

Groundswell – January 2017

Story list

1. Surf Coast Shire Council elects Cr Brian McKiterick as Mayor
2. Council Plan takes shape
3. Start your year with some cheer
4. Great Ocean Rides
5. Have your say on Torquay's CBD
6. All roads lead to Winchelsea pool
7. A winning move: raising fire awareness
8. Bushfire places of last resort
9. Heat Health
10. Burning off: Important information
11. Lead the way with dogs in summer
12. Discover your Surf Coast
13. Welcome funding for Great Ocean Road
14. Under construction: new community centre
15. Persistence the key in rabbit control
16. Working together to manage rabbits
17. Men's shed fits gravity locks
18. Moriac making a mark

19. An inclusive day out
20. Supporting rural communities
21. A win for surf industry
22. Working towards gender equity in sport
23. Council and primary school team up for Aireys Inlet community spaces
24. Australia Day celebrations
25. Calendar a canvas for local talent
26. Stribling Reserve Masterplan
27. 2015-16 Annual Report
28. Recognising over 65s
29. A positive placement
29. Electronic is eco-friendly
30. Councillor contact details
31. Events calendar
32. Markets and fairs

Surf Coast Shire Council elects Cr Brian McKiterick as Mayor

Councillor Brian McKiterick is looking forward to leading the Surf Coast Shire Council after being elected Mayor.

Cr McKiterick said it was an honour to be elected by his fellow Councillors. It is the second time the Torquay Ward Councillor has

been Mayor of Surf Coast Shire Council, having served as Mayor in 2011-12.

The first major task for the new Council is to prepare the Council Plan.

“It is the blueprint for planning and will be done in line with community expectations,” Cr McKiterick said.

Winchelsea Ward Cr Carol McGregor was elected Deputy Mayor. The new Council also comprises Cr Libby Coker, Cr Margot Smith, (Anglesea), Cr Clive Goldsworthy (Lorne), Cr David Bell, Cr Martin Duke, Cr Rose Hodge (Torquay Ward) and Cr Heather Wellington (Winchelsea).

Council Plan takes shape

Council has started working on its new Council Plan, which will set the direction for the next four years.

Surf Coast residents are encouraged to provide input into the plan which aims to support the needs and aspirations of the community. Community engagement is scheduled from February 2017 onwards, and people will also have an opportunity to provide feedback when the draft document is released in May.

For the first time, Council is seeking to incorporate the Surf Coast Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan into the Council Plan. Previously both plans have shared similar goals, ultimately aiming to enhance community health and wellbeing.

The Council Plan will be adopted before the end of June 2017.

For more information and to stay up to date with ways to get involved in the Council Plan, visit www.surfcoastconversations.com.au.

Start your year with some cheer

Excitement is building for the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race, with the Surf Coast to provide a stunning backdrop for the event. Residents and visitors are encouraged to line the course of the Elite Women's race (28 January) and Elite Men's race (29 January) to cheer on the cyclists, including three-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome. The elite riders are expected to come through Torquay between 12pm and 1.30pm.

The event also features a Family Ride on 27 January and People's Ride on 28 January.

Where to watch

Surf Coast residents and visitors are encouraged to wear CADEL BLUE and attend one of the Cheer Sites to watch the race up-close. A list of Cheer Sites can be found at www.cheercadeltorquay.com. Key Cheer Sites include businesses on Torquay's Bell Street and The Esplanade, along the Great Ocean Road and into the Surf Coast hinterland to Moriac. Businesses will be race-day-ready with free bells to help you cheer on the riders when they pass.

Road closures

Rolling road closures will apply during the Elite Women's and Men's races. As the rolling road closure passes through, delays of about 15 to 20 minutes may be experienced.

For more information, visit www.cadelevansgreatoceanroadrace.com.au.

Great Ocean Rides

An official road cycling guide with 10 picturesque routes has been created for the Geelong and Great Ocean Road region. Surf Coast Shire Council has collaborated with the City of Greater Geelong to produce the guide.

Each ride includes start and end points, distance, level of difficulty, elevation profile, road safety levels and interesting stops along the way. The rides were selected with the support of Barwon Bike Safe.

The guide also highlights the importance of safety for both cyclists and drivers, including tips on how to take care on the road.

