay from Reconciliation Victoria, with Uncle Anthony Egan and Patrice Mahoney. More photos at pisra.com.au.

Hundreds attend Say Yes rally

REFERENDUM

Hundreds of people attended the Say Yes rally on Sunday, organised by the Bass Coast for Yes group.

Themed "Walking together, belonging together", the walk for Yes kicked off with a march from Mitchell House in Wonthaggi down McBride Street ending in a rally at Wishart Park.

Organisers said the colourful crowd of supporters, many wearing different variations of Yes T-shirts, included a mix of ages and backgrounds all united by their support of the upcoming referendum.

At the conclusion of the march the estimated 300 walkers entered Wishart Park lead by local elders Aunty Patrice Mahoney and Uncle Anthony Egan to a backdrop of the anthem of the campaign, John Farnham's "You're The Voice" and the cheers of waiting supporters.

The event's total attendance of more than 350 people is believed to be one of the strongest supporter turn outs in regional Victoria.

Attendees were addressed by Bass Coast Yes campaign Chair Kevin Walsh, followed by a Welcome To Country and smoking ceremony conducted by local Traditional Owner from the



Phillip Island's Tim O'Brien, with Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan. Photo: Meryl Tobin.

Bunurong Land Council Jillian West.

Jillian spoke of her own connection to the cause and invited attendees to participate in the smoking ceremony.

Speakers, described by attendees as "uplifting" and "inspiring", included Nicole Findlay and Professor Andrew Gunstone from Reconciliation Victoria, Marg Lynn from the Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group, ALP Senator for Victoria Jess Walsh and Uncle Charles

Pakana.

Also attending were Bass MP Jordan Crugnale and Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Michael Whelan and councillors Leticia Laing and Geoff Ellis.

One attendee told the Advertiser the speakers emphasised the importance of coming together on the issue.

Another said they were moved by the positive atmosphere on the day.

"It was motivated people that were generous with their time



Senator Jess Walsh, Patrice Mahoney, Arieta Fergie, Jordan Crugnale and Letti Brooke Stewart at the walk organised by the Bass Coast for Yes group.

and passionate about walking together," they said.

"It was energising to feel you weren't that much of a minority and it showed that knowledge is getting out there."

One walker said they felt the referendum had become "divisive and political when it didn't need to be".

Described by Kevin Walsh as a "smashing success" the Bass Coast Yes campaign organisers were thrilled with the event attendance.

"It's so reassuring to see such a wonderful turn out and such strong community commitment to supporting Voice," a group spokesperson said.

"Thanks to everyone who attended — we all aspire to a more inclusive and reconciled Australia."

The referendum will be held on October 14.

For information on voting, polling booths and pre-polling stations, go to: aec.gov.au/referendums/

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Head back to Nature these holidays

ENTERTAINMENT

Get the kids outside during the holidays, with some fun activities on offer from the Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Spring is a fantastic time to get out into nature, with plants in bloom and beautiful babies to enjoy.

Visit the Koala Conservation Reserve and see three joeys – the biggest baby boom at the reserve in 13 years.

Take a walk around Swan Lake and enjoy the beautiful spring vegetation– including wattles and coast beard-heath. Keep an eye out for baby swans (cyg-

nets), taking to the water with mum.

Plan a visit to Churchill Island and catch some of the fantastic daily demonstrations and activities.

10.30am: Blacksmithing
2.10pm: Cow Milking
2.30pm: Sheep Shearing
(Weekends only and school holidays)
2.45pm: Working Dogs sheep round up
3.00pm: Whip Cracking

Add to your list of baby-sightings with the new lambs at Churchill Island.

Or take a step back in time and hitch a

ride on a wagon.

The popular wagon rides are back at Churchill Island for the school holidays! The horse and wagon rides will run daily from September 16 until October 1, from 1pm – 2pm.

The restored wagon can hold 10 people at a time, with tickets \$7 per person.

Of course, you can always enjoy all the fun of the Penguin Parade each evening. The visitor centre opens daily at 4pm, while the stars of the show – the penguins – arrive every evening at sunset.

www.penguins.org.au
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The popular wagon rides are back at Churchill Island for the school holidays and will run daily from September 16 until October 1, from 1pm – 2pm.



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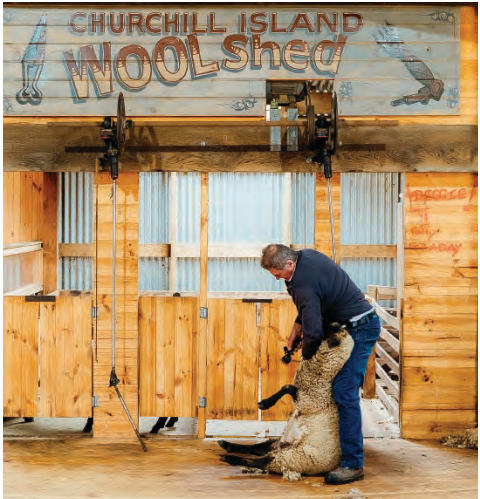
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This year's Spring Clean up is on Wednesday, September 27. At last year's clean up are from left: Heather Liney and Luke Fricke – Cowes Coastcare; Mary Whelan and Zoe Geyer – TRPI; Wildlife Coast Cruises' Georgia Bisset, and Phillip Island Nature Parks' Louise Casey.

Spring into action for a community clean up

ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife Coast Cruises' annual beach clean up is on again - on Wednesday, September 27. Last year, a team of eager volunteers collected 70.55kg of waste from the foreshore surrounding the Cowes Jetty.

This year, the Wildlife Coast Cruises team is again co-ordinating the clean up, asking anyone keen to lend a hand to meet them at the Cowes Jetty at 10am.

The event is registered with Clean Up Australia. If you can lend a hand to help keep our beaches and oceans clean, please come on down.

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GUESTS RECEIVE 50% OFF AMAZE'N THINGS

Not so trivial – thousands raised for Growing Cambodia

FUNDRAISER

The island community came together for a fantastic night of fun and fierce competition at the Growing Cambodia Trivia Night earlier this month.

The evening ended up raising \$29,278.25 for the charity founded by Steven Davie and his family.

“It was a truly amazing result,” said Steven, on behalf of the Growing Cambodia committee.

“We cannot adequately express our immense gratitude for the ongoing generosity of our supporters and the local community.

“With record numbers for both attendance and our auction items the amount raised was the best result we have ever achieved,” he said.

“The venue at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort was packed to capacity with 246 supporters and was again the perfect place to gather.

“It was humbling to see so many people come together and have a great time while donating to our cause.”

The amount raised will help Growing Cambodia continue to provide free English lessons for over 750 students in schools in four rural Cambodian villages.

Ten university students will be able to continue their courses and 60 dis-

advantaged primary and secondary school students can continue to attend government schools.

“In addition we will be able to provide additional tertiary courses for the Class of 2024 with 10 Tertiary Patrons committing on the night to fund this initiative and a further two signing up this week,” Steven said.

Steven said there were many supporters to thank for the success of the evening.

“I’d like to thank LJ our compere who made the evening so much fun and the Phillip Island Adventure Resort for providing the venue and their assistance.

“Thanks to Ash for his brilliant poetry, Pam for sharing her insights on our work and how our supporters are all helping make a change and Warren for his countless hours in organising the venue, putting the videos together and thinking up some Trivia questions,” Steven continued.

“We also must thank Jason Cameron our Major Auction auctioneer, and Sigrid and Krystal for putting the videos and slides together, and the Advertiser for its continued support.

