

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021

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Huge boost for PICAL Pantry

Celebrating the news of a \$57,400 grant from the state government is PICAL centre manager Greg Thompson (left), with volunteer Mark Kennedy, Irene Naitoro – PICAL Pantry Coordinator, Nerida Stubbles and Fran Mandergeddes – Pantry Volunteers and Rick Coleman, PICAL Horticulturalist. The money will be used to run PICAL's food relief program in 2021.

PICAL's food pantry has received a \$57,400 grant from the state government.

The grant, announced last week will be used to run its food relief program, which has doubled since the start of the Covid pandemic.

The cost per month just to supply the food is over \$3500.

PICAL manager Greg Thompson said securing the money was a relief, as over the past year PICAL had grown to become the largest emergency food outlet in South Gippsland.

"We battled our way through 2020 – it was a very strange year.

"On New Year's Day we got a phone call and swung into action taking food to Bairnsdale and Sale for the bushfires evacuation.

"The minute we stopped that, we went straight into Covid."

Over the 12 months, PICAL jumped from providing food for 300 people per month to between 650 and 680.

"In September, we fed 790 people.

"The pantry started in 2008, and up to 2019 it fed about 10,000 people in that eleven-year period.

"In 2020, we fed 5458."

Servicing and funding the massive increase in demand took a whole of community effort.

"We managed to get \$19,000 funding from Bass Coast Shire Council and

\$10,000 from the Bannellong Foundation.

"Council also provided us with three staff for the last six months, through the Working for Victoria program."

On top of this support, the local community rallied and Greg said the generosity "blew everyone away".

"We normally receive around three to four thousand in donations, but this year, we got about \$20,000."

As demand, funding and donations grew, so did the army of people needed to keep the food operation running.

PICAL started the year with 49 active volunteers and now have 115, becoming the largest volunteer organisation in the region.

Greg predicts the pandemic will continue to impact on the community, and this latest state government funding will help PICAL continue to feed those in need.

"The health phase of Covid has abated, but we haven't even yet begun to see the real economic fallout.

"At the moment we're running with full employment – some businesses say they can't get staff – but what happens at end of summer, when local businesses have to lay off people? "Then, at the end of March Job Keeper stops, and the payments go back to the old level.

"I predict we will return to the peaks we saw in 2020, and it will

cost well over \$4000 a month to feed people."

Pantry service

The PICAL pantry provides a combination of food hampers and pre-cooked, frozen meals to their clients.

The hampers include a mix of packaged goods and fresh produce.

"We get fresh produce from our own garden and local supermarkets," said Greg.

"We also buy packaged goods from Food Bank Australia at a discount rate."

An amazing team of local volunteers, coordinated by Steph Thornborrow, cook meals that are frozen and distributed through the pantry.

"At the peak, the team was cooking 350-400 meals a week. They ended up cooking around 8000 meals for the year," Greg said.

"We try to make the food go as far as it can, and when people come in, we give them a week's worth of supplies."

As demand grew, so did the PICAL facilities.

A training room at the centre was converted into a purpose-built dispensary last year, which also allowed the team to cater for more people.

And Greg said another unsettling trend emerged.

"At the start of the year, about a third of the people we were feeding

were children.

"By the end of the year, 50 per cent were children. That tells us that Covid hit families very, very hard, particularly single mum families."

A helping hand

Greg said anyone wanting to support the PICAL pantry could do so by donating cash or packaged goods.

"Goods need to be newly purchased and within the used-by date," he stressed.

"Package staples like flour, pasta, rice and tinned vegetables are in high demand. We use a lot of long-life milk and cereals, so they would be good choices for donations."

Cash donations are always welcome. Unfortunately, the pantry isn't able to accept home-cooked meals or raw produce from backyard growers.

Chair of the PICAL committee of management, Jeff Lloyd said PICAL would continue to support the community in every way it could.

"Along the journey of Covid, PICAL stayed open. We felt it was important and necessary to have a place where people in need could come for assistance.

"We have two philosophies. No one goes hungry, and we try to give a hand up, not a hand-out.

"Providing food is just the start of the journey to getting back on your

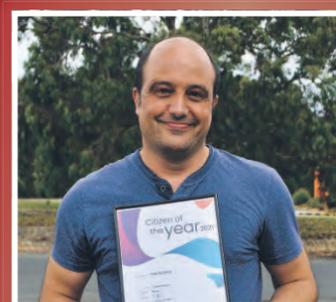
own two feet," Jeff said.

"We can help if people are homeless or fleeing an intolerable home situation.

"We can train people in basic employment skills – with computer, hospitality, horticulture, and barista courses.

"We are really going to focus on our horticulture training, and help people set up their own backyard gardens, so people can become a lot more self-sufficient.

"We're an adult learning centre and receive subsidies to do that, so the training is either free or low costs."



Mat is Citizen of the year

See page 12-13

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Support new local Cancer Centre

\$2 table this Saturday

Phillip Islanders are familiar with the \$2 coin table set up outside the Cowes newsagency as a means of fundraising when a particularly special cause arises.

Accordingly, this Saturday (January 23) the community is being asked to support the table as the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary launches a fundraiser for a very special cause... the establishment of chemotherapy services at Wonthaggi Hospital.

A fabulous new Cancer Centre is opening at Wonthaggi Hospital in February.

Which means that for the first time, cancer patients here will be able to undergo chemotherapy treatment, in our local district.

The Hub Auxiliary have this week described the Cancer Centre as a much needed and wonderful resource and have thrown their weight behind it. They say it will make a real difference to many local cancer patients and their families who currently must travel long distances to access cancer treatment such as chemotherapy services.

The \$2 table will be in place in the street outside the Cowes newsagency on Saturday only.

So why not pop down and leave a coin or two, (in a COVID-safe way of course!) say the auxiliary ladies.

The new initiative follows the Auxiliary's recent purchase of a cardiac treadmill for the Phillip Island Health Hub.



The island's \$2 table will be set up outside the Cowes Newsagency this Saturday, to raise money to support the opening of the new Cancer Centre, at Bass Coast Health's Wonthaggi Hospital, which will include chemotherapy services. Members of the Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary are conducting the fundraiser.

A New Cancer Centre in Wonthaggi

What does it mean for Phillip Island?

By Linda Marston, Secretary PIMHAG

Just before Christmas, I was invited to tour the new Cancer Centre site at Wonthaggi.

Although still being constructed, it is obviously a spacious, light-filled and open building.

The new centre will contain nine oncology chairs, all with a floor to ceiling window that looks out over the centre's gardens and gives a view to the hills. There are three consulting rooms and provision for patients to be admitted to an adjoining room in the main hospital, if monitoring is required after treatment.

The Wonthaggi Cancer Centre is due to open in February 2021.

This project has come to fruition very quickly.

It has grown from a vision held

by some very passionate oncologists who want to bring high quality care to rural and regional areas.

The project secured funding from the Federal government, a very generous anonymous donor and ongoing support from the state government.

Initially, treatment at Wonthaggi is planned to start with a focus on breast and prostate cancers but Jan Child, CEO Bass Coast Health, has indicated that as the team build their expertise, other conditions will be treated with the aim of beginning to treat skin cancer in the second half of this year.

Importantly, the specialists involved are also on staff at several of the major Melbourne hospitals.

This means that people with medically complex cases can initially be admitted to these major

hospitals and then, when stabilised, they can continue to receive treatment locally by the same specialists.

Less complex cases may be able to be seen locally for the whole of their treatment.

What does this mean for Phillip Island?

Over the last four years, PIMHAG has conducted surveys which repeatedly identified that cancer care is a major reason for people to travel off-island. Consequently, PIMHAG has been strongly advocating for local cancer treatment. Bringing treatment to Wonthaggi is a huge benefit for all islanders, greatly reducing travel and disruption to people's lives.

But the establishment of the Cancer Unit at Wonthaggi also means that BCH will have the staff and

expertise to provide treatment at the Phillip Island Community Hospital (PICH) when it opens in 2024, bringing treatment even closer to home. We are pleased to say that low-risk oncology services are being planned for the PICH with Wonthaggi Hospital to provide care for the cases that need more intensive medical and nursing care or require hospital admission.

The current planning indicates that five 'chairs' will be provided at the Hub, that can be used to provide Oncology or Dialysis treatment as required.

It seems unbelievable that such a project could come to fruition so quickly and this is a testament to all those who have made it happen.

It is wonderful to see that cancer service provision is becoming a reality for the people of Bass Coast.

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Cruel attack ruins family's penguin visit

A family visit to the Penguin Parade last week ended in tears thanks to a heartless message scrawled on their car windows.

Jessica Allen from Drouin was at the parade with her husband and two children Milla (4) and Lachlan (2).

But this was no ordinary family outing.

Little Lachlan has a malformation of the brain and has already endured 14 surgeries in his short life, as well as spending his first six months in ICU.

He needs to have an oxygen cylinder and a CPAP machine in order to breathe and the equipment has to be carried with him wherever he goes.

Getting to share the excitement of the Penguin Parade was a big deal for the family.

Jessica said the family has a disability parking permit and legally parked in a disabled parking bay when they visited the parade.

But they returned to their car to find the words "You should be ashamed" scrawled across the car windows.

Jessica burst into tears when she saw it.

"Lachey is very sick and this is the first time we've left the house in six months, so it's heartbreaking for this to happen.

"After I got over the emotion of the hurt, I realised it's a lack of education. People aren't aware disability comes in many forms."

This is not the first time Jessica has been attacked for using disability parking, but she believes people shouldn't be so quick to judge.

"They must have seen us get out of the car. I'm not sure what they saw, but I wish they had come up and asked us what was going on.

"People have no idea what we're dealing with," she said.

"I felt so hurt when we got back to the car and saw those words. It really, really hurt."

She hopes sharing their experience will raise awareness and help people realise that not all disabilities are obvious, and disability comes in many different forms.

She also hopes it will stop another person encountering the kind of abuse her family received.

"Words can hurt. It's not okay to do that."

Penguin visit

Although the night ended badly, Jessica was full of praise for the rest of their Penguin Parade visit.

"We were so impressed with the facilities they had at the centre.

"To be honest, we were petrified how we were going to manage to get seating and get the pram through.

"We couldn't afford to buy the tickets for good viewing, so we bought general admission.

"One of the rangers saw us arrive, a lady called Heather and she was so amazing to us. She put us in a good position and really went over and above for us, to make sure we were comfortable.

"She did everything she could to make it as great as possible for the kids."

Sally O'Neil, Community Engagement Officer for the Phillip Island Nature Parks said: "We very happy we could put a smile on the faces of Lachey and family as they enjoyed their viewing experience, accessible facilities and our team's attention and support on the night of their visit to the Penguin Parade."

Sally said it was disappointing and concerning that the actions of a member of the public upset the family when they returned to the carpark.

"We have spoken to the family and invited them to plan a return visit so we can make this a very special experience for them when it is suitable to do so.

"We wish Lachey and family the best of luck and our thoughts are



Two-year-old Lachlan has a malformation of the brain and has already endured 14 surgeries. A rare family outing was ruined when someone left an abusive message on their car, accusing them of misusing a disability parking space.



The family was thrilled to visit the Parade and after hearing of what the family endured on their visit, they have been invited back by the Nature Parks for a special visit.

with them."

Sally said the Penguin Parade visitor centre was designed to ensure that people of all abilities can enjoy the experience, adding "our team are always on hand to assist in this".

"We are proud the centre is one of the few places in Bass Coast equipped with a Changing Places facility with fully accessible public toilets with additional features and equipment to meet the needs of all visitors."

Return trip

Hopefully the family will be

able to return and enjoy the island's hospitality soon.

Jessica's mother Suzanne lives at Sunset Strip and because of Lachlan's illness, they aren't able to catch up regularly.

"We hadn't been to mum's house in 12 months," Jessica said, explaining it was hard for the family to travel, as they have "full-time nursing support for Lachlan at home".

On top of that, Lachlan is now scheduled for another round of surgery and is facing a month in ICU.

Jessica said his doctors have recommended the little boy has a tra-

cheotomy, to provide him with the respiratory support he needs.

She said incidents like the one at the Penguin Parade add to the stress the family is already facing.

"It's brought up so much more for us to think and worry about.

"This new operation means he will look a lot more scary, and different to people who don't understand.

"People like that make me second guess what I'm doing.

"Do I stand strong and try and let him live a normal life as much as he can, and face the risk of people judging him?"

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Don't be a summer statistic Can you spot a rip?

With drownings at Venus Bay and on the Mornington Peninsula last week, as well as a close call at The Colonnades at Cape Woolamai, everyone is being urged to take care at our beaches.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said the tragic deaths were a "timely reminder to continue to swim between the flags and on patrolled beaches".

He urged everyone to take five minutes to assess what's happening when you arrive at a beach before diving in.

Phillip Island's own summer season got off to a grim start, with one swimmer rescued from a rip and another drowned in two separate incidents in the final week of November.

Water Police rescued a 19-year-old man after he was caught in a rip at Forrest Caves on the Friday and then on the Sunday evening, a young woman died at Smiths Beach.

Both incidents occurred on non-patrolled beaches.

Life Saving Victoria has provided additional services at beaches across Phillip Island and Victoria, but said lifesavers and lifeguards couldn't be at the beach all the time.

"As such we ask beachgoers to plan their trip to the beach accordingly and take responsibility for their own safety."

This can be done by:

- Taking time to check the weather and conditions and assess these against your own abilities, remembering that your fitness may have decreased following a break from activities.

- Reading safety signs at the entrance to the beach and using the Beachsafe app to check the beach hazard rating or talking to the lifesavers on duty.

- Always swimming with a friend and supervising children closely around water – this is especially important after many children have



Surf Life Saving patrol are running at Smiths, Cowes and Woolamai beaches until early February.

had breaks from swimming lessons and aquatic activities.

- Planning to swim at patrolled beaches between the red and yellow flags. The Beachsafe App provides details of patrolled locations and times.

A spokesperson for Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club stressed that anyone swimming outside of the patrol hours or areas was taking a risk.

"Swimming at any unpatrolled surf beach on the island is a dangerous undertaking," the club said.

Life Saving Victoria patrols are operating at Woolamai, Cowes and Smiths Beach every day from 10am – 6pm until early-February.

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club's volunteer patrols at Woolamai Beach will run through to April

2021.

Life Saving Victoria reminds beach goers that lifesavers are only on duty when the red and yellow flags are displayed.

"Remember to always swim between the red and yellow flags at a patrolled beach," a spokesperson said. "If we can't see you, we can't save you."

Cr Tessari said the excitement of getting to the beach shouldn't override safety.

"I know we're all excited to get in the water, but it's important to assess what is happening."

Everyone going to the beach this summer is encouraged to visit beachsafe.org.au, download the beachsafe app and only swim at a patrolled beach.

Life Saving Victoria research shows three quarters of people can't identify a rip – a fast-flowing current where water flows back out to sea – while two thirds who think they can spot a rip, can't.

If you chose the flat and calm water, in between the breaking white-wash waves, then you could find yourself in danger of being carried out in a rip.

If you are caught in a rip, DO NOT PANIC.

A rip current does not drag you underwater. Rip currents only pull you away from the shore or even parallel.

Stay calm, conserve your energy and consider these options:

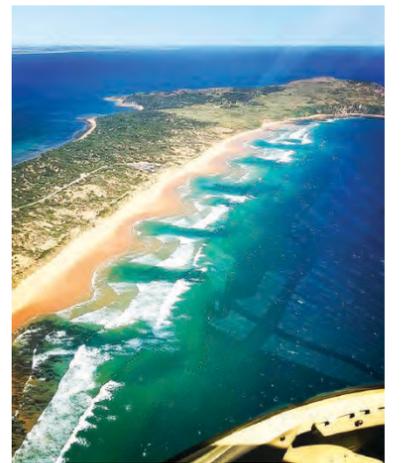
- Raise an arm and call out to seek help.

- Float with the current. It may return you to a shallow sandbank.

- Swim parallel to the beach. You may escape the rip current.

- Reassess the situation – if what you're doing isn't working, try another option until you return to shore

- Whenever possible, swim between the red and yellow flags



Recognising a rip is the first step to avoid being caught in one. This Phillip Island Helicopters' photo shows a series of rips along the Cape Woolamai coastline.

Videos explaining rip currents are available on beachsafe.org.au in multiple languages.

If you are unsure where to swim, go to beachsafe.org.au/ or download the BeachSafe App.



POLICE BRIEFS

Rare horse killed at Woolamai

A rare two-year-old Clydesdale horse has been mysteriously shot and killed in Woolamai.

On January 15 the owner woke to find the horse dead in its paddock. Police have said it appears a fatal gunshot wound was inflicted on the previous night.

Police are now investigating and urge anyone with information to come forward.

"The breed of horse is very rare in Australia and the owners are very upset about the loss of their animal," a police spokesperson said.

Anyone with information should contact Senior Constable Flanagan from San Remo Police on 5678 5500, call Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit crimestoppers.com.au.

Accident in Newhaven

On Saturday, January 13 there was a small two car collision on Phillip Island Road in Newhaven, around 11am, just outside the Rip Curl surf shop.

Police and Ambulance attended the low-speed head to tail collision, with very minor injuries treated at the scene.



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Residents abandoned: “we’re on our own”

Residents of Shetland Heights Road say they’ve been abandoned by the government and Bass Coast Shire Council.

The decision by the state government not to seal Shetland Heights Road as part of the new Junior Secondary Campus project in San Remo has enraged the residents, who have battled for years to have their road sealed.

