



Wonthaggi courts ready for action!

Wonthaggi has seven brand new netball courts after the six month redevelopment project was completed earlier this year. Officially opened by Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing MP in April, the brightly coloured courts are now a showcase sporting facility for Bass Coast, and will provide wonderful opportunities for all budding netballers across the Shire.

Captured as a key project within the Sport and Active Recreation Needs Assessment Study, the courts were funded through contributions from Council (\$599,000), Sport and Recreation Victoria (\$100,000), Wonthaggi and District Netball Association (\$100,000) and the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club (\$20,000). The total cost of the project was \$819,000.

The colourful plexipave surface provides all weather and compliant playing areas, meaning the courts can now host top quality regular season games, tournaments and finals matches.

The re-designed fencing provides an open feel to the facility and will encourage passive use outside of formal training and game time. This too will improve access and provide opportunities for netball enthusiasts.

Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, commented on the significance of this project in representing Council's commitment to recreation in Bass Coast.

"We are excited to now see the wonderful opportunities this major investment in sport presents local netball," Cr Rothfield said.

"A big thank you to the Wonthaggi and District Netball Association and the Wonthaggi Power Netball Club for their tireless work in fundraising and volunteering through the delivery of this project, and, the continued support for netball through their competitions and programs. We're very excited to see these new courts put to great use!"

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From the Mayor



Although Winter can force us indoors more often than we would like, there will still be many Bass Coastians out in all weather over the weekends representing their local football, netball and soccer clubs. Sport and recreation is a vital ingredient in building and maintaining strong and healthy communities. We are dedicated to continuing to support our clubs and improve our sports and recreation resources in Bass Coast. A great example of this is the new Wonthaggi Netball Courts. I look forward to seeing the opportunities these courts bring to our budding netballers. We have also established a draft Master Plan for the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve which shows a forward vision of using our recreation spaces to the best of their ability. And of course we have not lost sight of our aims for an Aquatic and Leisure centre on Phillip Island. A fine example of how sport enriches and grows our community is the Bass Coast Breakers. This is the first women's AFL team for our area and I was privileged to meet with them at their season launch in May. As a woman, and as Mayor of Bass Coast, I am immensely proud to see the dreams of these women, who have wanted for so long to just get out there and play the sport they love, come true. Many of the players are mothers and I couldn't help but think how wonderful (and right) it is that for their little ones, women playing sport will be the norm.

**Cr Pamela Rothfield
 Mayor**

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Tune into your Council!

Remember to tune into 3mFM, our local community radio station, for regular updates on what's happening with Council. Our radio show goes to air on Tuesday at 9.30am, Thursday at 4.30pm and Saturdays at 10.00am.

- 88.1 Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Korumburra and Leongatha
- 89.1 Phillip Island, San Remo and West Gippsland

If you miss the show don't despair! You can listen to past shows on our podcast on iTunes or on SoundCloud.

Please check www.basscoast.vic.gov.au for updates. All correspondence can be addressed to Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi, VIC 3995.



Foreshore gets a facelift

Council is enhancing the Cowes Foreshore as part of its commitment to asset renewal across the Shire. Having identified the need for maintaining and upgrading existing assets, such as footpaths and public buildings, in its Long Term Financial Plan, Council began works to update public infrastructure in late April. Refurbished areas along the Cowes Foreshore include around The Esplanade toilet block, the area to west side along the Cowes Foreshore, and around the Findlay Street toilet block.

Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, said these renewal works will also complement the recent works at the Cenotaph, as well as the Jetty Triangle redevelopment that is currently in planning stages.

“Maintaining our existing assets is just as important as setting aside funds for new and exciting projects, such as the development of the Cowes Jetty Triangle,” Cr Rothfield said.

“Finding the balance can be difficult, but I am confident that these upcoming renewal works are in perfect alignment with the plans for further development in and around the Cowes Foreshore.”

