



Bass Coast's Business Best

Wattlebank winery and cellar door, Harman Wines, was named Business of the Year for the second year running in Council's annual Business Awards, announced on Friday 23 August.

Harman Wines also won the Environment and Sustainability Award, as well as the Hospitality category of the People's Choice awards.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said it was great to see Harman Wines back on the winner's podium.

"The judges were once again impressed by Harman Wines' passion for their farm-to-plate business philosophy and their use of locally sourced produce," Cr Tessari said.

Forty-eight local businesses entered the judged awards this year, and around 150 local businesses received a record 1,500 votes in the People's Choice awards.

Grantville's Maru Koala and Animal Park took home multiple awards this year including Business Excellence 6+ Employees and the Marketing and Promotion Award.

Dalyston General Store also picked up a number of awards this year, winning the People's Choice Retail award and earning runner up in both the Business Excellence 0 – 5 employees and Environment and Sustainability awards.

In the People's Choice category, Cowes business Sargeants Bass Coast Conveyancing won People's Choice

Business of the Year and the People's Choice Professional award. Phillip Island Helicopters had another successful year, winning the Industry Collaboration category for the second year running, and the People's Choice Tourism/Attraction award, which they also won in 2018.

Cr Tessari said it was a fantastic night, with over 160 people attending from 40 different Bass Coast businesses. "It's a great achievement for businesses to be selected as finalists in the awards and a real testament to the quality of their products, service and overall operation," Cr Tessari said.

"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 or nominated a business. 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."

A full list of winners is available at basscoast.vic.gov.au/businessawards

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From the Mayor



There are so many incredible businesses and organisations in Bass Coast, illustrated by the amount of awards that have been coming our way recently. You've just read all about the winners of the Bass Coast Business Awards on the front page, some of these businesses were also recognised at the 2019 Gippsland Business Awards – with Harman Wines, Phillip Island Helicopters and Dalyston General Store all bringing home awards. Congratulations also must go to the Bass Coast Landcare Network, who picked up the Landcare Network Award at the 2019 Victorian Landcare Awards. What a fantastic achievement. Closer to home, Council has been the recipient of two national awards, including the 2019 Carbon Cocky Award for Best Achievement by a Regional Council to encourage Carbon Farming/ Emissions Reduction or Related Low Emissions Industries and the Australian Organics Recycling Association award for Outstanding Local Government Initiative in Collection/Processing/Marketing. A great effort by staff and the community!

Here at Council, we are extremely fortunate to be surrounded by people who are dedicated, knowledgeable and hard working. Recent wild weather has seen our outdoor staff being called out on weekends and after-hours to attend to issues such as flooding or fallen trees, to ensure our community is kept safe. This often happens at times when the rest of us are curled up at home in front of the heater and wouldn't even consider going outside. Across the whole organisation, I continuously see staff going above and beyond what is expected of them, which makes me incredibly proud. Keep up the great work!

Cr Brett Tessari, Mayor

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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.

Taking Bass Coast to Capital Hill

A delegation from Bass Coast Shire Council recently travelled to Canberra to attend the National General Assembly. During the visit they attended ten meetings to advocate on Bass Coast's top advocacy priorities.

Four of the meetings were held at Parliament House with Ministerial Offices including Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer the Hon. Michael Sukkar MP, Minister for Local Government, Regional Services and Decentralisation the Hon. Mark Coulton MP and Senior Advisors to Minister for Education The Hon. Dan Tehan MP and Deputy Prime Minister The Hon. Michael McCormack MP.

Six meetings were held with Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries of various federal departments including: Department of Education, Department of Infrastructure, Department of Health, Department of Social Services, Department of Communications and the Arts and Department of Environment and Energy. Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, explained that it was a great opportunity to put Bass Coast on the map and advocate on the community's top priorities.

"It was excellent to have a seat at the table, to promote and push for the needs of the Bass Coast community" Cr Tessari said.

"We received some great feedback, support and



(l-r) Mayor Cr Brett Tessari, CEO Ali Wastie and Deputy Mayor, Cr Bruce Kent outside Parliament House in Canberra.

guidance, and established some important relationships in Canberra."

"I'm excited to follow up on this advice and look forward to progressing our advocacy priorities. We received some particularly positive feedback regarding our Tertiary Education Priority to establish a Regional Study Hub in Wonthaggi – this will be a real game changer and we will be working hard to secure funding through the competitive application process."

For more information on Bass Coast's advocacy priorities visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/advocacy.

