

Groundswell

APRIL 2016



Celebrating ANZAC Day 2016 across Surf Coast Shire

Torquay

Dawn Service at Point Danger at 5.50am, with a Gunfire Breakfast from 7am to 8am, reunion at Torquay Bowls Club afterwards.

Free Park and Ride

Park at Spring Creek Reserve from 5am to 6am and catch the bus directly to the service at Point Danger, returning to Spring Creek Reserve from 7am. This is a joint initiative of Public Transport Victoria and Council, with excellent support from McHarry's Bus Company.

Anglesea

March sets off at 9.30am from the corner Great Ocean Road and Noble Street, concluding at the RSL, 30 Murray Street, with the ANZAC Day service immediately following.

Lorne

Dawn Service at ANZAC Memorial Park, Mountjoy Parade, at 7am followed by Gunfire Breakfast at 7.30am at Lorne Bowls Club.

The ANZAC Day service is at Lorne Senior Citizens Hall at 11am, followed by the march to ANZAC Memorial Park.

Winchelsea

Trooping the Colours at Eastern Reserve, Hopkins Street, at 10am followed by a service at 10.15am.



L-R Jill Stewart, Anne Leadbeater OAM, Mayor Rose Hodge, Cr Libby Coker, Corrina O'Toole, Cr Margot Smith and Rachel Watson

Elements converge for International Women's Day 2016

The convergence of earth, air, fire and water formed the focus of a community celebration in Anglesea to mark International Women's Day 2016.

Four women, each representing one element, told their stories, starting with Wadawurrung woman Corrina O'Toole who welcomed all to country and spoke about the importance of water to our land's traditional owners.

Representing air, Clean Energy Council of Victoria board member and Pacific Hydro Group Services General Manager Rachel Watson spoke about wind and other renewable energies.

Otway Landcare Groups Secretary, local veterinary nurse and farmer Jill Stewart highlighted community environmental leadership (earth). Emergency recovery expert Anne Leadbeater OAM spoke about her work in coordinating Murrindindi Shire's recovery efforts after the 2009 Black Saturday fires.

The ceremony also recognised eight local women for their contributions to the Surf Coast community, with certificates of appreciation presented to:

- local surfer **Emma Webb** and volunteer **Janet Jones** who initiated the Starfish Nippers Program for children of all abilities
- Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter Rescue Crew volunteer **Lauren Chan** and Surf Coast Air Action stalwart **Jacinta Morahan**
- conservation volunteer **Margaret McDonald** and Kids Go Bush kindergarten program founder **Shauna Burford**, and
- CFA volunteers **Louise Turner** (Torquay) and **Nadine Blyth** (Connewarre).

2017 kindergarten enrolments now open

Enrolments for Council's 2017 pre- kindergarten and kindergarten programs in Anglesea, Jan Juc, Lorne, Winchelsea and Torquay are now open. Families are encouraged to act quickly if they wish to be considered for first round place offers as applications close 24 June.

Families can apply online with Council's central application process offering greater convenience while ensuring places are allocated transparently, fairly and efficiently. This means families only need to complete one application form to seek a place at any of these kindergartens.

Applications must be made by completing the online form at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/kinder2017 before **24 June 2016**. Families will be notified and offered session



options in August/September towards the end of term three.

More information is available at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au under *Children's Services* in the *My Community* section. Click on Kindergarten and three year old activity program to download a family information pack, which answers commonly asked questions about Council's kindergarten programs, including pre-kinder for three-year-olds.

Draft 2016-17 budget on display

Council is inviting your feedback on its draft 2016-17 budget. You can view the draft budget and make a comment online at www.surfcoastconversations.com.au from 20 April. Printed copies of the draft budget will be available for viewing at:

- Council office, 1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay
- Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Lorne and Winchelsea Post Offices
- Lorne Visitor Information Centre
- Deans Marsh and Moriac General Stores
- Torquay and mobile libraries servicing Surf Coast Shire, and
- Community houses in Anglesea, Deans Marsh, Lorne and Winchelsea.

Information sessions will also be held across the shire to provide opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback. Keep your eye on the website and local newspapers for details.

Submissions must be received by 23 May 2016. You can lodge a submission by:

- logging on to www.surfcoastconversations.com.au
- emailing info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au with the subject header "Budget submission",
- mailing to PO Box 350 Torquay 3228.

