

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



Bomb squad at Cowes depot

Members of the Bomb Response Unit arrived from Melbourne to investigate, amidst concerns the containers were filled with hazardous material.

Containers of potentially hazardous material illegally dumped at the Cowes Recycling Bank saw police and the bomb squad called in last Thursday.

Local police cordoned off the depot after staff reported finding two unidentified containers of liquid material on site.

Concerns that the material might

be hazardous prompted the response.

Senior Constable Kelly Appelman from San Remo police said local officers secured the site until members of the Bomb Response Unit (BRU) arrived from Melbourne.

"The depot staff discovered the containers when they arrived at work. They were not sure where they had come from and called us.

"It certainly wasn't green waste. To keep the community safe, we called in the BRU."

The bomb response team arrived with their robot and investigated the containers, eventually confirming the material was non-hazardous.

"The containers have been passed over to the Cowes CFA team for safe disposal," said Snr

Constable Appelman.

"We're unsure how the containers got there, and it's still being investigated."

She said the incident was a timely reminder of the importance of properly disposing of different sorts of waste.

"You can't dispose of items like this at the green waste disposal."

Shire flooded with calls for Covid permits

Bass Coast Shire Council has received more than 2500 enquiries about the new fire permit process.

Last week the state government announced Melbourne holiday homeowners will be allowed to visit their properties in regional Victoria to make sure they were fire or flood ready.

Owners with property in Bass Coast will be able to apply for written formal approval from the council to visit the area.

There was a frantic scramble last week to work out the process for the new permits.

At the time, CEO Ali Wastie said they were "working on setting up the application process for Travel Exemption Permits and determining how they will be assessed".

An application form was posted on the council's website last Thursday afternoon, along with information about who could apply.

Ms Wastie called on people to be patient as the permit applications were assessed.

"Given that we're expecting a high volume of applications, we're asking people to please be patient while we work our way through them. Applications may take up to five business days to complete.

"There will be no charge for permits. Our webpage is the best place for the community to go for the most up-to-date information," she said.

"In line with the guidance provided by Local Government Victoria, we will be issuing permits to properties partially or wholly situated in a bushfire prone area, Bushfire Management Overlay or Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.

"These areas have been determined using scientific information and data, taking into account factors such as weather, topography and vegetation. Bushfire hazard data is developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and verified in collaboration with CFA and Council."

Property owners can check online which overlays applied to their property.

The website states owners of vacant blocks or properties without houses are not able to camp or stay in caravans on their properties.

Owners who receive a permit cannot visit local businesses to purchase supplies, tools or equipment.

There is a 72-hour limit on visits, with vacant landowners and tenanted properties only allowed 24 hours to complete the work. However, owners can visit more than once, but must apply for additional permits.

Continued page 20

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7 day weather forecast

Wed/Oct28	Thu/Oct29	Fri/Oct30	Sat/Oct31	Sun/Nov1	Mon/Nov2	Tue/Nov3
						
POSSIBLE SHOWER	POSSIBLE SHOWER	SHOWER OR TWO	POSSIBLE SHOWER	PARTLY CLOUDY	MOSTLY SUNNY	PARTLY CLOUDY
11 17	11 18	11 18	12 17	12 17	14 18	14 18

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*

As of Monday, October 26

11,250
tests done locally

11
Local residents
tested positive

0
Active cases

*From BCH Assessment clinics only since March.

Who are the new councillors? We'll be waiting

The outcome of the Bass Coast Shire council elections may not be known for "at least" two weeks, according to the shire.

The final council meeting for this four-year term, held online last week, saw councillors agree to hold the first meeting for new councillors on November 25.

Shire officers said the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) had advised them the outcome of the election wouldn't be known

until at least November 13.

"There is also a possibility that a November 2020 meeting may not take place if the outcome of the election is not known until late in the month," officers said.

They said new councillors also needed time "to settle in and gain a better understanding of the matters that are likely to be presented at the meeting, particularly if the results are declared in late November".

The officers said in-person meetings may also be re-started, with the Act requiring on-line virtual meetings expiring on November 1.

"While a revised Bill extending the virtual meeting measures is being considered, council needs to be prepared for a return to in-person meetings if required."

"Given the unknown nature of when the election results will be

known, it is recommended that the CEO be authorised to cancel or move the Council meeting dates for November and December if required."

Councillors voted for upcoming council meetings on:

November 25, Civic Centre, Wonthaggi/virtual 1pm;

December 16, Civic Centre, Wonthaggi/virtual 1pm;

February 17, 2021 Civic Centre, Wonthaggi/virtual 1pm.

New councillors will vote on van plan

New, incoming councillors will be required to vote on the future of the controversial proposed \$900,000 upgrade to a Cowes caravan park, according to Bass Coast Shire.

As reported in last week's Advertiser, managers of the Cowes Foreshore Tourist Park are taking the shire to VCAT after the shire failed to grant a planning permit within the prescribed time.

The development at 164 Church Street, by Across Australia Parks and Resorts Pty Ltd, received 22

objections and will be heard at VCAT on May 31 and June 1, 2021.

A shire spokesperson did not say why a decision on the development had been delayed, but said shire planners were preparing a report for the December council meeting.

"The report and outcome from council will be provided to VCAT," the spokesperson said.

The development proposes 12 new ensuites, studio units, four glamping buildings on the beach, but just 17 new car parks.

There will also be a new swimming pool, jumping pillow, pool shed and fencing, which will all require the removal of 20 trees, including several significant, healthy natives.

The park is on Crown land, so park managers are effectively taking their landlords – the shire – to VCAT.

Cowes west residents are set to battle the development at VCAT, saying for years they were promised an upgrade by managers of the park, which was set to allevi-

ate an overflow of parking problems, mostly in summer, where surrounding streets are log-jammed with visitor cars.

The upgrade was also hoped to address concerns about noise, as well as encroachment on foreshore vegetation, with residents concerned "trees have strangely disappeared over a number of years" and "foreshore has been claimed and developed by stealth".

The 22 objections detail resident opposition to the proposal.



Residents are battling the development of a Cowes caravan park, saying the upgrade has failed to alleviate an overflow of parking onto nearby streets, noise and foreshore encroachment.

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LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED



A 290 metre Floating Storage and Regasification Unit terminal at Crib Point will receive LNG from up to 40 super tankers per year and discharge up to 1.4 tonnes of chlorine per month. Victorian Recreational Fishing says the proposal would have long-term toxic impacts.

AGL bay project will kill fish populations: anglers

Areas of Western Port would become a "marine desert" with up to 14 million fish larvae killed per month from AGL's proposed bay gas project, according to submissions by peak fishing bodies and anglers.

Victorian Recreational Fishing chair Rob Loats in his submission to the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) hearing the AGL Environmental Effects Statement (EES) said recreational fishers had approached VR Fishing to express concerns regarding the impacts of AGL's proposal.

He said their concerns included cold water pollution, marine trapping and chlorination, adding anglers were "strong advocates for the environment".

AGL is proposing to build a 290 metre Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) terminal at Crib Point, which will suck up about 470 million litres of seawater – including fish eggs and larvae – through heat exchange pipes each day. This water would be discharged into the bay about 7C colder than the ambient temperature and containing the equivalent of up to 47 kilograms of chlorine a day.

Mr Loats said Western Port was a renowned fish nursery and based on the EES' own figures, up to 14 million fish larvae could be killed through trapping per month in

spring and summer.

"This would be difficult for recreational fishers to accept, regardless of the species," he wrote.

"The EES has not addressed the effect the ongoing removal of large numbers of fish larvae will have on fish populations."

The VR Fishing submission raises concerns about the release of up to 1.4 tonnes of chlorine per month, stating it would have long-term toxic impacts and "complex reactions".

Mr Loats said the ESS states that under peak operations, five hectares of seabed would be exposed to chlorine concentrations in excess of CSIRO recommended guidelines.

"There is not adequate acknowledgement and assessment of these compounds which can be persistent in the environment and toxic to marine organisms subject to long-term exposures," Mr Loats wrote.

He said recreational fishers "know first-hand the profound impact water temperature has on fish availability and behaviour", suggesting the EES took a "simplistic" approach to fish populations, failing to consider ecological relationships and interdependencies.

He states there are "complex environmental variables" that lead to successful fish breeding, which the EES fails to address, over-simplifying the data.

"Marine desert"

A submission from the Victorian Fishing Charter Association's Robert Harrison offers a detailed analysis of the bay's tidal movements, saying data used in AGL's EES was misleading.

Mr Harrison said he had 60 years' experience of the bay, making him a "practical expert".

According to his analysis, based on the amount of water to be sucked in to the FSRU – and the amount of chlorine and "super chilled" water to be discharged – combined with the bay's fast and slow tides, the seabed would be "destroyed".

Mr Harrison said during a dead or slow tide, the flow of water in the bay was "almost non-existent for up to four hours".

"So when the tidal movement has slowed or stopped, the water around the terminal has had 38 million litres pumped into the area decreasing the water temperature and concentrating the chlorination of the water in a two hour period," he said.

"The turbulence will be horrific for any marine animals anywhere near the gas terminal.

"The larger mobile animals will be able to move away, but the home to them and their food source will not survive, making that area a marine desert."

He writes the plume of turbulence and cold, chlorinated water would eventually enter the bay's Yaringa Marine Park.

"AGL decided not to do any research into the damage super chilled water will do in a state marine park, which has very strict protection laws associated with heavy fines and jail terms, yet AGL did not consider this, why?"

"The seagrass which has been slowly making a comeback will not be able to withstand such a dramatic change in temperature, then add the chlorinated water and neither plant nor animal life will survive."

Mr Harrison, 71, said he had fished Western Port since 10 years of age and was a commercial charter boat owner/operator, adding the bay was once a "pristine waterway".

He said the AGL project must rely on facts from "sound investigations".

"It's clearly evident AGL have failed to conduct proper due diligence to best identify adverse or potential environmental impact risk in Western Port by the proposed plant," Mr Harrison said.

"I strongly oppose the AGL project until they guarantee zero-harm will be achieved."

The AGL hearing

AGL is proposing to build a 290 metre Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) terminal at Crib Point. The FSRU will receive LNG from up to 40 super tankers per year.

The Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) hearing the project's Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is being held online until December 17 and is the most complex environmental assessment

carried out in Victoria.

The EES received more than 6000 submissions.

At the end of the hearing, the committee has 30 days to report to the Victorian Planning Minister Richard Wynne, who has 30 days to respond and make his decision. The Minister can ignore the committee's recommendations.

Details: www.engage.vic.gov.au/crib-point-IAC

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Timeline unchanged for Cultural Centre construction

Bass Coast Shire Council say there's been no change to the projected dates for the Cowes Cultural Centre project.

The timing of the construction had been questioned after it was revealed the library and Historical Society must vacate the Heritage Centre by February 2021.

Originally the Historical Society believed they could remain onsite until after Easter (see separate story).

Council's Manager of Major Projects, Damian Prendergast said the plan was always to vacate the Heritage Centre in the first quarter of the year, with construction scheduled to start in May 2021.

He said because the museum had decided not to open over summer or Easter due to Covid restrictions, the council was now working with the committee to relocate their collection.

There's a practical factor behind the decision to vacate by February as well.

Demolition of the main site can't be completed until the Heritage Centre is empty. One section of the old Cultural Centre remains standing, because it contains the power mains to the Heritage Centre.

Demolishing it now would leave the library and Historical Society without power.

Mr Prendergast said it would cost "a significant amount of money" to put in temporary power, as the "dial before you dig plans" didn't match up with the site, and



This section of the old Cultural Centre cannot be demolished as it contains the power mains for the Heritage Centre.

there was no power pit in the location indicated on the plans.

However, he said the rest of the demolition had proceeded as expected.

He confirmed some asbestos was discovered in the foundations of the building – a little more than the preliminary findings – but said

"it wasn't a substantial amount".

The asbestos has already been removed from the site.

The Heritage Centre had also been audited for the possible presence of asbestos. Mr Prendergast said he didn't expect it would cause any significant delay to the demolition process.

Design details

Architects at Jackson Clements Burrows (JCB) continue to work on the plans for the new Cultural Centre.

With the caretaker period for the council election now over, Mr Prendergast said JCB would re-engage with community groups and a new version of the plans would be re-

leased shortly.

The design was being refined based on earlier feedback from user groups.

He said considerable work had been done on the design for the new library, with the architects working closely with West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation.

Mr Prendergast confirmed a previous plan to have the Heritage Centre remain open during construction of the new Cultural Centre was no longer feasible.

"In the original plan (by Perkins Architects in October 2019), there was a double storey building on the footprint of the old cultural centre," Mr Prendergast said, which would have allowed the Heritage Centre to continue to operate.

But unlike that plan, the JCB design used the current Heritage Centre location.

