

# PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO ADVERTISER

YOUR COMMUNITY VOICE!

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

\$2.00 Incl. GST

## What a blast! Farewell the Class of 2025



Newhaven College students celebrated their final day of school, showered with an explosion of confetti. The Year 12 celebrations included dress up days, a final school assembly and awards presentation, and a Valedictory Dinner. For more on Newhaven and Bass Coast Colleges' Year 12 celebrations, see pages 24 and 29.

## More rangers, more hours, so dog owners “do the right thing”

### PETS

Two extra enforcement officers will be employed by Bass Coast Shire Council, and officers' hours of patrol will be increased, to ensure dog owners follow regulations.

Councillors at the October meeting voted in support of the final Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029 (DAMP), sending a message to owners to “do the right thing”.

Following lengthy community consultation, most recently in September, the final DAMP includes a promise to “immediately deliver” inland fenced dog parks at Inverloch and Phillip Island

and “strengthened” 24/7 cat containment and desexing support.

But it was the issue of enforcement on which councillors focussed.

Cr Ronnie Bauer said the Phillip Island and Bass Coast Dog Owners Association and council officers had worked together on the plan, saying the main dog problem was enforcement.

“Unfortunately, at the moment it is too easy to roll the dice. The odds are if a person flouts an ordinance they will probably not get caught,” Cr Bauer said.

“I am glad to see (the council is) employing two extra enforcement officers and extending the hours of patrol so the amenities can be

enjoyed by all and ensure that pet owners do the right thing.”

Cr Tim O'Brien said increased numbers of officers would ensure compliance, with the “poor behaviour” of a few pet owners threatening wildlife.

Cr Mat Morgan thanked those who advocated “for the animals that they don't own”, including wombats, and hooded plovers.

“We need domestic animals and their owners to take responsibility for the actions of their animals that we've brought into the natural environment of our native wildlife,” Cr Morgan said.

“I'm glad we're acquiring a couple of new compliance officers,

hopefully this approach allows officers to educate those doing the wrong thing, without ruining it for the responsible pet owners.”

Cr Morgan said he remained “extremely concerned” after seeing photos and videos of dogs chasing wildlife and digging in burrows.

“That must stop.

“I will not hesitate to bring an urgent notice of motion to this chamber in future if I see this

*Continued page 12*

**Halloween**  
Page 16-19



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| Wed/Oct29    | Thu/Oct30    | Fri/Oct31     | Sat/Nov1      | Sun/Nov2      | Mon/Nov3      | Tue/Nov4      |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|              |              |               |               |               |               |               |
| MOSTLY SUNNY | MOSTLY SUNNY | SHOWER OR TWO | PARTLY CLOUDY | SHOWER OR TWO | SHOWER OR TWO | SHOWER OR TWO |
| 9 17         | 10 20        | 14 20         | 12 18         | 12 27         | 15 20         | 12 15         |



This year is the 150th anniversary of Wollomai winning the Melbourne Cup in 1875, with representatives from the Cleeland family invited to a reception at Government House to celebrate the anniversary. Wollomai painted by Frederick Woodhouse. Photo: Anne Jeffery.

# Celebrating 150 years since Wollomai’s Cup win

## RACING

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Wollomai winning the Melbourne Cup in 1875. Wollomai was owned by Captain John Cleeland and was born on Phillip Island and his win marked the first time the Melbourne Cup was run on a Tuesday.

Wollomai was an outsider for the Cup and was believed to have run at around 16:1. Ridden by Bob Batty who was considered the best all round jockey in

Victoria at the time he not only won but he beat Richmond the Cup favourite by several lengths in a time of 3.38.

Cleeland’s great grandson Mike Cleeland commented that “Wollomai was a very good horse”.

“He won the Warrnambool Cup that year and ran second in the Australian Cup”

Some members of the Cleeland family are attending a Melbourne Cup reception which is being held at Government House on Cup Eve.

# Home grown doctors’ milestone

## COMMUNITY

Two former Phillip Island locals, Dr Amy Fitzgerald (left) and Dr Stacey Davie, have achieved a remarkable milestone in their medical careers, both recently becoming Fellows of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRANZCOG).

Born and raised on Phillip Island, Amy and Stacey completed their schooling at Cowes Primary School and Newhaven College before pursuing their dreams of becoming doctors. After nearly two decades of study, training, and dedication – through university, junior doctor years, and specialist training – their hard work has paid off.

Although life has taken them to opposite sides of the country – Amy now lives in Perth with her young family, while Stacey has settled with her family in Brisbane – the two reunited in Adelaide to celebrate their achievement at the official FRANZCOG ceremony welcoming new Fellows.

The milestone marks not only a personal achievement for both women, but also a proud moment for the local community that supported them from the beginning.



Two former Phillip Island locals, Dr Amy Fitzgerald (left) and Dr Stacey Davie, have both recently becoming Fellows of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRANZCOG).

POLICE BRIEFS

## Neighbourhood Policing Forum

The Bass Coast Police Service Eyewatch is holding a Neighbourhood Policing Forum in Cowes at Berninnet (91-97 Thompson Avenue) on November 20.

The three-hour forum, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, is open to everyone, with police inviting local services and community members to talk about the issues that are important in our local community.

The forum will explore topics such as current crime trends, crime preven-

tion, family violence, young people, road policing and drugs and drug related crime.

The forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel and questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event.

This event is free, but registration is essential. To register please email your details to: [bass-coast-cluster-o@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:bass-coast-cluster-o@police.vic.gov.au)

To submit a question prior to the forum, go to the Bass Coast Eyewatch Facebook event page.

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

Cr Ronnie Bauer  
for the Island Ward,  
Bass Coast Shire

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922  
Tel: 0439 535 282  
email: [Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au)  
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The Island magazine won the Victorian Country Press Association award for Best Special Publication, then took out the national category as well. The Advertiser's graphic designer Staffan Hakansson and editor Eleanor McKay, with David Van Collier from Google News Initiative, who sponsored the National Awards.

## The Island wins back-to-back awards

### MEDIA

The Island magazine, produced by the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser, won the Best Special Publication award at this year's Victorian Country Press Association award night.

This is the second consecutive year The Island took out the award, with judge Josh Stephens praising the quality of the stories, the photography and the design of the magazine.

The Island then went on to win the special publication category in the National Awards as well.

"We are so thrilled with both these awards," said editor Eleanor McKay.

"It was exciting to win the Victorian award again; then to get the National Award really was the cherry on top.

"Our team puts their heart and soul into this magazine and we're so proud of it. It really is gratifying to have this acknowledgement from the Country Press Association.

"We started The Island at the end of Covid, when everyone was feeling pretty beaten down, as a way to celebrate where we live, and put a spotlight on local achievements," Ms McKay said.

"Our focus has always been on the ordinary people on our

doorstep doing extraordinary things. The way the magazine has been embraced and supported by the community is something we're very grateful for, and we do not take that for granted."

This year, the Advertiser was competing against Surf Coast Times, The Guardian, Midland Express and Wangaratta Chronicle in the Special Publications category.

"Again, we were up against papers with bigger budgets and more staff, so it's a testament to our small team that we continue to produce such a high-quality magazine every edition.

"We're currently working on the summer edition – which will be out at the start of December – and can't wait to share it with you all."

### Awards

In other awards, former Advertiser journalist Edmund Coleman was highly commended in the Cadet of the Year category, while Michael Giles from the South Gippsland Sentinel Times won the Best Opinion/Editorial award.

In the Victorian awards, the major winners included the Sunraysia Daily, winner of the open category Newspaper Excellence

award, the Kyabram Free Press in the under 2500 circulation paid newspaper category and the Surf Coast Times, winner of the Best Free Newspaper.

Ms McKay said the Victorian Country Press Association conference and awards was more important than ever, given the changing media landscape and the pressure on independent publishers.

"The conference is a way to get together and support each other, while the awards celebrate our collective achievements.

"It was inspiring to see the work our fellow journalists are doing in regional areas across the state.

"In these times, it's more important than ever to have local media reporting on local issues, that isn't controlled by a corporation based somewhere in the city, or even another country.

"The Advertiser is independent and locally owned and we're proud of our connection to our community.

"We want to thank everyone who supports the paper and the magazine, especially the readers who buy the paper every week, and the local businesses who advertise with us.

"Without them we wouldn't be able to do what we do."

## Cypress tree to be removed, replanted

### COWES STREETScape

One of Cowes' cherished golden cypress trees will be removed to make way for development in the current main street overhaul.

At the October meeting of Bass Coast Shire Council, resident Gina Rosamilia asked why the council was going to remove a low height heritage listed cypress at the bottom end (left side) of Thompson Avenue, as part of the streetscape upgrade which is under construction.

Council CEO Greg Box confirmed the tree would be removed.

"To achieve the necessary level changes for the new accessible ramping, the existing golden cypress tree will be replaced," Mr Box said.

"Its current location would be affected by the raised levels required to improve accessibility, which could impact on the tree's long-term health."

He explained "improved ramping" would be constructed on the west side of Thompson Avenue "to meet modern accessibility standards and ensure safe, easy movement for all members of the community".

Friends of the Thompson Avenue Golden Cypress president Pauline Taylor said the group was "appalled" the tree, the last one on the left going down Thompson Avenue, was being moved.

"By the time we were informed about what was happening it was too late as work was already starting," Pauline said.

"We found the proposal unbelievable. It is a direct result of having to comply with the modern-day health and safety regulations: the tree would be compromised by a reconstruction of a disabled walkway."

She said the tree would be uprooted and replanted at the council's depot, while another bigger tree was taken from the depot and planted about 10 metres further up the avenue.

The cypress tree being removed as part of the streetscape project was planted in August 2021, to replace a tree which had died. Friends of the Golden Cypress said the previous tree had had its top cut off and was slowly dying.



As part of the current Cowes' main street makeover, this golden cypress will be removed at the bottom end (left side) of Thompson Avenue, with a replacement tree planted further up the avenue.

### Heritage

The council is currently promoting the avenue of cypress trees, which have been named among this year's finalists in the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Victorian Tree of the Year awards.

The winner, which will be announced this week, is decided by public vote.

"At 113 years old, the golden cypress avenue forms an impressive, welcoming, and historical gateway to Phillip Island," the council said online.

Planted back in 1912 by local benefactor William Eastwood Thompson – with help from schoolchildren, families and volunteers – "these trees have grown into one of the most iconic avenues in Victoria", according to the council.

The Cowes' street upgrade will be rolled out across seven stages, with stage one starting last month to December, focusing on essential upgrades to water, sewer and stormwater, as well as new kerbs, lighting and landscaping.

Stage one will see one-way traffic on Thompson Avenue (from Chapel Street) and The Esplanade, landscaping and a reduction in car parking, with Thompson Avenue between the Esplanade and Chapel Street to have 36 car spaces – down from the current 53.

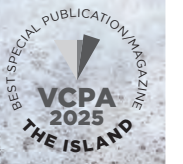
Along The Esplanade, car spaces will reduce from 10 to six.

[engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/thompson-ave-nth-and-esplanade](https://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/thompson-ave-nth-and-esplanade)

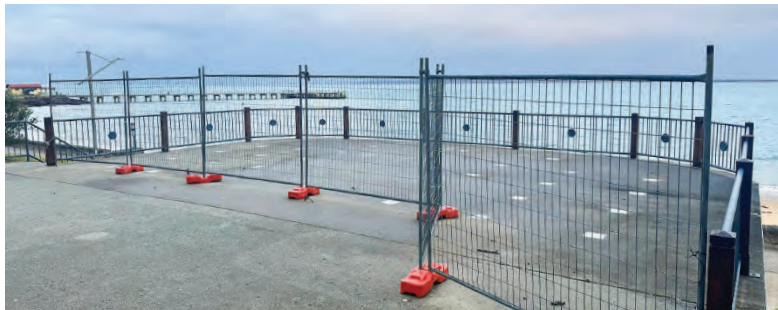
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The Cowes foreshore entertainment platform or amphitheatre has long hosted the annual community Christmas carols, but not this coming December as it cannot be used because of ongoing maintenance problems with the roof.

## Carols avoids unsafe platform

### COMMUNITY

This year's Carols by the Bay will be performed on a moveable stage, with the traditional platform closed indefinitely because of safety concerns.

Island Voice last week confirmed the annual carols will be performed on the Cowes foreshore as usual, but unlike past years will use a moveable stage at right angles to the North Pier Hotel.

"We will have a screen set-up near the toilet block for those who wish to sit on the stepped bank," Island Voice spokesperson Peter McMahon confirmed, adding food vendors will be on the road adjacent to the North Pier.

"We regret these changes but council have declared the amphitheatre is unsafe for us to use."

A Bass Coast Shire Council spokesperson confirmed the concrete roof entertainment platform had been closed for several months due to safety concerns identified during routine maintenance.

They said the toilets remained open, and the closure would not affect the ability for community

events such as the carols to proceed.

"We don't believe the issue relates to the absence of steel reinforcement in the concrete," the spokesperson said.

They said the current Cowes street makeover would also not impact the carols.

"Council remains focused on ensuring that business and events can continue with minimal disruption during the Cowes Foreshore Precinct project and looks forward to the completion of the revitalised precinct."

Peter said organisers would work around the Esplanade and Cowes main street construction works.

"We are taking all road closures in to account as we come to grips with the changes being made to our town."

"We will keep everyone informed via the Advertiser as we make the final arrangements."

"Looking forward to another successful carols event."

Carols by the Bay, Thursday December 11. Children's Entertainment 5pm, carols 7.15pm, fireworks 9.30pm.

## More focus on anti-vaping and gambling

### COUNCIL

Awareness of gambling harm and anti-vaping initiatives are among the new additions to final plans endorsed by Bass Coast Shire councillors in October.

Following community consultation on three draft plans in August and September, Bass Coast Shire councillors endorsed the final plans with several changes.

### Health

Following community consultation, the Healthy, Safe and Resilient Bass Coast Plan 2025-2029 has added gambling harm and anti-vaping initiatives.

Resident feedback saw older adults emphasise the importance of aquatics – including a Phillip Island swimming pool – and transport access, while young people sought more action on recreation, transport, and career pathways.

Council officers said in response to feedback, the plan was strengthened with year one actions now including anti-vaping and gambling harm initiatives, as well as advocacy for transport and climate-health.

There will be youth-led anti-vaping campaigns, as well as smoke-and vape-free signage in playgrounds and reserves, while a gambling harm awareness campaign will include Gambler's Help and Bass Coast Health.

### Disability

Community feedback on the Disability Action Plan 2025-



Gambling harm was a "major omission" in the council's draft health plan, released earlier this year, with the final plan now including a number of initiatives to educate on the harm.

2029 included safer and more accessible roads and footpaths, playgrounds and recreation spaces designed with accessibility and neurodiversity in mind, stronger recognition of carers, and disability-specific emergency planning.

The final plan has been updated to include advocacy to the State Government for road and path accessibility upgrades and neurodiversity considerations in public space planning.

Cr Mat Morgan said "every person in Bass Coast, regardless of ability, should be able to participate fully in community life, access the services they need, and feel that they belong".

### Assets

The Asset Plan received eight survey responses and one submission.

Submitters said the council should prioritise renewal and

maintenance of existing infrastructure over new infrastructure, while others said the council should manage for new growth.

