

This Friday volunteers from the CFA will be on the streets in Cowes, San Remo and across the island, collecting for the Royal Children's Hospital. Members of the Phillip Island Brigade Murray Johnston, Max Hodges, Anita Reid, Simon Hartley and Ray Champion are hoping the community will dig deep this year. For more details of all the Good Friday events, turn to page 8.

Planning Minister disregards VCAT to approve Isle of Wight

MAJOR PROJECTS

The Victorian Planning Minister has taken the extraordinary step of intervening to fast-track the Isle of Wight development, in the face of delays at VCAT.

the face of delays at VCAT.

Planning Minister Sonya
Kilkenny in the past fortnight
used her powers to make an
amendment to the Bass Coast
Shire planning scheme to green
light the \$85 million development,
which was approved by councillors in September last year.

Changes to planning schemes are usually lengthy processes, requiring public exhibition and a planning panel.

The minister stepped in after the development was delayed following a VCAT appeal by an objector, with mediation held on March 12 and a further five-day VCAT hearing originally scheduled for May 20.

But on March 14 the State Government gazetted Planning Scheme Amendment C164basc, which "facilitates the Isle of

Wight development".

Ratio Consultants, representing Isle of Wight developer Moda, requested the accelerated assessment and planning scheme amendment via the State Government's Development Facilitation Program (DFP), which had a new clause introduced late last year to expedite faster planning approvals for larger commercial developments that have "significant economic benefits".

A Bass Coast Shire spokesperson said they were liaising with VCAT on "what this means for the future conduct of the VCAT proceeding and whether attendance will still be required".

Intervention

According to documents linked to planning scheme amendment C164basc, Minister Kilkenny has now applied a "specific controls overlay" to 9-11 The Esplanade and 2-8 Bass Avenue for the use and development of the "Isle of Wight development, including a residential hotel, key worker

accommodation, restaurants, bar, hotel, restricted recreational facility (gymnasium), the sale and consumption of liquor and a car parking reduction.

"Exhibition of the amendment and a planning panel were not required," the documents state.

It explains the "appeal through VCAT is separate to the DFP process", however it then goes on to explain the effect of the amendment is that "third parties will not receive notice of the amendment and will not have the opportunity to make a submission or be heard by an independent panel".

According to Ratio Consultants' website, which broadly explains the impact of the DFP for developers, applications under the DFP still need to work with relevant councils however, they will be exempt from third party review at VCAT.

The documents state the development will see a \$326 million output to the regional economy (construction phase) and a \$20 million output to the Bass Coast

COWES SELF STORAGE

COWESBOAT

economy (operational phase).

"I have decided to prepare, adopt and approve Amendment C164basc as an alternative mechanism of intervention to facilitate the timely delivery of the use and development, as it will assist in increasing key worker accommodation, stimulating the economy, provide job creation and aligns with Victorian Government policies," the minister states in the amendment documents.

"The amendment seeks to ensure the project is delivered in a timely manner to assist in stimulating the Victorian economy and creating employment opportunities," the amendment documents state.

"The project involves capital expenditure of more than \$95 million. Furthermore, the project allows for much needed stimulus to Victoria's regional tourism industry."

Power

The documents state on November 30 last year, Ratio Associates,

on behalf of Moda Design Phillip Island, applied to the DFP for accelerated assessment and on December 8 a Standing Advisory Committee (DFPSAC) endorsed the DFP recommendation.

"The amendment facilitates a project which responds to the needs of existing and future communities by creating employment and economic growth allowing for significant investment into Cowes and Phillip Island," the documents state.

It is unclear how the minister's DFP powers can more broadly be used to intervene in any major project, with the minister required to provide a report to Parliament at least every 12 months, detailing the nature of interventions.

In the past year the State Government has been moving to take planning controls away from councils.

Details: www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-approvals/development-facilitation-program and: planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Bass%20Coast/amendments/C164basc



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Block judges "loving" the island



Judges of The Block are nearly a quarter of the way through judging on Channel 9's reality TV show as the build continues on Justice Road.

Shaynna Blaze, Darren Palmer and Marty Fox have been spending each weekend on the island judging since filming began at the start of March and say they are "loving it".

Darren said this had been his first experience of Phillip Island and "I didn't know what to expect".

"I drive in every weekend, and driving over the water and the bridge I feel instantly calm," he said.

"I love arriving here, I love staying here. Everyone is so friendly. Getting my breakfast in the morning, walking down the street, the ocean is everywhere. I'm loving it.

"The island feels like every place I go to in New South Wales for holidays. Anywhere there is bush and the ocean together, that's a happy place for me."

Shaynna said the island

visits

Back Roads

Bass Coast

The Block is not the only show in town. A film crew

caught up with Indigenous musician Paul Patton

(Fonz) as well as other local identities.

from the ABC TV program Back Roads visited Archies Creek Hotel last week, where host Heather Ewart



Judges Marty Fox, Shaynna Blaze and Darren Palmer are at 113-119 Justice

had the "best dog beach I have ever been to", adding she used to stay at a local caravan park when she was young.

"The sunrises and the sun-

love the roughness of the beach."

Marty agreed he loved the feeling of arriving and coming down the main street and seeing the water appear.

There is a feeling that comes over me when I see that water," Marty said.

"And I love the food. I went to Anerie the French restaurant and it was amazing.'

The Block is being filmed over three months, with the show

tipped to air after the Olympics.

Film crews and Block vehicles are now part of the Cowes landscape, with contestants shopping locally including at Tyde, Linen House, Flowers of Phillip Island, Offshore Design, Turn the Page Bookshop, Island Equipment Hire and Reece.

Capeview Mitre 10 Cowes is a key sponsor of the show, and other local businesses involved include South Coast Flooring Xtra and Clay & Co Studio.

Nine in Six Builders' is renting 14 houses on the island to accommodate the construction crew, with contestants using local chippies, with other teams using local water proofers and plasterers.

The building team kicked off work at 113-119 Justice Road before filming started, for the \$3.3 million construction of five dwellings.

Creator and executive producer Julian Cress said the 20th season of The Block would "be a 60-hour commercial for Phillip Island".

'We will be pumping a lot of money into the local economy," he said.

Robbery

A café in Bellbird Court in Newhaven was broken into between 5.30pm on March 13 and 6.20am on March 14. The front door was jemmied open and the entire cash register was stolen.

A vehicle parked outside The Nobbies on March 14 had a surfboard stolen from its roof between 10.30am and 1pm on March 14.

In The Gurdies, a business on the Bass Highway was broken into sometime between March 8 and March 16. Police said the offenders were able to get into the office building and discharged a dry chemical fire extinguisher. The police also confirmed there had been a burglary at the Quarry in the previous week.

A business in Settlement Road in Cowes was broken into on March 17. Police said offenders driving a small station wagon smashed the glass side door to get into the store, stealing various Makita power tools.

Anyone with information on any of these incidents is asked to contact Crime Stoppers Victoria by calling 1800 333 000 or online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/

Easter warnings

With an influx of visitors expected over Easter and the holidays, police are reminding residents to take care to ensure their properties and vehicles are protected.

Please lock your vehicle at all times, including at beach car parks and your own drive-

Remove all valuable items from view, or from the vehicle entirely.

Do not keep spare sets of keys in your vehicle.

Make sure you lock your home's doors, windows and garages/carports.

Call Triple Zero (000) if you see any suspicious behaviour.

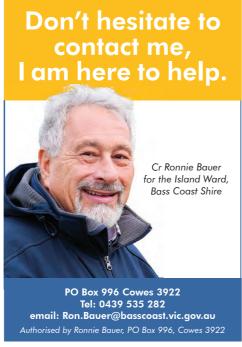


Road each weekend.

sets are spectacular," she said.
"I used to surf with friends. I







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Line in the sand: House permit refused due to sea level rise

SILVERLEAVES

New house construction in Silverleaves may have hit a brick wall, with Bass Coast Shire councillors refusing a planning permit for a home because the owner faces sea level rise in years to come.

The owners of 42 Bruce Road had applied to build a two-storey home, requiring the removal of 55 trees, which received 29 objections.

No councillor moved the planning officer's recommendation the planning permit be approved.

Cr Michael Whelan then successfully moved an alternative motion to refuse the permit, because the home was in the land subject to inundation overlay area.

Cr Whelan said he failed to understand Melbourne Water, who had been "causing havoc" by rejecting proposals around the state in recent years and "suddenly this one sails through".

"It has been put to me that's because other applications have been on the coast whereas this one is on the Rhyll Inlet where inundation will come from. It's more exposed," he said.

"I cannot be in a position of putting people in harm's way, which is how I would see an approval."

Cr Whelan quoted the Insurance Council of Australia that modern planning schemes failed to protect homeowners from flood risk.

"I have railed against our planning scheme for seven and a half years because it doesn't deal with these issues properly."

He acknowledged other blocks in Silverleaves had been developed but "putting more people in harm's way is



"It just doesn't make any sense to approve a house that will be under water": The Bruce Road house, marked in red, backs on to the Rhyll Inlet. The seven-to-two vote aimed to send a message to coastal homeowners and the

not justification".

Cr Whelan blamed the state and federal governments for failing to create policy guidelines to deal with "legacy" issues in areas subject to hazard.

"Until there is policy direction on retreat ... then we are going to continue to have these problems.

"As one colleague told me, we are dealing with the inundation and coastal erosion issue, one planning application at a time.

"That shouldn't be the case. We are here because of a lack of policy direction. We need leadership here. Local government cannot handle it.

He said he realised refusal would inevitably lead to the permit going to VCAT.

Support

Cr David Rooks said he was also frustrated with Melbourne Water.

"With the knowledge we have now, we should not be approving applications where we know they will be inundated with rising water in the future," Cr Rooks said.

Cr Brett Tessari agreed,

saying he generally supported development, but it frustrated him "this is a flood zone that will go under very, very early when sea levels rise".

"I feel so sorry for the owners of the land. They must be shaking their heads because they look around and there are houses everywhere and we are refusing to allow them to build," Cr Tessari said.

"If that was me I'd be dirty. But it just doesn't make any sense to approve a house that won't possibly be under water, it will be under water."

Cr Rochelle Halstead said Cr Whelan had "done the only thing to protect purchasers of sites subject to inundation".

Crs Les Larke and Ronnie Bauer voted against the motion, with Cr Larke saying he believed in "buyer beware", saying the planning permit was in accordance with all authorities.

"I don't believe council should use a big stick and deny an owner in good faith a building," Cr Larke said.

Cr Whelan responded saying he didn't believe caveat emptor applied.

"I think people who build

in these areas expect the government at some stage will step in and bail them out," Cr Whelan added.

He said he chaired a meeting of councillors this month, where they were advised by a range of scientists that the "sea level is cooked in".

"Whatever we do with emissions at this point we face escalating sea level rise.

"We need to send a signal to the state they need to act."

Objections

Objectors said the bulk of the building would lead to overshadowing, but planners said assessment was limited to the impact of height and design aesthetic.

Planners said the building was not considered to be contrary to the neighbourhood character of Silverleaves and a single dwelling that occupies just over 50 per cent of the site area was not considered to be overdeveloped.

Planners said all vegetation proposed to be removed was exempt from the Bass Coast Planning Scheme due to the impact of state bushfire protection exemptions.

Warning bells ringing on planning

SEA LEVELS

As reported in January, the State Government released a long-awaited Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment, which states the effect of higher sea levels and storm surge would result in a tenfold increase in inundation under a sea level rise scenario of 1.4 metres by 2100.

A coastal hazard assessment for Western Port was released by the government in 2015, requiring planning for a sea level rise of not less than 0.8 metres by 2100, which was adopted as the benchmark for planning permits in 2023.

The release of the Port Phillip report saw speculation the government will this year increase its planning benchmark for sea level rise to at least 1.2 metres, possibly 1.4 metres, in line with the 2019 Intergovernmental Pan-

el on Climate Change projection. In January Cowes East Foreshore Preventative Action Group (CEFPAG) chair Ken Hailey said Silverleaves residents had already been grappling with the 0.8 metre benchmark.

Last year there was a spike in the number of planning permits for new homes being rejected.

But Ken said if 1.2 metres or 1.4 metres was adopted as the new planning benchmark, more homes along Phillip Island's coast would be impacted.

'The Silverleaves experience is the model of what is in store for many other coastal communities," Ken said. "A rise in sea level modelling will

trigger the areas affected to be covered by a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). Silverleaves has been covered by an LSIO since 2016. This has meant that any planning application not only has to be approved by Bass Coast Shire Council, but also by Melbourne Water, who assess every application individually under Guidelines for Development in Flood Affected Areas."



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Batteries won't stop blackouts

ENERGY

The new community batteries for Phillip Island are designed to make the energy supply more reliable, but will not provide an alternative source of power during blackouts.

Earlier this month, the Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced the island would have seven batteries installed, funded by the State Government's Neighbourhood Batteries Program.

The batteries will be operated by Mondo Phillip Island.

A spokesperson for Mondo (a subsidiary of AusNet) said the new batteries should be operational by August 2025.

They also answered some of the key questions and concerns raised by the community since the announcement.

At this month's council meeting, resident Louise Lyell asked if the new community batteries would "provide reliable power in times of blackout to all of the island or a select few?'

Mondo said the batteries' primary role is to improve the reliability of the network and soak up cheap renewable energy when it is plentiful.

They would not provide an alternative power supply during a power outage.

At the launch, it was suggested the battery at Berninneit would be able to provide an energy source during a power outage, but the spokesperson said this was "still to be determined".

"We need to work through technical and retailer constraints to determine if these batteries will be 'islandable', ie able to power a particular facility during blackouts."

