

Groundswell

JULY 2017



GROWING TOGETHER TO HELP THE COMMUNITY

As a part of Hands On Learning (HOL) Australia, two groups of 10 students at Surf Coast Secondary College spend one day each week out of the classroom developing skills and self-confidence. HOL helps the students engage in building projects to benefit the school and the wider community. The aim of the program is to help keep kids in school, give them a place they can belong, and develop real skills while doing meaningful building projects.

In a Council-supported project that aligns with the Towards Environmental Leadership program, the students have turned a patch of grass into a veggie garden for the Torquay community. The students operated a mini digger, built raised garden beds and constructed a fence.

Carolina Francis, who is organising the community garden, said the students had done an amazing job.

"It's absolutely fantastic that people at this end of town that don't have the space in their own backyards will have the opportunity to grow their own vegetables," she said. "We are very grateful for the support from Council and the school."

A healthy focus on youth

Local young people can be involved in the design of a new mobile youth space that will offer health and wellbeing services in a green space.

The community spirit of Torquay, Anglesea and Winchelsea Lions Clubs has underpinned the new Youth Pod, which is a Surf Coast Shire Youth Development Team initiative.

The Youth Pod was announced at the Lions International Centenary Celebration, with the three local Lions Clubs contributing \$9,000 to the project. Council is contributing the remaining costs of about \$13,000. It includes an allocation to add solar panels and batteries.

The pod is in response to the 2016 Surf Coast Shire Council Youth Survey, which found there was a need to establish a youth-specific facility that provided health and wellbeing services in a safe location.

The pod will be a recycled shipping container that will visit towns in the shire, and feature at events.

It can be used by the likes of youth-specific mental health services such as headspace, Barwon Child Youth & Family and GPs. It will also be used as a social outlet and for young people who require support in the event of an emergency.

The Youth Pod will be painted by young people, while Youth Advisory Groups will come up with an official name. It is expected to be out on location in Surf Coast towns later in 2017.

Any young people who wish to be involved in the design of the space can email youthdevelopment@surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

A plan for all: Council Plan 2017-21

Council will strive towards its vision of an engaged, innovative and sustainable community following the adoption of the Council Plan 2017-21.

Incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan, the Council Plan was adopted at the June Council meeting. Valuable community input contributed to the document, which will guide decision-making for the next four years and beyond.

The plan features five areas where Council will endeavour to make a significant difference: community wellbeing, environmental leadership, balancing growth, vibrant economy and high-performing Council. Each area has objectives and outcomes, and outlines how they will be achieved. The Council Plan 2017-21 is available at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

A community-focused Budget

A new \$18.9 million capital works program with a planned 71 projects and initiatives across the Surf Coast Shire underpins the 2017-18 Budget, which sees Council continue to take a proactive lead on environmental and social issues.

The health and wellbeing of residents and visitors and Council's commitment to protect its world-class natural environment are common threads in the budget, which features projects that will deliver infrastructure to support the community and meet its aspirations now and into the future.

The budget includes an average rate increase of two per cent – aligning with the rate cap set by the Victorian Government – while the waste service charge will increase by four per cent. The latter will help fund projects that will improve the management of waste and recycling, including landfill rehabilitation works.

ARTS TRAIL A CANVAS FOR LOCAL TALENT



More than 100 artists will showcase their work at the 2017 Surf Coast Arts Trail, with 46 venues registered for the popular event.

Held Saturday 12 August and Sunday 13 August, people can explore the Surf Coast's diverse range of art, buy local pieces and see artists at work.

The annual trail features venues across the hinterland and coast, with an incredible range of art on display including wood carving, sculpture, painting, jewellery making, animation and pottery.

For those interested in the event, the Surf Coast Arts Trail map will help plan your weekend, listing each of the 46 venues. It is available from the Council office in Torquay and Visitor Information Centres across the Surf Coast.

The map can also be viewed at [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SurfCoastArtsTrail) SurfCoastArtsTrail.



