

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

\$1.60 Incl. GST



Premiers! Under 14 Blues celebrate Grand Final victory

After an undefeated season, Phillip Island Football and Netball Club (PIFNC) Under 14 Blues team emerged victorious, winning their Grand Final clash against Inverloch 40 to 15. A full round up of the match, and all the weekend's football action in sport.

More pedestrians less cars in Cowes streetscape proposal

The Cowes Esplanade and Thompson Avenue would become one-way to vehicles, while the main street would lose carpark spaces, under a plan to make the town more pedestrian-friendly.

On Monday Bass Coast Shire released the Cowes streetscape draft concept master plan 2022, which has been written by consultants – in consultation with traders – over two years. The masterplan is now open for community feedback until October 2, set to go to council by the end of the year, with the project then rolled out in stages based on successful grant funding.

The plan has an emphasis on wider footpaths, outdoor dining and walking, with vegetation planted out.

For years residents have criticised Thompson Avenue for its uninspiring

character.

The shire's major projects manager Damian Prendergast told the Advertiser the masterplan was designed to make the town more welcoming and attractive.

"Cowes has been vehicle-dominated for a long time – all you see looking down Thompson Avenue is cars," Damian said.

"The whole point of the plan is to get people out of their cars and instead walking and shopping."

He said the loss of carparks and addition of new parallel parking in the main street would free up access.

"There will still be car spots in the main street but it will be a shorter duration so people can grab their essentials – get a coffee or go to the chemist – and then move on. It's not designed for visitors to stay longer.

"We need to get smarter about how we handle traffic, so ideally people park where they stay and don't use the car again.

"You just need to look at the Monash Freeway to see it has to keep widening to accommodating more and more cars. We can't keep building roads and carparks. We will never have enough."

Traffic

Under the plan, cars coming into Cowes on the main road will be directed at Church Street to park at the transit centre, with traffic lights replacing the current roundabout at that intersection in the future.

Cars that continue to Chapel Street won't be able to travel down Thompson Avenue to the Esplanade, because it will be one-way in a south-

erly direction.

With the Esplanade one-way in a westerly direction, drivers wanting to access the foreshore and Thompson Avenue would need to turn right at Chapel Street and then travel down Bass Avenue.

Car parks

Thompson Avenue between the Esplanade and Chapel Street will lose 42 car parks – down to 24 from the current 66.

This section will also change from the current angled parking to parallel parking, with reduced time limits on parking restrictions, although the plan does not detail what those restrictions will be.

Bass Avenue currently has six formal and 42 informal parks, and under the plan will have 40 dedicated

parks, with angled parking along the east side, and a designated bus and taxi pickup and drop off zone.

Thompson Avenue South – between Chapel and Church streets – currently has 73 parks and under the plan this will drop to 61.

Chapel Street – between Warley and Bass avenues – will lose about five parks.

Drivers will be encouraged to park in the transit centre – which the shire said is underused – as well as the existing carparks behind Pino's off Bass Avenue and behind Priceline off Warley Avenue.

The rollout of parking sensors, which is currently underway, will see electronic signage alerting people to the direction of and distance to available car parking.

Continued page 10

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8 14	8 14	8 12	9 13	8 13	7 14	10 14

Parking sensors rolled out in Cowes

The rollout of controversial parking sensors has started in Cowes.

The \$377,000 project will see about 500 underground sensors – difficult to spot at a quick glance – installed: 375 in on-street bays on Thompson Avenue, Chapel Street and The Esplanade; and 123 off-street bays at the Cowes Transit Centre; as well as 262 in Wonthaggi.

Night works will run from 8pm to 6am, with work expected to be finished in six weeks.

In mid-September poles and electronic signs will be installed on Thompson Avenue and on Church and Chapel streets, which will alert drivers to the direction of and distance to available car parking.

Then in October the “smart parking” guidance mobile app – which will also help drivers find an available bay – will go live, along with the whole system.

The sensors are needed so the “smart parking” app and electronic signage can accurately show how many empty parking bays are available, according to the shire.

They will also notify parking inspectors when a car has overstayed its time limit, meaning more fines will be issued, but the sensors are not paid parking.

For the first time last week the shire confirmed there would be no new parking restrictions, even in the transit centre, which has all-day parking.

When the Advertiser asked why sensors were being installed for all-day parking – and whether they intended to introduce restrictions in the future – a shire spokesperson said no changes would be made to restrictions in



The only indication that work was being carried out on carparks on the Cowes Esplanade were a few witches hats and tradies in high vis.

the transit centre or other areas.

“Smart parking will not have an impact on the current allocation of parking bays, and we will not be making any changes to parking limits or restrictions as part of this project,” they said.

“This means the number of parking spaces, including accessible parking spaces, available in Cowes and Wonthaggi will remain the same and will not be impacted by the roll out of smart parking technology.”

Thompson Avenue

This week the shire released the Cowes streetscape draft concept master plan 2022 for community consultation (see separate story), which will see the loss of 42 carparks in Thompson Avenue between the Esplanade and Chapel Street.

There will also be reduced time limits on parking restrictions in some areas, although the master plan does not detail what those re-

strictions will be.

Drivers will be encouraged to park in the transit centre – which the shire said is under-used – as well as the existing carparks behind Pino’s off Bass Avenue and behind Priceline off Warley Avenue.

The Advertiser asked the shire why sensors were rolled out in Thompson Avenue this week when they will need to be removed under the masterplan.

“The sensors are easily relocatable and can be safely removed and reinstalled in about 15 minutes,” the shire spokesperson said.

Criticism

The technology has been condemned by many locals who say the money would be better spent elsewhere, while many have questioned why the rollout is occurring, with zero community consultation.

An elderly pensioner earlier this month criticised the sensor parking, saying it could unfairly disadvantage the less able-bodied.

Cowes resident and disability advocate Fred Lodge said with the new Cultural Centre set to be opened next year and the neighbouring community hospital not far behind that, parking would be at a premium.

The shire argues the sensor technology will “better manage our free parking using technology to help drivers save time finding an available bay and provide better access to businesses”.

The shire admitted the technology would be used to aid enforcement, with real-time data provided to parking inspectors via a portal “assisting with enforcement efficiency”.

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Covid caution recommended

For the first time since December 2021, recorded Covid cases in Bass Coast have dropped below 100.

Phillip Island and San Remo has the highest number of reported cases, followed by Wonthaggi and then Inverloch.

However health authorities say the real infection number is likely to be higher, given many people don’t report the results of their RATs online. With school holiday season approaching, they are warning people not to become complacent.

GRPHU has put together a five-step plan for protecting yourself against Covid and the flu.

1. Cover – wear a clean and correctly fitted face mask
2. Vaccination – keep up to date
3. Separate – stay home if you’re feeling unwell
4. Ventilate – open window or use an air purifier when indoors
5. Sanitise – wash hands for use hand sanitiser regularly

Vaccinations are available through pharmacies and GP clinics. Anyone eligible for a booster vaccine is urged to book in as soon as possible.

To find the nearest pharmacy offering vaccinations, go to www.findapharmacy.com.au.

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For vaccination information, check if you’re up to date with your vaccinations, or to book a vaccination with a GP, go to www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/

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Bill shock #1: some rates skyrocket

A double whammy of increased rates and water bills have hit local householders, with one resident even reporting their rates notice increased by 38 per cent.

While Westernport Water bills have risen by \$49 this financial year (see separate story), Bass Coast Shire rates notices – which were released in the past fortnight – have also hit some homeowners hard.

Although some residents commented their rates had dropped compared to last year, Andrew wrote on social media that his rates had risen by 38 per cent.

Janet said even with a dirt road outside her home she was paying more than \$2000 for rates, while Anita in Rhyll said she had no bitumen, no streetlights and no footpath but her rates had risen.

One Cape Woolamai resident questioned how her rates could rise by 7.7 per cent this year when the shire had a rate cap of 1.75 per cent.

“The valuation of most properties in Bass Coast has increased, whether by a little or a lot, so how does council balance the sums to claim it averages only a 1.75 per cent rate increase across the shire?” she asked.

Shire CEO Ali Wastie explained the rate cap applied to the average rates paid by all properties, not an individual property, with the total rate revenue increase capped at 1.75 per cent.

“In many cases, individual rate bills may increase or decrease by more – or less – than the capped rise amount,” Ms Wastie said.

“This may happen because: the value of the property has increased or decreased in relation to the value of other properties; other charges and levies that are not subject to the cap have risen (such as the garbage costs), as the capped increases apply to the general rates only.”

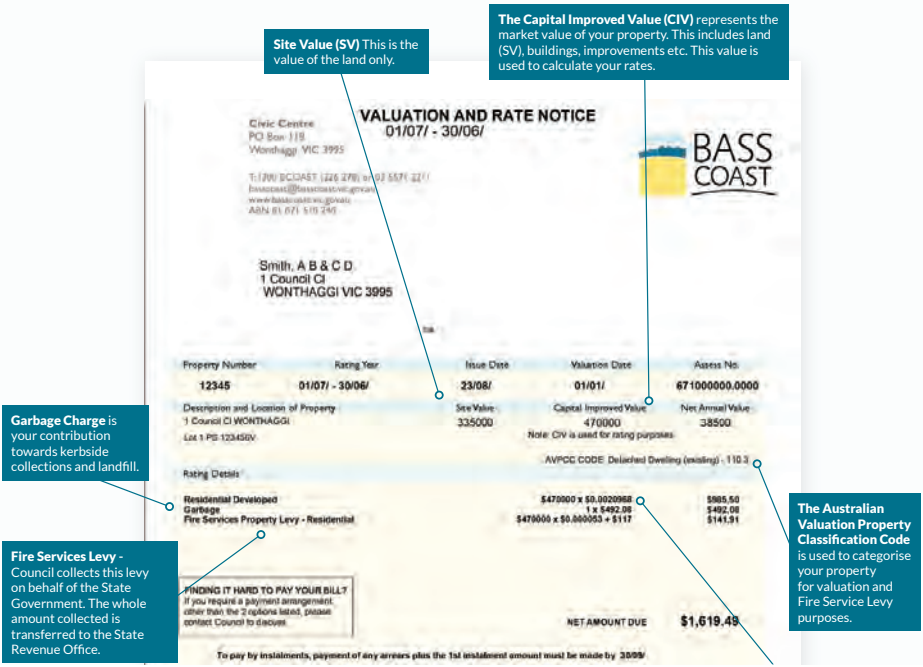
Ms Wastie said a rate notice could rise by as much as 38 per cent because the value of their property increased by about 75 per cent over the last year, “which is about 35 per cent more than the average property valuation increase for the shire”.

