

Facelift for famous bridge

Kilcunda's famous Trestle Bridge (Bourne Creek Bridge) is a well-known feature of the Bass Coast Rail Trail. The iconic landmark was closed during February, while extensive rehabilitation works were carried out and re-opened on 1 March with a brand new look.

The rehabilitation included the removal of the entire upper deck and connecting hand rails, which were replaced with fibre-composite decking and stainless steel balustrading and handrails. The new decking sits on top of the existing bridge structure and provides a significant improvement to the safety and functionality of the bridge. These improvements cost around \$867,000 and were fully funded by Council's Capital Works Program.

This work follows on from works completed in 2017, which saw the sub-structure of the bridge repaired.

These improvements will ensure the historically significant Bridge remains as a landmark feature of the region and can continue to provide a vital link for the Bass Coast Rail Trail well into the future.

The Bass Coast Rail Trail extends 16 kilometres from Wonthaggi to Anderson. The trail offers panoramic views of Bass Strait as it meanders through farmland, coastal bushland, historic coal mining reserves and rugged coastline. The Bass Coast Rail Trail also links to the George Bass Coastal Walk at Kilcunda, making it possible to walk from Punch Bowl in San Remo, all the way to the centre of Wonthaggi.

Councillor contacts

Bunurong Ward



Cr Julian Brown
(03) 5671 2123
0429 130 472
julian.brown@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Les Larke
(03) 5671 2121
0428 747 461
les.larke@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Brett Tessari (Mayor)
(03) 5671 2122
0428 857 845
brett.tessari@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Island Ward



Cr Stephen Fullarton
(03) 5951 3379
0429 099 118
stephen.fullarton@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Pamela Rothfield
(03) 5951 3393
0428 936 025
pamela.rothfield@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Michael Whelan
(03) 5951 3394
0429 129 811
michael.whelan@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Western Port Ward



Cr Geoff Ellis
(03) 5671 2157
0428 840 868
geoff.ellis@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Bruce Kent (Deputy Mayor)
(03) 5671 2156
0428 741 843
bruce.kent@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Cr Clare Le Serve
(03) 5671 2155
0448 083 286
clare.leserve@basscoast.vic.gov.au

From the Mayor



Winter is here! Summer is well and truly behind us now, as we go head-first into the middle of the year. It might be cold outside, but don't let that stop you getting out and experiencing winter in Bass Coast.

From now until October is the perfect time to head to the coast, on the lookout for Humpback or Southern Right whales, which pass by our region as part of their annual migration. You can even follow the Whale Discovery Trail from Eagles Nest near Inverloch, all the way to Phillip Island. The Whale Trail offers plenty of good viewing options of the southern coastline and areas where whales migrate, without having to test your sea legs! In fact, the first sighting of the season was made in the last week of May, when a Humpback visited San Remo. Time to get the binoculars out!

If you are looking for other local events or attractions, make sure you visit visitbasscoast.com.au. This website is a great resource if you need to find out what is happening in the Shire, at any time of year. This is also a good time for me to reflect on my first six months as Mayor. So far, it has been an incredible experience. One of the things I have come to learn is how fantastic the staff at Council are – they put an amazing amount of effort into their work. The professionalism shown by everyone really blows me away. I am looking forward to the next six months!

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.

Spotlight on Advocacy: Erosion and Tertiary Education

Bass Coast Shire Council have ten top advocacy priority projects, eight of which led Council's advocacy campaign in the lead up to the recent Federal Election.

Two of the priority projects which received positive attention and support are:

- Climate Change and Adaption: Environment and Erosion
- Tertiary Education Investment

Council have been advocating for \$6 million to implement critical erosion infrastructure in Cowes, Cowes East and Inverloch and the development of a national strategy for erosion mitigation and adaptation due to the impacts of climate change. Federal Member for Monash, Russell Broadbent, made an election commitment pledging up to \$1.5 million towards erosion at Inverloch and Cowes. Council will continue to advocate and will focus attention on the State Government to receive additional funding.

It was great to have State Minister for Environment, The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, visit Inverloch recently. During her visit we were able to show her first hand the erosion impacts at Inverloch and explain the value of a coordinated and collaborative approach.