They believe not sealing the road is a safety and health risk for the residents and any students travelling to the new campus.

Fritzie Barrowcliffe from the residents’ group said the lack of transparency around the project is concerning.

“The state government is not doing the right thing and involving the community in discussion.

“We don’t think the government has delivered the community consultation it promised.

“No one has spoken to the residents. The plans haven’t been released to the public,” Fritzie said.

“They’re going to plonk a school at the end of two residential roads, but they haven’t released plans to the people who live there, or to the schools who will be sending their students there.”

She said announcing the location on Christmas Eve, when most people were on holidays, was further proof of the lack of transparency around the project.

“How opaque and wrong is that?” she said.

“It’s more than poor form. It’s incompetence.”

The residents also feel the council has failed them.

Despite repeated contact over many years, including submitting a petition to council showing 70 per cent of residents supported a special charge scheme and moving to second on the council’s priority list for urban road upgrades, residents say they have never seen designs or



Faced with increased traffic due to the new school campus, residents believe the unsealed road, open drains and constant dust are a health and safety hazard, but say both council and the state government are ignoring their pleas to improve the road.

costings for the road upgrade.

They also say the consultation council promised in 2019 never happened.

Funds were not allocated in the 2019/20 budget for the project, and nothing is provided for the upgrade in Council’s long term financial plan.

Previously a spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said the unsealed sections of Potters Hill and Shetland Heights roads were rural type roads and “unsuitable for the likely increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic generated by the new school”.

“We have been working with the

Victorian School Building Authority’s Engineering Consultant to achieve the best infrastructure outcomes in support of the new school site.”

However the residents don’t believe the council advocated strongly on their behalf, because of funding concerns around other key projects.

“Our feeling now is there is no one on our side.”

Safety concerns

Fritzie said anyone from San Remo or Phillip Island whose child would be attending the new campus should be concerned and angry about the decision not to seal Shet-

land Heights Road, as it poses an unacceptable health and safety risk in its current condition.

The residents’ group predicts cars and buses travelling from Phillip Island will turn right at Back Beach Road, then travel along Shetland Heights to reach the school.

Local students walking or riding to school are likely to also use the road.

Poor visibility, lack of drainage, no footpaths or bike paths and clouds of dust are issues for anyone using the road.

“Did people who wanted the school to be in San Remo expect it to be at the end of two dirt roads?”

asked Fritzie.

She said if the council and government weren’t going to seal the unmade section of Shetland Heights Road, it should be shut off at the intersection with Potters Hill Road, with emergency access only.

“If Council don’t intend to do anything about the road, make it no through traffic, so it reverts back to being only used by the people who live on the road.”

She said council errors from the past had led to the situation and it needed to do something to upgrade the road.

“They were willing to allow developers to build Silverwater Estate, and the golf course. The few properties on acreage have been swallowed up by housing estates. They cannot pass the buck.

“There are 36 people that live on this road, but there are many hundreds of people that use it,” said Fritzie.

“There are new estates everywhere and they all access this road. So do Silverwater guests and anyone going to Bore Bay.

“If there were only 36 residents travelling up and down, we’d be happy to leave it as a dirt road.”

With the school due to open next year, the residents expect construction to get underway soon.

“There’s a sense of urgency because of this,” Fritzie said.

“We are going to put as much pressure on as we can and demand some answers from the state government.”

The group has already contacted opposition member Edward O’Donohue, member for Eastern Victoria Region, who has promised to raise the matter in Parliament.

A meeting has been set up with Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale in early February.

“We just want the right outcome,” said Fritzie.

“And that’s a safe access road.”

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Signs recovered! Illegal camping concerns



The five stolen signs were discovered in Rhyll. After being examined by a Crime Scene Officer they were returned to the market organisers in time to publicise this weekend's market.

The stolen signs for the community market at Newhaven Primary School have been recovered.

Last week, the Advertiser reported that five signs put up around Newhaven and San Remo on Thursday afternoon around 5.30pm, in preparation for the Saturday market, were gone when market organiser Felicity Ashman arrived to set up at 4.30am on Saturday morning.

Police were called to investigate the theft, which shocked the school community.

"I'm not sure what kind of person would do such a thing, particularly since these markets are all about raising money for our school," said Jennifer Carroll from the school's fundraising committee.

However the story has a happy ending.

Several days later, a Nature Parks' worker discovered the missing signs dumped in long grass in Rhyll and put them in the car park on the main road to see if anyone claimed them.

Felicity Ashman from Urban Markets said someone posted about the signs on Facebook.

"One of our stall holders saw that post and went and found them and took them home."

Felicity thanked the local community for their wonderful support and help in locating the stolen signs.

Leading Senior Constable Julian Wildenberg from San Remo police said the signs were analysed by a Crime Scene officer before being returned in time to publicise this weekend's market.

He said police canvassed the areas where the five signs were stolen and after speaking to neighbours believe some of the signs were removed around 2.30am on January 9.

The signs were placed at five locations across San Remo and Newhaven. The weight bags taken with the signs have not been recovered.

Anyone with information should contact San Remo police on 5678 5500, call Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or go to Crimestoppers.com.au.

The issue of free camping on Phillip Island is again in the spotlight.

On the weekend, a local resident reported this 4WD and tent on the beach at Cape Woolamai.

The car was parked on the off-leash dog beach, raising eyebrows amongst dog walkers before police arrived, issued a fine and moved the men on.

People also reported seeing illegal camping on a vacant block in Red Rocks Road, the off-lead beach at Ventnor, the Colonnades and Anchorage Road beach.

Campervans are often seen staying overnight in the carparks at Smiths Beach, Woolamai and Anzacs.

On Phillip Island there are no designated free camping sites and under Bass Coast Shire Council's local laws (Local Law No. 1 Neighbourhood Amenity 2012), camping is prohibited on Council land or in a public place.

Bass Coast Shire Council has advised people who camp on Council land or in a public place, may incur a fine.



Residents reported this 4WD camping on the beach front at Cape Woolamai on Sunday morning. There are no designated free camping sites on Phillip Island.

Besides tents, the term 'camping' also includes caravans, campervans or mobile homes, vehicles (including sleeping under vehicles) for all or part of a night or as temporary accommodation. It does not include brief power naps in a vehicle beside a highway.

In Bass Coast the on-the-spot infringement notice is \$300. If the infringement ended up in court, the magistrate could issue a fine of at least \$1500.

Last summer, Council received 40 complaints about illegal camping across the shire.

YCW and Smiths car park studied

Eagle-eyed locals spotted consultants surveying car movements in the car parks at Smiths Beach and YCW over the holidays.

Surfers noticed the man taking notes at the YCW car park for several days and said he told them the work was part of a plan to put in a paid two-hour parking limit at YCW and Smiths Beach.

Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed Trafficx Group had been appointed to help prepare a car parking demand assessment, as part of the Smiths Beach Town Plan.

"This assessment will provide data for traffic volumes and car parking in the area which will assist with prioritising pedestrians and cyclists," a council spokesperson said.

"Council is not aware of any proposed parking restrictions in the

area, as a result of the investigations to date."

The spokesperson said the assessment was a technical component of the plan being put together for Smiths Beach, which included community engagement between May and July 2020.

Council said community engagement could continue in 2021.

Paid parking

A YCW Activity Area Master Plan released in 2014 suggested upgrading the existing car park and introducing time and seasonal restrictions on bus parking.

Community feedback gathered as part of the Smiths Beach Town Plan last year also included consideration of paid parking in peak season.

However the call for paid parking was included under the "Most contro-

versial big ideas" section of the feedback summary posted on the council website.

The consultation summary noted responses highlighted "the need for improved traffic and parking management during busy periods. Ideas included restrictions, parking fees, clearways, patrols and bus turn-arounds".

During consultation for the Town Plan, "user-pays" parking was also flagged as an idea by the Smiths Beachcomber Association.

The group suggested paid parking for visitors (not locals), with a pilot scheme at Beachcomber.

The full consultation report is available at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/building-planning/precinct-structure-plans-strategies-reports/smiths-beach-town-plan



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To date, Ron Day has recorded in excess of 600 road kills comprising 21 species, in a 3.6-kilometre stretch of the Rhyll Road over 22 months.

Rhyll Road: 600 road kills in 22 months

Ron Day has been monitoring and recording roadkill on a 3.6-kilometre stretch on the Rhyll Road, for the past 22 months, as part of a Virtual Fencing system trial.

The trial is being funded by Bass Coast Shire Council and overseen by Victoria University in collaboration with Phillip Island Nature Parks.

To date, he has recorded in excess of 600 road kills comprising 21 species, in the 3.6-kilometre stretch.

Ron believes his survey is probably the most thorough and detailed account of roadkill undertaken to date, and that it factually exposes and indicates the extent of roadkill carnage taking place on roads across Phillip Island.

"This number would be reflected on other roads across Phillip Island, adding to the total tally," Ron points out.

The trial consists of a Virtual Fencing system installed in April 2019, on

two half kilometre hot spot sections of the Rhyll Road.

Virtual Fencing involves a series of solar powered electronic devices, pillar mounted and spaced at approximately 25-metres apart in verges along either side of the trial sites. The devices flash LED lights and emit an audible warning alarm when detecting approaching car lights. The aim being to deter wildlife from the road before the vehicles arrival.

However, because of the reduced traffic volume due of the Covid pandemic, Ron believes the trial will have to be extended beyond the initial two-year period, to enable before and after installation roadkill comparisons to be determined.

The trial was further disrupted at one point by the theft of eight of the devices shortly after installation.

Another was destroyed when a vehicle, avoiding a wallaby, crashed

through it. (The vehicle was a write off).

Ron expects the virtual fencing trial will match the results of one conducted over three years in Tasmania in 2014, which produced a 50 per cent reduction in nocturnal animal roadkill.

While that is a desirable result, "It is still only part of the solution" he says.

Reducing speed limits is also essential if unmitigated roadkill is to be addressed.

Speed review holdup criticised

Island Voice and citizen scientist Ron Day are calling on the Department of Transport and Bass Coast Shire Council to get the Speed Limit Review, announced for Phillip Island and San Remo in April last year, underway.

The review aims to look at the existing 100 kilometre rural road speed limits on Phillip Island and San Remo's arterial and municipal roads ... with a view to providing a safer road environment for the local community and visitors, while also protecting native wildlife.

The review was to commence in June with community consultation, and the implementation date was announced as February/March 2021.

The reality is it has not yet even begun.

Speaking last week, Mr Day said he

had received a letter from the Department of Transport before Christmas in response to his concern over the delay. The letter stated the consultation stage of the review was still being finalised, and that "opportunities will be explored to partner with advocacy groups to better understand community sentiment for the lowering of speed limits".

"However, this was supposed to have happened back in June and July 2020," he commented.

"It's now January 2021."

He is concerned about even further delays ahead, because the letter stated the Department of Transport had also contacted DELWP for an update on PINP's Wildlife Plan (which aims to identify strategies to balance the needs of both wildlife and the community).

"The Department of Transport Study of speed assessment should not be linked with PINP's plan, and they should get on with their own speed assessment review," Mr Day said.

He believes the matter is urgent, and that the sooner the matter of inappropriate speed limits on the island is addressed, the sooner roadkill numbers will be reduced.

"Any road on Phillip Island that is not signposted with a speed limit is automatically a 100km zone. This includes unmade roads. This matter is urgent," he said.

"The Rhyll/Newhaven Road, Ventnor Beach Road, Smiths Beach Road, Berrys Beach Road (where there is a school), the unmade Harbison Road and others, all have 100km speed limits, and this needs urgent assessment.

"There must be a time frame for this review, which is adhered to, not an elastic band approach.

"A review should not go on forever, as is happening to this one. It should proceed in the timeframe announced," he continued.

"The current approach of excuses as to why it is not going ahead as planned is so frustrating for the community and in particular the residents who live on these roads.

"Each year that passes without any change, on the data collected, means another 400 dead animals on the Rhyll Road alone.

"RRV (Regional Roads Victoria) is stretching this review out unnecessarily.

"A recent briefing by Bass Coast Shire indicating that a delay of two years could be expected in imple-

mentation of any recommendations to come forth is just not acceptable.

"This puts the review on the shelf to gather dust for an indefinite period of time. Covid should not prevent the review from proceeding. RRV staff and council staff remain working, and consultation can still go ahead."

Mr Day says he cannot come to grips with the hypocrisy of Phillip Island being feted on one hand as a wildlife haven, while on the other it is a wildlife graveyard for thousands of animals annually through roadkill.

He has urged RRV and the Bass Coast Shire to urgently consider the speed zone needs of Phillip Island in isolation from the rest of the state, and to take into considerations its special wildlife needs.

"The Road Speed Review should proceed without further delay," is his view.

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A.F.D.A.



Hannele Keady and Haleigh Nicolaci at the new Council Customer Service Centre in Cowes, located within the Nature Parks office at 154-156 Thompson Avenue.

Customer Service finally returns to Cowes

After four months without a Cowes Customer Service Centre or Information Centre, a new venue has finally been announced.

The old service ceased when the Cowes Cultural Centre was demolished in August 2020.

Bass Coast Shire Council has now opened a new Customer Service Centre at 154-156 Thompson Avenue, within Phillip Island Nature Parks' office.

From this week the Centre will be open from 10am to 3pm on weekdays.

With Council's Customer Service and Visitor Experience Team in place, customers will be able to make payments, collect syringe containers and green caddy liners, make gen-

eral enquiries, or receive visitor information.

The Cowes office will operate under the Nature Parks' Covid-Safe Plan.

Bass Coast Shire Acting CEO, Jodi Kennedy, said this was an exciting collaboration that will provide a venue in Cowes to serve residents and visitors until the new Cowes Cultural and Community Centre is built.

"I would like to thank Nature Parks CEO Catherine Basterfield and her team for providing such an incredible space," Ms Kennedy said.

To contact Council's Customer Service Team, please phone 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

Covid restrictions easing again

COVID-19 restrictions around returning to work and mask wearing have been relaxed.

From midnight on Sunday (January 17), masks only have to be worn in supermarkets, hospitals, domestic flights, airports, public transport, taxis and other large indoor retail locations, including shopping centres.

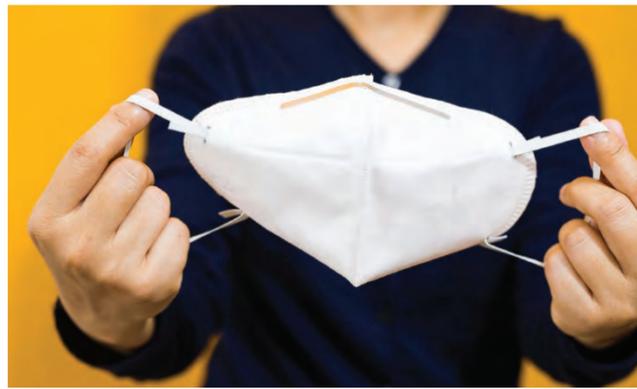
However, it is still recommended that you carry a mask with you whenever you leave the house in case you encounter a situation where you cannot physically distance.

This change was announced by the Premier Daniel Andrews along with changes to office work capacity.

From this week, the Victorian Public service will be able to return to work at 25 per cent capacity at each site and all other offices will be able to increase to a 50 per cent capacity.

Three of Bass Coast's biggest office-based organisations are preparing for their return.

A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said current work arrangements would remain in place until a transition plan had been finalised.



Wearing masks outside the home is no longer mandatory, but mask must still be worn in supermarkets, hospitals, domestic flights, airports, public transport, taxis and other large indoor retail locations, including shopping centres.

Roland Pick from Phillip Island Nature Parks said the organisation is planning a phased return to office spaces.

"We are convening a Transition Team to review and plan how our organisation will implement this phased return to office-based work, in line with our Covid-Safe plan."

He said important elements such as health, wellbeing and safety, operational needs and individual preferences would

be factored into the process. A spokesperson for Westernport Water said it was finalising its return-to-work plans.

"Further information regarding the reopening of the customer service counter will be provided at the appropriate time."

The state government also announced changes to interstate travel, including a travel permit system and the latest details are available on the DHHS website.

Take the test

Everyone in the community is encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 to help contain the spread of the third wave.

You should be tested if you have visited a public exposure site or display even the mildest Covid symptoms including: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny

nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste.

Everyone who is tested is required to self-isolate until test results are received. Waiting times for test results may take 2-3 days.

Cowes:

- Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. To avoid delays, the

quickest time for testing will be before 8am and after 8pm.

Wonthaggi Hospital Drive Thru Clinic:

- 9am – 4pm daily.

You can also book a test with Wonthaggi Medical Group, Monday to Friday from 1pm – 5pm. Please book online or phone 0492 036 568.

People should phone their doctor or the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 if their symptoms get worse.



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Sharing Our Shores this Summer

A joint column from Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council

Summer is in full swing across the Island with warmer weather making a trip to the beach a daily occurrence. It's also a busy time in nature with wildlife breeding, feeding and moving around meaning you are more likely to encounter wildlife. Thank you for helping to make this summer a good one so far by observing the regulations which are for everyone's comfort and safety. Here are a few simple ways we can all share our beaches with each other and wildlife...

Read the signs

The easiest way to keep everyone safe is to stop and read the signs at the entry to your local beach or reserve. These signs tell you how to

share our shores with important safety information and dog regulations. Following the signs helps to make sure it's a happy and safe holiday season for our families, dogs and local wildlife.