Council officers responded the plan provided a "balanced approach" to providing new assets for a growing community and sustainable funding to maintain current assets, with sustainable asset investment guidelines to be developed.

Residents said there should be a greater focus on parking and congestion, especially around peak times, to which council officers said congestion was a focus of the Integrated Transport Plan, which was adopted earlier this year.

There were also calls to keep existing dirt roads in Sunderland Bay, to which officers replied the Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement Policy oversaw that policy.

Cr Jon Temby said the council's \$1.5 billion worth of assets needed ongoing assessments, maintenance, upgrades and at times disposal.

"We should also be placing greater emphasis on our green assets, the Westernport Woodlands, our coastal vegetation and our natural environment more generally, these are the assets that attract our residents and visitors to our shire," Cr Temby said.

"They are also the rare assets that increase in value as they age."

Details: [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/strategies-and-policies/plans](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/strategies-and-policies/plans)

## Nature Parks to manage St Kilda Penguins

### WILDLIFE

Victorian families and visitors can enjoy a free and up-close experience with Melbourne's iconic little penguins from the new purpose-built viewing platform on St Kilda Pier.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopolous last week opened bookings for the free Penguin Viewing Experience on St Kilda Pier open for visitors from October 29.

The experience will be run by Phillip Island Nature Parks and with its decades of penguin conservation efforts, they will be able to guide and educate visitors about the penguin colony while ensuring the penguin's wellbeing.

"Penguin protection is at

the core of what we do on Phillip Island, and we're excited to extend our experience to the St Kilda Penguin colony," said Phillip Island Nature Parks CEO Catherine Basterfield.

Phillip Island Nature Parks said it has been sharing expertise on little penguins and tourism operations with the project team throughout the St Kilda Pier re-development.

The experience will feature a 150-metre elevated platform with accessible entry, seating and prime views over the penguin colony.

Volunteer group Earthcare St Kilda, which has helped keep the colony safe for more than 30 years, will continue to play a role in the penguin experience by helping look after the health

and wellbeing of the penguins.

The viewing experience opens after a settling-in period for the colony, giving the penguins time to adjust to activity on the new pier following a long break from visitors.

The experience will be free, but online bookings will be essential to avoid missing out during busy seasons like spring and summer.

The \$53 million St Kilda Pier upgrade was funded by the State Government, which includes a curved walkway, tiered seating, additional toilets, and community space near the St Kilda Pier Kiosk.

For more information and to book your ticket to see the St Kilda penguins, visit [penguins.org.au](http://penguins.org.au)



The little penguin viewing experience in St Kilda, from the purpose-built viewing platform, will be run by Phillip Island Nature Parks. Viewing is free, but bookings (which open October 29) are essential.

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# Borrowings remain high, expenses climb, income drops

## COUNCIL

Bass Coast Shire Council almost lost more cases at VCAT than it won, according to the 2024/2025 Annual Report.

The report was endorsed by councillors at the October meeting, showing borrowings continue to be high, and while expenses climb, income has dropped.

There were 17 VCAT cases in the past year, of which the council lost seven, a drop to 58 per cent, compared to 90 per cent the previous year.

The average time to decide planning applications, however, dropped from 127 days to 95 days, and 76 per cent of applications were decided within the required timeframes, with an increase of planning application decisions compared to the previous year.

The annual report also shows:

- Council received 11 non-compliance notifications for food premises and all 11 were followed up with an inspection;
- There are 312 full time equivalent staff with the CEO Greg Box's wage in the \$350,000 – \$359,999 bracket;
- All eight animal management prosecutions in 2024/25 were successful. In 2024/25, there were 269 animals collected and 136 were reclaimed by their owner. Of the 133 unclaimed animals collected, 89 were rehomed;

| November 11, 2024 – June 30, 2025                                 |                 |                |                          |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Councillor                                                        | Travel Expenses | Other Expenses | Professional Development | Total         |
| Cr Rochelle Halstead (Mayor November 20, 2024 – June 30, 2025)    | 15,978          | 1,307          | 4,349                    | 21,634        |
| Cr Brett Tessari (Deputy Mayor November 20, 2024 – June 30, 2025) | 6,159           | 821            | 3,667                    | 10,647        |
| Cr Meg Edwards                                                    | -145            | 560            | 2,281                    | 2,696         |
| Cr Mat Morgan                                                     | -               | 266            | 2,281                    | 2,547         |
| Cr Ron Bauer                                                      | -               | 300            | 2,281                    | 2,581         |
| Cr Tracey Bell                                                    | -               | 739            | 6,181                    | 6,920         |
| Cr Tim O'Brien                                                    | 2,557           | 571            | 2,281                    | 5,409         |
| Cr Jon Tenby                                                      | -               | 758            | 2,281                    | 3,039         |
| Cr Jan Thompson                                                   | -               | 291            | 2,281                    | 2,672         |
| <b>Total</b>                                                      | <b>24,549</b>   | <b>5,613</b>   | <b>27,983</b>            | <b>58,145</b> |

According to the 2024/25 annual report, councillor expenses from November 11 to June 30 totalled \$58,145.

- There was a 2.8 per cent increase in the cost of kerbside garbage collection – “primarily due to inflationary pressures affecting third party kerbside collection costs” – and for every 10,000 kerbside bins in Bass Coast, 1.14 are missed on collection day (compared to 2.7 the previous year);
- There were 66 sealed local road requests in 2024/25 compared to 71 requests in 2023/24; and
- Sixty-two per cent of library collections have been refreshed in the past five years.

## Budget

Borrowings as a percentage of rates is the highest this decade, currently 37 per cent, compared to 24 per cent in 2022 and a forecast 23 per cent in 2029.

Council expenses have reduced in 2024/25, to \$49,977, compared to \$54,737 the previous year.

The council's total operating expenses for 2024/25 were \$114 million (budgeted \$100 million) compared with \$103.8 million the previous year.

Total operating income for 2024/25 was \$123 million (budgeted \$103 million) compared with \$124 million for 2023/24.

Council delivered \$27.7 million in capital works in 2024/25 including stage 2 of Rhyll boat ramp seawall replacement and Cowes Senior Citizens Club Hall roof renewal.

Cr Tim O'Brien said the annual report was a “backwards and forwards-looking document”.

“We come in part way through,” Cr O'Brien said.

“Much of what we find in this report is a reflection of the past council.”

Cr Brett Tessari agreed, saying the new group of councillors were 11 months in the job and were “itching to get their teeth into this plan”.

# Yacht Club launches first membership offers to celebrate major upgrades

## SAILING

The Cowes Yacht Club is marking the completion of significant facility upgrades by extending two special membership offers to the local community for the 2025–26 summer season.

Cowes Yacht Club long known as more than just a sailing hub, has become one of Phillip Island's most popular spots for kayaks, fishing, stand up paddleboarding and a great social venue. It hosts regular catered dinners, happy hours, trivia nights, family BBQs, kids' movie sessions and other community events.

Set on what is arguably the most scenic and convenient site in Cowes, the club has just had a major refresh including additions of kids rooms, pool tables, new furniture and BBQ areas, meaning there is now room for more members to take advantage of the club.

Residents and holidays makers can choose between two options: a “two for one” membership, allowing two singles or two families to join for the price of one, or “two years for the price of one” for new members who join prior to Christmas.

The club is also waiving its usual joining fee for both offers. Commodore Andrew Janson said the



The Cowes Yacht Club is offering two new membership options, as well as waiving its usual joining fees, for new members who sign up prior to Christmas. Commodore Andrew Janson said the club was a brilliant place to relax and enjoy some of the island's best views.

club offers a welcoming atmosphere for all ages.

“Cowes Yacht Club isn't just about sailing, it's a brilliant place to relax, enjoy Phillip Island's best views, or have a drink at our fully stocked bar, where local Ocean Reach beer is our best seller,” he said.

“The two-for-one deal is perfect for neighbours, friends, or families who want a shared space in a great community.”

The club is home to an active sailing calendar, training programs, and major regattas. Members have access to more than 10 club boats, suitable for beginners through to seasoned sailors.

Limited storage space is

also available for off-the-beach and trailable yachts, powerboats, jetskis, stand-up paddleboards, and kayaks. Memberships start from as low as \$225 for a two-year single-person package.

Sailing training programs are again running at the club over the 2025-26 summer in early January, so if you are interested in taking up either of these offers or just starting by learning to sail then email the club for more information.

“We can't wait to welcome new members for this summer,” said Commodore Janson. For more details, contact [info@cowesyachtclub.com](mailto:info@cowesyachtclub.com)

/Sponsored article/

# Breakfast bonanza for bike lovers

## MOTOGP

It was another successful fundraiser at the St Philip's Hall this year, as parish volunteers served hundreds of hungry bike fans at the Community Breakfast.

Organiser Erena Norfolk said several thousand dollars had been raised for the parish, which would benefit St Philip's in Cowes as well as the centres in San Remo and Bass.

“Thirty-five volunteers took their turns on various tasks over the course of the weekend, from welcoming at the door to dishwashing,” Erena said.

“It was a great team effort.”

“The small team of cooks in the kitchen are just amazing; they worked tirelessly the whole four mornings.”

Erena said the breakfasts were uplifting, with “a friendly atmosphere and a good vibe”.

“As the team welcomed visitors it was good to see familiar faces who come every year for breakfast,” she said.

“It was also lovely to see many from the local community come in to buy breakfast too.”



Part of the kitchen team at the Parish Hall on Saturday morning. Fay, Mary and Dawn busy plating up a breakfast order. Photo: Lilian Heflingers. More photos at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)



A team of 35 volunteers worked all weekend to serve up the hearty breakfast, raising thousands for the Parish.



## Join Phillip Islands Home Of Social, Beach & Boating Fun

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Join a vibrant community at the heart of Phillip Island  
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With the Island's best view over beautiful Western Port Bay, the clubhouse is the perfect place to unwind



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# Early learning in the heart of Cowes

## EDUCATION

A new chapter in early childhood education is about to begin on Phillip Island. Opening in January 2026, Phillip Island Kindergarten (PIK) will offer an inspiring, play-based early learning experience for children aged three to five – in a setting that feels like home, because it is.

Built within a beautifully restored home at 39 Dunsmore Road, Cowes, PIK combines the warmth of a family environment with the professionalism of a purpose-built kindergarten. Operating as a long day care service that includes funded kindergarten hours, it offers flexibility and quality for local families.

### Vision years in the making

For Director D'Lene Johnson, the opening of PIK is the realisation of a vision more than two and a half years in the making.

“From the beginning, my dream was to create a space that reflects the joy, curiosity and creativity of childhood – a place where children feel safe, connected and inspired to learn,” says D'Lene.

That dream is now becoming reality thanks to the State Government's Building Blocks Grant, which recognised the need for additional kindergarten places on the island.

Working with local building design company DB Design, D'Lene ensured every aspect – from layout to lighting – supports both children's wellbeing and educators' ability to provide

exceptional education and care.

The architects have retained the character of the original home while introducing thoughtful design elements that enhance natural light, visibility and safety.

Outdoors, children will explore a natural play space featuring organic materials, sensory gardens and opportunities for discovery.

“We want to use our community as an extension of our program – the beach, the parks, the people,” says D'Lene.

“Building strong local connections gives children a deep sense of belonging.”

Construction by Excelcon has been meticulous, ensuring a high-quality finish ready to welcome children into an environment that invites curiosity and joy.

### Experience and passion

With more than 35 years' experience in early childhood education, D'Lene Johnson brings exceptional leadership and expertise to Phillip Island Kindergarten. Her career spans teaching, management, mentoring and senior leadership roles, including many years as Director of Early Learning at a leading Melbourne private school.

She holds a Master's degree in Early Childhood Leadership and has contributed to the sector as a Council Member of Early Childhood Australia (Victorian Branch) and as a speaker at national conferences.

Currently, D'Lene also serves as National Pedagogy Partner for a major early childhood organisa-



Phillip Island Kindergarten (PIK) will offer an inspiring, play-based early learning experience for children aged three to five – in a setting that feels like home.

tion, leading the design and implementation of a planning model for educators across Australia.

At the heart of her philosophy is a simple, powerful belief: play is the foundation of all learning.

“Hands-on, inquiry-based experiences encourage children to become curious, capable and self-motivated learners,” she says.

“Our role as educators is to nurture that natural drive to discover through meaningful, play-rich experiences.”

### Deep connection to the island

Phillip Island has long held a special place for D'Lene. Over the years, she has spent countless weekends and holidays at her family's Cowes home – and now, she's ready to make the is-

land a more permanent base for herself and her family.

“I'm looking forward to becoming part of the Cowes community, meeting families and building lasting relationships,” she says.

“What matters most is that families feel confident their child is in a kindergarten that truly focuses on happiness, learning, growth and discovery.”

### Flexibility and quality

Phillip Island Kindergarten is a private service operating 49 weeks a year, from 8am to 5.30pm, with 33 places per day. Children may begin attending from their third birthday and can attend from one to five days per week.

Unlike sessional kindergartens limited to 15 funded hours,

PIK offers a five-day-a-week kindergarten program, giving families greater flexibility. Fees are offset by the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for eligible families, and Free Kindergarten funding applies to remaining out-of-pocket fees for those nominating PIK as their funded kindergarten.

This model gives families the best of both worlds – the educational benefits of a kindergarten program and the practical support of long day care – in one beautiful, high-quality environment.

### Open Days in November

To celebrate its completion, Phillip Island Kindergarten warmly invites the community to visit during its first Open Day on Friday November 1 (10am – 1pm) and again on Thursday November 13 (4pm – 7pm).

Families can explore the new learning spaces, meet D'Lene and the team, and discover how PIK's play-based programs nurture curiosity, confidence and connection.

Whether you're a local family seeking a strong start to your child's educational journey or simply curious to see how this new addition will enrich the island community, you're warmly invited to come along, play and be part of the excitement.

Phillip Island Kindergarten opens January 2026 at 39 Dunsmore Road, Cowes.

Now taking enrolments. To learn more, visit the website [www.phillipislandkindergarten.com.au](http://www.phillipislandkindergarten.com.au) or call 0433 576 691.

/Sponsored article/



## Phillip Island Kindergarten

# Open day

39 Dunsmore Rd Cowes

## Everyone welcome!

Tour our brand-new, purpose-built spaces for 3 and 4 year old kindergarten and see where learning and fun go hand-in-hand.

Meet our passionate educators, explore our engaging classrooms and outdoor play areas, and learn about our unique curriculum that nurtures every child's potential.

**November 1<sup>st</sup> – 10am – 1pm**

**November 13<sup>th</sup> – 4pm – 7pm**

**Accepting enrolments for January 2026**

[www.phillipislandkindergarten.com.au](http://www.phillipislandkindergarten.com.au)  
0433 576 691



# Whale Festival up for award

## TOURISM

The 2024 Phillip Island Whale Festival is a finalist at the 2025 Victorian Tourism Awards.

The festival is produced by Destination Phillip Island with the support of an amazing committee, with members from Dolphin Research Institute, Wildlife Coast Cruises, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Events Team, Dr Sue Mason and Zev Landes.

Kim Storey from Destination Phillip Island said to be named as a finalist, meant the festival entry scored over 70 per cent of the judging criteria.

"We will be at the awards on November 27 competing with other entrants in the Festival and Events Category where the winners will be announced," Kim said.

She said the motivation behind the entry was to "showcase what an amazing festival it has developed into".

