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November 2024



So great to see the sun shining through a bit more often. Thanks to photographer Bruce Watson for our front page pic of the Speke at Kitty Miller Bay from a new vantage point. You can email Bruce on bruwatso@gmail.com

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BY JOHN BUTTROSE



Democracy

It would seem there is no clear way out of some of the difficulties facing us ... yes, the technology is available to mitigate the climate crisis, and there is a general will to halt the conflicts we are seeing around the world. The economy will right itself ... surely. Many of us in the contemporary world are better off than at any times in the past. But one can not help but feel that, with the mounting crises, that things are not going particularly well. The problem would seem to be politics.

Australian governments, over the last several decades, are being charged with a lack of action on issues including climate change, the cost of living and the housing crisis, the decline of social services ... Dissatisfaction with government decisions are par for the course, but some of the crises facing us are existential ... the possibility of a nuclear war and the threats posed by a changing and less predictable climate. Is it time to get serious?

The most powerful, wealthy and stable countries generally have a democratic form of government. Winston Churchill was a little half hearted. "It has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." Has democracy served us well? Would an alternative form of government serve us better?

Democracy means "rule by the people". Deciding who constitutes "the people" has been problematic. Representative democracy is an 18th century invention, an artefact of the Enlightenment and the new understanding of what it meant to be human. According to John Locke, in 1689, humans, well ... men, European men, were endowed with certain "natural rights" by the mere fact of being born. All men were considered to be born equal, a very radical thought at the time, and had the rights to their life, their liberty and their property. This led to the thought that the government should govern according to the will of the people, a position most clearly stated by Jean-Jaques Rousseau in *The Social Contract*. If the government did not rule according to the general will of the people it should be abolished, and a new government formed which would be more responsive to the will of the people.

How to abolish a government without violent revolution? America, and then France, had no wish to repeat the experience of such violence again. Systems of representative democracy were instituted, where the people choose the person best suited to represent their interests in a carefully organised election process. Safeguards were put in place to ensure there were checks on the power held by individuals or groups. Rather than a revolution, the democratic changes to the British government were achieved by a series of Reform Acts.

Who, then, are the people? The calls for reform grew louder throughout Europe. One of the key demands was to increase the number of eligible voters. There was a property qualification for many of the earlier democracies. A prevailing opinion at the time was that the "lower classes"; the poorer, less educated or illiterate people could not be trusted to take seriously the responsibility of

choosing members of the parliament. Poor people were less responsible because, it was also assumed, they had less to lose if they made the bad decisions and choices. However, in response to the increasingly loud demands of the people, the electorate was gradually expanded to include the majority of male citizens, but for many years women were considered incapable of making such decisions. New Zealand and South Australia were the first authorities to allow women to vote, in the 1890s, after long campaigns for women's suffrage. It was the will of the people. Democracy in Australia has generally served us well.

A large, national electorate includes people of diverse backgrounds, experiences and expectations leading to a diverse range of opinions. Which voices should be listened to? People will the government to go in a variety of directions. Who do our politician listen to? Should there be more stringent qualifications met before being allowed to vote? Isaac Asimov put one of the concerns, humbly, but bluntly, "... democracy means that my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge." Dietrich Bonhoeffer was even more cynical, "Stupidity is a more dangerous enemy of the good than malice". Education is an antidote to "stupidity" and "ignorance", and indeed, the expansion of the electorate was a key reason for the development of public education. Do our education systems adequately educate potential voters to be responsible and informed citizens, and to take their responsibilities seriously? This is a fine line to navigate. How does a government avoid becoming too dictatorial and intolerant of diversity?

Democracy is a fragile artifice, as Churchill feared. Many apparent democracies around the world have failed, or have been corrupted. In the United States, the oldest of the modern democracies is shaken daily. To live in a democracy requires everyone to follow the rules, both defined and unspoken. Elections need to be scrupulously fair and the outcomes accepted without question. The media, so important for shaping our opinions and choices, and educating us, needs to be truthful and exhaustive. A lie is not an alternative opinion. There must be trust!

The structure of most democracies is to determine winners and losers, and an election often becomes a game to be played ruthlessly ... and therefore government policies tend to avoid the controversial and politically unpopular changes in order to maintain support. The winner takes all. Is there a place for nuanced debate around serious and complex issues? Would a proportional voting system, such as that in the Australian Senate, be preferable in order to encourage more cooperation and genuine debate?

Democracy is by no means the worst of all political systems. We have seen many, many changes which have been in direct response to the will of the people; achievements which enhance our security, material well being and happiness. Our secure democracy is a rare privilege in the world, despite all the noise and the frequent challenges. We all, the electors and the elected, should continue to value and nurture our democratic government and to take our privileged role seriously in order to preserve and strengthen what is the best form of government so far tried.

Join a philosophical discussion group. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at Wild Food Farm cafe in Rhyll to discuss the big questions about life, the universe and everything. Contact John Buttrose: jbuttrose54@gmail.com

PHILLIP ISLAND AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Celebrating 150 Years of Education: Cowes and San Remo State Schools By Pamela Rothfield

This year, both Cowes State School and San Remo State School celebrate an incredible milestone - 150 years of providing education to our community. These schools, both established in 1874, have witnessed the growth and transformation of our region, serving as pillars of learning and community life. To honour this occasion, the Phillip Island & District Historical Society has curated a special exhibition at the Phillip Island Museum located in Berninnet in Cowes, showcasing the rich history of these beloved institutions.

Cowes State School No. 1282



With the momentum generated by the implementation of the Education Act in 1872, plans were initiated in 1873 to establish a government funded public state school catering to the children of Cowes.

In July 1873, an election was held in Cowes to establish the Board of Advice for the school district of Cowes, [later to become the Cowes School Committee] which sparked significant interest among the community. The following local men were duly elected: Messrs. John West, William Sunderland, Joseph Richardson, Edley North, and Captain David Reid.

In 1874, the Education Department took swift action to establish a dedicated school building in Cowes. Until then, children had been attending classes at St. Philip's Church. By October 3 of that year, the new school was completed at a cost of £376, with local builder Joseph Dowell at the helm. The school, featuring an unusual wooden shingle roof, opened its doors to 43 students and included teacher accommodation.

The early years were marked by fluctuating student numbers, largely due to the hardships faced by local settlers, who struggled with primitive living conditions and natural challenges such as droughts and plagues of rabbits. Many families left the island, taking their children with them. Nevertheless, the school

remained a cornerstone of the community, even during the lean years of the 1890s when enrolment dropped to just 18 students. Cowes State School persevered through these challenges, and by 1915, a Sloyd Room was added for boys to practice woodworking, thanks to donations from local benefactors. The school also encouraged strong community involvement, organising fundraising efforts like the "penny" concert of 1923, which featured a young Manning Clark, who would go on to become a renowned historian. Over the years, Cowes State School continued to grow, with new classrooms and a residence for the headteacher added in 1926. Former students fondly recall the school's charm, including the flower gardens for the girls, the vegetable patches for the boys, and the playground where games like tunnel ball were played. Significant growth occurred in 1952, when the Education Department acquired a 15-acre site on Settlement Road. By 1954, new classrooms were built, allowing grades 3 to 6 to move into the new facility while grades 1 and 2 remained in the original building on Thompson Avenue. The Settlement Road location underwent major redevelopment in 1966, and by 1973, all students were consolidated into the new site. In 1976, the original school building and teacher's residence were demolished to make way for the Cowes Cultural Centre, which opened in 1978.

