

# PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

*Your Community Voice!*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

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## Love our local!

Local businesses have reopened their doors and need our support more than ever. There's never been a more important time to shop locally. Phillip Island Winery is delighted to be open again, and Nick Say, seen here serving Deb Robinson and Linnie Williams, said their menu would continue to focus on locally sourced produce and beautiful Australian wines. We visit more local businesses in our new Back in Business section on page 11.

## Newhaven road plans are "not justified"

Regional Roads Victoria's proposed road upgrades for Newhaven are a costly "over-kill", with no tangible benefits, according to a peak conservation group.

The Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) in a submission says RRV's four-lane plans for Newhaven and San Remo would "have a very significant impact on the Newhaven character and the gateway to Phillip Island".

"The duplication of the road at Newhaven is inconsistent with the environmental and conservation significance of Phillip Island," the submission states.

PICS is the latest group to be highly critical of RRV's plans, with the new designs - yet to be funded - released last month including four lanes, two new roundabouts, compulsory land acquisition, even reclaiming a section of Western Port bay at San Remo.

Newhaven businesses, council candidates in the upcoming elections and the National Trust have been among those critical of the plans.

PICS president Jeff Nottle made a five-page submission to RRV saying instead of an "ad hoc piecemeal" road plan, the authority should instead look at the big picture.

*Continued page 6*

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I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, and I pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

Authorized: Ron Bauer PO BOX 996 Cowes VIC 3922

### BALLOT PAPER

#### HOW TO VOTE








- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 6 | JOBE, Jeni        |
| 3 | SILVA, Darrell    |
| 4 | BELSAR, Ash       |
| 5 | BARLOW, Mikhaela  |
| 8 | WHELAN, Michael   |
| 7 | ROOKS, David      |
| 2 | CERINI, Trish     |
| 1 | <b>BAUER, Ron</b> |

You must number every box

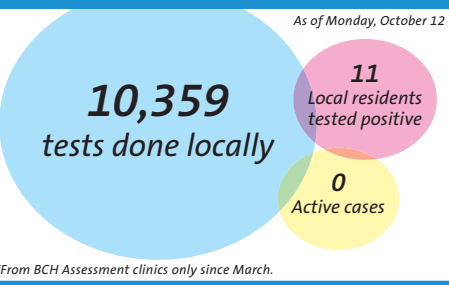


# PHILLIP ISLAND

7 day weather forecast

Wed/Oct14	Thu/Oct15	Fri/Oct16	Sat/Oct17	Sun/Oct18	Mon/Oct19	Tue/Oct20
						
PARTLY CLOUDY	SHOWERS INCREASING	POSSIBLE SHOWER	SHOWERS	SHOWER OR TWO	SHOWER OR TWO	PARTLY CLOUDY
11 19	15 22	10 18	11 18	11 16	11 15	12 16

## Bass Coast COVID-19 update\*



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Surf Beach residents opposing the erection of a wind turbine in their suburb have been told by Council they have “no power” to stop the project and the only authority that can intervene is the State Government.

# Turbine watch and wait

Surf Beach residents are holding their breath in a “waiting game”, following their bid to stop the erection of a residential wind turbine.

Last week the Advertiser spoke to the owner of the turbine Rob McKittrick who said he had no comment when asked whether he planned to pause work or progress the erection of the turbine, which he said measured 10.5 metres, under the height requirement triggering a planning permit.

“I have done everything council has asked me to do and more,” Mr McKittrick said.

“I can’t tell neighbours what they can and can’t do on their property.

“People feel how they feel re-

gardless of what I say or do.”

A Bass Coast Shire spokesman said they were unable – by law – to supply any updated information until October 24, due to the council election period policy.

However, residents have received a question and answer information sheet from the planning department that states planners have exhausted all avenues of action to stop the turbine’s erection.

“Council has no power available to it to address the proposed issues associated with the installation of the structure,” the Q&A sheet states.

“The only authority that can intervene to support and address the community’s concerns is the State Government through an amend-

ment to the Victorian Planning Provisions.

“To date, the State Government has declined to amend the Planning Provisions which would provide the mechanism for Council to manage the approval and enforcement process.

“Until Council is provided with further advice from the State Government, another agency, or information contrary to all advice received to date, we are unable to action this matter further.”

### Washing hands

The information sheet states Mr McKittrick had provided details to the shire on the dimensions, designs, specifications and tolerances of the wind turbine, which is

being independently reviewed and assessed.

“This documentation (whilst commercial in confidence) has been provided by the landowner in good faith,” the Q&A states.

Residents have called for the shire to use enforcement to stop the turbine’s erection.

“In the event the proposed turbine is constructed and is found to breach any stipulations – height, noise, commercial in nature, used for advertising purpose – Council will pursue any and all enforcement options available to ensure any breach is fully rectified.

“At this stage without any construction having taken place, there is not a situation that warrants the enactment of emergency action.”

# No new loo

There are no plans to replace the Exeloo that was removed from the main street of Cowes last week.

The public toilet on the corner of Thompson Avenue and Chapel Street was taken to the Grantville tip.

A Bass Coast Shire Council spokesperson said it was removed because the Cowes Transit Centre is now the main interchange for buses, taxis and all-day car parking.

“The transit centre has new public toilets and a changing

places facility.

“We also have public toilet facilities at Thompson Avenue and Findlay Street, all of which are within 500 metres of each other. There will be no replacement toilet for this site.”

The spokesperson said the site would be “reinstated, subject to contractor availability”.

When Bass Coast Shire Council installed the Exeloo on the busiest intersection in Cowes in 2011, it caused community uproar, and few will be sorry to see the infamous facility go.



The infamous Exeloo, originally installed in 2011 was removed last week and taken to the Grantville tip.



Bruce Kent



Clare Le Serve



Geoff Ellis

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2020 Council Election

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Making a Difference*

Authorised by Clare Le Serve, PO Box 50, Corinella 3984





In the first week of a 10-week hearing into AGL's gas plans for Western Port, the power company has already been found wanting, with the hearing committee seeking more information on dozens of key issues, from economic impact to safety concerns.

# AGL bay plans already found deficient

Phillip Island residents battling AGL's gas plans for Western Port this week settled in for a public inquiry running nearly three months. The launch of the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) hearing the AGL Environmental Effects Statement (EES) comes after more than 6000 submissions were lodged, including by local residents concerned about the economic, environmental, and social impacts to the island.

Phillip Island Conservation Society president Jeff Nottle said PICS members would operate a roster to monitor the hearing, which is expected to run about 10 weeks, with PICS presenting its submission in early December.

Mr Nottle said last month, in the lead up to the hearing, the IAC requested "substantially" more information from AGL.

He said AGL now had to provide more details about: marine ecology impacts including fish, economic impacts such as tourism jobs, climate change impacts, the legality of depositing waste water into Western Port and the impact of chlorinated and cooled water discharge into the bay, as well as safety risks including fire, explo-

sions, spills and pollution.

"It is astounding the 11,000 pages of reports released by AGL as part of the EES process raise so many issues identified by the Committee hearing the case, as well as for the objectors," Mr Nottle said.

"Clearly many sections of the AGL documentation were inadequate, lacked scientific rigour and were often opinion-based without supporting evidence.

"AGL have failed to address numerous key concerns and threats to the environment and the economy."

A spokesperson for AGL said "requests for further information are a standard part of the EES and AGL is following all processes as directed by the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC)."

The spokesperson said extensive studies were carried out to understand the environmental effects of the proposed project.

"We are following the process the state government deems appropriate and our Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is now being considered by an independent panel."

The IAC hope to report to the Victorian Planning Minister in February 2021, and

the Planning Minister is expected to make a decision mid-March.

"If the proposed project is approved, a final investment decision will then be made by AGL which will take into account the community's views and Victoria's projected shortage of gas," said AGL's spokesperson.

## What's planned?

AGL's plans would see liquified natural gas transported on up to 40 LNG super tankers - about 350 metres long and 50 metres wide - per year in Western Port.

A floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) moored at Crib Point jetty will regasify the liquid natural gas by using a heat exchange system, drawing in up to 480,000 cubic metres of bay water per day into the unit via up to six pumps operating constantly.

Marine life including fish eggs and larvae will also be drawn in with the water.

This water will then be discharged back into the bay 7C colder than the ambient temperature and containing residual chlorine.

A 55-kilometre pipeline will be built from Crib Point to Pakenham to pipe the gas.

# Savage bail conditions explained

The two brothers bailed last month after being accused of a string of local burglaries are no longer living on Phillip Island.

As part of their bail conditions, Joshua and Taylor Savage were released from remand to an address in Melbourne.

Detective Senior Constable Liza Burrows from the Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit said as part of their bail conditions, the men were not allowed anywhere in Bass Coast or South Gippsland.

"They are not allowed to reside in Bass Coast or South Gippsland and they have to have police permission to attend here," she said.

"They can't stay overnight and there are very stringent conditions for them even attending here, let alone living here."

"They also have a curfew and are being well moni-

tored."

DSC Burrows said if the men came to the area in breach of their bail conditions, they would be back on remand.

"They wouldn't get bail again," she said.

Responding to community concerns about the men receiving bail, DSC Burrows said it was fairly standard for those accused of property crimes.

"I'm not surprised they got bailed, but we wanted to make sure we got the conditions we asked for - and we did."

The two men are due to appear at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court on January 7, 2021.

DSC Burrows said the next three months would give the CIU time to put a full brief together for the court appearance.

"The prosecution will be asking for gaol time," she said.

"We're confident we have a strong case. It was a long process putting it all together, so we have to see what happens when it gets to court."

The Savage brothers were arrested during dramatic early-morning raids in Cowes in August.

Police also seized cash, jewellery, a boat, motorbike, jetski and four vehicles.

At the time, Detective Peter Johnston of the Bass Coast CIU said the assets recovered had been purchased with money from safes stolen at 19 burglaries that occurred over a six-month period.

The brothers targeted small business operators, following them home and then removing safes containing cash and valuables when the victims were away from home.



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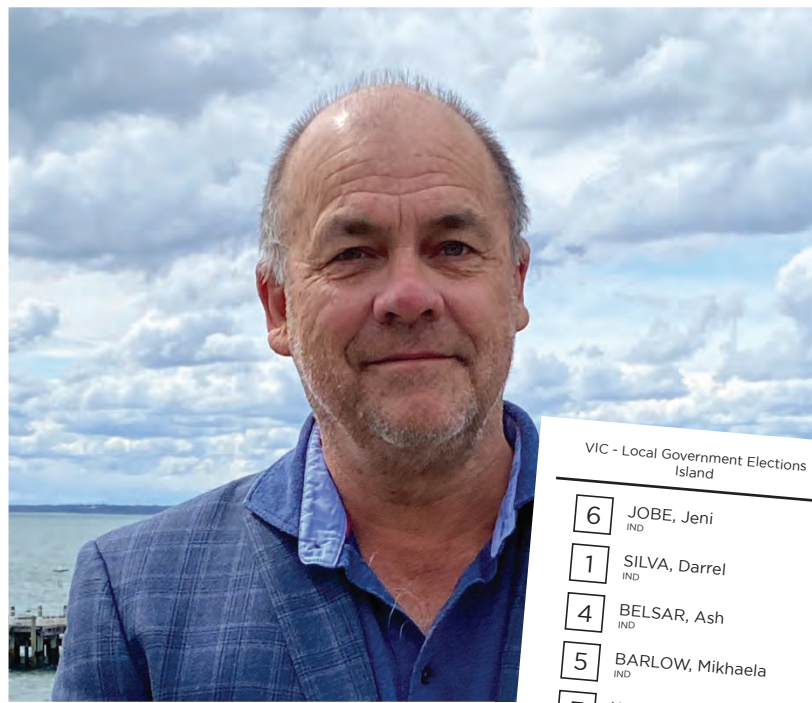
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# Vote 1 Darrell Silva



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AUTHORISED BY DARRELL SILVA, 12 ALPHA COURT COWES, 3922

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1	SILVA, Darrel IND
4	BELSAR, Ash IND
5	BARLOW, Mikhaela IND
7	WHELAN, Michael IND
8	ROOKS, David IND
3	CERINI, Trish IND
2	BAUER, Ron IND

# Vote 1 Jeni Jobe

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grew up here and knows the area well.  
She is passionate about the  
arts, the community and the  
environment and would no  
doubt be an asset to  
the Council in 2020"**

**Mike Cleeland - Surf Beach**

Authorised by J Jobe, PO Box 900 Cowes 3922





# Shire accused of stalling tactics

Bass Coast Shire has been accused of “stonewalling” a San Remo pensioner who remains homeless after his house was flooded, because of drainage problems at a controversial subdivision.

In April the Advertiser reported Bill Wintle’s Back Beach Road house was flooded – in-

cluding at one point with an inch of water in his kitchen, lounge and bedroom – blaming blocked rains and subsequent run-off from the nearby Panorama Estate.

Six months after the flooding forced the 78-year-old from his home, Bill continues to be homeless, living at the San Remo Motel, with his home unliveable because of black mould from the flooding, and foundations that have cracked.

Bill said he had issued the shire with several requests to mediate, to resolve the issue of who is responsible for the flooding and subsequent damage.

“We have given them dates and times, but they then tell us they will find a time that suits them, but they never deliver,” Bill said.

“I am still waiting for the council to get back to me.”

Bill’s mate Gerard Donohue – who is acting on his friend’s behalf – said the shire were “icing” Bill.

“It is disgraceful conduct, to treat a homeless 78-year-old like this,” Gerard said.

“We have tried to do things amicably, so the ratepayer is not sluggish with court cost, but council are stonewalling everything we do.

“Court now seems our only other option.” Bill had also sought support from Victorian Housing Minister Richard Wynne, who wrote to him saying: “I was sorry to hear about the challenges you are experiencing, and it must be difficult not to be in your home at this time.”