She said a resident living on a dirt road could pay \$2000 for their rates because rates were assessed on the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of a property.

“The CIV reflects the valuation of the land,



Your Rates Notice Explained



Alex Scott agent Greg Price said he has been swamped with homeowners seeking re-evaluations on their properties after receiving their rates notice.

Homeowners shocked at valuations

A Cowes real estate agent says he has been swamped with homeowners seeking re-evaluations on their properties after receiving their rates notice.

Alex Scott agent Greg Price said he had personally done about 25 evaluations in the past fortnight, with more inspections by his colleagues.

“Of those 25, 20 were given a higher valuation by the shire and of those 12 were wildly above. In one case last year a property was worth \$1.5 million and according to the shire it’s valued at \$2.5 million,” Greg said.

“People have opened their rates notices and in some cases their Capital Improved Value has doubled.”

Greg said property prices peaked around Melbourne Cup last year and had since dropped, but the shire had benefitted from a January valuation.

“That is council’s good luck.”

He advised any property owner who believed their CIV was “wildly above” the market rate to formally object to the rate valuation in the required 60-day timeframe.

“They need to get an agent to do a market appraisal and make a decision on whether to object. It’s a flawed system in that it falls back on the homeowner.”

He said the last time such a large number of property owners questioned the shire’s valuations was about a decade ago when a valuer incorrectly priced many homes, which was successfully challenged.

Greg added the state government would benefit from the windfall with higher land tax on holiday homes.

together with any improvements on the land,” Ms Wastie said.

“The CIV reflects the market value of the property at the valuation date (January 1, 2022). The market value reflects the supply and demand for property in the locality.”

Melbourne comparison

Dianne said they have had a house on the island since the early 1970s “and our rates have always been higher here than Melbourne for little or no services”.

Martha agreed, asking how her rates were higher here than a “home in Melbourne that is valued at twice as much”.

“Where is our infrastructure for the community? No hospital, no pool, no skate park, no community centre and facilities for our

children, no hard rubbish collection twice a year, no bin collection weekly,” Martha commented.

“I understand we live in a tourist location but it’s about time the locals got looked after too.”

Ms Wastie said the average rate notice in rural councils was “broadly in line with that of urban councils”.

“The rate in the dollar for urban councils however is lower. This is due to property prices in urban councils being significantly higher than those in regional and rural councils.”

Several people advised those with higher rates bills to challenge the shire.

“Just ask for a proper evaluation and hey presto you will save some money,” commented one resident.

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Bill shock #2: Inflation hits water bills

Westernport Water bills have increased \$49 or 4.2 per cent this year, with local households continuing to pay among the highest price for the least amount of water use.

The average home water bill has risen from \$1177 last year to \$1226, for an average consumption of 87kl per year.

Westernport Water was supposed to have fixed price capping, with the residential water access charge meant to be locked in at \$386 from 2018-23, and the sewer access \$595 for the same period.

The new price hike will see \$408 for water access and \$633 for wastewater in 22-23.

And if you thought rain could not be impacted by global economic pressures, according to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) the price

increase was warranted due to inflation.

The ESC said the average owner-occupier bill was rising by \$10 (one per cent) in Melbourne and \$45 (four per cent) in regional Victoria.

"The main reason for the increase is inflation, which is partly offset by lower borrowing costs for retailers," the ESC said.

"Increases in Melbourne are lower compared to regional areas, mainly due to reductions in bulk water charges and a smaller desalination water order for 2022-23."

Comparison

By comparison South Gippsland Water's rise was 5.9 per cent or \$64: \$1141 for an average water use of 115kl/year.

The highest water bill in the state is paid by

those in Horsham through GWM Water, with a 3.6 per cent increase or \$48 taking their bill to \$1378, but for an average annual water consumption of 222kl.

Westernport Water households had the lowest water consumption in the state at 87kl, due to the large amount of holiday homes in the area.

"On average, households in our area are using the least amount of water in Victoria – less than half of the statewide average," a Westernport Water spokesperson said.

"Consequently Westernport Water is more reliant on fixed water and wastewater access charges to meet its revenue requirement than other water corporations."

In 2015 a report found that even before the

tap was turned on, fixed charges for Westernport Water represented up to 88 per cent of a bill, compared to 50 per cent for an average North East Water bill.

At the time Westernport Water said they surveyed customers on high fixed charges but "ultimately" there was insufficient support for a rebalancing of fixed and variable pricing.

"Rather, an overall reduction in prices was seen to be the overriding priority."

Last year a record number of households received hardship grants from Westernport Water in the wake of Covid-19.

The water corporation's 2020-21 annual report showed \$15,507 worth of hardship grants – a total of 259 – were given in the past year, compared to \$4850 in 2019-20 (or 107 grants).

Who has the power?

It seems no one has the authority to stop the installation of three-metre-high power poles along Bonwick Avenue in San Remo.

High voltage wires are now set to be installed on September 1, to power the new Western Port Views Estate.

Powerlines within the new estate are underground, while Bonwick Avenue residents are burdened with lighting pole eyesores and increased concerns about radiation output from the high voltage wires.

Despite a concerted campaign by residents, who have contacted AusNet, Bass Coast Shire Council, the developer, the Energy and Water Ombudsman and Federal and state MPs, it appears no one can stop the installation.

Residents who spoke with the Advertiser are frustrated with the lack of response, and asked their names not to be used.

According to one resident, "Mick", "everyone from the government down says they have no power to change things".

Earlier this month, a spokesperson from Beveridge Williams, the land surveyors for the project, told the Advertiser a representative from the developer intended to meet with the residents to discuss the concerns.

No meeting has taken place.

Mick said he had a cordial conversation

with the project manager employed by the developer, who told him it was "pointless to meet as nothing could be done now".

The project manager told him the overhead high voltage (HV) lines were not for Western Port Views Estate as it already has power.

"He forgot to mention the current power would not be sufficient once the houses were built, hence the HV lines are going to be needed."

"Gerry", another resident impacted by the new power poles said he also had a conversation with the developer's representative.

"I asked if I could have the contact details of the designer they used to design this infrastructure and he point blank refused."

"I ran into the developer last week and he was quite indignant about being portrayed as the 'cartoon villain'."

"He went on to say his estate's power is already connected and the high voltage power is for the other new estate. AusNet have since told us that Western Port View Estate does indeed require the high voltage cables to provide sufficient power."

Who is responsible?

Gerry said it was hard to know who was being honest, as the developer and AusNet's stories conflicted, and there were many unanswered questions.

"Who are all the parties that stand to benefit from the HV cables? It would seem there are at least two estates."

"Who is paying for it? Who will be reimbursed ... it really shouldn't be this hard. It's like pulling teeth."

"Every entity has denied responsibility and provided the minimum information."

Meanwhile, neither the developer, Council or AusNet will take responsibility for the decision to install the huge power poles and high voltage lines.

One resident said he was told by the project



It seems no one has the authority to stop the installation of three-metre-high power poles along Bonwick Avenue in San Remo, with residents concerned about the visual impact and radiation output.

manager for the development that the lighting poles were an "AusNet's design" and an AusNet requirement. They also stated AusNet would have to pay if the power was put underground.

However an AusNet spokesperson told the Advertiser it is not responsible for the works which form part of the Western Port Views Estate.

"The work is designed, financed and undertaken by the developer. This includes the high voltage lines. AusNet authorised the design only as compliant with technical and safety requirements to supply the development."

Residents say they would like to see the powerlines along Bonwick Avenue put underground.

"This is what progressive councils are advocating," said Gerry.

Another option residents would like considered is replacing the pole mounted transformers with pad-mounted substations within the new estate.

Gerry said the Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale had met with some residents and promised to follow up with AusNet and to contact the local councillors.

Meanwhile Mick said he had contacted Russell Broadbent who had "washed his hands of it" saying it was a state matter.

Council can't overrule

Bass Coast CEO, Ali Wastie said the poles had been placed along Bonwick Avenue to

service the 29-lot subdivision approved by Council, via a planning permit for Western Port Views Estate.

Ms Wastie said the plans for any services were approved by the relevant authority – and in the case of the poles, this is AusNet.

"Council has no direct input into these requirements and cannot overrule other authorities on their requirements."

Ms Wastie said when residents raised their concerns, Council officers contacted AusNet to see if there was any scope to change the power supply.

"AusNet indicated they were willing to work with the developer on an alternative proposal, however the developer would need to agree to amend their plans. This did not occur."

The works have now been signed off and the issue of titles is imminent Ms Wastie said.

"As the power has been installed in line with the requirements of the planning permit and signed off by AusNet, Council has no power to intervene."

Attempts to resolve the issue have been unsuccessful, with Ms Wastie confirming AusNet advised there was not enough power in the existing infrastructure to service the new estate, and that it was AusNet policy across the state to provide overhead infrastructure in brownfield developments.

