Bass Coast is leading the way when it comes to waste in Gippsland, with the introduction of its new three-bin kerbside collection service in September. Households with a kerbside collection received a new 240 litre Recycling bin with a yellow lid, a 240L Organics bin with a green lid, and a 120L Landfill bin with a red lid, as well as an education pack to help everyone learn how to use the new waste system.

The green-lidded Organics bin is the new edition for Bass Coast Shire. It is collected weekly and in it you can put all of your food scraps – including meat, seafood, bread and dairy products – as well as garden and green waste, compostable kitty litter and pet manure, and even tissues and paper towels.

This organic waste is now being processed into certified organic compost which is returned to farms to improve soils. To keep the process clean and easy households have also received a kitchen caddy and year’s supply of compostable caddy liners. People are encouraged to put their organic waste in their bag-lined caddy, tie up the bags when full, and then place the caddy bag in the green-lidded bin.

Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, said the new three-bin system will have a positive and lasting impact on our environment and sustainability.

“When we only had two bins, on average Bass Coast Shire general waste bins contained 61 per cent organic material; that’s a lot of waste unnecessarily going into landfill,” Cr Rothfield said.

“When organic waste rots in landfill, it creates greenhouse gases. Forecasting shows that our current greenhouse gas emissions are around 7,700 tonnes of CO2 each year, and removing our kerbside organics from landfill will reduce this by more than 2,500 tonnes.

“Introducing the Organics bin will also reduce the landfill levies paid to the State Government, where we are charged per tonne.” Read more on page 5.
From the Mayor

The three-bin system is finally here and I am so proud we are leading the charge on organic waste in Gippsland! Since ‘War on Waste’ aired on the ABC earlier this year, we’re seeing people take action everywhere, from reusable coffee cups to phasing out plastic bags. It has reminded me of the question Al Gore posed at the EcoCity World Summit held in Melbourne recently: “In years to come, when our children inherit the earth we leave them, will they wonder what we were thinking, when we ignored the science?”

In Bass Coast Shire, we are not ‘ignoring the science’. Whilst I understand there are concerns in our community in regards to our changes in waste collection, I’ve been encouraging people to look at the bigger picture. The aim of our new system is to preserve and protect our environment for our future generations. To do nothing is not an option.

The benefits of introducing this organics collection will greatly outweigh the little extra time spent dividing our rubbish. It will mean less compostable waste buried in the ground, which in turn will result in less methane gases released into our atmosphere. It will see our waste turned into fertiliser to help grow the very food we eat. Most importantly, it will mean a healthier environment for our children and our children’s children to enjoy.

Cr Pamela Rothfield
Mayor
Cowes revitalisation underway

Council will revitalise the Jetty Triangle and establish a Transit Centre in Cowes after a successful grant application to the State Government.

The project, adopted by Council as part of its Annual Budget 2017/18, will receive a funding boost from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund. Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, said the successful grant is exciting news for Phillip Island, with the projects expected to boost the Shire’s visitor economy.

“The redevelopment and revitalisation of the Jetty Triangle and Piazza will be fabulous for not only the Cowes community, but for visitors to the area,” Cr Rothfield said.

“The Triangle is the focus point for Thompson Avenue, so to look down the street and see a reinvigorated community space that flows seamlessly into Cowes’ central business district will be fantastic. The new design will create a space for people to sit and enjoy the views, spend time with friends and enjoy local events.”

The Transit Centre and All Day Parking, to be located at the rear of the Cowes Cultural Centre, will provide approximately 110 all day car parks, coach passenger drop-off areas, and a bus and taxi layover.

“The location of the new Transit Centre and All Day Parking will improve pedestrian movement and traffic flow in Cowes, and help to reduce the traffic on a busy Thompson Avenue,” Cr Rothfield said.

“It will bring visitors into the top half of the main street, only one block from The Esplanade, and encourage pedestrian traffic along Thompson Avenue and reinvigorate activity along the whole of the main street. “These two projects will enhance the visitor experience Cowes offers and we are incredibly excited to see works completed in time for the Island’s sesquicentennial celebrations later next year. This work will also be enhanced by $300,000 in renewal works completed along the Cowes Foreshore earlier this year.