"The layout changed due to feedback from user groups, as everyone wanted to be located on the ground floor."

He said the new design had the library and museum section of the new Cultural Centre located in the same area as the current Heritage Centre and provided a better interface with Thompson Avenue.

An updated 3D version of the plans for the new building will be released to the community before Christmas, with detailed designs completed by the end of the year.

Construction designs are due to be completed by Easter 2021, and then go out to tender.

Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2021 and expected to take 12 to 16 months.



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Out by February

The Phillip Island and District Historical Society has to be out of their current home by February. Society President Graeme Clausen said the February date has “thrown us a curve ball”, as they originally expected to remain in the building until after Easter.

“We didn’t realise the current building had to come down so early.”

Packing up the museum collection is a mammoth task for the team of dedicated volunteers.

“There’s a hell of a lot of work to do before then,” Graeme said.

“We may be able to get some stuff packed up by a contractor, while some of the things in the collection will go back to other organisations.”

He said the team had already made huge inroads going through the collection but would need to move faster now.

They also needed to find secure storage and a workspace to continue their work to register and catalogue the collection.

Graeme said they were currently negotiating with council to find a suitable location.

Bass Coast Shire Council’s Manager of Major Projects, Damian Prendergast said he had met with committee members last week.

“They do have a lot of stuff and it’s going to take a while to move it all. We are working with them to find a solution for storage.”

Despite the changed timeline, Graeme said the move to the new centre was a positive one for the museum.

“We will have more space and a brand-new museum. There will also be a working area upstairs for us to do research, catalogue and scanning of the collection.”



The Historical Society Museum will be closed until 2022 said President Graeme Clausen, with the society needing to be out of the current building by February next year.

Change of plans

Under the design proposal presented to Council in October 2019, the Historical Society and the library would have been able to remain in their existing building while the new Cultural Centre was constructed.

However the draft plans released in August by new architects Jackson Clements Burrows uses the entire site.

“When we met with the architects earlier this year, that wasn’t mentioned,” Graeme said.

“But we looked at the plans and realised the existing building would have to go.”

However, in that meeting, he said both JCB and the council said the Historical Society would be able to stay in the Heritage Centre until after Easter.

Getting organised

As part of packing up the collection, Graeme said members would be sorting through the files and archives.

“Some things will go back to other organisations. For example, items about Churchill Island will go back to them.”

And as the new museum will be custom designed, he said some of the existing museum fixtures and furniture would be donated to other groups.

“We have a lot of display units and boards and we won’t need those.

“So we will be offering them to other community groups that may be able to use them.”

The society’s museum, which has been closed since March due to Covid restrictions, will not open again until 2022.

Handball #1: Silverleaves

A Silverleaves property owner has had their house-building plans deferred by Bass Coast Shire councillors for the third time.

The final meeting for current councillors last week, saw a swift handball to the new batch of yet-to-be-announced councillors, after the meeting failed to make a decision on the proposed house development at 58 Bruce Road, Silverleaves, with shire planners recommending it be granted a permit.

Cr Stephen Fullarton – at his last meeting – said the development needed to be deferred a third time because the owner continued to submit the same plans, failing to take on board councillor feedback.

“This matter has been around for several months and the application has not changed,” Cr Fullarton said, adding the building was too high and too close to a neighbour’s boundary.

“I’m totally unhappy with the whole process of this application.”

Cr Pam Rothfield – who also attended her last meeting – agreed, say-

ing the neighbourhood character of Silverleaves needed to be protected.

The deferral was narrowly carried by one vote.

Silverleaves Conservation Association president Marjorie Johnston said she was concerned the proposed plans removed significant vegetation, questioning why an arborist report included in the planning permit “claimed there were no significant trees”.

“Bruce Road has suffered from significant clearing in recent years with heightened levels of removal at the east end in the past decade in particular,” she said.

“I and SCA members and associates are attempting to protect the unique character of Silverleaves – an area where the majority of dwellings are modest beach houses set in amongst the trees and where wildlife and vegetation are recognised as vital assets not just in Silverleaves but as part of the broader environment.

“I wonder why Bass Coast do not appear to be prioritising protection.”

Handball #2: Surf Beach

A Surf Beach property owner will have to wait for the new batch of councillors to know the fate of a planning permit, after Bass Coast Shire councillors agreed to defer a vote.

The final meeting for current councillors, last week, saw a swift handball to the yet-to-be-announced councillors, after the meeting failed to make a decision on the proposed house development.

Shire planners recommended approval for the plans – to construct a single storey home at the rear of an existing two storey dwelling – at 21 Highview Crescent, Surf Beach.

However councillors voted to defer because they said the plans for the 892m² block “jeopardised”

the neighbourhood character.

“I don’t know why people don’t want backyards when they live in the country,” said Cr Clare Le Serve, who is standing for re-election.

“By adding a rear dwelling, that makes the block 460m² and I think that is too small.”

Cr Michael Whelan said because roads in Surf Beach were unmade, more traffic should not be encouraged.

He said because the state government was soon to release the final details of the Distinctive Areas Landscape policy – which will guide town boundaries and high-density planning – he supported the deferral.



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RAAF's Sale-based pilots made numerous loops over the island last week in the PC-21, as part of a pilot training system.

Military might over island skies

Anyone with keen ears may have heard an unusual sound in the sky over Phillip Island last week.

In fact listeners may have thought it was the MotoGP, such was the military fly-by.

But the sound of Royal Australian Air Force jets was no grand ceremony, but training for the RAAF's Sale-based pilots.

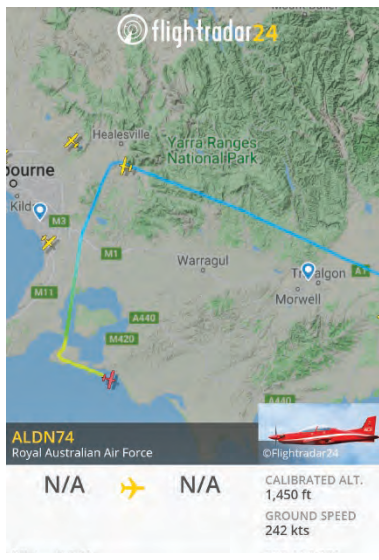
The plane that made numerous loops over the island over several days was the Pilatus PC-21, which – according to the RAAF – is the world's most advanced pilot training aircraft.

As part of pilot training system, the PC-21 – based at RAAF Base

East Sale in Victoria, as well as RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia – gives pilots skills before progressing on to advanced military aircraft such as the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter, Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, and MRH-90 helicopter.

For aviation boffins, the PC-21 is equipped with a pressurised cockpit, an anti-G system, and on-board oxygen generation and is capable of sustained low-level speeds over 320 knots.

Flight Tracker data shows the PC-21 flew a loop over the island on Thursday at 5pm, at a speed of about 242 knots.



Flight Tracker data shows the PC-21 (pictured in red) flew a loop over the island on Thursday at 5pm, at about 242 knots

Trick or treating

Covid regulations in place

Trick or treat will look a little different this year.

Although the state government has advised regional Victorians can trick or treat this Halloween, they need to follow the current Covid restrictions.

This includes limiting group sizes to 10 people, wearing masks, carrying hand sanitiser and social distancing.

Trick or treaters shouldn't enter private properties and any treats should be individually wrapped and left on the fence or at the front of the property.

There should not be any community lolly bowls.

Groups of trick or treaters should not interact or join together, with DHHS recommending staggered times for the neighbour walks.

There's still plenty of fun ways to enjoy Halloween despite the restrictions, including decorating your house or creating some spooky drawings on your driveway or footpath.

You might even want to add a Halloween character to the local Spoonville.



Bake some Halloween inspired treats instead of trick or treating this year. Photo Sonya Pix, Unsplash.

Other suggestions for Covid-safe Halloween activities include online costume parades, cooking ghoulish-inspired food or creating a backyard Halloween treasure hunt (Easter egg hunt style).

More record rainfall

Heavy rain over the weekend pushed the October rainfall totals to record levels.

Up until Sunday, 95.6mm had fallen, 37.6mm more than average.

October 9 was the wettest day of the month so far, with 22mm recorded. The next highest rainfall was recorded on October 17, with 17.4mm, followed by last Saturday (October 24), when 15.6mm fell.

Last month the Bureau of Meteorology declared a La Niña has developed in the Pacific Ocean, which typically means a wetter-

than average spring.

Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) said it was preparing for what could be a very wet spring, and so should residents.

VICSES said the last significant La Niña event in 2010 – 2011 had a devastating effect right across Victoria.

In September, the weather station at Rhyll recorded 84.4mm, well above the median rain fall of 61.8mm (September 1991 – 2020).

April holds the record for the wettest month this year, with 138mm recorded.

ANTIWRINKLE TREATMENTS

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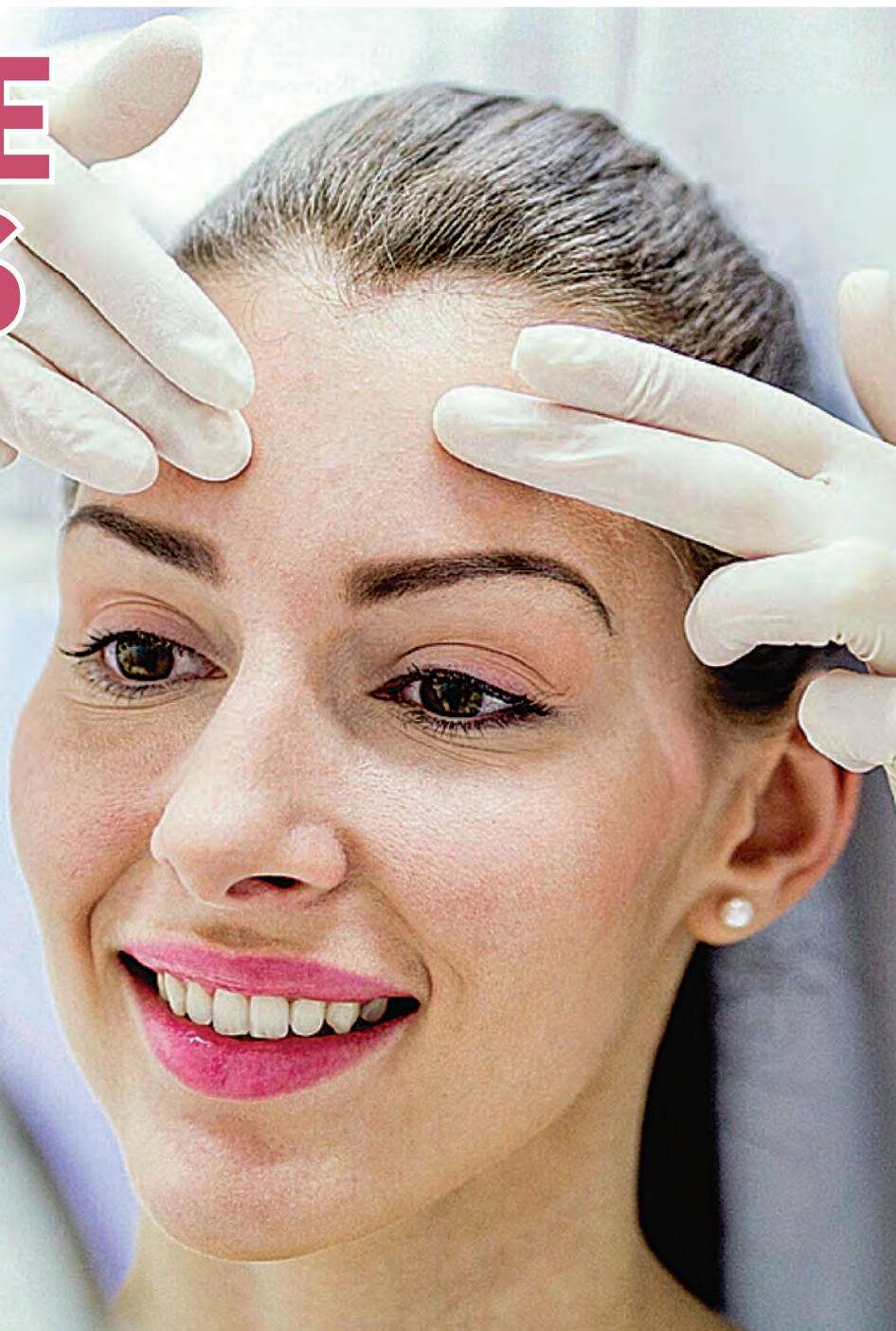
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Whale Fest is simply the best

In a welcome piece of good news for the local tourism and events industry, the Island Whale Festival has taken out the award for the Best Small Event at the Australian Event Awards.

From a strong field which included entries from Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania, the Island Whale Festival was congratulated by judges, who said it had the potential to “triple the audience on an annual basis”.

