



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

# ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST



## Polar Bear plunge for spring start

More than 45 people braved the chilly waters in Cowes for the annual Polar Bear swim, marking the official start of spring. The Polar Bear Swim has been running since 2008 and the fun community swim is open to anyone willing to brave the icy waters. There is no formal registration and no age restrictions. However, there are three firm rules: No wetsuits, no nudity and you must put your head under the water. The brisk and breezy 15 degrees didn't deter the enthusiasm of the crowd that gathered to take the plunge at Cowes foreshore beach at 5.15pm on Monday.

## “Well and truly” still in drought

### CLIMATE

Farmers have been told to prepare their properties for the continuing drought, with winter rain not sufficient to remedy a year of dry conditions.

More than 20 farmers attended a Bass Coast Landcare event at Surf Beach last week, where Agriculture Victoria explained while “it looks green out there”, soil was drying out quickly between rain events and subsoil was still dry.

Planning for a potentially dry spring and summer was essential, they said.

While the Bureau of Meteorology's long-range forecast for

September to November shows above average rainfall was likely across much of eastern Australia – with temperatures likely to be above average – the meeting heard there was still a chance of average or drier than normal conditions.

Surf Beach cattle farmer Bill Cleeland hosted the event and last week said there had not been enough winter rainfall to fill dams, “with the ground so dry there was no run-off”.

He said three dams at a leased property in Rhyll had a foot of “useless” water and they were unlikely to fill for spring or summer.

“People relying on dams for stock water will probably be in

trouble,” said Bill, who has access to town water.

“There's rain coming but it's in bits and pieces. We really have needed 50mm in one hit to get the proper run off.

“It would take a huge amount of rain to get back to normal, hundreds of millimetres.”

Bill, who is also the Bass Coast branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation president, said buying water was too expensive so the only option for some farmers would be to destock, from which it would take years to recover.

Bill had bought in three semi-loads of feed to get through winter and said he was now relying

on pasture growth for coming months, having applied a “massive amount” of fertiliser to boost production.

“Hopefully we can then bale enough hay to get through this year.

“It's going to be tight, we may have to buy some.”

He added a farmer in Ventnor last week was installing fence posts into the ground and “it was tough, dry as a chip”.

Continued page 6

**Father's Day**  
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SHOWERS	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO
9 15	9 15	8 17	10 21	13 21	12 18	11 15

## Flying blind! Cecily finds her Voice

### MUSIC

Newhaven College student Cecily de Gooyer made her debut on television show The Voice on August 26, wowing the judges at the blind audition and being selected by Kate Miller-Heidke for her team.

Since then, the teenager who is in Year 12 at Newhaven College, has hardly had time to put her feet on the ground, travelling between Bass Coast and Sydney for The Voice.

She described the blind audition as a “terrifying, incredible experience”.

“It was like a dream just to be there in that world,” she told the Advertiser.

“I loved it and met so many incredible people.”

She flew to Sydney with her mother for the audition and kept her expectations in check.

“I went into it grateful for the opportunity. Being there felt like an achievement in itself.”

To have two of the judges turn around was surreal said Cecily.

“I was in shock,” she admitted.

“Going in, I was very aware no matter what the outcome was, I still had to be ok. I think I went in with eyes wide open.

“I wanted to learn, to listen to all these other people’s stories, and to see the industry – and that was the exciting part.”



Newhaven College student Cecily de Gooyer made her debut on The Voice on August 26, wowing the judges at the blind auditions. Her next appearance goes to air on September 7.

After the successful blind audition, Cecily and her mum “walked around a shopping centre completely dazed”.

The next day, they flew home and Cecily went back to school for a day, “to pick up some homework”, saying Newhaven College had been “so understanding and supportive”.

She then flew back to Sydney to start the next chapter, this time accompanied by her father.

Working with Kate Miller-Heidke, who is classically trained, but has enjoyed a successful pop career, has been a dream come true.

“The thing I love about Kate is she is so creative

and exciting. It’s awesome to do what I do in a new and interesting way.”

The next stage in her Voice journey is The Battle.

“Everyone gets paired with someone in their team and sings a duet together,” Cecily explained.

“At the end of that, one person goes home, one stays.”

We will have to tune into Channel 7 at 7pm on September 7, to see how Cecily fares, but in the meantime, the teenager is enjoying every moment of the experience.

“It’s so much fun and I have made so many incredible friends with the other contestants, and my battle partner. We are all supporting each other.”

## It’s spring on The Island

The spring edition of The Island magazine is out now.

The Island magazine celebrates the people and places of Phillip Island and San Remo and is available at your local newsagent, IGA, cafes, restaurants and stores, as well as from the Advertiser office at 60 Chapel Street in Cowes.

As always, this edition features great local stories. We talk to actors, dancers, footy players and scientists, business people and entrepreneurs, artists and writers, who all share their stories and give us yet another reason to love living here on our island.

As usual, we have another delicious recipe from Kara at Foodies on Phillip Island, plus guides on where to eat, stay and play.

**Get your free copy now.**



The spring edition of The Island is available now. Pick up your free copy from newsagents, IGA and your favourite cafe, restaurant or store.



### POLICE BRIEFS

#### Accident witness

Police are appealing for anyone who witnessed a community member hit by a vehicle in the car park adjacent to Woolworths Cowes on August 24 at approximately 3pm, to contact Sgt Lee Neubauer at San Remo Police on 03 5678 5500.

#### Lock your cars

A car was broken into in Shamrock Avenue in Cowes, in the early hours of August 23.

The offenders were chased by a local resident, who described them as tall, skinny, wearing black clothing and Covid masks.

#### Support

Cowes Police thanked the community for its support in the wake of the tragic events in Porepunkah last week. A police spokesperson said they truly appreciated the cards, flowers, home-baked goods and messages of support.

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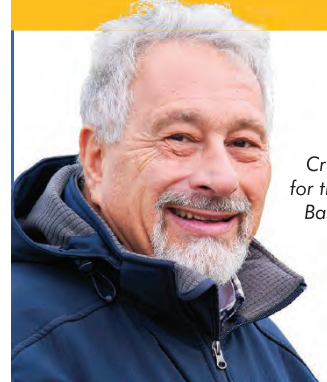


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Don't hesitate to contact me, I am here to help.



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Bass Coast Shire Council said it has been hit with a request for a 160 per cent increase in its contribution to lifeguard services for the upcoming summer.

# Huge hike in council lifesaving contribution

## BEACH SAFETY

Bass Coast Shire Council has been hit with a request from Life Saving Victoria (LSV) for a 160 per cent increase in its contribution to lifeguard services for the upcoming summer.

The council released a statement this week saying it was deeply concerned about the future of beach lifeguard patrols on Bass Coast beaches and called on the government and Life Saving Victoria to guarantee their continuation.

Council currently contributes \$98,082 in 2024-25 towards funded patrols, in partnership with Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead said council has been asked to increase its contribution to over \$260,000 (an increase of more than 160 per cent) with limited consultation and outside the normal budget cycle.

"We have been loud and clear in our opposition to the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF), which is already taking tens of millions of dollars from Bass Coast residents.

"Add to that the seven per cent tax on nearly 2000 short-stay rentals in Bass Coast, it's clear our community is paying its share and more," said Cr Rochelle Halstead.

"Asking councils to fund beach lifeguards is unfair and unsustainable and it's disappointing to receive this request.

"These important services are relied upon by thousands of visitors every summer from across Victoria and the world, they deserve the same protection and security as when they rely on the CFA or SES."

The mayor said council will continue to advocate strongly alongside other coastal councils, the Municipal Association of

Victoria (MAV) and government leaders to deliver a sustainable funding model "so that every beachgoer, resident or visitor, can enjoy our coastline safely".

A spokesperson for Phillip Island Nature Parks said it covers half the operating cost for paid lifeguard services at Cape Woolamai and Smiths Beach – which are its managed foreshores – with Bass Coast Shire Council paying the other half.

"Our contributions vary each season depending on Lifesaving Victoria's operational needs. Last financial year we contributed \$34,700," the spokesperson said.

They noted the Nature Parks is contributing \$120,000 towards upgrades at Smiths Beach this financial year to assist with beach access and lifesaving operations, and this year spent \$20,000 on sand management at Woolamai Beach, "most of which was to provide access for lifesavers to reach the beach after significant erosion".

"At this stage, the Nature Parks has not been asked for additional funding for lifeguards," the spokesperson said.

## Support

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale said the Mayor and CEO of Bass Coast Shire Council had raised the issue of funding for lifesaving services with her at a recent meeting.

"Life Saving Victoria has their own revenue stream and they should be using that and not putting the onus on councils who already contribute a significant amount," Ms Crugnale said.

"We are heading into the summer season and it is not right to be asking at this time as well, and out of their budget cycle. I am with council on this one.

"We provide a big share of LSV's lifeguard service funding,

with councils' and LSV's own revenue make up the rest.

"LSV are a not-for-profit social enterprise and therefore cannot be funded with the Emergency Services Levy. They may wish to reconsider their organisational status."

Ms Crugnale said Labor had doubled funding to LSV since coming into government, to ensure "everyone enjoys our beaches and waterways safely", as well as building new clubs, and delivering new boats, drones and equipment.

"Victoria's lifeguards and lifesavers go above and beyond to protect the community and save lives, and we thank them for their vital service," Ms Crugnale said.

## Tax hike

The Nationals leader and member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien MP criticised the request for councils to provide additional funding for lifesaving services.

"Despite Victorians facing a \$3 billion emergency services tax hike, Life Saving Victoria has been forced to seek additional funds from coastal councils to cover the cost of paid lifeguards on our beaches," Mr O'Brien said, noting some council contributions could rise by as much as 300 per cent.

He said the government was taking more and giving less back for frontline services.

"Labor's refusal to address this latest lifesaving shortfall is consistent with its ducking and weaving around cuts to the CFA, SES and FRV," Mr O'Brien said.

"We get a new \$3 billion tax to fund our emergency services and yet LSV is forced to ask for help from councils. Those same councils are being asked to collect Labor's new emergency services tax."



Councillors had an at times colourful debate about council meeting rules. A motion about presenting the mayoral collarette failed to get any support, with one councillor saying "We're here to serve our community not our own egos". Current Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, wearing the collarette, with Deputy Mayor Brett Tessari.

## Proposal reversed after question time backlash

### COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire Council has listened to community concerns and reversed proposals to change the rules of public question time.

In July, the draft governance rules 2025 were released for community comment, proposing a range of changes including if a person is not present at question time, the question will not be read out or included in the minutes.

Following an online petition opposing the changes, and 15 submissions – with all responders opposed to the draft rule – council officers updated the final rules to allow all public questions and answers to continue to be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Other updates include:

- New provision for community members to present their petitions to council;
- Additional time for councillors moving a report (increased to five minutes);
- New provisions around the display of props, placards and posters;
- Greater clarity around remote participation for councillors; and
- Prohibiting moving items "en bloc" (at the same time).

At the August council meeting, Cr Ronnie Bauer also successfully moved an amendment allowing the person who submitted a question in the council chamber at public question time to read out their question when the chair calls their name; if the person is not present, the question may be read out.

However, the submitter may not raise any additional questions or alter the previously submitted question.

Cr Bauer said he was "a fierce civil libertarian" and the amendment was the same process as pre-Covid.

"We cannot shirk from our responsibilities to be directly questioned by our electors," he said.

