



ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST



We've got the Power

As football returns, six players from the Phillip Island Football Netball Club have been selected in the Gippsland Power squads for the upcoming season. Yianni Caffieri, Finn O'Brien and Zac Walker all made the final cut for the under 18s squad, with Ruby Kent-Ford and Gemma Fischer (U16 girls) and Charlie Fischer (U16 boys) also representing the island in the highly-competitive Gippsland Power. For the full story, turn to Sport. Also check our Football Season feature, including the 2025 fixture calendar, pages 9 - 11.

Questions raised on kindergarten funding

EDUCATION

Newhaven College and San Remo Preschool have been left reeling after failing to receive a State Government grant to build their shovel-ready early learning centre developments, planned to open next year.

Both local early learning providers missed out on the latest round of "Building Blocks" kindergarten government funding in favour of a Melbourne based company, new to the island, despite previously receiving government design and planning

grants to become shovel-ready.

The State Government decision has raised concerns and questions in the community.

As previously reported, a new long day care centre and kindergarten - currently under construction by 5 Outcomes at 39 Dunsmore Road, opposite the Phillip Island Bowling Club - last month received \$2.2 million in Building Blocks funding.

The grant will deliver a 66-place early learning facility, which will offer long day care and kindergarten with a planned opening next year.

However, Cowes resident Peter Paul, a former Cowes Primary principal, Bass Coast councillor, and the catalyst for the building of the Cowes Early Learning Centre back in 2012, has raised concerns.

Mr Paul was the first appointed Department of Education Preschool advisor in Victoria; and before his retirement a long-term advocate for the transfer of preschools (kindergartens) from the Department of Health to the Department of Education.

He said because both Newhaven College and San Remo Pre-

school, both with plans in place, were "located close to or in an education setting", they should have been seriously considered for the funding, and is critical of the decision taken by the government.

"When John Brumby was appointed Premier, one of his first tasks was to undertake the transfer of preschools from Health to Education. He did so because he saw the obvious benefits to children, families and educators being able to have a seamless transition from preschools to Prep."

The Building Blocks grant

criteria states their funding will establish early childhood infrastructure at or near school sites.

Continued page 8




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Island HOME
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<h1>PHILLIP ISLAND</h1> <p>7 DAY WEATHER FORECAST</p>	Wed/Apr2	Thu/Apr3	Fri/Apr4	Sat/Apr5	Sun/Apr6	Mon/Apr7	Tue/Apr8
	MOSTLY SUNNY	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	PARTLY CLOUDY
	14 22	14 21	14 21	13 21	13 22	14 15	13 16



Mila Shepherd with her teacher Meg Oudshoorn and some of the beautiful keychains she's made, to raise money for the Good Friday Appeal.

Key to Good Friday Appeal

FUNDRAISING

It's a Good Friday Appeal fundraiser with a difference. Grade 2 student Mila Shepherd has already raised over \$500 for the Royal Children's Hospital, creating and selling hand-made keychains.

A student at Newhaven College, each keychain is individually crafted by Mila, and she has been selling them to classmates, teachers, friends and family.

Now the rest of the community has the chance to purchase one of these keychains and support a terrific cause.

The keychains can be purchased from Seaside



Each keychain is individually crafted by Mila, and sells for \$10, raising money for the Good Friday Appeal.

Provider in Newhaven (8/10 Forrest Avenue) and the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser office in Cowes (2/60 Chapel Street).

They are \$10 each and all money raised goes to the Good Friday Appeal.



Part-time Cape Woolamai resident Robert Durkacz is seeking 100 signatures to stand as an independent in the election.

Would-be independent seeks community tick

ELECTION

Part-time Cape Woolamai resident Robert Durkacz is seeking 100 signatures required to stand as an independent candidate for the Monash electorate at the upcoming federal election.

Mr Durkacz says he would be a single-issue candidate for the western alliance and believes the standard of debate in the federal election needs to be raised.

"I'm very concerned about where America is going," said Robert.

"Our security depends on

America, our prosperity depends on America, and the western alliance is the best thing we've got.

"Now that America can't be relied on, we need our politicians to be very frank and honest with the American people and get them to think about what they're doing.

"Our political leaders should reach out to the American people, that they should have more respect for themselves, their country and their institutions.

"This is not a council election. It is not about dog parks."

POLICE BRIEFS

Lock your cars

Police are again reminding people to lock their vehicles and not leave valuable items visible, or in the car.

This includes in home driveways and at local beaches. Surfers have been reminded not to leave keys hidden around vehicles.

"Offenders are aware of this and target surfers for this reason. Please use a combination key safe; these can be purchased from surf shops or online," police said. On the weekend a report was posted by a resident of Settlement Road in Cowes, saying at 2.57am, a person dressed in a hooded coat, with mask and gloves tried to access their car in the driveway.

"Our camera warnings were triggered and scared him off. Please ensure your belongings are locked up," they wrote.

Car impounded

On March 22 around 7.10pm, San Remo Police were patrolling Agar Road in Corinella when they observed a purple-coloured Holden Commodore utility allegedly doing burnouts at the intersection of Corinella Road.

Police followed the vehicle to an address nearby where the driver was found to be a 45-year-old male from Pioneer Bay.

They allege the driver was meant to have an alcohol interlock fitted to any vehicle that he was driving, but the utility didn't have one fitted. The man returned a breath test result of 0.098, which was far more than the 0.00 reading ('Zero' condition) applicable to his driver licence. The utility was impounded for 30 days, at a cost of \$1375.

The driver will appear in the Korumburra Magistrates' Court in coming months, and his driver licence was suspended immediately.

RUSSELL BROADBENT MP

TRUE YOUR INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MONASH

Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, 46c Albert St Warragul VIC 3820

Melina BATH MP

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MARY ALDRED

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We have a date: May 3

ELECTION

The date for the Federal Election has been set for Saturday May 3, and the campaign for Monash now begins in earnest.

Many of the candidates have already been on the unofficial campaign trail, including independent Deb Leonard, who launched her campaign in November 2024, with a series of events across the electorate, including Leon-gatha and Phillip Island.

Ms Leonard said after the announcement, her campaign is now "hitting top gear".

"We've been out in the community for months, listening to locals and building support.

"Now it's time to bring it home and show Monash what a strong, independent voice in Canberra can deliver for our region."

She said her campaign was focused on the key issues raised by voters, including cost of living, local roads and infrastructure, improved health services and clean energy transition.

Current member Russell Broadbent, elected as a Liberal but now sitting on the crossbench, announced his intention to recontest the seat in February this year.

Running as an independent, Mr Broadbent said he had "unfinished business" and intended to run a grassroots campaign, not canvassing or accepting any financial donations "because I will not be beholden to any individual, interest group or party".

He said while the nation might be watching the seat, "I'll be focused on local issues".

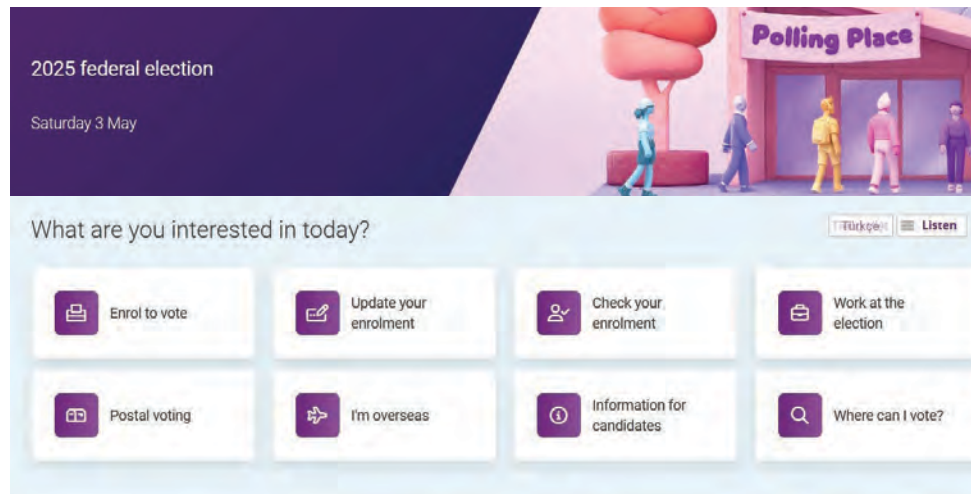
With decades of political experience, Mr Broadbent said he would "bring all my experience and knowledge to the table in Canberra to work in the best interests of the people of Monash".

Local priorities included the development of the recreation hub for Phillip Island.

Liberal candidate Mary Aldred was preselected for the seat in 2023 and has been quietly campaigning since April 2024.

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

In recent months, she has thrown her support behind the call for action to halt erosion on the Silverleaves foreshore, and for work to begin immedi-



Australia goes to the polls on May 3. With the election campaign now officially underway, the contest for Monash begins in earnest.

ately on the proposed Phillip Island recreation hub.

Her campaign has been supported by high profile federal members such as James Patterson, Sussan Ley and Jane Hume.

In February, Labor announced Kilcunda resident Tully Fletcher as their candidate for the seat.

Mr Fletcher said the election offered a clear choice of "Peter Dutton-led Liberals who haven't delivered for Gippsland in two decades, or a fresh local Labor candidate raised in Gippsland, ready to tackle the cost of living, and fight for our fair share".

In February the Greens

candidate Terence Steele also stepped into the ring.

Mr Steele said there was a 2.7 per cent swing to the Greens in the last election and he believes the Greens could hold a significant share of the vote again in 2025.

He said there was a "very real threat of a Dutton government bringing nuclear to Gippsland" and noted the Greens' preference flows could play a significant role on election night.

In March, Kuljeet Kuar Robinson was announced as the One Nation candidate for the electorate.

Kuljeet Kuar, a mental health nurse from Cran-

bourne, said she was committed to protecting Australian jobs, industry, agriculture and manufacturing, and was stepping up to ensure regional communities like those in Monash receive the attention and investment they deserve.

Geoff Dethlefs is the Family First candidate for Monash.

Nominations for candidates close at 12 noon on April 10.

Voting

It is compulsory for every Australian citizen over the age of 18 to vote in the upcoming election.

If you are not yet en-

rolled to vote, or need to update your details, you have until 8pm on April 7 to do so.

You can do this online, through the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website.

If you are overseas on election day, or want to organise a postal vote, this can also be done through the AEC website.

The AEC has warned voters about unprompted emails and text message about postal voting applications, sent from political parties.

Electoral Commissioner Jeff Pope said there was the potential to mislead voters, who think they are filling out official applications, when instead they are providing their data to political parties.

The practice is not illegal but is the number one complaint raised by voters with the AEC.

"People should always carefully consider what they're doing with their personal information," Mr Pope said in a statement.

"The AEC takes privacy seriously and operates under the Privacy Act ... political parties don't have to."

The AEC is the only place voters can register for any form of voting.

www.aec.gov.au/enrol



The Coles supermarket in Cowes has sold for \$23,750,000, the highest ever sale recorded on the island, eclipsing the \$15.03 million paid last November by Adrian Portelli for the Block properties.

Record sale price for Coles in Cowes

BUSINESS

A local private investor has out-bid a long list of national and international buyers to secure the Coles supermarket in Cowes.

Agents JLL described the Expression of Interest campaign as "highly competitive", with the property selling for \$23,750,000.

A JLL spokesperson said the price reflected "a sharp 4.6 per cent yield, marking one of the most competitive campaigns seen in years and signals a significant turning point in the market".

The freestanding Coles supermarket attracted unprecedented interest from investors nationwide.

"The aggressive nature of the competition for this asset was truly remarkable," said Tom Noonan, JLL Retail Investments.

"We received 387 enquiries and 63 data room participants, culminating in 17 formal Expressions of Interest totalling \$340 million in bids."

The sale of Coles Phillip Island represents the sharpest Victorian supermarket transac-

tion since other notable transactions in regional Victoria, including Woolworths Torquay (December 2020) and Coles Woodend (March 2021), which previously set the benchmarks for yields in recent years.

The sale was the highest ever sale recorded on the island eclipsing the \$15.03 million paid in November by Adrian Portelli for the Block properties.

The sale attracted significant interest from Chinese investors, who made up over 30 per cent of bids received.

JD05173AA

IT'S ON!

Election Day 3 May

Deb Leonard

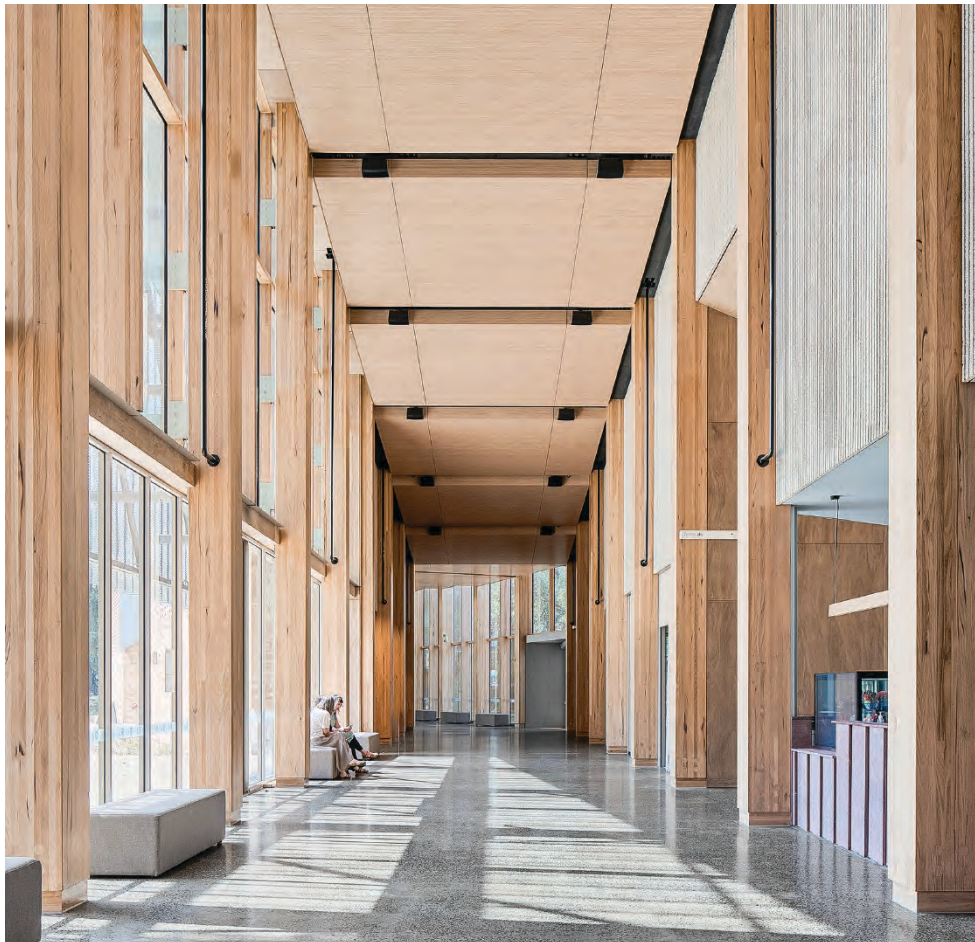
INDEPENDENT

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We can make real change

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha 3953



Bass Coast Shire Council's CEO has responded to community questions about Berninnet's environmental certification and also the display of stored artifacts. Photo: Peter Clarke.

