

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

\$1.60 Incl. GST



It takes a village ...

Wrapping the hundreds of presents ready to distribute to struggling families this Christmas are June McBreen, Narelle Mulcahy, Lindsay and Arianne D'Argent, Hess and Monica Bekema, Linda and Frank Sparkes, Cathy Jones, Annie Zderski, Bohdi, Trinity and Mason.

Last week, PICAL manager Greg Thompson described the island as "one large village" and that sense of community was on full display this week.

Volunteers from PICAL, St Vincent

de Paul, various church groups and the CWA were just some of the "villagers" who came together to prepare Christmas hampers for those in our community doing it tough.

As well as presents for the children – collected from Christmas giving trees across the island and San Remo – there were food hampers filled with Christmas treats and essential food.

Presents, packaged food, and cash were all donated to the cause, with a massive band of "Christmas Elves" rolling up their sleeves to cook, wrap and pack so that everyone can share in the joy of Christmas.

Waste woes unresolved ahead of summer holidays

A last ditch bid to resolve Phillip Island and San Remo's "festering" annual holiday season waste problem has failed.

Bass Coast Shire councillor Ronnie Bauer last week narrowly lost a motion that would have allowed residents shire-wide to upsize for free their 120lt red bin to a 240lt red bin – which normally costs \$59.

The move was the latest attempt by Cr Bauer to improve kerbside bin collection during peak season.

In September, in a 5-4 vote, he lost a motion calling for the red, yellow and green bins to be collected week-

ly from Boxing Day 2022 to the last Friday in January annually, with councillors arguing residents should not subsidise short term rental accommodation users such as Airbnb.

Last week Cr Bauer said his new motion aimed to mitigate the "unsightly and smelly mess" during the holiday season, with an increase in visitor numbers overwhelming the landfill red bins, picked up each fortnight.

"We are all aware that the summer period creates enormous pressures on our landfill collections," said Cr Bauer, who vowed to again push for three-bin weekly collection

in 2022.

"This motion is a Band-Aid measure for a festering sore. This is a goodwill gesture to our ratepayers who are frustrated by council's intransigence.

"In the overall scheme of things of things swapping the small bin for the larger bin is a small hit to the shire's bottom line. Most permanent residents are more than happy with the 120lt bin. The focus is on holiday visitors."

Cost?

However, shire officers told the

council meeting it would be impossible to upgrade bins at short notice.

The officer said there were about 28,000 red bins in the shire and to increase each bin would cost about \$1.6 million, which had not been budgeted and would be paid for by increasing each household's already hefty annual waste charge fee.

"It's unknown whether council's supplier can meet the additional demand at short notice and storage of the bins would need to be resolved," the officers said.

Although the officer said many

residents had already paid the \$59 fee to upgrade their bin and "providing it free of charge to others would be inequitable".

The officer said the fee existed to ensure households weren't subsidising commercial short-stay accommodation.

"Council is committed to ensuring its standard kerbside bin service is as affordable and equitable as possible; while encouraging all residents and visitors to Bass Coast to take responsibility for the waste they generate."

Continued page 12

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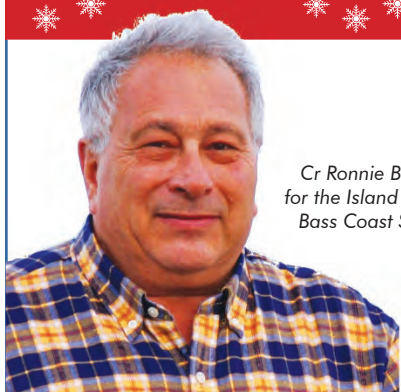
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FAREWELL 2021

WE'RE HAVING A SHORT, BUT WELL-EARNED BREAK, SO THIS IS THE LAST EDITION FOR 2021.

Thank you to our readers for your support throughout the year and we'll see you in two weeks. Our next edition will be out on January 6, 2022.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas, and a safe a happy new year!



Cr Ronnie Bauer
for the Island Ward,
Bass Coast Shire

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922

Tel: 0439 535 282

email: Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Authorised by Ronnie Bauer, PO Box 996, Cowes 3922

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO
ADVERTISER

CONTACT US:

Editorial: advertiser@pisra.com.au

Advertising: ads@pisra.com.au

Sport: sport@pisra.com.au

Classifieds: sport@pisra.com.au

Suite 2, 60 Chapel Street, Cowes, 3922.

Phone (03) 5952 3201

Fax (03) 5952 3024



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PICAL manager Greg Thompson pays tribute to Cowes resident Yvonne, a long time supporter of the emergency food relief program, who donates significant amounts of money several times a year.

PICAL pays tribute to generous donor

PICAL has been overwhelmed by community donations for their Christmas hampers.

But Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre manager Greg Thompson said while he thanked the community broadly, he wanted to pay tribute to one of the most generous: long-time Cowes resident Yvonne.

"Yvonne is a long-term cash supporter of PICAL's emergency food relief program, where she donates significant amounts of money several times a year," Greg said.

"Each time Yvonne comes into PICAL, we show her where her donations are going and we talk about how many local vulnerable people she is helping.

"Yvonne never wants any thanks, praise or acknowledgement; she just likes to see the work we are doing."

Greg said Yvonne had given generously to

this year's Christmas hamper appeal however because she was terminally ill, she may not see the benefit to recipients of her gift giving.

"Despite her positivity and ability to still get around Cowes, seeing the preparations for this year's hampers may be Yvonne's only and last Christmas present."

Greg said while PICAL was grateful for Yvonne's generosity, her donations "epitomise the community spirit that abounds on Phillip Island, particularly at this festive time of the year".

Last year the Christmas hamper campaign delivered more than 500 bags of festive fare to 165 families, 38 couples and 16 singles.

Greg said PICAL normally co-ordinates the annual Christmas day lunch at St Philips Anglican Church, which again would not be occurring this year.

Construction starts on the Cultural Centre

Bass Coast Shire Council announced last week that McCorkell Constructions had started building the new \$30 million Cultural Centre, saying it was "thrilled" work had begun.

The announcement, at last week's council meeting, stated "the new Centre will be a purpose-built public building and will include a 250-seat theatre, library, gallery, museum, community function rooms and offices.

"It will bring together the cultural and social aspirations of the community and draw in visitors to showcase the region's rich history and culture."

Council said the project has been supported by both the state and Federal governments.

"We would like to thank the Federal Government for \$5 million in funding from its Building Better Regions Fund and the state government for \$2.5 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund, \$800,000 from the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and \$10 million from the Community Infrastructure Loan Scheme."

The project has been criticised for the \$8.2 million budget increase announced in October, as well as the decision to demolish the old centre in August 2020 before designs were finalised. The site sat empty for over a year, leaving the community without a much-needed hall and municipal facilities.

Previously the council said the new Cultural Centre would be open by December 2022, but the project opening has now been pushed back to February 2023.

According to Council, during construction, the centre will generate 69 jobs and 30 ongoing jobs once built, as well as \$51.8 million in economic benefit over the life of the project.

For more information on this project, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/projects/cowes-cultural-and-community-centre-project



POLICE BRIEFS

Gang attack in Cowes

Police are asking for community assistance as they investigate a brawl in Cowes on Monday, December 13. The attack happened around 9.45pm near Woolworths.

There were three separate calls to police to alert them to the incident, where two teenage victims (17 and 18 years) were set upon by a group of unknown teens.

The pair suffered facial injuries and were taken to Wonthaggi Hospital.

Police said the incident was still being inves-

tigated and asked anyone who witnessed the event or has footage of the incident to contact Cowes Police on 5952 2037 or Crimestoppers: 1800 333 000. www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

Jet skis and boats in focus

Victoria Police along with VFA and Marine Safety Victoria will be on the water during the first week of January, especially around the Corner and Shallow Inlet areas.

The focus will be on water safety, to ensure people using boats, jet skis and other craft are complying with marine safety regulations, including speed and alcohol restrictions.

Patrols will be conducted across all Bass Coast boat ramps throughout the summer.

eBikes

Police have reminded owners of eBikes to obey the rules over summer. eBikes should not be used on a footpath unless the rider is under 12, although they can be ridden on shared footpaths. eBike riders must obey the speed limits and wear a helmet.

eScooters

It is currently illegal to ride eScooters (a stand-up scooter powered by an electric motor) and motorised skateboards on any public road or footpath in Victoria. Fines of \$182 are applicable for anyone found riding an eScooter on a footpath, road, or road-related area.

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New speeds rolled out

Within two days of new speed signs being erected around Phillip Island this month, one driver took their revenge on a sign at Ventnor.

A new 60km/hr speed sign on Ventnor Beach Road was – according to residents – damaged after “raising the ire of road users”.

Helen Dean said locals “were not amused”, especially as “the broken glass and twisted chassis bits of last month’s serious accident were still lingering along the roadside”.

“Pedestrian and vehicle traffic along Ventnor Beach Road has boomed during lockdown due to its off-leash beach and the popular farm store café and butcher on Ventnor Road,” Helen said, adding the damaged sign was immediately repaired.

“With speeds being slowed across the island, it is perfect timing to ensure we keep the pace of life in tune with nature, to count our blessings, to check our privilege.”

In 2020, Helen and two others created a petition requesting the shire and Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) “act as a matter of urgency to cut speed limits and improve signage in residential precincts of Ventnor” and also develop a neighbourhood traffic calming plan.

“We are particularly concerned about safety along Ventnor Beach Road and its interfaces with Lyall Street and Harris Road, specifically the numerous access points to walking trails and nature reserves, public playgrounds and toilets, the pony club precinct, car parks and dog beaches,” the petition stated.

Petitioners were concerned there were no footpaths on Ventnor Beach Road, which is shared by foot traffic and bikes, alongside cars that often travel faster than 80km.

“Ventnor petitioners are very

happy with Rural Road Victoria’s speed reductions, and we look forward to more local initiatives for traffic calming,” Helen last week added.

New speeds

Last month RRV announced roads on Phillip Island would have a maximum speed limit of 80km/hr.

Just under 10 roads previously zoned 100km/hr have now been reduced to 80km, including Berrys Beach, Ventnor Beach and Back Beach roads.

In addition, three roads previously zoned 80km/hr have been reduced to 60km: Coghlan Road (between Settlement Road and Cowes-Rhyll Road), Grossard Point Road and Ventnor Beach Road.

The issue continues to be a hot topic on social media.

Kirk Kennedy said he nearly witnessed a head-on accident on the Rhyll-Newhaven Road after a driver was travelling 55km in the 80km zone and two cars decided to overtake.

Lillian Heflingers agreed slow drivers were as much of a hazard as fast.

“Just wish the designated speed sign at night was changed with a big warning about wallabies. One almost wrote my car off,” she commented.

Nae Louise said she saw a driver narrowly miss a wallaby.

“Slow down. Not that hard. It’s not like your house is on fire.”

Marina Healey said speed limits were the upper limit, not a “goal to achieve”.

Rob Burns said Ventnor Road from the Nobbies to Cowes was now signed at 80km “but if you turn onto Back Beach Road there



Ventnor local Helen Dean was “surprised by some hostile reaction to speed cuts”. Last month Regional Roads Victoria announced roads on Phillip Island would have a maximum speed limit of 80km/hr.

is no speed sign” until drivers reach the 80km sign before the race track.

RRV said stage two of the speed review was yet to be funded but technical reviews had begun. This stage will focus on high-speed unsealed roads managed by Bass Coast Shire, which will lead the review.

Last year a coalition of Phillip Is-

land community groups called for a speed reduction on island roads to protect wildlife.

The Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group, Island Voice, Rhyll Community Association and a Cowes citizen scientist – who has been researching roadkill for three years – called for a reduction to 80km/hr on island roads that have a 100km/hr limit.



This week the first edition of *The Island*, a free colour magazine is released and is available in accommodation and hospitality venues across Phillip Island and San Remo, as well as everywhere you buy the Advertiser.

Welcome to The Island

This week, we’re welcoming a new addition to the Advertiser family.

The Island is a free colour magazine available in cafes, restaurants, stores, accommodation providers and attractions, as well as everywhere you buy the Advertiser. Copies are also available from our office at 60 Chapel Street in Cowes.

Its focus is entirely on Phillip Island and San Remo, and the people who call it home.

After such a tough year, we decided it was time to celebrate where we live, revisit some of our favourite stories and share some tips and insights to help visitors make the most of their stay.

This is the first of many editions – and hopefully *The Island* will become part of all our lives.

Please, sit back, relax and enjoy *The Island*.

Catching you before you lose control.

Right now, Victoria Police are out in force catching speeding drivers. Catching these drivers helps protect them from harming themselves and other road users. The lucky ones get caught.

Dog owners thrown a bone on off-leash beaches

In a surprise victory for dog owners, Bass Coast Shire councillors have voted in support of new measures to allow more time – and new areas – to walk their four-legged friends.

Cr Ronnie Bauer last week moved a five-point motion “borne out of frustration and inaction” from dog owners who he said had been howling for change for years.

In a 5-3 vote (Cr David Rooks was absent), Cr Bauer successfully moved to change rules on council-managed beaches, including:

- extend off-leash dog beach access 350 metres from McKenzie Road, Cowes, to 50 metres short of Anderson boat ramp; and at San Remo from the existing Foots Beach through to Marine Parade;

- allow access to off-leash dog beaches annually from February 1 to December 10, effective from February 1, 2022, which extends by two months the current restrictions on Phillip Island, which start in April;

- From December 1 to February 1 dogs must be on a leash on the dog off-leash areas from 10am-6pm, (despite no dogs being allowed on beaches at all between 10am and 5pm in that period on Phillip Island); and

- immediately provide dog waste bags and dispensers at all current dog beach entrances across the Bass Coast Shire.

The fifth point in the resolution, however, was unsuccessful. It called for dogs to be on leash on off-leash beaches within 10 metres of any roped-off, bird nesting sites.

However, shire rules already stipulate that if a dog is in an off-leash area, it must be brought under control and put on a leash within 50m of a signed wildlife refuge area.

Cr Bauer said in an “environmentally sensitive shire like Bass Coast” humans, pets and wildlife should “live together in harmony”.

“I and other councillors have received numerous emails of support for this motion from the communi-

ty,” he said, adding there had been little action following the release of the updated Domestic Animal Management Plan earlier this year.

“This motion is borne out of the frustration and inaction ... It ensures that four of the most pressing dog issues will not be left on the backburner and will be in place in early 2022.”

Confusion

However, the motion is likely to cause some confusion, with varying off-leash rules across the shire now under the spotlight, and uncertainty about whether the shire can even achieve rollout of the new rules in a month over the holidays.

At Inverloch, for example, currently dogs are allowed off-leash at the beach area from Wave Street to Ozone Street from December 1 until February 28 and during the Victorian Easter school holidays each year between 6pm and 9am. At all other times during this period dogs are permitted on-leash in this area. Outside of these dates dogs are permitted off-leash at all times.

And at Kilcunda, dogs on leash are allowed on shire-managed beaches at all times, with an off-leash area around the Kilcunda caravan park.

Phillip Island beaches, too, have varying rules (see separate story).

Support

Cr Rochelle Halstead voted in support of the motion saying community consultation had shown “overwhelming support” for change to dog rules.

“Cr Bauer is not asking for regulations to be turfed but for the community to be allowed more outdoor time with pets,” Cr Halstead said.

“Bass Coast dog owners are very social and aware of what is required of them and vigilant of birdlife. These people are animal lovers.”

Cr Bruce Kent also voted in support, saying enforcement by shire rangers



Cr Ronnie Bauer said dog owners had been howling for change for years. Councillors supported new measures to allow more time and new areas for dogs on beaches.

and compliance by dog owners was critical to the motion’s success.

He questioned why a business case was currently being developed by shire officers to examine the effectiveness of doggie poo bag dispensers.

“I think that shows a lack of common sense and is a waste of council officers’ time,” Cr Kent said.

A shire officer explained the business case was required because dispensers had been both a success and failure in other shires.

“We want to learn from good and bad stories to implement our dispensers effectively, to make it as cost neutral as possible and not add to waste issues,” the officer said, adding the upcoming shire budget would see a rollout of dispensers by

June 2022.

Cr Bauer said extending the Cowes West off-leash area to 50 meters before the Anderson Street boat ramp “just puts into place what everybody does anyway”.

“It would be a dog run from ramp to ramp. Stopping the run 50 meters short of the Anderson Street boat ramp will ensure that the roped off area for the beach nesting birds is protected.”

Rollout

Shire officers said the Domestic Animal Management Plan had involved community engagement and set out pet issues for the next four years and officers were now in the process of implementing it.

Officers said the motion to extend

off leash area access times would require engagement with land managers, including Parks Victoria and the Phillip Island Nature Parks.

“What we heard from the DAMP consultation was that the community want us to explore opportunities to create consistency in off-leash times across beaches managed by BCSC as well as those managed by PINP and Parks Vic.”

While dog groups have called on the shire to expand off-leash areas, the DAMP did not provide details, instead proposing the creation of a working group to provide recommendations on improving dog off leash areas.

“Planning for this is underway, but is not achievable in the requested timeframe,” officers noted.

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Restrictions around off-leash and dogs on beaches will change in February following last week's vote. Photo: Lorey Bree Photography.

Phillip Island off-leash areas

These are currently Phillip Island's dog restrictions, which will change in February following last week's vote (see separate story).

Off-leash areas:

- Ventnor Beach area between Graydens Road and Ventnor Beach Road – dogs are allowed off-leash at all times;
- Cape Woolamai Beach (Cleeland Bight) between Palm Beach Avenue access track 350 metres south to Southport Avenue access track – dogs are allowed off-leash between 7am and 10am and 5pm and 8pm from December 1 to April 30 each year. Between May 1 and November 30 each year dogs are allowed off-leash at all times;

- Cowes West beach between the Yacht Club access track 340 metres to McKenzie Road access track – dogs are allowed off-leash between 7am and 10am and 5pm and 8pm from December 1 to April 30 each year. Between May 1 and November 30 dogs are allowed off-leash at all times.

Dog restrictions:

Dogs are not permitted on the following beaches from December 1 to April 30 each year between 8pm to 7am and 10am to 5pm:
 Cape Woolamai Safety Beach (southern end of The Esplanade to Cleeland Road);
 Cape Woolamai – The Colonnades (no dogs allowed at Anzacs or the

Clubhouse beach);
 Surf Beach, Smiths Beach and YCW Beach;
 All northern beaches from Ventnor to the eastern most part of Silverleaves with the exception of Cowes main beach (Mussel Rocks to Erewhon Point) where dogs are prohibited at all times;
 Rhyll Beach (McIlwraith Road to Hastings Street).
 ***Blue Gum Reserve, Dunsmore Road, Cowes is also off-leash but is not impacted by the motion as it is not a beach area.
 A copy of the Phillip Island "Where can I walk my dog?" brochure can be downloaded from the Council or Nature Parks websites.

Off-leash vote: comment

Community groups and organisations responded to new off-leash rules, following last week's Bass Coast Shire council vote.

President of the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association Cheryl Owens said members were "over the moon", thanking councillors who supported the motion and "listened to the community".

"Common sense has prevailed which will also see bag dispensers fitted to off-leash areas that brings us into line with other progressive councils," Cheryl said.

"Our association will continue to promote responsible dog ownership and we call on our community to give our council a pat on the back."

She agreed dogs should be on a lead near nesting hooded plovers.

"We are animal lovers and do not want anything to happen to these little birds. Like everyone it's our first concern, but recognise that the high tide and predatory birds are by far their highest killers," Cheryl said.

She said she was confident the shire could roll out the new rules by February.

"They will have to print more signs or get a sign writer or use a sticker, which has often been their solution in the past with no problem whatsoever."

In contrast Phillip Island

Conservation Society president Jeff Nottle said the vote was "most unfortunate ahead of the promised community consultation".

Jeff said council endorsed the Domestic Animal Plan 2021-2025 in October, which recommended reviewing the current management of dogs off-leash on council beaches and engaging with the community and key stakeholders.

"Council also agreed to establish a dog off-leash working group to provide guidance and recommendations on improving off leash areas. Neither of these promised actions have occurred," Jeff said.

"I believe the passing of this motion ahead of the promised community consultations severely undermines the Council engagement policy also adopted this year."

"How does council expect the community to have any confidence in council engagement when decisions are taken by some councillors in advance of their own promised community consultations?"

A Nature Parks spokeswoman confirmed Nature Parks' beaches were all on-leash "because they are home to a number of bird and animal species and conservation areas".

"We'll be working with council to ensure a consistent approach to the rollout of dog poo bags," they said.



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Big dreams for big battery

Can you imagine a future where Phillip Island has its own green, sustainable and reliable energy eco-system?

A proposal to install a 10MWh lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery could provide the foundation for a cleaner future and see the end to electricity supply issues for the island.

A planning application is currently before the state government, to clear vegetation and develop land at 100 Gap Road, to install a battery energy system.

The Gap Road land was purchased by Bass Coast Shire Council in 2019 as a site for a future Phillip Island Transfer Station and depot.

At the time, council said only 4.5 hectares of the 45 hectare site would be needed for the transfer station, so uses for the remainder of the site would be determined in consultation with the community.

The application by Mondo is part of a partnership with AusNet, Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) and the Energy Innovation Cooperative (EIC) to design an energy solution for the island.

Mondo and AusNet are also working on a similar project in Yackandandah in northeast Victoria.

Mondo's General Manager Jodie Hallam said the primary purpose of the battery, known as the Phillip Island Community Energy Storage System (PICESSE) was to provide energy services during peak times.

