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ONE AMAZING PLACE

December 2024

Merry Christmas to all of our valued readers, advertisers, contributors and distributors. We wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas, spending time with you family and friends. Let's all shop and dine out locally and support our wonderful local traders. Thanks to Destination Phillip Island for this festive front page photo.

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TOMATO REVISION

OK, we have discussed over the past few months the organic methods of growing tomatoes. They are entering a very important stage right now, creating and setting flowers to form the ever elusive fruit we all desire. I just want to touch on a couple of things to make your season the best success it can be. Blossom End Rot (BER) can wreak havoc on the upcoming crop, but is easily prevented. Calcium is the answer, and yes, powdered egg shells are an excellent source of this mineral. They should be in the soil now. However, I've taken this a step further and thrown a few calcium tablets into a bucket of water. They break down pretty quickly. You can now add some potash, some banana water, maybe a bit of powdered blood and bone just to juice up the cocktail a bit. Potash and banana water are adding potassium and phosphorus, while the blood and bone adds fertilizer and calcium. The potash will also aid in the formation of flowers. In the arly morning, go out and shake your bush! This action will move the pollen from the male part of the flower onto the female bits to set fruit. Golden milk, (Turmeric and milk) will keep diseases at bay. A teaspoon of turmeric into a litre of water sprayed on the foliage. About 70% of my bushes have tomatoes on them NOW, as I planted in mid August when we had that fine spell of weather. My biggest problem from here on in will be birds.



CUCUMBER (& ZUCCHINI, PUMPKINS)

Sometimes difficult to grow, but if you have them in the ground now, here are a few hints. The Golden Milk mentioned above does wonders, and the banana water adds much needed nutrients. However, add a couple of Bay leaves to the banana water, leave sit for a day or two, then add the mix to a bucket of warm water. Great source of nutrients in this. Another pick me up for all the above is dry yeast, (2x sachets), 3x teaspoons of raw sugar, into warm water in a jug or jar, leave in a warm place for the yeast to ferment. Tip into a bucket of warm water, dish out to your plants with a good size cup or little jug. One more thing, cucumbers are best when allowed to climb; set up some sort of trellis to allow them to get off the ground and go up, up, up.



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

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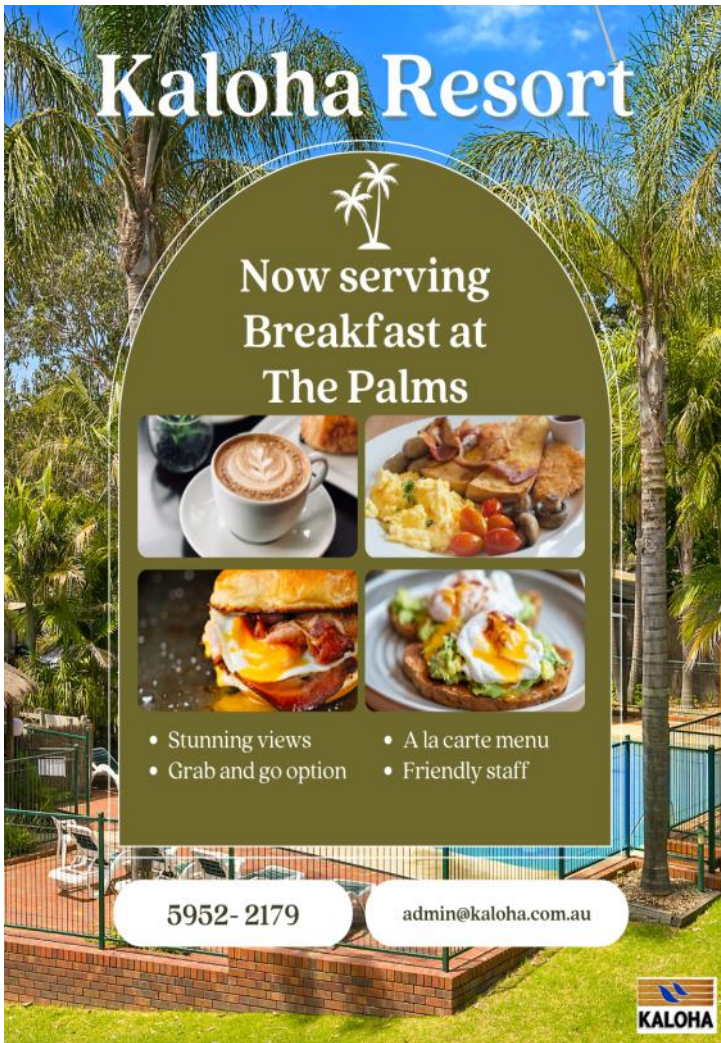



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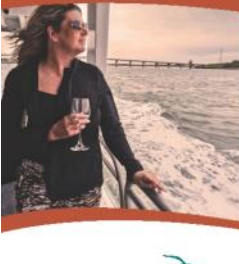


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Permanent Water Saving Rules

Avoid wastage and use water wisely this summer.

Did you know that Permanent Water Saving Rules remain in place year round across Victoria? As we face more frequent droughts, reduced rainfall, and higher temperatures due to climate change, following these guidelines is more crucial than ever.

Brush up on the 5 simple rules to avoid wasting water this summer:



Hand held hoses must be leak free and fitted with a **trigger nozzle**.



Gardens and lawns can be watered with a hand held hose with a trigger nozzle at any time, or between 6pm - 10am if you are using a watering/sprinkler system.



Public gardens, lawns and playing surfaces can be watered by means of watering system (fitted with a rain/soil moisture sensor) between 6pm-10am on any day.



Fountains and water features cannot be used unless the fountain or water feature **recirculates** the water.



