

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

\$1.80 Incl. GST



Members of the public noticed two women struggling in the surf at Cape Woolamai's Clubhouse beach on Friday. One woman was pulled unconscious from the water, and bystanders performed CPR until paramedics arrived. She was then airlifted to Monash Medical Centre.

Surf rescue at Woolamai

WATER SAFETY

A woman was pulled unconscious from the surf at the Clubhouse beach at Cape Woolamai on Friday afternoon.

The beach was not patrolled at the time.

Police say members of the public noticed two women (aged 22 and 23) were struggling in the water at Cape Woolamai, and appeared to be caught in a rip.

Bystanders managed to rescue one woman, who was pulled from the surf unconscious, and immediately commenced CPR.

Ambulance Victoria confirmed paramedics were called to Cape Woolamai around 2.20pm, and the woman was airlifted to the Monash Medical Centre, with her condition described as "non-life threatening".

The Police air wing located the second woman beyond the breaking waves and managed to winch her to safety.

She was transported by ambulance to Wonthaggi Hospital,

suffering exhaustion, but in a stable condition.

Senior Sergeant Brent Muir from Bass Coast Police praised the actions of the community and emergency services.

"Excellent co-ordination between Ambulance Victoria, SES, Woolamai Surf Life Saving Club, Police and members of the community led to the successful rescue and survival of these swimmers," he said.

He said the rescues were the second incident within a week, and it was important people heeded all water safety messages.

Last week Life Saving Victoria (LSV) issued an urgent water safety warning saying Victorians' likelihood of drowning increasing by 68 per cent on a public holiday.

"While anyone can drown, no one should," LSV general manager lifesaving services Liam Krige said.

"Drowning is preventable, so never underestimate the risks around water or overestimate

your abilities."

Tragically, 59 people drowned during 2022-23.

Rips

Woolamai Surf Beach is popular with surfers, but is known for its rips and currents, making it dangerous for swimming.

The beach is only patrolled during the summer months.

Each year over 50 people are rescued from the surf at Cape Woolamai, with the island's ocean beaches claiming at least seven lives since January 2016.

Terry Aslanidis Director of Member Development at Woolamai Beach Surf Lifesaving Club said people should also check the conditions and assess if it is safe to swim.

"Woolamai Beach is considered to be highly dangerous due to its bar and rip beach," he said.

"If you get stuck in a rip, the number one rule is not to panic. A rip will generally take you out to sea and back onto a sandbar.

"We would like to remind

everyone of the dangers our beaches pose," Terry continued.

"If you are unsure on the dangers, the Beach Safe App provides detailed information from patrol status, facilities and hazards, to weather, swell and tide."

He said the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club would be advertising patrol times on social media in the coming weeks.

There are dangerous rips at many of Phillip Island's ocean beaches, so swimming on an unpatrolled beach can be deadly.

At the start of December 2022, local surfers rescued five people from a rip at Berrys Beach.

According to research by Surf Life Saving Australia, most Australians don't know how to spot a rip, and two out of three people who think they can, get it wrong.

Visual cues that can indicate a rip current include fewer breaking waves, dirty or discoloured water, dark patches of water, or sand or debris floating beyond the surf zone.

Bass Coast is considered one of the state's key blackspot drowning locations, including for rock fishermen.

In 2022, it was announced that three high-risk locations around Phillip Island and San Remo would be included in a state government trial requiring anyone rock fishing to wear a life jacket.

Life Saving Victoria also announced Woolamai Beach would be part of a trial for interactive, electronic drowning prevention signs.

Seniors Festival

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Island HOME

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SHOWERS	SHOWERS	SHOWER OR TWO	CLOUDY	CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY	PARTLY CLOUDY
11 16	11 15	10 14	9 14	9 15	11 15	11 16



Traffic getting onto Phillip Island on Friday afternoon was banked back to Bass, as people flocked to the coast to enjoy the long weekend.

Visitors stream in for three-day break

TRAFFIC

The promise of warmth, sunshine and a three-day break saw visitors arrive in huge numbers over the long weekend.

Traffic coming onto the island on Friday was heavy for much of the day, and by the afternoon had slowed to a crawl over the bridge.

Further up the highway, a minor “nose to tail” accident at Caldermeade caused delays for vehicles travelling along the South Gippsland Highway.

Police said after the collision scene the traffic flowed again until the crossover at Bass, with traffic slow after that through to Cowes.

Drivers coming from the opposite direction reported delays from the Anderson roundabout coming onto the island, with one driver telling the Advertiser it took around 50 minutes to travel from Kilcunda to San Remo.

On Sunday morning, as holiday makers packed up and started the journey home, traffic was heavy but moving, according to local reports.

Posts on the Phillip Island Traffic Reports Facebook page described a long line of cars queuing to leave the island around 10am, but reported traffic moved well once past San Remo.

By lunchtime on Sunday, traffic was flowing normally.

Scoreboard

Bass Coast Police confirmed all units were part of Victoria Police’s Operation Scoreboard over the long weekend, which meant every unit on the road was conducting roadside alcohol and drug testing.

Across the shire over the three-day weekend, 1462 drivers were breath tested, putting Bass Coast into the Top 10 for tests across the state.

Two drink-drivers were detected and a total of 89 other offences were recorded.

Police described the weekend as a busy one for local units, with the area in the top six in the state in terms of traffic enforcement.



On Coghlan Road, a large area of grass is dead after being sprayed with herbicide.

Overkill on the weed kill?

ROADS

Drivers along the Phillip Island Road and sections of other areas, including Coghlan Road, have been commenting on the zealous application of herbicide.

Large chunks of dead yellow grass now greet visitors on the main road,

while at the start of Coghlan Road, it’s difficult to find any green patches.

A Bass Coast Shire spokesperson said Regional Roads Victoria contractors manage the Phillip Island Road, while council spraying is done to “best practice”, following label and safety instructions.

Early voting in Cowes

REFERENDUM

An early voting centre for the Voice referendum opens in Cowes on Saturday, October 7.

The centre at St Philip’s Anglican Church Hall, 102 – 110 Thompson Avenue, opens at 9am on October 7 and will operate until 6pm on Friday, October 13.

Opening hours vary.

Saturday October 7: 9am – 4pm.

Monday October 9 – Thursday October 12: 8.30am – 5.30pm.

Friday October 13: 8.30am – 6pm.

If you are unable to vote in person you can apply to the Australian Electoral Commission for a postal vote. Applications for postal votes close at 6pm on October 11.

On October 14, there will be polling centres at St Philip’s in Cowes, Newhaven Hall, San Remo Recreation Centre and Rhyll Mechanics Institute. All centres are open from 8am – 6pm.

For information on the referendum, including postal votes and locations of all pre-polling and polling centres, go to aec.gov.au/referendums/

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

Cr Ronnie Bauer for the Island Ward, Bass Coast Shire

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922
Tel: 0439 535 282
email: Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au
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Publication No. VBF 9005897
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The likely location of the next series of *The Block*, Island Cove Villas – bought by the previous owners in 2017 for \$2.4 million – was on the market for \$9.5 million and is now “under offer”. Photo: eview Real Estate.

The Block: bounty or burden?

DEVELOPMENT

Reaction has been mixed to the news Channel 9’s renovation competition reality TV show *The Block* will likely come to Cowes next year, with divided opinion on whether it will be a burden or a bounty.

As reported in the Advertiser, a Channel 9 spokesperson said they do not speculate on the location of future series of the hit show, but a title search has revealed *The Block* will be at 113-119 Justice Road, Island Cove Villas.

The title shows the property contract was entered into by Tipstone Australia on September 8, with Michael Sneesby and Rachel Launder the signatories.

An ASIC search found Tipstone Australia’s director is Sneesby, the CEO of Nine Entertainment, with Launder, general counsel for Nine Entertainment.

Several accommoda-

tion operators on the island have been approached to host the film crew, from February to May next year.

Island Cove Villas – bought by the previous owners in 2017 for \$2.4 million – was on the market for \$9.5 million and is now “under offer”, with real estate agent Leanne Poulton telling the Advertiser she had signed a confidentiality clause and had “no idea” if *The Block* had bought the property.

The property was built 14 years ago – known as Surf and Circuit – with a series of units. It can accommodate 56 guests on 2.5 acres with a pool, barbecue pavilion and children’s playground, catering to families, groups and couples.

Zoned residential, the real estate ad states “as-tute purchasers can explore the potential to develop further, subdivide (STCA) look at timeshare options, exclusive 55yrs plus resort or just land bank for the future”.

Response

Julie wrote “after the hardship many experienced during Covid that is a positive”.

Vincent agreed saying there were many businesses that had suffered “due to lack of tourism”.

But Adam responded asking what lack of tourism? “Have you tried to get on the island? The traffic banks to Anderson. Also not sure how a show that ran its use by 10 years ago will help”.

Jade suggested: “Could they do a challenge where they rebuild and improve the toilets at Smiths?” while Foster said they would be shocked if Bass Coast Shire “approved anything like this”.

The Advertiser contacted Bass Coast Shire to see if they had received a planning permit application and is waiting for a response.

The *Block* producers recently abandoned the show’s production at Daylesford after locals looked to take the planning application to VCAT.

Tragic crash rocks island community

ACCIDENT

The Phillip Island community is in mourning after a fatal traffic accident in Cowes on Saturday night.

Police say five young men were in a vehicle when it lost control and crashed into a tree at the intersection of Millennium Way and Justice Road in Cowes, just after 11.30pm.

One of the passengers, a 19-year-old man from Cowes, died at the scene.

The driver and three other males were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

On Sunday, Victoria Police issued a

statement saying the Major Collision Investigation Unit detectives had made an arrest following the fatal crash.

The driver has been charged with dangerous driving causing death and was bailed to appear in Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court on October 4.

Anyone with dashcam/CCTV footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or make a report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

On Sunday, access to Justice Road from Ventnor Road was blocked for most of the morning, as well as access to and from the Shoalhaven Estate while police investigated the scene.

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Crime peak misses Bass Coast

CRIME

The rate of criminal incidents across Victoria rose by 7.1 per cent in the past 12 months, however Bass Coast bucked the trend, with a drop of 3.1 per cent.

In another positive development, Family Violence statistics in Bass Coast dropped by 10.74 per cent, but remain well above the state average.

The figures are part of the Crime Statistics Agency report for the year ending June 30, released last week.

Criminal incidents in Bass Coast dropped from 2131 last year to 2066. Wonthaggi remained the area with the highest number of incidents (668), followed by Cowes (397) and Inverloch (188).

Cowes was the only one of the three to record a drop in numbers compared to the previous year.

A breach of a family violence order was the top offence (226), followed by criminal damage (188) and other theft (168).

Charges were laid in 36.6 per cent of cases, while 37.1 per cent remain unsolved.

The number of recorded offences in Bass Coast also dropped, down 5.9 per cent from the previous year.

One area that did see an upturn was the number of alleged offender incidents, which rose by eight per cent.

Offences in every category

were up: Assault and related offences (326), breaches of orders (210), theft (172), property damage (93) and stalking/harassment (75).

Overwhelmingly the offenders were male, with the highest number in the 45 plus age group.

Concerningly, the next biggest category was in the 10-17 age group.

The number of reports from victims remained steady.

Statewide

The rate of recorded offences

increased, as did the number of offences, with the Crime Statistics Agency saying “all offence categories increased in the last 12 months”, except for breaches of Chief Health Officer offences.

However the stats remain below the pre-pandemic levels.

CSA Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said that “increases in acquisitive offence types, particularly theft offences, are a major contributor to the upward trends observed in recorded crime measures in the last 12 months”.

“Despite an increase in theft

offence types across all recorded crime measures these numbers remain below pre-pandemic peaks recorded in 2020,” Ms Dowsley said.

The rate of recorded offences increased, up 5.7 per cent to 7494.4 per 100,000 Victorians in the last 12 months, while the number of offences increased 7.9 per cent to 506,408.

Property and deception offences had the largest increase in the last 12 months, up by 36,767 or 15.6 per cent to 272,790.

This remains below the re-

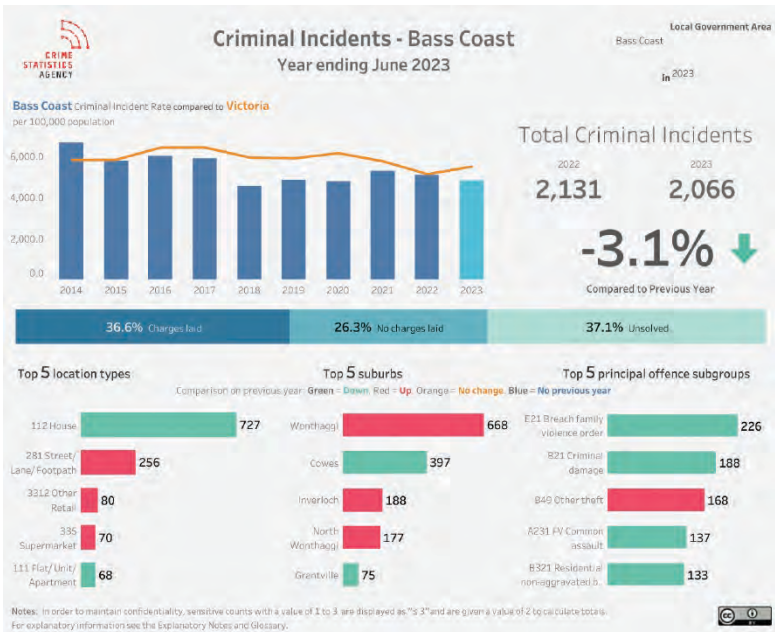
cord peak of 319,951 offences in 2016 and below pre-Covid numbers of 303,910.

Criminal incidents, alleged offender incidents also increased.