“Plus our very kind and very creative stall volunteers who make various items and then donate all proceeds to Growing Cambodia: Fiona, Martin, Elisa, Nyree and Lisa.

“And last and certainly not least all our donors of auction items and raffle prizes.”



Winning team the Uni Crew, all studied at Monash University in the 1970s and clearly put that tertiary education to good use at the Growing Cambodia Trivia Night.



First timers the table of Legal Eagles from Leonard and Associates – one of 26 teams that put a table together for the night. More photos at pisra.com.au.

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1

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A black and white cow wearing sunglasses and carrying a golf bag, standing on a yellow background. The text "GRUMPY'S CRAZY GOLF" is at the top, "OPEN 7 DAYS" is in a red circle, and "OPEN HOURS: 9am till 5pm - 7 days a week" is below. The address "152 Thompson Avenue, Cowes. 5952 3060 | 0408 120 908" and the slogan "No weather problems - Crazy Golf is under cover!" are at the bottom.

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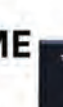

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An advertisement for Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre. The background is blue with white starburst patterns. At the top, the text 'Phillip Island' is in a smaller font, and 'TENPIN BOWLING' is in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below that, '& Entertainment Centre' is in a similar but slightly smaller font. In the center, five cartoon penguins are standing. From left to right: the first penguin holds a green bowling ball; the second has a red stripe on its chest; the third has a red circle on its chest; the fourth holds a blue bowling ball; and the fifth holds a bowling pin. In the top right corner, there is a red circle with the number '6' in white. At the bottom, the phone number '5952 3977' is written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline, and 'OPEN 7 DAYS' is written below it in a similar but smaller font. In the bottom right corner, there is small text that reads '©2013 B&A A'.

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This wonderfully presented residence has a genuine appeal from the moment you enter. Whether its the higher ceilings, or the warmth of the timber flooring or the natural light it captures. This double story design enjoys 3 large bedrooms, serviced by 2 bathrooms including ensuite off the main bedroom. A second living area can be enjoyed downstairs which flows out to the tropical garden setting and spa area. One of the brilliant aspects of the position is that you can enjoy a flat easy walk to the beach. An excellent opportunity in the price point for those seeking a well presented, well positioned property.

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633sqm (approx.)



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FOR SALE

PRICE \$539,000 - \$559,000

Beautiful Vacant Block with potential for views

Situated close to San Remo Village, stunning beaches and Bass Coast College this block provides easy access to all that San Remo and surrounds has to offer.

570sqm (approx.)



27B MCRAE AVENUE, COWES

FOR SALE

PRICE \$610,000 - \$630,000

Rare offering just moments to the beach

This exceptional parcel of land of 417sqm (approx.) is a rare gem and located in one of the most desirable locations on Phillip Island.

417sqm (approx.)



2 GLEN STREET, SURF BEACH

FOR SALE

PRICE \$615,000

Quintessential Coastal Charm

The block showcases both water views from ground level and stunning views of the sand dunes. Ideally positioned on the corner, this block oozes investment potential with the scope to subdivide (STCA).

712sqm (approx.)



5 SEYMOUR PLACE, COWES

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On a generous block size, just metres from the beautiful North facing bay beach, this is a rare opportunity to build your dream home in a secure, peaceful and highly sought after location.

539sqm (approx.)



8 DUNVEGAN CRESCENT, SURF BEACH

FOR SALE

PRICE \$690,000 - \$730,000

Rare Opportunity!

This vacant allotment is just a few metres away from the magnificent Surf Beach offering an incredible opportunity to build in a highly sought after coastal location.

844sqm (approx.)



9 BREEZE COURT, SAN REMO

FOR SALE

PRICE \$749,000 - \$799,000

Prestigious Gated Location with Views

Situated in a coveted location is this magnificent parcel of land. The elevated allotment sits in a private, gated community and boasts Westernport Bay views.

1331sqm (approx.)



32 PENNIWELLS DRIVE, SAN REMO

FOR SALE

PRICE \$759,000 - \$789,000

Prestigious land with panoramic ocean vistas!

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919sqm (approx.)



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New Isle of Wight given green light

From page 1

"This specimen, which is intact, and of good condition is extremely rare," said planners, who disagreed with the developer's arborist who said the hoop pine was in poor condition.

"Hoop pines are slow growing species that can have lifespans of up to 450 years, with this particular tree estimated to be 150 years old and of a condition that is suitable to be retained."

Response

Cr Ronnie Bauer said while the site had a special height allowance from a planning panel, it would nevertheless be the benchmark that other developments looked to "for the vibe and skyline of Cowes".

"The elevation of the development brings height creep up to a whole new level," Cr Bauer said.

Cr Bauer said the "whopping" parking waiver highlighted "the urgent need to address the problem of carparking".

"Suggesting the car will not be used once guests arrive is a leap of faith."

"Transport on demand and bicycles will not adequately overcome the car problem, especially in winter and on rainy days. Cowes is not Cairns."

"The distance to anything further than Erehwon Point or the Cowes Yacht club will need a car."

He supported the development saying the property was the most important piece of real estate on the island and was currently an "eyesore".

Cr David Rooks said council policies recommended flipping the transport hierarchy from car dominant to walking, cycling and public transport.

"The developer has embraced this objective," he said, explaining a Green Travel Plan would reduce the need for "excessive" car parking and focus on transport alternatives.

Mayor Michael Whelan said



Planners said the proposal - at 9-11 The Esplanade and 2-8 Bass Avenue - would create a net community benefit, with additional tourist spending of up to \$76 million, encouraging year-round visitation with industry conferences and corporate retreats, also filling a shortfall of high-quality accommodation.

the Moda development would return the site as a landmark Phillip Island destination, create local employment, support the economy and provide much-needed accommodation for visitors and workers.

"The proposed \$85 million

development will help address the significant shortfall of high-quality accommodation for visitors and workers on Phillip Island," Cr Whelan said.

"Tourism is one of the main economic drivers of Bass Coast, but we currently lack enough

accommodation to keep visitors in the region for more than a day.

"Not only will it greatly benefit existing Phillip Island attractions, it will serve as a catalyst for further economic opportunity and growth."

Isle of Wight: the who's who

DEVELOPMENT

The 8600sqm parcel of land was bought by developers Moda in late 2020, with a sale price of \$10 million.

Moda has \$150 million worth of projects currently under construction with managing director Ed Farquharson's family owning a property in Ventnor.

Moda has joined with several partners to develop the site, including Salta Capital, the venture capital arm of one of Australia's largest private property developers, with more than \$5 billion worth of projects, in-

cluding Quest Apartments Melbourne.

Salta works in residential, commercial, retail, industrial and hotel development, and is owned by Sam Tarascio.

Another partner is the Tabet Development Group, owned by Mazen Tabet, a well-known hotelier with pub interests across Australia and abroad, including the Village Belle Hotel in St Kilda, Portsea Hotel, Melbourne's Half Moon Bay Hotel and Raffles Hotel in Perth.

Colonial Leisure Group will operate the venue. CLG is owned by Chris Morris, founder

of share registry company Computershare, which operates a portfolio of upmarket pubs including the Portsea Hotel and the Albert Park Hotel.

According to an article in the Australian Financial Review earlier this year the involvement of Mr Morris and Mr Tarascio is part of an emerging trend of ultra-wealthy investors putting their money into major hospitality ventures in regional Victoria.