Protect your pooch

Our dogs love summer too, as a responsible dog owner please:

- Check the signs and walk your dog within the noted summer hours between 1 December and 30 April.
- Keep your dog on a lead (except in designated off lead areas) – this keeps you and your dog safe.
- Pick up your dog's poo – even when no one is watching!
- Never leave your dog in a car.

Check out the Where Can I Walk My Dog brochure at www.penguins.org.au

Sick and injured wildlife

As animals are out and about in the warmer weather and there is also more traffic, please drive carefully and watch for wildlife. Phillip Island Nature Parks runs a Wildlife Clinic for sick and injured animals across Phillip Island, however it is not equipped to house or rehabilitate seals. Trained staff are on call from 7:30am to 4pm daily to attend wildlife rescue calls. Outside of those hours, wildlife emergencies are managed by Wildlife Victoria - the largest rescue network in the state. Wildlife Victoria is manned by trained volunteers.

- 7:30am to 4pm: Call the Nature Parks on 5951 2800.
- After hours: 4pm to 7:30am: Contact Wildlife Victoria on 8400 7300.
- Cases can also be logged at: wildlifelivevictoria.org.au

Dangerous debris

Fishing hooks, line, nets and other rubbish all cause death and injury to marine and terrestrial wildlife, so please:

- Dispose of rubbish responsibly.
- Collect any rubbish you find and dispose of in the correct bin.
- Report any rubbish dumping to Bass Coast Shire Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or 5671 2211
- Report injured or entangled seals, to Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on 136 186.

Seal sightings

Australia's largest breeding Australian Fur Seal colony is just offshore at Seal Rocks. Summer is the breeding season when new pups are born and yearlings have to fend for themselves - so you may see young seals resting

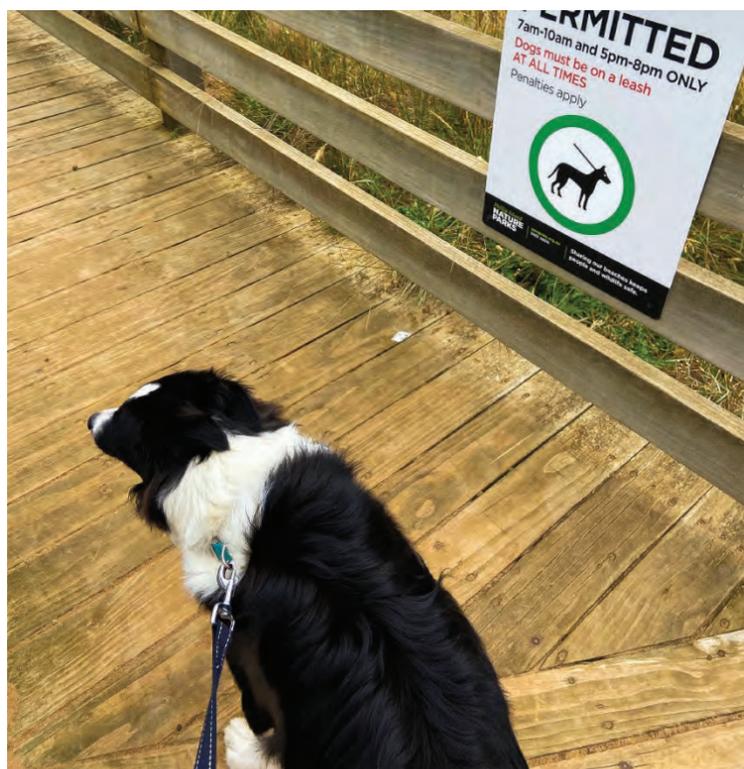
on our beaches – this is quite normal. Some adults may also be washed up alive or dead over this period.

If you see a seal on the beach:

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

on. Hooded Plovers nest on beaches and may abandon their nest if people or dogs come close to them leaving chicks vulnerable to predators or starvation so please:

- Keep to paths at all times.
- Read and observe all signage including temporary notices as situations may change across the season.



Summer contacts

Emergency 000
Victoria Police assist (not urgent) 131 444

Bass Coast Shire Council 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or 5671 2211 www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

Phillip Island Nature Parks 5951 2800 www.penguins.org.au

See you at the beach!

Drop in and say hi at our Pop-Up Stall at Colonnades Beach, Cape Woolamai on

Friday 22 January 2021 between 8am -10am. Great giveaways, have your questions answered by our rangers and share your stories.



Engagement window closed

The feedback period on Bass Coast Shire's controversial Community Engagement Policy has now closed.

Council has been criticised for the short window of opportunity for residents and ratepayers to comment on the policy.

The draft policy was only released mid-December and people had until January 17 to make submissions.

Residents like Beth Banks claimed the community had "been duped", saying there had been a full year allocated for the process by the state government.

"Other councils determined no 'constraints of the timeline' as BSC has now claimed," she outlined in a recent letter to the editor.

Beth said the community was being asked to comment on a draft they should have helped develop over the past year and that other councils had managed to consult widely.

Significant changes needed

A submission from the Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association (BCRRA) said without significant changes the draft policy was not one the community could trust or understand.

"The Draft Community Engagement Policy 2021 provides high level statements of intent, but few substantive guidelines by which the process may be guided and protected," stated the BCRRA submission.

It also noted the policy did not address several principles defined in and required by the Local Government Act.

The submission said Council must consider engaging with the community on any proposed change or decision that is likely to have a significant impact on quality of life, an impact on services or facilities, a significant budgetary impact or involve a level of conflict, controversy or sensitivity.

"The above principles should direct

all community engagement undertaken by Council and not be limited to only the four documents nominated (Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan – Ten Year Asset Plan)," the BCRRA submission said.

The group said the policy also did not commit to ensuring the public's contribution "will influence decision", which implied a "lack of genuine commitment to full and proper community involvement in decision making".

The submission was critical of timeframes of previous consultations, including for the Draft Community Engagement Policy itself and said the policy didn't set out how to determine a reasonable engagement period.

"The Council must improve this for any future community engagements to be effective, as otherwise they make the choice to actively limit the voice of the community."

Disappointing

Island Voice described the draft policy as "very disappointing" saying it presented a set of motherhood statements that created more questions than it answered.

Criticisms included the lack of a "measurable basis for success in implementation of an engagement", no guarantee of a representative selection of stakeholders, and no way to measure how effective the community believes the engagement to be.

Island Voice said the draft policy failed to identify a realistic feedback period – "which should take account of holidays etc", or how council would ensure the community is well informed of engagement opportunities.

It also said key community engagement principals listed in the Local Government Act were missing from the draft policy.

The Island Voice submission said in

its current form the policy would not improve the council's engagement with the community.

"We have recently had some graphic examples of how poorly structured engagement can divide a community, e.g. the regional skate park proposed locations at San Remo and Newhaven communities," the submission stated. "It is imperative that Council does better in future and this document should be the guide to achieve that."

The group said it was willing to work with council to improve the policy.

Residents' issues

Cape Woolamai resident Graham Jolly was also critical of the draft policy and made a range of improvement suggestions.

These included a link on the home page of the Council website to any document Council is seeking engagement on, developing a practical users handbook on engagement and instigating a Citizen Jury.

Mr Jolly also questioned Council's engagement methods and timeframes. Michael Guz from Cape Woolamai criticised the draft policy's lack of detail, saying it lacked "specific local, strategic and legislative context".

Like all respondents, he said the short timeframe available for providing feedback on the draft policy was not adequate, and within the policy, extra effort was needed to ensure it included all the people in the region, as well as showing how Council would engage with ratepayers living outside Bass Coast.

He also called for definitions and clarifications of key terms such as community and stakeholders and for the policy to have a clearly defined review date, not just "within five years".

The final Policy is expected to be considered for adoption at the February 2021 Council Meeting.



Phillip Island's Ed Amarin was one of five people recognised in the first round of Community Gem presentations and received a hamper of local products and vouchers to the of \$200 from local businesses.

Local Community Gem contributions recognised

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale has recognised the achievements of community members during 2020.

Ms Crugnale said amongst all the strains and stresses of a year like no other, there were beautiful acts of kindness, thoughtful gestures, caring and creative connections.

"They spanned across schools, faith organisations, community groups, workplaces, streets, towns and regions and brought us closer together and showcased us at our best."

Food dropped off to families, lawns cut, masks sewn, check in phone calls, help with learning new technologies, neighbours driven to appointments were just a few of the acts of community kindness.

"I cannot remember any other year where we thought and talked about who and what really matters to us, and I hope we never forget that," Ms Crugnale said.

Phillip Island's Ed Amarin was one of five people recognised for their efforts and received a hamper of local products and vouchers to the value of \$200 from local businesses.

"Ed from Pro Surf Coaching is all about improving mental health and wellbeing through surfing.

"He has developed a free safety beach program for schools and with the recent tragedy at Smiths Beach set up his rented 'Surf House' with surf rescue and first aid kit that can be accessed to help save lives out of lifeguard patrol times."

Ms Crugnale said she wanted to acknowledge and thank those who had shown "their true community colours" and in December called for the community to nominate people who deserved recognition for going above and beyond.

She said the response was overwhelming.

"From Pakenham to Clyde, through to Lang Lang down to Inverloch, the Community Gem nominations spoke of amazing people and businesses with exceptional stories of service to their fellow citizens.

"It was an absolute pre-Christmas highlight to send a thank you letter to each and every one of them."

Other Bass Coast locals joining



Kat Cox from the Grantville Pharmacy assisted and delivered to locals everything from medications, masks, hand sanitiser and nappies.

Ed in the first round of Community Gems were Kat Cox (Grantville) and Loran McKean (Wonthaggi).

Kat Cox works at the Grantville Pharmacy and throughout Covid has been assisting and delivering to locals everything from medications, masks, hand sanitiser and nappies.

Loran McKean moved to Wonthaggi four years ago with a 'car seat, suitcase and daughter on her hip' and with a 'grow and give back' attitude. She has reinvigorated and replenished the BCAL (Bass Coast Adult Learning) Garden Project. She works with the horticulture students and donates the produce to families in need.

"I would love to keep thanking people so if you know of someone who lives or works in the Bass electorate who would appreciate a letter, a phone call, a visit – let me know," Ms Crugnale said.

Hampers were made up with a selection of local produce, products and goodies including: Bassine Speciality Cheeses, Chippin Estate Produce, Phillip Island Chocolate Factory, Jude's Jams and Chutneys, Tenby Point's Sweetbee Honey and children's books 'Birds in the Bush' by Aunty Fay Stewart Muir, and 'Inverloch 's Riddle of the Amazon' by Karen Bugeja.

Council action on reconciliation



Cr Brett Tessari with newly appointed Aboriginal Development Officer Patrice Mahoney and Bass Coast Shire Council Acting CEO Jody Kennedy.

Patrice Mahoney OAM has been appointed Aboriginal Development Officer at Bass Coast Shire Council to help develop its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The RAP is part of the organisation's commitment to reconciliation and provides a framework for Council to support the national reconciliation movement. It will drive the organisation's contribution to reconciliation, both internally and within the community.

Council said this awareness and support will help build recognition and strategic partnerships and will provide new learnings, focussed on Bass Coast's culturally diverse community.

A significant step in the continued development of the RAP is the appointment of Patrice as Aboriginal Development Officer.

Patrice's appointment follows on from the important strategic achievements over recent months with Aunty Dr Doseena Fergie OAM,

whose role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Advisor is shared across Council and Bass Coast Health.

Patrice is well known to the Bass Coast community and was recognised for her contribution of 'Service to the Aboriginal Community of Victoria', receiving an Order of Australia (OAM) in 2020. Patrice's previous work has been instrumental in bringing the community together through community events, cultural activities and her contribution to the arts for over 20 years.

Bass Coast Shire CEO, Ali Wastie, was thrilled to welcome Patrice to this incredibly important role.

"Having someone of Patrice's standing in this role and continuing the development of Council's first RAP is really exciting," Ms Wastie said.

"We really look forward to seeing a greater link between Council and our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and making major

steps towards reconciliation."

Patrice said her focus for the coming year will be to build strong links between community and Council and further develop relationships with key stakeholders, while deciding on our vision for reconciliation.

"I have this opportunity in my new role at Council to continue to develop the Reconciliation Action Plan and build healthier relationships between Council, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and key stakeholders," Patrice said.

"I'm really looking forward to the new role and working at Council and with our diverse community."

Over recent months, Council staff have been introduced to a Cultural Capability Training Program, which was conducted online and completed by approximately 350 staff. This training was a major step in creating greater Council staff awareness of our First Nations Peoples, with further cultural training opportunities to follow.

Cowes on the right path

Cowes is set to receive multiple new footpaths as part of Bass Coast Shire Council's capital works program.

Work will begin next month on two new paths. A 180-metre-long path along Settlement Road will run from Maxwell Street to Red Rocks Road, with a second 166-metre-long path, extending from Red Rocks Road to Cypress Court.

The paths are expected to take eight weeks to complete and have been fully funded through developer contributions of around \$110,000.

The existing path on Roydon Street in Cowes, will also be upgraded with construction set to begin this week. The 35-metre long and 1.5 metre path with reinforced 100mm concrete

should be completed in two weeks and will cost around \$16,000.

Council said both projects will provide improved access for pedestrians and give residents along these streets and the greater community, a safe connection to the existing path network.

For the safety of the community each of these areas will become construction zones. Council understands that construction of these new pathways may present some inconvenience to local residents and appreciates their patience. The contractors will make every effort to minimise disruptions.

For more information on these projects, contact council or visit their website.



Surdeep Singh opened a restaurant in Cowes after his takeaway business took off during the Covid lockdown.



Lockdown provided the opportunity for Kate Mackenzie to start her floristry business, Florence & Co Blooms. Photo Lachlan Moore.



Josh owns M & O with his partner Emily and they have been amazed at the support they have received from the community.

Businesses born in the Covid era

Local business was hit hard by COVID-19, but it hasn't stopped some from taking a leap of faith and launching their own businesses.

Kate McKenzie started her business Florence & Co Blooms late last year. It is a contemporary florist which operates online.

Customers place an order by 8pm Tuesday and on Thursday or Friday a bunch of seasonal, exotic and native flowers are delivered to you.

Kate has always had an interest in floristry, but she said it took a back seat to her environmental science pursuits.

When Kate was on maternity leave, she got motivated to try floristry. She had work experience lined up with a local florist but then COVID-19 hit.

Instead of giving up however, Kate decided to go it alone and after some online courses and building an online store, she launched Florence & Co Blooms in September.

"I decided pretty early on that I wanted to do a solely online business," she said.

COVID-19 became a sort of blessing for Kate as it pushed her to start the business, but it also reminded her what a great community we live in.

"During lockdown it was just locals buying my flowers which was nice to know, it gave a real sense of community," she said.

However not being able to go and see the flowers she was ordering was very difficult to work with during the lockdown.

A fresh face

In contrast to Kate's online business, a fresh face has made a home for itself on the Cowes Foreshore.

M & O is a café and soon to be tapas bar which was opened by Emily and Josh in August.

"It was always something we wanted to do, then we were down here, walked past the building and signed it the next day," Emily said.

The restrictions were and continue to be tricky for them to work around especially when learning the ropes of business at the same time.

"Having everything being delayed, the opening, trades, supplies and density limits is tricky. We have had to learn a lot very quickly," they said.

Even though it has been a tough time to start business both Emily and Josh agreed that being able to ease into it and just meet locals in the first few months really helped them to get on their feet.

Online and up front

Blending the new age of online business and the traditional shop front is the Cowes Curry Club.

What started as a home delivery service quickly grew into a takeaway business with a shop in Cowes.

Owner, Surdeep Singh said that after opening in July, expanding to this extent was never in the plan but COVID-19 provided a perfect environment for his business to grow.

"Because everyone was so scared

to go out and restaurants were closed, everyone wanted to have food delivered," he said.

Surdeep says managing the constant changes in restrictions is an extra stress in owning your own business.

Also now that a lot of other places are doing take away you have to be mindful of competition, he says.

But he can't wait to have international tourists back on the Island to help grow his business even more.

"At the moment we are surviving but tourists will help us do even better," he said.

As a community Phillip Island watches on with excitement as our many small businesses emerge from what has been a turbulent time.

Historical Society's Second World War project

By the Phillip Island and District Historical Society

The year 2020 has challenged us in a variety of ways.

One was the inability for us to hold a public commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War Two in September 1945.

However, despite the restrictions and the lock down which hampered so much productivity throughout 2020, the Phillip Island and District Historical Society continued with their project to produce an audio-visual commemoration of this significant anniversary, called "At Home and At War - Phillip Island".

The project was possible thanks to the digitisation of the Historical Society's video and audio tapes which was achieved through a community grant received from the Bass Coast Shire Council.

Included in the videos which were digitised, were tapes recorded in 1995 which comprised a number of interviews with members of the Phillip Island community who had either lived on the island during WW2, or who had served in the forces. These videos were produced by the Society as part of another project, "Australia Remembers 50th Commemoration".

Society member, Christine Grayden was able to use these digitised videos as the basis for the latest 75th com-



Hugh Grigg (6th Division, 17th Brigade, 2/7 Battalion) leading a supplies camel train to the fighting forces with local helpers, Egypt, 1940. Grigg family collection

memoration project, and thanks to a further grant received from the Victorian Government Veterans Grants Program, the Society was able to enlist the aid of local audio engineer Simon Eddy for the editing component of the project.

Other resources used for the project include: society members, older locals, family and friends of the interviewees, Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser archives, the Phillip Island RSL, and online resources such as the National Archives of Australia, Australian War Memorial, National and State Libraries, Wikipedia and various specialist websites for individual units and POW camps.

