

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

\$1.40 Incl. GST



Reopening: a mixed bag for business

There was plenty of social distancing for patrons enjoying an outdoor meal at the San Remo Hotel on the weekend. While many businesses have reopened, for some the restrictions are still difficult to negotiate.

Many local businesses opened their doors for the first time in months, with others expanding from takeaway or click and collect options to face to face service.

However, for some local businesses, opening up under the new Step 3 restrictions is still not a viable option.

For Sarah Pedersen from Cowes restaurant Citrus and Vine, the cap of 10 people in each area was unworkable.

"We are really happy about the easing of restrictions, however due to the low numbers we can take inside our restaurant it would cost us more in expenses to open," she said.

"It's such a shame because we would have opened if it was back to the 20 patrons in each area but 10 is just too little for the size of our restaurant."

"The running costs of opening and staffing is too great and it would actually cost us more to open."

For now the team is focused on opening in November, when hopefully the number of patrons allowed inside will increase. Since closing in March, Citrus and Vine has focused

on a takeaway menu, but Sarah admits the time has been stressful.

"It has been so difficult since March restricting numbers, adhering to new rules, closing, adopting a takeaway menu, then opening again only to close again."

"The stress has been so extreme my Mum and I have developed health issues we need to resolve and take some time out to get prepared for a great summer ahead," Sarah said.

"So fingers crossed we can fully open at the beginning of November!"

Staying with takeaway

Over in San Remo, San Remo Fisherman's Co-op stuck to takeaway, despite the easing of restrictions.

Paul Mannix said it was a good weekend, with a "fair few Gippslanders and Phillip Islanders out and about".

Despite having indoor and outdoor seating at the Co-op, Paul said they had decided not to reintroduce table service.

"We decided to go with a management plan that's as safe as we can

possibly do it," he said.

"Even though takeaway only might cost us some business, we are committing to a management plan that is as safe as it can be, for the benefit of the community, our staff and our fishing fleet. If the Co-op goes down, we can't service the fishermen either."

He said luckily fish and chips were perfectly suited for takeaway.

"We're in a fantastic position here and customers can takeaway out onto the grass, the park next door, the beach or the jetty."

He apologised to customers who might want to sit down in the Co-op and said hopefully this would return sometime in the future.

Unfortunately, even the Co-op's outdoor tables can't be used at the moment.

"Our tables are fixed - and too close for regulations," he explained.

"I want nothing more than to be able to walk into the dining area of the Co-op and see it abuzz with customers. I miss it. The staff miss it. But we want to be 100 per cent safe and the safest we can be is takeaway."

Welcome back

Ben Fisher from the San Remo Hotel said it was nice to see people out and about and be able to welcome their customers back.

He said the restricted numbers under Step 3 meant it was "tough, but it's on the way out" and there was a good vibe in the street over the weekend.

"We're checking postcodes for customers and we had a lot of visitors from Warragul, Morwell and even from the other side of Torquay."

Over the holidays, he said the hotel will be open for those wanting to dine in, but due to the government allowed capacity, people needed to book for meals.

And they're continuing their popular takeaway and home delivery service.

"We do takeaway and home delivery for liquor and food, seven nights a week," said Ben, with the delivery area stretching from Pioneer Bay, to Cowes to Dalyston.

"We're bringing the pub to home," he quipped, adding the service included home-delivered cocktails, which had proved very popular.

"Other people like to get takeaway and sit on the foreshore."

During the school holidays, the hotel is running two dinner sessions at 5pm and 7pm, plus lunch from 12-2pm on weekends.

While bookings are essential for meals, you can still just pop in for a drink said Ben.

"We're opening from 3-5pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, so locals can drop by for a beer after work."

With the government announcing funding and grants to help facilitate outdoor dining as part of its Covid recovery package, Ben said he was looking forward to working with Council and other traders on options for extending outdoor dining in San Remo.

"We're thinking of what could be done to bring the street alive and how to do something to make it a festival atmosphere."

"We'd love to use the car spaces out the front of the hotel for outdoor dining," he said.

The hotel has parking behind that bottle shop that could be used by customers to make up for the loss of any on-street parking.

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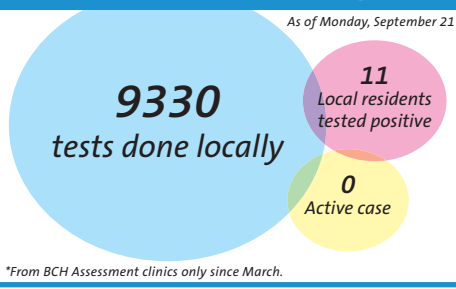
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8 14	7 15	6 14	7 14	8 14	8 15	13 17

Bass Coast COVID-19 update*



Illegal visitors face hefty fines

A trip to Phillip Island could cost you almost \$5000.

That's the message from police to Melbourne residents currently in lockdown.

The Premier and police said there will be a "ring of steel" around Melbourne, to protect the regions from any spread of the virus.

However some locals claim Melbourne residents are flouting the rules and have already arrived on the island.

They're frustrated that some people are "gaming the system" and putting the community at risk.

One local resident contacted the Advertiser appealing for help with people who are coming to the island in breach of the lockdown restrictions.

The resident claimed a

Melbourne family arrived at their Smiths Beach holiday house on September 11, but the man has changed his licence address to Smiths Beach to get around the lockdown.

Despite reporting the incident to police, the resident said the family is still there and the man "is going back and forth to Melbourne for work, exposing us all. It's not safe."

Police have attended the house on a number of occasions.

When contacted about the alleged breach, MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale said while there were penalties and checkpoints in place to limit movement, "ultimately we all have a personal and collective responsibility to play our part in following the rules, limiting movement, limiting contact and continuing to do

everything we can to get the numbers low and keeping them low."

She said any resident needing information, support or assistance should contact her or her team "as we are here to help".

Ms Crugnale said for all matters of enforcement of restrictions, community members are encouraged to continue reporting all matters to Victoria Police on 131 444, or lodge a report online at www.police.vic.gov.au/palor

Heavy fines

Last week, Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Regional Operations, Rick Nugent announced anyone caught illegally travelling to regional Victoria from metropolitan Melbourne would be fined \$4957.

The massive new fine is aimed at stopping people

trying to visit regional areas, which moved to Step 3 of the state government roadmap while Melbourne is still locked down.

Motorists have been warned to expect delays at the checkpoints, with more cars being stopped.

Police said an increased number of vehicles will be stopped and checked, stating "every vehicle towing a caravan or boat, every car carrying a fishing rod or swag will be checked."

Deputy Commissioner Nugent said officers will also patrol regional campgrounds, boat ramps and caravan parks to ensure Melburnians were adhering to the restrictions.

Senior Sergeant Andrew O'Brien from Bass Coast Police said extra resources had been allocated to support patrols of camping grounds and

caravan parks, and all places where large groups will gather.

He encouraged anyone with concerns about people visiting in breach of restrictions to call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or contact the DHHS hotline on 1800 675 398 and select option 4.

People from Melbourne are allowed to travel to the regions for work purposes but must carry a valid work permit. Visits to an intimate partner in regional Victoria are also permitted.

People from regional Victoria are permitted to travel to other regional areas in Victoria under Step 3 of the roadmap.

Details of current restrictions available at: www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-roadmaps



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San Remo robber nabbed

Detectives from the Armed Crime Squad have charged a man following an alleged armed robbery at a post office in San Remo earlier this month.

Michael White, a 28-year-old from San Remo was charged with armed robbery and drug offences.

He appeared at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court last week and a committal mention has been scheduled for December 10.

Police said White will remain on remand until the committal mention in December.

A committal mention is held to identify the witnesses who may be called at committal and to set a date for the committal hearing.

The charges follow an alleged incident at the post office on Marine Parade on September 5.

Deepak and Khyati Gurnani, owners of the San Remo Post Office and Newsagency, were both working when the robbery took place.

Deepak said a man entered the store around 9.20am. "He came to the counter and asked if we sold stamps," said Deepak.

"I asked him what kind of stamps he was after. Then he put his bag on the counter and raised his right arm and I



A man has been charged with armed robbery and drug offences following an alleged armed robbery at the post office in San Remo earlier this month. Owners Deepak and Khyati Gurnani, were both present when the robbery took place.

saw the handle of a knife. "He said I don't want to take this out. Give me all you have."

All the takings from the previous day were stolen.

After Deepak handed over the cash, he said the man "walked out very calmly".

CCTV footage showed the man walking down Wynne Road towards the intersection of Hazelwood Road.

Date set for Basham trial

The Supreme Court trial for alleged murderer Adrian Basham has been set for July 12, 2021, estimated to run for two months.

A directions' hearing in the Melbourne Supreme Court last week, presided by Justice Elizabeth Hollingworth, set a date for pre-trial preliminary arguments on December 9 to 11 this year.

The trial date was set to start earlier this year in July, but was delayed because of pandemic restrictions.

Adrian James Basham pleaded not guilty at a committal hearing in the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court in October last year, after being committed to stand trial over

the death of his estranged wife Samantha Fraser.

Mr Basham is accused of killing the mother of their three children, Samantha Fraser (38) at her Cowes home on July 23, 2018.

The five-day committal hearing heard from witnesses and psychologists who testified to Mr Basham's domestic abuse and controlling behaviour.

Mr Basham is also facing another set of charges which cannot be reported due to a suppression order.

If you or anyone you know needs support, contact the National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence Counselling Service on 1800RE-SPECT (1800 737 732).

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Ill wind blows Surf Beach turbine

Bass Coast Shire's CEO has personally contacted a Surf Beach resident requesting a stop-work on his proposed wind turbine until a planning assessment is undertaken.

The response by CEO Ali Wastie follows the proposed construction of a 10.5 metre turbine – yet to be erected – on Dixon Street, which according to shire planning officers does not require a planning or building permit.

Concerned residents have formed the Surf Beach Community Group to campaign against the turbine with a letter drop, while some residents have erected signs along the Phillip Island Road.

Residents at last week's council meeting again submitted a barrage of questions to councillors – following 10 questions at the August meeting – urging councillors to stop construction of the turbine because of a range of concerns.

Resident Ron Carson asked council to request the turbine owner to stop its erection until a health and safety investigation was completed, including the turbine's foundations.

"It is a health and safety issue, not just a visual disturbance, but also noise and with a flicker effect when the sun strikes the blade," Ron said.

"It will be the tallest structure in Surf Beach and has consequences for all of Philip Island as these could pop up anywhere until something is done about the regulations."

Ms Wastie responded to the questions saying she acknowledged the high level of concern the proposed wind turbine was causing the community.

"We are taking the feedback from the community extremely seriously. We acknowledge that a turbine of this size in a residential setting is not a good community outcome," Ms Wastie said.

"I have personally contacted the landowner and requested that construction of the turbine does not proceed until this assessment has been made."

Mayor Brett Tessari also raised the issue of the turbine with the Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane earlier this month at the Mayoral Advisory Meeting.

"The Minister requested we immediately send him the details which we did. We are following up with the Minister to see if he has any powers at his disposal to enable him to intervene on behalf of the community," Ms Wastie said.

She said shire officers had requested further information from the landowner to determine whether a planning permit "may be required".

"Council officers will need some time to assess the additional information."

"To be clear the size of the turbine does not trigger a planning permit as the plans submitted by the applicant indicate the turbine from the bottom to the tip is under 11 metres. A building permit is not required as it is not attached to a building."

"Despite community opinion and the opinion of some building surveyors in the community this advice has been double checked and triple checked and has been confirmed by the Victorian Building Authority."

She said the Victorian Building Authority had also confirmed the turbine was an unclassifiable structure and therefore exempt from regulations.

The Environmental Protection Authority can only make an assessment on the turbine once it has been constructed "as it is impossible to ascertain noise impact beforehand", adding that the Health and Wellbeing Act did not prohibit the installation of the turbine.

She responded to several questions that highlighted concerns for shearwater populations, saying the site was outside the RAMSAR boundary wetlands.

At the last Council meeting Ms Wastie said she had written to the state government to highlight the lack of guidance within Victorian planning on turbines, but she was yet to receive a response.

"I have requested amendments to planning schemes to enable council review and oversight of domestic wind turbines," she said.

"Council will pursue any and all enforcement options, for example if the turbine is found to breach height requirements once complete, if it is completed, or if its use is considered commercial in nature, either through energy output or use for advertising purposes."

Owner

Owner of the turbine Rob told the Advertiser he had followed all planning guidelines to build the turbine to specifications.

"I've spent a lot of money to investigate the rules and conform," said Rob, who is an electrician.