"The island demand for energy at peak summer periods can increase by up to 40 per cent," she explained.

"A permanent fixture can provide stronger reliability and better energy services."

However, she said PICESSE would be a foundation step to creating a new energy system for the community.

The final approval for the battery project lies with the state government, and an application submitted to the Department of Environment Water Land and Planning includes studies that examine the ecological and visual impacts, cultural heritage, fire and bushfire plans, site groundwater, noise considerations and geo-



Jodie Hallam Mondo General Manager said the primary purpose of the battery, known as the Phillip Island Community Energy Storage System (PICESSE) was to provide energy services during peak times.

technical studies.

The current application will be on display for 42 days, giving community members the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the proposal. A copy of the application is available on the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning website.

A community information session is being organised for January 20, with details of location and times still to be finalised.

Jodie said if all goes to plan, construction could start as soon as February 2022, with the battery in place for next summer, providing a permanent solution to providing energy during the peak summer period.

The battery energy storage equipment for PICESSE would be provided by Hitachi ABB

Power Grids, who have been providing battery storage solutions in Australia for over 30 years.

Bigger picture

The battery is part of a much bigger picture, one that could potentially transform the Phillip Island energy network.

"This is a transition, a first component of an eco-system of new energy," Jodie said.

"There is a primary need on Phillip Island to make sure that during peak summertime there is enough energy, but the rest is co-designing with the community to create an energy model based on local needs."

Mondo has been working closely with TRPI and EIC on the project and Jodie said so far, reaction to the battery has been incredibly positive.

She described it as the first step in helping TRPI achieve its "ambitious target" for the island to be powered by totally renewable energy by 2030.

"This is a really sophisticated, ambitious community coming together to create a collective vision."

Running parallel to the battery installation are two feasibility studies, funded by grants from the state government.

The first study will investigate the installation of up to ten street level Low Voltage bat-



The community battery project is a partnership between Mondo, AusNet, Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) and the Energy Innovation Cooperative (EIC) to design an energy solution for the island. A similar project in Yackandandah (pictured) saw a community battery installed this year.

teries (pole top batteries) in different estates, to further stabilise the island's power and increase the electricity network's capacity to host renewable energy.

The second funding stream will trial ways electricity tariffs can be used in combination with the PICESSE to provide locals 'virtual storage.'

"It's examining accessing a community battery, as opposed to investing in your own household batteries. The studies will test the feasibility of those kind of models," Jodie said.

"We want to work with the community to understand what a new energy eco-system would look like, really based on how the community wants to use and manage its energy needs in the future."

Jodie said the feasibility studies are a vital part of deciding what the island's energy future will look like.

She said new technology could provide a better economic solution to energy needs, but also a more sustainable one.

"I think there are a lot of forward-thinking communities trying to understand the environmental impact and looking at how a new renewable energy system can contribute to decarbonising their whole eco-system."

"Communities everywhere, for a variety of

reasons are looking to take some form of control back, and energy is one example of that.

"A community can self-generate and self-store energy, so it isn't as reliant on big utility companies."

However it wasn't just economics being considered.

"The value is not just cost. It is creating equity, giving back, creating a greener future," said Jodie.

"There are a lot of communities deciding how they want to live and starting to think about new models to create new jobs, new value, new concepts and manage the environmental impacts."

"The innovation that TRPI and EIC have shown place Phillip Island in a good position to harness the battery to handle its energy needs."

More information on the battery proposal (PICESSE) is available at mondo.com.au/community/energy-hubs-and-projects/phillip-island-battery.

The planning application (Reference number: PA2101332) is available at www.planning.vic.gov.au/permits-and-applications/ministerial-permits/browse-ministerial-permits?query=PA2101332

No decision will be made before January 28, 2022.

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Free fun this summer

If you're looking for some free school holiday entertainment this summer, don't look past your local library. At Myli - My Community Library, there are loads of books and friendly library staff can recommend a few. So check out a book or ten and don't forget to enter the Big Summer Reads competition with loads of great prizes up for grabs.

Visit your local library branch these summer holidays to escape the summer heat and make use of the free premium WIFI or a PC. For gamers, there's Xboxes to play and plenty of games to checkout.

Enjoy a range of free special events and family fun across South Gippsland, Bass Coast and Baw Baw Shires.

Bass Coast Shire

At Cowes join the library in the park sessions at Erehwon Point park. There's story times, get crafty with an under the sea activity and join a "pirates in the park" treasure hunt. At San Remo discover a world of gems, join a Papier Découpés art session or a Sphero Robot Coding workshop. At Inverloch discover the world of gems and drop in for other activities. At Wonthaggi there's a bonanza of entertainment including movies, craft, stem workshop with Fizzics Education and loads more.

South Gippsland Shire

At Mirboo North catch a family movie session, slime making and a Lego workshop. At Foster there's a Bluey craft workshop, slime making, a Sphero Robots workshop and get

crafty building a sea monkey habitat. At Korumburra there's a Dream Puppets: Dreamers in the Deep puppet show, discover world of gems session and get creative with T-shirt painting plus two Grow the Future project sessions. At Leongatha there's T-shirt painting, slime making, a build a sea monkey habitat workshop, a Minecraft maker session and get creative with a Rock Art session.

Baw Baw Shire

At Warragul there's a Dream Puppets: Dreamers in the Deep puppet show, a fun stem workshop with Fizzics Education and join a drawing workshop with Adam Wallace where he'll also introduce his new book "There's a bull ant in the bedroom". At Drouin there's a salt painting workshop and get crafty making an underwater diorama.

There's also loads of online entertainment with free access to a wide range of eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, streaming movies and edutainment apps, available 24/7. Best of all, you can access online entertainment anywhere you are with a WiFi connection and you can even download to your favourite digital device to read or listen to later - perfect if you're planning to go away this summer.

Simply become a member with Myli - My Community Library for access to all this and more. Visit myli.org.au or call 1800 HI MYLI (1800 44 6954) for more details and for bookings which are essential as there is limited availability.

/ Sponsored article /



For summer entertainment, you can't go past your local library. There are loads of books and friendly staff can recommend a few. Plus there's a range of special free events on offer.



Ethan, Isabella and Austin Lynch, Ryan Hain, Mayor Cr Michael Whelan and dog Grouse, Ben Thomas (PINP), Cyleste Athanassas (BCSC) with dog Honey, Sandy Ryan Island Surfboards, and Phillip Island and Bass Coast Dog Owners Association member Cheryl Owens with dog Chewie.

Sharing our beaches this summer

We all appreciate how beautiful Phillip Island beaches are, and at this time of the year they are drawing everyone from near and far.

The ever-growing numbers of surfers, dog walkers, young families, fishers, local community, and holidaymakers just to name a few.

With a busy summer holiday season predicted, beachgoers are reminded that Phillip Island's popular beaches are for everyone to share - including local wildlife.

Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire and The Bass Coast Dog Owners Association are encouraging everyone to share and enjoy the island's beaches while protecting local wildlife, which at this time of the year are breeding in sand dunes.

Everyone can help by:

- sticking to the walking tracks and staying off the dunes
- disposing of any rubbish responsibly
- checking the latest dog regulations, keeping dogs on a leash in on-leash areas and under control on off-leash beaches
- giving others space and consideration

"We are expecting a busy summer this year and we are working together to ensure everyone can enjoy their visit to the beach, whilst also protecting the island's wildlife and the safety of the community and visitors," Nature Parks Ranger in Charge, Ben Thomas, said.

"We are fortunate to have many areas where we can share the beaches with our dogs and we simply ask everyone to care for each other and their dogs by observing the rules and regulations which are for everyone's comfort and safety."

Cheryl Owens, President of the Phillip Island and Bass Coast Dog Owners Association said: "We would like to say that we wholeheartedly support responsible dog ownership and encourage our members to adhere to the rules and regulations for our summer period."

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan said it was important everyone has the chance to enjoy the beach this summer.

"We want everyone to be able to enjoy their visit to the beach, safely. By working together with our community, we can make sure everyone has a great time, including our favourite four-legged friends."

Look out for beach signage at the entry to your local beach or reserve, which tell you how to share our shores with important safety information and dog regulations. The dog regulations have changed for the summer months between December 1 and April 30.

Find out more at: www.penguins.org.au/about/localcommunity/news/walking-yourdog/

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- Keeping **dogs on a leash in on-leash areas** and under control on off-leash beaches
- Tracks are for walking and we **leave the dunes for wildlife.**
- We **respect each other** so we can all enjoy our shores.
- We **take our rubbish home** and reduce, reuse and recycle.

A little care keeps all our people and wildlife families safe. Thank you.

Phillip Island
**NATURE
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Police increase for holiday season

There will be extra patrols and a visible police presence on Phillip Island during the holiday seasons.

Acting Senior Sergeant Scott Morison said Victoria Police was increasing the number of officers rostered on in Cowes and patrols will be “significantly” increased.

Numbers will also be boosted for New Year’s Eve, with extra resources coming from Melbourne, including the mounted police.

Police would be targeting anti-social behaviour and illegal fireworks.

“It is actually illegal to drink in any public places in Bass Coast,” Acting Snr Sgt Morison reminded the community.

“As for fireworks, they are illegal, and they are dangerous.

“Any person caught with them will be dealt with according to the law. It is a crime and you will end up in court if charged.”

He reminded everyone that Covid restrictions are still in place.

“We would be looking for people to abide by the current Covid requirements at the time.

“We certainly encourage compliance in regards to mask wearing rules.”

On a general level, Acting Snr Sgt Morison said water safety was always a major issue in summer.

“One thing that creates more grief than anything else is water safety.

“We’re asking that people read the warning signs at the beaches, swim between the flags and take care of one another in the water.”

He recommended everyone program the 13 SURF number into their mobile phones.

“It’s like the Triple Zero (000) for water safety.”



The Nature Parks is calling on everyone to help protect wildlife. Hooded Plovers continue to nest on beaches and may abandon their nest if people or dogs come close to them.

Living With Wildlife

By Phillip Island Nature Parks

Summer is here, and we are excited to welcome everyone back to our beautiful island home.

Phillip Island is lucky to be home to a variety of beaches, wetlands and bushlands.

This year we want to encourage everyone to enjoy our island, and to remember that our beautiful beaches and reserves are for everyone to share and enjoy together, including our very special local wildlife. Whilst we may all enjoy our visits to the beach and shorelines, many important species of wildlife call these places home.

Look out for our signage at the entry to your local beach or reserve. These signs tell you how to share our shores, protect our wildlife and enjoy your visit.

Sick and injured wildlife

As animals are out and about in the warmer weather and there is also more traffic, please drive carefully and watch for wildlife. Phillip Island Nature Parks runs a Wildlife Clinic for sick and injured wildlife across Phillip Island, however it is not equipped to house or rehabilitate seals.

Trained staff are on call from 7.30am to 4pm daily to attend wildlife rescue calls. Outside of those hours, wildlife emergencies are managed by Wildlife Victoria - the largest rescue network in the state. Nature Parks Wildlife Clinic 5951 2800, Wildlife Victoria on 8400 7300 or log a case at wildlifevictoria.org.au

Special shorebirds

During the summer months shorebirds are continuing to breed and are working very hard to raise and protect their eggs and chicks. Short

tailed Shearwaters are caring for their one chick in their sand dune burrows which are easily collapsed if walked on. Hooded Plovers continue to nest on beaches and may abandon their nest if people or dogs come close to them leaving chicks vulnerable to predators or starvation so please:

- Keep to paths at all times.
- Read and observe all signage including temporary notices on the beaches and walk close to the water’s edge where possible.
- Download the ‘Where Can I Walk My Dog’ guide at <https://www.penguins.org.au/about/local-community/news/walkingyourdog/>

Seal sightings

Australia’s largest breeding Australian Fur Seal colony is just offshore at Seal Rocks. Summer is the breeding season when new pups are born and yearlings have to fend for themselves – so you may see young seals resting on our beaches – this is quite normal.

Some adults may also be washed up alive or dead over this period. If you see a seal on the beach:

- Leave it alone and maintain at least 30 metres to allow the seal to rest.
- Keep your dog on a lead and at least 50 metres away from the seal to avoid frightening or injuring it.
- Do not feed the seal as it may become used to humans and unable to fend for itself in the wild.
- Do not attempt to move the seal back into the water or throw water over it – they can self-regulate their own body temperature.

Dangerous debris

Fishing hooks, line, nets and other rubbish all cause death and injury to marine and terrestrial wildlife, so please dispose of rubbish responsibly.

- Collect any rubbish you find and dispose of in the correct bin.
- Report any rubbish dumping to Bass Coast Shire Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or 03 5671 2211
- Report injured or entangled seals to Phillip Island Nature Parks on 03 5951 2800.

Remember a little care keeps our wildlife safe. Have a happy and safe summer, see you at the beach!



Don’t travel to high risk areas on **Extreme Fire Danger Rating** days.

If you plan to travel through Victoria, during fire season, it’s important to check the Fire Danger Rating every day. If the rating is Extreme or above, avoid travelling to high risk areas, including to cities and towns.

How well do you know fire?

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Hotel development rejected: fails Cowes village vibe

A proposed five-storey, \$12 million hotel in Cowes' main street has been refused by Bass Coast Shire councillors, because it failed to suit Cowes' coastal village vibe.

Councillors also agreed the development was too high and would "unreasonably" put pressure on surrounding Cowes car parking.

More than 20 submitters objected to the proposal for 85 Thompson Avenue, which included 11 apartments, six retail shops at ground level, a hotel with a lobby, gym, and swimming pool.

The plan was for a 19-metre high building – three storeys higher than current planning laws allow.

It also sought to cut 46 car parks – a waiver on half the legally-required parking. A traffic assessment provided by developers measured 2016 traffic levels and found parking demand could be accommodated by nearby supermarkets, on-street car parking, and the transit centre car park.

Shire planning officers recommended councillors refuse the development because the five-storey height was a "strong contrast" to surrounding two-storey Thompson Avenue buildings and failed "to contribute to the creation of a coherent coastal village character".

"The proposal fundamentally fails to recognise the strong sense of place and identity of Cowes," shire planners said.

Planners said the traffic assessment was not reflective of peak periods, and did not take into account the use of the transit centre by the soon to be built Cowes Cultural Centre redevelopment.

"The assessment is outdated, prepared in 2016, and does not take into consideration the growth of the permanent population of Cowes in the last six years," planners



The proposal included a 46-room hotel with indoor pool, gym and dining rooms, 11 apartments and six new shops.

said.

"It proposes to rely on supermarket car parking, which is private property.

"Considering the future growth of Cowes ... the long-term parking of private hotel guests and patrons could physically not be accommodated in the public car parking during peak periods."

They also said the development did not demonstrate environmental best practice, with no provision for renewable energy and no electrical vehicle charging infrastructure.

Councillors agree

Cr Clare Le Serve said while the commercial building was in the right place, the building was an over-development.

Cr Brett Tessari said "it's not a

bad looking project" but he was concerned about the height.

Cr Bruce Kent said a private company should not be relying on public parking facilities.

"That means the general public will miss out," he said.

Objectors argued if approved the development would set a precedent for further similar developments.

"We love Cowes as it is a relaxed environment. We do not want to see Cowes become like Torquay – a mad house on every sunny weekend. Keep Cowes the way it is, that's what is great about it," wrote one objector.

"A building such as this one proposed is a stab at the heart of the character of Cowes, a precedent for the slide towards another Gold Coast," stated one submission.



Residents were incredulous that the bins in the Cowes Town Square were fenced in right at the start of the busiest time of the year.

Where you bin?

Local residents reacted with ridicule and anger when temporary fencing went up in front of the bins at the Cowes Town Square.

Litter issues and overflowing bins are a perennial problem in Cowes during the holiday season and people were incredulous that the bins were being sealed off.

"This council are just in Noddyland with waste responsibility," one resident told the Advertiser.

"They are happy to enjoy our number one visitor economy, but not spend the funds and time required to be responsible for the extra waste it causes."

When emailed a photo of the bin behind the temporary fencing, a spokesperson for the shire responded quickly saying the problem had been rectified; a new fence had been installed and the bins were now accessible to the public.

But the new solid board fence was placed right in front of the bins, rendering them out of sight and out of reach to the public.

Council has since advised the bins will be removed from behind the fence and relocated to a nearby area.

"We expect this to occur in coming weeks," the council spokesperson said.

The new fencing was erected as construction of the new \$30 million Cowes Cultural Centre has started. It is due to be opened by February 2023.



Council initially said the issue had been rectified, but a new solid board fence in front of the bins, rendered them out of sight and out of reach to the public.



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Access to Wonthaggi Hospital and COVID testing

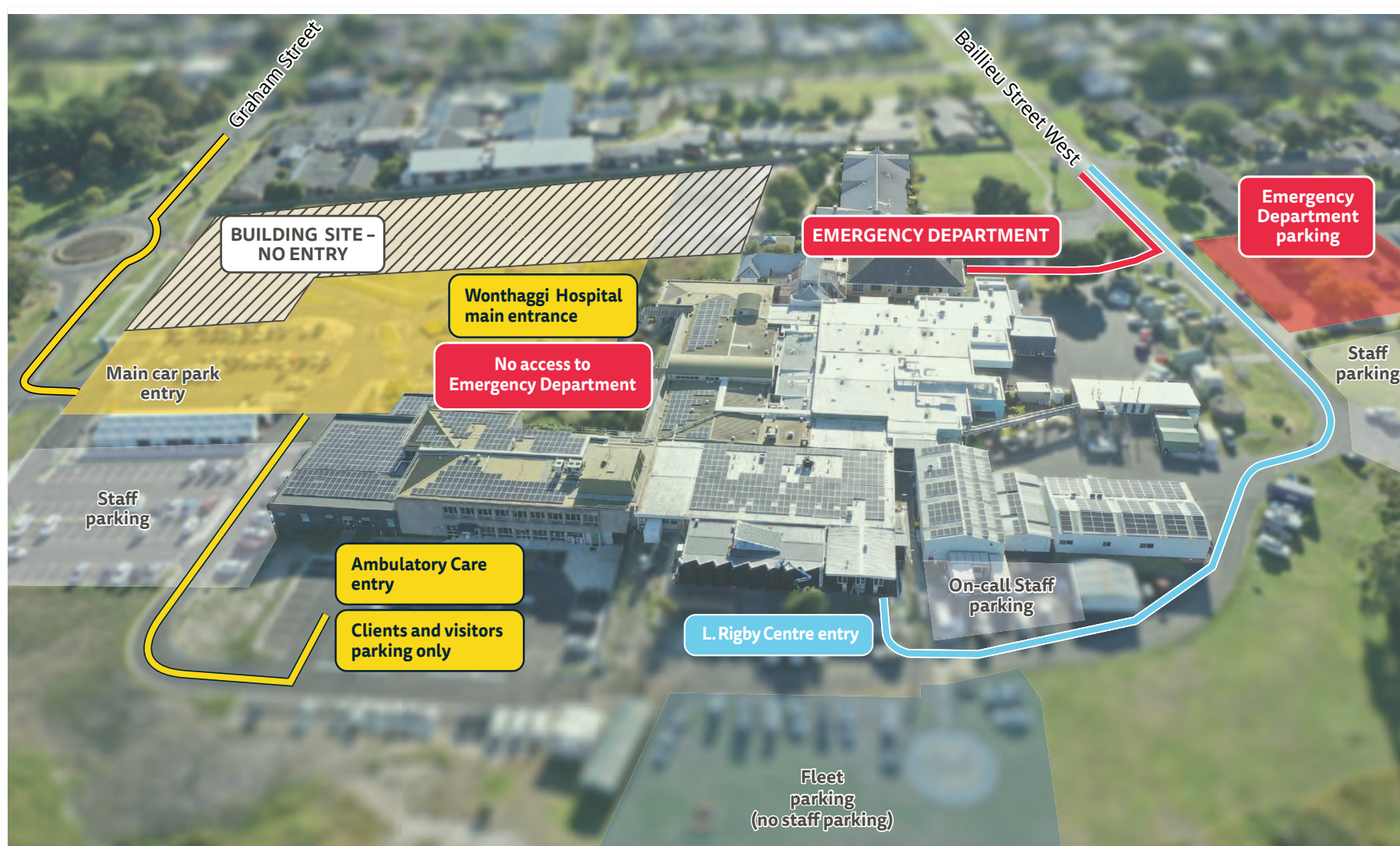
Main entrance reopens at Wonthaggi Hospital – 22 December 2021

The main entrance to the Wonthaggi Hospital will reopen 5am 22 December with access from Graham Street, Wonthaggi. Access to Maternity, Radiology, Pathology, visits to wards, the Dentist and all Outpatient Services is via Graham Street.

The Emergency Department has moved to Armitage House and is only accessible from Baillieu Street West.

L.Rigby Centre patients should continue to access the Centre via Baillieu Street West.

The entrance to Wonthaggi Hospital was temporarily changed to accommodate new car park construction. We thank our community sincerely for your patience in responding to the change of access to your health services.



BCH COVID Testing Tent will continue in Watt Street

To accommodate the expanded construction site, from 9 October the COVID Testing Tent relocated from the front car park at Wonthaggi Hospital to the former McBride Campus of Wonthaggi Secondary College. Access is via Watt Street. The tent will continue to operate 9am to 4pm, 7 days a week (closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day).

In an emergency please call 000.

Contact Wonthaggi Hospital on 5671 3333.