Residents quiz council on Berninnet

CULTURAL CENTRE

Berninnet has still not achieved environmental certification, but Bass Coast Shire Council has reassured residents the costs of the process are being met by the builder.

At the March council meeting, residents raised several questions on the Cowes cultural centre, including displays of stored artifacts.

Resident John Trigt asked when artifacts removed from the old centre, which were now in storage, would be on permanent display.

Council CEO Greg Box responded works and artifacts removed from the old Cowes cultural centre would be displayed on rotation, including the John Adam historical mural and the community tapestry.

"Council is committed

to safe storage, rotation and display of all works within our collection," Mr Box said.

"Some of these pieces include the John Adam historical mural that is being installed at the Creative Arts Station in Cowes from March for a period of three years.

"Another piece includes the tapestry that was on display for the duration of the PICES exhibition in January 2025 and will be on display during the ASPIR exhibition over the Easter period."

Green

Resident Philip Davy asked about Berninnet's Passivhaus certification, saying he understood a contract for about \$2 million over and above the cost of Berninnet was required to gain certification.

"Who is actually paying for this work, council, ratepayers or the contractor who failed to provide Passivhaus," Philip said.

Mr Box replied McCorkell Construction continued to lead the work required to achieve Passivhaus at Berninnet.

"The costs associated with the process have been met by McCorkell," Mr Box said.

As previously reported, since May last year the council has reassured the community the cultural centre would meet the strict certification standards, even though it has failed the tests multiple times.

At the November council meeting, Mr Box confirmed Berninnet had indefinite time to achieve the environmental certification, despite a construction contract clause expiring.



Residents in the Koala Estate area of Cowes west say they will fight Bass Coast Shire Council's plans to return their roads to gravel.

Dust up over road ripping in Cowes west

ROADS

Residents in Cowes' Koala Estate will fight Bass Coast Shire Council's plans to rip up dust suppressant on roads and return it to gravel.

The residents say their roads are not scheduled for a special charge scheme until 2065 and they are "amazed" council is "so astute with budgeting and time management".

Last month residents whose homes are in the area around Scenic Drive, Outlook Drive and Park Lane in Cowes west received notification from the council detailing their streets were going to have the dust suppressant seal ripped up, and streets "rehabilitated" to a gravel surface.

Resident Rodney Siphthorp said the decision to return roads to the pre-2005 gravel topping reflected "backward thinking" and the best decision would be to resurface with the dust suppressant material.

"Prior to the dissolving of the Phillip Island Council, homeowners in the Koala Estate were issued letters for full road construction, guttering and kerbing," Rodney writes, in a letter to the Advertiser.

"With the loss of our local council to Bass Coast the scheme was abandoned."

Rodney said the area was not scheduled for a special charge scheme for 40 years and he was disappointed in the council's suggestion for residents to create a petition.

"The deed is left to the residents with no contacts, privacy policies to navigate and no real means to tabulate responses effectively," he said.

Dangerous

Resident Darren Murphy said Park Lane and Max-

well Street were two feeder streets into the estate that carry the majority of traffic, "hence a greater dust problem than other streets".

"When Park Lane was a gravel surface, during wet weather the gravel would wash down the slight hill and onto Red Rocks Road or in dry weather the cars would carry dust and loose stones into the intersection," said Darren, who had lived in this area since the mid-80s.

"This causes a traffic hazard and prior to the bitumen being laid I can recall three car accidents, and numerous vehicles skidding to a stop well into the intersection.

"We have given kids who have fallen off their bikes when hitting the loose gravel numbers of band aids.

"This danger has been removed since the bitumen has been laid."

Darren said he understood the council's concerns about maintaining the conditions of the roads and potholes.

"But there has to be some balance with creating another and in my opinion a worse traffic hazard.

"Also why rip up the bitumen that is still in good condition."

Rhyll

At the March council meeting Rhyll resident Shane Dougherty asked if the council could postpone the short-term rehabilitation works at Reid Street so residents had time to form a petition requesting a special charge scheme.

"How can council assist with increasing the maintenance interventions of the existing Reid Street dust suppression seal in the interim period?" Shane asked.

Shire CEO Greg Box

replied at any time council officers would support residents looking to improve their streets with a road and drainage upgrade.

"Postponing of the proposed works will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the level of support and timing for any upgrade project," Mr Box said.

Response

A council spokesperson said between 2005 and 2007 a trial was undertaken where a dust suppressant primer seal was applied to roads, to see whether it would improve the life of the road and reduce maintenance costs.

The trial was stopped in 2010.

In 2013 council adopted a management plan to remove the seals once they deteriorated beyond intervention levels, at the end of their lifespan, and the roads would revert to being maintained as unsealed roads.

"Council does not consider this process to be changing the original condition of these roads," the spokesperson said.

"The affected roads were included in a discontinued trial, and a management plan has been in place for their long-term maintenance."

The spokesperson said an alternative option was the Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement (URDI) policy, allowing property owners who want to upgrade road and drainage infrastructure in their area.

"These upgrades are typically funded through a special charge scheme, where property owners contribute financially, alongside council's contribution based on broader community benefit."

Details: engage.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/urdi

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This 2023 draft concept plan for an upgrade of the Newhaven boat ramp, proposed to dredge to create better access for boaters at a range of tides, with works including an extension to the seawall and rock revetment, alongside a third boat ramp lane, ramp extension and pontoon. The plans are yet to be funded.

Newhaven ramp inspected

BOATING

Inspections and reporting at the Newhaven boat ramp were undertaken last week by Bass Coast Shire Council, to ensure its safety. The ramp – not to be confused with the closed Parks Victoria Newhaven jetty – had a detailed assessment on Thursday and Friday by Wood Research and Development.

The jetty’s deck, superstructure, substructure, and other key components were assessed, with the south lane of the boat ramp temporarily closed, while the north lane remained open.

Minor delays may occur, and traffic control signage will be in place.

Upgrades?

Meanwhile, updated designs on the Newhaven boat ramp upgrade, which were released in 2023, have been delayed.

The plans included: a third boat ramp lane, extending the existing ramps to access deeper water, a new jetty with gangway and floating pontoon and changed parking.

Following an online survey and in-person sessions, Better Boating Victoria heard from more than 70 community members.

Last week a Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) spokesperson said detailed designs were being progressed in conjunction with Bass Coast Shire Council and maritime engineers, with “future construction subject to funding and necessary approvals”.

“The Newhaven boat ramp project remains part of our pipeline of future upgrades and we thank local boaters for their input as we oversee boat ramp improvements right around the state,” the spokesperson said.

Currently the ramp includes a two-lane concrete boat ramp, jetty, fish cleaning facilities, and parking.

In mid-2020 engineering condition inspections and structural assessments were undertaken that showed the 50-year-old structure was “nearing the end of its design life”, recommending an upgrade over the next five to 10 years.

Anglers! Don’t believe the “political spin”

FISHING

Angling clubs are being hit with a “bull**** PR campaign” by the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) to defend “irrational and radical” cuts to Fisheries offices.

That’s according to Kevin Brown, a Phillip Island resident who was Victoria’s former Chief Fisheries Officer.

As reported in February the State Government announced plans to close five Fisheries offices in Western Port and Port Phillip bays, including Cowes, and fire 27 staff.

The four staff in the Cowes office have been told their roles will be terminated by April 19, and the building on Dunsmore Road will be sold.

The fishing industry, recreational fishing groups, former staff, conservationists, the Liberals, Nationals, unions and the Victorian National Parks Association have all condemned the proposal.

There will be just nine new positions created for Fisheries “engagement officers”, with three new offices opened, including one in Tooradin.

On the weekend a major protest was held in Melbourne against the proposed cuts.

Last week former Victorian Chief Fisheries Officer Kevin Brown told the Advertiser VFA CEO Travis Dowling had sent letters to angling clubs in recent weeks promoting the cuts.

The letter states while the proposed changes will “see a reduction in our overall workforce, they will not impact on the sustainability of our fisheries nor the wonderful fishing experiences you enjoy today” and states the VFA will “continue to have authorised Fisheries compliance officers” and “a major Fisheries crime unit to tackle serious organised illegal fisheries offending”.

“Political spin”

But Mr Brown says the letter is about making recreational fishers “feel warm and fuzzy without knowing any detail”, adding the letter “sugar-coated” the sector.

“It sounds lovely but it’s quite deliberately misleading. It’s political spin,” Mr Brown said.

“Because the more you look into the changes, the more fright-



Phillip Island resident Kevin Brown worked 40 years in Fisheries, including more than a decade as Victoria’s Chief Fisheries Officer. He is highly critical of the Victorian Government’s proposed “trashing” of Fisheries.

ening they become.

“These changes will absolutely devastate recreational and commercial fishing and the environment of Victoria.”

Mr Brown said the nine new engagement offices will not receive the 22-week training required to police fisheries.

“It’s a disaster waiting to happen, a legal minefield.

“Where is the due diligence the Minister and VFA board undertook before accepting the recommendations from the CEO to abandon all compliance work?”

“In my view, Mr Dowling is walking away from his legislative responsibilities.”

Mr Brown said the proposed major Fisheries crime unit would have four staff and be based in Melbourne.

This compares to the long-standing specialised unit that had up to 16 staff who were experts in investigation, forensics and analysis and had regional staff, including at Cowes.

“It’s impossible that four people will know everything that’s happening in illegal fisheries crime across the state,” he said.

He said several other points in the letter were “skirting with the truth” including Mr Dowling appearing to take credit for initiatives that happened more than a decade ago, such as free boat ramps.

The letter also boasts that 95,000 free fishing rods have been given to school students under a Victorian Government

initiative, and 10 million fish are stocked into Victoria’s waters each year.

“The cuts to Fisheries are irrational,” Mr Brown responded.

“When you’re sacking people and closing offices, where is the priority? Their priority seems to be handing out free rods and having the biggest fish stocking program in Australia.

“It’s not the job of the government to fund fishing rods, but the retail sector. Nothing comes for free. Someone has to pay for it.”

He said if the changes go ahead Victoria will be the only state or territory in Australia that won’t have a dedicated fisheries officer workforce.

He said the risks to fisheries stock and marine parks was immense, as was the potential impact on boating safety, describing Fisheries officers as the “eyes and ears on the water”.

Petition

The Victorian community continues to support the battle against the proposed changes, with a Change.org petition so far signed by nearly 22,000 people.

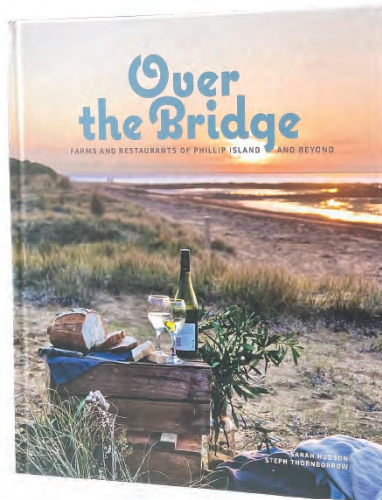
On Facebook one angry fisherman described the decision as “the single largest act of environmental vandalism in the state of Victoria”.

Details:
www.tinyurl.com/4bp72btz
www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/closure-of-fisheries-stations-in-metro-melbourne/

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Council quizzed on parking waivers

COUNCIL

Residents have grilled Bass Coast Shire Council on parking waivers.

At the March council meeting, questions were posed on the current new Isle of Wight development and whether the Rhyll boat ramp could be used for overflow parking.

Resident Philip Davy said the shire “continually” gave parking waivers to developers “creating a shortage of car parks”.

“Will council convert some of the under-utilised boat parking spaces at the Rhyll boat ramp to carparking spaces? Philip said.

“This could be done simply with signage and line marking at minimum cost.”

Council CEO, Greg Box responded conversion of some of the existing boat parking spaces at Rhyll had been explored in the Integrated Transport Strategy, which will be released in May.

“The investigation highlighted the seasonal nature of car parking in Rhyll and does not currently recommend any changes to how the Rhyll boat ramp car park currently functions.”

Isle of Wight

Ross Bencraft asked about the Isle of Wight’s submission of a green travel plan, which was a condition of the permit and allowed the parking waiver of 900 car spaces.



The council has investigated converting some of the existing boat parking spaces at the Rhyll boat ramp into parking for the public, but concluded no changes should be made.

“As work has commenced on the redevelopment, a plan must have been submitted and approved,” Ross said, asking for details of the plan.

Mr Box replied conditions of the permit allowed for early earthworks to occur prior to the plan’s endorsement and in preparation for development activity.

“A green travel plan will still be required to be submitted and approved as a condition of the planning permit,” Mr Box said.

Ross then questioned last year’s Planning Minister’s decision to unilaterally approve the Isle of Wight, quoting the CEO who said the development’s 900 parking spaces were waived by

the minister, not the council.

“Based on this, is it correct for ratepayers to assume the shire can be ultimately rendered powerless by the minister, in its control over important aspects of planning applications and approvals in our shire,” Ross asked.

Mr Box responded the Isle of Wight redevelopment was approved through the State Government’s Development Facilitation Program “which was established by the Minister for Planning to make faster decisions for priority projects”.

“While council was supportive of the application, the Minister ultimately approved the development.”



The first round of Nature Parks Community Giving Program is now open to support local not-for-profit groups, sporting clubs and schools across Bass Coast. Applications close May 31.

Supporting the community that supports us

NATURE PARKS

Phillip Island Nature Parks opens its Community Giving Program this month in a show of support for local not-for-profit groups, sporting clubs and schools across Bass Coast.

Applications for the first round of Community Giving are open until May 31, while a second round will commence on October 1 and close on November 30.

Each year, the Nature Parks commits funds and in-kind support as a way of ‘giving back’ to the Phillip Island community.

Community Impact Manager Kate Adams said Phillip Island Nature Parks greatly value the community as a key stakeholder and partner in its important conservation work.

“The Nature Parks has been a long-term supporter of local organisations, charities, and events across Bass Coast. Our Community Giving Program is about giving back and supporting the very people who support us in our dedicated conservation

efforts,” Ms Adams said.

“We encourage applications for donations, in-kind support and sponsorship of initiatives that align with our values and work to preserve this special region of Victoria for generations to come.

