

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



San Remo's newsagency and post office was cordoned off on Saturday morning after an armed robbery, which took place around 9.20am

Armed robbery at Remo

The new owners of the San Remo Post Office and Newsagency endured a frightening ordeal when they were threatened by a man with a knife and robbed on the weekend.

Deepak and Khyati Gurnani only took over the store in December last year and were both working when the robbery took place.

Deepak said the man entered the store around 9.20am, and while there were two or three other customers in the store, he roamed around browsing.

Once the other customers left, he approached the Post Office counter.

"He came to the counter and asked if we sold stamps," said Deepak.

"I asked him what kind of stamps he was after. Then he put his bag on the counter and raised his right arm and I saw the handle of a knife.

"He said I don't want to take this out. Give me all you have."

Deepak gave him cash from the Post Office register and said the man then gestured towards the other till.

"He came around to that side of the counter. He knew there were two tills," said Deepak.

After Deepak handed over the cash from that register, the man left.

"He didn't ask for anything else, he just walked out very calmly."

CCTV footage showed the man walking down Wynne Street and police say he was last sighted at the intersection of Hazelwood Road.

Quick response

The couple called the police and said members of the highway patrol arrived within five minutes.

They were followed by the local police and then detectives from the Criminal Investigation Unit.

"They asked us some questions and asked for the CCTV footage," Deepak said.

"As the man was wearing gloves, they didn't bother taking fingerprints, but they took photos of the store."



Since the robbery Deepak and Khyati Gurnani said "the community has been great. Some customers left 'hope you are okay' cards for us."

All the takings from the previous day were stolen in the robbery.

"The insurance will cover us, because it was an armed robbery, but both of us can't sleep the last few nights," admitted Deepak, who said

they get anxious every time the store door opens.

And of course, everyone who enters is wearing a mask.

"We will get over it, but at the moment we're feeling crap," he said.

The local community has rallied behind the couple.

"Everybody has been nice. The first two or three customers came in with flowers," Deepak said.

"They were concerned about our wellbeing. The community has been great. Some customers left 'hope you are okay' cards for us."

"Everyone who has come in has asked how we are doing."

Despite the ordeal, Deepak remains philosophical.

"It's happened and we can't undo it. We just have to keep on thinking positive and move in the right direction."

He said the support from the community is very important to them and the incident hasn't changed the way they feel about San Remo.

"We have always been thankful of how things have been here. Right from the start, the community has taken care of us."

"When we started, everybody understood we were new people. They gave us time to settle in and accepted us with love and kindness, which we are thankful for."

"This is a beautiful community. Everyone is so caring and considerate."

Still at large

Police said investigations into the incident are ongoing.

The man, perceived to be Caucasian in appearance, is approximately 181 cm tall, wearing black pants, a black beanie and black hooded jumper.

He was also wearing a black face mask at the time of the incident.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

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Wed/Sep9	Thur/Sep10	Fri/Sep11	Sat/Sep12	Sun/Sep13	Mon/Sep14	Tue/Sep15
						
PARTLY CLOUDY	SUNNY	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWERS	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWERS	PARTLY CLOUDY
9 14	7 18	10 18	12 16	10 16	10 14	11 14

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*

As of Monday, September 7

8727
tests done locally

11
Local residents
tested positive

0
Active case

*From BCH Assessment clinics only since March.

Your Community Voice!



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Draft designs unveiled

The draft designs for the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre are now on public display.

The new building plans include a 256-seat cinema and theatre, library, museum, art gallery, arts and craft space, café, visitor information kiosk, commercial kitchen, offices, a grand hall and community function rooms.

Online presentations of the draft plans were held last week with the groups who will be located in the new building, as well as regular users of the current site.

The plans, along with a video presentation are on Bass Coast Shire Council's website.

Simon Topliss from architectural firm Jackson Clements Burrows (JCB) said the new facility was designed to be "as flexible as possible and work as hard as possible".

"It's for the community and we want the whole building to be active."

The irregular shape of the building is designed to maximise morning and afternoon sun and retain the existing trees on the site.



Draft plans for the new Cowes Cultural Centre are now available on Bass Coast Shire Council's website.

Bass Coast Shire Council's Major Projects Manager, Damian Prendergast said the initial response to from the centre's user groups was positive. "They said the architects had certainly listened to the community."

He said the next step was to work with the groups on detailed plans for each space.

"We will be asking groups to think

outside the box and not necessarily replicate what we've got."

Graeme Burrows from JCB said the new building was designed to be a more active facility than the old centre, and it was important to consider that this was a building for the next 50 years.

"It's an inherently alive building. Great community buildings have

more than just a sole function. We want to make all the functions (in the building) as accessible as possible.

"Part of the journey is seeing how all the spaces relate and to unlock unexpected opportunities."

He said the building aims to deliver real sustainability, including reducing the carbon footprint during construction.

Bass Coast Shire General Manager James Storton said the new centre will be council's most "environmentally sustainable building by a country mile", although no specific sustainability targets have been set yet.

Damian said the next phase of consultation involved meeting with groups and discussing the potential of their spaces and "any opportunities the building presents moving forward".

The community can provide on-line feedback on the plans via the council's website.

The designs are expected to be finalised by the end of the year. A separate process to name the new facility will also be run by Council.

\$2.5 million for Cultural Centre project

Bass Coast Shire Council has secured a \$2.5 million grant for the redevelopment of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre.

The grant is another step towards total funding for the project. Bass Coast Shire Council has attracted community criticism for demolishing the existing centre before designs for the new building are completed and the project is fully funded.

The grant from the state government's Growing Suburbs Fund was announced last week by Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale.

"The Cowes Cultural and Community Centre plays such an important role in bringing our community together, and this upgrade will have wide-ranging benefits for both locals and visitors to the Island," said Ms Crugnale.

"It's fantastic that the government has been able to give the project much needed support through the Growing Suburbs Fund - recognition of just what it means to our community to get this project up and running."

The Growing Suburbs Fund was expanded earlier this year to include peri-urban councils.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tes-



Island Ward Councillors Pam Rothfield, Michael Whelan and Stephan Fullarton, with CEO Ali Wastie and Mayor Cr Brett Tessari celebrate the announcement of the \$2.5 million grant for the Cowes Cultural Centre.

sari said council advocated to be included in the Fund to recognise that "Bass Coast is a growing municipality which needs additional financial support to meet our communities' expectations".

"We had several meetings with state government ministers and senior public servants to achieve this outcome," said Cr Tessari, who described the announcement as fantastic news for Bass Coast and the community.

"I would like to thank the state government for providing \$2.5 million towards this important community project. We look forward to additional funding for the Fund be-

ing made available in the upcoming State Budget."

To date, \$10 million has been secured via the state government's Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme and \$4 million has been allocated from council reserves to the project.

Council said it will continue to explore partnerships with other tiers of government for grant funding.

Project

The \$19 million redevelopment of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre involves replacing the existing Centre with a new building.

Concept designs were shared with

14 key groups using the existing centre and released on council's website last week (see separate story).

Council said work will continue with the key groups on the schematic and detailed designs for the project.

Demolition of the old site is now underway, while construction of the new facility will start in early 2021 and is expected to take 12 to 14 months.

Cr Tessari said the delivery of this key Council and community project will help to support a "much-needed post COVID-19 economic recovery".

"Projects like this will help keep local jobs secure and create new and sustainable employment opportunities for the community," Cr Tessari said.

"Once built, the Centre will bring together the cultural and social aspirations of the community and will draw in visitors to showcase the history and culture of the region."

"It will also provide an incredible facility for a huge range of community activities and events."

A presentation from the architects, Jackson Clements Burrows is available on the Bass Coast Shire Council website, as well as a PDF of the draft plans.

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Disappointment at continued restrictions

Local business owners said the Covid roadmap announcement "was not the ideal outcome", with many hoping for greater easing of restrictions.

However Cr Pam Rothfield said she agreed with the government's approach.

"It didn't surprise me. If you keep close tabs on the numbers, it's still too early to open up."

She said although Bass Coast was lucky and in a good place, she understood the reluctance to open regional areas broadly.

"You just have to take a situation like Colac," Cr Rothfield said.

"They had one case, which jumped to 24 in three days. I understand the reluctance to open up too wide too soon."

But one local business owner who wished to remain anonymous said they were "gutted" at the decision and it would take time to get their head around what it all meant.

They believe a number of local businesses on the island wouldn't make it through with the prolonged closures.

Geoff Moed, from A Maze'N Things said

from a tourism perspective the continued lockdown for Melbourne during school holidays was particularly devastating.

"Melbourne is our main market, plus the other markets (international and interstate) are not there. And there's no regional travel either."

He said the number of empty shops down the main street – "I've counted at least 10" – was indicative of the way things are heading.

"JobKeeper is keeping a lot of people going, but I've noticed over the last couple of weeks that there's a lot more psychological stress – from workers and business owners."

"And JobKeeper is inequitable. Some people are making more money than usual, while others are working harder for the same amount of money. People are feeling hard done by and very anxious."

He said the focus now had to be on getting through to November.

"Once the main effects of virus elimination are in place, business can be strong again."

"But a lot of people won't make it to that

point with no income."

He said tourism businesses like his did not have the option to reinvent themselves or change their business model.

"We've had to close completely – we can't do other things."

For now, he's focused on November.

"Hopefully the restrictions get lifted by then, so we can have a successful trading season."

Geoff believes once things open up, Phillip Island should do well.

"People can't go overseas and many want to travel close to home," he said, which made the island the ideal destination.

Cr Rothfield agrees Phillip Island is well placed to take advantage of the new "Covid normal".

"The latest information is that nature-based tourism is the leading driver for tourism, seconded only by safe tourism – places where people can confidently go and not contract the virus."

"We can provide both and we'll be able to open up for that peak period if everything con-

tinues the way it is."

Even if the roadmap works and the island's business are reopened for summer, Geoff believes the empty shops in Cowes will remain.

"There will be a lot of people who would normally be coming in to start a business, or those who started a new business but now can't maintain them."

"I was around in 1991 for the last recession. And this time, things will be a lot worse financially."

Business support

Businesses wanting to join the new Phillip Island Business Network can contact Geoff Moed on 0419 347 475 or email: admin@pibn.com.au

Existing members of the Phillip Island Tourism and Business Association will have their membership automatically transferred to the Business Network.

Coronet Bay residents celebrate

Coronet Bay residents say they are "elated" after developers withdrew plans for a proposed \$38 million hotel.

Residents – through their group Our Line in the Sand – have been battling the 92 Norsemen Road proposal since last year, arguing it was an "over-development" in a rural activity zone.

Our Line In The Sand spokeswoman Angela Christa said while the group would "like to take full credit" for the development's withdrawal, she suggested it was most likely COVID-19 and the global economic conditions.

"I don't think we can take full credit. I can only speculate border closures and the decimation of the tourist industry, with no notion of when we will return to normal, made no economic sense and was not a sustainable business model," Angela said.

She said Our Line in the Sand and its 200 members would not be disbanded, but would go into hiatus, given the Chinese owners of the land were the ones to seek the development.

"They have withdrawn the plans but they still own the land, so who knows what will happen in years to come. They may sell, we have no idea."

"So there's no point packing up the bat and ball just yet."

"We may at some point ask membership what they want to put their energy in to, there's always something coming up."

She said once pandemic restrictions were eased the group would have a community celebration on the beach.

"For now it's 'phew, that's one year of our lives we won't get back'."

A Bass Coast Shire spokesperson confirmed the planning application had been withdrawn and the applicant had not provided any reasons.

"We are unaware of the landowners' intentions for the site," the spokesperson said.

In July the developers submitted an amended concept plan for "discussion purposes only", explaining these do not supersede the original advertised plans.

The amendments included removal of the northern restaurant, a decrease in restaurant patrons to 100, a reduction in hotel rooms to 152 (from the original 192), and a reduction in



A planning application for a \$38 million hotel development in Coronet Bay has been withdrawn.

the buildings' height to no greater than seven metres.

"It was really odd. No one seems to be able to answer what that little flurry was about," Angela said.

The plans were set to go to council in Sep-

tember and Angela said she understood most – if not all – councillors would vote against the plans.

More than 300 submissions were lodged objecting to the original plans.

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Reopening

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Explosive arrest at Newhaven

Vehicles from the Bass Coast Criminal Investigation Unit with support from the Arson and Explosives Squad descended on Newhaven last Thursday morning.


CIU detectives executed a search warrant at an address in Beach Crescent and seized material for further forensic examination.

Police said a 28-year-old Newhaven man has been interviewed in relation to the material found and is expected to be charged on summons in relation to explosives charges.

A quantity of cannabis was also seized from the address. A 57-year-old female occupant of the premises will be charged with possession of a drug of dependence.

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



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

Authorized: Ron Bauer 324 Lt Collins Street Melbourne 3000

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Ron Bauer
for the
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PUTTING OUR ISLAND FIRST

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Island economy, jobs trump AGL gas: shire

Bass Coast Shire has released a submission “strongly” opposing AGL’s planned bay gas project because of its potential for “serious impacts” on Phillip Island’s economy and Western Port’s environment.

The submission to the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) for the Crib Point Gas Import Jetty details a long list of reasons the shire objects to the proposed development, including lack of research on the impacts on penguins and whales. It states AGL’s project business assessment report only considers Hastings, on the Mornington Peninsula, excluding Phillip Island and Bass Coast, the second most dependent economy on tourism in Australia after Uluru.

“Any potential impact on Western Port would have significant detrimental economic effect on the visitor economy on Phillip Island and surrounding areas, the most reliant economy in Victoria on tourism investment,” the shire’s submission states.

“The visitor economy is dependent on the health of the Western Port ecosystem and environment ... our environment is our economy.”

The submission states AGL’s project would put at risk tourism, estimated to be worth \$385 million to the region’s economy, and 4,300 jobs or 35 per cent of the region’s employment.

Last month the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council voted to oppose the project in its submission to the EES, saying the project posed an “unacceptable risk to the environment for unproven economic and resource gains”.

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

A floating storage and regasification unit

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

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

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

Environment

The shire’s submission is critical of the EES, saying it insufficiently assessed “multiple potential impacts”, including on penguins, while the risk of collision of an LPG gas ship with migrating humpback or southern right whales “has not been adequately addressed”.

It states the EES “is based upon a theoretical project”.

“The actual project impacts will not be fully known until some point in the future, after approval has been given.”

The submission states the gas project does not take a “holistic view of the whole of Western Port”.

“The potential impact of the project’s operations or a failure of operational controls on this unique environmental asset, critical ecosystem processes and supporting social and economic values remains unknown.”

