



PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

\$1.80 Incl. GST

Island battered by storms

The storms on Sunday brought a spectacular lightshow, with photographer Nici Cahill of Snapshot Photography, capturing this strike over Phillip Island.

WEATHER

On Sunday afternoon and evening, severe thunderstorms swept across Victoria, with hail, torrential rain and wind gusts of up to 124 km/h reported.

Across Phillip Island, the storm fronts – of which there were several over Sunday afternoon and night – hit some areas harder than others, with Red Rocks and Ventnor particularly impacted.

A post on the community noticeboard described being “slammed by the storm” in Red Rocks, with videos shared showing hail, chairs tumbling across a garden and outdoor furniture

being blown along a deck.

Some residents reported tables flying off decks, with one saying their outdoor furniture was blown out of their yard onto the road.

Another post reported a “double glassed skylight which is heavy as hell has flown off the new build opposite me and has landed two doors up. Luckily no one was hit by it”.

There were multiple reports of trees down in Ventnor and Cowes, as well as building damage and spot fires.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, 14.2 mm of rain fell overnight, getting the month of to a wild and wet start. This

is a sharp contrast to February 2024, where only 3mm was recorded for the entire month.

Response

Phil Friedlos, Unit Controller of the Phillip Island SES, said the storms on Sunday afternoon and evening kept crews busy.

Additional SES teams from San Remo and Wonthaggi travelled to the island to assist, with the CFA also lending a hand with the clean-up.

“We had a lot of crews out on the road,” Phil confirmed.

“We had about 25 jobs on Sunday, with the majority in Ventnor. There were trees down

on roads and on property, as well as building damage from storm water coming in.”

After storms raged through the night and into the early hours of Monday morning, Phil said crews again were called out to jobs across the island.

Monday morning saw SES units attending seven jobs in Cowes, five in Ventnor and two in Silverleaves.

“There were a couple of very large trees down on Ventnor Beach Road last night. And then this morning, on Ventnor Road, up towards Red Rocks,” Phil told the Advertiser on Monday.

He confirmed Ventnor and

Red Rocks were the two areas hardest hit.

“When the storm started to come through on Sunday, within a square kilometre of Ventnor, job after job kept pinging,” he said of the SES notification system.

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A very special Valentine's night

COMPETITION

One lucky island couple is set to enjoy a very special Valentine's night.

The Advertiser has an exclusive Valentine's Day pack on offer, including two tickets to see Elly Poletti's "Heart Strings" at Berninneit on February 14.

Experience an unforgettable evening where Elly Poletti's mesmerising voice takes centre stage. Accompanied by a lush ensemble of strings, piano, and trumpet, Elly delivers a performance that will resonate deeply and leave you feeling profoundly moved. As well as enjoying this incredible show (courtesy of Berninneit), local retailers have come together to provide a very special gift pack.

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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).

To go into the draw to win, you need to answer one simple question: What reality TV show did Elly Poletti appear on in 2023?

Email your entry to advertiser@pisra.com.au (put Valentine's in the subject line), or drop your written answer into the office at 2/60 Chapel Street, Cowes, before 5pm on Friday, February 7.

You must include your name, plus a contact number and email.

The winner will be notified on Monday, February 10.

POLICE BRIEFS



An explosion at the Cowes foreshore toilet block is being investigated by Cowes police.

Toilet explosion

An explosion at the Cowes foreshore toilet block is being investigated by Cowes police.

Police and CFA firefighters attended the call last Wednesday about 4pm, where officers found deodorant cans that had been set alight with sparklers, causing a loud bang heard by passersby.

Police said they were looking for a group of four young males, believed responsible for the "highly dangerous behaviour".

Bass Coast Shire Council manages the toilet block and the cost of the damage is yet to be determined.

"It's disappointing when a small number of people sometimes damage these valued community assets no matter how minor, leaving them unusable until repairs can be completed," a council spokesperson said.

Acid washed up on beach

A 20-litre container of phosphoric acid was found in the water off Surf Beach last week.

CFA volunteers responded to reports of a container washed up on a beach at around 4.40pm at Surf Beach.

Four CFA units from Phillip Island, San Remo and Kilcunda attended the scene.

Crews found the static container in the water and – wearing splash suits and breathing apparatuses – entered the water to remove the container.

"The container was then put into an oversized container and handed over to Philip Island Nature Parks," a CFA spokesperson said.

"The EPA was contacted on site.

"The incident was deemed under control at 5.37pm and declared safe at 6.29pm."

Emergency services were not aware how the container got to the beach.

Bass fire

A house was partially damaged by fire, as well as vehicles, fencing and hay bales, after the owner of a property at Bass was illegally burning off rubbish.

Six CFA trucks and three police cars attended the blaze on the two-acre property on January 29.

Police said the owner of the property the night before had lit a bonfire to burn a pile of rubbish and the following day embers started the blaze in nearby grass.

Flames burnt along a fence line, spreading to several cars, with hay bales also lost.

"This is why the CFA have a fire danger period. You cannot burn off at this time," police said.

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Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, Warragul

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With the waves lapping metres from their property boundary, residents have lodged a petition with the Victorian Parliament demanding urgent action. Residents from left: Steve Lapin, Tristan White, Christine Irvine, from the Silverleaves Conservation Association and Natalie Gray.

Erosion petition goes to Parliament

SILVERLEAVES

More than 4000 people have signed a petition to the Victorian Parliament calling for urgent government funding to build a sandbag wall at Silverleaves.

The petition, which was open in January, exceeded the 2000 in-person signatures required to be tabled and debated in the upper house of state parliament, and is the latest pressure to be applied to the government, following a protest last month.

Last week Victorian shadow regional development minister Melina Bath accepted the petition, and the 4181 signatures, on behalf of residents.

Her visit came in the same week that Federal Opposition deputy leader Sussan Ley also visited Silverleaves to view the erosion, with Liberal candidate for the Federal seat of Monash Mary Aldred.

Silverleaves' property owners said the petition was urgent given the imminent risk of inundation to their properties.

The petition states the Silverleaves community's concern at the "lack of State Government funding for emergency coastal erosion works to prevent homes, public infrastructure and public land from being undermined and lost".

It 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.

Last week the State Government reassured residents funding for emergency erosion works was "under active consideration", with a decision "expected soon" (see separate story).



Silverleaves resident Natalie Gray (right) with Federal Opposition deputy leader Sussan Ley, who inspected what was described to her as a disaster zone, last week.

Ley

Federal Opposition deputy leader Sussan Ley said she was invited by Liberal candidate Mary Aldred to tour Silverleaves.

"Mary is very well placed as the Liberal candidate for Monash to represent these concerns to our leadership, and is doing so," Ms Ley said.

"As a former Environment Minister in the Federal Government, we created the Australian Climate Service, working with the Bureau of Meteorology to assess the impact of coastal erosion.

"What I have just been shown is very concerning, and I echo the strong concern Mary has communicated.

"If Monash Monash elects Mary, she will be very well placed to get the action urgently required. This election is important. If we lose it to an independent, we don't have the same voice."

Ms Aldred said she had been working with local residents "for months now because this is such a critical issue for the local community and island tourism, and must be urgently addressed".

Retreat the best solution to erosion: report

ENVIRONMENT

Many beachfront properties will become "stranded assets" due to plummeting property values, according to a new report that finds while no new housing should be built in high-risk locations, redevelopment continues.

The report, "Reducing community risk to coastal erosion with managed relocation", by researchers at Bond University, states more than \$25 billion of coastal property in Australia was at "substantial risk from inundation and erosion".

"The Reserve Bank of Australia modelled the number of high-risk properties could grow by over 74,000 due to climate change," said the report, which examined impacts and planning on NSW's coast.

However many of its findings offer stark warnings to coastal communities in Bass Coast, including Silverleaves.

"American banks and insurance companies are already selling out of beachfront properties in coastal areas in the USA," the report stated.

"However, coastal property prices (on the NSW coast) have increased."

The report said the only solution to be offered by governments so far was to build sea walls, with the Insurance Council of Australia estimating \$30 billion needed to be spent on coastal defence projects over the next 50 years to prevent homes from becoming uninhabitable.

The report states while "sea walls may protect what is behind them, beach erosion can still occur as the structures modify coastal processes and deflect wave energy to adjacent properties and other coastal areas".

"Coastal engineering projects perpetuate the risk to beachfront housing."

Furthermore, previous planning decisions by councils had allowed



The \$3.35 million, 360-metre wall in Cowes east was built as erosion defence in 2022. A new report states while sea walls may protect what is behind them, beach erosion can still occur, deflecting wave energy to adjacent properties. "The era of routine armour emplacement is coming to an end," it states.

housing in high-risk zones "without considering climate change concerns, receding shorelines and rising sea levels".

"Part of the problem starts with legacy developments," the report said, adding that while councils agreed "no new housing should be built in high-risk locations, redevelopment continues" because of "the private rights of landholders".

Retreat

The report concluded there should be more emphasis on planning that directs people away from high-risk beachfronts and "planned retreat", or moving existing properties away from coastal hazards.

"The managed relocation of residents in high-risk beach environments is a most logical and practical option to reduce vulnerability," the report states.

"However, such reports can be dismissed by councils, political representatives and authorities as unworkable due to negative effects on residential landholders' property rights versus community benefits of the beach and

lack of planning."

The report said there was no mechanism to plan retreat, no government funding to buy susceptible houses, and no policy at the national level.

"This study did not identify any political will nor appetite for changing public policy to incorporate managed retreat to reduce risk.

"Planning legislation continues to provide mechanisms that allow development in high-risk beach locations and there is no policy to move people away from high-risk zones.

"With increasing climate risk and coastal erosion impacts, landholders and planners must stop relying on engineering options like sea walls to prop up properties that are no longer sustainable in a climate-affected future."

According to the Climate Council climate risk map, Silverleaves homes will face annual damage costs equivalent to one per cent or more of a property's replacement cost.

These properties are effectively uninsurable, or too expensive to insure, making insurance inaccessible.

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Erosion funding decision imminent

SILVERLEAVES

The State Government has reassured Silverleaves residents funding for emergency erosion works was “under active consideration”, with a decision “expected soon”.

Victorian Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos and MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale last week met with Bass Coast Shire Council CEO, mayor and deputy mayor to discuss urgent action and investment on coastal erosion in both Silverleaves and Inverloch.

The meeting came after councillors at the December meeting voted to meet with the Minister to lobby for funding, also moving a motion that “should conditions deteriorate further, immediately undertake necessary emergency works”.

Mayor Rochelle Halstead said the Minister confirmed funding applications were under active consideration by Cabinet and the Treasurer, ahead of Easter high tides that residents fear will breach sand dunes and enter properties.

“Minister Dimopoulos assured council decisions are



Bass Coast Shire Council mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead with Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos, MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale and council deputy mayor Cr Brett Tessari at the meeting last week, ahead of Easter high tides that residents fear will breach sand dunes and enter properties.

expected soon, with work progressing as quickly as possible,” Cr Halstead said.

“We need urgent investment and the commencement of works to protect our coastline, homes,

and public infrastructure.

“We look forward to working with the State Government to secure the necessary funding and ensure long-term solutions for our community.”

Cr Halstead said State Government leadership was “vital” and she invited the Minister to Bass Coast to announce the funding and works plans.

The meeting was also at-

tended by Council CEO Greg Box and innovation manager Teena Hale Pennington, as well as Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) officials.

Ms Crugnale previously said the Federal Emergency Management Minister Jenny McAllister had advised DEECA and council could meet criteria for this year’s disaster funding.

Hotspot

A DEECA report last year found since 2022, in the “hotspot” near Sanders Road, about 16 metres of foreshore has been lost to erosion.

The western shoreline of Silverleaves more broadly has eroded about 77 metres since 1953.

The report suggests sea level rise is coming faster than previously predicted, with the foreshore shifting to the front door of the most northerly homes the length of Silverleaves within the next decade if nothing is done to stop current erosion.

By 2050 all frontline homes along Silverleaves may be submerged and by 2100 homes in about 150 metres from the current shoreline could have been breached.

Line in the sand for future building in Silverleaves: VCAT

PLANNING

In yet another blow to Silverleaves, VCAT has again refused a planning permit for a home because of risks to future occupants from coastal inundation and sea level rise.

In January VCAT heard the case *Fellows v Bass Coast SC*, where the owners of 42 Bruce Road Silverleaves had applied to build a two-storey home, requiring the removal of 55 trees.

In March 2024, Bass Coast Shire councillors refused a planning permit for the Bruce Road land – despite planning officers and Melbourne Water recommending approval.

Councillors refused the permit because of excessive tree removal, and because the development would exacerbate the potential flood risk to life, health and safety of occupants.

The application received 29 objections and is for a 675sqm property, which has a Land Subject to Inundation (LSIO) overlay, and backs onto the Rhyll Inlet.

VCAT member Ian Potts heard there was no dispute between all

parties that Silverleaves was vulnerable to inundation from tidal storm surges at current and future projected sea levels.

“Where the parties differ is in the appropriate planning response,” he said.

Mr Potts refused the permit because Silverleaves was “not identified as a settlement area for further expansion or infill development”.

He said while the land was zoned residential, the evidence was clear “it is also exposed to inundation events and at risk of isolation during the wide scale inundation of Silverleaves”.

“This is not a situation where there is a policy imperative for housing to occur. Indeed, it is the opposite,” Mr Potts said.

“(There) is a clear legacy issue where a settlement has developed in an area now known to be very vulnerable to coastal inundation.

“Further infill development is being discouraged to avoid exacerbating this legacy issue while similarly avoiding an increase to the wider community risk.”

Mr Potts said while the development itself could be flood-

proofed, wider exposure remained an “unacceptable risk”, especially access to and from the land during an emergency.

“This is not a situation where only a property-by-property condition or response is required. The exposure of Silverleaves to coastal inundation is an issue for all landowners/occupiers, whether it be by the fact that their land will be inundated or that safe access to and from their land will be impacted.”

He said planning policy discouraged development of land east of Coghlan Road, and anyone evacuating Silverleaves would need to wade to Coghlan Road for up to 1.2km through “inundated roadways” by 2060 and 1.5km by 2100.

Mr Potts said Melbourne Water (MW) had not objected to the permit “based on conditions requiring the development to have floor levels above the projected 2100 inundation levels”.

“I do not accept that MW’s response has addressed the exposure of occupants to the hazard and risks if they were to attempt egress during those events.”

Mr Potts said he would not

have refused planning permission because of the loss of onsite vegetation.

Refusal

In March last year, councillors did not support the planning officer’s recommendation for the permit for 42 Bruce Road to be approved and instead Cr Michael Whelan then successfully moved an alternative motion to refuse the permit.

Cr Whelan said he failed to understand Melbourne Water, who had been “causing havoc” by rejecting proposals around the state in recent years and “suddenly this one sails through”.

“I cannot be in a position of putting people in harm’s way, which is how I would see an approval,” Cr Whelan said at the time.

The Bruce Road refusal is the second for Silverleaves by VCAT in as many years.

Last year, in *Doyle v Bass Coast SC*, the owner was seeking to build an elevated single level, three-bedroom home at 32 Silverleaves Avenue, with a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO).

VCAT concluded the permit

should be refused because of risks to future occupants from coastal inundation and sea level rise, especially because Silverleaves Avenue failed to meet a flood safety threshold.