The project manager for the developer was contacted for comment for this article but did not respond.

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Council Update

Where can I walk my Dog?

Changes to Bass Coast Shire Council's dogs on beaches regulations (adopted February 2022) have now been gazetted. Visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/dogwalking for more information on when and where you can walk your dog on beaches in Bass Coast or pick up a 'Where can I walk my dog on Phillip Island' brochure from Council's Cowes office, located at 154 -156 Thompson Avenue.

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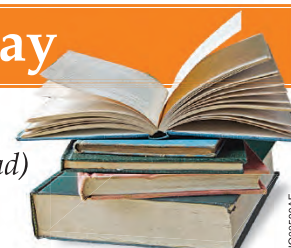
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Questions raised about offshore wind farms

Phillip Island tourism operators have questioned Federal government officers about the impact of offshore wind turbines on whale migration and penguin habitat.

A series of online meetings were held last week between officers from the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, and Gippsland tourism operators, community groups and commercial fishers.

A Phillip Island recreational angler also asked officers about the impact of wind turbine infrastructure on snapper and tuna migration off Phillip Island, as well as reef damage.

In early August Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen proposed to declare a range of areas in Commonwealth waters open for renewable energy projects, including off Gippsland, which is now open for community feedback until October 7.

Tomorrow (Thursday, September 1) there will be an in-person meeting at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 11am-2pm, for anyone wanting more information about the proposal.

There are currently six companies investigating wind farms off Gippsland, all in various stages, with the Bass Strait zone declared suitable by Mr Bowen stretching 5.5km (or three nautical miles) off the coastline from Phillip Island to East Gippsland.

If the Minister declares the area, and feasibility licences are granted, developers then plan their project in detail.

Whales

Wildlife Coast Cruises managing director John Dickie asked how offshore turbines would impact whale migration.

John later told the Advertiser while they support renewable energy, they were concerned also for the impact on birds, marine animals, the seabed, and local fishing industry.

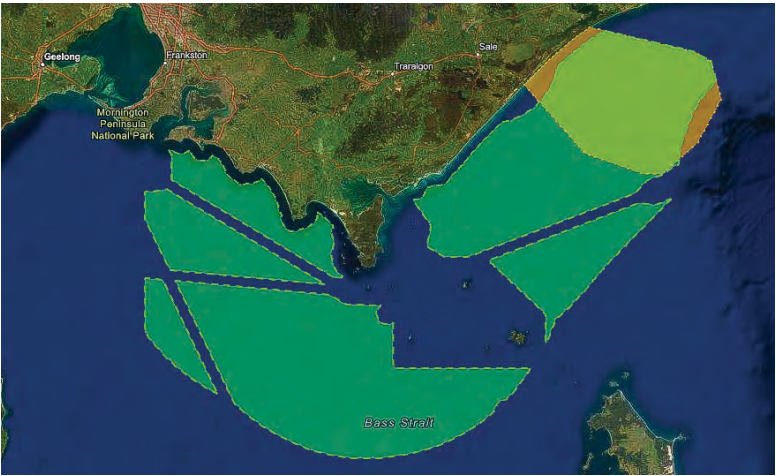
"If they interfere with the fishing and tourism industries this area has been built on, that may impact in the long term," John said.

He said because all Commonwealth water were classified as whale sanctuaries this could ensure any construction was outside whale migration season.

"We will gather more information on these effects from other places and be putting in a submission registering our concerns."

Government officers said developers need to seek environmental approvals for impacts on nationally significant species including Southern Right Whales and migratory birds.

They said during the feasibility licence period, which is up to seven years, developers must create a management plan, including responding to feedback from stakeholders for the life of the project.



The Bass Strait zone being investigated for offshore renewables projects stretches 5.5km (or 3 nautical miles) off the coastline from Phillip Island to East Gippsland.

Tourism

Destination Phillip Island board representatives also attended the online meetings, with general manager Kim Storey saying she was "surprised" to see the map showing an area off Phillip Island open for renewable projects.

Kim highlighted several issues including impacts on penguins, whales, tourism and fishing, also asking if there was any research to show offshore turbines' impact on tourism.

Officers said research showed wind farms increased tourism because "people were intrigued to see them".

A DPI board member asked whether environmental impacts from subsea and land transmission lines would also be examined.

Officers said from the land 5km out to sea was state jurisdiction and would require state approvals.

There was discussion about whether turbines would be visible from the coast, with officers saying the government wanted feedback on what people would tolerate.

The turbines expected to be installed off Gippsland will have blades longer than 100-metres, and may be 260 metres above the water.

"If it's on the horizon and only visible on clear days are people happy with that?"

Officers said the Gippsland area declared open for offshore wind projects was 27,500km² and wind turbines could be spaced 1-3km apart, with companies required to work with existing users and find "suitable compromises".

"There will be safety zones around turbines but the rest of the area would be open for everyone to use, such as recreational fishers and boaters," the officer said.

A representative from ocean conservation group Sea Shepherd said they supported wind farms but "it will be pretty big stuff out there and we just want to make sure it's done

well", suggesting there was special technology to avoid noise and vibration when driving in towers. Officers said they wanted all feedback and encouraged written submissions.

Bass Coast

The Advertiser contacted Phillip Island Nature Parks for comment but we were referred to the Victorian government, with a spokesperson saying offshore wind projects would go through "rigorous" environmental assessment and approvals, at Commonwealth and state level.

The Victorian government has already pledged about \$40 million for feasibility studies for offshore wind proposals, including the \$16.1 million Great Southern Offshore Wind Farm off Bass Coast by Corio Generation.

"We have identified an area off the Bass Coast Shire in Gippsland, Victoria, and are currently undertaking preliminary development works for an up to 1.5 GW offshore wind farm," according to Corio Generation.

"The project boundary will be further refined through ongoing feasibility studies and consultation with local stakeholders."

The state government spokesperson said Great Southern required assessment under the Commonwealth EPBC Act, which is being coordinated with the state EES process, to help reduce duplication and enable stakeholders and communities to engage with them more efficiently.

The Australian Government has set a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and is looking to reduce emissions by 43 per cent, and reach 82 per cent of Australia's electricity generated from renewable sources, by 2030.

In the future there could also be wave, tidal, floating solar and even rain renewable energy projects in the area, as well as research and development projects.

Details: consult.industry.gov.au/oei-gippsland and www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/offshore-wind



One San Remo resident has questioned the need for any extra paths, after a pathway was installed in the Anderson Street Reserve, as part of a contribution by the developer of the new Western Port Views Estate.

Masterplan paths questioned

A San Remo resident has called for a stop on concrete pathway construction in the Anderson Street Reserve.

A masterplan for the reserve adopted by Bass Coast Shire Council in December 2021 includes a series of concrete loop pathways, as well as a new playspace, bike racks, tables, seating and shelter.

Although the project is yet to be funded, an initial pathway has been installed as part of a contribution by the developer of the new Western Port Views Estate.

Mark Wilson said he attended the consultation on the masterplan and requested minimal works and no concrete paths.

"During the meeting those representing the council mentioned providing access for wheelchairs and prams which we agreed wholeheartedly is necessary," Mark said.

"The now completed concrete path provides that access. Any extra concrete paths I believe would not only be superfluous, but also be contrary to why we as humans seek out greenspaces."

However, with the masterplan already adopted, and funding currently being sought for the program, additional pathways look set to be installed.

Meanwhile, another resident has queried the alignment of the current path, saying it differs from that

shown on the masterplan.

Bass Coast CEO Ali Wastie said there had been a number of minor changes.

"The alignment altered slightly from the Master Plan during installation phase, removing the steps to ensure compliance with accessible 1:14 grades.

"Being a large Reserve, these minor pathway alterations do not alter the overall concept or intent."

Residents were also concerned when council workers recently planted trees in an area designated as open space in the masterplan.

"Planting was recently undertaken utilising Council's annual tree planting budget," Ms Wastie confirmed.

"Some of the plants are inside the 'kick-about zone' of the adopted plan and will require relocation."

No further work is currently scheduled for the masterplan.

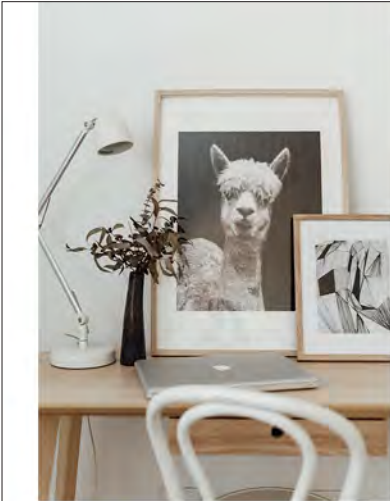
Ms Wastie said the council had applied to the state government's Growing Suburbs Fund to deliver the project, with a budget of \$500,000.

"We expect to hear the outcome of the application in late September and if successful, it is anticipated that works on the Anderson Street Reserve will start in 2023.

A copy of the Anderson Street Masterplan is available at www.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/explore/leisure-and-recreation/planning



The Anderson Street Reserve Masterplan adopted by the Council in December 2021. With one pathway section now installed, resident Mark Wilson said remaining paths in the plan are superfluous.



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Island's mail fail

A Wimbledon Heights resident has criticised "haphazard" mail delivery across Phillip Island, saying it was "unfair" some towns received postie service, while others had to pay for a communal postal box.

Peter Hammond said he had even done a rough calculation on the number of private post boxes on the island, including Smiths Beach, Sunset Strip, Silverleaves, Ventnor and Rhyll, which each pay an "ever increasing fee", currently \$49 annually. "I counted there are about 1130 PO Box holders, which is more than \$55,000 income to Australia Post," Peter said, questioning why some towns paid for the privilege of having to travel to collect mail, while others had it delivered to their homes.