Meanwhile owners of a cluster of units neighbouring Panorama – who earlier this year initiated damages claims at VCAT against the estate developer – are set for a VCAT hearing at the end of October.

The body corporate of 24 units on Genista Street is seeking damages to an adjoining fence, as well as for possible damage to foundation stumps and cracking of walls.

Spokesperson Trevor Fothergill said the body corporate had also reported the shire to the Ombudsman and IBAC.

A Bass Coast Shire spokesman told the Advertiser the council is in election mode and a statement issued in August was still relevant: “We can confirm that Council is in correspondence with Mr Wintle and we are arranging a meeting with him.

“It is appropriate for Council to continue dealing with Mr Wintle directly; therefore, we will not be publicly commenting on the matter.”

## Black mould

An independent building surveyor’s report concluded the foundations of Bill’s home had dangerously sunk.

“The house is the same as when I left it, very mouldy. I can’t throw anything out or do any work until I can make a claim,” said Bill, who was a commercial shark fisherman in San Remo before retiring.

“The shire are passing the buck. They’re the ones who allowed the development and who

ordered the work on the drains.”

Bill blamed the flooding – which occurred twice, in April then May – on filters installed by the developer on drainage outlets on the estate, which had effectively blocked drains.

“The mesh filter is so thick you can hardly blow through it. It doesn’t take much mud to block them, so you get a deadset blockage and so water just runs down the hill, across Back Beach Road, to the footpath, and up my driveway.”

Bill is claiming damages, stating both the shire and the developer were negligent “causing my property to become uninhabitable”

Bill called on the shire and developer to find an “immediate solution” so his home – which was uninsured – was returned “to a liveable condition or condemned to demolition”.

## Missing time capsule – Can you help?

In May 2001, a time capsule was sealed and buried outside the Cowes Cultural Centre as part of the island’s Centenary of Federation celebrations.

It lies beneath an inscribed granite rock, close to the Thompson Avenue/Church Street intersection, on which are instructions for it to be opened one hundred years later, in May 2101.

It is filled with information, books, paintings, letters and objects that our successors, future islanders, will hopefully find interesting at that time.

However, 23 years prior to that date, a time capsule was also buried by the Phillip Island Shire Council to mark the opening of the Phillip Island Civic Centre (now known as the Cowes Cultural Centre) by Victorian Premier Dick Hamer back in December 1978.

The opening was a grand affair, to which the entire community was invited.

The Cowes Primary school children formed a guard of honour to welcome Mr Hamer.

Demolition of that building has evoked so many memories in recent weeks.

And it has led to Stan Gates, a councillor of the day, querying what happened to that capsule, and seeking to have it dug it up for reburial while it can still be located.

However, although many who worked at the shire offices at the time have been contacted, while most remember a capsule was buried at the time, no-one can recall where.

Joy Niven has also been on the hunt, speaking to numerous people who may have an idea. But no luck to date.

A theory emerging is that the 1978 capsule may have been dug up and buried with the Federation equivalent, but in fact there appears to be no record that this occurred.

Was it placed under the plaque recording the occasion? It appears not.

An island with a fountain was constructed at a later time between the main building and the Heritage Centre, commemorating Phillip Island’s volunteer ambulance drivers.

Was the capsule a casualty of that construction? Some have a hazy memory that it may have been buried “over there.”

Former staff members and Stan Gates recall a large rock with an inscription was placed over the capsule at the time.

Just where remains a mystery.

If anyone in the community can recall the plaque, and better still, its location, please contact the Advertiser on 5952 3201 and we will pass the message on.

# VOTE

# 1

## TRISH CERINI



### VIC - Local Government Elections Island

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
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| 3 | SILVA, Darrell<br>IND   |
| 4 | BELSAR, Ash<br>IND      |
| 6 | BARLOW, Mikhaela<br>IND |
| 8 | WHELAN, Michael<br>IND  |
| 7 | ROOKS, David<br>IND     |
| 1 | CERINI, Trish<br>IND    |
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Authorised by Patricia Cerini, 2 Beach Street, Cowes VIC 3922



Bill Wintle remains homeless thanks, he says, to being “iced” by Bass Coast Shire.

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PICAL's new home for the Phil Dixon Pantry offers a welcoming and inviting space to dispense emergency food relief. Annie Foldi (Pantry volunteer), Irene Naitoro (Pantry Coordinator) and Pauline Hamon (Pantry (Pantry volunteer).



Irene Naitoro (Pantry Coordinator) in front of one of the pantry's fully stocked fridges.

# New home for PICAL pantry

The PICAL Phil Dixon Emergency Food Relief Pantry has had a minor move and a major makeover! Now located in the portable building behind PICAL's main reception office, the fit-for-purpose room is set up to allow for easier access, clearer displays of produce and safer dispensing of emergency food.

The new facility opened to the public in late August and this exciting move to its new home was largely due to the vision and persistence of many PICAL staff and volunteers.

The new Pantry fit-out was completed in record time using funding from the Bass Coast Covid resilience grant.

The fit-out also utilised and re-

purposed much of the equipment and fittings from the now-demolished cultural centre commercial kitchen that would have otherwise been sent to landfill.

"It's a fantastic space and we love that we were able to repurpose almost everything from the old kitchen," said Irene Naitoro, who coordinates the new Pantry's operations.

"We've even recovered disused partitions with new fabric and they look brand new!"

Increasing demand for emergency food relief since the start of the Covid pandemic prompted the move.

The new location provides a safer and easier to access facility.

The expanded space demon-

strates just how large PICAL's food relief program has become.

The Phil Dixon Emergency Food Relief Pantry now caters to a much wider area than just Phillip Island.

While the island is still the deposit point for donated, grown, cooked and purchased food-stuffs, a large amount of free food and meals go out not just to vulnerable members of the public, but also other nearby food relief outlets.

PICAL now regularly feeds over 650 vulnerable people each month. Sadly almost half of these are children. The area serviced now spans from Phillip Island to Lang Lang in the north and Fish Creek in the south.

People accessing food relief may be experiencing an array of difficulties such as unemployment, financial hardship, homelessness, and mental health issues, or be fleeing family violence and intolerable home situations.

The new pantry ensures that PICAL is well prepared for a likely increase in demand when the Job Seeker and Job Keeper support supplements are wound back in the coming months.

PICAL is very grateful to everyone who has assisted with the re-fit and of course the amazing volunteers who help so many people every day.

The Phil Dixon Emergency Food Relief Pantry is open Monday – Friday, 9am to 3pm.

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# Newhaven road plans “not justified”

From page 1

“The current plans are a road design over-kill,” Mr Nottle wrote, adding the Phillip Island Road capacity is limited by the two-lane bridge and two lanes along the whole of the corridor.

“The justification for duplicating a section of the road at Newhaven is not evident. There are no tangible benefits provided by RRV to justify the current proposal.”

Yet, he said, the plans impose “considerable amenity, environmental and road safety concerns”.

RRV Regional Director (Eastern) Sara Rhodes-Ward said all feedback would be considered as a whole, rather than responding to individual comments in isolation.

She said the results of this recent round of engagement would be collated into a summary document and shared with the community in the coming months.

“We’re grateful for the feedback we’ve received from the community about our updated plans for Newhaven and San Remo,” said Ms Rhodes-Ward.

“All feedback received is valuable and we’ll consider it moving forward.”

## Big picture

Mr Nottle instead suggested an overall Integrated Transport Island Road Corridor Planning Study be developed from the bridge to Cowes before any further corridor works were planned.

He said the planning study should be subject to an independent Environmental Effects Statement (EES), which would examine evidence around road and bridge expansion plans, environmental impacts, other transport including pedestrians, cyclists, buses and park and ride, as well as managing peak holiday traffic limits through highway signage and user-pays options.

“There are predetermined limits to the amount of vehicle traffic that is sustainable without destroying environmental value,” Mr Nottle wrote.



The proposed upgrade would see this section of Phillip Island Road transformed into four lanes, with two new roundabouts installed. PICS believe slip and turning lanes are a better option.

“Urban “off the rack” traffic solutions do not fit with this environment without full and proper consideration of unintended impacts.

“The EES inquiry would seek to provide recommendations on integrated transport solutions including the Island’s unique visitations patterns whilst preserving the Island’s unique and prized environment on which the economy depends.”

He said a cost-benefit analysis should be provided by RRV.

## Rat run

The PICS submission details several reasons why RRV’s Newhaven plans are flawed.

Mr Nottle states duplicated lanes would encourage a rat run mentality, with drivers trying to overtake to get ahead in traffic.

“This is likely to cause road safety issues when lanes merge again (particularly considering boats, caravans and long vehicles).”

He said roadkill impacts should be considered.

“Roadkill is already a significant issue of concern on this stretch of road from Newhaven to Cape Woolamai.

“Inevitably roadkill will be exacerbated by the proposal because it will be impossible for wildlife to cross four busy lanes of traffic without being hit.

“This road carnage causes much anguish for locals, visitors, and overseas tourists, and does immense, permanent damage to the Island’s reputation ... It also causes a road safety hazard.”

The PICS submission supports National Trust concerns about the chopping down of the classified significant cypress trees at Newhaven.

“The destruction of mature canopy trees, including the iconic cypress, is of major concern,” Mr Nottle wrote, adding planting offsets took decades to grow to the same size.

“Together with the loss of the edge of the Newhaven park this will significantly change the environmental character of the Island entry.”

He said the large parking areas on the southern service road was “totally inappropriate”.

The submission states while improvements to through traffic flow were justified, it doesn’t require four lanes.

“It is considered traffic could be better managed in other ways, particularly the reduction of the speed limit.”

Mr Nottle was also critical of RRV’s “flawed” community engagement survey, forcing “respondents to rank the top three benefits with no provision for listing issues and adverse impacts”.

# Preserving our history

A project to document our precious local history moves one step closer to fruition, after receiving a \$7000 helping hand from the state government

The Phillip Island and District Historical Society received a Local History grant to record stories from Phillip Islanders about the last 60 years of the island’s history.

“Some people are leaders in their fields; some people hold on through thick and thin for decades; some people seem to have all the bad luck,” said project co-ordinator, Christine Grayden.

“Everyone has a fascinating life-story to tell, even if they don’t think so”

The grant will allow the Historical Society to record select stories, covering tourism, farming, immigration, business and lifestyle.

The interviews will be conducted by Dr Andrea Cleland, a Phillip Island resident, who specialises in oral histories.

The interviews will then be transcribed and (with subjects’ permission) placed on the Historical Society’s website, alongside transcripts of previous oral history projects.

Society president, Graeme Clausen said the committee was “delighted to receive this substantial grant”.

“Our project, ‘Oral Histories of Phillip Island’, is an excellent way for the society to continue adding to our historical information about Phillip Island while our museum is closed and being packed away, awaiting our home in the new Cowes Cultural Centre,” Graeme said.

“We are very excited to be working with a professional oral historian on this project.

“We expect Andrea to commence contacting potential subjects to start her interviews shortly and we are really looking forward to sharing on our website the many stories she will collect.”



Dr Andrea Cleland specialises in oral histories and will be conducting interviews for the Oral Histories of Phillip Island project for the Phillip Island and District Historical Society, who received a \$7000 state government grant for the project

Andrea has previously undertaken a major project with Melbourne’s Greek community as part of her Doctoral Thesis, and has also gathered stories from long-term employees of Phillip Island Nature Parks and their predecessors.

Announcing the grant, Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale said: “Our local history is in good hands with community groups like the Phillip Island Historical Society working hard to ensure stories and artefacts of our past are not forgotten.”

The assessment panel for the grant praised the well-planned project and recommended it be fully funded.

The project is to be completed by June 2023.

Phillip Island and District Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government and Public Record Office Victoria for making this project possible.

When completed, the transcripts will be available at [pidhs.org.au](http://pidhs.org.au) in the “Essays and Talks” section.



EVERYTHING

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IS

MAKING

A

DIFFERENCE

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[vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS](http://vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS)



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



# College child protection in the spotlight

Newhaven College has released the details of a child protection review in the wake of sexual offence charges against the school's former music director.

And the college has called on community members with any information relevant to the criminal proceedings to contact Victoria Police, also promising their own internal investigation once the court case was complete.

In a three-page letter to parents, guardians, students and alumni, released last week, Newhaven College board chair Greg Price acknowledged "the seriousness" of the criminal case.

"Understandably, these proceedings raise significant concerns for many in our community," Mr Price writes.

"Our thoughts remain with the alleged victims and their families ... and I ask that we all be sensitive to their privacy at this difficult time."

As reported in the Advertiser, in February the 60-year-old former music director faced two counts of sexual assault of a child under 16, charged by

the Morwell Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT).

In August, detectives laid a further 10 sexual offence charges at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court against the man, who stood down from his college role earlier this year.

The former teacher will return to the court for a committal mention on October 29.

The college initiated the child safety review after an investigation by the Victorian Government's independent school regulator – the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) and the Victorian Institute of Teaching – into the college's compliance earlier this year.

## Review

Mr Price writes that following the VRQA investigation, the college reviewed and updated "strategies for ensuring a child safe school culture".

"Every student studying at the College has a right to be safe, and at Ne-

haven College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct)," the letter states.

"Following the criminal allegations against the former Director of Music, the Board and the Principal have been extensively reviewing the College's child safe strategies, policies and procedures."

He said the review included employment practices, the school's child protection policy and responsibilities, risk identification, staff code of conduct and reporting and responding to child protection concerns, all of which will be regularly reviewed.

Mr Price said they had also created an additional complaints policy, to handle issues that fall outside the other key policies.

## Criminal case

Mr Price said while child safety was the school's "paramount consideration", they were unable to take any

action during a criminal proceeding.