Under an LSIO, the permit was referred to Melbourne Water who objected and the council was required to refuse the permit, but at VCAT council planners supported the permit.

Planners argued “site by site refusals” for development was “not an approach for managing the risk of inundation” and the behaviour of flood waters from coastal inundation meant residents could evacuate early or isolate for hours, rather than days or weeks.

The owner agreed with planners and argued the land was one of the last remaining vacant blocks to be developed and approval would not set a precedent.

The landowner said the floor level of the proposed home would be above the predicted flood level of 2.77 metres.

However, Melbourne Water maintained its opposition to the permit arguing the permit failed to manage inundation impacts.

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BASS COAST



Last week dozers began pre-construction digging at 2-8 Bass Avenue and 9-10 The Esplanade, Cowes. The \$130 million project is predicted to have a revised opening in mid-2026 (previously 2027).

Historic moment for Isle of Wight

MAJOR PROJECTS

After three decades, the “new” Isle of Wight has begun.

Last week dozers began pre-construction digging at 2-8 Bass Avenue and 9-10 The Esplanade, Cowes.

The \$130 million project is predicted to have a revised opening – according to developers Moda – in mid-2026 (previously 2027).

In September 2023 councillors unanimously approved the seven-storey (27.5 metres) development, the biggest in the island’s history.

There will be a mixed-use hotel to the north with: 163 hotel rooms; four food and beverage premises (pub, bistro, hotel dining, signature restaurant); three retail spaces (including a yoga studio, gym, and wellness centre); two function rooms; outdoor pool terrace with a bar; outdoor beer garden on the corner of Bass Avenue and The Esplanade.

There will also be a separate three storey tourist/worker hostel (14.5 metres) with: 49 one-bedroom

units; a manager’s apartment; rooftop basketball and tennis court; retail premises on the north-eastern corner with a 259sqm retail space along the northern frontage.

Last year the Victorian Planning Minister took the extraordinary step of intervening to fast-track the development, in the face of delays at VCAT.

History

The development ends a three-decade chequered history for the site.

Phillip Island’s first hotel, the Isle of Wight, opened in 1870 before being destroyed by a fire in 1925, then rebuilt.

The modern Isle of Wight was first given a planning permit for redevelopment by the former Phillip Island Shire, which was followed by a series of failed proposals, meeting with community opposition.

In 1989 the former Administrative Appeals Tribunal considered an appeal against the then shire decision to approve a seven-storey hotel.

However, this permit was not acted upon.

Following a series of

on-again, off-again permits, in 2005 a permit was granted which allowed a seven-storey hotel with 255 units, night club and bottle shop, restaurants and cocktail lounges, a public/sports bar, gambling lounge and café/bistro as well as shop and a gymnasium/health club.

The permit was later amended in 2010 and one month after the amendment the hotel was destroyed by fire.

The site remained vacant and in 2014 was put on the market for sale.

In 2019 a two-day Planning Panels Victoria hearing in Cowes detailed planning requirements for the Isle of Wight land, including seeking community consultation on designs, and requiring any future development remain seven storeys at the front half of the site along The Esplanade, increasing the rear half from four to five storeys.

The Planning Panel said any redevelopment must design around and make a feature of the significant Moreton Bay fig tree on the corner of the land.



The San Remo Cemetery, as well as Wonthaggi Cemetery, is now being looked after by the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT).

Cemeteries under new management

COMMUNITY

The San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries are now being looked after by the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT).

The transfer on February 1 was the result of a council decision in December 2023, to pay \$4 million-plus to SMCT to take over the mantle of caring for the sites, in perpetuity.

SMCT looks after a range of cemeteries and memorial parks in the state and has welcomed the two new cemeteries.

It acknowledged the work of the local community who have supported the sites over decades and said it would explore a legacy of history, reflection and compassion.

SMCT also pledged to work closely with the community to understand local needs and provide a seamless transition for families and the local community.

Coordinator of Friends of San Remo Cemetery, Jane Ross, welcomed the handover saying she hoped SMCT would bring profes-

sionalism to management of both cemeteries.

“I’d like to see planting and revitalisation of the Memorial Garden at San Remo as well as a system for readily identifying grave sites, plus other improvements we have long lobbied for.”

All enquiries regarding existing or new burials, funerals, and management of Wonthaggi or San Remo cemeteries should be directed to SMCT on 1300 466 904 or via email to enquiries@smct.org.au

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Notice of transfer:
San Remo and Wonthaggi Cemeteries

On 1 February 2025, the management of San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries was voluntarily transferred to Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) from Bass Coast Shire Council.

SMCT is proud to welcome these two beautiful cemeteries into our care. The voluntary transfer means the Bass Coast community will have access to the broader range of services and programs, extended customer service, and compassionate understanding of cemetery management offered by the experienced team at SMCT.

From 1 February 2025

- All enquiries regarding these beautiful spaces can be directed to SMCT.
- There is no change to the cemetery open hours. San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries are open from 8am to 6pm every day, and 8am to 8pm during daylight savings.

- Relationships with local contractors and funeral directors are upheld.
- An expert team member will be available as needed on-site on Tuesdays and Thursdays to support funeral directors and families.
- Our support team can be contacted seven days a week on 1300 466 904 or via email to enquiries@smct.org.au.

Any pre-existing memorial purchases or service agreements will of course be honoured, and we thank you for trusting us with your legacy and your loved ones.

Your legacy, our expertise

We thank those who have worked to support the Bass Coast community at these sites over the years, and look forward to exploring a legacy of history, reflection and compassion for you and your families.

For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions at engagewith.smct.org.au/basscoast, or visit: smct.org.au/sanremo or smct.org.au/wonthaggi.

The Block welcomes six super cars

REALITY TV

Six luxury cars were delivered to The Block on Justice Road on Friday afternoon.

Three McLarens and three Lamborghinis were carefully driven off the back of two trucks into the former TV reality show property.

The Block owner Adrian Portelli was on site to help with the unloading of the precious cargo and told passersby the cars were there to help celebrate his son’s first birthday party.

As reported in January a 34-year-old Ballarat healthcare worker won the LMCT+ Block Island draw, opting for the \$8 million in cash rather than The Block resort on Phil-



Owner of The Block, Adrian Portelli, oversaw the unloading of six luxury cars on Justice Road on Friday, which will apparently be used as part of his son’s first birthday party.

lip Island.

Mr Portelli forked out more than \$15 million on November 9 to secure the entire property from the 2024 season of the TV show, with all five houses

then listed on his LMCT+ website.

Because the eventual winner, Holly, opted for the cash, Mr Portelli retained ownership of The Block houses.



For all enquiries:
Phone: 1300 466 904
Email: enquiries@smct.org.au
Visit: engagewith.smct.org.au/basscoast



Silverleaves residents Stephen Lapin and Tristan White with Federal Opposition Deputy Leader Sussan Ley (second right) and Liberal candidate for Monash Mary Aldred, during a visit to Phillip Island last week.

Erosion and sports hub focus of visit

ELECTION

Liberal candidate for Monash, Mary Aldred returned to Phillip Island last week, accompanied by Federal Opposition Deputy Leader Sussan Ley.

Ms Ley was asked to inspect the severe erosion problem now encroaching into the Silverleaves residential area; and also met with representatives of Island Voice at the Phillip Island RSL, during her time here.

"Island Voice is working tire-

lessly to get a commitment for funding prior to this election from candidates toward development of the Sport and Recreation Plan for the carnival land site in Cowes, and action on the urgent erosion situation at Silverleaves," said president Peter Paul, following the visit.

"We were pleased to be able to meet with Ms Ley and Ms Aldred to press the island's case on both issues," he said.

Ms Aldred said she has been in discussion for months now

with local residents on the erosion problem and the need for new sporting facilities on the island, as both are critical issues for the local community, and must be urgently addressed.

"I thought it was important to secure a visit from the Deputy Leader of the Federal Opposition because of the urgency of both situations.

"I am determined to explore every possible option to stand up for local residents on both issues."

Broadbent back in the ring

ELECTION

Federal Member for Monash, Russell Broadbent MP, announced this week he will be recontesting the seat of Monash at the upcoming federal election.

"Truth. Wisdom. Justice. Fairness and Freedom. These are the values that I've stood by during my years as a parliamentarian," he said.

"People across Monash have called on me to stand again, and that is exactly what I intend to do."

"I have unfinished business."

Mr Broadbent lost the Liberal Party preselection for the seat of Monash in November 2023, with challenger Mary Aldred easily winning the party vote.

After he was defeated in preselection (161 to 16) Mr Broadbent announced he was quitting the party and would serve the remainder of his term as an independent.

The last federal election saw an 8.45 per cent swing against him, with his margin reduced to 2.9 per cent after preferences. The seat is now officially classified as marginal.

Early in his tenure, Mr Broadbent held an unassailable lead in the seat, which was considered a Liberal Party stronghold.

He was well known for his advocacy for refugees and asylum seekers.

In more recent years, Mr Broadbent attracted attention for his stance on the Voice – initially in support, then opposing it, his anti-vaccination and anti-lock-



Russell Broadbent announced this week he will be recontesting the seat of Monash as an independent at the upcoming federal election. Mr Broadbent is currently sitting on the crossbench after he lost the Liberal Party preselection in 2023 and quit the party.

down statements during Covid, and voting against the Same Sex Marriage proposal, despite the majority of voters in the electorate supporting it.

However, Mr Broadbent said his focus has always been on getting what's best for Monash.

"I am answerable to the people, and I'm driven by what is right, not what is politically expedient," he said.

"We are facing unprecedented, uncertain and unexpected times, and heading into what I believe is a very difficult political climate.

"Farmers, families and small businesses in our electorate, indeed right across Australia, are struggling like never before.

"I'm not and never have been a 'yes man'. The people of Monash know I'm prepared to take a stand for them – even when it puts

my career on the line.

"I will not be canvassing or accepting any financial donations because I will not be beholden to any individual, interest group or party," he said.

Broadbent says that Monash needs a truly independent representative who has the experience and tenacity to advocate for the region, declaring he has "the strength, expertise and wisdom to be more than just a voice for Monash".

Phillip Island lawyer Deb Leonard has already launched her campaign as an independent candidate for the seat.

"Great to hear Mr Broadbent is in the race," Ms Leonard said.

"I enjoyed our interactions during the 2022 campaign and look forward to seeing him on the campaign trail."



Maree Clarke arranging glass sections at the weekend workshops at Berninnet, to create a public artwork for the new cultural centre.

Glass full – crowds flock to workshop

ARTS

Several hundred people took part in workshops over the weekend, to help create a new public artwork for Berninnet in Cowes.

Yorta Yorta, Wamba Wamba, Mutti Mutti, and Boon Wurrung multi-disciplinary artist and curator, Maree Clarke, is the chosen artist for the Berninnet Public Art Commission.

Her proposed artwork is a Murrini glass canoe formed from glass sections. Over the weekend, Maree conducted a series of workshops – "Yawa (Long Journey)" – crafting and arranging the glass selections, which will ultimately form part of the final artwork.

At a talk on Friday morning, Maree presented some of her previous work.

Her work has been exhibited

in galleries nationally and internationally.

Maree's other public commissions include five stations of the new Melbourne underground rail loop and working with the Australian Tapestry Workshop for a 4.2 x 10 metre tapestry for Footscray Hospital.

More than 200 people RSVP'd online for the workshops, with more arriving across the weekend. The aim was to create 30 panels, which will then be sent to Canberra to be blown.

The council said Maree was selected for the Berninnet public art project for her emphasis on community participation through the workshops, and celebrating the unique local character and history by sharing traditional Aboriginal ways of travelling and living on the island.

Another development knocked back at Ventnor

PLANNING

VCAT has refused a planning permit for the construction of two dwellings in Ventnor, in a major test of Bass Coast Shire Council's new housing policies.

In January VCAT heard the case, Ramage v Bass Coast SC, where the owner was seeking to develop a vacant 831sqm property at 30 Grossard Point Road.

In February 2024, council planners refused the permit because of its impact on neighbourhood character, spacings of the building, lack of landscaping and potential impact to adjoining properties.

Three objectors also appeared at VCAT agreeing with the council planners.

The owner, however, argued the proposal was not an overdevelopment. In a win for council planners, VCAT member Cassandra Rea refused the permit citing the council's new neighbourhood character and housing policies.

The Bass Coast housing strategy, adopted last year, classifies towns as minimum, incremental or substantial growth areas across the shire for the next 15 years, with Ventnor locked in as minimal change.

The council's neighbourhood character strategy aims to stop developments that threaten the

character of towns.

Ms Rea cited the two policies and said Ventnor was not like metropolitan or suburban areas and the impact of development along the coast should be minimal.

"My observation is that the coastal character is influenced by the sense of spaciousness and openness," she said in her finding.

"The sense of spaciousness is an important element in this location.

"I find that the site can potentially accommodate two sizable dwellings. However, I cannot support the two dwellings in an attached form with minimal space, or no space, between the dwellings."

Ms Rea also cited the Bass Coast Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) "which seeks to recognise the importance of distinctive areas and landscapes to the people of Victoria", but added the State Government had yet to finalise the policy.

She said while the developer had proposed six trees be planted on the site, "I am not persuaded that the six trees can potentially fit".

Last year councillors rejected a Ventnor planning development for two new double storey homes at 31 Fisher Street Ventnor, the first use of the neighbourhood character and housing strategies.

PICAL still ironing out issues, needs fundraising help

COMMUNITY

PICAL management has responded to concerns about the departure of three board members and operational transparency, saying the centre's future is "secure" and they remained "committed to keeping the community informed".

The Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre committee of management released a statement on Friday in response to questions about the "sudden departure" of board members, and the "direction and governance of the organisation".

The Advertiser received feedback from concerned residents saying "it is essential for the community to understand the circumstances surrounding the members' departure, and transparency is essential for maintaining trust and ensuring the centre can continue to serve effectively".

The concerns come in the wake of last year's crisis, when PICAL declared impending insolvency, unable to meet debts incurred from an "administrative inaccuracy", underpaying wages to employees for more than a decade.

After initially being thrown a lifeline by Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Council, the crisis then concluded when PICAL announced they were able to meet their debts.



PICAL is still dealing with problems in the wake of last year's potential insolvency, with financial support from the broader community so far "limited".

Only 16 staff were impacted and all impacted employees will be paid by July, with PICAL aiming to raise \$80,000.

Committee of management president Graeme Turner last week responded to concerns saying it was not uncommon for boards to change members and the changes "do not undermine PICAL or its leadership".

"The challenges of the past months have placed a heavy burden on all involved in PICAL and it's understandable that some have chosen to step aside moving forward," Mr Turner said.

"Stepping away from the committee of management should in no way reflect a loss of interest or support of PICAL.

"On the contrary, the remaining members are united and focused on driving PICAL forward."

Christine Ash is now secretary, and Tim Anders vice president.

Financials

Mr Turner reaffirmed PICAL would "continue to operate into the foreseeable future".

"We are in the process of finalising our budget for 2025, which will guide our operations and strengthen our financial foundation.

"However, we must acknowledge that the financial support received from the broader community so far has been limited.

"Now that PICAL's future is secure, we hope to see renewed community support."

He said any donations would make a difference in delivering services, as well as volunteering or sharing ideas.