Hard surfaces cannot be cleaned using water (including driveways, paths, concrete tiles, timber decking) except where cleaning up a hazard, or in the course of construction/renovation. Hard surfaces **can** be washed if stained, but only once per season, preferably with a low flow, high pressure device.

***Recycled water** customers **can** enjoy unrestricted water use in accordance with Class A recycled water guidelines.



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

There is definitely an air of familiarity to this season and it's like we have been transported back 10 years or so. Mid to late winter the weather was mild and some cracking days and excellent early fish. Early spring was terrible and unpredictable and then when the weather settled there were fish everywhere. Calamari showed up early from the beaches and were big, they were at the jetties as well and as usual the weed was a problem, change of light by far the best. Snapper are everywhere and it seems like about 10 years since we have seen these numbers being caught. The whiting was more difficult to get numbers but those who did all had big channel ones. Calm days saw 100's of boats stretch from Rhyll to Corinella. The snapper was following the old pattern of deeper early and shallow later. 90% of the snapper catches have come from those using squid or pilchards, calamari a mixture of baited and artificial jigs, stories of people bagging out on the jetties and beaches. When you ask me what colour jig to use the first colour I would have told you, over the last few years anyway, would have been white. This year, like with all the fishing, we have stepped back in time and reds, oranges, pinks and back in favour and out doing white most of the time. No idea why the season is working out that way but reading reports from around

10 years ago and I could just take one of them and it would be current. Maybe this is normal, and the last few years have been the odd ones, again no idea but I don't have too many customers complaining.

We have been working hard during the winter on new suppliers, new ranges of stock, new programs and benefits for our customers. We are updating our information maps and sheets we hand out, introduced our loyalty program with specials and deals only available to members. We listened to visitors to the island and set up a program for them to be able to hire fishing rods/reels to have a fish while here. We will have a new design of our fishing shirts coming in the new year and many other changes. We have also adopted a new moto for the shop "We Make Fishing Match Your Budget." Whether you're just starting or a seasoned angler and want a new set up, tell us your budget and we will set you up with the best quality and value for your money.

Reports have flooded in this season so far, both land and boats. Snapper, just open any fishing related social media and the reports are everywhere. Lately deep off Rhyll very early morning, follow them up the bay during the day then fish shallow and the mud into the evening and overnight. That's until the next customer walks in and tells me something completely opposite. One comment similar to everyone that has been successful is they have been very much on their own and not fishing in the middle of a large group of boats. We have had several in the shop that are struggling and with most it's been a simple fix to help their chances and for others it's just been a bit of luck needed. Fish where the fish are, use your sounders to find fish, structure. You must get to the bottom so correct sinker size is important. Rigs, there are so many that are used and successful its really personal choice. Just use and tie the one you know the best. Apart from being where the fish are, one of the most important things that will help you is one thing people often spend the least amount of time on and that is bait presentation, probably the most important element to a successful day's fishing in Westernport Bay.

Squid and whiting reports have been a little more inconsistent, or at least seem to be. When you actually have a good look at them and compare them to previous years, squid are actually better than the last few years and whiting about where they normally are. What I think is happening is the snapper reports are so good that everything else looks to be ordinary.

One thing that has stood out with all reports this season is people are catching fish where and when you expect them to be caught and the reports are not too surprising. But also, there are always people not catching any that aren't doing anything wrong. They just haven't been lucky enough as yet. If you do find yourself in this situation, don't over think it. Strip it back to basics and make sure the simple things are right.

Lastly from Mel, Rob and myself we would like to wish all our customers a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and thank everyone for their support over the last 12 months. We will go into our early opening and late closing once we get to Christmas and for everything that's happening, keep an eye on our social media, Facebook and Instagram for up-to-date info.



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DOLLARS AND SENSE BY DAVID WELLS

A helping hand

I had an interesting call from a client the other week. He wanted to sell down his personal share portfolio to help his daughter buy a house. Nowadays this isn't such a strange call, but Bob (not his real name) is retired and on a finite income, which does make it interesting.

These days with housing affordability shrinking all the time, interest rates higher than they were and deposits harder to reach many children (of varying ages) are turning to the "Bank of Mum and Dad" for assistance in buying a home.

Over the years I've made many share sales for people who want to help their children. Now, helping our children is often a good thing, but in most cases it's more of a good thing for the children rather than the parents.

Bob has gifted a couple of hundred thousand dollars to his daughter, and as far as I can determine, this is a gift, pure and simple. Fortunately, Bob is not affected by the Centrelink gifting rules, but he has left himself open to problems in the future.

A loan to help a child and their partner find the deposit on a home, or to buy a business, is fraught with danger for both sides, and there needs to be protection established for all parties.

I have seen some really nasty situations (and that's a mild expression) over the years, due to the misguided belief that parents are obligated to assist their children, even to their own detriment. There is no obligation I can identify, apart from giving your children the best start in life you can. That's it – nothing more, nothing less., Anything more than that is optional on the parents' part..

Ok, so what happens when your child asks for help to buy a home? Do you give money, do you lend money or do you buy jointly? If someone has been assisted by their parents, their lender will require a statement declaring that this money is a non-revocable gift, meaning that the parent will have given up

all right to the money and that means that Centrelink will count it under the gifting rules for the next five years. If it is a loan and is expected to be repaid, such a statement is either perjury or the loan is unenforceable. The parents here are between a rock and a hard place. Will it be repaid as a debit against the child's share of any residual estate? Will another sibling see themselves as being punished for being successful. That's a very common reaction.

If your son/daughter is about 30 years old, it's fair to say that you're approaching retirement or may even be retired and that means that you will have need of the funds yourself at some stage in the future. How will your child (and their partner) repay you? Do you have a plan to recover these funds without leaving yourself short? Will your child be able to repay you? What if their marriage/partnership breaks up? What legal documents obligate them to repay you jointly? What if you need the money but you have gifted it away?