The *Great Ocean Rides Cycling Guide* is available from Council's Torquay office and all Surf Coast Shire Visitor Information Centres. See back page for locations.

Have your say on Torquay's CBD

Community members will have an opportunity to contribute to a project that will develop a clear direction for revitalising Torquay's CBD.

The Torquay Town Centre Project will provide guidance on Council's expectations and preferences for future development in the wider Gilbert Street area, while retaining the town's coastal village atmosphere. It will consider items such as the creation of a vision and principles for growth, preferred building form for private development, a streamlined planning framework and traffic treatments. It will also support the growth of both new and existing local businesses through an action plan.

People are encouraged to provide input into the project, with community consultation expected to start in January 2017. Visit www.surfcoastconversations.com.au for details.

The project is supported by the Victorian Government's Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

All roads lead to Winchelsea pool

A new pedestrian footpath on Winchelsea's Barwon Terrace is linking the new toilet block and swimming pool.

The footpath is a welcome addition to the area, ensuring safe access to the pool and nearby playground for pedestrians.

Winchelsea Ward Councillors Heather Wellington and Carol McGregor welcomed the new footpath, particularly as the pool becomes busier. Winchelsea swimming pool is open from noon to 6pm seven days a week over summer, excluding Code Red fire danger days.

A winning move: raising fire awareness

The innovative and interactive The Fire Game will be rolled out to communities, offering locals and visitors an opportunity to play the award-winning game.

The Council-designed board game won gold at the 2016 Fire Awareness Awards and the 2016 International Association for Public Participation Core Values Awards.

Surf Coast Shire Council Mayor Brian McKiterick said the educational game continued to fulfill its goal of helping communities get fire ready.

"It is inspired by local towns, which means players can put themselves in situations that simulate some of the real challenges of a bushfire," Cr McKiterick said.

"The game is a great conversation-starter for residents and visitors to high fire risk areas."

For more information on The Fire Game, visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

Bushfire places of last resort

Did you know that Surf Coast Shire has 10 Neighbourhood Safer Places – Bushfire Places of Last Resort?

These places are a last resort survival option – a place to seek refuge if your bushfire plan has failed. A list of the bushfire places of last resort is available at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au. Click on the My Community tab to access the Emergencies and Safety page. The safest option is always to leave early.

To stay up to date on all emergencies in Victoria download the VicEmergency app and save www.emergency.vic.gov.au in your browser favourites. VicEmergency is Victoria's primary website for incident information and warnings.

Heat health tips

Drink water: Even if you don't feel thirsty, drink water. Take a bottle with you always.

Hot cars kill: Never leave kids, adults or pets in cars. The temperature inside a parked car can double within minutes.

Keep cool: Seek out air-conditioned buildings, draw your blinds, use a fan, take cool showers and dress in light and loose clothing made from natural fabrics.

Plan ahead: Schedule activities in the coolest part of the day and avoid exercising in the heat. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and take a bottle of water with you.

Help others: Look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, the elderly, the young, people with a medical condition and don't forget your pets.

For more information visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Burning off: Important information

To burn off during the Fire Danger Period, you must obtain a written permit from Surf Coast Shire Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer. Generally, a permit will only be issued for agricultural and primary production purposes.

For more information, call 5261 0600 or visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au and click on the *My Community* tab to access the Emergencies and Safety page.

Lead the way with dogs in summer

Dog owners are encouraged to be aware of time regulations in place over summer.

The regulations apply annually from 1 December until 28 February and over the Easter weekend. Between 9am and 7pm dogs will not be permitted in timeshare areas, which include:

Anglesea Main Beach, popular beach areas in Aireys Inlet and Fairhaven, Torquay beaches including Surf Beach, Front Beach and Fisherman's Beach, Taylor Park, Jan Juc Surf Beach, and parts of Lorne's coastline around Louttit Bay and Shelley Beach.

Dogs are also prohibited from playground areas, fenced sand dune and coastal vegetation areas; and need to be on leash in beach car parks and on beach access tracks.

"The timeshare areas and other restrictions are important to ensure that we respect other community members and visitors to the Surf Coast," Surf Coast Shire Council Mayor Brian McKiterick said. "They also support the protection of our unique coastal environment."

Dog owners are advised to look out for signs explaining dog restrictions.

Council rangers will regularly patrol beaches, parks and other public areas in summer to ensure people are following the regulations.