“In particular, we are keen to help community efforts that align with our ethos at the Nature Parks to educate and raise awareness about nature, conservation and sustainability, as well as respect for the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.”

Other priority areas include projects that celebrate or promote diversity and inclusion in our community, art, history and culture, and sport and recreation, Ms Adams said.

For more information or to apply to the program, visit www.penguins.org.au/about/our-community/community-giving-program/

Or email community@penguins.org.au to contact the Nature Parks Community Team.

/Sponsored article/

Rock bags to be installed at Silverleaves

EROSION

Construction of a stepped rock bag wall 150 metres east along the most vulnerable stretch of Silverleaves will start on April 7, due for completion before the Easter king tide.

The rock bags are an interim protection while longer term adaptation planning and options are being prepared.

Beach access points at Coghlan and Sanders roads may be temporarily closed for heavy machinery access, said Jeremy Neilson, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) regional manager

“These works are one action we are taking to plan for long-term adaptation for Silverleaves,” he said.

Bass Coast Shire Council, as the land manager, will lead project delivery.

A council spokesperson said rock bags were now being pre-



Following a petition and a protest, Silverleaves residents have successfully lobbied for interim works to stop erosion, with a rock bag revetment to be installed from April 7 ahead of more permanent future measures.

pared off site ahead of April 7 and some minor work will occur on the beach before the bags are installed.

“If conditions are favourable, work may begin earlier,”

they said.

Community consultation on the Silverleaves Adaptation Plan will occur in the coming months via the Engage Victoria website at engage.vic.gov.au/

Phillip Island NATURE PARKS

COMMUNITY GIVING PROGRAM

The 2025 Community Giving Program is open to local groups, schools, and nonprofits seeking funding for small projects and events in Bass Coast.

We support initiatives that drive social change, promote conservation, and champion sustainability.



For further information and to apply, please scan the QR code or email community@penguins.org.au



Geoff de Jonge is a San Remo resident and was approved for a level two home care package in December 2024, after an almost year-long assessment and subsequent waiting process. Three months later, the package was withdrawn after he could not find a provider.

Home care aged residents struggle against “woeful” system

SENIORS

Senior residents have described the process of trying to access home support as “woeful”, “exceedingly difficult” to navigate and “designed to frustrate to the point of giving up”.

Multiple independent community members have contacted the Advertiser in recent months, dismayed at the process of obtaining support designed to allow them to stay at home.

Geoff de Jonge is a San Remo resident and was approved for a level two home care package in December 2024, after an almost year-long assessment and subsequent waiting process.

The 85-year-old was then given three months to find a provider, and said after contacting several different aged care providers was told no care was available.

Geoff then recontacted My Aged Care (MAC), the Australian Government’s central system for accessing services, and was told there were providers available “right now”.

Despite contacting the same government recommended provider that day, Geoff said he received the same answer: “no one available”.

This process, Geoff said, went on painstakingly for weeks, and

on February 5 this year Geoff was notified his home care package had been withdrawn as he had not entered into an agreement with a provider.

Similarly, Richard Poole and his wife in Ventnor have been struggling for months to receive home care assistance.

After contacting Russell Broadbent, the local federal member, Richard said some inroads were made but the couple were still struggling to get a provider.

“It is the most confusing system you could possibly believe,” Richard said.

“It’s almost impossible to get a provider.”

Broken system

A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Aged Care told the Advertiser “the current home care system isn’t working”.

The spokesperson said for this reason the Federal Government was reforming the aged care system to support older people to stay at home, and investing \$4.3 million into a new, more sustainable Support at Home program, which will start on July 1.

A senior representative of one of the major regional aged care providers also acknowledged the system was complex and difficult

to navigate.

“I would say at the moment, unfortunately probably what they’ve discovered the hard way, is they’ve fallen down the cracks,” the representative told the Advertiser.

Currently, to receive a home care package Australians must first contact My Aged Care, then be assessed by a registered assessor, and then access a provider – with each step providing potentially significant roadblocks.

“It’s hard to understand why there are so many different services,” Geoff said.

“There’s My Aged Care, there’s the assessor, and then there’s these providers. But different assessors will also ring you up and say ‘would you like a new assessment?’”

“It’s a system that seems to have exploded, and the bits have gone everywhere – and none of them know what anyone else is doing.”

“This is what the bureaucracy does, they grind you down. They don’t respond to your letter; they don’t respond to any concern.”

Geoff said he hadn’t reapplied for a home care package since it was withdrawn in February, but he “probably will have to”.

“This is the beginning of the dreadful trauma that old age brings to thousands of people.”



PICAL staff celebrate the installation of solar panels and a battery, which means PICAL can offer individuals a place where they can recharge their mobile phones, seek shelter or potentially get a cup of coffee while the power is out for a while.

Energy Resilience – Phillip Island no longer in a PICAL

SOLAR

As part of Bass Coast Shire Council’s “Risk and Resilience” program, local solar company Sunscape Solar, based in Grantville, recently installed 32.56kW of solar panels and a BYD 22.1kWh battery module at Phillip Island Community and Learning (PICAL).

Through the funding, council is equipping existing community facilities with solar and battery systems that aim to provide a continuous supply of power during extreme weather events and power outages.

A key objective for council’s program is to ensure that in the event of power outages, community places like PICAL can offer individuals a place where they can recharge their mobile phones, seek shelter or potentially get a cup of coffee while the power is out for a while.

This investment in climate resilient infrastructure will also be supported by local community engagement to help communities further prepare for the range of local emergencies predicted to occur following increased extreme weather events.

The project will help with both PICAL and the council’s climate action goals, plus offer the added

benefit of delivering electricity savings to help with the day to day running costs of the centre.

David Rooks, former Bass Coast councillor and manager of PICAL, said the project was a welcome one for the community.

“PICAL is proud to be one of the Bass Coast Shire Council’s relief and recovery centres. We hope that we can serve the community in times of need into the future.”

“We also appreciate the on-site investment by Bass Coast Shire Council and the subsequent reduction in our electricity bills.”

While the centre has only received one electricity bill since the solar power and batteries were installed, David has indicated that they have seen clear reductions in their daytime electricity usage.

With the new data gained from the system, they are now aiming to reduce their power usage at nighttime to get as close to energy neutral at the site as possible.

If you would like to discuss how you can save money on your electricity bill and increase energy resilience at your home, feel free to visit Sunscape Solar’s website at www.sunscapecolar.com.au or call the office on 1300 733 332.

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Questions raised on kindergarten funding

From page 1

But in this instance, it has not happened.

MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale, defending the funding decision, said the Phillip Island Kindergarten project by 5 Outcomes was chosen as “only one project was required to meet unmet demand in the area”.

“This project is in a more centralised location for the community,” she said.

“We fund projects that also form part of the council’s centralised enrolment system of which 5 Outcomes does.”

She added a thorough assessment of each application was undertaken and Building Blocks grants were “accepted year-round and evaluated in batched rounds throughout the year”, suggesting there were further opportunities to apply for funding.

Overlooked?

In 2023 San Remo Preschool and Newhaven College, which are both not for profit (a criteria which must be met by funding applicants), each received a \$150,000 State Government grant to allow them to plan for new and expanded long day care and kindergarten facilities.

Newhaven College principal Tony Corr said his school had since developed detailed plans for a new state of the art 88-place early years centre, costed at about \$7 million, due to open next year.

Mr Corr said \$367,883 was spent by them on the design and planning approvals.

“The College has obtained a planning permit and is in a financial position to partly fund the project but is not able to proceed further without



Newhaven College was unsuccessful in its Building Blocks grant application for funding to proceed with an 88 place early years centre facility, planned to open next year, with funding going instead to a Melbourne based kindergarten operator for a facility in Cowes.

some level of government funding,” he said.

“The facility as designed was costed with government funding incorporated. We will certainly look at applying for future funding, though we are not sure what or when that is available – if at all.”

Mr Corr said the College – which is a community-founded, not-for-profit school – has been working to a 2026 opening, which will now not happen. They were yet to take bookings but “we had many inquiries regarding attending the centre” and an expressions of interest list.

He explained the new 88-place early years centre, Littlehaven, was to cater to three to five-year-old students in the two years before their prep program, combined with long day care and early intervention for children with special needs.

He said the design included four 22-place rooms, allowing smaller class sizes, with large north-facing sliding glass doors connecting to outdoor learning areas.

He said it would be open to all children, not just those continuing into prep at their school, and it was also open to the council’s centralised booking system.

San Remo

Bass Coast Shire Council was unsuccessful in their application for State Government Building Blocks grant funding on behalf of the San Remo Preschool, as the council owns the building.

The preschool is the last remaining not-for-profit independently run kindergarten in Gippsland, and its committee was planning to expand infrastructure to meet the ever growing demand for three- and four-year-old kindergarten places.

“We will seek feedback on the submission and continue to explore other opportunities to meet the growing needs of our community,” a council spokesperson said.

The San Remo Preschool Committee of Management released a statement to the Advertiser saying they were “disappointed” the grant application to expand was unsuccessful, and “we remain committed to ensuring local families have access to high-quality early childhood education”.

“We will continue working closely with Bass Coast Shire Council to explore other opportunities to meet the growing needs of our community,” the statement said.

The centre is also part of the council’s centralised booking system.



Work on a new kindergarten and long day care centre in Cowes for a 66 place facility, which has been awarded \$2.2 million in State Government funding, is underway.

Kinder questions continue

EDUCATION

Questions are being asked, and concerns raised about the proposed new Phillip Island Kindergarten, after it received State Government funding.

According to the Building Blocks grant criteria, the funding must be for a new building and cannot be an extension or refurbishment of an existing facility.

Jordan Crugnale said while 39 Dunsmore Road had an existing building that was being repurposed, “5 Outcomes received funding having met the criteria as it is a new early learning facility”.

“In other words, it wasn’t an existing kindergarten centre operated by them. There are other funding streams for existing preschool/kinders to expand and extend to cater for more children,” Ms Crugnale said.

5 Outcomes director D’lene Johnson said the grant was provided for a new early learning facility offering places for three- and four-year old kindergarten.

“Phillip Island Kindergarten is a new service being developed in an iconic island building,” she said.

“Rather than demolish and build a completely

new centre, I was very keen to keep the beautiful shape of the building, while providing a modern and beautiful kindergarten fitout indoors.”

Building Blocks grant criteria also requires a successful recipient to be a non-profit.

Ms Johnson said 5 Outcomes was a not-for-profit operator, “who have received the funding on this basis, in consideration of the growing need for kindergarten places in Bass Coast”.

Places, safety

Questions have also been raised in the wake of the grant funding, including the exact number of kindergarten places, and safety issues around the site of the new Cowes kindergarten.

According to the government’s media release, the \$2.2 million will fund a 66-place early learning facility.

However, the planning permit granted in 2023 states: “The number of childcare places associated with the permitted use must not exceed 33 places at any one time”.

A Bass Coast Shire Council spokesperson confirmed the planning permit allowed for 33 places per day, which is

the maximum number of children who can attend the service at a time.

Over a week, there will be two groups of 22 four-year-olds and one group of 22 three-year-olds, so 66 children can enrol at the service.

The spokesperson confirmed the nine car parking space requirement onsite met council regulations and planners were satisfied there were no safety issues from cars and children on Dunsmore Road.

The spokesperson added that trees were removed for “safety and visibility purposes”.

“Additionally, council’s engineer notes that shrubs in the road reserve are generally discouraged for visibility and safety purposes.”

Peter Paul, a former Cowes Primary principal said “numerous community members have also expressed concerns that there appear to be parking issues at the new proposed Phillip Island Kindergarten, that don’t exist at the two educational sites”.

“Parents and children will have to cross the road near the crest of a hill, from the Bowling Club side, as there is no parking permitted outside the kindergarten site.”

Bass Coast stats continue to climb

CRIME

A report from the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) shows crime figures continue to climb, in Bass Coast and Victoria.

There was a 10.9 per cent increase in criminal incidents in Bass Coast in 2024 (236 more than the previous year), however the rate was still below the Victorian rate.

Despite recording less incidents than in 2023, Wonthaggi was still the number one area for crime (739 incidents), followed by Cowes (433), Inverloch, North Wonthaggi and San Remo.

Locally, breaches of family violence order was again the top offence, followed by criminal damage, theft, assault and

stealing from a motor vehicle.

Across the state, police recorded an increase in alleged offender incidents of 17.1 per cent, while Bass Coast saw offences increase by 24.3 per cent, with 262 more incidents than the previous year.

Assault and related offences topped the list of offences, followed by breaches of orders, theft, property damage and stalking/harassment.

The number of young offenders (10-17) had risen slightly from 2023, now at 236 compared to 205. The highest age category for local offender incidents remained at 45 years plus, with men represented at three times the rate of women.

Family violence

Once again, local rates of family incidents remained well above the state rates, with an increase for the year of 12.3 per cent (100 more incidents than the previous year).

This compares to 2023, which saw local rates drop by 3.3 per cent.

Women were three times more likely to be affected by family incidents than men.

The local increase was slightly higher than the Victorian statistics, which saw an increase of 11.3 per cent.

The rise in Bass Coast statistics correlates with reports from local police, who consistently report family violence incidents as their highest workload.

The CSA said the local government area with the

highest criminal incident rate was Melbourne, followed by Yarra, Latrobe, Mildura and Port Phillip.

The highest number of recorded offences was in Melbourne, then Latrobe, Yarra, Mildura and Greater Shepparton.

Melbourne recorded 16,965.3 incidents per 100,000 estimated resident population, compared to 2407 (per 100,000 estimated resident population) in Bass Coast.

For recorded offences, Bass Coast recorded 3422 per 100,000 population, compared to Melbourne’s rate of 22,080.8.

For a detailed breakdown of the data: www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/media-centre/news/key-figures-year-ending-december-2024



Criminal incidents in Bass Coast were up 10.9 per cent in 2024, reflecting the broad trend across the state.

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Good luck to all teams for the 2025 season!



Last year's young guns, the U18 footballers and U15 netballers, celebrate their hard-earned premierships victories. Let's hope they can repeat their success and bring home another championship this year.

Footy's back... bumper season ahead

The Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) is gearing up for another bumper season, starting on April 5.

The club is the largest in Gippsland, not just the West Gippsland League, and President Chris Ross said numbers this year remain high.

With close to 600 participants in football and netball, the club looks set to field at least 28 teams across the football and netball competitions, with the potential addition of junior female football teams.

The senior teams (Seniors, Reserves, Under 18 and Under 16) are now back training at the Cowes oval, after another enforced absence while rehabilitation work was undertaken on the turf.

"We're extremely grateful to Newhaven College for the use of their oval for training," Chris said.