Artist Catherine Brennan in her studio

A RENEWABLE FOCUS see p2

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: ANGLESEA FUTURES see p3

NEW PLAYGROUNDS SWING INTO ACTION see p4



IN BRIEF

Domestic Animal Management Plan to come

Council will soon start community consultation on the Domestic Animal Management Plan, which will guide the management of cats and dogs. Community involvement will be a key part of the plan, with Council seeking to work closely with residents and visitors on how domestic animals and humans can live together in harmony and safety. Details on how you can get involved will be posted to Council's website.

Recognising our youth

Young Surf Coast people have been recognised for outstanding achievements and contributions. The inaugural Rising Star Surfing Awards were held in the lead-up to the Rip Curl Pro Bells Beach. Named in honour of local surfing legends Gail Couper and Wayne Lynch, the awards recognise the top-three Surf Coast Shire residents in the under 18 World Surf League tour rankings. Congratulations to winners Izzi Rudland, Isabell Cook and India Robinson, and Tully Wylie, Nathan Rivalland and Xavier Huxtable (pictured).



Congratulations also to 2017 Surf Coast Youth Award winners: Ruby Issell and Isabella Heather – Leadership, Bryson West – Music, Bella Wilson and Jesse and Billy Abrahams – Sport, Isabella Heather and Daniel Smith – Community, Momoko Ferguson and Harry McEvoy – Art.

Community base for Stribling plan

The Stribling Reserve Masterplan will guide improvements to the key Lorne community space for the next 10 years and beyond, following its endorsement by Council.

The plan is the result of an innovative partnership between Lorne community members and Council. Prioritising female facilities is a key feature of the plan, along with retaining the space as a village green, and enhancing facilities for sporting groups and community organisations.

Jan Juc Creek back in daylight

Council's Jan Juc Creek Daylighting project is coming to a close. The project has seen a 230m section of the creek restored, which included the decommissioning of ageing underground drainpipes and removal of 800m³ of fill, returning stormwater flows to the surface of the creek. The project has improved the public space and has brought environmental diversity back to the area.



Customers first in Digital Transformation Strategy

Easy to access and easy to deal with – that's the aim of the Digital Transformation Strategy, which will see Council tap into technology to become more customer-centric.

The strategy outlines what investment is needed to meet customer expectations. It focuses on putting customers first and using technology to transform the way Council does business.

Mayor Brian McKitterick commended the strategy for ensuring Council remained relevant to its community and customers in the 21st century.

"Customers now expect a level of online service for so many aspects of their life," he said.

"Council needs to change the way it works by delivering simpler, clearer and faster online services that allow community members to easily access information, pay rates and bills, submit planning applications and conduct other transactions at their own convenience."

Taking care of business with launch of newsletter

Businesses across the Surf Coast can subscribe to a tailored newsletter that will provide information on topics they are interested in. Surf Coast Business is a new electronic publication that allows recipients to nominate what type of information they receive, including marketing, innovation and major events. Ultimately, it will promote tools to help them grow their business.

The bi-monthly newsletter is in response to feedback from the Council Plan, with business advisory groups identifying Council's Economic Development and Tourism unit as a valuable resource for local businesses. The unit's role is to offer a range of support services – including grant programs and networking – to businesses to help them thrive.

Did you know? Commercially-rated businesses can access a Surf Coast Tourism Partnership Package, provided in partnership with Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism.

The package includes brochure placement and referrals from Visitor Information Centres in the Great Ocean Road region, business listing on two official tourism websites, access to special offers and more.

To sign up for Surf Coast Business or to find out more about Surf Coast Tourism Partnership Package, email business@surfcoast.vic.gov.au.



