

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

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Significant property loss predicted

Phillip Island properties may be lost to the sea in 5-10 years: report

EROSION

There may be “significant loss” of private property and public assets at Silverleaves and an area of Cowes East in the short-term, according to an alarming State Government report on coastal erosion.

Long-awaited by residents, the report – Observation Point to Silverleaves: Gippsland West Coastal Processes Studies – has been written for the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) by consultants FSC Range.

A community drop-in session was held on Friday in Cowes to discuss the report, where the State Government was forced to commit to providing immediate, temporary solutions (see separate story).

The report is available online with a community survey and consultation open until September 27 (engage.vic.gov.au/silverleaves-coastal-adaptation-pathways).

The report investigates how waves, tides and wind influence about 2km of the Silverleaves/Cowes East coastline – as well as the effectiveness of existing coastal protection structures – and was commissioned following years of accelerated erosion and intense lobbying by anxious residents.

The report justifies their anxiety.



This diagram shows the probable diminishing future shoreline of Silverleaves if no solutions are implemented.

It states in two years, since 2022, in a “hotspot” near Sanders Road, about 16 metres of foreshore has been lost to erosion.

The western shoreline of Silverleaves more broadly has eroded about 77 metres since 1953.

The report suggests sea level rise is coming faster than previously predicted, with the foreshore shifting to the front door of the most northerly homes on the length of Silverleaves within the next decade if nothing is done to stop current erosion.

By 2050 all frontline homes along Silverleaves may be submerged and by 2100 homes in about 150 metres from the cur-

rent shoreline could have been breached.

If the rate of erosion continues, the projections are grim.

“Permanent inundation (due to sea level rise) and temporary inundation (during storm events) are anticipated to affect the study area, particularly at Silverleaves,” the report states.

“Inundation of private property and public assets can be expected even in the short-term planning horizons (ie: five to 10 years). The mechanism of flooding from behind via Rhyll Inlet complicates the situation.

“Erosion assessment results indicate that at Silverleaves, significant loss of private property, coastal reserve, and pub-

lic assets is possible even in the relatively short-term planning horizon.”

The report did not examine flooding from Rhyll Inlet, except to say it “complicates hazard management, as this hazard cannot be managed through protection structures along the coast”.

The report states residents should not expect nature to repair the damage.

Solutions

Frustratingly for residents, the report does not give immediate or obvious solutions, except to say there should be planned adaptation.

There will now be a month of community consultation to

gauge resident preferences on action (see separate story).


Even if action is agreed upon, there is no budget allocation at local, state or federal levels, with no precedent for funding to protect private property.

- Short term recommendations: undertake adaptation planning and implement maintenance and nourishment (bulldozing sand) to the groyne fields.
- Medium to long term recommendations: Develop sustainable, long-term adaptation pathway and coastal management strategies beyond sacrificial beach nourishment efforts.

Continued page 5

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- Act for the Island's community needs
- Responsible use of ratepayers money
- Freeze the waste levy
- Collection of the red bin every week from Xmas to Australia Day
- 1 free hard rubbish pick up per year
- Parking solutions for the Island that work

- Strongly advocate for projects that we actually need:
 - Prioritise the sporting precinct opposite the RSL
 - The aquatic centre
 - New football oval
 - Basketball courts
 - Complete existing bike tracks before starting any new ones
 - No bike track along the foreshore from Cowes to Ventnor; preserve the foreshore habitat

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922 | Tel: 0419 654 151 | email: ronniebauer47@gmail.com

Authorised by Ronnie Bauer, PO Box 996, Cowes 3922

PHILLIP ISLAND 7 DAY WEATHER FORECAST	Wed/Sep4	Thu/Sep5	Fri/Sep6	Sat/Sep7	Sun/Sep8	Mon/Sep9	Tue/Sep10
							
	POSSIBLE SHOWER	SHOWERS	SHOWERS	POSSIBLE SHOWER	SHOWER OR TWO	WINDY	PARTLY CLOUDY
	9 19	15 20	13 19	10 15	9 17	11 15	10 14

Weathering the storm

WEATHER

Residents endured a wild week-end, with gale force winds, hail, thunder, lightning and storm surges on local beaches.

As another storm front moved through in the early hours of Monday, there were reports of trees down in Cape Woolamai, San Remo, Cowes, Ventnor, Coronet Bay and Corinella.

The Phillip Island and San Remo SES units said crews had been out overnight clearing fallen trees, with the work continuing through the day.

They urged everyone to drive to the conditions and slow down to 40km to keep emergency service crews safe.

They also recommended parking cars undercover and away from trees and avoiding unnecessary travel.

On Sunday night, the Bureau of Meteorology issued a warning for Phillip Island saying damaging surf conditions were expected, with large waves peaking on Monday.

“These conditions may produce localised damage and coastal erosion,” the notification said.

“Beach conditions in these areas will be dangerous and people should stay well away from the surf and surf exposed area.”

Wild week

Last week, residents reported chimneys blew off.

The power went out in San Remo for several hours last Wednesday.



During last week's wild weather, the island was littered with tree branches, including this downed tree at Erehwon Point, while beaches were eroded from large waves.

And the island was littered with tree branches, including a downed tree at Erehwon Point, while beaches were eroded from large waves.

Like the rest of Victoria, local residents were not immune to the gale force punch delivered last Wednesday and Thursday, nor the winds which continued across the weekend.

According to the SES state control centre, there were 31 requests for help from Phillip Island residents and 14 from San Remo, up until Friday.

A spokesperson for the Phillip Island SES unit said it attended multiple requests for assistance (RFA) last week.

“Crews have been attending clearing fallen trees posing traffic hazards, fallen trees restricting property access and storm building damage.

“We ask the community to be patient, as we attend the RFA's on a priority basis.”

In the case of a threat to life emergency contact Triple Zero (000). For storm, flood or building damage call 132 500.



Good Samaritan Alex Bowden spent over six hours in the night and early morning clearing fallen trees from local roads during Monday's wild storm.

Local 'legend' clears fallen trees at night during wild storm

WEATHER

Not all heroes wear capes, but some wield chainsaws in the night.

When Alex Bowden was awoken by the severe storm that swept in at 2am on Monday morning, his first reaction was to go for a drive “and check out what was happening”.

After a short trip around his local area, Alex realised large trees had fallen on multiple roads, essentially trapping some residents in Silverleaves.

At 2.30am, Alex then doubled back home, picked up his chainsaw and got to work in conditions that prompted severe weather warnings across the state.

“I thought I'd just go home, get my chainsaw, cut it all up and clear the road,” Alex said.

“I just didn't want people to wake up after going through this and then not be able to go anywhere, or have people unable to get to them.

“You just never know if anyone's got medical issues or any sort of emergency.

“I did not want anyone to be stuck.”

In dark and wild conditions, Alex cleared multiple trees from several roads in Silverleaves and at Rhyll including on Settlement, Sanders and Harbison roads, amongst others.

The Cowes resident also alerted the SES to other blocked roads and fallen trees.

“I was wondering who was clearing trees at 3am, that was not the SES. Legend!” one Facebook user wrote of Alex's efforts.

When the Advertiser spoke to Alex shortly after 8am, the unsung local hero was still at work.

“I'm still going now,” he said. “I just came back to refuel, sharpen the blade and get some breakfast.

“I just want to make sure everyone's all good. Nothing too exciting.”

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

CONTACT US:

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

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

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Team Vernon cheer squad. From left to right: Karmen, Emmett, baby Henry, Rosie, Gerard, Carron and Mary Bourke, niece Libby Haig and Lucy, Kerrie and Daryl Vernon. In front: Layla Vernon, Oscar Bourke and Joey and Ollie Vernon. More photos at pisra.com.au

Beau brings home the bronze!

PARALYMPICS

Former Phillip Island senior football coach Beau Vernon has won bronze competing in the wheelchair rugby in Paralympic Games in Paris.

The Steelers defeated Great Britain to win the bronze medal, taking the game 50 – 48. The win will ease the disappointment of missing a chance to compete for gold, after losing to Japan by one try in overtime (52 – 51) in the semi finals.

It's a brilliant result for the first-time Paralympian.

In a report from the Paralympics Australia official website, Beau's effort throughout the game was described as "clinical".

Beau was on court for the entire match and combined with teammate Ryley Batt "to orchestrate arguably its most pivotal moment on the stroke of half time".

A long looping pass to Beau saw him roll over the try-line to score seconds before half time, levelling the score and rattling team GB.

"I thought I was going to be one-push short of being able to catch it and to get it over the line in time. But I just grabbed on and gee, what a moment that was," Beau said.

"I can't take all the credit, Ryley's pass was on the money and I'm definitely looking forward to watching the replay on that one."

Beau's Paralympic quest was supported by the Team Vernon cheer squad including nearly 20 members of his family, wearing green and gold t-shirts embossed with Beau's name and team number 11.

The Phillip Island contingent in the stands included Beau's parents Kerrie and Daryl and in-laws Mary and Carron Bourke.

The bronze medal marks the end of a hard-fought campaign.

The Steelers first game of the Paralympics was also against Great Britain, who maintained their lead throughout a close and tense match to run out winners 58–55.

The Steelers then won against at-home favourites France and against Denmark to complete Group B matches and secured their spot in the semi-final against Japan.

Beau was one of five players making their debut in the world champion 12-player Steelers squad.

He said he's been over-

whelmed by the support flooding in, especially from the Phillip Island community.

The father-of-three, who moved to the Sunshine Coast last year, is well known as a former Phillip Island football player and premiership coach and was playing for Leongatha in 2012 when he was injured and became a C6 quadriplegic.

"I feel a lot of pride to represent my county," the 35-year-old told the Advertiser before he flew out.

Beau will be in Paris until September 10.



Beau Vernon proudly displaying his bronze medal, with his daughter Layla.

Resident questions BCSC's delayed data breach response

COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire residents affected by a nationwide data breach involving external service provider Oracle CMS in April are questioning why they've only now been made aware of the incident.

Local residents were notified by mail in August, nearly four months after the incident, and almost a month after Oracle CMS announced their response to the cyber incident had "drawn to a close".

Council confirmed almost 3000 rows of customer data, along with personal information regarding 41 staff and contractors, was leaked online after call centre provider Oracle CMS fell victim to a cyberattack believed to have come from ransomware operator LockBit.

Oracle CMS is contracted to provide out-of-hours call centre support for the Bass Coast Shire Council, and the leaked data specifically pertains to people who contacted the out-of-hours service between September 2014 and August 2015, raising its own questions as to why data was kept for so long.

Council has stressed their own systems were not compromised or impacted by this incident.

Mark Needham, General Manager of Operations at Oracle CMS, confirmed to the Advertiser the leaked data included personal details only, and that no resident financial data or recordings were accessed.

In the letter sent to 957 affected persons by council on August 15, council said 205 documents with personal details including names, phone numbers, addresses, and the nature of the persons call were released online.

A council spokesperson said 1083 people were unable to be reached due to lack of contact information.

Council said they became aware of the attack on April 24, which had residents questioning why it took until mid-August to alert those affected.

Shane, (who does not want his real name used) was affected by the data breach, and said he was amazed at the delay in advising the affected parties.

Delay

At the time of the attack, Oracle CMS provided out-of-hours support for councils across Australia, including the City of Sydney and a number of Victorian councils, as well as other organisations such as law firms, aged care providers and Nissan Oceania.

Some Victorian councils were issuing preliminary alerts, along with basic cyber safety advice, as early as April 19 (Knox City Council) and April 20 (Whitehorse City Council).

Many other Victorian councils followed suit in May and June.

It was not until July 26 that the Bass Coast Shire Council published a preliminary message of warning on their website.

According to council's own data breach policy (January 2023), "in the event that Bass Coast Shire Council experiences a data breach ... it is important that procedures are in place to enable the Bass Coast Shire Council to contain, assess, and respond in a timely manner."

Shane said while data breaches are now not too uncommon, council's delay in notifying affected parties was unacceptable.

"Okay, you've had a data breach," Shane said, "but you can't give people generic information on what steps to take four months after. It's just too long."

"If it's critical information that's been leaked, and I understand in this case it's not overly critical, but if it is you need to be on the lookout straight away, for any issues with your banking or scams or anything like that."

"Leaving it for that long and (affected) people just aren't aware of it, then it makes life pretty easy for anyone to do something with your information."

"I just can't for the life of me understand why (it took so long to notify parties).

"Is it just incompetence or lack of interest?"

Response

Shane said after receiving the letter he called council to complain and was told that someone would return his call.

"Of course they didn't," Shane said.

But after making a complaint with the online ombudsman, "lo and behold" Shane received a call from council two days later.

"It was a pretty interesting conversation, actually," Shane said.

"(Council) said they don't know how it's occurred, because the database should be wiped after six months or 12 months or something like that."

"(Oracle CMS) is not supposed to keep data that long, so (council) weren't even sure why they still had data from 2014 on their books."