The Esplanade toilet block roof lookout area has been refurbished with new tiling, handrail, planting, painting and floor coating renewal. Other areas along the foreshore from the Findlay Street toilet block to Mussel Rocks have also had a major makeover with improved path access, concreting and landscaping works. Fencing and retaining walls have been renewed and garden beds have been cleaned up and planted out with indigenous species.

The works were completed as part of Council’s asset management program and have provided Cowes foreshore with a fresh look.

The Cowes Cultural and Community Centre redevelopment is also back on the drawing board, with a detailed design and costing to go ahead after it was added into Council’s 2017/18 Budget.

Cr Rothfield said in response to submissions to the Budget, $650,000 has been allocated for future stages of the project.

“Progressing to a detailed design and costing for this project will ensure Council is in a position to take advantage of future funding opportunities,” Cr Rothfield said.

“We’d like to thank the significant input from our community and various community groups in the development of the concept plans for the Cowes Revitalisation Project, and we are very excited to see progress in the near future.”
No trailer? No problem!

Did you know that each property with a Council-provided kerbside garbage service is entitled to one annual Hard Waste Collection? Each financial year, up to two cubic metres of hard waste can be collected from your front yard for a subsidised fee of $35. A wide variety of items can be collected, including furniture, whitegoods and appliances, tools, mowers, car parts, scrap metal, toys, kitchenware and small pieces of timber. You can make a booking by contacting Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211, or in person at one of Council’s Customer Service Centres.

Where possible, hard waste items should stay inside your property boundary for collection; however if it is necessary to have your hard waste collected from a nature strip, you can put out the items within 48 hours before your collection date.

For more information, including what can and can’t be collected, please visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/hardwaste or contact Council on the phone numbers above.

Cowes facility to open every day

The Cowes Recycle Bank opening hours will be extended to seven days a week after a decision at Council’s June Ordinary Meeting. The facility is now open from 10.30am to 3.30pm from Friday to Tuesday, and from 1.00pm to 5.00pm on Wednesday and Thursday.

Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, said Cr Stephen Fullarton, who moved the Notice of Motion, had received feedback from local garden maintenance businesses asking for increased opening times.

“Some of the feedback received from local businesses indicated that having the Recycle Bank open on weekends is of no benefit to them, as they usually only operate on weekdays,” Cr Rothfield said.

“Having the facility open seven days creates a better balance between local businesses wanting to dispose of waste during the week, and community members using it to clean up their properties on weekends.”

Council will now put measures in place for the changes, and notify the community when the new operation times will come into effect.

Spring clean your garden

There’s no better time to clean up your garden in preparation for the upcoming bushfire period than during Council’s Green Waste Amnesty Period.

During the six weeks between Friday, 3 November and Tuesday, 19 December, residents and visitors will be able to dispose of domestic sized loads of green waste free of charge at all local waste facilities.

The Amnesty Period is a great opportunity to clean up your property by removing overhanging limbs (especially those overhanging footpaths and laneways), dry leaves and cutting long grass. Weed species and species that cannot be physically mulched will not be accepted in the green waste disposal, therefore fees will apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Council’s Waste Services Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.
Community embraces organics bin

With the introduction of the three-bin system kicking off in early September, some households and businesses across Bass Coast had an early taste of using the Organics bin.

Council delivered Organics bins to nine households across the Shire in mid-April to be case studies, with families of all different sizes and circumstances volunteering to use the new system in advance. After using the kitchen caddy and liners, as well as the Organics bin, for a number of months, Council followed up with the families to see how they’ve found a new way of separating their waste.

A Cape Woolamai couple with pets said while it was hard to get used to in the beginning, they now love the Organics bin. “People might find the change painful, especially those with children, but once they get used to it and learn the benefits to their children’s environment, I feel they will embrace it more,” they said.

A Wonthaggi family of four, also with pets, said they’re really happy with the whole bin system so far. “Overall, it has reduced the amount in the Landfill bin and I see it working really well for families,” they said. “I think it is a valuable addition to our waste solution in Bass Coast.”

A Pioneer Bay family of four, with a new born and toddler, also trialled the new system. “With a new born, a toddler and lots of visitors, having the option to separate the organics into another bin has helped us manage and cope with our current Landfill bin,” they said. “The Organics bin has also encouraged me to get in the garden more. Our family think it’s great.”