2019/20 Budget adopted

Council adopted its 2019/20 Budget at June's Ordinary Council Meeting. Some of the highlights include:

- \$1.8 million for progressing the Phillip Island Transfer Station including site acquisition and design, this is expected to be completed in the next three years
- \$2.9 million for a number of major tennis court renewals and upgrades in Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Corinella
- \$1 million for a number of urban road renewal projects, including spray seals, pavement renewal, asphalt seals and kerb renewal
- \$1.1 million for the renewal and upgrade of Sheepways Road South
- \$1.5 million for the Surf Parade shared path extension, Inverloch

The Draft Budget was made available for public comment and in response to submissions received from the community, there were a number of changes recommended for the final 2019/20 Budget.

These changes include:

- Funding of \$50,000 to start planning for the upgrade of Shetland Heights and Potters Hill roads in San Remo. This funding is contingent on support from affected landowners
- Funding of \$100,000 for the detailed design of the Cowes/Rhyll walking/bike path
- Funding of \$30,000 to address wildlife roadkill on Phillip Island. This funding is conditional on Council being provided with a report on the efficacy of measures taken by the end of the 2019/20 financial year
- Funding of \$80,000 towards the completion of the new Ventnor Community Hall
- Additional funding of \$17,500 for roadside weed management
- Funding of \$4,000 for the Island Story Gatherers to obtain professional consultation for their festival
- Funding of \$50,000 to complete the design of the Norsemens Road Improvement Plan

The 2019/20 Budget is available on our website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/budget

Recreation Projects across Bass Coast



Grantville Activation Project

Stage one of the Grantville Activation Project is now complete! This includes a skate park and pathways. The second stage, which includes a new playspace, new tennis courts and a multi-purpose court, is expected to be completed early next year.

Cowes Skate Park

This Park has undergone a redevelopment and is now open. The Park caters for beginners through to advanced riders and sits within the Cowes Recreation Reserve.



Wonthaggi Tennis Court redevelopment

This major redevelopment is set to be completed in early 2020 and will include five synthetic grass courts and a large synthetic training space. This training space will have five retractable cricket training pitches which can open up to a large training space for soccer.



Inverloch Tennis Courts

The Inverloch Tennis Club will soon have four new hard surface tennis courts and lighting.



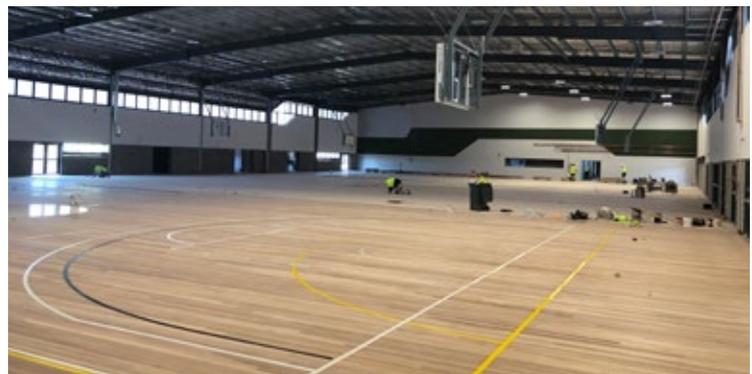
Inverloch Netball Courts and Change Rooms

The Inverloch Kongwak Football Netball Club will have new netball courts and a change room by the start of their 2020 season.



Harold Hughes Reserve upgrade

Harold Hughes Reserve in Corinella will soon have a new tennis court and multi-purpose court. A new skate park was completed in July 2019, along with a brand new playspace.



Bass Coast Community Stadium

The Bass Coast Community Stadium, a three court competition sized facility, is currently being constructed alongside the new Wonthaggi Secondary College Senior Campus. The size of this building is unlike anything else in our Shire and we cannot wait to see it in action. The Community Stadium is being delivered by the Victorian School Building Authority, and is co-funded by Council (\$1.7 million).

Next steps for Surf Parade Path

Council will proceed with the extension of Inverloch's Surf Parade Shared Path, with construction expected to begin in 2020. At August's Ordinary Council Meeting, Councillors voted in favour of Option 2 for the extension, which will see the path extended from Veronica Street to Goroke Street and the provision of 138 formalised parking bays. A detailed design will be completed and required permit approvals sought, before construction gets underway. Council has allocated \$1.5 million in the 2019/20 Budget for construction of the path.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari said following the extensive consultation for this project, it was clear the need to retain parking along Surf Parade was a primary concern for the community.

"The consultation showed that there was overwhelming support for Option 2 and the construction of this option will provide the best overall outcome for the community," Cr Tessari said.

"Once built, the path will provide safe cycling and pedestrian access to the beaches along Surf Parade and a similar amount of car parking to what is currently available.

"Inverloch's beaches are a significant natural asset in Bass Coast, enjoyed by many and it is important that community can continue to enjoy them safely."