The building is designed by architects Alexander & Co, whose previous projects include the Manly Wharf Hotel and Watsons Bay Hotel.

Hotel's long history

DEVELOPMENT

The approval of the new Isle of Wight development ends a three-decade chequered history for the site.

Phillip Island's first hotel, the Isle of Wight, opened in 1870 before being destroyed by a fire in 1925, then rebuilt.

The modern Isle of Wight was first given a planning permit for redevelopment by the former Phillip Island Shire, which was followed by a series of failed proposals, meeting with community opposition.

In 1989 the former Administrative Appeals Tribunal considered an appeal against the former Shire of Phillip Island's decision to approve a seven-storey hotel.

However, this permit was not acted upon.

In 1999 an application was lodged for a 10-level structure which was refused by council.

In 2000, VCAT considered an appeal by objectors against council's decision to approve a nine and a half storey hotel (33 metre) development.

This application was refused by the tribunal based on excessive height.

In 2005 a permit was granted which allowed a seven-storey hotel with 255 units, night club and bottle shop, restaurants



A 2007 planning permit sought to build this on the Isle of Wight site. Over the years there have been many failed proposals for the hotel.

and cocktail lounges, a public/sports bar, gambling lounge and café/bistro as well as shop and a gymnasium/health club.

The permit was later amended in 2010 to have 148 hotel suites and deletion of the night club and bottle shop.

One month after the granting of the amended permit the hotel was destroyed by fire in 2010.

The site remained vacant and in 2014 was put on the market for sale. The planning permit previously granted expired.

In 2019 a two-day Planning Panels Victoria hearing in Cowes detailed planning requirements for the Isle of Wight land,

including seeking community consultation on designs, and requiring any future development remain seven storeys at the front half of the site along The Esplanade, increasing the rear half from four to five storeys.

The Planning Panel stated the site should have a landmark redevelopment of architectural excellence.

The Panel also said any redevelopment must design around and make a feature of the significant Moreton Bay fig tree on the corner of the land, ensuring a qualified arborist "undertake any investigations necessary" to ensure the safety of the tree.



A Phillip Island resident has claimed the Cowes Transit Centre is so full of cars from workers at adjacent sites there is no room for the public.

No room for bus travellers

A Phillip Island resident has claimed the Cowes Transit Centre is so full of cars from workers at adjacent sites there is no room for the public.

Ian Bell-Towers said he was very concerned about the lack of available parking.

"At present, there are a large number of trade workers parking in the all-day area," he said.

"I understand workers from the medical hub are told to park there as well."

Construction is currently underway on either side of the Transit Centre at the sites of the new community hospital and the Cultural Centre.

As a result, Ian said there is no public parking left for anyone wanting to park and catch a Vline bus.

"Once the new centre is open, parking will be non-existent for bus travellers," he said.

However Bass Coast Health confirmed alternative parking arrangements had been made for its staff during the construction of the new community hospital.

"The rear of the current site, and the entire former PICAL site, have been handed over to the construction team

to enable these works to progress, so that we can open in late 2024," a BCH spokesperson said.

"To ensure our patients continue to have quick and ready access to our services, the parking at the Hub has been reserved for patients."

"All BCH staff and contractors have been advised to park at other venues."

BCH confirmed it had been working with Bass Coast Shire Council and the Phillip Island Football Netball Club on parking arrangements.

"All hospital construction workers are parking at the football oval as agreed, and staff are parking at both the football oval, and at the transit centre, or adopting other arrangements such as walking and riding to work, or carpooling."

The Phillip Island Community Hospital is due to open in late 2024 and will provide an expanded urgent care centre, operating theatres, a chemotherapy and dialysis service, public dental services and public radiology.

Construction is nearing completion on the new Cultural Centre which is due to open on November 2.



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PICAL Term 4 Course Guide released

COMMUNITY

Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) has released its Term 4 course guide. Centre Manager David Rooks said PICAL was excited to release the new guide, which includes courses in hospitality, digital technology, English language, first aid and renewable energy, as well as offering a range of group activities. "On offer is a new renewable energy course presented by local identity Werner Theinert who thrives on sharing his wealth of sustainability knowledge," David said. "PICAL is also thrilled to

welcome back highly experienced hospitality industry professional, Frank Fazio. "Frank, who is skilled and knowledgeable in all aspects of hospitality delivery, is passionate about food, healthy living and inspiring others to eat and live well." To help build future courses, David said PICAL was seeking trainers. "All levels of training experience are welcome to get involved. "Our courses require different levels of trainers, so don't feel you can't offer support even if you aren't a recognised formal trainer."

To access course information and bookings go to the PICAL website at: www.pical.org.au, ring reception on 03 5952 1131 or visit 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes. Course guides are available from reception. A summary of the courses offered in Term 4:

- Hospitality courses: Barista/waiting skills, Food handling, Responsible Serving of Alcohol
- Sustainability: Renewable energy
- Digital Skills and technology: Beginners computers, tech support, website design/social media, smart devices
- English as a Second Lan-



PICAL has released its Term 4 course guide, and volunteers Sue Hines (left) and Grace Wilkinson are excited about the courses on offer for the community.

- guage: and English refresher
- First Aid: CPR, provide first aid
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- Starting your own business workshop: Small business essentials

CLASSIFIEDS SEEK, BUY AND SELL



DEATHS

MABER, Gordon:
30.08.1950 – 23.09.2023
Passed away peacefully at home.
Loving husband of Janice.
Cherished father of Lisa, Michelle, Belinda and Karyn.
Adored Pop to his 8 beautiful grandchildren.
He will be sadly missed.



Mr Michael Gormley
Service Details:
A37126
Royal Australian Air Force
The President, Committee, Members, Management and Staff of the Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch deeply regret to announce the passing of Michael Gormley, a respected Service Member of our Sub-Branch. Our sincere condolences are extended to the Gormley family.
LEST WE FORGET.

FUNERALS

MABER:
The Funeral Service for Mr. Gordon Maber will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on MONDAY 2nd October, 2023 commencing at 11:00am.
A Private Cremation will follow.
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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp. Coles) - Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday 11am, 5672 3627. Phone head office 9429 1833.

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JD0209AA

PUBLIC NOTICES



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Oct 4th 2023 at 5.00pm in the ANZAC room at the Cowes RSL.
The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be conducted from 5pm-5.30pm.
We have a special guest speaker (from 5.30pm-6.30pm) – Carole Kahn from the Royal Flying Doctor Service, who are running publicly funded psychologist sessions in Cowes. Come along and find out how to access this service and what other services are available via the RFDS.
There will also be some time available for questions from the floor. There is a great deal going on at the moment, come along and be informed of these new services.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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It's a debacle

Bass Coast Council claims they have provided extensive community consultation to the ratepayers of Sunderland Bay Surf Beach but the whole process has been one sided with questions framed to give the result that suits council's objective.

Cr Bauer even questioned council's phrase, extensive community consultation in relation to another questionnaire and disputed the result. There has been no face-to-face meeting between council and ratepayers even though the average cost to ratepayers is in excess of \$30,000.

Council has continuously refused to ask or answer our questions at the monthly council meeting and have not even acknowledged the questions in the council minutes. Ratepayers are asked to vote for or against the special charge scheme based solely on incorrect and poorly produced Concept Plans that show no information regarding drainage or road safety, issues that council claims will be improved; this is a major issue.

