

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



Local hero hits 100. Carlton captain and son of Phillip Island Sam Docherty recorded his 100th AFL game on Saturday in Brisbane. It's been a long journey for Sam to reach this major milestone, with triumph, tragedy and injury hallmarks of the years since 2011, when Sam left the island as an 18-year-old to pursue his AFL dream.
Photo: Jono Searle/AFL Photos

Milestone 100th for Sam

Carlton captain and son of Phillip Island Sam Docherty recorded his 100th AFL game on Saturday, his team marking this milestone event with a solid win over North Melbourne in Brisbane. It's been a long journey for Sam to reach this major milestone, with triumph, tragedy and injury hallmarks of the years since 2011, when Sam left the island as an 18-year old, to

start his AFL football career.

After two years being sidelined by injury, Sam is back in full form, relieved to finally reaching his 100-game milestone, and looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Sam was picked by the Brisbane Lions as the Number 12 draft selection in 2011, having heard the exciting news while in Bali, sitting

around a pool with his Wonthaggi Secondary College Year 12 friends, on a well-earned schoolie's sojourn.

A week later he was living in Queensland, training with the Brisbane Lions, where he spent two years and notched up 13 AFL games.

He missed family and friends in Victoria, however, and jumped at the chance to transfer to Carlton, the team

he enthusiastically followed growing up, when the opportunity arose.

His father Eddie was a mad keen Carlton supporter, and Sam was delighted to be able to make the move.

Sam's footy skills were first honed at the Phillip Island Football Netball Club where the Docherty family played a huge role for many years.

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COVID car checkpoint "half-a**ed"?

Locals have questioned the effectiveness of vehicle checkpoints at Lang Lang in keeping out Melbourne's lockdown residents.

While Phillip Island is quieter now than the days after Premier Daniel Andrews announced stage three lockdowns, Cowes police said they were carrying out numerous daily checks on compliance and possible breaches.

While holiday homeowners have taken up residence here for extended holidays, locals say their main concern is the hit and miss approach of the Lang Lang checkpoint, with one commenting the roadblock was "half-arsed" and police were not stopping all cars.

San Remo resident Renee Clapson said she was stopped every night at Lang Lang.

"They take my details on my licence to make sure it matches my rego," Renee said.

However Elizabeth Shaw said she sailed through last week "because our car is registered in Cowes".

"It certainly speeds the process up. Locals don't have to stop. So convenient."

Joan Wray said vehicles from non-restricted areas were waived through, adding she was concerned "about all the tradies coming and going but we all have jobs to do".

The Advertiser has been contacted by locals highlighting that Melbourne residents have breached the checkpoint to come to the island; however they only gave off-the-record examples, not wanting to do in friends.

One retired Melbourne man coming to the island to fish was stopped at a checkpoint, offering police a handwritten note claiming he needed to work, before being waived through.

Another reported a Melbourne resident travelling on the V-Line bus came to the island with no ID inspection.

And a Melbourne resident with an island holiday home earlier this month made a lockdown-inspired change to their address to the island.

Police response

Victoria Police issued a statement to the Advertiser saying Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology was being used at checkpoints to detect vehicles registered to owners who live in local government areas in stage 3 stay at home restrictions.

The statement said police intercept vehicles at random to ensure they were complying with restrictions, asking a "multitude of questions to confirm the reason for travel before determining whether any infringement is issued".

Continued page 6

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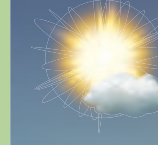

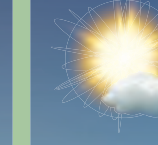
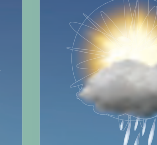
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PHILLIP ISLAND

7 DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED July 29	THUR July 30	FRI July 31	SAT Aug 1	SUN Aug 2	MON Aug 3	TUE Aug 4
						
Partly cloudy	Shower or two	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Shower or two	Partly cloudy	Shower or two
7° 14°	9° 13°	8° 15°	9° 16°	10° 14°	8° 11°	8° 11°

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*

4792
tests done locally

6
Local residents tested positive

1
Active case

*From BCH Assessment clinics only.

Shire budget under the spotlight

Ratepayers' average incomes are not keeping pace with property value increases, making Bass Coast Shire's annual rate charges an "imposition" on the hip pocket.

Ratepayer group Island Voice asserts this in its submission to the shire's draft 2020/21 budget, with public hearings into the budget taking place today (July 29).

In the submission, Island Voice secretary Linda Marston states while the shire has adhered to a two per cent rate increase, this was based on revaluations of property that "have increased significantly in value over the last decade".

"For long-standing residents, or those on fixed incomes, this has led to significant growth in assets but not necessarily in disposable income," Linda said.

"A large proportion of Shire residents are employed in the tourism and retail industries and receive lower rates of pay and indeed many may have lost their jobs during the pandemic.

"At this time any increases in fees and charges are an imposition."

The submission is also critical of the 11 per cent increase in garbage charges, which includes ongoing hikes in the shire's landfill emission monitoring.

"Such a poor performance gives us little confidence in council's ability to negotiate appropriate and cost-effective waste services," the submission states.

Island Voice is also critical that a "disappointing" \$500,000 has been set aside for climate change actions, a "woefully poor investment in council's declared Climate Emergency", with the submission calling for more initiatives for green energy and mitigating foreshore erosion.

"Please could council identify how this money will progress climate action?"

The submission also states:

- capital expenditure of \$27.97 million is welcomed;
- concern over the shire's debt increase to more than \$33 million in the next two years, resulting in an increase in borrowing costs at

the end of the next four years to close to \$1 million annually;

• more information is needed on the \$250,000 earmarked for the budget's Public Realm Improvement Plans in Cowes. "A Cowes Activity Centre Plan already exists. How do these new plans differ?"

• how will the \$130,000 earmarked for affordable housing reduce the number of homeless in the shire?

Dusty roads

Island Voice's budget submission also states under current funding – about \$4.5 million annually – it will "take decades" to add bitumen to all the shire's dust roads.

"The shire is endangering the health and wellbeing of many residents by stripping roads – that have been spray sealed – back to gravel.

"To strip these roads back before being in a position to embark upon Special Charge Schemes to seal the road properly does not comply with the council's stated objective of promoting health and well-being in the shire."

Your Community Voice!



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Publication No. **VBF 9005897**
Registered by Australia Post.

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Smoke and flames from the fire at Surf Beach last Friday was visible from across the island.

Fire destroys Surf Beach home

A double storey house on Phillip Island Road at Surf Beach was completely destroyed by fire on Friday afternoon.

Crews from Phillip Island, San Remo and Wonthaggi CFA attended the blaze, but the house could not be saved.

Bob Spencer from the Phillip Island CFA said the house was fully engulfed by the time crews arrived and firefighting efforts concentrated on controlling the spread of the blaze to adjoining properties.

"Unfortunately we lost the house, but crews managed to save the properties on either side."

Mr Spencer said nobody was home at the time and no one was hurt in the incident.

Crews were on site for several hours and the road was closed with police in attendance.

The cause of the fire is being investigated but it is not believed to be suspicious.

Local pandemic jobs stimulus

Jobseekers hit hard by the COVID-19 economic downturn have been given a boost with a \$5000 state government employment program.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale last Thursday presented a cheque to the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre's adult learning program.

PICAL manager Greg Thompson said the money would help subsidise training courses for local unemployed people, to acquire new skills in industries that are expected to emerge strongest from COVID-19.

"Given our tourism and hospitality industries have been hit very hard by the pandemic, PICAL has been working with Bass Coast Council and the government to identify which industry sectors will require labour later this year," Greg said.

He said emerging jobs would likely be seen in farming through to construction.

"We know agriculture has remained buoyant, and this is the reason behind PICAL focussing on horticulture training."

In the next six months PICAL will offer training courses in building site access "white card", introduction to construction, traffic control and management, as well as PICAL's usual training courses in hospitality, barista, responsible service of alcohol and first aid.



State MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale, presented a \$5000 cheque to PICAL manager Greg Thompson to subsidise training courses.

PICAL is one of three adult learning centres in Bass Coast and the other two in Wonthaggi would focus on job training in aged care and disability care.

Greg said women have been more affected from COVID-19 job losses, "so we are also aiming our training courses at sectors where women are needed", with PICAL's Women Connect program offering small business start-up courses.

"This state government funding will help as many local people as possible – particularly women – to pick up new skills that are likely to lead to jobs after the pandemic restrictions are finally lifted."

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LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Solar power for Free 3D Hands

Community fundraising, a timely grant and generous business support is powering the Free 3D Hands factory in Cowes.

The combined effort has helped Mat Bowtell and his team install solar panels at the factory. The panels, along with two Tesla power walls means the factory now has its own uninterrupted power supply.

Mat said the power goes off a lot on Phillip Island, and this causes production issues.

"The grid on Phillip Island is unreliable and even a slight glitch in the power of less than a minute can result in the loss of a full day's work, and waste of the materials that were being used in production," he explained.

"We needed an uninterrupted power supply, and now we have it."

Funds raised by the Phillip Island RSL in conjunction with local Primary Schools, plus an \$8000 grant from Bass Coast Shire Council helped pay for the solar panels.

Then solar companies came to the party.

Gippsland Solar (now RACV Solar), Tesla, Fronius, Trina Solar and Gippsland Heating and Cooling all contributed to the new system.

The 109 solar panels, inverters and power walls would normally cost approximately \$70,000, however the companies put together the package at less than half the price.

This meant after the fundraising and grant money, Free 3D Hands only had to cover around \$12,000.

Andy McCarthy, CEO of



Andy McCarthy, CEO, Gippsland Solar (now RACV Solar) is pictured with Mat Bowtell at the 3D Hands Factory on Tuesday celebrating the installation of solar panels and batteries which means the factory now has an uninterrupted and sustainable power supply.

Gippsland/RACV Solar said when he heard about the work Free 3D Hands was doing, he wanted to do something to help.

"We were really inspired by the work being done here. We run our own business not just to be profitable, but to make the world a better place to live in," he said.

"We think the message of renewable energy and battery storage is a really important one, and we are very pleased to be able to supply this for such a worthwhile organisation."

Andy said he estimated it would save the organisation between \$10,000 and \$15,000 a year.

"And importantly it will prevent the loss of time and waste which was happening every time there was a power outage or even a slight glitch in Cowes."

Production change

The Coronavirus pandemic brought a temporary change of focus to the Free 3D Hands factory, with production swapping to face shields for essential workers.

Mat said the reports about the massive shortage of protective equipment for frontline workers prompted the change.

"It was similar to what we do with hands," he explained.

"We saw a need, because supply lines from China had dried up. Hospitals were having to pay high prices for this type of equipment."

"We decided to provide them because we could, for free."

He said there'd been massive support from within the community for the free face masks and to date, over 4000 had been distributed across the country.

Value for money queried

Rates relief, erosion top priorities says survey

The majority of ratepayers feel they do not get value for money from the Bass Coast Shire, according to a new survey.

The survey of 176 people was conducted by the Bass Coast Ratepayer and Residents Association for a month between May and June to gauge the community's feelings about the council, in the lead up to local government elections in October.

Of those surveyed, 88 per cent were residents and 98 per cent ratepayers with just seven per cent operating a business locally. Most respondents came from Inverloch (33 per cent) with just 21 per cent from Phillip Island and San Remo.

When asked whether they believed the shire delivered "value for the rates that you pay", less than a fifth of respondents replied in the affirmative, with 59 per cent saying no and the remainder having no opinion.

One respondent commented: "Over the 29 years I have lived here we seem to be charged more and more rates for less and less services."

Given the current pandemic economic downturn, more than 80 per cent said the shire should offer formal rate reduction to ratepayers as part of its community and business recovery plan if hardship could be demonstrated.

About half the respondents said rates should not be increased for the 2020/21 year; with a quarter saying rates should be reduced by at least 10 per cent.

One respondent commented that: "People under proven hardship from the coronavirus should have rates waived for this year. That would be unprecedented but so is this pandemic."

Environmental action

When asked about shire successes, the majority of people said they were pleased with environmental action, including stopping erosion and the declaration of a climate emergency.

Improvements to recreation facilities was also a shire success story, as was their response to COVID-19.

However, at the same time, respondents were also critical that more needed to be done on erosion and more "respect" should be directed to wildlife.

Planning issues came under fire, with one person summing up the concern: "The approval of so many new residential housing developments needs to be addressed".

"Not only is there no infrastructure to support them but they are fundamentally changing the character of local townships for the worse," the respondent said.

Some were critical of budget management, with one commenting that to spend \$19 million on a new Cowes Cultural Centre during a pandemic "with businesses closed and struggling and coastline lost to erosion is ridiculous".

Transparency

About 66 per cent of those surveyed said live streaming

council meetings – introduced during pandemic restrictions – would improve transparency and engagement.

Nearly a quarter of respondents rated shire transparency as less than average, which according to BCRRA "indicates there is scope for improvement".

When asked on a scale from one to 10 how do you rate the current council with regard to financial discipline "the spread of responses indicates there remains scope for improvement".

A third of respondents' rate council's engagement as below average, which is twice the number that rate the council's engagement as above average.

One respondent commented the shire "needs to become more community-focussed and less concerned about outside business interests and grandiose plans".

Another was critical of community consultation, saying it "seems to be a tick-box process with council simply presenting what they have already decided to do, rather than listening to residents and making plans based on feedback from the affected community".

More than 70 per cent of respondents supported the rights of councillors to express reasonable opinions, with that same amount again stating the shire's new Media Engagement and Social Media policies should be rescinded or at least be changed to allow councillors to express reasonable criticism.

The Australian Government is continuing to support families and businesses with a range of initiatives to help get through coronavirus, some of which include:

Increasing the instant asset write – off

Lifting the threshold to \$150,000 (from \$30,000) and making more businesses eligible to use it. This has been extended to 31 December 2020.

JobKeeper payment

To help keep businesses in business and Australians in jobs as our economy reopens, the JobKeeper payment will be extended by six months to March 2021.

JobSeeker

The Coronavirus Supplement will be extended until December 2020 to those on income support.

Supporting apprentices and trainees

Wage assistance to help 90,000 small and medium businesses support their more than 180,000 apprentices. This program has been extended by six months to March 2021.