Locations

Mondo said it would work with landowners and the community "to determine the best position for these batteries".

The proposed locations (subject to approval by all parties)

- 1. Cowes Cultural Centre (Berninneit)
- 2. Phillip Island Leisure Centre (YMCA), Cowes
- 3. Orchard/Recreation Reserve, Wimbledon Heights
- 4. Council Depot, Cowes
- 5. Koala Conservation Nature Park, Rhyll
- 6. Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant, Ventnor



The Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced seven community batteries for Phillip Island earlier this month at Berninneit.

7. Senior Citizens Centre,

An additional, smaller, pole top battery will be erected in Smiths Beach.

"The Mondo batteries are bigger, comprising of seven 100kW/250kWh units," spokesperson said.

"Pole top batteries tend to be smaller, typically 50kWh or less, to avoid interfering with the structural performance of the pole.

"Both batteries work in the same way, however, community batteries tend to be ground or pad mounted, whereas pole top batteries are attached to a distribution pole, such as a transformer that you'd see on your street.

"Pole top batteries are primarily used to provide network benefits to maintain a consistent supply of electricity. This means an electricity supply that can perform better during peak times, when it is needed the most.'

Mondo did not explain the rationale behind the location choices, or why areas like Surf Beach, Sunderland Bay, Cape Woolamai or Newhaven weren't included.

"More than 40 locations across the island were considered as part of the feasibility study," they said.

"After examining the 40 locations, it was concluded that the seven selected sites were the preferred options."

Questions

Q: How do people get involved, so they can direct their excess solar to the community battery? **A:** "The battery soaks up excess generation on the network, not from specific sites, so people cannot direct their excess solar generation into the community

"If they happen to be on the same part of the network that the battery is connected into, then their excess solar generation will contribute into the bat-

Q: How do community batteries work? How and when do they supply energy back into the grid?

A: "The batteries work by charging up during times of the day where energy supply is plentiful (this is almost always in the middle of the day on a bright, sunny day, where solar generation would be at its highest).

"The energy is then stored in the battery until it is needed later in the day, when energy demand is at its highest, supplying the local network with Q: One resident has claimed each battery's maximum output will only be 25kW and all that could do is "run a few lights". Is this correct?

A: "With the size of these battery being 100kW, they are not intended to replace the grid's capability, they are allowing more people to consume electricity when they need it the most.

"A typical household may use around 6kWh in the evening after the sun goes down, so each battery when it exports to the grid can supply around 40 houses with all their energy needs from energy captured during the day. Since the battery is also charged from the local grid, it will allow the local solar to be stored for the evening."

Q: Is it correct that the batteries will help make the existing power more reliable, but won't provide electricity if the whole grid goes out, or if there are powerlines down (due to storms etc)? A: "These batteries are not designed to be 'islandable', that is, to form their own islanded microgrid. They are however building blocks for a possible future islanded microgrid.

The batteries won't be set up to operate when the network goes down."

O: Can you clarify the role of the big battery? Can it power the island when there is a blackout? A: "The role of the \$10 million Phillip Island Community Energy Storage System (PIC-ESS) is to secure energy supply in Phillip Island during peak summer periods and during ma-

"It cannot support the whole island when storm damage impacts the connection to the main grid or if there is damage

Autumn is here, and so is The Island

GOOD READ

The latest edition of The Island magazine is out now.

The free lifestyle magazine celebrating the people and places of Phillip Island and San Remo

is available at your local newsagent, IGA, cafes, restaurants and stores, as well as from the Advertiser office in Chapel Street Cowes.

This is our seventh edition of The Island, and we are truly

grateful for the supbring you local stories,

port from local business and from our Right from the start we promised to

of ordinary people

doing extraordinary things. We meet an artist with conservation on his mind, a global campaigner against tobacco, a committed traveller, and discover a ground-breaking eco-marine

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On board for bravery award

AWARD

Nine years after plunging into the icy waters of Ventnor Beach in July 2015, Sam Haycroft is receiving an Australian Bravery Award.

He's not sure how it came about, or who nominated him, but Sam's award was one of 50 announced by the Governor-General this week.

He admits to feeling slightly embarrassed, both about the award and the rescue, which took place around 6.30pm on July 29, 2015.

He also doesn't see himself as a hero, saying he only did what "everyone would do".

"It doesn't feel anything out of the ordinary."

But not many of us can say they've stripped down to their jocks and plunged into the wintery water on a dark night to paddle out to save a stranger.

Rescue

The drama unfolded just after dinner, when his partner Paula got message from a neighbour asking if they could hear someone calling for help.

When he went outside, Sam could hear someone yelling and thought it was possibly an elderly neighbour who had fallen over, so set off to investigate.

He quickly realised the calls were coming from the beach.

By the time he arrived, there was a four-wheel drive parked with its high beams pointing out to the ocean and a gaggle of

people around the vehicle.

"There was a teenage kid pulling on a wetsuit, but he looked really hesitant," Sam said.

Sam offered to paddle out instead.

"I wasn't going to let that young kid go out there. I figured, I'm old, I've had a pretty good innings'."

The teenager handed Sam his board and torch.

"I stripped off to my jocks, took the torch (in my teeth) and started paddling.

"Every 10-20 metres I stopped and yelled out, to make sure I was going in the right direction."

Growing up around the water, Sam described himself as a confident swimmer, but as he paddled in the darkness, he started to question his judgement.

The man was at least 200 metres out, and it was pitch black and freezing.

"It seemed to take forever to get even slightly close to him," Sam said.

He finally reached the man who was sitting on top of an overturned tinny.

"I called out to him, said I was here to help and he said to me, 'mate, I'm blind'.

"I remember thinking, oh he's drunk, that's just perfect. But then he pointed at his eyes and said, 'I'm blind'."

That added another layer of complexity to the rescue. But the man managed to clamber onto the front of the board, with Sam lying behind him.

"I had my legs hanging off the board so I could kick and we



Sam Haycroft is receiving a Commendation for Brave Conduct for rescuing a man from a capsized boat off Ventnor Beach in July 2015.

both had to paddle.

"By this stage, I couldn't feel I can't feel my limbs."
my legs. The man he rescu

"I thought, I'm a drongo. What am I doing this for? I started thinking about hypothermia, but it's too late as this stage."

Halfway back to shore, when a jetski appeared out of the darkness, he felt a wave of relief.

"I told the young guy driving it that the man was blind and it took us a while to get him onto the jetski.

"Then they took off ... and after a while I realised they weren't coming back for me, so I had to paddle in. "By the time I get to the beach, I can't feel my limbs."

The man he rescued had already been whisked off to hospital in an ambulance.

"Some legend handed me a towel and a doona and another person guided me to my clothes," said Sam.

"All I could think was, keep moving and get home to a shower to thaw out.

"I did meet his son, who thanked me for saving his dad's life."

Sam said he didn't do any interviews about the rescue at the time, because he didn't want any accolades. He also didn't want to encourage people to do what he did.

In a post at the time on social media, he wrote.

"Please don't do what I did.

"I only did it 'cos I weighed up my options for survival coupled with the surrounding support teams gathering rapidly. It was a group effort to rescue that guy.

"It wasn't just me. We got lucky. It could have been tragic."

Awards

Announcing the Decorations, the Governor-General congratulated the recipients.

"Confronted with danger, each chose to help someone. Their bravery is commendable and their selflessness is inspirational," the Governor-General said.

"In a moment of peril, each of the people decided to come to the aid of someone else – some, someone they knew, others a total stranger. Often their actions were at a cost to themselves. Tragically, two recipients lost their own lives."

There will be an official presentation at Government House later in the year.

As for Sam, he said the real heroes are the people who perform rescues every day as part of their work or their volunteer roles.

"It's nice to be recognised, but there are so many other people out there every day doing this," he said.

"I feel like we should thank those other people too."



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This one's for Daisy'

COMMUNITY

On Sunday March 24 a heartwarming score of friends, family and community gathered in support of Daisy Jane Clarke.

Daisy, born on September 3, 2023, was diagnosed with an extremely rare ATRT brain tumour at just three months old. In late December, parents Sam and Shauna were told to say their goodbyes, warned by the surgeon Daisy may not come off the operating table.

Three months on, after eight surgeries and two rounds of chemotherapy, Sam and Shauna say - against all odds - Daisy's still smiling.

In late February, local resident Maria Barnes went in to Hectic, Cape Woolamai, to get a small daisy tattoo from artist Lindsay Becker. A week later her daughter, Bethany Adams, a close friend of Daisy's family, did the same.

While tattooing the daisies, Lindsay Becker asked of their significance and heard Daisy's story for the first time. What followed was a beautiful outpouring of community care and generosity that Maria Barnes says "brought (her) faith back in people".

Lindsay proposed small daisy tattoos, with 100 per cent of proceeds going towards Daisy's medical bills and associated costs.

Initially hoping to do around 20 tattoos, within three hours of posting online Lindsay was inundated with over 100 inquiries and Daisy Day bloomed.

Over 50 businesses, artists and creators quickly rallied to Daisy's cause.

Daisy Day, hosted at Hectic Shop and Bang Bang Bar and Food, included live music, stalls, a monster raffle with over 60 prizes, face-painting, and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Lindsay says Daisy's story "just pulls on a lot of people's heartstrings."

"Why wouldn't it?" Lindsay

"You've got this little battler that's just fighting on. She doesn't know anything different. People want to give her every chance they possibly can."

With help on the day from friend and Geelong-based artist Dane M, Lindsay says tattoos alone are projected to raise



Daisy's parents Sam and Shauna with Lindsay Becker (centre), who came up with the idea of daisy tattoos as a way to fundraise and help the family.



Leigh, a friend of Sam and Shauna, gets tattooed by Dane M at Daisy Day, helping to raise funds for six-month-old Daisy Jane Clarke who has an extremely rare brain tumour.

\$11,000 for the Clarke family.

Total fundraising efforts from the day are yet to be finalised, but expect to be close to \$20,000.

"If we can't help people out, what's the point?" asks Lindsay.

"And that's why the whole community stands behind us. It's all the little things that people are doing that's made this day successful. It hasn't been me, it was just my idea."

A small difference

Parents Sam and Shauna, both from Cranbourne, were overwhelmed by the community's response and the sheer amount of people inspired by Daisy's fight.

"I don't think we would be as strong as we are without ev-

eryone we've got around of us," says Shauna. "We've got the best support."

Sam agreed, adding "the people we know, we know are amazing - that's why we have them in our lives.

"But it's the people we don't know, like the community down here. I've been holidaying down here for last 20 years but I don't know Lindsay, I don't know Pat (O'Garey) from Bang Bang. But for them to do this sort of stuff ... it just restores your faith in humanity itself," says Sam.

"If we're down constantly, (Daisy's) going to feel that. And we're only getting picked up by everybody else around us. And then we go in (to hospital) and we're like:



The idea for Daisy Day came after Bethany Adams and Maria Barnes went to Hectic in Cape Woolamai in February to get a small daisy tattoo, in support of Daisy.



Rhiannon, Merinda, Marnee, Harvey and Sonny lend a helping hand at the Daisy Day fundraiser in Cape Woolamai. More photos at pisra.com.au.

'come on, you can do this!' And she feels it," says Sam and Shauna.

"And so even though I know people aren't seeing (Daisy), she's feeling that love through us."

The road ahead

Due to the incredibly rare nature of Daisy's tumour, treatment is still in experimental phases. Shauna says when Daisy began treatment, doctors said the potential positive outcomes were "very slim," but any treatment would further medical research and help to find a cure.

"So even if (Daisy) doesn't make it, the next kid might."

If Daisy makes it through the next bouts of treatment, she will go to Florida to undergo proton radiation.

Shauna explained at this stage "it's not even so much about the cancer itself," but whether Daisy's organs can push through the intensity of more chemotherapy treatment.

"But that's what (Daisy Day) is doing.

"It's allowing us to give her the best opportunity possible."

"Just the fact that everyone's got to know of her, we're so grateful. Because through all of this she's been the happiest kid, and we think she deserves that."

"Look, at the end of the day," says Lindsay Becker, "We're all here for the same reason. And that's to help a little girl and her family out."





Livestock is the second highest killer on farms – we all know cattle can be unpredictable.

So while it may seem like a job that'll take longer to get the tools out than do, one small repair could save a life.

Understand your responsibilities with safety around cattle at worksafe.vic.gov.au/livestock It's never you, until it is.



Scan for farm safety support.





Dig deep for the Good Friday Appeal

FUNDRAISING

Volunteers from the Phillip Island CFA will be on the streets on Friday March 29, collecting funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

From 10am onwards, the CFA will be at the intersection of Settlement Road and Thompson Avenue rattling tins and collecting donations.

Over at the IGA, volunteers from the SES will have a collection station set up, which will then be manned by members of the Anderson family in the afternoon.

CFA tankers will also visit all the local caravan parks collecting donations.

For those who don't have cash on hand, a QR code card is provided so they can scan and do-

A main collection hub will operate at Berninneit, where a team of volunteers will be counting the donations and sending through regular updates to the Royal Children's Hospital.

Donations can also be made at the centre, including via EFT-

Simon Hartley is the area coordinator and has been part of the Appeal for 21 years.

He's hoping it will be another successful event for his team of

"Our main focus will be on those vehicles coming into Cowes, but there will be tin rattlers in the main shopping areas of Thompson Avenue as well," he said.

He said the volunteers will work in two shifts across the day, backed up by a dedicated team of counters stationed at Berninneit.

"Every couple of hours they send through a running tally, and then ring through the total at the end of the day," he said.

Over the years, the team has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Good Friday Appeal, but Simon said they don't set themselves a target.

"It really does depend on the weather, and how many people are on the road."