There have also been a number of questions from residents who already compost at home, which Council encourages they continue, with the Organics bin useful for waste that isn’t recommended people compost. “Using the Organics bin is easy. We already had a worm farm, but now we can responsibly dispose of meat, onion and citrus scraps too,” a Wonthaggi family of five said. “The biggest win for us is being able to add garden waste, leaves and clippings.”

Council also delivered Organics bins to four businesses located in Cowes, Wonthaggi and Inverloch in June to be case studies for the three-bin system. All four businesses – Kuta Café, A Maze’n’Things, The Coffee Collective and Vaughan’s Café and Deli – were impressed with their new Organics bins, with their staff jumping on board Bass Coast’s ‘war on waste’. “It’s a great initiative by the Council. It’s good for businesses looking for ways to reduce their waste and also make themselves more sustainable in the long run. It’s been adopted really well by the staff and there’s a positive energy surrounding it,” The Coffee Collective owner, James Archibald, said.

“A Maze’N’Things has also jumped on board to become a more environmentally sustainable business. In addition to Council’s Organics bin, they have also removed plastic bags, reduced the amount of packaging they use, are feeding some of their food scraps to chooks, and have removed plastic straws from the counter, and only giving them out when requested.

For more information about the three-bin system, visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/organics.
Our beautiful coast and bushland reserves wouldn’t be the same in Bass Coast without the amazing work of our 18 dedicated volunteer groups.

The groups are active in over a dozen areas across the Shire, with some covering larger areas such as Hooded Plover Watch on Phillip Island and Friends of the Hooded Plover on the Bass Coast Mainland. Over the past 12 months, volunteers have undertaken activities including weed control, revegetation, rubbish collection, propagation of indigenous plants and wildlife management.

They’ve also helped deliver Council’s Hooded Plover Strategy, made submissions to Council on planning applications, attended VCAT hearings, attracted funding for environmental works and taken part in project planning.

Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, said volunteer groups planted around 10,000 indigenous plants in 2016/17. “This achievement is not a one off, as they consistently reach this level every year,” Cr Rothfield said.

“We would not be able to achieve this level of planting without them and Council and the community as a whole acknowledge the great work they do.”

The results of the Hooded Plover breeding season this year are worth celebrating! This year we had a total of 134 known nests from 50 Hooded Plover breeding pairs across Bass Coast. This included all the foreshores managed by Council, Parks Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, said it takes a combined effort from all land managers to ensure the best chance of survival for the Hooded Plovers.

“From the 134 known nests, Hooded Plovers laid 301 eggs. Over the early part of the season the Hoodies had to deal with unusually persistent high tides with large swells, which contributed to nests being washed away,” Cr Rothfield said.

“When the weather calmed down, some nests still failed due to a number of reasons. Foxes and ravens were the main cause on the mainland beaches, while on Phillip Island bad weather, a dog, a water rat, and raven or magpie caused nests to fail.

“Of the 301 eggs laid, 53 eggs hatched and only 23 chicks made it to the flying stage. This might sound disappointing, but compared to some previous years, it is a great result.”

Once the eggs have hatched, Hoodies have a relatively good survival rate; however, keeping the eggs safe from predators, environmental threats and human interference is a challenge.

It takes patience and dedication from our tireless volunteers, and understanding from beach users. “Special thanks go to the volunteers from Hooded Plover Watch and Friends of the Hooded Plover Bass Coast for giving up their time to patrol beaches, monitor the progression of the birds and record data. We couldn’t do it without you,” Cr Rothfield said.

“We’d also like to thank all our residents and visitors who considered the needs of these special little birds while enjoying the beaches of Bass Coast.”

If you are interested in getting involved with a volunteer group in regards to the Hooded Plovers or any other foreshore activities please contact Council’s Coast and Bushland Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or environment@basscoast.vic.gov.au.
Community groups and organisations received almost $250,000 in funding as part of the first round of Bass Coast Community Grants 2017, as well as the Phillip Island Community Benefit Fund (PICBF) in June. There were 36 successful Community Grants recipients, with funding totalling $108,569. Grants ranged from $10,000 for the Phillip Island Golf Club to replace pump and irrigation infrastructure to $4,985 for Paul’s Table to purchase equipment to deliver high quality, low cost meals to community members twice a week to encourage social inclusion.