Ratepayers have not been given the chance to view detailed plans prior to the vote. Detail plans would include all details pertaining to the scheme and enable ratepayers to make an informed decision how the proposed works will affect each individual lot and the whole of the combined estates. In the documentation, council states detailed plans are available to view but in fact there are no detailed plans. The approximate construction costs are freely available to any person or company so the tendering process is already corrupt and all Bass Coast ratepayers will have to pick up the costs to cover this blunder. There are numerous errors with the declaration process from an incorrect council email address, no information on the yes or no objection form whether a tick or a cross is valid, whether if the property is in multiple names who can sign the document to be a valid vote. There are discrepancies in the date for lodgement. Council states a different date to that dictated by government legislation. Council has also stated that the submission or objection can be emailed but this is also in contravention of the 1989 Local Government Act Legislation. What a debacle by council.

Louise Lyell, Surf Beach

Editor's note: Bass Coast Shire Council has said it is following the legislative process. It confirmed submissions and objections can be emailed or sent by post and the closing date is October 11, which is in excess of the minimum notification of 28 days required by The Local Government Act 1989.

Another slug from council

Bass Coast Shire Council has decided that there is a 'problem' to be fixed with all short-stay accommodation in the Shire; an estimated 2500 properties.

The 'problem' is not analysed in any material way and 'Council recognises that most operators of Short Stay Rental Accommodation act responsibly and manage their property appropriately'.

It appears to be that a few property owners have noisy guests or guests that don't put out their rubbish properly, so we have to address this through a new umbrella 'local law'.

This law will provide for 'a more structured, efficient (sic.) system as visitor numbers surge'.

So, as a holiday home property owner, I now have to go online and certify by ticking a few boxes that:

- I have provided my contact details to the neighbours of my rental property – no problem.
- I will respond to any complaint within 2 hours – ok.
- I will have a 'waste management plan', which means ticking a box to say that I use the Council's rubbish collection or another service – done.

All good so far, will take me 10 minutes to fill out the form and satisfy the Council on these matters. But then the kicker, I have to pay \$300 per year for this registration.

With 2500 short-stay properties in the Shire, that's \$750,000 per year into Council coffers.

No cost analysis, no real justification, just another slug from the Council.

The Council can't exceed the rate cap and it has bumped up its waste management charges as high as they can go, when ... 'manna-from-heaven' here is a new way to prop up our revenue!

Just one more poorly thought through bureaucratic regime charged to the ratepayer, with no KPIs so we can measure its effectiveness, and no real indication as to where the funds are going, other than into 'infrastructure'.

At the very least, the revenue from this new charge should be transparently hypothecated into a dedicated fund with the actual expenditure from this fund reported back to the community.

Jeff Floyd, Cowes

Council concerns

Last week's council meeting confirmed some concerns I hold about Bass Coast Shire Council.

Firstly, it confirmed what a mockery some of our elected representatives make of their pledge to consider each item without bias, prejudice, or personal interests.

During the debate it was clear to me

that for some councillors the decision to advocate for one side of the national referendum was driven by personal interest.

Secondly, it provided to me further evidence of the authoritarian approach of the current mayor, Cr Michael Whelan.

A person had very briefly interjected their disapproval of council choosing to take sides in the national referendum. With little warning the Mayor demanded the person leave the public gallery. When the person refused to leave, the Mayor summoned police.

It was what I consider to be a most unprofessional overreaction to a minor interjection.

I believe that had Cr Whelan shown professional restraint, the person would have continued watching the remainder of the meeting without further interruption.

However, this storm-in-a-teacup was blown out of proportion by the Mayor.

No less than six police officers in three squad cars attended.

At the request of officers, the community member willingly and without fuss accompanied them outside for a chat about how to resolve the matter.

I believe that our community deserves much better from these temporary elected representatives.

They should start by honouring their pledges, and also by exhibiting improved professional maturity.

Kevin Griffin, Wonthaggi

Parking concerns

I'm very concerned with the lack of parking at the Transit centre. At present there are a large number of trade workers parking in the all-day area. I understand workers from the Medical Hub are told to park there as well, leaving no public parking for anyone wishing to park and catch a Vline bus.

Once the new centre is open, parking will be non-existent for bus travellers.

Ian Bell-Towers, Cowes

Community loud and clear

Congratulations to all Bass Coast Shire Councillors for voting on the adoption of Phillip Island Recreation Master Plan. It is a wonderful addition to Phillip Island and the wider community.

But I have to question what universe Cr Rooks lives in. He stated in the meeting that feedback showed that "ranking #2 in level of most importance was the ability of users to spend time outdoors amongst the bushland". He is incorrect – the importance of the dog recreation area came in equal second behind the aquatic centre.

Michelle Jean, Sunderland Bay

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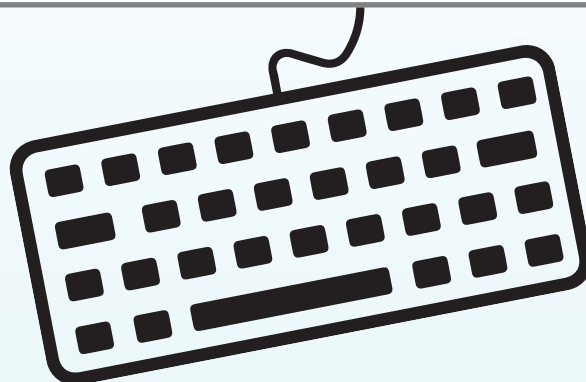


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Race is back – bigger than ever

MOTO GP

Phillip Island is already preparing to gear up for a jam-packed racing schedule from October 20 to October 22 for the two premiere class MotoGP™ races headlining the MotoGP™ Guru by Gryfyn Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix 2023.

Thousands of fans are expected to converge on the island for three days of nail-biting racing, live music, and a heap of family-friendly entertainment.

The MotoGP is the biggest sporting event in regional Victoria and up to 100,000 people are expected to descend on to Phillip Island over the Grand Prix weekend.

"This is the cornerstone of Bass Coast Shire Council's events program, bringing with it an economic benefit of more than \$42 million," said Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan.

"It is also a major driver for off-season tourism, employment and international exposure to key markets.

"Phillip Island has successfully hosted the Australian MotoGP for close to 30 years at our world-famous Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit and we are thrilled to again host this brilliant family event featuring community days, activities and a range of exciting programs to support the main races."

Recently, Cr Michael Whelan and Acting CEO Greg Box met with Travis Auld, the new MotoGP CEO and his team in preparation for the event.

"We are thrilled to have met with the new MotoGP CEO, and are very keen to continue the great partnership between our



Winner of last year's MotoGP, Alex Rins in action on the track. The event returns this year from October 20-22. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

two organisations," Mr Box said.

"We look forward to continuing to work together to make the Grand Prix a brilliant and fun filled experience for the whole community."

Community Day

A community day will be held on Friday October 20, which provides free general admission tickets for Bass Coast residents.

To receive a complimentary ticket, just present your proof of residency. You can avoid the queues and collect tickets in advance on Thursday from Gate 1 or from any gate on the Friday.

Bass Coast Shire Council is also launching a community competition on Wednesday September 27 via the Council facebook page, with double pass general admission tickets and family tickets to be won.

Cowes Entertainment Precinct

Thompson Avenue in Cowes will remain an entertainment hub and will be filled with live music

and entertainment along with the BMW Superscreen showing race footage, rider interviews and movies throughout the weekend.

There are plenty of events occurring across the weekend, for more information on these, as well as traffic management plans, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/motogp.