Wet sand fencing in Inverloch

Another Advocacy Priority is Tertiary Education Investment. Council is seeking \$2 million over four years to establish and operate a Regional Study Hub in Wonthaggi. A business case was recently prepared and adopted and the government committed to delivering five additional Regional Study Hubs if elected. Council will now focus its advocacy to position Bass Coast as a preferred location for one of those Hubs. All of Council's current advocacy priorities are listed on our website www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/advocacy.

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio and local member Jordan Crugnale MP visiting the site of Inverloch's wet sand fencing with staff from Council, Parks Victoria and DELWP.



\$3.9million invested in Cowes

Cowes Transit Centre underway

The Cowes Transit Centre and All Day Carpark project started in early February. The project, which will see the construction of 123 new parking bays, will take around 10 months to complete. The carpark will include 115 all day parking bays, two electric vehicles charging points and six accessible parking bays, located behind the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, said Council is committed to delivering key projects for the revitalisation of Cowes. “These key projects are the Cowes Jetty Triangle and Piazza Redevelopment, completed in November 2018, the

Cowes Cultural and Community Centre and the Cowes Transit Centre and all day carpark,” Cr Tessari said.

“The \$2.4 million Cowes Transit Centre and All Day Carpark project is part of Council’s adopted 2018/19 Capital Works program. Council is contributing \$1.4 million to the project. Regional Development Victoria is providing \$900,000 and Changing Places Victoria is providing the remaining \$100,000.”

The existing unsealed carpark will be closed and parking will be limited in the area for the duration of the project.

Revamp for Cowes skate park

Following a delay to remove contaminated soil, work is continuing to replace the ageing skate park, located at the Cowes Recreation Reserve.

Council’s contractors began demolition of the existing skate park in April.

During this stage, hazardous substances were detected in the soil. Environmental reports and testing was completed on the site, as well as the provision of action plans and notification to Worksafe.

The contaminated soil has now been removed from the site and Council is pleased to inform the community that this important project is underway again. The Project is now expected to be completed in July this year.

The Cowes Skate Park Project was prioritised in Council’s Skate Strategy 2018-2028. The Strategy outlined that the Project be completed by 2020, due to the condition of the existing Park.

The \$500,000 Project is being fully funded through Council’s 2018/19 Capital Works renewal program. Deputy Mayor, Cr Bruce Kent, said significant consultation was undertaken for the Project, including several design workshops held with the local skating community.

“The final design will use the existing footprint of the Park and provide a great mix of transition and street style components for skaters of all skill levels,” Cr Kent said.

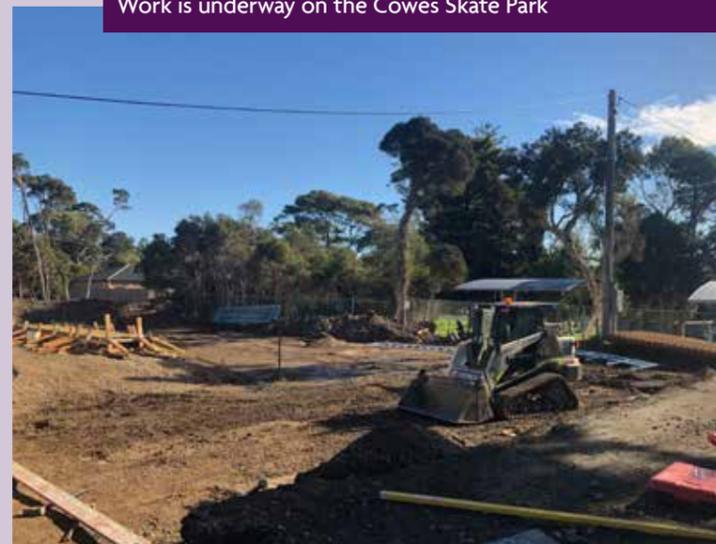
“Skate design specialists Playce assisted Council in delivering a design which will complement the Cowes Recreation Reserve and provided a fun, yet challenging experience for all.”

Traffic and pedestrian measures as well as temporary fencing will be in place throughout the duration of the works. Cr Kent said Council understands the works may present an inconvenience to users of the Recreation Reserve.

“We realise the delay will impact on users of the park and we appreciate everyone’s patience while this great Project is being completed,” Cr Kent said.

“We ask for your patience during these times. Our contractor will make every effort to minimise these disruptions.”

