



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

\$1.80 Incl. GST



Off to a flying start. Competitors hit the water for the 500-metre swim at the Cowes Classic on the weekend. The event was won by local athlete Justin Tilley and raised over \$20,000 for the football and lifesaving clubs. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography. Full coverage of the Cowes Classic and Little Penguin Dash on page 11-13.

Hot and dry, but chance of water restrictions still low

WEATHER

Water restrictions are still unlikely for Bass Coast, according to Westernport Water.

Water storages are now below 50 per cent and there has been below average summer rainfall for most areas.

Water records show that based on 110 years of keeping weather records at Ventnor, 2024 was the fifth driest year recorded.

The Rhyll weather station showed January rainfall was 31mm, below the average of 39mm.

But thanks to a major storm earlier this month, February records improved, with 14mm recorded at Rhyll (the February average is 37mm).

As reported last month, Westernport Water (WPW) is tapping into Melbourne's water supply system this summer to avoid

drought measures, "with a rare (one to five per cent) likelihood of implementing water restrictions".

The water authority said the water volume in Candowie Reservoir by the end of 2024 was at the level at which drought response measures would be considered and was last week below 50 per cent.

However, during December, January, and February, WPW is taking three megalitres, or three million litres, from the Greater Yarra Thomson River System (GYTRS).

A WPW spokesperson last week said while average rainfall had been "below expectations in recent months", "at this time, we do not foresee the need for water restrictions".

"We will continue to monitor water storage levels closely and adapt as necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of our

water supply."

The spokesperson said the below average rainfall "reflected the ongoing challenges of climate variability" and customers were reminded that Permanent Water Saving Rules were in place every day of the year "to ensure that drinking water is used efficiently".

They said the access to the GYTRS would not cost customers more.

"Westernport Water operates under a price cap model. There will be no changes to customer prices resulting from use of the GYTRS," the spokesperson said.

"The direct costs associated with accessing water from this supply system can be offset from corresponding operational changes."

Desalination

The GYTRS includes water

from a number of reservoirs and catchments across the state, as well as desalinated water.

The desalination plant has supplied 455 GL (or 25.1 per cent of storage capacity) since being turned on in 2016-17.

The desalination plant can contribute about 33 per cent of Melbourne's total annual water use.

According to the Victorian Annual Water Outlook, in an average year demand outstrips supply from rainfall-dependent water sources in Melbourne water catchments and in a severe drought, storage levels can drop by 20 per cent in a year.

Drought

Sheep farmer Martin Grachan, who has a property in the middle of Phillip Island, has kept rain records for about two decades.

But Martin said based on 110 years of keeping weather re-

ords at Ventnor, 2024 was the fifth driest year recorded.

He said in January he would normally buy about 40 replacement ewes but he has put this on hold to wait for rain.

"It goes back to the lack of rain in winter because we've dried out quickly over summer," Martin said.

"It will take a while for the subsoil to build back up. We'll need a wet winter."

Surf Beach farmer Bill Clelland said some of his dams had run dry, comparing conditions over December and January as "similar to 1982".

On the mainland, which missed much of the storm that hit Phillip Island, Almurta farmers said it has been the driest they'd ever seen.

While the Victorian Government has announced drought

Continued page 6

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| | | | | | | | |
| | SUNNY 19 31 | SHOWER OR TWO 22 33 | SHOWER OR TWO 17 24 | SHOWER OR TWO 15 21 | SHOWER OR TWO 14 21 | CLOUDY 14 17 | PARTLY CLOUDY 16 18 |



Everybody needs good neighbours

Here on Phillip Island, we are privileged to share our home with some amazing wildlife.

For local Katrina Lawrence, wallabies have become regular visitors to their property and are now considered part of the family.

She captured this shot when the wallabies dropped by the backyard one day to say hello.

Valentine's pack winner

Chris Walton is set to enjoy a very special Valentine's night.

Chris won the exclusive Valentine's Day pack, including two tickets to see Elly Poletti's "Heart Strings" at Berninnet on February 14.

Our lucky winner also received a \$50 voucher for wine from Shearwaters & Bandicoots, a gift pack of Glass House fragrances and candles from Flowers of Phillip Island,

a \$50 coffee voucher from Ember & Oak, and a copy of Over the Bridge (courtesy of The Advertiser).

Our readers jumped at the chance to win this fantastic prize – thank you to everyone who entered. It appears that (almost) everyone knew Elly Poletti was on The Voice in 2023.

Congratulations Chris and Happy Valentine's Day everyone!

POLICE BRIEFS

Cemetery rammed

A member of the Phillip Island Cemetery committee reported a stolen car had rammed and damaged their gates on February 4. The car was abandoned on the side of the road.

Burglary #1: Chilli crime

A Cape Woolamai chilli business had a van containing trading items and chilli products stolen overnight on February 8 or 9. The owner of Pickle my Chilli had a white Toyota HiAce stolen from Maroubra Drive, as well as market equipment, products and an eftpos machine. Police said offenders had entered a house via an unlocked door and stolen the van keys before fleeing with the vehicle and items.

Burglary #2

A burglar stole a dishwasher and TV from a home in Church Street, Cowes, at some point between 3pm on February 2 and 5pm February 5.

The offender forced entry to the unoccupied property and stole the electrical items. Police are investigating.

Burglary #3

Tools were stolen from a garage during a burglary at Boathaven Grove in San Remo about 4.30am on February 7. The offender accessed a garage via a sliding door and entered the home, but stole from the garage only.

Burglary #4

A would-be thief tripped after failing to access a house in Genista Street, San Remo. The offender walked up to the front door of the home at 3.45am on February 7 wearing a hoodie to hide from CCTV. Police say he tripped as he reached the door before walking away.

Sleepover

The owner of a holiday house in Red Rocks arrived home to find an intruder asleep on their couch.

The owner arrived on February 8 to find the intruder, who then apologised and ran away.

The owner found a hammer had been used to break a doggy door to gain access.

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These seven locations around Phillip Island will see the rollout of neighbourhood batteries between now and August.

Batteries to power local neighbourhoods

ENERGY

Seven neighbourhood batteries will be rolled out around Phillip Island from this month, bringing us a step closer to the goal of having totally renewable energy by 2030.

An online community meeting held last week heard the batteries, just larger than a public phone box, will charge from locally generated solar and energy from the wider network.

The batteries will store the energy until it is needed in the evening or morning when demand is high and renewable energy is limited, as well as summer peak demands, but won't prevent outages or provide back-up power during an outage.

And in what is believed to be a first, a percentage of any revenue made from the batteries will be donated back to the community for further renewable projects.

The sites will be:

1. Berninnet – Thompson Avenue (205 kWh) – which has the potential to become an emergency centre to charge phones when the power is down
2. Corner Kembla Road and Pasadena Drive, reserve, (410 kWh)
3. Corner Seagrass Avenue and Everton Drive, reserve, (205 kWh)
4. Goodwood Drive and Elvington Avenue, reserve, (410 kWh)
5. Hallway Drive, Wimbledon Heights, reserve, (205 kWh)

6. Council depot – Settlement Road (205 kWh)
7. Katherine Circuit, park, (205 kWh)

Last year the State Government announced \$2.1 million funding for the island's batteries, with Mondo – a commercial subsidiary of power supplier AusNet – installing, maintaining and operating them, working with Bass Coast Shire Council and Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI).

There will be no cost to ratepayers and household energy retailer plans will not be impacted, with Mondo paying the remainder of the project costs.

Donation

At the online meeting, Mondo representatives explained the seven sites were chosen based on surrounding high density of houses use of rooftop solar, and lowest impact on the community.

The neighbourhood batteries each cost \$300,000, and will be rolled out through to August, and are made from lithium iron phosphate, the "most stable and safe in the lithium family".

Their operational life is about 15 years.

Mondo engineer Vince Frandina told the meeting the batteries emit some noise when charging or discharging power, like a reverse cycle air conditioner, and he had been consulting with impacted residents.

"The last thing we want is a noisy new neighbour so we've been doing everything pre, during and post installation to make

sure we meet EPA guidelines," Vince said.

Mondo's Matthew Charles Jones explained they had created an annual community donation fund, with seven per cent of the batteries' revenue (not profit) going to the shire, TRPI and the Energy Innovation Cooperative.

He said the donation fund included "a floor price" of \$720 per battery per year.

"Essentially it's a relatively new model. We are unaware of it operating anywhere else," Matthew said.

He said neighbourhood batteries were "proving to be commercially challenging" and Phillip Island's roll out would provide better "understanding of commerciality".

Matthew said any revenue would come from charging the batteries when the cost of power was low and selling when the cost was high.

"If it proves to be commercial, then we'll provide funds back to the community."

A Cowes resident questioned whether the battery on the cultural centre would allow mobile phone charging and "island mode" power supply during an outage.

Vince responded while it was yet to be certain, "it would be an excellent outcome"

The battery comes after the construction of the island's \$10 million, 5MW big battery on Gap Road, in 2023.

Details: mondo.com.au/projects/philipisland



As reported in June last year, the owners of 17 caravan structures at Beach Haven Caravan Park were blindsided after learning their annual leases would not be renewed, when told to vacate the park to make way for new developments.

San Remo caravan park \$1.8m development

PLANNING

A San Remo caravan park is seeking a planning permit to construct 12 new cabins, after last year notifying former owners they would need to move.

Beach Haven Caravan Park, at 167 Marine Parade, is seeking a permit for the \$1.8 million development, including building single storey cabins and removal of native vegetation.

The permit states the new cabins will replace 23 existing caravan sites, and three cabin sites, with twelve movable cabins.

As reported in June last year, the owners of 17 caravan structures at Beach Haven Caravan Park were blindsided after learning their annual leases would not be renewed, and told to vacate the park to make way for new developments.

The new owner at the time defended the move, stating change was necessary at the park, which he described as not fit for purpose when he took over, and adding annual lease renewal was never guaranteed.

The new owner said at their request, the CFA provided a fire safety report to help them to improve fire safety in the park.

"The reduction in overall site numbers at the park, is partially brought about by meeting fire separation requirements between structures," the permit states, adding that cabins will have "clear separation to comply with CFA guidelines".

The caravan park currently contains 99 sites of various sizes

and styles, along with two toilet blocks, a covered barbeque area, boat storage, and shedding.

The permit states retrospective approval is required for two of the 12 cabins, which have already been located on site.