For general queries email publicrelations@basscoasthealth.org.au



CEO spending powers debated

A heated Bass Coast Shire council meeting last week saw councillors clash over concerns about the CEO's unilateral spending power.

New mayor Michael Whelan didn't help the debate by incorrectly overruling and gagging councillors.

Councillors were voting on a procurement policy – a legal requirement before the end of the year – that continued CEO Ali Wastie's \$1 million approval limit.

The limit – which was increased from \$250,000 in June last year – means Ms Wastie can singlehandedly spend \$1 million on shire projects, without the need to seek councillors' approval.

Several councillors said while they had "full confidence" in Ms Wastie, they believed spending powers needed to be kept in check.

Cr Les Larke was the first to question the \$1 million limit.

"My view is this recommendation does not have the balance right between council and the administration, in other words not enough oversight by council and transparency for our community," Cr Larke said.

"Levels of delegation are out of kilter and should be reined in significantly."

Cr Ronnie Bauer agreed saying \$1 million was "a lot of money that can be approved unilaterally".

Cr Rochelle Halstead said she too had concerns about the CEO's financial delegating powers.

"Council needs to have a look at it and reduce those delegations," she said.

When councillors then sought to move an amendment, seeking to review the spending limit in the new year, Cr Whelan overruled them and the meeting was abruptly stopped.

Cr Whelan returned, explaining the amendment by Cr Clare Le Serve would be allowed.

"For those councillors who have concerns about the rate of money allocated to the CEO, I think this policy needs to come back to coun-



At the December meeting, councillors voted on a motion to review the \$1 million approval limit for the shire CEO Ali Wastie in the new year.

cil for them to be satisfied," Cr Le Serve said.

Cr Brett Tessari said he had "total faith in CEOs to act honourably" but supported the amendment to review the policy.

Cr Les Larke said rather than "just rolling over and incrementally increasing the levels of delegation without scrutiny", he also supported a review for community transparency.

Cr Leticia Laing said the policy had been benchmarked against other councils and was overseen by the audit risk committee and expert advisers, ensuring "significant transparency and oversight".

In June last year, councillors voted to increase the CEO procurement policy from \$250,000 to \$1 million to "streamline the delivery of a record capital works program".

Last year a comparison against other shires showed Wellington's limit was \$400,000, Latrobe City Council was \$500,000, Baw Baw \$750,000 and Yarra Ranges Council \$1 million.

Wage

Councillors last week also voted to develop and adopt a CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy, which will see an advisory committee established with an independent chair.

The policy includes monitoring the CEO's performance and professional development.

In July the Advertiser reported that Ms Wastie earned more than the average rural wage for council chief executive officers.

While the average country Victorian CEO earns \$280,000 a year, Ali Wastie's annual salary is \$327,000, according to data in The Weekly Times.

Salaries for rural CEOs range from \$200,000 to \$440,000 across 47 regional councils' annual reports.

Ms Wastie's income was higher than her colleagues at similar councils including Baw Baw Shire (paid in a bracket between \$290,000-\$299,000), the Latrobe City Council (\$310,000 – \$319,999) and Wellington (\$323,000).



Cr Ronnie Bauer continued his campaign to address the annual holiday season waste problem, but his motion for a free upsize for red bins at the December council meeting was defeated.

Waste woes unresolved ahead of summer holidays

From page 1

In a 4-4 vote (Cr David Rooks was absent), Mayor Michael Whelan used his casting vote to overturn the motion, saying "if you move a motion at least understand if it can be delivered".

Cr Brett Tessari said while he supported Cr Bauer's "passion and enthusiasm" for the waste issue, ultimately the motion was "a lot of noise", given it was unfeasible to carry it out.

Cr Clare Le Serve also voted against, saying the motion was asking for a costly product to be free, adding the opportunity to upgrade bins already existed for commercial holiday businesses.

"It's a user-pays service and if you need a bigger bin, pay for it," she said.

Support

Cr Bruce Kent voted in favour saying the waste issue was an annual problem for the last five years, since the shire had moved to a three-bin, fortnightly system.

Cr Kent cast doubt on the total

cost of a bin upgrade, saying most local residents were happy with 120lt and would not opt to upgrade.

"The majority of us find our red bins are partially full every fortnight, so only a portion would take up the offer to increase to 240lt," Cr Kent said.

"I don't think the cost would be anywhere near \$1.6 million."

Cr Bauer acknowledged his motion was not "ideal", but said "not one tangible" suggestion had been put forward by the shire as a solution to the annual waste problem, except for education.

"The only course of action available is that offenders be reported to council when an overflowing stinking bin is sighted. That is shutting the gate after the horse has bolted," Cr Bauer said.

"A larger bin will at least give the appearance of a neat, tidy and attractive shire. This motion is literally trying to keep a lid on the waste."

He said action on a new shire by-law to solve waste problems had been "glacial", now pushed out to June 2022.



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Set up shop in Olive Justice Place

Bass Coast Shire Council is looking for businesses to be part of an outdoor trading space at Olive Justice Place.

The Council said it will once again transform outdoor spaces to encourage more outdoor trading over the coming summer period.

Continuing from the success of last year's outdoor trading initiatives across the Shire, Council is once again encouraging businesses to consider how they can expand their operations to include more outdoor trading.

As part of this initiative, Council would like to hear from Cowes based businesses interested in temporarily operating from Olive Justice Place over January.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan said this exciting program offered a great opportunity for Cowes businesses to gain extra exposure over the busy summer period.

"We welcome creative ideas on how you can activate Olive Justice Place, to make it work for you and your business," Cr Whelan said.

"It would be fantastic to hear from hospi-

tal, beauty or retail businesses considering pop-up shops, community groups, children's entertainers, artists or creatives, or anyone else who thinks that this prominent space would work for them."

Cr Whelan said that Christmas and summer provided a really fantastic opportunity for communities to support local businesses.

"Our traders have been doing it tough over the past two years, so I would really like to encourage locals and visitors to support local when they can," Cr Whelan said.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Trading in Olive Justice Place is open to Cowes based businesses and will be reviewed from December 15 on an ongoing basis until all places are filled.

Dates will be offered on a weekly basis from December 26 to January 31. Applicants can select their preferred dates during the application process.

More information about the EOI, including guidelines and the application form can be found at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/olivejusticeEOI.



Continuing from the success of last year's outdoor trading Council would like to hear from Cowes based businesses interested in temporarily operating from Olive Justice Place over January.

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Big builds on foreshore under scrutiny

A Bass Coast Shire councillor has failed in his bid to overturn a two-storey development in Cowes, which would "loom large from the foreshore".

Shire planners recommended councillors grant a permit for a proposed two-storey, nine metre home at Langard Road, Cowes, which received 18 objections, with submitters highlighting the height exceeded the seven-metre limit.

Cr Ronnie Bauer moved a motion to instead refuse the permit, citing a recent VCAT case that rejected a development on Cowes' renowned Lovers Walk because it would "loom large from the foreshore".

"We have to listen to the community and take a stand for the greater good," Cr Bauer said, saying the size of the proposed building was inappropriate for the neighbourhood.

The motion was lost, with Cr Leticia Laing saying she "trusted the work undertaken by planners".

"There are sufficient setbacks. Yes it's very big but it's architecturally designed," she said.

Cr Les Larke agreed saying there was no impact from the foreshore.

"I don't think it will impact views," he said.

Council meetings to return

Council meetings will once again be open to the public to attend in 2022.

After being held online since the start of the pandemic, councillors last week voted for a hybrid model for all 2022 council meetings, offering both online and in person meetings.

However, meetings – which are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month – will return to the virtual world if the public health situation changes or there are technical difficulties in livestreaming. Any changes would be shared on the shire's website and through social media.

Controversially, all meetings in 2022 will be held at the Wonthaggi Civic Centre Chamber, with previous years' meetings rotated between townships including Cowes, Inverloch and Grantville.

Councillors said Wonthaggi was preferred because it had the technology to accommodate livestreaming, unlike other towns.

Cr Leticia Laing said she looked forward to finally meeting her colleagues face-to-face.

"It has been a tough couple of years for everyone and a semblance of normality will be great for us," she said, explaining the current councillors had never formally met in person for meetings.

Silverleaves septic

Councillors have reluctantly approved a planning permit for Bruce Road, Silverleaves, which received five objections.

The permit is for a double storey home on land subject to inundation and the removal of vegetation to install a septic tank system.

Cr Rochelle Halstead said "none of us likes to see vegetation removed anywhere in the shire".

"But council officers have addressed this (in this planning permit) by requiring a vegetation plan," she said.

Cr Clare Le Serve said the permit was "a tough one" and she was "initially surprised that Silverleaves isn't on sewage yet".

"I hate the thought that trees will be removed but that's got to happen with the septic tank."

Which bin do I use?

Organics: weekly

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Dairy products
- Tissue and paper towel
- Bread, pasta and bakery products
- Meat scraps, bones, fish, seafood including shells
- Coffee grounds
- Twigs and branches under 100mm in diameter
- Pizza boxes
- Lawn clippings, garden prunings (including weeds)
- No plastic bags

Recycling: fortnightly

- Glass bottles and jars
- Aluminium cans, tin cans and foil trays
- Empty aerosol cans
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Paper and cardboard
- Newspapers, magazines and catalogues
- No plastic bags

Landfill: fortnightly

- Crockery, broken glass and mirrors
- Coffee cup and lid
- Plastic bags, soft plastic packaging and bubble wrap
- Foam or polystyrene
- Nappies
- Old clothing, footwear and bedding/linen

Be A Good Sort!

Using bins inside your home or holiday house in colours that match Council's kerbside bins makes it easy to sort waste appropriately at the point of disposal. There are many different styles of coloured internal bins available from a variety of manufacturers, so choose the style that's right for your home.

Contact Council's Waste Services team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/waste for further assistance.



My kerbside bins are full – what can I do?

Be A Good Sort!

Make sure your waste is being sorted appropriately to get the most out of your three bin system. Visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/whichbin for more details.

Upgrade your Landfill bin or order another Recycling or Organics bin

For an annual fee, you can upgrade your 120 litre landfill bin or order another 240 litre Recycling or Organics bin.

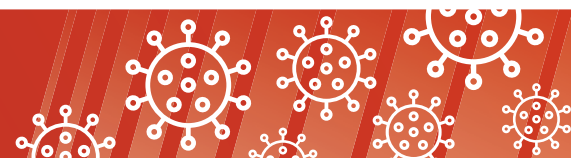
Dispose of Excess Waste at Council's Waste Facilities

It's free to dispose of excess Recycling bin waste. A small fee applies for excess Landfill bin waste.

Engage a Private Waste Contractor

If Council's standard kerbside collection service doesn't meet your waste management requirements, there are many private waste contractors who service our region.

For further assistance contact Council's Waste Services Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/waste.



Cases climb as Christmas approaches

There were long waits at testing sites in Wonthaggi and Cowes over the weekend, as Bass Coast recorded its highest number of positive cases since the pandemic began.

As of Monday, there were 57 cases in Bass Coast according to state government figures, with 15 of these on Phillip Island or in San Remo.

Gippsland Region Public Health Unit (GRPHU) said it was managing 340 positive cases throughout Gippsland. Thirty-four of these cases are in Bass Coast.

Across Gippsland, there were nine people in hospital, four of those in ICU.

With Christmas fast approaching, GRPHU predict the demand for testing will increase "as more travel is planned over this period".

While local numbers remain relatively low, a GRPHU spokesperson said the long queues at the drive through site could be due to people reaching a testing timeline period, for example day 6 or day 13, or being named as a close contact of a positive case.

Wonthaggi reported a four hour wait on Saturday, with patrons queuing for up to two hours to get tested in Cowes.

Bass Coast Health said the demand for tests had increased substantially.

Cowes drive through site is currently testing on average 120 people per day, twice the number of tests compared to six months ago. Wonthaggi is testing up to 300 people per day, compared to around 180 per day six months ago.

Thanks for your support

Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child has thanked the community for continuing to get tested for Covid, with testing numbers doubling at both Wonthaggi and Cowes testing sites in recent weeks.

"Our local community has always been diligent with getting tested and we have seen more people tested recently, in preparation for travel, as well as due to an increase in exposures related to schools, popular eating venues, etc," Ms Child said.

"With summer here and more visitors coming to our beautiful part of the world, as well as more locals getting out and about, the risk of community transmission of Covid is significantly higher.

"That's why it's reassuring to see people being mindful of the risk in our community and getting tested when they show symptoms of Covid, such as loss of taste or smell, a sore throat, fever or runny nose."

Testing enables Covid cases to be identified early and minimises the risk of Covid-positive people interacting with others (in particular vulnerable community members) during their infectious period.

Ms Child also reminded the community of the importance of vaccination, saying Covid patients in Intensive Care units and inpatient beds are in the main, unvaccinated.

"People mistakenly think that Covid is like the flu but we know that it can be lethal without protection, and importantly, can leave people with long-Covid syndrome - very different to the flu



Registered Nurse Hazel Tudman was among the staff working hard to test people with Covid symptoms at Wonthaggi.

- where it can have a huge long-term impact on health," she said.

"If you haven't been vaccinated, it's not too late. If you are due for your Booster (five months after the second jab), pop into the Vaccination Clinic or your GP or Pharmacy and get yourself protected.

"We know the new variants are about and we know the best way to protect yourself and others is to be optimally vaccinated."

The Community Vaccination

Clinic at Wonthaggi Town Hall is this week (dates may be subject to change) open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9am-4pm. It will close for the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

The centre will re-open on Tuesday, January 4: 9am - 4pm; Wednesday, January 5: 10am - 6pm; Thursday, January 6: 9am - 4pm; and Friday, January 7: 9am - 4pm.

To minimise the risk of getting Covid, people are also urged to gather outside where possible, maintain physical distancing of 1.5m from others, and wear a mask if they can't distance.

"We are still in a Pandemic and whilst the numbers will increase significantly more, we still want to stop the spread locally as much as we can, to reduce the impact on our local community," Ms Child said.

Council Update



Fireworks

We're disappointed to announce that our end of year fireworks displays will not go ahead in Cowes, Coronet Bay or Inverloch this year. Despite COVID-19 restrictions easing considerably in recent weeks, planning of events like these requires significant lead time and at this late stage with conditions continuing to change, the difficult decision has been made not to host the fireworks displays this year. While we know a lot of our community will be disappointed, we are committed to creating a great atmosphere over the festive season with a program of activities and Christmas decorations.

Changed Traffic Conditions

Cowes will have increased outdoor dining this summer and this will affect traffic flow in Cowes. Starting this week, The Esplanade will be one way from Thompson Ave to Warley Ave and Thompson Ave to Bass Ave. Please follow signage and drive carefully.

Christmas Hours

Our Customer Service Centres will close at 1.00pm on Friday, 24 December and will re-open on Wednesday, 29 December at 8.30am for phone service and from 10.00am for face-to-face services. We will also be closed on Monday, 3 January for the additional New Year's Day public holiday. Our normal emergency after hours service will continue to operate on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 during this time.

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

COVID-19 Testing Bass Coast

Christmas Operating hours

Friday 24 December

Wonthaggi - Bass Coast Health: 9am - 4pm
Cowes - Bass Coast Health: 9am - 2pm
Wonthaggi Respiratory Clinic: **CLOSED**

Saturday 25 December

CLOSED

Sunday 26 December

Wonthaggi - Bass Coast Health: 9am - 4pm
Cowes - Bass Coast Health: **CLOSED**
Wonthaggi Respiratory Clinic: **CLOSED**

Monday 27 December

Wonthaggi - Bass Coast Health: 9am - 4pm
Cowes - Bass Coast Health: **CLOSED**
Wonthaggi Respiratory Clinic: **CLOSED**

Tuesday 28 December

Wonthaggi - Bass Coast Health: 9am - 4pm
Cowes - Bass Coast Health: 9am - 2pm
Wonthaggi Respiratory Clinic: **CLOSED**

Wednesday 29 December

Wonthaggi - Bass Coast Health: 9am - 4pm
Cowes - Bass Coast Health: 9am - 2pm
Wonthaggi Respiratory Clinic: 1pm - 5pm, by appt on 0492 036 568

Christmas and New Year test times for Cowes and Wonthaggi drive through sites.

Melaleuca Lodge Auxiliary Summer Book Sale

Monday 27th December 2021 -
Saturday 29th January 2022
10am - 1pm Daily | Closed New Years Day

BILLS BOOK SHED
Watchorn Road Cowes | 0437 949 029
Gift Vouchers Available



Cowes Priceline Pharmacy is taking vaccination bookings now for both booster shots and primary course vaccinations. Cr Ronnie Bauer received his second shot earlier this year at the local pharmacy.

Book in for a booster

With the Omicron variant now spreading across the country, the message from health authorities and the government is to book in for a booster as soon as you are eligible.

Fully vaccinated people are now eligible for a booster five months after their second shot.

Cowes Priceline Pharmacy is taking vaccination bookings now and Pharmacist Greg Kossena said there'd been a big increase in bookings for boosters since the government announcement last week.

"The key point is they recommend people to get the booster one month earlier if they are going on holidays, to reduce the likely spread of the newer Omicron variant," he explained.

"We had already been taking booster appointments prior to this announcement, however the uptake was very low.

"Not surprisingly, the bookings have now increased a hundred-fold."

He said the store was struggling to keep up with the demand, due

to supply of vaccine and having available vaccinators.

However he urged people to book in as soon as possible.

"We are still doing all three vaccine types. Pfizer and Moderna (recommended for boosters) as well remaining Astra Zeneca for primary course vaccinations."

Bookings can be made at www.priceline.com.au/pharmacy-services/vaccines/covid-19-vaccination/

He said the pharmacy was fully booked up until early January, but he said they were also taking names for a waiting list.

"Disappointingly we still have had some people book and not attend, so it is worth leaving your details with our staff for any short notice cancellations.

"At the end of the day, the best advice is to get the earliest booster booking possible (minimum of five months after the second dose)."

Federal government booster advice at www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-your-vaccination/booster-doses

Kinder places expanded at Early Learning Centre

Last week, Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale visited the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre (PIELC) in Cowes to open the new upgraded and expanded centre.

The \$687,000 kindergarten upgrade includes a new room for the existing Long Day Care and seasonal kindergarten.

The building will increase the kindergarten's places by 39 licenced places, and nine new seasonal four-year-old places.

The state government provided \$657,000 for the project, with PIELC providing \$30,000.

"We're proud to be supporting and expanding our early childhood services here on Phillip Island as we begin our Australia first universally funded three-year-old kinder roll out," Ms Crugnale said.

"We value the importance of how it sets up our kids for life-long learning, gives them agency and develops their social and emotional skills."

Karen Treppo, Coordinator at PIELC said the project was the result of a wonderful collaboration.

"2022 will see our new room filled with 55 Kindergarten children learning in this beautiful inclusive environment that is due to the successful Building Blocks Grants.

"We are thankful to belong to a community that values Early Childhood Education.

"It is an example of when government, local council, schools and community members work together so that great things can happen."



Sarah Tyrell, Bass Coast Mayor Cr Michael Wheelan, Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, Karen Treppo PIELC Coordinator, Sue Becker and Lynne Hadley, with children Gemma, Jacqueline, Fergus, Gemma, Jacqueline, Fergus, Ashley, Bonnie and Avana helping to cut the ribbon.



Misha and Nick Say of Phillip Island Winery, which was voted #28 on the Open Table Top 50 restaurants list, one of only 10 regional restaurants on the list.

Phillip Island Winery a Top Restaurant

Phillip Island Winery is one of the Top 50 restaurants of 2021.

The Open Table Top 50 restaurants list released this month saw the local winery come in at 28.

The win is a fantastic boost for the winery as it heads into the holiday season and launches its brand new Atrium area.

The ranking is decided by more than 280,000 restaurant reviews from diners around the country.

Organisers said this year saw an influx of neighbourhood and regional restaurants from across Australia appear on the list, saying there was no slowing down the paddock to plate and 'grow local, eat local' movement.

Only 10 regional restaurants took out a top 50 spot, with Phillip Island Winery putting the local Phillip Island and Gippsland food scene firmly on the map.

It was also recognised for some of the best service in Victoria.

Melbourne has held onto its title as the heart of Australia's food scene with the most restaurants featured on the list (16), and together with regional Victoria restaurants, dominated nearly half (42 per cent) of the top spots.

Victoria cemented its place as the foodie state, despite experiencing the country's most extensive lockdowns over the past two years. Queensland restaurants secured 17 spots (34 per cent) to take on the number two spot, followed by NSW with ten, and ACT and South Australia each with one.

This year's list celebrated an influx of newcomers, including Peruvian restaurant, Nikkei Bar and Restaurant (Sydney), Vietnamese-French inspired Firebird (Melbourne) and new Japanese restau-

rants, Etsu Izakaya (Sydney) and ShoSho (Adelaide); while mainstays including Restaurant Hubert, Vue de Monde and Rick Shores held their top 50 spots.

Tim Domelow, Senior Account Manager at OpenTable, said: "In what's been such a turbulent two years for the hospitality industry, it's incredible to see the innovation of flavour and experience that Australian restaurants are continuing to deliver - from city streets to regional areas, and at every price point.

"As restaurants have reopened across the country, the demand we're seeing for reservations and dining shows Aussies are out in force to support old favourites, neighbourhood spots and newcomers alike."

To view the Top 50 list visit www.opentable.com.au/lists/best-restaurants-in-australia-2021

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drawn 30 January 2022



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by internationally acclaimed local artist

David Taylor.