“The impact of the project, specifically the release of chlorinated water, sediment disturbance, wasted discharge or entrainment risks, light, spills and leaks, underwater noise on the Ramsar wetland ecosystem and associated ecological systems and processes has not been adequately addressed in the assessment.”

Climate

AGL’s EES argues gas is required to move Victoria to a low carbon economy.

However, the shire disputes this point, saying “gas is not a transition fuel” and there was no evidence to support AGL’s claim.

Last year the shire declared a climate emergency, last month releasing its Climate Change Action Plan, which seeks a community target of zero net emissions by 2030.

“Council strongly opposes further fossil fuel developments in Victoria and is opposed to the further industrialisation of Western Port to transport them.”

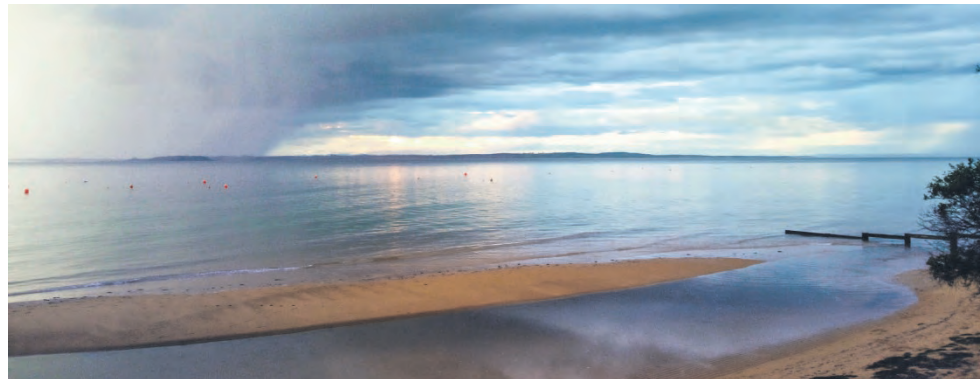
The shire submission also states the gas project contravened many planning policies including last year’s declaration by the Andrews’ Government that Bass Coast is a Distinctive Area.

It states the project is also in opposition to Western Port’s Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the UNESCO biosphere reserve, with the bay one of about 500 reserves around the world.

Last week, Bass Coast Shire councillor Michael Whelan gave a scathing assessment of AGL’s safety and environment record, saying he thought the company was too willing to “cut corners” and had failed to consider the dangers of its proposed Western Port gas terminal.

Cr Whelan’s submission to the EES said it failed to properly detail how a major incident would be handled and “conveniently” dismissed risk rather than dealing with it.

Submissions for the EES closed in August. Directions hearing is scheduled on September 17, which will lead to a public hearing on October 12, to run for up to eight weeks.



The Phillip Island Conservation Society states AGL has not been up front about potential environmental effects from their proposed gas plant on Western Port. Information about the 25 tonnes of sludge to be generated per month from the project’s operations is “buried” in a technical report, PICS says.

10,000+ object to AGL gas proposal

More than 10,000 submissions have been lodged through the state’s peak environment group objecting to AGL’s proposed gas “factory” in Western Port.

Phillip Island Conservation Society president Jeff Nottle said the objections were lodged through Environment Victoria’s submission writing workshops, reflecting the community’s profound concerns with the project.

According to the Crib Point Inquiry and Advisory Committee, they have received 3,829 submissions.

PICS last week released its submission to the gas project’s Environmental Effects Statement (EES), with Mr Nottle requesting he speak at the public hearing in October.

The submission states PICS “strongly opposes” the development on environmental, economic, and social grounds, urging it to be rejected.

Mr Nottle writes Phillip Island was omitted from a range of assessments in the EES, including impacts on the economy, and the EES “understates the magnitude of project impacts and underestimates the cumulative environmental effects”.

The submission states the EES is “seriously deficient” and fails to “credibly demonstrate” the risks of potential environmental effects have been investigated and understood, including: whale strike, the impact of chlorinated discharge on the bay, the risk of marine pests and artificial light, and the impact to fish eggs and larvae from the project’s proposed intake of 450 million litres of seawater per day to run a heat exchange system.

PICS states AGL has not been transparent about the 25 tonnes of sludge to be generated per month from the project’s operations – which will be collected and disposed of at a licensed facility – with this information instead “buried” in a technical report.

Mr Nottle writes the EES portrays Western Port as a “busy, dredged, degraded port”.

“Perhaps to create the false impression the additional environmental effects of the Crib Point gas import project will be insignificant.”

He said based on current annual average of 97 visiting ships to Western Port, the gas project would increase shipping in the bay by 41 per cent or more.

The PICS submission questions AGL’s history of receiving penalties for pollution events, safety incidents and noncompliance with regulations, which has resulted in fines of more than \$7 million since 2003.

“This record should be disclosed fully in the EES, rather than hidden behind three web links,” the submission states.

“Given this history of infringements and AGL’s apparent lack of experience in Floating Storage and Regasification Unit operation, PICS questions whether AGL is fit to operate the FSRU.”

PICS disputes AGL’s argument the project is necessary to fill a forecast shortfall in gas supply, adding the company failed to consider alternative sites to Western Port, especially an area near Geelong.

“Recently, however, Viva Energy announced a competing FSRU proposal to be sited at Corio, with claims that the site is more suitable than Crib Point.”

AGL responds

AGL Project Director Ricky McNally responds to the issues outlined by Bass Coast Shire and the Phillip Island Conservation Society:

“AGL takes its environmental responsibilities and obligations extremely seriously and always works to mitigate and minimise our impacts on the environment.

The proposed project is intended to address the projected shortage of gas for Victorian businesses and homes.

We have engaged extensively with both the community and Government to ensure we understand their concerns around potential community and environmental impacts.

We have submitted our Environmental Effects Statement (EES), which will now be considered by an independent panel advising the State Government.

Extensive independent research was carried out to understand the environmental effects of the proposed project, all available online.

The research concludes that any marine impacts would be limited to the shipping basin and ship berthing areas within the Port of Hastings boundaries at the Crib Point jetty

and therefore unlikely to have impacts as far away as Phillip Island.

We are committed to following the process the State Government deems appropriate and will continue to work with government and the community to facilitate access to information and ongoing engagement.

If the proposed plan is approved, a final investment decision will then be made by AGL which will take into account the community’s views and Victoria’s projected shortage of gas for cooking, heating and business.”

Mr McNally added that AGL considered eight sites around Australia including Corio near Geelong.

He said Crib Point jetty was chosen because it was an existing petroleum import facility that had been running for more than 50 years.

Crib Point also provides an unused berth big enough for a large FSRU and an existing deep-water channel which doesn’t require channel dredging.

He said Western Port received about 167 ship calls annually, more than 100 of which were oil and gas tankers.

Mr McNally added Victoria was selected as the location for the proposed project, because it has the largest gas market by volume consumed in south-eastern Australia.

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Alternatively, contact Emma Sorensen on 0402 687 218, to discuss alternative ways to submit your application.

*This position is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only.

Applications close Sunday, 20 September 2020.

Ordinary Council Meeting - 16 September

Council’s next meeting will be live-streamed at 1.00pm on Wednesday, 16 September 2020. Join us on the live-stream link www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings

The proposed items Council may consider:

- Planning Application 190399 - 1/8-10 Keltie Avenue and 140 McKenzie Street, Wonthaggi
- Planning Application 190293 - 58 Bruce Road, Silverleaves
- Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

The agenda is released on Council’s website on Friday 11 September 2020 www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings. There is an opportunity in the Council meeting for public questions. If you would like to ask a question please submit your questions in writing no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | DX 34903 Wonthaggi | PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995 | 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service (for people with speech or hearing difficulties) on 13 36 77 | basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Plans slammed

Aleta Groves believes the Phillip Island Community Art and Craft Gallery will have to close, as the plans for the new Cultural Centre don't provide them with a dedicated space.

She said at the "so called community engagement session" on August 27, the group found out they "don't in fact have a dedicated space" in the new building.

She slammed the plans saying there was "nothing special or spectacular" about the new building and the lack of a dedicated space could spell the end of the community gallery.

She said the group flagged similar concerns over plans drafted in 2016 and at the time, council passed a motion in favour of the community gallery having a dedicated space.

"Obviously the vote and decision of the previous councillors has been ignored by this current group of councillors and council employees.

"The reality is someone in council, or someone in the 'influential group' ... has wanted us to not have space in the new centre and now they have succeeded."

A council spokesperson rejected the claim and said: "Council values the contribution made by the Community Art and Craft Gallery over 23 years and has never indicated that a Community Art and Craft Gallery cannot operate within the new centre."

However Aleta said the space the group had been allocated was not the dedicated space they'd been promised, but instead "some sort of community co-operative space that will have arts and crafts in it from all sorts of people in the community".

Council said a key design principle of the new centre is the building needs to be "as flexible and adaptable as possible, for the needs of the entire community".

"As a result, there are no exclusive spaces being provided within the centre for any community group," a council spokesperson said.

"Each community group will be afforded the same opportunity to participate, contribute, perform, practice,

meet and exhibit at the new facility.

"There are many community groups, including arts groups on Phillip Island, and each will be provided the same opportunity at the new centre."

Long history

The Community Gallery has been in the current Cultural Centre for 23 years.

"On average 9,000 people a year visit us, people love taking home art and crafts from their visit to Phillip Island," said Aleta.

"I don't know how many times we hear 'we just want something that is actually made here and not made in China'."

Aleta said for years the group had fought those who described the gallery as a retail shop. Although the group do sell their goods, it was a not-for-profit group.

"Every member is a hobbyist; we don't have any professionals. Our members don't profit from the items they sell. The prices on items in the gallery basically cover the materials cost. Most members would be lucky if they made \$1 an hour for the time spent on creating these items."

She said the group now face the prospect of disbanding.

"Obviously the fact that we don't have a space means that after 27 years we are going to have to cease the Phillip Island Community Art and Craft Gallery," said Aleta.

"Over those 27 years we have become a family. So many friendships have been made by being a part of this group. Many of our members have needed the support, the therapy, the helping hand of like-minded people that I cannot explain the sadness that this will bring to our members.

"We are the people who love our art and craft. We love our gallery. We love our loyal locals who love buying our arts and crafts who proudly give what we make as gifts to others to enjoy.

"We have nowhere else to go and coming out of this period of COVID-19 we are going to need each other more than ever and the council is taking that away from us."

Fish, chips and charity

The San Remo Fisherman's Co-op will tomorrow (September 10) donate a Thankyou Box to all Bass Coast healthcare workers as a sign of their appreciation during Corona-virus.

Co-op manager Paul Mannix said doctors, nurses, ambulance paramedics and aged care workers were all welcome to visit the Co-op for the Thankyou Thursday event, to pick up their box, which has items all donated by the anglers of the co-op.

Each box will contain a piece of Bass Strait gummy, a Bass Strait scallop, chips, lemon and house made aioli.

"We want our local health care workers to know how much we appreciate what they are doing for our community," Paul said, adding bookings weren't required.

"If you are a Bass Coast healthcare worker, just turn up and show us your work ID card.

"Our Co-op fishermen have really embraced this idea."

He said the shark and scallops have been donated from the captain and crew of the following boats:

FV Metis
FV Marylou
FV Endeavour
FV Daryl R
FV Sharben
FV Northern Star



The crew of the FV Metis – Brendon Jones (left) and Rowan Draper – are among the six fishing boats generously donating seafood to tomorrow's Thursday Thankyou Box at the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op, a way to show gratitude to health care workers in Bass Coast.

Warley plans revealed

Owners of the old Warley hospital site are seeking a planning permit to subdivide the land.

The proposed permit for 6-12 Warley Avenue, currently being investigated by the Bass Coast Shire, is seeking to divide the land into four lots.

O'Brien Real Estate agent Mike Foenander told the Advertiser the block could be bought as one whole, seeking expressions of interest of \$3.65 million-plus,

or alternatively as single blocks measuring about 1000m², priced around the \$900,000-plus range.

Last year a Victorian planning panel recommended the Warley site could be built to a maximum five storeys, which was an increase on the previous three storeys.

Mr Foenander said he believed if the current planning permit was successfully approved, any buyer could still build to a five-level.

"I believe this would encourage

someone with some foresight to purchase it as one pristine block," he said.

"In this COVID time of life who knows what will be in store for Cowes real estate."

During the planning panel hearings in 2018, local residents called for "good architecture" on the Warley site.

"It should cater to the top end of the market," remarked one resident.

Phillip Island Road corridor project

We're planning for a better and safer Phillip Island Road in Newhaven and San Remo.

We're sharing our plans with you for the proposed upgrades to Phillip Island Road at Newhaven and San Remo that will improve safety, traffic flow and accessibility.

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Simply visit regionalroads.vic.gov.au and search 'Phillip Island Road' to view the plans and have your say on the Newhaven design by completing the online survey. The survey will be open for a four-week period closing 5 October 2020.

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War of words erupts

A war of words has broken out between Bass Coast Shire Councillors and the Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association.

In what began as a civil email exchange, shared with local media, President Kevin Griffin flagged his intention to submit a question to the upcoming council meeting, regarding the recent \$99,932 grant from the state government to help facilitate online meetings and consultation.

He then criticised “naysayers at Council” who had opposed online meetings and urged councillors to be open, transparent, and responsive.

“It’s a matter of integrity and trust,” Mr Griffin said.

Things got heated when Cr Geoff Ellis replied, quoting from a post on the BCRRA website that demanded council “sit up straight and pay attention”.

The post also stated some of the current councillors “didn’t need to drink very much of the Kool Aid served up by the bureaucrats before they seemed to throw in the towel.”

He asked if these were the “naysayers” Mr Griffin referred to.

Mr Griffin refused to name names, saying he had “recently been taught a lesson in defamation law”.

However, former Mayor, Cr Pam Rothfield

said it was clear who was being targeted, adding anyone who didn’t “acquiesce” to Mr Griffin’s demands was subjected to “a barrage of emails, letters and social media postings containing offensive (and baseless) allegations”.

She said some councillors felt bullied by “continual negativity” from the BCRRA, accusing Mr Griffin of “prejudice against the Councillors and council officers”.

She said councillors were democratically elected, “with individual thoughts and opinions and not a mouthpiece for any organisation or group”.

“Councillors regularly make the statement that they will consider every item based on the individual merits of each item without bias or prejudice and maintain an open mind,” Ms Rothfield said.

“The reality is that this council has been

the most effective, functional and competent council seen in Bass Coast Shire for many years – that’s something that is apparently very difficult for Mr Griffin to accept.

“I wish the next council well and I truly hope that they do not have to experience the offensive ongoing communiques which we did.”

Mr Griffin also criticised the council’s new Governance Rules for stopping “the automatic recording of councillor votes in the minutes”, saying “it now requires a division to be called in order to have votes recorded”.