I have seen a 73 year old forced back to work because their children went bankrupt and the parents had guaranteed their debts; he was still working at 82! I have seen people on pensions because their children have used all the parents' funds and were not repaying anything, or very little (and remember that the debt is assessed as an asset by Centrelink) and I have seen people lose their pension for just that reason, but without getting any income to compensate.

These things are not uncommon, and in nearly every case it was a loan/gift to a son or daughter that caused all the problems. To say it won't happen because it's family is simply not true – it happens because it's family.

I have also seen hardship inflicted on parents when they've loaned money to children but when they need it returned, the children haven't been in a position to repay it, or the children have been forced to sell their home to be able to repay it. It does cut both ways and lending or gifting money to children can hurt both sides enormously.

I'm not saying don't do it, but I am saying do it with extreme caution and with legal safeguards built in for both parties.

If it's a loan, a contract and security such as a mortgage or at least a caveat is essential.

A loan that can't be repaid is a gift, and a gift that is expected to be repaid if necessary is a loan.

As to helping family members buy a business, I would generally say never unless the relative has already shown competence in business.

Have the business proposal/plan assessed by an independent expert of your choice before acting. This is adding extra risk to an already risky situation.

Helping our children can give us a really good feeling – be aware that sometimes this is the last good thing about it.

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Book Reviews

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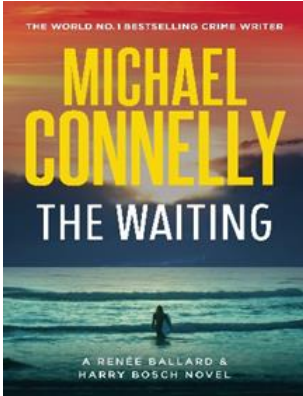
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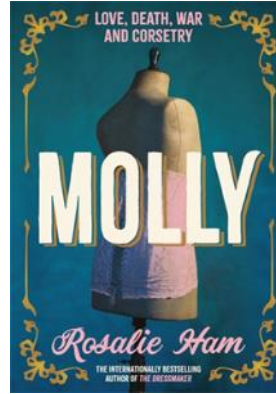
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Molly

By Rosalie Ham

Price: RRP \$34.99
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Rene Ballard and the LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit find a DNA link to a serial killer known as the Pillowcase Rapist. But when Ballard and her team move in on their suspect, they encounter a baffling web of secrets and legal hurdles.

At the same time, Ballard's badge, gun and ID are stolen - a theft she can't report without giving her enemies in the department the ammunition they need to end her career. Forced to seek outside help, Ballard knocks on Harry Bosch's door.

Meanwhile, Ballard has taken on Patrol Officer Maddie Bosch, Harry's daughter, as a new volunteer. But Rene soon learns that Maddie has an ulterior motive for getting access to the city's library of lost souls.

Ballard is determined to maintain her focus on justice - but this cold case opens a Pandora's box . . .

It's 1914 and Molly Dunnage wants to see change: at home, at work and in underwear.

Her burgeoning corsetry business is starting to take off, thanks to some high-profile supporters. She's marching with Melbourne's suffragists for better conditions for women everywhere.

And her family - her eccentric, confounding, adored father and aunt - are turning their minds to country retirement.

But as the clouds of war gather and an ominous figure starts skulking in the shadows of her life, Molly's dreams begin to falter. Then, when true love drops out of the sky and into her arms, her hopes for her life and the world are entirely upended.

With the dark humour, richly detailed settings and vividly drawn characters we've come to expect from Rosalie Ham, this prequel to the international bestseller *The Dressmaker* is an unforgettable story of hopes lost, love found - and corsets loosened.

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Let's get cooking
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Chicken in Thai Green Curry Sauce

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 2 Chicken Fillets, sliced
- 1 tbs Thai Green Curry Paste
- 1 tin Coconut Cream
- 1 Lime
- 2 cups Chicken Stock
- 1/2 cup Eggplant, sliced
- 1 bunch Vietnamese Basil, chopped
- Oil



WHAT TO DO:

In a fry pan place chicken in hot chicken stock for 5 minutes remove and rest.

Add Eggplant and fry for 3 minutes then place with chicken.

Add Curry Paste to pan fry for 2 to 3 minutes. Add Coconut Cream then stir in with 1/2 chopped Basil. Then place Chicken and Eggplant back into pan and simmer to warm and thicken sauce. Serve with rice.



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Saturday Dec 21st - Sunday Dec 22nd - 9am - 4pm

Monday Dec 23rd - 7.30am - 5pm

Tuesday Dec 24th Christmas Eve - 7am - 3pm

CLOSED DEC 25th & 26th

Friday Dec 27th - 8.30am - 5pm

Sat Dec 28th, Sun Dec 29th, Mon Dec 30th - 9am - 4pm

Tuesday Dec 31st NYE 7am - 3pm

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Health and Healing with Pip

HOLIDAY HAPPINESS HACKS

Many people I know are feel quite high levels of anxiety as we approach the holiday season, honestly, so do I. We humans love certainty. It is a basic human survival requirement. And most of us (especially in Victoria) are genuinely still recovering from the 'snap lockdowns' and changing circumstances that really made us feel on edge, scared and generally anxious.

So, I thought this month I would give you some simple ways to hack your holidays.