Although the festival entry is for the 2024 event (as that fell within the awards timeline), Kim said this year's festival had also been a resounding success.

There were 11,400 participants across all activities of the three days, up from 8841 attendees in 2024.

She said 6400 people came to the Festival Hub at Berninnet, up from 4852 in 2024.

The number of activities at this year's festival had also grown from 44 last year to 68 in 2025.

"The Festival Hub included six new installations created by local artist Zev Landes including a life size humpback pectoral fin," Kim said.

"The Hub hosted 13 exhibitors over the three days."

Over at the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, the Dolphin Research Institute/Two Bays Whale Project delivered paid workshops to over 400 attendees and presented a free Careers workshop.

"This year, 86 per cent of people at the



The 2024 Phillip Island Whale Festival is a finalist at this year's Victorian Tourism Awards.

Festival Hub were from intrastate, 12 per cent were local, and the remainder were from interstate or overseas," Kim said.

"And 79 per cent of online ticket purchasers were visiting the festival for the first time."

Kim said DPI also wanted to offer a huge congratulations to other local organisation who have been named as finalists at the Tourism Awards: Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment, Local Way Tours, Your Exclusive Tours, Wanderer Adventures and Explore Australia – "along with local favourite Harman Wines".

"It's an incredible line-up of passionate tourism operators and programs showcasing the very best of our region."

In addition, the Ken Hore Tourism Mentoring Program – proudly run in partnership with Destination Phillip Island, Destination Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Council since 2014 – is a finalist this year.

The 2025 Victorian Tourism Awards Gala Ceremony is on Thursday November 27, at Centrepiece, Melbourne Park.



Volunteers from the Phillip Island, San Remo and Wonthaggi Brigades at the circuit during this year's MotoGP.

## CFA keep community safe at Moto GP

### SAFETY

CFA crews successfully delivered fire protection and suppression services at the 2025 Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, held at Phillip Island October 17 - 19.

The event, which remains the largest major sporting event in regional Victoria, drew over 90,000 attendees and thousands of campers.

Months of planning ensured CFA was well-prepared to manage the unique risks associated with MotoGP including protection of the infield and outfield, camping areas, as well as providing increased capacity for the Phillip Island area due to large amounts of visitors.

The 2025 MotoGP Commander, Ricky Read, said the event was a huge operation.

"The event takes six months or more of plan-

ning so it was good to see it happen without any major incidents," he said.

"All our volunteers enjoyed the experience of working at the event and it was a really positive atmosphere both at the track and at the Phillip Island station."

CFA was placed inside the events emergency operation centre where they were able to work alongside the other agencies to ensure a smooth response to any incidents.

"I'd like to publicly acknowledge and thank all the CFA volunteers who committed themselves for the event over the weekend, both at the track and behind the scenes," he said.

"A massive shoutout to the Phillip Island Fire Brigade for hosting us and all the vehicles, as well as providing delicious breakfasts and dinners every day for

the track crews."

This year volunteers from all over District 8 put their hands up to volunteer at the event.

"We have to provide coverage to the event but we also have to ensure coverage of Phillip Island," Ricky said.

"It was really good to see our people out there giving everyone a hand and contributing to the overall positive vibe of the event."

"We also would like to thank Beaconsfield, Dalyston, Dandenong, Rye and Edithvale brigades for loaning their vehicles to the event for the week."

"We simply couldn't have provided the service we did without them and the volunteers who crewed them."

"Another great example of CFA members coming together to protect our communities."



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Bass Coast Health

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**Bass Coast Health's AGM and Open Access Meeting**

Thursday 27 November 2025, 2pm-3.30pm.  
**Silverwater Resort,**  
17 Potters Hill Road, San Remo.  
**Light refreshments from 1.30pm.**

Please contact: [publicrelations@basscoasthealth.org.au](mailto:publicrelations@basscoasthealth.org.au)  
to RSVP by 5pm, Friday, 14 November 2025.



# Another special charge approved

## COUNCIL

A special charge scheme on Links Street, Surf Beach, will go ahead, after 42 per cent of residents supported it.

Seven (58 per cent) submissions were received from the 12 affected property owners/occupiers in the scheme, with two (17 per cent) objecting to the scheme, which “is considered a low number of objections”, and five submissions of support (42 per cent).

“As the number of objections received is below 50 per cent, there is no legislative requirement preventing council from proceeding with the scheme (although notwithstanding this, council may still decide not to proceed with the scheme),” council officers said in the report, recommending the scheme go ahead.

Those liable to pay must do so within 12 months after the day on which the declaration is made.

The total cost of the scheme will be \$338,299 and the council’s total contribution \$76,388, with the maximum levy to be recovered from property owners \$261,911.

A property owner may apply to VCAT within 30 days of receiving the levy notice from council.

## Questions

Further questions were asked at the October council meeting about special charge schemes, with resident Philip Davy stating council had never explained who pays for the half road cost along the Esplanade frontage of Nature Parks land, “except to say Nature Parks is not liable”.

“Does Council pay the costs or do the ratepayers who live in the street?” Philip asked.

Council CEO Greg Box responded the southern foreshore land managed by PINP was not included in the scheme.

“Only the privately owned northern properties are considered to receive a direct and significant special benefit from the project,” Mr Box said.

Darren Murphy asked about Cowes west schemes.

“The Koala Estate has had the benefit of bitumen or dust suppression roads for 18 years,” Darren said.

“What is our special benefit under a



Yet another special charge scheme will go ahead, this time at Links Street, Surf Beach.

special charge scheme if we only want our roads resealed with no other not needed improvements such as kerb and channel, drainage or footpaths?”

Mr Box responded the Koala Estate was one of a pilot group of temporary sealing projects in the early 2000s.

“As the road is currently in a poor

state, the property owners would receive special benefit from a properly constructed and permanently maintained sealed road,” Mr Box said.

“Council would continue to inspect, maintain, and renew the new road seal and pavement in line with its sealed road network service standards.”



Rick Lacey accepts the Most Successful Exhibitor Trophy from Lauren Van Strijp of Bass Coast Shire Council.

# Purple Hen rules the roost at wine show

## AWARDS

Rick Lacey from Purple Hen won the Most Successful Exhibitor at the Gippsland Wine show, with the winery also taking out the award for Best Shiraz and Best Aromatic White.

Dirty Three Pinot Noir won the Best Wine of Show. In a record medal count, the 2025 show attracted 114 high-calibre entries with a strong focus on the region’s famed Pinot Noir and Chardonnay classes.

Rob Lightfoot, Wine Gippsland President, said there was a bumper haul of 55 medals, with an unprecedented seven gold trophies in the varietal classes as testament to the exceptional quality of wines in the region.

The record haul of 18 gold medals overall, 18 silver and 19 bronze, was presented by sponsors at the annual celebration held for 130 guests at Narkoojee Winery, Glengarry North. The judges described the pinot noir, chardonnay and shiraz classes as particularly exciting.

The prestigious Westpac Best Wine of Show went to Inverloch-based Marcus Satchell and Lisa Sartori’s Dirty Three Wines for the Dirty Three 2024 “Magic Dirt” Pinot Noir. This wine earlier won the coveted Best Pinot Noir Top Gold and trophy in a competitive category that produced a record five Gold medals, five

Silver and four Bronze from 24 entries.

The seven gold varietal class trophies included:

- Bass River Winery, Glen Forbes, won the Best Sparkling Gold and Trophy for the Bass River 1835 Sparkling Brut 2021.
- Purple Hen Wines, Phillip Island, won Best Shiraz and the Top Gold Trophy with their 2024 The Rooster Shiraz.
- Purple Hen also won Best Aromatic White Trophy with the Purple Hen 2025 Off Dry Riesling.
- Purple Hen won a further Gold with the Purple Hen 2024 Pinot Noir. They won Best Cabernet Sauvignon Varieties and Blends, a tally which earned them the Most Successful Exhibitor.

Dirty Three Wines also won Gold medals for the Dirty Three 2024 “All The Dirts” Chardonnay, and the Dirty Three 2024 “All The Dirts” Pinot Noir.

Showcasing three vintages of the same wine, Dirty Three Wines was awarded the Best Red Wine of Provenance, and also the Best White Wine of Provenance.

The wine producers involved in the awards then turned out in force for the inaugural Eat Drink Play Gippsland Festival at Leongatha, one day later for an incredibly popular event.

For full list of winners and photographs from the awards, see [www.winegippsland.com](http://www.winegippsland.com)

# Reduced speed limits improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians

## ROAD SAFETY

Reducing residential speed limits from 50km/hr to 30km/hr would significantly boost bicycle riding safety without majorly affecting car trip times, a study has found.

The findings come as Victoria enacts a new speed limit law allowing local councils to propose 30km/hr limits in school zones and local streets.

On Phillip Island, as part of the Cowes Streetscape plan, it is proposed to reduce the speed limit to 30km/hr along Thompson Avenue between Church and Chapel streets, with the section north of Chapel Street to be 20km/hr.

Early this year, speed humps and wombat crossings were installed along Chapel Street and Church Street, designed to slow traffic, with a recommended 20km/hr on the speed humps.

Modelling by RMIT University’s Centre for Urban Research showed bicycle riders’ exposure to roads with high levels of traffic stress dropped by 30 per cent when the speed limit was reduced from 50km/hr to 30km/hr.

Researchers rated every road in Greater Melbourne for traffic stress levels using a framework that considers factors like speed limits, cycling infrastructure and traffic volume, based on government sur-

vey data and travel modelling.

They found lowering residential speed limits to 30km/hr more than doubled the proportion of an average bicycle trip on low stress streets and roads from just over one-third to more than two-thirds.

Study lead author Dr Afshin Jafari said while driving at 30kph might seem slow, the limit mostly applies to residential streets, so it has little impact on average car trips, while the modelling showed the average short local trip only increased by about one minute.

Jafari said lowering speed limits was a practical, low-cost way to improve cycling safety.

“Slowing down vehicles is a cheap and effective way to improve safety while we wait for longer-term infrastructure upgrades.”

The 30km/hr residential limits would also encourage motorists to use main roads, leading to quieter residential streets.

“This should also create safer streets for our kids,” Jafari said.

While bicycle riding is often seen as the domain of city commuters, Jafari said outer suburbs stood to benefit the most from lower speed limits.

“Outer suburban streets often don’t even have footpaths, let alone other infrastructure to separate bicycle riders and pedestrians from motorists,” he said.



New research says reducing speed limits to 30km/hr would significantly boost bicycle riding safety, without a major impact on car trip times. New speed reduction measures were recently introduced in Chapel and Church streets in Cowes, with sections of Thompson Avenue to be reduced to 30km/hr and 20km/hr as part of the streetscape plan.





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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





From Newhaven College, winners of this year's poster competition Esther, Arabella, Venus, Jude and Airlie.



San Remo Primary - Grade 5-6 winners Allira, Lucille and Lucy.

# 'Water Heroes' take action to save every drop

## COMMUNITY

In celebration of National Water Week (October 20-26), Westernport Water is proud to announce the winners of this year's poster competition, which attracted an incredible 315 posters from six primary schools and one kindergarten.

The annual competition encourages students to explore the National Water Week theme through art and creativity.

This year's theme, "Water Heroes: Save Every Drop", inspired students to see themselves as everyday heroes – people who make small, positive choices that add up to big impacts. Whether it's turning off the tap, having shorter showers, or spreading awareness, every action helps protect our precious water resources.

"Congratulations to all our young Water Heroes who took part in this year's competition," Westernport Water's General Manager Corporate and Community, Gareth Kennedy said.

"It's inspiring to see how our local students are thinking deeply about the importance of saving water and protecting the environment.

"This year's theme, 'Water Heroes: Save Every Drop,' reminds us that everyone can make a difference. Whether you're at home, at school or outdoors, every little drop counts.

"Well done to all the talented

students who entered, and to Bass Valley Primary School winning this year's \$1000 school participation prize to support a sustainability project. We can't wait to see how they put it to good use."

Each year, Westernport Water staff look forward to the tough job of selecting the top three posters in each age category. Judges consider both creativity and how well the artwork captures the National Water Week theme.

Students from across the region embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and passion, producing colourful and thoughtful posters that highlight how everyone can play a role in conserving water.

The top three winners from each age group were recognised at their school assemblies over the past two weeks, and presented with Westernport Water prize packs, and gift vouchers from Turn the Page bookshop in Cowes. Every entrant also received a participation certificate to celebrate their effort.

The winning posters from each age category were also entered into the Victorian poster competition, competing against other regional winners for top honours in the State.

Venus from Newhaven College took home third place in the State-wide Grade 3-4 category.

For more information about National Water Week or the poster competition, please visit Westernport Water's website.

## 2025 NWW Poster Competition – Top three posters in each category

### 4-Year-Old Kinder:

Individual: Jarvis W – San Remo Preschool

### Prep:

1st Place: Nora H – Cowes Primary  
2nd place: Esther G – Newhaven College

Equal 3rd place: Quinn K and Ziggy J – Newhaven Primary

### Grade 1-2:

1st place: Arabella W – Newhaven College

2nd place: Bronte H – San Remo Primary School

Equal 3rd place: Eden P – Newhaven Primary School and Landon D – San Remo Primary School

### Grade 3-4:

1st Place: Venus M – Newhaven College

2nd place: Lillith B – Cowes Primary School

Equal 3rd place: Jude T and Airlie L – Newhaven College

### Grade 5-6:

1st Place: Lucille – San Remo Primary School

Equal 2nd place: Allira H – San Remo Primary School and Jamie Y – Cowes Primary School

Equal 3rd place: Lucy W – San Remo Primary School and Samantha E – Cowes Primary School

/ Sponsored article /



San Remo Primary winners – Grade 1-2 Bronte and Landon.



Newhaven Primary School winners, Eden, Ziggy and Quinn.



It was all smiles at Bass Valley Primary as students accepted a cheque for \$1000 from Westernport Water for the School Participation Prize.



Jarvis W from San Remo Preschool won the four year old category.



Cowes Primary School winners Nora H (Prep), Jamie Y and Samantha E (Grade 5-6), Lillith B (Grade 3-4).

JO03124AA

NATIONAL  
**WATER  
WEEK**

**2025 POSTER  
COMPETITION**

WESTERNPORT  
WATER

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE TALENTED  
LOCAL CHILDREN AND WATER HEROES WHO  
PARTICIPATED IN OUR POSTER COMPETITION.  
**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!**

**WATER HEROES**  
SAVE EVERY DROP



# ROADWORKS NOTICE

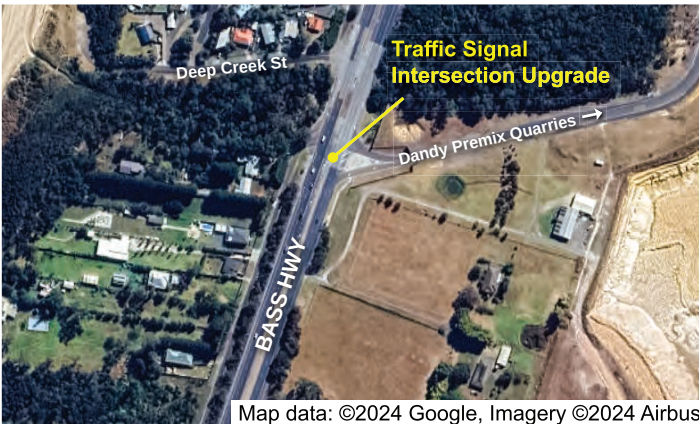
REGIONAL  
GROUP AUSTRALIA



## Bass Highway (M420), Grantville Traffic Signals Installation

New traffic signals will be installed at the Dandy Premix Quarries intersection to reduce truck traffic through Grantville and improve safety for pedestrians and motorists using the Bass Highway.