But he says regardless, the spirits of the volunteers will be high.

"We look forward to it and try to make it a fun thing. We wear silly hats and have a laugh with the people in the cars."

The collection point does slow down the traffic, but Simon says drivers are usually patient and good humoured about the delay.

"Most people who come on a regular basis know we are going to be there and why we are doing it."

Support

Fellow CFA volunteer Ray Champion has been working on the Good Friday Appeal longer than he can remember.

And over the years, he's seen all kinds of donations.

"There are people who just empty out their console. We've had buttons, coins, lifesaver lollies ... even empty bullet shells.

"But it is amazing what people give. You really can't pick what they are going to donate.

"We've had people in old beatup cars put \$100 in the tin.

"Other people come in with tubs of money they've been saving all year."

It's the dedication of volunteers like Ray, and the Anderson family, that make the day so special.

Every year, about a dozen members of the extended Anderson family take part, with some coming down from Melbourne especially for the day.

"There is a big competition amongst the family about who can raise the most," said Simon.

"Some of them go door knocking. Everything they raise goes into the tally for the Phillip Island CFA.

"We couldn't do it without this kind of support."

Local businesses also pitch in

The BP station provides free tea and coffee for the volunteers at the Settlement Road intersection.

The Commonwealth Bank provides weighing machines and bags for the counters.

And keeping hunger at bay, Baker's Delight donates five dozen hot cross buns for the team.

Simon said he's extremely grateful to all the businesses, and to Bass Coast Shire Council for providing space at the new cultural centre free of charge.

The Good Friday Appeal is an annual fundraising activity on behalf of the Royal Children's Hospital.

In 2023, the appeal raised over \$23 million, setting a new record. The Phillip Island Brigade raised around \$19,000.



CFA tin rattlers collecting money for the Good Friday Appeal. Sam, Steve Scott, Graeme Taylor and Keith Thiele.

San Remo's appeal

FUNDRAISING

There'll be plenty of activity in San Remo for this year's Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

San Remo CFA is running its annual street collection, with emergency vehicles out in San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai, Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay.
You'll hear the sirens letting

you know the team is on the way.

Jim's Bait and Tackle is having their seventh Annual Easter fishing competition running from Good Friday until Easter Monday, with over \$5000 worth of prizes to be won. More information is on their Facebook

San Remo Discounts is holding a raffle with all funds going to the Good Friday Appeal.

There is also a bin to collect refundable cans, bottles etc. with funds going to the Good Friday Appeal.

The San Remo Hotel has a host of fundraising efforts run-

The George Bass Walk for the Kids is on again, with two sepa-

Little fire fighter Alfred Olarenshaw is a little bigger now than in 2022, but he'll be back lending a helping hand to the San Remo CFA Good Friday Appeal.

rate walks available.

For the 8km walk along the George Bass Coastal Walk, shuttle buses will depart from the San Remo Hotel at 9am and head for Kilcunda.

Participants will walk back to San Remo taking in the breathtaking coastal views.

Volunteers from the San Remo SES will man drink

stations along the walk, with long time SES member Rod Legg organising the team each vear.

The second walk is around San Remo (3-5kms) collecting clues as you go.

All sheets handed in at the hotel before 2pm go in the draw to win a hamper.

Book your tickets for either walk (or both) at Trybooking. com and further information is available on their Facebook

George Bass Coastal Walk Tickets: Adults \$25, Child (4-16 years) \$15. Family (2 x adults and 3 x children) \$80.

San Remo Walk Tickets: Adults \$25, Child (4-16 years) 10. Family (2 x adults and 3 x children) \$60.

The San Remo Hotel is holding an Easter Raffle with tickets on sale on Good Friday from 11am-6pm.

They are also hosting a Silent Auction with a wide range of goods donated by local businesses.

Stop by and enjoy live entertainment and kids activities throughout the day.

Sunderland Bay phone tower refused

PLANNING

Bay has been rejected by Bass Coast Shire councillors.

The planning permit was to build a 35 metre "monopole" tower for Optus, at Lot 1, Phillip Island Road, Sunderland Bay.

According to the application, the tower would have provided "new, improved coverage and connectivity to the Sunderland Bay area providing much needed voice and data services to the area".

The application, submitted by Downer on behalf of the Indara Corporation, stated the landowner was supportive of hosting the tower on the vacant rural land and stated there was "a small section of residential dwellings, approximately 200m away".

ommended councillors refuse this year they were surprised A 5G telecommunications tow- the permit because it was in the the location was being consider proposed near Sunderland farm zone, and was inconsistent with landscape character values, specifically the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO), adding there was an alternative site available to home the tower.

Councillors agreed, voting against the tower, with Cr Ronnie Bauer saying the community needed extra towers and wherever they were located "someone would say not in my backyard".

Cr David Rooks said the permit had many inconsistencies with planning policies.

"I along with the community recognise the need for communication towers," Cr Rooks said.

The permit received 32 submissions of which 30 were objections, with one resident

However, shire planners rec-telling the Advertiser earlier ered given how close it was to residents, and the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) that governs the land.

Many objections cited public health and safety concerns relating to electromagnetic emissions, while others were concerned about loss of views, with planners concluding VCAT states there was "no legal entitlement to a view".

Under the Bass Coast Planning Scheme, the SLO is designed to "conserve and enhance the character of significant landscape".

In 2019 Bass Coast Shire Council was declared a Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL).

The draft Statement of Planning



The red arrow indicates the proposed location of the tower. Shire planners recommended councillors refuse the tower because it was in the farm zone and was inconsistent with landscape character values, specifically a Significant Landscape Overlay.

Policy under the DAL, currently being considered by the State Government, includes a series of beefed-up landscape planning controls to protect six Bass Coast areas that have been declared state or regionally significant.

This includes the coast and hinterland between Cape Woolamai and Ventnor (which includes Sunderland Bay), as well as the Rhyll Inlet and areas north of Cowes-Rhyll Road to Newhaven.

WHEN YOU NEED THE POLICE, BUT NOT THE SIRENS

IF YOU'VE HAD YOUR OR O GO MISSING,

COME HOME TO FIND YOUR HAS

BEEN DAMAGED, HAD YOUR STOLEN

OR YOUR BROKEN INTO, OR

WANT TO REGISTER A WITH POLICE...











Newhaven College opens its doors

On Saturday March 16, Newhaven College hosted the annual College Open Day and Alumni reunions for graduates from years 1984, 1994, 2004, 2014 and 2019.

Hundreds of prospective students and their families visited the College on the day.

College student leaders took guided tours around the school, sharing their knowledge and passion for their school with visitors.

Highlights included the Equestrian display located near the Year 9 Environmental Centre, where families watched some of Victoria's best junior riders show off their skills, and the newly formed MTB Bike Academy where parent volunteers and students worked hard on the new track.

The gym was home to fun sporting activities, as well as displays on the school's surf and tennis academies. Visitors were treated at every location around the campus: enjoying the soft vocals of the choir at Junior School; making little wooden cars and watching cooking demonstrations at the Trades Centre; partaking in some ice cream making with liquid nitrogen or making a clay sculpture in the Specialist Wing; being serenaded by some of the school's top performers in the new Performing Arts Wing; plus lots of other fun interactive activities dotted across the day's program.



Newhaven College teacher Melinda Kelly with some of her former students from 2019 Aiden Box, Imogen Price, Luke Nicholson. Luke is now also a teacher at Newhaven College.

A focus on Newhaven College's House structure and pastoral care was well received by visitors. An added attraction this year were the footy practice matches between Inverloch Kongwak and Traralgon.

For those unable to attend, Newhaven College tours can be arranged through the College's Registrar Belinda Manning at belinda.manning@newhavencol.vic.edu.au, 5956 7505 or book online through the Newhaven College website.

Reunion

The school welcomed back students who graduated in 1984 (40

years), 1994 (30 years), 2004 (20 years), 2014 (10 years) and 2019 (5 years).

They met for morning tea in the pavilion with some longterm staff before Head of Learning Mrs Karen Milkins-Hendry guided the group on a tour of the school.

For many of these students, even the most recently departed, there were plenty of new and exciting facilities to share with the returning graduates. For some, it was their first time setting foot on the Phillip Island Road campus. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to catch up and reminisce.



Felix Fothergill guides a group of prospective families at the Newhaven College Open Day. More photos at pisra.com.au/education.



Prospective student William Muller is captivated by and participates in the liquid nitrogen ice creaming making activity in the Science wing on Saturday.



Parents Tracey, Paula and Andy biked from Rhyll to school with Ashley, Kaia, Harvey, Emily, Georgie, Jack and Matilda at Cowes Primary School's Ride 2 School Day.

EDUCATION

Last Friday, Cowes Primary School celebrated National Ride 2 School Day with an incredible turnout of students who rode, skated, or scooted to school.

The event saw a large number of students participating in the active commute, and it was great to see so many students and families enjoying an active and safe travel to school.

The event was a fantastic community event, with many parents, teachers and community members coming together to support the students.

The Phillip Island Bicycle Users Group (BUG) played an important role in the event by assisting students in riding safely to school. The school said the support from BUG was greatly appreciated, and it helped to



Imogen, Jada and Amillia used a different set of wheels on Ride 2 School Day, coming on their skateboards to school. More photos at pisra.com.au/education

make the event a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Additionally, Cowes Primary School would like to thank Coles for supplying fresh fruit

for the students.

This healthy treat was a wonderful way to start the day and helped to fuel the students for their busy day of learning.



Room 11 celebrate the start of their reading journey, with a reading party.

On the reading road

EDUCATION

On Thursday March 21 the Cowes Primary School Prep children enjoyed a reading party to celebrate the beginning of their reading journey.

The school says the first step in teaching children to read is by explicitly teaching sounds with their corresponding letter names.



Margot learning the sounds and letters, as part of Cowes Primary School's reading program.

In Prep, students engage in a decodable reading program, which aligns with current research.

The reading party marked the special occasion of taking home their first decodable texts.

Students have been highly engaged and motivated in their reading and the Prep teachers are incredibly proud of their achievements to date.



Sandy at the reading party for Preps at Cowes Primary School. More photos at pisra.com.au/education.



Students from San Remo Primary celebrate Harmony Day by wearing orange, with ES Courtney and Principal Karen Bowker.

School turns orange in Harmony

EDUCATION

San Remo Primary School celebrated Harmony Week with students wearing a splash of orange.

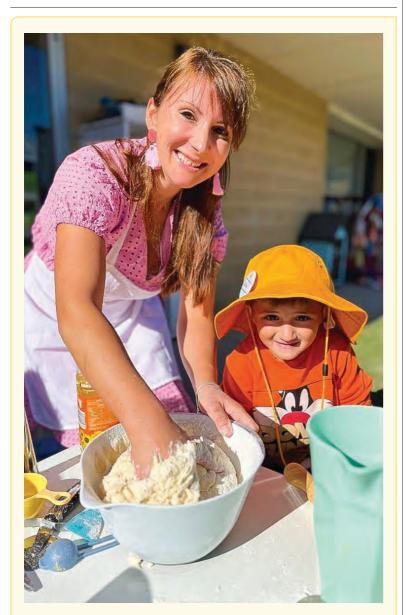
"Harmony Week is all about celebrating and recognising diversity and bringing together Australians from all different backgrounds," said Principal

Karen Bowker.

"It is about inclusiveness, respect and sense of belonging for everyone.

"Each class is doing a variety of activities which celebrate this year's motto 'Everybody belongs'.

At Assembly, the students presented the work they'd been doing to the whole school community.



Harmony at ELC

Olivera and Stefan made during Harmony Day cel-Macedonian traditional pastry "kifli", as part of sharing cultural traditions

ebrations at the Phillip Island Early Learning



Karen Treppo has retired after over a decade at the helm of the Phillip Island ELC. During the farewell she celebrates with Cowes Primary School captains, Jasper and Matilda.

A decade of dedication

EDUCATION

After over a decade of exceptional service, Karen Treppo, Director of the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre (PIELC), has finished at the centre.

"Karen had been an integral part of our school community since the inception of the Early Learning Centre in 2012, and her dedication and leadership have left an indelible mark," said Bree Rutherford, Assistant Principal at Cowes Primary School.

Karen has been the face of the Early Learning Centre, leading from the front with unwavering commitment.

"Her passion for creating a nurturing environment for our young learners has been truly commendable.

"She has worked tirelessly to ensure that every child passing through our service receives the best care and education, changing the projection of many of the children in her care."

Karen's particular passion was inclusivity, and many parents have voiced gratitude for the support they have received from Karen over the years.

She had been invited to present at a Yooralla Inclusion Expo, citing case studies of inclusion at PIELC.

While the Early Learning Centre community is saddened by Karen's departure, they also celebrated the tremendous contributions she has made.

Karen started her career in the Cowes community first as a three-year-old kindergarten teacher in Kids House, then in Education Support at Cowes Primary School.

In 2013 Karen was a part of the Education Support team that won an Education Department Excellence Award for their ongoing commitment to supporting students with diverse learning needs.

In 2013, Karen was given the task of directing the new Phillip Island Children's centre.

At the time, the centre was under the auspices of Uniting Care, before Cowes Primary School took over as the Approved Provider.

During Karen's tenure, PIELC underwent two apprais-

als by the Quality Assessment and Rating Board and has twice successfully achieved a rating of Exceeding the National Quality Standards.

"This is an exceptional achievement by Karen and the staff of the PIELC," Bree said.

"The Centre grew from 106 licensed places to 178, and Karen spearheaded the expansion, including the construction of two new classrooms."

Karen's passion for inclusivity and wellbeing support saw the commencement of many supportive community projects, including the community pantry that is located at the PIELC. The pantry offers an amazing abundance of food staples for families and the wider community.