Kicking off the new the season in style, the club's new jumper design will be unveiled this week, including a new sponsor.

Grounds

Over the summer the council replaced approximately 2200 cubic metres of turf in the most impacted areas of the Cowes oval, maintained a fertiliser application and spraying, mowing and watering regimen.

Synthetic pads were also installed behind the goal lines to prevent wear.

While the club has not used the oval since November, and moved its pre-season training to Newhaven College to give the

oval the best chance to recover, there has been another challenge.

The new turf has been inundated by flocks of Corellas, eating the ground and the new turf in recent weeks. Chris said a range of deterrents had been introduced to get rid of the unwanted visitors.

"We put some fake eagles up, and the council sprayed the ground with a deterrent, so for the last week the birds haven't been there."

He's optimistic that the summer rehabilitation will see the ground in good condition for the 2025 season. But space remains an ongoing issue.

With the club growing each year, the president said they'd met with all the candidates in the upcoming federal election about securing support to get the new sports hub – and additional ovals – underway.

Netball

The club is gearing up for an exciting 2025 netball season across both junior and senior teams, said Anthea Bennett, in charge of senior netball this season.

"There has been high interest in the netball program with the club fielding teams from 11&U to A Grade in the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition," Anthea said.

"Additionally, the club has a 13&U and 15&U team participating at Casey Netball Association, reflecting the high participation levels in 2025."

Hollie Castagna has been appointed as the Head Netball Coach for 2025.

After being involved with the club in the previous year, Hollie has stepped into this role to lead the netball program with a commitment to giving players the opportunity to learn and improve. Hollie is supported by other senior coaches Abbey McCaughan (B Grade), Emma Hallas (C Grade) and returning D Grade coach Meg Oudshoorn, who also coaches 13&U players that participate at Casey.

"It is wonderful to see some of our senior players stepping into coaching roles to support and develop our junior teams," Anthea said.

"In 2025 our Junior teams are coached by Maya Huther (17&U), Maxine McNamara (15&U), Christie Edwards (15&U Casey), Aisha Hibbert & Piper O'Brien (13&U) and Jaclyn Clark (11&U WGFNL).

"Our Junior teams had great success in 2024 and will be looking to further this in 2025."

Anthea said coaches have been working carefully with their teams to ensure they are ready for a successful season.

According to Head Coach Hollie Castagna "obviously we want all our teams to be competitive and playing in finals, but we recognise the need to focus on team dynamics, skill development and game strategy to achieve results and that's what our preseason focus has been".

Anthea said PIFNC offers a welcoming environment with several new faces and returning players joining the club this year.

Football

The 2025 season sees Cam Pedersen return as head coach, with the club keen to build on last season's results, which saw the Under 18s take out the premierships, with both the Under 16s and Seniors teams competing in the Grand Final.

Chris Ross said the club was looking forward to the season, and "getting a heap of senior games for our local kids, and still remaining competitive".

"At the end of the day, that's where our future is, in the local kids

"A lot of the squad from last year are returning, but it will be a different looking team," he said.

The club will field two teams each in the Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14 divisions, alongside the Under 16, Under 18, Reserves and Seniors sides. There will also be an Under 18 girls' team, with potentially two more female teams joining the competition.

The huge numbers in the junior divisions – 30 players per team – means kids are being rostered to play.

The numbers are a challenge when playing against clubs like Inverloch, Wonthaggi and Leongatha, said head coach Cam Pedersen.

"They put their best kids into one team, whereas we try to make our teams as equal as possible, and develop everyone."

The huge numbers also provide a logistical challenge for training, with multiple teams training every night and a strong coaching squad has been put together.

For Seniors, alongside head coach Cam Pedersen there are line coach Damien Holmes, Brendan Kimber, Daniel Larsson and Scott Huther, and development coach Dean Blake.

The club coaching team for this year also includes Brad Thompson, James Nicolaci and Luke Davies (Reserves); Tarryn Allan (Under 16s); Jack Taylor and Hayden Bruce (Under 18s).

Chris Ross also praised the volunteers and community who support the club.

"It's a true community club, and I sincerely want to thank the volunteers for all the work they do," he said.

The PIFNC thanks all its sponsors, including major sponsor Bendigo Community Bank and Platinum Sponsors: Ray White Phillip Island, Phillip Island RSL, Terra Firma, San Remo Hotel, North Pier Hotel, Endeavour Petroleum, Red Rocks Golf Club, Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Todd Devine Homes.

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Good luck to all teams for the 2025 season!

FIXTURE 2025

ROUND 1

Saturday, 5 April

Phillip Island v Nar Nar Goon
Tooradin-Dalmore v Cora Lynn
Korumburra Bena v Kilcunda Bass
Warragul Industrials v Garfield
Dalyston v Koo Wee Rup
Inverloch-Kongwak Bye

ROUND 2

Saturday, 12 April

Nar Nar Goon v Dalyston
Garfield v Phillip Island
Inverloch-Kongwak v Korumburra Bena
Tooradin-Dalmore v Koo Wee Rup
Kilcunda Bass v Warragul Industrials
Cora Lynn Bye

EASTER SATURDAY (ROUND 4)

Saturday, 19 April

Phillip Island v Warragul Industrials
Inverloch-Kongwak v Kilcunda Bass

ROUND 3 ANZAC ROUND

Friday, 25 April

Warragul Industrials v Tooradin-Dalmore

Saturday, 26 April

Koo Wee Rup v Nar Nar Goon
Phillip Island v Kilcunda Bass
Cora Lynn v Inverloch-Kongwak
Korumburra Bena v Dalyston
Garfield Bye

ROUND 4

Saturday, 3 May

Nar Nar Goon v Tooradin-Dalmore
Dalyston v Cora Lynn
Koo Wee Rup v Garfield
Korumburra Bena Bye

ROUND 5

Saturday, 10 May

Garfield v Nar Nar Goon
Cora Lynn v Koo Wee Rup
Tooradin-Dalmore v Inverloch-Kongwak
Kilcunda Bass v Dalyston
Warragul Industrials v Korumburra Bena
Phillip Island Bye

ROUND 6

Saturday, 17 May

Inverloch-Kongwak v Nar Nar Goon
Tooradin-Dalmore v Phillip Island
Kilcunda Bass v Cora Lynn
Korumburra Bena v Koo Wee Rup
Dalyston v Garfield
Warragul Industrials Bye

ROUND 7

Saturday, 24 May

Nar Nar Goon v Warragul Industrials
Inverloch-Kongwak v Phillip Island
Cora Lynn v Korumburra Bena
Koo Wee Rup v Tooradin-Dalmore
Garfield v Kilcunda Bass
Dalyston Bye

ROUND 8

Saturday, 31 May

Phillip Island v Dalyston
Cora Lynn v Garfield
Warragul Industrials v Inverloch-Kongwak
Tooradin-Dalmore v Korumburra Bena
Kilcunda Bass v Koo Wee Rup
Nar Nar Goon Bye

ROUND 9

Saturday, 7 June

Korumburra Bena v Nar Nar Goon
Phillip Island v Koo Wee Rup
Warragul Industrials v Cora Lynn
Inverloch-Kongwak v Dalyston
Garfield v Tooradin-Dalmore
Kilcunda Bass Bye

ROUND 10

Saturday, 14 June

Nar Nar Goon v Phillip Island
Koo Wee Rup v Inverloch-Kongwak
Kilcunda Bass v Tooradin-Dalmore
Dalyston v Warragul Industrials
Korumburra Bena v Garfield
Cora Lynn Bye 2

ROUND 11

Saturday, 21 June

Nar Nar Goon v Kilcunda Bass
Phillip Island v Cora Lynn
Garfield v Inverloch-Kongwak
Koo Wee Rup v Warragul Industrials
Dalyston v Korumburra Bena
Tooradin-Dalmore Bye

ROUND 12

Saturday, 28 June

Cora Lynn v Nar Nar Goon
Warragul Industrials v Phillip Island
Tooradin-Dalmore v Dalyston
Kilcunda Bass v Korumburra Bena
Garfield v Koo Wee Rup
Inverloch-Kongwak Bye 2

ROUND 13

Saturday, 5 July

Nar Nar Goon v Garfield
Korumburra Bena v Phillip Island
Inverloch-Kongwak v Cora Lynn
Tooradin-Dalmore v Warragul Industrials
Dalyston v Kilcunda Bass
Koo Wee Rup Bye

ROUND 14

Saturday, 12 July

Dalyston v Nar Nar Goon
Phillip Island v Tooradin-Dalmore
Koo Wee Rup v Cora Lynn
Kilcunda Bass v Inverloch-Kongwak
Korumburra Bena v Warragul Industrials
Garfield Bye 2

ROUND 15

Saturday, 19 July

Warragul Industrials v Nar Nar Goon
Cora Lynn v Kilcunda Bass
Inverloch-Kongwak v Tooradin-Dalmore
Koo Wee Rup v Korumburra Bena
Garfield v Dalyston
Phillip Island Bye 2

ROUND 16

Saturday, 26 July

Kilcunda Bass v Phillip Island
Cora Lynn v Dalyston
Korumburra Bena v Inverloch-Kongwak
Garfield v Warragul Industrials
Nar Nar Goon, Tooradin-Dalmore &
Koo Wee Rup Bye 2

ROUND 17

Saturday, 2 August

Nar Nar Goon v Inverloch-Kongwak
Dalyston v Phillip Island
Korumburra Bena v Cora Lynn
Tooradin-Dalmore v Garfield
Koo Wee Rup v Kilcunda Bass
Warragul Industrials Bye 2

ROUND 18

Saturday, 9 August

Nar Nar Goon v Korumburra Bena
Phillip Island v Garfield
Cora Lynn v Tooradin-Dalmore
Inverloch-Kongwak v Koo Wee Rup
Warragul Industrials v Kilcunda Bass
Dalyston Bye 2

ROUND 19

Saturday, 16 August

Tooradin-Dalmore v Nar Nar Goon
Cora Lynn v Phillip Island
Inverloch-Kongwak v Warragul Industrials
Koo Wee Rup v Dalyston
Garfield v Korumburra Bena
Kilcunda Bass Bye 2

ROUND 20

Saturday, 23 August

Nar Nar Goon v Cora Lynn
Phillip Island v Inverloch-Kongwak
Dalyston v Tooradin-Dalmore
Kilcunda Bass v Garfield
Warragul Industrials v Koo Wee Rup
Korumburra Bena Bye 2

FINALS

ELIMINATION FINAL 1

Saturday 30 August

ELIMINATION FINAL 2

Sunday 31 August

SEMI FINAL 1

Saturday 6 September

SEMI FINAL 2

Sunday 7 September

PRELIMINARY FINAL,

Saturday 13 September

GRAND FINAL

Saturday 20 September

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YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE



With a striking street frontage, this quality five-bedroom plus studio offers extensive living with sublime sea views at every turn.



With an abundance of light, controlled by quality interior and exterior blinds and double glazing throughout, the hub of the home is open plan and inviting, surrounded by panoramic water views.



The spacious balcony can be enclosed or opened to capture the sea breeze. Enjoying comforts such as ceiling fan, television point, heating, and outdoor kitchen and barbeque; this area is designed for magnificent all season living.

Sea change panoramic perfection

Panoramic bridge and island views, with a striking street frontage, this quality five-bedroom plus studio offers extensive living with sublime sea views at every turn.

Architecturally astute, the property begins with sealed aggregate driveway, landscaped gardens and a stunning exterior that sits securely within its surrounds, providing privacy for the exceptional living within.

Clever planning provides independently accessed family living at entrance level. With sliding doors to close off, the area has its own passageway, linking two stunning bedrooms with built in robes, split systems, ceiling fans and television points.

The family bathroom features an oversized shower and separate toilet, effortlessly connecting to the pristine kitchenette, dining, and living. This area steps out to an undercover deck that has it all: outside shower and toilet, with plenty of space to laze the afternoon away, all overlooking the pool to the crisp blue water beyond.

Transported via lift or stairway to the breathtaking living of the upper level. With an abundance of light, controlled by quality interior and exterior blinds and double glazing throughout, the hub of the home is open plan and inviting, surrounded by panoramic water views.

The stunning kitchen with

butler's pantry is in keeping with the rest of the home with impressive elements of texture, featuring classic white tiling, stone bench tops and quality appliances. The gas fire is framed impressively by stone. Split systems and ceiling fans are consistent in the living area and bedrooms throughout.

Providing an outdoor living zone, the spacious balcony can be enclosed or opened to capture the sea breeze. Enjoying comforts such as ceiling fan, television point, heating, and outdoor kitchen and barbeque; this area is designed for magnificent all season living along with access via outdoor stairwell to the backyard and pool.

The decadent master bedroom shares the balcony and includes a separate study, walk in robe and stunning ensuite. The family bathroom has a free-standing bath and in line with all the bathrooms, an oversized shower and feature tiling. Two further bedrooms, one with walk in robe, complete this level of the home.

Split level, the backyard flows effortlessly from the extensive deck to the pool area, then down to the firepit zone and garden shed. Magnificent water views are captured from both levels of the property.

An impressive four car garage with internal and through access assures ample parking

and storage for all vehicles. The property is energy efficient with solar panels and Tesla battery.

Seeing is believing with this impressive property. Ideally located in San Remo, just a stroll to the beach and shopping village, the area provides ample kindergarten and school choices surrounded by magnificent Bass Coast beaches and landscapes. Just 90 minutes from Melbourne CBD, San Remo is an ideal holiday getaway or better yet, the perfect sea change to call home.

Address: 9 The Broadway San Remo
Details: 5 bedrooms / 4 bathrooms / 5 cars

Inspections by appointment: Garth Lisle
Property Consultants welcome your enquiry



9 / 157-159 Marine Pde San Remo
Price: \$1,150,000
3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / 2 cars

Sitting above San Remo's shopping precinct, overlooking the quaint historic fishing jetty and across to the iconic Phillip Island Bridge and Westernport Bay, this exceptional apartment delivers postcard views and an idyllic bayside lifestyle.



16 Potters Hill Rd San Remo
Price: \$1,099,000
4 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / 3 cars

Be the first to own and enjoy this superior, single level, four-bedroom quality home plus office space option, all within an easy walk overlooking Westernport Bay to the vibrant shops and cafes of San Remo. This brand-new home leaves no stone unturned, with modern comfort and versatility combined.



1 School Ave Newhaven
Price: \$644,900 - \$664,900
3 bedrooms / 1 bathroom / 2 cars
OFI: Saturday 5th April 1:30pm - 2:00pm

Indulged for the best of all worlds, this home is perfectly placed to enjoy Newhaven, with a short walk to the picturesque marina and Saltwater restaurant, Newhaven shops and café or the family friendly swimming beach of Cape Woolamai.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SELLING AGENTS:
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4 2 3



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away from the house, 2.5 car garage with internal access, solar power and a spring fed water bore add to the homes functionality and sustainability. Located within a short walk to Silverleaves Beach and Cowes Golf Club this property offers the best of both seclusion and convenience. A rare lifestyle opportunity in a sought after location - don't miss out.