"The proposed cabins will deliver more flexible visitor options, providing both short stay and long stay accommodation," according to the permit.

Each cabin has two bedrooms, bathroom, and open plan kitchen, with a small deck, and one car parking space.

Vegetation, heritage

It is proposed to remove 11 trees from the caravan park, six of which requires a planning permit under the native vegetation provisions, and those six, plus two additional trees, require Local Laws approval.

The other three trees do not require a permit for removal, as they are not native, and have a circumference of less than 1.55 metres.

As reported last year, the proposal could also face scrutiny, as the property is defined as an area of cultural sensitivity under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

The permit includes a cultural heritage assessment, with consultants for the owner inspecting the caravan park and "strongly recommending" a voluntary cultural heritage management plan be prepared "due to the very high potential for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage to be present", despite such a plan not being required by regulations.

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Industry heavyweight takes over reins at TRPI

RENEWABLES

The plan to make Phillip Island entirely powered by renewable energy just got a major boost with a corporate executive – with three decades experience in power and renewables – stepping up to head our peak energy group.

Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) last week announced its new chair is Simon Helps, who replaces outgoing chair for the past three years, Mary Whelan.

The 54-year-old Cowes father of three is currently in charge of business growth for Victorian green hydrogen company Energys, with projects including replacing diesel by adding hydrogen fuel cells in mobile phone towers.

Since 1989 Simon has worked in energy, including in South-East Asia, as well as climate change related industries.

He has also held many key volunteer roles previously including as vice president of the Australian Energy Efficiency Council and on the bioenergy directorate of Clean Energy Council Australia.

So why, with all that experience, volunteer for TRPI?

“I’m not a big supporter of lobby groups and I see industry associations as the best way to inform government about the way to move forward,” says Simon, who understands the intricate complexities of the power market and then can explain it simply to the layperson.

“And I don’t play golf.”
Back when he was 16 Simon took part in the most significant environmental campaign in Australia’s history when he protested – paddling a kayak – the Franklin Dam project in Tasmania.

But, he says, he is no flag-waving greenie.

The solutions to the world’s problems, he believes, lies in industry.

“Even back then, on the Franklin, part of me was thinking ‘I’m not sure how this protest is going to change things’.

“I like the fact people such as Extinction Rebellion put themselves on the line to keep the message in the media.



“Companies are less interested in climate change but rather how renewables will make them money,” says the new chair of Totally Renewable Phillip Island, who has more than three decades experience in the sector.

“I suppose I’ve been around so long I know a politician and a few lies will lead the headlines. In other words, it’s hard to keep the right message in the media the way it is now.

“However, when you see real change, it makes money for people in industry.

“For example when CFC gases were banned it wasn’t because industry was concerned for the hole in the ozone layer, but because refrigeration companies got to sell new fridges.

“It’s now the same with renewable energy. Companies are less interested in climate change but rather how renewables will make them money.”

Conversely when Simon receives pushback from “Herald Sun readers” who think renewables are a “con”, he says, putting the environment aside, solar panels simply make financial sense to a homeowner.

Simon is even a big fan of motorsport racing, and says he

can do so with a relatively clear conscience because thanks to technology and commerce, the sport is quickly becoming a green one.

Big plans

Simon says he has a clear vision for TRPI, particularly achieving the long-standing target of making Phillip Island totally renewable by 2030.

“From where I’m sitting I see that as very achievable, even though a lot of people see it as unachievable.

“It’s about getting us across the finishing line.”

Simon quickly grabs his mobile phone to access a mind-boggling array of apps, graphs and data.

He says Phillip Island is punching above its weight as a net producer of electricity for some of the day.

“We have a lot of solar, but most people here have no idea about that.”

Phillip Island had 23.6MW of solar installed from 2011 to 2024, with 13.9MW of that in the last five years.

A further 3MW per year of solar is being added to the island.

For about 500 hours, or five per cent of the time last year the island exported power back to the mainland.

“So after saving home owners on their power bills the extra power is sent to the grid on the island.

“This reduces the amount that is supplied from the main grid.

“We will need to add two or three big solar arrays and more batteries to get the job finished.”

Simon admits as Phillip Island nears the 100 per cent mark it will become “progressively harder” to “fill the pot-holes”.

One key project, which TRPI is currently looking to work on with AusNet, is moving household hot water system heating from 11pm-1am to the middle of the day when there is more solar available, with nighttime hot water tariffs simply reflecting a historical anomaly dating back to the 70s.

Another key project will be to help TRPI members, such as Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council and businesses, become more energy resilient by accessing grants, batteries and solar to be more renewables focused.

More broadly Phillip Island’s power system is “very vulnerable” with a single line running from Wonthaggi to Wimbledon Heights.

“If anything happens to that line we are toast.”

The solution lies in rapidly advancing technology, which will enable batteries to work with solar panels to ensure continuous power when the grid is down.

And, Simon says, a major focus will be on expanding the new neighbourhood batteries roll-out, which starts this month in seven areas across the island (see separate story).

“If we keep knocking the edges off I think we can get very close to 100 per cent renewables by 2030. The only question is will it be 98 per cent or 100 per cent.”



Despite the massive influx of visitors to Phillip Island, rangers were “pleased the majority of people took note of wildlife signage, and where it is safe to walk dogs on leash”.

Summer parking and dog fines released

REGULATIONS

There were more than 580 parking fines issued over summer on Phillip Island, as well as 24 fines for dogs off leash.

And Phillip Island Nature Parks rangers carried out 44 patrols on beaches in January.

A Bass Coast Shire Council spokesperson said their team issued 24 fines for dog-related matters over summer, which was a drop on the previous summer, but more than the summer of 22/23.

“Compliance levels in the community has improved this summer on dog-related matters and overall in comparison to last year,” the council spokesperson said.

They said there were 581 penalty infringement notices issued over summer, compared to 580 the previous year, adding “parking compliance and enforcement is consistent with last year’s statistics”.

A Nature Parks spokesperson said despite the massive influx of visitors to Phillip Island, rangers were “pleased the majority of people took note of wildlife signage, and where it is safe to walk dogs on leash”.

Nature Parks worked with the Conservation Regulator on the summer campaign Sharing Our Shores, encouraging residents and visitors to do their bit to help wildlife ‘nest and rest’ by staying on tracks and avoid walking on dunes, keeping a distance from wildlife, leashing dogs and keeping cats indoors and taking rubbish with you.

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Going round in circles

ROUNDAABOUT

It's an annual summer issue: the battle between pedestrians and drivers at busy Cowes' roundabouts.

The debate spilled over to social media this month, with a resident highlighting "so many near misses, and disruption to the traffic where people have misunderstood who has the right of way".

"I even had a lady give me some interesting hand gestures when I had to stop quite quickly while she wandered out in front of me," one resident Marina said, which received a flow of responses.

Libby agreed saying "the biggest problem is cars stopping to let pedestrians cross when they are exiting the roundabout".

Lee remarked "I've had many near misses in Cowes with pedestrians assuming they have right of way".

Rod said he saw a four-wheel drive towing a caravan stop in the middle of the Church Street roundabout to give way to pedestrians on the north exit side.

Barry added that drivers were responsible for any pedestrian "you hit with a vehicle".

"What if everyone becomes courteous and kind to each other and if there

is a gap in traffic wave the pedestrians across the road," Barry said.

"It costs nothing and you are only going to get stuck in traffic somewhere else."

Tim commented it was "dangerous and illegal to stop in the middle of a roundabout, whether it's to let a pedestrian cross" or drivers fail to see the traffic is stopped and enter anyway.

Many commented Bass Coast Shire Council previously had spray painted signs on the footpath saying pedestrians were required to give way to traffic, with several calling for the signs to be reinstated.

There were also many comments debating the actual road rules applying to pedestrians at roundabouts.

Response

A council spokesperson said while there were currently no plans to reinstate the previous road markings, the upcoming Cowes streetscape project would "focus on enhancing safety for both pedestrians and drivers at key locations".

The spokesperson cited Victorian Government road rules on giving way at roundabouts, which states:

- At roundabouts, give pedestrians the time and space they need to

cross. You don't need to give way to pedestrians at roundabouts unless there is a pedestrian crossing there.

- Before entering a roundabout, you must give way to any vehicle already in the roundabout.
- Giving way means you must slow down or stop to avoid a crash.

The Federal Government late last year announced \$8 million funding to the Cowes streetscape masterplan, which will see Thompson Avenue become a one-way thoroughfare and car parks removed.

Stage one will see The Esplanade become one-way between Warley Avenue and Bass Avenue from Thompson Avenue.

Stage two is to "reimagine" Thompson Avenue north, "where outdoor dining and trading and open space facilitate a people focused town centre".

Stage three to six requires detailed design before construction for Thompson Avenue South, Chapel Street, Church Street, Bass Avenue and Olive Justice Place.

Details: transport.vic.gov.au/road-rules-and-safety/roundabouts
legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/statutory-rules/road-safety-road-rules-2017/020



The Year 7 curricular and co-curricular program is designed to strengthen each student's self-esteem and sense of community equipping them with the qualities required for their senior years at school and beyond. Scholarships are on offer for 2026.

A foundation for success

EDUCATION

Newhaven College considers the needs of every child as they make a 'new start' at whichever year level they join the school.

Year 7 is primarily the year when academic expectations and the social pressures of school really step up a notch. The College's House structure and pastoral care focus are designed to provide support and encouragement every step of the way.

As students progress through the Middle and Senior Schools, the College's ethos of mutual respect between teachers and students

becomes more apparent.

A high standard of academic achievement is actively encouraged, with alternate pathways provided along the way. Catering to individual differences among students places great importance on each student being known and their needs met.

The Year 7 curricular and co-curricular program is designed to strengthen each student's self-esteem and sense of community equipping them with the qualities required for their senior years at school and beyond.

Every student is encouraged to embrace new

experiences and immerse themselves in College life by participating in the entire program. Students build self-confidence and a team spirit, during their time at Newhaven College.

Year 7 Scholarships are on offer for students entering Newhaven College in 2026. See details on the College website.

Families are invited to attend Newhaven College's Open Day on Saturday March 15 between 10am and 2pm. Book via the website.

For enrolment enquiries please contact Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505.

/ Sponsored article /

Silverleaves petition goes to Parliament

EROSION

The Save Silverleaves' petition, with 4370 signatures, was tabled in state parliament by The Nationals' Melina Bath last week, with bipartisan support.