Karen has also committed her own personal time to supporting the community meal project, where she serves meals and connects with community members on a regular basis.

"Karen will undoubtedly be missed, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for the positive impact she has had on the lives of our students.'

New director for ELC

EDUCATION

Lvnne Clements has been appointed as the new Director of the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre (PIELC), following the retirement of Karen Treppo.

Lynne has extensive leadership experience in a variety of educational positions and a passion for education and innovation.

In her introductory message to the PIELC community, Lynne said she had a "deep commitment to fostering enriching learning environments".

"I believe that education is the key to unlocking endless possibilities and nurturing the potential within each child."

Having lived and worked in New Zealand and across Australia, she said she was excited to bring her passion and experience to Phillip Island.

Lynne has had a house on Phillip Island for the last nine years, starting with a holiday home while working in Melbourne.



Lynne Clements has been appointed as the new Director of the Phillip Island Early Learning Centre (PIELC).

She now lives here full time. "Keeping up the reputation of

a top-quality ELC dedicated to creating valuable learning experiences is of greatest priority to me," she said.

As well as extensive senior administrative experience in

justice, healthcare and education, with a background in private and higher education, Lynne has a BA in Education, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Design and is a certified TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) teacher. Vexed Cowes caravan park approved

PLANNING

A controversial "lifestyle" caravan and camping park in Cowes has been approved by Bass Coast Shire councillors.

Holiday Lifestyle applied for a \$2 million development to the former Islander Caravan Park at 137-143 Thompson Avenue.

The permit was for building and works associated with a caravan and camping park and removal of vegetation, including an amended site layout to reduce the total number of sites from 100 to 49 sites and installation of six cabins.

The permit received 13 objections, with residents and surrounding businesses concerned about a range of issues, including illegal tree removal to questions about the planning rules of the buildings, and fears the new owners intended to use the residential Watchorn Road for access.

As reported in the Advertiser, two buyers recently took legal action against the developer after they said they believed they had bought sites in a "lifestyle village", not a caravan park.

Councillors took the unusual step of calling in the permit to the council chamber because it would reduce green space, was a potential overdevelopment of the site, and "recent activities on the land have been highly publicised".

Planners recommended councillors approve the permit, subject to a range of conditions, because it was consistent with the existing use rights of the land for a camping and caravan park.

Concerr

Crs Ronnie Bauer and Michael Whelan were the only councillors to vote against the permit.

Cr Bauer quoted the Advertiser's previous articles, explaining buyers who invested early thought they were buying into a "lifestyle living accommodation".

"People bought into the development with a totally different conception to what is proposed," Cr Bauer said.

"To quote the paper, the purchaser had 'suffered stress and anxiety and expense and there was no mention of caravan or camping, otherwise we would have walked away'."

Cr Michael Whelan said the development had been an "unhappy experience in a number of people's lives", quoting the developer's advertisement saying sites were an investment and buyers "own real estate in a prime seaside location".

"I understand you don't own real estate but have a lease on a patch of land," Cr Whelan said.

"I have an unhappy feeling about this development.

"It wasn't sold to these people as a camping ground, it was sold as a home ... then they find out they're in a camping ground. It's not good enough. I don't think this developer has covered themselves in glory so far."

"Reluctant" support

Cr Brett Tessari said if councillors rejected the permit, it would go to VCAT and existing conditions could be lost, "so we're damned if we do and damned if we don't".



The Holiday Lifestyle caravan and camping park in Cowes was approved by Bass Coast Shire Council. Crs Ronnie Bauer and Michael Whelan were the only councillors to vote against the permit.

Cr Geoff Ellis agreed saying he leaned to Crs Whelan's and Bauer's arguments "but given the amount of work officers have put in with the developer and if it goes to VCAT it goes out of our hands, I will reluctantly support the motion".

Cr Rochelle Halstead added too much planning power had been moved out of council hands to the State Government.

Cr David Rooks said the caravan park had been on the site for decades and Phillip Island had lost a lot of other caravan parks "so I'm glad this one will stay on".

He said previously there were 100 sites and now the permit was for 49 sites each about 200sqm, adding it was "good

news the caravan park is happening there" with a range of accommodation opportunities.

He added councillors weren't voting on marketing and advertising or "what's written in the paper", but on the application and "whether we're comfortable with it".

Objection

Objectors said there were concerns the southern boundary of the site was not proposed to be fenced and would include a gate to access Watchorn Road.

Planners responded saying a 1.9 metre fence was being constructed and no pedestrian or vehicle access would be allowed to Watchorn Road.

"Council recognises the potential adverse impacts of permitting permanent secondary access to Watchorn Road including traffic volume, vegetation impacts and the inappropriate use of the abutting car park," planners said.

Objectors said the southern boundary was also under dispute and "a decision should not be finalised until this is resolved", but planners stated the boundary was consistent with the certificate of title and any dispute was a civil matter and not a planning consideration.

Submitters said the proposed landscaping was not sufficient to offset the amount of trees "illegally removed".

Planners acknowledged "community concerns regarding the past removal of vegetation", but did not provide further details of enforcement "due to privacy and legal considerations".

They added there would be 96 tree species which was "considered to be an appropriate land-scape response".

Planners said under the planning scheme cabins were "not limited to being movable or of any particular dimension or design".

Planners responded to objector concerns about insufficient parking saying a camping and caravan park has no specified car parking requirement under the planning scheme.

Holiday Lifestyle bought the property in 2021, with the Islander Caravan Park operating since the 1950s.







If you're looking for fun things to do over Easter and the school holidays, there's plenty happening across the island.

Spot a bandicoot

Phillip Island Nature Parks will host five nightly wildlife experiences on Churchill Island over Easter from March 29 to 31, giving unique insight into how the endangered Eastern barred bandicoots live and interact in the wild.

It comes after the Nature Parks researchers, as part of a multi-agency recovery effort, helped save the Eastern barred bandicoot from extinction, reintroducing the species to the foxfree safe haven in 2017.

For more information and bookings: www.penguins.org. au/whats-on

Easter Fun Festival

There's a host of holiday fun happening at Churchill Island's Easter Fun Festival.

Across the Easter weekend, activities include: Scavenger hunt - Bandicoots Bug Bonanza, Easter High Tea with Misty the Penguin, face painting, Chainsaw Carving Demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday, old time games, and kids nature art and pot a plant workshop.

On Sunday, enjoy live music featuring Nick Cunningham (The Voice 2023) and performances by other talented artists from midday each day.

There's a BBQ, bake sale, Aperol Spritz garden and beverages available from the farm precinct and multiple sessions of farm ac-

tivities (10.30am and 2.00pm). Details at penguins.org.au

Music at the Westernport

The musical menu includes JK & Special Guest (Friday 29), Tim Hanegan Duo (Saturday 30) and local favourites The Laing Brothers (Sunday 31).

Footy fever

The first match of the 2024 season is on Saturday (March 30) at the Cowes Rec Reserve and sees Phillip Island take on Warragul Industrials.

Walk for the Kids

On Good Friday, Walk for the Kids raises funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal. Shuttle buses will take walkers from San Remo to the start of the walk at Kilcunda. There's a shorter walk around the streets of San Remo, suited for younger children and parents with strollers.

See more details in our Good Friday coverage (page 8).

Art to ASPIR to

The Arts Society Phillip Island Region (ASPIR) Easter Art Exhibition is on again at the Newhaven College Performing Arts Centre foyer, 1770 Phillip Island

There's an official opening and awards presentation on Thursday, March 28 at 7pm, then the exhibition is open daily from 10am to 5pm until Monday, April 1.

This exhibition showcases the work of ASPIR members and all works are for sale.

Fun for the kids

Free kids fun workshops are running from April 6 to 10 at Berninneit from 11am - 1pm.

Activities include Nature Art and Nature Necklaces.

The Visitor Information Centre at Newhaven is also running free activities for kids over the school holidays.

On April 5, create clay sea creatures from 11am - 1pm and on April 11, learn to create Origami animals.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at both venues.

Cheese not chocolate

Swap your chocolate for cheese this Easter. On Saturday, March 30, from 10am - 3pm PICAL is hosting a cheesemaking workshop. Cost is \$150. More details at pical.org.au or email cheesewithbarry@gmail.com

Movie madness

Enjoy a trip to the new cinema at Berninneit these holidays. A range of new release films are on offer, plus a 25-year anniversary showing of the classic comedy 10 Things I Hate About You. Bookings online at: www. basscoastculturalvenues.com/ berninneit-cinema

Market time

Fill your Easter Sunday with markets, starting at the Churchill Island Market (8am 1pm) and then heading into Cowes for the Island Foreshore Market (2pm - 9pm).



Commonly known as "nudis", the nudibranch is part of the sea slug family, and can be found off San Remo, one of the most significant species-rich communities in Western Port. Photo: Nick Shaw.

See slugs by the seashore

ENVIRONMENT

Fancy a day in the water while helping a good cause?

Then join in San Remo's annual sea slug census on Sunday March 31 or Monday April 1.

The Sea Slug Census explores the captivating diversity of sea slugs along Victoria's coast with a series of events over 10 days, including guided sea slug searches at San Remo.

Alternatively, venture out solo along the Victorian coast, armed with a keen eye and a smartphone: photograph any sea slugs you encounter and contribute to valuable scientific data by uploading them to the iNaturalist app.

You don't need to be an experienced diver, or even get wet, to take part. Whether you're scuba diving, snorkelling, or simply exploring rock pools with gumboots, there's a role for everyone.

Ventnor's Kade Mills, from the Victorian National Parks Association, said sea slugs, also known as nudibranchs, or nudis, inhabited diverse ocean habitats and dazzle with their array of colours, shapes, and sizes.

"This census not only celebrates their beauty but also provides crucial insights into their ecology and distribution, shedding light on the impacts of climate change on marine life," Kade said.

Details: www.vnpa.org.au/ sea-slug-census



As we enjoy more beautiful weather and with Easter just around the corner, the Bass Coast region is calling all beachgoers to come and enjoy the sandy shores safely.

To help you stay safe, we encourage everyone to download the Surf Life Saving Australia, Beach Safe app and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



www.beachsafe.org.au

In hot weather, take steps to protect yourself and others by keeping cool, staying hydrated, planning ahead and checking in with others.

We want everyone to keep safe when exploring the amazing coastline of Bass Coast.









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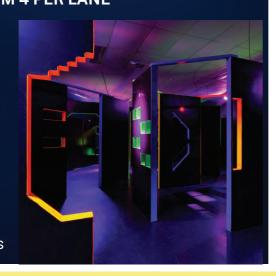
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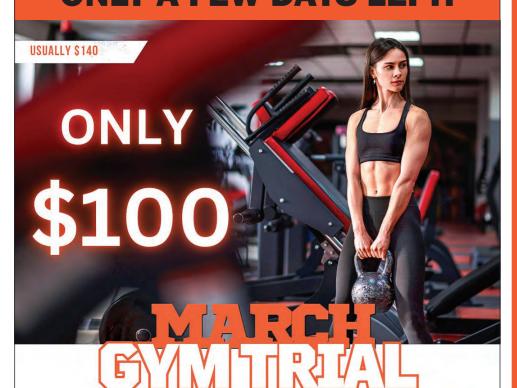


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THE PULSE __/\

A passion for clay Discover more at

POTTERY

Artist and ceramicist Jenni Bradley is eager to share her passion for clay with others, offering regular classes from her studio.

JB Pottery is based in Cowes and holds hand building and pottery wheel classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Jenni's passion for clay has spanned decades.

"I originally discovered my love for this medium as an exchange student in the suburbs of Chicago," Jenni said.

"My artistic journey has taken me across the globe, blending my creative pursuits with a career and qualifications in curation and public programs.

"I love that clay is tactile and transformative for anyone who touches it.

"I find joy in the unique process of creating bespoke pieces and my style is ever evolving with a continuous exploration using sgraffito, a process of carving the surface and infusing colour and texture into my work.

Both hand building and wheel serve as my artist playgrounds, allowing me to express my creativity through their various processes.

Jenni honed her skills as a student at Randwick TAFE, graduating in Stu-



Artist and ceramicist Jenni Bradley offers hand building and pottery wheel classes on Tuesday and Wednesdays at her studio in Cowes.

dio Ceramics I and ll, then attending many workshops with iconic pottery artists at the Canberra Potters' Society, National Art School, Tasmanian Ceramics Association, TasTAFE and Slow Clay Centre.

"My passion for clay has been shared through teaching clay, starting earlier in my career with classes for children and women in my home studios in the ACT and Tasmania," Jenni said.

"I expanded my teaching skills in a small private Melbourne studio followed by a larger studio in

Today, I find myself in my new sanctuary, JB Pottery studio, on this beautiful island, dedicated to practicing the art I adore working with clay."

The studio is open on Tuesdays for hand building classes and Wednesdays for wheel classes.

Those interested in exploring Jenni's work further can follow her on Instagram: @jenni.b.pottery.

To find out more about pottery classes, contact Jenni on 0438 315 951 or email: JB.Pottery@outlook.com. /Sponsored article/

your local library

Myli's San Remo Library and the Phillip Island Library serve as a hub of local community engagement, offering a wide range of resources, events and programs for the whole family to enjoy year-around.

During school holidays, both libraries will be hosting an array of free activities, including sessions like macramé making, clay mosaics and a special StoryTime session featuring author Ian Robertson. Everyone is welcome!