Sadly, a fire at the school in 2004 destroyed precious historical records and memorabilia. Now, the Historical Society is calling on the community to dig deep into their cupboards and garages in the hopes of uncovering hidden treasures that will help us restore the full story of this cherished institution.

San Remo State School No. 1369



San Remo State School's journey has been no less eventful. Like Cowes, the school was established in 1874, serving the small but growing coastal community. Early challenges included relocations and even closure for a couple of years in 1893, forcing students to travel across the water to Newhaven for classes.

Despite these setbacks, the school was re-established in 1896 in the San Remo Shire Hall, where it remained a key part of the town prompting the Education Department to purchase the hall in 1918 for £280.

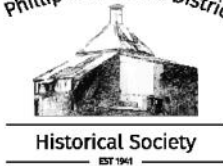
In 1946, while endeavouring to relocate this old school building to the school's current site, it famously fell off a truck near the San Remo Post Office and was destroyed - rumour has it this 'accident' wasn't entirely unwelcome, as many were keen for a new structure.

During the interim, classes were held in Keam's Hall, with Ted Sparks as the teacher. Sparks once handed boxing gloves to his daughter and another student, suggesting with a grin, they 'settle their differences', a solution that would certainly raise eyebrows today!

By 1950, a new school building was constructed, and the campus grew to include a relocated structure from the closed Ryanston State School. Although Keam's Hall was eventually removed, the site became a sea of jonquils, and many former students fondly recall picking and selling the flowers door to door around San Remo to earn pocket money.

San Remo's history, much like that of Cowes, reflects the resilience of the local population, who rallied time and again to ensure their children had access to education.

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A classic crime story from our esteemed crime writer, Leon Herbert

Holmes in the Flesh



Inspector January was enjoying a coffee break and a chat with his friend Leroy. The famed logician was smiling wryly at the policeman's professed passion for modern crime fiction and the efficiency of modern crime labs brought home by the popular TV series CSI and the like. While having great admiration for the

young policeman's crime detection skills he was less enthusiastic about his reliance on all the modern stuff. Perhaps if January were to read more of Conon Doyle's hero he would realise that true crime was more suspenseful than fiction. Leroy looked at his watch; there was time to educate the Inspector about a real-life Sherlock Holmes.

'Let me tell you about some real and for you possibly somewhat ancient stories of true and brilliant crime detection, so sit back and relax for a while and give the criminals a respite!

As part of work a young doctor in the medico-legal section in the Ministry of Justice in Cairo was handed a sealed parcel containing three small bones around about 1920. The routine police report said they had been found at the bottom of a dry well.

"They look as though they might belong to some animal that fell into the well," the report added. "But would you mind checking them out?"

In a short while the doctor, a small apple cheeked New Zealander named Smith, was back with a report.

"The bones," he said, "are those of a woman aged between 23 and 25. She died three months ago, had had at least one pregnancy, walked with a limp, was killed by a homemade shotgun slug and was alive from seven to ten days after the shooting."

The policeman in attendance asked sarcastically, "Might you want to guess the colour of her eyes?"

"Brown, I should think," Dr Smith said, popping his ever present monocle from his eye.

The police looked into the matter. To their amazement they discovered a slight Egyptian woman with a limp who had a child who disappeared about three months before. After investigating they arrested her father who confessed to mortally wounding his daughter accidentally when a gun he was cleaning went off.

When the police asked Dr Smith about his remarkable

reasoning he told them it was quite easy; elementary in fact.

Two of the bones were hip bones, the third a sacrum, and together they formed a pelvis. Their condition revealed age, sex and the fact that the woman had had a child. One set of bones was heavier than the other indicating the limp. Embedded in one bone was a home-made shotgun slug. The edges of the wound showed she had lived for several days while the bones tried to knit.'

Inspector January was impressed but not quite convinced.

'What about the brown eyes?' he asked with a triumphant gesture as if to destroy Leroy's credibility on the story.

'Well, she was probably Egyptian and they do have brown eyes, you know,' the sleuth chuckled.

'Yes my dear Inspector. it never pays to underestimate the likes of Doctor Smith who went on to receive a knighthood and a professorship in forensic science at Edinburgh University. Not wanting to blow my own trumpet unduly but to make my point, let me tell you of a time many years ago after leaving a courtroom when I was lecturing in forensic matters to a class of students in Melbourne and displayed a somewhat theatrical tactic to make my point.' Leroy recited as if he was lecturing.

'Our text for the day is the power of observation. I have just come from seeing a murderer sentenced. The case almost never came to trial. The police officer assured me it was suicide. The man had been found in his farm yard with half his head blown in, his cap on his head, and his shotgun leaning on his arm. I told the policeman this is murder; no man could blow his head half off and put his cap back on. Besides that, if you turn the man over, you will notice that the back of his trousers is filled with weeds, showing he was dragged from his porch and laid out there. Besides that, this man was dead before he was ever shot. He was killed with an axe, and the blow came just like this.....!'

With that Leroy took a magazine from a rack nearby, raised it high, as he had done before but then with an axe from the lectern, and smashed it onto the coffee table with an almighty bang causing cups to fall and more than eyebrows to be raised at what appeared to be an act of lunacy. January however remained calm and enthralled – he loved these forays into the past and displays of the master criminologist. He was determined also out of his next bonus to visit Phillip Island where so many of the crimes were solved by Leroy and his side kick Inspector Jack Flint of the Cowes Constabulary before Leroy journeyed to live in the Cape to the dismay of the local criminals!

Well readers of The Vibe, this was also a respite from the conventional whodunits but hopefully serves to display what can be achieved by astute powers of reasoning and deduction to bring criminals to justice!!



Health and Healing with Pip

The divine healing magic of the arts

This year has been a fabulous mix of fun, cultural events and new adventures. Opportunities are around every corner. Are you ready and willing to take them?

As 2023 came to a close, I stepped into a casual role as front of house usher at the new Berninnet cultural centre in Cowes.

This was not a fluke. I cultivated this opportunity. I was looking for a way to bring back the joy and excitement of my cruise ship entertainment days, into my life now. I didn't (and don't) want to go back to working on board, but I did (and do) want to feel that joy of being immersed in the arts and culture space.

I asked myself "How can I do that? How can I bring that energy and light into my life now?"

And as I looked around the Bass coast area I saw a couple of local theatre groups, a cinema/theatre in Wonthaggi (The Union) and a new cultural centre opening in Cowes (Berninnet). I felt that tingle of excitement and I said to myself "I'm going to get a gig there."

So I did a number of things to make that happen, I stated my intentions clearly in my daily visualisation process, I talked to people who worked at the council to get a feel for the team, I connected socially with the manager of the arts & culture team, and I applied for the position when it was advertised.