"We have heard the community's feedback in relation to public question time. Public question time is the community's opportunity to publicly hold us to account.

"Fortunately, our shire doesn't suffer the problem of 'sovereign citizens' who notoriously disrupt council meetings. There-

fore, I see no need to distance ourselves from the gallery."

Cr Mat Morgan said he welcomed community feedback and added asking a question in the chamber was a "privilege we have".

"I think we underappreciate just how lucky we are to be in such a safe democracy that allows one security guard sitting up the back and we all feel safe in this room and I hope that continues," Cr Morgan said.

Cr Tim O'Brien said he was drawn to council because he wanted to reflect the community.

"I think allowing community members to speak is different from having their question read from the chair," Cr O'Brien said.

"It's saying to community members we see you and hear you."

## "Necklace"

Cr Meg Edwards failed to get support for a motion that would see the mayor, at the time of being newly elected, being presented with the mayoral collarette, or chain, to pay tribute to the "symbolism" of the role.

Not one councillor supported the motion, with Cr Morgan saying constituents would be "horrified" if he didn't speak against the "fairly problematic" and "out of touch idea".

"Presenting each other with fancy necklaces? I mean, we have a community struggling to put food on the table and keep rooves over their heads and this is the issue being brought into our council chamber?" Cr Morgan said.

"Politicians should never be put on a pedestal. We're privileged to have the jobs we have and I challenge my fellow councillors to find a single constituent that thinks that this is a good use of our time.

"I knocked on thousands of doors last year, the mayor's collarette was not mentioned once.

"We're here to serve our community not our own egos."

Councillors also debated the new rule that councillors will have five minutes to move a report.

Cr Brett Tessari said, "I can't for the life of me work out why we need five minutes to move a motion".

"If you can't say what you need to say in three minutes then you're rambling," he said.

"I'm old school."





The annual Nature Parks Community Open Day on September 13 at Churchill Island will include community stalls and entertainment, as well as traditional farm activities. Bookings are now open.

# Community and conservation come together

## OPEN DAY

Bass Coast residents are invited to come together and celebrate the incredible wildlife and natural beauty of Phillip Island (Milawul) at the annual Phillip Island Nature Parks Community Open Day on Saturday September 13.

The much-loved event offers locals the chance to enjoy free entry to some of the island's most iconic attractions, while connecting with the people and programs that protect its wildlife and environment.

From 10am to 3pm, visitors can explore Churchill Island where live music, conservation presentations, community stalls and traditional farm activities will create a festive atmosphere for the whole family.

At the Koala Conservation Reserve, community members will be able to meet the resident koalas, who have all been rehabilitated by dedicated rangers and volunteers after being injured in bushfires and learn about the reintroduction of the bush stone curlews.

The day culminates at the world-famous Penguin Parade, with access to the visitor centre, an exclusive penguin presentation at 5pm, and the unforgettable experience of watching the little penguins waddle ashore at sunset.

The Nobbies boardwalks will also be open for scenic walks along the rugged coastline, while the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre will host food, drinks and gift

shop offerings from midday.

Community Engagement Officer at the Nature Parks, Kim Dunstan said the day offered an opportunity for locals to explore their own backyard.

"Some people have lived on the Bass Coast for years and haven't experienced the beauty of Churchill Island or the magic of Penguin Parade," she said.

"Not only is this our day to say thank you to the community for their support each year, but it's a chance to share the incredible conservation work that goes on behind the scenes at the Nature Parks and in our local community."

The Nature Parks encourages all Bass Coast residents, landholders, students, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to take part in this annual celebration of community, culture and conservation.

Complimentary tickets for the event are now available and must be booked in advance using the promo code COD2025. Bookings close on September 12, with places at the Penguin Parade expected to fill quickly.

To gain your free entry on the day, bring along a proof of residency document, like your Driver's Licence, rates notice, rental agreement or utilities bill.

More information at: [www.penguins.org.au/about/our-community/community-news/community-open-day-2025](http://www.penguins.org.au/about/our-community/community-news/community-open-day-2025)

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# Dumped rubbish? Free hard waste? No easy answers

## GARBAGE

A growing number of residents are questioning whether annual free hard rubbish collections should be reinstated, amid continued rubbish dumping on Phillip Island.

However, Bass Coast Shire Council says a "free" collection would mean a higher garbage cost for all ratepayers, with the current annual waste cost \$618 for each household.

At the August council meeting, Cowes resident Sue Chadwick asked why the council didn't offer a free hard rubbish collection once a year, with the hard rubbish waste fee rising to \$162 in 25/26, from last year's cost of \$132.

"We on the island had this free service for years. We pay high rates so if councillors say we listen to community concerns, then please act now and provide our community with this free necessary service," Sue said.

Council CEO Greg Box said they delivered all waste services on a cost-recovery basis.

"Hard rubbish collection is currently available once per year, on request, to all properties that receive a kerbside collection, with costs recovered directly via a fee for service," Mr Box said.

"Offering a free hard rubbish collection for all properties would

mean raising the annual garbage charge to all ratepayers.

"This approach would be less equitable than the current fee for service arrangement."

Terry Parkin also asked a question, highlighting the amount of waste on roads.

"Multiple roads I and other tourists travel on have numbers of road kills (marked red) and paper rubbish to roadsides," Terry said.

"What can council do daily to remove these unsightly visible issues?"

Mr Box said council responded to reports of rubbish in council's road reserves, open spaces and council managed foreshores.

"Any rubbish on other roads is forwarded to the responsible road manager, either council or Regional Roads Victoria for action," Mr Box said.

"Roadkill is removed from council roadways as per the Road Management Plan 2022."

At the meeting Cr Ronnie Bauer speculated a free hard rubbish collection could be paid for from \$3.5 million set aside for the introduction of the purple bin for glass recycling in 2027.

He said while the State Government was mandating the fourth bin, council officers were advocating to stop the rollout.

"(If successful), we can then di-

vert the \$3.5 million into the upcoming kerbside waste contract and get the landfill red bin picked up every week from Christmas to Australia Day," Cr Bauer said.

"We could also have one free hard rubbish pick up each year with no stress to our long term financial plan."

## Dumped

On social media, there have been an increasing number of reports of dumped rubbish.

Most recently Mike wrote there was a ute load of rubbish and household items, including electrical appliances, dumped near the south end of Gap Road.

"There are some who don't deserve to live on our island," he said, adding he had reported the rubbish to council.

Several people responded saying high rates for rubbish collection and no free hard rubbish option had probably led to the dumped rubbish.

"Going to happen a lot more with the price they are charging," Steve wrote.

However, Bruce said the dumped rubbish included many items that could be dropped in the Grantville transfer station for free or a small fee, or in the fortnightly bin, "bit by bit".

"Just lazy and selfish," he commented, of the rubbish heap.

# Developers have "gifted" \$43 million in assets

## SERVICES

A massive growth of new assets gifted from developments and the rate cap is posing a "significant financial challenge" to Bass Coast Shire Council's \$1.47 billion infrastructure assets.

That's according to the draft asset plan, which is open for community consultation until September 9, and focuses on roads, buildings, parking, drainage, open space and paths.

The draft states more than 20 per cent of council's annual budget is spent maintaining, managing, and operating infrastructure assets to deliver services.

However, a growing population has seen new assets gifted from developments totalling \$43.7 million over the past four years.

"Because of this significant

growth and recent increases in asset valuations, the value of infrastructure per head of permanent population has grown 87 per cent from \$18,100 in 2021 to \$33,856 in 2025," the plan states.

"Our infrastructure capital spend per head of population has increased from \$452 in 2021 to \$643 in 2025."

The plan states aside from the growing number of assets, other challenges include ageing assets, climate hazards and the rate cap, with a "growing asset base which costs more to maintain in contrast to a constrained income stream".

Cr Mat Morgan said local government was "so far beyond roads, rates and rubbish".

"There's so much work behind the scenes that does not get nearly enough attention," he said.

Cr Tracey Bell said the community deserved "a say in how

we manage the infrastructure that underpins daily life".

"Our infrastructure faces real challenges: ageing assets, climate impacts, population growth, and financial constraints," Cr Bell said.

Cr Tim O'Brien said a situation like the community backlash to demolishing the dilapidated Kilcunda viaduct bridge "may not have arisen" if the community was more "closely engaged" on asset issues.

The plan states 44 per cent of homes in Bass Coast are fully owned, with 27 per cent of householders having a mortgage and 19 per cent renting.

The largest age bracket is 60-69-year-olds who make up 18.4 per cent of the population, which is 4.8 per cent higher than the state average.

Details: [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/asset-plan](mailto:engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/asset-plan)

## COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Saturday 13 September

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# Drownings up: call for action ahead of summer

## BEACH SAFETY

Australia has recorded the highest number of drowning deaths since records began, prompting urgent warnings from Royal Life Saving Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia.

The National Drowning Report 2025, published by the two organisations, identified 357 drowning deaths in the past year, which was 27 per cent higher than the 10-year average.

Coastal locations (beaches, ocean, rocks) accounted for 154 deaths (43 per cent), with beaches alone claiming 82 lives. Swimming, fishing and visiting unpatrolled locations remain high risk activities in coastal environments.

The lowest drowning rates were of children aged five–14 years. The drowning rate rose four-fold for 15–24-year-olds, where 44 people drowned, 38 per cent above the 10-year average. Poor swimming skills are a major factor.

One third (33 per cent) of all drowning deaths were adults aged 65 and older (118). This may be attributable to the effects of other health conditions, use of medications and declining swimming skills, on safety around water.

Drowning rates doubled for those living in the most disadvantaged areas and nearly tripled in regional and remote areas compared to major cities. More than a third of drowning deaths were people born overseas.

Drowning deaths of children under five fell to 15 fatalities, 21 per cent below the 10-year average, and half in home swimming pools. Pool owners are urged to check that their pool fence and pool gate is in good working order.

## State breakdown

Drowning increased in South Australia (24, +71 per cent), Queensland (90, 36 per cent), Western Australia (49, +36 per cent), New South Wales (129, +30 per cent), and Victoria (52, +8 per cent), and decreased in Northern Territory and Tasmania.

In Victoria:

- There were 52 drowning deaths, an eight per cent increase on the 10-year average.
- The state has a drowning rate of 0.75 per 100,000 population.
- Of the deaths, 19 per cent occurred in the 18–24-year age

group, the highest rate of 1.62 deaths per 100,000 population.

- Summer is the deadliest time, with 48 per cent of drownings occurring during the summer months.
- The leading locations were beaches (21 per cent), rivers (19 per cent) and lakes (12 per cent).

Bass Coast is considered a key “black spot” location in the state, with Life Saving Victoria (LSV) research showing there was a 96 per cent likelihood of a fatal drowning each year in the shire – the second highest risk level, behind the Mornington Peninsula.

According to the LSV Water Safety Framework released in March 2025, there were 32 fatal drownings in Bass Coast Shire between 2014/15 and 2023/24.

That is five times the Victorian LGA average.

The majority of drownings were visitors, with only five Bass Coast residents drowning in the 10-year period (and not all of them within the shire).

Over the decade, the report said there were also 21 non-fatal drownings attended by paramedics.

Six people drowned in Bass Coast in the 2023–24 period. Five were on Phillip Island, including four people who died at Forrest Caves in what was the worst incidence of mass drowning in the state in nearly two decades.