"Once the criminal process is complete, the College will complete its own investigations regarding what happened and say more to the community about these matters."

He added that in the meantime any community member concerned about child safety should raise their concerns with a member of staff, including one of the college's child protection officers.

"I encourage those with child safety concerns, including victims and their families, to contact the College so we may listen and respond to those concerns, and provide appropriate support."

Mr Price also encouraged anyone with information relevant to the current criminal proceedings to contact Victoria Police or Central Gippsland SOCIT.

## Response

The Advertiser contacted Mr Price for further comment.

"The announcement can speak for itself, and the College will continue to keep the community updated about the matters being raised," he said.

A Department of Education spokesman confirmed the VRQA had undertaken a review of Newhaven College's compliance with Child Safe Standards – Managing the risk of child abuse in schools.

"The school is fully cooperating with the VRQA," he said, adding the VRQA does not release details relating to school reviews.

"The safety of students is always our highest priority."

He said the Victorian Government introduced reforms as a result of the Betrayal of Trust report, including child safe standards, which require all Victorian schools to implement policies and procedures to ensure child safe environments, manage the risk of child abuse and respond to allegations of child abuse.

# A busy time behind the scenes for Historical Society

Although the Phillip Island and District Historical Society Museum has been closed since March, due to Covid restrictions, it's been a busy time for members.

The society is currently working on a project commemorating the 75th anniversary of World War II.

In April, the society received a \$2000 grant towards the project, from the Minister for Veteran Affairs, Robin Scott.

The project showcases old interviews and tape recordings of returned soldiers, with films and recordings being restored.

It also looks at life for those left behind on the island during the war years.

President Graeme Clausen said some "hidden gems" had been discovered for the project as the volunteers went through the files.

He said the lockdown had given the society the chance to "clean up the archives and go



President of the Phillip Island and District Historical Society, Graeme Clausen said although the museum had been closed since March, there was a lot of work going on behind the scenes.

through the filing cabinets".

"We've been locked away, but it's been very busy behind the scenes, with members of the committee helping to dig out information and do research."

He said the upcoming move to a new home in the new Cultural Centre building had prompted the clean-up and the group was also reviewing the furniture and fittings in the museum.

## Members recognised

Two long-time members of the society were presented with life memberships in September, in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

Christine Grayden was recognised for her many years as society Secretary and her work on displays, exhibitions and special projects. Her outstanding work in preparing and securing grant applications

was also noted.

Judy Gittus' many roles, including Treasurer, Accessions Officer and Cataloguer were recognised, along with her organisation of annual dinners and assistance for the committee.



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# ANTIWRINKLE TREATMENTS

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Forehead from \$120

Frown lines from \$290

Crown lines from \$290





# National Water Week goes online

Local students and the community are invited to be part of an online learning festival.

This year, water corporations from across Victoria will mark National Water Week a little differently by moving the annual celebration online.

The Online Learning Festival runs from October 19-25 and is designed to build awareness around the value of water. Presenting a new theme each day, the festival will bring together a variety of events, activities and videos.

Westernport Water's Managing Director, Peter Quigley said it was great to see all the state's water corporations working together to deliver the pro-

gram of online events.

"The inaugural Online Learning Festival is a great opportunity for the community to learn more and celebrate the importance of water through various mediums," said Peter.

"All children, students and community members are invited to take part in this fantastic free event".

One of the festival highlights will be local author, illustrator and Westernport Water employee Meg Humphries, who will discuss her children's book "When Water Lost Her Way". Her book explores the water cycle in a beautifully illustrated story, bringing together the arts and sciences.

Another feature during the week is a performance

for kinder and primary aged children by the Eaton Gorge Theatre Company, called "Tapstar Saves Water" which is sure to be a hit.

The most popular part of National Water Week each year is the announcement of the poster competition winners, with great prizes for students and their school available.

All of the fabulous resources and recordings from the festival will be made available to teachers and students to watch from their home or at school.

To find out more and register your interest, visit [www.westernportwater.com.au/learning-centre/education/national-water-week/](http://www.westernportwater.com.au/learning-centre/education/national-water-week/)



Some of the FOSER volunteers, smiling behind their masks, pause at the coast viewing platform during their enjoyable tour of the Reserve recently to mark the fifth birthday of the group.

## A fabulous five years!

Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve celebrated the five-year anniversary of the group last month.

Known as FOSER, the group came together in September 2015, to help Bass Coast Shire Council and Phillip Island Nature Parks manage the newly created reserve, which had opened in July that year.

The celebrations, adhering to Covid restrictions, were a chance for volunteers to reflect on their achievements.

Groups of 10 people were guided by FOSER coordinator John Eddy, enjoying a wonderful display of flowers, including Wattles, Swamp Paperbark, Clematis, Love Creeper and other species.

The group discussed the changes to the reserve over the past five years, as well as the likely challenges ahead.

Coordinator John Eddy said restoration and revegetation of the Reserve continues at a rapid pace, and excellent

rainfall this year means that the plants and the environment are looking at their best right now.

"It was a great delight for the volunteers to see such success. Scenic Estate Reserve is certainly worth a visit at this time, and, indeed, throughout the year," he said.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to be part of the FOSER team, contact the coordinator at [johneddy1946@gmail.com](mailto:johneddy1946@gmail.com).

### National WATER WEEK

19-25 OCTOBER 2020

Online Learning Festival  
Reimagining our Water Future

- Announcement of Poster Comp winners
- Tapstar Saves Water - theatre performance
- Live talks
- 3D Treatment Plant tours
- Experiments
- Children's Book readings



Search "National Water Week" on our website for Festival information, the event calendar, and to register your school or child's interest!

[www.westernportwater.com.au](http://www.westernportwater.com.au)



## Bushfire preparation

The CFA has launched a new online training module to help people prepare for the impact of bushfires.

The project - Preparing Vulnerable People - is designed to help those who are at greater risk during a bushfire, due to disability, age or social isolation.

The training module, Bushfire Planning: How to support your clients, has been developed for those working with people who are at greater risk due to disability, age or social isolation, including case managers, support workers and home nursing staff.

The training will provide

community organisations with advice on how to support people at risk, and assist vulnerable people in our communities to develop a bushfire safety plan.

The PVP project is a three-year CFA-led initiative aiming to improve bushfire preparedness planning for people who are vulnerable.

Gippsland Disability Advocate Delia Harry said the new training will be pivotal in ensuring every person in our community is well-prepared in the event of a fire.

"This training will equip more community and social service workers with

improved skills for bushfire planning for clients who are at greater risk," Delia said.

"There will definitely be a next time, as much as we'd like to think there won't be, so now is the time we really need to be preparing for when the next time happens."

"Particularly those living with disabilities, we need to be able to help them prepare their bushfire plan and ensure they are fire-safe."

The e-learning module, Bushfire Planning: How to support your clients and its supporting resources are now available on CFA's website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/workers](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/workers).

## Bass Coast Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote



### Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday 6 October 2020.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Friday 16 October 2020**, please call 1300 108 284 during office hours to arrange a replacement.

### How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

### How to return your completed ballot paper

Follow the instructions on your ballot paper to complete your vote. To return your completed ballot paper, put it in the ballot paper envelope then use the reply-paid envelope provided or hand-deliver it during office hours to:

Old Post Office, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi

### Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were on the State roll at **4 pm** on **Friday 28 August 2020**.

You may be fined if you do not vote — this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote, but you will not be fined if you don't vote, if:

- you live outside this local council area **OR**
- you are enrolled directly with the Council to be on the voters' roll for this election.

### Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6 pm\* Friday 23 October

\*Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

[vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) | 1300 108 284

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• 09209 0190 Amharic • 09209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 09209 0191 Bosnian • 09209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 09209 0102 Croatian • 09209 0193 Dari • Dinka 09209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 09209 0103 Greek • Italiano 09209 0104 Italian • 09209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 09209 0194 Korean • Македонски 09209 0105 Macedonian • 09209 0106 Mandarin • 09209 0195 Persian • Русский 09209 0196 Russian • Српски 09209 0107 Serbian • Somali 09209 0108 Somali • Español 09209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 09209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 09209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 09209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic







Whatever your project, the friendly team at Haymes Paint Shop will set you straight on the right paint, right equipment and the right techniques.



Haymes Paint Shop in Cowes, formerly known as Paint Place has had a fresh coat of paint, and a new focus on Haymes Paint.

# Paint shop makeover

Haymes Paint Shop Cowes, Leongatha and Wonthaggi, formerly known as Paint Place have recently had a fresh coat of paint with a new focus on Australia's best paint, Haymes Paint.

The group of stores have been owned and operated by locals for many years, so you'll still find the same friendly, local and expert advice no matter what your project. Whether it's colour consults, paint for any surface or colour, gear hire and free local contactless delivery or pick up, the team will be on hand to help.

This proud family business is now backed by Haymes, the only major paint manufacturer that's still 100 per cent Aussie owned. And the only one to be voted Australia's best paint by

Canstar Blue for the last three years in a row.

Haymes Paint Shop's extensive knowledge of the painting industry enables it to provide quality paints, accessories, and professional service for all your painting needs. Specialising in all aspects of painting and decorating, it has a vast range of products which will assist you and your project. Rest assured they've got you covered.

The team strives to support Australian and locally owned businesses through investing in their first-rate products, giving their customers not only quality but also honest commodities. The stores supply a vast range of household, automotive, marine and industrial coatings for both the trade and

retail market.

Giving back to the community is something they hold paramount, and do so by sponsoring and donating great quality products to local clubs, small businesses and charities.

So if you need help, no matter the surface, like the concrete on your garage floor, your bathroom walls or that deck that is nearly past use by, they can set you straight on the right paint, the right equipment and the right application techniques.

Drop in and see the team at Haymes Paint Shop Cowes, Leongatha and Wonthaggi.

To celebrate the rebranding, they are offering 20 per cent off Haymes Ultra Premium Paint from October 14 – 25.



Haymes Paint is 100 per cent Aussie owned and voted Australia's best paint by Canstar Blue for the last three years.

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WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED



# THE WORD

Regional restrictions have eased, and we couldn't be happier.

We asked locals what the best thing about easing restrictions was for them personally. It seems the little things in life that we normally take for granted are the most important.



Janine Temme, Surf Beach (sitting with Trish Hogan on the right) – "Catching up with people face to face and celebrating a friend's 60th birthday. Getting a sore throat from talking so much!"



Colin and Carolyn Clark, San Remo – "We're able to visit our family and see the grand kids here on the island. We're really enjoying having a beer with friends."



Michael Rapson, Cape Woolamai – "We can get take away food, we can play sport and we have the freedom to go to other regional places like Wilsons Prom."



Camille Morris, Cowes – "My daughter Grace can go back to school to connect with friends/school mates and teachers. It's also great that local business can start to operate again."



Ken Sellers, Ventnor – "We can play doubles in tennis and comp in golf again, we can go out fishing with people; so everything has been very positive."



Kally Van Venrooy, Sunset Strip – "It's great being able to go back to work and reengaging with fellow work mates and customers."



Peter Innes, Cowes – "Opening the shop more, not wearing face masks out at dinner, being able to drive your motorbike, seeing the family and the grand kids."



Cath Murphy, Cowes (Sitting with Lisa-Anne Prendergast on the right) – "The opportunity to get out with friends for a meal and a drink. I'm really enjoying the extra freedom we have to socialise."



Dean from Newhaven popped the question at Cape Woolamai's Lookout Point last week.

## Ring retrieved

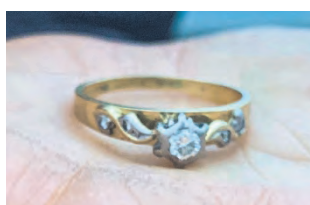
A romantic proposal last week almost ended in tears after the engagement ring was lost.

Dean from Newhaven planned his proposal against the magnificent backdrop at Lookout Point in Cape Woolamai.

After trekking to Lookout Point, Dean popped the question and presented his wife-to-be with a gold heirloom ring that had been passed down from his grandmother.

So far, just perfect.

But after a couple hours enjoying the view and a picnic lunch, Dean's fiancé discov-



ered the ring was no longer on her finger.

Dean put in a desperate call to Toyah from Island Metal Detecting Jewellery Recovery Service.

Toyah made the trek out to the Cape straight away.

Narrowing down the area, Toyah searched for 20 min-

utes, before she heard a "crisp clear sound within the depths of the reeds and bushes".

Hidden amongst the shrubs was the stunning engagement ring.

The happy couple were over the moon to have the ring safely returned.

Toyah then got to witness the second proposal for the day!

"It's safe to say, we wish the couple a very happy life ahead," she said.

"If you have lost a sentimental piece of jewellery, don't hesitate to contact us on Facebook."

## Makeover for Griffiths Point Lodge

Griffiths Point Lodge in San Remo received a \$1 million grant from the state government last week for an upgrade, including interior refurbishment.

The grant was one of 50 awarded to public aged care facilities, as part of a \$30 million funding announcement by the state government.

The grant is designed to improve the amenity of residents, including interior refurbishment, and provide a range of safety measures.

"Bass Coast Health is thrilled to receive the million dollars that has been provided to refurbish the interior of Griffiths Point Lodge," said CEO Jan Child.

"We know that the care in this home is of high standard and it will be so wonderful



Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale (left) announced the \$1 million grant for Griffiths Point Lodge with CEO of Bass Coast Health Jan Child (centre) and Nursing Unit Manager Maddy Tierney (right).

to have the bathrooms, bedrooms and resident areas also upgraded to an equally high standard. We are very grateful to have the Govern-

ments support to improve our facilities across Bass Coast."

The first priority will be bathroom upgrades, said a BCH spokesperson.

## Elder abuse. Hard to picture.



## The abuse of older people is hard to talk about.

Often, it's committed by a family member. It could be a daughter, a son, or a loved one.