Beyond these events, Myli provides an array of free resources to keep kids entertained throughout the holidays, including e-books, e-audiobooks, digital movies, and online platforms like Story Box Library, BorrowBox and Busy Code. The library also offers air-conditioning and heating, free Wi-Fi and comfortable seat-

Additionally, the San Remo Library and the Phillip Island Library boast an exciting range of Library of Things products. Myli members can borrow Standup Paddle Boards (SUPs) at the Phillip Island Library, while both libraries stock surfboards, outdoor equipment, home energy equipment and more! The Library of Things is continuously expanding, with exciting new additions scheduled for 2024.

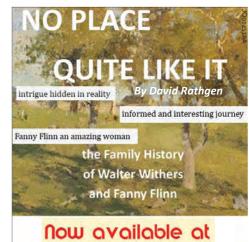
To take full advantage of everything Myli has to offer, sign up for a free Myli membership at your local library branch or online at myli.au/join.

For further information regarding Myli Libraries, please head to myli.org.au or contact the Support Team on 1800 44 6954 during opening hours Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm.

/Sponsored article/



During school holidays, Phillip Island Library will be hosting an array of free activities, as will San Remo Library.











Annette Marshall is one of the ASPIR artists featured in the Easter Exhibition at Newhaven College from March 29 to April 1.

Easter exhibition returns

The Arts Society Phillip Island Region will hold their Annual Easter Exhibition at Newhaven College in the spacious foyer of the Performing Arts Centre.

This much anticipated event will showcase the varied works of ASPIR members across all ages and is open daily from Friday March 29 through to Monday April 1.

The judge is Mike Kowalski, an internationally acclaimed artist, who was born and raised in California. Mike now draws inspiration from the natural surroundings of Shoreham and the cityscapes of Melbourne.

On Thursday evening

from 7pm Mike will be announcing the award winners. All are welcome to join in the celebrations at Newhaven College.

The Bendigo Community Banks of Cowes, San Remo and Grantville are a major sponsor with the Best in Show Award of \$1000 and three Highly Commended Awards.

Other sponsors include Phillip Island RSL, Westernport Water, Clay and Co., Chemmart Cowes, Turn the Page, Your Pet in Pastels, and Senior Art Supplies.

Westernport Water, through their Community Support Program, have created a Sustainable Future Award. This gives our artists the opportunity to illustrate, to challenge and engage the viewer with the issues that confront our community.

Clay and Co is offering a week's solo exhibition to an artist based on the Body of Work as exhibited.

"This is an exciting initiative which will greatly assist the artist on their creative journey," said ASPIR president Miranda

"We at ASPIR commend all these sponsors to you as their support makes all the difference and ensures a successful

As all works are for sale it is an opportunity to acquire a wonderful piece to take home and enjoy.

/Sponsored article/





Going, going, gone: Vet nurse Sabrina Luiz had her hair shaved recently for the World's Greatest Shave, fundraising more than \$4,100.

Letting her hair down for charity

FUNDRAISER

A Phillip Island vet nurse has raised more than \$4,100 for charity by cutting her long

Sabrina Luiz, 35, lost her tresses for the World's Greatest Shave, a blood cancer fundraiser, at the Cowes Primary School fete earlier this month.

Her seven-year-old daughter Zuri – who is in grade three at Cowes Primary - completed the buzz cut number two shave.

"I was slightly terrified," she said, adding it had taken about five years to grow her hair to that length.

"It's weird to feel the wind on my

The hair was donated to make a wig, and small shaves were donated to help clean up oil spills.

Sabrina works at the Newhaven vet

Details: my.leukaemiafoundation.org. au/sabrinaluiz

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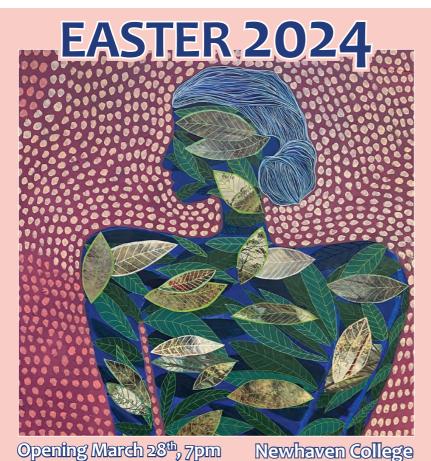
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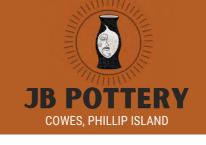






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Artwork Courtesy of Karen Allen



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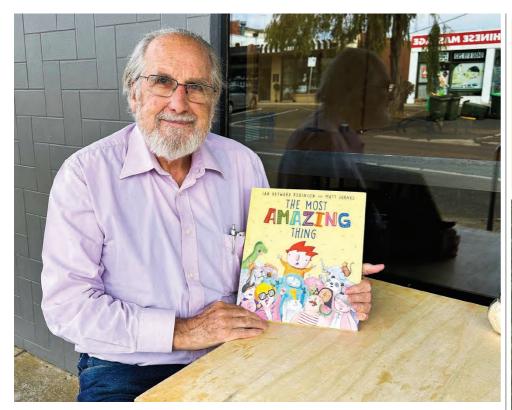
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A new children's book by Phillip Island author Ian Hayward Robinson, "The Most Amazing Thing" is out now.

Hope and wonder in children's tale

READING

A new children's book by Phillip Island author Ian Hayward Robinson, "The Most Amazing Thing" is a beautifully illustrated tale of wonder and hope.

The story follows young Henry who sets out to explore the meaning of life, and what really is "the most amazing thing"

A philosopher and former primary school teacher, Ian is ideally placed to explore these big life questions with young children.

He says the inspiration for Henry's quest came to him in the middle of the night, while he was at a writer's retreat.

"I got up in the morning and wrote it down. It hasn't changed all that much, other than a bit of text polishing," he says.

Ian makes it sound so simple, but the years long process to get the book ready to publish, belies

"When you've only got 300 words, they have to be perfect. You can't muck around."

Once the text was finalised, a long process which Ian said taught him patience, publishers Allen & Unwin suggested Matt and sent off the text asking if he'd like to be involved.

Matt is a critically acclaimed and award-winauthor/illustrator with over 20 picture books to his credit.

When Matt responded saying "not only would I like to, I have to", Ian knew he'd found his perfect match. The pair worked remotely, communicating over email and have still yet to meet face to face.

But the collaboration has produced a truly beautiful book, with Matt's hand painted and vivid illustrations helping guide two full-length plays, peryoung readers on a unique and amazing journey.

Ian hopes it will inspire young readers and their parents.

"It encourages people to be human and believe in themselves, and that's important.

"Kids are bombarded with criticism all the time on social media, so it's important to have a positive message."

Amazing

"The Most Amazing Thing" is Ian's first children's book to be published.

Previously he'd written a number of others, but "they weren't very good" he laughs.

But this time, he knew he'd hit on something spe-

"It has such a positive psychological message for children and treats them as people who could understand the world," Ian

"Children are always asking the why question. This is about asking the what question.'

A decades long career focused on primary education, mostly in curriculum development, helped "develop the being able to talk to children in their own language".

His own career has been quite a journey, although he says there's no life story, "just a series of events, that happened without a plan or as part of a long-term narrative".

Those events include a philosophy degree at Melbourne University, a stint there as a tutor and then teaching a course on the Philosophy of Education at Coburg Teachers College, before joining the education department.

He has also written

formed at La Mama, and won several awards for his one-act plays.

He was a professional drama critic and became an Australian expert on the concept of "the hero's journey" popularised by Joseph Campbell and used to great effect by George Lucas in Star Wars, holding workshops at national conferences for different writer's groups.

He also taught writing and editing at TAFE for many years.

Now formally retired, Ian and his wife, actress Maggie Millar, moved to Phillip Island seven years ago, after six years in Kyneton.

But the couple are well acquainted with the area, having previously lived in The Gurdies for 20 years and contributing to the local arts community.

"Maggie had an art exhibition on the island, and I produced a play with her and Allan Hopgood (most famous for writing the Alvin Purple screenplay), which was performed at the old cultural centre," Ian says.

Although retired, Ian is still writing, with a pantomime in the works, loosely based on Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, but set on Phillip Island, and featuring penguins, of course.

Plus there's more amazing stories to be told with

There's already two sequels underway, including one which tackles the question "what am I made

"There's a lot of physics and chemistry in both of them, but I'm trying to explain it in simple terms.

"Henry's an old friend now. I can imagine him much more readily," Ian says.

Correction: Movie Club this Wednesday - March 27

In last week's paper, the article on the Phillip Island Movie Club's screening of "Anatomy of a Fall" had the incorrect

The screening is on Wednesday March 27 at 7pm, at Berninneit, not March 28

We apologise for any confusion.



Former Phillip Island siblings Lucy and Daniel Crock have released their first single, "Where I'm From", under the name Wild Honey.

Sweet sounds of Wild Honey

MUSIC

Now based on the Surf Coast, former Phillip Island siblings Lucy and Daniel Crock have released their first single, under the name Wild Hon-

Lucy and younger brother Daniel have been singing together since they were kids.

Now in their twenties, Lucy, a journalist, and Daniel, a history major, combine their love of storytelling with smooth vocal tones to sing about growing up, moving away, and realising grief in retrospect.

Their debut single, "Where I'm From" was released on March 15 (produced by Jordy Merry and mixed/mastered by Isaac Barter) and is an ode to the unsettling of their early twenties, and sets a reflective tone for more to come.

"It's strange finally releasing these songs," Daniel said.

"Lucy and I have been singing together for years. All five of us kids used to sing folk songs in the back of our sevenseater car on trips across the Nullarbor.

"Now we live a few hours apart, and we're busier. We still bicker like siblings, but we also understand each other, and our music, in a way that I think only family can."

For Lucy, growing up together and now performing together is a special bond.

"We wrote 'Where I'm From' a few years ago, reflecting on what it would feel like to look back after everything changes, after all the unsettling of our early twenties.

"It means even more to us now. Once you've grown up a bit, it can give you perspective on the things you used to take for granted.

"The things that used to feel normal feel nostalgic and sentimental.

"We've tried to capture that feeling of the years moving quickly; the feeling of home changing," Lucy said.

"We love singing stories that feel significant. It's always been the drawcard of folk music for us, it tells stories."

Fans of singer-songwriters like Eva Cassidy, John Mayer or John Denver will find plenty to savour with Wild Honey.

The duo hope to return to Phillip Island and play shows later in the year.

"It's where our parents live 50 per of the time, and our grandparents."

In the meantime you can find them on Instagram (@thesoundofwildhoney) and Spotify.

Special story time

Local author Ian Hayward Robinson is the guest author at a special Story Time at the Phillip Island Library on Thursday, April 4, at 10.30am.

Join the team at Phillip Island Library for a session of singing, dancing, rhyme and craft, with a guest appearance by Ian, who will be reading his beautiful book, "The

Most Amazing Thing" to wrap up a special holiday story time.

The session is suitable for ages two to six. Older and younger siblings are welcome to join the fun.

Bookings are now open at: myli.au/amaz-

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Upstairs there are three more spacious bedrooms, two with built in robes, ceiling fans and wall panel heaters, plus a family bathroom with bath and shower. A second large living area leads onto the balcony to take in a sweeping view of West-



Located on a spacious allotment (862sqm) in the village of Rhyll, this is a home the whole family can enjoy.

ernport. The balcony has an electric awning to provide shade and shelter in all conditions and creates the perfect spot for a cold drink on warm evenings.

The landscaped garden is established with fruit trees, a netted vegetable garden and raised timber deck to sit and enjoy this tranquil setting. Gates next to the home provide extra parking for your boat or caravan.

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Rhyll is renowned. Popular restaurants and cafes, a well-stocked licensed general store, the best boat ramp on the island, a boat chandlery, the historic Rhyll hall and tennis courts add to the charm and appeal of this sought after address.

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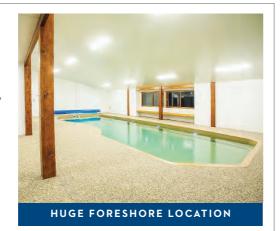
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232 THE ESPLANADE. SURF BEACH \$1.750.000

This foreshore property makes coastal living a dream with the endless array of features on hand.. This home is opposite breathtaking beaches and is close to major attractions. Mainly surrounded by farmland & coastal dunes. A nature reserve lines the property on one side. Perfect for those looking for a sea change or holiday home. It is currently a holiday-let property with exceptional financials. Having built a reputable consistent income as a luxury holiday rental over the past 4 years. Rental returns are available on request.

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7A FINDLAY STREET,

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Nestled in this perfect location is the ideal property for entertaining family and friends. With excellent access to Cowes Foreshore is just the start to all the features and benefits this property holds. The stunning north facing living and entertaining area is flooded with natural light and flows to the alfresco area. The perfect floor plan awaits permanent living and still having ample room for children and grand children with access to the beach just a very short stroll.

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8 MOORE STREET. SILVERLEAVES \$940,000 - \$980,000

Walk to the beach or walk to the Golf course from this fantastic property. North facing and set on a substantial 667sqm allotment, this residence takes full advantage of its orientation with the 6.6KW Solar System. The property comprises 4 spacious bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 separate living zones living zones. The large undercover deck is perfect for entertaining family and friends. Plenty of room for parking with 3 bay carport which could easily be converted into a garage. The property is only 5 minutes drive to

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54 WAIKIKI CRESCENT SMITHS BEACH \$1,150,000

The ideal beach house awaits, with excellent access to both beaches in Smiths beach, with two large decks makes this the entertaining paradise for family and friends. Set over a large block with water views from the rear deck and kitchen just adds to this ideal setting. With so many options this could be a perfect holiday rental investment or just use for personal use. The biggest choice is to have a surf or walk in the morning then relax on the beach or deck, the ideal setting for letting all the stress from Melbourne wash away.