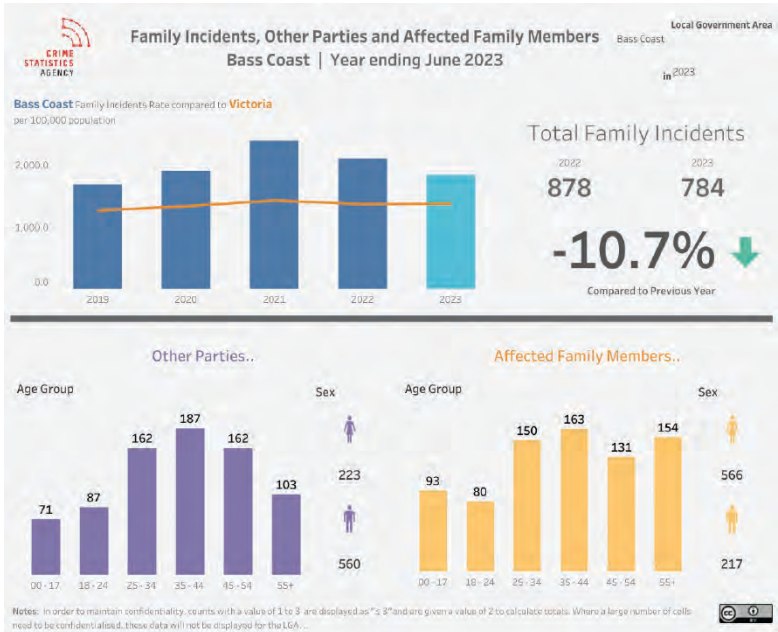
The majority of offender age groups increased, except for the 18-19-years and 20-24-years bracket.

Personal victim reports were up by 11.3 per cent, while family incidents increased by 2.8 per cent.

Details at: www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics



The rate of criminal incidents in Bass Coast fell in the past year, dropping by 3.1 per cent, in contrast to the state trend which saw a rise of 7.1 per cent.



In another pleasing development, Family Violence statistics in Bass Coast dropped by 10.74 per cent, but still remain well above the state average.

It's snake season

WILDLIFE

The recent burst of spring weather saw all sorts of island residents enjoying the sunshine.

This copperhead was out and about at Conservation Hill last month, keeping its eye on the visit from Environment Minister Ingrid Stitt, who announced \$3.5 million for a new round of Nature Fund.

Copperheads are the only snake known to breed on Phillip Island, but there are many different species across the local area.

According to advice from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), in Gippsland, Tiger Snakes and Lowland Copperheads are more common near the coast, while Eastern Browns prefer the drier areas. Red bellied Black Snakes are also common.

“These four species are venomous, but it is rare for them to bite people. Most snake bites occur when people try to capture or kill a snake,” a DECCA wildlife officer said.

“Being aware that snakes may be around and being informed about how to react to them is im-

portant at this time of year.”

Copperheads

In response to snake sightings over the years, Dr Sutherland, Deputy Research Director at Phillip Island Nature Parks told the Advertiser female copperheads produced an average of 20 young during their lifespan and said the reptiles were ovoviviparous – which means the young hatch from the egg inside the mother's body and emerge live.

He said the copperhead could often be encountered basking in the morning, then hiding when it got too hot and were likely to be spotted this time of year.

“They're cold adapted, so can be active even in cool and rainy conditions,” he said.

If you do encounter one, his advice is to leave it alone.

“Copperheads are in no way aggressive. If there is a concern, you will need to call a registered snake handler that can remove problem snakes if needed.”

The warmer weather means other local reptiles will be more active, including blue-tongue lizards and skinks, so watch out on the roads and walking tracks.

Advice

If you live in an area with snakes, please remember:

- When left alone, snakes present little or no danger to people.
- If you see a snake, keep calm and move yourself and anyone with you (including pets) away from the area.
- Don't attempt to capture or harm snakes. Instead call DECCA on 136 186 for further advice.
- Maintain lawns and clean up around your house, as snakes are attracted to shelter such as piles of rocks and timber, chook sheds, sheets of metal, and building materials.
- Undertake first aid training and ensure your first aid kit contains several compression bandages, and if someone is bitten, call 000 immediately.

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

If you have information about people wilfully destroying protected wildlife, please contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.



This local resident was out in the sunshine, keeping a close eye on a visit from the Environment Minister Ingrid Stitt to Conservation Hill last month.



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COUNCIL BRIEFS

Zero emissions

The shire has reassured ratepayers it is on track to reach zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Joe Waralow asked a question at the council meeting, referring to the shire's CO2 equivalent emissions for 2019/20 of 13,736 tonnes.

"What is the level in tonnes of CO2 equivalent council is aiming to get to achieve net zero emissions by 2030?" he asked.

Acting CEO Greg Box said while the Climate Action Plan did not set out annual targets for emissions each year to 2030, the 14 per cent reduction achieved by 2021/22 was "an encouraging trend".

"A mid-term review of the plan is scheduled for 2024/25, which will provide an opportunity to revisit council and community actions to ensure that Bass Coast remains on track to zero emissions by 2030."

Subdivision refusal

A Settlement Road landowner seeking to subdivide their land has been refused a

planning permit.

The owner of 1-5 Settlement Road and 2 Settlement Road, Rhyll, sought the subdivision of the land into two lots.

According to a shire spokesperson council determined the proposals were prohibited under the Rural Conservation Zone.

"Neither of these applications required any consideration under the Land Subject To Inundation Overlay and Melbourne Water did not require to be consulted or referred the applications," the spokesperson said.

The planning application at 2 Settlement Road is the same land that was subject to the VCAT case earlier this year for the extension of time request to a previous planning permit for a dwelling that was refused by council.

This decision was upheld by VCAT (Nicholls v Bass Coast SC) and the extension of time request refusal was maintained at the order of VCAT.

No emergency sites

Bass Coast Shire does not have dedicated

emergency disaster evacuation sites.

Resident Mario Boffa asked for the locations for evacuation sites for each of the 29 towns in the shire.

Acting CEO Greg Box said the exact location for emergency evacuation was contingent on the nature and location of the emergency itself.

"Providing fixed, publicised evacuation sites may lead residents to arrive at incorrect locations, inadvertently jeopardising their safety," Mr Box said.

"There is no statewide practice for discharging evacuation sites for townships in the case of an emergency."

Speed limits

Resident Terry Parkin asked for an update on proposed stage two speed limit reductions on Phillip Island roads.

Acting CEO Greg Box said the shire was continuing to work with the Department of Transport to review and implement speed limit reductions on dirt roads on Phillip Island.

"Council is committed to continually reviewing speed limits across the shire to reduce the risk and severity of crashes."

The stage one review saw all sealed arterial

roads on Phillip Island reduced to at least 80km per hour.

Electric vehicles

Bass Coast Shire has spent more than \$350,000 on purchasing electric vehicles for its fleet.

Several residents quizzed councillors about the purchases, saying mayor Michael Whelan was assigned council's first electric vehicle in December 2021.

Gina Rosamilia and John Kuzma each asked for the "full on road cost for each vehicle".

Acting CEO Greg Box said council had six electric cars and was "committed to lowering emissions as part of action on climate change".

"A Hyundai Kona EV was acquired in January 2000 for \$56,681 and a second Kona purchased in December 2021 for \$55,825," Mr Box said.

"Four Tesla Model 3s were acquired in June 2023 for between \$60,130 and \$60,390 each - The cost for the vehicles is GST exclusive."

The total comes to more than \$352,500.

A line in the sand

About \$4 million has

been budgeted for Bass Coast Shire's annual asphaltting works.

Councillors at the September meeting awarded contracts for the annual works to A1 Asphaltting and Fowlers Asphaltting, with an estimated budget of \$4 million from 2023 to 2028.

Cr Geoff Ellis questioned where the sand in the asphalt was sourced, implying it should not come from Grantville sand mines.

A shire officer said the sand came from Rosedale and Traralgon.

Tough times at the cemetery

San Remo Cemetery returned a profit of more than \$6600 in 2022/23.

According to a council report, the shire subsidised the delivery of maintenance, staffing, and capital works at the cemetery, "which prevented further impact to the net result".

"Throughout the year, demand for bodily and cremated remains interments was slightly down," the report said.

"During the 2022/23 financial year, and in line with the San Remo Cemetery Master Plan and the capital works program, 70 new burial plots were created with the construction of new lawn beams."

A special business breakfast

Attracting and retaining staff has been a common theme of discussion over the past few years and one that is still happening with local business owners crying out for quality workers.

Bass Coast Shire Council has announced it is hosting an engaging breakfast session with leading employment expert Catherine Bell who will give a keynote address on how to attract and retain staff.

The event on October 10 is at the RACV Resort in Inverloch, from 7am - 9.30am.

"We encourage local business owners and managers to join us at this event for breakfast, networking and exploring how to think creatively about recruitment and retention," a council spokesperson said.

Catherine Bell's work focuses on building leadership strength and enhancing staff capability, drawing on more than 20 years of experience and a passion for helping people shine.

Catherine specialises in emotional intelligence, leadership, resilience and team motivation.

Bass Coast Shire Council is subsidising the cost of this forum, so tickets start from just \$17.

When: Tuesday, October 10, at 7am - 9.30am

Where: RACV Inverloch Resort

Cost: General admission - \$20. Local business association member - \$17.

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Dogga Luke's celebration of life, in poems

CULTURE

Dogga Luke first started writing poetry in his teens, as a keen surfer and footballer player with the Phillip Island Bulldogs (which is actually how he earned his nickname).

So with eight decades of writing about his life experiences now under his belt, the 82-year-old realised he had a lifetime of poetry to share.

On October 28 at 1pm, at the Phillip Island Boardriders Club, he is launching his new book "Some of Life's Selected Ramblings".

And yes, there are poems about surfing to be found among the 100-plus pages and more than 50 verses.

"I started surfing when I was 15 and back then there were no boards so we'd body surf in footy jumpers, which made it colder," he recalls.

"When the Yanks came here for the 1956 Olympics they brought with them boards with fins that could turn and we got a hold of them.

"I once had an accident in the dark surfing at Summerlands when the board hit me in my mouth. I ended up with 32 stitches and it knocked out my

front teeth but I was so cold and numb I initially didn't feel it."

Life musings

It's fair to say Dogga Luke is a Cowes identity.

Walk down the main street and he'll know many, and those he doesn't know he's happy to have a chat with.

Astute locals will know Dogga's poems well, with his words accompanying a series of seven commissioned street murals around the island, including near the Cape Woolamai supermarket, the former Cowes newsagent and near the brake repair garage on Thompson Avenue.

Many poems are inspired by Phillip Island and his life here.

His grandfather first moved to the island, running an 80-acre farm on Thompson Avenue, where Dogga as a boy would milk cows.

The first poem in the book is about attending Cowes' kindergarten as a toddler in the St Philip's church hall, later attending Cowes primary followed by Wonthaggi high.

Dogga's dad Charlie played football for the then Footscray club (now Bulldogs) and there's a tribute in the book to him.



Top Dogga: Dogga Luke has penned a new book of poems: "Some of Life's Selected Ramblings", which will be launched on October 28 at 1pm, at the Phillip Island Boardriders Club.

Dogga himself played for the Phillip Island Bulldogs from the age of 14 to 31, playing in three grand finals, although you won't find any poems about his footy triumphs because "I don't like to brag".

He adds when he was

young he'd stand on the sidelines yelling "come on the Dogs" and so the coach started calling him Dog, which transformed to Dopsy and then Dogga.

"No one ever calls me by my name Graham," he says.

After school Dogga travelled the world for a couple of years, surfing with mates, buying an old Mercedes to drive around Europe because it was "cheaper than a Kombi".

He then became a landscape gardener around Phillip Island and Bass Coast until retiring in his 60s.

With his former wife Angela (who also makes an appearance in the book) he has two daughters Amy and Sarah – who convinced him to write the book – and six grandchildren.

Creative process

He says "Some of Life's Selected Ramblings" is a "history of my life", including his philosophical outlook and musings on the world.

Take for example the poem Paradise:

"Paradise is everywhere, Seek and Ye shall find, We travel through it every day, It's just a state of mind."

Dogga says Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson are his inspirations and for years he could recite the Man From Snowy River from start to finish, but "now my memory is starting to fade a little".

He writes many of his

poems in the early hours, waking up at 2am and scrambling for a pen and paper.

"I think if I don't write it now I'll lose it."

He also gets asked to speak at friends' birthdays, for which he will pen a dedicated poem.

These days Dogga no longer surfs, but keeps up with all his surfing mates.

"I was about 76 when I went out for my last surf. I was out there and realised the waves were bigger than I thought so I went back on the beach and waved the surf goodbye.

"You've got to have respect for it. It's the boss. I've seen a lot of guys paddle out with big egos and come back with the tail between their legs."

He enjoys heading up the Australian coast and is sad Phillip Island is now like a "suburb of Melbourne", adding he continues to write poems.

But he doesn't see a second book of poetry, preferring to hit the road.

"You'd have to talk me into it. I think I'd go bush instead."

Some of Life's Selected Ramblings, available at the Anchorage store in Ventnor and the Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser. RRP \$20.



The Rhyll Hall will be given a \$650,000 makeover after councillors awarded the tender for refurbishment of the hall and toilet block to TS Constructions.

Rhyll Hall revamp

CAPITAL WORKS

The Rhyll Hall will be given a \$650,000 makeover starting next month (October).

Councillors at the September Bass Coast Shire meeting voted to award the tender for refurbish-

ment of the hall and toilet block to TS Constructions for \$649,900 (plus GST \$65,000).

However, the upgrade has already encountered a budget blowout with \$150,000 in additional funds required.

Cr Ronnie Bauer said

while this project was "well overdue" there was "a constant theme" of budget blowouts in capital works.

"This one has a 23 per cent overrun," he said.

"It may be prudent to run the ruler under all our capital works programs and ensure that they have a 25 per cent increased contingency so we don't rely on stealing from Peter to pay Paul

which we are continually doing lately.

"This method of dealing with the overruns will eventually impact on our long-term budget and effect our future capital works program."

A shire officer confirmed the shire had a dedicated contingency fund.