"This is double dipping when you consider the sender has already paid for the mail to be delivered."

Peter has lobbied Australia Post for more equity, asking why Australia Post don't deliver to all homes across the island.

"I live in Wimbledon Heights surrounded by rural farms and they have their mail delivered to their front gates, yet I'm about 5km from the post office and I have a PO Box.

"There needs to be a level playing field for all residents on Phillip Island."

Resident lobbying has seen a hand-delivered mail poll at Wimbledon Heights, which finishes today (August 31), of 324 households asking whether they want to switch from post boxes to mailbox deliveries via postie.

If more than 50 per cent vote in favour, mail will be changed to postie delivery as opposed to cur-

rent post boxes; and any forms not sent in will be counted as a vote to stay with the current system.

Ray Webb is another resident who has been lobbying for six years for mail delivery, even contacting members of parliament.

"For years I have been trying to have mail delivered to our homes in Wimbledon Heights and have received flimsy excuses for the reasons they're not doing it," Ray said.

"We now all hope the mail will be delivered following the poll."

Mr Hammond said according to shire figures there were 316 properties in Wimbledon Heights and not 324 and he hoped this would not skew the poll results.

"There's a lot of anger among the community regarding the haphazard delivery service," Peter said.

"I and many other residents consider postal services to the six or more areas across the island to be grossly unfair."

Mr Hammond, who has lived in Wimbledon Heights for two decades, running a garden maintenance business, said last year vandalism saw their cluster letter box out of order for about five months.

"We were told a new bank of mailboxes would be replaced. This did not happen and a Band Aid repair was done."

Earlier this year Sunset Strip residents took to social media to highlight the poor state of their rusted communal mailbox, which "has no roof on it after a wind storm a few months ago", with others commenting they had to drive to Cowes regularly for collection in peak summer,



Wimbledon Heights resident Peter Hammond has lobbied Australia Post for more equity, asking why Australia Post don't deliver to all homes across the island.

waiting in long queues at the post office.

Smiths Beach residents wrote their communal box wasn't any better, adding boxes often couldn't be opened.

Several people commented they had made requests to Australia Post for upgrades.

Response

An Australia Post spokeswoman told the Advertiser all

homes with post box delivery were offered free postal collection from the Cowes post office.

"They have a choice whether to pick it up or rent a post box, which pays for someone to sort and deliver the mail," she said, adding that many residents preferred PO boxes to mail delivery.

She said delivery varied between towns, depending on the size and needs of each community.

Community needs to be consulted on sand mining

State environment, planning and resources ministers will be invited to visit Grantville's woodlands in the latest bid to put a stop to sandmining in the area.

Cr Leticia Laing successfully moved a motion at the August meeting calling for a moratorium on sandmining in the Western Port Woodlands, saying that given Bass Coast had been declared a Distinctive Area and Landscape by the Victorian government sand mining was "not an appropriate land use".

She requested the shire write to Victorian ministers for environment, resources and planning to request no further permits or approvals were issued to sand miners until the community was consulted and visit the area to discuss ways to protect the vegetation.

Cr Laing also requested the shire write to the Federal Environment Minister highlighting the impact of sand mining on Western Port RAMSAR wetlands.

"Bass Coast Shire has consistently expressed concern about the expansion of sand mining in the last southernmost remnant native vegetation woodland in Victoria and further extraction will exacerbate the degrading state of the environment," Cr Laing said.

"Resource extraction in Western Port is a threat to the shire's economy which is underpinned by the natural environment with eco-tourism and agriculture being key industries."

She said the privately-owned former Holding Proving Ground in Lang Lang had one of the largest areas of high-rated ecological classes, yet the land continued to be listed as an extractive industry interest area.



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One councillor voted against this development, saying Cowes' main street had a preferred height limit of three-storeys and the roof deck was a fourth level by stealth.

Developers pushing Cowes' height by stealth

A three-storey development with a rooftop deck as well as shops and accommodation has been approved by Bass Coast Shire councillors, with no objectors to the proposal.

However Cr Ronnie Bauer was the only councillor to vote against the proposal at 150 Thompson Avenue – next to Grumpy's Golf – because its roof deck was “height creep” and created a precedent for other developers.

Cr Bauer said Cowes' main street had a preferred height limit of three-storeys and the roof deck was a fourth level by stealth.

“This is height creep,” Cr Bauer said.

“If we don't put our foot down then the precedents are set and the developers will keep going pressing for higher buildings.

“The next development will go for six stories and compromise on five and so on. VCAT will look at

the precedents and say here lies the compromise.

“Before we know it, we will have many four storey buildings with a roof garden. That of course will bring us back to the perennial question of parking.”

He said this was the second project recently to “push the boundaries” of height regulations, with a proposed five-storey hotel at 85 Thompson Avenue now at VCAT.

However other councillors supported the development, given there were no objections.

Cr David Rooks said Cr Bauer's arguments weren't “relevant” because each planning application was judged on its own merit.

The \$3.5 million development includes a carpark, with a total of 33 car spaces, including 12 in car stackers.

The planning permit waived six retail customer car parks, with no

onsite parking provided for retail visitors.

The development is proposed for the site that currently has a surf shop and rear antique shop.

According to the permit, it will include a 302m² retail shop, seven x one bedroom dwellings and 15 x two bedroom dwellings

It states there are about 214 available parking spaces around the area.

A traffic report included with the permit surveyed the surrounding parks on Friday July 30, 2021 and the following day between 10am and 9pm, at the height of Covid.

It found the peak car parking demand on Saturday at 12 noon was 55 per cent of the available parking supply.

Bass Coast Shire councillors previously were highly critical of a San Remo proposed development for its reliance on car stackers.

Power saver and reap the rewards

Over 3000 households from Phillip Island and San Remo have taken advantage of the state government's \$250 Power Saving Bonus.

Figures released at the end of July show that one million households have applied for the one-off payment, with 3043 of these from the island or San Remo.

Households can claim the \$250 payment by heading to the Victorian Energy Compare website and comparing energy offers to see if they can get a better deal, or by engaging with a participating community outreach partner.

There is no cap on how many households can apply and the program is open until June 2023.

The government said user data shows that over the past 12 months, seven out of every 10 users saved an average of \$330 by switching energy offers.

With interest rates continuing to rise, and increasing costs for food

and groceries, this is one way to help ease pressure on the family budget.

“We know Victorian families are doing it tough, so we're topping up the \$250 Power Saving Bonus program to make sure no one misses out, said Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio.

The Victorian Energy Compare website is the only free and independent online energy price comparison service available to Victorian energy consumers.

Other programs helping households and businesses to slash energy bills include Victorian Energy Upgrades, which provides upfront incentives for low-cost-to-free energy efficient products, and Solar Victoria, which offers households and businesses discounted solar panels, batteries and efficient heating and cooling.

To apply and for more information go to: compare.energy.vic.gov.au

\$250

Power Saving Bonus

There's still time to take up the government's \$250 Power Saving Bonus and join the more than 3000 households across Phillip Island and San Remo that have taken up the offer.

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An ELC sea of colour for Book Week



Some creative Book Week costumes at the PI ELC. From left: Reagan, Saige, Caleb, Henry and Arlo Peacock.

Book Week was celebrated with a sea of colour at the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre with staff dressing up as minions and crayons and the children excited about their choice of costumes.

All the children in the three- and four-year-old kindergarten programs received a book as part of the centre's book gifting program and school Readiness. In addition 196 children participated in the Premier's Reading Challenge.



Staff at the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre were colourful crayons for Book Week. From left: Jess, Andrea, Amy, Denise and Dallas.



Newhaven College Book Week celebrations (from left): Imogen Hilgart as Princess Waitress; Ari Loizou as Spiderman; and Cooper Mol came as fighter pilot Maverick.



College Principal Darren Parker and Jaxon got into the spirit of Book Week at Bass Coast College.



Look out! Book Week dinosaurs Heidi and Bec on the loose in the library, at Bass Coast College.



Footy fever meets Book Week at Newhaven College. From left: Luca Cohoe was a Phillip Island Breakers Soccer player; Bridget Doig sported Essendon colours, while Austin Lynch was a Melbourne Demon.



Angel, Airlie and Amelia celebrating Book Week at Bass Coast College's San Remo Campus.



Cowes Primary Prep students Byron, Luca, Mason and Jacob enjoyed their first Book Week dress up.



It was a triple treat of stripes at Newhaven Primary! Logan (left) and Casey (right) were Where's Wally, while Kai came as the Cat in the Hat.



Cowes Primary Year 5 student Zoe as Maleficent at the Book Week parade.



Year 2 students Lydia and Sienna at Cowes Primary's Book Week celebrations

[More Book Week photos at pisra.com.au](https://pisra.com.au)



Leah as Pippi Long-stocking and Hailey as a character from Brave, at Newhaven Primary's Book Week.

Book Week dreams

With the theme for Book Week, "Dream with your eyes wide open", Our Lady Star of the Sea decided to have a pyjama day. In the afternoon parents, grandparents and carers were invited to come and either read with their children or share their favourite book.



Finnley and his nana at Book Week at OLSS.



OLSS preps showing off their favourite books during Book Week.

More pedestrians less cars in Cowes streetscape proposal

From page 1

Speed, bikes

Traffic north of Church Street will be slowed to 30 and 40km per hour, and to 10km/h in shared zones north of Chapel Street.

Several zebra crossings will be installed in CBD streets, as well as wombat crossings (a crossing on a flat top road hump), including connecting Aldi to Olive Justice Place.