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i island GUIDE

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Come on in for your tatts,lotto, cards, newspapers, magazines, board games, inks, printing and more.



Sign up for the Walk for the Kids on Good Friday, April 18, raising money for the Good Friday Appeal. Zoe and Barry from the event organising committee.

Sign up and Walk for the Kids

FUNDRAISING

Put your best foot forward and raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital, by signing up for the George Bass Walk for the Kids on Good Friday, April 18.

Organised by a team of volunteers and the San Remo Hotel, and supported by local businesses, all proceeds go to the Good Friday Appeal.

There is a choice of two events. The first is a 7.5 kilometre walk along the stunning George Bass Coastal Walk, starting in Kilcunda and ending at Punch Bowl Road. Shuttle buses run from the San Remo Ho-

tel from 9am onwards.

The second event is the three-kilometre San Remo Town Walk, which is suitable for families and prams, and includes a chance to win an Easter hamper.

Throughout the day there is entertainment, kids' games and live music at the San Remo Hotel, as well as raffles and a silent auction. Last year's event raised over \$34,000 and organisers hope this year will be even bigger and better.

You can register on the day from 8am at the San Remo Hotel, via the QR code, or online at www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1341700



More than century-old editions of The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser will be accessible on Trove - a free online library database owned by the National Library of Australia.

Century old island paper: online soon

GENEALOGY

A new era of island history will be soon unlocked online, with the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society (PIADGS) receiving a grant to digitise issues of the local paper spanning from 1898 to 1910.

The more than century-old editions of The Western Port Times and Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser will be accessible on Trove - a free online library database owned by the National Library of Australia.

Sophie Maddigan of PIADGS said she hoped having the paper digitised would provide curious residents and students alike the opportunity to peer into the past and have a more personal grasp of the island's rich history.

"Trove is an endless supply of information, some good and some bad that we find out about our

ancestors," Sophie said.

"It's amazing, if (your ancestors) were up to mischief - it'll be there."

Similarly, Sophie said you are sometimes also able to find little gems of personal family information.

"When I searched my mum's name (in Trove), it told me every Saturday she would go out to a dance ... and it listed what she wore, what colour dress she had and what the material was."

Trove is a free online tool which provides access to a vast collection of material including newspapers and artefacts from across Australia.

Since 2019, PIADGS have applied for grants to digitise the local papers. Previously the group received a grant to digitise the San Remo Times and the Phillip Island and Bass Valley Advertiser from 1896 to 1898.

PIADGS received their

most recent grant from the Victorian Association of Family History Organisations. The archived papers are currently held in the State Library of Victoria, and Sophie said she expects the papers to be digitised by the National Library in the next six months.

PIADGS currently has around 60 members and has recently moved to a new location at the Newhaven Hall on 23 Cleeland Street.

The group is always welcoming to new members who are curious about their own family ancestry.

The doors are open at Newhaven Hall for anyone wishing to learn more about PIADGS from 10am to 1pm Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and 1pm to 4pm Friday.

More information can also be found online by searching PIADGS on the Bass Coast Shire Council directory.



COWES ISLAND VINTAGE

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Interested in discovering your family history? We can help you.



PIADGS has moved to 23 Cleeland Street, Newhaven.

The Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society has moved from 56 Chapel Street, Cowes to the Newhaven Hall.

Opening hours -
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Thursday 10-1pm
Friday 1-4pm
Saturday 10-1pm




Contact - PO Box 821 Cowes.
Email: piadgs@outlook.com








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the island marketplace

Take a dip at Archies Creek

MUSIC

Archies Creek Arts announces Bathing in the Creek, a local music festival on April 5.

Don't take the title literally, but it is a chance to immerse yourself in some quality live performances.

Fergus Lawson and Nova Jenner, local folk with their fingers on the pulse, have put this fun festival together.

On Saturday April 5, Sunshine, Velvet Bloom, Quality Used Cars, Queenie, Doe Street, Names and Bookrunner will play in the great outdoors at the Archies Creek Hotel.

The day will close out with the house beats of DJ Sunshine.

Anyone who attended Brian's Big BBQ gig last December will remember Queenie, who knocked the crowd off their seats.

A spokesperson for the Archies Creek Arts said Bathing in the Creek was a perfect opportunity to enjoy some new and up and coming acts and promised "an unforgettable afternoon".

Doors open at 1.30pm, with music starting from 2pm.

There are also buses running from Inverloch and Cowes, for those who'd like to enjoy a drink or two at the show and



Velvet Bloom is one of a host of bands playing the Bathing in the Creek festival at Archies Creek Hotel on April 5.

travel home safely.

Buses depart Cowes Transit Centre at 12.45pm, with stops at Cape Woolamai, San Remo, Kilcunda and Powlett River. There are two return buses departing Archies Creek for Cowes at 7.15pm and 9.45pm.

You can book tickets, and a seat on the bus at: www.archiescreekhotel.com.au/events/bathing-in-the-creek-festival

Free entry for children under 12, with a great backyard for kids to run around in.

/ Sponsored article /



Rachel Bennett, Steve Ulula Parker, Leslie Briggs and Justine McClaren celebrate the launch of PIELC's first RAP with the centre's Penguin class. More photos at pisra.com.au/education

Kids RAP'd with First Nation's culture

EDUCATION

Young islanders danced around a First Nation's smoking ceremony, mimicking short-tailed shearwaters as the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre (PIELC) launched their first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The dance was created and led by Traditional Owner and Boonwurrung, Yorta Yorta and Erub man, Steve Ulula Parker. The students were smiling gleefully as they flapped their wings, recreating the chaotic flight of the island's migratory birds.

Lynne Clements, director of the PIELC, said the RAP launch went "amazingly".

"It was just great having all the involvement of the teachers who put a lot of work into (the day), our RAP team and all the children joining in and being so excited about learning and being on country," Lynne said.

RAPs aim to enable organisations to sustainably and strategically take action to advance reconciliation with First Na-

tion's people.

Lynne explained the RAP has already had flow-on effects in the classroom, with students participating in a welcome to country each morning. The students at PIELC also complete various activities in 'yarning' circles and learn First Nation's words.

Yorta Yorta and Gunai Kurnai man, Leslie Briggs, also led a discussion of Indigenous culture and offered the students the chance to hold and interact with Indigenous artefacts.

"The importance for the children learning about (First Nation's) culture and Aboriginal practices and habits from such a young age is that it builds a real connection to them, their land, family and the community they live in," said the PIELC director.

Also present on the day was local state member Jordan Crugnale MP, members of the local CFA, the Bass Coast College San Remo campus captains, and members of the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network.

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Celebrating reading at Newhaven College

EDUCATION

Last week, Preps at Newhaven College celebrated a significant milestone with the presentation of reading folders, marking the beginning of their path to becoming proficient readers.

Families joined the celebration, participating in reading sessions and Principal Tony Corr was present to congratulate each student on their achievements so far.

Cath Huther, Head of Junior School said the College's Junior School teachers have engaged in professional development opportunities.

"Some valuable changes in reading instruction have been implemented, and we are incredibly pleased with the results," she said.

At the beginning of the year, Nathaniel Swain joined the entire Newhaven College educational staff for a professional learning day focused on aligning literacy from Prep to Year 12, emphasising the Science of Learning.

Nathaniel, from La Trobe University, has been involved in developing structured literacy resources and professional development with focuses on explicit instruction, cognitive load theory, and effective literacy interventions to support teachers and students.

The Science of Reading program at Ne-



Newhaven College encourages outstanding reading habits by awarding students who have excelled in reading. With Head of Junior School Cath Huther and Principal Tony Corr are outstanding readers, Jude Brown (Year 1), Kiela Dennis (Year 3), Ruby Pirouet (Year 4) and Vincent Manias (Year 2). More photos at pisra.com.au/education

haven College is built on the latest research to ensure that all students receive the highest-quality literacy instruction.

The College said this evidence-based approach "focuses on teaching essential

reading skills and offers effective strategies for helping children learn to read. It also provides guidance on how to support students who may struggle with reading along the way".

A significant flow-on effect from this program has been families actively supporting their children's reading development through tailored take-home reading folders.

Cath Huther is impressed with students' progress so far.

"We are proud to announce that last week we awarded reading certificates to students who have displayed consistent reading habits at home throughout Term One.

"These certificates are awarded each term, and our goal is to increase this percentage each term – ultimately aiming for 100 per cent of our students receiving reading awards.

"We are thrilled to see nightly reading habits flourishing at home, knowing they will make a big difference in students' reading development.

"Our ultimate aim is simple: to ensure that every child at Newhaven College learns to read and reads well, while also developing a love of literature and a life-long passion for learning," she said.

Learn more about Newhaven College's Prep program at the upcoming Prep Information Morning on Tuesday, April 29.

For more information, visit the Newhaven College website: 'Book A Tour', or contact admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Island designs among best in state

EDUCATION

Two former Newhaven College students have their projects on show at the Melbourne Museum in Carlton after being selected for the prestigious Top Designs display.

Santiago Leys De La Rosa and Sarannaphat (Fim) Hindam were among 77 stu-

dents selected from across the state to be part of the exhibition, which celebrates Victoria's next generation of designers.

Santiago built an automated chicken feeder designed to improve efficiency and reduce feed wastage in poultry farming, which dispenses feed using a stepper motor and monitors hopper levels with an ultrasonic sensor.

Fim created a self-stabilising plane to enhance flight safety in the event of a pilot becoming unconscious. A gyroscope monitors the plane's pitch, roll and yaw, sending real-time orientation data to an Arduino microcontroller which then automatically adjusts rudders, elevators and ailerons to correct the plane's stability.

Both were made as projects for the students' final year 12 studies last year.

Inspiration

Santiago said he had always had an interest in engineering, playing with soldering irons and micro controllers since the age of 10 and making modifications to his Nerf Guns.

The inspiration for his automated feeder came from having chickens at his Cape Woolamai home.

"Whenever we would go on holidays, we'd have to fill the feeder all the way up. And anytime I'd go to collect the eggs, there'd always be lots of birds and mice hanging around and eating (the feed)," Santiago said.

"It just felt like such a waste, and I thought there has to be some way to get around it."

Santiago also designed tags to identify specific chickens for tailored feeding, as well as connecting the feeder via Bluetooth to the owner's phone in order to remotely monitor feed levels.

Fim said since a young age he had built and flown remote-control planes with his dad, and initially considered the idea of a self-stabilising plane while having to re-

build planes after a crash.

The idea also came to the budding engineer while watching the movie Top Gun.

"The hardest part was the coding," said Fim, who explained he had to write more than 500 lines of computer code to translate data from the gyroscope monitor to the Arduino microcontroller.

Fim said he was "pretty surprised" when he got the call up for his work to be displayed alongside the state's best.

"My dad was also pretty surprised because he's an engineer. He was pretty happy because he saw how many hours I put into the work, and it got somewhere."

Bright futures

Santiago said he was now furthering his prototype, with the aim to make it viable to sell on the domestic market.

Fim recently moved to Melbourne and has begun studying mechanical engineering at RMIT, and didn't rule out a future in aviation engineering.

Newhaven College principal Tony Corr recognised the two students' endeavours.

"Both students worked very hard on these presentations and designed an original item with great functional benefits," Mr Corr said.

"Their work is also a reflection of the excellent teaching and creative opportunities that are provided at the school."

Top Designs 2025 closes Sunday July 20.

Tickets are on sale at the Melbourne Museum and online.

GIG GUIDE

02/04 ZIGGY ALBERTS - 8:30PM - SOLD OUT!

04/04 JK & RUSSELL ROBERTSON 8.00PM

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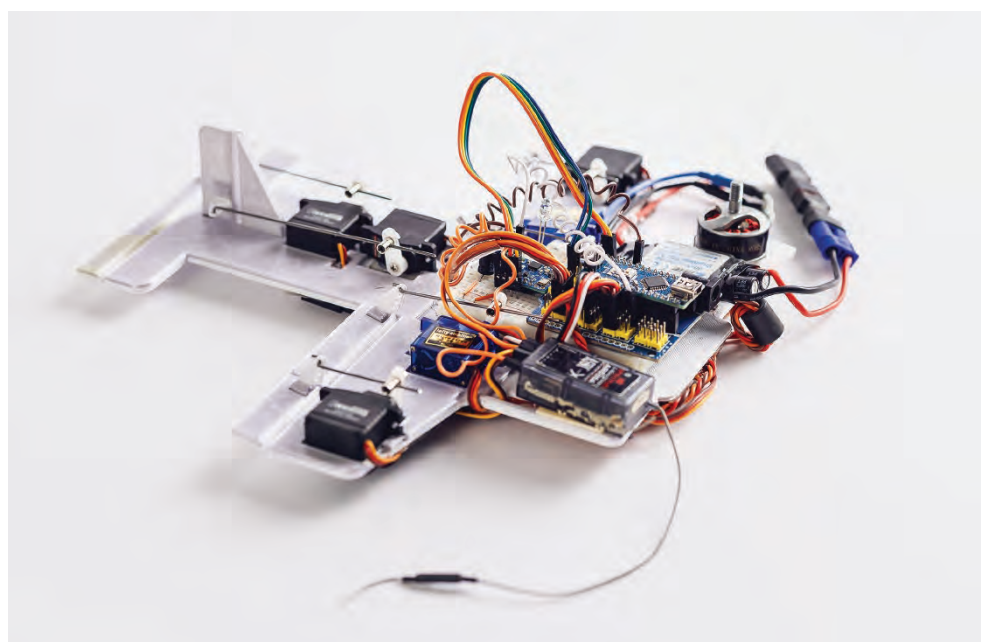
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Sarannaphat (Fim) Hindam created a self-stabilising plane to enhance flight safety in the event of a pilot becoming unconscious. Photo: Nicole Cleary, courtesy of VCAA.

A safer, healthier community

COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire Council is calling for input on its new Healthy Communities Plan, which sets priorities and creates strategies to improve community health.

There is currently an online survey available at Engage Bass Coast, with pop-up sessions held across the shire throughout April.

The plan will direct council's approach to healthy communities from 2025 to 2029.

The Cowes pop-up session is at Berniniet on Friday April 11 from 10am to 2pm.

A possible session at the Churchill Island Farmers Market on April 5 is yet to be confirmed.

Dates at other locations across the

shire are available on the Engage website.

Council said the consultation is designed to identify the biggest health challenges in the community, and to find ways to "make Bass Coast a healthier place for all ages".