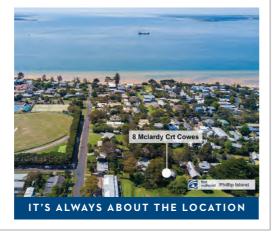
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8 MCLARDY COURT, COWES \$1,095,000

This property is tucked away in a in a quiet court in one of the Island most desirable locations. This property would be a golfers dream backing directly on the Cowes Golf Course and easy walking distance to Lover Walk Beach, local sporting facilities and Cowes shopping centre. This property features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rumpus room, open fire, reverse cycle heating and cooling, well equiped kitchen. The house positioned to the rear of a large treed block and would be perfect for further extension or renovation

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4A ZELMA DRIVE, RHYLL \$995,000

This extremely well presented low maintenance home has all the creature comforts you could require include the added bonus of views, with easy access to all Rhyll has to offer, a gentle walk for a coffee is the morning or just enjoy the quiet hamlet of Rhyll.Enjoy all the time with family and friends as entertaining is just a pleasure with the large well equiped upstairs and down stairs decks. There is ample room for boat storage which just adds to the complete package. There is potential for holiday rental or just enjoy

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9 CHICORY AVENUE, COWES \$749,000

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6 VENTNOR BEACH ROAD, WIMBLEDON HEIGHTS \$499,000

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A FLIEN ROAD SILVERLEAVES \$799 000 TO \$840 000

The perfect location awaits, nestled in this extremly quiet pocket of Silverleaves with a very easy walk to the beach and golf course also the Silverleaves store for the morning coffee or unwinding wine in the afternoon. The north facing aspect only adds to the stunning setting, with extra room for side access and ample room to expand this neat home set over a single level to cater for all ages. Create the perfect home or just enjoy what this location brings. Entertaining family and friends just adds to this perfect package.

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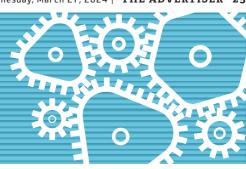
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Entries open for the 2024 Bass Coast Business Awards

BUSINESS

Entries are now open for the 2024 Bass Coast Business Awards.

The annual event now in its 17th year, celebrates the exceptional achievements of businesses within the Bass Coast community and provides a platform for recognition and networking.

The Bass Coast Business Awards continue to showcase the diverse talents and contributions of local businesses. The awards are divided into two categories:

Judged Categories: These categories recognise businesses that excel in various aspects, including innovation, customer service, sustainability and community involvement. A panel of judges will evaluate the entries and select winners based on predetermined criteria.

People's Choice Awards: These awards allow the community to participate by voting for their favourite busi-

"The Bass Coast Business Awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication

of our local business community," said Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve.

"We encourage all businesses in Bass Coast to participate and showcase their achievements.

"There are also some real economic and promotional benefits for businesses that get involved and I encourage everyone to support the 2024 Awards and again make the Awards night a highlight of the year."

Categories

There are six categories in the judged Business Awards:

- Access, Equity and Inclusion
- Business Innovation • Environmental Sustaina-
- bility • Event Excellence

- Marketing and Communica-
- New Business (new category) The overall winner of the 2024 Bass Coast Business of the Year is awarded to the highest scoring submission across all judged categories.

Businesses who win a category for three consecutive years will enter the Hall of

People's Choice awards

Members of the community vote for businesses operating in Bass Coast that they believe provides exceptional products and service across seven categories.

- Accommodation and Tourism Attraction
- Food and Beverage
- Hair and Beauty

- Online, Mobile and Home-**Based Business**
- Trades
- Retail and Services • Health and Lifestyle

Everyone that votes will go into the draw to win one of two \$100 gift vouchers to a local Bass Coast business.

Nominations can be made through the link to the entry page. Entries are limited to one per person, per business. People can nominate one business in each category. Please note that businesses are not permitted to vote for themselves.

People's Choice voting closes on June 14 at 5pm.

Finalists will be announced in July and the Gala dinner will be held in August.

www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ businessawards

CLASSIFIEDS SEEK, BUY AND SELL

DEATHS

HATELEY, Ron:

"It is with great sadness that one of our Founding and Life Members of the Phillip Island Bicycle User Group, Ron Hateley has passed away.

We send our sincere condolences to his wife Sharyn and family.

In our thoughts and prayers PIBUG"

HATELEY, Ronald Arthur:

03.01.1946 - 20.03.2024

Passed away peacefully after a hard fought battle.

Aged 78

Loved husband to Sharyn.

Brother-in-law to Carl, big brother to Glenda.

Father to Brent, Gordon, Duncan (dec), Leanne and Michelle.

Pa to Jessica Jackson Lucinda, Ethan and Kane.

Great Pa to Scarlett and Harrison.

Best Mate to Zuma Friend to many.

Forever in our hearts. thoughts, and memories.

HATELEY, Ron:

It is with much sadness that we farewell one of our members this week Ron was the heart and soul of Red Cross on the Island

Nothing was too much trouble and he lead the team over so many years...our thoughts are with Sharyn, Zuma and family.

Australian Red Cross Phillip Island Unit



Mr Ronald Arthur Hateley

Service Details: 3790627 Australian Army

The President, Committee, Members, Management and Staff of the Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch deeply regret to announce the passing of Ron Hateley, a respected Service Member of our Sub-Branch. Our sincere condolences are extended to The Hateley family.

LEST WE FORGET.

TRUSCOTT (nee Dawling), Catherine (Kay):

Thursday, 14 March 2024

We are sad to advise Kay passed away at Armitage House, Wonthaggi.

Kay fought so hard against cancer to stay.

Kay is survived by her loving husband of 52 years, Frank and stepchildren Toni, Glenn (dec), Lori, Jodie and Geoffrey (dec).

GARAGE SALES

21 Cypress Crt, Easter Sunday, Mar 31, from 9.30am. Household items, books and clothes.

COWES:

21 Driftwood Drive, Sat Mar 30, from 8.30am to 2.00pm.

Downsizing – all must go, furniture, crockery, tools, DVD's etc.

COWES:

31 Osbourne Ave. Sat Mar 30, from 9-3pm. No early birds. Something for everyone.

COWES:

57 Plover St,

Fri, Mar 29 & Sat Mar 30 from 8am - 1pm. All must go - Bikes, Camping, Home Ware, Electrical, Collectables Artwork plus much more. Original Xbox plus 40 games, videos and video

NEWHAVEN:

players.

12 Cleeland St, Easter Sat, Mar 30 and Sun 31, from 9-2pm. Clothes, baskets, baby items and lots more.

RHYLL:

71 Lock Road, Sat Mar 30, from 9am

 2pm. LOTS OF GOOD STUFF

SMITHS BEACH:

228 Smiths Beach Road, Easter Saturday, March 30 From 8-2pm All proceeds go to Cambodian Children

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Barking up the wrong tree on San Remo trees?

VEGETATION

Bass Coast Shire councillors were warned against a "slinging match" in a debate about falling tree limbs at San Remo.

As reported in the Advertiser, in early March a large tree on Marine Parade (opposite the IGA) lost a branch, with no one injured. Police, SES and a Bass Coast Shire contractor were quickly on scene to deal with the incident and remove the hanging branch.

The same tree lost a large branch in October 2021, just missing vehicles parked close by.

In April 2021, a large branch from another pine tree fell and narrowly missed the children's playground on the foreshore.

Cr Rochelle Halstead, who was in San Remo at the time of the branch fall, at the March meeting unsuccessfully moved a notice of motion requesting



In early March a large tree on Marine Parade lost a branch, with no one injured. Photo: Peter Fogarty.

shire officers provide a full list of branch falls over the past five years, including arborist reports which had indicated the trees were "healthy and safe".

The motion also proposed having the trees removed, identifying financial impacts including replacements options.

"I bring this to council as an act of being proactive rather than reactive," Cr Halstead said, adding she was concerned for human safety. She said councillors could

suggest trees across the shire that regularly dropped branches and a "risk matrix" be created to identify trees of concern "to ensure risks are mitigated".

Crs Les Larke, Ronnie Bauer and Geoff Ellis supported

However Cr Michael Whelan said tree limbs were an op erational matter and arborists had already been engaged and carry out regular inspections.

"This is an ad hoc motion suggesting a range of thought bubbles that aren't helpful," Cr Whelan said, asking what "ma-

trix meant".

"It's of shire wide importance. I don't think the motion does anything to advance that."

Cr Halstead said she took "umbrage" to Cr Whelan's comments, explaining the term matrix, to which mayor Clare Le Serve interrupted saying the debate shouldn't become a "slinging match between two councillors".

The motion failed.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tell us your views with a Letter to the Editor (350 word limit). Email to **advertiser@pisra.com.au**, or submit online at **pisra.com.au**



Low blow from Say No

The questionable tactics employed by the Say No group in their campaign to derail the Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay Road and Drainage Upgrade Project have been well documented and recorded in Bass Coast council meetings.

But have they stooped to a new low? In a question to the March council meeting, Susie Wickes asked "As the Special Charge Scheme for Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay was formally abandoned at the December council meeting, could council please advise when all the temporary 'Speed Means Dust' signs will be removed?"

One must wonder what motivates a person to ask such a question. Has this person so little awareness and thought for others in the community that they seek to further punish those who are suffering through being inundated with dust? Do they have no concern at all for the residents who have developed respiratory problems over the summer? Where were they over the Labour Day long weekend when the very dry conditions and high traffic volumes generated enormous volumes of dust, not only blanketing our homes, but making a walk to the beach a very unhealthy and unpleasant experience? Do they not understand that this is likely to worsen over the upcoming Easter period?

It's difficult to know whether you should feel anger towards this person or feel sorry for them.

Hopefully property owners who previously voted no will be equally appalled by the question and ask themselves "Is this the type of person that I want to follow in the future?" I suspect they might say no once again.

Rod Chapman, Surf Beach

Stoush at council

What have Councillors become, in the remaining time of this Council? We witnessed a stoush at the March 20 meeting.

At the meeting we had in one corner off the chamber the heavy weight, Cr Whelan, title holder of everything green. If it's green is good for you and term deposit money must be laundered and dyed green before use.

In the opposite corner, we have flyweight Cr Halstead taking on Cr Whelan, and refereed by mayor Cr Le Serve.

In the preliminary bout question time, Cr Halstead came out swinging trying to clarify a question asked by a ratepayer and being king hit below the belt by Cr Whelan, for daring to interrupt. Cr Whelan is not a fan of public question time. In his time as mayor he attempted to have question time banned and while in office he refused to read out 128 community question from April to September 2023 (as confirmed by Council in response to my FOI question).

Cr Halstead asked if it was in the Bass Coast governance rules that councillors could ask questions of clarification. The governance officer confirmed it was. Knock out win by Cr Halstead.

Main bout: Cr Halstead tabled a motion regarding keeping a shire wide matrix/record of trees in public areas, that require regular inspection by arborists regarding the tree health due to incidents of falling limbs during storms etc. Cr Halstead witnessed such an incident recently in San Remo and tabled this motion due to community safety concerns.

Cr Whelan replied this was an operational matter, dealt with by council staff and should not come to the chamber. He stated that due to climate change the trees were under stress and admitted falling tree

branches are a public risk, but having a matrix of trees was unnecessary. In fact, he showed a lack of understanding of a matrix. My score, a knockout win by Cr Halstead.

I believe Bass Coast ratepayers can do better, so in October have a good look at who should represent you at the upcoming Bass Coast council election.

John Trigt, Surf Beach

Who is to blame?

Yet again we read Ross Bencraft bleating about his perception of Bass Coast Shire Council's failure "of any councillor to contact any member of the SBSB No Group discuss a design solution that the majority of ratepayers would accept?" (March 15, 2024).

May I suggest he look very closely in the mirror as his actions and those of the core Say No group are largely to blame as to why the council would not meet with them. Many emails received by council from the core No quarter were extremely adversarial. The group constantly urged those who were on the No side to bombard council with an ever increasing and overwhelming number of emails and letters for their monthly meetings. They also urged that many calls be placed to the lead engineer of the Special Charge Scheme project.

If you only offer a combative and aggressive stance no wonder the council did not want to meet. I must also question Mr Bencraft's statement that the No campaign was offering a "design solution that the majority of ratepayers would accept". Really? My family has received no correspondence outlining their proposal. The only so-called solution was one proffered by Phillip Davy which amounted to the idea that one half of each road length to have drainage pipes laid without any consideration to what happens to the road's surface.

Mr Bencraft should look closer to home for why the No Campaign failed to get council to engage with them instead of trying to play the blame game. Again, I remind him that he and the No Campaign do not represent a large percentage of rate-payers of both the Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay estates.

Michelle Jean, Surf Beach

Bad attitude

I am appalled watching the Bass Coast Council Meeting (March 20) and the councillors attitude towards one another.

Both Cr Whelan and Mayor Le Serve's rude, aggressive and dismissive attitude towards Cr Halstead was uncalled for and certainly unwarranted. This is not the first time we have seen such behaviour and attitude. Cr Larke, who is a long serving elected representative of the Bunurong ward, has been on the pointy end of Cr Whelan, Cr Tessari and Cr Laing's barbed attitudes and demeanour for countless months and it is never ending.

Do these councillors need reminding that they are there to represent those who voted for them, their constituents, and that their aggressive attitudes have no place within council chambers? You are representing us, many thousands of ratepayers, and we expect more. There is a cry out for more diverse representation of ratepayers via new councillors. Yet when this continued behaviour keeps occurring within council meetings, it makes us all question why we would ever consider joining the fray and subjecting ourselves to this aggressive and bullying rudeness that we are constantly seeing.