Work is underway on the Cowes Skate Park



The ball is rolling on upgrades at Cowes Recreation Reserve

Improvements to the home and away change facilities and renewal of the netball courts at the Cowes Recreation Reserve are underway.

These projects were prioritised as a part of Council’s 2018-19 renewal program, due to the poor condition of the existing facilities.

The \$1 million project will see the existing home and away football change rooms fully renovated, including new showers, toilets, first aid and meeting rooms. changing rooms. There will also be an increased area for player changing and two realigned, compliant netball courts with Australian Standard lighting for training.

The netball court redevelopment project also gained the support of Sport and Recreation Victoria after a successful grant application by Council through the Country Football and Netball Program. While both projects experienced unforeseen delays earlier in the year, it is great to see them both progressing well. Construction on the change facilities was halted when structural issues were found, and the netball court construction faced a significant delay, when asbestos and other

contaminants were found in the soil during early excavations.

However, the good news is that work on the change facilities and pavilion is now steadily progressing and will be completed prior to the end of this year’s football and netball season.

Unfortunately, the netball courts may not be ready for use before the end of this season. The courts are now fully concreted and awaiting the acrylic surface finish. The concrete surface is required to cure for at least 28 days before the acrylic finish can be applied to complete the courts. Council is hopeful to complete the project during June, however, this is very much reliant on weather conditions being favourable to apply the surface and is subject to contractor availability. Works are continuing at the courts in the meantime, with shelter, fencing and light poles being constructed.

The Cowes Netball Courts have been concreted and are awaiting an acrylic surface to be applied.



Bass Coast welcomes new CEO

On Monday, 18 February, Bass Coast Shire Council welcomed Ali Wastie to the role of CEO. Ms Wastie joins Bass Coast with over ten years of executive leadership experience across State and Local Government, most recently as Director, City Communities at the City of Melbourne.

In addition to Ms Wastie's Local Government experience, she has held numerous board positions in tourism, libraries and health. Her tertiary qualifications include a Master of Diplomacy and Trade, Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education and a Bachelor of Arts. Ms Wastie is an accredited Organisational Coach, a qualified mediator and an alumnus of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She also has a strong background in economic and social policy development, education, community services, emergency management and planning. Ms Wastie said her first five months in the role have been fantastic.

"I have been warmly welcomed into Bass Coast and am thoroughly enjoying getting my feet under the desk and out and about," Ms Wastie said.

"I am already feeling well settled into the role."

Ms Wastie said she was attracted to Bass Coast, partly because of the beautiful environment.

"Bass Coast is a unique municipality with world class natural assets that attracts millions of visitors each year," Ms Wastie said.



"Because our region enjoys good access to services and amenities, we are a drawcard for families and for people to invest."

While not at work, Ms Wastie could be spotted at the footy, cheering on the Kangaroos with her husband and their two boys, or enjoying a run.

"I have to say that the George Bass Coastal Walk is one of the harder trail runs I've attempted," Ms Wastie said.

Bass Coast's best recognised

Council announced Wonthaggi's Deb Rielly as the 2019 Bass Coast Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day Awards presentation on 16 January this year. Also on the night, Rhyll's Hayden Marshall was announced as the 2019 Bass Coast Young Citizen of the Year.

Ms Rielly was recognised for her inspirational contributions to the local community, both in her role as a paramedic and through her personal endeavours. Ms Rielly had been fighting cancer for the past 15 years, but she never let that keep her from achieving her goals. A volunteer with countless local groups, a founding member of support group Tough Titties, and a motivational speaker, Ms Rielly's courage and selfless nature make her a worthy recipient of this Award. Sadly, Ms Rielly passed away in April this year.

At the presentation ceremony Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, congratulated Ms Rielly on her Award and thanked her for her dedication to the Bass Coast community.

"Your commitment and support of our community is invaluable; whether through your involvement in local groups, representing your community on the world stage, or caring for people in your role of paramedic, your determination and caring attitude always shines through," Cr Tessari said.