The other two drownings were at Kilcunda and Surf Beach and all drownings happened at unpatrolled locations.

## Wake-up call

Royal Life Saving Australia, CEO, Dr Justin Scarr described the report as a wake-up call.

“Drowning deaths have surged to unprecedented levels. The decline in swimming skills, an ageing population, and more people heading to remote and unfamiliar locations away from lifesaving services are causing concern.”

Surf Life Saving Australia CEO, Adam Weir said coastal drowning remained a major concern.

“Rip currents remain Australia’s number one coastal hazard, responsible for more than one in three beach drowning deaths – claiming more lives than sharks, floods, or cyclones combined.”

This statistic is particularly pertinent for local beaches in



The National Drowning Report 2025 shows there were 52 drowning deaths in Victoria in 2024/25, an increase on the 10-year average, with men and people born overseas at higher risk.

Bass Coast, which are notorious for their rips.

Royal Life Saving Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia explain the surge in drowning as being driven by:

- More people are going further into national parks and regional areas. Climate and lifestyle shifts are increasing time around water, especially in autumn and spring, as well as early and late in the day.
- Swimming skills are at crisis levels, with many children failing to meet national benchmarks; gaps are widening for regional, remote, and migrant communities, creating lifelong vulnerabilities to drowning.
- An ageing population is impacting on drowning. A lifelong love of water activity, combined with other health conditions, medications and reduced mobility, is increasing unexpected falls into water.
- Disadvantaged, multicultural, regional and remote populations are most likely to miss out on learning to swim, have poorer access to a safe place to swim and remain overrepresented in drowning.

To address the increase in drowning, the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030 is being adjusted to promote the strengthening of swimming and water safety skills for all, emphasise local water safety efforts, and encourage greater alignment of water safety policy across all levels and sectors of government.

Details: National Drowning Report 2025 – [www.royallifesaving.com.au](http://www.royallifesaving.com.au)



Due to Friday night's wild weather, the Phillip Island SES responded to 24 requests for assistance. In Rhyll, the storm saw several boats break their moorings and wash up onto the sand. Photo: Katrina Lawrence

# Stormy start to the weekend

## WEATHER

Phillip Island was battered by high winds last Friday, resulting in a busy start to the weekend for local SES volunteers.

In just over 24 hours, the unit responded to 24 requests for assistance including trees over roads, trees down on vehicles, trees blocking access and building damage.

Reports came from all areas of the island, including Rhyll, Cowes and Cape Woolamai.

“A huge thanks to our members who have been working tirelessly to keep our community safe,” Phillip Island SES Unit said.

“A special shout out to Flame Trees Ramada Resort Phillip Island for keeping our crew caffeinated.”

In Rhyll, the storm saw several boats break their moorings and wash up onto the sand. One was refloated, while another needed an excavator to get it back into the water.

The Friday night storm was a good reminder of the vital role VICSES plays in keeping our community safe.

Our local SES unit is always looking for new volunteers, so if you’ve ever considered joining VICSES please email [phillipisland@ses.vic.gov.au](mailto:phillipisland@ses.vic.gov.au) to find out how you can get involved.

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Surf Beach cattle farmer Bill Cleeland hosted the event last week, to help farmers prepare for the spring and summer in the middle of ongoing drought.

## “Well and truly” still in drought

From page 1

### Forecast

Agriculture Victoria's Fiona Baker confirmed the continued drought, saying farmers shouldn't "get too excited about green grass" until substantial rain falls.

"Although it looks green out there and we'll see some pasture growth, the moisture in the soil is not there to support growth unless there's substantial follow up rainfall," Fiona said.

"It's drying out quite quickly between rain events. Once there is rain it goes into grass growth, with about 80 per cent of grass made of moisture at this time of year.

"We are going into summer already relying on more rainfall."

Fiona said one positive aspect of the drought was that livestock sale prices hadn't fallen far, "so you can still sell off without losing too much money".

Agriculture Victoria's Dale Grey gave a climate outlook presentation for spring, saying modelling had suggested it would be wetter than average,

but there was also a chance of normal conditions and a small chance it would be drier.

"There's not a lot of accuracy four to six months from now," said Dale, who releases weekly climate predictions in his Fast Break newsletter.

"We're still seeing predictions of a wetter spring in the models ... but we can't take the drier or average outcomes away.

"That is problematic when we need it to be fully wet ... we'll watch intently.

"It's early days. It's a good two weeks before we can be confident whether it's wetter or neutral. It's line ball."

He said it was more certain temperatures for spring would be warmer.

James Paulet from The Gippsland Agricultural Group told the meeting about six soil moisture probes around Gippsland, including one at Ventnor since February, were monitoring moisture depth in soil.

Details: [gippslandag.com.au/research/weather-stations](http://gippslandag.com.au/research/weather-stations)  
[agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/newsletters/the-break](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/newsletters/the-break)

# Mary supports local news

### POLITICS

Member for Monash, Mary Aldred has spoken up in parliament, calling on government to support strong regional news services.

The deputy chair of the standing committee on communications, the arts and sport, Ms Aldred outlined the importance of regional newspapers in their communities.

"In triumph and tragedy, there is someone who always turns up for regional Australia, and that's the local newspaper," Ms Aldred said.

"The local paper weaves the threads that hold communities together ... and tells the stories that truly matter to everyday people.

"Local news keeps people connected, not just to events, but to one another."

After noting "the array of senior Australian journalists" who started in regional media, Ms Aldred listed the eight newspapers in her electorate, saying they were "important to the community fabric" of the region.

The South Gippsland Sentinel Times, Warragul and Drouin Gazette, Latrobe Valley Express and the Advertiser were all separately namechecked.

"Regional journalists show up to meetings no one else attends, they ask tough questions. They cover the bush fire alerts and they to report the aftermath long after the flames are gone," Ms Aldred said.

She said the Federal Government had committed support to regional journalism, but it had been "slow out of the gates, noting the News Media Assistance Program (News MAP) is still awaiting finalisation.

"The mandated minimum commitment of \$3 million per year for two years from 2025 to 2026 for regional newspaper advertising across the total Commonwealth media advertising spend has gone nowhere."

She raised the News Bargaining Incentive, aimed at Meta,



Member for Monash, Mary Aldred has spoken up in parliament, calling on government to support strong regional news services.

which she said enjoyed "broad media support", and called on the government to finalise the process – consultation and drafting legislation – by the end of the year, to ensure "Meta, TikTok and other platforms join the negotiating table in good faith".

She also noted Country Press Australia did not support changes to the copyright laws which would allow AI companies "to access copyrighted content without permission or payment".

### "Lifeblood"

Country Press Australia (CPA) President Damian Morgan said Ms Aldred's words reflect what every regional community already knows – and demonstrate that the future of regional journalism is an issue that unites both sides of politics.

"Mary Aldred is absolutely right. Local newspapers are the lifeblood of their communities. It is encouraging to see both government and opposition recognising this and backing regional journalism," Mr Morgan said.

Mr Morgan said CPA was particularly appreciative of the Federal Government's announcement of the News Media Assistance Program (NewsMAP) and its commitment to allocate funds directly to support public interest journalism in regional communities.

"NewsMAP is a very significant initiative. For the first time, the Federal Government has

created a structured framework that recognises the unique challenges of regional and local publishers and commits dedicated funding to help sustain them.

"With bipartisan voices now reinforcing the need for action, this is an important and positive step forward," Mr Morgan said.

He stressed, however, the success of NewsMAP will be measured by how quickly it is implemented.

"The framework is there, the commitment is there, and the funds have been announced. What we need now is for NewsMAP to move from promise to delivery. Publishers are waiting, communities are waiting, we cannot afford further delays," he said.

He highlighted other pressing challenges, including the withdrawal of Meta from its Australian publisher agreements and the urgent need for the government's proposed News Bargaining Incentive.

"Meta has walked away from regional news deals, leaving a massive hole in local journalism funding," he said.

Mr Morgan also strongly backed Ms Aldred's warning against weakening copyright protections to benefit global AI companies.

"Australia's copyright laws are world-leading, and any attempt to hand over our content for free to AI companies would be devastating. Regional publishers strongly oppose such changes and journalism must be paid for if it is to survive. On this, too, we are seeing strong bipartisan agreement," he said.

CPA has long argued that fair government advertising allocation, proper industry consultation, and stronger bargaining rules for digital platforms are essential to securing the future of trusted local journalism.

Mary Aldred's speech is available on the House of Representatives YouTube channel (August 26).

A full transcript can be found in Hansard at [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)

# Island quiet on coastal signage

### BEACH SAFETY

A public meeting last week for a research project into coastal safety signage attracted less than a dozen people.

The research project by Life Saving Victoria and Monash University is looking at how to design more effective and inclusive signage and improve beach safety.

Statistics show Bass Coast is one of the most dangerous Victorian local government areas for drownings, with 32 fatal drownings in the shire between 2014 and 2024 – five times the Victoria LGA average.

In 2024, four people drowned at Forrest Caves beach, the worst incidence of mass drowning in the state in nearly two decades.

After Forrest Caves, there were repeated calls by locals for improved signage, more patrols and multiple suggestions, both in the newspaper and social media, for ways signage could be improved.

However only a small number of island locals took the opportunity to have their say at last week's meeting.

The meeting included representatives from Bass Coast Shire Council, Victoria Police, Smiths Beachcombers Association, Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club and former SES members.

Although surfers are regularly credited for beach rescues and frequently voiced concerns about beach safety, no one from the local surfing community or the Phillip Island Boardriders Club attended.

One attendee mentioned the lack of promotion for the meeting, saying many locals were probably not aware it was happening.

### Presentation

Life Saving Victoria's Manager for Research and Evaluation, Hannah Graefe, and colleague Alana Leabeater ran the session, which discussed the effectiveness of current signage and



Less than a dozen people took the opportunity to have their say on coastal safety signage at a public meeting run by Life Saving Victoria in Cowes last week.

suggestions for improvements.

Participants said much of the current beach signage in the shire was old, worn out and didn't feature QR codes, which would allow people to access information in multiple languages.

Issues raised included the lack of consistency in the safety messages, sign placement and the fact that even with QR

codes, there were locations where mobile coverage was limited or non-existent.

Residents suggested any future safety messages needed to "be stacked up", and start well before people reached the beach. Options for getting the message out included information on toilet doors in fast food restaurants, in accommodation,

at visitor information centres and in new residents' packs.

Participants agreed signage needed to be site specific – to target the specific risk in a location – and make better use of photos and imagery.

They also agreed there should be a national standard for beach safety signage – "we have national road rules and signage" – and there needed to be consistency in the messages.

There was strong support for including fatality numbers in signage at beaches where people had died.

They also suggested signage be regularly updated – "so people pay attention".

The current round of consultation is just the first step in the research project, Ms Graefe said, with later stages including signage design and "virtual reality" testing of designs.

Anyone who wants to register their interest in being part of future consultation should email: [research@lsv.com.au](mailto:research@lsv.com.au)





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# “Fight like hell” for Phillip Island’s trees: councillors

## ENVIRONMENT

Bass Coast Shire councillors have narrowly voted against the removal of two mature eucalypts in Ventnor, saying “we have to fight like hell” to protect trees and stop Phillip Island becoming “Pakenham by the Sea”. A planning permit at 24 Hastings Street, Ventnor, for the removal of a Sydney blue gum and a southern blue gum, came before councillors because it received 22 objections.

