



Jetty Triangle shapes up

The redeveloped Jetty Triangle and Piazza precinct is an attractive, vibrant and accessible public space within Cowes. The area is suited to community activities and special events, as well as everyday use by locals and visitors.

As the centrepiece of the Cowes foreshore, the Triangle precinct provides an important link to Thompson Avenue, Erehwon Point and Mussel Rocks. It also provides improved pedestrian access to the Cowes Jetty.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said the completion of the Jetty Triangle was very exciting.

“The redevelopment of the Jetty Triangle was identified as a priority in the Cowes Activity Centre Plan,” Cr Tessari said.

“The project capitalised on the existing features of the Cowes foreshore. It’s the town’s meeting place and family friendly space, which promotes social interaction.

“The centrepiece of the new Triangle precinct is the Village Green, a versatile grassed common area surrounding the historic cenotaph. The redevelopment also focussed on improving accessibility to the area to enable everyone to enjoy the space.

“The amazing new Triangle precinct is sure to become a

must-visit for tourists and locals alike as a place to relax, socialise, be entertained and enjoy,” Cr Tessari concluded. Key features of the Triangle include a marble sculpture of a Humpback Whale and Calf, created by local artist Victoria Nelson, turfed open space area, new garden beds and plantings and extensive lighting.

Council committed around \$1.7 million towards the \$2.6 million project. The remaining \$900,000 came through a successful grant application from the State Government’s Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

Construction of the new Jetty Triangle took around eight months, between February 2018 and October 2018. The project was delivered four weeks ahead of schedule, in time for Phillip Island’s milestone 150th celebrations held in November 2018.

The new Jetty Triangle was officially opened on 13 October, 2018 by Minister for Regional Development, The Hon. Jaala Pulford MLC.

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From the Mayor



I would like to begin by acknowledging the fantastic work of our Mayor for the past two years, Cr Pamela Rothfield. Pam presented herself with elegance and grace, even under the toughest pressure. I learnt a lot from the way she supported Council with strong, consistent leadership. Much of my inspiration to be Mayor comes from Pam, as well as former Mayors John Fleming, Alan Brown, John Duscher and Neville Goodwin. From all of these I have watched and learnt and been fortunate to receive strong support and guidance. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support. I look forward to working with them over the coming year, continuing to advocate for and represent our community as a united front. I am incredibly humbled and proud to be given this opportunity. To be the spokesperson for my community, which I am so passionate about and proud of, is a great honour. The summer season is here and I look forward to seeing Bass Coast come alive with all the events and festivities that occur at this time of year. With summer comes warmer weather, which means spending more time outdoors enjoying our incredible region. There are a few things we can do to keep ourselves happy and healthy this summer season. The red and yellow flags are back on our patrolled beaches on weekends from the start of December until Easter, making it easy for swimmers to find somewhere safe to take a dip. Don't forget to slip, slop, slap and remember to look out for anyone in your neighbourhood who might be affected by extended periods of hot weather. Have a great summer!

Cr Brett Tessari, Mayor

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Do you use Facebook, Twitter or Instagram? Follow us for all the latest updates on Council news and information about what's happening around the Shire.



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YouTube
Search for 'Bass Coast Shire Council'

Tune into your Council!

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

Bass Coast in the Election Spotlight

The focus was on Bass Coast in the lead up to the 24 November state election, with numerous visits from politicians, announcements and election commitments in response to the priorities of Council and the community. Here's a summary of the new government's election commitments for Bass Coast:

Current Wonthaggi Secondary College (WSC) Senior Campus Site

The transfer of the current WSC site was confirmed by the State Government in August 2018. The land will be re-zoned and handed over to Council, who will undertake community consultation to develop future plans for the site.

Cowes 24-hour Pharmacy and Nursing Facility

The development of a Community Hospital for Cowes. This will include a 24/7 health service.

Planning policy changes – Recognising and protecting Bass Coast's unique natural landscape

Bass Coast's Advocacy Priority List identifies the need to change planning policy to protect the distinctive and unique landscape and biodiversity. Council was requesting \$300,000 to fund research and reports to provide strategic justification for Bass Coast to be identified as an 'Area of State Significance'.

This is an election commitment from the new government. This will see planning policy changes implemented to improve protection to natural amenity in coastal township areas and protect native vegetation and the environment through declaring Phillip Island as a Distinctive Area Landscape.

Junior Secondary College campus for the Waterline/Phillip Island area

A Secondary College for Phillip Island was identified as a high priority for the Phillip Island community during the community consultation to develop the Council Plan 2017-21. The project is listed in the Council Plan 2017-21 under Advocacy. In early September, a commitment was made to establish a new State Junior Secondary College (years 7-9).