Works commenced July 2025, approx. 4-month duration  
Lane closures, reduced speed limits, contra-flow traffic  
Deep Creek St and Bass Hwy Service Rd access impacted  
Bass Hwy southbound bus stop temporarily relocated



Map data: ©2024 Google, Imagery ©2024 Airbus

### COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF ROADWORKS

**Stage 1 Roadworks** confined to the existing quarry intersection commenced early July 2025.

**Stage 2 Roadworks** on the Bass Highway Northbound carriageway commenced 14 August and were completed 19 September 2025.

**Stage 3 Roadworks** require temporary closure of the Bass Highway Southbound carriageway and the introduction of contra-flow traffic to the Northbound carriageway.

The left lane of the Northbound carriageway will continue to be used for northbound traffic and the second lane for southbound traffic after diversion across the highway median to share the Northbound carriageway. During **Stage 3 Roadworks**, each of the two lanes of the Northbound carriageway will have traffic moving in the opposite direction.

During **Stage 3 Roadworks** there will be reduced speed limits through the Bass Highway construction zone with modified traffic layouts and traffic controls in place to assist motorists.

### ROADWORK TIMES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

**Stage 3 Roadworks** will generally be undertaken Monday to Saturday (6 days/week) between 7.00am and 7.00pm. Some short-term roadworks may be carried out overnight.

**Stage 3 Southbound** carriageway roadworks will be carried out in two (2) phases –

- **Stage 3A** being the smaller section of roadworks north of the Quarry Entrance, with
- **Stage 3B** being the larger section of roadworks south of the Quarry Entrance.
- **Stage 1 Quarry Entrance** roadworks will also be completed during Stage 3A and trucks will commence right turn Quarry departure onto the Bass Highway northbound carriageway via portable traffic lights as part of Stage 3B.

**Stage 3 Traffic Controls** will include Variable Message Signs (VMSs), Safety Barriers, Portable Traffic Lights, Traffic Controllers and Truck Mounted Attenuators (TMAs) in operation.

### ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Deep Creek Street and the Bass Highway Service Road traffic will be temporarily impacted during Stage 3 roadworks.

**Deep Creek Street:** temporary use of Bonney Road for Bass Highway access and egress, including for Smith Street, Broome Court, Stewart Street, Malcolm Drive and Panoramic Drive traffic.

**Bass Highway Service Road (southbound, eastern side of Bass Highway):** temporary southbound egress to Bass Highway under traffic controller supervision. This will impact on traffic attending Grantville Cemetery, the temporary southbound Bus Stop and 1421 Bass Highway.

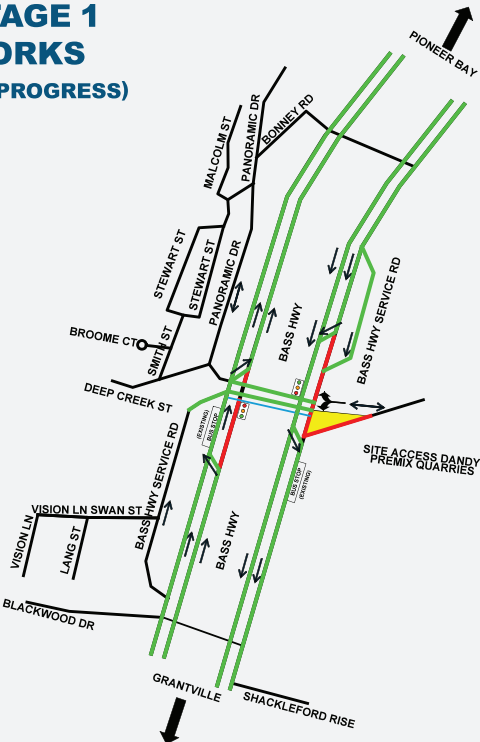
### BUS STOP - SOUTHBOUND

The Bass HWY southbound bus stop located in the Stage 3 roadworks zone will continue to be temporarily relocated further north (approx. 220m) in the Bass Highway Service Road (southbound) with signage, waiting area provision and pedestrian protection provided.

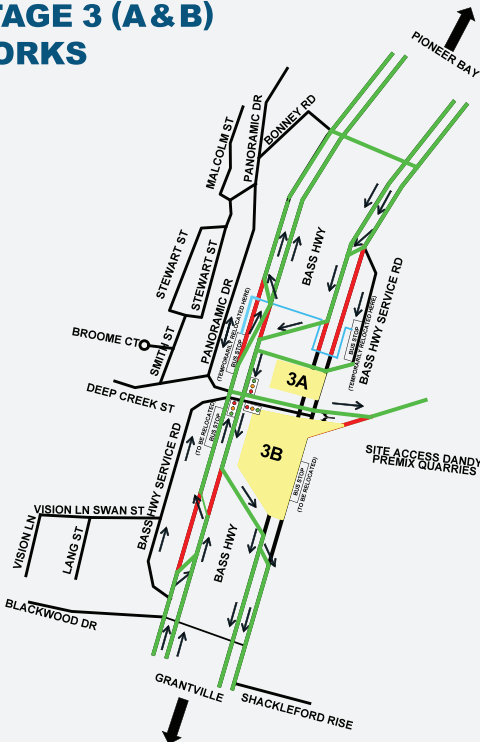
### PROJECT OUTCOMES

Installation of the Traffic Signals will enable trucks to turn right, northbound onto Bass Highway, resulting in a major reduction in quarry trucks through Grantville. The Traffic Signals will also improve Bus Stop pedestrian safety and assist safer Deep Creek Street traffic flows onto Bass Highway.

### STAGE 1 WORKS (IN PROGRESS)



### STAGE 3 (A&B) WORKS



**Motorists are urged to obey speed limits and traffic controls during the roadworks. Your cooperation will greatly assist the safety of workers, pedestrians & other motorists.**

**Please contact us for further information or to share your feedback.**

*Applicant*

Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd  
(Regional Group Australia)  
Garry Cranny, Sustainability Manager  
Email: gcranny@dandypremix.com  
Mob: 0419 587 440

*Head Contractor*

R&C Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd (Austek Roads)  
Simon Varghese, Construction Manager  
Email: simonv@rcasphalt.com.au  
Mob: 0427 480 668

### LEGEND

|  |                     |  |                   |
|--|---------------------|--|-------------------|
|  | ROAD CLOSURE        |  | TRAFFIC SIGNAL    |
|  | LANE CLOSURE        |  | SOUTHBOUND DETOUR |
|  | PEDESTRIAN CROSSING |  | NORTHBOUND DETOUR |
|  | WORK AREA           |  |                   |



# More rangers, more hours, so dog owners “do the right thing”

From page 1  
behaviour continuing post the adoption of this plan.”

## Wet lettuce

Cr Jon Temby said there was a “legal and moral responsibility” to allow wildlife to exist undisturbed, as they were “here first”. “Strong policing should resolve the seemingly intractable issues around irresponsible pet owners allowing their animals to adversely interact with wildlife,” Cr Temby said.

“Fines ... should help to get the message through that pet (or feral) animal interference with our wildlife is illegal, seriously irresponsible and grossly selfish on the part of the owner.”

“The ‘wet-lettuce’ approach of a verbal warning has no impact on these people; they need strong deterrence via fines.”

“I fully support the DAMP on the basis that strong enforcement of the legal obligation from our expanded enforcement team, to prevent the disturbance of our wildlife, as well as minimising attacks on people, nuisance behaviour and that restrictions on dangerous, menacing and restricted breeds will occur.”

Cr Meg Edwards urged kindness by all residents.

She said while she understood a dog was a member of a family and vital for mental health, she had nevertheless been a young mother concerned about the



The final Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029 states there will be “immediate delivery” of fenced dog parks at Phillip Island and Inverloch, with \$950,000 budgeted over the next decade for dog parks in the shire and strengthening of 24/7 cat containment and availability of cat traps.

welfare of her child on the beach when faced with dogs off leash.

Mayor Rochelle Halstead said the DAMP struck a balance.

“Owning a pet is a joy, and it also comes with responsibilities. It means ensuring they live in harmony with our neighbours, public spaces and precious naturally beautiful environment,” Cr Halstead said.

“Our coastline, bushland and open spaces are home to sensitive wildlife, so protecting these areas while supporting pet owners to enjoy life with their four-legged friends is what this plan is all about.”

The final DAMP states there will be increased visibility of council officers at beaches and other priority locations and a review of the seasonal roster to include year-round beach patrols, education and enforcement, with a focus on non-compliance by visitors.

The final plan also has “strengthened language” on environmental protection.

## Consultation

Initial consultation earlier in the year saw 800 residents give feedback, with further consultation in September seeing 137 survey responses and three

written submissions.

The final DAMP was amended including:

- Dogs in Public Places Guidelines has been “elevated”, to ensure a consistent approach across the shire for off-leash areas;
- Debate over dogs on beaches continues, with some support for more off-leash beaches and calls to review time restrictions at beaches, with some community members seeking increased beach access and others seeking further restrictions. As a result there is “strengthened language in the plan on signage;
- Debate over enforcement continues, with some wanting tougher fines, while others prefer education-first. There is consensus that non-compliance by a minority impacts the majority of responsible pet owners. The DAMP “strengthens language and actions to enhance patrols, community education and positive values-based messaging”, with “specific focus added on addressing non-compliance by visitor cohorts”.

There will be “immediate delivery” of fenced dog parks on Phillip Island (previously scheduled for 2027) and one at Inverloch by 2026, with \$950,000 budgeted over the next decade for dog parks in the shire.

There will be continued roll-out and strengthening of 24/7 cat containment and availability of cat traps.

## Dog owners respond

### PETS

The Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association issued the following statement after Bass Coast Shire councillors endorsed the final Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029:

“The dog association worked collaboratively with the Bass Coast Shire on this new DAMP. We will continue to support off-lead beach areas and will continue to lobby for designated inland off-lead dog parks.

“We will continue to educate all dog owners around protecting and living with our native wildlife in our community. Our association will continue to promote responsible dog ownership.

“We supported the DAMP in good faith as we were involved in the process.

“What we didn’t expect was for the councillors to then focus on one narrow component (enforcement) rather than the DAMP in its entirety.

“We are looking forward to advancing the care and protection of the San Remo wombats.

“We certainly hope the councillors can look at it with a broader view going forward.”

# Jetty shed to remain closed

## COUNCIL

The heritage shed on the Cowes jetty will remain vacant until next year, despite Bass Coast Shire Council previously promising a new tenant by the end of 2025.

At the end of last year the council sought community feedback on future ideas for the shed, receiving dozens of ideas, from a sauna to a youth drop-in centre and ice-cream shop.

Yet despite the consultation, last week a council spokesperson confirmed the current upgrade to the Esplanade and Cowes main street had delayed a new tenancy.

“While it was originally anticipated an Expression of Interest process and lease for the shed would be in place by the end of 2025, this is now more likely to occur in 2026,” the spokesperson said.

“The revised timeframe reflects the impact of the Cowes foreshore precinct construction works, as well as the additional work being undertaken to develop a robust and enduring lease agreement.”

The spokesperson said the heritage value of the site was a strong theme raised through community engagement, and council was working with Heritage Victoria to ensure these values are appropriately recognised and protected within the lease framework.

“This important work is still being finalised.

“In the meantime, businesses continue to activate the Cowes jetty triangle, separate to the



A lease is yet to be finalised for the Jetty Shed with council saying this would most likely be in place by 2026, however separate to the shed lease, Phillip Island Sauna is operating from the site in their own custom-built unit.

shed lease.”

This includes Phillip Island Sauna opening a new sauna building adjacent to the shed.

A council spokesperson confirmed the sauna was not part of the original jetty shed building and was operating from their own custom-built unit.

“After they (Phillip Island Sauna) were unable to continue at their location in Cape Woolamai, our Business team worked with them to find a suitable location.

“It’s a great activation of the space for summer,” the spokesperson said.

## Disrepair

In 2024 the restaurant on the jetty shed was closed by the council over summer for urgent building works following concerns it was

falling into disrepair.

The Jetty Phillip Island restaurant owner Gab Caffieri, who had operated it from November to April for the previous six years, said he received an email from the council asking him to remove his equipment and explaining he couldn’t open this summer.

“Planning could have been better,” Gab said at the time.

“The timing is not ideal. It could have been dealt with earlier.”

The restaurant has since been permanently closed.

The heritage jetty shed dates back to 1870, with the jetty managed by both Parks Victoria/ the Department of Environment and council.

Details: [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowes-jetty-goods-shed](mailto:engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/cowes-jetty-goods-shed)



## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### Roads to ruin?

Community complaints about road and footpath problems have increased in the past five years, according to a Bass Coast Shire Council road report.

Councillors at the October meeting endorsed the Road Management Plan Review Report, which states if the council does not adopt recommended changes, it may be exposed to legal risks.

The report states complaint patterns “suggest gaps in expectation of current service levels”.

“Over the past five years, claims have increased, with a notable proportion pertaining to footpaths,” it states, explaining inspections are not meeting current standards because of system issues.

“Existing systems are not compliant in tracking all parts of the request process effectively.”

The report states while the council has no legal obligation to amend road management, “if amendments are necessary and not made, it may expose council to legal risks”.

“This review has identified substantial gaps which indicate that the current RMP does not adequately reflect community expectations, resource capacity, and risk environment.

“Failure to amend the Road Management Plan in line with

identified gaps may compromise council’s statutory defence, increase exposure to civil liability claims, and reduce community confidence in council’s ability to manage its road network.”

The report, which was supported by councillors, recommends starting an amendment process, to update inspection frequencies, align defect response times with current resource capacity, and address known system and process deficiencies.

### Environmental design

Bass Coast Shire Council will now consider environmental sustainability in all new construction and renovation projects.

At the October meeting the updated Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy 2025 was endorsed by councillors, with the current ESD Policy adopted in 2017 and “no longer fit for purpose”.

The new policy ensures sustainability will be considered in all new projects, introducing a tiered approach to applying the standards based on each project size and complexity.

Council owns or manages over 400 buildings and numerous infrastructure assets, which vary widely in their sustainability performance.

More council briefs at [pisra.com.au](http://pisra.com.au)



# Island HOME

Advertising Feature

YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE



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quil fernery area and a brick-paved outdoor barbecue space for entertaining. With so much room for side access and parking, you can easily accommodate multiple vehicles, trailers, and all your recreational toys without sacrificing yard space.

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4 2 2

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Phillip Island

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*\*Price correct as at October 2025. Subject to change.*



Island  
HOME

Advertising Feature

YOUR PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO PROPERTY GUIDE

# Beach House on Longridge

It's time to book your summer holiday! It's only seven weeks to Christmas, so don't miss out.

Here is the ideal location for a relaxing getaway. Walking distance to Red Rocks beach or just sit with your morning coffee on the balcony and watch the birdlife across the road basking in the lake. So peaceful and a north facing aspect.