"If neighbours follow any relevant planning guidelines I'm not going to complain. Rules and guidelines are there for a reason and I'm following them."

He said he had already installed the solar panels to reduce his home's carbon emissions and to avoid the need to burn wood in a fireplace.

He added he needed the turbine to reduce his holiday home's fossil fuel needs and was planning to live on the island.



Shire mayor Brett Tessari raised the issue of the Surf Beach wind turbine with the Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane, earlier this month.



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Aquatic design's rubbery figures

Before designs for the Phillip Island community pool have even begun, questions are being asked about funding shortfalls.

Aquatic Centre Fund secretary Peter McMahon – who has for years lobbied for a community pool for Phillip Island – asked a question at last week's Bass Coast Shire meeting why the draft 2020/2021 shire budget allocated \$3.08m for aquatic centre funding, but the final budget allocated \$2.8m.

Shire CEO Ali Wastie responded the \$250,000 reduction in funding for the aquatic design "did not represent a scope change" and the funds had instead been transferred to the Wonthaggi Activity Centre plan.

"The savings on this budget are informed by advice that council has appropriate funding requirements for these two projects," Ms Wastie said.

Mr McMahon told the Advertiser he was concerned \$70,000 allocated to a pool master plan five years ago by the shire hadn't been spent, yet now funds were again being shifted.

"Before designs even start we have another reduction," he said.

"No one knows what the final costs could be so why change it before you start."

"As to it being used on the Wonthaggi Activity Centre, is the money being used appropriately? I believe it should have been used for recreational purposes."

The shire is in final negotiations with the owners of the carnival land, on the corner of Phillip Island and Ventnor roads, to purchase the site through compulsory acquisition.

The land is set to be a 32-hectare sports hub, including the long-anticipated aquatic centre.



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

Authorized: Ron Bauer 324 Lt Collins Street Melbourne 3000

VOTE **1**

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Get creative outdoors

Thinking outside the square and embracing new opportunities could be the key to local businesses surviving the Covid lockdown.

The state government is offering cash grants to individual businesses and councils to help businesses adapt to the new "Covid normal", including an increased focus on outdoor dining.

Teresa Mahood, Bass Coast Shire Council's Acting Manager Investment and Visitor Economy said the details of the government grants were expected this week, including where the money was allowed to be spent.

She said businesses could apply for \$5000 to help purchase items needed to organise extra outdoor dining, such as umbrellas and outdoor furniture.

In addition, as a regional council, Bass Coast will be eligible for up to \$250,000 to help create a swift and smooth process for ex-

panded outdoor dining.

Teresa said the money from the government could be used in a variety of ways, including extending footpath trading permits, organising road closures or branding for local businesses.

"We've met with the business associations to gauge their interest and what the approach should be," she said.

"Our teams have also been out talking to individual businesses, to see what they want."

She described Council's role as "coordinating plans", once the business community had decided what they wanted, but she said the focus needed to be on active, open space.

"We're letting businesses know what's coming, listening to them, and trying to support them as best we can."

What's in space?

Active open space could mean anything from "pop up parks" to road closures to allow for more outdoor dining or using existing open space to cater for picnics and takeaway.

Teresa said there were things hospitality business could do straight away, such as extending tables out onto the footpath, but this was also a chance to think of other possibilities.

"We have a great opportunity here, so we need to ask, 'how are we going to approach summer?' and what are the possibilities."

"What does open space look like for Cowes?"

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

"We're asking people to think - what are the opportunities? How can we free up additional space and create quirky and unique communal spaces for outdoor dining?"

She stressed that any outdoor dining areas would not be about inviting in food vans from outside the shire.

"It's not about setting up external traders, it's about creating places where people can engage with our businesses."

She said anyone with ideas for unique or creative spaces to help promote outdoor dining and local businesses, could email them to business.support@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Business mood

As businesses opened up in time for the school holidays, many are feeling the strain of the lockdown and restrictions.

"A lot of business owners are grateful for the state government help, but they're also

wary, because of the previous opening and closures," said Teresa.

"Some business have lost a lot, and others have really fallen through the cracks in terms of government assistance."

"But people want to be able to get back to it, to employ staff and get customers back in."

She said there was concern about when Melbourne came out of lockdown and there was an influx of visitors.

"People are worried about the virus coming back and there is nervousness about people visiting from Melbourne. But tourism is important to our region."



Overseas, outdoor dining precincts have been established in parks, to cater for takeaway trade. Photo: Fairmount Park Conservancy



Partial road closures to allow extended outdoor dining, such as this street in New York, could be an option for local businesses. Photo: Insider



Temporary barriers, landscaping and social distance 'pod' could be part of the expanded outdoor dining options. Photo: Shutterstock

Finding the balance

We can do this!

Geoff Moed, from the newly formed Island Business Network, said the challenge with opening up and developing new outdoor eating areas was finding the right balance.

"Not everyone has the same attitude to street closures, or partial closures," he admitted.

"There's no fixed ideas, but we need to get people back to Cowes and create a great atmosphere and a safe environment - for customers and businesses."

Geoff said he was impressed by the council's response to the latest announcement.

"There's a genuine effort by Bass Coast Shire Council to gauge what people's opinions are. I've been dealing with local government for 30 years now and this is the first time anyone has ever expressed this positive attitude to helping people get things done."

"They're saying, 'let's work out how we can do this', not 'you can't do that'. It's a massive turnaround."

He believes the focus needs to be on getting people into Cowes, and out of their cars.

"It has to be pedestrian focused. Pedestrians spend the money, not people driving past in their cars."

"It's about getting people to come to the area, be a pedestrian down Thompson Avenue, and create an atmosphere that is exciting and comfortable."

While it might take some time to find the

right solution, Geoff said getting the outdoor dining right "could be a game changer" for the atmosphere in Cowes.

He said other areas across the island including Cape Woolamai and Newhaven, as well as San Remo, were all well placed to create unique outdoor areas.

He said having an open, safe outdoor eating area would help other retailers as well, as people would be able to move around easily and access other shops.

"Part of the challenge is to get people to think outside of their four walls. Your business goes all the way out to the street. It's your signage, website, how you answer the phone, how you talk to your neighbours."

Coming together was the key to creating something special, he believes.

"For example, we've got a lot of local businesses that specialise in events. They're right here, they're not working ... it's a prime opportunity to get them to help set up these spaces."

"It's about working together. A problem shared is a problem halved."

Geoff believes that most business owners are being stoic and are keen to "get on with it".

"There's a universal acceptance that if we can keep on top of Covid, it could be a safe summer with a lot of visitors."

He encouraged businesses to join the newly created Phillip Island Business Network.

"It's an opportunity to talk, swap ideas, get new ideas, look at training opportunities."

"It's the perfect time to have a say."

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MORE THAN JUST BOOKKEEPERS

Health update from PIMHAG

By PIMHAG President Peter Paul

Last Thursday the Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG) held their AGM via Zoom. The following formed part of the discussion.

With the State election to be held in a little over two years, it is anticipated the design of the Phillip Island Community Hospital (PICH), after extensive consultation, will be approved and ready for construction.



Vice President of the Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG) John Matthews (left) with President Peter Paul.

Given our uncertain financial position and the impact on budgets and the politics of the day, PIMHAG would welcome some site works commencing prior to the election and both Labor and Liberals supporting the PICH.

Over the past year there has been frequent liaison with Jan Child, CEO of Bass Coast Health and we thank her for her time under the demanding circumstances that exist, and State Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale for her availability.

Their briefings on the progress of the PICH and the Wonthaggi Hospital have been thorough.

Thanks to the Phillip Island RSL for the continuing use of their facilities for our meetings since 2009 and hopefully we can revert from Zoom to a room in the very near future.

I congratulate the PIMHAG committee (re-elected unopposed) for their continuing perseverance, tenacity and tireless advocacy over the years and their ability to remain focussed on improving medical facilities, not only for Phillip Island but also for the Wonthaggi Hospital.

As volunteers they do an amazing job and are committed to staying the journey.

Together they believe they will achieve a PICH. Their successes with the Hub and Urgent Care Centre, both outstanding facilities, create a wonderful platform.

The PICH is scheduled to be opened in 2024 and PIMHAG believes it is well within its grasp as we



Members of PIMHAG were on hand to celebrate the official opening of the Urgent Care Centre last November. From left to right: Graeme Cock (life

enter the last stage of a marathon effort ensuring all promises are met and achieving our goal.

What is not widely known is the enormous amount of collective knowledge and experience held by PIMHAG.

The Committee is comprised of passionate grass roots community members with experience on Hospital Boards, Bass Coast Health Advisory Committee, Shire councils, PI Hub Auxiliary, PI Community Hospital Committee, plus a former CEO in the Disability Sector and an Emeritus Professor of Rehabilitation Psychology.

The Committee is very appreciative of the positive comments received from the community recognizing their achievements and best wishes for the future.

We thank our members for their support and welcome new members.

Become part of a community group that has made a difference and will continue to make a difference.

Please contact our Secretary Linda Marston at linda@marston.com.au or 0428 344 726.

Silverleaves again in the spotlight

Concerns about flooding and vegetation removal has again seen Bass Coast Shire councillors debate housing development in Silverleaves.

Just last month two councillors voted against another proposed Silverleaves development on the basis of concerns about rising seas, flooding and increased erosion from climate change, with Cr Pam Rothfield noting "if only we could turn back time and nothing was developed in Silverleaves".

Last week councillors agreed to defer a vote on a housing development at 58 Bruce Road, Silverleaves, which had several planning

overlays on it including flooding and vegetation protection.

Cr Stephen Fullarton moved a motion to defer the vote, requesting new plans from the owner.

He said not only did he have "no confidence in the application", because building specifications were incorrect, but also because an arborist report stated there was no significant vegetation on the site "when clearly there is".

Cr Michael Whelan said he was concerned the property would require a water levee, or dyke.

Cr Geoff Ellis agreed saying given Australia was a world leader in species extinction, "every

tree has value".

Cr Rothfield said a water report stated there would be no impact on the property from rising seas until 2040.

"Are we going to tell them they are not allowed to build because they will be impacted in 50 years' time?" she said.

Cr Fullarton responded the owners had a right to build but that people were moving to Silverleaves – a well-known treed area – then clear-felling significant vegetation to make way for homes that extended to all fence lines.

"It's a matter of what we are allowing to be built," he said.

Supporting local business, creates local jobs.

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The Penguin Parade will open its doors to regional Victorians from September 28, during the school holidays.

Penguins return!

The Penguin Parade will open its doors to regional Victorians from September 28, during the school holidays.

Local residents and regional Victorians will be able to experience the Little Penguins in person, while other viewers can still enjoy the experience online.

The news of the opening comes as the Penguin Parade live stream reached 10 million viewers for the live stream, since it launched last month.

In line with the easing of restrictions for Step 3 in the government's roadmap to recovery, the Parade will be able to host 150 guest every night up until the end of school holidays.

The Koala Conservation Reserve will welcome up to 300 visitors, and Churchill Island will be able to welcome up to 500 guests to their outdoor spaces throughout the day.

Once the holidays have ended, the three sites will revert to weekend operations until the end of October.

The three sites will be open daily from Monday Septem-

ber 28 to Sunday, October 4, and then afterwards, the Penguin Parade will open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights only.

The Koala Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island will open on weekends only through until the end of October.

"We hope that from late October, people living in metropolitan Melbourne will be able to join us here as they enter their third step," said Catherine Basterfield, Phillip Island Nature Parks CEO.

"Live Penguin TV has been a wonderful way for Victorians to connect with wildlife and nature over the past few weeks, and to have something to look forward to visiting in real life as we continue along the roadmap to recovery, and this has been shown through the wonderful viewer numbers."

The global success of Live Penguin TV coincides with a great start to the breeding season with a large number of chicks already hatched. These chicks will fledge anywhere

between eight and eleven weeks after hatching, spending at least one year out at sea on a 'gap year' before they'll join the others in their nightly march up the beach.

Livestreaming viewers have seen an average of over 1200 penguins coming ashore each night.

Entry to all the attractions will only be available through the purchase of an online ticket, on sale from Monday, September 21.

Further details on viewing options being offered will be updated on the Nature Parks website and social media pages.

The three sites will all be re-opening with physical distancing measures in place, enhanced cleaning practices to ensure levels of hygiene are maintained, and of course mandatory wearing of face coverings.

The Antarctic Journey and the Nobbies visitor centre will remain closed under the third step, however the clifftop boardwalks will still be accessible.

Silver lining to lockdown

Wildlife roadkill deaths and injuries have dropped significantly during winter, thanks to pandemic lockdown restrictions, according to the Phillip Island Nature Parks.