Coronavirus SME guarantee scheme

Small business loan guarantee extended to June 2021 for loans of up to \$1 million, helping businesses access funding to adapt and innovate during the coronavirus crisis.

Backing business investment

Offering businesses a time-limited 15 month incentive to invest, by accelerating depreciation deductions.



From the local baker or plumber to the café on the main street, our small businesses help make our communities such a great place to live, work and enjoy.

They help sponsor local sporting clubs and organisations; they provide local employment and often give our young kids their first job and as we know, this year has been tough for all of Australia's small and family businesses.

So remember to support local jobs, spend local where you can, and enjoy

local whether you live in Cowes or San Remo, Rhyll or Grantville, go local first.

This could be as simple as eating at or getting takeaway from a local Cape Woolamai restaurant or a San Remo café, buying your mum's next birthday gift from a local shop in Cowes, or liking and leaving positive reviews on local business social media pages.

There are many ways you can support your community and support your local businesses.

Let's all GO LOCAL FIRST.

RUSSELL BROADBENT MP

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New fire station plans released

Phillip Island's much-awaited new \$2.2 million fire station on Ventnor Road is a step closer with the planning permit now out for public comment.

The plan is not without contention, however, with a flora and fauna assessment report showing the project will see the removal of 24 mature trees – including trees loved by koalas – and the potential to impact threatened or endangered species such as the black falcon, swift parrot and powerful owl.

The CFA's current site on Settlement Road, where they have been based since the mid-1970s, is now "outdated" and run-down, with volunteers calling for a new station for several years.

CFA spokesman Bob Spencer told the Advertiser once public comment had been received on the permit, building was expected to start in September with volunteers moving to the new site in about February next year.

He said the brigade's fundraising campaign – with sausage sizzles and a buy-a-brick campaign – had initially been suspended with COVID-19 restrictions, and had now wrapped up, with \$15,000 raised to fit out the new CFA station.

"We don't need to contribute as much to the building as we previously thought, so we've now got enough funds to buy the likes of office furniture," Bob said, adding the brigade was grateful to those who had donated.

Plans

The 6400m² land at 110 Ventnor Rd, west of McKenzie Road, was purchased two years ago by the state government, with the plans now detailing a four-vehicle 728 sqm building, covering about 10 per cent of the site.

The proposed fire station is expected to receive about 200 call outs per year and will be run by volunteers only.

The permit states there will be 25 parking spaces, and overflow park-



The 6671m² property at 110 Ventnor Rd, west of McKenzie Road, now has a planning permit out for comment for the new CFA brigade building.

ing, with training sessions on Tuesday and Sunday nights generally attracting 25 volunteers.

Emergencies may require between five to 20 CFA volunteers to be in attendance and may occur at any time of the day or night.

Chemical foams, used infrequently, will be stored on pallets and "in the event of a spill, a spill kit is used to contain the foam, and then the contents are placed in hazmat bags and sent off site to be disposed".

The architect-designed building will be one level, including workshops, stores, turnouts, multipurpose rooms, offices, and kitchen, with a 20m wide x 13m long concrete front apron providing space to fire appliances.

There will be a large concrete training yard and shed, as well as two 15,000L rainwater tanks.

Trees, fauna

The Ventnor Road land has more than 70 trees, with 24 significant trees needing to be removed to make way for the new station, including two on the road reserve that will obstruct views from turning vehicles.

The permit states architects have worked hard to "avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation".

The loss of trees and the building footprint will impact some key animal species, according to a flora and fauna assessment.

"The study area provides important nesting and foraging habitat for a range of fauna," the assessment states.

"It supports the preferred food tree of the koala – Manna Gum – and provides regionally important koala habitat."

Continued page 9

To our Veterans, Members and the Island Community

From Greg Mead OAM,
President – Phillip Island RSL

The current situation in Victoria demonstrates that we as a nation cannot be complacent about the risk of COVID-19 and we must remain vigilant in our efforts to stop the spread. The rise in cases in Melbourne and Sydney along with the new or reinstated restrictions only reinforce this.

The Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch has been monitoring the situation, both locally and what is happening in Melbourne. Unfortunately, consumer confidence within the local community has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic re-emergence and has therefore reduced the number of veterans and members and indeed visitors coming through the door for meals, drinks and takeaways.

Being only allowed to serve twenty (20) people in each of our areas was always going to be difficult for us but we are prepared to work through this with the support of the community.

The Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch is and will remain a vital Veteran Support Hub for all veterans within Phillip Island area and district.

As a not-for-profit registered charity the Phillip Island RSL has had to limit its Welfare Transport Program to only local regional area appointments as the high risk of entering the lockdown area is unwarranted. We will continue this program and supporting our members for as long as we can and in so doing assist the most vulnerable within our community in a time of need.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that our Phillip Island RSL is extremely mindful of its financial position. In keeping open to our members and the community, over the past few weeks, we have found our patronage is not

reaching expectation and has reduced significantly since the metropolitan lockdown restrictions.

By remaining open under such limited commercial operations, we are unsure of what the future holds and whether remaining open can be sustained.

The support of our members, our staff and indeed our wider community is our core purpose and is driven by community engagement, and like many, we need your support to help us get through this difficult time.

We are optimistic in keeping our RSL open until we are free of the state imposed restrictions. To keep our doors open thus looking after our staff and our members, we have realigned our pricing structures on meals and some beverages to further appeal to our community with complete understanding that we are all feeling the financial pressures through this pandemic. Like so many of our local businesses our plan is simple, survive and revive!

We are looking at ways to heavily subsidise or waive membership fees for 2021 for existing members, implementing a community membership at a minimal \$5.00pa for local residents and looking forward to the new 'normal' when we can continue to implement our plans for a bigger, brighter and better Community RSL.

For now, we continue to focus on our veterans, members and community, our new \$22 menu complemented by some fantastic beverage pricing is available for a limited time under the current restrictions for our community. We continue to provide best practice hygiene measures to ensure your safety and will continue to provide assistance to our members.

Please stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Lest we forget.

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Police have confirmed Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology is being used at vehicle checkpoints, including at Lang Lang, however police also intercept vehicles at random.

COVID car checkpoint “half-a**ed”?

From page 1
“This may include asking the person whether they have any documentation to support their reasoning for travel,” the statement said.
Police would not provide a break down on infringement statistics for specific roads.
Senior Sergeant Andy O’Brien said “numerous” checks were being carried out by local police daily.
“We are actively patrolling and checking people on foot, vehicles and mass gatherings.”
He urged all local residents to set an example by following social distancing rules.
“We all have a role to play.”
The Advertiser contacted V/Line to see whether they were checking passenger residential postcodes, but received a broad statement reiterating that “Victoria Police are monitoring those leaving Melbourne”.
A Transport Department spokesperson confirmed “additional measures” had been put in place to ensure any changes of address on drivers’ licences “are for genuine reasons”.

Breaches
The concern comes after about 12 businesses in the East Gippsland towns of Orbost and Marlo temporarily closed last week after a 25-year-old Melbourne woman travelled to the region while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, which later was confirmed as positive. The woman was fined \$1652 after her trip.
Last week a woman who travelled on public transport to Torquay to shop because she was bored walking around her Albert Park streets was also fined, with police along the Great Ocean Road adding extra vehicle checkpoints to catch breaches.
Victoria Police data shows that since stage three restrictions were reintroduced on July 9 one in five fines issued by police were given at vehicle checkpoints, catching residents attempting to travel out of metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.
More than 230,000 vehicles have also been intercepted along main roads surrounding the lockdown areas as part of the police operation.



Cowes Yacht Club's 50-year-old ramp is getting a six-figure makeover.

Ramping up at yacht club

After five decades being submerged, covered in seaweed and serving generations of boaties, the Cowes Yacht Club is rebuilding a large section of its boat ramp.
The \$100,000 rebuild – paid for entirely by member fundraising – will take six weeks and see about a third of the cross-planks on the lower half replaced, while the supporting framework underneath the jetty will also be replaced.
Club spokesman Ian Samuel said the ramp was built in 1972 and the rebuild has been a year in the planning.
“The ramp is owned by and is the responsibility of the club, who initially built and installed it,” Ian said.
“Under the terms of our lease with Parks Victoria it’s our responsibility to maintain it in a safe and operable condition.”
“It’s not a cheap project. There are 300 planks on the ramp and each costs \$290.”
He said the latest technology was being used in the project, including salt-resistant stainless-steel bolts and pultruded fibreglass-reinforced plastic, with the rebuild done by a local builder.
The piles supporting the ramp will be replaced, as will the supporting rails, with the originals coming from the former railway line that serviced Kilcunda.
Because Western Port is home to the teredo worm – which can burrow into wooden structures – the lower planks will be made of turpentine timber, which is restricted for marine use.
Erosion
Meanwhile Mr Samuel said they were closely monitoring erosion of their foreshore frontage, with just a few centimetres of sand remaining before the fence line is breached.
“The rock embankment along the front of the land, which was put there by members years ago, is helping the problem, but we are very concerned,” Mr Samuel said.
“On the western side of the club the foreshore has been eaten away terribly. Even just this winter it has taken down a lot of trees. It’s still a major problem.”
Recently the club has extended their lease to a small triangle patch of Crown land to the south, which will ensure they have enough land to store boats should the front fence fall into the sea.
In 2018 club members met with the Department of Environment and Bass Coast Shire to find a solution.
A spokesperson at the time said the shire and DELWP were working with the club to address the erosion risk.

How to back your local businesses

during the COVID-19 restrictions

Bass Coast locals are strong supporters of local businesses and traders. Here are some ideas of how you can help and continue to give them your backing.

Use social media to follow, like and tag businesses

Order online or over the phone

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Election concerns

Public opinion is divided over whether the decision to proceed with this year's local government elections is the best outcome for the community.

Although the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) lobbied to have the election scheduled for October 24 postponed, the state government has said it will go ahead.

A poll on the Advertiser Facebook page last week attracted over 200 votes, with 61 per cent believing the elections should be postponed.

Peter Paul is a former Bass Coast Mayor and member of Island Voice. He believes the government has made the right decision.

"I think it's essential that elections, where possible, go ahead," he said.

"That's why we have a term of office, and to play around with that is something we would need to have serious consideration about."

He stressed the importance of transparency in government and said he did not believe there was any substantial reason to postpone the election.

"I don't think it's in the interest of the community to postpone and in Bass Coast, I don't think the current circumstances disadvantage any candidate."

He also said postponing could provide additional stress to the existing councillors, some who have already indicated they did not want to seek a further term.

"People have been elected for four years and we'd be asking them for another commitment, which they may not wish to continue with."

"There's a principle involved with elections and the terms of elections and we should adhere to those."

Greg Price, the interim president of the newly formed Phillip Island Dog Owners Association said he would normally stand shoulder to shoulder with Peter on issues of transparency and election terms, but feels the current circumstances are far from normal.

"I thought the advice the MAV provided to the Premier and Local Government Minister was fair and well thought out."

"I thought it was odd they would go against that advice. I was shocked."

He said the current restrictions, particularly in the lockdown areas would make it virtually impossible for community candidates to get their message out.

"You can't go to shopping centres or the places you'd normally go to get your message out and talk to people," Greg said.

"The old-fashioned foot slog campaign is not an option."

He said postal campaigns were expensive and the cost would disadvantage many candidates.

He also believes the restrictions and compulsory postal voting will favour sitting councillors, "because they have a profile".

"In many cases when someone receives a ballot through the mail, they've never met the candidates."

"This year's election will be very difficult for candidates setting out a new campaign to try and reach residents and voters."

"The democratic system is going to

be impeded by the fact the average joe is not going to be able to get his message out."

As well as favouring sitting councillors, Greg believes candidates backed by a political party would also have an unfair advantage, although he sees this as an issue for metropolitan councils to grapple with.

"In Bass Coast, we've always been fiercely independent and not party-aligned," he said.

"I hope we don't start to see party-aligned elections here. I like to think voters would reject councillors voting along party lines and not in the interest of ratepayers."

Restrictions on public gatherings would also mean the popular "meet the candidate" sessions run in previous elections would not take place. The meetings were a chance for people to quiz candidates and find out more about them.

Linda Marston from Island Voice said this election was going to be "very hard" and the community would not get the normal opportunities to approach candidates and get a sense of their personality and style.

She said Island Voice was currently looking at online options for the community to find out more about candidates and their policies.

"We will try and offer a platform for everyone to talk," she said.

Options could include getting questions from the community and asking candidates to answer them, or filming a series of face to face interviews, which the community can then access online.

Candidates deterred?

So far, only four of the existing councillors have confirmed their intention to run again, including all three councillors in Western Port Ward.

In the Island Ward, Pam Rothfield and Steve Fullarton have both said they will not seek re-election, while Michael Whelan remains undecided.

Greg Price believes the current economic situation will deter many people from putting their hand up to run.

"Anyone self-employed is flat out trying to keep their business running at the moment," he said.

"The last thing on their mind is running for council."

Linda Marston agrees.

"If you're worried about getting food on the table, it's the last thing on your mind."

"It's a very different landscape and it will be interesting to see how it turns out."

However, Peter Paul believes in any election, people need to make a big commitment.

"We don't want anyone half-hearted. We want people who are committed and who understand what's involved."

He said a new group of councillors was an opportunity to "freshen council and allow for new thoughts and directions".

The 2020 election is scheduled for October 24 by postal vote. Official nomination for candidates opens on September 17 and closes at midday on September 23. You have until 4pm on August 28 to enrol to vote or update your details.

www.vec.vic.gov.au



Boat and tractor stolen

Police are asking for the community's help in finding this "Streaker" boat (pictured), stolen from a Cowes home in June.

Cowes police say the boat, with a Yamaha motor attached, was stolen between June 9 and 10.

They say the boat registration may or may not have been changed in this time.

Meanwhile, Bass Coast CIU detectives executed a search warrant at a Coronet Bay address last week where they recovered a stolen tractor and a large amount of power tools and equipment from recent thefts and burglaries in Bass Coast.

A 30-year-old male told police he stole the tractor as his car broke down in Kongwak and he needed to get home in the rain.

He was charged with theft and bail offences and remanded to attend the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court last week.

If you have information in relation to crimes call CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000 or go to www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime/

Coronet Bay developers' unusual twist

Developers of a proposed \$38 million hotel development at Coronet Bay appear to be offering an olive leaf to residents, with suggested planning changes seeking to allay objectors' concerns.