Objectors argued the trees were in good health and were being removed by the owner due to the “inconvenience of leaf and bark litter” and their removal would lead to habitat loss and privacy concerns.

Council officers recommended granting a permit, with two arborists’ reports stating the trees were in declining health, with risk of limb failure, and had low useful life expectancy, with remedial works “unlikely to prolong the life of the trees”.

Officers had placed conditions on the permit requiring the owner to replant eight canopy trees and 52 indigenous under-story shrubs, groundcovers and grasses.

However, after extensive debate, councillors Tim O’Brien, Ronnie Bauer, Mat Morgan, Jon Temby voted against, with Cr Tracey Bell abstaining, which is recorded as a no vote.

A report will now be presented at a future council meeting for a further decision.

Cr Tracey Bell received applause after a passionate speech, saying she had “deep hesitation”

supporting the vegetation removal.

“We live in regional Victoria because we value nature – not to watch it be replaced by concrete,” she said.

“Our community has told us – again and again – that protecting the natural environment is their number one priority. That’s our mandate. Let’s listen. Let’s act. And let’s stop the quiet destruction of our shire’s vegetation before it’s too late.”

Cr Bell said despite many planning rules preventing tree removal – including the council’s urban forest strategy and neighbourhood character study – “trees continue to quietly disappear – often through applications that never reach this chamber”.

“Despite officer assurances that compliance measures have improved, personal experience tells a different story,” she said.

“We are witnessing a pattern of non-compliance across the shire – bins left out all week, dogs off-leash, trees poisoned.

“People act with impunity because they know council enforcement is insufficient to meet the demonstrated needs. We are seen as a toothless tiger.”

Cr Bell said state legislation limited councillor powers and it was “frustrating to be forced into decisions that contradict our own environmental goals”.

She called for improved enforcement, “and holding applicants accountable”.

Cr Tim O’Brien said he couldn’t support the tree removal.

“Phillip Island and Bass Coast don’t have the ruins of Pompeii drawing visitors to the

shire, or the Valley of the Kings,” Cr O’Brien said.

“What we have is our natural environment.

“They don’t come here expecting to see Pakenham by the Sea. That’s what we’re in danger of doing here.

“Every council meeting has had more than one proposal for the removal of trees.”

He said “we have to fight like hell” to retain the natural environment, adding the trees had withstood gale force winds and were “still standing”.

“Trees conspire to stand up and until we see some planting to replace them and those plantings have maturity I can’t support this.”

Cr Mat Morgan said he didn’t support the tree removal, saying while there may be structural problems with the trees there were more “structural problems with the climate”.

Cr Temby said he was “heartened by comments” and trees were vital to reduce heat waves.

## Support

Cr Ronnie Bauer said he was inclined to vote against allowing the tree removal, but the two arborist reports should be respected.

“There is a parallel between this situation and the environmental vandalism of the cutting down of the two mature gum-trees for the virtually unused

Anderson Street car and trailer carpark,” Cr Bauer said.

“But if the trees are dying and pose a danger what choice do we have?

“It’s important that our officers ensure that the terms of this permit are enforced.”


Cr Brett Tessari said while he didn’t support tree removal, council would be at risk if they didn’t support the two arborist reports and would be concerned if a branch fell on someone’s head.

“This doesn’t sit well with me but I’m not going against the reports,” Cr Tessari said.

“I hope, as we do with all our planning notices, we make sure the conditions are adhered to.”



There was a double delight last Thursday afternoon when a double rainbow appeared over San Remo, stretching from the Newhaven Jetty and over the bridge.




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Future Foods	
<b>Extending the Harvest</b> Saturday, 13 September – 9:30am Bass River Garden	Free
Garden Gems	
<b>Create an Urban Forest in Your Backyard</b> Saturday, 14 September – 10am Coronet Bay Community Garden	Free
Circular Solutions	
<b>Fixit Café</b> Sunday, 21 September – 9am - midday Wonthaggi Men's Shed	Free



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\*Dates and locations may be subject to change.  
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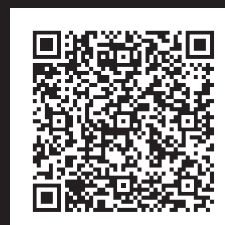


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# New John Clarke documentary, a tribute from daughter to dad

## FILM

Among the opening scenes of Lorin Clarke's new documentary about her father – legendary satirist John Clarke – there's footage of her as a child walking down a beach track.

"It was at Silverleaves and is one of the first moments in the documentary, where dad is filming me and he says 'here comes a daughter,'" Lorin says of the newly released movie, "But Also John Clarke".

"I'd say the majority of home footage in the film is from Phillip Island, because that's where we'd spend our time as a family, on holidays.

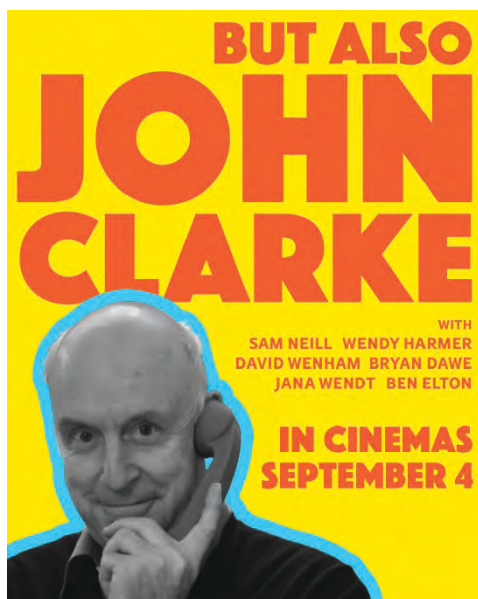
"When we were at home in Melbourne it was off to school, off to work ... but there's nothing like showing footage of someone in their relaxed, natural habitat. There's nothing more relaxed than sitting around Phillip Island.

"It introduces intimacy you can't fake."

After its national launch last month, "But Also John Clarke" is showing at Berninnet in Cowes on September 6, 10, and 17, with further dates yet to be announced.

The 113-minute documentary, written and directed by Lorin, traces her father's resistance to authority from his childhood, his decision to leave New Zealand for Australia in 1977, with insights into his 40 years in the entertainment industry, before his sudden and shocking death in 2017.

It weaves together home footage, TV archives, 200 boxes of his work and letters, and interviews with 42 friends and colleagues, including journalist Jana Wendt, actor Sam Neill and comedians such as Andrew Denton and Shaun Micallef.



"But Also John Clarke", a new documentary about satirist John Clarke, written and directed by his daughter Lorin is showing at Berninnet in Cowes on September 6, 10, and 17.

The full-length title of the film is "Not Only Fred Dagg, But Also John Clarke", and so it honours Dagg, the satirical, laconic character Clarke made famous, but also his numerous films and TV productions.

It highlights the beloved double act with Bryan Dawe – who is also a Phillip Island local – with Clarke and Dawe skewering political hypocrisy for almost 30 years.

Throughout his career, Lorin says he gave away very little about his own life,

but at home he was an open book, including all the home movies.

When other documentary makers approached the Clarke family to make a film about John, it was a key catalyst for Lorin to gather these elements and create a "version that he'd find least embarrassing".

## Generations

Lorin acknowledges not all generations have heard or seen her father's work.

Nevertheless, "this is for you".

"A fun, silly, smart, hilarious reminder that however disempowered we feel in a world flooding us with reasons to be miserable, there's power in finding the fun wherever we are.

"Sometimes in screenings people were laughing so much I thought 'shoosh, you've missed a bit'."

The documentary encourages an inter-generational bonding.

"At one of the screenings, an usher was Danish and she'd never heard of dad, but after seeing it she said she was in love with him, and it reminded her of her own father.

"I like the family history element. I hope people who see it think, maybe I should be interviewing grandma or ask how did we become the people we became?"

## Island

Just as Australia claimed the New Zealand-born comedian as its own, Phillip Island has equally claimed Clarke as its own.

"It's a legitimate claim," adds Lorin.

"He spoke to nearly every local one by one walking down the main street."

That claim even includes an idea that started with the Island Story Gatherers and

resulted in the State Government last year announcing a new prize to the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, recognising excellence in humour writing in honour of legendary satirist John Clarke.

The connection with Phillip Island started when the family – John's wife art historian Helen McDonald, Lorin and her sister, Lucia – began spending their holidays here in the 1980s, and continue to holiday here today.

In 2023 Lorin released her book, "Would That Be Funny?", which is a family memoir that retells many island stories.

"My childhood was almost offensively idyllic," recalled Lorin, who has an arts/law degree, has written and directed theatre, with a background in children's TV.

"And part of that was coming down here. "This is our family's favourite place to be and always has been."

Her father was a renowned environmentalist and even, with his wife, donated an 8ha property at Rhyll for environmental protection in 2020.

Lorin says while she may not be as green as her parents, in her older age she's finding herself increasingly stopping everyone to look up in a tree to bird watch.

"A few weeks ago I was at the Whale Festival (on the island). I have two children, nine and 13, and one is a whale nerd.

"My sister and I say when we go to the island it's a regression session. The first four days we really do regress.

"Nature is a huge part of that. You occupy a unique part of the world there."

To book a ticket: [basscoastculturalvenues.com/berninnetcinema](https://basscoastculturalvenues.com/berninnetcinema);

Details: [lorinclarke.com](https://lorinclarke.com)

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BY THE

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Head of Senior School, Brett Torstonson, enjoyed the Year 11 Ball with students Finlay Cameron, Parker Trappett and River Henderson. More photos at [pisra.com.au/education](http://pisra.com.au/education)

## Seniors celebrate in style

### EDUCATION

Recently, Newhaven College Senior School students enjoyed the chance to celebrate their school, teachers, parents, and each other.

On August 2, the Year 12 cohort gathered at RACV Inverloch Resort with students making a red-carpet entrance for their special night. Once the formalities ended, the dance floor quickly filled as students celebrated their final year in style.

Two weeks later, on August 16, it was the Year 11 students' turn. Together with parents and guardians, they gathered at Silverwater Resort in San Remo for a night of fun and laughter.

Events like these provide a chance for students to pause, reflect, and celebrate the friendships and experiences that have shaped their time at Newhaven College.

For the students, the memories created will carry them beyond the classroom, a reminder of the confidence, community and self-awareness they have built throughout their schooling.



The perfect excuse to dress up and express yourself. Year 12 students Kesan Stewart-Walters, Rosalie Spencer and Emily Le Couteur enjoyed their time at the Year 12 Formal.

## Diversity celebrated

### COMMUNITY

Over 100 people gathered in Wonthaggi on August 31 to celebrate the rich diversity of our local community, as well as honouring the traditional and true owners of the land we live on, the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung people.

Fun and colourful, the rally featured local music, including the Invy Horn Jam, Dr Laura Brearley, Travis Thomson and local singing group Get on Board.

Speakers included Aunty Safina Stewart, Bass Coast Councillor Mat Morgan, and Jessica Harrison. Four young locals, Oliver, Mia, Anneke and Joey spoke about the need to celebrate the contribution of immigrants to the Bass Coast region, and the



Aunty Safina Stewart addresses the Diversity Rally in Wonthaggi on August 31.

proud and continuous legacy of First Nations people in the face of overwhelming adversity.

"Today is all about love," said one of the organisers.