- 1. GET YOUR ARTS ON** - Write, paint, doodle, dance, sing – anything creative will help you to shift out of that worry space. Whether you think you are good at it or not, the therapeutic benefits will be worth it.
- 2. Watch a COMEDY movie** – laughter shifts your emotions ... it even changes the chemistry of your brain, improves blood flow and makes you feel happy. There is even Laughter Yoga classes now.
- 3. Take ADULT TIMEOUTS** - walk outside and breathe deeply – being in nature and connecting with your body will always shift your mood from sad to glad. Try walking with a smile on your face – you'll feel the vibes.
- 4. FIND INSPIRATION** - Read or listen to an inspiring book – there are millions of amazing people in the world who have written stories that will enlighten, inspire and uplift you. Pick one and dive into someone else's life ... and then see how it affects your view of the world.
- 5. WATER HEALING** (option 1) Have a bath and listen to some relaxing music or a meditation – water is a magical healing element ... especially for the emotions. Try adding magnesium, essential oils (like wild orange or lavender) and a few bubbles (bath and champagne) are always fun too. Then do a google search for happy subliminal meditation music or chill out music ... lie back and soak up the self care.

6. WATER HEALING (option 2) Find a body of water – ocean, river, lake, puddle and GET IN IT!! There are so many beautiful benefits to being in water. The minerals and salts in the ocean particularly, help to ground and reset you. The soothing sound of the waves soothes your nervous system. The feeling of being held and surrounded and supported helps you feel secure. And if you jump in that body of water with a crazy group of Seadragons ... (grin) ... you will get all the extra benefits of laughter, silliness, play and empowerment that they offer. Check out @Millowl Seadragons on Facebook and Instagram.

The most important thing to do in times of outside instability is to find ways to be calm inside. That way the storms can come, and you will be able to manage anything that comes your way with grace and ease.

When you take control of your inner life, your outer life flows.

Be loving. Be present. Be kind.

Blessings, Pip

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Anglican Christmas Services

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22nd

6pm St Philip's Cowes - 9 Lessons and Carols
CHRISTMAS EVE December 24th

5pm St Augustine's, San Remo - Family Service with Carols

5pm Parish Hall, Cowes - Family Service with Carols

7.30pm St Paul's, Bass - Holy Communion with Carols

11pm St Philip's Cowes - Midnight Communion (Carol
singing from 10.45pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY December 25th

8am St Augustine's, San Remo - Holy Communion

10am St Philip's, Cowes - Holy Communion

www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

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

Safe as a house

For all the help Leroy provided the police, he received little if any recognition. In fact, the officers he helped the most were often the first to make fun of his quirky personality.

'They don't want people thinking some amateur is solving their cases,' Leroy would say with a generous shrug. 'I just wish I didn't have to sneak around eavesdropping all the time.'

One of Leroy's most extreme eavesdropping cases involved hiding behind a coat rack for over an hour. On that day, his instincts for crime led him beyond a yellow-tape barricade and into the front hall of a police safe house, a normal looking home in a modest, pleasant-looking row house in which a mob witness had just been murdered.

From behind the safety of the coats, Leroy watched as a nervous rookie stood over the body of the strangled man. A minute later, Captain Loeb strode in, his baggy suit flapping in the breeze.

'I was here protecting the witness,' stammered the rookie. 'Then I got a call from your office, ordering me back to the station. I left him alone. By the time I figured out the call was a fake and rushed back here, Frankie was dead.'

The captain remained calm.

'Who else has keys to the front door?'

'Just me,' answered the rookie. 'The door locked automatically behind me. I told Frankie not to open up to anyone.'

Captain Loeb examined the body.

'Strangled from behind, meaning he probably trusted his assailant. Who would Frankie open the door for? Let's get them in here.'

The first suspect to be brought in was Lou, the victim's brother-in-law.

'Frankie sneaked a telephone call to me last night at work,' Lou said, staring down at the corpse. 'I'm a phone company operator. Frankie didn't tell me where he was.'

My wife is going to go nuts when she hears.'

The second suspect was Barry Aiello, the secret mob informant who had talked Frankie into testifying.

'I feel like I'm responsible,' he sighed. 'The mob was using all their contacts to find him.' Barry bent down and examined the welts around the victim's neck.

'Looks like a belt was used. Poor Frankie shouldn't have turned his back.'

Captain Loeb had them both taken in for questioning, then crossed to the rack and grabbed his trench coat.

'The commissioner's gonna have my head, but I suppose I gotta call him.' Loeb had just pulled a notepad from his coat pocket when he saw a face staring out from behind Frankie's leather jacket. 'Who in blazes are you?'

'Hi!' Leroy was so nervous he momentarily forgot his English accent. 'I'm so sorry. I know I'm trespassing, but...' He could think of only one way to redeem himself, and that was to hand them Frankie's killer.

Well Vibe readers? It's now up to you to solve this intriguing mystery. Who killed Frankie? (Solution page 14)

Celebrate Christmas with the Anglican Church

The congregation of St Philip's Anglican Church in Cowes invite all to come and celebrate Christmas with us this year.

We have a number of special services beginning with the traditional 9 Lessons and Carols on 22 December and a special family service on Christmas Eve (children can come and dress up and be part of the story).

You can also come and check out the story of the birth of Jesus in the grounds of the church.

It is easy to think of the Christmas season being all about reindeer, elves and snowflakes - but the story began over 2,000 years ago and we want to share the hope and joy of the season with you!. This year's installation will have the addition of a tree, an ideal place to gather and sing some carols which will take place during the markets on 14 and 21 December.

See our website for more details and times and come and join in.