Other renewal projects underway or soon to commence:

- 1.1km of South Dudley Road footpath from the wetlands to Wonthaggi Secondary College Dudley Campus
- A further 1.1km of existing asphalt path between Cowes-Rhyll Road and Ramada Resort to be replaced with a two metre wide concrete path
- 800 metres of path renewal works on Phillip Island Road between Coghlan Road and the Koala Conservation Park.
- Works at Inverloch Community Hub, including painting of the library and resurfacing of timber floors
- Works at Bass Coast Aquatic Centre, including painting and replacement of air-conditioning
- Renewal of a pedestrian timber bridge on the Bass Coast Rail Trail located west of the mouth of the Powlett River
- Replacement of the Inverloch Boat Ramp public toilets

The total cost of these renewal works is estimated to be \$1 million.

Rail relics at Cape Paterson

A new sign has been erected at Cape Paterson First Surf Beach to acknowledge and remind us of our important coal mining history.

The sign at the First Surf Beach Life Saving Club ramp tells the story behind the rusted Barlow rails resting on the beach. The sign was erected by Council, with significant input from the dedicated volunteers at the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society. Society President, Fay Quilford, commented on the delight of the society to finally have a sign erected.

“The Barlow rails are important as they are the only visible relic of the pioneering mining ventures here. We cannot stress enough the importance of raising the public’s awareness of both relics and stories relevant to our history; the sign does this,” Mrs Quilford said.

The rails are the oldest relic of coal mining in the Cape Paterson area. They were sourced from the tramway in Geelong, and gifted by the Victorian Government to complete construction of the rail in 1863.



The Barlow rails at Cape Paterson First Surf Beach. Photo courtesy of the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society.

The rails on the beach are exposed or covered at various times, depending on sand movement and tidal activity. To read the full story behind the rails and see some historical images, or the rails themselves, visit the plaque at Cape Paterson First Surf Beach.

Community drives draft Plan and Budget

After extensive community conversations and consultation to 'Help shape a better Bass Coast' earlier this year, Bass Coast Shire Council delivered its draft Council Plan 2017-21 and draft Annual Budget 2017/18 at a Special Meeting in April. The draft Plan includes Council's Vision, Mission and Values, as well as seven themes; Advocacy, Economic Development, Environment, Governance, Health and Wellbeing, Liveability, and Our Character. The draft Plan and Budget were on exhibition and open for community comment until 30 May 2017. Both documents will be considered at the ordinary Council Meeting on 21 June 2017.

Key draft Budget projects

Our investment in capital works continues to be a priority with proposed funding of \$18.572 million. The key projects proposed to be funded include:

- New floodlighting for two soccer pitches at Newhaven Recreation Reserve
- Redevelopment of change rooms at Dalyston Recreation Reserve
- Development of the Cowes Transit Hub to coincide with the Jetty Triangle project
- Contribution to Wonthaggi CBD Traffic Lights
- Extension of Surf Parade shared path to Veronica St, Inverloch
- Refurbishment of Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre
- Construction of a new landfill cell at Grantville Landfill
- Bass Coast Rail Trail Bourne Creek Pedestrian Bridge Renewal
- Resurfacing of Netball Courts at Dalyston Recreation Reserve
- Replacement of footpath on Anchorage Rd, Ventnor between Ventnor Road and Pall Mall
- Nyora St Helier Road Upgrade – Nation Building Blackspot Program
- Kerb Renewal – Jenner Avenue, Cowes
- Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve Gymnasium Building Renewal Works
- South Dudley Road Upgrade – Nation Building Blackspot Program
- Phillip Island Nature Parks commercial office development
- Pioneer Bay Drainage Improvements

Draft Budget Highlights

- Operating surplus of \$3.89 million (underlying surplus of \$1.064 million)
- We continue to be low rating and low spending
- Average General Rate increase of 2%, in line with the State Government's Rate Cap
- Community Facilities Funding:
 - Proposed Wonthaggi Shared Highball Facility – Council contribution of \$1.5 million
 - Cape Paterson Surf Lifesaving Club – Council contribution (over two years) of \$600,000
- Employee Cost increases have been contained to 2.15% from 2016/17 budget
- Continued operation of Inverloch Transfer Station
- Rural Land Management Program funded to approx. \$600,000 to support our rural community
- Ongoing commitment to developing Skate Parks
- Land Contribution towards a medical facility on Phillip Island
- Commence engagement with the community of how we spend \$2 million on open space in 2018/2019

For more information visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/abetterbasscoast

Keep your pets safe in a storm

Winter is here, which means our weather is growing colder and wetter, and thunderstorms are more likely to be on the radar. One of the most important things to consider in stormy weather is the protection of our pets.