More information about Council's dog regulations is available at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au and from Council's Torquay office and Surf Coast Visitor Information Centres.

Discover your Surf Coast

The Surf Coast thrives in summer. From major events that draw large crowds to holidaymakers looking for a getaway to the beach or bush – the tourism industry is vital to the region's economy.

The Great Ocean Road in particular is a key economic driver for coastal communities.

Surf Coast Shire residents who are welcoming visiting family and friends over summer are encouraged to show the region to their guests. It is a chance to further explore your own backyard – including the hinterland – and discover what makes it great.

The Visitor Information Centres in Torquay, Anglesea, Lorne and Winchelsea are an ideal place to start your journey. Professional staff and volunteers with extensive local knowledge will offer valuable information, including places of interest and upcoming events.

For more information, visit www.visitgreatoceanroad.org.au

Welcome funding for Great Ocean Road

Council welcomed the Victorian Government's \$25 million commitment towards the Great Ocean Road.

Combined with last year's \$25 million commitment from the Federal Government, the November announcement will contribute to the maintenance of the vital road.

Council's Mayor Brian McKitterick thanked the Federal and Victorian governments for their funding commitments.

“For our coastal communities, the Great Ocean Road visitor economy is their livelihood,” Cr McKitterick said.

“The importance of the road was highlighted following last year’s landslides.

“It’s also a significant community asset, supporting our residents to stay connected by linking them to other towns within the region.”

Council is committed to working with government and the community to ensure the Great Ocean Road visitor economy continues to thrive.

Under construction: new community centre

Construction has started on the new community centre in Torquay’s Merrijig Drive, with the centre scheduled to open in the first term of 2018.

Council has recommended Kurrabee Myaring (Pronounced ‘carambee miaring’) Community Centre as the preferred name for the centre – formerly known as Torquay North Children’s Centre. Kurrabee Myaring is an Aboriginal name meaning ‘Merry-laugh, here in this place’.

The centre will be a valued community asset, offering a range of services including kindergarten, allied health, occasional care, youth services and spaces available for the public to hire.

A formal naming process will commence and will include an opportunity for community members to have their say.

The community centre is a \$6.8 million project supported by a \$1.6 million grant from the Victorian Government. Council has contributed \$600,000.

Persistence the key in rabbit control

A new rabbit biocontrol will be released nationally for the first time in more than 20 years, with the aim of providing a much-needed reduction in rabbit numbers.

Council, local land managers and some Landcare groups will release the biocontrol – the K5 calicivirus – at several sites across the Surf Coast. A joint Landcare and Council field day is planned for February to provide community members with more information about the virus and rabbit control.

Landholders can take advantage of the biocontrol by focusing their efforts on removing rabbit warrens and shelters, such as wood heaps, dense low-growing plants and rubbish piles. Rabbits rely on warrens and burrows for breeding and protection from predators.

Working collaboratively with neighbours and being persistent about rabbit warren and shelter removal in the coming months should provide long-term control.

The new biocontrol is not infectious to humans or any species other than rabbits. A vaccine to protect pet rabbits is available from vets.

For helpful information and demonstration videos on rabbit control, visit www.pestsmart.org.au

Working together to manage rabbits

Council is committed to using best practice rabbit management on Council-owned and managed land following the adoption of a new Rabbit Management Policy.

The policy, adopted in September, was developed following two workshops with local Landcare groups, community groups and government agencies. It will be trialled for one year before being reviewed by Council in consultation with key stakeholders.

Rabbits are Australia's most serious pest animal. They destroy plants, cause soil erosion and compete with native fauna for food and habitat.

Council will partner with Landcare groups and local land managers in 2017 to develop management plans for key rabbit hotspots in the Surf Coast.

Men's shed fits gravity locks

The Lorne and District Men's Shed is fitting gravity locks in residential garbage bins in Lorne in a Council project that aims to reduce the issues caused by Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

The gravity locks are progressively being rolled out to all Lorne residents for free until 30 June 2017, with the local men's shed completing the installation. Locks will be installed while bins are at the front of properties on bin collection day on a rolling schedule. People can also drop into the men's shed with their bin on any Saturday between 10.30am and 11.30am.