BCRRA has now lodged an official complaint against the remarks made by Cr Rothfield about the president of their Association.

More questions

The BCRRA has submitted two questions to the upcoming council meeting.

The first question relates to a grant received from the state government to help facilitate online meetings and consultation.

“Will Council be entirely responsive, open and transparent by accurately detailing to the community how it spends the almost \$100,000 recently received from the State Government for the purpose of enhancing live streaming facilities?”

The second question addresses the issue of the current waste contract.

“As Council has effectively acknowledged that it made no effort to resist or reduce the massive cost increases recently imposed by Cleanaway/Wonthaggi Recyclers will Council advise if its ongoing approach to contract variations will remain to be that of passive acceptance and simply passing the costs directly onto ratepayers and residents?”



Mr Tony Corr, former Deputy Headmaster from Melbourne Grammar School will take over as principal at Newhaven College from 2021.

New principal for Newhaven

A former Deputy Headmaster from Melbourne Grammar has been appointed as principal at Newhaven College.

Mr Tony Corr will take over the reins at the start of 2021, replacing Gea Lovell, who retires at the end of the current school year.

Prior to working at Melbourne Grammar, Mr Corr was Deputy Head at Xavier College and has a Masters of Education (Education Management) and a Bachelor of Arts Education from the University of Melbourne.

Mr Corr said his family had a long association with the region and he was “excited to be joining the Newhaven community in this important role.”

Board Chair, Greg Price said the appointment came after an extensive national and international search.

“Throughout his career, Tony has developed exceptional relationships with students, staff and the broader school communities within which he has worked.

“Tony is highly skilled across staff development and experienced in building high performing and cohesive teams,” Mr Price said, adding that Mr Corr’s diverse experience gave him a deep understanding of the current issues and challenges in education.

Mr Corr said nurturing each student’s individuality and their shared humanity was at the heart of education.

“I am passionate about working with young people and the opportunity to enable each of them to be their best.

“Newhaven has an excellent reputation and I am looking forward to forming relationships and making a meaningful contribution to the next phase of the school’s journey.”

Mr Price paid tribute to the work of Mrs Lovell, who he said has led Newhaven “with distinction for the past ten years”.

“Under Gea’s leadership, Newhaven College has continued to achieve excellent academic results, whilst Gea has also overseen the expansion of enrolments, improvements in ICT and the extensive building campaign that enabled our school to come together on our Phillip Island Road campus.”

Mrs Lovell described her time as principal as “a privilege”.

“As I leave, I know that the College is in an exceptional position. I feel very confident in handing over the reins to Tony, who I believe will lead the College with great success in the next phase of its development.”

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Demolition of the old building is well underway, with one critic on social media describing the redevelopment as “a rush before the next election. It should be held over”.

Bouquets and brickbats

The response to the draft plans for the new Cowes Cultural Centre has been mixed.

The new library space and the 256-seat cinema have been welcomed by many in the community, while concerns continue to be raised about the process and lack of consultation in the final design phase.

Online criticism focused on whether the building was an appropriate use of ratepayers' money, particularly in light of the economic impact of COVID-19.

“What was wrong with the current one?” questioned one resident, while another said: “would’ve thought the roads and other facilities were more pressing”.

“Meanwhile, still no Aquatic Centre” and “try providing a functioning transfer centre” were some of the criticisms levelled at council.

But a key figure in the campaign to redevelop the Cultural Centre is thrilled with the plans.

Anne Davie has been deeply involved in the decades-long campaign and is a member of both the Artist and Historical societies.

She said the new design completely met the “wishes and hopes of the groups that are going to use it”.

“I believe it is an exciting plan. The building itself will create a lot of interest and provide a positive future for the town.

“To actually have a hall where we can come together and have events and celebrate ... it opens up a huge amount of opportunities for the town and the future.”

Anne praised the “whole dynamics of the building” and the sustainability features, which she said also met the criteria for Totally Renewable Phillip Island.

“As Co-chair of the Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group I am pleased that the architects are in consultation with the Bunurong Land Council,” she added.

Community concerns

Prominent local businessman Greg Price said it would be interesting to see how the community reacts to the plans.

His major concern remains the lack of information on the cost for com-

munity groups to use the new facility.

“In the initial consultation, the shire still couldn’t say what the local hire rates will be. If it’s a commercial model, the costs will be prohibitive for small community groups.

“Those groups cannot afford commercial rates and they’d end up having to go elsewhere, with facilities that are a worse standard than those available in the current hall.”

The decision to have fixed seating in the theatre has also been questioned, with some residents saying that throughout the consultation process, the community had called for retractable seating in the theatre, to allow for great flexibility for performances and functions.

However Simon Topliss from Jackson Clements Burrows said he believed that flexibility would be provided through the community functions rooms.

The newly elected President of Island Voice, Peter Paul said the group welcomed the prompt release of the concept plans for the new centre.

“We look forward to seeing the final plans and detailed costings of the proposed \$19 million spend. We realise that these drawings are in an early stage of development, making it difficult to get a good grasp of the size of the various elements without any indication of scale.

“Island Voice, like other Island community groups will be requesting a briefing from Damian Prendergast from the Bass Coast Shire,” Peter said.

Other community-raised concerns included storage onsite, the size and location of the commercial kitchen and if the allocated community function space could adequately house a seated function for 400, including a stage and dance floor.

A council spokesperson said storage areas were expected to be located at the rear of the function rooms, within the theatre and within other locations in the centre.

“At this stage it is envisaged that there will be capacity to store a number of tables and chairs, however final numbers will be determined on other storage requirements and frequency of events,” the spokesperson said.

“For example, if we are only hold-

ing a 400-seat event once a year, then it would be most likely the equipment would be hired in.”

User groups response

The plans have received a warm welcome from most of the groups who will be housed in the new building.

Sandra Peeters, a member of the Artist Society of Phillip Island (ASPI) and President of the Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space (PICES) described the building plans as “absolutely beautiful”.

“It’s dynamic, inviting and functional. It’s got an elegance about it,” she said.

“We’re over the moon. A dedicated gallery for regular exhibitions ... that’s fantastic.”

Graeme Clausen, President of the Phillip Island Historical Society said “overall, it looks terrific”, but it was a case of “wait and see” until the society had a chance to get more details from the architects.

“I think we have to look at the space we’re being offered and have a total rethink of the way we use it,” he said, adding he hoped to have a qualified museum designer look over the space.

Bob Hayes from the Genealogical Society described the proposal for the whole building as “brilliant”, but said the group still had to work out the technicalities of their space.

He said the custom designed space would be considerably smaller than their existing building, but “we will be aiming to maximise the use of all the space we can get.”

He said the society could use the community meeting rooms for seminars, information days, sessions and training and would benefit from being co-located with the library, museum, theatre and gallery.

Facilities Manager for West Gippsland Libraries, Jenny Dunn said they were excited to be included in the project and “a new library in Cowes will be of great value to the community and surrounding area”.

“We are very fortunate to be actively involved in the consultation process with the architects and Council and are looking forward to working on the project with them,” Ms Dunn said.

“The library space will be much larger than the existing library and will allow us to offer additional programming and expand the collection. The design includes a dedicated children’s area, group collaboration tables, teen space and plenty of seating for visitors to enjoy some quiet time or use the Wifi.

“The finished development will be a wonderful community space where everyone can come together – a great asset for Phillip Island.”

The new plans have not pleased all the users, and Aleta Groves from the

Community Art and Craft Gallery was scathing in her assessment of the design (see separate story).

“There is nothing special or spectacular about this new building and like previous concepts it doesn’t address the needs of many groups including our Community Art and Craft Gallery,” she said.

However, Sandra Peeters said she believed all the groups would have to “compromise slightly” and the important thing for everybody involved in the new building was to work “together for the best outcomes”.



Chris Thompson, incoming President of the Phillip Island RSL congratulates past president Greg Mead OAM for his 50 years of service to RSL Australia.

50 years of service

The newly elected President of the Phillip Island RSL, Chris Thompson, took pleasure in presenting the Immediate Past President, Greg Mead OAM, with a Certificate of 50 Years Cumulative Service from RSL Australia.

Greg first joined the Dandenong RSL (where his father was a member) in 1970 whilst serving in the Royal Australian Air Force. In 1986 he transferred to Waver-

ley, where he spent 18 years on Committee. Greg was also Deputy CEO of ANZAC House for 12 years, prior to retiring and moving to Phillip Island, where he has spent 14 years at the RSL, including nearly 11 years as President.

He has many fond memories of his association with the RSL, and looks forward to PIRSL going from strength to strength.



It's important to get tested for coronavirus at the first sign of any symptom and stay home until you get your result.

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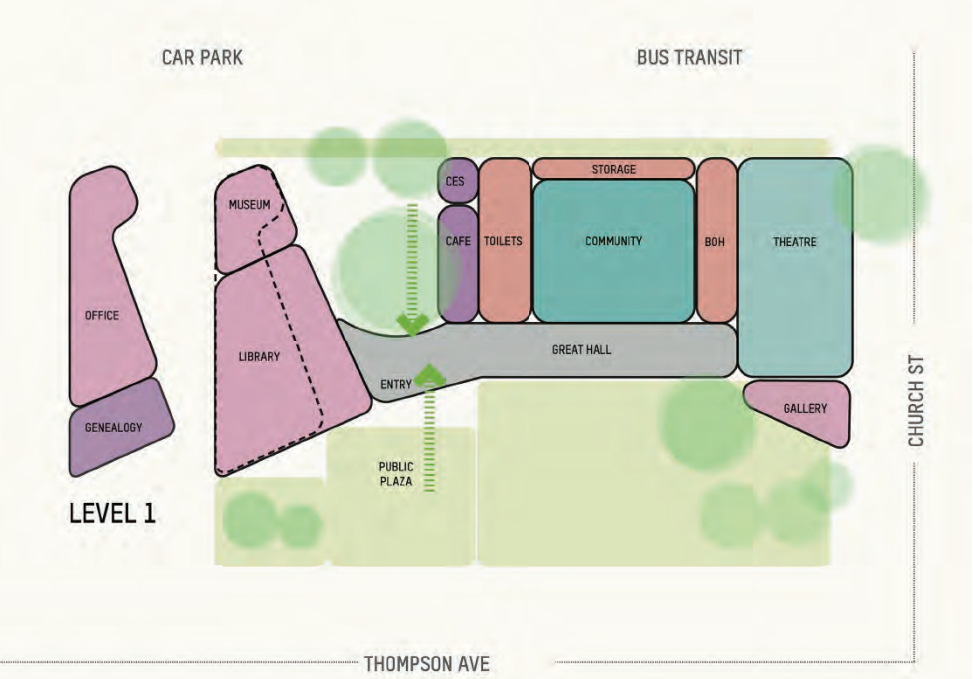
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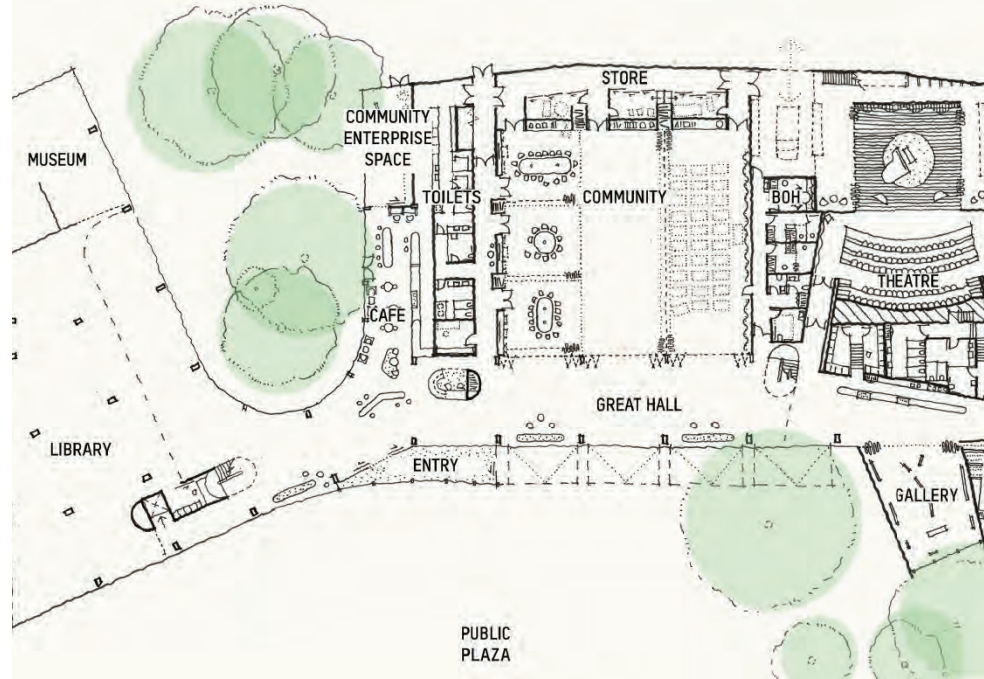
For more details visit vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





The plans for the two-storey building include a library, museum, gallery, community function space and theatre/cinema.



The building has been designed around the trees on the existing site and has entry points from Thompson Avenue and the carpark/transit centre.

Design breakdown

A brief explanation of the different spaces contained in the draft plans for the new Cowes Cultural and Community Centre.

Library and museum

The new library is located on the ground floor of the building, with windows overlooking the Thompson Avenue plaza as well as the courtyard and outdoor café seating area.

The 600 square metre floor space is three times the size of the existing library.

The library section has full-length windows on both sides, and windows are double-height on the courtyard side of the building.

Fortnightly meetings are underway with representatives from West Gippsland Library to finalise the design of the space.

The new library is expected to house the current collection and allow for expansion, as well as including spaces for seating, gathering, study, meeting and children's areas.

The museum, home for the Phillip Island Historical Society, has an open connection to the library, as well as its own door. There is also storage and office space for the society.

Above the library (on the first floor) will be office spaces, utilised by council, community groups and tourism bodies and a dedicated

space for the Genealogy society.

Entry, great hall and public spaces

The building will have two front doors, with entry from the car park and transit centre (via the courtyard) and the plaza on Thompson Avenue.

The great hall is designed to connect all parts of the building and can operate as a meeting space, function, exhibition and pre-performance space for the theatre.

The Visitor Information kiosk, which will also provide Council Customer Service, will be located in the great hall.

The building includes three separate amenity blocks, two on the ground floor and one on level one.

Café, arts and crafts

A café located directly across from the library also opens out onto the courtyard.

Directly adjacent to the café is the "Community Enterprise Space" which will showcase local arts and crafts and will be home to the Phillip Island Arts and Craft Gallery.