Manifesting isn't just about "think and it will appear". It's about clear vision and action in alignment with that vision.

Over the course of this year, I've moved from casual usher, to part time duty manager, and this week I've been offered a full time role as box office and digital content officer. Yay - I'm loving this journey. Someone asked me this weekend "what will you do with your business now?" And I said "my business is in me, and each role I am in, each skill that I learn and each person I meet helps me grow. My belief is that wellness in life is about deliberately creating positive energy and choosing to be around fun people and honouring your hearts desire."

Right now I am choosing to collaborate with creative people to make the world a better place. Art and culture and spiritual

connection raise the quality of our lives. When I am feeling low or unmotivated or anxious... it's usually because I am missing these key creative touch points in my life. Bring them back in and you'll feel a shift.

A tip for you ... look for the elements that are missing in your life, and remember a time when you had them, then deliberately add them back in. Add in the dancing, the travel, the food, the music, the animals, the nature, the yoga, the kids, the friends, the water, the movies..., you get it right?

So in this next chapter, because it lights me up... I'll be promoting the divine healing magic of the arts as a method for finding connection, joy, self reflection and peace.

Blessings Pip x

P.s. my life coaching, reiki courses and wellness therapies will always be there for my clients, (just send me a message) and I have some new ideas about how they'll be offered in future. Stay tuned.

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Fishy Tales with Craig Edmonds from Jim's Bait and Tackle

As usual we are hot in the middle of the Snapper season and it has been firing from all directions.

We are receiving plenty of reports from all areas across the top of the bay and in the channels still. Rhyll has most definitely been better for our customers who have tried there early in the morning or late in the afternoon till evening. There is one thing that we have heard on repetition this month from those who have targeted the snapper, and it's almost how lazy they are being. Plenty of people are reporting hooking up, fighting the snapper for a bit, then once it gets boat side, almost masking as a gummy shark and just spitting out the hook and swimming away. Is our bay so healthy with food that even the fish don't need our bait anymore?

Honestly, if we could understand the mind of the sea creatures we have here, Jims's Bait and Tackle would be a world-renowned name and you would see us on the water a lot more, BUT we can't, so we will just stick to constantly trying and adapting our customers thinking with the seasons.

For us, Snapper isn't an attractive species. We catch one or two and then we don't target them for the next year and the hooks are changed out for the whiting and gummy sharks.

Those who don't want to chase the reds have had a much slower month with reports very minimal or that the quality of the fish has depleted. The water is still cold for this time of the year. Generally we can expect 17 degrees but from a few people we have been recording 13-14 degrees max. Whiting reports have been scattered from during the day, most still coming from early morning till midway when they have been dropping off. Not a lot of size to them and not a lot of weight

to their bodies either.

It has been possible to get a bag of whiting, but it's been requiring some work and a bit of movement with more than one mark required. Bay squid have continued to be more popular off the shore than in the boats and the Kayaks. If you're a Westernport Bay squid fisherman, then it's no news to you that for the last year the squid has been horrible, there was even a period where we didn't get a single report for almost a month. It wasn't for a lack of trying because many did, but there was just nothing. None could even be seen drifting in the water. Since the start of this spring season the reports have been on the rise with a lot of anglers finding success from the land-based options around the island. The places producing the most suitable options are Cowes and San Remo jetties, San Remo during the tide change and Cowes into the evening. If beach fishing is your thing, really take the time to make the effort to try out the patch of beach where the public moorings are in Cleeland Bight, a very underrated area of Westernport Bay. This one patch of flat-water beach produces good numbers of calamari, salmon in the winter and spring/summer whiting.

Whiting reports are really mixed with some finding only exceedingly small ones and struggling for a good amount of take home, while others can't get away from 40cm fish. There is absolutely no reason as to why, where, or when and sometimes it's simply that you were there 10 minutes too early or late with reports of both size and varying quantity from all but the exact same spot, but from different angles. Try all the usual spots and if they are terribly busy maybe head to somewhere quieter and find a new spot. There are 100's of places to catch whiting in this bay and most places you find weed with a sandy edge you will find whiting and possibly calamari.

The weather hasn't really settled into any pattern other than unpredictable spring which is making it difficult to predict an enjoyable time to head out for a fish. The forecast bad days are turning out good and vice versa so it's just a case of looking out the window I think. The reports have matched the conditions and when the opportunity presents the fishing has been good. We are starting to see some particularly good early season land-based fishing and the boats are patchy, but the quality of the fish is what you would expect to see this time of the year. As usual there is a lot of unpredictability when it comes to Westernport Bay and fishing Phillip Island, just like our weather. Give it five minutes and it will have changed yet again. Don't let a bad day's fishing put you off another days fishing, you never know what you might miss.

Reports from offshore will ramp up once the weather comes good, and we would expect mako and kingfish will join the list with many other species that will be caught.

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DOLLARS AND SENSE BY DAVID WELLS

Granddad, Dad, Me and My Kids

As some of you know, I spend a fair bit of time around the state, giving talks or just seeing clients, many of whom first met me at one of these talks. By the time you read this I will have been as far west as Nhill, North East to Mansfield and also to Sale and Leongatha. I can say that all those clients have seen a slide I use in a presentation titled "Granddad, Dad, Me and my Kids" which I use to illustrate the changing investment needs of each generation. It's purpose is to make people of any age think about just how much things have changed in the Australian investment world, even since I started at the end of the 1980's.

Apart from the fact that I'm a granddad, and maybe I should add "My Grandchildren" to it, the explanation still applies.

My Grandfather left school at 10 to work on a farm at Euroa. He was still working on his plot at Drouin (now a huge steel building behind the cemetery) when he died suddenly at 70. Many other workers did the same, retired at 65 or 70 and died within a couple of years. Granddad was educated for 5 years and worked for 60 and never retired. That generation worked for up to 55 years and only had to fund a few years of retirement. When I was a little boy we all thought someone aged 65 was so old...

My father left school at 12. He never retired; he died with his boots on, so to speak at age 48. However his school friends retired at 65 and were mostly gone by age 75. They would have worked 50 years and had 10 years retirement to look forward to.

In my generation we went to Uni or did an apprenticeship and started our careers at age 21. I know many who have been tapped on the shoulder and asked to take an early retirement aged in their mid-50's. I've two brothers who retired at 55 and both are aged over 77. It's not easy to start a new career at that age. But our life expectancy has increased to around 80 or more. It seems that we can be working around 35 years to fund 25 years retirement.

My daughter is a risk analyst with one of the larger Industry Super Funds. She was an accountant with one of the big 4. She completed her training at age 24 and if she'd not been a partner by age 54 she'd have been asked to move on, too. But a woman of her age has a life expectancy of 89 years. She has a chance of working only 30 years to fund 35 years retirement. At this rate if my grandchildren study at University there's a real chance they will be working for

for 25 years to fund more than 40 years retirement. Do you get the drift? Each generation works less and lives longer than the previous. This isn't rocket science, and yet we're still told to invest as our grandparents and parents did. (We probably still vote the same way, too). Believe me, this isn't going to help us all have a comfortable retirement. This longevity risk is what scares most new retirees and many who have been retired for a while. It also scares people who are approaching retirement.