Mr Turner said PICAL remained committed to keeping the community informed and to resolving the historic debt.

"We are now actively working together to build a shared vision for the future," he said.

The new term one course program had just been released to "show PICAL is back into full operation", with additional courses, such as the "fix it centre".

"In the coming weeks, we will provide further updates as we finalise plans and initiatives for 2025.

"Together, we can ensure that PICAL continues to serve and support the community for years to come."



Rotary Club of Phillip Island last year held a PICAL fundraiser. Rotary president Gea Lovell (right) with PICAL board member Christine Ash. To donate online go to: pical.org.au

PICAL still needs your help

FUNDRAISER

PICAL has reiterated calls for the community to help fundraise \$80,000 by July this year.

PICAL committee of management president Graeme Turner said the funds raised would replenish depleted reserves and sustain operations following the recent wage debt liability.

Mr Turner said more fundraisers would be held in 2025, while donations can also be made at any time through the PICAL website.

The website donation page details how the organisation is "under significant strain".

"We are asking for your support, this will enable us to continue helping more than 60

people that visit PICAL every weekday and to keep delivering our support services," the website states.

It says in the last two years the neighbourhood house has: distributed 9000 food hampers, cooked 11,000 meals, and helped 7000 food pantry users "who aren't certain where their next meal will come from, sadly half of these people are children".

PICAL has also helped 350 people in dire situations experiencing homelessness, fleeing family violence or other personal trauma and helped more than 120 people to find employment

Details: pical.org.au/copy-of-get-involved

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Ventnor battered in Sunday storms

From page 1

Crews were expected to be busy throughout Monday as more damage was discovered. Phil asked people to be patient if there were delays attending to jobs, or roads were blocked as debris was cleared, as the SES team are all volunteers, working to keep the community safe.

Phil said the storm was a reminder of how important it was to heed weather warnings, and to secure loose items and outdoor furniture around the house.

"Fortunately this didn't happen a week or so ago when the island was busy," he said.

"It could have been a lot worse."

Parade closed

Not even the Little Penguins were safe from the storm, with Phillip Island Nature Parks confirming the Penguin Parade was cancelled on Sunday due to the severe weather conditions, with visitors receiving a full refund.

"Visitors remained inside the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre while staff continuously monitored the extreme storm cell,



The SES attended close to 40 call outs on Sunday and Monday, including trees down on roads and on property.

which included thunderstorms and lightning surrounding the building and Summerland Beach," a Nature Parks spokesperson said.

"Announcements were made to keep visitors aware of the situation and to communicate expectations around whether the beach doors would be able

to open.

"The difficult decision was made to cancel the Penguin Parade to ensure the safety of all visitors, staff, and volunteers."

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting the warm weather will continue this week, with temperatures dropping to the mid-20s by next week.

Rangers help save hungry penguin chicks

WILDLIFE

Nine penguins, including five fluffy chicks, some just days old, have been found by members of the public on the island struggling to stand, walk or showing other signs of distress.

The penguins, some weighing just 200 grams, were brought to Phillip Island Nature Parks' Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre over the past month where they are being hand fed up to four times a day until they are strong enough and a healthy weight to be released back into the wild.

Researchers at The Nature Parks believe rising ocean temperatures are forcing some fish to move to cooler waters, which means penguins are travelling further in search of food.

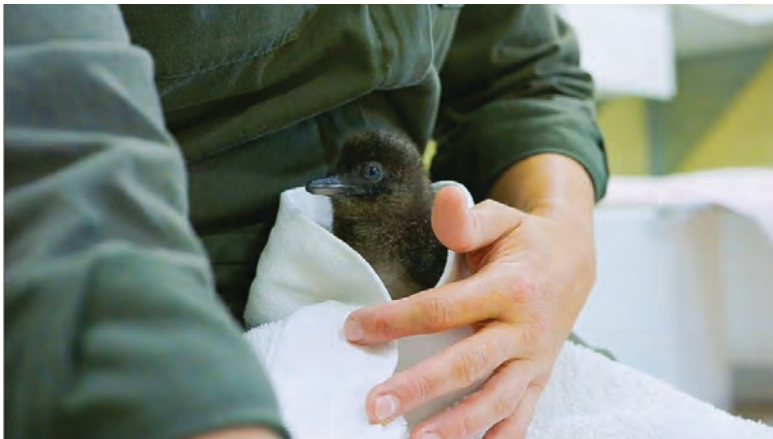
Despite the long trips, Phillip Island's world-famous penguin colony is still returning in large numbers to the Penguin Parade each night. But at this time of year, during breeding and moulting season, penguin chicks are at risk of starvation as their parents continue to spend longer at sea feeding before returning to their burrows.

Senior Phillip Island Nature Parks Wildlife Welfare Officer Brittany Pullin said while it is not uncommon to have multiple penguins in care at one time, having nine penguins including five chicks and other seabirds, makes for busy days for staff caring for the birds.

"The penguin prey have moved further offshore which means the parents have to swim further out to find food to stay alive, which means it takes longer to return to feed chicks, often over numerous days, resulting in starving chicks," Ms Pullin said.

"In fact, adult penguins will choose to feed themselves first, before returning to their chicks.

"The chicks in care are still fluffy so they need to moult the downy feathers, before getting



Penguin chicks, some just days old showing signs of distress and struggling to stand or walk, have been found by the public, and brought to the Nature Parks Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

their first waterproof feathers so they can take the brave step of swimming in the ocean.

"As these feathers grow, the team at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre will continue to feed the chicks fresh fish and will monitor their weight, behaviour and health conditions. Once moulting completes and adult feathers have grown, swim testing in the specially designed rehabilitation seabird swimming pools will commence," said Ms Pullin.

Rehabilitation

Also in care are some slightly older little penguins who are of fledgling age. This is when penguins will leave the nest and begin their life at sea.

"These penguins came into care underweight and suffering from malnutrition and in poor health at Christmas time. The penguins have gained weight, improved their strength and are maintaining good feather condition and swim tests are underway."

All the penguins will be microchipped and released into the wild so researchers can follow the individuals from hatching and across their life cycle.

Rangers at the Wildlife Reha-

bilitation Centre are preparing for more penguins to enter rehabilitation over the next week, as weather patterns are showing there may be heatwave conditions.

Heatwaves pose significant risks to penguins, especially during summer breeding and moulting. Temperatures above their comfort zone of 27-30 degrees Celsius can cause heat stress, with burrows regularly exceeding 35 degrees Celsius.

People can help penguin rescue, rehabilitation and release by donating or adopting a penguin with the Penguin Foundation (penguinfoundation.org.au) to help continue the lifesaving efforts for penguins and other seabirds.

Each year the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre responds to between 1500 and 2000 calls relating to injured wildlife on Phillip Island, and provides rescue, care and rehabilitation to up to 600 native animals, including approximately 64 little penguins and 54 other seabirds.

It is funded through Phillip Island Nature Parks ecotourism activities and the Penguin Foundation adopt a penguin program, and supported by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

Summer tourist trade, both up and down

BUSINESS

It may have felt like one of the busiest summer seasons Phillip Island has ever experienced, judging by the size of crowds and traffic.

But did the influx translate into income for businesses?

Phillip Island Nature Parks said the Penguin Parade officially broke the previous summer record, with 23 sell out nights in a row up until January 11.

"While our record run of sell out nights was interrupted by a couple of rainy days, the sell outs continued from January 16 to 28 to round out an incredible holiday season recording 35 sell out nights to date since the week leading into Christmas," a PINP spokesperson said, adding visitation was high for other Nature Park attractions.

"With Lunar New Year now underway, we expect our sell out run will continue through until mid-February."

The spokesperson added many local residents booked before the holiday season to secure tickets, with interactive message boards also flagging ticket availability.

Away from the Penguin Parade, not all businesses reported such success.

According to tourist data, while there was a 10 per cent increase in day visitors, overnight trips and accommodation stays

were flat in December, with day visitors also a dominant feature in January.

Businesses added there was a clear increase in day trips, possibly "related to economic pressures" and cost of living.

Retailers reported while shops were extremely busy, overall summer takings were down, with one San Remo trader estimating a drop of about 20 per cent.

Hospitality

San Remo Fish Co-op manager Wolfgang Platzer said visitation increased compared to last year.

But owner of Outback Chef's Wild Food Farm in Rhyll Jude Mayall said hospitality was "tricky" and summer had been quiet.

"People are really watching their budgets, especially with families. Most that I speak with have concerns re the state of the economy and how they'll manage in the coming year," Jude said, adding more broadly costs to run a business had increased.

"Unfortunately, the customer numbers and the spend per head has gone down. I'd say in the range of 30 per cent down.

"There seemed to be tourists and families about, at the beach and parks, but supermarket eats provided a safer way to spend than eating out."



Pam Maag with her rare heritage pumpkin, which currently weighs 4.5 kilos. The North Georgia Candy Roaster can grow up to one metre long and up to 16 kilos.

Pam's pumpkin is off the scales

GARDEN

A keen gardener at Sunset Strip has produced a massive pumpkin ... and it's still growing.

Pam Maag said the rare heritage pumpkin currently weighs 4.5 kilos, "but still has some growing to do before being picked".

"It's a North Georgia Candy Roaster and was originally grown by the Cherokee Indians in the Appalachian Mountains in the US," Pam told the Advertiser.

"These pumpkins can grow up to one metre long and weigh 16 kilos. But I've never grown them before, so we will have to wait and see."

Pam said the longer the pumpkins are left on the vine, the sweeter they get, and can be boiled and roasted.

With five pumpkins on her vine, she expects there'll be more than enough to share with friends and neighbours ... and the PICAL pantry, where she and husband Warren volunteer.

In terms of her own kitchen, Pam is keen to make the most of her extraordinary harvest when the time is right.

"I love traditional roast pumpkin and pumpkin soup, but I also like to try new dishes," she said.

"I may even make an American sweet pumpkin pie."

BACK TO SCHOOL

Advertising Feature



First day of school at Cowes Primary

It was an exciting time at Cowes Primary School as they welcomed the newest school community members last week. The Prep area was abuzz

with all the littlest additions.

While the children settled into their classrooms, parents joined the "Cheers and Tears" event to celebrate the big milestone.



Kate, Colin and big sister Hannah who also attended Cowes Primary send Declan off for his first day.



Charles and Kathleen celebrating Asha commencing school, at the "Cheers and Tears" get together.



Cassie and Decla with son Parker on day one at Cowes Primary.



Oli and Kristijan helping son Stefan get used to his new school.



Joanna with son Jimmy get settled in the classroom.



Principal Rodney McKenzie with Kate and daughter Gemma who started in Prep this year.



Danielle and Laura celebrating Holly and Evie commencing school, at the "Cheers and Tears" get together.

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Contact your preferred kinder service or local council to learn about how to enrol for 2025.

Visit vic.gov.au/kinder

BACK TO SCHOOL

Advertising Feature



The Seniors performance included a Snow White story ballet, with Summer Crestani as Snow White and Isabel Goss as the Queen.

Dance Studio returns in February

Phillip Island Dance Studio finished off last year with two sold out performances.

The performance included a Snow White story ballet and choreography works of energetic Jazz with moving contemporary and lyrical pieces.

Also on stage were the always popular preschool classes, who were a delight to audiences performing in their own morning concert.

"It was a great way to celebrate our 22nd performance at Berninnet in Cowes," said founder Rowena Campbell.

"The hard work of the students showed through their technical improvement and beautiful dance quality, musicality and joyous smiles of performing on stage."

Phillip Island Dance Studio offers a range of classes from a specially designed preschool program from 18 months through to adult dance and over 55s ballet movement class.

Also on offer is Jazz, contemporary and lyrical dance as well as specialising in classical ballet with a pre pointe and pointe program for school aged students.

The school offers fun and creative classes with qualified dance tuition that focuses on age appropriate and safe dance practices for both recreation and students wanting to pursue dance vocationally.

Classes resume February 4 in Cowes.

For more information about trial classes contact phillipislanddancestudio@gmail.com.

Fostering community connections

Phillip Island Village School (PIVS) is introducing new initiatives to its weekly playgroup sessions, creating more opportunities for students, families, and the community to connect.

Starting this term, early years students will engage in baking activities each week, preparing morning tea to share with playgroup attendees. This activity helps younger students to develop practical skills while also encouraging a sense of community and sharing.

Additionally, small groups of older students will join the playgroup sessions weekly, participating in activities and building relationships with the playgroup families. This cross-age interaction aligns with PIVS's commitment to fostering a supportive and interconnected learning environment.

PIVS Playgroup is held on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.15am at the primary school site, located at 483 Berrys Beach Road, Ventnor.

Inspired by the Bush Kinder philosophy, the playgroup emphasises outdoor exploration, encouraging families to dress appropriately for the weather and embrace a sense of adventure.

The playgroup serves as an opportunity for families to connect with the school community and gain insight into its unique educational approach.

While many attendees have children currently enrolled or considering future enrolment at PIVS, all interested families are welcome to join.

A nominal fee of \$5 per family is collected at the beginning of each session, covering morning tea, which includes fruit, baked goods, tea and coffee. Families are asked to inform the school of any food allergies in advance.

Phillip Island Village School combines



Early years students will engage in baking activities each week, as part of playground activities at the Phillip Island Village schools, helping develop practical skills while encouraging a sense of community and sharing.

a range of educational philosophies to provide unique learning opportunities, emphasising creativity, independence, and regular interactions with the natural world. Our programs are designed to support children in understanding themselves, their learning preferences, and how to collaborate with others.

For more information about the playgroup or to express interest in attending, please contact our facilitator, Lien Sim, at playgroup@pivs.org.au.

Further details about our educational approach and programs can be found on our website: www.pivillageschool.org.au.

Phillip Island Village School acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



PHILLIP ISLAND DANCE STUDIO



A nurturing school bringing the joy of Dance to Bass Coast for over 20 years for ages 18 mths - Adult
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social and emotional awareness

student empowerment

cross-age learning

decision-making

community

Play- and project-based learning

self-advocacy

CONTACT US TO HAVE A CHAT OR MAKE A TIME TO VISIT THE SCHOOL



Phillip Island Village School

ADMIN@PIVS.ORG.AU

BACK TO SCHOOL

Advertising Feature



Swinburne University Student mentors with CUC Bass Coast staff at Bass Coast College San Remo. CUC supported 198 local students last year to pursue their studies at 32 different institutions across the country.

Your learning community at CUC Bass Coast

Making higher education more accessible for students of all ages, CUC Bass Coast is a local learning community located in Wonthaggi, that supports schools, tertiary partners and other educational organisations to increase opportunities for students across the region.

Through the support of the Commonwealth Government Regional University Study Hub program, CUC Bass Coast provides a free study and learning space for students studying a degree, diploma or Certificate IV through any Australian University or higher education institution.

Research tells us that people living in regional and rural parts of Australia are 50 per cent less likely to engage in higher education. To address this discrepancy and build aspiration while students are engaged in their schooling, the Regional Partnership's Program Pool funding has enabled CUC to widen their reach in the community and roll out participation programs for current primary and secondary school students in the region.

Centre Manager, Sarah Bourke said "historically students have had to leave their homes or give up on their dream of pursuing further education".

"Through CUC what we are now seeing is how the opportunity to remain local whilst studying and working works for regional students. This is not only great for the students themselves, but also our region in helping to build the capacity of our local community and workforce capacity."