Due to Covid restrictions, the award ceremony was held at locations in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, with Victorian finalists joining in via Zoom.

Members of the Island Whale Festival committee got together at the San Remo Hotel to watch the event.

The room erupted into applause when the Whale Festival win was announced, with General Manager of Destination Phillip Island, Kim Storey accepting the award over Zoom.

“We are super excited that the 2019 Festival has been awarded this accolade for the culmination of effort from our own team and the organising committee,” Kim said.

“We thank the many organisations and community groups who delivered the experiences across the three-day event, many of whom were volunteers.”

The committee hopes to host a celebration when Covid restrictions allow, and once the actual trophy arrives on the island.

The award-winning three-day festival held in July 2019 was a uniquely interactive event inviting participants to explore the natural environment celebrating the arrival of whales



The 2019 Island Whale Festival won the Best Small Event at the Australia Event Awards announced last week. The festival attracted over 9000 participants over three days.

in the southern waters of Phillip Island.

As well as a Festival Hub, several venues offered hands-on interactive and educational activities delivered by local organisations

and research scientists. The festival experienced record growth in 2019, attracting over 9000 participants.

Founded by Wildlife Coast Cruises and the

Two Bays Whale Project, the festival is coordinated and supported by Destination Phillip Island, in partnership with the Dolphin Research Institute, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council. The festival also received funding from the Victorian Regional Events Fund.

Event awards

The Australian Event Awards is the national awards program for the events industry.

Entries are judged on all aspects of event management including best practice, innovation, marketing, stakeholder engagement and management, sustainability, and event legacy.

Across the board, 2020 was a very high scoring year.

Brenda LaPorte, co-chair of the Judging Panel, said: “The entries put forward for judging on average scored significantly higher than last year. This is an incredible result knowing what the industry has been through in 2020.”

“It clearly reflects the high quality of the events delivered across Australia and what we have to look forward to when our industry makes its comeback.”

Other finalists in the Small Events category were: Gold Coast Music Awards (Qld), Turning the Tables virtual event (Vic), Buskers by the Creek (Qld) and Tulip Festival Wynyard (Tas).

The 2021 Island Whale Festival returns on July 2-4, 2021.

If you missed the festival in 2019, view the video on @islandwhales Facebook page in the video section.

Island weddings get the bouquet

Local wedding suppliers stood head and shoulders above the pack in the 2020 Brides Choice Award for Gippsland and Phillip Island.

In a stellar performance, local businesses took out many awards in a region that spans east and south-east Victoria.

The awards provided some encouragement in what has been a tough year for wedding suppliers, who have been among the hardest hit by restrictions and uncertainty.

David Manning, President of Phillip Island Weddings, a not-for-profit group representing local wedding suppliers, was proud to see so many members place highly.

“Our local venues and suppliers are industry leaders when it comes to hosting destination weddings,” David said.

“These results reflect the effort our suppliers take to ensure a successful event in an industry where standards and expectations are very high.

“Through the work of our local businesses, the Phillip Island region is becoming a sought-after wedding destination.”

Suppliers look forward to the safe return of weddings to the region.

Local suppliers featured in the following categories:

Wedding Cakes: Winner – Elaine’s Cakes

Marriage Celebrant: Top 10 – Lisa-Anne Prendergast, Iris Bloomer, Patricia Jamieson

Event Hire Winner – Over The Top Events

Live Entertainment: Highly Commended – The Times

Wedding Videographer: Highly Commended – Main Memories Videography

Wedding Venue - Resort Hotel: Winner – Silverwater Resort

Wedding Venue – DIY: Winner – Island Bay Ranch

Wedding Venue – Farm and Country: Winner – The Shearing Shed

Wedding Venue – Winery: Top 5 – Phillip Island Winery and Vineyard



Phillip Island Weddings members who attended the online awards. Left to Right: David Manning, Abbie Patton, Kristie Cameron and Lisa-Anne Prendergast (front)

The 2019 Island Whale Festival Committee is pleased to share our win and thank our team! Best Small Event - Australian Event Awards 2020



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David said calling a pest exterminator to kill bees was not only hurting a precious natural resource, but it also could cause long-term problems to a house.



Phillip Island Honey's David Severino warns every hive will swarm in spring, but a responsible recreational keeper should use preventative management practices to stop swarming taking place

Warning on worst bee swarming season

Phillip Island's only registered commercial apiarist has warned the island may face its worst bee swarming season ever.

David Severino, who has run Phillip Island Honey for more than a decade, said on average most years he is called out to about 50 swarms between September and November.

But last year he was called out to 350, a significant rise on the 200 call-outs in 2017.

"It's rising each year," he said.

David said a combination of problems was likely to increase that number this season, with 40 call-outs in the past week alone.

"There are more hobby beekeepers on the island and during Covid lockdown, a lot of them haven't been coming down to look after their hives.

"Combined with the fact we are changing the environment to suit

our needs, removing more trees and taking away the bees natural home, there are less native places for them to move to."

He said all hobbyists were legally required to be registered, which meant during lockdown they were able to visit the island under agriculture rules to manage hives.

But he added the problem was many hobbyists had failed to register and by law hobbyists were obliged to prevent swarming.

With the weather cooler and wetter, swarming this year would likely extend later, to the end of November.

Swarming explained

David explained that swarming occurs when a colony splits, moving to a tree, fence post or street light for a short time, before then setting up a colony inside a house, for instance.

"Bees will swarm in the outdoors within a couple of hundred metres of a hive. From that swarm they will send out scouts to find somewhere to move to live.

"Because we're taking away their native homes, they will move to other structures, which on Phillip Island generally means a vacant holiday home.

"Old homes are the worst because they're not sealed well and have cracks. So once all the holiday homeowners start coming down I'll get inundated with calls saying they've got bees.

"If people see a swarm, it's best they call me to have them removed before they move into a house."

David does not charge a fee to remove a swarm, however charges \$120 for colony removal in a dwelling.

He said last year one unfortunate

homeowner near Cowes Primary School had seven swarms in his backyard, from a hobby hive over his back fence.

"Yesterday the guy called me to say it has happened again: the bees from that private hive had swarmed."

Last week he also attended a holiday home that had four separate hives in walls.

And last year a truck driver in Wonthaggi got a shock when his cabin filled with bees, after they had set up colony in his rear sleeper.

David said if homeowners called a pest exterminator to kill bees, not only was that hurting a precious natural resource, but it also caused long-term problems.

"If a colony has set up in a house's wall, for example, for a length of time – generally longer than a week – they will have created a hive with honey.

"Even after the bees are removed, the hive will attract ants and rats. The following year the honeycomb will emit a scent, which then attracts more bees, year after year.

"So killing bees is not a good solution. Removal by an apiarist is best, either smoking out a short-term hive, or full removal and cut out of a long-term one."

Wasps

David said European wasps were also a problem, which should be killed by a professional exterminator.

He predicted a bad season for wasps too, later in the year when increased visitor numbers would make more waste, and also more roadkill.

"Wasps are scavengers and so when more people arrive, which will lead to more roadkill and more red bins out, their numbers will increase."

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Water Week winners

This year's National Water Week poster competition showed off the talents and commitment of our local primary school children, with students creating posters to celebrate the week during remote learning.

This year's theme, "Reimagining our Water Future", inspired many students to think about how our future might look depending on how we manage our valuable water resources.

The introduction of a new category provided students with special needs the opportunity to highlight their wonderful artwork.

Winners of the local poster competition were entered into the state-wide poster competition and judged against winners of other regions.

In addition to the student prizes, all participating schools entered the draw for a \$500 contribution towards a sustainability project, purchase of water efficient products or educational materials of their choice.

"We were excited to receive around 100 entries from local students this year, despite the fact that they were all remote learning at the time. The artistic talent and water awareness shown was excellent and I congratulate our local schools, students and teachers on their participation and advocacy," said Westernport Water's General Manager of Customer and Community, Gareth Kennedy.

"I am delighted to announce that this year, two students from our region were named winners at a state level. Both students and their school received prizes from the Australian Water Association to acknowledge their outstanding efforts."

"Congratulations Ashton Smith from Cowes Primary School who was the Victorian winner of the Grade 5/6 category, and Miley Van Der Heyden from Cowes Primary School who was Victorian runner-up in the Grade 3/4 competition," said Mr Kennedy.

"Congratulations to San Remo Primary School who were the lucky winners of Westernport Water's \$500 school participation prize. We are excited to see how it will contribute to a more sustainable future."

A spokesperson for San Remo Primary School said they were thrilled with the results and thanked

Westernport Water for their support over the years. "The school was very excited, not only for our two successful runners up recipients, but also for receiving the \$500 school award."

"The money will be spent towards a sustainability program decided through the input of our student and school community. A great opportunity to begin a new whole school project."

Winners were announced via a video instead of at school assemblies. The video can be viewed on Westernport Water's National Water Week webpage at any time.



Recipients of the statewide Poster Competition prizes: Ashton Smith and Miley Van Der Heyden from Cowes Primary School



San Remo Primary School – left to right – Hunter Bettles and Jack Caffery

2020 NWW POSTER COMPETITION – LOCAL FINALISTS

Grade 5 & 6 Winners (Equal): Ashton Smith and Sienna Macmillan – Cowes PS

Grade 5 & 6 Runner Up: Elsa Osabutey – Cowes PS

Grade 3 & 4 Winner: Miley Van Der Heyden – Cowes PS

Grade 3 & 4 Runner Up: Eliza Poll – Cowes PS

Grade 1 & 2 Winner: Lily Bobrowski – Cowes PS

Grade 1 & Runner Up: Hunter Bettles – San Remo PS

Grade Prep Winner: Ella Kallstrom – Our Lady Star of the Sea

Grade Prep Runner Up: Jack Caffery – San Remo PS

Special Needs Winner: Lachlan Wight – Our Lady Star of the Sea

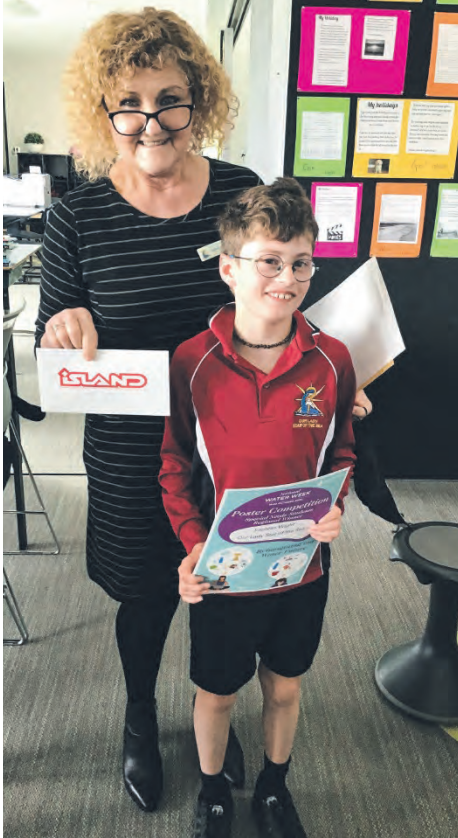
Special Needs Runner Up: Ava Pendry – Cowes PS



Cowes Primary School (left to right): Eliza Poll, Lily Bobrowski, Miley Van Der Heyden, Ashton Smith, Sienna Macmillan, Elsa Osabutey (left to right from back to front)



Ella Kallstrom – Our Lady Star of the Sea



Lachlan Wight – Our Lady Star of the Sea, with Principal Catherine Blackford.

National WATER WEEK

19-25 OCTOBER 2020

Congratulations to the winners of this year's **Poster Competition**

Thank you to every student who entered.

Ashton S - Equal 1st Grade 5&6 (CPS)

Miley V - 1st Grade 3&4 (CPS)

Sienna M - Equal 1st Grade 5&6 (CPS)

Lily B - 1st Grade 1&2 (CPS)

Ella K - 1st Prep (OLSS)

Lachlan W - 1st Special needs (OLSS)

Be power prepared for summer

From AusNet Services

Now is the time for us all to prepare for bushfire season. AusNet Services continues to undertake its extensive maintenance and vegetation management program to maintain a safe and reliable network.

You might notice our helicopter inspections in your area as we fly over the network to get a clear picture of how the landscape is looking.

You may also notice crews trimming the trees away from lines or carrying out important maintenance work as we step up our preparations for summer.

You may also receive notifications for planned outages. We really appreciate your patience and understanding, especially during COVID-19 restrictions, while we complete this critical work.

We know it is a difficult time to be without power and we're very sorry for any inconvenience caused by these works.

As part of our work to prepare the network for the bushfire season 130,000 power poles and pole assets have been inspected so far, along with 7000 pieces



AusNet helicopters will be inspecting the network as part of bushfire season preparations.

of pole-top equipment and 141km of powerlines replaced.