The first instalment in the "At Home and At War - Phillip Island" project, entitled The Home Front, has been uploaded to YouTube.

In this first instalment, islanders share their recollections of life on the island during WW2. Further videos on the stories of the individual veterans interviewed in 1995 and boosted with extra information about the location and nature of their service are being uploaded as they are completed.

The society welcomes everyone to visit YouTube (with a search for Phillip Island and District Historical Society) and explore the videos there, subscribe, like and leave a comment if you wish.



Friends of Churchill Island Society (FOCIS) is working to improve and preserve the facilities on Churchill Island and is holding a meeting on January 30 at 1.30pm at The Nobbies. Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to attend.

Join Friends of Churchill Island

Friends of Churchill Island Society (FOCIS) is emerging from Covid hibernation and holding a meeting on Saturday, January 30 at 1.30pm at The Nobbies.

Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to come along. Afternoon tea will also be served.

Over the years, the group has worked tirelessly to improve and preserve the facilities on Churchill Island.

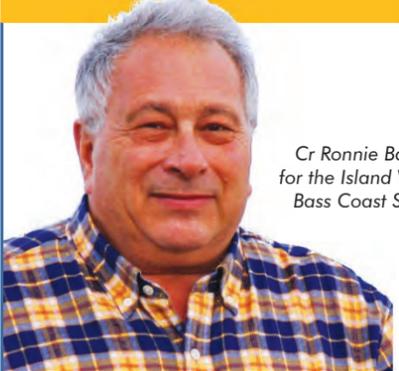
Projects have included working bees to clean up the historic houses and cottages on Churchill Island as well as the historic farm machinery, funding pavers and signage for

the machinery shed and securing a grant to create a DVD about the island's beloved Working Horses.

If you're keen to find out more about Churchill Island, copies of "Churchill Island - History and Her Story" by Patricia Baird are available through FOCIS, by contacting the secretary.

If you are interested in helping in our activities and joining FOCIS - please contact the secretary, Leah Tempany by emailing secretary@focis.org.au, go to the FOCIS website: www.friendsofchurchillisland.org.au or visit the Facebook page for details.

Don't hesitate to contact me, I am here to help.



Cr Ron Bauer for the Island Ward, Bass Coast Shire

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Tel: 0439 535 282
email: Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au
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Council Update



Community Grants Information Sessions

Do you have a question about Council's Community Grants Program? Not sure how to apply? Is your proposed project eligible? What is SmartyGrants? Then come along to an online Information Session and find out more. You don't even have to leave your house!

Sessions are being held at:

- 9.30am on Wednesday, 3 February 2021
- 2.00pm on Monday, 8 February 2021

Registrations are essential. Please advise which session you would like to attend when you register and then you will be forwarded a link to the session prior to the day. To register please contact our Community Grants and Projects Officer, Shirley Egan on 0435 205 816 or email grantenquiry@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

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



Bass Coast's 2021 Citizen of the Year, Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands, with wife Yuka, after last week's ceremony.



Four of the seven nominations for the Citizen of the Year came from Phillip Island. From left: Mark Underwood, Mat Bowtell, Karen Treppo and Lija Matthews.

Magnificent Mat!

Free 3D Hands founder named Citizen of the Year

Mat Bowtell from Free 3D Hands was named Bass Coast Citizen of the Year at a ceremony last week at the Town Hall in Wonthaggi.

Mat was nominated for his work to provide free protective face shields for front line workers during the Covid pandemic.

Accepting the nomination, Mat said at Free 3D Hands, the question was not "whether we help, but how can we help using the skills and capability we have".

When the award was announced, he said he was "shocked and surprised", given the contribution of his fellow nominees.

"It's incredible to be part of this community.

"This last year for me has been really special. Thanks to everybody in the community who has helped us deliver these shields."

He also thanked his wife Yuka for her support and his team at Free 3D Hands.

Three other Phillip Islanders were nominated for Citizen of the Year: Lija Matthews, Karen Treppo and Mark Underwood.

Also nominated were Wonthaggi's Everett O'Keeffe and Dave Sutton and Karen Walters from Inverloch.

Young Citizen of the Year was Margaret Sand from Wonthaggi.

In recognition of their achievements, this year's Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year each received a painting by local artist, Katherine Muir.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, congratulated Mat and Margaret on their awards, and thanked them for their commitment to the Bass Coast community.

"The Australia Day Awards are all about recognising ordinary Australians who contribute to our Shire above and beyond expectations. Their achievements often go unrecognised," Cr Tessari said.

"There are so many wonderful people that commit their time and effort to better our community.

"There are many individuals, and you all know them, who give us countless hours of work across the community in a wide range of spectrums, activities and services. These people have one thing in common. They are genuinely hum-

ble and do not expect recognition. "We all owe them a debt of gratitude," Cr Tessari said.

Humbled

Matt said he was humbled to be part of such an amazing group of nominees.

"I wish all the finalists were Citizens of the Year," he told the Advertiser.

However Mat's own contribution was a significant one.

His nomination came from former Mayor Neville Goodwin, endorsed by Jan Child, CEO of Bass Coast Health (BCH), for his work in repurposing 14 of his 30 3D printers to manufacture face shields.

The shields were distributed for free to local health care workers, aged care services, GP clinics and other frontline workers.

Mat also used his own savings to secure materials for the shields, then through community and government funding went on to produce 6000 face shields, employing local people who had lost their jobs.

In nominating Mat, Mr Goodwin noted this work was in addition to the "truly inspirational work already done by Mat and his team at Free 3D Hands, which has been changing the life of children all over the world since 2014".

Free 3D Hands use 3D printing technology to reduce the cost of manufacture to a point where they can provide assistive devices for free, to anyone in the world. On top of this, all designs are released under open-source licenses, to encourage further development and innovation in this field.

A team effort

Repurposing his factory to produce the face shields was a massive effort.

"It was pretty hard going," Mat admitted.

"We ran those printers for 15,000 hours and restarted them 12,000 times."

As well as the stress of designing and finding funding for the shields, the project had some physical consequences.

An accident with a chisel while trying to repair a printer almost cost Mat a finger, although he ad-

mits at first he wasn't sure how bad the injury was.

"I almost chopped my finger off in the process and they stitched me up at the Hub," he said.

"I wrapped it up in towels and went down there and said I'm sorry, I might be wasting your time ... but I haven't had the courage to look at it."

The Citizen of the Year award has given Mat the opportunity to publicly thank all those who helped with the face shield project.

"I was glad I was able to acknowledge it was a real community effort," he said.

He described local MP Jordan Crugnale and Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child as an "incredible support" and thanked Nicky Baker, BCH's Infection Control Clinical Nurse and her team for working with him to test and validate the shield design.

"There are so many people I wanted to thank for being part of it.

"Anne Jeffries ran up and down to Melbourne, picking up materials and dropping things to BCH.

"Ricky Adams, a mechanic and a chef who was stood down from his job, was running the printers all by himself.

"He used his mechanic skills to get them running again when they stopped, and his chef skills to organise everything."

A group of Year 12 students – Caitlin, Simone and Anna – also lent a helping hand, and local stores like Cotton onto Craft in Cowes and Beads and Fabrics in Wonthaggi, helped source materials.

For Mat, the best thing about the entire project was seeing the community come together.

"It was important to provide the face shields for free. I noticed early on, as soon as the pandemic hit, people were trying to profit from the pandemic and people's desperation.

"I wanted to show we don't have to do that. We can be more civil and try and help the frontline workers."

In the scope of a global pandemic, he described his effort as "a drop in the ocean", but one with a clear message.

"We should be helping people, and doing what we can individually to help."



Margaret Sand from Wonthaggi was named the 2021 Young Citizen of the Year.

Margaret Sand

– Young Citizen of the Year

Margaret Sand, who has just completed Year 12 at Wonthaggi Secondary College, was named the 2021 Young Citizen of the Year.

Margaret was recognised for her volunteer work, which included initiating a program to create homeless packs with Wonthaggi Christian Life Centre and Wonthaggi Anglican Church in 2019.

The 19-year-old is one of five siblings, brought up by her mother and was nominated by John Williams.

At school, she was member of the Wonthaggi Secondary College leadership group, as well as working part time and volunteering at the Vinnie's op-shop in Wonthaggi.

John said Margaret believed in the importance of community and contributed through her volunteering and leadership.

She hopes to study Law and Community Development at University, to enable her to work for an aid or advocacy agency in the future.



The seven nominees for the 2021 Citizen of the Year, pictured with Bass Coast Shire councillors. Back from left: Cr Rochelle Halstead, Mayor Cr Brett Tessari, Mat Bowtell, Karen Treppo, Dave Sutton, Cr Michael Whelan. Front (from left): Mark Underwood, Cr Clare Le Serve, Everett O'Keeffe, Lija Matthews, Margaret Sand, Karen Walters, Cr Leticia Laing.

Congratulations to all the nominees

Lija Matthews – Wimbledon Heights Nominated by Emily van der Walt

Since the tragic death of her best friend Samantha Fraser in July 2018, Lija has dedicated herself to ensuring no more women become victims of domestic violence.

Lija has ensured even though Sam is no longer here, her voice is still heard.

The 'Change for Sam' initiative was created by a group of community members and family violence service providers following Sam's death. It includes representatives from a broad range of local community service organisations, local businesses and most importantly, it partners with community members and Sam's family and friends.

It is driven by the community, with the aim of preventing family violence, particularly against women and children in the Bass Coast area and to coordinate current services and resources to better respond to incidents of family violence – something Sam cared about deeply.

Lija has put hundreds of hours into developing the resources in support of the initiative.

As part of 'Change for Sam', Lija has initiated kindness cards to be distributed among the community and has also just finished working on a project to personally write to children over Christmas.

Lija has worked closely with Jan Child from Bass Coast Health, Bass Coast Shire Council and local police and is part of the Orange Door community.

Everett O'Keeffe – North Wonthaggi Nominated by Theresita Plumb

As a pharmacist, Everett worked hard to keep the community safe and COVID-19 free. When hand sanitizers became unavailable throughout the country, he worked

day and night to manufacture them from scratch with the aim to protect the community and to keep businesses running.

Through the Wonthaggi Amcal Pharmacy Facebook page, Everett provided the community with valuable information and advice.

He put together Covid business packages and distributed them to local businesses and provided them with advice on how to protect their staff and run their business with the necessary hygiene requirements.

He introduced a vaccination facility within the pharmacy to increase herd immunity against the influenza virus.

Outside of business hours he delivered medication to the elderly and high-risk patients and donated masks as well as eggs from his farm to a local church for distribution to the most vulnerable in our community.

This year has been an extremely stressful year for everyone across the globe, Everett did his best to provide his staff members with a safe and happy environment to work in.

Everett has been with the CFA for 10 years and is ranked 4th Lieutenant and is always on call when needed. He is also a life member of the local soccer club.

Dave Sutton – Inverloch Nominated by Linda Pettit

For years, Dave has been the dependable figurehead of the South Gippsland Conservation Society, during which time he has developed relationships with communities and agencies, advocating for studies to be undertaken on the erosion along our shoreline and environmental protection action.

In response to coastal erosion along Inverloch beach, Dave was instrumental in the Society receiving a grant for the Inverloch Coast-

al Resilience Project. This project provided science-based evidence that assisted in attracting funding of \$750,000 from the State Government, to undertake a Local Coastal Hazard Assessment and Regional Strategic Partnership studies, that will inform future planning as sea levels rise and climate change impacts our communities.

Dave has volunteered well beyond his role with the Society to 'save' the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, our coastline and community assets. Dave is an inspirational role model, always leading with his 'boots-on-the-ground', including undertaking shoreline reconnaissance, laser level survey and drone monitoring following storm events.

Dave is a life member of the Society, a member of the Community Advisory Group for the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and a past Board Member of the Gippsland wide Energy Innovation Co-operative.

Karen Treppo – Cowes Nominated by Kathryn Anderson

Karen is dedicated to the welfare of children, families and her community.

As director of the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre, inclusion and safety for all children and families is her priority and she aims to help achieve this for all.

Karen oversees an amazing early childhood service, and continuously seeks ways to improve services and supports for her clients and community.

She has set up programs to assist children and families, including a sustainable clothing rack, where parents can donate children's clothes and can take clothes as needed. She created the ELC community pantry, where all families can pick up items they need or de-

sire. She also provides food vouchers and gives them out to those in crisis and need.

Karen keeps 'share the dignity bags' in her cupboard for women in need and when she feels a mother may need a safety plan, or is at risk, she seeks consent to engage other services to work together for positive outcomes.

Karen seeks grants to improve services at the Centre, and does a lot of this in her own time, without expecting recognition.

She volunteers her time to the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre Pantry program and Monday night Uniting Church community dinners.

Mark Underwood – Cape Woolamai Nominated by Pharrah Underwood

As a graphic designer by day, Mark wanted to find a way to give back to his community.

Around 12 months ago, he started a side passion project called 'Local Clothing'. With three young kids, he found it difficult to get involved with the community so came up with this idea to contribute.

He runs 'Local Clothing' – a clothing company – after hours, when the kids are in bed and donates 10 per cent of the turnover to a different community group every month. The public is invited to nominate Bass Coast based groups or organisations.

In the past 12 months, Mark has donated \$4,837 to local organisations, including the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Phillip Island CFA, The National Surfing Reserve, Change For Sam, the Phillip Island Football and Netball Club, Phillip Island Landcare, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL), Cowes Primary School, the Phillip Island SES, Bass Coast Health and the

Penguin Foundation.

Local Clothing is based on Mark's passion to give back to the community and his efforts to get that cheque as big as possible at the end of every month for local community groups.

Karen Walters – Inverloch Nominated by Jan Martin

For the last seven years, Karen has volunteered as Convenor of the Red Cross Patient Transport Inverloch Service.

In that role, she has made a significant, positive difference to hundreds of vulnerable residents in Bass Coast, many of whom have been undergoing life-saving treatment and have not had any other means to get to their medical appointments.

She organises transport to local, regional and metropolitan hospitals for people needing cancer treatment, surgery and various specialist appointments. Karen shows genuine compassion and care to those people, who are often at their most fragile and vulnerable, providing them with the reassurance of a reliable and caring transport service.

Her volunteer role is multi-faceted. As well as organising transport for clients, Karen co-ordinates a team of up to 15 volunteer drivers at any given time. She has done this for the last seven years.

During the bushfire emergency in Gippsland in January 2020, Karen organised transport for airlifted bushfire victims from Mallacoota, to emergency accommodation. In addition, she facilitated a local trauma toy donation for children affected by the bushfires with an overwhelming local response.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Karen has adapted the transport service to ensure that critical services continue safely.

BACK to scHool

Dance Design is back!

Dance Design's 2021 classes recommence at Cowes on Wednesday, February 3 at the St Philips Anglican Church Hall.

Dance Design offers classes in Wonthaggi, Cowes and Korumburra. Over 250 students aged from two to 25 years old will participate in Jazz/Modern, Tap and Contemporary classes under the instruction of their teachers Michelle Mabilia and Alycia Marotta.

After almost 12 months hard work and rehearsals, the students will perform their annual end of year

concerts in front of capacity crowds. Each year the concerts feature a pantomime, however the title remains a mystery until July, just to keep the students guessing.

It was a crazy time last year, but we were still able to perform our "Covid End of Year Concert" at the Wonthaggi Arts Centre. Each student participated in the concert, performing their class routines plus the pantomime "The Lorax". We had specially designed singlets as a costume and the students were

the audience.

Each student will get a concert DVD, plus live Facebook feeds and plenty of photos were made available so that parents didn't miss out completely. As the concert was only four days before Christmas, we even had a special visit from Santa.

Enjoyment is the key to our teaching methods, and we encourage everyone to try our classes and see. For all enquiries and enrolments; email dancedes@bigpond.net.au or phone 0417 579 349.



Each year the school holds an end of year concert, such as this Contemporary Dance performance, showcasing what students have learned in front of capacity crowds.



Back to school

All the latest and greatest. Back packs, pencil cases and accessories now available



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Phillip Island Village School Allstars students Maya and Nate engaged in project work.

A pathway to a future-focused high school experience

Phillip Island Village School is an educational option designed with the future in mind, for sparky, self-motivated students, and a pathway to join Village High School.

Phillip Island Village School (PIVS), an intentionally small, human-scale democratic primary school, located in Ventnor, has a strong focus on empowering students to be creative, self-directed learners.

The school has always fostered independence and supported students to develop their 'sparks', but programs have recently evolved further to empower students to be more active participants in their own learning, with

the development of a project-based learning focus.

The PIVS Allstars Program is an integrated set of Mentor-led, supported, and child-led components, with a strong focus on giving children space to explore their interest and passions, developing an understanding of the way they work both individually and in a team, and giving them ownership and agency over their learning.

Principal, Jo Huckett explain that "students at PIVS learn to be confident decision-makers and to know themselves well, and they use these skills in the context of pursuing their own goals".

"They develop confidence in their abilities to work independently and thrive in an environment where they are treated with respect by working in partnership with their Mentors."

The evolution of the teaching and learning program at PIVS, and its focus on student empowerment is strongly relevant to the way in which education is framed at Village High School (VHS), where most PIVS graduates move to for high school.

At VHS, students are partners in their own learning from Year 7, and can sign up to modules teaching 'real life' skills such as entrepreneurship. Students are listened to and treated with respect, have a strong feeling of belonging, and love being at school.

Since opening to Year 7 and 8 in 2020, Village High School has been inundated with enrolment requests, and in addition to being full in 2021 (for Years 7, 8 and 9), enrolments have almost filled up for 2022 and beyond.

Experiencing the learning style at PIVS will give students the mindsets they need to thrive at VHS, and allows high school staff to get to know prospective students before they arrive.

PIVS has limited vacancies in 2021 for students working at Level 4 and Level 6. www.pivillageschool.org.au



Village High School Phillip Island Village School

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IN YEARS 4 AND 6 IN 2021 AT
PHILLIP ISLAND VILLAGE SCHOOL

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BACK to SCHOOL

Lifelong learning opportunities at PICAL in Cowes

Meet new people, discover a hidden talent or explore your employment options with PICAL.

"Last year really highlighted to us the importance of lifelong learning," explains PICAL Program Coordinator Wendy Christensen.

"Our social and employment landscape changed so quickly, people had to learn new skills and embrace digital technology to stay engaged with their workplaces, family and friends."

One of PICAL's new offerings, Beyond Basics Computers, aims to build on some of the skills made necessary by life in lockdown such as using online teleconferencing platforms like Zoom.

Beginning with three face-to-face sessions, experienced tutor Ajanta Judd will make sure each participant has a solid understanding of basic computer functions and the ability to connect to an online learning classroom. The next four sessions are conducted online where participants will Zoom in from home (or from one of the PICAL computers) to become more familiar with participating in meetings and discussions in a supported online space.

There is also plenty of assistance

for people starting out on their digital journey with the return of Computer for Beginners with Lynne Hudson, as well as Men's and Women's Tech Club days where tutors provide individual support for any computer, phone or tech related issues.

"At PICAL we believe it's never too late for anyone to get the support they need to improve their knowledge and confidence in the digital world" says Wendy.

PICAL's Leisure & Lifestyle programs offer a creative outlet with ceramics and sewing, or learn how to make your very own recycled planter box. Discover Horticulture with permaculture and garden expert Rick Coleman and get all the tips you need to have a sustainable home garden!

Group Activities resume with a range of opportunities to get involved including Mahjong, Patchwork, Thai Chi and LGBTQI+ groups Rainbow Connect and the new Rainbow Allies Support Group.

For further information please download PICAL's Term 1 2021 Group Activities and Course Guide from the website at www.pical.org.au or phone PICAL reception on 5952 1131.



VCE students from Phillip Island Dance Studio performing in Alice in Wonderland, filmed in the studio as part of a Covid-safe end of year performance.

Phillip Island Dance returns

2020 was a like no other for Phillip Island Dance Studio.

The school was only open for 14 weeks which saw over 100 students dancing online to continue dance classes.

But the show must go on! In just five weeks Phillip Island Dance Studio choreographed and produced their performance of Alice in Wonderland along with Jazz and Contemporary pieces.

Bass Coast Media filmed students class by class in the studio so students

could finish their year in costume with the excitement of a performance.

It was a massive task to film many hours with hundreds of costumes, stage lighting and Covid safe plans to transform the studio to a stage.

It was a great way to finish the year to see lots of sparkle and smiles.

Classes resume for 2021 on February 1 with classes held in Cowes for toddlers through to adults.

The studio offers fun, creative and qualified dance tuition with age-appropriate, safe dance practices for both recreational students and students wanting to dance vocationally.

Classes are conducted in classical ballet, pre pointe program, pointe, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, modern, stretch and strengthening classes.

Phillip Island Dance Studio – proudly teaching students in Bass Coast for 20 years.

For more information email phillipislanddancestudio@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.



Garden expert Rick Coleman will share his gardening knowledge in a horticulture course, part of PICAL's range of courses in term one, which also including a new Beyond Basics computer course.

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Holiday Fun



Enjoying a day at the Phillip Island Winery, Lucy Parsons, Anna Boxel, Jodie Parsons and Beverley Stuart of Surf Beach visited The Yard for some special purchases.



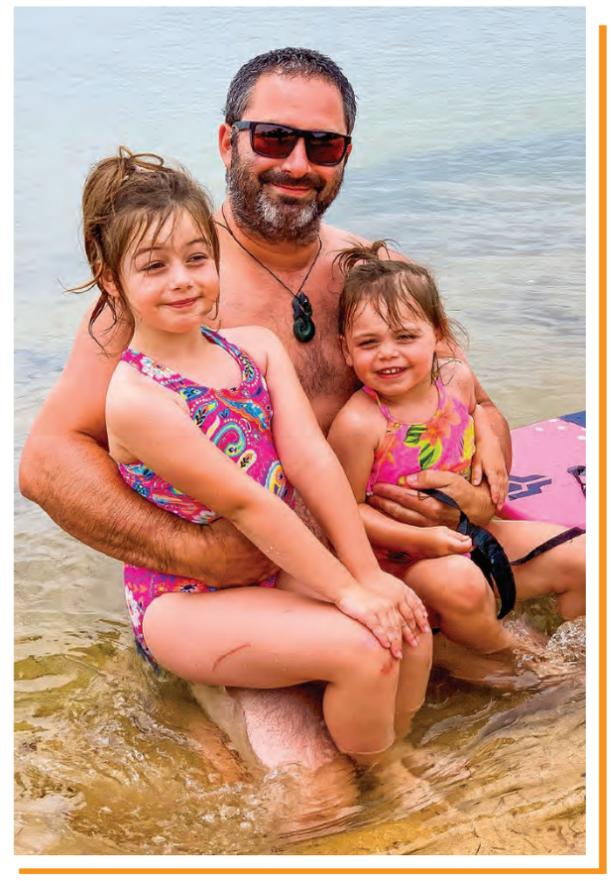
Jack Ellice-Flint's family have been coming to Cowes for 60 years. This Christmas he introduced his daughter Sybella (10 days old) to the beach, accompanied by nephew Edward Nolan (18 months), and Grandad Mort FitzGerald.



Working on their swing strokes, Eloise Sutton and Olivia Louwdijk from Cape Woolamai at Grumpy's Golf in Cowes.



Eight-year-old Taj Duffin heads to the Cowes skate park with Dad daily to practise his craft.



Making the most of the sunshine at Silverleaves Beach were Neihana, Isla and Macy who were staying with family in Silverleaves at Christmas.

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phillip island grand prix circuit

Holiday Fun



There were plenty of people out on the streets enjoying the new outdoor dining spaces in Cowes. Local artist Steve Cousins entertained the crowds outside G'Day Tiger in Thompson Avenue.



Antonella and Pete Laidlaw with Sebastian and Sofia were keen to enjoy a day at the beach. The family have been holidaying on the island for 20 years.



On your bike! Michael, Maddy and Ruby have a van at the Kaloha Caravan park and explore the island on two wheels.

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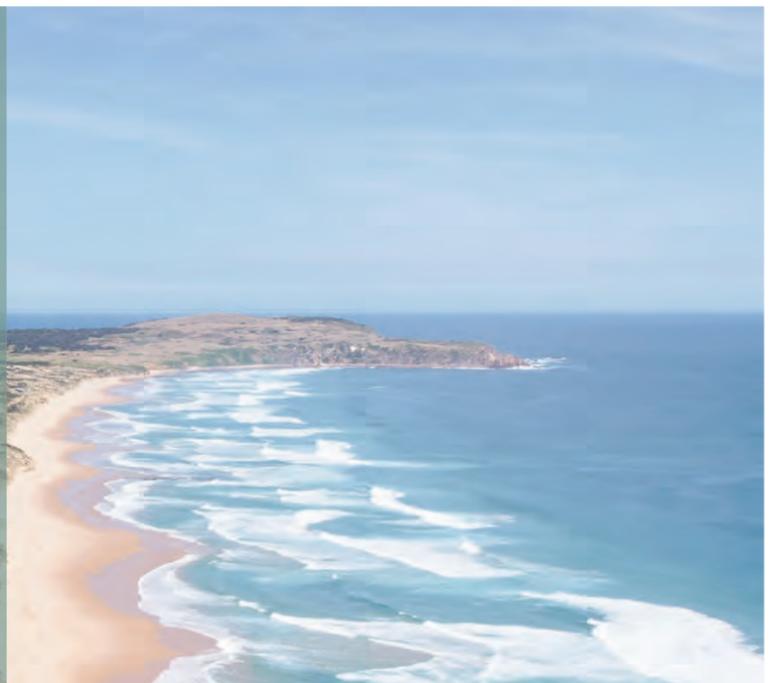
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Island HOLIDAY GUIDE

PHILLIP ISLAND INFORMATION CENTRE

Photo: Anna Carson

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 86 CHAPEL STREET COWES
 Phillip Island Markets Contact 0428 603 043

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 56-58 Church St, Cowes
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Lyn Young received a life membership for her leadership of the Phillip Island Camera Club.



Susan Brereton assumed the leadership role at the club in 2015 and also received a life membership.

Camera Club awards life memberships

The Phillip Island Camera Club, at its Christmas break-up at the RSL, awarded well deserved life memberships to Lyn Young and Susan Brereton.

Both ladies had effectively led the Club for a combined total of twelve years.

Lyn took on the Coordinator/President's position not long after she joined the Club when no-one else was prepared to take on the leadership.

The achievements that were implemented under her leadership include: Club Logo; embracing the digital age with electronic data photographic images and the purchase of a projector and computer.

Email newsletters, club uniforms and calendars with members' images were also produced to fund raise for four years.

An image evaluation weekend with great support from Melbourne Clubs and locals; hosting of a Victorian Association of Photographic Societies (VAPS) with

two hundred attendees; holding camera courses; and the 20th anniversary exhibition involving Bass Coast Schools together with a dinner of members past and present also took place over that period of time.

Lyn was the driving force behind the Club during these years, putting out a monthly newsletter, public relations articles, and nurturing, encouraging and promoting photography.

She handed over the management of the Club in 2015 to an interim committee.

Susan Brereton assumed the leadership role of the Club in 2015, and promoted a friendly and productive atmosphere leading the Club for five years while promoting the VAPS ideal of improved personal achievement and personal challenges, instead of always focusing on competition.

She encouraged members to enter local, state, national and international competitions, if they

so desired.

Susan organised numerous workshops, (such as still life, portraiture, landscape, glassware, lighting) with renowned, experienced photographers, as well as day and extended excursions to local areas of Marysville, Stratford-on-Avon and Drouin-Noojee.

She also organised speakers and judges who introduced their personal photographic styles and provided useful feedback to Club members, recognition of service of club members and beginner courses and lightroom workshops. Members' sharing of skills was encouraged, whilst promoting the Club through connecting with local community groups.

Susan was involved in gaining funds for computer and electronic equipment and led a grant application to support the 25th anniversary exhibition which was followed later in the year by a 25th Anniversary Dinner of past and present members.

Leading the Club through incorporation, membership grew to forty under her leadership.

Both Susan and Lyn received a badge, a certificate and an engraved pen in recognition of their incredible contribution to the Club.

Grateful thanks is extended to both women for their leadership, creation of a friendly environment and promotion of the love of photography.

COVID-19 put a dampener on the proposed program for last year.

Evaluation of images still went ahead with slideshows being put on YouTube. We were still able to run some local excursions while social distancing, but we're looking forward to being able to resume our meetings.

The Newhaven Yacht Club will be our meeting place with the Heritage Centre unavailable for meetings.

For further information on the Phillip Island Camera Club please phone Jenny on 0408 355 130.



The shed has a huge collection of items, from crockery to general bric-a-brac that all needs to be sold.

Final goodbye for St John's market stall

St John's Uniting Church Council has been running an opportunity shop at the Market on Chapel since April of 2005.

But it is with regrets the Church Council has decided to close the opportunity shop.

Due to the demands on the volunteers the op shop will only be open for the next two markets before closing its doors for good.

This weekend's market and the market on February 27, between 8.30am and 1.30pm, will be your last chance to visit the much-loved stall.

The opportunity shop has run as a part of the market, out of a shed on the church grounds to raise funds for the Church and the various community programs it supports, including the community meals it provides.

The shop has an extensive range of crockery, glassware, games, books and general bric-a-brac.

After the shop is closed there are plans to use the shed as a drop-in center for members of community who would like easy access to the church and parishioners.

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Selection of art from three well known painters on Phillip Island
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 Framed and unframed paintings are for sale.
 Tickets available for a special raffle of a painting by each artist.
 Proceeds to the Phillip Island Golf Club.
 Winners of the raffle will be notified.
 Drawn on Sunday the 31 January 3pm.

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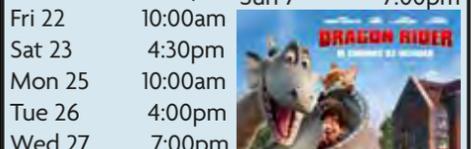
Misbehaviour [M]	The Comeback Trail [MA15+]
Fri 22 1:00pm	Wed 20 1:00pm
Mon 25 7:00pm	Thu 21 4:00pm
Wed 27 4:00pm	Sat 23 7:00pm
Fri 29 1:00pm	Thu 28 1:30pm
	Sat 30 4:00pm



Wonder Woman 1984 [M]	The Croods: A New Age [PG]
Wed 20 4:00pm	Wed 20 10:00am
Thu 21 10:00am	Thu 21 7:00pm
Fri 22 7:00pm	Fri 22 4:00pm
Sat 23 1:00pm	Sat 23 10:00am
Mon 25 1:00pm	Mon 25 4:30pm
Tue 26 7:00pm	Wed 27 1:30pm
Wed 27 10:00am	Thu 28 4:00pm
Thu 28 10:00am	Fri 29 10:00am
Fri 29 7:00pm	Sat 30 1:00pm
Sat 30 7:00pm	



The Witches [M]	Super Intelligence [PG]
Wed 20 7:30pm	Fri 5 7:00pm
Thu 21 1:30pm	Sat 6 10:00am
Fri 22 10:00am	Sun 7 7:00pm



Dragon Rider [PG]
Fri 5 4:00pm
Sat 6 1:00pm



The Dry [MA15+]	Promising Young Woman [MA15+]
Fri 5 1:00pm	Fri 5 10:00am
Sat 6 4:00pm	Sat 6 7:00pm
Sun 7 10:00am	Sun 7 1:00pm

Bass Coast Fine Film Group Returns with French film, How to be a Good Wife [M]

This latest offering from French director Martin Provost is set in the Alsace region in 1967 and follows the experience of Paulette following the sudden death of her husband.
Sunday 7 February 4:00pm

Booking Information
 To purchase tickets online visit wonthaggiartscentre.com
 or
 In person at our Box Office, open Tuesday to Saturday - 10am - 4pm

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Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre
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 phone: 03 5671 2470

Introducing Jacqui Robinson

Jacqui Robinson has called the Mornington Peninsula home for 14 years and more recently she became a Phillip Island local.

Born in Edinburgh and raised in Yorkshire, the eldest of five, Jacqui came to the beautiful shores of the Bass Coast to visit family and fell in love with the scenery, the people, and the lifestyle it offered. Within six months Jacqui was living and working in the area and she hasn't looked back since.

Property has been a way of life for Jacqui for most of her life, having experience in development and renovation both here and abroad.

After many years of personal experiences in the property market, Jacqui chose to turn her passion into a career and joined the world of Real Estate five years ago.

From the beginning, Jacqui's presentation skills have been second to none, with her organised and structured approach to addressing client needs seeing her maintain a strong referral base.

Joining the Stockdale & Leggo team on Phillip Island six months ago, Jacqui has quickly been making a name for herself as an agent who understands client needs and knows the lo-

cal area and property market like the back of her hand.

Jacqui understands firsthand, when it comes to Phillip Island, you are not just selling a home, you are selling a way of life; and her love of the island and everything it has to offer has seen her successfully selling properties, from one-bedroom units to million-dollar luxury escapes.

Jacqui prides herself on providing the same high level of service to all clients, whether it's their first home, an investment home, or their dream home. She finds it exciting and rewarding to be part of turning a client's Real Estate goals into a reality. In Jacqui's own words: "Happy vendors and happy purchasers are why I do what I do".

If you are looking for an agent with the highest level of professionalism, informed educating, skilled negotiation, and communication to guide you through one of the most important events in your life, Jacqui will be there to ensure a stress-free and smooth transition to your next stage of life.

Come in and visit Jacqui at our office, 45 Thompson Ave Cowes, or you may just run into her on the beach walking her best friend Arby the sausage dog and enjoying Island life.



Experienced agent Jacqui Robinson has joined Stockdale & Leggo in Cowes, bringing a wealth of local knowledge and second-to-none presentation to the team.



FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE

URGENTLY NEED PROPERTIES FOR SALE

For sale \$799,000
14 Beach Road, Rhyll

Here's the ultimate lifestyle with a foreshore position making coastal living a dream. Located opposite the Rhyll jetty and within easy walking distance to cafe, Tavern, boat ramp and park. This light and bright captures all the northerly aspect and is perfect for entertaining family and friends on the large north facing decking area. The main bedrooms features it's own balcony with views of the Bay as well as ensuite & WIR. Other features include polished hardwood floors, spacious kitchen with stone benches and 900mm cook top. The large main living area also features open wood fire and reverse cycle heating and cooling.

This highly sought after foreshore property has a great permanent rental history also, returning \$1625 per month making it the ideal investment.

FANTASTIC FORESHORE



For sale \$719,000
26 Dunsmoore Road, Cowes

Just minutes to the sandy shores of Cowes and tucked away in a tranquil and leafy enclave, this treasured home is a dream fulfilling opportunity. The home features 3 bedrooms, open plan living with wood fire which adds a warm ambience. Outdoors, the established easy-care gardens provide shade a shady haven to relax. This is undeniably one of the best locations in Cowes where you can swim within minutes of leaving home, golf, tennis and Cowes Recreation Centre.