In 2024 the Centre supported 198 local students, 47 per cent of whom were



The centre provides a free study and learning space for students, with high speed technology, academic mentoring and a network of likeminded students. Photo: R OCallaghan.

first in their family to study at university, from 32 different institutions across the country, with 59 per cent studying full-time, 41 per cent part time.

The majority of students were enrolled in undergraduate courses, followed then by postgraduate and tertiary pathways programs. Modes of study included 62 per cent online, 18 per cent on campus and 20 per cent hybrid (online/campus).

The top areas of study were health, education, psychology, social work and community services.

All registered students have access to the centre seven days a week, providing high speed technology, academic mentoring and a network of like-minded students to create a community learning environment.

For more information, please give the team a call on 0472 741 451 or visit www.cucbasscoast.edu.au



New staff at Cowes Primary School this year, from left. Back: Jordan Stanley (Yr 2), Emma Graham (Yr 3) and Nina Sawtell (speech). Front: Simon Mangs (Yr 4), Christine McGinley (Yr5), Walter Hiatt (Yr 4) and Joris Kerstens (Yr 5).

New year at Cowes Primary

Cowes Primary School was filled with excitement last week as 534 students, including 59 eager Preps, kicked off the new school year.

Principal Rodney McKenzie said there was a noticeable energy around the school as students re-connected with friends, met their teachers and settled into their classrooms.

This year, the school is excited to build on its instructional routines, following its work with Dr. Nathaniel Swain in 2024.

The school has welcomed six new teachers and a new speech pathologist, all bringing a wealth

of expertise to the team. A special highlight is Emma Graham, a new Year 3 teacher and a former Cowes Primary student, who now returns as an educator.

In addition to new staff, Cowes Primary School is pleased to share that they now have a Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS) teacher.

This dedicated role will provide extra support for students' wellbeing, ensuring they have access to resources and guidance to help them thrive both in and out of the classroom.

During the holidays, several key improve-

ments were made across the school. The main office received a fresh coat of paint, and a new shade sail was installed in the junior area to enhance outdoor learning and play spaces.

One of the most significant upgrades was the installation of heat pumps in the school's beloved pool. This ensures a consistent water temperature of 27-29°C, making swimming lessons more enjoyable and accessible regardless of the weather.

With a strong start to the year, Cowes Primary School is ready for an exciting 2025.

PROVIDING A SEAMLESS EDUCATION SPANNING FROM BIRTH TO YEAR 6

AT COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL & EARLY LEARNING CENTRE WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON:

- ◆ Excellent academic results
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- ◆ Full-time wellbeing staff member
- ◆ Social skills and wellbeing curriculum
- ◆ Modern technology including iPads, laptops and interactive televisions
- ◆ Speech pathologist
- ◆ Excellent modern facilities
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- ◆ Environmental initiatives
- ◆ Swimming, tennis courts and vegetable garden
- ◆ A range of specialist classes including Music, Art, Japanese, P.E., Library and STEM

Our state of the art Early Learning Centre offers a dedicated Kindergarten program in purpose built rooms in addition to long day care services for students ranging in age from 6 weeks to 5 years

FOR INQUIRES PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:

PRINCIPAL: Rod McKenzie **PHONE:** 5952 2132

EMAIL: cowes.ps@education.vic.gov.au

WEB: www.cowespsphillipis.vic.edu.au

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE DIRECTOR: Lynee Clements **PHONE:** 03 5952 1747

EMAIL: info@pielc.com.au

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Studying in 2025?

- At CUC Bass Coast we offer a **FREE** safe, secure study facility located in Wonthaggi for students studying at **ANY** university or higher education institution.
- When you are a registered student at CUC Bass Coast you have access to:
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 - ✓ Student access 5am – midnight 7 days a week

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21-23 Baillieu Street, Wonthaggi (directly opposite Town Hall)
www.cucbasscoast.edu.au | degrees@cucbasscoast.edu.au | 0472 741 451

BACK TO SCHOOL

Advertising Feature



Wonderful start for San Remo's year

San Remo Primary has had a wonderful start to the school year with the grade 1-6 children beginning on Wednesday and joined by the Preps on Thursday.

"Once again we have a strong grade prep enrolment of 22 students, many of them joining their older siblings at school for the first time and giving us an enrolment of 160 students," said Principal Karen Bowker.

"Our focus this year continues to be delivering an evidence-based Reading program with a focus on the explicit teaching of phonics and phonemic awareness in line with Victoria's approach to teaching reading. Explicit teaching in mathematics and all other curriculum areas is also a focus this year.

"We also welcome new staff to our school with Kim Hawley and Callum Golightly joining the team as well as Alyce Houston returning to work in the area of STEM at our school," Ms Bowker said.

"We are looking forward to some wonderful events scheduled throughout the year for our school



Preps on day two at San Remo Primary School. There were 22 Preps enrolled this year, bringing total school numbers to 160.

community, including the welcome to San Remo evening run by the School Council. This year it will be bigger than Ben Hur with a Pop up Cinema, BBQ and drinks. Other events during the year are a Bush Dance, Drumming concert and Colour Run."

Ms Bowker said 2025 will also be the second year of The Resilience Project (TRP) with a parent information evening scheduled during the year and supportive articles in the newsletter for parents.

"All students loved TRP last year and will continue

to develop their skills in this area," she said.

"San Remo continues to work extensively to cater to all students' needs, with a strong Wellbeing program and classroom adjustments to meet the needs of all students.

"Our greatest wish however is to have money allocated in this year's state budget to begin Stage 1 of our building works.

"The school council is hoping that all of our hard work and planning will lead to the breaking of ground and new buildings in 2025."



Preps Finn and Bobby settle into Newhaven Primary School.

Smooth start for Newhaven Primary preps

Newhaven Primary School welcomed 36 preps this year, who all settled in quickly, according to Principal Sharyne Munday.



Mrs Jo Robinson with ES staff member Ruby Anderson and Preps, having a bright start to school life.



Whitney started Prep on her birthday and seemed very happy about it too.



Village school Preps Noah and Sergei reading.



Poppy was enjoying the start of the school year, with a special toy friend.



Getting into the swing of the new year, students at the Village School. Avalon (right) reading in the swing, while Charlotte sat and read.

SAN REMO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Oh! the Places You'll Go!

Welcome Back to School

Quality educational programs that engage and support our children to achieve their best. Students are given many opportunities to grow and learn academically and socially in a safe and caring environment.

San Remo Primary offers:

- Comprehensive and engaging curriculum prep to year 6
- Specialist subjects of Art, Japanese, Music, Physical Education, Library and STEM
- Dedicated and caring teachers
- Nurturing OSHC, Before School, After School and Holiday program

If you would like more information on our school please contact the principal: Karen Bowker on 5678 5354 or san.rem.ps@education.vic.gov.au
www.san-remo-ps.vic.gov.au

BACK TO SCHOOL

Advertising Feature



Over 170 new Year 7 students joined the San Remo campus of Bass Coast College in 2025, the biggest new cohort since the campus opened.



Campus Principal Matt Rose said the new students have settled in beautifully. The school also welcomed nine new staff, with total student enrolments now over 450.

Bass Coast College welcomes students back to San Remo

San Remo Campus continues to experience exciting growth, with over 170 new Year 7 students joining in 2025.

This is the biggest new cohort since the campus opened, bringing the total student population to over 450. Alongside the new students, the campus has welcomed nine new staff members across various

learning areas and education support.

“Our new Year 7 cohort has settled in beautifully,” Campus Principal Matt Rose commented.

“They are kind, eager to learn, and inquisitive – qualities that will help them succeed both academically and personally.

“We expanded our transition program last year to

ensure our Year 7 students were prepared for the expectations of secondary school. They had two full days at the end of 2024 to explore the campus, meet their teachers and make connections with their new classmates.

“The benefits of this have been obvious given how well they have settled” Mr Rose added the col-

lege continues to grow and thrive.

“We’re incredibly proud of the work we do and the teaching and learning programs we offer to engage the young people in our community.

“We are confident that we are providing opportunities to set them up for success.”

Bass Coast College is

committed to being an inclusive school that caters to the diverse needs of all students, helping them create positive educational pathways.

In 2025, the popular SWELL (Social, Wellbeing, Engagement, Leadership, and Learning) program will continue at Year 7 level. All students will also complete the pastoral

care subject BOOST, which sees the college partner with The Resilience Project at Year 7, and enter a new partnership with the School of Play at Year 8 to support personal growth.

For any enrolment inquiries, please contact Campus Principal Matt Rose at 03 5610 2020 or via email at bass.coast.co.san.rem@education.vic.gov.au.

BASS COAST COLLEGE

“Achieving success in a caring and creative environment”

Bass Coast College proudly continuing the 100 year tradition as the area’s government secondary school presence.

We remain committed to providing outstanding support for the young people of the Bass Coast area.

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SAN REMO CAMPUS

Years 7-9
03 5610 2020

FLOW CAMPUS

Flexible Learning
Options Years 7-10

WONTHAGGI CAMPUS

Years 10-12
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BASS COAST COLLEGE

BASS COAST COLLEGE
www.wonthaggisc.vic.edu.au
College Principal
Mrs Leith Cummins



BACK TO SCHOOL

Advertising Feature



Newhaven College back to school

Newhaven College came back to life as students returned to school on Friday and Monday. Teachers and support staff commenced early for three days of collaborating, professional learning sessions and planning for the year ahead. Everyone was ready and excited to welcome students back to campus.

The greatest excitement was the arrival of the 2025 Preps on Monday, with a welcome parade, greeting every Junior School student with a fist bump, handshake or wave. Although there were some nerves amongst the College's youngest students, they all settled in very quickly.

New Year 7 students enjoyed meeting their teachers, connecting with new friends, and exploring their new school environment. Year 5 students were excited to spend their first day in Middle School and quickly settled into their classrooms.

The 2025 Year 9s pulled on their hiking boots and donned their ranger-style uniforms ready for a year of adventure at the special Year 9 Environmental Centre. Everyone is looking forward to hearing about their escapades over



Newhaven College's new staff for 2025. Back (from left): Annie Brewin, Andre Hetebrueg, Tony Corr (Principal), Zach Walker, Carel Fourie, James Ryan, Tove Chadwick, Rebecca Burgan and Ryan Gingell. Front (from left): Casey Bartlett, Gayle Roberts, Elyse Jamieson, Nala Taylor, Kim Northover, Danae Ziolkowski, Aisling Fagan and Samuel Armer.

the coming year.

A special Forum Day was held for the 2025 Year 12 cohort. Designed to prepare students for their last year of school, the specialised program forms the basis for a successful year. Students attended workshops on improving learning practices and enjoyed a delicious lunch in the College Pavilion, followed by a House focused pastoral care activity with Year

7 students.

Year 12 can be daunting, but Newhaven College staff provide excellent support and pastoral care throughout the year so students can achieve their best outcomes.

Welcome

The College grounds had a facelift over the summer break, with the grounds and maintenance crew working on new play ar-

reas, replanting some of the gardens plus new car parking near the gym and Senior School. The school campus has never looked so good.

College Principal, Tony Corr welcomes everyone to the College community.

"Newhaven College is thrilled to be welcoming students back to school for an exciting 2025. We are especially pleased to be welcoming more than 100

new students and 16 new and returning staff to our school," he said.

"We have a busy start to the year planned with our first full school assembly, the commencement of weekly SEISA sport and Parent Welcome Drinks in the first week.

"Camps will also run in Junior, Middle and Senior Schools in Term 1. Preparation is also well underway for a number

of school events throughout the year including our school production, Xanadu, early in Term 2, plus our student trip to Borneo in the middle of the year."

The group of 16 new staff and teachers truly represents the broad range of employment opportunities provided by Newhaven College.

The new staff cohort includes Annie Brewin (Learning Support), Andre Hetebrueg (Teacher), Zach Walker (AFL SportsReady Trainee), Carel Fourie (Teacher), James Ryan (Music Teacher), Tove Chadwick (Teacher), Rebecca Burgan (Teacher), Ryan Gingell (Teacher), Casey Bartlett (Nurse), Gayle Roberts (Teacher), Elyse Jamieson (Learning Support), Nala Taylor (Learning Support), Kim Northover (Teacher), Danae Ziolkowski (Learning Support), Aisling Fagan (Teacher), Samuel Armer (IMT).

Newhaven College still has limited places available for 2025.

Please contact Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson to arrange a college tour on 03 5956 7505 or visit www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au for more information.



Preps Indi Muratore and Winter Shepherd, bonded quickly in Mrs Lynch's class. More photos at pisra.com.au/education



The Russo family now have three students at Newhaven, with a little sister keen to join them. Mum Lauren dropped off Coco, Remy and Alfie on Friday with big smiles all round.



Beyond the Classroom

At Newhaven College we offer a broad range of specialist activities, excursions and camps. We nurture the whole child, building a spiritual and emotional foundation to guide them through life. These experiences help students develop self-esteem. They build and strengthen relationships and develop leadership and organisational skills.

We have a comprehensive age-appropriate camps program for students in Years 2-12. All camp experiences are inclusive in the College tuition fees.

To find out more contact our Admissions Officer, Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505 or email admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au



Limited places still AVAILABLE FOR 2025

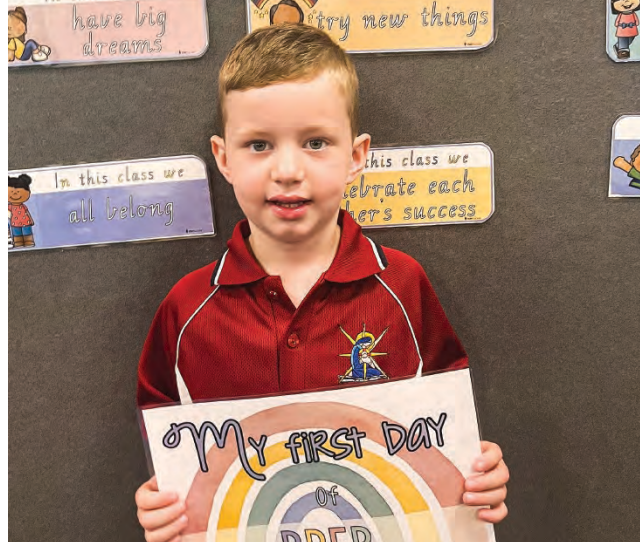
1770 Phillip Island Road, Phillip Island, Victoria newhavencol.vic.edu.au

BACK TO SCHOOL

Advertising Feature



Iris settled in well on her first day of Prep at Our Lady Star of the Sea.



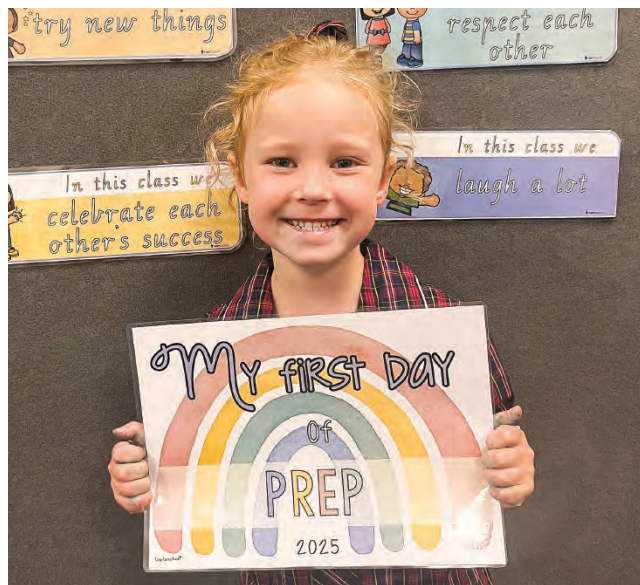
Finn enjoying his first day of Prep at Our Lady Star of the Sea.