We've invested \$34 million on vegetation programs, which have removed 3500 hazardous trees, and trimmed around 279,000 trees to improve safety ahead of the bushfire season.

As bushfire season approaches, AusNet Services is encouraging customers to be power prepared. Are your bushfire plans up to date and do they factor in the possible loss of electricity?

During a bushfire, custom-

ers may experience interruptions to their electricity and/or gas supply, even if their property isn't directly affected.

For this reason, bushfire contingency plans should always factor in possible loss of gas and electricity.

Customers who have a private electric line also need to ensure it is clear of vegetation to reduce bushfire risk.

Customers with private electric lines should contact a registered electrician or certified tree clearer for advice to clear their property of any unwanted vegetation.



Six of the seven mozzie hot spots in Bass Coast are on Phillip Island, and after record rain in spring, we can expect plenty of mosquitoes this summer. Photo Unsplash

Bumper mozzie season

A wet spring means we can expect plenty of mosquitoes this summer

Six of the seven mozzie hot spots in Bass Coast are found on Phillip Island: the Rhyll and Newhaven swamps, Fishers wetland near Churchill Island, Rhyll foreshore, Silverleaves, gun club south of Rhyll, as well as the mouth of the Powlett River at Kilcunda.

Bass Coast Shire Council treats known breeding areas around the island with a larvicide to minimise breeding.

The areas are regularly checked to monitor populations of mosquito larvae.

Previously, council officers trapped mosquitoes to count numbers or test for diseases, but this has not been done in the past five years, as there have been no local mosquito borne health issues.

Protection

There are 235 species of mosquito in Australia and only a small proportion of

those bite and carry disease.

The state government advises the most common diseases passed from mosquitoes to humans are viruses such as Ross River, Barmah Forest, West Nile strain Kunjin and Murray Valley encephalitis.

However most species are more a nuisance than a health threat.

Mosquitoes can fly several kilometres and if the wind conditions are right, they have been known to fly from French Island to Phillip Island.

Given the recent wet conditions, mosquitoes are likely to breed in water left lying by roadsides and in reserves.

Backyards can also provide perfect mozzie-breeding spaces.

It's recommended you empty out any containers that might fill with stagnant water, including pot plants, buckets, or old tyres.

Items like bird baths or plastic wading pools should have the water changed

weekly.

To protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne disease:

- Wear loose-fitting clothing when outdoors.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET or picaridin on exposed skin.

- Try to limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about (usually dusk and dawn).

- Make sure there is no stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around your home.

- Make sure your house is properly fitted with mosquito netting or screens.

- Don't forget the kids – it's safer to spray or rub insect repellents on their clothes rather than directly onto their skin.

Read more about the state governments testing sites and disease control measures at www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/vector-borne-infectious-disease-control



LET'S BE POWER PREPARED FOR SUMMER

AusNet Services is preparing for the summer season by completing an extensive maintenance and vegetation management program and conducting helicopter inspections to get a clear picture of how the landscape is looking. We appreciate your patience and understanding during COVID-19 restrictions while we complete this critical work.

NETWORK MAINTENANCE	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
130,000 powerpoles and pole assets inspected	\$34 MILLION spent on vegetation programs
7,000 pieces of pole-top equipment replaced	3,500 hazardous trees removed
141KM of powerlines replaced	279,000 trees trimmed

Let's work together to reduce risk - now is the time to prepare

During a bushfire you may experience interruptions to your electricity and/or gas supply, even if your property isn't directly affected. For this reason your bushfire contingency plan should factor in possible loss of gas and electricity.

If you have a private electric line, please ensure it is clear of vegetation to reduce bushfire risk. Please contact a registered electrician or certified tree clearer for advice to clear your property of any unwanted vegetation.

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Island author publishes first novel

A chance find in a Prahran op shop took local author Samantha Hampstead on a journey across the globe and back in time.

Her first novel, "Isabel and Chloe, the journey begins" set in France in the 1500s, has just been released.

The book is the first in a trilogy that follows the journey of Chloe, a 13-year-old French girl working as a servant for an aristocratic family during the Crusades.

Without giving too much away, an unexpected link with royalty places Chloe and sister Isabel in grave danger.

Being part Cathar, a people persecuted by the Catholic Church adds to their peril.

The seed for this epic story was a mysterious medallion.

"I found it in an op shop in Prahran," explained Samantha.

"It was really unusual, I'd never seen anything like it before."

She immediately fell in love with the amber and topaz medallion, which included hand-made Sanskrit, and snapped it up for \$5.

Around the same time, she'd started writing an historical novel set in 14th century France following the adventures of a fiery and outspoken young woman.

A string of coincidents followed.

Samantha's research into the medallion also led her to France and a group of people known as the Cathars, a Christian movement which thrived in Southern Europe in the 12th and 14th centuries.

Samantha said she felt strangely drawn to them and the Cathars became part of her novel.

Then a DNA test as part of the research for her family tree, revealed her own family originated from Beziers in France, a town intrinsically linked to the Cathars.

In July 1209, a massacre in Beziers killed 20,000 people.

Further research led her to King



Samantha Hampstead's novel "Isabel and Chloe", the first in a trilogy, was released on October 22.

Sebastian of Portugal. Sebastian also became part of the novel when Samantha discovered a similar medallion was worn by Joanna of Castille, his great grandmother.

On this backdrop of real-life events and historical figures, Samantha wove in her fictional char-

acters, bringing a volatile period in European history to life.

Research and writing

Although Samantha had edited books and written short stories before, "Isabel and Chloe" is her first novel.

Her writing was fitted in around a busy schedule.

As well as helping husband Jason run Dead4Eva Designs in Cowes, the couple also juggle a blended family of seven children.

Publishing the intricate historical tale has taken nine years of re-

search and writing.

And work has already begun on the second book of the trilogy.

Samantha said the amount of research needed was immense.

"Research for the book has taken so long," she said.

"People don't realise when you do historical fiction, you're writing about historical facts, but with fictitious characters that can engage an audience."

Through the course of her research, Samantha has spoken to people from America, Egypt, the Bahamas and France.

After posting an image of her medallion on Instagram, she's been contacted by people from across the world, helping her to unravel its meaning.

The years of writing and research has made the books an integral part of Samantha's life.

"You become involved with your characters after you've been writing them for so long.

"I cried when I killed off characters," she admitted.

The medallion also became such a focus for her that Samantha had it tattooed on her back.

The decision proved to be a fortunate one.

Rescuing her small daughter from a rip at the beach one day, the medallion snapped, leaving Samantha with only the link which connected it to the chain.

But her tattoo means the medallion will always be part of her story.

And she's hoping one day to make it to France herself, to explore the land she's brought to life through her novel.

Until then, she's got the adventures of Chloe to keep her occupied.

The French Wolf trilogy - "Isabel and Chloe, the journey begins" is out now, available at Turn the Page bookshop in Cowes, or online at www.indiebooksaust.com.au.

Do not delay your treatment!

Bass Coast Health Allied Health services are continuing to provide our community with high quality therapies to help keep you healthy and safe.

We have made some changes in the way we offer services to make sure we are providing therapy in COVID-safe surroundings.

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Sabine Aeschlimann at Wonthaggi-Library is one of the West Gippsland Libraries staff making Caring Calls to patrons, to see how they are going under the Covid restrictions.

Local Libraries care and are there!

During these difficult times, it is too easy to become isolated. But our local libraries, those pillars of our local communities, are still there, and they are reaching out to people, every day.

The Caring Calls program, which simply involves library staff picking up the phone and calling library patrons to see how they are going, has already contacted several thousand West Gippsland residents and has been a great success.

Kaye McLean of Inverloch said that West Gippsland Libraries should be, "congratulated that you've kept everyone going," and that her library is, "doing a marvellous job".

Kaye added that she had had a box of books delivered to her home, free of charge.

Book boxes are just one of the services being offered by local libraries at the moment, and they have proved extremely popular with those who cannot easily leave their homes for Covid related reasons.

And, of course, the libraries' online offerings, which includes books, magazines, audiobooks, and movies, all downloadable free of charge, have never gone away.

The Caring Call that she received, "inspired me to use the library resources available", said Tijana Smith of Phillip Island.

The Caring Calls program is still going, with West Gippsland Libraries' staff continuing to reach out to their communities.

If you have yet to receive a call and would like help to access any of great resources

mentioned above, then why not pick up your phone and call your library today!

The news that public libraries have been included in the easing restrictions for regional Victoria has been a welcome announcement for many.

As library branches begin to welcome back visitors, the health and wellbeing of staff, visitors, as well as the broader community continues to be a priority.

Click and collect, home delivery and online programs will continue to be available to members.

Full details of the phased re-opening and service updates are available on the West Gippsland Libraries website: wgrlc.vic.gov.au

Get better outcomes from our council

A report from the Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association

During this challenging year, support for Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association has grown.

The BCRA committee has reached out to the community, first with an online survey and then to gather questions for the election candidates, which were finalized at a virtual public meeting in August.

"There's been a significant increase in traffic on both our website and Facebook page," said a BCRA committee member.

"We reached over 5000 people with our election and candidate information! This tells us that we were providing the community with information they value."

Recent activity indicates that the Association has widespread community support, and the BCRA committee hopes that support will convert into membership of the Association.

"It is heartening to see many people engaging with us online" said BCRA.

"But ultimately the power of an organisation comes from the number of members and their willingness

to help. We understand that not every member wishes to be on the committee, or has the time available to do so, but becoming a member supports the Association in a very important way, it makes it much harder for the council to ignore our advocacy."

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday November 7 at 2pm, as a virtual meeting on Zoom.

There's detailed information about the AGM available at basscra.org/bcra-agm-2020/, together with information on how to register.

Nominations are now open for all committee positions, which will be declared vacant at the AGM prior to elections.

We will soon have a newly elected set of councillors which will trigger the development of a new Council Plan and vision for Bass Coast.

Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association will continue to seek improvement and transparency in the performance of the Bass Coast Shire Council and our new councillors.

Join us to get better outcomes from our council.

Visit www.basscra.org for more information.

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New Go Karts Land at Phillip Island Circuit

The Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit is thrilled to announce the arrival of a new fleet of single and tandem Go Karts.

Due to take to the Phillip Island Go Kart track from this Saturday, October 31, the French-made Sodi Go Karts are the benchmark for public hire karts.

The top of the range karts provides the ultimate karting sensation and are tested to meet the stringent Australian standards.

The RT8 Evo2 single karts offer drivers a thrilling experience while the 2Drive tandem karts allow the whole family to get involved.

The 27 new single karts will be replacing the current fleet introduced in 2017, and the 10 new tandem karts will take over from the existing karts launched in 2014.

“We’re very excited with the arrival of the

new go kart fleet,” said Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit General Manager, David Bennett.

“These prestige Sodi karts will provide our customers with a fantastic karting experience. The investment in the new fleet will be a welcome boost to local tourism as we are starting to see regional Victorians return to Phillip Island, and we look forward to welcoming back Metro Melburnians soon.”

The 750 metre Phillip Island Go Kart track is a replica of the world-renowned Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.

Situated alongside the circuit and overlooking Bass Strait, Phillip Island Go Karts is the ultimate karting destination. The smooth curves and super-fast straight of the unique track are strung along some of the most breathtaking coastline on the Island.



New French-made Sodi Go Karts arrive at the Phillip Island Circuit.

Phillip Island Go Karts gives you the chance to get the feeling that so many past and present motorsport champions have had the privilege of.

Further information on the karts will be released later this week.

Opening Hours and Conditions

Phillip Island Go Karts is currently closed, re-opening Saturday, October 31 at 9am

Due to COVID-19 there is limited capacity and restrictions apply.

All sessions MUST be pre-booked by calling 5952 9440.

For further information on Phillip Island Go Karts visit phillipislandgokarts.com.au and stay up to date on Facebook and Instagram.



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This year hasn't been easy. And recovery will take time.
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OUR COMEBACK.GOV.AU

THIS IS
OUR COMEBACK
THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

AUTHORISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, CANBERRA.



SHORT STACK

A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Grant for penguins

The Phillip Island Nature Parks is one of 12 organisations to receive a grant under the state government's Coastal Public Access and Risk grants program.

It received \$78,770 to address erosion at the Penguin Parade.

The money will be used for drawings and design, dune recovery including sand nourishment, dune reshaping, marram grass removal and revegetation work.

For a full list of grant recipients visit marine-andcoasts.vic.gov.au

Junior Landcare grants

Newhaven College and Bass Valley Children's Centre received Landcare grants last week.

The Newhaven College grant will be used to regenerate the school wetlands, while at Bass Valley it will be used for a biodiversity project.

The grants are designed to help students engage in outdoor, hands-on projects and environmental learning activities and are funded by DEWLP through its Victorian Landcare Program.