Image size 74cm x 53cm

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or contact Wendy 0417 245 692 or Gill 0431 672 777





Celebrating their VCE results, Newhaven College students who all achieved an ATAR of 90 or above (from left to right): Helena Leonardos, Harry Jobe, Callum Chisholm, Charlie Brewis, Sunny Lumsden, Mackinley Thompson and Max Pick

Newhaven celebrates the 2021 VCE results

Dux of Newhaven College, Holly van de Pligt celebrated an ATAR of 99.1 at the announcement of VCE results last week.

Holly was closely followed by Lyra Hackett, who received an ATAR of 97.7.

Despite a challenging year, almost 20 per cent of Newhaven's students achieved an ATAR above 90, placing them in the top 10 per cent of the state.

Newhaven College Principal Tony Corr congratulated all this year's VCE students on an outstanding result.

"At Newhaven College we work very hard to provide a holistic education where each student's individual gifts and talents are able to flourish. Whether that be in curricular, pastoral care, sports, arts, camps, community projects or the myriad of other opportunities on offer, the school is fortunate to have hard working and dedicated staff supporting the students in this range of activities.

"Above all else the school prioritises the learning journey of each of the young people in our care. As a non-select entry school we strive to support students to fulfil their potential in whatever direction that may be," Mr Corr said.

"Today we celebrate the excellent VCE results of our class of 2021. Despite the most challenging of VCE years our Year 12s have performed exceptionally well. They have demonstrated resilience, effort and good humour

in all they have done, and their excellent VCE results are a reflection of this.

"We are thrilled to announce that 19.4 per cent of Newhaven College's VCE students achieved an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Entrance Rank) of above 90. In addition nearly 40 per cent of our students were placed in the top 20 per cent of the state, and half were placed in the top 25 per cent.

"Congratulations to Holly van der Pligt who was our College Dux with the remarkable ATAR of 99.1, placing her in the top 1 per cent of Victoria. This included the perfect study score of 50 in Environmental Science.

"Congratulations also to our College Proxime, Lyra Hackett, who received the exceptional ATAR of 97.7."

Other high achieving students with ATAR scores of above 90 were Max Pick, Kristina Christos, Alexandra Dhar, MacKinley Thompson, Harry Jobe, Helena Leonardos, Georgia Adams, Sunny Lumsden, Chelsea Allen, Charlotte Brewis and Callum Chisholm.

"We are very proud of the achievements of each Year 12 student and thank them for the contributions that they have made in their time at Newhaven College.

"We wish them the very best of luck as they set off on their adult journey beyond school, whether that be to university, TAFE, traineeships or the world of work."

- ATAR achievements**
- Students achieved study scores of 40 or above, placing them in the top 9 per cent of the state, in the following subjects were:
- Accounting: Callum Chisholm, Max Pick
 - Business Management: Georgia Adams, Paige Bennett, Charlotte Brewis
 - Drama: Helena Leonardos
 - English: Chelsea Allen, Harry Jobe, Lyra Hackett, Helena Leonardos, Holly van der Pligt
 - Environmental Science: Rosa Green*, Stevie Hower, Jasmine Sullivan*, MacKinley Thompson, Nicholas White, Holly van der Pligt
 - Food Studies: Chelsea Allen
 - Geography: MacKinley Thompson
 - Health and Human Development: Chelsea Allen, Mikayla Pedley, Holly van der Pligt
 - Literature: Alexandra Dhar
 - Further Mathematics: Harry O'Brien
 - Specialist Mathematics: Max Pick
 - Mathematical Methods: Max Pick
 - Media: Tabitha Bond
 - Music Performance VET: Coco Hosken*, Alexander Kirk, Liam McDonald
 - Outdoor and Environmental Studies: MacKinley Thompson, Nicholas White
 - Psychology: Georgia Adams, Stevie Hower, Sunny Lumsden, Holly van der Pligt
- *Denotes Year 11 doing a Unit 3 & 4 subject



Lyra Hackett received an ATAR of 97.7. She hopes to study medicine at Monash and has dreams of becoming a Rural GP.



Dux of Newhaven College Holly van de Pligt with an ATAR of 99.1, has applied for science and global studies at Monash. She hopes to work in a health or psychology field.



Helena Leonardos (94.15). "I'm planning to take a gap year to work to figure out what I want to do. I love musical theatre so I will be auditioning for some things locally and in Melbourne so we'll see what opportunities come my way."



Harry Jobe (94.8). I'm hoping to do science at Melbourne Uni. The score you need for my course is around 85, so I'm very relieved and pleasantly surprised at my score.



Callum Chisholm (93.1). "I'm going to defer but doing an accounting traineeship in Wonthaggi next year and then hopefully I'll get into Uni to do an accounting course. I was surprised at how well I went."



Charlie Brewis. "I'm doing a law and business degree at Swinburne majoring in Sports Management. I had hoped for a score in the 90s but it was still a pleasant surprise to actually achieve it."



Sunny Lumsden (93.5). "I'm taking a gap year to earn some money and then planning to do a Bachelor of Science (maybe Environmental Science) at either Monash or Melbourne. I'm pretty chuffed at my results."



Mackinley Thompson (95.3). I've been contracted to be a residential assistant at Timbertop next year. It's a one year contract so then I'll come home in school holidays, although I'm not really sure what I'll do after that - perhaps Uni."



Max Pick (96.95). "I'm going to Monash to do a Bachelor of Science. I'm not entirely sure what I'll major in but I'm leaning towards maths or physics which were my best subjects this year. I was really happy with my score. I knew I'd get a score high enough for my course but I'm thrilled to get the mark I did."



Making up Christmas hampers from donated goods are St Vinnies volunteers Lindsay and Arianne D'Argent, Hess and Monica Bekema, Cathy Jones, Linda (Cowes Conference President) and Frank Sparkes and Annie Zderski.

Christmas care

St Vincent de Paul Cowes Conference have prepared Christmas hampers and collected hundreds of toys for vulnerable families in our community who have fallen on tough times and are struggling to make ends meet.

Linda Sparkes, the Cowes Conference President said that they have been overwhelmed and are extremely grateful for the generosity of individuals and the organisations and businesses that have supported this year's hamper and toy drive.

"We would like to thank the entire community of Phillip Island and San Remo for helping to make Christmas a more festive time for so many local families."

The Vinnies hampers are all about providing some joy and happiness at this festive time of the year. Singles and couples receive a food hamper and Coles voucher while families receive a Coles voucher and toys for each of their children.

"We make sure we have the right ages of the children from every family we visit so that we have suitable presents for them."

Around 55 families, 110 children and 70 couples and singles were the recipients of toys, gifts, Coles vouchers, Share the Dignity bags and Pinchapoo packs full of beautiful pamper items this Christmas. Children also received fabulous hoodies donated from a local resident who retails in children's clothing.

The CWA collected donations



Mitch Dabb and Hayley Adams from Ray White handing over the donated toys from the Christmas tree they house in their reception area each year.

from the local community as well as a cash donation from a lady in Queensland that they used to purchase both gifts for St Vincent de Paul and groceries for the PICAL hamper drive.

Businesses that collected and donated gifts and groceries on behalf of St Vinnies are: The Phillip Island

Patchwork, Bendigo Bank - San Remo and Cowes, Ray White Real Estate, Woolworths, Phillip Island CWA, Bass Coast Shire Council, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Cowes Newsagency, Newhaven College (Wardy's Christmas tree), Our Lady Star of the Sea, Coles Cowes and IGA San Remo.



The CWA pitched in to help, collecting and wrapping gifts. Back: Felicity Newberry, Dianne Holtrob, Lynne Marsh, Bev Robertson, Lorraine Roy and Anja Tennant. Front: Ruth Newberry and Jayne Mitchell, the CWA's longest serving member.

Congratulations class of 2021

Wonthaggi Secondary College has congratulated all this year's VCE students on their results.

Finn Gleeson from Inverloch was the College's top student with an ATAR of 94.5, with Cape Woolamai's Lorie North the island's highest achiever with an ATAR of 90.25.

Principal of the Senior Secondary Campus, Ross Bramley said the school was "proud of the efforts and achievements of all our students".

"2021 has been challenging for all of our students and staff as they adjusted to periods of Remote and Flexible Learning," Ross said.

"In particular, the Year 12 cohort have displayed resilience and dedication as independent learners in completing their final year of schooling - an admirable feat considering the demands of VCE."

Ross said the achievements had been made across a diverse range of subjects, including VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education), VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) and VET (Vocational Education and Training).

"There were some exceptional individual results amongst the students achieving the top ATAR scores and these occurred in a wide range of curriculum areas including English, Maths, Science, Personal



Lorie North from Cape Woolamai's ATAR of 90.25 illustrates her consistent high level of achievement said Ross Bramley.

Development, Design & Technology and the Arts.

"There were also exceptional Study Score results amongst our Yr11 cohort including a number of 40+ Study Scores.

"We wish all of the students well as they embark on the exciting next stage in their lives, whether it be in employment, trade apprenticeships or further study."



Finn Gleeson was Dux of the school, with an ATAR of 94.5 and wants to study Civil Engineering (Honours)/Architectural Design at Monash University.



Cheryl West, Sandy Innes, Wendy Rich (seated) Anja Tennant, and Jenny Ward presented PICAL with \$1000 worth of food and over 200 bags for its Christmas Hamper appeal.

Good will boomerangs back

The Rhyll Boomerang Bags group donated \$1000 worth of food to the PICAL Christmas Hamper last week.

The group also donated over 200 bags, hand made from recycled material, to go to families in need this Christmas.

The goods were presented to PICAL by Jenny Ward, Anja Tennant and Sandra Inness.

This is the second time Rhyll Boomerang Bags has worked with PICAL to ease the burden on families at Christmas.

Rhyll Boomerang Bags commenced in early 2017 in a living room in Rhyll with one overlocker and sewing machine. The group slowly grew and today there are eight ladies, five overlockers and six sewing machines.

These dedicated ladies sew bags (and lots of other goodies) every week in a fully equipped warehouse. The group earns money by selling bags at markets and also supports other worthwhile projects such as Free 3D hands to which they donated \$1000 recently.



Jodie Doman, Fran Mandergeddes, Liz Bowyer, Sandy Matthews, Heather Gregory and Michele Hynes share a laugh with committee member Denise McGill.



Neil Wilmot, Maxine and Shane Smith, Bernie McComb, Derrick Wilkinson and Mick Piening.



Garden volunteer Tina De Rose getting into the Christmas spirit with Nerida Stubbles and Barbara Burns from PICAL Pantry.



Carey Quinlivan, Grace Wilkinson, PICAL Committee member Tim Anders, Hilda Piening with Lorraine and Greg Thompson (PICAL Manager).



PICAL Staff Cathy Kallstrom and Marie Bursill with volunteers Lynne and Martin Saunders.

PICAL Christmas cheer

After a massive couple of years, which saw calls for food and assistance soar, and PICAL volunteer numbers more than triple, it was time for some well-earned celebrations at the PICAL Christmas party.

Around 40 guests came together at Cape Kitchen to enjoy a grazing platter and celebrate PICAL's incredible achievements.

But the PICAL crew were quickly back to work, packing Christmas hampers and cooking food for the Food Relief Pantry.

The team has prepared over 12,000 meals in the past 21 months and last year the Christmas hamper campaign delivered more than 500 bags of festive fare to 165 families, 38 couples and 16 singles.



PICAL Tutor Ajanta Judd with PICAL committee member Denise McGill.



Celebrating the festive season staff and volunteers Tim Ogden, Emma Le-Mar, Michelle McKenzie, Rowan Visser, Gay Findlay and Jeanne Solity.



Jodie Doman, Michele Hynes and Fran Mandergeddes, just a few of the team that helped out to make 158 Christmas roast meals for distribution this Christmas. The women cooked roast turkey breast, ham off the bone, roasted potatoes and cauliflower, peas and corn with gravy and cranberry sauce condiments.



Hamper packing volunteers Felix and Maddi, Mark Kennedy, Shane Smith, Nikki Kelly, Michelle McKenzie and Derrick Wilkinson.

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Cowes Newsagency, Phillip Island is under new management and a new shop location next to Aldi. We have the same friendly staff so come in and say hello and meet the new owners Angela & David.

Shop 3, 68-80 Thompson Ave (next door to Aldi)
 Ph: 03 5952 2046
 cowsnews6880@gmail.com
 Monday - Saturday 8.30am - 5.00pm | Sunday 8.30am - 12.00pm





Major art exhibition at Iluka Studio over January

Acclaimed local artists David Taylor, Diana Edwards and Tom Tyrrell have again combined their talents to present another very special exhibition over the month of January, at the Iluka Studio Gallery in Silverleaves.

Titled “Special Moments” the exhibition features a selection of paintings by the trio ... from the local area and some from beyond.

It follows their highly successful January 2021 exhibition “Lighter Moments” so named after a difficult year in 2020 for the community during the first Covid lockdown, with in excess of 100 paintings showcased by the trio.

Again this year, a magnificent painting to raffle has been donated by David.

Proceeds will go to the Bass Coast Health Phillip Island Urgent Care Centre and Health Hub, in recognition of the work they have done throughout Covid.

At the exhibition, both framed and unframed paintings will be for sale.

“We wanted to give people the opportunity to

buy without spending money on expensive frames. And it will be particularly convenient for travellers,” David says.

The trio stress that everyone is invited to the exhibition, to come in and browse and enjoy the art work on display.

There’s seating outside and a shady garden, with plenty of space for visitors to sit and ponder and enjoy.

Realist impressionism

The three artists say their work is “realist impressionism”, describing themselves as “plein air painters”, who sketch or paint outside in the landscape.

The majority of the exhibits are from within the island or the Bass Coast area and Gippsland, although there will be some from further afield. David, Tom and Diana often go out together to paint.

“This is such a wonderful island and we continue to discover some wonderful sites here and across Gippsland,” says David.

“It’s like a breath of fresh air for us when we find a great new place.”

Diana never tires of painting on the island, and as well as continuing to give art classes outside lockdown, has painted both en plein-air (on site) and in the studio throughout 2021.

She qualified for Artist of the Year entry at the Australian Guild of Realist Artists this year,



Diana Edwards and David Taylor holding the water colour “After the Rain” which is being raffled at an exhibition being held in January at the Iluka Studio Gallery in Silverleaves. Proceeds will be donated to Bass Coast Health Phillip Island Urgent Care Centre and Health Hub.

ods this year, switching to remote learning, and started What’s App online classes for his students.

These have proved to be extremely popular, and local class members have been joined by people from America, Mexico, India and Asia.

“It’s kept me very busy,” he comments, “and it is all done over the phone.”

He was also recently named the winner of the IFAM Malaysian International Outstanding Art Award.

This prestigious and major art competition attracted entries from 63 countries across the world.

Tom has completed a round Australia trip this year, so he will have some diverse and interesting sites on exhibition, alongside the popular island landscapes he is famous for.

The “Special Moments” exhibition runs from January 2– 31 and is open 10am to 4.30pm daily.

Most paintings can be taken home at the time of purchase.

Greeting cards featuring a selection of prints from the exhibition are also for sale individually and in sets.

Raffle tickets will be for sale at the Iluka Studio Gallery throughout the exhibition. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. They are also available at the Phillip Island Urgent Care Centre and Health Hub in Church Street Cowes.

The raffle will be drawn on Sunday, January 30 at 3pm.

/ Sponsored Article /

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Special Moments Jan 2022

Special Art Exhibition

Opening at the Iluka Studio Gallery Silverleaves

Three major artists from Phillip Island
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Open each day 10am - 4pm through Jan 2022
Commencing Sunday Jan 2nd 2022
Closes on Monday 31st Jan at 4pm
A chance not to miss. Enjoy.

Shared vision from recent journeys from the island, Australia and abroad.
Paintings both framed and unframed are for sale.

Tickets available for a special raffle of a Painting by David Taylor. Proceeds to Bass Coast Health Phillip Island Urgent Care Centre & Health Hub.

Drawn on Sunday the 30th of January 3pm
 Winner of the Raffle will be notified.

Labyrinth walk to welcome the new year

The New Year’s Eve Candlelight Walk at San Remo is in its fifteenth year on the San Remo Turf Labyrinth.

The event begins at 8pm on December 31, with an Acknowledgement of Country and Reflective Talk. The walk will commence to the sounds of the natural world as the sun is setting across the bay and finish at 10.30pm.

Event Facilitators Jan Miller, Lorraine and Geoff Rodda are Members of the Australian Labyrinth Network Inc.

They invite everyone to walk “in celebration of our Earth, our Continent and our Indigenous People who have lived on our land for 70,000 years”.

“Let us meditate and reflect on this past year with so many twists and turns as we hold in our hearts our loved ones, our community and the peoples, creatures and plants in our global village,” Lorraine said.

“This is a very special way for you to celebrate this New Year’s Eve. If you have not walked a labyrinth before, now is a great time. Often people value witnessing others walk.”

The San Remo Labyrinth combines the imagery of the circle and the energy of the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path.

Lorraine said indigenous cultures use the circle and spiral to illustrate the holistic nature of life and its on-going renewal.

“A labyrinth also relates to wholeness. As we walk a labyrinth on the single path to and from the centre it represents a journey to our own centre and back out to the world with new insights and clarity as we learn to go forward from there.”

Directions: Back Beach Road in San Remo, past the Lions Children’s Park and Picnic Ground, then drive along the unmade section of the road. The Labyrinth is on the right beside a row of cypress trees.

Walkers are asked to follow the Covid Health Advice.

For more details contact: Lorraine & Geoff Rodda, SW Gippsland Members, Australian Labyrinth Network inc. Geoff’s Mobile: 0408 138 065 Email: lgrodga@gmail.com



Grants music to the ears of local musos

Two local music organisations received funding through the state government's Music Work Grants, announced earlier this month.

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale congratulated the Caravan Music Club and the Hills Are Alive Group who both received funding.

Ms Crugnale said the Music Works grant program is designed to support and invest in the development of Victoria's contemporary music industry at all levels.

"We love live music here in Bass Coast, are oozing with talented local and visiting artists, musicians, performers, our indoor venues are a drawcard and our outdoor ones are backdropped by some stunning sea and landscape views," Ms Crugnale said.

"There is literally something for everyone. With a sector very hard hit for two years now – let's get out and continue to support them as the arts brings us together and connects us as a community."

"If you are a venue or live music promoter check out the Music Works program, which will also have a dedicated stream for our regions – and apply."

The Hills Are Alive Group received \$84,879 for the third instalment of Ocean Sounds, a two-day all-ages music festival on Churchill Island celebrating local food, wine and the natural environment, featuring The Teskey Brothers, Boy and Bear, Pierce Brothers, Gretta Ray alongside super talented local artists and musicians.

The Caravan Music Club received \$23,942 for a presentation of works at the Week-ends At Archies, a series of 24 shows featuring local acts, visiting artists and leading Victorian performers, by Caravan Music across venues in Archies Creek.

The full list of the latest funding recipients, as well as details on any future rounds can be found at creative.vic.gov.au

Catamaran Challenge honours Neil Beddoe

A catamaran challenge organised by the Cowes Yacht Club is shaping up to be the best Catamaran race in the country.

It will also honour a significant islander and CYC club member Neil Beddoe.

The Around French Island Catamaran race on March 19, 2022 involves over 70 kilometres of hard sailing. Event organiser Doug Telford said it guarantees the sailors a marathon challenge, and spaces are filling fast.

With interest from several interstate competitors as well as from other Victorian Clubs, the entries are rapidly building towards the 100 maximum.

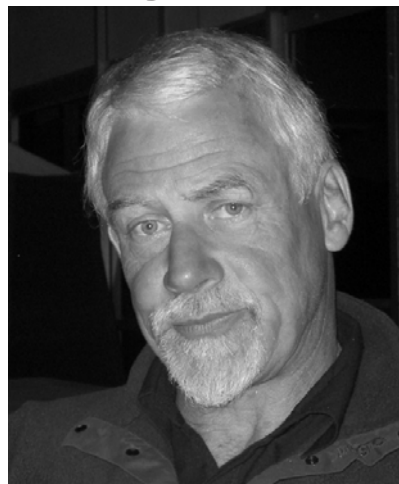
"Those contemplating competing need to get on board quickly," Doug said.

The event has several key sponsors, however for one sponsor, the race took on a special meaning.

Westernport Water's support for the event is also an opportunity to honour former life member of the club Neil Beddoe, who supported it enormously over an extended period.

Neil passed away in July this year and due to Covid restrictions there wasn't a proper opportunity to celebrate his life and give him the send-off worthy of such a generous man who had called the Island home for the past two decades.

Westernport Water was keen to find a way for the event to recognise and acknowledge Neil and the contribution he made to the region, and espe-



A former life member of the Cowes Yacht Club will be honoured at the Catamaran Challenge, with Westernport Water presenting the Neil Beddoe Memorial Award to the first female crew to complete the race.

cially to their organisation.

The Westernport Water Memorial Award will be awarded in Neil's name to the first female crew to complete the race.

Neil was a former chair and member of Westernport Water's customer consultative committee for over 10 years, making him one of its longest serving members.

Geoff Russell, Manager of Commu-

nications and Engagement at Westernport Water described Neil as a passionate and involved community member.

"I think it's fitting that we recognise his extraordinary contribution and selfless work to the community," Geoff said.

"Over the years, I learned of Neil's volunteer work with the Cowes Yacht Club, L2P program, his beloved car club and other activities with the Bass Coast Shire Council and Westernport Water."

"Westernport Water is proud to sponsor the event in recognition of Neil's outstanding service and lasting contribution to the community and Westernport Water."