But residents are not convinced, saying they will continue to oppose the "over-development".

In an unusual twist, the developers of 92 Norsemens Road have submitted an amended concept plan for "discussion purposes only", explaining these do not supersede the original advertised plans.

The amendments include removal of the northern restaurant, a decrease in restaurant patrons to 100, a reduction in hotel rooms to 152 (from the original 192), and a reduction in the buildings' height to no greater than seven metres.

According to Bass Coast Shire documents, the amended concept plan will not be formally advertised.

More than 300 submissions have been lodged objecting to the original plans, with the shire explaining to objectors they can now make further comments in addition to those initially lodged.

"If you had formally objected to the advertised plans and documentation, then this objection is still valid and will still be considered in the determination of the application regardless if you provide comments or not to the amended concept plans," shire officers explain.

The original proposal is for a two-storey, 7,730sqm hotel, with 192-rooms, 367 car spaces, up to 28 bus parking bays, and catering for up to 1000 people.

A group was last year formed to fight the proposal, called Our Line In The Sand, with members creating a 50-point objection campaign.



The developers have released amended plans "for discussion only", that suggest a reduction in hotel rooms to 152 (from the original 192), and a reduction in the buildings' height to no greater than seven metres.

Our Line In The Sand spokeswoman Angela Christa said "irrespective" of the original or revised plan, the proposal was still inappropriate.

"It's still a large-scale over-development in a rural activity zone and directly counter to the intention of the state government declaring Bass Coast a Distinctive Areas and Landscape," Angela said.

"We will continue to urge councillors to oppose whatever form this development takes."

She said residents were "outraged".

"The more they understand the repercussions of the plans, and the more information they get, the more they realise how completely inappropriate it is for a hamlet the size of Coronet Bay," Angela said.

"Its peak capacity houses more people than Coronet Bay's population."

She said Our Line In The Sand's 50-point objection campaign detailed resident concerns including: it is situated on land that is zoned for Rural Activity, adjoins land zoned with an Environmental

Significance Overlay, and would breach the region's new distinctive area protection.

"If approved, a precedent would be set to open doors for other developers, concerned only about profits and not the local community or environment," she said.

"It will not benefit local business, bring significant increases in visitor numbers not supported by local infrastructure, and adversely change the landscape of Coronet Bay forever."

www.ourlineinthesand.com.au/

Penguins booked out

Locals have snapped up the chance to visit the Penguin Parade for free.


Tickets to all sessions are sold out up until August 9.


Phillip Island Nature Parks said more tickets will be released in a few weeks' time.





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Cost Benefit report released

Last week, Bass Coast Shire Council publicly released the Cost Benefit Analysis for the proposed new Cultural Centre.

Community groups have long called for the release of the report.

Commissioned by council and prepared by SGS Economics and Planning, the report states the new centre is expected to generate \$51.8 million in benefits to the community over 30 years.

Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association President Kevin Griffin questioned why it had been kept from the community until now.

"Why did Council withhold this report from community review prior to making its decision?"

Fellow committee member Andrew Marston said it was disappointing that a report used "to justify a significant expenditure of ratepayer funds had to be asked for and was not made available immediately" when referenced by the council.

Costs still not clear

Prominent local businessman Greg Price has been a vocal opponent of the decision to demolish the existing building without completed designs and full funding for the new centre.

Greg welcomed the release of the report, which was commissioned by Council to support a Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) application for the project.

To date, no grant has been secured from either the state or Federal government.

However, a Council spokesperson said: "In addition to successfully being awarded the competitive Community Infrastructure Loan Scheme \$10 million low-interest loan, Council will be applying for further funding opportunities for the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre with the state and federal governments as they become available."

Council has repeatedly presented the



Council approved demolishing the existing building and construction of a \$19 million new facility at the October 2019 council meeting. Holding an artist's impression of the new Cultural and Community Centre are (from left to right) Councillors Geoff Ellis, Bruce Kent, Michael Whelan, Stephen Fullarton, Pam Rothfield and Clare Le Serve, who, along with Mayor Brett Tessari, all voted in support of the motion.

Cost Benefit Analysis as part of their justification for proceeding with the project, but Greg said many questions remained unanswered.

"They still haven't shown us what the cost to hire the new facility is," he said.

"You can put out every sort of cost benefit analysis, but if the community can't afford to hire the facility, it's all out the window."

"What's it going to cost the Off-Shore Theatre to put on a show there?"

"You can't put out that sort of study and tell us what the benefit will be if we don't know if we can afford to use it."

Greg said if the facility adopted straight commercial fees then community groups would be priced out.

"Everyone will be across the road in the parish hall," he said.

"If we end up with something we can't afford to use, the only shows will be the one's council will have to sponsor in there."

A Council spokesperson said room

hire fees did not form part of the economic impact assessment and were not considered by SGS Economics in producing their report.

"It is intended that the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre will be activated for long parts of the day, all through the week, by all parts of the community. A key piece of the engagement and design of the new Centre will be the development of a Facility Management Plan. This will guide the usage of the new centre and will include all spaces for community hire."

"As with all Council community centres, the focus of the project will be to enable as many different community uses as possible and to activate the facility. The prices are yet to be set but will reflect the objective of allowing maximum community access."

Island Voice concerns

Linda Marston, on behalf of Island Voice, said some of the assumptions in

the analysis were questionable.

The report identifies the greatest growth in visitor use coming from more domestic overnight visitors and holiday homeowners, without having firm details of what the building will contain.

"We have no idea as to the size of the facility, particularly the theatre, type of seating etc," said Linda.

"The usage and ability of the Cultural Centre to attract longer stays from domestic and holiday homeowners will depend largely upon the quality and attractiveness of new offerings that can eventuate from a new facility such as more frequent theatre, live music, cinema and festivals."

Linda said Island Voice also questioned the assumption in the report that the redevelopment of the Jetty Triangle and construction of the Transit Centre had grown the visitor economy.

"There is no evidence that either of these projects has increased visitor

numbers or spend," she said.

Concerns were also raised over the high estimate of library users and the report's claim of a \$1.3 million benefit from people who do not use the facility. Confirmation of the roles created by the new building was also needed.

The group was also critical of the council's reluctance to release the report.

"Surely residents and ratepayers should be able to view key aspects in the decision-making process," said Linda.

"Largely, the benefits reported are based upon a hypothetical building, with hypothetical offerings and uses, questionable assumptions."

"A facility of this type, if built to the expectations of the community and able to facilitate greater cultural activity, will be an asset to the community but we have little confidence regarding the size of the benefits calculated."

There was one assertion from the report Island Voice did agree with.

"Certainly, if the builder of this facility is local, then there will accrue some significant economic benefits in the initial construction phase," Linda said.

Project progress

Architects Jackson Clements Burrows were appointed in May to prepare the final building design, winning the tender for the \$1.4 million tender.

Simon Topliss from JCB said they expected to have well-developed plans by Christmas, with the design due to be completed by early 2021.

In June, Deconstruct Group was appointed to demolish the existing building. Demolition is due to commence in the coming weeks and is expected to take two months.

Construction of the building is due to start in May 2021. A tender for the building construction is scheduled for late in 2020.

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Cost Benefit – at a glance

The Cost Benefit Analysis for the proposed new Cowes Cultural Centre was prepared in December 2019 as part of Council's application for a Regional Infrastructure Fund grant.

To date, no grant has been secured from either the state or Federal government for the project.

The benefits of the project are calculated over a 20-year period. The report uses data from the Phillip Island San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 and the economic impact analysis for the Cowes Revitalisation Project for their assumptions on estimated tourism yields. Both reports were prepared in 2016.

The key findings include:

- The new building will generate \$51.8 million, compared to a cost of \$20.2 million, which creates a Benefit cost ratio of 2.6 for Bass Coast.
- Construction will provide the equivalent of 69 full time jobs, creating \$13.5 million for the local economy.
- Once the centre is operating, it will provide the equivalent of 30 full time jobs each year, adding \$2.9 million in economic value.
- It's estimated the operating costs of the new centre will be \$350,000 per year, compared to \$278,000 for the current building.
- Over 50 per cent of the current costs is employee costs. This is expected to triple, as staff requirements in the new building will be three times the current level.
- The new centre is expected to double the number of visitors per year, attracting 60,000 people.
- The new building is expected to improve community connections and social cohesion.
- Although 80 per cent of residents do not regularly use the existing building, the report estimates a \$1.3 million non-user value by year 3.
- The new building will have more internal space, a smaller building footprint and vastly improved environmental performance.

The report concludes the redevelopment "will generate a large net gain in community welfare; meaning the project's benefits outweigh its costs considerably."

It states that even if the "construction costs and operating costs increase by 50 per cent and the two largest benefits halve simultaneously", the net benefit of the building is still maintained.

A full copy is available at: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/projects/cowes-cultural-and-community-centre-project

New fire station plans released

From page 5

Birds that use the land as habitat include the black falcon, endangered swift parrot, fork-tailed swift, white-throated needletail, powerful owl, and white-bellied sea eagle.

However the assessment concluded that these species "would not be significantly impacted upon by the proposal".

"The swift parrot has the potential to feed on the few spotted gums in the study area while travelling between Tasmania and the mainland, however the study area does not support any of the preferred food trees of this species," the assessment concluded.

"Given the large amount of planted spotted gums available in the surrounding region, it is considered unlikely that the swift parrot would be impacted by development in the study area."

The assessment details a number of steps required to protect vegetation during construction, including creating protection zones around trees and employing a zoologist before and during tree removal.

The CFA will also use vegetation offsets to compensate for vegetation losses.

Traffic

A traffic report included in the planning permit states the two-way average annual daily traffic on Ventnor Road is about 2,000 vehicles per day, with an additional 200 on peak days.

The VicRoads Crashstats database indicates that no casualty crashes have occurred near the site in the last five years.

As such, the report states the fire station will "not adversely affect traffic conditions on the adjacent road network".

"Considering the expected average utilisation of the site,



The fundraising campaign that has been running through sausage sizzles and a buy-a-brick campaign has now wrapped up, with \$15,000 raised to fit out the new CFA station. This fundraising thermometer at the brigade has now been taken down.

of asbestos, with walls in some areas at risk of falling down, while the concrete apron at the front of the station was crumbling.

The changerooms hold up to 32 members, even though the brigade now has a record 54 operational members.

"We are at capacity," Bob said.

"The problem of where we are now is it's near Cowes primary school and during some hours of the day the speed limit is a 40km/hr zone and increasingly problematic being in a built-up area.

"In peak summer season it can take considerable time for some of our members to reach the station if they have to cross Thompson Avenue.

"At the moment we also have to stop traffic to reverse into the station, which means we have

near misses with cyclists and other traffic at times."

The CFA owns a 2500m² block of land that includes the original two-bay fire station, as well as the neighbouring spare block of land downhill on Settlement Road, which is currently used by the Bass Coast Shire next to its depot.

The CFA also inherited the former ambulance building next door, owned by the shire to whom they pay a peppercorn lease, which houses two trucks and effectively splits the station in half. A car park in between these two buildings must remain open to allow access into the back of the Blue Gum estate.

"From a response perspective, the Ventnor Road site is great because we have easier access to Ventnor, Rhyll, north and south."

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Services	Bass Coast 2020	Bass Coast 2019	Large Rural 2020	State-wide 2020	Highest score	Lowest score
 Overall performance	55	54	55	58	Aged 18-34 years Non-residents	Aged 50-64 years
 Overall council direction	51	50	50	51	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Customer service	67	70	68	70	Aged 65+ years Non-residents	Aged 18-34 years
 Consultation & engagement	53	51	54	55	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Sealed local roads	53	53	47	54	Non-Residents	Aged 50-64 years
 Lobbying	52	53	53	53	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years
 Community decisions	62	51	52	53	Aged 18-34 years	Aged 50-64 years

A summary of this year’s Community Satisfaction Survey results for Bass Coast Shire Council, showing a one-point rise in the overall performance.

Small rise in satisfaction

Bass Coast Shire Council has inched up one point in the annual Community Satisfaction Survey.

And if you’re under 35, you’re more likely to approve of the council than anyone over 50.

The report, coordinated by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, was released last week, and shows Bass Coast’s overall score of 55 is one up from last year, and on par with the average for its large rural council category.

This is the highest score for Bass Coast since the current survey began in 2014, but is significantly lower than the state average.

Once again, council scored highest in the Customer Service category (67), although this dropped three points from last year.

There were improvements in satisfaction with the overall direction of the council, community decisions and consultation and engagement, but a drop in satisfaction for Council’s lobbying on behalf of the community.

The rating for Council’s performance with sealed local roads remained unchanged, although it was significantly higher than other councils in the Large Rural category.

The report also highlighted the trend in satisfaction levels over the past six years, with sealed local roads showed the biggest improvement, jumping 20 points.

Council’s biggest fans were in the 18 – 34-year age bracket, with the lowest scores consistently coming from those aged 50-64.

Overall performance has trended up since 2016.

Island results

Residents of Island and Western Port Wards gave the council its highest satisfaction rating for overall performance since the new wards were established in 2016.

Contact with council saw a drop in satisfaction from Island Ward residents, from 55 to 49, while Western Port rose to 63 from 58.

Customer Service ratings also dropped significantly in Island Ward (72 to 65), while Western Port rose by two points to 71.

Island residents showed their approval for the overall council direction, with a jump of four points from last year, taking it to 50. Western Port’s approval was 49 (from 48).

Island Ward residents also showed increased satisfaction with council’s consultation and en-

gagement, rating them at 50, compared to 47 last year. There was a similar trend in Western Port, with approval going from 50 to 53.

However satisfaction was down with Council’s lobbying on behalf of the community with Island holding steady at 47 and Western Port dropping two points to 52.

On the question of decisions made in the interest of the community, Island residents scored council slightly higher than last year at 47, compared to 45. Western Port’s score increased by four points to 54.

Issues such as residents’ concerns over the removal of dust suppressant seals in Sunset Strip and Smiths Beach may have influenced a drop in satisfaction on the condition of sealed roads. Island Ward registered 49 (down from 51), while Westernport remained steady at 55.

“Room for improvement”

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, said while most of the survey results show year-on-year improvements, some were still lower than the average rating for councils state-wide and in the Large Rural group, which includes Bass Coast.