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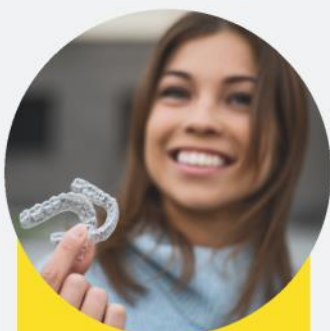
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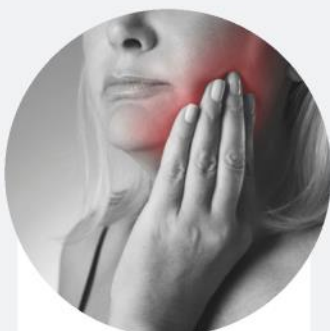
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Phillip Island Camera Club - Tips for your Christmas Photos

With the silly season upon us, it's time to turn our minds to the things that really matter; like how are we going to get a portfolio of perfect family Christmas photos in the midst of the celebration mayhem? Fortunately, the answer to that question is not as elusive as you may think. The first step is to plan your shots as much as you can. Total control of your shots is an unrealistic expectation, but you can think ahead and give some thought to the composition; especially things like the background. A cluttered background will compete with your subjects; bright light sources or objects behind you subjects will create harsh highlights and contrasts. Look for even toned backgrounds without too many distracting objects. If you have some manual control of your camera settings, consider using a shallow depth of field (small f stop number) to blur the background and keep attention on your subject.

You may have heard the term, 'The eyes have it'. Well, they do. When you are lining up your photo, draw your subject's attention, and focus on their eyes. More advanced cameras will allow you to spot focus on an eye, but most modern cameras, and phones, will either auto focus on faces, or allow you to select a focus point by tapping on the screen. This is a valuable function, so take advantage of it.

Another popular photographic catch phrase is 'Fill the Frame'; and with good reason. Work out what your subject is, maybe child, grandchild or other loved one and zoom in on them. If your camera doesn't have a zoom function, your legs can be the zoom mechanism. However you do it, get in close, capture the important stuff and exclude extraneous clutter. If your Camera has a burst mode, use it; a short burst of 3 or 4 shots will often be beneficial. In a portrait image it is almost invariably the second or third image that is the keeper. This is because the subjects have relaxed after the initial 'Say Cheese' moment and then present a more natural and appealing expression. In a more animated situation, you are more likely to capture that perfect moment during a bracket of shots. Keep your shutter speed up a bit as well; 1/250 sec will help get a sharp capture of the children at play. How low can you go! If you are after the perfect shot of the children, grandchildren or even the family pooch; get down to their level. If you can get to eye level with your subject, you will discover a much more intimate and interesting viewpoint. Those of us who are a bit 'Age Challenged' may find this a stretch and we don't want to ruin the day with a trip to the Emergency Room, so what about holding your camera down low and pointing in the right direction. It may be a bit hit and miss but could just pay off; and it can be done from the comfort of your chair.

As for that all important family group shot, take note of the light. Avoid having the sun or bright light source behind the group. Light coming from behind the photographer or side on to the subjects will give a much better result. If you are outside, look for a tree or other shade source that will tame the summer sun (assuming a beautiful sunny Christmas Day). If you are inside, a nice big window, side on to the group, will provide natural diffused light. Avoid flash where you can, as it tends to create harsh and unflattering light. You will want a smaller Aperture (larger F Stop number) to get everyone in focus; maybe F8 or F11. Set your camera on Aperture priority mode, which is usually the A on the mode dial; the camera will work out the rest. But what about getting you in the photo as well? Set your camera on a tripod or make a DIY version by resting your Camera on a chair and beanbag or pile of books. Set

your camera's shutter delay for 10 seconds (it will probably have this function, so now is the time to read the manual)', get yourself into position and 'Say Cheese'. Hopefully these thoughts will help you get that perfect Christmas image; just remember to experiment and have fun while you are at it. We will be back next year with more tips. The image above right was taken at a recent Phillip Island Camera Club meeting and includes all members of our new committee, along with some of Santa's Helpers. For more information about the Phillip Island Camera Club email Graeme phillipislandcameraclub@gmail.com or phone 0407 092 352. www.phillipislandcameraclub.com.au. 'Copyright of the owner.'



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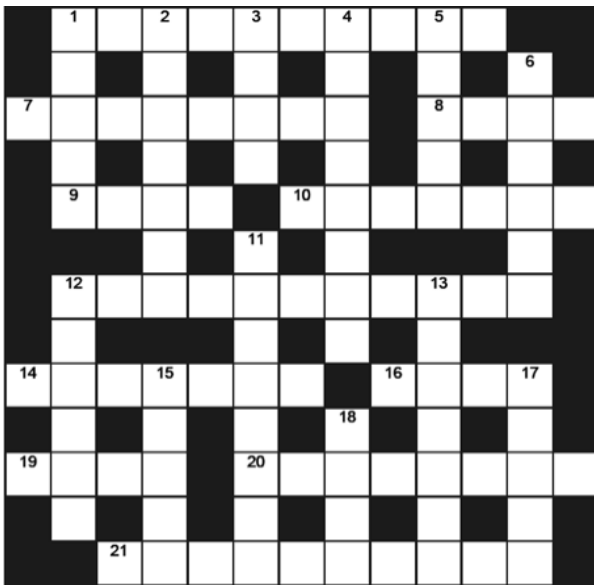
 [facebook.com/sanremosupermarket](https://www.facebook.com/sanremosupermarket)

135 Marine Pde, San Remo, VIC 3925. Phone: 5678 5337. Fax: 5678 5756.

 **SAN REMO**

Brain Food

Find all the answers & solutions to Puzzles
& Quiz on page 20 (No peeking!)