The space also has its own front door onto the courtyard.

Theatre/cinema and gallery

The 256-fixed seat venue provides a space for a cinema and can double as a theatre.

It will not run as a commercial cinema but will have a curated program.

The theatre/cinema includes seating set over two storeys, dressing rooms and toilet facilities, as well as a bar and box office space. The dressing rooms can be shared with the community function rooms.

The design includes a full-size theatre stage and lighting rigs, with storage behind the stage and rear loading access.

Throughout the consultation process, many in the community have called for retractable seating in the theatre, to allow for great flex-

ibility for performances and functions, however the architects said that would be provided through the community functions rooms.

A dedicated art gallery is situated next to the theatre with views to Thompson Avenue and Church Street. The gallery design allows for various configurations.

Community function rooms

The largest space on the plan is the community function rooms which are divided into three spaces, providing a five-room day-to-day set up.

This includes three meetings rooms, a middle section providing a "wet area" for artists, with the final third space having a mirrored wall for dance rehearsals and lessons. The flooring in the space will be suitably designed for dance and performance groups.

The spaces are joined by retractable walls and can be reconfigured to create a 320 square metre performance space or combining all three to create one large space able to seat 400 people for large functions.

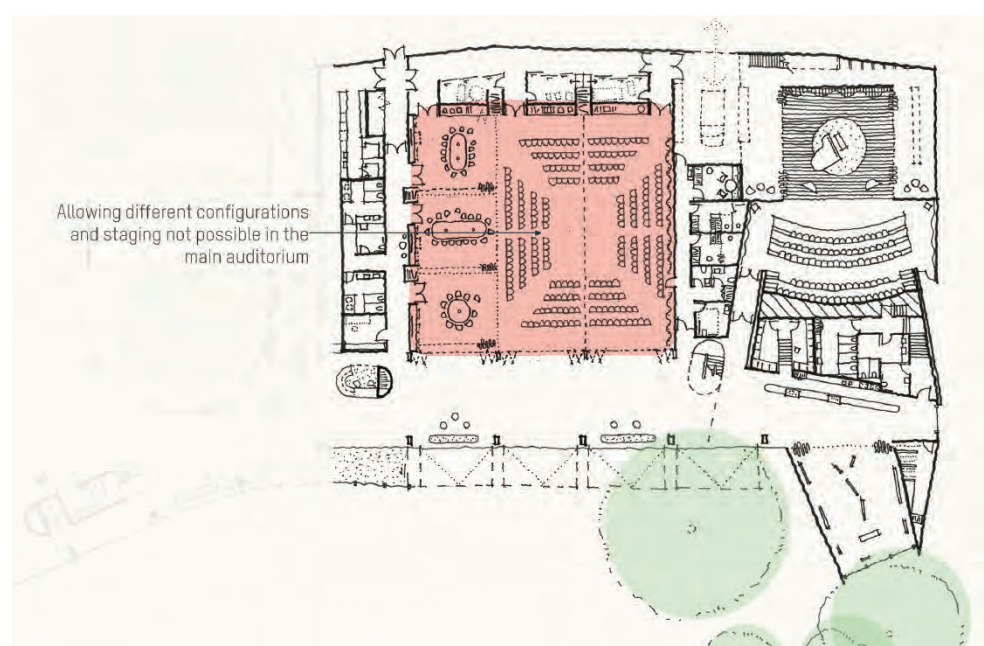
There are large storage spaces at the rear of the section. It has access to the commercial kitchen on one side and the theatre dressing rooms on the other, as well as rear loading access.

Outdoor spaces

The design includes entry from the car park and transit centre through an outdoor courtyard, as well as via a public plaza on Thompson Avenue.

The architects will consult with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation on the outdoor landscaping and have a designated Indigenous Engagement architect, Sarah Lynn Rees working on the project.

Outdoor landscaping will be done in conjunction with Site Office, a firm of landscape architects and will "celebrate the landscape and geography of Cowes itself" said the architects.



The Community Function Rooms can be reconfigured to create a 320 square metre performance space or combined to create one large space able to seat 400 people for large functions.

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TO THE CLUB WE LOVE



What might have been

On Sunday, Phillip Island Seniors coach Beau Vernon posted this heartfelt message and photo on Facebook.

With two premierships in 2018 and 2019 under his belt, he was going for the hat trick in 2020. What might have been until Covid 19 put paid to the footy season.

"Today would have been Grand Final Day ... a day we are accustomed to. Our Seniors and Under 16 teams could potentially have been playing for a 3peat. And ideally (we would have) had other football and netball teams in the action.

"Imagine what the Kennel would have been like tonight."

Football on Phillip Island is steeped in history, and has been an important part of our local community since 1892.

Up until the pandemic we are now in, September on the island was an exciting time of the year for our local sportsmen,



On the day the 2020 West Gippsland Football Netball grand final series was to be played, the island's senior coach Beau Vernon lamented a lost opportunity.

women, and their families and followers, as Beau has reflected this week.

The month of September has always heralded the staging of the footy and netball grand final series, and the exciting climax to a hard fought season.

This year there are no red, white and blue streamers waving from the bridge. Not a single senior game has been played.

Hopes of a late return were dashed months ago ... and now the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) has watched with dismay the unique opportunity to make history in 2020 disappear, by taking out a third consecutive senior premiership in the West Gippsland Football League.

With our pages bereft of footy reports and netball news throughout this year, the Advertiser this week invokes some old football memories, to tide us all over until next year.

It's more than a game

An important part of every country community

Take a drive through the Victorian countryside on any winter Saturday, and the scene is repeated from town to town.

Bright colours, a circle of people, ... a country ritual, you might say ... as each recreation reserve comes to life in a day of enthusiastic rivalry and sport.

But there is much more to the day than ... you guessed it ... a game of football.

It is the one day of the week over winter when the generations meet, when the community gathers, and when a

day of happy camaraderie ensues.

The faces that ring the oval are familiar ... many having taken to the field themselves in days gone by.

Now they are here cheering on their sons and their mates, and welcoming the newcomers, over four matches that are played from morning through to late afternoon.

People of all ages and from all walks of life rub shoulders and enjoy this time of meeting and greeting, and watching the game together.

Quarter time breaks sees the time-honoured ritual of male spectators

(mainly) surrounding the resting players, and listening intently to the directions of the coach.

Half time sees budding young enthusiasts playing kick to kick on the ground, and dreaming of the day when they too will pull on the red, white and blue colours, and do their island proud.

Toddlers play in the sand, teenagers gather in groups, parents and grandparents look on proudly, and the volunteers in the canteen cheerfully dispense refreshments.

Nearby, on the adjacent netball

courts, a similar scene plays out albeit on a smaller scale.

A parade of teams engage in a game of skill against their district opponents, as the day wears on, with spectators wandering between the oval and the courts to cheer the girls on.

The unhurried scene belies, however, the massive organisation and volunteer manpower that makes this weekend scene possible week in and week out over winter.

Coaches for each team, scorers, umpires, trainers, boundary and goalkeepers, timekeepers, team

managers, canteen helpers, gatekeepers: volunteers on the day number over 100.

Players enjoy the support and dedication of many people, including local business sponsors which support the Club's efforts.

And the day always runs like clockwork.

The familiar scene never changes and has enriched our community for over 100 years.

Until this year, when a pandemic hit.

Here's a look back over the years, at a club that has endured.



Phillip Island can count on vocal supporters to cheer them on when it comes to finals times. Here are some in previous years at finals time.



PIFNC stalwart Tuppy Cleeland flies the flags, as she always does, at a Phillip Island grand final. Tuppy spends her time going between the netball and football, cheering on the island's footy and netball players on most Saturdays throughout winter.



A TRIBUTE TO THE CLUB WE LOVE



From left are Winston, Laurie, John and Donald Dixon, pictured with their father Rex in the late 1950s. Rex was a champion island footballer who played in the 1920s and 30s. Laurie, Don and John Dixon still have a lifelong association with the Phillip Island Football Club. The four brothers played about 800 games for Phillip Island between them. They are the grandsons of Phillip Island's most famous benefactor WE Thompson, who donated Warley Hospital and after whom Thompson Avenue is named. The importance of country football and 74 years of the establishment of the Phillip Island Club is not lost on these former players. "It's one of the most important parts of the community," they still say today.

A dynasty of Dixons

One name that remains synonymous with the Phillip Island Football Club is that of the Dixon family. This association was forged well before the present club was formed when the Dixon brothers from Ventnor – Rex, Bob, Bill and young "Snowy" (Frank) – took to the field in what was then a four team island competition.

They were keen sportsmen, noted for their strength and skill on the football field. Rex, in particular, was a champion player, and the idol of his five sons, Don, twins Laurie and John, and Winston and Howard.

All five boys played football for Phillip Island for various periods of time ... and Don, Laurie and John, who remained living here, continue an unbroken association

with the Club to this day.

On one occasion all five boys played in a seniors match together in a semi-final against Dalyston.

The Dixon combination helped secure a win for the island that day. The playing days for Don, Laurie and John began in 1954 while they were still in their teens.

One of the strongest memories of those early playing days was being coached by Charlie Luke ("Geez he was bloody good!") who led by example.

As time progressed the Dixon boys established themselves in the following line-up: Winston at full-back, Don at centre half forward, John at centre half back and Laurie at full forward.

Such was Laurie's sharp shooting that he took out the league's

goal kicking award in 1958.

The one thing that cemented the team together in those days was the camaraderie that existed, and loyalty to each other, which holds to this day.

The players were all local lads.

"We'd always stick together, on the field and at the social functions," said John.

"Phillip Island is the only team I played for. I'd never leave to play against my mates."

There were no club rooms and only basic and rustic change rooms for players and umpires in those days.

The Newhaven and the Cowes Shire halls became the hub of the club.

"It gives young kids something to belong to and to do on a Saturday. And training twice a week keeps them fit and healthy."



Life members of the PIFNC are pictured at the Club's 70th birthday celebrations. From left they are Kaye Beaton, Mary Taylor, Korral Guy and Daisy Weir. Kaye was selected as a member of the Island's best ever netball team.



From left George Haddon (Premiership player 1964), Bob Davie (former island player in the 1950's), Gabby Fenech (Island reserves captain coach 1975-79, and 1980-81), Don Dixon (1962 premiership player), Kevin Wagner (1962 and 1964 premiership player, life member and former club president) and John Peters (1981 premiership player and Club life member.) recalled old times at the Phillip Island Football Club's 70th birthday celebrations in 2016.



Some island greats

A highlight of the PIFNC 70th anniversary celebrations in 2016 was the announcement of an all-time greats team, selected from those premiership players who wore the red, white and blue between 1946 and 2016. Six premierships were won over that period, and the best players were chosen from those six premiership sides.

John Niven, who played in both the 1962 and 1964 premierships, was selected as captain coach of the all time greats team.

Team members or their representatives are: Back from left Bob Smith (1981), Bill Ryan (1981), Daryl Vernon (1990), Tony Zoannetti (1981), James Taylor (2014) represented by

his father Gerald, Keith De Looze (1990) represented by Shane Gislingham, Jamie Youle (2014), Brendan Kimber (2014), John Niven (1962 and 1964) represented by Moon Weir. Front: Hugh Stoppa (1964), Ray Dickie (1962 and 1964), John Dixon (1962 and 1964), Bob Watson (1951), Eddie Docherty (1990) represented by Annabelle Docherty, Barry Toovey (1964) and Richie Davie (1981 and 1990). Not present for the photo were Laurie Dixon (1962 and 1964), Laurie Hower (1990), Danny Williams (1990), Des Cartwright (1951), Rod Kent (1990), Roger Wagner, David Cooney (1981 and 1990) and Richard Patching (1990).



Past and present PIFNC members are pictured at The Club's 70th birthday celebrations in 2016. From left they are Mick Taylor, Simon Manning, Rob Barnard, Owen Robinson, John Weston (also the 1981 Premiership Captain and Coach) and Tony Moxey.



A TRIBUTE

TO THE CLUB WE LOVE



Five from one family play on grand final day

The Taylor family have been heavily involved in PIFNC over the past two decades.

Gerald and Michael Taylor have served on numerous PIFNC committees, and their sons and daughters have featured prominently in island football and netball sides.

They are pictured at the ground in 2018 following Phillip Island's sensational defeat of Koo Wee Rup for the West Gippsland League premiership.

Five family members had played in grand final matches that day.

Jack and James Taylor played in the senior premiership side against Koo Wee Rup, with Jack also playing his 100th game for the island on

that day.

Billy played in the U18 premiership team which had trounced Cora Lynn earlier in the day; Will Taylor Eagles played in the U16 hard fought grand final match against Koo Wee Rup, and Maddy Taylor played in the C-Grade netball grand final team against Inverloch/Kongwak.

The family is pictured together after the game with siblings/cousins who cheered them on through all the games.

Back are Jack and Shane Taylor; centre row James and Billy Taylor and Will Taylor Eagles, and front are Max and Maddie Taylor, with proud mums Mary and Andrea Taylor.

A famous football family

Five generations and growing

The most famous family name in island football over the last century must surely be that of McLardy.

In the early 1900s, the McLardy brothers Newt, Bill and Alex were a force to be reckoned with in the Phillip Island football competition.

And their descendants have been pulling on football jumpers and representing island teams for the past 100 years. The McLardy footballing tradition began prior to the First World War when Bill, Newt and Alex all played for Cowes in a three-team contest.

In those days, there was no bridge and the competition was confined to the local districts of Rhyll, Ventnor and Cowes.

The brothers played well into the 1920s and were outstanding sportsmen, with Newt also playing VFL for Melbourne.

By the time Newt and Bill's sons, also called Newt and Bill, and Bill's brother Jack, were playing for the island 20 years later, a Phillip Island bridge had been built and the competition extended to take in the Wonthaggi district.

The three cousins, second generation footballers, were all outstanding players and won many awards.

The third generation through Bill's line saw his son Garry McLardy, don the red white and blue.

And Garry's three sons Bill, Jason and Brendan represented the fourth generation of McLardy descendants to play island football.

Garry's sister Elaine Williams (nee McLardy) was the mother of an island captain coach Danny Williams, and island player in the 90s Tony Cleeland.

Another sister Leigh is the mother of Justin Cutler, who played for the island.



A fine island football tradition that started back in the early 1900s when the McLardy brothers Newt, Bill and Alex pulled on the red, white and blue, continues to this day in a way that these island footy pioneers could never have envisaged or imagined. Five of their great, great, great granddaughters played for Phillip Island in the only game that our local girls football team managed to get in due to this Covid affected year. They are Charlie and Bella Ross, Lily and Maya Huther, and Lexie Walton. The girls five brothers/cousins play in the island's junior sides.