We've seen the federal government change the pension and retirement rules, too, in acknowledging this situation. As well, in a few years there will be more people not working than working, as our population ages. If we don't want to rely on our children's charity we need to adapt to our generation's situation. What worked for Granddad almost certainly won't work for you, unless Granddad was so successful that it doesn't matter, and the family hasn't spent all the money yet. However, most people don't have that luxury. All that stuff about buy and hold for ever isn't the case anymore.

We can't afford to invest for the long, long term and forget about things until we retire. We need to be looking to make the most of our opportunities as we go. We need to look more at having the right investment structures and then ensuring that we manage our investments as best as we can. In among this of course, we still have to live!

We need to educate ourselves about investing and learn how to ensure that the experts we employ are aware of our needs, acknowledge those needs, and are demonstrably working to fulfil those needs.

There is better superannuation these days which will help, there are more diverse investment instruments and these days we can invest all over the world but your most pressing concern is that it's your life and your money so what really is best for you? You may need to adjust your risk profile or lower your sights.

What you should do is to seek the advice of a respected investment professional – some one who has completed all the recent years enhanced education – who is able to address a broad range of issues that you will face, even some you haven't thought about yet. It is something that you don't need to do by yourself and you shouldn't try to do by yourself.

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Let's get cooking

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Quick Beef Stir Fry with Chilli Noodles & Veggies



WHAT YOU NEED:

- 500 g sliced Beef
- 1 X 500g jar Pickled Veggies
- 1 X pack Instant Noodles
- 2 tbs Oil
- 2 crushed Garlic Cloves
- Fresh Chilli to your taste

WHAT TO DO:

Mix together half the oil, garlic & beef strips and set aside. Drain liquid from pickled veggies and rinse in cold water. Cook noodles as per instructions but don't add flavour sachets.

Add to pan oil, veggies and chilli then stir fry for a minute, - add flavour seasoning and mix well (if dry add a little water). Add beef strips to hot pan fry until tender and serve the beef on top of the noodles.



Island Harmony Choir presents ...
A Saturday Afternoon Concert
November 16th at 2 pm
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Bring Him Home

Puttin' on the Ritz
Send in the Clowns
... and more!



★ "Songs from Stage and Screen" ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ** Solo items
- ** Instrumental pieces
- ** Comedy Moments



\$15

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(Children free)
Includes - Afternoon Tea



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Book Reviews

**By Turn The Page Bookstore,
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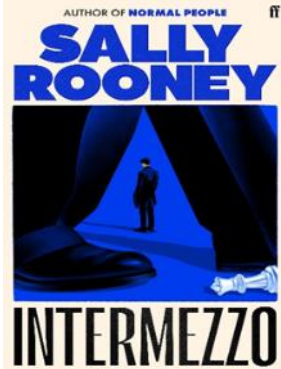
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Intermezzo

By Sally Rooney

Price: RRP \$34.99

(10% discount to registered customers)

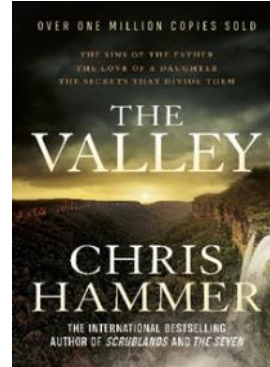
An exquisitely moving story about grief, love and family, from the global phenomenon Sally Rooney.

From the author of the multimillion-copy bestseller *Normal People*, an exquisitely moving story about grief, love and family. Aside from the fact that they are brothers, Peter and Ivan Koubek seem to have little in common.

Peter is a Dublin lawyer in his thirties - successful, competent and apparently unassailable. But in the wake of their father's death, he's medicating himself to sleep and struggling to manage his relationships with two very different women - his enduring first love Sylvia, and Naomi, a college student for whom life is one long joke.

Ivan is a twenty-two-year-old competitive chess player. He has always seen himself as socially awkward, a loner, the antithesis of his glib elder brother. Now, in the early weeks of his bereavement, Ivan meets Margaret, an older woman emerging from her own turbulent past, and their lives become rapidly and intensely intertwined.

For two grieving brothers and the people they love, this is a new interlude - a period of desire, despair and possibility - a chance to find out how much one life might hold inside itself without breaking.



The Valley

By Chris Hammer

Price: RRP \$34.99

(10% discount to registered customers)

The latest stunning thriller from the bestselling author of *Scrublands* and *The Seven*.

Nell Buchanan and Ivan Lucic are back - and Nell is thrown into her most emotionally fraught investigation yet.

A controversial entrepreneur is murdered in a remote mountain valley, but this is no ordinary case. Ivan and Nell are soon contending with cowboy lawyers, conmen, bullion thieves and grave robbers.

But it's when Nell discovers the victim is a close blood relative that the past begins to take on a looming significance.

What did take place in *The Valley* all those years ago? What was Nell's mother doing there, and what was her connection to troubled young police officer Simmons Burnside? And why do the police hierarchy insist Ivan and Nell stay with the case despite an obvious conflict of interest?

The Valley features a page-turning plot, intriguing characters and an evocative sense of place-where nothing is ever quite what it seems. Chris Hammer presents another immersive and emotionally rewarding thriller.

'Hammer has confirmed and underlined his reputation as numbering among the very best novelists in detective fiction.' *Sydney Morning Herald*.

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ORGANIC VS STORE BOUGHT

It's really only this season that I have gotten serious about the fully organic kick. I grew organic tomatoes last season, but not to the extent that I do now. I was inclined to use Dynamic Lifter, or Seasol, both excellent products incidentally, to supplement my otherwise organic methods. But not now. I'm sold on the idea of all the goodies readily available to us from the kitchen! So all those tens of thousands of gardeners overseas that don't have a local Mitre 10 or a Bunnings nearby, thank you for all your advice and knowledge. Preparing in April, I spread over 120kg of horse manure onto my pots, above ground beds and ground. So after 4-5 months, this manure has rotted down to give my garden the wonderful base it has. And the worms love it!

I actually started my seeds (all heirloom...all over 50yrs history) in May. Raised on hot beds and LED lights, then out to my little green house or on the window sill in seed boxes. Try and keep the temperature around your seedlings at a minimum of 10c, otherwise they will struggle. I purposely choose varieties many people have not heard of or seen before; not your average Grosse Lisse or Roma from Bunnings. I don't take seedlings from anyone else, although I get many offers, and I don't buy any either. I want my tomatoes to be something I've started from scratch, as pure as I can get, not carrying any spores or disease from outside my garden. I'm writing this at the end of September, and you are reading it in November, so about a 4 week difference. My "seedlings" are over a foot and a half tall already, can only guess where they will be then! The star of the show so far is the Big Pear, followed by Syrian Giant, both growing quickly and looking great, just starting to get flowers.

We have discussed Tumeric at some length before but I have a little recipe for a fertilizer using this wonderful spice: 3x desert spoons of raw sugar, 3x desert spoons of potato starch and 2x desert spoons of turmeric, into a bucket then fill with water. Stir it well then get a little jug and pour around your tomatoes at the base. Don't worry if it gets on the foliage, it won't do any harm. Sort of like a big yellow vitamin pill for your plants.