The Mayor also acknowledged and congratulated all the Nominees for the Award; Maureen Alford from Wonthaggi; Chelsea Caple from Wonthaggi; Sally Conning from North Wonthaggi; Felicia Di Stefano from Glen Forbes; Catherine Garnham from Wonthaggi; Jill Grayden from Cowes; Sam Haycroft



Bass Coast 2019 Citizen of the Year, Wonthaggi's Deb Rielly (front, centre) picture with 2018 Citizen of the Year Brendan Smith (front, left), Bass Coast Mayor Cr Brett Tessari (front, right) and Deb's sons Ben and Dylan

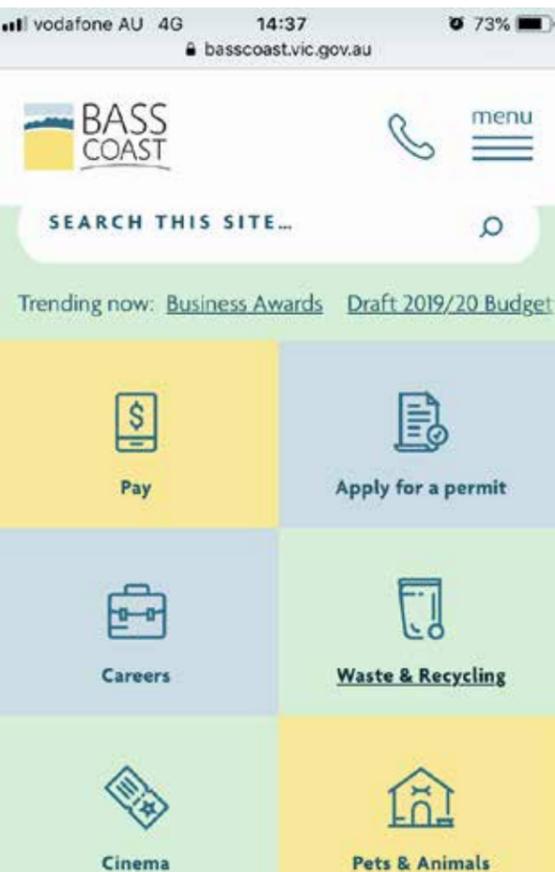
from Ventnor; Robyn Kenny and Steve Kenny from Krowera and Leigh Owens from Wonthaggi. "Selecting our Citizen of the Year Award is not an easy task, because all of our nominees are so deserving of the Award," Cr Tessari said.

"Each and every one of our Nominees is an outstanding contributor to our community. The time they put in and the difference they make in a range of different areas is so significant that it makes it difficult to pick just one. "I would also like to thank all those who took the time to submit nominations for the Awards so we could recognise these outstanding community members this year."

Mr Marshall was recognised for his outstanding strength and passion, despite facing a huge life challenge. After suffering a broken neck while training for gymnastics on his trampoline, Mr Marshall has approached life with a renewed determination and continues to inspire and encourage those around him. Mr Marshall's dedication and drive make him a deserving winner of this Award.



2019 Young Citizen of the Year, Hayden Marshall with Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari



Council online

In March, Council launched its new look website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au, replacing the previous site which turned nine years old that same month!

So apart from the look, what's different?

It's focussed on the visitor. And what they've come to do. You'll see a list of 'top tasks' at the top of the home page, which are the most common things most people want to do when they visit the site.

It's mobile-friendly. Currently, around 70 per cent of our visitors use a smart phone or tablet to access our website. Previously, these visitors often had to 'pinch-and-zoom' to see the content on the page which had a set width. On the new website, the pages resize themselves to whatever size screen they're being viewed on. The content on the page will also rearrange itself to fit the available space.

What's on the menu? Solid research was done to work out where people expect to find things in the menu. The data that came out of many research workshops with various community members and staff guided the menu design. Extensive testing was then done on the draft menu to give us what we have today.

Council's new website is mobile and tablet friendly

Regional Skate Park plans shift

Independent experts have deemed the proposed San Remo Foreshore location unsuitable for the Regional Skate Park and Playspace.

Aspirations for a regional skate facility, meeting the needs of all types of skaters, simply could not be achieved for a variety of reasons, including protecting existing Cypress trees and restrictions on the scale of the facility due to underground infrastructure and soil conditions.

Council is committed to delivering a Regional Skate Park and Playspace Project as identified in its Skate Strategy 2018. The Strategy identifies the Newhaven and San Remo area as the preferred location for the regional facility, given its central location within the Shire.

In conjunction with Sport and Recreation Victoria, Council will now investigate alternative sites for the Regional Skate Park in consultation with the

community. Details on the consultation process will be available in the near future.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, said the Regional Skate Park and Playspace is an amazing project and asset for the whole region.