Kmart Wishing Tree

Kmart has launched its Christmas Wishing Tree Appeal early this year.

People are being asked to choose a practical gift and leave it under the Wishing Tree in their nearest Kmart store between now and December 24. You can also donate through the Wishing Tree logo at the self-serve checkout or put a gold coin in collection boxes at the registers. Alternatively you can donate online.

The Wishing Tree appeal is in partnership with The Salvation Army. For more information, visit www.kmart.com.au/kmartwishingtree.

Tutors wanted

Expressions of interest are being sought from qualified or soon-to-be qualified teachers for tutoring roles in Catholic schools throughout south-east Victoria.

Tutors will be employed from the beginning of the 2021 school year in primary and secondary schools.

Expressions of interest can be registered on the Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Ltd website: www.ceosale.catholic.edu.au/work-with-us/positions-vacant

Help rebuild our creative state

The government is calling for community input and fresh perspectives to help strengthen the creative industries on the other side of the coronavirus pandemic.

All people who work in Victoria's creative industries are encouraged to complete an online survey. Given the impact of the pandemic on young people, there is also a dedicated survey for Victorians aged 15-25.

The surveys asks about the impact coronavirus has had on creative workers, current industry needs and issues, and ideas for the future. Have your say at engage.vic.gov.au/creative-strategy.

Help for specialist students

Students at specialist schools will receive extra support to transition from their final year of education into post-schooling pathways.

Local MP Jordan Crugnale said specialist schools will receive \$750 for each final year student to support their transition to post-school options in 2021. Mainstream schools will also be eligible for the payment to support final year students with disability to transition from school.



It's certainly been a challenging year but Paul Mannix from San Remo Fisherman's Co-op is appreciative of the locals for their continuing support, and has welcomed a grant from Bass Coast Shire which has enabled the Co-op to launch a new online ordering system.



Many local businesses reinvented themselves to survive the winter lock-down. Matt Meadows at Phillip Island Adventure Resort said they are selling "family heat and eat" meals", home delivered, with the camp kiosk transformed into an early-morning drive-through café.



From behind their masks, Kerryn Scanlon and Tania Huigsloot at Southcoast Furnishings are thrilled to be still open and trading, despite limited numbers allowed in store.

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.



Scott Jackson at Rip Curl thanked locals for their great support. The store is still open and looking forward to a hot summer with a whole new range of products, from surfboards to clothing ... everything you need to enjoy your time at the beach.



Cath Murphy at Clip 'n Climb in Cowes said when restrictions ease on November 8, keen climbers will be able to visit again. "We're looking forward to seeing some big smiles and seeing the kids challenging themselves once again. We've missed the energy and activity and can't wait to open the doors."



Janita Shelton and Bronwyn Pratt from Ladaisha Jewellery. Janita said she is so grateful for the support from the people of San Remo and Phillip Island, especially as it's been her first year in business.

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK 2020

Off the page and into school!

Students and teachers at Cowes Primary School got creative at this year's Book Week celebrations.



Peter the Cat and his four groovy buttons made an appearance! From left to right: Adrienne Rush, Brennan Burke, Sam Chiron and Kylie Carlson.

Mad hatters!

Students at Bass Valley Primary School celebrated book week with a crazy hat day.



Rabbits and a golden ticket featured on CJ and Savannah's crazy hats.



Getting into the Book Week spirit. Back (from left to right): Tori Ryan, Tommie Abson, Piper Harding-Martuk, Taylah Fitzpatrick, Indi Elliott, Brodie Morgan, Connor Macmillan, Cooper Beaton, Jenny Low, Seth McBean and Lee Golotta. Front: Lachlan Owens, Harrison Le Serve, Erin Kohler, Thomas Macmillan, Cha Cha Martus, Jad Ellaz and Sienna Lawson.



Big, small, bright and blue hats for Sean, Indy, Raven, Leo and Beth



Looking magnificent (or is that Maleficent!) at Book Week are Charlie Jolly, Zoe Swann, Imogen Allen-Filis, Lana Van Berlo, Ruby Woodrup, Melanie Naismith, April Fraser and Sommer Haire.



Ally and Sophie let their imaginations run riot with Alice and unicorns.

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK 2020

A bumper Book Week

Students at Newhaven Primary celebrated their favourite characters in a colourful Book Week dress up day.



Little Red Riding Hood and friends – Tess, Kirra and Ava.



Two princesses – Bridget and Dilasna were keen to get to school during Book Week.



Sam and Kai got into the spirit of Book Week.



Heroes come in all shapes and sizes! Alex, Hayden, Cooper, Kavish, Kaylan, Mia, Emma and Eleanor.

All stars at Book Week

The students at Our Lady Star of the Sea enjoyed re-creating their favourite characters during this year's Book Week.



Arianna was the Queen of Hearts from Alice in Wonderland.



Brayden aka Harry Potter.



Jamie was the Groovicorn.



Scout the Pug was a little camera shy.

Fast track to outdoor dining

Last week, the state government announced it had streamlined planning approvals to make it easier for existing venues to set up outdoor dining areas.

The Minister for Planning Richard Wynne announced existing pubs, restaurants, cafes and other food and drink venues can use existing outdoor spaces, as well as nearby parks and public land to accommodate and serve patrons without the need for a planning permit.

Last month, Bass Coast Shire Council said it was working with local businesses to expand outdoor dining in the region and create “active open spaces”.

Teresa Mahood, Bass Coast Shire Council’s Acting Manager Investment and Visitor Economy said active open space could mean anything from “pop up parks” to road closures to allow for more outdoor dining or using existing open space to cater for picnics and takeaway.

She said overseas examples included road closures, with outdoor dining precincts set up on roads, as well as restaurants taking over parking spaces or nearby vacant blocks.

Teresa said the latest announcement from the state government would help businesses get the new arrangements in place quickly.

Council has started an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for local businesses interested in expanding their outdoor dining options.

So far about 10 businesses across the shire have submitted an EOI.

Teresa said examples included working with neighbouring businesses to expand the area for foot-path trading, using a car park area for outdoor dining, or setting up dining areas on closed roads.

Areas across the shire had reacted differently to the push for increased



Businesses could take over parking spaces as part of the government push to set up outdoor dining areas. This approach has already been embraced overseas. Photo: LA Times.

outdoor dining.

“Not every business wants to come outside,” she said, stating there were a range of considerations, including staff numbers, accessibility and the need to create a Covid-safe environment.

“To serve an area that isn’t really near their business, it’s a bigger commitment on behalf of the business.”

The great outdoors?

Some businesses had already embraced the move and created new outdoor dining areas, such as the Workmen’s Hotel in Wonthaggi.

Several businesses in San Remo had already expressed interest in creating “parklets” to expand their outdoor dining capacity, and council has been approached to have more picnic tables on the grassed foreshore area.

Geoff Moed, from the newly formed Phillip Island Business Network said getting the outdoor dining right “could be a game changer” for the atmosphere in Cowes.

Teresa confirmed that Olive Justice Place had been identified as a potential “active space” in Cowes, but said no general agreement had been reached with traders in terms of street closures or other outdoor dining opportunities.

Inverloch traders are close to formalising a plan for street closures in the town.

Teresa said council was working closely with business owners to try and find the best way to activate public space in each area.

“It could mean increased outdoor

seating or creating Covid circles in parks,” she explained.

“We’re happy to explore anything, but it has to be feasible from different perspectives.

“One business may want to close the road, but the one next door might think it’s detrimental.

“We’re trying to get the balance right.”

Regional hospitality businesses are now able to expand to up to 70 patrons outside.

The new planning exemptions should help businesses to use their own land and expand onto adjoining land, allowing them to serve more patrons, while still adhering to distancing guidelines.

The new provisions also mean businesses don’t need to obtain planning permits for construction of temporary buildings, the provision of car parking, and the sale and consumption of liquor – subject to conditions.

The planning permit exemptions will apply while Victoria remains under a State of Emergency, and for 12 months after the State of Emergency has been lifted.

Businesses covered by the exemptions include restaurants, cafes, bars, hotels, function and reception centres and wineries.

Teresa said any business keen to active outdoor dining spaces should contact council.

“You can fill in a form online, or just call us.”

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/business/outdoor-dining



Council is working with local businesses to expand outdoor dining and create “active open spaces”.

Abide by the rules

As restrictions ease locally, police are reminding the community to follow the rules.

It remains mandatory for all Victorians to wear a mask outside their home and people are urged to continue to socially distance.

There are also restrictions in place for the number of people allowed in venues and stores.

Acting Senior Sergeant Craig Van Breugel said there were dedicated patrols tasked with ensuring the Chief Health Officer’s directions were followed.

“We will continue to have foot-path patrols, will continue to respond and check on people to make sure they are complying,” he said.

He urged people to follow the restrictions and use common sense.

Regional Victorians are currently allowed to have up to two people (plus dependents) visit their homes per day. The two people can be from different households.

Up to 10 people can meet outdoors.

Melbourne holiday homeowners can now apply to the council for permits to visit and prepare their property for the bushfire season, however they are not permitted to visit local businesses.

“Anyone who receives a fire prevention permit is coming here for an intended purpose, on a specific date,” Acting Snr Sergeant Van Breugel said.

“People are allowed to travel from Melbourne to regional Victoria for specific reasons. Getting a haircut is not one of them.”

“If you see someone at a holiday house who shouldn’t be there, or if someone has a party going on, contact the police,” he said.

“We will check and issue fines if necessary.”

Police checks

Senior Constable Kelly Appelman from San Remo said it was understandable some in the community remained concerned about people

ignoring the restrictions.

She encouraged people to contact the Police Assistance Line.

“Don’t be afraid to call if you are concerned. We are here to keep the community safe.

“We receive a lot of calls and they are being investigated.”

She said the calls to police included concerns about parties, homeowners from Melbourne visiting their holiday houses, or holiday makers from Melbourne sneaking down in breach of the health directives.

“We are following up on the calls we receive, although most visitors have been found to be from other regional areas.”

Snr Constable Appelman said police were also visiting local restaurants and cafes to make sure they are taking details of people coming into their venues.

Highway checkpoints remain in place.

If you’re concerned about possible breaches to Covid restrictions, call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

Shire flooded with calls for Covid permits

From page 1

Council advised anyone unable to travel to Bass Coast to maintain their property could look online for “local slashing and gardening businesses that provide grass cutting services”.

The pressure to secure a permit may have eased slightly after the Premier announced on Monday the lockdown in Melbourne has been lifted. Melbourne moves to Step Three this week, but the 25km travel restriction and the “ring of steel” around Melbourne remains in place.

However this is due to be abolished on November 8, at which time people from Melbourne will be free to travel to their properties.

Permit process

Normally the council, in conjunction with the CFA would issue Fire Prevention Notices to property owners, compelling them to clean up around their property.

This year, due to the Covid restrictions, the process has been reversed.

Owners wanting to check their property will need to provide relevant details to the council, including the type of work needed and the date of the visit, to be issued a permit.

Any resident of metropolitan Melbourne visiting their regional properties will be required to comply with the restrictions in place in Melbourne. This includes not dining in at local cafes, hotels or restaurants.

Announcing the new permit process, Premier Daniel Andrews



Owners with properties in Bass Coast will be able to apply for permits to visit and ensure their properties are prepared for fire or flood emergencies. However when restrictions ease from November 8, Melbourne residents will be able to visit regional Victoria again without the need for a permit.

warned residents of metropolitan Melbourne it was “not an invitation to use this as an opportunity to travel to regional Victoria”.

Residents who live in regional Victoria can travel to a second property, holiday home or business in regional Victoria to prepare it for an emergency.

Council will also continue to issue Fire Prevention Notices where it is deemed necessary to place an obligation on property owners. Residents issued with a Fire Prevention Notice are legally bound to oblige and can travel to their property to clean it up.

Details of the permit application process are available on the Bass Coast Shire Council website.

Gyms jump for joy

Restrictions in regional Victoria eased again this week.

With the 14-day case average in regional Victoria currently at 0.2, restrictions on gyms, religious gatherings, indoor pools, and school graduations eased from midnight on Tuesday, October 27.

The announcement from the government means gyms, fitness centres and indoor pools can reopen.

There’s also been an increase in numbers allowed at religious gatherings and funerals.

And live music can return – at outdoor hospitality venues.

And in welcome news for the tourism industry, outdoor tourism services can re-open and tour transport can be used (with limits depending on vehicle size).

Since October 18, regional Victorians have been allowed to have up to two visitors per day (plus dependents) to their homes.

The two people may be from different households.

Groups of up to 10 people can meet outdoors.

Face masks must be worn when outside the home and the 1.5 metre social distancing advice is unchanged.

Summary – latest key changes for regional Victoria

- Gyms and fitness centres can re-

open. Cap of 20 per venue and density quota of one person per eight square metres. Can only admit people from regional Victoria.