Before a storm approaches, make sure your fences and gates are secure so that your pets cannot escape. It's important to remember that pets can hear storms from much further away than humans. This may trigger changes in their behaviour which you should look out for, especially for pets that don't cope well during storms.

Whenever possible, try to bring your pets inside during storms, particularly if they show signs of distress. Pets will attempt to do everything they can to escape the noise; even outdoor pets that don't seem to care too much about the weather. Outdoor pets should have a safe and secure shelter to escape from the noise and rain. To give your pet the best chance of being reunited with you if it escapes, always ensure that your pet is wearing its collar with a current registration tag, and that contact details are up to date on both the Council registration and microchip. Unidentifiable animals or animals with incorrect contact details can take longer to be reunited, which can cause further distress to both the animal and its owners.

Consider downloading the VicEmergency app to your smart phone for timely information and warnings about storms and other emergencies, such as fire, floods, and water safety. VicEmergency is available from the Apple App Store or Google Play. For more information on how to prepare for an emergency, visit the 'Prepare and Get Ready' tab on www.emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare.



New channel for domestic building disputes



Most domestic building projects are completed to a high standard and satisfy home owners. However, from time to time, things do go wrong and it is not unusual for builders and home owners to find themselves in dispute about a range of issues. Many of these disputes escalate over time and can result in stressful legal action for both parties.

Domestic Building Dispute Resolution Victoria (DBDRV) is a new dispute resolution service. It provides effective and impartial support for builders and homeowners, without the cost and time often associated with courts and tribunals.

The service is available to building owners, builders, and in some circumstances, architects and sub-contractors. It focuses on conciliation, which involves bringing both parties together to discuss and resolve matters in dispute.

Builders or home owners with an eligible dispute must attempt to resolve their building dispute through DBDRV before they can make an application to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). For further information, please visit the DBDRV website at www.dbdrv.vic.gov.au.

2016 Aged and Disability Client Survey Results

Council provides a range of services designed to support eligible aged and disabled residents to stay active, independent and living at home for as long as possible. Helping people stay active, involved and doing as much for themselves as possible is proven to help people stay more independent with a greater sense of wellbeing.

Satisfaction levels

94% for the service

89% rated the service as either 'excellent' or 'good'

97% for Community Care Workers and Office staff

98% for Assessment team

96% for Home Maintenance staff

We found that

100% thought it was important for Council to provide services

93% said that their needs were assessed before a service was offered

97% felt staff listened to them and that they could trust the people providing their care

98% felt they had been involved in decisions about their care and support

What clients and carers said:

"I could not manage without the service provided by the Council. My worker is great and hopefully I can stay in my home for a long time."

"I have physical as well as mental health problems and I find the service invaluable."

"It assists me to live independently in my own home as I wish to."

"Carers need all the support they can get to be able to do their responsibilities as carers for their sick family members."

"Everyone I have come into contact with has been kind, friendly and very helpful and go out of their way to assist me and I am very grateful of their kindness."

"I have always had excellent people to help me. I am very happy thank you."

Who responded

201 surveys completed

50% response rate

17% carers

8% spoke a language other than English at home



81% female

19% male



For more information on the services Council provides please contact our Aged and Disability Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

Seeking water stewards in Bass Coast



Water is a vital part of life, but while most of us take it for granted it's an increasingly scarce resource.

That's where water stewardship comes in. Water stewardship is a form of water management that aims to achieve good water quality, sustainable water balance, healthy ecology and water security. It's a great opportunity to focus on the responsible use and management of water.

The Western Port Biosphere's Water Stewardship program helps landholders, businesses and organisations to improve water management on their properties which in turn has a positive influence on local waterways. The program is actively working in multiple catchments, including Bass River. Biosphere staff can visit your property to explain water stewardship and the benefits to your site. Benefits include cost savings and more sustainable water use through development of a Site Water Stewardship Plan to identify and address site issues, external accreditation and potential funding for on-site works. The Biosphere and the Alliance for Water Stewardship provide training and assistance to help get water stewards up and running.