At Parliament (from left) are: Tristan White, Natalie Gray (petition initiator) Melina Bath MP, and Kaylene Turner.

The petition calls on the government to urgently fund the proposed geotextile revetment and work "with the community to plan and fund long term solutions to mitigate and manage coastal erosion".

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)



have proposed a sandbag wall costing up to \$500,000 as an interim measure to stop further erosion, but funding has yet to be made available.



Year 7 2026 Academic Scholarships

Newhaven College is offering Academic Scholarships for applicants entering Year 7 in 2026. Tests will be held at the College Sat 1 March 2025. Applications are now open and close Mon 24 February 2025.

All enquiries should be directed to our Admissions Officer Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505 or email bec.anderson@newhavencol.vic.edu.au



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Island surfing legend farewelled

SURFING

Kneeboard champion Neil Luke is being remembered as an island surfing legend.

The former Phillip Islander died on February 4, after being diagnosed with cancer several years ago.

In a post on Neil's Facebook page, his family thanked everyone for their love and support.

"He was at home and was surrounded by family and friends. Up until the end, he was his hilarious self and was enjoying sharing stories with his kids.

"He has shown amazing resilience through his three-year battle with cancer. His positive attitude and humour has been incredible to watch."

Tributes from the surfing community, across the island, the country and the world have flooded in.

Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) penned a special tribute to a surfer (and former club captain) voted as one of their Top 10 most influential members (see separate story in Sport).

Former PIBC and Surfing Victoria president Mal Gregson described Neil's achievements as legendary.

"I would suggest he was like the 'Warnie' of surf. He was a prodigious talent with a fierce competitive streak that saw him finish on the podium more often than not," Mal said.

"As a competitor or coach he drove a wedge in the sand to accept nothing less than the ultimate success. He will be sadly missed by the surfing community around the world."

Neil worked at Island Surfboards for close to 40 years, and was a renowned kneeboard shaper.

Founder and owner Matt Ryan said Neil would be greatly missed by his family and his many friends, stating "he will be



In 2022, Neil Luke received a Lifetime Membership to Kneeboard Surf Australia. The champion kneeboarder is being remembered as an island surfing legend.

remembered forever".

Among his many achievements, Neil was 10 times Victorian Kneeboard Champion (nine of them consecutive) and a World Champion kneeboarder, competing around the globe.

He was just 17 when he won his first Victorian kneeboard contest, and was usually in the line honours for Victorian and National events, including five times as runner up at the Australia Titles, and twice as equal first on countbacks.

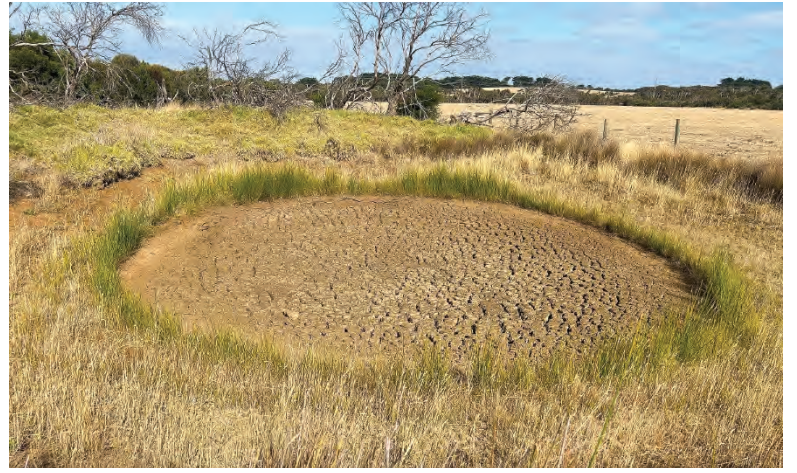
He coached the Victorian Surf Team (all divisions) in 1988 and 1989, represented his country five times, and was Surfing Victoria's

kneeboard rep from 1974-76.

Outside of the surf, he was a passionate football fan and a talented player for the Phillip Island Bulldogs. He was part of the Reserves team in 1981 which won the third in a hattrick of premierships.

Friend Graeme Burgan recalls Neil being called on to "model" for footy club fundraisers, and said alongside surfing and football, he had a wealth of knowledge about aboriginal culture.

In 2009 Neil moved to Byron Bay and went on to establish Neil Luke Kneeboards, later living in the Canary Islands, Spain, Peru and Nicaragua.



Phillip Island last year had its fifth driest year, in 110 years of keeping weather records at Ventnor. Farmers are reporting some of their dams have run dry, comparing conditions over December and January as "similar to 1982".

Hot and dry, but chance of water restrictions still low

From page 1
funding packages for farmers in south-west Victoria, the government was yet to step up to help local farmers, encouraging struggling farmers to access the Rural Financial Counselling Service and loans provided by the Commonwealth Government through the Regional Investment Corporation.

Water savings

Permanent water savings rules currently apply and include:

- A residential or commercial garden or lawn can be watered with a handheld hose at any time, or by means of a water-

ing system between the hours of 6pm and 10am on any day.

- Water cannot be used to clean hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking) except where cleaning is required as a result of a hazard or accident, or in the course of construction/renovation.
- A handheld hose MUST be fitted with a trigger nozzle and be leak free. It can be used to wash your car and water your gardens and lawns at any time.

Permanent Water Saving Rules: westernportwater.com.au/pws-rules/



Cowes Beach came in at number 10 of Tourism Australia's best beaches list for 2025, the only Victorian beach in the Top 10. Photo: www.coastalreflections.com.au

Cowes in Top10 best beaches

TOURISM

Cowes Beach has been ranked at number 10 in the official list of Best Australian Beaches.

The list is compiled each year by beach expert, Brad Farmer AM, following a comprehensive study of the coastline around Australia's mainland and surrounding islands.

Cowes was the only Victorian beach to make the Top 10, while Tasmania took out the top spot for the Bay of Fires.

It's the first time the title has gone to a cluster of beaches and not a single winner. The section of coast makes up the southern portion of the Bay of Fires bookended by The Gardens to the North and Binalong Bay to the South.

Mr Farmer, who is an Australian coastal veteran and one of Tourism Australia's Friends of Australia, said while the water might be a bit cooler in Tasmania its coastline is pristine and the Bay of Fires is worthy of the coveted title of Best Australian Beach for 2025.

"I spent plenty of time in Tasmania assessing the beaches and in the end there were so many incredible options I couldn't even settle on one which is why,

for the first time, I'm awarding the best beach to a cluster of neighbouring beach bays in the Bay of Fires," Mr Farmer said.

Woolgoolga in New South Wales has been judged Australia's best mainland beach and finished in second spot, while Emily Bay Lagoon on Norfolk Island has taken out the bronze.

"Every beach which makes the list is a winner and this year really highlights the incredible diversity of the beach offerings we have here in Australia.

"It really is like nowhere else in the world. In 2025 we recognise beaches of all shapes and sizes right around the country."

Top 10 Best Australian Beaches for 2025

1. Bay of Fires, Tasmania
2. Woolgoolga, New South Wales
3. Emily Bay Lagoon, Norfolk Island
4. North Kirra Beach, Queensland
5. Little Lagoon, Western Australia
6. Fishery Bay, South Australia
7. 1770, Queensland
8. Scarborough Beach, Western Australia
9. Caves Beach, New South Wales
10. Cowes Beach, Victoria

Forrest Caves stairway closed

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Forrest Caves beach stairway is now closed as upgrades resume after the busy summer period.

Access to the beach remains available for beachgoers via the nearby Bruce Avenue access track.

Phillip Island Nature Parks and local contractors are upgrading the main beach access stairs following previous strengthening work undertaken due to erosion.

Nature Parks General Manager Infrastructure and Planning, Jarvis Weston, said the closure was necessary to allow for stage 2 works which include demolition of the northern stairway ahead of construction.

It is expected to take between six and eight weeks, possibly through the April school holidays.

An aerial delivery of building materials by helicopter is planned for February 27.

"We are carefully planning for an aerial delivery of new material and the removal of demolished material from the existing northern stairway on the same day to minimise any impact on the environment," Mr Weston said.

"This approach ensures the sensitivities of the dune site are maintained and work can be conducted safely and efficiently.



Stage 2 works include demolition of the northern stairway ahead of construction. The main beach access stairs are being upgraded after strengthening work undertaken due to erosion.

"Importantly, our construction timeline means there will be limited work undertaken through the short-tailed shearwater fledgling period, which usually starts in late April when they commence their migration north," Mr Weston said.

The third stage of the project to the southern stairway is due to start in mid-May. A second helicopter lift has been scheduled after the shearwaters depart.

Nature Parks urges all visi-

tors to the island to download the Surf Life Saving Beachsafe app and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.

Warning: swimming is not advised at Forrest Caves or Forrest Caves (Bruce Avenue), see penguins.org.au/visit/safety for more information.

For current project updates visit: penguins.org.au/about/our-community/projects-and-maintenance/

Support promised for recreation reserve funding calls

ELECTION

Independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard has promised to support the local call for funding for the new Recreation Reserve on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads.

Deb met with Peter Paul and Glenn Plymin from Island Voice recently to discuss their vision for Phillip Island and how she could assist if she was elected to federal parliament.

The meeting focused on the urgent need for funding for the Recreational Reserve, with all parties agreeing Bass Coast Shire Council's 20-year strategy was inadequate for the community's needs.

Key issues raised included the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) having to turn away members due to capacity restraints.

"This flies in the face of plans to get kids off social media," said Glenn, who is also secretary of PIFNC.

"Sport is a proven avenue of improving mental health. Turning kids away from participation in team sports is a huge, potential life changing issue."

The Phillip Island Cricket Club is also affected, often being forced off their home ground due to poor surface quality.

Delivering the Aquatic Centre as soon as possible is also a key focus for Deb, who is bringing up two children on the island.

"We need to be able to teach



Independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard recently met with Peter Paul and Glenn Plymin from Island Voice to discuss their priorities, including the new Phillip Island Recreation Reserve.

our kids to swim," says Deb.

"Not everyone can afford swimming lessons. Surrounded by the ocean, this is a safety issue for our community.

"As a long-time Phillip Island resident, I've seen the population growth over the years.

"We must ensure we cater to this growing community by providing quality recreational facilities that promote both physical and mental health and positive social connection."

Deb highlighted the lack of attention given to Monash by the major parties when it comes to sports facility funding, and pointed to Helen Haines as an example of how independents can deliver for their communities.