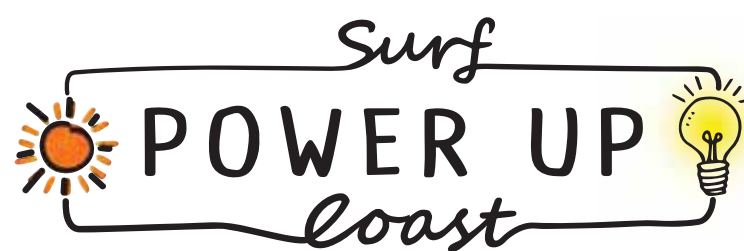
A closer look at Visitor Insights

The Surf Coast welcomed about 2.1 million total visitors in 2015-16, and it is estimated that annual visitation to the region contributes \$683 million to the local economy. These key statistics are provided in a new Council publication – *Visitor Insights 2016*, which provides information about the number and type of visitors to the region.

The estimated 2.1 million visitors spent more than \$430 million in 2015-16. Tourism is also one of the area's largest employment sectors (15.2%). To find out more about visitors to the region, visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

The Great Ocean Road region was visited by more than 5.1 million visitors. The Surf Coast Shire region welcomed 42% of those visitors.

– Visitor Insights 2016



A powerful renewable energy roadshow

The Power Up renewable energy roadshow is proving a hit, with interested crowds at events in Torquay and Anglesea. It will also stop at Winchelsea.

Power Up is part of the joint Council-community Towards Environmental Leadership program. It aims to help people access reliable and trustworthy information about renewable energy, what Council is doing and how they can get involved at home.

Guest speakers who shared their sustainability stories and tips at the sessions included author and 'rewilding' advocate Claire Dunn, Frack Free Moriac lobbyist Alison Marchant and sustainable building consultant Tim Adams. The roadshow was supported by Sustainability Victoria and independent energy expert Positive Charge (pictured below left), which provided information about the solar bulk-buy program for people who live and work in the Surf Coast.

Community-led initiatives such as Plastic Bag Free Torquay, Boomerang Bags (pictured below right), Surf Coast Energy Group, Anglesea Community Energy and Surf Coast Junk Trunk were also involved.

Ms Marchant – the joint 2017 Surf Coast Shire Citizen of the Year winner – believed people power could play a role in setting a green agenda. This is highlighted by the successful Frack Free Moriac campaign, which was a key voice before the Victorian Government's announcement to ban onshore unconventional gas exploration and mining.

"It shows that communities have a voice and can drive change," she said. "Power Up is also about communities, their energy and their future."

If you're thinking about going solar seeking free energy efficiency advice, not-for-profit Positive Charge can assist. Call **9385 8555** or visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.



A renewable focus

Solar panels have been installed on community and civic buildings, as Council plays its part in generating renewable energy.

Surf Coast Library, Lorne Visitor Information Centre, Winchelsea's Eastern Reserve, Jan Juc Preschool and the Council office in Torquay have received panels as part of the solar improvement project. The buildings were selected because they are busy during the day. Solar energy is more efficient when electricity consumption is high during the day. The solar panel installation will contribute to Council's goal for the Surf Coast region to generate 25% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.

John farewells All Abilities Advisory Committee

The Surf Coast is a more accessible and inclusive community thanks to the passion and dedication of John Olsen, who has retired from the All Abilities Advisory Committee after 10 years.



John chaired his final AAAC meeting on 27 June, with committee members expressing their gratitude for his decade-long service. The former Shire of Barrabool Councillor has volunteered for various community groups over the past 40 years, including the Accessible Playground Working Group, Infrastructure Committee and Bellbrae Residents Association.

With a teaching background in both primary and special education, John brought valuable skills to the All Abilities Advisory Committee. He was instrumental in supporting people with a disability to live a fulfilling life, and fostering an inclusive community for all.

Roads projects on track

Council is making good progress on several important projects to improve safety on local roads.

Horseshoe Bend Road widening (south of South Beach Road)

This multi-staged project is complete and has been largely funded by the developers of adjoining land, resulting in Horseshoe Bend Road south of South Beach Road being widened and upgraded.

This important gateway to the north of Torquay now features a boulevard-style entrance, with dedicated bicycle lanes, shared paths and a planted central median.

Council has contributed \$377,000 towards the \$2.438 million cost of completing the final stage. This recognises the benefit to the general community of the improved roadway.

The works were part funded through the federal government's Roads to Recovery program.