New Our Lady Star of the Sea Prep Aria and with Miss O, settling into school.



Freya had smiles and a rainbow on her first day of Prep at Our Lady Star of the Sea.



Isabelle, one of the smiling Preps during their first day at Our Lady Star of the Sea.



Sailor enjoying some outdoor play on her first day at Our Lady Star of the Sea.



Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School – Cowes



Courage, Compassion & Creativity

We believe in providing a welcoming, friendly and safe environment where everyone is respected and treated fairly and justly. Taking pride in environmental sustainability, the surrounding wetlands and "green areas" on the school site will engage students in authentic studies within a natural environment.

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32ND ANNUAL COWES CLASSIC SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8



Scene set for Classic battle

The Cowes Classic this Saturday, February 8 looks set to be one of the biggest in the event's 32-year history.

The race is the second leg of the Bass Coast Series.

Last year there were over 400 competitors, and on the back of record registrations for the Cape Aquathon last month (the first leg of the series), organisers believe this could be the biggest field yet in Cowes.

The Cowes Classic starts at 2pm and local competitors are expected to vie for the top positions.

Phillip Island's Justin Tilley scored a hat trick at this year's Aquathon, taking out the number one spot overall, winning the Master Male category and was the fastest local competitor.

At last year's Classic, Justin recorded the second fastest time of the race, behind Australian Triathlete Callum McClusky.

Zoe Adams also competed strongly at the Cape Aquathon; the second female to cross the line and winning the Senior Females local category. She'll be hoping to continue last year's form in Cowes, where she won the Senior Open and Local Female categories.

The event will also include a Teams category, featuring a swimmer and a runner, in a category that is increasing in popularity each year.

The Cowes Classic consists of a 500-metre swim and four-kilometre run.

The race centre is upstairs at the North Pier and opens at 11am.

Registrations close at 5pm on Friday, at www.basscoastseries.com.au/cowes-classic

All competitors need to register online by 5pm on Friday February 7. There are



After record registrations at the Cape Aquathon last month, big numbers are again expected for the Cowes Classic, the second leg of the Bass Coast Series.

no on-day registrations.

Penguin Dash

As part of the day's event, the Little Pen-

guin Dash, for competitors aged 7 to 14 will run at 10am.

This is the sixth year the Little Penguin Dash has run, and organisers also

expect a record number of registrations.

The Little Penguin Dash consists of a 150 – 300 metre swim and a 500 metre – one kilometre run (dependent on age).

The event starts at 10am and the race centre upstairs at the North Pier opens at 9am.

Register online at: www.basscoastseries.com.au/little-penguin-dash.

Registrations close at 5pm on Friday February 7.

Fundraiser

The two events are a joint fundraiser for the Phillip Island Football Netball Club and Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club (WBSLSC), with all proceeds supporting the two clubs.

Lifesaving crews from WBSLSC will be on the water to ensure all the swimmers are safe, while members of the footy club will be marshalling both events.

Road closures will be in place for the duration of the race, and this year, vehicles travelling down Thompson Avenue won't be able to turn right at Chapel Street.

To avoid traffic delays, it's recommended that drivers avoid the area during the race time.

Presentations will start at 4pm at North Pier.

Major sponsors for the event include Bass Coast Shire Council, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bendigo Bank, Westernport Water and North Pier Hotel.

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

A total of \$4000 in prize money for the series winners has been provided by Bass Coast Shire Council.



The Cowes Classic is a major fundraiser for the Phillip Island Football Netball Club. Last year volunteers Chris Chivers, Glenn Plymin and Rob Barnard worked as marshals in the jetty triangle area for the race.

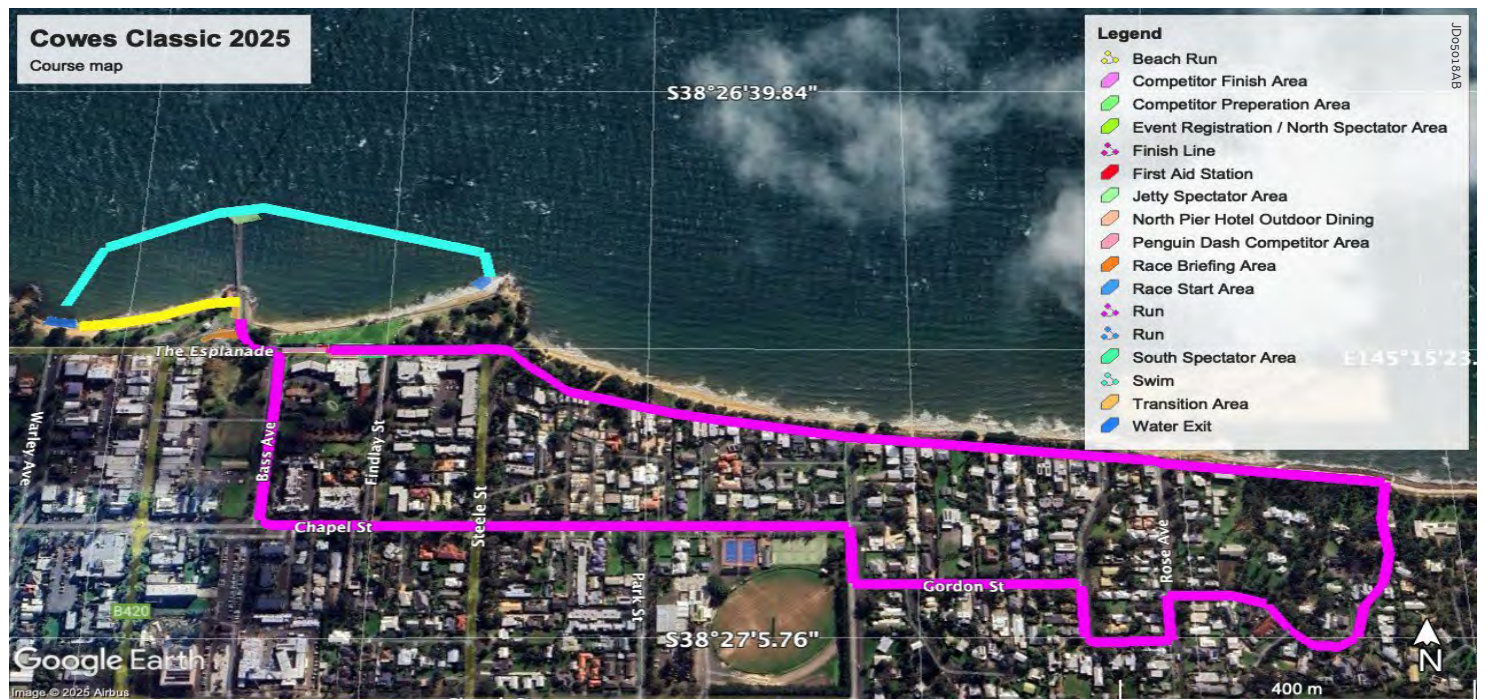
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Phillip Islander Zoe Adams (centre) won the 2024 female category of the Cowes Classic event, ahead of Mia Foster (right) from Seaford, and Alana Leabeater, of Coburg.



32ND ANNUAL COWES CLASSIC SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8



This year's Cowes Classic is expected to be one of the biggest in the event's 32-year history, with the race starting at 2pm on the Cowes foreshore.

Cowes Classic - 8 February Changed Traffic Conditions



JD0687AA

The Cowes Classic is on Saturday, 8 February. As part of the event there will be some road closures and changed traffic conditions:

- The Esplanade will be closed between Bass Avenue and Finlay Street from 6.00am to 5.00pm
- There will be restricted access in Bass Avenue, Chapel Street and the Gordon Street/Rose Ave area between 1.35pm-2.45pm for the run stage of the event.

The race starts at 2.00pm. For more information on the event visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/events.

Timeline: Cowes Classic and Little Penguin Dash

Saturday February 8

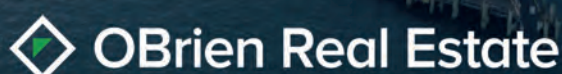
- 9.00am Race Centre opens for Little Penguin Dash
- 9.30am Water safety briefing Little Penguin Dash
- 10.00am Race Centre entries close for Little Penguin Dash
- 10.15am Penguin Dash start
- 11.00am Race Centre entries open for Cowes Classic
- 1.00pm Water safety briefing and reposition Cowes Classic
- 1.15pm Volunteers briefing for Run Course and traffic management plan
- 1.40pm Contestant race briefing – Jetty Triangle
- 2.00pm Cowes Classic start
- 4.00pm Presentations – North Pier

Register online: basscoastseries.com.au

All funds raised support the Phillip Island Football Netball Club and Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

Best of luck to all
Cowes Classic
participants!

After crossing the finish line, race over to **OBrien Real Estate's Auction**—your next big win awaits!



AUCTION: This Saturday, 8th of February!

Open for Inspection: 2:00pm
AUCTION: 2:30pm

To know more about this property, Scan here!



OR call Krystal Chandler.



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See you there!

Krystal Chandler
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JD0687AA

32ND ANNUAL COWES CLASSIC SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8



Graeme Burgan has been race referee for over 30 years.



Over the years, the event has been organised by a dedicated team of volunteers, such as members of the 2024 race committee, Graeme Burgan, Simon Manning, Ron Nicholson and Melina van der Sweed-Arceo.

A fundraiser across the decades

The Cowes Classic started in 1993 as a fundraiser for the Phillip Island Football and Netball Club and Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, which continues today, raising about \$10,000-\$15,000 for each club, with funds going back into youth training.

John Weston was one of the founders of the event over three decades ago, who at that time was president of the football club.

"The Channel Challenge was only a few years ahead of us and together with the surf lifesaving

club we wanted to create a fundraiser for our clubs that was similar, with a swim and a run," says John.

He recalls there were more than 100 locals who competed in the first event, which received \$2000 sponsorship from real estate agent Kath Rogan.

Every year since John has been behind the microphone, calling the race and winners, often running alongside to grab competitors' names.

Co-organiser Simon Man-

ning has been on the Cowes Classic committee for 30 years and competed in more than 20 events, each year setting up at 5.30am, then competing, then helping with presentations.

Simon says while the event is now often won by competitive triathletes from Melbourne, several locals have competed in most races including Bill Yusko, Bob Matthews and Dean Carter, while local competitors like Justin Tilley and Zoe Adams hold their own against the elite

athletes, often finishing just seconds behind.

On the starting gun, Graeme Burgan has been race referee for over 30 years.

"Over the years, about 20 have been rubbish weather, howling wind, rain and cold in the morning," Simon says.

But, he adds, they have rarely cancelled, with the event postponed once, in 2018, following the tragic death of well-known Australian journalist Michael Gordon during the swim leg of the race.

This year, with a forecast for a partly cloudy day in the mid 20s, the Classic should be an exciting event, for both competitors and the spectators who come to cheer them along.

And why do the committee members every year continue to dedicate so much time to running the Cowes Classic?



"To help the surf lifesaving and football clubs. This is better than a raffle," says Simon, who with John is a life member of the PIFNC.



This plan is not to scale.
 This plan complies with AS1742.3 (2019) and the Austroads Guide to Temporary Traffic Management.
 Signage may need adjusting to suit onsite conditions. Event Operations Group takes no responsibility for the compliance of this plan if implemented by others.
 This plan remains the property of Event Operations Group

Plan Date: 08/02/25	PROJECT: Cowes Classic
Author: Kelsey Milton	CLIENT: Janine Temme
Revised By: Shaun Fairthorne	SCOPE OF WORKS: Road Closure for Event.
Approved By: Anthony Mckechnie	LOCATION: Cowes
Certification: RIICWD503E	MUNICIPALITY: Bass coast Shire Council
	WORK DURATION: Short term (6am - 5pm)

Traffic Management Plan for Traffic Control of Cowes Classic 2025 #TMP3

Bryan Dawe returns to Phillip Island

ENTERTAINMENT

Former Phillip Islander, ABC TV satirist Bryan Dawe, will return to Cowes in March to perform his new show at Berninneit.

After his show on March 22 quickly sold out, a second show has been added on Sunday March 23, with tickets now on sale.

Road to Tangier: A Satirist's Journey is a "multi-visual" performance that tells of Bryan's travels from Hungary, Poland, Romania and Turkey to Syria, Jordan and finally to his adopted home of Tangier, Morocco.

Bryan told the Advertiser following the sudden death of his close friend and satirical collaborator, John Clarke, in 2017, he decided to live in Tangier.

"When John died it changed my life," Bryan said of John, who also had a home on Phillip Island at Rhyll.

"Apart from our working relationship, I lost a confidante, someone unique with whom I shared music, books and the world.

"He was unique and you can't replace someone like that.

"At the time of his death I needed to grieve but I couldn't



Once a local fixture on Phillip Island, TV satirist Bryan Dawe returns to the island with his show Road to Tangier: A Satirist's Journey, which is a fundraiser for a cause close to his heart. Tickets to the second show are selling fast.

go to the San Remo supermarket without being pulled up by someone wanting to talk about it, which is understandable. The audience had supported us for 30 years and they had a right to grieve, but so did I."

So, the antidote was Tangier. "I got off the plane at Casablanca airport and no one knew me," Bryan said, explaining the self-imposed separation was "healing".

He has since lived roughly three years in the Islamic port city that overlooks Europe ("I can see Spain from the end of my street").

Tangier is now the closest thing to home for Bryan, who only returned to Australia last year for the wedding of his son, and to perform his show, which includes a question-and-answer session.

"Normally I get a question about John and I can talk about him with them.

"I have now dealt with what I needed to deal with. I'm fine with it and I talk about it in the performance. Our relationship with the audience is not celebrity stuff at all. John and I ran away from that.

"The audience has travelled and they're smart."

Tangier may seem random, but for Bryan it was a natural extension to his travels through Turkey and further east.

He is a longtime supporter of the fight for a Palestine homeland and he has led group tours

to Eastern Europe, Jordan and Syria, at one point travelling to the latter just before the civil war.

"The more I went east the more I was fascinated," he said, adding that five of his uncles fought in Syria during the war.

Bryan last year sold his Phillip Island home of three decades and said he would spend half the year overseas and half in Australia, most likely in Castlemaine where his daughter – who bought the Phillip Island house from her father – lives.

Heart attack

Bryan suffered a "massive" heart attack in early 2023 while in Tangier, requiring emergency triple bypass.

"I had no warning. It happened quickly.

He said he recovered ("I'm fine now") with considerable help and kindness from a local family, who he now describes as his "Moroccan family".

The family's only income is from the 28-year-old eldest sister, who looks after her two younger sisters and brother, and mother, and who recently lost her job.

Bryan has been working to see if he can sponsor the family

to come to Australia, but in the meantime he is fundraising to support the two younger siblings through university.