“We are committed to the project and will now look at potential new sites,” Cr Tessari said.

“We remain positive about delivering our first truly regional skate park facility.”

Council values the community’s commitment in providing feedback on this project and further consultation regarding alternative sites will be undertaken.

The consultation will focus on the feasibility of sites for the project and a design that suits the location and the needs of the local community.

Council is looking forward to realising the delivery of this exciting project for the community.

Upgrades for Harold Hughes Reserve

Corinella’s Harold Hughes Reserve will soon have a new playground, with work expected to start in June.

The Project was highlighted in Council’s Playspace Plan 2017 and will see the existing play area transformed.

The new playground will cater for children of all ages and include elements of full accessibility, nature play and challenging obstacles.

Consisting of swings, a flying fox and climbing equipment, it will have something for everyone. The new playground has been designed in response to community feedback, gathered throughout the consultation process for the Project.

The Project is being funded through Council’s Renewal Program and Resort and Recreation Funds (developer contributions) set out for Corinella.

The playground upgrade is expected to be completed by July, which is fantastic news for the Corinella community.

In more fantastic news, Harold Hughes Reserve is now also home to a small permanent skate park, which includes a mini-ramp, grind rail and manual pad. The Skate Park has a mix of transition and street style components to accommodate skaters of all skill levels. The Skate Park was prioritised after being identified in Council’s Skate Strategy 2018.



Play equipment at Harold Hughes Reserve will soon be replaced

Sporting a new look at Bass and Dalyston Recreation Reserves

Local footballers and netballers are benefitting from a range of projects being carried out at Recreation Reserves around the Shire.

Stage 1 of the Dalyston Recreation Reserve Change and Pavilion Project is complete, with Stage 2 well underway.

Stage 1 upgrades included new home and away players and umpires change facilities, catering for male and female participants.

Stage 2 of construction which is well underway, includes new social, kitchen and canteen areas. This stage is expected to be completed prior to the completion of the 2019 football and netball season.



Bass Netball Courts in action



Upgrades at Dalyston Recreation Reserve are progressing well with Stage 1 complete and Stage 2 well underway

Both stages are being delivered by TS Constructions and are funded through Council’s building renewal program. The Dalyston Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has also contributed \$200,000 to the Project

Council is investing a total of \$1.7 million for both stages of this Project. The Project was identified in Council’s Sport and Active Recreation Needs Assessment and the Dalyston Recreation Reserve Master Plan.

Members of the Kilcunda-Bass Netball Club celebrate the opening of the new courts with Jordan Crugnale MP, Deputy Mayor, Cr Bruce Kent and Cr Clare Le Serve.



Another great recreation project that has recently been completed is the \$570,000 redevelopment of the netball courts at the Bass Recreation Reserve. The courts were officially opened in April, to the delight of the Kilcunda-Bass Netball Club, which has been able to enjoy the new facility this season. The redevelopment included the construction of a new compliant netball court and refurbishment of the existing court, new fencing, flood lighting and a spectator shelter.

Take your e-waste to a better place

Did you know that from 1 July 2019, the State Government is banning e-waste from all Victorian landfills? E-waste - which refers to any item with a plug, battery or cord - is one of the fastest-growing categories of waste worldwide. Some examples of e-waste include; batteries, televisions, toasters, hairdryers, phones and computers.

So what can you do? Take your e-waste to your nearest Transfer Station and recycle it! Most e-waste is accepted free of charge or for a small fee. This ensures that our e-waste gets recycled and any harmful substances or valuable elements such as copper, silver, palladium and gold can be reused or disposed of correctly. For more information visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/ewaste.



Tackling youth homelessness in Bass Coast

Council recently facilitated a youth homelessness workshop to discuss and define what youth homelessness looks like in our community and how young people can be better supported.

Local service providers from across the sector, professionals, young people and parents with life experiences to share attended the two-hour workshop and presented their findings back to Council representatives. Jasmine Furphy from the Salvation Army explained that the workshop provided an opportunity for people from diverse areas and backgrounds to step outside of individual roles, and work collectively and collaboratively to evaluate the system.

"It was important for us to acknowledge the great work being done, and identify the gaps," Ms Furphy said. "From all perspectives we agreed that there is a concerning lack of crisis accommodation in Bass Coast." Cr Michael Whelan, who attended the workshop explained that the closest available crisis accommodation for people experiencing homelessness is in Morwell or Dandenong.