"Haines has secured millions of dollars in federal funding for sports clubs in her electorate of

Indi, in addition to funding for roads, telecommunications and health services," Deb said.

"When you speak to people from Indi, they tell you how much the region has benefited since being represented by an independent.

"Here in Monash, we've been ignored by both major parties when it comes to funding.

"The people of Phillip Island have never had a pool, and the Wonthaggi pool is in disrepair."

She said facilities at Tarwin Lower and Drouin also desperately needed an upgrade.

"If elected, I'll fight for our fair share of federal funding to improve sporting facilities across our region."

Deb said she and Island Voice are aligned in advocating for funding to commence work on the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve as a matter of priority.



Speed measures to slow drivers in Cowes east

TRAFFIC

New pedestrian crossings and speed humps will be added to Church and Chapel streets in Cowes.

The Traffic Accident Commission has funded the safety improvement project for pedestrians, "encouraging people to walk and freeing up car parking spaces".

Three new wombat crossings (a raised pedestrian crossing designed to improve safety for pedestrians), eight speed humps and one raised intersection will be installed.

These include on Church Street near Coles, near the corner of Thompson Avenue at Berninnet, near the corner of Park Street near the current Cowes Recreation Reserve, with 80 metres of footpath near the corner of Dunsmore Road, heading to the foreshore.

The works are designed to slow vehicle speeds to 40 km/h, but a Bass Coast Shire Council spokesperson said any potential changes

to the official speed limit would be at a later date.

Construction will run from April to June this year and council will soon tender out the proposed works.

There will also be a review of streetlighting, which will be dependent on funding becoming available, with some street lighting works also to be undertaken.

According to Bass Coast Shire Council, noise levels won't increase for neighbouring residents, "but there will be a slightly different noise generated by vehicle crossing over the treatments, which over time becomes less noticed".

The council said the changes aimed to encourage people to walk and cycle, as well as reducing the risk and severity of crashes. Feedback on the upgrades was open in 2023.

Details: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowes-east-traffic-management

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Trump Round Two

- How Investment Markets are Reacting Across the Globe

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELCapital

The re-election of President Donald Trump has reignited volatility in global investment markets, prompting investors to reassess risks and opportunities across the United States, China, Europe, and Australia. With renewed pledges of protectionist trade policies, corporate tax cuts, and an aggressive stance on tariffs, financial markets are already responding to shifting economic realities.

Global Markets: Uncertainty and Volatility

The U.S. stock market initially reacted positively to Trump's victory, buoyed by expectations of tax cuts and deregulation. However, this optimism quickly faded as his administration announced sweeping tariff measures. His proposal for a universal 10% import tariff and potential 60% tariffs on Chinese goods has sent shockwaves through global markets, raising concerns about supply chain disruptions and inflationary pressures. The U.S. dollar has weakened against major currencies as investors brace for potential economic retaliation from trade partners.

China's response has been twofold: while the government has sought to stabilize the renminbi, its bond markets have experienced a surge in demand, pushing yields on its 10-year bonds to historic lows. With an already fragile economic recovery, Beijing has been forced to navigate the dual challenge of maintaining a competitive export market while countering inflationary pressures from rising import costs.

European markets, particularly in Germany and the UK, have seen a mixed reaction. While some sectors, such as luxury goods and pharmaceuticals, have benefited from a weaker U.S. dollar, concerns about renewed transatlantic trade disputes have kept investors cautious. The euro has gained strength against the dollar, creating new challenges for European exporters. Moreover, the uncertainty surrounding Trump's policy

decisions has driven investors toward safe-haven assets, including Japanese yen and European corporate bonds, as a hedge against market turbulence.

Australia: Balancing Risks and Opportunities

Australia's exposure to U.S. tariffs is relatively minimal, given that direct exports to the U.S. account for only 4% of total exports. However, as a trade-dependent economy with strong ties to China, Australia is highly vulnerable to the ripple effects of a renewed U.S.-China trade war. Any disruption to Chinese exports will have flow-on effects for Australian commodities, particularly iron ore and coal, which remain integral to China's industrial sector.

Despite these concerns, Australian markets have displayed resilience. Investors initially reacted to the global market turbulence by adopting a cautious stance, with technology and export-driven sectors experiencing sell-offs. However, key domestic players such as Wesfarmers and major banks have continued to attract investment, reflecting confidence in the strength of Australia's financial system and consumer sector.

The emergence of China's DeepSeek AI model has also presented an unexpected challenge to the global tech landscape, particularly affecting U.S. giants like Nvidia. While some Australian firms have faced scrutiny over AI investments, major institutional investors remain optimistic about long-term growth opportunities in the sector.

Looking Ahead: A Period of Adjustment

President Trump's return to the White House has injected new levels of unpredictability into global markets. The aggressive stance on tariffs, trade realignments, and potential regulatory shifts mean that investors must navigate a complex landscape. While U.S. and European markets remain in flux, Australia's relatively stable economy and strong banking sector provide some insulation from external shocks.

Nevertheless, investors must remain vigilant. Trade tensions, currency fluctuations, and shifting capital flows will continue to shape investment strategies in the coming months. Those with diversified portfolios and exposure to multiple markets may be best positioned to weather the uncertainty and capitalise on emerging opportunities in an increasingly interconnected global economy.



Stacked up (1968), from *You Should Have Been Here Yesterday*, showing on the opening night of the Bass Coast Surf Film Festival. Photo: Andrew McAlpine.

Surf's up for the Festival

FILM

Have you ever dreamed of a surf trip, catching a perfect barrel at breaks across the globe?

This year's Bass Coast Surf Film Festival at Berninnet on March 14 and 15 lets you live the dream, without leaving the island. Back for its second year, now with an expanded two-day format, films on this year's program travel from the UK, to New Zealand, Canada, Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico, Ghana and Australia.

For festival organiser Anneli McKinnon, putting together the program has been a carefully-considered labour of love.

She wanted to create an experience for people who share her love of surfing.

"Being on the big screen really does justice to these films," she said.

"It's so different to watching it on the TV at home. These are real waves, in real places."

It is, she said, probably the closest you can get to surfing without getting wet.

This year's films include a look back at Australia's surfing history, environmental concerns, surf trips and a celebration of surfing in general.

"I wanted to have a little bit of something from all aspects of surfing," Anneli explained.

The festival kicks off with two unique Australia films.

Book of Hunter is a short film about a former Phillip Island family who moved to Noosa, and their young son Hunter.

The main feature, *You Should Have Been Here Yesterday*, dips back into Australia's past, with archival footage covering the history of our surfing journey.

"The footage has been remastered and it includes breaks from around Australia from the 60s, 70s and 80s," said Anneli.

"This opening night covers where we started, and where we're going ... all the generations."

The Saturday session

includes a series of short films in the afternoon, "a real trip around the world", followed by an evening session of two longer films.

"If you have a passing interest in surfing, the afternoon session is good," explained Anneli.

"It's like a tasting menu, showing a whole lot of different things."

The evening session has an environmental focus, with a film from Mexico (*Place of Thorns*) and a trip along the Victorian west coast (*Great Ocean Love*).

Other additions to the festival include live entertainment on Saturday between the afternoon and evening sessions, with local band The Foxy Junes providing some sweet ocean sounds from 6pm - 7pm.

There will also be an exhibition of surfing memorabilia put together by the Phillip Island National Surfing Reserve, for people to take a stroll down memory lane.

History

An avid surfer herself, Anneli's idea to create a festival took hold about four years ago.

When she moved to the island about eight years ago, she finally fulfilled a dream to take up surfing, taking lessons with Girls on Board to find her feet in the waves.

"Once I started surfing I wanted to watch everything. I was watching all these surf videos and was surprised there was no outlet for it down here."

With an extensive background in events, including stints working with Moomba, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival and the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Anneli saw a way to combine her expertise and her passion.

"I had dreams of watching surf films on the big screen, with surround sound," she said.

"When Berninnet opened, I saw my opportunity. The venue felt like

a natural fit for this sort of festival."

Anneli also saw Phillip Island as a natural fit for her film festival dream, with the strong local surf community.

"I wanted it to be a local's festival. The surf community is here, and this is giving them the chance to get together in another environment."

"It's something I wanted to do for a long time. I feel like this is the right home for it."

She said the response to last year's festival, which was screened over one night at the newly opened venue, inspired her to expand the program this year.

"People loved it. The reaction was amazing ... everything I hoped for."

"There was a definite buzz with everyone being there. Experiencing the films with people who have a similar passion or interest, sometimes it felt like the whole auditorium was holding their breath."

There's been a strong interest in tickets for this year's festival, with the option to buy a \$50 weekend pass for all three sessions or individual session tickets for \$20.

Anneli says she's just as excited as everyone else to see the films on the big screen.

"You really feel like you are there, on the wave, in the water. With the surround sound it's like you are right in it and invested."

"I don't get to see them on the big screen until everybody else does. That's exciting."

And if there's no such thing as too much surfing, the day after the film festival concludes Phillip Island is hosting the Phillip Island Pro Qualifying Series (QS) 3000 from March 17 - 25.

Book your tickets for the Bass Coast Surf Film Festival now at:

www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1317022, visit www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/live-at-berninnet-cowes or scan the QR code.

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Rev your engines: Superbikes return

The fastest production bikes on earth are set to return to the iconic Phillip Island circuit as the 2025 Motul FIM Superbike World Championship kicks off in style with its Australian Round.

This much-loved event, scheduled from February 21 – 23, promises an electrifying start to the season and a spectacular weekend for motorsport fans of all ages.

Phillip Island's world-famous track is renowned as one of the fastest and most picturesque circuits in the world. It's the perfect stage for the world's top riders to showcase their skills, battling wheel-to-wheel at breakneck speeds.

With a rich tradition of hosting thrilling Superbikes action, the 2025 edition is shaping up to be a must-see event, with teams and riders bringing fresh strategies, cutting-edge technology, and fierce rivalries to the track.

Exciting news for 2025

This year's championship is full of anticipation. Remy Gardner returns for Yamaha in the WSBK category, while young Oli Bayliss is ready for a fast start, now racing for Triumph in WSSP joined by fellow Aussie Luke Power riding for the first time in the WSSP championship for MV Agusta!

Can 2024's champion Toprak Razgatlioglu defend his title, or will young challengers like Nicolo Bulega try to upset the repeat?