PRUNING- TO PRUNE OR NOT TO PRUNE

Some growers will advocate for quite severe pruning. Others say it's not needed. I am in the yes camp for pruning, but only lightly.



All my plants have no foliage for up to 6" or more up the main stem. No foliage to come into contact with the soil. No chance of soil borne disease latching onto the low foliage. Americans call them "Suckers", my Father-in-law called them "laterals", so I'm gonna call them laterals. They are the little growth between the main stem and the branch of the leaf. They are removed to allow the plant to get as much energy and substance to the flowers and fruit, not new branches or leaves. Everything done in moderation, then you can't go wrong.

PUMPKIN

One of my customers gave me some pumpkin seeds. When I asked what variety, she replied "I don't know, some weird ass looking pumpkin I've never seen before". 'Well, she got my attention. I'm all into weird ass vegetables. I now have seedlings of this growing in the back corner of our block. More on this as it develops.

DOES SIZE MATTER??

An age old question eh! Well, yes it does. The American who grows a 3kg tomato boasts about his achievement. Yeah, it's big; but it looks like a tumor, big ugly and twisted. Why? Because he grew it from a Mega-bloom. A series of flowers fused together by some quirk in the plant, maybe 3, 4 or 5 flowers merged into one. If you want a good looking giant tomato that is juicy and tastes great, stick to the single blooms. I have included pics of flowers on my Cherokee Purple, Oxheart and Croation Giant. Look how big the flowers are! They are going to produce BIG suckers of tomatoes! If you want them bigger, hand pollinate and pick off the smaller flowers, get as much nutrient and energy into the big guys.

PH

As readers of the Vibe you will all know I bang on a bit about oat water and banana water. Well I've never actually tested the PH of either. So I was gifted a small PH meter, and I tested both. They both went around 7.2 PH value, so a little into the Alkaline region. Tomatoes are said to thrive in a PH environment of around 6-7, ideally about 6.5. I added a splash of brown vinegar (acidic) to bring the PH down a bit. Just a little splash bought both buckets back to 5.8. As I use this water on a daily basis and are forever topping it up I was happy with the results. Too high or too low can prevent the absorption of magnesium and /or calcium; ultimately resulting in BER. (blossom end rot). So just another little thing to watch out for. Presently I have 15 tomato bushes in the garden. All looking good. Most are thriving and have flowers. No sign of any early diseases.

A few don't forgets:

- Don't forget a fortnightly spray of soluble Asprin
- Don't forget a small sprinkle of Bi-carb soda around the perimeter of the plant
- Don't forget the banana or oat water on a regular basis (check it's PH)
- Don't forget the Epsom salts in a spray once in a while



- Don't forget to give your bushes a little shake each morning to get flowers to set fruit

*Any queries, questions or problems, drop me a line via The Vibe or on my email: Burnsiestomatoes@gmail.com
Happy gardening.*



Phillip Island Camera Club - What makes a great photograph?

Being able to produce an impressive photograph is something most of us who use cameras aspire to. But we often struggle with how to achieve a photo that we would be happy to hang on our wall, to sell or exhibit. At our camera club, we enjoy sharing our photos on our Facebook page and through our monthly challenges compiled into a slideshow viewed by club members at our monthly meetings. We also have evaluations where an external judge provides helpful comments on the positive aspects of an image and also how the image could be improved. We view these critiques as a learning experience that will help us grow as photographers to take more striking photos.

You don't necessarily need an expensive camera or to work as a professional photographer to produce a captivating photograph. However, it does help to understand the qualities of a beautiful photograph. According to Irving Penn, 'A good photograph is one that communicates a fact, touches the heart and leaves the viewer a changed person for having seen it. It is, in a word, effective.' To evoke a response from viewers of your photograph, probably the most important aspect is to have made a really good choice of subject matter, possibly to tell a story, but it must have other essential qualities. These other qualities include: considered lighting and exposure, deliberate composition, pleasing colour and tonal range, careful timing and relationship by having sensitivity to rare and unique moments and the presence of mind to act correctly at the right place at the right time – all integrated into a single standout image. Other writers on this subject mention other elements such as the rule of thirds, lines, shapes, texture, and patterns that all work well together to add interest.

You need to go beyond the basic aspects of a good photo, such as making sure the horizon line is straight, ensuring there are not poorly cropped objects in your photo and does not include unnecessary objects or items (i.e. is uncluttered and without distractions), making sure the photo is in focus (unless a blurry image is intentional) and that there is a focal or key point of interest appropriately positioned in your photo. You also need to make sure the photo is not too warm or cool in colour temperature, that it is not over- or underexposed or over edited including over saturated colour.

The capacity of a photograph to stir up feelings in the beholder, because they evoke certain emotions cannot be underestimated. Those feelings may include for example, sympathy, rage, tranquillity and result in bringing us to laughter or tears thereby making images memorable because they have made us feel something or are thought provoking. When you put time into understanding the aspects of what makes an outstanding photograph, by continuing to practice, welcoming feedback and critiquing your work and that of others, there's no doubt you will see an improvement by applying

your creativity, inspiration and personal drive.

Some important things to consider when taking photographs:

Composition – the art of choosing what goes into a photograph and where, as well as what is left out.

Exposure – the amount of light in an image.

Lighting – natural or artificial light (depending on the source) which may come from different angles and strengths and may range from cool to warm

Timing – choosing when to shoot can determine how the action is frozen in time. Lighting can be affected by timing.

Here's some descriptive words that can be applied to what photographers may hope to achieve in their images.

Captivating: suggests the photo draws the viewer in

Stunning: highlights the visual impact of the image

Breathtaking: implies awe and admiration for the beauty displayed in the photo

Vivid: describes the bright, clear colours and details.

Evocative: indicates the photo stirs emotions or memories.

Masterful: recognises the skill and expertise in the work.

Thought provoking: suggests the image prompts reflection or discussion.

Timeless: suggests that the image transcends trends and remains relevant.

Dynamic: highlights movement or energy captured in the shot.

Intimate: implies a personal connection or closeness in the subject.

Mesmerising: beautiful and impressive with great visual impact.

Timing was everything in this captivating and mesmerising photo which will be featured in the Phillip Island Camera Club and Newhaven Residents Group 2025 Calendar.

Image is copyright of Phillip Island Camera Club member, Gary Parnell.