Extraordinarily, he explains Road to Tangier: A Satirist's Journey is being performed as the key fundraiser.

Bryan admits he increasingly despairs at the state of global politics and public discourse but is not tempted to return to TV satire because "you can't satirise people better than they are doing themselves".

Nor would he ever be a politician.

"Until I come up with a better idea, all I can do is support people like the Tangier family.

"Money given to help the younger siblings is better than money to a charity because I know it will result in something.

"I can't fix Gaza, I can't change politics. What can you do? You can work your turf."

For tickets to Bryan's show at Berninneit, go to: www.bass-coastculturalvenues.com/live-at-berninneit-cowes

Tickets can also be purchased at Berninneit, open from 9.30am until 5pm weekdays and 10am until 4pm weekends.

Ken sails into his 90th

COMMUNITY

Ken Wood celebrated his 90th birthday at the Rhyll Hall with family and friends on January 25.

Born in Glen Huntly he spent much of his youth on French Island, with his parents Hazel and Christopher Wood and younger brother Robin. In 1955 the family moved to Cowes following the death of his grandparents Ursula and Ernest Moore.

Hazel and Ted took over their dairy farm and grew chicory much as they did on French Island. The area of land farmed by the Moore and Wood family went to the beach at Silverleaves and the end of Settlement Road – later named Woodlands Estate.

Ken spent much of his life on the water as a professional fisherman on Westernport

Bay including taking out fishing parties in the summer months.

He also spent time learning the ropes from fisherman and boat builder Mitch Lacco formerly of Newhaven.

He later built two Cousta boats and a dinghy for fishing, all Lacco designs; and later fished with Neil Lacco, seine netting in Westernport.

Ken's first boat was a washed-up dinghy at Fairhaven Beach on French Island. Around 16 years of age at the time, the island's policeman said it was not worth reporting due to the poor condition. Ken and Robin steamed new ribs restoring it, naming it Irene.

Ken's next boat (some 33 years later) was the Cygnet. It was launched in 1984 and built in the driveway and shed at Rhyll. Ken, with son Wayne and John Jansson worked together building the boat.



Ken Wood celebrated his 90th birthday in January with family friends at the Rhyll Hall. Back (from left), his children Wayne, Anita and Tina Wood. Front: Ken (centre) surrounded by his grandchildren (from left): Tahlia and Cieren Wood, Lucy Dean, Ken Wood, Alannah Dean and Edward Ryan

Ken's next boat Nada, which launched 1988, was built in John Jansson's shed opposite the Rhyll Jetty, with the help of John and Wayne.

A dinghy launched in 1996 was built for his grandson Cieren on the family farm in Settlement Road, Cowes.

Neil Lacco also lent a hand. His latest boat Annette was

launched in 2012, and another Lacco hull was restored by Wayne and Ken when he was in his late 70s.

Ken resides in Melaleuca Lodge, Cowes.

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YVONCHONG

Phillip Island Golf Club Celebrates 75 Years

EVENT

Seventy-five years ago, the first official golf competition was held at the Cowes Golf Club, now known as Phillip Island Golf Club.

To celebrate this milestone, the club is hosting a Heritage Golf Day on Sunday February 16, promising great golf, great fun, and a tribute to its rich history.

The club's journey began on Bill Smith's 78-acre dairy farm in 1950, located in what we now call Dunsmore Road. The purchase was made possible by 25 local residents and business owners, each investing £100. Later, additional contributors formed what became known as "The Company."

Local identity Mr AJ Jones, owner of the Continental Hotel in Cowes and scratch golfer, served as the inaugural Chairman, laying the foundation for what would become an integral part of Phillip Island's history. Through community effort, Smith's farm transformed into an 18-hole course, complete with a humble tin shed acting as a clubhouse.

The Heritage Golf Day will feature a mixed four-ball competition, with a shotgun start at 12 noon.



AJ Jones played a pivotal role in bringing the Cowes Golf Club to life. The club celebrates 75 years since its first official golf competition, with a Heritage Golf Day on February 16.

Afterward, players can unwind at the clubhouse, enjoying nibbles and prizes.

An historical display will also be showcased, offering attendees a glimpse into the club's rich past. All proceeds from the day

will go towards the preservation and promotion of the heritage of the golf club.

For details or to register, contact the Phillip Island Golf Club on 03 5952 1121.

/ Sponsored article /



Don't miss the Phillip Island Health Hub Race at Woolamai Racecourse on March 1, raising funds for the new community hospital. Joan Gaunt, Julie Thomas and Lyn Wadeson enjoying the sunshine at last year's races.

The Hub Auxiliary is off and racing again!

FUNDRAISER

Members of the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary invite the community to join them at their annual race day fundraiser.

"We would love to see you at our Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day at the beautiful Woolamai Racecourse on Saturday March 1," an Auxiliary spokesperson said.

"It will be an exciting day with Fashions on the Field, face painting, footy handball, children's activities, music and raffles"

The Fashions on the Field has three categories: Junior, Female and Male! With prizes to be won in each category,

it's sure to be lots of fun, so start planning your outfits.

All money raised will be going to provide state-of-the-art anaesthetic equipment for the Phillip Island Community Hospital.

"Woolamai and District Racing Club generously donate \$5 from every adult entry to the Hub Auxiliary – so come along to support your local hospital and health hub whilst enjoying a great day out."

The Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day is sponsored by The Big Wave Complex, Phillip Island RSL, Lifestyle Communities Phillip Island and Phillip Island Winery.

/ Sponsored article /

PHILLIP ISLAND GOLF CLUB
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF PHILLIP ISLAND GOLF CLUB

HERITAGE DAY
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF PHILLIP ISLAND GOLF CLUB

Great prizes and loads of fun to be had
Book your spot at the Pro Shop

Sunday 16th February
4BBB Stableford Event
Mixed, Mens and Ladies Shotgun start at 12 noon
Cost \$30 for golf and nibbles back at the Clubrooms

All proceeds go towards the preservation and promotion of the heritage of the Phillip Island Golf Club

PHILLIP ISLAND HEALTH HUB AUXILIARY
WITH WOOLAMAI & DISTRICT RACING CLUB
PRESENTS

Phillip Island Health Hub
RACE DAY
RAISING MONEY FOR OUR
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

SAT 1st MAR 2025 | **11^{am} - 5^{pm}**

All bookings online at www.woolamairaces.com.au

Enjoy a family-friendly day at Woolamai Races to support the Phillip Island Health Hub and Community Hospital:

- Fashions on the Fields • Children's activities • Face painting

With thanks to the Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser for their continued support

Enjoy the spectacle of catamaran challenge

SAILING

Three of Cowes most famous businesses are on board for Cowes Yacht Club's 29th running of the Australian Air Safaris Around French Island Catamaran Challenge next weekend on Saturday February 15.

Ocean Reach Brewing have been announced as the official beer of the event and have the naming rights for the prestigious 'Line Honours' trophy awarded to the fastest Catamaran around French Island.

If the wind and conditions are right this could be as fast as three hours with world class sailors attacking the race on some of the highest performance catamarans in the country.

"Cowes Yacht Club sailors are amazing supporters of Ocean Reach Beer, so we couldn't be more excited to return the support and jump onboard this event," said Ocean Reach owner Wayne Bismire.

"Naming the Line Honours trophy is very cool; hopefully this year we see the record for the fastest finish time."

Another business behind the event is Wildlife Coast Cruises who will be supplying their Kasey Lee ferry for spectators to go and watch the start of the race.

While on a much smaller scale but similar to all the spectator boats at the Sydney to Hobart Yacht race, this is an amazing opportunity to be out on the water and up close to the race.

Cowes Yacht Club is very excited Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead will



Ocean Reach Brewing is the official beer of the Around French Island Catamaran Challenge on February 15, with naming rights for the Line Honours trophy.

officially start the race using the Ferry's horn.

"This event is a fantastic showcase of our region's world-class sailing talent and the strong community spirit that makes Bass Coast such a special place," said Cr Halstead.

"It's wonderful to see local businesses like Ocean Reach Brewing, Wildlife Coast Cruises, and Isola Di Capri supporting the event, enhancing the experience for competitors and spectators alike.

"I'm honoured to be starting the race and look forward to seeing these high-performance catamarans in action."

Spectators

Spectators can book themselves a ringside seat for the action, on

board a special Wildlife Coast Cruise.

"Last year tickets sold out in 45 minutes, and we had just over 90 people on the Kasey Lee," said Wildlife Coast Cruises Captain John Dickie.

"The spectators loved it and it was a brilliant spectacle; so much so we cannot wait to be part of the event again next weekend."

Isola Di Capri is supplying pizza to the 90 competitors, family, friends and Cowes Yacht Club members at a welcome function at the club.

Cowes Yacht Club Commodore Andrew Janson is thrilled by these partnerships.

"How good is it having these local businesses support this event, the best pizza on Phillip



Get a ticket on the Kasey Lee for a close up of the race spectacle. Tickets are \$5 and on sale from 10am Thursday, February 6. Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead will start the race using the ferry's horn.

Island, the best beer in Australia and the brilliant team from Wildlife Coast Cruises.

"I am super thankful to them. Their help really will make this a fantastic event for our competitors, volunteers and the public to enjoy."

The Phillip Island community has embraced the event with enthusiasm.

In 2024, hundreds of spectators gathered at the Yacht Club to witness the race start.

This year, Cowes Yacht Club again wants everyone to come down to the club or get tickets on the ferry and support the best sailors in Australia.

At the club will be a free sausage sizzle and coffee truck with a two for one coffee deal, all be-

ing provided thanks to the Red Rocks Golf Course.

There are also lots of giveaways for spectators including event merchandise and rounds of golf at the Red Rocks Golf Course.

Tickets on the Wildlife Coast Cruises Ferry are very limited; boarding will start at the Cowes Pier at 11.15am and are only \$5 per person.

Bookings open on Thursday February 6 at 10am www.wildlifecoastcruises.com.au/catamaran-challenge

The Australian Air Safaris National Around French Island Catamaran Challenge will take place on February 15, with entries capped at 70 competitors.

/Sponsored article/

GIG GUIDE

- 07/02 MARK HOWARD - 8PM
- 08/02 LIVE MUSIC TBC
- 09/02 LEIGH SLOGGETT - 5PM
- 14/02 LIVE MUSIC TBC
- 15/02 LIVE MUSIC TBC
- 16/02 EL ROLLO - 5PM
- 21/02 DAISY SPRATT - 8PM
- 22/02 LIVE MUSIC TBC
- 23/02 ATOMIC HIGH TONES - 5PM

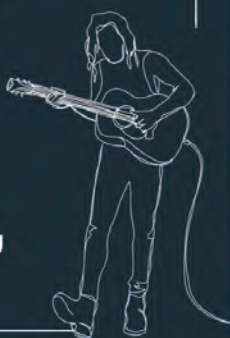
- 07/03 TOM WATERS & GEOFF ACHISON - 9PM \$45 +BF
- 09/03 THE LAING BROTHERS 4 -7PM
- 09/03 JACK BOTTS - 8PM \$45+BF
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Bendigo Bank's Peter Paul with Karen Preston, Imelda Daly and Lee Hogervorst (BCSC), at the closing night of the PICES Pop Up Exhibitions.



Marian Quigley, Peter Paul, Judy Wolstenholme, Carolyne O'Callaghan, Glenyce Paul and Sandra Henstridge at the conclusion of the PICES Summer Exhibitions.

PICES Summer Exhibitions wrap up in style

ART

Artists, visitors, and PICES volunteers gathered at the Berninnet Gallery on Monday, January 27, to mark the successful conclusion of the sixth PICES summer exhibition.

The event culminated in the much-anticipated PICES Bendigo Bank annual raffle, drawn by Bendigo Bank Board member Peter Paul.

As in previous years, the summer exhibition series, presented in partnership with the Bass Coast Shire Council, proved to be a major success. With excellent attendances and record art sales, the event once again cemented its place as a highlight of the Phillip Island summer arts calendar.

The exhibition launched on December 14 with the 50x50 showcase, featuring nearly 200 small-format artworks. This was followed by two curated exhibitions presenting the work of 22 contemporary artists, drawing art lovers and collectors from near and far.

The ability to sustain such a high-quality program over six weeks is a testament to the dedication of the PICES Committee, curator, and more than 30 volunteers. Their efforts – spanning curatorial assistance and exhibition/deinstallation, coordination, management, publicity, social



Emily Walker, Jillian Mitchell and Melinda Holt at the closing night of the PICES summer exhibitions which included the 50x50 showcase and two Pop Up exhibitions showing 22 local artists.

media, and daily gallery operations – were essential to the exhibition's success.

Throughout the event, a strong sense of camaraderie and collaboration was evident.

Many artists expressed their gratitude, with one stating, "The PICES team of volunteers made these exhibitions the success they were".

Another added, "Thank you for all the work you did, everyone. The exhibitions were fantastic, and we can all be very proud". Special thanks is also extended to the Berninnet staff, who played an integral role in supporting the event.

PICES Bendigo Bank annual raffle winners:

- First Prize: Original print by Lana de Jager (sponsored by Bendigo Bank) – Lana Graham
 - Second Prize: Glass bowl by Marlene Abela, Art Fusion Gallery (sponsored by Bendigo Bank) – Helen Penman
 - Third Prize: Bottle of vintage champagne (donated by David and Sandra Henstridge) – Lauren Morns
 - Fourth Prize: \$100 book voucher (donated by Turn the Page Bookshop, Cowes) – Melanie Flower
- PICES extends its heartfelt thanks to all who participated in this year's exhibitions and looks forward to welcoming you back for the 2026 Summer Exhibitions next January.



The Cowes Coastcare group is holding a working bee on Sunday February 9 to clear sea spurge. Marilyn Shaw, group co-ordinator, holding the invasive sea spurge weed.

Sea spurge purge

ENVIRONMENT

Cowes Coastcare is inviting the community to join them for a working bee on Sunday February 9, to clear sea spurge.

This toxic invader is in the dunes around Cowes and is currently in flower, so this is the best time to remove it, before the plants set seed.

Eradicating sea spurge has been an ongoing effort from the Cowes Coastcare team, with help from Year 9 students at Ne-

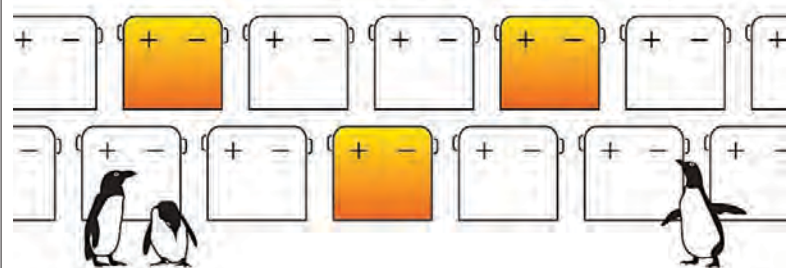
haven College who spent at least two afternoons last year clearing this weed.

The Cowes Coastcare team would really appreciate your help. If you'd like to get involved, meet at the beach end of McHaffie Drive in Cowes, on Sunday February 9 at 10am. The working bee runs for two hours.

Please wear a sun hat and sunscreen, and bring a bottle of water.

Gloves and tools will be provided.

mondo Information Session



Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) is urging people to attend an online session at 6.30pm on February 5, to find out about the new neighbourhood battery project.