Cr David Rooks said Rhyll had been a focus of major projects with

the jetty, car park, playground and "now this".

According to shire officers, the refurbishment is required as the existing toilets do not comply with current Australian building regulations.

"The toilets are to be demolished to make way for the construction of new toilets and a larger storage room," officers said.

"The current wheel-

chair access ramp will be demolished to make way for the construction of a new concrete ramp with paths continuing through the park area leading to a new disabled parking bay located in the carpark.

Council has already spent \$50,000 on drawings, investigations and project management leaving a carry-over balance of \$590,000.

PICAL Term 4 Course Guide released

COMMUNITY

Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) has released its Term 4 course guide.

Centre Manager David Rooks said PICAL was excited to release the new guide, which includes courses in hospitality, digital technology, English language, first aid and renewable energy, as well as offering a range of group activities.

"On offer is a new renewable energy course presented by local identity Werner Theinert who thrives on sharing his wealth of sustainability knowledge," David said.

"PICAL is also thrilled to welcome back highly experienced hospitality industry professional, Frank Fazio.

"Frank, who is skilled and knowledgeable in all aspects of hospitality delivery, is passionate about food, healthy living and inspiring others to eat and live well."

To help build future courses, David said PICAL was seeking trainers.

"All levels of training experience are welcome to get involved.

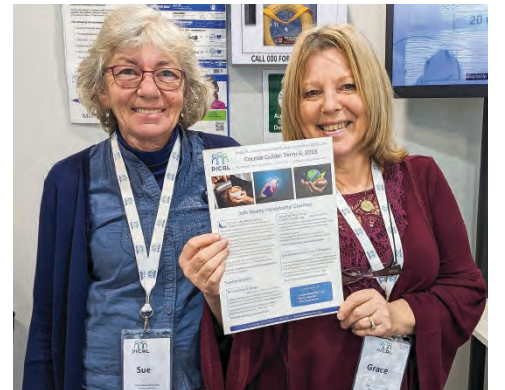
"Our courses require different levels of trainers, so don't feel you can't offer support even if you aren't a recognised formal trainer."

To access course information and bookings go to the PICAL website at: www.pical.org.au, ring reception on 03 5952 1131 or visit 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes.

Course guides are available from reception.

A summary of the courses offered in Term 4:

- Hospitality courses: Barista/waiting skills, Food handling, Responsible Serving of Alcohol
- Sustainability: Renewable energy
- Digital Skills and technology: Beginners computers, tech support, website design/social media, smart devices
- English as a Second Language: and English refresher
- First Aid: CPR, provide first aid
- Jobs Expo: Bringing employees and employers together
- Starting your own business workshop: Small business essentials



PICAL has released its Term 4 course guide, and volunteers Sue Hines (left) and Grace Wilkinson are excited about the courses on offer for the community.

SHORT STACK

A QUICK ROUNDUP OF NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Community Awards

The 2023 Victorian Community History Awards are now open for entries.

The Community History Awards celebrate the people and groups involved in history projects that tell local stories which help all Victorians to better understand their past.

The categories include: Victorian Premier's History Award (\$5000 prize); Collaborative Community History Award (\$2000); Local History Project Award (\$2000); History Publication Award (\$2000); Small History Publication Award (\$1500); Small Organisation History Project Award (\$1500); Community Diversity Award (\$1500); Digital Storytelling Award (\$1500); Historical Interpretation Award (\$1500); Oral History Award presented in collaboration with Oral History Victoria (\$1500); History Article Award (\$500); Judges' Special Prize (\$500)

Entries close October 13. More information at: prov.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/community-history-awards

New funds for local sport

The latest round of the government's Sporting Club Grants Program is now open.

The grants program's focus is supporting and building the capacity of sports volunteers in vital roles from administration to coaching and umpiring.

Grants of up to \$1000 are available for uniforms, equipment and resources that improve accessibility and engagement; up to \$2000 for projects to strengthen volunteering and officiating; up to \$4000 to deliver a new sport or recreation program and up to \$750 to support athlete travel.

Applications for this round close at 4pm on October 12. For more information and to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants/sporting-club-grants-program

Sports grants for First Nations athletes

The latest round of the Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program, which provides grants for travel, uniforms, equipment and participation in sports carnivals, is now open.

The program offers grants of up to \$2500 per junior team and \$1500 per senior team towards travel and accommodation costs for participating in Victorian or national Aboriginal sporting carnivals and tournaments, as well as up to \$1000 to cover team uniforms and sports equipment.

Eligible individuals can access up to \$250 per person to purchase sporting uniforms and equipment, and up to \$750 for travel and accommodation expenses.

Applications close October 20. For more information or to apply, visit sport.vic.gov.au.



How to make your answer matter

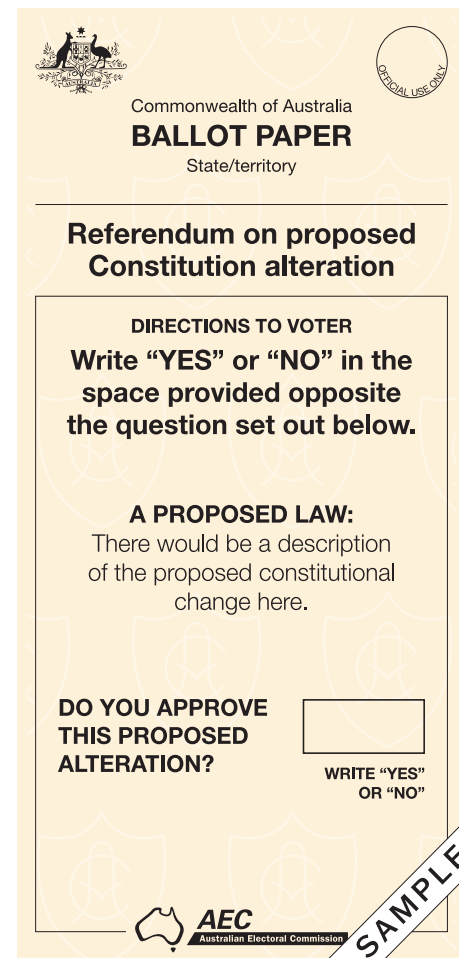
REFERENDUM | SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

Voting in a referendum is different from an election.

1. You need to complete one ballot paper.
2. The ballot paper will show a question about a proposed change to the Constitution.
3. To vote, write either 'Yes' OR 'No' inside the box on your ballot paper.

All Australian citizens aged 18 and over must vote.

Don't worry if you make a mistake. Ask for another ballot paper, and start again.



Sample ballot paper

→ Learn more
at aec.gov.au
or call 13 23 26

YOUR
Answer
MATTERS



SERVICES: OUR FUTURE

Have we got enough water for our future? Can our services cope?

PLANNING

These are questions most residents have asked.

With the local and tourist population booming on Phillip Island and San Remo, we're left asking: Will there be enough water? Has Bass Coast Shire got a plan for growth? How about roads and the power supply, can they cope?

And phone and internet connection, even now they drop out.

According to a Destination Phillip Island draft tourism management plan, released last month, which surveyed industry, community and government, while tourism is recognised as a "vital lifeline" for the island, tensions

arise when some developments "appear to threaten" the environment.

The draft says in peak holiday periods "the island is bursting at the seams, exhausting community services, burdening public infrastructure and disrupting the laid-back pace of life that many locals have come to cherish".

"There are major concerns about the impacts of urbanisation and population growth," the snapshot states.

"Balanced growth was a consistent message from across all resident demographics ... and long-term repeat visitors."

One councillor recently agreed, saying with Phillip Island's limited re-

sources there was growing pressure between "competing forces": permanent residents and visitors, development and the environment, urban and rural spaces.

The councillor acknowledged the state government's declaration of Bass Coast as a Distinctive Areas and Landscapes will go a long way to protect certain areas.

However, Phillip Island already exceeds its capacity.

According to the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy, written in 2016, the island should have an optimum limit of 24,500 visitors per day, while the bridge has a carrying capacity of 1500

vehicles per hour.

Yet at last count Phillip Island's visitors annually number more than two million, while the population is 12,550, with an additional 10,000 residents expected in Bass Coast in the next 14 years, one of the highest rates of growth for Victorian local government areas.

Planning?

So, given this squeeze, the Advertiser asked all major utilities and government departments to explain how they are preparing for population growth on Phillip Island and San Remo.

Given objectors to developments frequently cite overloaded services as a reason a project should

be knocked back, we asked whether residential or commercial proposals would ever be rejected because there's not enough elasticity in the system.

The answer was no, with all utilities and departments focused on baseline growth.

However, some answers may surprise.

When it comes to future water supply security, there's no absolute certainty because of climate change.

As for power, AusNet says there may come a time when a large augmentation of electricity supply on Phillip Island is required.

Telecommunications companies defended resi-

dent criticism of peak season poor reception. Telsstra says this year they're building a new 4G/5G mobile base station in San Remo, small cells in Cowes and Sunderland Bay, and upgrades in Cowes west, while Optus will be rolling out four new towers on Phillip Island and upgrading one tower to 5G.

Meanwhile, NBN upgrades from FTTN (copper) to fibre have started in Cowes.

The transport department says growth must happen, but safely, with their focus still on upgrading the Phillip Island Road at Newhaven and San Remo.

And council and health? Read on.

Transport outlook: more growth, with conditions on developers

A recent survey of Phillip Island businesses, residents and the tourism industry found respondents referred to the island as a "car park".

"The bridge is a major pinch point at peak times," the Destination Phillip Island (DPI) survey found.

"Cowes was noted by many as a traffic congestion hotspot."

DPI is currently working on a new tourism plan that has mooted a range of solutions including paid parking for visitors, with exemptions for residents, water taxis, and park and ride.

Meanwhile, the Department of Transport (DoT) told the Advertiser their focus was on growth: "it is important the road network plays a significant role in economic development and the creation of jobs".

Ultimately DoT said while they take into account the importance of the environment and character of the island, growth must happen "in the safest way possible".

This is done through council conditions on planning permits, requiring the developer to undertake certain road upgrades as part of the development.

Department regional director Beth Liley said they were continuing to work with Bass Coast Shire to progress proposed road upgrades at the Phillip Island Road in Newhaven and San Remo, which have been mooted – but unfunded – for more than five years.

"We are exploring opportunities for road upgrades along Phillip Island Road which includes road upgrades through San Remo," she said.

"We are constantly



A recent DPI survey found respondents referred to the island as a "car park". "We are constantly monitoring the road network on Phillip Island to assess traffic volumes and determine any potential future upgrades," the DoT says. Photo: Phillip Island Helicopters.

monitoring the road network on Phillip Island to assess traffic volumes and determine any potential future upgrades."

She said the upgrade would be considered and prioritised with similar state projects for funding.

What you're saying:

When a serious road accident occurred heading out of San Remo in late June this year, drivers were at a standstill for hours.

It led to these comments: Skeeta: "So it needs to be two lanes in and off the island with all the new homes and people living full time. Then add in the tourist traffic."

Frances: "It would still be blocked off for an accident."

Flynn: "Where are they

going to get the width from the San Remo police station to the bridge, then widen the bridge? The cost would be astronomical and the logistics impossible."

Dale: "As someone who commutes to work down the Monash Freeway – which is three or four lanes either side – I can confirm it absolutely does not prevent accidents since there's one almost every day. You just get a whole new set of accidents from people who don't look before changing lanes."

Cate: "A little time in your life waiting in traffic is minimal to the grief and pain the people and families involved are going to go through. We don't need a freeway to the island, just patience and understanding."

Council outlook: Growth has us unprepared

As reported in the Advertiser earlier this year, a four-yearly review of Bass Coast Shire's planning scheme highlighted numerous problems and gaps needing urgent solutions.

The review states with the boom in growth, the planning scheme must "navigate the various tension that arises between development pressures and the protection of the natural environment".

"The growing population and household types will present challenges for housing supply, affordability, housing diversity, infrastructure, services and the natural environment," the review states.

Since the last planning scheme review in 2018, population growth has put intense pressures on services such as roads and water, while climate change is increasing these pressures.

The review lists dozens of projects that need to be kickstarted.

Car parking strategies are required to be written for all town centres, while in Cowes, a parking plan needs to be produced to deal with higher density development.

In San Remo, the review proposes extending the commercial zone between Bergin Grove and Woolamai Grove to Mary Grove, and extending the existing mixed use zone to Panorama Drive.

The review says the planning scheme must protect health facilities and investigate shire-wide water management.

Because climate change is predicted to cause an increase in sea levels, a decrease in rainfall and more frequent and severe



Residents must get used to more dense living, in contrast to current trends which show "a strong preference for detached dwellings in greenfield estates", which will be "eventually exhausted", according to shire planners.

fire and storm events, "the future impact of climate change on the municipality is a significant planning issue", with more policy work needed to prepare for impacts.

As the planning scheme is the key tool to manage growth, residents must get used to more dense living, in contrast to current trends which show "a strong preference for detached dwellings in greenfield estates", which will be "eventually exhausted".

On a positive note, more recently the shire has started reviewing San Remo's structure plan, to guide growth.

To ensure the town can access required services, a range of technical studies are being carried out including on traffic, car

parking, utilities and services, landscape and cultural heritage.

The San Remo structure plan will undergo public consultation.

Putting aside the big picture, when land is subdivided, the planning permit is referred to all the servicing authorities, such as water and transport.

"If a single authority objects to an application then the permit cannot issue," a shire spokesperson said.

"These authorities place conditions on the permit which are then required to be met before titles can issue."

More on
Services: Our Future
on page 20-21

WHEN YOU NEED THE POLICE, BUT NOT THE SIRENS

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Season off to scorching start

BUSHFIRES

The CFA warnings of a hotter drier spring and summer with an increased risk of bushfire proved accurate, with bushfires across numerous parts of Gippsland over the weekend.

Many continue to burn and on Monday smoke from the fires shrouded Phillip Island.

Evacuation warnings were issued for Briagolong and some surrounding areas, while Loch Sport, Seacombe and Walhalla were all on alert, as bushfires burnt in coastal scrubs and sections of state forest.