"This poses a huge issue because it means removing someone who is already vulnerable from their community, where they may have connections to family, friends, school or work," Cr Whelan said.

"This is why Council is advocating for an investment of \$1.25 million from the Federal Government to fund local providers and enable them to provide a bricks and mortar solution, to increase crisis housing locally." Council has been advocating on the issue of Homelessness, including letters and discussions with Ministers and Shadow Ministers, at both a State and Federal level.

Council will continue to advocate towards an increased allocation of funding to local agencies, to enable them to identify and develop appropriate emergency housing and supported accommodation options in Bass Coast.

People from all walks of life came together to tackle youth homelessness.



Dog off-leash survey: Phillip Island and San Remo

More than 1,800 people responded to Council's dog off-leash beach survey in January. The survey was aimed at determining the community's interest in off-leash beach areas for San Remo and Phillip Island. Officers have worked through the survey data, feedback provided from our community pop-ups as well as emails and letters that have been received.

An initial briefing has been provided to Councillors however due to the amount of feedback and interest from the community, Councillors have requested a further briefing which has been scheduled for June. The outcome of this briefing and further discussions with land managers and stakeholders will be used to develop recommendations towards a future Council report.



Give a helping hand

Council is very proud to be working with the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi, Bass Coast Health and local businesses as part of the 'Helping Hands' Project. This Project collects plastic bottle caps which are then shredded and turned into prosthetic limbs for children in developing countries with the use of a 3D printer. For more information or to become a drop-off point contact the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi on rotaryclubwonthaggi@gmail.com.

You can drop off clean plastic bottle tops and plastic jar lids at:

- Wonthaggi Hospital
- Connells Bakery, Wonthaggi
- ANZ Bank, Wonthaggi
- Bass Valley Dairy
- Wonthaggi State Coal Mine
- NurtureOne Children's Centre
- Wonthaggi Club
- Rose Lodge
- Wonthaggi Golf Club
- Coffee Collective
- Inverloch Hub
- Council offices in Wonthaggi and Cowes

Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Aaron Wood with representatives from the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi, Envision Hands, ANZ Wonthaggi, Bass Coast Health and Council at the launch of the Project



Jump on board a free service

You can now catch a free accessible taxi into Cowes on Friday nights from the Anderson Bus Interchange. This service is funded under the Flexible Local Transport Solutions program and will run as a trial for at least one year. The taxi will meet the last V/Line coach and will leave Phillip Island Road/Bass Highway in Anderson at 10.58pm and arrive at Thompson Avenue/Chapel Street in Cowes at 11.33pm. V/Line passengers can board the free service to continue their journey to San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai, Smiths Beach or Cowes. A timetable is available at ptv.vic.gov.au.



It's all happening at the Hub!

It's been nearly a decade since the Inverloch Community Hub opened its doors and it has well and truly sealed its place in the hearts of the Inverloch community.

The Hub is home to some of the most valued services in any community. Under its roof is the Inverloch Library, Inverloch Community House, GippSport, Bass Coast Health Maternal Health Clinic and Council's Inverloch Visitor Information Centre.

The Hub is also home to a sports stadium, a community hall, meeting room space, office space, a commercial kitchen as well as a popular art exhibition space in the internal street.

With all these great facilities, the Hub has become increasingly busier. In 2017/18 there were over 180,000 walk-in visitors and 1,551 separate facility bookings. Many of the community's large events and functions are hosted at The Hub, including the Inverloch Jazz Festival, Inverloch Kongwak Primary School Annual Concert, Lions Club Cup Eve fundraiser, Inverloch Art Show and Rotary Markets.

The Hub foreground is also well utilised for events such as the Australia Day Celebrations, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Services, Rotary Markets and fundraising barbecues.

The sports stadium sees regular bookings from community sporting clubs such as Auskick, Inverloch Kongwak Netball Club, Wonthaggi Basketball Association, Leongatha Taekwondo and Feathers Badminton.

If you'd like to have your next function at The Hub, a dedicated team of staff would welcome your booking enquiry. The office is open from Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm.



Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi VIC 3995 | PO Box 118, Wonthaggi, Vic 3995
Ph: 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 | Fax: (03) 5671 2222 | basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au
www.basscoast.vic.gov.au | National Relay Service 13 36 77 (for people with communication difficulties)
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