The Wonthaggi Theatrical Group also received $3,200 to purchase equipment to build sets for its productions, and the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club was granted $5,000 to enable them to research the history of the Club and Cape Paterson Bay Beach. The PICBF was a one-off funding program offering not-for-profit groups on Phillip Island grants derived from losses on electronic gaming machines at The Continental Hotel in Cowes. Nine recipients received a combined $140,343 from the PICBF, with grants ranging from $5,000 to $25,000. Bass Coast Health received $24,520 to purchase a vehicle, to be based on Phillip Island, which will be used by volunteers to take patients to medical appointments both locally and in Melbourne.

St John’s Uniting Church also received a significant grant of $22,188 to upgrade its kitchen so the Church can continue to provide a free weekly meal to the community. Reverend Ian Tunnidge said the funding meant a great deal to the founders and volunteers, enabling them to continue to provide meals to the community.

“"The number of people coming to enjoy a meal with us has grown from 13 to over 50 in less than 12 months,” Rev. Tunnidge said. “We were very excited last week to see our ‘regulars’ encourage new people to join with them to eat, so a positive spin-off is the inclusion that is happening in our community.” The Phillip Island Movie Club also received $5,275 to upgrade its technology and equipment. Movie Club member, Elizabeth Mulhern, said they were very grateful for the funding, with new state of the art equipment enabling the Movie Club to show a greater variety of films.

“The Club is so important to our residents as it brings people together and also helps keep them informed through a variety of media, from light-hearted films to informative documentaries.”

Cr Michael Whelan, who presented successful recipients with their grants at the presentation ceremony alongside Cr Stephen Fullarton, Cr Bruce Kent and Cr Clare Le Serve, said Council was fortunate to have many volunteers working in all spheres of the community. “This includes people maintaining our sporting and recreational facilities, those protecting the environment, parents fundraising for kindergartens and volunteers of emergency, health and service organisations,” Cr Whelan said.

Bass Coast is now home to a Whale Discovery Trail, a dedicated track leading to iconic bays, headlands, and lookouts where people can enjoy the magic of whale spotting.

The trail includes 10 interpretive signs dotted along well-known whale watching locations from Summerland, Phillip Island to Eagles Nest, Inverloch. These unique signs explain the commonly seen whale species, how to identify them and their behaviour, and also where they are going and coming from in their annual migration.

The Discovery Trail is an initiative of Bass Coast Shire Council, supported with funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme.

A working group was formed to assist in the delivery of the trail, which included members from a variety of organisations including Watershed Victoria, Destination Phillip Island, Wildlife Coast Cruises, Cape Kitchen, Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Shire Council.

“It has been an incredible example of collaboration at its best, getting all of the information and resources together to make this project the best it can be,” Mayor, Cr Rothfield said.

“This trail celebrates the awe of whale spotting. It provides a platform for families and people of all ages and backgrounds to experience something far beyond the everyday.”

You can download a copy of the Whale Discovery Trail brochure from the ‘Whale Trail’ page at www.visitbasscoast.com, or pick one up at any of the Bass Coast Visitor Information Centres in Cowes, Newhaven and Inverloch.

Stay engaged with Council

Do you want an opportunity to have input on a number of Council issues and decisions?

Following a very successful engagement campaign to ‘Help shape a better Bass Coast’ earlier this year, Council has launched its Community Sounding Board to keep people informed about consultation opportunities.

The new online tool enables community members to opt-in to receive email notifications of consultation Council is undertaking around their areas and topics of interest.

Council will then email participants with background information on projects, how community members can get involved and any dates for the diary for events such as drop-in sessions, pop-ups or Council meetings.

Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, said Council wanted to continue the momentum created during the engagement campaign for the development of the Council Plan 2017-21 and Annual Budget 2017/18.

“This year we have had hundreds of face-to-face conversations, received thousands of comments and reached tens of thousands of people through social media, our website, public notices and posters, and pop-up stalls throughout the Shire,” Cr Rothfield said.

“The adoption of the Council Plan and Budget, however, doesn’t mean the community consultation stops for a breather! If anything, we are more motivated and excited than ever to continue these community conversations.

“To ensure we are connecting with our community on a regular basis and giving you as many opportunities as possible to get involved and provide input on Council projects, policies and decisions, we’ve launched the Sounding Board as another way to stay informed.”

Council is hoping to have as many people as possible signed up to the Sounding Board to ensure there is a broad representation of the entire community. It’s quick and easy to join, so please visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/soundingboard to get involved.
Keeping everyone in the loop

Access and communication for community members wearing hearing aids has been improved in Council’s Customer Service and Visitor Information Centres with the recent installation of ‘Cross the Counter’ portable hearing loops. Hearing loss can make daily communication with other people more difficult, and Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, said hearing aid wearers visiting Customer Service Centres and Visitor Information Centres will now find it easier to communicate with, and understand, staff.

“One in six Australians is affected by hearing loss, and three in every four people aged over 70 years is affected,” Cr Rothfield said.

“We do have an ageing population here in Bass Coast, and we want to make sure we are catering to the needs of our community members as best as possible.”

Hearing aid wearers will be able to identify the portable hearing loops on their local Customer Service or Visitor Information Centre’s reception counters by the Induction Loop sign.

How do portable hearing loops work?

Most behind-the-ear hearing aids and cochlear implants have a telecoil inside that enables the hearing aids and implants to pick up signals directly from other electronic devices, such as the Cross the Counter portable hearing loop. Some hearing aid users will need to use the ‘T’ switch on their hearing aid to link with the portable hearing loop. The portable hearing loop carries the electronic signal from the staff member’s voice to the hearing aid wearer’s telecoil, which is then amplified by the hearing aid. Funding for the portable hearing loops was provided by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Community Building Program of Rural Access and supported by Council. The provision of portable hearing loops aligns with Council’s Disability Action Plan 2016-2020, by ensuring that we take into account the needs of, and access barriers impacting on, all people with a disability in our community, including hearing aid wearers.

Case for a car ferry

The business case for a car ferry between Bass Coast and the Mornington Peninsula has begun, with the contract for the Cowes to Stony Point Car Ferry Infrastructure Business Case awarded to Earthcheck Pty Ltd. Council accepted Earthcheck’s tender at the June Ordinary Meeting, following a recommendation from the Tender Evaluation Panel.

The Panel consists of representatives from both Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula Shire Councils, and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

Mayor and Chair of the Project Steering Committee, Cr Pamela Rothfield, said Council could now look forward to seeing the completed Business Case, expected to be delivered by April 2018.

“There are a lot of factors to consider, including of course, an environmental impact study, before a decision is made, and once completed, the Business Case will address many of these issues,” Cr Rothfield said.

The Business Case is a $250,000 project jointly funded by Regional Development Victoria (RDV), who have contributed $200,000, and Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula Shire Councils, who have contributed $25,000 each.
Inverloch children’s wear business, Norte, took out Business of the Year at Council’s 2017 Bass Coast Business Awards. Norte was founded by sisters, Amy and Casey Hill, who undertook extensive research prior to launching their brand to ensure the business had the best chance of success.

Phillip Island Helicopters also had a very successful night, taking home the People’s Choice Business of the Year Award, as well as the People’s Choice Tourism/Attraction Award and Business Excellence 6+ Employees Award. It was also runner-up in the Marketing and Promotion category.

A new award – the Business Innovation Award – was awarded for the first time to The Wonthaggi Market, and the Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre was also inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Good Access is Good Business category.

Cr Rothfield said it was a fantastic night, with over 190 people attending from over 35 different Bass Coast businesses.

“I’d like to congratulate everyone who was involved in the Business Awards this year, including all of the award winners and finalists, and everyone who entered, nominated or voted for a business,” Cr Rothfield said.

“I’d also like to thank our sponsors on the evening, and Council’s Economic Development Team who worked tirelessly to make this year’s event another huge success.”

2017 Bass Coast People’s Choice Award winners
- Health and Lifestyle Award – BH beauty.skin.body, Wonthaggi
- Hospitality Award – Cheeky Goose Café, Cowes
- Professional Services Award – Sargeants Conveyancing Bass Coast
- Retail Business Award – Bass Strait Direct, Newhaven
- Tourism/Attraction Award – Phillip Island Helicopters
- Trades/Services Award – McHenry Motors, Cowes

2017 Bass Coast Business Award winners
Business Excellence 0-5 employees
Winner – Coast Magazine, Cape Woolamai
Runner up – Harman Wines, Wattle Bank

Business Excellence 6+ employees
Winner – Phillip Island Helicopters
Runner up – Maru Koala and Animal Park, Grantville

Marketing and Promotion
Winner – A Maze’N Things, Phillip Island
Runner up – Phillip Island Helicopters

New Business
Winner – Norte, Inverloch
Runner up – Freedom Organics, San Remo

Environment and Sustainability
Winner – The Sociable Weaver, Cape Paterson
Runner up – San Remo IGA

Good Access is Good Business
Winner – Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre
Runner up – Drift Media, Inverloch

Business Innovation Award
Winner – The Wonthaggi Market

2017 Bass Coast People’s Choice Business of the Year
Winner - Phillip Island Helicopters

2017 Bass Coast Business of the Year
Winner - Norte, Inverloch

2017 Hall of Fame inductee
Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre – Good Access is Good Business
Weaving a new website

Building a great website involves extensive user research and testing to make sure it’s done right. Council is calling out to website visitors – you – to find out what it need to consider as it plans a new website.

The current Bass Coast website has over 800 pages, and users often find it difficult to find what they are looking for and complete tasks online. Consolidating and mapping all of Council’s information into a new website will require thorough research and consultation with users.

Mayor, Cr Pamela Rothfield, explained that the new Council website will provide an important and helpful community resource.

“The community need to be able to access information and complete tasks quickly and easily. Enabling a smooth online process via a well-developed website means we will be making the most of everyone’s resources and time,” Cr Rothfield said.

“Importantly, the new website needs to focus on the user and their needs. It should use common, community language and be oriented around the user and their reasons for visiting the website.”

You do not need any experience or specific skills to be involved in the website development workshops. Council encourage any community members with an interest in communications, or who are simply happy to volunteer some time, to represent their community.

If you have any feedback on the current www.basscoast.vic.gov.au website, or would like to be involved in a community workshop to brainstorm and develop plans for the new website, please email your interest or feedback to website@basscoast.vic.gov.au.
Winter was a hive of activity in Bass Coast this year, with the launch of several new events joining the usual summertime festivities. The Wonthaggi Inside Out Laneways Festival in early April, and Come and Play all of May, a month long arts and culture festival, are becoming regular festivities in Bass Coast. Both events lured many out of their cozy homes to experience the amazing talent of our local artists and performers.

Some bold new events bravely faced the winter elements including the Luminous Streets project. Despite the threat of severe weather, Luminous Streets soldiered on to wow its audience with illuminated sculptures and artworks lighting up the Waterline communities of Grantville, Coronet Bay, Corinella, Pioneer Bay and Tenby Point.

The inaugural Literary Festival of Phillip Island was the perfect indoor event for the Queen’s Birthday weekend. The festival engaged popular keynote speakers and venues were at capacity for their presentations.

The Island Whale Festival, which included the launch of the Phillip Island Whale Trail, was another successful new winter event. The festival coupled the mid weekend of the July school holidays with the incredible whale migration we are privy to in Bass Coast.

As we’re starting to enjoy the warmer spring weather, the events calendar for Bass Coast also picks up with plenty to see and do.

The Blessing of the Bikes, a popular and regular pre-Grand Prix event, will be held in San Remo for the first time on 14 October. This fantastic event has been held in Mirboo North in the past and we have a suspicion the synergy between the new location and the Australian MotoGP, on the following weekend, may make this the biggest blessing yet.

Phillip Island will also hold a World Surf League Qualifying Series surf competition at Cape Woolamai on 27-31 October. This event will bring international world class surfers to our shores providing the opportunity for local surfers and fans to experience a Qualifying Series and see the progression and pathway from recreational to professional surfing.

There will also be two exciting cycling events happening in Inverloch. The Bass Coast Cycle Challenge, held for the first time on a Sunday, on 12 November, and on 19 October, the Tour of Gippsland will return, giving Bass Coast visitors and residents the opportunity to experience a world class cycling tour, without the European airfare.

Good news for those who enjoy culinary delights paired with a fine vino, which is probably most of us. Both Phillip Island and Inverloch are planning on hosting Food and Wine Festivals in late spring.

Keep an eye on our events calendar for more details, and to make sure you don’t miss out on these events and others at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/events.