It will also look at ways to tackle issues like preventing family violence, climate change, public health issues and how to best support all age groups in the community through "council-led initiatives".

The Plan will bring together several of council's community strategies, including the Access, Equity and Inclusion Plan, Living Young and Disability Action plans and the Arts and Culture strategy.

For more details, or to fill in the online survey, go to: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/healthy-communities-25



COUNCIL BRIEFS

Community awards

A sports leadership award will headline this year's Bass Coast Community Awards.

Each year the awards feature a rotating award, with past years including environment and arts.

But councillors at the March meeting voted in favour of the Sports Leadership Award, which "recognises the outstanding contributions throughout our sport and recreation community".

This award will be in addition to other awards – community leader, next generation, and community group.

The shire has a budget of \$10,000 for the awards. In 2023, council endorsed the awards, to be held in May of each year to align with National Volunteer Week.

Work from home

Working from home may be shaping up as a federal election issue.

But at Bass Coast Shire Council, it's now an accepted practice.

At the March council meeting, resident Louise Lyell said during Covid council allowed some council officers to work from home.

"Now 18 months later covid is no longer a declared communicable disease," Louise said.

"How many council officers are still working some hours from home instead of in council offices?"

Shire CEO Greg Box said arrangements were based on "operational requirements".

"Some council officers continue to work a portion of their hours remotely where it is the most suitable option for their role," he said.

"The number of employees working some hours from home varies based on team needs, service demands, and work priorities.

"This flexible approach supports productivity while ensuring our services remain accessible and effective for the community."

Sports hub

A new sports hub is a tiny step closer after Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed it has submitted plans to the government for a new turning lane for approval.

At the March council meeting, resident Graham Jolly asked about road plans for the new hub at the Hilton Chadwick Reserve, planned for the corner of Ventnor and Phillip Island roads.

"Four weeks ago council was developing the detailed design with specifications for a new safety turning lane and cross overs for entry into the Hilton Chadwick Reserve," Graham said.

"A permit from Victorian Transport Authority is required. Is the design completed for public reading?"

Shire CEO Greg Box replied the final draft designs had been submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning for review and approval.

"Once approved, plans will be available on our Engage Bass Coast website," Mr Box said.

Pump tracks

Pump track enthusiasts, mark your calendars for June.

Resident Johnny Cantone asked when council would start building 10 proposed pump tracks.

"These cost-effective facilities would provide immediate benefits for kids and families," Johnny said.

"Can the council fast-track this project to give young people more outdoor activities now?"

Shire CEO Greg Box said the Mountain Bike/BMX/pump strategy, adopted by council in October 2024, identified several suitable sites across Bass Coast.

"A delivery plan is currently being developed in conjunction with the Bass Coast Mountain Bike association and will be presented to council in June 2025 for adoption."

Engage or disengage?

Concerns have been raised about Bass Coast Shire's engagement with the community.

Louise Lyell said the Engage Bass Coast website was set up for "computer savvy residents", adding that it served only those who knew the site even existed.

"How do people without internet access find out before it is too late to submit questions or suggestions on projects," Louise asked.

Shire CEO Greg Box said they were committed to ensuring the community had choices when accessing information on projects and consultation.

"In the last 12 months Engage Bass Coast has had 111,150 visits and for 2025, we've seen 24,569 unique visitors," Mr Box said.

"Other ways for feedback include Coastell newsletter, local community groups, in-person drop-in sessions and discussions with councillors."

John Trigf asked if council would consider a break at the end of the monthly council meeting to allow councillors to meet with constituents.

Mr Box said council was reviewing the methods of engagement with councillors.

Kevin Griffin asked if correspondence was being withheld from some councillors, to which Mr Box responded there were currently no restrictions on any individual emailing council.

Rubbish question

Resident Mal Pinkerton asked about the expiration of the current waste contract.

"Has the CEO been proactive and provided the full contract (in house) for the councillors to read prior to a new contract arrangements," Mal said.

CEO Greg Box said the current contracts for waste services will be available for extension or renewal from August 2027.

"Councillors are not expected or required to read in full every contract entered by the organisation, but rather to inform the strategic direction, resourcing and priority outcomes for the community," Mr Box said.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MADE SIMPLE

RBA's Rate Cut

- Implications and Reactions

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELCapital

In a move anticipated by many, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has reduced the cash rate by 25 basis points, bringing it down to 4.10%. This decision marks the first rate cut in over four years and signals a pivotal shift in Australia's monetary policy. The implications of this adjustment are multifaceted, affecting borrowers, savers, and the broader economy.

Impact on Mortgages and Loans

For homeowners and prospective buyers, the rate cut offers a glimmer of relief. The big four banks have announced corresponding reductions in their home loan variable interest rates by 0.25% per annum, effective from February 28, 2025. This reduction translates to tangible, albeit small, savings for borrowers. For instance, on a \$600,000 mortgage, monthly repayments could decrease by approximately \$92.

However, the benefits extend beyond the offerings of the major banks. Research indicates that Australian homeowners could save nearly \$40,000 over a 30-year mortgage on a 5.59% variable interest rate which is currently being offered by some non-bank lenders. This competitive environment empowers borrowers to shop around for more favourable terms, potentially easing the financial burden amid rising living costs.

Returns on Savings

While borrowers may rejoice, savers face a different reality. Interest rate cuts typically lead to reduced returns on savings accounts and term deposits. Financial institutions may adjust their deposit rates in response to the RBA's decision, meaning individuals relying on interest income might see diminished returns.

Economic Outlook and Future Rate Cuts

The RBA's decision is rooted in its assessment of the current economic climate. Deputy Governor Andrew Hauser emphasised the need for additional positive news on inflation before considering further interest rate cuts. While policymakers are optimistic about receiving favourable inflation reports, they require concrete evidence of this improvement

before easing monetary policy further.

Economists, including Dr. Shane Oliver, Head of Investment Strategy and Chief Economist at AMP, have weighed in on the potential trajectory of interest rates. Dr. Oliver suggests that the RBA may continue its easing cycle, with the cash rate potentially falling to 3.6% by the end of the year. This projection is contingent upon various economic indicators, including inflation trends, employment figures, and global economic conditions.

It's important to note that while rate cuts can stimulate economic activity by encouraging borrowing and spending, they are not without risks. Prolonged low-interest environments can lead to asset bubbles and may not address structural issues within the economy. Therefore, the RBA is likely to approach future cuts with caution, ensuring that each move aligns with the broader goal of sustainable economic growth.

Broader Economic Implications

Beyond the immediate effects on loans and savings, the rate cut reflects the RBA's commitment to steering the economy towards its inflation target of 2-3%. The decision comes in the context of easing inflationary pressures, with underlying inflation recorded at 3.2% in the December quarter, indicating a faster-than-expected decline.

This monetary policy adjustment aims to support economic growth, particularly in sectors sensitive to interest rates, such as housing and consumer spending. However, the effectiveness of this strategy will depend on various factors, including consumer confidence, global economic trends, and fiscal policy measures.

Conclusion

The RBA's recent cash rate cut signifies a strategic response to current economic indicators, aiming to balance the needs of borrowers and savers while steering the economy towards sustainable growth. As the year progresses, all eyes will be on the RBA's subsequent moves and the unfolding economic landscape, with stakeholders across the spectrum adjusting their strategies in response to these developments.

*www.amp.com.au

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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

Dust storm over Koala Estate

The council's decision to return Koala Estate roads back to gravel, removing remains of dust suppressant surface to the pre 2005 gravel topping reflects antiquated, backward thinking. If a road is surfaced, neglected and poorly patched, it will deteriorate. All surfaces need care. Surely, at this stage, the most constructive method of maintenance would be to prepare the road and resurface with the dust suppressant material.

Prior to the dissolving of the Phillip Island Council, home owners in the Koala Estate were issued letters for full road construction, guttering and kerbing. With the loss of our local Phillip Island council to Bass Coast the scheme was abandoned. With road construction set for 2065 I'm amazed that the council is so astute with budgeting and time management.

Having said that, the council letter, to residents' places responsibility for road surfaces back on the land owners "minimum community support required for the project to be reprioritised is 50 percent or greater from the property owners affected. This should be in the form of a petition signed by affected property owners and presented to Council for consideration."

They've sent every land owner a letter of their intentions, but could not organise to set up an online survey for those impacted to express their concerns and then tabulate results. The deed is left to the residents with no contacts, privacy policies to navigate and no real means to tabulate responses effectively.

May common sense prevail, the road resurfaced in a new dust suppressant layer. Should this not be the case, at the very least, continue with the 'teaspoon brigade' attending to potholes. We do not want a return to the corrugated, billowing summer plumes of dust and winter slush from times past. The latter is a completely unsatisfactory decision being forced upon us.

Rodney Siphthorp, Cowes

Party house complaints

I read with interest your article in the Advertiser (March 26, 2025) "Is enough being done to protect residents from party houses"?

I can empathise. The house next door to me is used by the owners every school holiday and by holiday-makers at other times. At times there are up to five cars parked in the driveway and on the nature strip. The children are screamers and yellors. There is a constant thump of basketballs in their front driveway, directly opposite my bedroom window. I work from home, and there is no respite for me. The noise is unrelenting all day and past 9pm.

Last year I contacted council and received a response, asking me to keep records, and record the noise. I was told a letter would be sent to the owners. Whether it was or wasn't clearly made no difference, as the behaviour continued un-

changed.

This year I kept records and forwarded recordings to council, only to be told it is not their problem and I should call the police.

The house opposite me is also a holiday rental. When the owner's daughter comes down with her friends, their party time goes all day and past midnight. Once when police arrived at 12.20am on a Thursday morning, I was then berated by her father. He reminded me I live in a holiday resort and as his house is a holiday rental he has no control over what his guests do. How does one reason with this attitude?

I was dumbfounded to read in your article "... Council investigates all short-stay rental accommodation compliance requests to achieve compliance outcomes ...". In my case that is not the truth as the response I received this year was to suggest "discussing the matter directly with your neighbours and, if necessary, reporting the anti-social behaviour to the police for further action."

I am not going to discuss anything anymore with my neighbours as I have already received abuse and sarcastic comments. But what do I do? And may I ask, what is council there for except to take ratepayers' money?

Irene Forsythe, Cowes

Bass Coast College bus shortage

The first school term is nearly over and the Bass Coast College Bus shortage still hasn't been resolved. I'm a parent with a child attending the San Remo campus. Like everyone I know, I need to work. This becomes impossible when I need to do an 8.45am drop off and a 3.30pm pick up. These are not business hours.

The bus shortage is impacting everyone, overcrowded buses, kids waiting extended periods of time for the bus to come back and do a second trip and a whole lot of kids who don't even have a spot.

This feels like another failing of the public school system and the Department of Education. How hard is it to order the right number of buses?

Blythe McAuley, Cowes

Rehabilitation of Scenic Drive

I am staggered at the decision by this council to return Scenic Drive to gravel. The road, originally treated with dust suppressant material in 2005, has been permitted to deteriorate ever since. Band aid approaches from the council has been the normal response to resolving road maintenance and attending to potholes ever since.

Prior 2005, the gravel road was in disrepair, rigid corrugations, potholes aplenty and plumes of dust through the summer months. The dust suppressant treatment was a welcome move forward for a road surface. Ever since though, it has been poorly maintained.

The council's decision to return to gravel reflects antiquated, backward thinking. The bottom line is any road requires maintenance. Surely, at this stage, the most construc-

tive method of maintenance would be to prepare the road and resurface with the dust suppressant material.

Current date for full road construction is 2068. A council letter to residents states: "minimum community support required for the project to be reprioritised is 50 percent or greater ... from the property owners affected. This should be in the form of a petition signed by affected property owners and presented to Council for consideration".

What a lack of respect and consideration for those impacted by council's decision. They could not set up an online survey for those impacted to express their concerns and then tabulate results?

Such poor management and lack of responsibility from an elected council.

May commonsense prevail and the road surface be prepared and resurfaced in a new dust suppressant surface (not just for Scenic Drive, but the whole Koala Estate). We do not want a return to the corrugated, billowing summer plumes of dust from times past.

Jenny Siphthorp, Cowes

Praise for Nature Parks

The letters page in the Advertiser is usually dominated by writers who are complaining about something.

In order to balance all the negative comments, I would like to thank PINP for greatly improving the walking/cycling tracks from Oswin Roberts Reserve to Rhyll. The tracks now have much better surfaces that particularly suit cycles and make them much safer to share with walkers. The new track that by-passes the boardwalk along the mangroves is very sensible because the boardwalk is too narrow for both cyclists and walkers.

Nigel Hungerford, Ventnor

Thank you

I thank you for publishing my letter in the March 26 edition where I criticised Cr Ron Bauer and his text message response to my concern about the Park Lane, Cowes rehabilitation to a gravel surface and the related story in the same issue.

I'm glad your reporter was able to get a response from the councillor; however, I question, how can the councillor "log Darren's concerns with shire officers" when he has not spoken to me or had meaningful correspondence regarding my concerns?

I was totally unaware that the councillor took this action until I read it in this paper. Why couldn't the councillor call me and inform me of this or at the very least text message this response? I'm sorry, but I must question, how does Cr Ron Bauer represent our community's interests without communication? Is Cr Ron Bauer worthy to be our elected representative in council?

Darren Murphy, Cowes

What use are councillors?

Following a reply from council regarding an official complaint that I lodged in February 2025, I sent an email prior to our

three island ward councillors Tim O'Brien, Tracy Bell, Ron Bauer and the mayor, Rochelle Halstead, to notify those councillors that answers to council question time are far from satisfactory with omissions and errors in answers and council minutes even though the CEO to similar questions, twice stated "it is in the minutes of the meeting".

It is now almost three weeks and I have still not received an acknowledgement to the email sent to councillors. Questions arise, did the councillors receive the email and ignore responding, or is it that my emails to councillors were blocked by council senior officers as has been suggested previously by a number of ratepayers. Blocked communication is not a phrase council will admit to and I believe, against the telecommunications act.

Previously when council stopped communication to some ratepayers opposed to the contentious Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Special Charge Scheme, the word triaged was used by council. Sounds like we are in a war, which we are, for honesty, transparency and accountability from this council, not disinformation, spin and glossy reports. It is not the first time I have had an email ignored by Bass Coast Shire Council. Approximately 18 months ago the CEO failed to reply to a question from me regarding questions on the how to vote form for the Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Special Charge Scheme. It was only after intervention from the Victorian Ombudsman that I received a reply, one month after voting closed.

Not good enough BCSC. Councillors at the March Council Meeting unanimously accepted the minutes of the previous meeting even though there were errors in the minutes. We need the councillors to ask questions of senior council officers and seek more detailed information not rubber stamp everything that they are told by council officers. It is time to represent your ratepayers, councillors, and answer your ratepayers' questions.