A spokesperson for Cowes Yacht Club said the club was delighted to support Westernport Water's "kind and generous initiative and looks forward to seeing the memorial award presented in Neil's name."

Other major sponsors involved in the event include Australian Air Safaris, which is providing \$10,000 prize money as well as significant sponsorship from Bass Coast Shire Council, Bendigo Bank, Phillip Island RSL and Purple Hen Wines.

The race on March 19 will see competitors circumnavigating French Island, and is expected to take around five hours to complete.

Details cowesyachtclub.com/afi
/ Sponsored Article /

Silverwaters Vineyard

The new Silverwaters Vineyard range was launched this year, featuring a Pinot Gris and a Cabernet Shiraz. The range will soon be expanded, with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay being bottled in December, and in February next year, a Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. Everything under the Silverwaters label is from our vineyard - we don't blend.

Our wine is sold through the vineyard's online store, which offers free local delivery, guaranteed next day with no minimum purchase. You can order ahead and have the wine delivered to your home, holiday house, caravan park or hotel.

Silverwaters Vineyard also stocks a "project series", called the Malusa Project. This is wine is sourced through collaboration with other wine makers from differ-

ent regions within Australia. All orders are gift wrapped, we can ship Australia wide and offer a mix six or dozen across the two labels. You can follow our story on Facebook and Instagram, and order online at: silverwatersvineyard.com.au



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~ GUARANTEED NEXT DAY ~
NO MINIMUM PURCHASE
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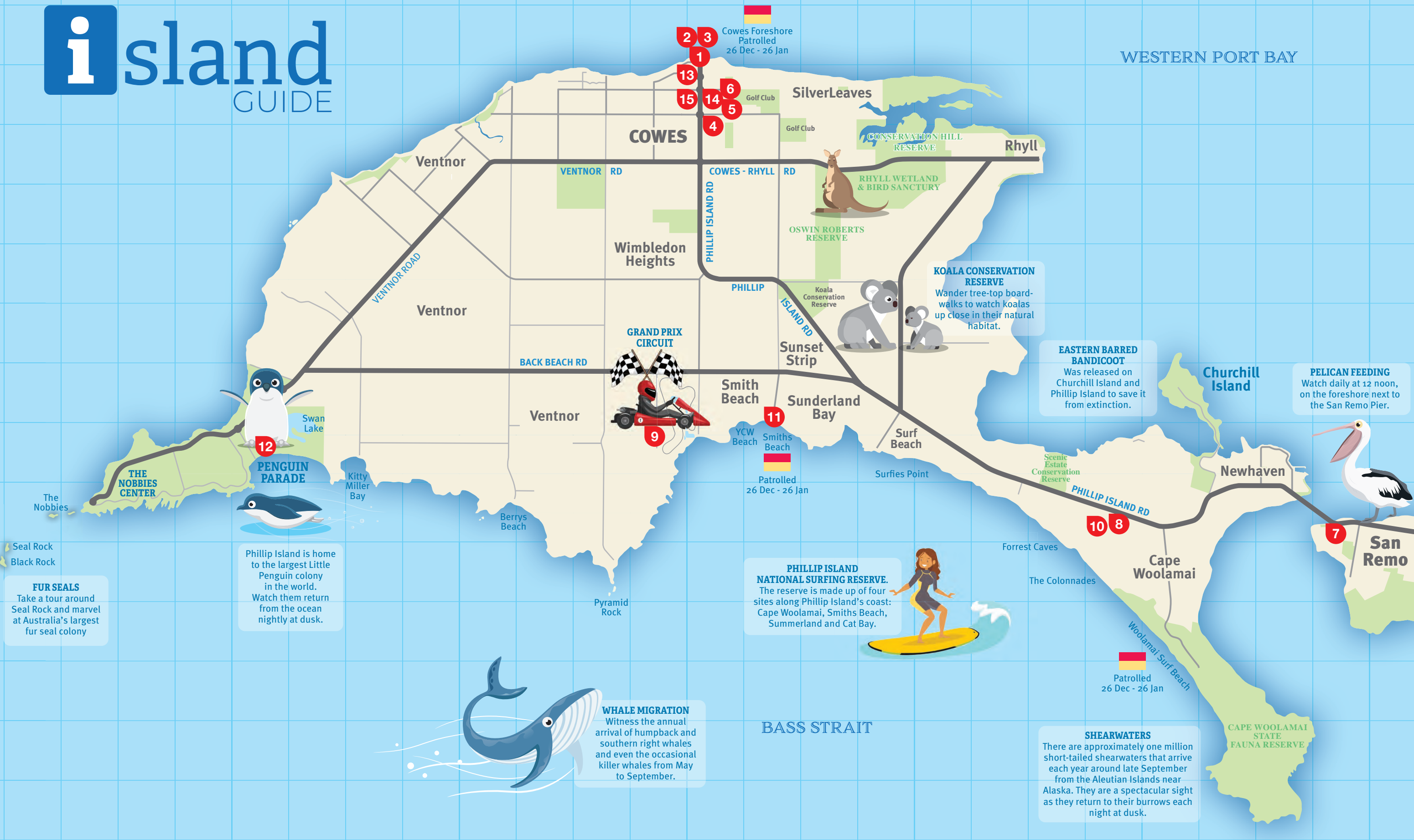
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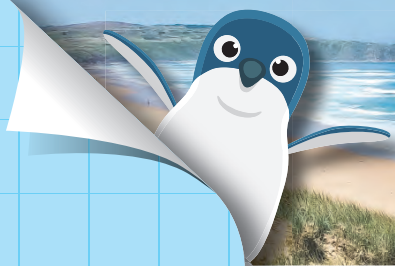
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From dancing mouse to theatre house

It's been an exciting time at the Marrina Mouse's Dancing House in Cowes throughout 2021.

Far from being hampered by lockdown, Belinda Phillips and her young students have used their time creatively, evolving from Marrina Mouse's Dancing House last year into the very exciting Marrina Mouse Theatre House.

Belinda has a strong background in the performing arts, and opened her dancing school in Cowes in 2019.

Over the past 35 years Belinda has worked in all areas of theatre from performing through to back of house.

And it is her love of theatre and dance that is behind her evolving program.

While dance is still very important at the school, Belinda understands that dancing on the stage is not for everyone, and that all aspects of the theatre can be fun.

It is this aspect that she is incorporating into her evolving program.

Some children prefer costume creation and are becoming immersed in the company's upcycling program and prop design. Others love music and choreography.

And storytelling as a base for their future productions has evolved in a very big way.

During lockdown, Belinda invited her students to invent their own characters. They were asked to write a story for publication, with a view to then taking their stories from the "page to the stage" in a Marrina Mouse Theatre production.

So far, three students have completed stories, and their books, illustrated by Belinda, have been published and are available at Turn the Page.

More are on the way, says Belinda. And the principle of "from the page to the stage" is now further evolving, as Belinda works with the children to weave their stories into a stage production.

Student Mia Bowtell has created the character Cottonbunny, a fashion designer with a vision of finding an inclusive land where she can showcase her work, and where dreams can be realised.

Fancy Fox is the creation of Sophie Bowen, who comes to life in a trilogy which she plans to launch in Paris next year, in French. And Ella Baker's character Peggy Peacock heads to Hollywood to become an actress, only to find that her heart actually belongs at home.

These delightful characters will now be animated by their creators, and brought to the stage through added layers of dance, costume, music and choreography.



Belinda Phillips from Marrina Mouse Theatre House, which was evolved during Covid from a dance school to incorporating aspects of theatre as well.



Two-year-old Esther Gayle is ready to take a leap this year with Marrina Mouse.

The children are currently fine tuning the elements of their characters, with their stories due to emerge next year.

The year ended for Marrina Mouse's Dancing House with a coming together to showcase the student's work at an evening at St Philip's Hall when restrictions were lifted.

The hall was transformed into the Orient Express train station, with characters and guest stepping into an opulent world with the student's characters written into a wonderful production.

2022 will start for Belinda with a name change to "Marrina Mouse Theatre House" and there is certainly an exciting program to look forward to.

Highlights will include a visit from Matt Bowtell, who will teach students about engineering and animatronics as they learn to animate the characters they have created.

Last year, Courtney Monsma (who plays Anna in Disney's Frozen) taught a class as part of Theatre Workshop

classes. And there will be more such moments in 2022.

"We have a great line up of industry leaders and performers to be part of this series," Belinda says.

"The students can get a direct line of communication with these very talented people to have a chance to ask questions and to learn from."

"This will be great especially for the students we have who are more interested in this aspect of theatre than dancing."

"And it is important for the arts sector to develop these skills as well," she comments.

"We can have our own theatre industry here. Kids get it. They are keen."

"They can create their own characters, write the script, and design the show, with my support for them to do this."

Classes in 2022 we will be running from Monday to Thursday.

Check Instagram page @Marrinamousestheatrehouse for updates, timetables and information.

Some casual classes are available, but Belinda recommends attending on a passport key to allow the child to experience the full learning experience.

Classes on offer are: Ballet and Dance, Imagineering, Page to stage, Story Telling and character development, Costume Creation.

If you would like to book in your child, email Belinda-phillips@hotmail.com or at Marrinamousestheatrehouse@hotmail.com or phone Belinda on 0416 447 307.

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Connecting kids with nature

The Phillip Island Conservation Society will be hosting Animals of Oz again this January, funded by Bass Coast Shire Council

The programs will run on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at the Phillip Island Football Club area of the Cowes Rec Reserve.

This is a great way of connecting Kids with Nature.

The mobile wildlife education programs are fun, interactive and educational, and can captivate the attention of any audience.

Animals of Oz will bring reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals to keep the kids busy and entertained, so they can get up close to them.

These are educational, fun and interactive sessions focusing on animals found on Phillip Island.

There are two sessions 10am - 10.50am and 11am - 11.50am. Children will need to be accompanied by an adult.

The sessions are free, but registrations on the day will be essential due to Covid requirements.

Inquiries to the PICS secretary - email: phillipislandconservation@gmail.com



Animals of Oz activities are returning to the Cowes Rec Reserve on January 8.

Stay safe in the surf this summer

With the Summer holidays upon us, the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WBSLSC) would like to welcome you to the beach, and to remind everyone to stay safe around the water!

"Please make sure you swim between the flags and know your limits," said a club spokesperson.

"Have a chat to one of our friendly lifesavers or lifeguards on the beach to learn more about the conditions."

The Club has released a patrol schedule below showing patrol times for the 2021/2022 season for Woolamai Beach, Smiths Beach and the Cowes Foreshore. Any changes to these times will be available on the WBSLSC Facebook page.

If you have any questions about the timetable or other general questions, please contact them on Facebook @Woolamai Beach SLSC.

For more information about the club please visit www.woolamaiibeach.org.au



Patrols are running over summer at Cowes Foreshore, Smiths Beach and Woolamai Beach. A full list of dates and times available on the WBSLSC Facebook page.

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ZONE 1

Cape Woolamai, Wimbledon Heights, Ventnor, Newhaven, Rhyll, Smiths Beach, Sunderland Bay, Surf Beach, Sunset Strip, Bass, Grantville, Pioneer Bay, Jam Jerrup, The Gurdies, Lang Lang, Silverleaves, Cowes

Bin Calendar - Zone 1



- Landfill and Organics
- Recycling and Organics
- No collection
- Free Green Waste disposal (30 Oct - 21 Nov)
- Organics Bins (green lid) are collected every week

September 2021

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Zone 1 collection days – Monday: Cape Woolamai, Wimbledon Heights, Ventnor | Tuesday: Newhaven, Rhyll, Smiths Beach, Sunderland Bay, Surf Beach, Sunset Strip | Wednesday: Bass, Grantville, Pioneer Bay, Jam Jerrup, The Gurdies, Lang Lang | Thursday: Silverleaves, Cowes

ZONE 2

Corinella, Coronet Bay, Tenby Point, Dalyston, Harmers Haven, Kilcunda, San Remo, Archies Creek, Cape Paterson, Inverloch, Wonthaggi, South Dudley, Wattle Bank

Bin Calendar - Zone 2



- Landfill and Organics
- Recycling and Organics
- No collection
- Free Green Waste disposal (30 Oct - 21 Nov)
- Organics Bins (green lid) are collected every week

September 2021

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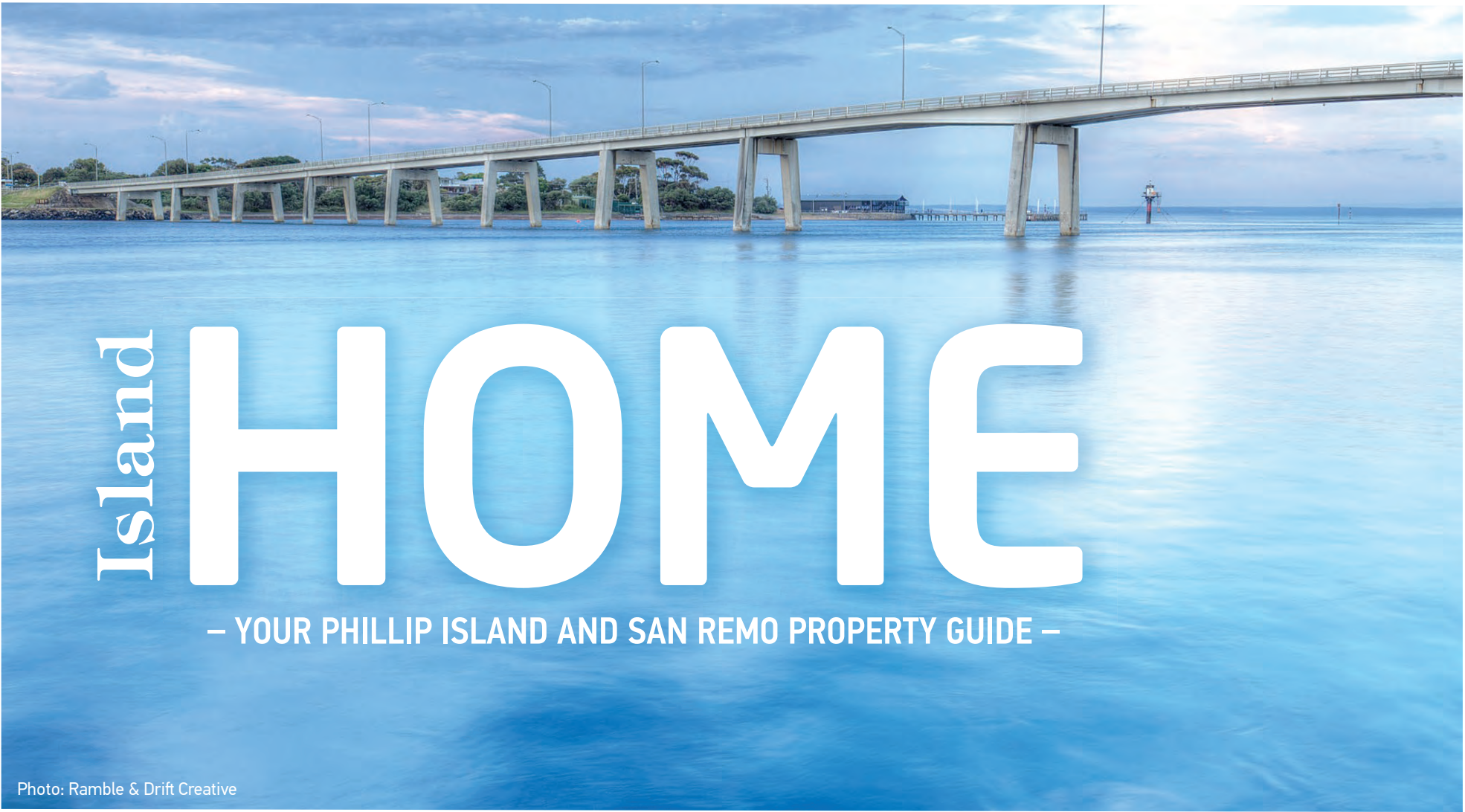
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Zone 2 collection days – Monday: Corinella, Coronet Bay, Tenby Point | Tuesday: Dalyston, Harmers Haven, Kilcunda, San Remo, Archies Creek, Cape Paterson | Wednesday: Inverloch | Friday: Wonthaggi, South Dudley, Wattle Bank



Island HOME

— YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE —

Photo: Ramble & Drift Creative

Pure Oceanic Opulence

Enviably set in the coastal village of Kilcunda and with a coastal sophistication, this luxurious family home is a premiere standout offering commanding views of the ocean coastline.

As you enter the home through the landscaped garden and larger than normal entrance you are immediately impressed with family functionality design of this home. Split over two levels it gifts you multiple outdoor entertaining zones. Upstairs

includes open plan kitchen, dining, living and the standout feature balcony taking in the ocean views.

Downstairs

- Two large bedrooms one featuring a walk-in robe, the other with built in robe
- Home office/study
- Large family/living room opening onto outdoor entertaining
- Landscaped backyard complete with feature fire pit area

- Main bathroom with feature freestanding bathtub

Upstairs

- Master suite with full ensuite and walk-in robe
- Large kitchen with stone benchtops, brekky bar seating, large walk-in pantry
- 900mm gas cooktop oven, ample cupboard and storage space
- Dining area
- Main family living room

- Entertaining balcony

Extra features include:

- Side access for boat, caravan or work trailers
- Double remote garage with extra storage and internal access
- Beautiful flooring throughout
- Clever use of under stair storage
- Solar power system

Ocean views, sophisticated design and superior location all just a

short stroll to Coastal foreshore, surf beaches, protected bays, the ever popular general store renowned for its food and coffee, famous trestle bridge and the George Bass walking trail makes this home a clear standout and will make the ultimate family coastal lifestyle property.

Contact: Michael Wilkinson, OBrien Real Estate, 0439 783 294.
Address: 9 Ocean Street, Kilcunda.
Price: \$1,440,000-\$1,520,000.



Enviably set in the coastal village of Kilcunda, this luxurious family home is a premiere standout offering commanding views of the ocean coastline.



The Ellis Arcade in Thompson Avenue is for sale, offering 1,931.71m² of retail space right in the heart of Cowes.

The jewel in the centre of town

The Ellis Arcade – Phillip Island

“The jewel in the centre of town” – the Ellis Arcade, a huge commercial freehold, is for sale.

Alex Scott & Staff Phillip Island is proud to offer the Ellis Arcade on Phillip Island.

44-46 Thompson Avenue (floor area 589m²) and 48 Thompson Avenue (floor area 160m²) – a total of

1,931.71m² right in the centre of Cowes.

Strategic freehold retail investment in one huge title, with a central location in the heart of Cowes that is enjoying a population boom.

Excellent off-street parking and huge 20 metre frontage to Thomp-

son Avenue.

Ellis Arcade is for sale by Expression of Interest – closing at 4pm on February 1, 2022.

For further information or to arrange an inspection, please contact the exclusive selling agents.

Greg Price 0419 337 441 or Brian Silver 0407 347 509.



Excellent off street parking and huge 20 metre frontage to Thompson Avenue, the Ellis Arcade is a jewel in the centre of Cowes.



Set on 2.5 acres plus an adjoining acre of crown reserve lease, this absolute waterfront property offers 270-degree close water views.

Extraordinary opportunity to secure exclusive waterfront

Located at the end of tightly held McFee's Road, the word unique offering doesn't begin to describe this stunning property.

Set on 2.5 acres plus an adjoining acre of crown reserve lease, this absolute waterfront property offers 270-degree close water views.

The property features a single level renovated brick home that offers sweeping views of the bay and beyond. Polished timber floors, two large bedrooms, a new bathroom, a new kitchen and open plan living that leads onto a big timber deck large

enough to entertain your family and friends.

Across the landscaped gardens sits a spacious one-bedroom cottage for visiting family and friends that also enjoys panoramic views of Westernport and Churchill Island.

Walking distance to Purple Hen Winery and only minutes from Cowes and San Remo restaurants, this is a once in a lifetime property.

Call Alex Scott & Staff Phillip Island on 5952 2633 to arrange a private inspection. You will not be disappointed!

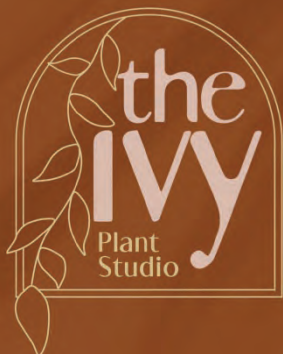


The single level renovated brick home features polished timber floors, two large bedrooms, a new bathroom and kitchen and open plan living that leads onto a big timber deck.



“Plants give us
oxygen for the lungs
and for the soul”

– Linda Solegato –



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info@sgreenenergy.com

WE ARE CURRENTLY INSTALLING IN MELBOURNE & SURROUNDING AREAS.

Upgrade activities are permitted for solo outdoor services (including at occupied premises) where physical distancing can be maintained at all time.