Too many older people suffer in silence. Elder abuse is a form of family violence and it is unacceptable.

What starts out small doesn't always stay that way. Elder abuse is hard to picture, but it happens every day.

For further information and for independent advice, contact:

**Seniors Rights Victoria** – 1300 368 821

**1800 RESPECT** – 1800 737 732

**inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence** – 1800 755 988

**Men's Referral Service** – 1300 766 491

If you are concerned for your immediate safety or that of someone else, please contact Triple Zero (000) for emergency services.

For more information, please visit [www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au](http://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au)







With only the maze, mini golf, retail store and take away coffee outlet currently operating, Geoff from A Maze'N Things said it's reminiscent of the business as it was 30 years ago, but is looking forward to opening up more of the attractions as restrictions are eased further.



Rosa and Romina Scarlato are very excited to welcome you back through their doors, where Pino's legendary hospitality awaits. You're invited to be a part of their family, their passion and their love of all things simple, honest and Italian.



Ian and Jen Cannon from Allmake Clothing supply everything from work and high vis wear to corporate and hospitality wear, embroidery, small run printing, kids gear and work boots.

# Back in Business

As restrictions ease, the doors to local businesses are open and they need your support more than ever.

Since the first lockdown in March, some have boomed while others have struggled to stay afloat. As we all work our way towards Covid-normal, businesses are rearranging and reinventing themselves and there's never been a more important time to shop locally.



Nicky Tzimas has been caring for people's skin and wellbeing for over 25 years and is super excited to meet with you to explore your anti-aging treatment and medicine needs.



Priding themselves on making the freshest and tastiest burgers around, Steve Hennekam from Island Burger Bar is so grateful for the locals who have supported him and helped keep the business afloat over the past six months.



# Spring's here ... and so are snakes

As the days become warmer, snakes are starting to emerge from their winter hibernation to bask in the sun and search for food and a mate.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Senior Wildlife Management Officer, Lachlan Clarke said "sunny weather also means it's more likely people will encounter a snake."

He said most of the common species found in Gippsland are venomous, but it's rare for them to bite people.

"Most snake bites occur when people try to capture or kill a snake."

"Snakes can be known to bite animals, such as dogs, if they feel threatened. If your dog or cat encounters a snake, the best course of action is to remove your pet from the area or tie it up while the snake passes and if you suspect your pet has been bitten take it to a vet immediately."

"Snakes are generally very shy and prefer to keep away from people and often when a snake is found in a backyard it's because it's



Officially, the copperhead is the only species known to breed on Phillip Island. Photo Nick Clemman.

moving through the area to other habitat.

"Being aware that snakes may be around

and being informed about how to react to them is very important at this time of year,"

Mr Clarke said.

DELWP advises if you live in an area with snakes, please remember:

- When left alone, snakes present little or no danger to people.
- If you see a snake, keep calm and move yourself and anyone with you (including pets) away from the area.

- Don't attempt to capture or harm snakes. Instead call DELWP on 136 186 for further advice.

- Maintain lawns and clean up around your house, as snakes are attracted to shelter such as piles of rocks and timber, sheets of metal, and building materials.

Undertake first aid training and ensure your first aid kit contains several compression bandages, and if someone is bitten, call 000 immediately.

Snakes are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975 and it is illegal to capture, harm, or kill them.

Reports of people wilfully destroying protected wildlife will be investigated accordingly.



Australian Government

## We're extending the JobKeeper Payment until 28 March 2021.

The Australian Government is extending the temporary JobKeeper Payment to the end of March 2021. From 28 September, businesses must meet the turnover test and submit their declarations by the 14th of each month.

There will be two new payment rates – one for those who work more than 20 hours per week in the relevant period, and another for those who work less. The employee eligibility date has also changed to 1 July, meaning some businesses could claim for more staff.

**It's part of our plan to keep business in business, and Australians in jobs.**

28 Mar 2021 ▶ **JobKeeper Payment**

**Visit [Australia.gov.au](https://www.australia.gov.au)**

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra



**SHORT STACK**

A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Sports Grants

The Phillip Island Bicycle Users Group and the Bass Coast Board Riders Club both received \$1000 under the second round of the state government's Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package grants announced last week.

The package has grants for regional sports assemblies and for associations, leagues and individual clubs.

Applications remain open until October 16. [sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding](https://sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding)

### Sports loans

Applications are now open for the second round of the Community Sports Infrastructure Loans Scheme. Low interest loans from \$500,000 to \$10 million are available to councils, clubs, associations, educational institutions and facility managers to develop high-quality community sport and recreation infrastructure.

For further information go to [sport.vic.gov.au/loans](https://sport.vic.gov.au/loans)

### Food relief grants

Applications are now open for the state government's new \$5 million Community Food Relief Fund to support local community organisations supplying food to Victorians in need. One-off grants of up to \$75,000 are available and funding may be used to purchase infrastructure, such as refrigerated vans or updated IT and management software, develop innovative food relief delivery models, support COVID safe practices or to attract new volunteers to support the delivery of food programs.

The grants are open to community food relief organisations, including those in partnership with local councils.

For more information or to apply for one of the grants, visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/community-inclusion-and-food-relief-coronavirus-covid-19](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/community-inclusion-and-food-relief-coronavirus-covid-19).

### Statewide youth strategy

The government is calling on input from young people to develop Victoria's first ever youth strategy.

The co-designed and youth-led consultation process will be open for more than two months. A series of online youth and community forums will be held across the state.

Victorians are also invited to contribute by responding to a short online survey or making a written submission by December 14. The discussion paper and online survey is available at [engage.vic.gov.au](https://engage.vic.gov.au).

### Animal assistance

Vet nurse Casey Woodward is raising money to help provide practical and meaningful support to grassroots animal welfare and conservation efforts in South-east Asia.

The former islander has relocated to Western Australia but previously, with support from the local community raised much needed funds and equipment for koalas injured in this year's bushfires.

Anyone wanting to help Casey on her latest venture can donate at [www.animalassist.org.au/](https://www.animalassist.org.au/)

### Solar for Dalyston FC

The Dalyston Football Netball Club has received a grant of over \$36,000 to install solar panels on their clubrooms.

The 40 kW solar panels on clubrooms will save the club \$10,000 a year.

The project is one of 13 community-owned renewable energy projects funded by the state government.

For a full list of successful recipients or more information on the Fund, visit [energy.vic.gov.au/new-energytechnologies](https://energy.vic.gov.au/new-energytechnologies).



# KEEP IT LOCAL

## DIRECTORY

### AUTOMOTIVE

**Service Centre**  
**Phillip Island Tyre Service**  
 101 Settlement Rd, Cowes 5952 1480

**Don't buy a lemon**  
**CARFIND**  
 0419 930 666

### BEAUTY

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 Over 20 years experience  
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# Setting the record straight

By Graeme Cock,  
a founding PIMHAG and life member

Comments in an article written in last week's Advertiser by Cr Pamela Rothfield have concerned me.

Under the heading: Successes for THIS council, Cr Rothfield lists a 24/7 medical facility for Cowes, constructed and operating.

I consider that statement to be misleading, and demeaning to the efforts of the Phillip Island community as a whole, and PIMHAG in particular.

To me it is fake news.

The credit should not be blithely claimed by Cr Rothfield and council.

In point of fact, construction of the Phillip Island Health Hub and the introduction of a 24/7 medical service for Phillip Island are two entirely separate issues.

The facts are these.

Funding for the construction of the Phillip Island Health Hub was announced well before Cr Rothfield's council was elected back in late 2016.

Work to achieve this had been ongoing since 2009, and the announcement was the culmination of many years of hard work put in collaboratively by the PIMHAG committee, with the strong support from the outset of then local Federal Minister Greg Hunt.

Funding for the \$5.8 million project was announced in 2015.

Funding comprised contributions by the state government (\$2.2 million) Federal government (\$2.5 million) and Warley Trust Money (\$1.1 million) with the Hub to be built on land (value \$1 million) purchased by the Bass Coast Shire Council for medical purposes in 2011.

During a visit to the island to inspect the Hub plans in early 2016, and the progress being made on this project, State Health Minister Jill Hennessy congratulated and acknowledged PIMHAG on the work they had undertaken over the years to achieve better



Members of PIMHAG were on hand to celebrate the official opening of the Urgent Care Centre last November. From left to right: Graeme Cock (life member), Keith Jobe, John Matthews, Peter Paul, Linda Marston, Bob Pasco (back) and Bruce Procter.

services for the island community.

This work had involved PIMHAG meeting frequently with both Labor and Liberal Ministers over the years, advocating the cause; scores of meetings with successive Bass Coast Health CEOs, the undertaking of surveys to assess health needs, and a weekly presence set up at local supermarkets, on the streets, in newspaper columns and on the radio, advocating the island's health needs since 2010.

In my view it was the actions of dedicated members of the community, strongly led by the late Jim West and Jock McKechnie, after the closure of Warley Hospital, that had led to this point.

The two men, with a small committee of five, held a rally in 2009 attended by over 700 community members, calling for a hospital on Phillip Island.

The result was the formation of the Phillip Island Hospital Action Group.

It comprised a committee of ten strongly supported by just about the entire community.

PIMHAG's objective was to fight for three things.

1. A hospital
2. 24/7 medical service
3. An upgrade to sub regional status of the Wonthaggi Hospital.

To not recognize or appreciate the perseverance and tenacity of the group, by claiming these purely as a council success, undervalues these efforts.

What was achieved by PIMHAG stands on its own record.

As a member of the community I am always a supporter of those individuals who stand for council, and I thank Cr Rothfield for her period in service, but please keep to the facts.

Our community can proudly say these achievements were a success for them, due to nine years of hard slog and the fact that the seat of Bass became a marginal one in the lead up to the 2018 state election.

At the opening ceremony of the Health Hub in 2018 Federal Minister for Health Greg Hunt described the Hub as the culmination of many years of dedication and hard work by the community, the Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group, the Warley Trust Group and Bass Coast Health.

As the local Federal Member, he had been heavily involved with and supportive of the project for the previous ten years.

Minister Hennessy said that the Hub had been driven by a community that desperately wanted better health services for its people.

She too had listened to PIMHAG and our community and offered opportunities to further develop the island's case for far better medical services.

When Minister Hennessy announced 24/7 care at the Hub on November 9, 2018 she stated: "The Phillip Island community has told us they want round the clock urgent care, and we have listened."

Dare I say that council was not mentioned.

PIMHAG is now in its 11th year and will go on fighting to see the needs of our community continue to be met when it comes to the future health care needs of Phillip Island.

The community at this point may be unaware that the hospital announced

for Phillip Island by the Andrews government in 2018 does not have plans to include overnight beds and will be purely a day facility.

I conclude by stating that for years in its early days, PIMHAG was told by Bass Coast Health and the State Government that a public health and medical facility on Phillip Island was an impossible ask; and that 24/7 care was not required on the island as it was available for us in Wonthaggi.

PIMHAG proved that to be wrong.

We will continue our work, communicating with all three levels of government, Federal, state and local, Bass Coast Health and our community, to meet the future health needs on Phillip Island.

Several PIMHAG members are also involved in the very successful Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary.

The above projects are an example of what can be achieved when we ALL work together as a community.

Credit should not be claimed by a single entity.



## Hello Ruby

Edwina and Harrison welcome their baby sister Ruby Gwendoline to the family.

Ruby was born at Sandringham Hospital on October 3 and is the daughter of Stefanie (George) and Adam Ros-siter. A beautiful granddaughter for Sally Ann and John Matthews.

## PICAL gets the Post!

The Phillip Island Community ad Learning Centre has been awarded \$2000 as part of Australia Post's 2020 Community Grants Program.

This grant will fund their project, 'Strong, Safe and Well'. The project will establish two new community groups to support local women in the Phillip Island community to rebuild their confidence, enhance their mental well-being and establish positive and lasting social connections post COVID-19.

PICAL was one of 79 community organisa-

tions across the country to receive a 2020 Australia Post Community Grant.

This year's grants program aligns with Australia Post's commitment to supporting mental health, funding projects that help improve connection and mental wellbeing in local communities.

Australia Post Executive General Manager Nicole Sheffield said she was proud to be awarding these funds during what has been an incredibly challenging year for communities across Australia.

The full list of Australia Post's 2020 Community Grants recipients and more information about the grants program is available at [auspost.com.au/grants](https://auspost.com.au/grants)

## Council Update



### 2021 Bass Coast Australia Day Awards Nominations now open!

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Bass Coast Australia Day Awards for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. While 2020 has been a challenging year, it's been great to see it hasn't stopped many beautiful acts of caring, selflessness, giving and compassion from individuals within our community. Do you know someone living in Bass Coast who regularly goes above and beyond, you can always rely on for help, or you admire for their contribution to the community? These awards allow us to recognise our local heroes for all they do in our community.

Nominating is easy and only takes a few minutes. Visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ausday2021](https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ausday2021) to nominate or to read the guidelines. Nominations close on Monday, 23 November 2020. For more information contact Linda Ryan on the numbers below.

### Ordinary Council Meeting - 21 October

Council's next meeting will be live-streamed at 1.00pm on Wednesday 21 October 2020. Join us on the live stream link at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings](https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings)

The proposed items Council may consider:

- Planning Application 190293 - 58 Bruce Road, Silverleaves
- Planning Application 200042 - 11 Fisher Street, Ventnor
- Planning Application 200080 - 21 Highview Crescent, Surf Beach
- Planning Application 200110 - 46 McHaffies Lane, Ventnor
- Planning Application 200136 - 3/8-10 Forrest Avenue Newhaven
- Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Council Meeting Schedule Update
- Financial Statements and Performance Statement for 2019/20

The agenda is released on Council's website on Friday, 16 October 2020 at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings](https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/2020meetings). Council is operating under the Election Period Policy. The Election Period (Caretaker) commenced at 12.00pm on 22 September 2020 and ends at 6.00pm on 24 October 2020. Public Question Time will be paused for the 21 October Council Meeting.