Inspections are by appointment only.

LIFESTYLE LOCATION



For sale \$539,000
2 Thruxton Street, Cowes

The perfect low maintenance home awaits. Set over a single level with a north facing living area and a west facing deck. A large family home with two living areas only adds to this ideal package. With no vacant permanent rental this could easily rent for \$450 to \$470 per week. Start your property portfolio

LIVE/INVEST/ENJOY



For sale \$649,000
5 Birdwood Avenue, Cowes

This well presented property is in an ideal location in a tree lined street within walking distance to all of Cowes amenities and beach front. The home sits on a large block of 910sqm which is perfect for future development potential (STCA) or simply leave it as is if you want the extra space. The house is perfect for beach holidays or ideal investment property the choice is yours.

Inspection by private appointment only.

ROOM TO MOVE



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A Coastal Dream For Sale – Price Upon Request 39 Maroubra Ave, Cape Woolamai

Wake up every day feeling like you are living in a coastal resort in some exotic location. Set on 600sqm of tropical style landscaped gardens with views to the Cape Woolamai Headland; this 4 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom near new home is only 100mts to Cape Woolamai beach and Esplanade.

Featuring split system air con, high end appliances and spa like bathrooms, it is a must see for those looking for a bit of unique luxury on Phillip Island.



Stunning Home in Perfect Position For Sale – \$975,000 – \$1,070,000 368 Church St, Cowes

Situated in a quiet no-through road at the end of Church Street on a 659m2 block, this beautiful home features a well-designed floorplan with large open plan living areas and fully landscaped gardens.

No expense has been spared on the design of this 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, both internally and externally; with stone benchtops throughout, quality hardwood flooring, and upgraded windows and internal doors. Book an inspection today.



The Perfect Family Home For Sale – \$870,00 – \$955,000 25 Mcrae Ave, Cowes

With direct access to Red Rocks Beach/Justice Rd Beach, this beautiful 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom quality build set on 767sqm has been lovingly built. With multiple living areas, including a sound proofed home theatre, this is a modern home, suitable for families to see their children grow up in.

Outside, enjoy an entertaining area surrounded by a low maintenance fully landscaped garden, complete with water tanks and an additional large shed.



Come Home to a Million Dollar View! For Sale – \$790,000 – \$830,000 61-67 Nyora Rd, Poowong

The beautiful rural views of rolling hills will take your breath away when visiting this superbly maintained family home set on 1.8ha with 4 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms. Including a farmhouse sink, quality appliances and equipped island, your new kitchen is an entertainer's dream or just a haven for family meals.

With a full fenced inground pool, overlooking the valley and surrounded by a quality timber entertaining area, this property is full of warmth and opportunities to raise a family,

www.stockdaleleggo.com.au/phillipisland

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The kitchen and the large island bench, with stunning stone benchtops and exquisite cabinetry, is the hub of the house.



A large open plan dining and living area opens out onto a covered alfresco area, perfect for entertaining.

Executive residence close to all amenities

This unrivalled property offers so much more than first meets the eye.

The epitome of easy seaside family living, you will love the sleek, yet simple styling, and the premium fittings and fixtures throughout the home.

Situated on an allotment of 1672 m², backing onto a wildlife corridor, and only minutes from the beach and town centre, this six bedroom, four bathroom home offers you your own sanctuary, away from the hustle and bustle, and is sure to impress.

Built specifically to the current owners' requirements, the home was designed for two families to holiday together. Every detail has been thought of – from the large boat shed in the backyard, to the mudroom in the laundry with access from side door, for showering off the sand when getting back from the beach, and two deck areas for entertaining and relaxing.

A large open plan kitchen, dining and living area is the heart of this home. The hub being the kitchen and the large island bench, with stunning stone benchtops and exquisite cabinetry. The island bench is great for casual dining, or for just pulling up a stool and having a chat over a cuppa. Featuring integrated appliances, including fridge drawers, induction hotplate, walk in pantry, as well as appliance cupboards, catering for the masses will be a breeze.

Spend many happy hours entertaining family and friends in the covered alfresco area, with built in kitchen, BBQ, fridges and plumbed sink. There are two master bedrooms with their own ensuites and walk-in robes, and located off a central hallway, are a further four bedrooms



Situated on an allotment of 1672 m², backing onto a wildlife corridor, and only minutes from the beach and town centre, this home offers you your own sanctuary, away from the hustle and bustle.

There are two master bedrooms with their own ensuites and walk-in robes, and located off a central hallway, are a further four bedrooms

for the children, all with fully customised built-in robes. There are also two family bathrooms and two powder rooms.

Upstairs there is a separate theatre room, powder room, and a further living area which leads out to a covered balcony.

Individual climate control/split systems for each room, ensure year-round comfort throughout the entire home.

Additional features include, but not limited to:

- Solid Victorian Ash polished timber floorboards
- Built in washing machine and drier in laundry
- Under stair storage
- High end cabinetry throughout the home
- Two car garage

• Large shed with plumbing and electricity wiring available

• Side access to the backyard through double gates

• Concrete driveways

• Instantaneous gas hot water system

• 6.2 star energy rating

• All furniture included on a walk in/walk out basis

An inspection is highly recommended to get a true appreciation for all that this spectacular home offers.

Contact: Alex Scott Real & Staff, 5952 2633

Address: 10 Sanctuary Drive, Cowes

Property details: six bedrooms, four bathrooms, five toilets, 14 rooms

Price: Contact agent

Enjoy the highlife at "Highview"

"Highview", a magnificent property, is situated on just over half an acre at the high end of town, providing for fabulous bay views.

This ideal large family (or two family) home offers two living zones, spacious, modern kitchen with stainless steel appliances and large island bench, five bedrooms (master bedroom with ensuite and walk-in robe), three bathrooms, study and hobby/studio room.

The downstairs area with its separate entrance is ideal for a self-contained apartment for either a second family or for holiday accommodation.

The North facing aspect provides exceptional views of Westernport Bay. The extensive verandah/alfresco area is ideal for entertaining or that late brunch watching the ships on the bay.

The beautifully established, landscaped garden features a veggie patch and fruit trees.

Two garages allowing housing for up to five cars and with extensive sealed driveways there's plenty of room for cars, boats and caravans!

The rear yard is fully fenced, ideal for pets and kids to play, with subdivision potential down the track (STCA).

Located only 400 metres from beautiful north facing bay beaches and 2.3km from Cowes town centre, it is close enough for a leisurely stroll into town, but far enough to escape from the summer crowds.

A relaxing sense of seclusion and privacy on half an acre. A slice of heaven.

Private or virtual inspection by appointment only.

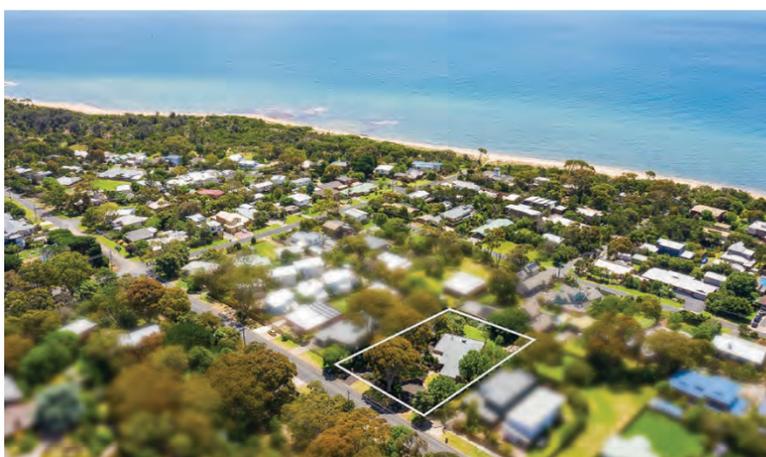
Contact Joshua Dunstan, O'Brien Real Estate, 0407 558 933

Address: 332-334 Church Street, Cowes

Price: \$1,550,000



This ideal large family (or two family) home offers two living zones, spacious, modern kitchen, five bedrooms, three bathrooms, study and hobby/studio room.



Located only 400 metres from beautiful North facing bay beaches and 2.3km from Cowes town centre, it is close enough for a leisurely stroll into town, but far enough from the summer crowds.



This unique and well-equipped home which will satisfy all your lifestyle needs is on offer. Versatile in design and offering options galore.

Stunning home offers ideal lifestyle

Imagine looking out your kitchen window overlooking Westernport Bay, then imagine walking 200 metres from your front door and feel the sand of the pristine, protected Phillip Island bay beaches. We aren't done yet, once you leave the beach, imagine coming home to a large entertaining deck and taking in endless sunsets.

Well, imagine no more because this unique and well-equipped home which will satisfy all your lifestyle needs is on offer. Versatile in design and offering options galore, this home can be utilised as a two-bedroom home with central open living, dining and kitchen with a fully self-contained unit including living room, ensuite, laundry and kitchenette to use or generate a secondary income. Alternatively, a three-bedroom home with central

living, kitchen and dining with a fully equipped kitchenette and master suite is yours to enjoy.

The home also features multiple entertaining areas including a standalone viewing/entertaining platform with toilet, kitchenette and TV points.

In addition, the house features a fully serviced home office separate to the home with air conditioning, shower and toilet as well as a large double garage, double carport and dual garden sheds.

Located in one of the most sought-after areas of Cowes, this home is more than you could imagine, and an inspection will impress.

Contact: Michael Wilkinson, O'Brien Real Estate, 0439 783 294

Addresses: 19 McRae Avenue, Cowes

Price: \$1,100,000-\$1,200,000



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SOLD

56 Redwood Drive, Cowes
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SOLD

2 Rita Avenue, Cowes
🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 2



SOLD

42 Teddy Bear Lane, Cowes
🏠 2 🛏 2 🚗 2



SOLD

3/7 Walpole Street, Cowes
🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 1



SOLD

27 Anchorage Road, Ventnor
🏠 3 🛏 1 🚗 2



SOLD

1 Page Avenue, Surf Beach
🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 1



SOLD

18 Maroubra Drive, Cape Woolamai
🏠 3 🛏 2



SOLD

3 Marlin Street, Smiths Beach
🏠 5 🛏 2 🚗 3



SOLD

40 Gemma Street, Sunderland Bay
🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 2



SOLD

5 Goondiwindi Drive, Cowes
🏠 4 🛏 2 🚗 2



SOLD

1 Kramer Rise, Wimbleton Heights
🏠 2 🛏 1



SOLD

6/2 The Esplanade, Ventnor
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- Solar heated swimming pool

149 MCKENZIE ROAD, COWES



\$1,179,000

- Set on 1 acre with established gardens
- 3 bed/2 bath plus study
- Split system & wood combustion heater

25 PARRAKOOLA WAY, COWES



\$690,000 - \$730,000

- Immaculately presented home
- 4 bed/2 bath/2 car
- Large undercover deck with water views

5 BLOSSOM ROAD, COWES



\$595,000

- 4 bed/2 bath
- Undercover patio area
- Oversized garage

9 FAIRWAY MEWS, COWES



32 OSBOURNE AVENUE, COWES



21 WHIMBREL WAY, COWES



1 HERWARD CLOSE, COWES



10 SANCTUARY DRIVE, COWES



CONTACT AGENT

- Executive residence close to all amenities
- 6 bed/4 bath/5 toilet
- Situated on 1672m² allotment

14 GLEN STREET, SURF BEACH



\$600,000 to \$640,000

- 3 bed/2 bath
- Set 1 back from The Esplanade
- Fully fenced with established gardens

9 SEAGROVE WAY, COWES



\$770,000 - \$810,000

- Architect designed builders own home
- 3 bed/2 bath
- Large undercover balcony overlooking wetlands

208 THOMPSON AVENUE, COWES



\$598,500

- 4 bed/2 bath
- Central Cowes location
- Large enclosed back verandah

17 WHIMBREL WAY, COWES



\$689,000 - \$698,000

- 4 bed/2 bath
- Custom built
- Undercover Kitchen/alfresco

9 BARRY STREET, SUNDERLAND BAY



\$729,000

- Water views
- Undercover deck
- 3 living/3 bed/2 bath

24 MALCLIFF ROAD, NEWHAVEN



38 PALL MALL, VENTNOR



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A sensational lifestyle awaits

Sensational lifestyle House and Land packages from \$390,000 in the heart of Cowes.

137 Thompson Avenue, Cowes. It doesn't get any better, capital growth guaranteed, hence why 23 presales have been committed since Boxing Day (only 26 left so be quick to secure yours).

The holiday lifestyle brand offers buyers the opportunity to own real estate in absolute prime seaside locations for a fraction of the price with multiple options to choose from.

Undoubtedly Cowes is an absolute prime location. Holiday Lifestyle together with Bodon Homes offer multiple floor plan options suited to all types of buyers, investors, holiday home purchasers and downsizers.

The lots are level, well drained and each comes with concrete driveways.

A brand-new recreation common area is planned, with swimming pool, huge alfresco area, playground, amenities, and BBQ facilities.

This is prime real estate, and it is extremely rare to have such flexible options. Why settle for anything else? You can resell to a range of buyers, you're not limited to one market, this increases your chance of selling for a better price when it comes time to sell.

You can also purchase with your superfund, receive income now and

retire when you are ready.

The homes have been carefully designed with functional floor plans for comfort and space there is a choice of a dual occupancy duplex dwellings (perfect for family and friends - they can own two homes on one title or live in one and receive income from the other).

- Investors are offered a guaranteed 6 per cent Net return for up to 10 years.

- Owner occupiers, whether retirees or downsizers they can alter plans to suit their lifestyle and have the benefit of no stamp duty or land tax.

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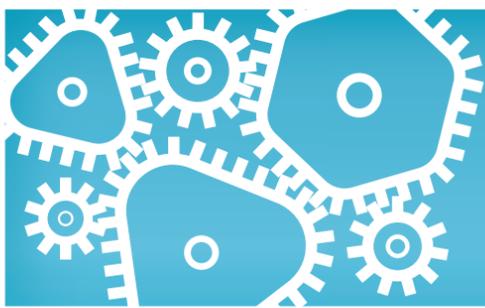
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The three-bedroom house includes open plan living, single garage and a fully-fenced low maintenance yard.



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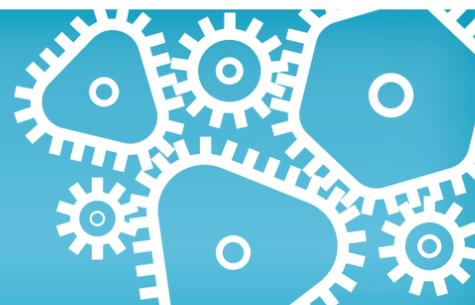
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Rubbish ridiculousness!

And so we enter into the third summer of rubbish ridiculousness.

Whilst I appreciate Ronnie Bauer's efforts to maintain a focus on this problem we have clearly – after over 1000 days – reached the point where we have to acknowledge that no employee of council, and few councillors, are invested in resolving this issue.

Would you seriously have us believe that with two years notice no-one has been able to come up with a viable plan to book an extra contractor for five weeks over summer – what a load of rubbish!

I urge ALL councillors to take control of this issue back from the ideologues who are so clearly obstructing simple progress and the will of the people.

Our three bin system – whilst complex – is cutting edge and council should be rightly proud of the system, particularly with the huge diversions from landfill anticipated when the system was introduced (around 75 per cent from memory).

But ever since then we have been stuck with this relentless obstructionism of just ignoring the realities of summer – with the population of the island quadrupling generating much extra rubbish and, of course, the resultant confusion of temporary residents.

And council's response is always just "everyone needs to work harder to make the current system work" – or "go hire someone else to pick up your bins"!

What if you just did the job we pay you for already properly?

To be clear, the answer is incredibly simple and has been stated on numerous occasions before: Collect ALL bins, EVERY week, from the week BEFORE Christmas to Australia Day.

It's not hard, it's not that expensive, and it would be a simple gesture of support for the thousands of absentee ratepayers who consume very few council resources during the year and make just this simple request – not for extra attention but for you to simply do your job properly and stop embarrassing us with this mediocre implementation.

Joe Konynenburg, Cowes

Embrace the special charge scheme

In last week's Advertiser (January 13), reference was made to the significant dust problems being experienced by property owners at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay, caused by the dirt roads.

I can remember similar problems at Ventnor and Woolamai before roads there were sealed.

May I suggest that property owners at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay embrace the opportunity to consider a Special Charge Scheme if offered by the Bass Coast Shire Council. There are so many benefits:

1. Sealed roads should improve property values. (Ratepayers could find out from real estate agents how much property values in Woolamai improved after the roads there were sealed).

2. The Special Charge Scheme will be a long-term solution to the short-term dust suppressant approach.

3. When the roads are sealed, property owners in Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay will appreciate being able to open their front doors and breathe the fresh sea air, and will value more the fact that they have property on Phillip Island.

4. There will be much less grumpiness in the community, and hopefully more joy.

In addition to the Shire's efforts with the SCS, Regional Roads Victoria should also seriously consider providing Turn-in, Turn-out Lanes along the Phillip Island Tourist Road at Surf Beach, Sunderland Bay to improve access and safety.

Lesley Feddersen, Cowes

Protect our wildlife

I'm making a plea to the owner/s of dogs being walked around the lakes at Shearwater Estate.

Please keep your dogs on leashes. There is so much new wildlife in the form of purple hens, coots and ducks etc living on the edges of the lake which don't stand a chance against a running dog.

We have at least one tiny purple hen chick which didn't make it back to safety, lying dead in our gutter.