This beautiful split-level house is perfect for a relaxing family holiday. The house has reverse cycle heating and cooling, a balcony overlooking a lake and parkland,

two TV's, situated four minutes' drive to Cowes or you can walk to the beach (approx 1 km).

There's a fully equipped kitchen including a dishwasher, reverse cycle air conditioner and heating, ceiling fans in the bedrooms, plus free WIFI.

You can book online through our website or call us and we'll do all the work.

Phone: 03 5952 3922.

[www.phillipislandholidayhouses.com.au/holiday-rentals/beach-house-longridge](http://www.phillipislandholidayhouses.com.au/holiday-rentals/beach-house-longridge)



Book in for a relaxing Christmas, and enjoy a morning coffee on the balcony watching the birds basking in the lake.

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The split-level house has a fully equipped kitchen, including a dishwasher, plus reverse cycle air conditioner and heating, perfect for a relaxing family holiday.

FIRST NATIONAL PHILLIP ISLAND

19 BLUE GUM COURT, COWES  
\$670,000 TO \$710,000

Perfectly positioned in a quiet court, this immaculate single-level home offers exceptional convenience with easy access to both Cowes Beach and the town's vibrant central hub. Bathed in natural light, the home features a north-facing entertaining area.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD 0412 712 034

42 BAYVIEW DRIVE, COWES  
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Rarely do we get a property that ticks all the boxes, with views and extra room to move, set over two levels, everyone has their own area. A short walk to Red Rocks beach just adds to this hidden gem. There is even room for boat or caravan storage.

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12 HONEYEATER DRIVE, SILVERLEAVES  
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Nestled in a quiet pocket just a short stroll to the Silverleaves General Store and Golf Course, this charming home offers the perfect retreat for permanent living or a relaxing holiday getaway. Spacious, fully fenced yard.

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5952 2633 ALEXSCOTT.COM.AU****27 WALTON STREET, COWES**

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  - Three separate living areas, open plan kitchen, beautifully landscaped and established gardens
  - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/4 cars
- AUCTION SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER  
@ 2PM ON SITE**

**71 GRAYDENS ROAD, VENTNOR**

- Nestled on a level acre of land, brick home with generous floorplan, 2 large living areas, open plan kitchen
  - North facing verandah leading to established native gardens, enclosure housing over 20 established fruit & citrus trees, solar energy, 5 water tanks
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/4 cars
- \$1,550,000 TO \$1,650,000**

**25 MARLIN STREET, SMITHS BEACH**

- Positioned only moments from the iconic Smiths Beach on a generous block
  - Multiple living zones, quality appliances, internal lift, alfresco area with pizza oven, 4 powered sheds, raised garden beds, fully fenced established yard
  - 5 bedrooms/3 bathrooms/4 cars
- \$1,170,000**

**182 SMITHS BEACH ROAD, SMITHS BEACH**

- Double storey home set on a large allotment in the heart of highly sought after Smiths Beach
  - Large open plan living, cathedral ceilings, renovated kitchen, short stroll to beach
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/1 car
- \$789,000**

**107 TAMPA ROAD, CAPE WOOLAMAI**

- Moments from pristine surf beaches, scenic walking trails and vibrant local café strip
  - Large upstairs open living and kitchen, cosy log fire, 2 living areas, upstairs deck, generous rear patio
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 cars
- \$949,000**

**12-16 WARATAH CLOSE, COWES**

- A private sanctuary overlooking Bluegum Reserve nestled on a sprawling 4000m<sup>2</sup> (approx.) block
  - Huge country style kitchen, hardwood floors, slow combustion fire, generous shedding, established gardens
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 car garage
- \$1,950,000**

**22 LYMINGTON AVENUE, VENTNOR**

- Perfectly positioned just a short walk to the beach, spread over two levels with amazing views
  - Open plan kitchen & dining upstairs, compact kitchenette downstairs, large living area with wood heater, large private yard
  - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms
- \$920,000**

**1 SNAPPER COURT, RHYLL**

- 'Snapper House' – short walk to Rhyll Foreshore & one of the best nature walks on the island, short drive to Cowes
  - Amazing open plan layout, 2-way gas log fire, split systems in each room, large deck, heated spa, fire pit and raised veggie gardens
  - 6 bedrooms/5 bathrooms/ample car parking
- \$1,450,000**

**1/35 STEELE STREET, COWES**

- Exquisite modern masterpiece less than 500mt to the beach and main street
  - Gas log fire, dual ovens, induction cook top, marble benchtops, 2 living areas
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 car garage with huge storage
- \$1,550,000**

**2-6 MADE AVENUE, BASS**

- Rare and remarkable opportunity set on approx. 4910m<sup>2</sup>
  - Approved subdivision permit for a further 3-lot subdivision capitalising on the growing highway traffic and community of Bass
  - Prominent highway frontage
- AUCTION SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER  
@ 11AM ON SITE**

**28 LANSELL ROAD, COWES**

- Well-presented home with thoughtful updates and light renovations completed, open plan living, short walk to Cowes main street, schools and RSL
  - Established gardens, fully fenced yard, carport and large lock up garage for substantial car parking
  - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/ample car parking
- \$670,000**

**8 MALCALM AVENUE, SURF BEACH**

- Tucked away in a peaceful enclave, low maintenance townhouse just moments from the beach
  - Light filled open plan living and dining area with northerly aspect, gas log fire, north facing backyard
  - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 cars
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**5 ELSFORD CLOSE, COWES**

- Located in a quiet court in a central, sought after area that is an easy walk to Cowes front beach, shops & restaurants
  - Sunken living area, open plan kitchen/dining, split system, covered outdoor area, fenced backyard
  - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/2 cars
- \$990,000**

**69 PENNIWELLS DRIVE, SAN REMO**

- Stunning water views, versatile design with multiple living zones
  - Walking distance to the beach and situated on a 522m<sup>2</sup> (approx.) block
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/double carport
- \$999,000 TO \$1,050,000**

**6 HALCYON AVENUE, SAN REMO**

- Perfectly positioned & well-appointed split-level home capturing sparkling bay views, stretching to the horizon
  - Enjoy sunrises & sunsets from the large wraparound decks designed to make the most of the outlook
  - 4 bedrooms/2 bathrooms
- \$899,000 TO \$940,000**

**15 HALCYON AVENUE, SAN REMO**

- Discover coastal living in this family home with everchanging water views
  - Charming split-level home with convenient layout and street level entry
  - 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms/double garage with workshop
- \$750,000**

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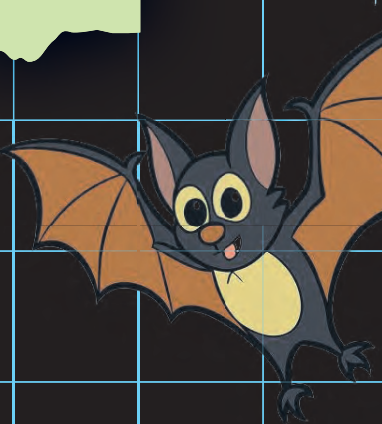
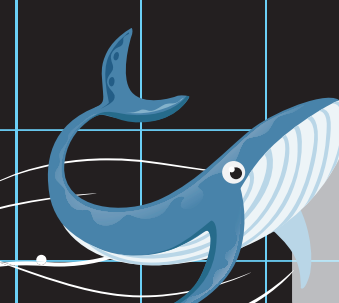
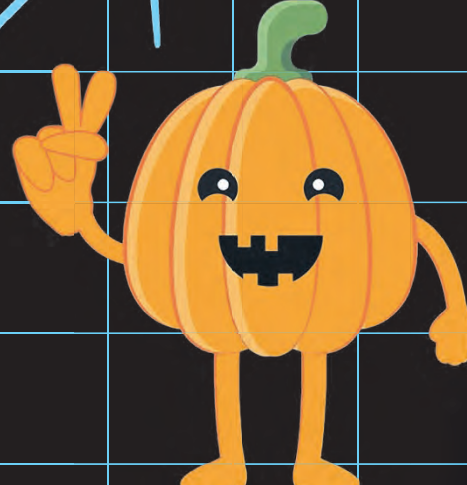
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**Wimbledon Heights**

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**Surf Beach**

**Churchill Island**

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**Cape Woolamai**

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**AMAZE'N  
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# SPOOKY'N THINGS

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This Halloween, A Maze'N Things will stay open late on Friday night until 8pm, giving families more time to explore the attractions and soak up the spooky atmosphere.

## Gear up for some spook'n fun!

### ENTERTAINMENT

Phillip Island's A Maze'N Things is set to transform into a world of spooky fun this Melbourne Cup long weekend with its annual Halloween celebration.

From Friday October 31 to Sunday November 2, visitors can expect a weekend full of eerie excitement, creative fun and family-friendly frights. The popular attraction will be transformed with Halloween decorations and themed activities that bring out the spirit of the season for guests of all ages.

Highlights include Haunted Mini Golf, a scavenger hunt, the interactive Creation Lab, hands-on craft stations, a sensory play area and plenty of extra games to keep kids entertained throughout the day. Whether you're brave enough to face the Haunted Mini Golf or prefer to

explore and create, there's something for every ghost and ghoul to enjoy.

Adding to the excitement, A Maze'N Things will stay open late on Friday night until 8pm, giving families more time to explore the attractions and soak up the spooky atmosphere as the sun sets. It's the perfect way to kick off the long weekend with laughter, a few surprises and loads of photo opportunities.

With its mix of fun, imagination and a hint of Halloween magic, Spook'n Things is set to be one of Phillip Island's most entertaining events this long weekend. Costumes are encouraged, and smiles are guaranteed.

A Maze'N Things is located on Phillip Island Road, Cowes. For more information and tickets, visit [www.amazenthings.com.au](http://www.amazenthings.com.au)

/ Sponsored article /

## Celebration of Surf continues

### ENTERTAINMENT

Celebration of Surf, hosted by Bang Bang Bar and Food, and Hectic in Cape Woolamai returns on November 8.

This will be the third time the two businesses have combined to present a day celebrating the surfing culture and history of Phillip Island.

Spearheaded by Pat O'Garey, owner of Bang Bang Bar and Food, and Hectic's Lindsay Becker, the day is a chance for surf lovers to get together, show their boards and enjoy chatting with like-minded people.

This year, the crowd will be entertained by music from The Alley Strangers, Kingtide and Marty Rutherford.

There will also be an array of community stalls, raffles and a vintage car show and shine.

Of course, there will also be a display of vintage boards – with some available for sale.

This year's raffle prizes include several vintage surfboards, and a skateboard.



Celebration of Surf, hosted by Bang Bang Bar and Food and Hectic in Cape Woolamai returns on November 8.

Tickets are \$10 (or buy five and get one free). Tickets are already available online through the Hectic socials, from Bang Bang Bar and Food and on the day.

The fun starts at 12pm, until late, at 18 Vista Place in Cape Woolamai.

More information at: [www.facebook.com/BangBangPhilipIsland](http://www.facebook.com/BangBangPhilipIsland)



Visitors can now get up close and personal with Highland cattle, in a new experience at Churchill Island.

## Meet the shaggy stars of new Highland cattle experience

### TOURISM

Visitors can now get up close and personal with one of the world's most iconic and photogenic farm animals, thanks to a new Highland cattle experience at Churchill Island.

Phillip Island Nature Parks is offering visitors the rare opportunity to learn more about the shaggy, long horned, gentle giants at the Churchill Island Heritage Farm from November.

Originally from the Scottish Highlands, Highland cattle are among the oldest registered breeds in the world and are known for their hardiness, docile nature and ability to adapt to harsh weather conditions.

"With their big eyes, woolly fringes and inquisitive nature, Highland cattle are impossible not to love," said Daniel Kallstrom, Attractions Manager at the Nature Parks.

"Although known as gentle giants of the paddock, we will be respecting their space, and our skilled staff will be on hand to ensure the sessions are safe, interactive and educational."

As part of the new experience, visitors to Churchill Island can ride on board a tractor to meet and feed Highland cattle in an experience that blends nature and history.

"This well-crafted, family friendly experience is one animal lovers won't forget," Mr Kallstrom said.

"The Highland cattle experience offers something for everyone, from children who want to feed the animals to adults interested in farming traditions and the breed's cultural heritage."

Heritage-listed Churchill Island was an important place of early European settlement in Victoria where the first European garden was established in 1801 with a crop of wheat and corn.

Today, the restored historic homestead includes a heritage house and barn from 1872 along with two original, heritage listed 1860 cottages lovingly fitted with an extensive collection of furniture on loan from the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

It operates as a working farm where visitors can experience 'hands on' farming demonstrations

with sheep shearing, milking cows and working dog demonstrations. Wagon rides operate on weekends, school holidays and special events.

The Highland cattle experience will start on November 1 and operate over the long weekend, before becoming a weekend feature during school terms and Thursdays to Sundays during the Victorian school holidays.

Visitors will learn about the Bunurong history and European history, experience several centuries-old Moonah trees and farm animals before heading to the hero Highland cattle experience, where they can throw hay for them to eat and take photos at close range.

The experience is limited to 20 people at a time. Tickets include entry to the farm precinct and are \$60 for adults and \$30 for children.

There is also plenty to do on Phillip Island including the world-famous Penguin Parade and the Koala Conservation Reserve.

For more information visit: [www.penguins.org.au/attractions/](http://www.penguins.org.au/attractions/)



- **'Chook Run' comp every Friday from 3pm throughout Daylight Savings months.**
- **Srixon Fitting Day Monday November 10 – book now.**
- **Cancer Council 'The Longest Day' Monday November 10 – join in and raise \$\$.**
- **Blitz Golf local qualifying – Sunday Nov 30 and Sunday Dec 7 – your chance to play in the main event!**
- **Book your Christmas/End of Year function now!!**

Red Rocks



Golf Club



627A Settlement Road, Cowes [www.red-rocks.com.au](http://www.red-rocks.com.au) 03 5919 0019



# ASPIR Cup Weekend Exhibition 2025

## ART

The Arts Society Phillip Island Region (ASPIR) Cup Weekend Exhibition and Young Artist Award is being held at Bernin-neit, the Cowes Cultural Centre, at 91-97 Thompson Ave, Cowes, Phillip Island.

The exhibition runs from Fri-day October 31 through until Tuesday November 4.

ASPIR showcases the works of its members. The exhibition this year promises to be excep-tional as membership has grown and over 250 entries have been received.

Judging will take place on Friday with the announcement of awards and presentations from 7pm that evening in the exhibition space. All welcome to attend.

This year's judge is Denise Keele-Bedford, an Australian artist based at the Stony Creek Studio, Warrandyte. Between 2005 and 2019 she maintained a work studio at Huanghua Stu-dio in Beijing China. Denise has had major solo, invitational and group exhibitions in Australia and China, and multiple com-missions, awards and residen-cies around the world.

The exhibition showcases the work of many ASPIR members across a broad range of media. There are various categories and it is at the judge's discretion to determine which works may be considered for each award.

ASPIR receives wonderful sponsorship for the awards from local businesses and organisa-tions.

The major sponsor for this ex-



The Arts Society Phillip Island Region (ASPIR) is holding its Cup Weekend Exhibition and Young Artist Award at Berninneit in Cowes, from October 31 to November 4.

hibition is the Bendigo Commu-nity Bank of Cowes, San Remo and Grantville.