Vibe Quick Crossword

Across

- 1 Gave up (10)
7 Machine components (8)
8 Young female (4)
9 Existence (4)
10 Consents to receive (7)
12 Supports (11)
14 Leave (7)
16 Pre-loved (4)
19 Nourishment (4)
20 Statements of honour (8)
21 Wipes out (10)

Down

- 1 Found on the beach (5)
2 Cautious (7)
3 Hotels (4)
4 Fragile (8)
5 Bird of prey (5)
6 Savages (6)
11 Accompanied (8)
12 Monkey (6)
13 Upset (7)
15 Lowest point (5)
17 Actions (5)
18 Metal (4)

TRIVIA

1. In what country was the tradition of the Christmas tree first recorded? 2. In the movie "Home

Alone," what is the name of the character who is accidentally left behind when his family goes on vacation? 3. Complete the song: "You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not _____, I'm telling you why: Santa Claus is coming to town." ? 4. What is the name of Santa's reindeer with a red nose? 5. Who plays the role of Buddy in the popular Christmas film "Elf"? 6. What is the name of the traditional German Christmas bread made with candied fruit, nuts, and spices? 7. In the song "Jingle Bells," what type of sleigh is mentioned? 8. What is the name of the Grinch's loyal dog in Dr. Seuss' book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"? 9. What is the name of the famous reindeer whose name starts with the letter "D"? 10. What is the traditional color of Santa Claus' suit?

		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.

Safe as a House Whodunnit Solution

'The name is Leroy Cunningsworth, Private Investigator.' He took a deep breath then turned to the rookie. 'Please arrest Captain Loeb.'

'What?' Loeb was instantly furious. 'That's garbage. I'll have your P.I. license revoked so fast...'

For once Leroy was glad he didn't have a license.

'Ask the captain how he could have arrived without a coat and yet was planning to leave with one. And don't let him say it's not his coat. His notepad was in the pocket.'

The rookie's hand shook as he pulled his service revolver.

'Are you sure, mister?'

'I am,' Leroy replied. 'I've been staring at that bloody trench coat for an hour. Frankie would naturally open the door to the captain in charge of his case. Loeb took off his coat, made himself comfortable, then strangled Frankie with his belt. It was only after leaving the house, with the front door locked behind him, that the captain realized he'd left his coat inside.'

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PHILOSOPHICAL MUSINGS

BY JOHN BUTTROSE



Philosophical Musings - Utopia

I think we can all imagine a life which could be described as utopian - a place where our lives are privileged, comfortable, safe. Perhaps many already do live in a utopia here on Phillip Island or the Bass Coast. We can expect to live a long time, and most of our ailments can be treated effectively. We live in comparative luxury. We have gadgets available to ease burdensome tasks. We can travel quickly and comfortably anywhere in the world. Depending, of course, on the resources available to us.

The lives of people in many parts of the world are very different, but even in the poorest of developing countries things are getting better according to Steven Pinker in his book, *Enlightenment Now*. He points to the advances in medicine and longer life spans. Education is available to more and more. He claims the world is more peaceful and less violent now. All the markers pointing to a better life are trending upward. Pinker sees this as an achievement of the Enlightenment, with the emphasis on rationality and humanism, and the advances in technology. Are we heading towards a global utopia? One could hardly think so.

Let's look at the word utopia. The term was coined by Sir Thomas More, a Catholic cleric and lawyer who rose to the position of Lord High Chancellor, before being executed on the orders of Henry VIII, for opposing Henry's divorce and marriage to Anne Boleyn, and opposing the subsequent separation of the English church from the church of Rome. His book *Utopia* (1516) describes the political system of an imaginary island. I think many would approve of More's Utopia ... the leaders were elected by the people, work was limited to six hours a day, there was universal health care, and euthanasia was an option. It was a disgrace to go to war. Long lasting romantic relationships were encouraged, without the necessity of marriage. When a couple did decide to enter a more permanent contract, they were encouraged to view each other in the nude first. Divorce was allowed. They were no lawyers.

We must be careful here, however. More was writing in 1516. The modern understanding of the word utopia is 'a perfect place', but the title of More's book is more accurately translated as "no land". The name of the narrator of the book was Hythloday, the name meaning "spouter of nonsense". It is therefore a little difficult to be certain of More's purpose. Was he being cynical, ironic, or was he criticising trends in his own society? Were these rather modern ideas genuinely held by More, although he realised they could never be achieved? Perhaps he thought these ideas were against the natural order of things and deserved ridicule.

Many writers, philosophers and dreamers have outlined their concept of a perfect place. Plato, in the *Republic*, described a tightly organised state ruled over by "philosopher kings". Education emphasised rational thinking skills, and women could be leaders ... if they had talent. Art, music and poetry was censored to ensure only the noble and uplifting could be seen, heard or read. However, Plato's utopian republic has often been described as a totalitarian state.

Many thinkers and dreamers see their personal utopia in terms of "getting away from it all". Epicurus (b. 341 BCE) created a 'mini' utopia in a garden. He and his friends (including women and slaves) could withdraw from a violent and unpredictable society to live a stress free life of pleasure and good conversation. Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862) lived a very

simple, self sufficient life in a hut next to Walden Pond, at least for a time. His utopia was a pre-industrial lifestyle; building his own house, making by hand the things he needed, growing his own food. His book *Walden* has continued to be an inspiration since it was published, for those who wish to escape the rat race. His chosen lifestyle was his protest, his response to the increasing industrialisation of his society. Rapid industrialisation and the increasing sophistication of the capitalist economy, however, has brought about the "utopian" lifestyles many of us now enjoy.

There are many imagined utopias in literature, including by Rabelais, Daniel Defoe and Jonathon Swift, the utopian socialists (Fourier and Robert Owen), Karl Marx, Aldous Huxley and many 'science fiction' writers, each with a different perspective or preoccupation.

One science fiction story, Ursula Le Guin's, *Those who walk away from Omelas*, illustrates a challenging aspect our present, nearly perfect, lives. The majority of the citizens of Omelas live a life of rationality, splendour and comfort. However the existence of the city is dependent upon a young girl being imprisoned below the city, living in complete squalor ... filthy, starved and tortured. When old enough, the citizens of Omelas are shown the miserable child and her presence is explained as the source of their good life. (A bit of magical thinking to illustrate a point!) The majority of the citizens choose to stay in the city, but others choose to walk away, to leave the city for an uncertain future.