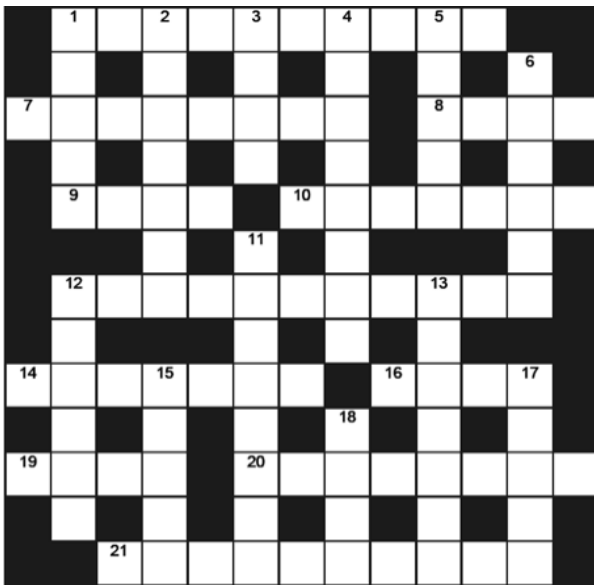
For more information about the Phillip Island Camera Club email Graeme at phillipislandcameraclub@gmail.com or phone 0407 092 352. <http://www.phillipislandcameraclub.com.au/>



This breathtaking, vivid image 'Sunrise at Cleeland Bight' by Gary Parnell captures the stunning colours in the sky, reflected in the water, whilst a couple of boats provide interest in the foreground.

Brain Food

Find all the answers & solutions to Puzzles
& Quiz on page 18 (No peeking!)



Vibe Quick Crossword

Across

- 1 A magnifying instrument (10)
7 Those who have fled (8)
8 To give off (4)
9 An elegant bird (4)
10 Starts a fire (7)
12 Shining brightly (11)
14 Elevated platform (7)
16 Heavenly body (4)
19 Section of a house (4)
20 Parts (8)
21 Commuters (10)

Down

- 1 Fogs (5)
2 Neck ware (7)
3 Used for baking (4)
4 Pads (8)
5 Implore (5)
6 Best (6)
11 Defames (8)
12 Cause (6)
13 Great in degree (7)
15 Punctuation mark (5)
17 Scores (5)
18 Enthusiastic (4)



TRIVIA

1. What does a viticulturist grow? 2. What is the shaft of a feather called? 3. What small flying creature is a tortrix? 4. Capodichino Airport serves which European city? 5. What is the only planet in our solar system to rotate clockwise on its axis? 6. Jim Henson is the creator of what beloved cast of characters? 7. What is the name of John Travolta's character in the 1977 film "Saturday Night Fever"? 8. M&M'S Fruit Chews would eventually become what popular candy? 9. What do you call a group of flamingos? 10. Relative to the internet, what does "URL" stand for?

		8	6	5	7	9		
7		9	2				5	
				4	3			8
				8	2	6	1	
	2	7				8	9	
	8	5	1	7				
5			4	9				
	6				1	5		9
		1	8	3	5	4		

Vibe Sudoku Each row, column and sub-box must have the numbers 1-9 occurring just once.

Harmony Choir Concert at St John's Church, Corner Chapel and Warley Streets, Cowes Saturday, 16 November at 2pm

Why do we sing?

It is a question that Julia Hollander investigates in her book 'Why We Sing'.

And the answer is - for many reasons!

Whether in a band, as choir or solo under the shower, singing is energising, releases emotions, feeds our brain, builds connections with others (except maybe for the shower option). And the good thing is, when we listen to singing, we get similar benefits.

Here's an opportunity. The Phillip Island Harmony Choir has a concert on Saturday 16 November at 2pm. The cost is \$15 (including afternoon tea) and children are free.

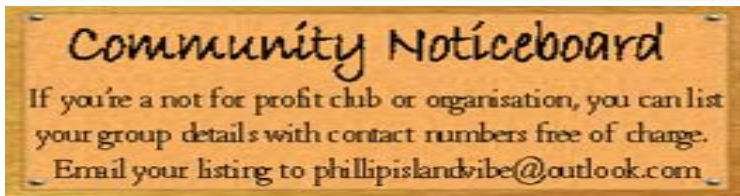
Titled 'Songs from Stage and Screen', it will include some familiar tried and true standards, like the rousing 'There's no business like show business' through to more recent songs such as the beautiful and inspiring 'When you believe' from the Disney film 'The Prince of Egypt'.

Along the way you will also hear the bright and encouraging 'Sing' from Sesame Street, the uplifting 'Anthem' from 'Chess' (composed by Bjorn and Benny of ABBA fame), 'Wind beneath my wings' and more.

There will also be a chance to sing along with a couple of well-know favourites from 'Les Miserables' whilst some short humorous items and instrumental pieces will balance out the choral singing.

This concert is a fund raiser for St John's and will include an afternoon tea.

Put the date in your diary and tell your friends.



Phillip Island Lions Club Trash and Treasure market. Sat & Sun 9.30-12.30. Dunsmore Rd, Cowes (next to transfer/recycling depot). Volunteers welcome. Text only 0433 191 654 f/b Phillip Island Lions.

Phillip Island Bicycle User Group Every Wed 10am starting at Amaze'n Things car park. Very social, speed is the slowest rider. Contact Trevor Hayes 0408 574360.

Phillip Island Bridge Club duplicate games Mon & Wed 12.15pm for 12.30pm start. Located at back of Newhaven Hall. Visitors welcome. For partner or lesson info contact 0400 815353.

Phillip Island Girl Guides Girls and volunteers both welcome. Girls aged 7-14 on Thursday night from 5pm to 6.30pm at Scout Hall, Dunsmore Road, Cowes. Contact Chris Oliver 0428 644397 or email: chris.oliver@guidesvic.org.au

Phillip Island Club (Senior Citizens) Carpet bowls, cards, ballroom dancing, craft. Membership \$15 per year. Fridays 12noon, 3 course lunch \$20. Hall available for hire. Ph Pauline Porter for more on 0419 777807.

Phillip Island Community & Learning Centre (PICAL) recreational, educational and some welfare services to reflect local community needs. For further info call 59521131, www.pical.org.au or pop in at 16 Warley Avenue, Cowes.

The Probus Club of San Remo 2nd Mon of each month 10am at the Newhaven Hall, 23 Cleeland Street, Newhaven. New members most welcome. For more information contact Anja 0408 035 163 or email probussanremo@gmail.com

Phillip Island Scout Group – Cubs: Wed 6.30pm-8pm, **Scouts:** Thur 7pm-9pm, **Venturers:** Mon 7pm-9pm. Located at Bluegum Reserve, Dunmore Road Cowes. New members welcome. Email: gl.phillipisland@scoutsvictoria.com.au

Phillip Island World Vision Club meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:30pm in the conference room at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, 25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven. We support children and communities here and overseas, as well as working to alleviate crises such as world hunger. We welcome new members. Please contact our Secretary: piworldvision@gmail.com

Phillip Island Masonic Lodge - meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm (opp Coles) New members and visiting brethren welcome. Hall for hire - contact Ian Samuel 0413157284.

Phillip Island and District Railway Modellers is a model train club that meets every Sunday to run trains at the Cowes Senior Citizens Club (back door) from 1:00pm to 4:30pm. Visitors are welcome, new members more welcome. More details Geoff N on 0419 357 097 or Geoff B on 0429 419 011. Or email to piadrm@gmail.com

Home Library Service For information on applying for our home library service or volunteering, please speak to library staff on 5644 3320 or visit our website www.myli.org.au/about/volunteers

PARKRUN- free 5km timed run/walk for all abilities. Saturdays 7:45 Churchill Island (www.parkrun.com.au/phillipisland/)

The Probus Club of Phillip Island Inc meet 4th Wed of month 10am, Anzac Room, Phillip Island RSL, New Members most welcome. Further info Chris Cannin 0434 489011 or Ash Rizvi 59521604.