PINP figures show the June to August period was "much quieter than usual" this year, with 182 calls responded to by wildlife clinic rangers.

"It is noticeable with reduced traffic on the island the number of wildlife entering the clinic is also reduced," a PINP spokeswoman said.

However, road trauma on wildlife was still concerning, with 34 species attended to during winter, including an Eastern Barred Bandicoot, an endangered species part of the Nature Parks' breeding program, as well as a brown goshawk, echidnas, a yellow-tailed black cockatoo and an Australasian Gannet.

"Spring is a busy time for wildlife, so we ask everyone to drive carefully and watch for wildlife on our roads," she said.

The spokeswoman said because all Nature Parks volunteer duties stopped in March in the first lockdown, plans to roll out volunteer wildlife rescue would resume "as it is safe to do so".

Last year the Advertiser revealed wildlife rescuers Colleen and Kaylene – who since 2005 had helped about 3000 animals annually – closed their volunteer service, leaving an uncertain future for thousands of injured animals.

PINP said they hoped a volunteer army of local residents would step up to take on wildlife rescue, however ruled out taking over the 24/7 service previously run by the two volunteer carers.

Cape Barren Geese

Meanwhile, PINP said a draft Phillip Island Wildlife Plan would soon be released for public comment on Cape Barren geese management.

Last year the Advertiser reported that island farmers were forced to buy in supplementary feed – as much as \$15,000 annually – because geese were eating their crops.

Newhaven College, too, reported they were "unable to manage the influx of Cape Barren geese" – even trialling a natural biological scent spray deterrent – after the excrement from hundreds of the birds made their sports oval "unusable".

Subsequently stage one of a PINP research project saw six cameras on two Phillip Island farms take photos every 15 minutes over four months last winter, tracking movement of animals including wallabies, rabbits and geese.

Results showed Cape Barren geese made the



A draft Wildlife Plan will soon be released for public comment on Cape Barren Geese management.

most visits to the farms to forage crops, mostly during daylight hours.

The next stage of the project has continued through last summer and autumn, with results expected in mid-2020.

The spokeswoman said the soon-to-be-released draft Wildlife Plan will include research findings and examine ways to live with wildlife.

Hotline

To report sick or injured Phillip Island wildlife: 7.30am to 4pm daily, phone the Nature Parks: 5951 2800.

After hours: 4pm to 7.30am daily, contact Wildlife Victoria on 8400 7300. (phones are staffed until 7pm on weekdays and 6.30pm on weekends, with messages taken outside those hours).

Cases can also be logged at: wildlifelifevictoria.org.au

Phillip Island Nature Parks runs a Wildlife Clinic for sick and injured animals across Phillip Island, however it is not equipped to house or rehabilitate seals. Trained staff are on call from 7.30am to 4pm daily to attend wildlife rescue calls. Outside of those hours, wildlife emergencies are managed by Wildlife Victoria – the largest rescue network in the state. Wildlife Victoria is manned by trained volunteers.

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Covid capers at council

A Bass Coast Shire councillor has been accused of headline grabbing in the lead up to elections after twice failing to push through COVID-19 support for businesses.

Cr Les Larke unsuccessfully moved a notice of motion at last week's meeting for small business resilience grants, as well as an unsuccessful push to employ a consultant to model the impact of the pandemic on the local economy, in the "urgent business" part of the council meeting.

Cr Larke's idea comes in the wake of the shire's total pandemic response of about \$4 million, including grants for business and community groups, fee waivers, and funding to promote the shire.

One councillor described Cr Larke's actions as grandstanding.

"Clearly there's an election coming up," Cr Fullarton said, adding Cr Larke was merely seeking a sensational headline.

Cr Larke's notice of motion suggested \$500,000 should be redirected to businesses most significantly affected by the pandem-

ic, such as tourism and hospitality, with funds coming from shire cost savings, suggesting the bottom line should be reduced by one per cent through reducing staff, for example.

However councillors did not support the motion.

They said it was critical to maintain jobs at this time, not reduce them, adding that council had only just adopted its 2020/21 budget and it was poor timing to make "significant uninformed cuts".

"It's simple, nothing complicated," Cr Pam Rothfield said, "when you reduce overheads you have to sack staff and they are community members. I don't know why you'd suggest that."

"We should be using our resources and staff to tap into the state government's \$3 billion support package for businesses."

Cr Michael Whelan said it was a "one dimensional proposal", especially as the shire had yet to receive business feedback from the first round of stimulus grants.

Cr Larke also failed in his push in urgent business to employ a consultant to model the impact of the pandemic on the local economy.

Mayor Brett Tessari over-ruled Cr Larke multiple times after he failed to explain "why this should be considered as urgent business".

Cr Tessari said the onus was on Cr Larke to prove why the issue had become urgent since the release of the council meeting agenda five days earlier, "and why this can't wait until the next meeting".

Cr Larke said there was no economic roadmap out of the pandemic, "and I don't believe we can go into 2021 without urgently dealing with it".

Cr Michael Whelan said the issue should be deferred because "we are still seeing how things are panning out" for businesses emerging out of Coronavirus.

Cr Whelan later told the Advertiser councillors did not support the push for economic modelling not only because it was not urgent.

"It is an ongoing need to remain informed on the state of the economy but also the wider business and community environment," he said.

"It is the job of the Council CEO to ensure the organisation has the information and research it requires not just economic but social and environmental. It does not need a specific resolution of council to achieve this."

"We are still managing a disaster, one that has had twists and turns, hopefully we are headed toward a manageable level of containment. The Covid-19 situation has been tragically fluid, who predicted the second lockdown and the harshness of it?"

What should our Aquatic Centre look like?

By the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund

Bass Coast Shire Council has agreed that there will soon be two aquatic centres in the Shire – one to replace the ageing Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre at Wonthaggi, and a new one on Phillip Island.

Council has hired a consultant to estimate the operating costs of the two centres for the next decade. It is anticipated tenders will be invited for architects to draw up detailed design plans early in 2021. The goal is to have plans "shovel-ready" prior to the next state and federal election cycle. Infrastructure funding is seen as important to a post-COVID economic recovery.

The Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Inc. has been working with Council to identify the aquatic elements the community will need to create a facility that we have been working toward for a quarter of a century.

We have had talks with Island sporting and recreation clubs, swim clubs, schools and community members, as well as operators in the tourism and accommodation spheres (school camps included), to identify potential patronage of the facility.

Given that council has declared we are in a climate emergency, it is vital that the new council looks beyond architects who may promote an off-the-shelf design. It is imperative that sustainable and renewable energy sources are utilised, which will have the long-term benefit of reducing operating costs. Our research into renewable energy has taken into account the energy required to heat the pool water and generally operate the aquatic facility, but to also provide energy to run the future sporting and recreational facilities that will be co-located with the centre.

The group Totally Renewable Phillip Island has a goal to create Phillip Island into a carbon-neutral island in the near future. Our research shows that extensive installation of PV Solar panels, perhaps coupled with geo-thermal and heat exchange technologies may be the solution to the high energy needs of such a facility. It may eventuate that there is an opportunity to harness energy from a future Phillip Island Waste Transfer station,



Find out more about plans for the future aquatic centre at the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund AGM on October 6.

thus keeping the operating cost of that facility to a minimum for ratepayers.

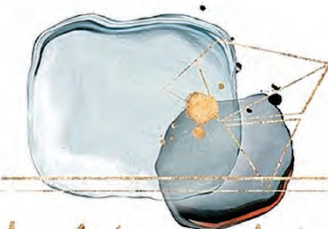
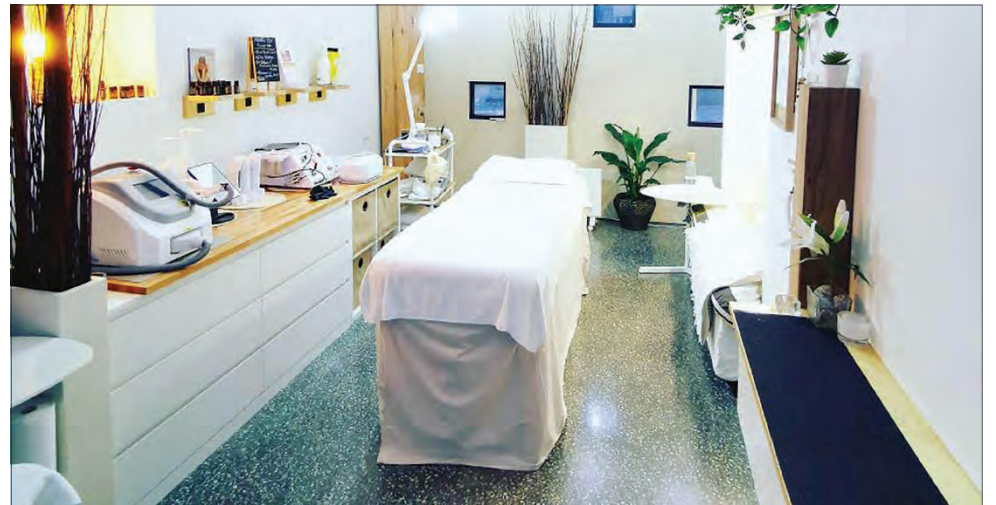
Our aspirational design for the centre includes a lap pool that is eight lanes wide to cater for swimming carnivals as well as club, school and recreational swimmers, a learn-to-swim pool, a warm water exercise pool suitable for the hydrotherapy needs of our ageing community and a toddlers play pool. The warm water exercise pool will be constant depth and constant temperature seven-days-a-week. This has the capacity to significantly enhance the health and well-being resources of Phillip Island.

Apart from being co-located with other sporting and recreational facilities in the long term, the aquatic centre surrounds will ideally link with the Shire's recreational shared pathways network. An off-leash dog exercise facility is an inclusion as well.

The site chosen is at the gateway to Cowes. Ample car-parking spaces will enable people to drive to the precinct, then use active transport – walking and cycling, or buses to move to the shopping precinct, instead of relying on private cars. Again, this is in line with the Totally Renewable Phillip Island and climate emergency principles.

This is an exciting opportunity to embrace world-best-practice in aquatic design and renewable energy use to provide a facility that meets the current and future needs of our community.

Why not become a member and hear more of our ideas at our upcoming Virtual AGM on October 6? Go to our website www.piac.org.au.



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Stepping out of lockdown

People were back on the streets, in restaurants, cafes and bars and shops, as we enjoyed our first weekend out of lockdown.

Under Step 3 of the government's roadmap, there are no restrictions on when you can leave your home, and retail and hospitality has re-opened, with an emphasis on outdoor dining. Social distancing

requirements remain in place and masks are still mandatory.

Although Melbourne is still in lockdown, anyone from regional Victoria is allowed to visit other regional areas. It looks like plenty of us, and our neighbours, took advantage of the restrictions easing to enjoy a weekend by the coast.



Zyron and Brianna from Sale enjoyed some local brew in the sunshine outside Ocean Reach Brewery in Cowes.



Rebecca, Andrew and Theo Bergan made the most of the mild weather and easing restrictions, and feasted on takeaway on the San Remo foreshore on Saturday night.



Katie Gilbert (left) behind The Front Room counter said it was lovely to have familiar faces beginning to return now that the Stage 3 lockdown was lifted. These local teenagers from Newhaven College were enjoying going shopping together for the first time in a long time.



Local school kids were also celebrating being able to get out and about with their friends. Grade 5 students Sam O'Garey (left) and Kai Cashman decided on a spot of fishing from the Cowes pier for their first outing together. Kai was rewarded with a flathead on the end of his line.



Jane Weisner, proprietor of Chatters in Cowes, has remained open since June, but opening hours for her Thompson Avenue boutique have been somewhat restricted. Jane pictured on Saturday with happy customer Jan Moody, is feeling "cautiously optimistic" following the lifting of restrictions.



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The Board of Directors of San Remo District Financial Services with the Bendigo Bank mascot.

Covid-19 no problem for local Bendigo Community banks

San Remo, Cowes and Grantville's Community Bendigo Bank's made a higher profit than the previous year, despite the current economic climate.

"Even with COVID-19, our business grew and we performed better than in the previous financial year," comments Joan Matthews, Chair of San Remo District Financial Services (SRDFS).

"I'd like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of my fellow directors, who, as volunteers, work collaboratively to ensure our success. I am also very proud of how our manager and staff have worked in very difficult times to support our customers and communities."