The homecoming ride will be held on Wednesday October 18 leaving from San Remo at 3pm and making its way across the bridge where participants can do a lap around the track.

The Royal Australian Air Force will be conducting flying displays near the circuit over the weekend.

These displays, while thrilling to watch, can be loud and disruptive to pets. Whilst we are told that the jets will be quieter than previous years, Council encourages people to take the necessary precautions to ensure their pets are safe.

Keep an eye on www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/motogp for times closer to the event.

Rips Jamboree



Rips basketballers Golden Nugget Boys Jarrah Rutherford and Archie Robinson were selected from a final camp held at Korumburra and travelled to Ballarat on September 20 for the final selection day. Successful players will be named early October to compete for Victorian Country in January.



Phillip Island Rips Basketball players (L to R) Flynn Riley, Harvey Oates and Taj Piera, were selected from the Under 12 Skills Day held in Wonthaggi to attend the 2023 Jamboree recently held in Echuca. The boys played games against other teams and enjoyed making new friends, learning new skills and having fun.



This week's winners: Graeme McLeish (L), David Smith (S), Frank D'unienville (2) and Phil Wright (3). More photos at pisra.com.au

Action on the green

BOWLS

The Midweek game was held at Lang Lang Bowls Club.

A bit wet, but 28 of our bowlers turned up to fight it out for team of the week.

A couple of short delays as the rain fell in the morning session, but these only held us up for about 10 minutes of the day.

The wind played havoc with the bowls for the first hour or two but then it settled down.

As usual there was a fair amount of laughter across the green, but it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves.

Didn't see any wrong bias bowls, keep up the good work everyone. Today's winners on a great score of 37 were: David Smith (S), Phil Wright (3), Frank D'unienville (2) and Graeme McLeish (L).

Runners up on 33 points were: Michael Dady (S), Rob Jeffreys (3) and Bob Arnold (L).

Best one game winners for the day were: Peter Borradaile (S), Trevor Loughridge (3) and Jenny Smith (L).

Thank you to David and Vern for the work outside and thank you to Marianne, Bev, Jenny and David for clearing up inside.

After the game we had a small celebration for Max for his 90th birthday coming up on Sunday.

I can only hope that I will be as young as Max is, if I get there.

From all our family of bowlers let me just say Happy Birthday Max!

Next week we will be meeting at Corinella.

Please be on site by 10am to allow teams to be prepared.

Meanwhile have a safe and happy week.

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, September 19

Mens 18-hole Stoke

A grade winner: Luke Kelly (8) with nett 69 from Jeff Bennett (11) nett 72.

B grade winner: John Leheny (20) with nett 69 from John Enbom (17) with nett 73.

C grade winner: Gerald Taylor (22) with nett 69 from Simon Black (26) with nett 70.

BDL to nett 74 C/B.

NTP: 5th Barry Gibson, 7th Alex Bowden, 10th Peter Blunden and 17th Dan McConnen.

Nine-hole Stableford

Winner: Col Cordery (33) with 23 points from Peter Hiam (33) with 20 points.

BDL to 17 points.

Wednesday, September 20

Ladies Stableford

A grade winner: Kim Rippon-King (27) 35 points C/B.

B grade winner: Michelle Davey (45) 36 points.

BDL 33 points C/B.

NTP: 5th Annette Millership, 10th Trish Jamieson, 17th Miyuki Yamaguchi and 12th Liz O'Neill.

Nine-hole winner was Wendy Hamilton (29) 20 points to Norma Corr (41) 14 points C/B.

Thursday, September 21

18-hole Open Par

A grade winner: Barry Grazules (8) with square from Stephen Earl (15) with -1.



From left to right: Megan Elbaz (Saturday's winner), Wendy Hamilton (Wednesday's 9-hole winner), Kim Rippon-King (Wednesday's A grade winner) and Michelle Davey (Wednesday's B grade winner).

B grade winner: John Enbom (17) with +2 C/B from Rowan Wales (18).

C grade winner: Robert Purcell (23) with square from Don Thompson (26) -1 C/B.

BDL to -3 C/B.

NTP: 5th Wayne Morris, 7th Rick Banfield, 10th Lee Cleary and 17th Dan McConnen.

Nine-hole Open 4BBB Stableford

Brian Baker and Peter Mathews won with 23 points from Ian Barker and John Niven with 22 points.

Saturday, September 23

Mens 18-hole Stableford

A grade winner: Gino Manfredi (11) with 37 points from Isaac Batty (-1) with 36 points C/B.

B grade winner: Greg Williams (16) with 41 points from Max Disher (16) with 40 points.

C grade winner: Ian Rowell (21) with 41 points from Max Brown (22) with 39 points.

BDL to 34 points C/B.

NTP: 5th Isaac Batty, 7th Joel Panozzo, 10th Tom Tyrell and 17th Max Disher.

Ladies 18-hole Stableford

Winner: Marg Frith (37) 40 points from Sheryl Smith (26) with 38 points.

BDL to 33 points C/B.

NTP: 5th Trish Jamieson, 7th Wendy Hopkins and 10th Helen Coghlan.

Open 9-hole Stableford

Winner: John Rodakis (37) with 17 points from Alan Tindale (31) with 16 points C/B.

Sunday, September 24

Open Stableford

Winner: Daniel Pearce (8) with 34 points from Harri Baltruschaitis (17), 33 points.

Spring carnival attracts state-wide clubs

BOWLS

Phillip Island Bowling Club hosted their annual Spring Carnival, two bowl triples on Thursday, September 21, and Friday, September 22, with 28 teams representing 26 clubs from all over the state.

The bowls club was a hive of activity.

The standard of bowling was exceptional and with the weather providing beautiful conditions for bowling they thrived in the sunny conditions.

The bowls club would like to thank our sponsors, Lifestyle

Communities and OBrien Real Estate for their continued support of this annual event.

In third place: Dennis Throup, Col Jeffrey and Dale Henbrick from the Drouin Bowling Club.

Second place: Ken White, Bruce Manly and Dave Bewley from the Hastings Bowling Club.

Congratulations to the winners: Mark Smoljo, Terry Kelly and Jimmy Cooper from the Kyneton Bowling Club.

Well done everyone who participated, there was some exceptional bowling. A big thank you to the tireless volunteers.

Photos at pisra.com.au.



Lucy Thompson (left), Isla McClean (middle) and Thomas Courtney (right) bringing home the gold in Bendigo last weekend.



Newhaven College placed incredible results during last weekend's Apinestars MTB School series.

Newhaven College team soars to triple gold victory

BIKING

In a stunning display of skill and determination, the Newhaven College mountain biking team once again claimed victory at the final round of the Alpine-stars MTB Schools series held in Bendigo on September 17.

Thomas Courtney (year 10), Isla McClean (year 9), and Lucy Thompson (year 6) emerged as champions, each securing first place in their respective age groups, a remarkable feat considering the fierce competition from over sixty schools across Victoria.

Adding to their accolades, Isla and Lucy also clinched first place in their age categories for the overall series, while Thomas secured an impressive second-place finish in the overall series standings.

Lucy Thompson's perfor-

mance in the U13 girl's novice category was nothing short of spectacular. The race, spanning five laps of a challenging short course totalling 9.6 kilometres, provided a thrilling contest.

Lucy held her own in a neck-and-neck competition, leading the pack for most of the race.

However, it was on the final lap where Lucy's determination shone through as she surged ahead to secure victory in both the race and the series.