Thousands of campers who had travelled to the area for the long weekend were forced to flee.

Fire crews from Phillip Island travelled to Maffra to help fight the East Gippsland blazes.

The CFA is urging all homeowners to ensure their properties are prepared for the bushfire season.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said CFA crews right across the state are making every effort to prepare for this year's fire season, but they need a collective community effort to reduce bushfire risk.

"Victoria is one of the most bushfire-prone areas in the world, so it's vital for everyone to plan ahead," he said.

"All it takes is some basic maintenance such as clearing your gutters, picking up loose leaves and twigs, pruning tree



Phillip Island is barely visible in the distance, shrouded in smoke from the fires burning across parts of Gippsland.

branches so they aren't overhanging the roof of your property, or even just keeping your lawn under 10cm tall.

"High rainfall and moisture levels over the past 12 months will have led to vegetation growth on private properties, so it's important to maintain your property through spring and into the fire season."

Chief Officer Heffernan also encouraged everyone to sit down with their family or household to discuss and practice their bushfire survival plan together.

"CFA has all the information you need on our website to create a clear bushfire plan with your loved ones," he said.

"If you already have one,

blow the dust off it and go over it with your family. Practicing your bushfire survival plan could save your family's life."

Victorians can learn more about how to prepare their property at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare, and for more about bushfire survival plan, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfireplan.

Shire fails to keep tabs on councillors, developers

TRANSPARENCY

Bass Coast Shire does not keep records of councillor meetings with developers.

The revelation came after resident Fred Morris asked a question at the September meeting, seeking to know where the register of councillors' meetings with developers could be found.

Acting CEO Greg Box confirmed they were not required to keep a record and the shire "does not maintain a register".

Earlier this year the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission probe found property developer John Woodman made payments totalling about \$1.2 million to former Casey mayors in return for support for lucrative planning decisions.

The Local Government Inspectorate – the watchdog for local government – advised councils two years ago they should create policies to guide councillor interactions with developers and create a public register of such interactions, even though it is not a requirement under the Local Government Act.

The Age reported only four of 79 Victorian councils – Whitehorse, Merri-bek, Dandenong and Kingston – have a public register of such interactions, while advocates say councils should increase disclosure to rebuild public trust in councils after IBAC's investigation into Casey council.

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RABBIT PROBLEM?

Bass Coast Landcare Network are reaching out to Phillip Island residents who are experiencing problems with rabbits on their urban or rural properties. Phillip Island is a unique and beautiful place, and rabbits pose a serious threat to the native flora and fauna. As we enter the last year of our 'Teaming Up To Tackle Rabbits' initiative, we are urging landholders with rabbit issues to reach out.

Subsidised rabbit control is available to all residents of Phillip Island. Book in your complimentary site inspection today!

Contact: Jack Harriss - 0459 041 137
jack.harriss@basscoastlandcare.org.au





Allan, Wayne, Darlene, and Darryl with their mum Olive Grummisch.



Olive grew up on a Ventnor farm, growing chicory, onions and mixed crops.



In 1948 Olive married Bill Grummisch at the Anglican Church in Cowes and they had their honeymoon in Lakes Entrance.

Jenner and Grummisch families: six generations

For 97 years, Olive Grummisch has lived on Phillip Island.

"And the longest time she's been away was probably a three-week holiday to the Northern Territory in the 1990s," says her daughter Darlene.

That makes Olive the resident who has lived on Phillip Island the longest, without leaving. It's a claim to fame the great grandmother shies away from, preferring to keep a low profile in the community, despite years of hard work for many organisations. Olive's is also a greater family legacy, with six continuous generations of the Jenner and Grummisch families on the island, including two of her eight great-grandchildren living here and her grandparents first moving to Cowes in the 1800s as early settlers.

HISTORY

In 2018 Olive shared her recollections of growing up with the Advertiser: the early farming and war years, working for three decades for Cowes Primary School, and how the area has changed.

"My father William Jenner was born in Cowes in the 1880s and he married Elsie Churchill from Kilcunda.

They had five children and I was the youngest (born in 1926). Mum had all her children at home and I was born in Ventnor, while my family was living on the farm, growing chicory, onions and mixed crops.

I attended Ventnor State School and I recall there being about 18 students and I was the high jump champion. I remember getting a belting from my mother with my father's belt after I lost a sock. I'd taken it off to walk through a flooded paddock on my way to school and I didn't tell mum about it. It was very different in those days.

We would go by horse and jinker into Cowes. Later we'd ride our bikes and mum would give us sixpence to spend on dif-

ferent things. I'd make it stretch as far as possible and buy a milk icy pole for tuppence, or an ice-cream for threepence and then boiled lollies after that. We'd go to Morrisons milk bar and grocery store, which is now a café.

I remember taking the punt to San Remo with my sister's boyfriend because he had a car. We'd sometimes go to Melbourne.

Motor racing

I really loved the racing bikes and cars. (Motor racing on Phillip Island began in 1928 with the running of the 100 Miles Road Race, which became known as the first Australian Grand Prix. It used a rectangle of local closed-off public roads.) One of the roads went right past our house on Berrys Beach Road and I would run all the way down our drive and stand on the gate and smell the gas. I loved the smell.

My mother and sister used to have a stall at Heaven Corner during the race, selling hundreds of scones to the crowd. Dad would take the copper and boil water to make cups of tea and they sold lemonade too.

War years

I left school at 14 to work at De La Hayes, a

grocery store in Thompson Avenue, where Anything Goes is now located. If you wanted to continue schooling after that age you had to go to Wonthaggi.

During the war years we'd have black outs and we'd ration butter and sugar and swap coupons.

I remember making butter substitutes, where we'd melt a tiny little bit of butter and add milk and beat it to a froth and I got to like it.

In 1948 I married Bill Grummisch at the Anglican Church in Cowes and we had our honeymoon in Lakes Entrance. Originally his family came from the Thorpdale area and his father was a policeman.

Bill was working on a chicory farm and we moved to Pyramid Rock Road to run a dairy farm, with some chicory.

We had four children: Allan, who now lives in The Basin; Darryl, who is a plumber at Cape Woolamai; Wayne, a bricklayer at Grantville and; Darlene, who lives at Beaconsfield and runs Island Marketplace Cowes, Phillip Island Markets and Island Market Food Van.

Cowes Primary School

Life on the farm was tough and in 1955 we moved into Cowes and lived where the Coles car park now is, next to the old Hollydene guesthouse.

Bill became a labourer, a jack of all trades, gardener, taxi driver, and worked on the Hamilton's farm. His father Charlie later owned the Bass Hotel and so Bill worked at the pub for a while.

For nearly 30 years I worked as the cleaner of Cowes Primary School.

At first there was the small school on the land

where the Cultural Centre now is, on Thompson Avenue. That's where my kids started school.

I also cleaned the current Cowes Primary School in Settlement Road and after a few years they pulled down the small school and made the large school bigger.

Retirement

Bill died in 1982 and I retired a few years later. I would never leave Phillip Island. I was born here and I want to stay here.

The island has changed so much. I look around and

think that was land and now it's homes. We could have just walked anywhere but now you can't.

But that's progress. If you want to work here you've got to have buildings and bricklayers and plumbers need work. It's not for me to have an opinion, it's for the young ones now.

Do I like it now? Next question please.

I do love to smell the sea, and I can hear it too and occasionally I can hear cows mooing from farms on Ventnor Road."

Are you aged 70 years or older? You must still vote in the 2023 Referendum

The referendum will be held on Saturday 14 October 2023. Voting is compulsory even if you are 70 years of age or older.

If you can't make it to a polling place on voting day, you may be eligible to vote early.

For more information go to www.aec.gov.au or call the AEC on 13 23 26.

Appropriate COVID-19 safety measures will be in place at all polling places.

Voting is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 years and older. If you don't vote, you may be prosecuted. Voting more than once is a criminal offence.

2023 Referendum, Saturday 14 October

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AEC

Australian Electoral Commission



Peaceful seaside home has it all

Enjoy spectacular views at this wonderful double-story house, centrally located at Surf Beach. This home is within walking distance of breathtaking beaches and is close to major attractions. A highlight of this property is its privacy as it's mainly surrounded by farmland and coastal dunes. A nature reserve lines the property on one side, so no neighbours. This home is perfect for those looking for a sea change or holiday home. It is currently a holiday-let property with exceptional financials, often having return guests and excellent reviews. Having built a reputable consistent income on the home as a luxury holiday rental over the past four years with very high occupancy rates for the entire year, it offers an instant income to the savvy investor. Rental returns are available on request. One of the reasons why the house is rented all year round and is an amazing asset to this property is its newly built 12m heated indoor pool; which features a double shower, change rooms, and toilet and is surrounded by stunning permeable rock paving, which means non-slip and no water lying around. Upon entry into the house,



Sit back and relax in the eight-seater heated spa that overlooks a tiled outdoor entertaining area and the magnificent coastal dunes.



The newly built 12m heated indoor pool features a double shower, change rooms, and toilet and is surrounded by stunning permeable rock paving.

you are welcomed into a downstairs lounge and dining area overlooking a well-maintained garden. A Coonara wood heater and split system downstairs ensure year-round comfort. You can also sit back and relax in the eight-seater heated spa that overlooks a tiled outdoor entertaining area and the magnificent coastal dunes. You can literally soothe yourself in the spa and listen to the peaceful sounds of the waves crashing on the beach nearby.

A nice size kitchen and pantry lead you into a huge laundry area with an abundance of storage. Downstairs also has a bedroom with a built-in robe, toilet and bathroom with an additional shower and spa. The home also has a newly set up theatre room with an adjoining office. Stream all your favourite content, whether it be live-action sports or your favourite movies on the state-of-the-art sound system. This could of course be easily converted into

another bedroom or office. Let the kids play on their private playground or run free in the fully fenced yard. This ideal location on a double block means children have plenty of room to play safely and adults have room to park automobiles, boats, or jet skis. Especially considering the property boasts a three-car bay large 15x9m shed. Upstairs consists of an additional split system unit and another three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a large family

lounge area. The master suite is complete with a walk-in robe and ensuite. The other two bedrooms also have built-in robes. There is also potential to subdivide the block, given the size and placement of the house, which adds to the incredible potential this home has to offer, now and in the future for resell. The property is held by First National Real Estate, in Cowes. For more information, contact Kendall O'Garey on 0410 595 130.

FOR SALE

For more information, visit obre.com.au/cowes

7 Eagle Avenue, Cowes \$1,275,000

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11 Napoli Court, Smiths Beach \$1,080,000

Jenni Kent
0428 566 643

29 Jansson Road, Rhyll \$1,050,000

Joshua Dunstan
0407 558 933

21 Kenwyn Court, Cowes \$1,350,000 - \$1,400,000

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Ann Crt has always been sought after because of its genuine walk to anywhere location. With access to cafes, shops and restaurants at one end of the street and access to beaches and cliff top walks at the other you will not need a car once you arrive. The 3-bedroom double storey residence is ideally configured. The residence is designed with open plan living, master bedroom, two bedrooms and garage all on the lower level with guest/family accommodation and study/lounge or fourth bedroom upstairs. An ideal configuration and perfect for anyone considering retirement or easy holiday living on one level.

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Enjoy spectacular views at this wonderful double-story house, centrally located at Surf Beach on stunning Phillip Island. This home is within walking distance of breathtaking beaches and is close to major attractions. A highlight of this property is its privacy as it's mainly surrounded by farmland & coastal dunes. A nature reserve lines the property on one side, so no neighbours! This home is perfect for those looking for a sea change or holiday home.

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BlueCross hosts the iconic Lexus Melbourne Cup

In mid-September, a remarkable event occurred at BlueCross Riverlea, bringing excitement and nostalgia to the residents. The iconic Lexus Melbourne Cup made a special stop on its grand tour at the facility.

BlueCross Riverlea had been selected as one of 31 destinations thus far to host the prestigious Lexus Melbourne Cup during its Australasian Tour.

This honour wasn't just a momentous occasion for

the organisation but more so for the residents, many of whom have fascinating personal ties to the racing industry.

The anticipation was palpable as the residents dressed up for a day at the races. The atmosphere was further enlivened by the Paul Gillett Jazz Band, which entertained everyone with delightful tunes. And then, without further ado, the Cup had arrived, taking its rightful place on the plinth.

Lisa Boyle, BlueCross General Manager Operations – Northwest, presided over the formalities and shared heartwarming stories of the residents' close connections to the Cup.

She also spoke about the punters' activity, a cherished fixture on BlueCross Riverlea's Leisure and Lifestyle calendar for about 16 years, showcasing the enduring passion the residents hold for this iconic event.

Representatives from the Victoria Racing Club,

Stewart Cook and Elisha Catlow, took to the stage to share the rich history of the Cup and details about its worldwide tour, while the legendary Greg Miles OAM, a 36-time Melbourne Cup Race-caller, regaled the crowd with his experiences.

As residents and their family members listened to these fascinating stories,

they also indulged in delectable delights from a special morning tea spread.

The day's highlight arrived when residents got a chance to get up-close and 'lift' the beautiful Lexus Melbourne Cup. For many residents, this opportunity was a journey back to their own childhood, and they realised that this moment would now become

a cherished part of their own history.

In the end, the visit of the Lexus Melbourne Cup to BlueCross Riverlea was not just a special event; it was a beautiful journey through time and a celebration of the enduring love the residents have for this iconic piece of Australian heritage.

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Ellen Churchill, a resident at BlueCross Riverlea, with Residence Manager Varinder Kaur. Ellen was born in the same week that Phar Lap triumphed in the Melbourne Cup in 1930.