In addition to the son named after him, Newt McLardy also had four daughters May (Webster) June (Stephens) Heather (Hamilton) and Vi (Marshall).

May, June and Heather's husbands all played football for Phillip Island.

Through Newt's line, third generation footballers included June's son Bill Stephens: May's four sons John, Lance, Allan and Newt Webster; and Heather's son Stuart Hamilton. Donnie, his brother, was the Club's chief supporter. The fourth generation of that side of the football family include June's grandson Scott Huther, May's grandson Andrew Webster, and Heather's grandsons Ben and James Hamilton.

And the fifth generation of McLar-

dy line young footballers are currently coming along.

All great grandsons of June McLardy, they are Max and Cooper Walton, Brady and Archie Ross, and Jack Huther, all playing in the island's up and coming junior teams.

With the recent introduction of girls football into the local competition, the McLardy line is again very much to the fore.

June McLardy's great granddaughters Charlie and Bella Ross, Lexi Walton, and Lily and Maya Huther, were quick to join up.

The McLardy family, which indeed represents a football dynasty, certainly looks set to be just as strong a force in local footy in the future, as it has in the past.

Footy on Phillip Island since the 1890s

The year 2020 marks the formation of the Phillip Island Football Club 74 years ago.

But footy had been played competitively on the island long before that time.

It seems that football arrived on Phillip Island in 1890.

Cowes and Rhyll were the only teams, and the site of the present golf course, the only spot on the island dry enough in those days for a game to be played, was used.

For matches on the mainland, players went on horseback the day before, stayed overnight at a hotel, and rode on next day to the designated football ground.

The Mornington Standard reported in 1890 that the first football match played at Flinders in eight years was against a team from Cowes, and resulted in an easy victory for Flinders.

In August that year, Flinders arrived over at Cowes to play.

Cowes won, seven goals to nil, and the Flinders team went home after the match on the Genesta.

There are further reports in the Mornington Standard of a match in 1894 between Cowes and Hastings, played at Hastings, with the Cowes team arriving by steamer and train.

That same year in August, Cowes played Grantville at Grantville, with the Grantville side 13.13 beating Cowes 3.1.

In 1909 a combined team from Hastings and Rhyll played Cowes at Phillip Island, with the combined

team winning and H Carmichael best on ground.

In 1919, an island competition was organised, with teams fielded from Cowes, Rhyll and Ventnor.

In 1926, the annual presentation night of the Phillip Island Football Association had an attendance of 120. Three teams comprised the Association, Cowes, Ventnor and Rhyll.

Fifteen matches were played between May 22 and August 25 that year, with the Cowes team winning the pennant, accepted by captain E Jenner. It was noted that not one player was reported throughout the season. The junior pennant was won by the Cowes State School, defeating Ventnor in a close finish.

Mr Alex McLardy was commended for his untiring effort as PIFA secretary.

The Age, reporting the state's football grand final results in 1929, printed that Phillip Island 11.16 had defeated Prestige Hosiery.

By the year 1930, the island was able to enter two teams into the Westernport Association. These were called Phillip Island and Islanders United. Colours were brown and gold, and red, white and blue respectively.

However, it was back to one team by 1934.

Josua Gliddon, in his book Phillip Island in Picture and Story, made the following comment.

"If thrills were scarce in a game on the mainland, the Eastern Passage frequently provided some

on the way home. A drenching in rough seas, becoming stuck fast on a mud bank till midnight, and the vagaries of a boatman who had not joined the Rechabites, were among the variety."

The Frankston and Somerville Standard reported in August 1930 that the hitherto unbeaten Kilcunda met its Waterloo at Cowes, suffering defeat by six points in a most strenuous match.

"All the men in the overseas team played like veterans," wrote the Standard, and Cowes players Percy McFee on the back line, Harry Nelson with great judgement, Rex Dixon a tower of strength, and captain Duffy singled out for high praise.

Jack McFee, Noel Cleeland and Harold Jones also got a mention.

Island Association formed

In 1937, an Island Association was formed, with three teams, Cowes, Ventnor and a combined Rhyll and Newhaven side.

After a season or two, Cowes withdrew, and the vacancy was filled by French Island.

A boatman from Rhyll used to ship the boys across the bay when a game had to be played there.

War intervenes

This competition ended in 1940, chiefly because of the intervention of World War 2.

Eight years went by without a Phillip Island team competing on the mainland.

In 1945 the Glen Alvie Football Association and the Wonthaggi Football Association merged to form the Wonthaggi and District Football League.

Soon after, Phillip Island, Bass and Inverloch were admitted to the League. In 1946, Kilcunda joined.

The participating teams in the newly formed League in 1946 were Dalyston, Bass, East Wonthaggi, Glen Alvie, Inverloch, Kilcunda, Phillip Island, San Remo, Shop Assistants and Workmen's Club.

The Phillip Island Reserves team won the grand final in that first year.

The Newhaven San Remo bridge had been built, but there were still no buses for the footballers.

The Club secretary Russell Wilson wrote: "Players and supporters including girlfriends, wives, babies and anyone who could bar-rack used to pile into a motor truck when games had to be played away."

"These were great times, and in the first season, a semi-final was played on the island for what was the only time in island football history."

For a number of years, the Island competed against a mainland side for the benefit of Warley Hospital.

A shield was annually presented to the winner of this match.

Our first premiership

In September 1951 Phillip Island won its first premiership in the Wonthaggi and District Football League when they defeated Wont-

haggi in the Grand Final.

They had previously been runners up five times.

1955 saw the amalgamation of the Bass Valley Football Association and the Wonthaggi and District Football League to form the Bass Valley Wonthaggi and District Football League.

The newly formed Bass Valley League clubs in 1955 were Dalyston, Bass, Bena, East Wonthaggi, Glen Alvie, Inverloch, Kilcunda, Kongwak, Korumburra Butter Factory, Loch, Nyora, Phillip Island and Shop Assistants.

In 1967 Lang Lang joined the competition, (later to leave in 1981) and in 1969, so did Wonthaggi Blues.

1995 was the final year of the Bass Valley League and in 1996 Dalyston, Inverloch Kongwak, Bena, Wonthaggi Rovers and Korumburra joined the Alberton Football League.

In 1996, Phillip Island joined the West Gippsland Football League after the Bass Valley Wonthaggi District Football League disbanded.

Phillip Island now plays in the West Gippsland Football/Netball League.

Eight premierships in the modern era

Phillip Island has won eight senior football premierships in the modern era: in 1951, 1962, 1964, 1981, 1990, 2014, 2018 and 2019.



A TRIBUTE TO THE CLUB WE LOVE



An ecstatic Phillip Island Senior Football side hold the West Gippsland Football Netball League Premiership Cup aloft in front of an army of elated supporters, after keeping contenders Koo Wee Rup goalless in an amazing grand final display at Garfield in 2018.



A talented Phillip Island Under 16 side takes to the ground in the Under 16 grand final match against Koo Wee Rup in 2018. In shocking conditions, the boys gave it their all, but it was not to be.



Phillip Island's A Grade premiership contenders went down to Dalyston by the narrowest of margins ... just one goal ... in the 2018 League grand final. Team members pictured (back from left) are: Kelly O'Neill, Amber Formosa, Cailin Robinson, Emily Donovan, Laurie Piera, Janelle Smyth (captain) and Kasey Beattie. Front (from left) are: Stephanie Sivori, Nell Chaston, Kate Steel, Chelsea Connell, and Jules Morris (Team Manager).



The Phillip Island Football Netball Club's best ever players over the past three decades selected to form an all-greats island team, was announced at the Club's 70th birthday celebrations in 2016. Those selected were presented with medallions in recognition of this achievement. Pictured from left are team members: Josie Thornborrow, Kay Beaton, Therese Van Putten, Diddie Cuthbertson, Andrea Blair Dempsey, Casey Beattie, Laurie Piera, and Leana Caile. Team members selected but absent were Colleen Eddy and Stephanie Hermann.



Girls footy is relatively new on Phillip Island in the West Gippsland Football Netball League. But it has been a huge success, with the island girls winning the West Gippsland premiership in just their third season in the League in 2019. Much of their success has been due to the dedication and time put in by their coach Diddie Cuthbertson, and the training undertaken with the girls by volunteers at the Club.



The Gislingham name is synonymous with island football. This photo was taken in 2016 at the Club's 70th birthday celebration. Shane Gislingham was a 1990 premiership player, his father Jim manned the football gates for decades, son Jessie is a keen junior footballer, Carol Gislingham is the Advertiser footy photographer on occasions, and Adele washed many a footy jumper and cheered from the sidelines over the years.



Phillip Island Under 15 netballers were the WGFNL premiers, after defeating Korumburra by three goals, in 2018.

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Stay home and go to school

Teachers at Wonthaggi Secondary College took a novel approach to lift students' spirits during the latest round of remote learning.

Andrew McIntosh, a PE teacher and part of the Year 7 coordination team decided to write a song to help get the students through the second round of remote learning.

Andrew, known at school as Mr Mac, said the staff wanted to let the students know they were with them and appreciated how hard remote learning can be.

As part of the coordination team, Andrew said he regularly calls families to check how remote learning is going.

"A lot of them are doing it hard. For the kids, everything they remember about school – the excursions, sports, going to Melbourne to see shows – that's all gone.

"The Year 12s won't get breakup, a presentation night or graduation party.

"I wanted to give the kids five minutes respite from what's been a pretty difficult term."

So he put pen to paper, and fingers to the fret, to compose a song that was "instructional and inspirational", saying it took about a week to come up with the words.

He then filmed and recorded "Stay home and go to school" in a few takes in his kitchen, straight to the computer and asked other staff members to photograph or film themselves holding inspirational messages for the students.

Then it was all compiled into a video that was released on the school's



Andrew McIntosh, Phys-ed teacher and part of the Year 7 Coordination Team at Wonthaggi Secondary College wrote a song to help lift students' spirits during the second round of remote learning.

Facebook page.

To date, it's had more than 4000 views.

"I really wanted to do something for our community, and say 'guys, hang in there'," said Andrew.

"If they got a laugh out of it, or something that gave them inspiration – so be it. Whatever they got was okay as far as I'm concerned.

"Some kids and parents are very short of resources. Some kids are working on hotspots off phones. Others have to share computers. We have to look after the welfare of the kids.

"That's what I was trying to get through in the song. We're here to look after you."

Andrew said the school had learned a lot from the first round of remote learning and this time, the focus was on student wellbeing.

"Instead of trying to stick to a rigid timetable, we tried to take into account what the kids can do at home.

"These are exceptional circumstances. If a kid says 'I'm really struggling and falling behind', I say how often have you gone through a pandemic? Once! That's okay then. The feelings you have are completely reasonable.

"Maybe this whole experience will be a good reference point. It's a tough time, but they got through it.

"Hopefully the kids will appreciate school a whole lot more and the work their teachers do.

"I think we all appreciate life a bit more."



Aiden Harris from the Yr.7 Coordination Team got into the spirit of the video.

Snake search

Are copperheads our only snakes?

A recent article in the Advertiser (August 19) about a copperhead spotted in Newhaven, sparked a debate among locals on the existence of other breeds on Phillip Island.

Dr Duncan Sutherland, Deputy Research Director at Phillip Island Nature Parks said copperheads were the only known breed of snake here and are a protected species.

"No other species has been identified, except one unconfirmed record from many decades ago," said Dr Sutherland.

However, when the story was posted online, the responses tell a different story.

"I've seen red-bellied black snakes," said Ben Leak, while Stewart Dwyer claimed he'd seen tiger snakes.

Ricardo Barfuss said there were brown snakes and death adders here as well, while Simon Hartley claimed in a grass fire at the Nobbies "a few years back, four different species of snake were found, including red-bellied black, tiger and a small brown snake."

Dr Sutherland said it was likely some of the sightings were a case of mistaken identity.

"Copperheads can look quite variable in colour, so can be mistaken for black snakes or tiger snakes.

He agreed it was possible that other species might be brought onto the island inadvertently, in a load of hay, or pile of wood for example. How-



Newhaven residents recently encountered this copperhead basking near a walking track.

ever, this was unlikely to result in a new snake population.

"It's always possible other species can be brought onto the island, but they cannot breed with copperheads."

While the Nature Parks does not have a snake monitoring program, Dr Sutherland said staff did encounter them from time to time.

"They are a valuable part of the ecosystem that we work in. We respect their place in the Nature Parks.

"They are an important predator of frogs and other small prey which includes rats and mice."

Dr Sutherland said female copperheads produced an average of 20 young during their lifespan and said the reptiles were ovoviparous – which means the young hatch from the egg inside the mother's body and emerge live.

He said the copperhead could often be encountered basking in the morning, then hiding when it got too hot and were likely to be spotted this time of year.

"They're cold adapted, so can be active even in cool and rainy conditions," he said.

If you do encounter one, his advice is to leave it alone.

"Copperheads are in no way aggressive. If there is a concern, you will need to call a registered snake handler that can remove problem snakes if needed."

The warmer weather means other local reptiles will be more active, including blue-tongue lizards and skinks, so watch out on the roads and walking tracks.

For more information about copperheads, visit: australian.museum/learn/animals/reptiles/copperhead/



Concerned citizen takes up the cause

A 36-year-old Bass Coast resident has created a report detailing the shire's flora and fauna extinctions, calling for increased environmental protections in the lead up to the October council elections.

Laura Burns, from Inverloch (pictured), said she was so concerned about the loss of species she compiled "Our Extinction Crisis – Bass Coast".

The report states more than 90 per cent of native vegetation has been cleared from Bass Coast, "leading to problems of ecosystem decline, threatened species and risk of extinctions".

There are four threatened ecological communities in our region, including endangered giant kelp marine forests.

Laura's report says Bass Coast Shire is home to 58 nationally listed threatened species including, the growling grass frog, and giant

Gippsland earthworm.

However there are some unusual inclusions in that list, including albatross and blue whale.

"I researched Federal Government data to compile the report and the fact it includes some species not seen here, yet doesn't include others that local residents know to be at risk, highlights that more research is needed and data is flawed.

"If we don't properly understand what is threatened, how can we protect it?"

"I call on council to use the expertise of local environment groups to improve local data and knowledge."

Lauren, who has an engineering degree, called for election candidates to support planning policies that support the co-existence of people and wildlife.

"I wrote Our Extinction Crisis to place a global problem in the local context of our Bass Coast region."

Welcome Josie

Phillip Island Conservation Society has appointed Josephine (Josie) Kent as secretary.

Josie has lived on the island since 1980 and worked for fifteen years as the part time arts and culture officer for Bass Coast Shire Council. She is also a well-known local artist.