In her very first competitive event, Isla McClean fearlessly tackled the long course covering 14.2 kilometres in the U15 girl's novice race.

With no prior mountain biking experience, Isla's natural athleticism and passion for sports propelled her to the podium, earning her the top spot in her age category for the series.

Thomas Courtney, in the U17 boy's novice race, demonstrated his dominance from the get-go, maintaining a commanding lead throughout the race.

His final push on the 14.2-kilometre course secured not only the race but also a remarkable second-place finish in the overall series standings.

This triple gold victory by the Newhaven College mountain biking team is a triumph not only for the school but also an inspiration for young people across the Bass Coast.

What makes this achievement all the more remarkable is that the team has been competing for just a little over a year!

Congratulations to these young riders, who exemplify the spirit of perseverance, courage, and dedication in the world of mountain biking.



Sam Docherty (right) won the 2023 Jim Stynes Community Leadership Award for his work raising funds for cancer research. Photo: AFL

Sam's community leadership awarded

FOOTBALL

Congratulations to former Philip Islander Sam Docherty, who won the 2023 Jim Stynes Community Leadership Award on Monday night, for his work raising funds for cancer research.

The award was announced as part of the Brownlow Medal presentation.

The former Carlton skipper has had his own cancer battle, recovering twice from testicular cancer.

So far, he has raised \$220,000 for the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation through his "Do it for Doc" initiative.

Sam now holds a voluntary role as an Observer on the Board of the Peter MacCallum Foundation and is an ambassador for the Peter Mac Cup, which takes place between Carlton and Collingwood every year and is the longest-running charity match in the AFL.

He is also an ambassador for Paws4Kids which is a program run through MacKillop Family Services. This initiative allows more vulnerable children to get back to the classroom through the support of therapy dogs.

Sam helped Carlton team up with North Melbourne and fellow cancer survivor, Ben Cunningham, to create the first Good Friday Superclash, ultimately raising more than \$200,000 for the Good Friday Appeal and drawing the biggest crowd attendance in this fixture's history of 49,062.

Receiving the award, Sam said he was "humbled" and felt blessed to be able to give back to the Peter Mac Foundation in some way.

"These organisations don't

exist without your donations ... they make these places work.

"From being on the other side, laying in a hospital bed, it's not just the money, it's the emotional support that all of you give."

He thanked everyone who had supported his journey.

Carlton CEO Brian Cook praised Docherty for his passion to help others.

"Sam is such a selfless and generous person who gives everything to everyone. The way he plays the game is a true reflection of his character – courageous with spirit and heart – and this shines through off the field too," Cook said.

"He's always willing to help and we couldn't be prouder of what he's been able to achieve in the community and the positive impact he's had on so many people. He truly wants to make a difference and we feel very lucky to have Sam at our club."

Docherty will receive \$40,000 which will be donated to the charity or community program of his choice.

Now in its 12th year, the prestigious award is presented to the player who has best demonstrated the values of late Melbourne champion and former Demons President, Jim Stynes. The award recognises those who are committed to helping others and making a difference in the community, and the way they represent the game on and off the field.

Fremantle's Bailey Banfield, Melbourne's Ben Brown and Sydney's Harry Cunningham were all finalists for the award and recognised on the night for their significant contribution to the community and their nominated charities.

New season starts on October 2

DARTS

Attention darts enthusiasts.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 2023 Spring Darts Competition, starting on Monday, October 2. This is an event you don't want to miss.

For all our current 2023 registered players, individual entry is only \$5.

Come by between 7pm – 7.15pm on the night to sign up.

We also want to extend a warm welcome to new players. It's \$5 to play and another \$5 to register for the Spring season.

We'll kick off the evening with a briefing and announce the teams promptly at 7.20pm and at 7.30pm sharp, the first

darts will be thrown.

It's going to be an exciting drawn teams' event happening every Monday night for eight weeks.

Punctuality is key here; please be there on time.

Late entries may not be guaranteed a game as the teams need to be drawn.

We will be recognising and rewarding the winning teams with weekly prizes.

Plus, we'll use a points system to determine the first, second and third fairest and best spring dart players at the end of the season.

To ensure we can accommodate everyone, please let us know your intentions on playing so we

can gauge the number of participants and determine the number of boards needed for the event.

As always, feel free to BYO drinks.

We'll also have an exciting meat tray raffle and good tunes throughout the night.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

Looking forward to a thrilling Spring Darts season.

New players are always welcome.

If you are interested in being involved and enjoy a friendly environment with young and old alike, male and female, please contact Scott Lethbridge on 0407 543 154 or email scott@glpc.com.au.

Cowes Primary at division athletics

ATHLETICS

On Thursday September 14, 30 Cowes Primary School students attended Casey Athletics Track to participate in the School Sport Victoria South Gippsland Division Primary Track and Field event.

The weather was amazing, if anything a little warm for athletics.

Cowes students performed very well with 15 students qualifying for the Regional Champi-

onships on October 10 at Newborough.

Out of this group, the U12/13 girls relay team consisting of Marni Goulter, Violet Robertson, Kate McCausland and Macy Piera broke the four by 100m race record by just over a second from 1:00:51 to 59:38 and Fergus Tillotson broke the 11-year-old triple jump by just under a metre from 8.67m to 9.62m.

Congratulations to these fabulous students and good luck for the Regional event.



The girls relay team: Violet Robertson, Marni Goulter, Macy Piera and Kate McCausland.



Fergus Tillotson took first place in triple jump.



Sage Goldsbury from the Phillip Island Boardriders in action. Photo: Noah Clifford, Surfing Victoria.

Island takes third spot in boardriders battle

SURFING

Phillip Island took out third place in round two of the Australian Boardriders Battle, held on the island over the weekend.

That means the local team is off to the finals at Burleigh in Queensland next year.

The event was won by Torquay Boardriders, with Peninsula Surfriders in second place.

Torquay Boardriders Club put on an impressive display of surfing on the way to victory at Woolamai Beach with perfect 2-3 foot A-frame waves rolling through under bright blue skies and sunshine.

With such good waves on offer, the quality of surfing was lifted as all teams put on a great show for the crowd down at the beach and also for those watching the live-stream on mySURFtv's YouTube channel and Kayo Sports.

In the first semifinal matchup, Torquay Boardriders Club took on Jan Juc.

Torquay Boardriders Club set the record for the highest-scoring team heat total at a Victorian Australian Boardriders Battle, an amazing 46.55 combined points, on the back of an incredible performance by



Sam Patterson, Carl Wright, Ash Easton, Sage Goldsbury and Francis Meade of the Phillip Island Boardriders team, who came third in the Boardriders Battle competition on Sunday. Photo: Noah Clifford, Surfing Victoria.

Xavier Huxtable, which earned him the Oakley Prism Performance Award.

South Coast Boardriders surfer Luke took out the Le Tan Le Breakthrough Award.

The finals were a battle between Torquay, Jan Juc, Peninsular Surfriders and Phillip Island.

The midway point of the heat saw a flurry of high scores come through from multiple teams.

Jan Juc's Carly Shanahan scored a 7-point ride, Phillip Island's Sage Goldsbury secured a 7.37-point ride and Torquay's Xavier Huxtable

dropped the highest score of the final, a 7.40-point ride.

This carried on Torquay Boardriders Club's momentum to the end where they took out the regional qualifier with a 32.27 combined heat total, with Peninsula placing second on a 30.14 combined heat total.