"It's so important that we come together and celebrate diversity within our communities, so that everyone can feel safe and respected."

## A full circle moment

By Phillip Island and District Historical Society

As part of the recent launch of the Warley Hospital exhibition at the Phillip Island and District Historical Society Museum, a very special guest was invited for a preview – Lorna Collins (née McFee), who was born at Warley Hospital on September 24, 1924.

Now approaching her 101st birthday, Lorna was delighted to view the exhibition, which celebrates the legacy of the hospital where her life began.

One display in particular caught her attention – an old oil-filled standing lamp like those that once lit the rooms of Warley.

"I can't believe how much has change," she said with a smile.

"That warm glow of the oil lamps ... I remember it well, especially in our own home."

Lorna grew up on Phillip Island, where her family had deep roots.

In her late twenties, she left for Melbourne, where she married Trevor Collins, raised four children, and travelled widely. But the island always called her home. Over twenty years ago, after Trevor's passing, she returned to live permanently on Phillip Island – and in a lovely twist, two of her children also followed her back.



Lorna Collins (née McFee) was born at Warley Hospital on September 24, 1924. The exhibition at the Phillip Island and District Historical Society Museum celebrates the hospital's legacy and is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am – 5pm and Saturday mornings.

Like the new hospital rising in Cowes, Lorna's story is one of return, connection, and continuity – a true full circle.

The Warley Hospital Exhibition is now open Monday to Friday from 9.30am until 5pm and Saturday mornings at the mu-

seum in Berninnet.

It features photographs, memorabilia and a video with stories that bring to life nearly a century of local healthcare history. All are welcome – come explore the story of Warley and the community that built it.

## GIG GUIDE

6/9 MOJO DREAMING - 7.30PM  
7/9 THE LAING BROTHERS - 5PM

13/9 OLLIE AND SCUZZI - 7.30PM  
14/9 TROY WILSON - 5PM

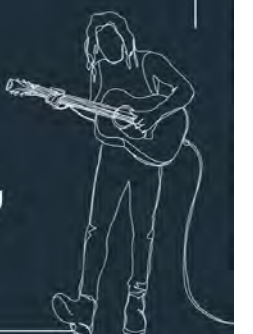
20/09 FRENZAL RHOMB 'A MAN'S (STILL) NOT A CAMEL' 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR - 9PM \$53+BF  
21/09 PINNACLES - 5PM

26/09 KATHLEEN HALLORAN - \$20+BF  
27/06 AFL GRAND FINAL  
28/09 NICK CARVER - 5PM

4/10 THE BEATLES LEGACY SHOW - \$20+BF  
5/10 NRL GRAND FINAL

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FATHER'S DAY

Advertising Feature



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Brendan Cashman's kids Finn, Jasper and Kai say "We love our dad as he cheers the loudest!"

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Shaz Martello-Howard says her father Fred has always been "my best mate". When she moved to the island to set up her food truck business, her parents soon followed. "Since then, my dad has come out of retirement and worked countless days and tireless hours with me, whenever I've needed him to, refusing to be paid. My business couldn't have survived without his support," she said. "I don't have enough words for how much I appreciate everything he does for our entire family."



"We love our dad Kendall, because he is such a good cook," say Sam, Zoe and Charlie.



"I love my dad Lee Hennessy because I am his number one apprentice at Penny Lane Café," says Jed Hennessy.



# FATHER'S DAY

Advertising Feature



Bec Manning says her dad John Stoppa built over 100 homes locally during his 40-year career as a builder on Phillip Island. Since being diagnosed with Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's, she said he faces daily challenges with things that used to come naturally, like "remembering words, how to use his cutlery, how to dress himself and stay alert during the day, and all the things we as adults take for granted". "Last weekend, we went for a walk to soak up the winter's sun. Even under all the hardships he faces, he still manages to smile."



Max says he loves his dad Karl Dunham so much, "because he is patient and teaches me to surf and is always taking me on epic adventures and he is funny".



Daniel and Yianni Caffieri love their dad Gab, "because he instilled our love for football from when we were little".



Steve Duggan gets a special shout out from his kids Ella and Ollie. "Happy Father's Day Dad! Thanks for all of your motivational speeches, texts and videos over the years."

SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

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Cowes Primary School captains Nicholas (Year 6), Rod McKenzie (Principal), Jutima Sribua from Suankularb Wittayalai Nonthaburi School (Thailand) and Elsie (Year 6). More photos at [pisra.com.au/education](http://pisra.com.au/education)

## Thailand comes to the island in school exchange visit

### EDUCATION

In August, Cowes Primary School welcomed Jutima Sribua from Suankularb Wittayalai Nonthaburi School (Thailand) to their school as part of the ASEAN Bridge Program.

"The classrooms came alive with culture and connection," said a school spokesperson.

"A highlight was when Sonya and Kiara, two proud Indigenous women, shared stories from their families, beautiful artefacts, and guided students in creating yarning sticks and flag bracelets. The students were also thrilled to learn some traditional Thai dance steps from Jutima herself."

Beyond the classroom,

Jutima was immersed into the wonders of our coast – spotting penguins and whales, visiting Bass Coast Secondary School, visiting Melbourne city and attending an AFL game.

"This is just the beginning of an amazing collaboration, and Cowes Primary can't wait to see where it leads."



Melbourne Stars player Tom Rogers with enthralled students during the visit to Cowes Primary School.

## Cowes Primary seeing Stars

### EDUCATION

The Year 4 students at Cowes Primary School were excited to meet the Melbourne Stars Cricket

Team during a recent visit.

Students enjoyed a fun question-and-answer session, played some interactive games, and each student received a signed

poster and a stress ball to take home.

The Star-studded event was certainly a memorable experience that left everyone smiling.

## Star of the Sea speaks out

### EDUCATION

On Bullying No Way Day, the Our Lady Star of the Sea school community came together to stand strong against bullying.

This year's theme was "Be Kind, Be Bold, Speak Up". Students learned how to be upstanders by supporting others and speaking out against bullying.

Classes took part in activities and discussions about kindness and standing up for what is right.

To finish the day, students painted rocks with kind messages and added them to the school's Kindness Rock Garden, helping to spread positivity across the school.



Olivia and Bonnie painted rocks with kind messages and added them to the school's Kindness Rock Garden, as part of Bully No Way Day at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

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## Downsizing the Family Home

### What to expect

By David Caporale,  
Chief Investment Officer of RELIcapital

For many retirees, selling the family home feels like the key to a fresh start - less cleaning, fewer gardens to look after, and hopefully some money left over to enjoy life. But while the idea of "unlocking" home equity is appealing, the costs of downsizing often come as a surprise. By the time you add up agent fees, stamp duty, and moving expenses, the windfall surplus isn't always as large as people imagine.

### The cost of selling

In Victoria, real estate agent commissions usually range between 1.5% and 2.5% of the sale price. On a \$750,000 home, that's around \$11,000 to \$18,000. Marketing, professional photography, advertising and online listings can add another \$2,000 to \$5,000, and legal fees for conveyancing are generally \$1,200 to \$2,500.

Put together, selling costs alone can easily reach \$15,000 to \$25,000.

### Buying the next place

The biggest shock for many is stamp duty. On a \$600,000 unit in Victoria, the duty is about \$31,000. While there are some concessions for pensioners, there is no broad exemption for retirees who are simply moving to a smaller home.

Other states sometimes offer targeted relief - New South Wales and Queensland, for example, have run downsizer concessions in recent years - but these depend on the government of the day. It's important to check what's available before making a decision.

Add to that another \$1,200 - \$2,500 for legal fees, plus \$500 - \$800 for building and pest inspections.

### Moving costs

Shifting a household after decades can be more expensive than expected. A typical move for a three-bedroom home within Victoria can cost \$2,000 to \$4,000. Storage, if needed, adds

\$250 - \$400 per month. Then there are smaller extras such as redirecting mail, reconnecting electricity utilities and internet, and updating insurance which can easily add \$500 - \$1,000.

### How the Age Pension can be affected

Selling the family home can also change your Age Pension entitlements. While your home is exempt from the assets test, the sale proceeds are not. If you plan to buy another home, the money is exempt for up to two years (sometimes three in special cases). But during that period, it may still be "deemed" under the income test, which could temporarily reduce your pension. Timing your move carefully makes a difference.

### A chance to boost super

On the positive side, the Downsizer Contribution lets eligible Australians over 55 contribute up to \$300,000 each (\$600,000 for couples) into super from the sale of the family home. This can turn housing wealth into a more flexible retirement income stream. Just remember, once the money is in super, it's still counted under the Age Pension assets test.

### The bottom line

Downsizing can be the right move to free up funds, cut household chores, and offering a fresh start. But it's not always the financial windfall many expect. Between selling costs, stamp duty, moving expenses, and potential changes to the Age Pension, the final figure can be far lower than first imagined.

The key is to step into the process with clear expectations. By understanding the real costs, you can make a decision that's right not only for your finances, but also for your lifestyle in retirement.

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



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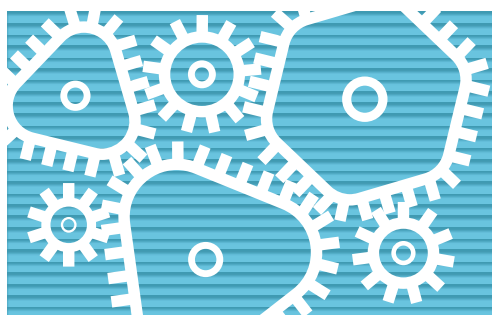
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Join the free guided “behind the scenes” tour of Berninneit next Tuesday, September 9 at 11am. Book your space now at [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com).

## Behind the scenes at Berninneit

### ARTS

Bass Coast Shire Council is offering free, guided tours of Berninneit, starting from next Tuesday, September 9 at 11am.

The tour, on a Tuesday morning, will give a “behind the scenes” look at the centre, led by centre staff “and expert hosts”, ready to answer all your questions.

The half an hour tours will let the public:

- Explore meeting rooms, kitchen facilities, art gallery, MYLI library, kiosk and the-

atre stage – including behind-the-scenes access.

- Hear about the technical capabilities and facilities of the building.
- Get room details, pricing, and booking info on the spot.

“We are so thrilled that these tours are now available to our community – to ensure everyone has the opportunity to get inside and see what possibilities are available for themselves, their companies, organisations and creative groups,” said Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr

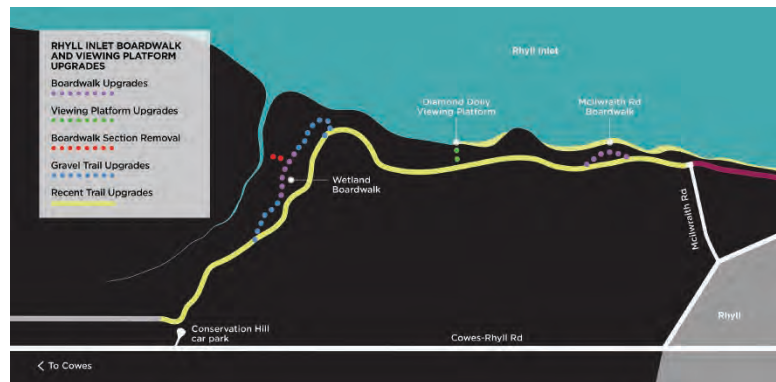
Rochelle Halstead.