In another project to reduce the impact of cockatoos, Big Belly Bins will be installed in Lorne and Winchelsea townships. The bins – which prevent access by cockatoos – use solar power and digital technology to improve the efficiency of collection. They are scheduled to be installed early 2017.

For more information on the gravity lock project, visit Council's website.

Moriac making a mark

A new community group that aims to strengthen Moriac and district is one of 24 successful applications in the latest round of Council's Small Grants Program.

The Moriac Community Network has been established, following in the footsteps of the successful Growing Winchelsea group.

Council recognised the latest small grants recipients at a ceremony in December. A total of \$33,448 was distributed to 24 community groups.

The Small Grants Program supports community groups, projects and initiatives. It is a grassroots grants program which helps to build vibrant and healthy local communities within the Surf Coast.

Over the past 20 years, the program has supported some 750 community groups and projects, with more than \$595,000 in funding awarded.

Other successful groups in the September round included Barwon Valley Pony Club, Friends of Lorne, Torquay Laurel Club and Bellbrae Heartspace Users Group.

An inclusive day out

The Surf Coast tapped into a more inclusive community with a Balloon Football Come and Try Day in Winchelsea. The December event brought together people of all ages and abilities for a fun afternoon.

Supported by Parallel Sports and disability service provider Scope, the day raised awareness about inclusive sports for all.

Star local athletes Jemima Moore and Phoebe Mitchell participated in the day, along with various community members including the Winchelsea Men's Shed and Winchelsea Primary School students.

The event helped break down barriers, with student Jett Price saying he enjoyed the day.

"I liked playing with all of the different people and I liked getting to know everyone," the 11-year-old said. "It was fun."

Supporting rural communities

Surf Coast Shire Council has recommended a joint regional project to support the City of Greater Geelong to find a suitable long-term solution for livestock buying and selling. The project is a show of support to smaller Surf Coast livestock enterprises impacted by the uncertain future of the Geelong Saleyards.

The joint regional project – referred to as ‘Livestock Market Channel Analysis’ – would analyse the range of livestock buying and selling options, including those that cater for small sheep and cattle producers. It would involve collaboration with the City of Greater Geelong, fellow neighbouring councils, the G21 Agribusiness group and Regional Development Victoria.

“The Geelong Saleyards are crucial for our rural communities, highlighted by Surf Coast Shire farmers accounting for 26 per cent of activity through the saleyards,” Winchelsea Ward Councillor Heather Wellington said.

“As a neighbouring shire, we are determined to find a suitable regional solution and explore all of the channels our sheep and cattle producers can use. We want them to continue to reap the economic and social benefits that going to market brings.”

A win for surf industry

Council has worked with local surf industry businesses and the Federal Government to remove ‘tailgate fees’ which had applied to the Torquay postcode.

Previously, shipping containers that were to be unpacked in the Torquay area were subject to a tailgate inspection and fee. The fee was determined by postcode, with 3228 identified as a ‘rural’ area. In some cases, it was costing local individual businesses up to \$50,000 each year.

Lobbying efforts have resulted in the 3228 postcode being reclassified as metropolitan, saving businesses that import goods a significant amount. Council was pleased to play a part in resolving the issue.

Working towards gender equity in sport

Council is partnering with Leisure Networks for a Gender Equity in Sport Workshop. The workshop is for sporting clubs in the Surf Coast. It aims to raise awareness of gender equity and inform clubs on how to attract and retain membership of women and girls, and the associated benefits of increasing membership of women and girls. It will also feature ideas for future planning on gender equity in sport.

The workshop will be held Wednesday 15 February at 6pm at Grant Pavilion, Torquay. For more information, contact Leisure Networks Program Coordinator Jess Bennett 5224 9932.

The workshop follows on from the White Ribbon Day community event held in November. A limited overs cricket match was played at Spring Creek Reserve, welcoming local players. The match was an opportunity to raise awareness and say no to men's violence against women and to change community attitudes and behaviour.

Council and primary school team up for Aireys Inlet community spaces

People have an opportunity to provide feedback on a key community hub in Aireys Inlet, with draft masterplans for Anderson Roadknight Reserve and Aireys Inlet School Oval released for public comment.

Council is exhibiting the two draft masterplans in partnership with the Aireys Inlet Primary School, with comments to be incorporated into the final masterplans for the adjacent spaces.