Shane said he was told his afterhours call to council, made nearly 10 years ago, concerned wildlife on the side of the road.

Shane said while council were "very apologetic, they couldn't really tell me why it took four months to let affected people know."

"It was a lot of gobbledygook about 'they had to go get a report from somewhere and it took a long time to get the report back', etc."

A council spokesperson said: "Oracle CMS closed off their communications soon after the last batch of data was provided to us and they confirmed their system was secure."

"Processing all of this was a very time-consuming process and took much longer than expected."

Council has encouraged affected persons to seek cyber safety help at: www.idcare.org

New defibs rolling out to save lives

HEALTH

Two Phillip Island paramedics have started a campaign to save lives by rolling out as many defibrillators in the community "as possible".

Immogen and Erin, based out of the Cowes ambulance station, have been contacting businesses and organisations across the island to source and house AEDs (automated external defibrillator).

"Phillip Island is a huge space for us to cover and due to this we rely on the support of our community to help us in time of need for cardiac arrests," Immogen said.

"We noticed there were many gaps in the area without access to a public AED close by for someone who may be in cardiac arrest."

So far, the duo has successfully worked with The Store Ventnor, whose owners husband and wife Chris Mathews

and Courtney Debono secured enough funds in just 12 hours through a GoFundMe page to buy the vital lifesaving device.

The defib will be available 24/7 at their Ventnor café.

And now the first "call, push, shock" session open to the community will be at The Store, tomorrow, Thursday September 5, 3pm – 4pm.

"The session will involve educating the public on how to identify someone in cardiac arrest, how to call for help, how to perform CPR and how to use an AED," Immogen said.

Courtney said prior to them fundraising the \$2500 to purchase the defib, there was no 24-hour AED available in Ventnor.

"It has always been at the back of my mind that we should have a 24-hour accessible defibrillator," Courtney said.

"For every minute a patient doesn't get CPR/defibrillation, their chances of survival fall by 10 per cent. If a patient in cardiac



The first of several "call, push, shock" sessions open to the community will be at The Store Phillip Island, 511 Ventnor Road, Ventnor, tomorrow, Thursday September 5, 3pm – 4pm. Owners Chris Mathews and Courtney Debono fundraised their new defib in just 12 hours.

arrest receives AED treatment within three minutes, the chance of survival rate is 70 per cent.

"The automatic defib has prompts that talk you through how to use it so you don't need

to be on the phone to triple zero at the time."

Immogen said the next AED training session will be at Cape Woolamai, with more details to come.

Call, push, shock refers to:

CALL: Triple Zero (000): follow the emergency dispatcher's directions.

PUSH: Start CPR by pushing hard and fast in the centre of the chest, 100 to 120 compressions per minute.

SHOCK: Follow step-by-step audio/visual instructions and remember that an AED cannot hurt the person, it can only help.

In October, Ambulance Victoria is running Shocktober, a month-long cardiac arrest awareness campaign to highlight the importance of learning CPR and how to use an AED, encouraging people and businesses to register their AEDs with AV, and calling for people to sign up to the GoodSAM app.

Details: ambulance.vic.gov.au/goodsam/

Session details: facebook.com/share/Fjqbm7mx6xMVRpRb/?mibextid=9l3rBW

The Block visits the penguins

REALITY TV

If you missed The Block last week then you missed the teams' visit to the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre.

Hosts of the Channel 9 reality TV show Scott Cam and Shelley Craft, as well as Nature Parks' senior research officer Paula Wasiak and Bunurong elder Steve Ulula Parker greeted teams last Tuesday with a Welcome to Country.

Then, teams undertook a challenge task to create a nesting box for the penguins, with the best one winning \$5000 cash and a "bonus point penguin".

All five teams created eco-friendly penguin homes, which ranged from a terracotta-roofed box to a teepee-inspired box.

In the end, it was Kylie and Brad's dome-shaped design that impressed Paula the most, earning them the win.

"What they probably don't realise is this is going to act like a great trellis for the natural vegetation to grow up and over,"



Nature Parks' reserves manager Ben Thomas, Block host Shelley Craft, with Nature Parks' senior research officer Paula Wasiak during the penguin challenge.

Paula said. The penguin challenge followed the release of the listings for The Block's five renovated holiday homes, with the price guides set below \$2 million for the first time in eight years.

The four-bedroom homes on 113-119 Justice

Road, Cowes, all have price guides between \$1.7 million to \$1.85 million, which is in contrast to the reserve prices on the show in recent years in the \$3 million to \$4 million bracket.

Cowes has a median house price of \$762,500.

Short term accommodation levy a step closer

TOURISM

Local councils will be given the power to regulate short stay accommodation, under proposed additional changes to the planning system to go before State Parliament.

Last week the Short Stay Levy Bill 2024 was introduced into Parliament to legislate the government's planned 7.5 per cent levy from January 1, 2025 on short stay accommodation bookings, including bookings made through platforms such as Airbnb and Stayz.

The levy was announced last year, when the government stated all revenue would go to Homes Victoria to build social and affordable housing – including 25 per cent to be invested in regional Victoria.

However, under new changes announced last week, the government said the final policy had been informed by consultation with local councils, industry and tourism bodies.

As such local communities will have the ability to respond to local concerns – with owners' corporations now able to ban short stays in their developments if approved by 75 per cent of owners.

Changes will see local councils given the power to regulate short stay accommodation, although the details as yet are unclear.

As reported last year the levy will supersede local measures that had been introduced, including Bass Coast Shire's new \$300 short stay rental fee.

It is still unclear whether the new changes will impact this rental fee.

The levy will not apply to a homeowner leasing out all or part of their principal place of residence for a short stay. When a homeowner goes on holiday and someone else stays there temporarily, the levy does not apply.

Commercial accommodation such as hotels, motels and caravan parks are also exempt. The levy will also only apply to stays less than 28 days.

Transitional arrangements will be in place, and the levy will not apply to bookings made prior to January 1, 2025.

Bass Coast

Bass Coast Shire's short term accommodation local law was first mooted in 2020 and introduced last year, requiring all impacted businesses to be registered.

However, the \$300 registration fee will be superseded when the State Government's levy becomes effective in January 2025.

The shire's local law places the responsibility for occupant behaviour on the owner of the property, including: requiring a designated contact person who neighbours can report issues to any time of the day or night and can attend the site within two hours of receiving a complaint; having a waste management plan where guests are educated about the three bin system; and ensuring the maximum number of vehicles is not exceeded.

According to the local law, it is an offence to accept a rental booking if accommodations aren't registered, while registration can be cancelled if the shire receives three substantiated complaints over 12-months, or even cancelled immediately in the case of a severe complaint.

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Significant property loss predicted

From page 1

According to the Marine and Coastal Policy, adaptation solutions are: (1) non-intervention, allowing marine processes to occur; (2) avoid locating new developments; (3) natural methods such as vegetation; (4) accommodating such as building for impact of flooding; (5) retreat away; and (6) protect through physical barriers.

Causes

The report provides a complex analysis of the combined impacts of nature, and “upstream human activities” like groynes and revetments (rock walls), as well as bulldozing of sand – solutions that have been rolled out over many decades, but ramped up in recent years in response to accelerated erosion.

“East Cowes is heavily modified by coastal protection structures, such as groynes and revetments, which shape much of this shoreline and influence both sediment transport and shoreline dynamics.”

The report theorises a cause for the hotspot erosion is the smooth design of the new nearby 2022 Cowes east rock walls, as well as the associated “rela-



This image was taken in February 2022, around Sanders Rd Silverleaves, and shows the February 2023 vegetation line (blue) and the March 2024 vegetation line (teal).

tively inefficient” groynes that “reduce the amount of sand available further downstream”, in addition to sand bulldozing that was required.

However, the report also states the nearby 1977 rock wall has exacerbated erosion.

“Terminal erosion at the eastern most revetment that was constructed in 1977 has led in the decades since its construction to erosion, scouring, and reorientation of the shoreline at Silverleaves.”

“Erosion appears to have accelerated after construction of the revetment in 1977 and re-

moval of the groyne field in this area sometime between 1985 and 1989.”

Furthermore, analysis indicates “upstream revetments and previous timber seawalls have contributed to scour in the near-shore area”.

“We note that historic sand scraping (bulldozing) may also be a contributing factor,” it states.

“Recent beach nourishment efforts have proven to be sacrificial and are not considered a sustainable long-term solution for mitigating this erosion.”

“Further analysis indicates that existing interventions like

groynes, while preserving beach amenity and retaining sand locally at East Cowes, impedes natural sediment supply to downstream areas such as Silverleaves. This is particularly relevant directly in front of the recently constructed pattern placed rock revetment where the newly upgrade/installed groynes are relatively inefficient.”

Groynes extending from Erewhon Point to the boundary of Silverleaves “vary in functional effectiveness”.

It states eroded sand lands at the eastern end of Silverleaves, which has accumulated sand.

What now for Silverleaves?

EROSION

Community consultation on the Observation Point to Silverleaves: Gippsland West Coastal Processes Studies report is now open.

The report, along with a survey, is available online and open until September 27.

The findings will be presented in November and an “adaptation pathways” report released in February.

Community consultation on this report is then expected to run in March and April 2025.

In May the findings from the community consultation will be released, before a final adaptation plan is released in July next year.

But in the next month, as promised on Friday by the State Government (see separate story), Silverleaves residents expect immediate, short-term solutions.

Details: engage.vic.gov.au/silverleaves-coastal-adaptation-pathways



Coastal processes science officer Bec Stewart has been photographing the Silverleaves coast using a drone every six to eight weeks, part of an ongoing erosion monitoring project.



About 80 residents demanded answers to the erosion emergency at Silverleaves from State Government and Bass Coast Shire representatives on Friday.

Government promises solutions for “angry” residents

EROSION

The State Government was forced to commit to providing temporary solutions to Silverleaves’ erosion emergency after an “angry” community meeting last Friday demanded answers.

About 80 people attended what was to be a drop-in information session, but turned into a public meeting when attendees asked for explanations and fast solutions to the erosion.

This came after a newly released report showed in two years, in a “hotspot” near Sanders Road, about 16 metres of foreshore has been lost to erosion (see separate story).

MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale initially spoke to the crowd acknowledging the “distressing” situation for residents.

Gippsland regional director for the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) Darrin McKenzie then stood up and told attendees while a “nice technical report does not give you comfort” it nevertheless showed the

erosion was a “dynamic and rapidly changing” issue, which would see an adaptation plan by December, and required a longer term “process that will take time”.

An attendee responded: “We don’t have time”.

Others agreed saying there was an “acute, immediate need to save and protect Woodland Avenue homes” and residents couldn’t wait for December.

More attendees fired questions, asking who was ultimately responsible for the erosion (the answer: because it’s Crown foreshore land, it’s a State Government responsibility, with the shire the land manager).

Another asked if there was funding for any works (the answer: none currently budgeted).

A resident finally asked “what are you going to do to protect our community?”

Mr McKenzie committed to providing faster measures.

“We have a longer term (focus), but what I’m saying is we will look at the immediate short

term, within the next month, to mitigate some of the issues,” Mr McKenzie said.

“A couple of weeks, not months.”

“We will talk with FSC (consultants) and Bass Coast Shire about what options we might have in the short term to mitigate (erosion).”

“The commitment out of today is that we will come back in a few weeks with options and proposals, for temporary works, whether it’s sand bagging or nourishment, whatever it might be to mitigate.”

Resident Steve Lapin then commented renourishment or bulldozing of sand would not work.

Resident Kylie said she hoped DEECA understood how “angry” the community was and how a drop-in session was not appropriate.

“Please don’t do this (a drop in) again, because it will not go down well,” Kylie said.

“I’m now feeling far more confident at the expertise leading this.”

Complex

Much of the impromptu meeting was dedicated to a presentation by FSC Range consultant Andrew Pomeroy, who was part of the engineering team to write the new report Observation Point to Silverleaves: Gippsland West Coastal Processes Studies, for DEECA.

Mr Pomeroy confirmed that the Silverleaves erosion hotspot was substantial by any measure.

“A lot of erosion is about one metre/year. So this is not insignificant.”

“It’s dynamic compared to other areas of the Victorian coastline.”

He said anywhere there was a seawall or revetment there would be erosion, but “generally it’s not substantial”.

“It’s fair to say Silverleaves is substantial.”

Mr Pomeroy told the crowd erosion in this area was not new, dating back to the 1950s, “but it has accelerated” and was now in a “negative feedback” and would continue to erode.

The cause of the problem, he

said, was a complex combination that included less supply of natural sand coming into the area.

“But that is only part of the story.”

His analysis showed human interventions across decades had added to the problem, including the old Cowes east groynes from the 1940s which were “efficient” but nevertheless at times deprive sand from beaches further east.

Another factor was the 1977 rock wall and also the new 2022 rock wall and groynes which “is not a cause of the problem at Silverleaves but is a contributor”.