“We have had over 1000 activations in the space since it opened with nearly half of all events being locally produced.

“We have some fantastic feedback that the team are looking forward to sharing with everyone on these tours and of course encouraging even more locals to come into these magnificent world-class spaces,” she said.

The tours are free, but bookings essential.

Reserve your free spot via [www.trybooking.com/DEOHL](http://www.trybooking.com/DEOHL)



Around 250 metres of boardwalk will be upgraded and resurfaced with non-slip material. There will be staged closures of individual structures, but the main Cowes-Rhyll shared trail between Conservation Hill and McIlwraith Road will remain open.

## Rhyll Inlet boardwalk upgrade set to begin

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Phillip Island Nature Parks said boardwalks and a viewing platform at Rhyll Inlet are set to be upgraded, to create an improved nature experience for trail users.

Around 250 metres of boardwalk will be upgraded and resurfaced with non-slip material. New handrails will also be installed.

The wetland boardwalk lookout, previously closed due to disrepair, is planned to be removed due to the high environmental impact of rebuilding the structure in such a sensitive environment.

The upgrades will take place between Conservation Hill and McIlwraith Road and will run between October and December excluding school holiday periods.

There will be staged closures of individual structures, but the main Cowes-Rhyll shared trail between Conservation Hill and McIlwraith Road will remain open.

Cyclists and walkers are encouraged to use the recently completed Stage Three of the Cowes Rhyll Trail, which was

completed in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council.

Projects Coordinator at the Nature Parks, Andrew Dallinger, said the boardwalk upgrades would not only encourage visitors to explore the Rhyll area, but improve access to a lesser-known part of Phillip Island (Milawul).

“Two sections of the gravel trail, either side of the wetland boardwalk, will be improved as part of the project,” said Mr Dallinger.

The works are part of the Nature Parks ongoing commitment to reduce safety risks and improve public access around the island.

“These upgrades are part of a longer-term capital works program and are an example of successful eco-tourism directly funding public assets,” said Mr Dallinger.

“We thank the community for their understanding during short-term closures to allow work to be conducted safely and efficiently and ultimately enable long-term safety and benefits for all trail users.”

For project updates, please visit [www.penguins.org.au/about/our-community/projects-and-maintenance/](http://www.penguins.org.au/about/our-community/projects-and-maintenance/)

## Aldred joins Speaker’s Panel in parliament

### POLITICS

Mary Aldred, the member for Monash has wasted no time making her presence felt in parliament.

Since being sworn in in July, she’s delivered her maiden speech, put a question to the Prime Minister about energy prices, and spoken on the floor of parliament about the im-

portance of regional “bricks and mortar” banks, and most recently, the role of regional media.

She’s taken on the role of Deputy Chair of the Communications, the Arts and Sport committee and is part of the Public Accounts and Audit committee.

Last week it was announced Ms Aldred had also been ap-

pointed to the Speaker’s Panel.

This role could see her in the chair at parliament on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Milton Dick MP.

Ms Aldred said it was “a great honour” to have been appointed, while the Speaker said he knew she would “carry this responsibility with pride and I thank her for taking on this important role”.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tell us your views with a Letter to the Editor (350 word limit). Email to [advertiser@pisra.com.au](mailto:advertiser@pisra.com.au), or submit online at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)



### Yes to Cypress

I am writing in response to Nic Frances Gilley (Advertiser, August 27, 2025), to highlight the historical and ecological significance of the Golden Cypress trees along Thompson Avenue, first planted in 1912 by dedicated community members. These trees symbolise not only our connection to the past but our commitment to preserving our environment for future generations.

The establishment of Thompson Avenue is linked to the devotion of Mr and Mrs Thompson, both of whom served as councillors and tirelessly worked for the welfare of our community. In recognition of their efforts, the thoroughfare was named Thompson Avenue, honouring their legacy. Each tree planted along this avenue until 1935 was named after the individual who planted it, with meticulous records maintained. This tradition of honouring community contributions is invaluable and merits our attention.

In 1993, the Friends of the

Thompson Avenue Golden Cypress group was formed to promote the care and preservation of these trees and celebrate their historical significance. While it’s true that Golden Cypress trees are not native to our area, Mr Thompson chose them for several beneficial reasons:

**Drought tolerance:** Once established, these trees require less frequent watering, making them ideal for our changing climate.

**Pest and disease resistance:** Their natural resistance reduces the need for chemical treatments, promoting a healthier environment.

**Environmental benefits:** Golden Cypress trees filter air pollutants, enhance air quality, and provide habitats for various birds and beneficial insects.

**Erosion control:** Their robust root systems stabilize soil, which is essential for preventing erosion on slopes and landscaped areas.

**Aesthetic value:** Their natural pyramidal shape and layered branches enhance our commu-

nity’s beauty and is admired by locals and tourists.

Preserving the Golden Cypress trees of Thompson Avenue is crucial for their beauty, environmental benefits, and cultural significance. With respect, I urge you and the community to prioritise the ongoing maintenance and protection of these historic trees, ensuring future generations can appreciate this remarkable heritage.

Marnie Chadwick, Cowes

### Daffodil Day thanks

I’m writing to share my appreciation and thanks to every Victorian who supported Cancer Council’s Daffodil Day.

Nearly all of us have been impacted by cancer – whether directly or through the experiences of a loved one – and it’s incredibly sad that about one in two of us will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

But, each year, the Daffodil Day message is one of hope. Not just for today, but for the future too.

When we urged Victorians

to get behind our campaign and its goal of raising \$4 million nationally for life-saving cancer research, we also asked them to share hope across the community.

The response was humbling, and it was heartwarming to see the immense level of generosity shown, far and wide. Whether it was fundraising, volunteering, raising awareness, participating in the Daffodil Day Dip, or supporting the efforts of others – including buying a daffodil – every single person who contributed can feel proud they have helped drive positive change.

Thanks to this kindness, I’m pleased to share we were able to reach – and exceed – our fundraising target.

Last year, Cancer Council Victoria invested approximately \$27 million in research to discover the next cancer breakthroughs. And now, thanks to community support for Daffodil Day, we can do even more to grow world-class research, helping increase survival rates and give hope for a cancer-free

future.

To everyone who got involved – thank you.

Todd Harper AM, CEO of Cancer Council Victoria

### Good Samaritan

I wish to acknowledge, through your newspaper, my indebted gratitude to the kind, honest, Good Samaritan who found my lost bank card, driving license and three other cards which had fallen out of my phone case whilst walking along Cowes Beach on Thursday August 14.

They handed them into the local police station. You can imagine my distress, as I was on holiday from Ireland, and staying just two nights with relatives at Smiths Beach.

Due to operational regulations, the police officer was unable to reveal the name of the person, nor address, as I wished to offer a reward. In light of this, I shall be giving a donation on behalf of the person concerned to Croi, my local Heart Charity in Galway.

Penny Cahill, Ireland





Janet Tongue, Sarah Pedersen, Joy Pedersen and Lisa Martindale – the team behind the successful Shades of Pink fundraiser.



Jo Savonna, Jade Potter, new Western Bulldogs recruit Zac Walker, Rachel Cameron and Kara Weston at the Shades of Pink fundraiser on August 23.

# Shades of Pink raises the bar

## FUNDRAISER

The annual Shades of Pink lunch on August 23 raised over \$10,000 for Eastern Health's Breast and Cancer Centre.

The lunch at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, organised by Sarah Pedersen, was supported by the club with a pink round, with players wearing pink socks and ribbons, and the A-Grade netballers sporting special pink uniforms.

The sold-out lunch was supported by generous donations from local businesses.

Sarah said she was thrilled with the success of the event and thanked the club for its support.

"Our Phillip Island Football

Netball Club came together embracing pink socks in footy and wearing pink ribbons for netball, buying pink T-shirts, beanies, and our footy oval lines painted pink," she said.

"It was a day of sending a powerful message of support and solidarity for those affected by breast cancer.

"It's more than just a colour ... it's a symbol of our commitment to making a difference."

Sarah also thanked the businesses whose major donations contributed to the success of the lunch: Bear & Wood, Bloem Florist-Cowes, S&J Bathroom Renovations, Terry White Chemist, Penny Lane Café, Gifted Things Hampers, The Store Ventnor,

Her Day spa Cowes & San Remo, Purple Hen Winery, Grénache Wine Bar, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Flowers of Phillip Island, Tyde, Phillip Island Winery, Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit and Ember & Oak.

"Thanks too, to our individual donors including Kerri-Anne for our balloon displays, our club chef Andrew, and Lisa Martindale, Janet Tongue and Joy Pedersen, the set up queens," said Sarah.

"And of course, Chris and Jodie Ross."

As the popular event sells out quickly every year, Sarah has plans to expand the Shades of Pink fundraising.

"I would also like to announce

I am planning a formal dinner in May to continue raising awareness of this important cause where we can all frock up enjoy a night out and come together in support of something that truly matters.

"More details to come soon!"

Sarah co-founded Shades of Pink in 2017 with her friends Kat Coopersmith and Sarah Allen, to support the Breast and Cancer Centre at Maroondah Hospital.

The charity was initially linked to football clubs in the Eastern League, which established a pink round, with clubs hosting ladies luncheon fundraisers.

When Sarah and her family

moved to Phillip Island seven years ago, she decided to "bring a little pink to the island".

Through all its fundraising, Shades of Pink has been able to purchase a 3D mammogram machine, 3D biopsy system and a portable ultrasound for use at the Breast and Cancer Centre at Maroondah Hospital, and funded wages for a breast cancer nurse, plus groundbreaking research through Health4Her.

Earlier this year, Sarah was named Bass Coast 2025 Community Leader for her work as co-founder of the Shades of Pink charity.

To support Shades of Pink: [www.shadesofpink.com.au/](http://www.shadesofpink.com.au/)



Shades of Pink A Grade netballers in their pink uniforms, in support of the fundraiser.



Andrea Taylor, Mary Taylor and Janet Tongue at the Shades of Pink lunch, with raised over \$10,000 for Eastern Health's Breast and Cancer Centre.



Janet Tongue, Trish Briggs winner of the Gifted Things Hamper, and organiser Sarah Pedersen.



Shades of Pink ladies enjoying their lunch on August 23 at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, which raised over \$10,000 for Eastern Health's Breast and Cancer Centre.



# Gippsland Masters shine at World Championships

## SWIMMING

Singapore was the destination for several Gippsland Masters Swimmers competing at the World Aquatics Masters Championships in Singapore last month.

The event, attracting swimmers from around the world who have swum qualifying times, has swimmers aged from 20-95 competing in events in all four strokes in distances from 50m to 400m.

Traralgon Master Blasters representatives were Shannon Lorimer, Andrew Somerville, Charlie Pragnell and Natasha Hughes and South Gippsland Bass was represented by Janice Legg.

They represented their club with great pride both individually and in relays.

All the Traralgon swimmers swam PBs with Shannon the highest place-getter – 11th in the 40-44 age group 200 fly.



South Gippsland Bass was represented by Janice Legg at the World Championships in Singapore.

**Janice's results (65-69 age group):**  
100 Breaststroke – 22nd 1:57.44 (PB by 0.95 sec).  
50 Freestyle – 36th 44.64 sec.  
50 Backstroke – 22nd 52.02 sec (1.81 sec PB).  
50 Breaststroke – 26th 52.22 sec (1 sec PB).