Cr Tessari said that while Option 2 does require the removal of native vegetation, this will be mitigated by securing the required vegetation offsets.

"We will also investigate the possibility of more revegetation works along the shared path and the surrounding dunes," Cr Tessari said.



Cowes Transit Centre now open

The Cowes Transit Centre and all-day Carpark features 115 all-day parking bays, plus two dedicated electric vehicle charging points and six accessible parking bays. It is located behind the Cowes Cultural Centre. The transit area provides stopping areas for public transport, a taxi rank and tourist bus drop-off bay. The opening of the new transit area means that from 8 September, the bus stop located on the corner of Chapel St and Thompson Ave is no longer in use.

The Centre is also home to a Changing Places Toilet, which is fitted with a height adjustable adult-sized changing table, a tracking hoist system and enough space to provide a safe and clean toilet and changing environment for those with additional needs. In addition, an ambulant toilet and a fully accessible toilet is also located at the Centre.

This \$2.4 million project was funded through a \$900,000 grant from Regional Development Victoria, a \$100,000 grant from Changing Places Victoria and \$1.4 million from Council.



The Cowes Transit Centre and All-Day Carpark features a Changing Places Toilet as well as an ambulant toilet and a fully accessible toilet



Building Biolinks

Last year saw a record 400,000 new native plants established in Bass Coast Biolinks, with another 378,000 planted throughout the Shire this winter.

These plantings have been carried out with significant involvement from community volunteer groups and environmental organisations including, Bass Coast Landcare Network, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Melbourne Water and Council.

Biolinks are areas revegetated with native plants and trees, which provide additional habitat for flora and fauna by increasing linkages and connectivity between remnant indigenous vegetation. These links allow for the movement of wildlife between populations which could have a positive effect on biodiversity.

The establishment of biolinks can also help improve the health of water catchments by preventing erosion, keeping topsoil in place and putting nutrients into the soil. Biolinks along waterways provide shade which decreases evaporation and helps to filter and retain water in the landscape. This not only provides habitat for birds, fish and animals but also helps to improve water quality. Biolinks planting over the past two years has seen the amount of native vegetation cover in Bass Coast increase from 14 per cent to 17 per cent.

The largest planting to date saw 60,000 native plants planted over two years in Bass and 25 hectares of cleared land returned to native bushland, which connects to the surrounding revegetated gullies.

Getting ready for summer

It's time to start thinking about the upcoming bushfire season, and start cleaning up around our properties. The Fire Danger Period may be declared as early as October and typically remains in place until the fire danger lessens, which could be as late as May.

It is important to be prepared for the bushfire season by keeping grass short, removing dry grass, twigs and loose bark and keeping gutters clean of leaf litter. These can go in your green-lidded Organics bin.

To help you clean up before the bushfire season, Council is again holding its fee-free green waste disposal period from 2-24 November 2019. During this period you can dispose of domestic sized loads of green waste free of charge at any of Council's waste facilities. Please note this does not include weed species and species that cannot be physically mulched, but these can go into your Organics bin.

While the Fire Danger Period is in effect, fires in the open air are legally restricted and Council's Burning off Guidelines are not relevant – no burning off is allowed without a permit. Commonly asked questions about Fire Restrictions and days of Total Fire Ban can be found at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can.



Fee-free Green Waste Disposal

2-24 November 2019

Life Saving Clubs update: Cape Paterson



Temporary facilities will be in place over the upcoming Summer patrol season for both Wonthaggi Life Saving Club (WLSC), at the Cape Paterson Bay Beach, and Cape Paterson Surf Lifesaving Club, at Cape Paterson First Surf.

Wonthaggi Life Saving Club Update

Council is working in collaboration with WLSC, Life Saving Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Emergency Services Infrastructure Authority to establish temporary facilities at Bay Beach in Cape Paterson, after a severe storm in May 2019 caused damage to the WLSC observation tower and clubhouse buildings.

Earlier this year the State Government announced funding of \$175,000 towards the temporary facilities for the upcoming summer season.

Cape Paterson Surf Lifesaving Club Update

Construction of the new Cape Paterson Surf Lifesaving Club is underway, with completion expected in March/April 2020.

The new building will house training rooms, a community hall, change rooms, an administration office and of course the spectacular view of the patrolled First Surf Beach and across Bass Strait. The project cost is estimated at \$4 million. It has been funded through contributions from the Victorian Government (\$2.3 million), Federal Government (\$1 million), Council (\$600,000) and the Club (\$500,000). The project has experienced some delays but is now on track, and expected to be open in time for Easter, 2020.