Can the greats like Alvaro Bautista and Jonathan Rea reclaim the crown?

Adding to the excitement, Phillip Island also plays host to Round 1 of the ASBK Season with the fastest Aussie riders battling hard



The 2025 Motul FIM Superbike World Championship is at the Phillip Island circuit February 21 – 23. Remy Gardner (seen here at last year's event), returns for Yamaha in the WSBK category. Photo: Alia Schonberg.

to fight for early season results on a world stage.

Don't forget the fan zone style paddock show featuring live commentary, food, beverage and merchandise options, and live entertainment to keep the energy high throughout the event. Families, friends, and die-hard motorsport enthusiasts alike will find something to enjoy both on and off the track with off track entertainment and the Expo to visit!

Free locals Friday

As a special treat for the locals, residents of Bass Coast Shire are invited to enjoy "Free Locals Friday" on February 21.

Present proof of residency at the gate to gain free entry and witness the adrenaline-pumping

action of practice sessions and early qualifiers. It's a perfect opportunity for locals to soak in the atmosphere and experience world-class racing right in their backyard.

Whether you're a seasoned Superbikes fan or new to the sport, the Australian Round at Phillip Island promises an unforgettable experience. With its combination of high-octane racing, stunning scenery, and vibrant fan engagement, it's an event that truly has it all.

Secure your tickets now and mark your calendar for a weekend of speed, skill, and sheer exhilaration. www.worldsbk.com.au

Let's make some noise, Phillip Island – the Superbikes are back!

/ Sponsored article /



Last week this large tree fell across Ventnor Road, near the Fire Station. In 2024, there were several incidents with trees crashing down in front of cars, with one resident describing driving along the road as playing "Russian roulette".

Trees continue to tumble

ROAD SAFETY

Another tree has fallen on Ventnor Road.

Fortunately, no one was injured, but last week's incident again raises safety concerns about the busy road.

In October last year, a 67-year-old driver narrowly escaped injury after a large tree fell in front of his car at night.

This followed a report in September when another driver said a large overhanging dead gum tree fell in front of her car when she was driving around 9pm.

The woman, who sustained minor injuries to her hand, said it was a "windless" night and the crash caused significant damage to her car.

Some residents described driving down the road as playing "Russian roulette" and questioned whether it would take a serious incident for the dead trees to be cleared.

Others said they deliberately changed their route if possible, to avoid driving on the road.

On both occasions, a spokesperson for the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), who manage Ventnor Road, said their crews would inspect Ventnor Road that week "to ensure the road remains safe for everyone."

"Our crews regularly inspect every kilometre of our road network, including across Phillip Island, to identify any issues or hazards and maintain the roads in safe condition."

However, the trees and branches continue to tumble, with last week's tree the latest casualty.

The Advertiser contacted DTP and asked it to confirm how many inspections of Ventnor Road had taken place since last October, and how many branches or trees had been removed as a result of the inspections.

We also asked if there were any future plans to remove trees or branches from along the busy road.

The DTP did not respond by our deadline.

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Come and Run for the Kids next weekend

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

The Deb Rielly Run for the Kids returns on Sunday February 23.

This year, the popular community event has been expanded to include a half marathon and will also be a timed event.

Organised by a subcommittee of the Dalyston Football Netball Club, Run for the Kids is held in honour of Deb Rielly, a much loved and inspirational part of the Bass Coast community who passed away in 2019.

The reinvigorated event was relaunched last year, and embraced by the local community.

Frank Angarane from the organising committee, said this year's expansion reflects Deb's vision for the event.

"Deb was a serious competitor, and she wanted the event to include serious athletes as well as community groups and families," Frank said.

"Deb was passionate about being fit and getting out and about in our amazing environment and this event encourages as many people as possible to get active and appreciate our surroundings."

Half marathon

The 2025 Run for the Kids will also see the reintroduction of the half marathon, alongside 2km, 5km and 10km runs and a family friendly walk, with prizes awarded in different age categories. It will also be a timed event.

The event is one of a series of multi distance runs being held in Bass Coast between January and March, offering an oppor-



The Deb Rielly Run for the Kids returns on Sunday February 23 and registrations are now open for the event, which includes a half marathon, alongside 2km, 5km and 10km runs and a family friendly walk.

tunity for keen runners to test themselves.

Organisers are also encouraging sporting clubs, schools, workplaces and other groups to register as a team. The number of teams already registered is up significantly from last year and hopefully this trend will continue.

The team with the most participants will win a cash prize of \$500.

As a community event, or-

ganisers have deliberately kept the registrations fee low, to keep the event affordable, and encourage local participation.

History

The event was previously known as Keeping Kids on Track Fun Run, but was rebranded in honour of Deb Rielly, who founded the event.

Frank said Deb was passionate about helping young people. "She was particularly fo-

cussed on creating opportunities and support for the disadvantaged," he said.

He said the event was a fitting legacy for Deb, who was the 2019 Bass Coast Citizen of the Year, and will help to keep her incredible legacy alive.

"She was such a fit, driven person and worked as an ambo until the end," Frank said.

"She was passionate about helping kids and really driven to help her community."

Like many local events, the event went into hiatus over Covid, but when it returned in 2024 with a reinvigorated format, over 200 people took part.

Despite high temperatures and strong winds forcing the 10km run to be re-routed, Frank said the event was a huge success.

He is hoping an even bigger field lines up to run this year.

Race

The run starts at 9am from the main Kilcunda Foreshore car park and runners and walkers will all cross the iconic trestle bridge and take in the fantastic Bass Strait coastline.

Profits raised from the event will be used for the Dalyston Football Netball Club junior development program with a component donated to support charities or programs consistent with Deb and her family's wishes and the event philosophy.

The club is pleased to have SJD Homes come on as a major sponsor for the event this year and would like to acknowledge the continued support from Alex Scott & Staff and Voyage Fitness. The event would not happen without their support and that from other local businesses and community groups.

To register online (teams and individuals) go to: raceroster.com/events/2025/98253/deb-rielly-run-for-the-kids

For further information contact event coordinator Frank Angarane on 0418 529 310 or ontheroad3995@gmail.com.

/Sponsored article/

STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

As we enjoy more beautiful weather, the Bass Coast region is calling all beachgoers to come and enjoy the sandy shores safely.

To help you stay safe, we encourage everyone to **download the Surf Life Saving Australia, Beachsafe app** and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website (lsv.com.au) and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



beachsafe.org.au

Always swim at patrolled locations whenever possible, and in hot weather, take steps to protect yourself and others by keeping cool, staying hydrated, planning ahead and checking in with others.

We want everyone to keep safe when exploring the amazing coastline of Bass Coast.



JD0693AA

LITTLE PENGUIN DASH SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8



First competitors out of the water on Saturday morning on the Cowes foreshore, as the Little Penguin Dash got underway.



From left are 10-year-old competitors who were first across the line, Casper Hicks, Kelsey Watson, Summer Van Stensel and Maya Gregory.

Young competitors excel in the Dash

Over 100 enthusiastic youngsters aged between seven and 14 competed in their age categories in the Little Penguin Dash, which preceded the Cowes Classic biathlon event held on the Cowes foreshore on Saturday. Every competitor was a winner, presented with a medal at the finish line after finishing a 150 – 300 metre swim (depending on age) followed by a 500 metre – one kilometre run.



Among the enthusiastic participants in the eight year old Penguin Dash age group were Frankie Robinson, Macy Parker and Ari Cargill.



First out of the water in his age group heat was Lachie Dallinger, with his proud grandfather Pot Dallinger on the foreshore. Pot is famous for having competed in every San Remo Channel Challenge until his retirement just a few years ago. His granny Denise Magill (right) was also on the sidelines cheering him on.



Congratulating each other after competing in the Penguin Dash on the weekend in the ten year old category are Georgia and Abby Mueller; with Daisy Ingamells and Matilda Sainsbury, who were in the eight year old event.



Daisy Giliano, who blitzed in the Under 11 category, with Jett Fawaz, who came home in second place.



Under 12 entrants Archie Dallinger and Bowie Edwards.



Proud dad Andy Fawaz congratulates his son Jett after his race.

32ND ANNUAL COWES CLASSIC SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8



Justin Tilley wins the Coves Classic, making it two from two in the Bass Coast Series. He'll be looking for a clean sweep of the series at the San Remo Channel Challenge on March 1.



The top three at the Coves Classic. Justin Tilley, Liam Hemingway and Tyler Phillips. Tyler Phillips was also the first competitor out of the water.

A Classic day in Cowes

It was another successful day at the Coves Classic on the weekend, with local athletes dominating the event.

Phillip Island's Justin Tilley was the overall winner, while Zoe Adams was the first female to complete the course.

Simon Manning from the organising committee said the day raised over \$20,000 for the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC) and the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WBSLSC).

It was a busy day for organisers with more competitors registered for the individual categories, although team registrations were slightly down from last year.

Simon said the event ran smoothly, and was blessed with good weather.

"It was a great community event involving over 50 volunteer helpers from each club, plus help from the CFA and SES, who both provided vehicles on the day."

Results

Overall winner was local athlete Justin Tilley (in a time of 19:21.0), followed by Liam Hemingway and Tyler Phillips. Another local competitor, Dylan Muir took out fourth place.

"Justin Tilley taking out the event was a great effort – winning first overall, his age category (40-49) and all local awards,"



The top three Senior Female competitors (from left): Bethan Barrett (3rd), Zoe Adams (1st) and Stella Crawford-Rust (2nd).

said Simon.

"After also winning the Cape Aquathon he is well on his way to winning the Bass Coast Series."

The first female across the line was local Zoe Adams (21:22.3) in fifth place overall.

The highest placed junior was

Ayden Fawaz in 13th spot, with Cameron Finlay in 15th place overall. The two youngsters were in the Top 10 local competitors overall.

In the teams' categories, locals also excelled taking three of the four top spots. Finishing first

was Justin's Disciples (Jim Corbett and Luke Nicholson), while Noah Williams and Jack Briggs came second.

Third spot went to Team Ashbourne, with another local duo Pablo Y Carlos (Paul Roberts and Carl Wright) finishing

fourth.