Successful Advocacy projects:

- Wonthaggi Hospital Upgrade - \$115 million
- Wonthaggi Secondary College New Senior Campus - \$25 million
- Phillip Island Intergrated Transport Strategy, Stage 2 – Phillip Island Road/Back Beach Road Intersection Upgrade - \$9.7 million
- Wonthaggi Highball Stadium – Indoor Sports Hub and Centre for Basketball - \$6 million



Reflections: CEO Paul Buckley PSM

Paul Buckley PSM has announced his departure from his role as CEO in February 2019. He reflects on the direction he has taken the organisation over the past five years...

When I accepted the role as Chief Executive Officer at Bass Coast in 2014, I was very excited by the role and Council vision – I am pleased to say that over the past five years, my excitement has not waned at all.

My approach to the role has been based on a fundamental commitment to ethical and authentic leadership, underpinned by three key principles that drive organisational culture:

1. Performance Management – Deliver what you promise, when you promise it
2. Financial Management - Deliver what you promise, when you promise it, within the financial parameters that have been set (budget and long-term financial plan)
3. Relationship Development - Appreciate the stakeholders and understand their roles and responsibilities

There are a few key examples which demonstrate the work put in and improvements made, driven by these principles. We are now delivering 100 per cent of the key activities that the Council sets each year and we are delivering over 90 per cent of the capital works projects that are funded each year.

There is a long-term financial plan in place – the first for Bass Coast. We have delivered on every component of that plan and achieved savings in operational costs of over \$6 million since 2014/15, allowing these savings to be used for capital works and renewal projects.

We have increased our capacity to leverage State Government grants. Wonthaggi Highball Stadium is a great example where we had the capacity to contribute \$1.5 million to attract \$4.5 million from the State. The Council Plan 2017-21 is a great example of where we have taken a proactive approach to building relationships and investing time and effort into engaging with the community. The Plan was developed through the largest community consultation undertaken by Council. Our strengthened relationships with State and Federal governments have resulted in high levels of success on grant applications and advocacy projects.

So, how are we going?

I said back in 2014 that I wanted, and expected us as an organisation, to have a strong reputation for delivering on our promises. My challenge was to build the organisation's reputation as an efficient, customer focussed organisation that delivers.

As I prepare to finish up as CEO, I will let you and others judge my success. To help inform your judgement, I can give you the latest Community Satisfaction Data scores provided independently by Local Government Victoria. Since 2014:

- Overall Direction has increased from 47 to 54
- Overall Performance has increased from 50 to 53
- Consultation and Engagement has increased from 49 to 52
- Decisions made in the interests of community has increased from 45 to 49
- Customer Service has remained high at 65

I believe we are in a transformational stage – we are growing strongly and starting to get the attention that we deserve: Population growth is strong (2.7 per cent pa), demand for housing and land is unprecedented, and unemployment rates are relatively low - although there are major concerns with youth unemployment and post-secondary education access.

Whilst there are still opportunities for improvement, I believe we are heading in the right direction. I hope you have seen progress being made.

At time of publication Council was still in the process of recruiting a new CEO.



Bass Coast wins Gold in tourism awards

Bass Coast Shire Council took out Gold at the RACV Victorian Tourism Awards Gala on Thursday, 22 November.

The annual awards are presented by the Victorian Tourism Industry Council and celebrate outstanding contributions to the tourism industry from organisations and suppliers across the state.

Bass Coast won Gold in the Local Government Award for Tourism category and was a finalist in the Visitor Services category.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, explained that the Award is a great recognition of the services Bass Coast Visitor Information Centres and staff provide, and the strategic goals the Economic Development and Tourism team have been delivering.

“This Award acknowledges the way our Council has gone above and beyond to support the visitor economy,” Cr Tessari said.

“Our aim is to provide an exceptional visitor experience, and we achieve this through our Visitor Information Centres, and also through coordinating fantastic events throughout the year.”

“We are also delivering on the actions set out in our Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy, which looks at the whole visitor experience from the way they interact with our unique environment, to how they travel around our Shire and the services available to them while they are here.”

The Award is judged on five categories: Tourism Excellence, Business Planning, Marketing, Customer Service and Sustainability.