You can and must do better. *Ann Grose, Surf Beach*

SPORT



Passionate about football and the environment, in his new role as "Can-Man", Jess plans to collect all the cans and bottles used at home games and recycle them, raising funds for the PIFNC.

If anyone can, Jess can!

COMMUNITY

He is a well-known and muchloved member of the Phillip Island Football Netball Club (PIFNC), and this year Jess Gislingham has found a way to combine his love of football with his passion for sustainability.

In his new role as "Can-Man", Jess plans to collect all the cans and bottles used at home games and recycle them.

He is working in conjunction with the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) run by Will Hams and Lucas Webb at Harvey Drive in Cowes, and all the money raised by the recycled bottles and cans will go to PIFNC.

Not only will this raise vital funds for the club, Jess said it will help create a cleaner footprint, reducing the waste left at the ground, and diverting waste from landfill.

Anyone wanting to contribute can drop their recycled collection into Jess at the club, who will then deposit it for them, or donate their home recycling funds at the CDS to the "Can-Man".

At games, Jess will be easy to spot, thanks to Steve Price at CC Signs, who created the "Can-Man" signs and turned them around in record time for the first match of the season.

Graduate

The inspiration for "Can-Man" came through a series of roles Jess has undertaken at high profile events, through his Impact21 course at Torrens University in Melbourne

The two-year program helps participants gain independence, identify and build strengths and develop employability skills.

Ultimately the aim is to provide a pathway to open employment and Jess has a long-term goal of a career in the sports industry.

the sports industry.

He graduated last week and has made the most of his opportunities.

Through the course, he secured a role working for Ten-



Jess has worked with Green My Plate at several events, including the Moto GP and Formula 1 on the weekend. More photos at pisra.com.au.

nis Australia at the Australia Open, as a Customer Service Ambassador.

Unsurprisingly, Jess took to the role with enthusiasm, dedication and good humour – and has secured himself an ongoing role at the Australian Open.

The inspiration for "Can-Man" came after Jess worked with Green My Plate at several events, including the Moto GP and Formula 1.

Green My Plate is a sustainable reusable plates and bowls service aimed at eliminating single-use food packaging from events.

Co-Founders Jess Fleet and Will Overman have a passion for sustainability and also see the benefits of a diverse workforce which improves workplace culture, productivity and employee retention.

They identified an opening in their business to employ

people with a disability and actively sought to fill a position.

Jess now has an ongoing role with Green My Plate.

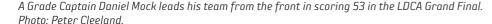
His proud mum Carol said this role "ignited a passion for Jess to become a leader in sustainability".

Looking for ways to showcase the environmental impact waste has on the planet, and how he could help, the idea of "Can-Man" was born.

Jess plans to make a big difference to both the planet and the club with his recycling role.

The 2024 season kicks off with the Easter Round on Saturday, March 30 at the Cowes Recreation Reserve, with Phillip Island taking on the Warragul Industrials.

Come down and support the football and netball teams – and make sure to keep an eye out for "Can-Man".





Eli Richards and Shiran Rathnayake scored the winning runs in their 30-run partnership to see A Grade victorious. Photo: Peter Cleeland. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport.

A Grade stuns in Grand Final victory

From page 32

Eli Richards (7-not-out) combined with Shiran to see the island through to 3/153.

In the most emphatic fashion, the aggressive Rathnayake ventured forward and then swaggered back to hit a straight six off the back foot to give Phillip Island their third A1 title in as many years. This was a convincing seven wicket win where the opposing team were never in control of the match at any stage.

With the continuing improvement of their younger players, it is hard to see where their challengers will come from for next season.

The Workman's Club bowling line up had toiled manfully for little reward with James Sheerin 1/19 off 17 overs, Ryan Thomas 1/36 and Ryan Birkett 1/24 being the successful bowlors.

Umpires John Schelling and Ashley Stride did an outstanding job of umpiring the match.

Lachlan Cleeland for his five catches as wicket keeper and 41 runs opening the batting was awarded the man of the match.

The Sharks celebrations will go long and strong into next week.

C Grade

The island's C Graders travelled to Outrim to take on Kilcunda - Bass (KB) in the Grand Final



The C Grade Sharks bowled out for 160 at the end of day two - a commendable effort for the islanders. Photo: South Gippsland Sentinel Times.

over the weekend.

The island lost the toss and were sent out to field.

The Cleary brothers opened the bowling and Mick struck first, bowling the dangerous Mc-Clean.

Peter Cleary then removed the experienced Miller when Francis

took a sharp catch in the gully.

KB then built a strong partnership which took them all the way to lunch break (2/170).

Mick Cleary then took a direct hit runout shortly after the break to give the islanders some hope.

The runs however, kept flow-

ing for KB as the islanders missed several chances and it wasn't until Parry took a sharp catch that they got another breakthrough.

Fall then took a catch to get the islanders' fifth wicket, with KB batting out for the rest of the innings ending on 5/317. An incredible knock by Steve Oates ended the day on 158-not-out – one of the great Grand Final innings.

With a mammoth task ahead of them as day two rolled on, the Sharks opened the batting with Dave Fusinato and Gav Excell who got off to a solid start until Dave was caught behind for 17.

Niven was bowled for a duck

Niven was bowled for a duck and Excell was ran out for 17, leaving the Sharks 3/36, Shortly after, Drew Fusinato was then caught for one and the Sharks were in trouble at 4/46.

Francis and Mick Cleary came together and set about rectifying the innings, with the pair putting on a partnership of 70 before Francis was caught behind for 31.

The Cleary brothers got the team to the lunch break with the score at 5/123.

Peter Cleary was stumped for 10 after the break as the game began slipping away. Mick Cleary was then caught for 54 – a determined captains knock.

Parry was LBW for one, Paterson was caught for four and Fall was bowled for one, leaving Mani on 16-not-out.

The Sharks bowled out for 160. Congratulations to KB on a comprehensive victory.

Well done to the island's C Graders who had a commendable season, only losing two games overall and finishing runners up.











SGSA aggregate points champions: Sandra Hadrian and Seth Mcbean.

Champs Day for the island

SWIMMING

On Sunday March 3, the Phillip Island Swimming Club attended the annual "Champs Day" for the final round of the swimming carnival season.

In previous years the final carnival has been held at Mirboo North, but due to the recent storm damage affecting the community pool and surroundings, the South Gippsland Swimming Association committee came together and decided they would host the last carnival as a fundraiser with all proceeds going to the Mirboo North Swimming Club.

The day was a great success with the Leongatha YMCA donating use of their pool for the morning.

Along with this, a thank you to Island Equipment Hire and Woolworths Cowes for making generous donations towards the

raffles.

"Champs Day" was the final chance for all our island swimmers to accumulate their last lot of points towards taking out the 2024 season shield.

Unfortunately, Phillip Island didn't come away with the win but came in third after Korumburra and Leongatha; they were followed on by Corner Inlet and Mirboo North.

The day was not only a great success for Mirboo North but also



Alice Martindale, who won big in many strokes.

for many of the island's swimmers, who took out the SGSA age champions in first, second and third places in many strokes. This was the perfect reward for all their hard work in the pool.

After the medal presentations, SGSA president, Taya Murdoch presented the under 14 and over 14 male and female aggregate points champion awards.

The club would like to congratulate Sandra Hadrian and Seth Mcbean on taking home the over 14 male and female category, what a great achievement

The committee would like to



Zen Dali, proud of his efforts this season.

thank all the swimmers for always showing up and giving it their best.

Also, a big thank you to the parents and families for all their time, travel and commitment along with their help throughout the season.

The club looks forward to their annual presentation and AGM meeting in the coming weeks, please keep an eye out on the Phillip Island Swimming Club's socials and emails regarding this.

For any enquiries on training dates, times and vacancies please contact: swimclub@waterfront.net.au.



Nikki Van Dijk, in action at the 2022 trials, made it through to the Semifinals in this year's trial, but missed out on a spot at Bells. Photo: Ed Sloane/WSL.

Locals miss out at Bells

SURFING

Seven surfers from Phillip Island and Bass Coast travelled to Bells Beach on the weekend to compete in the Rip Curl Pro Trials.

The Trials determine the three final wild card entries into the main event.

In the men's, Harry De Roth narrowly missed the Final, just 0.9 behind the fourth qualifier, with Stephen Noble a further 2.23 points behind Harry.

The other local surfer, Rye Cicero was knocked out in the quarterfinals.

Tully Wylie eventually took out the final and will now go on to compete at Bells.

In the women's draw only

Nikki van Dijk made it through to the semifinal, with other local surfers Sophie Fletcher, Lillian Bassed and Sarah Seuren knocked out in Round 1.

Ellie Harrison came out on top and scored herself the wild-card.

In the Rip Curl Men's category, four competitors battled it out, with George Pittar eventually securing the win.

The waiting period for The Rip Curl Pro, presented by Bonsoy, began on Tuesday March 26 and concludes Friday April 5.

Trials results and scores can be found via www.surfingvic. com/live and further information on the Rip Curl Pro can be found via www.surfingvic.com/rip-curl-pro.

This week's league results

TENPIN BOWLING

Phantom: 1st place on 8 pts Saucer, 2nd place on 7 pts Nooki and 3rd place on 6.5 pts The Jimma.

2s Company (Monday league): 1st place on 15 pts Pinpushers, 2nd place on 8 pts Tinabe and 3rd place on 8 pts Him and Her.

ABL – Almost Bowling Legends (Wednesday league): 1st place on 61 pts Kool Kats, 2nd place on 60 pts Knackers and 3rd place on 55 pts Storm.

Business Early – top four finalists (Thursday league): 1st place on 13 pts Happy Hour, 2nd place on 10 pts Old Timers, 3rd place on 10 pts Wooly Balls and 4th place on 10 pts Balls Deep.

Business Late – top four finalists (Thursday league): 1st place on 12 pts City Lights, 2nd place on 11 pts Jd's, 3rd place on 11 pts S&R

Clarke Auto and 4th place on 10 pts New Image Painting.

This week's top scorers across each league:

Women: Mary Dardha 191, Karen Klym 170 and Sue Gale 169.

Men: Jack Aitken 258, Jason Bence 238 and Dean Bacon 232.

Monthly probus tournament

Recently, both Corinella and Phillip Island's probus went head-to-head with their monthly tournament.

Phillip Island placed second with a total pinfall of 812, leaving Corinella to take the win with a total pinfall of 855.

Top scores for the day:

Women: Faye (Corinella) and Lorraine (Cowes) tied with a total score of 192 pins.

Men: Red (Corinella) finished with a total score of 244 pins.

League heats up in round three

ПАРТС

The Phillip Island Darts League (PIDDL) witnessed another night of heart-stopping action in round three.

Close matches, nail-biting finishes and stunning displays of skill had the crowd on the edge of their seats.

The Vikings continued their reign of terror, demolishing the Breakers 6-1.

The Mustangs fought valiantly against the Dart Vaders, but ultimately fell 5-2.

Similar stories unfolded across the board, with That's All edging the Jaggers 4-3 and the Riverboys outlasting the Joes Hornets in a tense 4-3 battle.

The league standings paint a



Di was the winner of this week's San Remo Butchers meat tray.

clear picture: The Vikings and That's All are tied at the top with a flawless 3-0 record. The Storm sit comfortably in third with six points, while the Jaggers and Dart Vaders are locked in a fierce battle for fourth, both boasting five points.

While it's early days, the Vikings and That's All are the teams to watch.

However, teams like the Storm, Jaggers and Dart Vaders are hot on their heels.

The rest of the league needs to find their A-game if they want to be in the challenge for a playoff spot.

Congratulations to Di, who doubled her luck by winning both the coveted San Remo Butchers meat tray and the Crownies in the weekly raffle.

Don't miss a second of the electrifying PIDDL action as the season continues.

Results from the table

BRIDGE

On Monday March 18, the island's bridge players saw a pleasing seven and a half tables at play.

First place for North/South went to Bron Sund and John Farr on 55.46 per cent.

Greg Nicholson and Shirley Stewart finished second on 53.37 per cent.

In third place, Anne Gibson and Lois Dwyer finished on 51.44 per cent.

Deb Anglim and Susan Edwards took top honours for East/ West on 57.81 per cent, followed by Ann Green and Phillip Rinder on 54.51 per cent.

Anne Hodgson and Caroline Shaw came third on 52.78 per cent.

Clare and Jim Murphy also claimed some masterpoints on 51.78 per cent.

Wednesday, March 20

Leading the way so far on club pairs are Greg Nicholson and Shirley Stewart on 59.26 per cent.

Judy O'Connell and Molly Downing are sitting in second place on 56.48 per cent and in third place are Marnie Myall and Caroline Shaw on 55.09 per cent.

Euchre results

Ladies' winner: Bet Stevenson with seven wins.

Men's winner: Jeff Bryce with six wins.

Encouragement award: Bev Baulderstone.

New players are most welcome to join euchre at the RSL on Thursday nights.

For further information contact Bob Hee on 0418 173 388.



Last Saturday, the Breakers Soccer Club gathered in solidarity with the Munday family to pay tribute to former player, Jake Munday. More photos at pisra.com.au/sport

Breakers pay tribute to Jake Munday

SOCCER

Last Saturday evening (March 23) the Phillip Island Breakers Soccer Club gathered to honour the memory of former player, Jake Munday who passed away last year.

Hosted at the Newhaven Recreation Reserve, the tribute game - organised as a gesture of solidarity and support for the Munday family - saw an overwhelming turnout, a testament to the impact Jake had on the community and the club.

Jake's passion and dedication for soccer began in childhood, his dad, Mark Munday recalls, "having fun with the ball started at an early age for Jake, he loved his soccer".

In honour of Jake's memory, the club announced the dedication of a trophy in his name.