He explained how waves and currents were also eroding Silverleaves, adding that sea level rise was also a factor, but the State Government was currently remodelling Western Port’s projected rise and that would impact future assessments, including inundation from Rhyll Inlet to Silverleaves.

Mr Pomeroy said the report aimed to avoid “unintended consequences”, implementing solutions now that would cause a future problem “somewhere else”.

Liberal Senator and candidate tour Bass Coast

FEDERAL ELECTION

Federal Liberal party candidate for Monash, Mary Aldred, and Shadow Finance Minister Jane Hume were in the Bass Coast Shire on Monday.

The trip included visits to community centres and meetings with local representatives, small business people and tourism operators, as well as with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council.

Ms Aldred said the priorities she saw for Phillip Island and San Remo were health-care, roads, connectivity and telecommunications, as well as addressing cost-of-living and the cost of doing business.

Ms Aldred also said she was “deeply, deeply passionate” about small business, noting she grew up in a small business family.

“Not only does (small business) employ so many people across Monash, but when you look at the local footy club, who sponsors the local footy club? Who volunteers their time in service organisations? It’s small business owners,” Ms Aldred said.

“They’re the people I really want to fight for.”

While not committing to



Shadow Finance Minister Jane Hume and Federal Liberal party candidate for Monash, Mary Aldred, visited Bass Coast on Monday.

\$5 million in Federal funding called for by residents to address the alarming beach erosion at Silverleaves, Ms Aldred said she was meeting with affected residents and planned to support them in whatever way she could.

Ms Aldred also noted Phillip Island’s great sporting community, but did not com-

mit to funding support for the long-called for pool, or a new recreation reserve.

Nuclear Gippsland

Ms Aldred was the founding CEO of Committee for Gippsland (C4G), which was established in 2011.

Earlier this year, the current CEO of C4G, Tony

Cantwell, welcomed the Labor Federal Government’s announcement to further steps towards Australia’s first offshore wind zone in Gippsland.

According to the C4G Clean Energy Future Prospectus, C4G supports a range of approaches to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 in Victoria and Australia.

“The exception is nuclear power,” reads the prospectus, “which has not been included as it is banned by state law.”

Despite being banned by state law, this year Federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton announced that the Coalition would host a nuclear energy site in the Latrobe Valley, with Victorian State Premier Jacinta Allan vowing to do “everything in (her) power to stop it”.

“We’ve got to have appropriate transition to renewable energy, but it’s also got to be backed up by 24/7 baseload power,” said Senator Jane Hume.

“And that’s one of the reasons why the Dutton Coalition Opposition has committed to a nuclear future in the pipeline.”

The details of Mr Dutton’s plans for nuclear energy including viability, pricing and timeline have all come under intense scrutiny.

Berninneit will still be green, shire promises

PASSIVHAUS

Questions continue to be asked about the slow pace of Passivhaus certification of Berninneit.

Resident Bill Wilson at the August council meeting said the Cultural Centre building had “failed the Passivhaus certificate test”.

“Is council now modifying the Passivhaus requirements for the building so that the theatre section of the building can achieve Passivhaus registered certificate?” Mr Wilson asked.

Shire CEO Greg Box responded the shire would not be modifying the Passivhaus requirements of the building.

“Council continues to work with the builder in achieving Passivhaus certification at no cost to council,” Mr Box said.

As reported in May, the shire reassured the community Berninneit would meet the strict Passivhaus environmental certification standards, despite concerns it had failed.

At that time a shire spokesperson said the “builder’s contract includes clauses to ensure the building meets Passivhaus certification”.

“Passivhaus certification includes not only achieving an airtightness test but also includes meeting criteria around heating and cooling, renewable energy, and thermal comfort,” the spokesperson said.

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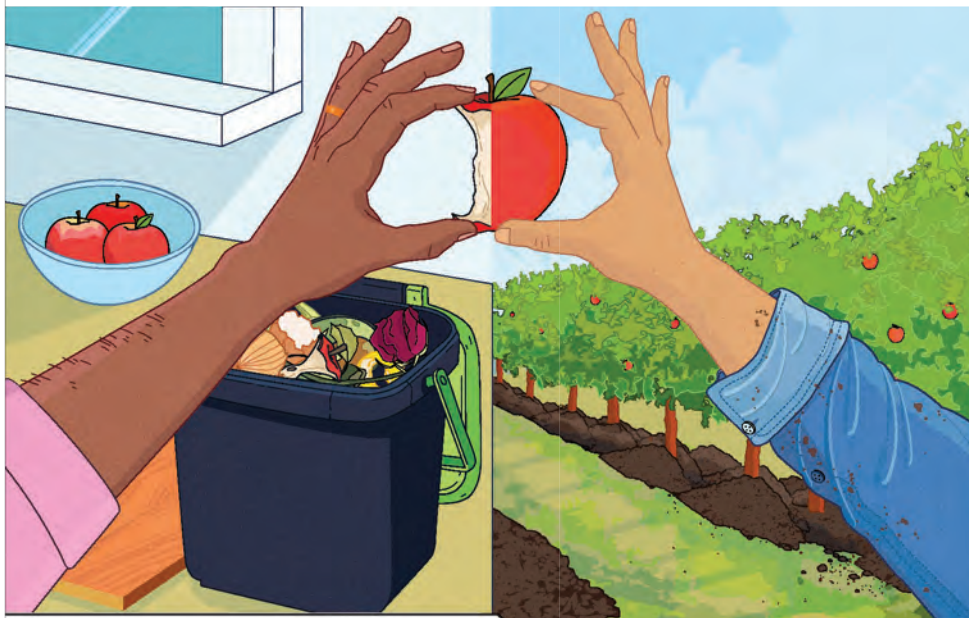
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AUSTRALIA'S FIRST



Support for community groups

WESTERNPORT WATER GRANTS

Nineteen local not-for-profit organisations, including community groups, sports clubs, and schools received almost \$44,000 in sponsorship funding through Westernport Water's Community Support Program.

Recipients were invited to a cheque presentation event last month to celebrate the hard work and great ideas of these mostly volunteer community groups.

"I congratulate all the recipients of our Community Support Program and deeply appreciate the volunteers who took the time to apply," said Dona Tantirimudalige, Managing Director of Westernport Water.

"This year, we received more applications than ever, making the decision particularly challenging.

"At Westernport Water, we take great pride in supporting our community. We have a long history of doing so, with our support dating back to our early beginnings in the 1960s.

The program is one of Westernport Water's key community engagement initiatives, designed to support projects that benefit the wider community and build positive change across the themes of Healthy People, Healthy Communities, and a Healthy Planet.

"Our annual community sponsorship provides about \$50K annually plus in-kind support, to help the outstanding efforts of community volunteers, non-profit groups, and schools

to make positive social and environmental change," said Ms Tantirimudalige.

Successful applicants have been awarded sponsorship funding to support local events and a range of projects such as drinking fountains, water-saving devices, revegetation, and efforts related to environment and water conservation.



Phillip Island and District Basketball's Emma Hadrian and Dona Tantirimudalige, Managing Director of Westernport Water.



Phillip Island Breakers Soccer Club received funding for a new water refill station. Lana, Georgia and Megan accepted the grant.



Newhaven Primary School received funding for a new water refill station hydrobank. Sharyne Munday (Principal), Ben McKenna (School Council President) with School Captains Olivia and Sam.



Lisa Wangman received the grant for Bass Coast Landcare, with Dona Tantirimudalige, Managing Director of Westernport Water.



Change for Sam received funding for Personal Protection devices. Lija Matthews and Dona Tantirimudalige of Westernport Water.



Margaret and Greg accepting the grant for the Coronet Bay Community.



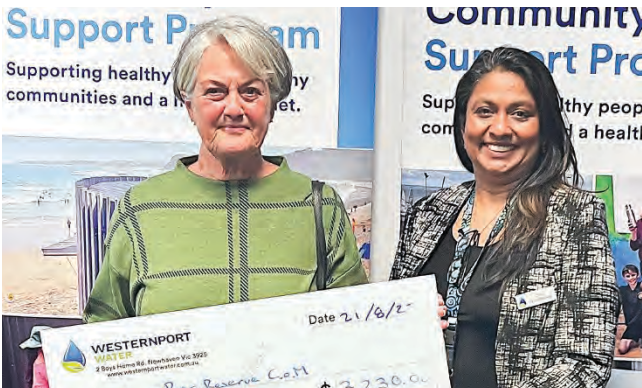
Nineteen local not-for-profit organisations received almost \$44,000 in sponsorship funding through Westernport Water's Community Support Program.



Doug O'Keeffe from Phillip Island Golf Club accepted the grant for a new water refill station.



Georgia from San Remo Primary School accepted the school's grant.



Ventnor Recreation Reserve Committee's Catherine Gregson and Dona Tantirimudalige, Managing Director of Westernport Water.



Darrell Clark from Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club accepting the grant.

2024-25 Community Support Program

Congratulations to this year's successful applicants!



Insects and trees decline

ENVIRONMENT

By Christine Grayden

In response to a letter to the editor 'Sprayed' in The Advertiser on August 21, and other items that have been in the Advertiser around this subject.

Regardless of what substances aircraft may be spreading across the landscape, Roger Hanson and everyone else has every good reason to be deeply concerned by the massive decline in insects and other minibeasts, and in trees, that we are witnessing in our lifetimes.

But then we are living in an era of huge species extinction across the planet. It is logical that insects, with their small size, little ability to adapt to changes in their habitat, and poor resistance to toxins, will be major victims of our cavalier behaviour. Plants cannot uproot and go to somewhere that suits them better, so they are also extremely vulnerable.

To say that chemtrails is the main driver of insect and tree decline is simplistic. Here is a very short list of some of the millions of factors that are contributing to this decline:

- Most people no longer garden. They prefer to look at screens. Lifestyle programs give ideas, but nothing in real gardening (or in life generally) replaces just stopping and looking around you to observe what the real needs are in gardens.

Unfortunately few people have time for that now.

- Surface watering of plants with spray hoses encourages insects like sand flies, which breed in the resulting moist top layers of sandy soil in gardens. Neglected containers and gutters of stagnant water breed mosquitoes. Humans employ mechanical insect traps and electronic insect zappers to kill the sand flies and mozzies, but also kill millions of other insects with these devices.
- 100 years of the use of 'cide' and 'anti' type chemicals – herbicide, pesticide, rodenticide, antibiotics, anti this and that – just add your own beginning or ending. These are all killers of some form of life, and enter our water and soil systems in many ways.
- Massive increase in road drains and hard surfaces – roofs, bitumen roads, car parks, etc – resulting in rapid runoff of water. This means no standing surface water, and the inevitable depletion of any natural springs. Hard surfaces around trees also compact their roots.
- Urban areas where dwellings are either frequently unoccupied, or occupied by people who do not compensate for removing natural water sources by having clean, regularly-filled bird baths, ponds, etc.
- The mystifying popularity of 4WD vehicles has resulted in



Everyone has every good reason to be deeply concerned by the massive decline in insects and other minibeasts, and in trees, that we are witnessing in our lifetimes, says Christine Grayden.

the importation of vehicles with very poor emissions control relative to other countries in the world. Roger may be seeing aluminium particles on leaves, but it's the small particles from emissions that we cannot see that do the most damage in the environment.

- New research is showing that hotter, drier climate leads to the moisture being sucked out from not just leaves, but from deep within trees. This is leading to embolisms in the structure of sap flow systems, disrupting the flow and eventually depriv-

ing the whole tree of water.

- Disruption of symbiotic relationships between plants and minibeasts. For example, the swamp gums, *E. ovata*, that are dying all over the island, at some stage in their evolution developed a symbiotic relationship with a predator wasp, which in turn relies on black wattles for part of its life cycle. Neither Swamp gums nor the wasps are likely to survive without this complex inter-relationship.
- Altered chemical structure and moisture in the soil,

resulting in stress for plants, which are responding by pumping glucose into their leaves. This in turn makes them attractive to over-browsing by marsupials, hastening the plant's decline.

- Not enough standing grass. Mown grass is not habitat. Many insects hide, or breed in long grass, or rely on undisturbed areas of grassland for the egg and pupa stages of their life cycles.
- Kikuyu is one of the major grasses used here in many urban and recreational settings. Not only does this invasive grass provide zero habitat, but it actually destroys habitat. To remove it without chemicals requires years of persistent labour-intensive work, which few are prepared to do.

There are many more factors I could add to this list. I've included just some that don't often get discussed. We may bemoan the loss of biodiversity, such as of our beautiful Eucalypts and butterflies, etc; but we are all complicit in this decline, whether we fly in aircraft or not. If you don't believe me, just stop and look around you.

Christine Grayden started volunteering in revegetation and weed control in reserves on Phillip Island Mollw at the age of 16. She is now 71, and has over 50 years of experience working with and observing the island's environment.



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Sir Peter Cosgrove at Wednesday's medal investiture at the Phillip Island RSL, with friend and fellow Vietnam Veteran Ken Earney.



The Vietnam Veterans presented with The Republic of Vietnam Citation medal at a special medal investiture ceremony at the Phillip Island RSL with Sir Peter Cosgrove (seated, second right).

Medal investiture by Sir Peter Cosgrove at RSL

VETERANS

The former Governor General of Australia the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, AC (Mil) CVO, MC (retired) presided over a medal investiture ceremony at the Phillip Island RSL last Wednesday.

Nineteen Phillip Island Vietnam Veterans, watched by their proud families, were presented with the Republic of Vietnam Citation.

First announced two years ago, veterans had to apply for the award to receive one. Many had not, so the Phillip Island RSL Welfare team organised a group nomination for its veterans and invited Sir Peter to present the awards.

During his visit to the RSL, Sir Peter spoke of his experiences during the Vietnam War as a young officer, and those of the men he served with.

"I went on to a very long career after Vietnam," he said.

"But everything I later did rested on that experience.

"Never a day goes by that I do not think of the men and women who served in what, at the time, was Australia's longest ever overseas military commitment.

"They came home to a mixed reception. Some were abused and

rebuffed, even by other war veterans.

"Sixty thousand went off to that war. And 523 were killed directly."

Following the Vietnam War, Sir Peter Cosgrove went on to become Chief of the Australian Defence Forces; Commander of the International Task Force that oversaw Timor become an independent nation; and later Governor-General of Australia from 2014 to 2019.

He has commented on many occasions post-Vietnam: "I always enjoyed the opportunity to further be responsible for Australian men and women in uniform as I got more senior."

It was in this role that he accepted an invitation to visit the Phillip Island RSL on Wednesday, flying down from Brisbane.

Sir Peter began the investiture by reciting the soldier's oath to his mates and a second ode that he read specifically in honour of his mate Ken Earney, in the audience, who served under him in his platoon in Vietnam.

The Republic of Vietnam Citation was then presented to eligible local veterans who had missed out on the medal, when it was initially awarded two years ago.

"This is in recognition of your service ... and not before time," he

told the veterans present.

"Virtually every person who went to Vietnam should get this."

Veterans presented with The Republic of Vietnam Citation medal were: Peter Buckney (8th BTN RAR), Chris Cannin (1st Aust Reinforcement Unit), Ian Diss (161 Reconnaissance Flight), Henry Grimes (17th Construction Squadron), Russell Jackson (17th Construction Squadron), Leigh Jeffs (2 BTN RAR), Wayne Maschette (8th BTN RAR), Bob Matthews (4th Field Regiment), Kenneth McFarlane (1st BTN RAR), Duncan McPherson (581 and 527 Signal Squadron), John Methven (7 BTN RAR), William Noble (Aust Army Training Team Vietnam), Ronald Sprague (4th BTN RAR), Peter Stainthorpe (4th Field Regt), Raymond Tyrell (110 Signal Squadron), Geoffrey Wade (4th Field Regiment), Mark Povey (Royal Australian Navy) and Kenneth Earney (1st Australian Reinforcement Unit).

Wayne Maschette and Matthew Robinson were each also presented with the Australian Defence Medal for their service. Mark Povey received the Meritorious Unit Citation for active service in Somalia in 1993; and Kenneth Earney the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation.



Glenyce Paul, wife of Phillip Island RSL President Peter Paul, presented Lady Lynne Cosgrove (left) with flowers, at the end of Wednesday's medal investiture ceremony.

In a moving tribute, Sir Peter Cosgrove removed his Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, with Palm Unit Citation from the lapel of his jacket at Wednesday's medal investiture and presented it to Vietnam Veteran Ken Earney.

Ken, deeply touched by the gesture, served under the then Lieutenant Cosgrove, in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. The medal was later awarded by the former Government of the Republic of South

Vietnam, to military units that distinguished themselves in battle. Ken's recognition had been a long time coming.

Sir Peter and his wife Lady Lynne Cosgrove were welcomed to the Phillip Island RSL by President Peter Paul and his wife Glenyce.

Mr Paul described the visit as an honour and a privilege.

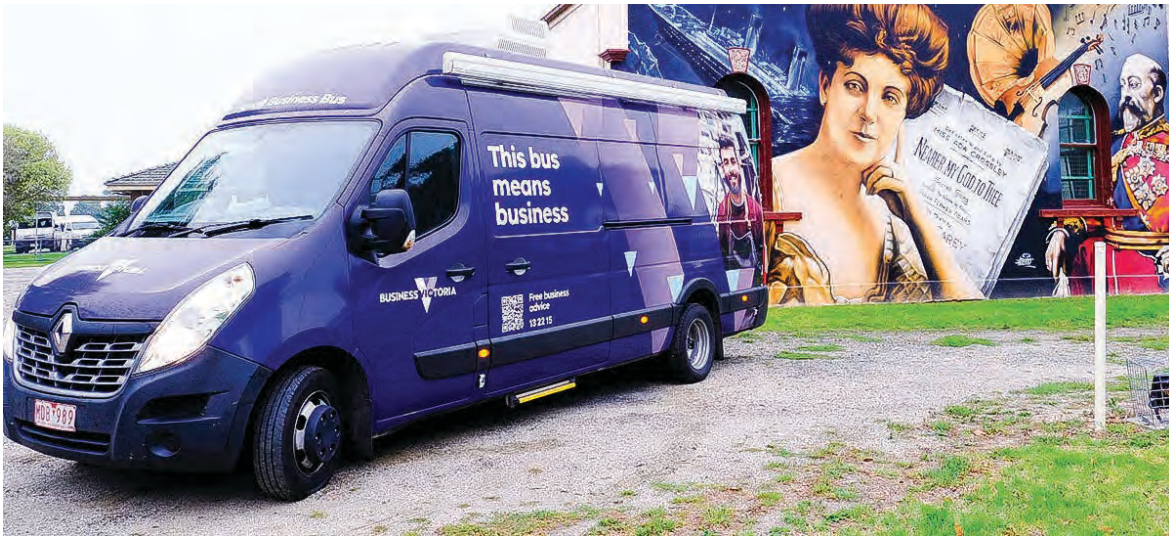
At the end of the medal investiture, an afternoon tea was served, enjoyed by all present.



Gabby Fenech congratulates his old school friend Ken Earney at Wednesday's medal investiture. Gabby, Ken and their great mate Kevin Sheedy went to school together in Richmond, and have enjoyed an enduring friendship for over 60 years.



Phillip Island RSL Committee members and Welfare Team were honoured to welcome Sir Peter Cosgrove to Wednesday's medal investiture ceremony. From left are President Peter Paul, Christine Thomas, Michael Crump, Sir Peter Cosgrove, Bob Woods, Veteran Services Chair Cheryl Overton, Lawrence Buck, Gary Simmons and Ray Young.



The Small Business Bus will be at Berninnet, 91-97 Thompson Avenue from 10am - 4pm on Friday September 6. Walk-ins are welcome but bookings are recommended.

Business bus in Cowes

BUSINESS

The State Government's Small Business Bus will be in Cowes to coincide with the Jobs Expo on September 6.

The bus is designed to offer free expert business advice to small business owners and those wanting to start a business.

The government said since it first hit the road 14 years ago, the bus has made more than 3300 visits and helped more than 47,000 small business owners across the state.

Member for Bass Jordan

Crugnale urged local businesses to take advantage of the expertise on offer.

"Every business and every business owner in Bass is unique, which is why the Small Business Bus provides tailored expert advice for each business owner to help support them in the way that suits them best," Ms Crugnale said.

Small businesses in Bass can seek general business assistance, as well as advice on business planning, financial and cashflow management, marketing, business compliance and

staffing issues – entirely free of charge.

The Small Business Bus will be at Berninnet, 91-97 Thompson Avenue from 10am - 4pm on Friday September 6. Walk-ins are welcome but bookings are recommended.

For those unable to attend in person, online business advisory sessions are available through Business Victoria.

For more information about the Small Business Bus and to make a booking visit business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-bus

Shire planning for big growth

INFRASTRUCTURE

Blue Gum Industrial Park in Cowes and Boys Home Road in Newhaven will continue to be the focus of industrial growth on the island, according to the Bass Coast Industrial Land Use Strategy.

Councillors at the August meeting approved the strategy, which guides industrial land use across the shire over the next 15 years, targeting Wonthaggi North East as the major growth zone.

The strategy said while the future supply suggested there was sufficient land to accommodate the shire's needs, the State Government's Bass Coast Distinctive Areas, and Landscapes (DAL) project identified the future supply in Grantville as not suitable "effectively halving the future supply".

Cr Ronnie Bauer said it was "critical for sustainable growth the industrial areas are identified and locked in".

"This is especially true for the island which faces the dilemma of tourist haven, residential needs and areas to service both," Cr Bauer said.

"The designated areas have to take into account the impact on the environment, visibility, noise and other polluting factors. It also needs to be done when land is still available to

minimise the call "not in my backyard".

Cr Rochelle Halstead said the State Government had a requirement for any landowner who sought rezoning to pay 60 per cent of the capital gains, which she said was a "money grab" and "disincentive" to rezone.

Greedy grab

Councillors also approved the Structures Asset Management Plan with a forecast projected budget of \$187,415,888 to maintain the shire's 1200 structures including bridges, boat ramps and public art.

The plan is subject to council's annual budgets, but Cr Michael Whelan warned the State Government had cut council income, especially through the rate cap, "but not their own income", for example with land tax.

"There's a grab for money on the one hand and a squeezing of local government on the other," Cr Whelan said.

"I flag to the community we are facing a crunch in the future where we have delivered on a number of projects. We are reaching the point where there is strong competition between what we do as a council to address these plans. If we put money into this, we're taking it out of somewhere else.

"It's getting tighter and tighter each year."

2024 Bass Coast Business Awards



ANCHOR BELLE
HOLIDAY PARK

We're thrilled to announce that we've won the People's Choice Award in the Accommodation & Tourism sector for the second year in a row!

Since 1960, Anchor Belle Holiday Park has been a family favourite on Phillip Island, and this award truly reflects our team's commitment to delivering outstanding customer service and creating unforgettable experiences for our guests.

A huge thank you to our amazing staff for their dedication and hard work—this achievement wouldn't be possible without you.

And to our guests, we can't express enough how much your votes mean to us.

It's an incredible feeling to be recognised by our community for the effort we put in every day.

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners across all categories!



WINNER

PEOPLES CHOICE FOR
ACCOMODATION AND TOURISM



ESI SOLUTIONS

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We are absolutely thrilled and honoured to announce that ESI Solutions has won The People's Choice Award for Trade in the 2024 Business in Bass Coast Awards!

Since starting in 2022, we've been committed to making every customer experience personal and positive.

Having our customers – both new and returning – vote for us is incredibly humbling, and we couldn't be more grateful for your support!

A huge thank you to our fantastic team – Kurt, Harri, and Jay.

This award is for you too! Your dedication and hard work make ESI Solutions what it is today.

To everyone who voted for us, thank you!

Your support means the world to us!



WINNER

PEOPLES CHOICE FOR THE TRADE AWARD

Create habitat for threatened species

COMMUNITY

To inspire action for wildlife this National Threatened Species Day on September 7, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council and Phillip Island Land Alliance groups will come together to deliver a special community event and a series of habitat planting days.

The Community Event on Saturday runs from 10am to 12pm at the Koala Conservation Reserve.

Hear from local experts about threatened species recovery on Phillip Island, biodiversity projects, threatened flora protection and more. A great way to engage and learn more about how to get involved.

If you'd like to help create habitat for threatened species such as the Eastern barred bandicoot and bush stone-curlew, join a local Coastcare group to plant native species:

- Cape Woolamai Coastcare, Saturday September 7, 8am-10am. BYO gloves and meet at the rotunda, end of Cottesloe Avenue, Cape Woolamai. At 10am, we'll head over to the Koala Conservation Reserve for morning tea and expert presentations.
- Cowes Coastcare, Sunday September 8, 10am-12pm. Meet at the beach end of Bella Vista Road, Cowes.
- Rhyll Coast Action group, Monday September 9, 9.30am-11.30am. Meet between Walton Street and Jansson Road up on headland in front of houses.

Jessica McKelson, General Manager Conservation at Phillip Island Nature Parks said our community are important to help create a 'safe haven' for threatened flora and fauna species across Phillip Island.

"The dedicated volunteer Coastcare groups undertake vital work to restore and protect native habitat on Millowl," said



This Threatened Species Day (September 7) come to the community event at the Koala Conservation Reserve or help create habitat for threatened species by joining a local Coastcare group to plant native species.

Ms McKelson.

Chair of Phillip Island Land Alliance, David Rooks said, "Phillip Island Land Alliance is pleased to be partnering with the Nature Parks and Bass

Coast Shire. It takes an island-wide approach to successfully introduce endangered species and The Alliance is well supported to provide such support with several of our groups par-

ticipating for the event."

The endangered Eastern barred bandicoot is thriving on Phillip Island, after the species was reintroduced to Churchill Island in 2017 and saved from extinction in the wild. Efforts are now focused on reintroducing the critically endangered bush stone-curlew with the aim of establishing a self-sustaining population on Phillip Island.

"The cutting-edge work done by the Nature Parks and partner agencies to protect threatened flora such as the crimson berry is supported by our volunteers at the Barb Martin Bushbank Nursery," said Ms McKelson.

"The local community can buy native plants for their gardens and get advice about what to grow to create habitat for wildlife."

For more information, check the Facebook event pages @PhillipIslandNatureParks or phillip-islandlandalliance.org.au

/Sponsored article/

Matt bags another prize

PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations to San Remo photographer Matt Bagley who has won a 2024 National Geographic photographic award.

Matt won the "our impact" category of the prestigious National Geographic Nature Photographer awards, with his image Unseen 22.

The photo is part of a series entitled "Unseen", which is on show at the Berninnet art gallery from October 26 until December 8.

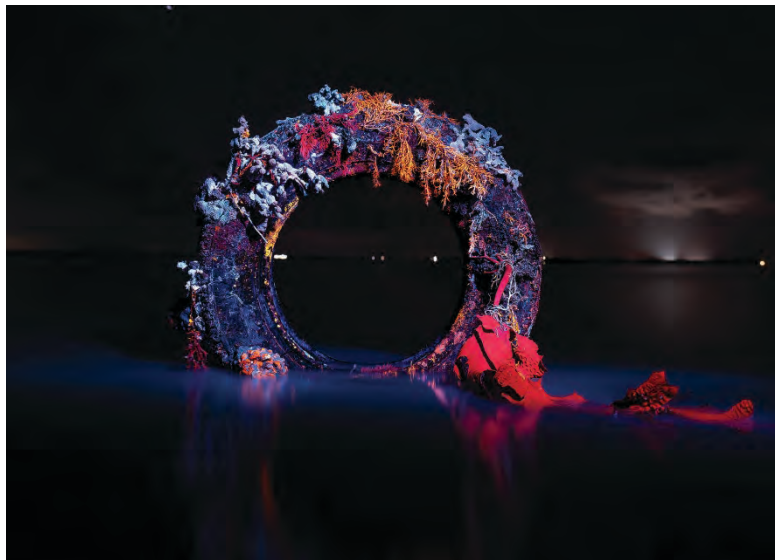
The series takes viewers on a mesmerising exploration of forgotten and discarded ocean debris being reclaimed by Mother Nature. Using ultraviolet photography, he captures the beauty and devastation of discarded manmade objects found during his nighttime free diving adventures on the San Remo coastline.

The "Unseen" Exhibition provides in-depth information about the life cycle and detrimental effects of common pollutants on marine ecosystems, sparking meaningful conversations and raising awareness about ocean conservation.

Acclaim

The award is not the first acknowledgement of Matt Bagley's extraordinary photography.

Matt's work has been exhib-



Matt Bagley won the "our impact" category of the prestigious National Geographic Nature Photographer awards, with his image Unseen 22. The photo is part of an "Unseen" exhibition at Berninnet opening on October 26.

ited in prestigious galleries and museums around the world, including New York, London, Berlin, Paris, Moscow, Monaco, Budapest, and Barcelona.

His photographs have been featured in numerous publications, such as Australian Geographic, Vital Impacts photography collection, The Washington Post, The Guardian, and Vanity Fair.

Moreover, his images have gar-

nered recognition in prestigious nature and wildlife photography competitions worldwide, including the 2021 Monaco Foundation Environmental Photographer of the year awards, Australian Wildlife/Nature Photographer of the Year, IPA silver award, MIFA gold award, Ocean Photographer Award finalist, ND Award gold finalist, and PA2F environmental photography award.

www.mattbagley.art/



Wild winds and cold temperatures were no deterrent for the participants in the annual Polar Bear swim on Sunday September 1.

Polar Bears brave the breeze

COMMUNITY

Wild winds and cold temperatures were no deterrent for the participants in the annual Polar Bear swim in Cowes on Sunday September 1.

The recent run of severe weather meant numbers on Sunday were down on last year, but the swim was perfectly timed to miss the rain. Around 40 swimmers took the plunge, with a smaller group leaping off the San Remo pier.

The Polar Bear swim has been

running since 2008.

From just four people at the first Polar Bear swim, it has grown steadily until last year when there were nearly 100 swimmers, including three of the four original Bears.

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 in place for the fun event: No wetsuits, no nudity and you must put your head under the water.



A second Polar Bear group took the plunge from the San Remo pier.

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Phillip Island NATURE PARKS

MEET THE CANDIDATES

With the upcoming Council Election this year Island Voice is holding a **Meet the Candidates** meeting on **Tuesday September 17th**.

Where:- RSL - Anzac Room When:- 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Everyone is welcome to attend.

You will have plenty of opportunity to ask questions and hear responses, that should satisfy the most ardent community ratepayer.

This is **"your"** chance to meet the candidates face to face.



This year's Deckie Race at the TIDAL Seafood Festival (September 20 - 22) is fundraiser for the Kilcunda Bass Cricket Club. Last year, The Baggers team of Corrie (Inverloch) and Burner (Phillip Island) completed the course in one minute.

It's a TIDAL wave

COMMUNITY EVENT

From September 20 to 22, San Remo is hosting the TIDAL Seafood Festival, celebrating the town's traditions and fishing industry, as well as highlighting the local culinary scene.

The event is a fantastic mix of heritage, local seafood, entertainment, stalls, markets, kids entertainment and more.

The weekend kicks off on Friday night with the Festival Cocktail Dinner, where guests can feast on local, sustainably sourced Bass Strait seafood. Hosted in a marquee on the foreshore, tickets are \$125 per head and selling fast, so book now.

A key part of the weekend is Saturday's Blessing of the Fleet at the San Remo Jetty. Originating in Sicily hundreds of years ago, providing for a safe and plentiful season, the local tradition dates back to 1955 with the first blessing centred around Couta and crayfish boats. There is no cost to take part, but please register your boat online.

A major – and fun – part of the festival is the hotly contested National Deckie Race. Run by the Kilcunda Bass cricket club as a fundraiser, on Saturday this beachside race will see teams competing in cray-pot rolling, shovelling ice, fish-bin carrying, plus a bit of running too. You

must be 15 or older to enter.

There will be plenty of other games for the under 15s and prizes to be won. You can register your interest online, or at the race area on Saturday.

Markets stalls, information booths, food stalls and entertainment will run over the weekend, and on Sunday a special Clean Up San Remo event kicks off early.

Tickets for the event are \$10 per day for adults, or \$15 for the weekend. Under 16s are free.

Profits from the entry ticket to the event will be donated to local emergency services.

Details: tidalseafoodfest.com.au



On Wednesday September 11, the Phillip Island Movie Club presents "Close" at Berninnet, starting at 7pm. Two teenage boys' seemingly unbreakable friendship is torn apart when they move to secondary school.

Get Close with movie club

FILM

On Wednesday September 11, the Phillip Island Movie Club presents "Close" at Berninnet, starting at 7pm.

The French film released in 2022 is a drama directed by Lukas Dhont and is a co-production between Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

The film follows two teenage boys whose seemingly unbreakable friendship is torn apart when they move to secondary school and their schoolmates notice their intimacy and ask them about it.

Lukas Dhont's second film is an emotionally transformative and unforgettable portrait of the intersection of friendship and love, identity and independence, and heartbreak and healing. The performances of the two young men in

the lead roles are particularly impressive and the story will leave you wanting to continue the discussion.

"Close" premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2022 and won the Grand Prix. The Grand Prix is the second-most prestigious prize of the festival after the Palme d'Or.

The film will start at 7pm, runs for 104 minutes and is rated M. Please prebook your seat prior to the night as bookings are already high. Booking details were sent to members a few weeks ago or call or drop in to Berninnet and book.

The next screening is on October 23, when the movie club presents "Touch".

All PIMC films are now members only events, so bring your membership card and proof of booking.

GIG GUIDE

07/09 LIVE MUSIC TBC - 9PM
08/09 ALEX BURNS - 5PM
14/09 LIVE MUSIC TBC - 9PM
15/09 PAPER JANE - 5PM
21/09 LIVE MUSIC - 9PM
22/09 DAN NINNEN - 5PM
28/09 OLLY & SCUZZI - 9PM
29/09 THE LAING BROTHERS - 5PM

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2nd - 6th
September



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Rug up for latest exhibition

ART

Bass Coast Shire Council presents "Floor is Lava" exhibition by Emma Jackson at the Berninnet art gallery in Cowes from September 7.

"Floor is Lava" is a free exhibition of ten knotted rugs representing Australian islands with a unique volcanic story due to their proximity to existing and prehistoric magmatic arcs.

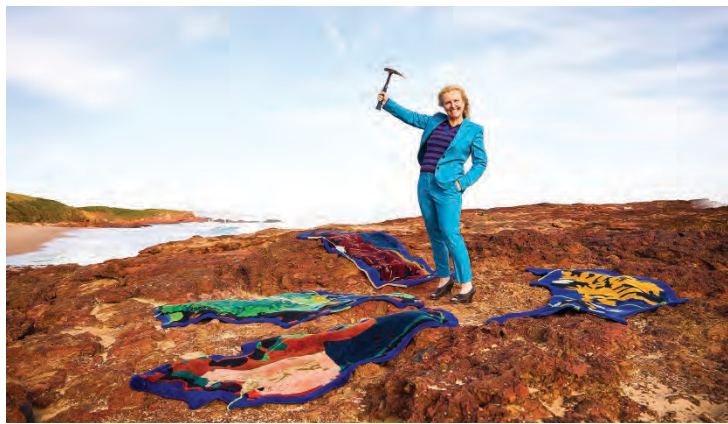
Describing her work, Dr Emma Jackson says, "the intent of this exhibition is to provide temporary relief from 2024, by immersing the visitor in deep geological time".

"The ten volcanic islands on display offer a colourful and sumptuous retelling of geological history.

"They have an important job to do; to increase awareness of earth science and in so doing make caring about our continent contagious.

"This is the first time the island rugs have been on tour, so to have one of them (the Phillip Island rug) showing on home ground is very exciting," she said.

"And there is a home-ground advantage, in that the geologi-



Floor is Lava is an exhibition by Dr Emma Jackson, of ten knotted rugs representing Australian islands with a unique volcanic story, including a rug depicting Phillip Island. The free exhibition at Berninnet is open from September 7 until October 20.

cal story can start with the exhibition and continue with a wander around the island."

There is a community exhibition opening celebration on Saturday September 7 from 3pm until 5pm at Berninnet.

Science meets art

Founded in 2020, Emma Jackson is a multimedia art practice that endeavours to offer an insight into meaningful ways to connect to the ground we walk on.

"The work we do is about belonging; knowing where your feet are," explained Dr Jackson.

"Straddling disciplines of art and geology, we aim to bring earth science to a broader audience and to reveal the unique and beguiling earth story embedded in our continent."

As the daughter of a geologist, Emma Jackson spent the first twelve years of her life as an expat in mining communities, in West Africa, the UK,

and Western Australia. Her family's location on the globe was based on the age and behaviour of the rock and the resources it contained. Earth Science became a meaningful way of connecting to a strange place and finding 'home'.

Jackson then trained as an architect at the University of Western Australia and did fieldwork over summer with Harry Butler, esteemed Australian naturalist, on the remote islands off the Northwest of Australia.

She then went on to work for some of Australia's top design architects. She completed a PhD at RMIT in 2019 which proposed more appropriate ways of building on the diverse geology we have in the North of Australia.

"Floor is Lava" runs from September 7 until October 20.

Berninnet Art Gallery is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm and weekends from 10am until 4pm, at 91-97 Thompson Ave, Cowes.

www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/event-details/floor-is-lava-emma-jackson-berninnet-art-gallery
/ Sponsored article /

Edible garden workshop Join the orchestra

COMMUNITY

PICAL and Landcare are teaming up to hold an Australian Edible Garden Workshop on Thursday September 12, from 9.30am to midday.

The workshop will be held in the garden of PICAL's offices at 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes. Hosted by Ethnobotanist Jessica Moulynox, this workshop will showcase Australia's best edible food plants.

Before the workshop there will be delicious food with Australian native plant ingredients to showcase how they can be utilised.

The event is free. Please RSVP to reception@pical.org.au or 03 5952 1131.

Landcare would like to thank Bass Coast Shire Council's quick access grant funding's support for this event.

/ Sponsored article /



A free Australian Edible Garden Workshop will be held at PICAL (16 Warley Avenue, Cowes) on Thursday September 12, from 9.30am to midday. Photo: Jonathan Kemper, Unsplash.