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

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# The fruit of Bill's labour much enjoyed at Banfields

Bill Waters, who describes himself as 91 years young, arrived to live at Banfields two years ago, in 2018.

And since that time, residents and staff at Banfields Aged Care have been enjoying seasonal, delicious, home grown organic fruit and vegetables, grown by him.

One of Bill's misgivings at the time he was making the move into Banfields was that he may no longer be able to grow his own organic fruit and vegetables, which had been his staple diet for years.

However, the problem was easily fixed.

The helpful staff at Banfields installed raised garden beds in the grounds of the facility for him to develop.

And Bill seamlessly resumed his lifelong passion of organic gardening. Bill ably tends his garden beds every day and everyone at Banfields enjoys the product of his labour on a regular basis.

Bill, born in Whangarei, New Zealand, first became interested in growing vegetables at the tender age of 11, when his father needed to leave the family to go to war.

In his absence, Bill ensured his father's crops and plants were always well maintained, for their village to share in.

It was a job that he loved doing.

Bill also had a love of flying and when he was older, worked very hard at getting his pilot's license, and he was soon able to fly a single engine light plane.

He then began work at Adastra as an agricultural top dresser; an occupation better known here in Australia as a crop-dusting pilot.

Bill did this work for five years.

But he gave it away when he decided that although he loved flying, he no longer wished to go dusting vegetation with chemicals.

Bill and his wife owned a plot of land and were growing a lot of fruit and vegetables, including Kiwi fruit, which was something



Banfields resident Bill Waters is a keen gardener, who established his own organic gardens in built up beds set up specifically for him to use when he arrived there.



Bill Waters continued his lifelong passion for growing organic fruit and vegetables since moving into Banfields Aged Care in Cowes in 2018. He has been providing delicious fruit and vegetables to share ever since.

quite new at the time in New Zealand.

And it wasn't long until word got out around town that the best fruit and vegetables to be had were grown at their place!

Seizing on an opportunity, the couple started selling their much sought-after organic produce from the garden gate.

When the couple immigrated to Australia in 2002, and settled at Phillip Island, they wanted to continue to be able to grow their own produce.

They were lucky enough to secure a block of land big enough to build a house and establish a half-acre organic fruit and vegetable garden.

In 2018, when Bill moved into Banfields, he was very keen to continue to grow and eat his own organic fruit and vegetables, as he had been doing throughout his life.

With the strong focus at Banfields on providing support and opportunities for residents to continue their interests and hobbies when they move into aged care,

staff members set about building raised garden beds in the grounds, thus enabling Bill to continue this lifetime activity.

The venture has been a great success, with Bill out and about tending his gardens daily.

Production has been prolific. The good news for not just Bill but his fellow residents and chefs in the Banfields kitchens, is that there is delicious fresh produce available which can be enjoyed by everyone.

Bill plants his garden seasonally, so there is a variety of different offerings throughout the year.

Currently healthy leeks, cabbage, Italian parsley and his favourite crop of celery, are in production.

Bill's work in the garden has been a great success.

He is happily able to maintain his independence and love of gardening, while living at Banfields.

And he has provided a new interest and the health benefit of organic produce, to fellow residents at his new home.

## Bella's Banfields bounty

Bella (Izabella) McCulloch has helped brighten the day of some of our oldest residents.

The Year 11 student from Newhaven College initiated a community letter writing project at the school, to ease the loneliness of aged care residents during the recent lockdown.

Bella said the inspiration came from close to home, saying her own grandmother living alone in Melbourne was finding the isolation difficult.

After hearing about other community letter writing projects, Bella organised a similar scheme at Newhaven College.

"It has been a difficult time for people and I wanted to find a way to uplift others," she said.

Letters written by Year 10 and 11 students were sent to Banfields Aged Care who said residents were very welcoming of the initiative.

The school said it was wonderful to see students doing something good for other in the community who may have been doing it tough.



Year 11 student Bella (Izabella) McCulloch organized a community letter writing project with students writing to residents at Banfields Aged Care, to help ease their isolation during lockdown.

## FIRST NATIONAL REAL ESTATE

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Take advantage of the rare opportunity to secure a level block with excellent beach access, the north facing aspect only adds to this ideal quiet location. Build your dream home with access for boat or caravan.



#### For sale – \$620,000 15 Seaview Crescent, Surf Beach

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#### For sale – \$419,000 25 Terry Crescent, Wimbledon Heights

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Banfields Aged Care is a world-class residential facility situated right within the heart of Cowes offering the ultimate in luxury living. Set amongst beautiful landscaped gardens in the grounds of the former Banfields cinema and restaurant complex, Banfields Aged Care is a state-of-the-art residential aged care facility with hotel-style amenities. The single level facility provides care to 90 residents with ageing in place programs offering all levels of care. We also offer a dedicated 14 bed Memory Support Unit. The spacious and elegant facility consists of six separate wings, adjoining central lounges, café, bar, reception centre and provides an extensive range of services to assist residents in remaining active and engaged.

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03 5951 2500 [www.banfields.com.au](http://www.banfields.com.au)





# Regions targeted for testing

Bass Coast hasn't had an active case of COVID-19 since late August.

To help keep it that way, the state government is introducing a range of new measures, to stop anyone from Melbourne visiting regional areas – lawfully or otherwise – spreading the virus.

Regional businesses must now check that customers are not from metropolitan Melbourne or risk a potential \$9,913 fine.

Businesses are being told to ask customers for ID, such as a driver's licence.

However if a business is doing the right thing but is deliberately misled by a customer, it won't be fined.

Melburnians are legally allowed to visit regional Victoria for a range of reasons (including work, caregiving, visiting an intimate partner), but they must still abide by the Second Step restrictions in place in Melbourne.

This means, they can order take-away, but cannot sit down for a drink or meal. Shopping should only be for food or essential items.

Individuals who are caught deliberately ignoring the restrictions face a \$1652 fine. Any resident of Melbourne found in regional Victoria without a valid reason face fines of up to \$4957.

From midnight on October 11, all Victorians must wear a fitted face mask when they leave home.

The Chief Health Officer advised the mask must be fitted and cover the nose and mouth, and recom-

mends a mask with three layers.

You are no longer permitted to wear a scarf, bandana, loose neck warmer or loose snood instead of a mask.

## Testing and contact tracing up

As of Monday, there were only five active cases in regional Victoria, and these were all based in Mitchell Shire.

With the rest of regional Victoria enjoying Covid-free status, the state government said it would ramp up surveillance testing and preventative contact tracing measures in regional areas.

This included workplace testing and establishing five Local Public Health Units.

Jan Child, CEO of Bass Coast Health said her team was already working closely with the Gippsland Public Health Unit, hosted by Latrobe Regional Health (LRH).

"To date, this has included taking a local role in testing, tracing, and support to private and not-for-profit residential aged care facilities."

Ms Child said she believed there were eight high-risk industry sites in Gippsland, and all needed to have a testing plan in place this week.

"To date, we have not been contacted by the workplaces," she said.

"It is our understanding that the Department of Health and Human Services will follow up with any outstanding companies this week."

Although there were currently no active cases recorded in Bass Coast, Ms Child urged the community not



From midnight on October 11, all Victorians must wear a fitted face mask when they leave home. It is no longer permissible to wear a scarf, bandana, loose neck warmer or loose snood.

to get complacent.

"We ask the community not to risk complacency about cold and flu symptoms, or brush off mild symptoms as a bit of hay fever, or something that will be better by the end of the day," Ms Child said.

"Staying at home and getting tested, no matter how mild the symptoms, is still arguably the most important thing we can do to beat this virus."

"We need to maintain and increase testing numbers and testing of our vulnerable community members."

Bass Coast Health works with DHHS and LRH to provide mobile testing to those vulnerable community members who are not able to get to the testing sites.

In addition, BCH has already started doing asymptomatic testing for elective surgery, for food processing and transport and other high-risk industries including their own health care workers.

"This asymptomatic testing will continue to be a feature of our strategy going forward," Ms Child said.

"We are working alongside Wonthaggi Medical Group to make sure there is seven days per week testing access for our community and we will continue to adjust hours of access based on demand."

She stressed that BCH was well prepared to deal with the current situation and said people should not put off seeking medical care.

"Not only are we prepared to safely care for any COVID or SCOVID patient, we are better prepared than ever to deliver safe care to the rest of our community."

"The community can feel very confident that there is no risk in attending health services. We know some people think it's safer to sit on their minor medical illnesses, rather than seek treatment. This is not the safest thing to do at all."

"We encourage everyone to maintain their medical appointments, or book a new one if required, so that those minor illnesses or niggles don't result in something that could be life changing or life ending."

The state government also announced additional measures with contact tracing, requiring close contacts of people with Coronavirus to get tested on day 11 of quarantine.

Any close contact who refuses the day 11 test will have their quarantine extended.

The Premier said it was likely there would be further easing of restrictions for regional Victoria announced at the end of the week, including business requirements.

# Extra protection for island

Phillip Island has been added to the state government's wastewater surveillance project.

The decision provides added peace of mind for residents concerned visitors may bring the virus to the area, which has had no active recorded cases since the end of August.

Last week, local MP Jordan Crugnale told the Advertiser she was advocating the island be included in the surveillance, given its unique characteristics as a holiday destination.

Over the weekend, the government announced the Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant was one of nine new sites added to the program.

Ms Crugnale said she was very please the island had been included.

"Our wastewater surveillance program is a really valuable part of the public health response and we have been collecting samples from sites across the regional and metro sewer network since August."

In late September the number of sites rose from 25 to more than 30 which included Wonthaggi.

Ms Crugnale said the program could be an effective early warning system for Coronavirus.

The new sites announced by the new Health Minister, Martin Foley over the weekend, brings the total number of sites in Victoria to 40.

The Cowes Wastewater Treatment

Plant is run by Westernport Water.

The corporation treats 1100 megalitres of domestic wastewater each year. The Cowes plant processes 90 per cent of that, with the remaining 10 per cent processed at the King Road plant in Coronet Bay.

According to Westernport Water the Cowes treatment plant can treat up to 8.5 megalitres of wastewater per day.

## Viral monitor

Testing for Coronavirus viral fragments in wastewater is an additional monitoring tool, which DHHS said may provide early warning of COVID-19.

According to the DHHS website, people who have or have recently had Coronavirus (COVID-19) may shed fragments of the virus.

"These fragments can enter wastewater through bowls, sinks and drains. This viral shedding may come from different sources such as used tissues, off hands and skin, or in stools. This may last for a number of weeks beyond a person's infectious period."

If fragments of the virus are detected in the wastewater in an area where there have not been any recent positive cases, it triggers increased testing and a heightened health response.



The Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant which can treat up to 8.5 megalitres of wastewater per day, has been added to the state government's Corovavirus wastewater surveillance project.

In September viral fragments were detected in wastewater in Anglesea and in Apollo Bay.

The government established additional testing sites in both areas.

The surveillance project is a joint venture between all the Australian states and territories and New Zealand.

made up the lion's share of tests at the Urgent Care Centre with 47 tests (and another nine in Wonthaggi). Cape Woolamai was next, with 16 tests, followed by Rhyll with 10.

Eight of the tests at the Urgent Care Centre were for people who registered postcodes outside the shire as their permanent residence. This included six from metropolitan Melbourne.

All in all, the Urgent Care Centre carried out 110 tests in the past week, while 274 were done at Wonthaggi Hospital's ED or drive through site.

# Super testers

As Bass Coast Health encourages everyone to remain vigilant and get a Covid test if displaying the mildest of symptoms, we take a look at who is testing and where!

Inverloch wins the gold medal for the most tests, with 64 people pre-

senting at Wonthaggi for a test in the past week, followed by Wonthaggi on 53. Dalyston punched above its weight, recording 12 tests. And 17 people from Leongatha were also tested at the Wonthaggi site.

Over on the island, Cowes residents

# Take the test

Everyone in the community, especially young people, is encouraged to continue to get tested to build resilience against a third wave.

You should be tested if you display even the mildest symptoms, including: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste.

Due to a reduction in numbers presenting for tests, changes have been made to testing times at the Urgent Care Centre and Wonthaggi Hospital.

Testing is available at:

- Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. Pre-

operation testing 2pm – 3pm daily.

- Wonthaggi Hospital testing service is now available between 9am – 1pm, Monday to Friday and 10am – 2pm on weekends and public holidays.

You can also book a test with Wonthaggi Medical Group, Monday to Friday from 1pm – 5pm. Pre-operation testing between 10am – 11am. Ph: 0492 036 568 or [www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/wonthaggi-VIC-3995/wonthaggi-respiratory-clinic/doctors](http://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.



# Island Ward candidate weighs in on big issues

A candidate in the upcoming Bass Coast Shire council elections has added his voice to the growing chorus critical of Regional Roads Victoria's proposed road upgrade plans at Newhaven.

Candidate Ron Bauer – who is standing for Island Ward – said his phone had been “running hot” from residents and businesses concerned about RRV’s plans for Newhaven, which include four lanes on the Phillip Island Road between two new roundabouts at Forrest Ave and Boys Home Road.

“I think it’s a crazy idea in the way they’re planning it: taking a small pipe, putting it in to a larger pipe and then back into a smaller pipe,” Ron said.

“The net gain is zero.

“If they want to spend money then start dual lanes at the Anderson fly-over through to San Remo first.”

Ron said he had met with Newhaven businesses in the Rip Curl complex, who were concerned that under RRV’s plans anyone driving from Cowes would be unable to turn into their complex, but would instead have to drive to the Forrest Ave roundabout and do a U-turn.