Anglesea Ward Councillor Libby Coker said the reserve and oval were important community spaces for the Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven and Moggs Creek communities.

“We want all people to have an opportunity to have their say to help guide the future of these sites and how they can be improved to best cater for the community,” Cr Coker said.

“Before the draft masterplans were developed, the community provided input and their response was positive. People supported improvements to the school oval, so that it could be used for junior sport including football training, Auskick and soccer.”

Anglesea Ward Councillor Margot Smith noted the investigation of improvements to the primary school oval was a recommendation of the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan, rather than developing a recreation space in the Painkalac Valley.

“We are focused on how we can enhance Anderson Roadknight Reserve for community activities and also improve the primary school oval for recreational use, as outlined in Council’s recent structure plan,” Cr Smith said.

The draft masterplans are on exhibition at www.surfcoastconversations.com.au until February 2017. Comments from the exhibition period will be incorporated into the final masterplans.

Australia Day celebrations

Australia Day celebrations will be held on Thursday 26 January 2017 at Torquay’s Taylor Park from 10am and Anglesea Riverbank from 8am. The community celebration will include the announcement of the Surf Coast Shire Australia Day Awards recipients. For more information visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

Calendar a canvas for local talent

The 2017 Surf Coast calendar features artwork from 13 local artists, with a piece by Jenny Laidlaw taking out a people's choice vote to land the cover of the popular calendar. The 2017 calendar is available from various locations across the region. Visit www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au or call 5261 0600 to find out where you can pick up a copy.

Stribling Reserve Masterplan

Community input into Stribling Reserve will continue, with people encouraged to have their say on the Lorne reserve in the coming months.

Lorne community members have driven a new masterplan for the reserve which will guide development and ensure it meets community needs into the future.

The masterplan is expected to be put on public exhibition before April, with community members encouraged to provide feedback. Find out more at www.surfcoastconversations.com.au.

Meanwhile, Council lodged an application for a \$100,000 Sport and Recreation Victoria 2016-17 Country Football and Netball Program grant to upgrade lights at Stribling Reserve.

2015-16 Annual Report

Council has published its first digital Annual Report, replacing the hard copy that has been produced in previous years. The environmentally-friendly annual report features achievements, good news stories and the organisation's financial performance for 2015-16. It is available to view at www.scsannualreport.com.

Recognising over 65s

Congratulations to the inaugural winners of the Surf Coast Shire Over 65s Awards. The awards recognised the invaluable contributions of over 65s and were held as part of 2016 Seniors Week celebrations in October. Well done to Sandra Jones (Arts), Josie Caruana (Community Citizenship), Simon Clark (Leadership), Lorraine Robertson (Music) and Peter Leonard (Sport).

A positive placement

At Jan Juc Pre-school, children and staff learnt a valuable lesson in 2016 about what it means to be inclusive.

Torquay resident Victoria Marshall is a member of the award-winning reTHINK disABILITY campaign. Her involvement in the Council initiative led to a placement at Jan Juc Pre-School, where she thrived last year.

Supported by Volunteering Geelong, Victoria started the placement in term two. Her goal was to work with children after she finished school.

Victoria said a typical day in her placement involved set-up and pack-up, as well as various interactions with the children including reading, painting and cooking.

“It makes me smile,” she said. “I love my life.”

Initially Victoria attended with a mentor from Volunteering Geelong. As she became more familiar with the role, her confidence and independence increased. It resulted in her attending the one-day placement by herself each week.

Council’s Jan Juc Kindergarten Lead Teacher Sue Gout said Victoria was a valued team member.

“It is so lovely to see the children approach Tori to ask for help, to show her something they have made or to ask about something she has made,” Ms Gout said.

Torquay Ward Councillor Rose Hodge said Victoria’s placement aligns with the *Accessible and Inclusive Surf Coast Shire Strategic Plan 2014-2024*.

“One of the outcomes in the plan is a workforce that is responsive to the aspirations of people with a disability,” Cr Hodge said.

“For Victoria to blossom in this role and to see the inclusive attitude of the staff, children and their families is wonderful.

“This is what we’re striving for – a fully inclusive community where people of all abilities can achieve their goals.”