Other notable local achievements included:

- Justin Tilley and Mark Rowe in first and second place for Mature Male category.
- Dylan Muir and Bailey Sutherland in first and second place for Senior Male.
- Zoe Adams and Bethany Barrett, first and second respectively in Senior Female.
- Rob Fleisner was the first Super Veteran Male across the line, in 19th position, in a category that included multiple Classic competitors such as Bob Matthews and Billy Yusko.
- Six of the top 20 spots went to local Junior male competitors.
- First local Veteran Male was Kris Harris (27 overall).
- Sarah Smith won the local Mature Female category.
- Suzie Herrington won the local Veteran Female category.

Full results at: mytimes.com.au

The final leg of the Bass Coast Series is the San Remo Channel Challenge on March 1.

Information and registrations at: www.basscoastseries.com.au/san-remo-channel-challenge

Having won the Cape Aquathon and the Coves Classic, Justin Tilley will be aiming to take out the Channel Challenge, and win the overall Bass Coast Series prize.



The organising committee and dedicated volunteers who help ensure the Coves Classic runs smoothly and safely.



The women enter the water for the ocean swim at the Coves Classic.

32ND ANNUAL COWES CLASSIC SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8



Some of the youngest local competitors in the Cowes Classic at the finish line. Back from left: Jesse Moschetti, Archie Williams, Brydon Marshall, Ethan Rhee, Ethan Tilley and Archie Cameron. Front: Jackson Allan, Jaxen Marshall, Flynn Dengerik, Lewie DeFazio and Joe Kelsey.



Yianni Caffierri, Archie Ross, Bailey Hennessy, Jasper Cashman, Ollie Duggan, Luke Nicholson, Leo Savona, Finn O'Brien and Jack Briggs after competing. Jack took out second place in the male team relay and local team relay with partner Noah Williams.



Local students Aishi Hibbert and Olivia Holmes took out second place in the female relay category of the event and Luke Nicholson, who won the male relay category with partner Jim Corbett.



Competitors Jannette, Rebeka, Suzie and Andy jumping for joy.



Local CFA volunteers John, Robyn and Malcom Finlay.



Members of the local Turtle Smugglers Swimmers at the Cowes Classic.



Trevor and Adrienne Ware, and Melanie and Nigel Evans, with Ryder Evans who competed in the event.



Ron Nicholson, one of the organisers of the event, on the mic.



At the post-race presentations, with Bendigo Bank's Bruce Procter, Junior Male winner Ayden Fawaz and second place getter Finlay Cameron.



WSLSC volunteers Brendon, Judy, Stafford, Grant, Dave, Bianca, Maddie, Janine and Lachie.



Phillip Island Football/Netball Club volunteers Sean O'Brien, Lisa Hennessy and Claire O'Brien on duty at the finish line.



Chris Ross, Melina van der Weerd-Arceo, Graeme Burgan and Simon Manning, part of the dedicated organising committee. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport.



Over 50 of the best sailors from around Australia have signed up for the Australian Air Safaris Around French Island Catamaran Challenge on February 15.



The Yacht club is hosting a community get together with a free sausage sizzle and 2-for-1 coffee offer, giveaways and lawn games from 10.30am.

It is race week for Cowes Yacht Club's biggest event

SAILING

This Saturday will see over 50 of the best sailors from all over Australia converge on the island for their chance at \$10,000 in prize money and to claim the overall Isle of Wight Trophy as part of the Australian Air Safaris Around French Island Catamaran Challenge.

The Ocean Reach Line Honours trophy is another one the sailors will be keen to get their hands on if they are the sailor or team first across the line.

Ninety-five spectators will watch the race from the Wildlife Coast Cruises ferry which booked out in a matter of hours with Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead officially starting the race from onboard.

For those not on the ferry, Cowes Yacht Club will be the place to be to watch the race start.

Thanks to the Red Rocks Golf there will be a free sausage sizzle and 2-for-1 coffee offer. Plus there are giveaways of Wildlife Coast Cruises ferry vouchers, Red Rocks Golf Course vouchers as well as Lawn Games for everyone to enjoy.

So come down to Cowes Yacht Club from 10.30am this Saturday February 15 with the Race Start at 12 noon.

Key Details:

- Welcome to event by Mayor and race briefing at 10am
- Activities and free sausages start from 10.30am
- Race Start 12 noon
- Address: Cowes Yacht Club, 400m from the main street

Community support

Cowes Yacht Club Commodore Andrew Janson has praised the Bass Coast and particularly the Cowes community for ensuring the Cowes Yacht Club can run the Around French Island Race.

"Cowes is a very small club, with 200 or so members yet we are able to run this race purely due to the help of the entire community. It would be impossible to put this on if it wasn't for all our amazing sponsors.

"The best thing for us is creating new relationships and partnerships with our members and this race helps us do that.

"This year through the incredible support from Red Rocks Golf Course which started in 2024, we now have sailors playing golf and golfers sailing," said Andrew.

The Red Rocks Golf Course team are a major sponsor alongside Australian Air Safaris and Modra Technology.

"We are really proud to be part of this event and excited to be able to supply the sailors, friends and visitors with a free sausage sizzle," said Sean O'Brien from Red Rocks Golf Course.

"The race is so unique and one everyone should come down and see on Saturday."

Red Rocks Golf Course will also have a marquee at the event and be donating some very special prizes to be given away before the race starts.

The team behind the new Isle of Wight Hotel from Moda are back and have their name on the overall winner's trophy which has always been called the Isle of Wight trophy for the past 28 years of the event.

This trophy will be awarded to not necessarily the fastest boat but the winner on handicap and is the most presti-

gious prize to win.

"This is our third year sponsoring the race and we do love what Cowes Yacht Club are doing to bring the best of the best sailors here to Cowes," said Tim Richardson from Moda.

It's not just local businesses; Bass Coast Shire Council is a major supporter of the race and make sure it happens without issue. There is also more brilliant support from Westernport Water who are back for their fourth year sponsoring the All-female crew trophy.

Other local supporters include the Cowes Bendigo Bank Branch, Wildlife Coast Cruises, Ocean Reach Brewery and Isola De Capri.

Andrew said the best thing for Cowes Yacht Club is to see a huge crowd come and watch the race.

"We just want people to come along and grab a sausage and check out the race.

"These really are the best sailors in Australia with around 15 teams coming from NSW, Tasmania and South Australia."

/ Sponsored article /

Get on board the Blues Express

JAZZ

On February 16, the incredible jazz ensemble Peter Gaudion's Blues Express returns to Cowes.

When they played Phillip Island in 2024 there was a sell-out crowd and the same is expected this weekend.

The group contains some of the most sought after musos in Australia. Peter Gaudion on trumpet and vocals has played with The Syncopators since day one.

Ash Gaudion on alto sax and vocals, is a charismatic and talented musician who has been immersed in the world of jazz and blues from a young age.

Bob Sedergreen on keyboards

has been described as the world's best blues pianist and he is a prolific writer of jazz tunes.

James Clark plays bass with The Syncopators and Shuffle Club while drummer Rod Gilbert is a regular with the Syncopators and Shuffle club.

They'll be joined by Jacki Gaudion, a quality vocalist who performs with many bands.

As the show is expected to attract a big crowd, please book early.

The show is at the Phillip Island Bowling Club, 40 Dunsmore Road in Cowes from 2pm - 4.30pm.

For more information please contact: Jill Boyce on 0417 416 300 or Geoff Taylor on 0409 948 613.



Peter Gaudion's Blues Express plays the Phillip Island Bowling Club, 40 Dunsmore Road in Cowes from 2pm - 4.30pm on February 16.

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BUSH DANCE RETURNS

We are pleased to be able to announce that our successful 2023 Bush Dance with return to Churchill Island on Saturday 22 February 2025 3-30 to 6.30pm. In the Shearing Shed. The popular band Blackberry Jam has been booked. FOCUS members and Phillip Island Nature Park ticket holders can enter Churchill Island at any time on the day. Bush Dance ticket holders can enter from 3.00 pm.

Advance booking opens on 25 November and closes on 21 February. If tickets are not sold out beforehand, they may be purchased on the day from 3.00pm.

Admission Prices are 1 x Adult (person aged 16 years and over) \$35.00, 1 x Concession (Pensioners, Seniors, Full-time Students, Apprentices) \$28.00, 1 x Family1 (1 Adult plus children aged 15 years and under) \$45.00, 1 x Family2 (2 Adults plus children aged 15 years and under) \$80.00

Please note that there is no price increase from the 2023 admission cost.

Patrons are recommended to arrive before normal island visiting finishes at 4.00pm.

Please note that this is an alcohol-free event.

Other refreshments may be purchased at the café before 4 pm or bring your own.

Bookings can be made at www.focus.org.au/bushdance2025 or use this QR code

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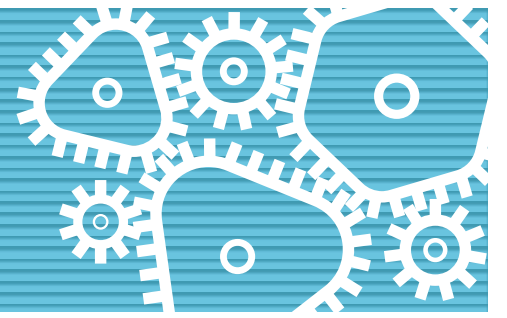
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Neil Luke surfing Express Point in the late 70s. Photo: Norval Watson. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport



Neil Luke with his boards at Island Surfboards, including his famous Shark board painted by Norval Watson circa 1985.

Vale Neil Luke: A Tribute to a True Surfing Legend

Phillip Island Boardriders Club captain Jake Eisen has written a heartfelt tribute to local surfing legend Neil Luke, who passed away on February 4.

My first memories of Neil Luke go way back to when I was about 12 years old. At the time, he still had a bit of hair and was built like a nugget; stocky, powerful, and always ready to charge. To a grom, Neil was intimidating. After all, he was a former world champion. Sharing the lineup with a guy like that was a big deal, and I remember thinking he was untouchable.

But as I got older, I realised Neil wasn't just a fearsome competitor, he was one of the most approachable guys you would ever meet. He had a way of making people feel welcome, especially groms who were just starting out.

A little nod of encouragement, a quiet word in the line-up – “You are ripping, mate” – meant everything. Neil was a fierce competitor with an unstoppable drive. He was crowned the World Kneeboard Champion in 1983 (the same year Tom Carroll won the stand-up division), proving he could take on the best and come out on top.

He had that classic never-give-up attitude, fighting right until the very last second of every heat. And that wasn't just in the water it was how he lived his life.

Despite his competitive streak, he was always up for a chat; a unique character, and also a mentor and friend to many.