Phillip Island placed third with 27.61 points and Jan Juc Boardriders came in fourth with 22.04 points. The top three teams qualify for the national final at Burleigh, Queensland, in March next year.

For live results and schedule head to www.surfingvic.com/live

First Junior Pro wins big

SURFING

Finals day at the Phillip Island Junior Pro presented by Bass Coast Shire Council did not disappoint with Woolamai Beach producing amazing rip bowl conditions for six competitors to come out victorious across the divisions.

Emerging surfers from across the country converged on Phillip Island for the event, which provides young surfers with valuable rankings points in their quest for a spot in the Irukandjis team heading to the ISA World Junior Surfing Titles.

With a drop in swell, on the final day, the event was moved to its primary location at Woolamai Beach which provided both left- and right-hand rip bowl options for the competitors.

Wave of the Day was awarded to Under 14 girls competitor Eliza Richardson (Sunshine Beach) for a 9.60 point ride (out of a possible 10).

Her high score was topped by Under 14 boys



Milla Brown took out first place in the Under 18 girls at the first Phillip Island Junior Pro held last week. Photo Noah Clifford, Surfing Victoria.

winner Locana Cullen with a perfect 10 for a full air rotation.

Finals Results:

U18 Girls: 1st – Milla Brown (Bungan, NSW)

U18 Boys: 1st – Harley Walters (Angourie, NSW)

U16 Girls: 1st – Ocea Curtis (Lennox Head, NSW)

U16 Boys: 1st – Lachlan Arghyros (Kingscliff, NSW)

U14 Girls: 1st – Eliza Richardson (Sunshine Beach, QLD)

U14 Boys: 1st – Locana Cullen (Avalon Beach)

Full scores and results available at: www.surfingvic.com/phillipisland-junior

The Phillip Island Junior Pro is presented by Bass Coast Shire and supported by the Victorian Government Significant Sporting Events program, Carve Sunglasses, Buell Wetsuits, GLOBE, Surf-BetterNow.com and Surfing Victoria.

Back to Basics program aims to overcome complacency

BOATING

Get back to basics and stay safe on the water is the message for boaters returning to the water this spring.

Safe Transport Victoria's Back to Basics program reminds boaters of the need to prepare and maintain their boats after the winter break.

Too many boaters are unprepared when going out on the water, with incident figures for the 2022/23 year showing 85 per cent of maritime incidents involve vessel disablement – commonly caused by motor failure, equipment failure, or running out of fuel.

"Complacency sinks boats. We want all boaters to get Back to Basics before they head out on the water this spring," said Kate Maheras, Interim Director, Maritime Safety.

The Back to Basics program helps beat complacency by giving boaters pre-season and mid-season checklists to run through the most important safety points, such as maintaining fuel systems, electrical systems and steering gear.

Boaters are urged to stay safe by running through the Back to Basics checklists and by:

- Conducting thorough



In January, this boat got marooned on shallow reef rocks at Ne-Whaven. There were 995 Maritime incidents reported in 2022/23. A new program aims to keep boaters safe this summer.

pre-departure checks to ensure your vessel is in excellent condition. Pay attention to engine performance, electrical systems, and fuel levels to avoid unexpected breakdowns.

- Carrying out regular maintenance for a trouble-free boating experience. Schedule routine checks for your boat's engine, hull, and electrical systems. Addressing potential issues early on can save you from getting stuck out on the water.
- Carrying essential safety gear, including lifejackets and communication devices. Being

well-prepared ensures you can handle any unforeseen situations with confidence.

All boaters should also know the three: always wear a lifejacket, know the weather and carry two waterproof communication devices.

More information on Back to Basics, including the checklist, at: safetransport.vic.gov.au/back-to-basics/

Marine safety regulations were updated on June 11 this year – boaters are urged to familiarise themselves with updated rules at: safetransport.vic.gov.au/news/changes-to-marine-regulations/

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14 BEACH RD, RHYLL PHILLIP ISLAND

Euchre results

Ladies' winner: Mary-Ann Ueckerman, 5 wins.

Men's winner: Harry Bowman, 6 wins.

Encouragement award: Norma Corr. Please contact Bob Hee for any further information on 0418 173 388.

Great catches in perfect conditions

ANGLING

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) opened its 2023/2024 angling competition with the first weekend-long angling competition on September 23 and 24.

The season's opening enjoyed some magnificent weather and some great fish were caught all around Phillip Island.

There are 12 weekend competitions this season and all RPIAC members are eligible to participate. All junior anglers that participate receive complementary membership to RPIAC to compete for prizes and the club championships in the Squidgie (anglers aged nine or younger) and Junior (anglers aged 10 to 16) categories.

Anglers were certainly motivated by the thought of early Spring catches and the lure of snapper season.

A total of 69 fish made it to the RPIAC weigh-in room and the Weigh-in Master, Alex Bowden, and Club Captain, Chris Leonardos, had a steady stream of

anglers at the 4.30pm to 5.30pm weigh-in on Saturday and Sunday.

The eligible species caught over the two days included snapper, king george whiting, stranger whiting, barracouta, salmon, flathead, southern calamari and three gummy sharks.

None of the RPIAC Extraordinary Catch Incentives were claimed and the members-only, competition weekend, \$1000 first-to-catch prizes for senior competitors stay banked.

The incentives up for grabs are for eligible species that equal or exceed the nominated weight and include king george whiting (1000g), snapper (10kg), gummy shark (20kg), mulloway (25kg) and kingfish (25kg).

Results

The Squidgie Mixed Bag points competition, for participants aged nine and under, celebrated a three-way tie for second place.

The tremendous trio, comprising, Oliver Barratt, Harley Griffin and Byron Griffin, each weighed

in one fish worth 20 points.

Madeline McGinness finished the weekend with two fish, for a total of 35 points, to claim the first prize.

The Junior category, for anglers aged 10 to 16, saw Isabella Bland win the Junior Weight competition with a very impressive snapper, which tipped the scales at 4400 grams.

The Junior Points competition was won by Benji Chihotski, who weighed in a quality king george whiting worth 1386 points (495 grams).

The Senior Heaviest Weight competitions were won by Chris Leonardos and Leah Valente, who caught some sizable spring snapper.

The biggest for the weekend was caught by Chris and was 91cm long and just shy of nine kilograms, weighing 8985 grams.

Leah's was 60cm long and weighed 2565 grams.

The Senior Points competitions were won by Sam Linklater and Leah Valente.

Sam weighed in a stranger whiting worth 1420 points (355

grams) and Leah weighed-in a king george whiting worth 1218 points (435 grams).

The shark competition was won by Chris Leonardos, who weighed-in a 2665-gram gummy shark.

The squid/cuttlefish competition was won with a monster southern calamari, weighing 2140 grams, caught by Mark Griffin. Finally, the Secret Weight prize went to Brett Slade, who was closest to weekend's secret weight of 541 grams with a salmon.

Ongoing

With the first competition completed, there are still 11 competitions remaining in the season, and the club champion titles are a long way from being decided.

Participants, volunteers and

supporters gathered at the RPIAC clubroom to have a laugh and discuss strategies for the next angling competition.

The post-competition prize presentation was followed by a pizza night, thanks to the team at Bazarre Pizza Café in Cowes, which was enjoyed by all.

RPIAC's clubroom is located adjacent to the Rhyll boat ramp and is open to members and visitors on Fridays (from 5pm) and competition weekends coinciding with weigh in.