Written submissions should be addressed to Keith Baillie, Chief Executive Officer, Surf Coast Shire Council. Please include your name, address, email and telephone number and indicate if you would like to address Council at the hearing of submissions meeting on 31 May at 5pm.

Following the hearing of submissions meeting, Council will adopt the final budget at a special meeting on 14 June.

For more information about the draft 2016-17 budget, information sessions or making a written submission, please:

- www.surfcoastconversations.com.au
- visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au



Recycling and landfill collection calendar

Look for the 2016-17 Recycling and Landfill Calendar and Waste Vouchers included in the July rates mail-out.

In the meantime, continue to put your bins out for collection the same day you do now.

Visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au for more details, including advice on what items go in each bin.

Is your four-legged family member registered?

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to register or renew your pet's registration for 2016-17 as registrations were due by 11 April.

You can still register, renew and pay online by clicking on the 'Make a Payment' option in the Quicklinks section on the www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au homepage, which provides access to internet, phone, direct debit, BPay and POST Billpay payment methods.

Alternatively, register or renew in person at the Council office or any Australia Post office, or via mail.

Under state legislation, Council cannot accept new cat or dog registrations without evidence of the animal being implanted with a microchip. This includes dogs and cats moving to Surf Coast Shire from another municipality.

For more information, visit the Pets and Animals page in the *My Community* section of the website.

TORQUAY NORTH CHILDREN'S CENTRE ENTERS DESIGN STAGE

see p2

WINCHELSEA RV PARKING TRIAL UNDERWAY

see p3

EVENT GRANTS PROVIDE \$93,700

see p4

If you require a printed copy of online information referred in any story please call 5261 0600



www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au



Strategy to keep our life saving clubs strong

A strategic plan for the future of surf life saving in Surf Coast Shire focuses on supporting well-managed, inclusive and adaptable clubs connected to the community and the coastal environment.

Developed with Life Saving Victoria, the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) and the Victorian Government, the plan includes a series of actions devised in collaboration with local clubs and more than 400 residents.

Its emphasis is on consolidating existing services and possibly expanding current clubs' outpost services, with research concluding no new clubs would be needed before 2025.

The strategy also identifies opportunities to simplify legislative, leasing and land use requirements for clubs through greater cooperation between the relevant government agencies.

Representatives from local clubs, Council, Life Saving Victoria, GORCC and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work together to implement the strategy's actions.

Visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au to download the strategy.



Thumbs up for Sandcruiser beach wheelchair

Users have rated Surf Coast's Sandcruiser beach wheelchair 'excellent', 'comfortable' and 'easy to use' on footpaths, sand and in water.

Available for hire from Go Ride a Wave in Bell Street, Torquay, the Sandcruiser enables people with mobility issues and wheelchair users to access beach areas. During spring and summer, it was booked out 18 times for periods ranging from a day to more than a week.

Users have included Surf Coast locals from Torquay-Jan Juc and Lorne, and visitors from Melbourne. One enjoyed their first experience so much, after hiring the chair for a week in December they re-booked it again in January.

"Easy to push on hard and soft sand, and very comfortable for the person seated,"

"...has improved the life of a disabled person,"

"...we need more of these to enhance the quality of life for beach lovers with disability," represent some of the positive comments received.

Council's partnership with Go Ride a Wave provides one example of working to improve access for people of all abilities in Surf Coast Shire.



To hire the Sandcruiser beach wheelchair contact **Go Ride a Wave Torquay on 5261 3616.**



New CD showcases local musos

The recent launch of an eclectic CD, appropriately named **COLLAB**, celebrates the diverse musical talents of Surf Coast's young people while demonstrating the value of collaboration.

Featuring a mix of musical genres, from hip-hop and electronica to folk and rock, the CD showcases an amazing array of fantastic young, local talent, including many bands and artists involved in the 2015 Battle of the Bands and other local youth-led gigs.

Initiated by the Coastal Productions FReeZA committee and Surf Coast Youth Team, the project started in 2012 as an open rehearsal space for young musicians wanting a place to hang out and practice their sounds.

In providing them with opportunities to meet, work together and develop different sounds in a welcoming and energetic environment, the project also delivered workshops with various renowned artists and mentors, including Dylan Joel and King Gizzard's Stu Mackenzie.