The categories and sponsors are:

- Best in Show: (any work) \$1000 Bendigo Community Bank
- Best Painting: \$500 Phillip Island RSL
- Nature, Environment & Wild-life Award: \$500 Phillip Island Nature Parks
- Best 3D Artwork: \$400 Phillip Island Winery
- Best Digital Artwork or Photo-graph: \$400 Brinnie T Design and Flowers of Phillip Island
- Best Other Medium: \$400 Alex Scott & Staff

- There are four Highly Com-mended Awards of \$100 pro-vided by Bendigo Community Bank

The Young Artist Award in-volves selected works from five local primary school students and will be judged by Josephine Allen with awards again spon-sored by the Bendigo Commu-nity Bank

The People's Choice Award of a \$250 voucher from Senior Art Supplies is selected by popular vote and announced at the close of the exhibition.

All are welcome to come and see the exhibition. Entry is free and there is much to enjoy.

/ Sponsored article /



To celebrate its 75th anniversary, Phillip Island Golf Club has called for any memorabilia to help bring the club's history to life.

## Phillip Island Golf Club Turns 75 – Call for Local Memorabilia

### GOLF

The Phillip Island Golf Club (formerly the Cowes Golf Club) is preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary, and is seeking the community's help to bring its rich history to life.

The milestone event will be celebrated with a game of golf and a gala afternoon on Sunday, November 16.

The afternoon will feature a gourmet afternoon tea and a display of historical photographs, artefacts, and memorabilia tracing the club's journey from its early days as the Cowes Golf Club in 1950 to the thriving com-munity club it is today.

To make the celebration truly special, the club is inviting anyone who may have old pho-tographs, trophies, scorecards, programs, or other items of in-terest connected with the club's history to get in touch.

"These personal pieces of his-tory help tell the story of the club in a way that records alone can-

not," said Mary Whelan, mem-ber of the organising committee.

"We'd love to borrow items for display during the celebra-tion so that members, guests, and the wider community can share in those memories."

The Phillip Island and Dis-trict Historical Society has al-ready contributed a number of items from its collection, includ-ing a wooden golf club dating back to 1923, once owned by the Countess of Stradbroke, who is said to have played golf on one of the island's early courses.

The Society's loan highlights the deep local roots of golf on the island, which stretch back well before the club's official founding.

Anyone willing to lend mem-orabilia or share stories is en-couraged to contact Mary Whelan on 0408 055 867 for details.

Items can be safely displayed and returned after the event, helping create a wonderful ex-hibition of the club's heritage as part of this 75-year celebration.



## ART EXHIBITION & Young Artist Award

### CUP WEEKEND 2025



Opening Night Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 7pm

Open Daily

31<sup>st</sup> Oct - 3rd Nov - 10am-4pm

4<sup>th</sup> Nov - 10am-3pm

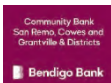
Berninneit

Cultural Centre

91-97 Thompson Ave, Cowes

Artwork Courtesy of Albert Sage

AWARD SPONSORS



## Carols by the Bay

ANNUAL

# QUIZ NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION

Monday, 24th November 2025

7pm ANZAC Room, Phillip Island RSL

**\$10 per person**

All proceeds raised go towards children's activites for a free family evening at Carols by the Bay.

Contact Peter McMahon for a table and tickets 0418 533 256.



## It's a stitch up! Patchwork display returns

### CRAFT

Once again, Phillip Island Patchworkers' group is showcasing quilts and associated crafts over the long weekend and would love you to come and have a look.

The display will be open from Saturday November 1, through to Tuesday November 4 from 10am to 4pm at the Newhaven Hall, Cleeland Street Newhaven.

Admission is \$8 and children are free. All proceeds go directly to our local emergency services and charities to contribute to their fabulous community support.

Not only will there be the many fine patchwork quilts and other items made by this talented group, the wonderful work produced by the Wonthaggi Woodcrafters is also on display. There will be a trading table with lots of goodies to purchase, and the famous Devonshire Tea available for \$5.

Jeanette Clark from Patchwork Maze will have a shop set up where you can purchase a range of patchwork fabrics, patterns and accessories. Jeanette is a great supporter of the club and every year she organises a pattern and donates the fabric the group uses to create the gorgeous raffle quilts.

You can have a go at patchwork yourself by assisting group members who will be sewing quilts for their Comfort Quilt program over the weekend.

These quilts are donated locally to community members in need.

"Our love of craft and friendship is what brings us together," said the group spokesperson.



Marj Wagland winner of 2024 Viewers Choice with her quilt City Flight. The 2025 Patchworkers' Display runs from Saturday November 1 until Tuesday November 4, from 10am to 4pm at the Newhaven Hall.



Jeanette Clark from Patchwork Maze will be setting up shop from Saturday November 1 until Tuesday November 4, from 10am to 4pm at the Patchworkers' Display at Newhaven Hall.

"We all enjoy what we do, we like to share skills and of course have a chat. Come along and join in the fun and friendship – new members are warmly welcomed."

If you would like more information or would like to join this

friendly club – please contact President Christine Klopogge on 0437 731 403 or catch up with one of our members on Cup Weekend where you can pick up an information flyer and yearly calendar.

/Sponsored article/



Award winning documentary Conquering Skin Cancer is showing at Berninnet on November 20 at 5.30pm. The film is free, but bookings are essential.

## Conquering Skin Cancer in Bass Coast

### HEALTH

Phillip Islanders have the chance to hear from skin cancer survivors and experts in a free screening of the award-winning documentary Conquering Skin Cancer at Berninnet on November 20.

This powerful film features compelling interviews with skin cancer survivors, medical experts and Aussie celebrities.

They highlight the importance of prevention, regular self-checks, early detection, and access to treatment.

Viewers can also learn about the latest innovative research aimed at beating skin cancer.

The screening will be fol-

lowed by a panel discussion and Q&A session with local health professionals and skin cancer experts.

The film is being presented in partnership with Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Service and Gippsland Region Public Health Unit.

The screening is free, but seats are limited. Tickets will also be available on the day.

The film screens in Cowes at Berninnet on November 20 at 5.30pm. Scan barcode to book.

It is also showing at the Union Theatre in Wonthaggi on November 19 at 4pm, and Leongatha's Stadium 4 Cinema on October 22 at 1.30pm.

**Island Harmony Choir**  
presents



**"Thank You For The Music"**

a joyous afternoon of music, songs, instrumental items & comedy

**Saturday 15th November at 2pm**  
**St John's Uniting Church**  
**86 Chapel Street Cowes**

**Tickets \$15 available at the door (children free)**  
**Afternoon Tea included**



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PICAL

**Phillip Island Patchworkers Inc.**  
**Quilt Show**

**Cup Weekend**  
Sat. Sun. Mon. Tues.  
**10.00am - 4.00pm**  
**Newhaven Hall**  
Quilt Raffle - Devonshire Tea  
**Patchwork Maze & Wonthaggi Woodcrafters**  
Admission: Adults \$8.00 - Children Free

Proceeds to:  
Local Emergency Services and Charities

 **phillip island patchworkers**



You're invited to  
**Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary's  
Gala Dinner**  
Friday, 21 November 2025  
@ 6.30pm for 7pm

Phillip Island Winery  
Berrys Beach Road, Ventnor.  
Tickets \$100 per head.  
Enjoy a great three course dinner in  
beautiful surroundings.  
Drinks at bar prices.  
Music by Tim O'Brien.

1<sup>st</sup> prize: Watercolour (picture) by  
David Taylor, internationally  
renowned local artist.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Ramada accommodation  
voucher.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Penfolds Presentation Port.

4<sup>th</sup> prize: Go-Anywhere Weber BBQ.

Raffle drawn at 10pm on the night!

**EVENT  
TICKETS**



**RAFFLE  
TICKETS**



 **Funds raised will provide medical equipment for  
your Phillip Island Community Hospital.**  
For enquiries, contact Louanne: 0421 078 503.





Julia Deans (NZ) is performing with her friend Celia Church and Jonnie Goes to Church at Archies Creek Hotel on November 3. Doors open at 6pm. Tickets available online.

# The Julia Deans and Jonnie Goes to Church Show

MUSIC

Spend this Cup Eve at Archies Creek Hotel and celebrate a quarter of a century of sisterly love and music when Julia Dean and Jonnie Goes to Church take to the stage.

Around the start of the '90's Julia Deans and Celia Church were in New Zealand stepping out into parallel worlds of music.

In Auckland, Celia had a stint singing with the Headless Chickens. In Wellington, Julia was singing in a Celtic rock band called Banshee Reel. In 1996 Celia came to Australia and Julia stayed in NZ and formed Fur Patrol. Celia played in a few bands over here, Probe and the Red Eyes the most notable ones.

When Fur Patrol toured Australia, Celia and Julia met in Melbourne, and the pair started singing together effortlessly.

Like Agnetha and Frida. It was a meeting of minds and voices.

Even when Julia returned to New Zealand, the friendship continued, singing on each other's records and they've been there for each other through relationships, deaths, illnesses, birthdays and childbirth.

The pair get to reunite at Archies Creek. Julia, who is NZ rock royalty will perform some of her songs. Celia will showcase her current band – Jonnie Goes to Church with her partner in life and music Jon von Goes. You can also expect a little bit of Julia and Celia, and a bit of Julia with Jonnie Goes to Church.

Don't miss this musical reunion on Cup Eve, Monday November 3 at the Archies Creek Hotel. Doors open 6pm.

Tickets: [www.archiescreekhotel.com.au/events/julia-deans-nz-jonnie-goes-to-church-show](http://www.archiescreekhotel.com.au/events/julia-deans-nz-jonnie-goes-to-church-show)

# GIG GUIDE

31/10 **RAMBLE** 8PM  
1/11 **COVER BANDITS** 8.30PM  
2/11 **FOXY JUNES** - 5PM

8/11 **NO SCRUBS: 90S + EARLY 00S PARTY** - \$20+BF  
9/11 **JK & RUSSELL ROBERTSON** - 5PM

14/11 **CORZ** 8PM  
15/11 **JIMI KEMPSEY** 8PM  
16/11 **MARK HOWARD** 5PM

28/11 **OCEAN GROVE** - \$34+BF 8PM  
29/11 **AC/DC THUNDERSTRUCK** \$25 + BF 9PM

**PLUS:**  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
\$17 **PARMA NIGHT**  
THURSDAY NIGHT  
\$20 **BURGER NIGHT**  
FRIDAY NIGHT  
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SUNDAY  
\$25 **ROASTS**

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# The ARCHIES CREEK HOTEL

PROUDLY PRESENTS

**November**

|           |                                         |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|
| SAT 1/11  | GUT HEALTH, SHOCK CORRIDOR & MESS ESQUE |
| SUN 2/11  | ROSS WILSON & THE PEACENIKS             |
| MON 3/11  | JULIA DEANS (NZ) & JONNY GOES TO CHURCH |
| SAT 8/11  | TROPICAL F**KSTORM                      |
| SUN 9/11  | DEBORAH CONWAY & WILLY ZYGIER           |
| THU 13/11 | SYLVIE (US)                             |
| FRI 14/11 | JENNY DON'T & THE SPURS (US)            |
| SAT 15/11 | ASH GRUNWALD                            |
| SUN 16/11 | SUZANNAH ESPIE                          |
| FRI 21/11 | GALLIE                                  |
| SAT 22/11 | BEN OTTERWELL & IAN BALL (UK)           |
| SUN 23/11 | 19 TWENTY                               |
| SAT 29/11 | MISS EILEEN & KING LEAR ALBUM LAUNCH    |
| SUN 30/11 | TEX PERKINS & MATT WALKER               |

**December**

|           |                                                                                                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SAT 6/12  | FLORIST (US)                                                                                                    |
| SUN 7/12  | THE AUDREYS                                                                                                     |
| SUN 14/12 | NEIL YOUNG'S ZUMA 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FEATURING NICK BARKER, LISA MILLER & CRACK BAND LED BY SHANE O'MARA |
| SAT 20/12 | MAGIC DIRT                                                                                                      |
| SUN 21/12 | LOST RAGAS & SILVERSOUND                                                                                        |

**January**

|         |                                                                                                                                           |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| THU 1/1 | MICK THOMAS' ROVING COMMISSION NEW YEAR'S DAY SHOW W/ HANNA & JESSIE LEE'S BAD HABITS, DANNY WALSH BANNED & QUEEN OF HEARTS MARIACHI BAND |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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# An exhibition by Vegas Fitzmaurice

## ART

Berninneit Art Gallery is proud to present Millowl – A Mother's Element, a deeply personal and powerful new exhibition by artist Vegas Fitzmaurice, showing from November 1 to December 6.

This moving body of work stands as both a tribute and a celebration – created in honour of Fitzmaurice's late mother and of Millowl itself. The exhibition recognises the enduring force and beauty of Mother Nature, and the way she sustains, protects and transforms us.

Each artwork draws inspiration from the four sacred elements – Fire, Water, Air and Earth – as experienced across the island's landscapes and seascapes. Through these elemental themes, Fitzmaurice captures the rhythm of life on Country: Fire as renewal and memory; Water as healing and flow; Air as breath and spirit; and Earth as grounding and connection.

Together, these works invite reflection on the cycles of nature and life, and on the unbreakable ties between people, place and ancestry. They stand as both a remembrance of a beloved mother and a universal story of nurture, resilience, and balance.

### Protecting Aboriginal art

Millowl – A Mother's Element also marks the inaugural worldwide launch of a groundbreaking partnership with Authentic Indigenous, an Aboriginal-run

technology company dedicated to protecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

This innovative platform allows artists to add and manage secure digital certificates of authentication to their artworks – ensuring each piece's provenance, authenticity, and rightful ownership remain traceable throughout its lifetime. This system is vital in the protection of Indigenous art against forgery and cultural appropriation, while also ensuring artists receive their resale royalties as their work continues its journey.

Each artwork in the exhibition will feature a smart sticker embedded with digital authentication technology. Visitors will be able to scan the artwork with their phone to access rich multimedia stories including artist insights, cultural context, and video reflections which will remain permanently linked to the piece.

"We are renowned for our innovative approaches here and for our work with First Nations First philosophy," says Greg Box, CEO, Bass Coast Shire Council.

"We are thrilled to be hosting artwork that is the first part of this groundbreaking change for artists and hope that other galleries will also take this work on with their artists."

Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead said the gallery was honoured to host "the first-ever exhibition to showcase this important technology in action, highlighting both cultural preservation and innovation in contempo-



Berninneit Art Gallery presents Millowl – A Mother's Element, a powerful new exhibition by artist Vegas Fitzmaurice, showing from November 1 to December 6. Opening event, Saturday November 1, 2pm.

rary Indigenous art practice".

Fitzmaurice, who has Aboriginal heritage (Yarra Yarra, Wurundjeri), continues his commitment to storytelling and cultural integrity through his creative practice VGF Creative ([www.vgfcreative.com.au](http://www.vgfcreative.com.au)).

Known for explosive colour and deeply rooted storytelling, Fitzmaurice is more than an artist. He is a custodian of heritage and a contemporary voice for

ancient traditions, determined to ensure culture is represented truthfully on the global stage.

Each canvas reflects family, tradition, and connection to country, expressed through a bold and modern visual language that resonates with new generations.

"I am proud of my Indigenous heritage, and I create art to connect, inspire and share our history with respect.