Express Point

For Neil, Express Point was

more than just a wave, it was his wave. He lived and breathed it, spending countless hours out there, mastering every section, every barrel, every line.

He used to talk about how Express had changed over the years.

Back in the day, it had two distinct sections, and if you timed it right, you could link them together. Now, it's just one short section, still just as heavy, but different from its prime. That never stopped him from charging it; he knew that wave better than anyone.

Anyone who surfed Express during Neil's reign knew they were sharing the water with someone who understood it on a deeper level.

He had a connection to it that few could match, and his surfing there was a reflection of everything he stood for – power, precision, and pure love for the ocean.

Neil's love affair with the ocean started on Phillip Island, particularly at Kitty Miller Bay, with his famous saying: “Any wind, any tide, you will get a barrel, you will get a ride”.

Those words still ring true today. Locals even dubbed it V-Bay after Neil, whose nickname was Vegie.

Shaping

Before moving to Phillip Island, Neil ran Crafted Creations, his original surf shop on the Mornington Peninsula. Even then, his

passion for board design and craftsmanship was evident.

At the time, Russell Francis was shaping Neil's boards, and their relationship naturally evolved into mentorship. Russell, who was based where Islantis Surf Shop stands today, couldn't keep up with kneeboard orders, so he decided to teach Neil how to shape.

Before heading off on a trip to Cactus, Russell wrote down the one to 10 steps of shaping a surfboard, handed them to Neil, and left him to work it out on his own.

That moment marked the beginning of Neil's lifelong passion for the art of surfboard making. From that point on, he was constantly refining designs, experimenting with fins, and chasing the perfect board.

Neil always spoke highly of Russell Francis and Stuart Maxwell, who had Offshore Surf Shop, where he began fixing dings and learning the ropes from Russell, whom he said stood over him like a mother.

When Russell split from Offshore and set up Amber Glow, Neil went with him. When Russell went up to work for Dick Van Straalen, Neil went over to Island Surfboards where he stayed for 35 years, leaving an undeniable mark on the industry.

Whether it was dialling in performance boards, experimenting with fin setups, or simply passing on his knowledge in the shaping and polishing bay, he helped define the style of boards

that suited Victorian waves. His craftsmanship wasn't just about making boards, it was about making boards that worked.

Competitor, coach and mentor

Neil represented Victoria 15 times and loved competing, but even more than that, he loved coaching and mentoring young surfers.

He was Phillip Island's team coach for over a decade, guiding countless surfers in competition, training, and mindset.

His time as Victorian State Team Coach was something he saw as a privilege, and his impact on the next generation of surfers was immense.

He mentored surfers across Victoria, helping shape the careers of many who would go on to represent the state and beyond.

Neil loved coaching. More than just pushing his surfers to improve, he built an atmosphere where surfers felt supported, motivated, and proud to represent Phillip Island.

Whether it was in a heat, at a training session, or just out in the lineup, he knew how to create a team spirit that made everyone feel part of something bigger.

His strategic mind was one of his greatest strengths, and he always believed his surfers were just as good as anyone else. His advice was legendary:

- Whatever you do, don't surf

conservatively.

- Whatever you do, don't fall off.
 - You can do it, “you just gotta keep at it”.
 - Don't look at other people – position means possession.
- These words still resonate today and will continue to guide those who had the privilege of hearing them firsthand.

Legacy

Neil Luke wasn't just a world champion, a shaper, or a coach. He was a mentor, a friend, and a true surfing icon.

He was as St Kilda-mad as they come, loved footy as much as he loved waves, and had a passion for travelling, competing, and pushing others to be their best.

His love for surfboard shaping was a lifelong obsession that left a mark on countless surfers.

Neil's bond with Express Point ran deep, and his friendships with the Craike brothers and the Ryan brothers helped make Phillip Island what it is today.

The tight-knit surfing community on the island was shaped by characters like Neil, people who lived and breathed the sport, shared their knowledge, and pushed the next generation forward.

Neil wasn't just a figure in Victorian surfing, he was a pillar of it. His impact will live on for generations.

Neil, your legacy in the water and beyond will never be forgotten.

Tyler takes the win

SURFING

Congratulations to Tyler Duell who won the U18 Boys at the Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surfing Titles in Anglesea on the weekend.

More than 140 Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander people from across the state gathering to celebrate the annual event which brings together communities in a fun weekend of surfing and culture.

The Open Men and Women's champions, Jordie Campbell and Delilah Chisolm received a wildcard into the 2025 Rip Curl Pro Trials at Bells Beach.



Congratulations to Tyler Duell who won the U18 Boys at the Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surfing Titles in Anglesea on the weekend. Photo: Elly Harrison, Surfing Victoria.



The Island's U13 Sharks' Captain Archie Dallinger took a reverse ramp shot in Friday night's clash against Nyora.



The U13s pace-man Max Carville sends one down on Friday night's game against Nyora.

Strong show by Sharks

Continued from page 24

Glen Alvie lived up to its reputation with an outstanding spread for tea.

The Sharks headed into the misty rain to defend their total with Kleverkamp and MacMillan opening the bowling.

Manning took a catch providing Kleverkamp with an early wicket.

'Alvie attacked hard and it was game on.

Kleverkamp broke the partnership when DiFalco took a sharp catch with the gloves and Cleary grabbed two quick wickets just before the drinks break to leave the game in the balance at 4/69.

Cleary grabbed his third wicket when Parry took a catch leading Glen Alvie to make a charge, tightening the game up in the process.

Parry took another catch to give Sachin his first wicket along with a runout as the game tilted to the Sharks' favour.

Hodson bowled tight overs at the death and the Sharks won by 23 runs.

Wickets: Cleary 3/17 off 7, Kleverkamp 2/23 off 7 and Sachin 1/16 off 5.

Player of the match: Oliver Hodson.

PHILLIP ISLAND
9/252
 D. MOCK 78
 L. CLEELAND 69
 C. EPIFANO 25 ret.

A1 GRADE

KOONWARRA

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB VS KOONWARRA

SAT 8TH FEB COWES RESERVE

IGA
SAN REMO

PHILLIP ISLAND
1/30
 T. HORNSBY 12

B1 GRADE

MDU
216

J. WILLIAMS 3/33/12
 J. TRAN 3/34/8
 T. HORNSBY 2/37/8

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB VS MDU

SAT 8TH FEB MEENYAN RESERVE

Bowens
 THE BUILDERS CHOICE

PHILLIP ISLAND
6/176
 O. HODSON 72*
 S. SIRIRATHNAGE 28
 S. CARVILLE 26

G2 GRADE

GLEN ALVIE
7/153
 M. CLEARY 3/17/7
 J. KLEVERKAMP 2/23/7
 S. SIRIRATHNAGE 1/16/5

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB DEF GLEN ALVIE

SAT 8TH FEB GLEN ALVIE CG

HP fire

PHILLIP ISLAND
88
 J. REED 21
 G. WEBSTER 15

WOMENS

KOONWARRA
99

B. HELLMUTH-PASK 2/10/3
 W. CUTHBERTSON 1/10/3

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB DEF BY KOONWARRA

SUN 9TH FEB KOONWARRA CG

LUKE MARSHALL CABINETS

PHILLIP ISLAND
8/115
 G. MCCAUSLAND 39
 H. WOMERLSEY 26
 J. WILLIAMS 25

U17'S

IMPERIALS/NERRENA
3/123
 H. ARCEO 2/21/10
 H. WONERSLEY 1/26/8

PHILLIP ISLAND & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB DEF BY IMPERIALS/NERRENA

SAT 8TH FEB LEONGATHA RESERVE

Haymes
 THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN PAINT



The four finalists at the Phillip Island Golf Club's YODO competition.

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, February 4

Men's 18H Stableford (9Hx2)

Overall winner: Greg Kane (12) with 37 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: A-1 Greg Kane (12) with 37 pts C/B.

B Grade winner: B-1 Neil Williams (16) with 37 pts C/B.

C Grade winner: C-1 Richie Nettleton (26) with 36 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Lawrence Ferrari, 7th and 17th Brenton O'Brien.

Men's 4BBB 9H

Winners: Clive Scott and Steve Rieger with 21 pts C/B from Rob Kilcullen and Robert Leak with 21 pts C/B.

BDL: 19 pts C/B.



Men's winner: John McKechnie (right) who won against Peter Ablett.

Wednesday, February 5

Women's Stableford

Overall winner: Rhonda Boyd (18) with 36 pts.

A Grade winner: Rhonda Boyd (18) with 36 pts.

B Grade winner: Sheryl Smith (23) with 35 pts.

C Grade winner: Anne McCallum (44) with 35 pts.

BDL: 30 pts C/B.

NTP: 7th Anne McCallum, 10th Miyuki Yamaguchi, 17th Vicki Amato.

Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Pamela Williams (38) with 19 pts from Julie Robinson (45) on 14 pts C/B.

BDL: 14 pts C/B.



Women's winner: Jeanette Diss who won against Emma Hall.

Thursday, February 6

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Ben Walsh (9) with 44 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Ben Walsh (9) with 44 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Danny Hibbert (14) with 38 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Peter Lawrence (31) with 40 pts.

BDL: 32 pts C/B.

NTP: 17th Isaac Batty.

Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: Neil Dewar (31) with 21 pts from Rob Pascoe (16) on 18 pts C/B.

BDL: 15 pts.

Saturday, February 8

Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Mark Dickson (30) with 43 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Chris Lawrence (9) with 40 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Mario Amato (16) with 42 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Mark Dickson (30) with 43 pts.

BDL: 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Kai Cashman, 7th Graeme Niven, 10th Max Disher, 17th Scott Fullarton.

Women's 18H Stableford

A Grade winner: A-1 Miyuki Yamaguchi (25) with 38 pts and A-2 Lyn McCole (31) with 37 pts.

BDL: 33 pts.

NTP: 5th Jillian Chandler, 7th Liz Gleeson, 10th and 17th Dawn Andrews.

Open 9H Stableford

Winners: Mary Taylor (25) with 19 pts from Brian Carvell (32) on 18 pts C/B.

BDL: 17 pts C/B.

Sunday, February 9

You Only Die Once (YODO)

The Phillip Island Golf Club held the finals YODO event last weekend.

Members play qualifiers throughout the year to qualify for the final 19, with one player then eliminated at each hole.

Competition commenced at 6.30am with 19 players throughout each men's and women's match.

Women's winner: Jeanette Diss who won against Emma Hall.