There's a leash-free area less than half a kilometre away in Dunsmore Road. Take your dog there if you

want it to run free.

We value our wildlife and hate to witness destruction of it which I witnessed just this morning when a large dog ran down to the lake chasing a purple hen family. Fortunately, the birds got away. The dog owner put her dog back on the leash having hopefully learned a lesson.

M Kennedy, Cowes

Thanks for your support

The Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG) thanks all who contributed to our successful Garage sale last Saturday. A big thank you to those who rustled up donations, sorted and priced items, manned the tables during the challenging and changeable weather plus a very special mention to the PIMHAG Committee for their tireless efforts.

It was a lot of fun and a great opportunity to talk about and promote the Hub and PIMHAG.

All the funds raised will help support PIMHAG's ongoing advocacy for improved medical and health services for our community.

Peter Paul, President PIMHAG

Resolving holiday rental issues

If council is serious about resolving the issue of poor behaviour in residential properties it needs to come up with solutions that it has the legal capacity and the willingness to enforce – it is not sufficient to wring hands and bemoan those "bad people over there".

Those of us who follow the existing regulations already pay annual fees to council to be registered. I would be happy to pay more than the current fees if Council was to provide additional services that resolved these entirely unnecessary tensions.

Some simple and effective options are available that build on the existing registration infrastructure include:

A. As part of the existing Council holiday rental registration require each owner to provide a 24-hour contact and response number for each property (per Mornington Peninsula Council). Owners could provide their own details, or delegate these to a local agent or a private security company. Council could

provide these details each year to the eight immediate neighbours of the holiday rental. Establish by-law offences for failure to record or respond to a complaint.

B. Additionally, or alternatively, establish a municipality wide response phone number for complaints – which triggers a visit from council bylaws officers and private security.

Issue enforcement notices to people behaving badly – regardless of whether or not they are permanent owners, holiday homeowners, permanent renters or holiday rentals.

C. Use the existing holiday rental registration scheme as the foundation for improved processes and education of owners. Introduce new bylaws making it an offence to offer a property for holiday rental without being registered. Undertake compliance activities on Airbnb and Stayz – or even just an education campaign by making enquiries online and alerting owners to the requirement to register. If council compliance activities identify paying guests in an unregistered property then fine the owner a significant amount for failing to register.

D. Once you have an effective, and enforceable registration scheme in place (that everyone is participating in) then you can use the threat of withdrawal of that registration as an enforcement technique.

Joe Konynenburg, Wonga Park (with holiday rental in Cowes)

Irresponsible policy affecting community's health

In response to James Stirton's (General Manager BCSC) comments in the Advertiser (January 13) regarding "Dust suppressant removal Policy" my immediate reaction is "HOW DARE" the council disregard people's health by adopting an irresponsible policy to remove dust suppressant seals in the guise of questionable cost savings.

1. The initial trial was conducted after the community persuaded council dust was a health issue, which has since been supported by many medical studies. The aim of the trial was to evaluate the cost comparison between maintaining a dust suppressant seal and a crushed rock surface. I stand to be corrected, but the tone of the report was

to evaluate different types of primerseals to their efficacy and cost.

2. A light primerseal is not meant to be a permanent treatment for any road surface application and is always followed up with a second application usually within 12 – 18 months. The 2010 report which concluded the seal is not sustainable, is quite valid, but Mr Stirton neglected to mention most of the seals showed the cost in the first five years was similar or less than maintaining a crushed rock surface. The report didn't discuss the significant health and wellbeing benefits, nor the cost and labour savings to the community no longer having to clean up insidious fine dust.

3. Mr Stirton states dust suppressant seals costs up to six times more than an unsealed road, which is correct because the seal was not followed with a second application and was allowed to deteriorate to a point of total failure. Why wasn't a second seal applied within five years? It would have significantly strengthened the seal to prolong the life by at least ten years.

4. How can the council justify its policy to remove a service that improves health, liveability and wellbeing because of alleged cost savings? Until communities are given the opportunity to vote for a "roads and drainage scheme", it's the council's duty and responsibility to maintain a dust suppressant surface for the health and wellbeing of the community that elected it.

The council cannot continue this irresponsible policy of removing dust suppressant seals because of dubious cost saving measures at the expense of the community's health.

Lou Pecora, Surf Beach

All letters are published at the discretion of the editor. Letters may be edited for length, grammar or legal reasons. Priority will be given to current local issues and events. All letters must include the author's full name and address (only the name and location will be printed).

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These two positions close at 5.00pm on Monday 1st February 2021.



From February 19 to 21 the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit will play host to the mi-bike Motorcycle Insurance Australian Superbike Championship and Oceania Junior Cup

Superbike event at Phillip Island

From February 19 to 21 Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit will play host to the mi-bike Motorcycle Insurance Australian Superbike Championship and Oceania Junior Cup.

Round one of The Australian Superbike Championship will kick off at Phillip Island before heading to other circuits for subsequent rounds.

They are predicting this year to be a fierce competition with lots of upcoming riders and new teams.

The Oceania Junior Cup is running alongside the superbikes with 20 riders from the ages of 11 to 15.

The youngest rider joining the paddock is 11-year-old Elijah Andrew from Marayong NSW, with the eldest being newcomer Tate

McClure (15) from Mitre, Victoria, and the first Tasmanian competitor, 11-year-old Oliver Skinner from Brighton.

The junior cup acts as a springboard to larger international events for the young riders.

"We will have six strong ASBK (Australian Superbike) classes of competition from our junior road racing academy – The Oceania Junior Cup – right through to Australia's fastest two wheel riders in the Superbike class. We can't wait to see the 2021 ASBK Championship fire into action next month," said ASBK management.

Headlining ASBK will be the Kawasaki Superbike class with Australia's premier riders attempting to dethrone 2020 ASBK Superbike Champion, Wayne Maxwell.



At the FloatSafe event at Rhyll, designed to show how to service and maintain lifejackets, Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari (centre on boat) got on board with Vanessa Spark - Team Leader Education and Laura Dew - Compliance Investigations Officer. Keeping an eye on things from the ground: David Tilsley - Compliance investigations officer and Cameron Toy, Director, Transport Safety Victoria

FloatSafe event booked out at Rhyll

Rhyll hosted the first of nine clinics being held across the state to help Victorian boaters and paddlers learn how to service and maintain their lifejackets.

The fully booked out event involved Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV) staff providing free demonstrations of how to inspect inflatable lifejackets.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari and Director of Transport Safety Victoria, Cameron Toy also attended.

The clinics, part of MSV campaign "Floatsafe – wear a well maintained lifejacket while on the water!", also teach people how to carry out a simple before-use check. Correct maintenance is critical if the lifejacket is to perform as intended by the manufacturer and, more importantly, as expected by the user.

"If you've fallen into the water unexpectedly and you get yourself in trouble, having a lifejacket that doesn't inflate isn't much good to you", says Gareth Johnson, Manager – Recreational Boating Safety at MSV.

"If you own an inflatable lifejacket in Victoria, you should be perform-

ing regular checks to make sure it is going to work when you need it.

"This program is about familiarising boaters with their lifejackets so that they can conduct these checks effectively."

MSV says that many lifejacket manufacturers now recommend owners complete an inflation check every three months and that lifejackets should be fully serviced by an accredited service agent every three to five years.

Penalties may apply if lifejackets aren't serviced as required.

"We want to encourage more people to wear lifejackets and maintain them for safe use while out on the water in any powered or non-powered vessel," Mr Johnson said.

Everyone attending the sessions at Rhyll received a \$30 gift voucher to use towards the purchase of a new lifejacket or parts at participating marine retailers.

FloatSafe's pilot program aims to educate 900 Victorian boaters on lifejacket maintenance at nine sites across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

Find out more at: wearalifejacket.transportsafety.vic.gov.au/looking-after-your-lifejacket

SITUATIONS VACANT

Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit

The Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit is seeking applications for the following positions:

GO KART SUPERVISOR Permanent full time

Responsible for the supervision of the day-to-day operations demonstrating a friendly, professional and customer focused approach while adhering to all safe working policies and procedures. You will also be responsible for overseeing the maintenance and presentation of the Go Kart facility, Go Karts and grounds.

This position will require alternating weekend work along with the seasonal operating requirements of the business.

SECURITY Casual position

Responsible for monitoring the entry and departure of clients, contractors, employees and visitors during day-to-day activities. You will possess good organisational and strong interpersonal skills, including the ability to multi task and communicate effectively with a high level of professionalism and presentation.

This is predominately a daytime position, including weekends, and occasional night work required.

To view the position descriptions and closing dates please visit our website: www.phillipislandcircuit.com.au

Please email resume and cover letter to cassie.stoppa@phillipislandcircuit.com.au



Tel: 5952 2710
www.phillipislandcircuit.com.au
info@phillipislandcircuit.com.au

SITUATIONS VACANT



Part-time work on Phillip Island, commencing in late January 2021.

CLEANER

We looking to expand our cleaning team! Are you looking for some part-time work to fit in around other commitments?

Cleaning is needed after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as a weekend clean – approximately 11 hours per week in total. Some cleaning is also required during non-teaching weeks, but not as much (see school calendar at www.pivillageschool.org.au for holiday weeks).

All products and tools are provided.

This is a job share position with multiple positions available to cover the total weekly shifts. Cleaning companies are welcome to apply. Employment will be on a contract basis.

Commences ASAP. Applications close Saturday 23rd January 2021.

To apply, please send an email outlining your experience to kelly@pivillageschool.org.au

Another successful Nippers season

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club has been praised for successfully staging its hugely popular Nippers program again this season despite the Covid restrictions.

From December 28 to January 5, the modified program was run at both Smiths Beach and Cleeland Bight Beach in line with Covid-Safe guidelines set by Life Saving Victoria.

"Although we had to cap participation numbers this year, we were able to offer a safe and enjoyable program to almost 300 children aged 6 to 13 years, which is a huge feat," Director of Junior Development Charles Tuchtan said.

"We could not have done this without the help of around 100 volunteers who assisted both in and out of the water."

In addition to delivering Nippers in a COVID-19 environment, Charles explained the club had another aim this season, and that was to give back to the community.

"Our local community has supported us for many years through donations and sponsorship, and this season we wanted to help those local businesses that have done so much for us in the past.

"Rather than asking them to help us this year, we tried to help them by purchasing vouchers that we used as raffle prizes. It worked well and was a real win-win!"

Coinciding with Nippers, the club also ran a Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) course at Woolamai Beach for those who completed Nippers last year.

"I'm pleased to advise this year's SRC students passed all of their assessments, which means they can now become patrolling members of the club," said Charles.

"Our Nippers and SRCs are the next generation of life savers, who'll be equipped



11-year-old Noah Murray of San Remo enjoys success during his first season of Nippers. Photo Jacquie Sterling.

with the skills and knowledge to keep us safe whilst we enjoy our magnificent coastal environment."

Planning for next summer's Nippers program is already underway, and the club expects it to be bigger than ever. Keep an eye on the club's website for further details www.woolamai.beach.org.au.

Sharks battle wet and windy conditions

From page 36

Enter the great man Hornsby, he might have been on one leg but managed to carry McIntyre through the innings as it took a long time before McIntyre could hit the ball off the square.

Horns started smacking the ball all around the park and Macca was more than happy to give Horns the strike.

With Horns on 32 and Macca on 20 the Skipper copped one fair square in the Jatz Crackers which seemed to get him going as the game was then over in a few overs with the Sharks passing their score with the loss of just one wicket.

Calling it a day at 1/97 with five overs to spare Macca finished on 52 not out and Horns 33 not out.

Another great win by the B grade boys making it three on the trot, but with another big game ahead of us next week in another must win game if they want to make finals.

Go Sharks.

C grade

The first game back after the Christmas break, Phillip Island travelled to Koonwarra to play a 20/20 on a cold rainy day.

The island won the toss and decided to bat first on a wet wicket and outfield, Epifano and O'Brien opening up started well taking 10 runs of the first over then kept building their partnership before Epifano was out 18 leaving the island 1/26.

Cleary was in next trying hard to hit the ball hard to boundary but was out soon after having the island 2/45, disaster struck losing quick wickets to fall to 7/55.

The tail waged a little with Keating making 20 and the Island making 8/88 of their 20 overs.

It was the Island's turn to bowl with Parsons and Burchell taking the new ball.

Koonwarra lost their first wicket in the first over to a sharp diving one hander in the gully by Epifano to have the island up and about.

Soon Parsons had his second wicket to have Koonwarra 2/21.

Niven and Walker came on to bowl and bowled well. Niven picking up a wicket and finished with 1-11 of his for overs.

Walker soon had a wicket and then his second and finished with 2-19 off four overs, but it wasn't enough, Koonwarra passing Islands score to win the match.

U16s

The under 16's took the long journey for the second day's play at Nerrena.

In contrasting conditions, the sun-soaked hills of the week before were replaced with rain clouds and drizzle, on a less than ideal morning for cricket.

Opening batsmen Kohen Beaumont and Max Arceo made a solid start, as the Nerrena bowlers struggled to control the slippery ball.

This gave opportunities for the batsmen to rotate the strike and capitalise on some wayward bowling.

In the fourth over however, a poorly judged run was attempted and resulted in the unfortunate run out of Max Arceo.

A 25m direct hit found Max well short of his ground and the Sharks were 1 for 11.

Zac Walker came and went, and shortly after, another poorly judged run and direct hit found Heath Womersley well short of his ground.

All of a sudden, the game was slipping away, with the Sharks precariously placed at 3 for 21.

Lucas Chihotski returned to the crease for the first time this season. While others could not survive around him, Lucas dug in and showed a strong

will to compete. He ended up top scoring with 18 not out, including the sole boundary of the innings. A pleasing addition to the middle order and a great return for Lucas.

In the end, the Sharks were dismissed for just 65.

A phrase Craig Bellamy says to the Melbourne Storm players before every game comes to mind. "Remember, I don't mind losing, as long as we don't beat ourselves".

But another challenge awaits next week and we'll look ahead to a better showing then. Good luck boys!

Under 14s

The U14 Sharks continued their match against Korumburra.

Drew Fusinato (on 21) and Xavier Godena (on 1) resumed their innings.

Korumburra took an early wicket, dismissing Xavier for 2. Charlie O' Garey and Drew formed a steady partnership before Charlie was dismissed.

Drew retired on a well-earned 25 and Sam Bennett and Harry Arceo ran tight singles, keeping the fielders on their toes before Sam was run out for 2.

Harry was caught on 7 soon after. Zack Hughes, Ollie Parsons, and Duke Lawrence did extremely well steering the Island to 127.

When the sharks took to the field, George McCausland took a wicket in the early stages of the innings.

Harry Arceo took out leg stump with an awesome delivery.

Ollie Duggan bowled superbly which led to his first wicket in U14s.

Harry Arceo took a catch off some superb bowling by Xavier Godena followed by Ollie Parsons taking his first U14 wicket.

The Sharks got them all out for 77 winning by 50 runs.

The Sharks play Nerrena next week.

Phillip Island Bowls results

Pennant will now be in full swing this week with Mid-week commencing.

Saturday has already completed two rounds.

Mixed results in round two; Div 1 Blue won at Corinella, 69 to 63 shots.

Div 1 White a draw against Leongatha, 65 all.

Div 2 Lost to Inverloch, 54 to 78 shots.

Div 3 Lost to Mirboo North, 66 to 68 shots.

Div 4 Won at Korumburra, 74 to 52 shots.

Last week a Phillip Island Triples Team competed in the State Bowls at Warrnambool with Skip Russell May, and players Peter Forrest and Glen Cohen, who all acquitted themselves well to reach the semi-finals with a loss to Altona.

The club are proud of their achievement in such a prestigious event.

On Sunday Peter Forrest and John Newcombe tied for



From left to right Peter Forrest, John Newcombe, both Phillip Island players, with Sponsors Edney's and Yarram players Chris Hunt and Bruce Perry.

first place in the Nicolson Pairs at Leongatha.

Thursday Triples at Phillip Island was won by an Inverloch team.

It's great to see interclub competitions up and running again.

Barefoot Bowls has been hampered somewhat with

weather conditions, but has provided another activity for visitors and the community.

Contact John Batty if you wish to participate.

Corporate Bowls starts this Thursday, and it has been a well-supported competition in the past. For more details contact organiser George Mol.

Westernport Field & Game

January Clay Target Shoot Results

Westernport Field & Game held the Stan McFee Memorial / Club Championship on Saturday January 16 and Sunday January 17 with 104 shooters competing on Saturday and 125 shooters on Sunday.

Three rounds of 33/33/34 were shot Saturday and two rounds of 38/37 with Jarryd Passarin and Brian Micallef shooting the perfect 25/25 on Saturday and Con Scalora, Anthony Panetta, Brian Sartori and Adam Hirchfield on Sunday.

Sponsors for the event were Betty's Glass, Plumbers Now Contracting, Cowes TV & Antenna Systems and J&K Handyman Services.

Overall scores

Club Champion, Jarryd Passarin with a score of 158.

High Gunn, Adam Hirchfield with a score of 163.