2020 has indeed been a challenging year in Victoria with the bushfires and then the outbreak of COVID-19. However, SRDFS continued to sponsor many community groups and events during the year, giving grants, sponsorships and scholarships totaling more than \$270,000 and even putting \$200,000 into the Community Foundation for future grants.

"We hope to hold an even bigger and better grants program in 2021, so local community groups should put their thinking caps on now," Joan hints.

"Our sponsorship this year was low due to the COVID-19 restrictions, and many groups not being able to meet or participate in their chosen sports. Nevertheless, we again contributed to many groups and services, most notably the Dalyston and Phillip



The Grantville Community Bendigo Bank team.

Island Football Clubs, numerous schools, fire brigades, bowls clubs and various community groups. "We look forward to continuing our sponsorship in our community once the current restrictions are lifted, and our education scholarships (Fred Borg for primary schools and University scholarships) will go ahead this year as usual."

The Board will continue to focus on running the business as efficiently as possible and will build and invest for future growth and sustainability.

"Remember, if you live local – shop local, bank local, support local and we will have a prosperous, sustainable community," concludes Joan.



The San Remo Community Bendigo Bank team.



The Cowes Community Bendigo Bank team.

SHORT STACK

A quick roundup of news, views and opportunities

Remembrance Day 2020

Remembrance Day resources are available to help schools and community groups learn about the importance of Remembrance Day, November 11.

The Federal government packs include posters, educational activities and other resources that tell the story of Australia's wartime history.

The mail-out includes material that looks back at the Second World War, which ended 75 years ago, and recognises the important roles families and communities played in supporting the war effort on the home front. Mail-out resources are available for free download on the Anzac Portal or by emailing education@dva.gov.au.

Girls Night In

Cancer Council is urging women to host a virtual event to raise money and awareness for women's cancers. Girls' Night In runs throughout October and this year will look a little different due to Corona-

virus restrictions. Suggestions include a virtual trivia night, fancy dress party, yoga night or Netflix party. For more information and ideas for how to host a Girls' Night In safely this Spring or to donate, visit girlsnightin.cancervic.org.au or phone 1300 65 65 85.

Active kids grants

The Australian Sports Foundation's Active Kids Grants are open until September 30. Sporting clubs can apply for funding of up to \$10,000 for junior members aged under 20 to acquire equipment, kit and uniforms for junior members. The initiative will focus on volunteer run grassroots and community clubs, with priority given to clubs in disadvantaged and/or rural communities. To be eligible, clubs must be volunteer run and not affiliated with a professional club and be registered with the Australian Sports Foundation. For other criteria, guidelines and to apply, go to www.sports.smaply.io/prog/active_kids_grant/



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Phillip Island Glamping had their first booking over the weekend, with a handful of visitors booked in for the school holidays.



The local glamping business has already had a flurry of calls from Melbourne, hoping to book in from November onwards.

On track for paths

Several pathways across Phillip Island are currently being renewed or upgraded.

Bass Coast Shire Council said work is underway to completely replace the decking of the boardwalk at Ventnor Common, off Ventnor Beach Road.

The \$67,000 project funded as part of the 2020/21 budget is expected to be completed by early October.

The existing timber deck and some structural timber will be removed and the deck will be replaced with fibreglass reinforced mesh to improve the safety and usability of the boardwalk.

Council said a new timber gate will be installed, along with some improvements to the entrance.

An upgrade is also underway on 820 metres of the gravel pathway along the Cowes Rhyll Road.

Council advised the existing gravel pathway will be reshaped and resurfaced to improve the connection from the informal carpark area on Cowes Rhyll Road to the road crossing point entering Conservation Hill.

"The completed project will provide a safer cycling and walking experience that will allow a more diverse range of users to reach local links and regional destinations, while integrating with the public transport system," a council spokesperson said.

The work is expected to be completed by the end of September and the \$100,000 project is fully funded in the 2020/21 budget.

Council advised it engaged Phillip Island Nature Parks to complete these important path upgrades, as they have extensive experience working within an ecologically sensitive area.

Glad to be glamping again

Serena Cabello from Phillip Island Glamping welcomed her first guest in months this weekend.

She has a handful of bookings during the school holidays and is already receiving queries for the summer.

She is relieved to be able to operate again, and it's clear the past few months have been difficult for the small family-run business.

"This lockdown felt so much longer as we were given a more specific length of time that we would be out of business," she admits.

"The first lockdown we got on top of everything we needed to do so this one has really dragged. We are very fortunate that we don't have a 'bricks and mortar' premises (being a hire company) to add to the pres-

ures of ongoing running costs."

She said the government rebate for "accommodation nights-lost" was an "absolute godsend".

Now reopened to regional guests, Serena has reintroduced the Covid Safe regime developed after the first lockdown.

"During the last reopening we set up a very strict cleaning regime, kept a detailed log of each guest's contact details, provided guests with hand sanitiser and provided a 100 per cent refund policy if guests were unwell or had to cancel for any reason.

"This time around we were ready to go. All guests are required to wear masks within the park and continue to practice social distancing.

"We are lucky enough to set up our

tents on the beach sites at the Cowes Foreshore Tourist Park which has lots of wide-open spaces."

With the business slowing winding back up, Serena said most of their new bookings are from Melbourne for November onwards.

"The majority of our guests are traditionally from Melbourne and overseas. We are concerned that a lot of people are much worse off financially this time around, so travel might not be a top priority for many families right now.

"I also know how much our guests are beyond excited to get away and back to the island so I really think once we are open again to Melbourne they are going to be so appreciative and will love their time here even more," she said.

"The overwhelming words of support from our guests that had to cancel has been very emotional!"

While she understands some are apprehensive about opening back up, given the island has been virus free for over a month, she believes it's time to embrace a Covid normal and welcome visitors back.

"I know there is a lot of anger and fear from many locals over tourists returning to the island. But I want us all to be grateful and thankful that the vast majority of people who come here love the island as much as we do and will do the right thing.

"If it wasn't for Melbourne doing the right thing (staying away and for such a painfully long time) we would not be opening up again. So thank you Melbourne ... we love you!"



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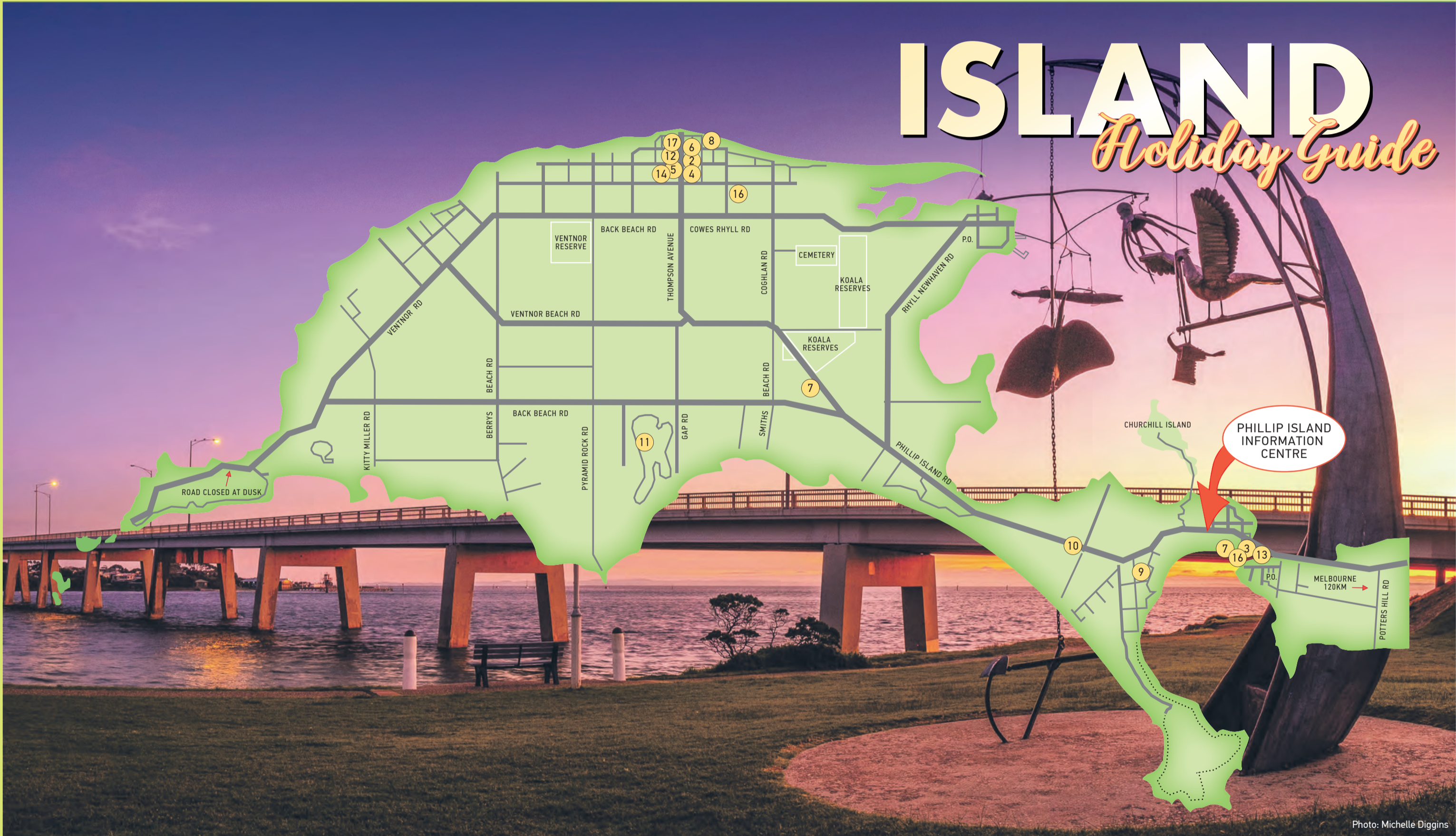
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ISLAND Holiday Guide



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SMITHS
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8

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Time to find your voice

A local music school is offering young songwriters a wonderful opportunity to express themselves.

Green Room Concept Studios has launched its first Songwriting Competition, which it hopes will become an annual event.

The competition is open to young songwriters in Bass Coast and South Gippsland, aged between 12 and 18 and entries close on October 9.

The songs can be in any style or genre, including instrumentals.

The winner will get their song professionally recorded, produced and released and receive \$250 cash.

Green Room founder, Tom Green said the competition is a chance for aspiring songwriters to find their voice and unleash their creativity.

He said during the Covid pandemic, the benefits of and need for a creative outlet became very apparent.

"It's an outlet to focus positive energy towards, to express feelings and emotion and provide a distraction from the current situation," said Tom.

"Songwriting is such a creative outlet, for emotional relief."

There are no restrictions on the style of song or the topics.

"The only rule is it has to be your own exclusive work," said Tom.

"Anyone who helps has to be noted, or if you write with someone else, it can be entered as a co-write."

He encouraged any young songwriters or even those who had never tried writing a song before, to put in an entry.

"Sometimes the best way to start voicing yourself is to just take that leap and do it," Tom said.

"As scary as it can be, the feeling of actually doing it, the feeling of success and achievement far outweighs any nervousness or doubts."

"No one should be scared to submit a song because they don't think what they've written is good enough."

"We're not here to criticise and judge peo-



Tom Green from Green Room Concept Studios wants aspiring young songwriters between 12 and 18 to get creative and enter the song writing competition. Entries close on October 9.

ple's song writing, we're here to promote and nurture it."

Judges

Tom has put together a judging panel of talented local musicians who have worked locally and internationally.

"They've all done song writing and produced albums and records in many different styles and genres," Tom explained.

"They also understand composition as a structure and that's what the song will be judged on."

of chords strummed on a guitar."

The winning entry will be professionally recorded and produced, with local musicians, including Green Room Concept Studio teachers able to lend a hand in the studio.

A video is also part of the prize package.

Community song

Born and bred in Wonthaggi, Tom knows the challenges local students face in trying to establish a career in the arts and he's keen to provide support and encouragement.

"Music is my main passion and it's all I've known and done for the past 15 years, developing myself as a performer, both here, in Melbourne and interstate."

"Plus I've been teaching in the community for about eight years."

Tom said the inspiration for the competition came from his students. Green Room Concept Studios currently has around 80 students, many of whom had been writing their own songs.

"I thought, how good it would be to give them the opportunity and platform to do that?"

"This is such an arts centred community, with an amazing set of talented and creative kids. I want to grow and nurture that."

Prize pool

Green Room Concept Studios has put together an impressive prize pack for the competition.

The winning songwriter will get their song professionally recorded, produced and released and receive \$250 cash.