This enabled young musos to bring out their musical best as evidenced by the quality of work on the CD. The project has been proudly supported by Council, FReeZA, Office for Youth and Music Workshop.

More information, including how to get a copy of the CD, can be accessed via the Surf Coast Youth page on Facebook.



Torquay North Children's Centre enters design stage

Council is seeking expressions of interest from architects to design the new Torquay North Children's Centre, marking the project's progression to the next stage.

Due to open in 2018 and catering for around 400 children and families, the new centre will provide access to a range of early childhood services, including kindergarten, maternal and child health, allied health service facilities, playgroups, parent groups, early childhood intervention services and occasional child care.

Flexibility will underpin the building's design, enabling it to accommodate other uses, such as community meetings, and support future expansion if required.

While the initial scope included long day care, this has since changed with several specialist long day care providers opening in Torquay to meet growing demand for this service. This has helped to reduce the project budget from \$8m to \$6.78m.

Council is continuing to work with the project advisory group on the design phase. A qualified architect has been appointed to undertake the project design.

Mayor's YouTube spot

In keeping with Council's Communications and Community Engagement Strategy, Mayor Cr Rose Hodge features in a brief YouTube video clip, which provides a summary of the Torquay North Children's Centre project.

The clip has been shared through Council's Twitter and Facebook accounts, and can be accessed via <https://youtu.be/j6DRHsAqE0>

Plans are afoot to provide regular Council updates via video, including after Council meetings, so keep your eye on our social media feeds for upcoming clips.

Special charges proposed to seal roads in Aireys Inlet and Winchelsea

Residents' concerns about unsealed roads in Winchelsea and Aireys Inlet recently led Council to seek property owners' feedback on proposals to seal the roads, to be partially funded by special charges.

A preliminary survey of 30 property owners Beal and Trebeck Courts in Winchelsea attracted 16 responses, with 13 expressing support for sealing the roads.

Council has since written to the 30 owners inviting formal submissions on the proposal to fund \$114,590 of the \$201,478 cost through a special charge.

In Aireys Inlet, Council has similarly invited submissions from 37 property owners in relation to funding \$59,558 of the \$102,623 associated with sealing Hopkins Street between Great Ocean Road and Hartley Street.

This follows several petitions from residents calling on Council to address ongoing concerns about dust, mud, noise, access and road safety related to the street's unsealed, gravel surface.

Both proposals are based on the results of previous resident meetings and surveys while traffic studies helped to ascertain usage levels. Anticipated benefits include firmer, more even road surfaces, better access and safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, and less dust, mud and noise.

Council will consider all submissions before deciding on each proposal at a future Council meeting. Should Council proceed, affected residents will be able to pay the special charges in instalments.

More information about these projects and special charge schemes in general is available at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au in the *My Property* section.



Lorne community to lead Stribling Reserve planning

The development of new masterplan for Lorne's Stribling Reserve sees the local community taking the lead role as a new way of planning for the future of our major recreation reserves.

Council has allocated \$50,000 and delegated roles to local community representatives to run the community engagement process and make recommendations in relation to the reserve's future.

This differs from more traditional planning approaches in that Council is seeking to facilitate and support community leadership rather than take the lead. As such, it offers an opportunity to better access local skills, views and expertise with the outcomes guiding Council's future plans for the reserve.

Preliminary work is underway with the masterplan to be finalised during 2016-17. The Lorne community will play a major role in delivering the plan, which will guide future improvements and ongoing maintenance at the reserve.

Wurdale Hall Reserve now offers something for everyone

Wurdale Hall Reserve's new \$54,000 playground and picnic space caters for everyone, from the very young to the young at heart.

Developed following a community submission to Council in 2011, the project has created a focal point for the community, which also aims to complement hall usage and bring more activity to the reserve.

Officially opened in February, the new space comprises playground equipment, basketball and netball ring, picnic facilities including an electric barbecue, landscaping and connecting paths made from recycled concrete.

Pictured right are Winchelsea ward Councillors Heather Wellington (left) and Carol McGregor officially opening the new space.



Funding boost for Lorne Arts Festival

Lorne Arts Festival is going from strength to strength with Council committing \$75,000 to help support the event over the next three years.

This follows the recent arrival of new director Naomi Daly, and the start of a new five-year business plan to help grow the festival.

Since the inaugural event in 2011, the festival has become a major drawcard for visitors, providing the township with a significant economic boost during its traditionally quieter time of the year.