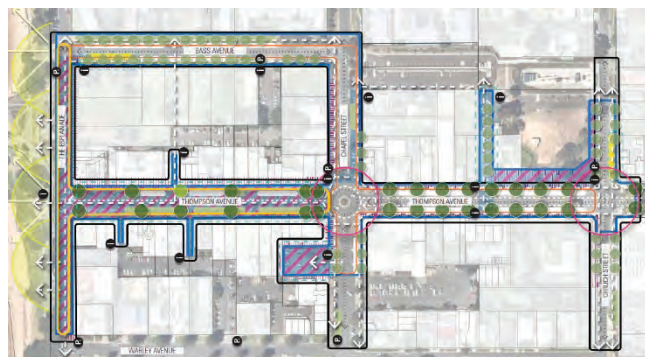
New cycle lanes along Thompson Avenue between Chapel and Church streets will be moved next to the curb, with 800mm wide barriers between the cycle lane and car parks, (currently bike paths are behind angled carparks).

The Chapel Street taxi rank will be moved to Thompson Avenue near Coles during the day, and along The Esplanade at night.

In the future there could be park and ride shuttle buses around Cowes and the island.

Character

Damian said the shire would require traders to adopt uniform outdoor furniture for "greater cohesion", adding there would be no more unat-



The Cowes streetscape draft concept master plan proposes that Thompson Avenue between the Esplanade and Chapel Street will be one-way. The emphasis on wider footpaths, outdoor dining and increased pedestrian access will see carparks reduced.

tractive boxed-in outdoor dining areas, common since the pandemic.

He noted the shire couldn't force shop facades to change but said "hopefully over time changes made to the street will start to flow on to landlords and how they present their shops."

The 2023/24 shire budget has allocated \$2.25 million for the first stage of the project, expected to be shovel-ready by June next year, (although stages are yet to be specified).

The masterplan builds on previous consultant plans to redesign Cowes, including the Cowes Activity Centre Plan 2015.

Damian said with the redevelopment of the jetty triangle, and the construction of the transit centre and cultural centre, this masterplan was "the last piece of the puzzle".

"This is the furthest the plans have ever progressed. We are committed to delivering this but we need the community's support."

How to give your feedback on the master plan

Want to give your feedback on the new Cowes streetscape draft concept master plan 2022?

Here's how to do it:

- There is an online map and plan, where comments can be made;

- Write a submission;
- Scan a QR code, which will be in various locations around Cowes – including the transit centre, jetty triangle and businesses;
- There are three drop-in sessions at Olive Justice

Place, 70 Chapel Street: Tuesday September 20, 10am– 1pm; Thursday September 22, 3pm– 5pm; Saturday October 1, 11am–1pm
Details: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/streetscapescowes



Don Turner, Ruth Scott and Chris Phillips from the Phillip Island Bicycle Users Group (BUG). BUG has made a submission on the draft Tracks and Trails strategy, which includes support for a shared pathway between Cowes and Ventnor.

Support for the track and trails strategy

In a submission to Bass Coast Shire Council's draft Tracks and Trails Strategy, the Phillip Island Bicycle User Group has supported the establishment of a shared pathway between Cowes and Ventnor.

A proposal to develop a foreshore pathway between Cowes and Ventnor was one of four high priority projects listed in the draft strategy.

Don Turner from the Bicycle User Group (also known as BUG) said the group's main focus was safety.

"The roads between Cowes and Ventnor are very narrow, there are no footpaths, and they don't connect up that well," Don said.

He believes the path, which will follow inland from the coast by 20 metres, will give trail users including parents with prams, tourists and cyclists, a safe way to get between Cowes and Ventnor.

He said, both as an individual, and as a member of BUG, he supported the pathway project.

BUG members Ruth Scott and Chris Phillips also agreed, saying the pathway which would be wider than an average footpath, would help encourage people to get on a bike or take a walk.

They cited similar pathways on foreshores or environmentally sensitive areas in Western and South Australia, which have been successfully managed.

The three stress that people who want to ride and walk in nature are likely to be concerned about and care for the environment.

"You won't get people who want to trash the paths," Don said.

However a group of local residents have mounted a vocal campaign against the proposal.

The protest led by co-coordinator of Cowes Coastcare, Heather Liney, claims the pathway will destroy the foreshore and the Phillip Island Conservation Society has also raised con-

cerns about its impact on sensitive flora and fauna.

Overall strategy

The draft Tracks and Trails Strategy aims to consolidate tracks and trails across the shire and establish connections through a shire-wide network, to be used by residents and visitors.

BUG made a formal submission to the strategy, with Don saying the group had consistently lobbied for improved infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians since forming 17 years ago.

While BUG voiced overall support for the intent of the strategy, it believes there are some instances where the priorities do not reflect the community's needs.

"It is our observation that over the past two decades or so, Council has hired outside consultants to draw up documents relating to tracks and trails, that have not necessarily reflected the practical knowledge of the local and visitor tracks and trails users," the BUG submission states.

Don said the group's major focus is on safety, especially creating safe pathways for children to ride to school, and this is reflected in its submission.

"For example, there are very few students riding from Rhyll to Cowes Primary or Newhaven College. "But if there was a safe route all the way through, the kids would ride."

They would like a safe route from Cowes to Rhyll included in the strategy and believe the current rating for the Rhyll Inlet to Cowes-Rhyll Road as a low priority, is incorrect.

They also believe that in the growing bicycle tourism market, Bass Coast is missing out.

"There are other places that have got much more developed paths for people who want to bring their bikes and ride," Don said.

"And they have better facilities, including toilets, pump stations and drinking fountains."

With the growing population and a changing demographic that includes more young families, BUG says now is the time to improve the pathways and facilities, and it will also attract a different kind of visitor.

"It is not good for the local economy to have busloads coming at 4pm, going to the penguins and then leaving," Don said.

"But if we can attract people here cycling and to stay overnight, they're spending money."

Chris said members of the Phillip Island BUG travelled across to the Peninsula several times a year for rides, and with improved pathways, that could be reciprocated.

Ruth said it was also important to develop the shared pathways, as some people who enjoy being outdoors on their bikes, found riding on the main roads off-putting.

The group's submission has recommended four projects be elevated to the high priority category, including Cowes-Rhyll Road, a road trail from Cowes to the Penguin Parade, a trail along the Esplanade at Surf Beach and the Wonthaggi-Cape Paterson-Inverloch loop.

Don said the group is excited to see a \$10 million commitment to tracks and trails and a clear timeline to spend the money.

He also believes several of the proposed pathway projects across the shire are already scoped out and once the strategy is finalised and adopted, could be rolled out quite quickly.

And BUG would like to see the Cowes to Ventnor shared pathway and the Cowes-Rhyll Road project get underway as soon as possible.

According to Bass Coast Shire Council's engage website, the feedback on the draft strategy is currently being reviewed. A final strategy is due to be presented and adopted by Council in late 2022, with delivery starting from 2023 onwards.

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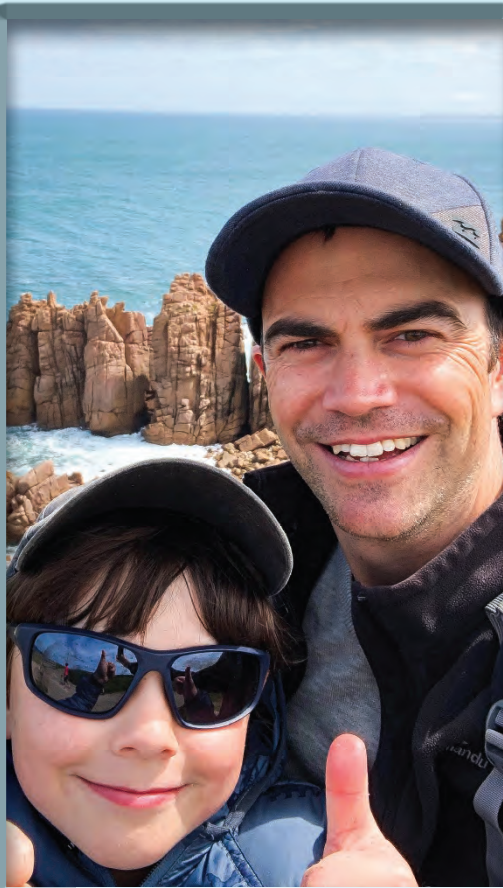
WE LOVE OUR DADS!

Father's Day

2022



Happy Father's Day to all the dads out there. Some island youngsters share their thoughts on what makes dads the best, and send some extra special Father's Day messages.



James

James said going swimming in the pool and having cuddles with dad Matthew are his favourite things, and describes his dad as nice, kind and funny. "Happy Father's Day daddy, I love you so much."



Logan

Logan and dad Tim recently went to the Vietnam Veterans Museum and talked about history. "I like going out and spending time with him," Logan said. "I love the stuff he shares with me as he has lived for a long time. I hope we can continue to share memories together ... have a wonderful day."



Koa

Six-year-old Koa (right) said he loves the hugs and kisses he gets from dad Dean and his favourite things to do together is play lego, go surfing and go fishing. "Thank you Dad for being such an awesome and helpful Dad."



Kruze, Kristopher, Kaydee & Kayla

The four siblings all sent Father's Day messages for their dad Phil, summed up by Kayla and Kris. "I love you to the moon and back."



Archie

Archie and dad Matt like to swim together at the San Remo Back Beach and Archie says what he loves most about his dad are the great hugs he gives. "I hope you have a great Father's Day dad!"



Ava

Ava (9) said her favourite thing is playing football and watching TV with her dad Paul and she loves the way he always says good night to her. Ava's Father's Day message: "You are the best dad in the world and I hope you have the best Father's Day EVER!"