“Council has had a busy year, focussed on delivering quality outcomes for the community. This also includes a major push in advocating the community’s priorities to government where we have had some great results,”Cr Tessari said.

“This year, our scores for consultation and engagement improved the most, with a two-point increase, while overall council direction and community decisions increased by one point each.

“The results of the survey show Council is on the right path, but there is always plenty of room for improvement,”Cr Tessari concluded.

The 2020 survey results showed people aged 18 to 34 years, non-resident ratepayers and Bunurong Ward residents are the most satisfied with Council’s overall performance, while people aged 35 to 64 and Island Ward residents are the least satisfied

The survey of 800 people was conducted between January 30 and March 22.

The survey sample matched the demographic profile of Bass Coast, as determined by the most recent ABS population estimates, and included resident and non-resident ratepayers.

The full 2020 Community Satisfaction Survey Report can be found online at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/css.

Change For Sam spurs sector streamlining

Family violence services – currently “stretched” across many locations – will soon come under the one roof on Phillip island.

The streamlining means women will have better access to services and is the latest project of the Change For Sam (CFS) group, created in response to the tragic death of Cowes resident Samantha Fraser in July 2018, allegedly murdered by her ex-husband.

It comes on the second anniversary of Sam’s death and also what would have been the celebration of the mother-of-three’s 40th birthday.

Chair of CFS, island resident Samiro Douglas, said thanks to state government funding, they were currently recruiting for a logistics program coordinator to offer a broad range of services in one location.

She said CFS had been working to provide better access to services for women locally, rather than having to travel long distances to access support.

“Now, for instance, if a woman needs to see a service she may have to travel to Morwell or Leongatha, or call them by phone, or a worker may need to come here,” Samiro said.

“The services are currently stretched. But with this new



Change For Sam’s new focus comes on the two-year anniversary of Sam’s death and also what would have been the celebration of the mother-of-three’s 40th birthday.

role we plan to bring, for example, Anglicare, Salvo Care, a pro bono lawyer, and emergency housing all under the one roof at the medical hub or key locations.”

Samiro said since CFS first started, much had been achieved, especially under its previous coordinator Pam Parker, whose role wound up at the start of this year.

She said achievements included bringing national and

state family violence prevention initiatives to the island, such as MATE Training, which teaches “us all to be leaders in the prevention of violence and problematic behaviour”.

Other programs include Change The Story, as well as A Turn It Orange festival in Cowes last November, to encourage gender equality.

“Pam certainly landed these issues on the island and began the conversation in the community,” Samiro said.

The CFS alliance meets monthly, during Coronavirus through online meetings, with members from a variety of groups such as the police, Education Department, Bass Coast Health, YMCA, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre, as well as the Fraser family.

“In many instances, the work being done by these groups isn’t always visible but when members report back the response is ‘wow, a lot has actually happened,’” said Samiro, who chairs the meetings.

“The community was shocked by the murder of Sam and because she was closely connected to many people, they were touched by it personally, which encouraged them to think about these issues.”

SHORT STACK

A quick roundup of news, views and opportunities

Grants for Veterans support

Ex-service organisations, councils and community groups are encouraged to apply for funding under three programs:

- The Anzac Day Proceeds Fund to assist with direct welfare support, such as living expenses, health and wellbeing, education and school expenses, transport costs and social activities.
- The Restoring Community War Memorials Program to restore or improve memorials, honour rolls and avenues of honour around the state.
- The Victoria Remembers Program, which supports projects that honour or commemorate the service of veterans as well as educate Victorians about their contribution.

Applications for the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund and the Victoria Remembers program will close on Friday, August 31. The Restoring Community War Memorials program will close on Friday, September 7.

Rural women mentorship

The 2021 Victorian Rural Women’s Leadership and Mentoring Program is now open.

There are 14 funded places on established leadership courses starting later this year and early in 2021. Applications are now open for funded places on the 2020 Women’s Leadership Program as well as for

the 2021 intake of The Observership Program and Williamson Leadership Program.

Details at: Rural Women’s Network website at extensionaus.com.au/VRWNetwork.

Grants to stay connected

The Let’s Stay Connected Fund offers grants to community organisations, local government bodies, incorporated not-for-profits and industry groups of between \$5000 and \$200,000. The grants support innovative, community-based initiatives that build connection, reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation and that can be implemented quickly.

Applications are open until August 31 and applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible at djprvic.gov.au/lets-stay-connected.

Wonthaggi Hospital

Three builders have been shortlisted to deliver the \$115 million Wonthaggi Hospital expansion project.

The successful builders are ADCO Constructions, Kane Constructions and Watpac Constructions.

An Industry Forum is being conducted to connect local sub-contractors to the three firms that will tender for the works.

For more information about the Wonthaggi Hospital Expansion visit the Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority website at vhhsbavic.gov.au.



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Specialist programs like music and art significantly enhance students' educational experience.



Enjoying the Recycled Replas seat is (left to right) Paris Dragone, Hope Tucker, Bonnie Walton, Nevaeh Harris, River Glover, James Gorsuch and Harvey Oats (lounging on the seat!)



Prep children excited about making Peg dolls to go into their houses made by Prep families. From left to right: Audrey Manning, Sally McPherson, Heidi Welch and Mason Gray.

Vibrant education It's all happening at San Remo Primary

Cowes Primary School and Early Learning Centre is a vibrant educational setting, where learning and relationships are central to school life. They aim to deliver opportunities and experiences, which will stay with their students for a lifetime.

As students only pass through their school years once, Cowes Primary School knows that their learning foundations must be sound in preparation for future growth.

Cowes Primary School runs an Open Morning for prospective parents of children aged 0-5 year to experience all that the school offers. We invite all families, no matter what age your child or children are, to attend either our Open Morning or book a school tour.

Academic achievement

Cowes Primary is proud of its achievements in student learning whilst striving for continuous improvement. National testing data over recent years has highlighted that their students are performing 'higher' than those in like schools across the state.

The curriculum

At Cowes Primary School teachers work in professional learning teams to collaboratively plan units of work that engage students' curi-

osity and allow them to explore areas of personal interest. They implement best practice and tailor the classroom learning experiences to the needs of their students which maximise the achievement of all.

The arts – music

Cowes Primary School recognises that their specialist programs significantly enhance students' educational experience.

The school has invested heavily in musical equipment to support a high-quality music program and the school band and holds an annual school music concert, that is well received by all members of the school community.

STEM

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) covers a wide range of knowledge and skills, which are increasingly in demand in a knowledge-based economy and a rapidly changing world.

STEM is a specialist subject at Cowes Primary School and they are one of the few schools in Victoria to be offering it as a standalone subject.

STEM lessons involve robotics, coding, construction, problem solving and much more, which has really inspired curiosity.

Students have settled back into learning at San Remo Primary School.

"Our prep and grade 1/2 students have been busy writing procedural texts and have made, cooked and created a huge range of things so that they can write about how they did it," said Principal Karen Bowker.

One of the fun activities for prep students is making peg dolls.

"The students are very excited to make their own peg dolls and then write how they made them" said prep teacher Tracey Wilson.

"So much so that they have been making peg doll houses and bringing them to school in preparation!"

"This is a great example of how we engage our students in their learning," she said.

Ms Bowker said there are "vibrant and exciting learning projects going on" in every classroom.

"I enjoy walking into San Remo Primary classrooms and seeing all students engaged in their learning."

San Remo Primary offers a comprehensive learning that aligns with the Victorian curriculum and also offers specialist subjects of Art, Japanese, Music, Physical Education and Library.

"All of our children are very lucky to have specialised teachers working with them in a wide range of specialist subjects," Ms Bowker said.

Not only is there great learning happening within the school, but there are exciting things happening outside as well.

A new shade structure was

installed over the junior playground and there's concrete works in the senior area to prepare for the installation of new Replas recycled plastic seating.

The recycled seating matches other environmentally friendly seating that has been installed around the school and shows the students what their hard work of recycling at school has achieved.

"We are very proud of our students recycling efforts at our school, they are now sorting soft plastics, organics, paper and waste every day, which has reduced our waste at school" said Ms Bowker.

"We are doing our best for our local environment and making sure that we demonstrate what can be done if we recycle wisely. The seating is a prime example."



PROVIDING A SEAMLESS EDUCATION SPANNING FROM BIRTH TO YEAR 6

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

- ◆ Excellent academic results
- ◆ Caring, dedicated and supportive staff
- ◆ Full-time Welfare Officer
- ◆ Social skills and wellbeing curriculum
- ◆ Modern technology including iPads, laptops and interactive televisions
- ◆ Exciting new STEM curriculum
- ◆ Excellent modern facilities
- ◆ Strong community links
- ◆ Environmental initiatives
- ◆ Swimming, tennis courts and vegetable garden
- ◆ A range of specialist classes including Music, Art, Japanese, P.E. and STEM



FOR ENQUIRES PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:

PRINCIPAL: Rod McKenzie **PHONE:** 5952 2132
EMAIL: cowes.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
WEB: www.cowesps.vic.edu.au

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE DIRECTOR: Karen Treppo **PHONE:** 5951 2300
EMAIL: office@pielc.com.au

SAN REMO PRIMARY SCHOOL

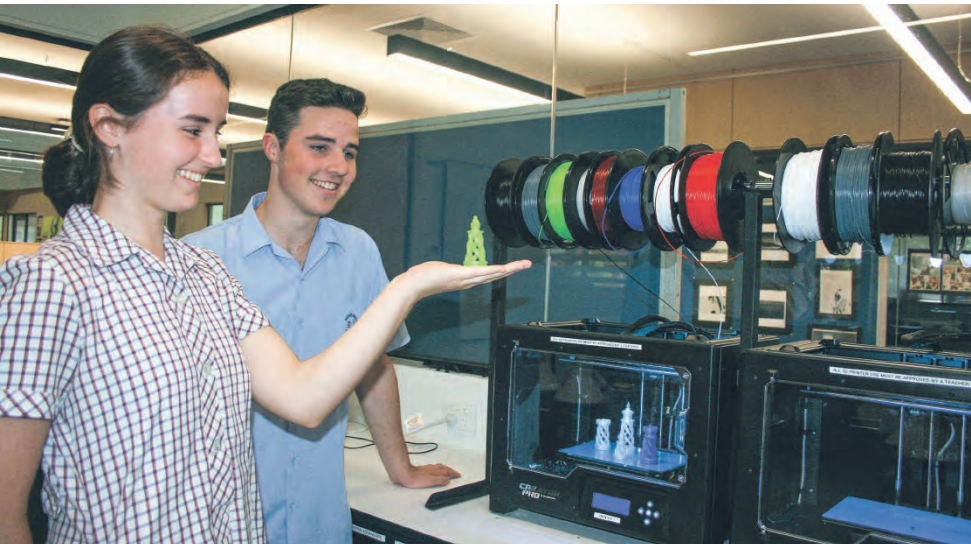


San Remo Primary offers quality educational programs that engage and support our children to achieve their best. Students are given many opportunities to grow and learn academically and socially in a safe and caring environment.

In 2021 San Remo Primary will offer:

- Specialist subjects of Art, Japanese, Library, Music and Physical Education
- Dedicated and caring staff
- Comprehensive resources to support learning
- Vibrant and nurturing Before and After School Care program

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



The College offers an extensive range of VCE and VET subjects enabling students to select subjects that meet their further study and employment goals.



The Prep Transition Program commences mid-October and helps to build confidence and independence to provide the best possible start to school.

Newhaven College – One Campus, One Choice!

Newhaven College is an independent, ecumenical and co-educational school which was founded in 1980, and now caters for over 900 students from Prep through to Year 12. Offering a diverse academic curriculum with a caring pastoral approach, our students enjoy excellent facilities and a diverse range of co-curricular opportunities. We are committed to further developing the College facilities, ensuring that we have an environment where creativity, academic, emotional, spiritual, physical and life skills are nurtured. This year's building projects include our recently completed open air amphitheatre. A magnificent setting for performances and concerts giving students the opportunity to showcase their talents. Our full-sized synthetic Hockey/Tennis Pitch

and grassed Soccer Oval will be completed by the end of the year. Recently we announced building works will commence in late 2020 for our Performing Arts Wing. This state-of-the-art facility will include a keyboard lab, black box theatre, recording studio, hair and makeup studio, rehearsal hall, and teaching spaces for small groups, ensembles, or private music lessons.

Prep 2021

Interviews are currently underway for Prep 2021, and our Transition Program commences mid-October. Our Prep Transition Program helps to build confidence and independence providing the best possible start to school. Fun learning activity sessions are held each week allowing our future Prep students to become familiar

with our College and Teaching staff. This year's Transition Program includes Classroom Story Time, Jump and Move Perceptual Motor Program/PE Session, Creative Young Artists, Meet the Orchestra Music and Drama Session, Love the Library and Meet your Year 6 Buddies. The final session on 4 December 2020 is part of our school Orientation Day where students spend time in their 2021 classes.

VCE

VCE 2021 Year 10-12 students have the opportunity to maximise their potential in our unique adult style learning centre. The College offers an extensive range of VCE and VET subjects enabling students to select subjects that meet their further study and employment goals. Individual students

have the option to include a school-based apprenticeship or obtain a Certificate II in Building and Construction in our registered Trades Skills Centre. Our Arts, Science and Technology centre offers students a range of creative activities across a number of fields and our co-curricular choices cater for a range of personal interests including music, surfing, drama, dance, sport, equestrian, chess, public speaking and debating.

Enrolments

Newhaven College has limited places from Prep -Year 12, if interested contact our Registrar Belinda Manning.

Scholarships Open Now

Newhaven College offers scholarships for applicants entering Secondary School at any level in 2021

who are able to demonstrate outstanding abilities across a broad range of areas including academic, sporting, performing arts, leadership and community involvement. To apply for a Scholarship, please: (a) Complete the application form on our website (b) Attach a copy of the applicant's latest school report www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/enrolments/scholarships Applications close Friday, September 18. No late applications will be accepted.