201 MCFEES ROAD, RHYLL



- Extraordinary exclusive waterfront property set on approx. 2.5 acres
 - Renovated 2 bedroom home with sweeping views of the bay
 - Spacious 1 bedroom cottage for visiting family & friends
- CONTACT AGENT**

1/27 STEELE STREET, COWES



- Situated in the heart of Cowes just a short stroll to Cowes beautiful north facing main beach
 - Large undercover bbq/deck area
 - 4 bed/2 bath/2 car
- \$1,100,000**

4/75 CHAPEL STREET, COWES



- Freehold title – currently leased with excellent tenants
 - Situated in central Cowes next door to ALDI
 - Currently operating as 'Island Whole Foods'
- AUCTION SATURDAY 15TH JANUARY @ 2PM ON SITE**

LOT 2 COWES-RHYLL ROAD, COWES



- Approx. 80 acres with views over Westernport Bay and the Rhyll Inlet
 - Offering excellent sites for a home STCA
- \$1,800,000 to \$1,900,000**

22 KOALA STREET, COWES



- Situated only a short walk to the beach and the main street of Cowes
 - 570m² (approx.) corner allotment
- AUCTION 29TH JAN @ 2PM On Site**

3/8 PARK STREET, COWES



SOLD

58 BOYS HOME ROAD, NEWHAVEN



- Designer home with water views to Churchill Island and beyond
 - Features include: high output solar panels, indoor spa bath, wood fire stove
 - 4 bed/3 bath/3 cars
- \$1,500,000 to \$1,600,000**

14 CLIFTON CRESCENT, COWES



- Near new designer home situated in Whytesands Estate
 - Spacious fully fenced well established allotment of 654m² (approx.)
 - 4 bed/2 bath/2 car
- \$950,000**

44-48 THOMPSON AVENUE, COWES (ELLIS ARCADE)



- Strategic Freehold Retail Investment on 1 title
 - Commercial 1 Zone – 1,931.71 m² in total
 - 48 Thompson Avenue currently has long term tenant
- EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CLOSING TUESDAY 1ST FEB @ 4PM**

403 SETTLEMENT ROAD, COWES



- Perfect entertainers home 2 blocks from Cowes north facing beaches
 - Open plan kitchen, living & dining downstairs with a second kitchen and living area upstairs
 - 6 bed/6 bath/2 cars
- \$1,550,000 to \$1,650,000**

48 FIRST AVENUE, CAPE WOOLAMAI



- Located close to the surf and bay beaches of Cape Woolamai
 - Large entertaining deck with water views
 - 4 bed/2bath/2 car
- \$950,000 to \$1,020,000**

2 CASSELL COURT, SAN REMO



- Incredible bay and ocean water views
 - Situated on a spacious 775m² (approx.) well established allotment
 - 2 bed/2 bath/2 cars
- EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CLOSE 10TH JAN @ 4PM**

4 CLIPPER CRESCENT, SUNSET STRIP



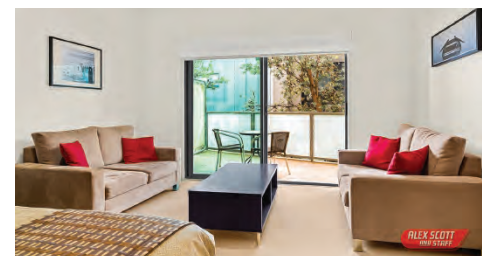
- Enjoy now – develop later!
 - Just minutes from Smiths Beach and Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit
 - 3 bed/1 bath
- \$750,000**

3 WALTON STREET, COWES



- Brick veneer home on a large 720m² (approx.) allotment
 - Open plan north facing living area with access to deck
 - 3 bed/2 bath/2 cars
- \$940,000 to \$985,000**

232/1 FINDLAY STREET, COWES



- Income earning holiday home in the heart of Cowes
 - Located close to everything Cowes has to offer
- \$350,000 to \$360,000**

32 ALBANY ROAD, COWES



SOLD

**WISHING EVERY-
ONE A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS WITH
FAMILY & FRIENDS
AND A HEALTHY
FREE 2022**

41 LANTANA ROAD, CAPE WOOLAMAI



- Neat as a pin with room for all your family & friends
 - Short stroll to the shops & beach
 - 3 bed/2 bath/2 cars
- \$780,000 to \$820,000**

1/34-36 JENNER AVENUE, COWES



SOLD

13 SEACREST DRIVE, COWES



- Beautiful architectural custom built home
 - Fully fenced rear yard with ample room for the boat or caravan
 - 4 bed/2 bath/2 car
- \$990,000 to \$999,000**

14 ROYDON ROAD, COWES



SOLD

Unique coastal acreage

A very unique coastal property boasting amazing ocean views consisting of 20 acres of countryside including 170 metres of absolute beach frontage – create your own oasis.

Here is a rare opportunity to live a free and natural lifestyle away from the hustle and bustle. Surrounded by native wildlife, birds, bushwalking trails, sandy beaches to explore and magnificent panoramic surf views, get away from it all.

This property delivers on privacy and seclusion with the added bonus of only being a 10-minute drive into San Remo, or five minutes from the quaint shopping village of Cape Woolamai which offers a tavern, restaurants, cafes, surf shop and more.

If you are looking to build your very own beachfront oasis there is an existing four-bedroom, double storey home, ready for you to renovate to your own taste.

Take advantage of this opportunity with space and privacy being more attractive than ever and this property certainly won't disappoint the buyer looking to get away from everything ... without going far at all!

Contact **Joshua Dunstan**. OBrien Real Estate, 0407 558 933

Address: 75 Veterans Drive, Newhaven
Auction: January 29, 2022 at 12pm
(if not sold prior)



With 20 acres of countryside including 170 metres of absolute beach frontage – create your own oasis at this unique Newhaven property.



COASTAL

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Servicing Phillip Island & Surrounding Areas

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Factory 1, 60 Genista St, San Remo



OBrien Real Estate

Judith
Wright

LK0200AAA



6 Possum Place, **Cowes**

4 2 2 2

Coastal resort style

\$1,775,000-\$1,950,000

Joshua Dunstan 0407 558 933



1 Miami Court, **Smiths Beach**

4 2 4 1

Sensational views

\$1,690,000-\$1,850,000

Joshua Dunstan 0407 558 933



3 Hilltop Crescent, **Rhyll**

3 2 2 3

Hilltop Opulence

\$1,400,000-\$1,500,000

Joshua Dunstan 0407 558 933



5 Breeze Court, **San Remo**

5 3 2 1.5

Luxury on half acre with views

Expressions of interest

Jenni Kent 0428 566 643



14 Curlew Way, **Cowes**

4 2 2 2

Stand out from the crowd

\$950,000-\$1,000,000

Greg Davis 0488 279 740



10-12 Dunvegan Crescent, **Surf Beach**

6 2 3 3

Historic beauty

Contact Agent

Jaime Morris 0408 367 310



235 Korrine Road, **Glen Alvie**

4 1 1 4

Rural Lifestyle Oasis

Contact Agent

Michael Wilkinson 0439 783 294



4/115 Church Street, **Cowes**

3 2 2 1

Modern townhouse

\$740,000-\$780,000

Kristina Walters 0498 054 559



9 Tolley Avenue, **Surf Beach**

3 1 1

Large block, great potential

\$730,000

Jaime Morris 0408 367 310



2/7 Wyndham Avenue, **Cowes**

3 2 1 1

Great location

\$689,000-\$739,000

Kristina Walters 0498 054 559



21 Diane Crescent, **Wimbledon Heights**

3 2 2 5

Ideal holiday home

\$750,000

Joshua Dunstan 0407 558 933



1A Dunvegan Crescent, **Surf Beach**

4 2 2 2

Calling all Investors!

\$699,000

Jaime Morris 0408 367 310



52-54 Thompson Avenue | 5952 5100
obrienrealestate.com.au/cowes



Uninterrupted views and beach access

A once in a generation opportunity awaits! With views from both levels, this very large home caters for all ages and family size. Watch the ever-changing views from the tide changing,

to the boats coming and going, even the lights of Somers across bay. The excellent beach access only adds to this extremely sought after location; a very short walk to Cowes central.

A very large second living area which includes a kitchen means visiting family and friends have their own area. **Contact: Michael McLeod, First National Phillip Island 0412 712 034. Address: 7 Koonwarra Crt, Cowes**



A cook's dream – an expansive kitchen with loads of storage room and stainless steel appliances.



Uninterrupted views and total beach access in this large family home.



Enjoy the ever-changing views, the boats coming and going and even the lights of Somers across the bay from the balcony and decks.



FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE

PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED

THE GREAT ENTERTAINER



For sale \$890,000 - \$959,000
52 Grampian Boulevard, Cowes

This beautifully presented residence has genuine appeal from the moment you set foot onto the property. Very much designed to sit comfortably in its coastal setting. The main focus of the dwelling is the large living & kitchen areas. Complete with 4 large bedrooms, ensuite & WIR to Main, there's plenty of room for everyone. The property takes full advantage of the north facing aspect with the large undercover alfresco area perfect for entertaining family and friends. This property is maintenance free and is only minutes to Cowes shopping centre and beaches.

UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS, NORTH FACING, BEACH ACCESS



For sale Contact Agent
7 Koonwarra Court, Cowes

Once in a generation opportunity awaits, with views from both levels this very large home caters for all ages and family size. Watch the ever changing views from the tide changing to the boats coming and going, even the lights of Somers across bay. The excellent beach access only add to this extremely sought after location, a very short walk to Cowes central. With a very large second living area which includes a kitchen means having family and friends have their own areas.
CALL MICHAEL MCLEOD M: 0412 712 034

www.phillipislandfn.com.au

OPEN 7 DAYS

60 Thompson Ave, Cowes

5952 3922



Nine new blocks have been released in the Penniwells estate in San Remo, offering unobstructed ocean views.



Stage 10 is the final and absolute last chance to secure land in this superb development, offering outstanding coastal water views.

Premium sites in Penniwells estate

The culmination of this magnificent estate is showcased by the remaining nine premium allotments; situated close to the waters' edge, capturing the unobstructed ocean views with a short walk to the beach and shopping village.

With civil works complete and titles immi-

nent, this is a unique opportunity not to be missed.

For those wishing to realise their dream of a move to the stunning seaside location of San Remo, the time for change has never been more appealing.

Combining beach access via the walking track, a variety of block sizes, wide frontages and outstanding coastal water views, Stage 10 is the final and absolute last chance to secure residential land in this superb ten-stage development.

Penniwells San Remo is the place to be. Capturing the coastal essence, this unique location is a true celebration of seaside living.

Seeing is believing! Contact selling agents – Garth Lisle Property Consultants to book an appointment to inspect.



GARTH LISLE
Property Consultants

PENNIWELLS



**WATER VIEWS
FOREVER**



**EXPRESSIONS
OF INTEREST
CLOSING:
4PM FRIDAY
21 JANUARY,
2022**

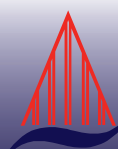
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SELLING AGENTS:

SCOTT LETHBRIDGE

0407 543 154

JOHN SHAW

0418 545 041



GARTH LISLE
Property Consultants

Shop 3/129 Marine Parade SAN REMO
5678 5878 www.glpc.com.au

WWW.GLPC.COM.AU

WONTHAGGI UNION COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

Summer Cinema



A Boy Called Christmas [PG] 1h46mins

Tue 21 Dec 4.30pm
Wed 22 Dec 7.00pm
Thur 23 Dec 4.00pm
Fri 24 Dec 1.00pm
Sun 26 Dec 10.00am



Encanto

[PG] 1h47mins

Sun 26 Dec 4.00pm
Tue 28 Dec 10.00am
Wed 29 Dec 4.00pm
Fri 31 Dec 10.00am
Sun 2 Jan 1.30pm
Tue 4 Jan 10.00am
Thur 6 Jan 1.00pm
Sun 8 Jan 10.00am
Tue 11 Jan 4.30pm
Fri 14 Jan 10.00am
Tue 18 Jan 10.00am



Boss Baby [PG] 1h48mins

Tue 28 Dec 4.00pm
Wed 29 Dec 10.00am
Thur 30 Dec 1.00pm
Sat 1 Jan 10.00am
Wed 5 Jan 1.30pm
Fri 7 Jan 4.00pm
Sun 9 Jan 4.00pm
Wed 12 Jan 1.00pm
Sat 15 Jan 10.00am



Welcome to Smellville

[PG] 1h25mins

Wed 19 Jan 4.00pm
Thur 20 Jan 4.00pm
Sun 23 Jan 1.00pm
Tue 25 Jan 10.00am



Dear Evan Hansen [M] 2h17mins

Thur 6 Jan 4.00pm
Fri 7 Jan 1.00pm
Tue 11 Jan 7.00pm
Wed 12 Jan 10.00am
Tue 18 Jan 1.00pm
Thur 20 Jan 7.00pm



Spider-Man: No Way Home [M] 2h28mins

Thur 13 Jan 7.00pm
Fri 14 Jan 3.30pm
Sat 15 Jan 7.00pm
Wed 19 Jan 12.30pm
Fri 21 Jan 1.00pm
Sat 22 Jan 10.00am
Sun 23 Jan 4.00pm



Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre

96 Graham St, Wonthaggi 3995
find us on Facebook
www.wonthaggiartscentre.com.au
phone: 03 5671 2470



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THE PULSE

Events, entertainment and community news



Celebrating the 20,000th bag created by the Phillip Island Boomerang Bags group are (left to right), Cheryl Woodruff, Marita Kraft, Vi Pittorino and Noelle Newman.

Boomerang Bags hit a magnificent 20,000 milestone

In less than five years, the Phillip Island Boomerang Bags group has produced a massive 20,000 bags for our community.

The Boomerang Bags girls are proud of their incredible achievement – and rightly so.

Phillip Island Boomerang Bags started in March 2017 and even a pandemic couldn't stop them.

With regular sessions two or three times a week, they "plugged away at it" through Covid to keep themselves sane and to support one another mentally and physically .. including food, cakes and chocolates.

"We don't go hungry that's for sure!" laughed the sewing champs.

Covid has seen a decrease in

the numbers of participants, with the group reduced to just four or five core members now. That reduction in members has affected their bag output.

"A lot of work goes into each and every bag and we pride ourselves on the quality," they told the Advertiser.

"We love making them and they truly are a labour of love. We donate 20-30 bags per week to the PICAL pantry."

"If anyone would like to come along to be involved in any way, we'd love to have you on board."

"No need to be a sewer! There's plenty of preparation jobs apart from sewing – ironing, screen printing, cutting or you could always be a lunch monitor!"

RSL Meritorious Service Award

Phillip Island RSL past president Greg Mead was presented with the prestigious RSL Meritorious Service Medal, by RSL State President Dr Robert Webster, at a ceremony at the RSL last week.

The Meritorious Service Medal is the RSL's highest honour, and to be eligible, a nominee must be a life member of the League and have given outstanding service within the RSL over a long period of time.

Dr Webster commented that the award is made on a very restricted basis, to preserve its prestige.

He paid tribute to Greg's long involvement in the League, describing him as an outstanding Vietnam veteran, and a living example of the RSL motto "Serving Still."

Greg joined the Dandenong RSL in 1970, and became immediately involved with the issues and concerns experienced at the time by Vietnam veterans in the community. He later transferred to the Waverley sub branch where he served on the committee from 1987 to 2004, as the welfare and pensions officer.

On moving to Phillip Island, Greg served on the RSL committee here from 2005 to 2020, with 11 years as president.

Dr Webster described his work with Vietnam Veterans Association (VVAA) over that entire period as outstanding.

During the 70s and 80s he sat on the VVAA committee (Melbourne branch) serving as secretary and president.

He was a major contributor to the success of the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade in Sydney in 1987, and he was part of the fundraising efforts for the National Vietnam Memorial.

Dr Webster made mention of Greg's work with the Agent Orange Trust Board, and acknowledged his achievements as the



Phillip Island RSL past president Greg Mead was presented with the prestigious RSL Meritorious Service Medal, by RSL State President Dr Robert Webster, at a ceremony at the RSL last week. Phillip Island RSL president Chris Thompson is also pictured.

founding secretary of the magnificent National Vietnam Veterans Museum and service on that board for 20 years.

At state level, Greg was employed as state membership and recruiting officer, and administration officer and led the relocation of ANZAC House in 2001 as it underwent a major renovation.

Dr Webster said that Greg's involvement at the Phillip Island RSL had been an intrinsic part of the growth of the sub-branch, with leadership and experience seeing it debt free and financially sound.

Greg was made a Life Member of the RSL in 2003, inducted into the RSL Hall of Fame in 2013, and honoured with a Medal in the order of Australia in 2015.

At community level, Greg is a Bendigo Bank Board member, part of the Phillip Island Medical and Action Hospital Action Group, and committee member of the Phillip Island Progress Association.



Kylie Rose, who celebrated 25 years at Australia Post in November, shares some insights of her career and her love of Phillip Island and its community.

Australia Post through Rose tinted glasses

On November 11, Kylie Rose, Manager of Cowes Post Office, celebrated 25 years with Australia Post. She shares some insights of her incredible tenure with us.

"My first day on the job feels like a lifetime ago, but in a strange way also feels like yesterday."

I began my career at Australia Post at the age of 24, firstly as a night sorter in the Melbourne suburb of Camberwell, before becoming a Postie, whizzing around on a motorbike with my long red hair streaming out of my helmet – a sure giveaway it was me.

Call out a suburb and I'll give you the postcode, it's my only party trick!

After some great years out on the road I began to seek out my next challenge and so landed a role as Manager of one of Australia Post's largest delivery centres in the eastern suburbs, with over 100 staff.

It was around this time that my mum became unwell with cancer and I began to consider where my support network was.

My best friend had moved to Phillip Island some years back and had fallen in love with the community there. Frequent visits to her, the occasional big night out and adventures along the rugged coastline sealed the deal for me, and so I began looking to buy a property.

Thankfully this was back in 2003 when property prices hadn't gone through the roof, or I would never have made it here!

Sadly, Mum passed away early the next year, which possibly gave me the push to permanently relocate my life to a smaller and more welcoming community. Whilst losing Mum has been the hardest thing to

process, I am grateful it led me here.

Remarkably, an internal job came up to manage the Cowes Post Office, and whilst I didn't think I had a hope in hell of getting it, I applied anyway. Fifteen years later, here I still am!

I feel exceptionally proud to have worked with the one employer over the past 25 years. Australia Post and its staff feel like an extension of family.

We're all a little worn down after the events of the past two years, however, I would be nowhere without the remarkable group of men and women who turn up day-in-day-out and get the job done.

From our delivery drivers to posties to sorters and our retail staff, it's a pretty special thing we have going on at Cowes Post Office.

It's the people who inspire me to get out of bed each morning.

I'm also constantly blown away by the generosity and kindness of our Phillip Island community.

I love that my job has allowed me to get to know so many of you and your children.

I'm grateful for the flower deliveries, the chocolates, the quiet jokes across the counter and the gratitude we are shown on a daily basis (minus the odd piece of abuse thrown our way, but there's always someone in the queue who pipes up to support us!).

Thank you, Phillip Island and Australia Post, here's to the next 25 years ..."



Steven (Bakehouse owner) received a certificate of appreciation from Newhaven Primary students Pheonix, Harvey and Ava for his support for the school's breakfast club throughout the year.

Newhaven Primary School presented the San Remo Bakehouse with a certificate of appreciation for their ongoing support throughout the year. The bakery has donated bread throughout

the year for the Newhaven Primary School breakfast club.

Breakfast club takes place three times a week at the school and offers students a healthy start to the day.



Pam Rothfield presenting "Thank You" gift boxes to the San Remo SES on behalf of the Rotary Club. Gift boxes were also presented to CFA, Ambulance and Police, as well as Bass Coast Health.

A round up of this year's projects

By the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo

Corpuls CPR

Rotary clubs often team up with neighbouring clubs on special projects that can benefit members of both local communities.

Recently, Ray McCurry, President of the Wonthaggi Rotary Club, addressed members of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo regarding a major project their club has initiated.

Their plan is to purchase five Corpuls CPR machines which will be installed in ambulances across Bass Coast Shire. These Corpuls CPR machines, or Mechanical Chest Compression Devices (MCCD), are automated external cardiac compression machines that can deliver effective and consistent compressions to a patient's chest. This eliminates the need for manual compression by paramedics in an emergency and can be used by single responders. The machines cost approximately \$21,000 each and the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo donated \$13,000 towards this worthwhile project.

Special thank you

According to club members, one of the special things about being a Rotarian is the ability to be able to give back to the community and personally acknowledge many of the local unsung heroes.

Pam Rothfield, on behalf of members of the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo and their community committee, recently pre-



A guitar donated to the Rotary Op Shop has been given to the music department at Cowes Primary School. Making the presentation (from left to right): Bill Young (Rotary), Simon Nolan (music teacher at Cowes Primary), student Flynn Dengerink and John Tennant (Rotary).

sented "Thank You" gift boxes to Ambulance personnel in Cowes, the CFA, Police and SES in San Remo and Cowes and Bass Coast Health.

All recipients were appreciative, delighted and thrilled to receive the beautiful boxes and thanked Pam and the Club members for their gift.

Sounds great

Running an Op Shop can sometimes attract some very different donations to the usual clothes, linen and household goods.

A lady recently brought an electric guitar

into the Rotary Op Shop. The guitar was recognised as a quality instrument, a fact confirmed after a valuation. The Club decided it might be of greatest community benefit, especially for youth, in the hands of the Cowes Primary School music department. It was therefore presented to a very grateful Simon Nolan, music teacher, who was absolutely thrilled with the guitar and thanked Rotary representatives Bill Young and John Tennant and the Op Shop for the gift. The guitar was put to immediate good use by Grade 6 pupil Flynn Dengerink, guitarist in the school band.

Water high mark for charity

Westernport Water customers and visitors to the region have helped raise over \$2700 for charity by having their say on water and wastewater services.

From September until early December this year, more than one thousand people completed Westernport Water's community engagement surveys, sharing their views about water quality, wastewater services, water prices and what they expect from their water provider.