Online session for batteries

ENERGY

Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) is urging people to attend an online session on February 5, to find out about the new neighbourhood battery project.

Seven neighbourhood batteries will soon be installed across the island, helping to store locally generated solar power and provide cleaner, more reliable energy for our community, said TRPI.

"These batteries will store excess solar energy during the day and release it when demand is highest, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, lowering energy costs, and supporting a more stable electricity grid," explained a TRPI spokesperson.

The new Neighbourhood Batteries will be located at:

- Berninnet, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes
- Kembla Pasadena, 1 Kembla Road, Cowes
- Seagrass Everton, opposite 11 Seagrass Avenue, Cowes
- Goodwood Elvington, opposite 75 Goodwood Drive, Cowes
- Recreation Reserve, corner

of Hallway Drive and Hoad Street, Wimbleton Heights

- Bass Coast Shire Council Depot, 105 Settlement Road, Cowes

- Katherine Circuit, 50 Katherine Circuit, Cowes

To keep the community informed, an Online Battery Information Night is being hosted by Mondo to provide project updates and answer questions, on Wednesday, February 5.

The session will run from 6.30pm until 7.30pm.

The session is free, but please register at: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/phillip-island-100-neighbourhood-batteries-update-tickets-1118268032789

This initiative is a collaboration between Mondo, Bass Coast Shire Council, Totally Renewable Phillip Island, and the Victorian State Government, with \$2.1 million in funding through the 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program. These batteries will play a key role in Phillip Island's clean energy transition.

"We'd love for the community to be part of this conversation. Registrations are open now."

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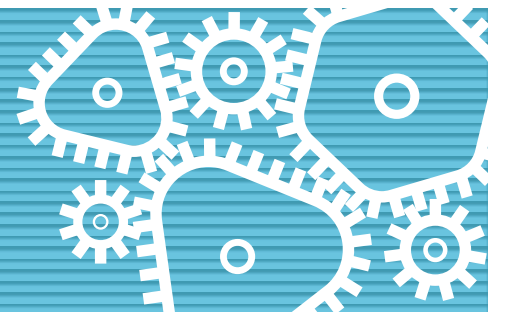
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One Gippsland board at the meeting in Morwell last month. Cr Rochelle Halstead (front left) was elected Deputy Chair with Cr Nathan Hersey (right) from South Gippsland elected as Chair.

New leadership team elected to head One Gippsland

ADVOCACY

One Gippsland has elected a new leadership team to lead the organisation for the next 12 months.

South Gippsland Shire Councillor Nathan Hersey was elected chair, while the Mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council, Cr Rochelle Halstead, was elected as the Deputy Chair at the organisation's board meeting held in Morwell last month.

A key priority for the new leadership team will be advocating for the region during the federal election campaign and in the run up to the next state election in November 2026.

Cr Hersey said he was proud to be elected to advocate for Gippsland to ensure its prosperity during a time of change and to continue the work of One Gippsland from his time as Deputy Chair in 2023.

"Gippsland is on the front-line of change and we are doing the work to prepare our community for what the future holds and making sure we

become more prosperous because of it," Cr Hersey said.

"Gippsland has many valuable assets – including our people – and One Gippsland will continue to work alongside both the state and federal governments to ensure our region grows and prospers," Cr Hersey said.

"Our region is stronger when our local governments and industry partners work together, with a clear focus of making Gippsland a great place to live, work and enjoy.

"We want more people to call Gippsland home and to attract them here we need to ensure services such as telecommunications and transport links are efficient, effective and resilient," Cr Hersey said.

Cr Halstead said One Gippsland was an important advocate for the region.

"One Gippsland unites many voices across Gippsland and has a strong track record as a valuable partner for government, both state and federal," Cr Halstead said.

"Our members work together

to champion the interest of Gippsland and its people and we speak with a strong, unified voice."

In its pre-budget submission to both the state and federal governments, One Gippsland has recommended funding be allocated to projects including

- four key roads projects to boost safety, cut congestion and maximise freight efficiency;
- five tertiary education projects to make Gippsland the centre of offshore wind and energy excellence;
- improving access, coverage and resilience of the telecommunications network, and
- measures to support Gippsland and enable its communities to prosper as it uses its natural resources to power the country and to move towards a net zero future.

Cr Hersey and Cr Halstead will lead a One Gippsland delegation to Canberra in mid-February to further discuss these priorities and advocate for government funding.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



Fire hazard

One of the three major tourist attractions to Phillip Island is listed as the Koala Wildlife Sanctuary and Reserve. Located on the Phillip Island Road, it attracts many visitors each year.

But either side of the road reserve is a serious fire risk that if ignited could potentially destroy the koala population on the island.

Long grass, fallen trees, broken branches litter both sides of the road – and have done so for months. It also borders the Oswin Roberts Wildlife Reserve.

This is a potential fire disaster just waiting to happen. But who is responsible or will accept the responsibility for clean up? VicRoads, Department of Transport and Planning, Phillip Island Nature Parks or Bass Coast Shire? Or is it like the bus shelter fiasco where no one wants to own the responsibility?

Whoever is responsible needs to activate now and clean it up before we lose a world recognised nature reserve and infrastructure.

W Stanley, Cowes

Koala crisis

I wonder if people are aware of what is happening to koalas in this country?

We are devastating the environment that koalas have felt comfortable and at home in for millions of years, causing them grief and depression which has possibly accelerated and made them susceptible

to chlamydia, devastating koala populations.

Koalas need the same eucalyptus forests that humans, in their greed, want to decimate. There are only between 224,000 to 524,000 left, next estimate due in March 2025.

Before humans arrived, up to 100 million koalas were in Australia. We should be doing more to help before it is too late to save our koalas.

It would be a tragedy to watch the last koalas die in the zoo.

Jan Fleming

Vice President, Friends of the Koalas Phillip Island

We need your name

In recent weeks, we have received a number of anonymous letters to the editor. Every letter must include your full name and contact details, so we are able to verify the information if needed, and confirm the identity of the author. There are circumstances where we would publish a letter "name and address withheld", but that would only occur after communication with the author.

If you have an issue you want included in the letters page, please ensure you provide your full details. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

Letters can be sent by post, emailed, or you can submit letters online at www.pisra.com.au/letters-to-the-editor



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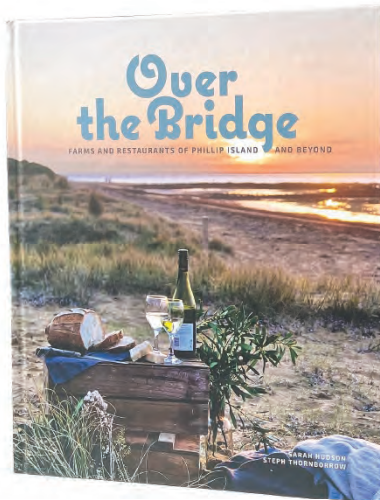


Welcome Bodhi

Bodhi Luca Vishniakov was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on December 29, 2024, weighing 3.51kg. Bodhi is a son for Nathan Vishniakov and Jasmine Cooper of Cowes, and a brother for Jeremy (10) and Riley (4).

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JDR



Congratulations to the RIPS' U14 Girls who delivered a stellar performance in the Dandenong/Eltham Tournament, taking home the championship title. From left: Marley Hecker, Alice Martindale, Olive Callis, Ella Solohub, Frankie O'Brien, Ivy Addison, Milla Cantwell and Hazel Hadrian alongside Coaches Nazza and Naz. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

RIPs shine at Dandenong tournament

BASKETBALL

The RIPS Phillip Island Basketball Club had a fantastic showing at the Dandenong/Eltham Tournament with multiple teams making deep runs in their respective divisions.

Congratulations to the U12A team, U12 Boys, U10 Girls, U14A Boys and U10 Boys who all fought their way into the Semi Finals – a remarkable achievement for the club.

Beyond the results, every RIPS team gave their all throughout the tournament, showing great effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

U14 Girls

The RIPS Phillip Island Basketball Club's U14 Girls delivered an outstanding performance over the weekend (January 25 and 26), taking home the championship title with a dominant 31-19 vic-

tory over the Melbourne Tigers.

A huge congratulations to MVP Ivy (#5) for her standout performance, as well as to the entire squad for their relentless effort and determination throughout the tournament.

After a weekend of hard-fought games, the girls celebrated in true island style – with a refreshing jetty jump.

The team give their thanks to Coaches Nazza and Naz for their training, guidance and support assisting the girls in achieving this incredible result.

U16 Girls

The RIPS Phillip Island Basketball Club's U16 Girls gave it their all in the Grand Final against Sandringham but unfortunately fell short in a tough battle.

The club is incredibly proud of their efforts and how the girls represented RIPS throughout the tournament.

With their sights set on future competitions, these legends will no doubt come back stronger than ever.

U16 Boys

The RIPS Phillip Island Basketball Club's U16 Boys put up a strong fight in their Grand Final against Dandenong but ultimately fell short on Sunday afternoon.

Despite the result, the team has plenty to be proud of as they continue their impressive development.

With just two weeks until the Warragul tournament, the boys are focused and ready to bounce back.

A special congratulations goes to Hayden, who was named MVP for his outstanding performance.

The team also sends well wishes to Caleb for a speedy recovery. The journey continues – bring on Warragul.



Lily Bobrowski recently participated in the ACJBC during the holidays in Albury. Congratulations to her and the U14 Girls who won the Championship Division. Formally playing for Phillip Island, Lily now competes with the Casey Cavaliers in the Victorian Junior Basketball League.



Congratulations to Lily Bobrowski and her team who recently took victory in the U14 Girls Championship Division.

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, January 28

Men's 18H Stableford

Overall winner: Richie Nettleton (28) with 41 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Daniel Pearce (2) with 36 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Glenn Botterill (19) with 38 pts C/B.

C Grade winner: C-1 Richie Nettleton (28) with 41 pts.

BDL: 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Darrell Clark, 7th Danny Hibbert, 10th Barry Grazules and 17th Daniel Pearce.

Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: David Gladman (18) with 21 pts from Ian Bray (31) on 20 pts.

BDL: 17 pts C/B.

Wednesday, January 29

Women's Stableford

Overall winner Robyn Docker (31) with 39 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: Cheryl White (20) with 39 pts.

B Grade winner: Robyn Docker (31) with 39 pts C/B.

C Grade winner: Kaye Johnston (43) with 36 pts.

BDL: 34 pts.

NTP: 5th Vicki Roff-Smith, 7th Michelle Pardoe, 10th Helen Coghlan and 17th Jillian Chandler.

Women's 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Kerri Deaton (43) with 19 pts C/B from Barbara Moloney (39) on 19 pts.

BDL: 17 pts.

Thursday, January 30

Open 18H Stableford

Overall winner: George McCausland (31) with 42 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Rowan Wales (13) with 38 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 John Leheny (16) with 38 pts.

C Grade winners: C-1 George McCausland (31) with 42 pts.

BDL: 34 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Nigel Firth, 7th Peter Blunden, 10th Fred Ardern and 17th Isaac Batty.

BDL: 34 pts.

Men's 9H Stableford

Winners: Ian Bray (31) with 20 pts C/B from Len Fenton (23) on 20 pts.

BDL: 17 pts.

Saturday, February 1

Men's Stroke 18H Monthly Medal

Overall winner: Max Walton (9) with 68 pts C/B.

A Grade winner: A-1 Max Walton (9) with 68 pts C/B.

B Grade winners: B-1 Alf Micallef (16) with 72 pts C/B.

C Grade winners: C-1 Max Brown (21) with 68 pts C/B.

BDL: 75 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Joel Panozzo, 7th Christopher Reynolds, 10th Peter Cartwright and 17th Jack Ross.

Women's 18H Stableford

A Grade winner: A-1 Vicki Roff-Smith (21) with 38 pts and A-2 Kaz Egan (24) with 37 pts C/B.

BDL: 32 pts.

NTP: 7th Lesley Meadowcroft, 10th Jillian Tyrell and 17th Emma Hall.

Open 9H Stableford

Winners: Steve Rieger (18) with 21 pts from Basil Moloney (13) on 17 pts.

BDL: 16 pts.

Sunday, February 2

Four Person Mixed Ambrose

Winners: Patricia Jamieson, Paul Pendergast, Lesley Meadowcroft and Mark Jamieson (58.375) from Megan Elbaz, Mario Amato, Vicki Amato and Gerrard Ferrari (59.125).

BDL: 60.375.

Four Person Men's Ambrose

Winners: Ricky Males, Adrian O'Gorman, Isaac Batty and Heath Kolac (54.75) from Jack Ross, Neville Thurgood, Sean Ambler and Kelly Ambler (56.25).

Men's NTP: 5th Sean Ambler, 7th Gregory Williams, 10th John Enbom and 17th Ray Jansson.

Women's NTP: 5th Judith Lawrence, 7th Kerri Deaton, 10th Lynn McCole and 17th Pamela Williams.

Owens (20) nett 48, 2nd Rod Widmer (19) nett 49, 3rd John Gorman (15) (Kew GC) nett 50.

Red Rocks results

GOLF

Saturday, February 1

Monthly Medal Stroke: 1st Patrick

Sunday, February 2

Two Person Ambrose: Chris Fall and Geoffrey Fall nett 46.5 (winners).

JUNIOR PRE-SQUAD

Designed for young swimmers transitioning from a learn to swim program.

They must be able to swim 25 metres of 2 or more strokes without difficulty.

This is NOT a learn to swim program.

Starts Thursday 30th January 2025 4pm to 5pm for 10 weeks. Cost - \$185

This includes annual membership and term fees. plus \$10 for mandatory PI Swim Club cap. The aim of the program is for swimmers to develop their confidence to progress to our Friday night program.

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NOTE: Membership forms will be sent upon registration of interest and then invoice issued.





Billy Kimber (left) and Seb Ferretto (right) made their debut with the U13 Sharks in their match against Nyora over the weekend, with Captain for the week, Jaxon Ramage.

Tough match for Island women in Round 8

CRICKET

The Phillip Island women's cricket team took on Glen Alvie at Rhyll in their Round 8 match over the weekend.

Captain Bec lost the toss and the Sharks were sent into bat.

Grace and Sienna opened the batting with Grace setting up the Sharks' innings with a top score of 14, including a classy pull-shot for four, while Sienna hit an impressive cover drive for four.

The pair were 23 after four overs.

Big hitter Jess found the boundary several times and Claudia contributed with several fine shots of her own.

The Island were 47 after eight overs.

Bec and Jay ran quickly between the wickets to take the Island's total to 57.

B and Jill kept the runs coming, both slogging the ball and achieving multiple boundaries.

The Island were 84 after 16 overs.

Kate and Rosanna proceeded to conclude the innings for the Island.

Kate batted with pure skill, hitting two boundaries with an equal top score of 14 runs, while Rosanna kept the strike turning over.

The Island's final score: 112.

Heading out to field, the heat of the day greeted the Island women.

Sienna opened the bowling with pace, working with a brilliant three overs and clean bowling the opposition twice.

Kate bowled with determination, claiming two wickets of her own and Jess took a great catch at point.

Grace provided more highlights; bowling a tidy maiden and her slick fielding achieved a run out.

Glen Alvie finished their innings on 145, giving them a 33-run victory.