The next competition is scheduled for the weekend of October 14 and 15.

For further information about the club, events, competitions and rules, please visit the clubrooms or check the website: www.rpiac.com.



Isabella Bland caught a 4400-gram snapper to win the Junior Weight prize.



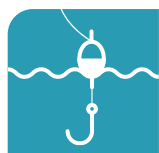
Byron Griffin caught a king george whiting and was part of the three-way tie for second place in the Squidgie competition.



Chris Leonardos had a great day on Sunday, catching a 91cm snapper weighing 8985 grams.



TEN YEARS AGO - SEPTEMBER 2013. "What a great event". 12,000 Tough Mudder competitors, plus thousands of their supporters and spectators, converged on the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit over the weekend to complete a 20km obstacle course that involved mud, ice baths, and electric currents.



AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

FISHING

Two fine weekends in a row are something we haven't seen for a long time, but no one is complaining and not too many are complaining about the fishing either.

Last weekend saw many heading out for the first time, while the weekend just gone had some more serious sessions and the reports reflected that as well.

Many targeted times, tides and fish, and with school holidays plenty of kids were out as well.

Even if the weather is fine this weekend there will be plenty watching the Grand Final on Saturday.

With the forecast for summer hot this year, it will be early out of bed and on and off the water before lunch.

Even if the high tide is in the middle of the day, fish the low.

I know many books say it must be the high, however we see as

much or more come back from the low, especially whiting. Or at least fish the start of the run-in tides as the water is coming over the banks.

It's a different story if you are heading offshore, although again most of the bite is very early and late of the bigger species whereas the flathead can be right through the day.

With plenty of boats out and lots fishing the jetties along with land-based areas during the holidays, the reports have been steady whilst still slow at times.

One customer chasing calamari told us that over the last couple of weeks he spent five hours for one and other times he has had 10 in under 30 minutes.

We are hearing about a lot of cuta and pike in the bay and maybe the calamari are doing a bit of self-preservation hiding in the weeds away from them.

Land or boat, the reports we

are getting are still a mixture of both types of jigs. Not one better than the other - probably the baited jigs slightly ahead off the beach.

Artificial jigs, just try any colour and if you are fishing from a kayak give the 2.5 jigs a go as they have been better lately.

Although customers trying the same size and colour from boats and not having much luck.

The best place to fish?

There hasn't really been one. The San Remo Jetty that has been probably the worst spot.

There has been a lot of boating activity recently and the water is only now cleaning up so I would expect those fishing in the evening into the early night to start having a bit of success.

Whiting have settled and the reports are improving with more consistent bags and better numbers showing up on the weekend.

Up until now customers have been telling us that in a session, they were only catching about a dozen ranging from 24cm to 43cm.

Over the weekend we had some very good reports of bags,

over a dozen and consistent in size with very few under legal size.

Baits

It wasn't that long ago, when pippies were affordable, that it was the only bait to use whereas now the baits are as varied as the areas you catch them.

Prawns, pilchard, squid and cuttlefish are the pick of baits lately, as people continue to find that alternative to pippies that suits them.

These baits always worked; it's just everyone was led to believe that pippies were the only baits. I guess it wasn't all that long ago you only fished in two metres of water for whiting whereas now any depth can produce.

Barrel tuna are the flavour of the month for those heading offshore and while there are a few winning I think the fuel companies are the ones getting the most out of it.

I have given up counting the number of times people have told me they leave the entrance and just drive 30km and start look-

ing.

You might have a good sounder that can read at speed if you were looking at it.

But the reports we have had come from far and wide and now conditions have settled, the bait is much closer with fish being marked and hooked within a short distance from the entrance.

Lures have been accounted for a handful of baits this year.

I am hearing of plenty of good fish being sounded close to the bottom and people doing nothing but trawl around.

The smarter ones, however, have left a little earlier, trawled down the channel and out to where they find fish, caught several live baits, have a weighted live bait rig ready to go and when they find fish on the bottom drop a live bait onto their nose. Not many resist.

Another method that worked very well last season was to have pilchards with you and the same rig with just with a handful of pilchards hooked through the eye, cube a few while you are dropping the baits down.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 27 SEP	THU 28 SEP	FRI 29 SEP	SAT 30 SEP	SUN 1 OCT	MON 2 OCT	TUE 3 OCT
LOW 2:12 am 0.65 m	LOW 3:28 am 0.75 m	LOW 4:56 am 0.79 m	HIGH 12:26 am 2.66 m	HIGH 1:39 am 2.89 m	HIGH 3:41 am 3.08 m	HIGH 4:34 am 3.19 m
HIGH 9:38 am 2.56 m	HIGH 10:50 am 2.58 m	HIGH 12:01 pm 2.65 m	LOW 6:16 am 0.77 m	LOW 8:24 am 0.73 m	LOW 9:21 am 0.71 m	LOW 10:12 am 0.73 m
LOW 3:00 pm 1.30 m	LOW 4:25 pm 1.21 m	LOW 5:47 pm 0.99 m	HIGH 1:05 pm 2.75 m	HIGH 3:00 pm 2.84 m	HIGH 3:48 pm 2.88 m	HIGH 4:31 pm 2.89 m
HIGH 9:23 pm 2.41 m	HIGH 10:59 pm 2.48 m		LOW 6:53 pm 0.72 m	LOW 8:49 pm 0.48 m	LOW 9:38 pm 0.30 m	LOW 10:22 pm 0.21 m

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Olivia Curtain took a star-studded win last weekend during the Wallaby Hill Children's Grand Prix. Photo: Shelle Smith Photography.

Olivia takes win in show-jumping championship

EQUESTRIAN

Twelve-year-old Olivia Curtain had the biggest win in her young career winning the 1.10m Willinga Park 4CYTE Wallaby Hill Children's Grand Prix Spectacular last weekend.

A star-studded field of 14-year-olds and under riders from around Australia gathered at the purpose built Willinga Park Equestrian Centre at Bawley Point NSW.

Willinga Park is truly like no other Equestrian Centre in Australia, built to international standards and hosting some of the biggest equine events in Australia.

This event was classified as an international, elite show jumping competition fully televised and live streamed around the world via Willinga Park TV.

Olivia and her 17-year-old mare Xcella went last out in the first round with only

three other competitors going clear before her. She had a perfect round going clear, with only the clear rounds going through to the final jump off for time over a shortened difficult course and the rails increased to 1.15m.

The pressure was intense with the commentator getting the crowd in the grandstand right behind all the riders.

Olivia was last out in the jump off and needed both speed and a clear round.

Olivia rode superbly showing all her hard work in training with perfect lines and strides to all fences having a clear round and stopping the clock 3.5 seconds quicker, taking out the championship.

Congratulations Olivia and Xcella who are now on to the Interschool Nationals next weekend with both her ponies over five days at Werribee Park Equestrian Centre.



A well-deserved victory lap after a fantastic win by Olivia. Photo Liv Salked Photography.

ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF

58 BOYS HOME ROAD, NEWHAVEN



- High ceilings & large windows with views over Churchill Island and the Bay beyond
 - Several outdoor entertaining areas overlooking landscaped gardens
 - 4 bedrooms/3 bathrooms/3 cars
- \$1,650,000**

9 ROY COURT, COWES



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 - Amazing location, just a short stroll to the beach
 - 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom
- EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

26 BOOBOOK GROVE, COWES



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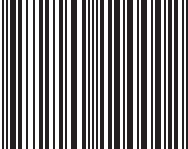
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