"My vision is to connect culture with kindness, understanding and to help unite and heal for a brighter future," Fitzmaurice said.

### Exhibition details:

Millowl – A Mother's Element, by Vegas Fitzmaurice  
Berninneit Art Gallery, Cowes  
November 1 – December 6  
Opening event: Saturday November 1, 2pm-4pm

## STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

As we enjoy more beautiful weather, 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, Beachsafe app** and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website ([lsv.com.au](http://lsv.com.au)) and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



**[beachsafe.org.au](http://beachsafe.org.au)**

Always swim at patrolled locations whenever possible, and 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.**





# NEWHAVEN COLLEGE GRADUATION



The Taylor family celebrated the last of their six children to finish their time at Newhaven College. Maddy, Sam and Mum congratulate Max on his last day of school, with little Mila and Elle joining in on the celebrations.



Marley Brown was awarded the Principal's Prize, here with Mr Tony Corr and his mum Fiona Rawson.



The Smyth family celebrated Lara Smyth's many awards, with the Papworth Prize, presented by Chair of the Board, Mr David Jobe. Lara was also awarded four academic awards and the ADF Future Innovators Award.



Gabriel Di Falco was awarded the ADF Long Tan Leadership Award. Enjoying his achievements with his parents Jo and Adrian, and siblings Sebastian and Amalia.

# Year 12 celebrate their graduation

## EDUCATION

Newhaven College's Class of 2025 bid farewell to their school life last week, with plenty of festive activities.

The four-day celebration commenced with a playful twist as students dressed up as "What I want to be when I grow up" as remembered from their childhood, and then on Friday, they 'blinged' their uniforms.

The days that followed were filled with Celebration Day dress-ups and competitive House commando games at the Year 9 Environmental Centre, providing an opportunity for the students to let off some steam before they embarked on the more official formalities.

Valedictory Day commenced with a family breakfast in the amphitheatre, followed by House group meetings.

The formal final assembly commenced with all the Year 12s accompanied by haunting bagpipes played by their fellow student, Mackenzie Cameron. The assembly included awards presentations to high achievers.

A Valedictory dinner was held at Silverwater Resort, where the students had the chance to spend their final moments together, surrounded by their dedicated teachers and proud parents.

Addressing the gathered Class of 2025 at the final all-school assembly, Principal Tony Corr congratulated each student.

"We are proud of the year level we are sending off today – who you are and what you have achieved," he said.

"You are bright, fun, vibrant, enthusiastic, respectful and committed. In many ways, you embody all that is good about our school. You are what we hope our graduates will be – and there is great pride in that.

"It is symbolic that your parents are here today to accompany you on your last

day of school," Mr Corr continued.

"This is a particularly significant day for those parents whose youngest or only child is finishing school."

A remarkable 52 families are leaving the College this year, having had numerous students go through the school. Notably, the Taylor family of six children, is ending their time at the College this year, with Max.

"It has been our honour to share your journey, to walk with you, support you, and encourage you," Mr Corr told the students.

"Thank you for all you have taught us. Your year group is special and has left a lasting legacy. Let your time here at Newhaven serve as a compass to guide you on your next adventure."

During the final assembly, awards were given to students in each Year 12 subject who had achieved the highest grades and made significant contributions to the development of their subjects for the benefit of all students.

Mr Corr presented the prestigious Principal's Prize to Marley Brown, saying he was an "excellent representative of the College values and consistently demonstrated determination and perseverance across his time at Newhaven College".

The prestigious Papworth Prize was awarded to Lara Smyth who was also the recipient of both the ADF Future Innovators Award, numerous Sports Awards and academic awards for four subjects.

"Lara is a diligent, hard-working and enthusiastic member of the Newhaven College community and has consistently demonstrated excellence across her time at Newhaven College in the academic and sporting areas."

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) also recognised Gabriel Di Falco with the Long Tan Leadership Award. Gabriel was a College Captain and instrumental in the



Year 12 students Joey Thompson, Archie Robson and Gabriel Di Falco went to Pooh Corner on their last day of school. More photos at [pisra.com.au/education](https://pisra.com.au/education)

Youth Parliament team this year.

Additionally, awards were bestowed upon those who exemplified the school's House values, excelled in sports, and who earned the prestigious Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

As Newhaven College's Year 12 students embark on their future endeavours, they do so with fond memories, cherished experiences and a bright outlook on the road ahead.

## Awards

**Principal's Prize 2025:** Marley Brown

**Papworth Prize 2025:** Lara Smyth

**ADF Long Tan Leadership Award:**

Gabriel Di Falco

**ADF Future Innovators Award:** Lara Smyth

**Year 12 Academic Endeavor Award:**

Jazz Mau and Isaac Savona

**CUC Achievement Award:**

Mackenzie Slidders

## Academic Awards:

**Two Subject Awards:** Sienna Bell and Abby Papas

**Three Subject Awards:** Cecily de Gooyer

**Four Subject Awards:** Lara Smyth

## Sport Awards:

**SEISA Sport Awards:** Lucas Allen and Lara Smyth

**Major Sport Awards:** Olivia Cumming and James Harman

## Values Awards:

**Bass House:** Charlotte Derham and Zoe Scott

**Clarke House:** Nissa Campbell Walker and Jasper Cashman

**McHaffie House:** Jasmine Crooks and Joey Thompson

**Sambell House:** Grace Morris and Matilda Russell





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Covering Phillip Island, San Remo and surrounds



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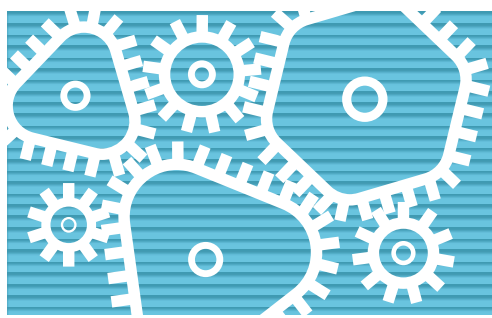


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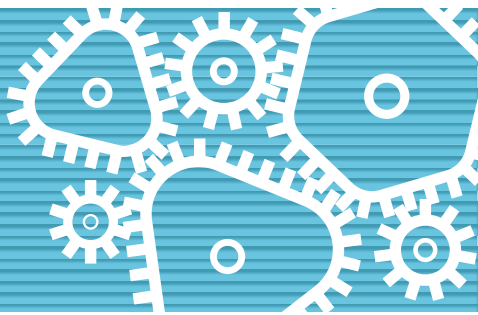
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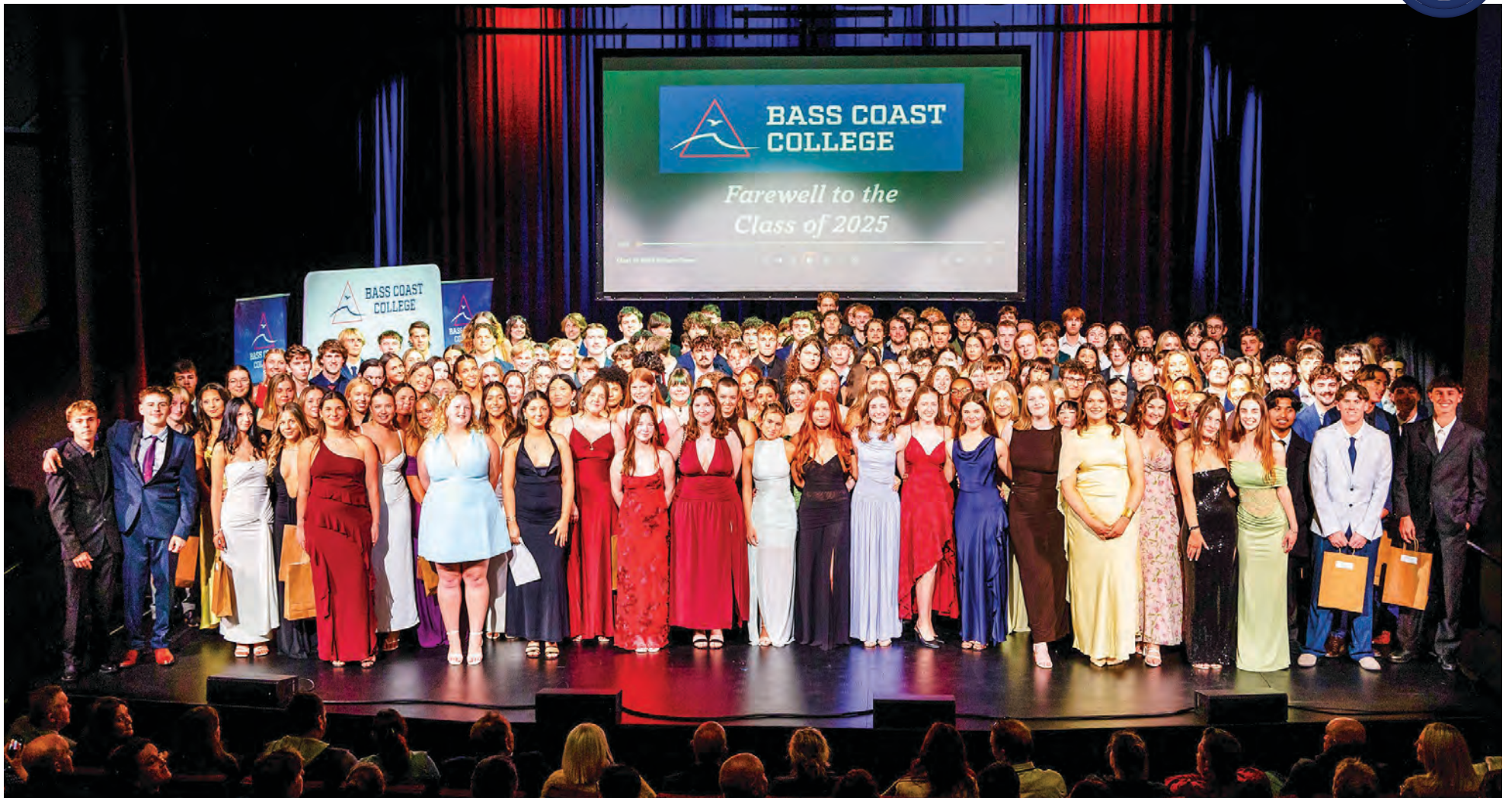
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# BASS COAST COLLEGE GRADUATION



The Class of 2025 at Bass Coast College.



Jayden Burns was awarded The Miners Dispensary John Lindsay Memorial Scholarship at the Bass Coast College Graduation.



Bass Coast College students Lorenzo Lepiten and Harvey Green were winners of the Watersure Tertiary Scholarships.



Bass Coast College Year 12 award winners: Charlotte Crellin - VCE VM Student of the Year, Chris Mackenzie - ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award, Jayden Burns - Miners Dispensary John Lindsay Memorial Scholarship and Alicia Roussel - TAFE Gippsland VET Award.



Students enjoyed dress up day as Bass Coast College Year 12 celebrated the end of their school days. Back: Jazmina Meldrum and Zoe Carr. Front: Monica Bartels and Gianna Boich.



Taking the mathematical approach to dress up day at Bass Coast College are Sophie Carter, Qiarshi Adams, Jorja Tiziani, Amelie Ion and Macy Peterson.



Where's Wally? Sophie Emile and Petra Van Veenrooy at the Bass Coast College Dress Up day.



Celebrating on Bass Coast College Dress Up day are Maggie Tsousidis and Brodie Sartan.





Harley Griffin reeled 'em in, winning the Squidgie Mixed Bag Points competition after catching six amazing fish worth 105 points.



Mark Griffin had a great weekend, taking out the Senior Male Weight and Squid/Cuttlefish competitions, and now leading the five-hundred-dollar heaviest snapper competition with a 6830-gram snapper.



Theo Kastoras won the weekend's Shark Competition with a school shark weighing 13,400 grams.



Recreational anglers are reminded that the minimum legal size for snapper in Victoria is 28cm, and the daily bag limit is 10, of which no more than three can equal or exceed 40cm.

# Big weekend when snapper season fires up

## FISHING

The Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) held its third weekend angling competition. The weather was fine on Saturday and wet on Sunday, with little more than a gentle breeze over the two days, perfect conditions for some serious fishing. The five-hour RPIAC Ladies fishing charter, with Island Off-shore Charters, was also a great success thanks to Lea Bowen and all onboard. An incredible 76 fish, six sharks, and two calamari were weighed in, with an abundance of snapper, King George whiting, trevally, tailor, flathead, leatherjacket, sharks and cephalopods proving that the fish were well and truly on the bite and that snapper season has definitely started. In the Squidgies Mixed Bag Points competition, the reigning Squidgie Club Champion Harley Griffin continued his impressive form, finishing first with six fish worth 105 points. Jude Brown took second place with five fish worth 85 points. The Junior Weight and Junior Points competitions were uncontested this weekend. In the senior divisions, Debra Orr took out the Senior Female Points competition with a King George whiting worth 1,288 points (460 grams), while Tyce Kleverkamp claimed victory in the Senior Male Points compe-

titution with a tailor worth 2,825 points (1130 grams). This outstanding catch also set a new RPIAC club record for tailor, surpassing the previous mark of 1075 grams, held by the current RPIAC Club Champion, James Nicolaci. Leah Valente won the Senior Female Heaviest Weight competition with a 57cm brag mat snapper of 2290 grams and Mark Griffin secured the Senior Male Heaviest Weight competition with a snapper weighing 6830 grams, currently the heaviest weekend-competition snapper of the season. The Shark competition was won by Theo Kastoras with a school shark weighing 13,400 grams, while Mark Griffin also took out the Squid/Cuttlefish competition with a Southern calamari weighing 1310 grams. The Secret Weight Prize went to Frank Kastoras, whose snapper weighing 4455 grams came closest to the secret weight of 4256 grams. The Game Fish competition was uncontested. After the presentations, anglers and supporters gathered at the clubrooms to enjoy another friendly post-competition celebration, reflecting on what has been the most successful competition of the season so far. None of the RPIAC Extraordinary Catch Incentives were claimed, and the members-only, competition weekend, \$1000

first-to-catch prizes for senior competitors remain in the bank. The incentives up for grabs are for eligible species that equal or exceed the nominated weight and include King George whiting (1000 grams), snapper (10kg), Gummy shark (20kg), mulloway (25kg), and kingfish (25kg). The five-hundred-dollar Heaviest Snapper competition, running over the October and November competition weekends, is still in play and will conclude on the Bill Wallis Trophy weekend competition, marking the fifth competition of the season. Mark Griffin is currently in first place with his 6830-gram snapper caught this weekend. All junior anglers who participate receive complementary membership to RPIAC, allowing them to compete for prizes and club championships in the Squidgie (anglers aged nine or younger) and Junior (anglers aged 10 to 16) categories. The RPIAC clubrooms are open on Friday nights from 5pm and on competition weekends from 4pm, providing a great opportunity for anglers to gather, weigh in fish and share their fishing stories. The next competition will be held over the weekend of November 8-9. For more information about upcoming competitions or to join the club, visit [www.rpiac.com](http://www.rpiac.com).