Her love and commitment to the natural environment is reflected in her work, as well as roles such as secretary of the Saltwater Creek Action Group and membership of the Nobbies group.

Welcoming Josie to the role, PICS president Jeff Nottle noted that Josie had always recognised the important contributions that conservationists have made to island life.

He said PICS will "grow and further flourish with the Josie on the team".

Mr Nottle said in the current difficult times there was "now more focus on the importance and the need



Josie Kent has been appointed secretary of the Phillip Island Conservation Society.

to protect and enhance our natural world".

Josie can be contacted by email: phillipislandconservation@gmail.com

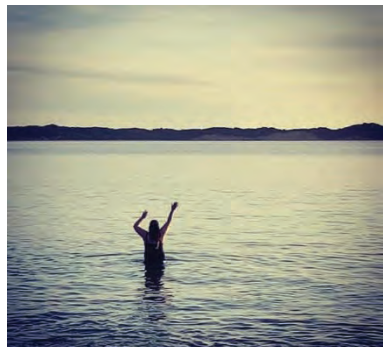
Taking the plunge

This year's Polar Bear swim to mark the start of spring was blessed with sunshine and warmth, although Covid restrictions put a dampener on the usually exuberant swim.

Even in the water, there was plenty of social distancing and organiser Jenny Low said some of their regular "bears" weren't able to attend, as they live in Melbourne or Geelong.

As usual, there were three firm rules in place for the fun event. No wetsuits, no nudity and you must put your head under the water.

This is the twelfth polar bear swim, which takes place each year on the first day of spring.



Taking social distancing to heart at this year's Polar Bear swim on the Cowes foreshore.

Lockdown lowdown

During the first lockdown, Surf Beach's Lisa McLure says she drank more, exercised less and ended up in a 'bad head space'.

Even though she is a personal trainer, this second lockdown Lisa has hired a personal trainer and is quickly reaping the benefits.

"Last weekend my friend and I ran from Cowes to San Remo.

It took us one hour and 45 minutes, which is roughly seven minutes to run each kilometre. We slowed down when it got hard.

I used to do it with a running group years ago and I never thought it would be possible to run that distance again.

I am coming off a zero base. I haven't run in two years, since before my operation.

I always said to myself I must lose 10kg or 15kg if I'm going to run again. I even tried all those silly food shakes.

Six weeks ago I could barely walk what is now my five kilometre running route.

I couldn't have done any of it without my personal trainer Jay (from Grip Fitness).

I'm part way through his 12-week program.

After the last lockdown I was in such a rut and a bad head space: drinking every day and sitting around all the time with home schooling.

I was tired and over-committed and I put myself on the backburner. It all became too hard.

After that it was obvious I couldn't

do it on my own, I needed help.

I'm a personal trainer, but I'm also still human.

People come to me because they want someone to push them. But I'm not a superhero – I need someone to push me. It's like professional gardeners have gardens that are messy or builders have unfinished homes.

Because I motivate others, I just want to be handed something so I can switch off and I also need someone to pat me on the head and tell me I've done a good job.

Jay has written the online program to suit me and my injuries.

I fill it in and every day Jay checks in with me either by text, phone or in person, whether it's to encourage me, or if I've had a bad day he says 'forgive, forget, move on'.

It started slowly with a 30 minute walk the first two weeks, floor exercises, gradually moving to a 1.5-hour walk, and then a walk-run.

I wear a heart rate monitor and give him the stats.

It's not just burpees and push-ups, but the mental aspect too.

I keep a gratitude diary, writing down what I'm grateful for every day.

Some days I'm just grateful for alcohol and bed, but then the next day I'm grateful for friendships, health care workers and people looking out for each other.

So when I'm running and thinking I'm going to cark it, I then think about how good it will feel to jump in the ocean or be in the shower. I think about the bits where I'm proud of myself.



Lisa McLure with her personal trainer Jay Milford-Robertson

Or if there are days I'd rather poke my eyes out with a chainsaw than go for a run – and then I spend the rest of the day wishing I had done it – it's about forgive, forget, move on.

Everyone knows the answers to all this. There's no magic pill, or quick fix, even though the diet industry would like us to think that. It comes down to eat well and exercise.

For me it's less about the gym and more about getting outside and walking. Even after a big walk I feel amazing.

If people don't want a personal trainer, I think it helps to have someone to be accountable to, whether it's a partner or a friend.

It's also good to have an exercise buddy, because it's a commitment. I know if I don't go, I'll let them down. It's so easy to spend the whole day talking myself out of it.

Some people prefer exercising alone at home.

I have a friend who needs someone to yell at her otherwise she won't exercise, whereas other friends if they're yelled at, they won't try it again.

It's whatever works for the individual.

With this program I feel so much better. I'm sleeping well, I still have anxious days, but not as frequently.

I got on the scales the other day – even though I always say don't look at them. I'd only lost two kilos but then I looked at a photo from before the program and my whole body shape has changed. I look so much stronger now.

I think it's really important not to compare ourselves to four years ago when we were 20kg lighter.

Especially as women we look back and think 'I want to be like I was then'. But I was 38 four years ago and life was different. Ok cool, I looked like that then, but this is me now.

I thought this morning on my run: we need to look back and smile and look forward with determination."

Cautious approach applauded Some relief, but no good news for business

Jan Child, CEO of Bass Coast Health said a cautious approach to dealing with the pandemic had helped Bass Coast avert the human tragedy seen in other parts of the world and the state.

"Announcements made by the Victorian Premier on Sunday enable Bass Coast Health to maintain our position of strength and preparedness to ensure we will not have to deal with a third wave of the insidious COVID-19," Ms Child said.

Although some local residents and businesses have expressed frustration at the cautious approach, Ms Child said the announcements provided regional areas such as Bass Coast further breathing space.

"We are buoyed that gradual changes to restrictions will positively impact the wellbeing of our community. We also ask that we do not undo the gains that we have made.

"Maintaining those five actions and responsibilities of staying 1.5 metres apart, wearing a face covering, washing and sanitising your hands and responding to any potential symptoms of COVID-19 by getting tested and isolating will help us to stay on track."

Controlling community transmission

She said getting on top of community transmission through Stage 3 restrictions meant BCH had been able to quickly and effectively respond to the one confirmed case in Kirrak House Aged Care, preventing an outbreak in the facility.

Ms Child said in the second lockdown there had been no COVID-19 inpatients at BCH, with only a handful of positive presentations through the ED. There had also only been one positive test result through the testing services since August 31.

Nonetheless, she said the past month had been challenging.

"The challenge has been the significant effort from our staff across functions and skill sets in protecting our staff and clients while continuing to deliver care; this work has prevented BCH from being inundated."

Hotspots

Although Bass Coast currently has no active cases recorded, neighbouring areas of Casey, Cardinia and Latrobe

have significant numbers of infections.

Casey (which includes Cranbourne, Clyde and Tooradin) currently has 95 active cases, making it the seventh highest local government area for infections, behind Wyndham, Brimbank, Hume, Melton, Moreland and Darebin.

Cardinia (which includes Pakenham, Koo Wee Rup, Caldermeade and Lang Lang) currently has 27 active cases.

Latrobe has 12 active cases, making it one of the highest regional case centres, behind Geelong (19) and Colac Otway (25).

Other Gippsland shires all have between zero and two cases.

"High numbers of cases in neighbouring regions and the high instance of health care workers infected in other services in metropolitan Melbourne show how quickly COVID-19 spreads," said Ms Child.

"This is one of the reasons that Bass Coast Health has gone over and above when protecting our staff and clients and why we will continue to advocate for caution in our community so that we do not have to face the same impacts."

Wastewater tested for Coronavirus fragments

A national research program is analysing sewage for fragments of Coronavirus at sites across Victoria.

A regional sewage treatment plant in Wonthaggi is one of 25 sampling sites established across Victoria's metropolitan and regional sewage network as part of the ColoSSoS (Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2) research project.

Coordinated by Water Research Australia, the project brings together health departments, water utilities, laboratories and researchers from Australia and New Zealand.

Last week, viral fragments of Coronavirus were detected in wastewater taken from the sewer network at

Apollo Bay.

This is despite there being no known cases in the Apollo Bay area in recent weeks, so the Department of Health and Human Services has stepped up testing in the area.

The government said the test result may be a result of someone with COVID-19 who hasn't been detected through testing. It could also be because someone who has previously had COVID-19 is continuing to "shed" the virus. It can take several weeks for someone to stop shedding the virus and further analysis is required to assess the significance of the preliminary result. The fragments themselves are not infectious.

Victoria's Chief Health Officer Professor Brett Sutton said wastewater testing provided an additional and complementary tool to the existing public health response.

"It can provide early warning that Coronavirus is in a community before traditional testing methods.

"Finding cases early can help our disease detectives track the spread of the virus and implement strategies to minimise transmission preventing hotspots or clusters before they have time to develop.

"Anyone feeling unwell with even the mildest of symptoms should get tested as soon as possible and isolate as they wait for their result."

Take the test

You should be tested if you display even the mildest symptoms, including: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste.

Due to a reduction in numbers presenting for tests, changes have been made to testing times at the Urgent Care Centre and the Wonthaggi drive through testing.

Testing is available at:
• Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. People

are encouraged to present between 1.30pm and 3pm to minimise wait times.

• Wonthaggi Hospital drive through testing service is now available between 10am-4pm, 7 days a week.

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

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

Islanders get a hand to Startup

SHORT STACK

A quick roundup of news, views and opportunities

Five Phillip Islanders are part of this year's Startup Gippsland Incubator program, designed to support businesses and entrepreneurs across Gippsland.

Beau Vernon, Peta Strachan, Kieran Black, Lewis Ray and Sarah Dowell were among 11 Bass Coast residents or businesses in the latest round of the program.

Program Manager Stephanie Thoo said when Startup Gippsland was conceived in 2018, it was clear there was a huge need.

"Developing thriving startup ecosystems outside of the major urban centres is a key piece of the puzzle for the future of regional economies. "And now, as Gippsland has emerged from one of the worst bushfire seasons in memory straight into a pandemic, it is absolutely necessary to nurture and cultivate the people who are working to create new jobs and new opportunities in the region."

The projects

Beau Vernon, motivational speaker (and successful football coach) will work on an online coaching program focused on supporting people living with a disability. The program will help people discover their passions, set goals and work towards them.

Peta Strachan is part of the team at Free 3D Hands, a charity which make assistive devices for free. Peta aims to develop the company's business structure to enable it to expand their idea, production model and designs internationally.

Kieran Black at Vida Health and Wellness is working with wife Valerie to develop and massage and spa treatment clinic on Phillip Island, combining his passion for Australian Native medicinal plants with Valeri's



Beau Vernon is one of five Phillip Islanders taking part in this year's Startup Gippsland Incubator program.



Peta Strachan, Operations Manager, pictured with volunteer Rebecca Nerosa, at Free 3D Hands, is also taking part in the Startup program.

remedial massage operation.

Lewis Ray of Fuller Life Australia wants to solve the problems of accessing allied health in rural areas, which results in poorer health outcomes. Providing home, facility and community visits will allow for more tailored, effective and convenient health care.

Sarah Dowell's online store Asanti supports grass-roots social enterprises and sells products from emerging social enterprises who donate 50 per cent or more of their profits to a cause of their choosing. Products include giftware, personal care items, socks, underwear and reusable cutlery.

The five Phillip Islanders, are part of 59 businesses in Startup Gippsland 2020 and will spend twelve weeks working through an intensive program designed to help them validate and scale their businesses, refine their offerings, and learn the fundamentals of running a successful enterprise.

The program will culminate in a

series of pitch showcases, where the startups will have an opportunity to present their ideas to judging panels comprised of senior business and community leaders, as well as potential investors.

Due to Covid restrictions, the program will run online.

"We're incredibly pleased with both the strength and diversity of our cohort this year," said Ms. Thoo, who noted participants ranged in age from 20s to 70s, and 52 per cent are women.

"These inventive, driven, and enthusiastic founders are the future of business in our region."

Former participant and current mentor Angelo Saridis believes that the experience is invaluable for everyone involved.

"The Startup Gippsland program provides a community where participants, alumni, facilitators and mentors all become part of an ecosystem. This produces a great depth of knowledge available to everyone, a place to vent frustrations and fears,

people to lean on, and most of all a pool of energy for everyone to draw on as they strive to get their startups off the ground.

"In the current climate programs such as this one are so vital to recovery and to keeping our community connected."

Startup Gippsland is a project by the Bass Coast Shire, Baw Baw Shire, East Gippsland Shire, Latrobe City, South Gippsland Shire and Wellington Shire councils, co-funded by the Latrobe Valley Authority and Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, and delivered by GippsTech.

The Startup Gippsland 2020 Incubator Program runs through to 27 November.

The other Bass Coast businesses in the Incubator Program are: Brenton Crowley – Proven Online Courses, Carolyn Woollard – Code Word Brain, Celine Lehr – Restless Mama, Glenn Dawson – Raw Strawz, Kellie Willis – Willgrow Global, and Lyn Bennett – Online Mediation.

Support for volunteers

A new online platform – We Volunteer – has been set up to connect volunteers with those who need help.

The portal provides a platform where people looking for volunteer roles can register their skills and search for roles that meet their interests – with many roles able to be performed from home.

Volunteer organisations can also sign-up to the portal and use it to make call-outs for volunteers. For more information and to access the new We Volunteer portal visit wevolunteer.org.au.

More support for sporting clubs

Applications are now open for a second round of grants through the Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package.

Clubs that received a \$1,000 boost in the first round of the package will automatically receive an additional \$500 while leagues and associations funded in the first round will receive a further \$1,000. No additional application is required.

State sporting associations and sporting bodies can apply for a second round of support with applications considered on a case by case basis.

For further information on the Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package, visit sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding.

Join Regional Partnerships

Positions across the Victorian Government's nine Regional Partnerships are now open.

The government established the Regional Partnerships in 2016, and say the nine Partnerships will play an integral role in regional Victoria's economic and social recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and the recent bushfires.

It is seeking to increase the participation of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from LGBTIQ+ communities, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and young people.

The term of appointment for new members will run until December 31, 2024. Applications close Thursday, October 1. For more information on each Regional Partnership and to apply for a position, visit www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships.

Active Australia grants

The Heart Foundation is calling for entries in the 2020 Active Australia Innovation Challenge, which will award grants of \$10,000 each for innovative community-based projects designed to get Aussies moving.

Entries are open for six weeks from September 1. Shortlisted applicants will have the chance to refine and pitch their ideas, before a panel of experts decides on up to 10 winners. They will each receive a grant of \$10,000 to turn their project idea into a reality. www.heartfoundation.org.au

Multicultural awards

Nominations are open for this year's Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence.