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Father's Day 2022



Harry & Charlie

Harry and Charlie love going on rides in dad Aaron's truck and doing lots of local exploring together. "Dad makes us laugh and is very caring and works very hard for us," they said. "Dad you are the best dad ever and we hope you have a very happy day on Father's Day. We love you!"



Holly

My dad Jacob is really funny Holly says. "My favourite thing to do with Dad is go to basketball together on Wednesday nights. I love you Dad so so so so much. You are so fun. Happy Father's Day."



Marley

Marley likes mountain bike riding and drawing with her dad Anthony. "I love my dad's jokes and his food. I like the way he plays with our dog too. Thank you Dad for being an awesome D.A.D.D.Y."



Molly

Molly (8) said learning new sport with her dad Greg is her favourite thing to do and she loves how he always helps her to try new things. "When flowers grow I will always know that you love me and will always be there for me."



Miles

Miles (8) said dad Benjamin really cares about his family and is very kind. He likes kicking the football with him and building stuff together. "Thank you for looking after us and working to get us money and getting us food."



Abigail

Abigail (8) told us she loved that her dad Chris looked after her, and her favourite thing to do with dad was to go surfing. Her Father's Day message to her dad: "Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are you."



The Ivy, located in Newhaven – has lots of great Father's Day gifts, for dads of all ages. Choose from plants, plant care, cacti, cool wall art, books, games, eco-leather wallets, passport covers, travel bags and keyrings. Plus assorted gift boxes, skin care, candles, bottle openers and more!

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Father's Day 2022

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Ryan

Ryan loves his dad David's building skills, telling us "I love my dad because he is building our house."



India

"I love my dad because he tickles me and he sticks his tongue out," says India of dad Paul.



Saxon

Getting a welcome home from dad Jake is the best says Saxon. "I love my dad because he gives me cuddles and kisses when I finish school."



Saylor

Saylor (8) said he loves everything about dad Ricky – especially playing footy together. "Love you Dad!"



Willow

It's all about fun for Willow and dad Shao. "I love my dad because he tickles me and makes me laugh," she says.



Ryan

"I love my dad because he makes really yummy food," says Ryan of dad James.

Father's Day Special



Any father who purchases an admission ticket to A Maze'N Things on Father's Day will receive a complimentary 'Sample Paddle of four beers' (value \$16) at Rusty Water, with each main meal. Please mention this advertisement to receive your voucher*



* Conditions apply

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Students from schools across Bass Coast are attending the Kids Teach Kids Bass Coast Conference on September 2, at the Phillip Island Nature Parks. Photo: Laura Brearley

Kids Teaching Kids conference

Bass Coast students unite for environmental action when students from schools across Bass Coast come together for an environmental conference at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre on Friday September 2.

Students will spend the day teaching peers, embracing environmental leadership and sharing learnings from mentors as part of the Kids Teaching Kids Bass Coast Conference.

Environmental charity Earthwatch Australia runs the conference to engage schools and the community in the protection of local environmentally and culturally significant spaces.

Students will tackle local Bass Coast issues such as beach pollution, waste management and renewable energy. As part of the peer-teaching journey, students will deliver and participate in hands-on activities, identifying floral and faunal species, repurposing plastic bottles, exploring waste management techniques and participating in a mini ClimateWatch trail as citizen scientists.

Mentors from Bass Coast Shire Council, Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Coast Care and more will be supporting these young leaders.

Adele, 11, says: "I've lived in Bass Coast my whole life. It's important to protect it. We have

a big community and we all need to pitch in to help protect the wildlife."

Classmate Archie from Cowes Primary echoes the enthusiasm.

"Even one piece of rubbish can have a big impact on the animals in the ocean around Phillip Island," said Archie.

"What I am learning inspires me to bring it up with all the kids at school and to make sure that they know not to litter as well."

Students are empowered to be part of the solution through the conference.

The program has engaged 5196 students, 632 teachers, 278 schools and formed 47 environmental partnerships across the state.

"These conferences raise awareness and drive action on local and global environmental issues, bringing communities together to solve common challenges," says Michelle Tripp, Head of Education Partnerships at Earthwatch Australia.

"We are helping the next generation of leaders take collective responsibility for our future."

Participating schools: Newhaven College, Phillip Island Village School, Cowes, Newhaven, San Remo, Bass Valley, Powlett River, Inverloch, Loch and Wonthaggi Primary schools, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St Joseph's Wonthaggi and Bass Coast Specialist School.

Churchill Island history celebrated in new play

When Samuel Amess bought Churchill Island in 1872 there was no bridge and no road.

To get there the Amess family had to travel on Cobb and Co coach to Frankston then by boat via Hastings, with women and children then carried to shore.

That's according to the book Churchill Island: History and her Story, which has now been transformed into a play to be performed on Sunday September 18 at Churchill Island, 11.30am and 1.30pm.

The book was recently revised by David Maunders and Christine Grayden, with David now narrating and directing the play, called Whispers from the Past, which re-imagines brief conversations between historical characters, including Amess.

David said the play was being performed to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the building of still-standing Amess House and the planting of the homestead Norfolk pine on Churchill Island.

"It will be performed on the veranda at Amess House or in the shearing shed if wet," David said.

Amess – who is being played by Phillip Island's own dinosaur fossil hunter and amateur thespian Mike Cleeland – was a notorious character in Melbourne, a building contractor whose works include the Treasury, first post

office, Customs House and Kew Hospital.

He and his wife Jane were well-known and had many friends visit Churchill Island during their summer sojourns there. Three generations of the Amess family owned Churchill Island from 1872 until 1929.

Whisper from the Past is presented by the Friends of Churchill Island Society (FOCIS), in conjunction with Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Other cast members include Pip Cleeland as Jane Amess; Kate Cleeland playing both Cora the cook and Margaret Amess; Chloe Dann as Minnie Lawrence; Don Johnstone as George Brown, agricultural journalist who wrote as 'Bruni'; John Eddy as Baron Ferdinand von Mueller; and Helena Leonardos playing both Mabel Lawrence and Marjorie Amess.

The performances at 11.30am and 1.30pm are free to view and included in the price of a ticket to Churchill Island.

However, anyone wishing to attend is requested to email the secretary of FOCIS, Leah Tempny, to let her know: secretary@focis.org.au

For those who can't attend in person, a special video of the six scenes, filmed both inside and outside Amess House, will also be made for the FOCIS YouTube channel by local filmmaker Terry Melvin.



On the veranda of Amess House are cast members in costume left to right: Director and Narrator David Maunders, Don Johnstone, Kate Cleeland, Pip Cleeland, Mike Cleeland, Helena Leonardos and John Eddy. Absent: Chloe Dann. Photo: Terry Melvin.

Island arks arrive at Phillip Island

Experts in island conservation from around Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific are set to meet at the Penguin Parade next month to discuss the biggest issues facing our unique habitat and environment, present new research and offer expertise on how to protect our islands into the future.

The Island Arks Symposium VII will bring together global experts, along with interested community members, with this year's theme: Partnering for land, sea and coast.

After a two-year hiatus, the Symposium returns in its seventh year, with discussions around Lord Howe Island as a model of environmental excellence, pests and biosecurity, marine and coastal threats, the importance of seabirds, and Indigenous places.

Two workshops will focus on empowering Island communities and action planning for Island conservation.

"Australia's islands support up to 30 per cent of all our threatened species, make up 40 per cent of the iconic Australian coastline we love and make a huge contribution to our tourism economy," said Nature Parks' Conservation Manager Jessica McKelson.

"This is an opportunity for us to share our collective knowledge in island conservation so we

can each continue to effectively manage the environmental and cultural values of our islands, seas and coastline.

"We're proud to be joined by Traditional Owners including the local Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation."

First Nations people from the Pitcairn Islands, New Zealand, Hawaii, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia will also share their unique viewpoints and aspirations for the sustainable use and development of their islands.

Keynote speakers include experts in Biosecurity, community-led restoration initiatives and climate action.

Chief Scientist Conservation and Climate Action at Parks Victoria, Dr Mark Norman, is a keynote speaker at the event.

"Victoria's wonderful islands range from low sandy rises in coastal bays and inlets to sheer granite monoliths rising above the cold ocean swell of Bass Strait – coming all the way from Antarctica.

"They have strong cultural significance for Victoria's First Nations peoples and are home to seabird and seal colonies, as well as many native terrestrial plants and animals," Dr Norman said.

"As on land, there are many threats impacting our islands, from introduced pests and weeds to the increasing challenges brought by climate change. Parks Victoria is building advocacy, profile and partnerships to tackle these challenges and better understand and manage the many needs of island cultural and natural values. The symposium is a great way to bring together the thinkers and doers in island conservation to share our collective knowledge, learnings and expertise."

Ms McKelson said Phillip Island was truly a conservation success story.

"Most people are familiar with the growth of the Little Penguin population, but we've only just begun our work here. Phillip Island is home to some very special birds and animals, including the bush stone curlew, which are focused on breeding and re-introducing this critically endangered species back to its native environment."

The Island Arks Symposium will be held at the Penguin Parade from September 5-9. It has previously been held at Rottne Island, Tasmania, Fiji and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Daily tickets, online registration or full event passes are available at www.island-arks.com.au.

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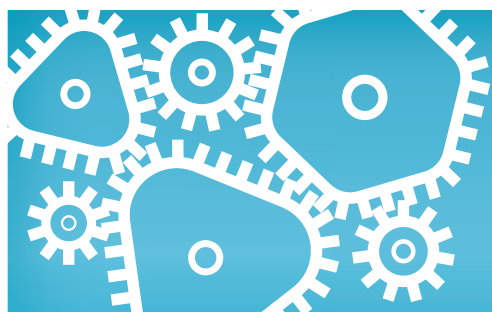
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Under 12B Breakers in the cup final, L-R back row: Judd, Harley, Ebony, Kobe, Ariana, Hunter, Zac, Angus, Jackson, and Coach Callum. Front row: Leroy, and Braxton.