- Indoor pools reopen – maximum of 20 patrons or density quotient (one person per four square metres)

- Grade 6 and Year 12 Graduations are permitted within the existing grade cohort, with students and staff attending only.

- Indoor religious gatherings – up to 20 people.

- Outdoor funerals – up to 50 people.

- Construction – no cap on worker numbers.

- Manufacturing, wholesale, medical supply, pharmaceutical and PPE supply – no cap on worker numbers.

- Tour vehicles allowed for outdoor tourism services for trip of up to 30 minutes.

- Tourism: smaller vehicles – as per household private gathering limit, plus two people (and dependents)

- Tourism: larger vehicles – up to 10 people (infants under 12 months not included in cap).

You can find full details of the current Third Step restrictions for Regional Victoria at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/third-step-restrictions-regional-victoria-covid-19

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.

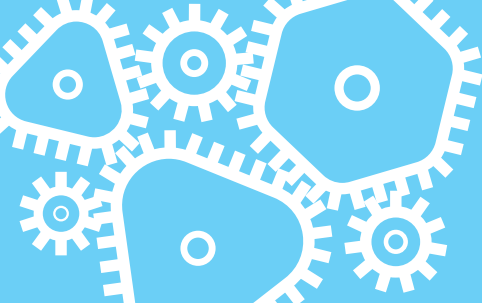
Testing is available at:

- 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 (Pre-operation testing between 10am – 11am) 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.

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



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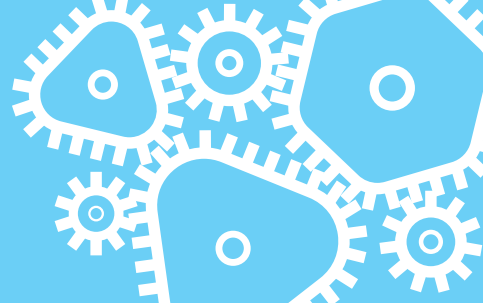
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Mask exemptions

My husband has Young Onset Dementia. With advice from both Dementia Australia and Wonthaggi Police, he is exempt from wearing a mask.

Despite the fact that he wears a badge that states this exemption clearly, he has experienced people haranguing him about this, demanding an explanation or suggesting he is not genuine.

Part of his dementia is aphasia, which means he cannot speak up for himself or give an explanation. He comes home distressed and even frightened by these encounters, which leaves me also upset (and I must admit a bit angry too).

I would like to remind all readers of a couple of things.

One is that it is not up to members of the public to confront or question someone regarding mask wearing.

If you are truly concerned about this, you need to contact police, as it's only up to them to deal with the laws regarding this issue.

Secondly, dementia is not an obvious disability – there aren't necessarily any obvious tell-tale signs. But it is a horrible and difficult disability to live with, as bit by bit all aspects of a person's life are affected.

The frustrations, grief and day-to-day struggles really take their toll on the person with dementia, as well as those of us who love and care for them.

Please pause the next time you make an assumption or feel the need to criticise a stranger, as you don't know their circumstances.

And feel free to dob someone into the police if you honestly believe they are doing something wrong.

Because for us the police have been supportive and understanding, and know that my husband is not doing anything wrong.

Name and address supplied, Cowes

Ballot delay

I finally received my ballot paper in the post today (October 26) when voting closed last Friday.

This is not democracy. I have lodged an objection with Electoral Office that counting should be extended a few days. In my opinion at this time, the Bass Coast CEO on behalf of ratepayers needs to support Melbourne based property

owners that this is not good enough, and contact both the Electoral office and the minister for local government in support of the owners who wish to vote in this election.

Chris Day, San Remo.

Heartfelt thank you

I offer my sincere thanks to the staff of the Kilcunda General Store, the young Cape Woolamai family I stumbled across in Kilcunda, and the Wonthaggi Police. Your help in successfully tracking down my wife, whom I 'misplaced' for a couple of hours on a bicycle ride last week, was amazing.

The genuine care, courtesy and concern this old, tall, very tired and very scruffy bike rider (me!) was afforded during this ordeal, was heart-warming.

My wife and I thank you so much, good people!

George Card, Cowes

On the sealing of roads, etc. and the new Council.

It was good to see Cr. Geoff Ellis' pre-election letter several issues ago (The Advertiser, 14/10), on "a new model for sealing roads" acknowledge the unfairness of the planned and substantial Special Charge levy for doing so, which will impact indiscriminately on those who might be able to pay it comfortably and those for whom it will be a significant burden. (The issue was cited as an important and controversial one in The Advertiser's election guide, but not mentioned by any of the Island Ward candidates in their officially circulated statements). His proposed alternative of the Council seeking Federal Government funds seems a just solution, if it is possible, for the plan to proceed.

But may I return to the vexed issue of whether or not it should, certainly as far as the Island's satellite estates go? For surely much of the appeal of Smiths Beach, Sunset Strip, et al. lies in the tinge of rurality that distinguishes them from the suburban atmosphere of much of Cowes. A number of elements compose this atmosphere, but important among them are the absence of concrete drains and footpaths, even the odd unsealed road (and there's never enough traffic on estate side roads for it to be unsafe to walk on

the roads there). It would be a great pity to lose this atmosphere, and a further twist of the knife that those who enjoy it should be forced to pay for its destruction. Hopefully the new Council will see that both justice and aesthetics agree – especially in these Covid-recession times – in scrapping the 'one size fits all' ambitions of the old Council in favour of diversity.

(Dr) Dirk den Hartog, Smiths Beach

PICS encourages transport planning

Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) supports strategic planning of transport and has been involved in discussions and road planning forums over many years.

PICS encourages community feedback and expertise and our full recent analysis and RRV submission are on the PICS web site under About- Documents.

PICS seeks a comprehensive and strategic integrated transport plan that includes all modes of transport whilst preserving what is important to our community, environment, businesses and visitors.

Our analysis includes extracts of key media articles including those in the Advertiser and comments by people involved on our road transport issues over recent years.

The concerns and limitations expressed by those involved in RRV discussions and community engagement are numerous.

PICS Q & A to Council candidates that includes responses to advocating for PICS integrated strategic transport planning is on the same PICS web page.

PICS advocates for a strategic integrated transport plan to be subject to the transparency and independence of an Environmental Effects Statement (EES).

This process enables community input as well as input from experts in all forms of transport and not just an in-house project office.

PICS advocated strongly for the AGL gas proposal in Western Port to be subject to the current EES. What the AGL EES has exposed from previously closed-door discussions has been remarkable. Details of the AGL EES has recently dominated our local media and is located at: engage.vic.gov.au/crib-

point-IAC

Vic Roads (RRV) have been through the EES process on numerous occasions and we seek this process for our needs with a wide transport scope.

PICS believes park and ride for busy days, user pays, shared pathways, public transport, demand management and Council transport aspirations and not just road widening should all be holistically planned and independently and transparently reviewed.

Jeff Nottle, President – PICS

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



COUNCIL BRIEFS

Final farewell

The last Bass Coast Shire council meeting for this current term of councillors went off with a whimper and no great bang.

The occasion was marked by a simple "thanks and goodbye" from Mayor Brett Tessari, who acknowledged the contribution made by retiring Island Ward councillors Stephen Fullarton and Pam Rothfield.

"You brought a comic edge to what is a serious business," Cr Tessari told Cr Fullarton.

"You said the wrong things or the right things at the right time." Cr Fullarton said the councillor role was a "very challenging position", more difficult with a private business.

"I'm very proud of some successes for the island," he said.

Cr Rothfield said it was "surpris-

ing" how close she had come to shire staff and fellow councillors.

"I know we are in good shape with you guys at the helm," she said, referring to CEO Ali Wastie and her management team.

No mention was made of Cr Les Larke being fully cleared of bribery allegations made against him by council colleagues.

Liquor permit approved

A new Newhaven café has been granted a planning permit to sell alcohol, despite receiving eight objections.

Councillors agreed "it was an integral part of the dining experience" to drink a glass of wine in approving the liquor licence for Shop 3, 8-10 Forrest Avenue.

Cr Bruce Kent described the venue as a "deli with Mediterranean food", even employing their

grandmother, adding the owners had worked hard to take on board objector concerns.

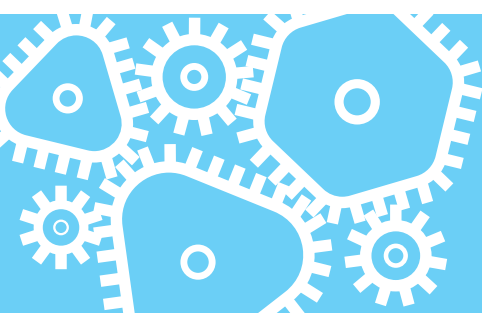
Cr Clare Le Serve acknowledged objector concerns about tables blocking the footpath, but said in a "post-Covid" economy, footpath dining was being encouraged.

Final budget

The draft annual financial report was signed off at the October council meeting, with a surprise \$15.3 million from unbudgeted developer contributions.

The surprise addition made a total \$97 million revenue, an increase on the budgeted \$81 million.

Net borrowings decreased by \$2.33 million from \$17.8 million in 2018/19 to \$15 million in 2019/20, while an \$18 million capital works program delivered in 2019/20 was below the budgeted \$21.16 million. The annual report for 2019-2020 will be presented to the new council at the November meeting.



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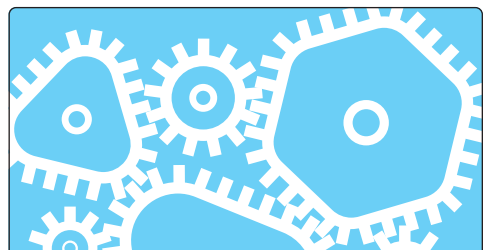
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DEATHS

ENGLISH (nee Kay), Denise Alex:
Of Forster NSW, Rhyll Phillip Island, Burwood Melbourne
She left indelible footprints. And we know where they are. But now she's slipped her surly bonds. And flown. Big hearted, passionate, brilliant woman. Fighter to the end. Fair voyage, Din, Denise, Mum.
Private memorial, private cremation. For details and messages – jh_english@fastmail.fm

HEWSON, Derek Charles (Dick). Flt. Lt. RAAF (ret.):
27 January 1926 - 22 October 2020.
Died peacefully in his sleep, aged 94.
Husband of Shirley (dec.).
Father of Bruce, Kim and Barbara. Father-in-law of Carol, Hely, Carol Ann and Ross.
Grandfather of Derek, Elizabeth, Macie, Mackenzie, Maddy, Morgan, Stephanie,
Terry, and Will. Great-grandfather of Conner, Cooper, Deegan, Indigo, Lincoln, and Oliver.
A private burial will be held at 2pm on Friday 30 October 2020 at Phillip Island Cemetery.
Due to COVID restrictions, we regret that only invited family may attend.
Donations in lieu of flowers to Defence Force Welfare Association <https://dfwa.org.au/donate/> with the comment 'Vic branch per D C Hewson' "Twilight and evening bell, And after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, When I embark;"

GARAGE SALES

COWES:
5 Hollydene Crt, Opposite Woolworths. From 8am to 2pm, Sat, Oct 31 & Sun, Nov 1.
A good variety of household items and clothing. COVID RULES APPLY

VENTNOR:
31 Bingley Crst, Sun, Nov 1, from 9am - 4.30pm.
No early callers.
Items include Glass and Crystal ware, Antique Crockery, Books, Toys and Dolls and other various items.

WIMBLEDON HEIGHTS:
69 Hallway Drive, Saturday, Oct 31, strictly 9.00am start.
Social distancing applies, sanitizer available.
End of Renovation Sale.
Old and new items available.
Internal and External Doors.
Bed side Tables, Drawer Unit.
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Books galore and much much more.
No early callers please.

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HAY
Small square hay bales for sale. \$10 each.
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0439 801 323

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

CHURCH NOTICES

Members should check their church websites for details of service times and guidelines.

UNITING CHURCH:
www.cowes.unitingchurch.org.au/minister.php

www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-Uniting-Church/828979940479969

BAPTIST CHURCH:
www.islandbaptist.org.au/

HOPE CHURCH:
are emailing members
www.islandhopechurch.com/

CATHOLIC CHURCH:
www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus
www.cdsale.org.au/prayer-and-reflection

ST PHILLIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:

www.anglicanparishbass-phillipisland.org/

www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes/

PHILLIP ISLAND SURF CHURCH:

www.facebook.com/pages/category/Christian-Church/Surf-Church-Phillip-Island-360300548086709/

PUBLIC NOTICES

SAN REMO PRESCHOOL CENTRE INC

REG. NUMBER A7730

AGM

7.00 pm, Tuesday 24th November 2020

Due to the continuing developments in relation to COVID-19 situation and public health concerns this year AGM will be a virtual meeting.