Tough Guy Book Club Phillip Island chapter meets first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. New Venue, Ocean Reach Brewing 47 Thompson Ave, Cowes. For more information see www.toughguybookclub.com

The Phillip Island Miniature Light Railway Inc. Secretary, Bev Munro, 0417 578 435 or Facebook. New members welcome.

PIRSL Community Men's Shed meets at the rear of the RSL every Tues, Wed & Thurs mornings 9am-noon. Anyone welcome. Contact Brian Walmsley at the Phillip Island RSL Community Mens Shed on email mensshed@pirsl.com.au Leave details and Brian will respond. **Phillip Island TOWN Club Weight Loss Group** Thurs 9-11.00am, Ryhill Hall. Joining fee \$60, weekly fee \$6. Nutritional eating, weigh in and group therapy. New members welcome. Contact Vincent Vale on 0414 709066

Phillip Island Croquet Club New members welcome to come and try Thursday and Friday mornings 10am-12pm. Please phone before coming to the club. Secretary 0493 614265. Blue Gum Reserve, Dunsmore Rd, Cowes.

National Vietnam Veterans Museum needs volunteers for gardening and cleaning. Contact Julie on 5956 6400 or apply online via our website www.vietnamvetmuseum.org.

Phillip Island RSL Day Club: Monday's (other than public holidays), Anzac room, PIRSL, 10:30-12:30pm: Games, craft, exercises, guest speakers, outings & a \$10.00 Senior's meal. Transport can be arranged is necessary. Ph: PIRLS concierge: 5952 1004

Euchre at the RSL Come and play Euchre every Thursday night at 7.30pm or come for a meal first at 6.00 pm with cards to follow. For more info contact Bob Hee 0418 173388.

Phillip Island Camera Club meets 1st Monday of the month (except November, when meeting will be held on 13th) at the Newhaven Yacht Squadron Clubrooms, 1:30 - 4pm. Contact Graeme on 0407 092 352 or email phillipislandcameraclub@gmail.com.

Phillip Island Swim Club must be competent in 3 out of 4 strokes and looking to extend skills with qualified coaches. Swimclub@waterfront.net.au

Phillip Island & District Genealogical Society discover your ancestry. 56 Chapel St Cowes. Tues 10-1pm, Thurs 10-4pm, Frid 1-4pm, Sat 10-1pm. Contact 0418 178343 or piadgs@gmail.com

Phillip Island Adult Riding Club Social & HRCav horse riding club for beginners to advanced. Rallies held every 3rd Sat of month. New members welcome. Email: phillipislandadultridingclub.com.au

Cape Woolamai Coast Action Volunteer group who meet on the second Sat monthly from February to November. We undertake maintenance and plantings along the Cleeland Bight foreshore. Meeting at Cottlesloe Ave 8.00am to 10.00am followed by morning tea. Ph: Marg 0419007758 Email: capewoolamaica@gmail.com

Cowes Branch Country Women's Association (CWA) 1st Thursday of the month February-November. Currently meeting at CWA Shop, 94 Thompson Ave. Cowes. 1pm Ph Penny 0437 042 084 Cowes CWA Tues-Sat 10-2 cwaofviccowes@gmail.com

Country Women's Association Victoria Inc. Phillip Island Twilight Branch Join us for "Sharing, Fun and Friendship". We are a group of women who are engaged in social issues, learning new skills and fundraising for women and children. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at St John's Hall, Chapel Street, Cowes at 7 pm. Contact Sally Matthews 0409521825 and Rosie Brewin 0409792245

The Phillip Island & Districts Dart League P.I.D.D.L. is a community-based organisation that organises a competitive Darts comp for players of all skill levels. Weekly round-robin format. New players welcome. Contact Scott Lethbridge 0407543154;scott@glpc.com.au

IAA Island Astronomy Association Inc. Our Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.15 pm at the Croquet Club. New members are very welcome. To find out more details please contact Bob Wolstenholme at bobwolstenh@yahoo.com.au

Inner Wheel Club of Phillip Island is part of a worldwide women's organisation engendering friendship and service to the local community and beyond. Dinner meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month and newcomers are very welcome. For information call Christine Wickes on 0439 906 026

Phillip Island View Club builds friendships and connections for local women. Raises funds to support 5 children through the Smith Family. Meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 11.00am at The San Remo Hotel, San Remo. New members welcome! call Chris Sproson on 0406 469 824

Phillip Island & District Historical Society 56 Chapel Street, Cowes. Contact: Pamela Rothfield 0418 368 607

Phillip Island Library, Myli Libraries is open at 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes. Opening hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs and Frid 9.30am - 5pm, Wed 9.30am - 6.30pm and Sat 10am - 1.30pm

San Remo Library, Myli Library 92 Back Beach Road, San Remo. Hours Mon - 10am-5.30pm, Tues closed, Wed 10am - 1pm, Thurs closed, Frid 10am - 1pm and Sat 9.30—1pm. Phone 5644 3320

San Remo Bowls Club Social Bowls 12pm for a 12.30pm start. Stick draw. New bowlers and visitors most welcome. April to September - Tuesday's and alternate Saturday's. October to March - Wednesday's. 1a Wynne Road San Remo, next to the Primary School. Ring 0493237913 for details.

Phillip Island Patchworkers Inc. All varieties of craft such as Embroidery, Beading and Knitting. Monday Nights 7.30p.m. to 9.30p.m. The first, second and last Tuesday of the month 10.30a.m. to 2.30p.m. At Wonthaggi first and third Friday of the Month 10.a.m. 2.30p.m. Corinella Crafties second and fourth Wednesday of the Month 10.30a.m. to 2.30p.m. Please contact President Gayle Rowden 0400634282 or Secretary Lyn Arnold 0429481875

Newhaven Indoor Bowling Club meets every Tues at 12.30-3.45pm in airconditioned Newhaven Hall, Cleeland Av, Newhaven. \$5 includes afternoon tea. New members welcome. Age group 60-90 years. Call Dagmar 59566965.

"Bee Crafty" Community Craft Group is meeting fortnightly on Wednesdays at St Phillips Church Hall, Thompson Avenue, Cowes (opposite Coles). All are welcome. For further details Desma Maxworth 0409 136 620.

Boomerang Bags Phillip Island and San Remo Volunteers sew re-useable bags to supply PICAL pantry and local shops thereby eliminating single use plastic in the community. For more information contact Boomerang Bags Phillip Island facebook page or Vi Pittorino on violetepittorino@hotmail.com and we will get back to you.