This year's awards feature seven new categories and includes the Community Response and Recovery category to honour the remarkable efforts of those who have assisted during the coronavirus pandemic and the bushfires of early 2020.

For more information about the awards, eligibility or to submit a nomination, go to multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/multicultural-awards-for-excellence. Nominations close 11.59pm on Sunday, October 11.

National LGBTIQ+ community grants program

Applications are now open for the national LGBTIQ+ community grants program. It provides grants of up to \$10,000 to LGBTIQ+ not-for-profit community organisations, charities and individuals. Applications are open until October 4. To apply and find out more, visit www.anz.com/mardigrasgrants.

Sharing some fun

Our Lady Star of the Sea had some novel ideas to make this term's remote learning as stress free as possible.

Principal Catherine Blackford said there is a Friday Funday Google meeting with students.

"We have a chat about our week and share any news or achievements. We also announce our weekly class awards winners and post the certificates out to the recipients."



Maya and Sol listen intently to the weekly online story from Principal Catherine Blackford.

Mrs Blackford also posts a weekly video reading a picture story for the junior classes to listen to, as "a wind down at the end of the day".

Other initiatives have included staff and students dressing as their favourite book character or sporting hero, a silly sock day, pyjama day and "orange for orangutans" day.

Despite all the fun, the school community is looking forward to being back together as soon as possible.



Students Violet and Dante embraced the come as your favourite character dress up day.



Angel & Mini Mouse – as part of a school dress up day.

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Possums and rats
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This destruction is just too much to bear!
Possums and rats
What's next ... bats?
Ian Burns, Rhyll

Concerns with process

In response to Judy Lawrence's letter to the Editor (The Advertiser, September 2), I wish to reassure her that I am not against the redevelopment of the Cowes Cultural Centre as she states. Rather, I, like many in our community, am infuriated by the process and lack of transparency by which this project is progressing.
The resolution to pull down the Cultural Centre was made without even a firm of architects being appointed. A sum of \$19 million was "plucked from the sky" as an estimate without knowing the full extent or cost of the project.
No tenders could be obtained as nobody knew what was being built, least of all the community.
We were told there was an urgency to pull down the existing building, because to be eligible for Federal funding, the Council was required to have a green field shovel ready project.
This week it has been announced that Bass Coast Shire has secured \$2.5 million of State Government funding for the project and we are still eagerly waiting for the Federal Government's contribution.
This whole project lacks due process, community consultation and transparency.
I am very worried that if I am elected for the Island Ward in Octo-

ber, I and the other councillors could inherit a poisoned chalice and be blamed for the remedies and costs that may be needed to bring this project to a satisfactory conclusion.
Ronnie Bauer, Candidate for Island Ward

Cultural Centre not a priority

Re: Judy's Lawrence letter to the editor in support for the cultural centre (The Advertiser September 2), I am so sorry she is distressed.
I am pleased the nominated candidates Ms Barlow and Mr Bauer have voiced their opinion on the demolition of the Cowes Cultural Centre.
Judy is correct in her comment regarding the council's lack of spending on capital works on Philip Island.
I would like to challenge Judy's comment that this imbalance has been rectified by the current council.
The cost of the new Cultural Centre is an estimated \$20 million. The loss of the existing Cultural Centre is an estimated \$15 million, so the cost of the new cultural centre in reality is \$35 million.
The current Bass Coast councillors and specifically the Island Ward councillors' Whelan, Rothfield and Fullarton should hang their head in shame to have considered this project a priority.
I would like Judy to declare her economic credential or does she rely on the Economic Impact Assessment produced by SGS, so the comments into Ms Barlow's economic credentials are irrelevant.
The council could have made a better economic impact if they had concentrated on building an Aquatic centre on Philip Island. This would have had a greater economic impact than a new Cultural Centre.
The facts are the Aquatic Centre would have created 130 - 160 jobs during the construction period and 30 full time position in the new Aquatic Health precinct when completed.
The other 30 full time position quoted would still be housed in our now demolished Cultural Centre.
I am not against having the Cultural Centre re-developed, giving better library services a more appropriate environment, but let's get our priorities right. We had these to a degree but are lacking an Aquatic Centre.
I must now take my anti stress pills to de-stress. I am willing to share Judy.
John Trig, Surf Beach

Roadmap makes no sense

To describe the Governments 'Road map' as Bureaucratic mumbo jumbo would be putting it kindly. Formulas that outline opening up must have been produced using crayon and butchers paper. Bass Coast's ability to opening up is now tied to cases in regional Victoria from Colac to Mildura. It makes no sense.
This job destroying shutdown of business in Phillip Island and San Remo is unprecedented and will not result in a quick bounce back. Setting up a business is not easy and takes months of dealing with builders, permits and suppliers.
Yet we have heard little to nothing from our local Member, Jordan Crugnale. There is more to the electorate of Bass than Pakenham. The Member should be out there asking local business what they think, local community members what they need. However, it appears no photo op, no show.
Coming from a family that has always voted Labor, I can assure the local member that the Andrews government's approach to handling this situation has caused us all to question it. Schools closed, businesses closed, can't see your neighbour for a cup of tea. Yet, little to no virus in Bass Coast.
Nathan Murphy, San Remo

Neighbourhood divisions

As a retiree that spends 50 per cent of my time at Phillip Island, I was most disappointed during a recent visit when one of my neighbours of 15 years, saw fit to call the police to check what I was doing. Interesting how people react without knowing all the facts. A conversation between neighbours would have been much simpler. As per Covid19 restrictions at the time, I was legally allowed (validated in writing from DHHS) to visit my property to attend to a maintenance issue that I had been alerted to by another neighbour. In coming to the island I had bought everything required to eliminate the need to visit shops and planned to leave the same day. (as per stage 4 rules).
I find it sad that Covid19 is creating this sort of division. I had come from an area that has had minimal COVID-19 cases. I had not been in contact with anyone outside my household for a number of weeks. At no time did I leave my property and my visit was to attend to an is-

sue that had potential to cause property damage (due to a severe wind warning). The only fault that I may have made was to also cut the grass whilst I was there, once again on my property.

Interestingly, I was staying on the island during the first Victorian lock down. On at least one occasion I noticed my neighbours had a visit from their elderly parents, at a time when visitors were not allowed and at a time there were Covid19 cases in Bass Coast. It didn't occur to me to contact the police, perhaps that's just me.

I do understand the anxiety associated with COVID-19, however let's remember there's still lots of people traveling to and from the island each day for work and relationship reasons, all of which could unknowingly become infected. Just because you haven't seen someone for a while or they're not permanent residents does not mean they're irresponsible.
Take care and please be considerate of all.
Name and address withheld

Silverleaves inaccuracies addressed

I write in response to "Climate change debated in Silverleaves" (Advertiser, August 26) to correct some inaccuracies.
A number of objections were received to the construction of a dwelling at 31 Silverleaves Ave on a Silverleaves bush block, the subject of this article.
Silverleaves Conservation Association and I are grateful to Cr Whelan (AGAINST) for his recognition of the urgent need to turnaround destruction of vegetation on the Island and voting against the proposal.
Cr Rothfield (FOR) - please note, we are not 'singling out one block'. I agree that would be morally wrong. We are attempting to mitigate destruction of native vegetation, to ask for environment appropriate houses and retention of native trees, shrubs and ground covers! Every development is reviewed and objections made against similar proposal involving vegetation removal and size.
Cr Brown - (FOR) - I see you are in Burnurong Ward. Have you visited Silverleaves? You say "Silverleaves residents love their vegetation and the reality is if you develop a home you will need to chop down trees". Actually NO. I personally 'developed a home' in Silverleaves and pay rates

to Bass Coast Council. I didn't 'chop down' one tree. In fact, I set out to replant the endemic vegetation and encourage wildlife and vegetation back to the property. The positive results have been amazing.

You and other councillors might like to reflect upon the concept of a holistic approach to environmental management. That might mean putting a decimated environment first and requiring property owners to protect and manage housing development using the principle of sensitive planning. I remind Council that Silverleaves recently received a Distinctive Areas Overlay and understand appropriate sensitive action are part of the overlay.

Finally, I draw your attention to the rash of concreting, oversized houses, and unnecessary removal of vegetation in Silverleaves especially in the past five years.

Every such individual insensitive development collectively adds to the destruction of the whole.

So yes, Cr Brown, I guess we do 'love our trees in Silverleaves' for a much broader reason than individual preference.

So Council - get serious and start protecting Silverleaves - for real!
M Johnston, Silverleaves

A couple of gripes

First gripe: Sitting outside Woolworths in Thompson Avenue, I noted an elderly gentleman on an electric scooter, zooming along the footpath so fast his dog had to almost run to keep up. As pedestrians scattered out of his way another problem surfaced as two teenage boys overtook the scooter, further scattering the said pedestrians!

We need a sign that says: "Electric scooters must not travel faster than walking pace", and "Cyclists note: this is not a race track or a road. It's a footpath, please use the road".

Second gripe: At the roundabout of Coghlan Road and Rhyll/Cowes Road, there is another dead goose. This is now a regular happening. We have little or no visitors at the moment, so locals are to blame for the road toll on this road. In particular, locals who drive white utes seem to pay no heed to the wildlife or speed limit. When at dusk or later, my wife and I drive under the speed limit, keeping a keen eye out for wallabies, only to be given the finger as "a local" flies past in an awful hurry.
Ian Burns, Rhyll

Business Guide

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Alt Ph: 5952 1432 Fax: 5952 5690
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Web: www.islandstorage.com.au

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DEATHS

BIANCHI, Liliane:
26.6.1934 -2.9.2020
Passed away peacefully at home.
Loved wife of Henri.
Loving Maman to Christine and Jean-Michael.
Adored Meme to Luc, Dylan, Ella; Brigitte, Steven and Josh and her great grandchildren Anthony and Indii.
A Wonderful wife and mother
Loved by all
Liliane's service will be livestreamed on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00pm.
The link to watch this will be available on our website.
www.handleyardandersonfunerals.com.au

HILL, Ian:
20.8.1941 – 25.8.2020
Deepest sympathies to Ian's daughters Katrina and Nicole, and their families.
Ian will be remembered as a tireless worker and friend of the Phillip Island Football Club.
He served for a consecutive 10 years as president of PIFC .
He presided over the construction of new football clubrooms back in the 1970s.
He also headed the Club in 1981 when Phillip Island's seniors and reserves teams took out the 1981 football grandfinal.
Ian will be remembered by the Club for his long and dedicated service to island football.
May he rest in peace.
The President, Committee and members of the Phillip Island Football Club.

SCALES, Derek:
23.08.2020
A kind and friendly Team Member of Vinnies, Cowes. Your quiet sense of humour will be remembered and sadly missed.
Deepest Sympathies to Netta and Family.

FOR SALE

Top Form, Lift Chair
-\$200, in excellent condition.
Inva Care Pegasus Scooter, with 2 new batteries and 1 charger - \$800.
0439 801 323


GARAGE SALES

COWES: 3 Seascape Ave.
Moving house garage sale.
Everything must go.
Sunday 13th September. 8am start.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Phillip Island RSL Community Men's Shed
REPAIRS AND RESTORATIONS
From timber to metal - small to large projects
Reasonable prices
Open Tues & Thurs 9am to noon
Contact Terry on 0438 808 428

PUBLIC NOTICES



NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PHILLIP ISLAND HEALTH HUB AUXILIARY


The Annual General Meeting of the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary will be held on Wednesday 23rd September 2020 at 1.30pm on line on the Zoom Platform.

The business of the Annual General Meeting will be:

- 1) an update on the affairs of the group,
- 2) conducting elections for committee,
- 3) voting on special resolutions (if required)

Those wishing to attend please contact the secretary, Gill Scrase by 16th September, either by email pomegill@gmail.com or 0431672777 to register for a link on line or phone number to attend the Annual General Meeting.

Any questions please don't hesitate to call our President, Wendy Williams 0417245692, Vice President, Lyn Wadeson 0400126435 or Secretary, Gill Scrase 0431672777




• PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT COWES

Site Address: 85 A Ventnor Road, COWES VIC 3922.
Site Ref: 3922014

- 1.) The proposed installation will involve the following:
 - Works on 'existing' 30m concrete tower (pole)
 - Install x3 new AIR6488 panel antennas, each 800mm in length, at a centreline elevation (CL) of 30.8m.
 - Remove 3 existing Telstra Kaelus units and replaced with x3 new TMA units directly behind antennas.
 - Ancillary works such as installation of associated hybrid cables within the existing tower, and associated works within the shelter.
- 2.) The proposed installation is deemed to be a Low-impact Facility pursuant to the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 ("The Determination") based on the descriptions above. Consent from council is not required in this instance.
- 3.) Further information including an EME Report can be obtained from – Wireless Consultation on behalf of Telstra on Mobile: 0436 011 966, at Telstra.enquiries@wirelessconsultation.com.au and at Site Ref: www.rfnsa.com.au/3922014
- 4.) The proposed installation will be in compliance with the ACMA EMR regulatory arrangements. Public notification is being undertaken in accordance with Section 7 of the Communications Alliance Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code C564:2018.
- 5.) We invite you to make a submission. Written submissions can be sent to: Telstra.enquiries@wirelessconsultation.com.au or Zenith Centre, Level 5, Tower B, 821 Pacific Highway, Chatswood NSW 2067 Australia by 5pm on Wednesday, 23 September 2020.

THANKS



I currently live in Tasmania, but spent most of my life in Newhaven.

Earlier this year, I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer.

To help me during my treatment, Jess, Kyle and Jai Asbury decided to do the Dry-July challenge.

With incredible support from the Phillip Island community, they raised \$28,112.

Thank you all – your support has blown us away.

Rebecca Trollip

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today forever.”

Hebrews 13:8, KJV



Australian Press Council

The Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser is bound by the Standards of Practice of the Australia Press Council. If you believe the Standards may have been breached, you may approach the newspaper itself or contact the Council by email info@presscouncil.org.au or by phone (02) 8261 1930. For further information see www.presscouncil.org.au

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES
The Advertiser conducts its journalism in accordance with the guidelines of the Australian Press Council.

The General Principles
Accuracy and clarity

1. Ensure that factual material in news reports and elsewhere is accurate and not misleading, and is distinguishable from other material such as opinion.
2. Provide a correction or other adequate remedial action if published material is significantly inaccurate or misleading.