# Snapper baby boom

## FISHING

Snapper season is underway and recreational anglers can expect another solid spring in Port Phillip and Western Port according to modelling undertaken by fisheries scientists. Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said modelling predicted last year's snapper boom would continue to pay dividends through the rest of spring and into summer. "Last year was one of the best snapper seasons in many years, with land and boat-based fishers getting into the great outdoors and catching plenty of fish," he said. "Victoria is home to some of Australia's best snapper fishing in Port Phillip and Western Port, and the season is eagerly anticipated by thousands of keen anglers." To assess the abundance of baby snapper and compare breeding seasons, scientists collect fish measuring between three and 10cm at night using specialised nets. Results are then compared to a dataset of more than 30 years. Spawning success varies depending on environmental conditions and strong seasons are often followed by weaker years, typical of natural variation within wild fisheries. "We had record spawning in 2017 and what we saw in 2024 was an unprecedented snapper season in terms of catch rates according to our creel surveys," Mr Dowling said. "That's not the only good news for snapper anglers. Our more recent 2022 monitoring showed the third highest abundance of baby snapper since surveys began in 1993, so we expect

to see great fishing continue in coming seasons." Recreational anglers are reminded that the minimum legal size for snapper in Victoria is 28cm, and the daily bag limit is 10, of which no more than three can equal or exceed 40cm. **Kingfish** The VFA says recreational anglers have overwhelmingly supported a proposal to change the bag limit for yellowtail kingfish. CEO Travis Dowling said hundreds of fishers state-wide had responded to the proposal through online and in-person consultation, strongly supporting the reduction in the daily bag limit from five to two, which takes effect today. "From more than 190 formal responses to consultation, 79 per cent were supportive of changing the bag limit of two, viewing it as being more representative of a fair day's catch. A recent VRFish survey also showed strong support from more than 1000 respondents. "This decision strikes the right balance between encouraging people to get into the great outdoors to wet a line for kingfish and continuing to share the stock among anglers during the summer season," Mr Dowling said. Mr Dowling said a bag limit of two would be in effect immediately, ahead of the annual season which traditionally begins when water temperatures rise to around 18 degrees in summer. A minimum legal size of 60cm also remains in place for kingfish, which can reach 120cm or more. To stay across all catch limits download the free Vic Fishing app via your app store or by heading to [www.vfa.vic.gov.au/vicfishingapp](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/vicfishingapp)

# Results from the table

## BRIDGE

The spirit of friendly competition was alive and well at the Bridge Club on Wednesday, October 22, as the Seniors Festival brought a lively group of visitors eager to learn and experience the fascinating game of bridge.

Five tables were in play, with Club President Caroline Shaw and champion player Jean Barbour guiding newcomers through the intricacies of the game. The day's honours went to Marion and Kevin Taylor, visiting from Traralgon, who took

out top spot with an impressive 61.57 per cent. Earlier in the week, Monday's session saw five and a half tables in play, with Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour emerging victorious on 59.58 per cent. For those inspired to join in, Beginners' Lessons will recommence on Tuesday, October 28, at 10am (please arrive by 9.45am). For more information, contact Caroline Shaw on 0418 369 557.

# Euchre results

Ladies winner: Josie with 7 wins. Men's winner: Newcomer Jack Baker with 7 wins. Encouragement award: Russell. Euchre had a very good turnout and it's great to see the

fun and laughter amongst the players. New members are always welcomed to join Thursday euchre nights at the RSL. For further information contact Bob Hee on 0418 173 388.

# TIDE GUIDE

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

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|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| HIGH 12:20 am<br>2.64 m | HIGH 1:33 am<br>2.89 m | HIGH 2:37 am<br>3.10 m | HIGH 3:34 am<br>3.25 m | HIGH 4:27 am<br>3.30 m | HIGH 5:16 am<br>3.27 m | HIGH 6:03 am<br>3.18 m |
| LOW 5:51 am<br>1.19 m   | LOW 7:10 am<br>1.16 m  | LOW 8:15 am<br>1.09 m  | LOW 9:13 am<br>1.02 m  | LOW 10:03 am<br>0.97 m | LOW 10:51 am<br>0.92 m | LOW 11:38 am<br>0.90 m |
| HIGH 12:17 pm<br>2.50 m | HIGH 1:21 pm<br>2.56 m | HIGH 2:19 pm<br>2.63 m | HIGH 3:13 pm<br>2.70 m | HIGH 4:02 pm<br>2.75 m | HIGH 4:52 pm<br>2.77 m | HIGH 5:41 pm<br>2.74 m |
| LOW 6:17 pm<br>0.63 m   | LOW 7:22 pm<br>0.42 m  | LOW 8:19 pm<br>0.24 m  | LOW 9:13 pm<br>0.14 m  | LOW 10:03 pm<br>0.11 m | LOW 10:52 pm<br>0.16 m | LOW 11:40 pm<br>0.29 m |

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# A tough day for the Sharks

## CRICKET

### C Grade

The C Graders were away at Dalyston playing Wonthaggi Club on Saturday.

The skipper won his third toss in a row, electing to bat.

Young gun Seb DiFalco put his hand up to open, and the experienced Francis went into bat.

Seb battled hard and saw off a heap of balls before being given LBW for a duck.

Mani was at three and quickly departed for four, and when Wado was caught behind for a duck, the Sharks were in trouble at 3/22.

Parry hit the first boundary of the day but was caught shortly after.

At drinks the Sharks were 4/29. Sonny stopped the rot for a while, but when he was caught behind for four and Cleary was caught for four, they were in dire straits.

Carville picked out the deep mid-wicket fielder and Lock was caught for a duck.

Francis who was the only batter who reached double figures and made over half the teams score, was dismissed for 31.

Hughes was caught for a duck bringing the innings to a close, all out for 57.

Wonthaggi went into bat and Sonny Mac and Chambers opened the bowling.

The two young stars bowled tightly making the batters work hard for the runs. Big Cal got the first scalp, cart-wheeling the leg stump, giving him 6/1/19.

Catches to Carville and Mani gave Sonny two wickets (7/2/21) but Wonthaggi cruised past the total with 18 overs to spare, winning by seven wickets.

### A Grade

After back-to-back wins, the Sharks headed out to Outtrim for a grand final rematch.

Skipper Mock won the toss and without hesitation, elected to bat first.

Arceo and Johnson opened the innings, starting well and kept the scoreboard ticking over.

Arceo (8) looked solid as usual before falling to a caught and bowled, leaving the Sharks at 1/32.

Womersley (4) joined Johnson but was short-lived, followed by Mock (1) and

Thomas Niven (2), which saw the Sharks in a bit of strife at 4/55.

Beaumont, fresh off a trip overseas, then joined Johnson and looked to steady the ship.

The pair combined nicely, scoring quick runs and putting the Sharks back on track, Beaumont with some power hitting and Johnson finding the gaps, taking the Sharks to drinks at 4/79.

Beaumont fell not long after for a well-made 17, which triggered another small collapse.

Asurumuni (4) and Tim Niven (0) both fell cheaply, leaving the Sharks struggling at 7/99.

Johnson remained at the crease and was joined by young gun Jobe Williams.

Showing great fight, the pair built a crucial partnership late in the innings.

Johnson reached a well-deserved half-century, combining beautifully with Williams (21) to put the Sharks back in the contest.

Williams eventually fell, followed shortly after by Johnson, who finished with a strong 69, a fitting reward after a solid preseason.

With a few late runs from Archie Williams (1) and McCausland (1\*), the Sharks were bowled out for 144 in 37.3 overs.

Top Batting Performances: Johnson 69, Jobe Williams 21, Beaumont 17.

It was then the Sharks' turn to take the field. McCausland and Tim Niven opened the bowling, keeping things tight early but without reward.

Jobe Williams continued his all-round display, striking first with an LBW before claiming two more wickets in quick succession to bring the game to life.

To top it off, Jobe produced a brilliant direct hit run out, which he kept reminding everyone it came from the boundary, getting the Sharks up and about and briefly turning the tide of the match.

Womersley was then brought on and bowled tightly, finishing with 2/17 from six overs.

Despite the fightback, a composed innings from Lamers guided Outtrim home, with the Sharks falling to a strong opposition.

Bowling Figures: J Williams: Eight overs, 3/46. H Womersley: six overs, 2/17.

### Open Comp 9H Stableford

Overall winner: Vic Mitchell (12) 21 pts from Reg Browne (21) 20 pts.

BDL to 18 pts c/b.

### Saturday, October 25

#### Men's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Max Mattock (15) 42 pts c/b.

A Grade winner: A-1 Brent White (12) 42 pts.

A-2 winner: Anthony Shannon (10) 41 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Max Mattock (15) 42 pts.

B-2 winner: Max Disher (17) 41 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Stuart Crawford (21) 42 pts c/b.

C-2 winner: Mathew Goss (19) 42 pts.

BDL to 36 pts c/b.

NTP: 5th Lucas Saric, 7th Ugo Masciulli, 10th Joel Panozzo and 17th Stewart Hamilton.

#### Women's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: Karen Green (16) 41 pts.

A Grade winner: Karen Green (16) 41 pts.

A-2 winner: Patricia Jamieson (33) 39 pts.

BDL to 36 pts c/b.

NTP: 5th Karen Green, 7th Alice Schofield, 10th and 17th Vicki Amato.

Open 9H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: John Robertson (22) 25.

BDL to 16 pts.

Sunday, October 26

Men's 18H Foursomes Championship

Foursomes Gross – Overall winners: Brady Ross and Jack Ross 77 from Steven Duggan and Brent White 81.

Foursomes Nett – Overall winners: Steven Duggan and Brent White 71 from Rick Zolcinski and Rowan Wales 71.5.

BDL 77.

# Competition tightens at season midpoint

## DARTS

Monday night saw an even field of 24 sharp-shooting darters take to the oche, each one chasing glory and a step closer to spring comp dominance.

With the season now halfway through, the competition is tightening and there's still plenty of time for anyone to make a charge up the leaderboard.

The night's highlight came with the return of Jamie, who didn't miss a beat after his break.

Leading from the front, he captained his team of Marilyn, Alby and Vince to a commanding 5-2 victory, showing great teamwork and consistency across the match.

Meanwhile, lucky Laurie Jones lived up to his name by bagging the San Remo Butchers meat tray, always a fan favourite and the perfect prize for a Monday night win.

As we head into next week, the league has promised some fun new twists with bonus point



Congratulations to Jamie, Marilyn, Alby and Vince who won the darts competition with a commanding 5-2 victory.

opportunities to keep everyone on their toes.

On the leaderboard after Week 7, Bob continues to hold top spot with 45 points, maintaining a narrow two-point lead over

Paul on 43, while Dave keeps within striking distance in third on 36 points.

With form shifting and excitement building, the second half of the spring season is set to be a cracker.

# Island hosts the 2025 SUP titles

## SURFING

The 2025 Australian SUP Titles concluded on Sunday with champions crowned across six divisions in SUP Marathon Racing.

Open Women Marathon was won by Sorelle Nolan (VIC), and the Open Men Marathon Winner was Juan Cruz (QLD).

The Open Men's Champion was Matt Takle (VIC), with NSW's Rebecca Dunning taking out the Open Women's title.

Full results from the weekend's competition available at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)



The 2025 Australian SUP Titles on Phillip Island last weekend concluded with champions crowned across six divisions in SUP Marathon Racing. Photo: Claudia Tivendale.

# On the green

## GOLF

### Tuesday, October 21

#### Men's 18H Comp Stableford

Overall winner: David Pardoe (17) 42.

A Grade winner: A-1 Geoff Daff (13) 41.

A-2 winner: Isaac Baty (-3) 40.

B Grade winner: B-1 David Pardoe (17) 42.

B-2 winner: Greg Kane (15) 41.

C Grade winner: C-1 Rick Connell (25) 41 c/b.

C-2 winner: John Mahony (28) 41.

BDL to 37 c/b.

NTP: 5th Paul Pendergast, 7th Peter Rymer and 10th Ian Smith and 17th Brent Scott.

Men's 9H 3 or 4 Person Ambrose

Overall winner: Ralph Leditschke and Vic Mitchell and Reg Wenham and John Duthie 28.125 from Ian Barker and Basil Moloney and Laurie Petrusch and Reg Browne 28.375.

Thursday, October 23

Open Stableford 18H

Overall winner: Phillip Bencraft (10) 45 pts.

A Grade winner: A-1 Phillip Bencraft (10) 45 pts.

A-2 winner: Geoff Daff (13) 41 pts.

B Grade winner: B-1 Stephen Mack (15) 39 pts.

B-2 winner: Rick Zolcinski (19) 38 pts.

C Grade winner: C-1 Gary Skelton (21) 40 pts.

C-2 winner: Ian Cookman (21) 39 pts c/b.

BDL to 36 pts c/b.

NTP: 5th Aaron Saric, 7th Fred Panozzo, 10th Darrell Clark and 17th Chris Sanderson.

# Red Rocks golf

### Friday, October 24

Friday Chook Run

Winners: Robert McLaurin (6) and Jamie Naismith (4) both scor-

ing 18 points.

Saturday, October 25

4BBB Stableford

Winners: Jamie Nai-

smith and Rob Stead – 47

points.

NTP: Hole 5 Jamie Naismith, Hole 10 Victor Petropoulos.

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Angus Kennedy launching to the air during the Bang Bang Tag Team Cup. Photo: Craig Anderson. More photos at [pisra.com.au/sport](http://pisra.com.au/sport)

# Bang Bang Tag Team Cup delivers in pumping conditions

## SURFING

The Bang Bang Tag Team Cup went off in true Phillip Island style – pumping waves, pouring rain, and plenty of froth from groms to veterans.

Six teams with 57 participants went head-to-head in a full day of high-energy surfing, teamwork, and fun, with competitors showing serious commitment despite the weather.

Team CJD Roofing, captained by Scarlett Rennie, claimed top honours with 281.50 points, ahead of McHenry Motors team (253.80) and Island Surfboards (251.50).

The beach presentation went ahead in the rain, wrapping up what was another memorable day for the club and an epic start to the season. Winners were stoked to score Quiksilver prize packs, generously donated to the club for the event.

The sign-up night and raffle, held the evening before at Bang Bang Bar and Restaurant Phillip Island, raised around \$3000 to support the club's Australian Board riders Battle campaign and World cup challenge campaign to be held early next year.

The venue was packed, and Bang Bang generously donated

\$500 from the bar takings for the night, once again showing incredible support for the local surfing community.

Club President Jake Eisen said the weekend summed up what the club is all about:

"The surf was pumping, everyone turned up, and even the rain couldn't dampen the vibe. It was one of those classic island days that reminds you why we live here."

## Results

1st: White (CJD Roofing) – 281.50  
2nd: Blue (McHenry Motors) – 253.80  
3rd: Orange (Island Surf-

boards) – 251.50

4th: Red (Atoll Travel) – 232.80

5th: Yellow (Salt Law) – 232.50

6th: Green (Bang Bang) – 205.20

## Special Awards:

Max Dunham – Cowabunga Award

Emma Simpson – MVP

Bobby Math – Most Improved award

Rusty Maier – High Performer Award

Savanah Bennett – Coolest Captain

Billy Easton – Fully Committed Award

Max Agnostou – Club Spirit Award



Winning Team at the Bang Bang Tag Team Cup (from left): Walter Hiatt, Tyler Duell, Angus Kennedy, Justin Tilley, Eva Basset, Scarlett Rennie and Max Dunham.



Beach action at the Bang Bang Tag Team Cup. Photo: Craig Anderson.

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- \$820,000**

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