Explore our local history

SENIORS

The Wonthaggi Historical Society will be hosting three events as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival in October.
Tuesday, October 10 – Local Newspapers 1910-2023 Personal Notices

10.30am – 12noon
at Wonthaggi Railway Station Museum – West Wing
Tuesday, October 17 – The Tales of Wreck Beach
10.30am – 12noon,
Wonthaggi Railway Station Museum – West Wing

Tuesday, October 24 – Wonthaggi Cemetery Walk
10.30am – 12 noon,
Wonthaggi Cemetery, Cameron Street
For more information, visit wonthaggi-historical-society.org.au/2023/09/22/seniors-week/

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Senior Citizens' Club fun continues

COMMUNITY

Following on from the success of its Father's Day luncheon, the Phillip Island Senior Citizens' Club is busy organising every aspect of its Christmas lunch. Secretary Liza Lee encouraged everyone to book in early for the popular event.

"We are now taking names for our Christmas lunch, so if you're a member and want to be part of the celebrations don't forget to book with me on 0431 867 058," she said.

Members can look forward to the biggest raffle of the year, with fantastic prizes already being sourced from local businesses.

These include Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling, Grumpy's Mini Golf, Maru Park, Phillip Island Winery, The Coffee Co and the French Island General Store.

"We'd also like to acknowledge and thank some of the local businesses who donate regularly throughout the year including the Phillip Island



Winner of the main prize at the Senior Citizens' Father's Day lunch was David Garrett, and the committee is promising the biggest raffle of the year at its Christmas lunch in December.

Bakery, Putters Cafe at the Cowes Golf Club, The RSL and Priceline to name just a few," said Liza.

"Our members are so excited each month with the choice of prizes on offer.

"Our raffle sales have increased tenfold which helps out our club enormously with our day-to-day operations."

In less happy news, at the start of the school holidays, thieves stole the Australian flag from the

flagpole outside the club, and also attempted to break into the club.

Unfortunately both the flagpole and the clubhouse front door were damaged.

"Ian Burns our Treasurer/cleaner/maintenance person and gardener managed to fix the door," said Liza.

"And we have a new flag coming soon."

However the theft and attempted break in hasn't deterred the club, which is offering some fantastic events in the coming months.

"At our October lunch we have the gadget lady with all our favourite stuff to help make daily life easier," Liza said.

"While in November we have a Gippsland local who is an expert in all things Melbourne Cup, bringing his paraphernalia and stories of local horses.

"And of course in December we have our big Christmas lunch."

To book in for lunch, or if you're new and want to join in on all the fun, call secretary Liza on 0431 867 058 so you don't miss out.

Bass Coast's Seniors Festival celebrations

ENTERTAINMENT

Bass Coast Shire Council has launched its program for the upcoming Victorian Seniors Festival – a vibrant celebration for our senior community members.

This festival supports and celebrates the diverse contributions of people aged over 60, of which there are more than one million who call Victoria home.

This year's Victorian Seniors Festival, part of a Victorian Government initiative, promises to be an exciting one, with all 79 councils coming together under the theme Learn, Love, Live, to celebrate the vibrancy and community spirit of our senior community members.

A spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council said the council was delighted to showcase the remarkable enthusiasm of our local community groups who have curated over 30 incredible events and activities.

"These offerings provide opportunities to embark on new adventures or rekindle long-held passions," they said.

One of the standout events is "Don't Shoot Me, I'm Just the Piano Player," featuring the talented Australian pianist, David Scheel as the successor of



As part of Seniors Week celebrations presented by Bass Coast Shire Council, pianist David Scheel is appearing at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on October 26.

the legendary Victor Borge.

This hilarious send-up of classical music has received acclaim worldwide and promises an unforgettable experience.

"Council has contributed to the show fee to ensure tickets are accessible to the community at the cost of \$10," said the spokesperson.

"Join us on Thursday, October 26 at 11am at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre (WU-CAC) for this remarkable performance and post-show morning tea.

"Whether you're enticed by the allure of a history walk, captivated by the world of literature during a book talk, curious to try your hand at bocce, ballet, or croquet, or eager to master the art of crafting

Italian Cristoli – October is the month to support your clubs across Bass Coast and give new things a go."

To discover the full range of events and activities, pick up a program booklet from Wonthaggi Library, Inverloch Library, and Phillip Island Community & Learning Centre, as well as at any of the council's Customer Service locations. Or view it online.

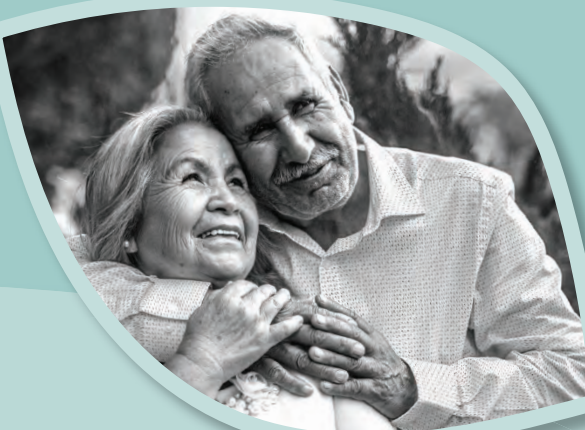
As an added bonus, Victorian Seniors Card holders can enjoy free public transport from Sunday, October 1 to Sunday, October 8 to participate in the statewide events.

To view Bass Coast's Seniors Festival program or find out more about Healthy Ageing in Bass Coast, go to www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/healthy-ageing.

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Ahoy me hearties!

Shiver my timbers, we can report a gang of hearty seafarers set sail last week on a sunset pirate cruise with Wildlife Coast Cruises.

There was plenty of fun and games

for all on board, who feasted on pirate themed treats and were entertained by duet Olly and Scuzzi playing some of their finest seafaring ditties.



Olly and Scuzzi kept everyone entertained during the pirate themed sunset cruise.



Two salty seadogs! Cindy and Jeff certainly looked the part on Wildlife Coast Cruises Salty Sea Pirates cruise.

Get your toes tapping at FOCIS fundraiser

BUSH DANCE

A bush dance in November will raise funds to support the ongoing work of the Friends of Churchill Island Society Inc (FOCIS).

The group has operated since 1980, working in a voluntary capacity to help with the maintenance and improvement of Churchill Island as well as enhancing the visitors' enjoyment and historical knowledge of the island.

Churchill Island recently acquired a Clydesdale horse called Charlie who will be giving visitors horse and cart rides around the Island.

FOCIS said funds raised by the bush dance will allow it to support similar future investments.

The bush dance will be held on November 5 at the Shearing Shed on Churchill Island, from 3.30pm until 6.30pm (the venue must be vacated by 7pm).

Gates open at 3pm.

Music will be provided by Blackberry Jam Bush Band who are well renowned for their lively, entertaining and fun Bush Dances.



Music at the FOCIS bush dance fundraiser on November 5 at Churchill Island will be provided by Blackberry Jam Bush Band.

"There will also be dance calling to help with your enjoyment of the afternoon. with the possibility of an appearance by Emily the Emu, didgeridoo and saw playing," a FOCIS spokesperson said.

This is a family friendly evening and is an alcohol free and BYO event.

Bring along your favourite snacks or picnic. You will also be able to buy food and drinks at the Churchill Island café until 4pm.

Tickets are available online until 12am on No-

vember 4.

There may be a limited number of tickets available at the door. To check this, and for all other enquiries, please ring Tom on 0481 467 339.

Tickets are \$35 for Adults (16 and over). Concessions \$28.

There are two family packages available.

Family ticket-1 - \$45 (one adult, plus children 15 and under). Family ticket-2 - \$80 (Two adults, plus children 15 and under).

focis.org.au/bush-dance2023, bookings

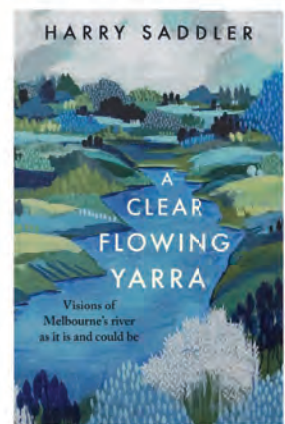
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Author Talk: Harry Saddler

San Remo Library, Monday October 9th, 11am

Join us as Harry Saddler talks about his new book "A Clear Flowing Yarra: Visions of Melbourne's River as it is and could be" Harry is an acclaimed nature writer of many books including "The Eastern Curlew".

This is a free event but please register at myli.au/events



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Viva Las Vegas – Elvis comes to town

MUSIC

Elvis takes to the stage at the Westernport Hotel in San Remo on November 17, for a night of entertainment celebrating the king of rock and roll.

Elvis by Anthony Petrucci showcases a newly formatted show focusing on Elvis Presley's early career right up to his early 70's hits.

This show portrays a more modernised take on the King, taking inspiration from the number one Box Office movie "Elvis", by Baz Luhrmann

Anthony Petrucci is a world renown Elvis tribute artist from Melbourne, who won Channel 9's "Star Struck" portraying Elvis Presley.

Anthony also portrayed the King in one of the longest running tribute shows in existence, the world famous "Legends In Concert" at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas.

"Anthony sure has the voice, looks and presence of Elvis! He



Appearing at the Westernport Hotel on November 17, Elvis by Anthony Petrucci showcases Elvis Presley's early career right up to his early 70s hits.

also relates well with the audience and is a wonderful showman," said Cynthia Pepper who co-starred with Elvis in Kissin' Cousins.

Anthony has appeared in various TV shows including Mornings with Kerri Anne, Sunrise and The Today Show.

Back on his home soil he has been cast for two seasons to portray Elvis in the stage production "Shake, Rattle & Roll".

Accompanied by a live band, the show will

include a lot of Elvis' major hits and there will be some special surprises for the die-hard fans.

A show not to be missed for any Elvis Presley fan or any music fan.

Slick up the hair, put on those blue suede dancing shoes and take a journey to where rock n roll began!

Don't miss out. Book early.

Tickets are available now at www.thewesternport.com.au/

/ Sponsored article /



Staff from Wildlife Coast Cruises and Bass Coast Shire Council were part of the clean up crew on the Cowes foreshore which collected 32.32 kilograms of rubbish last week.

Rubbish day for clean up

The annual Wildlife Coast Cruises Spring Clean last Wednesday on the Cowes foreshore was a resounding success with over 30 kilograms of rubbish collected.

Georgia Bissett, Environment Officer at Wildlife Coast Cruises was "super happy" with how the

day went, including the warm sunny weather.

"We picked up 32.32 kilograms of rubbish," she said.

After collection, the waste was sorted into the correct bins.

"There was approximately 150 litres of landfill waste, 170 litres of recy-

cling waste diverted from landfill, and 10 litres of organic waste," Georgia said.

She thanked her Wildlife Coast Cruise team members, Bass Coast Shire Council staff and the community members who came down to help with the clean up.

TORRE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

ELVIS

BY ANTHONY PETRUCCI

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From left, Offshore Theatre Group's 2.20 AM cast members Annie Khoury, Lauren White, Chris White and Mel Beynon. Photo: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.

Offshore brings powerful new work to local audiences

THEATRE

Offshore Theatre Group is excited to be presenting something very different for their 2023 October production.

Written by Rebecca Lister and directed by Melissa McMillan, 2.20 AM explores grief after suicide in a fresh, honest, heartfelt way. Audiences will share the intimate and ultimately uplifting experience of characters dealing with life after suicide.

"Four ordinary people, all bereaved by suicide, meet as strangers at a creative writing class and are forced into a reluctant bond. 2.20 AM is important theatre. A beautifully powerful new work," wrote Theatre People.

In Offshore's produc-

tion of 2.20 AM, the cast of four includes Chris White who recently won audience hearts in his portrayal of Robert Wilson in the very successful Australians All, February season.

Chris plays a bereaved father and is joined by Lauren White playing Trish. Lauren is in magnificent form and returns to Offshore six years after playing Così.

Annie Khoury makes a stunning debut as Stella, a bitterly bereaved angry young woman whose brutal honesty propels the action and more.

Mel Beynon also returns after a break from the stage; audiences will recognise her from her Offshore performance in Ladybirds.

Director Melissa McMil-

lan has worked in theatre education for 15+ years and is also making her debut as the director of an adult cast. 2.20 AM is a courageous choice by Melissa and her minimalist, stylised approach coupled with the lighting and sound design promises to move and reward audiences.

Tickets range from \$20-\$30. Available on TryBooking. Season starts on Thursday October 19 and runs Friday October 20, Saturday October 21. The following week performances are on Thursday October 26, Friday October 27 and Saturday October 28.

Tickets at: www.trybooking.com/CLKNV

Details: www.facebook.com/OffshoreTheatre/ / Sponsored article /

Exhibition promises stimulating visual experience

ART

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by artist Peter Walker will be held at the Leeson Street Gallery in Cowes from October 13 – 15.

Special opening night drinks are on Friday 13, from 5pm – 7.30pm.

There are 74 artworks on display with all drawings framed and for sale.

Artist Paul Klee once said, "art does not reproduce the visible; it makes it visible".

Peter is a professional artist gifted with a vivid imagination.

His figurative drawings and paintings make visible a world in which conventional relationships are reassembled like inhabitants of a dream.

Humans, animals, birds and angels keep us in touch with the everyday world as well as a mystery beyond. He challenges us to emerge from our comfort zones, opening our minds to new and stimulating visual experiences.

Peter is also a skilled portrait painter, experienced at drawing from the live model; and also a student of Art History.

He often works rapidly, allowing his subconscious mind the freedom to express his thoughts, perhaps at the expense of technical subtlety.



An exhibition of Peter Walker's paintings and drawings will be held from October 13-15 at the Leeson Street Gallery in Cowes.

It takes more than a quick glance to appreciate the depth of his images. They may be humorous, disturbing, poignant, or simply mysterious.

Take, for example, his ink and pastel drawing "rescued". A large loosely drawn human figure fills the foreground. Draped over its shoulders is an animal, its snout projecting to his right. Behind them a group of angels look on. The composition is unified by a circular rhythm, what has happened? Who has been rescued? We are invited to ponder these and other questions. This will be a fascinating exhibition, not to be missed by lovers of the creative process. The 74 works are more than reasonably priced.