Grade winners:

AA Grade

1st - Paul Smith (156)

2nd - Adam Du Rose (155)

3rd - Rob Passarin (152)

A Grade

1st - Peter Moretti (146)

2nd - Wade McGirr (145)

3rd - Steven Jarvis (134)

B Grade

1st - Curtis Hillbrick (141)

2nd - Jack McFee (131)

3rd - Graeme Cole (128)

C Grade

1st - Kaidhen Veermann (115)

2nd - Tobias Linklater (102)

3rd - Michael Briscoe (100)

Veterans

1st - Tony Power (148)

2nd - John Monaghan (142)

3rd - Brent Wilkerson (142)

Ladies

1st - Brooke Tangey (136)

2nd - Anna Wratten (134)

3rd - Deb Bradley (128)

Juniors

1st - Jehn Townley (113)

2nd - Julian Lieshout (112)

3rd - Jordn Moat (108)

Our next shoot is on Sunday, February 21, consisting of 75 targets with nominations commencing at 9am.

MCC Field & Game will again joined us in a friendly inter club competition.

Clay target shooting is suitable for all genders, ages and fitness levels with juniors shooting for free.

South West Gippsland Mid Week Bowls

Group Results for January 14. Game held at Corinella Bowls Club.



Winners: Jenny Harding (2), Bev Elliott (3), Wayne Stevens (L), Denis Talbot (S).



Best One Game: Michael Chidley (3), Pauline McWilliams (2), Vern Elliott (S), Peter Thorley (L)



Runners Up: Sean McWilliams (3), Peter McWilliams (S), Bob Curtin (L - Not Shown)

Phillip Island golf results

Tuesday January 12 - Men's & Ladies 18 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Brian Gloury H/c (25) with 40 points from Shane Palmer H/c (22) with 40 points.

Men's & Ladies 9 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Barb Haydon H/c (34) with 24 points from Brian Carvell H/c (26) with 21 points.

Wednesday January 13 - Ladies 18 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Judy Griffin H/c (33) with 39 points Charlene Duthie H/c (38) with 38 points on a countback from Deb Orr H/c (13) also with 38 points.

Ladies 9 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Lynore Mercer H/c (29) with 20 points from Norma Corr H/c (40) with 16 points.

Thursday January 14 - Men's & Ladies 18 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Barry Melven H/c (29) with 45 points from Bill Lang H/c (18) with 42 points on a countback from Ian Samuel H/c (25) also with 42 points.

Men's & Ladies 9 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Basil Moloney H/c (14) with 21 points from David Gladman H/c (16) with 19 points on a countback from Peter Wrigley H/c (7) also with 19 points.

Hole in 1 - Alan Schache on the 10th.

Saturday, January 16 -



Laurie Downward with his Hole in One on the 5th hole

Mens 18 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Glen Marshall H/c (25) with 43 points from Mick Wyzenbeek H/c (25) with 42 points on a countback from Rick Adolphson H/c (20) also with 42 points.

RL Smith Final.

Max Brown and Stuart Carson defeated Mark Jamieson and Mark Hill 3 & 2.

Hole in 1 - Lawrie Downard on the 5th.

Next Week - Single Stableford & Quarter Final of the Men's Matchplay.

Ladies 18 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Zoe Frost H/c (35) with 37 points from Alice Schofield H/c (26) with 35 points.

Men's & Ladies 9 Hole Stableford.

Winner was Annette Millership H/c (34) with 19 points from Basil Moloney H/c (15) also with 18 points.

A reminder to all members to collect their Raffle Tickets from the Golf Shop to sell supporting the Lighter Moments - Bass Coast and Phillip Island Exhibition - held at the Iluka Gallery in Silverleaves.

Three of the paintings on display are donated to the Phillip Island Golf Club and can be viewed in the Clubhouse.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00.

The exhibition is open all January and raffle will be drawn Sunday, January 31 at 3pm at the Gallery Iluka Studio Gallery, 28 Settlement Road Silverleaves.

Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

The second week in January, the week where winter made a return to Westernport Bay: rain, cold and let's not forget the wind!

As bad as the weather has been this week it is nothing like we had last year and as inconvenient as the rules around Covid have been it is insignificant compared to the devastation of January 2020.

Although we haven't really seen a lot of hot weather yet, unsettled weather is nothing new to this time of the year. The best weather around this area is generally from the end of January through to May so the best is yet to come, hopefully!

There's been a recall on the Plains Wessex Flares recently, the same as we sell. The recall doesn't affect flares sold in Victoria, only those in Western Australia.

The week wasn't all bad with a few nice days starting the week and patches during the week to head out for a fish. There has still been plenty of fish reported.

Only a couple of reports of tuna. They were most likely still there just the opportunity to chase them wasn't. If you're heading out, almost all our reports so far have come from skirts and not hard bodies. White, pink, and blue mixtures seem to be the best.

Two mistakes those unsuccessful seem to be making, is lures too big and heading out too wide.

A couple of reports have come from 150mm skirts, but the best has been 120mm and 100mm ones. Depth has been as shallow as 12m and as deep as 40m and by now you would have seen the video of the tuna school off Cowes/Ventnor in the bottom end of the western channel.

Eyes open from the minute you leave the trailer and never assume, also don't drive over marks on the sounder without checking them out. After all that's why you put all that money into getting a good sounder.

The reports from hard bodies have come from those who were on their own and able to find a school on the surface throwing mostly

stick baits or poppers into them.

My suggestion is learning how to run a set of lures, outriggers are an advantage if you have them and know how to use them, but not necessary.

You can easily run five or six without them, although it takes a little skill and practice.

Mix up your sizes and colours and set them at different lengths behind the boat, get it right and you will be surprised how tightly you can actually still turn.

We had few more reports of kingfish with customers able to trawl along the headland at Woolamai. They were only rats and most too small but still kingfish, and where there are small ones the bigger ones aren't too far behind.

We finally have had a couple of mako reports which were typical size for this time of the year, caught around Cody Banks.

The gummies have been good and again we saw some big models from down near The Windmills and a couple of smaller ones from other customers fishing offshore.

Flathead reports have been ok but with the majority of people targeting other species at the minute there aren't as many chasing flathead as there would normally be.

We have had plenty of reports of baitfish, couta, yakkas, mackerel and then salmon and silver whiting.

As always over the holiday period we get plenty of land-based reports. With the windy weather this week keeping the boats on the trailer, several people decided to head to the jetties and other land areas to try their luck.

We had some good reports from the Powlett of bream with a lot of smaller ones but a couple that were also very reasonable.

Calamari were caught off most of the jetties as well as the beaches at Cleeland Bight and Ventnor, but not in big numbers. Some quality in size but at times a long wait between catches and a mixture of colours needed for those using artificial jigs.

Boats and kayaks that got out on the water

did better. With a lot less traffic on the water the calamari were not quite as flighty.

Salmon reports always get better over the holiday period with considerably more people fishing on the surf.

We often get the question "I know salmon are a winter fish but are there any around".

We see salmon all year round and I think the, "it's only a winter fish," comes from how many people fish for them then.

Many years ago, I remember dad driving us down to Kilcunda at 3am in the morning in the mid-winter with a howling wind, just to get us a good spot on the beach and we would do that many weekends over the winter but never in the summer.

You don't see those packed winter days on the beach anymore, but you do see people fishing all year now and I think that's where the whole theory of them only being a winter fish comes from.

We see as many caught during the summer as we do through the winter and if you took boats into the catches we see far more in the summer-time. The other thing to remember is salmon are a fish that will swim by in a school looking for food and keep swimming if there is none.

They don't have little tide watches to tell them its high tide and they need to head to the shallows of the beach.

Our reports come from all year, all parts of the tide and all times of the day.

Haven't seen any big snapper in the Bay lately but we are seeing some quality pinkies still and the tiny undersized ones haven't gone anywhere either.

We have seen a couple of bigger snapper from offshore which was a surprise to those who were chasing a gummy, towards Kilcunda the best.

There is plenty of other activity in the bay with quality whiting not running out yet.

The numbers at times haven't been there but when they are around the 40cm mark, six or 10 make a very good feed.

We have lost count of how many reports we have had from people catching whiting while looking for gummies or snapper in the deep channels.

There hasn't just been the odd one from the deep, with most who caught them while not targeting them catching several, and those who are actually targeting them in the deep having no problem getting a good bag to take home.

Whiting from the deeper water, 10m and above, tend to be on the bigger side and you don't seem to catch those small undersize ones.

Gummy reports have been good in the bay as well and while not as big as offshore they are still a reasonable size and worth the effort. The best reports have come from just off Elizabeth Island and Gardeners Channel.

We have lost count also of the reports with several different species in them, generally from the one spot, as well as the different spots people are fishing.



Liam with a quality gummy.



Mixed bags are the normal this time of the year

2021 P.I.F.N.C Netball Trials

Phillip Island Football Netball Club 2021 team selection dates for West Gippsland Football League and Casey Netball Association.

Preference is for players to attend both try-out

dates. Please wear plain shorts/pants and white tops (no club apparel).

Please confirm your booking via Try Booking link below <https://www.trybooking.com/BNTTY>

Wednesday 27th January,
PIFNC Courts, Cowes
U11 4:00pm - 4:45 pm;
U13 4.45 - 5.30pm;
U15 5:30pm - 6:30pm;
U17 6:30pm - 7:30pm;

Thursday 28th January,
PIFNC Courts, Cowes
Seniors 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Sunday 31st January,
PIFNC Courts, Cowes
U11 9.00am - 9:45 am;
U13 9:45am - 10:30am;
U15 10.30am - 11.30pm;
U17 12.30pm - 1.30pm;
Seniors 1:30pm - 3:30pm;

Age group guidance:

U11 - born 2010 - 2011
U13 - born 2008 - 2009
U15 - born 2006 - 2007
U17 - born 2004 - 2005

Call Nazza O'Brien Netball Operations manager,
on 0404 019 852 or email netball@pifnc.com.au



PHILLIP ISLAND
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PHILLIP ISLAND MARINE
NEW & USED BOAT SALES

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point
Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31

HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BOLD

Wed 20	12.04am 0.68m	6.46am 2.86m	12.40pm 0.67m	7.06pm 2.57m
Thu 21	12.43am 0.80m	7.15am 2.78m	1.14pm 0.65m	7.46pm 2.54m
Fri 22	1.19am 0.92m	7.42am 2.69m	1.46pm 0.64m	8.29pm 2.51m
Sat 23	1.58am 1.04m	8.11am 2.60m	2.21pm 0.64m	9.13pm 2.49m
Sun 24	2.38am 1.17m	8.44am 2.51m	2.59pm 0.67m	10.02pm 2.48m
Mon 25	3.25am 1.30m	9.23am 2.41m	3.42pm 0.70m	11.00pm 2.48m
Tue 26	4.20am 1.40m	10.12am 2.32m	4.33pm 0.73m	
Wed 27	12.04am 2.53m	5.25am 1.45m	11.14am 2.27m	5.34pm 0.72m

All material is supplied in good faith and is believed to be correct.
No responsibility or liability for errors or omissions is accepted.

14 Beach Road, Rhyll
OPEN 7 DAYS
PH: 5956 9238
www.phillipislandmarine.com.au

Swim Club resumes for 2021

The Phillip Island Swimming Club is about to start up again this year, after a Covid interrupted 2020.

The South Gippsland Swimming Association's summer racing season was abandoned after the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, and winter squad training sessions were severely impacted by a limit on the number of swimmers permitted in the pool at any one time.

The Phillip Island Swimming Club is an important component on the local sporting club calendar.

Young swimmers are given the opportunity to train and compete at district level in an annual swimming program.

Club members train at weekly sessions throughout the year and compete in five South Gippsland Swimming Association meetings over the summer period against swimming clubs from Wonthaggi, Korumburra, Leongatha and Corner Inlet.

However, last year's competitive season had to be cancelled midway because of Covid and numbers permitted over the winter period for squad training sessions at the Wonthaggi pool were limited from the normal 25 per session, to just nine permitted in the pool at the one time.

This year's summer's racing season has also been cancelled.

But with the easing of restrictions, the good news is that the Swimming Club is now able to resume normal Friday night training sessions, with former and new members invited to now register for 2021.

The Club is also running a Wednesday night session for beginners this year.

To be known as the Junior Pre-Squad, sessions will commence on February 3, and will run over Term 1 of school.

These sessions are designed for younger swimmers transitioning from a learn to swim program, to assist them to develop their confidence in the water and to progress into the Club's Friday night training program.

"We are hoping the young participants will enjoy it, and continue with the swimming squad throughout the year," said Club president Lucy Gallycott this week.

The junior pre squad sessions start on February 3 and run from 4pm to 5pm over a period of nine weeks.

Cost is \$185 which includes annual membership and term fees.

As the program is extremely popular and with only 25 spaces available it is expected to fill quickly. So please contact Phillip Island Swim Club promptly by email to register if interested. Email: swimclub@waterfront.net.au.



2021 Junior Pre-Squad commences Wednesday 3rd February

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 Wednesday 3rd February 4pm to 5pm for 9 weeks. Cost - \$185. This includes annual membership and term fees. The aim of the program is for swimmers to develop their confidence to progress to our Friday night program.

NOTE: FEES PAYABLE ON REGISTRATION

THE PROGRAM IS EXTREMELY POPULAR AND WITH ONLY 25 SPACES AVAILABLE IT WILL FILL QUICKLY. PLEASE CONTACT PHILLIP ISLAND SWIM CLUB TO REGISTER YOUR NAME AND INTEREST.
swimclub@waterfront.net.au

LK01006AA



Island surfers Poppy Corbett (left) and Codie Jeffery took out second place in the 2020 U18 state championships while Sophie Fletcher won the Victorian Women's Open title. Surfing Victoria events for 2021 kicked off last week on the Mornington Peninsula.

Island dates locked in for 2021

Surfing Victoria has announced the 2021 surfing events calendar, with Phillip Island scheduled to hold four of the events.

After a year of events cancelled due to Covid, the first half of the year is jam packed, including Junior, Open, Longboard and SUP titles.

Four young Island surfers will be keen to get back in the water and compete in this year's titles.

Sophie Fletcher was the 2020 Victorian Open Women's champion, while Harry de Roth placed second in the Open Men.

Poppy Corbett and Codie

Jeffery were second place getters in the Under 18 girls and boys titles respectively.

Round one of the Junior Titles kicked off last week at Gunnamatta Beach.

Poppy finished second in the Under 18 girls event, behind Mia Huppertz from Jan Juc.

The Masters and Open rounds scheduled for the weekend were cancelled due to bad weather.

Phillip Island events

The first Phillip Island event is Round 3 of the Open series, which will be held on the island on February 27,

with the Victorian Teams Titles held the following day (February 28).

That's followed by Round 2 of the Junior Titles, scheduled for March 20 and 21, then the first round of the longboard titles on May 1 and 2.

"We are stoked to be back running events under Covid-Safe guidelines" said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

"These events bring surfers from all regions together and are a key part of our offering to members."

The full schedule of events, plus entry forms at www.surfingvic.com.

Sharks battle wet and windy conditions

A Grade

On a wet and windy Saturday, the Sharks made the trip to Korumburra to take on the Cobras.

After a delayed start due to light drizzle the Cobras won the toss and sent the Sharks in on a pitch that was bright green and sure to do a bit.

As predicted the pitch proved to be a handful to bat on and after the early loss of openers Kev Taylor and Shiran Rathnayak, the Sharks found themselves 2 for 18 in the 4th over.

Jarrold Black (25) and Eli Richards (23) came together and put on a solid partnership to get the score to 51 before Richards was out caught behind.

From here it became a struggle to score with new batsmen struggling to adjust to the pitch, the wickets continued to tumble. Some heroic lower order hitting from bowling all-rounder Zac Brown (14) saw the Sharks scramble to 9 for 79 off their allotted 20 overs.

With not a great deal of runs to play with, the Sharks had to strike early and Simon Kirton did not disappoint.

He bowled with pace and bounce and found the edge of Kallon Rigby in the first over to put the Cobras on the back foot.

From here it was a classic performance in the field and

with the ball from the Sharks, with Clint Wilson, Charith Keerthisinghe and Max Royal all bowling in good areas and forcing the Cobras to take big risks to score on a deck that made shots hard to play.

The turning point of the innings though was when Zac Brown came into the attack bowling into a howling wind and was fantastic.

He bowled his four overs straight finishing with 3 for 13 with wicket keeper Greg Selby taking two nice stumpings.

Korumburra lost wickets at regular intervals and were never really able to get their innings going, finishing their 20 overs with the score at 7 for 83 falling 14 runs short but never really challenging the total.

Next week the Island boys face the Imperials at home in a massive game. Go Sharks.

B Grade

On a cold windy wet day at Cowes we took on Town in a T20 fixture with the winner going into third spot on the ladder.

We lost the toss and had a bowl but in the third over, we were off the ground with rain, but luckily, that was it for the day.

Town got off to a good start and put away the bad balls, Josh Excell and new dad Henry Shawcross bowled

well in trying conditions and still managed to swing the wet ball.

H picked up a much-needed wicket on 42, and then the second on 69 with Andrew Tolley pulling off a remarkable run out at the non-strikers end in his follow through to remove the dangerous Jayasinghe in the 13th over.

From there we managed to keep Town to 22 off the last 7 overs and they finished 5/91 off their 20 overs.

H and Tolley had great spells bowling four overs each at 1/16 and 0/11.

Josh and Dayso both bowled well at just over five an over, which is great in a 20/20.

Big Man Matty Wright got to bowl down the hill for the first time ever and seemed to enjoy it, bowling two overs 0/4 which was awesome work at the death.

The pick of the bowlers for the day was Dave Womersley who has not bowled for about five games due to injury, but returned in style as he picked up 3 for 5 off 2 overs.

Town set us 91 to win the game, we opened up with Macca and 15-year old Kohen Beaumont, who batted very well in a game before Xmas, but unfortunately there was a little bit of a mix up and Beaumont was burnt by Macca and was run out for a Duck.

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