Breakers go into overtime at GSL cup final

On Saturday, August 29, the Phillip Island Breakers under 12B team travelled to Trafalgar Recreation Reserve for the Cup Final against the formidable Drouin Yellow Team.

Drouin were the first to put points on the board with player number 7 scoring at two minutes and 14 minutes.

The Breakers responded with a great goal by Hunter at the 20-minute mark.

At half time, the score was 2-1 in Drouin's favour.

The second half saw Drouin's player 19, score a goal at 46 minutes in, followed by Jackson scoring for the Breakers at the 50-minute mark.

The Breakers put on an incredible show, with so many nail-biting, edge-of-the-seat shots at goal which just missed or were caught by Drouin's excellent goalie.

At the 57-minute mark Angus levelled the score for the Breakers, now sitting at 3-3.

Full time was reached, and the game was

still sitting at a draw.

The game went into overtime for five minutes, each end turnovers.

Drouin won the game with two great shots by number 27 and number 7.

It was a fantastic game, and all the kids should be so proud of themselves.

Next week the finals start, with Phillip Island's Under 12B team playing in the first semi-final against Drouin White, at Drouin on Sunday, September 4.

Then the following Sunday, we are off to Trafalgar where the Under 17s Mixed play Leonagatha, Under 17 Girls play Wonthaggi, Reserves Men Play Korumburra, Senior Women play Drouin, and the Senior Men play Korumburra.

With six Phillip Island teams through to the semi-finals, let's hope we all get the wins, so we can go through to the Grand Finals on Sunday, September 18, held at home, Newhaven Recreation Reserve.

Go Breakers!



The Breakers under 12B team line up to shake hands with cup winners, the Drouin Dragons.

Korrine and District junior tennis finals

Another successful winter tennis competition was completed on Saturday, August 20 for K & DJC.

The day was a combination of seasons, but this did not deter some wonderful tennis being played across all sections.

Pennant/Section 1: Phillip Island 0-5 Felix Bathgate was def Westernport 2-12 James Harman.

Section 3: Westernport 2-17 Abbie Wines and Yasmin Gloria def Phillip Island 1-13 Oli Russo and Eli Bowker.

Section 2: Korumburra 3-19 Toby Nicholas and Eamon O'Neill-Archibald def Inverloch 0-12 Kai Heenan and Alexis van Oss.

We are now planning for our upcoming summer competition so if you do have a child keen to play, please contact your local tennis club.

Midweek ladies tennis

Unfortunately, the rain has caused a couple of weeks of washouts for ladies tennis in all but a couple of matches; here are the latest ladders after round six.

Ladders after August 23:

20 THE ADVERTISER, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022



Pennant/Section 1: Phillip Island 0-5 Felix Bathgate was def Westernport 2-12 James Harman.



Section 3: Westernport 2-17 Abbie Wines and Yasmin Gloria def Phillip Island 1-13 Oli Russo and Eli Bowker.

Section 1: W'port/Grantville 31, Inverloch Emeralds 28, Wonthaggi Chooks 26, Bena 18, and Inverloch Diamonds 17.

Section 2: Bena 34, Korumburra 30, Nyora 24, Foster 21, and Phillip Island 17.

Section 3: Phillip Island Red 27, Inverloch Blue 27, Wonthaggi Owls 24, and Kongwak Kookies 18.



Winter triples winners: Ken Gill and Steve Kantor, with a +16.



Audika competition winners: Julie Pora, Wayne Barr and Judy Christie.



Audika final winners: Serge Castel, Alan Beddows and Steve Farrelly.

Phillip Island bowls results

Winter triples

Another good turnout for the winter triples competition. Runners up today from off the Island with two game wins and a +14 were Michael Cosgrove, Marty Hannaford and B. Humphries.

Our winners with also two game wins were Ken Gill and Steve Kantor with a +16.

Thursday social day

A beautiful day and a slight breeze.

Runners up were Lance Wearne, Glenda Grazules and Bruce Puncher.

Winners were Alan Price, Joan Farmer and Bill Davies.

Audika competition

Well it was a splendiferous day on the island last Saturday for the last day of the Audika Competition.

Runners up with a two-game win and a +16 were Jim Murray, Serge Castel and Terry Dawes.

Winners with two game wins also, but with a + 23 were Julie Pora, Wayne Barr and Judy Christie. Well done everyone and to all the volunteers.

Audika final winners

Well, the Audika competition has now been completed and we would like to thank the team from Audika for their continued support of the bowls club.

Our runners up were Serge Castel and Steve Farrelly, but the overall winner was Alan Beddows.

Tenpin bowls results

2's company: 1st on 15pts the Hounds, 2nd on 13pts King Pins, and 3rd on 12.5pts Jail.

ABL (Almost bowling legends): 1st on 81pts Pimpals, 2nd on 76.5pts Just Bowl Already, and 3rd on 75.5pts Island Sector.

Business early: 1st on 15pts Turkey Slappers, 2nd on 13pts Bettys, 3rd on 11pts Redun-

Midweek bowls results

Another great Thursday game held at the San Remo bowls club. As usual the weather gods stepped in and stopped the rain just as we started playing and kept it that way for our whole day.

Lots of fun was had by all, with plenty of laughter heard from across the greens.

A few more dollars went to the RCH tin, keep up the good work everyone.

A big thank you to our friend Haydn who looked after everyone in the bar as well as cleaning up the kitchen. We are so lucky to have so many of our bowling family who are willing to help out when needed.

Surprisingly, there was almost no wind (at San Remo?), players also quickly got used to the lightning-fast greens. This made for a great day with some high scores.

Winners on 37 points were: Peter McWilliams (Co-Skip), Lindsay Russell (Co-Skip), Michael Dady (3), and Cheryl Floyd (L).

Runners up on 34 points were: Tony Heppleston (S), Frank D'Unienville (3), and Peter Thorley (L).

Best one game: Dennis Talbot (S), Laurie Bell (3), Pauline McWilliams (2), and Tony Morris (L).

Next week we are headed to Koo Wee Rup. We are looking forward to seeing all our members (as well as any visiting bowlers) next Thursday.

Be at the club by 10am for a 10.30am start to the day. See you on the green.



Winners of this week's midweek game were, Cheryl Floyd (L), Michael Dady (3), Peter McWilliams (Co-Skip), and Lindsay Russell (Co-Skip).



Runners up were, Frank D'Unienville (3), Peter Thorley (L), and Tony Heppleston (S).



Best one game was, Dennis Talbot (S), Pauline McWilliams (2), Laurie Bell (3), and Tony Morris (L).

dants, and 4th on 11pts Balls Deep.

Business late: 1st on 16pts Holy Splits, 2nd on 14.5pts City Lights, 3rd on 11pts Dynamic Painting, and 4th on 10pts Coles Cows.

This week's top scorers across each league were:

Men: Vin Ajaykumar 198, John Batty 193, and John Georgios 191.

Women: Shannon Felmingham 180, Katy Betts 164, and Jin Samoena 159.



U14 Blues running through the banner.

U14s Blue take home the Premiership Cup

U14 Blues

Perfect weather for the Grand Final greeted the Phillip Island Bulldogs U14s Blues as they arrived at Wonthaggi for their much-anticipated clash with Inverloch Kongwak on Sunday.

A huge crowd was in attendance soaking up the atmosphere. The game was hotly contested from the start, as expected. The Bulldogs played as a strong team as they have all season, each playing their part and in the end were too good for Inverloch, winning the cup 40 to 15.

Congratulations to the 14s Blues, who won every game of the season.

Coach Dan Larsson, Assistant Coach Ken Carlon and Team Manager Sam Dean are very proud of the growth you've all shown on and off the field.

We also thank our families for the incredible support they've shown throughout the season.

Go Doggies!

Best mentions to Ayden Fawaz, Jeremy Kelly, Harrison Carlon, Xavier Williams, Charlie Fischer, and Nathan Patch.

Goals to Heath Bowen (2), Duke Lawrence, Seth McBean, Ayden Fawaz and Austin Finlayson.

U12 Blues gave it all

The U12 Blues were the underdogs, up against the undefeated champions, Leongatha Parrots, who have thrashed their opponents all season.

The team played with pure guts, determination and skill, taking down kids twice their size.

The Doggies almost pulled it off only missing out by two points, with the final score 18-20.

A goal kicked by Gemma Fischer just half a second after the siren would have put them in front ... what a nail biter.

More photos at pisra.com.au.



U14 Blue player Charlie Fischer who was awarded the player of the match, with his mum Aileen and Simon Whelan, Junior League operations Manager, AFL Gippsland.



Assistant Coach Ken Carlon, Vice-Captain Harrison Carlon, Captain Ayden Fawaz, Vice-Captain Jack Larsson and Coach Dan Larsson, celebrate the U14Blues Grand Final win.



Felix Bathgate fights to get the ball over to his teammates during the U14 Blues match.



Coach Dan Larsson and Captain Ayden Fawaz with the Grand Final cup.



Harrison Carlon and Xavier Williams keep their eye on the ball.



Seth McBean charges through.



Charlie Fischer takes the mark.



Nathan Patch goes up in the ruck during the Blues Grand Final match.



U15s Maya Huther played a great game in C against Inverloch in the semi-finals played on Saturday at Inverloch.



Anna, Carly and Abbey celebrate the U17s win against Inverloch on Sunday at Cora Lynn.



U15s players Bella, Sophia and Abby celebrate the win in the semi-final against Inverloch. Final scores were 27 to 24 and the U15 girls are into the Grand F final!