It was all smiles at the Con Amalos swim meet in Morwell, as Gippsland's young swimmers kicked off the 25/26 season with energy, confidence and plenty of team spirit.

# First GSI meet at Morwell

## SWIMMING

It was all smiles at the Con Amalos swim meet in Morwell on Sunday for the first GSI of the 25/26 season.

The event, hosted by the Morwell swim club had many of the younger competitors of the region in attendance, with the 25-metre pool helping boost their

confidence.

Swimmers from all seven Gippsland clubs were in attendance and there was a lot of excitement as the young swimmers tried their best.

Also in attendance were a handful of older swimmers, trying to get their last required qualifying times for the Age State Championships in a fortnight.

# Korrine and District grand finals

## TENNIS

On August 23 Wonthaggi Tennis club hosted the Korrine and District Junior Tennis Association grand finals.

Wrapping up the winter season with some much-appreciated sunshine, the day saw six divisions represented from Pennant through to section five.

Teams from Westernport, Phillip Is-


land, Korumburra, Leongatha, Inverloch, Wonthaggi and Lang Lang made up the winter competition.

Congratulations to all the grand final winners and runners up for their outstanding efforts.

A special thank you to all the junior players, parents, coaches, team managers and committee members for another enjoyable season.



Section 5 runners up from Phillip Island were Alexandra and Isabel Zoanetti.




## DARTS

### COME AND TRY

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Join us for fun and excitement!

# Free pickleball sessions for women

## HEALTH

To encourage more women to get back to being active, free pickleball lessons are being offered in Rhyll on Phillip Island, as part of the Gippy Girls Can Week in September.

Research by VicHealth has shown that 52 per cent of women fear being judged while being physically active, preventing them from prioritising their health.

This is especially true for mums who have been busy raising their young children.

The Gippy Girls Can Festival, building on VicHealth's This Girl Can Victoria campaign, has teamed up with the Rhyll Tennis Club.

They're offering free pickleball sessions to show women how easy and supportive it can be to start, or get back to, being more active.

Pickleball is a low impact game played on around a third of the area of a standard doubles tennis court.

It's been described as a cross between badminton, ping pong and tennis.

Small solid bats are used to hit a perforated plastic ball across court, which calls more on clever tactics and a sense of humour, than skill and power.

Rhyll Tennis Club Vice President Amanda Walker explains.



The Rhyll Picklers playing group is offering a limited number of "Come and Try Pickleball" sessions on September 9 and 12 between 10.30am – 12pm. Some of the regular Rhyll Pickler team getting ready to play pickleball in Rhyll (from left): Vicky, Deb, Leah and Rebecca.

"With a small court there's less running than tennis.

"But with a lighter ball, your reflexes and ability to laugh will prepare you well for some unpredictable ball behaviour depending on wind and the way it hits the court.

"We have a very sociable and supportive group who cheer each other on to learn and have fun," Amanda said.

Many started pickleball after not playing any sport before.

"We usually play doubles, which results in lots of fast rallies and cheeky tactics to win points.

"And there's an international trend of people popping in to play at local clubs.

"We've had visitors from Canada, America, and Asia already."

These fun, social and accessible aspects of pickleball help explain why its Australia's fastest growing sport.

The Rhyll Picklers playing group is offering a limited number of "Come and Try Pickleball" sessions on September 9 and 12 between 10.30am – 12pm.

The sessions are followed by a catch-up chat with cups of tea, biscuits and friendly banter.

For women (18 and over) interested in registering, please email: rhylltennis@gmail.com

For more Gippy Girls Can activities, go to: gippygirls-can.com.au/opportunities

## GIPPY GIRLS CAN

### Come and try Pickleball

Part of Gippy Girls Can Week, try something new your way!

**Never tried Pickleball? Now's your chance!**

Part of Gippy Girls Can Week, this fun and friendly session is open to all women. No pressure. Just plenty of laughs and support.

**TUES 9 SEPT & FRI 12 SEPT**  
**10:30 - 12**  
**AGES: 18+**

**RHYLL TENNIS COURTS, LOCK RD, RHYLL**  
**LIMITED TO 10 SPOTS!**  
**REGISTRATION: GOLD COIN**

**Never played before?**  
No worries – we'll show you the ropes!

**Want to come solo?**  
You'll meet some great people on the court!

**Ready to laugh, learn, and have fun?**  
You're in the right place.

**Never tried Pickleball? Now's your chance!**

Part of Gippy Girls Can Week, this fun and friendly session is open to all women. No pressure. Just plenty of laughs and support.

**TUES 9 SEPT & FRI 12 SEPT**  
**10:30 - 12**  
**AGES: 18+**

**RHYLL TENNIS COURTS, LOCK RD, RHYLL**  
**LIMITED TO 10 SPOTS!**

**REGISTRATION: GOLD COIN**

**What to wear:** Comfortable clothing and runners. Wear what feels good and helps you move with confidence.

Gippy Girls Can Week is all about celebrating everyday women getting active in ways that suit them. No judgement. No pressure. Just a supportive space, new moves, and people cheering you on.

**Never played before?**  
No worries – we'll show you the ropes!

**Want to come solo?**  
You'll meet some great people on the court!

**Ready to laugh, learn, and have fun?**  
You're in the right place.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mandy. rhylltennis@gmail.com

**GippSport**  
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**GIPPY GIRLS CAN**





# Breakers head into finals

SOCCKER

U15 Girls

The U15 Girls capped their home-and-away season with a tough clash against fellow ladder leaders, Drouin Dragons Yellow.

Determined to hold top spot, the Breakers came out strong, with Hannah, Mia, Talia and Izzy anchoring the defence and Ariana outstanding in goal.

Despite tireless midfield efforts from Grace, Tamsin, Lily T and Georgia and Ebony's support in goal, Drouin struck early in both halves and went on to a 5-0 win to secure the minor premiership.

The Breakers showed resilience and unity throughout and can be proud of their growth this season as they now prepare for a semi-final on September 14.

U14 Mixed

The Penguins wrapped up the home-and-away season with a 13-2 win over Mirboo North on a chilly Sunday morning.

Reuben opened the scoring early, before Blake added another. Mirboo North struck back with a penalty, but the Penguins responded strongly after half-time. Hannah and Oisin dominated the wing, creating chances for Reuben, who finished with six goals.

The defence held firm, while Blake, Oisin, Tamsin and James also found the net.

Mirboo North managed a late second, but the Penguins' pressure proved decisive. The team's improvement reflects coaches Marco and Callum's efforts.

Finals opponents will be confirmed this week.

U12 A

Phillip Island Under 12A team finished the season with a strong performance beating Mirboo North 10-2.

Some wonderful passing from the team and link up play caused the Mirboo North defence trouble throughout.

The first goal of the game was a free kick from outside of the box which Ryder coolly placed in the top corner.



U12A half time team talk.



U15 Girls team Hannah showing determination and focus against the opposition.

Goals followed from Harry who picked up five before the end of the game and a number of assists. Flynn scored two, Mitch scored a rocket from the edge of the box and Marlo scored one.

Some of the goals scored came from brilliant passages of passing and some wonderful individual skills.

It capped off a fantastic season for the U12A team who have ended up taking out first place on the ladder after a very dominant season.

The team can look ahead to finals now which will start next week in Drouin for the semi-final.



U12A soccer player Harry scoring one of his five goals from outside the box.

## Soccer results, Round 18

**Senior Women's:** Phillip Island Breakers 18 d Mirboo North United 1.

**Men's Reserves:** Phillip Island Breakers 5 d Trafalgar Victory 0.

**Under 17 Mixed:** Phillip Island

Breakers 6 d Mirboo North United 0.

**Under 15 Girls:** Drouin Dragons Yellow 5 d Phillip Island Breakers 0.

**Under 14 Mixed:** Drouin Dragons

Maroon Yellow 6 d Phillip Island Stingrays 0. Phillip Island Penguins 8 d Mirboo North United 2.

**Under 12A Mixed:** Phillip Island Breakers 8 d Mirboo North United 2.

**Under 12B Mixed:** Phillip Island Stingrays 7 d Trafalgar Victory 1.



Jasira Denham fights for the ball under the post during the U17s elimination final win over Koo Wee Rup.

## Island netballers final fever

NETBALL

Phillip Island's Under 17s handled the pressure of finals with style, overcoming Koo Wee Rup 44-25 in wet and slippery conditions.

It was a close contest in the opening half, with both sides pushing hard, but Phillip Island stayed composed and chipped away quarter by quarter to build their lead.

Aisha and Ava were steady in goals, converting well despite the heavy rain.

Ellie worked tirelessly through the centre, providing calm direction, while Piper and Abbey added speed and drive in midcourt.

In defence, Olivia was outstanding in goal defence, supported by Kate and Jasira, who shut down Koo Wee Rup's attack with smart pressure.

Tilly was also strong in defence and even had a surprise stint as goal shooter, showing her versatility and giving the crowd something to cheer about.

The Islanders' teamwork shone through as they grew stronger with every quarter, pulling away in the final term to seal the win.

Best on Court: Olivia Holmes.

## B Grade girls through to next round

NETBALL

The Kilcunda Bass B Grade netballers hit their home court for the elimination final determined to prove they belonged on the big stage. Facing a strong Dalyston side, Bass showed intent from the first whistle. The opening minutes went goal for goal before nerves settled and the attack clicked into rhythm.

With defensive pressure forcing turnovers that were swiftly converted, Bass stormed to an eight-goal lead at quarter time.

The energy only grew, with smart attacking play and fearless defence stretching the margin to 15 by half time.

By the third term, momentum was firmly with Bass and belief surged. Dalyston fought hard in the final quarter, but Bass refused to let up, every player executing their role with grit and confidence.

Backed by a vocal crowd, the girls powered to a commanding

50-37 win.

Best on court was Kira Hamilton. A brilliant all-round performance, setting up a semi-final showdown with belief and momentum.

**U15**

It wasn't the U15 Girls' day on Saturday, but it was certainly their year.

After a season of hard work, reaching finals was a win in itself. Facing ladder leaders Cora Lynn was always going to be tough, yet the girls started strong, going goal for goal early.

Once Cora Lynn found rhythm, their accuracy proved unstoppable despite determined defensive efforts.

The Breakers never gave up, showing grit and spirit to the end. Making finals marks a positive step forward and the team should be proud of their growth.

Congratulations on a fantastic season; onwards and upwards for Killy Bass Netball.

# TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 3 SEP	THU 4 SEP	FRI 5 SEP	SAT 6 SEP	SUN 7 SEP	MON 8 SEP	TUE 9 SEP
LOW 12:52 am 0.66 m	LOW 1:30 am 0.73 m	LOW 2:15 am 0.80 m	LOW 3:15 am 0.87 m	LOW 4:32 am 0.89 m	LOW 5:49 am 0.86 m	HIGH 1:07 am 2.59 m
HIGH 7:56 am 2.63 m	HIGH 8:45 am 2.55 m	HIGH 9:44 am 2.49 m	HIGH 10:52 am 2.50 m	HIGH 12:00 pm 2.57 m	HIGH 1:00 pm 2.68 m	LOW 6:56 am 0.80 m
LOW 1:19 pm 1.32 m	LOW 2:02 pm 1.43 m	LOW 3:00 pm 1.50 m	LOW 4:15 pm 1.49 m	LOW 5:35 pm 1.36 m	LOW 6:42 pm 1.14 m	HIGH 1:51 pm 2.79 m
HIGH 7:16 pm 2.51 m	HIGH 8:01 pm 2.41 m	HIGH 9:04 pm 2.33 m	HIGH 10:25 pm 2.31 m	HIGH 11:52 pm 2.41 m		LOW 7:35 pm 0.89 m

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# U12 Blues show pride in premiership decider

## FOOTBALL

The U12 Blue Bulldogs faced Leongatha in the premiership clash at Korumburra, bursting through a banner that read "Every heart beats true for the red, white and blue, c'mon doggies, it's up to you."