This is perhaps a fitting analogy for the "utopia" we find ourselves in. Many of the features of the contemporary world we enjoy derive from the miseries of others; the low paid and exploited farmers, farm and factory workers, the small business owners put out of business by the conglomerates. We love to shop in supermarkets and the malls, because they tend to be cheaper. Many are suffering during the crisis in housing and experiencing homelessness. Our love of cheap clothing leads to the exploitation of workers in the garment industry around the world. The great reluctance to give up the use of fossil fuels to provide the energy for our lifestyles is inevitably leading towards a miserable future for our grand children. Many look away, walk away, from the more confronting problems of our pleasant lifestyles.

We need imagined utopias, we need the dreams, the aspirations. We need to imagine a better world is possible. This is how progress happens. This is how the world and lives are made better. But it is a long, slow and difficult pathway, one small step at a time. Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor (from 161 to 180 CE) and Stoic philosopher said this, "Set your self in motion, if it is in your power, and do not look about you to see if anyone will observe it; nor expect Plato's republic: but be content if the smallest thing goes on well, and consider such an event to be no small matter."

Perhaps we can not hope for a perfect world. Plato hoped for a state ruled by wise philosopher kings; that was his idea of a utopia. Sadly, many of the leaders we experience are not wise, and have not changed the world, or our own particular society, for the better. However, it is naive to think we can walk away and spend our time pleasantly in the garden, wishing all the hidden bad things about our utopian life would disappear. Happily, it seems to be a part of human nature to support and encourage, or perhaps initiate, even the smallest utopian imaginings to make the world a better place, and we should be very grateful to all those committed and driven souls who are working every day to ensure our lives are as happy and as fulfilling as can be; those who ask, "Is this really as good as it can be?", and then try to make things better.

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 for details.

A man with dark hair and a goatee, wearing a purple hoodie, is shown from the chest up. He has a look of intense concern or anger, with wide eyes and a slightly open mouth. He is gesturing with his hands, palms facing forward, as if trying to communicate something urgent. The background is a blurred warehouse or store aisle with shelves of products.

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PHILLIP ISLAND AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Florence Annie Hitchins: Returning to the Island of Her Grandmother's Journey - By Pamela Rothfield

When the Phillip Island and District Historical Society received an old, framed photograph of a beautiful young woman recently, it wasn't just an exciting addition to the collection—it was a reminder of the importance of our Collection Management Policy. This policy serves as the backbone of the Society's efforts, ensuring that every donation not only holds historical value but also has a meaningful connection to Phillip Island and its surrounding area. By carefully adhering to these guidelines, the Society safeguards the integrity of its collection while sharing stories that resonate deeply with the local community.

The recently donated photograph, with its simple timber frame and the timeless gaze of its subject, tells one such story—one that stretches back through generations to an era of adventure, resilience, and pioneering spirit. The photograph is of Florence Annie Hitchins.

Florence's grandmother, Mary Ann Hitchins, was the first white woman to set foot on Phillip Island. Her grandmother's story had long been a local mystery, and it was not until in 2020 that it was unearthed that Mary Ann, whose bold spirit and adventurous journey led her to Phillip Island in the 1840s.

The story that began almost two centuries ago and ultimately led Florence back to her grandmother's footsteps, reconnecting her family with the island's history.

Florence, a young telegraph operator in bustling Melbourne, married grazier James McNabb from Corinella in 1893. Together, they would start a family that remained rooted in the Phillip Island area for generations. But Florence's connection to Phillip Island ran much deeper than she knew. About 50 years before she herself settled nearby, her grandmother Mary Ann had already ventured onto the island in an era of rugged isolation and opportunity.

Back in July 1897, The Herald had published a fascinating article about an unnamed couple, only referred to as Mr. and Mrs. X. This couple had journeyed to Victoria in 1839 when Mary Ann, then just fifteen, sailed with her family from England on the Westminster, arriving in Hobson's Bay (Melbourne). During the voyage, Mary Ann met Frederick Hitchins, and their shipboard romance blossomed.

By the following year, at sixteen, Mary Ann and Frederick were married, embarking on a life in the young colony. They became early settlers, and their story captured attention, but they declined to reveal their names, remaining "Mr. and Mrs. X."

Their early life included a brief yet significant stay on Phillip Island in the early 1840s. The Herald reported that 'Mrs. X' was the first European woman to set foot on the island, a milestone that left local historians intrigued for decades. However, the true identities of Mr. and Mrs. X remained a mystery until 2020, when Phillip Island historian John Jansson discovered an old letter in the Society's files, from a Shirley Cameron of Canberra, who had



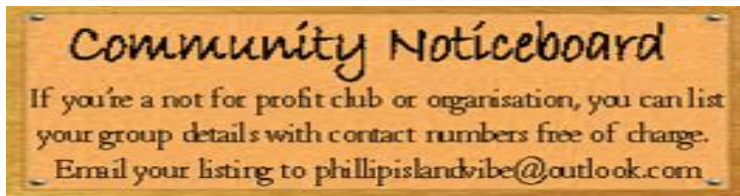
Florence Annie Hitchins

written in 1988 searching for information on her ancestors, Mary Ann and Frederick Hitchins. Shirley noted that her ancestors had arrived on the Westminster, married in Melbourne, and lived briefly on Phillip Island in the early 1840s. With this new clue, John realized Mary Ann and Frederick Hitchins were the very figures of The Herald's story.