MUSIC

Experience nearly a century of musical brilliance with the iconic 50-piece Victorian Concert Orchestra, appearing at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on October 20 at 2pm.

Celebrated for its dynamic repertoire spanning from timeless classics by Bach, Mozart, and Tchaikovsky to the enchanting melodies of operetta and musical theatre, featuring works from Gilbert and Sullivan and Andrew Lloyd Webber, this is a show not to be missed.

Discover the magic of contemporary compositions by masters like John Williams (Star Wars) and Peter Allen, curated to delight aficionados of all ages.

Directed by acclaimed ABC Orchestra conductor, Gerald Keuneman, whose credits include Frank Sinatra, Elton John, Olivia Newton-John, Anthony Warlow, and Sammy Davis Jr, prepare for an afternoon of unparalleled professionalism and musical mastery.

Tickets range from \$10 - \$15 and the performance is part of the Bass Coast Seniors Festival. Details and tickets at: www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/live-at-wonthaggi-union

Berninnet

91-97 Thompson Ave
Cowes, VIC 3922



Cinema Sessions at Berninnet

Friday 6 Sep

4:00pm **It Ends With Us**
[M] 130 mins
7:00pm **Deadpool & Wolverine**
[MA15+] 128 mins

Saturday 7 Sep

4:00pm **Bookworm**
[PG] 95 mins
7:00pm **Sidonie in Japan**
[PG] 95 mins

Sunday 8 Sep

10:30am **The Blind Sea**
[PG] 94 mins
1:30pm **Take My Hand**
[M] 102 mins

Wednesday 11 Sep

10:30am **It Ends With Us**
[M] 130 mins
Spit the dummy - Baby Friendly session
1:00pm **The Blind Sea**
[PG] 94 mins
4:00pm **Sidonie in Japan**
[PG] 95 mins

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Australian Edible Garden Workshop

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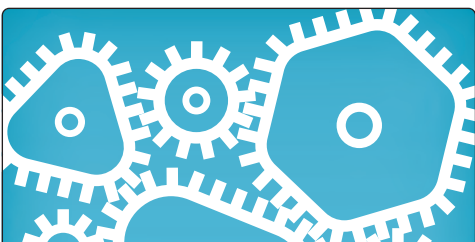
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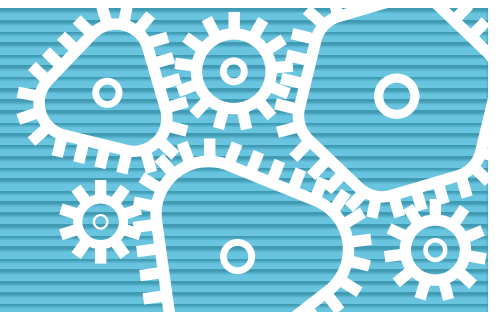
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What we really think of council

SATISFACTION SURVEY

Phillip Island residents are the demographic least impressed with Bass Coast Shire Council's waste management, according to the 2024 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

However, the survey shows Bass Coast performed significantly higher (compared to the average of other large rural councils) on overall performance and value for money.

Statewide results of the survey – conducted by the Department of Government Services – were released in July. Bass Coast's results were received by council in June, but were only released in August.

Results show while men were more likely to be dissatisfied with customer service, the 18 to 34-year-old age group were the group most likely to be happy with the overall direction of council.

Island residents and non-residents were the happiest with consultation and engagement, although the report recommends council should endeavour to improve transparency and communication around decision-making and consultation.

"Stronger engagement with individuals aged 65+ years may improve perceptions and increase trust in council," the report recommends, explaining 18 to 34 years had the most contact with council in the past year (69 per cent) while 65 years+ had the least (57 per cent).

Value for money

More broadly 62 per cent of respondents said council's overall performance stayed the same while 19 per cent said it deteriorated and nine per cent said it improved.

The government report said perceptions of council's overall performance were consistent with 2023 results.



In the 2024 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, Phillip Island residents were most likely to be unimpressed with waste management. Sixty-two per cent of respondents said council's overall performance stayed the same while 19 per cent said it deteriorated and nine per cent said it improved.

"Council's overall performance rating remains lower than its 2021 peak, but otherwise, overall performance ratings have been rela-

tively consistent over the past decade," the report found.

Council's performance rating in the area of sealed local roads

has declined by a few points each year since 2021.

"Council rates in line with or significantly higher than average ratings for the Large Rural group (the category Bass Coast belongs to) across all measures evaluated, including in the area of sealed local roads where council outperforms both the group and state-wide averages.

"Council should continue to invest in sealed road maintenance in the year ahead to ensure ratings do not slip further. Residents rate Council significantly lower in this area than non-resident ratepayers."

One in five residents (22 per cent) rate the value for money they receive from council in infrastructure and services as "very good" or "good".

Twice as many rate Council "very poor" or "poor" (41 per cent) on this measure.

Details: basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/community-satisfaction-survey

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Minty for Westernport

I wish to introduce myself as a residential candidate in the upcoming local government elections for Westernport Ward.

Before retiring to the Bass Coast from NE Victoria, and 35 years as a secondary science teacher librarian, I was a full-time farmer, ran a BnB, held a liquor license, taught at TAFE, was board member of local co-operatives and a senior office bearer for the CWA.

Along with my current volunteering in this community, I feel I have the skills and life experience to represent residents responsibly and equitably on Council.

Local government is the closest level of government to real people, so must be responsive and representative of as much of the community as possible. I have always been passionate about education, planning for the future in a sustainable way and ensuring that everyone gets a fair go.

Glenda Minty, Wonthaggi
Authorized by Glenda Minty

History display needed

I refer to the Advertiser (August 28, page 24) "History is important".

As a visitor to Cowes I am very concerned about historical art and hardware that is not on permanent display at the new Cultural and Community Centre costing \$33million. A resident of Cowes has identified some but not all missing items not on display. The items are a beautiful long table, scrap books used for research, expensive wooden chairs, Honour Board, a plaque, a large sign, time capsules, hand carved superb wooden seats, a mural, multiple works of art, two very large tapestries and more. Currently council is seeking expressions of interest to purchase new art at an approximate cost of \$140,000. Why? Has council a long-term plan to eradicate the foundation of Phillip Island's history when it fails to display history permanently to visitors and locals at Berninnet in Cowes? Our young must know of the past

history of this island, and there's no better way than to proudly display such articles every single day of the week. It's quite clear the councillors are just accepting council's current stance stopping the permanent display of the history of Phillip Island.

Ernie Westergard, Beaumaris

A tale of two towns

On August 22, Council proudly announced "the availability of convenient and accessible parking becomes increasingly important ... new parking spaces is a proactive effort by Council to improve parking availability in the heart of Wonthaggi, ensuring that residents and visitors alike can continue to enjoy easy access to the town's shops, services, and attractions".

But while approving the Isle of Wight Hotel development in Cowes last year, Council allowed a reduction of "at least" 935 car parking spaces during major events and 551 during periods of regular use, while saying the new hotel would provide an "overall net community benefit".

This is in addition to several other parking waivers approved in Cowes, and the Cowes Streetscape plan which will also remove many existing parking spaces! Realistically, most visitors arrive on the island by car, and a significant number of people live five kilometres away from the shops and there is no public transport to use. Local residents have frequently voiced concerns that the loss of parking availability will affect them and visitors alike.

Why does this disparity in attitudes exist? Why does Wonthaggi deserve more parking, and Cowes deserve less? Please, Bass Coast Shire Council, show us that you care for us all with equal concern and are consistent with your policies.

It's time for a comprehensive review of parking needs, particularly in those areas where the tourists like to tread. Council frequently reminds us of the importance of tourism to our area;

this should not come at an unreasonable cost to local resident ratepayers.

Andrew Marston, Rhyll

Anger and frustration

I was among about 150 Silverleaves residents attending the release of the Silverleaves Costal Processes Study by Bass Coast Shire Council on behalf of FSC RANGE.

The meeting was held in Berninnet where we initially were able to find out where the study was at and what were the final mitigation objectives.

Unfortunately, we sadly found out that the study is not completed, there is no funding to apply for immediate sand or beach reclamation and none of the local government or Victorian Government representatives took any ownership or guidance for any outcome.

In fact, when pressed many times by Silverleaves residents, the method of the day was avoidance. This enraged the residents to the point of frustration.

What the residents want to know is, will the council do any preliminary works to prevent in the short term, further erosion of the sand banks and what are the medium to long term fix objectives?

The residents are seriously concerned also with the drop in house values given the forward red line of long-term inundation warning put out there many years ago.

In summary: the representatives did not give any consideration toward a short-term fix and were themselves confused if the groynes established in the past are viable today.

It seemed that the study has not given the council or Victorian Government any options that will work, while nature continues to erode what beach we have left and sand hills which are meant to protect property owners from flood.

It was also sad to hear a local representative say they were not sure if property owners were re-

sponsible or the government.

I personally feel for the Silverleaves residents as the council and government are slow to respond and the lack of ownership is disappointing.

Eden White, Silverleaves

Lack of urgency

I attended the community erosion meeting on August 30 at Berninnet. It was well attended and there were some very concerned members of the community present. As one of those, I'm writing to share my observations.

- The report produced by FSC Range is a good piece of work, although should have been commissioned and completed a while ago. It provides a fact base from which to move forward.
- The report highlights several contributing factors to the current issues with several poor recent decisions, projects and failures of taking responsibility by certain agencies exacerbating the natural causes of erosion on that side of the island. The erosion is now accelerating and if nothing is done then there will soon be an "emergency" situation.
- The adaptation assessment and strategy work can now progress in haste and is underway with a first draft report of proposals due before Christmas this year.
- The most optimistic view is that any adaptation implementation work is several years away.
- There is insufficient focus on ensuring that public and private assets are protected from the accelerating ongoing erosion in the short term.

It is this latter point that I think is of particular concern. The logic and strategy of getting a fact base and adaptation strategy for the whole area to the east of Erewhon Point makes sense but the timeframe means that it is very likely a significant and serious issue will arise before then. The lack of urgency by the relevant authorities and agen-

cies (some of which have directly contributed to the issue) is a real concern and there was little in much of the meeting that provided comfort that the community's genuine short-term concerns will be addressed.

There were some assurances at the end of the meeting from DEECA that they would respond about the short-term issues within a couple of weeks. I hope this response has substance (ie: not sand nourishment) and finally we see an agency recognising the real and present danger to the public and private assets which need to be addressed while a long-term strategic approach is developed.

Giles Thompson, Silverleaves

Closer scrutiny needed?

Recently, I raised some issues around errors Council officers have allowed to pass and presented them for our councillors to pass in council meeting. After asking a question where I picked up a \$100 million error which went back to 2019, the CEO's answer was we will get it changed on the file copy. Then I discovered errors in the Asset register and below is the officer's correction email.

"Thanks for your time on the phone today. We acknowledge that the figures shown in table 7 on page 25 of the Buildings Asset Management Plan are incorrect and as a result, any reference to these numbers will have incorrect outcome. We will amend and republish the plan with the correct table as soon as possible. Figure 6 on page 28 contains the correct replacement values for each building category. I have double checked the numbers and totals for accuracy. We do not expect the community nor councillors to proof our plans or documents and we appreciate the effort made to bring this to our attention."

Can we be sure anything financial is always correct or do we need to scrutinise everything?
John Trigt, Island Ward candidate



Fifteen-year-old Mili Janjic is on a mission to clean up the island's beaches. More photos at pisra.com.au

Cleaning up our beaches

ENVIRONMENT

Fifteen-year-old Mili Janjic visits Phillip Island most weekends with her family, and every visit she's on a mission to clean up the island's beaches.

With a holiday home in Cowes, Mili is regularly spending three days each week here and considers herself "a part-time local".

She's passionate about the environment, particularly the local beaches, where she collects rubbish every weekend.

"We've been holidaying here since I was tiny and when I was little, going to the beach was more about sandcastles and playing," said Mili.

"But about two or three years ago I noticed there were things left everywhere on the beach. It wasn't just rubbish. There were kids' shoes, sand supplies (buckets and spades) and clothing."

A keen animal lover, Mili said a lot of animal documentaries included references to rubbish in the ocean.

"I did my own research and started googling about the oceans and animals and found out a lot of animals were affected by plastics and rubbish."

"I was shocked seeing the wildlife trapped in plastic and rubbish, and the birds and fish dying from eating small plastics."

On her next visit, before she headed off on a beach walk, she grabbed an old shopping bag and started to collect any rubbish she found along the way. Now she takes a bag with her on every walk.

Items she's collected include fishing line, cans, plastic containers, food packaging such as chocolate wrappers and chip packs, as well as lots of tags from things bought at local gift shops, such as beach toys and souvenirs.

She estimates she picks up at least one

shopping bag full of rubbish each week, although after New Year's Eve she collected two full kitchen tidy bags.