A recent survey of Lorne's business community estimated its current economic benefit at around \$3.2m, based on occupancy rates and visitor expenditure during the festival period in August.

Given these factors and the event's growing national exposure, the festival qualifies for Council's Event Grants program in the signature event category, with \$25,000 to be allocated annually to 2018.

In that time, visitor numbers are expected to reach 5,000, resulting in estimated economic benefits of some \$4.8m annually.



Photo by Leon Walker

SAVE TIME AND TREES

Snail mail is slow and bad for the environment, which is why registering to receive your rates notice via email makes perfect sense. It's simple, secure and saves time – and trees!



You can register now by scanning the above QR code (which is also printed on your rates notice) or visiting surfcoast.formsport.com.au and completing the online registration form. Just remember to:

- Enter your name **exactly as it appears on your rates notice**, including spaces and symbols
- Enter your **property assessment number**, and
- Choose a username you can easily remember when you log in later.

You will receive a link in your inbox, which will provide access for the next 48 hours. Click this and choose a password. You will then be able to log on at any time, using your username and password, and will receive your next rates notice direct to your inbox.

This will not only give you more time to pay, it will also cut down on paper use and help to save trees. Go you good thing!

Winchelsea RV parking trial underway

A 12-month trial of short-term RV parking in Winchelsea started in April.

The site along the Barwon River, on the corner of Barwon Terrace and Mercer Street, provides RV vehicles with an attractive, scenic stopping point just off the Princes Highway.

Council is running the trial after seeking community input on a proposal to make Winchelsea an RV Friendly Town, following a petition of 192 signatures from Growing Winchelsea Inc.

Community feedback indicated majority local support for the idea, with some opposition

to the proposal and mixed views on the site. Broader stakeholder consultation, including with RV travellers, confirmed Winchelsea's potential as an RV friendly town and substantial visitor interest.

The trial will assess demand for RV parking and site suitability, with Council and Growing Winchelsea working together to monitor the site and its usage.

Help fund Aireys school's solar project

Aireys Inlet Primary School has raised almost \$2,500 towards its People's Solar Project but still has some way to go to meet its \$20,500 target.

The project is using a crowd-sourced funding model to purchase and install solar panels on the school's roof. The ensuing energy bill savings will be invested in inspiring and teaching students about living sustainably in the community.

The school has worked closely with Council, the Surf Coast Energy Group and others to get the scheme off the ground. This is a great project and Council encourages community members to support it.

Contributions can be made online until the end of June. Visit www.thepeoplesolar.com/projects/laic-aic/ for more information and to support the project.

Cape Otway Road widening

Council recently completed a \$500,000 upgrade of a section of Cape Otway Road to help improve safety for road users.

The road surface from east of Moriac township to west of Taylors Road intersection has been widened to seven metres and a one-metre wide, sealed shoulder added to either side.

Signage and new line marking have also been completed.

These improvements are part of a planned approach to improving road safety in what is fast becoming a busy route to the Otways and the coast. Other sections of Cape Otway Road will be progressively widened, in stages, over the next few years.

Major works start at Anglesea Landfill

Work recently started on two projects, totalling more than \$2.4m, to ensure the Anglesea Landfill's ongoing operation.

Council contracted Ertech Holdings in late January to undertake the Stage 3 rehabilitation cap and construct the Cell Stage 3C Liner.

Both projects need to be undertaken this year to meet Environment Protection Authority licence requirements.

The Stage 3 cap is an essential step in the site's rehabilitation while construction of the Cell 3C liner will provide future capacity for waste deposited at the landfill. Council has preallocated funds from its 2016-17 budget to enable the works to proceed.

Seeking to fast-track Winchelsea town centre upgrades

Council has applied for \$155,000 in federal funding through the National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) to fast-track town centre beautification work in Winchelsea.

The Growing Winchelsea Plan, developed in consultation with the community during 2014-15, identifies beautifying Winchelsea's centre as a priority.

Work has since started on several projects stemming from the plan, including new town entrance sculptures (in collaboration with VicRoads) and town centre improvements.

If successful, the NSRF application would boost \$105,000 in Council funding and \$50,000 in VicRoads funding allocated towards implementing first stage improvements to the town's centre.