From the first bounce it was a dog fight, with tough conditions making scoring difficult.

At quarter time, the Blues held a narrow one-point lead.

The second quarter saw the Parrots take advantage of the wind, piling on five unanswered goals.

Despite the efforts of Zed Findlay and Pheonix Durdin in defence and Max Robinson working hard around the packs, Phillip Island went into the main break trailing 30-1.

With the sun finally shining in the third term, the Blues reset with a simple message: get the ball and kick it forward.

Noah Hollings and Sam Martindale provided plenty of drive, while Kash Scheibel delivered the team's only goal from a set shot.



U12 Blue footy team fought hard till the end in their Grand Final against Leongatha.

By the final break, Leongatha led 39-8.

The Bulldogs entered the last quarter determined to fight it out, with Jett Fawaz continuing his relentless work rate.

Every player had a chance to take the field and experience the intensity of finals footy.

Although Leongatha claimed the flag with a 50-8 victory, the

Blues never lost belief.

Their fight, determination and unity made coaches and parents proud, capping off a season of growth and spirit.

Final Score: Leongatha 50 def Phillip Island 8.

Best Players: Jett Fawaz, Zed Findlay, Pheonix Durdin, Max Robinson, Sam Martindale and Noah Hollings.



The U14 Blue team gave it their all in the grandfinal against Inverloch, it was a hard fought battle throughout the game, unfortunately they did not come away with the win, but they certainly can hold their heads high.

## Bulldogs battle hard in U14 Grand Final

## FOOTBALL

The U14 Blue Bulldogs came into Sunday's grand final with pride, determination and belief after a season built on strong footy and great camaraderie.

They had earned their place on the big stage and were ready to give their all.

Callum Chambers was fierce in the ruck, while Jax Marshall, Ry Sheers and Brax Scheibel worked tirelessly to move the ball forward.

Captain Balin Riky and Jarrah Rutherford lifted the team with their determination, inspiring their teammates in a tough, scrappy contest.

Taj Piera's goal in the second quarter sparked much-needed energy, while Miller Sund, Aiden Smith and Riley Whyte applied impressive pressure around the ground.

There were solid contributions from Ari de Fazio, Kai Denblyden and Archie Dallingier, while Kolby Carton was rock-solid in defence.

Speed and skill came from Tijian Coldora and Flynn Riley, with Archie Robinson, Spencer Smith, Max Carville, Rocco Archer and Hugo Wright also making valuable plays.

At half time, the scores were locked at one goal apiece, with

Inverloch narrowly ahead by two points.

The second half remained an arm wrestle, with neither side able to break clear until late in the game.

The Bulldogs continued to compete fiercely, urged on by the loud support of families and friends.

While Inverloch eventually secured a 10-7 win, the Bulldogs' effort, teamwork and resilience shone through.

Under coaches Lucas Piera and Chris Dallinger, the team has built incredible memories, friendships and a love for the game, achievements that go well beyond the scoreboard.

## Finals hopes dashed for KB

## FOOTBALL

## U16

An elimination final against a quality outfit in Inverloch saw the rooms buzzing with excitement.

For nearly every player, this was their first final of any kind.

Slippery conditions saw the game get off to a scrappy start with a highly contested affair.

The midfield pair of Charlie and Pez, (without their partner in crime Blake unfortunately out with injury), led the way with tough relentless pressure.

The second and third terms saw a lift in intensity by the boys.

Young Ty winning the ruck battle and giving first use to on-ball brigade saw several forward entries but couldn't capitalise on the scoreboard.

Down back, the ever-improving Hayden who was given the tough task of playing on one of the league's leading goalkickers,

rarely lost a one-on-one contest and with the future star Seb Rennie, defended exceptionally all day.

In the final quarter and with the game out of reach, Kilcunda Bass boys fought right up to the final siren, with a great snap for goal by Ty in the dying minutes giving the group some much deserved reward for their efforts.

A great year by the boys.

They should all be very proud of what they have achieved.

The club has a bright future with this group.

Well done everybody.

## Seniors

A disappointing loss against the Island in the final this week.

The boys battled really hard and played as a team.

The boys took it right up to Phillip Island, but they just slipped away.

Although not the result Killy Bass wanted, a really good finish to a great season.

# On the green

## GOLF

## Tuesday, August 26

### Men's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Barry Melven (37) 39.

A Grade winner: A-1 Brendon Corvino (12) 35

A-2 winner: Michael Taylor (11) 34.

B Grade winner: B-1 Chris Sanderson (16) 38.

B-2 winner: Connor Epifano (17) 37.

C Grade winner: C-1 Barry Melven (37) 39.

C-2 winner: Peter Gray (20) 38. BDL to 35 C/B.

NTP: 7th Alf Micallef, 10th Gerald Taylor and 17th Brenton O'Brien.

### Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Ian Samuel (26) 19 pts from Peter Pillar (30) 18 pts C/B.

BDL to 17 pts C/B.

## Wednesday, August 27

### Women's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Jennifer Fitzgerald (45) 39 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Vicki Ramage (18) 37 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Jennifer Fitzgerald (45) 39 pts.

BDL to 31 pts C/B.

NTP: 7th Jennifer Fitzgerald, 10th Helen Coghlan.

### Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Michelle Pardoe (18) 19 pts from Kerri Harris (43) 18 pts.

BDL to 17 pts C/B.

## Thursday, August 28

### Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Robert Fabiny (19) 41 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Scott Lethbridge (2) 34 pts C/B.

A-2 winner: Steven Sloss

(12) 34 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Robert Fabiny (19) 41 pts.

B-2 winner: Rick Zolcinski (18) 39 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Ian Rowell (20) 34 pts.

C-2 winner: Tony Zoanetti (22) 32 pts C/B.

BDL to 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Scott Lethbridge, 7th Mark White, 10th Brenton O'Brien and 17th Ian Smith.

### Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Ian Barker (40) 20 pts C/B from Basil Moloney (15) 18 pts C/B.

BDL to 15 pts C/B.

## Saturday, August 30

### Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Heath Kolac (32) 40 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Steven Duggan (10) 39 pts.

A-2 winner: Neville Thurgood (10) 34 pts.

B Grade winners: B-1 Brandon Lloyd (17) 38 pts

B-2 winner: Max Mattock (18) 36 pts C/B.

C Grade winners: C-1 Heath Kolac (32) 40 pts

C-2 winner: Biley Ronalds (25) 39 pts.

BDL to 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th, 7th and 10th Tim Duff and 17th Steve Regnier.

### Women's 9H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Celeste Quinton (34) 35 pts from Tracey Cuff (21) 33 pts.

BDL to 29 pts C/B.

NTP: 7th Tracey Cuff

## Sunday, August 31

### 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Harry Bentley (12) 39 pts from Zakk Allen-Ryan (14) 38 pts.

BDL: to 33 pts.

# Red Rocks golf results

## Saturday, August 30

### Stableford

Winner: Kathryn Reece (32) 36 points.

## Sunday, August 31

### Stableford

Winner: Doug Collins (18) 42 points.

NTP: Hole 5 Steve Wurt. Hole 10 Steven Cerni.





# Finals fever for the Bulldogs

Mikka Paulsen flies high in the ruck, with support from teammate Joel Galvin in the Reserves final. More photos at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

## FOOTBALL

The Phillip Island Bulldogs are firing on all cylinders as both the Seniors and Reserves storm into the semi-finals.

After thrilling elimination final victories this weekend, the club, players and supporters are buzzing with excitement.

### Seniors shine

The Seniors lit up the field in an elimination final full of energy, skill, and determination.

From the opening moments, Phillip Island's message was clear, this team was here to win and nothing was going to stop them. Zak Vernon and Cameron Pedersen led the charge through the midfield, winning crucial contests and delivering the ball cleanly to their forwards.

Yianni Caffieri's brilliance was on full display, slotting goals at critical moments, while Jack Taylor, Daniel Pearce and Mark Collison made relentless efforts to dominate the field.

The forward line's composure ensured that every opportunity was capitalised on, with

goals coming from Brendan Kimber, Billy Taylor, Max Walton and more.

Despite a strong challenge from Kilcunda Bass, Phillip Island's skill, experience and team spirit shone through, sealing a 30-point win and a semi-final showdown against Cora Lynn.

**Final Score:** Phillip Island 13.14 (92) def Kilcunda Bass 9.8 (62).

**Goals:** Yianni Caffieri 3, Brendan Kimber 2, Max Walton, Jordy Patullo, Mark Collison, Billy Taylor, Jack Huther, Cameron Pedersen, Connor Thompson and Jack Taylor 1.

**Best Players:** Zak Vernon, Cameron Pedersen, Yianni Caffieri, Jack Taylor, Daniel Pearce and Mark Collison.

### Reserves triumph

It was a day to remember for the Reserves, who delivered a masterclass in teamwork, intensity and finals football.

From the first bounce, Phillip Island set the tone, tackling hard, moving the ball with precision and making every contest count. Mikka Paulsen and Lucas Chihotski dominated the midfield, driving the team

forward with energy and skill, while Brayden Kleverkamp's creativity and Darcy Thompson's defensive heroics kept Inverloch-Kongwak at bay.

Up forward, the scoreboard pressure was relentless.

Brady Ross and Lucas Chihotski's accuracy shone through and Alexander Officer and Travis Woodfield added the finishing touches to an inspiring performance.

The final whistle sparked celebrations as the Reserves officially punched their ticket to the semi-finals.

The stage is set for a blockbuster clash against Cora Lynn Reserves on Sunday, September 7 at 12pm at Inverloch Recreational Reserve. Excitement is at fever pitch as this young and determined team chases finals glory.

**Final Scores:** Phillip Island 10.6 (66) def Inverloch-Kongwak 4.6 (30).

**Goals:** Brady Ross and Lucas Chihotski 3, Alexander Officer 2, Travis Woodfield and Brayden Kleverkamp 1.

**Best Players:** Mikka Paulsen, Brayden Kleverkamp, Lucas Chihotski, Darcy Thompson,

Finlay Cousins and Timothy Niven.

### U16 season over

The U16 Island boys played a close and competitive finals game against Tooradin, with the margin tight right up until the final quarter when Tooradin managed to slip away.

Lewis De Fazio kicked two valuable goals to help to drive the team forward.

He was well supported by Sam O'Garey and Levi Addison, who added one goal each. Charlie Fischer, Archie Williams, Hayden Power and Jack Mascaros all put in strong performances across the ground, keeping the Bulldogs in the contest for much of the day.

Despite the result, it was a great display of spirit and determination from the team.

**Final Score:** Tooradin 43 def Phillip Island 31. Goals: Lewis De Fazio 2, Sam O'Garey and Levi Addison 1.

**Best Players:** Charlie Fischer, Sam O'Garey, Lewis De Fazio, Archie Williams, Hayden Power, and Jack Mascaros.

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