There will also be age group prizes. One lucky 12-15-year old will receive a Presonus Recording Bundle and \$150 cash. The prize in the 16-18 age group is a Presonus Recording Bundle and \$200 cash.

On top of this, there will also be some honourable mentions and consolation prizes.

Entries must be the exclusive original work of the entrant(s) and must not infringe any copyrights or any other rights of third parties. Entries close Friday, October 9.

For more information go to www.greenroomconceptstudios.com/song-writing-comp

Open to all young songwriters in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland area aged between 12-18 years of age.

MAJOR PRIZE!

The winner of the song writing competition will get their song professionally recorded, produced and released as well as \$250 cash!!

Entries must be the exclusive original work of the entrant(s) and must not infringe any copyrights or any other rights of third parties.

Entries Open: Monday 7th September
Entries Close: Friday 9th October

For more information go to:
www.greenroomconceptstudios.com/song-writing-comp

Follow the gingerbread trail

A sweet idea hopes to help stimulate local business and create fun for local families in the lead up to Christmas.

Belinda Phillips from Marrina Mouse dance school is creating a gingerbread trail with local businesses displaying gingerbread icons in their windows.

Marrina Mouse and the Gingerbread House is a unique Christmas journey designed to capture the imagination of children and help unite the community.

A map will guide children around town to find all the gingerbread pieces.

Belinda said a number of businesses have already jumped on board, but she's hoping more will join the gingerbread trail, so she can develop the map.

"The trail won't begin until November, but I've created an Instagram page for children and families to start the excitement."

Belinda said there are already "crumbs" being left on the Instagram page, including a narrated copy of "Marrina Mouse and the Gingerbread House".

"I will be uploading recipes. We will have a colouring-in competition and dress up competition for families to enjoy and follow along."

"Then the trail will begin from November and children will have a map to follow and find each icon."

Participating stores will have a character displayed in their shop windows.

Any businesses interested in joining the trail, can contact Belinda at belinda-phillips@hotmail.com or visit the [@marrinamousesgingerbreadtrail](https://www.instagram.com/marrinamousesgingerbreadtrail) Instagram page.



Belinda Phillips from Marrina Mouse dance school is creating a gingerbread trail with local businesses displaying gingerbread icons in their windows to help stimulate business and lift spirits in the community.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tell us your views with a 'Letter to the Editor', (350 word limit). Email advertiser@pisra.com.au

Covid forecast

Decisions should be based on the best data available, so why did Council reject an urgent motion to undertake economic modelling? Firstly, because it was not urgent, it is an ongoing need to remain informed on the state of the economy but also the wider business and community environment. Secondly, because it is the job of the Council CEO to ensure the organisation has the information and research it requires not just economic but social and environmental. It does not need a specific resolution of council to achieve this.

Forecasting and projection work has been done to inform decision makers on how to structure the response to the pandemic and the best way to stimulate the economy once it is open again for business. But forecasts made this year ahead of the second lockdown are outdated already.

While regional Victoria is opening, Melbourne remains locked down. The trend on cases is good and so is the prospect for it opening soon.

The decisions of the state government inform any decisions made by Council. Billions are being allocated to stimulus. Council CEOs were briefed ahead of the recent relief package release to enable them to work effectively with business in their local areas.

As the environment settles Council will have a better understanding of the supporting environment Council and business will be working in. The State will be undertaking extensive research to determine how the support is working and further initiatives required. As it already does Council should work closely with government to capitalise on government measures and to provide direct feedback on what is happening locally.

Council has been very effective in securing support through the Jobs for Victorians program that has employed over 100 people and the recent announcement of \$2.5 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund to free up money for further capital works in Bass Coast.

It is Council's job to work with local agencies including the tourism and business groups to determine specific research requirements and the sharing of data and research.

Michael Whelan, Candidate for Island Ward

Disability

Bass Coast will set the standard so that everyone can get to the best seats, the water's edge and the amenities they deserve.

I have been chairperson of Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (AIAC) for four years. The committee has overseen some great outcomes such as the 'Changing Places' facility in the Cowes Transit Centre and the installation of a lift and increased access in the Union Theatre in Wonthaggi.

The AIAC has input into all of council's plans, strategies and infrastructure designs. The committee puts people with a disability, representatives from service providers, support groups and Council officers in the same room. This lets us deal with issues and get things done with a minimum of fuss.

I want to further empower people with a disability by including a Disability Action Group into the Disability Action Plan. This would be a group of people who could liaise with council officers in an informal setting and visit places that need improvement so that the community has more say over what happens.

Ratepayer groups across the Shire are identifying public places with poor access. They are suggesting local solutions. Council's ward-based community planning officers can bring this conversation to the Council to work on local access while the AIAC looks at the over-all picture for advocacy and strategy within BCSC.

Geoff Ellis, Candidate for Western Port Ward

A couple of observations

Firstly: Although I don't necessarily support Mr Bauer in his role as a candidate for the upcoming council elections, I do agree with him regarding the Cowes Cultural Centre. I also am not against the redevelopment of the facility, just the inappropriate timing.

I would be willing to put good money on the eventual outcome for all ratepayers.

That is - there will be both a significant budget blowout and overrun on the timeframe, no doubt explained away by councillors as due to "unprecedented and unforeseen" events.

Sadly for us ratepayers most of the current councillors who voted in favour of the redevelopment will be long gone before it's completed. No doubt the current council then will be saying "sorry it's not our fault but we will have to introduce a special levy, put up your rates, reduce services and/or postpone other projects, etc. etc."

Secondly: I note the article in the Advertiser

of September 2, regarding reduction of some speed limits on Phillip Island. Again, another good idea I support, not just for the potential safety of the island's wildlife but also for the harmonisation of speed limits. However, as a resident of Rhyll, my anecdotal observation is it would be good if (mostly) residents obeyed the current speed limits before they are required to "obey" the new limits, which I assume will be universally lower than the current ones.

We already have a 50km limit in Rhyll and an 80km limit for the Rhyll-Cowes Road. Both are an ongoing issue for safety minded residents. However for the rest, the limits are nothing short of a joke. It is not unusual to be tailgated all the way to the roundabout or to be passed at speeds in excess of 80kph.

The Rhyll-Newhaven Road is just as bad even if you are sitting on the 100kph limit!

Maybe a zero tolerance police blitz leading up to the introduction of the new limits would

be a good way to focus those that show little or no regard for the current rules.

Bryan Martin, Rhyll

Praise for Cultural Centre design

Having looked at the video of the concept drawings for the new cultural centre, I am excited by the flexible use of space in the new building. This is what our community needs and fits in perfectly with what I am standing for in the upcoming election. Variable configurations for the spaces and a multi-use building. It can hold events simultaneously - from community group meetings to the Bass Coast Shire Council meetings. Flexible functions spaces for speech nights, writers' festivals and music events. Sit down events from graduation dinners to private gatherings like weddings and milestone birthday functions. The space can be opened up for major community events. Imagine if we could have had the Phillip Island

150 anniversary gala in our community centre. The possibilities are exciting and open ended. The space can be utilised for off-season events when our climate doesn't allow for outdoor activities. The Cultural Centre timeline to get to this point maybe debated but the asset to our Island voted for by Bass Coast Shire Councillors cannot be denied. It is a fitting legacy to our retiring Island Ward Councillors Stephan Fullarton and Pam Rothfield.

As some of you know I am Australia's senior delegate to the International Jewellery Congress which is held every year in a different country. Over 100 people from all over the world attend the Congress. I have been asked on several occasions to host a congress in Australia. Now with our new cultural centre proposed to be finished in 2023, I will proudly suggest that the congress be held on Phillip Island in 2025 or 2026.

Ronnie Bauer, Candidate for Island Ward



Australian Government

We're extending financial support

The Australian Government is extending JobKeeper until 28 March 2021 and the temporary Coronavirus Supplement for those on income support until 31 December 2020, after which income support will continue.

For JobKeeper and the temporary Coronavirus Supplement there will be some changes to payments and eligibility to support businesses and households who need it most.

For information on how these changes affect you, visit Australia.gov.au



28 Mar 2021

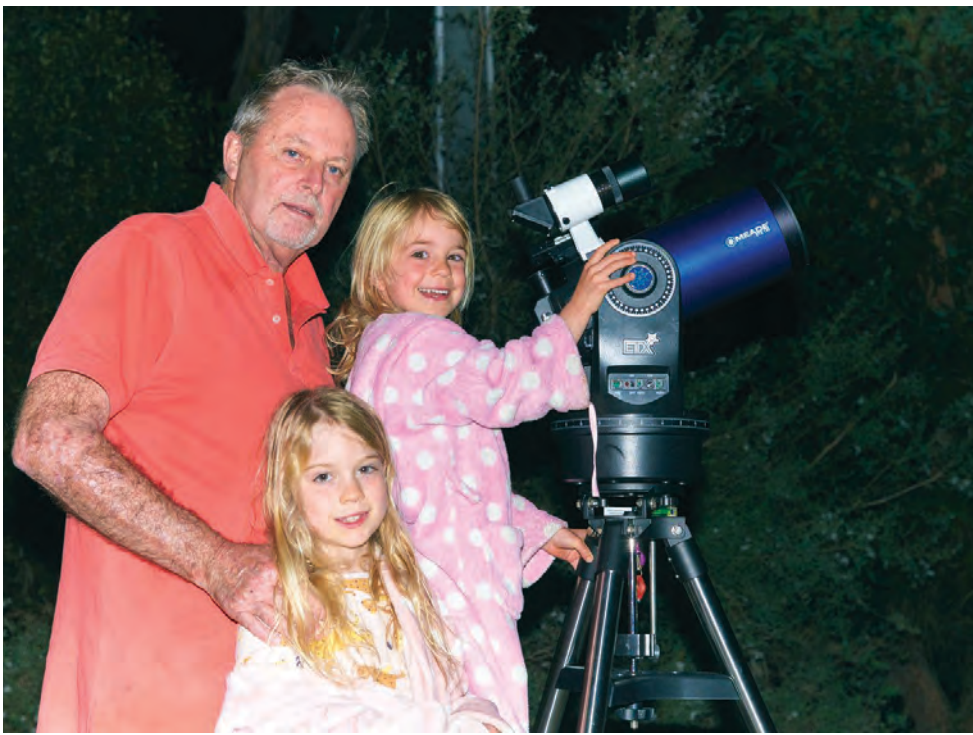
JobKeeper Payment

31 Dec 2020

Coronavirus Supplement
Income support continues

Visit Australia.gov.au

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra



Silverleaves resident Eden White, who is in the throes of establishing an Astronomy Club on Phillip Island, is pictured showing his grand-daughters the wonders of the night sky last week. Anyone interested is joining what will be an exciting new club locally, is invited to call Eden for more information.

Reaching for the stars Astronomy Club for Phillip Island

If you have an interest in astronomy, or if you know very little about it but would like to learn more, then a new club being launched on Phillip Island may just be for you.

Silverleaves resident Eden White is in the throes of establishing a Phillip Island Astronomy Club (Inc) locally.

He is a member of a similar club over on the Mornington Peninsula, and says the Club there has opened up fascinating opportunities and experiences for members of that community ... young and old.

Eden has been an avid astronomer for many years, and as a club member and armed with his telescope, has shared his enthusiasm and knowledge giving talks and demonstrations in schools and aged care facilities.

He says he never ceases to be amazed by the appetite for astronomy in both groups.

"They are amazed at what you can see through a strong telescope with the naked eye, and to have this explained to them.

"They all absolutely love it," Eden says.

"Going out into the community gave me a new insight into the strong interest in amateur astronomy that is out there."

Eden says Bass Coast is ideally suited for the launch of a Phillip Island Astronomy Club, because this area enjoys what astronomers call "Dark Skies."

The term "Dark Skies" means that light pollution from the Mornington Peninsula and Melbourne is limited, and therefore enables clearer and better views of the Milky Way and the sky's galaxies of stars.

He is extremely enthusiastic about the possibilities the new club presents for our community.

"Wouldn't it be great if I could transform peoples' theories and actually show them the stars through my telescope and explain which and what they are.

"And offer this to the school kids and anyone else who wants to join in the fun.

"My experience has been that the youngest and oldest generations I present to are absolutely blown away when they find themselves looking at the planet Saturn with its rings."

Eden is adamant that a local astronomy club, when up and running, will be a great resource for local schools to call upon, and is looking forward to getting it up and going.

"It will be a fantastic adjunct to the overall club community," he says.

There has already been strong interest shown in formation of the Astronomy Club, from a small advertisement placed recently; and expressions of interest are invited from other community members to come along to an inaugural meeting he plans to call next month, to get the club running.