Philip Davy, Surf Beach

Vote no to nukes

Isn't this one of the biggest pieces of disinformation? But it's from lips of Peter Dutton, aspiring PM. Surely both nukes and renewables presumes infinite capital? How cute is this?

As well as being massive cost, nukes are long term build cycle, very long term. So doesn't that mean forced flow of big proportion of capital, for a decade or two, to complete nukes, so that some return on capital might be accomplished.

Some folks might contend no worries, for one or two or... but they want seven of them.

Of course it's easy to dismiss maintaining funding to renewable projects because aren't they still viable if 10, 20, 30, 40 per cent short of completion?

Isn't it too dangerous to even begin construction of nukes?

On the driest continent on the planet, each 1600MW nuke would consume water at 2000

litres per second, so if you don't know, (or not 100 per cent sure), vote No Nukes.

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Dust disturbing

As a permanent resident in Outlook Drive Cowes, I received a disturbing letter from Bass Coast Shire Council regarding proposed changes to the road surface.

Our sealed road will be ripped up, replaced with crushed rock, a significant downgrade of council services. This will impact locals aesthetically, financially and personal safety.

The existing road is relatively stable requiring minimal maintenance from time to time. To rip up this surface up and lay crushed rock will reduce the value and saleability of my property. A crushed rock surface will disappear into mud during winter and become a muddy mess. In summer the road will be a dust bowl and dust clouds will coat our properties.

It is unreasonable that council reduce our services while constantly increasing our rates.

I am, as are others, disappointed with the proposal. We all use these roads for dog walking and our own personal exercise routine. Most of the locals are of advanced age. I am 76, and does council expect us to traverse unmade roads that cause a problem for walking, to say nothing of the dust and muck we will inhale as cars pass by. The risk of falls and substantial injury is significantly increased as a result of walking on an unstable surface. Walking on a sealed road provides a level of security and peace of mind. We don't have many footpaths.

Having lived in Outlook Drive for 25 years I have seen what unsealed roads are like. I had hoped the roads would be sealed because of the winter muck and summer dust. I wondered then what inhaling this dust is doing to my lungs. When a firm surface for dust reduction was finally completed it was a pleasure to walk these roads and not having to hose down my house regularly. Actually, a sealed road is a water saver.

I respectfully ask council to revise their decision.

If this were to go ahead, I would expect a substantial reduction in rates to help cover the drop in my property value.

Martin Saunders, Cowes

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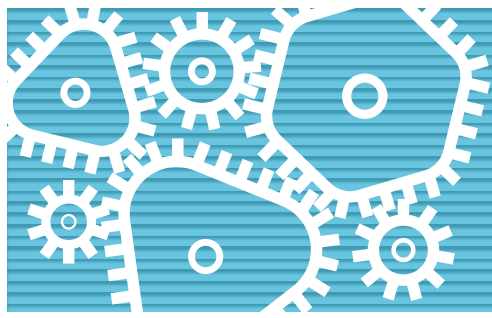
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DEATHS

BURNS, Kevin:
RIP
Passed away 22nd March 2025, at The Friendly Hospital at Bunderberg.
Condolences to Judith, Steven, Andrew and their families.
Fondest Memories.
Elaine and Sarah.

TAYLOR, Peter Albert John:
30.8.1925 - 25.3.2025
Passed away peacefully with family present.
Loved and loving husband of the late Estella Louise Taylor (nee Weaver) (dec.).

Loved Father and father-in-law of Cathy and Mark, Hilary, Martin and Jo, Ruth and Ronny (dec), Paul and Irene.
Loving Grandpop and Great Grandpop to many.
A wonderful long life, well lived.
We love you always in our heart.

FUNERALS

TAYLOR:
The Funeral Service for Mr. Peter Taylor will be held at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi.
on NEXT THURSDAY (April 10, 2025) commencing at 11:00am.
A Private Cremation will follow.
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Secondary students can help promote the benefits of smoke and vape-free environments by raising awareness among their peers and the wider community, through the South Coast Smoke and Vape-Free School Challenge.

Join the South Coast Smoke and Vape-Free School Challenge

HEALTH

Secondary students could win a \$50 gift card by creating their own campaigns that promote a smoke and vape-free future for everyone.

The South Coast Prevention Team is running the South Coast Smoke and Vape-Free School Challenge. The challenge encourages Year 7 and 8 students to take on the role of community health researchers to create innovative and engaging campaigns.

The South Coast Prevention Team is the combined health promotion workforce of Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service and South Gippsland Hospital.

Acting Prevention Manager Beth Allan says, "Student campaigns could advocate for more smoke and vape-free areas in public spaces, or promote the benefits of not vaping for individuals, the community or the environment."

"They could also advocate for a new school or community smoke and vape-free policy, or showcase a range of services that can support people to quit smoking and vaping."

Secondary teachers in Bass Coast and South Gippsland shires (South Coast) are invited to get students involved in the challenge by making the creation of student-led campaigns part of the school curriculum. The challenge could be implemented across curriculum areas including health and physical education, science, literacy, civics and citizenship and media arts.

"Students could present their campaigns through video, posters, social media posts, advocacy letters or any means they feel will best reach their target audience," Ms Allan said.

Teachers are encouraged to utilise Quit Victoria's Seeing Through the Haze education

resources, which can help to equip students with the critical thinking skills to create change for a smoke and vape-free future. Health Promotion Officers from the South Coast Prevention Team are available to visit classrooms to support students to develop their campaigns.

The challenge is open to all secondary schools in the South Coast. It opens on Tuesday April 22 (start of Term 2) and closes on Friday September 19 (end of Term 3). The winning campaigns will be selected by a judging panel of representatives from Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service and South Gippsland Hospital.

For questions about the challenge or to get involved please contact the South Coast Prevention Team on 0438 057 040, email prevention@basscoasthealth.org.au or visit www.southcoast-prevention.org.au/education-settings/schools

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Phillip Island's Harry de Roth (left) was runner up in the final round of the Open State Championship, with Lucas Hickson taking out the title in big waves at Phillip Island on March 23.

Victoria State Champion

SURFING

The Mornington Peninsula's Lucas Hickson has been crowned Open State Champion for 2025 after being victorious at the final round of the Victorian Open Titles on Phillip Island.

Phillip Island's Harry de Roth took out second place in the final round.

Held in pumping large waves at Cape Woolamai, the event saw massive scores and turns over the day.

Throughout the day, it was local surfer Harry de Roth who was the surfer to beat, consistently posting the highest scores in all of his heats including the highest heat total of the day in his Semi Final (a 16.43 heat total).

However in the final, de Roth was unable to find a strong

enough backup score for his heat leading 7.50 and it was Hickson who was able to take the win.

Steve Noble (Cape Paterson) finished in third with Nalu Belyea (Jan Juc) in fourth.

Hickson will now also claim a position in the Rip Curl Pro Trials giving him a shot at the Victorian wildcard into the main event.

Unfortunately due to deteriorating and unsafe conditions, the women's final was postponed and ran in conjunction with the Junior Surfing Titles at Gunnamatta on the weekend.

Phillip Island's Sophie Fletcher made it through to the final, but was unable to compete on the rescheduled date, due to commitments that saw her leave for overseas.

Full results are available via www.liveheats.com/surfingvictoria

Nail-biting Round 4 matches

DARTS

The Phillip Island and District Darts League served up an electrifying Round 4 last week.

The Storm team finally roared to life, chalking up their first win of the season with a 6-1 victory over Riverboys.

Aulin continued their streak by sweeping the Mustangs 7-0, while Vikings proved to be too strong for Deadly Darts, also delivering a flawless 7-0 win.

However, the drama did not stop there.

Joe's Hornets barely held off Dart Vaders in a 4-3 match.

But the most jaw-dropping showdown came from Mirimar, who staged a comeback from 0-3 against Breakers in which they rolled through the last team leg to secure a 4-3 victory.

The ladder is taking shape, with Aulin two points clear on top, while the next five teams are on the same points.



Congratulations to Tony Duff who took home the San Remo Butchers meat tray.

The evening was not just about darts, Duffy (Tony Duff) celebrated a win of a different kind, clinching the San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle.

With Round 5 just around the corner, the league gears up for another series of quality matches.

Euchre results

Ladies' winner: Kay with five wins. Men's winner: John K. with six wins.

Encouragement award: Ken. The club were pleased with another good turnout.

Attendance numbers are at an all-time high.

Island juniors in hunt for titles

SURFING

Congratulations to island surfers Evie Lutz, Savannah Bennett, Angus Kennedy and Scarlett Rennie, as well as Lillian Bassed and Rye Cicero (Sandy Point) and Inverloch's Arch Rayner who finished in the top four in their respective divisions at Round 2 of the Victorian Junior Surfing Titles on the weekend at Gunnamatta.

Organisers said day one of the competition saw standout performances across the board.

Cowes surfer Angus Kennedy was praised for his performance on day one, which included an excellent 8-point ride. Angus ended up taking out third spot in the Under 16 boys, with Arch Rayner in fourth.

Lillian Bassed placed fourth in the Under 18 girls, with Rye Cicero taking third place in the boys.

In the Under 16 girls competition Evie Lutz came third, with Savannah Bennett in fourth place, while Scarlett Rennie took out third in the Under 14 girls.

With the final stop of the series set to take place at Phillip Island later this year, the stage is set for an exciting conclusion to the 2024 No Txt No Wrecks Victorian Junior Surfing Titles.



In the Under 16 girls competition Phillip Island surfers Evie Lutz came third (second left), with Savannah Bennett (second right) in fourth place, behind Rose Holland (1st) and Chloe Muscroft (2nd).



Angus Kennedy (centre) came third in the Under 16 boys, with Inverloch's Arch Rayner in fourth. The event was won by George Everist with Kato Mogi in second.



Andy McHenry took out victory in the Open Men's category at PIBC's Longboard 4 competition over the weekend. Photo: Craig Anderson.



Ebony Maier, winner in the Open Women's category during the weekend's Longboard 4 competition. Photo: Craig Anderson.



Natalie Van Der Heyden took out first place in the Mixed Style Masters 45+. Photo: Craig Anderson.

Final longboard comp wraps in style

SURFING

The fourth and final longboard round of the 2024/25 season for the Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) went down in style on Saturday, March 29 with Right Point delivering fun waves and classic longboard conditions.

Competitors of all ages brought big energy, smooth surfing and plenty of stoke to the iconic break as the club wrapped

up a memorable season of longboarding.

The club gave a special shoutout to PIBC Longboard Coordinator Nala Taylor for her tireless work coordinating the longboard series all season, and to her support team and the many volunteers who assisted all through the season.

While the longboard competition season has officially wrapped, the overall champions

for 2024/25 will be crowned at the highly anticipated PIBC Presentation Ball in October.

Thanks go out to the generous sponsors of Longboard 4: Rip Curl Phillip Island, Carly Meade Creative, Creatures of Leisure, Otis Eyewear and Sophie Fletcher Designs.

Thanks also to photographers Craig Anderson and Bryden Banks who captured the surfing from the headland.

Division Lawn Bowls for Cowes students

BOWLS

On Friday March 28 students from Cowes Primary School competed in the Division Lawn Bowls event held at the Phillip Island Bowling Club in Cowes.

They competed against several schools from around the district including Newhaven College, Powlett River Primary School, Our Lady Star of the Sea and Loch Primary School.

Cowes Primary School entered three teams of 12 into the event.

Each team played three pool games throughout the day, with the winning teams from each pool playing off in a final.

Cowes 1 managed to finish at the top of their pool and Cowes 2 finished on top in theirs.

In a closely contested final, the Cowes 1 team came out eventual winners (10 shots to five).



Cowes Primary students Frankie, Isla, Amelia and Keyah alongside Phillip Island Bowling Club members Dottie and John.

One team from Cowes Primary School will now go on to compete at the regional final to be held in Traralgon in Term 4.

They give a special thanks to the volunteers at the Phillip Island Bowling Club who assist

each week, teaching and coaching students how to play bowls and help with the running of the event.

The Phillip Island Bowling Club is instrumental in the success of this program.

Six island players selected for Gippsland Power

FOOTBALL

Six players from the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) have been selected in the Gippsland Power squads for the upcoming football season.

Yianni Caffieri, Finn O'Brien and Zac Walker all made the final cut for the under-18s squad, with Ruby Kent-Ford and Gemma Fischer (U16 girls) and Charlie Fischer (U16 boys) also representing PIFNC in the highly-competitive Gippsland Power.

Gippsland Power teams compete in the Coates Talent League against other representative clubs comprised of the state's best young footballers.

AFL talent scouts closely monitor the under-18 competition, with seven players from the Gippsland Power being drafted to the AFL and AFLW last year.

Yianni and Zac have been playing with the PIFNC their entire football careers, while Finn started at the club when he was 10 years old.

All three of the under-18 Gippsland Power representatives are defenders and were selected from a group of "well over" 100 players.

"It'll be going off the charts down there hopefully," Zac said.

For Finn O'Brien it is his second year playing in the under-18 team, having been selected last year as a bottom age player.

After playing several games early last season, Finn said he was "definitely" going into this year with added confidence and experience.

"Just (having that) confidence within the group and backing myself ... having a bit more experience at that level and how fast paced it is, will hopefully make this year more successful," Finn said.

The Newhaven College student said his key strengths were his running capacity, along with his ball skills and decision making.

Yianni Caffieri initially missed out on making the Gippsland Power as an underage player last year but was called up for a game late in the season after a string of stellar performances with the PIFNC Seniors.

Yianni, who is also at Newhaven College, said he learned a lot playing with the PIFNC Seniors last year.

"Compared to the 18s, you learn so much more just playing with bigger bodies ... and smarter footballers who can teach you a lot," Yianni said.

"Sometimes if you play you can feel lost, but this

pre-season I felt like I was there, I knew what was going on and I could put myself in better positions."

Hard work

The path for Zac Walker has been different, with the ex-Bass Coast College student being the only over-age player selected on the team.

After finishing school last year, the 19-year-old started an AFL SportsReady Traineeship at Newhaven College.

Zac said it was "pretty shattering" to not make the Gippsland Power last year, but Cam Pedersen (PIFNC Head Coach) and the Bulldogs kept him positive about working hard and improving his game.

"It would've been pretty easy to drop my head and just give up on all that stuff ... but it was such a good support from Cam ... knowing that I could get seen at a local senior football level and was then fortunate to get called back by Rhett McClennan (Gippsland Power head coach)."

Speaking to Rookie Me Central, Rhett McClennan said Zac had "worked on his game really, really well and his performance in pre-season was too good to pass up".

"So he's probably going to be one of our intercept defenders this year."

Heartbreak for A Grade Sharks

CRICKET

It was heartbreak for the Island A Grade Sharks over the weekend who missed out on taking their fourth consecutive premiership by a solitary wicket.