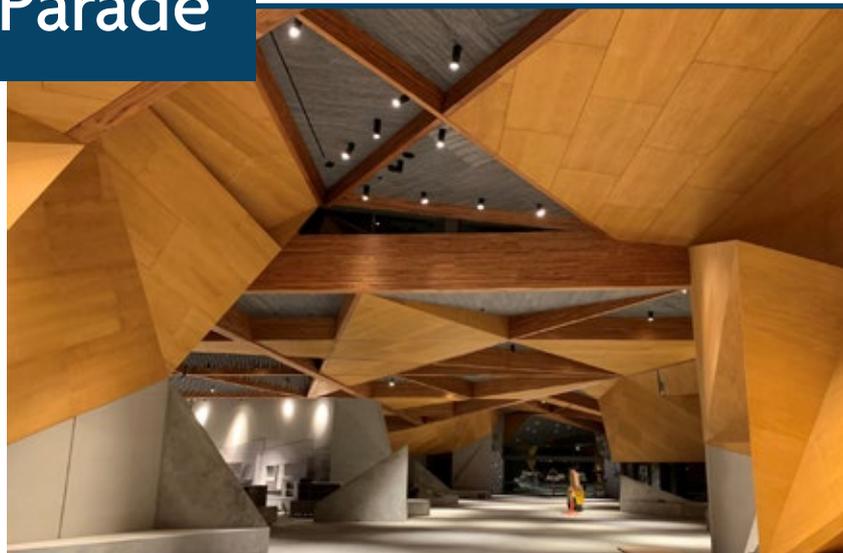
New era for Penguin Parade

Phillip Island Nature Parks is celebrating a new era of visitor experience with the opening of its new \$58.2 million Penguin Parade Visitor Centre.

The architecturally acclaimed, star-shaped building, reflects the meeting point of three distinct landscapes on the Summerland Peninsula: basalt bluff, coastal dunes and wetlands.

The project is the most significant infrastructure project in the Nature Parks' history. The building is a win for the environment and wildlife including environmentally sustainable features and landscaping to create over six hectares of new habitat for its star residents, the Little Penguins – equating to homes or burrows for over 1,400 breeding penguins.

Entry to the new Centre is free so Bass Coast residents and visitors can enjoy the displays, new retail outlets, café and 250-seat restaurant overlooking the penguin colony.



The Penguin Parade Visitor Centre development was made possible through generous funding announced by the Andrews Labor Government in April 2016 of \$48.2 million, with an additional \$10 million contributed by Phillip Island Nature Parks, a self-funded not-for-profit conservation organisation. An Open Day celebration will be held on Sunday, 13 October.

There's always something happening at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre!

From cinema and fine film to live performances, comedy and theatre, there's always something on! To stay up to date you can:

 facebook.com/wonthaggiartscentre

 basscoast.vic.gov.au/artscentre

 (03) 5671 2470

 96 Graham St, Wonthaggi



Choose tap!

Choosing tap water is good for your family's health, budget and the environment.

- Choosing tap water over sugary drinks reduces the risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes
- 9,000 glasses of tap water will cost you the same as the average price of 1 litre of bottled water
- Over 50 per cent of plastic water bottles end up in landfill

Community Grants awarded

Council presented the first round of its 2019 Community Grants Program in June, at the Archies Creek Hall.

After a record number of applications, grants were awarded to 55 community groups to support 64 projects, for a total of just over \$171,760.

This Round saw applications for a huge range of projects, including an extension for the Wonthaggi Woodcrafters' workshop, solar panels for Phillip Island Senior Citizens Club and Grantville Hall, a Winter Solstice event in Kilcunda, chainsaw carving at Rhyll, audio-visual equipment and more.

Each Round, one major project grant is awarded. In this Round, the Archies Creek Hall received a major project grant for \$9,800 to install air conditioners. The same group also received a grant for lighting, which was a collaborative application with the Archies Creek community, outlining a large amount of in-kind trades to support the project.

Mayor, Cr Brett Tessari, said the presentation evening provides an opportunity for groups to tell others

about their projects and network with like-minded volunteers, as well as Bass Coast Councillors and staff. "It was really exciting to hold our community grant celebration in a hall which is having a major upgrade thanks to an active and passionate community," Cr Tessari said.

"It was also fantastic to chat to all of the different groups and learn about their exciting projects first hand."

The importance of the Community Grants Program, and its support of the Bass Coast community to enhance services and facilities, was demonstrated by the large amount of applications received in Round One.

Applications for Round Two of the Program closed in early August and successful applicants will be announced soon. Applications for Round 1 2020 are currently open and will close for assessment on Friday, 6 March 2020. For more information about the Community Grants Program, or to apply visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/grants.



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Bass Coast is a low carbon council. Available on audio CD and large print format on request.