SES San Remo Unit trains every Thursday at 6:30 pm at 14 Davis Point Road, San Remo. Come and meet our friendly group, see what we do. We have a role for everyone. For information email sanremo@ses.vic.gov.au

Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo Our enthusiastic members are all committed to having fun and building friendships whilst providing humanitarian community service to our local community, Australia wide and internationally. A cornerstone of our fund raising is our Cowes Op Shop. Enquiries, new members and volunteers always welcome. Call President Gea Lovell 0438 002 181, or Tim Mullen (Op Shop) 0412 399 140

MS Community Visitors Scheme in San Remo requires volunteers to visit residents in aged care who are socially isolated. Visits are fortnightly and may include taking residents on outings. Phone 98452729 or email volunteer@ms.org.au

The Probus Club of Cowes-3rd Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at The Phillip Island Senior Citizens Hall Cowes. For enquiries call Sue on 0438 304 082 or email probuscowes2@gmail.com

Phillip Island-San Remo-Bass Coast Vegan Community Sharing and promoting what's vegan & plant based. Everyone welcome. phillipislandbasscoastvegans@gmail.com

Island Voice Meets last Wed of the month 5.30- 7pm PIRSL New members welcome Contact Sec. Linda Marston 0428 344 726.

Bass Coast Kinship Support Group We meet at the Ventnor Recreation Reserve on the Second Tuesday of each month from 10am to 12pm. All Kinship Carers are welcome! Contact Anita 0475 740 927

Phillip Island Community Art & Craft Gallery Inc 119 Settlement Rd, Cowes (Next to the SES) Open Thurs – Sun 11am-3pm. Secretary Aleta Groves 0466 361 086. Email: info@phillipislandgallery.com.au

Phillip Island Community Meal operates on Mondays during school terms, 5.30 to 6.30pm. Volunteers prepare and serve a healthy two course meal to attendees. All welcome. Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Chapel St & Warley Ave, Cowes. Facebook @cowescommunitymeal

The Artists' Society of Phillip Island, ASPI, is for a wide range of artistic expression from the field of Visual arts through to writers and poets. There is a program of regular activities including Textile Arts, Portraits, Life Drawing, Appraise & Connect, Come & Create, and the Ibis Writers group. Workshops held throughout the year. New members are very welcome. For further information contact aspicommittee@gmail.com or Miranda 0400 927 076 .

Philosophy Lunch We meet on the first Thursday of each month over lunch at the Wild Food Farm, on the Rhyll Newhaven Road at Rhyll. We discuss some of the big questions about life, the universe and everything. Newcomers are very welcome. \$37 (including a two course lunch). Bookings or enquiries to John Buttrose: jbuttrose54@gmail.com

The Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG) advocates for improved medical and health services for Phillip Island and San Remo. PIMHAG welcomes new members. Please contact Secretary linda@marston.com.au or 0428 344 726.

Woolshed Spinners meet each 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month at PICAL, Cowes, 10 am to 2 pm to spin wool and other yarn activities. Contact Robyn Holman 0429 700 492.

Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary We now meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Rotary Rooms, 101 Dunsmore Rd., Cowes. for more information - Lyn 0400126435 or Gill 0431672777. We fundraise to purchase much needed equipment for specialists and medical staff offering services at the Health Hub. New members very welcome.

Phillip Island Bowls Club 40 Dunsmore Rd, Cowes. New members welcome, open to all ages. Social bowls every Thursday at 12noon and barefoot bowls over Christmas holidays. Corporate bowls from January till March. Free coaching available. Come and give it a try - contact the Club on 5952 2337.

Ibis Writers is a group of local writers who meet once a month to support and encourage one another, share writing opportunities and offer each other feedback on work in progress. All writers, beginners or experienced, poetry, fiction or non-fiction, are welcome to join. Contact Lorrie Read 0425 858 067 or Ian Robinson 0407 240 024 for more information, meeting dates, etc

Rotary Op Shop, Cowes Run and staffed by Volunteers from all walks of life, including Rotary Club members, our Op Shop is a wonderful, fun place to volunteer, help the community & meet new people! New volunteers always welcome, please call Rotary Op Shop Coordinator, Diane for more info: 0417 577 082

Cowes AA Big Book/Steps Meeting, 7pm Tues nights, St. Phillips Anglican Church. Corner Thompson Ave & Church St.(opp. Coles) Ph. 0417 317470

Ventnor Coast Care Association Inc is a volunteer group, working to conserve, enhance and maintain the Ventnor coastal foreshore between Anchorage Rd and Devon Ave. We meet monthly at 9.30am, for a 2 hour working bee, from February to November, followed by a cuppa. We welcome new members! Please contact Cathie or Trish at: ventnorcoastcare@gmail.com.'

The Newhaven Residents Group Association Inc. We are a not for profit organisation advocate for communication and residents concerns. Phone 0413 623 052.

Phillip Island Auto Racing Club want to get close to the motor racing action at the MotoGP circuit? Then join us a a volunteer marshal! All training provided; New members most welcome - please email: info@piarc.com.au

Bass Coast Toastmasters Meetings in San Remo. Contact Patricia Jamieson 0412339795 basscoasttoastmasters@gmail.com

Churchill Island’s heritage buildings undergo restoration

Churchill Island’s historic European homestead, cottage and out-buildings have undergone significant conservation works as part of a State Government investment to bring ailing heritage places back to life.

The project included replacement of roofing and restoration works to the fascia, weatherboards, rotted timber and chimney on Amess House, the barn, cellar, Rogers Cottage, the cottage kitchen and laundry.

Phillip Island Nature Parks was awarded a \$198,000 Heritage Victoria grant under a program that supports the repair and conservation of ‘at risk’ heritage places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register. The Nature Parks contributed \$25,000.

The project was undertaken by SIDA Constructions, which has vast experience in heritage conservation, including sensitive projects at Melbourne’s Botanical Gardens. Minerva Heritage oversaw the works to ensure they met heritage standards. Daniel Kallstrom, Attraction Manager at Phillip Island Nature Parks, said Churchill Island had an important place in the history of Victoria.

“Churchill Island has a rich legacy and important historical context to Phillip Island and to European settlement and farming in Victoria, with the buildings and remnants of past gardens a drawcard for tens of thousands of visitors a year,” Mr Kallstrom said. “We welcome this very generous grant by Heritage Victoria and the skills of the expert team who oversaw this work, which will ensure the island, and its original buildings remain intact for generations to come.”

The name Churchill Island came from Lieutenant James Grant in 1801 – he named the island after John Churchill of Dawlish, Devon who had supplied him seeds, which he planted on the island, making it the site of Victoria’s first European garden. Since the 1850s, the 50ha island has been continuously farmed and in 1872 was purchased by Samuel Amess as a holiday retreat and farm, before the Pickersgills and Rogers families took ownership.

Amess, a builder and stonemason who later became the Mayor of Melbourne, modelled the homestead on the popular Italianate style of the time, but instead of the usual brick, stone, and slate, he used timber and corrugated iron which was all transported by boat.

Amess was instrumental in the design and construction of many of Melbourne’s notable buildings.

Churchill Island conservation by Phillip Island Nature Parks is supported by the Victorian Government through the Living Heritage Grants Program.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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- ### ANSWERS TO TRIVA QUESTIONS
1. Grapes
 2. Quill
 3. Moth
 4. Naples
 5. Venus
 6. The Muppets
 7. Tony Manero
 8. Starburst
 9. A Flamboyance
 10. Uniform Resource Locator

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