Powercor to trial two-megawatt grid-scale battery



Australia's largest battery has left its testing facility in Chicago and is expected to arrive on our shores in the coming weeks.

Destined for Buninyong, the 2mw battery will be housed in a standard 40-foot shipping container. It is expected to reduce local outage times to less than 33 minutes a year. If successful, Powercor plans to roll out similar projects to other regional areas, such as Surf Coast, in future.

"This \$8m investment will allow us to determine the capabilities and value of using a battery storage system to temporarily increase network capacity during peak demand periods," said Powercor's General Manager of Electricity Networks Steven Neave.

Grid-scale batteries are increasingly becoming important components of a smarter, more responsive grid.

"A grid-scale battery installed on the right part of the network will help reduce stress on the network, improve reliability of supply and reduce maintenance costs. This means we will

be able to defer capital upgrades, ultimately lowering costs for customers.

"As an electricity distributor, we are constantly looking for new ways to allow our electricity networks to operate more flexibly and maintain reliability while ensuring our customers still receive a low-cost distribution service.

"This project is one such initiative demonstrating our commitment to building an evolving network," Mr Neave said.

The 2mw energy storage system recently completed a series of intensive factory acceptance tests, including attempts to put pressure on the system to crash it. The battery rose to the challenge, withstood the tests and is now on its way to Australia from America.

Powercor expects to commence testing of the battery from April 2016 with the battery fully operational by mid-year.



Event grants provide \$93,700 to fund major and community

Council's 2016-17 Event Grants program recently allocated \$93,700 to support a diverse range of major and community events over the next 12 months.

Recipients in the Major Events category included:

- Adventurethon Anglesea (\$8,000)
- By the Meadow Winchelsea (\$3,000)
- Drink Arts Food Torquay (\$7,000)
- Eat Local Month (\$6,000) Great Ocean and Otway Classic (\$8,000)
- Hunt and Gather Festival Winchelsea (\$8,000)
- Kids Adventure Outdoors Anglesea (\$3,000)
- Lorne Film (\$4,000)
- Love Winter in Aireys (\$3,500)
- Sustainable Hook and Vine Festival Torquay (\$5,000)
- Surf Coast Century Anglesea (\$10,000)
- Surf Coast Trail Series (Afterglow and Marathon) Anglesea/Torquay (\$10,000)
- The Surf Coast Event (Geocaching Anglesea) (\$6,000).

Community Event recipients were:

- Anglesea Rock 2 Ramp (\$500)
- Danger 1000 Ocean Swim Torquay (\$500)
- Deans Marsh Community Festival (\$3,000)
- Deans Marsh Winter Solstice Music Festival (\$1,000)
- Holi Festival of Colours Winchelsea (\$2,000)
- Legends of Swing Dance Weekend Torquay (\$1,000)
- Trick or Treat Kidz Fest Winchelsea (\$2,000).

The Event Grants program focuses on supporting a range of events across Surf Coast Shire, including major events during the off-peak season (post- Easter to mid-December) and community events. Applications for the next Event Grants program round open in September 2016. Keep an eye on our website for details.

Turning up the heat on unconventional gas

Council is continuing to express opposition to unconventional gas exploration or mining activity, recently lodging a submission to the Federal Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining.

The submission reiterates the Surf Coast community's strong concern regarding the risks and impacts associated with any unconventional gas activity in the region. These include risks to vital farming land, water resources and our precious natural environment.

Council has also lodged submissions to previous Victorian Parliamentary Inquiries into the industry and has called on the Victorian Premier to suspend all exploration and mining activity, continuing the current moratorium on the industry indefinitely.

There is currently one active permit to explore for hydrocarbons on the Surf Coast (PEP163), which was renewed in late 2015.

The Senate Select Committee is due to report back to parliament before 30 June 2016.



Taking the next step on road safety

The new *Surf Coast Shire Road Safety Strategy* currently in development will guide how Council works, including with other road managers and organisations, to improve the safety of roads and footpaths across the shire.

Earlier this year, Council invited the community's views and ideas on current road safety issues via a survey. This helped identify local road safety priorities and how Council might work to address them via its new road safety strategy.

An independent audit of road safety information across the shire also provided valuable data to assist the strategy's development. Key findings included:

- Fifty-six per cent of local crashes involved cars and 31 per cent involved motorcycles; with most of the latter occurring on the Great Ocean Road.
- Between 2009 and 2013, the 40-49 year age group was involved in the highest number of crashes.
- During the same period, the highest incidence of crashes occurred on VicRoads-managed arterial roads, while clusters of crashes occurred in Torquay, Anglesea and Lorne.