Visit Newhaven College

You are invited to visit the College, contact our Registrar Belinda Manning to arrange a private tour. Phone: 5956 7505, Email: Belinda.manning@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Learn About Prep 2021

Preparing children for Prep with friendship, fun and enriching activities



DATE	TIME	CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY	PARENT ACTIVITY
Thurs 15 Oct	2:30-3:15pm	Classroom Story Time	Afternoon tea with the Principal and Head of Junior School
Thurs 22 Oct	2:30-3:15pm	Jump and Move Perceptual Motor Program/PE Session	Join in with or assist your child
Thurs 29 Oct	2:30-3:15pm	Creative Young Artists	School Nurse, Uniform and Continuous Feedback Presentation
Thurs 5 Nov	2:30-3:15pm	Meet the Orchestra Music & Drama Session	Parent Volunteer Presentation
Thurs 12 Nov	2:30-3:15pm	Love the Library	Literacy presentation by Linda Austin, Prep teacher
Thurs 19 Nov	2:30-3:15pm	Little Builders	Numeracy presentation by Rikki Porter, Prep teacher
Thurs 26 Nov	11.30am-1pm	Meet your 2021 Year 6 Buddies	School Transition presentation with guest speaker Melinda Vander Reest from Walker Learning
Fri 4 Dec	9:30am-1pm	Orientation Day - Meet your classmates and teacher	School uniforms will be on display

Thinking about Prep 2021?

Enrolments are in progress for Prep 2021 and we currently have a number of vacancies.

Contact Belinda Manning on 5956 7505 for more information or to arrange a school tour.



Newhaven College
1770 Phillip Island Road, Phillip Island
03 5956 7505
info@newhavencol.vic.edu.au



A six-month intensive course at Bass Coast Adult Learning will provide an in-depth introduction to the hair industry.

Study hair locally

Bass Coast Adult Learning is presenting an innovative and exciting Certificate II Hair program beginning on August 5.

This is an intensive six-month course providing an in-depth introduction into the hair industry. It is also well suited to enthusiastic high school students and those who would like to hone their hairdressing skills and knowledge.

Gaining practical and hands-on experiences is a major feature of this program which will utilise a fully equipped training salon. This will provide participants with the ideal opportunities to gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the hair industry and in becoming accomplished hairdressers.

Local hair and beauty trainer, Kate McNish has over 25 years' industry experience. She is excited about providing vocational training and learning

opportunities that are local and accessible.

"This program is exciting because it creates an opportunity for Bass Coast residents to access a Certificate level training program locally, and for them to learn in a supportive and flexible learning environment where students can gain the benefit of face to face contact, small classes and additional learning support as required," said Kate.

Training will be conducted from the Bass Coast Adult Learning (239 White Road, Wonthaggi) and classes run Wednesdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

For more information, including program details, enrolment fees, eligibility for government subsidies and payment plans, contact Bass Coast Adult Learning: Bill Street - (03) 5672 3115 or www.bcal.vic.edu.au



Permaculture educator Rick Coleman will deliver pre-accredited Horticulture short courses in the newly established PICAL Community Garden.

Job Ready Training at PICAL

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed employment options for many people on the Island.

"We recognised early on that many of our hospitality and tourism workers were going to be effected by the loss of regular employment and would desperately need re-training in other areas" said PICAL's Program and Marketing Coordinator, Wendy Christensen.

"We worked closely with local government to identify areas of skills shortages and have aimed our courses around re-skilling workers in these areas."

Horticulture and civil construction are among these highlighted areas.

PICAL has employed the services of experienced permaculture educator Rick Coleman to deliver pre-accredited Horticulture short courses in

the newly refurbished PICAL Community Garden. These courses give students a taste of the horticulture industry and contribute recognised hours towards Certificate II in Horticulture.

"We have also been working hard on grant submissions, with a number of our applications for employment skills and re-training options being successful," continued Wendy

"This means we are able to subsidise many of our courses making them more accessible to our local community."

PICAL will be offering subsidised White Card, Traffic Management and Traffic Control courses delivered by Cove Training (RTO 21386) beginning this August. Normally \$580 for the three-day White Card, Traffic Management and Traffic Control courses, PICAL will be offering the three-day

course combo at a subsidised cost of \$450 per person. Individual White Card courses will be delivered over one day at a cost of \$150 per person.

As a recipient of a Bass Coast Council Recovery Grant, the Women Connect program will continue to provide support to local women helping them with pathways for further study, employment or small business start-up.

"We'd really like everyone in our local community to know that if they are struggling with finding employment or are unsure of what to do next, they should come in and talk to us about their options."

You must be a Bass Coast Shire resident to qualify for some of the course subsidies. To find out more ring PICAL: 5952 1131 or head over to the website www.pical.org.au for further details.



Hair Dressing Certificate II
(Hair) SHB20216

 Bass Coast Adult Learning
239 White Road, Wonthaggi

 **Phone: 5672 3115**

 **info@bcal.vic.edu.au**



JOB READY TRAINING
PHILLIP ISLAND COMMUNITY & LEARNING CENTRE

Horticulture
First Aid Training
RSA & Food Safety
Construction White Card
Traffic Management & Traffic Control
Computer and Small Business courses
Subsidies available for Bass Coast Shire Residents!

Talk to us about Volunteering!

 Find us on Facebook



56 - 58 Church St, Cowes
PH: 5952 1131
www.pical.org.au



New Senior School building on track

A new building containing 10 learning spaces, teacher work rooms, a year 12 common room and new canteen is well underway at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College in Leongatha.

School Principal David Leslie said the \$4.5 million project was currently on schedule and should be completed for the start of the 2021 school year.

"Students and teachers are excited to see the progress, especially since a considerable amount of work was completed whilst they were away during home schooling in term 2," Mr Leslie said.

"Over the term 2 holidays some of the landscaping was completed and students are already using and enjoying the space.

"The new building is a great addition to our college and a wonderful learning space for our students."

Student masks

The college has introduced face masks this term after advice from the Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited (DOSCEL).

Mr Leslie said as the College has students on the border of Melbourne's lock-

down areas they were erring on the side of caution.

"We'd rather keep the students safe than going the other way.

"All the College staff and all the students will wear masks at school. The teachers are allowed to take them off while they're instructing the class, because students need to be able to see their lips move. But for general movement, we're adding the masks as an extra precaution."

Mr Leslie said although the school had a few hundred masks on hand, the responsibility of supplying masks to students would ultimately fall to parents.

"We're asking the families to provide their own and that's better for hygiene purposes. But we will have a back-up supply," he said.

"Some of our fashion students in Years 10 and 11 and our VCAL students in Year 11 and 12 have been making face masks in their classes for themselves and their friends. They started making them last week before the announcement was made about wearing masks at school."

The college has also been temperature testing students as they arrive this term.



Construction of the \$4.5 million senior school building is on track, with the new facility due to be ready for the start of the 2021 school year.



Students and teachers at Mary MacKillop College are wearing face masks as an added precaution. The school also does temperature checks on students on arrival.

New Building to be completed for 2021 school year



Mary MacKillop College
South Gippsland

For more information:
03 5662 4255
www.mackillopleongatha.catholic.edu.au



Principal Catherine Blackford with students at Our Lady Star of the Sea.



Students have been in the new school for two years now.

School is a shining star!

By Principal Catherine Blackford

It is hard to believe that we have been in our wonderful school for two years now. As a school community we have achieved so much in that short time. The environment and sustainability have always been our focus, as we encourage our students to be 'stewards of the earth', caring for our surroundings in many different ways. This is another means of

helping the students to become positive global citizens and making a difference in the world.

The development of our gardens is something the OLSS community are all so proud of. So far we have established;

- a habitat garden
- a veggie patch, including bush tucker
- an orchard and a herb mandala
- a fairy tale garden

- a sensory garden
- a lizard lounge
- and the wetlands with a frog bog which Landcare has helped us to develop.

Our Lady Star of the Sea has just received a \$500 grant from Gardens Victoria for a pollination garden which we will commence during the weekly science lessons over the coming terms.

As well as having science as a specialist subject we also have Art, Music and Drama and Digital Technology.

As our student numbers increase, we are very excited about starting stage two of our building Masterplan. This will include four new classrooms, a discovery centre (library), a wet weather structure over the basketball court, extension to the carpark, development of the oval and more landscaping. The works should commence at

the end of term three. Enrolments are now being taken at every year level and if prospective parents would like a tour, we can do these after school hours. Please contact Alison on 5951 1700 if you would like a tour or if you have any questions about Our Lady Star of the Sea. Please ask about our reasonable school fees and additional help for health care or pension card holders.



Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School – Cowes



Courage, Compassion & Creativity

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

OPEN DAY IS EVERYDAY Please contact us for further information on 5951 1700

6 Cowes-Rhyll Road, Cowes info@olsscows.catholic.edu.au www.olsscows.catholic.edu.au

A community cover-up

Local sewers swing into action as face masks demand skyrockets

Face masks are now a fact of life for many Victorians and keen sewers have taken to their machines to help with the cover-up.

Last week, it became mandatory for anyone in the lockdown zones in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire to wear a mask outside their house.

And while the directive didn't apply to regional areas, many residents of Bass Coast heeded the call from the Premier to wear a face mask when they leave the house and cannot physically distance.

Here's a range of options for anyone wanting to buy a locally made mask.

Somewhere over the Rainbow

Kate Prattley normally concentrates on beautiful homemade baby products at her online store but is currently swamped with orders for masks.

After a customer asked if she was making masks, Kate thought she'd give it a try and word quickly got out.

"I've been inundated. My phone goes every 10 minutes with an order. Initially, Kate struggled to keep up with the demand but she says she's now on top of the orders.

So far her biggest single order was for 10 masks and although it's all local customers, she said some are buying masks to send to family in Melbourne.

Masks are three-layers (two cotton with middle breathable layer), available in a variety of fabrics. One size. \$24. Order via the Somewhere over the Rainbow Facebook or Instagram page. Pick up only.

Hooliegan Designs

Twenty-three-year-old Holly Egan has been glued to her machine ever since her father suggested making face masks last week.

The Bachelor of Fashion Design graduate was laid off earlier this year with the fashion industry hard hit by the Coronavirus.

She returned home at the start of the initial lockdown.



Holly Egan has turned her loungeroom into a sweat shop producing around 50 masks per day. Order at www.hoolieganandesigns.com

Her online store used to specialise in jewellery, but it's been hijacked by face masks, with customers now able to order masks in a range of materials.

She's sold over 150 and says she's been working from 9am to midnight, sewing, packing and shipping the masks.

"I've turned our living room into a sweatshop," she joked.

"Mum has been coming home from work and cutting out the fabrics and Dad's been threading the elastic through while he's watching TV."

The family team is turning out around 50 masks per day and the orders keep streaming in with one company ordering 80 masks for their workforce.

Masks are three layers of cotton and are unsealed, so an extra filter can be inserted if needed. Available in a variety of fabrics. One size. \$15. Order online at www.hoolieganandesigns.com. Free delivery local orders.

Cotton Onto Craft

Sisters Heather Coupe and Wendy Sedgwick from Cotton Onto Craft in Cowes are making masks to order for local customers.

"When the government said masks were going to be mandatory for metropolitan Melbourne, people started coming in getting elastic and fabric," said Heather.

"Some asked if we were making masks, so we started to make them for the islanders."

Heather has already made almost 200. For anyone keen to make their own, she said the masks are not difficult, but they are time-consuming.

"There are plenty of free patterns on the internet, but the biggest problem is getting hold of elastic.

"There's no elastic in the shop at the moment, we sold out completely. We sold 600m in four days!"

And she has a salient message for all mask-wearers.

"Masks are like underwear. Only wear it once and when you get home wash it in hot soapy water."

Masks are three layers: cotton, interfacing and poly-cotton. Available in plain or patterned. One size. \$15. Order at the Cotton Onto Craft Facebook page or call 5952 5202. Collect instore. Postage organised at additional cost.

San Remo Hotel Bottle Shop

The first batch of homemade masks Elyse Pratt put into the San Remo drive-through bottle shop sold out within an hour. The second batch was gone in 15 minutes.

Elyse and her mum originally started to make masks for family and friends.

"We had a few extra so we put them in the bottle shop and they were gone in an instant," said Elyse.

With orders coming in, including from local businesses, the family sewing circle has already produced about 100 masks and expect to have new stock available at the bottle shop this week.

Elyse has also ordered Thirsty Camel face masks, which are due in store this week as well.

Homemade masks are two layers of cotton (one plain, one patterned) with a middle layer of breathable interface. Available in small, medium and large. Homemade and Thirsty Camel masks are \$13.



Steven and Kylie Pancutl and their son Riese were shopping for fabric in Cotton Onto Craft in Cowes on the weekend, to make face masks. Thirteen year old Riese was wearing a bandana in the meantime while waiting the family mask making project to begin.



Bass Coast Health nurse Amy Peters tests Kaye Treloar for COVID-19 during drive-through testing at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Drive-through testing expands

The drive-through testing service at Wonthaggi Hospital has been expanded.

Bass Coast Health has installed a large marquee in the carpark at the hospital to cater for increased demand.

Nurses tested 171 people last Thursday across Bass Coast Health – the highest number of tests conducted across the organisation in one day during the Pandemic.

"We are pleased that members of the Bass Coast and South Gippsland communities who have symptoms are coming to be tested to help us understand the extent of COVID locally," Bass Coast Health CEO Jan Child said.

"At the same time, I would like to remind people that once they are tested, they MUST remain at home until they get their result and keep their distance from family members.

"Please don't get tested and then go to work, to the supermarket or to your friend's home. We have already seen cases where people's test result comes back positive but they have spread the virus to their work colleagues and family.

"This virus is highly contagious and can be spread by a droplet, or by poor hand hygiene and it is very easily spread throughout our community.

It may not kill you, but it may kill someone you are in contact with, or someone you love," Ms Child said.

"Getting tested is the responsible thing to do but you must self-isolate before and after and keep your friends, family, workplace and your community safe."

People should be tested if they display such symptoms as: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste.

Testing is available at the Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day) and Wonthaggi Hospital (10am-5pm, 7 days a week).

You can also book for a test at Wonthaggi Medical Centre, Monday to Friday (Ph: 0492 036 568 or www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/wonthaggi-VIC-3995/wonthaggi-respiratory-clinic/doctors).

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

Everyone is advised to practise physical distancing by keeping at least 1.5m away from other people. If physical distancing is not practical, wear face masks.

Details on how to correctly wear a mask: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-masks-victoria-covid-19



Made to order masks are available for locals at Cotton onto Craft in Cowes. Cotton Onto Craft proprietor Wendy Sedgwick and Wayne Carter are pictured.