Men's winner: John McKechnie who won against Peter Ablett.



Last weekend the Phillip Island Croquet Club hosted their first social match for 2025.

First social match of season

CROQUET

The Phillip Island Croquet Club has begun a new summer initiative of social

croquet on Thursdays from 4pm – 6pm.

Last weekend the club hosted their first game for 2025 with 14 members and friends of the club

taking part.

New players are welcome to join. The club's next game will be held on Thursday February 13.

Outstanding finals performance by RIPS

BASKETBALL

The Phillip Island RIPS Basketball Club put on a spectacular display at the Warragul tournament over the weekend with seven teams (U10 Girls, U12 Girls, U12 Boys, U14 Girls, U14 Boys, U16 Girls and U16 Boys) advancing to the finals.

The U10 Girls impressed with their relentless energy and defensive pressure, while the U12 Girls and Boys teams demonstrated solid teamwork and court awareness to secure their spots in the finals.

The U14 and U16 squads showed their versatility, adapting to different game situations against tough competition.

The U14 Girls and Boys both had thrilling matchups, proving their ability to handle high-pressure moments along with the U16 Girls and Boys whose leadership skills were on display.

Teams were cheered on by



The U12 Girls demonstrated great teamwork aiding them to secure their spot in the finals. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

their coaches, parents and supporters.

Congratulations to all the teams on their fantastic tourna-

ment performances.

The club looks forward to continuing this momentum in upcoming competitions.

Results from the league

TENPIN BOWLING

2s Company – Monday afternoon: 1st on 3 pts Palms, 2nd on 3 pts The Hounds, 3rd on 2 pts Him & Her.

ABL (Almost Bowling Legends) – Wednesday evening: 1st on 16 pts Dreamers, 2nd on 15 pts The Fireballs, 3rd on 13 pts The Rollers.

Business Early – Thursday eve-

ning: 1st on 3 pts Balls Deep, 2nd on 3 pts Old Timers, 3rd on 3 pts Turkey Slappers, 4th on 2 pts Wooley Balls.

Business Late – Thursday evening: 1st on 2 pts S&R Clarke Auto, 2nd on 1 pts City Lights, 3rd on 1 pt Team Rich, 4th on 0 pts The Big D's.

Top scores across each league:

Men: Raff Merante (200), Rob Wilkinson (183) and Steve R Clarke (183).

Women: Tricia Niessink (184), Barbra Burns (165) and Penny Wolswinkel (159).

The Phillip Island Bowling and Entertainment Centre's league has competitor spaces to fill.

To join call 03 5952 3977.



Congratulations to last week's winners on 35 points (from left): Bobby Arnold (L), Peter Gratton (S), Stephen Muhi (2) and Jaye Allen-Dayle (3) (not shown).

Midweek at Loch

BOWLS

The Southwest Gippsland Bowls Group held another successful competition last week at Loch and District Bowls Club with 45 players taking part.

Competitors were greeted by Pauline and John, Peter and Rob prepared teams, while Trever worked as host and Alex prepared the green for the day's play.

It was a lovely day for players however as the clock ticked on, the sun beat down and temperatures rose leading to one player withdrawing from competition.

The club give their thanks to Trever for keeping bowlers hydrated from behind the bar and to those who assisted throughout the day.

Congratulations to last week's winners on 35 points: Bobby Arnold (L), Peter Gratton (S), Stephen Muhi (2) and Jaye Allen-Dayle (3).



Best one game winners: Gillian Harper (3), Tony Heppleston (L) and Claire Sheers (S).

Runners up also on 35 points (on a countback): Phil Wright (3), Derek Fenn (2), Tony Morris (L) and Louis Magri (S).

Best one game winners on 19 points: Gillian Harper (3), Tony Heppleston (L) and Claire Sheers (S).

This week the club meets at Lang Lang.

Newhaven membership drive

BOWLS

The Newhaven Indoor Bowls Club is hosting a membership drive to attract new members to their small group.

The club meets at the Newhaven Community Hall each Tuesday from 1pm – 4pm.

This is a social group of indoor carpet bowlers who have been meeting for many years but now find that numbers need to increase with the aim of providing more social interaction and competition between bowlers.

For those who would like to join but consider themselves

to be inexperienced novices, free friendly coaching advice is available in a social atmosphere.

New indoor bowlers are welcome to come along for a meet-and-greet on any Tuesday with the club launching their membership drive on Tuesday February 18 at 1pm.

Attendance on the day is free but bowlers are welcome to come along on any Tuesday.

Regular bowlers pay only a small \$5 fee which includes a cup of tea or coffee. There is no age limit and dress is casual with all equipment provided.

For further information call 0408 708 728.

Red Rocks results

GOLF

Saturday, February 2

Stableford: 1st Terry Fox (14)

with 38 pts, 2nd Doug Collins (16) with 36 pts.

Euchre results

The Phillip Island RSL's Euchre Club made their return for the year last week with a record turnout of players.

After 18 players dined in the bistro, the club competed in the

library.

Ladies' winner: Beverly Baulderstone with seven wins.

Men's winner: John O'Brien with seven wins.

Encouragement award: Ernie Baker.

TIDE GUIDE

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

| WED 12 FEB | THU 13 FEB | FRI 14 FEB | SAT 15 FEB | SUN 16 FEB | MON 17 FEB | TUE 18 FEB |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| HIGH 1:10 am 2.62 m | HIGH 2:16 am 2.69 m | HIGH 3:14 am 2.76 m | HIGH 4:00 am 2.82 m | HIGH 4:40 am 2.83 m | HIGH 5:12 am 2.82 m | HIGH 5:39 am 2.79 m |
| LOW 6:40 am 1.35 m | LOW 7:57 am 1.23 m | LOW 8:59 am 1.07 m | LOW 9:47 am 0.91 m | LOW 10:28 am 0.79 m | LOW 11:02 am 0.68 m | LOW 11:34 am 0.60 m |
| HIGH 12:42 pm 2.31 m | HIGH 2:03 pm 2.36 m | HIGH 3:13 pm 2.46 m | HIGH 4:08 pm 2.56 m | HIGH 4:54 pm 2.65 m | HIGH 5:33 pm 2.70 m | HIGH 6:08 pm 2.74 m |
| LOW 6:54 pm 0.70 m | LOW 8:03 pm 0.70 m | LOW 9:02 pm 0.69 m | LOW 9:52 pm 0.70 m | LOW 10:34 pm 0.74 m | LOW 11:13 pm 0.80 m | LOW 11:46 pm 0.85 m |

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The Sharks' C Grade Oliver Hodson took a personal best of 72-not-out against Glen Alvie on Saturday.

Strong show by Sharks

CRICKET

C2
The Phillip Island C Grade Sharks travelled to Glen Alvie on Saturday February 8 for their Round 9 match.

The Sharks lost the toss and were sent into bat. Openers Francis and Manning departed quickly, 2/17.

Carville and Hodson came together and built a strong partnership, which was only broken just before drinks when Carville was bowled for a well-made 26.

A light mist rolled in dampening the ground. DiFalco came and went quickly, making two, which brought Sachin to the crease.

Hodson and Sachin ramped up the intensity, picking off singles and smashing

the odd boundary.

Hodson passed 50 and the partnership of 78 was only broken when Sachin was out for 28. Cleary made 12 including an out-of-the-park six and Parry finished the innings off four-not-out.

Hodson finished with 72-not-out, a brilliant knock. The Sharks were 6/176 at the break.

Continued page 22

Island women through to semi-finals

CRICKET

The Phillip Island women's cricket team travelled to the scenic Koonwarra for their Round 9 match over the weekend.

Captain Bec lost the toss and the Island women were sent out to field.

Sienna opened the bowling with intent while Grace and Kate followed with speed and precision.

Soon after, Winnie claimed the first wicket for the Island while Grace took a sensational catch.

B then cleaned bowled the opposition twice in consecutive balls.

Jess got a direct hit and run out, whilst Rosanna worked hard behind the stumps also claiming several run outs.

Tight fielding along the boundary by Katie and Claudia kept runs to a minimum and kept the opponents score at 84.

Moving to bat, the Island had a solid start with Grace and Rosanna putting on 24 runs in the first four overs.

Bec and B kept the runs ticking over and took the Island's total to 38 after eight overs.

Sienna and Claudia battled away as



Top bowler of the Island women's Round 9 match against Koonwarra, congratulations B.



Jess was the top run scorer of the Island's battle against Koonwarra.

Jess and Katie came in, ready to ramp the game up.

Jess hit a massive six and the Island were 71 at the change.

Kate and Winnie closed the innings for the Island with Winnie hitting a boundary through square leg.

The final score saw the Island fall short by 11 runs, finishing the home and away season in fourth position on the ladder.

The Island women now advance to the semi-final and play Inverloch at Inverloch, on Sunday February 16.

Congratulations to Jess and Grace, top scoring with 21 and 15 runs.

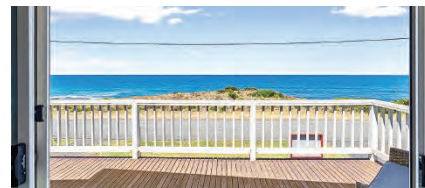
The pick of the bowlers were B 2/10 (3) and Winnie 1/15 (3).

Congratulations to Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Entertainment Centre Player of the Match: top scorer, Jess.

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- \$1,350,000**

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 - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms
- \$920,000**

2A CHICORY AVENUE, COWES



- Situated in a well sort after area, close to Cowes main beach, shops, restaurants and cafes
 - Light filled open plan, recently renovated main bathroom, covered deck, fully fenced
 - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/1 car garage with ample storage
- \$810,000**

24 MCRAE AVENUE, COWES



- Absolute foreshore reserve frontage with amazing water views and access to beach via sandy track
 - Open plan living upstairs leading to huge entertainer's deck
 - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/lock up garage
- NEW PRICE - \$1,500,000**

49 MANNA GUM DRIVE, COWES



- Centrally located, light & bright open plan living leading to extensive fully enclosed back deck
 - Fully fenced, established gardens overlooking above ground swimming pool
 - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/1 car
- NEW PRICE - \$660,000**

56 REDWOOD DRIVE, COWES



- Bright open plan living with additional sunroom to serve as extra living area, modern appliances, secure garage with internal access
 - Low maintenance outdoor area complete with patio, shed and established gardens
 - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 cars
- NEW PRICE - \$695,000**

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