"The idea is an interaction of information to all members at all levels," said Eden.

"Bring along your telescopes if you have one, but members are not required to own a telescope whatsoever."

Monthly night-time meetings for the club are envisaged, with a suitable night being determined once membership is in place.

The exchange of information and astronomy presentations will also feature at meetings, which he says will be fun and friendly. School astronomy education viewing nights will also be planned by the club, if local schools would like to avail themselves of this resource.

Several times per month (weather dependent) outdoor viewing nights will also be held. The club will operate under full requirements for an incorporated astronomy club.

If you are interested, you can contact Eden White on 0448 637 172 for further information and an invitation to the inaugural meeting planned for next month.



Photo: Ramble & Drift

Relaxed seaside enjoyment

Well-appointed and with easy living in mind, this expansive three-bedroom home is a quality build, cleverly integrating the need for numerous vehicle storage and expansive indoor and outdoor living for relaxed seaside enjoyment.

The home begins with a bright entrance to the spacious open plan living, dining and kitchen all in neutral tones with floor to ceiling windows for abundant natural light. With carpet underfoot, recessed electric fireplace, split system and ceiling fans, the main living zone is both practical and stylish with effortless flow outdoors. Quality appliances and soft closing cabinetry are complete with feature wooden benchtops in the kitchen including ample storage with a smartly designed laundry doubling as a butler's pantry.

The three bedrooms, all with built in robes, the master also with walk in robe and ensuite, are light filled with quality carpet throughout. The family bathroom with bath is both modern and spacious. A generous second living area opens via bi-folding doors to the undercover alfresco zone. Perfect for outdoor entertainment this area is spacious and includes café blinds and shade for protection. This space is made for pure enjoyment, with atten-



The kitchen includes quality appliances and soft closing cabinetry with feature wooden benchtops and ample storage plus a smartly designed laundry doubling as a butler's pantry.

tion to quality detail and clever, low maintenance garden design, the property is built for easy living.

Along with a quality G & J Daff Builders home, an exceptional feature of this property is the attention to vehicle storage. With a generous garage (space for three cars) with internal and through access and a detached lock up garage at the rear of the home, there is ample protected space for all types of vehicles.

Set back privately, on low maintenance landscaped gardens, with a native feel and sealed vehicle access. With a private courtyard and outdoor yard enjoying a north-

erly aspect, this superior beachside home is perfectly located in Newhaven within a short stroll to the beach, cafes, Saltwater Restaurant and Marina.

With San Remo one side and Cape Woolamai and Cowes on the other, Newhaven offers the best of all worlds – a quiet haven with magnificent surrounding beaches and nature walks. With a quiet community feel, Newhaven is a perfect location if you are searching for that tranquil, seaside lifestyle.

Garth Lisle Property Consultants are open 7 days and welcome your enquiry, phone 5678 5878. Video walk throughs available.

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16 McGraths Lane, Krowera

Located on a quiet no through road in the rolling hills of Krowera, 10 minutes from Loch Village, this impeccably maintained homestead is privately tucked away on 2.75 acres of land and offers something for everyone. An immaculate property in a beautiful area, offering its lucky new purchaser an enviable lifestyle.
4 Bedrooms | 2 bathrooms | Huge shedding

BEST OF COUNTRY LIVING

For Sale \$825,000
14 Beach Road, Rhyll

Here's the ultimate lifestyle with a foreshore position making coastal living a dream. Located opposite the Rhyll jetty and within easy walking distance to cafe, Tavern, boat ramp and park. This light and bright captures all the northerly aspect and is perfect for entertaining family and friends on the large north facing decking area. The main bedrooms features it's own balcony with views of the Bay as well as ensuite & WIR. Other features include polished hardwood floors, spacious kitchen with stone benches and 900mm cook top. The large main living area also features open wood fire and reverse cycle heating and cooling. This highly sought after foreshore property has a great permanent rental history also, returning \$1625 per month making it the ideal investment.

FANTASTIC FORESHORE

For sale \$699,000
36 Fisher Street, Ventnor

This substantial 6 bedroom home is set on the hill and within walking distance to the beach, the home has been crafted to provide the perfect place to gather together and enjoy coastal life. The downstairs section features a second kitchen and bathroom making it fully self contained. The large entrance fills the home with natural light and the second storey allows an expansive outlook and partial views. The open fire is sure to please those on cold winter days, and the hardwood floors gives it that coastal feel. The extra large garage is perfect for additional storage. This large home is sure to please and would be perfect for holiday living.

HUGE FAMILY HOME

www.phillipislandfn.com.au **OPEN 7 DAYS**
60 Thompson Ave, Cowes **5952 3922**

Ryder's upped his target

Readers will remember our story at the beginning of September about Ryder Evans, who took on the 30 day Starlight Foundation's Tour de Kids, which raises money for sick children and their families.

His goal was to ride 750 kilometres over the 30-day period, on a virtual trainer at home, in between home schooling lessons.

The great news is that Ryder met his initial target last Thursday (September 17) and is now on his way to completing 1000 kilometres before the end of September.

He has raised \$3099 so far, at just over half way through the month.

He is still hoping to achieve more for the Foundation, with a week to go until September 30.

If you would like to sponsor Ryder and make a donation to assist the Starlight Foundation, you can do so online at tourdekids.org.au/ryder-evans.



With just one week to go in the 30 day Tour de Kids, Ryder Evans has exceeded his 750 km target and is now aiming to hit 1000 km.

Island HOME

Photo: Ramble & Drift Creative



Solar heated pool and fully landscaped gardens on a one acre block opposite Ventnor Rec Reserve.



A light, bright spacious home with a full northerly aspect and zone heated polished concrete floor.

Breathtaking blue-ribbon home

Located on one acre in a quiet seaside town of Ventnor, this home is perfect for those looking for something special. A sea change or a hideaway retreat, away from the hustle and bustle.

This is like owning your own private resort with the beach just a block away and situated opposite the Ventnor Recreation Reserve. This property is an elite tradesman's own private residence with quality fixtures and fittings throughout. As you drive up the private driveway you are greeted with a beautiful, landscaped, new modern 6-star home.

Enter via the large double carport and you are greeted with a light, bright spacious home with a full northerly aspect and zone heated polished concrete floor.

The kitchen is the focal point of this quality home with a full walk in butler's pantry, open plan dining and a large living space with a Quadra slow combustion wood heater plus split system heating and cooling.

Enjoy the stunning rural aspect from large picture windows looking out to the Ventnor nature reserve, a native garden, birdlife and sweeping lawns with extended views though the private undercover patio area and to your own 9.5m by 4.5m inground solar heated swimming pool.

A light filled corridor leads to the main bathroom, three

bedrooms which includes a large master bedroom offering a full ensuite and a walk-in robe.

A 12m by 6.5m separate shed is located at the rear of the property large enough for the caravan and boat plus a workshop.

All this with fully landscaped gardens and a child and pet friendly yard.

- Features list:
- 6-star energy rating
 - Quadra Fire slow combustion wood heater
 - Zone controlled, in-slab, under floor heating
 - NBN connected
 - Reverse cycle air conditioning
 - Heated towel rails
 - 8.5kw solar system
 - CCTV security system

• Three phase power to house and shed

- 12m x 6.5m shed
- L.E.D lights throughout
- Ceiling fans in all rooms
- Aqua Technics 9.5m x 4.5m solar heated salt chlorinated pool, including Hayward "omnilogic" automated controller keeping chemicals "perfectly balanced"
- Close walk to a safe swimming beach
- Opposite the Ventnor Recreation Reserve

Call Alex Scott & Staff on 5952 2633 and we would be pleased to arrange a private viewing.

105 Lyall St, Ventnor

Three bedroom, solar heated pool, double garage, one acre block.



This modern 6-star home includes a private undercover patio area and extended views over the Ventnor nature reserve.

ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF Est. 1886

<p>5 BLOSSOM ROAD, COWES</p>  <p>\$595,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 bed/2 bath • Large undercover patio area • Theatre room 	<p>21 WHIMBREL WAY, COWES</p>  <p>\$699,000 - \$715,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 bed/2 bath • Near new home, ready to move in • Outdoor kitchen/alfresco area 	<p>79 ANCHORAGE ROAD, VENTNOR</p>  <p>\$470,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loads of character and charm • 2/3 bed/1 bath • Large undercover rear deck with rural aspect
<p>32 GRAMPIAN BOULEVARD, COWES</p>  <p>\$549,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bed/plus study • Built in wood burning fireplace • 2 living areas 	<p>SPRING IS ON OUR DOORSTEP</p> <p>CALL US TODAY FOR FREE NO OBLIGATION MARKET APPRAISAL.</p>	<p>1 HEREWARD CLOSE, COWES</p>  <p>\$895,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 bed/2 bath • Premium location • North facing allotm., approx. 980m²
<p>3 HOLLYWOOD CRESCENT, SMITHS BEACH</p>  <p>SOLD</p>	<p>1 SHELLY COURT, COWES</p>  <p>SOLD</p>	<p>11 KOALA STREET, COWES</p>  <p>SOLD</p>

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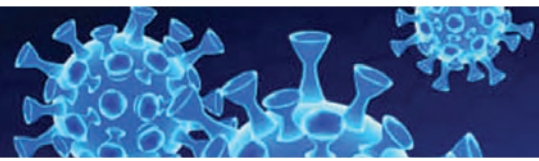
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Lockdown lowdown

With pandemic restrictions now easing, this is the last column by Smiths Beach's Lisa McLure, who says her family are now ready to take off in their van for school holidays. "I don't care where we go, even if it's Woolies' car park." The Advertiser would like, once again, to thank Lisa, husband Tim and kids Angus and Evie for taking part in this weekly column during both the first and second lockdown, and as much as we love hearing her news and views, compassion, humour and honesty, we hope this will be the last lockdown lowdown.

"When the government made the announcement that regional Victoria was coming out of full lockdown I must admit I was a bit nervous. After the first lockdown, it seemed we went from zero to a million, people just slotted back into their old lives. But this time it seems people have found a new normal, socially distancing, wearing masks, hand hygiene. I started my outdoor personal training classes last week, because we're allowed to do small groups and I've taken on a lot of new clients. I've not even advertised, but people are just keen to get exercising, especially since gyms – including my studio – will be among the last to open, in late November most likely. The vibe in the group of six in my

first class was fantastic. Having the music on, bouncing off each other, everyone smiling, gee it was nice. Throughout it all they kept a distance and cleaned everything, because that's what we all accept we need to do now. It feels like this is it, we've got it under control, we know what to do, take small steps carefully. It's all being done better, and lockdown seems to have worked. Also we've learnt from last time – just because we want the virus to be gone doesn't mean it actually is gone. People say the Premier has made decisions for us to be in this position of lockdown, but it's not just him. It's a global pandemic and there's entire government departments attempting to deal with this. I have friends who run accommodation businesses on the island and for them, it's like a veil of relief has been lifted, just to be able to take customers again from regional Victoria. It has been tough for them, but they've got through with government assistance, and they've taken the time to get out on social media, paint, renovate, garden, working on steps to move forward. I'll be a bit nervous when Melbourne opens up and people start coming down, mainly because last time they came in hordes, shoulder to shoulder in cafes and supermarkets, and didn't