As part of the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary modifications have been made to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) under the (Coronavirus Economic Response) Determination (No1) 2020. These modifications allow notices of meeting, and other meeting information to be emailed to members.

Conducting an AGM virtually during a pandemic is a new situation. It will require that families pre-register before Friday 20th November 2020 via email to the Preschool at: san.remokin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au to ensure families can be sent the virtual link to attend AGM.

As this meeting cannot be attended physically the Preschool Committee of Management, will not enforce the Preschool Registration Policy, that's states that attendance at the AGM is compulsory to confirm enrolment, but we would like as many families to attend virtually to support our Preschool. Business includes confirmation of minutes of previous AGM, presentation of annual reports, and election of new committee of management for 2021.

San Remo Preschool
Committee of Management

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

Details about the application:

The land affected by the application is located at: **95-99 Shetland Heights Road, San Remo, Vic 3925.**

The application is for a permit to: **SPEAR REF S150609T – Subdivision of land into 2 lots in LDRZ and remove restriction on title.**

The applicant for the permit is: **David James C/- Ben King – Raso Consulting Surveyors.**

The application reference number is: **200243**

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application by visiting Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/planningads

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

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

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

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

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before **4 November 2020.**

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

JO00359AA

PUBLIC NOTICES



NOTICE OF Ordinary General Meeting

16 November 2020
4.30pm

Virtual Meeting

State Executive Elections

For more information and to register your attendance visit:

www.pirsl.com.au

SITUATIONS VACANT

SITUATION VACANT

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JO00366AA

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If you have drive and a passion for creating amazing food then we want you.

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JO00371AA



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The shifts are available from both our Cowes and Wonthaggi Depots working the areas of Phillip Island, Wonthaggi or Leongatha.

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Please phone 5951 4600 or send your resume to Brendan at: operations@southcoastbus.com.au or post PO Box 946, Cowes, 3922

PUBLIC NOTICES

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES
The Advertiser conducts its journalism in accordance with the guidelines of the Australian Press Council.

The General Principles
Accuracy and clarity

1. Ensure that factual material in news reports and elsewhere is accurate and not misleading, and is distinguishable from other material such as opinion.
2. Provide a correction or other adequate remedial action if published material is significantly inaccurate or misleading.

Fairness and balance

3. Ensure that factual material is presented with reasonable fairness and balance, and that writers' expressions of opinion are not based on significantly inaccurate factual material or omission of key facts.
4. Ensure that where material refers adversely to a person,

a fair opportunity is given for subsequent publication of a reply if that is reasonably necessary to address a possible breach of General Principle 3.

Privacy and avoidance of harm
5. Avoid intruding on a person's reasonable expectations of privacy, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
6. Avoid causing or contributing materially to substantial offence, distress or prejudice, or a substantial risk to health or safety, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.

Integrity and transparency

7. Avoid publishing material which has been gathered by deceptive or unfair means, unless doing so is sufficiently in the public interest.
8. Ensure that conflicts of interests are avoided or adequately disclosed, and that they do not influence published material.

SITUATIONS VACANT

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Casual

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Further Enquiries to: Jodie McNamara, Team Leader on (03) 5133 0633

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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Permanent Full Time – Closes 30/10/20

NURSE UNIT MANAGER – Maternity Leave
Fixed Term Full Time – Closes 31/10/20

DENTAL – Oral Health Therapist
Permanent Full Time – Closes 01/11/20

COUNSELLOR
Permanent Part Time – Closes 04/11/20

SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELLOR
Permanent Part Time – Closes 04/11/20

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Permanent Full Time – Closes 04/11/20

REGISTERED NURSE
Casual – Closes 06/11/20

For full position details, a position description and how to apply, please refer to the BCH website basscoasthealth.org.au or contact Human Resources via email hr@basscoasthealth.org.au

BCH Bass Coast Health
t 5671 3333 f 5671 3300
e info@basscoasthealth.org.au
w www.basscoasthealth.org.au

JO00365AA

Green light for Ventnor farm attraction

Ventnor looks set to get a new farm attraction, offering a food cooperative, cooking classes and beekeeping workshops, after Bass Coast Shire councillors approved a planning permit.

The permit for a function centre at 46 McHaffies Lane received 11 objections and was approved with conditions, reducing the number of patrons from 60 to 40.

Following concerns by neighbours, including about noise, the permit also requires specific hours of operation and a specific number of patrons at any one time, as well as an increase in the number of on-site car spaces, and possible acoustic assessment.

Rommy and Katie Laramo run Five Acre farm on McHaffies Lane in Ventnor, planning to create an event space inside an existing shed.

Katie has set up a commercial kitchen to run her business The Pantry Phillip Island, making grazing platters and take away boxes, as well as grazing tables for weddings and events.

In addition, the Laramos have started construction of three cabins, with sustainable features.

The property is on the site of one of the most historic on Phillip



The Laramo family have transformed their Ventnor farm, planting an orchard with more than 90 fruit and nut trees, an extensive vegetable garden, as well as hundreds of native plants, where they also run The Pantry Phillip Island.

Island, a sheep run for early settlers the McHaffie brothers; and the land was used for one of the first artificial insemination farms in Australia.

Cr Pam Rothfield said the applicant had "done a heck of a job" responding to objector concerns.

She said the shire's planning scheme encouraged this type of

agricultural tourism and following the economic fallout from Covid, "we should accept plans done in beautiful taste".

Cr Michael Whelan agreed saying the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy supported these "tasteful" projects.

He acknowledged resident concerns about live music and the fact McHaffies Lane was a narrow dirt road, "but I think these are manageable through the recommendations by shire officers".

"I'm happy the recommendations aren't too restrictive for a young couple trying to make a go of it," Cr Whelan said.

Cr Julian Brown urged the applicants to be mindful of surrounding farm livestock in noise limits.

When Rommy and Katie took over the property, it had two rundown dwellings built in the '70s and old shedding.

The family have since transformed the property, planting an orchard with more than 90 fruit and nut trees, an extensive vegetable garden, as well as hundreds of native plants.

The dwellings have been renovated, with the second run as a farm stay since Easter 2019.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12.

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For details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our College Website

www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 6 November 2020 and should be submitted to

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Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

Footy fever

Footy Day on October 22 at San Remo Primary School saw students and teachers arrive at school wearing their favourite footy team colours.

Local teams were well represented, with jumpers proudly worn alongside AFL team colours.

The school community had a wonderful day, culminating with senior students running football activities at lunchtime.



Seth, Jeremy, Xavier, Layla and Chloe enjoyed a kick over lunchtime.



Kai, Kealey, Skye, Ruby and Georgia proudly displayed their team colours.



Senior San Remo PS students Charlotte and Lily teaching the art of handballing to some of the younger students

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THE WORD

Restrictions are set to ease again in November. We asked locals what they'd most like to see happen.



Ray Flatters, Rhyl – I'd like to see them allow bigger gatherings so we can have more people at our homes.



Ellen Cheeseman, Smiths Beach – I can't wait to be able to go to Melbourne to visit the shops and attend concerts and the theatre.



Bryan Gordon, Cowes – Pubs, bars and cafes to open fully – just like the good old days!



Tyler Burns, Sale – I'd like to be able to go interstate again. And I'd like masks gone – it's super hard wearing a mask at work every day.

Fly past commemorates pilots

Planes will take to the skies over Phillip Island next week, as part of a special service at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

The Air Force formation aerobatic team "The Roulettes" will perform a fly-past over the museum at 11am on November 3.

The fly-past is part of a service commemorating the loss of Flying Officer Michael Herbert and navigator Pilot Officer Robert Carver.

No. 2 Squadron's Pilot Flying Officer Michael Herbert (24) from Glenelg, South Australia, and navigator Pilot Officer Robert Carver (24) from Toowoomba, Queensland, disappeared over Vietnam on November 3, 1970.

They had conducted a night bombing mission and were returning to base when their Canberra bomber was lost without trace approximately 65 kilometres south west of Da Nang in Quang Nam Province.

Covid restrictions meant veterans had to find a unique way this year to pay respects to the two Royal Australian Air Force pilots who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

"We have been discussing this commemorative service with the RAAF Association Victorian, Director of Communications, Chris Hudnott, an RAAF Vietnam Veteran, for some time now and we consider it an honour and privilege to be asked to host the event," Museum General Manager, Phil Dressing said.

"Notwithstanding COVID-19 restrictions we will do our very best to honour these two fine airmen."

Vanished without trace

It was an uneventful flight. In Magpie 91 – the Canberra's call-sign – the two men flew over the jungle-matted hills and deep ravines of the enemy-held territory near the Laotian border.

At 8.22pm, six bombs were dropped on the target and the plane headed for home.

"That was an excellent run, sir," said the US radar officer. "It looked real good down here, and we enjoyed working with you and see you again another day," Herbert replied briefly: "Magpie 91."

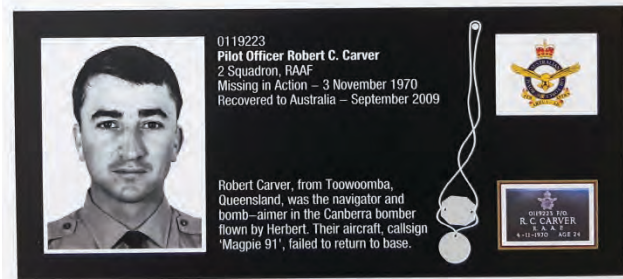
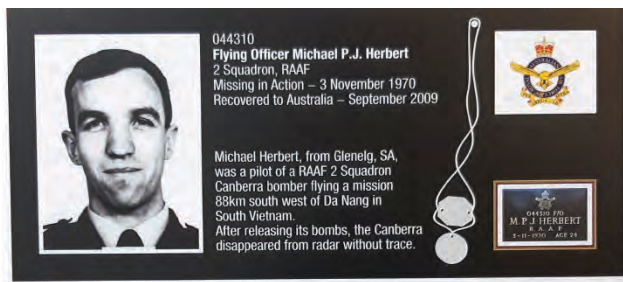
Exactly 70 seconds later, without any warning, Magpie 91 suddenly vanished.

Dozens of intensive search-and-rescue missions carried out over the next 72 hours by both Australian and US aircraft failed to find any trace of it.

Despite an inquiry conducted in late 1970 the cause of the incident was not able to be determined.

Herbert and Carver were both enthusiastic airmen who were respected by their superiors.

They made the ultimate sac-



Pilots Michael Herbert and Robert Carver were on a night bombing mission in Vietnam when their plane disappeared without trace on November 3, 1970.

rifice in serving their country.

Their remains were not found and recovered until August 2008, some thirty-nine years after they went missing.

The men were found by Jim Bourke and John Thurgar.

The pair initiated "Operation Aussies Home" and tasked themselves to recover six Australian service personnel who were missing in action in Vietnam.

Jim Bourke served in 212 Company, 1st Battalion, II Corps Mobile Strike Force (MSF) from late August 1968 to early January 1969. While a member of the Australian Army, attached to 5th Special Forces Group Vietnam, he also served with 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR), as part of the United States, 173rd Airborne Brigade operating out of Bien Hoa, South Vietnam.

John Thurgar served as an SAS trooper in Vietnam in 1970 and became the senior investigator for Unrecovered War Casualties – Army.

In searching for Herbert and Carver, John said they located pieces of wreckage.

"We started to get pieces that were British, because you see the B-57 and our Canberra bomber were essentially the same but there were differences."

"So, I had to find the bits that were different."

"When I found enough of the bits that were different, I was able to convince Air Force this is our aircraft."

"I'd done the investigation and then I needed to bring all of that information together to the Vietnamese Government where I could convince them using our anthropologists and our other specialists that these remains were our men."

Once the remains of Herbert and Carver were found, arrangements were made to repatriate them back to Aus-

tralia.

On August 31, 2009, the caskets of Mike Herbert and Bob Carver were ceremonially transferred from a C130 Hercules that had brought them from Hanoi to the tarmac at RAAF Base, Richmond, north west of Sydney.

On that chilly morning, Gary Parker, President of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Newhaven, in a voice full of emotion, explained to a gathering of some 150, the symbolism of the two beautifully carved bracelets, each nestling in a small open silk-lined box, centrally placed between four other identical, but closed, boxes.

The boxes, one for each of the six Australians MIA, were intended to be both a visible yet spiritual symbol that even though the six were missing, they were not forgotten.

Unlike the US practice, where a near relative of the MIA agreed to wear the bracelet until either the MIA was accounted for or death intervened, the National Vietnam Veterans Museum elected to retain all six bracelets at what is for many Vietnam Veterans, their spiritual home.

As the C130 carrying the caskets landed the 150 other RAAF and Army Veterans, guests and friends, gathered at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, heard the words they'd been waiting for from the Director of the RAAF Museum, Dave Gardner.