Congratulations to Grace and Kate for top scoring with 14 runs.

Congratulations to Sienna and Grace for two wickets each.

Congratulations to Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Entertainment Centre Player of the Match: Jill – a fantastic game in the heat.

Sharks back in winning column

CRICKET

A Grade

The Island's A Grade Sharks are back on the winners list after a strong, complete performance against Korumburra on Saturday.

It was another hot and dry match out at Korumburra but the young Sharks stuck together and put on a solid performance leading to another finals campaign.

George McCausland and Tim Niven opened up, seemingly getting something out of a lifeless pitch, however the 'Burra

openers were equally up to the challenge, punishing anything wide on a fast outfield.

Despite this the Sharks held their nerve and stuck to their lines, with Niven getting the breakthrough at 1-44 – a strong catch by Captain Mock.

One then became two as Niven removed Crocker with a sharp caught-and-bowled for naught.

Royal then replaced McCausland and continued the Sharks' hot start, removing the other opener Millar and Korumburra's Captain, Spicer, thus leaving the home side at 4-63.

With runs on the board, the Island Sharks remained aggressive, knowing that boundaries were going to be hard to stop on the fast 'Burra outfield.

Royal was well into one of his notorious long spells ahead of the tea break when a smart moment of captaining removed 'Burra's fifth wicket (5-102).

Korumburra dug in either side of the break, aiming to take it deep before the Island's premier weapon Zac "Stilts" Brown found life in an otherwise lifeless wicket.

After breaking the partnership (6-143), Brown made

quick work of the tail claiming the season's best figures of 14.3/6/4/21.

Royal was the other main destroyer finishing with an impressive 14/4/4/41 along with Niven (9/4/2/20) the other multiple-wicket taker.

The match was a complete team performance as the young Sharks set a high standard with their fielding, catching and enthusiasm.

The boys return to the Shark tank this week to take on Koonwarra as they aim to continue building momentum on their quest for a fourth title.

PHILLIP ISLAND
4/346
 D. MOCK 151
 C. EPIFANO 100
 TOM NIVEN 43*
 B. JOHNSTON 37
KORUMBURRA
162
 Z. BROWN 4/21/14
 M. ROYAL 4/41/14
 TIM NIVEN 2/20/9
A1 GRADE
 DEF KORUMBURRA
 SAT 25TH JAN
 KORUMBURRA RESERVE
IGA
SAN REMO

PHILLIP ISLAND
2/159
 K. LANE 64
 K. BEAUMONT 59*
KORUMBURRA
89 & 6/94
 A. WILLIAMS 3/9/8
 K. LANE 2/25/29
 T. ALLAN 2/25/12
 &
 T. ALLAN 3/26/16
 K. BEAUMONT 2/12/10
B1 GRADE
 DEF KORUMBURRA
 SAT 25TH JAN
 COOWES RESERVE
Bowens
 THE BUILDERS CHOICE

PHILLIP ISLAND
9/227
 J. MANNING 60
 T. HORNSBY 48
 D. MCCAUSLAND 33
 J. PARRY 31
WONTHAGGI
9/247
 M. CLEARY 4/21/5
 D. MCCAUSLAND 2/37/7
 J. MARSHALL 2/49/7
C1 GRADE
 DEF BY WONTHAGGI
 SAT 1ST FEB
 RHYLL CG
ADVERTISER

PHILLIP ISLAND
112
 K. WILLIAMS 14
 G. WEBSTER 14
 B. HELLMUTH-PASK 14
GLEN ALVIE
145
 S. MACMILLAN 2/14/3
 K. WILLIAMS 2/15/2
WOMENS
 DEF BY GLEN ALVIE
 SUN 2ND FEB
 RHYLL CG
LUKE MARSHALL CABINETS

Life Membership Award for Loree

CROQUET

On Sunday February 2, Loree Evens was presented with a Life Membership Award for outstanding service to the Phillip Island Croquet Club (PICC).

Loree has been a member of the PICC for 21 years.

During this long history, Loree has represented the club at numerous tournaments and pennants, adeptly playing both association and golf croquet.

Loree's caring nature is reflected in her countenance on the court, where she is readily available to offer helpful tips and encouragement to less experienced players.

Loree has always been the person who very quietly ensures that the club pantry and kitchen cupboards are well stocked.

Whenever the club is host to a competition, Loree can be found preparing sandwiches and cups of tea for the participants.

She is renowned for her scrumptious fluffy pavlovas and



Recently presented with a Life Membership Award at the Phillip Island Croquet Club is Loree Evens (right) alongside club President Claire Earl.

spicy gingerbread which always magically appear in abundance at every festive event held by the club.

Loree is very deserving of this award and the Phillip Island Croquet Club feels privileged in having her as a member.



The Rhyll Tennis Club welcomes you to come and try pickleball. Photo: Kate Perkins Photography.

Come and try pickleball

PICKLEBALL

The Rhyll Tennis Club Committee are inviting the Phillip Island community to come along and try pickleball, a fun and social game.

Introductory sessions are being held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9.30am.

Come along and take ad-

vantage of two free sessions including use of equipment plus coaching by other members.

Subsequent games are \$10 per person including equipment hire.

Clubrooms will be open during sessions with tea, coffee and biscuits available.

Gold coin donations are appreciated. For enquiries contact rhylltennis@gmail.com



Congratulations to last week's winners (from left): Amanda Bozelle (2), Jenny Smith (L), Vern Elliott (S) and Neil Andreatta (3).



Runners up: Tony Morris (L), Bill Williams (2), Luke Monckton (S) and Chris Brooks (3).



Best one game winners: Mick Walton (S), Bev Elliott (3) and Shirley Corcoran (L).

Midweek at San Remo

BOWLS

Last week, 47 midweek bowlers headed out to San Remo for their regular competition.

Players were welcomed by Pauline and John while Peter and Rob prepared teams.

Volunteers were kept busy throughout the day. The club thanks them for their hard work.

Competition saw a few wrong bias bowls, however considering the number of bowlers, numbers were minimal.

Congratulations to last week's

winner on a great score of 36: Amanda Bozelle (2), Jenny Smith (L), Vern Elliott (S) and Neil Andreatta (3).

Runners up on 35 points: Tony Morris (L), Bill Williams (2), Luke Monckton (S) and Chris Brooks (3).

Best one game winners on 21 points: Mick Walton (S), Bev Elliott (3) and Shirley Corcoran (L).

The club wish all players good luck in their respective games over the coming week.

This week, the club will meet at Loch and District Bowls Club.

Island social bowls

BOWLS

The Phillip Island Bowling Club headed out onto the green recently for a match of social bowls.

The competition hosted guests from Sale and Fern-tree Gully, and the standard of bowling was excellent.

Congratulations to winners Bev Emmett, John Hall and Kim Frost.



Congratulations to last Thursday's (January 30) winners: Kim Frost, John Hall and Bev Emmett (front).

Eighth comp of angling season

FISHING

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) held its eighth angling competition for the 2024/25 season over a hot and sunny weekend on February 1 and 2.

Anglers worked hard to turn a reel as fish chose to bite at different times and locations.

Others had obviously charged up their fish magnets and had an abundance of fish eager to get hooked. Thankfully, the summer weather itself was a great reward for everyone.

Each day's weigh-in (between 4pm and 5pm) kept the weigh-in masters busy as a total of 54 fish, two sharks and one game fish were recorded.

Eligible species included snapper, whiting, salmon, leather jackets, flathead, mackerel, gummy shark and a kingfish.

The weather was steamy as club members gathered for the post-competition awards presentation to acknowledge extraordinary feats.

An equally extraordinary feast of barbecue sausage submarines were kindly sponsored by Brett and Jillian Slade and Bakers Delight Cowes, made possible by the RPIAC's exceptional weekend-volunteer catering team.

Whilst the conditions allowed many hours of fishing the elusive RPIAC Extraordinary Catch Incentives remain banked.

With the 1kg King George whiting prize claimed last year by Nigel Firth, none of the four remaining members-only, competition weekend \$1000 first-to-catch prizes were claimed.

However, anglers remain optimistic that they will catch an eligible species that equals or exceeds the nominated weight: snapper (10kg), gummy shark (20kg), mulloway (25kg) and kingfish (25kg).

Results

With holidays over, RPIAC celebrated some great achievements in the Squidgie category (for anglers aged nine and under).

Despite many anglers return-



Winner of RPIAC's Senior Male Points competition Trevor Gleeson with a massive flathead worth 3258 points (1810g).

ing empty-handed, Harley Griffin and Byron Griffin impressed everyone in a two-way tie for first place in the Squidgie Mixed Bag competition, each catching five fish worth 70 points.

The Junior Weight competition was uncontested, whilst the Junior Points competition saw Ryan Brett triumph and win the Junior Points prize with a pinkie snapper worth 684 points (855g).

The Senior Heaviest Weight competitions had the scales bouncing with some nice fish and were won by Brendan Garlepp and Carriane Peatey, weighing in a pair of snappers at 1965g and 1750g respectively.

Flathead and King George whiting were the species responsible for victories in the Senior Points competitions.

Trevor Gleeson had the best flathead of the weekend, worth 3258 points (1810g) and Tenille Preddice caught a winner King George whiting, scoring 1918 points (685g).

With squid all around Phillip Island, none greater than the 1kg minimum weight made it to the weigh-in room leaving the squid/cuttlefish competition uncontested. The Shark competition was a tale of one winning gummy shark, weighing 3975g and was brought in by Alex Bowden.

The Game Fish prize was won by Gus Fahnle for an impressive kingfish, turning the scales to 9100g.



Gus Fahnle won RPIAC's Game Fish competition over the weekend with a 9100g Kingfish.

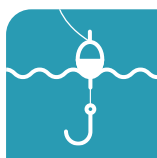
The Secret Weight prize was awarded to Jillian Slade for a mackerel weighing 345g (secret weight: 347g).

The RPIAC clubroom is located adjacent to the Rhyll boat ramp and is open to members and visitors on Fridays (from 5pm) and competition weekends coinciding with weigh-in.

The next angling competition will be held on February 15 and 16.

There are still many opportunities to take part in the scheduled angling competitions and compete for comp-weekend prizes and the club championships.

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



AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

FISHING

Fishing throughout the summer period has proved tumultuous, with mixed reports of good and bad results.

Heading out onto the water in the earlier hours has proved successful over those doing it tougher during the day.

Offshore, an abundance of species has been sighted, from game fish through to quality table fish.

Tuna have been everywhere (and then nowhere) with the early

birds garnering the best results.

Size of the tuna have varied from small fish up to 40 kg models. Flathead have been on-and-off plus difficult to find, however when you do there is plenty of quality amongst them.

Working with a typical 20m-40m line is the place to start, then build up the mussels, hook on a heavier sinker and wander out around the 60m plus mark.

Additionally, gummies and schoolies off Kilcunda with the occasional snapper have been reported.

Wander in a little closer to shore on the right day and you will find a patch of kingfish who have been holding there for months.

Due to the shallows (ranging from 9m-20m) it's not always possible to approach however when you do, keep an eye out for quality models above the 10kg range.

Utilise a slow technique with a flutter jig, large soft plastics and the odd popper when the fish come to the water's surface. The best method however remains live or fresh strip baits.

In the bay, due to the large amount of water traffic over the summer period, fish have generally proved tough to catch.

Avoid the areas with large numbers of people fishing and you will find luck.

TIDE GUIDE

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

	WED 5 FEB	THU 6 FEB	FRI 7 FEB	SAT 8 FEB	SUN 9 FEB	MON 10 FEB	TUE 11 FEB
LOW	12:01 am 0.66 m	12:48 am 0.78 m	1:33 am 0.92 m	2:19 am 1.07 m	3:09 am 1.21 m	4:06 am 1.32 m	HIGH 12:00 am 2.61 m
HIGH	6:31 am 2.94 m	7:06 am 2.88 m	7:43 am 2.79 m	8:22 am 2.69 m	9:09 am 2.57 m	10:05 am 2.45 m	LOW 5:17 am 1.38 m
LOW	12:30 pm 0.30 m	1:11 pm 0.25 m	1:53 pm 0.26 m	2:36 pm 0.33 m	3:25 pm 0.43 m	4:25 pm 0.56 m	HIGH 11:17 am 2.34 m
HIGH	7:19 pm 2.93 m	8:10 pm 2.90 m	9:01 pm 2.83 m	9:55 pm 2.74 m	10:53 pm 2.66 m		LOW 5:37 pm 0.66 m

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Victorious in the Mixed Masters (45+), Liam McCafferty. Photo: Andrew Lidsey (@bunpix).

PIBC's Cat Bay Classic

SURFING

Last Saturday and Sunday (February 1 and 2), the Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) delivered their annual two-day longboard competition, the Cat Bay Classic.

Fifty-five competitors (both PIBC members and non-members) took part in 11 heats in three rounds over two days with all ages and genders surfing together.

Each competitor's best two waves from each of their respective three heats were calculated to a grand total.

Within the winners were four divisions of Open Men, Open Women, Mixed Masters (45+) and Mixed Juniors (U18).

Saturday's two rounds were held at Shelly's Beach surf break which brought clean waves and solid performances.

Participants then headed back to the clubhouse for a raffle, food, drinks and live music.

Competition on Sunday commenced at Flynn's right-hand point break (the first time the Cat Bay Classic has been held there) and added a new challenge for the third and final round.

However the final two heats ended in delays prior to being cancelled due to weather conditions with the 10 competitors who missed out competing in their final round, instead being scored on their best wave from the previous two rounds.

This final round was also judged on paper in order to keep results hidden before being combined with Live Heats' data to calculate the overall scores.

Award presentations were

then held back at the clubhouse as the weekend's thunderstorm hit and the heavens opened.

PIBC's Longboard Coordinator Nala Taylor stated that "I would like to thank the sponsors who provided prizes and photographers who provided professional surf photography throughout the weekend, along with the small and mighty PIBC committee and team who delivered the Cat Bay Classic".

Results

Mixed Juniors (U18): 1st Ryan McKenzie, 2nd Savannah Bennett.

Mixed Masters (45+): 1st Liam McCafferty, 2nd Brian Thompson, 3rd Mark Letts.

Open Men's: 1st Thomas Fahey, 2nd Simon Dunn, 3rd Nathan Rivalland.

Open Women's: 1st Ebony Maier, 2nd Jaz Helsinger, 3rd Jerrie Liberati.

Awards

Style and Steeze: Nicolas Perez.

Elegance and Grace: Lucy Camenzuli.

The Shuffle Award: Mark Letts.

Cheetah Five Award: Jack Dell-Rennie.

Thrash It Like It's a Shortboard Award: Tate Russell.

Logging Penguin: Jo O'Reilly Stubbs.

Shortest Nose Ride: Nathan Rivalland.

Best Classic Logger: Timmi Ungar.

Best Wipeout: Nala Taylor.

Biggest Frother: Randall Joseph.

Best Nose Ride: Tom Fahey.
Best Cutback: Mal Gregson.



Winner of the Open Men's, Tom Fahey at PIBC's Cat Bay Classic. Photo: Andrew Lidsey (@bunpix).



Congratulations to Ebony Maier who was victorious in the Open Women's category at PIBC's Cat Bay Classic over the weekend. Photo: Andrew Lidsey (@bunpix).

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33 DAFYDD STREET, COWES



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