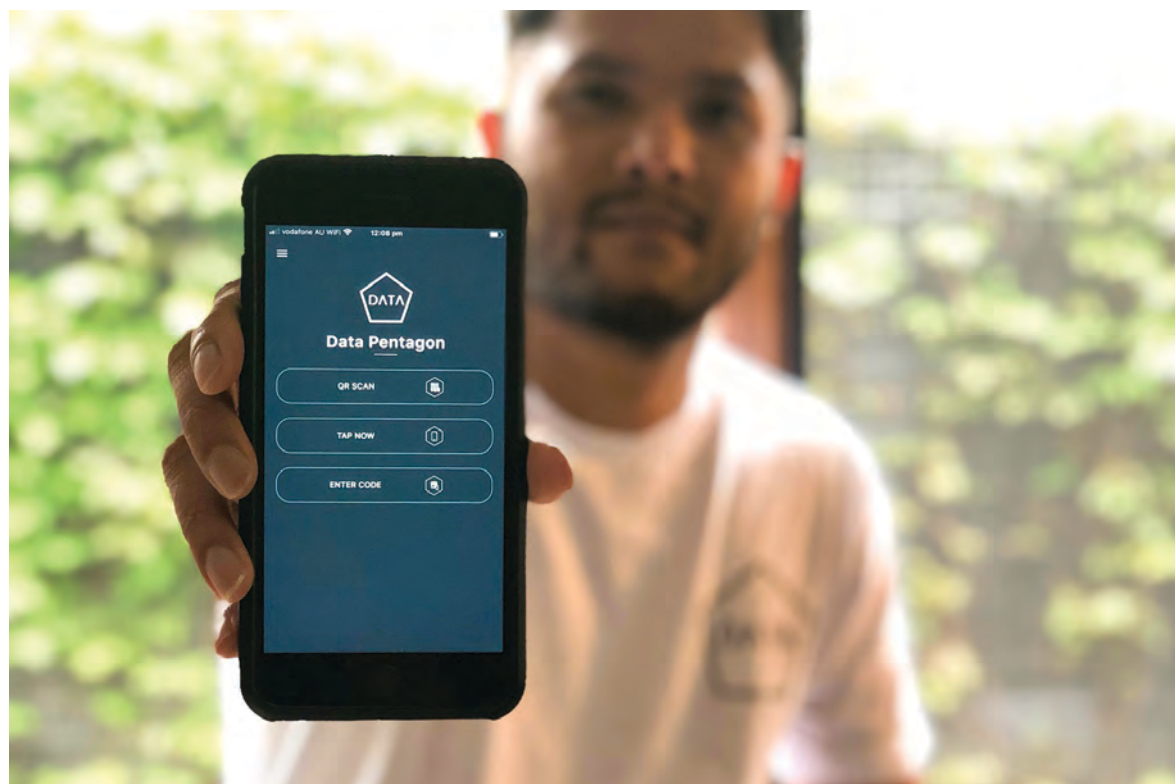


Evie, with wombat, taking a break in the family camper van, a first trip away since the second lock down.

seem to care that this is our home and we'd been working hard to keep the pandemic away. I think this time round, coming out of lockdown, we all get it and so I think we really need to be compassionate when they come here. Tim says as long as they all do the right thing, he'll be fine. Melburnians have been locked up in suburbs, with most 5km radius areas not near a beach or even a park. These people have been desperate, whereas we've had our lockdown on this beautiful island. It's not like it's our island, we don't

have ownership, we're not the traditional owners. All the holiday homes around us in Smiths Beach have been empty the whole time. I'm going to leave a welcome back care pack on their doorsteps – a bottle of wine and chocolates. They will all be hanging out to come here. Definitely there have been people down here living in their holiday homes, though. I've tried not to let it get to me. If I was in their position, would I be trying to think of excuses to be here? What would I do if I was in their position and owned

a holiday house in this beautiful area? I think we all have to remember to be kind when Melbourne opens up. The kids will both be going back to Cowes Primary on the Tuesday after school holidays. The school is taking a softly-softly approach with the kids, assessing where they're up to – instead of where they should be – and going with the majority. The friends who have been staying with us left about two weeks ago because they were offered a small window to get on a plane to Sydney. For now, though, I'm a bit doped up on pain killers because I tripped over a kettle bell and injured my back. It wasn't even a real exercise injury. So I can't run. I'm throwing myself into making everyone else ok again, because I can't do anything for me. I went to the psychologist, who I see every six weeks, and we talked about guilt: the fact I find it hard to let myself rest. Too often I'm cuddling the kids and thinking I need to do the washing or clean up, and when I end up washing or cleaning up, I wish I was cuddling the kids. So I'm slowly learning to stop and let myself be in the moment, to enjoy it, rather than all the shoulds and musts. And if I drift off into shoulds and musts, then I bring myself back to the moment. Just enjoying now."



A free app by Data Pentagon, a Cyber Security start-up, is designed to ease the administrative burden on businesses required to collect contact details from customers.

App a helping hand for business

A secure app to record contact details is being offered for free to local businesses. PD Silva from Data Pentagon has a personal connection to Phillip Island, having previously worked with Mat Bowtell on the Free 3D Hands project. He's offering the app for free to help ease the administrative burden for local restaurants, cafes, bars and other businesses required to record contact details for their customers and store them for 28 days. Currently many venues use a manual system, which is an added task for staff. It also raises security concerns for some customers. PD said the app is a secure and easy system for the businesses and customers to use. "We're doing this to help the community," he said.

"It's a way to help businesses out in these difficult times." As a Cyber Security start-up business, ensuring people's details are kept safe is a primary focus of the system. Once a business has registered with the Data Pentagon App, it displays a QR code which customers scan, using the Data Pentagon app, when they enter the premises. Business will need to request customers use the app as a condition of entry. The app can be downloaded to mobile phones from the App Store. "Customers scan the code, then enter their details. Once they've done this, the app remembers the details. So next time they go into any café or bar, they simply scan the QR code and the app fills in the rest." The details are then transmitted

to a secure channel in the cloud. For added peace of mind, PD said as customers have the app on their phones, no one else has access to it. And when details are provided for a business, the information is securely stored in the cloud and then deleted after 28 days, in line with Victorian Government requirements. Businesses owners interested in using the app, can find out more at the Data Pentagon website. "If you go to the website, it has all the details, including a video showing how to sign up and use it," said PD. "If there are any issues, they can also contact me." The app is currently being used by businesses across New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Visit www.datapentagon.link/covid.html for details.

What's Step 3?

Bass Coast, along with the rest of regional Victoria, is now at Step 3 in the state government roadmap. The news means families and friends will be able to meet again – both at home and outdoors, with no restrictions on leaving home and up to five people allowed to your home, within a "household bubble". Businesses can reopen their doors, but anyone who can work from home must continue to do so. Cafes, pubs, bars and restaurants will also be able to serve up to 20 patrons inside, across two areas. The 20-person rule is subject to several conditions, including a maximum of 10 people per area and subject to the four-square metre per person rule. Border controls will be strengthened, to prevent the virus moving from the city to regional Victoria. This includes extra roadblocks and more cars being pulled over. There will be increased fines for anyone visiting the regions without a valid reason. No one is permitted to go to their second residence in regional Victoria, with the Premier saying to do so was "unlawful and should not be happening". Regional Victorians will be able to travel within the regions. It is still mandatory to wear a mask when outside your home and social distancing requirements remain in place.

The key points

- No restrictions on leaving home
- Up to 10 people can meet outdoors
- Household bubbles with one nominated household, allowing up to five visitors from that household at a time
- Childcare and early learning centres open
- Schools return
- Hospitality open – with predominantly outdoor seated service and a maximum of 20 indoors across two areas, subject to density rules
- Retail open, including hairdressers and beauty salons (only services where a mask can be worn)
- Private inspections for real estate
- Outdoor contact and non-contact sport for under 18s
- Outdoor non-contact sport for adults
- Outdoor skateparks and fitness areas reopen
- Increased limits for weddings and funerals
- Travel within regional Victoria allowed
- Accommodation open (caps per the social bubble)
- Some outdoor venues and events to return, subject to pre-approved plans

Details at: www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria

Take the test

Everyone in the community, especially young people, is encouraged to continue to get tested to build resilience against a third wave. You should be tested if you display even the mildest symptoms, including: fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste. Due to a reduction in numbers presenting for tests, changes have been made to testing times at the Urgent Care Centre and the Wonthaggi drive through testing.

Testing is available at:

- Phillip Island Health Hub (24 hours a day). Call 5951 2100. People are encouraged to present between 1.30pm and 3pm to minimise wait times.
- Wonthaggi Hospital drive through testing service is now available between 10am-4pm, 7 days a week.

You can also book a test at Wonthaggi Medical Centre, Monday to Friday (Ph: 0492 036 568 or www.hotdoc.com.au/medical-centres/wonthaggi-VIC-3995/wonthaggi-respiratory-clinic/doctors). People should phone their doctor or the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 if their symptoms get worse.

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Around the Bay

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE

While things are a long way off the normal we all knew 12 months ago, the easing of the restrictions this week and the re-opening of restaurants and cafes for sit down meals and accommodation has bought back some much needed trade to the local area.

Everyone also needs to be a little patient as well because there is no book for this and business planning is being made up as they go. Yes there will be a few delays and stock shortages and you might not be able to get the booking you need but I can assure you all the businesses are doing all they can for now.

We had a lot of comment in the shop over the weekend about the influx of people to the area for the school holidays.

From the conversations we were having with the visitors to the shop the majority are from regional areas north of Melbourne and not from Melbourne itself.

With the sun out, fishing on the improve and restrictions easing we will be going to open seven days a week as of October 1.

Weekdays we will be opening at 8am and 7am on weekends, closing at 5pm (some days may vary slightly).

We are very slowly getting stock back in and have a lot of new product already.

A lot of the more common stock items are still a little low but suppliers are telling us that they are receiving deliveries regularly now so all should be back to normal before too long.

We have decided to continue our Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

night Facebook auctions even though we are getting into the season and while there is still enough interest.

More people fishing is adding up to more fishing reports and there was plenty of quality amongst them this week.

Most of the reports are of snapper which you would expect for this year and while they haven't settled down to any one spot and reports are all over the place we are starting to see more of them in the expected areas.

Whiting and calamari could best be described as tough. Both continue to be very inconsistent with only slight improvements, calamari probably slightly better than whiting.

The best snapper reports this week came from the areas you would expect to find them, and all came from the ends of the day.

Either before daylight or just after daylight and the quality and quantity was excellent. Those who caught fish in the best times managed their bag over 40cm easily and most had at least one that went between 5kg and 6kg.

These reports also told us the fish were aggressive and hit baits hard.

For all the other reports we received there wasn't much of a pattern and very mixed in where and when.

The pre and post light reports came from the deeper water in the channel along French Island from tortoise head to spit point.

The daylight hours reports came from both shallow and deep and we even had one snapper we weighed that went over 6kg from 40m of water offshore.

The only place we haven't had any reports is from below the bridge in Cleeland Bight.

Whiting reports over the last month or so seemed to be on the improve but have come to a bit of a halt this week. Customers told us they couldn't find very many at all.

In fairness to the whiting, the conditions didn't really suit whiting fishing with winds often sideways to the tide.

Those fishing for whiting still managed a couple and the quality was good but a little frustrating as most explained.

Calamari, what colour or size jig, where or when is best, are the normal questions we get every day in the shop.

Our answer at the moment is sounding a little like we don't want to tell people and keep it to ourselves.

This is a comment we get told a bit, which doesn't makes sense at all because the best thing we can do in the shop is get people catching fish to come back and buy more gear. We are simply reporting what is happening.

Calamari at the moment are the most difficult species to give any advice on.

At best we can give advice based on past history because while we are seeing quality calamari, we just aren't seeing a lot of them.

This week we did get a couple of reports from San Remo jetty and a few more seen in the water and the odd ones from the boats. But the best reports came from the two most popular beaches, Cleeland Bight and Ventnor, with the afternoon tide the best.

There is no reason why they are a bit slow and one would expect they will improve in the near future. Just put it down to the very strange year we are having.

Pirate-flavoured fishing comp

The First 2020/21 Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club Fishing competition.

Aye mateys, 'tis true! Wit' th' easin' o' coronavirus restrictions in regional Victoria, th' Rhyll-Phillip Island Anglin' Club started its anglin' competition on International natter like a pirate day.



No buccaneers in Rhyll on International Talk Like a Pirate Day.

Despite the celebration of International Talk Like a Pirate Day, there were no reported sightings of scallywags or buccaneers in Rhyll.

You may think that it would be difficult to recognise a pirate behind a facemask, however a simple conversation from a distance would confirm if they "Arrrrr"!

The third step of Victoria's roadmap for reopening, allowing outdoor non-contact sport and outdoor gathering limits for up to 10 people, coincided with the first angling competition for the 2020/21 season, on the weekend of September 19 and 20.

Prior to the event, the Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) communicated a Covid Safe plan to members, reiterating the requirements for facemasks, physical distancing, good hygiene and abstaining if unwell.

Whilst the clubroom remained closed, the club's officials and anglers ensured the competition was consistent with expectations for outdoor sport and exercise.

Weigh-in was limited to one hour on each day of the competition and the presentation of the weekend's results was done using Zoom online video conferencing.

Participants were clearly embracing the opportunity to catch fish and enjoy the delightful spring weather, presenting 56 fish and one shark for weigh-in.

A vast variety of fish were around, notable species included King George whiting, flathead, snapper, salmon, barracouta, gummy shark, stranger whiting, and leather jacket. A great start to the competition saw our Squidgies, budding anglers aged nine or younger, start the Mixed Bag Points competition with some impressive feats.

Zachary Gomm weighed-in one fish

worth 10 points (260 grams), just behind Ryan Brett, who finished second with one fish worth 10 points (320 grams).