Exhibition times: Friday 13, 5pm – 7.30pm. Saturday 14 and Sunday 15, 10am – 6pm.

38 Leeson Street, Cowes.
/ Sponsored article /

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2:20 AM

Directed by
Melissa McMillan

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Thurs & Fri: 26, 27
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SERVICES: OUR FUTURE

Water outlook: More growth, with one major concern

Have we got enough water to meet future demand?

The answer is uncertain.

According to Westernport Water, increased growth can be met by the current supply with one major caveat: climate change.

“Our biggest challenge across all of our systems is climate change,” according to a Westernport Water spokesperson.

“Climate change is predicted to affect the yield from our water sources but to what extent is uncertain.

“The variability in rainfall will impact the availability of water in our rivers, while at the same time creating intense wet weather events that impact our wastewater systems.”

The spokesperson said the water authority was always planning for the future.

“New developments will not be knocked back on the basis of water security or system capacity as both are well managed through existing long-term

strategies.”

Every five years the authority assesses factors, such as water availability, demand, population growth and climate change, to ensure water is secure for the next 50 years, called the Urban Water Strategy.

There are also statewide sustainable water strategies.

The spokesperson said beyond climate change, it was important to locate population growth near existing water and wastewater services.

“Economically and environmentally, it is more practicable for all stakeholders, including developers, to develop in areas close to existing services.”

Westernport Water charges new customers an up-front payment to recover the cost of major water, sewerage and recycled water infrastructure to service new developments.

“Sometimes known as developer charges, they are levies that are charged when new customers connect to the existing

water, sewerage and recycled water networks.

“This ensures existing customers are not paying for infrastructure upgrades that are necessary to service growth.”

Where our water comes from:

Westernport Water currently has an average annual water demand of about 2225 ML (2021-22 = 2263 ML; 2020-21 = 2222 ML).

The water authority states it has a secure water supply with three available water sources:

2911 ML from Tennent Creek in Candowie Reservoir;

1000 ML from the Melbourne Water Supply System;

3000 ML from the Bass River.

Candowie Reservoir at Grantville was first commissioned in 1964 with a capacity of 1130 ML.

It was then raised 1.68 meters in 1978 to a capacity of 1737 ML, and raised a further 0.80 meters in 1982 to a capacity of 2264 ML. Additionally, in 2013 the reservoir full supply level was raised a further three me-



“Our biggest challenge across all of our systems is climate change,” according to Westernport Water. Candowie Reservoir at Grantville was first commissioned in 1964 and has a capacity of 1130 ML.

tres, doubling the storage capacity to 4464 ML.

“Despite a secure water supply, we continue to focus on

water efficiency and increasing integrated water use (including recycled water) to reduce demand for drinking water.”



The big battery – switched on earlier this year at Gap Road – should avoid the blackouts and brownouts residents have dealt with over the decades.

Power outlook: Growth

Any customer who asks to be connected to electricity will be connected, according to an AusNet spokesperson.

“There may come a time in the future when a particular project may require a large augmentation of the supply to Phillip Island, but we’re not there yet,” she said.

“This could be lines, poles, infrastructure, whatever is deemed as needed.

“We will continue to monitor load growth on Phillip Island to determine when a network augmentation will be required.”

The spokesperson said their forecasting process combined historic performance with population growth forecasts – and other factors such as electrification (growth in EVs) – to arrive at an estimate of future load growth.

“Maximum demand at Phillip Island depends largely on the weather conditions between Christmas and the end of the first week of January.

“The highest demand was recorded in the summer of 2019/20.”

She said the big battery – switched on earlier this year at Gap Road – should avoid the blackouts and brownouts residents have dealt with over the decades, “supporting peak demand management and/or delaying any augmentation need”.

“The reliability of supply for Phillip Island is similar to other rural parts of our network, where customers are supplied by long radial powerlines which are more susceptible to outages,” they explained.

Where our power comes from:

The electricity supply to Phillip Island is via the overhead power lines that cross near the bridge onto the island.

The energy is sourced from the National Electricity Market, so its source reflects the mix in the NEM.

“As a distributor, AusNet plan the network to cater for the peaks; demand through the day is the Australian Energy Market Operators’ responsibility.”

Environment outlook: No more growth

“How many people can inhabit a place like Phillip Island without damaging it environmentally?”

That was the question posed by Phillip Island’s peak ratepayer group, Island Voice, earlier this year in its submission to the state government’s Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) planning panel.

“Human population and development are the major threats to the environment and to reducing the island’s attraction for visitors,” the Island Voice submission stated, calling for the DAL to determine population limits.

So, can Phillip Island’s environment cope with current growth?

There is, unfortunately, no easy measurement, but anecdotally the answer would seem clear.

At that DAL hearing, the Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) said the island was an “area of outstanding biodiversity significance, including internationally significant Western Port Ramsar wetland, the world’s largest colony of little penguins, 25 per cent of the population of Australian fur seals, 1.4 million migratory short-tailed shearwaters, and recovering population of threatened species, such as the endangered eastern barred bandicoot”.

PICS said growth had potential to impact all species and landscapes, using the example that population pressure had led to proposals to widen the Phillip Island Road to four lanes and ultimately to widen the bridge.

Yet, PICS said, the ocean around the bridge was also home to significant marine spe-



Possibly the most obvious environmental measure of the impact of growth on Phillip Island is roadkill.

cies – known by scientists as the San Remo Marine Community – which would be impacted by any bridge expansion.

While Nature Parks works to protect seals, penguins, and shearwaters, possibly the next most obvious environmental measure of the impact of growth on Phillip Island is roadkill.

A Cowes resident and citizen scientist conducted a three-year roadkill study on a 3.6km stretch of the Cowes-Rhyll Road that found 1200 kills across 30 species.

A shorter roadkill study in April and May this year on the same section of the Cowes-Rhyll Road found 64 kills including 11 species, with the citizen scientist guesstimating that when all roads on Phillip Island are taken into consideration, thousands of animals are killed annually.

Solutions

While many groups agree the island’s environment is at a tip-

ping point, solutions so far have included the DAL’s proposal to lock in town boundaries (we are still waiting for the planning minister’s recommendations on the planning panel’s report).

Often solutions have been case by case.

For example, local groups have continually battled threats to Western Port’s environment from major projects, such as AGL’s recently rejected gas plant.

One of the most immediate threats this year to the penguin colony and south coast bird species was a proposed resort development at Kitty Miller Bay, which was overturned by Bass Coast Shire Council because the threats to the environment were too great.

As for roadkill solutions, aside from reducing the speed limits, and a virtual fence trial, the focus has been on supporting volunteer rescuers to humanely kill injured wildlife.



SERVICES: OUR FUTURE

Phone services outlook: Growth


TELSTRA
Telstra's 4G and 5G coverage is available across most of Phillip Island and the service provider states they "plan for peaks and troughs in demand as best we can".
"We have plans in place to roll out a number of upgrades across the island in the coming months, which should help address increasing demand on our network in the area," said Telstra regional general manager Jenny Gray.
Telstra has 10 mobile base stations on the island, and upgrades will add extra coverage and capacity to small areas.
Telstra is planning to: Build a new 4G/5G mobile base station in San Remo south; install small cells at Cowes and Sunderland Bay; perform upgrades in Cowes West and Phillip Island Circuit.
"Most of these should be done by the end of this year, and the new mobile base station at San Remo South early next year," Jenny said.
Having problems with Telstra?
"Residents can improve their mobile coverage by using an NBN or other broadband connection to access Wi-Fi calling.
"This works even during a mobile outage and is a free setting on most popular mobile phones, which allows your mo-

bile to use a Wi-Fi network to make and receive mobile calls.
"We also encourage business owners talk to their bank about connecting their EFTPOS terminals to their NBN or Wi-Fi connection to prevent delays in processing transactions."

OPTUS
Based on available three-year Optus data, mobile traffic on Phillip Island since 2021 has increased by 100 per cent, while data usage has increased by 40 per cent.
"Based on statistics trends, we have observed increased traffic on the network at Phillip Island throughout the summer holiday period, particularly during Christmas and New Year's Eve," an Optus spokesperson said.
There are currently eight Optus towers located on Phillip Island and the service provider plans to roll out four new towers on Phillip Island, also upgrading one of their existing towers to 5G.
"In general, Phillip Island presents unique challenges to building new sites due to limited land and logistics associated with construction. However, Optus employs comprehensive internal methodologies and conducts regular reviews to pro-

actively anticipate growth and plan network expansions accordingly."
The Optus spokesperson said their planning considered past traffic data and forecasts for the future and "we also check for any new developments in the area to determine whether existing capacity and coverage is adequate to cater for any expected traffic growth".
"Optus is committed to keeping our customers and the Phillip Island community connected by providing the highest possible coverage across our network."
The spokesperson conceded during busy times – "when many people tend to use the network at the same time" – network speeds can become slower.
"But users should not lose mobile coverage."
Residents with NBN concerned with phone reception may consider activating Voice over WiFi features for enhanced indoor voice experience.
If customers have any issues, they can also report it to Optus through the My Optus App or through the Optus website.
"Customer input plays an important role in coverage related investigations."

What you're saying:
During peak holiday season, social media lights up with complaints about phone reception:
Vanna: "Phone system on the Island is totally overloaded because there are too many peeps on line. Welcome to our world. Thousands of visitors and the system is overloaded. Should be back to normal by the end of January."
Elaine: "The amount of visitors to the island is next level. Great news for the shops but the struggle is real for locals to just shop or move on and off the island. I understand I live on a holiday island but that doesn't make my gripe invalid."
Beverley: "Definitely slow. We had no reception earlier in the day."
Sarah: "Towers can't handle the influx of people."
Heather: "Getting phone wifi is a nightmare. Even getting phone coverage in peak season is nuts."
Malcolm: "Generally I find the mobile phone internet on the island outside Cowes is poor to non-existent. Sure you can connect but the bandwidth is rubbish. Telstra build the network based on where the people are usually. I don't think that capacity has been expanded in line with usage."



There are currently eight Optus towers on Phillip Island, with more planned, while Telstra has 10 mobile base stations with more in the pipeline.

NBN internet outlook: Growth

Internet specialists explain reliability can vary based on devices people use, their plan, and choice of provider.
Specialists say when people on Phillip Island complain of black spots, dropouts or slow speeds on their mobile phones, they are generally referring to their use of local mobile internet connectivity.
For most of Phillip Island NBN is the fixed internet provider – with the exception of Sky Muster satellite service.
Most of the built-up residential areas on Phillip Island are currently serviced by Fibre to the Node (FTTN), where the existing copper phone and internet network from a nearby fibre node is used to make the final connection to the NBN.
However, homes in new developments are having Fibre-to-the-Premise installed, which is NBN's fastest residential fibre technology and can deliver wholesale download speeds of close to 1 Gbps, (which can support things like simultaneous streaming of high-definition video, uploading of large files and five or more people online at the same time).
Head of NBN Local Victoria Emily Peel said upgrades from FTTN (copper) to fibre had started in the Cowes area.
To find out if your address is scheduled for an upgrade go to: nbnco.com.au/residential/upgrades/more-fibre
She added the fixed NBN internet network was "reliable, high speed, stable and fast and has ample capacity available during peak periods".

When businesses complain of dropouts relating to EFTPOS machines – or slow connectivity, particularly during holiday periods – the problem is most likely the mobile network running the machine. For greater reliability, EFTPOS can run off a fixed network to avoid localised mobile network congestion.

What you're saying:
Angela: "Why is the internet so bad here when we're meant to be one of the best tourist destinations in Victoria? (With Telstra). I don't want NBN, I want to function with a simple dongle as I don't use much and don't want to."
Wayne: "I'm on a FTTP service at Phillip Island, via iiNet, but looking to swap because iiNet are lacking in my option. Depends on location and service. Check with NBN on what services you can get and ISP. For me, I've never had a drop out in two years."
Kylie: "It is absolutely hopeless. I can't even get Telstra phone reception half the time to make a simple call, let alone use the internet on our Telstra dongle."
Jeanette: "I live in San Remo and use a portable wifi with Optus and have no trouble except when all the tourists are here and using the internet it goes slow. Otherwise it's not a problem."
Tracy: "I'm with Telstra and it's been terrible. I was kicked off Netflix three times. It's annoying because of how much I pay for internet. I've rung heaps. I'm in Red Rocks so it might have something to do with our



Head of NBN Local Victoria Emily Peel says the fixed NBN internet network was "reliable, high speed, stable and fast and has ample capacity available during peak periods".

power flicking off randomly this week also."
Rohan: "Wait until the tourists hit town. Then you'll see how world class the island's internet is."
Sue: "I get better internet coverage in Ventnor than I get in Melbourne."
Marg: "We had the same issue for years and dug our own trench so no charge and got NBN for free. No more problems."
Jeff: "Having always lived in regional Australia, I thought the internet on Phillip Island wasn't that bad, barring holiday periods (we had Optus). We now live

in Melbourne and yep it was bad compared to what we get here."
Martin: "It's not worth the investment from the telcos. The full-time population is only 12,000 and although we have many times that during peak times, there is no real incentive."
Phil: "I haven't noticed that big a difference between our fibre to the premises than the old copper wire. NBN bandwidth can go up and down. There are two ways of messing it up, either by the number of people using it at any given time or the service provider deliberately squeezing the bandwidth."

Health outlook:

Bass Coast Health – which runs the Phillip Island Health Hub and the soon to be built community hospital – was the only service provider to not provide comment or data, despite being given two months' notice.
Ambulance Victoria was only able to provide Bass Coast data, nothing specific to Phillip Island.

What you're saying:
Anon: "What on earth is happening on the island? Trying to get a doctor's appointment at my San Remo medical clinic as I have bad asthma and I was told there is nothing for two weeks and to go to the hospital."
Grazyna: "Infrastructure and services not keeping up with population boom."
Kaela: "It has been a problem with health services for a while, country wide, particularly in regional areas."
Rachel: "I go to Pakenham as they have many bulk billing clinics and easy access to X-ray, blood testing and other essential medical services."
Jenny: "I have been to the nurse practitioner in Grantville she was excellent."
Alison: "Clinics are meant to keep a number of vacant appointments every day. It's competitive but start dialling the minute they open in the morning."