For more information visit www.biosphere.org.au/biosphere-projects/water-stewardship, or contact the Biosphere's Water Stewardship Project Officer, Lance Lloyd on lancel@biosphere.org.au or (03) 5979 2167.

Decisions from Council

- At the April Ordinary Meeting, Council made the decision to proceed with the Cowes Jetty Triangle and Transit Centre projects, subject to State Government funding. With the process to go to detailed design for the Jetty Triangle already in motion, Council will also proceed with the detailed designs for the Transit Centre if funding is granted.
- Council decided to proceed with the proposed Wonthaggi Shared Regional Highball Facility project, subject to State Government funding, at the April Ordinary Meeting. The project will expand plans for the proposed Wonthaggi Secondary College Senior Campus from a single court highball facility to a three court stadium for shared community use
- Council voted to continue its close working relationship with Phillip Island Nature Parks at the April Ordinary Meeting by endorsing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the organisation. The new MOU will remain in effect for the next three years.
- A location for the future Phillip Island Aquatics Centre is still to be determined after Council decided not to locate the facility on part of lot 56-60 Church Street in Cowes at the March Ordinary Meeting. Council will now consider additional sites suitable to accommodate the facility

What's on at your library?

This winter Bass Coast Libraries are offering some fabulous author talks to suit all interests. Bookings are free, but essential at wgrlc.eventbrite.com.au

Vivien Achia

Inverloch Library, Wednesday, 14 June, 12.30pm
Join the Friends of Inverloch Library for lunch with Vivien Achia, the Melbourne-based author of *Marrying Italian*.

True Crime: Inside stories with Robin Bowles and Vikki Petraitis

Wonthaggi Library Wednesday, 28 June, 2.00pm
Robin and Vikki have investigated some of the highest criminal profile cases from recent times (Jaidyn Leskie, Jennifer Tanner, Paul Dale, serial killer Paul Denyer, and many more). In this talk, Robin and Vikki will discuss some of their most famous true-crime stories.

Jane Austen by Lise Rodgers "My Emma"

Wonthaggi Library, Wednesday, 26 July, 7.00pm - 8.00pm
To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the publication of "Emma" in 1816, this new production reveals a more mature Jane, confident in her abilities as a novelist and for the first time taking an active role in managing her own affairs. Based on her letters of the period and of course the novel itself, here is the opportunity to celebrate the folk of Highbury and none more fascinating than Miss Emma Woodhouse herself.

Aminah Hart

Inverloch Library, Wednesday, 9 August, 2.00pm
Join the Friends of Inverloch Library for an afternoon author talk with Aminah Hart, who will share the story of her 'back to front' romance that has been the feature of ABC's *Australian Story*.

To find out more about upcoming events and services at your local library visit www.wgrlc.vic.gov.au.

Pro surf on our shores

Council has committed to professional surfing with the announcement of the Phillip Island Pro QS1000 event on local shores this October.

To be held from 27-31 October on Phillip Island, the event will feature a 1000 rated World Surf League Qualifying Series (QS) event alongside a State Junior Event and Indigenous Invitational. Surfing Victoria CEO, Adam Robertson, is excited to bring the QS event back to Victoria.

"I am thrilled that Surfing Victoria, the Bass Coast Shire and World Surf League are able to bring a QS event back to Victoria and particularly to Phillip Island which has some of the best waves in the state," Mr Robinson said.

"The QS is the stepping stone to the World Tour and provides junior surfers with some great experience against older surfers." Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, mirrors the excitement commenting on the suitability of hosting the event in Bass Coast.

"Being surrounded by some of the best surf in Australia, means that many of the athletes we produce are surfers," Cr Rothfield said.

"By hosting this event we are both validating the dream to our young surfers to strive to be their best, and providing a development pathway for them by establishing a connection between our local grassroots events and clubs, and professional competitions."

The primary location for the event will be the world class beach break Cape Woolamai with back up options being Flynn's Reef, Penguin Parade, Right Point, Smiths Beach and Surfies Point.

The Phillip Island Pro QS1000 is presented by Bass Coast Shire Council and the Victorian Government, and supported by Surfing Victoria, HIF Australia and Coastalwatch.

More information on the World Surf League can be found at www.worldsurfleague.com