As well as rubbish, Mili said she's surprised at the amount of personal items she finds left behind at the beach, including towels, shoes and sunglasses.

"A few weeks ago, I found six individual socks, all over the beach."

The teenager, who plans to study Marine Biology when she finishes high school, wants to raise awareness of the impact of rubbish on marine life and birds.

She's currently working on a children's book to illustrate the dangers of plastic pollution in our oceans.

She also hopes by speaking out, other residents will try to protect our local beaches.

Help

Mili said there are simple, easy things everyone can do to help protect the ocean and the animals from the impact of rubbish.

"Don't leave your rubbish at the beach and make sure you keep track of what you've got with you, so you don't leave things behind," she advised.

"And try to 'take three for the sea'. A lot of people like collecting seashells, but instead, try and give back. Take out what is not meant to be there, rather than just taking all the ocean's beauty."

"And try and be more mindful of what is around you. Be aware and do your part to help."

"A lot of people say picking up one little piece won't make a difference, but that one little piece could be saving a bird or a fish."

Mili also urged people to use the bins located on the Cowes foreshore.

She's hoping to work with local groups to organise some community clean up days in Cowes over summer.

Growing list of south coast roads to be upgraded

SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME

Residents on a Sunderland Beach dirt road have successfully lobbied to be on a growing road upgrades list.

A petition with 26 signatures was lodged at the August Bass Coast Shire Council meeting from property owners along Dover Street, Sunderland Bay, the latest to request an urban road and drainage infrastructure improvement project, with residents agreeing to pay for upgrades.

Dover Street joins a growing line of individual streets seeking upgrades, after last year's large special charge scheme for 1000 properties at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay was abandoned following a bruising two-year campaign.

When the special charge scheme was abandoned, councillors approved a revised Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement (URDI) policy, which allows large road upgrade projects to be broken into smaller ones and community-initiated road projects to be made easier.

At this month's meeting, councillors voted to work with Dover Street property owners to investigate a preferred treatment option and potential costs to upgrade the road, including contribution ratios between council and property owners.

"The petition aligns with the requirements of community-initiated upgrade project of URDI," shire officers noted.

Under URDI, a minimum of 50 per cent of property owners in a particular area are required to be willing to contribute to an upgrade for council to consider including it in the current upgrade program.

About 57 per cent of Dover Street residents support the upgrade.

The funding options may include a direct council contribution, external grants, funding, or contributions, a special charge, or a combination of these.

Cr Rochelle Halstead said the Dover Street petition was "again great news".

"It's pleasing to see another street in the area take advantage of URDI," Cr Halstead said.

"I wish everyone well. I know they

have concerns around flooding and dust and they will be better off for health and wellbeing."

Dover Street joins Dunvegan Crescent, Surf Beach, as the latest streets set to receive an upgrade, with nine resident petitions earlier this year also leading to three other new reprioritised projects: The Esplanade (from Sunderland Bay Road to Batman Street); The Esplanade (from Zephyr Court to Sunderland Bay Road); and Links Street.

Questions

Once again there were several questions from residents about the evolving nature of the special charge scheme at the council meeting.

Susie Wickes clarified whether small areas that have had their petition endorsed by council were choosing from up to five different treatment options.

"Does this mean that small adjoining areas/streets could end up with five different road and drainage treatments?" Susie asked.

Shire CEO Greg Box replied "yes, there are different styles of treatment being considered for road and drainage projects".

Philip Davy and Louise Lyell both asked about existing stormwater discharge points that were "discharging stormwater, pollutants and eroding the cliff face".

"What is council planning, to eliminate this environmental issue from continuing?" Philip said.

Mr Box said drainage outfall treatments would be considered as part of the road and drainage upgrade works, while illegal drainage connections to the wastewater network was the responsibility of Westernport Water.

Louise also asked how council justified charging ratepayers majority costs for road construction when the majority of benefit was for tourism, not ratepayers.

Mr Box said council contribution for each project would be assessed case by case and would be "based on the wider community benefit received from the project improvements".



PICAL kitchen volunteers in action using the recently installed power points courtesy of a Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grant.

PICAL upgrades and training

COMMUNITY

Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) has been able to undertake some important upgrades, thanks to a Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grant.

"We are very pleased to announce that we were successful in obtaining a Bass Coast Council Community Grant to the value of \$3626," said centre manager David Rooks.

"The grant has enabled us to complete much needed safety and security upgrades to our building in Warley Avenue."

"Also as part of this grant, we were able to install new power points in our kitchen area which has created a safer working environment for our wonderful volunteers who cook for our community."

The grant also provided funds for First Aid Training through Skills for Life Training, a local Phillip Island trainer.

"We collaborated with Phillip Island Community Orchard (PICO) and Bicycle User Group (BUG) to provide essential training for volunteers which will also benefit the community as a whole," Mr Rooks said.

"The improvements and training we have been able to implement by receiving this Community Grant, allows our organisation to deliver continued support to our community."

"We wish to thank Bass Coast Shire Council for the opportunity to be able to make these much welcome upgrades to our facility and provide the appropriate training for our volunteers."

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Congratulations to last week's winners on 34 points (from left): Robyn Dall (3), Max Williams (2), Amanda Bozelle (L) and Trevor Loughridge (S).



Runners up on 34 points (from left): Neil Andreatta (3), Shirl Corcoran (2), Greg Hodge (S) and Colin Scales (L).



Best one game winners on 20 points (from left): Diane Kessen (L), Pauline McWilliams (2), Steve Edge (S) and Gillian Harper (3).

Midweek at Loch

BOWLS

After recent days of gale force winds, the bowling club was lucky to have 42 players turn up to Loch Bowls Club on August 29 to fight it out for team of the week.

The club was welcomed by Pauline and John, whilst Peter arranged the teams.

Additionally, they give their thanks to Trevor and Sue for their hard work.

Congratulations to last week's winners on 34 points: Robyn

Dall (3), Max Williams (2), Amanda Bozelle (L) and Trevor Loughridge (S).

Runners up on 34 points: Neil Andreatta (3), Shirl Corcoran (2), Greg Hodge (S) and Colin Scales (L).

Best one game winners on 20 points: Diane Kessen (L), Pauline McWilliams (2), Steve Edge (S) and Gillian Harper (3).

This week the club will be meeting at Lang Lang. Arrive on site by 10am to allow time for team arrangements.

OBrien 500 season winner

BOWLS

After 12 weeks of competition, it came down to the last round to decide a clear winner of the Phillip Island Bowling Club's OBrien 500 series.

Third place: David Saric.

Second place: Bruce Puncher.

Congratulations to first place winner: Steve Clarke.

The Phillip Island Bowling Club would like to thank OBrien Real Estate for their continued support.



Congratulations to winner of the Phillip Island Bowling Club's OBrien 500 competition, Steve Clarke.

Results from the league

TENPIN BOWLING

2s Company (Monday): 1st on 15 pts Jail, 2nd on 13 pts The Hounds and 3rd on 12 pts Mustang Alley.

ABL - Almost Bowling Legends (Wednesday evening): 1st on 87 pts Storm, 2nd on 83 pts Dreamers and 3rd on 74 pts Fairlanes.

Business Early (Thursday eve-

ning): 1st on 15 pts Turkey Slappers, 2nd on 14 pts Old Timers, 3rd on 12 pts The Redundants and 4th on 12 pts Heroes of Steel. **Business Late:** 1st on 14 pts City Lights, 2nd on 13 pts Holy Splits, 3rd on 13 pts Getting Some and 4th on 12 pts S&R Clarke Auto. **Phantom:** 1st on 88.5 pts Hawks, 2nd on 83 pts Tafkas and 3rd on 79 pts Nookie.



Congratulations to Year 7 student, Zac Basterfield who emerged as one of the fastest students.



Dash Janson, fastest junior in the single lap course.

Newhaven College's flow trail fundraiser

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Newhaven College's recent MTB flow trail fundraising event proved to be a resounding success.

The event saw a turnout of 50 competitors, including 37 students, and 13 parents and friends.

Despite the wild weather, the day was filled with excitement and fierce competition.

Year 7 student Zac Basterfield emerged as the standout performer, clinching the bragging rights with an impressive time of 3.13 for two laps.

Meanwhile, Dash Janson showcased his speed and skill as the fastest junior over the single lap course.

The event also served as an unofficial opening to the newly built flow trail, as well as a fantastic fundraising opportunity for the Newhaven College MTB Academy Program, with efforts exceeding expectations.

Organisers extend a heartfelt thank you to all who participated and supported the cause, making the day not only enjoyable but also impactful.

Breakers finish home and away season

SOCCER

After 18 rounds of soccer, the Phillip Island Breakers finished off the home and away season last weekend.

This year witnessed a large increase in player numbers (the addition of two more junior teams, plus the U13 Girls team). It has been fantastic to see the skill, dedication and determination of team members which has paid off in club success across the season.

With minor premierships going to the U12 Penguins and men's teams, the upcoming finals will also see the U12 Stingrays, U13 Girls, U14 Penguins, U17 Penguins, Reserves and Women's teams vying for a chance at premiership glory.

The club congratulates all teams on their efforts this season and thank all players, coaches and families for the time they put in every week.

This season, the Breakers have seen huge growth across their junior and senior teams, continuing to highlight the talent available at the club.

The Breakers will be represented in the upcoming finals at every age level.

The club wishes all teams the best and thanks their loyal band of volunteers, sponsors and



A highly successful season for Phillip Island Breakers with every age level represented in the upcoming finals.

coaches for their tireless efforts and contributions this season.

U14 Stingrays

Windy and wild conditions didn't stop the Phillip Island U14 Stingrays in the final game for the soccer season, defeating Wonthaggi 3-2 in a nail biting second half.

Phillip Island's solid defence held off Wonthaggi during the first half, with strong wind on the opposition's side, the score sat 0-0 at half time.

The second half saw the Stingrays playing with the wind behind them. Harley Drayton

scored the first goal of the game, which was followed with a second goal by Amara Pittorino.

However, as the wind dropped and the rain fell, Wonthaggi responded with two goals.

But this wasn't enough to hold off Phillip Island. Fergus Tillotson kicked a third goal, securing the win and finishing the season on a high.

Gippsland Soccer League results and fixtures at: visit pisra.com.au/sport

Final showdown beckons

DARTS

Phillip Island's Darts Centre was alight with electric tension as the darts flew fast and furious in the A semi-finals.

The Storm lived up to their tempestuous name, leaving no doubt about their prowess by raining down darts on That's All, clinching an emphatic 6-1 victory.

This dominating performance secures their place in next week's highly anticipated A-Grand Final against the mighty Vikings, setting the stage for what promises to be a clash of titans.

But that wasn't the only storm brewing on the island.

In the battle for the coveted

Gumboot final, The Riverboys will face off against Joe's Hornets.

Both teams have shown they're in formidable form, with fans eagerly awaiting a match that's sure to keep them on the edge of their seats.

While the semi-finalists sharpened their skills for next week's epic duels, the rest of the league wasn't left out of the action.

A friendly, yet fiercely competitive, knockout game of 501 took place, with 14 sharp shooters vying for glory.

In a nail-biting finale, Anders emerged victorious, besting Scott 2-1.

Meanwhile, Jamie stole the

spotlight with a stunning 180, earning raucous applause and solidifying his reputation as one of the league's top talents.

As if the night couldn't get any better, Lucky Bob lived up to his moniker by winning the San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle, adding a tasty prize to his tally and leaving everyone in high spirits.

With just one week to go until the season's grand finale, the excitement is palpable.

The last night of darts before the spring series kicks off in October is shaping up to be an unforgettable evening of high-stakes competition and camaraderie.

Don't miss the action as Phillip Island's finest dart slingers prepare to battle it out for ultimate bragging rights.

Island prevails in windy clashes

NETBALL

B Grade

After an incredible team effort last weekend, the Island B Grade girls again showed their signature ability to work cohesively together delivering against the favored Dalyston Magpies.

With what was sure to be a tight affair in wind affected conditions, the Island shot out the gates jumping the Magpies early scoring off the back of strong defensive plays.

Both Maddy Taylor and Jess Gysberts looked to continue their strong form from last week controlling the mid court and leading from the front enabling the Island to hold a handy lead moving into the second quarter.

As the rain arrived through the middle part of the contest so did the best of the Magpies, throwing some punches of their own.

The Island only had to look as far as their game-changer in Isla Cousins for a response.

The response came through numerous interceptions and rebounds stifling the attacks of the rampaging Magpies whilst providing the Island with forward momentum. The final quarter started and ended as an arm wrestle with Dalyston throwing everything at the Island only to be separated by the sublime shooting abilities of Meika White and Aisha Hibbert.

The Island now shift their focus towards next week's preliminary final against Nar Nar Goon.

Phillip Island: 46 def Dalyston: 42.