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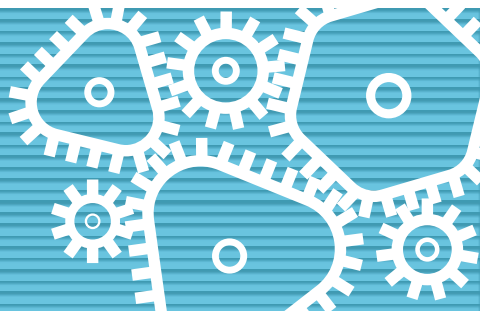
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Water users survey underway

SERVICES

Regional water customers are being asked to provide feedback on products and services this month.

The statewide customer satisfaction survey is part of regional water corporations' commitment to ensuring the highest level of customer satisfaction.

Customers will be able to share their feedback as part of an Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Organisations aim to gath-

er feedback from over two thousand customers across the seven participating water corporations, which include Westernport, South Gippsland, Gippsland, East Gippsland, Central Highlands, Goulburn Valley and Coliban Water.

The corporations said the survey was part of their effort "to continually enhance the water and sewerage services provided to the community."

A sample of customers will receive an email and be asked to complete a short survey to

share their thoughts on satisfaction with water and sewerage services.

To encourage participation, customers have the chance to win one of ten \$100 bill credits if they complete the survey before 6pm on Tuesday October 31.

Winners will be announced by each water corporation after the survey closes in early November 2023.

For those eager to provide feedback and potentially win a \$100 bill credit, the survey will also be made accessible from Westernport Water's

website for four weeks from October 9.

"This year we are reaching out to a sample of customers via email to gain insights into their perspectives on our products and services, and I encourage them to be as honest as possible," said Westernport Water Managing Director Dona Tantirimudalige.

"Gaining insight into the customer experience allows us to identify whether we are meeting customer expectations for water and sewerage services."

"The survey is one of the most important ways we learn from our customers and improve our services."

"Regardless of whether customers receive an email invitation, everyone can participate by visiting our website and taking the survey to ensure their voices are heard," Ms Tantirimudalige said.

Personal information collected for competition entry will be used solely for the purposes of the competition. Your information will not be linked to feedback.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Traffic vision needed

What good news story in Advertiser (p 3, September 20)? How crazy that more and more money gets spent on reports by consultants who, inevitably, recommend ways for more, bigger faster, better?

When will Council organise a serious, arm's length, objective, bold vision look at ourselves?

Do we really want more cars? The more upgrades are made, for convenience of cars, funnily enough, the more cars arrive. More congestion, more aggression, ever more unpleasant. For pedestrians, cyclists and users of public transport, it gets more difficult at even crossroads, especially at small roundabouts. For small children and elderly, it's bewildering at best, with shocks and mental injury of close calls, never recorded, anywhere.

In the plan for the Recreation Reserve, diagonally opposite RSL, how good would it have been for the corner area, previously used as car park, to have become permanent, with shuttle buses back and forth to Chapel Street?

Bernie McComb, Cowes

Questions to council denied

For those ratepayers of Bass Coast who love to watch Bass Coast Council meetings and there are some that I know who look forward to the excitement each month, you may have wondered why the ratepayers of Sunderland Bay Surf Beach have been so quiet.

The real reason is all questions relating to the special charge scheme have been disallowed at the direction of the mayor. There have been approximately 8-10 questions submitted at each council meeting since March 2023 but council has not acknowledged that a question has been submitted. Questions have been stricken from council records and are not even listed in the council minutes. Is this the way a democratic council behaves?

The mayor and senior staff apparently do not appreciate questions from concerned ratepayers nor do a number of other councillors. The refusal of this council to not even list questions in the council minutes brings into question this council's honesty, transparency and accountability, core requirements of council.

Council claims in an email to respondents that the questions have been addressed previously, this is disinformation, and totally untrue. Council states it has also updated the FAQs page but when council staff are asked for

a link to find where their question is supposedly listed amongst the many FAQs, there again is a refusal to communicate. I have been waiting three weeks for an explanation from senior council staff as to why there are no detailed plans for the proposed Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Special Charge Scheme when it is clearly stated in the public notice, that a detailed plan is available for inspection at the council office. I am also still waiting for an email reply from council's relieving CEO, seeking clarification on anomalies regarding the voting form.

This scheme will cost each ratepayer an average of more than \$30,000, but council continuously refuses to discuss the design issues with ratepayers, instead council dictates to a time frame. How can ratepayers trust a council and their senior officers if they refuse to communicate with the community?

Philip Davy, Surf Beach

Our Hoop Pine heritage

The Hoop Pine on the Isle of Wight site is an important example of Victoria's Hoop Pine heritage, most likely courtesy of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller.

He was an explorer, physician and botanist who was appointed Government Botanist in 1853 and Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens 1857 - 73.

Von Mueller is credited with identifying nearly 800 Australian plant species during his extensive work and travels. He saw the Botanic Gardens as a key collection and distribution centre for plants and seeds throughout Victoria, giving them to public institutions and private individuals. (McLachlan, I. 2017)

He also planted seeds during his travels, sadly including blackberries.

Records from 1857 - 58 show 39 public institutions and 206 private individuals received plants from von Mueller's department, comprising packets of seeds and live cuttings.

With these numbers in mind, and as Council officers have advised, it is very likely that von Mueller supplied the Cowes Hoop Pine and Moreton Bay Fig to the landowner in the late 1850s and may well have planted them.

The Hoop Pine is a slow growing, long-lived Queensland - NSW conifer of the Araucaria family, related to the Wollemi and Bunya Pines. In Victoria today, there are widespread specimens attributed to von Mueller, including in the Treasury Gardens, Willsmere in Kew and the

Sale and Warrnambool Botanic Gardens, as well as the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The curator describes them as 'living dinosaurs, giant, beautiful and dominant in the landscape'

A magnificent Hoop Pine is also located in the middle of once privately owned Yallambie Park, along with Hoop and Bunya Pines nearby. They are all attributed to von Mueller, from the 1850s Bakewell era of Plenty Station. (McBriar, M. 1986)

These significant trees are protected in recognition of their heritage and it is heartening to see Bass Coast Councils position of the Cowes specimen.

The Cowes Hoop Pine should be celebrated and seen as a showpiece of the Isle of Wight development, not an impediment, alongside mandatory protection and careful management of Phillip Island's living dinosaur.

Anne Paul, Ventnor

Re-zoning by stealth

The Newhaven Boys Home application to amend the current endorsed Planning Permit 100626, advertised in The Advertiser on June 21 has already had 92 objections to the amendment lodged with the Bass Coast Shire. This amendment seeks to alter the current zoning from General Residential 1 to Mixed Use.

One would have expected that a re-zoning application would have been advertised with this as a key point!

The advertised notification simply stated that the Developer sought to "Alter the preamble of the permit to change what the permit allows and include 'residential hotel'".

The proposed re-zoning is entirely inappropriate for the village of Newhaven.

The Newhaven Boys Home site was assessed as part of the C90 San Remo, Newhaven, and Cape Woolamai structure plan. The C90 was opened for comments and subsequently referred to an Expert Panel. The Expert Panel considered all submissions and recommended that the site should "Support infill opportunity on Former Boys Home site sympathetic with heritage values". Consequently, the site remained zoned Residential 1. (Later renamed General Residential 1)

Planning permit 100626 was issued in accordance with VCAT Order P2384/2011, which is following General Residential 1 zoning. The current section 72 amendment proposes changing the development to a Mixed Use

development. This is beyond the scope of what a section 72 amendment can change and is also contrary to the VCAT order. More importantly should the Bass Coast Shire councillors approve the re-zoning from Residential to Mixed Use it would set a precedent for bad planning in all residential land in the shire.

This amendment is a re-zoning attempt by stealth and must not be allowed to happen.

I request that the Bass Coast councillors reject this amendment and direct the developer to proceed with the Endorsed Plan 100626 or cancel the planning permit which has already been extended by 12 years. The Shire inspectors have reported that no structural works have commenced.

Noel Street, Newhaven

Shame file

My name is John Trigt and I am the person that interjected at the council meeting on September 20, with the word "shame." I firmly believe in freedom of expression, and I congratulate Cr Leticia Laling in tabling the motion on the yes/no vote on the referendum. The way she presented the motion for council to back a yes vote I personally believed to be too political and not council's core business. Other councillors either spoke for or against the motion and I respect their personal viewpoint, but I would like to remind them why all councillors have been elected to council. They are there to serve the ratepayers of Bass Coast and not to project their own political views towards a federal referendum. Bass Coast ratepayers are quite capable of making up their own minds, remember they voted you in. For the record I will be voting Yes.

Definitely "shame" but certainly not disappointed or surprised.

We continue to see the mayor Cr Michael Whelan omit to read out eight questions, submitted by ratepayers at this council meeting. All regarding the controversial Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Special Charge Scheme, which is nearing the pointy end of its existence. I remind the mayor of his comment made on ABC radio recently that in his view public questions at council meetings are fantasy. Fantasy is dreams. Shame on you mayor for taking away our dreams of a fair go and stifling our freedom of expression. Shame on you. Michael, I will be happy to have a coffee and a chat with you anytime.

John Trigt, Surf Beach

Support our sanctuary

It is most encouraging to read in the Advertiser (27/9/23) that local Landcare groups have received a share of more than \$4.4 million worth of grants from the state government for youth and volunteer groups to improve the states natural environment.

Cowes Primary school will receive \$4650 to develop the School Community Sanctuary to restore and regenerate this last remaining, almost three acres, of remnant vegetation in Cowes. This unique and rare habitat in the school harbours many endangered species of wildlife. The critically endangered Swift Parrot, the threatened Powerful Owl, the vulnerable Grey-headed flying Fox, the beautiful Boo-book Owls, the Eastern and Crimson Rosellas and so many more birds and bats. Echidnas, blue-tongued lizards and a wonderful variety of other fauna and flora, including the native hyacinth orchard, have for years thrived, in this small footprint of vegetation.

Unfortunately, school buildings are encroaching into these unique few acres of habitat, established in 1986 as a school community sanctuary by the visionary principal of the day, Peter Paul, with the help of a few teachers, parents and local volunteers. These people worked on clearing undergrowth, making walking trails, building fences, signs and seats for students, teachers and the general public to sit, observe and learn about the wildlife around them.

Numbered signs identified flora and indigenous plant species that could be seen along a nature trail. In a short period of time this outdoor classroom became an environmental studies program for students and residents to enjoy.

For this sanctuary to survive and remain a contribution to climate change education, the school will need the support of community groups, individuals, and perhaps a "Friends of the Sanctuary" group who will support the present and future, of retaining and preserving this unique and important remnant vegetation for perpetuity.

Two thirds of flora and fauna have disappeared in the last 50 years in Australia, including 360 species of native wildlife, one billion animals have lost their lives. This "land for wildlife" must be retained at all costs.

S. Chadwick, Cowes

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J030900A



Australian rider Jack Miller in action in 2022. Miller will be hoping for a more successful outing at Phillip Island this year, following an unfortunate crash at Miller Corner, which had been renamed in his honour. Photo: Alia Schonberg.

Island locked in for 2024 GP

MOTOGP

Phillip Island will host the 2024 MotoGP from October 18-20.

The Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) last week released the 2024 Provisional MotoGP™ Calendar.

2024 will mark the 35th anniversary of the first Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix to be held at the world-renowned Phillip Island circuit in 1989.

In that year, Australian Wayne Gardner was victorious in front of a rapturous home crowd – a

feat he repeated the following year.

“It’s an exciting moment to confirm dates for 2024, giving fans plenty of time to plan their visit to the wonderful Phillip Island next year,” said Australian Grand Prix Corporation CEO, Travis Auld.

“The Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix brings an influx of economic benefit to the Bass Coast region, and we are thrilled to lock in these dates for the accommodation and hospitality providers in the area to begin planning ahead for 2024.”

The date announcement comes less than one month before gates open for the MotoGP™ Guru by Gryfyn Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix 2023, with preparations well underway to welcome back the international MotoGP™, Moto2™ and Moto3™ categories.

Australian MotoGP™ rider Jack Miller will be hoping for a more successful outing at Phillip Island this year, following an unfortunate crash at Miller Corner, which had been renamed in his honour the day prior, in 2022.

For tickets to the October 20-22 MotoGP™ visit motogp.com.au



The Recreation Reserve in Cowes is about to get a \$300,000 makeover starting this week. The oval is expected to be closed to the public during the construction and turf maintenance part of the project.

Rec reserve gets a facelift

MAINTENANCE

The Recreation Reserve in Cowes is about to get a \$300,000 makeover, with work starting this week.

The rejuvenation work includes 12 weeks of “turf establishment and maintenance” and is expected to be completed by the end of January 2024.

Access to the site will be limited during this time, with the oval expected to be closed for several months.

Council said the length of the project will be determined by weather and contractor and supplier availability.

The project includes a drainage upgrade, resurfacing and “warm season grass conversion” for the oval, which a council spokesperson said would “bring the performance of this deteriorated oval to a level conducive to playing local football and cricket”.

There will be some reshaping and earthworks to allow better rainfall run off.

The existing irrigation will be reinstated.

A concrete synthetic cricket pitch will be installed and there will be turf sprigging works.

The oval will be closed to the public during the construction and turf maintenance part of the project which is expected to take several months.

Bass Coast Shire Council said the area is considered a construction zone and as such, for public safety, there will be no public access.

“A temporary perimeter fence will be installed to stop public access to the construction site,” the council spokesperson said.

While acknowledging the lack of access to the oval was an inconvenience, the spokesperson said it was a case of “short term pain for long term gain”, as the eventual outcome will be “a vastly improved oval”.