Fairness and balance

3. Ensure that factual material is presented with reasonable fairness and balance, and that writers' expressions of opinion are not based on significantly inaccurate factual material or omission of key facts.
4. Ensure that where material refers adversely to a person,

SITUATIONS WANTED

“Qualified carer and companion, lives on Island, has own transport. A personalised service for elderly citizens and people with disabilities that need casual/part time care weekdays and/or weekends. Available for sleepovers and 24/7 care if needed. Reliable, honest and kind.
I have worked on and off Island for many years. Written and phone references available.
Phone Jane Daly 0456166594
Or email janedore@tpg.com.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES

Members should check their church websites for details of service times and guidelines.

UNITING CHURCH:
www.cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php
www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Uniting-Church/828979940479969

BAPTIST CHURCH:
www.islandbaptist.org.au/

HOPE CHURCH:
are emailing members
www.islandhopechurch.com/

CATHOLIC CHURCH:
www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus
www.cdsale.org.au/prayer-and-reflection

ST PHILLIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:
www.anglicanparishbass-phillipisland.org/
www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes/

PHILLIP ISLAND SURF CHURCH:
www.facebook.com/pages/category/Christian-Church/Surf-Church-Phillip-Island-360300548086709/

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp. Coles) - Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday 11am, 5672 3627. Phone head office 9429 1833.

a fair opportunity is given for subsequent publication of a reply if that is reasonably necessary to address a possible breach of General Principle 3.

Privacy and avoidance of harm
5. Avoid intruding on a person's reasonable expectations of privacy, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
6. Avoid causing or contributing materially to substantial offence, distress or prejudice, or a substantial risk to health or safety, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.

Integrity and transparency
7. Avoid publishing material which has been gathered by deceptive or unfair means, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
8. Ensure that conflicts of interests are avoided or adequately disclosed, and that they do not influence published material.

SITUATIONS VACANT

DIRECTOR VACANCIES



Are you passionate about place-based philanthropy in the Bass Coast?

The Bass Coast Community Foundation is seeking to recruit and appoint up to four suitably qualified people to board vacancies created by retiring directors. Director positions are voluntary.

If you have a range of skills, experience and strengths including an understanding of philanthropy, governance, accounting or law, and a strong connection and commitment to the Bass Coast community, and you can contribute 6 hours per month to the Foundation's activities – please apply.

Position description and related information can be found at <https://bccf.org.au/news/>

The closing date for applications is 18th September 2020.

SITUATION VACANT

PHARMACY ASSISTANT

Are you committed to helping people? We are looking to fill a part-time position, which will provide varying hours, including weekend work. Availability important over summer and other busy periods. The successful applicant must be enthusiastic, a good communicator, great salesperson and a team player. If this sounds like you, apply with copies of references and qualifications to:

Phillip Island Pharmacy
164-166 Thomson Ave, Cowes. 3922
03 5952 2299
OR email to: pi.pharmacy@bigpond.com

 JO00242AA



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12.

2021 Positions

- **Director of Music** - Ongoing role. Time fraction negotiable. Experience in conducting an orchestra is desirable
- **Primary Classroom Teacher** - Fixed term for all of 2021 with the potential for ongoing
- **Secretarial Assistant** - Ongoing 0.4 role to commence in 2021
- **Science Laboratory Technician** - Full Time Term 1 replacement 2021
- **Food Technology Assistant** - Full Time Term 1 replacement 2021

For details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our College Website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 2 October 2020 and should be submitted to katrina.lawrence@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications for the following positions:

Health Service Coordinator
Part Time – Closes 11/9/2020

Registered Nurse – District Nursing & Palliative Care
Part Time – Fixed Term – Closes 12/9/2020

Registered Nurse
Casual – Closes 13/9/2020

Associate Nurse Unit Manager – Emergency Department
Permanent Part Time – Closes 14/09/2020

Registered Nurse – Grade 2
Permanent Part Time – Closes 14/09/2020

Counsellor
Part Time – Closes 15/9/2020

Associate Nurse Unit Manager – Aged Care – Kirrak
Part Time – Closes 18/9/2020

Engineer
Full Time – Closes 18/9/2020


Physiotherapist – Grade 1
Permanent Full Time – 18/09/2020

Nurse Unit Manager – Emergency Department
Permanent Full Time – closes 21/09/2020

Reception and Administration Support
Casual – Closes 23/09/2020

Enrolled Nurse
Casual – Closes 25/9/2020

For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website basscoasthealth.org.au or contact Human Resources via email hr@basscoasthealth.org.au



5671 3333 5671 3300
info@basscoasthealth.org.au
www.basscoasthealth.org.au

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a lifestyle change? Wanting to be your own boss?



Jim's Mowing

Jim's Mowing is looking for a new Franchisee in San Remo or Grantville area.
Ph **131 546** or www.jimsmowing.com.au

September means springtime, blossom, more sunshine, longer days, the start of the fishing season and one thing we seem to forget every year ... wind.

Early spring traditionally is one of the windiest times of the year and because the days get longer, and the sun comes out we tend to forget.

There will be plenty of opportunities to fish through the month, but you need to take the opportunity when it arises because it could be few and far between.

Because we start to see more people fishing, we naturally start to get more reports and while the winter has been above average, the quality of fish reported now has definitely improved.

With many still not working or working reduced hours we are getting a good mixture of land and boat-



Greg Miller with an excellent 42cm Calamari.

ing reports and although still a little inconsistent we are seeing more fish.

Snapper is the main target this time of the year from land and boating customers. The boating customers are having more success at the minute.

We have only had a couple of land-based reports up to now. This is not always the case with snapper usually showing up on Newhaven or Cowes jetties before we get our first boating reports. Even the boating reports have been different this season with snapper showing up in places you wouldn't expect yet.

We have had reports already from the mud and the corals with other reports from where you would expect, spit point and the channel along the island around Elizabeth Island.

The snapper we have had reported are typical of fish for this time of the year, around 4kg to 5kg. The reports are also telling us that if you are out and think you are just getting flat-head nibbles, try and set the hooks because it might just be a 5kg snapper.

The snapper being reported from the deeper areas are timider and playing with baits while the shallows is producing fish that are hitting hard.

Calamari frustration continues with everybody telling us the reality is way below expectation. Because there is no reason for it, that makes it even worse.

We had a couple of quality calamari reported but no one reported numbers of any type.

The best place for the calamari has been in Cleeland Bight, both in the boats and off the beach with a few in other spots around the bay.

There were a couple of nights during the week that several were caught off the beach and with the days getting longer I expect we will see more people fishing on those evenings when there is a full tide.

The majority of the calamari caught off the beach has been from those using baited jigs with the odd one on artificial ones.

Boating reports have been a mixture of both, with the artificial jigs slightly better.

We will remain closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays until at least the end of September and the shop hours will also be slightly reduced.

Hopefully once we get into October, we will go back to seven days a week and normal hours, but as we all know with the virus situation things change often.

If you are heading out for a fish and need us to stay around the night before or heading out early just give the shop a call.

We are slowly re-filling the shelves and the bait freezers are now all back on and full of all our usual variety.



Nate and Jensen with some quality 38-40cm whiting they helped dad catch.

Online field day

A special online field day next month will look at ways farmers can use waste as a resource and other renewable energy opportunities.

Presented by Growing Southern Gippsland, a partnership which includes Bass Coast and South Gippsland Landcare Networks, RMIT, Bass Coast Shire Council and Federation University, the field day on October 9, is hosted by Amber Creek Farm and Sawmill.

Run by Dan and Amelia Bright, the farm operates as a mixed business, growing free-range pigs alongside a timber milling operation.

Topics on the day include using local waste sources, regenerative

methods for soil improvement, and renewable energy options.

Amelia will also discuss how the Prom Coast Food Collective supports local farmers and reduces food miles, while renewable energy and rebates will be presented by Chris Barfoot from the Latrobe Valley Community Power Hub.

The online event runs from 10am – 12pm on October 9.

To register, go to <https://wasteasaresource.eventbrite.com.au>. Registrations close on October 5.

For more information, contact Cassie from South Gippsland Landcare Network on 0448 739 559 or cassie@sgln.net.au.



Year 10 Students Jack Butcher and Jack Donohue returned to remote learning in term three.

Keeping things in perspective

Perspective and positivity were the focus this term at Newhaven College, with the school returning to learning from home.

College Principal, Gea Lovell said it was a difficult time for the school community, the focus was on remaining positive and being grateful for the good things.

She praised the work of college staff who worked hard to support students and their parents throughout the term.

"Like with many parents, staff with children are juggling their work commitments with their parental duties. All of us are affected in one way or another as we blend our homes with our workplaces and tackle this challenging way of teaching and learning.

"The care and hard work of all our staff during this time has been nothing short of remarkable, and I applaud them for all their effort. They are exhausted, but their passion and willingness to go above and beyond in supporting our students has been simply brilliant".

With the return to remote learning college ICT staff proficiently set up laptops for families that needed them, and offered staff and students support with any technical issues.

Ms Lovell said teaching staff adapted the curriculum and co-curricular programs into a remote learning version ensuring a "balanced approach that meets the academic requirements and wellbeing for our students".

The planned 2021 information evenings were delivered in an online format including a Zoom presentation and video messages from each Head of Faculty and Department.

Parents/guardians also participated in online teacher interviews.

Ms Lovell said students were also supported through the college's pastoral care program, which provided opportunities for students to engage in things they enjoy.

"No doubt, this year will be featured in the history books one day, Newhaven's story will be remembered for its sense of resilience, care and community," Ms Lovell said.



Maggie Sykes embraced the spirit of Crazy Hair Day with a very creative Ariel hair style her older sister Hannah helped her create



Brinkley and Piper Nicolaci received a postcard for their engagement in physical education sessions.

Cowes kids embrace online learning

With students set to return to the classroom in term four, Cowes Primary is celebrating the achievements of students during the latest round of remote learning.

Principal Rod McKenzie said on the whole, students had worked hard and embraced the challenge of learning from home.

One new initiative was celebratory postcards. Mr McKenzie said teachers shared work with him and Assistant Principal Sarah Tyrell, who then sent out postcards to acknowledge the hard work and effort students were making.

"People can feel a little isolated at these times and receiving something personal in the mail certainly helps to boost spirits," he said.

Even with remote learning, some regular initiatives remained in place, including Crazy Hair Day.

Mr McKenzie said the crazy hairdos



Charlotte Hadrian created this beautiful cat/heart pattern as part of numeracy lessons on cartesian coordinates and patterns.

resulted in plenty of smiles during the virtual classroom catch-ups, with students' creativity on full display.

Specialist lesson have also continued online, including a range of different activities in STEM, Music, PE, Japanese and art.

Students tackled Lego challenges, created their own carpool karaoke videos, set up marble runs, painted rocks, created Japanese anime drawings, practiced juggling, and set themselves daily workout challenges.

There were also live lessons, which mirrored the normal classroom, giving students the chance to interact with their classmates and their teacher.

To help keep spirits high and students engaged, Mr McKenzie said staff had developed a range of different ways to help keep the children motivated and interested.

This includes live yoga and Lego lessons, and regular catchups through Google Meet, with Wednesdays becoming a designated activity day.



Teacher Jess Moed during recent teacher interviews.



Spring arrived and so did the sunshine. It was blue as far as the eye could see when Shirley Ferguson snapped this shot at San Remo last Sunday.

Ryder's up for the challenge Community groups share Coastcare grant funds

Newhaven College Year 7 student Ryder Evans has entered this year's Starlight Foundation's Tour de Kids.

From cycling pros to beginner bike riders, the 30-day challenge encourages riders of all ages and abilities to hop on a bike, to raise funds to help give happiness to sick kids.

Raising much-needed funds to support Starlight's vital work, Tour de Kids invites riders of all ages, fitness levels, and from virtually any location to simply register via a website, select the distance they want to cycle, choose a fundraising target, and get riding!

Ryder saw details of the Challenge on Facebook and decided this was something he wanted to do.

As a newborn, he spent several weeks in intensive care at the Monash Hospital, and his parents Melanie and Nigel Evans were extremely grateful to be provided accommodation in Ronald McDonald House, to be close to him.

The Starlight Foundation also helps sick kids and their families, and as a very keen cyclist, Ryder wanted to get involved.

He has selected 750 kilometres over a four-week period, as his goal. His aim is to complete 50 kilometres a day, taking Sundays off.

However, you won't see him around the byways on Phillip Island.

This year, for obvious reasons, the Challenge has gone viral. He rides his kilometres every day on a virtual trainer, at home. Ryder explains that a special



Year 7 student Ryder Evans is riding in a Starlight Foundation fundraising challenge ... with a difference.

cial trainer support is fitted on to the back wheel of his bike, which is connected to something called a Strava, and his speed, distance and altitude are recorded daily as he pedals away on the spot.

But he is not travelling alone.

There are about 3,000 participants riding the same course. They are mainly adults, and come from all over the world.

Thanks to a computer and TV on a stand in front of his bike, he can see himself along with the other riders, and they can give each other a wave although they are not able to talk.

Such is the technology used for this Challenge, that the television beams the course in front of his eyes, and his pedals can be controlled remotely. You can ride the Tour of

France if you like, with pedalling made harder for an uphill gradient.

Ryder is fitting in the Challenge with his home schooling work, which means he has to be super organised.

He completes 10km before 9am each morning, which is when he tunes into his school lessons.

He rides a further 30km during his lunch break; and the last 10km after school from about 3.15pm.

Does he get tired: "Yes. Very," is his response to that question.

How will he celebrate at the end of the Challenge: "Sleeping!"

Do you ever feel like giving up: The answer is an emphatic "No."

Daily prizes are awarded to these energetic fundraisers and so far Ryder has won a \$50 gift card from Roka watches for completing 100 kilometres.

And he is in the running to win a \$100 gift card for riding a total of four hours straight.

Everything he does on his bike is monitored by the computer.

Ryder began the Challenge on September 1 and by Sunday September 6 he had pedalled 625 kilometres.

So far he has raised \$1910 for the Starlight Foundation, but is hoping to achieve more.

He is well ahead of schedule to reach his 750km goal, and his dad Nigel thinks he may even make 1,000.

If you would like to support Ryder with a donation, go to tourdekids.org.au/ryder-evans.

ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF

27 LAYER DRIVE,
WIMBLEDON HEIGHTS



\$549,000

- Built in Ararat in 1890 and transported to Phillip Island
- 3 bedrooms/2 bathroom
- Beautiful established gardens

20 RED ROCKS ROAD, COWES



\$549,000

- 1619m2 allotment
- Short stroll to Red Rocks Beach

14 SEDGMAN ROAD,
WIMBLEDON HEIGHTS



WE HAVE CASH
BUYERS READY
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NOW!

RENTAL
PROPERTIES
URGENTLY
WANTED

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3 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 Car

\$380 pw

2/49 CHAPEL STREET, COWES
2 Bed, 1 Bath, 2 Car

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1 Bed, 1 Bath, 1 Car, utilities included, fully furnished

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