“RRV needs to add a slip lane at the pedestrian crossing to enable cars to enter the complex.”

Ron said it was “debateable” whether a dual lane highway was needed on Phillip Island, saying while it had “merit” money could be better spent on other projects.

He added that councillors had a duty to communicate RRV’s plans with residents, with the roads authority also needing to improve transparency around community consultation.

## PICAL

Ron said he had also met with representatives of the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre over concerns the centre needed to find a site for their new community garden and fundraise \$650,000 to pay for a building sufficient to their needs.

PICAL is planning to move to a new home on 16 Warley Avenue, with the state government set to start constructing a community hospital on their Church Street land in 2021.

In September, Bass Coast Shire confirmed they would deliver stage one construction of 400 square metres of floor space.

But according to PICAL chair Jeff Floyd they required a 550 square metre building, at a cost of \$650,000, as well as a secondary “satellite”



Ron Bauer said his phone had been “running hot” from residents and businesses concerned about several issues, including road plans for Newhaven and expansion plans for PICAL.

site, to house PICAL’s community gardening programs.

Ron said PICAL was an invaluable community asset and given the planned Warley build was inad-

equate to fit all their services, a new, additional site urgently needed to be found.

“A second site is needed so the centre can continue their fine work.

The transition needs to be as smooth as possible,” Ron said.

## Other issues

Ron said he had also met with community members about other issues, including off-leash dog beaches.

“I support current off-leash areas, including at Cowes west, around McKenzie Road. I believe this needs to be extended from the yacht club through to Anderson boat ramp,” he said, adding he supported additional off-leash areas in Rhyll and Cowes east.

“But when plovers are nesting, it needs to be roped off and dogs not allowed within 10 metres. It would act like different speed limits at a school crossing.

“I also support more rangers in the area, which would act as a deterrent.”

Ron said if he was successfully elected, he would ensure more signage in Cowes, to point to the transit centre, the health hub and the electric car re-charge points.

“Any visitors to the island would have no idea where to catch the bus or how to find the hub,” he said.

“I also advocate for more electric car charge points in Thompson Avenue.”



(From left to right) Local cyclist enthusiast Owen Bentley, Candidates Jeni Jobe, David Rooks and Michael Whelan and Wayne Foster from the Bicycle Repair Man are committed to a safer cycling strategy for Phillip Island and Bass Coast.

# Candidates push for safer cycling on Phillip Island

Three Island Ward candidates have committed to supporting a safer cycling strategy for Phillip Island.

Michael Whelan, Jenni Jobe and David Rooks said it was important to support community initiatives and to show leadership and teamwork on major policies for the island and the shire.

The trio is also keen to look at ways to extend the policy for the rest of Bass Coast.

In a joint statement, the three candidates said: “While a start has been made with the shared pathway from Newhaven to Cowes, the pathway from Rhyll to Cowes and recent footpath gaps work in Settlement Road East there is much to be done. “It requires a whole Council fo-

cus for the region and it is time to be bold. As a starting point for our island we commit to a safe cycling path for Thompson Avenue, a shared pathway for Settlement Road and from Cowes to Summerlands.”

A recent report by Totally Renewable Phillip Island identified that many people want to cycle for recreation and for commuting, but don’t feel safe doing so.

Owen Bentley, an avid local cyclist, agrees there should be a Bass Coast wide cycling strategy.

“Council’s Active Bass Coast Plan 2018-2028 and the aspirational shared path plan are both excellent documents, but in my opinion, what’s been lacking in the past is the implementation of them,” he said.

# Who’s supporting our farmers?

The local branch Victorian Farmers Federation has canvassed candidates in the upcoming election to gauge their support for farming issues in Bass Coast.

A questionnaire covering the key issues for farmers in the election was sent to all the candidates.

They were quizzed on their position on the Land Management Rebate, farming differential, the future of agriculture in the area, roadside weeds, and the climate emergency.

They were also asked about their experience with farming, including their ability to understand farming issues and communicate with the farming community.

Of the seventeen candidates, eight responded, including all four from Western Port Ward, and four from Island Ward – David Rooks, Ash Belsar, Jeni Job and Ronnie Bauer.

No candidates from Bunurong Ward responded to the survey.

All candidates pledged to retain

the Land Management Rebate and agreed maintenance of rural roads was an important budget item for the shire.

Six of the candidates – Halstead, Rooks, Ellis, Bauer, Le Serve and Kent – committed to retaining the farming differential, with others admitting they needed to look at it further, or would consider it as part of a range of rate reduction measures.

Seven candidates agreed funding needed to be increased for Roadside Weed Management, with Ronnie Bauer saying if elected he would consult with shire officers to determine the best way to address the issue.

Three candidates had direct farming experience: Clare Le Serve (a retired farmer); Rochelle Halstead whose family owns a dairy farm in the Kiewa Valley; and Geoff Ellis who worked three years on a dairy farm. Others had a family connection to the land, or worked with

farmers through their roles in Totally Renewable Phillip Island (Jeni Job) or Landcare (David Rooks).

All candidates were enthusiastic about the future of agriculture in the shire and the importance of supporting farmers and protecting farms, with Clare Le Serve described agriculture’s future as “critical” to the local economy.

Bass Coast’s decision to declare a climate emergency and what should be done to lower the carbon footprint elicited a range of responses.

Some candidates felt farmers needed to be a key part of the solution, other mentioned initiatives such as sequestration farming, regenerative farming and increased canopy across the shire to achieve the goals of the Climate Action Plan.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the candidates’ responses can contact Faye Tuchtan, Secretary of the Bass Coast branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation on 0411 732 987.

# Post your vote

Ballot packs were mailed out last week by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

If you haven’t received your ballot pack by this Friday (October 16), contact election manager Janine Taylor on 1300 108 284 to arrange a replacement.

Your completed vote must be in the mail before 6pm on Friday, October 23 (check your final local mail clearance times).

Or you can hand deliver your ballot to the local election office at 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi. before 6pm on Friday, October 23.

Hand delivery hours have been extended on Thursday, October 22 (9am to 8pm) and Friday, October 23 (9am to 6pm).

The VEC advises voting is compulsory for voters who were on the state roll for this general election at 4pm Friday, August 28 and Council-enrolled voters are encouraged to vote. State-enrolled voters who don’t vote may be fined.

# Former councillor quizzes candidates

Former Bass Coast councillor Phil Wright is urging candidates in the upcoming council election to support the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy.

“It is my opinion that Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) 2035 is the most important document to deliver economic growth while protecting the natural environment.

“It takes in two wards and contributes strongly to the third,” he said.

He’s written to every candidate asking if they support the VES’s priorities, which include a trail that circuits the island and forms part of the local reputation as the “accessible tourism capital of Australia”.

He’s asked each candidate if they’re familiar with the VES and which of the 60+ actions they’d allocate more

spending to.

He’s also asked candidates to state their position on a range of issues, including restricting day visitor numbers, developing a tourism roads masterplan, restricting the expansion of town boundaries, developing a pathway strategy, reviewing speed limits, creating a round the island coastal path and introducing an environmental management charge for visitors.



# Skye high: our most famous resident

Forget Chris Hemsworth. Phillip Island's most famous face is officially Skye Nichol.

Ranger Skye, as she's known to her legions of fans, was the first Phillip Island Nature Parks commentator on the hugely successful Live Penguin TV back in August.

"That first night was also the one with the highest viewing, with 771,000 devices (equivalent to up to 3 million views)," says the 32-year-old.

"I was very nervous that night, but mentally there's not a lot of difference between 10,000 or 100,000, they're just really big numbers."

Live Penguin TV has since gone on to clock up 17 million views in five weeks, and counting, with Skye now one of four commentators who rotate the gig (alongside Jordan Roberts, Heather Fahnle, Meagan Tucker and Stephen Pendlebury), each night giving their 30-minute unique take on the waddling stars.

Viewed on PINP's Facebook page, a YouTube channel and with several cross-streams including the Advertiser and Visit Victoria, about 65 per cent of viewers are Victorian, 15 per cent from the rest of Australia and about 20 per cent from around the globe, particularly Europe (with time zones working well), but even North America (where it's about 1am).

"There's even one lady who watches every single night from Vancouver and I gave her a shout out the other day," Skye says.

"There are dozens who watch it every night religiously."

## Fan club

PINP communications head Roland Pick says the whole organisation has been surprised at the global success.

Roland says when they first had the idea to livestream nightly penguin arrivals back in April, on the back of Covid-19 travelling restrictions, the marketing team took informal bets as to how many views they would receive.

"Initially we thought we'd be happy with 20,000, but then when it hit the media, I thought the first night would



*Skye has an unofficial fan club and has been interviewed and appeared on most TV and radio stations, especially after commenting the funniest livestream, when a female Cape Barren goose began lurching at and pecking penguins as they waddled up the penguin highway.*

be about 80,000, so the uptake has blown us away," Roland says.

"I think it's a combination of factors: penguins are an absolute perennial favourite, and people have time at home but also it's a world first.

"It's the first time a regular, nightly, natural wildlife event has been streamed with live commentary by real people, not acting, not polished in a studio. Skye can take credit for that, she helps people connect."

Roland says each of the commentators has their own "fan club", based on emails and online comments.

"One mother the other day wrote that her daughter ran in the room saying Skye is on, Skye is on. Others say,

'it's Skye's week'. There are a lot of comments like that," Roland says.

"Skye's style is girl next door who everyone loves. Jordan is quick-witted and a bit cheeky, Stephen because he's Canadian is slightly exotic, slightly nerdy. Meagan is brainy and bright, and Heather is that grandmother who always has a story to tell."

## Drama

Skye grew up in Melbourne, and perfectly enough studied a double degree in science, majoring in zoology, as well as arts, drama and theatre studies.

She worked as a teacher, then worked overseas, including in an ani-

mal rescue centre in Costa Rica for three years, caring for sloths, toucans and spider monkeys.

Her dream job was to be a ranger at the Nature Parks, joining the team of 40 rangers a year ago and since running tours.

Skye's background made her the perfect candidate to be chosen to launch Live Penguin TV, and is now the most recognised commentator.

She has been interviewed and appeared on most TV and radio stations, especially after commenting the funniest livestream, when a female Cape Barren goose began lurching at and pecking penguins as they waddled up the penguin highway, protect-

ing her two goslings.

"People kept telling me to go back to the geese, not the penguins.

"I think the goose ended up winning. Eventually she got up and walked away but it was a dignified exit. She left because she felt like it."

## Fame

Skye says the job is not an easy one.

The commentator must operate the two cameras, liaise with a producer (who is also a ranger and moderates all the viewer questions), look at the camera and keep a gentle flow to the talk, ensuring it is fresh every night, even filling in time while everyone waits for the stars to arrive on their golden carpet.

"I imagine I'm talking to a friendly face. I'm not afraid to pause and let people enjoy what they are seeing, but there can't be huge silences."

The most common questions include: how long do they live (average age is seven but oldest is 26); how many babies do they have (two eggs) and some stranger ones including how high can they jump and how do they survive away from Antarctica.

Roland says PINP plans to continue Live Penguin TV until the end of the year, adding he believes it will ultimately make in-person visits to the Penguin Parade more popular.

"Some people thought visitors wouldn't want to come after seeing it, but if that were true there would never be any travel shows.

"People don't say, 'I'm done now I've seen it on TV', instead it inspires them to visit."

Skye says despite her global fame, she hasn't been recognised.

"Not once have I been recognised and I'm happy about that. The real stars of the show are the penguins," she says.

Adds Roland: "Send her up to Melbourne without her mask on and she'd be mobbed."

The Penguin Parade live stream can be accessed via [www.facebook.com/PhillipsIslandNatureParks/](http://www.facebook.com/PhillipsIslandNatureParks/); or [www.youtube.com/user/PIPenguinParade](http://www.youtube.com/user/PIPenguinParade)

# True colours

Plenty of footy fans wear their heart – or their team colours – on their sleeve.

But for Basil Maloney, it's par for the course – the golf course!

With the Tigers in the preliminary final against Port Adelaide in Adelaide on Friday night, Basil will be a standout this week with Richmond fans as he enjoys his regular round.

Basil is a former Richmond mid-fielder, who these days takes to the golf course in a buggy which bears the Richmond crest and colours, and his old playing number 32.

With footy fever well and truly in the air, as the Tigers fight for a berth in this year's AFL grandfi-

nal, Basil is sure to be a beacon for the club's local legion of fans.

He was hailed as the recruit of the year at the time, when he joined Richmond in 1961; coming from school footy with the famous St Pat's College in Ballarat, and his home side at Warracknabeal.

In his second year with the AFL club, he was involved in one very memorable incident that nearly resulted in Geelong's Alistair Lord missing out on the Brownlow Medal.

The umpire became confused and reported Alistair for striking Basil, when it was actually Alistair's identical twin brother Stewart who was the culprit.

Happily, the matter was sorted

out and Alistair went on to win the medal convincingly.

Basil spent three seasons with Richmond before work commitments saw him retire from the sport he loved.

"Football paid \$1 for a winning game, so with three children then, a job was necessary!" he comments.

Basil joined the Channel 7 marketing team, and after 12 years with the television station, travelled the country, including working on sheep and cattle stations in Queensland and WA (he had previously studied wool classing).

Returning to Victoria, he started a pantry hire and catering company based in Frankston.

Basil retired to live in Cowes five years ago.

His special golf buggy, make by In Golf & Utility, is the only buggy approved by an AFL club to use signage.



*Former Richmond mid-fielder Basil Maloney's golf buggy proudly displays the club's crest, colours and his old playing number.*

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**'Letter to the Editor'**,  
(350 word limit).  
Email [advertiser@pisra.com.au](mailto:advertiser@pisra.com.au)

## Four lanes won't harm island integrity

Re the Article and editorial "Don't love the island to death" (The Advertiser, September 20), I agree that preserving the integrity of the destinations should be the main aim of any strategy. However, I can't see making the Philip Island Road four lanes detracts from this objective in any way.