Electronic is eco-friendly

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Events calendar

January

2-28 Kids Art Bash, Anglesea
www.anglesearthouse.com.au

13-29 Summer Sculpture Exhibition, Anglesea
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/eventscalendar

20-22 Deans Marsh Sheep Dog Trials
www.deansmarsh.org.au

26-29 Rotary Bookfair, Torquay
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/eventscalendar

26 Anglesea Lions Australia Day Breakfast
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/eventscalendar

26 Australia Day celebrations at Taylor Park, Torquay
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/eventscalendar

26-29 Surfmoort, Anglesea
www.vicscouts.asn.au

28 Aireys Inlet Art in the Garden
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/eventscalendar

28 Minya by Moonlight summer concert series, Connewarre
www.theminya.com.au

28-29 Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race
www.cadelevansgreateoceanroadrace.com.au

February

4 Great Ocean Paddle
www.peakadventure.com.au

11 Minya by Moonlight summer concert series, Connewarre
www.theminya.com.au

11 Masters SLSC Championships (no boats)
www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au

11 Surf Life Saving Victoria - Inflatable Rescue Boats
www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au

11 Castle and Candle Competition
www.lovelorne.com.au

12 State Junior Carnival #6
www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au

12 Torquay Rotary Motor Show
www.torquaymotorshow.com.au

18-19 Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surfing Titles, Fairhaven
www.surfingvic.com

18 Winchelsea Horticultural Garden Club Autumn Show
www.winchelsea.vic.au

22 School Surf League #2, Torquay
www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au

25 Minya by Moonlight summer concert series, Connewarre
www.theminya.com.au

28 Uniting Care Pancake Day, Aireys Inlet
www.surfcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

March

1-31 Eat Local Month

www.eatlocalmonth.com.au

3-4 Relay for Life, Torquay

www.relayforlife.org.au

8 International Womens Day

www.internationalwomensday.com

11 Minya by Moonlight concert series, Connewarre

www.theminya.com.au

17-30 Anglesea Art Studios Group Exhibition

www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/eventscalendar

17-19 Aireys Inlet Open Mic Music Festival

www.aireysinlet.com.au

18 Surf Boats Carnival, Torquay

www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au

18-19 Country Dahlias Flower Festival, Winchelsea

www.winchelsea.vic.au

18-19 HIF Victorian Stand Up Paddleboard titles

www.surfingvic.com

18 Great Ocean and Otway Classic Ride

www.greatoceanotwayclassic.com.au

26 Deans Marsh Festival

www.deansmarshfestival.com.au

27 March – 23 April Eat Local Month: Forage – Local Food Festival

www.eatlocalmonth.com.au

31 March – 1 April Hunt and Gather Festival – Winchelsea
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/eventscalendar

31 March – 2 April By the Meadow, Bambra
www.bythemeadow.com/Info

April

1 Winchelsea Uniting Church Auction
www.winchelsea.vic.au

8-9 Kids Adventure Outdoors
www.kidsadventureoutdoors.org.au

9 Hare Krishna Colour Festival
www.festivalofcolours.com.au

9-10 Rip Curl Pro WSL World Tour Event – Trials
www.surfingvic.com

12-23 Rip Curl Pro WSL World Tour Event
www.surfingvic.com

13-17 Lions Easter Art Show, Lorne
www.lovelorne.com.au/events/event/lions-easter-art-show

15 Music @ the Marsh
www.deansmarsh.org.au/market

23 Ravens Creek farm spring fair
www.ravenscreekfarm.com.au

25 ANZAC Day services across Surf Coast Shire
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

Markets and fairs

www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Tourism/Events/Markets

Torquay Farmers Market

Every Saturday, Civic Centre carpark, Torquay

January

19 Torquay NightJar Market

22 Aireys Inlet Market

26 Torquay NightJar Market

28 Lorne Foreshore Market

29 Aireys Inlet Market

February

5 Winchelsea Makers and Growers Market

12 Aireys Inlet Market

19 Torquay Cowrie Market

March

5 Winchelsea Makers and Growers Market

11 Anglesea Primary School Twilight Village Fair

12 Anglesea Riverbank Market

12 Aireys Inlet Market

15 Lorne Kinder Fair

April

- 2 Winchelsea Makers and Growers Market
- 16 Anglesea Riverbank Market – Easter Sunday
- 16 Torquay Cowrie Market
- 16 Aireys Inlet Market

www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Tourism/Events/Markets