Horseshoe Bend/South Beach Road intersection upgrade

In another project to improve this entrance to Torquay, Council is constructing a roundabout at the Horseshoe Bend Road/South Beach Road intersection in Torquay.

The \$800,000 project had been funded from Torquay Jan Juc Developer Contributions and \$150,000 in grant funding from the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery program.

Early works have commenced on drainage and the project is due to be completed by the end of 2017.

The roundabout will connect to the previously widened section of Horseshoe Bend Road south. The next stage – planned for 2017-2018 – will widen Horseshoe Bend from South Beach Road to Blackgate Road, to include bike lanes on both road shoulders.

Cape Otway Road widening

Cape Otway Road is an important connecting road, and Council has been working progressively to widen and improve it. Currently a 5.8km section between Gherang Road and Considines Road is being upgraded. The work includes stabilising and widening the sealed surface to 9m, as well as associated drainage. Work is planned for completion this year. Funding includes \$1.1 million from the Federal Government's Blackspot program and \$1 million from Council funds this year.

Traffic lights at Surf Coast Highway/Beach Road Intersection

Council is working hard behind the scenes with other agencies to improve the dangerous Beach Road/Surf Coast Highway intersection in Torquay.

Officers plan to report to Council in July, recommending that it awards a contract to install traffic lights and a slip lane at the intersection.

Council has budgeted \$1.18 million for this project and Council officers are working their way through the detailed design approval process required before work can start.

The lights should address the high incidence of vehicle collisions at this highly used and congested intersection in recent years.

Blackgate Road-Horseshoe Bend Road to Minya Lane

Due to abnormally wet weather, Council postponed planned improvements to Blackgate Road until this financial year. The \$766,000 project to widen and seal the road shoulders, and install guard rail, was scheduled to start in May.

The area is flat and low lying, with water filling roadside table drains, making construction impossible.

Council remains strongly committed to the project and has contacted VicRoads, requesting that Blackspot grants for the project be carried forward.

Supporting small groups to do great things

Empowering vulnerable young people through surfing lessons, women via sharing shed equipment and older people with accessible technology were just three of the 27 successful applications in the latest round of Council's Small Grants Program.

The program will continue to build vibrant and healthy communities, with more than \$33,000 distributed in the latest round of the program. The successful applicants were invited to a celebration in Council Chambers, with attendees delighted to receive funding for their community projects, groups and initiatives.

The Small Grants Program has distributed more than \$628,000 of funding in total.

The next Small Grants round opens in September.



Friendly company in Café Style Support program

Surf Coast Shire residents aged over 65 are invited to join a program where they can take part in social community outings.

The Café Style Support program features a wide variety of locations and activities across the shire and neighbouring regions. Participants meet new people and explore new places in the state government program, which is coordinated by Council.

"It's a great way to connect with your community and make friends," Deputy Mayor and Winchelsea Ward Councillor, Carol McGregor said.

For more information on the Café Style Support program, contact Council's Robyn Lucas 5261 0600.



In the frame: Kurrabee Myaring Community Centre

An internal courtyard with garden beds for youngsters to grow produce is one of the features of Kurrabee Myaring Community Centre, which is taking shape in Torquay's Merrijig Drive.

The centre is scheduled to open the first term of 2018, offering various services including a kindergarten, youth services, spaces for the public to hire and allied health.

Those in the area recently would have noticed the construction of the centre, with half of the internal wall framing complete, and work started on the roofing and rammed earth feature walls.

Casuarina 2017

The 2017 Casuarina Community Development Leadership Program has a youth focus.

Council has teamed up with Surf Coast Secondary College, developing students' work-readiness skills. Activities will enhance communications skills, build confidence and foster community connections.

Through a partnership with the school, Great Ocean Road Coast Committee and local businesses, community groups, young people, will build their capacity to 'get the job, do the job and keep the job'. To kick off the program, more than 110 students have participated in mock interviews to gain experience.



Anglesea Futures

The Anglesea Futures Community Conversations project continues to progress, with ideas and community feedback being collated on this important land.