The strategy will guide how Council invests in, delivers and maintains its roads and footpaths to meet the safety needs of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

This includes partnering with VicRoads, Victoria Police and other agencies and community groups to deliver improved road safety through education, infrastructure projects and other initiatives to address emerging road safety issues.

Burning off: know the rules

As an alternative to our green waste collection service, burning off is a disposal method for dried leaves, branches, weeds and other vegetation. Open air burning can however be dangerous. There are also strict rules and guidelines about when and what can be legally burned.

In all Surf Coast Shire township areas, burning off of dried vegetation is only permitted:

- on **Wednesday** and **Saturday** between **10am** and **3pm**, and
- **outside the Fire Danger Period.**

Township boundaries generally extend to include one to five-acre properties around the towns.

For more information, including who you need to notify, call **5261 0600** or head to www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au and click on the *My Community* tab to access the *Emergency and Safety* page.



APRIL

1-30 **Eat Local Month**
www.eatlocalmonth.com.au/

25 **ANZAC Day** (see article on page 1)

MAY

1 **Bellbrae Mayfair**
www.bellbraeps.vic.edu.au/

8 **Mothers' Day Classic, Torquay**
mothersdayclassic.com.au

8 **Aireys Inlet Market**
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

14-15 **HIF Victorian Longboard Titles Round 2, Torquay**
www.surfingvic.com

15 **Great Ocean Road International Marathon, Lorne**
www.greatoceanroadmarathon.com.au

19-28 **Torquay Theatre Troupe 'All Things Considered'**
ttd.org.au/

20-22 **Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles, Bells Beach**
www.surfingvic.com

JUNE

1-30 **Love Winter in Aireys**
www.aireysinlet.org.au

1-30 **Torquay Beanie Festival – Celebration of Yarn**
[f BeautBeanieFestival](https://www.facebook.com/BeautBeanieFestival)

2-4 **Torquay Theatre Troupe 'All Things Considered'**
ttd.org.au/

11-13 **Anglesea Art and Craft Show**
www.patmckenzie.com.au

11 **Lorne Foreshore Market**
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

12 **Love Lorne Model Boat Regatta**
www.lovelorne.com.au

12 **Aireys Inlet Market**
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

24 **Singing for Fun, Bellbrae Hall**
5261 4807 or singing@torquay.vic.au

25 **Surf Coast Trail Marathon, Torquay to Fairhaven**
www.surfcoasttrailmarathon.com.au

JULY

1-31 **Love Winter in Aireys**
www.aireysinlet.org.au

1-31 **Torquay Beanie Festival – Celebration of Yarn**
[f BeautBeanieFestival](https://www.facebook.com/BeautBeanieFestival)

The information above, as supplied by event organisers, is correct at time of printing



New 10-year open space strategy adopted

Surf Coast Shire's new 10-year open space strategy will guide open space planning, provision and management, and support greater collaboration with other land managers.

Its development involved community consultation via workshops, open house sessions and a public exhibition period, culminating in Council adopting the final strategy earlier this year.

Incorporating eight guiding principles and a prioritised action plan, the strategy focuses on delivering a diverse range of sustainable public open spaces to meet community expectations.

It reflects much of the community's feedback, with key themes being connectivity and accessibility, safety – for pedestrians but also for cyclists and other users – and protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

The All Abilities Advisory Committee's involvement throughout the project proved particularly helpful in considering access needs.

Combining detailed background analysis and key actions, the strategy acknowledges Surf Coast's bush and beach areas as vital open spaces.

Its recommendations include developing new open space usage policies, changing management and operational processes, and seeking more partnership opportunities with other land managers. Funding, master planning, community and commercial use, and key partnerships represent fundamental issues to be addressed over the life of the strategy.

The strategy's development was jointly funded by Council and Sport and Recreation Victoria's Community Facilities Funding Program.

The strategy is available on our website under the *My Community* section.

WANNA KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE UP TO?

Register to receive Groundswell and other important Council information via email, and stay up-to-date with a click or tap while helping us to reduce the environmental impacts of our mail-outs. Use the QR code or head to www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/enewsletter and register