Mary Ann and Frederick's time on Phillip Island was brief, believed to pre-date the McHaffie brothers' permanent occupation of the island. During their time on the island, they harvested wattlebark and hunted swans for their skins to trade. At the time, Phillip Island was also home to a handful of sealers—remnants of a once-thriving sealing industry that had operated on the island since the turn of the century. Many of these sealers were unsavoury characters, often escaped convicts, surviving off the island's dwindling wildlife and natural resources. Life on the island with its primitive conditions, particularly the lack of fresh water, and only the barest resources to sustain those who dared to live there soon forced them to leave with their two young children. They moved to Geelong, where Frederick built a successful timber business, and later returned to Melbourne.

The story of Phillip Island, however, continued through their descendants. Florence, Mary Ann's granddaughter, unknowingly retraced her grandmother's journey, moving to the region and raising her family nearby. Florence and her husband, James McNabb had five children, many of whom continued to live and work in the area. One of Florence's granddaughters, Marj Beaton, moved to Phillip Island 67 years ago with her husband, Tom, and managed a grocery store on Thompson Avenue in Cowes. Today, Marj, along with her daughters Sue and Kaye, still call the island home, and only in recent years learned of their family's deep connection to Phillip Island's history.

Florence's life and legacy serve as a bridge, linking her family to the early pioneering spirit of Mary Ann Hitchins — the first white woman to set foot on Phillip Island. This connection, hidden for many decades, reveals a story of courage, resilience, and the remarkable way history can come full circle.



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 & District Railway Modellers Inc is a model train club that meets every Sunday from 1pm to 4.30pm at the Senior Citizens Club in Cowes. Visitors are welcome, new members more welcome. More details Geoff 0419 357 097 or Martin 0416 186 589 or email martinmurden1@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 Walmesley 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 RSL, Thompson Avenue, Cowes at 12.00pm 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 Lyn 0427 593 936 or email probusclubcowes@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 meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month 1.30pm at the Rotary rooms, 101 Dunsmore Rd., Cowes; for more information Gill 0431672777 Deb 0400297452

We fundraise to purchase much needed equipment for specialists and medical staff offering services at the Health Hub, Urgent Care Centre & Community Hospital. New members very welcome. Email- healthhubaux3@gmail.com

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

Summerland Beach nourishment works to turn the tide on erosion

Summerland Beach will undergo sand nourishment works to combat the effects of erosion and climate change on the sand dunes, safeguarding the future access of penguins to their breeding grounds on Victoria's beloved Penguin Parade.

Phillip Island Nature Parks has stepped out a coastal process study for the beach, detailing short, medium and long-term initiatives to help build the resilience and sustainability of the coastline.

The study, funded by a \$180,000 grant from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), details changeable pathways for the monitoring and management of the beach, including back-passing sand from the eastern side of Summerland Beach to the viewing stands and revegetation of the dunes.

Penguin Scientist at Phillip Island Nature Parks, Prof Andre Chiaradia said the erosion is particularly concerning between the concrete stands, which is the premium viewing position for most visitors.

"Cross-shore erosion modelling shows that, based on projected rising sea levels, erosion at Summerland Beach is expected to increase the current setback of 19m to 31m by 2040, and 66m by 2100," Prof Chiaradia said.

"The erosion will get worse over time, so we need to act now to protect Summerland Beach and our treasured Penguin Parade." The Nature Parks is now undertaking the beach nourishment, which involves adding large quantities of sand to counter erosion due to the impact of rising sea levels and storms on sandy beaches. Work has already commenced.

Prof Chiaradia said the Nature Parks had also partnered with the DEECA Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program to conduct regular drone flights to monitor coastal erosion at the beach.

"The team conducted several flights to assess beach conditions in preparation for the upcoming sand nourishment intervention, and it is hoped this ongoing monitoring, coupled with our adaptative pathway, will guide future interventions and management of the entire Phillip Island coastline, which is under pressure from rising sea levels," Prof Chiaradia said.

"Any interventions will balance the effects of climate change and rising sea levels alongside the care for the Penguin Parade colony, penguin habitat, patron experience and the need to maintain the natural characteristics of the beach.

"Research shows the sea level will increase over time and back-passing will be required more regularly. At some point, we will need to look towards alternatives, which may include replacing the concrete viewing stands with portable alternatives that can be relocated over time as the shoreline fluctuates, or potentially moving the viewing stands closer to land.

"The adaptation planning pathway for the Penguin Parade viewing stand infrastructure will be vital to the ongoing success of this iconic attraction, which has become a treasured piece of Victoria," he said.

Phillip Island is home to the largest little penguin colony in the world, and each year thousands of people visit to experience the magical sight of the little penguins waddling up the shore – making it one of country's top nature-based attractions in Australia. Latest data shows visitation to the Penguin Parade has returned to pre-COVID levels, with 709,527 people visiting the Penguin Parade in 2023-24, up from 545,148 in 2022-23.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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

ANSWERS TO TRIVA QUESTIONS

- Germany
- Kevin McCallister
- Pout
- Rudolf
- Will Ferrell
- Stollen
- One-horse open sleigh
- Max
- Dancer
- Red

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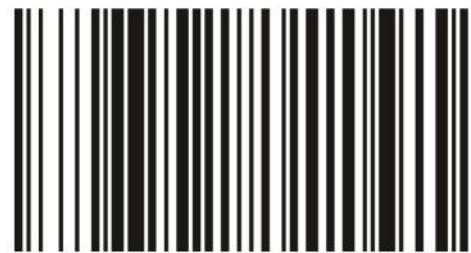
Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, Warragul



Bass Coast Health and Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary ask for your support when recycling your bottles/cans or anything that has 10c return on it.

Please use the bar code below and all money raised will go to the Health Hub Urgent Care Centre and Community Hospital on the Island.

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Any queries please contact Sue 0409 948738 or Gill 0431 672777 or email us on healthhubaux3@gmail.com

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