Somewhere over the Rainbow masks are \$24 and can be ordered on Facebook and Instagram.

Stop the spread

The big reason COVID-19 is so contagious is actually small.

The disease spreads mainly from person to person via tiny droplets of moisture that are expelled from the nose or mouth of infected people when they cough, sneeze or speak.

Bass Coast Health (BCH) said community transmission of COVID-19 poses a great risk to the health and safety of residents.

Transmissions occur when a person infected with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or speaks, spreading COVID-19 to others around them, according to the World Health Organization.

These droplets are heavy, do not travel far and quickly sink to the ground, but people can catch COVID-19 if they breathe them in.

The droplets can land on surfaces around the infected person such as tables, doorknobs and handrails. People can become infected by touching these and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. This is why people should wash their hands regularly with soap and water or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub.

"Everyone needs to be acting as though anyone they meet or speak to may be infectious. This especially means keeping your distance," BCH CEO Jan Child said.

As well as practising physical

distancing by keeping at least 1.5m away from others, people should stay at home – away from crowds and public areas – as much as possible, said Bass Coast Health Infection Control Specialist Nicky Baker.

Infected people may not know they have COVID-19 and then can unintentionally spread COVID to others. This can occur via direct contact or indirect contact from touching shared surfaces with contaminated hands for example (ie light switches and door handles).

"Imagine all the shared surfaces you come in contact with in public places such as shopping centres," Ms Baker said.

"It's important that people wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds as many times a day as they can and stay at home unless they need to leave for the four key reasons: shopping for essentials, daily exercise, work or study, and to seek medical help."

According to the World Health Organization, the COVID-19 virus can survive for up to 72 hours on plastic and stainless steel, less than 4 hours on copper and less than 24 hours on cardboard. Fortunately, these surfaces can easily be cleaned with common household disinfectants that will kill COVID-19.

Tips for wearing a mask

Physical distancing is the best way people can protect themselves from the spread of COVID-19 but it's not always possible to do so.

When that is the case, wearing face masks will give people a level of protection but the masks must be worn correctly.

Here are some tips:

- Wash your hands before and after

ter you touch your mask

- Never use a damaged or dirty mask
- Make sure your mask does not have holes or a valve

- Ensure your mask covers your mouth, nose and chin, and that there are no gaps on the sides

- Do not touch your mask while wearing it

- Change your mask if it gets

visibly dirty or wet while you are wearing it

- Remove your mask by unhooking the ear straps and pulling it away from your face

- Wash reusable fabric masks in hot, soapy water after each use

- Store reusable fabric masks in resealable bags when you're not using them.

David to stand as council candidate

David Rooks need look no further than his backyard to see Phillip Island's sometimes opposing forces.

His five-acre Ventnor property – complete with chooks, alpacas and bee hives – sits snugly amidst scenic rolling farmland.

But not far off there are new housing subdivisions skirting Cowes and Ventnor town boundaries.

"It's a difficult balance on Phillip Island because there are competing forces between the environment and human development," the 51-year-old father-of-two says.

"I think by maintaining town boundaries as they currently are it allows us to protect farms, and the environment, while we can focus on keeping the character of towns within development."

Ensuring this balance is one of the reasons David has decided to become a candidate in this year's Bass Coast Shire council elections, standing in the Island Ward.

In many ways his career and community work has also given him an insight into navigating seemingly conflicting issues.

Princess Kate

Before he moved to the island two decades ago, David worked in tourism, initially as a Contiki tour guide, later as an activities supervisor for a posh hotel in Port Douglas, before he switched gears and worked in human resources, largely for the building industry.

Having grown up holidaying on the island, he and his wife Bhavani (who also grew up holidaying here) moved to Cowes in 2000, when David again had a career change.

After his third round of university study, he became a primary teacher at San Remo, Newhaven and Koo Wee Rup schools.

And if his resume wasn't varied enough, for the past decade he has worked in events, initially in his own



Ventnor's David Rooks is standing as a candidate in the upcoming council elections. He believes maintaining town boundaries is important as they are will protect the island while still valuing industries such as farming.

company and for the past seven years for the Event Operations Group in the Cowes Concourse.

While Coronavirus has currently frozen much of the work, it's a job that has taken him around the world.

"I have taken myself to Wimbledon for two years."

Any celebrities or big names? Yes, he says, brushing shoulders – but not talking with – the likes of Kate Middleton to tennis ace Boris Becker.

Having a job in events, David says, means he works intensely for up to 26 weeks of the year, before having chunks of free time.

"If I'm elected to council my work will decrease. My commitment will be to council," says David, who admits he's "highly organised".

"I like the fact I've done a variety of work over my career. I see it as a positive. It gives me a greater understanding of our community because I've

been involved in so many different industries."

Community

If David's CV is varied, his community work is even more eclectic.

With two daughters, Isabel, 17 and Jasmine, 19, for three years he was president of the Phillip Island Kindergarten when the girls were young, navigating limited resources with increasing demand.

David was on Cowes Primary's school council for a year, then president of Scouts for three years, helping fundraise and expand infrastructure.

A keen tennis player, he is currently president of the tennis club and for the past four years has been president of Phillip Island Landcare, overseeing 1000 members and helping to plant 5000 trees across the island annually.

Bhavani is the head of Totally Renewable Phillip Island, while Isabel represents Phillip Island on Bass Coast Shire's climate change committee.

He says it's through his career and community volunteering he decided to stand for council.

"I want to be part of the future planning of Phillip Island, to protect and enhance our community assets – tourism, business, farming, people, and the environment.

"It's about the balance between the community, economy and environment."

Independent

David is standing as an independent, describing his style as "pragmatic".

"I'm a Libra, I balance the scales."

He says he is not limiting his election platform to a few issues, but wants to take a broad approach, particularly supporting community assets.

He supports the creation of the proposed sports hub on the carnival land, more cycling tracks, the planned new Cowes Cultural Centre, and a skate park – although he "doesn't have enough information" to make a choice about where it should be located.

He also supports the proposed new transfer station on Gap Road, but adds it should have a "tip shop", offering unwanted items to shoppers.

He opposes AGL plans for a floating

gas terminal in Western Port Bay, adding he would continue council's position of advocating to state and Federal government for support as "climate change affects our island".

David is an advocate of the shire's Visitor Economy Strategy, given it states "the environment underpins our economy".

"Maintaining our town boundaries will be a key goal of mine."

On the issue of whether a car ferry terminal should be built at the Cowes jetty, he says he understands the importance of the ferry for tourism "but I have concerns on it negatively impacting on existing community assets – the north-facing beaches".

"I'm not saying yes or no, but I want to protect community assets that are here now."

"Beaches are one of our richest community assets and are open to so many activities, so it's important they remain safe for everyone to enjoy, humans, dogs and wildlife."

He believes speed limits should be reduced after dusk to protect wildlife.

David is determined not to take an aggressive, headline-making approach to council.

"I have a calm and consultative disposition. I like to work on building relationships to get the best outcome."

"Having already worked in the community and across various industries I have developed the skills to work with all people and their issues."

"Balance can be difficult so I stand back, plan, read, and think. If I'm elected, I'd work with council staff, they are there for research and support."

"Councillors' role is to see the bigger picture and the community needs to distinguish between their role and that of shire staff."

"I like to see myself as working as a professional, who comes with business and personal ethics."

Contact David at: www.david-rooks.webnode.com/, Facebook, [david@eventsupport.com.au](https://www.facebook.com/david.eventsupport.com.au) or 0418 115 935.



Pile repair work has started on the Cowes Jetty with steel cross beams also being installed. New handrails and asphalt on the walkway are part of the \$1.4 million upgrade.

Cowes Jetty upgrade finally underway

Works to upgrade the Cowes Jetty have started after money was promised for the project in last year's state government budget.

The \$1.4 million upgrade is designed to improve accessibility and reinstate emergency vehicle access on the jetty, which was originally built in 1870.

Contractors have started pile repair works and offsite fabrication of steel crosshead support beams is underway. Crews have also started work on the northern low landing to improve low tide access for the ferry and other vessels.

A new handrail is being installed on the eastern side of the pier, and the jetty walkway will be upgraded with new asphalt.

The government said once complete, the upgrades will allow easier access to the jetty for emergency

vehicles. When the steel crosshead support beams are installed, the stronger jetty will allow for a higher load capacity for vehicles.

The Jetty will remain open throughout construction, as many of the improvements are focused on strengthening underneath the jetty. Fishing, walking, and boating from the jetty will continue, along with the available Ferry services.

The project is funded through the \$47.2 million announced for the Better Boating Fund in the 2019/20 budget.

At the time, the government said the money would fund the removal of boat ramp parking and launching fees and upgraded ramps at Cowes and Rhyll.

For more information, go to www.betterboating.vic.gov.au.

RSL rewards Bruce

Bruce Procter is the recipient of the 2020 Phillip Island RSL ANZAC Community Award

Since 2014 the ANZAC Community Award has been presented at the 11am ANZAC Day Service. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions this did not happen.

Three months later Bruce was recognized at a small gathering at the RSL.

Prior to his retirement over three decades ago, Bruce headed Australia Post, in Cowes.

For 37 continuous years, before and after retirement, Bruce tirelessly involved himself in actively supporting numerous not-for-profit community groups in the district.

He has made, and continues to make, an outstanding contribution as a volunteer in our local community.

He is a veteran and a 20-year member of the PIRSL.

He has filled the role of President, Secretary, Co-ordinator, Chair, and Committee Member for many years.

Bruce's community achievements are numerous, including being presented with life membership by several organisations.

He has been a Director of the Bendigo Community Bank for 16 years, a Director of Bass Coast Health Hospital and founding member of the Advisory Council for 18 years; and is a former Warley Hospital Board member and president.

He's been actively involved in Lions for over 20 years and is a member of the Historical Society and still volunteering over a twenty year period.

Bruce is a dedicated member of the Masonic Lodge for nearly fifty years and has assisted in raising thousands of dollars for many causes. He is always at the forefront contributing to community groups and activities making the island a better place to be.

Bruce has contributed tens of thousands of volunteer hours. He believes "the first hundred years are the hardest".

Bruce's daughter Lynn Missen and last year's recipient Cheryl Overton were present when President Greg



Chris Thompson (President Elect), with Bruce Procter, this year's RSL ANZAC Community Award winner, Lynn Missen, and Greg Mead (President).



PIRSL Secretary Peter Paul congratulates Bruce Procter on his award.

Mead presented Bruce with his award and welcomed Bruce to "a wonderful and amazing group of Islanders who have been recognised previously for their selfless and inspiring Phillip Island community contributions".

Bruce said he was "extremely proud to be awarded this honour

and very humble in joining a group I have deeply respected."

President elect Chris Thompson concluded an enjoyable evening stating: "The PIRSL looks forward to the April 25 2021 ANZAC Community Award and recognizing another outstanding community contribution."

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Not so glam roundabouts

If natural environment is at the core of attractions for people to come to the Island, any chance, if roundabouts really are to be planted, that plants can be water wise natives? Isn't it a waste of effort, chemicals and water, with previously prettified roundabouts, to use annuals? Don't they make us look silly, just short duration bright colours, located where nobody can stop to admire? Natives are surely what we need. Or are new roundabouts designed as dual lane so that vehicles in the outside lane can stop to smell and admire the flowers?

Considering how big they are, how about angle parking around the circumference with fast food joint upstairs, on cantilevered platform, like a lighthouse? Please have a chuckle and don't take this seriously. And try to chuckle when you're in traffic round such big roundabout travelling slower than before roundabout. As petrol heads might duck and weave, remember this kind of roundabout is claimed safer than previously, maybe more accidents but lower speed, not so much damage. Is this a good result for \$10 million when so few inexplicable cause accidents previously? Won't there always be inexplicable bigger accidents, eventually?

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Sustainable future

The Age newspaper (21/7/20) has a double page spread asking why Australia is a global leader in extinctions of native fauna. Since colonisation at least 100 species of Australia's fauna and flora have been wiped out.

The Cowes Primary School may need a gymnasium, but I believe that we should be educating children to preserve every existing patch of natural vegetation, every area, however small suitable for habitat.

Instead of diminishing the area of bush, educate children to plant more native trees and shrubs. A changed mind set is required if we are to look forward to a sustainable future.

Jan Fleming, Surf Beach

How we manage waste is changing.

In the old days we'd either burn it (for those over 45 remember the

days of incinerators), export it or landfill it. The exporting option is being cut off by overseas countries. Landfill has negative effects on the environment and the state government charge a hefty per unit dollar for landfill dumped in the ground. Furthermore, within the Bass Coast Shire we have limited approved sites for landfill. Our best options now are reusing, recycling and repurposing our waste. The cost of these new options continues to drop as the processes improve and as our community recycles more. However for now, we need to understand there is a cost to protecting our environment.

David Rooks, Candidate for Island Ward

I am home

If you go to the FAQ page of the DHHS website, under the heading 'Property and Homes. 'I have more than one home. Can I choose which one I stay in?' it states: "If you have more than one residence you can choose which one to be your principle residence and you must stay there for the duration of the stay at home period."

I am very fortunate to have two residences and choose Phillip Island as my primary residence for the purposes of lockdown.

I do not rent this residence to holidaymakers or lend it to friends and family and live in it for at least one third of any given year.

I have been to Melbourne twice since March, (for medical reasons) and have followed all movement and isolation directives.

The second part of this DHHS FAQ states: "if your principal place of residence is in metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire then you must stay there".

As I have chosen Phillip Island as my primary residence, and can prove I have been here since mid-March, I am very much within my rights to stay put, in my nominated primary residence.

My husband is immune-compromised and in remote palliative care - NOT burdening Bass Coast Health.

My daughter lives in our other residence and works in an essential industry, so is in constant contact with others.

We are keeping to ourselves, grateful to our neighbours and friends on

the island watching out for us and supporting local business at every opportunity.

To those who say 'go home,' I am home, in the home that is safest for me, my family and the wider community.

Before making generalised accusations about who should and should not be on the Island, dig a little deeper and you might find things are not quite as you imagine.

Name and address supplied

Environmental tipping point

Environmental issues have been in the spotlight with the release of the interim review of the Federal Environmental laws (EPBC) Act.

The Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) lodged a submission to the review earlier this year stating: "We believe the Act has mainly focused on assessment and approval processes. As a result there has been insufficient focus on biodiversity and natural conservation. "Essentially, the Act has failed to protect species, habitat, water resources and natural places and is not up to the challenge of reducing Australia's climate pollution or assisting nature to adapt to climate change."

"Marine ecosystems are damaged and under constant threat from exploitation."

In handing down the interim report last week the chair of the review Graeme Samuel stated: "The EPBC Act is ineffective. It does not enable the Commonwealth to protect and conserve environmental matters that are important for the nation."

Further the report's first lines are stark: "Australia's natural environment and iconic places are in an overall state of decline and are under increasing threat. The current environmental trajectory is unsustainable."

Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley said the government would develop national environmental standards and would devolve responsibility for environmental approvals to state governments.

Meanwhile the current AGL EES review is being considered for the proposed gas plant in Western Port.

It is a concern that AGL and the State Planning Minister are moving ahead with community consultation

during the pandemic, while the problems with the existing Federal laws are in the spotlight.

We believe the EES should be immediately halted.

PICS have been working with Environment Victoria and other environmental groups in an alliance in evaluating the reports and preparing responses. With around 10,000 pages of reports the task of responding is significant and the timeframe for responding is short.

The groups are working in difficult pandemic circumstances that do not allow meetings in public or even private homes. We do believe the communities that will be adversely affected by the AGL proposal deserve to be heard and respected.

Jeff Nottle, PICS President

Bike path support

A more direct bike path from Cowes to Rhyll, has been talked about for years, it's good to see the Shire finally doing something about it and I congratulate them. Riding along the road is a danger to all cyclists and it's a wonder somebody hasn't been killed, as the road is barely wide enough in places, for two cars passing. So what if we have to lose a bit of scrub, it's better than losing somebody's life. Most of the wildlife killed on this road are wallabies and they were introduced to the island and allowed to breed up and run wild, so you would expect a few fatalities. I think a bike path from Cowes to Rhyll is a must and will encourage people to get out and exercise and leave their cars at home.

Jack Sheppard, Rhyll

Cowes-Rhyll Shared Path Welcome

The Phillip Island Bicycle User Group (BUG) welcomes the Bass Coast Shire's extension of the off-road shared path being constructed on the north side of Oswin Roberts Reserve on the Cowes-Rhyll Road. This link will join up two existing shared paths and will eventually enable cyclists and pedestrians to travel from Rhyll to Cowes more safely.

The construction of this link is supported by Council's Bicycle Infrastructure Action Plan as well as Victoria's Trails Strategy 2013-23.

While it is regrettable that some

vegetation has to be removed, the Council is off-setting this by new vegetation planting in the Shire.

The need for this particular path was established as part of Council's Aspirational Pathways Network plan, which identified some fifty-four projects. The path is needed for the safety of school students who traditionally cycle to school and return daily from Rhyll to Cowes, as well as casual pedestrians and cyclists. When complete, this pathways plan will not only lead to improved safety for walkers and cyclists, but will also decrease the dependency on motor vehicle transport, which is a goal of both the Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study and the Totally Renewable Phillip Island report that was recently launched.

More and more, Phillip Island is becoming a destination for cycling tourism, which adds to the local economy.

Other shared path projects the BUG is advocating for include a path from Cowes to the Penguin Parade and the Nobbies, a continuous path along the southern clifftops of the island and the missing link near Five Ways that will enable continuous off-road travel from Smiths Beach to the north of the island. Council and the Phillip Island Nature Park are both supportive of these projects, and it is believed they are working through the planning and funding issues involved.

The BUG organises rides for members every Wednesday and Sunday, with new riders welcome, no matter how slow you think you are. See our webpage or Facebook for details.

Don Turner, President, Phillip Island Bicycle Users Group

Pick up after your dog

Living on the Seagrove Estate area it is commendable to see quite a number of the residents walking their dogs whilst exercising and walking themselves too. But unfortunately some of these people allow their dogs to leave their dogs droppings anywhere on the pavement or on grass verges ... please can we put up a number of signs to tell owners to pick up their dogs mess and possibly get council to put up dispensers with suitable bags for the dogs walkers to utilise.

Terry Corrie, Cowes

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DEATHS

BAIRD, Robert 'Bob':
Died peacefully at
Cowes, Phillip Island,
25/07/2020 aged
92 years.
A unique man, who will
be sorely missed
by many family
and friends.
A celebration of his
life will be held when
feasible.



Mrs Pearl Martin
Service Details: F3240
Australian Army

The President,
Committee, Members,
Management and
Staff of the Phillip
Island RSL Sub-
Branch regret the
passing of Pearl
Martin, a respected
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CHURCH NOTICES

Members should check their
church websites for details of
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www.cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php

[www.facebook.com/
pages/St-Johns-Uniting-
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**NARCOTICS
ANONYMOUS:**
Weekly meetings Bass
Coast Shire: Cowes
- Sunday 5-6pm, St
Philip's Church (opp.
Coles); Wonthaggi -
Friday 11am, Salvation
Army Hall (149
McKenzie St.). Phone
1300 652 820 or visit
na.org.au

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

Details about the application:

The land affected by the application is located at:
110 Ventnor Road, Cowes VIC 3922.

The application is for a permit to: **Use and development of the land for the purpose of an Emergency services facility (fire station) in LDRZ, removal of Native Vegetation pursuant to Clause 52.17 and 42.02-2, Signage and creation of access to a road in a Road Zone Category 1.**

The applicant for the permit is: **Country Fire Authority/Sebastien Delamare, Hellier McFarland.**

The application reference number is: **200045**
You may look at the application and any
documents that support the application by visiting
Council's website at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/
planningads](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/planningads)

Any person who may be affected by the
granting of the permit may object or make other
submissions to the responsible authority.

Council collects and holds this Personal
Information to comply with the Planning and
Environment Act 1987 and the Privacy and Data
Protection Act 2014 (Vic).

An objection must be sent to the Responsible
Authority and include the reasons for the
objection, and state how the objector would be
affected, in writing, addressed to Bass Coast Shire
Council, P.O. Box 118, Wonthaggi Vic 3995 or email
basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au

The responsible authority must make a copy
of every objection available for any person to
inspect until the end of the period during which an
application may be made for review of a decision
on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the
application before **14 August 2020.**

If you object, the responsible authority will tell
you its decision.

BIRTHS



Welcome Billie

Billie Laura Ambler, born July 13, 2020 at Won-
thaggi Hospital, to Sean and Kelly Ambler. A
beautiful little sister for Charlie.

PUBLIC NOTICES

*"Let the
word of
Christ dwell
in you richly
in all
wisdom..."*
*Colossians 3:16,
KJV*

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES
The Advertiser conducts its
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Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications
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(2 x Positions) Full Time Fixed Term
- Closes 7/8/20

Wound Care Nurse
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Physiotherapist - Grade 2
Full Time - Closes 31/7/20

**Registered Nurse - District Nursing
and Palliative Care**
(2 x Positions) Part Time Fixed Term
- Closes 31/7/20

Physiotherapist - Grade 3, Team Leader
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For full position details, a position
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t 5671 3333 f 5671 3300
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The contract on offer is for a twelve (12)
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**All persons undertaking cleaning at the
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Cleaning duties must be undertaken after
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Additional cleaning duties are required to be
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Applications close Friday 31st July 2020.
All enquiries (between 10 am & 4 pm) to:
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U14s Blue – Phillip Island's Yianni Caffieri with the ball and Oliver Hibbert.



U14s Blue team listen intently to their coach's instruction during half time against Wonthaggi.

Round 1 begins

From page 24

Eden Goldsbury seemed to be everywhere, his trademark shock of sun-bleached hair clearly visible across the ground, as were the fluoro boots of Noah Muller and Daniel Caffieri.

Courageous tackles from Alex Barbarti and Sonny Merryfull, plus the run and carry of Ollie Hibbert were inspirational.

Jake Hughes goaled with seconds to go, and the Blues went into the quarter time huddle with two goals on the scoreboard to zip.

In the second term the Blues picked up where they left off, with most of the play locked in their forward fifty.

Caffa slotted his second goal from a set shot right in front, but again the Blues missed too many opportunities with six kicks sliding through for a minor score.

Ryder Evans took a powerful mark in front of goal but although outside his normal scoring range, the monster kick fell just short.

In the final moments a courageous Will Peppard cleared the ball from centre half back, finding Max Taylor who marked, turned and kicked to Ollie Hibbert, himself playing on to Joel Robinson who marked and goaled – a scintillating passage of play that elicited cheers and horn honks from around the ground.

The game had turned more physical, with Ziggy Bowman Kissane taken high and Tama Nihver-Tenali almost having his head removed.

But the Blues stuck to their skills-based brand of footy, and at half time the margin had extended to thirty points with Wonthaggi still yet to open their account on the scoreboard.

The second half was more of the same, with the boys hitting targets by hand and foot, keeping the shellshocked Power out of the game with old fashioned selfless team play in what was surely their best quarter of football for the year.

Ziggy Bowman Kissane brought the crowd to its feet when his kick-off the ground scuttled through for a goal, his first in AFL since being lured to the Blues from soccer with promises of free Koala Packs for life from Kristo's Charcoal Rotisserie.

Ziggy then combined with Ollie Hibbert who kicked another two goals, and at the final break the



Riley Brinkman from U14 Red's Island team takes a secure mark, against the Kilby Bass side on Sunday at Cowes oval.

Blues had stretched the margin to a devastating fifty points to zero.

The Blues started the fourth quarter well but had lost some intensity, and after Goldsbury, Russell and Kennedy all missed their kicks at goal the Power scored against the run of play.

It energised the local team who were back in the contest, putting the Blues defence under serious pressure.

Will Peppard led his backs with gutsy determination, stopping two certain goals, and a flashing run up the wing from Noah Forrest brought the ball back into the attacking fifty.

Goals to Tama, Robinson and Hibbert put paid to any Power resurgence, and a superb pickup and kick through the big sticks from Yianni Caffieri finished the game with style.

The U14 Blues disconnected the Power today and will return to the Island for their home game against an improved Tarwin Lower next Sunday.

With the likely return of their upgraded "bionic" Captain Sav and "deadlift" Anosh they will have high hopes of meeting the Phillip Island Reds the following week with their winning streak intact.

Final Score: PIFNC Blue 11.12 (78) def Wonthaggi Power 1.0 (6)

What's Hot

Will Peppard, Tama Nihiver-Tenali, Joel Robinson, Oliver Hibbert, Sonny Merryfull, Eden Goldsbury.

The Wonthaggi Oval surface was as smooth as a billiard table.

What's Not

The Wonthaggi Social Rooms, which look like a big brown toilet block.

Simon Russell's questionable footwear, given that the Wonthaggi Oval is sponsored by Wrench's Footwear, the U14 players took up a collection after the match and presented him with a gift voucher for a pair of Skechers.

Goal Kickers: Oliver Hibbert (3), Daniel Caffieri (2), Joel Robinson (2), Yianni Caffieri (1), Jake Hughes (1), Tama Nihver-Tenali (1), Ziggy Bowman Kissane (1).

U14 Red vs Kilby Bass

Bright sunshine greeted the new coaching partnership of O'Brien and Duggan as they took the reins for the



U10s Blue Island team played at Wonthaggi this week, pictured is Brain Parry going up in the ruck with Brinkley Nicolaci and Roy Patterson.

first game of Season 2020.

The local Derby of Phillip Island vs Kilby Bass was underway with the Red Army displaying a thirst for the contest as they moved the ball in waves down the ground like a swarming pack of wild African Hunting Dogs.

Goals were on the menu with the silky James Lewis kicking truly in the opening stanza.

Newly crowned captain, Zac Walker was providing great drive from the ruck, ably supported by the ferocious Darcy Thompson and the elusive Oscar Dean who was having a day out in the forward line.

The second quarter saw Fletcher Hill and Lincoln Harris ratchet up the pressure.

Coach O'Brien implored his young charges to take their opportunities.

Six points in the second quarter could have cost a lesser team, but this outfit is resilient and strong and late goals to the mobile Tim Niven and deceptively quick Cashman almost brought Kilby Bass to its knees.

The second half was pure football. Jumping Jack Hosking dished an early one, Beau Davies danced around opponents, Riley Brinkman, Max Arceo, Cha Fischer and Mighty Max Kelsey all stepped up and found plenty of the footy in the heavy throng of Derby Footy.

Jack Huther resembled a mini Luke Hodge down back and the Rhyll Fisherman Boof and George repelled every attack that came their way.

Sonny Mac showed great speed all day whilst Callum Niven kicked truly to register another major.

The final quarter saw an avalanche of goals for the Red warriors, Charlie O'Garey suffering acute leather poisoning and Finn "The Ox" O'Brien attacking the footy with gusto helping their team to a comfortable first up victory.

U12 Red vs Kilby Bass

What a welcome sight to see junior football back and all players enjoying themselves out on the ground.

What the Island lacked in height, they made up in determination against the taller Kilby Bass side.

The Island mid field dominated early and a great first goal was kicked by Lachlan Eastwood to get the Island off to a great start.

The second term saw the backline stay strong, with great running and defence, allowing the Island team to kick many goals.

After half time Bass started to get into the contest, making the Island work hard for every possession, but the Island managed to stay strong and maintain the lead throughout the game.

Overall, it was a great competitive match between the two teams.

Best players on the day: Charlie Fischer, Sam O'Garey, Ayden Fawaz, Lachlan Eastwood, Duke Lawrence

and Xavier Williams.

Goal Kickers: Lachlan Eastwood (2), Sam O'Garey (2), Harry Arceo (1) and Blake Murphy (1).

U12 Blue vs Wonthaggi

The Phillip Island Bulldogs Under 12 Blues travelled away to play Wonthaggi on Sunday morning.

This week the seniors stepped up to lead the team.

Match mentions go to Jack Mascaros for his running; Zach Hughes for his tackling; and Connor Macmillan (match captain) and Harrison Carlson for their speed and strong attack.

Tommy Newman put his body to the opponent and played a brilliant game. Riley Herbert also dug in and never gave up the chase on the ball.

All round great tackling shown, as asked for by the coach.

Whilst the Wonthaggi team kept the boys on their toes, the Bulldog blues showed strong team spirit and secured a comfortable win.

Well done Bulldogs.