Customer surveys were conducted over the phone, online and at community events and aimed to capture preferences and priorities to inform prices from 2023 - 2028.

For every survey completed, customers could choose a charity to receive a \$2 donation from Westernport Water.

Thanks to the strong response, a total of \$2276 will be shared between four chosen charities, including Free 3D Hands, Bass Coast Community Foundation, the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre and WaterAid Australia.

The Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre were also the lucky winners of the \$500 prize draw.

"A huge thank you to everyone who completed our surveys," said Westernport Water's Managing Director Dona Tantirimudalige.

"Not only did you help raise money for some great community causes, but you also provided valuable and important feedback that will inform water and wastewater services in the future."

Survey results and insights from phase one are now being analysed and the results will be published on the Westernport Water website in the New Year.

"Early results from the surveys indicated a strong customer focus on drinking water taste and reliability, affordable bills and responding to climate change," Ms Tantirimudalige said.

"Our next step is to delve deeper into these themes and develop targeted proposals to address the improvements customers are seeking."

"We encourage customers to get involved in

the next phase of our engagement, which will focus on key projects and improvements for our five-year plan."

She said customers will have another opportunity to influence products and services by participating in a series of workshops planned for February and March 2022.

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PICAL volunteers (left to right) Nerida Stubbles, Barb Burns, Greg Thompson (centre manager), Heather Liney, and Geoff Russell from Westernport Water.

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Summer Cinema cont.



The French Dispatch

[M] 1h48mins

Thur 6 Jan 7.00pm
Sat 8 Jan 1.00pm
Thur 13 Jan 10.00am
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Tue 18 Jan 7.00pm
Wed 19 Jan 7.00pm



The Last Duel

[MA15+] 2h32mins

Tue 21 Dec 1.00pm
Thur 23 Dec 10.00am
Tue 28 Dec 7.00pm
Sun 2 Jan 7.00pm



Dune

[M] 2h43mins

Thur 30 Dec 7.00pm
Tue 4 Jan 7.00pm
Wed 5 Jan 10.00am
Sat 8 Jan 7.00pm
Tue 11 Jan 1.00pm
Thur 13 Jan 3.30pm



Many Saints of Newark

[MA15+] 2h01mins

Wed 22 Dec 10.00am
Sun 26 Dec 7.00pm
Sat 1 Jan 7.00pm
Tue 4 Jan 4.00pm



Cry Macho

[M] 1h44mins

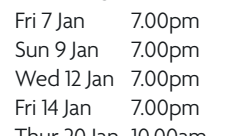
Fri 7 Jan 7.00pm
Sun 9 Jan 7.00pm
Wed 12 Jan 7.00pm
Fri 14 Jan 7.00pm
Thur 20 Jan 10.00am



Licorice Pizza

[M] 2h13mins

Tue 25 Jan 4.00pm
Sat 29 Jan 7.00pm
Sun 30 Jan 4.00pm



West Side Story

[M] 2h36mins

Sat 29 Jan 3.30pm
Sun 30 Jan 7.00pm

\$15 Adults

\$10 Children

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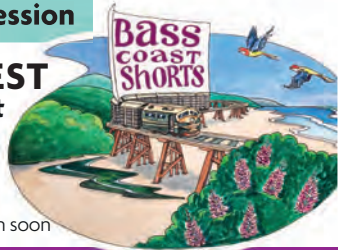
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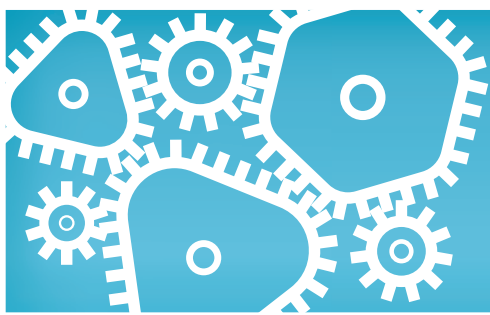
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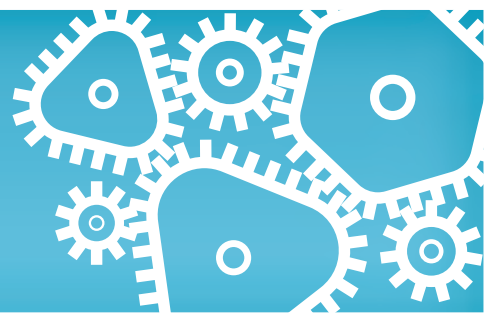
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Banfields ends year on high note

Life has been very different for the staff and residents at Banfields Aged Care throughout the Covid Pandemic.

And 2021 has again been a difficult year, as aged care facilities continued to adhere to the strict rules and regulations put in place in order to protect their vulnerable, frail and elderly residents from the virus.

No longer possible were regular visits from friends and loved ones, or the outings and shopping trips so much looked forward to and previously enjoyed.

And the facility's entertainment program, which revolved around guest speakers, performances by local choirs, demonstrations, craft sessions and the like ... all of which make life more enjoyable ... of necessity had to come to a complete halt.

However, members of the Banfields Lifestyle team, headed by Robyn Montague, stepped up to the challenge, and worked tirelessly throughout the year to keep everyone happy and occupied.

And they are eternally grateful for the support and assistance given to them by the community for their endeavours.

"We had to become very inventive and introduce loads of new inhouse activities as the months of lockdown continued," Robyn said.

Games such as balloon badminton, drumming, a regular pick a box quiz ... even games involving nerf guns and remote-control cars were introduced ... and helped keep spirits high.

Staff interaction in all activities was consciously increased to make up for elements in the entertainment program that could no longer be provided, and staff undertook personal shopping for residents no longer able to leave the building to do this for themselves.

Robyn also kept in touch with the community via the Phillip Island



Banfields residents Betty, Peg and Mary enjoy a Devonshire tea afternoon. The delicious fresh scones with jam and cream, and tea, were served in beautiful fine china.

Community Page ... posting photos and stories to keep them in touch with the goings on at Banfields during lockdown, and the community in return supported them "sensationally" she explained.

"We kept in touch with the community, locked out over this time, by posting regularly, and families have been able to see their loved one in a different way, through photos of their involvement in the ongoing activities and events we were running here.

"Our residents are a resilient generation," she comments.

"They have lived through a lot.

"Remembrance Day was a very special event for them that we were able to share with the community through this page."

The community, in return, have been "sensational."

"The donations and connections we have been given have been

amazing."

They have enriched the lives of residents and provided goods for use in the activities program.

Such donations include RU OK cookies from Terri Hamley, wool donations from the discount shop, vases, and beautiful Christmas decorations from Flowers of Phillip Island, hot cross buns and mince tarts from Bakers Delight, flowers and magazines from Coles, and seedlings, lollies, letters, photos, post cards, board games and jig saws from many community members.

A bird house was donated for the residents to put together, community members read to residents over the phone, Reverend Ian Turnidge conducted Uniting Church Zoom services and Father Manny from St Mary's delivered communion regularly.

"The community response to us has been overwhelming," said



Robyn Montague (left) Banfields Lifestyle Team Leader, and Lana Basso, Director of Care, have thanked the community for its wonderful support over the last year during the Covid lockdown.

Robyn, "and it has made such a difference to residents' lives.

"It has been a difficult two years, and the community gave us so much. That has meant a lot to both residents and staff."

When Robyn herself was put into quarantine for a fortnight, after being identified as a close contact, a community member stepped forward and did her shopping for her, as she could not leave home.

And it was not just one sided.

When Banfields residents made 100 Christmas bon bons in an activity session, they did not have to look far to find a home for them.

They were able to give back when they read on the community page that the Uniting Church was re-opening up their Monday meal nights, and donated the bon bons to them.

The year is ending on a high note at Banfields, with restrictions eas-

ing a little as vaccination rates soar.

A staff Christmas concert with carols, and a finale where everyone sings "I still call Australia home" was highly anticipated, and a pre-Christmas bbq last week was also enjoyed.

On Christmas Day, dinner with all of the trimmings will be served.

As the year ends Robyn and her seven member team want the community to know how much they appreciated their thoughtfulness, and want to say thank you to everyone who cared.

"Their kindness was so thoughtful, and hugely important to our morale."

Robyn and her team are looking forward to more freedom as 2022 looms.

With the support of the community a given, they are ready for whatever the new year brings.

/ Sponsored Article /

Christmas is coming!

All across the island, people are decking the halls and hanging the lights.



Waiting for some special deliveries. Sheree McCurdy of Cowes.



What's red and white and joyful all over? Michele Yeppers' beautiful Christmas tree.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas - as the lights go on along Thompson Avenue.



The moon was putting on its own Christmas light show above this house in Amanda Close.



Ablaze with lights in Grandview Grove.

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The Cowes recreation reserve will receive four new high-efficiency LED (200 lux level) field lighting towers and fixtures, making it "fit for purpose for various levels of play".

Cowes footy oval under the spotlight

The Phillip Island Football and Netball Club will receive four new, high-efficiency lighting towers at the Cowes oval, as part of a \$1.2 million state government windfall.

Phillip Island, Dalyston, and Inverloch-Kongwak Football Netball Clubs will all receive new lighting under the grant funding, with Bass Coast Shire councillors last week awarding the tender for the project.

RJC Electrical Solutions was awarded the tender, with works set to be finished as part of the shire's 2021/22 capital works program.

The Cowes recreation reserve will receive four new high-efficiency LED (200 lux level) field lighting towers and fixtures, making it "fit for purpose for various levels of play".

About \$100,000 of the budget is required for power upgrades, which

must be performed by AusNet Services.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Michael Whelan said adequate lighting was essential for the viability of almost all playing fields, enhancing the team, umpire, and spectator experience.

"It boosts visibility and allows players of all ages to train and compete safely and effectively at night," Cr Whelan said.

Phillip Island bowls

Men's pairs championship:

Bruce Puncher and Patrick Ryan defeated Ken Gill and John Matthews.

Steve Kantor and Alan Beddowes defeated Chris Fricke and Barry Grazules.

Russell May and Daryl Major defeated Stuart Cunningham and Wayne Barr.

John Parker and Peter Ferguson defeated David Hanlon and Mike Smith.

Paul Brown and Bob Hurst defeated M. Haack and D. Snare.

Barrie Goldsbury and Brian Arnold defeated John Cashen and David Hoffman.

R. Walker and John Newcombe defeated Trevor Gibson and Jimmy Kirk.

Midweek pennant results:

Division 1: Played at home against Meeniyan.

Bob Hurst, Lois May, Richard Poole and Robyn Dennis 21 – 18.

Jools Dusting, Polly Major, Pat Davis and Pam Cameron 27 – 13.

Well done to Jools Dusting in her first pennant game.

Nola Brown, Di Pollock, Gwenda Arnold and Marilyn Forrest 20 – 18, giving the Island the overall win 68 shots to 49.

Division 2: Were away at Tarwin Lower.

Ann Allen, Inge Royce, John Routley and Sandra Read 28 – 9, great win!

Merrilyn King, Beb Hyslop, Jan Stubbs and Phylliss Major 26 – 17.

Monika Poole, Judy Christie, Terry Dawes and Diane Bateman went down only just 15 – 19 however, the Island still took the overall win 69 – 45.

Ladder

Division 1: The Island sits in 3rd spot behind Corinella in 2nd and Inverloch in 1st.

Division 2: 6th spot behind Wonthaggi in 1st.

Well done everyone.

Saturday pennant results

Division 1: Played at home against Leongatha, while the sun was shining the wind played havoc. Jimmy Kirk, Russel Taylor, Peter Ferguson and Peter Forrest had a win 36 – 15.

Russell May, Graeme Cornell, Michael Smith and Daryl Major went down by four 24 – 28.

John Matthews, Wayne Barr, Kev-

in Brown and John Newcombe also went down 16 – 25 however, the Island had just enough to take the overall win 76-68.

Phillip Island 2: Played away against Leongatha and were not so successful.

Bob Hurst, Alan Beddowes, John Parker and Kevin Wagner got up 32 – 21.

Paul Brown, Marilyn Forrest, Robyn Dennis and David Hanlon went down 14 – 35 and Steve Farrelly Barrie Goldsbury, Chris Fricke and Stuart Cunningham were defeated 15 – 29.

The Island going down overall 61 – 85.

Division 2: Played at home against Toora and went down overall 77 – 68.

John Routley, Polly Major, Norm Waters and Phil Martin 19 – 25.

Karen Cashen, Patrick Ryan, Brian Arnold and Tony McKiernan had a win 26 – 23 and Trevor Gibson Bob Carter, Bob Anketell and Hans Olierook also went down 23 – 29.

Division 4: Travelled to Port Welshpool and returned home victorious 75 – 53 and remain at the top of the ladder.

Clive Smith, Serge Castel, Paul Bean and Phylliss Major 21 – 18.

Mario Micallef, Bruce Puncher, David Hoffman and Greg Dixon 28 – 18 and Jim Murray, Lino Micallef, Lou Bellino and Ian Diss 26 – 17.

Division 5: Travelled to Wonthaggi and despite going down overall by 5 shots 64 – 69 they remain at the top of the ladder.

Ken Linton, Trish Williams, Brian Legg and Terry Dawes 26 – 21.

Graeme White, Ray Pepper, Di Bateman and Peter McGregor 16 – 30. Sam Cachia, Murray McClimont, Julie Pora and Carol Hoffman 22 – 18. Well done everyone.

Pre-corporate challenge

The final game of the pre-corporate challenge was on Thursday, a big thank you to our sponsors for this event – Alex Scott and Staff Real Estate, Betsy's Glass and Kumho Tyres.

A huge thank you to George Mol for organising it and his fabulous band of volunteers doing the barbecue, the bar, the raffles and just helping out in general.

The winners were:
1st place: Haymes Paints – Leigh, Pepi and Dave.

2nd place: Ray White rollers – Daryl, Sue and Ox.

3rd place: Leisure Style – Walshy, Greg and Graeme.

The Wooden Spoon went to the Girlies – Elaine, Tracey and Carol.

Well done everyone and see you all in 2022.

Social bowls

We have had some warm sunny days on the island during the week and Thursday 19 of our social bowlers took to the green to soak up the sunshine.

The winners for the day with two wins +32 were Neville Stevens, Beb Hyslop and Eric Wild and the runners up with a win and draw and 26 shots up were Glenda Grazules, Jools Dusting, Reg Excel and Joan Farmer, well done everyone.

Winners below. Neville Stevens, Beb Hyslop and Eric Wild.

Merry Xmas and see you on the greens in 2022.



Pre-Corporate bowls challenge from left to right: Leigh, Pepi, Dave and George Mol (organiser) and Casey Waters from Alex Scott Real Estate, sponsors for this event.

Phillip Island golf results

Mens Golf

Tuesday, December 14 Men's Stableford.

Division 1 winner was Steve Dugan (6) with 38 points from Barry Grazules (6) with 37 points.

Division 2 winner was Carl Russo (22) with 40 points on countback to Fred Ardern (23)

Nine-hole competition winner was Greg Dean (38) with 21 points from Bruce Smith (36) with 20 points.

Thursday, December 16 Open Stableford.

Winner was Trevor MacFarlane (24) with 39 points from Barry Melven (29) and John Mahony (28) both with 38 points.

Nine-hole stableford winner was John Niven (22) with 20 points on countback from Harold Jackson (33).

Saturday, December 18 4BBB Stableford.

Men's Winners: Anthony Johns (15) and Jason King (17) won on countback with 47 points to Syd Hadley (14) and John McKechnie (15).

Ladies Winners: Vicki Roff-Smith

(22) and Megan Elbaz (45) with 45 points on countback from Deb Orr (13) and Trish Jamieson (43).

Men's NTP: 5th Rob Haydon, 7th Ray Jansson, 10th Owen Trumper, 17th Nev Thurgood.

Ladies NTP: 5th Jeanette Diss, 7th Wendy Hopkins, 10th Ada Anglin, 17th Rhonda Boyd.

Isaac Batty had an eagle on the 18th Hole.

Nine-hole competition winner was Maureen Ellard with 21 points.

Next week's Xmas Day – CLOSED.

New Year's Day, January 1, 2022 Stableford Event.

Ladies Golf

Wednesday, December 15, 18 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Kaye Huther with 41 points from Rhonda Boyd 38 points and 3rd was Helen Coghlan with 37 points.

NTP: 5th Di Ray, 7th Jill Tyrrell, 10th Wendy Hopkins, 17th Kaye Huther.

9 Hole competition winner was Roz Wells with 19 points.



RSL golf team

RSL golf team plays nine holes on Fridays from 12 noon and play at the Phillip Island golf club internal competition. The golf team has 25 members, including five women and

all players are also RSL members. The team is looking into expanding and playing at other RSL Clubs in the near future. This year's trophy winners were: Club Champion – Kevin Rosen. Runners up – Lindsay Grass. The Naga winner – Brian Goldberg.

Midweek bowls

Midweek Bowls winners were John Nicholson, Luke Monkton and Peter Thorley.

Runners up were Vern Elliott, Gwen Jeffrey, Sue Wood and Bob Arnold.

One game winners were Robyn Coulson, David Talbot and Chris Coulson.

Midweek bowls was played at San Remo on a near perfect day blue skies and the sun was kind to all. The green is in great condition which made bowling very pleasurable.

The usual happy banter could be heard across the rinks and our members were enjoying their last bowling day before Christmas.

As usual we had winners and losers, some high scores were recorded.

Winning score on a count back was 35 points, runners up also 35 points and one game winners 34 points.

The RCH wrong bias tin did very well, and our treasurer Peter McWilliams will be sending them a cheque soon.

Thank you to the members who

brought gifts for the free raffle table, we had some beautiful gifts ranging from homemade cookies to homemade banana cake, DVD's, books and plants and our members were very happy when their names were called out.

Also, our generous treasurer donated extra money for the raffle.

It was a great last end of year game.

Thank you to Sue Wood who made us a beautiful Zucchini cake, it was well received and some of us even had seconds.

I would also like to thank Gwen Jeffrey for kitchen duty and Peter McWilliams for bar duty.

To all our members we would like to wish you a happy and safe Christmas and I hope for all of us 2022 will be a better year.

Midweek will start again on Thursday, January 6 at San Remo, 10am at the club for a 10.30am start. Uniforms and BYO lunch. For more information or to register please contact Peter McWilliams on 5678 5974, everyone welcome.

See you on the green.



Winners of Midweek bowls played at San Remo were John Nicholson (S), Peter Thorley (L) and Luke Monckton (3).

Eight wicket win!

From page 44

Max Arceo joined Cleary with three overs to go. Cleary was caught behind for 47 and Tyce Kleverkamp (1 n.o) and Arceo (9 n.o.) finished the remaining overs getting the Islanders to a competitive 6/111.

Kleverkamp and Fall opened the bowling, but couldn't get the breakthrough as Leongatha got off to a flying start.

Francis finally broke the partnership with a catch to Patterson. Arceo came on and got another quick wicket with Patterson's second catch and the Islanders had a sniff.

Leongatha 2/47. The runs kept coming and when Parry took a great outfield catch of Cleary's bowling and Arceo bowled the opener the score was 4/69.

Leongatha built another partnership which was only broken when Arceo took a contender for catch of the year off Francis's bowling, 5/92.

Leongatha got the final 20 runs comfortably with two overs to spare.

It was the first loss of the season for the C2 blues and they head into the Christmas break on top of the ladder.

A special mention to two debutant sub fielders for Phillip Island – Bryden (Bud) Marshall and Jaxon Marshall whose outstanding form in U12's was rewarded by a senior game.

They both fielded incredibly well and have big futures with the PIDCC.

C2 Yellow

This week C2 Yellow took on Glen Alvie at Rhyll.

Glen Alvie won the toss and elected to bat.

The Glen Alvie openers got off to strong start before George McCausland took the first wicket of the day.

The very next ball, he dismissed another batsman and put himself on a hatrick, unfortunately he was unable to cap it off.

The very next over, Jack Huther took a great catch off

Daniel McCausland's bowling.

The momentum of this game had changed very quickly, and the wickets just kept coming with DMac setting up another hatrick by trapping the new batsmen LBW, however he didn't finish it.

Glen Alvie had gone from 0-40 to 4-44 in 2 overs.

A few overs later Daniel Caffieri picked up a wicket and soon after had another one, leaving Glen Alvie 6-45.

Glen Alvie started to make some runs again as our pressure eased.

However, George came back into the attack and took two more wickets. Jai Kleverkamp finished Glen Alvie off by taking two wickets in the final over.

Glen Alvie made 80 runs all out. George finished with 4-7, Jai 2 – 18, DMac 2 – 15, DCaff 2-10 and Jack Huther despite not getting a wicket bowled very tidy.

Dave Kenter and Dave Fusinato opened the batting and looked comfortable from the first ball.

They lead us to 46 before Dave Kenter was caught on 22.

Almost straight afterward Dave Fusinato was dismissed for 19 leaving the Sharks 2 – 47.

However, Brady Ross and Ollie Duggan batted excellently leading us home with five overs to spare.

Ollie finished on 19 and Brady on 12. We move up to 4th on the ladder after this win.

U15s

The Phillip Island U15s took on Koonwarra L/RSL at Rhyll in a 20/20 match.

We won the toss and chose to bat first.

The two Macmillan boys, Connor and Thomas opened the batting together and wasted no time scoring runs, batting excellently leading us to 0 – 53 before Thomas retired not out on 23 and shortly after Connor retired on 30.

The two new batsmen that

came to the crease were Ollie Parsons who was promoted up the order and Ollie Duggan.