“That will be a benefit to the community and to the clubs that use it,” they said.

Details: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/CowesRRrejuvenation

Results from the green

GOLF

Tuesday, September 26

Men's 18-hole Stableford

A grade winners: A-1 Rob Davison (13) with 39 pts and A-2 Mark Dykes (9) with 38 pts C/B.

B grade winners: B-1 John Leheny (19) with 39 pts and B-2 John Enbom (17) with 37 pts.

C grade winners: C-1 John Savas (24) with 40 pts and C-2 John Shaw (29) with 38 pts.

BDL to 35 pts.

NTP: 5th Peter Ablett, 7th

Justin McBean, 10th Owen Jolly and 17th Robert Sparkman.

Nine-hole Stableford

Winner: Ian Bray (32) with 20 pts from Ian Samuel (28) 18 pts C/B.

BDL to 16 pts.

Wednesday, September 27

Ladies Stableford

A grade winner: Sheryl Smith with (26) 39 pts.

B grade winner: Lynn McCole with (42) 39 pts.

BDL to 33 points C/B.

NTP: 5th Emma Hall, 7th Stacey Meder, 10th Sheryl Smith,

17th Vicki Roff-Smith and 12th Trish Jamieson.

Nine-hole Stableford

Winner: Lyn Ward with (33) 20 pts.

BDL to 17 pts.

Thursday, September 28

18-hole Stableford

A grade winners: A-1 Ron Owen (15) with 38 pts and A-2 Fred Panozzo (16) 37 pts.

B grade winners: B-1 Chris Disher (21) with 37 pts and B-2 Rickardo Meder (18) 35 pts C/B.

C grade winners: C-1 David Pardoe (33) with 42 pts and C-2 Ian Young (25) 39 pts C/B.

BDL to 33 pts C/B.

NTP: 5th Peter Cartwright, 7th Wayne Morris, 10th Peter

Gray and 17th Adrienne Anglin.

Nine-hole Stableford

Winners: Steve Reiger (23) with 20 pts and Ian Brown (34) with 19 pts C/B.

BDL to 17 pts C/B.

Saturday, September 30

Men's and Mixed

18-hole 4BBB Stableford

A grade winners: A-1 Max Brown and Rick Jenkins with 47 pts, A-2 Peter Ablett and Robert Purcell with 46 pts and A-3 Tony Hornsby and Christian Lloyd 44 pts C/B.

BDL to 43 points C/B.

NTP: 5th Andrew Walton, 7th William Lang, 10th Chris Sanderson and 17th Jack Ross.

Ladies 18-hole 4BBB Stableford

Winners: Jillian Tyrell and Alice Schofield with 46 pts and Vicki Ramage and Emma Hall with 45 pts. BDL to 41 pts.

Great score (eagle on the 9th) Emma Hall.

NTP: 7th Emma Hall, 10th Wendy Hopkins and 17th Emma Hall.

Open 9-hole Stableford

Winners: Malcolm MacArthur (29) with 17 pts C/B Alan Tindale (31) 17 pts.

BDL to 14 pts.

Sunday, October 1

Open Comp Stableford

Winner: Harri Baltruschaitiis (17) 34 pts and Clare Henderson (13) 30 pts.

BDL to 27 pts.

Corinella challenge for midweek crew

BOWLS

Corinella was the venue to continue our weekly challenge.

The green was in tip top condition and the weather was fairly good for spring, no rain, clear sky and a temperature close to 20.

Thirty-three of our bowlers turned up to play with another five or six dropping in through the day as spectators.

Phil did a great job of setting up before we started and we are grateful for all the work he puts in when we visit.

The day went well with the usual amount of friendly banter and laughter around the green.

Some excellent quality bowls were the order of the day and it was a pleasure to watch some of our favourite bowlers teach a few of us how to play.

Not a lot of wrong bias bowls, but the RCH tin is not in bad condition.

Anyway, as always, the cream rose to the top, and this week's winners and runners up had to be separated on a count-back.

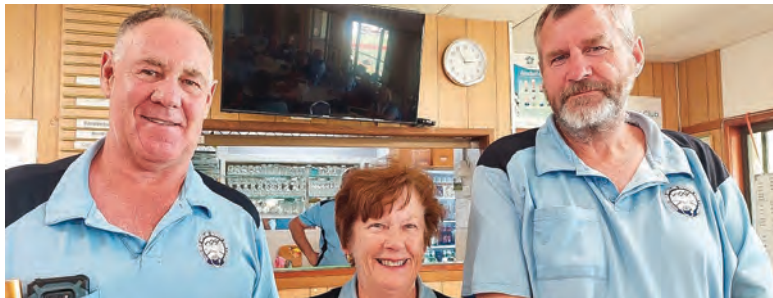
This week's winners on 35 points were: Terry Floyd (S), Frank d'Unienville (3) and Graeme McLeish (L).

Runners up also on 35 points were: Mark Andreatta (S), Chris Brooks (3) and Jenny Smith (L).

Best one game winners on 25 points were: John Nicholson (S),



Winners on 35 points: Terry Floyd (S), Frank d'Unienville (3) and Graeme McLeish (L).



Runners up also on 35 points: Mark Andreatta (S), Jenny Smith (L) and Chris Brooks.

Margaret Hoy (3), Pauline McWilliams (2) and Max Summers (L).

I would like to say that we look forward to the return soon of some of our members who are not feeling too good, especially Bill, Shirl and Sue.

We are all thinking of you and look forward to your return.

Once again, we thank Peter, Pauline and John for all the hard work they do each week to get our group together and hold

these events.

Thank you also to Phil and Terry for looking after the bar and keeping most of our players happy.

Next week we will be congregating at San Remo to once again fight it out, so if everyone could be on site by 10am to try to make Peter's life a bit easier when arranging teams.

Meanwhile, stay safe and see you next week.

Perfect conditions for social bowls

BOWLS

A small group of bowlers gathered to bowl at our social bowls event in perfect weather conditions.

As usual the standard of bowling was very high.

New members are very welcome to join our social bowls event every Thursday at 12am for a 12.30pm start and is a perfect way to start off learning the game of bowls.

Runners up for the day were: Skip Lino Micallef, 3rd Lance Wearne, John Hall and Lead Kim Frost.

Congratulations to our winners: Skip Tony Steward, 3rd Glenda Grazules and Lead Bruce Puncher.



Social Bowls winners (from left): Bruce Puncher, Glenda Grazules and Tony Steward.

Go 5 and Go Girls program

SOCCER

The Go Girls soccer program is running for eight weeks on Thursdays, commencing October 12.

Game times will be at 5pm, 6pm or 7pm depending on numbers.

Go 5s is a social 5v5 competition for all abilities.

The age groups running will be (dependent on the number of

registrations received):

U9s mixed for those born in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

U12s boys for those born in 2013, 2012 and 2011.

U15s mixed for 2010, 2009 and 2008.

U12s Go Girls for those born in 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011.

U16s Go Girls for those born in 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007.

Register online at [www.go-football.com.au/play/Pick-your-](http://www.go-football.com.au/play/Pick-your-location/phillip-island)

[location/phillip-island](http://www.go-football.com.au/play/Pick-your-location/phillip-island).

The cost is \$40 per child for the eight weeks, coloured bibs will be provided as uniforms when the teams are created; players do not have to be playing at the club already.

Please share with anyone who may be interested in playing.

There will be a come and try day on Thursday, October 5, for new players between 5pm – 6pm.



Harrison Carlon, Xavier Williams and Jeremy Kelly represented Gippsland in the U15s V/Line Cup carnival in Shepparton on September 25 and 26.

Bulldogs players represent Gippsland in V/Line Cup



Gisele Smith also represented Gippsland and is with coach Bianca Hellmuth-Pask. Congratulations to our Bulldogs players and coach!

Well done Noah!

Our apologies to Noah Forrest Mabilia, after running a picture and story in our September 20 football finals edition stating that he had come runner up in the West Gippsland Football Netball League Under 16 vote count.

Noah in fact won the WGFNL vote count, coming equal first in the end of year count. Well done Noah and the Advertiser apologises for the mistake.



Midweek teams event finals

BRIDGE

Twelve pairs competed in the duplicate competition on Monday, September 25.

In first place for North/South were Deborah Anglim and Greg Nicholson on 53 per cent followed in second by Neville Chapman and Lorrie Reed on 51.50 per cent.

A whisker behind in third were Diane Coleman and Karen Klym on 51.0 per cent.

Cathie Beenie and Miranda Sage took first place for East/West on 54 per cent with Anne Gibson and Robert McClellan coming in second on 52.50 per cent.

Third were Clare and Jim

Murphy on 52 per cent.

Wednesday saw the final of the two-week mid-week teams' event.

In first place: Team 7 comprising of Deborah Anglim, Greg Nicholson, Lorrie Red and John Farr.

Second place: Team 3 featuring Hannah Martin, Maureen Stiles, Ruth Stevenson and Penny Loughran.

In third: Team 4 made up of Diane Coleman, Moya Crowley, Jill Short and Marion Wellwood.

Congratulations to all. It's great to see some new faces at Thursday's Social Bridge.

All are welcome, to find out more call Wendy on 0459 200 265.

Results from the table

EUCHRE

Ladies' winner: Mary-Ann Ueckerman, 7 wins.

Men's winner: David Armstrong, 6 wins.

Encouragement award: Les Walton.

Please contact Bob Hee for any further information on 0418 173 388.

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 | HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BLACK

WED 4 OCT	THU 5 OCT	FRI 6 OCT	SAT 7 OCT	SUN 8 OCT	MON 9 OCT	TUE 10 OCT
HIGH 5:22 am 3.21 m	HIGH 6:06 am 3.16 m	HIGH 6:46 am 3.06 m	LOW 12:23 am 0.36 m	LOW 1:00 am 0.50 m	LOW 1:38 am 0.66 m	LOW 2:17 am 0.83 m
LOW 10:57 am 0.77 m	LOW 11:39 am 0.82 m	LOW 12:18 pm 0.89 m	HIGH 7:25 am 2.92 m	HIGH 8:01 am 2.77 m	HIGH 8:39 am 2.62 m	HIGH 9:22 am 2.48 m
HIGH 5:10 pm 2.86 m	HIGH 5:46 pm 2.81 m	HIGH 6:21 pm 2.73 m	LOW 12:56 pm 0.98 m	LOW 1:32 pm 1.08 m	LOW 2:11 pm 1.18 m	LOW 2:55 pm 1.27 m
LOW 11:04 pm 0.19 m	LOW 11:45 pm 0.25 m		HIGH 6:56 pm 2.63 m	HIGH 7:31 pm 2.51 m	HIGH 8:11 pm 2.38 m	HIGH 8:59 pm 2.26 m

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Gemma Cook was recently selected for the Victorian Schools Team, competing in Sydney.



Trinity O'Keefe, Cooper Quaife, Mackenzie Gibbs and Byron Doran in the mixed ability relay race.

SGB multiclass swimmers lead the way

SWIMMING

Swimming Victoria is encouraging swimming for all abilities, with changes to the multi class swimming entries to encourage more swimmers to compete and be involved in swimming.

SGB has been encouraging their multi-class swimmers and they have thrived.

For many, like Gemma Cook, most of her swimming meets finds her racing against able bodied swimmers.

However, with the changes she has been able to compete at more events against other swimmers with the same classification as her.

Gemma was recently selected for the Victorian Schools Team, competing in Sydney against others of the same age, with the same clas-

sification, something she just loved.

Gemma only started competitively racing a year ago and has gone from strength to strength.

With the rise in multi class swimmers competing for SGB, the club was able to enter a relay team at the recent Victorian Countries Swimming Championships.

Byron Doran entered in the all-abilities relay team where two multi-class swimmers raced with two full ability swimmers in the event.

While the team didn't place, the smiles on the swimmers who were part of the team was a sign of how proud they were to be able to compete.

SGB offers multi-class sessions at the Leongatha pool for those that want, but swimmers can also train with the

regular squads.

Byron Doran has been swimming since he was six months old.

Byron's always loved water whether playing with it or being in it.

Living in a coastal town his parents always saw the need for Byron to learn to swim especially having a disability and not understanding the dangers of water.

Byron's is in his third-year training with SGB in Leongatha with Lorri as his coach.

Byron has recently joined and started training with the Special Olympics team - Dandenong Casey Titans (DCT).

The DCT team trains every second Sunday in Dandenong and he is competing in September.

Byron just loves to swim but doesn't understand the

competitive side of racing.

He just knows he has to get in and swim, listening to his coach and their instructions, however, doesn't necessarily go fast.

Sometimes he thinks he is doing exactly what the other swimmers are doing but it doesn't come out that way in the water for him.

Byron's disability makes learning a slow process and takes a lot longer for him to learn the process, but he does learn and totally understand all his coaches say to him.

Swimming with SGB has provided Byron and his family an opportunity to be a part of the sporting community in a fun inclusive way.

SGB continues to grow its swimmers of all abilities and welcomes new swimmers to the club.

Island grom on the podium

SURFING

Phillip Island's Angus Kennedy finished third in the Under 14 Boys section of the Woolworths Surfers Groms Comp held in South Australia on the weekend.

Sam Sparks (Kiama, NSW) took out the blue ribbon in the category with Ashton Crowley (Port Noarlunga South, SA) in second.

Surfing South Australia Contest Director, Craig Potgieter said overall it was a good day with some great surfing.

"The groms had a lot of fun

with beach games and surf skate sessions in the carpark and we could not have asked for better weather and conditions. Everyone was stoked."

Top placing South Australian surfers Isla Kindstrom and Ashton Crowley have won an all-expenses paid, three-day camp at the Hyundai Surfing Australia High Performance Centre. While the Le Tan Breaking Through award went to Leo Wilson (West Lakes, SA) for a breakthrough performance.

Full results at liveheats.com/events/168846



Angus Kennedy (second from left) finished third in the Under 14 Boys at the Woolworths Surfers Groms Comp in South Australia on the weekend. Photo: Surfing Australia.

**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**

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