Our reigning Squidgie Club Champion, Denver Firth, finished in first place with five fish worth 85 points (combined weight 2,240 grams).

The Junior competition, for anglers aged 10 to 16, welcomed two anglers to the virtual podium. Reigning Junior club champion, Heath Womersley, was awarded the prize in the Junior Weight competition with a barracouta weighing 615 grams, whilst Sam Bennett succeeded in the Junior Points competition, presenting a King George whiting worth 1,120 points (400 grams).

The Senior Heaviest Weight contests were won by Dave Fusinato, who fought with a torpedo-like salmon weighing 1,310 grams, and Carrienne Peatey, who inspired our anglers with a feisty snapper weighing 1,490 grams.

The Senior Points competitions were won by our reigning Senior club champion, Chris Leonardos, presenting a mouth-watering King George whiting worth 1,428 points (510 grams), and Leah Valente, with a not-so-strange and somewhat impressive Stranger whiting worth 1,300 points (325 grams).

James Nicolaci was shark-king for the weekend and caught some fresh flake, a Gummy Shark weighing-in at 2,205 grams, winning the Senior Shark competition.

Gerry Gibb was unbelievably close to the mark and was announced the winner of the Secret Weight competition (secret weight 216 grams), finding the right location for a flathead weighing 215 grams.

Special thanks are extended to all anglers for supporting the club and especially the club's officials who made the event possible.

The next competition is scheduled to occur on the weekend of October 10 and 11.

For further information about the club and competitions please visit www.rpiac.com.



Marie showed Steve he is not the only one in the family that can catch snapper



Gerard was very happy with his 6kg snapper caught in 40m of water offshore on Saturday.

Business Guide

LOCAL TRADES AND SERVICES

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Email: storage@islandsteel.com.au
Web: www.islandstorage.com.au

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E: twaterton3@hotmail.com

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DEATHS



GREY, Colin:

It is with a heavy heart we record the passing of Colin Grey, an incredible individual who made a significant contribution to our Museum over many years.

His knowledge and skills cannot be replaced.

On behalf of our Board, Management, Staff and Volunteers, our condolences to Coral.

Rest in Peace.

National Vietnam Veterans Museum Inc.

GREY, Colin:

Inspiration to us all
Rest in Peace
Steve Barley

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Top Inva Care Pegasus Scooter, with 2 new batteries and 1 charger - \$800.
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SITUATIONS WANTED

"Qualified carer and companion, lives on Island, has own transport. A personalised service for elderly citizens and people with disabilities that need casual/part time care week-days and/or weekends. Available for sleepovers and 24/7 care if needed. Reliable, honest and kind. I have worked on and off Island for many years. Written and phone references available. Phone Jane Daly 0456 166 594. Or email janedore@tpg.com.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

The General Principles

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

Fairness and balance

3. Ensure that factual material is presented with reasonable fairness and balance, and that writers' expressions of opinion are not based on significantly inaccurate factual material or omission of key facts.
4. Ensure that where material refers adversely to a person, a fair opportunity is given for subsequent publication of a reply if that is reasonably necessary to address a possible breach of General Principle 3.

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

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

New Astronomy Club for Phillip Island, San Remo and Wonthaggi area. Phillip Island has been blessed with what astronomer's call "dark Skies" ideal for budding and dedicated astronomer's. You don't have to own a telescope, binoculars will do. For any interested parties wishing to assist with the inauguration of a new Astronomy Club in our region, please contact Eden White by email: Edendwhite74@gmail.com.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
John 14:27. NIV

SITUATIONS VACANT



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

2021 Positions

- **Director of Music** - Ongoing role. Time fraction negotiable. Experience in conducting an orchestra is desirable
- **Primary Classroom Teacher** - Fixed term for all of 2021 with the potential for ongoing
- **Secretarial Assistant** - Ongoing 0.4 role to commence in 2021
- **Science Laboratory Technician** - Full Time Term 1 replacement 2021
- **Food Technology Assistant** - Full Time Term 1 replacement 2021

For details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our College Website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday 2 October 2020 and should be submitted to

katrina.lawrence@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

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

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a lifestyle change? Wanting to be your own boss?



Jim's Mowing is looking for a new Franchisee in San Remo or Grantville area.
Ph **131 546** or www.jimsmowing.com.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

Phillip Island RSL Community Men's Shed

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From timber to metal - small to large projects
Reasonable prices
Open Tues & Thurs 9am to noon

Contact Terry on 0438 808 428

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

SITUATIONS VACANT

Position Vacancies Bass Coast Health

Bass Coast Health is seeking applications for the following positions:

Enrolled Nurse

Casual - Closing - 25/09/2020

Physiotherapist Grade 2

Permanent Part time - Closing - 25/09/2020

Registered Midwife

Permanent Part time - Closing - 28/09/2020

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



t 5671 3333 f 5671 3300

e info@basscoasthealth.org.au

w www.basscoasthealth.org.au

SITUATIONS VACANT

SITUATION VACANT

TRUCK DRIVER/ LABOURER

Phillip Island based, family owned business is looking for a truck driver/labourer for busy waste/recycling operation.

Pre-requisites:

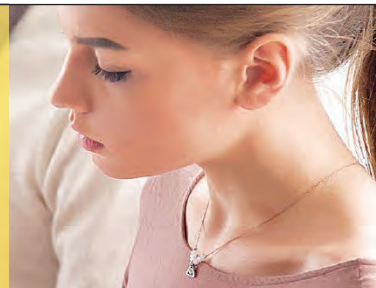
- MR Truck Drivers Licence
- Experience in a fast paced environment
- Clean driving record
- Physically fit and healthy

To apply please email application to matt@phillipislandwaste.com.au including at least two work referees.



JO00284AA

Just finishing year 12? Not sure what career path to follow? Have you considered...



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & SALES TRAINEESHIP (CERTIFICATE IV IN PROPERTY SERVICES)

If you are looking to learn everything about Real Estate and work your way up to being a top performing property manager in an exciting and growing team then we want to hear from you. We offer great training in-house as well as through the REIV.

Your key responsibilities in this role will include (but not limited to):

Providing support for the Business Development Manager (BDM), attending inspections, general appointments and duties set by the BDM, liaising with clients, administration, reception, marketing support and attending any training as required.

To be successful for this position you must possess the following:

- Clear police record check
- Your own car which is well maintained and clean
- Valid driver's licence
- Exceptional personal presentation
- Willingness to learn and a positive can-do attitude
- Experience with MS Office including Word and Excel and Google
- Great organisational skills and time management

This is a full time position with days of work which include weekends. If you fit this profile, please submit your resume with a covering letter expressing your interest

Send your resumes to Managing Director Allan Mann - amann.inverloch@ljh.com.au
Applications close Wednesday, September 30



Inverloch | Grantville | Phillip Island

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Intention to make a Local Law



West Gippsland Libraries notice of intention to make a Local Law - Meetings Procedure Local Law No.1 - 2020 and Operation and Use of Library Services Local Law No.2 - 2020 are available for public comment. Copies of the proposed Local Law may be viewed on our website. If you are not able to access an electronic copy, please contact us for a request for a hard copy.

Written submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 on any proposal contained in these documents are invited and will be received until 5pm on Friday 6th November, 2020.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer
West Gippsland Libraries
2/65 Victoria Street, Warragul VIC 3820
Email: ceo@wgrlc.vic.gov.au

The Annual General Meeting of Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Fund Inc.

will be held on 6th October 2020 at 6pm via Zoom.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- 1) an update on the progress of the group,
- 2) conducting elections for committee,
- 3) latest version of our Aspirational Recreation Plan,

Conducting an AGM via Zoom during a pandemic is a new situation. It will require that attendees pre-register before the event with your name and email. Details of this pre-registration will be provided via Phillip Island Aquatic Centre Funds website and Facebook.

Eligible participants will then be sent a unique invitation to the meeting, where members will be able to vote for your new committee, to become a member go to our web page www.piac.org.au



The Phillip Island Tennis Club Annual General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 30th September 2020 at 6.00pm.

Please email your rsvp to phillipislandtennisclub@gmail.com. We will confirm with you via email, before that date, when we know if we can meet in person or via Zoom.

All members of the Phillip Island Tennis Club are encouraged to respond.

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- 2500m² (approx.) allotment

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**5 PHILLIP ISLAND ROAD,
SUNDERLAND BAY**
2 bed, 1 bath **\$275 pw**

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Our great outdoors

Nature is a great way to keep perspective during stressful times, says photographer Sally Kirsch, who captured this stunning shot at The Pinnacles. "Simple things that we can do if we're physically able, is to still enjoy our magnificent outdoor spaces to connect with nature, and looking down on rocks that will date back many millennia, we appreciate that all things pass and joy is everywhere if we're willing to look for it."

Cricket commencing soon Golf's back!

Phillip Island District Cricket Club is confident of hosting a safe and successful summer and is getting ready to launch the 2020-21 season.

A Covid-safe program has been developed which will help in mitigating any transmission of COVID-19.

Activities have been developed to assist boys and girls to hone their skills and learn the finer points of the game, in a fun-filled, safe environment.

Central to this will be the use of modified equipment including soft balls, aimed at fast tracking the capacities required to successfully engage in a game that can develop into a challenging high-speed ball sport.

PIDCC is delighted to announce the return of Club Coach, Charith Keerthisinghe for the 2020-21 season after another strong 2019-20 season.

Charith's contribution to the development of junior cricket at the club has been outstanding.

Charith played a pivotal role in the Leongatha District Cricket Association representative team winning its division at the Victorian Country Week Carnival in early 2020, prior to COVID-19.

As Club Coach, he is planning to build on his successes in past seasons and to help to mould the PIDCC program.

Very shortly, arrangements will be announced on the practice schedules for boys and girls to learn more about cricket and get ready for the start of competition.

The club will offer cricket at the following age levels, as part of the national playing pathway:

- Junior Blasters (age 5-7 years).
- Master Blasters (age 7-10 years).
- Under 12 years.
- Under 14 years.
- Under 16 years.



Charith Keerthisinghe is pictured at the Victorian Country Week Cricket Carnival in early 2020. He played in the winning Leongatha District Cricket Association representative team.

The junior program connects very closely with the four Senior PIDCC teams that play in LDCA competition.

For most players, learning the game and enjoying the experience that cricket offers is the prime objective.

However, talented juniors can be selected in the Leongatha DCA talent squads that connect with the Victorian Bushrangers pathway, and on to the national youth programs for male and female players. The Country Week Carnival, where Charith Keerthisinghe has excelled, offers another opportunity at the representative level.

Ultimately, players who work their way through the pathway can make their way to the phenomenal-

ly successful Australian Men's and Women's International programs.

In this way, cricket aims to cater for all interest levels and assist players to explore their ability in this truly international sport.

Coaching course

Arrangements are being confirmed with Cricket Victoria for a Level 1 Cricket Coaching Course to be conducted on the island in the coming months.

The course has an online component and a practical session that will be convened on a Sunday morning.

Anyone interested in participating in this highly informative course, please contact PIDCC Club Secretary, Daniel Stevenson on 0415 744 771.

Phillip Island Golf club is back into competitions and playing in 4s which is great news.

Maintaining our social distancing and wearing face masks, the course was crowded on Thursday, September 17 for the first competition back and again on Saturday, September 19.

Thursday, September 17 - Men's and Ladies Stableford.

Winner was Rowan Wales H/c (24) with 47 points from Mark Beaton H/c (17) with 40 points.

9 Hole competition - Men's and Ladies Stableford winner was Peter Matthews H/c (33) with 19 points from Don Chapman H/c (36) with 18 points on a countback from Brian Carvell H/c (28).

Saturday, September 19 - Men's 18 Monthly Medal (May) Stroke - sponsored by Ray Pobjoy.

A Grade winner - Lawrence Ferrari H/c (12) with 70 points on a countback.

A Grade runner up - Ken Sellers H/c (12) 70 points.

B Grade winner - Reece Jamieson H/c (15) with 71 points on a countback.

B Grade runner up - Mike Fitzmaurice H/c (17) with 71 points on a countback.

C Grade winner and Monthly Medal winner - James Taylor H/c (34) with 67 points.

C Grade runner up - Gerard Taylor H/c (19) with 69 points.

Ladies competition - Ladies 18 Holes Stroke winner was Faye Morris H/c (11) with 73 points from Stacey Meder H/c (30) with 74 points.

Men's and Ladies - 9 Holes Stableford.

9 Hole winner was Ron Hateley H/c (32) with 20 points.

The Phillip Island Golf Club is currently accepting local and Regional Green Fee players and Member's Guests. This is subject to proof that they reside in Regional Victoria.

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