Community input will contribute to preferred land uses for the site. Ideas so far include mountain bike trails, tourism facilities and renewable energy uses. The preferred uses will be incorporated into a draft land use plan, expected to be released for public comment in the second half of this year. The future of the site is of tremendous importance to the local community, so working through the planning for the future use of the area and getting it right is paramount.

Council is a partner with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria on the project, which is exploring the future use of the Anglesea power station, coal mine and Anglesea Heath.

To find out more and to sign up for updates on the project, visit www.engage.vic.gov.au/angleseafutures.



ANGAIR plant propagation centre opens

The opening of the ANGAIR Indigenous Plant Centre will support the society to maintain the natural beauty of the Anglesea and Aireys Inlet areas, and their local environments.

ANGAIR (Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna) recently held an official opening for the centre, which will explore techniques for propagating hard-to-grow local species. Located in the community precinct in McMillan Street, it will also offer opportunities for Surf Coast visitors and residents to learn more about indigenous flora and fauna, and improve their environmental awareness.





Winchelsea to be an RV Friendly Town year-round

Winchelsea will become an RV Friendly Town year-round starting 1 August 2017.

Council determined to welcome short-term stays for self-contained RVs, caravans or motorhomes for a maximum of 48 hours in a section of the Barwon River Reserve, between Mercer Street and the Railway Bridge in Winchelsea.

The decision comes following an encouraging 12 month trial.

In a report to Council, officers compared the operational and financial requirements for Winchelsea to be an RV Friendly Town on a year-round or seasonal basis.

The establishment and operation of the Winchelsea RV area will cost \$19,470 for year-round use in 2017-18. It is estimated it

will provide an annual economic benefit of \$24,700 to the Winchelsea community.

Winchelsea Ward Councillor Carol McGregor supported the site operating on a year-round basis.

"If it was only open for a five-month period, our unpredictable weather could see this timeframe reduced," she said. "To have the site available all-year round is a small increase in investment that will benefit the community."

Fellow Ward Councillor Heather Wellington described it as a "much-loved site".

"People come in and drive down to the river, buy a few things from the shops and have a chat with locals," she said.

"It's becoming part of Winchelsea's town identity."

Locking in a project

Lorne and District Men's Shed has helped curb the impact of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos in Lorne, completing a gravity lock installation project.

More than 1700 gravity locks were fitted in residential garbage bins in Lorne last financial year, helping prevent cockatoos from opening and rummaging through garbage, which resulted in litter in the streets. To ensure the lock operates efficiently, residents should:

- Place waste in bin, close lid and remove key.
- Ensure bin is not overfilled.
- Regularly inspect the inside of lock, and clean out dirt or debris.

For more information, visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/gravitylock.

Meanwhile, the innovative Big Belly Bin project has expanded. These solar-powered smart bins sense waste and compact material, holding up to seven times more material than a regular bin. When almost full, the bin sends an electronic notification to Council officers and the service contractor. Following a successful trial in Lorne, 10 more bin stations have been installed on Mountjoy Parade. Stations – which feature one garbage and one recycling bin – have also been installed outside Deans Marsh General Store and the Winchelsea toilet block in Barwon Terrace.

A rewarding role: become a volunteer

If you are looking to give back to the community, Council is seeking volunteers to help deliver two important services – Delivered Meals and Maternal and Child Health.

The Maternal and Child Health service occasionally needs help to transport pre-ordered baby and nursery items from Geelong Mums in South Geelong, to the Torquay Children's Hub.

The Delivered Meals program provides an important social connection for older people and supports them to maintain independence at home. Council is seeking volunteers to assist with the Delivered Meals service in Winchelsea.

Council – which has more than 200 volunteers – celebrated the invaluable contributions of its volunteers at an annual National Volunteers Week event. An afternoon tea was held to thank the volunteers for their incredible commitment, passion and dedication in delivering Council services.

For more information on volunteering, visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/becomeavolunteer.



Rainbow flag

Council resolved at the June meeting to fly the rainbow flag continuously in support of the Surf Coast LGBTIQ community.