Sent into bat on a sticky wicket, the Sharks immediately found themselves on the back foot after losing semi-final hero Lochie Cleeland and opening partner Kurt Lane in the first two overs.

A salvage mission was needed as Brodie Johnston and Daniel Mock combined to rescue the innings.

With a patient start and some counter punching strokes, the score moved past 50 before Mock (25) was sharply caught in the slips.

A middle order collapse ensued as the Sharks slumped to seven for 76.

Throughout this, Johnston remained at the crease along with the arrival of the dogged Tim Niven - the Sharks remained hopeful for a competitive score.

The two dug in and weathered the storm before slowly etching the score past three figures and beyond.

Some wonderful patience and stroke play saw Johnston pass 50 and begin to up the ante.

Unluckily Johnston was caught at midwicket for 83 off a marathon 230 balls.

Zac Brown came and went as the Sharks fell to 9/149.

George McCausland then joined Niven as the pair added 22 more runs before Tim was dismissed for a career best 37-off-146 balls, taking the final score to 171.

For the Sharks, defending a below par score was always going to be difficult on a flat wicket, but the team had a knack of grinding down sides throughout the season - and that's exactly what they did.

Tim Niven, with the ball in hand, struck early before a 60-run partnership saw the Diggers move past 70.

Zac Brown's off-spin craft drew a false shot out of the batsman and the Sharks found a breakthrough.

Consistent wickets by both Brown and Max Royal (two for 51 off 24) along with a runout to George McCausland saw the Diggers on the ropes at six for 100.

Tom Niven was then brought on to break the partnership and at seven for 140 the game was in the balance.

OMK Captain, Kobe Brann looked to be guiding his team home, although the match saw a late twist when he lost two partners in two balls to Zac Brown who finished with four for 62 off 20 overs.

But some courageous batting saw Brann loft one over the fence before a piercing shot through the field set the Diggers victorious nine wickets down.

Whilst the Sharks fell agonisingly short of premiership glory, they showed incredible fight when they were down and out throughout the match in what will go down as one of the greatest grand finals in LDCA history.

PHILLIP ISLAND
171
B. JOHNSTON 83
TIM NIVEN 37
D. MOCK 25

OMK
9/175
Z. BROWN 4/62/20.4
M. ROYAL 2/51/25
TIM NIVEN 1/24/13

A1 GRADE
SAT/SUN 29/30TH MAR
BUTCH WEST

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB
DEF BY OMK
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Running festival picks up speed

RUNNING

The Inverloch Running Festival in March attracted over 1000 competitors over two days.

Organisers were thrilled with the turn out for the newly established event, with runners competing in 2km and 10km events on day one, followed the next day by half and full marathons.

The event atmosphere was bolstered by live music and food vans, with many locals signing up for the challenge.

Bass Coast's Bill Barry won the 10km and other no-



The new Inverloch Running Festival in March attracted over 1000 competitors. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

table local competitors included Tony O'Connell who competed in the Sunday half marathon, and James Mahood from Coronet Bay.

Tony is also the run director at Inverloch parkrun and an ambassador for parkrun Australia.

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Congratulations to last week's winners (from left): Jim Nunan (L), Pat Wilkinson (2), Tony Heppleston (S) and Frank D'Unienville (3).

RPIAC's final comp for season

FISHING

The final weekend-long angling competition of the 2024/25 season held by the Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) marked a thrilling conclusion to a year of intense and exciting fishing activities.

This twelfth and final event of the season brought together seasoned anglers and enthusiastic young fishers, all vying for the coveted titles and prizes.

Commenting at the stroke of midnight and starting on Saturday March 29, the weather prior to daylight was mild with a gentle northerly breeze, eerily calm and conducive to fishing.

As a cloudy daylight emerged, the wind turned to a southerly, gradually picking up momentum throughout the weekend and peaking at the competition close on Sunday at 5pm.

Hopes for claiming one of the RPIAC Extraordinary Catch Incentives faded and the members-only competition weekend \$1000 first-to-catch prizes for senior competitors dried-up until next season. The incentives up for grabs were for eligible species that equal or exceed the nominated weight and included: King George whiting (1000g), snapper (10kg), gummy shark (20kg), mulloway (25kg) and kingfish (25kg).

The event officially closed at 5pm on Sunday, followed by the announcement of the weekend's prize winners, and the Squidgies and Junior Club Champions.

Results

A total of 24 eligible species and one gamefish were weighed in, showcasing a diverse range of eligible species including snapper, King George whiting, tailor and kingfish.

The weekend's Squidgie Mixed Bag competition witnessed strong competition among the young anglers.

Brothers Byron and Harley Griffin finished tied for second place, each weighing in one fish worth 15 points.

However, it was Sage Nicolaci



Denver Firth was announced as the RPIAC Junior Club Champion accumulating a total of 8255 units for the season.



James "Kingfish Whisperer" Nicolaci claimed victory in the Gamefish competition again, this time with a Kingfish at a clean weight of 11,000g.

who emerged victorious, weighing in two fish with a total of 30 points.

In the Junior Weight competition, Denver Firth shone brightly by weighing in a 325g tailor, securing him the prize.

Meanwhile, the Junior Points competition was dominated by Gus Fahnle who weighed in a garfish worth 943 points (145g).

The Senior Weight and Senior Points competitions witnessed a remarkable clean sweep by Brendan Garlepp and Carrienne Peatey.

In the Weight competition, Brendan and Carrienne each caught impressive snappers weighing 1420g and 520g.

Their success continued in the Points competition, where they each weighed in a King George whiting. Brendan's catch was worth 1456 points (520g), while Carrienne's was worth 1148 points (410g).

The Shark competition and the Squid/Cuttlefish competition were uncontested, but the Gamefish competition saw a familiar victor.

James "Kingfish Whisperer" Nicolaci once again claimed victory with a kingfish weighing a clean 11,000g.

The final secret weight prize was a delightful surprise, awarded to Len Bates for a King George whiting weighing 230g, which was closest to the secret weight of 235g.

This weekend was also a special occasion for the Squidgies

(anglers aged nine and under) and Juniors (anglers aged 10 to 16) as the season's participation awards and club champions were announced.

The season-long Squidgie Mixed Bag Points competition was intense and runner-up Byron Griffin amassed a total of 385 points. The Squidgie Club Champion title was awarded to Harley Griffin who edged out the competition with a total of 395 points, a margin of just one fish.

The season-long Junior competition also saw remarkable performances.

Runner-up Thomas Grogan earned an impressive 4774 units.

However, the Junior Club Champion title was claimed by reigning title-holder Denver Firth, who accumulated a commanding total of 8255 units.

It was a great opportunity for members to catch up, enjoy a meal and to thank all volunteers and the competition sponsors, including Clip'n'Climb Cowes, Bakers Delight Cowes, Jim's Bait and Tackle, and Phillip Island Marine, ensuring the event was an enormous success.

The RPIAC Senior Club Champions will be announced at the RPIAC Senior Presentation Night function on April 12.

RPIAC welcome participants in the next competition season, scheduled to commence in Spring 2025.

For further information about the club, events, competitions and rules visit www.rpiac.com

Midweek at San Remo

BOWLS

The South West Gippsland Bowls Group headed out to San Remo last week for their regular mid-week competition.

Fifty-six players were greeted with great weather, great company and a great green.

John welcomed players while Claire and David prepared the teams.

Last week's winners with 36 points: Jim Nunan (L), Pat Wilkinson (2), Tony Heppleston (S) and Frank D'Unienville (3).

Runners up with 35 points:

Vern Elliott (S), Elaine Williams (L), Bev Elliott (3) and Peter Borradale (2).

Best one game winners on 19 points: Richard Kerr (L), Jenny Harding (2), David Talbot (3) and Phil Wright (S).

The club thanks Mark behind the bar (always a favourite for many players), Gwen, Claire and John in the kitchen, along with Claire, David and John for preparing teams.

This week the club is meeting at Loch. Players are asked to arrive on time as numbers are close to full.



The Phillip Island Croquet Club held their annual Golf Croquet Championship last weekend. Participants took part in various games in great weather conditions.

Annual Golf Croquet Championship

CROQUET

The Phillip Island Croquet Club ran their annual Golf Croquet Championship on March 29 and 30.

With great weather and nine participants making for a hard-fought competition, Greg Moran

was crowned champion after winning all his games.

Club members assisted with catering and the event was well run by tournament manager, Robert.

The club President, Claire presented Greg with the winner's certificate.

Korrine and District Junior Finals

TENNIS

You couldn't ask for better conditions for the finals of the Korrine and District Tennis Association Junior Summer competition, held on Saturday March 22.

The sun was shining and the wind was a mere whisper as the two top teams from each section battled it out to determine the overall winner of the 10-week season. Inverloch hosted the Penant, Section 1 and Section 2 finals while Wonthaggi hosted the Section 3, Section 4 and Section 5 finals.

Congratulations to all players on the day for your efforts.

Results

Pennant: Westernport def Leon-gatha Green.

Section 1: Phillip Island def Korumburra.

Section 2: Korumburra Blue def Poowong.

Section 3: Inverloch Blue def Phillip Island.

Section 4: Phillip Island White def Inverloch.

Section 5: Westernport def Phillip Island White.

Teams look forward to the Winter Competition commencing on May 10.

Bass Coast MTB's inaugural Send It Session

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Bass Coast MTB's inaugural social gathering, the Send It Session at the PBI Ride Farm in Stony Creek was an absolute hit, drawing a crowd of 100 MTB enthusiasts for an adrenaline fuelled day.

With PBI Ride Farm's famous shuttle tractor and trailer in full operation, more than 70 riders geared up for an unforgettable day making the event a resounding success.

Blessed with perfect weather, riders of all skill levels pushed their limits and honed their skills.

With such a fantastic turnout, everyone is already looking for-



Bass Coast MTB recently held their inaugural social Send It Session in Stony Creek. With more 100 attendees the day proved a resounding success.

ward to Bass Coast MTB's next social event.

However, the hot topic among Bass Coast MTB enthusiasts is the urgent need for the implementation of the Bass Coast

Council's BMX, Pump Track and MTB Strategy.

Local mountain biking infrastructure is desperately needed in the region to host such events within our own community.

TIDE GUIDE

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

	WED 2 APR	THU 3 APR	FRI 4 APR	SAT 5 APR	SUN 6 APR	MON 7 APR	TUE 8 APR
HIGH	4:18 am 2.84 m	HIGH 5:00 am 2.86 m	HIGH 5:43 am 2.85 m	LOW 12:20 am 0.92 m	LOW 1:04 am 0.99 m	LOW 12:47 am 1.07 m	LOW 1:33 am 1.16 m
LOW	10:13 am 0.21 m	LOW 10:59 am 0.13 m	LOW 11:44 am 0.14 m	HIGH 6:25 am 2.80 m	HIGH 6:07 am 2.72 m	HIGH 6:52 am 2.59 m	HIGH 7:43 am 2.45 m
HIGH	5:16 pm 3.27 m	HIGH 6:05 pm 3.27 m	HIGH 6:51 pm 3.20 m	LOW 12:28 pm 0.23 m	LOW 12:11 pm 0.38 m	LOW 12:54 pm 0.58 m	LOW 1:42 pm 0.79 m
LOW	10:50 pm 0.85 m	LOW 11:36 pm 0.87 m		HIGH 7:35 pm 3.06 m	HIGH 7:19 pm 2.90 m	HIGH 8:03 pm 2.73 m	HIGH 8:52 pm 2.58 m

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SGB swimmers who will be competing at the Australian National Age and Open Championships in April (from back left): Coach Dylan Muir, Rahni Matheson, Zac Shear, Miah Roberts, Cormac Flynn, Billy Fisher, Jarrah Tagell and Mostyn Lumsden. Front: Levi Jarret, Claudia Croatto, Gemma Cook, Maggie Fisher, Georgia Perry and Isabella Lynch.

SGB gears up for National Championships

SWIMMING

It was a night of celebration last Friday as 13 South Gippsland Bass Swim Club (SGB) competitors heading to the Australian National Age and Open Championships were presented with their uniforms at a fundraising night held at the Leongatha RSL.

The team, a mix of returning swimmers and several first timers, are headed to the Brisbane Aquatic Centre for the competition kicking off on April 10.

The age and multi-class sections run until April 18, and the open event takes place across April 21 - 24.

Coaches Dylan Muir and Lorri McKenzie will be accompanying the squad, consisting of Gemma Cook, Claudia Croatto, Billy Fisher, Maggie Fisher, Cormac Flynn, Levi Jarrett, Izzy Lynch, Mostyn Lumsden, Rahni Matheson, Georgia Perry, Miah Roberts, Zac Shear and Jarrah Tagell.

Coach Dylan is excited to be in Brisbane saying, "I think it's a great pool to race in".

"We have a lot of swimmers returning to Nationals with experience from previous years and are working hard to improve from previous campaigns.

"The first timers will face

some challenges as they get settled, but they are a competitive group that I believe will do well."

Coach Lorri said, "it's such an outlay for families (time and money wise) to get their kids to achieve the qualifying time and a massive achievement to make it to Nationals; only a small percentage make it during their swimming career".

"It's a huge honour and privilege to coach them at Nationals.

"My multi-class squad have been training hard and now it's time to shine on the big stage.

"They have worked so hard towards these dreams; I love being there to see them come

true."

For swimmer Levi Jarrett it was a huge honour to receive his national uniform.

"I am most excited to swim in front of Australia and represent our club.

"I can't wait to meet more multi-class swimmers from all over the nation."

Maggie Fisher who is competing for the first time said "it's very exciting."

SGB is currently raising money to assist the team. Anyone interested in supporting can contact the club by going to their Facebook page for the donation link (all donations are tax deductible).

Champs Day carnival at Leongatha

SWIMMING

On Sunday March 2, the South Gippsland Swimming Association hosted their final Champs Day carnival at Leongatha.

Phillip Island Swimming Club produced a great turn out with approximately 25 swimmers participating.

This was the final opportunity to obtain points towards taking home the 2024/25 season shield.

Unfortunately, Phillip Island placed third overall (after Leongatha and Korumburra) and were followed by Corner Inlet clubs.

A highlight for the island club was seeing many local competitors take home SGSA age champion medals - many of whom are newly joined swimmers.

This was a great achievement for them, their families



Chelsea Parker and Isla Gallyott pleased with their medals.



James Lamaro stoked with his season at the Phillip Island Swimming Club.



Imogen Rule at her first Champs Day.

and the club. The club would also like to congratulate one of their coaches who continues to

participate year-after-year, Jen Sokac for receiving the over 14 girls aggregate points champion award.

Additionally, a thank you to the club committee, SGSA and all parent-helpers for another great season.

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