U17

Phillip Island faced off against Tooradin in extremely windy conditions. Tooradin started strong, taking an early lead in the first quarter, however Phillip Island's defenders, Sophia and Isla, quickly neutralised their momentum, dominating the rebounds and working the shooting ring



B Grade had a ripper win against Dalyston. Jess Gysberts in control on the court in the B Grade semi-final.



Sophia showing her skills against Tooradin in the U17s match, the Island girls winning in a thriller.

with excellent communication.

Despite their efforts, Tooradin ended the quarter up by one goal.

In the second quarter, Phillip Island shifted the game in their favour by effectively driving into space and developing a smooth flow of play. Maya, Till, and Meika were instrumental in this, while Jasira stepped up with strong defensive efforts.

Matilda joined Meika in goal shooting, where they exhibited flawless passing and scoring, which helped Phillip Island gain an edge.

The third quarter was marked by a rowdy Tooradin crowd, prompting umpires to issue warnings.

Phillip Island, however, maintained their focus and composure, with Jazzy putting on a stellar defensive performance.

Abby was brought into the mid-court, adding versatility, while the presence of Ruby and Ellie provided much-needed depth and reliability.

In the final quarter, tensions rose further as Tooradin players were cautioned to respect the umpires' decisions.

Phillip Island, keeping their cool, held onto their momentum and executed their game plan effectively.

Their collective effort resulted in a narrow but well-deserved victory, allowing them to advance confidently towards the preliminary finals.

Phillip Island: 31 def Tooradin Dalmore: 29.

U15

The U15 netballers dominated this game as they have all season. Well done to the girls for securing their place in the Grand Final and have a well-deserved rest over the weekend.

Phillip Island: 39 def Nar Nar Goon: 23.

U11

Phillip Island: 13 def Cora Lynn: 12.



The LDNA U13 netballers finished the season with a smile, well done to the girls on such a successful season.

U13 Red battles hard, but miss out on Grand Final victory

NETBALL

Phillip Island U13 Red took to court against Kilcunda Bass in the Grand Final.

Mother Nature was not in a good mood for the final and dealt horrendous conditions for the Island Red's big day.

The girls were primed and ready to take on strong opponents, and gave everything they had throughout the game, with their steady and reliable game plan that had secured them their spot in the final.

It was brilliant game from both teams, and the team displayed both their superb talent and tenacity right up until the final siren.

Unfortunately, it was not their day and Kilcunda Bass took the win 13-6, and Phillip Island Red were awarded LDNA 2024 U13 Bottom Age runners up.

The team would like to thank coach Trish for her support, encouragement, nurturing and devotion to every team member, and her focus on ensuring an inclusive and positive team.

To the Island Red girls, Alexis, Sera, Miranda, Georgie, Sophia, Ella, Hazel, Madison and Aliza, each of you are stellar netballers, who week after week displayed sportsmanship, dedication and teamwork.

You should be so proud of everything you have accomplished this season.

Together you have gone from strength to strength every week and have become a formidable team, who worked hard for and deserved your place in the final.

Well done girls, we are so beyond proud of you all.

Phillip Island Red: 6 def by Kilcunda Bass: 13.



Bass Coast Thunder netball club would like to congratulate Pepper Burke on receiving Leongatha and District netball association's runners up Best and Fairest for this 2024 season. Pepper has shown amazing sportsmanship and dedication to her sport. As a club we have enjoyed watching her play. A very well-deserved award. Pepper with her U15 coach Barb Lumby and BCT club president Michael Caille.

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, August 27

Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Garry Birch (17) with 41 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Daniel Pearce (6) with 40 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Gary Birch (17) with 41 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Mitch O'Brien (37) with 36 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Rick Zolcinski, 7th Carl Russo, 10th Brady Ross and 17th Paul Wagner.

Men's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Barry Melven (32) with 20 pts C/B from Peter Pillar (36) on 19 pts.

BDL: 17 pts.

Wednesday, August 28

Women's 18H Front 9 Twice

Winner: Ros Reid (27) with 40

pts C/B from Liz Gleeson (22) on 40 pts C/B.

BDL: 35 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Ros Reid, 7th Marilyn John and 10th Lynn McCole.

Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Joanne Westthorp (42) with 17 pts from Barbara Moloney (41) with 14

pts C/B.

BDL: 12 pts.

Thursday, August 29

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Steven Sloss (13) with 41 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: Steven Sloss (13) with 41 pts C/B.

B Grade winner: William Lang (19) with 41 pts.

C Grade winner: Dave Egan (21) with 39 pts C/B.

BDL: 35 pts.

NTP: 5th Steven Sloss, 7th

Rowan Wales, 10th Andrew McMath and 17th Rickardo Meder.

Open 9H Stableford

Winner: Peter Mathews (33) with 20 pts from Brian Carvell (30) on 19 pts C/B.

BDL: 18 pts.

Saturday, August 31

Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Terry Crumpton (15) with 39 pts.

A Grade winner: Scott Fullarton (5) with 38 pts.

B Grade winner: Terry Crumpton (15) with 39 pts.

C Grade winner: John Mahony (33) with 36 pts C/B.

BDL: 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Peter Cartwright, 7th Ian Smith, 10th Ken Wallace and 17th Rick Zolcinski.

Women's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Liz O'Neill (29) with 41 pts from Lynn McCole (31) on 36 pts.

BDL: 36 pts.

NTP: 10th Dawn Andrews and 17th Vicki Ramage.

Red Rocks golf results

GOLF

Saturday, August 31

Monthly Medal - Stroke: 1st Ja-

mie Naismith - HCP 9, nett 58 C/B, 2nd Doug Collins - HCP 19, nett 58 and 3rd David Pearce - HCP 19, nett 62.

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

TIDE GUIDE

WED 4 SEP		THU 5 SEP		FRI 6 SEP		SAT 7 SEP		SUN 8 SEP		MON 9 SEP		TUE 10 SEP	
HIGH	1:13 am 2.41 m	HIGH	2:10 am 2.54 m	HIGH	2:56 am 2.65 m	HIGH	3:35 am 2.74 m	HIGH	4:12 am 2.81 m	HIGH	4:45 am 2.85 m	HIGH	5:20 am 2.86 m
LOW	7:08 am 0.88 m	LOW	8:00 am 0.86 m	LOW	8:43 am 0.86 m	LOW	9:20 am 0.88 m	LOW	9:53 am 0.91 m	LOW	10:26 am 0.95 m	LOW	10:58 am 0.99 m
HIGH	2:01 pm 2.70 m	HIGH	2:42 pm 2.75 m	HIGH	3:15 pm 2.77 m	HIGH	3:43 pm 2.77 m	HIGH	4:09 pm 2.77 m	HIGH	4:35 pm 2.76 m	HIGH	5:03 pm 2.74 m
LOW	7:48 pm 1.06 m	LOW	8:30 pm 0.92 m	LOW	9:04 pm 0.80 m	LOW	9:36 pm 0.70 m	LOW	10:06 pm 0.62 m	LOW	10:37 pm 0.57 m	LOW	11:08 pm 0.54 m

All material is supplied in good faith and is believed to be correct. No responsibility or liability for errors or omissions is accepted.



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The U16s team celebrate after coming back in the last quarter to win their semi-final against Nar Nar Goon and gaining their entry into the Grand Final. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Island march forward

From page 24

Reserves

Scores: Phillip Island: 0.1.1, 2.3.15, 2.4.16, 6.8.44. Inverloch-Kongwak: 2.2.14, 2.3.15, 3.5.23, 3.6.24.

Goal Scorers: Phillip Island: Nick Anderson – 2, Lucas Chihotski, Jay Ladson, James Nicolaci, Thomas Niven – 1. Inverloch-Kongwak: Sasha Allen, Lachlan

Crook, Malachy O'Flynn – 1. **Best Players:** Phillip Island: Jay Ladson, Thomas Macrokanis, Tyce Kleverkamp, Brayden Kleverkamp, Jacob Patullo, Jordy Patullo. Inverloch-Kongwak: Adam Cross, Clinton McCaughan, Trent Bacon, Jack Butcher, Harry McInnes, Malachy O'Flynn.

U18

Scores: Phillip Island: 2.0.12,

4.0.24, 4.3.27, 4.4.28. Warragul Industrials: 1.0.6, 2.0.12, 2.0.12, 4.1.25.

Goal Scorers: Phillip Island: Oliver Duggan – 2, Jack Huther, James Lewis, Finn O'Brien – 1. Warragul Industrials: Tom Cornwall – 4.

Best Players: Phillip Island: Darcy Thompson, Eden Goldsbury, Noah Forrest Mabilia, Finn O'Brien, Oliver Duggan, Timo-

thy Niven. Warragul Industrials: Tom Cornwall, Joshua Bradley, Benjamin Allsop, Campbell Gibbons, Cody Templeton, Noah McDonald.

U16

Scores: Phillip Island: 0.2.2, 1.3.9, 1.5.11, 5.8.38. Nar Nar Goon: 2.1.13, 2.2.14, 3.4.22, 3.5.23.

Goal Scorers: Phillip Island: Sam O'Garey – 2, Levi Addison,

Max Jess, Jack Larsson – 1. Nar Nar Goon: Cooper Harris, Oscar Henwood, Oliver Ockwell-Payne – 1.

Best Players: Phillip Island: Jack Mascaros, Dean Rizzo, Blake Murphy, Parker Trappett, Lachlan Eastwood, Harrison Carlon. Nar Nar Goon: Mitchell Varty, Xavier Ladbroke, Toby Holland, Austin Schram, Oscar Henwood, Oliver Ockwell-Payne.



Harrison Carlon played a solid game as usual in the U16s match.



Connor Thompson kicks away in the Reserves match, moving another step forward in their finals campaign with a huge comeback in the last quarter against Inverloch. What a great win.



Kai Mackenzie takes on Cora Lynn, saying catch me if you can.



The Seniors put on a show in the windy conditions at Nar Nar Goon on Saturday, securing their place in the grand final: Coby Olarenschaw (with ball), Marcus Wright, Mark Griffin and Jesse Patullo.

Island march forward

FOOTBALL

Phillip Island has shown why it has been a strong club for so long with the 16s, 18s and Seniors plus the U15s netball team straight into this year's Grand Final.

Not to be outdone, the 11s, 17s and B grade netball teams all took home wins on the weekend along with our Reserves footballers on Sunday afternoon. All these teams will fight it out this weekend at Dalyston to book their spot in the Grand Final.

That is eight teams still in finals which is a tremendous effort that the Phillip Island community can be proud of.

Seniors

In one of the windiest days on record Phillip Island outlasted Cora Lynn to come home with a two-goal victory.

In a match that was dominated by stoppages and wind pushing the ball to the far side of the ground, Phillip Island handled the conditions better and were able to show true grit and determination to lock the last quarter down after taking a three-goal lead into the last quarter.

The on-ball brigade of Jaymie Youle, Hayden and Charlie Bruce alongside big Daniel Bourke showed class and a hard edge to prevent the opposition their usual free flowing ball movement.

Down back Jesse Patullo had the big task of keeping



James Lewis played a crucial role in the U18s victory against Warragul on Saturday. The U18s team have been dominant all season, securing a well-deserved place in the upcoming Grand Final in what was a very close game.

Gardner (100 goals for the year) to having no influence on the game, keeping him goalless.

Alex Duyker was back to his intercepting best and the like of Griffin, Harris and Holmes controlled the back-

line to repel their attacks.

Zac Walker has continued his stellar year and was pivotal late in the game taking pack mark after pack mark in defense.

The forward line held their heads high while being outnumbered all day.

Pedersen, The Taylors, Tom Baulch, Orlando Kane-Gillard and Travis Woodfield all worked hard all day to lock the ball in our forward half.

As the excitement builds with four teams taking their spot on Grand Final day already the Island moves towards making it eight teams this week.

Come down and support your Bulldogs this Saturday at Dalyston for a big day of netball and football.

Scores: Phillip Island: 3.4.22, 4.6.30, 7.10.52, 7.11.53. Cora Lynn: 1.1.7, 4.9.33, 4.10.34, 5.11.41.

Goal Scorers: Phillip Island: Hayden Bruce – 2, Thomas Baulch, Daniel Bourke, Orlando Kane Gillard, Jack Taylor, Zac Walker – 1. Cora Lynn: Cory Machaya – 2, Heath Briggs, James Munro, Matthew Ryan – 1.

Best Players: Phillip Island: Jesse Patullo, Jaymie Youle, Zac Walker, Charlie Bruce, Hayden Bruce, Alex Duyker. Cora Lynn: William Thomas, Luke Ryan, James Munro, Luke Black, Cory Machaya, Jett Edwards.

Continued page 23

ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF

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Wish our football and netball teams good luck in our special Grand Finals feature next week.

Be part of this special 2024 Grand Final edition, contact us at ads@pisra.com.au or call on 5952 3201 to book your space. Deadline: Friday, September 6 by 12 noon.