They both started to get set at crease before a mix-up between the wickets left Ollie Parsons run out for 5.

Drew Fusinato came to the crease and he and Ollie kept the run rate ticking over, playing some awesome shots.

Soon after Ollie retired on 14. Heath Womersley came to the crease and played some awesome shots before an ambitious run led to Drew being run out.

The new batsmen to the crease were George McCausland. George and Heath ran hard between the wickets, and hit a few boundaries as well, pushing the score to 2-145 before Heath retired on 23. George got caught in the deep for 24. Justin Tran and Zack Hughes saw out the last two overs with Justin finishing on 4 and Zack on 1, leaving the Sharks 3 – 155 after their 20 overs.

Justin Tran and Harry Arceo opened the bowling together before Justin smashed through the opener's middle stump.

George McCausland and Henry Dean came in the attack, George came on and took 2 wickets for 4 runs however Henry was unlucky not to take a wicket as he bowled well.

Heath Womersley came on and took 1 wicket.

Sienna Macmillan came into the attack and even though she didn't take a wicket, bowled extremely well.

Thomas Macmillan also took 1 wicket for 1 run.

Koonwarra ended up falling well short finishing on 5 – 59 after their 20 overs.

A special shoutout to Ethan Rhee and Tyler Duell who filled in for Koonwarra as they were short on numbers.

The undefeated Sharks have a Christmas break and resume next year against the Imperials.

We take on Koonwarra after the Christmas break.

Pennant bowls results

South midweek pennant bowls

Div 1: San Remo (1) 2-41 lt Corinella (1) 14-70; Korumburra (1) 2-55 lt Inverloch (1) 14-76; Phillip Island (1) 16-68 d Meeniyen (1) 0-49 Leongatha (1) – Bye.

Ladder: Inverloch (1) 64 +101; Corinella (1) 54 +14; Phillip Island (1) 49 +36; Leongatha (1) 39 +5; Meeniyen (1) 39-32; Korumburra (1) 34-21; San Remo (1) 9-103.

Div 2: Wonthaggi (1) 14-86 d Toora (1) 2-45; Foster (1) 16-69 d Lang Lang (1) 0-45; Phillip Island (1) 14-69 d Tarwin Lower (1) 2-45; Inverloch (1) – Bye.

Ladder: Wonthaggi (1) 74 +137; Foster (1) 60 +48; Toora (1) 37-8; Inverloch (2) 36-8; Tarwin Lower (1) 33-50; Phillip Island (1) 30-20; Lang Lang (1) 18-99.

Div 3: Wonthaggi (1) 12-51 d Port Welshpool (1) 0-23; Korumburra (2) 11-48 d Inverloch (3) 1-28; Mirboo North (1) 0-40 lt Tarwin Lower (2) 12-44; Loch (1) 0-22 lt Fish Creek (1) 12-50.

Ladder: Fish Creek (1) 52 +44; Port Welshpool (1) 49 +28; Korumburra (2) 48 +29; Inverloch (3) 47 +47; Wonthaggi (2) 37 +118; Tarwin Lower (2) 30-54; Loch (1) 13-70; Mirboo North (1) 12-142.

Midweek Pennant resumes Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

South Saturday pennant bowls

Div 1: Inverloch (1) 14-66 d Corinella (1) 2-61; Phillip Island (1) 12-76 d Leongatha (2) 4-68; Leongatha (1) 14-85 d Phillip Island (2) 2-61; Wonthaggi (1) 16-100 d Korumburra (1) 0-50.

Ladder: Phillip Island (1) 72 +48; Wonthaggi (1) 64 +51; Inverloch (1) 50 +78; Phillip Island (2) 49-28; Leongatha (1) 46 +41; Leongatha (2) 42

+11; Korumburra (1) 39-126; Corinella (1) 22-75.

Div 2: Korumburra (2) 14-75 d Fish Creek (1) 2-62; Phillip Island (3) 2-68 lt Toora (1) 14-77.

Mirboo North (1) 14-74 d Loch (1) 2-66; San Remo (1) 12-79 d Inverloch (2) 4-57.

Ladder: Toora (1) 62 +28; Fish Creek (1) 58-4; Loch (1) 54 +63; Korumburra (2) 51-10; Mirboo North (1) 49 +60; San Remo (1) 47-8; Phillip Island (3) 46-49; Inverloch (2) 17-80.

Div 3: Inverloch (3) 0-53 lt Wonthaggi (2) 16-75; Meeniyen (1) 4-64 lt Wonthaggi (3) 12-77; Foster (1) 15-89 d Loch (2) 1-49; Mirboo North (2) 4-69 lt Lang Lang (1) 12-70.

Ladder: Wonthaggi (3) 70 +59; Wonthaggi (2) 64 +109; Foster (1) 63 +62; Lang Lang (1) 55 +15; Meeniyen (1) 54 +35; Inverloch (3) 49 +28; Loch (2) 15-212; Mirboo North (2) 14-96.

Div 4: Tarwin Lower (1) 16-85 d Corinella (2) 0-57; Leongatha (3) 14-82 d Toora (2) 2-63; Port Welshpool (1) 0-53 lt Phillip Island (4) 16-75; Korumburra (3) 14-87 d Inverloch (4) 2-68.

Ladder: Phillip Island (4) 80 +103; Tarwin Lower (1) 67 +104; Port Welshpool (1) 61 +12; Leongatha (3) 58 +42; Korumburra (3) 50-20; Inverloch (4) 32-29; Toora (2) 26-74; Corinella (2) 10-138.

Div 5: Tarwin Lower (2) 2-70 lt Fish Creek (2) 14-73; Meeniyen (2) 16-113 d Mirboo North (3) 0-34; Wonthaggi (4) 12-69 d Phillip Island (5) 4-64; Lang Lang (2) Bye.

Ladder: Phillip Island (5) 76 +74; Meeniyen (2) 64 +138; Wonthaggi (4) 56 +63; Fish Creek (2) 33 +2; Tarwin Lower (2) 22-65; Mirboo North (3) 19-128; Lang Lang (2) 18-84.

Saturday Pennant bowls resumes on Saturday, January 15, 2022.



Ladies Social Tennis

Any ladies interested in joining Ladies Social tennis group are welcome regardless of experience.

The group ended the year with a Christmas

catch up and will return to the tennis courts on January 6, 2022, from 9.30am until 11.30am.

For memberships, please check our website: play.tennis.com.au/PhillipIslandTennisClub.



Future tennis stars equipped

Tennis Australia have combined with ANZ to provide each Prep students at Cowes Primary School with their very own tennis racquet.

The students received their racquets just in time for summer holidays and the upcoming tennis season.

Students were also given promotional material that offers them a free trial at their local tennis club.

This has been a fantastic promotion by Tennis Australia and ANZ. Hopefully it will help produce some future tennis stars.

MATCH SUMMARY			
C GRADE - DIVISION 2			
PHILLIP ISLAND YELLOW	2-81	80	GLEN ALVIE
D.KENTER	22	4-7	G.MCCAUSLAND
O.DUGGAN	19*	2-10	D.CAFFIERI
D.FUSINATO	19	2-15	D.MCCAUSLAND
PHILLIP ISLAND YELLOW WON BY EIGHT WICKETS			

MATCH SUMMARY			
A GRADE			
PHILLIP ISLAND	2-88	86	WONTHAGGI CLUB
E.RICHARDS	43*	3-11	S.KIRTON
T.KEILY	30*	2-6	D.MOCK
		2-22	S.RATHNAYAKE
PHILLIP ISLAND WON BY EIGHT WICKETS			

MATCH SUMMARY			
B GRADE - DIVISION 2			
PHILLIP ISLAND	8-96	3-122	KILCUNDA BASS
D.WOMERSLEY	43	1-6	M.PARSONS
M.PARSONS	26*	1-18	T.KENTER
		1-20	L.DAYSON
KILCUNDA BASS WON BY 26 RUNS			

MATCH SUMMARY			
UNDER 17'S			
PHILLIP ISLAND	7-111	7-82	GLEN ALVIE
M.ARCEO	31*	2-8	D.CAFFIERI
D.CAFFIERI	21	2-14	M.ARCEO
W.PEPPARD	14	1-11	O.HIBBERT
PHILLIP ISLAND WON BY 29 RUNS			



Registrations are open for the Cowes Yacht Club sail training program, running from January 3 – 7, 2022.

Sail away – training programs are back

Cowes Yacht Club Sail Training programs are on again in January.

The learn to sail programs run from Monday, January 3 to Friday, January 7.

There are limited spots avail-

able, and bookings are essential.

The programs are suited for children eight years and older. Adults are also welcome and catered for, with both Tackers and Start Sailing programs.

Received 20 hours of tuition from qualified instructors in programs approved by Yachting Australia.

To register, go to: www.cowes-yachtclub.com/learn-to-sail/

Bridge results

Season's greetings.

Monday, December 13 was the delayed second round of the winter red points event.

It was also a normal duplicates day for pairs that did not play in the first event.

Winners of the Red Point event were Trish and Don Stewart-Uden with 60.13%.

Paul Waylen and Leng Leng Haggith followed with 54.14%, and Anne Gibson and Lois Dwyer finished 3rd with 52.13%.

Play on the day saw seven pairs achieve master points.

The top three pairs were Marion Wellwood and Kare Klym on 53.12%, Trish and Don Stewart-Uden on 61.46% with Paul Waylen and Leng Leng Haggith sneaking to the top with 61.98%.



Red Point event winners, Don and Trish Stewart-Uden.

Sadly, a club member acquired COVID-19 on the way to club on Monday. Consequently, the club is closed until further notice.

On a positive note, all known test results for others present on the day have been negative.

The committee wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas season with family and loved ones and looks forward to welcoming members back to Bridge club in the New Year.

Westernport Field and Game December Clay Target Shoot Results

Our 75 target Christmas Shoot was held on Sunday, December 19 with 83 shooters competing for hams.

Congratulations to Adam Du Rose on shooting a perfect round of 25.

High Gun: Adam Du Rose with a score of 68

Grade winners are:

AA Grade: 1st Jarryd Passarin (66) 2nd Alan White (66) 3rd Matt Hall (65)

A Grade: 1st Brian Tangey (60) 2nd Ash Moat (59) 3rd Curtis Hillbrick (59)

B Grade: 1st Daniel Fritsch (61) 2nd Mick Braden (55) 3rd Bruce Hill (54)

C Grade: 1st Kevin Harris (51) 2nd Henryk Struk (46) 3rd Brian Witkowski (40)

Ladies: 1st Sarah Fritsch (48)

2nd Danielle Pace (48) 3rd Sheree Chaplin (46)

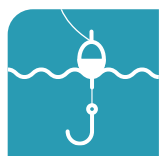
Veterans: 1st Warwick Cumberland (58) 2nd Rob Sturzaker (57) 3rd Len Box (55)

Juniors: 1st Will Witkowski (60) 2nd Joel Passarin (40) 3rd Ravi Fostin (29)

Our next shoot is the Stan McFee memorial and club championship on January 15 and 16, consisting of 100 targets on Saturday and 75 targets on Sunday with nominations commencing at 8am.

Clay target shooting is suitable for all ages, genders and fitness levels with juniors shooting for free.

We would like to wish our members and sponsors a very Merry Christmas.



AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

The rumours have started, and the usual small-town gossip has gone from fact to fiction.

There has been plenty of comment around our situation at the shop lately, much of it wrong, so the truth is. NO, we are not going broke and closing down; YES, the landlord is re-developing the site and has given us notice of this.

The exact timing of the re-development is unknown at this stage, but it is inevitable, leaving us at the moment with some very big decisions to be made.

As you could imagine we are running through 1000 different scenarios but for now must put our efforts into Christmas and the upcoming January holiday period to best serve our customers.

We can assure you though, we will not be closing down and Jim's Bait and Tackle will exist into its 30th year and beyond.

It would appear that common sense has prevailed and the proposed works at the Newhaven boat ramp jetty has been postponed.

Thank you to everyone that commented or contacted the council, hopefully it was those calls or messages that changed the timing of the works.

While this was great there is plenty more to be done before the works start.

February is probably still not ideal regarding the boat traffic that uses

the ramp through this period, many bigger boats heading offshore but the real point of our original post and emails has been missed.

The proposed works at the jetty will do nothing, apart from keeping your feet dry at times, to solve the boating congestion and in fact will make the situation more dangerous than it is now.

The major problem with Newhaven ramp is, and always has been, low tide where there is not enough water to access much of the jetty for tying up. What they are doing is nothing more than putting a band aid over a cut that needs stitches.

Every other ramp in the country is building floating pontoons while we continue to build solid jetties. This may work in a non-tidal lake but not ideal for a bay with such a big tide movement.

We need to ensure if money is to be spent and works are to be done, it should be done for the long term not just a quick fix that actually isn't a fix at all.

Fishing report

Typically, last week was a little on the quiet side but it won't last and will ramp up this week then even more after Boxing Day.

The reports were much the same and mostly from customers heading out or down to the jetty for a quick fish for Christmas dinner.

Some very good calamari were caught from the jetties and the beaches with some even bagging out on mixed size, some for bait and plenty for the table.

You needed to pick your time with a bit of weed still around early in the week and small windows during the tides.

This improved later in the week, and you could fish when you wanted to.

Artificial jigs took over from baited jigs this week, the first time in a long while, and as usual a rainbow of colours worked.

The size of the jig doesn't alter with the 3 or 3.5 the best from the land. The colour is the hardest to work out and a variety is best, but don't forget to keep trying different ones if it's not working.

Boats and kayaks reported much the same with the exception of the weed because they were able to move to find a cleaner spot.

We started to see some good numbers and sizes of snapper towards the end of the week as well which is a change from the last couple of weeks with only the very small pinkies showing up.

We have had rumours of large schools of snapper towards the western entrance appearing to be moving into the bay like a second run of fish.

Maybe that's why the reports have improved a bit, either way doesn't matter if the reports continue.

Like last year we have started to see the school tuna show up again at this time of the year.

The reports of captures are still a little west of Cape Schanck, but sightings have now started to come from the western end of the island. As the



Another successful Ladies Charter with Island Offshore Charters San Remo.

weather settles and more head out, we will see captures coming from closer to home.

We also had several reports of schools of rat kingfish around both entrances.

Whiting were good again this week and from the reports the best time to catch them was when the winds were kind, and you could actually get to the spot you wanted to.

The majority though were from tide changes, high or low depending on where you were fishing.

We also had reports this week from both deep and shallow areas with the fish much the same wherever you fished.

They weren't consistent though and changed day to day and spot to spot.

Slow one day, a fish every few minutes, then the next day you can't keep up and one rod is more than enough.

Several of the whiting reports also had some excellent sized flathead in the esky, not a bad bycatch.

We will be closed on Christmas day then going to our normal Christmas holiday hours from Boxing Day, opening at 6am, seven days a week.

From Robyn, Melanie and myself have a safe and happy Christmas and again thank you everybody for your support over the last 12 months through what was a very trying time for all.

If you are lucky enough to have some time off, enjoy your time on the water or sitting somewhere on the land trying to catch that fish of a lifetime.

If you are visiting from other areas and haven't been here before, drop in as we have plenty of information sheets to help you find a feed of fish while here.

TIDE GUIDE

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

WED 29 DEC	THU 30 DEC	FRI 31 DEC	SAT 1 JAN	SUN 2 JAN	MON 3 JAN	TUE 4 JAN
LOW 1:29 am 0.87 m	LOW 2:20 am 1.02 m	LOW 3:18 am 1.17 m	LOW 4:26 am 1.29 m	HIGH 12:25 am 2.80 m	HIGH 1:34 am 2.94 m	HIGH 2:40 am 3.06 m
HIGH 8:03 am 2.72 m	HIGH 8:44 am 2.64 m	HIGH 9:33 am 2.57 m	HIGH 10:33 am 2.50 m	LOW 5:44 am 1.34 m	LOW 7:02 am 1.31 m	LOW 8:14 am 1.20 m
LOW 2:03 pm 0.67 m	LOW 2:49 pm 0.59 m	LOW 3:45 pm 0.51 m	LOW 4:48 pm 0.44 m	HIGH 11:44 am 2.47 m	HIGH 12:58 pm 2.48 m	HIGH 2:09 pm 2.54 m
HIGH 8:55 pm 2.53 m	HIGH 10:00 pm 2.59 m	HIGH 11:12 pm 2.68 m		LOW 6:00 pm 0.37 m	LOW 7:11 pm 0.29 m	LOW 8:16 pm 0.24 m

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



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Bud (L) and Jaxon Marshall fielded for C2 blue against Leongatha on Saturday. Here they are with dad Luke who unfortunately pulled a quad while batting and couldn't take the field.

Eight wicket win!

A Grade

This week saw the Sharks take on old rivals Wonthaggi in the last round of the season before the Christmas break.

After some confusion at the coin toss it was decided that Wonthaggi were going to have a bat on what looked to be a fairly flat deck at Butch West.

The workhorse Tom Kiely got into his stride early and was able to strike twice with the new rock including the big wicket of Ryan Thomas.

From here Wonthaggi were able to put together a partnership and reach the drinks break at 2 for 65.

After the break however the Sharks ramped up the pressure as they have done so well all year and were able to force mistakes out of Wonthaggi.

Former winner of the Woori Yallock A grade bowling average Daniel P Mock came into the attack and bowled a fantastic spell finishing with 2 for 6 off his 8 overs.

This combined with fantastic death bowling from the likes of Charith Keerthisinghe (1 for 13 off 7) and Simon Kirton (3 for 11 off 8) saw the Sharks take the final 7 Wonthaggi wickets for just 13 runs restricting the score to 86.

After the break the Sharks lost two quick wickets early but opener Eli Richards (43 not out) carried on his great form and in combination with Tom Keily (30 not out) the two saw the Sharks to an 8 wicket win passing Wonthaggi's total in the 22nd over.

That completes a 6 and 0 start to the season for the A1 boys and sees them a game and a half clear on top of the ladder.

Go Sharks.

B1

A top of the table clash with Nerrena rounded out the first half of the season for B1, with the two undefeated teams meeting in a T20 clash at a very windy Cowes oval.

Macca won the toss again electing to bat, and with the short game format, decided that the big hitting Kurt Lane should open with him.

In what can only be described as raging success, Kurt launched balls all over Cowes as we got off to a flying start, the pair putting on 44 in five overs before Macca was out for 15.

Big Sarith Angelo was promoted to three, and he did not waste any time getting on with the game as the pair continued to punish the bowlers until Kurt was dismissed for an excellent 36 off just 26 balls, and we were 2/65 off 10 overs.

As has been our way this year, we lost a clump of wickets, and when Angelo was out for 23, we had quickly slumped to 6/85 with six overs still to bat. Andrew Finlayson joined Geoff Odgers, and the pair settled the flow of wickets, picking up plenty of one's and two's and the occasional boundary.

Combining for a quick 44-run partnership with Odgy finished

not out on 23 and Finno on 20, as we compiled a very competitive 6/129.

Nerrena got off to a great start and had reached 32 before Kurt got the breakthrough. He then followed up quickly with three more to smash Nerrena's top order, and had them reeling at 4/45 with the combination of some great catching and bowling.

A couple of Nerrena's experienced heads settled things down, but when their 36-run partnership was broken by Andrew Tolley, he and Clint Wilson bowled out the remaining overs beautifully, the pair combining for five wickets to see Nerrena finish their innings at 9/93.

A great win has us sitting on top as we head into the Christmas break. Go Sharks and a very Merry Christmas to all.

RSL Man of the Match: Kurt Lane.

B2

B2 travelled to Bass for a T20 clash to round out the first half of the season, and after winning the toss, the home team chose to bat.

We got off to a great start when skipper Matt Parsons grabbed an early wicket to have Bass 1/1 but from there the two Bass batsmen Neville and Palmer batted well not giving any chances.

They had taken the score to 98 when Todd Kenter trapped Palmer LBW for 52. Liam Dyson then got himself a wicket but that was all we could muster as Neville finished not out 51 and Bass made

3/122 off their 20 overs.

Unfortunately, our batting effort got off to a poor start and we struggled to recover.

After getting to 20 for the loss of one wicket, Dave Womersley watched on as we lost a procession of wickets to be 8 for 58, Dave making an excellent 43 out of that before he was finally dismissed.

Parso and Liam Keating tried their hardest to reach the total, but the damage had been done early, and we finished 8/96 off our 20 overs with Matt & Keats not out on 26 and 11 respectively.

RSL man of the match this week was Dave Womersley

After a fantastic start to the year, two losses in the last two games has seen us slip to third place, but only half a game off top spot and I am sure we can bounce back in the New Year.

C2

The C2 blues hosted Leongatha Town at Newhaven for the round 7, 20/20 clash at Newhaven.

Phillip Island won the toss and elected to bat.

The Island lost Excell (5) and Patterson (1) early which brought the skipper out to join Manning with the score at 2/10.

The pair put on a 57-run stand before Manning was bowled for 32. Francis (1) and Parry (1) came and went quickly, which brought Marshall to the crease.

He and the skipper put on 20 before a quad injury to Marshall saw him retire hurt for 6.

Continued page 42

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

4/75 CHAPEL STREET, COWES



**AUCTION SATURDAY 15TH
JANUARY 2022 @ 2PM ON SITE**

- Freehold title – currently leased with excellent tenants
- Situated in Central Cowes next door to ALDI Supermarket
- Currently operating as 'Island Whole Foods' – takeaway and sit-down cafe

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(ELLIS ARCADE)



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