I also agree that bigger roads generally create more congestion.

However, one of the main reasons for this is that a bigger road drags users from alternative roads. This will not be the case here.

I also consider comparing a four-lane road on Philip Island to the Monash freeway is drawing a rather long bow. Significant reasons for increased traffic volumes on the island include the real growth in dwellings on Philip Island both permanent residents and holiday houses.

In regard to the dreaded so-called day trippers, who you suggest don't spend on the island, I make these comments. How many of these are actually holidaying at other Bass Coast communities and take a day trip to the island?

Should we restrict those holidaying on Philip Island from taking day trips to surrounding communities?

Do we really think that all day trippers bring a cut lunch and a thermos of coffee so as not to spend any money while on the island?

In regard to the suggestions of a toll on the bridge and/or a park and bus terminal somewhere.

A toll on the bridge - one of many objections, there isn't room to list them all - is the effect on local traffic between San Remo and the island.

As for a park and bus scenario, where would we build the facility?

These suggestions are made in paragraph six of the article which goes on to say these are "possible options to make congestion more sustainable".

This is possibly correct but, I would have thought a better objective would have been to ease the congestion, not sustain it.

Trevor Brown, San Remo

## Shovel ready they say

Island Ward councillors, one a candidate, two retiring spoke very highly of achievements through the Capital Works Program. Looking back two years some 80 projects were not completed with a value of \$9.63 million. Council records show a total of 145 projects of which 72 had not been completed. At council's May 2020

meeting councillors approved the stoppage of 26 projects shifting them into this year with an approximate \$14 million value. When all these projects were stopped many others were a long way off being completed at years end. Yet Island and Westernport Ward councillors and the CEO told ratepayers council wants "shovel ready projects" to create much needed jobs for the shire. One Island Ward councillor who is a candidate was reported saying "We have the money ... so let's get on with the job". What's the measure councillors use for project completion? It's very apparent our councillors say one thing which is not reality in council's records. While all these projects were not being achieved, council continued investing our cash as we paid our rates. Council had investments on three monthly intervals comprising of \$15.840m at 30/6/2019 year start, \$43m, \$36.200m, \$44.040m and at years end 30/6/2020 surprise \$46 million and a month later 31/7/2020 \$44 million. Council can invest our cash for up to two years. The shovel was never coming out of the shed. Projects were never going to be done once we the ratepayers parted with our rates cash. We must seek out new councillors that will pick up the shovel and as we pay our rates get the job done. Talk is one thing. Project management another. Poor achievements does not deserve reward. Turning our council corporation into an investment company for our hard-earned cash must change. Vote very carefully so we can get what is promised to the ratepayer by councillors.

Why do our councillors want to make our council an investment banker when ratepayers have no say? Will the new councillors performance monitor the shovel or just lean on it? Stay tuned.

Graham Jolly, Cape Woolamai

## New model for sealing roads

Bass Coast has over a hundred kilometres of unsealed urban roads. At the present rate of sealing, a lot of our residents will be living in sub-standard conditions for the rest of this century.

Currently a large chunk of the cost of upgrading these roads and drains is passed on to people who are least able to afford it. Since 2019 millions of dollars of Federal funding has been allocated to reduce this financial nightmare and speed up the process in Yarra Ranges Shire. Why not here? I will push for the same funding model in Bass Coast so the cost of our Special Charge Schemes can be significantly

reduced. People have a right to live in areas where there are footpaths and decent drains. If we can get the funding we deserve, and other shires already have, we can fix the legacy issues of drainage and unsealed roads. This link explains the details:

[www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-documents/Policies-strategies/Special-Charge-Schemes-Infrastructure-Improvements/Roads-for-the-Community-FAQs](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-documents/Policies-strategies/Special-Charge-Schemes-Infrastructure-Improvements/Roads-for-the-Community-FAQs)

Geoff Ellis, candidate for Western Port Ward

## Lack of leadership

In light of the unlawful leaking of revelations of a confidential investigation involving Bass Coast Shire Council, the actions of several councillors have demonstrated their abject failure of public leadership.

These councillors might well have broken internet speed records in their haste to quickly jump onto an online blog and effectively shout "It's not me. Don't look at me, look over there".

But where is their public denunciation of those responsible for the unlawful disclosure of confidential internal Council documents? Listen carefully, can you hear it?

No, nothing. Just the sound of crickets.

This serious breach of the Local Government Act, the Privacy and Data Protection Act, and the newly minted Media Engagement Policy which was rolled out with the blessing of those councillors, casts serious doubt over the integrity of conduct at Bass Coast Shire Council.

This is the sort of behaviour we might expect to see in Trump's America. It is not the sort of behaviour anyone should want to see in Bass Coast,

and it must be stamped out.

Fortunately, there's a reasonable chance we'll see a few new faces elected to council in the coming weeks.

Let's hope any new councillor understands cultural change is needed at Bass Coast Shire Council, and such change is unlikely to be driven from within the current bureaucracy.

The councillors, as the elected representatives of the community, will need to drive the necessary cultural change from the top down.

And let's hope, unlike so many of the current lot, they will not allow themselves to be subsumed into the Baillieu Street bubble.

Only then will they be able to produce far better outcomes for our community.

Kevin Griffin, Wonthaggi

## What a disgrace!

Not everyone has the privilege of going shopping without needing to find a public toilet!

Now the toilet that has cost rate payers a fortune, being moved around and seldom working, has now been removed from outside Gullivers.

Now nearest toilet is at the bottom of Thompson Avenue. A long steep walk for senior citizens! Toilets at Library are sometimes open.

Let's hope our new city offices include toilets that are accessible to the rate payers and tourist to our town.

Land was donated by Olive Justice, central to Cowes shopping area. This land has been debated for years.

We need green space in Cowes, the perfect solution would be to utilise this land opposite Aldi for a park with trees, colourful gardens and seats and most importantly a decent toilet block

for visitors and locals to enjoy.

This land was left for the people of Cowes to enjoy, not for the select few business people to use as a car park. Portable toilets for major events that encroach on parking spaces behind the chemist is not the answer.

With council elections now due, surely someone will listen and make a decision!

J. Falkingham, Cowes

(Editors note: Council has advised the Exeloo will not be replaced, but toilets are now located at the Transit Centre. The land known as Olive Justice Place was purchased by the council in 1996 and in April this year, council called for community input on how the site should be used in the future).

## Please guard our precious trees

In regard to the small cypress that appears to be dying in Thompson Avenue.

How very sad to think that the cypress trees have been there for 106 years and the locals have cared for them and loved them and they have been a Phillip Island icon.

They have a listing by the National Trust and there is international interest in this beautiful golden, green avenue which enhances the township of Cowes.

It seems inconceivable that anyone would want to damage our most precious attraction.

They are slow growing so it may be 30 years before they become a full-grown tree.

There are some thoughts about a 24-hour camera surveillance and testing of the tree and soil for unusual substances.

Would everyone please watch out for our precious tree?

Jane Clark, Red Rocks

## Phillip Island golf results

Tuesday, October 6 - Men's Stableford: Winner was Peter Blunden H/c (29) with 43 points from Ron Magill H/c (11) with 42 points.

9 Hole Stableford competition winner was Ian Bray H/c (29) with 21 points from Reg Browne H/c (34) with 20 points.

Wednesday, October 7 - Ladies 18 Hole Stroke Monthly Medal.

A Grade winner was Lorraine Hammon H/c(22) - Nett 68.

B Grade winner and Monthly Medal winner was Kaye Beaton H/c(25) - Nett 66.

C Grade winner was Pam Ardern H/c(40) - Nett 72.

Qualifiers for Match Play Semi-finals October 14 and finals October 28.

In order of qualifying 1-4 for each

grade:

A Grade (0-18) - Faye Morris, Dawn Andrews, Karen Green and Helen Coghlan.

B Grade (19-28) - Lorraine Hammon, Cheryl White, Megan Havers and Judy Magill.

C Grade (29-36) - Miyuki Yamaguchi, Lynore Mercer, Marlene Gibson and Ros Reid.

D Grade (37+) - Pam Ardern, Charlene Duthie, Jill Moor and Pauline Scoble.

9 Hole Stableford competition winner was Pat Rose H/c (37) with 18 points from Trish Jamieson H/c (45) with 13 points.

Thursday, October 8 - Men's and Ladies Stableford: Winner was Tony Zonetti H/c (19) with 42 points on a countback from Shane Palmer H/c (23) also

with 42 points.

9 Hole competition winner was Laurie Petrusch H/c (22) with 19 points on a countback from Anthony Pullan H/c (33) also with 19 points.

Saturday October 10 - Men's Stableford - 9 Holes only competition: Winner was Rick Banfield H/c (16) with 21 points on a countback from Trevor MacFarlane H/c (26) also with 21 points.

Ladies competition - Ladies Stableford - 9 Holes only competition: Winner was Marilyn John H/c (32) with 18 points on a countback from Judy Magill H/c (24) also with 18 points.

Mens and Ladies - 9 Holes Stableford: 9 Hole winner was Charlene Duthie H/c (39) with 18 points on a countback from David Scrase H/c (30) also with 18 points.

# Business Guide

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Web: [www.islandstorage.com.au](http://www.islandstorage.com.au)

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DEATHS

**GISLINGHAM, James:**  
Jim passed away on 5th October 2020.  
Loving husband of Adele , much loved father and father in law of Shayne and Carol.  
Best mate and adored grandfather of Jess.  
A true gentleman with a heart of gold.  
Reunited with Del but will be greatly missed.  
Privately cremated, memorial service details to be advised  
Thank-you to Peter, Elaine, Phoebe, Connor and Pat  
For your care and kindness to Jim.

---

**GISLINGHAM, Jim:**  
So sad to hear of Jim's passing.  
Always on for a chat and never without a smile.  
All our love to Shayne, Carol & Jess.  
We know he will be greatly missed.  
Buff, Kahren, Zac & Paige

DEATHS

**JOHNS, Kerry:**  
07.06.1958 – 10.10.2020  
Cherished wife of Nathan.  
Loved Mum to James, Jess, Natalie and Ruby.  
Loving sister to Lisa, Dean and Donna.  
Proud Nanna to Manny, Zade, Calhan and Tully.  
Kerry's service will be live streamed.  
For details please go to [www.handleyardandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyardandersonfunerals.com.au)

---

**JOHNS, Kerry:**  
7/6/1958-10/10/2020  
Mum/in-law, Nanna.  
Thank you for a lifetime of joy and memories.  
You are treasured and loved by us all.  
Our hearts ache, but we know you are at peace.  
With all our love and hugs.  
Your daughter Jess, son in-law Brad and grandchildren, Manny and Calhan.

---

**JOHNS, Kerry:**  
7/6/1958-10/10/2020  
Dearest mum,  
You were our rock and our guiding star.  
A strong brave and funny mum.  
A proud and loving nanna.  
If we are anything like you, we have so much to be proud of.  
We thank you for all the joy and memories.  
Rest easy KezzaBell.  
We miss you.  
With all our love your children, James, Jess, Natalie and Ruby, their partners and your grandchildren, Manny, Calhan, Zade and Tully.

DEATHS

**SHELDON-WILLIAMS, Elaine:**  
On behalf of Elaine Sheldon-Williams.  
Danny and Chez would like to thank the whole of the local Phillip Island community for their condolences and well wishes.  
Mum wasn't just a mother to her siblings. She always had her arms wide open to everyone.  
A very special soul. We would also like to thank all the staff at Grossard for giving her a special quality of life these last two years.  
You are all living proof that angels really do exist.

---

**SHELDON-WILLIAMS (nee McLardy): Elaine Joy**  
Passed away peacefully on October 7, 2020.  
Loved Ma to Ray, Tricia, Danny & Chez, and Anthony.  
Adored Nan to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.  
Loving sister of Lee.  
A Mother that every little child would want.  
Privately Cremated

DEATHS

**SHELDON-WILLIAMS (nee McLardy), Elaine:**  
Passed away 7th October. Adored sister to Lee and brother in law Bob.  
Loving Aunt to Scott and Justin.  
You will be missed by so many darling girl.  
Hope your Angels took you gently to the beautiful place where you were reunited with loved ones.  
You will always live on in hearts and minds of all that loved you.  
Special thanks to the the staff at Grossard for bringing smiles to her face.  
Deepest sympathy to Danny, Trish, Tony, Ray and families.  
I will miss you dear Lizzy.  
Your loving sister Lee.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**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](http://na.org.au)

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp. Coles) - Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday 11am, 5672 3627. Phone head office 9429 1833.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**BASS COAST RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC**

**NOTICE OF AGM**  
Sat 7th November 2020 at 2pm  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
For more information and to register your attendance visit: [www.bassccra.org](http://www.bassccra.org)

SITUATIONS VACANT



**Bistro – Team Leaders x 2 Full Time Positions**  
The Phillip Island RSL is offering 2 x exciting opportunities to become a member of our fantastic team. The successful applicants must have experience in a similar position and be available to work nights and weekends.  
  
The Phillip Island RSL is looking for a self-motivated, enthusiastic, customer service orientated and positive individual. This role requires someone with a good work ethic, willingness to upskill and train others, be proactive and show leadership.  
  
**Experience in hospitality is highly advantageous. Applications close 30 October 2020**  
  
Please forward resumes to:  
  
**General Manager  
Phillip Island RSL  
P.O Box 503  
Cowes 3922  
[gm@pirsl.com.au](mailto:gm@pirsl.com.au)**

JOHNS, Kerrilee (Kerry):  
In loving memory we advise the passing of Kerrilee (Kerry) Johns Saturday 10th October 2020  
Loving wife of Nathan, beloved sister, mother and grandmother.  
Your presence we miss  
Your memory we treasure  
Loving you always  
Forgetting you never  
Always in our hearts  
Love you Nathan, Katrina, Trae, Chloe, Flo and Steve.