U10 Red vs Wonthaggi

Finally, round one of the new footy season has arrived and the under 10 red bulldog pups were greeted with perfect weather.

But, with a heavy dew, conditions were slippery, so the coaching staff made sure the kids warmed up with plenty of ground ball drills.

Right from the first bounce the intensity level went through the roof and before long the reds had two goals on the board including one incredible banana kick from the boundary line.

The young team was really playing beyond their years, linking up with creative handballs and hitting up targets with pinpoint passes.

The second quarter saw Kilcunda Bass starting like champions, getting the ball into their forward 50 on several occasions.

However, the Bulldog defence stood tall and the young Panthers could only manage one behind for their brave efforts.

The third quarter started well for the reds with an early goal, but the Panthers responded by pumping the ball forward and once again the red's defence was tested and once again, they held firm, repelling the attacks confidently.

Captain Blake Lawrence was leading by example, picking up many



U12s Red, Charlie Fischer scoops the ball and Max Arceo assists, before a fast running Kilby Bass team catches them.



He's inspired many a young Phillip Island footballer, and now Sam Docherty is celebrating his 100th AFL match. This photo was taken in 2016 when Sam spent an hour or so at the Cowes footy oval playing kick to kick with some local youngsters. The young footballers (pictured) with Sam are Yianni and Daniel Caffieri, and their small cousin Yianni; Charlie and Sam O'Garey, Ollie Duggan, and Nathan Patch.

Milestone 100th game for Sam

From page 1

His father Eddie was an Island premiership player, a coach of multiple teams, and a PIFNC life member; mother Annabel served on many a football committee; and brother Josh was a senior player, and a member of the Island's 2014 premiership team against Dalyston, named as one of the best on ground on the day.

Tragically, Eddie passed away very suddenly, just as Sam's stellar career at Carlton was beginning.

Sam cites his major career highlight, even to this day, as running out in his first game with the Blues in front of a crowd of 68,000, against Collingwood in 2014, wearing the Carlton uniform proudly in memory of his father's connection with the club.

By 2016 Sam's career was blossoming beautifully. He was promoted to the Carlton leadership group, and awards were regularly coming his way.

He was named the John Nicholls medallist in 2016; and took out the Best and Fairest at Carlton in the same year.

All Australian selection

A major accolade in 2017 saw Sam selected in the prestigious All Australian side, the first Carlton player to be recognised at national level since Marc Murphy and Chris Judd were named in 2011.

This honour recognised an outstanding season, his fourth with Carlton, during which he came first in the League for marks (199) and kicks (460).

He had featured in all 22 matches in 2017, mounting up career highs including 39 disposals against Sydney in Round 6 and 15 marks against Hawthorn in Round 22.

However, rough waters lay ahead. Sam's burgeoning football career was to be devastatingly and suddenly interrupted at the start of 2018, when an ACL injury ruled him out for the entire year.

It was a terrible blow, but a silver lining during this period emerged through heavy involvement with Carlton's coaching team throughout the 2018 season.

Back at peak fitness, and ready to take his place in the side in 2019 as co-captain of the team, in a further blow, Sam's knee buckled again, and he was sidelined for another year.

Fast forward to 2020 and Sam is fully recovered and relieved to have finally celebrated the weekend's 100 game milestone.

Saturday was a time to reflect, he recalled on Monday, made special by messages of support from near and far. Carlton recognised the hard-earned milestone with a 100-game banner for Sam to run through.

And a video from home organised



It's been a long road to his 100th AFL game for Sam Docherty, whose career was interrupted for two years due to injury. Sam is pictured here with his mum Annabel and wife Natalie Cini, at the Carlton Football Club presentation night at which he took out Carlton's best and fairest award.

by his wife Natalie made his day.

With family a thousand miles away, and unable to share this special occasion because of interstate lockdowns, the video was a wonderful surprise, Sam said.

By the end of the game, he was exhausted, and very relieved it was all behind him.

"It was a long time coming," he quipped.

When asked to describe the highlights of his football career to date, Sam does not hesitate.

"Being able to run out on to the ground in Carlton's colours, and to be part of the team that dad loved, is my highlight. Dad was a die-hard supporter. He loved Carlton and I am so proud to wear the jumper in his memory."

It's the same with low lights.

Losing his father at such a young age, at the beginning of his Carlton career, was extremely tough.

"But I have come out of that time with resilience, which has helped me deal with the injuries I have had.

"I have not been the most lucky player. I've missed two years of footy. There's been operations.

"But the bright side is that I have been able to come back. I have never lost confidence that I could return, and my knee now feels great.

"I think that the resilience I developed has helped me a lot. Going into the season this year I mentally felt it would hold up, and it has."

An unsettled year

The Covid virus has resulted in an unsettled time for all AFL players, Sam included. In the past four weeks, he has lived in three different states.

Carlton flew from Victoria into quarantine in Queensland last

month and played three AFL games, with just five free days; and has now flown to Perth into yet another 14-day full quarantine period.

"It sounds wonderful, but we are in full lockdown.

"Although the weather is better than home," adds Sam.

Phillip Island days

Sam fondly recalls his younger days, and the Club and volunteers who helped hone his footy skills.

His strong memory is the amount of time he spent at the footy club, and the fact that he loved it.

He says he spent half of his waking time when he was small at the club waiting for an involved Eddie, who over the years coached the Under 15s, the Under 18s and the Reserves, and served on many footy committees.

"I loved my junior days there. I got to play some senior football too.

"The best thing for me was training and playing with Josh and my mates. I absolutely loved it.

"Dad was the most influential person on my game. So many others at the Club were too."

One final question

With a thriving and enthusiastic PIFNC junior list, numbering in hundreds, we asked Sam if he had any advice to give these young players, who are aspiring to one day follow in his footsteps.

"Sometimes you feel you are a long way from the dream, located on Phillip Island," Sam said.

"But knuckle down, train hard, try out for regional footy, and take any opportunities offered on the way.

"I am an example of that. If I can do it, you can too."

It has been another slow week and apart from the armada of boats out looking for the elusive barrel bluefin there has not been a lot of people fishing in the bay or people standing on the jetties.

We have seen a few on the surf beaches but with a couple of days with big swell there was a bit of weed blown in and difficult to fish at times.

Wherever you are fishing in a boat the draughtboards will keep you busy and that's why it pays to check your baits often.

They will just sit on the bait and chew away and you won't always know they are there until you do a bait check.

It's just part of winter fishing and not a lot you can do other than move, however we are getting reports all the way up to Lang Lang now, there will be more around the bay entrances and patchy in the bay itself.

For the middle of winter, the winds have mostly been perfect with plenty of patches of sunshine. The daylight hours have increased noticeably over the last couple of weeks and it won't be long before the land-based squid areas will be busy in the evenings with people getting their snapper baits.

While fishing is a little slow it's time to get ready and at the shop, we are running weekly auctions. Those who follow us on Facebook will know what I am talking about. For those who don't, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights we have an online auction between 6.30 and 9pm, there have been plenty of customers that have picked up a bargain or two and it's a bit of fun.

We also include postage for the winning bidder if they want it delivered to their door.

We are always looking at ideas to include those who don't have Facebook and are open to ideas that our customers might have.

We also have other specials during the week and will start our online competitions once people get out fishing with regular reports.

We are getting reports from those in the bay of the usual whiting, calamari and snapper but not too many and mixed sizes this week.

All that gave us reports had the same message, be prepared to look around if you want a feed of fish.

As is always the case through winter, the fish are there but just don't seem to feed as often and are harder to find.

You will encounter plenty of un-

wanted fish while fishing at the moment but those successful told us just to persevere and something will come along.

There is one thing consistent with all catches over the cooler months and that's the quality of what you catch.

Not often do you catch small or undersize fish, they are usually better quality, not necessarily in length but in weight.

The best reports this week came from the Cowes side of the bay and down as far as Cat Bay for whiting and calamari.

The reports from the San Remo side came in and while the quality was similar the numbers weren't as good.

The reports are coming from the usual spots you would expect to catch calamari or whiting but the better spot is different every time we get a report.

Flathead offshore are as difficult as the rest of the fish at the moment but just because you find them in one spot one day it won't mean they are in that spot next time and nothing changes. Pick an area and work it in a grid of short drifts until you find them.

Those who caught them during the week said the sizes were very mixed and more went back into the water than into the esky.

It's worth the effort to head towards the windmills on the better days with a couple of reports of quality gummies and even a couple of small snapper.

The snapper season is just around the corner and it won't be long until the reports start to come in, once the current situation with the virus settles and the weather warms up a bit of course.

When you do head out for an early season snapper fish don't forget it's the start not the end of the season.

Don't just sit there and wait for the hit and run, complaining that small fish are just picking at your baits. We get plenty of reports of solid 6kg plus snapper that was originally ignored as a nuisance flathead bite.

If you are someone that uses circle hooks only, I would be looking at least one rig out with normal octopus-style and try and hook a few of these smaller bites, you might just be surprised.

We now have a regular local supply of octopus heads which not only make excellent snapper and gummy baits, but small strips also make great bait for whiting.

Phillip Island golf

Tuesday, July 21 – Men's Par: Winner was Bill Lang H/c (19) with +4 on a countback from Michael Coghlan H/c (21) and Glenn McInnes H/c (15) also with +4.

9 Hole Stableford competition winner was Brian Baker H/c (20) with 22 points from David Scrase H/c (30) with 21 points.

Wednesday, July 22 – Ladies 18 Hole Stroke – Monthly Medal Sponsored by EMG Consulting.

A Grade winner – Rhonda Boyd H/c (21) with 74 nett.

B Grade winner and Monthly Medal winner – Megan Havers H/c (25) with 70 nett.

C Grade winner – Maria Kirwan H/c (41) with 70 nett.

Putting winner was Judy Henry with 28 putts.

9 Hole competition winner was Charlene Duthie H/c (38) with 15 points.

Thursday, July 23 – Men's and Ladies Stableford: Winner was Bernie

Billman H/c (26) with 40 points from Fred Panozzo H/c (16) with 39 points.

9 Hole competition winner was Ron Hateley with 21 points from Brian Carvell with 20 points.

Saturday, July 25 – Men's 18 Holes Stableford: Winner was Trevor Read H/c (20) with 43 points from Mark Jamieson H/c (14) with 41 points on a countback from David Nicoll H/c (18) also with 41 points.

Ladies competition – Ladies 18 Holes Stableford: Winner was Helen Coghlan H/c (16) with 41 points from Debra Orr H/c (13) with 38 points.

Men's and Ladies – 9 Holes Stableford: 9 Hole winner was Brendan Marrinon H/c (33) with 20 points from Lyn Dunne H/c (45) with 19 points.

Sunday, July 26 – Men's 18 Holes Stableford: Winner was Ron Davies H/c (17) with 36 points from John Wiseman H/c (15) with 33 points.

Ladies competition – Ladies 18 Holes Stableford: Winner was Judy Magill H/c (25) with 40 points from Debra Orr H/c (14) with 34 points.

Tenpin bowling

2's Company: 1st on 5.5pts King Pins, 2nd on 4pts Strike Me Down and 3rd on 4pts Pinheads.

ABL: 1st on 30pts Dreamers, 2nd on 23.5pts Fairlanes and 3rd on 22pts Storm.

Business Early: 1st on 4pts ANZ, 2nd on 4pts Island Spa Hire, 3rd on 4pts Ballz Deep and 4th on 3pts U Drive Me Batty.

Business Late: 1st on 5pts Strike

Me Down, 2nd on 4pts I Hit One, 3rd on 3pts S & R Clarke Auto and 4th – Adventure Resort.

Top Bowlers this week are:

157 – Jennifer Murphey.

156 – Barbara Burns.

151 – Chloe Kent.

202 – Scott Lynch.

191 – Steve Clarke.

186 – Merv Long.

Limited team and individual places still available across leagues. Contact us on 5952 3977 to secure your spot!



Surfers sunrise

Out for an early morning surf, Brendan Walsh captured this sunrise over Smiths Beach.

Round 1 begins

U16 vs Killy Bass

Huge win for the Phillip Island Under 16s, with Coach Griffio presenting a team that was relentless and ferocious on its attack on the footy.

A local derby in its purest sense with a number of players transferring across to Killy Bass over the summer, the game was played as it should be – mates from all parts of the area having fun no matter what school or team they played for.

Phillip Island got off to a great start with Finn Cashman providing an explosive run off half back and Tully Dickie bringing his long kicking skills to the fore.

In a tight start the Island went in three goals up at quarter time.

Griffio asked his charges to “run them off their legs” and in the second quarter the Island charged forward in waves as the on-field Generals Jack Pappas and Benny Boy Taylor made the most of every contest.

What was supposed to be a tight tussle was turning strongly in the Island’s favour with a healthy lead at half time.

The second half saw more of the same, great support being provided by the Under 14s replacement squad and exceptional footy being played by the likes of Blake Olarshaw, Dozer Peppard and Jett McMillan saw the Island register a stirring victory.

It was great to see both teams enjoy each other’s company after the game, a great sign for the whole island during these difficult times.



U12s Blue – Phillip Island’s Jack Mascaros with Wonthaggi’s Malachi Ori hot on his trail.

U14 Blue vs Wonthaggi

It was with some trepidation that the U14 Blues headed down to Wonthaggi to face the reigning premiers.

With a fearsome reputation as a side of big lads and tough tacklers, the Wonthaggi Power had shaped up as a hoodoo side for Coach GaBierdomenico’s young chargers.

The Blues were also to be without their star captain Leo Savona (out for a week getting a new bionic leg fitted) and power forward

Anosh Azizi (at a training camp for the Olympic weightlifting team), adding to the boys’ tensions.

The coaches managed to keep a lid on the nerves during the morning warmup, and as the Blues ran through their paces, they looked sharp and eager for the match ahead.

The atmosphere was electric as the two sides took to the oval under a cloudy sky and with a stiff breeze blowing across the ground.

The fears of the Power’s strength were well founded, with much of

the early play locked in their forward half, a gruelling arm wrestle with neither team getting the upper hand.

It wasn’t until the twelfth minute that Daniel Caffieri scored against the run of play.

Then the Blues switched on. It was like GaBierdomenico had inserted an extra set of batteries as all of a sudden, the intensity lifted, and the boys started to play in the dominant fashion of the previous week.

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