"Nick, the boys are home! Close the bracelets!"

Gary Parker gave the command and WGCAR Warren Madsen, also from the RAAF Museum, and SQNLDR Graham Henry (Retd), the Victorian State President of No 2 Squadron RAAF Association, stepped forward in unison and gently closed the last two bracelet boxes.

The display case containing the six now closed bracelet boxes is regarded as one the most valuable pieces of the over 40,000 items in the Museum's collection.

It is poignant that efforts continue to recover American MIA's from the Vietnam War.

The U.S. Department of Defence spends over US\$110 million per year in the effort, and the number unaccounted for gradually decreases. According to the Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency, as of February 2020 the number had been reduced to 1587.

In 1974, Vietnamese General Võ Nguyên Giáp stated that Vietnam had 330,000 service men and women missing in action. As of 1999, estimates of those missing were usually around 300,000.



The boxes represent the six Australians MIA and the display case containing the six now closed bracelet boxes is regarded as one the most valuable pieces of the over 40,000 items in the Museum's collection.

Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

As I write this it still unclear if we will have an influx of visitors from Melbourne over the Melbourne Cup weekend, traditionally the start of the busy season for business around the Island.

While there is plenty of debate around should we or shouldn't we, surely we need to start to find that balance and get on with life, living with COVID-19 and rewarding those who have been diligent and doing the right thing.

We do however have plenty of visitors to the Island from many regional areas around the state and business welcomes their custom while they are here.

We are finding many of these visitors we are seeing are from freshwater areas and fishing saltwater is all new to them.

The truth is there is very little difference, and all the basics still apply.

Yes, the weight sizes needed are different, baits not quite the same either and while most freshwater gear is relatively light there are plenty of places around the Island you can use it.

If you are from outside the area and not sure what you need or where to go, just drop into the shop and we will help you out to catch a few fish while you are here, as best we can.

We had a bit of everything this week, wind, sun, good and bad fishing but there were at least opportunities.

Fishing report

Plenty took advantage of the opportunities late in the week and

those lucky enough to be able to get out caught plenty.

The whiting reports were excellent and some of the best for the season for fish size and bag size.

Plenty of whiting over 40cm was reported and several nudging the 49cm mark.

The reports followed a definite pattern with early week, in the mornings especially, much better below the bridge while above the bridge (Dickies Bay, Reef Island) was difficult. Then we had a day or so of no fishing and the pattern switched around with above the bridge the place to be.

While pippies were good there were a lot of reports this week from those using pilchard fillets and fresh calamari strips.

Snapper continued and the best part about the reports this season is the variety of sizes.

Reports are coming from most of the places you would expect to find snapper, with reports slowly increasing across the corals.

The reports ranged from well under size to just under 8kg and everything in between.

The bigger snapper was hitting hard and there wasn't much problem hooking them, whereas the smaller fish were just picking and you needed to change to octopus hooks to catch them.

Baits varied this week with pilchards, squid, salmon, tuna, cuta, yakkas octopus heads and saurys all working.

Calamari being caught are quality and sizes we haven't seen before in such big numbers, but for some

reason we aren't seeing too many small ones.

The calamari reports now are more consistent and we are seeing some better numbers.

The best spots this week were Cleeland Bight for the boats, with a few from off Cowes. The land-based customers are telling us that the beaches in Cleeland Bight and off Ventnor have been better than the jetties, especially in the evenings, baited or artificial jigs didn't make a lot of difference.

If you are launching at Newhaven, take your time on your way to the corals and drop a lure or two in while traveling up the channel because there has been plenty of salmon, cuta and pike which will all be good fresh bait for your day on the snapper.

We'd like to say thank you to all of our customers for their support over the last few months, which has helped us to get to where we are with the door still open.

We are going to run a whiting competition over the Cup long weekend. The competition will run from 6am Saturday morning until 5pm Tuesday afternoon and is extremely easy to join.

There is one prize, anybody can enter, and it will simply be for the heaviest King George Whiting we weigh in over the Cup weekend.

There is no entry fee, no entry form, you can fish from the land or a boat/kayak. You don't even need to be a regular customer.

Simply bring in your whiting into the shop to weigh. Each person can weigh one whiting each day.

The prize is a Shimano rod/reel combo with tackle valued at over \$200 so well worth the effort of bringing in your best whiting.

You might think it isn't worth weighing, but if no one else weighs one bigger you could miss out.



Scratch winners and Judy Frew Trophy winners – Faye Morris and Karen Green with lady's golf captain Cheryl White.



Phillip Island golf Handicap winners were Debra Orr and Jeanette Diss.

Phillip Island Golf results

Tuesday, October 20 – Men's Stableford: Winner was Peter Williams H/c (23) with 42 points from Ross Payne H/c (20) with 40 points on a countback from John Embom H/c (16) also with 40 points.

9 Hole Stableford competition winner was Len Fenton H/c (18) with 21 points from Clive Hill H/c (26) with 20 points.

Wednesday, October 21 – Ladies Foursomes Championships: Scratch winners and winners of the Judy Frew Shield were Faye Morris and Karen Green – Nett 85 (H/c 14.5).

Handicap winners were Debra Orr

and Jeanette Diss – Nett 68 (H/c 18).

2nd place were Joanne Disher and Judy Magill – Nett 68.5 (H/c 23.5).

9 Hole Stableford competition winner was Joan Baker H/c (40) with 14 points from Lyn Ward H/c (29) with 13 points.

Next week will be the final of the Match Play competition, good luck to all competitors.

Thursday, October 22 – Mens and Ladies 18 Hole Stableford: Winner was Kristien Formosa H/c (29) with 42 points from Karl Eise H/c (17) with 41 points on a countback from Mario Amato H/c (15) also with 41 points.

9 Hole competition winner was

Clive Hill H/c (26) with 20 points from David Scrase H/c (29) with 19 points on a countback from Ian Bray H/c (29) also with 19 points.

Saturday, October 24 – Mens Stableford – 9 Holes only competition: Winner was Philip Dressing H/c (21) with 21 points from Brian Potter H/c (28) with 20 points on a countback from Graeme Niven H/c (28) also with 20 points.

Mens and Ladies - 9 Holes Stableford: 9 Hole winner was Jan Daff H/c (33) with 19 points from Marilyn John H/c (32) with 17 points on a countback from Jill Tyrrell H/c (26) also with 17 points.

Apologies also go to Ray and Sheryl Smith whose photo was published with the wrong surname with last week's results.

Phillip Island bowls

Phillip Island bowlers have been coping with the uncertainty of these times.

It has been a challenge implementing changes to comply with the COVID-19 restrictions.

During the winter months the tireless team of volunteer workers have improved the surrounds of the greens.

The members have enjoyed being able to return to club Triples and Social bowls, providing a social outlet for bowlers.

Club competitions are also underway now.

Club Presentation day was held on Sunday. Club President Ken Linton presented winners of the season 2019/20 with trophies and prizes.

Bowlers of the Year trophies, sponsored by Nola and Paul Brown, were presented to Hans Olierook and Marilyn Forrest.

A BBQ was a welcome treat after a friendly game of bowls whilst complying with social distancing rules outdoors.

Our website has been updated providing information of upcoming events.

www.phillipislandbowlsclub.com



Phillip Island bowls club had their Club Presentation Day on Sunday. The Bowlers of the Year trophies were presented to Hans Olierook and Marilyn Forrest.



With the official Barry Sheene Ride on hold, Shane Power, Rozz and Steve Busana, Brian Andjelkovic, Leanne and Andrew Busana and Tom and Kayleen Berry held their own unofficial tribute, riding from Bairnsdale to Phillip Island.

Barry Sheene rides on

Traditionally the Barry Sheene Ride marks the start of a weekend of GP entertainment, with hundreds of riders travelling together from Bairnsdale to Phillip Island.

Every year, school children and onlookers delight in the spectacle, lining the streets to wave on the riders as they pass through towns and villages.

It is an integral part of the GP celebrations and over 9000 participants have completed the ride in its history.

This year would have been the 18th edition of the tribute ride.

Unfortunately an official Barry

Sheene Ride 2020 could not be held, due to COVID-19 but a small group of fans from rural Victoria decided to get together for an unofficial ride.

Starting in Bairnsdale and following the usual route, they made their way to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit in honour of the late Barry Sheene.

Barry, a two-time Grand Prix winner passed away in 2003 of cancer and a ride in his honour has been held in the lead up to the Phillip Island Motorcycle GP every year since.

We all hope the ride will be back to normal in 2021.



Pictured is the Under 14s cricket team, training at Cowes ground with coaches Dave Fusinato (L) and Daniel McCausland (R).

Cricket season starts

Report from the Phillip Island Cricket Club

The Phillip Island Cricket club has been busily training for some weeks in preparation for the summer season in the wake of the Covid pandemic.

Competition in the Leongatha District Cricket Association will commence in the following divisions:

Seniors – Saturday, November 7.

Juniors:

Under 14 and Under 16 – Saturday, November 7.

Under 12 – Friday, November 13.

Training has been held at the Cowes Ground under Covid-safe conditions and it's clear there's plenty of enthusiasm for the game after much of winter sport had to be cancelled due to the virus.

This season, a more innovative approach is being encouraged at training, with emphasis on introducing a wider variety of drills and challenges.

This will ensure maximised activity for all, enabling each player to achieve a much higher level of ball contacts that is aimed at fast-tracking skill development.

Additionally, this approach will help all players to learn more about cricket, as a high-speed ball sport that calls for special capacities.

Already, the response of the players has been pleasing and it is hoped that this will produce more satisfying outcomes in the upcoming matches and in future seasons.

Woolies Blasters commence ahead of schedule

The successful Junior Blasters and Master Blasters programs for children aged 5-10 years commenced with nearly 40 players, liberally spaced, at various parts of the Cowes Sporting Complex on Thursday, October 22.

Blasters Coordinator, Mick Cleary was pleased with the support from parents, teachers and coaches and he anticipates another enjoyable year with this important introductory cricket program for girls and boys.

Interestingly, the PIDCC Blasters Program appears to be ahead of the field this season.

Cricket Victoria recently advised clubs to defer starting the program until Term 1 in 2021.

However, PIDCC and Mick Cleary had committed to commencing on October 22, and were delighted by the response of players and parents.

The necessary Covid-safe conditions were applied, and it was great to see the smiles on the faces of the children as they were engaged in activities.

They were happy to be involved with their friends in an active community – something which they have been deprived of in recent months.

All those engaged with the PIDCC are looking forward to a fulfilling season ahead.

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On reflection

There was barely a ripple on the bay when Shirley Ferguson snapped this shot of boats at the Newhaven Yacht club earlier this month.

Buses on board for mental health

The local community has thrown its support behind a surfing program aimed at helping teenagers deal with mental health issues.

The program, developed by Girls on Board surf school in conjunction with the YMCA, includes four weeks of surf lessons and a campaign to normalise conversations around mental health.

Earlier this year, the YMCA put out a call to local business and individuals to support the program by sponsoring a place for a young person who might not have the funds to pay for a spot.

Michael Wright and the team from South Coast Bus answered the call, generously sponsoring all eight places in the first session of the program.

Darren "Curl" Marks, the Youth Program Coordinator at the YMCA said they'd been overwhelmed by the support the local community had shown for the program.

"We have enough money pledged to run three programs," he said, with plans for more sessions to run in the Christmas holidays and term 1 of 2021.

"A huge thanks goes out to South Coast Bus for sponsoring our inaugural program that begins on November 11."

He also thanked the Phillip Island Coastal Discovery Camp for providing extra equipment for the program.

A tough year

Michael Wright said the company was proud to support the initiative.

"We deal with a lot of youth, as



Darren "Curl" Marks from the YMCA, Jess Laing from Girls on Board and Mark Wright from South Coast Bus, who have sponsored all eight places in the first session of the new Community on board for mental health program.

the schools are the biggest users of our buses.

"We interact a lot with that age group," he said, noting what a tough year it had been for young people.

"Everyone has had to make sacrifices, but teenagers are possibly a forgotten segment that have been affected."

"The fact the program focused on mental health and teens resonated with me."

A surfer himself, Michael said he remembers his teenage years as "such a great time of my life".

"To have that year taken out, not being able to see friends ... I thought they'd missed out on a bit this year."

"As things get back to normal, we need to have ideas on ways to get people to reconnect."

The first surf session is due to start in November at YCW beach, with lessons running from

4.30pm until 6pm.

Information about the course and dates for future sessions will be posted on the Girls on Board Facebook and Instagram accounts.

For \$150 you can sponsor a student for the four-session program.

Anyone needing more information, or wanting to financially support the program, can contact Darren on 0407 515 333 or email darren.marks@ymca.org.au.

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