Awarded annually, the trophy will recognise a junior player who demonstrates passion, respect, teamwork and versatility qualities that were synonymous with Jake during his time at the club.

The Breakers stated that, "Jake and his family had been a part of our club for a number of years and contributed to our club in such a positive

Mark expressed his gratitude for the support, from both the community and the soccer club.

"It was great to be among all those fond memories again, watching his soccer mates, peers and team play a game they love in memory of our dear Jake," he



Last week's winners: Steve Hickson (S), Claire Sheers (2), Elaine Williams (L) and Mark Hanrahan (3).

Corinella hosts perfect conditions for midweek

BOWLS

Forty midweek bowlers took to the green in perfect autumn weather last week, to once again fight it out for team of the week at the Corinella Bowls

Some great bowling was had by many players with a few wayward shots but overall, the bowling was first class.

A couple of wrong bias shots helped increase the funds in the RCH tin prior tion. Great work everyone.

Winners with a score of 35 were: Steve Hickson (S), Mark Hanrahan (3), Claire Sheers (2) and Elaine Williams (L).

Runners up on 25 points were: John Nicholson (S), Peter McWilliams (3), Anne Graham (2) and Tony Morris (L).

Best one game winners on a score of 22 were: Michael Dady (S), Margaret Hoy (3), Gwen Jeffrey (2) and Frank Verco (L).

his efforts behind the bar as well as in the kitchen, and not to forget Sonya for her work both in the kitchen as well as clearing up outside after the games.

Peter, Pauline and John once more deserve our praise for all their efforts.

On Thursday, the club will be meeting at San Remo to continue their weekly challenge, please be on site before 10am.

Meanwhile, have a safe

It's our 70th Anniversary!

The club would like to invite members, families and friends to celebrate this momentous occasion.

There will be activities for kids and challenges for the bigger kids too. The afternoon will finish with some social tennis and lots of reminiscing.

Let's go down memory lane and experience some fun 50's style with BYO finger food & drink, music and games to remember what it was like when the club first opened its gates

We hope to see you all there to celebrate our club!

14th April 2024

12pm onwards

Phillip Island Tennis Club

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Saturday social back on the green

BOWLS

With the pennant season completed, Saturday social bowls is back in full

With our pennant play-

ers needing a little competition and with perfect conditions for bowling, the island's bowlers did not let us down.

Runners up for the day: Skip Phil Martin, 3rd Ray Pepper, 2nd Ray Janssen and Lead Merrilyn King.

Congratulations to the winners: Skip Norm Waters, 3rd Lindsay Meredith, 2nd Paul Brown and Lead Kim Frost.

Social players host visitors from Beleura

BOWLS

It was once again, another perfect day for social bowls with brilliant sunshine and a gentle breeze last Thursday (March 21).

Along with our regular bowlers we had 28 visiting bowlers from Beleura retirement village which meant a full house at the der and Lead T. Lansley. bowls club.

The standard of bowling was exceptional, and a great day was had by all with a promise from Beleura that they will be retuning again next year.

In third place: Skip Jenny Hunter, 3rd Dave Saric, 2nd Terry Schnei-

Runners up: Skip Serge Castel, 3rd Bill Butler, 2nd Nola Brown and Lead Errol Bradford.

Congratulations to our winners this week: Skip Lindsay Meredith, 3rd Lyn Rogerson, 2nd Harry Hawkins and Lead Bev

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14 BEACH RD, RHYLL PHILLIP ISLAND



Australian Air Safari Director Tony Kirkhope (left) with the Division 1 winners Chris Boag and Matthias Houvenagle (missing), plus second and third place getters James McDonald and Anton Schwarze and Emma Rankin and Beau White.



Ian Samual (right) presented the Division 2 prizes on behalf of the Isle of Wight. Archie Gargett and Anna Jordanov (1st), Peter Kiely (2nd) and Peter Dunk and Kate Hyde (3rd).



Jeni Modra (left) presented the Division 3 prizes on behalf of Modra Technologies. Gary Maskiell (1st) and Cameron Brown and Paul Ludovic (3rd). Missing Geoff Rowdon and Taylor Woodward

Epic battle in catamaran challenge

SAILING

The Cowes Yacht Club Around French Island National Catamaran Challenge was run last Saturday. It was the third supersized event and the most successful so far.

The event was started by Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale on board the Wildlife Coast Cruises vessel the Casey Lee at 12 noon.

The Casey Lee provided the perfect spot for 80 spectators to watch the start of the three divisions with entrants from Westernport Yacht Clubs, Port Phillip Bay, Gippsland, South Australia

and New South Wales.

Westernport served up a moody and overcast day with variable winds and strong tides that caused many boats to capsize before reaching Corinella and forcing two retirements.

There was steady southerly wind which turned south westerly by the end of the race which helped provide good conditions across the northern side of French Island from Lang Lang to Hastings.

As always the race was another epic battle with many race leader and division leader changes with tense racing down the final leg from Hastings back to Results Cowes as crews started to tire.

Chris Boag and Matthias Houvenagle from McCrae Yacht Club secured the coveted Isle of Wight Trophy for the first boat across the line having sailed in just over four hours and 19 minutes to cover the course around French Island in an anti-clockwise direction - a route of 70 kilometres as the crow files but closer to 100 kilometres was sailed.

The last boat sailed by Ian Hart arrived home after having been on the water for nearly seven hours as the sun was starting to set.

Division 1: Chris Boag and Matthias Houvenagle, from McCrae Yacht Club on a F18, Line Honours winners of the Isle of Wight Cup.

Second was James McDonald and Anton Schwarze from Frankston Yacht Club on a F18 and third Emma Rankin and Beau White from The Royal Prince Alfred Sailing Club in Pittwater, NSW, on a F18. Emma was also the winner of the first female skipper.

Division 2 (sponsored by Isle of Wight): Winner was Archie Gargett and Anna Jordanov

from Kurnell Catamran Club, NSW, on a Taipan 4.9 sloop.

In second place was Peter Kiely from South Gippsland Yacht Club on a Mosquito with a spinnaker and third was Peter Dunk and Kate Hyde from Lake Bonney Yacht Club, SA, on a Taipan 4.9 sloop.

Division 3 (sponsored by Modra Technology): Winner Gary Maskiell from Gippsland Yacht Club on a Mosquito.

Second Geoff Rowdon and Taylor Woodward from Somers YC on a Hobie 16 and third Cameron Brown and Paul Ludovic on a Hobie 16.

Gabe saddles up for overseas

EQUESTRIAN

Newhaven College student Gabe Smith is heading for Italy and France, after being selected to represent Australia in three different equestrian events.

His first stop will be the International Mounted Games Association Under-18 Team Championship in Arezzo, Italy in July.

He will then travel to La Scuderia where he and younger sister Gisele will represent Australia in the World Individual Championship in the Under-18 and Under-15 categories respectively.

Finally, the siblings will fly the flag again for Australia, both competing in the World Pairs Challenge in La Bonde in France.

Last year Gabe competed in the International Mounted Games Association Teams Challenge, where he and his Under-18 team won the championship.

This was a historic moment for Australia, as it was the first time the country had won the event.

Gabe and his team not only won the World Championship but he was also crowned as the top rider of the Under-18 competition by 13 international coaches. He has been the Australian Under-18 Champion for two consecutive years.

Commitment

Following his equestrian dreams is a huge commitment for Gabe and his family.

Mum Natasha is organising to head overseas with Gabe and Gisele for four weeks, juggling schedules so they can arrive a week before the first comp, to get a horse sorted for Gabe to ride.

He's hopefully secured a pony to use for the two Italian events, for a \$3000 fee.

To take his own pony could cost around \$40,000, well outside of the family budget, and involve a month of quarantine for the horse either side.

That would leave Gabe without a horse for local competitions



Newhaven College student Gabe Smith is heading for Italy and France, after being selected to represent Australia in three different equestrian events.

in the lead up to the championships.

Even without taking his own horse, Natasha estimates it will cost around \$26,000 for Gabe to compete and she is currently working to secure sponsorship to help with the cost of the trip.

The family needs to cover all the travel and accommodation costs and will rent houses at the events, or travel in a Winnebago.

"At this stage, it will just be me with Gabe and Gisele," Natasha

"My husband and our other son would like to come over and support them, but that will depend on finances.'

Alongside his equestrian championships, Gabe is also tackling Year 12 and will miss the first three weeks of term three.

Natasha said he will need to study and do assignments while on the trip and the College has been really supportive of him chasing his dream.

While Natasha works through the logistics of the trip, Gabe remains focused on his riding, with several local events to tackle before heading overseas.

Next week he will head to NSW for the three-day Australian Mounted Games Teams Championship.

In May, he will compete in the State and National Individual Championships in Ballarat.

You can follow Gabe's progress in the lead up and during the event via Instagram: @gabe. smith40.

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN BLACK													
WED 27 MAR		THU 28 MAR		FRI 29 MAR		SAT 30 MAR		SUN 31 MAR		MON 1 APR		● TUE 2 APR	
HIGH	3:18 am 2.59 m	HIGH	3:53 am 2.64 m	HIGH	4:24 am 2.67 m	HIGH	4:53 am 2.69 m	HIGH	5:24 am 2.69 m	HIGH	5:55 am 2.67 m	LOW	12:30 am 1.06 m
LOW	9:12 am 0.83 m	LOW	9:45 am 0.69 m	LOW	10:18 am 0.59 m	LOW	10:51 am 0.51 m	LOW	11:24 am 0.46 m	LOW	11:57 am 0.44 m	HIGH	6:28 am 2.63 m
HIGH	3:52 pm 2.72 m	HIGH	4:30 pm 2.85 m	HIGH	5:07 pm 2.94 m	HIGH	5:43 pm 2.98 m	HIGH	6:18 pm 2.99 m	HIGH	6:55 pm 2.95 m	LOW	12:30 pm 0.45 m
LOW	9:38 pm 0.99 m	LOW	10:14 pm 0.98 m	LOW	10:47 pm 0.97 m	LOW	11:20 pm 0.98 m	LOW	11:55 pm 1.01 m			HIGH	7:32 pm 2.88 m

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The victorious A Grade Sharks (from back left): Max Royal, Kohen Beaumont, Tom Niven, George McCausland, Zac Brown and Simon Kirton. From front left: Eli Richards, Lachlan Cleeland, Daniel Mock, Brodie Johnston and Shiran Rathnayake. Photo: Peter Cleeland.

A Grade stuns in **Grand Final victory**

CRICKET

A Grade

By Peter Cleeland

Wonthaggi Workman's Club won the toss and elected to bat first at the picturesque Scorpion Park oval at Leongatha Secondary College.

Both teams lined up for a minute's silence in memory of the passing of Dennis Vague, a well-respected teacher and mentor from Wonthaggi Secondary College who was tragically killed in a road accident this week.

When the kookaburra started to fly on a brilliantly prepared turf wicket the island bowlers were not getting much assistance or response from the deck.

Mitch Thomas and his more cavalier partner Dempsey were being asked some difficult questions by the ever-improving left armer George McCausland. Dempsey (11) snicked off to McCausland with the score on 20, then Walsh (4) was caught courtesy of a rebound catch by Johnston off the hands of Max Royal in second slip at 2/24. McCausland then claimed the big wicket of Mitch Thomas for 15 snicking off with the score on 3/34.

Enter, Ryan Thomas (13) who tried to consolidate things with Beaumont (11).

Ryan who has been arguably the best cricketer in the LDCA for ten years tried to cut Tom "Rooster" Niven but only succeeded in putting the cherry in the gleeful Lochie Cleeland's hands.

The island juggernaut was starting to roll with the Workman's Club in more strife than Biggles at 4/51.

Admirably, club captain Joel Brann showed some spine with some clean, power hitting clearing the boundary on six occasions in his score of 61.

Stewie Beaumont lent great support to his captain with 11 off 95 balls. However, the island's first change bowler, Max Royal removed Beaumont, Geyer (0), McLean (1) and Sheerin (8) to have the Workman's 9/129 and on the ropes.

Seasoned campaigners Ryan Birkett (14-not-out) and Mark McCall (7) added 21 valuable runs before the island's opening bowler, Simon Kirton skittled Mc-Call's castle and the club had under batted being outed for 150 in good batting

Max Royal 4/41 and George McCausland 3/21 were the standout performers with the ball and they were well supported by Simon Kirton 1/27, Tom Niven 1/12 and Shiran Rathnayake who bowled 22 overs on the trot for a return of 1/39.

With 16 hostile overs to face the island openers, Cleeland and Johnston made a watchful but enterprising start to the innings. Johnston was cutting and pulling anything short, while Cleeland took toll of anything wide. With the score on 37, leg spinner James Sheerin came onto bowl and had Johnston caught at forward square leg in his second over.

The Workman's were jubilant at Sheerin's breakthrough which bought the imposing figure of OMK reject, Daniel Mock to the crease. Mock (6) and Cleeland (27) calmly saw out day one's proceedings with the score at 1/52.

Resuming on day two with 99 runs required for victory, island batsmen Daniel Mock and Lachlan Cleeland came out with a clear plan to counter the last onslaught from the Workman's attack. Mock, the busier of the two, worked the ball around scoring with ease while Cleeland dropped the anchor to lend a supporting role to his skipper.

Ryan Thomas produced the ball of the match, an inswinger vorker to Cleeland (41) to remove his middle stump and breathe some life into his teams' hopes with the score on 2/98.

However, the damage had been done and with 53 left to get, Shiran Rathnayake (28-not-out) and skipper Mock (53) were always on the lookout for runs. Mock succumbed being caught at mid-on with the score on 3/123 with 28 runs required for victory.

Continued page 28

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