The flag is flying on a dedicated flag pole located on the grassed area in front of the shire office.

Council is flying the Australian, Aboriginal and Shire flags on ceremonial flag poles on the northern side of the building, in addition to the same flags continuing to fly on the flag poles at the main entrance to the building.

Council has also installed a flag pole near the front garden pond for other causes important to the community.

New playgrounds swing into action

Local and visiting families can enjoy two new playgrounds in Winchelsea, thanks to a collaborative effort between community groups and Council.

New playgrounds were installed at Eastern Reserve and Hesse Street Reserve, with the facilities a popular addition to the town. Eastern Reserve playground features include a music panel, accessible swing and twist net, while the Hesse Street Reserve playground has items such as a basket swing, rock wall and spiral slide.

Groups involved in the development of the playgrounds were Eastern Reserve Committee of Management, Winchelsea Football and Netball Club, Winchelsea Cricket Club, Winchelsea Playgroup, Winchelsea Bowling Club, Winchelsea Men's Shed, Winchelsea Tennis Club and Growing Winchelsea. Local community representatives also provided valued input.



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FESTIVALS & EVENTS

JULY - OCTOBER 2017

July

- 1-31 Love Winter in Aireys www.aireysinlet.org.au
- 22 Torquay Boardriders Club Event, Bells Beach www.torquayboardriders.org.au

August

- 1-31 Love Winter in Aireys www.aireysinlet.org.au
- 12-13 Surf Coast Arts Trail www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 12 Torquay Boardriders Club Event, Bells Beach www.torquayboardriders.org.au
- 12 Ekiden Relay, Anglesea www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au
- 26-27 One Act Play Festival, Anglesea www.angleseaperformers.org.au
- 26 Winchelsea Spring Flower and Craft Show www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

September

- 2-3 Toll/IPEC West Coast Open Titles and Industry Challenge, Bells Beach www.surfingvic.com

- 9 Surf Coast Century, Anglesea www.rapidascent.com.au/SurfcoastCentury
- 10 Hoka One One Running Trail Series, Anglesea www.rapidascent.com.au/hokaoneonetrailseries/
- 15-16 The Sound Doctor Special Guest, Anglesea thesounddoctor.info
- 16-17 Amy's Gran Fondo Weekend of Cycling, Lorne www.amysgranfondo.org.au
- 16 Torquay Boardriders Club Event, Bells Beach www.torquayboardriders.org.au
- 23-24 Angair Wildflower and Art Show, Anglesea www.angair.org.au

October

- 8 DAFT, Torquay www.daftorquay.com
- 22-29 Anglesea Golf Club 62nd Annual OPEN www.angleseagolfclub.com.au

MARKETS & FAIRS

JULY - OCTOBER 2017

July

- 15,22,29 Torquay Farmers Market www.thefarmersplace.com.au
- 30 Farmers Place Farmers Market, Freshwater Creek www.thefarmersplace.com.au

August

- 5,12,19,26 Torquay Farmers Market www.thefarmersplace.com.au
- 27 Farmers Place Farmers Market, Freshwater Creek www.thefarmersplace.com.au

September

- 2,9,16,23,30 Torquay Farmers Market www.thefarmersplace.com.au
- 3 Winchelsea Makers and Growers Market www.winchelseafarmersmarket.com.au
- 17 Cowrie Market, Torquay www.torquaycowriemarket.com.au

- 24 Farmers Place Farmers Market, Freshwater Creek www.thefarmersplace.com.au

October

- 1 Winchelsea Makers and Growers Market www.winchelseafarmersmarket.com.au
- 7,14,21,28 Torquay Farmers Market www.thefarmersplace.com.au
- 15 Cowrie Market, Torquay www.torquaycowriemarket.com.au
- 28 Freshwater Creek Steiner School Fair www.fwcsc.com.au
- 29 Farmers Place Farmers Market, Freshwater Creek www.thefarmersplace.com.au

Details of markets and fairs in the Surf Coast can be found at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/markets