# JOIN OUR TEAM

## Real Estate Sales Representative

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**We are looking for someone with:**

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- Excellent Written and Verbal Communication Skills • Strong Interpersonal Skills
- Systematic and Organised • Highly Motivated with a Desire to Learn and Succeed
- Effective Listening Skills • Positive Attitude and Boundless Energy

**What we are offering:**

- A full time sales position • Generous commission structures
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**For a confidential discussion, please contact  
Allan Mann – Managing Director on 0409 855 753**

To apply for this position email your resume to:  
Managing Director – Allan Mann  
[amann.inverloch@ljh.com.au](mailto:amann.inverloch@ljh.com.au)  
**Applications close Wednesday, October 21, 2020** Inverloch | Grantville | Phillip Island



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**Applications close 28 October 2020**

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For enquiries please contact Sally on 5678 5202 during business hours.

J000319AA



## Phillip Island RSL Bistro/Function Manager

The Phillip Island RSL is offering an exciting opportunity to become a senior member of our fantastic team. We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual with a passion for food, functions and service. The successful candidate will have the required qualifications/experience and be excellent in what they do. Flexible working hours is a requirement of this position along with solid experience in hospitality, good communication and leadership qualities.

In return the Phillip Island RSL offers a great working environment with ongoing and secure employment. This position allows you to use your flair, experience and ambition to drive sales and enhance service.

Salary based remuneration will be offered to the successful candidate. Circa \$70k including super-annuation.

If you are committed and passionate about food and service and can enhance our Club with your enthusiasm and experience then we would like to hear from you.

**Applications close 30 October 2020.**  
**Immediate start required.**

Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

Please forward a cover letter and resume to:

The General Manager  
Phillip Island RSL  
gm@pirsl.com.au or  
P.O Box 503  
Cowes 3922

# Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

Just to add a little more frustration to stock levels there is a strike, work slow or wages dispute, one of the above, on the docks which is holding up containers of not only fishing tackle stocks but effecting many other businesses as well.

We have received some of our seasons orders and the shelves are almost full again but I think we have more on backorder than we have received, so if you are waiting for that new piece of gear for the season they tell us it won't be long.

Our bait freezers however are full and there is no problem with supply.

We have a couple of new baits this season with our fresh, straight off the local boats, Octopus Heads.

We also now have the larger 1kg boxes of USA squid, there are twin packs of salmon, perfect size for when the sharks turn up or strip baits for snapper and gummies.

The silver whiting is bigger this season so far, for those who want baits for their squid spikes plus all of our usual baits.

We have 10lt buckets of dry berley pellets and finally back in is Tuna Berley Logs.

We have now gone back to seven days a week and while the number of customers around is still limited we are expanding our hours as the weather improves. If you are heading out for an early start just gives us a call at the shop to check we will be open for you.

### Fishing report

With the patchy weather this week reports were an understandably quieter but those we received were on the quality side.

It was definitely a case of opportunity this week and heading out for a quick fish in between the changes of weather.

All the reports came from customers that looked at the weather

and headed out to fish a tide change between the wind, sometimes in the rain.

We had a few reports from the land where the wind isn't really a factor just a nuisance at times. The advantage of fishing on an island if its blowing on one side drive over to the other side.

Snapper are the main target at the moment, and they seemed to have settled into the expected spots rather than all over the bay as they were a few weeks ago.

All over the bay however are 100s of pinkies, the very small variety.

It's as if they didn't leave and just took a break for a while but are back with no shortage of numbers. They seem to be in the biggest numbers across the shallower areas of the corals and not so many in the deeper channels.

Maybe it's the reason we aren't seeing the bigger snapper over the shallow corals, with the pinkies just stealing baits, with those

who have persevered still not seeing anything big.

The best of the reports is coming from Elizabeth Island and above, up to the fingers.

The snapper we had reported were all good fish at 5kg or above. We had one report of a snapper that pushed the scales over 9kg.

Although we had some good reports the numbers of fish caught didn't reflect the pictures showing up on sounders which probably has a bit to do with the temperature of the water still being a little low.

There were some good reports from off the land, beaches, and jetties this week with several not able to head out in the boat, so chasing a bit of bait on the beach.

The salmon showed up a couple of times on the beaches at Kilcunda, but the fish were small. There were a couple of reports from Woolamai as well.

Calamari reports were better from beaches than the jetties with Cleeland Bight a bit better than Ventnor.

The best land-based reports lately have come from the Cowes jetty where a few quality snapper and gummies have showed up.

Overall, the whiting reports

were ok and while we did get a couple that were quality the rest were nothing too special.

They were hard to find and several moves were needed to find a decent feed. The fish that were caught were all of good quality.

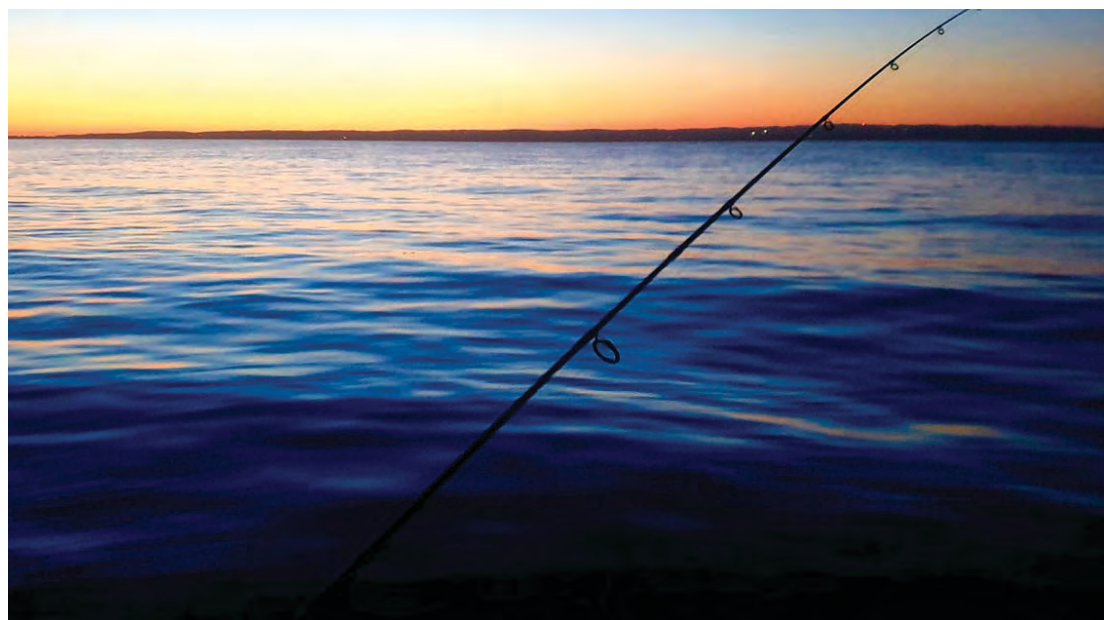
The best of the reports came from the Rhyll side of the bay and reports from Dickies Bay were all the same with whiting hard to find.

Double figures were rare but as one customer told us he caught eight that all went over 40cm, so he didn't need 20 anyway and had whiting for several meals.

If you are needing to update your fishing licence we are not doing them in store at the moment so you will need to go online at [www.vfa.vic.gov.au/fishing](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/fishing) inglicence. It's an easy process, when you finish you are sent a confirmation and it is valid immediately.

Don't forget to check your safety gear and make sure everything is in date.

Another law that many don't know about or just don't think about is when you are launching or retrieving your boat and you are the only one in the boat you must be wearing a life jacket.



"Perfect night out on the water, just off red rocks". Image: Greg Christou.

# Phillip Island Angling Club Fishing Competition

The second Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) fishing competition, for the 2020/2021 season, was held on the weekend.

Improving weather was the trend for the weekend with moderate westerly winds backing from the north-west to the south-west on Saturday.

Bursts of sunshine became more frequent and Sunday offered ideal conditions and a gentle breeze.

Consistent with Victoria's roadmap for re-opening, the Third Step restrictions permitted outdoor non-contact sport and outdoor gatherings, for up to 10 people, to proceed.

Prior to the event, RPIAC communicated the Covid-Safe plan to members, reiterating the requirements for facemasks, physical distancing, good hygiene and abstaining if unwell.

The clubroom remained closed and attendance was registered to ensure the competition was consistent with expectations for outdoor sport and exercise.

One-hour weigh-ins were coordinated to encourage participants to fish, weigh-in and then leave the area.

The weekend-long event was concluded via a Zoom presentation, where the officials and participants were thanked for their participation and the weekend's results were announced.

A total of 53 fish and 2 sharks were presented for weigh-in, delighting weigh-in masters Gerry Gibb and Norm Trickey. The variety of species were typical of spring and included snapper, whiting, salmon, flathead, barracouta, trevally, leather jacket and gummy shark.

The \$5000 incentives, for members with extraordinary catches on the competition weekend, remain banked until the Club's next competition.

The five eligible species nominated for a first-to-catch \$1000 prize, equal to or exceeding the nominated weight, are: King George Whiting (1000 grams), Snapper (10 kilograms), Gummy Shark (20 kilograms), Mulloway (25 kilograms) and Kingfish (25 kilograms).

Warmer water and longer daylight hours are providing more angling opportunities

and enthusiasm for angling increases as fish become abundant.

The Squidgie competition, for anglers aged nine or younger, is gaining momentum and participants are developing their skills.

The Mixed Bag competition welcomed Piper Nicolaci who finished in second place, weighing-in two fish for a total of 35 points.

Denver Firth, the reigning Squidgie champion, was a model of consistency and won after weighing-in five fish totalling 70 points. Without doubt, a return to school will hear the playground abuzz with angling conversations, and a few angling secrets could be revealed.

Brinkley Nicolaci has entered the Junior competition with a vengeance, exceeding all expectations to out fish junior competitors and many of the seniors.

Angling prodigy Brinkley weighed-in a snapper of 1215 grams and a trevally worth 952 points (680 grams), single-handedly winning both the Junior weight and Junior points competitions with these remarkable catches.

The Senior Heaviest Weight contests were won with snapper, and Debra Orr's was certainly the best, weighing 4885 grams.

Garry Whybrow was the best of the men and his catch weighed-in at 3710 grams.

Garry was literally fishing in a competitive environment, hauling a massive barracouta from the water that was worth 2465 points (2465 grams), to also win the male Senior Points competition. Pauline Leditschke weighed-in a very respectable King George whiting worth 1554 points (555 grams), to complete the weekend's fishing with the female Senior Points prize.

Peter Cubeta had a taste for flake and weighed-in a Gummy Shark of 2570 grams to win the Senior Shark competition.

Brett Slade finished the weekend with a triumphant 275-gram King George whiting, winning the Secret Weight competition (secret weight 273 grams).

The next competition will be held over the weekend of November 7 and 8.

For further information about the club, competitions and rules, please visit [www.rpiac.com](http://www.rpiac.com)



Senior club champion Debra Orr, with the best in the competition: 4,885-gram snapper and Sam Orr (background).

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J000327AA





Would you like to escape the modern world for a moment? A visit to Churchill Island could be just what's needed. This photo by Lyn Binks looks like it's from another era.

# Hopes still alive for a 2021 Channel Challenge

Organisers are hopeful that the 2021 Bass Coast Series and San Remo Channel Challenge will go ahead.

Representatives from the three organizing bodies that conduct the annual aquathons that make up the Bass Coast Series said it wasn't possible to make a decision yet on whether the events could go ahead.

However, Ron Nicholson, a key figure behind the Channel Challenge said they were hopeful some sort of activity would be able to take place in the New Year.

"It is planned to have a decision made in mid-late November by all appropriate bodies," Ron said.

The Cape Paterson SLSC has their Cape Aquathon event scheduled for Sunday, January 17 and is pushing on with plans to hold this event if restrictions allow.

Similarly, Ron said the Woolamai Beach SLSC, which is due to hold their 36th San Remo Channel Challenge event in February, is intending to go ahead as long as any eventual restrictions do not overly compromise the staging of the race.

In fact to allow for any possible cap on numbers allowed to participate on the day, they have



This year's San Remo Channel Challenge attracted over 500 competitors, cheered on by hundreds of spectators. Ron Nicholson is hopeful the 2021 event will be able to go ahead, despite Covid restrictions.

plans in place to possibly stage a two day weekend event.

This would see the Men's Categories being held on Saturday and the Women's categories being held on the Sunday of the same weekend.

At this stage potential dates for the Channel Challenge are Feb-

ruary 13 and 14, or February 27 and 28.

Ron said both weekends had similar lunchtime tides available.

With the difficulties of planning for these events and the uncertainty around possible dates the WBSLSC and the Phillip Island Football Netball Club, which

usually stage the Cowes Classic as the third leg of the Bass Coast Series, have decided to hibernate this event for 12 months.

The two organisations will combine their resources and work together on staging the 2021 Channel Challenge.

The recently created junior Aquathon event - The Little Penguin Dash - will continue if possible and will be held in conjunction with either the Annual WBSLSC Nippers program in January or on the weekend of the Channel Challenge.

The protocols around all Victorian Nippers' programs for 2021 are still being negotiated between Life Saving Victoria and the state government.

Ron said it was probably a 50/50 chance the events would proceed, and if this was the case, the Bass Coast Series will be reduced to a two event competition for 2021.

The Bass Coast Series website will be updated with progressive information.

If the events proceed there will probably be a rule implemented that only allows online entries with no on-the-day signups.

Any enquiries can be made to Ron Nicholson on 0416 133655 or at ronnicho@bigpond.com.

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