U15s Meika White played a strong game as always.

What a win for Under 17 netballers

The Under 17 netballers travelled to Cora Lynn this week to take on Inverloch in the semi-final.

The girls were all very nervous as they have not had much luck in finals at Cora Lynn and against Inverloch in the past.

Thank goodness the team were able to overcome their bad memories and managed to bring their A game to the court yet again.

The first half was very tightly contested between both teams and the U17s were able to maintain a six-goal lead at half time.

With some great coaching and lots of support in the box the girls came out firing at three quarter time and stepped it up another notch.

And wow, they managed to step up to another level and stretch the lead substantially, which set them up for a convincing win against Inverloch.

The team will play Korumburra in the Preliminary final next Saturday at Dalyston with the hope of securing a Grand Final position.

Go girls!
Final scores Phillip Island 54 to Inverloch 39.

Best Players: The entire team!

Under 15s book a spot in the Grand Final!

Our girls knew it was going to be a tough game taking on Inverloch at their home ground with a big crowd.

The heat was on from the very first whistle, each team going goal for goal.

The score stayed within a few points for the entire game and the great weather allowed the girls to showcase their skills.

Phillip Island was up by five at one stage giving them a glimmer of hope.

However, Inverloch changed some positions, had a momentous run, and closed the gap to one point.

Phillip Island, determined for a spot in the Grand Final kept on going and took out the win by a close three points.

Awesome result!

The girls are all so excited to play on Saturday 10, in the Grand Final.

For more photos, visit pisra.com.au/sport



U17s netballers played the best match of the season to secure a place in the preliminary finals against Korumburra.



U13s netballers went into the semi-final undefeated but were pipped at the post by Nar Nar Goon.



Sophia Hungerford played a magnificent match in GD on Saturday against Inverloch in the U15s match.

2022 PRELIMINARY FINALS

FOOTBALL

Phillip Island Seniors v Warrugul Industrials

Saturday September 3rd

Dalyston Recreation Reserve - 2:00pm

NETBALL

Phillip Island U17's v Korumburra-Bena

Saturday September 3rd

Dalyston Recreation Reserve - 10:30am



The proud U16s footy had a massive win over Inverloch securing their place in the 2022 Grand Final.

Under 16s in the Grand Final

The Under 16s showed up to play their archrivals Inverloch in the semi-finals played at Inverloch on Saturday. The boys were keen to give everything they had, to secure the Grand Final position. The last match against Inverloch proved to be an ugly affair with the Island boys getting walloped. Therefore, coach Steve Duggan came up with a well-executed plan on how to win this time round and

the team managed to do just that. It was a very low scoring close game and the Bulldogs managed to keep the pressure up to Inverloch for the entire game right to the very end. It was a great team effort. Well done and congratulation to the U16s team. Scores: Phillip Island: 0.2.2, 0.4.4, 2.6.18, 3.6.24. Inverloch-Kongwak: 0.1.1, 0.2.2, 1.2.8, 2.3.15.

Goals: Phillip Island: Benjamim Chihotski, Jack Huther, Finn O'Brien. Inverloch-Kongwak: Willem Duursma, Harry Butcher. Best Players: Phillip Island: Noah Muller, Finn O'Brien, Yianni Caffieri, Zac Walker, Charlie O'Garey, Darcy Thompson. Inverloch-Kongwak: Luke Williams, Archie Terlich, Frederick Soumilas, Harry Butcher, Patrick Dwyer, Jordan Bertacco.



Will Hill and Tim Newman chase down the ball in a great U16s semi-final against Inverloch.



Yianni Caffieri played a solid match as always.



Great mark by Zac Walker who took many for the day.



Max Arceo gets the kick away just in time!



Daniel Caffieri fends off his opponent.



Isaac Savona gets amongst the action.



Chelsea Connell clears the ball out of the backline.

Breakers secure place in grand final

The Bass Coast Breakers secured a spot in the Grand Final with a strong win against Coburg. The Breakers got off to a good start however Coburg were the first to fire – scoring five minutes in. The rest of the quarter was all the Breakers with the forward line finding some good scoring opportunities into the wind. The first goal, coming via a great chain between Immy Bradford and Carly Heislars to set up Kelly O'Neill who converted a set shot. A lucky bounce in the goal square gave O'Neill her second a few minutes later. Despite good defence from the Breakers, Coburg had some chances in the second quarter but couldn't convert into the wind. The Breakers added one more to their tally via a set shot from Tess Angarane. Half time: Breakers 3.6-24 to Coburg 1.3-9. Despite a handy lead going into the second half the Breakers knew they would have to keep their pressure up.

The intensity lifted for both teams with a lot of the play occurring between the two arcs. Ahlee Penry slotted into the ever-reliable half back line marking and contesting well. Neither team could find a goal with Coburg narrowing the margin by a single point with the wind. The final quarter started in the same fashion. A 50m penalty gifted Coburg a goal and brought the margin within reach. However, the Breakers were quick to respond with O'Neill slotting her third goal. Immy Bradford kicked the sealer running into an open goal minutes later. Final score: Breakers 5.7-37 def Coburg 2.4-16. Goals: K O'Neill 3, T Angarane, and I Bradford. Best: K O'Neill, J Russo, T Tatterson, C Connell, A Penry and S Poke. The Breakers and Warragul face off in the Grand Final next Sunday, September 4, at 1pm, Skybus Stadium (Frankston).



Immy Bradford gets a kick away under pressure.

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN RED							
WED 31 AUG	THU 1 SEP	FRI 2 SEP	SAT 3 SEP	SUN 4 SEP	MON 5 SEP	TUE 6 SEP	
HIGH 3:18 am 2.72 m	HIGH 4:02 am 2.81 m	HIGH 4:45 am 2.87 m	HIGH 5:30 am 2.90 m	HIGH 6:14 am 2.89 m	LOW 12:00 am 0.43 m	LOW 12:40 am 0.44 m	
LOW 9:00 am 0.78 m	LOW 9:41 am 0.80 m	LOW 10:22 am 0.83 m	LOW 11:03 am 0.90 m	LOW 11:45 am 0.99 m	HIGH 7:00 am 2.84 m	HIGH 7:51 am 2.76 m	
HIGH 3:41 pm 2.88 m	HIGH 4:13 pm 2.87 m	HIGH 4:45 pm 2.85 m	HIGH 5:16 pm 2.82 m	HIGH 5:50 pm 2.76 m	LOW 12:27 pm 1.10 m	LOW 1:12 pm 1.22 m	
LOW 9:30 pm 0.75 m	LOW 10:07 pm 0.62 m	LOW 10:44 pm 0.52 m	LOW 11:21 pm 0.45 m		HIGH 6:26 pm 2.69 m	HIGH 7:09 pm 2.62 m	

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Max Blake shrugs off a double tackle, gets the handball away and even manages a bit of a wink to finish off the great play, in the senior's semi-final match against Tooradin.

Semi-finals and springtime – what could be better?

Second week of the finals for the Bulldogs this week, with the Seniors and Under 16s competing for entry straight through to the Grand Finals in two weeks-time.

Unlike the previous week, the weather gods smiled on the Saturday – perfect springtime conditions in the sunshine and hardly a breath of wind at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve.

With the Seniors coming up against Tooradin-Dalmore – with what is approaching arch-rival status – and the Under 16s taking on undefeated Inverloch-Kongwak on their home ground, exciting footy was expected.

Seniors

Both teams split the home and away fixtures against each other during the home and away sea-

son and a large crowd filled the ground to see who would progress through to the Grand Final.

The Bulldogs pressure in the first quarter was a sight to behold. Billy Taylor kicked the opening goal, but it was the ferocious tackling and contested ball that had the Island on top.

The intensity allowed Cameron Brown and Max Blake to kick goals to take an 18-point lead into the first change.

The intensity continued in the second quarter.

Jordy Patullo kicked a superb goal from the boundary to extend the Bulldog lead.

Tooradin worked their way back into the game in the remaining period, kicking two quick goals and trimming the Island half time lead to 12 points.

The third quarter saw Tooradin work their way back into the game.

Jason Tomada and Kai McKenzie, were working tirelessly in defence and the midfield of Cam Pederson, Brendan Kimber and Eli Richards were taking it to the Seagulls.

A five-goal quarter from Tooradin was trimmed to a nine-point deficit thanks to a great team goal finished by Jesse Patullo right before the three-quarter time siren.

The final quarter saw momentum see-saw in the early stages but ultimately Tooradin kicked a further five goals to run out winners by 37 points.

The Bulldogs will now prepare for a must-win preliminary final clash to be played at Dalyston next weekend.

Scores:
Tooradin-Dalmore: 0.2.2, 3.4.22, 8.4.52, 13.4.82.

Phillip Island: 3.2.20, 5.4.34, 6.7.43, 6.9.45.

Goals:
Phillip Island: Billy Taylor 2, Jordy Patullo 2, Cameron Brown, Max Blake.

Tooradin-Dalmore: Brady Egan 3, Xavier Shinnars 2, Matthew Livermore 2, Stewart Scanlon 2, Steven Robb, Brett McAffer, Liam Adams, James Tresize.

Best Players:
Phillip Island: Jason Tomada, Cameron Pedersen, Brendan Kimber, Kai Mackenzie, Eli Richards, Jack Taylor.

Tooradin-Dalmore: Lewis Hill, Matthew Livermore, Brad Butler, James Trezise, Blake Grewar, Brady Egan.

Wish our football and netball Grand Final teams luck in our special footy finals feature next week.

Be part of this special 2022 football edition, contact us at ads@pisra.com.au or call on 5952 3201 to book your space. Deadline: Monday, Sep 5 by 12 noon.



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