Congratulations to all Bass Coast businesses that were also acknowledged in a range of categories that showcase the diversity of tourism experiences in our region:

- Big 4 Inverloch - Gold
- A Maze'N Things - Silver
- Naturaliste Tours (French Island) – Bronze
- Phillip Island Helicopters – Finalist
- Phillip Island and Bass Coast Visitor Information Centre Network - Finalist



Visitor Information gets a make-over

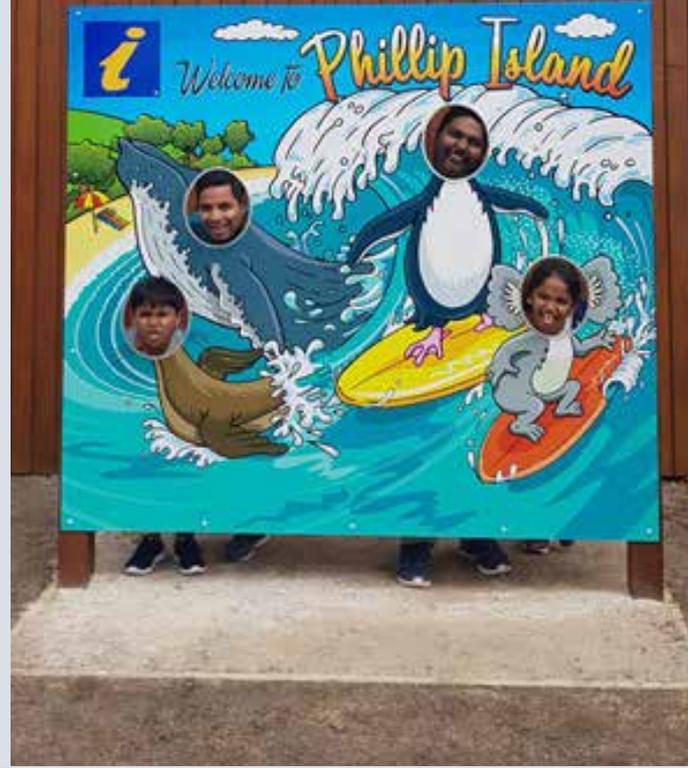
We're always on the lookout for ways we can improve our visitors' experiences, and this has recently led to some improvements and extra services to our Visitor Information Centre's across Bass Coast.

We know travelling can be exhausting, especially for kids. The Newhaven Visitor Information Centre now has colourful bean bags for our visitors to rest up while they flick through a brochure. There are also some incredible large photographs across the front counter, music playing, and a playful and fun 'head in the hole' photo opportunity to embrace and boost the holiday vibe.

Phillip Island and Inverloch Visitor Information Centres now both have Facebook pages. These serve as a great communication tool for keeping visitors in the loop and provide an easy to access information to share.

There are plenty more exciting improvements ahead, such as a pop-up photo booth in Cowes, some artist murals, a Mobile Information Centre to rove around busy locations, and possibly even some live local music.

Keep an eye on our Facebook pages to stay up to date:
www.facebook.com/InverlochHub
www.facebook.com/pivisitorinformationcentre



Which bin do I use?



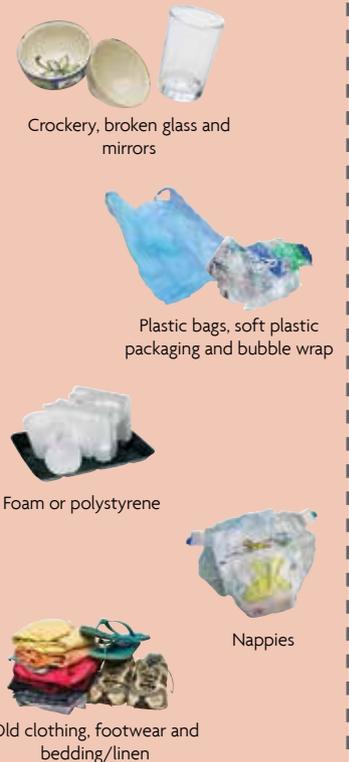
Organics



Recycling



Landfill



Summer Safety

When you visit the beach this summer it's really important to swim between the flags at a patrolled beach. Visit Surf Lifesaving's Beachsafe website at beachsafe.org.au or download their app for expert advice on beach safety and beach conditions to help you find the right beach for you.

Summer can also see extreme weather and risks like bushfire.

Download the VicEmergency app to your smartphone to stay up to date with warnings and emergencies that may be occurring in your area.



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www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Phillip Island Nature Parks' Community Open Day

All Bass Coast Shire residents are invited to enjoy free entry, meet the team and experience the stunning landscapes and special wildlife at Phillip Island Nature Parks' annual Community Open Day on Sunday, 3 March 2019.

Discover all of the Nature Parks' attractions with free entry* to the evening Penguin Parade (general admission), Koala Centre, Churchill Island and the exciting Antarctic Journey at the Nobbies Centre. There will also be a 50 per cent discount on Eco Boat Tours on the day.

Come behind the scenes, meet the team and learn more about the Nature Parks - the not for profit conservation and ecotourism organisation in your backyard. Join them for walks, talks, demonstrations, kids' activities and giveaways with Nature Parks' rangers, researchers and volunteers.

Further information and the full event program will be published at www.penguins.org.au and in local papers in February 2019.

Please note: Entry is free for Bass Coast Shire residents, landholders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members and students. To gain free entry, please bring proof of residency such as rates notice, bill, drivers licence etc. Accompanying friends are welcome, but must pay applicable entry fees.

* Excludes premium products, ranger-guided tours and boat tours. For further information, call (03) 5951 2820 or email openday@penguins.org.au

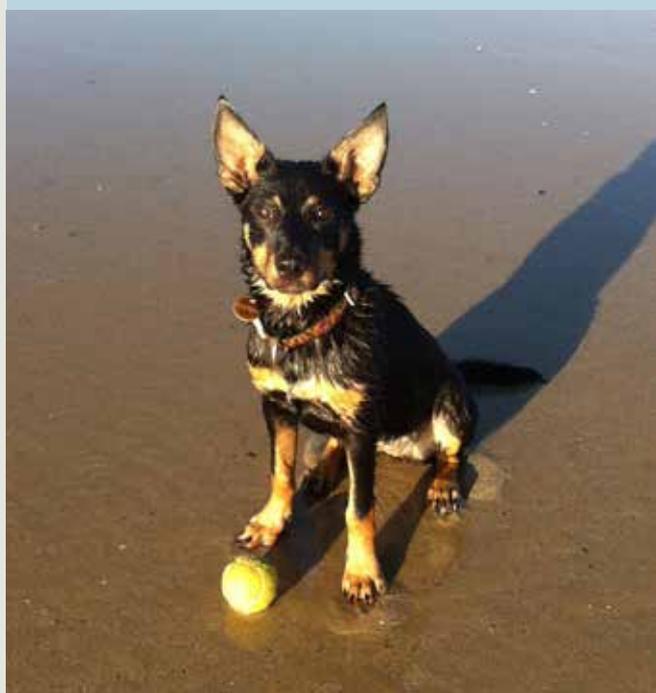
Annual revaluations

From 2019, the State Government requires that all land valuations will be carried out annually by the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) for land tax, the Fire Services Property Levy and council rates setting purposes. This revaluation process previously occurred every two years. For further information regarding the change please visit www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/valuation or contact Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 for a copy of the brochure.

Dogs on holidays

Dogs are welcome at most parks and beaches in Bass Coast, with some designated off-leash areas so they can run and swim freely.

You are responsible for following signs when visiting beaches and parks with your dog, as there are some time restrictions in place over summer. Unless you are in an off-leash area, you must keep your dog on a leash at all times; not only for their safety, but for the safety of others around you and to protect our unique environment. When using beach or inland off-leash areas, dog owners must keep their dog in sight and be in effective voice control of the dog at all times. There will be an increased Officer presence over the summer period so be sure to do the right thing and pick up after your pooch or risk getting a fine. You can find out more information about off-leash times and areas in Bass Coast at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/dogwalking.



What's on in Bass Coast?

December

- 14** San Remo Celebrates Christmas
San Remo Foreshore
- 15** Inverloch Community Carols
The Glade, Inverloch
- 16** Wonthaggi Community Carols
Apex Park, Wonthaggi
- 18** Carols by the Bay
The Esplanade, Cowes Foreshore
- 29** Sounds of Summer
Thompson Reserve, Inverloch
- 30** BCB Triathlon Club Race 2
Cape Paterson
- 30 Dec - 1 Jan** New Year's Eve on the Hill
Kernot
- 31** Inverloch NYE Fireworks
Inverloch Recreation Reserve
- 31** Coronet Bay NYE Fireworks
Coronet Bay Foreshore
- 31** Cowes NYE Fireworks
Cowes Jetty

February

- 9** San Remo Channel Challenge
San Remo Foreshore
- 16** Cowes Classic
Cowes
- 16** BCB Triathlon Club Race 3
Inverloch

January

- 4** Rhyll Twilight Market
Rhyll Park
- 4-6** Kustom Nationals
Phillip Island
- 5** Rotary Club of Inverloch Market
Inverloch Community Hub
- 6** The Island Design & Makers Market
Cowes Recreation Reserve
- 12-13** Phillip Island Model Railway Show
Cowes Cultural Centre
- 12** Bass Coast Agricultural Show
Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve
- 18** Rhyll Twilight Market
Rhyll Park
- 19** Ocean Sounds
Churchill Island
- 19** Cape Family Festival
Bay Beach Reserve, Cape Paterson
- 20** Cape Paterson Aquathon
Cape Paterson
- 26** Pioneer Bay Aussie BBQ Bash
Daisy Ave Res, Pioneer Bay
- 26** Australia Day
See Council's website
- 27** Kilcunda Lobster Festival
Kilcunda
- 27** Wonthaggi Power Car Show and Shine
Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve